



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 93 YEARS

Carolyn Sugiyama Classen (*right*), carrying a photograph of her late-father and WWII-era USC dental student Francis Sueo Sugiyama, accepts his posthumous honorary degree in his honor from Dr. Carol L. Folt, president of USC.

» **PAGE 6**

## NEVER TOO LATE

**USC Confers Honorary Degrees to Deceased Nisei Trojans Whose Education Was Halted Due to EO 9066.**

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**MDC Holds Quarterly Meeting.**

» **PAGE 9**

**JANM Receives \$50,000 Grant.**

PHOTO: REUTERS/BING GUAN/POOL

# JACL APPLAUDS CONFIRMATION OF JUDGE KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

By JACL National

The United States Senate voted 53-47 on April 7 to confirm the nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, making her the 116th Justice appointed to the United States Supreme Court and the first Black woman on the Court. JACL Executive Director David

Inoue said this of Judge Jackson's confirmation: "The appointment of Justice Jackson is a long-overdue step forward for our country. The Supreme Court has for over 233 years lacked the full life experience that Justice Jackson will bring as a public defender and particularly as a Black woman. Too often, we have seen the court disregard or diminish the rights

of minorities. We look forward to Justice Jackson ensuring one more minority perspective is represented on the court."

The JACL joins countless others across the nation in celebrating Judge Jackson's historic appointment and having a Supreme Court that is more representative of our nation.



Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

To quote Jesse Jackson, "We must turn to each other and not on each other."

I am referring to the current controversy in the Japanese American community regarding the damage done to the Wakasa Memorial Stone in the Topaz Concentration Camp grounds. The National Park Service Assessment Report was released in February itemizing the damage done to it while being hastily unearthed, and the damage continuing to be done to the stone the way it is being stored in the Topaz Museum courtyard.

The Wakasa Memorial Committee was formed to alert the public and urge proper care and handling of the memorial stone. They quickly got support from the National Trust for Historic Preservation; the National Park Service; Karen Korematsu; Satsuki Ina; Tom Ikeda of Densho; Jay Xu, director of the Asian Art Museum; myself; and many others. But, the Topaz Museum Board is responding by demanding they silence themselves and take down online documentation before they will meet.

I am not a member of the Wakasa Memorial Committee, but I fear that shutting them up will not guarantee proper care of the Wakasa memorial stone.

My family and I were friendly donors of the Topaz Museum until the stone's disrespectful removal, revealing a lack of museum skills. Still, none of us want to see the Topaz Museum closed. I'd like to see it brought up to the standards of eligibility for National Park Service status or even Smithsonian affiliation. There are funds available for staffing the museum and an archeological excavation at the Wakasa Memorial site within the Topaz grounds.

The iconic Wakasa stone is the most important, concrete symbol of grave injustice (murder!), government coverup and Japanese Ameri-

can resistance that has been uncovered in any of the camps. It is too important to remain in a nonaccredited collection staffed by volunteer retirees, no matter how well meaning they are.

I urge all Japanese Americans to join together with their allies in requesting the Topaz Museum graciously donate the Wakasa Memorial Stone to the Japanese American community. The Topaz Museum could redeem itself this way.

It could be installed at the Japanese American National Museum, readily accessible to descendants, scholars, students and historians, OR at the Japanese Cemetery in Colma, in the Bay Area since 1918, where others who died in camp are buried. An information QR code and kiosk could be included in a special installation there.

We owe it to those Issei and Nisei, and our children and grandchildren, to see that it gets the honor and respect due to them. We need to speak up. Do not let anybody silence you. Find out what happened. What are they doing with the Wakasa stone? Write to the Topaz Museum and the Wakasa Memorial Committee websites and Facebook pages to let them know your feelings.

Save Our Stone (SOS)!

Sincerely,

Masako Takahashi,  
Topaz survivor

### HOW TO REACH US

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

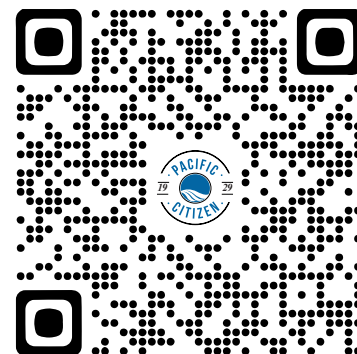
\* Your donations will help build and preserve a cohesive library of the *Pacific Citizen* to educate future generations.\*

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

— Gil Asakawa



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## REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

# CELEBRATING NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH

By Scott Tanaka

In celebration of National Volunteer Month, I want to honor my grandfather, Stanley Ikuro Kuroda. After working as an engineer at TRW for 25 years, he went on to become a volunteer at Torrance Memorial Medical Center.

Over the course of 20 years, he contributed 11,537 hours of service to the hospital. In 2004, he was elected president of the volunteers, a role that made him very proud. Other roles included helping with the bookkeeping in the hospital's gift shop and, most recently, he worked with Rev. James Kim, one of the hospital's chaplains.

In addition to volunteering at the hospital, he was active at our local church, Gardena Valley Baptist Church, and with JEMS (Japanese American Evangelical Society). He also helped do the bookkeeping for a cymbidium club in the area, as well as the Monterey Park Seniors travel

group. He loved his orchids, traveling and photography. Whether it was volunteering at the hospital or with his travel group, you could always find him with his camera in hand.

I believe all his years of volunteering helped keep his mind and body active and healthy. Sadly, my grandfather passed away in June 2020 due to Covid-19, but his legacy of service lives on.

I mentioned how my grandfather benefited from his volunteerism and wanted to share a few more examples of how you can benefit from volunteering from AARP's Create the Good. When you volunteer, you have the opportunity to improve your community and our world. And in addition to making a difference for your fellow human beings, there are multiple benefits you can receive in return.

### Strengthen Relationships and Make New Friends

Volunteering is one of the best ways to meet new people, make new

friends and grow relationships with the friends you already have. With each project, you're united in a common goal, sharing the same passion to help others in your community. Creating the Good is contagious. As you meet more people and invite friends to join in, they, in turn, will likely do the same. And working together in a low-stress, flexible environment is the perfect recipe for new volunteer ideas.

### Boost Your Health

Volunteering is proven to help reduce depression and stress levels, boost your self-confidence and even help you live longer. In fact, a study from Carnegie Mellon University showed that adults over age 50 who volunteered regularly were less likely to develop high blood pressure than nonvolunteers. But health benefits aside, as nationalservice.gov says, feelings of pride, satisfaction and accomplishment are worthwhile reasons to serve.

Learn more about the health benefits of volunteering at <https://create-thegood.aarp.org/volunteer-ideas/health-benefits.html>.

### Have Fun

Perhaps the best part of volunteering is simply the joy you feel knowing you're helping others. As a volunteer, you're seldom tied down to a single task, and your time commitment can be as flexible as your schedule permits. If you're not getting a sense of fulfillment in your

volunteer role, you can simply move on and try something new.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are core to everything we do at AARP and help us carry out our motto of "To serve, not to be served," as articulated by our founder, Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus. You can sign up and learn more about becoming an AARP Volunteer at <https://www.aarp.org/volunteer/programs/>. There are several opportunities to help with our efforts at the national level and at the local level through our state offices.

You can also visit AARP's Create the Good (<https://createthegood.aarp.org/>), which connects you with volunteer opportunities to share your life experiences, skills

and passions in your community. AARP's Creates the Good offers volunteer opportunities within AARP and with other organizations. There are virtual opportunities, too.

