



PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 92 YEARS

2021

GO FOR BROKE
JAPANESE AMERICAN
SOLDIERS OF WWII
~~FOREVER~~ USA

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Washington School Is Named After Denny Yasuhara.

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Japanese American Museum of Oregon Celebrates Its New Space.

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HEROES FOREVER

The USPS releases the
Go For Broke: Japanese
American Soldiers of WWII
commemorative stamp.

JACL NATIONAL WELCOMES NEW SUMMER INTERN

Hunter Akiyoshi will assist JACL staff as a policy and programs intern.



Hunter Akiyoshi joins JACL as its new summer policy and programs intern.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF JACL NATIONAL

By JACL National

Joining the JACL staff this summer as a policy and programs intern is Hunter Akiyoshi. Akiyoshi was raised in Downers Grove, Ill., a suburb located 20 miles west of Chicago. Currently, he is a junior undergraduate student at North Central College majoring in global studies

with a minor in political science. On-campus, Akiyoshi is a member of Asian Student Konnections, Japan Club, and International Club, organizations that aid his journey in becoming an active member in the AAPI community.

This summer, Akiyoshi is looking forward to working alongside fellow Asian Americans in the advocacy realm to improve his understanding of the issues affecting not only members of the AAPI community but also issues affecting all ethnic and minority groups within the United States.

Furthermore, during his time at JACL, Akiyoshi hopes to strengthen his research skills, make valuable connections with the staff and build

upon his perception of Japanese American involvement in advocacy.

This opportunity is especially important to Akiyoshi as four of his great-grandparents were members of JACL during the mid-to-late 20th century, a time when the civic rights of Japanese Americans were desecrated. As time progresses, he hopes that members of the AAPI community, with the support of JACL, will continue to rise and stand against injustice together.

During his internship, Hunter will be conducting policy research and performing tasks that include the planning of JACL's National Convention.

Welcome Hunter to JACL!

JANM and East West Players Receive Transformative Gift From Philanthropist MACKENZIE SCOTT

The two Los Angeles-based entities are each gifted \$10 million.

MacKenzie Scott, the billionaire philanthropist and ex-wife of Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, announced June 15 that she has given away more than \$2.7 billion to hundreds of groups this year, among them the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo and East West Players, also based in Little Tokyo, which were each given \$10 million.

Scott in a blog post said she donated to 286 "high-impact organizations" focused on a variety of causes, ranging from the arts and racial justice to higher education and combating domestic violence. Her post also stated that she wished the headline would be "286 Teams Empowering Voices the World Needs to Hear."

The transformative gift to JANM is the largest single gift in the

museum's history.

In a statement released by the museum, it said, "After a year that profoundly challenged the museum, the nation and the Asian community, we are deeply grateful for this landmark gift and to Ms. Scott for her generosity and visionary support for organizations across the country which are focused on achieving social impact in their communities," said Ann Burroughs, president and CEO of JANM. "For nearly 30 years, JANM has used the lessons of Japanese American incarceration and the loss of their civil rights to illuminate a better path forward for all Americans and the nation. MacKenzie Scott's gift will ensure that we can continue to keep that history alive and to shine a light on the imperfect present and to shape

a more just future."

East West Players, the largest producer of Asian American theatrical works, also released a statement acknowledging Scott's donation.

"East West Players is incredibly honored to be a recipient of MacKenzie Scott's extraordinary philanthropy. In her announcement today, Scott's sentiment that 'people struggling against inequities deserve

center stage in stories about change they are creating' encapsulates the core purpose of East West Players' work," said Snehal Desai, producing artistic director of EWP. "In a time when hate crimes against Asian and Asian Americans continue to increase exponentially, this investment will ensure that the work of East West Players will continue to speak up and speak out against systemic injustice. . . . As [Scott] states at the end of her statement, 'Generosity is generative. Sharing makes more.'"

Billionaire philanthropist MacKenzie Scott recently awarded \$2.7 billion to 286 organizations, among them JANM and East West Players.



EAST WEST PLAYERS
THE NATION'S PREMIER
ASIAN AMERICAN THEATRE



PACIFIC CITIZEN 2021 SPRING CAMPAIGN

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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

PARTNERSHIPS THAT MAKE US STRONGER

By David Inoue,
JACL Executive Director

JACL has benefited from years of partnership with other individuals, organizations, coalitions and, more recently, corporations. One of the lessons from the World War II incarceration was that the lack of support from others probably made the incarceration more possible. It is why we have sought to make sure that we support others because we know that sometime, we might need their support.

This past year, as anti-Asian hate escalated, the support of others became all the more apparent and needed. With hate coming from groups outside our Asian American

community, we needed people and groups representing those outside our own community speaking out against anti-Asian hate.

As I continue to emphasize, it is not so much what we do to combat the immediate surge in anti-Asian hate, it is what those outside our community do to denormalize it and make attitudes of anti-Asian sentiment socially unacceptable.

It is in the long-term fight against racism and xenophobia where JACL focuses our effort with our grounding in education. Programs such as the Japanese American Confinement Sites grants are vital to supporting education efforts of organizations such as JACL and many others with whom we partner from the Japanese

American community.

It is why we have focused significant effort on the JACS Consortium to strengthen these partnerships and create a community-based infrastructure to promote education on the Japanese American experience and the lessons for today and the future, which must be remembered.

Among our most long-standing partnerships has been with OCA Asian Pacific American Advocates, formerly the Organization of Chinese Americans, with whom we are partnering for significant elements of this year's upcoming National Convention.

Founded in the early 1970s, OCA was with us in support throughout the redress fight. This year will mark the 27th year that OCA has joined with us in our highly successful Leadership Summit that brings JACL and OCA members together to learn about the advocacy work we do and how we do it in partnership with one another and in coalition with many other groups in Washington, D.C.

Among the alumni of the Leadership Summit is Krystal Ka'ai, the recently appointed executive director for the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

JACL has enjoyed our partnership with the White House initiative in all its iterations. Even though we often did not see eye-to-eye with the previous administration, we maintained a relationship with both executive directors of the initiative, and we look forward to working with Ms. Ka'ai.

The Leadership Summit also highlights one of our most enduring corporate partnerships with State Farm Insurance. State Farm has long been supportive of not only the Leadership Summit, but also our National Youth Student Council. Because of the breadth and depth of State Farm's support, we are excited to recognize them as a Diamond Level Sponsor at this year's convention.

Our other Diamond Level Sponsor this year is AT&T, who might be acknowledged in particular for its support when JACL went through some especially difficult financial times a few years ago and made significant contributions to ensure the viability of our organization.

This year in the wake of anti-Asian hate, AT&T has made a recommitment to its partnership with JACL and especially our work together in promoting access to the internet for all Americans.

As a parent of two children, I fully

understand the importance of this priority, as I have seen the reliance upon the internet in conducting all of their schoolwork this year.

Among our other partners for this year's convention are Comcast Universal, Verizon, MGM Resorts International and the JACL Credit Union. The Credit Union is one of our longest-standing partnerships, and, of course, JACL membership enables you to join the JACL Credit Union. Similarly, our longstanding partnership with AARP allows the special benefit of being able to join with specially discounted membership rates, a benefit unavailable without your JACL membership.

As we approach the convention this year, these are some of the many different partnerships we will be celebrating and recognizing. They are all important and fundamental to the work we do and the successes we have.

Be sure to register for the 2021 Virtual Convention, "Communities Forged Under Fire," through the JACL website at <https://jacl.org/2021-national-convention>.

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

ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

Not too long ago, I was able to visit with an old childhood friend. After the initial greetings, we sat down. There was so much to say — it had been years (decades). What came out of her mouth next seemed jumbled and confusing. So, I said, "Just how long has it been since you lost your mind?" She hit me.

Currently, an estimated 50 million people worldwide are living with dementia, including more than 5 million Americans. According to the Alzheimer's Assn., this number could reach nearly 14 million by 2050 without changes in prevention or treatment. More than 80 percent of care provided at home is delivered by family members, friends or other unpaid caregivers.

