



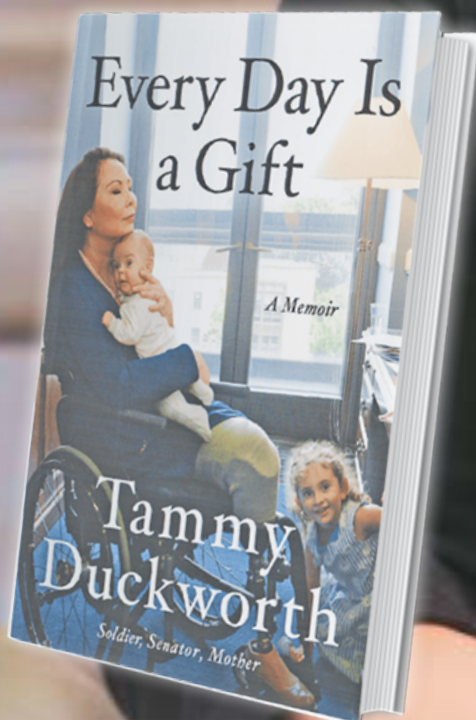
PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 92 YEARS

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Panel Discusses
the Effects of
Systemic Trauma.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi celebrate the passage of the anti-Asian hate crimes bill on May 18 that President Biden officially signed on May 20. Also pictured are Rep. Judy Chu (far left), Rep. Grace Meng and Sen. Mazie Hirono.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK



CONGRESS OKS BILL TO FIGHT HATE CRIMES AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS

President Biden also officially signs the bill that will expedite the review of hate crimes at the Justice Department and offer grants to law enforcement to improve the reporting of incidents.

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congress approved legislation May 18 intended to curtail a striking rise in hate crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, sending President

Joe Biden a bipartisan denunciation of the spate of brutal attacks that have proliferated during the coronavirus pandemic.

The bill, which the House passed on a 364-62 vote, will expedite the review of hate crimes at the Justice

Department and make grants available to help local law enforcement agencies improve their investigation, identification and reporting of incidents driven by bias, which often go underreported. It previously passed the Senate 94-1 in April after lawmakers reached a compromise. Biden officially signed the bill on May 20.

“Asian Americans have been screaming out for help, and the House and Senate and President Biden have clearly heard our pleas,” said Rep. Grace Meng (D-N.Y.), who helped lead efforts to pass the

bill in the House.

To many Asian Americans, the pandemic has invigorated deep-seated biases that, in some cases, date back to the Chinese Exclusion Act of more than a century ago. President Donald Trump repeatedly referred to the virus, which emerged in Wuhan, China, as the “China Virus” or the “Kung Flu.” And as cases of the illness began to rise in the U.S., so, too, did the attacks, with thousands of violent incidents reported in the past year.

Rep. Judy Chu (D-Calif.) said it’s painful for many to “open up the newspaper every day and see that yet another Asian American has been assaulted, attacked and even killed.”

In February, an 84-year-old man died after he was pushed to the ground near his home in San Francisco. A young family was injured in a Texas grocery store attack last year. And in Georgia, six Asian women were killed in March during a series of shootings targeting workers at massage parlors. Prosecutors are seeking hate crimes charges. The women who were killed are mentioned in the text of the bill.

“You start to think, ‘Well, will I be next?’” Chu said.

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JACL APPLAUDS HOUSE PASSAGE OF THE COVID-19 HATE CRIMES ACT

By JACL National

JACL applauds the bipartisan passage of the Covid-19 Hate Crimes Act and, as with the Senate companion bill, the inclusion of the Khalid Jabara and Heather Heyer National Opposition to Hate, Assault and Threats to Equality Act (Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act).

This legislation will improve the process for reporting and responding to hate crimes both with the federal government and through local law enforcement. It will also make available resources

to impacted communities and for education to help prevent the prejudice that leads to hate crimes.

We look forward to working with Attorney General Garland as the Department of Justice recommit to prioritizing the mitigation of hate crimes and in support of impacted Asian American communities.

As community-based reporting sites have demonstrated an explosion of incidents in the past year, this legislation will help the federal government to catch up with what many in our impacted communities already know, which is that

hate crimes and incidents are far more widespread than existing reporting systems would indicate.

We thank Congresswoman Grace Meng, Sen. Mazie Hirono and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus for their leadership in the passage of this bill and to President Joe Biden for signing it into law on May 20.

We also recognize the 498 Representatives and Senators who voted in favor of this legislation providing an overwhelming majority in support of Asian and other communities that are targeted by hatred and bigotry.



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

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

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

— Gil Asakawa



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Japanese American History Is American History

By David Inoue,
JACL Executive Director

On May 27, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands will hold a hearing on HR 1931, the Japanese American Confinement Education (JACE) Act.

This bill will do two very important things: 1) it will permanently reauthorize the Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) grant program with an additional \$38 million in funding until spent, and

2) it will establish a new educational program with an additional \$10 million in funding over the next five years. Together, this will mean at least \$5 million in federal funding for programs promoting education on the Japanese American experience.

The JACS program first came into being over 15 years ago when Floyd Mori was serving as JACL executive director and as a result of his longtime friendship with Rep. Bill Thomas, then chair of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee.

The congressman represented

a sprawling district in Central California, which happened to also include Manzanar. As a result, he shepherded the bill through Congress to passage with overwhelming bipartisan support. Even today, the JACE Act continues to garner significant bipartisan support with six Republican co-sponsors on HR 1931, even in a hyperpartisan political climate.

Over the course of the past 12 years of funding, beginning in 2009, \$35 million has been provided to 269 projects. The impact on scholarship and the preservation of sites has been tremendous.

Funding goes not only to further the scholarship and preservation of the 10 WRA Relocation Centers, but also to more than 60 Civilian Assembly Centers, Relocation Centers and Department of Justice, Army and Federal Prison sites that also served to incarcerate Japanese and Japanese Americans during World War II.

Unfortunately, with the extensive support that has been provided, the JACS program will soon exhaust

its original funding of \$38 million. It is imperative that we re-fund the JACS program with an additional \$38 million to continue its work of ensuring the American public continues to learn in different ways and through the lens of the incarceration sites about the Japanese American experience.

The JACS program has been and will continue to be effective in funding projects as small as \$5,000, but as large as \$800,000. And yet, these projects are all conducted independently.

The JACE Act will continue the funding of the many independent projects but will also introduce an additional element of \$10 million in funding to also bring coordination to our broad community-based efforts.

Modeled on the Never Again Education Act, passed by Congress last year, the goal of the JACE Act would similarly be to promote broader education on the Japanese American experience.

This could include promoting inclusion of our story in public education and will be dependent

upon the collaborative relationships fostered by the Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium (JACSC). This coordination and community collaborative factor has been the one missing component from the JACS grant program and will serve as the ideal addition.

With the hearing on May 27, this is your opportunity to be heard. The committee will accept public testimony in support of the JACE Act up through five business days following the hearing.

For information about how to submit your letter of support for the JACE Act, visit the JACL website at <https://jacl.org/japanese-american-confinement-education-act>. Letters will be due on June 4.

As we close out Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, there is no better way to celebrate than with this hearing to recognize our history as American history.

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



LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

Got the Vaccine — Can I Hug My Mom???

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

Perhaps you watched President Joe Biden's Address to the Joint Session of Congress on April 28. The president's information should be reliable since his critics would have a field day if he were misinformed. In case you missed it, here are some excerpts of his speech to give Pacific Citizen readers a good idea on where the nation stands regarding Covid-19:

"When I was sworn in on Jan. 20, less than 1 percent of the seniors in America were fully vaccinated against Covid-19. One hundred days later, 70 percent of seniors in America over 65 are protected — fully protected. Senior deaths from Covid-19 are down 80 percent since January — down 80 percent because of all of you. And more than half of all the adults in America have gotten at least one shot."

At a mass vaccination center in Glendale, Ariz., I asked a nurse — I said, 'What's it like?' She looked at me, and she said, 'It's like every shot is giving a dose of hope' — was the phrase. 'A dose of hope . . . ' 'Parents see the smiles on

their kids' faces, for those who are able to go back to school because the teachers and school bus drivers and cafeteria workers have been vaccinated. Grandparents hugging their children and grandchildren instead of pressing hands against a window to say goodbye. It means everything. Those things mean everything."

Recent guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognizes the protection that vaccines offer. According to the CDC, people who are fully vaccinated can meet indoors without masks, without incurring significant risk. Also, they can visit relatively safely with people who haven't been vaccinated, so long as those individuals are healthy, and gatherings remain small.

