



PACIFIC CITIZEN



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2023 JACL
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A Decade After
His Death, the
Nisei Journalist's
Influence Continues.

THE LEGACY OF HARRY HONDA

Nisei journalist
Harry Honda
was associated
with the *Pacific
Citizen* for
60 years.

JACL TO MOVE NATIONAL CONVENTION LOCATION

Other community sites in the Little Tokyo neighborhood will host the annual confab after hotel workers' contract at former host hotel expires.

By JACL National

The contract between Unite Here Local 11 and approximately 60 Los Angeles-area hotels expired on July 1. Among the hotels without a contract with workers is the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Los Angeles Downtown, the planned site for JACL's 2023 National Convention, "Rooted in Community."

Over the past two weeks, workers across the Los Angeles area have exercised their right to strike in response to the lack of a contract. The lack of a labor contract has injected a degree of uncertainty into JACL's convention planning and preparation that has forced the difficult decision of moving the organization's convention from the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Los Angeles Downtown.

JACL staff and local leadership are working to secure alternate locations, remaining in the Little Tokyo community. These changes may result in the reduction in size and elimination of some events that were scheduled for the DoubleTree.

Room reservations are being transferred to the Westin Bonaventure Hotel and Suites, as it has secured a contract with the Unite Here Local 11.

JACL is already immensely grateful for the support from



DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Los Angeles workers on strike in Little Tokyo on July 3

PHOTO: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON

the Japanese American National Museum, the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center and the Los Angeles Hampa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, where it has confirmed many of the organization's convention activities will be transferred.

Stated JACL Executive Director David Inoue: "We recognize the inconvenience this is creating for our attendees, sponsors and speakers, but we believe this is important and necessary to support those fighting for living wages. We hope for a swift resolution to the contract negotiations for the benefit of all parties involved."

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

What is the best way to get updates?

Please check the Whova App and your email. For urgent matters, please contact convention@jacl.org.

Is the National Convention still happening?

Yes, please plan to attend as previously planned. We plan on keeping the same schedule while moving lodging and event venues, many of which we have already confirmed. The good news is that many events were already planned outside of the DoubleTree and will continue as planned, "Rooted in Community."

Will some events be canceled or changed?

We are trying our hardest to provide the same full experience originally planned, but due to some constraints, events may be canceled or reduced in attendance.

What about Hotel Information?

If you booked your hotel room at the DoubleTree with the JACL room block link or code, JACL will automatically change your room to the Westin Bonaventure, which is a six-minute drive from the DoubleTree. It is located at 404 S. Figueroa St. If you booked your room independently outside the block such as on Expedia, Kayak, etc., you will need to cancel your own reservation if you choose to do

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HOW TO REACH US

Email: pc@pacificcitizen.org
Online: www.pacificcitizen.org
Tel: (213) 620-1767
Mail: 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 206
Los Angeles, CA 90012

STAFF

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

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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.*!"

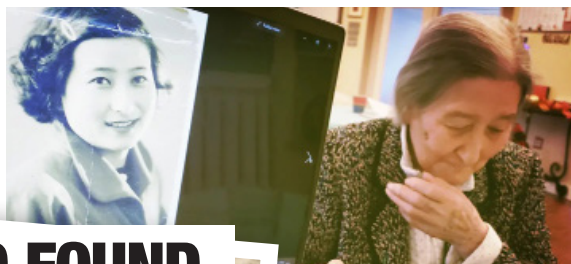
— Gil Asakawa



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NIKKEI VOICE



Mom pictured with a younger photo of herself

MEMORIES LOST AND FOUND

By Gil Asakawa

My mom would not be happy that I'm writing about her. Like many elderly Japanese, she's not interested in the spotlight. And like most Nisei who didn't speak for years about the war years in incarceration camps, my mom, who is an Issei who lived in Japan during World War II, for years didn't want to talk about her experience as a schoolgirl during the war.

"The past is past," she would say. "I only care about today."

Now, she has trouble focusing on today and is losing her memory of the past. It's taken years, but dementia has slowly taken away her memories, even of her loved ones. When she sees a photo of herself and my dad from the 1950s, not long after they married, she recognizes herself, but can't place my father's face. We mention his name—George Hisayuki Asakawa—and she stares back blankly. "Nooo, I don't know," she says.

My identity has also slipped from her memory banks. But the loss is selective: She remembers that she

My parents, George Hisayuki and Junko Asakawa shortly after they were married

PHOTOS: GIL ASAKAWA



has three sons and our birth order. She mispronounces our names in her Japanese accent, which I've always said was something my dad did on purpose, maybe as a joke, maybe just because: "Gary, Gilbert and Glenn" have been pronounced "Geh-ree, Gyubah and Goooh-ren" all our lives. "Mom, I'm Gyubah," I say, pointing to myself. "Ehh? Nooo, you not Gyubah," she replies.

But she lets me sit and chat with her when I visit (which I don't do often enough). She also gladly accepts the Japanese snacks my brother, Glenn, and I bring. For a long time, food was the direct connection to her memory banks.

She would always insist (and I think she's right) that the best seafood in Japan is from her hometown of Nemuro, the easternmost point in the

northern island of Hokkaido. It's also the easternmost point in all of Japan, so thousands of people make a pilgrimage to a peninsula outside of town on Dec. 31 of each year to welcome the first sunrise of the new year.

The area really does have the most amazing salmon, seaweed and kelp, scallops and a type of crab that is indigenous to the waters near Nemuro, the spiny and incredibly sweet Hanasaki Kani. The crab is showcased each year at a "Kani Matsuri" or Crab Festival during its prime season in early September.

My mom grew up with these plentiful riches of the ocean and was always proud of Nemuro's legacy. As her memory faded and her childhood friends and family members' names slipped away, she always knew about the seafood from home. She still has an awareness of that, but she no longer recalls the specifics. The salmon, the crab — those are just culinary artifacts of the long-ago past.

She used to love her favorite dish of all time, Chirashi Sushi, which is assorted sashimi atop a bowl of sushi rice. She loved when we brought

her Chirashi Sushi or other favorite dishes (unagi, or eel, bowl or udon noodles with tempura shrimp) as a break from her regular, non-Asian fare at the memory care center where she's lived for over five years.

Last year, when we brought her Chirashi, she didn't recognize it, and when we explained what it was, she didn't register any familiarity. But, when she started eating it, she ate the dish in exactly the same order she always had — salmon first, then ikura, or salmon roe, then tuna, then octopus, egg and so on. So deep inside her memory, but her body and taste buds remembered.

Now, her memory has slipped away further, and she doesn't seem to distinguish between various dishes, different fish or food. She still likes Japanese snacks, especially sweets like mochi manju with sweet red bean anko or, better yet, the bricks of thick, sweet jelly called yokan. She may not remember what things are called, but she knows she loves them.

For years, my mom never talked about her experience growing up during the war. One year, before dementia took her memories, she finally started opening up (over dinner at a Japanese restaurant, of course) and told us that toward the end of the war, she and all her schoolmates were taught to use sticks to fight off any invading Americans who were sure to come to Nemuro and attack them, raping and pillaging the town.

Of course, the Americans who came were mostly all respectful occupationeers. And the Japanese didn't fight them off but mostly welcomed

them as bringers of peace.

One of the last times we took my mom to Japan as a "farewell" tour to see family and friends, we took her to Hiroshima and visited the Hiroshima Peace Park and Atomic Bomb Museum. Amazingly, she began telling us about the day that Nemuro was firebombed by the U.S. forces and her family was forced to escape to another town for the remainder of the war. She remembered seeing her neighbor coming across the road amidst the carnage . . . and then there was an explosion, and her neighbor was gone.

Some memories deserve to be buried, not just ignored. But I'm glad she felt like she could share that one story, so we could know the extent of the horrors of war that she observed first-hand.

In the end, I hope she focuses more on the wonderful seafood and culture of Nemuro and Japan, and those memories sustain her as her memories continue to fade.

