



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

Pictured (from left) are Kimi Tanaka (Poston), Chiyo Hiraoka (Gila River) and sisters Iyo Tamaki and Kay Yamashita (Topaz) at the Nisei Student Relocation Council Office in Philadelphia in January 1944.

PHOTO: WARTIME RELOCATION AUTHORITY IN DENSHO ENCYCLOPEDIA



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## PAYING IT FORWARD

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**Endowment Established to Remember Franklin Odo.**



# Membership Month Continues: Thank You & New Benefits!

By Ashley Bucher,  
JACL Membership Manager

Happy October, and happy Membership Month! Whether you're brand new or have been with us for many years, we all feel exceptionally thankful to have members as loyal, giving and caring as you. Seriously — I am blown away by the high response to our surveys, the thoughtful feedback to our membership amendment, the recent jump in premium and life memberships and so much more.

I'm especially thankful for our membership chairs. Each JACL chapter has a chair that is also part of our National Membership Committee, started in 2018 by Haruka Roudebush. NMC meets about once a month to discuss membership ideas and news.

Our chairs participate in NMC, help renew memberships, engage new members and a plethora of other duties (some of our chairs are also presidents!). As JACL membership manager, it has been so rewarding

to get to know our chairs and the tireless work that they do.

Sharon Uyeda personally reaches out about San Jose membership renewals. Robert Hirai (Boise Valley) and Eileen Yamada Lamphere (Puyallup Valley) transcribed dozens of handwritten responses to last year's survey. Ken Inouye spearheaded the complex merge of SELANOCO and Orange County chapters. Kim Hirose leads a membership committee to welcome new Washington, D.C., members and more. These are just a few highlights. Please be sure to thank your chapter's membership chair this month!

As part of Membership Month, we also wanted to refresh JACL membership benefits. Our benefits continue to include:

- Subscription to the *Pacific Citizen* Digital Edition (add additional \$17 for the Print Edition)
- Free admission to the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles
- Access to the National JACL

Credit Union

- AARP Membership at a discounted rate
- Access to JACL Youth Programs, including JACL Scholarships up to \$5,000, internships and fellowships, and more
- Special benefits based on your membership category, including Couple/Family and Premium Spouse Members can get two subscriptions to the *P.C.* Digital Edition, exclusive invites for Premium Members and more.

We are also excited to announce new benefits (special thank you to Phillip Ozaki for these)! These include:

- 10 percent off all tiers of Taiko Community Alliance Membership
- Free streaming for all of October 2023 brought to you by Taidaima: A Community Virtual Pilgrimage, featuring three films: "Removed by Force" from the JACL Honolulu chapter; shorts



from Mitchell Matsumura, JACL member and collaborator; and "Hito Hata," a film from Visual Communications, our National Convention sponsor and film fest partner

- Visit the MIS Historic Learning Center for free on Nov. 12 through the National Japanese American Historical Society
- An added Membership Category Benefit: Life Members are acknowledged on our virtual Life Member Wall.

*Please visit [jacl.org/benefits](http://jacl.org/benefits) for details, and stay tuned for more Membership Month news. Thank you for being a JACL member!*

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*'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

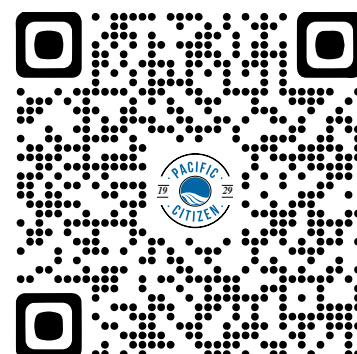


## JACL MEMBERS

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### WHAT CAN WE SAY?

By David Inoue,  
JACL Executive Director

JACL has had a policy of non-engagement on international issues, particularly issues pertaining to Japan and Israel. The former likely derives from our history and desire to largely delineate the difference between us as Japanese Americans versus Japanese citizens. For some who are fourth or fifth generation, their connection to Japan is likely less than that to Mexico or Canada. And for some, the scars of incarceration have led to even a distancing from Japan.

The latter, as we have seen throughout the past 75 years of history and especially today, can be one subject to polarization and misinterpretation of intent or meaning from one's words, which I am sure as I delve into this, will likely happen with what I write here as my own personal opinion and not speaking for JACL. I do hope it

gives some perspective as to how I see this issue and how I hope we can have constructive conversation about it. I also offer the caveat that this one column is not enough to go into the complexities of the issues and the politics of the region, which I hope everyone is taking the time to better understand on their own.

In our recent statement in response to the murder of Wade Al-Fayoumi, we spoke out on the domestic hate crime against an innocent 6-year-old as a result of enflamed rhetoric from the Israel-Palestine conflict. Unfortunately, many were left wanting for more, whether a stronger show of support for Israel and condemnation of Hamas, or calling attention to the plight of the Palestinian people both in their daily existence or made much worse under the barrage of Israel's retaliatory attacks.

First, I begin with the existence of Israel as a nation in modern times, in fact only for the past 75 years since

they declared their independence. Obviously, it harkens back to thousands of years ago when the Jewish people occupied the same region before various ruling empires and other groups taking over led to the Jewish diaspora. Any Israeli will also be quick to point out that Jews never left the area, they were simply in the minority for those many years. And, of course, there is the role the Holocaust played in hastening the desire of much of the world to re-establish a Jewish homeland.

For Israelis, they view themselves as the rightful inhabitants of the land from a claim thousands of years old. They are just as much indigenous to the land as the Palestinians, who are the most recent residents for the past few centuries.

For Palestinians, they were obviously forced from their land in what is known widely as Nakba and segregated in the regions of the Gaza strip and the Western Bank or in another diaspora, scattered across other nations that would accept them, though that has been relatively limited, especially here in the United States. And there are those who remained in Israel, just as the Jews had previously remained.

The result with the occupied territories of Gaza and the Western Bank is what Amnesty International

and others accurately describe as an apartheid system. They remain a people without a country, unable to claim Israeli citizenship, and no Palestinian state to claim as theirs. All resources in the occupied territories remain under Israeli control and can be leveraged against the residents, as is being done now with electricity and water access cut off for residents of Gaza. The devastation experienced by the Gaza strip since Oct. 7 is overwhelming and nothing less than a humanitarian disaster.

Despite talk of aspirations for a two-state solution, Israeli settlers have continued to move into the occupied territories of the Western Bank. The Israeli government now engages in actively defending and protecting these lands as Israeli, and the likelihood of them being returned grows less the longer Israeli settlers remain. These encroachments leave little hope for Palestinians that the occupied territories will be returned to the Palestinian people, certainly not with the previously presumed borders.

So, where does this leave us, both as Americans and for those of us in the JACL? What can we say? What should we say?

We need an end to the violence now. Calling for peace and a cease fire is a matter of humanity, regardless

of whether it is an international or domestic issue. We can and should affirm the right for both an Israeli and Palestinian nation state with each having the right of self-determination. This does mean Israel has the right to defend itself, but within the constricts of proportionality and not to violate human rights or international law. Palestinians must have their own country, period.

While we may be supportive of one or even both sides, we also need to be critical when necessary. The attack by Hamas was brutal, but Israel's response has far exceeded the deaths, injury and destruction of property.

Most of all, we need to have these conversations about what the vision for Israel and Palestine might be. For too long, we have ignored this issue as a country, and both people are paying the price. Even if JACL remains focused on domestic issues, we see that the impact of what is happening in Israel and Palestine ultimately does impact us here. The death of Wade Al-Fayoumi was unnecessary, as are the thousands of deaths in the Middle East.

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



## LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

### THE TROUBLE WITH FALLS

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

Did you know that FALLS are the leading cause of accidental death in older adults? Every 15 minutes, an older adult dies from a fall-related injury. According to a special health report from Harvard Medical School called "Better Balance," every 11 seconds, an adult age 65 or older is treated in the emergency department for an injury from a fall.

Balance is a complex phenomenon involving your eyes, ears, muscles and

brain. It's something you may take for granted . . . that is until you suffer a serious fall. As an old adage tells us, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Scan this list for any problems that raise your risk of falling. Then, take action.

