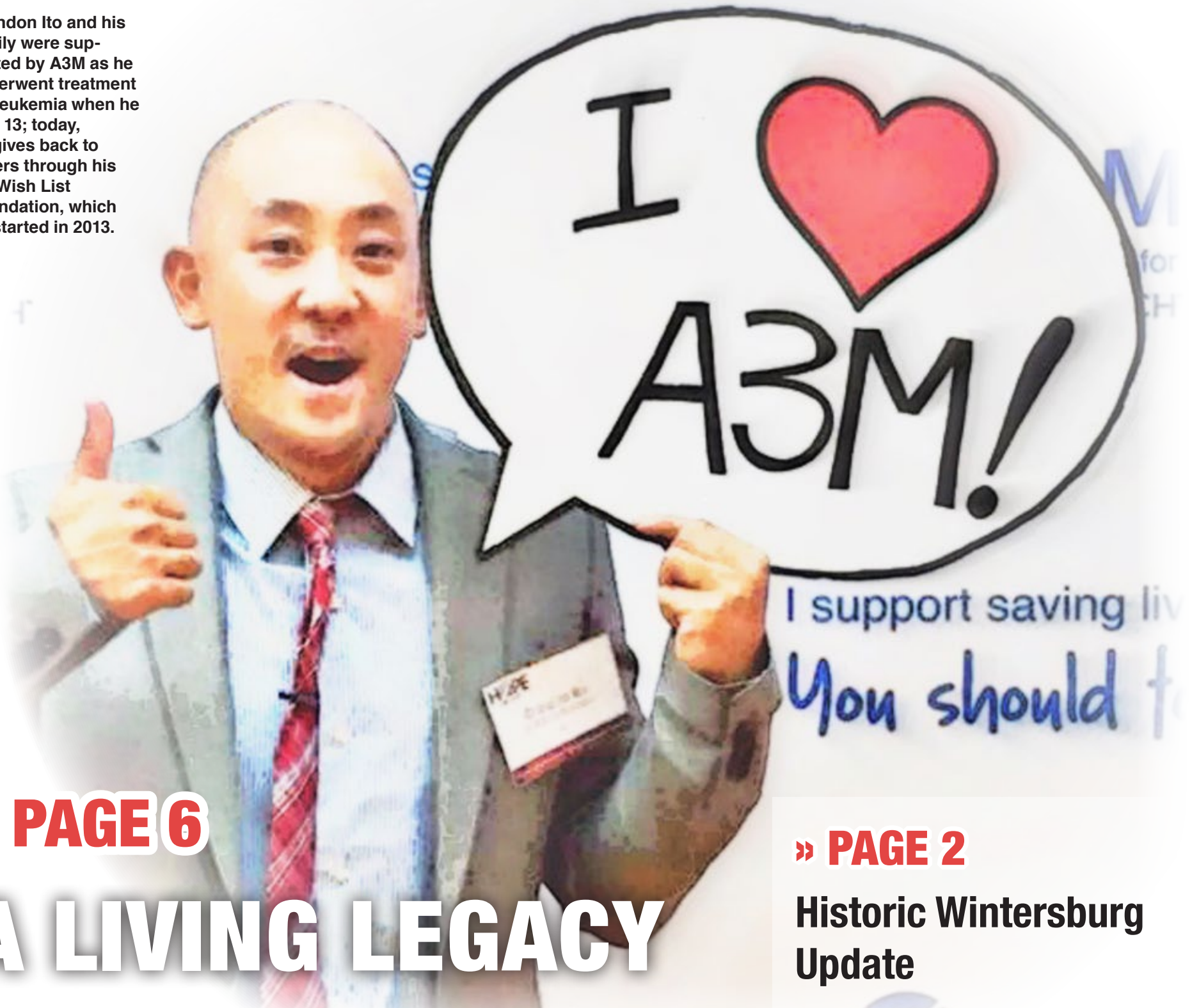




# PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 93 YEARS

Brandon Ito and his family were supported by A3M as he underwent treatment for leukemia when he was 13; today, he gives back to others through his My Wish List Foundation, which he started in 2013.



» **PAGE 6**

## A LIVING LEGACY

After serving the AAPI community for 30 years, Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches closes its doors.

» **PAGE 2**

Historic Wintersburg Update

» **PAGE 5**

Amache Becomes a Part of the NPS.



# JACL Condemns Passage of Anti-LGBTQIA+ Laws

By JACL National

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed the controversial “Don’t Say Gay” bill into law for his state on March 28. In addition, in Utah, a bill that would bar transgender youth from participating in girls’ sports was vetoed on March 29 by Gov. Spencer Cox, only to be overturned by the state legislature.

These bills come following a string of similar anti-LGBTQIA+ laws that have been introduced across the

country and, in several instances, already becoming law.

As staunch supporters of the LGBTQIA+ community, JACL condemns the actions of Gov. DeSantis and many others who have sought to attack the LGBTQIA+ community through these legislative efforts.

The LGBTQIA+ community, and especially LGBTQIA+ youth, have long faced discrimination and violence, which has caused higher rates of health risks and suicide.

JACL has been an ally of the LG-

BTQIA+ community for many years, passing our first national resolution in support of same-sex marriage in 1994. We have seen so much change in our society in amazing ways to support the LGBTQIA+ community over the past 30 years. To see these new laws taking the nation a step backward is not only disheartening but also extremely dangerous.

We join the hundreds of other organizations and community groups nationwide standing with the LGBTQIA+ community in Florida and

across the country who are fighting these bills.

We hope that politicians listen to all of their constituents, especially those who are directly impacted by these laws, instead of the disinformation and vitriol supporting such discriminatory legislation.

The JACL demands inclusion and acceptance for members of the LGBTQIA+ community in order to help nurture our youth and future generations. ■

## HISTORIC WINTERSBURG FIRE INVESTIGATION UPDATE

The City of Huntington Beach releases its preliminary findings into the Feb. 25 fire that destroyed two structures at the National Treasure site.



The scene at Historic Wintersburg after Huntington Beach firefighters put out the fire on Feb. 25. The 1910 Wintersburg Japanese Mission is standing at right, the south end charred, and the 1910 Manse is at left in front of the firefighters.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF PATRICIA SINGER AND HISTORIC WINTERSBURG PRESERVATION GROUP

HUNTINGTON BEACH, CALIF. — An outdoor rally was held on March 19 in support of Historic Wintersburg Preservation and its regional partners, Heritage Museum of Orange County and Preserve Orange County, after preservationists and members of several Asian American community organizations called for a complete investigation into a fire and demolition that took place at Historic Wintersburg on Feb. 25.

According to the Historic Wintersburg Preservation Group, “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.”

On March 18, the City of Huntington Beach issued a press release that offered a preliminary glimpse into its investigation of the fire, stating “the Huntington Beach Fire Department, in collaboration with the Huntington Beach Police Department, has completed a rigorous investigation into the cause of the fire that took place at the Wintersburg property. . . . Due to various factors,

the HBFD and HBPD have identified two potential causes of the fire but are unable to identify its exact origin. The HBFD and HBPD have no reason to believe the fire was intentionally set. There is no evidence of arson or a hate crime.”

The statement went on to explain that “evidence of personal belongings at the site of the fire indicate at least one individual was possibly living on the property. Through the investigation, the HBPD was able to determine that a local known transient was living nearby and was seen leaving the area shortly after the fire. That individual is not currently a suspect. It is unclear whether this person was involved in the fire or whether the fire may have been caused by someone living on the property. HBPD will continue to investigate this individual’s possible association.

» See WINTERSBURG on page 8

### CORRECTION

The article “*Free Chol Sol Lee Reframes an Infamous Injustice*” (P.C., March 18-31, 2022) included an incorrect spelling of Derrick Lim’s last name.



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

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

— Gil Asakawa



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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# JUSTICE MAY BE BLIND, BUT IT ALSO MUST BE MULTIFACETED

By David Inoue,  
JACL Executive Director

I had fallen asleep on the evening of March 27 to be woken up by our senior dog around midnight. As I carried her outside to do her business, I realized I had missed the Academy Awards that evening. What movie had won Best Picture, and who had won Best Actor/Actress?

Despite the ready availability of information on the internet, it was nearly impossible to find this information because all anyone was talking about was “the slap.” Reactions to Will Smith’s momentary failure of restraint in slapping Chris Rock

took some time to gel, but the reaction has been unyielding.