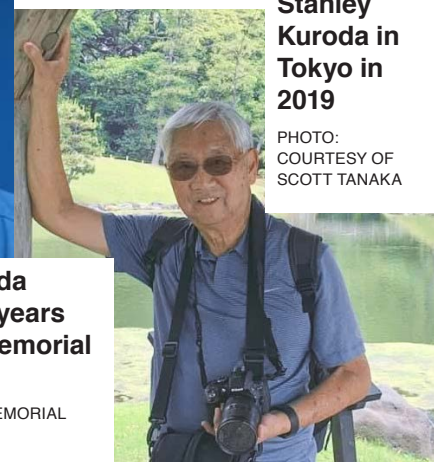
These are just a few ways you can volunteer, but there are countless others, both formal and informal. I recently stepped down from the board of the JACL Washington, D.C., chapter, and during the pandemic, we called our older members to see if there was anything we could do to help them. Most of them let us know they were fine, but that they really appreciated us checking in on them. Sometimes, a simple phone call, letting someone know that you are there for them, goes a long way.

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



**A photo of Stanley Kuroda taken in honor of his 15 years of service at Torrance Memorial Medical Center**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF TORRANCE MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER



**Stanley Kuroda in Tokyo in 2019**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF SCOTT TANAKA



## LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

# EMPATHY — NOT EXPLANATIONS

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

It's a transition no one looks forward to and most haven't prepared for: the time when you might have to start helping your aging parent. Maybe you're starting to see problems with memory, such as forgetfulness or asking the same questions repeatedly. Or, maybe you've noticed trouble with driving, keeping up the house, managing stairs or paying bills.

It's scary and stressful when it happens... noticing changes in your parent and becoming increasingly worried about his/her health and safety. Some aging parents simply begin to seem more withdrawn. Others start acting paranoid, e.g., claiming someone took or moved something, or leveling accusations at others.

Whatever it is, you know some-

thing's wrong. You wonder about Alzheimer's disease. You want to help, and you want your aging parent to accept help. Although helping an older parent can be gratifying, it can be especially hard if your parent is resisting your efforts, refusing to make changes or otherwise blowing off your concerns.

I get it — your parents took care of you growing up. Now, it's your turn to take care of them. Unfortunately, most aging parents don't welcome such help from their adult children. They may see it as interference or an invasion of privacy. Some parents might even refuse to accept that they are having difficulties, despite issues that feel glaringly obvious — and concerning — to you.

Many (if not most) adult children make the mistake of trying to reason with the aging parent. But expla-

nations and reasoning don't work when there's memory loss. Brain function is damaged and isn't able to understand your explanations. With most forms of memory loss, insight and judgment are impaired, but emotional responses are not.

So, what happens is that all of your reasoning and explanations (however brilliant) are not understood, i.e., there's a lack of understanding. However, what does happen is negative feelings, e.g., embarrassment, resentment and being afraid, ashamed, angry, threatened. The result is a lack of cooperation, conflict and relationship stress.

Rather than trying to get them to understand, you need to work on understanding them, and helping them feel understood. Your parent needs empathy, not explanations. "Demonstrating empathy and understanding is the key to positive interactions with your aging parent," said care manager Katie Darling. She suggests "letting your loved one know you are their advocate for better or worse, rather than another opponent or obstacle."

When attempting to help aging parents, we may accidentally say things that make them upset or disrespected. To make conversations more positive while still achieving

the goal of helping them, DailyCaring.com shares an online article that offers help: "7 Things You Should Never Say to Your Aging Parents":

1. **"You always tell me the same story!"** You might be thinking, "You're repeating yourself . . . again!" but your aging parent hears, "I don't care to listen to something you care enough to share." To prevent from hearing the same stories over and over, ask leading questions that might elicit a different story from your parent. And try to stick to positive or happy topics, rather than a loved one's passing or other negative memories.
2. **"You need to use a cane/walker!"** Many older adults want to avoid using a cane or walker for fear the appliance makes them look old or frail. Even people in their 80s will say, "Walkers are for old people, and I'm not old yet!" Help your parents avoid hazards by explaining that you're worried they might fall and suffer a serious injury and that using a cane or walker can prevent that from happening.
3. **"You shouldn't live alone anymore."** To older persons, this statement is a sign that their independence is in jeopardy. And

they're likely to become obstinate or combative whenever the topic of moving to assisted living or a family member's home arises. Instead, try expressing your feelings of concern and then working together to find a solution. For example, say, "I'm really worried that living alone could mean something could happen to you and no one would be there to help you."

4. **"You're too old to drive."** Relinquishing the car keys can be one of the toughest parts of aging. This is a very difficult subject and may require the help of a third party like the person's doctor, physical therapist or other professional to explain that it's safest for everyone if the older person no longer operates a vehicle. Saving that harsh reality for a nonfamily member will help preserve the elder's relationship with loved ones.
5. **"You never feel good."** It's common for older people to frequently turn — or start — conversations toward the topic of their failing health. A better response to this popular conversation topic is allowing a limited time for the older person to "vent" about his or

» See EMPATHY on page 12





## A MOTHER'S TAKE

### A Kind Heart

By Marsha Aizumi

Last month on March 25, my husband and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. In some ways, I can't believe we have been married this long. The years have gone by so quickly, and we are now both dealing with things that we never realized would preoccupy so much of our time.

Consumed with doctor's appointments, dental visits, physical therapy, blood tests, multiple trips to pharmacies for prescriptions, making sure we are exercising and getting our sleep — which is often interrupted with multiple bathroom visits — we are still grateful to be together.

Sometimes, we are like ships passing in the night as we walk pass each other on our midnight treks. And in the quiet darkness, we have conversations about nothing special, but those are actually precious times for me. Also, while managing our weekly appointments or errands, we are together in silence or with short snippets of conversations. I am grateful for it all.

When I look back on our life, I realize how

precious every year, month, day and moment has been. Everything that I value most in my life has been made possible by my husband . . . a nice place to live, children who I adore, children who look out for their parents, the ability to be an advocate, author and speaker, a husband that works hard to provide and makes me feel safe and secure . . . a life that wants for nothing.

Reflecting on these 50 years has made me realize that the two things that have been so important to me are our family's heartfelt bond and our sincere words of gratitude for even the smallest things. These are the things that I have valued so greatly. These are the things that have made me feel so loved and brought



(Left) Marsha and Tad Aizumi on their wedding day, March 25, 1972



(Top) Marsha and Tad 50 years later

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MARSHA AIZUMI

me so much joy.

For our 50th anniversary, we had planned to celebrate with our children. I made a reservation at a favorite restaurant. But then some unexpected medical issues for my husband arose, and our plans had to be canceled.

In the past, when things didn't go as planned, I would get disappointed. But I have learned to focus on what is important.

So, instead of getting dressed up and having a celebratory dinner, I was picking my husband up from the hospital and the kids were picking up food for dinner. It wasn't fancy, but my husband was home, and our family was together. There was much to be thankful for, and there was love and laughter in the room. We were still celebrating.

I married a man who has a kind heart — that is the advice my mom gave me so many years ago. And today, I still have that kind heart around me every day. In the past 50 years, our journey has not always been easy. We have often chosen challenging paths to walk, but I wouldn't have chosen a different path or a different person to take this journey with.

Happy Anniversary Papa!! I know that my mother is looking down at us and saying that I chose well . . . and that has made all the difference.

*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."*

### JCCSC Holds Awards Luncheon and Installs New Officers



Pictured (from left) are JCCSC President Haruo Takehana; the Hon. Akira Muto, consul general of Japan in Los Angeles; honorees Alan and Joanne Kumamoto; and Rep. Al Muratsuchi (CA-District 66).

**ALHAMBRA, CALIF.** — The Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Southern California held its 2022 installation of officers and awards luncheon on March 27 at Almansor Court. Following the oath of office administered by California Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (District 66) and JCCSC Secretary Marie Tanaka, congratulatory greetings and words of appreciation were then given by, among others, David Ikegami, president of the Little Tokyo Business Assn., and the Hon. Akira Muto, consul general of Japan in Los Angeles. Awards were then given to Joanne and Alan Kumamoto, who were honored with the Nikkei Spirit Award, and Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute received the Community Organization Recognition Award. ■

## 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**

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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.