People are scheduling medical appointments that had been delayed and putting trips to destinations near and far on calendars. Simple things that felt unsafe prevaccination now feel possible: petting a neighbor's dog, going for a walk in the park, stopping at a local hangout for a cup of coffee (source: Kaiser Health News, "I Can Breathe Again," March 31, 2021). With a mix of relief and

caution, older adults fully vaccinated against Covid-19 are moving out into the world and resuming activities put on hold during the pandemic. Many are making plans to see adult children and hug grandchildren they haven't visited for months — or longer. Others are getting together with friends indoors for the first time in a long time.

According to a March 9 article in AARP, "It may be safe to snuggle — without a mask," according to the CDC's latest guidelines. After you've been vaccinated, here's some key points from the CDC's new guidance for vaccinated people — including what to know about your risk of getting or transmitting Covid-19 (and the reasoning behind the CDC's new guidelines). Be sure to check the mandates regarding the state in which you live, as it varies from state to state:

1. Once you are vaccinated, you have virtually no risk of getting a serious case of Covid-19.

The three vaccines currently in use in the U.S. are 100 percent effective in preventing hospitalization and death due to Covid-19. "Not even one person who got the vaccine [during trials] snuck through and got very sick," said Monica Gandhi, M.D., a professor and infectious disease expert at University of California, San Francisco. "Not even one." That means if you've gone through your full vaccine schedule — waiting two weeks after your second dose to allow your body time to build protection — you are more likely to get seriously ill from the regular flu

than from Covid-19. "These vaccines are amazing," Gandhi said. If you do get the virus, she added, "It'll be a mild cold."

2. Even if you're vaccinated, you might infect someone who is unvaccinated.

This is where the waters get muddy. There is a chance that even if you have been vaccinated, you could be an asymptomatic carrier of the coronavirus and infect someone who is unvaccinated. The uncertainty is why the CDC suggests that vaccinated people avoid visiting an unvaccinated person who's at increased risk for severe Covid-19 disease.

But the CDC now says "a growing body of evidence suggests that fully vaccinated people are less likely to have asymptomatic infection and potentially less likely to transmit SARS-CoV-2 to others. We don't know exactly how much the reduction in transmission will be if a fully vaccinated person is infected with Covid-19," said Aaron Richterman, M.D., a fellow in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Penn Medicine in Philadelphia, "but it is likely to be large, based on the available data."

3. If both you and your loved one are vaccinated, your risk of infecting each other is near zero.

According to the CDC's new guidance, fully vaccinated people can visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or maintaining a physical distance.

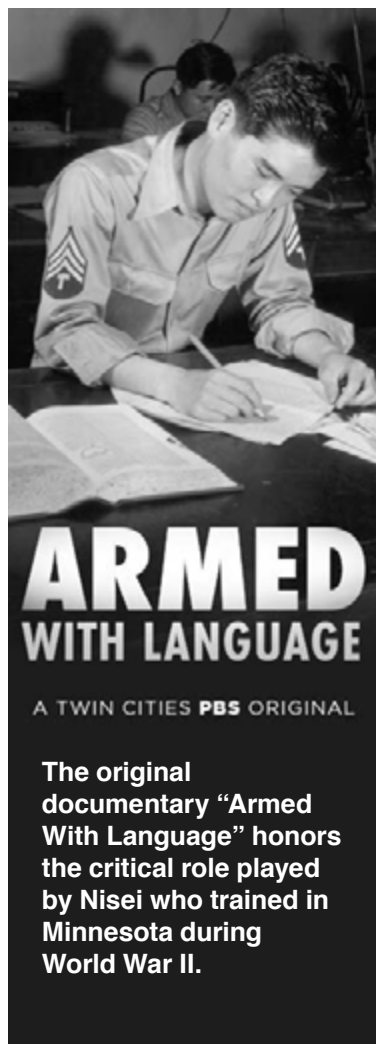
In general, said Richterman, two vaccinated people together is "going to be about as safe as you can get."

Finally, the U.S. government said that vaccinated nursing home residents can hug their loved ones again and enjoy more indoor visits (source: U.S. News, *New Guidelines Mean Nursing Home Residents Can Hug Their Families Again*, March 11, 2021).

The new guidance, issued by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), comes after deaths among nursing home residents have plummeted as the country's vaccination rollout accelerated.

"There is no substitute for physical contact, such as the warm embrace between a resident and their loved one," the CMS stated in its new guidance. "Therefore, if the resident is fully vaccinated, they can choose to have close contact [including touch] with their visitor while wearing a well-fitting face mask and performing hand hygiene before and after." In other words, you can finally hug mom again!!!

Judd Matsunaga is the founding attorney of Elder Law Services of California, a law firm that specializes in Medi-Cal Planning, Estate Planning and Probate. He can be contacted at (310) 348-2995 or judd@elderlawcalifornia.com. The opinions expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Pacific Citizen or constitute legal or tax advice and should not be treated as such.



Twin Cities JACL Collaborates on a PBS Documentary *HONORING THE MIS*

The original program was created by the Twin Cities PBS as part of its 'Minnesota Experience' series.

By JACL Twin Cities Chapter

The JACL Twin Cities chapter has collaborated on an original documentary titled "Armed With Language," which honors the critical role played by Nisei who trained in Minnesota at Camp Savage and Fort Snelling during World War II. The film was created by the Twin Cities PBS (TPT) as part of its "Minnesota Experience" series.

In May 1942, the highly classified Military Intelligence Service Language School was relocated from the Presidio of San Francisco to the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. More than 6,000 Nisei men and women received accelerated and intensive training as translators, interrogators and Japanese military specialists.

David Mura, a local writer, playwright and actor, narrated the documentary, and other members of the Twin Cities JACL helped to bring the stories of courage and sacrifice to life.

Karen Tanaka Lucas shared recollections about her father's training and service in the MIS during and following WWII. Walter Tanaka was selected for the first class of MIS students to train at Camp Savage, Minn., in May 1942. Upon graduation from the MIS Language School, Tanaka was sent to the Pacific Theater, where he interrogated Japanese POWs from 1943 until the end of the war, served as a linguist and interpreter during war crime trials interviewing high-ranking Japanese military leaders in post-war Japan and played a vital link between the

Japanese populace and U.S. occupation forces.

Peggy Doi recounted the experiences of her father, Bill Doi, who volunteered for the MIS while he was incarcerated at Tule Lake, along with 34 fellow incarcerated. In addition, Sally Sudo talked about her brother, Joe Ohno, who served in the MIS while she and the rest of her family were incarcerated at Minidoka, Idaho. Kimmy Tanaka, site supervisor of Historic Fort Snelling at Bdote, discussed the historical significance of the MIS.

Also featured is James C. McNaughton, author of "Nisei Linguists: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service During World War II." McNaughton provided the background and context for the development of the MIS, as

well as recruitment and training of Nisei soldiers at the top-secret school.

The success of the Nisei who served in the highly classified MIS was not publicly known until after the records were released almost 30 years later with the Freedom of Information Act in 1972.

But the attachments of the MIS soldiers to the various units were, in some cases, not documented, so their courage and sacrifices will never be fully known.

Regarding these "unsung heroes," Maj. Gen. Charles Willoughby stated, "The Nisei shortened the Pacific War by two years and saved possibly a million American lives."

In addition, Gen. Douglas MacArthur acknowledged that because of the MIS, "Never in military history did an army know as much about the enemy prior to actual engagement."

The hourlong documentary premiered in the Twin Cities on May 17. Other PBS-affiliated stations will broadcast the film. Check your local listings for more information. The film can also be streamed online at www.tpt.org. ■



A MOTHER'S TAKE

A MOTHER'S DAY REMEMBRANCE

By Marsha Aizumi

Like many of you, Zoom has become a way to stay connected, not only at work, but also personally as well. I was on one such call when a special moment happened.

It was Seiko's birthday, and we were all asked to share a special moment, a special wish or just how the birthday girl had touched our lives. We laughed at some thoughts and nodded in agreement of others. Then, Seiko's baby brother, Arnold, started to relay a moment when his big sister made a birthday cake and Kool-Aid popsicles to celebrate his 7th or 8th birthday.

He said that his parents worked really hard and they had very little money, so he was sad that his birthday would go unnoticed. But Seiko, who was 10 years older, told him, "I can bake you a cake!"

This could have been just another moment that one of us shared, but as Arnold spoke, his voice shook with emotion, and tears began to well up in his eyes. This memory was still

in his heart even over 55 years later.

I was intrigued by this memory, so I asked if I could interview the two of them to understand more deeply this emotion that came out of his birthday sharing. Seiko and Arnold both agreed, and so we set a date to talk on Zoom again.

What started off to be a discussion about the birthday cake for Arnold and how Seiko's gesture was "because I love my brother" ended up going in a different direction.

Seiko and Arnold began to talk about their life in Colorado, as a poor family of nine. Their mother especially struggled because she woke up early to make breakfast for the family, worked in the fields, returned home to make lunch, went back into the fields and then came back to make dinner. She also handled the books for the farm, so she was busy all the time and exhausted as a result.

