



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 92 YEARS

## » PAGE 5

JACL Holds  
Quarterly  
NB Meeting.

+ Americans  
Honor Nisei  
Vets Stamp  
Beyond  
Holiday.

Judge Johnny  
Gogo's quest  
to complete his  
project stems  
from his mission  
to educate as  
many people as  
possible about the  
JA incarceration  
experience.

## » PAGE 6

# SIGN HERE

Since its launch, a flag-  
signing project represents  
much more in addition  
to the hundreds of  
signatures collected.



# JACL APPLAUDS SIGNING OF INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT

By JACL National



President Biden signed the \$1 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) on Nov. 15. This monumental act will provide many of the resources needed to improve marginalized communities such as expedient broadband access to ensure that Americans are provided with reliable high-speed internet.

Historically, infrastructure advances have come at the cost of destroying underrepresented communities for the sake of progress. Our national interstate system was built often intentionally to cut through and destroy underrepresented communities and neighborhoods.

Today, historically underrepresented communities are being replaced through gentrification, and longtime residents are being forced to leave homes they grew up in under the name of urban renewal. As we implement the infrastructure plan, it is incumbent upon the administration to ensure that we break from this previous

trend and uplift these communities instead of tearing them down.

We also applaud the investment in broadband equity as an acknowledgment of shifting how infrastructure is perceived and the need for all Americans to be able to access reliable high-speed internet. This is an opportunity to make infrastructure investments that benefit all communities.

The JACL hopes that the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal will soon be followed by the passage of the Build Back Better Plan and more legislation that uplifts our nation. The Build Back Better plan includes key funding for social infrastructure that many members of marginalized communities will benefit from such as expanded healthcare coverage and paid leave benefits.

We cannot complete a full recovery if we do not make investments in our social infrastructure to match our investment in physical infrastructure. ■

## PSWDC Announces JACL Holiday Cheer Project

The PSWDC's JACL Holiday Cheer Project is an annual community service program to help make the holiday season a more festive and warm occasion for the less-fortunate members of the Japanese American community. Donations collected in 2020 brought joy to more than 670 children and adults, including the elderly.

The following are some requests from organizations for Holiday Cheer 2021:

Kei Ai Los Angeles Healthcare Center "would like to buy Santa Hats for everyone for the Holiday Party in December 2021," writes Yoshiko Kobayashi, recreation

activities manager.

Russell Nagata, activities manager of KeiAi South Bay Healthcare Center, writes, "This year, we will use Holiday Cheer to buy presents for the residents."

Pearl Omiya, executive director of ESGVJCC, hopes to give take-home bento for the Senior Wellness Program and Leisure Club Holiday Parties in December.

*Please support this year's recipients by sending your tax-deductible monetary gift to JACL Holiday Cheer, P.O. Box 189, Monterey Park, CA 91754. For questions, contact Amy Tambara at amy\_t-jacl@sbcglobal.net.*

## JACL IS HIRING FOR A NEW FELLOW

The organization is now accepting applications for the Norman Y. Mineta Fellowship

JACL is now hiring for the Norman Y. Mineta Fellowship to start in January 2022. The fellowship provides the opportunity to work on advocacy at a national level through the National JACL

office based in Washington, D.C. Fellows become a key component of the D.C. team.

The Norman Y. Mineta Fellowship was established in 2007 in honor of the American politician. Mineta served as U.S. Secretary of Transportation and Secretary of Commerce. He also helped found the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

Fellows work with JACL staff, other fellows and the executive director, collectively working to mobilize and inform local chapters, in addition to being integral in establishing a voice for JACL and its members within

D.C. and the various networks.

This paid fellowship is awarded to a qualified student or young professional who has completed at least an undergraduate degree and will last for a period of 12 months. The fellowship is sponsored through a grant from UPS.

Candidates must also be a U.S. citizen and JACL member. Preference will be given to those who have demonstrated a commitment to Asian American issues, particularly those affecting the Japanese American community. Communi-

cation skills, especially in writing, are important.

*To apply for the Norman Y. Mineta Fellowship, visit [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org).*



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## PACIFICCITIZEN 2021 SPRING CAMPAIGN

JACL MEMBER? ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$200 ☐ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

— Gil Asakawa



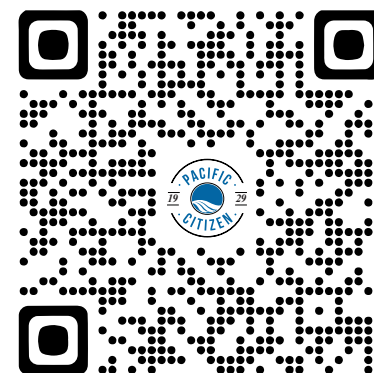
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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# GIVING THANKS WHERE IT IS TRULY NEEDED

By David Inoue,  
JACL Executive Director

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this year, it would be my custom to take the time to thank all who make JACL what it is and what it can be. Obviously, the staff play a key role, as does the board. JACL is dependent upon the hours of volunteer time from hundreds of people around the country who lead the local chapters and provide the diversity of who we are.

That diversity is unfortunately increasingly decreasing. Our orga-

nization is more reflective of the party segregation that is infecting politics, where it is more important that the political party be victorious in elections, than our country succeed.

When Donald Trump ran for president, he promised the biggest infrastructure package we had ever seen. Instead after four years, the only significant infrastructure was a divisive border wall that doesn't actually protect the border but became a symbol of "I won, you're a loser" politics.

Just this month, Congress finally overcame differences and passed the

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act by a 228-206 margin. With six democrats voting against because they were seeking further investments, the bill passed because of 13 Republican House members who went against their party's general opposition to anything that benefits all Americans.

**Don Young** of Alaska

**\*Adam Kinzinger** of Illinois

**\*Fred Upton** of Michigan

**Don Bacon** of Nebraska

**Jeff Van Drew** of New Jersey

**Chris Smith** of New Jersey

**Andrew Garbarino** of New York

**\*John Katko** of New York

**Nicole Malliotakis** of New York

**Tom Reed** of New York

**\*Anthony Gonzalez** of Ohio

**Brian Fitzpatrick** of Pennsylvania

**David McKinley** of West Virginia

I would add to this list the additional Republicans who voted to impeach Trump following the Jan. 6 insurrection. Representatives who voted for both are asterisked above.

**David Valadao**, California

**Tom Rice**, South Carolina  
**Jaime Herrera Beutler**, Washington  
**Peter Meijer**, Michigan  
**Dan Newhouse**, Washington  
**Liz Cheney**, Wyoming

These 19 members of Congress did stand up for what were votes for our country, not for party. While I personally would have liked to see a larger infrastructure package passed, I know that is a significant challenge because of the narrowly divided Senate. Sometimes, we need to take what we can get — it is rare we will get all that we want.

In many ways, this is a continuation of my last column, where I talked about the process by which legislation often changes as it works through Congress. What finally passed isn't everything we need, but it does have significant investments in what one would expect in the area of transportation, rebuilding roads and bridges, supporting transit and a particularly notable investment in correcting the past damages by highways and roads toward minority communities.

The Act makes a large investment

in building broadband access, the new infrastructure that we all realized how much we needed this past two years of Covid-forced working and schooling from home.

It will also invest in our public utility network, ensuring clean water and strengthening the power grid. We will especially need the improvements to our electric infrastructure as we transition to electric vehicles, also supported in the Act.

Ultimately, we do need to offer our thanks to the 19 Republicans who have risked, or in some cases, have ended their Congressional careers in large part because of these votes. Unfortunately, those who might replace them will not be likely to be willing to compromise, choosing party over progress.

So, thank you to all who value being American over being Democrat or Republican.

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



## LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

# CHOOSING AN EXECUTOR FOR YOUR WILL

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused many people to start thinking about their own mortality. As you make your estate plan, one of the most important decisions you will have to make is deciding who is going to be the executor of your will. Choosing an executor can be stressful, especially if you have more than one child or have a complicated estate.

The role of executor is a big job. Your executor is responsible administering your estate upon your death. Their duties include: (1) Safeguarding and managing the assets until they are distributed; (2) Selling assets if necessary to pay estate debts or distribute the estate; (3) Appearing in court on behalf of the estate if the estate is a party to a lawsuit; (4) Filing your final income tax return and paying any taxes due; and (5) Distributing the estate to the beneficiaries in accordance with the terms of the will.

The most common executors are spouses. After spouses, children, and then siblings. A trusted child can be a good choice, although sometimes

choosing one child over another can cause hurt feelings.

