



PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 93 YEARS

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Topaz Museum
Board
Announcement

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WWII Memorial
Planned for
Torrance Park

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HISTORY REDISCOVERED

Wartime artifacts and a 1947 list of JACL

East Bay chapter members are found in an
Oakland home.

Photo of artist
Sadayuki Uno,
Rohwer, AR, 1944,
taken by Paul
Faris, who was
commissioned by
Allen Eaton.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF
DELPHINE HIRASUNA

JACL ANNOUNCES 2022 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

By JACL National

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Japanese American Citizens League announced recently that the 2022 National Scholarship and Awards Program is now underway. The JACL annually offers approximately 30 college scholarships for students who are incoming college freshmen, undergraduates and graduates, as well as those specializing in law and the creative/performing arts. There are also financial aid scholarships for those demonstrating a need for financial assistance.

Scholarship Program guidelines, instructions and applications have been posted on the JACL website (www.jacl.org) and can be accessed by clicking the "Programs" tab on the menu bar.

Continuing from the 2021 program, the application forms for the scholarship program will

be completely online. Freshman applications must be submitted directly by the applicant to National JACL through the online form no later than March 4, 11:59 p.m. Hawaiian Standard Time (HST).

These freshman applications will then be disseminated to their respective chapters for review. Chapters will have one month to evaluate their applications and forward the names of the most outstanding applicants to National JACL. It is these applications that shall be forwarded to the National Freshman Scholarship Committee for final selection.

Applications for the nonfreshman scholarship categories (undergraduate, graduate, law, creative/performing arts and financial aid) are also to be sent directly by the applicant to National JACL through the online form no later than April 1, 11:59 p.m. HST.

All those applying to the National JACL Scholarship Program must be a youth/student or individual member of the JACL; a couple/family membership held by a parent does NOT meet this requirement.

Applicants must also be enrolled in school in fall 2022 in order to be eligible for a scholarship. If a student has received two National

scholarship awards previously, they are no longer eligible to apply, as the limit is two national awards per person.

For more information on the National JACL Scholarship Program, contact Scholarship Program Manager Matthew Weisby at scholarships@jacl.org.



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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Earlier this month, dozens of Japanese American community members and others, including the *Pacific Citizen*, received an email from the Topaz Museum saying that four new directors had been appointed to its board.

Not one of us on the Wakasa Memorial Committee were copied on or received this important update.

This sends a conflicting message from the museum board's previous statements that it would work with the committee and its advisory council of experts to seriously address the board's desecration of the Wakasa Monument and Memorial site at Topaz.

We call upon the Topaz Museum Board to work openly, collaboratively and respectfully with the Wakasa Memorial Committee. This misstep by the museum can be corrected.

Sincerely,

Wakasa Memorial Committee,
<https://wakasamemorial.org>
(Letter Dated Jan. 26, 2022)



PACIFICCITIZEN 2022 SPRING CAMPAIGN

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

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

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

— Gil Asakawa



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE NEED FOR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION COULDN'T BE ANY CLEARER

By David Inoue,
JACL Executive Director

The Supreme Court has rocketed to the top of the news cycle with two major announcements. On Jan. 24, the court announced it would decide whether race-conscious admissions programs at Harvard and the University of North Carolina are lawful. Two days later, Justice Stephen Breyer announced his intention to retire. What connects these two announcements is President Joe Biden's longtime announced intention to nominate a Black woman to the court.

The reaction was swift and not unexpected. By stating that he would select a Black woman, Biden was excluding 93 percent of the population from consideration! If those using this argument truly want to make their ridiculous argument more accurate,

nominating a Black woman would actually be even more discriminatory in their eyes.

According to the Pew Research Center, of the 3,843 people who have ever served as federal judges, only 70, or less than 2 percent, have been Black women. In the current court, there are 56 judges who are Black women amongst 1,395, or 4 percent, current sitting judges, according to BuzzFeed News.

Supreme Court justices are often selected from this pool and, more realistically, the appellate courts, where only 13 Black women have ever served. So, by intending to select a Black woman, well over 99.9 percent of the U.S. population is being eliminated from consideration.

Former President Donald Trump's nominees to the federal court were 84 percent white, according to the

Pew Research Center. As a result, the courts became even less diverse as the percentage of sitting judges who identified as African American, Hispanic or Asian American sat at 21 percent as of a February 2020 study by the Center for American Progress.

The courts are significantly underrepresented by minorities. And yet, under the previous administration, the courts moved in the direction of less diversity.

In the wake of Justice Breyer's retirement announcement and Biden's affirmation that he would nominate a Black woman, Sen. Lindsey Graham went on CBS' "Face the Nation" and stated, "Put me in the camp of making sure the court and other institutions look like America. You know, we make a real effort as Republicans to recruit women and people of color to make the party look more like America. Affirmative action is picking somebody not as well qualified for past wrongs." The Senator continued on to say about one of the likely candidates, "Michelle Childs is incredibly qualified. There's no affirmative-action component if you pick her."

While I applaud the Senator for affirming that the court and other institutions need to look like America, he is absolutely wrong about this not being affirmative action. Biden's intent to select a Black woman is exactly what affirmative action is, and the court is

a perfect place to demonstrate why affirmative action is needed.

The flaw in Sen. Graham's and many people's understanding of affirmative action is that those selected are inherently not as well qualified. Affirmative action is entirely about selecting those who are otherwise qualified but have been overlooked for selection because of inherent bias in the system.

Sen. Graham applauds Judge Childs as "incredibly qualified." The question should not be whether Biden is selecting his nominee only because of their identification as a Black woman, but why was such a qualified candidate NOT nominated by Donald Trump?

In the cases of Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, their nominations in many ways retained a quota for white men on the court, yet no one makes the charge that they are affirmative-action cases or were admitted to the court to fill a quota of white men. Similarly, Amy Coney Barrett replaced a white woman — was that also a seat filled according to a quota for white women?

The reality is that the court and most every institution of power are overrepresented by white men. Sen. Graham has unwittingly revealed the truth behind why we need affirmative action. It has never been an issue of minority candidates being unqualified. It is that the white candidates

still want to maintain their preference over others.

Opponents to affirmative action want us to think that it promotes unqualified individuals, when it is actually promoting "incredibly qualified" candidates — they just don't want to call it affirmative action then. Affirmative action ensures that qualified minorities are considered.

The question to be asked of Sen. Graham and others who oppose affirmative action: "If Judge Childs is so incredibly qualified, why did Donald Trump not nominate her or another incredibly qualified non-white candidate?"

We cannot allow the false narrative to continue that affirmative action places unqualified minorities into scarce positions. The reality is that minority candidates such as Judge Childs are qualified but have not been considered because too many white candidates have been considered ahead of her.

We need affirmative action to bring her candidacy forward and highlight the excellent qualifications she and many others can bring to the court, institutions of higher learning and the workplace.

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



NIKKEI VOICE

A LATE COLORADO PHOTOGRAPHER'S VISIONS OF KYOTO

By Gil Asakawa

Like most countries including the U.S., Japan is struggling with the spread of the Omicron variant of Covid-19. Aside from its internal battles to vaccinate and provide boosters to its citizens, Japan's pretty hardline solution to help manage the pandemic has been a strict blockade of foreigners entering its borders — even foreigners with resident visas and students. Never mind that the situation has been a terrible stress for a lot of people who already live there but happened to be traveling outside the country before the lockdown, but it's also been frustrating for people like me: tourists.