• **Eye (eyewear) problem:** Reading glasses, bifocals, trifocals and progressive lenses are enormously helpful in correcting vision, but they can be hazardous when you're walking. Also, decreasing depth perception, reduced sensitivity to

contrast and vision less than 20/60 all contribute to falls. So do eye disorders. Fixes: Have your eyes tested annually. Discuss options for correcting your vision. Install appropriately bright lighting at home.

• **Poor posture:** Poor posture can throw your body off balance. Fixes: Try to stand up straight. Check your posture. Here's what to aim for: chin parallel to the floor, ears in line with your shoulders and shoulders in line with your hips.

• **Weak muscle:** Loss of strength and power — particularly in the lower body — erodes balance. Fixes: Exercise can improve strength, reflexes and balance, while stretches enhance flexibility.

• **Stiff, sore joints:** Stiff joints limit movement and make it harder to catch yourself if you do trip. Because it may be painful to walk, you may move less, which over time will

contribute to further pain, muscle loss and stiffness. Fixes: Discuss ways to ease painful, swollen joints with your doctor. Strengthening exercises and stretches will help, too. If you are overweight, try to lose weight.

• **Weak ankles:** Weak ankles or stiff, inflexible ankle joints make walking harder. Stumbles may occur more when the rear foot doesn't clear the ground properly. Fixes: Stretches and strengthening exercises will help.

• **Foot pain:** Foot pain or numbness may make falls more likely. Fixes: Discuss options for easing pain with your doctor. Call your doctor if you notice pain, burning or numbness in your feet.

• **Unstable shoes:** High heels, slip-on shoes, loose slippers and smooth, slippery soles may promote falls. Fixes: Wear sturdy shoes, preferably with low or flat heels and nonskid, rubber soles. Avoid wearing just socks.

• **Chronic diseases:** Blood pressure fluctuations, heart problems, inner ear disorders and nerve damage are among the ailments that contribute to falls. Fixes: Consult your doctor if you suffer from dizziness or other balance problems.

• **Medications:** Many medications cause dizziness or drowsiness that can precede a fall. Fixes: Report symptoms to your doctor. Discuss whether changing medications or lowering dosages might help.

• **Alcohol use:** Alcohol impairs judgment — a veritable recipe for falls. Mixing medications and alcohol can exacerbate side effects like dizziness or drowsiness. Fixes: Avoid or limit alcohol. This is especially important if you take medication or have labyrinthitis or Ménière's disease. If you do drink, be aware of how alcohol affects you.

» See FALLS on page 9



## Thank You for Your JACL Membership!

We're grateful to have some of the most engaged and committed members around! Because of your loyal support, we have more premium membership upgrades and generous additional gifts than ever. We're also appreciative for those who renew year after year (some for 50 years or more!) and for our increase in new members. Your dedication is essential to our ongoing mission for social justice, education, and community!

Thank you! – JACL Membership Department



**Not a member? Join us today!**

Visit [jacl.org/member](http://jacl.org/member)  
or contact us at [mbr@jacl.org](mailto:mbr@jacl.org)





## A MOTHER'S TAKE

### The 3 'Fs' = Feel, Felt, Found

By Marsha Aizumi

In a seminar, many years ago, I heard this concept. It has been a very effective way to handle a challenging situation while expressing my point of view. In the past, without this concept, I struggled to know what to say when someone voiced a viewpoint that I didn't agree with, especially when it came to LGBTQ+ issues.

I didn't want to say to people, "You are wrong," or "That is not the right way to look at that situation." I believe that anything that does not create open dialogue or intentionally makes others feel defensive is not helpful. I believe that communicating in a way that can expand the perspective of an individual and change their heart

can be a teachable moment.

Recently, I was faced with a challenge like this, and here is how it went . . .

I was at a neighborhood gathering. We had come together to support someone whose husband had just passed away. After my husband and I expressed our condolences, we chatted one on one with our neighbor. The widow started talking about her daughter, who had come down during this difficult time and was a teacher. She expressed how hard it was for teachers, like her daughter, who not only had to educate but also deal with issues like pronouns. My mind froze for a minute. I had to take a moment to assess the situation . . . this person was grieving, this person was not really close to me and was

this the most appropriate moment to say something to her?

After taking a deep breath, I told her, "I completely understand your daughter's challenge, since I am the mother of a transgender child, and it was hard for me in the beginning to use the correct pronouns." I continued to share, "But I understand how important pronouns are for transgender students to feel respected for the gender they are." No lecture, but two sentences. The widow was taken aback because she probably would not have made the comment if she knew I had a transgender son. She slowly moved away from me and the discussion. It was awkward.

Afterwards, I realized that I used the "Feel, Felt, Found" concept with this widow. I expressed that I understand her daughter's feelings because I had gone through the same experience myself (feel, felt), but I shared what I learned (found). I didn't judge her daughter because I had struggled myself. I spoke with compassion and kindness . . . with empathy and understanding.

Even after 15 years from Aiden's transition, I still had to take a moment



to muster up my courage to come out. It made me realize how scary it can still be after all these years for those in the LGBTQ+ community. So, this was a teachable moment for me as well.

Brene Brown says at the end of her podcasts, be "awkward, brave and kind." I felt like this encounter contained all those feelings. It was definitely awkward . . . I had to pull up my courage, but I did so with kindness. I walked away so proud that I stood up for Aiden and all the transgender individuals that I love and those I have yet to meet. In the end, being awkward, brave and kind

to me is about love.

*"Darkness cannot drive out darkness;  
only light can do that.  
Hate cannot drive out hate;  
only love can do that."*

— Martin Luther King Jr.

*P.S. If you want to learn more about being an ally or getting support as a Nikkei LGBTQ+ individual or parent, please visit us at [www.okaeri-losangeles.org](http://www.okaeri-losangeles.org). Okaeri will be holding its fifth biennial conference at the Japanese American National Museum on Nov. 10-12. It will be a hybrid conference with in-person and virtual components. You can register at [bit.ly/okaericonference2023](http://bit.ly/okaericonference2023). No one will be turned away for lack of funds. If you need financial support or have any questions, please reach out to [okaeri.la@gmail.com](mailto:okaeri.la@gmail.com).*

*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."*



## NIKKEI VOICE

### Interpreting 'LOST IN TRANSLATION' 20 Years Later

By Gil Asakawa



characters' relationships are failing. Murray has sad and disconnected phone calls with his wife; so does Johansson with her boyfriend.

The two meet each other at the Shinjuku Park Hyatt Hotel, which is a character all its own, out of boredom, ennui and loneliness. The film is about their relationship, which is emotional and not

sexual, or at least, not sexually fulfilled. They kiss as Murray's character leaves for the airport to fly back to the U.S., which serves as a happy ending of sorts, while Johansson is left in Tokyo waiting for her boyfriend.

Coppola has said that the movie was her love note to Tokyo. "Lost in Translation" was released the same year as two other movies set in Japan, "The Last Samurai," a nonsensical historical representation starring Tom Cruise, and "Kill Bill: Volume 1," which was partly set in

Japan and has a pretty great, violent fight scene in a Tokyo restaurant that I got to eat at this past spring. But those two movies were not realistic representations of Japan or Tokyo. "Lost in Translation" wants to show the Tokyo that Coppola was familiar with and had visited many times.

Because of the 20th anniversary of the release on Sept. 12, there have been a few articles looking back on both the impact of the film and some of the issues that linger in the way "Lost in Translation" portrayed Tokyo.

The movie does a great job of showing a lyrical Tokyo, complete with colors and long shots. You can see the urban landscape in a way that's downright poetic. But it also shows some of the problematic cultural things that Americans assume are what Japan is all about like young people with pink wigs getting wasted in karaoke bars — though having a drunk Japanese dude screaming the Sex Pistols' punk anthem "God Save the Queen" is pretty funny.

I remember liking "Lost in Translation" when it came out but

also feeling uncomfortable about some of it. I watched it this past week on Blu-ray, and I was mildly surprised to find that I didn't hate it but have to admit that there are a couple of scenes that really bother me partly because I know more about the way stereotypes can be insidious sources of hate, including anti-Asian hate.

In one scene, Murray, who is in Japan to tape commercials for Suntory whisky, is sent a prostitute to his hotel room, and the way Japanese people mispronounce English becomes a running gag. The prostitute says, "Rip my stockings," and Murray thinks she's saying "lip" or "lick." The scene is so offensive, it gives me a pit in my stomach.

