

» PAGE 4
PSWD Holds
Awards
Luncheon.

» PAGE 5
Behind the
Scenes on ‘The
Kiyoshi Project’

» PAGE 6
**Raw Emotion and
Eventual Healing
Explored in New
Vietnam War
Documentary.**

NUMEROUS AAPI CANDIDATES WIN SENATE AND HOUSE SEATS IN CONGRESS

Donald Trump prevails over Vice President Kamala Harris, who was seeking to become the first woman and Asian American president of the U.S.

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump was elected the 47th president of the United States on Nov. 7, an extraordinary comeback for a former president who refused to accept defeat four years ago, sparked a violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, was convicted of felony charges and survived two assassination attempts.

With a win in Wisconsin, Trump cleared the 270 electoral votes needed to clinch the presidency. He won Michigan on Nov. 7, sweeping the “blue wall” along with Pennsylvania — the one-time Democrat-leaning swing states that all went for Trump in 2016 before flipping to President Joe Biden in 2020.

His Democratic rival, Vice President Kamala Harris, who was seeking to become the first woman and Asian American president, called Trump on Nov. 7 to concede the race and congratulate him. A short time later, Biden also called Trump to congratulate him and invite the president-elect to the White House, formally kicking off the transition ahead of Inauguration Day, the White House said. Biden also called Harris.

Republicans also have won enough seats to control the House of Representatives, completing the party’s sweep into power and securing their hold on both chambers of Congress and the White House. Republicans gained control of the Senate last week.

Democratic U.S. Rep. Andy Kim, 42, was elected Nov. 6 to the U.S. Senate, defeating Republican businessman Curtis Bashaw for the seat that opened when Bob Menendez resigned this year after his federal conviction on bribery charges.

Kim, a three-term congressman from central New Jersey, becomes the first Korean American in the Senate. In a recent interview, he said that accomplishment would validate his parents’

decision 50 years ago to immigrate to the U.S.

Kim is a former Obama administration national security aide, a Rhodes Scholar and has a Ph.D. from Oxford. He’s presented himself as an unassuming, hard-working official and gained national attention in 2021 when he was spotted cleaning up the U.S. Capitol after the Jan. 6 insurrection, bagging trash.

“It pains me to my core to see the struggle we are going through,” Kim told supporters in a hotel ballroom following his victory. “The very foundation of our democracy is rendered fragile. We are at a moment of profound anxiety about what comes next for our country.”

Other notable AAPI election victories as of press time:

- **Democrat Mazie Hirono** of Hawaii has won re-election in the Senate; a Japanese American, she has held her seat since 2013.
- **Yassamin Ansari (D-AZ)** will be the first Iranian Democrat to serve in Congress and will represent Arizona’s 3rd district.
- **Ami Bera (D-CA)** has been re-elected to California’s 6th district. The Indian American incumbent has served in the House since 2013.
- **Doris Matsui (D-CA)** a Japanese American from California’s 7th district, will serve her 10th term in the House.
- **Ro Khanna (D-CA)**, an Indian American, will represent the 17th district of California, a seat he has held since 2017.
- **Vince Fong (R-CA)** will serve a full term for the 20th district. The Chinese American represented his district following the resignation of Kevin McCarthy.
- **Judy Chu (D-CA)** has won re-election to the 28th district. The Chinese American has held her seat since 2009.
- **Ted Lieu (D-CA)**, a Taiwanese American,

will serve a second term representing the 36th district.