Brought to you by:







America's Black Holocaust Museum Director Dr. Robert "Bert" Davis spoke to JACL attendees and held a discussion/debriefing of the museum's archives.

PHOTOS: ZARA ESPINOZA



The exhibit "Then They Came for Me" is currently on display at the Jewish Museum Milwaukee.

PHOTO: ALEXANDER SHINKAWA



Bridget Keaveney and Ron Kuramoto take in American Family Field, home of MLB's Milwaukee Brewers.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF BRIDGET KEAVENEY

## QUARTERLY MDC MEETING LEAVES PARTICIPANTS INSPIRED AND HOPEFUL

Meeting in person for the first time in more than two years, participants at the Wisconsin event engaged in a weekend of activities and business.

By Bridget Keaveney,  
JACL Norman Mineta Fellow

The Midwest District Council held its in-person spring retreat in Milwaukee, Wis., on April 1-2, its first in-person gathering in more than two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Hosted by the JACL Wisconsin chapter, attendees were treated to a weekend of education, inspirational meetings, fun and Midwestern hospitality.

Representatives from several of MDC's largest and most active chapters were present, as well two members of JACL's national staff, Bridget Keaveney and Alexander Shinkawa, and National Youth Representative Sheera Tamura. Ron Kuramoto, president of the Wisconsin chapter and a member of the P.C. Editorial Board, served as the retreat's main organizer and point of contact, coordinating events and providing participants with various forms of support during their visit to the great city of Milwaukee.

This year's MDC business meeting and MDC Youth Summit were held at America's Black Holocaust Museum. The mission of ABHM is to promote "racial repair, reconciliation and healing." As a sacred place of learning, the museum offers visitors the chance to commemorate and critically analyze the Black Holocaust from "precaptivity in Africa to the present day."

The MDC retreat, the first such in-person gathering in more than two years, offered participants a potluck luncheon that featured numerous delectable dishes.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF BRIDGET KEAVENEY



"It was both a pleasure and an honor for our JACL Wisconsin chapter to host our MDC chapter colleagues, NY/SC reps and JACL National Fellows here in Milwaukee over the April 1-3 weekend," said Kuramoto. "We convened at the newly reopened America's Black Holocaust Museum — a truly inspirational place — were engaged by a lively MDC NY/SC Summit and ended the day at American Family Field, where the Milwaukee Brewers were supposed to play (but sadly, did not). Special thanks also to the Jewish Museum Milwaukee for their special photo exhibit and related events, which is currently running through May 29."

For chapter delegates who were unable to attend the retreat in person, a Zoom channel was created to allow both in-person and virtual attendees the chance to listen and present various reports.

MDC District Governor Eric Langowski not only facilitated the meeting but also offered a report of his own that provided further insight into this year's upcoming JACL National Convention, set for Las Vegas in

August, and the 2022 budget.

Among the items also discussed were two very exciting pieces of new business: the appointments of Lara (Zara) Espinoza as the district's first Young Professionals Caucus officer and Ayako Tischler as the district's Youth Chair. The appointments of Espinoza and Tischler were welcomed warmly by all of those in attendance.

"I'm honored to become the first JACL YPC officer on the MDC and to be introduced in one of my favorite Midwest cities — Milwaukee, Wis. As a queer nonbinary multiracial Mexican-Korean-Japanese American person, I'm excited to bring my unique life experiences and intersectional leadership approach to help connect, bridge and build stronger cross-racial solidarity and more sustainable multigenerational communities. Muchas gracias for the warm welcome JACL community!" said Espinoza.

Following the MDC business meeting was the MDC's Youth Summit, which was hosted by MDC Youth Representative Kendal Takeshita. This year's MDC Youth Summit was

held at ABHM in the same room as the MDC business meeting. With support from national staff, the NY/SC and the Wisconsin chapter, Takeshita was able to provide youth attendees the opportunity to tour the museum, hear from the museum's director, Dr. Robert (Bert) Davis, and take part in a discussion and debriefing of museum archives.

"America's Black Holocaust Museum was an inspiring museum with amazing visuals and storytelling within such a compact space," said Takeshita. "As one of the only Black Holocaust museums globally, the ABHM tour was definitely an eye-opening experience. Our group discussion was small yet intimate, which was great because no one's experience or story was shut out from the conversation. We also received a great testimony from Dr. Robert 'Bert' Davis, the president and CEO of ABHM. He spoke about ABHM's mission and how to look at American history from the eyes of the African American."

"What I am looking forward to most," Takeshita continued, "is

how we, as Japanese Americans, can become better advocates for intersectionality so that the histories of marginalized communities do not fall between the cracks of institutionalization."

Outside of business-related matters, this quarter's MDC business meeting allowed attendees the chance to socialize and bond with one another in person for the first time in more than two years.

"Gathering with JACL members and especially youth members from across the country is always extremely special, but it is all the more meaningful for districts like MDC, where member chapters are spread so far apart and the opportunities to come together in community are fewer than we would like," said Vinicius Taguchi, JACL Twin Cities chapter president. "The JACL Wisconsin chapter made this gathering even more meaningful by emphasizing solidarity with Black and Jewish communities in our mutual fight against ignorance and bigotry."

To say that members were elated

» See MDC on page 8

2022  
STRENGTHENING OUR  
COMMUNITY  
THROUGH  
ACTION  
JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION

52ND JACL NATIONAL  
CONVENTION  
JOIN US IN VEGAS!  
SAVE THE DATE  
AUGUST 3-7, 2022  
FOLLOW UPDATES AT  
JACL.ORG/CONVENTION

2022  
STRENGTHENING OUR  
COMMUNITY  
THROUGH  
ACTION  
JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION



Posthumous honorary degrees are awarded to the families of USC's Nisei students who were expelled when the U.S. entered World War II, thus halting/ending their collegiate studies at the university.

The USC marching band performs at the USC Asian Pacific Alumni Assn. gala at the Langham Huntington Hotel in Pasadena, Calif., on April 1.

Dr. Carol L. Folt awards a posthumous honorary degree to Susan Ito and Julie Ito, who accepted the USC diploma on behalf of their father, Victor Nobuyuki Ito.

Dr. Carol L. Folt, president of the University of Southern California, speaks before awarding posthumous honorary degrees to the families of USC's WWII-era Japanese American students, at a USC Asian Pacific Alumni Assn. gala on April 1. Nisei students at USC were forcibly incarcerated during WWII and had their college careers undermined when USC refused to release their transcripts for those who sought to transfer to other schools.

PHOTOS: REUTERS/BING GUAN/POOL

## USC CONFERS HONORARY DEGREES TO DECEASED NISEI TROJANS

The ceremony includes dedication of a Japanese rock garden and presentation of diplomas to descendants.

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

*"By the authority vested in me by the USC board of trustees, I hereby confer upon each of these candidates the degree or certificate for which they have been recommended by the faculty, with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities appertaining thereto."*

*"As evidence of these degrees and certificates, an appropriate diploma of the University of Southern California has been presented to their families signed by USC's officers and embossed with the university seal."*

*"On behalf of the entire community, I am truly delighted to salute our new Nisei alumni."*

Families of USC's WWII-era Japanese American students pose with their ancestors' posthumous honorary degrees April 1 at the USC Asian Pacific Alumni Assn. gala.

Sisters Corrine Oishi and Joanne Kumamoto display the diploma conferred to their late father, Jiro Oishi.

Kristen Hayashi shows off the diploma USC awarded her great-uncle, Henry Kondo.

Carolyn Sugiyama Classen (above) and her husband, Albrecht Classen, carry photographs of her late father, Francis Sueo Sugiyama, before accepting a posthumous degree in his honor.