Arnold said that his mother was often in a bad mood and would lash out at the children. And Arnold further explained, "The smallest things might set her off, but Seiko protected me and was my savior." Even at the

age of 10, Seiko was asked to watch her two younger brothers and baby, Arnold, because she was too young to work in the fields. She became a surrogate mother to her younger siblings.

One thing I noticed when I spoke with Arnold and Seiko was that they weren't angry or bitter about the life they had growing up. Neither of them had an ounce of resentment in their voice. They seemed to see things from an empathetic and grateful perspective.

Arnold said, "When you don't have much money, the little things count." Seiko said more than one time, "Mom, worked so hard" with such compassion in her voice.

Both agreed that when they were young, they didn't understand why their mom was always so unhappy and mad. But as they grew up, they understood what the pressures of having so little money, working from dawn to dusk in the fields, handling the bookkeeping and taking care of seven children did to their mother.

It was constant pressure, endless worry, and her list of things to do was never-ending.

And then I heard words that just broke my heart. They said their grandmother in Japan used to say to their mom, "You're so ugly, why would any man want to marry you."

That was so cruel, I told them maybe I should not write those thoughts, but they both said their mom used to tell everyone, and so it was common knowledge. On top of working so hard, their mom had to live with these words from her own mother.

When I asked Arnold what he would like to say to his mother, even though she is no longer with us for Mother's Day, he shared these poetic words: "Like the Sakura or cherry blossoms, our earthly life is brief and fleeting . . . I am grateful that I was able to witness rare moments when you were joyous and in full bloom. I know you loved us deeply, as we do you, and you continue to live on within us and all our children."

Seiko shared these thoughts as a tribute to her mother: "You had such a rough life and worked so hard in the field. I really didn't appreciate all the hardships you endured until I got older. The only regret I have is that I did not tell you how much I loved you and really acknowledged how much you meant to me. I love you, Mom."

This article started off to be about a sister and brother who love each other so much and I wanted to understand that love. But in the end,

it's more than that. It's about understanding, empathy, gratitude, forgiveness, as well as love. Both Arnold and Seiko have warm and caring spirits, so the attitude they have chosen toward their mother has made them the wonderful human beings they are today.

For all the mothers out in the world who have worked so hard for their families and loved the best that they knew how, I hope you had a wonderful Mother's Day. And for my mother, Jean Nobuye Asamoto Ogino, your light continues to shine brightly in my life. Happy Heavenly Mother's Day. I feel your spirit around me in all that I do. . . .

Marsha Aizumi is an advocate in the LGBT community and author of the book "Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance."



Arnold sits on his mother's lap while Seiko is standing at far right. Their oldest brother was away in the Army and requested the family take this photo.

COPING WITH SYSTEMIC TRAUMA

Racism is a form of 'captivity trauma' that affects communities of color, panel says.

By Ray Locker,
Contributor

As he prepared to take his young family on their first road trip, Dr. Arthur Evans packed a lunch of fried chicken, just as his mother did when he was young, and added some empty jars in case they had to go to the bathroom on the road.

Evans paused and asked, "Why are we doing this?" He realized that he was carrying on the trauma suffered by his African American family when racial discrimination prevented them from stopping at the restaurants or rest areas they wanted.

Now the president and CEO of the American Psychological Assn., Evans told a panel on May 19 about how and his other people of color have suffered from what fellow panelist Dr. Satsuki Ina, a 2020 APA Presidential Citation awardee, called "captivity trauma."

Evans and Ina spoke as part of the panel called "Healing Fractured Communities: Coming to Terms With Systemic Trauma" that was sponsored by APA, the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation and the JACL.

The panelists, including author and Heart Mountain Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi, emphasized the need for unity among groups that have been systematically oppressed during U.S. history.

That oppression includes the Japanese American incarceration during World War II, which affected both Ina and Higuchi. Ina was born a prisoner in the Tule Lake incarceration site in California, where her father was forced into the camp jail, while Higuchi's parents met as childhood incarcerated at Heart

Mountain in Wyoming.

Evans has visited Heart Mountain and said his "allyship comes out of being in a group that's been systematically oppressed."

"The way oppression works is that you never want the people who are being oppressed to get together," Evans said.

COPING WITH SYSTEMIC TRAUMA

Too often, Evans said, psychologists treat the biological aspects of mental health but ignore the effects trauma can have on long-term mental health.

"That pervades how we do the work," he said, "but there are external factors we need to consider. We need to understand the social determinants and understand how history matters."

Moderator Aura Newlin, secretary of the HMWF Board of Directors, asked the panel how they manifested signs of long-term trauma in their lives.

Higuchi said she has reacted during her life to the signs of trauma exhibited by her mother, Setsuko, who remained fixated with real estate after her family was forced from their home in San Francisco.

"She always wanted to be able to move quickly," Higuchi said.

Higuchi detailed the incarceration and its effect on her life and other Japanese Americans in her new book, "Setsuko's Secret: Heart Mountain and the Legacy of the Japanese American Incarceration." Much of what happened to the Japanese American community that Higuchi documented in her book was due to racism.

Racism, Ina said, "is a form of captivity trauma. It is so pervasive as a result of the supremacy of whiteness that has been embroidered, woven

into almost every aspect of our lives."

Oppressed people react to captivity trauma by either identifying with their oppressors and trying to please or by resisting, Ina said.

Many incarcerated Japanese Americans during WWII reacted by seeking favor from those who had imprisoned them. They tried to be more patriotic than Caucasian Americans and often shunned Japanese Americans who resisted their treatment.

Higuchi detailed the harsh treatment of Japanese Americans who resisted the military draft in her book and said her mother wanted her family to be more American than their neighbors.

THE CORROSIVE EFFECT OF 'WEATHERING'

The panel was joined by David Inoue, executive director of the JACL, and Dr. Maysa Akbar, the head of diversity for the APA.

Akbar described how racism and oppression causes "weathering" among the people subjected to it.

"Day in and day out, they feel that drip, drip, drip of oppression, and if you constantly have that drip, you're going to see an erosion," she said.

"If you're living up to the Model Minority myth, that's a weathering for the Japanese American community," Akbar said.

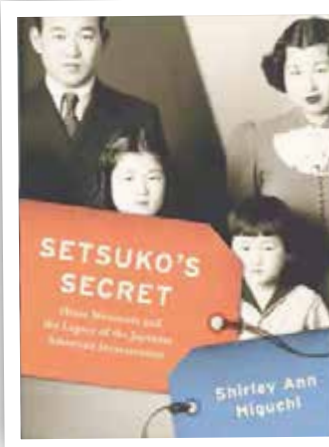
In "Setsuko's Secret," Higuchi wrote about how living up to the expectations of the Model Minority myth contributed to the early death of her older brother, Ken.

Members of all communities "have to build solidarity and coalitions with each other," Akbar said. "Ultimately, that's the only path to reconciliation." ■

PHOTOS: DAVID FUJIOKA



"Healing Fractured Communities" panelists included (clockwise from top left) Aura Newlin, Dr. Arthur Evans, Dr. Satsuki Ina and Shirley Ann Higuchi.



The panelists convened together at the 2020 American Psychological Assn. Practice Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. Pictured (from left) are Shirley Ann Higuchi, Dr. Arthur Evans, Dr. Satsuki Ina and Aura Newlin.



Dr. Maysa Akbar and David Inoue also participated in the panel discussion during the May 19 event.



Dr. Arthur Evans and his wife at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During WWII in Washington, D.C.

SF JACL CHAPTER ANNOUNCES NEW INTERN AND OFFICERS

Megumi Matsuno will be supporting the chapter's social media outreach.



New chapter intern Megumi Matsuno will be tasked with supporting social media outreach, among her many duties.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF SF JACL CHAPTER

Megumi Matsuno, a senior at Washington High School in San Francisco, has been appointed chapter intern of the JACL's San Francisco chapter. Among her duties, Matsuno will be responsible for supporting the chapter's social media outreach.

A fifth-generation Japanese American, Matsuno can often be found helping at her family's café, Kissako, in San Francisco's Japantown. She is a longtime student of Shorinji Kenpo martial arts and a member of the Madame Hanayagi Classical Japanese Dance Ensemble. This fall,

she will attend San Francisco State University and plans on majoring in Japanese and Asian American Studies.

Elections for chapter officers and a new slate of directors were conducted in April. The newly elected leadership consists of President Judy Hamaguchi, VP David Takashima, Secretary Emily Murase, Treasurer John Hayashi and Directors Elena Nielsen, Merry Nishimura (continuing), Brian Shimomura and Daniel Teraguchi.