In the interest of family harmony, many parents will want to make both children "co-executors" of their will. However, I recommend that parents pick one child to act as primary executor and name the second child as the alternate.

It would be wise to choose an executor that won't cause your heirs to bicker, argue or squabble. If you anticipate strife among your heirs, a beneficiary may not be the best choice. In lieu of choosing a child, it may be better to select a trusted friend. A trusted friend (or relative) who will not inherit under the will may be a better option since he or she will have no conflict of interest.

You are looking for three things in your executor: (1) He or she must be someone you trust; (2) They must be capable of doing the job; and (3) They must be willing to do the job. You want to choose a person who is intelligent, responsible and well-organized. An executor is considered to be a fiduciary, someone who is trusted to hold high ethical standards and act in the best interest of the estate.

The principal qualities that an

executor should possess are honesty, organizational skills and the ability to communicate effectively. You want someone who is financially accountable, stable, reliable and trustworthy. The executor has many responsibilities, some of which can be complex. Although some of the necessary tasks may be complicated, your executor can hire professionals (attorneys, accountants, investment advisors) for assistance.

Make sure you talk with the person you wish to designate as executor of your will. Find out whether the person is willing to serve. And if so, you can inform that individual of the whereabouts of your legal documents and holdings. It's also wise to ask the person before you finalize your will if he or she is willing to serve as executor.

Be mindful of the possibility that although the person you choose to be your executor agreed to fulfill that responsibility, he or she may refuse to accept the appointment when it is time to carry out the required duties. Thus, it is best to name alternate executors. If you do not designate any alternate executors, and your original executor declines the appointment, the court will select an executor for you, and the court's choice may or may not be to your liking.

What about Living Trusts? For the very reasons you selected your executor and alternate executor for your will, you want to name the same people as "Successor Trustee" (and "Alternate Successor Trustee") of your trust. "Say what?" you ask. If you own your own home, paid for or not, you need a Living Trust. A simple will is not enough. A will

has to go through the costly court process called "probate."

According to a Google Consumer survey, 63 percent of Americans do not have a will, and 9 percent have a will that is out of date. This means that 72 percent of Americans do not have a will or do not have an up-to-date will (*source: USLegalWills.com, June 2016*). Since many people were told that Living Trusts are for the rich, the number of Americans who own homes without a Living Trust is too big. The remainder of this article is for you.

What is a living trust? A living trust is a legal document created by you (the grantor) during your lifetime. Just like a will, a living trust spells out exactly what your desires are with regard to your assets (your home, bank accounts and stocks, etc.) when you die. The big difference is that a will becomes effective only after you die and your will has been entered into probate. A living trust bypasses the costly and time-consuming process of probate.

What are the advantages of a living trust? The main benefit of a living trust is that it avoids probate — saving tens of thousands of dollars (or more!!!). A living trust does not go through probate, which often means a faster distribution of assets to your heirs — from 1 or 2 years with a will down to a few weeks with a living trust.

Most people name themselves as the trustee of their own trust. As trustee, you stay "in control" and "in charge" of managing your assets. If you want to sell your home — you can. If you want to spend your money — you can. You also appoint yourself

the "Primary Beneficiary" of your own trust — which means you can spend all your money. Furthermore, you may amend or revoke your trust at any time.

What are the disadvantages of a living trust? None. Because you appoint yourself the trustee of your own trust, you can remain in control of your assets during your lifetime even though your assets have been put into the trust. However, anyone who believes that his or her family would benefit from paying tens of thousands of dollars for court supervision over the administration of his or her estate should probably not have a living trust.

In conclusion, according to Rocket Lawyer, the No. 1 reason people don't have a will or trust is because they haven't gotten around to it yet. Hopefully, the pandemic brings estate planning to the top of the "Things to Do" list. Having a Living Trust and other estate planning documents could be extremely important in the event of an accident, sudden illness or death. You need to do it for your family's sake.

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



ASB Secretary Christopher Nguyen tells the story of Staff Sgt. Kazuo Masuda during the special program.

PHOTOS: PATTI HIRAHARA



Eighth-grade students at the Kazuo Masuda Middle School listen to the special Veterans Day salute on Nov. 9.

## STUDENTS HONOR SGT. KAZUO MASUDA

Children at the school named after the fallen WWII soldier pay tribute to his legacy during a special Veterans Day program.

By Patti Hirahara

The Kazuo Masuda Middle School presented a special Veterans Day program on Nov. 9, where 270 eighth-graders and guests, totaling 300, assembled in Fountain Valley, Calif., to honor fallen WWII Distinguished Service Cross recipient Sgt. Kazuo Masuda, for whom the school is named.

A native son of Orange County, Masuda was born on Nov. 30, 1918, in Westminster, Calif., and died while serving his country in Toscana, Italy,

on Aug. 27, 1944. As a staff sergeant in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Masuda was killed in action after voluntarily leading two men on a night patrol across the Arno River, which was heavily mined and booby-trapped.

Upon coming under enemy fire, Masuda ordered his men to withdraw while he proceeded forward. At the sacrifice of his life, he enabled his comrades to safely return with key information that helped Allied troops successfully cross the river.

The Kazuo Masuda ASB present-

ed Masuda's life story during the program after ASB President Addison Phan welcomed guests and led them in the "Pledge of Allegiance" to begin the event.

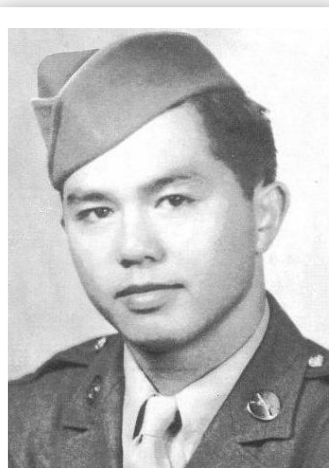
ASAB Secretary Christopher Nguyen then offered a history of Veterans Day and a brief bio of Masuda, followed by a special presentation on what is a veteran by the ASB, a Moment of Silence led by Assistant Principal Matt Ploski and a performance of the "National Anthem" by the Masuda Monarch Choir. Seventh-grader Kate Von

Boerum performed "Taps" on the trumpet to conclude the one-hour program.

In addition, Principal Jennifer Morgan provided opening comments and introduced the event's special guests, which included guest speaker Master Sgt. Nick San Nicolas.

The school's sixth- and seventh-grade students were able to view the assembly via live stream in their classrooms.

The Kazuo Masuda Middle School was dedicated on Dec. 17, 1975, and the Kazuo Masuda Memorial VFW Post 3670 donated the Sgt. Kazuo Masuda Japanese Memorial Garden, located in the school, on June 7, 1977.



Staff Sgt. Kazuo Masuda

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE



### A MOTHER'S TAKE

## BLENDED FAMILIES — LISTENING AND LEANING INTO LOVE

By Marsha Aizumi

I sometimes look back on my journey and realize though I felt our story was filled with complexity, there are families that have even more layers to navigate. This Japanese American family is one family that I met that symbolized the complex nature of families and their LGBTQ+ journey . . .

Erik was a divorced father of two children, a boy and a girl. Stacia was a divorced mother of one child, Alex. They met 14 years ago when Stacia was a recruiter, looking to see how their two companies could work together.

While Erik and Stacia were dating, Stacia's child spent every other weekend with their father. Erik's two children had a similar type of arrangement. Four years after meeting, Erik and Stacia decided to get married. They were now a blended family.

Shortly after they got married, Stacia's ex-husband decided that he needed to move back to Japan. That in essence made Erik more of a father to Alex, who was now 10 years old. And though in a blended family Erik says you tend to be more hands off with the child that is not biologically yours, "my role seemed to change because Alex's father was no longer in regular contact with his child."

Then, Alex was diagnosed both gifted and with a learning disability. Although a sensitive, bright and independent child, this paradox brought on challenges.

At the time, the pressure of all of this fell on Stacia, who needed to be both father and mother because Alex was not comfortable interacting with his stepfather on delicate issues. Not enough trust had been built up. And Erik openly admits that he was not confident in connecting with Alex during these initial years. What is my role? How can I support Alex

and Stacia? How do I keep both my children and Alex connected to me? Another complexity was added.

Besides the academic issues, Alex began to exhibit signs of depression and anxiety. Professional help was sought. Stacia researched, patiently worked with both Alex and Erik, and the two parents worked hard to support each other. It required both listening to each other and expressing how they felt.

Then, Alex came out as transgender. He was a child assigned male at birth but felt like a girl for a long time. Now, another layer of complexity was added.

