

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

» PAGE 6



Cosmo Jarvis  
as John  
Blackthorne



Anna  
Sawai as  
Mariko



Hiroyuki  
Sanada  
as Yoshii  
Toranaga

NEW ADAPTATION OF CLAVELL'S



Decades after the bestselling novel  
and TV miniseries, 'Shōgun' rides  
again.

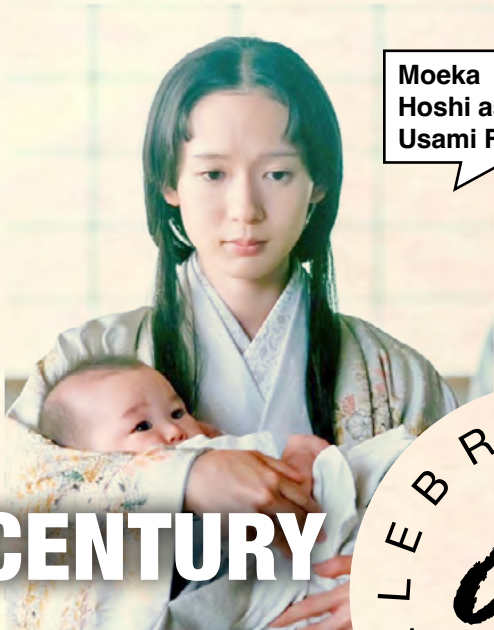
CLASSIC 17TH-CENTURY TALE



Fumi  
Nikaido as  
Ochiba no  
Kata



Takehiro  
Hira as  
Ishido  
Kazunari



Moeka  
Hoshi as  
Usami Fuji

ARRIVES FOR 21ST CENTURY

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FX NETWORKS

CELEBRATING  
95  
Years





## JACL STATEMENT

# Day of REMEMBRANCE 2024

The following statement was released by JACL National on Feb. 19.

Today, we recognize Day of Remembrance, where on this day 82 years ago, Feb. 19, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. Executive Order 9066 led to the mass incarceration of 125,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans from the West Coast and Hawai'i and eventually Japanese

Canadians and Japanese Latin Americans in an act of "continental solidarity" in waging the war against Imperial Japan.

As we reflect on this dark time in our nation's history, we must remember that history can repeat itself if we fail to remember and teach it. We remember the bravery of the members of the 442nd, 100th and MIS who served in the name of freedoms that many of them and their families were being denied at the homefront. The principled stands taken by those who resisted and all who protested the incarceration. But we especially remember the loss, the pain and the trauma felt by our community.

We take the opportunity to reflect on this dark chapter in our nation's history. And yet, we recognize that this is a story repeated throughout our history, both preceding the war and again and again in the years since. Today, we see the resurgence of Alien Land Law legislation and increasing animus toward those of Chinese ancestry due to rising tensions with China. JACL will continue to engage on these issues with the knowledge and background of what happened to our community to seek to prevent making the same mistakes again.

**NOTE:** *Pacific Citizen's coverage of 2024 Day of Remembrance events across the country will be featured in the March 8-21, 2024, edition.*



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\* Your donations will help build and preserve a cohesive library of the Pacific Citizen to educate future generations.\*

INFORMATION: 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 206 | Los Angeles, CA 90012 | TEL: (213) 620-1767 | WWW.PACIFICCITIZEN.ORG

## 2024 SPRING CAMPAIGN

'I'm glad to see the *Pacific Citizen* growing and evolving with its website and especially LOVE the much easier-to-navigate digital archives. It's a treasure trove for JAs to learn about our community's history and for scholars and journalists looking to connect the past with the present. Thanks for the improvements, P.C.!'

— Gil Asakawa



## HOW TO REACH US

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# I WATCHED SHANE GILLIS ON 'SNL' SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO

By David Inoue,  
JACL Executive Director

It has been five years since “Saturday Night Live” made headlines for the addition of Bowen Yang as the first Chinese American cast member, while at the same time Shane Gillis was hired and fired within a week’s time after clips surfaced of him using anti-Chinese slurs and mockery, as well as anti-homosexual attempts at comedy. This past weekend, Gillis made his triumphant debut on “SNL” as host, so you might be asking what has changed. The answer is nothing much, and you can thank me that I did watch his appearance so you don’t have to.

First, I must note that JACL receives funding from Comcast, the parent company of NBC Universal, which broadcasts “SNL.” I did also engage in conversation with people at Comcast and NBC prior to the airing of the Gillis episode to express my concerns about his hosting.

First, I will grant that the calls for Gillis’ head could have stood some further scrutiny and understanding of Gillis’ work. In his defense, he explained years ago that the skits in question were intended to be satire of racist attitudes toward Chinese people, typically of ignorant white people who forced them into the ghettos such as Chinatowns. At the most charitable, he was trying to shed a light on racism but fumbled the delivery.

This would be actually in line with much of his comedy since then that does often portray the ignorance of racism. I have listened to the main skit in question and can see what he might have been trying to do, but the banter between Gillis and his partner in particular leans more heavily into racist stereotypes. While Gillis may be looking to bring nuance, there was little nuance from his partner.

In viewing some of his material since, or at least what was easily available without the subscription

streaming service, he does have some very good material centered around racism and also skewers what might be seen as the stereotypical white racist perspective. Some of his work might even be described as the anathema to his supposed core audience in representing a “woke” perspective. Ultimately, his comedy depends on his appearance as the average white male to both appeal to that demographic and to lampoon it in subtle ways.

But unfortunately, there is a lot more besides the stand-up shows available publicly on YouTube. In a *Los Angeles Times* article that came out just a few days before the show, Seth Simons dug deeper into some of the less public “comedy” of Gillis. He revealed regular use of slurs for Blacks, Jews and gays, as well as prevalent use of anti-Asian themes. As Simons notes, these shows are from a platform where Gavin McInnes had a podcast that gave rise to the Proud Boys.

Gillis has remained unapologetic, stating that he would apologize to anyone offended, but I’ve not heard him actually apologize to anyone, and there are many who were offended by the skit and especially his cavalier use of the word “Chink,” a slur that anyone who looks Asian has probably heard at some point in their lives and felt the dehumanizing effect the word intends to convey. He publicly stated in contrast to his use of the “C” word

that he would never utter the “N” word, though apparently Simons found he has used the word in one of his less public podcasts. Even that supposed standard of not using the “N” word is broken down when he’s pandering to his base.

While what we see of Gillis today may be a much-sanitized version of what he has done in the past, it does not erase what he did previously. Because he was so swiftly dropped by “SNL” before, we didn’t have to do a lot more digging into his background, but it seems that his audience has continued to grow to the point “SNL” could not ignore his growing popularity. He appeals to an audience that they wanted to bring to the show, just like Bud Light is countering its past support of the transgender community through Dylan Mulvaney by now bringing Gillis into its marketing plan. Should we really expect any better from large corporations such as NBC or Anheuser Busch? They will do what suits their advertising or product sales the best. We can’t forget that NBC reignited Donald Trump’s celebrity with the show “The Apprentice,” and he was almost a regular on “SNL” as well.

You might ask why I didn’t write this before the airing of “SNL” or have JACL put out a statement in opposition. We did consider it. But to do so would have brought more attention to the show and probably

more viewers curious because of the controversy. Perhaps that was a miscalculation on my part because had there been more viewers, a larger audience would have recognized Gillis to still be a comedian not ready for primetime, but ideally situated on the internet where he can be found by the likes of his Proud Boys audiences. What we saw of Gillis’ comedy was reminiscent of what might have been jokes told amongst my classmates at my all-boys Catholic high school. Of course, that group as adults is right in Gillis’ wheelhouse of his target audience.

Of course, it is that audience, and the material he does outside of primetime, that should be more concerning to NBC or Netflix for giving him the platform and legitimacy of appearing for a national audience. Just because he doesn’t say the ugly stuff out in public, doesn’t mean that it doesn’t exist. That was and continues to be the lesson we are learning from former president and candidate Donald Trump. Gillis hasn’t gone fully public with some of his more hateful material like the former president has and continues to do, but he is now more legitimized because of his appearance on “SNL” and in his Netflix special.

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



## LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY’S PERSPECTIVE

# HOW TO DECLUTTER

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

When you’ve lived in the same home for decades, things tend to accumulate. Eventually, you can find yourself surrounded by things you have no intention of using again. It’s bad enough when your basement is full of junk, but when the clutter spreads into your bedroom, living room, den and hallways, it can block your way and become a tripping hazard.

To age in place safely, remove clutter or any tripping hazards on the floor. Piles of papers, clothes and books and electrical cords that snake through hallways can trip you up if you don’t watch where you’re going. Move furniture out of the way to give yourself wide access to every room.

The more stuff you have, the more intimidating — and time consuming — it is to clear away. To make the decluttering project more manageable, don’t try to tackle everything at once.

