



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

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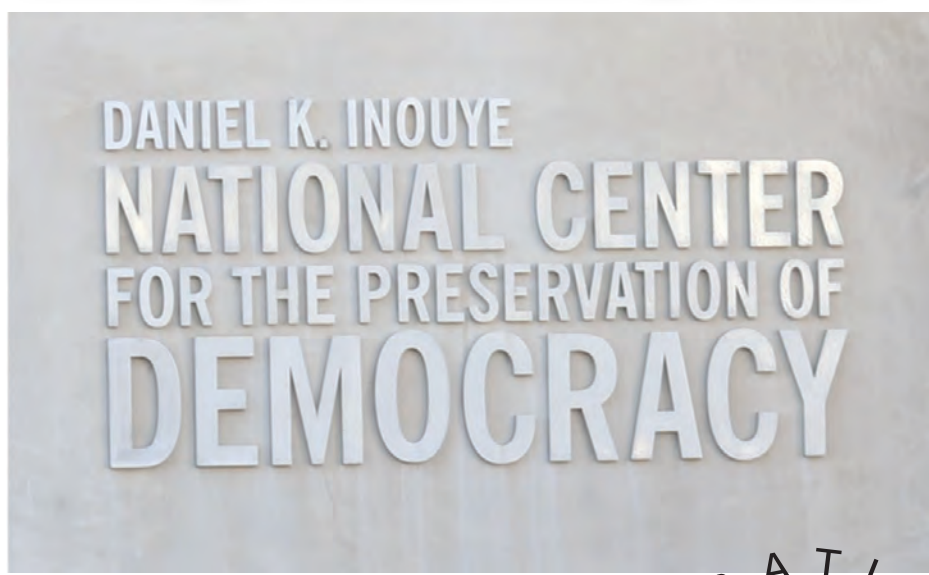
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MUNEMORI



Three Great  
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A Look at JA Incarceration  
From Another Perspective





## LETTER to the EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am surprised by the letter written by Kenji Kuramitsu in the *Pacific Citizen*, issue Jan. 26-Feb. 8, 2024, in which he repeats the standard Palestinian rhetoric and propaganda. The facts are:

1. Jews have lived in Israel since Biblical times. They are not colonialists.
2. On 29 November 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted on the Partition Plan 181, adopted by 33 votes to 13 with 10 abstentions. The Jewish side accepted the United Nation's plan in 1948 for the establishment of two states (along with an international zone encompassing Jerusalem and Bethlehem ). The Arabs rejected it and launched a war of annihilation against the Jewish state.
3. To this day, the Palestinians refuse to recognize the state of Israel and continue to try to wipe it off the map, pretending that Israel is some kind of colonizer. In fact, half of the Israeli population is composed of Middle Eastern Jews, forced from their countries by Arabs.

The JACL would be extremely foolish to fall for Palestinian propaganda, which, sadly, Mr. Kuramitsu obviously has. History does not, in any way, support the views presented in his recent letter.

Sincerely,  
Gail F. Enns

## ANNOUNCEMENT

# JACL NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**PHILADELPHIA** — The National JACL Nominations Committee is seeking members who are interested in running for a seat on the National JACL Board of Directors. The initial filing deadline shall be May 11. After that date, those wishing to submit their names as candidates must run from the floor of the National Convention and are subject to additional requirements. The term of office for this election shall be two years covering the 2024-26 biennium.

Positions include National President, National Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President of General Operations, Vice President for Planning & Development, Vice President for Membership, Vice President for Public Affairs, National



Youth/Student Council Chair and National Youth/Student Council Representative. A description of the officers and their duties can be found in the JACL Constitution and Bylaws.

The election will be held at the 2024 JACL National Convention. Voting will be conducted electronically for in-person delegates on July 13. The process and procedures for those who wish to run can be found on the 2024 JACL National Convention website at [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org).

For more information on running for office, please contact Nominations Committee Chair Eric Langowski at [elangowski@jacl.org](mailto:elangowski@jacl.org).



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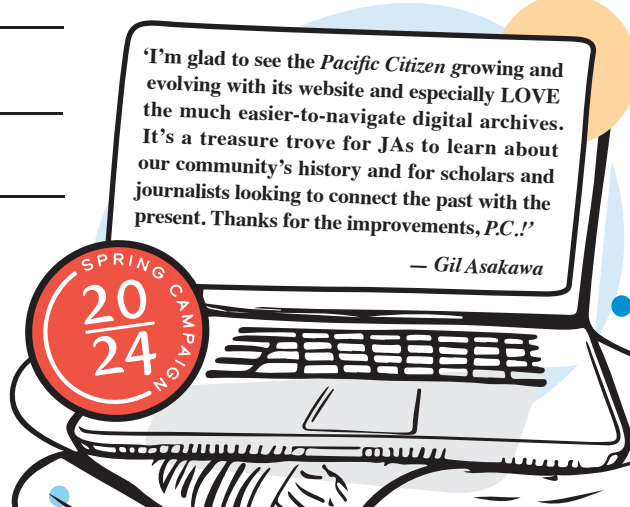
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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# IT'S NOT ALWAYS A BIG GAME

By David Inoue,  
JACL Executive Director

Once a year, it seems even the casual observer who never follows sports otherwise suddenly wants to watch “The Game.” Of course, “The Game” has a different meaning for me and my fellow Ohio State alumni. This year, it has been made even more ridiculous with the parallel story line of the romance between Kansas City football player Travis Kelce and pop superstar Taylor Swift. Even the Japanese Embassy got into the act with a public statement affirming the

likelihood that Swift would be able to make it to the game despite a concert in Tokyo the night before. For anyone who has ever flown from Tokyo to the West Coast, it was blatantly obvious this wouldn't be a problem given the time travel that happens when flying back from Japan and actually arriving before the departure time.

At its best, sports serves as an escape from reality for a while, cheating on one's team because they represent the city you grew up in, yes, I remain a steadfast Bengals fan despite so many years of disappointment. Or, perhaps it is the college that you attended, as with

my Ohio State Buckeyes, though I've actually been paying more attention to the Cornell basketball team, which could make its first NCAA tournament appearance since 2010. Undergraduate experiences seem to engender greater loyalty than graduate school.

Usually following one's team, and the accompanying rivalries with other cities or schools, is all done in fun. I may joke that I hate that school up north (Michigan), but in reality, there's a lot of respect, and at the end of the day, we know it's a game, lower case “g,” and we move on with our lives.

Unfortunately, sometimes the tribalism takes over. It's not unheard of for fans to get into fights in the parking lot after a game, sometimes ending in tragedy. Unfortunately, our politics are increasingly becoming like combat sports, with winner-take-all goals.

Rather than seeking to govern, politicians only care about winning the election, and frighteningly, winning so they can then inflict

damage to their opponents, or perhaps better described as their enemies.

Former President Trump has been increasingly making clear threats to those who might oppose him, cowering even his fellow Republicans to support him lest he win the election and be able to mete out punishment to anyone he sees as an enemy. Within the party, he is already able to exert such influence through endorsements or turning of the fundraising spigot to candidates that cross him.

We need to recognize that this is not how our political system should be operating. Even in sports, after a victor is decided, even in a sport as violent and antagonistic as hockey often is, there is a team handshake at the end, a recognition of the fact that while it is a contest with a winner, the game has ended, and life moves on.

In government, this has been where the politics end, and the governing begins. Rather than trying not to give the other side a win, politicians today are extending the game outside the game time. What should be a time of positive work in the political

“off-season” is now an overtime period to bridge to the next season, which seems to actually begin now as soon as the last election ends.

We are finding ourselves in perpetual crisis because Congress cannot function to pass even a regular spending bill on time. Compromise to pass some sort of immigration legislation has failed because of concerns that passage might help the other side in the upcoming elections. Perhaps competence on both sides would help both Democrats AND Republicans get re-elected?

We need to stop seeing ourselves in a perpetual game competition. After the election ends and the winners determined, we need to shake hands and realize that we are all playing on the same team. Last I checked, we are still the UNITED States of America.

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



## NIKKEI VOICE

# GREAT EXPECTATIONS: ASIAN PARENTS WANT THEIR KIDS TO BE DOCTORS, ENGINEERS, LAWYERS

By Gil Asakawa

I just returned from a four-day mid-year retreat for the Poynter Koch Journalism and Media Fellowship at the Poynter Institute in St. Petersburg, Fla. I've been honored to be an adviser for several years for the yearlong program and assigned to a small group of brilliant journalists with whom I meet every other week. There are advisers for all 60 fellows — the biggest cohort yet for this terrific program that supports young journalists, with a focus on journalists of color.

