



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 92 YEARS

"This has happened again," said Bob Matsumoto about anti-Asian hate.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF AMIKO MATSUMOTO

ANTI-ASIAN HATE

#StopAsianHate



IS NOT  
WHAT I STAND FOR

#StopAAPIHate

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Harada House  
Receives  
\$7 Million.

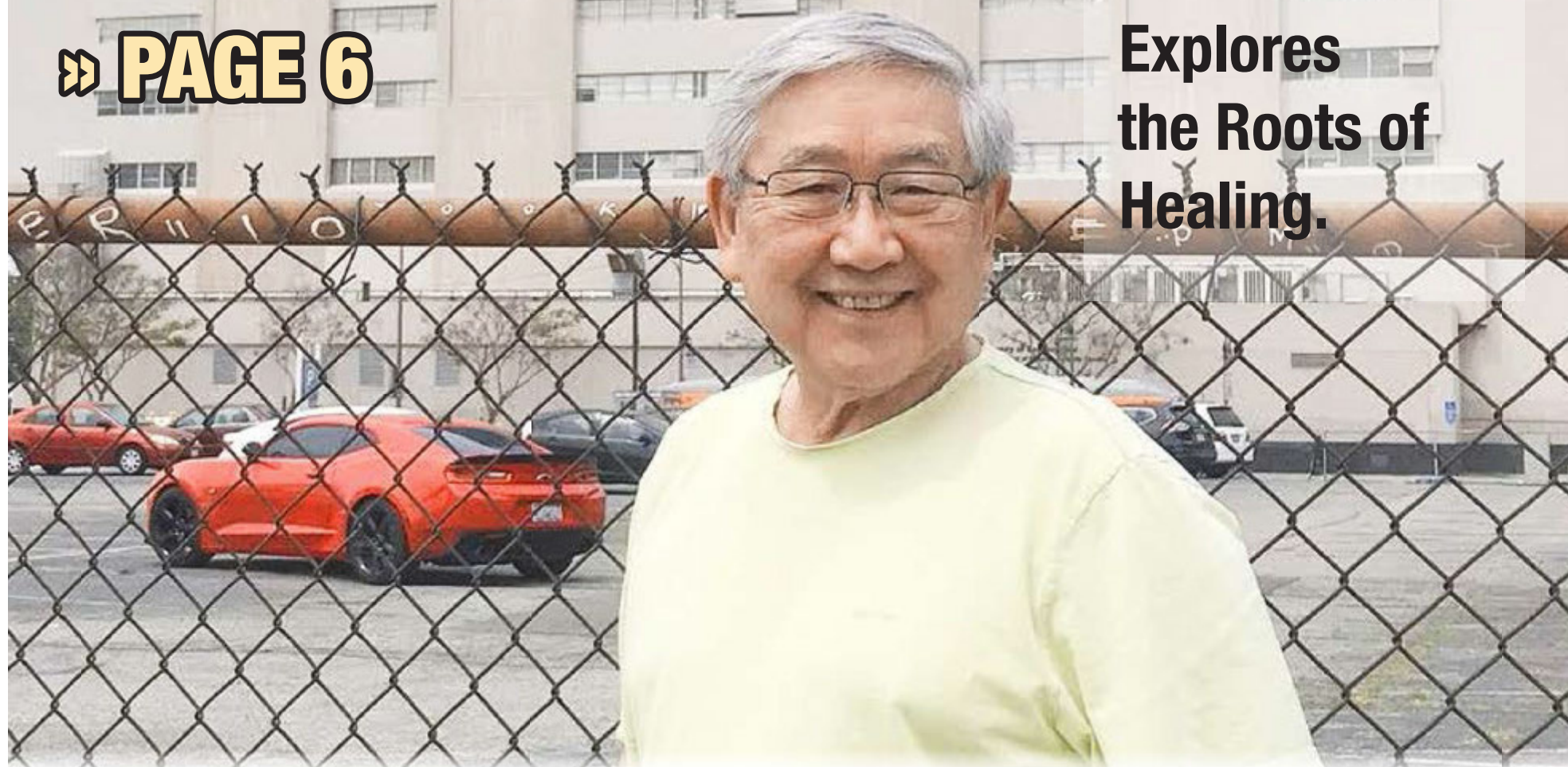
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NY/SC Panel  
Explores  
the Roots of  
Healing.

## A FRESH TAKE

Art director Bob Matsumoto on  
the need for creative thinking.

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# JACL WELCOMES NEW DANIEL K. INOUE FELLOW ALEX SHINKAWA

By JACL National



JACL is excited to welcome Alex Shinkawa as the new Daniel K. Inouye Fellow. Shinkawa, a resident of California, will be based in the organization's Washington, D.C., office.

"I am extremely excited to be the new Daniel K. Inouye policy fellow with JACL! I hope that through this fellowship, I will be able to advocate on behalf of the community that has helped to raise me and fight for issues that are important to Japanese Americans as well as other intersected minority groups," he said. "This fellowship represents an opportunity for me to meet with other accomplished and passionate Asian

American advocates and hear their stories and learn from their careers."

Shinkawa is a recent graduate from the University of California, Santa Barbara, with a double major with honors in Asian American Studies and political science. He was born in Sunnyvale, Calif., and his interests focus on immigration policies and community building.

On campus, he was a member of the Political Science Honors Society, and he worked to spread awareness about the Japanese American community as the culture chair for the university's Nikkei Student Union.

He is also a past member of the Campus United party and worked as a campaign manager for his classmate. During his senior year,

Shinkawa wrote a research thesis on the effects of hate crimes on Asian American civic organizations in the California Bay Area during Covid-19.

Shinkawa has a passion for community development and has worked as an intern for the Japantown Community Congress of San Jose to fight gentrification and promote community safety.

In addition, he has volunteered at the Asian Law Alliance and helped at-risk members of the community with filing N-400 citizen applications and DACA forms. On a more national level, Shinkawa is a former development intern for OCA Asian Pacific American Advocates and

New JACL fellow Alex Shinkawa will be based in the organization's Washington, D.C., office.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ALEX SHINKAWA



worked to help with the organization's 2020 online summit.

Shinkawa hopes that this fellowship will give him the opportunity to meet with legislators and activists within the Asian American community in order to hear their stories. He also hopes that he can participate in nonprofit work centered on immigration reform and see new ways to change policy in order to help people.

Welcome, Alex, to JACL! ■

## P.C. REVEALS DUCKWORTH BOOK DRAWING WINNER



Contained in the article "Memoir Illuminates Duckworth's Tragedies, Triumphs" (*Pacific Citizen*, May 21-June 4, 2021, issue) was a note that the *Pacific Citizen* would hold a drawing to give away one copy of Sen. Tammy Duckworth's book.

The *P.C.* received letters from Dennis Nakamura of San Carlos, Calif., Mitzi Loftus of Ashland, Ore., Alice Matsushima of Evanston, Ill., Michiko Kus of San Fernando, Calif., and Edwin Yamada of Lawai, Hawaii.

Each entrant was assigned a number, and one of the numbers was drawn randomly — and the winner was Matsushima. The book will be mailed via the U.S. Postal Service.

The *P.C.* thanks its far-flung readership for participating in this drawing. ■

## Olympic Volunteers Strive to Tell Their Earthquake Stories

By Associated Press

**RIFU, JAPAN** — Atsushi Muramatsu's handmade flyers are the size of a business card, written in several languages. "Welcome to Miyagi Stadium," one reads. "The gymnasium next door was the largest morgue for tsunami victims."

Over a decade after the massive earthquake and tsunami devastated northeastern Japan, the Tokyo Games were supposed to offer a chance to showcase how much has been rebuilt. They were even billed as the "Recovery and Reconstruction Games," and the Olympic torch relay started from Fukushima prefecture, the heart of the nuclear disaster area.

But the coronavirus pandemic means few spectators are coming to any of the Olympic events, including soccer and baseball, being held here. That leaves some Olympic volunteers having to find their own ways to recount their experiences to those rare fans who pass through, as well as members of the media.

"I believe that residents in disaster-hit areas want to express gratitude for support from overseas, and I also want to keep delivering a message that we want to be remembered," said Muramatsu, who is serving as a volunteer at the Miyagi Stadium media operation center.

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The *Pacific Citizen* newspaper (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semi-monthly (except once in December and January) by the Japanese American Citizens League, *Pacific Citizen*, 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Periodical postage paid at L.A., CA. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to National JACL, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115.

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Periodicals paid at Los Angeles, Calif. and mailing office.

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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!"

— Gil Ashida



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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# REDEFINING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR A CHANGING WORLD

By David Inoue,  
JACL Executive Director

I remember in grade school history classes learning about the New Deal and how many of our modern road systems were built as a result, particularly one road that we drove on regularly in Cincinnati to get from our suburban home to downtown. As Congress considers unprecedented amounts of investment in our nation's infrastructure, we need to rethink how our investment today best addresses the possibilities and the challenges that we will face in the future.

Roads and bridges are what people think of first when talking infrastructure because that is what fueled much of our growth for the past century. We created a car culture from in-

vestments we have made in the vast network of roads and bridges.