- **Dave Min (D-CA)**, a Korean American, has won California’s 47th district.
- **James Moylan (R-GU)** will serve a second term as Guam’s at-large congressional representative.
- **Jill Tokuda (D-HI)**, a Japanese American, has won re-election representing Hawaii’s 2nd district.
- **Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL)**, born in India, has won re-election in the 8th district, a seat held since 2017.
- **Rashida Tlaib (D-MI)**, the first Palestinian American and one of two Muslim women to serve in Congress, will represent Michigan’s 12th district for a fourth term.
- **Shri Thanedar (D-MI)**, an Indian American, has won re-election to serve the 13th district of Michigan.
- **Grace Meng (D-NY)**, who is of Chinese and Taiwanese descent, has won re-election for a seventh term representing New York’s 6th district.
- **Stephanie Bice (R-OK)**, the first Iranian American member of Congress, has won re-election for a third term representing Oklahoma’s 5th district.
- **Suhas Subramanyam (D-VA)**, an Indian American, will represent Virginia’s 10th district.
- **Bobby Scott (D-VA)**, who is of Filipino descent, will once again represent Virginia’s 3rd district, a seat he has held since 1992.
- **Pramila Jayapal (D-WA)**, an Indian American, has been re-elected to represent Washington’s 7th district.
- **Marilyn Strickland (D-WA)**, who is of Korean and African American heritage, has won her third re-election in Washington’s 10th district.

— Associated Press with additional reporting by P.C. Staff

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 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



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

WE ALL SHARE THE FEELING OF FEAR NOW

By David Inoue,
JACL Executive Director

For many people, approximately half the voting population, Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024, was an incredibly traumatic experience. President-elect Donald Trump will serve a second term, despite the many frightening and threatening things he said throughout his campaign targeting immigrants, transgender people and anyone in general who has disagreed with him.

And yet, more than half of the voters, both in the electoral college and the national popular vote, found a reason, or perhaps many reasons, to vote for Mr. Trump. While there were

clearly a significant number of Trump voters who support his rhetoric against immigrants and others, there were significant numbers who recognized the vileness of the rhetoric but were more responsive to campaign messages of candidates of the past such as President Ronald Reagan's query, "Are you better off now than you were four years ago?"

As I stated in my pre-election column, we need to make the effort to genuinely get to know those who are voting in incredibly divergent ways from us. The demographics of race and ethnicity, gender identity, education and socioeconomic status are truly dividing us and preventing us from understanding one another.

With every announced adminis-

trative nomination from the president-elect, the fear only seems to grow as the recognition that many of the people promoting the fear of targeted groups and individuals will be at the levers of control in the government to act on the rhetoric.

This fear of what might come to be has many proclaiming that anyone who voted for Trump is now "dead to them." The pain of personal identities and how they will be directly targeted has been painful. While Trump leveraged fear to mobilize his supporters, the fear has now transferred to the people targeted by the misinformation.

Yet, this dismissiveness of Trump voters is exactly what has led to the problem for progressives in reaching working-class voters. Perhaps the greatest divides of all are those of the differences in education and socioeconomic status. This divide blinds many to how serious the dire economic circumstances are for so many working-class Americans.

For so many people with higher incomes — who tended to be supportive of the Harris-Walz ticket — they have been more insulated from the extreme inflation that has characterized much

of the past few years. That combined with higher levels of stock ownership, which has done very well, insulates higher-income individuals from the impacts of the cost of a dozen eggs or a gallon of milk.

At the macroeconomic level, the economy has been doing quite well this past year, baffling many pundits and reporters who felt that the strong economy would benefit the credibility of the Biden-Harris economy. But while the major economic indicators did well, the "average Joe" was hurting and not reaping the benefits of the hypercharged stock market or higher wages that were slower to trickle down.

It was not until the closing days of the electoral season that striking mechanics for Boeing were able to come to an agreement. While there were several other labor wins, there continue to be strikes across the country, especially in the service sectors.

We talk about how we want to support pro-middle-class economic policies, but too many people consider themselves part of the middle class, and it is often the people at the top of the class who benefit from those policies, whether they be student-loan forgiveness or

first-time home-buyer credits. There are so many people who have no plans to go to college or are close to being able to purchase a first home.

So many of these people are the ones who did not see an economic answer from progressive policies and saw alignment with the idea that they were better off financially four years ago. Sadly, the actual proposals of candidate Trump will likely do little to advance the economic prospects of those most in need. Progressives must demonstrate that their policies truly will support and advance the interests of these voters.

Rather than reject and dismiss these voters in fear for their personal finances, we should acknowledge and recognize they are in need and that is creating a fear not unlike what many people are feeling from the new administration. Maybe going forward, we can all recognize that we do have something we share, and that is fear for what our future holds for us. Perhaps by working together, we can conquer these challenges.

