

PACIFIC CITIZEN

VETERANS SPECIAL ISSUE



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NORIO'S STORY

A Korean War Veteran Returns
to Japan's Misawa Air Base
After 73 Years.

Norio Uyematsu stands in front of a U.S. Air Force F-86F Sabre Jet at Misawa Air Base in Aomori Prefecture. On a plaque below the sabre jet, it reads, "This aircraft is dedicated to the friendship between the Japanese and American peoples. May it live forever. Dedicated on September 6, 1981."

PHOTO: PATTI HIRAHARA

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JACSC Names
New Executive
Director.

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GFBNEC Holds
22nd Annual
Evening of Aloha.

JACL Apology to Tule Lake Resisters

Dear Editor,

Over four years ago, the JACL passed a resolution offering an apology to Tule Lake Resisters and promised to take further actions that have not been realized. On April 20, 2023, an email by Yukio Kawatani and Kyoko Oda, addressed to JACL leaders and members and published in the *Pacific Citizen*, reminded them of these obligations, but no response was received nor actions taken. We have provided below the exact text of the closing of the adopted JACL apology resolution for JACL leaders and members to read and respond by taking actions to fulfill their promised obligations.

“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the National Council of the Japanese American Citizens League that in the spirit of reconciliation, forgiveness, and community unity, a sincere apology is offered to those imprisoned in the Tule Lake Segregation Center for non-violent acts of resistance and dissent, who suffered shame and stigma during and after the war due to the JACL's attitudes and treatment towards individuals unfairly labeled ‘disloyal’, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Council commits itself to encouraging all chapters to gain a greater understanding of the issues surrounding the imprisonment, mistreat-

ment, and resistance of Japanese Americans sent to Tule Lake Segregation Center, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Council authorizes the National Education Committee to include the narrative of the Tule Lake Segregation Center in an updated edition of the JACL Curriculum Guide in both printed and online format and to include this narrative as one element of the syllabus for future JACL Teacher Training Workshops, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Council will recognize Tule Lake Resisters at an appropriate public ceremony during the 2020-2021 biennium.”

NOTE: The National Council did adopt the apology resolution over four years ago, but partly due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the other three resolution commitments have not been fulfilled. Recommended ways these three obligations could possibly be fulfilled by the JACL are as follows:

At the JACL National Convention in Little Tokyo this summer, a workshop titled “Who were the Tule Lake Resisters” was held by a panel of five distinguished community members highly versed on the Tule Lake Resister experience. Richard Katsuda was the moderator, and the other four members were Kyoko Oda, Soji Kashiwagi, Yukio Kawatani and Stan

Shikuma. The very informative workshop, with over 50 attendees, was filmed, and we strongly recommend it be distributed to all JACL chapters to help them gain a greater understanding of the issues regarding Tule Lake Resisters.

We are heartened that the JACL has recently started to work on the Tule Lake narrative to update the Curriculum Guide and has invited the panel members from the Tule Lake Resisters workshop and the Tule Lake Committee to participate. It is important that the JACL and representatives of the Tule Lake Resisters and Tule Lake Committee have a meeting of the minds in order to provide an accurate and authentic narrative.

National Council recognition of Tule Lake Resisters at an appropriate public ceremony still needs to be accomplished. Possibilities may be the July 2024 Tule Lake Pilgrimage that will have over 400 inspired and interested attendees or at a large banquet in Los Angeles, as the greatest numbers of Japanese Americans and JACL members live in Southern California.

It has been over four years since the apology resolution was passed, so the JACL should expeditiously strive to meet its promised commitments.

Sincerely,

Yukio Kawatani and Kyoko Oda,
San Fernando Valley JACL Members and
Former Tule Lake Inmates



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— Gil Asakawa



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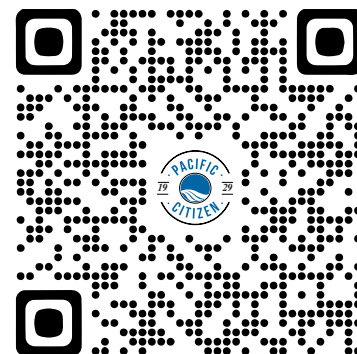
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JACSC NAMES ROB BUSCHER AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium has appointed Rob Buscher as the new executive director of the JACSC.

"We have found in Rob a leader who brings considerable experience in the leadership of nonprofit arts organizations. As a scholar, curator and filmmaker, he is a consummate storyteller who is passionately committed to telling the stories and preserving the history of Japanese Americans. He comes to us with a vision for the future of JACSC that has resonated strongly with us," said Ann Burroughs, chair of JACSC.

Buscher will take up his new role on Nov. 6.

"I am honored and humbled to take on this position at what I see as a critical juncture in our community's story. In the coming decade, we will likely lose the majority of our remaining incarceration survivors, whose lived experiences and personal testimonies have been the foundation of the pilgrimage movement and other efforts to memorialize the wartime incarceration. We must continue to educate future generations about the grave

injustices endured by our Japanese American community during the wartime and the tremendous resilience demonstrated by our success in the postwar era," said Rob Buscher. "To do this work effectively, we will need to find new ways to tell these stories in the absence of our survivors, so that their legacy can be preserved and shared with Americans of all backgrounds. As we navigate this next difficult chapter, I believe JACSC can play an important role in convening its member organizations around a shared vision for how to take this work forward."

The JACSC is comprised of organizations committed to collectively preserving, protecting and interpreting the history of the World War II experiences of Japanese Americans and elevating the related social justice lessons that inform current issues today. Members include War Relocation Authority confinement sites, as well as historical organizations, endowments, museums, commissions, educational institutions and individuals.

A mixed-race Yonsei based in Philadelphia, Buscher is deeply



embedded in the East Coast Japanese American and broader Asian American and Pacific Islander communities where he has lived and worked since 2010. Born and raised in rural/suburban Connecticut, Buscher moved to Philadelphia after five years abroad in the United Kingdom and Japan, where he completed his B.A. in communications at Richmond the American International University in London and M.A. in Japan Studies at the

University of London.

Joining the board of the Philadelphia chapter of the JACL in 2012, he has served as chapter president since 2018 and held other positions in the JACL National Council, including editorial board chair of the *Pacific Citizen* newspaper from 2019-22.

As a film and media specialist, Buscher has held leadership positions in nonprofit arts organizations for over a decade, including the Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival that he helmed for six seasons as festival director. He has also pursued a secondary career in academia that he started in 2012 as a part-time lecturer in Japan Studies at Arcadia University.

In 2017, Buscher joined the faculty of University of Pennsylvania's Asian American Studies Program, where he currently teaches courses on Asian American Cinema and Asian American Activism. His recent research focuses largely on the postwar resettlement of Japanese Americans into the Greater Philadelphia region, and the role that arts and culture have played in historic Japanese American community movements.

Buscher's family was forcibly removed from their farm and home in current-day Gardena/Torrance, Calif., in the aftermath of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Choosing

to self-relocate during the so-called "voluntary evacuation," his great-grandparents, Obaachan and her siblings were spared from the indignity of wartime incarceration.

However, losing everything they worked to establish over several decades, they were forced to rebuild their lives in the outer suburbs of Ogden, Utah, like so many other families during the postwar era. Through extended family who were incarcerated during the war, Buscher has personal ties to Rohwer, Minidoka and Crystal City.

Buscher has curated several public exhibitions related to Japanese and Asian American history, including the "American Peril" exhibit (2018, 2020) of anti-Asian racial propaganda, "The Third Space" virtual photo exhibition (2021) juxtaposing WRA propaganda with the lived experiences of Japanese Americans and "Okaeri (Welcome Home): The Nisei Legacy at Shofuso" (2023). Some of his recent multimedia productions include Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation's 13-episode podcast "Look Toward the Mountain" (2021) and PBS WHYY's six-episode TV talk series "Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders: A Philadelphia Story" (2022).

For more information about the JACSC, visit www.jacsc.org/whoweare.



REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

VETERANS ADVOCACY PROJECT

By Scott Tanaka

In honor of Veterans Day, I wanted to share about AARP's Legal Counsel for the Elderly and its Veterans Advocacy Project.

For more than 45 years, LCE has championed the dignity and rights of Washington, D.C. elders by providing free legal and social work services to those in need. Its work addresses the most important aspects of an older adult's life, including housing, economic security, self-determination and health and safety. LCE impacts the lives of nearly 10,000 people annually, while advocating for city-wide reforms in laws, regulations and long-term care facilities.

LCE launched the Veterans

Advocacy Project in 2014 to ensure that it is best serving older veterans living in Washington, D.C. The Veterans Advocacy Project works with D.C. low-income older or disabled veterans with specific claims before the Department of Veteran Affairs. LCE provides a range of services including assisting eligible D.C. veterans aged 60 and older with claims for service-connected disability compensation if they are diagnosed with conditions the VA has found to be presumed conditions related to military service.

I recently had an opportunity to witness the important work the LCE does firsthand. I joined two of LCE's social workers in helping a client who was evicted from their home due to hoarding. Our goal

was to help the client declutter so that they could live their life safely again. I clearly saw LCE's mission of helping D.C.'s elders live with dignity and the assurance that they are not alone being carried out. To learn more about LCE and its services, please visit <https://www.aarp.org/legal-counsel-for-elderly/>.

If you live outside of D.C., please contact a local Veteran Service Organization for help with benefits questions and claims. VA-approved and -accredited VSOs can be found at the Department of Veterans Affairs website, and it does not charge for help accessing VA benefits and resources.

I also encourage you to visit www.aarp.org. AARP is committed to providing trusted information veterans and military

families can use when it's needed. One resource I want to highlight is AARP's Health Benefits Navigator.

AARP's "Navigator" is a free one-stop resource that brings together valuable information and resources to help veterans, military families and their caregivers pursue their health-care options. This tool can be accessed by going to AARP.org/VetsHealthNavigator. I want to end by thanking our veterans and military families for their tireless service and relentless sacrifice.

Scott Tanaka is a member of the JACL Washington, D.C., chapter and is a program manager, integration, engagement and culture with AARP's Policy, Research and International Affairs.



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Once a month, members of the Buddhahead Breakfast Club meet to eat at King's Hawaiian Bakery & Restaurant, a tradition that began more than 20 years ago.

PHOTO: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON



BUDDHAHEAD BREAKFAST CLUB: Pancakes, Eggs and Camaraderie

Monthly meeting serves hearty helping of friendship, fellowship and nostalgia.

By P.C. Staff

On a recent Friday morning at King's Hawaiian in Torrance, Calif., some of the customers undoubtedly looked at the large gathering of older, mostly Japanese American men who had taken over a section of the famous bakery and restaurant and wondered to themselves: "Who are these guys?"

The more eagle-eyed among the curious might have noticed the custom T-shirts worn by many in the group and gotten a partial answer:

They were witnessing the monthly meeting of the BBC.

No, not that BBC. This BBC stands for the Buddhahead Breakfast Club. According to the main organizer, Chris Segawa, this BBC is all about common experiences, friendship, camaraderie — and, of course, breakfast.

Segawa said that the Buddhahead Breakfast Club started more than 20 years ago with eight original members who decided to get together informally once a month for breakfast. What they had in common was a shared Japanese

American — or Japanese American adjacent — background, ties to Los Angeles County's South Bay area and, in many instances, military service during the Vietnam War.

Over time, word began to spread. "It just kept growing and growing," Segawa said. As the Buddhahead Breakfast Club grew, it had to change locations several times. Fortunately, King's Hawaiian Bakery & Restaurant turned out to be the ideal place: It was large enough to handle up to 50 or more BBC attendees, and its "aloha" menu was tailor-made for, well,

Buddhaheads.

Now, there's a list of nearly 80 regulars. Attendance is by invitation only because of the increased head count. Segawa calls everyone on the list the night before as a reminder and to see who is coming. At a recent gathering, Don Bannai, original member Sam Ito, David Miyoshi and Sunny Tesaki all gathered at King's Hawaiian.

And thanks to the artistry of one of the original members, Richard Mikami, even though they have their own T-shirt — and what makes even an unofficial group more "official"

than having a T-shirt? — it remains informal and congenial. There's also the therapeutic aspect to something as simple as getting together once a month and having breakfast.

"Back in the day, we used to fight," Segawa admitted. "The Westside against the Eastside, and we were Gardena guys. Now, we sit down and eat together. . . It's been a real good thing for everybody."

(Editor's Note: To view a short video of a recent Buddhahead Breakfast Club meeting, visit tinyurl.com/4dzaxewb.)

BBC Quartet Take Part in Honor Flight

Decades after serving, Vietnam War vets find healing with a visit to the nation's capital.

The physical scars that many Vietnam War veterans had to endure were no different than soldiers of any war might endure, be it pieces of shrapnel in one's body or lost limbs, lost mobility, lost eyesight or lost hearing. The psychic and emotional scars, however, were different.

It's been a scenario of diminishing returns. When World War II vets returned, they were feted with parades and accolades. When Korean War vets returned, a war-weary nation responded with indifference. When Vietnam vets came home, many faced outright hostility and rage — and were perfectly fine with shrinking from the spotlight, taking pains to keep their service under wraps to avoid painful and awkward questions and conversations over a profoundly unpopular war.

With time, however, things changed. America was finally ready to reconcile and embrace its Vietnam War veterans. Honor Flight, a charity that began as a way to honor still-living WWII veterans with a trip to Washington, D.C., realized that vets who served during the Vietnam War era also

deserved a homecoming they never got.

So, Buddhahead Breakfast Club members Gil Ishizu, Jim Iwaki, John Masaki and Ken Mui took part in the Oct. 13-15 Honor Flight to the nation's capital to visit the memorials built to honor their service, as well as sites like Arlington National Cemetery. "I didn't know what to expect," said Masaki, who related that Don Suehiro — another BBC regular — had taken part in Honor Flight and raved about it.

According to Suehiro, all it took was going online and filling out and submitting an application. "You did not have to go to 'Nam. You just had to be a veteran," Masaki added. As it turned out, Ishizu, Iwaki, Masaki and Mui all took Suehiro's advice and applied — and got the nod, along with 32 other veterans of different wars, each accompanied by a guardian.

Masaki also explained that part of the experience was a "couple of major surprises" — sorry, no spoilers — that just about brought him to his knees. "It was quite a tear-jerking affair for me."

For his part, Ishizu recalled meeting the two 97-year-olds who were part of this Honor Flight session, one a WWII vet, the other a Korean War vet. It was for him meaningful to "listen to the other people talk and share experiences. I think that was the biggest part."

Masaki summed up his Honor Flight experience thusly: "It was one fabulous trip."

— P.C. Staff



Military veterans and their guardians while aboard the aircraft that took them to Washington, D.C., to visit the various war memorials, courtesy of Honor Flight.



Kenny Mui and his daughter, Leslie, who served as his Honor Flight guardian, stand before the wall at the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

PHOTOS: GIL ISHIZU



In advance of Veterans Day, Norio Uyematsu returned recently to Misawa Air Base in Aomori Prefecture for the first time in 73 years.

PHOTO: PATTI HIRAHARA

NORIO'S STORY

In recognition of Veterans Day, Norio Uyematsu, a Japanese American Korean War veteran, is honored at Misawa Air Base for his U.S. Army military service 73 years ago.

By Tech. Sgt. Jao'Torey Johnson,
35th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

MISAWA AIR BASE, JAPAN — Young men found themselves thrust into the heart of the war, a relentless battleground where the scorching summer sun bore down on them, and the rumble of distant artillery echoed through the unforgiving landscape. Each step was a gamble with fate. Nights were fraught with terror. Camaraderie of fellow soldiers was the only solace amidst the chaos. The Korean War was a crucible that tested the limits of human endurance and brotherhood, leaving an indelible mark on the souls of many. This was the service Norio Uyematsu signed up for, but he had yet to learn how much it would impact him.