Fresh from this heightened media awareness, I was drawn into a report by Ryan Warner of Colorado Public Radio on his daily show “Colorado Matters,” on which he interviewed a young South Asian journalism student at Colorado State University. Ali Niaz had just been named one of the winners for Multimedia Narrative Storytelling by the national Hearst Journalism Awards Program for his video, “The Rocket Scientist

vs. the Journalist: A Battle Within Culture,” about the South Asian cultural pressure to go into STEM careers instead of humanities (like journalism).

Warner's interview was terrific, and I went to YouTube to view Niaz's thoughtful documentary about how studying English was a rebellion against his culture (though his parents came to accept his choice and I assume are proud of his recognition).

The interview and Niaz's film took me back to my youth, when I was expected to go into a career in engineering, medicine, law or other respectable, money-making fields. When I was in high school, I had three passions: art, photography and writing. I was on my high school newspaper staff as a writer, photographer and cartoonist.

My dream career? I wanted to work for Marvel comics. Really.

When it came time to apply for college, I had two paths. Luckily, STEM was already cleared for me because my older brother went to

MIT to study electrical engineering. Yes, all our lives he has made more money than me. Now, he's reclaiming his inner “hippie” by growing his hair long and being more rebellious than we ever thought possible.

My paths were to go to Columbia to study journalism — acceptable to my folks because it was at a prestigious school and would probably get me a “good” job — or study commercial art and go into illustration and the Marvel universe (which was not a thing back then).

I took the art path much to my parents' chagrin, but they let me do it. They, however, forbid my younger brother, Glenn, from taking any art classes in high school or attend college outside of the state. So, he attended the University of Colorado in Boulder, studied photojournalism as independent study, and he has had a Pulitzer-winning career as a photographer. Good for him.

As for me, I earned a BFA in painting and took photography courses the whole time, but I came out of college and decided to pivot into writing. I wrote about art (I'm using my degree, Dad!) and became a music critic, then a reporter. A couple of years into my role as reporter and music editor of *Westword*, Denver's alternative weekly newspaper, my dad pulled me aside at a family dinner and said, “Hey, I hear from some of our friends that you've been interviewed on 9News about the local music scene. I guess you're known as the expert? So, I guess you're doing OK, huh? I don't have to worry about you having a Plan B. . . .”

No, dad, I've done all right.

I helped Denver media evolve into the digital age. I've written three

books. I was the staff adviser for the CU Independent, the award-winning student news website at the University of Colorado Boulder, until the journalism program stopped funding it.

These days, I write about Japan and Japanese culture and Asian American identity because that's what I'm passionate about. I recently was inducted into the Denver Press Club Hall of Fame, which was a nice recognition that I've stuck around for a damned long time.

And, I love working with young journalists, including journalists of color. My advisory group in this year's PKJMF includes three Asian Americans and two Colorado journalists, which is a first for me. I hope to stay in touch and mentor all of them and other fellows for their entrepreneurial careers. I still meet monthly with two journalists from last year's fellowship about their work and career choices.

I hope young people in journalism today — especially Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders — are getting the support and encouragement from their families in their decisions to pursue this important industry, which is in such a state of crisis.

I began this column by talking about the PKJMF. This year's fellowship cohort ends in May, when we'll gather in Washington, D.C., to close out the program. Literally. The funding for the fellowship is ending. The folks at the Poynter Institute hope to find a new funding source for keeping this program going.

I hope they succeed. I hope Ali Niaz, after he graduates and starts working in some newsroom, has an opportunity to be part of a program like PKJMF. And I hope Ali and

every young journalist has a rich and rewarding career, no matter where their work takes them.

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



**Gil Asakawa served on his high school newspaper as a photographer, writer and cartoonist.**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF GIL ASAKAWA



# THE END OF AN ERA AND THE BEGINNINGS FOR A NEW JOINT FUTURE

SELANOCO/Orange County JACL becomes one as the chapters merge to embrace the challenges of the future as one stronger, cohesive unit.

By Patti Hirahara,  
Contributor

Although the song says, “It never rains in Southern California,” on Jan. 20 despite the heavy rain, 85 members and guests attended the newly merged chapters of the SELANOCO JACL and the Orange County JACL’s installation and came together for a vibrant and enthusiastic start to the new year in 2024.

This was the first installation to be held as the newly merged SELANOCO/Orange County JACL chapter. The new moniker was decided following discussions between the SELANOCO JACL board and the National JACL to create the best name to preserve the respective histories of both chapters.

With SELANOCO being the Southeast Los Angeles North Orange County chapter and now adding Orange County to the chapter’s name, how will this new merger serve the JACL members in Orange County in the future?

According to new SELANOCO/Orange County JACL Co-President Ryan Gasha, “With the merger and our increase in membership and scope to now include members of the former OC chapter, we hope to expand our programming, outreach and engagement to all our SELANOCO/Orange County JACL members. We can better focus on addressing the needs and concerns of the Orange County Japanese American community, not just the SELANOCO North Orange County community, in this regard. We also hope to have programs that cater to the interests and issues of all our SELANOCO/Orange County JACL members and look forward to engaging all our membership together as one entity.”



The SELANOCO/Orange County JACL installation welcomed many special guests. Pictured (from left) are George Tanaka, U.S. Bank; Susan H. Kamei, USCI; Dr. Audrey Yamagata-Noji, Mt. SAC; Alan H. Woo, Santa Ana Planning Commission; Steve Tamanaha, Orange Coast College; Chancellor Dr. Whitney Yamamura, Coast Community College District; Teresa Watanabe, *Los Angeles Times*; Dr. Gurpreet Singh Ahuja and Dr. Jasjit Singh Ahuja, Sikh Coalition; Dr. Stephanie Takaragawa, Chapman University; and Arwa Ayloush, Hussam Ayloush and Ali Ayloush, CAIR-LA.

PHOTOS: PATTI HIRAHARA

In addition, SELANOCO/Orange County JACL Co-President Joseph Gu added, “Becoming the SELANOCO/Orange County JACL chapter is an opportunity to continue both organizations’ long legacies, which would lead to a stronger and more unified JACL presence in the area.”

The Orange County JACL was established in 1934, and the SELANOCO JACL was established in 1966, which combined, has covered 90 years of the JACL’s Orange County activism to this day.

Within the past two years, SELANOCO has created a Programs Committee that meets monthly, and in having its meetings outside board meetings, it is able to focus on programming that the board and chapter members are interested in and passionate about.

The chapter’s Programs Committee is led by younger-generation leaders Reilly Chang, Erin Hitomi and Jamie Morishima. They have provided some fresh new perspectives and ideas for the chapter and its programs. Some events the Programs Committee helped plan and coordinate this year, along with major help from the SELANOCO board, included a Book Club,

where they discuss readings on reparations and disability rights.

SELANOCO has coordinated community visits to other social justice organizations and community organizations in Orange County and created relationships with the Sikh Center of Orange County and the CAIR-LA Council on American-Islamic Relations’ Greater Los Angeles Office.

The SELANOCO chapter also hosted a workshop at the JACL National Convention entitled “JA Activism: Our Stories, Our Vision, Our Impact” and is now working with the City of Santa Ana, Calif., to become the official liaison on behalf of the historic 54-year-old Orange County Japanese Garden and Teahouse, which was created in 1970 at the Orange County Civic Center by more than 600 Orange County Japanese American families and businesses.

Other annual events that the SELANOCO JACL chapter has held was its New Year’s Mochitsuki fundraiser, installation of officers and having SELANOCO members attend the JACL National Convention every year. They also partner with the Orange County Nikkei Coordinating Council and attend its monthly meetings as well as



(From left) Incoming SELANOCO/Orange County JACL Co-president Ryan Gasha and Co-President Joseph Gu offer their remarks with Jamie Morishima, outgoing co-president and installation mistress of ceremonies.



Attendees at the installation listen to BJ Watanabe as she interviews Teresa Watanabe of the *Los Angeles Times* during the program portion at the Orange County Buddhist Church.

attend and support community events by other local organizations.

The SELANOCO JACL’s involvement with the University of California Irvine’s Tomo no Kai was important to foster involvement with the younger generations by attending events hosted by UCI, supporting Tomo No Kai events and having a member of its board serve on the SELANOCO board. This year, Lynchee Cheung, who is Tomo No Kai’s director of public relations, is its representative.

The new SELANOCO/Orange County JACL chapter officers and board of directors include Ryan Gasha and Joseph Gu, co-presidents; Frank Kawase, vp; Alice Ishigame-Tao, treasurer; Kenneth Inouye, membership and civil rights; Alice Ishigame-Tao and Ryan Yoshikawa, publicity, outreach and newsletter; Todd Hasegawa, historian; Lynchee Cheung, Tomo No Kai; Reilly Chang, Erin Hitomi and Jamie Morishima, programs; Frank Kawase, Steve Matsubara, George Tanaka and Dwight Takemoto, Mochitsuki Team; Alice Ishigame-Tao, PC Committee; Nicole Inouye and Ryan

Yoshikawa, scholarships/awards; and Pacific Southwest JACL delegates Ryan Gasha, Joseph Gu and Jamie Morishima. Board of director members are Eadan Dury, Eric Kawaguchi, Kali Kishi, Bryce Kubo, Dominique Mashburn, Donna Nishizu-McFarland and Christian Umemura.