Smith’s projects with studios are now on hold, and he has resigned his membership in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences.

Whether one agrees with Smith’s reaction as an act of protection for his wife or deprecates him for reacting in violence, it is without doubt that he is being held accountable.

The other image of accountability these past two weeks has been that of self-righteous Sen. Josh Hawley badgering U.S. Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson about her sentencing of convicted individuals in child pornography cases.

Although her sentences were well within the mainstream of what other judges had sentenced similar individuals, Sen. Hawley wanted to make it seem like she had absolved defendants of all responsibility and repercussions for their criminal actions. He argued that she had failed the justice system, and the victims, allowing dangerous criminals to be released with nothing more than a slap on the wrist. If nothing else, he was making sure she was accountable for her decisions.

Where this touches on the absurd is the reaction of the same Sen. Hawley to the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol. That same Sen. Hawley raised his fist to the insurrectionists signaling for them to fight. Sen. Hawley is among many who defend the “honor” of the insurrectionists. Some refer to them as vacationers here to see the Capitol. If there is one thing Hawley is not, it is apologetic for his support of an act of sedition, and he has certainly not been held accountable. In fact, he will likely be easily re-elected and is still considered a future presidential candidate by his party.

A key component of Sen. Hawley’s attacks on Judge Jackson were for her

application of mercy, recognizing the humanity of the defendant before her for sentencing. Will there be mercy for Will Smith? I would guess so. He is demonstrating his contriteness in voluntarily resigning from the Academy. For many of the Jan. 6 insurrectionists, they have issued their apologies for what they did in hopes of a more lenient sentence.

It is instinctive to desire retribution when wrong has happened. “The Merchant of Venice” has the famous call for a “pound of flesh” from Antonio in payment of his debt to Shylock. The ensuing pleading of their cases includes a call for mercy from Portia, disguised as a judge. When Shylock refuses, the tables are turned, and he becomes the defendant, in danger of losing all that he has.

Clearly, the lesson was to be that Shylock had to be held accountable for his behavior, and yet where is the accountability for Antonio and the other Christians who seemingly escape without having to repay their debt and claim Shylock’s property as their own? When the opportunity to display mercy to Shylock arises, instead, justice is punitive and crushing.

The hypocrisy of the main protagonists in Shakespeare’s play can be seen clearly through the aggressive badgering of Sen. Hawley. For someone who has no remorse to demand mercy for those with whom he allies, but to seek the most punitive forms of justice against those he does not see affiliation is a perversion of our justice system.

We too often see the justice system not as a means of achieving actual justice, but as a means of inflicting punishment.

Justice does not need to be punitive. In fact, restorative justice can be mutually beneficial for both the perpetrator and the victim in some cases. We need to remember that there are many facets to taking responsibility. Justice must also be meted out equally and fairly.

Judge Jackson seems to understand these principles coexist and each play a role in what justice does look like, and that is what will make her an excellent Supreme Court Justice.

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



## NIKKEI VOICE

# AMACHE’S 2021 PILGRIMAGE WILL BE VERY, VERY SPECIAL

By Gil Asakawa

Every year on the Saturday before Memorial Day Weekend, people converge in southeast Colorado to visit Amache, the camp where 9,000 people of Japanese descent were incarcerated during World War II.

This annual pilgrimage started in 1975, organized by Denver activists Marge Taniwaki and Russell Endo. It’s always an inspiring journey, which starts at the site of the concentration camp and ends at nearby Granada High School, where local community leaders and the amazing students of the Amache Preservation Society at the high school welcome the visitors and give presentations.

There’s a ceremony with both Buddhist priests and a Christian minister at a memorial to the young men who left Amache to fight for the U.S. during the war that stands in the small cemetery at the camp. The pilgrimage is a wonderful tradition, but at its heart is a solemn gathering.

But this year, on May 21, it’ll be different. There will be a spirit of

joyful anticipation in the air.

It’ll be the first time people have visited the site of Colorado’s sole Japanese American concentration camp since it’s been approved to become a U.S. National Park.

HR 2497, the Amache National Historic Site Act, finally made Amache a unit of the National Park System. A bipartisan effort led by Colorado’s Congressional delegation, it was signed into law by President Biden on March 18.

Amache — the official euphemism for the Japanese American incarceration camp is Granada Relocation Center — will join Manzanar (the most well-known thanks to the book and movie “Farewell to Manzanar”) and Tule Lake in California, Minidoka in Idaho and Honouliuli in Hawaii as an official National Park.

That won’t happen right away, though — the town of Granada needs to officially transfer the land to the National Park Service before it’s a done deal. It could become final in 2023, which happens to be the 150th anniversary of Granada.

As it is, the Senate passed the

Amache National Historic Site Act with unanimous consent in February, just in time for the Day of Remembrance.

Once it becomes part of the NPS, Amache will have the resources to more easily preserve and interpret the site for the public and educate people about the experience of Japanese Americans during WWII.

The process of preservation and education has been done by generations of volunteers over the decades. The Denver Optimists Club, led by the late Jim Hada, whose mother was incarcerated at Amache while he and his father farmed in northern Colorado, helped preserve the site and raised the funds to erect the memorial to the prisoners who fought in the U.S. military during the war.

And in the 1990s, a young social studies teacher hired at Granada High School, John Hopper, was astonished to learn that Amache had been on land just outside of town. He began teaching about it to his students, and then the students formed the Amache Preservation Society ([www.amache.com](http://www.amache.com)) to do the hands-on work of preserving the site in partnership with organizations like the Denver Central Optimists; since 1976, survivors and others who’ve been coming to Granada to visit and donate also help out.

In 2008, University of Denver anthropology professor Bonnie Clarke began bringing students in the summers to conduct archeological digs on the site, coming up with hundreds of artifacts and bits of history reserved among the dry soil and

sagebrush.

The Granada students even opened a museum in a donated home a block from their high school and jam-packed it with artifacts and displays they created for talks that they give across the region and over multiple states.

Each year, a new crop of dedicated students sign up for the class — Hopper is today the principal of the school and still heads the class and the Preservation Society. Hopper was even given a special commendation by the Consul General of Japan at Denver in 2014 for his tireless work.

Over the years, the students and volunteers have rebuilt a koi pond and a guard tower, as well as a barrack building on the site so that you don’t just see flattened concrete foundations and grassland.

I’ve been on the pilgrimage a few times and got to enjoy a picnic lunch in the town park early on, where I was curious about buildings that clearly came from Amache.

I peered inside a window and saw that it was used by Granada as a storage shed for its parks equipment. I could imagine a family inside, trying to stay warm from the winds blowing in the tar paper by crowding around

a stove in the middle of the room.

That barrack, or one like it, is the one now rehabbed and put back in Amache. You can walk inside now and feel the claustrophobia of entire families living for several years in one room with no privacy.

Amache — and hopefully America, though sometimes I have my doubts — has come a long way since 1942, when Japanese immigrants and U.S.-born American citizens were forced to leave their homes and businesses, friends and even pets to live in desolate places (no offense to the farmers and residents of Lamar, Granada and southeast Colorado) in hastily built prison camps for several years. Amache was carefully tended and steps were made to restore it long before the new law was passed.

Let’s hope that as a National Park, Amache can serve an even better role in making sure this type of tragic, racially charged chapter in our history is never repeated.

*Gil Asakawa is the author of “Tabemasho! Let’s Eat! A Tasty History of Japanese Food in America,” which will be published by Stone Bridge Press this year. He blogs at [www.nikkeiview.com](http://www.nikkeiview.com).*

A guard tower and a newly built barrack at Amache

PHOTO: GIL ASAKAWA





# ARNOLD MAEDA MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE GRANT RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

Cal Poly Pomona's Terumi Tanisha Garcia and UCLA's Charlene Tonai Din each receive \$500 and will help plan and produce the upcoming 53rd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage.

The Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument Committee and the Manzanar Committee awarded recently two outstanding recipients of the Second Annual Arnold Maeda Manzanar Pilgrimage Grant: Terumi Tanisha Garcia of California State University, Pomona, and Charlene Tonai Din of the University of California, Los Angeles.

Garcia and Din will each receive \$500 in grant funds from the VJAMM Committee and help the Manzanar Committee plan and produce the 53rd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, scheduled as a virtual event due to pandemic precautions, on April 30.