Uyematsu's journey began in the quiet town of Brigham City, Utah. It was 1948, and the young man had just graduated from Box Elder High School. Uyematsu, like many others of his generation, felt the patriotic call to serve his country. At just 17 years old, he enlisted in the U.S. Army in January 1949, setting the course for a remarkable life.

His service started with an unexpected turn when he shipped out. Uyematsu initially received orders to Okinawa, Japan, but history had other plans. The invasion of communist North Korea into South Korea sent shockwaves through the world. Everything abruptly changed.

In July 1950, Uyematsu found himself diverted from Okinawa and assigned to the 865th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Self-Propelled Unit at Camp Haugen in Hachinohe, Aomori Prefecture. The unit was later dispatched to guard Misawa Air Base.

It was a solemn duty protecting the base and its surroundings. The scars of World War II still marred the landscape.

"As a corporal, I still can picture mothers with

their small children and Japanese Army soldiers with missing limbs," Uyematsu recalled. "The city of Misawa was very small, at that time, with unpaved dirt streets. The people in Misawa were very cordial, and they were surprised to see a Japanese American in a U.S. Army uniform."

Uyematsu's mission took on a deeper meaning as he witnessed the resilience of the Japanese people. He understood that his service was not just about safeguarding a base; it was about standing as a symbol of support for those in need.

In July 1951, Uyematsu was once again called to action, but this time in the heart of the Korean War. He found himself assigned to the 521st Military Intelligence Service Platoon, and his journey to Korea began. He served in the grueling war with dedication and honor.

The unit was awarded the "Meritorious Unit Commendation" for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in support of combat operations in Korea during the period of Dec. 28, 1951-Aug. 31, 1952.

Uyematsu returned to civilian life in July 1952, but his sense of duty and desire to honor those who served with him never wavered. As the years passed, his life continued to be a testament to his motto, "You must endure hardship to succeed."

Uyematsu's service and that of countless Japanese Americans in the Korean War earned the moniker of the "Forgotten War," but he was determined not to let their sacrifices be in vain. Uyematsu became a three-time Commander of the Kazuo Masuda Memorial VFW Post 3670, in Orange County, Calif., and was a charter officer of the Japanese American Korean War Veterans organization.

In 2022, at the age of 91, Uyematsu, of Anaheim, Calif., was recognized by California Congressman Lou Correa (D-46th District) for

his service as a Japanese American Korean War veteran, and his life was honored on the Congressional Record. It was a moment of honor and gratitude for a man whose life had been a tapestry of service, sacrifice and resilience.

Uyematsu's recognition by Correa also gave him the opportunity to return to Japan recently in advance of Veterans Day and take a tour of Misawa Air Base.

"I am so happy I was able to see

U.S. Air Force Technical Sgt. Jao'Torey Johnson, public affairs, Misawa Air Base, receives a commemorative signed photo statue from Norio Uyematsu, as well as his recorded memories of his time on base at Misawa in 1950, as a thank you to the base for their hospitality.

PHOTO: PATTI HIRAHARA



Members of the 521st MIS 10X Corp Korea on March 31, 1952. Pictured (top row, from left) are William Sur, Richard Fujimoto and Bob Yamasaki and (front, from left) Norio Uyematsu and Akio Sawada.

Misawa again after 73 years," Uyematsu said. "I could not believe how big the base had become, and now the base is used as Misawa's public airport and home of the Japan Air Self-Defense Force, the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Navy."

With all its challenges and triumphs, Uyematsu's life is a living testament to the indomitable spirit of those who serve their country. His story is one that should never be forgotten, a reminder of the sacrifices made by the brave men and women who stepped forward in times of crisis, leaving a deep-rooted mark on history.

"I am fortunate to be able to continue to tell the story of those Japanese Americans



Corp. Norio Uyematsu at Misawa Air Base in Japan 1951.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF NORIO UYEMATSU

who served in the Korean War," Uyematsu concluded. "There are not many of us left, but our service did make a difference." ■



Japanese American Korean War veteran Norio Uyematsu receives Congressional Record recognition from Congressman Lou Correa on Veterans Day 2022 and recorded on Nov. 16, 2022.

PHOTO: PATTI HIRAHARA

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GFBNEC ROLLS DICE ON ITS FUTURE

The 22nd Evening of Aloha Honors Vets, Bets on Expansion Plan.

By P.C. Staff

On the surface, Sept. 23's annual fundraising gala for the Go for Broke National Education Center at a tony downtown Los Angeles hotel ballroom was as celebratory, festive and heartfelt as any of the 21 Evenings of Aloha that preceded it.

The food was as tasty as ever, thanks to Roy's Restaurant chain founder Roy Yamaguchi, who created the menu, and chef Andreas Nieto, who led the Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites culinary team.

The master of ceremony duties by Chris Komai — filling in for KABC-TV Channel 7 news anchor David Ono — were handled with aplomb.

The presentation and retiring of flags by the 100th Battalion/442nd Infantry Regiment color guard were handled with precision, the music was cheery, the videos were inspiring and the words from such speakers as GFBNEC Board of Directors Chair George Henning, Rep. Mark Takano (D-Calif.), comedienne and GFBNEC volunteer Sierra Kato, former Alhambra Mayor Jeff Koji Maloney, Dr. Maya Hernandez and, of course, GFBNEC CEO and President Mitchell T. Maki were all first-rate.

But as one attendee noted, it seemed there were fewer in the audience than in previous years.

This time there were only three veterans — Ed Nakamura (Military Intelligence Service), Yosh Nakamura (442nd) and Toke Yoshihashi (100th/442nd), all centenarian-adjacent — who took the stage to accept the audience's applause and adulation.

The lower turnout wasn't imaginary. In an interview with *Pacific Citizen* conducted a few days after the event, Maki noted that there were 450 people in attendance. "Five years ago, we had 1,000. When veterans pass, their families don't always stick around. So,



In the foreground (from left) are Tokuji Yoshihashi (100th Battalion), Yoshio Nakamura (442nd) and Ed Nakamura (MIS). The trio of Nisei WWII veterans were in attendance at Sept. 23's Annual Evening of Aloha fundraising dinner and celebration at the Westin Bonaventure in downtown Los Angeles.

PHOTO: TRACY KUMONO

there are challenges for us as we push forward and as we begin to redefine and recreate ourselves to make ourselves relevant for the next generation."

In a way, it's completely understandable when you are an organization whose *raison d'être* is to celebrate and memorialize American soldiers from a small ethnic group who served with particular distinction in a war that ended nearly eight decades ago.

That the day would arrive when there were no more 442 or MIS veterans to fete was something everyone knew was inevitable. That time, sadly, is nearly here.

"We are in a transition at Go for Broke National Education Center just because the veterans are leaving us so quickly," said Maki.

Although an undeniable truth, GFBNEC is nevertheless taking action to belie the bromide "old soldiers never die, they just fade away."

Inspired by the gambling expression from which it derives its name, Go for Broke is staking its future to not fade away on a construction project called First Street North, which will run along Temple Street between Judge John Aiso Street to the west and Alameda Street to the east, with an elbow of construction running south along Aiso Street. It will break ground in early 2024.

As explained by Maloney at the Evening of Aloha, the First Street North project is a partnership among GFBNEC, the Little Tokyo Service Center and the City of Los Angeles that will transform the parking lot that surrounds the Go for Broke Monument, built in 1999, with a "new multipurpose, multistory building" that "will include 330,000 square feet of indoor space over five levels with a floor of subterranean parking.

