



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 92 YEARS

Author Susan Kamei's new book examines what it is to be an American citizen whose race, religion or ethnicity is deemed "un-American" during a time of crisis or emergency.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF SUSAN KAMEI

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Remembering  
9/11 20 Years  
Later

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Heart  
Mountain  
Holds Intimate  
Pilgrimage  
Event.

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# THE LONG JOURNEY

A new book details the  
Japanese American experience  
following World War II.

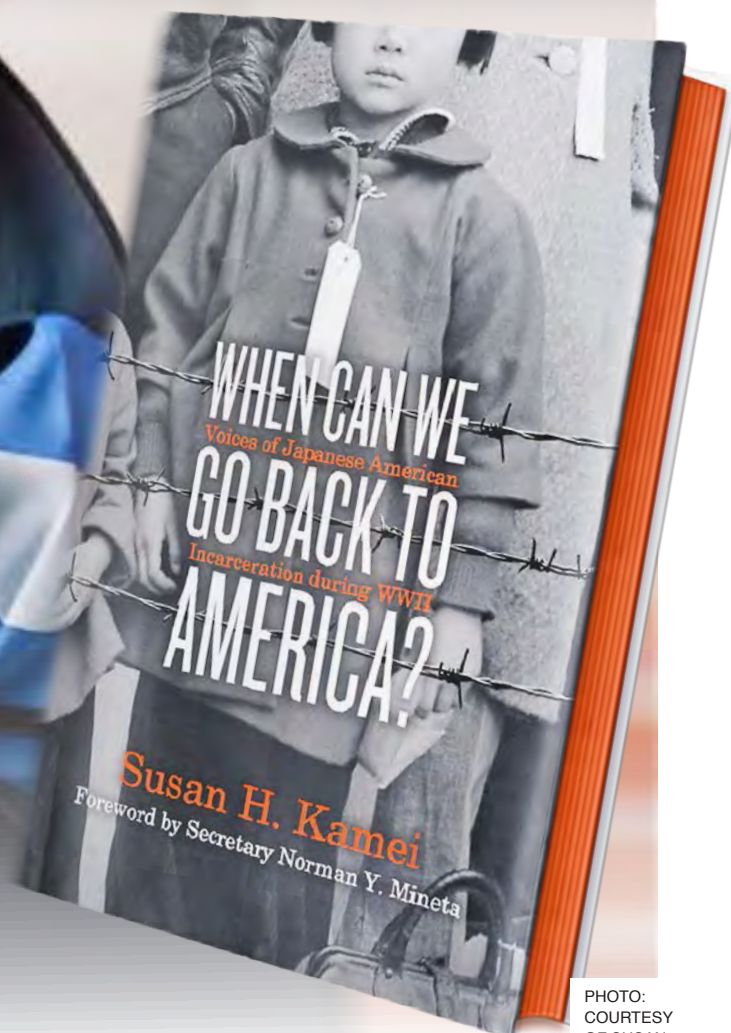


PHOTO:  
COURTESY  
OF SUSAN  
KAMEI



# JACL ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

By JACL National



WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sept. 11 marks 20 years since the attacks that brought about a new time in our nation's history. A period now known for the longest war our nation has ever been a part of, which has led to more military spending than during the Cold War and led to a rise in hatred and bigotry that is all too similar to the kind that led to the mass incarceration of 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

It was this dark similarity to the

Japanese American experience during WWII that sparked a renewed pathway forward for our community, not seen since the successful redress movement in the 1980s. Japanese Americans were among the first and loudest to speak out against anti-Muslim and anti-Arab sentiments in the wake of 9/11.

JACL leadership at the time, led by President Floyd Mori and Executive Director John Tateishi, made strong and swift steps to ensure that on the national and local levels, the JACL was working with the Muslim, Arab and South Asian (MASA) communities in combating this new wave

of xenophobic rhetoric.

Despite our efforts and those of many others, we have continued to see increases in hate crimes and incidents against MASA communities along with actions against other racial, gender and religious underrepresented groups.

The cruel and vicious Muslim Ban of the previous administration has separated families, denied access to critical health care and pushed a false narrative of necessity for increased national security.

We know that the underlying xenophobia and prejudice that has led to targeted actions such as the



PHOTO: FACEBOOK

incarceration of Japanese Americans or the Muslim Ban are not isolated to these specific incidents but are part of an underlying state of disinformation and misunderstanding of underrepresented communities.

» See 9/11 on page 4

## MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO RESTAURANT FIRE DURING 2020'S CIVIL UNREST

The San Fernando Valley man answers to the federal charge against him regarding vandalism to Sake House by Hikari.



**Sake House by Hikari was completely destroyed by arson fire during days of civil unrest and looting in 2020. The suspect has since been arrested and sentenced for the crime.**

PHOTO: FACEBOOK

LOS ANGELES — A West Hills man who started a fire that caused substantial damage to a Santa Monica restaurant during the civil disturbances that erupted during the spring of 2020 pleaded guilty Sept. 2 to a federal criminal charge.

Micah Tillmon, 20, pleaded guilty to one count of possession of an unregistered destructive device.

According to his plea agreement, on May 31, 2020, Tillmon entered Sake House by Hikari, a Japanese restaurant located in downtown Santa Monica, without authorization and while the business was closed because of the civil unrest occurring in the city at that time.

While inside the restaurant, Tillmon possessed and used an incendiary device to ignite a fire that rapidly grew, enveloped the entire restaurant

space and spread to other areas of the building adjacent to the restaurant.

According to the affidavit in support of the criminal complaint previously filed in this case, security video from the restaurant shows Tillmon removing "a red tube-shaped object from his jacket, which he placed behind the reception desk area of the restaurant before walking away. Within seconds of that action, smoke and fire appeared from the area. . . ."

The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to the fire and extinguished the flames using several fire trucks and numerous personnel. Due to safety concerns that accompanied the city's civil unrest, SMFD prematurely abandoned the scene. As a result, SMFD needed to return to the scene several times throughout the night to extinguish additional

flare-ups. The restaurant has since permanently closed.

Tillmon was identified by detectives with the Santa Monica Police Department, who reviewed numerous security videos and social media posts. Tillmon was also linked to the fire when investigators uncovered a video showing his white Ford Explorer parking next to the Sake House four minutes before the fire started and then reversing across the street soon after the fire started, according to court documents.

In his plea agreement, Tillmon admitted to knowingly possessing an incendiary device that had not been registered with the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record, the central federal registry for all items regulated under the National Firearms Act. ■

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*\* 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



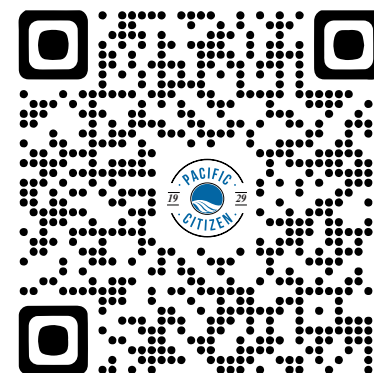
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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# HAVE OUR CAKE AND EAT IT TOO

By David Inoue,  
JACL Executive Director

Often today, decisions are starkly differentiated. Red vs. Blue. Vaccine or no vaccine. Mask or no mask. Sometimes however, there can be times where the decision is not so clear, a decision between two equally good causes. Today, our Japanese American community is being faced by this very situation in two high-profile instances.

In San Francisco's Japantown, longstanding anchor business the Buchanan Hotel is being proposed for conversion to permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless people. Just outside the Minidoka national historic site, there is a

proposal to erect what will be one of the world's largest wind farms in the world, with 400 turbines each being 740 feet tall.

No one can argue that we don't need more housing options for homeless people, especially in San Francisco, where affordable housing is increasingly difficult to find, and similarly, the future of our lives is dependent upon increasing availability of clean energy such as the 1,000 megawatts that will be produced in Idaho. The question is whether these things must come at a cost to our community.

The Buchanan Hotel is one of only two hotels in Japantown. The City of San Francisco years ago forced much of the Nikkei residential community out of the area. What was left is a

business district dependent upon the Japanese community to come in from other areas or the tourism business that stays at the Buchanan or the Kabuki, Japantown's other hotel.

Japantown has been struggling through the pandemic with the reduction in tourism dollars and business so dependent upon in-person patronage. San Francisco Japantown is one of the only three remaining historic Japantowns, and this proposal can endanger it.