Maeda, who passed away in September 2020 at the age of 94, inspired the VJAMM Committee, on which he served as a charter member. He proved to be a willing and articulate

public speaker and invaluable fundraiser. As a boy, he and his family were forcibly incarcerated at Manzanar during World War II following EO 9066.

"Instead of being worried about where we were going, I was obsessed with the fact that I had parted with my constant companion, my pet dog, Boy," Maeda once said. "For a 15-year-old, that was unforgettably traumatic."

Despite that trauma of being forcibly uprooted from Santa Monica, Calif., and his family's losing their home and nursery business, Maeda distinguished himself at Manzanar. He participated in music and drama productions, lifted weights, worked as a kitchen helper and a hospital orderly and became president of his senior class of 1944 at Manzanar High School.

After World War II ended, Maeda

began to volunteer with the Manzanar Reunion Committee, the Santa Monica Nikkei Hall and, in 2010, with the VJAMM Committee.

Applicants for this year's grant program were asked to get to know Maeda by finding his many interviews and articles online and describing his life and legacy in an essay, short story or poem. Applicants were also asked to address three or more areas of reflection: who Maeda was and how he became a role model for the Japanese American community; how Maeda's legacy has influenced the applicant; how the applicant will apply the lessons learned from Maeda to his/her life today; how Maeda's life in the American concentration camp at Manzanar compares/contrasts with the student's life today; how collaboration and service to others have affected his/her life; how and why working with the Manzanar



**UCLA's Charlene Tonai Din**  
"Growing Up Asian in America"  
by Charlene Tonai Din



Committee on the 2022 Manzanar Pilgrimage will help him/her better understand Maeda's life and legacy.

Garcia, a fourth-year student in the Department of Landscape Architecture at Cal Poly Pomona, finds "the stories and lives of incarcerated such as Arnold Maeda inspirational" in her own personal quest for knowledge of her family's history.

Her great-grandfather, Moritaro "Grant" Ishigaki, was imprisoned at the American concentration camp at

Heart Mountain, Wyo. After World War II, he returned to California and eventually settled in South El Monte with his wife and two sons, where he became a gardener.

But Ishigaki longed for the desert to which he had grown accustomed during his incarceration, and his wife bought him a trailer home in Victorville, Calif., so that he could be closer to the hot sands and dry winds.

» See GRANT on page 9

## JACS Call to Action

### - JOIN US AS WE CALL ON MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE JACS PROGRAM! -

The Japanese American Confinement Education Act (S.988), sponsored by Senator Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii), would provide:

- An additional **\$42 million** in funding for programs about the WWII Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) experience including **\$10 million for NEW education programs.**
- FY2023 Appropriations of at least **\$3.1 million**

By contacting your Members of Congress, **YOU** help ensure that:

- The legacy and experience of the Japanese American community during WWII remains a conscience part of our country's history for the next generation.



### - HOW TO SPREAD THE WORD -



#### Step 1:

**Respond to our action alert!** Fill out your information on the landing page we've created **OR** place a call to connect and ask your senators to cosponsor S.988!

- **Landing page link:** <https://jacl.salsalabs.org/jace2022mar>

**\*Make sure to that you check off the "Subscribe" checkbox when filling out your letter to receive updates**

- **Congressional Switchboard Phone Number:** (202) 224-3121



#### Step 2:

Invite others to take part by promoting the above information on social media!



#### Step 3:

Share this information directly with your family and friends.

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# AMACHE IS AMERICA'S NEWEST NATIONAL PARK

President Joe Biden formally designates the Amache National Historic Site as part of the NPS.

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — President Joe Biden signed the Amache National Historic Site on March 18, designating the Amache site in Granada, Colo., as part of the National Park System. This designation, the first in the National Park System during this administration, will permanently protect the site for future generations and help tell the history of Japanese American incarceration during World War II.

“As a nation, we must face the wrongs of our past in order to build a more just and equitable future,” said Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland. “I applaud President Biden and the bipartisan action in Congress that has ensured this important and painful chapter in our nation’s story is preserved and honored for the generations to come. After visiting Amache and meeting with survivors and descendants, I was moved by their resilience and the way in which Colorado communities came together during and after the injustice to support Japanese Americans. May we all be inspired to do the same today for all our fellow citizens.”

Amache, also known as the Granada Relocation Center, was one of 10 incarceration sites established by the War Relocation Authority during WWII to detain Japanese Americans forcibly removed from the West Coast of the United States under the terms of Executive Order 9066. From 1942-45, more than 10,000 people were incarcerated at Amache, which housed 7,310 internees at its peak, two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens.

“It is our solemn responsibility as caretakers

of America’s national treasures to tell the whole story of our nation’s heritage for the benefit of present and future generations,” said National Park Service Director Chuck Sams. “The National Park Service will continue working closely with key stakeholders dedicated to the preservation of Amache, and those directly impacted by the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, to preserve and interpret this significant historic site to the public.”

In July 2021, the bill first passed in the U.S. House of Representatives, followed by the Senate in February. Amache joins two other War Relocation Authority incarceration sites in the National Parks Service system: Manzanar in California and Minidoka in Idaho.

Present at the White House for the historic signing by President Biden were Sen. John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.); Rep. Judy Chu (CA-27); Rep. Mark Takano (CA-41); Council on Environmental Quality Chair Brenda Mallory;

Sams; Erika Moritsugu, deputy assistant to the president and Asian American and Pacific islander senior liaison; and Theresa Pierno, president and CEO of the National Parks Conservation Assn.

“It is an honor to join President Biden at the White House today to welcome Amache National Historic Site into our park system,” said Pierno in an official statement. “Our national park sites include wide open wild spaces, as well as places that represent some of our country’s most important history. Not all stories they tell are easy to hear, like those of Amache, but perhaps those are the stories we as a nation need to hear most. By preserving Amache, we can ensure that as a country we confront our mistakes, honor the stories of those who were unjustly imprisoned and protect the site for future generations.”

Said NPCA Colorado Senior Program Manager Tracy Coppola in an official statement: “We are forever grateful to President Biden, Sec. Haaland, Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper and Congressmen Neguse and Buck for leading and supporting this critical opportunity for America to respect, honor and heal at

Amache. We honor the Amache descendants, the Amache Preservation Society, the Town of Granada, the National Park Service and the many storytellers, historians, civil rights and military veteran groups, offices of tourism, preservation offices, county commissioners and other local elected officials who we worked alongside in seeing this through. Most of all, this moment stands on the shoulders of giants — the Amache survivors, who, with incredible generosity and strength, have waited for this day for so long and whose stories will now be revealed and remembered.”

Today, the Amache site consists of a historic cemetery, a monument, concrete building foundations and several reconstructed and rehabilitated structures from the camp era. Amache was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on May 18, 1994, and designated a National Historic Landmark on Feb. 10, 2006.

Amache is open to the public and currently managed by the Amache Preservation Society and owned by the Town of Granada. Currently, Granada High School students from the Amache Preservation Society provide tours of the site and nearby museum.

The National Park Service will continue to work closely with the many stakeholders dedicated to the preservation of Amache to continue those services and care for the history and memories of those who were once incarcerated at this site.

The designation of the Amache National Historic Site is an important step in tell-



President Joe Biden (*seated*) signed the Amache National Historic Site Act on March 18. Present at the signing were (*from left*) Theresa Pierno, Charles Sams III, Rep. Mark Takano, Sen. John Hickenlooper, Rep. Judy Chu, Brenda Mallory and Erika Moritsugu.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE WHITE HOUSE



More than 10,000 people were forcibly incarcerated at Amache.

PHOTO: GIL ASAKAWA



Amache barracks, guard tower and water tower

PHOTO: COURTESY OF NPS

» See AMACHE on page 9

**2022**

STRENGTHENING OUR  
**COMMUNITY**  
THROUGH  
**ACTION**

JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION

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# A3M: A LIVING LEGACY

After serving the AAPI community for 30 years, Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches closes its doors, but the countless lives saved through its efforts will never be forgotten.

By Athena Mari Askliadis,  
Contributor

Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches, also known as “A3M,” closed its doors permanently on Dec. 31, 2021, after 30 years serving the community. For the past three decades, blood cancer and blood disease patients found the hope of finding stem cell and marrow transplant matches through the hard work of A3M’s devoted staff and volunteers. API families could depend on A3M to reach out to their communities with language and culturally appropriate materials. What began as a humble grass-roots movement, founded by Sharon Sugiyama, transformed into a legacy of thousands of lives saved.