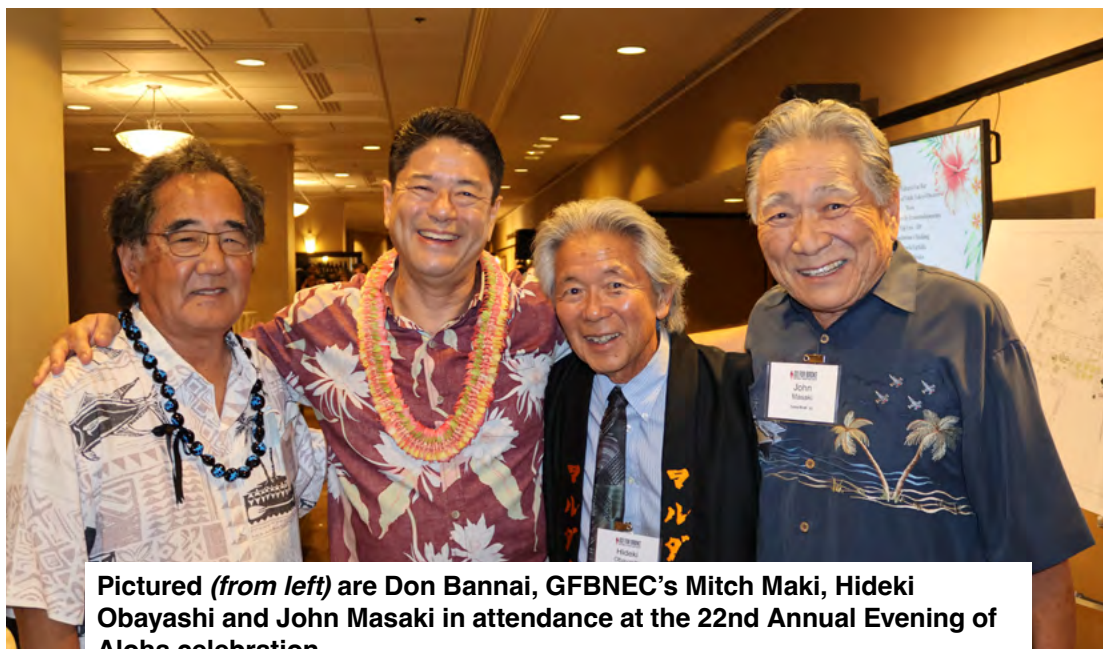
It will include 248 units of badly needed affordable housing. We plan to also house

several legacy J-town businesses, including Fugetsu-Do and an additional theater for East-West Players."

Previous reporting has stated that half of the units were to be reserved for low-income families, with one-third reserved for "veterans experiencing homelessness."

Maloney added that part of the project will also mean Go for Broke National Education Center will "take possession of a 10,000-square-foot operating space, which includes a multipurpose room for presentations and community meetings, a state-of-the-art conference room and a temporary exhibit space, and I think most exciting, an outdoor courtyard that will be designed to give the proper honor to every person whose name is inscribed on our Monument."

According to Maki, completion of this long-discussed project will be late 2026 at the earliest, spring 2027 at the latest.



Pictured (from left) are Don Bannai, GFBNEC's Mitch Maki, Hideki Obayashi and John Masaki in attendance at the 22nd Annual Evening of Aloha celebration.

PHOTO: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON

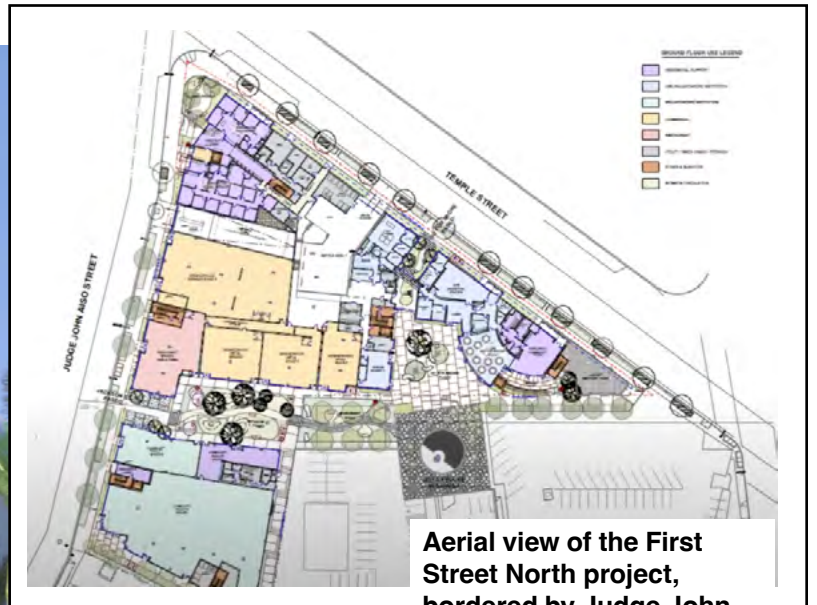


Nisei veteran Ed Nakamura (MIS) with Amy Matsumoto, wife of Ralph Matsumoto (MIS) and her daughter, Tracy Haselau.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF GFBNEC

This artistic rendition shows how the area surrounding the Go for Broke monument is proposed to appear after completion of the First Street North project sometime in 2026.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF GFBNEC



Aerial view of the First Street North project, bordered by Judge John Aiso Street (west) and Temple Street (north). The circle in the center is the Go for Broke monument.

That the redevelopment will benefit the area is fitting. It was once part of historic Little Tokyo until the City of Los Angeles utilized eminent domain several decades ago to take over the land — and then used the real estate for parking.

In his remarks at Evening of Aloha, Maloney also said, “Our intent has always been to build an interpretive center next to it [the Go for Broke Monument] and to construct an additional commemorative wall that would honor the names of an additional 16,000 Japanese American Service members who served but didn’t get shipped overseas during World War II.”

Published reports have LTSC and GFBNEC paying \$1 a year to rent the land. Funding will come from various sources, including government grants and funding.

For Maki, who has been at the helm at

GFBNEC for the past seven years, the shrinking numbers of Nisei veterans has been the impetus to take steps now to ensure a viable future for the organization.

“We’re at a point where the story is not going to live on simply because it’s a great story,” Maki said. “So, we’ve made a concerted effort to say, if we really believe that this is not just a great Japanese American story, but a great American story, then we need to really start to push this story outside of the JA community and make it relevant to members of other communities.”

Maki pointed to GFBNEC’S Torchbearer program — described on its website as a group of “engaged young adults who are locally involved and committed to the Go For Broke spirit and legacy” with local partners in other regions of the nation — and its Go for Broke Journalism Institute,

which began in 2022, as avenues by which the organization’s mission can continue and expand, both within the Japanese American community and beyond it.

“We’re starting to see the fruits of that, and what’s amazing to me is when you hear young people from other communities, who may not have even heard this story before, get excited about it, and identify with it,” he said.

With the recent opening of the Terasaki Budokan, the launch of the Japanese American National Museum’s \$65 million Our Promise campaign and the past summer’s opening of the Little Tokyo/Arts District Metro stop named for the late Norman Mineta, Little Tokyo is undergoing changes that should maintain and sustain the historic heart of Los Angeles’ Japanese American community.

Now, with the plans by Go for Broke National

Education Center ready to begin, the stage is set for a transformative Little Tokyo renaissance.

But for Maki, it’s all about ensuring that the service and sacrifices of a previous generation are remembered by their heirs. “I think we honor their legacy by helping young people remember that the opportunities that they have today are due to the sacrifices that were made yesterday.”

(Editor’s Note: To view the video on the 22nd Evening of Aloha on YouTube, visit tinyurl.com/2s47ecar. To learn more about the Go for Broke Journalism Institute on YouTube, visit tinyurl.com/bdedfrwd.)



This is an artistic rendition of the First Street North project looking north along Judge John Aiso Street.

ARIZONA ANIMATOR DRAWS ON FAMILY LORE FOR PROJECT

'Purple Heart for Effect' tells the story of Brad Uyeda's grandfather's 442nd service.

By P.C. Staff

Like many others during the Covid-19 lockdown that began in March 2020, Phoenix, Ariz.-based animator Brad Uyeda, who was born and raised in Fresno, Calif., decided to work on something that had been in his thoughts for several years, a project that, under normal circumstances, he might not have been able to put his focus.

The result was a feature-length script and a short, animated movie inspired by stories Uyeda learned about his grandfather, Masatsugu Uyeda, who was incarcerated at the War Relocation Authority Center in Poston, Ariz., and later volunteered to serve in the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team.

