

PACIFIC CITIZEN

Highlander Elementary in Riverside, Calif., was renamed Harada Elementary after the city's own storied Harada family in a ceremony on May 1.

PHOTO: YOUTUBE/FOX NEWS

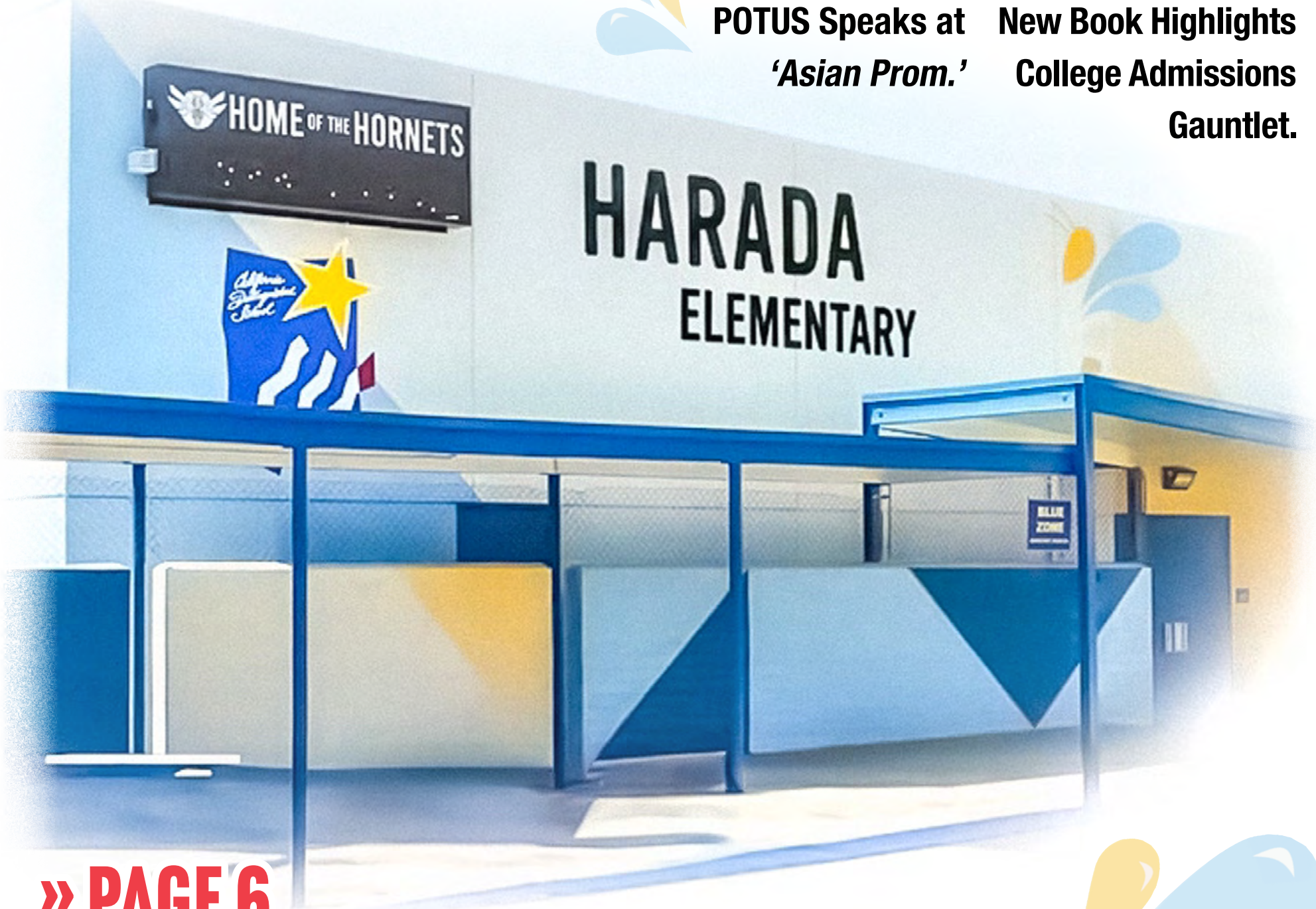


» **PAGE 5**

POTUS Speaks at
'Asian Prom.'

» **PAGE 8**

New Book Highlights
College Admissions
Gauntlet.



» **PAGE 6**

HARADA HORNETS

The RUSD honors Issei immigrants
and their descendants.



SPRING CAMPAIGN AND WHY THE P.C. MATTERS

By Rob Buscher

The P.C.'s Spring Campaign is now underway with a fundraising goal of \$25,000 to support the general operations of our newspaper.

While *Nichi Bei Weekly* and the *Rafu Shimpō* are great resources for their local communities in the S.F. Bay Area and Los Angeles, the *Pacific Citizen* is the only Japanese American newspaper that is truly nationwide in its coverage, with contributing writers located throughout the country.

For those of us residing outside of the Japanese American ethnic enclaves of the West Coast, the P.C. is a lifeline to help us stay connected to the happenings within our national community.

In the years before I was involved in my present professional work in the Japanese American community, the P.C. gave me an insight into experiences and stories that helped me feel connected to the larger narrative of Japanese America.

In this sense, the P.C. is a gateway for community members to learn about the goings-on within our community in a way that empowers people to become involved with both the JACL

and other Japanese American organizations and movements.

Considering the aging demographics in many of our Japanese American community organizations, the P.C. also serves as a proving ground to develop younger generations as members of this community, giving them opportunities to present their views to a national audience and engage in the discourse.

The P.C. gives voice to the concerns of the Japanese American community and is a valuable space for intergenerational exchange.

As a young writer, the P.C. gave me a platform to explore my mixed-race Japanese American identity through writing and share content that was not considered newsworthy by other mainstream publications. I know I am not the only Yonsei who has found their voice through this newspaper.

Lastly, the P.C. is a valuable resource for early career journalists and others who aspire to work in this field. While the Asian American Journalists Assn. fulfills this function to some extent, the majority of its members are first- and second-generation Asian Americans.

For the Yonsei and Gosei in our midst whose connection to the culture of origin and immigration experience are more distant, community spaces

with predominantly immigrant and second-generation Asian Americans are not always comfortable.

The P.C. staff and editorial board are a culturally competent and supportive team that come from similar multigenerational backgrounds.

Together, they are helping to hone our next generation of community journalists in this highly welcoming and encouraging environment.

For the many reasons I have stated above, I hope you will join me in supporting the Pacific Citizen during this year's Spring Campaign.



LETTER to the EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The JACL has unfairly led the JA community to stigmatize and thereby harm Tule Lake Resisters for all these several decades. Finally at the August 2019 National Convention, despite the opposition of Nisei veteran leaders and old-

time JACL leaders, enlightened JACL members overwhelmingly voted for a resolution to have the National Council offer a sincere apology to Tule Lake Resisters.

The resolution further resolved that the National Council encourage all chapters to gain a greater understanding of the issues surrounding the imprisonment, mistreatment and resistance of Tule Lake Resisters. Resolved to include a Tule Lake narrative in an updated JACL Curriculum Guide in both printed and online format and for the syllabus for Teacher Training Workshops. And further

resolved that the National Council will recognize Tule Lake Resisters at an appropriate public ceremony during the 2020-21 biennium.

It is now almost five years later, and the Covid-19 pandemic is no longer an excuse. Despite various reminders, the JACL leadership has failed to fulfill any of these apology resolution promises to rectify the harm endured by Tule Lake Resisters.

You JACL members overwhelmingly voted for the apology resolution and the mitigation promises. Your leaders have failed to act on your

official vote. Please encourage them to expeditiously act before we are all gone.

History is written by the victors. We Japanese Americans must be unified and write the honest truth about the resisters in the JACL curriculum. We demand that it is fair and comprehensive.

Sincerely,

Yukio Kawaratani, Tule Lake Resister and longtime JACL member, and Kyoko Oda, born in Tule Lake Segregation and longtime JACL member

JACL MEMBER? ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$200 ☐ OTHER _____

Name : _____

Address 1 : _____

Phone Number : _____ E-mail : _____

The P.C.'s mission is to 'educate on the past Japanese American experience and preserve, promote and help the current and future AAPI communities.'

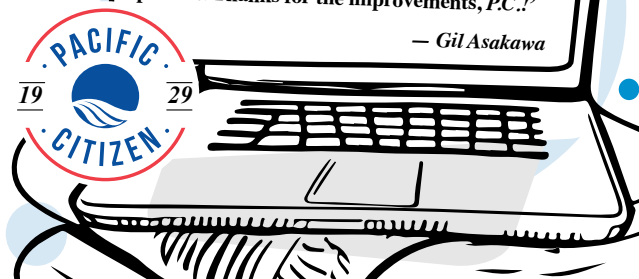
** Your donations will help build and preserve a cohesive library of the Pacific Citizen to educate future generations.**

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

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

STAFF

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

The *Pacific Citizen* newspaper (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semi-monthly (except once in December and January) by the Japanese American Citizens League, *Pacific Citizen*, 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 206, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Periodical postage paid at L.A., CA.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to National JACL, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115.

JACL President: Larry Oda
Executive Director: David Inoue

P.C. EDITORIAL BOARD

John Saito Jr., chairperson; Ron Kuramoto, MDC; Rob Buscher, EDC; Marcia Chung, CCDC; Nancy Ukai, NCWNPDC; Sheldon Arakaki, PNWDC; Lisa Olsen, IDC; Mitchell Matsumura, PSWDC; Remy Kageyama, Youth Rep.

Subscribe

Get a one-year subscription of the *Pacific Citizen* newspaper at: www.pacificcitizen.org or call (213) 620-1767.

Advertise

To advertise in the *Pacific Citizen*, call (213) 620-1767 or e-mail: busmgr@pacificcitizen.org.

LEGAL

No part of this publication may be reproduced without the express permission of the *Pacific Citizen*. Editorials, letters, news and the opinions expressed by columnists other than the national JACL president or national director do not necessarily reflect JACL policy. Events and products advertised in the P.C. do not carry the implicit endorsement of the JACL or this publication. We reserve the right to edit articles. © 2024

Periodicals paid at Los Angeles, Calif. and mailing office.

