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**History and  
Memory at  
Tadaima 2022**

Akira and Hideko Nagamine prep their  
rakkyo scallions.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE NAGAMINE FAMILY COLLECTION



# Japan Eager to Welcome Tourists From Abroad Amid Cheap Yen

By Associated Press

**TOKYO** — It's hard to tell from his serious demeanor, but Akky International Corp. Chief Executive Hideyuki Abe can barely contain his excitement.

Foreign tourists are coming back, those big-spending visitors from abroad who used to flock into his colorful store in Tokyo's Akihabara electronics district, its colorful shelves filled with watches and souvenirs like samurai swords and toy cats with bobbing heads.

Individual travelers will be able to visit Japan without a visa beginning Oct. 11, just like in pre-Covid-19 times, and electronics stores, airlines and various tourists spots have big hopes for a revival of their businesses.

Japan kept its borders closed to most foreign travelers during much of the pandemic.

Only packaged tours have been allowed since June. Meanwhile, the yen has weakened sharply against the dollar, giving some visitors much heftier buying power and making Japan nearly irresistible to bargain hunters.

Abe employs about 50 people and had resorted to layoffs after the pandemic struck in 2020. Some Akihabara shops have closed down since then, but he bided his time.

"Hanging on is where power lies," Abe said. "Now, I am a bit worried about a shortage of workers."

The city of Nara, famous for

its temples, shrines and sake breweries, is banking on the return of tourists from other parts of Japan along with those from abroad.

A pastoral getaway with deer roaming free in parks and glorious autumn foliage — it's a destination recommended for people worried about risks of visiting crowded destinations, said Katsunori Tsuji of Nara Prefecture's tourism promotion division.

Some 32 million foreign tourists visited Japan in 2019, before the pandemic. The travel and tourism sector then contributed more than 7 percent to Japan's economy, according to the World Travel & Tourism Council.

Japan's major carriers All Nippon Airways and Japan Airlines are increasing flights in response to expected higher demand. Both sharply reduced flights during the pandemic.

Flights resuming in the months ahead include routes to and from places like Honolulu, Frankfurt, New York, Seoul and Paris.

They are meant to appeal not only to incoming tourists but also to Japanese planning dream vacations over the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

In 2011, the U.S. dollar cost about 80 yen. Last year, the dollar cost about 111 yen. Now, it's at a nearly three-decade high of about 145 yen, and the pandemic restrictions are waning. The tourists will be back.

"This time, it's a perfect opportunity," Abe said. ■

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editor,

In a recent commentary (*Pacific Citizen*, Sept. 9-22), David Inoue wrote that the Wakasa Monument, in spirit, "belongs" to the community." He is right. That is why WMC advocates to communicate the perspectives of survivors, descendants and members of the Japanese American community on the treatment of our sacred cultural heritage: the Wakasa Memorial Stone and Site.

We are mystified by Mr. Inoue's unhelpful hyperbole, especially his describing the conflict between the Topaz Museum Board and Wakasa Memorial Committee as "intractable," comparing it to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The situation is not "intractable." The WMC asked the Utah State Historic Preservation Office to convene inclusive meetings, and it generously agreed to do so. We appreciate the Museum's decision to take part. Two meetings have taken place; the working group includes the Utah SHPO, National Park Service, Utah State Sen. Jani Iwamoto and representatives from the Topaz Museum and the WMC.

We already have agreed on urgent steps to protect the monument and the site as winter approaches.

We look forward to community healing through future meetings, public archaeology and transparent discussions about how to preserve and interpret this precious treasure left to us by our ancestors. We invite all members of the JACL to support these historic preservation efforts.

Sincerely,

Wakasa Memorial Committee

*The JACL's NCWNP District is a member of the Wakasa Memorial Committee's advisory council. Several WMC members and advisers, including Karen Korematsu, Satsuki Ina, Karen Kiyo Lowhurst, Barbara Takei and Nancy Ukai, are JACL members.*

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— Gil Asakawa



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## REFLECTIONS

# REPEAL OR REPEAT: The Rallying Cry to Repeal the Xenophobic Law Used to Incarcerate Japanese During WWII

By Austin Hideo Eng

As we mark the 80th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, most of us have forgotten that the law used to justify the incarceration of people like my grandfather — the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 — is still being used to justify xenophobic anti-immigrant actions against minority groups.

When my grandfather was my age (16), he was incarcerated in the Heart Mountain internment camp after abruptly leaving Tacoma, Wa., at age 13. He was initially sent to the Pinedale assembly center, then relocated to Tule Lake, Jerome, Ark., and Heart Mountain, Wyo.

Former member of Congress, Mike M. Honda, leads our team to right this wrong.

“What’s the real value of passing the Civil Liberties Act in 1988 if the law used to justify incarceration still exists and can be used against Japanese or other minorities again?” Honda said.

The Civil Liberties Act of 1988, HR 442, won a hard-fought presidential apology and reparation of \$20,000 to every surviving U.S. citizen or legal resident immigrant of Japanese ancestry incarcerated during World War II, but it did not repeal the Alien Enemies Act.

In 2017, the Alien Enemies Act was used by President Donald Trump to justify the xenophobic Muslim Ban banning entry into the U.S. by people from several predominantly

Muslim countries based on the Global War on Terrorism that was declared in 2001 in response to the 9/11 attacks.

When war is declared, the Alien Enemies Act gives the president executive powers to target entire groups as “enemies” based on their nationality.

President Trump’s actions impacted people working in the U.S. under H1B1 work visas, foreign students and other foreign nationals who just happened to be from the impacted countries.

Earlier this year, U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) reintroduced the Neighbors Not Enemies Act, the law that would repeal the Alien Enemies Act of 1798, which was used to justify the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese, 11,000 Germans and 418 Italians.

The bill is cosponsored by Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) introduced the companion bill in the House of Representatives.

“The Alien Enemies Act is an 18th-century xenophobic law that has been used as legal justification for some of the most shameful decisions made by this country — including the internment of Japanese people during WWII and the former president’s despicable Muslim Ban,” Hirono said. “There should

be nothing partisan about ensuring this country treats immigrants with justice and due process. It’s time to pass the Neighbors Not Enemies Act to repeal the Alien Enemies Act once and for all.”

In 1798, President John Adams signed the “Alien and Sedition Acts,” which consisted of four laws targeting immigrants under the guise of war. The original four laws included the Naturalization Act, the Alien Friends Act, the Sedition Act and the Alien Enemies Act.

Today, only the Alien Enemies Act remains in effect. The Alien Enemies Act allows the president to target foreign nationals, international students and legal U.S. residents of a specific country to be “apprehended, restrained, secured and removed” without due process during wartime.

U.S. national security will not be compromised by the repeal of the Alien Enemies Act because many other laws exist that can be used to protect our national security without



The team met in August at the JACL National Convention in Las Vegas. Pictured (from left) are Austin Eng, Naoko Fujii, Mike Honda, Alexander Shinkawa, Bridget Keaveney and Florence Koga.

PHOTO: CINDY SIU

President John Adams signed the Alien Enemies Act into law in 1798.



compromising due process rights or unfairly targeting groups by race or religion.

The frightening re-emergence of anti-Asian hate crimes reminds us that Japanese Americans are still not seen as true “Americans” and that history could repeat itself.