I love traveling to Japan, as I've written before. I especially think Japanese Americans should go there

because you're sure to feel deep connections and find parts of you that you didn't even know you were missing. Never mind whether you can speak Nihongo or not — most Americans can't, yet many Americans travel to Japan who aren't JA and get around just fine.

I miss going to Japan. The last time I was there was in the fall of 2019, mere months before Covid shut everything down.

I've missed Japan so much that I've been thinking about an American photographer, William Corey, who also loved Japan and found his life's artistic calling there, shooting

gorgeous, enormous photographs of gardens in Kyoto. Specifically, Zen gardens at Buddhist temples that reflect the awesome peace and tranquility that is part and parcel of Japanese aesthetics.

Corey was born in New Jersey in 1949 and lived in Boulder, Colo., for 25 years, until his death from cancer in 2008. Not only was he able to capture spectacular, detailed images of Japanese gardens, but also his talent was such that he was the only Western photographer commissioned to shoot the Imperial Gardens in Kyoto.

When Emperor Akihito and Em-

press Michiko visited Colorado in 1994 with a stop in Boulder, Corey was invited to capture the gardens. He's captured a lot of the most famous gardens in Japan and photographed them in all the seasons to express the epic scope of his appreciation for them.

Corey was inspired to shoot photos of gardens in Japan after seeing a PBS show about them in 1974. He traveled often to Japan, where he also met and married Reimi Adachi, who today is the executor of his estate and dedicated keeper of his artistic legacy.

What made his art so special? Corey was an old-school photographer, and I don't mean just that he used film and not digital cameras. When Corey saw the detail and majestic intricacy of a classic Kyoto garden,

he realized that just using a 35-millimeter camera wouldn't do the subject justice. Nor a typical "large-format" camera that used 4x5- or even 8x10-inch sheets of film.

Corey found an antique "banquet camera" from the early 20th century that was designed to shoot large group pictures of people at — you guessed it — banquets. It used a wide-angle lens to capture everyone and held sheets of film that were 8x20 inches.

The camera was a wooden contraption with black leather bellows perched on a wooden tripod with a black shroud that draped over the photographer, like a stereotype of a long-ago camera (which it was).

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE WILLIAM COREY GALLERY



Shimogamo Shrine

Hakuruen

» See KYOTO on page 9

TOPAZ MUSEUM WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The museum also opens its newest exhibit, 'Topaz Stories,' at the State Capitol in Salt Lake City.

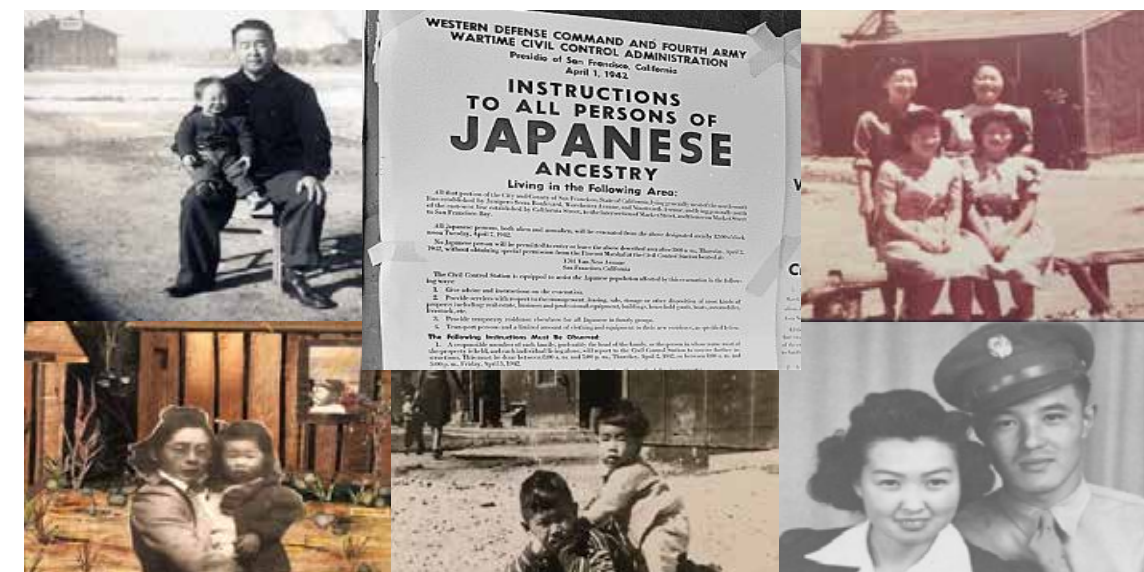
DELTA, UTAH — The Topaz Museum Board is happy to announce the appointment of four new members: Kiley Chase, Sherrie Hayashi, Ned Isokawa and Patricia Wakida. Their terms began in January.

Kiley Chase resides in Delta, Utah, and works at the Intermountain Power Service Corp. He grew up in Leamington, Utah, about 18 miles from Delta, and returned to the area after graduating from Utah State University.

He is a current member of the Delta City Council and has served as liaison to the Delta City Library Board, the Public Works Department and the Planning and Zoning Commission. He has a history of public service and is a past president of the Delta Area Chamber of Commerce.

Sherrie Hayashi is a descendant of the Fujii family, who was incarcerated at Topaz during World War II. She currently works at the University of Utah, where she earned her Juris Doctor, and serves as the director of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX Coordinator.

She is a former Commissioner of the Utah Labor Commission and served as a cabinet member of former Utah Governors Jon M. Huntsman and Gary Herbert. Hayashi is active in the Japanese American community and is a long-standing board member of the Salt Lake chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, as well as a past presi-



"Topaz Stories" exhibit will be on display at the Utah State Capitol Building until Dec. 31.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE TOPAZ MUSEUM

dent. Following in the footsteps of her grandparents and her parents, she resides in Salt Lake City.

Ned Nobuo Isokawa was born in Topaz. His family moved back to their hometown of Oakland, Calif., after the war ended, and he has lived in the East Bay ever since. After attending Oakland public schools, he enrolled at the University of California, Berkeley, and graduated with a B.S. degree in electrical engineering and a J.D. degree from the UC Berkeley Law School.

A retired attorney, he was a partner in the Oakland and San Francisco offices of large international law firms. From 2011-19, he served as

board president of J-Sei, a senior service nonprofit serving the East Bay Japanese American community. In 1993, he was board president of the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area and is a member of the Leadership Council of Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus.

Patricia Wakida is a fourth-generation Japanese American living in Oakland, Calif. She has dedicated much of her career to researching, writing and creating artwork reflective of her culture and history.

She is currently serving as an editor for Discover Nikkei, associate editor and writer for the Densho Encyclope-

dia Project and contributing writer for the *Nichibei Times* newspaper. She's also served as an associate curator of history at the Japanese American National Museum, lead writer for the National Japanese American Historical Society's exhibit on the Military Intelligence Service, exhibition lead writer for the Topaz Museum and co-editor/researcher/writer for "Only What We Could Carry: The Japanese American Internment Experience."