Talking to Erik made me realize the many layers that parents, step-parents, children and stepchildren have to face. We have our own personal history and experiences, our relationship with our spouse, our relationship with our children and our relationship with our families. We have our work or home responsibilities, and for many, we have our own parents who are aging and need our support.

And yet, our journeys are filled with many experiences that help us to be better parents, spouses, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters and human beings if we are open to them. Many times, if we persevere, we can see how all our risking and vulnerability can manifest into showing us who we truly can be.

Erik is a vp at Southern California Edison. As his relationship with Alex grew, their bond of trust grew

as well. One day, Alex came to Erik and asked what was Erik doing in his position of influence to amplify the LGBTQ+ topic at his work. This made Erik reflect on how he could use his position to bring about change. And so, Erik advocated for a flag raising at SCE locations during Pride month.

But Erik didn't just advocate for a Pride flag at SCE, he was asked to speak at the flag raising as well. Erik shares, "I spoke about my daughter's coming out and the importance of being an ally. I talked about creating a place where people can bring their best selves to work and be proud of who they are. It was a moment for me because I was selected to raise the flag at one of our locations, and our CEO of SCE raised the flag at our other location."

When I interviewed Erik, I could also hear a deep sense of pride in speaking up and doing something that he would have never done, except for his daughter's encouragement to be more visible. I also felt in Erik a deep sense of gratitude for his daughter that made this moment possible, trusting him enough to share her thoughts.

This past summer the blended family went to Hawaii together — Erik, Stacia, Alex, Ryland and Chrysti. Erik admits he still struggles with pronouns.

Chrysti corrected him when they were in Hawaii. But he says all the children respect each other's space, and he is learning and growing as a father and stepfather.

In the end, this blended family has had to find their way. And with their commitment to work together, listen to each other and share how they feel, I can see how they are succeeding in staying connected where others have failed. It has opened my eyes to the intricacy blended families face, but it has also shown me the richness of what bringing two families can bring to the whole.

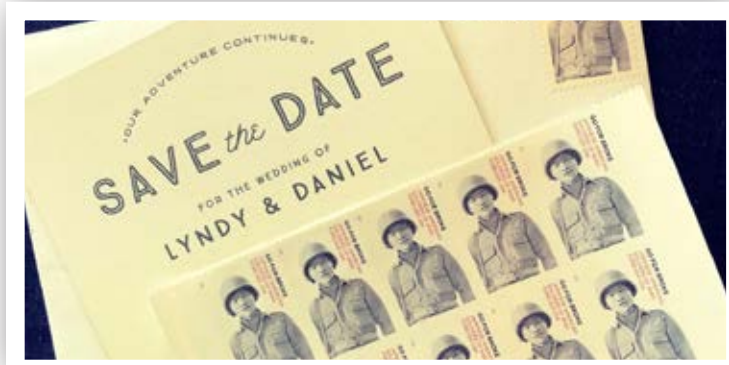
*Marsha Aizumi is an advocate for the LGBTQ+ community and author of the book "Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance."*



Stacia Kato-Takayesu and Erik Takayesu wearing a transgender lei and a rainbow lei

PHOTO: COURTESY OF STACIA KATO-TAKAYESU





Lyndy McGrody and her fiancé, Daniel, plan to include the “Go For Broke” Forever stamp on their wedding invitation cards to honor her Japanese American heritage.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF LYNDY MCGRODY

## HONORING JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS WITH THE ‘GO FOR BROKE’ FOREVER STAMP

How Americans are commemorating WWII Nisei Soldiers beyond Veterans Day this year

By Stamp Our Story Committee

Less than six months after the U.S. Postal Service’s unveiling of the first-ever Forever stamp to feature an Asian American soldier, Americans are purchasing the “Go for Broke: Japanese American Soldiers of World War II” Forever stamp (currently valued at \$0.58 per stamp) and sharing it with family and friends in ways that honor U.S. veterans beyond annual events like Veterans Day on Nov. 11.

For Lyndy McGrody, a native of California, the stamp holds a special place in her heart because it represents a part of her identity. As a third-generation Japanese American whose grandmother and extended family were all incarcerated at Heart Mountain, Wyo., during the WWII, McGrody wants to share this unique piece of history with everyone she knows.

“When my fiancé, Daniel, and I went to the post office to buy stamps to send the save-the-date cards and invitations for our wedding next year, I was hoping our post office would have the ‘Go for Broke’ stamp. I knew from my friend, Wayne Osako, that the stamp had finally been released a few months earlier, and I wanted to support the efforts for the stamp that he spoke with me about in the past, as well as support

sharing the history that the stamp carries with others.

“While no one in my family served as part of the 442nd (Regimental Combat Team), they were still directly affected and brought to different types of battles as Japanese Americans during World War II — my grandfather’s family was uprooted from their home in California and sent to live and work in Utah, and my grandmother’s family was sent to Heart Mountain in Wyoming,” she continued. “As a young student, I remember getting to this period of time in U.S. History class and being shocked that the treatment of Japanese Americans during WWII wasn’t mentioned beyond a couple of brief paragraphs. I am hoping the ‘Go for Broke’ stamp sparks conversations amongst others so more people can learn the history behind the stamp and all the other Japanese American stories it represents.”

» See STAMP on page 9

## JACL: PREPARING FOR 2022

During its fall quarterly meeting, the organization continues to work on the legislative front while focusing on staff growth to meet future goal expectations.

By P.C. Staff

JACL is preparing for 2022 and beyond by focusing on strengthening the organization at its core — growing its staff and centering on specialized positions to best meet the challenges of an ever-changing future.

During its fall quarterly National Board Meeting on Nov. 6, which was held virtually due to the ongoing pandemic, Executive Director David Inoue addressed staffing issues and presented to the board a plan to hire key positions in new capacities.

“We’re going through a lot of transitions with staff . . . and I anticipate that we will be doing some significant growth as an organization,” Inoue said. “Therefore, I look forward to bringing on new, more specialized staff so that we can be a more effective and efficient organization, both in our daily operations and how to address the many committee and legislative issues that JACL seeks to tackle.”

With the business manager position still vacant, Inoue proposed a revised job description plan that would see that role split into two positions to best serve the organization: a director of finance/CFO and a separate operations manager, one who would focus on the administration of facilities and HR management.

“The difficulty in recruiting for this position has led to restructuring the role, and it will be reposted with approval from the Personnel and Finance committees,” Inoue addressed in his report.

In addition, JACL is also looking to hire a new Norman Y. Mineta fellow — applications are currently being accepted. On a positive staff-

ing note, Inoue welcomed former JACL fellow Matthew Weisbly to the National Staff in Los Angeles as the new coordinator of education and communications, as well as introduced new Daniel K. Inouye Fellow Alex Shinkawa.

On the legislative front, JACL continues to work with the Department of Justice on implementing the Covid-19 Hate Crimes Act, actively advocate for the Japanese American Confinement Sites Program funding and reauthorization, support HR 2497 the “Amache National Historic Site Act,” serve as a consulting party to help protect land surrounding Minidoka from being used to create a massive wind farm developed by the Bureau of Land Management continues its primary focus of calling for a floor vote on HR 40 — Black Reparations.

JACL Secretary/Treasurer

Matthew Farrells presented an update on the organization’s finances through Aug. 31. Key points included the following:

- YTD results outperformed relative to prior year with significant increase in net assets, driven by net gains on investments.
- Growth in net assets through August were \$1.59M, resulting in total net assets of \$15.56M.
- Net assets includes restricted, temporarily restricted and unrestricted revenue. In addition, it includes unrealized gains/losses on endowment (i.e., investment portfolio)
- Total endowment value is \$15.20M, the highest fund balance ever.

“Our endowment continues to be a really strong foundation for the organization financially,” said Farrells.

Membership revenue continues to trend in an upward direction, and fundraising remains another central focus.

“Really focusing on fundraising . . . and we have been blessed with our endowment, and we are managing operation results quite well despite some staff challenges. We continue to perform well,” Farrells concluded.

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STACI TOJI, ESQ.

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The 48-star flags, bought from eBay, travel with him. Sometimes, Gogo drapes them across the sign of the former WWII prison camp for a photo opportunity.



Organizers and former incarcerated hold the signed flags in Gardena, Calif.

# SIGN HERE TO RECORD THE HISTORY OF INCARCERATION

Since the flag-signing project launch, much has been written about what it represents, but not much has been said about why.



By Lynda Lin Grigsby,  
Contributor

Some write their block numbers or their camp's name. Others keep it simple with just their signatures. On an unusual canvas — a 48-star American flag — the signatures form a yearbook-like collection of people affected by one historic injustice.