In July 2022, a Japanese family was attacked in Portland, Ore., because they were Japanese, and in 2021, a Japanese Buddhist temple in Little Tokyo in Los Angeles was seriously vandalized.

This year also marks the 40th anniversary of the 1982 murder of Vincent Chin, the 27-year-old Chinese man who was mistaken for being Japanese and brutally murdered by laid-off Detroit auto workers who blamed Chin for the success of the Japanese auto industry in the U.S.

Now is the time to act before there are no WWII survivors to testify to the injustice. JACL Executive Director David Inoue and his team have been leading the bipartisan Washington lobbying efforts in Washington, D.C.

“It is long overdue that we get these racist relics repealed. As we look back 80 years to the signing of Executive Order 9066, which granted the military broad power to forcibly remove and relocate nearly 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry, we must recognize the role that antiquated policies such as the Alien Enemies Act played in justifying the military’s actions under the false pretense of military security,” Inoue said. “Congress must act to prevent a future president from abusing the power granted by this antiquated and unnecessary law.”

In 2018, the JACL board of governors voted to support the bipartisan Neighbors Not Enemies Act. If you would like to join us to reach out to your local members of Congress to support this legislation, please contact Naoko Fujii, JACL legislative consultant, at [nfujii@jACL.org](mailto:nfujii@jACL.org).

Active members of our team include:

- Mike Honda, former member of Congress
- David Inoue, JACL executive director
- Bridget Keaveney, JACL Norman Y. Mineta policy fellow
- Michael Tanaka, JACL Daniel K. Inouye fellow
- Austin Hideo Eng, JACL San Jose Youth member
- Sharon Uyeda, JACL San Jose co-president
- Karen Kiyo Lowhurst and Tara Umemoto, JACL Berkeley co-presidents
- Michael Asada, JACL Eastern District Council governor and JACL Seabrook president
- Don Hayashi, JACL Dayton (Ohio) president.

*Austin Hideo Eng is a youth member of the JACL San Jose chapter.*

(Left) Austin Eng, 16, stands in front of his high school. (Right) Eng’s grandfather, Masatoshi Fujii, pictured at age 16, stands at the Heart Mountain, Wyo., American concentration camp in 1945. “Looking at this image of the past, I am constantly reminded that though the world may change around us, the rooted issues in our society can still be improved for future generations to come,” Eng said.



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## A MOTHER'S TAKE

# THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING SEEN

By Marsha Aizumi

I am an activist mother because I want those in our LGBTQ+ community to be seen, heard and understood. I think this makes a person feel valued, and when you feel valued, you feel like your life matters.

I especially advocate for families because I know how vital it is to the life of our LGBTQ+ children. Acts and messages of family support say you are seen, and I care about you. Recently, I received this message on Facebook, and I realized how important it is to be seen, as a parent as well. Here is the message:

Hello Marsha,

*I am not a person that reaches*

*out to express my appreciation ever. I just finished reading your book. It was a life changer for me. My son transitioned four years ago, and it has been a journey. I have been well-supported and have great friends, but no one truly understood my life as a parent and the fear for my child as a parent, as well as the love, pride and the joy felt for him.*

*One of my friends lent a copy of your book, and it sat on my dresser for years. I would open the book, read a page, cry and close it.*

*This year, my son graduated, and I finally felt ready to read your book. It was like you put my life in words. Thank you for seeing me and sharing you and your son's journey with me. I feel blessed in knowing other*

*families walk with me and my son. We are not alone. You both are not alone either. I hope you are both well. Blessings to you both.*

This message made me cry because our book told this mother she was seen. Our story is not a neat package tied with a bow. In the beginning, I thought that was how I should tell our story, so people would have hope. But that wasn't the whole truth.

Our story was messy. It had moments that I am not proud of. It had words that I wish I had not spoken. And yet, every misstep I made taught me some very valuable lessons if I took the time to reflect on the mistake . . . if I found a way to be better the next time.

I believe that is why my life with my husband and my children continues to get better. Today, I feel we are more honest, brave, trusting and kind.

I wrote "Two Spirits, One Heart" because I wanted our story to be seen. I wanted my son to be seen. I started Okaeri because I wanted those in the Nikkei LGBTQ+ to be seen. I wanted those who felt invisible and alone to find at least one person who would see them,

listen to them and care about them.

I hoped families would see each other, listen to each other and understand each other even more.

At a recent Okaeri event, I saw a JA mother from a Midwestern state on Zoom pictured right next to her queer child. It warmed my heart that this mother would come to learn and that her child was there to support their mother.

I believe we all want to be seen. And if a person can't be seen in a positive way, they look for attention in even a negative way or find ways to numb the pain of being unseen. That is why students act up in school. That is why gangs are formed. That is why LGBTQ+ individuals turn to drugs or alcohol or any number of ways to forget people don't care. That is why being part of a community is important.



We belong to churches, temples, clubs, community centers and organizations like JACL and Okaeri or have a trusted circle of friends. The worst thing is to be invisible because that means you don't matter.

And so I will stop what I am doing and truly listen to what people have to say when they talk to me.

I also will send thank you notes or emails acknowledging how grateful I am for the things that people do, not just for me, but for people or organizations I care about. I want people to be seen. I want people to know that they matter to me. . . .

*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."*

**Kindness matters. Send me an email ([Maizumi888@gmail.com](mailto:Maizumi888@gmail.com)) with your home address, and I will send you an inspiration card. Limited supply.**

PHOTO: MARSHA AIZUMI



## LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

# AGING IN PLACE — PUT THE ODDS IN YOUR FAVOR

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

A person's home is the most important place in one's life. You want to stay at home. You want to die at home, i.e., "Home is where the heart is." By aging in place, you can maintain a greater degree of control over your routine, activities and personal independence. You are able to live your life as you see fit, and you enjoy a sense of dignity unavailable to many other seniors that you know.

Although some seniors are fortunate enough to live with hardly any impairments, most seniors will eventually develop some chronic problems with age: physical, mental or both. Age is a strong risk factor for many chronic health conditions, such as heart disease, osteoarthritis, COPD, heart failure, diabetes, atrial fibrillation and, of course, dementia.

Of course, you're fine. But it's your adult children who are getting worried about your safety as you age. Your adult children may be insisting that you move closer to them, but they live out of town (or

worse — out of state). Or, your adult children may be insisting that you move in with them, but you don't want to be a burden. You want your independence!!!

On the one hand, your adult children could have a good reason. The number of visits to California emergency rooms by people over 65 who have suffered some type of fall has been well-documented.

According to Age Safe America, 90 percent of older Americans say they want to age-in-place.

Yet, 85 percent have done nothing to prepare their homes for aging. Homes can have some hazards or lack basic accessibility features. And if you're not taking a proactive approach to home safety, those hazards can really increase the risk of injury, thereby reducing the independence of the older adult.

So, on the other hand, you can increase the odds to age in place safely by making simple home modifications to minimize the risk of accidents. Caregivers can work with older adults to identify and eliminate potential risks. These improvements

can range from a quick fix to a small renovation, but investing the time to make these updates can help everyone feel more confident in living at home longer.