JACL MEMBERS

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you've moved, please send new information to: National JACL
1765 Sutter St.
San Francisco, CA 94115
(415) 921-5225 ext. 26
ALLOW 6 WEEKS FOR ADDRESS CHANGES.
TO AVOID INTERRUPTIONS IN DELIVERY, PLEASE
NOTIFY YOUR POSTMASTER TO INCLUDE
PERIODICALS IN YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS
(USPS Form 3575)

JACL Members Not Receiving Your *Pacific Citizen*?
Please contact Tomiko Ismail, JACL Membership/Database Administrator, at (415) 921-5225, ext. 26, or email tismail@jacl.org.





FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

An Asian American Heritage Month for Americans Only?

By David Inoue,
JACL Executive Director

In somewhat of a surprise, the Senate brought back the topic of immigration reform resurrecting the bipartisan immigration bill that died in February and once again this May. The bill called for increased enforcement at the border to arrest people who do not come in through established border crossings or as often derisively referred to as illegal immigration. Highlighted features include the ability of the president to declare a halt to nearly all immigration across the border if volumes reach a certain level and

increased resources to pay for border enforcement.

To have this bill resurrected at the end of Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Heritage Month for me is especially odious.

One of the first most egregious sleights against our Asian American community was the Chinese Exclusion Act, which expressly prohibited Chinese immigration from its passage in 1882 until its repeal in 1943 and effectively limited Chinese immigration until passage of the 1952 Immigration and Naturalization Act.

But there remained loopholes, or what would be called illegal immigration, which my own family

exploited when my grandfather came to the United States as a paper son. He went on to serve during World War II under his assumed identity as Ching S. Look and later opened a restaurant under the same alias, Look Chop Suey. Yet, he was always Grandpa Moy to me.

In 1965, the Immigration and Nationality Act further opened the doors wider to immigration such that my father came from Japan, bachelor's degree and a few years of work experience in hand, a very different experience from my grandfather and also what might be considered the right way. That same legislation that opened the doors to educated and professional immigrants also opened the United States to refugees, or asylum seekers, a group we hear so much about today and one that we are trying to reduce from entering in all the proposed policies coming out.

Even worse, there is a growing narrative of a new wave of Chinese immigration coming through the southern border. The House Committee on Homeland Security even held a hearing earlier this month entitled

"Security Risk: The Unprecedented Surge in Chinese Illegal Immigration," again with the irony of being during AANHPI Heritage Month.

We have already seen some policy results with the passage of a new Alien Land Law in Florida, just a few years after it had repealed the previous one from over a century ago. To date, 32 states and the United States Congress are considering over 150 different pieces of legislation that would restrict land ownership by foreign nationals from targeted countries.

The impact of these policies is to kneecap the ability of immigrants to thrive upon arrival to this country. My grandparents were relegated to a lifetime in heavy labor, first working in factories and later operating the restaurant until they could no longer. Land ownership was the one thing that offered them and others an opportunity to build wealth.

As a child, I recall walking down the block from the restaurant, often hearing the other store owners greeting my grandparents, not realizing until much later that part of why

they seemed to be so "popular" was that they were also the landlords for many of those shop owners.

In many ways, as difficult a life as my grandparents lived, they also lived the American dream. All their children went on to top schools and opportunities that didn't require them to work in laborious jobs.

At the beginning of May, President Joe Biden spoke at a fundraising event for his re-election campaign where he reportedly lauded our country's immigration policies, particularly in comparison to Japan, which admittedly has a very restrictive policy. Unfortunately, rather than seeking to remain an ideal that might be able to criticize other restrictive nations, we are moving dangerously toward the Japanese model, rather than living up to the ideals of the Statue of Liberty.

It is becoming all too clear that we are no longer welcoming to the tired, poor nor the huddled masses.

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



LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

OLD and SENILE???

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

If you're lucky enough, you'll live a long life and grow old. Getting old is not an option. If you live long enough, you're going to get old. However, you don't necessarily have to get senile.

The word *senile* describes a person who is experiencing dementia brought about by old age. Senile can refer to a loss of physical abilities in old age, but it usually refers to decreased memory and mental faculties, e.g., he's showing signs of senility.

So, just how long has it been since you lost your mind? According to a special health report out of Harvard Medical School, "Improving Memory," many people begin to notice changes in their ability to remember things around age 50.

As you get older, certain characteristic changes take place. In fact, it's common to become somewhat more forgetful as you age. You are likely to experience delays in your ability to recall things, which explains why you have to rack your brain to remember a name or word that is familiar to you.

Hopefully, many of these "senior moments" are signs of normal aging, not dementia. These changes may sound disturbing, but they are relatively minor and may simply represent

slower processing speed. The changes associated with normal aging may make life frustrating at times, such as when you can't remember the name of someone you just met, but they don't tend to interfere with your ability to go about your daily life.

After 50, changes take place in the brain that may account for these difficulties. Brain regions involved with memory processing, such as the hippocampus and especially the frontal lobes, undergo age-related structural and neurochemical changes. For example, the hippocampus shrinks in size. Some receptors may cease to function normally. The loss of receptors and neurons may also make it harder to concentrate. And the integrity of white matter (the wiring between neurons) often declines, which slows processing speed.

The result is that as you age, it takes longer to absorb new information and form new memories. In other words, age-related changes in the brain may slow down your learning and your recall, but they don't necessarily impair your ability to function effectively. Your ability to make sense of what you know and form reasonable arguments and judgments is well-preserved. Moreover, the wisdom that you've gained from experience over the years remains unscathed.

Furthermore, just because your memory seems to be getting worse with age doesn't necessarily mean that age is directly responsible or that there's nothing you can do about it. Your memory can falter as a result of stress, fatigue or being overloaded. Some memory difficulties may also be caused by medications, poor vision or hearing, sleep disturbances or depression — in other words, things you can take steps to correct.

Neuroscientists and physicians have identified some key differences between normal memory lapses and those that occur with dementia. For example, word finding can become problematic for everyone. You know the word or the name you want to recall; you just can't quickly retrieve it (it's on the "tip of your tongue"). With normal forgetfulness, the information is not lost. It may require some context, a reminder or even time, but you should remember it.

By contrast, people with dementia have a loss of memory and other mental function severe enough to impede their ability to operate independently at home, socially and at work. The source of the dysfunction often is some type of injury to the brain that goes beyond normal changes. For a variety of reasons, neurons, neural networks and brain regions are damaged to the point that they fail to work effectively.

For a person with dementia, the word is usually lost for good. People with Alzheimer's disease often can't name common objects. They also forget names and not just the names of acquaintances. They often can't remember the names of their relatives and other people they know well. Depending on the severity of

the disease, a person with dementia may be unable not only to retrieve the names of people but also recognize who they are.

Some causes of serious memory impairment are reversible. For example, certain medications can cause memory problems, and stopping the medication will restore mental function. But many causes of dementia, like Alzheimer's disease, are permanent. The following are some examples of conditions that prevent neurons from functioning normally, causing a variety of mental impairments, including memory loss.

People with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) have either memory loss or a decline of other mental functions, or both. These problems are more persistent and severe than normal age-related changes but don't meet the criteria for dementia. MCI has two major subtypes: amnesic (when memory is impaired) and nonamnesic (which affects other types of cognitive functioning, such as language, attention or spatial processing). Impairment in both categories is called multidomain MCI.

If you suspect that someone you know has dementia, arrange for a medical evaluation. The question is, how can you tell whether your memory lapses are within the scope of normal aging or are a symptom or something more serious? The primary objective of an evaluation should be to distinguish MCI from normal aging or dementia and look for underlying causes that are potentially reversible.

Establishing the cause and scope of the impairment is also helpful in setting a baseline for future evaluations to determine if the condition is progressing to dementia. Making

a diagnosis of dementia requires a thorough examination by a physician.

Many forms of dementia are not reversible, but early detection provides an opportunity to minimize other medical conditions that may bring out severe dementia symptoms earlier than they might otherwise show themselves.

Before evaluating your cognitive health, your doctor will look for clues that your memory problems may be a symptom of an underlying health problem. To help explore this possibility, the physician will frequently order a complete blood count and blood chemistry tests to detect anemia, infection, diabetes and kidney and liver disorders. Other lab work will include routine tests for thyroid function and vitamin B12 deficiency.

Although your regular doctor is a good place to start the process because he or she knows you and your medical history, most primary care physicians don't have the time or training to thoroughly evaluate MCI. Instead, look for a doctor who focuses on cognitive function, such as a behavioral neurologist, a geriatrician, a geriatric psychiatrist or a neuropsychologist. Your doctor should help direct you to an appropriate specialist.

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.



A MOTHER'S TAKE

Light in the Presence of Darkness

By Marsha Aizumi

Tonight, I was stopped in the hall of my condominium complex by a neighbor. We do not know each other well, but we say hello when we see each other on walks and when we meet around the complex. He and his wife are warm and kind individuals, and it is so nice that I am surrounded by people like them where I live.

When my neighbor stopped me, he said, "I have been wanting to tell you something. I have a cousin that has a transgender son. He recently graduated, and when he got his diploma, he got a standing ovation." I felt a lump form in my throat as I saw the picture of this transgender graduate looking out in the audience as he walked across the stage and saw his classmates standing up and cheering for him.

Today, I also Facetimed with a

transgender person whose mother is not very supportive of him. He and I have a special relationship. I have told him that I can be his mom and if he ever needs someone to talk with or support him — he can always come to me. His smile was all I needed to know that my words touched him deeply.

This week, the United Methodist church voted 691-51 to allow LGBTQ+ people to be ordained as ministers and perform gay marriages. They are also amending their "Book of Discipline" to take out the language that is homophobic. It has taken a long time for this to happen, but individuals both LGBTQ+ and straight have worked for this day to become a reality. I have been told commitment and love will solve any problem. Thank you UMC for reminding me of these two aspects of success.

With all that is going on with the

world, especially having to do with taking away rights from women, parents and our LGBTQ+ community, it makes me both angry and sad. But I choose not to stay in this place because I know I will attract more of the same. Instead, I want to live in hope, so heartwarming moments, like my conversation with my neighbor, my Facetime call with my transgender friend and the news about the changes in the United Methodist church fills me with optimism and does not go unnoticed.