There was something compelling about that narrative that piqued the grandson's interest in the World War II military service of his grandfather, a member of K Co. He began researching not just his grandfather's story but that of those Nisei who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during WWII.

The result was "Purple Heart for Effect," which runs one minute, 36 seconds and is a "proof of concept" that he hopes will help it become a feature-length project. Before that could happen, however, he would need to spend a year working on the short in his spare time.

"I drew every single frame by hand with a light table like the classics they did back at Disney in the old school days. Everything is hand drawn. It's all me," Uyeda told the *Pacific Citizen*.

For Uyeda, time was of the essence. He needed to "get it done" in time to submit it for the many film festivals he had in mind. Initially, all of the burden was on him.

"I did every facet of that film, except for maybe like one or two backgrounds in the CG plane. I outsourced that. But everything else, pretty much I did everything. I drew it, I colored it, I did the sound, I did the editing, I did the sound effects. I just didn't do the voices."

The voice acting was where Los Angeles County-based actor Ren Hanami entered the picture. As with Uyeda, the pandemic for her meant

that she had begun doing more voice acting because it was the kind of work that those in that field could continue to do remotely.

"I was reading the densho.org newsletter, and I saw a little ad from a guy in Arizona that said [he was] looking for voiceover actors for this passion project of his," Hanami told the *Pacific Citizen*. "So, I contacted him."

Things clicked. Not only did Hanami decide to help with the voice acting and casting of voice actors, most of whom she already knew professionally, she became Uyeda's producing partner after he parted ways with his original producing partner. Uyeda said he was uncomfortable with the changes that first partner wanted to make, changes that he felt were inauthentic and unorganic to the story.

That story, in a nutshell, was related to the issues the elder Uyeda had to deal with following his military service, including the survivor's remorse he had after one of his friends was killed in battle, as well as the reacclimation into the civilian world after the war's end and having to deal with the racism he faced despite having served his country.

In addition to helping recruit voice actors Kipp Shiotani and Nicole Gose and casting director Wolfie Trausch, Hanami was able to use her expertise to help the project with fundraising by doing things like applying for grants. She also was able to get Japanese language subtitles added to the movie. "I've been studying Japanese now for about four years, finally," Hanami said. With help from her teacher, the subtitles were added to help Japanese language speakers understand the story.

Since completing the short, Uyeda has entered "Purple Heart for Effect" into several film festivals: the Marina del Rey Film Festival, the Silicon Beach Film Festival, the Jerome Indie Film & Music Festival, the Flagstaff International Film Festival, the Show Low Film Festival, the Mesa International Film Festival and the Silicon Valley Asian Pacific FilmFest. Uyeda also related that "Purple Heart for Effect" was just accepted into the Culver City Film Festival, which runs from Dec. 7-30.

While the short is an achievement of its own, Uyeda and Hanami know that this is just the beginning of what will likely be a long journey, one that will include raising more funds. But he looks at crowdfunding, which has become popular in recent years, as an avenue of last resort.

"I'm hoping that I could reach the Japanese American community," Uyeda said, adding that he has been working with Japanese American organizations in Arizona, including having "Purple Heart for

Effect" screen during the Arizona Japanese Film Festival in November.

"My ultimate goal is, I want the Japanese American community to really, if they can participate, if they can help fund it, I'd like it to be funded by our community if that is possible. . . . I just want to reach as many Japanese Americans as I can to let them know that this project of ours is happening."

(Editor's Note: For more information on "Purple Heart for Effect," visit savmostudios.com. To find out more about the Culver City Film Festival, visit culvercityfilmfestival.com/.)



**Filmmaker
Bradford Uyeda
at the Flagstaff
International
Film Festival
earlier this year**

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF
BRAD UYEDA



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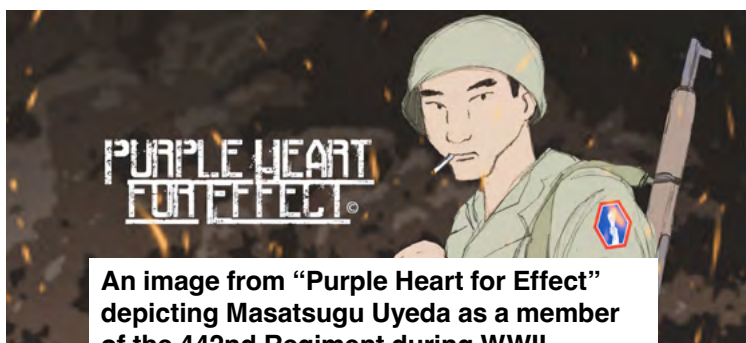
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An image from "Purple Heart for Effect" depicting Masatsugu Uyeda as a member of the 442nd Regiment during WWII.

REFLECTIONS

DAVID AKIRA ITAMI: A Kibei Tragedy

Bringing to light a life cut short following Itami's decorated service in the Military Intelligence Service.

By Beverley Driver Eddy

David Akira Itami devoted his life to service to the United States. Why, then, is he forgotten in this country and honored in Japan? His biography reveals the complex issues — then and now — that have governed his case.

Itami was one of approximately 6,000 Japanese Americans (Nisei) who served in the Military Intelligence Service of the U.S. Army during World War II. His work was especially valued because he was a Kibei Nisei — one of those Japanese Americans who spent several years of their childhood living in Japan.

He was born in Oakland, Calif., in 1911 but was sent, just before his second birthday, to live with his paternal aunt in Kajiki, a small coastal town in Kagoshima Prefecture. After attending the local grade school, he went on to study at the Daito Bunka Gakuin (Academy of Greater East Asian Culture) in Tokyo. But because of his mother's failing health, he had to return to the States in 1931. He was 19 years old.

Itami's life now took a very different direction. His first duty was to learn English. Fortunately, he was able to do this remarkably quickly.

After taking a job at a salmon cannery in Alaska, where he exercised his first leadership role by helping the Asian immigrant community negotiate their summer wages, he returned to California and settled in

Los Angeles. It did not take him long to transition to a position of influence in the Japanese American community.

First, he taught Japanese language classes at the Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple and took courses at Los Angeles City College. Then, in 1934, he found employment on the editorial staff of the bilingual newspaper *Kashu Mainichi Shinbun/The Japan-California Daily News*.

Itami renounced his Japanese citizenship in 1935, but he never renounced his Asian heritage. He helped establish a Japanese American literary magazine, worked on educational programming for the Kibei division of the JACL and in 1940 became editor of a news magazine written by and for Kibei.

It was his dream that the Kibei Nisei could provide a bridge between Japan and the United States. But he alienated himself from leftist members of the Kibei Nisei community when he wrote that the United States had more to fear from Russia than Japan. This alienation turned to open hostility in October 1940, when Itami used his authority as vp of JACL's Kibei Division to expel some of its Communist members.

He continued to be the acknowledged head of this division, however, even when the JACL leadership changed and its new and powerful anti-Axis Committee demanded that Kibei and Issei sever all contact with Japan. Things escalated when Japan launched its surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. On the evening of Dec. 7, more than 5,500 community leaders were rounded up and sent to detention centers.

Itami now had to tread a careful line at *Kashu Mainichi*, since the JACL's anti-Axis Committee was monitoring it and other Japanese American newspapers for "fascist

tendencies." He immediately dropped all favorable commentaries about Japan and appealed in the paper, instead, to American patriotism.

Then, on Feb. 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. In a final editorial before publication of *Kashu Mainichi* was suspended, Itami and his colleagues urged all Nisei to comply with EO 9066.