Wakida's public art installations includes a "Day of Remembrance" mandala with the Yonsei Memory Project at the Fresno Fairgrounds, "I Am An American Family No.

25344," at the Fresno Housing Authority, and she is currently working on a Japanese American public art work to be installed in Hayward, Calif., this year.

The new board members join Lance Atkinson, Scott Bassett, Lorelei Draper, Mark Nelson, Rick Okabe, Hisashi Bill Sugaya, Teresa Thompson and Board President Jane Beckwith.

In addition, the Topaz Museum recently opened its newest exhibit, "Topaz Stories," at the Utah State Capitol Building's third floor mezzanine; the exhibit will be on display through Dec. 31.

Thirty-one stories from the WWII Japanese American incarceration at Topaz Relocation Center are on display that reflect the diverse voices of three generations of men, women and children who endured three years in the Utah desert, behind barbed wire and under armed guard, from September 1942-October 1945. Their only crime — their ancestry.

The exhibit features an innovative design by exhibit designer Jonathan Hirabayashi and a selection of artifacts from the Topaz Museum.

Originally set to open in 2020, the exhibit was postponed due to Covid and rescheduled through the efforts of Brad Westwood (Utah Department of Culture & Community Engagement) and Stephanie Angelides (Capitol Curator). ■



REFLECTIONS

IN PRAISE OF THE PEOPLE OF DELTA AND OTHER ALLIES

By Dianne Fukami

For those who are descendants of the almost 120,000 Japanese Americans incarcerated in 10 American concentration camps during World War II, as I am, or who were actually imprisoned there, we tend to think that these historic sites and the artifacts found there belong to us. Indeed, these sites and artifacts are part of our heritage and family history and have a special significance to us in ways that others may not have experienced.

But the historical legacy of these camps, particularly as a cautionary

lesson of the tragic consequences that happen when racism shouts louder than the Constitution, belongs to all Americans.

My father's family was imprisoned at the Topaz concentration camp, not far from Delta, Utah. Dad was only 14 years old at the time, and I heard plenty of stories about it from my own family and others who were imprisoned there.

When I visited the Topaz site this past summer, I tried to imagine what it was like living in such a desolate place where the winters were cold and windy, and the summers, hot and dry — weather extremes my

family had never experienced in the Bay Area.

As I walked around the site, there were many old rusty nails lying on the cracked ground, a bit of glass from an old cup, the metal skeletons of old tools used and abandoned, the remnants of a child's toy. I feel a kinship to the land that others without my history may not.

I'm thinking of all this as plans are underway for the future of the Wakasa Monument and the Topaz site where it was discovered. On April 11, 1943, James Hatsuaki Wakasa, one of more than 11,000 Americans incarcerated at Topaz, was shot in the chest and killed by a military sentry as he walked close to the barbed-wire fence.

A military trial ruled that Mr. Wakasa's killing was justified, though there is no evidence to support that ruling. At the time, the government allowed the Topaz prisoners to hold a funeral service for Mr. Wakasa, but ordered a monument in his honor destroyed.

In July 2021, the monument, in the form of an unmarked half-ton stone, was found partially buried

in plain sight near the edge of the Topaz barbed-wire fence, presumably at the location where Mr. Wakasa was killed.

When it was removed, there was no sign of writings, personal memorabilia or anything else that might have been buried with it. Except for its extraordinary symbolism, it looks remarkably ordinary.

When camp authorities ordered the monument torn down, it was an attempt to erase from memory the killing and the injustice that it represented. Our community now has an opportunity to remember Mr. Wakasa and acknowledge those Japanese Americans who had erected the monument in mute protest of the brutal injustice caused by racial demonization.

There are plans to hold a ceremony in April 2023 at the Topaz Museum and questions about how to display the Wakasa Monument.

At first blush, it feels as if any remembrance ceremony should be the exclusive domain of the Topaz descendants and other Japanese Americans whose families were

incarcerated during WWII.

But looking at history through such an exclusionary lens ignores and is dismissive of our community allies: the people who are not Japanese Americans who nonetheless, throughout the years, joined our fight to have our story told, and without whose support the Topaz Museum would simply not exist.

I am talking about the people of Delta, Utah, and the dozens of volunteer docents who staff the Topaz Museum on a daily basis greeting the 10,000 people who visit annually.

As a Topaz descendant, I am grateful to the people who are not Japanese American who serve on the museum's board of directors and volunteer their time because they understand that the powerful lessons in democracy that the museum holds are as much about the country's future as they are about its past.

I am indebted to Jane Beckwith, a former high school teacher born and raised in Delta, who passionately dedicated countless hours for the

» See ALLIES on page 9

COLUMBIA PARK DESIGNER PAUL SAITO MEETS WITH WWII CAMP WALL COMMITTEE

By Nancy Teramura Hayata

In fall 2021, Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi (D-Calif.) secured \$5 million in funds to build a World War II Camp Wall memorial in Torrance, Calif. For years, Kanji Sahara of Torrance had a vision of a memorial, complete with walls of black granite, that would honor those who were unjustly incarcerated during WWII.

Sahara dreamt of a wall for each of the 10 WRA incarceration camps, one inscribed with the names of each person forcibly held there, which includes 120,000 names. Now, that dream is becoming a reality.

Members of the WWII Camp Wall Committee met with Paul Saito of Saito Associates-Landscape Architects on Dec. 27, 2021, at Columbia Park in Torrance, Calif. Columbia Park is the proposed location for the memorial.

Saito is the original designer of the 52-acre Columbia Park, which was built in 1983; it underwent a redesign overseen by Saito in 1984. In 1985, the California Landscape Contractors Assn awarded him with an achievement award for the design and installation of Columbia Park.

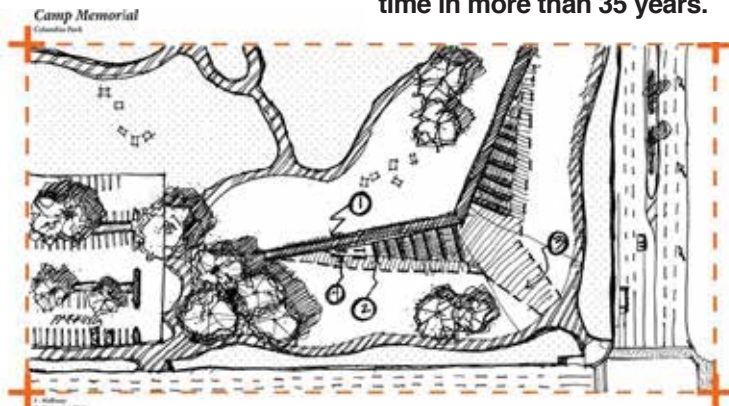
Saito now calls Fresno home and



Members of the WWII Camp Wall Committee meet with architect Paul Saito. Pictured (from left) are Kay Oda, Nancy Oda, Nancy Teramura Hayata and Paul Saito.



Kanji Sahara envisions the site of the future WWII Camp Wall at Columbia Park in Torrance, Calif.



The design concept by architect Gregg Maedo of the proposed memorial

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF NANCY TERAMURA HAYATA



Architect Paul Saito looks at Columbia Park for the first time in more than 35 years.

contacted Saito, he was eager to volunteer his services and work with the current architect, Gregg Maedo of Gregg Maedo + Associates, and Maedo's proposed memorial design.