Gil Asakawa is the author of "Tabemasho! Let's Eat! The Tasty History of Japanese Food in America."



Mom at the memory care center where she now lives

POSTON COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OPENS REGISTRATION FOR 2023 PILGRIMAGE

Save the date for Oct. 13-14 at the Blue Water Casino and other nearby sites in Parker, Ariz.



The Poston Community Alliance Pilgrimage will take place Oct. 13-14 at the Blue Water Casino and other nearby sites in Parker, Ariz.

A Poston exhibit created with donated space at the Museum of the Colorado River Indian Tribes will be featured. The exhibit includes a map of Poston's three camps for visitors to locate the exact barrack and apartment where

their family resided.

In addition, the pilgrimage will feature educational workshops and bus tours of the Poston Monument and Camp I school sites. Concluding the weekend's activities will be a banquet with keynote speaker Duncan Ryuken Williams, who will speak on the role of religion. Williams is a scholar, writer and Soto Zen Buddhist priest who is currently

professor of religion and East Asian languages and cultures at the University of Southern California.

Pilgrimage capacity is limited to 250 attendees due to facility space. Early bird registration until Aug. 31 is \$195 for adults and \$100 for children up to 12 years old. After that date, the fee is \$245 for adults and \$145 for children.

Attendees will be able to select their preferred workshops during

the registration process.

For registration information and updates, please visit the Poston Community Alliance website at <https://www.postonpreservation.org>. Registration will be on the Eventbrite website, which will be at the Poston Preservation Website.

'From Hiroshima to Hope'

Lanterns for hope and peace to light Green Lake on Aug. 6.

SEATTLE — Candle-lit lanterns will spark hope at "From Hiroshima to Hope," Seattle's annual lantern-floating peace ceremony on Aug. 6 at Green Lake. The event — one of the largest commemorations held outside

of Japan of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima on Aug. 6 and Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945, respectively — will include music, poetry, dance, speakers and lanterns.

The event will begin at 6 p.m. with

the lantern preparation and emceed by Seattle JACL's Stan Shikuma. Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown, senior pastor at Plymouth Church in Seattle, will give the keynote speech with a social justice focus.

Performers will include Seattle Kokon Taiko, the Seattle Peace Chorus Action Ensemble and poetry and prose from Seattle writers Carole Okamoto, Dee Goto and Liz Murata with the Omoide Project, a program of the Japanese Cultural and

Community Center of Washington.

In addition, Hatsune Matsudaira and Laryn Young with Koto no WA will play traditional and contemporary music on koto.

The candle-lit ceremony will begin at 8 p.m., with lanterns floating on the lake at dusk, accompanied by a performance by Patrick Johnson, who will play traditional flute music on the shakuhachi at the dock.

'From Hiroshima to Hope' has been held every year since 1984,

except for its cancelation in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is produced annually by the nonprofit organization From Hiroshima to Hope, in addition to various local community organizations and grant support from the Abe Keller Peace Education Fund.

For more information, visit <http://fromhiroshimatohope.org>.

JACL VENTURA COUNTY TAKES A HISTORIC TRIP TO GUADALUPE

The chapter travels with award-winning author Naomi Hirahara to the hometown of philanthropist George Aratani in a trip sponsored by a grant from Keiro and a Legacy Grant from JACL National.

GUADALUPE, CALIF. — A small group from the Ventura County JACL chapter along with award-winning author Naomi Hirahara boarded a bus for a trip to Guadalupe, Calif., a small coastal farming town in Santa Barbara County that was once the hometown of philanthropist George Aratani on July 8. The trip was sponsored by a grant from Keiro and a Legacy Grant from JACL National.

“As we drove through the main street of this town of 7,000 people, we were delighted to see the marquee on the town’s historic Royal Theater welcoming our chapter to the city,” said Janice Tanaka, Ventura County JACL board member. “When I heard that this Royal Theater was built by an Issei

prior to World War II and that the Guadalupe city officials had the foresight to have it designated a National Historic Site, I knew we had to see it.”

The morning started with a program at the Guadalupe Buddhist Church, where the group was able to learn more about the past, present and future of the Royal Theater. Ten members of the church and another small group from Guadalupe that included the town sheriff and other dignitaries were also present.

The Royal Theater was constructed in 1940, with the building costing roughly \$30,000 to build. The theater, which took four months to construct, could seat 530 people; the grand opening occurred on Aug. 30, 1940. In its early years, it hosted films and the-

The Masatani home, a beautifully preserved Victorian mansion



The Ventura County JACL chapter participants outside the town’s historic Royal Theater, whose sign welcomed the group.

PHOTO: TOM BRANDEBERY/CITY OF GUADALUPE

Naomi Hirahara (center) is pictured in front of the Royal Theater.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF NAOMI HIRAHARA

Guadalupe trip participants are pictured at the Aratani family gravesite at the Guadalupe Cemetery.



“I have been here for 75 years. My father was a Filipino crew boss who worked with many Japanese families in the town. I know you are here for only three hours, and I wish you could be here for three days to hear the many wonderful stories of the history of Japanese families in our town.”

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atrical performances every Saturday and Sunday.

On March 11, 2022, the Royal Theater was officially placed on the Federal Register of Historic Buildings. The City of Guadalupe was awarded a grant to restore the

theater and build a visual and performing arts center. The city hopes to complete restoration by 2025.

Janice McCormick, Ventura County JACL’s co-vp, welcomed the group and introduced the town’s mayor, Ariston Julian, who said,



Keiro.

Keiro is partnering with Vantage Research & Consulting, Inc. to conduct a community-wide, 10-15 minute online survey designed to assess the needs and preferences of Our Community. This survey will allow us to explore sustainable solutions to support the community’s older adults in the future.

Please answer the survey if you are...

- Part of the Japanese American and Japanese community AND
- Residing or have a close loved one in Los Angeles, Orange, or Ventura Counties

How to Participate:

- 1 Submit your name and email address to keiro.org/survey by August 31, 2023.
- 2 Look out for an email between August 1 and September 5 for the survey link. All surveys must be completed by September 15, 2023.

Contact **213.873.5700** or survey@keiro.org before July 28, 2023 to request a mailed survey. Scan the QR code or visit keiro.org/survey. For questions, email survey@keiro.org.



CALIFORNIA LIBRARY ASSN. INDUCTS NIKKEI INTO ITS HALL OF FAME

The addition of Kikue Ukai Fujii is a boon to disabled, Japanese American communities.

By Jonathan Van Harmelen,
Pacific Citizen Contributor

(AUTHOR'S NOTE: Regarding the following article about Kikue Ukai Fujii's June 5 induction into the California Library Association's Hall of Fame, I am particularly proud of this development because I helped with "rediscovering" her story that was originally published on the Japanese American National Museum's Discover Nikkei site. A year later, in September 2022, Debra Hansen, a member of the California Library Association's Hall of Fame committee (and the wife of distinguished historian Arthur Hansen), contacted me about submitting a nomination for Kikue Fujii based on my article. Delighted, I shared all the research materials I collected about her with Hansen. With some additional research work conducted with the staff of the Oakland Public Library, she compiled a portfolio on Fujii's library career that she then submitted to her fellow committee members. In May, the Hall of Fame released a statement that included Kikue Ukai Fujii among its seven inductees.)

Every year since in 2012, the California Library Association Hall of Fame has honored the accomplishments of librarians, library workers and supporters who have promoted the state's library services and contributed to its rich history. Notable inductees have included author Ray Bradbury, historian Kevin Starr and TV personality Huell Howser.

More recently, the CLA's Hall of Fame has honored several Japanese American librarians, including playwright Hiroshi Kashiwagi and former CLA President Robert Karatsu. Also honored was Clara Breed, the famed San Diego librarian who supported Japanese Americans during their forced incarceration during World War II.

