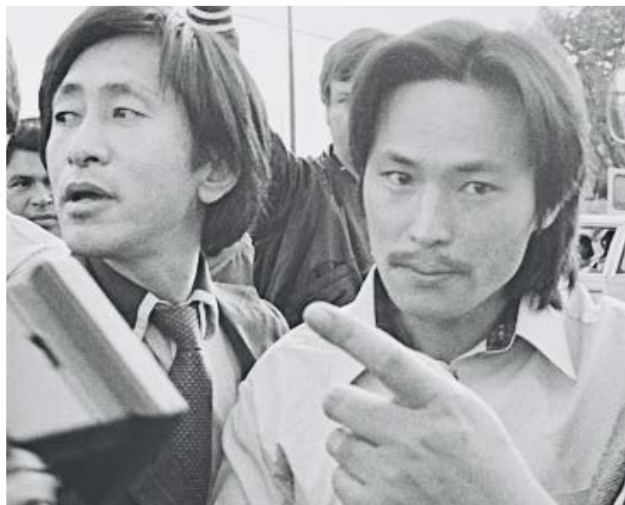




PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 93 YEARS



» **PAGE 6**

'FREE CHOL SOO LEE'

A new documentary revisits the groundbreaking Pan-Asian American movement to right a miscarriage of justice.



» **PAGE 5**

Historic Wintersburg
Heavily Damaged

JACL APPLAUDS HOUSE PASSAGE OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT EDUCATION ACT

By JACL National

The JACL applauds the unanimous passage of the Japanese American Confinement Education (JACE) Act in the House of Representatives on March 15.

In 2006, the Japanese American Confinement Sites Program was established for the preservation and interpretation of U.S. confinement sites where Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II.

This original legislation was in-

troduced by then-Rep. Bill Thomas, Doris Matsui and Mike Honda. Since the first year of funding in Fiscal Year 2009, \$36 million has been provided to 268 projects in 24 states and the District of Columbia. Funding has ranged from as little as \$5,000 to more than \$800,000 for a single project.

The JACE act provides an additional \$42 million in funding for a total of \$80 million. Of that total, \$10 million in funding may be used by Japanese American organizations

to implement education programs to ensure that present and future generations of Americans will learn from the experience of Japanese American confinement and our country's subsequent commitment to equal justice under law.

This funding will be used for research and education relating to Japanese American incarceration, as well as the creation and disbursement of educational materials to promote a national understanding of how and why Japanese Americans were

incarcerated during WWII.

JACL is thankful to Rep. Doris Matsui for her leadership in authoring and championing the JACE Act. We are also grateful to Chairman Joe Neguse, Ranking Member Russ Fulcher and the rest of the members of the National Parks, Forests and Public Lands subcommittee for shepherding the JACE act to passage. We would also like to thank the 67 bipartisan co-sponsors for their support.

We call upon the Senate to swiftly pass the JACE act (S.988) to ensure continued funding to the JACS grant program. ■

UJIFUSA BESTOWS GIFT TO THE PACIFIC CITIZEN TO HONOR EDITOR HONDA

Redress strategist and long-time New York resident Grant Ujifusa has pledged a substantial monetary gift to the *Pacific Citizen* in recognition of the decades of dedication to the newspaper performed by Harry Honda, who died in 2013.

Ujifusa said he would like the funds to help the newspaper pay current and new contributing writers and freelancers to bolster coverage of news

about grassroots JACL chapters and members, as well as to develop fresh topics of interest to the *Pacific Citizen's* national readership.

The funds will also help defray general operational expenses incurred in the *P.C.'s* continuing mission to produce in-depth feature stories and content that relates directly to the nation's Japanese American and Asian American communities.

Ujifusa also said he wanted to honor Honda for his inspiring and stalwart presence and journalism career at the *Pacific Citizen*. Honda's association with the newspaper included stints as editor, reporter and columnist, as well as general manager and editor

emeritus — unparalleled at more than six decades.

According to Honda's daughter, Patty Arra, her father's association with the *Pacific Citizen* began in September 1952. Until his death on July 3, 2013, he was still contributing to the paper.

Ujifusa is the founding editor and longtime co-author of "The Almanac of American Politics," first published in 1972 and still published today. Both George Will and Tim Russert called the book "the bible of American politics."

Ujifusa served as JACL redress strategy chair from 1982-92, and his inside knowledge of how Washington worked was instrumental in the passage of HR 442, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which was signed by President Ronald Reagan on Aug. 10, 1988.

For his effort on behalf of the bill,

Ujifusa was made an honorary member of K Company of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. In 2012, he was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, by the Government of Japan for his indispensable work to pass, enact and fund the Japanese American redress bill.

About Ujifusa's vital role in the Redress Movement, Robert Matsui called him key to the success of HR 442. Matsui described Ujifusa's biennial publication as the "book behind redress," with the late congressman writing, "Without Grant Ujifusa's 'Almanac of American Politics' — and its immense prestige and clout in Washington — Japanese American redress would not have happened."

"All 535 members of Congress worry about what the book will say about them every two years, which enabled Grant to swing key Republican House members behind the bill. The 'Almanac' also created access to enough of Ronald Reagan's time to tie redress to the personal memory the president had of fallen 442 hero Kaz Masuda." ■

Grant Ujifusa was awarded a commendation by the government of Japan in 2012 for his work on the Japanese American redress bill.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF GRANT UJIFUSA



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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



INFORMATION: 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313 | Los Angeles, CA 90012 | TEL: (213) 620-1767 | WWW.PACIFICCITIZEN.ORG

HOW TO REACH US

Email: pc@pacificcitizen.org
Online: www.pacificcitizen.org
Tel: (213) 620-1767
Mail: 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313
Los Angeles, CA 90012

STAFF

Executive Editor Allison Haramoto	Business Manager Susan Yokoyama
Senior Editor Digital & Social Media George Johnston	Production Artist Marie Samonte
	Circulation Eva Ting

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE GOOD OLD DAYS WEREN'T ALWAYS GOOD

By David Inoue,
JACL Executive Director

Lia Thomas has become a household name. If you don't know who she is, Ms. Thomas is a swimmer at the University of Pennsylvania who now identifies herself as female having been born biologically male.

As a swim competitor, she has set numerous new women's swimming records for her school and the Ivy League. However, there has been significant outcry that she has an unfair advantage as having gone through puberty as a male. I am pretty sure she never wanted to be thrust into the spotlight as she has been, but such is the case when some people encounter something not fully understood.

I am careful to not say transgender people are something new. They are not. We have had transgender people among us for all of history — we just never acknowledged their presence or even allowed them to make themselves known. With all the vitriol now directed at Ms. Thomas, it is understandable.

What is often telling about the hate and anger directed at Ms. Thomas is the intentional misuse of pronouns. Diving into the swimming news sites covering this, and the comment sections reveal hundreds of posts by people angrily declaring that "he" should not be allowed to compete with women.

To deny Ms. Thomas' identity as a woman by referring to her as he is to take away her humanity

and identity.

Lia Thomas is one specific individual targeted in what has become a culture war, a war of values between those who want to promote hate vs. those who want to recognize the humanity of every individual person and all that they represent.

We see it being played out from local school boards to state legislatures, with policies seeking to erase the presence of those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

Enacting policies such as these does not and will not change the fact that our children have friends whose parents openly identify in these categories, and some of our children will likely identify differently from the heterosexual cisgender societal norm.

As can be expected today, some reporting on the legislation have tried to downplay the severity of the legislation and taken the position that "both sides are distorting the truth" and have tried to imply that the legislation is extremely vague in what it prescribes.

However, very clearly in the text is the following: "Classroom instruction by school personnel or third parties on sexual orientation

or gender identity may not occur in kindergarten through grade 3 or in a manner that is not age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students in accordance with state standards."

That is about as clear as can be that teachers or other instructors may not discuss sexual orientation or gender identity to early elementary students. Does the teacher then need to be silent when a child talks about their two dads?

Of course, the Florida legislature has taken it further in expanding its prohibitions on what can be discussed in school to include the Stop the Wrongs to Our Kids and Employees (W.O.K.E.) Act. This is a much more expansive bill that would limit the ability of not only schools but also employers, licensing examiners, amongst many others, from teaching concepts such as white privilege and systemic racism. This could have a chilling effect on core diversity training programs at employers across the state.

Ultimately, these policies are attempts to legislate against changing societal norms. We have always existed in a white male heterosexual Christian normative society.

Debates around a woman's right to choose, transgender rights and the existence of white privilege and systemic racism would have never existed years ago because such perspectives were ignored or suppressed. The fact that we can have these conversations is a step in the right direction.

The It Gets Better campaign holds the promise that things will improve, but not if we allow legislation that continues to marginalize and suppress the stories and experiences of minority people.

Things may be more comfortable for those who have been seen as the norm, but what does that mean for those of us who are outside that definition of normal? Hopefully, after the NCAA swimming championships are completed, Lia Thomas will be able to live her best life as a senior in college, free from the harassment and vitriol from a public that fears the change that she represents because what we used to think was "normal" is no longer.

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



LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

WHAT IS INFLATION TAX?

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

Let's say you have a group of people, and these people buy things. Under Scenario 1, let's assume they earn \$50,000/year, and the price of a Big Mac Meal from McDonald's, shoes from Target and a tank of gas are \$5, \$30 and \$50, respectively. And in buying these things, they give these businesses money. In return, they receive goods and services from these businesses, i.e., a Big Mac Meal, shoes and a tank of gas.

Now, if the government were to print enough money to double the money supply, we would have twice as many dollar bills floating around — but the same amount of goods and services. All that would happen would be that the prices of these goods and services themselves would double. So, a Big Mac Meal goes from a price of \$5 to a price of \$10, the tank of gas goes from a price of \$50 to a price of \$100.

And, of course, one of the prices that would double are people's wages. So now, in Scenario 2, you're earning

twice as much as you were before, \$100,000/year. But the prices of the things you buy have all doubled as well. So, if I were to ask you are you better off in Scenario 1 or Scenario 2, the answer is you're the same in both. It doesn't matter to you whether you're earning \$50,000/year and a tank of gas costs \$50 or whether you're earning \$100,000/year and gas costs \$100 — it's the same amount of gas.