This month, Aiden and I are booked to share our story with the Yucaipa Unified School District because their schools want to learn how to respect students who are transgender.

This week, I am also walking the runway with Aiden at a fashion show for Equality Fashion Week. They want to showcase a mother who loves her trans son and see a transgender son who is thriving in his career and in the community because he is loved.

And in June, my son and I will be speaking at the Monterey Park Library to celebrate Pride Month. I have included the flyer in case anyone would like to come and celebrate with us.

I write my column to remind myself and all who read my articles that being visible can connect you with people in ways you may not imagine,

bring new and fun experiences into your life and give you opportunities to share stories that can touch a few hearts. Being visible can lift you up, fill your heart and do the same for others.

Let us all be changemakers for a better more loving world.

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."



Pride Author Talk

with
Marsha Aizumi
and
Aiden Aizumi



Authors Marsha Aizumi and Aiden Aizumi will discuss their book, *Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son, and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance*, their lived experience to acceptance, and allyship.

Following their presentation and Q&A session, copies of their book will be available for purchase and author signature.



Saturday June 8
2 p.m.

Friends Room

318 S. Ramona Ave | Monterey Park, CA 91754
montereypark.ca.gov/Library | (626) 307-1368
Follow us on social media @MontereyParkLib



News Briefs

East West Players Announces Lily Tung Crystal as New Artistic Director

Lily Tung Crystal will become the next artistic director of East West Players, one of the nation's oldest theaters of color and the largest producer of Asian American theatrical works. She is joined by Managing Director Eugene J. Hutchins as the historic theater company, founded in 1965, implements a co-leadership model in anticipation of its 60th anniversary season in Los Angeles.

"The East West Players Board is excited to introduce Lily to the East West Players community and to welcome her back to L.A., her first hometown," shared EWP Board Chair Rose Chan Loui. "... Lily stood out for her impressive portfolio of artistic work, her cohesive vision for EWP and her strong leadership and management skills. We know she will be greatly missed by Theater Mu and the Minnesota community, but we are thrilled for EWP to be her new artistic home."

Crystal will become EWP's fifth artistic director, succeeding Snehal Desai, who departed the company in summer 2023 to become the artistic director of Center Theatre Group.

"I'm humbled and honored to be given the opportunity to lead the nation's largest Asian American theater company and the longest-running theater of color," said Crystal. "My life's work has centered on the intersection of art and social justice; increasing representation of Asian

American and other marginalized artists on stage and in TV and film; and telling more Asian American stories."

Barbie Status for Skater Kristi Yamaguchi

Ice skating icon Kristi Yamaguchi — a world champion figure skater, 1992 Olympic gold medalist and winner of TV's "Dancing With the Stars" — now has another accolade. Mattel, the maker of the ever-popular Barbie doll and other toys, has announced a Kristi Yamaguchi Barbie as part of its "Inspiring Women Series." *Associated Press* quotes Yamaguchi as saying, "It's a huge, huge honor."

Pulitzer Win for Film Critic Justin Chang

The Pulitzer Prize Board on May 6 awarded former *Los Angeles Times* film critic Justin Chang a Pulitzer Prize in the criticism category. The article, titled "'Oppenheimer' doesn't show us Hiroshima and Nagasaki. That's an act of rigor, not erasure," defended director Christopher Nolan's choice to not include in his Oscar-winning movie any depiction of effects of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II. Chang left the newspaper for the *New Yorker* magazine.

JANM Taps Kenyon Mayeda as Chief Impact Officer

The Japanese American National Museum has hired Kenyon Mayeda to serve as its chief impact officer, effective on April 1. His résumé includes stints at the Japanese Community Youth Council, Cathay Bank and advertising agency TDW+Co, where he

was a senior account executive and later vp of operations. His ties to JANM date back to 2004, when he was a JANM intern. He currently serves as the Southern California Regional chair for the U.S.-Japan Council.

Paul Nakasone Is JAVA's New Honorary Chair

The Japanese American Veterans Assn. has announced that retired Army Gen. Paul Nakasone will serve as its honorary chair. He is the former commander of United States Cyber Command.

Rafu's Mario Reyes Retires

Mario Gershom Reyes, who had worked for L.A.-based Japanese American community newspaper *Rafu Shimpō* since the 1980s, mainly as a photographer, was feted with a "sayonara party," held May 14 at the St. Francis Xavier Japanese Catholic Center for his retirement. In 2019 at the Pacific Southwest District JACL luncheon, Reyes was honored with a Community Service Award.

Cardenas Honors PSW's Nancy Takayama

In a March 21 speech to the House of Representatives in commemoration of Women's History Month, Rep. Tony Cardenas (D-Calif.) called out several denizens of his San Fernando Valley district for recognition. Among them was Nancy Takayama, vice governor of the JACL's Pacific Southwest District and immediate past president of the San Fernando Valley JACL chapter, for her actions in "preserving the rich history and legacy of Japanese Americans in the region." Other individuals also recognized were Mary Helen Ponce, Los Angeles

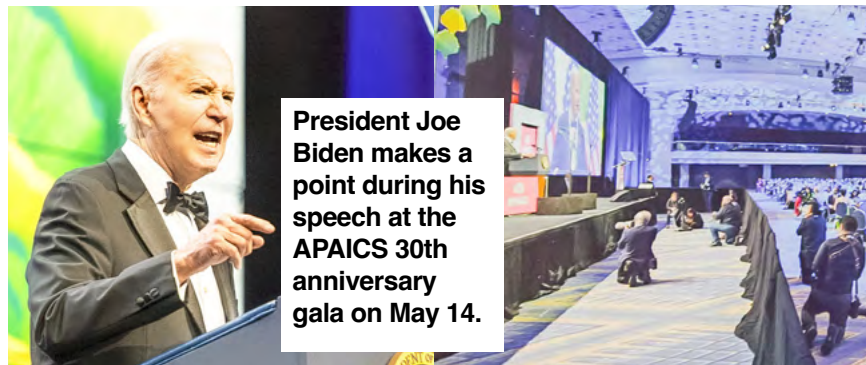
Police Department Deputy Chief Ruby Flores, Los Angeles City Councilmember Imelda Padilla, Nicole Chase and Ginny Hatfield. (*Video of Cardenas' remarks maybe viewed at tinyurl.com/nhmbu3h, beginning at the 6:35:00 mark.*)

Prison for Anti-Asian Hate Assailant

The Department of Justice announced May 6 that Steve Lee Dominguez, 58, was sentenced by District Judge Otis D. Wright II to 12 months in federal prison for disrupting a "Stop Asian Hate" rally in March 2021 in Diamond Bar, Calif., by "running a red light and driving through a crowded crosswalk of peaceful demonstrators while shouting racial slurs and epithets."

LAPD Shoots, Kills Asian Man

The parents of Yong Yang, 40, who was shot to death inside their Koreatown apartment on May 2, later held a news conference to question the use of deadly force by Los Angeles Police Department officers. According to the victim's mother, Myung Sook Yang, her son was experiencing a "severe bipolar episode" and had been struggling with mental health issues. According to an *L.A. Times* report, the father, Min Yang, said the Dept. of Mental Health clinician "spent less than two minutes" with Yang before calling in the LAPD. A little more than two weeks after the incident, LAPD released bodycam video of its officers' interaction with Yong Yang, who can be seen with a knife in his left hand. He was shot while approaching the officers after failing to comply with orders to drop it. ■



President Joe Biden makes a point during his speech at the APAICS 30th anniversary gala on May 14.

The audience listens to President Biden's speech at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center



PHOTOS: GIL ASAKAWA

BIDEN TAKES STAGE AT 'ASIAN PROM'

The bipartisan spirit was given a tip of the hat at the APAICS gala.

POTUS NAME CHECKS MINETA AS APAICS CELEBRATES ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY.

By Gil Asakawa,
P.C. Contributor

Prom is a springtime ritual, and "Asian Prom" lives up to the pomp and prestige of the traditional school-sponsored event.

Except Asian Prom isn't a dance. It's an award ceremony and celebration of Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander excellence in culture, policy and social justice. And this prom is sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies, which marked its 30th anniversary on May 14 in Washington, D.C., with a host of notable speakers, including President Joe Biden.

APAICS and its sister organization, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, were formed the same year, 1994, by Robert Underwood, the congressional delegate from Guam, and the late-California Democrat Norman Mineta, who represented California in Congress and served in the cabinet of two presidents, including as Secretary of Transportation during the 9/11 attacks. Mineta's name was invoked often during the gala, which was held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

CAPAC was formed to ensure that AANHPI lawmakers can advocate for the well-being of Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders in legislation and policy. APAICS was founded in order to support CAPAC as a resource to Congress

and promote politically active and civically engaged AANHPIs. The annual Awards Gala was started alongside both organizations as a way to promote that unity in the community. Hence, the Asian Prom.

Like a typical prom, Asian Prom attendees were dressed to impress. But unlike the high school dance, this event was about celebrating AANHPI accomplishments with awards, and the dress code, instead of tuxes and dresses, welcomed "black tie or cultural attire." There were plenty of both.

At a reception before the start of the dinner ceremony, hundreds milled around outside of the banquet ballroom, displaying a fashion mix — formal dresses of varying lengths and tuxedos topped with neat bow ties but also sari, kimono and traditional Chinese, Filipino and Vietnamese outfits. The tone of the evening was set visually as pan-Asian and pan-cultural.

The diversity of style suited the program, including the Asian-inspired meal that was served to the gala's 1,300 attendees: a tropical salad; braised short ribs sauced with pineapple, hoisin and miso served on mashed sweet potato; and green tea cake for dessert. The only thing missing was rice.

The program celebrated the diversity of the Asian diaspora in the U.S., starting with the embrace of the evolving terminology for the community, which was once referred

to as just "Asian American" and has over the decades expanded to the current AANHPI acronym, which every speaker invoked, including Biden.

Among the audience in the cavernous ballroom were leaders of AANHPI organizations such as Christine Chen of APIAVote, media stars including NBC and MSNBC news anchor Richard Lui and government officials including Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su. Dinner guests also included names familiar to JACLers, like Floyd Mori.