The SELANOCO/Orange County JACL officers and board were installed by Alayne Yonemoto, treasurer of the JACL Pacific Southwest district board.

A special highlight of the installation was a dialogue conversation presentation by BJ Watanabe and her sister, *Los Angeles Times* staff writer Teresa Watanabe.

BJ Watanabe has been a longtime SELANOCO JACL member who started an award-winning “Celebrating Our Diversity” program at her son’s elementary school in Yorba Linda, Calif., in addition to starting the SELANOCO sponsored “Chibi no Gakko” pro-



The 2024 SELANOCO/Orange County JACL officers and board of directors. Pictured (from left) are Dominique Mashburn, George Tanaka, Todd Hasegawa, Treasurer Alice Ishigame-Tao, VP Frank Kawase, Co-Presidents Ryan Gasha and Joseph Gu, Jamie Morishima, Reilly Chang, Erin Hitomi, Lynchee Cheung, Ryan Yoshikawa, Kenneth Inouye, Nicole Inouye and Eric Kawaguchi.



During the program portion of the installation, SELANOCO/Orange County JACL member BJ Watanabe introduces special guest speaker and her sister, Teresa Watanabe, who is a staff writer for the *Los Angeles Times*.



gram in 1992, a summer camp for Japanese American children to teach them about their proud heritage, culture and reinforce their sense of self-worth.

Teresa Watanabe has covered areas including higher education, religion and ethnic communities. She was the first Asian American foreign correspondent and served as the Tokyo Bureau chief for the *Los Angeles Times* covering Japan/Korea and Pacific Rim business and economics. She previously reported on Asia, national affairs and state government for the *San Jose Mercury News* and wrote editorials for the *L.A. Herald Examiner*.

In addition, she has been a long-time member of the Asian American Journalists Assn.'s Los Angeles chapter and is currently AAJA LA's senior vp of programming. As an advocate, she has used her experience and platform in inspiring ways to make a lasting impact in our communities.

Teresa Watanabe's presentation was an inspiration for the many Sansei, Yonsei and Gosei members in attendance. Over the years, she has gained the trust of her editors to cover stories that she would like to write about.

"When you write stories and see the impact, you feel blessed, but you also feel the responsibility," she said. "You can't take political positions, but based on who you cover, you can influence people's perceptions on groups of people or a particular cause."

It was an interesting presentation to hear from two sisters from one family on how their advocacy for diversity has brought change in our community.

Jamie Morishima, mistress of ceremonies and outgoing SELANOCO chapter co-president, said, "It was an honor to be a co-president with Joseph this past year. My term is up, but I'm looking forward to all the future programs we will have in this new year. A major thanks to the whole board who have helped Joseph and I grow as leaders." Nicole Inouye presented Jamie with her past president's pin during the event.

To conclude the installation, Kenneth Inouye honored the memory of 2023 Nisei Week Pioneer Spirit Award recipient and SELANOCO JACL member Joan Kuniko Ota Kawase for her vital involvement in the Japanese American community, her support for various organizations and exemplary leadership that continues to benefit our entire community.

The new combined SELANOCO/Orange County JACL chapter has 170 members and looks to increase its current membership in the years ahead. ■

## Two JACL Legacies Come Together

Ninety years of JACL history in Orange County combined in 2024.

By Patti Hirahara,  
Contributor

According to an article in the Oct. 30, 1959, edition of the *Pacific Citizen*, the Orange County JACL was established in 1934. On its 25th anniversary, guest speaker Frank Chuman challenged the chapter "to think in terms of an urban chapter henceforth."

The article states, "Orange County, till now, has been predominantly agricultural in economy," and Chuman cited figures, since the last census, to indicate the spectacular population growth in the county.

"Orange County is no longer a rural community nor a rural chapter," Chuman declared, as he charged that JACLers "must think in terms of being a metropolitan chapter." The problems of schools, teachers, parks, slum clearance, better roads and those connected with new problems of community living because of the influx of new people must soon be considered.

Recent Chamber of Commerce reports have shown that Orange County is leading in population growth in all California counties since the 1950 census.

"Now that the Issei and Nisei have achieved equal status in the community, we must not become so merged in the community, so satisfied with our own status, that we do not speak and act vigorously in our community to improve the welfare of all persons," Chuman said in closing. "By being more conscious of our responsibilities as citizens, we will be fulfilling our motto to be 'better Americans in a greater America.'"

This article, written 65 years ago, points to an evaluation that applies to today's times.

The Orange County JACL's first president was Frank Takenaga, and the chapter reactivated on Jan. 11, 1947. The chapter was very active through the years, inviting prominent national newsmakers to speak before its membership and starting its own JACL Youth Group.

In 1941, the Orange County JACL visited the *Santa Ana Register* newspaper after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

The article and photo that was published in the *Santa Ana Register* on Dec. 11, 1941, the day the Orange County JACL visited the office,



Hiroshi Kamei

PHOTO: COURTESY OF  
SUSAN KAMEI

shows how the local chapter wanted their voices to be heard.

In the article, it stated, "Young American-born citizens of Japanese ancestry appeared at the *Register* office to make an official statement on behalf of their Orange County chapter of the Japanese American Citizens' league, condemning as unwarranted and treacherous Japan's attack upon 'our country.' They also renewed their pledge of allegiance to the United States, a pledge which always opens league meetings. They also asked tolerance and understanding on the part of all Americans toward American-born Japanese and other Japanese who obey the laws of this country and expect to call this country theirs the rest of their lives. Members that visited were Attorney Kosaku Tamura, member of the JACL board of governors; Henry Kanegae, vice president; Leonard Miyawaki, member-at-large; Hitoshi Nitta, treasurer; and Yoshiki Yoshida, president, who were all native sons of Orange County and attended schools here," it said.

These local Orange County men became leaders in the local and national offices of the JACL after the war, and Tamura, who is more commonly known as Justice Stephen K. Tamura, was the first Asian American Orange County Superior Court Judge and Presiding Judge in Orange County. He became the first Asian American Justice on an appellate court in the continental United States.

*Santa Ana Register* publisher R. C. Hoiles was among the few newspaper publishers in the United States who opposed the evacuation of U.S. citizens of Japanese descent, as well as Japanese nationals, to internment camps in World War II and was an ally.

In resettling back into normal life in Orange County after WWII, the Orange County JACL was the active voice in this community and published its *Santana Wind* monthly newsletter, which became the lifeline of the Orange County Japanese community.

I wrote articles and took photos with my father, Frank C. Hirahara, for the *Santana Wind* through the 1970s-80s, and now I have collected several years of issues of the publication and will donate them to the Orange County Archives for people to learn more about the activities of this 88-year-old JACL chapter and Orange County early history for years to come.

The Orange County JACL became inactive and ended its chapter in 2022.

The idea of creating another JACL chapter, which was located within the Southeast Los Angeles/North Orange County lines began in 1966 and became what was known as the Southeast Los Angeles North Orange County JACL, with Henry Yamaga being elected the charter president from 1966-67. They had a total charter membership of 101 members and five associate members.

» See TOGETHER on page 12



Clarence Nishizu

PHOTO: COURTESY OF  
CAROL NISHIZU MATSUOKA



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# DEDICATIONS: INOUE, MUNEMORI, MINETA RECEIVE NEW HONORS

JANM spotlights politicians; Glendale fetes MoH winner; and San Jose airport unveils statue.

By George Toshio Johnston,  
P.C. Senior Editor

In December 2023 and January 2024, grateful Americans posthumously memorialized three esteemed fellow Americans with tangible reminders for generations to come.

Those honorees were Daniel K. Inouye, Sadao S. Munemori and Norman Y. Mineta, two of whom served in Congress, two of whom distinguished themselves on the battlefield in

World War II.

In the Venn Diagram of how these individuals intersected, Inouye and Munemori both served America as soldiers during WWII as members of the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team, with both receiving the military's highest decoration: the Medal of Honor. Pfc. Munemori, who was killed in action, received his award posthumously in 1946. Capt. Inouye, who lost his right arm in combat, received his recognition — upgraded

from the Distinguished Service Cross — in 2000.

Inouye and Mineta, meantime, overlapped in politics as members of Congress. Inouye, who died in 2012 at 88, served as a senator from Hawaii, and Mineta, who died in 2022 at 90, served as a representative from California — and would continue to serve the nation as a cabinet member of two different American presidents, as secretary of commerce and secretary of transportation.

Both were also instrumental in the campaign to win redress from the federal government for American citizens of Japanese heritage and legal immigrants from Japan barred at the time from becoming naturalized citizens who were incarcerated during WWII.