In other scenes, Murray speaks to Japanese people with absolutely no consideration that they have no idea what he's saying. He acts out the stereotype of the Ugly American, and if I give Coppola the benefit of the doubt, she's making a statement about how this is wrong.

» See 'TRANSLATION' on page 9

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San Diego JACL Gala producer Lane Nishikawa confers with co-masters of ceremony David Ono and Stephanie Vigil.

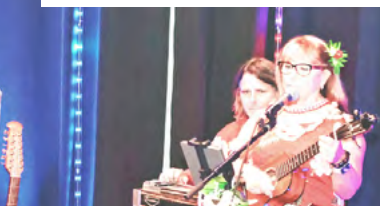


Yujing Sun (left) and Allyne Tachiki welcome gala attendees at the check-in table.



Slack Key Ohana performs at the event.

PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON



Robert Ito, San Diego JACL chapter advisory council member and CEO of Ito Girard & Associates, and Michael Kurima, San Diego JACL chapter co-president, flank Community Leadership Award honoree Wendy Urushima-Conn, president and CEO of the Epilepsy Foundation of San Diego County.



Attendees look over silent auction items during the San Diego JACL Gala.



Kaili Yamashiro (left) displays her Youth Leadership award that was presented by Tamami Yoshida, member of the San Diego JACL chapter's board of directors.



Consul General of Japan Los Angeles Kenko Sone and his wife, Mami Sone, were among the special guests present at gala.



(From left) Actors Derek Mio and Chris Tashima and Robert Yonemitsu, San Diego JACL chapter advisory committee member

## SAN DIEGO JACL GALA SPOTLIGHTS WOMEN

Females of all ages are honored at the chapter's annual fundraising dinner.

By P.C. Staff

When the San Diego JACL chapter puts on its annual awards dinner and fundraiser, wagering against its aplomb and finesse at putting on a well-run, well-produced show would be a fool's bet — so having it take place on Oct. 7 at the Sycuan Hotel & Casino in El Cajon, Calif., was fitting indeed. Replete with a silent auction and musical performances by Slack Key Ohana and the University of California San Diego's Asayake Taiko, the event's production team, led by actor-filmmaker Lane Nishikawa, also displayed its ability to roll with changes.

When the slated co-masters of ceremony who have worked the event over the past several galas — Los Angeles TV newsman David Ono of KABC Channel 7 and actor-activist Tamlyn Tomita — needed a late substitution when Tomita had to bow out, Ono was able to call on a former TV news colleague from the early days of their respective careers: Stephanie Vigil.

"She was my co-anchor 30 years ago in Sacramento," Ono told the audience. "We've been superclose friends ever since. She went on and had a brilliant career up in Washington State." It was a reference to her having recently relocated to the San Diego area after retiring following a quarter-century at KHQ-TV in Spokane, Wash.

With the hosting duties under control, the 2023 edition of the chapter's annual affair put the spotlight on five honorees — all women — and a re-emphasis on the



Pictured (from left) are Caroline Winn, Dr. Li-Rong "Lilly" Cheng, Lee Ann Kim, Jerrilyn Takada Malana and Wendy Urushima-Conn.

PHOTO: JADE COAST PHOTOGRAPHY

still-resonant message: stopping Asian Hate. Honored for their service and achievements were:

- Jerrilyn Takada Malana, Civil Rights Leadership Award
- Wendy Urushima-Conn, Community Leadership Award
- Lee Ann Kim, Media Leadership Award
- Caroline Winn, Corporate Leadership Award
- Dr. Li-Rong "Lilly" Cheng, Lifetime Achievement Award

But before they received their respective recognitions, the chapter called on educator Rich del Rio to present to former Bishop's School student Grace Sun its Youth Leadership Award.

Although she was unable to attend in person to accept her award because she was across the continent in Massachusetts as a premed student double-majoring in biochemistry and economics at Wellesley College, Sun addressed the audience via a recorded video, in which she thanked the San Diego JACL.

Tamami Yoshida, San Diego JACL chapter board of directors member, presented a second Youth Achievement Award that was not on the program to Kaili Yamashiro for having written an essay at age 15 that appeared in the San Diego Union Tribune for the Day of Remembrance.

San Diego JACL board mem-

bers Joanne Hayakawa and Taiga Takahashi, and Sage Creek High School sophomore Eva Kurima announced a crowdfunding effort to pay for a stone monument at the Miramar National Cemetery dedicated to Japanese Americans who served in World War II. A QR code was shown on the big screens flanking the stage to take audience members to a GoFundMe page located at [tinyurl.com/ycku6mfx](https://tinyurl.com/ycku6mfx).

Vigil called on San Diego District Attorney Summer Stephan to introduce Civil Rights Leadership Award honoree Jerrilyn Takada Malana, presently the chief deputy district attorney/human resources for the San Diego County District Attorney's Office.

In her remarks after receiving her award, Malana said, "I really believe it is of utmost importance to all of us that the next generation be civically engaged to ensure that our democracy survives, that it thrives and that it remains vibrant."

Ono called on Robert Ito, San Diego JACL chapter advisory council member and CEO of Ito Girard & Associates to introduce the next honoree, Wendy Urushima-Conn, president and CEO of the Epilepsy Foundation of San Diego, who received the Community Leadership Award.

» See WOMEN on page 10



(From left) Michael Kurima, Lifetime Achievement Award honoree Dr. Li-Rong "Lilly" Cheng and former San Diego City Councilman Chris Cate



Chief United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California Dana Makoto Sabraw and Michael Kurima flank Corporate Leadership Award honoree Caroline Winn.

Members of UCSD Asayake Taiko perform.



San Diego JACL Miramar Memorial Committee GoFundMe QR code



# THE NISEI STUDENT RELOCATION COMMEMORATIVE FUND

Nisei scholarship recipients lend a helping hand to Southeast Asian students escaping war.

By Emily Murase,  
Contributor

In an enduring example of the Japanese value *ongaeshi*, paying a debt of kindness, the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund has provided more than \$1 million in scholarships to deserving high school students of Southeast Asian descent since 1983. The roots of this unique scholarship program came from the advocacy of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt on behalf of Nisei students, the support of the American Friends Service Committee during World War II and the extraordinary vision of the “New England Nisei.”

Shortly after President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which authorized the forced removal of 120,000 individuals of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast on Feb. 19, 1942, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, the principal author of the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” began to work toward the release of Nisei students so that they could continue their education.

With the approval of the Wartime Relocation Authority and staffed by the American Friends Service Committee (aka Quakers), the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council was formed on May 29, 1942.

Originally, Council offices were operated in Berkeley, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Portland and Seattle, but by March 1943, these offices were consolidated to the Philadelphia location, which operated until the Council closed in June 1946.

Despite daunting challenges, including hostile public sentiment, initial national security concerns and bureaucratic red tape, these dissipated enough so that by December 1944, 3,592 Nisei students were enrolled in 550 colleges and universities in 46 states, according to reports by the Council and the WRA.

Through the Council's efforts, Judge William Marutani, the first Asian American judge in Pennsylvania who then-President Jimmy Carter appointed to the Commission on Wartime Re-



The Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund banner

PHOTO: BRUCE MAEDA PHOTOGRAPHY

location and Internment of Civilians, graduated from Dakota Wesleyan in South Dakota and, later, the University of Chicago Law School.

Stockton, Calif., native Michi Nishiura Weglyn was incarcerated with her family in Gila River, Ariz., for three years before, through the Council, she was admitted to Mt. Holyoke College on a full scholarship.

After a pioneering career as a costume designer for the “Perry Como Show,” Weglyn spent eight years meticulously researching and writing the seminal book “Years of Infamy: The Untold Story of America’s Concentration Camps,” about the Japanese American wartime incarceration.

Providing critical financial support to cover the administrative costs of the Council were the Carnegie Foundation, established in 1905 to support education, and the Columbia Foundation, founded by Madeleine Haas Russell and her brother, William Haas, who were heirs of the Levi Strauss fortune.

According to Professor Allen Austin, author of “From Concentration Camp to Campus: Japanese American Students and World War II,” where normally families would contribute to college expenses, this became nearly impossible due to the wartime incarceration that stripped most families of their assets.