On June 5, the CLA inducted seven new members to its Hall of Fame in Sacramento. Among the inductees was Kikue Ukai Fujii — the first Japanese American librarian ever employed by a California public library. As a deaf and partially blind woman, Fujii's story is important for the disabled community and Japanese Americans alike.

Born Kikue Ukai in Oakland, Calif., in 1903, Fujii became deaf and partially blinded in one eye as the result of a childhood skating accident. She attended the Califor-



David McFadden, chair of the CLA's Hall of Fame committee

Nancy Ukai (right) acknowledges her aunt's achievements during the induction ceremony.



Pictured (from left) are CLA President Gary Shaffer, Nancy Ukai and David McFadden of Southwestern Law School and chair of the CLA Hall of Fame committee.

nia School for the Deaf and later attended Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., where she was likely its first Asian American student.

From a young age, Fujii excelled in writing and regularly published articles with Gallaudet's school newspaper, the Blue and Buff. In 1926, she left Gallaudet and returned to Oakland. Two years later, she was hired by the Oakland Public Library as a staff worker.

In 1934, Fujii became the first Japanese American to pass California's catalog-typist civil service exam and was henceforth promoted. In August 1939, she translated a collection of Japanese children's books for the Oakland Public Library, offering one of the first of such translated collections for a library in the U.S.

Outside of her work, Fujii, still known as Kikue Ukai, established herself as a prominent literary critic among Bay Area Japanese Americans. She wrote a book column, "Literary By-Paths" for the *Shin Sekai Asahi Shinbun* (New World Sun) from 1936-38, for which she authored dozens of reviews on books related to Japan.

As historian Greg Robinson notes, "Kikue Ukai's column enlightened the community about interesting books. For example, she was the first critic in the Japanese press to discuss

Kathleen Tamagawa's groundbreaking Nisei memoir, 'Holy Prayers in a Horse's Ear.'"
Fujii likewise published a number of poems in the *Nichibei Shinbun*.

In 1939, she became acquainted with Shuji Fujii, a Los Angeles Ki-bei communist who edited the leftist Japanese-language newspaper *Doho*. Despite its small circulation and uncertain finances, *Doho* became notable for its critical coverage of Japanese imperialism and advocating for workers' rights during the Great Depression.

The couple soon married, and Fujii relocated to Los Angeles and dedicated herself to working with her husband on *Doho*. Her superior language skills and literary ability helped improve the paper's English section.

After Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, the Fujii's joined the antifascist group led by sculptor Isamu Noguchi and future *Pacific Citizen* Editor Larry Tajiri, the Nisei Writers and Artists Mobilization for Democracy. In Spring 1942, Kikue and Shuji Fujii were confined at the Santa Anita Assembly Center.

Shuji Fujii was arrested for attempting to organize Japanese-language meetings in camp, which were banned by Army officials. In a panic, Kikue called on Noguchi for help with freeing him. The case was soon dropped — some claim because he was an FBI informant — and Shuji Fujii was recruited to work for the Office of War Information. The couple soon left for New York City.

While Kikue continued to work with the OWI, Shuji joined the Office of Strategic Services and served in China as part of a psychological warfare unit. Toward the end of the war, he handled the processing of Japanese prisoners of war and returned to the U.S. in 1947.

Both worked for a time with the New York-based newspaper *Hoku-bei Shimpō*. The couple ultimately drifted into obscurity — Shuji became an electrician. The last mention of Shuji and Kikue Fujii in the press appeared in Bill Hosokawa's Aug. 25, 1978, column From the Frying Pan (see tinyurl.com/3amy8ztr). Hosokawa recalled meeting Kikue Fujii in the company of writer Eddie Shimano during a trip to San Francisco in 1938, and he reminisced about her appreciation for the written word.

After Fujii's acceptance into the CLA's Hall of Fame, Debra Hansen of the California Library Association's Hall of Fame committee, said, "As Kikue Ukai Fujii was one of the earliest ethnic and disabled library workers in California, I was excited to nominate her for the California Library Association's Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame selection committee was especially pleased with how Kikue diversified librarianship in important ways and broadened our definition of 'pioneer' beyond library administrators and association officers. They voted unanimously to induct her this year."

Kikue Ukai (premarriage) in 1934. (Note: This image was restored and colored.)



Nancy Ukai, the niece of CLA Hall of Fame inductee Kikue Ukai Fujii, accepts her posthumous honor and also holds a class photo with Kikue from 1912.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE CALIFORNIA LIBRARY ASSN.

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Maryknoll Japanese Catholic Center 75th Anniversary Celebration (from left) Micki and Harry Honda, Glenn Kuwabara and Fr. Jim Habenicht



Harry Honda's typing skills used in the Army came in handy when he became a journalist.

EXPLORING THE CAREER AND LEGACY OF HARRY HONDA

A decade after his death, the Nisei journalist's influence continues.

By Jonathan Van Harmelen,
P.C. Contributor

On July 3, 2013, Nisei journalist Harry Kazue Honda died at age 93. Known for his 30-year tenure as editor of and 60-yearlong association with the *Pacific Citizen*, Honda was a giant among Japanese American journalists. As an editor, he managed many aspects of the *Pacific Citizen* that went beyond editorial work, such as tracking down writers to managing subscriptions to the newspaper.

As a historian for the community, Honda understood the importance of memories. His renowned filing cabinets, which stored mountains of records related to the Japanese American community, included thousands of names, each with a story to tell. Over his many years as a community journalist, he received many recognitions, including Nisei Week Pioneer honors, the Aki Komai Memorial Award and a Living Legend award from the Pacific Southwest District JACL (see *Pacific Citizen's* Oct. 19, 2012, issue).

After his death, Japanese American news outlets, including the *P.C.* and the *Rafu Shimpo*, highlighted his long career and contributions to community journalism. In his memory, the following are several aspects of his life and work, some lesser known than others, that capture his devotion to his career and his community.

A Journalist's Odyssey

Like many other Nisei journalists, Honda began his journalism career as a sportswriter. Starting in 1936, he spent three years working as the *Rafu Shimpo's* sportswriter and the *Sangyo Nippo's* English editor. At the same time, he spent two years at Los Angeles

City College studying journalism. His career then took him to San Francisco, where he worked as the assistant editor of the *Nichi-Bei Shimbun*. In his early days, Honda started a column titled "Very Truly Yours." Along with "Ye Editor's Desk," it would become one of his signature columns throughout his career.

In 1941, Honda was drafted into the Army and assigned to the Quartermaster Corps at Camp Barkeley, Texas. After Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, he remained within the Army and, because he was already outside the exclusion zone, avoided being forcibly incarcerated in American concentration camps. His family, however, was sent to Santa Anita Assembly Center and the Rohwer War Relocation Authority Center in Arkansas, where he went on several occasions to visit his family.

Although Honda was slated to join the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, his commanding officer pulled his transfer so that he could stay with his old unit to train soldiers for the Quartermaster Corps. On Christmas Eve 1945, Honda was discharged from the Army in Rockford, Ill. He moved to Chicago and lived there for half a year. Albeit brief, his time in Chicago afforded him more opportunities to engage in journalism. In June 1946, Honda returned to Los Angeles, vowing never again to endure the Windy City's bitter winters.

A lifelong Maryknoller, Honda was an active member of Los Angeles's Japanese American Catholic community. He attended Maryknoll's St. Francis Xavier school from 1925-32, and after graduating, he contributed to the school's alumni newspaper *The Challenger*. During his time in Chicago, he stayed at the Nisei Catholic Youth Organization Hostel organized by Brother Theophane Walsh, MM.

When he returned to Los Angeles in 1946, Honda enrolled at Loyola University, a Catholic



(Above) Micki and Harry Honda

(Right) Harry Honda was recognized by Los Angeles County as a Nisei Week Pioneer.

(Bottom left) Redress strategist Grant Ujifusa and Honda circa 1991 in front of the Japanese American National Museum

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF PATTY ARRA



Honda made the cover of the *Pacific Citizen* on two occasions, when he was honored as a "Living Legend" (above) and when he died in 2013 (below).