Similarly in Idaho, the Bureau of Land Management in the Department of the Interior is soliciting public input on the proposal to construct what will be one of the world's largest wind farms.

The farm would almost directly abut the Minidoka National Historic Site, where over 9,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II. For those 9,000 and their families, this land is considered sacred, the site where their very humanity was denied, and it needs to be memorialized appropriately.

The last thing we want to be considered are NIMBY's (Not In My Back Yard), but it is too often that vulnerable communities or shared goods are pitted against one another.

It is often our communities that are sacrificed in the name of economic development.

The more stable franchise restaurant replaces the family run place that has existed for decades or infrastructure improvements like highways that are needed for the "greater good" of improved transportation but run directly through and tear apart minority communities.

This is our opportunity to speak out that these things are needed. We absolutely need to build more housing for homeless people. I know this well from having worked in the homeless field for 10 years, including supervising a permanent supportive housing facility and expanding that program to a second facility.

I understand the need for renewable energy as well, having recently converted my own home to solar power. But we also must recognize the importance of our community's history and how that history is intertwined with physical place.

For the time, it seems that the City of San Francisco has reconsidered the Buchanan site for permanent supportive housing and is looking at other options, but that doesn't mean that the fight to preserve Japantown

is over. Businesses there continue to struggle as Covid has kept regular patrons away, and tourism has yet to rebound.

If you want to take action on Minidoka, you have until Sept. 20 to submit your comments and ask to be a consulting party. For more information on how to take action, please visit <https://jacl.org/minidoka-call-to-action>.

When we must decide between two social goods, everyone loses. It is our responsibility to push those making the decisions to find alternatives that do not put vulnerable communities against one another.

It is not a sacrifice when only those incapable of sacrificing are making the concessions — that is exploitation. Stand up for Japantown and Minidoka, but also be sure to stand up for support services for homeless people and for renewable energy. These all are needed to ensure that we have a future that is inclusive and acknowledges all of our places, our past and our personhood.

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



## NIKKEI VOICE

# CHINESE FOOD WAS POPULAR IN AMERICA BEFORE JAPANESE CUISINE

By Gil Asakawa

In her excellent book "The Fortune Cookie Chronicles: Adventures in the World of Chinese Food," former *New York Times* journalist Jennifer 8 Lee explained that the fortune cookie isn't a Chinese post-prandial delicacy at all, but rather a Japanese confection created first in Kyoto temples, adapted by Japanese Americans with little messages inside.

Chinese restaurants happened to pass them out after meals to their customers and then took over the manufacturing when Japanese Americans were sent off to concentration camps during World War II. Lee also wrote that there are more Chinese restaurants in the United States than McDonald's, Wendy's and Burger King combined.

Surprised? Those restaurants sprouted many decades ago. Chinese food caught on the U.S. in spite of the "yellow peril" hatred against Chinese immigrants in

the second half of the 19th century. In fact, by the 20th century, there was a full-on craze for Chinese food — especially chop suey and chow mein, the version of the same meat-and-veggie stir-fry over fried noodles instead of over rice.

Anyone who has visited Little Tokyo in Los Angeles has seen the historically designated "Chop Suey" neon sign just a few doors down from the Japanese American National Museum, on the same block as several restaurants that these days serve ramen, not Chinese staples.

Surprised?

The popularity of Chinese food grew even though just decades before, Americans questioned whether Chinese ate rats in their restaurants. Chop suey has several origin myths, including how some camp cooks working on the railroad crews in the West threw some leftovers and whatever was available into a wok and cooked it up, or that a chef traveling with a

Chinese diplomat invented it in a San Francisco hotel because the uncouth Americans didn't have anything good to eat on their menus.

Scholars have traced Chop Suey — or something like it — to China. But author Lee writes in her book that Chinese people don't know what Chop Suey is, any more than they know what fortune cookies are (or General Tso's Chicken or Beef with Broccoli, all American Chinese dishes).

One reason there were so many Chinese restaurants, even a hundred years ago, is ironically because of anti-Chinese racism. The 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, which wasn't repealed until during WWII, banned immigration by Chinese ... except for some business owners who needed to go back to China to hire workers.

In 1915, restaurants were added to the list of qualifying businesses. And magically, Chinese restaurants sprang up everywhere, staffed by fresh immigrant employees. Just in time for the Chop Suey and chow mein fad. (Even then, anti-Chinese sentiment by many Americans still simmered — a Chicago law prohibited white women from working in Chinese restaurants.)

Those dishes were popular well into the 1960s, though today, there's more interest in the varieties of authentic traditional Chinese cuisine with the global increase of educated palates. Still, who doesn't love calling up a local mom-and-pop American Chinese joint for a takeout box of the usual stuff?

It wasn't just the Chinese who capitalized on the popularity of food supposedly from China.

If you grew up in the postwar America of the 1950s-70s, you probably ate cans of Chun King Chinese food. Chun King was founded in 1946, and when it was sold by RJR Nabisco to a Singaporean company in 1989 (a weird historical circle if there ever was one), Chun King was the second-largest producer of "canned Oriental foods." The market leader is La Choy. La Choy was founded in 1922 by a Korean businessman, Ilhan New. Chun King was the brainchild of the son of Italian immigrants, Jenio Paulucci.

Surprised?

Paulucci got the idea to sell prepared Chinese food in a can when he saw bean sprouts in a Minneapolis shop and found out they were easy to grow. He cooked them with chicken (and he claims, some Italian spices) and began his food empire.

He expanded into other canned Chinese dishes and then frozen products, including Italian such as pizza. Then, he had another entrepreneurial flash: He wrapped pizza toppings in a Chinese eggroll skin and — voilà — Jenio's Pizza Rolls were born in 1967. Yes, he named them after himself. These days, you'll find them in the freezer case of your supermarket as Totino's Pizza Rolls.

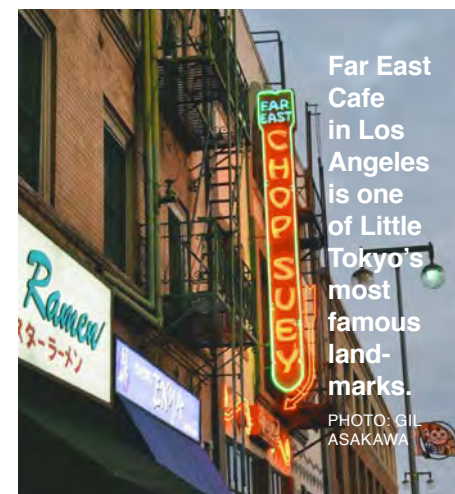
It's weird to think that

one of the most familiar brands of Chinese food in supermarkets came from an Italian American. It's even weirder to think the same guy invented the mashup of eggrolls and pizza to give us the perfect oven- or microwaveable snack to watch TV with, or ward off midnight munchies.

That's how Asian food gets absorbed into American culture — restaurants that serve Americanized version of food that may or may not have roots in China, or "Oriental" foods that weren't even created by a Chinese man.

Japanese food is going through an absorption, too — we'll have to wait and see how Japanese cuisine evolves as it becomes Americanized (yes, the California roll is a big part of that process).

*Gil Asakawa is the author of "Tabemasho! Let's Eat! A Tasty History of Japanese Food in America," which will be published by Stone Bridge Press in 2022.*



Far East Cafe in Los Angeles is one of Little Tokyo's most famous landmarks.

PHOTO: GIL ASAKAWA





## A MOTHER'S TAKE

# TRANSITIONING FROM WHAT I KNEW

By Marsha Aizumi

I met Pam Tajima Praeger through my work with Japanese for Biden. I connected with her because I had never done phone banking, and she seemed comfortable and experienced. I was nervous to call people I did not know in states like Georgia, Pennsylvania and Arizona, asking them to vote for Joe Biden. So, I reached out to Pam for support, and she graciously talked me through how to phone bank.

We found out we had some things in common. I lived in Pasadena, Calif., and that was her hometown. She lived in Washington, and I had many friends in Seattle. As I got to know Pam, she shared that she had lost her daughter, Tara, 15 years ago to cancer.

Recently, she told me she was coming to Southern California to visit some family members and also

see her daughter's husband, who has since remarried. What I didn't hear in her voice was sadness when she talked about her daughter.

And so I delicately asked, if it wasn't too painful, if she would allow me to interview her to talk about her journey with Tara. She said talking about Tara kept her daughter alive in her life, and so Pam graciously agreed to share her story.