The terms *dementia* and *Alzheimer's* are often used as though they mean the same thing. They are related, but there are important differences between the two. Dementia is a broad ("umbrella") term for an individual's changes in memory, thinking or reasoning. There are

many possible causes of dementia, including Alzheimer's.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia. It makes up 60 percent- 80 percent of all dementia cases. Alzheimer's is not a normal part of aging — it's a progressive brain disease, meaning it gets worse over time. Two abnormal brain structures called plaques and tangles are the main features of Alzheimer's disease.

Scientists believe they damage and kill nerve cells. Plaques are pieces of a protein fragment called beta-amyloid that build up in the spaces between nerve cells. Tangles are twisted fibers of another protein called tau that build up inside cells. Alzheimer's disease causes nerve cells to die.

The brain has three main parts: the cerebrum, cerebellum and brain stem. Each has a job to do to make the body work properly. The cerebrum fills up most of the skull. It's the part of the brain most involved in remembering, problem-solving and thinking. There are about 100 billion nerve cells called neurons throughout the brain that send messages in order to make memories, feelings and thoughts.

This causes the brain to lose tissue (also called shrinkage) and the loss of function and communication between cells. These changes can cause the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. These include memory loss; problems with thinking and planning; behavioral issues; and, in the last stage, a further decline in functioning, which can even include trouble swallowing.

Scientists know that nerve cell failure is a part of Alzheimer's disease, but they don't yet know why this happens. However, they have identified certain risk factors that increase the likelihood of developing Alzheimer's.

The greatest known risk factor for Alzheimer's is age. After age 65, a person's risk of developing the disease doubles every five years. Thirty-two percent of people aged 85 or older have Alzheimer's.

Researchers have learned that family history also increases the likelihood of developing Alzheimer's. Another risk factor is genetics. Two types of genes influence whether a person develops a disease: risk genes and deterministic genes. Risk genes increase the chance of developing a disease but do not guarantee it will happen. Deterministic genes cause a disease. This means anyone who inherits a deterministic gene will develop a disorder.

Age, family history and genetics are all risk factors that we can't change. However, research is starting to show clues about other risk factors that we

may be able to influence. Studies show a strong connection between serious head injury and future risk of Alzheimer's. For this reason, it's important to protect your head.

Research also shows there are healthy lifestyle habits that people can adopt to help keep their brain healthy and lower their risk of cognitive decline. These include eating a healthy diet, staying socially active and exercising the body and the mind. Not using tobacco and avoiding excess alcohol is also good.

Currently, there is no cure for Alzheimer's, but nondrug treatments and medications may help with memory, thinking and behavioral symptoms for a while. Nondrug treatments for behavioral symptoms can offer physical and emotional comfort. Many of these strategies aim to identify and take care of the needs of the person living with Alzheimer's. It's important to talk about treatments with your doctor.

The information above is just a portion of information from an Alzheimer's Assn. publication titled "Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia." The entire pamphlet can be found online at www.alz.org/media/Documents/understanding-alzheimers-dementia.b.pdf.

Finally, here are some tips for coping with symptoms:

- Check for personal comfort. Look for pain, hunger, thirst, constipation, full bladder, fatigue, infections and skin irritation. Keep

the room temperature comfortable.

- Don't argue about facts. For example, if a person would like to visit a parent who died years ago, don't point out that the parent is no longer alive. Instead, say, "Your mother is a wonderful person. I would like to see her, too."
- Redirect the person's attention by getting them to think about something new. Try to be flexible, patient and supportive. Respond to the emotion, not the behavior.
- Create a calm environment. Avoid noise, bright lights and television, which causes distraction.
- Have rest times between lively events.
- Give the person an object to hold that makes them feel safe.
- Show the person that you hear them and answer his or her questions.
- Look for reasons behind each behavior. Talk to a doctor about behaviors that could be connected to medications or illness.
- Try to find more than one solution.

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.



A MOTHER'S TAKE

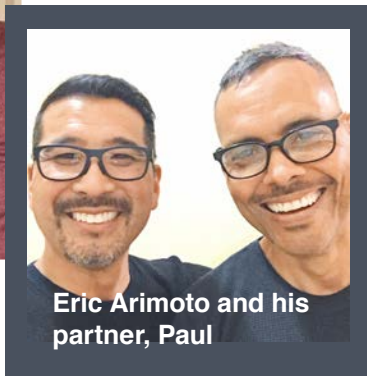
PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ERIC ARIMOTO



Eric and Okaeri with Alex H. Fukui and Carrie Morita



Eric and his proud Dad



Eric Arimoto and his partner, Paul

COMING BACK HOME WITH PRIDE

By Marsha Aizumi

June is PRIDE month, and I thought this would be a good opportunity to feature one of my dear friends, Eric Arimoto. He has been such a committed advocate for the Japanese American LGBTQ+ community, since we met. I love how he has returned to the JA community to bring visibility and voice, as well as healing and hope, as a volunteer, organizer and mental health therapist specializing in LGBTQ+ affirmative therapy.

This is Eric . . .

Hello JACL community. My name is Eric Arimoto. I am a 56-year-old, fourth-generation, Japanese American, gay dude who uses the pronouns of he/him/his. I live in Long Beach, Calif., with my partner, Paul.

A native Angeleno who grew up in the Baldwin Hills/Crenshaw district, I left home at 18 to join the U.S. Army, where I came out of the closet and started my first relationship with a fellow soldier in 1984.

I came out to my family in a Christmas card announcing that I “have always been gay, always knew that

I would grow up to love a man and that I am finally happy.”

For 20 years, I designed and manufactured furniture. I am 25 years sober. As a result of years of psychotherapy, I returned to school in my 40s and got a master's degree in clinical psychology.

Today, I work with the Department of Mental Health with the Sheriff Department's Mental Evaluations Teams, providing support and referrals to people experiencing mental health crises. I also have a private practice specializing in providing trauma-informed, LGBTQ

affirmative therapy for individuals, couples and adolescents.

I never intended to come back to the Nikkei community. Growing up playing basketball and baseball with CYC, going to Little Tokyo to visit my grandmother, going to community events, picnics, Nisei week, etc. accentuated how different and alone I felt.

The silence surrounding homosexuality in our community was stifling, terrifying and enraging. I never felt welcomed. Certainly,

I didn't have any role models to light the way toward having a positive self-image, pride in my identity or any reasonable hope of being accepted as a Japanese American gay man.

Being gay, for me, dictated that I navigate the white-dominated gay community, assimilate to their ways of doing things and thinking.

In 2012, I was doing exactly that when I met Marsha and Aiden Aizumi, who came to my internship site to talk about their journey as a Japanese American transgender son coming out to his mother.

Within minutes of their presentation, I was sobbing. I was not conscious of how I longed to be healed of the split in my sense of self and the alienation from my birth community.

Soon after meeting Marsha, she asked me to participate in an API PFLAG group that she was organizing, which led to an invitation to Okaeri's planning committee.

For me, Okaeri, like grace, came when I least expected it but most needed it. I didn't have to choose one part of my identity. Rediscovering the JA community, I see how decent, kind, self-less, thoughtful and loving we are.

To be honest, during the organizing of the 2014 Okaeri convention, I was uneasy, felt out of place and had no idea what I was doing there. But on the day of the conference, when over 200 people showed up who looked like my family, aunts and uncles, grandparents and people I grew up around, I allowed myself to believe that our community is finally dealing with their fear and shame related to

LGBTQ identity.

I'm still a sort of hybrid JA/banana kid. But I stick around the village and do this work because I know that there are so many other Nikkei LGBTQ folk, allies, family members out there who have yet to hear the welcoming call of Okaeri.

Today, I am a proud Japanese American gay man who has been embraced by my family and community. I thank all of you who have loved, accepted and supported me on my journey. It feels so good to be back home. . . .