In 1991, Sugiyama and her family were working hard at trying to find a marrow match for her beloved nephew, Nick Suzuki, who was battling leukemia. Along the way, she became very aware of the similar need many others also faced in the Asian American community. She wondered what she could do, not just to help Nick but also to help the thousands of others also searching for a match.

Learning that marrow matching was dependent on similar inherited genetics — specifically a matching marker on your DNA — Sugiyama knew that a patient’s best odds after searching within the patient’s own family was to look within that person’s ethnic community.

At the time, the number of APIs in the U.S. donor database, the National Donor Marrow Program, was severely low — just 5,800 donors in 1990, a mere .02 percent of the donor pool. This number was shocking, and sadly, due to such low options for diverse patients, Suzuki passed away without ever finding a perfect match.

While Suzuki was waiting to find a match, the Japanese American community rallied to

support his search. Churches and organizations, like Little Tokyo Service Center, were the first to step up.

Bill Watanabe, former executive director of LTSC, was first approached by Sugiyama at his office at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Downtown Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo.

The two then gathered other community folks to get things going and coordinate with other local families. But after her nephew’s passing, Watanabe wondered if Sugiyama wanted to continue her quest in registering more API donors.

Thankfully, Sugiyama transformed her grief into a passion for helping others with her nephew’s memory always present.

Her passion, along with the help and direction of Watanabe, Sugiyama’s sister, Kathy Ninomiya, and Yukio Shimomura, created the strong foundation on which A3M officially began. From there, the team hired diverse recruiters who were from different API communities.

“Everybody who was involved in the organization, at one time or another, filled a niche that needed to be filled, and we were lucky that we had so many people that were willing to stand up,” Ninomiya shared.

Added Watanabe: “When we started, we were all volunteers. . . . We set up a Korean task force, Chinese task force, Filipino, Japanese, South Asian, and everyone was volunteering, they were doing it, giving their time.”

In the first year alone, the national number

of API donors rose more than four times in number thanks largely to A3M and the efforts of Bay Area’s Asian American Donor Program (AADP), which began around the same time.

Eventually, in its later years, A3M would expand outside of the Asian community, spreading its reach across cultures and advocating for patients who were from Latino, Black and Middle Eastern communities as well.

One patient who benefited from A3M’s early campaigning was mixed-Japanese patient Joan Loof, who found her match to cure her chronic myeloid leukemia in the early 1990s. Loof was later instrumental in advocating for and supporting the founding of Japan’s first national marrow registry.

She fondly remembers the sense of community that A3M offered her.

“I wasn’t alone, and others were on the same journey with whom I could share concerns and information” she shared. Loof proudly shares that she is now living a healthy life 29 years since her transplant in 1993.

Sharon Sugiyama went on to lead the organization for 20 years as its director, all while A3M’s relationship with LTSC continued.

When reflecting on that connection over the years, current LTSC Executive Director Erich Nakano shared: “It has been inspiring to see generations of A3M team members signing people up for the Marrow Registry and working with patients and their families through the most difficult times.”

Nakano went on to say that “Little Tokyo Service Center has been proud to host A3M as a program for all of these years. It was emotional for me to oversee the closure of A3M last year.”

In total, A3M managed to register more than 330,000 new donors to the National Marrow Donor Program, currently known as Be The Match. Of those registered, more than 9,000 matches were found — 9,000 miracles.

One more of those miracles was Brandon Ito, who was just 13 years old when he was diagnosed with leukemia in 1999. An avid Yonsei basketball player, Ito and his family were shocked to learn how serious his condition was since he led such a healthy, active life.

But through the stress a serious diagnosis like cancer can bring, Ito remembers how much comfort A3M brought his family. They did not feel quite alone or hopeless knowing there were advocates working hard looking for matches.

“A3M will always have a soft spot in my heart,” Ito said. “I can never repay them for the HOPE and support they provided for me and my family when I was going through treatment.

“I’m beyond saddened that A3M had to close their doors,” he continued. “For almost 75 percent of my life, A3M has allowed me to fulfill one of my lifelong goals of giving

A3M staff and supporters in the mid-2000’s.

ALL PHOTOS: COURTESY OF A3M



Survivors Brandon Ito (left) and Alex Tung



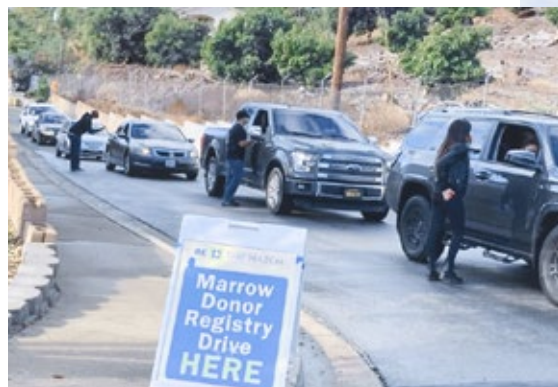
A3M Founders (from left) Sharon Sugiyama, Bill Watanabe, Kathy Ninomiya, Yukio Shimomura and staff in 1992



Survivors Joan Loof (middle) and Krissy Kobata



**(Below) The Covid-19 pandemic did not stop the work of A3M. The organization adjusted by hosting drive-thru event registrations.**



**(Right) A 2021 pandemic drive-thru registration event for Paul Goodman**

ALL PHOTOS: COURTESY OF A3M



**(Above) A3M staff (from left) Sarah Ahn, Niranjn Bhatt and Vero Lases in 2021. Outreach and support continued throughout the pandemic.**

back to the cancer community.”

And not only did A3M comfort and support Ito and his family, but so, too, did the entire Japanese American community.

“It’s truly amazing how the JA community rallies to support a specific cause/individual,” Ito recalled. “I remember the out-of-the-blue phone calls and hospital visits from individuals who I never met but had been assisting in bone marrow and blood drives like they’ve known me my whole life. My family never felt alone with the JA community support.”

Today, perhaps inspired by his cancer journey and the good work of A3M, Ito continues to give back to other patients through his organization, My Wish List Foundation, which he founded in 2013.

“My Wish List Foundation,” said Ito, “exists to enhance the lives of pediatric cancer patients and their loved ones during their treatment process.”

Another patient who echoes a similar sentiment about A3M is former patient and transplant survivor Krissy Kobata.

“I was extremely lucky to have such amazing support from A3M,” said Kobata. “They became a part of my family and support network in helping to find my transplant donor. Without A3M’s outreach to the communities in such an integrated way, I would not be here today.”

Diagnosed in 2008, Kobata battled myelodysplastic syndrome for more than 10 years, and A3M was responsible for finding her matching donor at a local SoCal registry event.

Throughout the course of those 10 years, A3M held countless drives for Kobata at local

Obon festivals, Nisei Week events in Little Tokyo, community temples and churches.

“Ayumi Nagata was one of my first recruiters, and it really felt like she became a part of my family,” Kobata reflected. “I developed a close relationship with her and felt such support and reassurance that I would be OK because of all her work she did on my behalf.”

Recruiters like Nagata offered emotional support to families and also worked on behalf of A3M to maintain relationships with other local organizations, colleges and individuals.

Over the years, A3M had longtime partnerships with organizations such as the Aratani Foundation, Fujishige Farms, Dale M. Inouye Foundation, Orange Coast Optimist Club, Sansei Legacy, Santa Monica Nikkei Hall Fun, Shirakiku Foundation and Union Bank, in addition to countless others from the Japanese American community who kept A3M funded. Without the connections made in the API and largely by the JA community specifically, A3M’s mission could not have been accomplished the way it had.

Those connections and that personal touch was something for which A3M will be fondly remembered. Even through its last years in operation, and even during the coronavirus pandemic, A3M’s staff found ways to continue to recruit donors successfully, connect with patients virtually and pivot to contactless registry events.

In the end, A3M’s closure had nothing to do with lack of financial support or not meeting registration goals — it was a decision of the national registry, Be The Match, to not renew its recruitment contract with A3M and

numerous other subcontracted centers.

Instead, Be The Match decided to centralize operations by constructing its own API program, which is under the direction of A3M’s most recent director, Susan Choi.

Although A3M’s chapter is closed, it is the hope of patients and supporters alike that Be The Match will continue to carry the torch toward further diversifying the donor registry, especially in the API community.

To date, there are now approximately 1 million donors of Asian descent registered to the national donor registry — a huge jump from the meager 5,000 donors in the early 1990s.