And, of course, a lineup of AANHPI congressional lawmakers past and present ranged from former Rep. Mike Honda (D-Calif.) to Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.), who were brought together on stage. They were joined by gala co-chairs, Reps. Ted Lieu (D-Calif.) and Jill Tokuda (D-Hawaii). The gala's speakers included House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, who followed the president's remarks with a fiery oratory in support of AANHPIs. He was introduced by CAPAC member and fellow New York Democrat Rep. Grace Meng, who joked that Jeffries, who's African American, shares stereotypes with Asians: "He's a respectful family man, has been an excellent son to his parents. He's a strict dad, and he even likes kimchee jjigae," to a round of applause and laughter from the room.

Other speakers included Madalene Mielke, president and CEO of

APAICS; APAICS board member Tariq Khan; and Susan Jin Davis, APAICS board chair. After her speech, Davis shared what the evening means to her and explained why she has been with the APAICS board for 10 years.

"This is a really special night, but it's more of a special organization. First of all because of Norm Mineta. He was a mentor to me, he was a sponsor of mine, he treated me like family, he elevated me and helped me to be who I am today," Davis said. "So, I honor him tonight and with my commitment, APAICS."

"Secondly, this is a celebration of our community, of all that we are, how diverse we are, how amazing we are, how much we fight with each other, how much we clash with one another, but that's what families do, right? But we, at the end of the day, we stick together. And it's also finally about the work that needs to be done. The hard work of being advocates for ourselves and for our community. And we can only get it done if we're unified. That is why we're here tonight. And that is why APAICS is an amazing organization."

Among the evening's awardees was Rep. Judy Chu (D-Calif.), the chair of CAPAC, for her years of dedication to the AANHPI community (when she was elected in 2009, she was the first Chinese American woman to serve in Congress) and the recipient of the evening's highest honor, the Norman Y. Mineta Award for

Lifetime Achievement. Her award was given by Norm Mineta's son, David, who expressed how his family and Chu have been close for years and glowingly endorsed her award in his father's name.

The other awardees included Adele Lim ("Crazy Rich Asians" screenwriter and "Joy Ride" director) for the Vision Award; Papa Ola Lōkahi, a holistic health care organization for native Hawaiians for Community Leadership Achievement; and Vanita Gupta, former U.S. associate attorney general for the Pioneer Award.

The evening was capped off with an afterparty with Korean American musician Eric Nam, a superstar musician, actor, TV personality and entrepreneur who is currently on a world tour.

But the main event for the night — the headliner who many attendees were waiting to hear — was Biden.

After an introduction by Chu, Biden came to the microphone and gave a campaign stump speech citing many of his accomplishments in health care, jobs, student debt, climate and civil rights that he would no doubt repeat later in the week when he spoke at the historically Black Morehouse College, but emphasizing AANHPI constituents.

Biden cited AANHPI Heritage Month, noted AANHPIs in his administration such as Kamala Harris and Su, as well as issues affecting Asians and Pacific Islanders in America.

» See PROM on page 9



Norman Y. Mineta Award for Lifetime Achievement recipient Rep. Judy Chu (D-Calif.) addresses the audience.



STACI TOJI, ESQ.

TOJI LAW, APC

Estate Planning for the Generations

3655 Torrance Blvd., Suite 300 | Torrance, CA 90503

(424) 247-1123 | staci@tojilaw.com | www.tojilaw.com

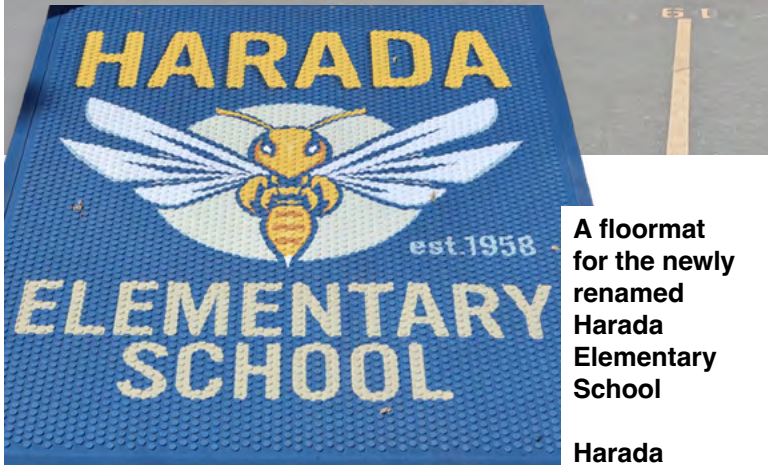
LIVING TRUSTS | WILLS | POWERS OF ATTORNEY

Members of the Harada family and those present for the May 1 renaming ceremony gather for a group photo on the campus of the newly renamed Harada Elementary School.



TaikoMix members (from left) Terry Nguyen, Alysse Itatani, Donovan Reid and Sean Choi perform at the renaming ceremony.

PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON



A floor mat for the newly renamed Harada Elementary School

Harada Elementary School banner



Pictured (from left) are Naomi Harada, Allison Harada, Alec Harada, Kimberly Harada, Kimiko Harada Klein, Kathleen Harada and Margo Brower.

(951) 788-7135
www.riversideunified.org

SCHOOL IS RENAMED FOR HARADA FAMILY

The Riverside Unified School District honors Issei immigrants and their descendants.

By George Toshio Johnston,
Senior Editor

This fall when students enter the campus of their elementary school at 700 Highlander Dr. in Riverside, Calif., they will be stepping into both the past and future.

Although the 700 or so kindergarten through sixth-grade students will still be Hornets — the school's mascot since opening in fall 1958 — they'll no longer be proud Highlander Hornets.

They will be proud Harada Hornets.

In a ceremony that took place on May 1, a beautifully sunny Southern California day, the Riverside Unified School District Board of Education put into effect a unanimous decision to rename the Highlander Elementary School after the city's own storied Harada family.

"The significance of the name extends beyond the confines of our school district," said RUSD Board of Education President Dale Kinnear. "Embracing the Harada name sends a powerful message to our students, to our community and the world at large, a message of unity, of empathy and solidarity. Riverside Unified School District has its very own Harada Elementary School. Sounds pretty good."

Interestingly, it's not the sole Harada Elementary School — some 16 miles away, also in Riverside County, in the town of Eastvale, Calif., there's another Harada Elementary School (Home of the Dragons). Nevertheless, the rebranding of this Harada Elementary School remains significant because it's an acknowledgement of how the Harada family took on existing laws and attitudes of the past that denied them the rights and privileges enjoyed by others in America, citizens and noncitizens alike.

Approval by the RUSD Board of Education to rename the school dates to June 29, 2023 — but the saga of the Haradas of Riverside dates back nearly 120 years, when immigrants Jukichi and Ken Harada and their son, Masaatsu, arrived in Riverside in 1905 from Japan. (See sidebar for details.)

Under the guidance of master of ceremonies Neician Thaxton, RUSD chief of staff, the ceremony began with taiko drumming from four members of Riverside-based TaikoMix, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Kimberly Harada, a fourth-generation member of the Harada family.

Principal Andrea Sullivan, noting that hers was the first City of Riverside school to be named after an Asian American family, praised the RUSD's decision as a "beacon of progress and unity in our community" that "not only honors the remarkable legacy of the Harada family, but also reflects our commitment to diversity, inclusion and equity and education."

"Just as the Harada family fought tirelessly for the rights of their children to live free from discrimination, we are committed to providing every student at Harada Elementary School with a safe, nurturing and inclusive learning environment where they can thrive academically, socially and emotionally," Sullivan said.

In addition to Kimberly Harada, other family members present for the ceremony were Margo Brower, Kathleen Harada, Allison Harada and her infant son, Alec Harada, Naomi Harada and Dr. Kimiko Harada Klein.

Also present were the other four members of the RUSD Board of Education, Dr. Noemi Hernandez Alexander (board clerk), Dr. Angelo Farooq, Tom Hunt (board vp) and Brent Lee, as well as Renee Hill, RUSD superintendent. Thaxton also recognized other distinguished attendees, including former state Assemblymember Jose Medina, District Director Desiree Wroten representing Rep. Mark Takano (D-Calif.), retired Riverside County Superior Court Judge Jackson Lucky and Riverside City Manager Mike Futrell, representing Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson.

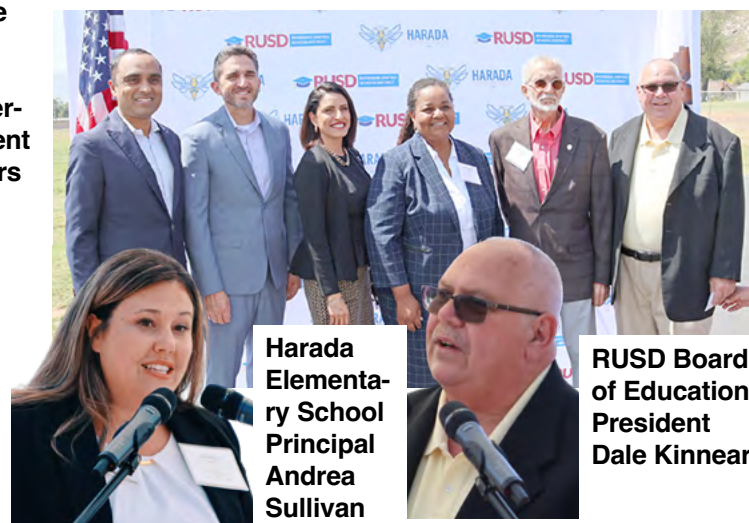


The Harada Hope Garden on the campus of Harada Elementary School

Pictured (from left) are Riverside Unified School District Board of Education Members Dr. Angelo Farooq, Brent Lee, Dr. Noemi Hernandez Alexander, Superintendent Renee Hill, RUSD board members Tom Hunt and Dale Kinnear.



Riverside Unified School District Chief of Staff Neician Thaxton



Harada Elementary School Principal Andrea Sullivan

RUSD Board of Education President Dale Kinnear

In his remarks, Hunt, referring to Kimberly Harada's role in leading the gathering in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, spoke admiringly of the resilience and perseverance of the Haradas in the face of the discrimination they had faced decades earlier. "Liberty and justice for all — they weren't receiving that," he said, noting that they also would in the early 1940s be "forced in internment camps."