Harry Honda at his desktop computer



Honda, in uniform, during WWII



Pan American Nikkei Convention, July 1985, Sao Paulo, Brazil. (From left) Micki, Patty and Harry Honda pose at Rio Palace while attending the third annual PANA Convention in Sao Paulo.



Micki, Patty and Harry Honda attend the first PANA Convention in Mexico City, 1981.

university and one of the few West Coast institutions that accepted Japanese American students without restrictions after the war. Throughout his life, Honda remained active with the St. Francis Xavier parish in Little Tokyo.

Years later, prior to becoming editor of the *Rafu Shimpō*, Gwen Muranaka — who had worked as the *P.C.*'s assistant editor circa 1991 — still recalls several Ash Wednesdays when Honda would walk into the office with an ash cross on his forehead.

After graduating with a degree in political science in 1950, Honda worked full-time as the editor of the *Shin Nichibei* and as a columnist for the *Rafu Shimpō*. In September 1952, Saburo Kido — one of the founders of JACL — asked Honda to run the *Pacific Citizen* after the retirement of Larry Tajiri. It would be the beginning of a career with the *Pacific Citizen* that lasted more than six decades.

In 1957, Harry married Misako “Micki” Mayumi, and they had two daughters. Harry and Micki Honda would eventually become grandparents to four after daughter Patty's marriage to Dan Arra. Since her father's passing, Patty has been active in preserving her father's career legacy, loaning personal and professional heirlooms from her father to such institutions as Loyola Marymount University and the Japanese American National Museum.

From 1952 on, he remained actively involved in the operations of the *Pacific Citizen* and wrote two columns: “Very Truly Yours” and “Ye Editors Desk,” with the latter persisting until his retirement from the editorship in 1982. Even after stepping down as editor, Honda continued to help with the management of the paper and contributed articles through the last

years of his life. Muranaka remembers him working tirelessly during his retirement. “At that point, Harry was either senior or editor emeritus, and he wasn't in charge of the day to day. He seemed to be always typing away on his computer,” she said.

Even until his 2013 death, Honda continued to contribute articles to the *P.C.* and the *Rafu* — underscoring his devotion to serving as a community journalist. In spring 2020, Loyola Marymount University English Professor Julia Lee honored Honda's legacy by teaching a course on his career and the greater history of Asian American journalism. And in February 2022, several religious artifacts belonging to the Honda family were included in JANM's exhibition “Sutra and Bible” to represent the experiences of Japanese American Catholics during WWII.

Harry Honda and the Nikkei Diaspora

An aspect of Honda's many interests includes his activities with the global Nikkei community. Throughout his life, he was interested in forming connections with Japanese immigrant communities outside the U.S. Early in his career, Honda worked alongside journalists of Japanese descent from across the Americas.

In 1948, he worked briefly as associate editor for the pictorial magazine *Nisei Vue*, which later reappeared as *Scene* magazine. Both magazines had offices in Canada and Brazil, with the hope of connecting with the Japanese communities in each country, along with Japan. While editor of the *Pacific Citizen*, Honda promoted several books by Japanese Canadian authors in its pages, such as Ken Adachi's “The Enemy That Never Was” and Toyo Takata's “Nikkei Legacy.”

Additionally, Honda was an active member of PANA, the Pan American Nikkei Assn. He attended every conference held since the organization's inception in 1981 until his death in 2013, traveling all over the Americas to Brazil, Peru, Mexico and Canada. In 1990, Honda covered the inauguration of Alberto Fujimori, who was elected president of Peru and the first world leader of Japanese descent outside of Japan.

Honda would later recall that shaking hands with Fujimori after his inauguration was a major milestone in his life. It was the first article on Fujimori that appeared in a U.S. newspaper. Honda later covered the PANA's meeting in Asunción, Paraguay, and later met with Fujimori at the Government Palace of Peru in Lima. Honda would continue to follow Fujimori's career and would provide critical coverage of Fujimori's coup in April 1992.

Spokesman for the P.C.

Throughout his career, Honda was interviewed by national news outlets about community-related issues or articles printed in the *P.C.*



Gwen Muranaka and Harry Honda at the 2012 PSW dinner

PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON

His role as editor made him a *de facto* spokesperson for the paper beyond its readership. For example, in October 1957, when Jim Kanno became the first mayor of Japanese descent in California, the *Oakland Tribune* printed a statement by Honda declaring Kanno's election a success for the community.

In the Jan. 13, 1959, edition of the *Los Angeles Times*, columnist Gene Sherman interviewed Honda in response to a *Newsweek* article that argued that the incarceration had a positive effect on the community. Honda responded bluntly: “To hold that evacuation was a blessing in disguise is like saying injustice results in justice, which is absurd on its face. We cannot see how a thing conceived in error can become a font of good things.”

In the 1990s, Honda participated in a campaign to recognize the multicultural history of Olvera Street in Los Angeles. He told Steve Harvey of the *Los Angeles Times*: “As a lad in need of dental care while in grade school in the 1920s, I well remember that my dentist, who was of Chinese descent, had his office upstairs in the Don Lugo Building on Los Angeles street facing the Plaza.”

On July 8, 2001, the *Chicago Tribune* ran an article highlighting the decline of Japantowns in the U.S. and spotlighted Honda's work to preserve the *Pacific Citizen* archives. “Noting some vacant buildings, businesses operated by other ethnic groups and the loss of land to outside development, Honda said it is ‘just trying to keep what's left alive.’”

Honda's words even rang in the halls of government. As a statement to his influence within the community, Rep. Norman Mineta honored Honda's accomplishments with a speech before the House of Representatives on Oct. 18, 1979. Mineta submitted to the Congressional Record his speech and a copy of Honda column's honoring the 50th anniversary of the JACL's creation.

Preserving the P.C.

Although Honda's greatest

legacy in the digital age is *Pacific Citizen*'s online digital archive, he also made efforts to preserve anything related to the history of the Japanese American community. On April 27, 1990, the *Los Angeles Times* reported on the closure of the Empire Printing Co. shop in Little Tokyo. As Tosh and Ich Nakajima emptied the shop's inventory, Honda saved volumes of Little Tokyo city directories from the 1930s with the hopes of documenting the prewar history of the neighborhood. The Nakajimas eventually donated their printing presses to JANM.

In the later years of his life, Honda endeavored to preserve the history of the *Pacific Citizen* by organizing the archives of the paper. Realizing that the *Pacific Citizen* was a valuable resource for students and historians, he spent years working on organizing back issues and digitizing old copies for the benefit of the public.

As Honda said in an interview with Leslie Ito from April 1998, “The whole point of the archives was to make it accessible to the public at large, especially to students who want to learn more about what the Japanese American community [and its history] was like during the war years. We're very proud of our material on World War II, the camp life, what the Nisei were able to accomplish during the war years.”

Today, nearly all of the back issues of the *Pacific Citizen* can be found on the *P.C.*'s website at pacificcitizen.org/digital-archives/, thanks in part to Honda's efforts.

A New Generation

As a testament to his kindness and foresight, it could be said that Honda's greatest contribution was the mentorship he offered to new journalists and JACL members. He was known by many as a welcoming individual who supported both new journalists and outsiders interested in supporting the community. As an editor, he shepherded new journalists into the profession and served as a



Harry Honda and George Yoshinaga

role model for future editors. *Pacific Citizen* columnist Gil Asakawa described Honda as being helpful during his association with the paper.

"He was an institution not only in the JA and JACL communities, but in journalism circles," Asakawa said. "He was well-known in the Asian American Journalists Assn. He was editor emeritus when I met him; at the time, I had started writing columns for the *P.C.* and had become *P.C.* Editorial Board chair. He was always helpful and friendly and was a natural mentor. We should all strive to be strong, sure voices like he was."

Ellen Endo, former managing editor of the *Rafu Shimpo*, remembers Honda's pithy way with words.