Set aside a couple of hours, and work through one section at a time. Start by making three piles: 1. keep, 2. throw out, 3. sell or donate. Give careful thought to the things you’re considering keeping. Ask yourself, “Have I used this in the last two years?” “Will I use it in the next two years?” “Does it work?” “Does it have so much sentimental value that I can’t bear to part with it?” If the answer to these questions is “no,” get rid of it.

To age in place  
safely, remove  
clutter or any  
tripping hazards  
on the floor.



At the end of the two hours, put away everything in your “keep” pile, toss the “throw out” pile in the trash and take the “sell or donate” pile to your local consignment shop, Goodwill store or swap meet. Some nonprofit organizations, including Big Brothers Big Sisters and Habitat for Humanity, will pick up items from your home to make the process easier.

If you do have an emotional connection to an item but don’t have room, think about giving it to your child, donating it to a local museum or taking a picture of it to preserve your memory of it. If you’re struggling to part with anything, consider getting a professional organizer. And if you

think you might have a compulsive hoarding problem, ask your primary care provider to recommend a mental health professional who can help.

In addition to removing clutter to prevent falls, a special health report from Harvard Medical School, “Aging in Place,” says that rather than live in fear of falling, seniors should try the following strategies:

- 1. Do a home safety inventory.** Start by doing a home safety walk-through. Make needed changes to your house, such as adding lighting to stairways and installing grab bars and nonskid surfaces in bathrooms.
- 2. Practice balance exercises.** Exercise is good for preventing falls, but balance exercises specifically strengthen the muscles that support you and keep you upright. Every day, set aside a few minutes to practice balance exercises.
- 3. Get your vision checked.** Without clear vision, you can overlook obstacles in your way and be unable to discern dimensions. Your eyes naturally lose some of their focusing power as you age, and presbyopia — the loss of close vision — becomes more common. See your ophthalmologist for a complete eye exam once every

year or two. Update your glasses as needed.

**4. Try tai chi.** Better balance translates into fewer falls. Tai chi has been shown to be very effective for improving balance, strength and muscle control and making you more aware of your body’s position in relationship to your surroundings.

**5. Review your medications.** Several different drug classes, from pain relievers to antidepressants, can increase your risk for a fall. Each year, review the medicines you take with your doctor and pharmacist. Look for any medications that could make you unsteady on your feet.

**6. Check your vitamin D status.** The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends vitamin D (along with calcium) for preventing fractures in people who are deficient in this vitamin. A quick blood test from your doctor can determine whether you’re low on vitamin D and need a supplement.

**7. Wear the right shoes.** To prevent falls, wear shoes that fit your foot snugly and have a low heel and a nonskid sole. Walking barefoot or in socks can have risks, too.

**8. Treat chronic pain.** It’s important to see your doctor or a pain

» See DECLUTTER on page 5



## REFLECTIONS

# SJSU'S APOLOGY FOR 1942 ROLE IN CITIZENS' DETENTIONS

The roundup and incarceration of innocent Americans of Japanese descent was a violation of civil rights.

By Cynthia Teniente-Matson,  
President, San Jose State University

(Note: The following first appeared in the Mercury News and is reprinted with permission.)

Just one day after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appeared in the House of Representatives to address a joint session of Congress. As the country reeled from the surprise Sunday morning attack that claimed 2,403 American lives, Roosevelt boldly decried the mission, memorably referring to the event as “a day which will live in infamy.”

In a painful stroke of irony, the United States would respond in part with a spell of infamy of its own. Just two months after the attack, Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, initiating a campaign to round

up innocent Americans of Japanese descent, bus them to detention centers in remote areas across the nation and keep them incarcerated, some for several years until the end of World War II. The evolution was a violation of the civil rights of tens of thousands of American citizens, leading to disrupted lives, separated families, surrender of property and loss of dignity.

The oldest public university in the West, San Jose State University, holds a deep and rich history of diversity, tolerance and social justice. Unfortunately, it also played a role in this shameful evolution. Serving as a processing site for Santa Clara County, San Jose State College (as it was then known) actively and knowingly participated in the effort, with administrators enlisting their own students and employees to process nearly 2,500 members of the local community for relocation. More than 100 San Jose State students were among those incarcerated, forced to abandon studies that many of them never returned to complete.

All told, more than 120,000 people — nearly two-thirds of whom were

American citizens — fell victim to the initiative, none ever to face any charges related to disloyalty. Eventually released, some never returned to their original homes, or even a sense of normalcy. The campaign was hasty. It was inhumane. And it was wrong.

So, too, was our university's involvement in it. Fueled by impulse and hysteria, the relocation and incarceration efforts are a stain on our nation's history, their impact affecting the lives of members of our own community both then and now.

In the decades since, small measures of justice have been served. For instance, one of the buildings on our campus that was used for relocation processing was in 1997 renamed Yoshihiro Uchida Hall, in honor of the Japanese American judo legend whose own studies at SJSU were interrupted by World War II.

Additionally, former San Jose Mayor, Congressman and U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta (himself sent to a detention center as a child) co-sponsored a bill that became the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, providing for reparations

to be paid to those who survived the ordeal. They each also received a written apology from the president of the United States.

And today, I offer my own apology, on behalf of our university, to the entire San Jose community. To those personally affected by this dark period in American history and to those feeling the impact as allies for racial equality and social justice: I am sorry.

Monday marks the 82nd anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066. Our university, which has designated the date, Feb. 19, as an annual Day of Remembrance, will host a daylong program dedicated to remembering the role of the executive order in the incarceration campaign. More than 80 years later, we cannot go back in time to change what happened; but, we can — and will — refuse to forget the pain and indignity inflicted on not only U.S. citizens, but human beings, including on our own campus.

Cynthia Teniente-Matson is  
president of San Jose State  
University.



## A MOTHER'S TAKE

## SUPER BOWL LVIII

By Marsha Aizumi

My friend's  
dog, Windsor,  
suited up for  
the big game

PHOTO: BRIAN BOND



Often, I get inspiration to write about things from the most random thoughts or experiences. This month, I got my idea from football of all places. My husband and I have been watching a lot of it. I am not really a big sports fan, but it is a way for Tad and I to spend time together. I would rather curl up under a soft blanket with a good book and be serenaded by the rain. So, I was surprised that I got into football. First, I was rooting for the home team, the LA Rams. Then when they lost, I would root for teams that moved me by their players or stories.

One of the stories that resonated with me was that of the Detroit Lions coach, Dan Campbell. I loved how the players trusted him and how he trusted and built up his players. Jared Goff, the Lion's quarterback, said, “He (Dan Campbell) listens to his players and lets them do what they do well.” Such sage advice.

It reminded me that you can have the best players, but if the team is not supporting the same vision, then they are not unified. This quote always

resonated with me. . . . “You are either supporting the vision or supporting division.” A winning team is built on trust, belief and being unified behind a single focus. I have seen this all around me in ways of success and when not present, failure.

I think about organizations or families as a team. I remember when our family was not aligned behind a singular vision for Aiden. Our team lacked trust, and we didn't believe that our family could be happy or smile again when Aiden first came out. I did not trust myself as a mom because I thought I was a bad mother, and I am sure Aiden did not trust that I would stand by his side.

It was only when our family came together to support Aiden 100 percent, discussed things that were awkward and uncomfortable then unified under one vision that things in our family began to change.

We trusted each other, believed in each other and told each other the truth in a kind and respectful way. I have been involved in organizations and companies where trust was not present. Decisions were based on not doing what was right, but people

having to be right. Goals and dreams were not achieved or took longer because of the misalignment.

Going back to the Detroit Lions, their win-loss record over the last three years showed the challenges they had to overcome. The first year Dan Campbell was the coach, they had a horrible record (3 wins, 13 losses), but the Lion's leadership stayed with Campbell. I am sure the message from management was that “we believe in you and trust you will build a great team.”

Coincidentally, that was the same message that Goff received from Campbell when he was traded to the Lions. . . . I trust you, Jared, and you will help us build a great team. The second year, the Lions had 9 wins, 8 losses, which was better. Their belief and trust was growing. And now in 2023, they had 12 wins, 5 losses and were NFC North champions.

I don't know if that is seen as a comeback, but I think it is pretty extraordinary. And though they didn't make it to the Super Bowl, I hope they felt like they were almost there, and that next year will be built on what they learned and what to do even

better. I will be cheering for them.

As for me and the Super Bowl, I was torn between rooting for my home state team, the 49ers, but being drawn to the Kansas City Chiefs and their story. My husband said the Chiefs were the underdogs. Tad and I both like underdogs . . . me because I like to believe that no matter what other people say, people create their own reality.

So, Tad and I watched the game. I think I was just a tiny bit happier with the result.