To help this process, AARP has provided the following Your Home Checklist for Aging in Place:

### Bathroom:

- Install a walk-in shower to avoid falling.
- Place a shower chair or bench in the shower for bathing.
- Swap out a showerhead for a handheld nozzle to enable sitting while rinsing off.
- Install grab bars on the shower wall and near the toilet.
- Replace glass shower enclosures with nonshattering material.
- Apply slip-resistant strips/shapes to the floor of the shower, as these are more effective than mats.
- Swap out your toilet for a taller version or give it a boost with a toilet riser.
- Opt for lever-style faucets if arthritis or joint pain becomes an issue.

### Bedroom:

- If stairs are hard to navigate, move a bedroom downstairs by turning a room like an office into a bedroom.
- Make sure the bed is easy to get in and out of. Purchase bed risers, if needed.
- Invest in an adjustable bed for extra comfort.

### Kitchen:

- Purchase a stove with safety features that alert you when a burner is on.
- Adjust the location of major appli-

ances so they are easier to reach.

- Get a refrigerator with handles accessible from a wheelchair or walker.
  - Add slide-out drawers or trays to existing cabinets for better access.
- ### Furniture:
- Declutter and get rid of extra furniture to make rooms easier to navigate.
  - Opt for chairs with armrests to make it easier to stand and sit.
  - If needed, purchase a lift chair — similar to a recliner — that you can electronically control for safe sitting and standing.
  - Keep electric cords out of pathways — but don't put them under rugs.

### Lighting:

- Install easy-access light switches at room entrances.
- Have ample indoor and outdoor lighting to create safe navigation in all areas, including basements, attics and closets.
- Use night-lights, especially in bedrooms and bathrooms.
- Consider voice-activated smart lighting.

### Flooring/Rugs:

- Have nonshag carpeting installed over concrete, ceramic and marble floors to lessen falling injuries.
- Make sure carpet pile is short enough to accommodate a wheelchair or walker.
- Avoid use of scatter rugs that can be a tripping hazard.
- Secure area rugs with double-faced tape or slip-resistant backing.

### Doors:

- Swap doorknobs for lever handles, which are easier to use with stiff hands or limited mobility.
- Widen doors to accommodate wheelchairs or walkers. Have a contractor switch door hinges for swing-clear hinges, designed to provide more space.

### Stairs:

- Install a sturdy railing and make sure lighting is adequate.
- Carpet stairs for better grip.
- Highlight the outline of stairs with colored tape to create contrast.
- Install an electric stair lift if needed to help you safely get up and down the stairs.

In conclusion, many seniors need to modify their homes to make them safer and more livable. However, aging in place also comes with a price tag. But, despite these costs, aging in place is typically less expensive than living in an assisted living or nursing facility. If you don't want to deplete your savings, try paying for the improvements with the equity in your home.

*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](mailto: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.*





**Shofuso Japanese House and Garden located in Philadelphia's West Fairmont Park**

PHOTO: SEAN MARSHALL LIN



**This room shows the mural painted by renowned Japanese artist Hiroshi Senju on the fusuma panels and the sign and stand that was knocked over. The sign may have been used to damage the fusuma.**

PHOTO: JASGP

# Philadelphia's Shofuso Japanese House RECEIVES \$50K DONATION

The raised funds will be used to repair damage from a June vandalism incident.

By P.C. Staff

The bad news from June 15 was that the Shofuso Japanese House and Garden in Philadelphia was vandalized, causing extensive property damage.

The heartening news since that incident: In late September, an anonymous donor gave the Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia — the nonprofit that operates Shofuso House — a large sum of money to help pay for repairs.

"I am happy to report that we received an anonymous donation of \$50,000 in support of our recovery efforts," wrote Associate Director of Organizational Culture Rob Buscher in an email to the *Pacific Citizen*. "With that major contribution, we have now exceeded our target fundraising goal and are able to begin the restoration work in earnest."

The incident (*Pacific Citizen's* June 24-July 14, 2022, issue) not only resulted in damage to exterior parts of the building but also to *fusuma* (vertical sliding panels) in the building's interior that were painted by renowned painter Hiroshi Senju of Japan.

Another bit of good news: There is no evidence that the act of vandalism was motivated by anti-Japanese or anti-Asian animus.

"I think at this point, the sentiment is that it most likely was an opportunistic act of vandalism," Buscher said. "But again, you know, it's really hard not to feel a certain kind of way, when this does happen to the only Japanese American space in our city. . . . They had to go out of their way to go to the park to where this is located. It's not just on the street, it's not like they were walking down the sidewalk and saw

something that they thought would be easy to break into. Whoever did this had to come into the park and . . . it took a bit of effort rather than just kind of a crime of opportunity."

Although no arrests have been made, Buscher told the *Pacific Citizen* that two days after the incident, the staff caught a group of young people attempting to steal items from the gift shop.

"When the site staff approached them about it, they emptied their pockets and gave back what they took. And that was the end of it," Buscher said. "But we're unsure if this was a completely unrelated incident, or if this may have been the same group of individuals who did commit the vandalism. Needless to say, it rattled some of the site staff. And that evening, there was another break-in attempt."

"Thankfully, one of our site staff was still on site, and I guess the people thought that they were gone for the day. And it looked like

young people again, like hard to say what age but probably teenagers. They jumped the fence, and then almost immediately, our gardener encountered them and, you know, just kind of said, like, 'Hey, what are you doing here?' and they just ran, they jumped over the fence and ran away, and we haven't seen them again since."

Prior to receiving the \$50,000 anonymous donation, a more robust security video system was installed, and hedgerows were planted to serve as a barrier to prevent people from entering the premises via the exterior fence.

Soon after the incident, Buscher said that a crowdfunding campaign through [GiveButtr.com](https://www.givebuttr.com) was initiated and that more than \$11,000 was raised to pay for the repairs and upgrades before the larger anonymous donation had been received.

If there was a silver lining to the incident, it may be on the intangible side, according to Buscher. "I think

that the other thing that this has done is kind of bring our community closer together.

"It's been hard for people to kind of feel the initiative to come and gather in person at places without feeling obviously the danger of Covid, but even beyond that, it's been a long time since I think the Japanese American community has really felt like Shofuso was a space of their own, like a community space."

One of unique aspects to the Shofuso House was a waterfall mural in the building's interior by Senju. The mural extended across the interior's *fusuma*, two of which received extensive damage. Fortunately, that damage is not readily visible to the general public.

According to Buscher, the area of the Shofuso House where the panels are positioned is in an interior room that face inwards — and not

part of the general public's tour. "If you look closely through the open panel, then you can see the damages. But for the average visitor who's touring the house, and really kind of looking more at the garden, I think, pulled their attention away from the damaged panels," Buscher said.

When he was informed of the damage, Senju sent a message to the Japan America Society of Philadelphia and said, "Art is created to appeal to our common humanity, which transcends all race and ideology. A work of art belongs to the artist while painting, but when it is finished, it leaves the artist's hands and becomes the property of all humankind. This is what makes public art so powerful. The work I created for Shofuso House belongs to the people of Philadelphia. I hope they will continue to cherish it." ■



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# HIKARI FARMS: REINVENTING THE WORLD ONE CUCUMBER AT A TIME

The Watsonville, Calif.-based family farm works to *‘honor the Issei, our heritage and to cultivate community.’*

By Emily Murase,  
Contributor

Organic Japanese cucumbers from Watsonville, Calif.-based Hikari Farms have arrived in San Francisco Japantown in a big way. Available at local Japanese supermarkets for years, these deliciously crunchy cucumbers are now available directly from the farm, together with other Japanese vegetables, at monthly pop-ups at the Konko Church of San Francisco and Japantown community events, most recently the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California’s signature “Tabemasho” fundraiser.