David Inoue is based in the organization's Washington, D.C., office.



LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

DON'T GET SCAMMED!!!

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

Did you really win the lottery? Is the government really contacting you about an unclaimed tax refund? Are you the only heir to an unknown relative's multimillion-dollar estate? It's easy to think you'll never fall for a financial scam. However, technological advancements are leading to increasingly sophisticated and convincing scams and schemes.

Sometimes, the letter or email looks quite legitimate, with familiar brand names that appear almost official. You've probably received one of these "great news!" messages. The patterns are familiar: You've won the lottery, a distant relative you've never heard of left you money or you're receiving a sizable refund.

The problem is, scams come in all shapes and sizes. They target anyone — from the elderly to busy professionals and even tech-savvy millennials. Scammers are constantly finding new ways to steal your money, from blackmail to romance scams to selling nonexistent items. That's why it's critical to know how to protect yourself — and your assets — from these new threats.

Advances in artificial intelligence make it easier for scammers to clone

voices and alter images to make it seem like someone you know needs help. During this scheme, the victim may receive a phone call from an individual who identifies themselves as — and sounds exactly like — a family member who is in distress.

The caller requests the victim send them funds urgently due to an emergency, such as a hospitalization, but any funds transferred will be lost to the scammer. Contact the person yourself to verify the story. Use contact information you know is theirs. If you can't reach them, try to get in touch with them through another trusted person, like a family member or their friends.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has information on how to protect yourself. They suggest that you look closely at your financial accounts and billing statements. Are there any charges or withdrawals you did not make? Even a small charge or withdrawal can be a danger sign. Thieves sometimes will take a small amount from your checking account and then return to take much more if the small debit goes unnoticed.

According to the website www.consumerfinance.gov, there are several signs that indicate you might be dealing with a scammer. From a March 21, 2024, article titled "What

are some classic warning signs of possible fraud and scams," watch out for the following red flags:

- Claiming to be from the government, a bank, a business or a family member, and asking you to pay money.
- Asking you to pay money or taxes up front to receive a prize or a gift. Don't click on links or scan QR codes. These can take you to scammers' malicious websites or give them access to your device.
- Asking you to wire them money, send cryptocurrency, send money by courier, send money over a payment app or put money on a prepaid card or gift card and send it to them or give them the numbers on the card.
- Asking for access to your money, such as your ATM cards, bank accounts, credit cards, cryptocurrency wallet keys or access codes or investment accounts. Never pay up front for a promised prize. It's a scam if you are told that you must pay fees or taxes to receive a prize or other financial windfall.
- Pressuring you to "act now" or else the deal will go away or trying hard to give you a "great deal" without time to answer your questions. After hearing a sales pitch, take time to compare prices. Ask for information in writing, and read it carefully.
- Creating a sense of urgency or emergency to play on your emotions.

Be wary of text messages and emails that include a link or are soliciting a reply or response. This may

be an attempt to get you to click on a malicious link. When it comes to protecting your online information, be mindful of any unsolicited financial advice or requests to move your money or investments. Similarly, view any text message from an unknown number cautiously, even if it appears to come from your financial institution, as phone numbers can easily be spoofed.

Resist claims of urgency and threats. A consistent red flag of most fraud attempts is that the victim will feel pressured to act immediately or suffer negative repercussions if they do not. For example, a fraudster may send one of the following messages to coerce their victim:

- "Invest in this sure-fire system to safeguard your accounts from fraud now."
- "You only have 20 minutes to claim this personalized investment opportunity."
- "Contact us in the next 10 minutes, or your account will be frozen."

Your money is closely linked to your user IDs, passwords and PIN numbers. Don't disclose your personal information to anyone. Don't share numbers or passwords for accounts, credit cards or Social Security. Your financial providers, such as banks and brokerages, or the police will never contact you to disclose your passwords and PIN numbers. Keep all such information confidential and safe. Update your passwords and PIN numbers periodically.