In some ways, I just cheer for the underdog because when others say they are not good enough, they have to dig deeper and believe in themselves even more. It is so easy to listen to others and forget who we really are. I hope I never forget who I really am, no matter what other people say or think about me.

Marsha Aizumi is an advocate for the LGBTQ+ community and author of the book “Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance.”



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The JACL National Board met in San Francisco at its headquarters office on Feb. 3 to discuss several pressing issues, among them a large financial deficit.



## CHALLENGES AHEAD

Pressing issues, including a substantial financial shortfall in 2023 and the Israel-Palestine conflict, have the JACL off to a tremendously busy start to 2024.

By P.C. Staff

A full agenda welcomed the JACL National Board as it convened at the organization's San Francisco headquarters building on Feb. 3 to discuss numerous business items demanding its attention, among them conversations concerning its position on the Israel-Palestine conflict and a \$675,000 financial shortfall in 2023.

National President Larry Oda wasted no time in expressing the importance of the matters at hand, saying in a statement to the *Pacific Citizen*, "As we proceed into the first half of 2024, the National Board's attention has been distracted by a substantial budget deficit from last year and the Nikkei 4 Palestine demand that we support Palestine and that we divest ourselves of any partnerships we have with Jewish American-based organizations like the American Jewish Committee and Anti-Defamation League. . . . Regarding the Israel/Palestine issue: JACL has a policy, adopted Sept. 4, 1954, against participating or intervening in any matters relating to the international relations of foreign governments. Our primary focus is on the improvements of race relations and civil rights

within the United States. Although the demands from N4P are contrary to our policy, I have convened a subcommittee to assist them to achieve their goals. The committee has met with representatives of N4P in an initial listening session, and more sessions with other stakeholders are being planned."

Oda also addressed the 2023 budget shortfall in his statement to the *P.C.* as follows: "It took less than six months of work by our new finance team of (JACL Director of Finance) Tom Fernandez and (National Secretary/Treasurer) Jon Okamoto to sort out our books and reveal our actual financial condition. The JACL finances are extremely complex because we are a nonprofit, where we have to rely on sponsorships, grants and membership dues to fund our operations. We don't get our money all at once; sometimes we have to provide a product before we're paid, and sometimes we have to wait for an extended period of time before we realize our revenues. Our expenses, like payroll, utilities, etc., are more predictable, so it becomes a balancing act to meet our expenses while we wait for lagging revenues. Tom and Jon have the experience in successfully juggling these compet-

ing needs, and I am confident that with their oversight, we will not get in this predicament again."

In Fernandez' report, causes of the shortfall resulted from overly aggressive budgeted revenue income (\$130K shortfall), expense estimates that were too low (\$170K shortfall) and unforeseen one-time costs such as the financial audit, temporary labor and the National Convention strike fallout (\$375K shortfall).

To recover in 2024, Fernandez stated that the organization is awaiting \$300,000 in potential grants but that it needs to "generate/save an additional \$375K for a balanced net income for 2023." Among the areas of potential savings in 2024: delaying staff hires, rent reduction at its Washington, D.C., office, contract to permanent staff savings and operational cost-cutting. Corrective actions would also be taken to build transparencies and accountability/efficiency across the board.

Okamoto, speaking during the meeting via Zoom, stated that "there is going to be a lot more accuracy for the 2025-26 budget based on what we learn about 2024."

The Centennial Education Fund, which is being spearheaded by VP for Planning and Development Gary Nakamura and Program Director — Membership and Fund Development Phillip Ozaki, currently stands at \$2,106,682 of its \$3 million goal.

To see the campaign through to its projected 2024 end date, Nakamura and Ozaki stressed the importance of increasing communications, cultivating new major donors, revamping the organization's planned giving program and growing volunteer-led fundraisers.

Ozaki then joined VP of Mem-

bership Dominique Mashburn and Membership Manager Ashley Bucher to report that JACL gained 741 new members in 2023 — its goal in 2024 is 1,000 — and renewal rates remain high, with couple/family at 81.1 percent, regular/individual at 78.6 percent and student/youth at 53.7 percent. The org's *Otoshidama* Campaign (Gift Membership) also generated \$23,564 in revenue. A membership CBL proposal will also be resubmitted for the National Council to discuss at July's upcoming National Convention in Philadelphia.

And in staffing news, Inoue reported that *Pacific Citizen* Business Manager Susan Yokoyama has been appointed to the temporary role of director of strategic planning and operations and "will be assisting with managing some of the human resources functions of the organization" to improve operating efficiencies within JACL.

JACL also welcomes Ariel Imamoto, the new Norman Y. Mineta fellow, and Brent Seto, the Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Fellow. Seto is working in Sen. Patty Murray's (D-Wash.) office through May, after which he will be joining JACL to assist with the National Convention.

Imamoto, in her second day in her new role, was present at the Feb. 3 meeting. In a statement to the *P.C.*, Imamoto said, "As the Mineta Fellow, I am looking forward to hearing stories of those throughout the community and creating connections that will lead to great collaboration and coalition-building. Throughout the fellowship, my goal is to expand my advocacy skills to encompass a wider range of causes and allow me to gain real-world insight into how government and policy decisions impact communities." ■

## DECLUTTER » continued from page 3

specialist to address and control your pain. Constant aches and pains can disrupt your life in many ways, one of them being an increased risk for falls.

**9. Treat health issues.** A number of health issues that become more common with age contribute to the risk for falls. Alzheimer's and other types of dementia can rob you of the judgment you need to navigate your surroundings. See your doctor to assess your risks for these conditions, and get treated.

**10. Avoid alcohol.** Your body metabolizes alcohol differently now than it did when you were younger. Certain medicines can also intensify the effects of alcohol. Alcohol can throw off both your balance and judgment, making a fall more likely.

In conclusion, lighting can be used to reduce fall risks in older adults. Older eyes have more difficulty discerning objects with little contrast. Aging can also throw off your depth perception. Keep the light strength uniform from room to room. Install a dimmer switch by your front door, so you can turn on the light gradually as you enter the house at night. Increase illumination where you need it. Marking each stair with a white or brightly colored tape stripe will help you see it.

If you're worried about disrupting sleep, a night-lighting system providing visual cues and low ambient illumination is a good idea. Seeing your ophthalmologist for regular vision checkups is also a good idea. Keeping your eyeglass or contact lens prescription up to date is one way to avoid falling.

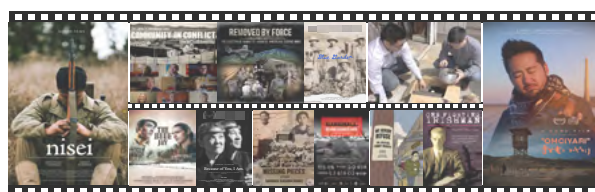
*Judd Matsunaga is the founding attorney of Elder Law Services of California, a law firm that specializes in Medi-Cal Planning, Estate Planning and Probate. He can be contacted at (310) 348-2995 or judd@elderlawcalifornia.com. The opinions expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily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



JACL's Jack Shimabukuro, the Daniel K. Inouye fellow, and new Norman Y. Mineta fellow Ariel Imamoto

PHOTOS: SUSAN YOKOYAMA

## 2024 Films of Remembrance



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**

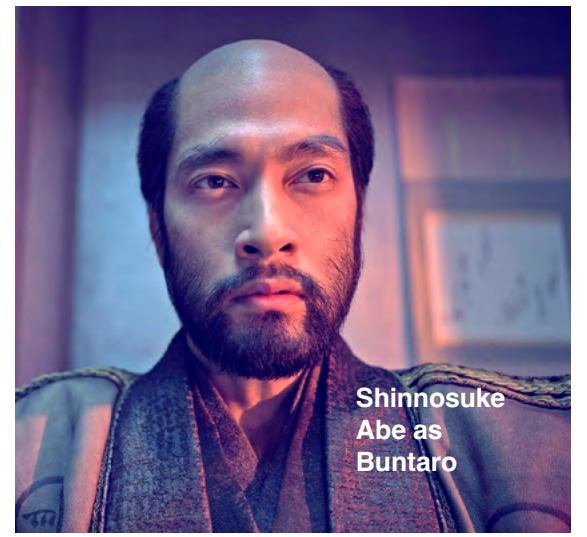




Tadanobu  
Asano as  
Kashigi  
Yabushige



(From left) Eita Okuno as Saeki Nobutatsu, Anna Sawai as Toda Mariko and Hiromoto Ida as Kiyama Ukon Sadanaga



Shinnosuke  
Abe as  
Buntaro



Hiroyuki Sanada  
as Yoshii  
Toranaga in  
Shōgun Episode  
1, "Anjin"

PHOTOS: COURTESY  
OF FX NETWORKS



# NEW 'SHŌGUN' ARRIVES FOR THE STREAMING ERA

The reimagined take on James Clavell's classic novel is a cut above expectations.