Saito stopped by the park after visiting his daughter in Long Beach to see Columbia Park after more than 35 years.

"It's much bigger than I remember it," was Saito's reaction.

The Camp Wall Committee is currently working on bringing its project full circle for Saito. He will be working on more detailed memorial design concepts, and it's the committee's hope to have him one day landscape the memorial grounds.

The memorial's projected location will be on the southeast corner of the park, which allows for high visibility from traffic on two main thoroughfares in Torrance. The park is aesthetically Japanese in style; currently, a piece of artwork, "Fujimihara," is located on this corner — it will be moved to another location in the city once the memorial is erected. In addition, the sidewalks on this corner are lined with cherry blossom trees, planted there by the local Soka Gakkai group. The city's annual Torrance Cherry Blossom Festival is also held at Columbia Park.

For more information on the memorial wall and the Camp Wall Committee, email WWIIcampWall@gmail.com.

LONGTIME DENSHO HEAD TOM IKEDA STEPPING DOWN

Following 26 years at the helm of Densho, longtime founding executive director Tom Ikeda announced his pending retirement on Jan. 20. Ikeda released the following statement where he discussed his decision and his future plans.

After 26 years at the helm of Densho as the organization's founding executive director, I am announcing my retirement. "I turn 66 years old this week, and it's time for me to shift my priorities and spend more time with my family. I am going to retire, but not until I am certain that Densho is in excellent hands under the direction of a new executive director.

"Planning for this transition began several years ago when Densho's board, executive leadership team and I started a thoughtful and rigorous process to prepare the organization and myself for my eventual retirement. We made changes that have strengthened Densho and readied the organization for this next step.

"This summer, I asked the board to begin the process of searching for Densho's next leader. After vetting numerous search firms with national reach and expertise in founding executive director transitions, the board selected Koya Partners to lead the search, and I couldn't be happier with their choice.

"Everyone at Densho and at Koya is

committed to ensuring that the vision and values that have driven the organization from its start are honored throughout the search process and transition to new leadership. Because of that, I have confidence that this change will lead to great new opportunities and growth for Densho and all of our supporters.

"I have poured my heart into Densho for the

past 26 years and consider it my life's work to preserve and share the story of World War II Japanese American incarceration so that it is never forgotten.

"My commitment to this history and this community will continue long after my retirement. This isn't an ending so much as the start of an exciting new chapter for Densho and for me." ■



Tom Ikeda

PHOTO: TANI IKEDA



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(Clockwise from left)

Tad and Hisa Hirota, circa 1944

Tad Hirota and Patty Hirota in front of their house in Berkeley. In the background is Lincoln Elementary (now Malcom X) school.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF PATTY HIROTA

The Suda family, circa 1959. Pictured (back row, from left) are Miles Noboru Suda, Kikue Kato Suda and (front row, from left) Vicki Suda Fukumae and Jeffrey Suda.

Cookie Takeshita, 91, has been a JACL member for at least 75 years, the 1947 list revealed.

Keiki Fujita holds a horseshoe from Tanforan that her family brought back with them following World War II.

Flora Ninomiya shows the "persist, resist" cap that she knitted.

Flora Ninomiya's parents, Hayane Kanagawa Ninomiya and Tamaki Ninomiya, were married in Berkeley in 1930.

T. Ninomiya," on the Richmond list.

Flora Ninomiya's father was an Issei and therefore ineligible to join the JACL. He graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, with a degree in mechanical engineering, but without U.S. citizenship, he was unable to find a job, so he worked in his father's nursery.

"In 1942, the Issei of Richmond were required to leave before President (Franklin D.) Roosevelt signed Executive Order (9066). On the very day we left, my father was arrested by the FBI," Flora Ninomiya said. He was sent to federal prison camps in Bismarck, N.D., and Lordsburg, N.M.

Meanwhile, her mother took the children and her father-in-law to Livingston, but all were sent to the Merced camp and then to Granada, Colo., (Amache).

"My father was separated from us. The government said that we could be reunited if we agreed to go to Japan after the war. My mother, with five children, all American citizens, refused. During this time, I was 6- to 10-years-old," Flora Ninomiya remembered.

"All the time I was growing up, I could not talk of my experience. Now, I know how important it is to tell my story, so I speak at the Rosie the Riveter Museum (a National Park Service unit) for the Contra Costa JACL," she said.

Jeff Suda, a Berkeley chapter member, said that his father, Miles Noboru Suda, was in the UC Berkeley engineering program when he was forcibly pulled out of school and sent to Jerome, Ark.

"He became chief of the survey team for Jerome," Jeff Suda said, and after checking the sewer and utility lines for the American concentration camp, drove into town and smuggled in supplies, including live chickens.

Jeff Suda's father married Kikue Kato, a Nisei who was incarcerated at Topaz, in 1952. Miles received his university diploma decades later in a special ceremony.

Patty Hirota, another Berkeley chapter member, was born in 1947, the year the list was typed with the name of her father, Tad Hirota.

He had returned to Berkeley to reunite with his wife, Hisa, after serving in Japan with the Military Intelligence Service. The two met at Topaz and married there in two ceremonies, Patty Hirota said, "a civil ceremony and a Buddhist ceremony in Topaz."

After the war, Tad and Hisa Hirota pooled their money together with his parents and bought a small, two-bedroom house in West Berkeley, an area where Japanese Americans were allowed to buy property.

The Berkeley Interracial Committee conducted a survey to help returnees find housing and jobs, Patty Hirota wrote in a family history.

"Temporary hostels were organized, and students with cars met the returnees. Despite these efforts, Berkeley was racially segregated in housing and employment when WWII started, and there was condemnation and harassment of Japanese Americans."

Cookie Takeshita was only 17 when the 1947 list was compiled — she has remained a member for 75 years.

She recalled: "A lot of people were still mad at the JACL back then because the JACL told us to cooperate and go into the camps."

After imprisonment at Amache, Colo., she remembers arriving in the East Bay and her father using the family's \$25 government stipend to

take a taxi back to Alameda.

Her father had originally come to California to purchase movie rights for his sister's cinema chain in Fukuoka, Japan, but stayed on and eventually became a gardener.

Yasutaro Takano had to build up his business again from nothing, Cookie Takeshita said. He never increased his fees for those first customers who hired him after the war, she said.

Sansei whose relatives' names are on the lists include Karen Korematsu (uncle Hiroshi Korematsu); Keiki Fujita (father Bill Fujita), Patty Hecht Saito (father Leo Saito), Ed Oda and this writer, who was surprised to find her aunt, Eleanor Ukai, listed at the West Oakland address of the Issei family home.

For more information about the 1947 JACL East Bay chapter list, contact the Berkeley JACL at admin@berkeleyjacl.org.



Oakland



JAPAN'S BORDER POLICY KEEPS THOUSANDS OF FOREIGNERS IN LIMBO

By Associated Press

TOKYO — More than a year ago, Sebastian Bressa finished his paperwork to become a language teacher in Tokyo and made plans to quit his job in Sydney. His life has been in limbo ever since.

Japan has kept its door closed to most foreigners during the pandemic, and the 26-year-old Australian is one of hundreds of thousands denied entry to study, work or see their families.