Inouye's dedication occurred on Dec. 1, 2023; Munemori's dedication occurred on Dec. 9, 2023; Mineta's dedications occurred on Jan. 25 and 26, 2024.

## Honoring Inouye

The Japanese American National Museum's Dec. 1 rededication of its National Center for the Preservation of Democracy to honor Inouye by adding his name to the facility was just one part of the day's larger agenda.

The unveiling of the center's new name — officially the Daniel K. Inouye National Center for the Preservation of Democracy — was preceded by the first installment of a “collaborative series of public programs” that was led by the Smithsonian through Dec. 17, held in JANM's soon-to-be renovated Main Hall.

Under the heading “Our Shared Future: Reckoning With Our Racial Past,” the program sought to explore America's “history and legacy of race and racism” with the goal to “spark positive social change and build a more equitable shared future.”

Following a musical performance by the trio Nepantla were short addresses by James E. Herr, who was named the Democracy Center's first-ever director in October 2022; Leticia Rhi Buckley, CEO, La Plaza de Cultura y Artes; Gay Q. Yuen, board chair, Chinese American Museum; and William Fujioka, chair, JANM board of trustees. The three downtown Los Angeles museums were collaborators with the Smithsonian for the program.

Representing Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis was Tami Omoto-Frias, who presented commendations to Buckley, Fujioka, keynote speaker Dr. Deborah L. Mack of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture and Chinese American Museum Executive Director Michael Truong.

Preceding Mack's keynote address was a welcome video featuring Secretary of the Smithsonian Lonnie Bunch. Mack began by noting that the Smithsonian had “no specialty, no experience in addressing issues of race.” Continuing, she said, “So, we've been, in a sense, building this boat as we sail it. We are crafting and developing a team, and it's important that we document everything that we learn while we are learning from our partners who are very experienced in doing this work.”

Next up was the plenary session, titled “Conversations on Race: Opening the Dialogue,” which explored the intersection of race, wealth, wellness and the arts. Moderated by Executive Director of LA Commons Karen Mack, participants included Herr, Buckley, Dr. Muntu Davis of the Los Angeles County Department of Health and

California Endowment President and CEO Dr. Robert K. Ross.

At 1:30 p.m., the focus of the day shifted to the relaunch of the Democracy Center and the unveiling of its new, official title: the Daniel K. Inouye Center for the Preservation of Democracy.

Dignitaries and guests present for the ribbon-cutting ceremony and address by Democracy Center Director Herr included Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles Kenko Sone, KABC TV Channel 7 news anchor David Ono, actor and JANM board of trustees member George Takei, Daniel K. Inouye Institute Director Jennifer Sabas (Inouye's former chief of staff), Los Angeles City Controller Kenneth Mejia and California Community Foundation President and CEO Miguel Santana.

Also attending the day's events and the relaunch was former JACL National President Floyd D. Shimomura, who is also a member of the JANM board of governors. Asked about the importance of relaunching the Center for the Preservation of Democracy, now with Inouye's name, he told the *Pacific Citizen* that democracy seems like “something you learned in the eighth grade.”

“It's really sad to learn that in today's political environment, about a third of the public doesn't believe in that anymore,” Shimomura said. “They just believe in the outcome. If the outcome is favorable to them, then it's legitimate.”

In her address, Sabas recalled her years of working for Inouye, including the period when he, Sen. Spark Matsunaga and Reps. Robert Matsui and Mineta were working in concert to pass redress legislation for Japanese Americans.

“I had the amazing good fortune to work for Sen. Dan Inouye for more than 25 years in both Washington and Honolulu,” Sabas said. “And I will tell you that it was the most amazing living lesson on leadership. Daniel Inouye led by example. And what he taught us was that when you see something that isn't right, don't look away, look at it, say something and then do something.”



PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON



Sen. Daniel K. Inouye



Reckoning With Our Past logo



William Fujioka (left) and James Herr at the Dec. 1 unveiling



JANM Board of Trustees Chair William Fujioka

(Below, from left) La Plaza de Cultura y Artes CEO Leticia Rhi Buckley; Los Angeles County Department of Health health officer Dr. Muntu Davis; California Endowment President and CEO Dr. Robert K. Ross; Daniel K. Inouye National Center for the Preservation of Democracy Director James E. Herr; and Los Angeles City Planning Commissioner Karen E. Mack



(From left) La Plaza de Cultura y Artes' Leticia Rhi Buckley; Chinese American Museum Board Chair Gay Q. Yuen; and Daniel K. Inouye National Center for the Preservation of Democracy's James E. Herr







PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON



(Left) Yosh Nakamura 100th/442nd; (Right) Ed Nakamura, MIS

Sadao S. Munemori

(From left) Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles Kenko Sone, James Nakakihara, Jane Nakakihara, Glendale City Councilman Ardy Ardy Kassakhian, Yosh Nakamura and Ed Nakamura



GFBNEC President and CEO Mitch Maki



Glendale Mayor Dan Brotman

## Remembering Munemori

Two days after the 82nd anniversary of the “date that will live in infamy,” Dec. 9, 2023, proved to be a beautiful, sunny day that will be remembered as the occasion that the city of Glendale, Calif., celebrated a native son who died serving his country during WWII.

It was on that day when Glendale unveiled signs designating the intersection of E. Broadway and S. Isabel Street — where City Hall is located — as Sadao S. Munemori Square.

The outdoor event featured Go for Broke National Education Center President and CEO Mitch Maki serving as master of ceremonies, introducing the city’s mayor and City Councilmembers Ardy Kassakhian, Ara Najarian and Paula Devine; Munemori’s relatives Janet Nakakihara (his niece) and James Nakakihara (his grand-nephew); Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles Kenko Sone; fellow WWII vets Ed Nakamura, who served in the Military Intelligence Service, and Yosh Nakamura, who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team; Alhambra City Councilman and Go for Broke National Education Center board member Jeff Maloney, JANM board of trustees Chair William T. Fujioka and Veterans Memorial Court Alliance President Ken Hayashi.

Noting how those in the gathered crowd that day did not have the opportunity to have known Sadao “Spud” Munemori several decades earlier when he was a young man growing up in Glendale, Calif., before his family was incarcerated at the Manzanar War Relocation Authority Center while he had already joined the Army before Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor — and before he joined the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team — Glendale Mayor Dan Brotman said, “We don’t know whether he stood out as a kid growing up in Glendale, whether

he exhibited any special bravery or patriotism. But we do know that he stood out at the time when standing out and stepping up meant taking great risk.

“He stepped up to fight for his country, even at a time when his family and other Japanese Americans were [forced] into detention camps simply because of their ancestry,” Brotman continued. “He stepped up and went for broke, even when Japanese Americans were segregated into separate fighting units. He stepped up, and he made the ultimate sacrifice.”

“That was Sadao Munemori the man — and then there’s Sadao Munemori the message. We live in a time when everything seems to be about glorifying the rich and the famous and the powerful, when the aspiration of so many young people is to be a social media influencer, when the measure of success is how many likes we get on our selfies, when we attack and demean our fellow citizens because we disagree with their beliefs or the way they live. That’s why it’s so important to remember that it wasn’t always this way, and it doesn’t need to be this way. To me Sadao Munemori represents the kind of character we need more of in our community,” Brotman concluded.

In his address, Glendale City Councilman Ardy Kassakhian recalled how he had as city clerk walked past a photo in the city hall lobby thousands of times until one day, he stopped to look at the framed photo and read the writing beneath it — and how that planted the seed that culminated in his city honoring Munemori that day.

“It was the first time I was familiarized with the story of Sadao ‘Spud’ Munemori. And it hit me that more people don’t know about what this young man did for our country — and more importantly, the sacrifice he made at a time when our country had not treated our Japanese American citizens fairly,” Kassakhian said. “We needed to do more to memorialize his sacrifice and elevate him as an example, as

the mayor said, to so many others.”

It became Kassakhian’s mission to be the engine behind getting the city to honor its hometown hero.

After words from Devine and Sone, Munemori’s great-nephew, James Nakakihara, addressed the audience. Noting that upon learning “Uncle Sadao” was to be honored by the city of Glendale, family members came up with four words to describe their sentiments: “honored,” “grateful,” “hopeful” and “proud.” Paraphrasing from the King James Bible, Nakakihara reminded the audience that “greater love hath no man but than a man lay down his life for his friends.”

Nakakihara also told the *Pacific Citizen* a boyhood memory of when his great-grandmother opened the drawer of the family’s butsudan. “She pulled out the medal and showed it to us,” he said. The family would later entrust Munemori’s Purple Heart and Medal of Honor to the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii at Fort Derussy on Oahu.