By George Toshio Johnston,  
Senior Editor

**NOTE:** The following may contain spoilers for those unfamiliar with the now-nearly 49-year-old novel upon which FX's "Shōgun" is based.

Going way back to when Christopher Columbus sailed from Europe to find "the Japans" (we all know how that ended up) and looking over the centuries-long rise and fall pattern of Western fascination with anything having a Japanese pedigree, it appears that we are again in a time of rising interest in things from the land of the rising sun.

Anime. Manga. Cosplay. Video games. Ramen. Marie Kondo. Shohei Ohtani. The boxoffice successes of "The Boy and the Heron" and "Godzilla Minus One," with each getting Oscar noms. Even Japanese American Day of Remembrance commemorations are getting covered by mainstream news outfits.

It's fitting, then, that beginning Feb.

27 on Disney-owned FX Networks and streaming service Hulu comes the 10-part 21st-century East-West *jidaigeki* of author James Clavell's bestselling 1975 novel "Shōgun."

The first two hourlong episodes arrive Feb. 27. After that, episodes will be released on a weekly basis until April 23, so no Netflix-style binging is possible, at least initially. As the buzz for "Shōgun" grows, Disney no doubt hopes for a spike in Hulu subscriptions.

And for parents who think it's OK to watch with the kids, here is the one-word answer: No. For those who care, "Shōgun" is rated TV-MA, which means it is for adults and unsuitable for people under the age of 18. (Same could be true for some sensitive 40 year olds because of its graphic violence, explicit sexual situations and crude language.)

Speaking of pedigrees, while the source material may be the same, this "Shōgun" is not the same as the 1980 miniseries of the same name. (BTW, the word *miniseries* has been supplanted by

"limited series.") To paraphrase the TV commercial catchphrase, "This ain't your old man's 'Shōgun.'"

That's not to say there aren't similarities; both share the same source material, after all. Beheadings? Check. Acts of seppuku? Check. Intra-Catholic rivalry? Check. Inter-Christian rivalry? Check. Dutch and English vs. Portuguese and Spanish? Check. Japanese mistrust of Christianity? Check. Western imperialism? (See mistrust of Christianity.) Scheming and double-dealing? Check. Assassination attempts? Check. A *shinobi* (ninja) attack? Check. Honorable as well as ignoble deaths? Check. Betrayals and unexpected reconciliations? Check. Intrigue? Check. Hidden agendas? Check.

What else is the same? Plotwise, "Shōgun" begins after the Dutch ship *Erasmus* and its barely alive crew drift into a Sengoku-era coastal village in Japan during a time of civil instability in the year 1600. Blackthorne still gets micturated upon by a samurai. He still gets imprisoned and befriended by another imprisoned Westerner, a Franciscan monk (put there by the Jesuits), who explains to Blackthorne (and the audience) the situation in which he has found himself.

There's the unpleasant pheasant incident. There's the earthquake sequence, which benefits greatly from modern VFX. So, yes, all of that still happens.

That said, one major difference between the older version and today's "Shōgun" are the times. Then, as now, the U.S. and Japan were regional security allies in the 1970s and '80s — but economic tensions between the U.S. and Japan were sky high, exemplified by the rise of Japanese automakers and the decline of Detroit's Big Four. Vincent Chin's slaying didn't happen in a vacuum.

In today's environment, though, "Shōgun" has the potential to provide tsunami-levels of interest in Japanese culture. And when it comes time for awards recognitions, don't be surprised if "Shōgun" reaches "Game of Thrones" and "Succession" levels of acclaim.

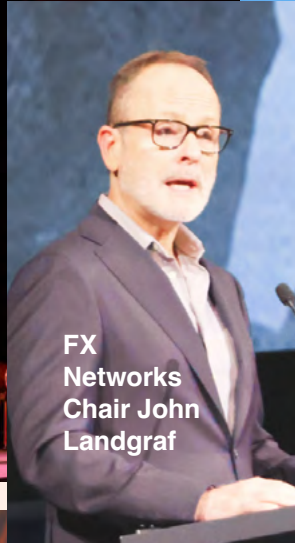
Since the new "Shōgun" isn't broadcast over the public airwaves, it also isn't bound by network TV standards and practices circa 1980 — and is therefore thematically heavier, bloodier, kinkier, crazier, fiercer and graver. Again, it's not your old man's "Shōgun."

Bottom line: All renditions of "Shōgun" are works of fiction, in spite of having been inspired by historical events. The character Toranaga Yoshii, who is of the Minowara line (a stand-in for the surname Matsudaira), is a stand-in for Tokugawa Ieyasu, and Englishman John Blackthorne, aka "Anjin," doubles for Englishman William Adams. So, yes, in this story there are events that parallel the historical record — but at its heart,





Taiko performers  
at Academy  
Theater screening



FX  
Networks  
Chair John  
Landgraf



(From left) Justin Marks, Rachel Kondo, Eriko Miyagawa, Cosmo Jarvis, Hiroyuki Sanada, Anna Sawai, Michaela Clavell and Tadanobu Asano attend the red carpet premiere for FX's "Shōgun."

PHOTO: FRANK MICELOTTA/PICTUREGROUP FOR FX



Hiroyuki  
Sanada



Rachel Kondo and Justin Marks

PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHSTON

it's a work of fiction that was inspired by history but is not actual history, something the *rekishi* police need to keep in mind.

Yet, in spite of being a work of fiction, the 2024 "Shōgun" nevertheless presents a new, compelling reinterpretation of an important period of Japanese history. According to the accompanying podcast (a sign that we are in the 21st century), efforts were made to improve on Clavell's classic in terms of authenticity wherever possible. With the exception of its most well-known characters, for instance, some figures now have names that differ from the book. The iconic Mariko character, however, retains her name, even though it could be argued that such a female name, though possible for the time, was unlikely.

That quest for authenticity can also be seen in the attention to detail in the sets and costumes, the latter of which are particularly sumptuous to the eye. Another clothing-related example of authenticity: It being the Sengoku period, the Japanese wear *kosode*, a precursor to the modern kimono. Also, the period word used for interpreter is *tsūji* in reference to Mariko, instead of the more modern *tsūyaku*.

On the topic of language, one important storytelling conceit needs to be pointed out. Although an Englishman, Blackthorne speaks fluent Portuguese. (Dutch, too, evidently.) So, when Mariko, who has learned Portuguese and Latin from the Jesuit Father Martin Alvito, is interpreting for Toranaga and Blackthorne, when she

speaks in Japanese to Toranaga, it's subtitled in English. But, when she and Blackthorne are conversing in English, they are "really" speaking in Portuguese.

On the topic of subtitles, "Shōgun" also demands your attention in ways other shows might not; unless your understanding of spoken Japanese is so good that you can follow along by listening while doing the dishes, when the characters are speaking in Japanese, you have to read the subtitles to understand what's going on. (This is where the aforementioned podcast comes in handy by providing supplemental information and context to what happened in the week's latest episode.)

If there is one character in particular whose persona gets a major reworking in this "Shōgun," it's that of Mariko, sublimely portrayed by Anna Sawai. Her sadness, grace, anger and inner fire are palpable, her faith rock solid. She is also proficient with the *naginata*, on deadly display in a tense, penultimate Episode Nine. By the end of the series, one realizes that Mariko-Sama — aka Toda Mariko, aka Lady Maria, aka Akechi Mariko — is the tale's key character, whose actions prove to be the pivot point for everything that follows for Toranaga and Blackthorne.

Distaff viewers of a certain age, meantime, may miss a particular blow-dried, feathered-locked actor who first played Anjin when Cosmo Jarvis is introduced as the pilot John Blackthorne. He looks and acts like a barbarian, which is how he

is viewed the Japanese. But as the series progresses, Jarvis' Blackthorne grows on the viewer. By the end of the series, Jarvis inhabits the role. He *is* Anjin, full stop.

And then there's Hiroyuki Sanada, attempting to do what might seem a fool's errand: playing a role that was portrayed by a legend, Toshiro Mifune.

But Sanada, who is also a producer for "Shōgun," is up to the task. His Toranaga is dour, grave, humorless, stoic and stern. He wields authority like it was his birthright. He is always, always thinking. He has a distaste for unnecessary violence that only one who meted out death on too many occasions can possess — and yet he is willing to go there in an instant when he must.

In a refreshing sign of the progress that has occurred in the 40-plus years since Orson Welles served as the narrator for the 1980 version, this "Shōgun" actually has some Japanese American/Asian American talent behind the scenes, thanks to such writers as Rachel Kondo, Shannon Goss and Emily Yoshida.

The Maui-born Kondo — a Michener Center for Writers grad — also serves as an executive producer, co-creator and writer for "Shōgun." Her husband, Justin Marks, is also an executive producer (born in 1980, the same year that the other "Shōgun" aired) and may be best-known before this for a co-story credit on "Top Gun: Maverick."