Your own online practices play a significant role in minimizing the

risks of financial scams. Ensure you have the latest operating system and browser installed and protect your computer and mobile devices by using the most up-to-date anti-virus software. To help protect yourself and your online information, closely monitor your financial accounts regularly to ensure there is no unexpected activity.

However, if you can't do all of that, you should, at a minimum, protect your ID: (1) Put your number on the National Do Not Call Registry. Go to www.donotcall.gov or call (888) 382-1222; and (2) Freeze your credit with the three major credit reporting agencies. This way, no scammer can open an account in your name. To freeze your credit for free, you can contact Equifax, Experian and TransUnion:

- **Equifax:** Call (800) 349-9960 or (800) 685-1111, or create an account online.
- **Experian:** Call (888) 397-3742, or create an account online.
- **TransUnion:** Call (888) 909-8872, or create an account online.

In addition, look into an identity-theft protection service, such as LifeLock and Identity Guard. Identity-theft victims suffer the stress of trying to get their identity back, restoring their credit scores and organizing the repayment of any financial implications of the crime. An identity-theft protection tool can be the difference between being safe or suffering financial and legal consequences.

» See SCAMMED on page 12

PSWD Reinststitutes Awards Luncheon

Five JACLers at chapter level are feted after pandemic-imposed pause; Sapphire Pin to Takayama.

By George Toshio Johnston,
Senior Editor

Following a pandemic-induced hiatus, the JACL's Pacific Southwest District held its first awards luncheon since 2019 on a recent sunny Saturday at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center to recognize the varied contributions of chapter members within its region, which encompasses California counties south of Kern and Monterey counties, the states of Arizona and New Mexico and the southwestern portion of Nevada.

The Oct. 19 event was also an opportunity for attendees to watch a screening of the documentary "Removed by Force" (see Dec. 15, 2023, *Pacific Citizen*, tinyurl.com/y72c8w8Z), which was produced by JACL's Hawaii chapter, and hear from and interact with the filmmakers, director and co-executive producer Ryan Kawamoto and co-producer Bill Kaneko, in from Hawaii.

At the chapter level, the PSW recognized Riverside JACL chapter member Clyde Wilson, Ph.D.; San Fernando Valley JACL chapter member Marcia Mahony; Venice-West Los Angeles chapter member Sharon Kumagai; and two members of the Ventura County JACL chapter, Janice Tanaka and Betty Katsura. In a surprise for the recipient, honored at the district level with a JACL Sapphire Pin was Nancy Takayama.

With former PSW Gov. Ryan Yoshikawa — now JACL's vp of general operations (see July 26, 2024, *Pacific Citizen*, tinyurl.com/4s-4vdp4) — serving as the event's master of ceremonies, the afternoon began with welcoming remarks from Tomoyuki Yamagata, recently assigned consul for general affairs and public relations for the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles. "I am very much looking forward to connecting with the Southern California Japanese American community, especially due to its strong influence as one of the largest Japanese communities outside of Japan in the world," he said.

The next speaker was Torrance City Councilmember Jonathan Kaji (District 1), who also serves as the city's Finance and Governmental Operations Committee chair and is a member of the Employee Relations and Public Safety and the Strategic Plan Committees.

In full cheerleader mode, Kaji mentioned how his city had recently inked friendship city agreements with the Japanese municipalities of Bizen, in Okayama Prefecture, and Oshu, in Iwate Prefecture — not coincidentally the respective hometowns of Los Angeles Dodgers players Yoshinobu Yamamoto and Shohei Ohtani.

"In addition, I'd like to mention that here in Torrance, just up the street on Prairie, we plan to site the World War II Camp Wall Memorial on one of our city parks, Columbia Park," said Kaji, who added that the state of California had already allocated \$5 million to the project. "We'll be also working together to raise more money so that this becomes, eventually, we hope, a national memorial, as the one location to memorialize Executive Order 9066."

In his last plug for his city, Kaji referred to a new Torrance-based joint venture between Japan's Sony Corp. and Honda Motor Co. — named Sony Honda Mobility — to produce battery-powered electric vehicles.