Ninety-eight-year-old Yosh Nakamura of Whittier, Calif., who served in the 442nd’s M Co. and says he has been a *Pacific Citizen* subscriber “for as long as I could remember,” came out in support of Munemori, his fallen comrade-in-arms. He noted that Glendale is only the most-recent city to memorialize him. “Not only Glendale is recognizing him, but the people of Pietrasanta in Italy erected an image of him, and they think of him as a hero for saving their town,” Nakamura noted.

Indeed, other memorials to Munemori in Los Angeles County include Sadao S. Munemori Hall at the West Los Angeles U.S. Army Reserve Center and the Sadao S. Munemori Memorial Interchange for the northbound and southbound on-ramps to Interstate 105 from Interstate 405. Also, in 1947, the troop ship Wilson Victory, which brought 100th Battalion/442nd RCT troops back from the war, was renamed the USNS Private Sadao S. Munemori.



## 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



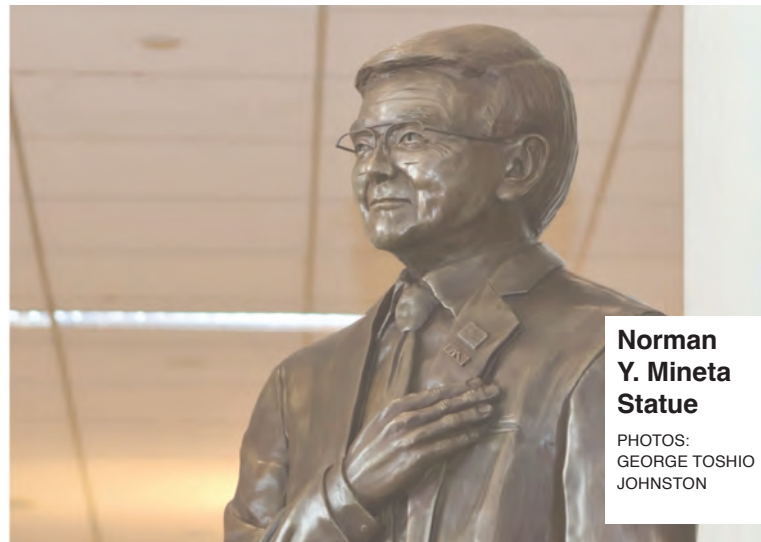
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(From left) Deni Mineta, David Mineta and Stuart Mineta



**Norman Y. Mineta Statue**

PHOTOS:  
GEORGE TOSHIO  
JOHNSTON

## Memorializing Mineta

In back-to-back ceremonies, fittingly first in his hometown of San Jose, Calif., on Jan. 25 and next in Los Angeles on Jan. 26, Norman Yoshio Mineta received a pair of auspicious honors.

The first event took place at Mineta's namesake airport — San Jose Mineta International Airport, which was named for him in 2001 — when a panoply of family, friends and fans gathered near the baggage claim area of Terminal B.

The reason: the unveiling of local sculptor Steve Davis' six-foot-tall bronze statue of the beloved public servant, standing with his right hand on his heart, on a nearly two-ton granite base inscribed with the names of those people and organizations that donated to the cause, including the San Jose JACL chapter and National JACL.

Following a performance by San Jose Taiko Group and a blessing by Rev. John Oda of the Wesley United Methodist Church, Quest Valley Charities Founder and President Rod Diridon (also emeritus executive director of the Mineta Transportation Institute) served as the event's master of ceremonies.

Removing the large white plastic sheet that covered the statue were Mineta's survivors, sons David Mineta and Stuart Mineta, as well as his widow, Danealia "Deni" Mineta.

In his remarks to the gathering, David Mineta said, "He had such deep and meaningful relationships with so many of you — elected, nonelected, the San Jose City staff when he was mayor, his own congressional staff — our extended family. Members of the Japanese American community, members of the larger community, members of other communities of color — it's what made San Jose naming its airport after him in 2001 so meaningful to him. It was being remembered by your friends on the council and in the community. That's what made him love his hometown so much."

Other speakers and dignitaries present that day included Quest Valley Charities Chair Colleen Wilcox; San Jose Mineta International Airport Aviation Director John Aitken; U.S. Reps. Anna Eshoo, Rep. Ro Khanna and Rep. Zoe Lofgren; former U.S. Rep. Mike Honda; Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Administration Administrator David Pekoske; United States Merchant Marine Academy Vice Adm. Joanna M. Nunan; California State Sen. Dave Cortese; San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan and former San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo; Santa Clara County Supervisors President Susan Ellenberg and Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez; and JACL National President Larry Oda.

In an unusual coda to the ceremony, the private reception that followed the public reception for the statue's unveiling was abruptly aborted following

remarks by Mayor Mahan, Deni Mineta and Stuart Mineta when two audience members collapsed in quick succession, interrupting David Mineta as he was beginning his remarks. As a result, kotoist June Kuramoto and keyboardist Kimo Cornwell never performed, and some of the invitees were unable to finish the catered food.

Proving again that not everything can go smoothly and according to plan, the Los Angeles dedication for Mineta also had a couple of unexpected occurrences. The first was a truncated video presentation that preceded the keynote lecture later in the program. Then, during the lecture by Mitch Landrieu, he was interrupted by a heckler who implored him to "let Gaza live" and to "stand against the genocide." She escorted herself out of the venue before security could do it for her.

Other than that, it was smooth sailing when the plaza outside the Japanese American National Museum, between the offices of the Go for Broke National Education Center and the Daniel K. Inouye Center for the Preservation of Democracy, was officially unveiled as the Norman Y. Mineta Democracy Plaza.

KABC TV Channel 7 news anchor David Ono served as master of ceremonies and introduced the many distinguished guests who were present to lend their support to the most-recent dedication to Mineta. In a testament to Mineta's many achievements, the city of Los Angeles declared Dec. 26 to be Norman Mineta Day. Speaking on behalf of JANM was its President and CEO Ann Burroughs and board of trustees Chair William Fujioka.

Making the trip down south to Los Angeles from San Jose were Mineta's sons, David and Stuart, and his widow, Deni Mineta. Among the dignitaries present for the unveiling were Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass; Los Angeles City Councilman Kevin de Leon; Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis; Artesia City Councilwoman Melissa Ramoso; Monterey Park City Councilman Thomas Wong; state Assemblymembers Miguel Santiago (54th District), Al Muratsuchi (66th District) and Mike Fong (49th District); Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Deputy CEO Sharon Gookin; Deputy Assistant to the President of the United States and White House Asian American and Pacific Islander Senior Liaison Erika Moritsugu, who brought a letter commemorating the day from President Joe Biden; and Mitch Landrieu, former senior adviser to the president, former mayor of New Orleans and the keynote speaker for the inaugural Norman Y. Mineta Distinguished Lecture.

Following Landrieu's address, held at the Tateuchi Democracy Forum, was a conversation between David Mineta and Landrieu.



**U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Vice Adm. Joanna M. Nunan stands in front of a painting of Mineta that was on display at the event.**



**Momentum for Health President and CEO David Mineta (left) and former Senior Adviser to the President and former New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu**



**Norman Mineta**



(From left) Stuart Mineta, Robert Bratner, William Fujioka, Kevin De Leon, Deni Mineta, Ann Burroughs, Christine Mineta and David Mineta



(From left) Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, filmmaker Dianne Fukami and former JACL National President and Executive Director Floyd Mori



# 'LAWYER, JAILER, ALLY, FOE': JA INCARCERATION FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

A new Eric Muller book examines the perspective of WRA attorneys who ran the camps.

By Gil Asakawa,  
P.C. Contributor

Eric Muller is a professor and historian who has authored a series of books about the Japanese American incarceration experience. But his latest book, "Lawyer, Jailer, Ally, Foe: Complicity and Conscience in America's World War II Concentration Camps" (University of North Carolina Press, 304 pp., hardcover ISBN: 978-1-4696-7397-4, SRP: \$30), chronicles that experience from a different perspective: through the men who worked for the War Relocation Authority during World War II as the project attorneys within the concentration camps whose job was to help run them for the U.S. government and at the same time represent the Japanese American prisoners in legal disputes, which could lead to conflicts of interest or, perhaps, conflicts of conscience.

Muller discussed the book and its unique approach in a recent virtual presentation for Densho, moderated by Densho Content Director Brian Niiya. He explained in the opening why the book isn't a typical look at wartime incarceration and cited a quote by historian Timothy Snyder from his book "Bloodlands," which looked at millions of people murdered by both Nazi Germany and Stalin's Soviet Union in Central Europe before and during WWII.

"It's easy to sanctify policies or identities by the suffering of victims. It's less appealing but morally more urgent to understand the actions of the perpetrators because the moral danger is never that one might become a victim, but rather, the moral danger is that one might become a perpetrator or a bystander," Muller paraphrased. "This book explores the question of what it was that led rather ordinary, and I would say, generally decent men, three men in particular in this account, to lend

their professional energies to the work of the War Relocation Authority."