Yet, incarcerated Japanese Americans conducted prison campwide scholarship fundraising drives to help defray college expenses, especially moving and travel costs. To fund many other scholarships and grants to Nisei



students, the Council reached out to the Quaker community, a broad network of churches, YMCAs and YWCAs and the World Student Service Fund. Quakers Betty and Woody Em-len were especially active fundraisers, working six days a week on behalf of the Council.

## EARLY DAYS OF THE NISEI STUDENT RELOCATION COUNCIL

An early Nisei Council staff member was Kay Yamashita, a native of Oakland, Calif., and a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley. When the war broke out, EO 9066 forced her and other San Francisco Bay Area families into the Topaz concentration camp in Utah.

There, she met Tom Bodine of the American Friends Service Committee and the Council's field director, who traveled to all 10 of the WRA concentration camps seeking Council staff and student candidates for relocation. Bodine persuaded Yamashita to leave Topaz and work in the Philadelphia Council office.

Nobu Hibino, a San Francisco native who was one semester shy of graduating from UC Berkeley at the time of her family's forced removal to Topaz, was able to continue her education at Boston University through the Council. After graduation, she joined Yamashita to work in Philadelphia, connecting other students to welcoming colleges and universities and handling the multitude of administrative duties.

## THE BIRTH OF THE NSRCF

The origins of the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund can be traced to the National JACL Nisei Aging and Retirement Conference, which was held in San Francisco in 1976.

Seeking participants and conference speakers from across the country, National JACL reached out to Hibino, who was then living in Connecticut with her husband, Yoshiyuki (aka “Don”) Hibino, and their children, Diane, Tom and Jean. The national conference energized Hibino, who was tasked with organizing a similar event for Nisei living in the New England region.

Hibino dedicated many hours trying to identify Japanese Americans to attend the follow-up conference the next year. As it remains today, the *Pacific Citizen* newspaper was an important means of connecting Japanese Americans who were not only concentrated in California and Western states but also dispersed across the country after the wartime incarceration.

In a recent interview, daughter Jean Hibino recounted that her late mother requested access to New England subscribers of the *P.C.* in her search of Nisei to invite to the follow-up meeting. Much to Nobu Hibino's surprise, and ire, her request was flatly denied and, instead, she was directed to buy advertisement space, which she ultimately and grudgingly did. “My mom was so mad,” Jean recalled.

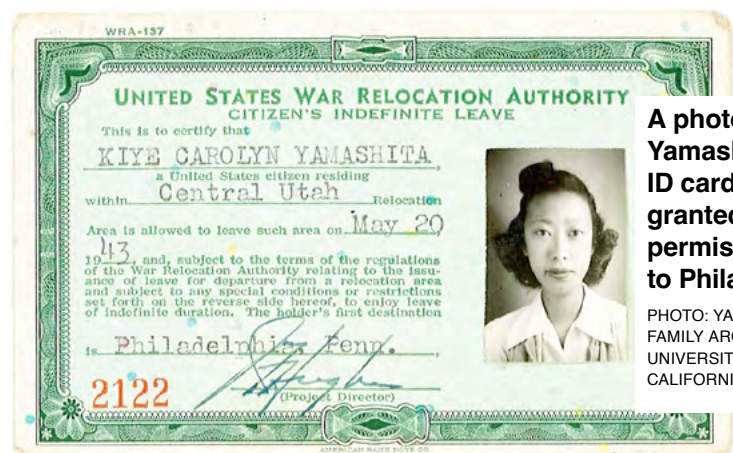
Without access to *P.C.* subscriber contact information, Hibino resorted to scouring local telephone books. According to Jean, who discovered her mother's handwritten rosters, Nobu went through countless telephone books from communities throughout New England, identifying and reaching out to anyone with a Japanese surname.

Due to Nobu Hibino's Herculean efforts, the conference, held at Boston University in 1977,



Nikkei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund scholarship recipient Jazarah M. holds a commendation to recipients from Congresswoman Susie Lee (D-Nev.). Also pictured are NSRCF Board Member Jean Hibino and Vegas Co-Chair Tuan Pham.

PHOTO: DANIEL LEE



A photo of Kay Yamashita's ID card, which granted her permission to go to Philadelphia.

PHOTO: YAMASHITA FAMILY ARCHIVES, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ



**Pictured (from left) are Kimi Tanaka (Poston), Chiyo Hiraoka (Gila River) and sisters Iyo Tamaki and Kay Yamashita (Topaz) at the Nisei Student Relocation Council Office in Philadelphia in January 1944.**

PHOTO: WARTIME RELOCATION AUTHORITY IN DENSHO ENCYCLOPEDIA



**Longtime NSRCF Board Member Yoshiko Kumekawa (center) with her son, Ken Kumekawa (right), and scholarship recipients with Minnesota Local Committee Co-Chair Tiffany Xiong (left)**



**The Minneapolis Local Committee awarded scholarships to Somali students.**

PHOTOS: BRUCE MAEDA PHOTOGRAPHY

was highly successful, bringing together Nisei who were scattered throughout the region and isolated from one another.

As quoted in the organization's website, the late Fund Founder Lafayette Noda recalled that time as follows: "We discovered that we shared a common history — we were all evacuated from our West Coast homes and interned in concentration camps — Topaz, Amache, Poston, Rohwer, Minidoka. And several of us were helped by the . . . Council . . . to leave the camps to attend college."

Calling themselves the "New England Nisei," these new friends soon developed a series of regular social gatherings. After meeting socially for a few years, Nobu and Yosh Hibino and Lafayette and Mayme Noda, all assisted by the Council to continue their education, decided to direct their energies to creating a grants program.

Joined by Lillian Ota Dotson, Bob and Agnes Suzuki, May Takayanagi, Paul Tani, among others, the group formed the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund in 1980 with \$153 in assets, as stated in original nonprofit organization filings.

According to Lafayette's recollection, "We met around the dining room table at the Hibinos in Connecticut. We enjoyed the camaraderie, eating sushi and tsukemono as we planned our fund appeals and discussed ways to more securely establish the NSRCF."

At a ceremony held in Philadelphia in 1982, the NSRCF awarded its first grant, \$2,000, to the American Friends Service Committee in gratitude to the organization's leadership in stewarding the work of the Council during WWII.

Special guests included Bodine and Council fundraisers Betty and Woody Emlen. In writing about this first grant, Nobu Hibino expressed

the Japanese value of *ongaeshi*: "We tried to show that we Nisei did not and will not forget the dedication of people like those whom we honored. We wish all those to whom we are indebted could have been there — volunteers who went out of their way to ensure that we were given a decent break."

The following year, the board of directors adopted the motto "lending a helping hand" and decided to award student scholarships to Southeast Asian refugees. Lafayette Noda reflected on this decision as follows: "Like them, we had been victims of war, our financial resources had been limited. . . . We had been incarcerated in wartime camps. They had come to the United States from refugee camps, driven from their homelands by war."

#### NSRCF TODAY

In early days, the NSRCF board had to overcome a general lack of knowledge of the U.S. college education system among Southeast Asian immigrant communities. Most of the promising high school students targeted for the scholarships would be the first in their families to pursue a college education.

Another early challenge was the fact that the newly arrived Cambodian, Hmong, Lao and Vietnamese refugee communities worked largely in isolation from one another. Relationship-building between and among these communities was essential. The scholarship program created an opportunity for new collaborations for communities that shared many of the same challenges and resilience strategies.

Beginning in 1982 in Berkeley, Calif., the scholarship program to date has been conducted in 17 states where Southeast Asian communities have settled and grown, ranging from Minneapolis/St. Paul to Fresno to Atlanta.

The NSRCF has grown to more than \$2.6 million as of 2021, and scholarships up to \$2,000 are awarded to deserving high school

students. At recent events, over \$50,000 have been distributed. Each local committee is asked to match scholarship funds and cover the costs of the awards ceremony.

In prepandemic 2019, the program was held in-person, in Minneapolis, Minn. The Minneapolis local committee raised additional funds to award scholarships to deserving Somali students whose families were war refugees.