Here is how her journey began and unfolded:

*Tara and I were alone in the hospital when her neurosurgeon came in to see her; it was three long days after the biopsy of the large tumor she had removed from her brain. We were shocked and scared when we were told that she had medulloblastoma, an extremely rare and fast-growing cancer about which little was known, especially for treating someone of her age.*

*We were very close before her diagnosis, perhaps beyond a positive mother-daughter bond as this closeness evolved through her support during my divorce and my own cancer scare.*

*She possessed a strong and loving personality, exhibiting the best qualities of both her dad and me. She was Hapa, looked very Asian, and we both loved Japan, ice hockey and travel.*

*I don't know if it was denial and a form of shikata ga nai, which our family interpreted as "don't dwell on something, but move on," however, none of us fixated on the frightening aspects of her cancer and what it might mean for the future.*

*Yes, there were times I cried and wondered why this was happening to us, but we focused our energies on being optimistic and searching for the best treatment. I asked for the cause of the cancer, and learning it was not something that we did wrong, we put all of our heart and energy in moving forward.*

*Guilt interferes with positive action. This diagnosis came a little over two months before her upcoming marriage to Scott, on May 26, 2002. Besides treatment, our focus was on*

*the wedding planning, which Tara struggled to be engaged in through debilitating daily radiation to her brain and spine.*

*We joked that while many mothers and daughters had tension during wedding planning, we did not. Despite tears, comfort and care were always on our minds.*

*Both of my parents, Nisei cancer survivors, were extremely supportive of Tara and all of us, as were many friends, our work colleagues and extended family. Japanese Americans are generous and rally especially for their own.*

*Tara and my journey from diagnosis to her transition from this world lasted a little over four years in different stages of living during the return of the medulloblastoma.*

*In response to how I moved forward*

*after I lost her, I don't think I lost her. . . she only transitioned from what I knew. I am aware that I did have a loss, but I always remember that she told her husband and me that we had to continue on.*

*We promised her, and she even told us what we might do. I was raised to believe that even though things seemed tough, my family and I always had advantages and there were those in worse situations.*

» See WHAT I KNEW on page 7



Pictured (from left) are Scott, Pam, Tara and Grandpa Ted Tajima.



Days from completing radiation treatment, Tara gets married. Here she is with her mom, Pam.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF PAM TAJIMA PRAEGER

## 9/11 » continued from page 2

While there are those who see us as perpetually foreign, we are immigrants and citizens, mothers and fathers, neighbors and community members who call the United States our home.

"My memories of 9/11 are still very strong — the images of the Twin Towers, the shock, the sense of fear that lay like a dark cloud over the country. As an organization, the JACL responded within hours with letters to the White House and the congressional leadership urging them not to make the same mistake committed against Japanese Americans during WWII. At the national, regional and local levels, the JACL response was immediate, as all chapters responded to assist and do what they could to help protect Arab and Muslim communities," stated then National Director John Tateishi. "For months following the terrorist attacks, I was engaged with national media, dealing with congressional issues and addressing audiences in all parts of the country. It was an intense time for us all, and I was proud that the JACL, as an organization, responded so effectively to provide protection and assistance to our Arab and Muslim communities. That moment in history brought into focus what we can be as an organization living up to its dedicated mission to contribute to the betterment of America."

Then-JACL National President Floyd Mori recalled, "On 9/11, National Director John Tateishi and I were on the same page. We saw the potential hysteria as experienced back in

1941. JACL was one of the first to speak out with outrage but included a caution that we couldn't allow what happened to Japanese Americans in 1941 to happen to Muslim Americans that day. Unfortunately, we saw racism raise its ugly head again."

Current JACL National President Jeffrey Moy further noted, "In 2017, as the vp of public affairs for JACL, I spoke out during the chaos in our airports as people of Muslim faith were being banned from entry into the country. It was a stark reminder that the work that our members started over 15 years earlier wasn't finished and that as Japanese Americans, we will always have a duty to speak out against injustice wherever and whenever it rears its ugly head."

Even as we take this time to reflect on the tragedy of 9/11, we must also keep fighting against the biases, hatred and fear-mongering that have continued to harm MASA communities. While the rallying cry of "never forget" allows us to remember and honor the lives lost during this harrowing moment in our nation's history, we must also never forget the lives that have continued to be affected over the past 20 years.

As Japanese Americans, it is our duty to stand with and support all those who are impacted by injustice and bigotry. For while there were very few who spoke out against our unjust treatment during World War II, we have the ability to call upon our history, memories and intergenerational traumas to say, "Never again."

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*A centennial is a celebration of the past and our chance to envision the next 100 years of civil rights in America.*



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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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Among the films and actors discussed during the panel were Cary Hiroyuki Tagawa in “Showdown Little Tokyo” (top left), the 1942 film “Little Tokyo U.S.A.” (right) and the 1915 film “The Cheat” and 1957’s “Bridge Over River Kwai,” both of which starred Sessue Hayakawa.



The “Say Hello to the Bad Guys: Japanese Masculinity and Stereotypes” panel featured (from left) Tadaima Film Festival Curator Rob Buscher, actor Peter Shinkoda and actor Yuji Okumoto.

## BAD GUYS NO MORE

Once relegated to playing villains, nerds and martial artists, Asian American actors today are breaking that age-old stereotype, proving that they can play all roles, including lead characters.

By P.C. Staff

Walt Disney Studio’s “Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings” continues to reign supreme at the U.S. boxoffice, maintaining its No. 1 position and breaking numerous records since its Aug. 16 premiere date, among them, the first film during the pandemic to cross the \$100 million mark in its first five days.

The Marvel Cinematic Universe film, led by an all-Asian cast, including stars Simu Liu, Awkwafina, Michelle Yeoh and Tony Chiu-Wai Leung, is, as actors Yuji Okumoto and Peter Shinkoda referred to during a Sept. 3 Tadaima panel presentation, the “Black Panther” of the Asian American community — a film that all Asian Americans should be extremely proud and supportive of as it continues to smash records.

It all harkens back to a theme of unity, Asian pride, community and dissolving age-old stereotypes — topics discussed at length during the virtual panel titled “Say Hello to the Bad Guys: Japanese Masculinity and Stereotypes With Yuji Okumoto and Peter Shinkoda,” which was moderated by Tadaima Film Festival Curator Rob Buscher.

Buscher began the discussion by giving a brief summary of how historically, Asian American actors have been subjected to negative stereotyping in Hollywood in which Japanese men have often been relegated to the role of villain.

When audiences think about representations of Japanese actors in film, one of the earliest examples

of such typecasting was actor Sessue Hayakawa, an Issei immigrant who rose to popularity during the silent era of cinema. In subsequent years came the rise of anti-Japanese propaganda posters during World War II depicting angry Japanese soldiers and the continual casting of Asian actors in roles of martial arts bad guys, samurai warriors and Yakuza-type mobsters.

In the present day, adding more to the mix is the rise of anti-Asian hatred that has grown exponentially since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. Systemic racism and negative tropes have been propagated through popular culture, especially in Hollywood.

Okumoto, an actor, producer and restaurateur who owns two establishments in the Seattle area, grew up in L.A. and began acting in 1979. Throughout his many years in the entertainment business, he has seen

highs and lows regarding being an Asian actor in a primarily white-run Hollywood.

“As a kid, you see these roles on TV and film, and you don’t think twice about it. As a kid, that’s what you accept. But as you get older, as I got involved in acting, I realized that this is not right. Why are these roles going to white folks that should go to Asian Americans? You want that to change, but I think it’s one of those things where it takes time. . . . Has it been better? Has it changed? Yes, it’s headed in the right direction. It’s not just Japanese American. It’s Asian Americans as a whole. . . . The most important thing for the whole collective is to support Asian American projects out there, and it doesn’t matter what it is. It’s our duty and obligation to push those forward. Films like ‘Shang-Chi’ are a prime example. . . . The great

thing about it is you have this strong Asian American lead in it, and I think that’s what we should focus on and applaud.”

Agreed Shinkoda: “Collectively, we’re trying to move and advance ourselves as a race, but if we were to look and scrutinize ourselves as a specific culture, then certain things get favored and cherry-picked and concentrated on. There’s Western culture that we like to obsess on, like ninjas, samurais, evil corporate Asians. There’s so many different personalities and stories to explore, but we always kind of obsess on those. Specifically martial arts, and it shouldn’t be that way. We live colorful and personal individualistic lives, each and every one of us. The industry should look at all stories.”