Although we are likely to not lose that dependence on cars, the types of cars will be changing. As we move to electric vehicles (EV), the infrastructure to support them must be developed. Right now, EVs remain limited largely to those who own a home with a garage or driveway where the car can be charged overnight.

Practical EV ownership excludes those who rent or park on the street in urban areas. Until charging stations become available for people to charge easily at home or their workplace, EV ownership will remain limited.

In between large urban areas, fast-charging stations will be needed to enable long-distance travels. Perhaps

even more than rest stops have been a part of highway driving, EV charging stations will establish new points of interest along the highways.

At current charging speeds, a charging stop can typically take over 30 minutes, more than the typical restroom stop, and to get closer to a 100 percent charge, likely up to an hour, enough time for a full meal, when perhaps a five-minute gas fill up would have resulted in a coffee purchase; now, a family might be spending much more time and money at a stop.

This past year of Covid isolation forced many of us to adjust our lifestyles, actually reducing our dependence on our cars to get to work or school, and instead working and learning from home.

For my family, it meant upgrading our internet service when our basic-level upload speeds became unable to handle four simultaneous Zoom sessions. While we are all hungry to return to in-person interaction at work, school and socializing, virtual meetings are now entrenched as a normal part of our lives.

And yet, too many people remain cut off from reliable broadband internet access. Interestingly, this is one issue that affects urban and rural constituencies similarly. The reasons for why urban vs. rural areas might be less connected might

be differently prioritized, but the disparity is real for both.

Sometimes, it is the lack of network build out, or it might be issues of affordability. Just as roads have connected us for the past century, the internet is increasingly what connects us now and in the future.

Ironically, many of the very people who were unable to work from home because they were deemed essential workers were also the people who do not have the luxury of a personal vehicle to get to work.

As public transit systems scaled back services, the workers we depended on to keep grocery stores open found it most difficult to get to work. Anyone who has visited major cities in Europe or Asia has seen a more diverse transportation infrastructure.

Cars remain a significant part of how people get around, but public transit in buses and trains and even bicycling play much more significant roles in most other nations. If we are going to expect these workers to be at work when we need them, we need to make sure to develop the public transit infrastructure to get them to work.

The commonality in all these recommendations for addressing infrastructure improvements are that we must look to the future, but with an eye toward equity. It is not

enough to simply throw money at these challenges. We need to do so in a way that will support those who need it most.

Perhaps I should have issued my disclosures at the beginning, but I own two EVs. Right now, the incentives to adopt EV ownership target those who are better off.

Tax credits support those who have higher tax bills and incentives for building home charging infrastructure do nothing for renters or those who park on the street.

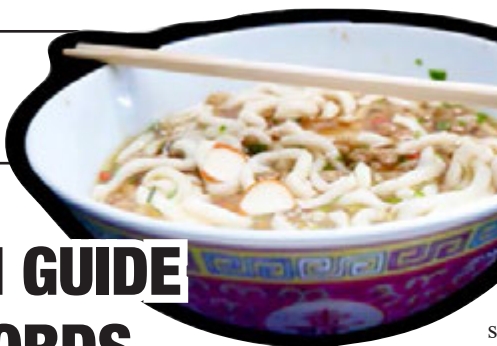
Infrastructure investments have traditionally benefited those who are car owners, homeowners and in better neighborhoods. In fact, highways were often constructed in ways that divided and decimated poorer or minority neighborhoods.

As we make further investments — whether to expand EV adoption, expand broadband access or expand public transit — we must also be in consideration of who will benefit from those expansions. Congress is about to make a huge investment in our future. That investment must be targeted so no child, family or worker is left behind.

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



## NIKKEI VOICE



A commonly mispronounced Japanese word is **udon**, pronounced “oo-dohn.”

PHOTO: GIL ASAKAWA

# A PRONUNCIATION GUIDE FOR JAPANESE WORDS INCLUDING PANKO, UDON, SAKE, ANIME AND KARAOKE

By Gil Asakawa

I originally wrote this article as a blog post in 2009, and it's been the most popular post on my site ever since. I've updated it because of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, now being held a year late because of the Covid pandemic.

I assume the broadcasters got coached on pronouncing Japanese words, but many have been mangled, or are sometimes spoken correctly, sometimes not — often by the same anchor or reporter, within the same report. “Tokyo” is probably the word that gets the most varied treatment.

Here are some words that I often hear mispronounced and how they should be spoken (note to my Japanese-speaking friends: I know

I say some of these words with an Americanized accent . . . what can I say, I'm Japanese American!):

- **Anime** — Japanese animation is not pronounced “A-ni-may” like “animal” — it's “ah-ni-meh.” The differences might sound subtle or trivial, but if you say it the “American” way in Japan, people might not understand you.
- **Bonsai** — The art of crafting sculpture out of trees is mispronounced a lot as “banzai,” but that's a Japanese cheer. The correct way to say it is “bohn-sigh.”
- **Daikon** — The pungent Japanese radish, which seems to be more and more available in American supermarkets' produce sections, is often pronounced “DYE-conn.” Try saying “dai-kohn,” where the

subtle difference in the first syllable is a softer “eye” sound, and the second syllable rhymes with “loan,” but cut off short.

- **Gyoza** — The Japanese word for the Chinese “potsticker” dumpling is too often spoken as “ghee-YO-za,” instead of “gyo-zuh.” Westerners seem to have an innate need to add extra syllables. They also do it to Tokyo, which should be just two syllables, “Toh-Kyo” but is often stretched into “Toe-kee-yo.”
- **Hiroshima** — The city in southern Japan that suffered the first atomic bomb explosion, leading to the end of World War II, is today pronounced by Americans as “Huh-ROE-shi-muh,” but it's actually “He-rro-shi-mah,” with shorter syllables and no emphasis. The “R” should be a little bit trilled, not a Western “R” sound like “roe.”
- **Kamikaze** — The word was popularized after WWII because of the suicide missions by the desperate Japanese military toward the close of the war. Today, I hear it

in names for drinks or silly sushi rolls, and it's often pronounced “kaw-maw-KAW-zee” instead of “kah-mi-kah-zeh.”

- **Karaoke** — This one gets me, but it's already so established, it sounds forced if someone says it correctly. It's like saying “bu-rrree-toh” Spanish-style in a Taco Bell. Americans universally say “carry-okee,” but the Japanese pronunciation is “karra-oh-keh.” The “R” in the “kara” part is trilled almost like an L, so it should rhyme with “ka-lah.” Karaoke is a shortened combination of two words (Japanese love to do this with words), “karappo,” which means empty, and “okestora,” which is a transliteration of orchestra. Literally, karaoke means “empty orchestra”: music with no band. Cool, huh?
- **Karate** — While we're at it, I should add this popular Olympic sport, a Japanese martial art that was first introduced at the 1964 Olympics, the first time the games were held in Japan. Like karaoke, “kara” is short for “karappo,” or “empty.” “Te” is simply, “hand.” So, karate is fighting with an empty hand.
- **Kobe** — The word wasn't often pronounced in the U.S. until the rise of the city's namesake super-expensive beef and the rise of Kobe Bryant, the Lakers' basketball superstar. Now, everyone says it like the late NBA player,

“KOE-bee” instead of the more subdued “Koh-beh.”

- **Manga** — With Japanese comics and animation becoming so popular in the West, I often hear both anime and manga mispronounced. The word for comics is “mahn-gah,” not “MAN-guh.”
- **Napa** — The long-leafed cabbage is pronounced “nah-ppah,” not “NAP-puh.” That's the Northern California valley where they make wine, or the auto parts company. Sometimes, the differences sound subtle, like the differences between “hat” and “hot” for my mom.
- **Panko** — Japanese breadcrumbs, often used as a coating instead of flour batter for dishes such as fried shrimp or, in Wendy's case, its now-long-gone fish sandwich. Instead of “PAN-koe,” try “pahn-koh.”
- **Ramen** — Yes, one of the most familiar of all Japanese words, a staple of college students' diets everywhere, is often pronounced “raw-MEN” or “RAW-men” by non-Japanese. But the dish is actually a Japanized version of the word for the traditional Chinese noodle, lo mein, and should be pronounced with more of a rolled “R” sound and no strong emphasis on either syllable: “rrah-men.”

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**Amache Entrance**  
PHOTOS: ATHENA MARI ASKLIPIDIS

## HOUSE PASSES AMACHE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE BILL

The bill, which has strong bipartisan support, now heads to the Senate in its quest to make Amache part of the National Park System.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill to make Amache, a Japanese American incarceration camp in Colorado during World War II a National Historic Site by the count of 416-2 on July 29.

The Amache National Historic Site Act, a bipartisan effort to preserve the legacy of the incarceration camp, was first introduced in April by Rep. Joe Neguse (D-Colo.) and Rep. Ken Buck (R-Colo.). It now heads to the Senate.

In a statement, Neguse said he was “extremely” excited that the bill passed, describing its success as “an important step in terms of ultimately ensuring that this important story that is told by the Amache internment camp is preserved for future generations.

“I’ve always believed that the landscapes, the cultural places, the stories we choose to protect, really reflect our values as a country and in that vein the story of Amache is such an important one,” Neguse said.