"With a partnership with Harada House, for decades to come in school they'll learn who they were, what they went through," said Hunt, who also stated that in 1965, Riverside was the largest school district in the nation to voluntarily desegregate its schools.

Speaking on behalf of the Harada family was Naomi Harada, whose father was the late Dr. Harold Harada, DDS, a 442nd vet, the youngest son of Jukichi and Ken Harada who, incidentally, was born in the Harada House. "Harada Hornets. I really like that," she said. "Haradas do have a lot of sting in them," getting laughs from the audience.

Waxing serious, Harada noted the incredulity she felt from Riverside Unified School District and community members coming together in 2024 to "honor my grandparents, our great-grandparents and our great-great-grandparents, Jukichi and Ken Harada, by bestowing the school with their name." The honor was extra special because Jukichi Harada had been trained to be a schoolteacher in Japan.

"My grandparents were strong advocates for education."

Part of that incredulity no doubt came from the struggles her grandparents faced. Jukichi Harada was an ardent believer in American ideals — he operated a restaurant named for George Washington — but was barred from becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen by the laws of his era. When he bought a home on Lemon Street in 1915 that would later become known as Harada House, he was again barred by the laws of the time from owning the property, so he attempted a workaround — putting ownership in the names of his American-born children.

According to a 1991 *Los Angeles Times* article, not only did 60 local families sign a petition demanding the Haradas be evicted, the state of California also attempted to confiscate the property, asserting that the purchase was actually an Alien Land Law violation.

During WWII, when the government removed more than 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast and placed them in concentration camps, Jukichi and Ken Harada would die while incarcerated at Utah's Topaz War Relocation Authority Center.

"America, you've come a long way," Naomi Harada said. "However, we cannot forget the hardships of our forebears. We must teach and educate our children to continue to reinforce our civil rights. A heartfelt thank you to all of you."



(From left) Naomi Harada, Kimberly Harada, Allison Harada and Alec Harada after receiving commemorative awards on the occasion of the Harada Elementary School renaming ceremony



Naomi Harada speaks on behalf of the Harada family.

Pictured (from left) are Lauren Bricker, Harada House Foundation; Tom Hunt; Judy Lee, Harada House Foundation; Dale Kinnear; Naomi Harada; Kimberly Harada; Angelo Farooq; Allison Harada and Alec Harada; Renee Hill; Brent Lee; Kimiko Klein; Noemi Hernandez Alexander; Kathleen Harada; and Margo Brower.



Shortbread cookies with the Harada Hornets emblem

WHO WERE THE HARADAS AND WHAT IS HARADA HOUSE?

For those unaware of the history that led to the renaming of Riverside, Calif.'s Harada Elementary School, the first question might be: For whom was the school renamed? A second question: What is Harada House?

To answer both questions, one must revisit the year 1905, when Jukichi and Ken Harada and their son, Masaatsu, arrived in Riverside from Japan. Within a few years, Jukichi and Ken Harada wanted to buy a house of their own for their growing family after their 5-year-old son, Tadao, died of diphtheria he had contracted while in the boarding house in which they had been living.

There were major obstacles to the Haradas' "pursuit of happiness," which in this instance meant buying a home. One was the California Alien Land Law of 1913, which prevented "aliens ineligible for citizenship" from owning property. Although the law also affected other immigrants with East Asian and South Asian roots, it was aimed primarily at immigrant Japanese.

The other major obstacles: the Nationality Act of 1790, which only allowed naturalized citizenship to "any alien, being a free white person," and the post-Civil War Naturalization Act of 1870, which restricted citizenship to "free white" people or those of "African nativity and descent."

That situation meant the Haradas — and other Issei — were simultaneously proscribed from owning land because they were aliens ineligible for citizenship but also precluded from becoming naturalized U.S. citizens.

What to do?

Enter the 14th Amendment. Ratified in 1868, it reads: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

This meant that while the Haradas couldn't own their home, they could purchase it in the names of their American-born children: Mine, Sumi and Yoshizo — and that was what they did.

Riverside denizens and the state of California, however, not appreciating the clever circumvention of institutional racism, decided to challenge what Jukichi Harada had done. The case was *The People of State of California vs. Jukichi Harada, Mine Harada, Sumi Harada and Yoshizo Harada*.

The National Park Service summarized the outcome of the case as follows: "On Sept. 14, 1918, Judge Hugh Craig of the Riverside Superior Court ruled in favor of the Harada children."

While it was a mixed decision — Craig "upheld the Alien Land Law of 1913" — Jukichi Harada's tactic proved to be victorious. Because the Harada children were born in the U.S., they were citizens protected under the 14th Amendment — and thus able to own property.



File photo of the Harada House, 3356 Lemon St. in Riverside, Calif.

➤ In his ruling, Craig wrote: “The political rights of American citizens are the same, no matter what their heritage.” (In 1952, not only was the California Alien Land Law struck down by the California Supreme Court, but also the McCarran-Walter Act allowed Japanese nationals and other Asian immigrants to become naturalized U.S. citizens.)

As for the Harada House, Sumi Harada moved back after WWII incarceration, living there until 1998. When she died in 2000 at 90, her brother, Harold Harada, inherited the property. After his death in 2003 at 80, his heirs transferred ownership to the City of Riverside, with the Riverside Metropolitan Museum serving as the home’s steward.

Today, the Harada House is a museum, having received National Historic Landmark status in 1990. In 2020, Harada House was included in the National Trust for Historic Preservation annual list of 11 Most Endangered Historic Places in America (see “*The Harada House: Strengthening Our Community Through Action*,” *Pacific Citizen*, Sept. 11, 2020, [tinyurl.com/mr33hk9k](https://www.pacificcitizen.com/mr33hk9k)). In 2022, it received state landmark status as California Historical Landmark No. 1060.

To learn more about Harada House, visit [tinyurl.com/2t258mds](https://www.tinyurl.com/2t258mds). To learn more about the Harada House Foundation, visit [tinyurl.com/mvaa6hnu](https://www.tinyurl.com/mvaa6hnu).



Ken and Jukichi Harada and their son, Masaatsu, in an undated photo

PHOTO: HARADA HOUSE

New Book Gives Guidance on College Gauntlet

AUTHOR ANNA ESAKI-SMITH PROVIDES ANOTHER MEANING TO ‘THE OLD COLLEGE TRY’ TROPE.

By Alan Oda,
P.C. Contributor

Trying to find the right college is one of the more difficult questions encountered by a student preparing for their future education. To help navigate this seemingly treacherous journey, Anna Esaki-Smith has written “Make College Your Superpower: It’s Not Where You Go, It’s What You Know,” released in April by Rowman & Littlefield (208 pages; SRP \$30, ISBN-13: 978-1538184103).

The daughter of Japanese immigrant parents who valued a college education, Esaki-Smith — a journalist, international education consultant and former JACL scholarship awardee — majored in Asian Studies at Cornell University. In her book, she said she was admitted with a 3.28 grade point average, while “some estimate that Cornell’s average admitted student has a 4.07 GPA.”

Esaki-Smith says her annual tuition was about \$13,000, a sharp contrast to the current \$90,000 for tuition, room and board. Eventually, she enrolled at the Columbia University School of Journalism. She says she could have learned the skills at a local newspaper, “but Columbia had arguably the most competitive journalism program in the country. And this was when brand meant something.”

She realizes not everyone should go to college, noting there are in-demand occupations including plumbers, electricians and other vocations. Still, Esaki-Smith cites the statistic that the annual salary of a college graduate averages \$78,000 vs. the average high school-only graduate salary of \$45,000. A major point of the book: A college degree is still valuable — but how to obtain the diploma necessitates re-evaluation. Additionally, someone with a Google Career Certificate, in lieu of a college degree, can earn a median salary of \$76,000.

“Students should be taking a personal inventory of their strengths and

desires that will ultimately determine their success,” Esaki-Smith writes. “Students who pick schools that match the potential contributions they can make are more satisfied with their experiences and, ultimately, their professional outcomes.”

Her book examines and re-evaluates the consternation of the application process to hypercompetitive schools over less-prestigious-yet-still worthwhile alternatives.

While Ivy League schools always have a significant number of applicants, Esaki-Smith describes the success of New York University. The state school had an acceptance rate of just over 36 percent for its Class of 2018; nine years later, the acceptance rate is just over 8 percent. She lauds the quality of the school’s faculty, programs and facilities, yet there were no significant changes at NYU over the past decade. Esaki-Smith writes, “People battle to get into exclusive universities just because so many others also want to get in. It’s the herd mentality at work.”

Esaki-Smith details the complexity of the admissions process, stating beyond GPAs, extracurriculars and letters of recommendation are a school’s in-state vs. out-of-state high school students, international vs. domestic students and considering first-generation collegegoers vs. students whose parents possess a college degree.

Nonetheless, Esaki-Smith learned that one’s overall GPA, particularly in college prep classes, was most important, while SAT and ACT scores were “significantly below,” and AP and SAT II test scores were often viewed as insignificant.

The author also writes that students should not be afraid to fail, as it may actually help refine both the student’s search for a school as well as their path of study. She titled the chapter “When Deciding What to Study, the Key Thing Is Just to Decide,” later adding, “If you can’t make a decision, the world will make one for you.” Students who



Author Anna Esaki-Smith’s new book offers guidance for those navigating today’s competitive educational landscape.

learn to acknowledge their limitations, she argues, can better focus on their strengths and create solutions better tailored and, ultimately, more satisfactory to them.

Esaki-Smith acknowledges that choosing a STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) major is considered more prestigious and lucrative compared to education and the social sciences. Teachers make far less than engineers, yet a number of well-known individuals credited their teachers as significant to their success.

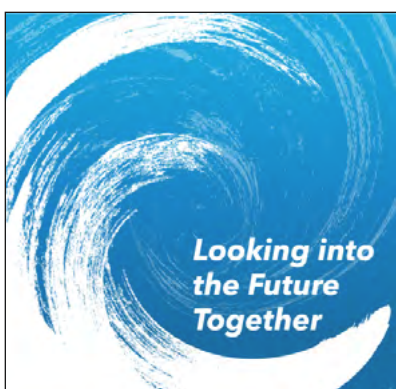
She quotes actor Jon Hamm (“Mad Men”), who said, “I’ve had some of the greatest teachers in the world, and I owe a huge portion of my existence to them.” His teachers, who encouraged and mentored him after the early loss of his parents, “can be the difference between, literally, life and death.” Esaki-Smith acknowledges that assigning a financial value to a profession offering that kind of experience is impossible. “And the world would be a poorer place if everyone pursued financial gain above all else,” she said.