Sign your name here if you survived the racism, forced relocation and incarceration during World War II urges Johnny Gogo with a Sharpie marker in hand. By day, he is a judge for the Santa Clara County Superior Court in California, but on weekends, he becomes a crusader to honor the survivors of the Japanese American WWII incarceration experience.

On a sunny October day outside the Japanese American Museum of San Jose (JAMsj), escorts lead survivors in small groups to the table where

the flag regally waits. A man with salt-and-pepper hair wearing a blue shirt and blue jeans unconsciously places a hand over his heart and asks the question on everyone's mind.

"Why are you doing this?" he asks Gogo.

Since the flag-signing project launched in March, a lot has been written about what it represents — an honor to the survivors and their families — but not much has been said about why. Namely, why is Gogo spending so much time and personal resources to collect signatures of former WWII JA incarcerated?

To answer this admittedly cynical question, it's best to get to know Gogo as a person, and to do that, one needs to start from the beginning.

## A SERVANT'S HEART

"My brother, he's all about just bringing awareness and educating folks," said Jessica Cross, about Gogo, one of five children born to Remedios Gogo and Jesus Crisostomo Gogo, a Green Beret during the Vietnam War.

As a military family, the Gogo children traveled the world, belonging everywhere and nowhere at the same time. Gogo, the middle child, was born in a U.S. military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany. The family's nomadic life shaped Gogo's sensibility to make connections quickly.

At the signature collecting events,

he displays this well-honed skill by drawing people close and listening to every painful and mundane detail.

"Judge Gogo is an active and attentive listener (an essential quality for a judge), who genuinely cares about people," wrote Roberta Hayashi, a judge and colleague on the Santa Clara County Superior Court, in an email.

Life was not always easy for the Gogo family. On Dec. 10, 1941, Japan captured Guam just days after attacking Pearl Harbor. There were about 20,000 native Guamanians living on the island, including Gogo's parents.

To make ends meet wherever they were in the world, Remedios Gogo worked multiple jobs, including in housekeeping and retail. On their home island of Guam, young Gogo was an altar boy in their Catholic church.

On the phone from Elk Grove, Calif., Remedios Gogo's voice breaks up with emotion as she talks about her son. "I am so proud of him," she said.

At 80, she talks about the time in elementary school when Gogo was named Chief Quipuha in a cultural celebration named after Guam's first Catholic chief. In a picture immortalizing the event, a bright-eyed Gogo smiles self-assuredly dressed in traditional garb. Remedios Gogo chuckles at the memory.



Young Gogo was named Chief Quipuha in a cultural festival on Guam.

Gogo presides in the Santa Clara County Superior Court.



The Gogo family (from left) Jesse Gogo (brother), Remedios Cepeda Gogo (mom), Jody Gogo (brother), Judge Johnny Gogo, Jessica Cross (sister) and Gene Limtiaco (sister)



Aiko Wada signs the flag.



Gogo (left) with signers at a Gardena event in July

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BACON SAKATANI



After signing his name, Norman Mineta wrote "non-alien."

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BACON SAKATANI



## Organizers and former incarcerated hold up a signed flag at the Salt Lake City Buddhist Temple.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BACON SAKATANI



**Mary Murakami, who graduated from high school in the Topaz prison camp, lives in Maryland.**



**Cartoonist Willie Ito signs the flag at an event in Monterey Park, Calif.**

**Johnny Gogo with George Takei**



It has always been important to him to celebrate his culture and give back to the community.

"As far as I can look back now, it's been part of who I've been," said Gogo, 53.

As a teenager, he enmeshed himself in student organizations. As a young district attorney, he mentored so many high school students in a mock trial program that the Johnny Gogo Award was established to honor volunteer service.

Now in his young career as a judge, he is honoring the living history of Japanese Americans.

"It's so important to share these lessons with our future generations because from generation from generation, we do tend to forget the lessons of history. And unfortunately, sometimes we even forget the negative aspects," said Gogo. "Which includes some of the prejudice."

### A NATIONAL TOUR

Gogo launched the flag-signing project on his own. The project and all the associated travel expenses are self-funded through a frequent flier program and the occasional night's rest at a friend's home.

What started out as an earnest idea to fill one flag has mushroomed into a national educational tour now with 750 signatures filling four flags. Gogo has crisscrossed the country with the goal of visiting all 10 major WWII prison camps. Over Veterans Day, he visited Rohwer and Jerome, bringing his goal to seven historical

sites visited.

The 48-star flags, bought from eBay, travel with him. Sometimes, Gogo drapes them across the sign of the former WWII prison camp for a photo opportunity. In these photos, the past intersects with the present.

There is a self-imposed deadline of Jan. 30, 2022 — Fred Korematsu Day — to finish collecting signatures and donate the flags to JAMsj. He expects to have about 1,000 signatures by then.

The signing events take place all over the U.S. usually in parking lots under pop-up tents. Gogo is the draw — the prestigious superior court judge — but the stars are the people who come sign the flags, many in their 80s and 90s.

At the San Jose event, one person asked if she should sign her maiden name.

"Sign whatever you want," Gogo responded. "This is your flag now."

Gogo approaches the project as both a history buff and sports fanatic. As a young boy, he played football and rode the Fernando Valenzuela wave to become a Dodgers fan. Now he roots for the San Francisco Giants, which seems diametrically opposed, but he reconciles it with a diplomatic sensibility.

"I root for all California teams to do well because I want the state of California to do well," he said.

When a former Heart Mountain incarcerated comes to a signing event, Gogo enthusiastically asks for a

signature in his personal copy of the book "The Eagles of Heart Mountain," about the JA camp football team. In these moments, flashes of childlike enthusiasm shine through.

The project grew the old-fashioned way — through word of mouth and community organizing. In 2021, one would call it viral, except in this case, there is no web presence, not even a website. But don't underestimate the power of the JA community's communication chain, especially when Bacon Sakatani is involved.

Sakatani, a San Gabriel Valley JACL member, has been a dynamo for the events, said Gogo. He recruits, suggests venues and takes photos. By his own estimate, Sakatani has recruited about 40 people to sign the flag.

"Every time I see him these days, I say, 'Bacon, I love you,'" said Gogo.

Sakatani, 92, signed on one of the flag's stars as a Korean War veteran. He also signed on a star for his older brother, Tomomi, who served just before the end of WWII.

"It is important to tell the American public what the JAs went through during WWII," said Sakatani, who lives in West Covina, Calif. "We have proven our loyalty to the U.S. despite being illegally imprisoned."

In the camp survivors, he sees his mom, said Gogo. He sees the strength and resilience that come from suffering.

In Santa Barbara, a nonagenarian volunteered to organize a flag-signing

event at her church.

"How can I say no if a 90-year-old is willing to help set up an event and recruit volunteers?" he said.

### THIS IS YOUR FLAG NOW

It's a national remembering tour as much as an education tour.

Some camp survivors who signed the flag early on have since died, making the flag a living memorial. It signifies the ephemeral nature of humanity and the urgency to record history.

Former JA incarcerated come see the flag, touch it, look at the other signatures and talk about camp memories — sometimes good, sometimes painful. Tears spring from eyes and soak masks. It's just the nature of revisiting hard memories, said Gogo.

Former Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta signed his name and then wrote "non-alien" next to it. "Why did you sign 'non-alien?'" asked Gogo.

The government designation always upset him, said Mineta. He was an American citizen.

The 48-star flag is a relic of the past, a contradictory symbol of freedom that former incarcerated likely saw flapping in the wind near the barracks that held them captive. The flag is the strongest symbol of any nation, said Gogo.

That's why signing an American flag has given some people pause, he admits. A few have declined. But because the intent is to honor the legacy of the WWII experience of

Japanese Americans, it is not defacing the flag, said Gogo.

Let's go back to the original question: Why is Gogo doing this?

To answer the question means needing to abandon all cynicism. Earlier this year, Gogo was nominated as the U.S. attorney overseeing Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

"It's his dream job," said Cross, who described her older brother as a "celebrity on the island of Guam."

But it's hard to see a correlation between the flag-signing and the fast-tracking of his confirmation. The answer to the question of why Gogo is doing this is simply that it's the right thing to do.

After Korematsu Day, he plans to take a break.

In his national tour of major WWII JA prison camps, Gogo noticed some historical sites have replica guard towers, while other sites don't have any buildings. College students from Boise State University constructed the replica guard tower at Minidoka.

"Wouldn't it be nice," Gogo thought. "If the same thing could happen for Topaz?"