Pictured (from left) are USC alumnus David Ikegami, JACL National Youth Chair Justin Kawaguchi, USC AAPA Executive Director Grace Shiba, KABC-7 news anchor David Ono and USC alumnus Jon Kaji.

PHOTO: REUTERS/BING GUAN/POOL

PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON



With those words, spoken by the University of Southern California President Carol L. Folt, 80 years of hurt, injustice and fundamental unfairness for more than 30 Japanese Americans were put to rest.

That this act of healing and reconciliation took place on April 1 was no prank. It was, rather, a poignant ceremony for the descendants who accepted USC diplomas on behalf of their Japanese American forebears whose college educations were derailed or postponed in 1942.

The exiled were Trojans again.

For Jon Kaji, his alma mater's motto — "Fight On! — had special significance. "It all came together today," Kaji told the *Pacific Citizen*. "And seeing the happy faces of all those families tonight — that made it all worthwhile."

That's because Kaji — a past president of the USC Asian Pacific Alumni Assn., which celebrated its 40th anniversary with a scholarship-and-awards gala that evening — waged a decade-and-a-half effort to have USC make an exception to its policy against awarding honorary diplomas posthumously.

From Kaji's perspective, an exception was required because the circumstances second-generation Japanese American Trojans faced in the wake of Japan's Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor and President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066 on Feb. 19, 1942, were extraordinary.

With World War II came race prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership — and USC was far from being the only institution that treated Japanese Americans harshly: municipalities fired Japanese American city employees, America's armed forces reclassified active-duty Japanese American servicemen as enemy aliens, colleges and universities dismissed Japanese American students.

EO 9066, meantime, saw to it that the biggest and most powerful of institutions — the U.S. government itself — would force the removal of more than 120,000 Japanese Americans and Japanese nationals (then ineligible to become naturalized U.S. citizens) from the Pacific Coast to 10 War Relocation Authority facilities scattered across desolate areas far inland.

Displaced second-generation Japanese American USC students, however, faced an additional obstacle. When they received clearances to leave the WRA Centers to continue pursuing higher educational opportunities outside the exclusion zone, USC's President Rufus B. von Klein Smid refused to release their transcripts.

To get college degrees, the former Nisei Trojans would either need to start over at new universities — or move on in life and maybe never graduate.

For Kaji, this was a wrong that needed to be righted.

Over time, amends for the abrogation of civil and constitutional rights of Japanese Americans were redressed. Japanese Americans were allowed to serve in WWII and did so with remarkable valor, which played a role in the desegregation of the U.S. military.

Japanese and other Asians were allowed to become naturalized American citizens. The federal government apologized to surviving Japanese Americans who were incarcerated. Cities apologized to Japanese Americans whom they fired. West Coast high schools and

state universities conferred degrees to those Japanese Americans who couldn't finish their educations.

USC, for its part, presented honorary bachelor's degrees and master's degrees to its still-living Japanese American alumni in May 2012. But for nearly 10 more years, there would be no exception to USC's policy of not conferring honorary degrees for deceased USC students.

Kaji, nevertheless, fought on. "To me, the effort to get this done, and to get over the goal line for all those families — it had to be done," he said. Something changed in July 2019. That was when Folt became USC's 12th president.

"Dr. Carol Folt is exactly what the university needs at this time in its history," Kaji said. "Looking back at the previous administrations, and looking at what she inherited as university president, she is the right person to have taken this issue, moved it up to the Board of Trustees, to the point that we saw tonight, where we now have recognition and a resolution that now brings peace and completeness to all those families. So, I have to thank Dr. Folt."

Concurring was Frank Kwan, who helped found the USC Asian Pacific Alumni Assn. 40 years earlier.

"It took this president, Carol Folt, to say, 'Look, we're going to change precedent here. We're going to make these posthumous awards,'" said the former KNBC-TV producer and former communications director for the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

According to Folt, her decision to break USC's precedent was not at all difficult. "The truth is, I heard about the story when John Kaji wrote to me, and I immediately knew that the right thing was to overturn that policy in this special case," Folt told the *Pacific Citizen*. "I made the decision pretty quickly because there was no doubt in my mind."

As for the significance of the delayed recognition, Kwan said, "What it did was, it brought together a community. And it's not just Japanese Americans here. I mean, it's Chinese Americans, Korean Americans — it goes across the board. . . . It showed the university a perspective that they did not either understand or recognize or agree with."

Although the diploma ceremony was the evening's highlight, Kwan seemed awed by the growth of the scholarships the USC APAA has provided over the decades.

"We've given out over the 40 years more than \$2 million in scholarships. Wow, that's amazing to me," he said. "When we started this, we gave away seven scholarships, and it was like \$200 apiece because that's all we could afford. But now, we're giving out like a whole stage full of people."

The gala was also an opportunity to present the organization's Leadership Award to Wenda Fong, a co-founder of Coalition for Asian Pacifics in Entertainment and vice chair of the California State University Board of Trustees, and Sheree Roxas-Chua Gotuaco, founder and CEO of Stylist inPocket Technologies Inc., Scarletbox.io and founder and CEO of Omnimoda International Inc. The Service Award went to Sandy and Darren Chu. Serving as master of ceremonies was KTLA Channel 5 news anchor Frank Buckley.

Although the conferral of posthumous diplomas to the descendants of the Nisei Trojans took place during evening hours in a

packed ballroom at the Langham Huntington in Pasadena, Calif., the proceedings actually began that morning.

With family members of the posthumous degree recipients present, the dedication of a Japanese-style rock garden occurred at the USC University Park Campus to honor the WWII-era Japanese American USC students. The rock garden was designed by landscape architect Calvin Abe.

"Going to the rock garden today and having an opportunity to speak directly to the families — for me, it was it was overwhelmingly emotional. I know it was for the families as well," said Kaji, who is campaigning for a seat on the Torrance City Council. "But I think it was important to connect emotionally with all of them."

Concurring with that sentiment would be sisters Joanne Kumamoto, local to the Los Angeles area, and Corrine Oishi, who traveled from the Portland, Ore., area to honor their father, diploma recipient Jiro Oishi.

Kumamoto told the *Pacific Citizen* that her father would, some 30 years after leaving USC, earn a diploma from the University of California, Riverside. Oishi, in agreement, said, "It was always very important for him to finish college. He got his bachelor's degree, and then he also went on to get a master's degree in his 50s."

But, Kumamoto noted, "He never talked about UC Riverside" but instead "talked about USC all the time," and would attend USC football games. The memories of being a Trojan as a younger man dominated. "He and all his friends liked the . . . USC traditions and everything, getting together with your friends."

Oishi added that Jiro Oishi was "a great dad, he was a great person" and "very active in the JACL," and told the *Pacific Citizen* that for her, she was grateful that USC was "acknowledging the past as well as moving forward."

"I've been saying he would appreciate it, and especially because now that SC has been able to recognize them, hopefully that won't happen to any other students in the future," said Kumamoto.

For the relatives of Henry Kondo, USC's posthumous conferral of an honorary degree was a momentous, sobering occasion. Kondo was enrolled at USC through the end of 1941, but by the spring of 1942, his family and he would be sent to one of America's concentration camps for Japanese Americans.

Kondo was later killed in Europe in 1944 in the liberation of the French town of Bruyeres, fighting for the U.S. as a member of the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team after voluntarily enlisting while incarcerated at Arizona's Gila River WRA Center.

Struck down at such a young age, Kondo would never have the opportunity to marry or start a family of his own.

"We're very touched. It's something that we didn't expect. So, to have something like this, the recognition of his being at the school and then honored later, I think was very special," said Debbie Fagen, Kondo's niece, to the *Pacific Citizen*. "My uncle was actually the first Japanese American killed in the war from the Pasadena area. So, I never knew him. But he had written many, many letters to my mother, who was his sister."