"In 2001, I had returned to [the] *Rafu* after a 25-year absence. Harry dropped by the *Rafu* office to welcome me back to Little Tokyo," she said. "I was excited to see him and commented on how well he looked, especially after so many years. Always humble, Harry noted that his doctors probably wouldn't agree with me. 'They have me on a strict diet: No white food,' he quipped. I must've looked puzzled, so he clarified, 'You know, no rice, bread, pasta, potatoes . . . ' Ah, leave it to Harry to pare things down to as few words as possible. He was the consummate editor."

Muranaka described Honda as a role model.

"He was very supportive and gave me a pep talk when things got difficult between *P.C.* and National JACL," she recalled. "He's a role model to me for balancing a love of what you do as a community journalist with your love of family. Harry was incredibly committed to the facts and making sure stories were reported accurately. I recall getting into a pretty heated argument with Harry when an official quoted the number 120,000 for Japanese Americans removed from the West Coast. He was adamant that we correct it to 110,000 and cited the reasons. I have many



Bill Hosokawa and Harry Honda



Harry Honda with file cabinet



Harry Honda and IBM selectric typewriter

fond memories of seeing Micki and Harry together at events and got to be friends with Patty over the years as well."

Within the JACL, Honda provided guidance at critical moments, often fostering a sense of welcome to newer generations. Former JACL President Floyd Shimomura, the first Sansei president of the organization, recalled, "Harry took me under his wing. I was 25 years younger than everyone on the board. He knew everyone and everything about JACL. When he saw me, he would chuckle and say 'Hey, what's up?' When I told him my concerns, Harry would provide background on the issues and personalities involved. He knew who was related to whom and the peculiar politics of every district. Behind his plain, 'Aw shucks' demeanor, he was a very intelligent and well-read guy. Everybody loved him."

Current JACL President Larry Oda, who described Honda as a "boon" for the JACL, said, "He was able to bring the activities of JACL to all the members to keep

them informed. I feel that he is an icon for Japanese Americans for his 50-plus years promoting our causes in the *Pacific Citizen* and his lifelong efforts to secure social justice and leadership and ethics in journalism for the community."

Beyond the Japanese American community, Honda was welcoming to non-Japanese Americans interested in preserving Japanese American history. When Greg Robinson announced the release of his book *Pacific Citizens*, featuring the columns of JACL editor Larry Tajiri, Honda gladly supported Robinson's project by writing a foreword for the book. When the book was released, Honda applauded Robinson's efforts to preserve the history of one of the *P.C.*'s most influential writers.

For Robinson, it was Honda's support for the LGBT community that stood out.

"One thing that especially impressed me about Harry Honda was his openness. When I started writing columns for the *Nichi Bei Times* in 2007, I instituted an annual Queer history column," he

said. "The following year, I met Harry at the Japanese American National Museum conference in Denver, Colo. I saw that he wrote afterwards that he had been excited to meet me because of my interest in LGBT Japanese Americans and in equal rights. In his column in the July 18, 2008, issue of the *P.C.*, Harry wrote: 'I wanted to meet (and fortunately did later) Greg Robinson, professor and *Nichibei Times* columnist. His latest column, 'Another Look at Our Queer Nikkei Heritage,' reveals [that] Nikkei gays and lesbians comprise 'a vital component of the Nikkei community.' Such openness was still a fairly rare quality among the Nisei generation, and I was grateful for his sympathetic interest."

Honda's Living Legacy

Ten years after his death, Harry Honda's legacy lives on. Whether through the mentorship he offered to aspiring journalists or his work to preserve the *Pacific Citizen*, he transformed the *P.C.* into one of the leading platforms in Asian American media. As a concluding example, the following is something Honda said in an interview describing the importance of community journalism. It captures not only his devotion to the profession, but his insights into the power of journalism.

"Well, I'll always believe that as long as there are problems affecting Asian Americans and Japanese Americans in particular, there will be a need for JACL or an organization like it. And for an organization to be effective, it needs a public media, a public voice, a public way of disseminating information."

Well said, Harry Honda. Well said.

This article was made possible by the Harry K. Honda Memorial Journalism Fund, which was established by JACL Redress Strategist Grant Ujifusa.

CONVENTION » continued from page 2

so and rebook at the Westin Bonaventure. Not all reservations are refundable, and you will have to check your specific terms regarding cancellations. Those who are covered by the JACL block such as staff, national board and a few performers/speakers will be automatically moved to the Miyako Hotel in Little Tokyo.

How can I confirm the status of my hotel?

Please wait until JACL has more information before contacting the organization. The DoubleTree will notify you of the cancellation by email. JACL will update you when you can contact the Westin Bonaventure to confirm that your reservation has been entered.

Transportation Options?

JACL is working on a Convention shuttle. There is also a free "Dash" bus, which is nearly a direct trip from the hotel to Little Tokyo. This is the recommended means of traveling between Little Tokyo and the Hotel between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. on weekends.

Venues

Following is a summary of where National Convention events will now be held for which JACL has received confirmation:

- **Wednesday:** National Board meeting, committee meetings and orientations will be held at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel.
- **Thursday:** National Council Session and "Question 27, Question 28" will be held at the Aratani Theater at the JACCC.
- **Friday and Saturday:** Plenaries and workshops will be held at JANM, and the National Youth/Student Council Awards Luncheon will be held at the Kaikan at the Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple.

Some events remain unchanged, such as the film festival (JANM), Welcome Reception (Budokan), Sayonara Banquet (JACCC Courtyard) and all Sunday activities remain the same.

Refunds?

JACL will be offering refunds if you would like to request one. Please email convention@jacl.org by July 18, however we do hope you will still join us!

For the most up-to-date information, please visit www.jacl.org.



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SAN JOSE JACL AWARDS 2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

This year's awardees received a total of \$21,000 from the chapter.

By San Jose JACL Chapter

San Jose JACL held its 2023 Scholarship Luncheon on May 6 at the Issei Memorial Building. Scholarships totaling \$21,000 were awarded to four of seven recipients who were present. Sharon Uyeda, scholarship chair and co-president of the chapter, announced the following recipients:

- Claudia Escorcía, a graduate of Fremont High School, was awarded the \$1,000 Kaysee Tsuji Memorial Scholarship by brother Chris Tsuji.
- Kai Iwamoto, a graduate of Lynbrook High School, was awarded the \$2,500 Shogo and Chiyo Hikido Memorial Scholarship by Kelly Shimabukuro, representing the Hikido family.

- Emi Kosakura, a graduate of Monta Vista High School, was awarded the \$10,000 Oyama Family Foundation Scholarship (\$2,500 this year and \$2,500 for the following three years). Margie Oyama, representing the Oyama family, made the presentation.
 - Mari Yamashita, a graduate of Branham High School, was awarded the \$1,000 San Jose JACL Chapter Award by Tom Oshidari, co-president of the chapter.
- The following three recipients were unable to attend the luncheon. They are:
- Keila Barton, a graduate of the King's Academy, is the recipient of a \$1,000 Ninja Youth Foundation Scholarship.
 - Aidan Beaver, a graduate of



San Jose JACL Chapter Co-President and Scholarship Chair Sharon Uyeda and Chapter Co-President Tom Oshidari are pictured (from left) with this year's honorees Claudia Escorcía, Mari Yamashita, Kai Iwamoto and Emi Kosakura. Not pictured are Keila Barton, Aidan Beaver and Kailyn Beaver.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF SAN JOSE JACL

University Preparatory Academy, is the recipient of the \$2,500 George Masunaga Endowment Scholarship and a \$1,000 Ninja Youth Foundation Scholarship.

- Kailyn Beaver, a graduate of University Preparatory Academy, is the recipient of the \$1,000 Ray and Lucy Matsumoto Business Scholarship and the \$1,000 Masuo and Machiko Nakamura Memorial

Scholarship.