However, there should be a significant difference in the two scenarios, and the difference shows up when you look at your savings. Let's suppose in Scenario 1, you had \$200,000 in savings, you're earning \$50,000/year and a Big Mac Meal costs \$5. Along comes the government, it prints enough money so all the prices double. That means that the Big Mac Meal costs twice as much, the shoes cost twice as much and you're earning twice as much, but your savings is the same. It's the same \$200,000 sitting in your savings but only buys half (50 percent) of what it used to.

This is what happens when the government comes along and prints

lots of money. In effect, what it's doing is draining away the purchasing power of your savings, i.e., inflation is a tax on your savings. When the government prints money and thereby creates inflation, we get the same exact effect as if the government had imposed a tax on people's savings. So, economists say it's called an "inflation tax."

Sound familiar? Beginning under then-President Donald Trump and continuing through President Joe Biden's administration, Congress has approved some \$4.5 trillion in Covid relief funding, according to CNBC (Dec. 9, 2021). One trillion is 1,000 billion or a million million — it's a huge amount of money. A trillion is a 1 followed by 12 zeros, like this: 1,000,000,000,000.

The government benefits from inflation by paying off debt with cheaper dollars each year. Because inflation raises wages as well as prices (but wages almost always rise more slowly than prices), tax revenues increase. This gives more income to the government, which allows it to increase its debt and debt payments.

And just like our Scenario 2, the cost of food is going up. According to the *Wall Street Journal* (Dec. 27, 2021) food prices are estimated to rise 5 percent in the first half of 2022, while other sources point to a 7 percent increase by the end of the year. This number might be even higher if we consider that many products are

also shrinking in size, which means you're getting less for more.

Gas prices are also at record highs. Experts fear the conflict between Russia and Ukraine could disrupt oil supplies in the region, which would lead to a bump in gas prices. Russia is the second-largest oil producer in the world behind the U.S. Experts project much of the U.S. could see gas prices go up as high as \$4 by early spring, and markets like California and Hawaii — where gas is already expensive — could top \$5 (*source: USA Today, Feb. 23, 2022*).

Not surprisingly, inflation has hit a new 40-year high in January. Inflation surged 7.5 percent annually in January, surpassing the previous 40-year high set in December and marking the highest annual inflation rate since February 1982, when it was 7.6 percent. Inflation is rising at the fastest pace in decades, which means consumers are paying more

for rent, utilities and groceries than ever before.

Financial institutions such as banks love inflation because the new money created to finance government debt goes to them as loans from the Fed. Because big banks are flush with cash and do not need to raise rates quickly to attract more deposits, the average rate paid on basic savings accounts insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. is just 0.06 percent, according to Bankrate.

They, in turn, lend this money to consumers at a much higher rate of interest. Mortgage rates are going up, approaching 4 percent, and auto loans are approaching 6 percent. Obscene profits are possible if one borrows at, say, 1 percent interest or less and then turns around and lends that new money to a consumer who must pay 4 percent-6 percent interest.

» See TAX on page 9



Inflation rates are at its highest levels in the U.S. since February 1982.



A MOTHER'S TAKE

Better Health, Better Relationships, Better Life

By Marsha Aizumi

Two weeks ago, I was hired to be a consultant for a two-day leadership conference. The theme for our retreat was unlocking the power of emotions to connect with our teams, our schools and our families, and it was based on a book by Dr. Marc Brackett called "Permission to Feel."

To be honest, my husband was dreading my return from this conference because he knew that I would want to talk about feelings. He would rather have five root canals than talk about his feelings. Here is an example of one of our discussions, printed with my husband's permission:

Me: I think we should talk about our emotions more. I am reading a book about how important that is.

Tad: I think we DO talk about emotions.

Me: OK, how do you feel right now?

Tad: I feel great!

Me: But great is not an emotion. Emotions

are things like happy and sad.

Tad: OK, I feel happy and sad and great.

Me: What do you feel sad about?

Tad: Oh, I made a mistake . . . I just feel happy (as he slowly starts leaving the room).

As you can see, our conversation was pretty short and not too in depth. And I didn't even get to ask him what he was happy about before he started to leave the room!

Even though I was consulting at this conference, I was there to learn, too. And boy, did I learn a lot. First, I learned that all feelings matter. I was also reminded that feelings aren't negative or positive, but just information. As I sat and listened to the speaker, I realized on my best days that I am a curious explorer of my feelings, and on my worst days, I am either judging myself or others.

I spent the conference days thinking about how I handle my feelings, especially those I consider bad: guilt,

shame, sadness, disappointment, hopeless, stress, anxiety, frustration, fear. I lived with so many of these feelings as our family transitioned with Aiden early on.

And I saw that every feeling I focused on seemed to grow. However, when I PAUSED, stepped back and took time to reflect and be curious, I began to understand why I felt so guilty, ashamed, sad or fearful. Here are a few ways I manage my feelings:

1. I Take a Walk — Taking a walk helps me to pause and reflect. Being outside allows me to clear my head and focus on what truly matters to me. And what matters to me is my relationships and my health. And Mochi, my dog, loves walking, so it benefits us both!

2. I Take Some Deep Breaths — It is amazing how just giving myself one to two minutes to take some deep breaths calms me down. It slows down my heart, so I feel peaceful. I have actually checked my heart rate on my Fitbit when I was feeling stressed after two minutes of deep breathing. I have also checked my blood pressure. Both my heart and blood pressure drop significantly after just two minutes of deep breaths. For me, seeing the data and feeling more calm is worth the time!

3. Self-Talk — I now have a phrase when I react with feeling. I think . . . All feelings are just information. PAUSE . . . What does this feeling mean, and how can I manage it?

4. Reframe the Story in Your Head — What this means to me is tell myself a different story.

I used to work with someone who was very arrogant and self-centered. Even when we were no longer working together, the thought of that person still triggered negative feelings. One day, I realized that this individual made me feel small, weak and worthless. But today, I have found my voice — as a result, that individual no longer has that effect on me. Instantly, I felt different because I changed the story in my head. That individual didn't change, but I did!

My biggest take-away from this conference was that it is OK to feel all feelings. In fact, it is healthier to feel all feelings and learn to manage it rather than push it down and avoid it. Our Japanese culture even has a word for this suppression: *gaman*. It is funny — at our last Okaeri conference, we had a

workshop called "Gaman Be Gone."

Feelings don't go away if we suppress it. They will come out in some way . . . taking a toll on your body, hurting the quality of your relationships or affecting the quality of your life. Choosing to recognize, understand, label, express and manage our emotions are the key to having a successful life as long as the response is respectful. It is a skill that can be learned and practiced. We can all live the life we dream, and it begins with giving ourselves permission to feel.

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."



(Top) Marsha Aizumi with Dr. Marc Brackett



(Right) Taking a walk with Mochi



REFLECTIONS

Successful Start for PHASE 2 OF JAPANESE AMERICAN REDRESS

By Phil Tajitsu Nash

Phase 2 of the historic Japanese American campaign for redress got off to a successful start this year during the days surrounding the Day of Remembrance ceremonies that Japanese American communities nationwide commemorate each year around Feb. 19.

On that date in 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which set in motion the roundup, forced removal and years-long incarceration of Japanese Americans and Japanese Latin Americans.

One high point was that for the first time in the many years that the nation's president has issued an official proclamation to mark DOR, President Joe Biden specifically mentioned the former Japanese Latin

American internees: "We reflect on the bravery of civil rights leaders like Fred Korematsu, Minoru Yasui, Gordon Hirabayashi and Mitsuye Endo, and that of every Japanese American who organized and sought redress. Their efforts helped bring about the first Day of Remembrance, led President Jimmy Carter to sign the law creating the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians and spurred President Ronald Reagan to sign the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which provided monetary reparations to living survivors and an official apology to the Japanese American community."

"At the same time, we also acknowledge the painful reality that Japanese Latin Americans, who were taken from their Central and South American homes and incarcerated by the United States government during

World War II, were excluded from the Civil Liberties Act of 1988."

The signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which granted redress to Japanese Americans who were citizens and Legal Permanent Residents when they were incarcerated during World War II, excluded Japanese Latin Americans because they did not qualify under such eligibility criteria. Even though they had been seized from their homes in Latin America and interned in the U.S., they were classified as "illegal aliens."

Now, after a major victory in the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), JLAs are calling upon everyone to build on the gains of Phase 1 of the redress campaign with active support for them during Redress Phase 2: demanding/urging the U.S. government to honor the rule of international law and grant appropriate redress to Japanese Latin Americans.

Another high point was that the JLA wartime experience and ongoing redress struggle were included in the nation's three-day commemoration of the 80th anniversary of EO 9066, which was sponsored by the National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and a broad spectrum of the Japanese American community nationwide, including the Japanese American Citizens League (National); Japanese American National Museum;

White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders; Friends of Minidoka; Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation; National Japanese American Memorial Foundation; JACL-DC; the Asian American Foundation; Densho; Tsuru for Solidarity; Resisters.org; and over 20 community partners (<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/japaneseamericanconfinement/day-of-remembrance.htm>).

Grace Shimizu, director of the Campaign for Justice: Redress NOW for Japanese Latin Americans! and the Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project, spoke at several DOR events in February, including events at Chabot College (Hayward, Calif.), University of California, Berkeley, University of Maryland, San Francisco State University and Mile High JACL (Denver) (<https://jlacampaignforjustice.org/2022-day-of-remembrance/>).

On Feb. 24, the JLA Day of Action, people expressed support for JLA redress. Supporters called or wrote messages to the White House to express their support, signed an online petition and invited friends and family to support the Redress Phase 2 campaign (bit.ly/JLADayofAction).

"We were very moved by the outpouring of support from Japanese Americans and many others as we kicked off Redress Phase 2," said

Shimizu. "It has been 80 years since our families were taken from our homes and placed behind barbed wire. Many of our loved ones have already passed away. Time is long overdue for the U.S. government to uphold international law and grant reparations."