“Technology has changed everything,” writes Esaki-Smith, who argues skills, abilities and competencies are

now priorities. But this does not mean humanities majors are useless. She writes, “You have even more reason to celebrate, as the ability to think, process information and communicate has never been held at such a premium.” She believes “as interest in STEM subjects rises, demand for university graduates with soft skills ideally will increase in tandem.” She describes that the growth of AI (artificial intelligence) will need more than engineers and computer scientists to tackle the ethical issues around AI and its impact on communication and relationships, the human side of technology. Quoting a recent survey of 650 employers, “64 percent of companies have difficulty finding qualified candidates with critical thinking skills.”

Esaki-Smith also describes nontraditional majors, often a combination of different academic disciplines. A traditional marketing degree at the Wharton School (University of Pennsylvania) includes courses in accounting, finance, management and economics, while Southern New Hampshire University offers online programs in digital and social media marketing.

One of the more intriguing chapters in the book is titled



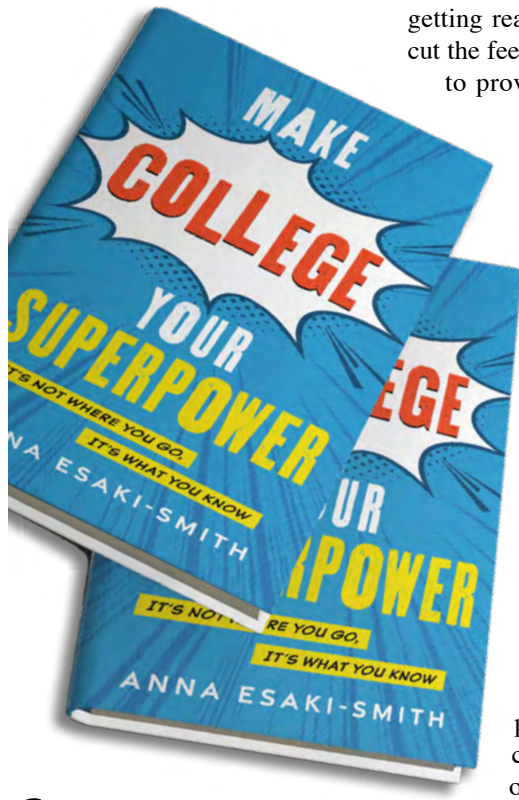
2024 JACL
NATIONAL
CONVENTION
PHILADELPHIA

Scan the QR
Code or visit
the link below!



JACL.ORG/2024-JACL-NATIONAL-CONVENTION

CONVENTION
REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN!



➤ “Follow Your Competencies, Not Your Passion.” Esaki-Smith quotes several well-known celebrities who address the importance of passion, including Oprah Winfrey (“Passion is energy”) to Steve Jobs (“The only way to do great work is to love what you do”). Yet, the author writes many find success when they pursue something outside of one’s passions. She tells the story of Sara Blakely, the inventor of Spanx, someone who was unable to pass the LSAT. After a variety of odd jobs, she realized she wanted to be self-employed. When

getting ready for a party, Blakely cut the feet off a pair of pantyhose to provide proper support for her outfit while allowing her to wear sandals. She then created Spanx body shapewear, inspired by her modified panty hose. Her company was recently valued at \$1 billion.

Regarding tuition, Esaki-Smith describes the “Chivas Regal effect,” the misperception that something is better than its competitors because of its higher price. Some colleges, meantime, raise their tuition to appear more prestigious, but offer discounts, financial hardship or merit to students to encourage enrollment. She documents Colby-Sawyer College, a small liberal arts college where every student receives a discount. The posted tuition is about \$46,000, yet the average tuition is \$17,500, a 62 percent discount.

Esaki-Smith uses the analogy of purchasing a cellphone to assist students in choosing a college. An Android device is generally less expensive, yet the iPhone smoothly integrates with other Apple products. Depending on one’s priorities, the pricier iPhone may be the better choice. For others, the affordable

Android phone quite suffices.

With college, the student needs to consider programs, facilities, reputation, location and cost. Similar to evaluating a phone purchase, “Since you can’t have everything that you want, you need to prioritize needs and preferences to find the product that best suits your requirements.” Like the more well-known iPhone, prestigious schools have a well-known brand name with a higher cost. Brand is less important but still valued, argues Esaki-Smith. There is more of a reaction to an Apple product than many Android devices; similarly, some schools open doors more than others due to perceived branding.

Nonetheless, lesser-known schools might offer very adequate alternatives. Both the University of Oregon and Portland State University, the former having greater brand recognition, have partnerships with Nike. “So, if your dream is to work at an athletic apparel company, you may not need to go to a particularly fancy university,” Esaki-Smith wrote, adding, “Being a stellar student at a lower-ranked school rather than in the middle of the pack or lower on the totem pole of a more selective university might mean more opportunities.”

If brand is still important, Esaki-Smith notes the number of students who transfer from community colleges to the University of California, Los Angeles, and other schools, which have low freshman

admission rates. Still, for those determined to attend an Ivy League school, another more affordable strategy is to apply to the Harvard “equivalent” overseas.

For example, University of Tokyo, aka Tokyo Daigaku, has a “yearly tuition just below \$4,000, based on current exchange rates.” Another option: Engage in an online course offered by an Ivy League school, including a number of free options. Toward the end of her book, Esaki-Smith offers the reader a “decision navigator” to help students (and their parents) evaluate their best options for post-secondary education.

Esaki-Smith also emphasizes the importance of networking. She cites networking expert Ivan Misner, who says, “Networking is not about hunting, it’s about farming,” thus emphasizing building long-term genuine relationships.

And she encourages students to get to know their faculty and counselors, who can continue to provide support even after the student leaves the university. Eventually, building relationships allow for goodwill and reciprocity, with technology making networking more accessible and inclusive beyond the school attended by the student, writing, “Giving can lead to receiving.” By comparison, alumni networks are not sufficient, as Esaki-Smith says the student needs to be more intentional and strategic in their networking efforts.

In an interview, Esaki-Smith said, “I felt compelled to write a book

about college admissions because it’s never been a better time to be a student.” She admits “that may seem counterintuitive, considering all the frenzy surrounding college acceptances.”

However, Esaki-Smith recognizes the changes in both the economy and the workplace, which are both “becoming increasingly skills-oriented, and there’s so much data available for students to tap when making decisions, applying to college should be wholeheartedly embraced as an opportunity to reach one’s goals.” She states in her book “more than ever, your future will be determined more by *what* you learn in college than *where* you went.”

“My book, too, dispels some old beliefs that brand is best when applying to universities,” said Esaki-Smith. “Students were preoccupied with the Ivy League and other elite schools 40 years ago, back when the economy was dominated by big industrial and financial companies.”

She says a number of traditional industries have been disrupted by technology, while big tech now increasingly dominates the economy.

“Why hasn’t our thinking about where to go to university changed as well?”

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

PROM » continued from page 5

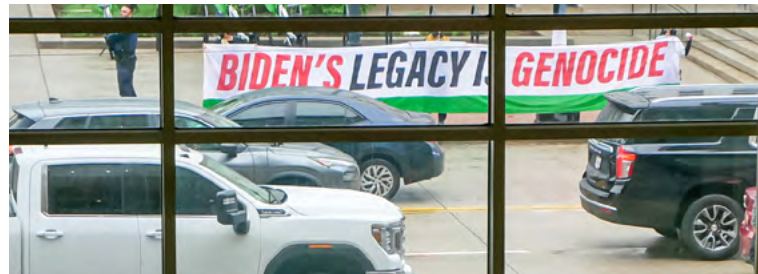
He also addressed anti-Asian hate and linked the issue to gun control. “Let’s not forget the rise in anti-Asian hate crimes during the pandemic,” Biden said. “I was proud to have signed the Covid-19 Hate Crimes Act with your support. We’re seeing they had their 50-year low in violent crime in America, according to the Justice Department, and crimes targeting Asian Americans fell by 33 percent from 2021-22.”

Then, Biden observed about his predecessor: “President Trump continues to vilify immigrants. I can’t believe the way this guy talks. He talks about immigrants as rapists and murderers, his words not mine.

He said they are not people. He says immigrants are poisoning the blood of this country. Folks, that’s not who we are. Diversity is our strength as a nation.

“Let me close with this. Two years ago, I signed the landmark law to pave the way for the creation of a national museum of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders history and culture. I was so very proud to do so because it amplifies why we are a great nation.

“But Trump and his friends want to erase history, not make history. Together, we make history, all of us together in this room. That’s why we celebrate Asian American Native



A sign protesting President Biden’s support of Israel seen from inside the Walter E. Washington Convention Center

PHOTO: GIL ASAKAWA

Hawaiian Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Including my dear friend who we all miss, and his family’s here, Norm Mineta, who helped create this caucus.”

Biden closed his remarks by citing the founder of CAPAC. “Norm once said, ‘Democracy is not a spectator

sport. It requires everyone’s active participation. You don’t have to be running for office to be in public service.’

“Folks, there have always been competing values and visions of what America should be. My predecessor believes we’re a country of revenge

and retribution. I believe we’re a nation of hope and opportunity for everybody. We’re a country of honesty, decency, faith, fairness. That’s the future we’re building together.

“I see a future for all Americans. And it’s because of you. And I mean sincerely I’ve never been more optimistic,” Biden concluded. “We just have to remember who the hell we are. We’re the United States of America, and there’s nothing beyond our capacity when we work together.”

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



Thank You for Your JACL Membership!

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



Not a member? Join us today!

Visit jacl.org/member
or contact us at mbre@jacl.org

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

NATIONAL

JACL 2024 National Convention
Philadelphia, PA

July 10-14
Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown
201 N. 17th St.