The members of this year's selection committee were Gary Jio, Mitsu Kumagai and JoAnn Okabe-Kubo. Congratulations to all of the award recipients! ■

GUADALUPE » continued from page 4



Harry (left) and Brian Masatani run the 100-year-old Masatani Market, the town's largest market.



Hirahara spoke about the research she did for her book "An American Son: The Story of George Aratani." She talked about George's father, Setsuo, an iconic figure in Guadalupe who passed away prior to WWII. After Hirahara's presentation,

Tom Brandeberry, an official from the city, spoke about plans to restore and renovate the Royal Theater. In addition, Garret Matsuura discussed the plan to have the site function as a performing arts center for youth in the town. The session ended with a brief history of the Guadalupe Buddhist Church from Rev. Naomi Nakano, who thanked everyone for coming to the program.

After these presentations, everyone was invited to enjoy a

bento lunch while they watched "Moving Memories," a video by the Japanese American National Museum featuring home movies taken by Issei prior to the war.

After lunch, the group boarded the bus to take a tour of the theater, where a Latinx man and his family just happened to be walking by the theater and explained that his father managed the theater after the war, and he remembered playing in the theater as a child.

Kitty-corner to the theater was the 100-year-old Masatani Market. Sansei Brian Masatani still runs the store, which is the largest market in town. In addition to touring the store, Masatani asked if the group was interested in seeing his father's house, which was a beautifully preserved Victorian mansion and a throwback to another time. Brian's father was there to greet the group.

"What a special treat and surprise we had touring the beautiful home and this legacy grocery store. We were able to visualize how Guadalupe was a thriving Japanese American community through personal accounts of local residents," said McCormick.

The tour ended with a visit to

the Guadalupe Cemetery, where Hirahara was able to take the group to the Aratani family gravesite.

Hirahara aptly summarized the trip, "We had a blast in Guadalupe, Calif., along the Central Coast. Regarding the main street, I was tickled to see Chicago Chop Suey, which apparently is not an eatery, but someone's home. Guadalupe, Calif., population 7,000, is absolutely charming, and I hope the historic main drag is preserved."

Added McCormick, "To get immersed in the Guadalupe community's commitment to a meaningful cause, which amplifies the theme of honoring and preserving the heritage and legacy of Japanese Americans, made this an amazing trip." ■



The group enjoyed a bento lunch while they viewed "Moving Memories," a video produced by JANM of home movies taken by Issei prior to World War II.

Published by the Japanese American National Museum

- Available from JANM Museum Store in paperback for \$18.95
- Available as an Audible audiobook (must subscribe to Audible). Narrated by Brian Nishii.

"An American Son" by Naomi Hirahara, the story of the life of philanthropist George Aratani

PHOTOS: NAOMI HIRAHARA

FAME » continued from page 5

At the June 5 ceremony, Fujii's niece, Nancy Ukai, a community activist, JACL member and also a *Pacific Citizen* Editorial Board representative, accepted the Hall of Fame award on behalf of her late aunt.

Describing her joy of seeing her late aunt included in the Hall of Fame, Ukai shared this statement: "It was so moving to be in a room with librarians who talked about their love of what they do. I hadn't experienced that kind of positivity

in a long time. It made me proud that my aunt, a Nisei who grew up in her home without books in English, was inducted into a group of such dedicated professionals.

"Librarians want us to borrow things for free. They want us to enjoy reading, thinking and getting lost in new worlds," Nancy Ukai continued. "My aunt, who wrote and loved to read, would have been

shocked to know that she is now in the hallowed company of Hiroshi Kashiwagi, Clara Breed and Ray Bradbury, in part because she was able to break a race barrier and surmount a hearing disability."

With Fujii's induction into the CLA Hall of Fame, Japanese Americans and members of the disability community alike can be proud of this accomplishment.

Also noteworthy is the California Library Assn.'s efforts to memorialize people of color who shaped California's literary landscape and helped to preserve its history.

This article was made possible by the Harry K. Honda Memorial Journalism Fund, which was established by JACL Redress Strategist Grant Ujifusa.

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

NATIONAL

JACL National Convention
Los Angeles, CA
July 19-23
Doubletree by Hilton Hotel
120 S. Los Angeles St.
Price: Registration Required/Virtual Rates Also Available

Come join JACL at its annual National Convention, which will be held in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo this July! This year's confab will include a welcome reception at the Terasaki Budokan, Youth Awards Luncheon, Sayonara Banquet at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, David Ono's "Defining Courage" and a Tamlyn Tomita-led reading of "Question 27, Question 28," as well as workshops, plenaries and National Council sessions.

Info: For more information and to register, visit www.jacl.org.

Irei — A National Monument for the WWII Japanese American Incarceration
Los Angeles, CA
JANM
100 N. Central Ave.

The *Ireishō* 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 as a way to honor those incarcerated. The project's online archive is now searchable alphabetically or by camp.

Info: Visit ireizo.com for more information and janm.org.

NCWNP

Nihonmachi Street Fair
San Francisco, CA
July 29; Noon-4 p.m.
Japantown Peace Plaza
22 Peace Plaza
Price: Free

Japantown is going to come alive with various events this summer with the Nihonmachi Street Fair. Taking place in the heart of Japantown, come and embrace and experience AAPI culture with food, exhibits, arts and crafts and much more!

Info: Visit nihonmachistreetfair.org.

Celebrate JCCNC's 50th Anniversary with 'Nobuko Miyamoto's 120,000 Stories'
San Francisco, CA
Aug. 5; 2-5 p.m.

Presidio Theatre
2340 Chestnut St.
Price: Tickets Prices Vary

Experience a multigenerational event with Nobuko Miyamoto as she presents her "120,000 Stories," which will feature a team of musicians using video images and song to take the audience on a journey that starts with her immigrant grandparents from Japan to her own incarceration during World War II to her career on Broadway and Hollywood, her own multiracial family and the challenges all families face today.

Info: To purchase tickets, visit <https://www.presidiotheatre.org/show/2023-nobuko-miyamotos-120000-stories/>.

'Hell: Arts of Asian Underworld'
San Francisco, CA
Thru Sept. 18
Asian Art Museum
200 Larkin St.
Price: Admission Required

From the humorous to the grotesque, see the many ways that Asian cultures have envisioned the realm of the condemned over time. Organized as a journey, view various conceptions of the underworld, finally arriving at depictions of the ways one might potentially make an escape or exit from Hell.

Info: Visit exhibitions.asianart.org.

PSW

Aki's Market (A Project by Glenn Akira Kaino)
Los Angeles, CA
Opens June 30
Japanese American National Museum
100 N. Central Ave.
Price: Check Website for Admission Tickets

Created by artist Glenn Akira Kaino, the exhibition explores the transgenerational trauma from the WWII Japanese American incarceration experience through the stories of Kaino, his family and the community. It is also an interrogation of the American practice of displacement — collapsing almost 100 years of cultural subjugation into a spiritual, exploratory space.

Info: Visit janm.org.

A Panel Discussion: Shuukatsu
San Diego, CA
July 30; 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Public Library
Community Room
9005 Aero Dr.
Price: Free
 Shuukatsu in Japan refers to planning ahead for the last phase of life. Are you

prepared for you and your family? This discussion will feature various speakers to help inform participants about unexpected injuries or illnesses that can impact your family, information on advance health care planning, hospice, home care, long-term care planning and much more! All are welcome to attend. This event is sponsored by the San Diego chapter of the JACL.

Info: Contact sandiegojacl@gmail.com.

Natsumatsuri Family Festival
Los Angeles, CA
Aug. 12; 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
JANM
100 N. Central Ave.
Price: Free But RSVPs Requested

The museum's annual summer celebration features cultural performances, crafts and activities for families and kids of all ages. Festivities will include performances by TAIKOPROJECT and Yu-ki Project, souvenir photos, origami, scavenger hunt for prizes, and free admission to see "Don't Fence Me In: Coming of Age in America's Concentration Camps" and "Glenn Kaino: Aki's Market."

Info: Visit janm.org.