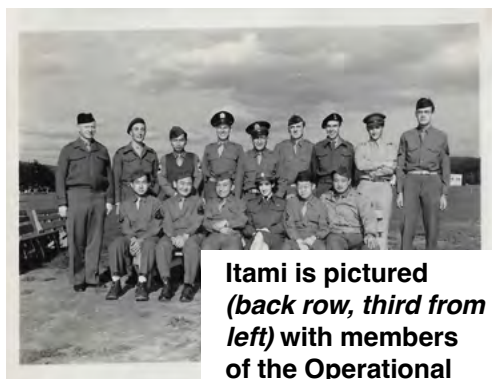
At the same time, Itami wrote a letter to *Time Magazine*, in which he gave a major reason for supporting the resettlement: "We Nisei on the California coast certainly do not wish to be looked upon as potential saboteurs or fifth columnists. Neither do we have any desire to be charged responsible if and when any single bomb is dropped here."

Two days after *Kashu Mainichi* suspended publication, Itami was among 85 Los Angeles Japanese Americans to join an advance work party that helped prepare for the arrival of detainees at the Owens Valley Reception Center in Manzanar, Calif. Thousands would enter the camp in the days that followed, including Itami's wife and 4-year-old daughter.

There, Itami served as executive secretary of the block leaders council and translated and transcribed the camp newspaper into Japanese.

He continued to believe that it was the duty of all loyal Nisei to accept their forced incarceration as part of their contribution to the American war effort. That May, he wrote a second letter to *Time Magazine*, praising Manzanar and saying that conditions there were "just about the best that we can expect under the circumstances." He declared that the federal officials who served as camp administrators were "very courteous and considerate toward all of us" and that "under the snow-covered High Sierra mountains our life is just wonderful. . . ."

But Itami remained at the camp only seven months. In October, Col. Kai Rasmussen, commander of the Military Intelligence Service Language School at Camp Savage, Minn., came to Manzanar to recruit Japanese language instructors. He immediately hired Itami and two other Nisei as civilian instructors; the three men left Manzanar as the



Itami is pictured (back row, third from left) with members of the Operational Intelligence Section at Camp Ritchie.



Pictured (from left) are monitor Itami, interpreter Tomio Mori and a court reporter at the Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal.

Itami was discharged from the Army on April 10, 1946, but he remained a War Department civilian employee. That April, he and three other Kibei from the Allied Power's Translation and Interpretation Section were assigned to monitor the work of the Japanese interpreters at the Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal.

These trials did not adjourn until Nov. 12, 1948.

Itami was particularly adept at explaining subtle distinctions in language. At the trials, he stepped in not only to correct language misperceptions, but also to silence the prosecutor when he interrupted the testimony of Japan's former wartime leader, Gen. Hideki Tojo.

Once the intensive labor of the trials was over, however, Itami fell into a deep depression. On Dec. 26, 1950, he died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. He was 39 years old.

Itami might have been forgotten as just another war casualty — until novelist Toyoko Yamasaki took an interest in his case and published his story in 1983 in the novel "Futatsu No Sokoku" ("Two Homelands"). (An abridged English translation appeared in 2008.) It was turned into a yearlong TV series in 1984 and a two-part TV film in 2019.

Yamasaki portrayed her hero's disillusionment with America's conduct of the Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal and America's continued anti-Japanese fervor as major reasons for his suicide. Itami's daughter, Michi, who was 12 at the time of her father's death, offered another reason for his depression. "I think that being a Kibei . . . was difficult for him, as he did not belong to any group," she said. "Nisei did not trust Kibei because they were so different from themselves. Also, he was alienated from other Kibei because he was too intelligent to believe the propaganda of the Japanese military government at the time."

Today, it is Japan, and not America, that honors Itami. In Kijiki, a memorial was erected at the site of his childhood home. And the college he had attended as a young man named a large assembly hall in his honor.

The Nisei in America, however, successfully banned the 1984 film "Two Homelands" from being shown in the continental United States because they were deep into negotiations for redress and reparations for their forced internment during the war. As a result, they had — and continue to have — little interest in celebrating a Kibei who proclaimed their voluntary internment an act of American patriotism, despite his spectacular wartime achievements.

Beverley Driver Eddy is a retired professor at Dickenson College in Carlisle, Pa.



A poster for the 2019 Japanese TV film based on Toyoko Yamasaki's fictionalized account of David Akira Itami's life



Maj. Gen. Myron C. Cramer congratulates Itami upon his receipt of the Legion of Merit in August 1946.

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

NATIONAL

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

The *Ireicho* 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 Little Friends' 48th Anniversary Celebration
San Francisco, CA
Nov. 17; 5-7 p.m.
Nihonmachi Little Friends
Tateuchi Auditorium
1830 Sutter St.
Price: \$125

Come celebrate NLF's 48th anniversary with a buffet dinner and program that will honor Cathy Inamasu, who served as executive director for 36 years, culminating in her retirement. Guests will enjoy delicious sushi prepared by We Be Sushi and a variety of other delectable dishes, as well as a sake and wine tasting and musical entertainment by Crosswinds. All event proceeds will benefit NLF's programs and its building fund.
Info: Visit www.nlfchildcare.org.

'Takashi Murakami: Unfamiliar People — Swelling of Monsterized Human Ego'
San Francisco, CA
Thru Feb. 12, 2024
Asian Art Museum
200 Larkin St.
Price: Museum Admission

Takashi Murakami's first solo exhibition in San Francisco is one that features the artist's signature combination of fun, spectacle and playful social commentary. In vibrantly colored paintings and sculptures, Murakami uses monsters to embody the hopes and fears of the digital age.
Info: Visit exhibitions/asianart.org/exhibitions/takashi-murakami-monsterized/.

PSW

Okaeri LGBTQ+ Conference
Los Angeles, CA
Nov. 10-12
JANM
100 N. Central Ave.
Price: \$25-\$50

All are welcome to attend Okaeri's Fifth biennial hybrid conference! Registration includes food, and there is a discount for seniors, students and virtual attendees. Keynote plenary during the conference will feature Kris Hayashi and Cecilia Chung from the Transgender Law Center. Don't miss out, as the weekend lineup will feature more than 35 workshops or meetups.

Info: Visit www.okaeri-losangeles.org/conference-2023.

JACL Honolulu Chapter Distinguished Service Awards Dinner and General Membership Meeting
Honolulu, HI
Nov. 18; 6 p.m.
Oahu Country Club
Nu'uuanu Ballroom
150 Country Club Road
Price: Tickets Available for Purchase
The evening will begin with the annual general membership meeting, followed by the awards dinner, where the chapter will recognize two distinguished honorees who have dedicated their lifetimes to the service of justice: U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono and the late-Dr. Franklin Odo.
Info: Visit <https://givebutter.com/mrJQRm>.

'The Nutcracker' With Live Orchestra
Los Angeles, CA
Dec. 1-2
JACCC
Aratani Theatre
244 S. San Pedro St.
Price: Ticket Prices Vary
Let Principal Ballerina Petra Conti and her newly founded company, Hollywood Ballet, take you into this classic winter wonderland fairytale. Local and international dancers will come together for an enchanting journey to the live music of the Dream Orchestra of Los Angeles, directed by Daniel Suk and choreographed by Eris Nezha. This is the perfect way to welcome in the holidays.
Info: Visit www.jaccc.org.

Oshogatsu Family Festival
Los Angeles, CA
Jan. 7, 2024
JANM
100 N. Central Ave.
Price: Free, But Advanced Tickets Recommended

The popular annual New Year celebration will include free crafts, performances and cultural activities for all ages to help ring in the Year of the Dragon. Don't miss your chance to celebrate one of Japan's longest and most important holidays! In addition, Kodomo Taiko will perform a traditional mochitsuki, musically pounding rice into the sweet treat, mochi. Tickets will be made available this fall.

Info: Visit www.janm.org.

PNW

Meet Santa in the Heart of Chinatown-International District
Seattle, WA
Dec. 9
Chinatown-International District
504 Fifth Ave. S
Price: Photo Prices Vary

The Wing Luke Museum's C-ID Santa gives families an opportunity to connect with their heritages during the most magical time of year. Photos taken by Truong Nguyen Photographer will be available for purchase; all proceeds benefit the museum's exhibits, programs and historical preservation efforts. Reservations are required; a very limited amount of walk-in appointments will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Info: Email visit@wingluke.org or call (206) 623-5124.