Muller is an award-winning professor in the University of North Carolina's law school whose previous books include "Colors of Confinement: Rare Kodachrome Photographs of Japanese American Incarceration in World War II," "American Inquisition: The Hunt for Japanese American Disloyalty in World War II" and "Free to Die for their Country: The Story of the Japanese American Draft Resisters in World War II."

He also launched a podcast for JA stories, writes a blog and has written articles for publications and websites including Densho about Japanese American history. In addition, he curated the award-winning core historical exhibit at the Heart Mountain camp in Wyoming and serves on the board of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation.

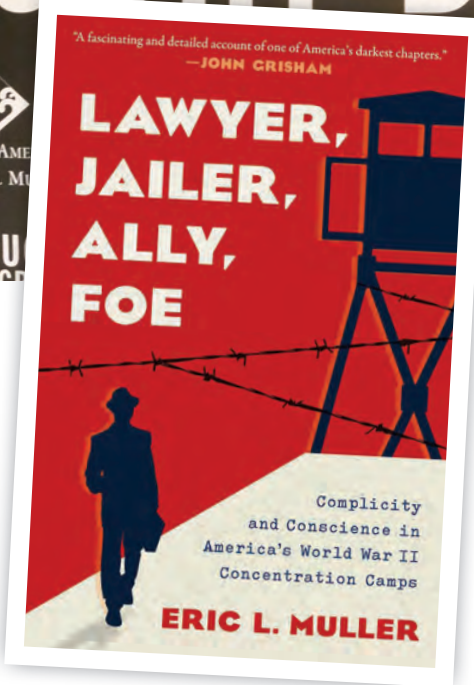
Muller became interested in the JA incarceration when he was an assistant professor at the University of Wyoming College of Law and learned about the Nisei draft resisters. He was introduced to Jerry Housel, who had been the project attorney at Heart Mountain. Housel was one of the three men Muller focuses on in the book, along with Jim Terry, who was at Gila River in Arizona, and Ted Haas, the camp lawyer at Poston in Arizona. They all worked previously for President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal agencies during the Great Depression, and Haas in particular, who was Jewish, worked for the Office of Indian Affairs to, as Muller said, "Do good work on behalf of a beleaguered American minority."

This liberal base wasn't unusual. "The War Relocation Authority was a civilian agency that was led by progressives," Muller said. "And that's a hard thing for us to get our minds around when we think about what the agency actually did, but when you think about the



Author Eric Muller at the Japanese American National Museum's Tateuchi Democracy Forum on Oct. 7, 2023. He was in attendance to discuss his new book, "Lawyer, Jailer, Ally, Foe."

PHOTOS: GIL ASAKAWA



agency in the context of its times, it was easily the most progressive group of government officials that you were likely to find on the question of the removal and imprisonment of Japanese Americans."

The irony is that these men and many other people who worked for the WRA had to juggle their sense of justice and civil rights against the requirements of their jobs. They had the freedom to do their work independently, so, as Muller pointed out in his talk, one allowed a barbed-wire fence to be raised around the barracks at his camp while another tried to protest the decision (he lost).

Muller wrote the book in almost a novelist's style, with dialogue and descriptive scenes. He took his license to tell these stories in a pseudo-fictional voice because it could connect better with readers and because he based every detail on historical fact, not fiction. His sources were the voluminous written reports that every project attorney had to file with the WRA every other week. The reports were often 10 pages long and were detailed and written in a personal voice, so Muller could get a sense of each man's state of mind.

Housel, who Muller met late in life, regretted working for the WRA, Muller said. Even Terry, who is described as an irascible character, wrote in his final report to the WRA that he thought the camps were "not a clear and absolute necessity from the outset."

"So, I think you can see the sort of the paradox that I'm trying to explore through these

**Eric Muller's new book examines the perspective of WRA attorneys who juggled with their sense of justice and civil rights against the requirements of their jobs during World War II.**

men," Muller told the audience. "How is it that somebody with views like this, nonetheless ends up being part of the enterprise that helps to operate it?"

Because the source materials for the book were hundreds of pages of letters from the lawyers, Muller said as his final point, "You get a different window into camp life than we often get from other kinds of documentary evidence. Think about it. These were law offices. This is where people went when they

» See PERSPECTIVE on page 12



"Lawyer, Jailer, Ally, Foe" author Eric Muller (left) speaks about his new book with Densho's Brian Niiya in a recent virtual meeting.

2024 13th annual  
Films of Remembrance Presented by Nichi Bei Foundation



A showcase of films commemorating the forced relocation and incarceration of Japanese Americans in American concentration camps during World War II

**Sat., Feb. 24, 2024**  
AMC Kabuki 8

1881 Post St., S.F. Japantown

**Sun., Feb. 25, 2024**  
S.J. Betsuin Buddhist Church  
640 N.5th St., San Jose Japantown

**Feb. 24-March 10**  
Virtual Streaming

[2024.filmsofremembrance.org](http://2024.filmsofremembrance.org)



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 *Ireichō* contains the first comprehensive listing of more than 125,000 persons of Japanese ancestry who were forcibly incarcerated during World War II. Visitors can now view the book and leave a special *hanko* (stamp/seal) for each person in the monument as a way to honor those incarcerated. The project's online archive is now searchable alphabetically or by camp.

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

## NCWNP

**Berkeley NSU Day of Remembrance**  
Berkeley, CA

Feb. 16; 6-9 p.m.

**Stephen's Lounge (3rd Floor MLK Student Union)**

**Price:** Free With RSVP

Berkeley NSU's DOR ceremony will feature candlelighters and keynote speakers.

**Info:** To RSVP, visit <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfo8qFUVJvIHnPSlwPAIv0uNQOvtw2gyRYMMRxiGk4IAIjA/viewform>.

**Carrying the Light for Justice: Finding Our Way Home**  
San Francisco, CA

Feb. 17; 2-4 p.m.

**AMC Kabuki 8 Theatres**

1881 Post St.

**Price:** \$10 Suggested Donation

Join Emcee Ryan Yamamoto and keynote speaker Rev. Michael Yoshii and CIU Awardee Dr. Rabab Abdulhadi for this DOR event that will also feature a procession through the streets of Japantown.  
**Info:** Visit [www.njahs.org/dor24](http://www.njahs.org/dor24).

**44th Annual San Jose Day of Remembrance — Youth Activism: Building Community**  
San Jose, CA

Feb. 18; 5:30-7 p.m.

**San Jose Buddhist Church**

**Betsuin Annex**

632 N. Fifth S

**Price:** Free

The event's theme will focus on advocacy on several key issues such as gun violence legislation, climate change

policy and racial injustice, in addition to commemorating EO 9066.

**Info:** Visit [sjnoc.org](http://sjnoc.org), email [info@sjnoc.org](mailto:info@sjnoc.org) or call (408) 505-1186.

**13th Annual 2024 Films of Remembrance**

**San Francisco Japantown and San Jose Japantown**

Feb. 24

**AMC Kabuki 8**

1881 Post St.

Feb. 25

**San Jose Betsuin Buddhist Church**  
640 N. Fifth St.

This premier film showcase will once again offer films in three venues — San Francisco Japantown, San Jose Japantown and virtually — to view the 12 films being offered this year commemorating the forced incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

**Info:** Visit <https://2024.filmsofremembrance.org/>.

## PSW

**2024 Day of Remembrance Los Angeles — 'Rooted in Resistance: Fighting for Justice During WWII'**

Los Angeles, CA

Feb. 17; 2-4 p.m.

JANM

100 N. Central Ave.

**Price:** Free

Resistance has taken many forms since WWII, and the event will hear truth and testimony from those who remember: Diana Tsuchida, Kyoko Oda, Tak Hoshizaki and Soji Kashiwagi. This year's program is dedicated to Martha Nakagawa, Min Tonai and Alan Nishio.

**Info:** To register, visit <https://www.janm.org/events/2024-02-17/2024-los-angeles-day-remembrance>.

**Honolulu JACL DOR — An Evening With George Takei**

Honolulu, Hawaii

Feb. 18; 5 p.m. HST

**Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin Hondo**

1727 Pali Hwy.

**Price:** Adults \$150; Youth (25 and Under) \$75

This special fundraising event will feature an evening with George Takei as well as food and entertainment at Pacific Buddhist Academy. All proceeds will support social justice initiatives at the temple and other nonprofit organizations.

**Info:** To register, visit [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScPy\\_FkrijhGZ8WBbdTg9BKR57782sCaBeiouXa2XodjtU8pg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScPy_FkrijhGZ8WBbdTg9BKR57782sCaBeiouXa2XodjtU8pg/viewform).

**Chapman University Day of Remembrance**

Orange, CA

Feb. 19; 1 p.m.