Following the Cherrystones restaurant-catered lunch were the awards presentations, with Riverside JACL's Wilson, a botanist, receiving the first of the afternoon's commemorative Japanese ceramic platters. In addition to an impressive academic background and a professional résumé that includes academic positions in France and Great Britain, as well as at University of California, Riverside, where he focused on the effects of water on rice yield, and in retirement, at Riverside Community College District's Norco College, where he taught biology, Wilson's contributions to the Riverside JACL includes serving as the chapter's treasurer and as master of ceremonies at numerous chapter events.

Yoshikawa then recognized Mahony, who he noted has followed in the footsteps of her father, Tom Doi, whose longtime service to JACL included serving as the San Fernando Valley chapter's treasurer, a position she now holds. Yoshikawa noted, however, that her "biggest contribution" to the chapter dates back to 2013, when she took on the role of coordinating ad sales for the *Pacific Citizen's* annual holiday issue. According to Yoshikawa, over the years she has earned the chapter nearly \$60,000.

Accepting the next award on behalf of his late wife, Sharon Kumagai, was Bill Yamane. Kumagai, who died in 2021 at 70, served the JACL and the Japanese American and Asian American communities over the decades in several areas. Prior to its 2016 merger with the West Los Angeles JACL chapter (see Feb. 10, 2018, *Pacific Citizen*, tinyurl.com/4j7pne4a), which she helped formalize, Kumagai served as president and board member of the Venice-Culver JACL chapter and was active with such organizations as Japanese American National Museum, Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics and Venice Japanese Community Center. Since her death, the Venice West Los Angeles JACL has created a namesake scholarship in her honor.

Ventura County JACL's Tanaka and Katsura were the next to be recognized. Tanaka, an at-large board member for the chapter, has a background in filmmaking as a producer, director, TV executive at Fox and tenured professor. "Deeply affected by her parents' incarceration during World War II, Tanaka belongs to just a handful of filmmakers with a résumé of multiple acclaimed shorts and feature-length films on America's concentration camps," Yoshikawa said. Accepting Tanaka's award in her absence was Ventura County JACL colleague Anne Chilcott.

» See PSWD on page 9



(From left) Ryan Yoshikawa, Betty Katsura, Anne Chilcott, Bill Yamane, Clyde Wilson, Marcia Mahony and Joseph Gu



Ryan Kawamoto (left) and Bill Kaneko

PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON

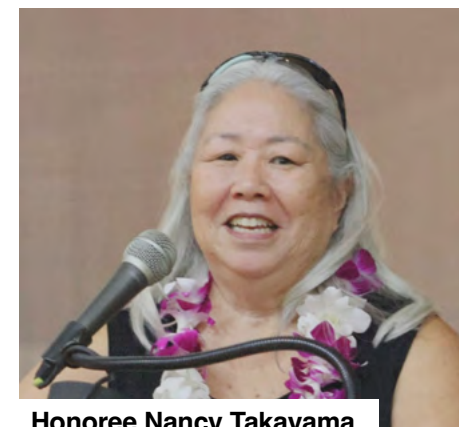


PSWD Gov. Joseph Gu

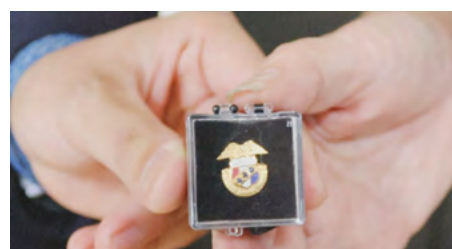


Tomoyuki Yamagata

PHOTO: DAVID FUKUMOTO



Honoree Nancy Takayama

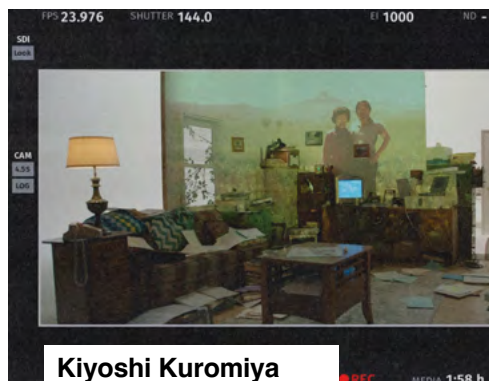


Ryan Yoshikawa and Nancy Takayama (right) with a close up of the Sapphire Pin



(From left) Joseph Gu, Takeshi Ryan Gasha, Ryan Kawamoto, Tomoyuki Yamagata, Jon Kaji, Bill Kaneko and Ryan Yoshikawa