Although Asian American actors are making headway, the focus must always be on ushering knowledge

and experience onto the younger generation to continue that growth.

“The one thing I’ve learned in this business is that the cavalry ain’t coming,” said Okumoto. “We have the responsibility to put ourselves out there and create roles and showcase ourselves. The only way to change that outcome is to do it yourself, create these great Asian American stories, Japanese American stories. . . . We have to come together and as a collective, support these films. It doesn’t matter if it’s Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese — it helps all of us as a collective.”

“There has to be that leadership role, there has to be somebody there that’s inspirational. For me, it was Yuji,” said Shinkoda. “I thank Yuji for that. If you stay there, you become an example for the next generation. I think our visibility is amazing right now. There’s so much inspiration out there. People need to be proactive about it. . . . There’s so many people to look up to now, and that’s an amazing thing.” ■



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## ‘WHEN CAN WE GO BACK TO AMERICA?’ TACKLES WEIGHTY TOPIC

Susan Kamei’s book relays the journey of mainland Japanese Americans.

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

For attorney, educator and author Susan H. Kamei, Sept. 7, 2021, is a date that will live in celebration.

That’s when her 736-page, nearly two-pound book titled “When Can We Go Back to America?” — ISBN-13: 978-1481401449, SRP\$22.99 — was officially released. “I’m getting a fair amount of ribbing over how heavy it is,” Kamei laughed.

But levity aside, the subject matter is heavy in another way, since it’s about a serious topic: what it means to be an American citizen whose race, religion or ethnicity is deemed “different” or “un-American” during a time of crisis or emergency.

Kamei’s “When Can We Go Back to America?” is a comprehensive narrative and reference work covering the decades-long journey that Japanese Americans began quite inadvertently after Imperial Japan attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in the territory of Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941.

Its forward is written by Norman Mineta, the éminence grise whose public service career includes stints as a White House cabinet member, a U.S. congressman and mayor of a major American city.

The book’s title comes from a story, possibly apocryphal, of a child who was incarcerated with her family and under the mistaken impression that they had traveled not to a government-run detention camp but to Japan, possibly because of all the other Japanese people present. The distraught child wondered aloud: “When can we go back to America?”

The first half of the massive tome is organized into Parts One through Five — what Kamei calls “the narrative” — each of which is subdivided into chapters.

As the saga unfolds, the progression of events that begin with Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor is told chronologically but supplemented with italicized memories and perspectives of people who experienced what is described.

The book’s back half follows up with biographical backgrounds of those people quoted in the narrative, along with appendices, a glossary, a timeline, index, etc.

But potential readers should not be scared off by the book’s length or fears of having to slog through an academic treatise, since those personal accounts help to humanize the history.

“It was meant to be personal, to be accessible

not just to students but to the general readership,” Kamei said, alluding to how the book is under the Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers imprint.

In storytelling terms, then, “When Can We Go Back to America?” is almost cinematic, thanks to the details provided by the personal recollections. “That was the purpose of the ‘voices,’ the first-person quotes that are threaded throughout the narrative,” Kamei said.

For the Orange County, Calif.-raised Kamei, writing “When Can We Go Back to America?” was an almost natural progression for someone whose professional background includes using her Georgetown University law degree to serve as the JACL’s national deputy legal counsel and as a member of the JACL’s legislative strategy team during the redress campaign, not to mention teaching a course she designed titled “War, Race and the Constitution” at the University of Southern California.

Kamei points out that the course is not connected to her “full-time day job,” also at USC: serving as managing director of the Spatial Sciences Institute at USC’s Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences.

Although the course and book’s focus is on the mainland Japanese American experience during WWII, Kamei believes it’s part of a larger scenario that can arise when fear can pressure elected leaders, bureaucrats and fellow citizens alike to ignore the constitutional protections and civil rights of fellow Americans deemed “different” and look to politically expedient “solutions” in the name of national security or military necessity.

Kamei’s book came about after a *Los Angeles Times* article that coincided with the 2018 Day of Remembrance. Written by education reporter Teresa Watanabe, the article focused mostly on Kamei’s USC history course.

Referenced in her article was USC history professor Lon Kurashige, who said that Kamei “was particularly well-suited to teach it” because of her role within the JACL and its contribution to the redress movement.

Watanabe’s article on Kamei and her USC course was the inciting incident that led Simon & Schuster to reach out to Kamei with an idea for a book that could tell the big

picture story with a human element in a way in which a diverse readership could relate.

“Because of my background, I had the opportunity to create and teach this one course,” Kamei told the *Pacific Citizen*. “Anything I did for the research for the class and then ultimately for the book was just a late nights, early mornings and weekends kind of endeavor. I’m an atypical writer in that regard.”

Her background also includes being the daughter of Tami and Hiroshi Kamei, both of whom experienced the disruption of incarceration as young people, with Tami having been incarcerated at the Heart Mountain WRA Center in Wyoming and Hiroshi at Arizona’s Poston. (See sidebar.)

Although the book came together relatively quickly — she officially began in June 2019 — much of the effort, in addition to the writing, came in the form of tracking secondary source materials to their original sources or first references.

“Over time there was this game of ‘historical telephone’ that would go on, so somebody would quote somebody who would quote somebody who would quote somebody, and then I’d trace it back to either somebody’s original research, in which I’d just have to trust them or to a primary document, a newspaper article or a statement from one of the commission hearings,” Kamei said, referring to the public hearings conducted by the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians in the early 1980s.

As for how much of her book involves JACL and its role in the redress movement, Kamei said “quite a bit,” from the origins of the organization before it became “the JACL” from the perspective of Misao “Sadie” Marietta (Nishitani), widow of James “Jimmy” Sakamoto, a newspaper publisher

The author  
with her newly  
released book

PHOTO: COURTESY OF  
SUSAN KAMEI



SIMON &  
SCHUSTER



*‘This was something that I think was a very special bond with my father,’*

*—Kamei said*

and early JACL leader, to how redress went from a controversial notion to the front burner of the organization’s agenda.

Kamei was also cognizant, however, of the contributions by other community organizations and efforts made toward the eventual success of the redress movement, in particular NCRR (which at the time was known as the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations), NCJAR (National Council for Japanese American Redress) and the three *coram nobis* cases of Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu and Minoru Yasui.

As noted, “When Can We Go Back to America?” begins with Japan’s Dec. 7, 1941, attack in Hawaii. That was followed a little more than two months later by President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Executive Order 9066 on Feb. 19, 1942. Then, more than 46 years later, came President Ronald Reagan’s signature on the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 on Aug. 10 of that year.

An epic saga would, of course, ensue in between (and after) those bookends of 1942 and 1988; related in Kamei’s book are:

- The mass removal and incarceration in several government-run concentration camps and prisons of some 120,000 ethnic Japanese (including Japanese immigrants then ineligible to become naturalized U.S. citizens, as well as the overwhelming remainder of Japanese Americans who were U.S. citizens) from the West Coast;
- The valiant military service and righteous incarcerated resistance;
- Resettlement and reintegration of Japanese Americans from the camps;
- The birth of newer generations of Japanese Americans; and
- The rocky genesis and eventual apotheosis of the drive that saw many individuals and community groups eventually coalesce around the concept of pursuing the constitutional right “to petition the Government for a redress of grievances” that resulted in the federal government admitting that a grave, un-American mistake had been made, complete with an official apology and monetary compensation.

Part of Kamei’s research involved talking with her father about his experiences. In some ways, Hiroshi Kamei was the stereotypical Nisei who didn’t discuss with his children the deprivations of living in a WRA camp nor his family’s plight after their release.

When, however, she was in college and discussions within the JA community over what would later come to be known as redress began to pique her interest, she clearly remembers her father finally opening up about his experiences and then encouraging her to pursue redress.

“This was something that I think was a very special bond with my father,” Kamei said. “One day, he just started telling me the kinds of challenges that his family faced. They were destitute. They had lost everything.

“He said we didn’t have any ability to get any help or advice,” she continued. “We couldn’t have afforded an attorney, even if we could know one,” he told her. Within a few years, Susan Kamei



Hiroshi and Tami Kamei

PHOTO: COURTESY OF SUSAN KAMEI

would earn a law degree and put that training to use with redress.

