

In MEMORIAM

Aoki, Hideko, 88, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, June 10.

Arakaki, Henry Toshihiko, 95, Hacienda Heights, CA, July 17.

Beppu, Jo Ann Kumiko, 72, Wahiawa, HI, June 29.

Eguchi, Wayne, 73, Manhattan Beach, CA, July 13.

Fujimoto, Susan Kay, 73, Hawthorne, CA, July 1.

Fukushima, Allen Isao, 68, Honolulu, HI, July 28.

Goshi, Rita Teru Nagamine, 82, Waipahu, HI, June 22.

Hashiguchi, Miyeko, 100, Torrance, CA, Sept. 22.

Hashizume, Kazuo Ken, 83, Montebello, CA, July 18.

Higa, Hiroko, 82, Gardena, CA, Aug. 8.



Honkawa, Yoshi, 100, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 23.

Iba, Richard Kiyokatsu, 92, Kaneohe, HI, July 5.

Jackson, Fumiko, 97, Kaneohe, HI, July 5.

Kadomatsu, Hiroshi, 86, Santa Monica, CA, June 29.

Mendez, Hiroyuki, 72, Anaheim Hills, CA, Sept. 9.

Mishima, James Sunao, 92, Palm Springs, CA, June 9.

Kadomatsu, Hiroshi, 86, Santa Monica, CA, June 29.

Nakamura, Robert T., 94, Milwaukee, WI, Sept. 8.

Ochi, Thomas Hiroaki, 86, Monterey Park, CA, Sept. 24.

Ogawa, Satoe, 87, San Francisco, CA, Aug. 24.



Okayama, Elizabeth Toyomi, 84, Chicago, IL, Sept. 2.



Sakauye, Steve, 77, Santa Barbara, CA, Aug. 20.

Sasamoto, George Nobuo, 99, Chicago, IL, Aug. 11.

Soohoo, Edmund, 75, Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 20.

Sueki, Atari, 65, Honolulu, HI, Aug. 4.

Suenaga, Patricia, 72, Montebello, CA, May 15.

Suzuki, Grace, née Ujifusa, 90, Golden, CO, July 20.

Suzuki-Slakter, Nancy Sachiko, 82, Honolulu, HI, April 6.



Tanaka, Mary, 101, Fresno, CA, Aug. 1.

Tsukamoto, John, 85, San Francisco, CA, June 29.



Tsukida, William Nobuo, 89, Fresno, CA, June 25.



Tsutakawa, Richard, 90, Lodi, CA, April 9.

Yamamoto, Chloe Shizue, 87, Honolulu, HI, Feb. 17.

Yamamoto, Susan, 77, Honolulu, HI, Jan. 11.

Yamasaki, Nobuyuki, 68, Torrance, CA, June 12.

Yamauchi, James, 80, Sacramento, CA, July 19.

Yasuda, Cindy Masae, 81, Monterey Park, CA, March 9.

Yoshida, Ayako, 98, Honolulu, HI, April 22.

Yoshida, Fumiko, 94, Pearl City, HI, April 29.

Yoshida, Jennifer, 58, La Cañada Flintridge, CA, April 27.

Yoshida, June Setsuko, 85, Union City, CA, March 21.

Yoshida, Seiichi, 98, San Mateo, CA, Feb. 9.

Zane, Sandy Fumiko, 96, Hilo, HI, June 26.

Manzanar Committee's Matsuda Dies

By P.C. Staff

Gann Matsuda of Culver City, Calif., died Oct. 12. He was 61.

Known equally for his leadership and activism with the Manzanar Committee and his enthusiasm for National Hockey League team Los Angeles Kings, Matsuda is survived by his parents, Sue and Morley Matsuda, and many friends.

Matsuda's involvement with the Manzanar Committee included organizing annual Manzanar Pilgrimages and overseeing its press relations, website and social media. He also was a leader in the movement opposed to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's proposed development of a large solar-power farm that many believed was detrimental to the viewshed at the Manzanar National Historic Site. (See Oct. 20, 2014 *Pacific Citizen*)

Matsuda was also a member of the Manzanar National Historic Site Advisory Commission, which led the way toward having the former Manzanar War Relocation Authority Center gain status as a national

historic site. (See March 13, 1992 *Pacific Citizen*)

Related to his Manzanar Committee activism, Matsuda was also instrumental in the formation of Katari, described as a "grassroots organization devoted to educating and promoting dialogue with college-aged students around the Japanese American experience," which began as Keeping Japanese American Incarceration Stories Alive.

Matsuda's Japanese American community involvement stretched back to his days as an undergrad at the University of California Los Angeles, at which he was one of the founding members in 1981 of the UCLA Nikkei Student Union.

At that time, Matsuda was also a driver behind NSU's support of the Japanese American redress movement, and later, the campaign for UCLA Professor Don Nakanishi to gain tenure.

As a hockey fan, Matsuda created and maintained the website frozen-royalty.net.

A celebration of life for Gann Matsuda is being planned and will be announced at a later date. ■

Azay Restaurateur Akira Hirose Dies at 70

By P.C. Staff

Kyoto-born Akira Hirose, whose long and esteemed career as a chef and restaurateur was most recently exemplified through his Little Tokyo restaurant, Azay, died Sept. 26. He was 70.

The appreciation for his commitment and ties to the Japanese American community in general and the Little Tokyo community in particular was such that both the Japanese American National Museum and the Go for Broke National Education Center issued statements after news of his death was disseminated.

"We are devastated by the loss of Chef Akira, whose food, hospitality, and kindness were part of the cultural fabric of the museum and the neighborhood," said JANM President and CEO Ann Burroughs. "Whether serving a grand dinner at a gala or a bento lunch for local seniors, the quality, authenticity and originality of his food was always evident. He will be greatly missed."

"We are honored and grateful for Chef Hirose's participation and culinary talents at many Go for Broke events, in particular at our annual

Evening of Aloha Gala dinners," said GFBNEC President and CEO Mitch Maki. "We will always remember and cherish his dedication to the community and his shared commitment in support of our Nisei veterans."

The Sayonara Gala dinner at the 2023 JAACL National Convention was prepared by Hirose's Azay restaurant.

Trained in France, Hirose would go on to utilize French and his native Japanese cuisines to acclaim in Los Angeles at L'Orangerie and Belvedere at the Peninsula Beverly Hills.

With his American wife, Jo Ann Maehara, Hirose returned to Japan and they operated Azay-le-Rideau in his hometown. Returning to Southern California, they opened Maison Akira in Pasadena in 1998. It closed in 2019, after which Hirose opened Azay in the former site of Little Tokyo's Anzen Hardware.

In recent years, Hirose faced such health challenges as a liver transplant and eyesight issues. He is survived by his wife, Jo Ann; their children, Michelle and Philip; and other relatives in the U.S. and Japan. ■

News Briefs

WNBA Names Nakase Valkyries Head Coach; UCLA Reappoints Osako

WNBA expansion team Golden State Valkyries on Oct. 10 named **Natalie Nakase** its head coach. ♪ UCLA's Office of Strategic Communications on Oct. 2 announced the reappointment of **Mary Osako** to a second term as UCLA's vice chancellor for strategic communications. ♪ The Swedish Academy named South Korean writer **Han Kang** the winner of its Nobel Prize in literature on Oct. 10. ♪ Former CFO of defunct law firm Girardi Keese **Christopher Kazuo Kamon** pleaded guilty to two counts of wire fraud on Oct. 11.

— P.C. Staff

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