The tale of these beloved cucumbers traces the origins of Japanese immigrant farming since the early 1900s, the many challenges family farms face today and Nikkei resilience across generations.

According to a detailed history of Japanese farm labor in the Watsonville area by Jane Borg and Kathy Nichols, an early immigrant farmer was Unosuke Shikuma, who started out in 1902, working onion fields for \$1.

In 1903, he began growing berries with other Issei farmers. Soon, he became an independent strawberry farmer with enough resources to recruit sharecropper families and provide them with housing.

By 1920, Shikuma joined four other growers who, together, became the largest strawberry ranch in the world by revolutionizing the industry. While, previously, strawberries were transported in large chests by rail, the partnership radically changed shipping technology by filling wooden trays, each with a dozen small baskets, distributed in refrigerated trucks.

In response to a worker shortage, a new government program to bring up to 1,000 Japanese guest workers to California farms on three-year contracts arose from a collaboration of the California Farm Labor Assn., the California Farm Producers Assn., the Japanese Consul of the West Coast and the Ambassadors of the U.S. and Japan.

According to Mireya Loza of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, who authored a well-documented history of the Japanese Agricultural Workers’ Program (1956-65), the program was not without its critics.

Members of the JACL Central California District Council expressed concerns given “the bitter history of agricultural labor exploitation . . . and hard-won postwar community acceptance of those of Japanese ancestry.”

Loza explains that after hearing from JACL National President Roy Nishikawa and Washington, D.C., Representative Mike Masaoka about the program’s importance to aiding the devastating economic situation and destabilized political environment in Japan, the JACL’s CCDC eventually gave its support to the Japanese guest-worker program.

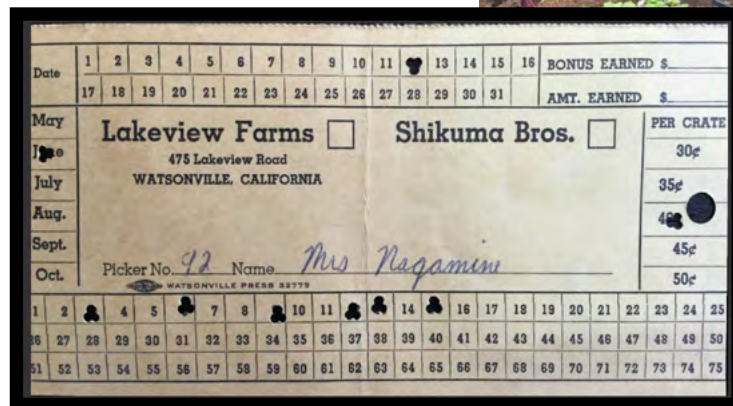
In 1956, Shikuma traveled to Japan to recruit workers for his farm. Among the eight young men he selected was Akira Nagamine, who decided to leave his ancestral home in Kagoshima and board a ship bound for San Francisco to join the Shikuma Ranch in Watsonville with just \$24.32 in his pocket. Joining Akira was his wife, Hideko Fukutome, a Kibei from Denver who had moved to Kagoshima as a child. Hideko worked the strawberry fields as well, earning \$.40 per crate.

By 1962, Akira Nagamine was able to pool capital with his brother, Osamu Nagamine, and brother-in-law, Hachiro “Harry” Fukutome, to purchase five acres of a former apple orchard on Condit Lane in Watsonville.

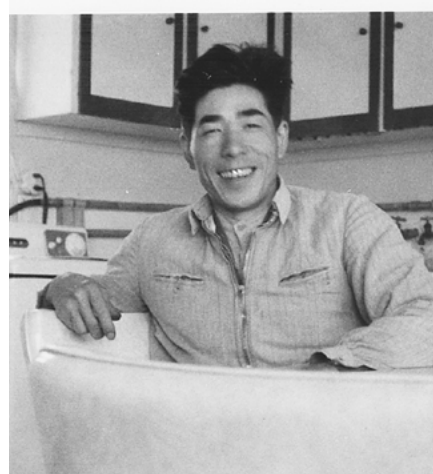
According to a 1973 interview with Harry Fukutome conducted by Borg and Nichols, the Nagamine brothers decided to become one of just three carnation flower growers in the area, building on experience Akira and Hideko gained from working in flower hothouses in Mountain View, Calif., after their contract with the Shikuma Ranch expired.



Akira Nagamine with his prized cucumbers

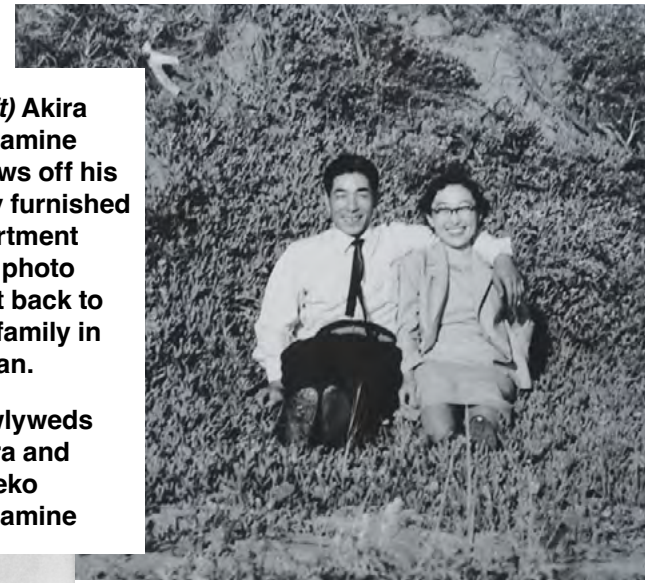


Hideko Nagamine, Picker #92



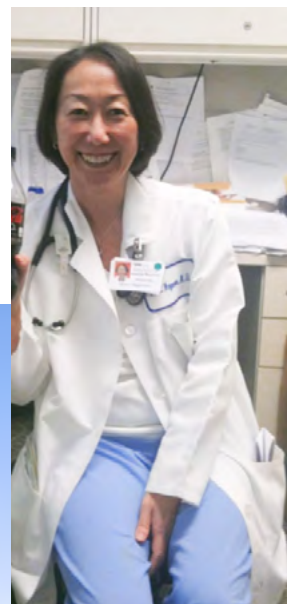
(Left) Akira Nagamine shows off his fully furnished apartment in a photo sent back to his family in Japan.

Newlyweds Akira and Hideko Nagamine



Fifty-two tons of scrap metal are removed from the farm as the family prepared to reorganize its operations.

Dr. Janet Nagamine at work at Kaiser Hospital; today, she works a doctor-farmer career track.



Grandpa Nagamine with his granddaughter on his forklift at the farm

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE NAGAMINE FAMILY COLLECTION





Hideko Nagamine preps sweet Japanese cabbage.