There is no question that current and future patients can thank A3M and the API community for making that number happen — thousands of lives will surely be saved for many years to come because of the decades of hard work and passion instilled into each and every donor drive.

*Thank you A3M, and thank you to the Japanese American community for your dedication to patients. Let’s continue to champion the cause and grow the registry.*

2022 HEART MOUNTAIN  
**PILGRIMAGE**  
POWELL & CODY, WY • JULY 28–30, 2022

Registration open NOW through June 15

DETAILS & REGISTRATION @  
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[www.heartmountain.org](https://www.heartmountain.org)

PCTC

**Hope4Paul  
(Paul Goodman)  
drive-thru  
registration  
event in 2021**





## WINTERSBURG » continued from page 2

“A second potential cause is due to the Wintersburg property being electrified at the time of the fire,” the statement continued. “After inquiring with Southern California Edison, electricity may have been illegally and dangerously acquired by tapping into a nearby power source, bypassing the electric meter.”

In an update posted on its website on March 24, the Historic Wintersburg Preservation Group stated that the fire investigation is still ongoing and that official reports from the HBFD and HBPD are expected to be completed and released in the coming weeks.

The March 19 rally brought community members together to raise awareness of the ongoing Historic Wintersburg fire investigation, as well as condemn the dramatic rise in anti-Asian hate crimes in Orange County and vandalism at Buddhist temples across the Orange County area.

The City of Huntington Beach statement concluded that it “has been informed by the owners of the Wintersburg property, Republic Services, of its intentions to enhance its security of the site.” ■



About 150 community members showed their support for Historic Wintersburg following a Feb. 25 fire that destroyed two structures, in addition to calling for a stop to violence and hate against the AAPI community in Orange County, Calif.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF JAY CHEN AND HISTORIC WINTERSBURG PRESERVATION GROUP

## VJAMM PLANS VIRTUAL COMMEMORATION TO REFLECT ON EO 9066

The program will feature guest speakers, in addition to its 10th annual fundraiser at Hama Sushi.

**VENICE, CALIF. —** To commemorate the 80th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument Committee will hold a virtual commemoration on Zoom set for April 21 at 11 a.m.-Noon.

The event's featured speakers will include Bobby Ideishi, who survived the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the World Trade Center skyscrapers while on a business trip to New York City, and Mary Uyematsu Kao, who will tell the story of how EO 9066 affected her grandfather's Star Nursery, which included 120 acres in Manhattan Beach, Calif.

Pre-World War II, Francis Miyosaku Uyematsu became known as the “Camellia King” for his importation and cultivation of not only camellias from Japan, but also cherry trees, both of which he sold throughout Southern California.

However, he gradually had to sell off pieces of his property to maintain his business while imprisoned in what would become the War Relocation Authority camp at Manzanar. Uyematsu donated 1,000 cherry trees to the Manzanar camp for a park there.

After the war, Uyematsu sold the last 40 acres of his Manhattan Beach property to the Redondo Union High School District for \$60,000. On this land, the RUHSD built Mira Costa High School. Many years later, students and faculty discovered the history of their high school construction, and in 2017, they proposed the Mira Costa History Project to the school board, which was conceived to remember and honor Uyematsu.

In October 2021, retired Mira

Costa high school instructor Chuck Currier, Mira Costa graduate Dennis Keen and various city and school district officials dedicated a plaque to Uyematsu in front of an audience that included three generations of the Uyematsu family, including Mary Uyematsu Kao.

In addition, the events other confirmed speakers will include Manzanar Committee Co-President Bruce Embrey; Charlene Tonai Din and Terumi Tanisha Garcia, recipients of the VJAMM and Manzanar Committees' co-sponsored Second Annual Arnold Maeda Manzanar Pilgrimage Grant; Mike Bonin, Los Angeles City Councilmember, District 11; Sheila

Kuehl, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, District 3; California State Sen. Ben Allen, District 26; Becky Dennison, executive director of Venice Community Housing; Marisol Perez, program manager of VCH's Westside Youth Academy (formerly Venice YouthBuild); Dan Kwong, playwright and co-author of the play “Masao and the Bronze Nightingale”; and Brian Maeda, founding member of the VJAMM Committee and director of the film “We Said NO! NO! A Story of Civil Disobedience.”

The VJAMM's genesis traces back to the period following 9/11, when calls for the rounding up, arresting



Hama Sushi's Esther and Jung Chaing in 2017



VJAMM Committee members are pictured with Venice YouthBuild (now Westside Youth Academy) volunteers in 2022 in front of the VJAMM memorial.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF VJAMM

or deportation of persons of Middle Eastern ancestry or of the Muslim faith rose exponentially following the historic terrorist attack on U.S. soil.

“We did this already,” recalled Venice Peace and Freedom Party activist Alice Stek, “to the Japanese Americans after Pearl Harbor. We can't let this happen again.”

Stek is a founding member of the VJAMM Committee, which realized its ambition of installing a permanent memorial in Venice, Calif., to remember the forced removal and incarceration of persons of Japanese ancestry during WWII.

The monument, which stands at the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln boulevards, was officially dedicated on April 27, 2017. (For more information on the memorial, visit [venicejamm.org](http://venicejamm.org).)

Following the virtual program, Hama Sushi Restaurant in Venice will host its 10th annual VJAMM fundraiser from 4-9 p.m., where proprietor Esther Chaing will donate 10 percent of the evening's dinner sales to the VJAMM Committee to support educational outreach, continuing maintenance of the VJAMM and funding of the annual Arnold Maeda Manzanar Pilgrimage Grant.

Over the past nine years, Chaing's donations have totaled more than \$25,000 for the VJAMM's construction and installation. Her contribution is surpassed only by the \$50,000 grant awarded to the VJAMM Committee by the National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program in 2012.

Hama Sushi is located at 213 Windward Ave. “on the circle” in Venice, Calif. For reservations to dine in or order take out/pick up, please contact Hama Sushi at (310) 396-8783 or visit [www.hamasushi.com](http://www.hamasushi.com).

**To join the virtual VJAMM Commemoration on Zoom, please visit [shorturl.at/cjmG5](https://shorturl.at/cjmG5) or <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83532308517?pwd=S2toRG95TzhEUjlnNm9ZTkNtUTc4QT09>.**



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## GRANT » continued from page 4

Din, a freshman at UCLA, feels “inspired by Maeda’s wholehearted efforts to establish the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument. . . . On the day Pearl Harbor was bombed, [my great-grandfather] was arrested by the FBI, thrown into various Department of Justice camps and eventually placed behind barbed wire with the rest of his family.”

Din also wrote in her essay, “Maeda’s work shows the importance of teaching the wrongs endured . . . so it is never forgotten nor repeated . . . and reminds me of the importance of sharing connections between past and present . . . to inspire advocacy.”

Both Garcia and Din have incorporated their social justice perspectives into their art.

Din won the Bay Area’s “Growing Up Asian in America” art competition as a high school freshman in 2017.

Her winning poster shows San Francisco’s Peace Pagoda in Japantown, framed by branches of iconic Japanese cherry blossoms, in the background. In the foreground, an Immigration and Customs

Enforcement agent arrests and escorts a father away while two children wave goodbye from a train window. Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize laureate, gazes from the lower-left corner at the signs depicted in the center of Din’s poster. “No Ban, No Wall, Sanctuary for All” reads one sign, while the other is a copy of “Instructions to All Persons of Japanese Ancestry, and a small sign reads, “No DAPL.”

As a member of AYPAL, an Oakland-based Asian youth leadership and activist organization, Din and other artists completed a large-scale painting for the annual May Arts Festival “highlighting the various ways our families came to the U.S. and emphasizing the importance of knowing history in order to know oneself,” according to Din.

Din continues her activism as Cultural Awareness and Community Service Chair for the Nikkei Student Union at UCLA.

Garcia assists in teaching the Japanese American Landscape Architecture and Ethnic Studies class at Cal Poly Pomona. For one

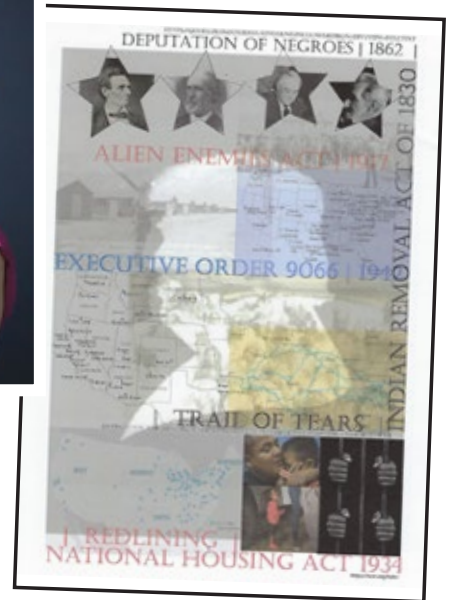
of her JusticeScapes assignments, Garcia identified historical examples of racial politics, laws and capitalism in the U.S., as well as post-Colonial examples of racist policies in the U.S.