Price: Convention Registration

Join JACL at its annual confab where this year's theme is "Looking Into the Future Together." The schedule will feature workshops, plenaries, awards luncheon, National Council sessions, welcome event, Sayonara Banquet and a "2024 Presidential Town Hall." Be sure to register today!

Info: Visit jacl.org for more details.

INTL.

Heroes of the Vosges Museum
Bruyères, France

Oct. 19 Opening Date

Heni-Mathieu Musee

Price: Free

This start-up museum will honor the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team and the French Resistance who bravely fought in battle during World War II. The museum will open during the celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Bruyères, Belmonte and Biffontaine.

Info: Visit vosgesheroes.org.

NCWNP

Eden Bazaar
San Lorenzo, CA

June 8, 1-7 p.m.; June 9, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Eden Japanese Community Center
710 Elgin St.

Price: Free

Come visit the Eden Bazaar 2024! Enjoy BBQ chicken teriyaki or ribs, sushi, udon, curry rice, pastries, shave ice and much more! The event also includes a silent auction and children's games. Proceeds will benefit the Eden JACL and Eden Japanese Community Center.

Info: Visit <https://www.eden-japanesecc.org/events> or email edenjapanesecc@gmail.com.

Sacramento JACL Scholarship Luau
Sacramento, CA

June 9; 11:30 a.m. Social; 12:30 p.m. Luncheon; 1:30 p.m. Awards
Nisei Hall
1515 4th St.

Price: Members \$20; Nonmembers \$22

This year's special awards ceremony for the Sacramento JACL's scholarship

recipients will feature a delicious luau-themed luncheon and a celebration cake.
Info: Dress is Hawaiian-inspired. RSVP by June 3 to sacjaclinfo@yahoo.com.

Japan Day 2024
Sacramento, CA
June 23; 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Nisei Hall
1515 4th St.
Price: Free

Come join the Sacramento JACL for a day of classes showcasing Japanese culture. Demos include microwave mochi, Japanese line dancing, sakura felt pin craft and a spam musubi contest!

Info: To participate in the spam musubi contest, email sacjaclinfo@yahoo.com for an entry form.

'Taken From Their Families: Japanese American Incarceration on Angel Island During World War II'
San Jose, CA

Thru June 23

Japanese American Museum San Jose
535 N. Fifth St.

Price: Museum Admission

This exhibit features stories from 24 individuals from Hawaii and the West Coast who were incarcerated on Angel Island after Dec. 7, 1941, and whose lives were changed forever because of it.

Info: Visit <https://www.jamsj.org/exhibitions>.

PSW

Ondo Classes at the GJVJCI
Gardena, CA

May 29, June 5, 12; 6-7 p.m.

Gardena Valley JCI

1964 W. 162nd St.

Price: \$5 for Each Class

Get ready for summer by participating in the GJVJCI's ondo (Japanese dance) classes for all ages! All levels welcome; registration is required.

Info: To register, visit <https://gvjci.wufoo.com/forms/qs9869i0ek098q/>.

Sake in the Park
Los Angeles, CA

July 26; 7-10 p.m.

Grand Park in Downtown Los Angeles

Price: Fundraiser Event

Save the date! Summer is just around the corner, which means that Sake in the Park is almost here. This year's celebration will take place in Grand Park, the biggest venue in the event's 16-year history. This event is a fundraiser for the Little Tokyo Service

Center and will include an inclusive ticket with unlimited food and drink. Early bird tickets go on sale June 1.

Info: Visit www.ltsc.org/sake.

'J. T. Sata: Immigrant Modernist'
Los Angeles, CA

Thru Sept. 1

JANM

100 N. Central Ave.

Price: Museum Admission

James Tadanao Sata (1896-1975)

created some of the most adventurous photographs made in America in the 1920s and '30s, having taken photos in and around Little Tokyo, at the sea and in the mountains of Southern California. At the onset of WWII, he was forced to abandon photography and instead made drawings and paintings about life in the camps.

Info: Visit www.janm.org/exhibits/jt-sata.

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. For questions, please email connects@okaeri.org.

PNW

Olympia 32nd Annual Bon Odori Festival

Olympia, WA

Aug. 10; 5-9 p.m.

South Puget Sound Community College

2011 Mottman Road S.W.

Price: Free

Come and join the Olympia JACL as it celebrates the return of its annual Bon Odori festival, now in its 32nd year, the first since 2018. The day will feature food trucks, karate demonstrations, a performance by Fuji Taiko and traditional bon odori dancing.

Info: Contact Reiko Callner at (360) 791-3295 for more information.

'Because of Bill: William Sumio Naito's Legacy in Portland' Exhibit
Portland, OR

Thru Sept. 1

Japanese American Museum of Oregon

411 N.W. Flanders St.

Price: Free for Friends of JAMO; Adults \$8; Seniors \$6; Students \$5; Children 11 and Under Free

This new exhibit offers visitors an in-depth look at Bill Naito's legacy in Portland and the personal motivations that drove his success alongside the origin stories of many iconic Portland structures and even a replica of his famously cluttered desk.

Info: Visit www.jamo.org.

'Genji Mihara: An Issei Pioneer'
Exhibit

Seattle, WA

Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington

1414 S. Weller St.

An Issei pioneer, JCCCW's feature exhibit on the life of Issei leader Genji Mihara (1890-1982) is part of a larger biographical project on Mihara, who immigrated to Seattle in 1907. Features include original photos and artifacts donated by Mihara's family, historical research and quotes from oral history interviews, including one from Mihara himself in the 1970s.

Info: Visit www.jcccw.org.

MDC

'Muttsu no Kazoku: Six Families' Journey From Internment to Scott'

Exhibit

Scott, AR

Thru July 27

Plantation Agriculture Museum

4815 Hwy. 161 S

Price: Museum Admission

This exhibit tells a story that has long been overlooked, as it explores life for the Shingu, Futamachi, Nakamura, Oshima, Yada and Yoshimura families before, during and after WWII, with a special focus on their lives in the farming community of Scott after their release from Rohwer War Relocation Center.

Info: Call (501) 961-1409.

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 for the entire family to enjoy.

Info: Visit <https://utahasianfestival.org/>.

50th Annual Denver Cherry Blossom Festival

Denver, CO

June 22, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; June 23, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sakura Square

1255 19th St.

Price: Free

This exciting festival highlights Japanese and Japanese American culture through music, dance, exhibits, arts and crafts and delicious food.

Info: Visit <https://cherryblossom-denver.org/>.

'Pictures of Belonging: Miki Hayakawa, Hisako Hibi and Miné Okubo'

Salt Lake City, UT

Thru June 30

Utah Museum of Fine Arts

Marcia and John Price Museum Building

410 Campus Center Dr.

This exhibit reveals a broader picture of the American experience through artworks and life stories of three Japanese American women from the pre-WWII generation, seen together for the first time.

Info: Visit <https://umfa.utah.edu/pictures-of-belonging>.

EDC

45th Boston Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival

Cambridge, MA

June 9

Price: Free

This year's annual event will take place near the John W. Weeks Footbridge on the Charles River in Cambridge. Activities are along Memorial Drive, and the Dragon Boat races will take place on the Charles River.

Info: Visit <https://www.boston-dragonboat.org/>.

OCA National Convention
Philadelphia, PA

July 11-14

Join OCA as it partners with JACL for its annual confab.

Info: Visit www.ocanational-convention.org.

ADVERTISE HERE

Events in the calendar section are listed based on space availability. Place a 'Spotlight' ad with photos of your event for maximum exposure.

FOR MORE INFO:

**pc@pacificcitizen.org
(213) 620-1767**



PACIFICCITIZEN

Send a Gift Subscription!

\$50 Print Subscription (Non-JACL member) or **\$36** Digital (pdf) Subscription. Use this coupon or go to our website!

Go to our website: <https://www.pacificcitizen.org/subscriptions/>
Or send with check to: The Pacific Citizen 123 S. Onizuka St., #206a, Los Angeles, CA 90012



Name: _____

Address: _____

(required for PRINT subscriptions)

Phone: _____

Email: _____

In MEMORIAM

Akasaki, Gladys, 90, Hilo, HI, March 22.

Akutagawa, Ralph Hayato, 81, Honolulu, HI, Jan. 5.

Fukumoto, Ede Anne K., 68, Wahiawa, HI, Feb. 22.

Hayashi, Dwight Den, 69, Honolulu, HI, Jan. 21.

Hayashi, June, 82, San Jose, CA, Oct. 18, 2023; she was predeceased by her husband, Ted; she is survived by her sons, John, Rick (Lisa) and Steve; siblings, Midori and Glenn; gc: 2.

Ioki, Susumu, 95, Culver City, CA, April 16.



Higuchi, William, 93, Salt Lake City, UT, May 10; Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley (physical chemistry); founder or co-founder of pharmaceutical companies TheraTech, Lipocine, Spriaso and Aciont; during WWII, his family and he were sent to the Santa Anita Assembly Center in Arcadia, CA, before being removed and incarcerated at the Heart Mountain WRA Center in WY; in 2012, the Japanese government awarded him with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Ray With Neck Ribbon, and the American Pharmaceutical Assn. awarded him with its Ebert Prize; he was predeceased by his wife, Setsuko Saito Higuchi; and son, Kenneth; he is survived by children, Shirley Ann (Ray Locker) and Robert (Rebecca Schmitt) and John; sister, Emily Higuchi Filling; sister-in-law, Kathleen Saito Yuille; and many nieces and nephews; gc: 4, ggc: 2. In lieu of flowers or koden, the family requests that memorials be made in his memory to the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, 1539 Road 19, Powell, WY 82435 or at heartmountain.org.

Inaba, Miyoko, 98, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 6, 2023.

Inose, Kenichi, 90, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, Oct. 7, 2023; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Rohwer WRA Center in AR; he is survived by his wife, Kay; children, Donald Takashi Inose and Judy Keiko (Gregory) Jobs; sisters, Kiyoko Rose Yoshiyama, Hiroko Helen (Masa G.) Sakamoto, Lily Yuriko (Dr. David T.) Nakatani; brother-in-law, Richard (Connie) Sakai; sister-in-law, Amy

Sakai-Swanberg; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

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.