Japan has become one of the world's most difficult countries to enter, and some are comparing it to the locked country, or *sakoku*, policy of xenophobic warlords who ruled Japan in the 17th to 19th centuries.

The current border rules allow in only Japanese nationals and permanent foreign residents and have raised the ire of foreign students and scholars who say the measures are unfair, unscientific and force talented visitors to go to other countries. Critics say the rules are also hurting Japan's international profile and national interest.

About half a million foreigners — including academics, researchers and others with highly skilled jobs and 150,000 foreign students — have been affected, various statistics show.

"I think the most difficult thing for me has been this state of living in standby," Bressa said. "I can't plan that far ahead in the future, just not knowing where I end up the next month or two."

Japan plans to keep the border measures in place through the end of February as it copes with a record surge of cases in Tokyo and other major cities. Makoto Shimoaraiso, a Cabinet official working on Japan's Covid-19 response, said the situation is painful, but he asked for patience, noting much higher infection levels overseas.

Japan recently decided to let nearly 400 students enter, but many others including those on foreign government-sponsored scholarships still cannot get in.

A letter to Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, signed by hundreds of academics and Japan experts and submitted last month in a petition drive, called for a relaxation of the border controls to enable educators, students and scholars to pursue their studies and work in Japan. It said many already have given up Japan studies, opting to focus elsewhere, such as South Korea.

"They become the bridges between Japan and other societies. They are future policymakers, business leaders and teachers. They are the foundation of the U.S.-Japan alliance and other international relationships that support Japan's core national interests," the letter said. "The closure is harming Japan's national interests and international relationships."

However, the border controls have wide public support. Many Japanese tend to think troubles such as the pandemic come from outside their island nation.

Tightening border controls quickly after omicron outbreaks began overseas may have been unavoidable, Nippon University crisis management professor Mitsuru Fukuda said, but the decision to exclude only foreigners appears aimed at rallying public support. With careful preventive measures, Japan could allow foreign visitors just as many other countries are doing, he said.

"People should not have to compromise their freedom and human rights in exchange for their lives," Fukuda said.

Japan's coronavirus cases plunged as delta variant infections subsided in the fall, and Kishida has said closing the border to most foreign travelers in late November helped delay the latest surge in infections. He contends

that overreacting is better than doing too little, too late.

Japan has just begun giving booster shots, but only 3.5 percent of the population have received them, and the medical system has been inadequately prepared for the latest huge wave of cases, leaving many sick with Covid-19 to isolate at home.

The border closures did not keep omicron out of U.S. military bases, where Japan has no jurisdiction, including troops that fly directly into the country without observing Japanese quarantine requirements.

Clusters of cases among U.S. troops rapidly spread into neighboring communities including those in Okinawa, home to the majority of the 50,000 American troops in Japan, beginning in late December. Infections at U.S. bases exceeded 6,000 last month.

On Feb. 2, Japan reported nearly 95,000 new confirmed cases, a record, and Tokyo's cases exceeded 20,000 for the first time. Some pandemic restrictions are now in effect in much of Japan, including Tokyo and other big cities like Osaka and Kyoto, for the first time since September.

Phillip Lipsy, a political science professor at Toronto University in Canada who is part of the petition drive, said he was denied entry despite his Japanese roots and his dedication to the study of Japan.

"I grew up in Japan. I am a native speaker of the language, my mother is Japanese and she lives in Tokyo. But under the current policy, I cannot enter Japan because of the color of my passport," Lipsy told an online meeting.

With the outlook uncertain, many people are changing their studies or careers, he said.

"These are fateful decisions with long-term consequences," he said. "The border closure is depriving Japan of a generation of admirer, friends and allies."

Judicial nominee Kenly Kiya Kato would be the first Japanese American federal judge in Los Angeles if she is confirmed by the U.S. Senate.



JACL APPLAUDS NOMINATION OF JUDGE KENLY KIYA KATO TO THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

By JACL National

President Joe Biden announced recently his eleventh round of judicial nominees, which included Judge Kenly Kiya Kato to the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

Judge Kato is currently in Washington, D.C., to face questions from the Senate Judiciary Committee as it considers her nomination.

The daughter of former incarcerated, Judge Kato's parents and grandparents were imprisoned during World War II alongside 120,000 other persons of Japanese Ancestry. Her focus on constitutional protections and equal opportunity to justice was influenced by her family's incarceration experience.

"Hearing those stories of my family's first-hand experiences impressed upon me from a very young age the critical importance of securing our constitutional rights for everyone,"

Kato told the senate judiciary committee on Feb. 3.

Since 2014, Judge Kato has served as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Central District of California. She has also held her own private practice and once served as a Deputy Federal Public Defender in the Los Angeles area.

After receiving her J.D. from Harvard Law, she served as a law clerk for Judge Robert M. Takasugi, who was formerly appointed to the United States District Court of the Central District of California.

We applaud the diversity of President Biden's nominees to the court, including the recent Senate confirmations of judges Lucy H. Koh and Jennifer Sung to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Asian American and women jurists remain underrepresented in our federal courts, and these nominations and appointments help to close that gap.

—Additional reporting by the P.C.



Japan has become one of the most difficult countries in the world to enter during the coronavirus pandemic.

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TANFORAN MEMORIAL STATUE AND PLAZA SET TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION

The memorial plaza includes a bronze statue to honor the 8,000 Bay Area residents of Japanese ancestry that were imprisoned at Tanforan 'Assembly Center' during WWII.

SANBRUNO, CALIF. — A ground-breaking ceremony marking the start of construction of a memorial plaza that includes a bronze statue to honor the 8,000 Bay Area residents of Japanese ancestry that were unjustly imprisoned at Tanforan "Assembly Center" during World War II is set to take place on Feb. 11.

Spearheading the creation of the memorial is the Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Committee. Its efforts to document and pay homage to those affected began 10 years ago with the installation of a photograph exhibit featuring the work of photographers Dorothea Lange and Paul Kitagaki Jr.

Located inside the San Bruno BART Station, the historic site of the detention center, the exhibit showcases Lange's historical photos of the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans on the West Coast alongside Kitagaki's contemporary images that include some of Lange's original subjects from 1942.

The forthcoming bronze statue



An image of the soon-to-be completed Tanforan Memorial statue and plaza

brings to life one of Lange's photographs of the young Mochida sisters on their way to Tanforan.

Blach Construction is preparing

the site, installing the statue and constructing elements for the plaza, including benches, seat walls and a horse stall to represent the

accommodations of those detained at Tanforan.

Designed by Sandra Shaw, the statue and memorial plaza are es-

timated to be completed in spring 2022.

Speakers scheduled at the event include Steve Okamoto, vice chairman of the Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Committee; Rep. Jackie Speier, U.S. congresswoman, District 14; Supervisor Dave Pine, San Mateo Board of County Supervisors, District 1; Director Robert Raburn, BART Board, District 4; and Rico Medina, mayor of the City of San Bruno.

The TACMC is composed of former detainees from Tanforan, as well as Japanese American activists and others from the Bay Area. The TACMC has been working together since 2012 to plan for the memorial, raising approximately \$1.2 million for the creation of a historic and cultural icon for the City of San Bruno.

The memorial will educate the public as to what happened to the 120,000 West Coast residents of Japanese ancestry and remind people that these atrocities can never happen again.