Concurred Buck, who represents the area where Amache is located, in a statement: “Our nation is better today because of the lessons we have learned from our past. The Amache National Historic Site Act is important because it recognizes the horrible injustices committed against Japanese Americans and preserves the site for people throughout Colorado and the United States.”

Amache, or the Granada Relocation Center, was one of 10 prison camps where 120,000 people of Japanese descent were incarcerated following the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt following the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

At least 7,000 people were imprisoned in Amache, and more than 10,000 spent time there during the duration of World War II. Amache also had the most Japanese Americans to voluntarily enlist in the U.S. military.

The Amache bill is drawing upon strong bipartisan support.

In the statement released by Neguse’s office, “in urging members to vote for the bill, Republican Rep. Bruce Westerman of Arkansas, ranking member of the committee, described the ‘powerful’ testimony from Amache survivor Bob Fuchigami as part of his decision to support the bill.”

Westerman continued, “Sites like Amache help to remind us of the challenges our nation has faced and the mistakes we have made as we have endeavored to form a more perfect union. I urge my colleagues to support this bill so that, in Mr. Fuchigami’s own words, ‘We can help shine a light on this forgotten history.’”

Tracy Coppola, Colorado program manager for the National Parks Conservation Assn., said in a statement: “As America’s storyteller, what the National Park Service chooses to preserve and the stories it chooses to tell reflects our values as a nation, and Amache challenges us all to act toward a better future where justice, equity, diversity and inclusion are America’s top priority. We urge Congress to keep the momentum going and look forward to swiftly getting this bill through the Senate and to President Biden’s desk.”

The Amache Act now heads to the Senate, where Neguse and Buck are hopeful the bill will also be passed swiftly.

## PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC HARADA HOUSE IN RIVERSIDE ENSURED WITH STATE SUPPORT

A \$7 million state budget allocation will help restore the National Historic Landmark.

**RIVERSIDE, CALIF.** — A \$7 million state budget allocation will ensure the structural rehabilitation of the Harada House, which is key to opening the National Historic Landmark to the public and sharing like never before the story of how a Japanese American family in downtown Riverside successfully fought against discrimination.

City officials gathered on Aug. 2 with Assemblymember José Medina, who shepherded the allocation through the state budget process, to celebrate the funding success and look forward to additional progress.

“This funding is crucial to the successful completion of the complex process of structural rehabilitation for Harada House,” Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson said. “This nationally important historic house cannot be opened to the public until rehabilitation is completed, so we are grateful for the additional resources.”

A historic preservation architect will be selected this summer, and more than four years of work is expected to start next year, starting with the foundation and working upward through the structure using advanced technologies to preserve as much of the historic fabric of the house as possible.

The funding also ensures the completion of the Harada House Interpretive Center, which is next door to Harada House, located at 3356 Lemon St. in downtown Riverside.

“I am grateful that the Governor



The historic Harada House will now begin extensive structural rehabilitation before it is opened to the public.

A sign detailing the Historic Landmark’s founding donors, which is located in front of the house.

PHOTOS: NANCY TAKAYAMA

(Gavin Newsom) and Legislature recognized the importance of the Harada House to Riverside and the entire State,” Medina said. “The Harada House memorializes both the triumphs of, and the injustices against, Japanese Americans. The social justice message at the heart of this house remains crucially relevant today.”

Harada House, originally built in 1884, earned its National Historic Landmark status in 1990 because it had been the subject of a civil rights court case in 1916-18, the *People of the State of California v. Jukichi Harada et al.*, in which the Superior Court of California upheld the 14th Amendment rights of the American-born children of Japanese immigrants Jukichi and Ken Harada against California’s Alien Land Law targeting Asians.

The Harada case was the first test in the United States of the constitutionality of these exclusionary property and immigration laws. Decades passed before alien land laws

were repealed in California, but in 1918, the racially motivated criminal prosecution of Jukichi Harada ended in triumph for the Harada family.

“This is so meaningful — the money, the investment, the work being done by the Museum of Riverside to share the Haradas’ story so that people around the country can learn from our history,” City Councilmember Erin Edwards said. “The ripple effects will be enormous.”

Harada House, the subject of this court case, was deeded to the City of Riverside in 2003 by Harada family heirs so that it could become a site for education and dialog relating to civil rights. However, termites, water incursion and other factors caused the house to be deemed unsafe until a costly rehabilitation could take place.

“The state funding is transformative,” Museum of Riverside Director Robyn G. Peterson said. “It acknowledges the importance of proceeding with this project so that the Museum of Riverside may make Harada House and its relevant stories accessible to the public. Harada House remains as timely today as it was over a century ago, with its messages that go to the very heart of the ideal of ‘liberty and justice for all.’”



On hand at the Aug. 2 presentation were (from left) Harada House Foundation President Sarah Mundy, Assemblymember Jose Medina (CA-61, Riverside), Riverside City Council Member (Ward 1) Erin Edwards (Harada House is in her ward) and Museum of Riverside Director Dr. Robyn G. Peterson.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE MUSEUM OF RIVERSIDE



Harada House supporters (from left) Meiko Inabo, Sarah Mundy, Dr. Robyn Peterson, Michiko Yoshimura and Judy Lee

PHOTO: NANCY TAKAYAMA



Amache



# NY/SC PANEL EXPLORES THE ROOTS OF HEALING

Matsumoto mulls the modern muddled mess of mindfulness.

By P.C. Staff

Can something once confined to an ethnic culture that crosses over and finds mass acceptance lose its roots and original meaning?

When an idea or concept once associated with a particular community undergoes commodification by the greater community, should that automatically be viewed askance?

Is it “cultural appropriation” when a practice that was associated with a subculture is adopted by the masses?

Those questions and others could have been the larger and unasked subtext to the virtual panel titled “When Healing Is Home: The Japanese American Roots of Mindfulness and Community Care,” which took place on July 16 at the 2021 JACL National Convention and was hosted by the JACL’s

National Youth/Student Council.

Mariko Rooks, NY/SC representative for the JACL’s Eastern District Council, serving as the panel’s facilitator, introduced the panel’s main speaker and presenter, Devon Matsumoto.

Rooks emphasized that Matsumoto would discuss the Japanese and Japanese American roots of “practices that might seem trendy” and “really understanding . . . what that history is and how that affects our present and . . . how that relates to our identities here today.”

In her introduction, Rooks described Matsumoto as a San Francisco Bay-area denizen who resides on “unceded Ohlone land” and works in juvenile justice, having earned a master’s in social work from Seattle University and whose organizing work “focuses on understanding the complexities of Asian American Buddhist identity.”

“Of course, at JACL, we are nondenominational, and we understand that a lot of different religions play a really important part in our community’s identity, but Devon will be talking a little bit about some specific practices that originate from some specific parts of our community that hopefully can still be applicable to everyone,” Rooks added.

Matsumoto began with a land acknowl-

edgement that he lives on Ohlone and Mukwek-na nations’ land — and noted that it also was an acknowledgement that a land acknowledgement was “not enough” — but it was nevertheless a form of mindfulness, which was the part of the panel’s title.

In that spirit, Matsumoto then led a grounding exercise that included breathing, relaxation, visualization and listening. This, too, was a real-world example of a practice of mindfulness, a term that has gained mainstream popularity in recent years and therefore has definitions that have, despite its Buddhist roots, morphed to mean different things to different people, groups and even corporations that might offer mindfulness sessions after “80-hour work week” to squeeze even more productivity from workers.

“How does mindfulness and caring relate to community care? Or does mindfulness even relate to caring at all?” asked Matsumoto. “For me, I like to quote Mitsuye Sugino, who is a leading Buddhist teacher, anti-racist teacher as well, who really looks to see the roots of mindfulness within Asian

Devon Matsumoto (right) and Mariko Rooks explored the topic of “mindfulness” during the NY/SC’s plenary presentation at the recent JACL National Convention.

communities and within Buddhist Asian communities.

“And so, what she talks about is that ‘mindfulness becomes not a strategy to alleviate suffering but an exercise in complacency, of turning away from ethical questions,’ and that ‘capitalism co-opts questions of racial justice and reformulates them as aesthetic cultural productions.’”

Matsumoto added that in the Buddhist origins of mindfulness practice, the purpose was “to seek out the causes of suffering and to alleviate them.”

» See NY/SC on page 9

What is mindfulness?

What does caring look like?

## STORIES » continued from page 2

The stadium has a capacity of 49,000, but because of the pandemic, it’s one of the few venues that allow up to 10,000 spectators.

Another volunteer, Mieko Onuma, wants to return the favor to all those who supported the reconstruction by sharing her experience with Japanese visitors to Miyagi at a storytelling center set up near a shuttle bus station.

“When the disaster happened, I was working as a teacher at an elementary school. I felt a sense of duty to tell what happened that day, so I tell my stories here,” said Onuma.

Toshihiro Umeki, 14, came to see the soccer games with his father, but also joined Okuma’s storytelling session.

“Back then, I was 5 years old, so I barely remember the disaster. So, it wasn’t like recalling back my memories but rather learning new things,” said Umeki. “There were so many shocking things I didn’t know.”

On March 11, 2011, the magnitude 9.0 quake sent a tsunami that triggered meltdowns at the Fukushima nuclear power plant. The disaster heavily damaged coastal neighborhoods and took more than 18,000 lives in all, with around 10,000 people killed in Miyagi prefecture.