**Chapman University**

**Argyros Forum, Room 209C**

1 University Dr.

**Price:** Free

This program, "Resisters: Japanese American Incarceration Stories," is a day of observance for the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, presented by program speaker Frank Abe, author of "We Hereby Refuse." The program will also feature refreshments and origami paper crane crafts.

**Info:** Visit <https://events.chapman.edu/92077>.

**'Our Fragile Democracy: Historic and Present-Day Attacks on Our Civil Rights and Civil Liberties'**

Los Angeles, CA

Feb. 24; 1-4 p.m.

JANM

100 N. Central Ave.

**Price:** Free But RSVP Required

This community education event will feature a fireside chat with Attorney General Rob Bonta and JANM's Ann Burroughs, plus a keynote introduction by Don Tamaki and a panel discussion to reflect on the historic statement released by Bonta on Aug. 10, 2023, acknowledging the complicity of the California Attorney General's Office in the incarceration and dispossession of Japanese Americans during WWII.

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

## CCDC

**'Tribute to a Japanese American Member of Dinuba Union High School's Class of 1942'**

Dinuba, CA

Feb. 19; 2 p.m.

**Dinuba Christian Church**

355 E. Saginaw

**Price:** Free

This program features American diplomat and USC visiting senior fellow Matthew Asada as he presents a slideshow program about his grandfather, Mark Asada Jr. and four generations of the Asada's in California and their family.

## PNW

**2024 Day of Remembrance**

Puyallup, WA and Tacoma, WA

Feb. 18; 1-3:30 p.m.

**Washington State Fairgrounds'**

**Agriplex (Fifth Street S.W. at 1 p.m.)**

**Northwest Detention Center (1623 E. J St., Tacoma at 2:30 p.m.)**

**Price:** Free

The trauma of family separation, child imprisonment, poor sanitation, bad food, inadequate health care and uncertain futures persists — and continues today at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma. Join us to hear from incarceration survivors past and present as we remember and resist this Day of Remembrance.

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

**Alaska Chapter JACL Day of Remembrance**

Anchorage, Alaska

Feb. 18; 9 a.m.

**Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

2824 E. 18th Ave.

Feb. 19; 2 p.m.

**Alaska Pacific University**

4101 University Dr.

**Carr-Gottstein Lecture Hall**

**Price:** Free With RSVP

This two-day special event will feature writer-poet Dr. Lawrence Matsuda, author of "A Cold Wind From Idaho" and "A Minidoka Concentration Camp Legacy." It is sponsored by the Alaska JACL.

**Info:** To RSVP, visit [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfzljQCEu1O3Vm1ZnjOuq0GArGyTrFbvqs6LSBn\\_45FP2qP4g/viewform?pli=1](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfzljQCEu1O3Vm1ZnjOuq0GArGyTrFbvqs6LSBn_45FP2qP4g/viewform?pli=1).

**'Threads of Remembrance: A History of Activism, Community and Reparations'**

Portland, OR

Feb. 17; 2-4 p.m.

**PSU's Lincoln Recital Hall**

1620 S.W. Park Ave.

**Price:** Free

This year's event will feature a panel discussion featuring Frank Abe, Chisao Hata, Peggy Nagae and Mira Shimabukuro with emcee Lauren Terry.

**Info:** Visit <https://www.pdxjacl.org/dor/>.

## MDC

**'Japanese American Incarceration: Healing Histories Across Generations'**

Chicago, IL

Feb. 18; 2-4 p.m.

**Chicago History Museum**

1601 N. Clark St.

**Price:** Free But Registration Required

The main DOR program will feature a conversation between keynote speakers Jami Nakamura Lin, author of "A Night Parade: A Speculative Memoir" and Dr. Donna Nagata, researcher of intergenerational impact from Japanese American incarceration.

**Info:** Visit <https://chicagodor.wordpress.com/>.

## IDC

**Utah Day of Remembrance 2024 — Irei**

**Salt Lake City, Utah**

Feb. 17; 1:30 p.m. MST

**Utah State Bar Law and Justice Center**

645 S. 200 East

**Price:** Free

This DOR event will feature Dr. Duncan Ryuken Williams, director of the Irei Monument Project.

## EDC

**'Memory and the Nation: Day of Remembrance 2024'**

Washington, D.C.

Feb. 19; 1-2:30 p.m. EST

**Smithsonian National Museum of American History**

**Warner Bros. Theater**

1 Center

**Price:** Free But Tickets Required

This event will feature a panel discussion with William Harris, director of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum; Perrin Ireland, great-granddaughter of Franklin D. Roosevelt; Dr. Madeline Hsu, professor of history and director of the Center for Global Migration Studies at the University of Maryland; and moderator David Inoue.

**Info:** Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/memory-and-the-nation-day-of-remembrance-2024-tickets-794529809047?aff=trumba>.

**'Resistance, Redress and the Day of Remembrance' With Frank Abe**

Philadelphia, PA

Feb. 21; 6:30 p.m.

**Amado Recital Hall**

**Irvine Auditorium**

3401 Spruce St.

**Price:** Free

Frank Abe, lead author of "We Hereby Refuse: Japanese American Resistance to Wartime Incarceration," will draw the line from the principled resistance in the wartime camps to the constitutional stand for redress and reparations.

**Info:** Visit <https://asam.sas.upenn.edu>. ■

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# In MEMORIAM

**Abe, Spencer Tsutomu, 79**, Fresno, CA, Oct. 4, 2023.

**Edgerton, Karen Ito, 76**, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 23, 2023; B.A., M.A., Ph.D., UCLA (anthropology); professor and researcher, UCLA Asian American Studies; she was predeceased by her husband, Robert Edgerton; she is survived by her sister, Robbie Ito (Leland) Rorex; a nephew and a niece; she is also survived by many other relatives.



**Hayashida, Jill Miyo, 49**, Sacramento, CA, Nov. 13, 2023; she was predeceased by her father, Willie; she is survived by her mother, Gale Hayashida; brothers, Mark (Kimiko) and Michael; she is also survived by 3 nephews.

**Ito, Yukiko, 91**, Sacramento, CA, Oct. 19, 2023; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Jerome WRA Center and the Rohwer WRA Center, both in AR; she was predeceased by her elder siblings, Frank Sakaoka, Hideo Sakaoka, Masako Nakamoto and Sumiko Sakakihara; she is survived by her husband, Tomio; children, Larry Ito (Karen), Sharon Ito Warren (George) and Colleen Ito; gc: 4.

**Kanda, Eiichi, 94**, Huntington Beach, CA, Sept. 25, 2023; veteran, USCG; he is survived by his wife, Sue; children, Kevin Kanda and Kara Nomura; son-in-law, Tommy; siblings, Tokuo Kanda, Takayoshi Kanda, Yachio Kaulia and Miriam Buck; gc: 2.

**Martinez, Joan Masayo Kitada, 73**, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 16; she is survived by her husband, Johnny Martinez; sons, Brion (Brianna) and Russell (Tracy) Martinez; brother, David (Jocelyn) Kitada; gc: 4.

**Maruyama, Herbert, 94**, Wheat Ridge, CO, Oct. 14, 2023.



**Mishima, Taro, 103**, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 10, 2023; he is survived by his wife, Miyoshi; children, Steve Mishima, Scott Mishima and Sharon Mishima; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

**Nagao, Edward, 87**, Elk Grove, CA, Oct. 1, 2023; he was predeceased by his parents; brother-in-law, Masao Kuwamoto; and sister-in-law, Tosh Hegna; he survived by his wife, Setsuko Lil; children, Michael and Michelle (Jason Allen); brothers, Fred Nagao (Rose), Harry Nagao (Karen) and Ronald Nagao (Zee); sister-in-law, Keiko Hendrix (Wayne); brother-in-law, George Kuwamoto (Faye); he is also survived by many nephews, nieces, great-nephews and great-nieces.

**Okino, George 'Curly,' 94**, Sacramento, CA, Sept. 4, 2023; veteran, Army (Korea); he was predeceased by his siblings, Mabel, Fumiye, Shizuko, Fred, Roy, Setsuo, and Sadako; he is survived by his wife, Gladys; daughter, Tina; brother, Hideo; gc: 2; ggc: 2.



**Okuma, Christine Shiraishi, 71**, San Diego, CA; she was predeceased by her husband, Ronald; she is survived by her daughters, Taryn (Dan Gibbons) and Stacey (Tim Chou); gc: 7.



**Ota, Hirokazu, 92**, La Palma, CA, Sept. 10; he was predeceased by his sister, Hisa (Takashi) Narasaki; he is survived by his wife, Nancy; children, Doug (Peggy) Ota and Karin (Michael) Langford; sisters, Yoshiko Nakagawa and Naomi (Tak) Hamada; gc: 2.

**Owen, Eiko, 93**, Louisville, KY, Dec. 13, 2023; she is survived by her siblings, Taeko Yokomizo and Yasuhisa Kariya; she is also survived by her cousins.