To learn more, visit <https://www.tanforanmemorial.org/>.

KYOTO » continued from page 3

Corey worked with it to figure out the best exposures to get all the details, the color and lighting he envisioned for every image. That image, by the way, appeared upside down on the back of the camera, so he had to know exactly what he wanted in the frame and adjust the camera just so, until his composition was perfect. Then, he would uncover the lens and expose the film for 20, 30 minutes or more. If the light or weather changed or someone inadvertently walked through the scene, he would cover the lens and wait to then uncover it again. It was precise and painstaking.

The effort shows in his work, which is now — thanks to Reimi Adachi's persevering efforts — under the care of the Department of Special Collections and University Archives for the University of Massachusetts, Amherst Libraries. Adachi's indefatigable determination also led to Corey's first-ever gallery exhibit in Kyoto last year.

A few years back, when the city of Denver launched a direct flight between Denver and Tokyo, Corey's photos were out on display at Denver International Airport to celebrate, and they were glorious.

One of the best Japanese restaurants in the Denver area, Izakaya Amu in Boulder, has Corey's work proudly hanging on its wall,



Renge Ji

absolutely enhancing the artistic level of the cuisine.

Anyone who loves Japan, gardens or photography should visit WilliamCorey.com, the online repository of some of the artist's work, as maintained by his widow.

It'll make you want to visit Japan. Really.

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 this year. He blogs at www.nikkeiview.com.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE WILLIAM COREY GALLERY



Shisendo

ALLIES » continued from page 4

past 30-plus years to make the museum a reality and who continues to do so today on an unpaid basis.

Our allies also include the dozens of National Park Service employees who educate the public about a time in our nation's history when democracy failed, in the hopes that by doing so, such failure is never repeated.

We need to acknowledge the people of all backgrounds including the Indigenous People of the Great Basin, who once lived freely on the land we ironically now call the Topaz concentration camp.

Their experience and that of our families are reminders of Martin Luther King Jr.'s powerful words: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

When the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 passed leading to redress and reparations for the harm done to Japanese Americans, it was the result of coalition-building and allyship, the countless people both within our community and outside who joined in solidarity to support us.

By embracing that example and by including the input of many voices, the significance of the Wakasa Monument and its role in Japanese American history will rightfully become a part of the tapestry of mainstream American history for current and future generations.

Dianne Fukami is a documentary filmmaker, journalist and retired educator. A descendant of a Topaz family, her most recent work was the film "Norman Mineta and His Legacy: An American Story." She has written and produced many films about the Japanese American experience.

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

Taiko Drumming Workshop
San Jose, CA

Series begins Feb. 5
Historic Hoover Theatre
1635 Park Ave.

Price: \$165 Per Participant

Playful People Prods. and San Jose Beat Institute continue their popular six-session Taiko Drumming class that meets on the first and third Saturdays of the month. Rome Hamner will lead the instruction and children over 10 and adults are welcome.

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

Executive Order 9066 at 80: Incarceration and Reparations Then and Now
San Francisco, CA
Feb. 10; 6:30 p.m.

Asian Art Museum Samsung Hall
200 Larkin St.
Price: \$5 Per Ticket Plus Museum Admission

This program begins with a screening of Jon Osaki's award-winning documentary "Alternative Facts: The Lies of Executive Order 9066." Following the screening, the filmmaker joins Sheryl Davis and Don Tamaki for a discussion about the ties between the Japanese American redress campaign and the Black reparations movement.

Info: To purchase tickets, visit <https://buy.acmeticketing.com/events/474/detail/61b2adfad860351182fb2f02?date=2022-02-10T00:00:00-0800>.

Beyond Confinement: Stories of Japanese American & Native American Resistance Northern California

Feb. 12; 1-3 p.m.
Virtual Event
Price: Free

This DOR program will feature moderator Wendi Yamashita and guest panelists Lisa Nakamura, Annette Reed, Sage Andrew Romero and Kiyo Sato. The program will bring the Native American experience through storytelling and narration as it focuses on the Japanese American experience and its parallels with those of Native American.

Info: To register, visit [NCTOR.org](https://nctor.org). Registration deadline is Feb. 8.

Book Talk: 'We Hereby Refuse': The Bay Area Allies of the Resisters
Northern California
Feb. 13; 3-4:30 p.m.
Virtual Event
Price: Free

This book talk features Frank Abe, writer of "We Hereby Refuse: Japanese American Resistance to Wartime Incarceration" and Wayne Collins Jr., Sadako Kashiwagi and Kathleen Purcell.
Info: RSVP at weherebyrefuse.eventbrite.com.

San Jose's 42nd Annual Day of Remembrance

San Jose, CA
Feb. 19; 3-4 p.m.

Virtual Event

Price: Free But Donations Welcome

"Overcoming Hate & Fear," will address the erosion of civil liberties in wartime, what Japanese Americans had to endure during the war and what the current increase of anti-Asian hate incidences have done to our community. Guest speakers will be Cynthia Choi, Eiko Yamaichi and Bekki Shibayama.

Info: View the program at www.sjnoc.org.

PSW

'Look to the Sky: America's Concentration Camps' Exhibit
Los Angeles, CA
Feb. 13; 1 p.m.
Virtual Event
Price: Free

This documentary photography project by John Tonai depicts the contemporary physical conditions of the 10 WWII WRA camps. The initial project took place from 1990-92 and Tonai has revisited most of the sites and recorded the changes that have taken place.

Info: For a Zoom link and more information, email Louise Sakamoto at LSakamoto@sbcglobal.net.

San Diego JACL and National Conflict Resolution Center Bystander Challenge Workshop
San Diego, CA
Feb. 16, 6-7:30 p.m.; Feb. 23, 6-7:30 p.m.

Zoom Online Workshop
Price: Free

San Diego JACL chapter presents this two-part free workshop on the bystander's role in decreasing inappropriate communication and behavior in the community of workplace. Participants will learn how to have challenging conversations in ways that demonstrate respect, inclusiveness and dignity for everyone involved. Space is limited.

Info: To register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-bystander-challenge-jacl-tickets-214866660967?eTtype=EmailBlastContent&eid=808c91d2-59dd-4608-9e6a-04778fd79e3d>. For questions, contact sandiegojacl@gmail.com or Dania Brett at dbrett@ncrconline.com.

2022 Los Angeles Day of Remembrance
Los Angeles, CA
Feb. 19; 2-4 p.m.

JANM
Virtual Event
Price: Free

The annual Los Angeles DOR will be headlined by a conversation between traci kato-kiriyama and Kathy Masaoka, Japanese American activists, and Dreisen Heath, an expert on reparations and reparatory justice, about the need for solidarity around reparations work in the present day.

Info: Info: Visit <https://www.janm.org/events/2022-02-19/2022-los-angeles-day-remembrance>.

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.

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 for additional details and information.

CCDC

Day of Remembrance Program
Fresno, CA

Feb. 12; Noon Social Hour/Lunch and Program 1-3 p.m.

Fresno County Historical Museum
Big Fresno Fairgrounds
1121 S. Chance Ave.