Akira Nagamine with his custom-built watering tool that releases just enough water for each cucumber plant



Prepping Nagamine rakkyo scallions

Akira and Hideko Nagamine today, surrounded by their beloved cucumber plants

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE NAGAMINE FAMILY COLLECTION



Hikari Farms signage at San Francisco's Bi-Rite Market, featuring its all-organic produce

Just five years later, Akira purchased additional acreage and established A. Nagamine Nursery in 1967; he then moved his wholesale florist operations to a new location on Freedom Boulevard in Watsonville. At the new, larger location, the family built a thriving business focused on carnations, chrysanthemums and roses.

Akira's two sons joined him during the 1980s. However, in the mid-1990s, new international trade agreements, in particular the North American Free Trade Agreement, paved the way for an influx of low-priced South American flowers, thus threatening the family business.

In response, the farm became one of the first family farms in the area to transition to organic vegetables in 1998, as Akira Nagamine switched to growing organic cucumbers, tomatoes and beans for retail outlets and farmers markets.

By 2014, however, the future of the farm became uncertain, as Akira and Hideko were well into their 80s and their sons, after years of dedicating themselves to the family farm, sought to pursue other professional interests. The family decided to terminate the family business.

It was up to daughter Janet, by then a medical doctor, to prepare the farm for lease. She took a leave of absence from her medical practice in the Silicon Valley, expecting to return in a few months.

Janet embarked on the physically and emotionally demanding job of clearing out a lifetime of sentimentally important yet obviously obsolete or irreparably damaged farm equipment under the watchful and sorrowful eyes of her father. She arranged for 52 tons of scrap metal to be removed.

While Janet dealt with scrap metal and potential lessees, her father, Akira, asked if he could tend to "just a few cucumbers." Despite the busyness of her days, Janet could not help but observe her father devote himself absolutely to his craft: how he talked to the plants, understood exactly the amount of water they needed, delivered to them that water via a handcrafted tool he designed and built and cared for each cucumber growing joyfully on vertical trellises.

It became clear to Janet that she could not let go of the family farm. She did a cost-benefit analysis and concluded that the reasons to continue farming greatly outweighed the cons: "to keep the legacy, culture and traditions alive; keep connections to Kagoshima and Japan."

Rather than return to her medical practice full-time, Janet decided to choose a nontraditional doctor-farmer career track, saying, "Farming is kinda cool and beautiful, and it's preventative medicine, too!"

Janet rebranded A. Nagamine Nursery to Hikari Farms. She consulted her parents and landed on *hikari*, which means "shining light" in Japanese.

"The name allowed us to move forward in a positive light," she said, adding that "plants are derived from life and light."

Moving forward with Hikari Farms, Janet focused on traditional Japanese vegetables and worked on finding new markets, especially for her father's cucumbers. She concluded a contract with Bi-Rite Market in San Francisco.

Unbeknownst to her, Bi-Rite started to brand Hikari Farms cucumbers as an ingredient in its sushi rolls. Then, members of the Japanese American community in Palo Alto, Calif., and San Francisco stepped up to connect Janet directly to customers for Japanese specialty vegetables such as *komatsuna* mustard spinach and *rakkyo* scallions through a monthly farm box program started in Palo Alto, as well as a monthly pop-up in San Francisco at the San Francisco Konko Church.

Today, Janet's parents continue to tend to the farm at ages 101 and 97. Her father, Akira, expresses his gratitude for each day that he is able to care for his now-famous cucumbers, and her mother shares her recipes for many dishes freely.

In addition to growing their organic produce, the farm also hosts private events for customers and holds its annual family New Year's *mochitsuki*. Janet also continues to strengthen the farm's relationship with Japan through various trainee and seed programs, in addition to preserving the regional foods of her father's roots in Kagoshima.

"The reception of the farm and what it means to others has been heartwarming and inspiring," said Janet. Her goal is not only to provide Japanese produce to restaurants and communities but also "to work to honor the Issei, our heritage and to cultivate community."

*Emily Murase's favorite Hikari Farms product is the rakkyo scallions, which she had an opportunity to peel on a recent visit to the farm.*



**Tadaima Steering Committee members**  
(from left) Marcela Bator, Kimiko Marr, Paula Fujiwara, Julie Abo and Erin Aoyama



## HISTORY AND MEMORY AT THE 2022 TADAIMA VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE

The event's signature online program, centered around the theme of memory, reached nearly 10,000 viewers during its weeklong schedule.

By Rob Buscher,  
Contributor

**T**adaima Virtual Pilgrimage recently concluded its 2022 edition, which took place during the week of Oct. 11-18. Although smaller in scale than previous years, in a single week, its signature online program reached nearly 10,000 viewers throughout the country and participants from more than a dozen countries.

Tadaima 2022 centered around the theme of memory with both live and prerecorded content that explored topics such as collective memory, loss of memory and the lessons we leave for future generations.

Program highlights included participatory Zoom calls organized by generation — from Nisei to Gosei and Nosei (Shin-Nikkei), one-on-one consultations with the California Genealogical Society,

film screenings and other educational video content.

In lieu of a formal opening ceremony, this year's program commenced with a prerecorded panel discussion that explored the significance of the Irei monument that was recently installed at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

The panel featured four participants, including myself (representing JACL Philadelphia), who attended the ceremony (Janis Hirohama, genealogist; Kurt Ikeda, Minidoka National Historic Site; and Nancy Ukai, 50 Objects/Stories), spanning three generations of the Nikkei community (Sansei, Yonsei, Shin-Nisei). Each provided their own unique insights to the historic event and reflections on how this monument may continue to shape collective memory for generations to come.

**April Ikeda hosted the "Music, Memory and You" session.**

### Hands by Jewel – Song Adaptation



- ▶ "If I could tell the world just one thing..."
- ▶ Original song: slow building tempo, minor key verse, major key chorus. Themes of overcoming, sense of worth, positive affirmations.
- ▶ Tap tap clap, 3x, tap tap clap clap 1x. Repeat.
- ▶ Lyrics/Chant:  
"If I could tell the world, if I could tell the world just one thing...  
If I could tell the world, if I could tell the world just one thing...  
I'd say I am not alone.  
I'd say we are not alone." Repeat  
(empowering phrase changes with each verse)



Panelists from "Speaking Out and Calling In With Bravery and Humility: A Multigenerational Conversation With Dr. Ravi Chandra"



**Tadaima's weeklong virtual event featured programming organized by generation.**

One program dealt with elder care and memory loss in a Zoom session titled "Communicating, Caring and Coping: When a Loved One Suffers From Memory Loss." The session was moderated by Tadaima Steering Committee member and public health expert Dr. Paula Fujiwara and featured a presentation from Alzheimer's Assn. staff members Bonnie Rae and Kelly Takasu. Retired family therapist and former family caregiver Alan Maeda then shared his personal experiences with this topic before opening the discussion for participants to ask questions and share their own stories.

Another program of note was the session titled "Music, Memory and You," which was hosted by licensed music therapist April Ikeda. The session introduced music therapy with a special emphasis on aging and memory care and explored how this treatment modality can help our loved ones and ourselves.

A highlight of this program was a modeling of the "Life Review" activity, which invites participants to create a playlist of 10 songs that define their lives, writing down memories attached to each and then inviting someone else to listen to the playlist with them in chronological order. The session concluded with a heartfelt rendition of the Beatles' "In My Life," played on ukulele and sung by Ikeda.