"I am delighted that John Hayashi will continue to contribute as trea-

surer, Merry Nishimura will continue on the board and Emily Murase returns to the board after many years. I would especially like to welcome new board members Elena Nielsen, Brian Shimomura, David Takashima and Daniel Teraguchi," said Hamaguchi.

A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Nielsen serves as membership coordinator at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California. Shimomura has served the State of California since 2016 and is currently associate government program

analyst for the California Department of Industrial Relations. Takashima comes to the board with years of advocacy experience in Sacramento. Joining the board from out-of-state is Teraguchi, associate dean for student affairs and teaching assistant professor at Carle Illinois College of Medicine.

"Amid increasing incidents of anti-Asian violence, it is essential we have strong leadership in our grassroots organizations. Our new board and chapter intern will move us forward during these uncertain times," Hamaguchi concluded. ■

MEMOIR ILLUMINATES DUCKWORTH'S TRAGEDIES, TRIUMPHS

'Every Day Is a Gift' EXCERPT

By Sen. Tammy Duckworth

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Chapter 2

In 1974, my dad took a job stringing telephone wires for a United Nations Development Programme project in Phnom Penh. At the time, Cambodia was embroiled in a violent civil war, with communist Khmer Rouge insurgents seizing territory controlled by the U.S.-backed Khmer Republic, mile by bloody mile. The fighting had been raging for nearly five years, a savage echo of the war going on just across the border in Vietnam.

The situation in Cambodia was dangerously unstable, but at age six, I had no idea about any of that. I loved living in Phnom Penh. In Bangkok, we'd had a small apartment, but here we had a multistory house with a garden. Because we were a UN family, we had security—a gate surrounding the house, with an armed soldier posted out front. I didn't understand that the guards' fully loaded rifles were more than just decoration, or that the threat of violence in the capital was real and ever present. I just liked playing with the soldiers and trying to learn enough words in the Khmer language to talk to them.

When I think back on our time in Cambodia, I think of drives down wide boulevards lined with mango trees and bougainvillea flowers. I remember the smell of French boules, crusty and golden, their interiors fragrant with warm, yeasty, deliciously doughy bread. Whenever Mom would take Tom and me to the market, she had to buy two or three at a time, because we would tear into them as soon as we got to the car, devouring an entire boule before the driver got us home. Phnom Penh was colorful and fun, and the people at the market always seemed so friendly.

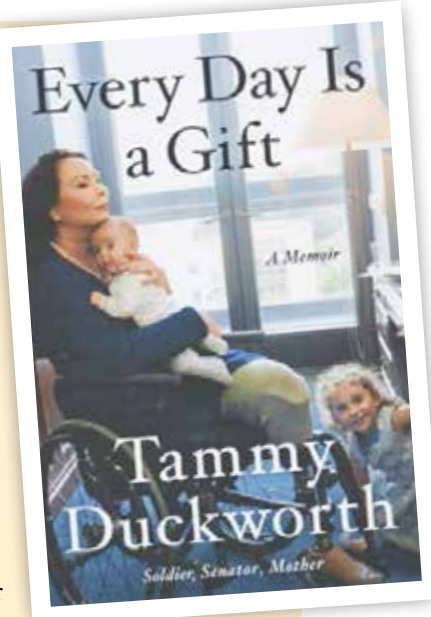
But then, I remember another scene. My mom and I were in the car, heading to market, and suddenly she grabbed me and shoved me headfirst down to the floorboard. She yelled at the driver to turn around, and I lay there confused, my face flat against the mat and Mom's hand pressed to the back of my head to keep me from looking up. A bomb had exploded in the market just minutes earlier, and she was desperately trying to protect me from seeing the blood and body parts scattered among the stalls. The driver floored it, and we raced straight back to the house.

Somehow, I still wasn't scared, even as the bombings inched closer and closer to our home. My parents used to take Tom and me to the roof so we could see the bombs drop over the river and the flares soaring into the sky. "Look, Tammy," my dad would say. "Look at the pretty fireworks." I believed they were fireworks, so when I'd hear the sounds of explosions and see the rockets lighting up the sky, I never felt scared.

Dad also brought us to the airfield to see the C-130 planes that sometimes ferried him to Laos and Thailand for work. A couple of times, he brought us along for rides to Bangkok, to see our relatives. My mom wasn't keen on this, but to me, there was nothing cooler than sitting in the back of one of these big planes, looking out of the lowered tailgate, and seeing jungles, rivers, and villages whiz by below. I couldn't have imagined then that one day, thirty years later, I'd be piloting my own aircraft over palm groves and villages not so different from these.

In later years, when I asked my mom about our family's experiences in Cambodia, she would describe this time as a difficult one. While my memories are of colorful street scenes and fresh bread, hers are of being mostly confined to our gated home as the fighting closed in on the capital. It must have been incredibly stressful for her, worrying about the safety of her young children in a war zone that was only growing hotter. She also never knew if my dad would return home safely each night from his job sites across the city. Yet when most Americans started flooding out of Phnom Penh in early 1975, my dad insisted that we stay. He believed that there was no way the United States would allow Cambodia to fall to the Communists, and that any day, American troops would arrive to fight the Khmer Rouge.

"They're coming," he'd say. "You'll see." He was a firm believer in



The Illinois senator's 'Every Day Is a Gift' revisits the life of a soldier, senator and mother.

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

Several years ago, in the mid-1980s, there was a 16-year-old in Honolulu working on the McKinley High School yearbook.

Although she loved the activity, her classmates and she were constantly exasperated by the seemingly absent-minded graphic arts teacher, who served as the yearbook adviser. Mr. Nakamura would regularly ask

the girl and her friends to stay after school to fix something that he said he messed up on the yearbook's layout.

Afterward, for making the students stay late, Mr. Nakamura would apologetically give them a few dollars and tell them to stop at the nearby Taco Bell, back when one could get two tacos for 99 cents. They happily and hungrily took advantage of their absent-minded teacher's kindness, laughing at this bumbler behind his back.

Years later, when the teen had grown up, she realized all the kids that Mr. Nakamura asked to stay late were her fellow "food stamp" kids. She realized that the absent-mindedness was deliberate, his way of making sure they had enough to eat while sparing them of any possible feelings of shame for their circumstances.

It was those food stamps and other government programs that gave her impoverished family a helping

hand, not to mention the kindness of people like her high school teacher, that compelled that girl who grew up to become a Democrat and, since 2017, the junior senator representing Illinois: Tammy Duckworth.

◆◆◆

The preceding story is one of many contained in "Every Day Is a Gift" (ISBN-13: 978-1538718506), Ladda Tammy Duckworth's 288-page memoir from Hachette Book Group, which was published on March 30.

The book relates how the Bangkok, Thailand-born Duckworth and her family landed in Hawaii as a teen after growing up under relatively privileged circumstances in Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia.

But when, in 1982, Frank Duckworth lost his job managing a gated housing development in Indonesia for wealthy expatriate Americans and other Westerners, the family's lifestyle began a serious turn for the worse. It was a downward slide that, once in the U.S., led them to scramble to earn every penny possible to stay afloat.

In "Every Day Is a Gift," Duckworth also explains why she joined the Army and trained to become a helicopter pilot; where she met her future husband, Bryan Bowlsbey; and when her life was torn asunder after the chopper she was piloting in Iraq was downed by a rocket-propelled grenade, resulting in the loss of both her legs and a severe injury to an arm; and how she came back from that ordeal to become not just a United States representative and later, a senator, but also a mother late in life. All of those are among the many, many stories of adversity and triumph contained in the book.

Duckworth's improbable life story begins, of course, with her parents. Her Caucasian American father, Frank Duckworth, of Winchester, Va., fudged his papers to join the Marine Corps underage toward the end of WWII. (She believes he joined when he was 15.)

Years after transferring to the Army and earning his commission, he was sent to northern Thailand as a civilian employee of the Army (and a member of the Army Reserve) during the Vietnam War.



Duckworth at flight school, where she fell in love with flying and learned to become a helicopter pilot.

PHOTOS: DUCKWORTH FAMILY

Tammy Duckworth at 16, taken at Camp Castaway, off the coast of Malaysia.

Duckworth with President-elect Barack Obama on Veterans Day, 2008. Both share a Hawaii and Illinois connection.

PHOTO: STAN HONDA/
AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Duckworth at Walter Reed on Dec. 3, 2005, after receiving her Purple Heart. The photo was taken three weeks after being shot down.



Tammy Duckworth's mother, Lamai Sompornpairin, was an ethnic Chinese whose family fled China for Thailand to escape Communism and Mao Tse-tung. Frank and Lamai met while he was stationed in Thailand and she ran a shop with her brother. Frank fell for Lamai and pursued her, but Lamai, wary of the many examples of U.S. servicemen falling for and then abandoning Asian women (and their biracial-bicultural children), made him promise to take care of her and her family. He agreed.