'A Sense of Place: The Art of George Tsutakawa'
Portland, OR
Sept. 7-Dec. 31
Japanese American Museum of Oregon
411 N.W. Flanders St.
Price: Museum Admission

For the first time, artist George Tsutakawa's work will be on exhibit in Oregon thanks to a collaboration between JAMO and the Tsutakawa family. The exhibit will include examples of the artist's work in watercolor, sumi, metal sculpture and fountain design. Tsutakawa's public works can be found in cities across the U.S., Canada and Japan. An exhibition highlight is a large model for Fountain of Wisdom, Tsutakawa's first fountain sculpture, created in 1960 for the Seattle Public Library.

Info: Visit www.jamo.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 was incarcerated along with his family at Heart Mountain during WWII, and Ganor was a child living in Lithuania before the Nazi invasion forced him and his family into a Jewish ghetto and then a forced-labor camp in Bavaria. 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.

MDC

Lunar New Year 2024 Celebration
Chicago, IL
Feb. 10, 2024
Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace
Price: Free

The Asian American Coalition of Chicago presents the 41st annual Lunar New Year Celebration hosted by the Japanese American Community. This event, the largest pan-Asian event in Illinois, welcomes in the Year of the Dragon, traditionally known for good luck and prosperity.

Info: Visit aacchicago.org for more event information.

IDC

The Go for Broke Spirit: Portraits of Legacy by Shane Sato
Boise, ID
Thru Feb. 18, 2024
Boise State University
Albertsons Library
1865 W. Cesar Chavez Lane

This project centers around veterans who served in World War II as members of the 442nd RCT, 100th Battalion and the Military Intelligence Service who are featured in Shane Sato's photographic book, a passion project that began for him 20 years ago.

Info: Visit <https://www.boisestate.edu/student-life/event/the-go-for-broke-spirit-portraits-of-legacy-by-shane-sato/>.

EDC

JAVA & NJAMF's Veterans Day Program
Washington, D.C.
Nov. 11; 2 p.m. EST
National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in WWII
Intersection of New Jersey Avenue, Louisiana Avenue and D Street
Price: Free

Join JAVA and NJAMF for its annual Veterans Day Program that will feature keynote speaker U.S. Army Maj. Michael H. Yamamoto, who is currently assigned to the Joint Communications Support Element (A) and is serving as

the J3, director of operations, since July 2022. The program will be in-person and streamed virtually via Facebook.
Info: Visit www.java.org.

'The Golden Screen: The Movies That Made Asian America'
Belmont, MA
Nov. 16; 7 p.m.
Belmont Books
79 Leonard St.
Price: Free

Join a discussion featuring Jeff Yang, who will be in conversation with Julie Wu, for his new book that celebrates and examines the history of Asian Americans on the big screen, exploring how iconic films have shaped Hollywood, representation and American culture.

Info: Visit <https://www.belmont-books.com/event/jeff-yang-conversation-julie-wu-0>.

Ruth Asawa Through Line Exhibit
New York, NY
Thru Jan. 15, 2024
Whitney Museum of American Art
99 Gansevoort St.
Price: Museum Admission

This exhibition highlights drawing as the through line in Asawa's work. Organized thematically and inspired by her inquisitive approach to making art, the presentation comprises more than 100 works, many of which are on display for the first time.

Info: Visit www.whitney.org.

'Toshiko Takaezu: Shaping Abstraction' Exhibit
Boston, MA
Thru September 2024
Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave.
Price: Museum Admission

Toshiko Takaezu was a masterful artist best known for her ceramic sculptures, which she treated as abstract paintings. This exhibit takes inspiration from her gestural style, distinctive palettes and complex layering of glazes that trace her development from potter to multimedia installation artist.

Info: Visit <https://www.mfa.org/exhibition/toshiko-takaezu-shaping-abstraction>.

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MEMORIAM

Abe, Spencer Tsutomu, 79, Selma, CA, Oct. 4.

Chikahisa, Henry 'Hank,' 91, Fullerton, CA, Sept. 12; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ; graduate, UCLA; he was predeceased by his siblings, James, Carl, Ray, Paul and Margie Park; he is survived by his wife, Patti Yamagata Chikahisa; their children, David (Patty), Cindy, and Carrie (Jeff) Iwasaki; sister, Helen Sakaki; sisters-in-law, Evelyn Chikahisa, Frances Chikahisa and Irene Yamagata-Bermudez; brother-in-law, Ken (Edna) Yamagata; and several grandchildren.



Fujino, Arlene, 79, Roseville, CA, May 5; she was predeceased by her sister, Janet Maruyama; she is survived by her husband, Ken; daughters, Suzanne (Aaron) and Melissa; brothers, Robert Imagawa and Walter Imagawa; gc: 3.



Hirota, Irene, 99, San Jose, CA, May 2; activities included the Buddhist Women's Assn., the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin and Yu-Ai Kai Senior Service; she was predeceased by her husband, Noboru; siblings, Rikio, Richard (Regina), Yukie (John) Ambo, George (Frances), William and Tosh (Suzuko); she is survived by her son, Norris (Teri); sister-in-law, Jeanne Kondo; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 2; ggc: 1.

Iwamoto, Brent, 44, Monterey Park, CA, April 9; he is survived by his parents, Daniel and Ruby; brother, Ryan (Kathryn) Iwamoto; uncle and aunt, Gary and Gloria Yoshizumi; aunt, Diane Iwamoto; he is also survived by many cousins and friends.



Kubo, Chizuko, 95, Reedley, CA, April 11; she was predeceased by her husband, Yas; siblings, Sam Takeda, Mieko Takeda, Junji Takeda, Sumi Okuma, Kazu Loy and David Takeda; she is survived by her son, John; daughter-in-law, Gina; brother, Joe (Ruby) Takeda; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews.



Matsuoka, Norman, 93, Roseville, CA, March 22; he was predeceased by his siblings, Shigeo, Kiyoshi, Walter, Mervin and Teruko; he is survived by his wife, Sachi; children, Rich (Barb) and Sallie (Curtis); siblings, Sam and Mary; gc: 4; ggc: 1.

Tominaga, Gail Keiko, 76, Gardena, CA, Sept. 24.

Yamada, Cindy S., 70, Lawai, Kauai, HI, April 10.

Yukawa, Kiyo 'Kay,' 101, Englewood, OH, April 21; active with Englewood United Methodist Church and JACL; she was predeceased by her husband, William; brothers, Tad Suzuki and John Suzuki; she is survived by her children, Joyce Yukawa, Loren (Debi) Yukawa and Allyn (Ann) Yukawa; gc: 6; ggc: 7.

TRIBUTE

ROSALIND K. UNO



Rosalind K. Uno, age 89, passed away on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, following a massive stroke. She had been living independently in the company of her cat, Bella. On the day before the stroke, she got her hair done, had visits with her neighbors and family, and ate her favorite bento box dinner, fully enjoying the simple pleasures of her life.

Rosalind Mitsuyo (Michan) was born on Nov. 14, 1933, in San Francisco to Saburo and Mine Harada Kido. She had two younger brothers, Laurence (predeceased) and Wallace Kido. Her early life was spent in Berkeley until it was disrupted by the WWII exclusion of people of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast. Her family initially relocated inland to Visalia to a household with an outhouse rather than the in-door plumbing she was accustomed to, and rural life opposed to an urban environment.

The next destination was the WRA internment camp, Poston II located in Arizona, where she experienced a trauma that stayed with her for her lifetime. One night, her family was locked in their unit by six other internees opposed to the Japanese American Citizens League's (JACL) pro-U.S. government stance. Her father, the wartime president of the National JACL, was severely beaten with handmade ironwood clubs for 45 minutes while the family could only watch. Following the assault due to safety concerns for the family, they were moved to Salt Lake City, Utah. After the war, the family relocated to Los Angeles, where Rosalind completed high school.