I love and admire Eric so deeply . . . his honesty, his fierce advocacy for the Nikkei LGBTQ+ community and his own journey to integrate and find acceptance for both his gay and Nikkei identities. I hope you have enjoyed his beautiful story and felt his amazing heart.

If you would like to celebrate Pride Month with your Nikkei LGBTQ+ friends, family and allies on June 25 from 7-8:30 p.m. PT, please join us at Okaeri Connects' PRIDE Happy Hour. To register at Eventbrite, visit <https://OkaeriConnects-June252021.eventbrite.com/> to be sent the Zoom link to attend.

I will be there and would love to see all of you join us to be a visible support and share what you are proud of in your life!

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.”

JAVA to Commemorate 75th Anniversary of President Truman's Salute to WWII Nisei Soldiers

The organization's 'Day of Affirmation' ceremony recognizes that all Japanese American soldiers who served during the war are America's heroes.

By Neet Ford

On July 15, the Japanese American Veterans Assn. will commemorate the second annual Day of Affirmation at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. This date marks the 75th anniversary of President Harry S. Truman's review of the returning 442nd Regimental Combat Team on the White House Ellipse on July 15, 1946.

This event is called the “Day of Affirmation” by JAVA because President Truman's salute to the Japanese American soldiers that “You fought not only the enemy, but you fought prejudice — and you have won . . .” affirms that all the Japanese

American soldiers, men and women, who served during World War II are America's heroes and removes any doubt that they are loyal citizens of the U.S.

The JAVA ceremony will include the presentation of a wreath at the Price of Freedom Wall, where each gold star represents 100 American soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice. Eight stars represent the Japanese Americans who died defending America's freedoms during WWII.

The military escort for this year's event is Lt. Caitlin Takahashi-Pipkin, MC, USNR, granddaughter of Kazuo and Fusa Takahashi. Kazuo Takahashi served in the Military Intelligence Service during WWII and passed away in 1977.



JAVA President Gerald Yamada gives remarks at the 2020 “Day of Affirmation” ceremony at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

PHOTO: NEET FORD

Lt. Takahashi-Pipkin is a military doctor who is currently completing a general surgery residency at East Carolina University in North Carolina and reports to the U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

One of the wreath bearers for the ceremony will be Tyler Franklin, who is also a grandson of Kazuo and Fusa Takahashi. Fusa Takahashi is

one of the original co-founders of the “Stamp Our Story” campaign that successfully obtained the U.S. Postmaster General's approval of the “Go For Broke: Japanese American Soldiers of WWII” commemorative stamp, which was first issued on June 3.

The stamp campaign was started in 2005 by Fusa Takahashi along

with Chiz Ohira and Aiko O. King. Franklin currently works for Intuitive, a surgical robotics company, in Sunnyvale, Calif.

Michelle Amano is the other wreath bearer. Amano is the granddaughter of Mike Masaoka, whose advocacy work with the government to allow Japanese Americans to serve again in the U.S. military resulted in the creation of the 442nd RCT, a segregated all-Japanese American combat unit, in 1943. Masaoka was one of the first to volunteer to serve in the 442nd RCT together with his four brothers, one of whom was killed in action.

Masaoka is also remembered for authoring the “Japanese American Creed,” which is read at the annual Memorial Day Service at Arlington National Cemetery, an event sponsored by the Washington, D.C., chapter of the JACL, National Japanese American Memorial Foundation and JAVA.

The “Day of Affirmation” event will be livestreamed via Facebook on July 15 at Noon EST. To watch the program, please visit the JAVA website at www.java-us.org.



U.S. Army Pvt. 1st Class Shiroku "Whitey" Yamamoto of Hawaii is depicted on the stamp.

PHOTO: HAWAII NISEI PROJECT ARCHIVES



Members of the Stamp Our Story Committee that organized the L.A. stamp dedication gathered for a group photo on June 4. Pictured (from left) are Ellyn Iwata, James Nakamura, Robert Horsting, Wayne Osako, Austin Auger (behind), Tim Yuge, Cory Shiozaki, Lynn Franklin, Brian Yamamoto, Audrey Kim, George Wada (behind) and Diane Yuen.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF WAYNE OSAKO

GO FOR BROKE STAMP OFFICIALLY RELEASED

The long-awaited Forever U.S. postage stamp honoring Nisei soldiers who fought valiantly during World War II is now available for purchase.

By P.C. Staff

Forever honored. Forever remembered. Forever now and always. The Go For Broke: Japanese American Soldiers of World War II Forever stamp was officially issued by the U.S. Postal Service on June 3 and is now available for purchase nationwide.

The stamp, honoring Nisei soldiers that formed one of the most-highly decorated fighting units of World War II, the all-Japanese American 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team, was unveiled at several dedication ceremonies across the nation, including one on June 4 in Los Angeles, the First City of Issuance.

Held at the Japanese American National Museum's National Center for the Preservation of Democracy in Little Tokyo, the event recognized Stamp Our Story organizers — Aiko O. King, the late-Chiz Ohira and Fusa Takahashi — who were responsible for starting the grassroots campaign to recognize the veterans, some of whom were also present.

In attendance were Takahashi, accompanied by her granddaughter, Kimi Thompson; Wayne King, son of Aiko O. King; and Dr. John Mitamura, son of Chiz Ohira. Also

present was SOS Co-Chair Wayne Osako.

In a statement exclusively to the *Pacific Citizen*, Osako said: "The founders, Fusa Takahashi, Aiko O. King and the late-Chiz Ohira, want to thank ALL of you and your family members, friends and colleagues for helping get this little stamp to finally arrive at our post offices. What a great sight it has been this month to hold the stamp in our hands and use it on mail."

"The L.A. stamp unveiling was special because we were the First City of Issuance. Commemorative stamps are assigned one city that gets this designation, and L.A. got it due to its historic significance to the stamp," Osako continued. "Fusa and Aiko came up with the idea after a visit to JANM, where they saw displays on the Nisei soldiers. . . . This was the pinnacle of the campaign, and we were so happy to have the community involved."

Special guests of honor at the L.A. unveiling included Ralph Matsumoto, Military Intelligence Service; Don Miyada and Toke Yoshihashi, 100th Infantry Battalion; and Yosh Nakamura, 442nd RCT.

In a dedication ceremony held in Sacramento on June 5, presented by the Florin

chapter of the JACL, speaking on behalf of Takahashi was family representative Joan Fujii, who acknowledged that the SOS founders set out 15 years ago to encourage an ongoing dialogue and awareness among future generations of what their community endured and sacrificed during WWII.

"Today celebrates a part of our community's story . . . and when we listen to each others' stories and listen to each other, the healing begins," Fujii said.

A special Senate resolution on behalf of Sen. Richard Pan (D-Calif.) was also presented to the SOS organizers, recognizing their efforts and those of all Nisei soldiers. Pan was represented by Legislative Aid Marlon Lara.

And new Postmaster Douglas Smith said of the Nisei soldiers, "As we honor the bravery and sacrifice of JA soldiers during WWII . . . they especially distinguished themselves in segregated units . . . Go For Broke, all in, to risk everything to make an all-out effort to win. They lived up to their motto with legendary acts of bravery. . . . We are proud to present the Go For Broke Forever stamp."

And in a ceremony held on June 14 at

the Oregon Historical Society of Portland, tributes to the stamp were made by special guests that included former Gov. Ted Kulongoski, who served as tribute committee honorary chair.

"It is appropriate to have this ceremony on June 14 as today is American flag day and also the perfect day to stamp our story."

Representing the Japanese American Museum of Oregon was Executive Director Lynn Fuchigami Parks, who in her remarks about the Nisei soldiers, said, "Their dedication to the pursuit of liberty and justice for all helped . . . pave the way for us to realize our dreams. Because of their actions, we have been able to live our lives with the opportunities and privileges that we are blessed with today. . . . They are my personal heroes, they are this community's heroes and they are this nation's heroes. Let their story live on to be shared and taught as an ideal standard for everyone to emulate."