They married — his second marriage, her first — and in due time, Tammy was born, followed by her brother, Tom.



Duckworth told the *Pacific Citizen* that the impetus for the book began with a question asked a couple of years ago by her older daughter, Abigail O'kalani Duckworth Bowsbey, who was born in 2014.

"Every night, I read a book with her, and then we have what we call 'Mommy-Abigail' time where we can ask each other anything, and we pinkie promise that we will never get mad at each other because of a question the other person asks," Duckworth said. "One night, just about two years ago, she asked me, 'Why did you go to war and you don't have legs? It makes me mad because the other kids in my class have moms who have legs, and you can't do a lot of the things that the other moms can do.'"

Duckworth said the question took her breath away. There was no simple answer to her child's simple question. So, whenever she had a few minutes of downtime while, for instance, waiting to board an airplane, she began using the notes app on her smartphone to write notes for her daughter to explain what happened and why.

"I just started writing these little paragraphs to say, well, when Mommy was a teenager, I was really hungry because my daddy didn't have a job, and we didn't have enough food, but America gave me food stamps, and we

were able to eat, so it was worth it for Mommy to serve in uniform," Duckworth said.

"All these little stories that became the stories in the book were actually me trying to answer my daughter's question of 'Was it worth it for me to lose my legs for America?' This book came as a result of that."

Duckworth's chief of staff, curious what her boss was doing on her phone, read the entries and concluded that there was enough material for a book proposal. As a result, the book came about very quickly, in nine or 10 months, with her collaborator taking that material and, as she put it, polishing it up.



Asked whether the Thai people embrace Sen. Duckworth, she answered yes, saying, "I'm so proud of my Thai heritage. I'm proud to come from two different lands that value freedom. The word *thai* means 'free,' and Thailand literally means 'land of the free,' and now I'm a senator in another land of the free and home of the brave, the United States, so I'm proud of both, and I hope the Thai people are proud of me."

Duckworth added, however, that she considers herself "100 percent American" because, as she noted in the book, she never felt like she fit in overseas. "I fit in best in the Midwest, and I'm a Midwesterner now," Duckworth said.

As the book unfolds, Duckworth expresses a combination of respect and exasperation for her father, Frank Duckworth, who was parsimonious in his praise and encouragement for her, especially compared with her brother.

As she grew up, she also began to see through his all-knowing façade, writing, "It never occurred to me that he might not be right about everything; he would make a proclamation, and we all believed him. . . . My family would end up learning the hard way that Dad didn't always know what he was talking about."

She chalks it up to his generation. In the book, she relates how the closest he came to praising his daughter was, "Tammy's not the smartest kid, but she works the hardest."

Duckworth also said that initially she didn't intend to include much about him.

"It's funny. The stories about my father sort of emerged as I wrote the book. I never meant to have my dad in there, if there is any kind of a theme, but it became a theme in the book, and I think most people reading it, especially daughters

the domino theory, that if one country fell to communism, others would soon follow suit. The war in Vietnam had ground to a bloody stalemate, and if we couldn't defeat the Communists there, then surely we could — we had to! — erect a firewall in Cambodia. My dad trusted that the Americans would do everything they needed to do to hold the line in Southeast Asia. He refused to believe that our government would do anything less.

But as the fighting drew ever closer to our home, my dad finally realized that he couldn't keep us there anymore. So in early April of 1975, he got Mom, Tom, and me on the last commercial flight heading out of Phnom Penh. In my recollection, we just went to the airport and got on the plane. Years later, though, my mom told me that in the airport, we had to sit on the floor, our backs pressed to a wall, crouching below window height to avoid bullets that were flying overhead.

We made it safely to Bangkok, and shortly after that, my dad told my mom in a phone call that a bomb had blown up right outside our house. The explosion had sent shrapnel flying through a window and over the bed where he was sleeping, peppering the wall across the room. That same week, he was up a telephone pole, stringing wires with a Cambodian worker, and a rocket landed at the bottom of the pole. It didn't explode, thank God. But my dad realized that he too had to leave, or risk losing his life there.

Dad was evacuated in Operation Eagle Pull — he final wave of U.S. military transport planes to leave Phnom Penh, on April 12. By that date, the capital was surrounded by the Khmer Rouge, completely cut off from supplies and bombarded by endless waves of artillery fire. Five days later, on April 17, 1975, the Khmer Rouge stormed in, and Phnom Penh fell. We had made it out just in time.

From my family's safe haven in Bangkok, we watched TV news coverage of the chaos erupting across Indochina. Two weeks after Phnom Penh fell, Saigon did too, as North Vietnamese and Vietcong troops surged into the capital. And many of the Americans in Saigon did exactly what my dad had done, waiting until the last possible moment to get out.

At first, they evacuated in airplanes. But after the North Vietnamese Army launched bombing attacks on Tan Son Nhat Airport, the United States initiated the largest helicopter airlift in history, Operation Frequent Wind. In less than twenty-four hours, our helicopters evacuated more than 1,000 Americans and 5,000 Vietnamese from Saigon to U.S. aircraft carriers in the South China Sea.

On TV, I saw the famous image of people pushing their way up a ladder, trying to board a Huey perched on the roof of a Saigon building. Decades later, I would begin my own military service by learning to fly those same Huey helicopters, and much of my training — and the training of other pilots I'd fly with — would come from Vietnam War Veterans. Little did I know it then, but the tactical flying skills these helicopter pilots had learned in Vietnam would one day save my own life.

I also saw much more disturbing images, of rickety boats crammed with frightened people and their crying children. In the spring of 1975, tens of thousands of Vietnamese, some with nothing more than the clothes on their backs, clambered into fishing boats, trawlers, and sampans in hopes of making it to one of the many U.S. warships anchored off the coast. This was the first wave in what would become a nearly two-decade exodus of hundreds of thousands of "boat people" from Southeast Asia.

Watching these scenes as a seven-year-old child affected me, even though I was too young to fully take in what I was seeing. I understood that the United States was rescuing people with helicopters, and that the people who crowded onto those boats were looking to us for protection. I wasn't sure exactly what Communists were and why they wanted to do such terrible things, or even what those terrible things were. I just knew that we had been at war with them, and now they were winning and the Americans were leaving. The local people were desperate to go with the Americans, because they needed our help. This felt personal for me, because I was American and so was my dad. I was proud that we were the good guys, but also confused about why Americans couldn't save all those people.

Seeing those TV images of people crammed into boats in 1975 made a strong impression on me. But I also saw the plight of refugees in person. My dad got a job working with UN refugee programs, delivering aid to camps filled with Cambodian and Vietnamese people who'd managed to escape to Thailand. A couple of times he brought me along, so I could watch him deliver big bags of rice and boxes of medical supplies stamped with the American flag and see how people's faces lit up. Those moments intensified the pride I felt. From a child's perspective, this all seemed very simple: Americans were the ones who helped people in need, who opened their doors and took in refugees, who cared.

I had the same feeling when my dad took us to see the U.S. diplomats cutting ribbons to open new hospitals and schools in Bangkok. I would eagerly tell other people in the crowd that my dad was American, and because of that, I was American. I still had never been to the United States, and wouldn't get there for five more years. But these experiences marked the beginning of my deep feeling of patriotism for this country.

*From the book EVERY DAY IS A GIFT
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The Duckworth family, circa the early 1970s. Pictured (from left) are Lamai, Tammy, Frank and Tom Duckworth.



» of fathers, might see parallels in the complicated relationships between dads and daughters, especially eldest daughters who are trying to get their approval and can't quite ever get it. That's just the way it is."

(As for whether Duckworth ever heard her father praise her before his death in 2005, you'll have to read the book to find out.)



For Duckworth, the trajectory of her life is inseparably intertwined with the years she spent in the Army.

"It's a pure meritocracy. It didn't matter when I showed up at basic training that I was a little mixed-race half-Asian girl in my platoon," Duckworth said. "It didn't matter who I was. It just mattered whether I could shoot straight. . . . That pure meritocracy is what I fell in love with. I ended up becoming a lifer and did 23 years."

Part of that saga, of course, includes the day in November 2004 when the Black Hawk helicopter Duckworth was piloting was shot down by an RPG (rocket-propelled grenade), which resulted in the loss of both of her legs and a shattered right arm, a story that is retold excruciatingly in her book. Because she was rendered unconscious shortly after the chopper crashed, Duckworth had to piece the story together of the aftermath from the accounts of others who either survived the attack or helped in her rescue.

Like many thousands of wounded soldiers before her, Duckworth would, after a stop in Germany, be sent to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.,

where she was kept under sedation for days. While she has no memories of that period, for her husband, Bryan Bowlsbey, and parents, who flew in from Hawaii, it was a time of emotional and psychological torment. In all, Duckworth spent 13 months at Walter Reed.