Kamei’s research took her to the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and she came across the types of documents she had heard about. She even found papers once touched by her relatives and in-laws. “I was able to appreciate what I was looking at in the files,” she said.

With the book now a reality, Kamei has already begun the process of publicizing “When Can We Go Back to America?” For instance, the Japanese American National Museum has a members-only meet-and-greet event set for Sept. 25 from 1-1:45 p.m. The Simon & Schuster publicity team, meantime, is also working to book her as a guest on public affairs programs.

In 2021, when the issue of reparations for African Americans who still encounter social, economic and educational obstacles more than 15 decades after slavery ended seems to have finally found purchase in the national discourse, not to mention the “Muslim ban” proposed by the previous occupant of the White House, the lessons contained within “When Can We Go Back to America?” are particularly insightful and impactful.

Whether the topic is the history of the Japanese American redress campaign or the nascent African American reparations movement, for Kamei, it comes down to a question: “Why should I care?”

“To answer the question ‘Why should I care?’ is to give these kinds of personal stories that people not of the community can relate to. There are still people walking around today that say, ‘Why shouldn’t we have put these people into camp? They were the enemy.’” Kamei’s book is an attempt to educate all people, but young people in particular, about the reality of what happened in America not so long ago.

**NOTE: The Pacific Citizen is holding a random drawing to give away two copies of “When Can We Go Back to America?” To enter, mail a letter to: Pacific Citizen, ATTN: “When Can We Go Back to America?” 123 Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka St., Ste. 313, Los Angeles, CA 90012-1767. Letters must be postmarked by Sept 30, 2021. The winners are requested to write a letter to the editor giving their thoughts on the book.**



## In Orange County, Kamei Legacy Lingers

Like a character out of a Horatio Alger Jr. novel, Hiroshi Kamei, who died in 2007, rose from humble beginnings as a son of Issei tenant farmers in Orange County to, after incarceration and a stint in the Army that sent him to occupied Japan, earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Caltech, followed by a long career in Southern California’s aerospace industry.

Not only an inspiration for Susan and her three younger brothers, Robert, Alan and John, Hiroshi Kamei, who served three terms as the president of the JACL’s SELANOCO chapter, likewise inspired fellow SELANOCO chapter leader Ken Inouye.

“Hiroshi was a part of helping to found nearly every major Japanese American club in Orange County,” Inouye said. “When there was a need, he was there to help fill the need. In addition, he was one of the individuals in Orange County that helped to educate the people about redress and what happened to Japanese Americans in Orange County.

“Hiroshi was also a very strong mentor to young people,” Inouye continued. “In fact, it was under his leadership and Clarence Nishizu that the SELANOCO chapter decided that it didn’t want to have any more Nisei presidents. . . . Not only did they pass on the power, they gave all the support that they could.

“I was very lucky to have his counsel over a period of more than two decades. He didn’t try to tell you what to do, but you always looked to him for advice. He was a very soft-spoken man, but he always spoke with a lot of wisdom,” he concluded.

Inouye also had praise for Hiroshi Kamei’s widow, Tami. “She supported Hiroshi in everything he did,” he said. “With Hiroshi’s passing, a lot of us have gotten to know her as well. It’s no surprise that their children are people of great accomplishment.”

— G.T.J.

## WHAT I KNEW » continued from page 4

*Perhaps those beliefs were a combination of a Christian-, Japanese- and Buddhist-influenced upbringing. I do know that the belief was definitely part of me, when Tara passed away and in other times when I start to feel sorry for myself.*

*I remember from my teens the phrase that if I was not part of the solution, I was part of the problem. That thought continues to inspire me. If we could not guarantee that she would get well and be cancer free, we had to use our knowledge and heart to plan during Tara’s demise what served her the best.*

*Immediately after another tumor and cancer were detected, Tara started writing an autobiography. She wrote solidly for five months until her medical team gave her a few months to live.*

*Her book, which she was not able to finish, and online journaling showed her will to give all she could to her hundreds of supporters. When Tara could no longer type, she would dictate her upbeat attitude and gratitude in response to others. When she could no longer speak, I kept her presence alive, sharing her last days.*

*Being determined to always remember Tara and be buoyed by those memories, I intentionally celebrate her birth and her physical death by sharing our story through photos, writings, scrapbooks and via social media.*

*I have stayed connected with her good friends and her husband, who is wonderfully still in my life. Many of the donations I make focus on honoring and remembering her and what she represented. I do the same in memorials for others.*

*Writing about our relationship and not her diagnosis has been the focus of my memories of Tara. Today and always, she remains so much a part of who I am. Plus, a pendant, paver, curb and park sign reading, “Tara, Always in our Hearts” are continual reminders of her beautiful life.*

*I am so grateful for Pam and how she has been willing to share the hardest thing a mother has to face. I appreciate how she has kept Tara’s memory alive and the strength she has received from her own personal beliefs, her child and her upbringing.*

*And like so many mothers I have met along the way who have faced challenging situations, Pam has led with love and today still radiates love in all she is doing. Tara, you would be so proud. . . .*

**And when one of us is gone,  
And one of us is left to carry on,  
Then remembering will have to do,  
Our memories alone will get us through  
Think about the days of me and you,  
Of you and me against the world.**

— Recorded by Helen Reddy

*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.”*



# HEART MOUNTAIN HONORS TWO STALWARTS AT RECENT PILGRIMAGE

Sam Mihara and Peter Simpson are acknowledged for their longtime advocacy efforts at the intimate in-person gathering.

By Ray Locker,  
Contributor

For the last 10 years, Sam Mihara has traveled the country teaching the public about the Japanese American incarceration during which his family lost its home in San Francisco, his grandfather died in a concentration camp and his father went blind.

Now, the theater at the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center in Wyoming bears his name.

That honor was presented during the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation's annual pilgrimage during the final weekend in July. The much-anticipated event was held in person for a small group of people and streamed online for others.

It was the first time Heart Mountain incarcerated, their families and the public had gathered for the pilgrimage since 2019, before the Covid-19 pandemic swept the country.

Heart Mountain also gave its annual LaDonna Zall Compassionate Witness Award to Peter Simpson, a longtime Wyoming educator, for his support of human rights, the Japanese American community and foundation.

As a child, Simpson was part of a Boy Scout troop from Cody, Wyo., that participated in a jamboree with the incarcerated Heart Mountain scouts in 1943.

That experience helped shape his belief that the Japanese American incarceration was based on racism, not facts. Since then, Simpson has worked to help educate the public through his various roles at the University of Wyoming and on the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation board of directors.

Said Dakota Russell, executive director of the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center, of Simpson: "He obviously went in thinking that these were dangerous people that were here behind the barbed wire. He very quickly learned that they were kids just like himself. And so he came to understand fairly quickly



that this was unjust, that this was unfair."

In receiving his award, Simpson, who fondly spoke of Zall and her fierce dedication to Heart Mountain, said, "LaDonna had emotion for this place, and all of us carry it with us, all the incarcerated and their descendants that we know and love, carry this love and emotion as a part of what we do to make sure that nothing like that occurs again. So, here's to LaDonna, and thank you so much for the best damned award that I ever got."

Simpson's younger brother, Alan, was also in that Boy Scout troop. During that jamboree in 1943, Alan Simpson met Norman Mineta, an incarcerated from San Jose. They became friends and later served together in Congress, where they worked to pass the 1988 Civil Liberties Act in which the government apologized for the incarceration and paid each surviving incarcerated \$20,000.

The pilgrimage followed the second of two weeklong workshops for educators the foundation conducted as part of a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Mihara was a member of the faculty for those workshops. In 2018, he received the Paul A. Gagnon Prize from the National Council for History Education for his work teaching about the incarceration.

In introducing Mihara during the cere-

mony, Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi said of Mihara's years of educating the public about the Japanese American incarceration experience: "He's preserving not only his own history but the history of my family, of your family and the history of Heart Mountain, which makes it so important today that we are dedicating this theater in his honor. We will continue to work with Sam tirelessly with the teacher workshops ... and I have to tell you, his book, 'Blindsided,' and his talks brought the teachers to tears. All 72 of them from across the country

For years, Sam Mihara has been criss-crossing the country, educating thousands of students, teachers and public audiences about the Japanese American incarceration. He also has donated all proceeds to the HMWF to ensure that education continues for future generations.