PHOTO: DOUGLAS URATA



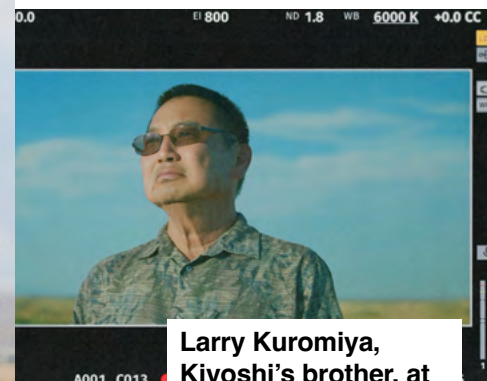
Kiyoshi Kuromiya and his mother at the 1984 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage, projected on the wall of his re-created apartment.



Rob Buscher (third from right) with "The Kiyoshi Project" producer Keith Brand (fifth from right) and director Glenn Holsten (second from right) along with members of the film's production crew at Heart Mountain

'THE KIYOSHI PROJECT'

Behind the scenes on the documentary film dedicated to the life and work of the late-HIV/AIDS activist Kiyoshi Kuromiya.



Larry Kuromiya, Kiyoshi's brother, at Heart Mountain

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ROB BUSCHER AND 'THE KIYOSHI PROJECT'

By Rob Buscher,
P.C. Contributor

Over the past year and a half, I have been working with a Philadelphia-based film production team to co-produce a feature-length documentary biopic on the late-HIV/AIDS activist Kiyoshi Kuromiya. The film is being developed in partnership with William Way LGBT Center, with major funding support from the Pew Center for Arts & Heritage. As a mixed-race Japanese American who works across academia, film/TV production and social justice advocacy, this has been one of my most rewarding professional experiences to date.

For those unfamiliar, Kuromiya was a Sansei activist born in the Heart Mountain concentration camp during World War II. After the war, Kuromiya returned with his family to Monrovia, Calif., where he grew up before moving to Philadelphia at age 18 to attend the University of Pennsylvania's architecture program.

He would go on to spend most of his adult life in Philadelphia, devoting his time to numerous activist causes including the civil rights, anti-war and gay rights movements. Among the many highlights of his activist career, Kuromiya demonstrated alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., co-founded the Gay Liberation Front-Philadelphia, organized significant campus protests at UPenn to stop the war in Vietnam and successfully led a class-action suit against the federal government that resulted in the Supreme Court overturning the Communications Decency Act, safeguarding freedom of speech on the internet.

Activism ran in the Kuromiya family, as Kiyoshi's uncle, Yosh Kuromiya (1923-2018), was one of the 63 conscientious objectors tried for draft evasion as a member of the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee. Yosh Kuromiya's contributions are perhaps best remembered through his memoir "Beyond the Betrayal," published posthumously in 2022 — the only memoir to date by a Nisei draft resister.

As such, the Kuromiya family have long been a research interest of mine, and their stories are featured in the course I teach on Asian American Activism at UPenn. Yet for someone so accomplished, the record of Kuromiya's life on film is surprisingly sparse.

Kuromiya's biographer, Che Gossett (who is involved in our project), produced a

12-minute short film in 2014 titled "Kiyoshi Kuromiya: A Queer of Color and AIDS Activist Inspiration," which outlines his activist career. California-based filmmaker Robert Shoji has previously directed two short films about the Kuromiya family. "A Hero's Hero" (2020), originally planned as a short biopic on Yosh Kuromiya, when he named Kiyoshi as his own personal activist hero in a key interview, is an 11-minute film that evolved into an exploration of the younger Kuromiya's activism. Shoji followed this up with his eight-minute short film "The Fourth March" (2022), which told the story of Kuromiya's involvement in the Selma-Montgomery marches that led to his friendship with King.