He reached out to local JA leaders in Utah to flesh out the idea. Then he thought about the other historical sites. Wouldn't it be nice to have infrastructure built for all the 10 major camps?

Then he stops himself mid thought and laughs.

"Yes, that's another opportunity to continue the project of helping to educate people," Gogo said. ■



**James Masaki, who served in the U.S. Army from 1964-66, signed the flag in Gardena, Calif.**



**Alan Nishio signed the flag and added 'Manzanar 1945.'**



**Norio Uyematsu signed the flag at an Orange County event in July.**

### WWII veteran Yosh Nakamura with Gogo

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BACON SAKATANI



### MEET JUDGE JOHNNY GOGO AND SIGN A FLAG

FRESNO

Dec. 19  
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Central California Nikkei Foundation  
dba Vintage Gardens Assisted

540 S. Peach Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93727

Contact Gale Nakai to schedule an appointment to sign: email [gale@ccnf.org](mailto:gale@ccnf.org) or call (559) 301-3322.



# FILMMAKER, EDUCATOR HOLLY YASUI Dead at 67

She maintained the legacy of her father, civil rights icon Minoru Yasui.

By P.C. Staff

**H**olly Yasui, a multihyphenate talent who spent the last several years paying tribute to her late father's legacy, has died. She was 67.

The youngest daughter of civil rights legend Minoru Yasui, Holly Yasui died of complications related to Covid-19.

Min Yasui, who died in 1986, was a stalwart leader within the Japanese American Citizens League. His World War II-era challenge to a curfew singling out those of Japanese ancestry, including U.S. citizens, reached the Supreme Court.

According to her immediate family, Yasui died at a hospital on Oct. 31 in the town of Celaya, not from where she had made her home in San Miguel de Allende, in the state of Guanajuato, Mexico, since 1991.

Her family released the following statement: "We are so grateful for the outpouring of love and prayers for Holly and our family. While we grieve Holly's loss, we are blessed to honor her legacy and magnetic spirit. Holly was a passionate advocate for civil justice and a champion of her father's legacy. We appreciate your support and kind words; they are seen, felt and appreciated by the entire family."

JACL Executive Director David Inoue recalled Holly Yasui fondly. "When I first met Holly at a rally in Washington, D.C., she was especially enthusiastic about JACL's leadership in fighting on behalf of other communities. This was not only her father's legacy and his strong belief in JACL's purpose, but she made fighting for justice her own mission. Her unexpected passing is a

shock and tragic loss to us all."

In a statement on behalf of the Japanese American National Museum, President and CEO Ann Burroughs said, "The Museum is deeply saddened to learn about the passing of Holly Yasui, whose film about her father keeps the legacy of his groundbreaking civil rights activism alive. Holly's film memorializes the remarkable efforts of how one man — her father — was fearless in his drive to correct a terrible injustice. His spirit lived on in Holly's own deep commitment to social justice."

Karen Korematsu, whose father, Fred Korematsu, also filed a legal challenge to the forced removal and evacuation of ethnic Japanese that reached the Supreme Court, said, "Holly Yasui had the same fighting spirit as her father, Minoru Yasui. She dedicated the rest of her life carrying on her father's legacy as an advocate and filmmaker. It is a small 'club' that Holly, Jay Hirabayashi (Gordan Hirabayashi) and I (Fred Korematsu) shared in carrying on our respective father's legacies. We worked together and used our collective voice to speak out as our fathers did in the fight to uphold civil rights and democracy for all. I am saddened of Holly's passing and will miss my friend."

In a statement regarding Yasui's death, the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition said, "Holly dedicated her life to fighting for justice and sharing her family's stories. She will be greatly missed by all who had been touched by her love and kindness. We dedicate our lives by taking her spirit in persevering for justice for all."

A native of Denver, she and sisters Iris and Laurie were the three daughters of Tsuru

"True" and Min Yasui.

In addition to being an educator, writer, playwright and activist, Holly Yasui was also a filmmaker, and she used those skills in collaboration with Will Doolittle to share her father's story via the documentary movie "Never Give Up! Minoru Yasui and the Fight for Justice," which premiered on March 28, 2017, in Salem, Ore., in conjunction with Minoru Yasui Day.

Prior to that, she wrote the play "Citizen Min," also about her father, and co-founded the Minoru Yasui Tribute Committee with Peggy Nagae, who served as the lead attorney for Min Yasui's revived attempt to overturn the 1943 Supreme Court decision using an arcane legal procedure known as writ of error *coram nobis*.

In 2016, the Minoru Yasui Tribute Committee successfully nominated Min for a Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in this country, which he received, posthumously, from President Barack Obama in 2015.

Holly Yasui is survived by her partner, Gerardo Armenta Ojeda; sisters, Iris and Laurie; and many friends and relatives.



Holly Yasui

- To learn more about the Minoru Yasui Legacy Project, visit [minoruyasuilegacy.org](http://minoruyasuilegacy.org).
- To read a related story, visit [tinyurl.com/2wz6yfy](http://tinyurl.com/2wz6yfy).
- To watch "Never Give Up! Minoru Yasui and the Fight for Justice" on demand, visit [tinyurl.com/23y323hx](http://tinyurl.com/23y323hx).

## TOSHIKO HASEGAWA WINS PORT OF SEATTLE COMMISSIONER POSITION

**SEATTLE** — Newcomer Toshiko Hasegawa, 33, has defeated incumbent Peter Steinbrueck, 64, who has been Port commissioner since 2018, for Position No. 4, holding 54 percent of the overall vote.

Hasegawa, who currently serves as executive director of the Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, a position where she advises Gov. Jay Inslee and the State Legislature on issues impacting marginalized communities in the state, is a former JACL national staffer, having served as the organization's fund development manager.



In her new role, Hasegawa hopes to "build a sustainable blue economy, support workers and families, address issues of mobility and livability around the port — but it will require strengthening our connections."

The Port of Seattle oversees the seaport and airport of Seattle. Currently, there are 200,000 jobs connected to it. ■

100 YEARS! ANNOUNCING THE:

## JACL CENTENNIAL EDUCATION FUND

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



By investing in JACL's Centennial Education Fund, you solidify our leadership position as the leading Asian American voice in telling the story of the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II and you secure the future such that the lessons from this tragic chapter of U.S. history will always be remembered.



**"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

**DONATE TODAY** to educate the public about our story, enhance educational resources, and combat hate crimes.

**DONATE ONLINE:** [www.jacl.org/centennial](http://www.jacl.org/centennial) | **BY CHECK:** Please send to JACL Headquarters 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115 with memo "Centennial Education Fund" | **BY PHONE:** 415-921-JACL (5225)



## STAMP » continued from page 5

For Mary “Missy” Higgins, the connection of the “Go for Broke” Forever stamp runs deep within her family. Higgins is the daughter of U.S. Army Capt. Marty Higgins, the commanding officer of the “Lost Battalion” that was rescued by the Nisei Soldiers in France during the war.

In Higgins’ family, the story of her father is a reminder of the unsung heroes of the war and a message about acknowledging and supporting the underrepresented members of our community who are facing adversity.

Higgins recalled: “I was in a long line at the post office and wasn’t sure if they had the ‘Go for Broke’ stamp. I asked a postal employee who was straightening out boxes for sale if they had the stamp. He said yes. The man behind me asked what the stamp commemorated. As I told him the story, the entire line was all ears. Many questions followed, and I was proud to share I had known many of these brave men and that they had rescued my father, Capt. Marty Higgins, in the Lost Battalion. The stamp will be on all of my holiday cards.”

To Higgins, if it wasn’t for the Japanese American soldiers, her father would not have returned home. This is a story of gratitude, from her family to the descendants of those soldiers.

Prior to the release of the “Go for Broke” forever stamp, veteran Don Miyada, 96, of Laguna Beach, Calif., a former member of the 100th Infantry Battalion (A Company) who was drafted while at the Poston internment camp, shared his story with AARP on the “Take on Today” podcast earlier this year.

For Miyada, Veterans Day is another opportunity to remember the bravery of the friends and comrades he had lost during wartimes.

“I think [about] all my friends and acquaintances who have given their lives to the service of their country during World War II,” said Miyada. “That extends from my days at Newport Harbor High School to the 442nd combat team. A lot of my friends at Newport Harbor High School died . . . and that’s about 20 of them. Of course, I’ve had friends and comrades who passed away in the 442nd.”

If it were not for the Stamp Our

Story co-founders from California – Fusa Takahashi (93), Aiko O. King (93) and the late Chiz Ohira, who had been incarcerated along with 120,000 Japanese Americans – a Japanese American battalion would not have had a featured commemorative stamp. Thanks to the organization, more people now know the importance of having a stamp to honor the veterans’ legacy.