Like many things, the pandemic deeply impacted the scholarship program. The awards were conducted virtually for three years: Seattle in 2020, Rhode Island in 2021 and Oregon in 2022.

The 2023 scholarship program was held in-person in Las Vegas, organized by a committee led by well-known local leaders Tuan Pham and Sou Thammavongsa. As a highly successful business and community leader, Pham brought immediate credibility to the program and contributed his wide fundraising network to the program.

The daughter of immigrant parents, media personality Thammavongsa, who is of Chinese, Japanese, Lao, Thai and Vietnamese descent, is a designated Asian Community Ambassador who is passionate about expanding educational opportunities. She stated that when reaching out to the Lao community, she encountered a lack of familiarity with American higher education. Parents also questioned the qualifications necessary to secure the scholarship.

"Parents would say to me, 'My daughter doesn't have straight As.' I would assure them that the review committee would account for the fact that many students have family responsibilities that prevent them from engaging in a lot of extracurricular activities such as clubs or sports." Eventually, scholarship applications began to stream in.

The local scholarship committee planned an upscale luncheon featuring a celebratory program to showcase students and thank their families. Thammavongsa recruited her former high school principal, Wayne Tanaka, to give keynote remarks.

In addition to recognition from the NSRCF board, scholarship recipients received certificates of commendation from Nevada Gov. Joe Lombardo and Congresswoman Susie Lee. Next year, the scholarship program will be conducted in Wisconsin.

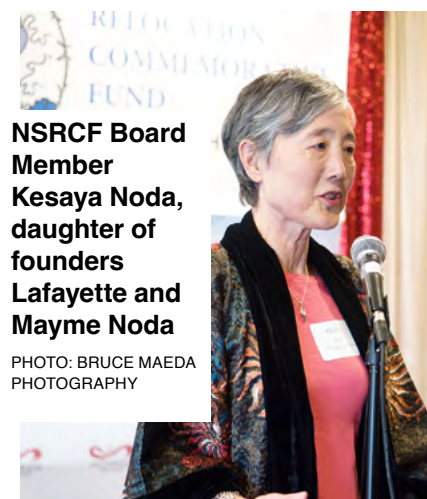
In the 40th anniversary NSRCF newsletter, published in 2020, Phuoc V. Le, a scholarship recipient who went on to become an associate professor of medicine and pediatrics at the University of California at San Francisco and also served on the NSRCF board previously, wrote, "The original group of extraordinary people who established NSRCF knew what it was like to struggle as members of the oppressed, the 'other,' the marginalized . . . the NSRCF continues to be a signal of what is needed most — solidarity."

#### FUTURE OF THE NSRCF

Over the years, the NSRCF board leadership transitioned from the Nisei generation to the next generation. According to Jean Hibino, who has served on the board of directors for more than 30 years, three Sansei remain on the board: Dr. Paul Watanabe of Boston, Kesaya Noda (whose parents were Lafayette and Mayme Noda) of New Hampshire and herself, now based in Albuquerque, N.M.

While the original "New England Nisei" have all passed on, their spirit continues through the enduring work of the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund.

*Emily Murase's late father, Kenji, had his college education at UC Berkeley interrupted by the war. Through the Council, he was able to complete his undergraduate education at Haverford College, then Temple University and, later, received a PhD in social work from Columbia. He chaired the first scholarship awards ceremony in 1983 and dedicated himself to the scholarship program for decades afterwards as a way to honor the work of the Council that enabled him to continue his education and enjoy a fulfilling career in academia.*



**NSRCF Board Member Kesaya Noda, daughter of founders Lafayette and Mayme Noda**

PHOTO: BRUCE MAEDA PHOTOGRAPHY



**Pictured at the Las Vegas scholarship program are (from left) Alex Cherup, Sou Thammavongsa, Jean Hibino, Maggie Chen and Judi Filer**

PHOTO: DANIEL LEE



**NSRCF Las Vegas Co-Chair Sou Thammavongsa with Wayne Tanaka**

PHOTO: JEAN HIBINO



# REMEMBERING FRANKLIN ODO

A new endowment fund is established at the University of Hawaii to carry on his legacy.

By Gail Okawa and Nancy Ukai

**Franklin Odo's lifelong dedication to ethnic studies and racial justice will be carried on through the newly launched Franklin S. Odo Endowment Fund for Ethnic Studies at the University of Hawaii, which will support such areas as:**

- Lab leadership and teaching assistantships for Ethnic Studies majors/minors
- Faculty research that engages Ethnic Studies majors/minors
- UH Manoa community engagement through lectures, workshops, creative arts and collaborative scholarship

Franklin S. Odo grew up in the Hawaiian Islands and never forgot his roots, but his accomplishments, influence and spirit of aloha reached far beyond its shores.

The first graduate of Kaimuki High School, a public school in Honolulu, to attend Princeton University, Odo received advanced degrees in Asian Studies and Japanese history at Harvard and Princeton. His long activist teaching career began in the 1960s when he helped establish the fields of Ethnic and Asian American Studies through his work at the University of Hawaii, the University of California, Los Angeles, and other institutions. In addition, as one of the founding members of the JACL Honolulu chapter, he received the JACL President's Award in 2008.

In the 1990s, Odo had the vision and political will to develop the Asian Pacific American Center at the Smithsonian Institution, serving as its founding director and the first

APA curator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History (1997-2010) — no small feat.

In 2012, he became acting chief of the Asian Division at the Library of Congress. He wrote and edited several books, including "No Sword to Bury: Japanese Americans in Hawaii during WWII," and edited "Theme Study on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders" for the National Park Service. Odo capped his teaching career at Amherst College while still supporting many advocacy groups, including the 1882 Foundation and Tsuru for Solidarity.

Odo passed away on Sept. 28, 2022, in Northampton, Mass.; he was 83. When we lose such a teacher and mentor who has helped and guided us, our sense of loss deepens over time, but so does our sense of gratitude.

One year after his passing, coinciding with the establishment of the new endowment fund honoring his legacy, Odo's former students, colleagues and friends shared their thoughts.

**Bill Kaneko, attorney, author/producer of "Removed by Force"**

"Other than my father and mother, Franklin had the greatest impact on my personal and professional career. He was my teacher, mentor, adviser and friend.

"I first met him when I took his course, "Ethnic Studies 200: Japanese in Hawaii," at the University of Hawaii. Franklin made history come alive — he challenged our way of thinking and evaluating events of the past and their relevancy to current events in a way that was kind, supportive and inquisitive. . . .

"As one of the founding members of the Honolulu JACL, Franklin organized a delegation of Hawaii AJAs to testify about the Hawaii experience before the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. This was essential to ensure that Hawaii AJAs were included as part of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 and therefore eligible for redress.

"I was fortunate to reconnect with Franklin in the last months of his life, a reconnection inspiring a recommitment to social justice and responsibility to our community that will last the remainder of my life."

**Kevin Kawamoto, former faculty, communications, University of Hawaii-Manoa**

"I first met Franklin when I was an undergraduate at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Although not an Ethnic Studies major, I somehow found my way to that special 'tribe' of people who used to hang out in or around Franklin's office listening, talking and sharing.

"He supervised my independent research project, which revolved around the immigration of my paternal great-grandmother to Hawaii as a picture bride. I wove her personal history into the social history of Japanese immigration to Hawaii that launched an ongoing interest in family historical research.

"Coincidentally, we ended up living in New York City in the 1990s. I had just moved to Manhattan and was on a train to Columbia University when I heard a familiar voice calling my name. It was Franklin! He was on the same train, also heading to Columbia where he was a visiting professor. It was reassuring to know that I had an old friend in a new city."



Odo with his wife, Enid, and two of their four grandchildren, Emma and Max



Odo with his Smithsonian colleagues. Pictured (from left) are James Early, Odo, Fath Ruffins (NMAH curator) and Eduardo Diaz (former director of the Smithsonian Latino Center).

**Karleen Chinen, writer-editor**

"In my long career as a writer and editor of the *Hawaii Herald*, and even after I retired, Franklin always supported my work and made himself available whenever I wanted to interview him or ask him to help me to understand something about history. Although Franklin was never my professor of record, he became a good friend and was definitely the most influential educator I knew. (To view Chinen's tribute to Odo in the *Hawaii Herald*, visit <https://www.thehawaiiherald.com/2022/12/16/cover-story-alo-ha-oe-dr-franklin-odo/>.)