The Tadaima Steering Committee is pleased to announce that the virtual pilgrimage will return on a larger scale next year.

Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages Founder/CEO and Tadaima Co-Founder Kimiko Marr wrote, "Tadaima 2023 will again be a four- or five-weeklong event. Dates are still to be determined, but planning will start in early 2023. We truly see this as a community virtual pilgrimage, so we would like to encourage community members and organizations to suggest programs they would like to see for Tadaima 2023."

Although in-person pilgrimages have resumed at many of the former sites of wartime incarceration, it seems that there are still many exciting virtual programs to look forward to in the coming year.

As the Japanese American community continues to weather the challenges of the Covid pandemic, at least there is the silver lining of better connectivity in the digital community space, thanks to Tadaima.

**To view recordings of each program listed above and for more information, visit Tadaima's website at [jampilgrimages.com](http://jampilgrimages.com) or the JAMP YouTube channel at [youtube.com/c/JAMPilgrimages](https://youtube.com/c/JAMPilgrimages).**





## REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

# SOCIAL ISOLATION AND OLDER ADULTS: THE IMPORTANCE OF STAYING CONNECTED

By Scott Tanaka

I enjoy many of the activities that the JACL Washington, D.C., chapter puts on throughout the year, but the annual Keiro Kai celebration is especially meaningful to me. My close relationship with my grandparents played a big role in this, but I also think it's just part of who I am. At family gatherings, I would, of course, play with my cousins, but I also spent a lot of time talking with my grandparents and older relatives. This is what ultimately led me to pursue social work and working at AARP.

Keiro Kai is a time where we honor, celebrate and show gratitude to our older members. The JACL Washington, D.C., chapter celebrated its annual Keiro Kai on Sept. 17, and this was the first one in-person since meeting virtually for the past two years.

It was great being together again, enjoying the delicious food and fun activities. I was also grateful for the opportunity to give a few remarks on what is important for older adults and their well-being.

I started by sharing my concern for older adults and isolation. Social isolation was a challenge before the

Covid-19 pandemic and only got worse when stay-at-home orders went into effect.

AARP Chief Medical Officer Dr. Charlotte Yeh has often talked about the effect loneliness has on the body as being equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes a day. This startling statistic comes from a meta-analysis co-authored by Julianne Holt-Lunstad, Ph.D., a professor of psychology and neuroscience at Brigham Young University. This finding is astonishing because most people are quick to think about how loneliness impacts our mind but less so how social isolation can impact our physical health.

I then shared that the JACL Washington, D.C., chapter board called its older members during the pandemic and sent them care packages. I was on the board at the time, and we thought it was important for us to check on our older members.

We wanted to see how they were doing and ask if they needed help with anything, such as a ride somewhere or groceries. Most responded that they didn't need help with anything but that they really appreciated the call.

The AARP Foundation is working to fight social isolation and has created Connect2Affect. You can access Connect2Affect by going to [Connect2Affect.org](https://connect2affect.org). There you

can take an assessment to find out if you or a loved one is at risk for isolation and learn about the tools to overcome it.

Another good resource is AARP's Friendly Voice program. Trained AARP Friendly Voice volunteers will provide a call to say hello. You can request a call directly by dialing (888) 281-0145 and leaving your name and telephone number when prompted. One of our volunteers will be calling you from (888) 281-0145, and the caller ID will say "800 Service." Please take note of this number so that you recognize it when a volunteer calls. If the volunteer is not able to get a hold of you, they will leave a message.

So, consider doing something with your local JACL chapter or other community groups to reach out to your older members if you haven't already, and remember to check in on your older family members and friends. A simple phone call can go a long way. It signals to them that you are thinking about them and that you care. In addition, you benefit from that call, too!

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

A simple phone call can help you stay connected to friends and loved ones.

PHOTO: AARP



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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

### Changemakers Summit 2022

**Oct. 29; 10 a.m.-3 p.m. PDT**

#### Virtual Event

**Price: Free**

Changemakers Summit 2022 is a national AAPI Youth Conference created in partnership with Act to Change, Hate Is a Virus and Stop AAPI Hate. Designed to support, connect and develop the next generation of AAPI youth activists, the conference will center around the theme of "Intergenerational & Intersectional Activism." The target audience is youth ranging from middle school to college students, but all are welcomed to participate.

**Info:** To RSVP and for more information, visit [www.acttochange.org](http://www.acttochange.org) or [www.hateisavirus.org](http://www.hateisavirus.org).

### Irei — A National Monument for the WWII Japanese American Incarceration — Launches Los Angeles, CA

**JANM**

**100 N. Central Ave.**

Led by USC Ito Center Director Duncan Ryuken Williams and Project Creative Director Sunyoung Lee, the Irei Monument Project expands and re-envisions what a monument is through three distinct, interlinking elements: a sacred book of names as monument (*Ireichō*), an online archive as monument (*Ireizō*) and light sculptures as monument (*Ireihi*). The *Ireichō* contains the first comprehensive listing of more than 125,000 persons of Japanese ancestry who were forcibly incarcerated during World War II. Visitors can now view the book and leave a special *hanko* (stamp/seal) for each person in the monument. The project's online archive is now searchable alphabetically or by camp.

**Info:** Visit [ireizo.com](http://ireizo.com) for more information and [janm.org](http://janm.org).

## NCWNP

### Japantown Halloween Carnival San Francisco, CA

**Oct. 28; 6-8 p.m.**

#### JCCCNC

**1840 Sutter St.**

**Price: General Admission \$7**

After a two-year break, the JCCCNC's Japantown Halloween Carnival is back, featuring an evening of Halloween crafts activities, spooky storytelling, cultural and community performances, a "haunted" hallway, bounce house, costume parade and contest for kids with prizes. A scary snack sale will also be held to support the Japanese Community Youth Council.

**Info:** For questions, email [programsevents@jcccnc.org](mailto:programsevents@jcccnc.org).

### Bay Area Premiere of 'Before They Take Us Away' Berkeley, CA

**Oct. 30; 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.**

**East Bay Media Center**

**1939 Addison St.**

**Price: Tickets \$12**

The Berkeley Video and Film Festival presents "Before They Take Us Away," an award-winning documentary that chronicles the untold stories of Japanese Americans who "voluntarily" evacuated from the West Coast in the wake of EO 9066 and how they became refugees in their own country. Each screening will include a Q & A session with the filmmakers, and a community reception will be held between the screenings at 4 p.m.

**Info:** To purchase tickets, visit [berkeleyvideofilmfest.org](http://berkeleyvideofilmfest.org) or call (510) 843-3699. For more information, visit <https://www.beforetheytakeusaway.com> or email [theitosisters@gmail.com](mailto:theitosisters@gmail.com).

### 'Bearing Witness: Selected Works of Chiura Obata'

**San Francisco, CA**

**Thru January 2023**

**Asian Art Museum**

**Chong-Moon Lee Center for Asian Arts & Culture**

**200 Larkin St.**

**Price: Check Museum for Information**

This exhibit showcases Chiura Obata's firsthand depictions of the 1906 earthquake and fire, as well as his paintings documenting the forced incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII. **Info:** Visit <https://asianart.org>.