As the nation recently honored U.S. military men and women on Nov. 11, Betty Katsura of California echoes the importance of supporting the stamp and tells of her efforts to spread the word.

“I have given the stamps to numerous people in four states. When I present the stamps, I talk about the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the campaign Aiko King and her friends began in 2005 to get the stamp issued. Several people said they would keep the stamps as a souvenir. I tell them to use the stamps, please, so that more people see them and, possibly, learn about the 442nd RCT. Let’s spread the story for the Stamp Our Story Committee,” said Katsura. Katsura and King became friends through their work with the Ventura County JACL chapter.

Katsura also shares that one local man in her neighborhood was brought to tears while buying the “Go For Broke” stamp. “A young woman who works behind the counter told me that the previous day an elderly man went in and asked for the stamp,” she explained. “He could barely talk as he was overcome with emotion, but he told her that the stamp represents the finest and most courageous soldiers. He was so happy that they were finally given some recognition.”

Brought to life after the 15-year “Stamp Our Story” campaign, the “Go for Broke” Forever stamp honors the 33,000 Japanese American soldiers who served in the U.S. army during WWII. The stamp will be sold on the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) website until it is sold out.

**To purchase the “Go for Broke” Forever stamp, visit [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com). To learn more about the stamp, visit [StampOurStory.org](http://StampOurStory.org) and follow them on social media @StampOurStory on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.**

## JACL 2022 » continued from page 5

David Lin, JACL vp of planning and development, gave an update on the progress of the Centennial Education Fund campaign, which launched in July with a goal of raising \$3 million over the next three years.

“As of Oct. 15, we are at \$971,204,

nearly \$1 million,” said Program Director — Membership and Fund Development Phillip Ozaki, who is also working with Lin on the CEF. “Altogether, we’re looking at money this organization can use toward edu-

cation. . . . I want to thank everybody for [their donations], but I want to still remind everyone that this is a marathon, and we have to keep the momentum going.”

And Saki Mori, vp of 1,000 Club, membership and services, optimistically told the board that JACL is poised to reach its \$418K revenue goal by year’s end.

“We’re at



574 new members to date,” Mori reported. “We’re looking forward to next year. . . . We’re ready to get back with (in-person) programming and that will result in helping us out with our membership and movement and retention. . . . But we’re also going to consider those hybrid considerations because it really shows the benefits of virtual — we’re thinking of all those elements.”

Wrapping up the report was Membership Coordinator Bridget Keaveney, who presented the new “Otoshidama Campaign,” with a “goal to renew and onboard as many new members as possible while honoring the Japanese tradition of *otoshidama* at New Year’s.” It also seeks to amass a higher number of youth memberships.

The campaign, set to launch at the end of this month, will include a membership card, JACL stickers and a Power of Words handbook. ■

## MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE SUPERINTENDENT BERNADETTE JOHNSON RETIRES

**LOS ANGELES** — The Manzanar Committee congratulates and extends its best wishes to Bernadette Johnson, superintendent of the Manzanar National Historic Site, upon her retirement from the National Park Service on Nov. 8.

Johnson, who served as superintendent at Manzanar beginning in June 2014, is finishing her career after 31 years of federal service. She has previously worked with the National Park Service Division of Interpretation and Visitor Services in Santa Fe, N.M., at Grand Canyon National Park and at Glacier National Park. She then worked in several positions with the Bureau of Land Management before returning to the National Park Service at Manzanar.

“On behalf of the Manzanar Committee, I want to thank Bernadette for her work at Manzanar,” said Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embrey.

“Bernadette has really helped solidify many of the projects at Manzanar and has worked closely with us to ‘professionalize’ many aspects of our Pilgrimage,” he continued. “Following up on former Superinten-

**Bernadette Johnson, superintendent of the Manzanar National Historic Site, is pictured addressing the crowd during the 48th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage on April 29, 2017, at the Manzanar National Historic Site.**

PHOTO: GANN MATSUDA/  
MANZANAR COMMITTEE



dent Les Inafuku’s efforts to ensure that our community was safe at the Pilgrimage, she helped us handle many health and safety issues,” he concluded.

Embrey noted that the Manzanar Committee has worked closely with every superintendent and the staff since Manzanar became a national historic site in 1992.

“Naturally, given the nature of our relationship to the site, having lobbied for and helping shape the site’s foundations, we have some pretty strong opinions,” he said. “There always is and will be creative tensions between the

National Park Service and the Manzanar Committee. This is to be expected, and I’m sure it exists at other sites, as well. I think it’s useful for all stakeholders to reflect on, and draw lessons from, the changing of the guard.

“Clearly, we believe our community must have, and needs to have, input on the work at Manzanar, beyond a promotional role,” Embrey added. “We look forward to continuing our work with the National Park Service to work out how we all can make the Manzanar National Historic Site an impactful and enriching place for all.” ■

## Answer this Survey on Arthritis for a Cause!

Keiro is partnering with the Arthritis Foundation and we need your help collecting valuable data, specifically in the Japanese American and Asian American communities. Regardless of your age or whether you have arthritis or not, please help Keiro by participating in this brief survey!



Scan here to access the survey!



Survey link: <https://qrco.de/Keiro>



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.**

## NCWNP

**Mochitsuki Workshops**  
San Francisco, CA  
Dec. 18; 11 a.m.-5:45 p.m.  
(30-minute shifts)  
JCCCNC  
1840 Sutter St.  
Price: \$15 for Center Members;  
\$20 for General Public. All  
participants must provide proof  
of full vaccination upon arrival,  
including minors.

Come to the center's annual mochitsuki workshop to learn how mochi is made and come away with delicious mochi for your enjoyment and seasonal festivities! This is a great cultural activity for groups and families. George Yamada, owner of Yamada Seika manju-ya, will share his knowledge and talents so that you can make your own mochi and take home up to 2 pounds of your own creation.

**Info:** To register, visit <https://14797.blackbaudhosting.com/14797/Mochitsuki>.

**Hidden Histories of San Jose Japantown: Liberation Technology, Art and Community Building in Action**  
San Jose, CA  
Thru Jan. 16, 2022

JAMsj is excited to feature this exhibit where you can learn more about this unique, grassroots project that combines augmented reality technology, art and local history and culture to explore the little-known, "hidden" stories of connection between the Chinese, Japanese and Filipino communities that together shaped the Japantown we know today.

**Visit:** <https://hiddenhistoriesjtown.org/>.

## PSW

**'Hello Maggie!' Book Signing**  
Los Angeles, CA  
Nov. 28; 12:30-2:30 p.m.  
JANM

100 N. Central Ave.  
Price: Free. All Visitors Must Show Proof of Full Vaccination Status or a Negative PCR Covid-19 Test Taken Within 72 Hours.

JANM is pleased to welcome Shigeru Yabu and Willie Ito, author and illustrator, respectively, of the children's book "Hello Maggie!" There will be a book signing after a brief discussion about this new edition and upcoming animated film version. "Hello Maggie!" relates the true story of Yabu's childhood pet, a wild scavenger magpie bird, that was his companion while he was incarcerated at Heart Mountain concentration camp in Wyoming during WWII. A copy of the book is available

for purchase through the JANM store.  
**Info:** To RSVP, visit <https://9644p.blackbaudhosting.com/9644p/tickets?tab=2&txobjid=3ad4ad57-99f6-4af5-a6a8-53453213c557>.

**Merry and Bright MusicFest**  
Los Angeles, CA  
Dec. 5; 3-11 p.m.

JACCC Aratani Theatre  
244 S. San Pedro St.  
Price: Tickets Start at \$35; \$25 Livestream

Colorful and festive, this concert heralds the return of Filipino American artists at the Aratani Theatre. A mix of seasoned and younger artists, including Mon David, Louie Reyes, Miguel Vera and Annie Nepomuceno will perform with a live band led by Tateng Katindig.

**Info:** Visit <http://www.musicartsevents.com/merry--bright-musicfest-2021.html>.

**'Japanese Americans: Community, Incarceration, Activism and Local History' Class for Participants 50+**  
Ventura, CA  
Nov. 17-Dec. 15 (Break on 11/23); 1-3 p.m.

**Virtual Lecture**  
JACL Ventura Co-President Dr. Lily Welty Tamai will be teaching this Zoom class through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at CSU Channel Islands for adult participants 50+ who want to continue the joy of learning through this lecture focusing on the Japanese American community in the U.S. during the 20th century. The curriculum will introduce the history and contemporary experience of Asian Americans with a focus on the JA community from the beginning of large-scale immigration in the 1890s, with emphasis on the World War II experience, to the movement of redress leading to the 1988 Civil Liberties Act and postwar pilgrimages to incarceration sites.