The Go For Broke Nisei Veterans stamp is available nationwide. Visit niseistamp.org to view additional dedication ceremonies.



Stamp Our Story Co-Chair Wayne Osako



SOS Co-Founder Fusa Takahashi (with lei) helped unveil the new stamp during the Sacramento ceremony.



The Nisei veterans stamp was unveiled in Oregon on American flag day.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW DENNY YASUHARA'S NAME

A new middle school in Spokane, Wash., will bear his name and his legacy as an educator and civil rights **'bulldog.'**

By Lynda Lin Grigsby,
Contributor

Successful people view difficult situations as challenges rather than crises, said Harry Hazel in his 2010 book "The Joy of Teaching: Effective Strategies for the Classroom."

Denny Yasuhara was someone who saw problems as challenges. He encountered many in his lifetime. As a longtime JACL leader, Yasuhara took on large institutions and national organizations in the name of justice.

As an educator, he combined love with discipline.

Like with all things ephemeral, there was a danger that Yasuhara's name might fade into obscurity after he died in 2002 at 76. This was a challenge until this spring, when Yasuhara's former school district announced it would name a new middle school building in his honor.

When open in 2022, the Denny Yasuhara Middle School will be the first school in Spokane, Wash., named after an Asian American, a Nisei teacher whose lessons reached far beyond the math and science subjects he taught.

"Not only was Denny a great educator, but he was also a courageous civil rights activist during the course of his life," said Dr. Mark Anderson, associate superintendent of Spokane Public Schools.

The naming of schools is often an honor relegated to national figures that need no first name to distinguish — Jackson, Kennedy,

Washington and other former U.S. presidents whose glossy biographies often appear in U.S. history books that largely exclude mention of leaders like Yasuhara.

But in a time when the nation continues to reckon with who in history to honor, the naming of Denny Yasuhara Middle School is a conscious step away from the default to embrace a more inclusive American history.

"We do learn about why somebody's name is on a school and who that person is," said Pam Tajima Praeger, a former educator who attended the June 2 groundbreaking ceremony in the northeast area of the school district.

On the hot day, city officials gave speeches and dug shovels into the dirt at 2701 N. Perry St. to mark the start of construction. The ceremony also answers the question, "Why is the school named after a former teacher?"

To find the answer, one must first get to know Yasuhara.

'Mr. Yas' Cared About his Students

The measure of a good educator can be determined by a year-end project or a letter grade, but a successful teacher makes a lasting impact.

Yasuhara was a teacher at Spokane's Logan Elementary School and Garry Middle School for 28 years until his retirement in 1989. Generations of students affectionately knew him as "Mr. Yas." In the halls of Garry, where he also coached the boys' basketball team, he had the reputation of being strict and demanding, but fair.

One year, Yasuhara learned that a student was routinely late for class because she had to care for her younger siblings in the mornings.

"Where's your mom?"

Thelma says she likes to think Denny is high-fiving people in heaven over the naming of the school in his honor.

PHOTO: SPOKANE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

he asked.

"Sleeping," she replied.

Yasuhara drove over to the student's house and yelled at the mother — *Get off your duff! She is your daughter. She's not the mother!*

That girl was never late for class again.

"He was a strong personality, and you knew exactly where he stood," said Thelma Yasuhara, 91, his wife. "There was nothing false about him."

In the early 1970s, Laura Ellenberger Rainoff was a teenager at Garry who loved basketball, but admittedly showed no skills on the court. "I'm not an athlete," she said. "Never was."

In science class, Rainoff often talked to her friends about her favorite basketball team, the Los Angeles Lakers, and her idol, Wilt Chamberlain. In front of the classroom, Mr. Yas listened, too. He knew passion needed to be harnessed, so he invited Rainoff and her friend to be official scorekeepers at the boys' basketball games. He drove them to and from the games.

"I can remember him talking to us about being good human beings," said Rainoff, 62, an office manager in New York. "He was as concerned about who we were as people and how we treated each other."

In 1973, Rainoff graduated from Garry, went on to earn a law degree and got married. Through the years, she kept in touch with Yasuhara and his wife through letters. In May, she wrote a letter of support to the school board calling Mr. Yas "one of the most influential

people in my life."

Rainoff's letter was one of over 80 written to support Yasuhara's name, according to Praeger.

His Most Important Relationship

To understand the significance of Yasuhara's name, one must first understand that it was not his given name. He was born in Seattle in 1928, the youngest of four siblings in the Sawada family. His mother died when he was an infant, so the Yasuhara family from Bonners Ferry, Idaho, adopted him.

The family's location away from the West Coast exempted Yasuhara from mass incarceration during World War II, but the injustice haunted him. In the Issei and the older Nisei, Yasuhara felt a sense of community. It was a debt of gratitude that he spent his entire life trying to pay back.

"He always talked about the dignity of a person," said Thelma Yasuhara. "He believed people should be treated the right way."

Of all the connections Yasuhara established in his lifetime, the most important one was with his wife. They met as teachers and basketball coaches from different schools in Spokane. She was a woman of her time, a devoted supporter who insisted he was the better teacher and the better coach. Both led undefeated teams when they first met.

Denny championed many social causes. In 1995, as JACL national president, he was part of a contingent that met with President Bill Clinton to discuss affirmative action.

PHOTO: CSPAN

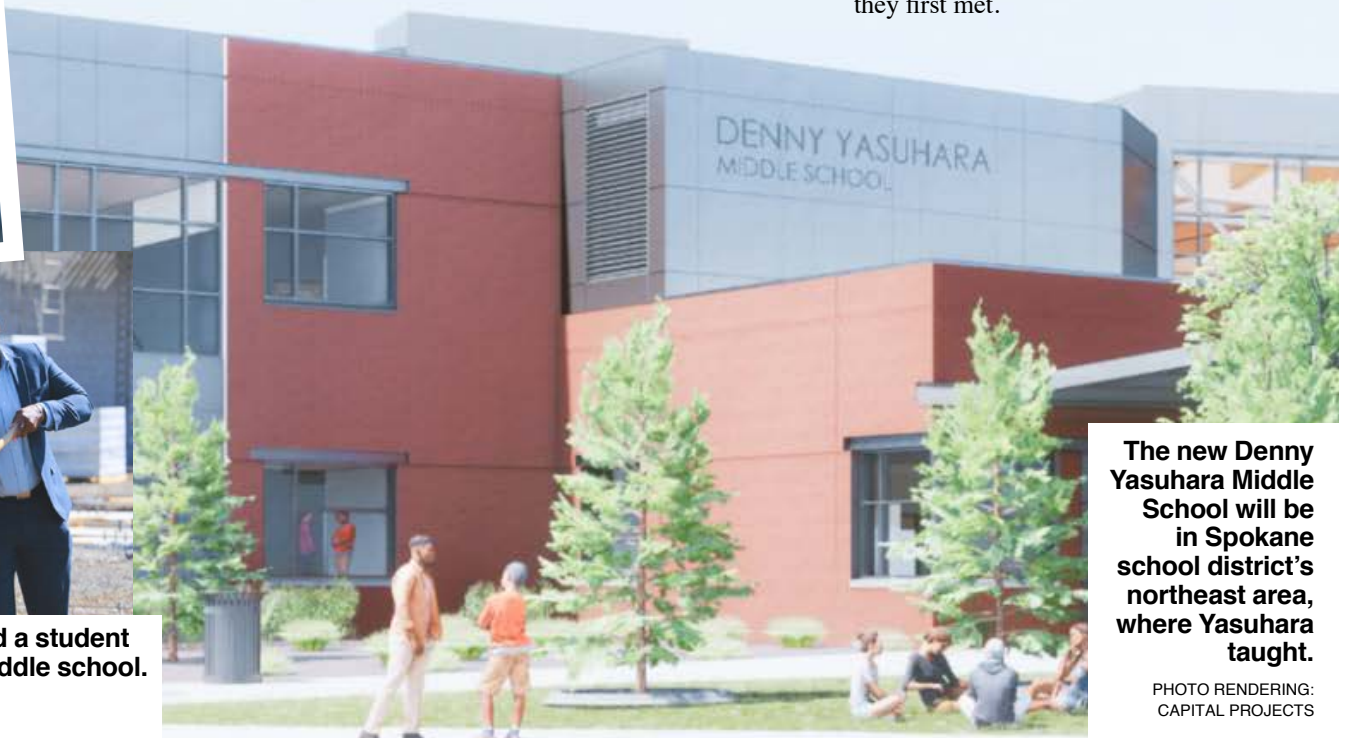


Thelma (second from left) and Spokane officials and a student break ground June 2 for construction of the new middle school.