(Free Parking at Chance Ave. Lot)
Price: \$40 Per Person (Covid-19 Vaccination and Mask Required)

This year's DOR program will pay tribute to the Hon. James A. Ardaiz, recipient of the 2022 Distinguished American Award "Spirit of Education Award." Justice Ardaiz is the former presiding justice of the California Fifth District Court of Appeal and author of "Tears of Honor," a novel about the heroic Japanese American soldiers of WWII. The program will also include the CCDC JACL officer installation.

Info: Info: RSVP by Feb. 7. For questions, contact Travis Nishi at tsnishi@aol.com or call (559) 281-6497. Make checks payable to CCDC JACL and mail to P.O. Box 26925, Fresno, CA 93729.

PNW

Day of Remembrance: Honoring the 442nd Regimental Combat Team
Alaska

Feb. 19; 4-6:30 p.m. Alaska
Standard

Virtual Event

Price: Free

Join the Alaska JACL and St. John Methodist Church as the event will feature a video presentation of Legacy Tours of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, WWII battlegrounds and memorials in France, as well as discussion panelists Stuart Hirai, Dr. Brian Yamamoto and Nora De Bievre.

Info: Join the Zoom presentation at <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/92538843637>.

We Hereby Refuse:

Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of Executive Order 9066
Washington
Feb. 19; 4 p.m.

Virtual Event

Price: Free

Mukai Farm & Garden along with the Vashon Heritage Museum, 4 Culture and Humanities Washington present this DOR program that will feature a discussion with the authors of a new graphic novel as well as commemorate the anniversary of Executive Order 9066.

Info: For more information, visit mukaifarmandgarden.com; to view the program, visit tinyurl.com/y6ph62a9.

'Cascadia Art Museum Day of Remembrance

Edmonds, WA

Feb. 20; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

190 Sunset Ave. S.

Tickets: General Admission \$9-\$12; Children, Members and Students Are Free

Along with commemorating the signing of Executive Order 9066, this program will also celebrate the last day of the "Kenjiro Nomura, American Modernist: An Issei Artist's Journey" Exhibition. The full day will feature events, performances, workshops and food honoring Japanese Americans.

Info: Tickets are available at CascadiaArtMuseum.org/DOR.

IDC

'Alternative Facts: The Lies of Executive Order 9066' Film

Screening and Q & A With Jon Osaki Ketchum, ID
Feb. 19; 4-5:30 p.m. Mountain Time
Virtual and In-Person Event
The Community Library
415 Spruce Ave. North
Price: Free

This program will feature a screening of "Alternative Facts" by Jon Osaki as well as a follow-up Q & A with the filmmaker. This event is presented in partnership with Friends of Minidoka and the National Park Service. The event will be live-streamed and will welcome in-person guests that must show proof of vaccination; masks are required.

Info: To register, visit <https://the-communitylibrary.libcal.com/event/8684813>

Day of Remembrance: Japanese Incarceration, 80 Years Later
Colorado
Feb. 19; 6-7:30 p.m.
Zoom Webinar

Price: Free

This program, presented by Colorado College, will feature a memorial and conversation on the forced removal and mass incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII, its legacy and ongoing afterlife. The program will feature descendants and grandchildren of the camps: writer Jami Nakamura Lin, poet Brynn Saito, musician/composer Patrick Shiroishi and artist/performer Kimiko Tanabe and hosted by Brandon Shimoda, poet/writer and professor of creative writing at Colorado College.

Info: Visit https://coloradocollege.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_V2yOdSFQMmDvbp6pzv8Vw.

MDC

The TEAACH Act: What It Means for Illinois, Educators and the Japanese American Community
Chicago, IL

Feb. 20; 2-3:30 p.m. CST
Chicago Japanese Museum
1601 N. Clark St.

Price: Free

Day of Remembrance 2022 features a variety of speakers celebrating the passage of the Teaching Equitable Asian American Community History Act, which was signed into law on July 9, 2021. It makes Illinois the first state to mandate that Asian American history be taught in public schools. The program will also feature a showcase of classroom-ready resources for teaching as well as feature Ho Etsu Taiko, who will take the stage to perform a new work composed especially for DOR 2022. Masks and vaccinations required.

Info: For more information and registration info, visit <https://chicagodor.wordpress.com>.

EDC

2022 Lunar New Year Celebration
Boston, MA

Feb. 13; 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Pao Arts Center
99 Albany St.

In-Person and Virtual Event

Price: \$10 Suggested Donation

Pao Arts Center's family-friendly celebration is back with virtual and in-person options to celebrate the Year of the Tiger! Sign up to receive virtual activities from participating artists or stop by in-person (proof of vaccination and masks are needed for entry) to experience cultural events such as Lion Dance, brush painting demos, crafts and much more.

Info: Visit <https://www.paoartscenter.org/events/2022/lunar-new-year>. ■

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
(213) 620-1767

In MEMORIAM



Asamoto, Hazel K. (née Tanaka), 89, Cleveland, OH, Dec. 20, 2021; she was predeceased by her husband, Ken, and siblings Paul, Ayako, Helen, Henry and Walter; she is survived by her children, Joyce Theus (Richard), Craig Asamoto, Diane Asamoto-Grant (Neal) and Keith Asamoto (Judith); sister, Aiko Ebihara (Roy); gc: 11; ggc: 8..



Fujimoto, Masakazu Jack, 93, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 26, 2021; author of the book "Sawtelle: West Los Angeles's Japantown"; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Poston War Relocation Authority Center in AZ; an Army veteran, he served in Japan during the Korean War; he earned his A.A. degree at Pasadena City College and his B.S., M.B.A. and Ph.D. at UCLA; he also served as a dean at Los Angeles Pierce College; president of Sacramento City College; president of West Los Angeles College; president of Los Angeles Mission College; and interim superintendent-president of Imperial Valley College; he is survived by his wife, Grace Fusaye Toya; children, Crystal, Randall, Jolene and Maya; gc: 4.



Higa, Lily Yuriko, 82, Upland, CA, Sept. 25, 2021; she is survived by her siblings, Maebelle Hiramami, Nancy (Jerry) Ikehara, Roy (Kathy) Higa and Dennis Higa; aunt, Sada Ige; uncle, Tak Nakama; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Ikeda, Randall Riki, 59, Orange, CA, Dec. 12, 2021; he is survived by his wife, Shaun; children, Brennan Ikeda and Kaylin Ikeda; mother, Betty Ikeda; sister, Lianne (Jason) Akiona; mother-in-law, Kaaren Onouye; sister-in-law, Teri Yoshitake (Tim), a nephew, nieces, uncles, aunts and cousins.



Kobayashi, Kuniko Watanabe, 98, Idaho Falls, ID, Oct. 17, 2021; she was predeceased by her husband, Eli, and her siblings, Minoru, Masako and Emiko; she is survived by her children, Marie, David, Judy and Wayne; gc: 11; ggc: 14; gggc: 3.

Koyanagi, Kevin Tadashi, 29, Rolling Hills Estates, CA, Oct. 3, 2021; he is survived by his parents, Stan and Teri Koyanagi; sister, Kristen; grandfather, Joe Koyanagi; girlfriend, Katie Leong; he is also survived by many uncles, aunts, cousins and friends.



Miller, Izumi 'Izzie' Hirano, 49, Antioch, IL, Oct. 30, 2021; she is survived by her husband, Derk; parents, Yogi Hirano and Fumiko Uchida; sister, Kaori (Keiichi) Oyama; mother-in-law, Billie; sister-in-law, Stacy; she is also survived by 1 nephew.