Her recovery and eventual successful foray into politics would put her into a very exclusive club of former military personnel who became U.S. representatives and senators and an even smaller club within that one: disabled military who became senators, with Bob Dole of Kansas and Daniel Inouye of Hawaii preceding her.

Duckworth is also in a club that Dole and Inouye could never join, as she is the first senator to give birth while in office, with the arrival of her second child, Maile Pearl Duckworth Bowlsbey.



When Duckworth was writing her book, there was a different occupant in the Oval Office who was known for giving others derisive nicknames, a fortunate son who attended military school but avoided serving in Vietnam thanks to a doctor who diagnosed him with bone spurs in his feet. "Candidate Bone Spurs," as Duckworth infamously called the one-term president, would lose in November 2020.

In the runup to the election, his eventual successor was vetting potential running mates. Duckworth was said to be among that group, and while ultimately she wasn't chosen, her profile nevertheless rose.

And that new president, Joe Biden, once served a former president whose life and career has parallels to Duckworth's: being biracial, growing up in Asia and Hawaii, making Illinois

an adopted home, becoming a senator, writing an inspirational book and becoming president. Is the path walked by Barack Obama one that might be taken by Tammy Duckworth?

Asked if that might be the case, Duckworth's answer was preceded with a hearty laugh.

"Oh, no! I love being in the Senate. Are you kidding me? I can't believe I'm a U.S. senator. I love my job. My heroes are the Daniel Inouyes and the John McCains and the Bob Doles, the people who served in the military and then came back and built a body of work in the Senate that really made American lives better and found a different way to serve than in uniform. That's what I want to do. It's very flattering to be compared to Barack Obama, but I'm no Barack Obama, and frankly, I don't want to be. I love where I am."

But, asked if she *could* become the president, even though she was born in Thailand, she was quick to note that the law is on her side, since "natural-born citizen" does apply to her through her father, a U.S. citizen, just as it did to Sen. John McCain, who was born in Panama, when he ran for president.

"The book really was me trying to do something for my daughters and friends noticing that this would be a really good book," said Duckworth. "I never really intended to write a book for anybody, other than my girls."

"It's really a love letter to my country," she continued, "answering my question for my daughter, 'Is America worth it?' And my answer is, 'Yes.' That's why it's called 'Every Day Is a Gift,'" Duckworth said. "And I end the book with the letter that I wanted to write to my girls about why America is worth

it. And, I hope someday they find their way serve this country, too, maybe not in uniform. but that they give something back someday."

The Pacific Citizen will have a drawing to give away one copy of "Every Day Is a Gift" to a P.C. reader. Mail an envelope to: Pacific Citizen, ATTN: Every Day Is a Gift Book Drawing, 123 Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Letters must be postmarked by June 18. The winner of the drawing is asked to promise to write a Letter to the Editor giving his/her thoughts on the book.



Duckworth at Walter Reed receiving guests Rob Schneider (second from left) and Adam Sandler (fifth from left) and others who visited to offer encouragement to the wounded.

PHOTOS: DUCKWORTH FAMILY

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CALIF.'S NEW ATT'Y GEN. ANNOUNCES RACIAL JUSTICE BUREAU

Rob Bonta unveils an initiative to stem the rise in hate crimes at his first news conference.

By P.C. Staff

In response to the alarming rise in hate crimes nationally and within California in 2020 and 2021, especially those targeting people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent, California Attorney General Rob Bonta, 48, announced the formation of the Racial Justice Bureau, which will be under the state's Department of Justice.

The former assemblyman made the announcement on May 11 in a virtual news conference, his first since being confirmed on April 22 as the state's attorney general, succeeding former state Attorney General Xavier Becerra, who left the post to join the Biden administration as the secretary of Health and Human Services.

"Specifically, the Racial Justice Bureau will initially bring six new attorneys and a supervising deputy attorney general on top of that to our Civil Rights Enforcement Section," Bonta said. He added that the new attorneys are part of the first steps the state DOJ will be taking to address new and ongoing matters "through the lens of racial justice, through the lens of social justice."

Bonta also noted that the California Department of Justice is actively looking to hire and fill the six attorney positions. "If you want to join a dynamic team, stand up for the people, our values and our incredible resources here in California, come join us," he said, by visiting www.oag.ca.gov/careers.

The attorney general outlined the Racial Justice Bureau's priorities as follows:

California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced the formation of the Racial Justice Bureau on May 11.

- Focusing on hate crimes, hate organizations and white supremacy by working with law enforcement on hate crime prevention, information sharing and reporting
- Addressing implicit and explicit bias in policing; launching and supporting investigations as appropriate
- Focusing on law enforcement best practices by issuing guidance to local law enforcement and prosecutors
- Focusing on campus climate issues by conducting and supporting investigations into overly punitive, discriminatory policies when they arise
- Focusing on the task force to study and develop reparation proposals for African Americans under AB 3121.

When Bonta began fielding questions from news organizations, the *Pacific Citizen* asked how the state could deal with the root causes of racism, noting that the proposals to deal with this most-recent rise in incidents of anti-Asian violence, while commendable, were symptoms of a decades-old problem of racism.

"That's a really important question," Bonta responded. "A lot of people are focused on the now. How do we protect our beloved elders, who during their activities of daily living are being attacked, are being pushed down and punched in the face, slashed across the face and killed? That is a very important question



to identify that immediate nexus, that current state of emergency and to prevent, support, heal, be victim-centered in approaches and do everything we can to stop the immediate crisis.

"But that also builds right into a broader discussion of root causes," he continued. "The hate violence that we are seeing now is a symptom. It's not a root cause. So, we need to do both. We need to walk and chew gum at the same time. We need to address root causes as we address the emergency that is immediate, that is right before us."

Bonta said that was where a restorative justice approach could be used if, for example, a student who discriminated against another could be taught why his actions were wrong, especially if placed in a broader historical context that educates instead of merely punishes.

"Instead of an act of discrimination, maybe in the future you'll see an act of unity or support. That helps build the next generation when we invest in our young people the same approaches that are restorative," said Bonta, who also used the opportunity to decry mes-

saging of the previous occupant of the White House, which he linked to the surge in anti-Asian violence.

"There is in the human condition at times an inclination to blame others and take it out on others. We need leaders who do the opposite, who push out messages of unity and solidarity and allyship, who celebrate and uplift our diversity instead of driving wedges between each other," he said.

Bonta, as noted, was a state assemblyman who represented Alameda, Oakland and San Leandro. The Yale graduate is also the first Filipino American to serve as the most-populous state's attorney general. In remarks made before the announcement of the formation of the Racial Justice Bureau, he noted that his parents, who "have been and are social justice champions, were leaders in some of the greatest social justice movements of our nation."

"My mom (Cynthia Bonta) fought for the restoration of democracy in the Philippines, my father (Warren Bonta) marched in Selma, fighting for civil rights and voting rights, and they were both leaders in the farm workers movement.

"From a young age, I learned from them that, while they worked alongside Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta and Philip Vera Cruz and other incredible leaders, that, when something isn't right, it's time to fight, and that injustice against one is an injustice against all," Bonta concluded. ■

CONGRESS » continued from page 2

Yet, to some activists, including organizations representing gay and transgender Asian Americans, the legislation is misguided. More than 100 groups have signed onto a statement opposing the bill for relying too heavily on law enforcement while providing too little funding to address the underlying issues driving a rise in hate crimes.

"We have had hate crimes laws since 1968, it's been expanded over and over again, and this new legislation is more of the same," said Jason Wu, who is co-chair of GAPIMNY-Empowering Queer and Trans Asian Pacific Islanders. "These issues are about bias, but also rooted in inequality and lack of investment and resources for our communities. Not a shortage of police and jails."

Meng acknowledged some of the concerns raised by the groups but countered that the widespread underreporting of hate crimes needs to be addressed.

"Law enforcement is currently underreporting these kinds of incidents and it makes it easy to ignore hate crimes all together," she said.

Rep. Jim Jordan, an Ohio Republican, suggested that the surge in Asian American violence was tied to efforts backed by some Democrats and other progressives to decrease funding for the police.

"This violence, by and large, is happening

in Democrat-controlled cities," said Jordan. If "money wasn't taken from police and they were allowed to do their jobs, they would probably be in an entirely different position."

Yet, the bill also represented a rare moment of bipartisanship in a Congress that has struggled to overcome partisan gridlock, while underscoring an evolution in Republican thought on hate crimes legislation.

Many conservatives have historically dismissed hate crime laws, arguing they create special protected classes so that victims of similar crimes are treated differently.

"I'm glad Congress is coming together in a bipartisan way," said Rep. Young Kim, a California Republican who is Korean American. "Let's also recognize that we cannot legislate hate out of our people's hearts and minds."