Muramatsu said he observed hundreds of dead bodies being cleaned after their recovery from the ocean, then carried to the gymnasium.

Being exposed to such scenes every day and hearing about the deaths of his friends, Muramatsu said he felt there was no line between life and death. What motivated him to stay alive was the daily conversations with foreign rescuer workers, who helped lift people’s spirits with a joke or a kind word.

“I want to pass on the message to the next generation that we have received so much support from overseas, and we shall never forget that support,” Muramatsu said. ■



Miyagi Stadium

PHOTO: FACEBOOK

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**“I personally want to pass these stories onto future generations so that it would never be forgotten and to move forward the values of our beloved country so the United States could be an even more inclusive and tolerant nation”**

- Norman Y. Mineta, Honorary Chair, Centennial Education Fund

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Bob Matsumoto (front row, left) was only 4 years old when his family was incarcerated at Manzanar.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BOB MATSUMOTO



(From left) Michael, Linda, Amiko, Bob and Paul Matsumoto circa 1988.



Matsumoto is a mentor and a friend. He is pictured here in 1992 with student Julian Ryder's son, Christian.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF JULIAN RYDER

# BOB MATSUMOTO WILL NEVER STOP ASKING, 'WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?'

The art director on carrying on the legacy of kindness, combating anti-Asian hate and the need for creative thinking.

By Lynda Lin Grigsby,  
Contributor

Bob Matsumoto is the patron saint of creativity. The advertising art director, whose name and work continues to echo in the minds of industry trendsetters long after his retirement, is famously averse to retreading old ideas. He is always looking for what he calls a "fresh take."

A former student at the ArtCenter College of Design in Pasadena, Calif., where Matsumoto taught for eight years, said in his advertising concept class, she created cool visuals but was often sent back to the drawing board to find the "big idea."

"Again and again," said Marian (Monsen) Bell, 70. "I learned to never give up trying to do better."

Vestiges of the same demand for out-of-the-box thinking revealed itself when Matsumoto, 83, called before our scheduled interview to ask

for the idea behind this article. This is not uncommon in the journalism world when jittery subjects (or their gatekeepers) like to get a feel for the kinds of questions going to be asked and perhaps set up a few boundaries, but Matsumoto's question was sincerely about the idea.

At the *Pacific Citizen*, articles often circle around variations on the same theme: the shared history and intergenerational impact of the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans. It's a part of Matsumoto's own narrative as a 4-year-old incarcerated at Manzanar, but it's a story he has already told to reporters for other media outlets, so once again, he asks, "What is the big idea?"

The idea might be that Matsumoto blazed a trail in advertising during a time when Asian American presence was scarce. A self-described Oakland-born scrapper should not have been able to garner so many career accolades and respect if it weren't

for the kindness of mentors and what Matsumoto says is just pure luck. Tracy Wong, an influential advertising art director of the WongDoody Agency, calls Matsumoto "a legend."

Every person who ascends to a higher order than his/her birthright can cultivate connections with the higher ranks, but the truly exceptional ones authentically bond with superiors and inferiors — the latter, who like Bell, just want to be a part of his world. It's a gift that if one is lucky enough to have, can light the way for other talent to achieve success, and Matsumoto has it.

Proof of his exceptionalism can be seen in photos — in a black-and-white one, a young Matsumoto grins joyfully next to Helmut Krone, a pioneer of modern advertising whose Volkswagen Beetle campaigns in the 1960s are timeless.

Krone's stern demand for perfection made people who worked for him question if he ever relaxed. But in the photo, Krone has an arm casually slung around Matsumoto and the faintest upturn of a smile. It is a portrait of a legend and mentee.

In other photos over his many years in advertising, Matsumoto smiles just as exuberantly — this time as a mentor — next to former students, who have become successful art directors and creative entrepreneurs still chasing the next big idea.

## PAYING IT FORWARD

On the day of our first chat over Zoom, he can only afford an hour of time to talk about himself. Matsumoto has been up since 4 a.m. with visuals for his latest project dancing

in his head. Some people think in words; Matsumoto thinks with visuals.

He likes to say every creative person needs to keep their minds well-oiled. He is wearing glasses and an impeccably crisp polo shirt like he is ready to flee to the golf course at any moment. While he talks, his email inbox incessantly pings with incoming messages, and his home phone line competes for attention.

Matsumoto is still in demand.

He is the first to admit his life would be radically different if it weren't for the kindness of higher-ups who invested time and money in him.

In Sacramento, Calif., young Matsumoto landed an apprenticeship in the art department at KCRA-TV, the city's NBC affiliate where he met Bob Kelly, a legend in broadcasting. For the lucky, meetings like these might result in a promotion or new opportunity. For Matsumoto, the meeting was life changing.

Kelly offered to pay for his entire education at ArtCenter with two stipulations: all the money needed to be paid back interest free over time, and Matsumoto had to promise to help others.

The offer brought tears to

The "original" Matsumoto ad was a collective of Japanese American business owners asking the community to recognize their humanity.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF BOB MATSUMOTO

Bob Matsumoto at age 4.



George Matsumoto's eyes. The Nisei farmer grew up with nine siblings working the strawberry fields in Elk Grove, Calif., before losing everything during WWII. It was an opportunity he could not offer his son.

For Matsumoto, the gesture planted a seed of kindness he would spend the rest of his life paying forward.



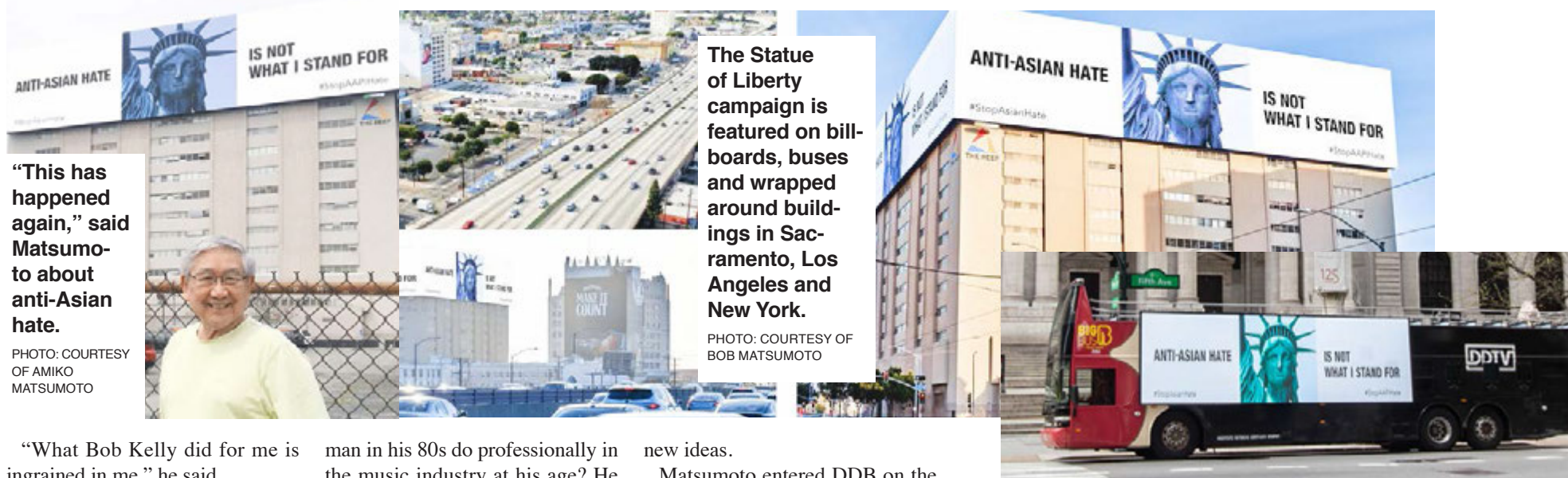
The Matsumoto family attended a 2019 Father's Day event at Dodgers' Stadium in 2019. (From left, Brayden Rorick, Bob Matsumoto, Maya Rorick, Amiko Matsumoto and Robin Rorick.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF AMIKO MATSUMOTO



A Block 30 group photo at Manzanar that includes the Matsumoto family.





**“This has happened again,” said Matsumoto about anti-Asian hate.**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF AMIKO MATSUMOTO

**The Statue of Liberty campaign is featured on billboards, buses and wrapped around buildings in Sacramento, Los Angeles and New York.**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF BOB MATSUMOTO

“What Bob Kelly did for me is ingrained in me,” he said.

While teaching advertising concepts at ArtCenter, Matsumoto learned that his student, Julian Ryder, wanted to become an art director, so on weekends, he worked one-on-one with Ryder to prepare his portfolio.

“I would show up at his house on Saturday mornings, and we’d sit at his kitchen table working on my ads while his wife, Linda, would be giving their new baby a bath in the kitchen sink,” said Ryder, 75, founder and chief creative officer of a creativity education and training firm.

The list of successful creative thinkers to flourish under Matsumoto’s mentorship reads like a who’s who of the advertising industry, including Bell, who credits Matsumoto with helping her land her first advertising agency job. He even took her portfolio from Los Angeles to New York City, where all the top agencies were located.

“How do you thank someone who does all that for you?” said Bell.