She illustrated how “Race/Caste has led to Spaces of Incarceration” in a powerful collage listing the Indian Removal Act of 1830, Trail of Tears, Deputation of Negroes 1862, Alien Enemies Act 1917, Redlining National Housing Act 1934 and Executive Order 9066 — 1942.

The collage depicts Presidents Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt, as well as maps of the U.S. showing Trails of Tears and American detention centers and concentration camps, plus photos of War Relocation Authority barracks and hands behind jail bars.

In the center is a silhouetted profile of former President Donald Trump. In an even more pointed criticism, Garcia composed a free-verse poem to “Mr. President,” juxtaposing “being polite” as a survival tactic with the words of Andrew Jackson from the Indian Removal Act for the assignment titled “Terror as Enforcement, Cruelty as a Means of Control.”

Cal Poly Pomona’s Terumi Tanisha Garcia



Garcia wrote that the VJAMM and the Manzanar National Historic Site, on the literal landscape, help us “remember past traumatic events to help us build better relationships with each other and our environment. . . . to work toward social justice.”

Brian Maeda, filmmaker, VJAMM Committee member and brother of the late Arnold Maeda, said, “My brother would be elated that this new generation is passing on our history of unjust incarceration and violation of our civil rights. Keep the faith that this will never happen again to anyone.”

**“Race/Caste and Spaces of Incarceration” by Terumi Tanisha Garcia**

*For more information about the Arnold Maeda Manzanar Pilgrimage Grant, please visit [venicejamm.org](http://venicejamm.org), Facebook @VeniceJAMM or [manzanarcommittee.org](http://manzanarcommittee.org).*

## AMACHE » continued from page 5

ing a more complete story of the Japanese American incarceration during WWII. Many stakeholders, including former incarcerated and their descendants and the Amache Preservation Society were instrumental in obtaining the initial National Historic Landmark designation and advocating for the site to become part of the National Park System. The legislation, originally introduced by members of the Colorado delegation, garnered strong bipartisan support in the House and Senate.

“NPCA and so many others in Colorado and across the country came together with Japanese American incarceration survivors and descendants, community members and elected officials to help make today’s victory a reality. I am proud to stand alongside many of these partners today and carry so many others with me. This is an important legacy we leave those who will come long after us,” said Pierno in an official

statement.

Sec. Haaland visited the Amache site in February with Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) and Rep. Joe Neguse (D-Colo., 2nd District) to honor the 80th Day of Remembrance, marking when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed EO 9066, which gave the U.S. Army the authority to remove civilians from the military zones during WWII.

While there, Sec. Haaland met with survivors about their experience as incarcerated and learned how that time has shaped them and their families.

To formally establish the park, the National Park Service will work with the Town of Granada to acquire the lands intended in the law, a process that is likely to take more than a year.

**For more information, visit [nps.gov/AMCH](http://nps.gov/AMCH).**



**Pictured at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During WWII on March 18 are (from left) JACL D.C.’s John Tobe, chair of NJAMF; Sen. John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.); Doug Ichiuji, treasurer of NJAMF; and Robin Nixon, chief of partnerships for National Mall & Memorial Parks for the NPS.**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF JULIE ABO

## AMACHE QUOTES

*“This moment is a testament to the Amache survivors, descendants and advocates who never stopped pushing to get this done. Thanks to their work, future generations will now have the opportunity to learn about what happened at Amache and the Americans who were interned there. We have a responsibility to carry their legacy forward, and now Amache has the recognition and resources it deserves.”*

**—Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.)**

*“Designating Camp Amache as a National Historic Site will honor those who were imprisoned and educate future generations about this dark chapter. Our Colorado communities were the driving force behind this bill.”*

**—Sen. John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.)**

*“Colorado welcomes President Biden’s important action to establish Amache site as a National Park unit, highlighting injustices of the internment of Japanese Americans. Colorado is home to 12 world-class National Park units, and adding the Amache site is an important step to preserve and protect our national history and cultural experiences, even when we are called to face dark times in our nation’s past.”*

**—Colorado Gov. Jared Polis**

*“I have waited many, many years to see the day where we can be certain*

*that Amache, as a place of reflection, remembrance, honor and healing, is protected for our current and future generations. President Biden’s signature on the Amache National Historic Site Act today brings me hope that we are finally closer to this certainty. My parents did not live to see this day. The time is not only right; it is long overdue.”*

**—Bob Fuchigami, Amache survivor**

*“As a young boy at Amache, I never thought I’d see an America that cared about my story. I am now a 91-year-old veteran who served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. Thank you, President Biden, Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper, and Congressmen Neguse and Buck, for your leadership and for the great decisions made regarding Amache as a National Park Historic Site. Now signed by the president, long-lasting U.S. history is made.”*

**—Ken Kitajima, Amache survivor**

*“Many young men at Amache served in the U.S. Army, though their country incarcerated them for their Japanese ancestry. I was 10 and incarcerated along with my mother and siblings at Amache, where I was also a Boy Scout. In 1943, our camp troop went to the Granada Railroad Station at 4 in the morning to see the young enlisted men off. Our scout commissioner told us to play as loud as we could.*

*Years later, I served as a medic in the U.S. Army Korean War. In the 1980s, I worked to preserve Amache, organizing reunions and working on various preservation efforts. Thank you to President Biden for signing the Amache National Historic Act so that these efforts are not forgotten.”*

**—Min Tonai, Amache survivor**

*“As a former Amachean and as a volunteer for the Amache Field School, I have learned the importance of having Amache as a National Park unit, as it would illustrate the hardships and the perseverance of the incarcerated people. It would also point to the injustice of their being placed there, simply because of their ethnicity, not because of what they had done. Most importantly, it would signify the reasons that further groups, such as Muslims, should not be treated as were the Japanese Americans — there have been hints of this in current times.”*

**—Charlene Tanigoshi Tinker, Amache survivor**

*“Congressmen Neguse and Buck and Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper demonstrated what cooperation looks like on the Hill. With the bill now signed by President Biden, this is finally the expression and realization of the people’s will.”*

**—Mike Honda, former member of Congress and Amache survivor**



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, including meetings and briefings by public officials, key policymakers who serve in Congress, the White House, federal agencies, advocacy organizations and the media. **Info: To learn more and to register, visit <https://jacl.wufoo.com/forms/kjmxag0ulgxnt/>.**

## NCWNP

**'Enduring Democracy: The Monterey Petition'**  
Monterey, CA  
April 9; 2 p.m.  
JACL Hall

**424 Adams St.**  
**Price: Free; Registration Required**  
Presented by the JACL of the Monterey Peninsula Heritage Project, this film viewing and panel discussion examines how Monterey was one of the only communities that publicly welcomed its Japanese neighbors back from the incarceration following WWII. A panel discussion with historians David Yamada, Sandy Lydon, Geoffery Dunn and Tim Thomas follows on the history and significance of the Japanese on the Monterey Bay region. **Info: RSVP to [timsardine@yahoo.com](mailto:timsardine@yahoo.com) or call (831) 521-3304.**

**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](http://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. Don't miss this opportunity to share once again with family and friends this cultural experience!  
**Info: Visit [www.nikkeimatsuri.org](http://www.nikkeimatsuri.org).**

**'Love in the Library' Special Book Event With Maggie Tokuda-Hall**  
San Francisco, CA  
April 24; 11 a.m.-Noon  
Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California  
1840 Sutter St.  
**Price: Free; RSVP Required as Seating Is Limited.**

The JCCCNC welcomes author Maggie Tokuda-Hall as she presents her newest children's book "Love in the Library," a story of her grandparents' experience while incarcerated at Minidoka during WWII. Signed copies will be available for purchase. **Info: To RSVP, visit <https://14797.blackbaudhosting.com/14797/Love-in-the-Library-Book-Event-with-Maggie-Tokuda-Hall>.**

**'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](http://www.suttercountymuseum.org).**

## PSW

**'Look to the Sky: America's Concentration Camps' Part 2**  
Los Angeles, CA  
April 10; 1 p.m.  
Virtual Event  
**Price: Free**

This documentary project by John Tonai depicts the contemporary physical conditions of the 10 WWII WRA camps. Tonai has visited most of the sites and recorded the changes that have taken place. Part 2 will show photos of camps Minidoka to Tule Lake. **Info: For a Zoom link, email Layne Sakamoto at [greaterlajacl@gmail.com](mailto:greaterlajacl@gmail.com).**

**Self-Defense Workshop**  
Gardena, CA  
April 19; 10 a.m.-Noon  
Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute  
Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall  
1964 W. 162nd St.  
**Price: Free; Donations Appreciated**  
This class, open to older men and women, will focus on self-defense and situational

awareness that will include practical self-defense techniques to minimize any attack and injury as well as facilitate escape. It will be taught by 6th degree black belt instructor Art Ishii.