Meantime, another executive producer with a vested interest in making sure "Shōgun" was done right is Michaela Clavell, daughter of the late James Clavell.

If there is any knock one might have for "Shōgun," it might be that it is, all in all, very serious, without much in the way of comic relief to counterbalance all the tension and the life-and-death situations. The closest thing that comes to mind is when Blackthorne insists on trying natto, despite Mariko's insistence against it. Turns out he likes it, comparing it to cheese. It's kind of funny if you know anything about natto.

In any story that has a great lead, there

needs to be a great opponent. In "Shōgun," there are many, not the least of which are the four other "council of regents," with Toranaga being the fifth. Leading the other four to destroy Toranaga is Ishido Kazunari, played by Takehiro Hira. Born a peasant, Ishido has risen to become a member of the five regents named by the deceased Taikō. His ambition is to become shōgun — and he realizes that the one obstacle to that title is Toranaga, who claims to not want it.

Other compelling characters include the conniving, corrupt and two-faced, yet oddly charming Kashigi Yabushige, played by Tadanobu Asano, and the fierce warrior Buntaro, Mariko's cruel husband, aka Toda Hirokatsu, played by Shinnosuke Abe.

Although it lasts for 10 episodes, it doesn't take that long to figure out that "Shōgun" is an entertaining, compelling, multilayered masterpiece for the ages — and will remain so until someone else decides to update "Shōgun" yet again in 40 years.

To view trailers for "Shōgun," visit [tinyurl.com/ye28573w](https://tinyurl.com/ye28573w) and [tinyurl.com/yymn5fjmj](https://tinyurl.com/yymn5fjmj).



PHOTO:  
GEORGE  
TOSHIO  
JOHSTON



## JAPAN'S INAGI CITY BESTOWS JACLER STEVE OKAMOTO WITH SERVICE AWARD

JACL San Mateo Chapter President Steve Okamoto (back row, center, holding award) is pictured with friends and family as Inagi City residents look on virtually with his meritorious service award from Inagi City.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF STEVE OKAMOTO



**FOSTER CITY, CALIF.** — At a virtual award ceremony held Jan. 4 at the Foster City Council Chambers, former Council Member Steve Okamoto, who also serves as the president of the San Mateo JACL chapter, received the “2023 Inagi City, Japan, Award for Meritorious Service” for his contribution in creating the Inagi City-Foster City Sister City relationship. A group from Inagi City was projected on the Foster City screen while many of Okamoto’s friends and family watched from the gallery.

Okamoto, as a council member from 2011-15, wanted to create an international sister city with one in Japan because Foster City, in its 53-year history, never had that sort of relationship.

He invited many cities in Japan to become a sister city, but none had what Okamoto felt “was the right fit.” He enlisted the aid of the Japan Consulate in San Francisco to aid in his search.

In 2017, they found the perfect match, Inagi City, which is within metropolitan Tokyo.

Both cities were environmentally conscious, supported their sports team and had become incorporated as a municipality in 1971. After several visits from the

Inagi City team and with the Foster City group traveling to Japan, in 2021, a virtual signing ceremony was also held at the Foster City Council Chambers, making official the relationship between the two cities.

Since then, several programs between the two cities have started.

In 2022, a pen pal program was started with 54 Foster City students emailing their counterparts in Japan. That program still exists and has created many email friendships.

In 2022, 35 residents of Foster City visited Japan and, specifically, Inagi City, during its city festival and enjoyed Japanese food and culture. After the trip, many of the visitors commented on how the people of Japan were extremely courteous, friendly and helpful, despite the language difference.

In early 2023, a group of Inagi City residents visited Foster City and spent a wonderful weekend being honored by the school district staff, a boat ride through the waters of Foster City and a banquet, culminated with a concert by the children of Foster City’s orchestra.

The afternoon ended with the traditional exchanging of gifts. ■

## DAN MAYEDA Steps Onto His Next Stage

The attorney and advocate for AAPI representation, EW Players booster retires.

By P.C. Staff

It has been more than four months since professional colleagues, friends and family members of Daniel Mayeda gathered at the University of California Los Angeles’ James Bridges Theater to honor the True-Blue Bruin — he earned both his B.A. and J.D. at the institution — in the waning weeks of 2023 before formally stepping away at year’s end from his duties as one of the founders of the UCLA Documentary Film Legal Clinic.

The end of the year also saw Mayeda formally separate from law firm Ballard Spahr, which had a few years earlier absorbed Leopold, Petrich and Smith, the law firm where he had spent more than 30 years as an entertainment attorney and become a partner before leaving to help launch the Documentary Film Legal Clinic in 2018.

For him, 2023 was the last page of a chapter. The culmination of a career. Finito. The “R” word.

The first page of a new chapter has begun in 2024 and an entrée into a new stage. So far, Mayeda has found that retirement is fine.

And, as he pointed out in a conversation with the *Pacific Citizen*, the word “retirement” can have many meanings. “It’s been great, actually. No shortage of things to occupy my time,” Mayeda said. Since that evening on Oct. 17 and through the end of 2023, Mayeda has kept busy. Moving the contents from his UCLA office to his home office. Scanning necessary documents. Dumping stuff that no longer matters. Getting organized.

Now, as an empty nester, Mayeda has found it much easier to do spur-of-the-moment things like taking

an overnight trip with his wife, Susan Rosales, or participating in the most-recent Day of Remembrance procession at the Japanese American National Museum. On that day, he represented the Tuna Canyon Detention Station as a descendent of his Issei grandfather, George Mayeda, aka Kunitomo Mayeda, who had been held there before being sent to the Santa Fe Internment Camp, a topic he had written about for the *Huffington Post* (see [tinyurl.com/2h5eza72](https://tinyurl.com/2h5eza72)) and later, JANM’s Discover Nikkei website.

Over the decades, Mayeda has been active with several community-based organizations, East West Players being one of the most prominent, having served on its board beginning in 1994. “I’m no longer on the board, but I was asked to participate on the national search committee for the new artistic director, which I was doing toward the end of last year and then into January.” He said EWP would be revealing its new artistic director “any day now.”

Another of his causes has been representation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in movies and on television. “I am still associated with media advocacy efforts,” he said, noting that he is the chair emeritus of the Asian American Media Alliance.

Yet another area in which he used his powers was as the co-



UCLA Documentary Film Legal Clinic founders Dan Mayeda and Dale Cohen



Pictured (from left) are Dan Mayeda, Nobuko Miyamoto, Tarabu Kirkland and Dale Cohen.

PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON

chair of the Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission, which sought to create new, fairer boundaries for Los Angeles County Supervisors. At his Oct. 17 “sayonara” event, Mayeda told the audience, “I still plan to find ways to continue to support independent redistricting voting rights.”

In the coming months, the Culver City resident says he is eager to help with a memorial wall in Columbia Park in Torrance, Calif., that will list the names of the more than 120,000 Japanese Americans who were incarcerated in American concentration camps during WWII. The park is just blocks away from where he grew up.

“I still have my law license, I’m still a member of the California bar and I am still doing some small amount of work as an entertainment lawyer,” Mayeda said, referring to “one main client” that chose to stay with him rather than stick with his former law firm. He also has a few other clients that he says he will continue to work with, adding that he can now “make my own schedule for that kind of stuff.”

In recent years, of course, much of his focus was the UCLA Documentary Film Legal Clinic, the mission of which was to train law students to use their skills to help documentary filmmakers pro bono deal with issues ranging from fair use, what is and is not in the public domain, copyright, talent releases and the like so that under-represented filmmakers and storytellers could get their stories out to the public while avoiding legal pitfalls and costs that could leave worthy projects stillborn.

Addressing the gathering at the James Bridges Theater, Mayeda recalled where he was about six years earlier. “I was pondering the next steps in my life. I was about to turn 60 in a couple months from then. I only had one more tuition payment before my daughter, Kacey, graduated from UC Berkeley. My mortgage was winding down. And you know, I thought maybe there’s an opportunity for me to do something different in my life.

» See MAYEDA on page 12



Dan Mayeda with his family at his retirement event on the UCLA campus. Pictured (from left) are his mother, Theresa Mayeda; daughter, Kacey Mayeda; and wife, Susan Rosales.





## PATTI HIRAHARA NAMED TO OC REGISTER'S 125 MOST INFLUENTIAL PERSONS IN ORANGE COUNTY FOR 2023

By Nori Uyematsu

Patti Hirahara has been a preservationist of Japanese American history as well as a communications facilitator between the United States and Japan since 1974, and in December 2023, she was recognized by the *Orange County Register* newspaper as one of its “125 Most Influential Persons in Orange County.” She and Major League Baseball’s Shohei Ohtani were the only honorees of Japanese descent to be included in 2023.