Speaking earlier in the day, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said passage of the bill sends a "powerful message of solidarity" to those who have suffered discrimination during the pandemic.

"Discrimination against Asian Americans is, sadly, not a new phenomenon in our nation's history, but the pandemic brought old biases and prejudices back to the foreground," the New York Democrat said. "The Senate can be proud it took the lead." ■

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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

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June 8; 4-5 p.m. PDT
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Price: Free; Books are available for purchase online.
Join Olympic medalists Maia and Alex Shibutani as they discuss their latest in the Kudo Kids series "The Mystery in Manhattan" along with JACL's David Inoue. Signed bookplates will be available with book purchase while supplies last.
Info: To RSVP and purchase book copies, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pp-live-jacl-present-maia-alex-shibutani-the-mystery-in-manhattan-tickets-155846929361>.

**'If Only We Dare' — From the Harada
Story to Ending Asian Hate
Riverside, CA
June 10; 6-7:30 p.m.
Virtual Event**

Price: Free
Hear an inspiring group of leaders and learn practical actions anyone can undertake to help end racial hatred and violence. This Zoom event will feature Kimberly Harada, JACL's David Inoue, IMPACT Bay Area's Linda Leu, Loyola Marymount University's Curtiss Takada Rooks, Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA) and UC Davis' Dr. Carolee Tran along with introductions by Al Zelinka, city manager for the City of Riverside, and moderator Dr. Robyn G. Peterson, director of the Museum of Riverside.
Info: To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/EndAAPIHate>.

**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) @SAALTweets
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC) @searac
APIA Scholars @APIA_Scholars**

NCWNP

**Jikei Kai Annual Memorial Day Service
Colma, CA
May 31; 11 a.m.-Noon
Jikei Kai, Japanese Benevolent Society of California
Virtual Event
Price: Free**

Jikei Kai will hold its annual Memorial Day Service via Zoom, where the Consul General of Japan in San Francisco, the Japanese American Religious Federation of San Francisco and the Japanese American community of Northern California will join in commemorating 120 years of the Japanese Cemetery in Colma. Jikei Kai president Dean Hedani will present remarks, with the Hon. Toru Maeda of the Consul General of Japan in SF also participating, as well as religious ceremonies conducted by member churches of JARF.
Info: To register for this event through Eventbrite, visit <http://bit.ly/JapaneseCemeteryMemorialDayRegistration>. For more information, email JBENS1300@gmail.com or call (415) 771-3440.

**'What It Means to Be an Asian
American'
San Jose, CA
Japanese American Museum of San Jose
May 29; 1-2 p.m.
Virtual Event
Price: Free but donations are welcome.
JAMsj and the Northern California**

Cherry Blossom Festival Queen Program host this panel discussion with current and past members of the Northern California Cherry Blossom Court on "What It Means to Be Asian American." Panelists include current court members Queen Kelly Noelani Eshima, First Princess Akiko Jacqueline Bates, Princess Ashlyn Sumiko Hom and past court members Kelli Sum and Nicole Harada. Adena Ishii from JAMsj will moderate.
Info: To RSVP, visit <https://bit.ly/3aWxevB>.

PSW

**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.**

**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

**Oregon Japanese American WWII
Veterans' Stamp Dedication
Oregon**

**June 14; 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Event**

Price: Free
Join the Oregon Nisei Veterans, Mary Yamaguchi Fund, The Oregon Historical Society, Portland JACL and the Japanese American Museum of Oregon at this virtual dedication event that will unveil the U.S. Postal Service stamp honoring Nisei veterans of World War II. The program will include former Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski as honorary chair. Tributes will also include four generations of Japanese Americans and feature vignettes of Oregon Nisei military service portrayed by Oregon Asian Americans.
Info: Visit vimeo.com/543729988.

**'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. 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
Thru May 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 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.
Info: Visit [Amache.org](https://amache.org) for more details.

EDC

**'Honoring the Legacy of the Nisei
Soldiers' — 73rd Annual Memorial
Day Service
Arlington County, VA
May 30; 10 a.m.
Arlington National Cemetery
Columbarium
Virtual Livestreamed Event
JAVA's 73rd Annual Memorial Day Service will feature LTG Mike Nagata, U.S. Army (Ret), as well as greetings from JACL Washington, D.C., Chapter Co-President Linda Sato Adams and JAVA President Gerald Yamada, as they honor the legacy of Nisei soldiers. The event will be livestreamed on JAVA's Facebook page.
Info: Visit <https://www.facebook.com/Japanese-American-Veterans-Association-201704733192222?eType=EmailBlastContent&id=9a88b984-7ae5-447d-8e68-5923c58f5d5a>.**

**Glenn Kaino: 'In the Light of a
Shadow'
Thru Sept. 4
North Adams, MA
MASS MoCA
87 Marshall St.
"In the Light of a Shadow" is inspired by the connection between two protests — the tragic events known as "Bloody Sunday" from Selma, Ala., and Derry, Northern Ireland. The installation provides an immersion experience of moving shadows and soundscape.
Info: Visit <https://www.wbur.org/artery/2021/04/02/mass-moca-glenn-kaino-in-light-of-shadow>.**

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.

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In MEMORIAM

Hongo, Miyoko, 98, Montebello, CA, March 18; she was predeceased by her husband, Isao; and son, Russell Ken; she is survived by her sons, Ronnie G. Hongo and Raymond M. Hongo; sister, Michiko Koga; sister-in-law, Yoshiko Hongo; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Kitabayashi, Mary, 87, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 9; she was predeceased by her husband, Shiro Kitabayashi; she is survived by her sons, Don and Joey Kitabayashi; brother, Rick (Tomi) Nakatani; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2

Miyamura, Kazuko, 93, San Martin, CA, Jan. 11; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ; she was predeceased by her husband, Min Miyamura; and sons, Wayne Miyamura and Dean Miyamura; siblings, George Sato, Chiyeko Harada and Nora Kinoshita; she is survived by her children, Alan (Joy) Miyamura and Lorraine (Jim) Kirkland; siblings, Sue Dible, Mits (Liz) Sato and Dick (Yoko) Sato; gc: 2, ggc: 3.

Nishitani, Miwako, 88, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 5; she is survived by her daughter, Junko (Benjamin Ballard) Nishitani; sister, Mieko (Shigeo) Omori; sister-in-law, Fumiko Nakanishi; brother-in-

law, Yoshioki (Tazuko) Nishitani; 1 niece; 1 nephew; 1 nephew-in-law.

Suzuki, Junko, 84, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 11; she is survived by her children, Kenji (Tomoko) Suzuki and Hiromi Cyndi (Melvin) Quan; gc: 3.

Yamakawa, Jimmy, 92, Santa

Rosa, CA, March 24; a JACLer; he was predeceased by his wife, Mary; siblings, Hiroyuki, Ato and Mary Satake; 3 brothers-in-law and 2 sisters-in-law; he is survived by his children, Delwin, Lucy (Marshall Cox) and Jennifer; sisters, Eiko Sakaguchi and Hanaye Baba; sister-in-law, Susy Bauman; gc: 2. ■

TRIBUTE

YOSHIO YAMADA



Yoshio "Yosh" Yamada passed away peacefully on March 18, 2021, at the age of 94. Born on July 25, 1926, in Oakland, Calif., he was the eighth of nine children born to Masaoki and Masayo Yamada. His father died when he was still very young, forcing the family to sell their Cook Service Laundry to set up a smaller laundry. Yosh lived in Oakland until 1942, when he and his family were forced to leave their home to be incarcerated in the Topaz Internment Camp, located in Utah. Yosh wrote, "We lost everything, including our home and business ...

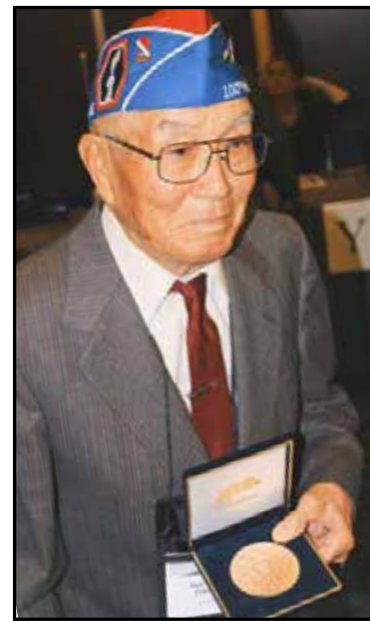
I attended my last 2 years of high school ... where we often moved about with guns pointing at us." After graduating from Topaz High School in June 1944, he left camp to Chicago, where his older sister had secured a job. That fall he began at the University of Wisconsin, but in January 1945 he was inducted into the U.S. Army where, as he puts it, "I served the very country that had imprisoned me." He trained to be a radio repairman, but "just as I was preparing to ship to out to Japan, the war ended."