"Giving redress to JLAs is not only the right thing to do," said Margaret Fung, executive director of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, an early supporter of Redress Phase 2, "[but] it also reminds us that we must be vigilant about our civil rights and civil liberties in all times — especially in times of war and national crises."

For more details about Redress Phase 2, please visit <https://jla-campaignforjustice.org>.

Professor Phil Tajitsu Nash is co-president of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund and teaches Asian American Studies at the University of Maryland. He participated in Phase 1 of the redress movement as a lawyer at AALDEF, a board member of the New York JACL, a researcher at the National Archives with Jack and Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga, a lobbyist for the Washington Coalition on Redress and a reporter at the NY Nichibei and other community papers.

An aerial view of the Historic Wintersburg site



HISTORIC WINTERSBURG STRUCTURES FALL VICTIM TO FIRE, DEMOLITION

The two 1910 structures, part of the endangered Historic Wintersburg in Huntington Beach, Calif., are affected; an arson investigation is underway.

By Historic Wintersburg Preservation Group

HUNTINGTON BEACH, CALIF. — Shortly before 9 a.m. on Feb. 25, there was notification of a fire at endangered National Treasure Historic Wintersburg, located at Warner Avenue and Nichols Lane in Huntington Beach, Calif. Community preservationists have worked since 2012 to save and preserve this property, which holds more than a century of nationally significant Japanese American history.

A fire of unknown origin destroyed the 112-year-old manse (parsonage) of the 1910 Wintersburg Japanese Mission. The nearby 1910 Wintersburg Japanese Mission was lost to demolition a few hours after the fire. Both historic structures were demolished within a few hours of the fire before an arson investigation was completed. The investigation is ongoing per the City of Huntington Beach.

The Historic Wintersburg property was named one of America's Most Endangered Historic Places in 2014 and designated a National Treasure in 2015 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Preserve Orange County named Historic Wintersburg one of Orange County's Most Endangered Historic Places in 2017.

In recent years beginning in early 2016, Historic Wintersburg was targeted with anti-Asian hate, social media harassment and threats, prompting police reports.

All six historic structures at Historic Wintersburg are listed in the City of Huntington Beach General Plan historic and cultural element as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, which automatically places Historic Wintersburg on the State of California list of historic and cultural resources.

With local and national partners, the Historic Wintersburg community preservation group

has engaged since 2012 Rainbow Disposal and in 2014 new owner Republic Services in discussions to purchase the property for historic preservation purposes.

Republic Services has publicly stated to the media that it would work with the community effort on the sale for historic preservation purposes but have disengaged the past two years.

Preservationists raised \$30,000 in funding to conduct an outside review in 2015 by a multiparty panel of historic preservationists, city planners and economic/business professionals — including participation by Rainbow Environmental Services/Republic Services — to demonstrate adaptive reuse options to save the property and prevent its demolition and development.

Months after that analysis, Rainbow Environmental Services/Republic Services reached legal settlement with the Ocean View School District, which legally encumbered the property in perpetuity, changing the circumstances and restricting development.

As a result of a 2016 legal settlement agreement between the Ocean View School District — which has a preschool and elementary school adjacent to Historic Wintersburg — and Rainbow Environmental/Republic Services, there are land use encumbrances on the Historic Wintersburg property that prevent its development and safeguard the property for historic preservation.

City of Huntington Beach planning requirements also impose restrictions that hinder development. The Ocean View School District owns land adjacent to the Historic Wintersburg property, including the entirety of Belsito Street to the south and land and/or right-of-way on adjoining and nearby streets. The school district has expressed support for the full preservation of Historic Wintersburg.

Additionally, experts in appraisal of and planning for historic properties do not consider the Historic Wintersburg property developable other than as a heritage park.

Over the past decade, community preservationists have contacted Rainbow Environmental Services/Republic Services repeatedly to provide more security and regular maintenance of the property, which has experienced vandalism, tagging, trespassing to steal items and trespassing to enter the buildings for shelter.

During inspections of the property, items such as cans of kerosene and Bunsen burners have been found inside buildings and brought to the attention of Rainbow Environmental Services/Republic Services for removal.

The community previously provided thousands of dollars' worth of tree trimming and brush removal — at no cost to Rainbow Environmental Services/Republic Services — to remove vegetation that put not just the six historic structures at risk, but also the adjacent homes, as well as the Oak View preschool and elementary school.

As recently as two weeks before the fire on Feb. 25, Republic Services and City of Huntington Beach leaders were contacted in writing with photo documentation about vandalism and lack of security and maintenance at Historic Wintersburg. They did not respond.

"I hope that Republic Services will realize their corporate responsibility," said Mary Urashima of Historic Wintersburg. "They can be part of saving an endangered National Treasure historic place and be a better neighbor in Huntington Beach. . . . What are we to make of the complete disregard of the rare and significant history represented by Historic Wintersburg by Republic Services? What are we to make of the neglect by Republic Services of this property, putting a National Treasure historic place and a neighborhood with a preschool and elementary school at risk? Why would they sit on a property, allowing its deterioration, when it is known they cannot develop it due to their legal settlement agreement with a school district and the city's planning and building requirements? Republic Services has the opportunity to sell the property for historic preservation, something they have publicly stated to the media they would be willing to do while in reality doing the opposite."

The Historic Wintersburg Preservation group and partners Preserve Orange County and Heritage Museum of Orange County call upon Republic Services and community leaders in Huntington Beach and Orange County to take action to save and preserve this rare and significant National Treasure. They are calling for a thorough arson investigation.

Individuals and organizations within the

Stand up to anti-Asian Violence
and all racial & gender based violence
Support Historic Wintersburg
Fire burns Japanese American church, a National Treasure

February 25, 2022: The fire that destroyed 2 of 6 historic buildings is under INVESTIGATION for possible ARSON. Republic Services, owners of the Historic Wintersburg property, demolished both buildings several hours after the fire, destroying evidence for the investigation. Owners previously applied to demolish all 6 historic buildings so they can develop or sell. In the lead up to the fire, Historic Wintersburg volunteers have been attacked by racists on social media, stalked, photographed and been subjected to other acts of intimidation against the preservation project.

Rally to Support Wintersburg
Sat • March 19 • 12N-1pm
7642 Warner Ave SW cor. Warner & Nicholas Ln. Huntington Bch. CA

Support Historic Wintersburg (SHW) ad hoc coalition for the March 19th event. This action supports & includes Historic Wintersburg Preservation, Preserve Orange County, Heritage Museum of Orange County, Japanese American National Museum, Progressive Asian Network for Action, Neighborhood Safety Coalitions, AAPI vs Hate South Bay, Japanese American Citizens League, Greater L.A. Seniors League, Save Our Seniors Network, API-HISE, San Fernando Valley JACL, Manzanar Committee, Nikkei Progressives, Pan Asian Harmony Society.

Demand an independent investigation into the FIRE!

For more information: info@progressivesonline.org

A rally in support of Historic Wintersburg is planned for March 19 in Huntington Beach.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF HISTORIC WINTERSBURG

Japanese American community are calling for 1) an arson investigation, 2) the right of Japanese Americans to collect ash and remains or artifacts from the two buildings to honor the heritage and history of a sacred site and 3) action by the City of Huntington Beach to bring Rainbow Environmental Services/Republic Services back to the table in genuine negotiations to allow the purchase of the property by preservationists and museum professionals partnered with Historic Wintersburg for the purpose of historic preservation as a heritage park.

David Inoue, executive director of the JACL, wrote in a letter to Huntington Beach Mayor Barbara Delgleize and the Huntington Beach City Council: "We hope that the city and community of Huntington Beach will do its part to recognize the important place Historic Wintersburg holds in the history of Huntington Beach, Orange County and our nation. The site is of particular interest for the Japanese American community. For me, as a Japanese American, and as a Presbyterian, this site is of particular importance personally. If Huntington Beach continues to allow these historic landmarks to fall further into disrepair, they will be lost forever. Please take action to ensure future generations can learn the story of Historic Wintersburg."

A partial list of those calling for the above actions also include:

- Japanese American National Museum (Los Angeles)
- Japanese American Citizens League (Washington, D.C.)
- Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium (National)
- Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages (national)
- 50 Objects/50 Stories of the American Japanese Incarceration (National)
- Poston Community Alliance (Poston, Arizona, confinement site)
- Little Tokyo Historical Society (Los Angeles)
- Heart Mountain Foundation (Wyoming confinement site)
- Friends of Minidoka (Idaho confinement site)
- Minidoka Pilgrimage (Idaho confinement site)
- Historical Museum at Fort Missoula (Montana)
- South East Los Angeles North Orange County (SELANOCO) chapter of the JACL (California)

An outdoor rally and press conference is set to take place on March 19 in support of Historic Wintersburg Preservation and its regional partners, Heritage Museum of Orange County and Preserve Orange County. ■



Wintersburg Mission and Manse in 1910

Historic Wintersburg

PHOTO: HISTORIC WINTERSBURG PRESERVATION TASK FORCE



'FREE CHOL SOO LEE'

REFRAMES AN INFAMOUS INJUSTICE

A new documentary shines light on an important, still-unrecognized saga.

By George Toshio Johnston,
Senior Editor, Digital & Social Media

*All the King's Horses
And All the King's Men
Couldn't Put Humpty Together Again*

Of the hundreds of articles investigative journalist K. W. Lee would write about his fellow Korean immigrant who was imprisoned for a murder he did not commit, it began with one headlined "Alice in Chinatown Murder Case."

The allusion to Lewis Carroll's whimsical "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" turned out to be apropos and prescient. Now 93, Lee's decade's old reporting would be an odyssey down a confounding rabbit hole that haunts him to this day.

For the man whom the warhorse reporter helped free from prison, however, the aforementioned nursery rhyme wasn't whimsy. Despite the tireless efforts of one journalist and a diverse army of Asian Americans brought together by a "there but for the grace of God go I" realization to fight the outrageous injustice visited upon him, nothing on Earth could quite rebuild the broken life of one Chol Soo Lee.

That epic story is revisited in the documentary "Free Chol Soo Lee."

FUTURE AWARDS CONTENDER?