This designation is not just for her work last year in preserving the history of the Orange County Japanese community but also to commend Hirahara for an entire career dedicated to help and ensure that our community’s history will be preserved for future generations.

Hirahara’s family’s story has been featured in many *Pacific Citizen* articles over the years, but due to her journalistic background, she has contributed to the newspaper as a writer since 2014. As a contributor, she specializes in feature stories that profile Japanese American newsmakers and events that would not be covered in the American press. With her also being a third-generation Hirahara family photographer, she can also take her own photos to accompany her stories.

She unselfishly volunteers her own time and money to help get projects off the ground by providing seed money to get things rolling and has called many high-ranking individuals, without any introductions, to get first-time Japanese pioneer exhibits and documentaries made utilizing her family’s more than 2,000 photographs that were processed in a secret underground darkroom in Heart Mountain, Wyo., during World War II, which is considered the largest private collection of photos

taken at the camp.

In addition, she provided unique family artifacts that developed opportunities for exhibitions to be created when people said they couldn’t be done.

Her tenacity afforded other Japanese families to be able to tell their stories in the areas where they lived, and she is helping me to work with the Brigham City Museum in Brigham City, Utah, to now develop its first Brigham City/Box Elder County Japanese Pioneer exhibit, which is set to open next year in February and go through June 2025 for a four-month run.

Patti Hirahara’s great-grandfather, Motokichi Hirahara, came to the U.S. in 1907 from Wakayama Prefecture, and she is a Yonsei, or fourth-generation, Japanese American whose family has been in the United States for 117 years; she is the last living Hirahara surnamed descendant.

This year, 2024, marks the 50th anniversary of her becoming the first Miss Suburban Optimist/Orange County Nisei Queen to represent Orange County in Nisei Week in 1974.

The Suburban Optimists was the second organization that sponsored a candidate to Nisei Week after the Kazuo Masuda Memorial VFW Post 3670 ended its sponsorship in 1970. There has been a total of 55 queens who have represented Orange County in the Nisei Week Japanese Festival since 1958.

Although she did not win the title of Nisei Week Queen, she felt in not winning, this gave her the inspiration and opportunities to pursue projects as a print journalist and photographer, while still attending college, and learn more about her Japanese heritage. She felt bad about not becoming queen that year since she

### Patti Hirahara in 2023

PHOTO: ALAN MIYATAKE/TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO



Miss Suburban Optimist/Orange County Nisei Queen Patti Hirahara 1974

PHOTO: COURTESY OF PATTI HIRAHARA

wanted to make Orange County proud, but I think we can all agree that she has done many remarkable things in 50 years that people can only dream about.

Last year alone, she worked to have the 53-year-old Japanese Garden and Teahouse at the Orange County Civic Center preserved due to its significance of representing the Japanese resettlement in Orange County after WWII. She also worked to help find many of the 55 Miss Orange County Japanese American Queens, who represented Orange County at the Nisei Week Japanese Festival, from 1958-2023, and helped put together their first reunion in 65 years last September.

In addition, she worked with the California State Parks to create its first exhibit “Community Voices: Japanese American Experiences at Crystal Cove (1927-42),” which is running through Feb. 28, and she worked with the Japan Business Assn.’s Orange County Committee to honor the Japanese pioneers at the Anaheim Cemetery by placing flowers on their graves as well as introduced Orange County’s Japanese American history in an introductory YouTube video for the JBA in 2022.

There are not that many people who know the history of the Japanese and Japanese Americans in Orange County, and her wealth of knowledge has helped organizations and people tremendously. With these accomplishments just covering 2023, her résumé also includes work at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, the FDR Presidential Library and Museum, the City of Anaheim, the Yakima Valley Museum in Yakima, Washington, and the Japanese American Museum of Oregon.

What amazed me was that she was first runner-up to chef Matao Uwate of Radio Li'l Tokyo for the California statewide Chef

Kiku Masamune spokesperson cooking title in 1979. She is a great Japanese cook and can also speak Japanese.

In 1984, Tokyo Broadcasting Systems’ “Soko Ga Shiritai — Little Tokyo’s 100th Year” program special featured Hirahara, who represented the Yonsei generation to show what Japanese Americans can do to help relations between the U.S. and Japan. This show was broadcast in Japan and in Los Angeles 40 years ago. She was also interviewed by University of Tokyo students for a documentary about Japanese Americans in America in September 2014.

Among Patti Hirahara’s accolades and service roles are positions on the board of directors of the Society of Professional Journalists Los Angeles Chapter; second vp of American Women in Radio and Television’s Southern California Chapter; Nisei Week Japanese Festival board of directors 1980 and 1981; Suburban Optimist Club of Buena Park board of directors and Optimist of the Year for 1995-96; 2010 Community Service Award recipient City of Anaheim, Honorary Alumna Washington State University 2018 and first Japanese American to receive the honor; grand marshal of the Washington State Pioneer Power Show; Woman of the Year — 46th Congressional District by Congressman Lou Correa; Commendation for her Japanese preservation work by the Anaheim Union High School District; and having her name listed on the Orange County Japanese Garden and Teahouse 50th Anniversary Plaque at the Orange County Civic Center in Santa Ana, Calif.

She is also a member of the SELANOCO/Orange County JACL chapter and was honored by the PSW District of the Japanese American Citizens League as the SELANOCO JACL Honoree in 2019. She was a member of the Orange County JACL when she covered events for their *Santana Wind* newsletter during the chapter’s heyday.

The Hirahara family has lived in the City of Anaheim for 69 years and continues to support the community. She helped to create the first Japanese American exhibition about the City of Anaheim’s Japanese pioneers and their incarceration in Poston, Ariz., which highlighted pioneer stories in Orange County for the City of Anaheim’s “I am an American — Japanese Incarceration in a Time of Fear” at the MUZEO Museum and Cultural Center that ran from Aug. 25-Nov. 3, 2019.

In knowing Patti Hirahara for over 40 years, this is only a fraction of her résumé. I know she will continue to do great things to honor our Orange County Japanese pioneers and ensure our Japanese American legacy will not be forgotten. “There is only one Patti Hirahara, and we are fortunate that she is a trailblazer for our community.” ■



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](https://www.jccnc.org/japanese-heritage-night-2024/) for more information and [janm.org](https://www.janm.org).

## NCWNP

**‘Celebrating Kimono: From Garments to Activism’**  
San Jose, CA  
Thru March 10  
Japanese American Museum of San Jose  
535 N. Fifth St.

**Price:** \$8 Adults; Members Free  
This exhibition in the museum's Rotating Gallery will be on display until March 10, exploring the iconic kimono as a garment, a cultural symbol and an expression of activism.  
**Info:** Visit [www.jamsj.org](https://www.jamsj.org).

**Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival 2024**  
San Francisco, CA  
April 13-14 and April 20-21  
San Francisco Japantown  
Sutter Street

**Price:** Free  
This festival is one of California's most prominent celebrations of Asian traditions and the largest Cherry Blossom Festival on the West Coast. All are welcome to join in the festivities as the city celebrates Japanese and Japanese American culture. There will be food, entertainment, exhibits, and much more to enjoy!  
**Info:** Visit [www.sfcherryblossom.org](https://www.sfcherryblossom.org).

**Japanese Heritage Night With the San Francisco Giants**  
San Francisco, CA  
May 17; 7:15 p.m.  
Oracle Park  
24 Willie Mays Plaza  
**Price:** Starting at \$32 for JCCCNC Members

Join the JCCCNC at Japanese Heritage Night as the San Francisco Giants take on the Colorado Rockies. This year's special event giveaway is an exclusive Giants Cherry Blossom Jersey, which will be available with your electronic ticket. The evening will also feature special pregame entertainment that will highlight local cultural performances.  
**Info:** Visit <https://www.jccnc.org/japanese-heritage-night-2024/>.

## PSW

**Riverside JACL 2024 Installation Lunch**  
Riverside, CA  
March 9; Noon-3 p.m.  
Cactus Cantina  
151 Alessandro Blvd.  
**Price:** \$35; Reservation Required by March 4

Please join the Riverside JACL at its installation luncheon that will feature special guest speaker the Hon. R. Glenn Yabuno, presiding judge of the Superior Court of San Bernardino County, who will talk about his journey to his current position. The luncheon will also include a set lunch menu with choices made during reservation.  
**Info:** For reservations, email Michiko Yoshimura at [my141@sbcglobal.net](mailto:my141@sbcglobal.net) or call (951) 313-3279.

**Cherry Blossom Festival**  
San Diego, CA  
March 7-10  
Japanese Friendship Garden and Museum of San Diego  
2215 Pan American Road E.  
**Price:** \$14 Adults; \$12 Students/Seniors/Military; Children 6 and Under Are Free  
JFGM's largest cultural festival is back! Stroll through the cherry blossom grove, enjoy live performances, food, shopping and more! This is a great event for the entire family to enjoy!  
**Info:** Visit <https://www.niwa.org/cbw>.