## FRANK CHUMAN GETS HIS USC DIPLOMA

When the University of Southern California decided to posthumously confer honorary degrees to its Japanese American alumni who were denied the opportunity to finish their educations because of World War II, the university and the USC Asian Pacific Alumni Assn. faced quite a task: researching who those deceased students were and how to locate their still-living relatives.

In the course of that investigation, USC was surprised to discover that one of those students was, at age 104, still alive — and long retired and residing in Thailand.

That former USC student was Frank Fumio Chuman. Among his many accomplishments: He served as JACL's national president in the 1960-62 biennium.

In 1940, he was a law student at USC. By 1942, he was among those Nisei the school expelled, and within a few months, he was among the thousands of Japanese Americans incarcerated at the Manzanar War Relocation Authority Center.

He would eventually earn his law degree elsewhere and is credited for being among those to first broach the idea of revisiting the U.S. Supreme Court cases of Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu and Minoru Yasui by using the obscure legal procedure writ of error *coram nobis*.

With the knowledge that Chuman was still alive, USC acted quickly. In February, a diploma was prepared and rushed to Chuman in Thailand.

In her April 1 remarks, USC President Carol L. Folt said, "While Frank couldn't be with us tonight, in February with the help of his family, we were able to confer his degree on video."

To view that message, visit [youtube.com/watch?v=gUlsV4ZbITQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUlsV4ZbITQ).

According to his son, Paul Chuman, his father will turn 105 on April 29. ■







Another Kondo relative is Kristen Hayashi, collections manager at the Japanese American National Museum. She told the *Pacific Citizen* what happened after Kondo was killed in action.

“The Pasadena Federated Mission was honoring soldiers by putting up a Wall of Honor. And at that time, Henry Kondo was the only Nisei soldier from Pasadena to have been killed. They put a Gold Star next to his name, and this made news. There are *L.A. Times*, *Pasadena Star-News* articles about the ceremony,” said Hayashi, who added that serving in the color guard for the ceremony was future Major League Baseball star Jackie Robinson, who would famously go on to break pro baseball’s color barrier 75 years ago. Also present that day was Esther Takei, who would receive an honorary degree from Pasadena City College in 2009, but in 1944, she was one of the first Japanese Americans allowed to return to the West Coast from a WRA center as a test case.

Wrapping up the evening’s events and his nearly 16-year labor to have Japanese American USC alumni so honored 80 years after Executive Order 9066 and the 40th anniversary of USC’s APAA, Kaji injected some of his good humor into the event.

“So, April Fool’s surprise to them,” said Kaji. “I think we had a great surprise waiting for them, in a very good way.” ■



**USC dedicated this Japanese-style rock garden on April 1 to honor Nisei students who were denied the potential to complete their degrees.**

PHOTOS: MATTHEW WEISBLY



**KTLA news anchor and University of Southern California alumnus Frank Buckley served as the master of ceremonies for the April 1 USC APAA gala that awarded scholarships and presented posthumous diplomas to Japanese American USC students who were denied the opportunity to complete their educations because of WWII.**

PHOTO: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON

## 2022 NISEI USC DIPLOMA RECIPIENTS

Henry Ema*	Victor Nobuyuki Ito	Kenneth Shoichi Ozaki
Ryuichi Fujii	Shigeru Kanemaki	James Shigeo Sasaki
John Masao Fujioka	Sidney Isao Kashiwabara	Midori Sato
Floyd Kaoru Fujii	Wayne Masato Kato	Kunihiko Seki
Kiyoshi Fujiwara	Nelson Yuji Kitsuse	Tomio Sugano
Harry Fukayama	Henry Kondo	Francis Suet Sugiyama
Toshio Furukawa	Alice Yemiko Kurata	Ichiro Takahashi
George John Furutani	Raymond Kaname Nimura	George Tanbara
Toru Thomas Haga	Fred F. Nishi	Roy Hideo Yamamoto
Kameko Hatanaka	Tadashi Ochiai	Yoneo Yamamoto
Kei Hori	Jiro Oishi	Isami Sam Yamashita
Yoshiharu Inadomi*	Masao Oki	

*\*Presentation of diploma is pending.*

## MDC » continued from page 5



**Taking in America’s Black Holocaust Museum exhibits are (back row, from left) Alexander Shinkawa (Daniel Inouye Fellow), Eric Langowski (MDC governor), Kendal Takeshita (MDC Youth Rep.), Vinicius Taguchi (Twin Cities chapter president), Saulkdi Yangh and (front row, from left) Bridget Keaveney (Norman Mineta Fellow), Sheera Tamura (National Youth Rep.), Mika Kennedy (Detroit chapter), Ayako Tischler (Youth Chair) and Haruka Yukioka (Twin Cities chapter).**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF BRIDGET KEAVENEY

would be an understatement; members shared multiple meals together, visited American Family Field (home of the Milwaukee Brewers) and organized a potluck, which featured every dish imaginable.

“I am eternally grateful to all of the MDC District members who graciously invited me to represent the NY/SC throughout this meaningful weekend. This experience allowed me to reflect upon my intentions for serving on the JACL National Board as it is because of the kindness of each member within the organization that allows me to cherish each irreplaceable moment,” said Tamura.

Added Shinkawa: “It was my first time ever being in the Midwest, and I couldn’t be happier to meet such an amazing group of people. I’m thankful that the MDC was able to accommodate the D.C. fellows at their district meeting and that we had the opportunity to share some of the policy and programming goals that National is working on. The museum was a wonderful and insightful venue as well.”

Overall, the MDC retreat proved to be a great success, fulfilling an ambitious list of agenda items. ■

## AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

Dear Fellow Travelers,  
As conditions improve, we are nearing the end of the pandemic tunnel. With mandates being lifted, domestic tours will be open. However, Japan remains closed to international tourists but their situation is also slowly improving. We look forward to the day that Japan will be open to international tourists in the near future.  
We look forward to traveling with you in 2022. In the meantime, please take care, continue to be safe and stay healthy until we meet again.  
If you have any questions about our tours, please contact us by email.  
Thank you very much.

### 2022 TOUR SCHEDULE

<b>HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVALS HOLIDAY TOUR</b> (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Feb 4-15 CANCELLED - Rescheduled to February 2023 Abashiri, Sounkyo, Sapporo, Otaru, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Tokyo. Hyobaku Ice Festival, Asahikawa Snow Festival, Sapporo Snow Festival, Hyoto Winter Festival.	
<b>JAPAN HOLIDAY CRUISE</b> (Carol Hida) CANCELLED . . . . . Apr 8-25 (This cruise has been rescheduled to April 2023) Tokyo, Shimizu, Osaka, Kochi, Fukuoka, Kanazawa, Vladivostok(Russia), Otaru, Aomori, Hakodate, Tokyo/Yokohama. Holland America Cruise Line.	
<b>CLASSICAL JAPAN HOLIDAY TOUR</b> (Ernest Hida) CANCELLED. . . . . Apr 14-25 (Rescheduled to 2023) Tokyo, Yamanashi, Nagoya, Gifu, Hiroshima, Kyoto.	
<b>TULIP FESTIVAL-GREAT LAKES HOLIDAY TOUR</b> (Carol Hida) WAITLIST . May 5-13 Chicago, Grand Rapids, Holland Tulip Festival, Mackinac Island, Green Bay, Milwaukee.	
<b>JAPAN SPRING COUNTRYSIDE HOLIDAY TOUR</b> (Ernest Hida) . . . . . May 15-26 Tokyo, Ashikaga Wisteria Flower Park, Yamagata, Sakata/Shonai, Akita, Morioka, Hanamaki Onsen, Matsushima, Aizu Wakamatsu, Iwaki Hawaiian Show, Tokyo.	
<b>MONTEREY-NAPA VALLEY BY TRAIN</b> (Carol Hida) . . . . . May 22-26 Three train experiences including the World Famous Napa Valley Wine Train.	
<b>GRANDPARENTS-GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR</b> (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Jun 19-29 Tokyo, Hakone/Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto. Craftmaking hands-on experiences.	
<b>CANADIAN ROCKIES-GLACIER NATIONAL PARK TOUR</b> (Carol Hida) . . Jul 27-Aug 2 Calgary, Glacier National Park, Kootenay National Park, Lake Louise, Columbia Icefields Parkway, Moraine Lake, Banff.	
<b>KENYA WILDLIFE SAFARI HOLIDAY TOUR</b> (Carol Hida) . . . . . Sep 4-16 CANCELLED - Rescheduled to September 2023 Nairobi, Amboseli-Nakuru Lake-Masai Mara National Parks, Mt. Kenya Safari Club, Sweetwaters Tented Camp, Jane Goodall Chimpanzee Sanctuary.	
<b>SEDONA-GRAND CANYON HOLIDAY TOUR</b> (Carol Hida) . . . . . Oct 2-7 Phoenix, Scottsdale, Sedona, Flagstaff, Grand Canyon, Route 66, Laughlin.	
<b>JAPAN AUTUMN COUNTRYSIDE HOLIDAY TOUR</b> (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Oct 9-21 Tokyo, Shimoda, Shizuoka, Yamanashi, Matsumoto, Takayama, Kyoto.	
<b>OKINAWA HOLIDAY TOUR</b> (Ernest Hida). . . . . Nov 10-20 Naha, Onnason, Islands of Ishigaki, Iriomote and Taketomo.	