## PSW

### The Domo Concert: An Evening With Hiroshima

**Los Angeles, CA**

**Oct. 29; 7:30-9:30 p.m.**

**JACCC's Aratani Theatre**

**244 S. San Pedro St.**

**Price: Ticket Prices Vary**

Don't miss out on this opportunity to listen to Hiroshima as they present their "Domo Tour" to thank fans for their many years of support. The band will play more than four decades of their hit music, in addition to songs featured on their most-recent album, "2020."

**Info:** Call the boxoffice at (213) 680-3700 for questions or visit [boxoffice@jaccc.org](http://boxoffice@jaccc.org) to purchase tickets.

### Michael Goi's Journey as an Asian American in Hollywood

**Los Angeles, CA**

**Nov. 6; 1 p.m.**

**Virtual Event**

**Price: Free**

Greater Los Angeles JACL presents this program featuring director/cinematographer/producer Michael Goi as he discusses his rise in the entertainment field and his activities to increase diversity in the industry and how his parents' experiences in the 1940s affected his career path.

**Info:** For a Zoom link, email Louise Sakamoto at [greaterlajacl@gmail.com](mailto:greaterlajacl@gmail.com).

### Elemental Funk Concert Fundraiser Gardena, CA

**Nov. 12; 3-7 p.m.**

**Gardena Valley JCI Main Hall**

**1964 W. 162nd St.**

**Price: Early Bird Tickets \$35; General Admission \$40 (Must be 21+)**

Get ready to Groove! Join the GJVJCI at this entertaining event featuring Elemental Funk. Beer, wine and appetizers will be available for purchase.

**Info:** Visit [www.jci-gardena.org](http://www.jci-gardena.org) for more details. [zoomlink@gmail.com](mailto:zoomlink@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

### San Diego JACL Virtual Dialogue:

**Gary Sosa**

**San Diego, CA**

**Dec. 8; 6:30 p.m.**

**Virtual Event**

**Price: Free**

Join the San Diego JACL as it presents its monthly virtual dialogue featuring Gary Sosa, English as a second language associate professor at Palomar College, as he shares his discovery of and search for his Japanese-Mexican roots, his 442 connection and an overview of the Japanese immigration to Mexico, followed by conversation about genealogical research and multiracial Japanese Americans.

**Info:** To RSVP and receive the Zoom link, email [sandiegojaci@gmail.com](mailto:sandiegojaci@gmail.com).

## PNW

### 'Resilience — A Sansei Sense of Legacy'

**Portland, OR**

**Thru Dec. 22**

**Japanese American Museum of Oregon at Naito Center**

**411 N.W. Flanders St.**

**Price: Contact Museum for Ticket Information**

Eight artists' work reflects on the effect of EO 9066 as it resonated from generation to generation using traditional Japanese methods in the construction of their work, as well as iconography relating to Japanese culture as a starting point for personal explorations on the subject of the incarceration camps. Artists featured are Kristine Aono, Lydia Nakashima Degarrod, Reiko Fuji, Wendy Maruyama, Tom Nakashima, Roger Shimomura, Na Omi Judy Shintani and Jerry Takigawa.

**Info:** Visit <https://jamo.org/exhibits/resilience/> for more details.

## MDC

### Hoosier JACL Holiday Party Indianapolis, IN

**Dec. 10; 12:30-4 p.m.**

**Masa Sake Grill**

**5946 E. 86th St. (located near Costco, behind Castleton Square Mall)**

**Price: Details to Follow**

Save the date for the Hoosier chapter's 2022 holiday party, which will be held

at Masa restaurant. A menu is available at [masasakegrill.com](http://masasakegrill.com). All guests are welcome to attend. More event details to follow.

**Info:** Email [info@hoosierjaci.org](mailto:info@hoosierjaci.org).

### AAPI Authors Humanizing Our History: A Conversation With Julie Otsuka and Tom Ikeda Wisconsin

**Oct. 16; 4-5 p.m. (Central)**

**Price: Free**

The AAPI Coalition of Wisconsin invites all to this virtual event featuring Julie Otsuka, author of the award-winning novel "When the Emperor Was Divine," and Tom Ikeda, founding and former executive director of Densho. In this webinar, Otsuka will be in discussion with Tom Ikeda to discuss the art of writing the novel as well as talk about their individual family's experiences in the World War II incarceration centers.

**Info:** To learn more and register, visit <https://bit.ly/Register4OtsukaTalk>.

## IDC

### 'Fantastic Brush: 20th Century Chinese Ink Art From the Robert and Lisa Kessler Collection'

**Denver, CO**

**Thru Dec. 30**

**Denver Art Museum**

**100 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy**

**Price: General Admission**

The 23 ink paintings featured in this exhibit include works from some of the most important artists in 20th-century China, including Zhang Daqian, Qi Baishi, Xu Beihong, Wu Changshio and Wu Guanzhong. Each comes from different backgrounds and art experiences, with some having studied in Japan to learn Japanese art as filtered through the Japanese experience.

**Info:** Visit [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org) for more details.

## EDC

### Crafting Global Friendships: Celebrating 20 Years of the World Cosplay Summit

**Washington, D.C.**

**Thru Nov. 3**

**Japan Information and Culture Center**

**1150 18th St. N.W.**

**Suite 100**

**Price: Free**

This exhibit features stunning handmade costume gear from famous Japanese anime series such as "JoJo's Bizarre Adventure," "Cardcaptor Sakura," "Revolutionary Girl Utena" and much more.

**Info:** For additional details, call (202) 238-6900 or email [jicc@ws.mofa.go.jp](mailto:jicc@ws.mofa.go.jp).

### Charles Overton and Lucia Lin Concert

**Boston, MA**

**Nov. 6; 4 p.m.**

**Union United Methodist Church**

**485 Columbus Ave.**

**Price: Visit website for information**

Harpist Charles Overton returns with violinist Lucia Lin for the world premiere of the latest installment of Lin's "In Tandem" project that aims to break down color barriers in classical music and create opportunities for fans and musicians to encounter contemporary music.

**Info:** Visit <https://www.celebrityseries.org/productions/charles-overton-harp-and-lucia-lin-violin/>.

### 'The Chinese Lady' Cambridge, MA

**Nov. 10-Dec. 12**

**Central Square Theater**

**450 Massachusetts Ave.**

**Price: Tickets \$19-\$72**

This play centers around 14-year-old Afong Moy, who arrives in New York Harbor from Guangzhou Province in 1834 and is immediately put on display for the American public as "The Chinese Lady." For the next 50 years, she believes herself an ambassador to life in her native China. This poetic tale offers a whimsical portrait of the U.S., giving voice to its hidden history.

**Info:** For more information, visit <https://www.centalsquaretheater.org/shows/the-chinese-lady/>.

### 'Creative Confluence: South Asian Community Reflections, Connections and Dialogue' Exhibit

**Towson, MD**

**Thru Dec. 17**

**Asian Arts Gallery, Center for the Arts**

**Towson University**

**1 Fine Arts Dr.**

**Price: Check Website for Admission Information**

Explore the rich array of creativity, cultures and traditions expressed through the works of 22 South Asian artists from across the Greater Baltimore and Washington, D.C., area. Discover the intersecting and distinct experiences of these artists who share their perspectives on lineage, self-identity, ideas of homeland, spiritual traditions, sensory experience and connections to the natural world.