Ostensibly retired from advertising and teaching, Matsumoto is pouring his creativity in more personal projects. The latest is a private documentary about Peter Drew, a jazz musician who started composing purely as a hobby because what would a

man in his 80s do professionally in the music industry at his age? He drops a nationally acclaimed CD.

On Aug. 10, Matsumoto will begin shooting the documentary — remotely. With the pandemic still raging, he prefers not to be at airports or sitting shoulder-to-shoulder with other passengers. Who could blame him? Technology offers him the ability to be there virtually.

He hired a videographer to position him onscreen exactly where he would stand if he were there in person.

“I mean this is normal when you’re in the business,” he said.

### JUNIOR MAD MAN

Advertising in the 1960s was the era of the creative revolution, a golden age famously depicted in the AMC TV series “Mad Men.” During this time, lengthy text gave way to big ideas, snappy headlines (a precursor to clickbait) and pictures.

Matsumoto went into advertising after graduating from ArtCenter because it was where ideas affected culture.

There was no other agency where conceptual thinking was more important than at Doyle Dane Bernbach (DDB). In the advertising world, Bill Bernbach is iconic for shifting the focus from formulaic advertising to

new ideas.

Matsumoto entered DDB on the ground floor. He landed in New York and called the ad agency from an airport telephone. During his earliest days at the agency, he made \$65 a week and slept on a cot in a friend’s closet.

It didn’t matter. He was a junior mad man, a nickname derived from New York’s Madison Avenue, where all the major advertising agencies were concentrated.

Matsumoto was the first Japanese American at DDB, perhaps the second Asian American, and one of just a handful working in the industry.

At DDB, creativity was king. The agency stressed conceptual thinking: the combination of creative imagery and thought to trigger deep emotional responses.

“Conceptual thinking is what wins Oscars for writers and directors and Gold Lions for brilliant television advertising,” said Ryder, a former creative director for ad agencies in Los Angeles and New York.

Matsumoto won a Gold Medal Award from the New York Advertising Art Director’s Club for his 1970 Volkswagen ad featuring three car models and the tagline, “Mini. Midi. Maxi,” a fashion reference to women’s skirts.

His 1969 commercial “The Egg” is a close-up of an egg cooking while

voices talk in the background on the telephone. It’s simple and distressing at the same time to watch the egg burn while a conversation carries on. The commercial is part of the Museum of Modern Art’s Permanent Collection.

Matsumoto later became vp and creative director of Della Femina Travisano and started his own agency, but Bernbach’s words stuck with him.

Standing in a roomful of mad men, Bernbach said, “You know, you creative people have all this talent. Don’t keep it here at the agency. Go out and make a difference.”

In his retirement, Matsumoto is doing his most important work. He’s leaving a legacy by channeling his creativity toward people, not products.

### AN EXISTENTIAL CRY FOR ASIAN AMERICANS

There is an ad that hangs in Amiko Matsumoto’s house that has personal meaning to the family. After Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, George Matsumoto and other Japanese American business owners bought an ad in the Jan. 18, 1942, issue of the Sacramento Union to proclaim, “Yes, we are Americans.”

It is an existential cry of a petrified Japanese American community begging their country to recognize their humanity.

“The ad reminds me of their patriotism and dedication to our country, of what can be lost when we, as a country, are not vigilant to live up to the ideals upon which the nation was founded, and how important it is that we learn from history and remain committed to fighting for justice for all,” said Amiko Matsumoto, 50, a Washington, D.C., JACL member and Bob Matsumoto’s daughter.

Matsumoto thinks about the “Yes, we are Americans” ad often.

In 2018, it inspired him to design “Remembrance,” a poster with three simple elements — three lines of barbed wire in red, white and blue set to a black background to symbolize the darkest days of American history. Matsumoto has also licensed the design for merchandising on T-shirts, hats and mugs. The poster hangs in the offices of lawmakers and on walls of JACLers.

For Matsumoto, “Remembrance” is a symbol of loss and a reminder of his love of country with all its imperfections. In front of his Burbank, Calif., home, an American flag flaps in the wind. In his living room hangs a picture of an American flag made from baseballs and bats.

“Until you lose everything, or you live in a different country, that’s when you realize, yes, we are lucky to be Americans,” he said.

Whenever he hears the national anthem, he thinks of the time he spent on the flight decks of naval ships when he served in the Navy, and then he thinks of his Nisei father’s ad.

“It’s very meaningful,” he said. “I feel it.”

To reconcile his patriotism with the injustice his family suffered during WWII, Matsumoto has a mission: Do everything he can to make sure it never happens again.

In the time of anti-Asian hate, Matsumoto thought about the “Yes, we are Americans” ad again.

**The hint of a smile on famously austere Helmut Krone’s face makes this photo one of Matsumoto’s most-prized possessions.**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF BOB MATSUMOTO



**“My life transformed out of my relationship with Bob,” said Julian Ryder, pictured here with his mentor and friend.**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF JULIAN RYDER



**The principles Marian Mosen Bell learned from Matsumoto in his advertising concept class prepared her for a lifetime of creative problem-solving in advertising and in life. Bell is pictured here at a 2009 ArtCenter event holding a class photo.**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MARIAN MONSEN BELL



**Matsumoto won a Gold Medal Award from the New York Advertising Art Director’s Club for this 1970 Volkswagen ad.**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF BOB MATSUMOTO



# Young Professionals Caucus Hosts Debut Programming at JACL Convention

Participants share their thoughts and reflections after hosting inaugural convention conversations.

By Young Professionals Caucus

At this year's virtual JACL National Convention, held July 15-18, the Young Professionals Caucus was honored to host its very first convention programming, including an open community space and a plenary workshop. In addition, the YPC's closed discord server allowed its participants to socialize and provide mentorship to first-time convention attendees and to its *kohai* in the JACL's National Youth/Student Council.

Titled "Transitioning Into the Workforce From an Anti-Oppressive Lens," the discussion featured YPC members Rob Buscher, Laura Espinoza, Elizabeth Fugikawa, Jamie Morishima, Vinicius Taguchi and Matt Weisbly as they recalled their experiences as young professionals from within a variety of workforce industries, as well as shared how they have utilized anti-oppressive practices within all of their individual careers.

The YPC is an affinity group within the JACL that was first conceptualized as a successor to the National Youth/Student Council as a way to help young adult members above the age of 25 remain engaged in the JACL and create an intentional space for this distinct peer group to interact with one another.

Our debut couldn't have gone better, in our minds. Thank you to all the attendees and JACL National staff (especially Bridget Keaveney) for making it such a success.

Following are reflections and thoughts from YPC members who attended this year's convention.



Members of the Young Professionals Caucus met virtually to share an open community space and plenary workshop.

"While I missed being able to see old friends and meet new friends in person, I still feel so connected to my fellow youth and YPC folks and energized to keep organizing and building community. To see our elders so excited for us is always heartwarming and encouraging, giving me the strength and faith to continue working to advance civil rights and social justice."

— **Elizabeth Fugikawa, Mile High Chapter**

"I'm proud that YPC was able to accomplish our workshop for convention this year. Most of our work has been done digitally since our inception, and being able to pull

off a workshop in a time where everything has been moved to the digital sphere shows this kind of organizing can be done this way going forward."

— **Dylan Mori, IDC representative to the YPC and president of the Mile High Chapter**

"It was incredible seeing the YPC community coming out in full force. Our cross-country online community space developed as a response to coping with the tragic murder of George Floyd during a time of isolation brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. It was only fitting, then, that our first convention activities centered around sharing our social

justice experiences with the NY/SC, reflecting on the JACL's past, and working to pass the two resolutions in support of the Black Lives Matter movement and condemning anti-Asian hate.

"I was so grateful to have this support network when the Atlanta spa massacre happened. Now, as we continue defining what the YPC will become, I am excited to see us finalize our logo, secure a seat on the National JACL Board and learn more about my colleagues as they're interviewed for the Speaking Nikkei podcast."

— **Vinicius Taguchi, MDC representative to the YPC and president of the Twin Cities Chapter**

"It was a joy to be back in the larger JACL community after a difficult year — even if only virtually and for a couple of days. I'm eager to see where JACL heads as an organization with the passage of R1 — after a long and close vote — and R2, especially after a year of ongoing anti-Asian racism and never-ending Black Lives Matter protests.

"It was also a bittersweet convention for me as we remembered Ron Katsuyama, one of my mentors assigned to me during my first convention when I was a Philly convention youth scholarship recipient. Ron showed me the ropes to convention as a fellow 2018 delegate, and I was happy to be back with a workshop with my fellow Young Professionals Caucus members this year."

— **Karman Chao, New York Chapter**

"I am happy I got to attend my first-ever JACL Convention with

»

## WORDS » continued from page 3

- **Sake** — Rice wine has become a staple in not just Japanese restaurants and sushi bars, but everywhere. Americans who love the stuff (I can't stand the taste of it) usually say "saw-kee" as if it were spelled "saki" instead of "sake." The TV folks covering the Olympics mostly say it incorrectly, even though they laugh about drinking it every day. Try saying "sah-keh."
- **Shiitake** — I hear the much-loved mushroom called "she-TAW-kee" when it's actually "shi-tah-keh." The first syllable is stretched out more than "she" but more clipped than "shee" and the second is more clipped than "taw." The last syllable is not a long "ee" but a short "eh."
- **Tempura** — Instead of "temp-OH-ra" or "temp-POUR-uh" for the Japanese fried shrimp and veggies dish, try saying "tem-pu-rrah." The "U" should not be stretched out, like "poo," and should be more like the "oo" sound in "look."
- **Teriyaki** — I hear the marinade called "terry-YACK-ee" all the

time, instead of "teh-rri-yah-ki" (with a slightly trilled "R").