For first-time directors Julie Ha and Eugene Yi, January 2022 will be looked back upon as a turning point in their own respective journalism careers. After six years of work, their documentary not only premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in its U.S. Documentary Competition Selection, but also within days, it was acquired by the streaming service MUBI.

Already destined to be shown nationally on PBS, the acquisition means "Free Chol Soo Lee" will likely be screened theatrically for Academy Award consideration for next year's Oscars.

After seeing it, TV reporter-turned-communications professor Sandra Gin told Ha and Yi, "This ain't just buzzworthy, it is Oscar-worthy." Gin has some insights regarding such matters.

One of her many Emmys came in 1984 for an installment of the Sacramento-area public affairs program "Perceptions" titled "A Question of Justice," which covered the same subject matter, in the Historical, Cultural and Religious category.

Attorney Dan Mayeda, associate director of the UCLA School of Law's Documentary Film Legal Clinic — which helps documentarians with pro bono legal services such as helping set up LLCs, drafting contracts, navigating the fair use doctrine and more — called the finished product "a magnificent documentary." (Ha and Yi were among the Clinic's first clients.)

Nick Allen of RogerEbert.com, meantime, wrote that "FCSL" was "extraordinarily moving" and "the best documentary I've seen from this year's U.S. Documentary competition."



Sandra Gin, Chol Soo Lee and Tom Nakashima met in 1983 for the premiere of the episode of KCRA's "Perceptions," titled "A Question of Justice."

PHOTO: COURTESY OF SANDRA GIN

(For the record, the movie that won in that category at Sundance was "The Exiles.")

UNKNOWN NO MORE

Although the praise for "FCSL" is deserved, the story told in the movie never quite became as embedded in the greater collective consciousness the way other tragic miscarriages that affected Asian Americans did.

A case in point: Su Kim, who is one of "FCSL's" producers and the 2022 Amazon Studios Producers Award for Nonfiction recipient for "Free Chol Soo Lee" at this year's Sundance.

Prior to her vital involvement with "FCSL," Kim admitted she had never heard about Chol Soo Lee.

"I felt really upset that I didn't actually know about this story at all. I grew up on the East Coast. I'm in my 40s. And I had never ever heard of this story. The more I heard about the story, the more I realized that it would be a true tragedy to have it buried in history," Kim told the *Pacific Citizen*.

Ha concurred, saying, "This is a landmark movement of Asian Americans. They overturned two murder convictions to free this Korean man from death row. And it was like, why is this story not known? . . . I sensed he (K. W. Lee) was so worried that it was just going to get buried in history, and people wouldn't know about it."

"Free Chol Soo Lee" may finally remedy that situation. Still, for those understandably unfamiliar with the saga, the documentary fills in many of the details of how Chol Soo Lee was, at age 20, charged, tried, convicted and imprisoned for a brazen gang-related slaying in San Francisco's Chinatown in the early 1970s.

Chol Soo Lee admits guilt for unconditional freedom

STOCKTON, Ca.—Chol Soo Lee, 31, reluctantly pleaded guilty Aug. 10 to the second-degree murder charge of prison inmate Morrison Needham in return for unconditional freedom, bringing to close his 10-year struggle for freedom and justice.

The Korean immigrant was imprisoned 10 years ago for the sensationalized murder of Wah Ching gang member Yip Yee Tak in San Francisco Chinatown on June 3, 1973. Police baffled by a string of 13 Chinatown slayings desperately needed to apprehend someone in connection with that murder occurring at the crowded intersection of Grant Avenue and Pacific Street.

Based on conflicting eyewitness testimony by three white tourists and faulty court procedures, Lee was sentenced to life imprisonment at Deuel Vocational Institute in Tracy.

It was in a DVI recreation yard that Lee got in a fight with neo-Nazi, white supremacist Needham

who fell to a fatal stab wound. Lee contended self-defense while prison officials maintained that it was premeditated murder.

For this 1977 killing, Lee was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to die in the gas chamber as a convicted murderer committing a second murder.

Defense Committee Formed
Publicity arose about the manner in which Lee's case was handled in the California criminal justice system, banding together Asian Americans, mainly Korean and Japanese, to form a defense committee. The Committees to Free Chol Soo Lee raised thousands of dollars and hired attorneys who, noting a wide range of irregularities, successfully challenged both convictions.

A Sacramento judge and U.S. District Court later agreed that Lee had not received a fair trial. After two years of motions and continuances, he was retried and acquitted on Sept. 3, 1982 of the Chinatown murder.

But Lee was still held for the prison-yard murder and faced death row.

Lee's defense composed of Stuart Hanlon and Ranko Yamada contended that the DVI incident was an act of self-defense and that if Lee had not been initially and unjustly convicted of the Chinatown murder, he would never have been imprisoned at all and would not have had to defend himself against Needham.

An appeals court overturned the case in January of this year on the grounds that the jury was not given the option of finding Lee guilty of a lesser offense than first-degree murder. This opened the way for the retrial.

Lee hated to accept the plea bargain of guilty to second-degree murder in the retrial because he still contends his innocence.

Factors on Plea-Bargaining
"It was the most agonizing decision I've ever tried to reach," Lee said. "It is because of the failure to the judicial system that I plead guilty today."

Two factors made him decide to plead guilty: he did not trust the American legal system and he did not want to jeopardize the support which people have given him over the years.

By pleading guilty to second-degree murder for the prison death, Lee faces an eight-year sentence. Although sentencing was not until Aug. 24, San Joaquin County Superior Court Judge K. Peter Sifers promised Lee would not be imprisoned because of time already

Continued on Page 3

Acquitted Chol Soo Lee thanks Asian American support groups

SAN FRANCISCO—Chol Soo Lee, the Korean immigrant who was acquitted in his retrial Sept. 3 for the 1973 Chinatown murder of Yip Yee Tak, offered his praise to the Asian American groups who supported him, reported Asian Week (AW) recently.

"It was tremendous. Every day I would go to court and feel strong and very refreshed that I was not on trial alone. People were coming from all across the country, Hawaii, Korea, Japan, taking an interest in my case. They all made it like it was their struggle," Lee told the San Francisco Examiner.

A member of the Committee to Free Chol Soo Lee said the acquittal raises the possibility Lee can post bail to get out of prison while awaiting trial on his appeal of his conviction for the 1977 murder of a fellow inmate at the Deuel Vocational Institute in Tracy, which he claimed was self-defense. Bail had previously been set at a prohibitive \$1 million. The hearing is expected to be held within a few weeks.

In a recent interview with AW,

Lee said he still loves San Francisco and would want to live in The City if he is ever released.

"If I ever do get out, I'd like to work in the Asian community. I'd like to use my experience of these years in jail to tell youths what it's like, try to help them with their problems."

"I'm realistic—I wouldn't expect to be able to get a full-time paying job right away. I'd like to get a job, though, be self-sufficient. I'd like to be able to take care of my mother. My mother's been to the trial almost daily."

Berkeley after school program scheduled

BERKELEY—The Berkeley Asian Youth Center has slated its Fifth Annual Asian American After School Program from Sept. 28, 1982-June 3, 1983. English as a Second Language classes, Asian writers' workshops, and general subject tutorials will be available; for more info call the BAYC at (415) 849-4898.

It was "merely" the latest murder among many in a turf battle between rival Chinese gangs.

On June 19, 1974, Chol Soo Lee was convicted of first-degree murder. His sentence: life imprisonment. But that wasn't the worst of what was in store for him.

While incarcerated at Deuel Vocational Institute in Tracy, Calif., he actually did kill a fellow inmate, Morrison Needham, said to have been a member of the Aryan Brotherhood, in a what Chol Soo Lee claimed was an act of self-defense.

That incident would put him on the path to Death Row at San Quentin State Prison.

DANGEROUS NAIVETE

Although he freely admitted to being a "street punk" with some petty criminal offenses on his rap sheet, Chol Soo Lee had nothing to do with the June 3, 1973, murder of Yip Yee Tak. He naively believed that the American legal system would soon realize they had the "wrong guy" and send him along his merry, wayward way.

Although he had some street smarts, Chol Soo Lee was in for a rude awakening. It was as if the city's political, law enforcement and legal establishment, driven by the need for an expedient and tidy solution to show they had established control over the gang war (and thus continue the flow of tourism dollars), had conspired to live up to the brutal paean to official indifference uttered at the end of 1974's "Chinatown."

P.C.'s Chol Soo Lee news coverage from Sept. 24, 1982

P.C.'s Chol Soo Lee news coverage from Sept. 2, 1983

It must have seemed that Chol Soo Lee, with his criminal record and having been singled out from a police lineup, was a gift from the gods of neglect. That he was Korean, spoke no Chinese, wasn't a gang member and didn't commit the crime mattered not. Neither did the ballistics test that disproved the handgun accidentally fired by Chol Soo Lee days before the slaying was the same one used in the murder, nor a conveniently overlooked key eyewitness who would later testify that Chol Soo looked nothing like the man he saw commit the crime.

"Forget it, Jake. It's Chinatown."

THE REST OF THE STORY

But that malfeasance is just one of the threads found in "Free Chol Soo Lee." K. W. Lee's investigative reporting was another vital one.

The other thread Ha and Yi wove in was that of the many Japanese Americans such as Jeff Adachi, Warren Furutani, David Kakishiba, Jeff Mori, Peggy Saika and Mike Suzuki, along with Chinese Americans Art Chen, Chris

Chow, Grant Din, Esther Leong and Susan Lew and Derrick Lim who came forward to raise awareness of the injustice that the justice system had imposed upon Chol Soo Lee.

Many among the aforementioned would go on to dedicate their lives to become lawyers or public servants to ensure there were no thumbs on the scales of justice.

In K. W. Lee's eyes and in Chol Soo Lee's words, though, there was one particular true believer, one person above the others who took action after reading the initial newspaper reports implicating Chol Soo for the murder. Her name: Ranko Yamada, and she is one of "Free Chol Soo Lee's" treasures, thanks to her participation in telling the tale.