Keiro No Hi Festival
Los Angeles, CA
Sept. 17; 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
JANM
100 N. Central Ave.
Price: Registration Required

Join Keiro for live entertainment, interactive activities, access to JANM exhibitions, food and much more! Attendance will be limited and available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Registration is required and opened July 3.

Info: Visit www.keiro.org.

PNW

2023 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage
July 27-29
Powell and Cody, WY

This year's pilgrimage will explore the themes of cross-cultural allies and friendships. The summer exhibit features the remarkable story of the J-Flats community and shows how our racial and ethnic differences do not have to divide us. The Marshall family will also be honored with the HMWF's LaDonna Zall Compassionate Witness Award.

Info: Visit heartmountain.org.

'Parallel Barbed Wire' Exhibit
Powell, WY
Now Open
Heart Mountain Interpretive Center

1539 Road 19

This new exhibit features the remarkable stories of Heart Mountain incarcerated Clarence Matsumura and Holocaust survivor Solly Ganor. Matsumura served in the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion and rescued Ganor. The exhibit details their remarkable friendship throughout their lives.

Info: Visit www.heartmountain.org for exhibit information and further details.

'hapa.me' Exhibit
Portland, OR
Thru Aug. 13
Japanese American Museum of Oregon
Naito Center
411 N.W. Flanders St.
Price: Museum Admission

Artist Kip Fulbeck created the Hapa Project in 2001, traveling the country to photograph more than 1,200 volunteers who identified as "hapa," the Hawaiian transliteration of the English word "half." Since then, the number of people in the U.S. who identify as more than one race has grown exponentially, and this exhibit addresses that progress and revisits volunteer participants 15 years after their initial photographs were taken.

Info: Visit www.jamo.org.

MDC

Camp Daikon
Chicago, IL
July 29-30

Calling all Japanese, Japanese American and Nikkei-identifying young people (ages 16-29) in the Chicagoland area interested in social justice! Camp Daikon is a two-day retreat of workshops and activities on activism, identity, arts and community-building. Details and registration link available this month. This event is organized by Next Generation Nikkei of JACL Chicago and Nikkei Uprising.

Info: Contact jaclchicago.org.

Japanese American Community Picnic
Chicago, IL
Aug; 5; 1 p.m.
LaBagh Woods Grove #1
Price: Free

Join the broader Japanese American community in Chicago for its annual community picnic. The fun will include a potluck lunch, as well as many games and activities for children. It's always a fun time and a great chance to reconnect with friends and community members.

Info: Contact jaclchicago.org.

Twin Cities JACL's Summer Picnic
Edina, MN
Aug. 6; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Rosland Park
4300 W. 66th St.
Price: Free
 Save the date for the Twin Cities JACL's Summer Picnic, which is back after

several years due to the Covid pandemic. This summer get-together will be filled with great friends, food, activities and much more. Stay tuned, as more information will follow.

Info: Contact tcjacl.org.

EDC

Japanese Tea Ceremony
Duxbury, MA
July 30; 2 p.m.
Art Complex Museum
Tea House
189 Alden St.

This ceremony will be performed by tea masters from Urasenke Boston, and a narrator will explain the ceremony as it unfolds in the tea hut. All are welcome on a first-come, first-served basis..

Info: Visit <https://artcomplex.org/programs/japanese-tea-ceremony/>.

Book Talk: 'Our Missing Hearts' (Paperback Launch)
Brookline, MA
Aug. 22; 6 p.m.
Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard St.
Price: Tickets Required

From Celeste Ng comes the inspiring new novel about a mother's unbreakable love. A young boy is pulled into a quest to find his mother after he receives a mysterious letter containing a cryptic drawing, thus pulling him into a quest to find her.

Info: Visit <https://www.brookline-booksmith.com/event/celeste-ng-emily-habek-our-missing-hearts-paperback-launch>.

'New Voices: On Transformation'
New York, NY
Thru Aug. 25
Print Center New York
535 W. 24th St.

This is the inaugural exhibition of Print Center New York. One of the eight artists featured in this group exhibition is Lois Harada, a NE JACL member from Providence, RI. Along with Harada will be works by Eriko Tsogo, Aaron Coleman, Julia Curran, Juana Estrada Hernandez, Nina Jordan and Jacquelyn Strycker.

Info: Visit <https://www.printcenternewyork.org/new-voices-on-transformation>.

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:
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In MEMORIAM

June Sato Dies June 15 at Age 94

She was married to former JACL National President Frank Sato for 70 years.

By P.C. Staff

June Noriko Matsusawa Sato died of natural causes on June 15 in Laguna Niguel, Calif. She was 94.

Sato, who was born in Tacoma, Wash., was the only child of Tsunesaku Matsusawa and Masao Kikuchi. She was married to Frank Sato on June 14, 1953. "We believe mom waited until after their 70th wedding anniversary to leave us," according to an email from their daughter, Teresa Sato, who noted that her mother went to sleep and "just didn't wake up" and was never in any pain or discomfort.

June Sato's husband was Puyallup, Wash.-born Frank Sato, who served as JACL national president from 1984-86 and during his many years of government service was the inspector general for the Department of Veterans Affairs circa 1981. According to Floyd Shimomura, who preceded Sato as JACL national president, Sato was the "highest-ranking Japanese American" who served during the administration of President Ronald Reagan (see *Pacific Citizen*, Aug. 30, 2019, issue). Prior to that, he served in the administration of President Jimmy Carter as the inspector general of the Department of Transportation.

"We were married for 70 years. So, I just feel so blessed," Frank Sato told the *Pacific Citizen*. "I'm just filled with gratefulness for having her."

The couple met in 1948, a few years after June was released from being incarcerated at the Tule Lake War Relocation Authority Center and had returned to Tacoma, where she attended the Whitney Methodist Church. Frank recalled how meeting June at a church youth group meeting as an 18-year-old was a real-life love-at-first sight situation.

"I had to go to Tacoma for some business for my dad, and afterwards, I thought, 'Well, it's Friday night, the youth group should be meeting,' so I went by to join the youth group at their meeting."

"I walked in this room, and there were three young girls across the other side of the room, and for whatever reason, she got my attention right away. During the course of the evening, I went over and introduced myself. . . . Before the evening was over, I asked her for a phone number and asked her if I could call her. And she said yes, and I called her back, and we had our first date a week later."

It would, however, be five years before June and Frank tied the proverbial knot. "In those days," Frank Sato said, "if you didn't have a job, you didn't even think about getting married. I worked to save money



June Sato (foreground) and Frank Sato (standing) were married for 70 years and one day. She died of natural causes on June 15 at 94.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE SATO FAMILY

and go to college. And the day after I got my degree, we were married." He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Washington. During that time, June was also pursuing higher education. She graduated from the University of Washington's Nursing School in 1952.

"She got her RN before I finished college, and she was working as a nurse," Frank Sato said, adding that once they started having children — five in all — her priority became taking care of the brood. He added, however, that after the kids had left for college, she worked in public health and for a pediatric physician.

Frank Sato was particularly impressed with June Sato's resourcefulness and organizational abilities, citing how, when he went ahead from Southern California to find housing in Washington, D.C., when he was transferred for his auditing career with the federal government, she "traveled across country with five kids by herself" — with the youngest, Dean, just four months old.

Teresa Sato also vouches for her mother's abilities. "Mom was an amazing cook and baker. . . . She frequently made all the food for

dinner parties with 30-40 people from dad's office," she noted. "We all remember how organized she was, kept the house immaculate despite having four boys, cooked all our meals from scratch, and we always had homemade dessert after dinner."

As for adjusting to life in the nation's capital, Frank Sato said his wife, "loved Washington, D.C. . . . I had an unbelievable career. I worked for the Reagan administration for eight years, the Carter administration for two years. And you know, she was always supportive of everything I did. She enjoyed Washington, the kids enjoyed Washington. It is almost an unbelievable kind of marriage situation."