Upon his discharge from the Army, Yosh returned to the University of Wisconsin where he lettered in both track and football, being on the two-time Champion 150-pound football team. After earning a bachelor's and then master's in PE, he took a teaching job at Englewood High School, located in the south side of Chicago. Yosh taught PE and coached football, leading the team to a city championship in 1958. Finding there was no budget for athletics, he organized the Englewood High School Alumni Association which raised significant funds for the athletic program. During his tenure he held various positions including, department chair, athletic director, and director of the driver education center, a position he held until his retirement in 1991. Yosh had opportunities to take coaching jobs at suburban schools and small colleges, but he remained dedicated to the students at Englewood. Honoring his 38 years at Englewood, he was presented with a resolution from the State of Illinois, House of Representatives, which stated in part, "WHEREAS, Mr. Yamada became known as a coach who really cared for his athletes, and helped 90 percent of them to graduate from high school and many to go on to college... be it resolved that we congratulate Yoshio Yamada on the occasion of his retirement..." In his own words, from his years of experience working with young adults, Yosh believed that, "An individual will achieve and learn if he or she is dealt with as an individual. We, as adults, must command not demand respect if we intend to receive respect. Students must be treated fairly, with their individual needs being considered. All students will then achieve."

Active during retirement, Yosh golfed with his Nisei friends and the Chi-Town Pros. He bowled Friday nights, became a Bridge master, and traveled to many Super Bowls. Every summer Yosh visited his siblings who had eventually re-settled in the San Francisco Bay Area after the war. He was considered the "fun" uncle to his nieces and nephews who always looked forward to his visits. In 2017, Yosh moved to Sacramento, Calif., to be closer to family. From his independent living apartment, Greenhaven Terrace, he went to the casinos four days a week, and watched CNN, "America's Got Talent," the Chicago Bears and Cubs, and golf. His daily routine included Sudoku, which he did up until his last week. He enjoyed visits from his nieces and nephews, and worried for them about the world he would be leaving behind. At the age of 94, when asked, what he had wanted to be when he grew up, he replied, "a PE teacher." Yosh had done what he wanted to do in life, while positively impacting many others; his had been a life well lived. Yosh is preceded in death by his siblings: Sachiko Yamada, Chieko Sakai, Tadashi Yamada, Miyeko Mishima, Masashi Yamada, Chizuko Hosoume and Mitsuo Yamada. He is survived by his sister, June Tamanaha, and many nieces and nephews. Please post a remembrance on the Yosh Yamada Memorial Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/Yosh-Yamada-Memorial-100936898818475/>. Memorials may be made to the National Japanese American Citizens League.

TRIBUTE

JACK TOMINAGA



Matsuo "Jack" Tominaga was a loving husband, father, grandfather and friend. He died at the age of 97 on April 21, 2021.

Jack was born to Daijiro Haro and Nobu Tominaga on Jan. 4, 1924, in Shelley, Idaho, and he had six brothers and three sisters. He went on to serve in World War II in the distinguished and highly decorated 442nd Regimental Combat Team. It was a Japanese American infantry regiment with the motto "Go for Broke"— and in 2011 they were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in a ceremony in Washington. On the flight to D.C., the pilot shook Jack's hand and thanked him for his service. The passengers applauded when they learned he was on board, though he napped through the fanfare.

His name, along with that of his four brothers who also served in WWII, is engraved in the Memorial Park in Pocatello, Idaho. His service is also commemorated at the Veterans Plaza in Spring Canyon Park in Fort Collins, Colo., and the Go for Broke Monument in Los Angeles.

He married the love of his life, Toshie "Betty" Nishioka, on Jan. 18, 1951. They celebrated their 70th anniversary in January. They raised three children on a farm in Blackfoot, Idaho, where they grew potatoes, raised Hereford cattle and had a series of dachshunds all named Sammy. He loved to ride his horse and check on the cattle, especially in the spring when they were calving. He won numerous awards for the quality of his potato and sugar beet crops, and he used the award money to take his family on trips to Disneyland.

Because Jack was unable to finish his own education, he prioritized education for his children. He encouraged his children (and grandchildren) to seize every opportunity to expand their knowledge. Jack and Betty put their children through undergraduate, graduate and medical school. They sold cattle when the kids needed extra money and used horse trailers to move them to their various colleges across the country.

Despite the prejudice he faced as a Japanese American, and the challenges he faced as a farmer, he never complained or held a grudge. He was quiet grace. Jack enjoyed simple pleasures: secret gas station ice cream cones (and forgetting to wipe the chocolate evidence off his chin), quiet naps in the potato fields under the Idaho sky, and boisterous card games with his children, grandchildren and friends. His one extravagance was a diamond ring he wore proudly when he played cards.

Jack drove other seniors to play bridge at the Blackfoot Senior Citizens Center. He was a devoted member of the Jason Lee Memorial United Methodist Church in Blackfoot, as well as a lifetime member of the Pocatello-Blackfoot Japanese American Citizens League (JACL). In 2015, he and Betty moved to Fort Collins to be closer to their daughter Jacquelyn.

He is survived by his wife, Betty, and three children: Bruce Tominaga in Sandy, Utah, Dr. Julie Tominaga (Dr. Kevin Coulter) in Davis, Calif., and Jacquelyn Niedringhaus (Scott Niedringhaus) in Fort Collins. He is also survived by five grandchildren: Kiera Coulter, Dr. Andrew Tominaga, Katie Tominaga, Cassa Niedringhaus and Elise Niedringhaus.

He was laid to rest in a private ceremony due to the pandemic, and the family thanks everyone for their kindness during this time. In remembrance of Jack's life, consider making a donation to the Blackfoot (Idaho) Jason Lee Memorial Methodist Church www.umo.org/churchdetail/350394 or the National Veteran's Network www.nationalveteransnetwork.com, whose mission is to preserve, educate and advocate how the Japanese American World War II soldiers' loyalty, courage and patriotism embody American values and shape future decisions about justice and equality in our democracy.

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.

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REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

A New Temporary Federal Initiative Can Save Eligible Households Up to \$50 Monthly on High-Speed Internet Bills

By Ron Mori

Last month, I briefly mentioned the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program. Since that time, an AARP survey reveals that Americans age 50+ struggle to access and afford high-speed internet. According to the study, 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.

These findings underscore the potential impact of a new Emergency Broadband Benefit Program launched on May 12 by the Federal Communications Commission.

AARP is encouraging all Americans who are struggling to afford their existing high-speed internet service, as well as those who cannot afford to subscribe to high-speed internet service, to sign up for the EBB program today.

"The pandemic has shown that access to high-speed internet is not a luxury; it's a necessity. People without high-speed internet service are being left behind when it comes to health care, work, connecting with family and friends and education," said Nancy A. LeaMond, AARP executive vp and chief advocacy and engagement officer. "AARP strongly supports the Emergency

Broadband Benefit Program and will continue to advocate for policies that help close the digital divide that has left millions of older adults without internet access."

According to a recent report from Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) from AARP's Aging Connected initiative, in partnership with the Humana Foundation, more than 22 million Americans 65+ still lack broadband at home.

The EBB program aims to help households struggling to afford high-speed internet during the Covid-19 pandemic. The program will run until the \$3.2 billion in allocated funds are gone, but no longer than six months after the federal government declares an end to the pandemic.

For resources and more information about EBB, visit aarp.org/EBB, call (833) 511-0311 or text "internet" to 22777. For information in Spanish, visit aarp.org/FCCSubsidioInternet or call (833) 511-0311.

Under this short-term program, households may be eligible for a discount on their high-speed internet service of up to:

- \$50/month discount for high-speed internet services.
- \$75/month discount for high-speed internet services for households on Tribal lands.

- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer or tablet purchased through a participating provider.

Americans who may have experienced financial setbacks during the Covid-19 pandemic or are struggling to get by may be eligible for the Emergency Broadband Benefit if they:

- Qualify for the Lifeline program, as well as those who participate in certain federal assistance programs, such as Medicaid, SNAP and SSI benefits.
- Experienced a substantial loss of income since Feb. 29, 2020, and the household had a total income in 2020 below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers.
- Meet the criteria for a participating internet provider's existing low-income or Covid-19 program.

AARP has a long history of providing personal technology resources. As part of our digital literacy work, OATS offers digital literacy courses, resources and events through its flagship program Senior Planet, which are a key part of the AARP Virtual Community Center, an online destination for AARP members and nonmembers alike.

OATS 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.

Let's all get connected, and if you know someone that can use the help to get started, please help them.

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



The new Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, launched May 12 by the FCC, can help seniors and all those who cannot afford broadband internet service.

PHOTO: AARP

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