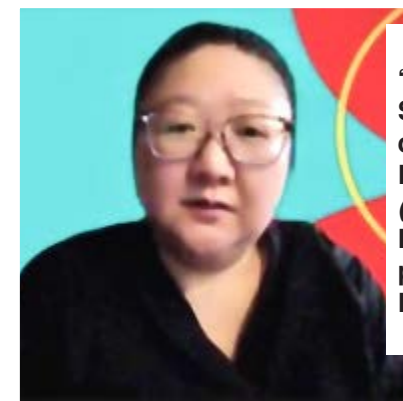
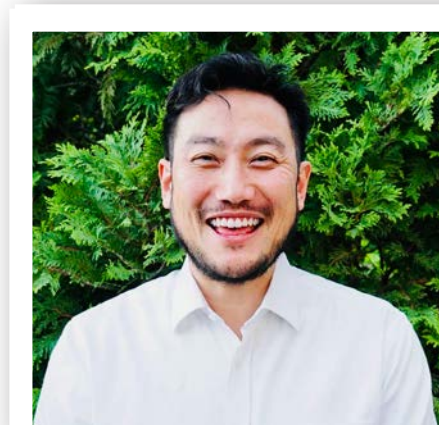
Interestingly, according to K. W. Lee, many of Chol Soo Lee's fellow Korean immigrants, inculcated by Confucian respect for authority figures, initially wanted nothing to do with him. Why, after all, would the police arrest someone if he wasn't guilty?

"Free Chol Soo Lee," however, shows Koreans — including Chol Soo Lee's mother — eventually joining the Free Chol Soo movement with a fierceness in what would become the first pan-Asian American community movement that had real-world results. It's that storyline that is at the heart of "Free Chol Soo Lee."

JOURNALISM TO DOCUMENTARIES

For Ha, her knowledge of the Chol Soo Lee story resulted from her own background and journalism career that included working for UCLA's student-run publication *Pacific Ties*, as well as *Rafu Shimpo* and *KoreAm Journal*, now defunct.

"I've known K. W. for more than 30 years. I met him when I was 18 years old. He inspired me to become a journalist. So, I've known about the case for a long time. Eugene has actually known about the case for a long time through K. W. But I never thought about



"Free Chol Soo Lee" directors Eugene Yi (left), Julie Ha and producer Su Kim (right)

making a film," Ha told the *Pacific Citizen*.

Ha actually wanted to write about Chol Soo Lee, perhaps as an in-depth magazine feature. But after attending the funeral for Chol Soo Lee, who died on Dec. 2, 2014, at age 62, the feeling that "was something just even beyond grief" from that day would lead her down a different path: documentarian.

Yi's path, meantime, went from studying neuroscience in college to video editing and journalism, which would lead him to *KoreAm Journal*, where he met Editor-in-Chief Ha.

Regarding his directing partner's journalism chops, Yi said, "I always appreciated working with her. She was an incredible editor, just so giving and so supportive in terms of all the crazy story ideas that I might have or how many words over the limit I might have been. It was always just incredible working with her. And she always seemed to be able to bring out the best from whatever project I was working on."

When *KoreAm Journal* ceased publication, Ha and Yi decided it was time to focus on telling Chol Soo Lee's story. "It literally felt like it was beckoning us to tell it," Ha said.

With Yi's experience in video editing and their knowledge of the existing archival

materials, including K. W. Lee's audio-tapes, Chol Soo Lee's memoir and more, the documentary route beckoned.

FORTUITOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

Although the path to completing the documentary was long and far from easy, there were several fortuitous stops along the way.

One was the 2018 formation of the Documentary Film Legal Clinic at UCLA's School of Law. At its outset, Mayeda said they really didn't have any clients, a situation that is completely different now that the word about it has gotten around.

"I had known Julie from just casually from when she was at the *Rafu*," Mayeda recalled. "I ran into her somewhere, and she mentioned she was working on this documentary about Chol Soo Lee. I said, 'You've got to bring that to the clinic, it would be great to work on that. . . . They were one of our first clinic clients.'"

Ha concurred. "They helped us tremendously," she said. "You know how much legal services can cost. . . . When you're an independent film, you're just struggling to balance all these expenses that you had. So, it saved us a tremendous amount of money."

Connecting with Su Kim and her producing

partners, Jean Tsien and Sona Jo, was also key for Ha and Yi.

"I'm Korean American, and it really pissed me off that this had happened," Kim said. "And it was very resonant to many of the experiences, I think, that we all have, a lot of Asian Americans have had. I make films, and this is what I know how to do. So, I said, 'Well, OK, I'll help you guys out. Let's see what we can do.' And so that's how I got involved."

VOICES OF AUTHORITY

It was Kim, for instance, who helped bring in Sebastian Yoon, who gave voice to words written by Chol Soo Lee in his memoir. She had heard about Yoon speak at an Open Society Foundations Q & A, not realizing that he had actually appeared in the documentary "College Behind Bars."

As it turned out, Yoon's own life experience had many parallels to that of Chol Soo Lee, such that he could relate to much of what Chol Soo Lee had experienced.

But Yoon had something that Chol Soo Lee did not — an opportunity to attend college while in prison.



Speaking the Truth

Not only was Ranko Yamada a vital part of the original drive to free Chol Soo Lee, she is a major figure in the documentary "Free Chol Soo Lee." Yamada was kind enough to answer a few questions via email for the *Pacific Citizen*.

Pacific Citizen: With your first-hand experience as a community activist — arguably the original/most important person to speak out and reach out regarding the injustice that was inflicted upon Chol Soo Lee — what was your overall reaction to seeing the completed, final-cut version of "Free Chol Soo Lee"?

Ranko Yamada: My overall reaction is a resounding "Wow." Choosing to focus on Chol Soo Lee sounds so obvious. It was anything but obvious. There were so many layers and dimensions in Chol Soo the person, the immigrant, his cases, the coming together of support from the Korean, pan-Asian and progressive communities, endless issues and exceptional people like K. W. Lee.

The film didn't compromise. It wasn't sanitized. The story came through clean and truthful. The filmmakers, Julie Ha and Eugene Yi, perceived the whole with a deep regard and respect for Chol Soo and all of the players. Great job; great film.

P.C.: Was there any element that the filmmakers did not include or address?

Yamada: Not really. There was so much critical information packed into 83 minutes. Of course, there are hundreds of side stories and anecdotes that couldn't be included, but everything essential was there.

P.C.: The pan-Asian American movement to free Chol Soo Lee included many Japanese Americans. Presuming that they were offspring (or knowledgeable) of Japanese Americans unjustly incarcerated by the federal government during World War II because of Executive Order 9066, how much do you think that this was explicitly or implicitly a recognition that Lee was the victim of unfair treatment by the political/law enforcement establishment of San Francisco and a motivation to help get him the freedom he deserved? If you believe that there was this recognition by JAs to help Lee for that reason, can you elaborate on this topic?

Yamada: I really don't know how much identity there was in the support for Chol Soo Lee with the incarceration of JAs during WWII. The grass-roots movement for redress was developing at the same time. Many of us were involved with both issues, but I don't believe it was a defining relationship. We talked about institutional and

individual racism, about oppression in our society. We also talked about uniting with all people's struggles. Personally, Chol Soo reminded me of my dad — not because my dad was incarcerated at Rohwer, but because he was Kibei Nisei who returned to the U.S. at 17 and never had a chance to go to school or learn English.

P.C.: Despite the legal victory/victories that saw Lee win his freedom, it's clear from the documentary that he was nevertheless still haunted by the traumas he endured, which made it difficult to reintegrate into the "straight and narrow life" once he was free and thus put him on a path that included drug abuse and crime and, ultimately, his tragic disfigurement from the attempted arson.

In other words, if Chol Soo was unable to save himself from himself, in retrospect, what are the lessons from the Chol Soo Lee saga we can apply to the future when someone gets a second chance, whether the problem was drugs, crime, gangs, homelessness, etc.?

Yamada: This is complicated. Yes, I think he was haunted by past traumas. More so, the things he didn't get in early life, like basic opportunities of education and a stable supportive family, can surely restrict the quality of life when at 30 you have no skill sets, no money and no real home.

Lessons? Chol Soo had about 30 years as a freed man before he died. He had grief, traumas, sadness and all the rest. His life was tragic. I don't think he ever doubted that being outside was way better than being in. The lessons are still the same. The best chance of survival and a better society is to support each other. Do what you can when you can — and keep your eyes wide open. ■



Gathered on Feb. 22, 2006, at the Chhol Soo Lee Symposium at UC Davis are (from left) Tom Nakashima and Sandra Gin, who won Emmys for producing an episode of the public affairs program "Perceptions" on the Chhol Soo Lee case, titled "A Question of Justice"; Chhol Soo Lee; K. W. Lee; and Derrick Lim.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF SANDRA GIN

»

"He received his degree while in incarcerated," Kim said. "And he was incredibly moving. He really spoke from the heart. And I just really felt immediately, like, this guy can represent the voice of Chhol Soo."

Yi, meantime, also credited TV reporter Sandra Gin. "Without her work," he said, "we wouldn't really have a film." For her part, Gin, too, recognized the import of what

Yoon brought and how that helped them in their filmmaking process.

"He narrowed down the focus for them. And that's what really transcended and transformed the trajectory," Gin said.

DIFFERENT DIRECTION?

On the topic of trajectories, could the kudōs conveyed toward Ha and Yi for "Free Chhol Soo Lee" point them in a new direction from the written-word world of print journalism? It may be too soon to say for Ha. "We were thrilled and honored when we got invited to show the film at Sundance," she said, calling it a "six-year labor of love."

"And, it's not lost on us that the movement to free Chhol Soo also took six years. We're just so excited to share this story with the world."

But does this augur a possible career change? "I'll never say never because I have spent six years trying to build my skill set. But at the same time, I've always felt like I needed to work on this one film, on this one story. I literally felt like, I had to do it. I could not not do it. So, I'm thrilled that it's finished," Ha said, adding that "My first love is journalism and writing."

Yi, however, said that filmmaking and writing have "really been twin loves for me."

THE LEGACY OF CHHOL SOO LEE

Despite the success and victory celebrated by the Free Chhol Soo Lee movement that made him a free man after 10 years in prison and an escape from death row, the documentary shows that for Chhol Soo Lee the man, the happiness and afterglow were short-lived.