**Gail Okawa, retired professor, English, Youngstown State University-Ohio**

"I met Franklin in the late 1970s after I'd returned from Japan to work briefly in the islands. . . . We stayed in intermittent contact until he arrived in Washington, D.C., and established the Asian Pacific American Program at the Smithsonian. Franklin then invited me to serve as a scholar-in-residence to research the Hawaii Issei internment, mentored me through innumerable processes and introduced me to others like Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga and Jack Herzig who, in turn, guided me through the National Archives.

"Over the 18 years of my research and book writing, Franklin supported my unwieldy and expanding project, always the invaluable and kind friend — until OUR book was finally published, and he could hold it in his hands. Through his activist and nurturing example, I continue fostering the work of internee descendant families in understanding our common history."

**Davianna Pomaika'i McGregor, retired professor, Ethnic Studies, and director, Center for Oral History, University of Hawaii-Manoa**

"Franklin mentored me through my evolution from a graduate student into a full professor. He helped me navigate the University of Hawaii system and the twists and turns

of an academic career, while still serving as an advocate for my Native Hawaiian communities. He was a good friend. He had my back.

"By the time of my first sabbatical, in spring 2000, Franklin was the first director of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center. He invited me to serve as the inaugural scholar-in-residence. It was extraordinary."

**Chizu Omori, co-producer, Emmy Award-winning documentary "Rabbit in the Moon"**

"Franklin was such a supporter. When we completed our documentary, 'Rabbit in the Moon,' in 1999, he arranged for a screening of it at the Smithsonian for congressional representatives with a reception. What an honor! He put out the red carpet for me and my sister, Emiko, the director. Patsy Mink came up to us and said it was powerful."

**Noriko Sanefuji, museum specialist, Smithsonian National Museum of American History**

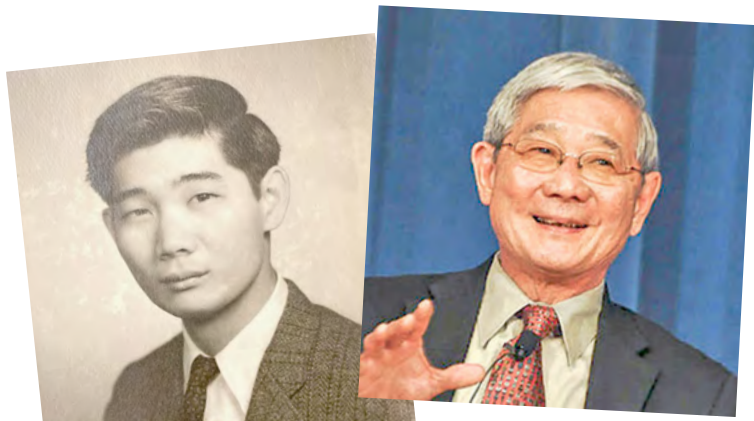
"Franklin had a great impact on my life and career. He always made time for people to listen, to give advice. I was one of many.

"His success in developing exhibits and programs, partnering with Smithsonian units and community organizations around the country, was based on one of his sayings, 'How difficult can it be? Never saying no, Franklin always had a positive outlook.

"Mahalo to Franklin for paving the way for future generations; we hope we do not disappoint you!"

**Rob Buscher, lecturer, Asian American Studies Program, University of Pennsylvania; president, JACL Philadelphia**

"I met Franklin in spring 2014 during a guest lecture at UPenn. This was a few years into my teaching career in Japan studies at Arcadia University, where I was also advocating for Asian American Studies. When I shared my frustration with him about the lack of institutional



(Left) Odo's high school yearbook photo from Kaimuki High School on Oahu. A new endowment fund has been established at the University of Hawaii to remember the life and legacy of Franklin Odo.





## DR. DEBRA KAWAHARA to Be the First Japanese American President of the American Psychological Assn.

By Ray Locker,  
Contributor

Growing up in Gardena, Calif., Debra Kawahara had little idea of the potential obstacles in the way of a Japanese American girl whose ancestors had once been incarcerated for looking like the enemy.

All around her, she saw Japanese American community leaders, elected officials and professionals. They gave her the confidence that she could do the same thing. After all, Gardena was one of the centers of Japanese American life after World War II.

Now, Kawahara is the president-elect of the American Psychological Assn. She will become president in 2025, the first Japanese American to hold that position. Her campaign slogan was "Strength in Unity."

Kawahara, the associate dean for academic affairs and distinguished professor at the California School of Professional Psychology, Alliant International University in San Diego, says she knows she is taking the position at a critical time, particularly for Asian Americans.

The last three and a half years since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic have unleashed torrents of racism that had previously been suppressed. Asian Americans have been attacked on the streets and in other public places, usually because they were blamed for the outbreak of Covid-19, which originated in China.

That's why Kawahara felt compelled to run first for the APA board of directors and then for the presidency.

"I felt the responsibility to run for the APA board to get a seat at the table," she said. "Even when we have allies, they may not be able to speak to our issues."

Asian Americans, she says, "often get left out of the conversation about racism and anti-racist policies. We need to be there, so we don't get forgotten."

Sometimes, Kawahara says, the anti-Asian attacks were abetted by a lack of political leadership, sometimes from the White House, where President Donald Trump referred to Covid as the "China virus" or "Kung flu."

"You could be running or standing in a train station" and be attacked, she said. "We didn't see our political leadership doing anything to stop it. Instead, they were exacerbating the hate and violence by utilizing the coronavirus to attack anyone who looked Asian."

These attacks created a heightened anxiety among many Americans, not just those of Asian descent, Kawahara says.

"I was seeing it in a lot of clients," she said. "There was a rise in anxiety about going out. Their anxiety was heightened because of random acts of violence they heard about. They wondered how they were going to protect themselves and feel safe."

They also fed into long-running mental health traumas connected to previous anti-Asian episodes in the United States, which include the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII without evidence or due process.

Kawahara wrote her doctoral dissertation on the generational effect of the Japanese American incarceration on children. "I've been following this type of scholarship throughout my career," she said, adding that some of her research was based on that done by Dr. Donna Nagata at the University of Michigan, one of the nation's experts on multigenerational mental health trauma.

For too long, mental health issues for people of color were marginalized, just as their communities were. That's starting to change, she says.

"These issues are now being talked about more in the field of psychology," Kawahara said. "As we develop psychology and psychologists

with communities of color being able to gain more economic and political power, we're seeing these issues gain greater prominence."

Although Kawahara has studied the effects of the Japanese American incarceration for much of her career, she doesn't have a personal incarceration history. Her parents were both from Hawaii.

Kawahara's in-laws, however, were both incarcerated at the concentration camp in Poston, Ariz. They are 99 and 97. "You think about the resilience they had to go through the incarceration and still have that resilience," she said.

Psychology and improved mental health should be a part of the future for all Americans, which she says will be her main goal as APA president.

"I want APA to become what the public looks to for health and well-being," like the American Medical Assn. is for physicians, Kawahara said. "I want people to better understand psychology and what it contributes to society."

That includes the Japanese American community, she says. "There's a stigma about seeking mental health care that is often compounded cultural values, like *shikata ga nai* (it can't be helped) or *gaman* (endure).

"It's not about weakness but about being able to make your own mental health better and also help those around you."

**Kawahara will become APA president in March 2025, succeeding Cynthia de las Fuentes, an Austin, Texas, psychologist who was elected president-elect in November 2022.**

## FALLS » continued from page 3

• **Excess weight:** Excess weight can cause gait problems that may affect your center of balance. Being overweight or obese also puts painful strain on your knees and hips. Being overweight also increases the risk of diabetes, which can lead to neuropathy in your feet that can affect balance. Fixes: You can reduce pressure on the knee by strengthening the quadriceps muscles on the front of your thighs through regular balance workouts and daily walks, if possible. Better yet, try to reach a healthier weight by combining these workouts with a healthy diet.

In conclusion, the Harvard Study found that the most promising strategy for addressing intrinsic (you — not the broken pavement) falling issues is exercise. Furthermore, the most effective exercise programs for fall prevention are ones that incorporate both balance work and functional exercises that mimic everyday activities.