**Info: To register, visit <https://www.jci-gardena.org/gvjci-upcoming-events.html>.**

**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 Inclusive Communication**  
San Diego, CA  
May 25, 6-8 p.m.; June 1, 6-8 p.m.  
Virtual Event  
**Price: Free**

San Diego JACL in collaboration with the National Conflict Resolution Center is offering this two-part virtual training that combines small group discussion, facilitated dialogue and self-reflective activities as participants explore their own personal and cultural identities and how communication is key to preventing communication breakdowns..

**Info: To register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-art-of-inclusive-communication-japanese-american-citizens-league-registration-296433298977> or email [sandiegojacl@gmail.com](mailto:sandiegojacl@gmail.com) for more information.**

**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](http://www.japanhousela.com).**

**'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.

## PNW

**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](http://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](http://www.jamo.org).**

## MDC

**'Then They Came for Me: Incarceration of Japanese Americans During WWII and the Demise of Civil Liberties'**  
Milwaukee, WI  
Thru May 29  
Jewish Museum Milwaukee  
1360 N. Prospect Ave.  
**Price: Contact Museum for Admission**

This multimedia exhibition illustrates the impact fear-based rebuke has on those who experienced it firsthand and the lasting repercussions on the generations that followed the WWII forced incarceration. Imagery from photographers Dorothea Lange and Ansel Adams, alongside works by Toyo Miyatake and artifacts from the Chicago-based Japanese American Service Committee collection are on display. **Info: Visit [www.jewishmuseummilwaukee.org](http://www.jewishmuseummilwaukee.org) for more information.**

**'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 is planned in partnership with the Minnesota Historical Society, as well as guest speaker Dale Minami.

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

## IDC

**Reclaiming Our Past, Building Our Future: City of Denver's Chinatown Apology**  
Denver, CO

April 16; 12: 30-2:30 p.m. MDT  
CU Denver Terrace Room in the Lawrence Street Center  
1380 Lawrence St.  
**Price: Free**

All are welcome to the City of Denver's passing of the resolution apologizing to the Chinese immigrants and their descendants and acknowledging its role in nearly a century of violence and discrimination — including the dismantling and destruction of Denver's historic Chinatown.

**Info: Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/reclaiming-our-past-building-our-future-denvers-chinatown-apology-tickets-304316628227>.**

## EDC

**National Cherry Blossom Festival**  
Washington, D.C.  
Thru April 17  
Tidal Basin  
**Price: Free**

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is back! 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.cherryblossomfestival.org](http://www.cherryblossomfestival.org).**

**'Citizen Wong'**  
New York, NY  
April 11-May 1  
Pan Asian Repertory Theater  
Mezzanine Theatre at ART/New York Theatres  
502 W. 53rd St.

**Price: Ticket Prices Vary**  
The Pan Asian Repertory Theatre brings this story of a Gilded Age pioneer who wields pen and pulpit to fight the first U.S. law to ban any race from this country.

**Info: For more information, visit <https://www.panasianrep.org/citizen-wong>.** ■

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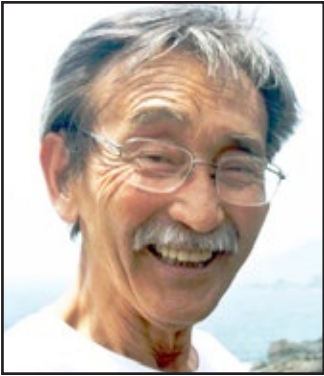
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# In MEMORIAM

## TRIBUTE

### ISAO FUJIMOTO



Dr. Isao Fujimoto, Ph.D., professor and community organizer, died peacefully at his home in Davis, Calif., on Feb. 25. He was 88 years old.

Isao joined the University of California, Davis, in 1967 as a founding member of the Community Development program. Throughout his career, he served as primary instructor for more than 50 courses and later founded the Asian American Studies Department before retiring in 1994. His retirement, however, was in name only. He continued teaching both locally and abroad — spending summers in Kyoto, Japan, where he taught his beloved UC Study Abroad course. He also held leadership positions in several grassroots organizations like the Rural Development Leadership Network and the Central Valley Partnership for Citizenship for nearly two decades thereafter.

Despite a distinguished academic career and countless accolades, Isao was perhaps best known for his insatiable curiosity and unparalleled commitment to education, social justice and the empowerment of marginalized communities. Understanding that knowledge equals power, he developed an unconventional approach to teaching and scholarship that centered justice and collaboration, challenging the hierarchy and culture of traditional academia. In fact, his home in West Davis served as the incubator and original headquarters for cherished Davis landmarks like the Davis Food Co-Op and the Farmer's Market, both of which were founded by Isao's students.

From an early age, the importance of community was impressed upon Isao. He was born on Sept. 28, 1933, in Wapato, Wash., on the Yakama Indian Reservation to Ayako and Taichi Fujimoto, farmers from southeastern Japan. Isao was the first of 13 children. The family lived in an ethnic enclave on the reservation, where they worked as tenant farmers. Along with 125 other Japanese immigrant families, they circumvented the racist and restrictive Alien Land Law that otherwise prohibited those of Asian descent from owning or leasing land by instead renting from the Yakama, whose land was not subject to such legislation.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941, Isao's father was immediately arrested and imprisoned at Fort Missoula, Mo. As with many Japanese Americans at the time, a period of unimaginable injustice and adversity began. Despite 8-year-old Isao's best efforts, including writing letters to President Roosevelt at his mother's urging, his father would not be reunited with the family for almost two years.

In 1942, along with his mother and younger siblings, Isao was incarcerated in Heart Mountain, Wyo., where his father would later be transferred. After being reunited, the family was sent to Tule Lake, the infamous maximum-security internment camp, where they remained until the end of World War II. It was at Tule Lake that Isao was given a stamp collection book by his father, a gift that would change his life. As he pored over images of foreign people and places, his mind was liberated, his imagination flew "over the barbed wire" and a lifelong quest to learn and appreciate global diversity began.

Upon their release from Tule Lake, the family resettled in California, first in Pleasanton, and then in Morgan Hill, where they worked as sharecroppers and later, as independent strawberry farmers. Although they were forced to rebuild their lives during a time of postwar hostility and threats of deportation, the perseverance of his parents was unshakeable, setting a powerful example for Isao that would serve as his ultimate guide.

Isao would go on to lead an adventure-filled life that was often as unpredictable as it was impressive, despite numerous challenges along the way. After receiving his undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1955, where he participated in the Cal Indo project, a collaborative exchange program with student leaders in Indonesia, Isao was drafted and sent to South Korea as a U.S. Army correspondent. Upon returning home, Isao reconsidered his original plan of becoming a physician, working briefly as a probation officer and then as a high school chemistry teacher at San Jose High School. It was at San Jose High School that his talent as an educator became impossible to ignore, and he subsequently earned a master's in Education from Stanford in 1960. With a career in medicine in the rear view, Isao began to carve a path that was uniquely his own, attending institutes for higher education at the historically Black Howard University in Washington, D.C., and Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.

At Cornell, Isao decided to pursue a Ph.D. in rural sociology. He was conducting field research in the Philippines when three of his siblings were tragically killed by a drunk driver back home in California. In the wake of his family's grief, Isao put his dissertation on hold. Soon, UC Davis came calling and, in the years that followed, Isao dove headfirst into his new role, eager and excited to lead in movements for change. But he refused to give up on the work he began almost 50 years before and in 2010, at the age of 76, he finished and successfully defended his dissertation at Cornell, proudly leading his graduating class in the ceremony's procession.