PHOTO: RAY LOCKER

... moved to tears, and that's the significance of Sam's ability to bring the power of place to classrooms and also supporting the power of place here at Heart Mountain. So, thank you very much Sam Mihara."

During his address, Mihara said, "I'm really grateful, and the lesson learned here is that there is nothing as satisfying as helping people learn about what happened to make sure this hidden history is no longer hidden, and everyone should know and everyone will have a better life and enjoy life better knowing that they've helped others, and they've helped others in a way of both information and knowledge, as well as money, in order to help make a better life. So, Shirley and the rest of the people, thank you very much. I appreciate the honor and my sincere thanks everyone. Thank you."

Mihara will be a member of the faculty for next year's workshops for which Heart Mountain received a second NEH grant.

## THE LEGACY OF GRANT BULLTAIL

The pilgrimage began with a July 23 evening event with members of the Apsáalooke (Crow) tribe at the base of Heart Mountain, which was once the heart of Crow country.

»



A small group gathered for the Heart Mountain Pilgrimage 2021 Sayonara Banquet. Pictured (front row, from left) Prentiss Uchida, Kathy Saito Yuille, Doug Nelson, Ann Burroughs, Shirley Ann Higuchi, Pete Simpson, Sam Mihara, Linda (Takahashi) Rodriguez and (second row, from left) Darrell Kunitomi, Shin Mune, Kathleen, Julia Ishiyama, Kris Horiuchi, Amy McKinney, Hana Maruyama, Hanako Wakatsuki, Lynne Simpson, Nora James, Hon. Judge Regina Rodriguez (Dist. of CO, U.S. District Court), Nya Woods and (third row, from left) Claudia Wade, Deni Hirsh, Dakota Russell, Dave, Marc Sugiyama, Jared Mann, Julie Abo, Aura Matsumura Sunada Newlin, Michael Goulding, David Fujioka, Brandon Daake, Jonathan Amakawa, Ray Locker, Erin Aoyama, Tyson Emborg and Cally Steussy.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF DAVID FUJIOKA



# JACL

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2021 LADONNA ZALL  
COMPASSIONATE WITNESS AWARD  
RECIPIENT

Pilgrimage attendees celebrated the life of Crow elder Grant Bulltail at the tribe's annual Return to Foretop's Father event at the base of Heart Mountain, which the Crow also called Foretop's Father.

#### HONORING LADONNA ZALL

The foundation also honored the life of LaDonna Zall, the museum's first curator, who witnessed the final train leaving Heart Mountain on Nov. 10, 1945, as a child living in nearby Powell, Wyo.

A longtime educator in Powell, Zall became the foundation's first curator shortly after its creation in 1996. For years, she was the only person who could give tours of the site to those interested in exploring the grounds or learning about the foundation.

Zall remained on the board until her death in June and was a constant presence at foundation events.

In an emotional speech, Higuchi said, "This very special day, the 25th anniversary of this foundation, in 10 years with this museum, LaDonna saw the last train leave Heart Mountain and she loved this place very much. . . . She always said that she saw that last train leave Heart Mountain and it wasn't the wind that made her cry, it was the emotion."

—Additional Reporting by the  
Pacific Citizen

## S.F. J-TOWN: Buchanan Plan Deadline Gets Delayed

City's homeless department wants to turn the hotel into a permanent homeless facility.

By P.C. Staff

With the clock ticking toward a deadline to apply for federal funds administered by California's Project Roomkey, the latest development concerning an imminent plan by the San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to buy a Japantown hotel and convert it into a permanent facility to house homeless people saw Supervisor Dean Preston announce his opposition to the bid.

Via social media, Preston shared his opposition in a Sept. 9 letter to the HSH, which in mid-August announced its proposal to buy the 131-unit Kimpton Buchanan Hotel, along with the 52-unit Mission Inn, the 25-unit Eula Hotel and the 160-unit Panoramic.

According to reporting by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Preston instead urged that the Majestic Hotel at 1500 Sutter St. and the Gotham Hotel at 835 Turk St. be considered. If purchased by the city, the two hotels would add 174 units to support the homeless population.

The Buchanan, as locals refer to it, is located at 1800 Sutter St. in San Francisco's Japantown. It is in Preston's District 5 and has been a temporary shelter-in-place hotel since June 2020 due to the pandemic.

As part of its plan, the HSH invited community outreach and public comment via a public Zoom meeting on Aug. 26, which resulted in complaints that there was insufficient advance notice for the meeting. Because of the ensuing uproar, a second Zoom meeting took place on Sept. 8.

During the meetings, J-town residents, community activists, business owners and nonprofit service providers voiced their op-

position to a permanent facility in the district for homeless people.

One reason for the opposition was economic: the potential loss of revenue, including tax dollars, due to a decline in spending from tourists who might stay at either the Buchanan Hotel or the district's other tourist hotel, the Hotel Kabuki. (Japantown businesses have depended on tourism since the district was redeveloped in the 1960s and '70s.)

In a *San Francisco Chronicle* article, Japantown Merchants Association President Richard Hashimoto was reported to have said that at least 12 of 300 area businesses shut down during the pandemic.

Other J-town denizens cited an increase in crime and aggressive behavior by homeless people, more trash, sidewalk sleeping, drug paraphernalia (used hypodermic needles) and human waste since the Buchanan became a temporary shelter-in-place hotel.

An online petition ([tinyurl.com/naua592j](https://www.tinyurl.com/naua592j)) titled "Stop the Sale of Hotel Buchanan in Japantown" was launched in late August by Zee Tanaka with the goal of reaching 7,500 signatures.

Despite the Project Roomkey deadline, the vehement opposition to the plan to convert the Buchanan into a homeless shelter saw the

office of San Francisco Mayor London Breed on Sept. 7 announce that it would postpone a decision and give officials a few more weeks for community outreach.

Since 2014, the Buchanan has been owned by KHP Capital Partners, which, according to its website, is a "real estate private equity firm focused on investments in boutique and independent hotels." Before KHP purchased it, the hotel has operated as Kyoto Inn, Miyako Inn and Hotel Tomo.

In spite of a stated goal to buy four hotels in San Francisco, the costs to buy the hotels have not been disclosed.

#### Buchanan Hotel

PHOTO: BRIDGET KEAVENEY



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## 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)



# 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

### Multiracial Nikkei: Diversity Within Our Community

**Sept. 21; 8 p.m. (EDT)**

**Virtual Event; Registration Required**

**Price: Free**

Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages (JAMP) will present a discussion highlighting diversity within the multiracial Nikkei community. Participants will explore multiple identities, privilege and responsibility and representation that goes beyond the Asian-white binary. The discussion, moderated by Ayako Tishler, will be accompanied by interviews with individuals who will share their experiences and perspectives.

**Info: For more information and to register for the event, visit <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYpc-ihqzlrHNNK3Z-1P5PXUVzaYTICitL0>.**

### Densho Anniversary Gala: '25 Years of Story'

**Oct. 23; 5-6:30 p.m.**

**Virtual Event**

**Price: Free**

Join Densho as it celebrates its 25th anniversary! Join Densho for an evening of storytelling, art, music and community at this virtual event that will allow supporters from across the country and world to participate. More event information and exciting opportunities associated with this momentous occasion will be announced soon. There is also a "Dedication Wall" where participants can share a special message or memory located on the official website.

**Info: Visit <https://padlet.com/denshoproject/jqs9fb41fupjjq82> to visit the "Dedication Wall" and Densho.org for additional information.**

## NCWNP

### Midori Kai 25th Anniversary Arts & Crafts E-Boutique

**San Francisco, CA**

**Thru Sept. 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.**

### Japanese American Incarceration Memorial Legacy Project: Flag Signing Event

**San Jose, CA**

**Oct. 2; Noon-3 p.m.**

**Japanese American Museum of San Jose**

**535 N. Fifth St.**

**Event will take place in the museum**

**parking lot.**

All Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during WWII are invited to sign a WWII-era flag that the museum has that was donated by Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Johnny Cepeda Gogo. The signed flag will be officially donated to the museum by Judge Gogo on Fred Korematsu Day, Jan. 30, 2022. Registration for the signing is required and space will be limited.