**Info:** Visit [www.towson.edu](http://www.towson.edu) for more details.

### 'Yayoi Kusama: Love Is Calling' Exhibit

**Boston, MA**

**Thru Dec. 31**

**Institute of Contemporary Art**

**25 Harbor Shore Dr.**

**Price: Check Museum for Tickets**

As part of the exhibition "The Worlds We Make: Selections From the ICA Collection," Yayoi Kusama's beloved "Love Is Calling" is an immersive, vividly colored art installation that surrounds visitors and creates an illusion of infinite space and haunting sound recordings as Kusama recites a love poem in Japanese. This 1-2-minute experience is limited to six visitors at one time. Reservations are required.

**Info:** Visit <https://www.icaboston.org/kusama-know-before-you-go> for more details.

## ADVERTISE HERE

Events in the calendar section are listed based on space availability. Place a 'Spotlight' ad with photos of your event for maximum exposure.

**FOR MORE INFO:**

[pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)  
(213) 620-1767



# ACCLAIMED SCHOLAR, AUTHOR FRANKLIN ODO DIES

Helped in developing Asian American Studies programs across the nation

By P.C. Staff

Franklin Odo, the Hawaii-born author, academician and activist whose achievements and endeavors in research and historical inquiry in the area of Asian American Studies led to his becoming the inaugural director of the Smithsonian's Asian Pacific American Program for a 13-yearlong stint beginning in 1997, died Sept. 28. He was 83.

Odo's career in academia also included teaching at Occidental College; University of California, Los Angeles; California State University, Long Beach; University of Pennsylvania; Hunter College; Princeton University; Columbia University; University of Hawaii at Manoa; and University of Maryland-College Park.

Odo's most recent position was teaching American Studies at Amherst College. Provost and Dean of the Faculty Catherine Epstein, in an email dated Sept. 30 and sent to faculty and staff, wrote: "We have been fortunate to have Franklin as a member of our community since 2015. His colleagues praise his tremendous intellect and range of knowledge; his generosity of spirit and kindness; his modes-

ty; and his mentorship of faculty and students."

As a writer and/or editor, Odo's output includes "Roots: An Asian American Reader" (with Amy Tachiki, Eddie Wong and Buck Wong), "A Pictorial History of the Japanese in Hawai'i, 1885-1924" (with Kazuko Sinoto), "No Sword to Bury: Japanese Americans in Hawai'i During World War II," "The Columbia Documentary History of the Asian American Experience" and "Voices From the Canefields: Folksongs From Japanese Immigrant Workers in Hawai'i."

In a statement on behalf of the museum, Japanese American National Museum President and CEO Ann Burroughs said, "We are deeply saddened by Franklin's passing. He was a respected scholar and pioneer in Asian American Studies and a great friend to the museum. His contributions to JANM, academia and Japanese American history will always be treasured."

Phil Tajitsu Nash, an Asian American Studies Program pro-



Frank Odo in an undated photo from *Pacific Citizen's* photo archive

fessor at the University of Maryland, noted in a Facebook reminiscence of how he had more than "four decades of memories of Franklin, going back to my earliest days as a teacher of Asian American History and using 'Roots,' a book that he co-edited in 1971, as one of my textbooks."

Continuing, Nash wrote, "Franklin had the charisma and infectious smile and generosity of spirit that drew everyone to him as he became the Johnny Appleseed of Asian American Studies," a reference to his influence and involvement in the

movement to promote Asian American Studies at the university level nationwide. "He had the credentials to make a career for himself at a prestigious private school, but he chose to work at many public and private universities with the children of all classes so that

the rest of us in important ways, as he did when he had me appointed as a curator at the Smithsonian for the Asian Pacific American Program at the 2010 Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

"I had been teaching Asian American History for 26 years by that time, but I had no idea how to curate a program on that scale: 10 days of programs on the National Mall and online. Luckily, Franklin knew all of the people to talk to, the arcane processes to follow and the bridges to build to make the program successful."

At its 2008 National Convention, the JACL presented to Odo its President's Award.

Odo is survived by his wife, Enid; their sons, David and Jonathan, and daughter, Rachel; brother, Alan; and four grandchildren.

**(EDITOR'S NOTE: An oral history conducted by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center with Franklin Odo can be viewed at [tinyurl.com/bdhhvpi5](http://tinyurl.com/bdhhvpi5).)**



Franklin Odo (fourth from left) was pictured in the Aug. 1, 2008, *Pacific Citizen*. He received the JACL's President's Award during the Sayonara Banquet at the organization's National Convention in Salt Lake City.

ethnic studies and cultural competence would be available to everyone, not just a few elites."

Indeed, Odo's educational résumé included degrees from Princeton University (B.A. and Ph.D.) and Harvard University (M.A.).

Nash further praised Odo, writing: "Franklin also used his power and privilege to elevate

## MEMORIAM



**Allen, Susan Bernadette Okazaki, 69**, Vista, CA, Aug. 4; she is survived by her husband, Michael; children, Andrew and Arin McNeemar; siblings, Teri-Ann, Barbara, Tommy and Gary; gc: 2.

**Beal, Asako (Arakaki), 75**, Motobu, Okinawa-ken, Japan (former resident of HI); Sept. 4.

**Doi, Edward Tadashi, 92**, Keaukaha, HI, Aug. 26.



**Doi, Jeffrey, 30**, Sacramento, CA, April 23; Eagle Scout, Troop 611; activities: San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin; he was predeceased by his grandparents, Iwao Nakao and George and Ruby Doi; he is survived by his parents, Steven and Janice Doi; brother, Michael Doi (Irene Antonio Doi); grandmother, Kyoko Nakao; he is also survived by many aunts, uncles and cousins.

**Hamano, Richard Yuzo, 67**, La Mirada, CA, Aug. 22; he is survived by his sister, Marjorie Hamano (Donald R.) Currier, two uncles, three aunts many other relatives.

**Harrison, Avis Keiko, 70**, Las Vegas, NV, Aug. 30; she is survived by her husband, Joe; daughters, Jennifer (Mickey) Karacsonyi and Jamie (Matthew) Lopez; siblings, Keith, Terry and Lori; gc: 2.

**Hashimoto Inouye, Joyce Eiko, 88**, Honolulu, HI, June 8.

**Ide, Itsuro, 89**, Cupertino, CA, July 25; alumnus, Univ. of Hawaii; he is survived by his wife, Kay; children, Bradley (Kimberly), Robert (Diana) and Leslie; sister, Setsumi Ozawa; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 3.

**Ota, Marian, 77**, Mequon, WI, June 14; she is survived by her children, Darlene McCann, Robert McCann, Tamaye Ota and Ronald (Amy) Ota; siblings, Richard (Charlotte) Boltz, Augustine "Lee" Boltz and Janet (Mike) Holman; gc: 6; ggc.

**Toyama, Jean, 86**, Elk Grove, CA, Aug. 31; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Heart Mountain WRA Center in WY; B.A., Sacramento State College; she was predeceased by her brothers, James and Jun; she is survived by her husband, Fred; children, Kelly (Michael), Ryan and Jill; sister, Judi Akemi; sisters-in-law, Sharon Sakauye and Toshi Toyama; brothers-in-law, William (Nancy) Toyama; Lindley (Janice) Toyama; uncle, Charles Uyeda; aunt, Toshiko Uyeda; gc: 2. ■

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