PHOTO: SPOKANE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Denny always felt strongly about justice, said Thelma.



The new Denny Yasuhara Middle School will be in Spokane school district's northeast area, where Yasuhara taught.

PHOTO RENDERING:
CAPITAL PROJECTS

From across the basketball court, Yasuhara spotted his future wife for the first time. While going through the details of their first meeting, the memory seems to tickle Thelma Yasuhara, so she chuckles over the phone.

"He was the kind of person that it didn't matter whether he knew you or not, if he figured you are of Japanese descent, he would talk to you."

But he did not talk to her, at least not that night.

Later, Yasuhara found out that she needed a companion to sit with her while she practiced driving a car. He said he could be her companion. As a couple, she spent a lot of time supporting Yasuhara in his tireless quest for justice. They were always pictured together at community events and on travel adventures.

"I thought we'd live to be old together," she said. "But the Lord took him before I was ready to let him go."

Yasuhara died of pancreatic cancer in 2002.

A Daunting Bulldog for Justice

Those who knew Yasuhara say he was an exceptional educator, but also so much more.

"He was many things," said Gail Nomura, associate professor *emerita* at the University of Washington. "Just a dynamo."

Yasuhara served JACL for 42 years at the local, district and national levels. During his tenure as national president, he faced criticism for the organization's dire financial situation. His reputation for being demanding reached beyond the classroom. When the phone rang and Yasuhara was on the other end, it likely meant he had another cause for you to take up or another injustice to fight.

He rarely took no for an answer. Yasuhara fought for affirmative action and redress. He championed the building of the Hifumi En apartments in East Central Spokane for the Issei to live in affordable comfort. During his time as JACL national president, he successfully took on the Spokane County Democratic Central Committee for using racial slurs against Asian Americans.

"Denny took these fights personally, which made him a daunting bulldog of an adversary,



"He didn't put on airs," said Thelma about Denny, both pictured here at Easter in 1980. "Even when he was recognized for something, it never went to his head. He never thought he was that important."

Denny had a demanding reputation, but he was also compassionate. Here, he performs the Hongi, the traditional Maori greeting in New Zealand.



but his goal was really the betterment of our country," said Dale Minami, a San Francisco lawyer and Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL member.

In 1978, Yasuhara made such a call to Minami, saying his alma mater, Washington State University, discriminated against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders because it did not offer Asian American Studies. The university did offer African American, Latino and Native American Studies programs.

"It sounded like discrimination to me, especially since Asian Americans were the largest minority group on campus for the previous five years," said Minami.

With Yasuhara's guidance, the JACL and a team of lawyers with Minami as the lead — all working *pro bono* — sued WSU. The legal pressure eventually persuaded the university to introduce Asian American Studies.

"There was a reason for Denny's obsession, intensity and urgency that many people failed to fully appreciate," said Tim McKinney, one of the lawyers who worked on the WSU lawsuit. "He knew that the window of opportunity for getting concessions from the larger society was small and could close at any time."

Shannon Ueda Nutt was an electrical engineering major at WSU when Yasuhara approached her to be a plaintiff on the lawsuit. She listened to Yasuhara speak, then signed on because it

In 1993, Denny and Thelma Yasuhara went on a cruise to Vancouver.



"I trusted him. I knew he would do whatever he thought was right," said Thelma.

was the right thing to do. As a plaintiff, she witnessed his organizing power.

"He was the unrelenting backbone that kept up the momentum and organized all the pieces together," said Nutt. "To see it all come together just by his perseverance and character was a lesson I would not ever forget."

When it came time to finding faculty members to teach Asian American Studies at WSU, Yasuhara, once again, used his power of persuasion. Only universities in California offered Asian American Studies at the time, said Nomura, who was teaching at the University of California, Los Angeles, when Yasuhara called on her and her husband, Steve Sumida.

To convince them to teach at WSU, Yasuhara brought out the JACL contingent. He told the couple that the community needed them.

"It was almost like a missionary call," said Nomura with a laugh. "He was really good at pitching things."

More Than Just a Name

The name on the Spokane middle school building is a positive first step in a more inclusive telling of history. Names and the historical figures a community honors reveal the cultural value of the place. But a name can't just end with a placement on a building, especially with a name like Yasuhara's.

He saw education as the antidote to many societal ills, including racism.

In Seattle, the students at Aki Kurose Middle School learn about their school's namesake. Kurose was a peace activist and educator who brought the Head Start program to Seattle. The school holds peace assemblies and often talks with students about the motto, "Peace cranes, united and soaring together."

After a place is named, history needs to be continually reinforced.

The Spokane school district plans to incorporate the lessons and history that Yasuhara held so close to his heart, said Anderson.

At WSU, Yasuhara's vision is far murkier.

Thirty percent of WSU's 19,900 student population identifies as "multicultural," according to its website. But tenure-track faculty of color remain less than 10 percent, said Dr. John Streamas, associate professor of Comparative Ethnic Studies and American Studies and Culture at WSU.

WSU does not have an Asian American Studies program, but students majoring or minoring in Comparative Ethnic Studies may specialize in Asian American Studies.

To have genuine power on campus, Asian American Studies needs to have an independent department and a graduate program, said Nomura.

» See YASUHARA on page 9

Denny's activism was evident in the coverage of the *Pacific Citizen*.



THE LEGACY CONTINUES

The Japanese American Museum of Oregon celebrates its first month in its new space.

By Bridget Keaveney,
JACL Membership Coordinator

On May 6, 1942, Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt declared Portland as the first major city on the West Coast to be “Jap free.” Now 79 years later, Portland is reclaiming its past and embracing its Japanese American community by celebrating the grand opening of the Japanese American Museum of Oregon.

Previously known as the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, the museum’s new space, located at 411 N.W. Flanders St., sits in the heart of what was once Portland’s historic Nihonmachi (Japantown).

The virtual grand opening ceremony took place on May 6, exactly 79 years after DeWitt’s declaration, and featured a number of special guests, including actor George Takei and Consul General of Japan Masaki Shiga.

Now one month on, the museum’s staff members are taking the time to reflect upon the incredible efforts it took to bring this vision to life. As a contributor to the *Pacific Citizen*, as well as a past intern of the museum, it was an honor to conduct an interview with my past colleagues to not only promote the legacy of this museum, but also properly acknowledge

The “Grace, Grit and Gaman: Japanese American Women Through the Generations” exhibit is on display at JAMO through Dec. 31.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF
THE JAPANESE AMERICAN
MUSEUM OF OREGON



each of their roles in the formation and success of the new space.

The following core staff members of the museum contributed to the interview: Lynn Fuchigami Parks (executive director and Portland JACL board member at large), Lucy Capehart (director of collections and exhibitions), Jennifer Fang (director of education), Kiyo Endecott (office manager) and James Rodgers (project coordinator).

BRIDGET KEAVENEY FOR THE PACIFIC CITIZEN: When was the idea of a new museum space conceived?

JAMO MUSEUM STAFF: It was always the dream to secure a permanent home within the boundaries of what was once Portland’s large and vibrant Nihonmachi. The importance and commitment to remain in this culturally significant neighborhood couldn’t be stressed enough as the museum and the

Japanese American Historical Plaza are the only vestiges left of the large and vibrant

community that occupied 10-12 blocks of Portland’s Old Town. The opportunity to share and interpret this history in its actual location is indeed powerful.