**To register to sign the flag, visit <https://secure.givelively.org/event/japanese-american-museum-of-san-jose/flag-signing-event-japanese-american-incarceration-memorial-legacy-project>. For more information about the event, visit <https://www.jamsj.org/upcoming-events/2021/10/2/japanese-american-incarceration-memorial-legacy-project-flag-signing-event>.**

### Taiko Drumming Workshop Presented by Playful People Prods.

**San Jose, CA**

**Oct. 2-Dec. 18; 1st and 3rd**

**Saturdays, 3:30-5 p.m.**

**Historic Hoover Theatre**

**1635 Park Ave.**

**Price: \$165 Per Participant**

Playful People Prods. is offering a six-session in-person taiko drumming workshop taught by South Bay Beat Institute Co-Artistic Director Rome Hamner. The art of taiko has been used in festivals, theater, religious and military ceremonies, as well as in social movements. Along with the basics of the art itself, learning the Japanese and Japanese American percussion art of taiko improves teamwork, self-control, communication and self-esteem. This workshop will have a minimum of six and a maximum of 12 participants and is open for ages 10 and up.

**Info: To register or for more information, visit <https://playfulpeople.org> or call (408) 878-5362.**

### '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 photojournalist 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.californiamuseum.org>.**

## PSW

### Los Angeles 37th Asian Pacific Film Festival

**Los Angeles, CA**

**Sept. 23-Oct. 2**

### Virtual and In-Person at Various

**Los Angeles-Area Theaters**

**Price: TBA**

Visual Communications is proud to present a hybrid edition of this festival that will run virtually and in person at various L.A. theaters. It will feature an exciting lineup of productions by Asian and Pacific Islander artists from across the globe. This film festival is the largest festival of its kind in Southern California and is the premier showcase for the best and brightest of Asian Pacific cinema. The festival's official website is coming soon.

**Info: Visit <https://festival.vcmmedia.org/2021/> for official website and additional information.**

### Book Talk: 'When Can We Go Back to America?' by Susan Kamei

**Los Angeles, CA**

**Sept. 25; 2-3:30 p.m.**

**In-Person and Virtual Event;**

**Registration Required**

**Price: General Admission: \$10; Free**

Admission for JACL Members: Email [publicprograms@janm.org](mailto:publicprograms@janm.org) and write "JACL Tickets — "When Can We Go Back to America" in the subject box. Author Susan Kamei will discuss her new book which draws upon stories from works in the public domain covering the bombing of Pearl Harbor through the redress movement and the 2017 presidential executive orders restricting travel from many predominantly Muslim countries.

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

### 'Hayao Miyazaki' Inaugural Exhibit

**Los Angeles, CA**

**Sept. 30-June 5, 2022**

**Academy Museum of Motion**

**Pictures**

**6067 Wilshire Blvd.**

**Price: Advanced ticket reservations**

**required. Adults \$25; Seniors \$19;**

**Students \$15; Free for Children**

**17 and under.**

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures is pleased to announce details of the museum's inaugural "Hayao Miyazaki" temporary exhibition. Curated in collaboration with Japan's renowned Studio Ghibli, which Miyazaki co-founded in 1985, the exhibit marks the first North American museum retrospective dedicated to the acclaimed artist and his work. More than 300 objects will be featured, exploring each of Miyazaki's animated feature films, including "My Neighbor Totoro" and the Academy Award-winning "Spirited Away."

**Info: Visit [www.academymuseum.org](http://www.academymuseum.org) for additional details and 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

### Dedication of 'Camp Harmony'

**Artwork Installation**

**Puyallup, WA**

**Oct. 3; Noon**

**Pioneer Park**

**324 S. Meridian**

**Price: Free**

The Puyallup Arts Downtown and Puyallup Valley JACL invite the public to the dedication of the "Camp Harmony" installation that represents the wartime incarceration of the Japanese and Japanese Americans inside the Puyallup Assembly Center, aka "Camp Harmony." Scheduled speakers include Arts Downtown President Becky Condra, Puyallup Mayor Julie Door, artist John Zylstra, Washington State Fair CEO Kent Hojem, PAC survivor Cho Shimizu and keynote Lori Matsukawa. There will also be a taiko performance by Seattle Matsuri Taiko and Tacoma Fuji Taiko, as well as historical photos and a bonsai display.

**Info: Visit <https://www.facebook.com/puyallupvalleyjacl.org/>.**

## IDC

### 2021 Colorado 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

### Sukiyaki Lunch Presented by the

**Twin Cities JACL**

**Bloomington, MN**

**Nov. 13; Noon-2 p.m.**

**Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church**

**9920 Normandale Blvd.**

**Price: \$10 for TCJACL Members; \$12**

**Nonmembers; \$5 Children Under 10**

The TCJACL board is bringing back the Sukiyaki Lunch, a traditional lunch consisting of sukiyaki, rice, cucumber salad and dessert. This event will replace the Chrysanthemum Banquet held in previous years. There will also be a boutique sale, so come browse and purchase, as well as catch up with friends and make new acquaintances. Because meals will be limited to 100, reservations will begin on Oct. 1. The chapter is closely watching Covid numbers and will make an announcement should event details change.

**Info: To make a reservation or for more information, email Sylvia Farrells at [angelseyf@gmail.com](mailto:angelseyf@gmail.com) or call (952) 888-8771.**

## EDC

### Chinatown Arts Festival 2021

**Boston, MA**

**Thru Sept. 25**

**Chinatown Park on the Greenway**

**(near Chinatown gate)**

**99 Albany St.**

**Price: Free**

Celebrate the rich cultural fabric of Boston's Chinatown through free creative activities for all. Enjoy musical, dance and spoken word performances and window installations at local businesses. Come on out and enjoy all that this festival can offer the entire family.

**Info: Visit <https://www.paoarts-center.org/events/2021/experience-chinatown/#schedule> for a complete event schedule.**

### Asia in Maryland Fall 2021 Exhibition

**Towson, MD**

**Thru Dec. 11**

**Towson University, Asian Arts**

**Gallery**

**8000 York Road**

**Hours: Mon.-Sat., 11 a.m.-4 p.m.**

**(Closed Nov. 24-28)**

Explore work by 33 artists that express the divergent and interconnected experiences and aesthetic styles of AAPI's in Maryland. Artists include Tima Afritunov, Annika Cheng, Bok Kim, Anson Lin, Manzar Rassouli, Ellie Rha, Nimi Trehan, Carole Lee and Monica Youn. The Asian Arts and Culture Center was recently named best art space by Baltimore magazine's 2021 Best of Baltimore list.

**Info: Visit [https://events.towson.edu/center\\_for\\_the\\_arts\\_gallery#](https://events.towson.edu/center_for_the_arts_gallery#). YtqXVy1h3GL.**

## ADVERTISE HERE

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

**FOR MORE INFO:**

**[pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)**  
**(213) 620-1767**



# In MEMORIAM

**Morita, Thurston 'Hoss,' 78,** Torrance, CA, Oct. 19, 2020; he is survived by his wife, Georgine; children, Scott (Erin Kaichi) and Nicole (Kent) Kashiwai; sister, Carole (Ray) Sugai; gc: 2.

**Muranaga, Tomi, 85,** Gardena, CA, June 13; Korean War veteran; he was predeceased by his brothers, Kiyoshi (Medal of Honor awardee), Yoshio and Kenichi; he is survived by his sisters, Sally Hamamoto, Susie Fujimoto, Hiroko Torii, Terrie (Al) Suyemoto and Reiko Nakagawa; sister-in-law, Yoshiko Muranaga; caregiver and niece, Jennifer Hamamoto; he is also survived by other nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Muto, Setsuko Kamei, 87,** Culver City, CA, Oct. 31, 2020; she was predeceased by her husband, Roy; she is survived by her children, Elaine (Frank Morizawa), David (Sherry Oshimo) and Steven; siblings: 9; sisters-in-laws, 2; she is also survived by many nephews and nieces.

**Tanizawa, Glenn, 70,** Los Angeles, CA, March 13.

**Watanabe, Ikiko, 100,** Kahului, HI, May 27. ■

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## PLACE A TRIBUTE

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

## CONTACT:

Editorial@pacificcitizen.org or  
call (213) 620-1767 ext. 104

## TRIBUTE

### SHIZUKO FUJIOKA (NÉE SAKIHARA)



June 3, 1927-June 5, 2021

Shizuko ("Shiz") Fujioka, 94, went home peacefully to be with her Savior Jesus Christ on June 5, 2021, in Columbus, Ohio.