- **Tokyo** — You'd think this one would be easy, but many people, including broadcasters, say "Toe-kee-yo" instead of "Toh-kyoh." It's two syllables, not three! The same goes for Kyoto: it's "Kyo-toh" not "Kee-YO-toe."

- **Udon** — The traditional fat noodle is a staple in Japan that predates ramen, and Americans are starting to order it in restaurants, too, but they have a habit of pronouncing it "ooooo-DAWN." Try "oo-dohn." The "oo" part should be short, not dragged out. And the "dohn" part kind of rhymes with "don't." My stepson Jared, who used to work in a Japanese fast-food restaurant

years ago, wanted to yell at customers who said udon wrong. But he didn't, of course.

In the end, though, it's not about saying everything exactly right. Culture colors everything, so one culture won't ever absorb things exactly from another. But if you make an effort to get it close, the other culture is bound to appreciate it.

If people just tried to pronounce

Japanese words correctly, I'd be happy. Thanks in advance for making the effort. To see a much-longer list of words, feel free to visit my blog.

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



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» the YPC community. I'm grateful for all the guidance, laughter and encouragement from fellow members during convention. The YPC has been a strong support system for me throughout this very stressful year. Not only have they helped me navigate the JACL organization

as a new member, but they also have also provided a space to build community. I'm excited to continue to be in community with such thoughtful and empowering individuals."

— **Jamie Morishima, SELANOCO Chapter**

The YPC looks forward to seeing you

at the 2022 JACL National Convention in Las Vegas. In the meantime, you can keep up with the group's ongoing projects and meetings, including the Speaking Nikkei podcast, its monthly community spaces, the launch of the YPC website and programming based on the feedback the YPC received in

its contact form.

**For more information about the YPC, email [ypc@jacl.org](mailto:ypc@jacl.org) or visit Instagram @jaclypc and Facebook @JACL Young Professionals Caucus.**

## NY/SC » continued from page 5

Turning his eye to the Japanese American communities, "community care" was what led to the formation of Buddhist temples and Japanese American Christian churches, not to mention sports leagues and cultural schools that were reactions to racial and religious discrimination, and white supremacy on American shores.

These groups provided mutual aid in the form of food drives, blood drives and pooling of monies to help those within the Japanese American community, Matsumoto said, and today, these institutions can "still act as places of refuge" even 100 years later in the form of anti-Asian violence that has resurged under the Covid pandemic.

Although some practices from the Japanese American community have had cross-over success, Matsumoto asked Rooks to read a slide that indicated how some healing

practices that haven't been accepted outside the community get labeled as "uncivilized," "superstitious" or "unscientific" when they can't be measured or monetized.

Using the chat function, audience members gave examples such as "mochitsuki," "acupuncture," "anything Zen," "obon dance," "obutsudan" and "chanting." For Matsumoto, he looked at taiko "as a cultural tool" and a "form of resistance" with therapeutic applications for generations.

"However, it was not until recently that the use of taiko has become more and more accepted as an alternative form of therapy because of the growing interest in it from white therapists and white clients seeking its benefits. So, like mindfulness practice, this often leads us to the separating of taiko from the Japanese American experience and the erasure of Japanese American activists, like Rev. Mas Kodani, who are credited



with beginning the taiko movement here in the United States," Matsumoto said.

Matsumoto wrapped up his presentation by throwing to Rooks, who read a passage by Aaron Lee ("Angry Asian Buddhist" blog), who died in 2017 and was quoted by Chenxing Han in her book "Be the Refuge: Raising the Voices of Asian American Buddhists":

"There is a temptation to strive to change what's outside, rather than focus on ourselves and our own communities. While we still need to articulate our principles, relay our stories, protest injustice and cast our votes, we are most compelling when we are the very refuges we wish to see in this world."

## IDEA » continued from page 7

"I thought about what 120,000 Japanese Americans went through, and I said, 'This has happened again.'"

The idea came quickly.

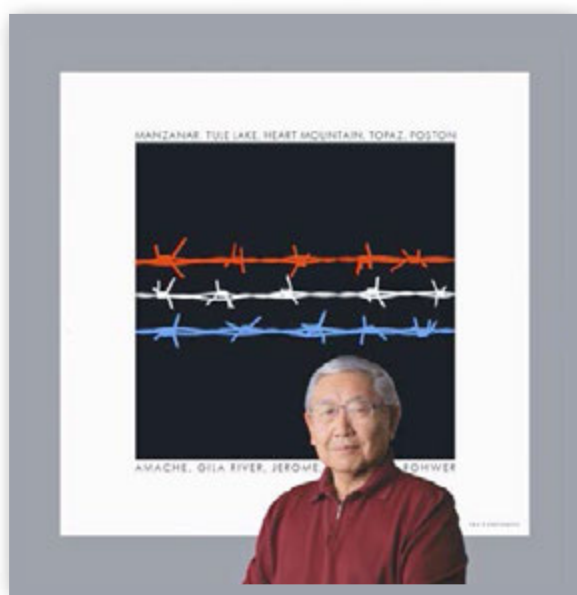
He created a design with Lady Liberty, the strength and the voice of America with the tagline, "Anti-Asian Hate is not what I stand for." In the design, Lady Liberty is staring directly at you, calling on you to put an end to the violence and the fear. To have the Statue of Liberty represent the phrase, how much higher can you go?

Matsumoto's design has appeared on billboards and buses in New York, Los Angeles and Sacramento. People have hoisted poster versions of the design at "Stop Asian Hate" protests.

Matsumoto's campaign has also reached millions of Americans through billboard advertising and social media, according to Paul McClure, principal and director of advertising of RSE, who helped facilitate the campaign.

"Bob's reputation and great work has earned him millions of dollars in donated advertising space to promote this message," said McClure.

The spike in anti-Asian violence has spurred discussion in the Asian American community about the need for more education and representation. According to a 2020 Morning



**"Remembrance," a simple design of three elements, is a symbol of the loss of freedom and dignity of the Japanese American community.**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF BOB MATSUMOTO

Consult survey, 62 percent of Asian Americans feel underrepresented in ads.

There's a long way to go, and for Matsumoto, the fight is personal.

"It's not about advertising," he said. "In my case, it's about leaving something that I think will help make a definite positive change." ■

## PACIFIC CITIZEN Special Issues Coming Soon

### September - SCHOLARSHIP Issue

Unable to celebrate graduation in person?

Preschool-Elementary-Middle School-High School-College-Masters-Doctorate

Celebrate your 2021 grads with a special message!

Prices start at \$30 per 2"x1"

### November - VETERANS Special

Celebrate or acknowledge the Armed Forces or the Veterans in your life by placing their name and photo in our newspaper and forever saved in our archives!

Prices start at \$30 per 2"x1"

### December - Holiday Special Issue

Great fundraiser activity!! JACL Chapters get ready!

**Chapters and Districts: remember to use your discounts!**

**Contact Susan at (213) 620-1767 ext.103**

**Email: [BusMgr@PacificCitizen.org](mailto:BusMgr@PacificCitizen.org)**

**or [PC@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:PC@pacificcitizen.org)**



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

**Remembering Gila River**  
**Aug. 28; Noon-5 p.m. PT**  
**Virtual Event**  
**Price: Free**

Join the Arizona JACL as it brings together former incarcerated to remember their time at Gila River. This event will be hosted on the JAMP (Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages) website and YouTube channel.

**Info: Visit [jampilgrimages.com](http://jampilgrimages.com).**

## NCWNP

**Celebration: Poets Honor Janice Mirikitani**  
**San Francisco, CA**  
**Aug 14; 2-3:30 p.m.**  
**Virtual Event**  
**Price: Free**

Poets celebrate the life and legacy of Janice Mirikitani, a Japanese American poet and activist who, among her many contributions to the community, served as San Francisco's poet laureate from 2000-02. Mirikitani passed on July 29. Poet Laureates that will be featured include Tongo Eisen-Martin, Kim Shuck, Alejandro Murguia, Jack Hirschman and devorah major, as well as poets from the Bay Area including Aileen Cassinotto, Susan Kitazawa, Lauren Ito, Kimi Sugioaka and Nelly Wong.

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

**Mochi Magic — Matcha Madness: Virtual Cooking Class With Chef Kaori Becker**  
**San Francisco, CA**  
**Aug. 14; 1-3 p.m. PDT**  
**Virtual Zoom Class**  
**Price: \$15 Center Members; \$20 General Public**

This new quarterly cooking class will feature mochi instructor and author of the cookbook "Mochi Magic" Kaori Becker. She will teach participants how to make three recipes from her book featuring the classic Japanese matcha tea flavor. Workshop Zoom login information, recipes, ingredients/supplies lists will be provided upon registration. The workshop menu includes mochi donuts with matcha glaze, matcha mochi cupcakes and matcha mochi pancakes.