Iwasa, Ritsuko, 97, Elk Grove, CA, Oct. 2, 2023; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Arboga Assembly Center, the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA and the Topaz WRA Center in UT; she was predeceased by her husband, Yoshio; three sisters, two brothers and their spouses; she is survived by her children, Keiko Watanabe, Kenneth Iwasa, Arthur (Christy) Iwasa and Robert (Eng Ho) Iwasa; grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.



Kashiwabara, Helen Tayeko, 101, Honolulu, HI, Dec. 19, 2023.

Kaita, Saoko Salley, 103, West Sacramento, CA, Oct. 21, 2023; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA; her activities included the Sacramento Buddhist Church, Buddhist Women's Assn., Bocho Doshi Kai and Tanoshimikai; she was predeceased by her husband, Noboru; siblings, Giro Snow and Sumiko Shinomoto; she is survived by her children, Gene Kaita (Janice), Aileen Ritchie, Judy Kaita and Vivian Edmonds (Michael); gc: 7; ggc: 9.

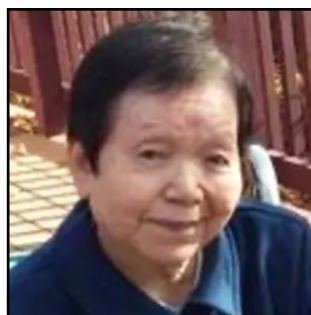
Kariya, Mary, 97, Pauma Valley, CA, Nov. 19, 2023; during WWII, her family was incarcerated at the Santa Anita racetrack, the Rohwer WRA Center in AR and the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA; she was predeceased by her husband, Yoneo; sister, Midori; she is survived by her children, Brian Kariya, Alan Kariya (Colleen), Rick Kariya and Suzanne Kariya-Ramos (Roland).

Kimura, Eiko, 99, Sacramento, CA, Sept. 11, 2023; graduate, Tokyo Women's Christian University (Japanese Literature); she was pre-

deceased by her husband, Katsumi Harry Kimura; she is survived by her children, Lily, Ted, Judy and Kathy; gc 4; ggc: 2.

Kimura, Maureen, 71, Morton Grove, IL, Nov. 19, 2023; she is survived by her husband, Stanley; children, Amy Bye (Roger), Shaun, Chris and Beth Ann (Skye).

Kita, Sam Toru, 79, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 23, 2023.



Kobayashi, Kazuko, 87, Walker, WV, Feb. 6.



Kurahara, Reiko, 96, Sacramento, CA, Jan. 28; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Amache WRA Center in CO.

Maehara, Kay, 99, Aiea, HI, April 14.

Matsumoto, Steven, 88, Sacramento, CA, Sept. 6, 2023; he was predeceased by his brothers, Gilbert and Brian; he is survived by his sister, Joy Kihara; many nieces and nephews.

Matsushima, Yoshihiro, 82, Los Angeles, CA, March 11.

Miyagishima, Joyce, 67, Lakewood, CO, Oct. 29, 2023; she was predeceased by her father; she is survived by her mother; husband, Jerry; siblings, Carol and Alan; nieces, a nephew and many great-nephews.



Murao, Shigesato 'Shig,' 100, Arleta, CA, April 16; veteran, Army (WWII, 442nd RCT); former resident of Seattle, Evanston, Ill. and San Jose, Calif.; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Minidoka WRA Center in ID; activities included Kiwanis, church, YMCA, Boys Club, Japanese American Service Committee and youth sports; he was predeceased by his wife, Helen, née Yamahiro; and siblings, Masako, Mitsuko, Mutsuko, Shizuko and Shigeyoshi; he is survived by his children, John, Peter and Ann; gc: 8; ggc: 1; and many nieces and nephews. Contributions in his name can be made to the JACL at jacl.org/donate.

Oda, Koyumi, 84, Honolulu, HI, Jan. 17.

Ogata, Ichiji, 93, Aurora, CO, Oct. 24, 2023; he was predeceased by his wife, Alice Asako Ogata; he is survived by his daughters, Kelly (Mark) Miyamoto and Lori (Bryan) Sakuoka; gc: 2.

Ota, Hirokazu, 92, La Palma, CA, Sept. 10, 2023; 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.

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.

Sato-Endo, Hazel, 104, Gardena, CA, Nov. 8, 2023; she was predeceased by her husbands, Peter Sato and Sam Endo; son, Peter Jr.; she is survived by her children, Stephen (Jane), Barbara (Vahe Tatikian, partner), Phillip (Judi) and daughter-in-law, Arlene (Peter) Sato; gc: 4; ggc: 3.

TRIBUTE

GEORGE SHIMIZU



George Tadashi Shimizu passed away peacefully on May 4, 2024. George was born on June 24, 1920, to Matsusuke Shimizu and Kotono (Matsui) Shimizu in Long Beach, Calif. George's family moved to Japan in 1935, where he attended the American School in Tokyo. After graduating in 1939, George returned to the states to attend Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H. Five days after graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in Australia

and the Philippines with the MIS.

Predeceased by his beloved wife, Mary; daughter, Anne Furuya; and daughter-in-law, Christine Matalaka; George is survived by his son, Richard Shimizu; daughter, Carol (Tommy Hirabayashi); and Alan Furuya (son-in-law).

George was a special person, he had an amazing memory and always engaged in conversations with everyone he met. He was an excellent storyteller and always made everyone feel special and was truly interested in everything they had to say. He lived a very full and adventurous life . . . traveling, telling his "corny" jokes and golfing on the most beautiful courses. George will be remembered for his wit, generosity and kindness to everyone.

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.

CONTACT:

Editorial@pacificcitizen.org or call (213) 620-1767 ext. 104

KUBOTA
Sharing. Community. Legacy.
久保田葬儀社
T 213-749-1449
F 213-749-0265
911 Venice Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90015
www.kubotamortuary.com

福井 FUKUI MORTUARY
Five Generations of Experience
FD #808
707 East Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Ph. 213/626-0441
Fax 213/617-2781
Gerald Fukui
President



REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

Fulfilling the DREAMS OF AAPI VETERANS

By Tom Wagenlander

Wish of a Lifetime from AARP grants life-changing wishes to older adults. With May being both AAPI Heritage Month and Military Appreciation Month, our organization is taking the opportunity to reflect on the immense contributions of AAPI military members throughout our country's history.

Every day, we come across older adult trailblazers who have sacrificed so much for future generations yet whose sense of purpose, passion and legacy has suffered as a result of the way our society views aging.

After granting nearly 3,000 wishes, it is an understatement to say that making their dreams come true is a privilege. By granting their wishes, we help spark the hope and joy everyone deserves as they age. In doing so, we get to appreciate their

journeys' diversity and contributions to our society.

For AAPI veterans, particularly of older generations, it is a contribution that is underestimated yet filled with examples of heroism in the face of great prejudice. My own grandfather, a proud member of the AAPI community, answered his adopted nation's call to service during World War II, seeing combat in Europe. His service filled him with immense pride despite the many cruel injustices he faced.

The rich tradition of AAPI military service includes the famed Japanese American 442nd U.S. Army Regimental Combat Team, many of whose family members were incarcerated in the U.S. while they fought abroad. With 21 Medal of Honor recipients and more than 14,000 awards, the 442nd is still considered the most-decorated unit in U.S. military history.

At Wish of a Lifetime, we have had the privilege of getting to know individuals who make up the long-storied history of AAPI military service. We feel it is our duty to support these legacies through our services and storytelling.

This month, we are highlighting the story of Lt. Col. Toki Endo. As young boys, Toki and his brother, Nori, were interned during WWII. It is hard to imagine what it feels like to be unjustly imprisoned by your own country at the ages of 4 and 6.

Internment was an undeniable and profoundly impactful moment in their life stories, but it does not define their legacy. The two would go on to decorated Navy and Air Force service careers. Nori was an attack pilot in the Navy, and Toki was an electronic warfare officer in the Air Force. Cumulatively, they flew hundreds of missions, each earning Distinguished Flying Crosses, Air Medals and other accolades.

However, the obligations of military duty would see the bonds of their brotherhood gradually weaken. Their separation was not willful but a passive drift influenced by age, successful careers and the cost of health effects from exposure to the toxic herbicide Agent Orange.

When Nori passed away in 2013, Toki sat among friends and family,

listening to previously unknown stories. A sense of disconnection settled upon him, and he wondered which of his own stories remained unknown to his brother's family, a feeling that would only intensify with the passing years.

Later this summer, Toki's wish of a lifetime will be granted when 10 family members representing four generations converge on California for a week of storytelling and connection — the perfect antidote to 87-year-old Toki's feelings of disconnection.

The collective service of AAPI veterans represents but one contribution the AAPI community has made to our country. The Endo brother's story illuminates

what a critical contribution that is. Toki and Nori exemplify that the AAPI story and the accompanying sacrifice, injustice and achievement are American stories.

At Wish of a Lifetime, these are the dreams we seek to fulfill and the stories we must tell. We invite you to assist in ensuring that these legacies persevere.

To learn more about Toki's story and Wish of a Lifetime, visit wishofalifetime.org and <https://wishofalifetime.org/campaigns/veterans/toki/>.

Guest columnist Tom Wagenlander is vp and executive director of Wish of a Lifetime from AARP.

Brothers Nori and Toki Endo with their father, Kikuo

PHOTO: COURTESY OF AARP



Judd Matsunaga's
ELDER LAW SERVICES OF CALIFORNIA
A Professional Law Corporation

- Medi-Cal Planning
- Asset Protection for Long-Term Care
- Living Trusts & Wills
- Powers of Attorney
- Trust Administration
- Probate

Home & Hospital
Appointments Available!



JUDD MATSUNAGA
Attorney at Law

— Multiple Office Locations —
Torrance • Los Angeles • Pasadena
Encino • Fountain Valley • Westlake Village

800-403-6078
www.elderlawcalifornia.com

3% Cash Back on Balance Transfers for New Accounts!



Don't have a National JACL Credit Union Premier VISA Credit Card? We've got some incentives you won't want to miss. Check them out at jaclcu.com/visa!



- 9.9% APR Non-Variable Rate
- No Annual Fees
- 25 Day Courtesy Pay
- More reward points per purchase



National JACL
Credit Union

800-544-8828 www.jaclcu.com



PROMO CODE: PCVISA24