For more information and reservations, please contact:

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL  
312 E. 1st Street, Suite 240 \* Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Tel: (213)625-2232 \* Email: [americanholiday@att.net](mailto:americanholiday@att.net)  
Ernest or Carol Hida

**NOTE:** During this pandemic until further notice, our office is closed temporarily, therefore, please contact us by email only. For any mailings, please send it to:

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# 'Farewell to Manzanar' TELEFILM DIRECTOR JOHN KORTY DIES

Oscar, Emmy winner also  
co-wrote the screenplay with  
the book's authors.



Appearing at the Japanese American National Museum's Tateuchi Democracy Forum in 2011 for the DVD release of "Farewell to Manzanar" are (from left) actor Clyde Kustatsu, composer Paul Chihara, actress Momo Yashima and director-writer John Korty.

PHOTO: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON

By P.C. Staff

John Korty, an Oscar- and Emmy-winning filmmaker whose works encompassed independent and studio fare, theatrical movies and television, documentaries, drama and animation, died March 9. He was 85.

According to published reports, the cause of death for the Port Reyes Station, Calif.-based Korty was vascular dementia.

He was best-known for directing the acclaimed 1974 telefilm "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman," which won nine Primetime Emmy awards, including a Best Lead Actress in a Drama prize for Cicely Tyson and a Best Directing in Drama, a Single Program, Comedy or Drama honor for Korty.

Korty also won both an Oscar and an Emmy for "Who Are the Debolts? And Where Did They Get 19 Kids?" Other titles in his filmography include "Go Ask Alice," "Second Sight: A Love Story," "Resting Place" and "Eye on the Sparrow."

For the Japanese American community, however, Korty was known as the director of the 1976 telefilm "Farewell to Manzanar," the adaptation of the book of the same name written by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and her late husband, James D. Houston. It won the 1977 Humanitas Prize, which honors film and TV writing, in the 90-minute category.

The Houstons and Korty collaborated on writing the telefilm's screenplay and were nominated for a Primetime Emmy in the category Outstanding Writing in a Special Program, Drama or Comedy, Adaptation.

"It was great working with John,"

Houston told the *Pacific Citizen* in a telephone interview, noting that despite their collective know-how as writers, she and her husband were not film writers. "It was a great partnership. We certainly learned a lot about film writing. . . . He was a great guy."

Korty chose "Farewell to Manzanar" as his follow-up project after the success of "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman." Houston noted that while Korty had "always been a great filmmaker," it was "Pittman" that "put him on the map" and gave him the clout to choose his follow-up project. "If it wasn't for 'Miss Jane Pittman,' he probably wouldn't have even tried to do 'Manzanar.'"

Houston recalled how Korty reached out to her regarding his interest to adapt the book. "He called up, and he said, 'This is John Korty . . . I'm sure you know why I'm calling,' and

» See KORTY on page 12

## JANM Receives \$50,000 Grant to Support New Exhibition

The grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation will help tell the full American story.

**LOS ANGELES** — The Japanese American National Museum was awarded \$50,000 on April 12 for the National Trust for Historic Preservation's "Telling the Full History Preservation Fund." The grant is one of 80 given to select organizations nationwide with projects that help preserve, interpret and activate historic places to tell the stories of underrepresented groups in the U.S.

The grant will support JANM's upcoming exhibition "BeHere/1942: A New Lens on the Japanese American Incarceration," curated by Japanese media artist Masaki Fujihata and presented by JANM and the Yanai Initiative for Globalizing Japanese Humanities, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of California, Los Angeles.

The centerpiece of this exhibition is JANM's Historic Building, the former Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. Built by Japanese immigrants in 1925, the temple was transformed into a place of pain, humiliation and anxiety about an uncertain future in America when individuals of Japanese ancestry gathered there to board buses for unknown destinations after being forcibly removed from their homes in May 1942.

"BeHere/1942" will utilize the Historic Building's monumental exterior in a massive virtual installation that recreates that scene from 80 years ago.

"The museum is a repository of Japanese American culture and history. At nearly 100 years old, the Historic Building remains JANM's largest artifact. We are grateful for the opportunity this grant has provided us to share the historical significance of the Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple and the groundbreaking augmented reality installation and artwork of Japanese media artist Masaki Fujihata," said Ann Burroughs, president and CEO of JANM.

The grant was made possible through a one-time \$2.5 million grant program funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

"This grant allows 'BeHere/1942' to use several humanities disciplines to enhance visitors' understanding of the Japanese American experience, encourage them to learn more about their own community's experience and become active participants in American democracy to ensure that this country's democratic ideals are honored and sustained for all of us," said Burroughs. "Visitors from across the country and around the world visiting Little Tokyo will be able to immerse themselves in this history and inhabit narratives that challenge existing ideas of American identity." ■



Artist Masaki Fujihata is the curator of JANM's upcoming exhibition "BeHere/1942: A New Lens on the Japanese American Incarceration."

PHOTO: DAVID LEONARD



Two young girls being filmed as they wait to board a train that will take them to Owens Valley (Manzanar) from Los Angeles in April 1942.

PHOTO: RUSSELL LEE/COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS (WWW.LOC.GOV/RESOURCE/FSA.8A31184)



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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/kjmxag0ulgxnt/>.**

## NCWNP

**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 the Marysville chapter of the JACL.

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

**Japanese Heritage Day With the San Francisco Giants San Francisco, CA**

**May 21; 1:05 p.m. Oracle Park**

**24 Willie Mays Plaza**

**Price: Special Event Ticket Pricing Available**

Join the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California at its Japanese Heritage Day with the San Francisco Giants as the team takes on the San Diego Padres. A special event T-shirt designed by Sumofish artist and creator Brandt Fuse is included with every ticket purchase. Group rates are available by purchasing tickets through the Center. There are also VIP tickets available that are also celebrating the 30-year anniversary of Kristi Yamaguchi's Gold Medal Olympics triumph that include the T-shirt as well as a Kristi Yamaguchi signed bobblehead, exclusive Q & A opportunity and much more.