**Info: To register, visit <https://14797.blackbaudhosting.com/14797/Mochi-Magic---Matcha-Madness-with-Chef-Kaori-Becker>.**

**Midori Kai 25th Anniversary Arts & Crafts E-Boutique**  
**San Francisco, CA**  
**Sept. 5-18**  
**Virtual Event**  
**Price: Free**

Midori Kai, a nonprofit professional women's organization, will offer its online boutique for 14 days featuring unique Asian arts and crafts, jewelry, clothing, vintage kimonos, pottery and food items from throughout the Western U.S. and Hawaii. There also will be a virtual silent auction. In honor of the event's

anniversary, congratulatory videos from throughout the community will be shown from the community.

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

**'Gambatte! Legacy of an Enduring Spirit' Exhibit**  
**Sacramento, CA**  
**Thru Nov. 7**  
**The California Museum**  
**10th and O Streets**  
**Price: \$7-\$10**

Don't miss this encore presentation of contemporary images taken by photo-journalist Paul Kitagaki Jr. that echoes historic images by U.S. War Relocation Authority photographers who documented the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII. Updated and expanded for 2021, the exhibit returns with 30 new photographs, audio interviews and behind-the-scenes video highlighting the resilience of Japanese Americans during WWII.

**Info: Visit <https://www.california-museum.org>.**

## PSW

**Ventura County JACL Japanese Treasures Upscale Resale**  
**Newbury Park, CA**  
**Sept. 18; 1-4 p.m.**  
**St. Matthews United Methodist Church**  
**1360 Wendy Dr.**  
**Price: Free**

Look through your cupboards, garage, closets and more for Japanese treasures you'd like to donate to this fundraiser. Bring them to the event on Sept. 18 at 9 a.m. While there, you'll get the opportunity to check out other treasures as well! At the end of the sale, all remaining items will be donated to a charity to be determined. Volunteers are also needed. As this is an indoor event, please be prepared to wear a mask or face covering.

**Info: Please contact Marcia Miyasaka to sign up to help or for questions at (805) 499-2117 or email [eim@aol.com](mailto:eim@aol.com).**

**2021 Nisei Week Virtual Experience**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**Aug. 14; 3 p.m.**  
**Virtual Event**  
**Price: Free**

This year's virtual program will air on the Nisei Week Foundation's YouTube channel in place of a traditional in-person festival. A mix of live streaming and pre-recorded segments will feature highlights Nisei Week fans have come to love about this festival over the years. The event will also showcase this year's queen candidates and the announcement of a 2021 Nisei Week Queen and Court, as well as elements of the popular Closing Ceremony, complete with Obon dancing.

**Info: Visit [www.niseiweek.org](http://www.niseiweek.org) for more information.**

**A Life in Pieces: The Diary and Letters of Stanley Hayami**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**Thru 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](http://www.janm.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](http://www.janm.org).**

## PNW

**'Camp Harmony' Sculpture Dedication Ceremony**  
**Puyallup, WA**  
**Aug. 22; 2-4 p.m.**  
**Pioneer Park**  
**324 S. Meridian**  
**Price: Free**

Join the City of Puyallup as it dedicates the "Camp Harmony" sculpture by John Zylstra at Pioneer Park. The artwork represents the wartime incarceration of the Japanese and Japanese Americans inside the Puyallup Assembly Center aka "Camp Harmony." Words will be shared by Becky Condra, Arts Downtown; Puyallup Mayor Julie Door, Artist John Zylstra, Kent Hojem, CEO of the Washington State Fair; Cho Shimizu, survivor; and Lori Matsukawa, keynote speaker. Historical photos and bonsai will also be on display, as well as a taiko performance by Seattle Matsuri.

**'Where Beauty Lies' Exhibit**  
**Seattle, WA**  
**Thru Sept 19**  
**Wing Luke Asian Museum**  
**719 S. King St.**

**Price: Museum Admission Fees**  
 What defines beauty? The museum's latest exhibit examines the complicated history, culture, industry, psychology and politics of beauty from the Asian

American perspective. Personal stories, reflections, art and artifacts representing a diversity of identities and experiences all showcase the ideas of what beauty truly means.

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

## CCDC

**36th Annual Toro Nagashi Celebration**  
**Fresno, CA**  
**Aug. 21; 7-8:30 p.m.**  
**Shinzen Friendship Garden**  
**114 E. Audubon Dr.**

Limited seating for 250 guests will be available in the Shinzen Garden to celebrate this annual celebration featuring the lighting of paper lanterns that will be placed in the Japanese garden's beautiful water features. Also available to view is the Clark Bonsai Garden.

**Info: Visit <http://www.shinzenjapanesegarden.org/news---events.html> for more information about this upcoming event.**

**Fields of Fresno AG Tour: 'A Farmer's Story'**  
**Fresno, CA**  
**Sept. 18; Begins at 7:15 a.m.**  
**Kearney Mansion Museum**  
**7160 W. Kearney Blvd.**

**Price: \$85**  
 The Fresno County Farm Bureau is offering this engaging and educational tour in and around Fresno County, beginning with breakfast at the Kearney Mansion Museum, followed by a brief history of M. Theo Kearney and his legendary Kearney Ranch and Fruit Vale Estate. Next, a coach bus will depart for three planned stops at Fresno County Farms, followed by lunch at 1:15 p.m. Each guest will also receive a bag of goodies. Space is limited.

**Info: Visit <https://www.valleyhistory.org/ag-tour> to purchase tickets and for additional details.**

## IDC

**Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple**  
**2021 Obon Odori**  
**Denver, CO**  
**Aug. 28; 6 p.m.**  
**Pacific Mercantile Parking Lot**  
**On Lawrence, Between 19th and 20th Street in Downtown Denver**  
**Price: Free**

Don't miss this year's Obon Odori festival that will be held in person! Obon/Hatsubon service will begin at 3 p.m. in the Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple Hondo. Food will be available to purchase between Hatsubon services and dancing. Everyone is welcome to attend. All are also invited to join the temple for dance rehearsals on Aug. 24, 25, 26 from 7-9 p.m. Parking is available in the temple garage (entrance on Larimer St.).

**Info: Visit [www.tsdbt.org](http://www.tsdbt.org) for more information.**

**2021Colorado Dragon Boat Festival**  
**Denver, CO**  
**Sept. 25-26**  
**Sloan's Lake Park**  
**Price: Free**

While the summer festival is normally held in July, this year's event has been rescheduled to September to adhere to public health concerns in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic. This year's event will feature the renowned Dragon Boat races, exhibitors, food vendors, live music and performances and much more!

**Info: Visit <http://www.cdbf.org> for**

**more information.**

## MDC

**Kishi Bashi Multimedia Concert in Collaboration With the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra**  
**St. Louis, MO**  
**Sept. 17**  
**Powell Hall**  
**718 N. Grand Blvd.**

**Price: Ticket Prices Start at \$40.**

Acclaimed Japanese recording artist Kishi Bashi collaborates with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra for the very first time. The collaboration will include "Improvisations on EO9066," a multimedia piece inspired by EO 9066. Additional repertoire will be announced from the stage. In a companion learning opportunity, the Soldiers Memorial Military Museum in downtown St. Louis features the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit "Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II," which is on view until Oct. 3.

**Info: To purchase tickets, visit [slso.org](http://slso.org) or call the boxoffice at (314) 534-1700.**

## 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. Kaino is known for previous exhibits at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, the Andy Warhol Museum, the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Museum of Contemporary Art in San Diego, among others.

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

**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 wooden figures, images of worship depicting Buddhas, Guardian Kings and a Wisdom King, are decorated with polychromy or gilding and date from the 9th-12th centuries. 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](http://www.mfa.org).**

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# In MEMORIAM

**Asai, Maomi, 97**, Chicago, IL, Feb. 24; she was predeceased by her husband, George; son, John; and brothers, Tom Sakaguchi and Edwin Sakaguchi; she is survived by her children, Cheryl (Bob) Kato, David (Peggy) Asai and George (Leeann) Asai; daughter-in-law, Theresa Asai; gc: 10; ggc: 3.

**Endow, Frank, 98**, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 26; he was predeceased by his wife, Miyoshi; he is survived by his daughters, Sharon (Donald) Muneno and Evelyn Endow; sister-in-law, Kazuko Endow; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1.



**Kajioka, Mae Fujie, 92**, Ballico, CA, Jan. 4; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Granada WRA Center (Camp Amache) in CO; Cortez JACL Chapter member; she was predeceased by her husband, Harry, and son, Douglas; she is survived by her sons, Dwight Kajioka,

Keith (Jennifer) Kajioka and Miles (Denise) Kajioka; gc: 8; ggc: 5.

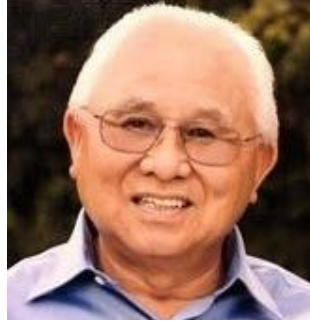


**Kawai, Herbert Akira, 89**, Carson, CA, March 15; he was predeceased by his wife, Ruth; he is survived by his children, Linda (Donn) Okumura, Brian (Cristina) Kawai, Sharon (Jeff) Nagasaki and Todd (Pam) Kawai; gc: 13; ggc: 3.