**‘Giant Robot Biennale 5’**  
Los Angeles, CA  
March 2-Sept. 1  
JANM  
100 N. Central Ave.  
**Price:** Museum Admission  
This recurring art exhibition partnered with Eric Nakamura, founder of Giant Robot, highlights creative works celebrating the ethos of Giant Robot, a staple of Asian American alternative pop culture and an influential brand encompassing pop art, skateboard,

comic book, graphic arts and vinyl toy culture. “Giant Robot Biennale 5” will feature artists Sean Chao, Felicia Chiao, Luke Chueh, Giorgiko, James Jean, Taylor Lee, Mike Shinoda, Rain Szeto and Yoskay Yamamoto, among others.  
**Info:** Visit [www.janm.org](https://www.janm.org).

**JANM Museum's Free-for-All Day**  
Los Angeles, CA  
March 23  
JANM  
100 N. Central Ave.  
**Price:** Free  
SoCal Museums announces this Museums Free-for-All day that will include more than 30 museums, including JANM, that will open its doors and offer free general admission. This special day serves as a reminder that free visitor days are available at participating museums across Southern California. Enjoy JANM for free on this day!  
**Info:** Visit <https://www.janm.org/events/2024-03-23/socal-museums-free-all-2024>.

**Okaeri Connects! LGBTQ+ Support Group Virtual Event**  
English Speaking LGBTQ+ only — Second Sundays from 4-5:15 p.m.  
Japanese Speaking LGBTQ+ only — Third Sundays from 4-5:15 p.m. (9 a.m. JT)  
Japanese Speaking Parents/Allies — Third Sundays from 2-3:15 p.m. (7 a.m. JT)  
**Price:** Free  
Are you a Nikkei LGBTQ+ individual or have a Nikkei LGBTQ+ loved one? We create affirming spaces by sharing our personal experiences and stories. We believe that building relationships, being seen and connecting ourselves within our Nikkei community can improve the quality of our lives.  
**Info:** To register, visit [Okaeri.org/connects](https://okaeri.org/connects). For questions, please email [connects@okaeri.org](mailto:connects@okaeri.org).

## PNW

**‘Craft, Community and Care: The Art and Legacy of Bob Shimabukuro’**  
Portland, OR  
Thru April 14  
Japanese American Museum of Oregon  
411 N.W. Flanders St. (entrance on Fourth Avenue)  
**Price:** Museum Admission

This exhibit explores the life of Okinawan American activist, artist and writer Bob Shimabukuro, who was instrumental in the Pacific Northwest's Japanese American redress movement, as well as an acclaimed woodworker and furniture maker known for his design of the Portland restaurant Tanuki. He also served as editor/columnist for the *Pacific Citizen* and the *International Examiner* in Seattle.  
**Info:** Visit [www.jamo.org](https://www.jamo.org).

**New Years All Year Round: Theater, Dance and Sound**  
Seattle, WA  
Thru January 2025  
Wing Luke Museum  
Uwajimaya Kidspace Gallery  
719 S. King St.  
**Price:** Museum Admission  
The new year is a great time for reflecting, celebrating and spending time with family. Lion dancers move to the sound of drums and firecrackers. Families gather around the table to enjoy a delectable feast. Blessings in the new year comes in many forms. Museumgoers will learn in this exhibit the origins of the Lion Dance and traditions around food in New Year celebrations throughout the entire year.  
**Info:** Visit [www.wingluke.org](https://www.wingluke.org).

## MDC

**‘Chinese Cuisine in America: Stories, Struggles & Successes’**  
Chicago, IL  
Chinese American Museum  
238 W. 23rd St.  
**Price:** Museum Entry  
This exhibit highlights the struggles, resiliency and entrepreneurial spirit of Chinese Americans in America, tying in its immigration history to the popularization of Chinese cuisine, from chop suey to dim sum to spicy hotpot.  
**Info:** Visit [www.ccamuseum.org](https://www.ccamuseum.org).

**Japanese American Veterans Memorial Program**  
Minneapolis, MN  
May 16; 10-11 a.m.  
Fort Snelling National Cemetery  
7601 34th Ave. S  
Save the date for this important event that will honor more than 100 local Japanese American veterans. Volunteers are needed for various tasks in preparation for the event.  
**Info:** For more information, email [chiratadulas@tcjacl.org](mailto:chiratadulas@tcjacl.org).

## IDC

**47th Utah Asian Festival 2024**  
Salt Lake City, UT  
June 8; 11 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Utah State Fairpark  
1055 W. North Temple  
**Price:** Free

This annual festival demonstrates unity in the Asian community and showcases a wealth of traditions, including performances, exhibits and food. Don't miss this event that features something for the entire family to enjoy.  
**Info:** Visit <https://utahasianfestival.org/>.

## EDC

**‘The Paradox of Seabrook Farms’**  
Boston, MA  
March 3; 11 a.m.  
Emerson Paramount Center  
559 Washington St.  
**Price:** Tickets Required  
Presented by the Boston Baltic Film Festival, this film tells the story of the Japanese Americans who left the WWII incarceration camps to work at Seabrook Farms in New Jersey. The film captures their true-life stories of survival and perseverance.  
**Info:** Visit <https://www.bostonbalticfilm.org/films2024/the-paradoxofsebrookfarms>.

**AAPI Voices: The Dragonfly Plays**  
Burlington, MA  
Thru March 9  
Park Playhouse  
1 Edgemere Ave.  
**Price:** Tickets Available for Purchase  
This event features three short plays by Asian Americans, including “Don't Fence Me In” by JACL member Rosanna Yamagiwa Alfaro. The plays are being presented by the Burlington Players.  
**Info:** Visit <https://www.burlingtonplayers.com/home>.

**National Cherry Blossom Festival**  
Washington, D.C.  
March 20-April 14  
Tidal Basin  
**Price:** Various Event Ticket Prices  
What began as a friendship gift of cherry blossom trees from Japan in 1912 at the Tidal Basin now spans four weeks in Washington, D.C., and surrounding areas of Maryland and Virginia as this celebrated springtime event features a Cherry Blossom Parade, art installations, fashion show, kite festival, cultural events and much more!  
**Info:** Visit [nationalcherryblossomfestival.org](https://nationalcherryblossomfestival.org). ■

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# In MEMORIAM

## Community Gathers to Celebrate Alan Takeshi Nishio

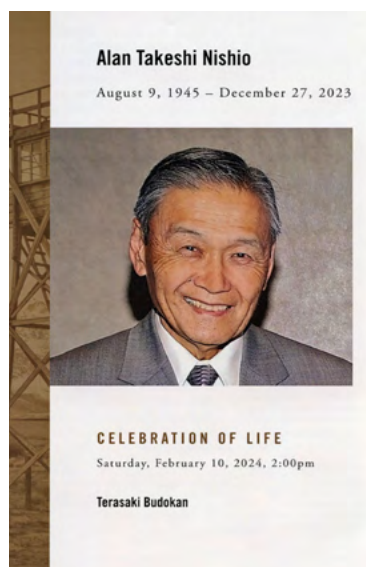
Terasaki Budokan hosts hundreds to bid farewell to respected, beloved figure.

By P.C.Staff

More than three decades ago, Alan Nishio was part of a group of Japanese Americans interested in getting built in Little Tokyo some sort of recreation center that could help bring the community together.

Although there was likely no inkling then that someday the community would gather at what would become the Terasaki Budokan to honor and celebrate Nishio's life, it was fitting the event took place there as a testament to his foresight when, on Feb. 10, more than 600 fans, friends and family members gathered to pay him tribute.

A respected, influential, beloved, well-known, decorated and accomplished member of Los Angeles' Japanese American community, Nishio died at age 78 on Dec. 27, 2023, after a years-long battle



The program cover for Alan Nishio's celebration of life, held at the Terasaki Budokan

with leiomyosarcoma (see *Pacific Citizen's* Jan. 26-Feb. 8, 2024, issue, [tinyurl.com/vcw5psk3](https://tinyurl.com/vcw5psk3)).

Serving as master of ceremonies for Nishio's celebration of life was Chris Aihara. The program included musical performances by Kira Nishio Lockwood, Ty Nishio Lockwood, June Kuramoto, Kimo Cornwell, Dan Kuramoto, Michael Murata, Scott Nagatani and Miko Shudo, as well as a multimedia presentation by Nagatani.

Speakers included Evan Nishio Lockwood, Mike Murase, Sue Oda Omori, Kathy Masaoka, Sara Mitsue Ty, Jaffe Dickerson, Amy Watanabe, Erich Nakano, Alexa Emiko Ty and Aihara.

Nishio's life was summed up by a friend and peer, Ron Wakabayashi, who said, "He was the best of us."