**Info: For event information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.jcccnc.org](http://www.jcccnc.org).**

## PSW

**'Stories, Memories and Legacies': Santa Fe Internment Camp Marker Event**

**Santa Fe, NM**

**April 23 In-Person and Virtual Event New Mexico History Museum 113 Lincoln Ave.**

**Price: \$7 Museum Entry Fee; Masking Highly Recommended and Vaccination Card is required.**

Mark your calendars for this daylong program commemorating the 20th anniversary of the dedication of the Santa Fe Internment Camp Marker. Registration is required for in-person attendance and virtual/online viewing of the event. Attendance is restricted to 100 online participants.

**Info: To register, visit <https://t621d6b5ca8f24.site123.me>.**

**Happiness, Health, Heritage @ Home/HHHH**

**Thousand Oaks, CA**

**April 23; Noon-2 p.m. Grant R. Brimhall Library**

**Community Room 1401 Janss Road**

**Price: Free**

Please join the Ventura County JACL at its first get together in more than two years! This new program will promote happiness, health, heritage and home and will include a Keiro guest speaker, raffle prizes and trivia game. The first 50 seniors to sign up for the event will receive a free bento.

**Info: Visit [vcjacl.org](http://vcjacl.org) to sign up or email [vcjaclh4h4@gmail.com](mailto:vcjaclh4h4@gmail.com) for more information.**

**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.

**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 exile through an array of 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.

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

## PNW

**'The Samurai Code: How Bushido Changes Lives' Washington**

**April 30; 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

**Virtual Event**

**Price: Free**

Join Humanities Washington and JACL Puyallup Valley chapter for this virtual talk by Lori Tsugawa Whaley, who will talk about Bushido — the way of the warrior — the code of ethics practiced by the samurai warriors of ancient Japan, perseverance in Japanese society that remains evident to this day.

**Info: To register for this event, visit <https://bit.ly/3JiHkGb>.**

**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 Pricing**

This multimedia exhibition illustrates the impact EO 9066 has had on those who experienced it firsthand and the lasting repercussions on the generations that followed. Imagery from noted American 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](http://www.jewishmuseummilwaukee).**

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

## IDC

**Annual Amache Pilgrimage 2022 Granada, CO**

**May 21; 11 a.m.**

**Amache**

**County Road 23 5/10 just past W. Amache Road**

**Price: Bus Transportation \$30**

This year's in-person event will celebrate the recent announcement of Amache's National Historic Site designation. Bus transportation will be available, made possible by the generous support from Nikkeijin Kai. For attendees arriving by private car, hotels are available in Lamar.

**Cherry Blossom Festival 2022 Denver, CO**

**June 25 & 26**

**Sakura Square in Downtown Denver**

**Price: Free**

This year's Cherry Blossom Festival will take place in person! The event will welcome cultural activities, arts and crafts, delicious food options, entertainment and the annual JARCC All Things Japanese sale.

**Info: Visit [www.cherryblossomdenver.org](http://www.cherryblossomdenver.org) for event details.**

## EDC

**Asia North 2022: 'Growing Our Gardens, a Living Altar'**

**Baltimore, MD**

**Thru May 28**

**Motor House 120 W. North Ave.**

Throughout Asia North 2022 festival, visitors are invited to imagine a better world, reflect on their hopes and dreams for that world and scatter provided seed paper flowers on the altar. On May 21, participants will plant the seed paper from the altar.

**Info: Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, Noon-2 p.m. and 7-10 p.m. For more information, visit [www.towson.edu](http://www.towson.edu).**

**'Citizen Wong' New York, NY**

**Thru May 1**

**Pan Asian Repertory Theater Mezzanine Theatre at ART/New York Theatres**

**502 W. 53rd St.**

**Price: Ticket Prices Vary**

In a play inspired by Wong Chin Foo, 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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# In MEMORIAM

**Aoki, Yasuhiko, 91**, El Cerrito, CA, Dec. 31, 2021; Army veteran (Korean War). During WWII, he was incarcerated at Fresno Assembly Center in CA, and the Jerome and Rohwer WRA Centers in AR. He was predeceased by his siblings, Mitsuyoshi (Erma), Yaeko Tsuji, Shizuma (Madelyn), Nobuko Tsukida (Bill), Wakao (Cathy), Tomoye Johnson (Ross), Stanley (Ysabel). He is survived by his wife, Margaret; children Joan (Curt Kawabata), and Kathryn; siblings Kaoru (Yachi), Chiyeko Fukumoto (Dick), Reiko Takeuchi, Masami (Georgia), Sueko Sumida, Sanaye Fisher (Mark), Diana Fujisaka (Steve) and Ronnie.

**Chen, Chiyeko, 93**, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 20, 2021; she was predeceased by her husband, Joseph, and her brother, Yosh Inadomi; she is survived by her children, Caroline (Michael) Paine and Michael (Leslie) Chen; siblings, Taz Inadomi, Minoru Inadomi, Grace Naruse and Lilly Sasaki; gc: 4.



**Fujihara, Chizuko, 92**, Torrance, CA, Dec. 5, 2021; she was predeceased by her husband, James; she is survived by her children, Darryl (Cassandra) Fujihara and Carole (Bruce) Chew; gc: 4.

**Fukui, Thomas, 91**, Monterey Park, CA; he is survived by his wife, Hannah; sons, Gregory and Darryl.

**Hayashi, Leo Ryo, 90**, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 10, 2021; he is survived by his wife, June; sisters, Marie and Naomi; children, Ray, Don, Susan and Kei; gc: 7.

**Iketani, Roy, 91**, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 3; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ; veteran (Navy); graduate, UCLA; former president, Southwest Los Angeles JACL Chapter; active with East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center; he was predeceased by his wife, Nancee; he is survived by 7 children; a sister; gc: 10.

**Kamachi, Grace, 92**, Rowland Heights, CA, Jan. 17; she is survived by her children, Teresa (Michael) Furukawa, Denise (Geoffrey) Yamamoto, Patrick Kamachi and Anna Marie (Tom) Ito; gc: 13; ggc: 5.

**Kato, Jason Tomihiro, 50**, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 4; he is survived by his parents, Douglas and Hiroko; brother, Derrick; sister, Michelle (Thomas) Hyung; a niece, a nephew and other relatives.



**Kohama, Paul, 80**, Gardena, CA, Dec. 4, 2021; veteran (Army, Purple Heart), he is survived by his wife, Jean; daughters, Kristine, Kari (Ed Miyashiro); stepson, Scott Uyeda (Daisy); gc: 2.



**Kurahashi, Conner, 22**, Torrance, CA, Jan. 22; he is survived by his parents, Brian and Gay (Koga) Kurahashi, sister, Bailey; grandmother, Kazuko Kurahashi; uncle, Robert Kurahashi; aunts Pattie Johnson and Jan Koga; he is also survived by cousins and other relatives.



**Kurokawa, Patricia Naoko, 94**, San Gabriel, CA, Jan. 8; she was predeceased by her husband, Harry; siblings, Toyoko Yamagata, Ikuko Nagasaki and Yutaka Bruce Nagasaki; she is survived by her children, Barry Kurokawa and Jan (George) Nishida; sister-in-law, Kazu Nagasaki; gc: 2.

**Miya, Kimiko, 98**, Cerritos, CA, Jan. 19, 2022; she is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Miyahara, Joseph Toshio, 50**, San Diego, CA, Feb. 11; veteran (Marine Corps); he was predeceased by his brother, Ricky; he is survived by his wife, Lisa; children, Michael, Jenna and Tyler; parents, Fred and Patricia (Trisha); gc: 1.



**Miyahara, Dorothy, 92**, Honolulu, HI, Jan. 9; graduate, San Jose State University; she was predeceased by her husband, Herbert; siblings, Charles Mizutani, Elaine Sakoda and Mary Tsukamoto; she is survived by her children, Calvin (Danelle) Miyahara, Teri (Dean) Matsukawa and Russ (Denise) Miyahara; brother, Warren Mizutani; gc: 6.