Frank Sato attested to how June Sato was the secret weapon behind his successful career. "People wanted to come to work for me, and part of that was June helped me build the morale of my staff and my leadership."

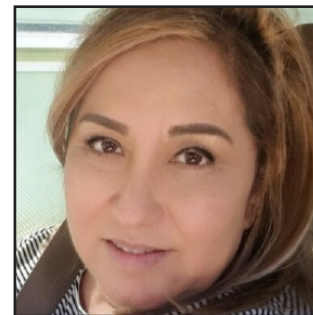
Thinking back over the 70 years of marriage to June, Frank said, "You know, we had an incredible time together. My job had me traveling around the world, and I took her to as many places as I could." Those locales included Cairo, Egypt, Paris, London, China, Japan (several times), Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. There was also a historic state dinner they attended at the State Department when the guest was the crown prince of Japan. "He of course is the man who is currently the emperor of Japan," he noted.

In addition to husband Frank Sato and daughter Teresa Sato (and her husband, Rick Wilkerson), June Sato is survived by her children, John Sato (Cynthia), Greg Sato (Holly) and Glenn Sato, as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Son Dean Sato died in 1980.

Remembering his life with June, Frank said, "All I can say, I was always just a pretty lucky guy to meet her when I did."

Arakaki, Stanley Kenso, 95, Honolulu, HI, Feb. 2.

Fujii, Mark M., 59, Honolulu, HI, Jan. 15; 2 B.A.s, University of Hawaii; he is survived by his wife, Colleen; stepson, Anthony Pirl (Marian); sister, Stacey Fujii; and brother-in-law, John Walz.



Harada, Sherry Marie Keiko, 52, Miliani, HI, March 10; she is survived by her husband, Kevin; sons, Michael J. K. Harada and Jonathan N. K. Harada; parents, Russell K. Takara and Madeline (Terry) Takara; siblings, Chad Takara and Lisa Higa (Kevin).

Ishii, Sumiko, 91, Springfield, VA, Feb. 12; she is survived by her husband, Masaharu; daughters, Sylvia (Robert) Malinowski, Carol Devine and Audrey (Donald) Curran; brothers, Osamu (Michiko), Tadashi (Nagako) and Hiroshi (Chizu); gc: 7; ggc: 2.

Nakata, Jeanette Ayako, 88, Torrance, CA, Feb. 24; she is survived by her brothers Ken (Jen) Nakata and Ronald Nakata; sister-in-law, Inez Nakata; and many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Okumura, Gerald, 78, Sacramento, CA, Feb. 13; he was predeceased by his brother, Richard Okumura; he is survived by his wife, Carleen; children, Michael and Lesley Kelley (Sean); and sister, Gale Okumura; gc: 2.

Tani, Yoshiko, 101, St. Paul, MN, Dec. 3, 2022; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Minidoka WRA Center in ID; B.S., Milwaukee-Dowder College; activities included volunteering for the St. Paul YMCA, Ramsey County Medical Society, Metropolitan Committee on Aging, the Red Cross, the St. Paul/Nagasaki Sister City Community, JACL and JASM; she was predeceased by her husband, George; and brothers, Aiji Uchiyama and Hiroshi Uchiyama; she is survived by her children, Paul (Barb), Douglas (Linnea), Kay (Tom) Winegarden; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and friends; gc: 7; ggc: 10.

Uyetake, Kenji, 78, Seal Beach, CA, May 22; he is survived by his wife, Pam Sasuga; sons Kenny (Amanda) Uyetake and Joey Uyetake; his sister, Sue Miyazaki; and by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Yamaguchi, Tamiko, 86, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 17; during WWII, while incarcerated at the Manzanar WRA Center, she was adopted by Keikoh Kitahara after the death of her father; she is survived by her husband, Jack; children, Kevin (Roblay), Douglas (Lina) and Russell (Janet); siblings, Tamio (Helene) Kitahara and Yuki (Cedric) Morita Scott; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6.

TRIBUTE

OSAMU SHIMADA



Osamu Sam Shimada passed away on June 21, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Fumie, children, Warren (Liz), Howard and Cheryl, and five grandchildren. A memorial service will take place at the Sacramento Buddhist Church in Sacramento on Sunday, July 16, at 1 p.m. Casual attire and otoki following.

TRIBUTE

BRUCE FRANK YAMANAKA



March 10, 1965-April 14, 2023
Resident of Alameda, Calif.

Bruce passed away at the age of 58. He was the youngest son born to Ben and Helen Yamanaka. Bruce is survived by his mother, Helen, brother, Benjamin, and sons Brendan and Brady. Bruce was preceded in death by his father, Ben Yamanaka.

Bruce was born in Yokosuka, Japan, and moved to Alameda Calif., as a child. He attended and graduated from Donald D. Lum Grade School,

Will C. Wood Middle School and Encinal High School. Bruce went to work at UPS and the San Jose Arena.

Bruce moved to Colorado, where he got married to Molly Purcell and had two sons, Brendan and Brady.

Bruce later returned to Alameda and became the caretaker to his father and mother. He took a job working at Pear Tree Produce Co.

He was a loving son, a caring father and a wonderful brother and will be missed by all.

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REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY

By Craig Gima

Social Security is your money — you earned it through a lifetime of hard work. And like most Americans, that money is needed to help cover living expenses and pay bills. According to AARP research, about 1.85 million Asian Americans receive Social Security benefits, and roughly one in three Asian Americans 65 and older rely on the program for at least half of their income. About 15 percent of Asian Americans rely on it for 90 percent of their income.

Here are five things to know about Social Security.

1. When can I start collecting Social Security?

You are eligible to receive Social Security as early as age 62. However, the longer you wait to start

collecting after you become eligible (up until age 70), the larger your annual payments will be. For those who are eligible for survivor benefits or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), you can start collecting earlier.

2. Can I collect Social Security while working?

Yes, you can collect payments while working. In fact, 26 percent of Social Security recipients in 2023 are still working. But if you are below full retirement age (67) and earn more than a certain amount, your monthly payments will be temporarily reduced. Once you reach full retirement age, your payments will be increased to make up for any previous reduction in benefits caused by earning more than the limit.

3. How much will I receive each

year from Social Security?

Your Social Security income will be dependent on multiple factors, but the most important is your lifetime earnings from work. The Social Security Administration takes your 35 highest-earnings years, calculates an inflation-adjusted average and plugs this information into a formula to find your “basic” benefit. How old you are when you claim Social Security will also impact the amount you receive.

AARP’s Social Security Calculator (www.aarp.org) can help you estimate how much you will receive.

4. What is the maximum Social Security payment I can receive each month?

In 2023, the highest monthly payment for Social Security is \$3,627; however, the average retirement benefit is \$1,833. To receive the maximum payment, your earnings must exceed the maximum taxable income for at least 35 working years, and you must be at full retirement age, which is age 67 for people born in 1960 or later.

5. How do I sign up for Social Security?

You can apply for retirement, spousal or disability benefits

online at ssa.gov, by phone (800) 772-1213 or in person at your local Social Security office. Find the local office closest to you at ssa.gov/locator.

If you do call, be prepared to wait on hold for an average of 34 minutes. Last year, almost half of the 151 million calls to the SSA’s national 1-800-number and field offices went unanswered, including 16.4 million callers who gave up while waiting. So far this year, almost one-third of calls to SSA’s local field offices across the country have not been answered.

That’s unacceptable, and AARP is urging Congress to increase funding for the Social Security

Administration to improve customer service. More than 200,000 AARP members have sent emails to Congress demanding long-overdue improvements. You can join the effort by going to action.aarp.org/secure/fund-social-security.

In a 2020 survey of older voters, 83 percent of Asian American/Pacific Islander voters said it was extremely or very important to secure the future of Social Security. To learn more about what AARP is doing to protect Social Security and about the benefits you’ve earned, go to aarp.org/youearnedit.

Craig Gima is the communications director for AARP Hawai’i.



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