Isao was the proud father of three children, to whom he gave the gifts of curiosity and a healthy appetite for learning. He was generous in his love and wisdom and ensured that his children had every opportunity to explore and engage with those around them. As he did with his siblings, Isao took his children on adventures across the country and around the world. He was always teaching; he couldn't help it.

More difficult than summarizing Isao's rich life is attempting to convey all that will be missed in his absence. In addition to his many accomplishments, there is no doubt Isao will also be remembered for his seemingly limitless energy and enthusiasm, his infectious laugh and the unbelievable love and loyalty he offered to family, friends and strangers alike.

Isao was preceded in death by his parents, Taichi and Ayako Fujimoto; his sisters, Toyoko, Keiko and Shoko; and his brother, Donald. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Christine Fry, and their daughter, Esumi; sons, Caedmon and Basho, and their mother, Linda Wilson; grandchildren, Bela Buson, Kodo and Ruby Umiko; his brother, Kazuya (Dorothy), and sisters Yoshiko (Tad), Motoko (Masao), Coleen (Ted), Janet (Jack), Annie, Shigeko and Tomiko (Pat), in addition to many nieces, nephews and of course, students, colleagues and friends.

If you feel moved to donate in Isao's memory, contributions may be made to the UC Davis Isao Fujimoto Education and Student Support Fund (<https://give.ucdavis.edu/CLAS/ASIFGFT>).

A public memorial service will be held in Davis on April 21. Kindly RSVP to [esumifujimoto@gmail.com](mailto:esumifujimoto@gmail.com) for additional details. Masks and social distancing will be required.

## TRIBUTE

### PEGGY SHIMKO



Peggy Shimko, beloved wife and mother, passed away in her home on Feb. 12 at the age of 61.

Peggy was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, to parents James and Ruth Takeuchi. She received a Bachelor of Science in economics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania; a Master of Science in instructional design for online learning from Capella University; and a certificate in nonprofit management from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She married Jim Shimko in 1992.

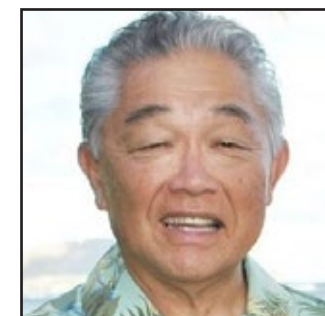
Peggy worked as a computer programmer before becoming a full-time homemaker and artist. She passed on a passion for technology to her children by playing video games with them, and some of her favorites were "King's Quest VI" and "Nancy Drew."

A multitasking artist, Peggy crocheted, sewed, danced, played piano, harp and taiko drums, and did numerous visual arts. She was most known for her intricate, geometric paper sculptures that blended her interest in math, Buddhist beliefs and environmental themes. She also handcrafted gifts for family and friends every holiday season, giving scarves, aprons, papercrafts and adorable amigurumi cats. As a Japanese American, Peggy was keen to learn about, preserve and pass on Japanese art forms, and she was one of the founding members of the Cincinnati-Dayton Taiko Group when it formed in 1999.

Peggy was a practicing Buddhist and approached everyone she met with generosity and care. If you were a guest in her house, she meticulously planned what meals to serve and always remembered people's favorite foods and dietary restrictions. If you called her with a problem, she'd listen attentively and then cut to the heart of the matter with her insightful — and often refreshingly blunt — advice. And if you ever mentioned a friend, she always remembered their name and inquired after them, even if she had never met them. Her compassionate spirit lives on in those she cared for.

Peggy was preceded in death by her parents, James and Ruth. She is survived by her husband, Jim; her daughter, Miyoko, and her son-in-law, Stephen; her son, Hiroshi; her brothers, Stephen (Rick) and Ken; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

A private memorial will be held in April.



**Kobayashi, Takashi, 101**, Hilo, HI, Nov. 21, 2021; he was predeceased by his wife, Shigeko, and son-in-law, Glen Plantz; he is survived by his children, Clyde (Helen), Roy (Claudia) and Merlyne Plantz; sister, Nobuko Goto; sister-in-law, Emiko Kobayashi; gc: 7; ggc: 10.

**Fujii, Calvin, 78**, Los Gatos, CA, Feb. 26; a veteran (National Guard); he was predeceased by his siblings, Stella and Arnold; he is survived by his wife, Pamela; children, Cheryl (Brett), Caela, Chara Fujii and Christopher (Mirna); brothers, Stephen Fujii (Sylvia) and Roger Fujii (Amy); gc: 3.

**Higa, Shigeru, 104**, Kaneohe, HI, Jan. 6.

### 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.

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## REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

# AARP APPLAUDS PASSAGE OF FRAUD AND SCAM REDUCTION ACT

By Scott Tanaka

This past month was Fraud Prevention Month. On March 11, AARP applauded Congress for passing the bipartisan Fraud and Scam Reduction Act. The legislation, endorsed by AARP, is designed to address the pervasive increase and growing problem of scams and financial exploitation that threatens all Americans, older Americans in particular.

"AARP is at the forefront of championing laws and regulations that prevent financial exploitation against seniors and empowers consumers to protect themselves," said AARP Executive VP and Chief Advocacy and Engagement Officer Nancy LeMond. "Scammers use a wide range of increasingly sophisticated tactics

and opportunities to steal money or sensitive personal information, so our nation's laws need to keep up. The Fraud and Scam Reduction Act includes important protections that can benefit all Americans."

The Fraud and Scam Reduction Act will establish a Senior Scams Prevention Advisory Group to prevent scams that target seniors. The Advisory Group will create educational materials and information on model programs to guide retailers, financial services and wire-transfer companies on prevention.

Additionally, it would create an office within the Bureau of Consumer Protection to advise the Federal Trade Commission about preventing fraud targeting seniors and assist

with monitoring for mail, television, internet, telemarketing and robocalls targeting older Americans. The bill was passed as part of the bipartisan 2022 omnibus appropriations bill, which now goes to the president to be signed into law.

Before coming to AARP and attending graduate school, I used to work for a small accounting and income tax preparation company. One of the calls we would frequently get from our clients was regarding the Internal Revenue Service calling them for unpaid taxes.

A person impersonating an IRS agent had called them and said that if they didn't pay their unpaid taxes immediately, they would be arrested. We would reassure our clients that the IRS almost never makes calls directly, and that they communicate mostly through mail. This is true even for unpaid taxes.

From October 2013-March 2021, the Treasury Department's inspector general for tax administration logged more than 2.5 million reports of these types of scam calls, with some 16,000 victims collectively losing more than \$82.6 million.

Here are some helpful Do's and Don'ts when it comes to this scam.

### DO'S

- Do hang up immediately if a caller claims to be from the IRS, unless

you have reason to believe you really do owe taxes, such as prior written communication from the agency.

- Do forward any unsolicited emails in which someone claims to be from the IRS or the Treasury Department to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov). Do not click on any links or open attachments.
- Do ask for identification if you're visited by someone claiming to be from the IRS. Actual employees carry two official credentials: a "pocket commission" and an HSPD-12 card, a standard ID for federal workers. An IRS employee will provide, on request, a dedicated agency phone number for you to verify the information on the card.

### DON'TS

- Don't provide or confirm personal or financial information over the phone to someone who claims to be a government official.
- Don't respond to a purported IRS email or text message asking for your information. The IRS doesn't do that.
- Don't agree to pay a tax bill with a gift card, prepaid debit card or wire transfer. Scammers prefer these methods because they're difficult to trace and can be used almost anywhere.

Since 2013, AARP has provided the AARP Fraud Watch Network as a free resource for people of all ages. You can visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network website by going to <https://www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork>. There you can find information on scams like the IRS Imposter Scam and resources to help you to know what to do.

You can sign up for "Watchdog Alert" emails that deliver information about scams, or call a free helpline at (877) 908-3360 to report scams or get help from trained volunteers in the event someone falls victim to scammers' tactics.

AARP has also been partnering with financial institutions and the retail industry to help stop fraud through its BankSafe Initiative. BankSafe is an innovative training platform that helps financial professionals identify and stop suspected exploitation. Since its inception, BankSafe-trained staff have already stopped more than \$100 million from being stolen from older adults. To learn more about AARP's BankSafe Initiative, visit <https://www.aarp.org/ppi/banksafe/>.

*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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