"Several studies show that exercise and activity, specifically those that help in strengthening, flexibility and balance, can make a significant

**Accidental falls are the leading cause of death in older adults.**



difference in minimizing one's chance of falling," says Jennie Chin Hansen, president of AARP, which has made fall prevention a priority in its efforts to promote healthy behaviors.

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

## 'TRANSLATION' » continued from page 4

But I doubt many viewers get that message. Murray, in particular, displays such an awful sense of privilege and superiority that it's hard to watch. He represents the worst of Americans that I've seen in Japan.

Johansson, on the other hand, does show some empathy and curiosity, something that Murray absolutely does not. She wanders into an Ikebana, or flower arranging, class in the hotel and is drawn in to creating a display.

Not surprisingly, Japanese food ends up being the target of ignorant Western perspectives. After a shabu-shabu meal, they both laugh about how awful it was that they have to cook their own food at the table.

Ultimately, the movie uses Japanese people, things, culture and everything in Tokyo as mere props — just an exotic, colorful and bewildering backdrop for these two characters' tepid relationship.

As cinematic art, it's worth noting that this was one of the first realistic

depictions of Tokyo in a Hollywood movie partly because it was done on location with much of it done with available light and hand-held cameras with a small budget and guerilla crew. That makes it an interesting movie to watch. But for me, it's not a great movie to pay attention to.

It may be interesting to pull out the disc, if there's still such a thing as a disc player, in another 20 years to see how the movie has aged by then.

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



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**WOMEN » continued from page 5**

Attendees enjoy themselves before the start of the San Diego JACL Gala.



In her remarks, Urushima-Conn said, "As I reflect back on tonight's honor, I'm thinking about the people that came before me. I'm thinking of 1942. You've heard about the 120,000 interned in camps, and when we talk about 'never forget,' those aren't just numbers. That's my grandparents, that's my parents. I called my 87-year-old dad today and I said, 'What did you remember about camp?'"

"And he said, 'The uncomfortable straw mattresses.' . . . I asked my mother what she remembers, and she said, 'How cold it was with the wind blowing through the slats in the horse stalls.' Oh, my goodness. So, how do we do better? And how do we move forward?" she said.

Urushima-Conn answered her question by quoting from a children's book, "The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse": "And what do you think success is?" asked the boy, and

the mole says, "To love, no matter our beliefs, or the color of our skin, may we all go forth with more kindness and love."

San Diego businessman Louis Song introduced Media Leadership Award honoree — and spouse — Lee Ann Kim, the founding executive director of Pacific Arts Movement, the nonprofit organization behind the San Diego Asian Film Festival and a former news anchor and reporter for ABC affiliate KGTV-10.

"I stand here so lucky that I'm with a man that supported me because I think all of us who do leadership in this community, you absolutely need a partner who is willing to be with you every step of the way," Kim said. "So, Louis, thank you so much. And I love you."

Vigil introduced Dana Makoto Sabraw, chief United States district judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of

California, to bring up the next recipient, San Diego Gas & Electric CEO Caroline Winn, to receive the Corporate Leadership Award. She called back to something Sabraw said in his remarks about their mutual roots in Sacramento, Calif.

"When I was working at the pie shop with Judge Sabraw's sister back during my high school years, I thought I was making a lot of money. And I'm like, 'I don't need to go to college,'" she recalled. "So, thank goodness for my parents who . . . very strongly suggested I go to college and get my engineering degree."

The evening's final honoree was Dr. Li-Rong "Lilly" Cheng, who received the chapter's Lifetime Achievement Award. Former San Diego City Councilman Chris Cate introduced Cheng, director of the Chinese Cultural Center and former professor at San Diego State University's School of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences.

"We are a global community, even though we are in San Diego today. Our job here is to think about the underserved and the unserved," Cheng told the audience. "Our job here is to think about how we can continue to show our humanity and our humility, to be part of the human race. And I want to thank JACL for acknowledging all of us here tonight — but also to keep going." ■

**ODO » continued from page 8**

support, Franklin said if they didn't see my value, maybe I should look for an institution that did.

" . . . Franklin gave me the tools to navigate a challenging time in my academic career and helped channel my energy into more productive pursuits."

**Ted Gong, director, 1882 Foundation**

"This was Franklin. Ready to step out of his way, get out of the office, friendly and soft-spoken. I can say, from the moment we met, I felt he would always be at my back, ready to advise and be encouraging. I'd like to share this statement attributed to Franklin:

"If you don't control your own culture, and your own vision of life, and your own participation in life, then you don't control anything. And that's what we're about. The true spirit of any kind of democracy is to have people be autonomous at the same time that they know they're dependent on the community around them."

**James Counts Early, former assistant secretary for education and public service; director, cultural heritage policy, Smithsonian Institution**

"I invited Franklin to Washington

and suggested he consider a project with Smithsonianwide implications for which my office would provide initial funding support. He agreed and conceptualized, organized and implemented the groundbreaking Smithsonian APA Program, which later became the APA Center.

"Franklin is certainly remembered for his scholarship, his collegiality, his mentorship, his friendship. But new generations should be directed to his vision of building cultural democracy at the University of Hawaii and the Smithsonian Institution.

"Let the Spirit of Franklin Odo rise and guide new generations within and across the diverse racial, ethnic, cultural, class and gender communities he contributed to and led in order to secure our present and future."

*To donate to the Franklin S. Odo Endowment for Ethnic Studies at the University of Hawaii-Manoa, please visit <https://giving.uhfoundation.org/funds/13014604>.*

*For more information, please contact Dr. Mary Kunmi Yu Danico at [myu@hawaii.edu](mailto:myu@hawaii.edu).*

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

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# In MEMORIAM

**Akamine, Allan, 68**, Mililani, HI, May 28.

**Aso, Marlene Matsuko, 75**, San Jose, CA, May 7; she was predeceased by her son, David; she is survived by her husband, Greg; and her daughter, Deborah; she is also survived by a sister; sisters-in-laws and brothers-in-laws; and many nieces and nephews.

**Fujihara, Evelyn, 79**, Honolulu, HI, May 15.

**Fujihara, Howard Tetsuo, 87**, Kailua-Kona, HI, July 2.

**Fukuda, James Sueo, 92**, Orange, CA, March 29; he was predeceased by his wife, Kimi, and eldest daughter, Kelly Akemi; he is survived by his children, Kay Aiko (Brent) Yamasaki; Kevin Akira (Nirmal Merchant) Fukuda, Kenneth Atsuo (Jeanette) Fukuda and Kristopher Yukio (Susan) Fukuda; siblings; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 7.



**Fukushima, Ted Takeshi, 87**, Elk Grove, CA, June 20; he was predeceased by his wife, Betty Ann; siblings, Doris Sasaki, Senao, Frank, Akira, Masao (Bobby), Satoshi (Roy), Makoto (Mac) and Shaki (Sam); he is survived by his sons, Jeffrey and Michael; daughters-in-law, Lorna and Rachael; brothers, John and Dickie; gc: 6; ggc: 1.

**Furukawa, Randy Masami, 67**, Sacramento, CA, May 9; his activities included the Buddhist Church of Florin YBA and YABA clubs; he was predeceased by his wife, Cindy Furukawa; he is survived by his sister, Ailene Nishida (John); 2 nephews and a niece; a great-nephew and a great-niece.

**Hayashi, Leland Hisato, 83**, San Gabriel, CA, July 22; he was predeceased by his wife, Carol Hayashi; brother, Eugene Hayashi; he is survived by his children, Kristen Hayashi and Brian (Jinsun) Hayashi; brother, Donald (Deborah) Hayashi; and sister-in-law, Helen Hayashi; he is also survived by nieces, cousins and other relatives; gc: 1.

**Hayashi, Shigeru, 97**, Long Beach, CA, May 8; veteran, WWII (100th Battalion/442nd RCT); he was predeceased by his wife, Gertrude; and son, Michael; he is survived by his children, Randall, Richard, Laurie and David; gc: 5; ggc: 11.



**Hikawa, Sue, 90**, La Palma, CA, March 21; she was predeceased by her husband, Frank; and siblings, Toshiaki Yamamoto, Mikio (Misa) Yamamoto, Yoshiharu (Sadako) Yamamoto, Kiyomi (Hatsuzo) and Akiko Yamamoto; she is survived by her sons, Douglas (Kathi), Andrew (Betty) and Brian Hikawa; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.