**Matsushita, Yurika, 89**, Culver City, CA, Feb. 26; she is survived by her children, Brian, Ron and Joni (Mostert); siblings, Sumi Yonemo-

to, Masaru Nagasawa and Sachi Mimura; gc: 2; ggc: 1.



**Mayeda, Ben, 90**, Roseville, CA, Jan. 1; he was predeceased by his wife, Ine, and brother, George; he is survived by his daughter, Lisa (Abdon Manaloto); sister, Gertrude (Trudy); gc: 2.

**Nakamura, Gladys, 97**, Gardena, CA; during WW II, she was incarcerated at the Jerome WRA Center in AR; she was predeceased by her husband, Toshio; siblings, Takao Ninomiya, Masaaki Ninomiya, Setsuko Iwaoka and Masako Margie Masuda; she is survived by her children, Gary, Alan and Loren Nakamura; gc: 3; ggc: 1.

**Nakamura, Marcia, 51**, Elizabeth, NJ, May 28; she is survived by her husband, Etso; daughter, Pamela Nakamura.

**Nakamura, Mary, 92**, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, May 20; author of internment diary "White Road of Thorns"; she is survived by her husband, Edward; children, Rod and Nora (Tom); gc: 2.



**Okada, Tomiaki 'Tom,' 80**, Torrance, CA, March 5; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ; he is survived

by his wife, Nobuko; children, Yosh (Jackie) Okada and Midori (Stefan) Lammel; siblings, Judy Corbett, Patsy Okada, Herbert Okada and George Okada (Miyo Okubo); aunt, Sadako Matsumoto; brothers-in-law, Kay (Lila) Nishi and Hiro (Debbie) Nishi; sister-in-law, Sumiko Kato (Arnold) Grant; gc: 4.

**Sugai, Akie Nomura, 89**, Pearl City, HI, June 14; survived by son, Earl (Kari) Sugai; gc: 2.



**Tanaka, Kay, 74**, Santa Fe, NM, April 28; she was predeceased by her husband, Nobuyuki Tanaka; she is survived by friends Andy and Jaclyn Vigil; Theresa Sandoval and Dorinda McAusland.

**Tanaka, Sumiko, 88**, Monterey Park, CA April 28; she is survived by her brother, Shoji Sugiura; brother-in-law, Sam Tanaka (Carol).

**Tokeshi, Fred, 88**, Torrance, CA, March 20; Korean War veteran; long-time manager of Holiday Bowl; he was predeceased by his wife, Carolyn Keiko Tokeshi; he is survived by his children, Steve (Lynn) Tokeshi and Lisa (Ken) Ito; gc: 3.



**Urata, Jane Kazuo, 87**, Hacienda Heights, CA, March 20; she is survived by her siblings, Anna Urata and Raymond (Joy) Urata; nephews and a niece; she is also survived by grandnieces and grandnephews.

**Wada, Frank Mitoshi, 99**, Spring Valley, CA, June 14; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center (Camp III) in AZ; Army veteran (442nd RCT, Co. E); awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Medal with 4 Oak

Leaf clusters, Combat Infantryman Badge, Congressional Gold Medal (2011) and National Order of the Legion of Honor (France, 2015); he was predeceased by his wife, Jean (Ito); children, Frank Wada Jr. and Laureen Yasuda; and brothers, Ted and Jack; he is survived by his children, Dorothy Saito, Janet Kobayashi (Mike) and Greg (Roberta); daughter-in-law, Jane Wada; brothers, Henry and Robert; gc: 9; ggc: 10.

**Watanabe, Satsue 'Stella,' 97**, Hilo, HI, April 27; she is survived by her children, Wilton Watanabe, Earlton Watanabe and Lorene Higa; sister, Aiko Fujimoto; sister-in-law, Makiko Ohashi; gc: 4; ggc: 2.

**Wong, Henry, 68**, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 13; he is survived by his siblings, Mary W. Okamuro (Ronald), Marilyn Wong and Samuel Wong (Suzi); he is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

**Yata, Keiji 'Kay,' 93**, Torrance, CA, Jan. 9; he was predeceased by his wife, Yoneko, daughters, Yukiko and Tsuyuko; he is survived by his children, Gayle (Steven) Uyehara, Wesley and Arlene; sister, Chiyoe Oki; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1.



**Yogi, David Saneharu, 91**, Gardena, CA, March 18; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Gila River WRA Center in AZ; he is survived by his wife, Kimiko; children, Linda Ford (fiancé Mitch Ikemoto), Mike (Judi Kitano) and Lori; brother, Ken (Joy) Yogi; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Frank Goya, Toshio Higa (partner Linda Fujioka), Miyoko Yogi, Kazuko and Jimmy Okazaki, Kiyoshi and Jeanne Yasuda; gc: 3.

**Yoshiki, Gary Hiromu, 76**, Gardena, CA, April 1; he is survived by his brother, Ron (Brenda) Yoshiki; nephew: 1; he is also survived by many other relatives.

**Yusa, Rose Masako, 97**, Pasadena, CA, July 7; she was predeceased by her husband, Tom; siblings, Akira (Aiko) Rikimaru, Satoshi (Yukie) Rikimaru and Yuriko Okida; and grandson, Michael Harami; she is survived by her daughters, Lorraine (Dave) Woody, Judy (Franklin) Kam and Jean (Richard) Osaka; brother, Ronald (Ruri) Rikimaru; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews, friends and other relatives; gc: 3; ggc: 1.

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## REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

# AARP SOUNDS ALARM ON COVID VACCINATION RATES FOR NURSING HOME STAFF

One in five nursing homes meets industry benchmark for staff vaccinations.

By Ron Mori

The latest release of AARP's Nursing Home Covid-19 Dashboard incorporates new data on vaccination rates among staff and residents, as well as finds that just one in five facilities meets the threshold of having at least 75 percent of its staff fully vaccinated.

Nationally, slightly more than half of health care workers in nurs-

ing homes were fully vaccinated (56.7 percent), and about 78 percent of residents were fully vaccinated as of the week ending June 20. Vaccination rates vary widely from state to state, ranging from less than half of staff (41 percent) in Louisiana to a high of 84 percent in Hawaii.

AARP's analysis found that more nursing homes reported an urgent need for PPE in the last month, increasing from 3.6 percent-5 percent of facilities, and 24 percent of facilities reported a staffing shortage—a problem that has persisted throughout the pandemic.

"More than 184,000 residents and staff of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities have died from Covid-19," said Nancy A. LeaMond, AARP executive vp and

chief advocacy and engagement officer. "This national tragedy cannot be repeated. With cases once again rising across the country and considering the highly contagious Delta variant, every effort must be made to protect vulnerable nursing home residents. AARP encourages residents and staff in long-term care facilities to get a free Covid vaccine to protect yourself, your family and your community."

AARP sent a letter to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently, urging the agency not to become complacent regarding the Covid-19 pandemic, "especially for vulnerable populations like LTC (long-term care) facility residents," and strongly recommending "that the federal government commit to working with states, long-term care facilities and other entities, as needed, to ensure that those facilities can access and administer vaccines on a continuing basis for the foreseeable future."

The letter applauds CMS for publishing data on nursing home vaccinations and calls on the agency to offer that data in a more user-friendly format.

AARP has repeatedly urged transparency and public reporting about the impact of Covid on residents and staff in nursing facilities. AARP continues to fight for you and your loved

ones, and reports like our Nursing Home Covid-19 Dashboard bring much-needed data to the conversation.

Data from May 24-June 20 reports vaccination data for the first time. Key findings include:

- Nationally, about 78 percent of nursing home residents have been fully vaccinated. At the state level, the percentage ranges from a low of 63 percent in Arizona to a high of 95 percent in Vermont.
- Nationally, about 56 percent of health care staff in nursing homes have been fully vaccinated. At the state level, the percentage ranges from a low of 41 percent in Louisiana to a high of 84 percent in Hawaii.

There is a strong relationship between vaccination rates of staff and vaccination rates of residents. This means that in states where the vaccination rate of staff is low, there are also more unvaccinated residents who are vulnerable to a resurgence of the virus.

The AARP Nursing Home Covid-19 Dashboard analyzes federally reported data in four-week periods going back to June 1, 2020. Using this data, the AARP Public Policy Institute, in collaboration with the Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University in Ohio, created

the dashboard to provide snapshots of the virus' infiltration into nursing homes and impact on nursing home residents and staff, with the goal of identifying specific areas of concern at the national and state levels in a timely manner.

The full Nursing Home Covid-19 Dashboard is available at [www.aarp.org/nursinghomedashboard](http://www.aarp.org/nursinghomedashboard). For more information on how Covid is impacting nursing homes and AARP's advocacy on this issue, visit [www.aarp.org/nursinghomes](http://www.aarp.org/nursinghomes).

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

Only one in five nursing homes meets the industry benchmark for nursing home staff vaccinations.

PHOTO: AARP



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