**Sakamoto, Paul, 90**, Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 15, 2023; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Manzanar WRA Center in CA; he is survived by his wife, Alice; children, Sandy (Nolan Maehara) Sakamoto and P. Scott (Lori Petitti) Sakamoto; stepchildren, Sandi Snyder, Owen (Donna Kelly-Onouye) Onouye and Eric Onouye; siblings, George "Masa" (Helen) Sakamoto and Aiko Sakamoto; gc: 9; ggc: 5.

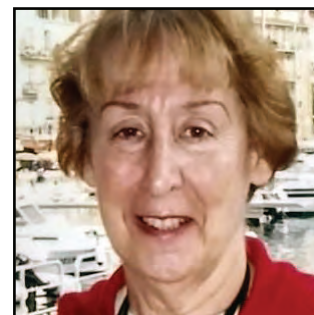
**Sakata, Toshiko, 98**, Clarksburg, CA, Oct. 23, 2023; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Arboga Assembly Center near Marysville, CA, and the Tule Lake WRA Center; activities: Walnut Grove Buddhist Church, the Clarksburg Garden Club and Asian Community Center.

**Shimada, Bruce Hitoshi, 67**, Lafayette, CA, Oct. 9, 2023; B.A., CSU Sacramento (criminal justice); activities: Boy Scouts, Berkeley Bears and Hawks baseball, Asian basketball and softball leagues, the Diablo Japanese American Club and the East Bay Golf Club; he is survived by his wife, Nancy; and his brother, Glenn.

**Shioji, Kazuko Josephine, 93**, Wheat Ridge, CO, Nov. 28, 2023; she was predeceased by her husband, Hatsuo Tom Shioji; siblings, Ayako Kusuno, Yoshiko Inouye, Shizuye Fujimoto, Tom Nakayama, George Nakayama, Jane Hada, Amy Konishi and their spouses; sister-in-law, Hatsuko Edna Kurita and brother-in-law, Frank Y. Shioji and their spouses; and son-in-law, Ken Notari; she is survived by her children, Mary Lou Notari, Cathy Shioji (Al Peters), Jan Shioji and Dave Shioji; gc: 3.



**Tatsukawa, Sadae, 83**, Los Gatos, CA, Nov. 23, 2023; she was predeceased by her brothers, Takashi Aochi and Keiji Aochi; she is survived by her husband, James; son, John, (Lorraine); brother, Frank (Mits) Aochi; sisters-in-law; gc: 4.



**Tomita, Dolores Margaret, 79**, San Jose, CA, Dec. 3, 2023; she was predeceased by her siblings, Pat and George; she is survived by her husband, Ken; children, Mike and Dawnn.

**Yamaji, Rosie Setsuko, 93**, Mountain View, CA, Sept. 12, 2023; she was predeceased by her husband, Haruo Yamaji.



**Yamanaka, Fumiko, 88**, Los Altos, CA, Sept. 25, 2023; she is survived by her brother, Hiroshi Uemura (Motoyo Uemura).

## TRIBUTE

### JIM KIRIYAMA



Yukio Jim Kiriya of Texarkana, Texas, died on Jan. 24, 2024. He was 97.

Kiriya was born Feb. 22, 1926, to Hisataro and Sugi Kiriya, in Hollywood, Calif. He was predeceased by his siblings, Taketo, Haru, Steve and George.

He is survived by his son, Todd Kiyama; nieces Lynn Konishi, Carol Morita, Lorraine Okuhata, Karen Setjo and Traci Kiriya and nephews William, Bob, Lane, Glenn and George.

## TRIBUTE

### JOHN SASAKI



John Sasaki, age 87, of Chicago, Ill., passed away on Jan. 9, 2024. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Becky (nee Alstott) and survived by his three daughters, Emily Sasaki (Richard Attack), Ellen Sasaki McGarry (Dan McGarry) and Meggie Sasaki-Resendiz (Russ Resendiz) and by his four grandchildren, Gavin Attack, Mallory Attack, Addyson McGarry and Parker McGarry.

He was born in Los Angeles, Calif., on April 16, 1936. During World War II, he and his family were unfairly incarcerated in the Japanese internment camps at Heart Mountain in Wyoming and also at Topaz in Utah. After the war, they relocated to Chicago and that became his most-loved city and was where he lived out the rest of his life. He was the valedictorian of Lake View High School and also attended the University of Chicago. He was very proud to have served his country in the U.S. Army and was also very dedicated to his family business. He owned and operated Barry-Regent Cleaners, which was established in 1950 by his mother, Asako "Mona" Sasaki.

## PLACE A TRIBUTE

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

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**TOGETHER » continued from page 5**

Highlights of their 50-year history include:

- Starting the annual Mochitsuki fundraising tradition by Clarence Nishizu in 1974
- In 1975, becoming a founding member of the Intercommunity Council with eight other Japanese American organizations to participate in the City of Orange International Street Fair
- In 1987, recognized by the *Pacific Citizen* for outstanding contributions to the holiday issues and the JACL PSWD with the Distinguished Chapter Award
- In 1992, starting the inaugural session of Chibi no Gakko,
- In 1996, SELANOCO is honored with the National JACL Chapter of the Biennium Award

Many SELANOCO JACL members have been active in national JACL activities. In August of 1988, SELANOCO members Gene Takamine, Susan Kamei Leung, Clarence Nishizu, Peter Ota and Hiroshi Kamei were present at the signing by President Ronald Reagan of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

In 2000, Nicole Inouye was selected as a Mike M. Masuoka Congressional Fellow, serving in Congresswoman Patsy T. Mink's office. Also that year, SELANOCO member Kenneth Inouye, who would go on to serve as JACL national president, was honored with the National JACL's JACler of the Biennium Award.

The SELANOCO JACL dedicated its 50th anniversary celebration in 2016 to the memory of two exceptional leaders who helped shape and enrich the chapter and the Japanese American community in Orange County: Clarence Iwao Nishizu and Hiroshi Kamei. Following are excerpts from SELANOCO's anniversary program about their contributions:

**Clarence's tenacity, charisma and energy had a profound impact on the Orange County community in many ways. As the new chapter chair of the Pacific Southwest District JACL, he helped to start four JACL chapters, including SELANOCO. Clarence was appointed as the first Japanese American foreman of the Orange County Grand Jury in 1966, was honored with an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from California State University, Fullerton, and headed a successful fundraising campaign for the Orange County Agricultural and Nikkei Heritage Museum at the CSUF Arboretum.**

**As a Charter member, Hiroshi Kamei served on the SELANOCO board of directors continuously from 1966 and over the years had a solid commitment to the chapter, supporting the youth through scholarships and programs.**

**His daughter, Susan Kamei-Leung, commented, "My dad believed in fostering Sansei involvement and leadership in SELANOCO. He promised those he**

**approached in being the next chapter president that he and the board would 'show them the ropes' and support them. He thought that one way to ensure that the SELANOCO Chapter could remain vibrant into the future was to have an ongoing relationship with Tomo No Kai."**

**The first step was to have the Tomo No Kai membership be eligible for a scholarship from the Mochitsuki sales and to invite the Tomo No Kai members to participate in this annual chapter tradition. From there, the SELANOCO board would invite the Tomo No Kai leadership to collaborate on programs and from that the connection between these two groups strengthened.**

**She concluded, "I know my dad would be very proud and pleased that today's leadership in SELANOCO has come from the Tomo No Kai ranks."**

**Over the years Hiroshi Kamei served as chapter president, scholarship chair and in other positions critical to the success of the chapter. He was honored as a Nisei Week Japanese Festival Pioneer from Orange County in 1998.**

In recent years, the SELANOCO JACL continues to be active in their local community by being advocates for others in their coverage area. With their new merger as the SELANOCO/Orange County JACL, the chapter hopes to continue to gain members and develop an active JACL base under its young leadership to inspire others to continue the 90-year legacy of these past JACL chapters for future generations. ■

**PERSPECTIVE » continued from page 9**

were struggling with difficult moments in life, whether it be child custody disputes or mental illness that required institutionalization or whether it perhaps involved petty theft or in violence between one inmate and another inmate or marital problems.

"The point I'm making — it's not common that most people who, when they sit down for an oral history, they don't say, 'Oh, right, camp, that was the place where I cheated on my wife.' That's not the kind of thing that people tend to talk about. But those things happened. And they're important evidence of the kinds of pressures that the prison population was under."

Muller's future projects include a look at the Japanese Evacuation Claims Act of 1948, which got some compensation for former incarcerated, and then eventually, a complete history of the War Relocation Authority.

But his audience for the Densho talk might just be hungry for more stories from his research into the lawyers who worked in the camps

*To view the recording of this event, visit [tinyurl.com/3r6mn6hu](https://tinyurl.com/3r6mn6hu).*

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



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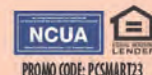
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