**Info:** Visit <https://ext.csuci.edu/programs/professional-community-ed/osher-lifelong-learning-institute/osherfall2catalogfinalresized.pdf>.

**Next Generation Summit 2021 — Ideas to Action: Breaking Barriers for a Sustainable Community With Enduring Value**  
Los Angeles, CA  
Dec. 10-11  
Virtual Event

The Next Generation Summit is open to the public and will highlight TOMODACHI alumni and Watanabe scholars and the issues they, as the next generation, find most relevant today. The summit will also highlight leaders and experts from various fields who will talk about the actions and measures they have taken to be change makers in society both in the U.S. and Japan.

**Info:** To register, visit <https://us-japancouncil-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUudO2hpzljEtHpvLb0obgAME3mljtZpMYn>.

**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).

**Mine Okubo's Masterpiece: The Art of 'Citizen 13660'**  
Los Angeles, CA  
Thru Feb. 20, 2022  
JANM

100 N. Central Ave.  
Price: Check Museum Website for Ticket Information

Mine Okubo's graphic memoir, "Citizen 13660," was first published in 1946. Through nearly 200 illustrations, Okubo captures how WWII and the subsequent incarceration upended her life. This is the first time the materials comprising her book will be on exhibit. Included will be sketches she completed while she was incarcerated at Tanforan and Topaz, original drawings and a draft of the final manuscript.

**Info:** Visit <https://www.janm.org/exhibits/mine-okubo-masterpiece>.

**'Hayao Miyazaki' Inaugural Exhibit**  
Los Angeles, CA  
Thru 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 museum information.

## PNW

**Asian American Santa**  
Seattle, WA  
Dec. 4

**Wing Luke Museum**  
719 S. King St.

Asian American Santa returns! Santa stayed home safe last winter, but he's back for in-person photos this year! Don't miss this opportunity to get a great photo with Santa and take home prints the day of the event. Covid precautions are in place and vaccination proof is required for ages 12 and up.  
**Info:** Reservations required. Visit <https://25646p.blackbaudhosting.com/25646p/Asian-American-Santa-2021-04Dec2021-37>.

**Grace, Grit and Gaman: Japanese American Women Through the Generations**

Portland, OR

Thru Dec. 31

**Japanese American Museum of Oregon**

411 N.W. Flanders St.

Price: Check Museum for Admission Prices

Curated by Marsha Matthews and Linda Tamura, this new exhibition shares the rarely revealed story of the grace, grit and gaman (perseverance) displayed by JA women. Viewers will gain a view of multiple generations of JA women and the unique challenges they have faced — in their own ways, on their own terms and in their own times.

**Info:** Visit <http://www.oregon-nikkei.org/exhibits.htm> for more information.

## IDC

**JASC-JETAARM Nengajyo Making Workshop**  
Denver, CO  
Dec. 18; 10 a.m.-Noon  
Japan America Society of Colorado  
1373 Grant St.

Price: Free

Join JETAA at the JASC office for a fun end-of-year activity to get ready for the new year. During this workshop, participants will make a nengajyo to commemorate the upcoming Year of the Tiger. All materials will be supplied. Please RSVP to ensure enough supplies are available for all participants.

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

## MDC

**Hoosier Chapter Annual Holiday Luncheon**  
Indianapolis, IN  
Dec. 5; 1 p.m.  
Ocean World Restaurant  
1206 W. 86th St.

**Price: Information to Come**

Join the Hoosier chapter of the JACL at its annual holiday luncheon. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate the spirit of the season and join friends and family as the chapter celebrates its accomplishments and achievements. More information to follow!

**Info:** For more information, visit [www.hoosierjacl.org](http://www.hoosierjacl.org) or email [info@hoosierjacl.org](mailto:info@hoosierjacl.org).

## EDC

**Japanese Screen: Parodies and Legends**

Worcester, MA

Thru December

**Worcester Art Museum**

55 Salisbury St.

Price: Museum Admission

This exhibit will feature a handscroll by painter Furuyama Moromasa representing one of the most elaborate and extensive works by the artist. It contains 20 separate paintings, each approximately four feet long. The screen will be unrolled in stages to exhibit different portions of the scroll.

**Info:** For more information, visit <https://www.worcesterart.org/exhibitions/japanese-screens/>.

**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 Aflitunov, Annika Cheng, Bok Kim, Anson Lin, Manzar Rassouli, Ellie Rha, Nimi Trehan, Carole Lee and Monica Youn.

**Info:** Visit [https://events.towson.edu/center\\_for\\_the\\_arts\\_gallery#YTqXVy1h3GI](https://events.towson.edu/center_for_the_arts_gallery#YTqXVy1h3GI).

**Fabric of a Nation: American Quilt Stories**

Boston, MA

Thru Jan. 17, 2022

**Museum of Fine Arts**

465 Huntington Ave.

One of the quilts on exhibit was made by 58 fourth-graders in Poston concentration camp during WWII. Also on exhibit is a quilt by contemporary artist Tomie Nagano.

**Info:** Visit <https://www.mfa.org>. ■

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**FOR MORE INFO:**

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(213) 620-1767



# In MEMORIAM

**Abe, Masayo, 92**, Monterey Park, CA, Sept. 13; she is survived by her husband, Albert Shogo Abe; daughters, Christi Abe (Chuck) Miyahira and Sandra Abe (Ryan) Tsujii; sisters, Tazue Hayashi and Fujie Otani; gc: 4.

**Domoto, Lily Yuriko, 92**, Torrance, CA, May 10; she is survived by her children, Denise (Thomas) Okabe, Lisa (Craig) Maeda and Carol (Jeffrey) Hiroto; siblings, Reiko Tsuchimoto, Hasu Fujitani, Amy, Chiyo and Shoichi Shingu; sisters-in-law, Sumie Maruya, Alice and Selina Shingu; gc: 6.

**Endo, Frederick, 94**, Kawaguchi, Japan; he is survived by his siblings, Chiaki Esther Thompson and Kikumi (Chrys) Endo; sisters-in-law, Fusae Endo and Mary Endo; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews.



**Fukumoto, Randy Haruo, 89**, Gardena, CA, Oct. 4; he was predeceased by his siblings, Ken (Tsuru) Fukumoto, Joseph Fukumoto, Janet (Alex) Ruiz and Myra (Shige) Muramoto; he is survived by his wife, Esther "Chico" Fukumoto; son, Wayne H. (Liz) Fukumoto; siblings, Ted (Alice) Fukumoto, Helen Hirano, Gladys (Frank) Yoshii, Gary (Betty) Fukumoto, Naomi Masaki and Gaylord (Susan) Fukumoto; gc: 1; step-gc: 1.

**Hanafusa, Karen, 75**, Cypress, CA, July 27; she is survived by her daughter, Brooke Hanafusa; sister, Janis Hanafusa Tom; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and a grandnephew.

**Ikeda, June Sumie, 92**, Torrance, CA, Nov. 8; she is survived by her husband, Tamotsu Ikeda; children, Winston Ikeda and Gwenn (Dr. Thomas) Omoto; gc: 3.

**Kakita, Lilly Yuriko, 96**, Gardena, CA, Oct. 11; she is survived by her children, Nancy (Mark) Nagayama and Thomas (Arlene) Kakita; sisters-in-law, Haru (Ben) Fuchiwaki, Tomoko (Tak) Tomiyama and Harriet (George) Gerza; gc: 2; ggc: 3.

**Kamimoto, Hitoshi, 84**, Fresno, CA, Oct. 17; he was predeceased by his son, Kevin; he is survived by his wife, Ellen; children, Elisa Kamimoto (John Hayashi), Jason Kamimoto (Michael Beattie) and Erin Kamimoto (Jose Angeles); daughter-in-law, Patricia Kamimoto; siblings, Aiko Imada, Mariko Imada, Haruko Nakagawa, Hanako Nishimoto, Mary Kunishige; Joe Kamimoto, Henry Kamimoto and Sho Kamimoto; gc: 2.



**Masuda, Frances Eiko, 98**, Rosemead, CA, Sept. 26; during WWII, she was incarcerated at both the Manzanar and Tule Lake WRA Centers; she was predeceased by her husband, Archie Takeshi

Masuda; she is survived by her sons, Glenn (Carol) Masuda and Daniel Masuda; sister, Rose Hisae Myose.