In 1953, Rosalind married Edison Uno and had their first daughter, Elizabeth, while living in Los Angeles. After a few years, the family moved to San Francisco's Nihonmachi neighborhood so that Edison could pursue law school. By the early 1960s, the Uno family moved to the Richmond district and the family grew with the birth of their second daughter, Rosanne. While Edison left law school due to a heart attack and pursued administrative positions, Rosalind was a fulltime homemaker and mother of that era. Elizabeth recalls her mother hanging laundry out in the backyard with Rosanne in the laundry cart, making grilled cheese sandwiches, and watching soap operas in the afternoon. While somewhat idyllic, Edison's health condition was ever-present.

As the decade rolled out with the advent of the civil rights movement and as Edison became more politically active on many fronts, Rosalind also grew politically in her own style. She fed and supported student activists when they met in the Uno home. Later, in the 1980s, Rosalind followed the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians and attended the Commission hearings when they came to San Francisco.

In 1976, Rosalind was widowed when Edison's heart condition required surgery and he succumbed to complications. She faced many challenges including learning to drive, managing her finances, taking college courses, and increasing her work hours.

Rosalind's life was enriched by her decades long association with the Frank McCoppin Elementary School community. After being a parent volunteer on the school site committee, Rosalind officially became an employee of the San Francisco Unified School District. She worked at Frank McCoppin in many capacities: as a paraprofessional in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program, in a transitional first grade class, in the kindergarten class, as a lunch monitor, an aide in the afterschool childcare program and library aide. She continued

to volunteer as a library aide up until the age of 86 when the pandemic closed school sites in 2020. Rosalind made many close friends while working at Frank McCoppin, including other paras and teachers. "Mrs. Uno," as she was known at McCoppin, made a lasting impression on generations of students. It was not unusual for adults, often with babies in strollers, to stop Rosalind in public spaces, to greet her and say, "I remember you from Frank McCoppin!"

Throughout her life, Rosalind was family oriented. When

Rosanne moved to Hawaii, Rosalind went to Kona to help her after the births of her grandsons, Andrew and Jon Ehrenberg. She made annual trips to Kona to visit her daughter and grandsons. Rosalind had been looking forward to the first post-pandemic trip to Kona that was planned for just a few weeks after her passing. Rosalind also cared for her grandchildren, Jes and Karissa Tom, through their school years, taking them to swimming lessons and other activities, feeding them dinner and supervising homework. For many decades, Rosalind's home has been the gathering place for family celebrations, big and small.

Rosalind enjoyed many varied interests during her life. She was an avid reader, and when her daughters were in school she often read the assigned books from their English classes. She enjoyed Agatha Christie mysteries, books featuring cats and dogs as main characters, in addition to more serious literature. Rosalind expressed her interest in Japanese culture and traditions in many ways. She maintained a lush garden that included a flowering cherry tree, crab apple tree, and Japanese maples. She took Ikebana classes for many years, and devoted much time to watching Japanese travel and cultural documentaries on NHK. She also continued her mother's tradition of celebrating the New Year with traditional Japanese dishes with a slight American twist to include potato salad, spare ribs, and honey glazed ham, shared with many family and friends over the years.

Rosalind was an avid sports fan. As a "49er Faithful," she hosted 49ers watch parties for family and friends for many seasons, and she continued to cheer for them throughout the pandemic period. She was also very invested in the Golden State Warriors, which brought back memories of her own experience playing high school basketball with her team, the Vandas. Since 2020, Rosalind missed volunteering at Frank McCoppin and instead occupied her time working on jigsaw puzzles, baking cookies, and watching hundreds of home renovations on HGTV.

Rosalind was the matriarch of her extended family, and central to a vast network of friends and neighbors. She will be remembered for her formidably strong will as much as for her generosity and care for others. Her family will miss her dry humor and her love for a good dessert, and are grateful that Rosalind was able to live actively and independently to the very end.

Rosalind is survived by her youngest brother, Wallace Kido (Terry Glazier); nephew, Michael Kido (Noriko Sato); daughters, Elizabeth (Gene Tom) and Rosanne; grandchildren, Jes and Karissa Tom, and Andrew and Jon Ehrenberg; and close cousin, Kimi Klein (Joel). She will be missed by many Uno, Harada and Kido relatives.

A memorial celebration will be held on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. at Rosalind's home. The family intends to establish a fund for the Frank McCoppin Library in Rosalind's memory. Contributions can be sent to Elizabeth Uno at 515 Ninth Ave., San Francisco, CA 94118.

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HAWAII HOCHI PUBLISHES NISEI VETS BOOK FOR CHILDREN

'Heroes — The Nisei Soldiers of World War II' is a family affair.

Just in time for the holidays, Hawaii Hochi has announced the publication of "Heroes — The Nisei Soldiers of World War II."

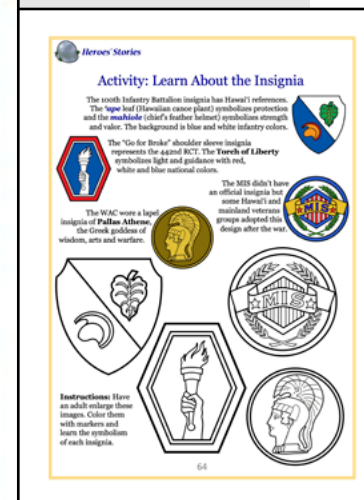
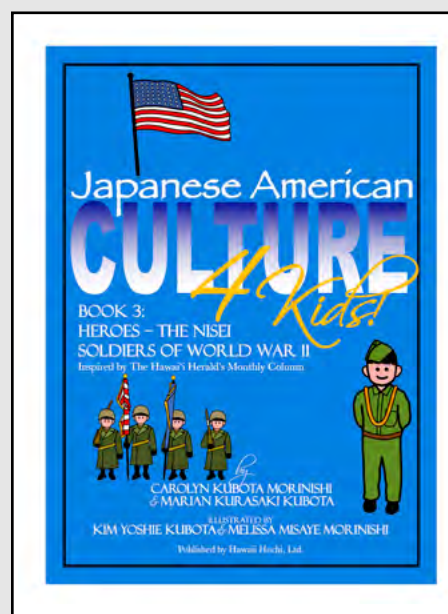
Authored by Marian Kurasaki Kubota and her daughter, Carolyn Kubota Morinishi, and illustrated by Kim Yoshie Kubota and Melissa Misaye Morinishi, "Heroes — The Nisei Soldiers of World War II" was written for the upper-elementary/middle-school-age range with the intent to convey the saga of the American military service by second-generation Japanese Americans during WWII,

primarily those who served in the Military Intelligence Service and the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team.

A statement from the publisher reads: "We feel very strongly that the stories of these soldiers need to be told to the younger generations. With each succeeding generation, the impact of these stories could be lost. The last chapter of this book suggests ways that kids can help perpetuate the soldiers' legacy, and the appendix provides many books and websites for further research."

The 100-page full-color book retails for \$20, not including tax, postage and handling. An order form can be downloaded to be printed out at tinyurl.com/5e-hxyjh5. The publisher notes that the book may be purchased in larger numbers at a lower cost for 501(c)(3) nonprofits and veterans organizations.

For more information on that "wholesale" price, email Vince Watabu at vince@thehawaiihochi.com or call (808) 288-0324.



Anne Oda and JACL National President Larry Oda pose with 103-year-old MIS veteran George Shimizu during one of the two San Jose, Calif., presentations of "Defining Courage," which was held on Oct. 22 at the Hammer Theatre. Shimizu holds a copy of Shane Sato's photographic collection "The Go for Broke Spirit: Portraits of Legacy" that features a photo of himself. The multimedia event, with live narration and music, is produced by KABC-TV anchorman David Ono and Jeff MacIntyre. (See definingcourage.com and tinyurl.com/ye24ae9p.) The next performance of "Defining Courage" will next take place on Nov. 11 at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. For tickets, visit tinyurl.com/2kdvknj. (Note: Sato's two collections of his veterans photographs can be obtained by visiting thegoforbrokespirit.com. To read more about the exhibition of Sato's photos in Boise, Idaho, visit tinyurl.com/4fnynft4.)

PHOTO: ALAN SHIMIZU



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