Leadership and stakeholders believed that our future was inextricably tied to the purchase of a permanent facility that could meet the needs for the growing organization and its museum, so the idea for a new museum space had been in the works for many years.

Through ongoing dialogue and a positive relationship with Prosper Portland, the city’s economic and urban development agency, an opportunity to purchase the Old Town Lofts commercial space was presented, and a sale was executed.

KEAVENEY: Who was all involved with the project, and what was the role of each individual?

JAMO STAFF: All members of staff and board were heavily involved in the project. Board member Cynthia Basye was extremely hands-on and participated in exhibit research, design review and editing. Lynn Fuchigami-Parks led fundraising efforts for the capital campaign and was assisted by Board President Connie Masuoka. Board member Brian Kimura (Portland JACL member) played a critical role as the project’s architect (Climate Architecture) and overall project manager, overseeing all aspects of design, renovation and construction of the new space.

KEAVENEY: How long did it take to create the new space?

JAMO STAFF: Originally, we had planned to close the museum for only four months in early 2020 to renovate the space, install the new exhibitions and move the museum; however, then Covid hit, and everything shut down. All aspects of the work were delayed — from permits to construction to fabrication of the exhibits. Trying to accomplish this in the

JAPANESE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF OREGON

The Japanese American Museum of Oregon’s new museum space is located within the boundaries of what was once Portland’s large and vibrant Nihonmachi.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF CURTIS SUYEMATSU



A re-creation of a Japanese-owned dry goods store. Dry goods stores supplied Issei with what they needed to start their new lives in America.



midst of a global pandemic was challenging.

Demolition of the first floor of the Old Town Lofts began in May 2020, and work continued through March of this year to complete the construction of all the new exhibition galleries, library, offices, retail store and archives.

KEAVENEY: What collections or artifacts do you have an eye on for future acquisition, if any?

JAMO STAFF: JAMO is hoping to expand the collection to include more artifacts from the incarceration camps — especially objects made and used in camp, as well as diaries and photographs from the incarceration experience.

In addition, women's stories have often been neglected in historic museum collections, so our goal includes focusing on the achievements of women by acquiring artifacts and documents that tell their story.

With the advent of World War II and Executive Order 9066, Portland's thriving Japantown was eradicated — Nikkei were forced to close businesses and sell off stock/properties at pennies on the dollar. Artifacts specifically related to Portland's Nikkei community and Nihonmachi are objects we hope to add to the collection.

KEAVENEY: Who is your audience? How do you tailor your exhibitions, programs, etc., to their expectations?

JAMO STAFF: Although JAMO is a culturally specific organization, we serve a diverse community and are the sole venue for cultural and research activities of the experiences of Oregon's Japanese Americans.

Our audience is broad. On one hand, we serve local Japanese American communities by representing their histories and experiences and serving as a repository for cultural artifacts, archival documents and oral histories.

On the other hand, approximately 80 percent of our audience is from cultural backgrounds other than Nikkei. Geographically, most visitors are from the Portland-metro region, but our programming and educational outreach has reached a global audience.

KEAVENEY: What are your future plans and what do you hope to accomplish in the new space?

JAMO STAFF: Our goal is to provide visitors with an engaging, vibrant, interactive and memorable experience that continually

contributes to the region's quality of life and cultural trust. The new center will strengthen our role as the leading cultural and research center for the history of Japanese Americans in the Pacific Northwest for educational, historical and cultural institutions.

We see the museum as a catalyst for revitalizing Portland's Old Town neighborhood and the New Chinatown/Japantown Historic District — a once-in-a-generation project that demonstrates an inclusive, sustainable, memorable and financially successful redevelopment.

We are planning to activate Festival Street (N.W. Flanders Street between 3rd and 4th Avenues) as an extension of our museum space with programs, performances and festivals.

We envision that our center will become a primary gathering place for activities of com-

munity importance — a place for programming in this historic neighborhood that provides reminders of the richness and vitality of the diverse communities that got their start here.

By uplifting these immigrant histories and stories, we hope to foster respect for diversity and the multicultural society we live in. We share the past to ensure the future, to create a more just and equitable society, standing firm against prejudice and hate.

The Japanese American Museum of Oregon is open Friday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. by reservation only. For reservations, call (503) 224-1458. Adults are \$8, Seniors \$6, Students \$5, Children 11 and under are free. Masks are required. Visit www.oregonnikkei.org for additional details and information.



Wood from the original Minidoka post office was transported from Idaho to create the barrack exhibit that is now permanently on display at the museum.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF OREGON



A preserved 1930s dentist chair and equipment from a dentist in Portland's Japantown (Nihonmachi)



Min Yasui's historic jail cell where he spent nine months in solitary confinement in the Multnomah County jail for purposely violating the WWII military curfew imposed on people of Japanese ancestry. Visitors can now stand within its walls to view his Presidential Medal of Freedom and hear audio of his own voice sharing what it was like to be held there.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF OREGON

YASUHARA » **continued from page 7**

"I think that's what Denny would have loved and had worked for," she added.

Budget cuts over the years at WSU has merged Asian American Studies into the School of Languages, Cultures and Race.

"I honestly believe that if Mr. Yasuhara were alive today, he would be disappointed and outraged by administrators' indifference to Comparative Ethnic Studies generally and to AAPI Studies particularly," said Streamas.

If success is measured by the mindset to see difficult situations as challenges not crises, then there are challenges that still need to be met, perhaps by future leaders from the Denny Yasuhara Middle School.

In 1994, as JACL national president, Yasuhara traveled to France for the 50th anniversary celebration of the liberation of Bruyères and Biffontaine. He was there to honor the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team. His older brother, George Sawada, was killed in Italy while serving the 442nd.

"The greatest gift that one human can give to another is not their wealth or position, but their honor and dignity," said Yasuhara at the event.

In Spokane and beyond, Yasuhara gave his greatest gift. ■

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

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.

18th Annual Minidoka Pilgrimage

June 26

Virtual Event

Price: Free

"See Our Strength" will be a virtual event on June 26, paying tribute to the nearly 13,000 people of Japanese ancestry living in Washington, Oregon and Alaska who were forcibly removed from their homes in 1942 and sent to this desolate concentration camp in Idaho during WWII. This year's event will honor and celebrate the resilience of the Issei and Nisei generations and bring awareness to the activism and unique experiences of Nikkei in the U.S.

Info: To join the event and for more information, visit www.minidokapilgrimage.org.

Heart Mountain Pilgrimage

July 23-24

Virtual Event

Price: Free

Due to lingering concerns about the Covid-19 pandemic, this year's pilgrimage will be a virtual event — complete with a fabulous slate of planned events. There will be virtual tours of the site, live-streamed programs and educational videos shown throughout the weekend. Festivities kick off on July 23 at 6 p.m. MT with an exciting announcement about the future of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation and the Interpretive Center. To help cover the costs of producing this year's online pilgrimage, please consider supporting the HMWF with a "virtual registration" donation. Stay tuned for more information about the pilgrimage!

Info: Visit www.heartmountain.org.

Tule Lake Pilgrimage

July 31

Virtual Event

Price: Free

In keeping with this year's theme, "Incarceration — Injustice — Protest — Resistance: Then and Now," the event will explore Tule Lake's unique status as the only one of the 10 WRA concentration camps that was converted into a maximum-security Segregation Center. More than 12,000 Japanese American activists were punished with segregation, with thousands stripped of U.S. citizenship to enable their deportation, all because they spoke out against the injustice of their incarceration. The pilgrimage will also include a memorial tribute to Tule Lake's beloved poet laureate Hiroshi Kashiwagi. More details and information

about the event will follow.

Info: Visit www.tulelake.org.