*Note: A PDF of Nishio's celebration of life program may be viewed at [tinyurl.com/y6t2y9nd](https://tinyurl.com/y6t2y9nd).*

**Aoki, Richard Shigetoshi, 91,** Pearl City, HI, Nov. 19, 2023.

**Hamler, Russell 'Huck,' 99,** Pittsburgh, PA, Dec. 26, 2023; reported to be the last surviving member of the Army's 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), aka Merrill's Marauders, which fought secretive missions against the Japanese army in Southeast Asia during WWII. He fought in three of the unit's five major battles, earned the Combat Infantryman Badge and was awarded a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star and, in 2022, a Congressional Gold Medal; he was predeceased by his wife, Imelda, aka Jean; and their sons, Jeffrey Hamler and James Hamler.



**Kobata, Glenn, 69,** Sacramento, CA, Aug. 6, 2023; BA, biological science, Calif. State Univ. Sacramento; he is survived by his siblings, Hannah Guro (Michael) and Stanley Kobata (Kris); he is also survived by nieces, nephews, a grandniece, a grandnephew and other relatives. ■

### TRIBUTE

#### KIRK TAKEUCHI



Kirk Mamoru Takeuchi was born in Santa Barbara, Calif., to Mamoru and Yukiko Takeuchi. He passed peacefully on Jan. 25, 2024, after a yearlong battle with cancer. He was trained in judo and aikido by Sensei Kenji Ota. He was an award-winning athlete in track.

He became a hero at age 25 when he apprehended a purse snatcher — receiving the "Extra Step Award" from the Kiwanis Club of Santa Barbara and a commendation from the state

of California. In 2014, he and wife Shelley moved to New Mexico, where Kirk's relatives were incarcerated in the Santa Fe Internment Camp during WWII. He was a member of the NMJACL.

### TRIBUTE

#### DAISY UYEDA SATODA



**Aug. 15, 1927-Dec. 31, 2023**

Daisy Uyeda Satoda passed away peacefully at her home in San Francisco, surrounded by family, on Dec. 31, 2023. She was born in Watsonville, Calif., the sixth of 12 children.

Daisy was 14 when her family was unjustly incarcerated in the Topaz Concentration Camp in Utah during WWII. She and her classmates spent their entire high school years behind barbed wire and as a result,

the Topaz High School Class of 1945 formed a unique bond. Daisy was instrumental in organizing class activities, including over 30 reunions since 1970.

Daisy settled in San Francisco after the war. She attended college and worked for the Red Cross and then the Japanese American Citizens League, where she met Yone Satoda. They married in 1961 and had three children. She was active in the children's schooling, sporting and scouting functions, but always found time for crossword puzzles, soap operas and baking.

Daisy was also active in community organizations including the Japanese American National Museum, Japanese American Library and Nikkei & Retirement, where she provided public relations, fundraising and event planning. She loved writing and her work appears in five published anthologies which focus on Japanese American experiences and the WWII incarceration.

Daisy loved Hawaii; she and Yone vacationed there annually for 30 years. She also enjoyed visiting Paris and Japan. We will miss her presence, wit and style.

Daisy was predeceased by Yone in 2017. She is survived by her children, Caroline (Elbert Suen), Nancy and David (Allie); grandsons, Christopher, David Jr. (Marie), Nicholas, Tyler and Timothy; sister, Juneko (Tom) Sugihara; and many nieces and nephews. A private service was held.

## TikTok Star Lynn Yamada Davis, 67, Dies

By P.C. Staff and Press Reports



Lynn Yamada Davis displays her karaage chicken in an episode of her internet program "Cooking With Lynja."

PHOTO: YOUTUBE

The world of TikTok, the social video app popular with teens and young people worldwide, lost one of its older-skewing sensations: Lynn "Lynja" Yamada Davis, 67, who died Jan. 1.

Over its years of existence, Davis'

"Cooking With Lynja" gained 17 million followers and connected with viewers for her "zany style and cooking tips" and "quirky dance moves." The cause of death was esophageal cancer. She was a resident of Holmdel, N.J.

According to the obituary that appeared in the *New York Times*, "Cooking With Lynja" began during the pandemic lockdown when her son, Tim Davis, began recording his mother as a way for him to keep his cinematography skills sharp. In addition to TikTok, she also had legions of followers on YouTube and Instagram, with Davis appearing in more than 100 videos.

Prior to her becoming an "internet sensation," Davis — who was born in New York City in 1956 to Mabel Fujisaki Yamada and Tad-ao Yamada — grew up in Fort Lee, N.J., after her parents were released from being incarcerated at the Poston War Relocation Authority Center in Arizona during

World War II.

Davis went on to a career in telecommunications, including working at Bell Labs after graduating from Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. She later earned a master's degrees in business administration and public health from Columbia Business School.

Despite those achievements, it was thanks to social media, her cooking skills and personality that Davis would gain fame as "the internet's grandma." She was named to Forbes' annual "50 Over 50" list, a compilation of impactful women older than 50 and was nominated thrice for the Streamy awards, winning in 2022.

Davis is survived by her husband, Keith Davis; daughters, Hannah Mariko Shofet and Becky Steinberg; sons, Tim Davis and Sean Davis; and siblings, Jay Yamada and Karen Yamada Dolce. ■

### PLACE A TRIBUTE

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

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

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## Introducing New AARP Columnist RYAN KAWAMOTO

By Scott Tanaka

I am grateful to continue writing for the *Pacific Citizen's* AARP column alongside my colleagues. I believe it's important to share AARP's resources and the work we are doing to strengthen communities and advocate for what matters most to the more than 100 million Americans 50-plus and their families.

This year, JR Fujita, senior state and community engagement specialist, AARP California, will stay on as a columnist. Special thank you to Craig Gima, communications director, AARP Hawaii, for contributing to our column last year. One article that was impactful to me was "Lessons From Hawaii for Keeping Elders Safe in a Disaster." Craig wrote this in response to the devastating wildfires in Maui's Lahaina community last August. Although

we hope we'll never need the tips and resources he shared, it's always good to do what we can to be prepared.

I am excited to introduce my colleague, **Ryan Kawamoto (pictured)**, who will be joining us as a new AARP columnist. Ryan is the regional program manager for Older Adults Technology Services from AARP. For those of you who are not familiar with OATS, it was created in 2021 to help older adults learn to use and leverage technology to transform their lives and their communities.

At OATS, Ryan helps to run Senior Planet From AARP programming. Senior Planet from AARP's purpose is to enable older adults to come together and find ways to learn, work, create, exercise and thrive in today's digital age. To learn more, visit [www.seniorplanet.org](http://www.seniorplanet.org) or follow @SeniorPlanet on social media.

Prior to joining AARP, Ryan was the former executive director

of Yu-Ai Kai Japanese American Community Senior Service of San Jose and is the former chair of the Aging Services Collaborative of Santa Clara County in California.

He is also the co-president of the Japantown Community Congress of San Jose, a board of directors member for the Asian Pacific Youth Leadership Project, a member of the LeadingAge California's Equity Cabinet and a community advisory board member of UCSF's Collaborative Approach for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Research and Education.

Ryan has an undergraduate degree in political science and visual arts from the University of California, San Diego, and a master's in public affairs from the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs. He also wrote and published a 372-page graphic novel, and while working in the California State Legislature, he served on the JACL Sacramento chapter board.

I look forward to reading Ryan's articles with the important work he is doing at AARP and in the Japanese American/greater Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

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

## MAYEDA » continued from page 8

"And around that same time, I saw this posting about this new experiential education program at UCLA," he continued. "And I thought, 'Wow, you know, that's kind of interesting.' I knew I loved teaching because I had done some of that. And I saw this as an opportunity, sort of an extension of my work that I had already been doing, where we can find diverse storytellers, underrepresented storytellers, who are passionate about telling a story that wasn't being told by the mainstream media and help them get their films done and out to the public. And I thought, 'How can I not take advantage of an opportunity like that?'"

"So, in January 2018, I joined with Dale Cohen to start this new program, this documentary film legal clinic, helping underrepresented storytellers get their stories out. I think we made some mistakes along the way, but hopefully, we've learned from them over the years. And nearly six years later, I think we've come up with a success. We have now one of the most popular experiential education programs going on at the law school.

... We have created what I think is regarded now as the top experiential education program in the entertainment law area in the country."

*'[My] partner in crime and director at the clinic.'*

—Mayeda to Cohen

One of the evening's highlights: having his wife, daughter and mother, Theresa Mayeda, in attendance. Another highlight: the tribute video with messages of thanks from the many people whose documentaries were completed thanks to the clinic. But Mayeda had his own thanks he wanted to express to Cohen, his "partner in crime and director at the clinic."

"I especially want to thank you, Dale, for insisting on having an event like tonight. It's been a great opportunity to reflect and consider what we built together over the past six years and to give me a chance to thank our students, our clients and all our supporters." ■



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