Shiz was born on June 27, 1927, in Los Angeles. Her father, Takeo Minami, passed away when she was a child and she and her younger sister, Aiko, were raised by their mother and stepfather, Hisako & Ikumori Sakihara. Shiz attended Nora Sterry Elementary School, Emerson Jr. High School and University High School until she and

her family were sent to Manzanar Concentration Camp at the start of WWII. She graduated from Manzanar High School and L.A. City College.

A wonderful wife to Babe for over 60 years until his passing in 2013, Shiz was also a loving and devoted mother and grandmother. Her family was her world. Shiz loved to spend time with her children and grandchildren. She and Babe visited them in cities throughout California, Washington, Texas, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Nevada and Ohio. During their later years, Shiz and Babe lived with daughter Janice and her family in Texas, and after Babe's passing, Shiz lived with son Robert and daughter-in-law Elizabeth in Pennsylvania and Ohio. She delighted in discovering new restaurants, museums, parks, churches, malls and historic sights.

She loved traveling with her family, from camping and fishing to cruises in Mexico and the Caribbean to couples travel with Babe to Europe, Asia, South America and throughout the U.S. She enjoyed hosting many happy holiday and celebratory events with Babe for their large extended family and friends at their homes. She always looked forward to attending her annual Manzanar High School Reunion and Babe's Heart Mountain High School Reunion.

Shiz was much loved and appreciated. She was a kind, gracious, and caring woman. She nursed Babe back to health after he contracted polio when they were dating and continued to give selflessly to help others after marriage.

She is survived by her sister, Aiko Jonokuchi (husband James), her children, Robert (wife Elizabeth), Margaret (husband Cedric), Janice (husband John) and Thomas (wife Kathy), 15 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Due to COVID-19, a private memorial service will be held in September in Los Angeles. In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be mailed by check written to the Japanese American National Museum, ATTN: Development/In Memory of Shizuko Fujioka, 100 N. Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90012. For donation questions, please call Lillian at JANM Development at (213) 830-5641.

## TRIBUTE

### MINORU MOCHIZUKI



**Minoru Mochizuki, 95,** born in San Francisco, Calif., and passed away on Aug. 7, 2021, in Denver, Colo., surrounded by his family.

Min is survived by his children Judy Mochizuki, Denver; Nancy Mochizuki, Cheyenne, Wyo.; Janet Hulce, Springfield, Ill.; Carol Elrod, Parker, Colo.; and Ronald Mochizuki, Western Springs, Ill.

Also survived by sister Etsuko Lew, Berkeley, Calif.; 10 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. Preceded in death by his wife, June, in 2017.

Visit monarchsociety.com for Min's full obituary.

## TRIBUTE

### KAZUYOSHI IDE



**Kazuyoshi Ide, 92,** born in Hilo, Hawaii, died peacefully at his home in Richmond, Calif., on Aug. 4, 2021. Kaz (as he was known to friends and family) was a graduate of the University of Hawaii, Manoa; he studied social work and public health at Indiana University and the University of California Berkeley School of Public Health before spending his career with the State of California Children's Services. Socially astute, he always kept up with politics and culture. He

volunteered at various organizations and was a dedicated member of the JACL. An artist at heart and avid writer, he created beautiful ceramic works, wrote stories and sayings for his grandson, cultivated fruit and flowering trees, remembered every plant he ever put in the ground, and made a habit of writing haiku on any piece of paper within reach. Kaz always kept up with his friends and family, and will be remembered for his tasty pies, stubborn yet philosophical spirit, being there to listen and regularly giving advice. Kaz is survived by his former wife, Tokiko Nishida Ide, daughters Laura Ide and Melanie Ide (Christiaan Kuypers) and grandson Lukas Kuypers, as well as friends, relatives and special caregivers who shared his life's journey. A service will be held at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple in California, date to be announced. An endowment fund will be established by his daughters at Bishop Museum in his honor. For those interested, a donation can be made to the attention of Melanie Ide at Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii.

## TRIBUTE

### DR. TOSHIO FUJIKURA



Toshio passed away peacefully on May 13, 2021, at the age of 97. Born in Tokyo, Japan, he was the beloved son of Tome Fujikura and Masashiro Yoshida. Toshio lost his father at an early age and was raised by his mother, who was a successful business owner. In 1941, Toshio entered the Chiba Institute of Technology to study engineering. His education was disrupted by World War II, and he was sent to the countryside to do farm work. Toshio was determined to continue his education after the

war, and he was accepted to the Keio University Medical School in Tokyo. After he completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology, he aspired to study in the U.S. In 1953, he accepted an Obstetrics and Pathology Fellowship at Johns Hopkins University Hospital. He later returned to Japan and met the love of his life and "Best Friend," Yuka Yasui, a visiting Fulbright Scholarship nurse. They got married and returned to the U.S. Toshio continued his training in clinical pathology at the University of Oregon Medical School and later became an instructor there. In 1963, he was appointed as a medical officer pathologist at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Then in 1973, he followed his interest in neonatal research as an associate professor of pathology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Magee-Women's Hospital. In 1978, Toshio returned to Japan to accept a position as chief of the Pathology Dept., Radiation Effects Research Foundation in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He later moved back to Tokyo to serve as a pathologist at several area hospitals. Throughout his career, Toshio wrote and published numerous papers in prominent medical journals. He worked well into his eighties and continued his love of research. Toshio enjoyed time with family, travel, delicious food, swimming, nature walks and exercising at the gym. A quiet, gentle and modest man who always appreciated the kindness of others, he faced life with resilience no matter the upheaval. He was beloved by his children and his wife, Yuka, of 65 years. Toshio leaves behind his children, Amy, Casey, Ken and Tyra, and grandchildren, Kevin, Daniel, and Katelyn. He is predeceased by his beloved wife, Yuka, by less than two months. A memorial service will be held at a future date.





## REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

# STAY COMPETITIVE, RELEVANT FOR WHAT'S NEXT

By Ron Mori

Let's be honest, the new work normal is not normal for any of us today. One thing is certain, at any age, we all need to make sure our résumé and interviewing skills are current. I often share the AARP career resource center link with family and friends as a key resource to those that are re-entering or are starting to look for a new job in years.

AARP has a dedicated site with tools and video resources to help you get started at [aarp.org/work](http://aarp.org/work). In addition, I want to make sure you can take advantage and register for AARP's free online career expo, "Staying Competitive and Relevant for What's Next," which is set for Sept. 30 at 1 p.m. ET/10 a.m. PT.

Register now for AARP's Online

**Career Expo and get access to on-demand webinars, resources, ask questions and search our job board.**

During the three-hour virtual career expo, you'll have the opportunity to:

- Participate in webinars and group chats including remote work, jobs in demand, finding and landing a job and more.
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- Access tools and resources to boost your skills to stay competitive.
- Get help getting a job that fits your schedule — including part-time, full-time, telework and seasonal employment.

Can't make this time? Register anyway, and you'll be able to access on-demand

webinars, resources, ask questions and search our job board later. Sign up for our free event now!

As a reminder, make sure to review your résumé for this virtual event. Your résumé can make or break your chances to land an interview. Following are eight quick résumé mistakes you will want to avoid as you prepare to go after your next job.

### 1. Ignoring the Basics

Even though it's among the most common advice given to job seekers, many applicants fail to proofread and ensure the document is free of grammar, spelling and punctuation errors and typos.

### 2. Not Including Important Keywords

Today, many companies use computer programs known as applicant tracking systems (ATS) to keep track of résumés and candidates. This human resources software acts as a database, allowing in-house recruiters to find candidates that have applied to the firm. The ATS looks for keywords that match its job descriptions. So, be your résumé incorporates words from the job description.

### 3. Using the Same Résumé for Every Job Opening

### 4. Going Heavy on Industry Jargon

While you should use terms that are commonly used in the job for which you are applying, use a light touch with acronyms, abbreviations and jargon.

### 5. Embellishing

It's a good idea to ensure that the dates, titles, responsibilities and other details on your résumé that are reflected in your profiles on LinkedIn and other social media platforms are consistent.

### 6. Not Being Consistent

Résumés that are too long will

lose a recruiter. Try to keep your résumé to no more than two pages.

### 8. Not Including All of Your Skills

More tips, videos and career resources can be found at [aarp.org/work](http://aarp.org/work). Remember, if you can't make it on Sept. 21, still register so you'll be able to access on-demand webinars, resources, ask questions and search our job board later.

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



**AARP is hosting a free online career expo on Sept. 21. Register today!**

PHOTO: AARP

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