**Murakami, Doris May, 87**, Redondo Beach, CA, Feb. 5; she was predeceased by her grandson, Ethan Gardiner; she is survived by her husband, Isamu; children, May Aiko, Cindy, Sandra and Stanley; gc: 7; ggc: 2; gggc: 1.

**Murakami, Nobuko 'Noby,' 93**, Monterey Park, CA, Dec. 31, 2021; she was predeceased by her husband, Hiroshi; son, Paul; she is survived by her children, Georgette, Jeanette, John (Carol) Murakami, Suzanne (Gene) Matsuura, Mary Ann Kato and Mary Ellen (Keith) Nobuhara; daughter-in-law, Michelle Chen; gc: 15; ggc: 10.



**Nakashima, Famatta C., 65**, Aurora, CO, Feb. 9; she was predeceased by her husband, Dennis; siblings, Rosalyn L. Gaffney and Garcia Robert Gaffney; she is survived by her children, Mandi (Christopher) Bishop, DJ (Christy) Nakashima and Nicholas (Samantha) Nakashima; sister, Deborah Gaffney; gc: 4; ggc: 2.

## Choreographer Yuriko Kikuchi Dies

By P.C. Staff

Dancer-choreographer Yuriko Kikuchi died March 8 in New York. She was 102.

Kikuchi, née Amemiya, born in 1920 in San Jose, Calif., would later be known professionally just by her first name and became known as an acolyte of noted dancer and choreographer Martha Graham. Kikuchi was said to be the first nonwhite dancer in the Martha Graham Dance Company.

Kikuchi was a kibe Nisei who furthered her dance training in Japan early in life; she returned to the U.S. in 1937.

During WWII, Kikuchi was incarcerated at the Gila River War Relocation Center. She went to New York City when she was released in 1943 after signing a loyalty oath and joined Graham's company in 1944. She appeared in the 1956 film version of "The King and I."

In 1946, she married Charles Kikuchi, with whom she had two children. In 2012, she was presented with the Martha Hill Dance Fund Lifetime Achievement Award. ■

**Saito, Sachie, 74**, Streetsboro, OH, Oct. 13, 2021.

**Sato, Sachio, 88**, Rosemead, CA, Feb. 28; he was predeceased by his wife, Alice Midori Sato; son, Douglas Kiyoshi Sato; he is survived by his son, Darryl Yoshio Sato; daughter-in-law, Janice Sato; siblings, Wilbur Sato, Norman Sato and Jane (Herbert) Kimata; sisters-in-law, Marion Nishimura and Doris Iwamura; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

**Sato, Yoko, 86**, Des Plaines, IL, Sept. 28, 2021.



**Satoh, Chihaya Sierra, 35**, Champlin, MN, Oct. 5, 2021; she is survived by her parents, Harumi and Shuichi Satoh of Shiogama, Japan; siblings, Kazuhiro (Satomi) Satoh, Wakana (Naofumi) Hosoya and Sayaki Sato; boyfriend, Jake Johnson.

**Shishido, Mae, 93**, Huntington Beach, CA, Jan. 13; she is survived by her son, Wayne Shishido; gc: 1.

**Takata, Howard Nobuo, 81**, Gardena, CA, Jan. 18, 2022; he is survived by his children, Michael (Mirna) Takata and Dawn Takata; gc: 2.

**Terada, Yukiye, 93**, Gardena, CA, Dec. 30, 2021; she was predeceased by her husband, Rev. Koju Terada; she is survived by her children, Keiju (Ruth) Terada, Dr. Seiju (Dr. Christine) Terada and Noriko (Brent) Sasaki; gc: 4; step-gc: 2.

**Yamada, Hideko 'Heda,' 97**, Mountain View, CA, Oct. 22, 2021; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center; bachelor's degree (NYU); master's degree (Santa Clara University); she was predeceased by her husband, Mitsuo; she is survived by her children, Kenneth, Kathryn (Paul Nichols) and Kelvin; siblings, George Iida, Nancy Iida and Helen Oshiro; gc: 4; ggc: 3. ■

### PLACE A TRIBUTE

'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis.

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**EMPATHY » continued from page 3**

her health, demonstrating your compassion and then redirecting them. After stating you're sorry they're in pain or have to deal with managing multiple medicines, ask about a positive memory or experience.

6. **"I can't believe you missed that appointment."** Scolding an elderly person as if they were a naughty child is demeaning and disrespectful. It breaks trust and can lead to passive-aggressive behavior such as "forgetting" to tell children things they should know because the senior does not want their child to boss them around. You can also help ensure that your parent sticks to his or her health care

appointments by offering to take them to the next one.

7. **"You don't need a jacket today; it's warm outside."** Many older people are more sensitive to temperatures and feel cooler than those around them who are younger. If your dad insists on wearing a warm jacket when it's 75 degrees, gently explain that it's warmer out than he might expect. Then, suggest a lighter jacket or shirt, rather than the heavy one he's selected, as it might be best at keeping him comfortable. And don't be afraid to offer help choosing the best outerwear.

**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.**



Demonstrating empathy is key to helping elderly parents

**KORTY » continued from page 9**

I said, 'Yes, I do. And I'm glad you're calling.'"

More than four decades after it was made, "Farewell to Manzanar" remains one of the few Hollywood-produced movies in which the Japanese American incarceration experience of World War II serves as the setting and backdrop for the story of an American family whose lives are forever changed following the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Clyde Kusatsu, whose acting career has reached the 49-year mark, was in "FTM's" cast and remembers fondly working with the other Japanese American actors, including Yuki Shimoda, as well as helmer Kory.

"You never saw him get pissed off. He had a very kind of a calm presence. A patient kind of guy," Kusatsu told the P.C. "He shot what he needed to shoot, and he would deal with it in the editing."

Regarding the place "FTM" holds among Hollywood movies that have dealt with Japanese American subject matter, Kusatsu said, "If you were going to ask me, 'Is it important?' yeah, it was very important. It was one of those pivotal pieces of work that has

stood the test of time."

Kusatsu noted that another Hollywood movie that told the Japanese American incarceration experience was 1990's "Come See the Paradise," directed by Alan Parker. He remembered that when he watched it, his reaction was, "He just copied what

**'He was a great guy.'**

— **'Farewell to Manzanar' author Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston on John Kory**

John shot in 'Farewell to Manzanar.' There's a shot [in 'Come See the Paradise'] where Sab [Shimono] as the older father is at the barbed wire, he's looking out and sees the mountain. Shot for shot, it's Yuki looking through the barbed wire, looking at the mountain."

Almost inexplicably, "Farewell to Manzanar" was missing from the home video market for decades, from VHS cassettes to DVDs to streaming. It wasn't until 2011 that it was determined that music rights were the sticking point that kept media giant NBCUniversal's Universal Television division from making it commercially available. Finally, however, Univer-

sal made a deal with the Japanese American National Museum for the exclusive rights to sell it on DVD via its gift shop.

In a 2011 interview, Kory recalled how the absence of "FTM" left even him baffled. "People would call my office and say, 'Oh, I want to get a copy of 'Farewell to Manzanar,' and I said, 'Well, I'm sorry, I'm legally prohibited from [dubbing copies], and

I have one or two VHS copies, and I can't duplicate them."

Kory also said that he felt it might seem inappropriate for him to push too hard to have Universal release it for the home video market. "For me to be promoting it could also come across as very self-serving. I mean, you know, I'm the director. It's my film, I want to release it . . . it would sound very selfish.

"I think it's much better that it was a nonprofit organization," Kory continued. "I think that's what made the difference, that it wasn't a career move on anybody's part. It wasn't a commercial move on anybody's part. It was a nonprofit museum."

Asked whether "Farewell to Manzanar" would have been adapted into a telefilm without Kory, Houston said, "Sure. Somebody would have come along — but we were just very lucky that it was John Kory." ■

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