What began as the "Alice in Chinatown Murder Case" had a downbeat ending that, ironically, was similar to the one in "Chinatown," one of the rare studio movies with a nihilistic ending that defied the happy Hollywood ending trope.

In the end, the traumas endured and the pains suffered by Chhol Soo Lee were too much for any human to survive.

At the end of the credit roll for "Free Chhol Soo Lee," Ha and Yi added an "In Memory" dedication to Jeff Adachi, who died in 2019. He had served as San Francisco's public defender, doubtless inspired by his involvement, when he was still a young man, baby, in the Free Chhol Soo Lee movement.

It's appropriate, then, that Adachi gets the last word, his perspective on the meaning and heartbreak of Chhol Soo Lee's legacy, spoken at his 2014 funeral.

"Chhol Soo ended up doing more for us than we did for him."

JA COMMUNITY MEMBERS SPEAK OUT AGAINST HATE

The racist incident took place at Laguna Hills High School; Orange County community members call for a complete investigation.

MISSION VIEJO, CALIF. — During a Feb. 10 meeting of the Board of Education for the Saddleback Valley Unified School District, JACL SELANOCO Co-President Nicole Inouye presented a statement on behalf of the chapter that respectfully requested the Saddleback Board of Education to conduct a thorough/robust investigation of the racial incident that occurred during at a basketball game at Laguna Hills High School.

The Jan. 21 incident involved students of LHHS who shouted racial slurs at a Black student athlete from the visiting team, Portola High School in Irvine, Calif.

In video taken during the game, shouting at Portola senior Makai Brown could be heard saying, "Who let him out of his cage? He's a monkey!" "Where is his slave owner?" and "Chain him up."

During the presentation of this statement, Inouye stated that JACL supported the victim's family and hoped this incident would become the starting point whereby all members of the Saddleback Valley Unified School District community can come together, united in their resolve to create a safer and more inclusive community for all.

"The School Board has a prime opportunity to address the situation and go beyond making a public statement and demonstrate through action that the incident is not reflective of

the culture of the high school or the community," Inouye told the *P.C.* "I hope they will take the opportunity to critically assess and take the appropriate actions to respond and remediate. The students of today will be the leaders of the future, and we all need to demonstrate the importance of treating people with respect through example."

Brian Hosokawa, president of the PHS girls basketball boosters, also spoke at the meeting and posted footage of the incident on YouTube, stating that he wanted to focus on the failures of leadership that led up to this hateful incident.

Hosokawa explained that there was a "cultural problem . . . and asked the

very challenging question, 'Are you going to make yourselves uncomfortable and do the difficult work to change it and teach your students a better way?'"

Saddleback Valley Unified School District has since issued a statement condemning the racist language and said it has identified the person making the comments as a LHHS student.

According to the statement, "The language and connotations expressed by the words used do not represent the culture, attitudes or feelings of the students and staff of LHHS nor those of Saddleback Valley Unified School District. . . . Although apologies are necessary, they do not suffice. The words used by this student will never

be acceptable. This is a learning opportunity for our school communities that there is ongoing work to be done in building continued mutual respect and understanding," said Superintendent Dr. Crystal Turner.

The school district also stated said that the student who made the comments received "immediate and appropriate consequences"; no word on the punishment the student faced was released.

The SELANOCO chapter and members of the Japanese American community will continue to monitor

the progress of the Saddleback School Board in its investigation.



JACL SELANOCO Co-President Nicole Inouye and Brian Hosokawa in a photo taken at the school board meeting

PHOTO: COURTESY OF JACL SELANOCO CHAPTER



STACI TOJI, ESQ.

TOJI LAW, APC

Estate Planning for the Generations

3655 Torrance Blvd., Suite 300 | Torrance, CA 90503

(424) 247-1123 | staci@tojilaw.com | www.tojilaw.com

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Among the many guest performers were Matsubayashi Karate Dojo, who are pictured with U.S. Olympian Sakura Kokumai (right).

PHOTO: SUSAN YOKOYAMA



View facing south from exterior near the outdoor stage space at the Terasaki Budokan

PHOTO: GEORGE T. JOHNSTON

THE PAUL I. TERASAKI BUDOKAN HOLDS OFFICIAL GRAND OPENING CEREMONY

Delayed due to Covid, the recreation facility finally holds a public celebration to welcome the community.

The Paul I. Terasaki Budokan is officially open to the public following a two-day grand-opening celebration hosted by the Little Tokyo Service Center that was held at the recreation facility in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo on March 11 and 12.

Bright, sunny skies welcomed the public to celebrate decades of community fundraising and perseverance to see the center's completion; the Budokan has been operating since spring 2020, but its official grand opening was postponed due to the pandemic.

At the heart of the 51,000-square-foot multipurpose sports facility and community center, located at 249 S. Los Angeles St., is a main floor featuring an Olympic-sized basketball court, as well as meeting room spaces, underground parking, a second-story terrace and an outdoor events area with a stage.

Speakers at the grand celebration included Kevin de Leon, Los Angeles City Councilmember, 14th District; Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi; LTSC Executive Direc-

tor Erich Nakano; Keith Terasaki of the Terasaki Family Foundation (the foundation donated \$3.5 million to complete the building, named after Keith's father, Paul I. Terasaki, a doctor and philanthropist who invented tissue-typing technology that made organ transplants possible); Jan Perry, former Los Angeles city council member, as well as guests Basketball Hall of Famer Jerry West and U.S. Olympian Sakura Kokumai, who competed in karate at the 2020 Tokyo Games.

Mike Murase, the LTSC's director of service programs and Budokan Capital Campaign director, told the P.C. in a 2020 interview that he envisions the Budokan as a special experience for all generations.

"To come to Little Tokyo to play basketball in that special place and



Marking the grand-opening celebration with an official proclamation are (from left) Terasaki Budokan Executive Director Ryan Lee, LTSC Executive Director Erich Nakano and California Assemblymembers Miguel Santiago and Al Muratsuchi.

PHOTO: SUSAN YOKOYAMA

then walk out into the community, go out to the restaurants, go to JANM and the JACCC and make some memories with their friends and their families as they grow up — that's what we want to see. . . . We want generations of JA kids and other kids to experience that feeling," he said.

Ryan Lee, executive director of the Terasaki Budokan, served as master of ceremonies of the opening celebration and best captured the spirit of the long-awaited community center's opening: "It's about time." ■

THE 53RD MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE/2022 MANZANAR AT DUSK SET FOR APRIL 30

The Manzanar Committee announces that this year's annual pilgrimage will be held online.

LOS ANGELES — "80 Years From EO 9066: Lessons Learned" is the theme for the 53rd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, which will be held online on April 30 at Noon, followed by the 2022 Manzanar At Dusk program.

Manzanar was the first of the American concentration camps in which more than 120,000 Japanese Americans and their immigrant parents were unjustly incarcerated during World War II.

Under normal circumstances, more than 1,000 people from all walks of life attend the Manzanar Pilgrimage each year, including students, teachers, community members, clergy and former incarcerated persons. Planning is already underway for this year's online program.

Like the past two years, the Covid-19 pandemic will prevent the Manzanar Committee from sponsoring the traditional live program at the Manzanar National

Historic Site. As such, this year's program will be a "Virtual Manzanar Pilgrimage," which will be released on the committee's web site, YouTube channel and on the Manzanar Committee's Facebook page.

Likewise, Manzanar At Dusk will also be held online. The program is co-sponsored by the Nikkei Student Unions at California State University, Fullerton; California State University, Long Beach; California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; the University of California, Los Angeles; the University of California, Riverside; and the University of California, San Diego.

The Manzanar Committee, a nonprofit organization that has sponsored the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage since 1969, is dedicated to educating and raising public awareness about the incarceration and violation of civil rights of persons of Japanese ancestry during WWII and the continuing struggle of all peoples when Constitutional rights are in danger.

Further details about the 53rd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage and the 2022 Manzanar At Dusk program will be announced soon.

For more information, email info@manzanarcommittee.org or call (323) 662-5102.



Crowd shot looking west toward the Manzanar National Historic Site

PHOTO: GANN MATSUDA/MANZANAR COMMITTEE

TAX » continued from page 3

If you think things are bad now, they could very well get worse, especially if inflation continues to rise. Experts agree that it would be a good idea to pay down any high-cost credit card debt now or look into consolidating debt to a lower-interest option or personal loan to help you

keep more money in your pocket for other expenses.

Furthermore, only deposit with insured institutions. Bank failures are rare — of the nearly 5,000 federally insured banks in the U.S. last year, only four failed — but smart savers will take precautions anyway. Before

depositing your money with any institution, make sure it has a sign in its entrance saying its deposits are insured.

In conclusion, if your deposits exceed the \$250,000 FDIC insurance limit, there are ways to federally insure deposits beyond the \$250,000 limit set by the FDIC.

You may have to spread money into more than one FDIC-insured

bank to insure all your money. You could also set up a trust and name beneficiaries. Each beneficiary is insured up to 250,000. Setting up accounts with different ownership categories is something you should discuss with your banker or other financial adviser.

Judd Matsunaga is the founding attorney of Elder Law Services of

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

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

DUE TO HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS IN THE U.S. BECAUSE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, PLEASE CHECK REGARDING THE STATUS OF EVENTS LISTED IN THIS ISSUE'S CALENDAR SECTION.

NATIONAL

2022 JACL/OCA Leadership Summit

Washington, D.C.; May 21-24

Event Details: Covid vaccination is required; all government safety protocols will be followed, including masks for all activities. Participation is open to all current JACL members.

This four-day annual program introduces community leaders from across the U.S. to the national policy-making arena. The conference is structured to provide a broad overview of the decision-making process at the federal level.

Info: To learn more and to register, visit <https://jacl.wufoo.com/forms/kjqmxag0ulgxnt/>.

NCWNP

Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival

San Francisco, CA

April 9-17

San Francisco Japantown

Price: Free

This cultural celebration coincides with the annual blooming of the cherry blossoms and the city is excited to welcome everyone back in person to celebrate this beautiful event! Hundreds of artists from the Bay Area will be there to showcase their craft and passions, in addition to delicious festival food at the Food Bazaar and live indoor and outdoor stages throughout Japantown.