**Mayeda, Jennifer, 38**, Gulf Breeze, FL, May 23.



**Miwa, Fred Atsushi, 89**, Pasadena, CA, Oct. 9; an Army veteran, he was predeceased by his wife, Yasuko Kumagai; he is survived by his fiancée, Marion Setsuko Tani; brothers, Bob Miwa and Takeshi Miwa (Judy).



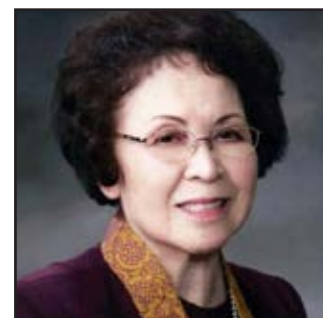
**Nakagawa, Tsuneko S., 93**, Irvine, CA, Sept. 16; a Chicago JACL member and longtime Chicago resident, she aided in convincing Sen. Charles Percy (R-IL) to support legislation to establish the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians during the Redress Campaign.

**Nakagawa, Viola Sadako, 100**, Los Angeles, CA, June 3, 2021; predeceased by husband, Fred Nakagawa; survived by sister, Dorothy Matsuda; and many nieces, nephews, other family members, and friends.

**Okada, Marsha, 70**, Selma, CA, Oct. 10; she is survived by her children, Jennifer Khiem (Dustin) and Matthew Okada; siblings, Rod Misaki (Kathy) and Kerri Katayama (Donnie); gc: 2.

**Okura, David Masao, 82**, Los Alamitos, CA Sept. 17; he is survived by his wife, Joyce Okura; children, Michael Okura, Karen (Mitch) Hartmann and Vicki (Marek) Zadrozny; siblings, Ted (Pat) Okura, Gary (Frances) Okura and Janice (Wilbur) Shigehara; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives; gc: 2.

**Sakamoto, Donald Kiyomi, 81**, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 20; he is survived by his wife, Lois Kuperman-Sakamoto; brother, Norman (Marjorie) Sakamoto; sisters-in-law, Jeanne Sakamoto and Diane (Aaron) Aronson; brother-in-law, Irv Kuperman; he is also survived by nephews, a niece and many other relatives.



**Sugimoto, Yasuko, 94**, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 2; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Rohwer WRA Center in AR; she was predeceased by her husband, Shigeo; she is survived by her children, Gene and Cheryl; gc: 2; ggc: 1.



**Suyetsugu, Paul**, La Habra, CA, Oct. 18; he is survived by his wife, Kathy; siblings, Jane Hawley,

Elaine (Keith) Igarashi and Mark (Cathy); he is also survived by many other relatives.



**Takekawa, John Akira, 98**, Bloomington, MN, Nov. 5; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Minidoka WRA Center in ID; Army veteran (WWII; MIS); member of Twin Cities JACL; he was predeceased by his wife, Phyllis, brothers, Yutaka and Tom, and daughter, Joyce; he is survived by Carol (Dick) Dean, Scott (Sue) Takekawa, and Sue (Curt) Nelson; gc: 7, ggc: 10.

**Takemoto, Tomie, 92**, Fresno, CA, Oct. 18; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Gila River WRA Center in AZ; she was predeceased by her husband, Kazuma, and brothers, George Izuno and Toyoki (Tayo) Izuno; she is survived by her children, Curtis Takemoto (Debbie) and Lori Page (Rick); gc: 5; ggc: 4.



**Wada, Carol Ann Kazuko, 71**, Downey, CA, Sept. 25; she was predeceased by her brother, George Vincent Wada; she is survived by her fiancé, Scott Quinn; siblings, Doris (Roy) Longman, Maurice (Onolee) Wada; she is also survived by nieces, a nephew and a great-niece.

**Watanabe, Kenji, 88**, North Hills, CA, Oct. 28.

## TRIBUTE

### BARBARA MITSUNAGA



two great-grandchildren. Friends and family will fondly remember her gentle nature and generous spirit.

Barbara Keiko Mitsunaga was a Yonsei born on Oct. 13, 1934, in Monterey Park, Calif., and died on Nov. 2, 2021, in Henderson, Nev. She was sent with her family to the Gila River internment camp during World War II. After, they settled in Utah. She raised her four children, Jani, Darrell, Tracy, and Hollis, in Salt Lake City and ran the law office of her husband, Jimi Mitsunaga, former JACL Utah chapter president. She is survived by her husband, children, seven grandchildren, and

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## REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

# AARP SURVEY: VETERANS MORE LIKELY TO LOSE MONEY TO FRAUDSTERS

By Ron Mori

As we enter the holiday season, veterans, active-duty service members and their families are nearly 40 percent more likely to lose money to scams and fraud than the civilian population, according to a new AARP report. Additionally, 4 out of 5 military/veteran adults were targeted by scams directly related to their military service or the benefits they receive.

"Our research shows scammers are taking aim at the veteran and military community at alarming rates, emphasizing the importance of staying up to date on the latest scams and how to avoid them," said Troy Broussard, senior adviser of AARP Veterans and Military Families Initiative.

"Knowing the red flags can not only help veterans, military and their families avoid losing money, but also avoid the emotional toll from scams."

Scammers often use military jargon and specific government guidelines to craft an effective pitch to steal money from military members and veterans. One in 3 military/veteran adults reported losing money to these types of service-related scams. Of those who lost money, the top scams reported include:

- Benefit Buyouts: Turning over U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) pension and/or disability benefits for a supposed lump-sum payment that never materializes (47 percent).
- Fraudulent Records Scam: Paying for updated personal

military records (32 percent).

- The Fake Charitable Giving Request: Donating to fake veteran charities (32 percent).

Other key findings include:

- Military/veteran adults reported losing more money than civilians on the grandparent-impostor scam (more than twice as often) and financial phishing schemes (nearly twice as often).
- Nearly half of military/veteran adults reported they are not using a robocall blocking service and over 1 in 4 have not registered their phone numbers on the National Do Not Call Registry.
- Eighty-one percent of military/veteran adults have not placed a security freeze on their credit report.

To make scams easier to spot, AARP's Fraud Watch Network recommends signing up for the National Do Not Call Registry and using a call-blocking service.

Additional measures include using strong and unique passwords for each online account, using two-factor authentication when available and placing a free security freeze on credit reports at each of the three major credit bureaus. Also, veterans never have to pay for their service

records or earned benefits — if told otherwise, it's a scam.

### How Does AARP Help Veterans Combat Fraud?

Operation Protect Veterans — a joint program of the AARP Fraud Watch Network and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service — helps veterans, service members and their families to protect against fraud.

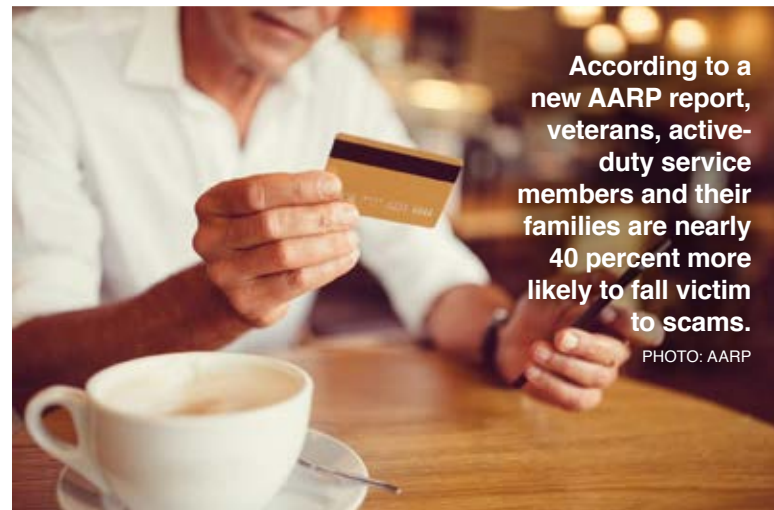
The Fraud Watch Network also offers biweekly fraud alerts and a free helpline (877-908-3360) through which veterans, military and the public can report suspected scams.

The AARP Watchdog Handbook: Veterans' Edition explains 10 ways that con artists target veterans.

For more information and resources for veterans on the latest fraud and scams, visit [aarp.org/veterans](http://aarp.org/veterans).

The survey was administered in August 2021 to a total of 1,660 people: 851 active or former U.S. military respondents and 809 nonmilitary (civilian) adults ages 18 and older using NORC's AmeriSpeak Internet Panel. The margin of error is 4.40 percent at the 90 percent confidence level.

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



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