Miyamoto, Eric Kane, 70, Yorba Linda, CA, Jan. 3, 2022; he is survived by his wife, Teri; sons, Shane (Kristine) and Justin (Jean); siblings, Alan (Carol), Mike (Corliss) Miyamoto and Tina (John) Wirth; he is also survived by nieces, nephews, and other relatives; gc: 2.

Morinishi, Grace, 88, Fountain Valley, CA, Dec. 10, 2021; she was predeceased by her husband, Yoshihiro; she is survived by her children, Ron (Carolyn), Paul, Gale Zimmerman and Kent (Becky); siblings, Mary Oda, Thomas Ishimine and Donna Sill; gc: 8; ggc: 1.



Nakamura, Stanley, 65, La Jolla, CA, Sept. 5, 2021; a graduate of UC Davis (zoology) and USC (dentistry); he is survived by his wife, Linh; children, Damien and Emily; brother, Stephen; brother-in-law, Mark; sister-in-law, Camille.

Nakao, Stanley, 72, Redondo Beach, CA, Sept. 5, 2021; he is survived by his wife, Susan; sisters, Grace (Kenneth) Mitsuhata and Nancy Nakao; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nikaido, Shizuko, 94, Arcadia, CA, Nov. 9, 2021; she is survived by her daughter, Mine Jackie (Grant Masaru) Tsugawa; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

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

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Gerald Fukui
President

Obata, Emie, 94, Torrance, CA, Dec. 31, 2021; she was predeceased by her husband, Shuichi; she is survived by her sister-in-law, Michiko Sakakura; 6 nephews; she is also survived by many grand-nieces, grand-nephews and other relatives. gc:8; ggc: 1.



Okazaki, Lillian, 96, Portland, OR, Oct. 24, 2021; she was predeceased by her husband, Minoru, and son, Jon; she is survived by her sons, Mark, Jeff and Chris; gc: 8; ggc: 1.



Riggins, Kinue Sato 'Cherry,' 89, Chillicothe, MO, Jan. 3, 2022; she was predeceased by her husband, Fred Riggins; brothers, Masami Sato, Takashi Sato and Fumio Sato; and grandson, Jeremy Gann; she is survived by her children, Shirley Goodin (Jack), Jay D. Riggins (Robin) and Edward Riggins (Lisa); siblings, Katsunori Sato, Nobuko Sato and Takeshi Sato; gc: 9; ggc: 6. Kikue (Nobuo) Kanemoto and Kathy (Mark) Miyakawa; gc: 7; ggc: 1.

Shimamoto, Amy Emiko, 94, Colma, CA, Oct. 21, 2021.

TRIBUTE

YOSHIO TSUJI

April 16, 1932–Dec. 26, 2021

Tsuji Yoshio, 89-years old, Air Force veteran, peacefully passed away on Dec. 26, 2021, in Gardena Calif. He is survived by his loving family, nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

Funeral service was held at Fukui Mortuary with Rev. Rimban William Briones of Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple officiating.

www.fukuimortuary.com (213) 626-0441

TRIBUTE

BETTY SACHIKO YUMORI



Betty Sachiko Yumori, also known as "Mom," "Auntie Betty," "Betty-chan," and "Betty-san" was 90 years young when she ended her journey peacefully on January 12, 2022. She was a native of California, happily married to Ben for 63 years, a loving and a devoted mom to her daughter, La Donna and an awesome aunt.

She worked her way up to become the Accounts Payable Manager at W&J Sloane in Beverly Hills for 27 years.

She was an active and passionate volunteer for over 60 years with the Japanese American community.

Her past involvement was with the Venice Culver JACL, Southwest District JACL, JA Republicans and Keiro Retirement Home as a president, secretary, delegate or fundraiser. She did cross the party line when she supported Democrats Daniel Inouye, Norm Mineta and others in Washington D.C.

She enjoyed hosting the annual Yumori Christmas Eve dinner for 69 years. She was an outgoing, friendly, thoughtful, generous, fun, wonderful friend, organizer, opinionated and advice giving person.

She enjoyed being with family, friends, playing mahjong, bridge, poker games, dancing and protesting when needed.

Her Mac and Cheese was a family favorite and she has left her recipe so we can still enjoy it.

She was predeceased by her husband Ben and survived by her daughter La Donna Yumori-Kaku, son-in-law Mike Kaku and her many nephews and nieces.

She is on her next journey to enjoy catching up with past family, friends and getting a poker game together. Due to Covid there will not be a funeral. A private service will be held for family.

In lieu of flowers or koden please donate to the Venice Japanese Community Center Inc. to the "Legacy Tree in memory of Ben and Betty Yumori" 12448 Braddock Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90066

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EVERYTHING

AARP CELEBRATES THE YEAR OF THE TIGER

By Scott Tanaka

Growing up as a fourth-generation Japanese American in Los Angeles, Lunar New Year was not something my family celebrated. For us, like many Japanese American families in my community, we celebrate the New Year on Jan. 1.

I can still remember our large family gatherings where all my relatives would come over to my great-grandmother, Yukiko Okazaki's home. We called her Grandma "O" for short. She cooked all the traditional Japanese food and would make enough food to feed an army.

Which is why it was always a tradition for us to keep the feast going into the next day. My grandmother, Amy Tanaka, eventually took over the cooking and carried on the tradition. I, of course, enjoyed all the

dishes she would make, including her sushi and shrimp tempura, but I loved her kimpira gobo!

To this day, I have not been able to find anything that compares to hers. My great-grandmother and grandmother have both since passed, but I am grateful to both for helping me stay connected to my Japanese heritage.

Lunar New Year became a much bigger deal for me when I started working at AARP. Before Covid-19, we would have a big Lunar New Year celebration with lots of food and fun activities. We even handed out the traditional red envelopes to each AARP employee. Though the envelopes did not contain money, we made sure to include some lychee candy and a note explaining the significance of Lunar New Year.

It was always a great way to bring members of our Asian American



Osechi Ryori Japanese New Year bento box set with good luck foods

PHOTOS:
GIL ASAKAWA



Ozoni, New Year's Day soup, with chicken (Tokyo style) and mochi

vitality and inspiration.

New year, new beginning; it's time to acknowledge the year that was and boldly move forward in the year to come. AARP wishes everyone joy and happiness, peach and health in the New Year. And to help you achieve these goals, AARP will be there every step of the way.

Visit <https://www.aarp.org/aapi> for a wealth of resources and services to help you move forward toward a fresh start on your new year.

Scott Tanaka is a member of the JACL Washington, D.C., chapter and is a policy, research and international affairs adviser at AARP.

Employee Resource Group together and the broader AARP community. During the pandemic, we have still found ways to celebrate virtually, but we are all looking forward to when we can gather again in person.

One virtual offering from AARP that I would like to share is our Lunar New Year Photo Booth. I invite you to visit AARP's virtual Lunar New Year Photo Booth at digitalbooth.com/aarplunarnewyear to celebrate the Year of the Tiger.

In a modern twist to the classic photo booth, text or email a digital photo from your phone or desktop to share your photos with family, friends or social media from now through Feb. 18.

I do hope that this New Year brings you and your family renewal and that the Year of the Tiger be full of

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