Info: Visit www.sfcherryblossom.org for more information.

Nikkei Matsuri

San Jose, CA

April 24; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Japantown San Jose

Price: Free

The Nikkei Matsuri Foundation is pleased to host this annual event once again that provides a forum for sharing cultural exhibits and performances, as well as opportunities for many community-based charities to raise funds through cultural food-based sales in the ever-popular food court.

Info: Visit www.nikkeimatsuri.org.

‘Disrupted Life: Replica Barrack From the Tule Lake Internment Camp’ Exhibit

Yuba City, CA

Through May 1

The Sutter County Museum

1333 Butte House Road

Price: Free Admission

“Disrupted Life” discusses anti-immigration sentiments in the U.S. and the effects and aftermath of Executive Order 9066 in 1942. The exhibit also includes a replica barrack to demonstrate what daily life was like at the Tule Lake Internment Camp. This exhibit was developed by the Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology at California State University, Chico, with support from, among others, the Marysville chapter of the JACL.

Info: Visit www.suttercountymuseum.org.

‘Silent Spikes: Following in the Footprints of Chinese Railroad Workers’ Exhibit

San Francisco, CA

Thru May 22

San Francisco Public Library

100 Larkin St.

Price: Free

This exhibit honors Chinese railroad workers who helped build the Central Pacific western portion of the Transcontinental Railroad. Their story is told through historical images and contemporary photos, chief among them are those by Beijing-based freelance photographer Li Ju.

Info: Visit <https://sfpl.org/exhibits/2022/01/19/silent-spikes>.

PSW

‘Tule Lake Stockade Diary’ Conversation with Nancy Kyoko Oda

March 26

Virtual Event

Price: Free

Sponsored by the SFV JACL, this event features JP DeGuzman, Soji Kashiwagi and Nancy Kyoko Oda in a conversation about the groundbreaking new book “Tule Lake Stockade Diary.” The diary, originally written in Japanese and translated into English, tells Tatsuo Ryusei Inouye’s story of struggle and resilience in his own voice.

Info: RSVP to nt.high.mtn@gmail.com to receive a virtual link for the March 26 event. To order the book, visit <https://tulelakestockadediary.com>.

2022 ESGVJCC Annual Cherry Blossom Festival

West Covina, CA

April 23; Noon-6 p.m.

Plaza West Covina

112 Plaza Dr.

Price: Free

Join the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center and Plaza West Covina as it celebrates the beginning of spring and the newly emerging blossoms of the cherry tree and its symbol of hope, beauty and new life. This festival will feature Japanese culture, traditional music and dance performances, arts and crafts vendors and wonderful Japanese and Japanese American food.

Info: Call (626) 960-2566.

The Art of the Ramen Bowl

Los Angeles, CA

Thru July 5; Exhibit Hours 11 a.m.-6 p.m. (Complimentary Gallery Tours 11 a.m.-4 p.m.)

Japan House Los Angeles

6801 Hollywood Blvd.

Gallery Level 2

Price: Free

What goes into a bowl of ramen? This exhibition answers that question by exploring ramen’s key ingredients as well as the artistry of the bowl it is presented in, particularly bowls highlighting the great skill of the ceramic artists of Mino, who have been producing some of Japan’s best ceramics for more than a century. The entire exhibit highlights the idea that ramen can itself be a work of art and of

great cultural significance.

Info: Visit www.japanhousela.com.

The Interactive StoryFile of Lawson Ichiro Sakai

Los Angeles, CA

Ongoing

Japanese American National Museum

100 N. Central Ave.

Price: Museum Entry Price

This new exhibit uses cutting-edge technology to allow the viewer to interact with the image of Sakai and ask questions about his life and experiences as a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team during WWII. Sakai was filmed over five days, providing answers to more than 1,000 questions. His responses were captured by 27 cameras that allow the video to be projected as a holographic image once the technology becomes more accessible.

Info: For a detailed description of the exhibit, visit <https://www.janm.org/exhibits/lawson-sakai>.

‘Sutra and Bible’: Faith and the Japanese American World War II Incarceration

Los Angeles, CA

Thru Nov. 27

JANM

100 N. Central Ave.

“Sutra and Bible” explores the role that religion played in saving the exiled Japanese American community from despair. This exhibit tells the stories of those faced with sudden, heartbreaking exile through an array of astonishing artifacts: from the prayer books and religious scrolls they carried into camp to the Buddha statues, crosses and altars they handcrafted to keep their spirits alive. This exhibit was co-created by Duncan Ryuken Williams and Emily Anderson.

‘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 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.

PNW

‘Japanese American Remembrance Trail Tour’

Seattle, WA

Thru March 26

Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience

719 S. King St.

Price: Book Tickets in Advance as Space Is Limited.

The Wing Luke Museum will hold in-person Saturday neighborhood tours that will highlight different sites to memorialize and remember the stories and history of old Japantown before WWII and the unjust incarceration of JA citizens. The tour is approximately 1.5 miles long.

Info: To register/cost, visit wingluke.org/tours or call (206) 623-5124.

Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival

Seattle, WA

April 8-10

Seward Park

Price: Free

This three-day celebration is back in person this year to celebrate the beautiful sakura trees that are a symbol of beauty, peace, friendship and understanding between the people of Japan and the U.S. This weekend event will feature educational programs, arts, entertainment, arts and crafts, food and much more.

Info: For more information, visit www.cherryblossomfest.org.

Na Omi Shintani: ‘Dream Refuge for Children Imprisoned’

Portland, OR

April-September

Japanese American Museum of Oregon

411 N.W. Flanders St. (entrance on 4th Avenue)

Price: Ticket Admission

“Dream Refuge for Children” is an installation by San Francisco artist Na Omi Shintani that explores the trauma of children that have been incarcerated. Shintani has created a series of cots arranged in a circle with an image of a sleeping child drawn directly on each mattress that draws parallels between different children who have been imprisoned and denied their culture.

Info: Visit www.jamo.org.

MDC

‘Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II’ Exhibit

and Guest Speaker Dale Minami

Saint Paul, MN

May 21

Minnesota History Center

345 Kellogg Blvd. W

This Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit will be on display at the Minnesota History Center from April 23-July 3. The special event program on May 21 will feature a special program with exhibit viewing and reception, planned in partnership with the Minnesota Historical Society, as well as guest speaker Dale Minami. More details to be announced.

Info: Visit www.tcjacl.org.

EDC

24th Annual Freedom Walk: ‘Dissenting Voice to EO 9066: Eleanor Roosevelt’

Washington, D.C.

April 2; 3 p.m. (EDT)

Virtual Event

Price: Free

Sponsored by the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, Japanese American Veterans Assn., JACL

— D.C. chapter and Ekoji Buddhist Temple, this virtual event will welcome keynote speaker David Woolner, resident historian, senior fellow and former executive director of the Roosevelt Institute as he speaks about First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and her views on EO 9066.

Info: Visit https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PVVipP0aTC2Cu_ArNeilzw to register.

National Cherry Blossom Festival

Washington, D.C.

Thru April 17

Tidal Basin

Price: Free; Tickets Available to Purchase for Special Seats for Parade

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is back to kick off the blooming of the cherry blossom trees located along the Tidal Basin. From the parade down Constitution Avenue to various cultural exhibits, food offerings, musical performances and so much more, there’s something for everyone in the family to enjoy.

Info: Visit www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org.

Responses: Asian American Voices Resisting the Tides of Racism

New York, NY

Thru March 27

Museum of Chinese in America

215 Centre St.

At a time when Chinese and Asian Americans are being blamed for the coronavirus and targeted in assaults across the country, this exhibit has been created to help navigate this crisis by exploring the lessons of history and raising a collective voice against the tide of anti-Asian hate and violence.

Info: Visit <https://www.mocanyc.org/event/responses/cans-and-world-war-ii-smithsonian-poster-exhibition-and-programs/>.

Exhibit: ‘Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II’ a Smithsonian Institution Poster Exhibition

and Programs

Woonsocket, RI

Thru March 31

Museum of Work & Culture

42 S. Main St.

Price: Contact the Museum for Pricing Information

This poster exhibition traces the story of Japanese national and Japanese American incarceration during WWII and the people who survived it. The museum will also offer a short documentary, musical reflections, informational videos, illustrative graphic novel panels, a digital exhibit, visual art and book nook where visitors can learn about the JA experience through classic children’s books.

Info: Visit <https://www.rihs.org/event/righting-a-wrong-japanese-americans-and-world-war-ii-smithsonian-poster-exhibition-and-programs/>.

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

Ahn, Penelope 'Penny,' 85, Torrance, CA, Feb. 11; she is survived by her husband, Robert; children, Steven (Sandra Gong) Ahn, Lisa (Jon) Kuroyama and Jennifer (John) Yoshitake; sister, Hideko Hiram; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5.

Chikaraishi, Ben, 100, Lincolnwood, IL, Feb. 21; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Rohwer WRA Center in AR; after relocating to Chicago, he completed his optometry degree; he is survived by his wife, Kiyo; children, Dona Chikaraishi (Philip Rosoff), Ben Todd Chikaraishi (Phyllis Smith), James Chikaraishi (Amy Taketoshi), Lynne Matsumoto (Jerry) and Nancy Chikaraishi (Marshall Arne); gc: 16; ggc: 8.



Collins, Hideko Murakami, 95, Fayetteville, NC, Jan. 15; she was predeceased by her husband, Kenneth, and four siblings; she is survived by her daughters, Alice Singletary (Frank) and Linda Miller; gc: 3; ggc: 3.



Fox, Kay Yamada, 93, Laurens, SC, Nov. 8, 2021; she is survived by her children, Tim Fox (fiancée Cheryl) and Terry Fox-Cordle (John); sister-in-law, Grace (Tony); she is also survived by nieces and nephews and other relatives; gc: 3; ggc: 8.