**Maruyama, Rodney, 73**, Crystal Lake, IL, Aug. 5; he was predeceased by his son, Brendan; he is survived by his wife, Nancy; children, Caitlin (Philip) and Jennifer (Steven); siblings, Kevin and Lynn; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 2.



**Miyamoto, Mildred, 94**, Kahului, HI, Aug. 23; she is survived by her husband, Mitsuo Miyamoto; son, Rodney (Mona) Miyamoto; gc: 2; ggc: 4.

**Mizukami, Kazuo Scotty, 96**, Cathedral City, CA, March 18; activities included Lawndale Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Sportsman Gun Club, Freemasons and Shriners; he was predeceased by his first spouse, Mae Iwai Mizukami; second spouse, Nancy West Mizukami; he is survived by his daughter, Linda Gombos; gc: 3; ggc: 5.



**Motoki, Mariya Yasuda, 97**, Salt Lake City, UT, March 19; she was active with the Dai Ichi LDS Ward, the Mount Olympus JACL chapter, the Nisei Bowling League and the Nibley Women's Golf League; she was predeceased by her husband, Shigeru; siblings, George Yasuda, Tomy Yasuda, Lily Shino and Priscilla Nagao; and grandson, Colin Motoki; she is survived by her sons, David Motoki, Kevin Motoki (Jaime) and Daniel Motoki (Deanna Johnson); gc: 4; ggc: 10; gggc: 3.

**Nakamoto, Yuji, 74**, Torrance, CA, May, 24; DDS, UCLA School of Dentistry; he was predeceased by his brother, Kaz; he is survived by his wife, Julia Tsuboi; daughters, Jamie and Britney; sisters, Helene (Sam) and Judy; he is also survived by several cousins, nieces and nephews.

**Okami, Lance Jun, 61**, Pearl City, HI, March 29.

**Okawa, Robert M., 85**, Las Vegas, NV, June 26.

**Okamura, Masako, 89**, Montebello, CA, July 25.

**Yasui, Wallace I., 89**, Mililani, HI, June 1.

## TRIBUTE

### JOYCE NAKO HATA



**Dec. 29, 1936-Sept. 2, 2023**

We are sad and humbled to share news about the peaceful passing of Joyce Hata on Sept. 2, 2023.

Joyce Naoko Hata was born to Banzo and Chiyo Okada in Seattle, Wash. The family was incarcerated at the Minidoka Internment Camp during the War. Postcamp, her family moved back to Seattle, where she attended Garfield H.S. and earned her B.S., Nutrition Science, from the University of Washington. Eventually

she made her way south to Cedars Sinai in L.A. for her residency and then eventually was back in Northern California working at Highland hospital in Oakland and ultimately at Kaiser in San Francisco.

Joyce is survived by her husband of 58 years, Barney, daughters Akemi, Komi and Kristen, son-in-law Simon along with her 3 (favorite) grandchildren, Joji, Yuki and Jacky.

Despite studying and obtaining her degree in nutrition science, Joyce spent many of her working years in the office of the Japanese Bilingual Bicultural Program at various sites (Anza, Clarendon, DeAvila, Sunset) and it was there that she was truly in her element helping families navigate the SFUSD and fostering memorable elementary school experiences for hundreds of students. Via the JBBP, she made many great friends and was a pillar in the school community.

Others will remember her for hosting Oshogatsu celebrations for many years and while all the food was a highlight, it was specifically the chawanmushi that everyone remembers and still talks about today.

For us, her family, we'll always remember her love of a good bargain, making a well-constructed to-do list, playing nickel & dime poker with good friends and how much she enjoyed gift-giving, especially to her grandkids.

Plans to host a celebration of life will be shared at a later date.

## TRIBUTE

### FRED OYAMA



Fred Oyama, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and a long-revered middle school teacher, quietly passed away on Sept. 20, 2023, at the age of 97 in Huntington Beach, Calif. Fred led an extraordinarily active and engaged life with many accomplishments and interests. He took great pride in his 35-year-long career as a dedicated middle school math teacher at these schools in the Los Angeles City school district — John Adams, Audubon, Stephen White and South Gate. He enjoyed writing poetry, drawing and had a deep passion for sports and birds.

Fred took great pride in his family's victorious 1948 landmark civil rights and land case, *Oyama v. California* ([tinyurl.com/2ws2d7hr](https://tinyurl.com/2ws2d7hr)), sharing his memories of that time with history scholars in his home state, most recently in 2009, with UC Berkeley American History Professor Mark Brilliant, who conducted a comprehensive interview with Fred and his older sister, Alice Yano, who survives him. That interview was documented by oral historian Robin Li, transcripts of which can be found at UC Berkeley's Bancroft Library. Brilliant devoted a chapter to the Oyama case in his book, "The Color of America Has Changed: How Racial Diversity Shaped Civil Rights Reform in California, 1941-1978," published in 2012.

He is survived by his second wife, Phyllis McGrath Oyama; his son, Pat Oyama; daughter-in-law Janice Oyama; daughters Jill Wong and Phyllis Oyama; sons-in-law Brian Wong and Lee Townsend; his stepdaughter, Lori Evans Matsumoto and her husband Stacy Matsumoto. He leaves behind his grandchildren Nathan Wong and his wife, Isabelle; Will Wong; Eva Townsend, Kyle Oyama and his wife, Rachelle; Eli Townsend; Kenny Oyama and Kalani Oyama. He had recently celebrated the arrival of his first great-granddaughter, Selah Oyama.

## PLACE A TRIBUTE

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

Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$20/ column inch.

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## REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

# OCTOBER IS CYBER-SECURITY MONTH

By JR Fujita

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month and a time when AARP joins federal law enforcement and other partners to urge consumers to take cybersafety measures at home and work.

When you think about protecting yourself from cybercrime, it's easy to stop at password protection and anti-virus software. But in today's

environment, being cybersafe extends far beyond our computers and phones.

Being cybersafe includes all our smart devices and apps that are connected to the internet. Devices like televisions, video games, home security systems, doorbells, refrigerators and more offer scammers access to our personal data.

One of the best ways to protect yourself is to use a different password for each device when you log in. There are free password apps to help you keep track. In the event there is a security breach, you will only have to change one password instead of needing to change all accounts.

Keeping anti-virus software, adhering to best practices in password protection and ensuring computer programs and smart phone/tablet apps are regularly updated can help prevent online security hacks. If it's connected to the internet, it can be hacked, so protecting yourself and staying up to date is important.

Make sure all your devices are secure and your private data is protected by finding great tips at [staysafeonline.org](https://staysafeonline.org) or the AARP Fraud Watch Network at [aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork](https://aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork), a free resource that equips you with reliable, up-to-date insights, alerts and fraud prevention resources to

help you spot and avoid scams and protect your loved ones.

If you've been targeted by scams or fraud, call the free AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline at (877) 908-3360. The helpline offers trained fraud specialists who will provide support and guidance on what to do next and how to avoid scams in the future.

You can also find free paper shredding events and Fraud Watch Network events hosted by AARP at [aarp.org/nearyou](https://aarp.org/nearyou).

*JR Fujita is a senior state and community engagement specialist for AARP and is based in Sacramento, Calif.*

## Asakawa Honored by the Government of Japan

A ceremony was held for the 2023 Spring Conferment of Decorations on Foreign Nationals at the residence of Yoichi Mikami, consul general of Japan at Denver, on Sept. 19. Among those honored were Gil Asakawa (pictured at right with Mikami), chair of the Denver Takayama Sister City Committee and former president of the Mile High chapter of the JACL. Asakawa was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, for his "contribution improving the social status of Japanese Americans in the U.S. and promoting understanding of Japan." In his remarks, Asakawa, who is also a longtime contributor to the *Pacific Citizen* and author, said, "I'm honored and humbled by this award to know that my community work and writing are recognized by the Japanese government. It reinforces my passion for being a link and a bridge between Japan and the U.S., rooted in respect for my bicultural upbringing and love for both sides of my identity."

PHOTO: GLENN ASAKAWA



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