NCWNP

'Not Yo Butterfly' Book Launch Celebration

Berkeley, CA

June 26; 3 p.m. PDT

Virtual Event

Price: Free

Eastwind Books of Berkeley, J-SEI and UCB's Asian American Asian Diaspora Department present a book launch celebration of Nobuko Miyamoto's "Not Yo Butterfly," a mold-breaking memoir of Asian American identity, political activism, community and purpose. This intimate life story of Miyamoto — artist, activist and mother — shows how she has embraced her identity to create a blueprint for empathy through community art.

Info: To RSVP, visit notyobutterfly.eventbrite.com. To purchase a book, visit www.asiabookcenter.com.

Self-Defense Class

June 27, 10-11:30 a.m. and June 28, 4-5:30 p.m.

Price: Free

This free class, sponsored by the Sonoma County JACL chapter, is open to all Asian businesses and their staff, as well as the Sonoma County community. It will teach safety techniques from local martial arts teachers, especially important now as Asian Americans continue to face violence in response to the rise in anti-Asian hate. Participants will receive a free pocket alarm.

Info: For details and to register, email hkaku@sbcglobal.net.

Taiko Drumming Workshop

San Jose, CA

July 17; 3-5 p.m.

Historic Hoover Theatre

1635 Park Ave.

Price: \$80 Per Drum Station (Up to Three People)

Playful People Productions is offering a fun and energizing in-person workshop taught by the South Bay Beat Institute

for children over 12 and adults. This two-hour experience will be taught by Rome Hamner and Kristy Oshiro and will include a professional performance by SSSI artists. The workshop is limited to 12 drum stations. The workshop includes masks as needed, hand sanitizer, water and clean, socially distanced drum stations for the workshop.

Info: Visit <https://playfulpeople.org> or call (408) 878-5362.

PSW

A Life in Pieces: The Diary and Letters of Stanley Hayami

Los Angeles, CA

July 9-Jan. 9, 2022

JANM

100 N. Central Ave.

Price: Timed advanced tickets are required; JANM members do not need a timed ticket. Just show your membership card for free admission.

Stanley Hayami's diary and writings from camp and during his wartime incarceration are brought to life in this presentation that reveals the hardship he and his family faced during World War II. At the age of 19, he was killed in Italy after being drafted into the U.S. Army's 442nd Regimental Combat Team. His legacy lives on through these letters, which were donated to JANM by his family.

Info: Visit www.janm.org.

Forest-Bathing at the James Irvine Japanese Garden

Los Angeles, CA

Thru Sept. 26

JACCC

244 S. San Pedro St.

Take time out from your day and enjoy the tranquility of the JACCC's beautiful Japanese garden located in the heart of Little Tokyo and Downtown Los Angeles. Closed since the beginning of the pandemic, the JACCC is now offering several 30-minute time slots each day by appointment only.

Info: Visit www.jaccc.org.

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.

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. 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.

IDC

A Celebration of Excellence Through the Tokyo Games Dinner and Watch Party

Denver, CO

July 27; 4 p.m. VIP Reception; 6 p.m. Main Event

Japan America Society of Colorado

Mile High Station

2027 W. Colfax Ave.

Price: Visit website for ticket and registration information.

Join the Japan America Society of Colorado for a casual cocktails, dinner, watch party and silent auction along with a special tribute to women in leadership who have contributed to the Colorado-Japan relationship: Kelly Brough, Kim Day, Inta Morris and Consul General of Japan in Denver Midori Takeuchi.

Info: Visit www.jascolorado.org for registration and additional information.

EDC

Glenn Kaino: 'In the Light of a Shadow'

Thru Sept. 4

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 evocative soundscape and spans the entire football-field size of the Building 5 gallery.

Info: Visit <https://www.wbur.org/artery/2021/04/02/mass-moca-glenn-kaino-in-light-of-shadow>.

'The View From MemChurch' by Rosanna Yamagiwa Alfaro

Huntington Theatre Company

Audio Theatre

This short audio play by NE JACL member Rosanna Yamagiwa Alfaro is featured in the Huntington Theatre Company's "Dream Boston" series. Alfaro's play is set in Harvard Yard as two friends from the class of 1960 reunite on Commencement Day on May 25, 2023. The cast includes Emily Kuroda, Alberto Isaac and Calley Chase.

Info: To listen to the play, visit <https://www.huntingtontheatre.org> and click on the "Dream Boston" icon.

Conservation in Action: Japanese Buddhist Sculpture

Boston, MA

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave.

Don't miss this rare behind-the-scenes look at the conservation of seven Buddhist sculptures. Visitors are invited to watch as conservators study and treat the sculptures in a public conservation studio. The conservation project occupies an entire gallery in the museum, allowing visitors to observe the techniques employed to carefully clean the sculptures.

Info: Visit www.mfa.org.

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

FOR MORE INFO:

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MEMORIAM

Domoto, Lily, 92, Torrance, CA, May 10; she is survived by her daughters, Denise (Thomas) Okabe, Lisa (Craig) Maeda and Carol (Jeffrey) Hiroto; siblings, Reiko Tsuchimoto, Hasu Fujitani, Amy, Chiyo and Shoichi Shingu; sisters-in-law, Sumie Maruya, Alice and Selina Shingu; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 7.

Ebihara, Junko, 79, Torrance, CA, May 6; she is survived by her husband, Teruaki Ebihara; sons, Kenneth (Cindy) Ebihara and Hiroyuki (Connie) Ebihara; gc: 2.

Fujisawa, Misako 'Jocko,' 93, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 10; she was predeceased by her husband, Haruo Fujisawa; she is survived by her daughters, Laura (Gerry Hamashita) Fujisawa and Nancy (Don) Kadowaki; sister-in-law, Susan Mita; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2; ggc: 1.

Hataoka, Grace, 82, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 21, 2020; she was predeceased by her husband, Walter Yukio Hataoka; she is survived by

her daughters, Colleen Kaoru Hataoka, Patty Satsuki (Steve) Wilson and Candice Yukiko (Mark) Peters; sisters, May Reiko (Ted) Kawamura and Jean Haruye Osugi; gc: 4.

Higashi, Boyd, 58, Waianae, HI, April 3.

Higashi, Glenn Isao, 72, Los Angeles, CA, April 26; he is survived by his mother, Iris Higashi; daughter, Sandra (Chris) Soong; siblings, Joan Higashi and Daniel Higashi; gc: 1.



Ichinose, Craig Kenji, 77, Kihei, HI, March 15; he is survived by his sons, Daniel (Crystal), Travers (Juanita) and Hale (Kimberly); sisters, Ruby,

Nerissa, and Audrey; gc: 6.

Kajikawa, Kay, 79, Torrance, CA, Nov. 11, 2020; she was predeceased by her son, Chris, and wife, Judith Ann; she is survived by her father, Tadashi Kajikawa (105); sons, Gavin, James and Dean; stepdaughter, Stephanie Santos (Jerome); sisters, Carole Kajikawa and JoAnn Yamashiro (Tateshi); a niece and nephew and many relatives and friends.



Katagiri, Matsuyo, 102, Los Angeles, CA, May 5; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Granada WRA Center (Camp Amache) in CO; she was predeceased by her husband, George Katagiri; she is survived by her daughters, Betty and Alice; brother, Tak Yamashita; gc and ggc.



Marumoto, Shizue, 87, Layton, UT, Feb. 6; she was predeceased by her husband, Hiroki Marumoto; she is survived by her sons, Sheldon (Katherine) and Michael (Kim); honorary son, Tony Potter; sisters, Yasue Kido, Mitsue, Tamae and Tomoe; gc: 6.



Nakamura, Aeiko, 89, Salt Lake City, UT Jan. 18; a JACler; she was predeceased by her husband, Stanley

Aizo Nakamura, and 2 brothers and 2 sisters; she is survived by her children, Cindy (Kim) Garrick and Mark (Sue Ellen) Nakamura; gc: 5; ggc: 11.