Hanamoto, Jimmy Akira, 88, Mission Hills, CA, Jan. 21; he is survived by his wife, Yetsuko; children, Arthur (Lynne) Hanamoto, Barry (Linda) Hanamoto and Sandra (Gary) Yoshimasu; sister, Ruby Uemura.

Higa, Yoshie, 97, Waipahu, HI, Oct. 30, 2021.

Hirano, Wendy Reiko, 74, Gardena, CA, Dec. 20, 2021; she was predeceased by her brother, Rodney; she is survived by her sister, Lana; nephews, nieces, grandnieces and many cousins, family and friends.

Hunt, Chiyoko Higa, 94, Hickory, NC, Dec. 25, 2021; she was predeceased by her daughters Eiko and Fumiko; she is survived by her daughter, June Starnes (Bill); gc: 2.

Maeda, Akiko Arakaki, 90, Gardena, CA, Dec. 7, 2021; she was predeceased by her son, Kent F. Maeda; she is survived by her husband, Tom; children, Ayako Motoyasu, Midori (Neil) Kubota and Lance Maeda; gc: 8.



Maeda, Michael, 65, Kahului, HI, Dec. 7, 2021; a veteran (Air Force), he is survived by his parents, Clement and Helen; siblings, June (Louis) Gonsalves, Jean (Gordon) Macaya, Paul, Robert and Glenn; he is also survived by nephews, nieces and other relatives.



Majdecki, Jo Ann (née Nishimura), 61, Arnold, MO, Oct. 28, 2021; she was predeceased by her father, George Nishimura; she is survived by her husband, Steve Majdecki; mother, Elizabeth Nishimura, siblings, James, David, Douglas and Emi (Nishimura) LeJeune; she is also survived by 14 nieces and nephews.

Masuda, Sumako, 91, Hilo, HI, Nov. 6, 2021; she is survived by her husband, Masaaki; children, Mark Masuda and Cara (Randy) Kunimura; siblings, Harry Sakai, Mildred Higa and Doreen (Burton) Akita; sister-in-law, Edna Sakai; she is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews; gc: 2.

Matayoshi, Dave Hideo, 98, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 13, 2021; he was predeceased by his wife, Natalie; he is survived by his children, Lynette (Bryan) Ishino, Duane (Lillian) Matayoshi and Doreen (Neil) LaBarge; brother, John Matayoshi; siblings-in-law, Jeanette Nakata, Kenneth (Jen) Nakata, Ronald Nakata, Inez Nakata and Minnie Matayoshi; gc: 3.

Matsumoto, Allen, 90, Olympia, WA, Nov. 9, 2021; veteran (Army); he is survived by his wife, Janice; children, Amy and David (Carmen); brother, Ron; sisters-in-law, Joyce, June and Judie; he is also survived by many nephews, nieces and other relatives; gc: 1.

Miyasaki, Martha K., 90, Santa Clara, CA, Jan. 17; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Minidoka WRA Center in ID; bachelor's degree, Oregon State University; she is survived by her children, Collin (Elena) and Elaine (Satoshi); brothers, Gordon Kondo and Michael Kondo; gc: 3.

Morikawa, Hideo, 91, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 10, 2021; he is survived by his wife, Haruko; children, Maryann (Gary) Fukushima, Kelly (Will) Kwong and Sarah (Ken) Sumida; gc: 6.

Nakamura, Ruchi Jan, 84, La Habra, CA, Oct. 24, 2021; he is survived by his wife, Katherine; children, Lee (Mary) and Kimberly.

Nakamura, Wayne, 67, Kaneohe, HI, Nov. 19; B.A. and M.B.A. (UH); he is survived by his mother, Marsha Nakamura; siblings, Charlyne (Wayson Chow) Nakamura and Sandra (Mark) You; he is also survived by 2 nieces.

Nakao, Alice, 95, Brook Park, OH, Aug. 12, 2021; she was predeceased by her children, Tom Jr. (Ruby) and Cindy Gorgone (Phil); siblings, Fumiko Taketa, Harry Taketa (Sally) and George Taketa (Mae); she is survived by her sister, Kim Maki (Robert); gc: 1.

Nakao, Richard Minoru, 89, Irvine, CA, Aug. 7, 2021

Nakayama, Tomoki 'Tom,' 82, Gardena, CA, Jan. 15; he was predeceased by his stepdaughter, Patricia McCurn; he is survived by his stepdaughter, Mary (Nick) Theus; siblings, Takeshi (Pat) Nakayama, Makoto (Lily) Nakayama, Yoshiko (Wallace) Fong, Kikuko Nakayama and Michiyo Nakayama; he is also survived by a nephew and 6 nieces; gc: 5; ggc: 10.

Otani, Dean Genshi, 65, Hilo, HI, Dec. 6, 2021; he is survived by his companion, Merle Kukona; father, George (Lei) Otani; siblings, Lori (Sam) Martin and Chris Otani; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Saito, Setsuko, 91, Bluffton, SC, Jan. 28; she was predeceased by her siblings, Takeko, Masako and Tatsuo; she is survived her sister-in-law, Fumie Saito; 2 nieces and a nephew.



Jeffrey Yoshioka Dies

The Silicon Valley JACL pillar was 63.

By P.C. Staff

Jeffrey L. Yoshioka, who helped found the Silicon Valley JACL chapter, died on Feb. 20. His funeral was held on March 6. He was 63.

Since the chapter's founding in 2009, Yoshioka had also served as its president and treasurer. A certified public accountant who used his skills to help the chapter, he was described as its "backbone" for serving as the organizer of many of the chapter's events and as someone who guided and encouraged younger members. He had also been active with the San Jose JACL chapter.

Among the many events he helped organize was the annual Silicon Valley JACL Basketball Tournament, which would attract as many as 96 teams and 1,000 players over two weekends.

Among his other involvements, Yoshioka participated with the JACL Health Trust, National Japanese American Memorial Committee, API Justice Coalition, the Japantown Community Congress, and he represented the chapter at Day of Remembrance and other community events. He was also a part of the Nikkei Matsuri Committee and helped coordinate the chapter's Spam Musubi booth. The JACL's NCWNP district honored him with its Unsung Hero award.

After graduating from San Jose's Willow Glen High School, he earned a bachelor's degree in

accounting from San Jose State University. After obtaining his CPA license, he found employment at accounting firms owned by Rodney Kobara and George Neyama, before eventually starting his own accounting business.



An outdoor celebration of life at Santa Clara University is planned for June 25, the date of his birth. For details, email siliconvalleyjacl@gmail.com. Condolences may be mailed to 2595 Plummer Ave., San Jose, CA 95125.

accounting from San Jose State University. After obtaining his CPA license, he found employment at accounting firms owned by Rodney Kobara and George Neyama, before eventually starting his own accounting business.

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:

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REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

Omicron Is Adding Fuel to Mental Health Crisis – Part 2

Anxiety and depression are becoming chronic problems as the pandemic drags on

By Scott Tanaka

In my last article, I talked about how Covid-19 has impacted our mental wellness. It not only brought about new concerns as a result of social distancing requirements and the uncertainty of things, but it also further complicated challenges and difficulties that people were already working through before the pandemic.

Talking about mental health is not always easy. If you think therapy can help you, be persistent in finding the right therapist. If you don't have a referral from your medical doctor or other health care providers, Psychology Today's "Find a Therapist" and the APA's "Psychologist Locator" are good resources.

For more on the different kinds of therapy and finding one that fits your needs, see our story "How to Find the Right Therapist" (<https://www.aarp.org/health/conditions-treatments/info-2020/find-mental-health-therapist.html>).

Outside of traditional therapy, there are other options. AARP Friendly Voice, for example, was set up earlier in the pandemic to break through the wall of loneliness made more formidable by social distancing.

Volunteers will call anyone who requests contact. If people are having a crisis — in critical need of food, health care or mental health intervention, for example — they are steered to appropriate help.

But more often, these calls are just an opportunity to have a relaxed, extended conversation with someone who's friendly and caring. As a social worker, I found that for many of the people I worked with, they just wanted someone to listen to them.

I let them know that what they were feeling was normal given the circumstances they were in. Sometimes, having a friendly and caring person to talk to is enough. And it's OK to seek out that additional support. Those seeking a call from AARP's Friendly Voice can reach out at <https://aarpcommunityconnections.org/friendly-voices/>.

HELPLINES AND OTHER SUPPORT

- The NAMI HelpLine can be reached Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. ET at (800) 950-NAMI (6264) or info@nami.org. Volunteers can answer questions, offer support and provide practical next steps for mental health concerns. NAMI also offers 24-hour crisis support by text (text HOME to 741741) or via live chat by going to <https://www.crisistextline.org/>.
- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's helpline (the Treatment Referral Routing Service) can, among other services, steer you toward support

groups and treatment options. The helpline website is <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline> and telephone number (800) 662-HELP (4357).

- If you or someone you care about is considering suicide, call the free 24-hour National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at (800) 273-TALK (8255), or text the word HOME to the Crisis Text Line at 741741 to speak with someone who can offer confidential support and resources. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline also runs the Veterans Crisis Line (800-273-8255, press 1; or text 838255) and offers options for the deaf and hard of hearing. Find more information at suicidepreventionlifeline.org.
- AARP Foundation's **Connect2Affect.org** provides resources to address social isolation, such as an assessment to determine risk. The site also features a chat bot designed for friendly conversations and to guide people looking to rebuild their social connections.

ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER RESOURCES

- Asian Mental Health Collective's mission is to normalize and destigmatize mental health within the Asian community. Learn more and access their Therapist Find-

er by going to <https://www.asianmhc.org/>.

- National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Assn.'s mission is to promote the mental health and well-being of the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Learn more at <https://www.naapimha.org/aan-lpi-service-providers>.
- The Little Tokyo Service Center serves the Los Angeles and South Bay communities in California. LTSC social workers help clients effectively navigate social, medical and mental health issues, including assistance with government benefits. To consult with a social worker, call (213) 473-3035. To learn more about other services provided, visit <https://www.ltsc.org/helping-seniors/>.

The above list is not an exhaustive list of available resources and their inclusion is not an endorsement. You can also ask to speak to a social worker or case manager at your local hospital, health care facility or community center who can help connect you to resources in your area.

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



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