Nakamura, Clarence Tsuyoshi, 86,

Nishiki, Clay, 74, Hacienda Heights, CA, Jan. 27; he is survived by his wife, Nancy; children, Scott Nishiki (Connie), Ryan Nishiki (Anna) and Stacey Callahan (Steve); siblings, Lenore Ishimi, Dale Matsuno (Gene) and Trude Rocha (Mike); gc: 6.

Sakaniwa, Himeji, 97, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 14; he was predeceased by his wife, Kimiyo; he is survived by his sons, Ron, Toshiharu and Richard (Jennifer); siblings, Kumpei and Hisako Ouchi; gc: 3.



Sato-Nakashima, Carol Kazuko, 91, Morgan Hill, CA, Jan. 28; she was predeceased by her husband, George Sato; son, Keith Sato; siblings, Pricilla Yoshioka, Lynne Alseth, Betty Kastner, Chizuko Sakata, Robert Sakata and Tom Sakata; she is survived by her husband Tosh Nakashima; children, Ken (Sherri) Sato, Karen (Jan) Sato, Terri (Chuck) Rennie; sisters-in-law, Linda Sakata and Sue Dibble; brothers-in-law, Mits (Liz) Sato and Dick (Yoko) Sato; cousins, Sam (Yae) Sakamoto, Annie Kawaguchi and Shima (Karen) Sakata; gc: 4.

Tanaka, Darlene Nami, 78, Santa Monica, CA, Feb. 11; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Topaz WRA Center in Utah; she is survived by her husband, Ted T. Tanaka; sons, Scott and Ryan; daughter-in-law, Ginalyn; sisters, Toshiko Taylor and Annette Okada; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 2.



Tanaka, Janet, 77, Elk Grove, CA, April 17; she was predeceased by her husband, Eric; she is survived by her children, Melody, Wendy and Conley; sister, Susan; gc: 6; ggc: 4.

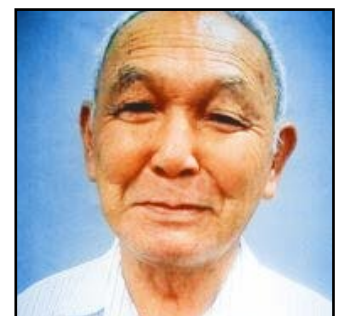
Tanaka, Yaeko Kamisato, 85, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, Nov. 28, 2020; she was predeceased by her husband, Robert; she is survived by

her children, Janice (Tim) Lai, Terry Tanaka, Lance Tanaka and Vince Tanaka; sister, Sumi Hanao; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 3; ggc: 1.



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

Yamamoto, Evelyn Hisako, 89, Oxnard, CA, Nov. 21, 2020; she was predeceased by her husband, William T. Yamamoto, and sister, Arlene Hamashita; she is survived by her children, April S., Tom T. (Charris), Robin S. Yamamoto and Carie M. (Brent) Yamamoto-Henson; siblings, Ken (Lily) and Bob (Lynda) Sugino; gc: 3; ggc: 3.



Yamamoto, James Masaru, 90, Delano, CA, Jan. 25.



Yamamoto, Katsuko Kay, 98, Clovis, CA, March 2; during WWII, her family was forced from their home to live at the Santa Anita racetrack and later incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center (3) in AZ; she was predeceased by her husband, Yukio, son, Don (Janice) and sister, Sachiko; she is survived by her sons, Ken Yamamoto and Glenn (Kathy) Yamamoto; brother, Tosh (Mickey) Miyashita; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins; gc: 4.

TRIBUTE

GRACE & EUGENE KIMURA



Grace Watanabe Kimura, daughter of Rev. Paul Yorishige and Chie Watanabe, passed away after a short illness on March 9, 2019, shortly before her 94th birthday. Her family was incarcerated at Poston, from which Grace was able to leave to continue her high school and college educations, graduating summa cum laude. Grace met her future husband, Eugene Tatsuru Kimura, at a JACL Chicago meeting. She was always home to welcome their children back from school with a snack and a question about how their day was, and later returned to the workforce to contribute to their children's private school and out-of-state university tuition. She had a strong Christian faith and was an accomplished pianist. Supporting redress, she testified at the 1981 Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians hearings in Chicago.

Eugene Tatsuru Kimura, son of Kasaburo and Masano Kimura, passed away after a long illness on Aug. 24, 2020, shortly before his 98th birthday. After his family left the Puyallup "Camp Harmony" assembly center, Tatsuru was able to continue his education at the University of Nebraska and University of Chicago, becoming a renowned pharmacologist and toxicologist conducting research for a multinational pharmaceutical company for the last 33 years of his career. Outside of the laboratory, he was known as someone who could build and fix anything. He and his wife Grace Watanabe Kimura left a legacy of pride in their Japanese heritage and their belief in the value of a good education that "gives you options" to their three children, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

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REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

WISH OF A LIFETIME FROM AARP

By Ron Mori

We can all use some good news, and here's your opportunity to nominate a special someone in your life with a Wish of a Lifetime.

Last August, in the middle of the pandemic, AARP announced that it was joining forces with the Colorado-based charity Wish of a Lifetime to help older adults fulfill their lifelong dreams. Since its founding in 2008, Wish of a Lifetime has made over two thousand wishes come true for older residents of all 50 states and D.C. It has now rebranded as "Wish of a Lifetime from AARP."

"By bringing Wish of a Lifetime into the AARP family, AARP believes that its important work can reach more people — both those

who want to give help and wish applicants — and ultimately combat the negative effects of isolation, strengthen social ties and inter-generational connections and help wish recipients achieve a lifelong dream," said Scott Frisch, AARP executive vp and COO. "AARP has long worked to empower people to choose how they live as they age, and by joining forces, we want people to know it's never too late to dream — regardless of their age."

Wish of a Lifetime from AARP continues to accept wish nominations online at www.wishofalifetime.org. During the coronavirus crisis, Wish of a Lifetime has modified its wish-granting program to focus on virtual wishes and wishes that can happen safely within recipients' homes and communities.

"This is a critical moment to

scale up Wish of a Lifetime's work and impact," said Jeremy Bloom, the two-time Olympian who founded Wish of a Lifetime in tribute to his grandmother. "My grandparents sparked my love of skiing, a sport that took me around the globe to witness other cultures' respect for older people. I have had the ability and resources to chase my dreams. And I am proud that, for a dozen years, Wish of a Lifetime has helped older people pursue their dreams — a mission that, with AARP, will now reach even more people."

Recent Wish recipients include:

- Marguerite Miller, 92, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.: As a 12-year-old, Miller survived the Nazi invasion of France in 1940 and worked alongside her mother to hide Allied pilots downed over her homeland. Her experiences fueled a lifelong aspiration to skydive, which Wish of a Lifetime helped her to fulfill.
- Bertha Nunn, 87, of Waldorf, Md.: Nunn's family caregiving responsibilities took priority over her childhood dream of being an actress. Through Wish of a Lifetime, Nunn got to appear in a TV commercial for Crest toothpaste, which aired last December. She

said of the experience: "When we get up in age, we're just thrown away. But this is something we can do in our 80s."

- Salvatore Reale, 90, of Seminole, Fla.: The Bronx native and retired firefighter, now living in Florida, has been a Yankees fan since 1936. Wish of a Lifetime helped Reale return to Ladder 136, his old fire station, which honored him for his service. Then, he threw out the first pitch at a Yankees game.

With nearly 38 million members, the nation's most-read magazine and many other communications channels, AARP has already begun to bring a national spotlight to older adults who dream and those

who want to help make those dreams come true. Its September 2020 issue, *AARP Bulletin*, which reaches some 23 million homes, featured the stories of Miller, Nunn and Reale.

AARP was founded in 1958 by Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, a retired high school principal, to champion positive aging, fight age discrimination, develop solutions to the problems and challenges faced by older Americans and upend negative stereotypes.

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



PHOTO: AARP



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