Envisioned as a 90-minute feature-length documentary, our film will build upon the important work that both Gossett and Shoji have done in introducing Kuromiya's story in the film medium by sharing for the first time an expansive and comprehensive overview of his entire life's story.

"The Kiyoshi Project" (working title) grew out of a collaboration between director Glenn Holsten ("Wyeth," "The Barefoot Artist") and producer Keith Brand, who serves as chair of the Radio Television & Film Department at Rowan University. In 2021, Brand produced an audio documentary titled "Kiyoshi Kuromiya: The Wonderful, Fabulous Life of a Civil Rights Zelig" that first aired on WPPM Philadelphia radio and is available to stream online at Out-FM's website.

Brand approached Philadelphia's William Way LGBT Center to serve as the film's institutional partner, in part because it houses Kuromiya's papers within its archives. Kuromiya worked closely with William Way since its founding in 1975 and bequeathed his extensive collection of research related to HIV/AIDS and lifetime of activism to the center when he passed away in 2000 from complications of AIDS. Longtime William Way Executive Director Chris Bartlett was mentored by Kiyoshi when he was a young gay activist, making the center's partnership in this project deeply meaningful on a personal level.

Other collaborators include Gossett, who also serves as associate director at Penn's Center for Research in Feminist, Queer and Transgender Studies, and Teresa Jaynes, an artist, curator and longtime community organizer who conducted one of the final interviews with Kuromiya toward the end of his life.

I became involved in the project when Holsten reached out to me for advice on how to best connect with the Japanese American community. He and I had known each other for close to a decade, as I previously presented his 2014 film "The Barefoot Artist" when I served as festival director of the Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival. When the Pew Center awarded the production a major grant in September 2023, I joined the project as co-producer, focusing my efforts on community engagement with many of the groups with whom Kuromiya worked, including queer, Black and Asian American activists, as well as Philadelphia-area community media producers and Japanese Americans.

This summer, we completed about 90 percent of the principal photography, shooting a dozen or so interviews with Kuromiya's surviving friends and colleagues. The interviews were conducted in a replica of Kuromiya's Philadelphia apartment and other significant locations from his life that were reconstructed in a sound stage at the Hill Theatre Studio in Paulsboro, N.J. These will be interspersed with archival news footage and several key interviews that Kuromiya gave during his last decade of life, allowing the story to be told mainly in his own voice. I had the privilege of sitting for an interview, but the highlight of my engagement with this production to date was our location shoot at the Heart Mountain Pilgrimage in Wyoming.

Attending the 2024 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage that took place July 25-28, this was my fourth visit to the site. Kuromiya was born at Heart Mountain in 1943 and returned with his mother in 1984 at one of the first organized pilgrimages, around the same time he started his last stage of activism during the AIDS crisis. This was likely around the same time that he contracted HIV, so in many ways, Kuromiya's return to Heart Mountain signaled a pivotal moment in his life.

Our main objective was to shoot this year's pilgrimage through the eyes of Kiyoshi's younger brother, Larry Kuromiya. Born in the postwar era, Larry, who is nine years younger than Kiyoshi, is the last surviving member from his family of origin. Since this was Larry's first visit to Heart Mountain, I had the honor of giving him and his wife, Ann, a personal tour of the site, which was captured on film.

The next day, we had the incredible opportunity to record a seated interview

with Larry inside an original residential barrack from WWII inside a 20x20 foot apartment that was designed to house five people. During their incarceration ordeal, the Kuromiya family had seven people living in a space that size, which added to the emotional weight of Larry's filmed remarks in this space that so closely resembled the conditions his family endured there.

We also shot pick up interviews with two incarceration survivors, Kiyo Fukumoto and Sam Mihara, who were incarcerated at ages 2 and 9, respectively. Both are stalwart supporters of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation and have devoted a considerable portion of their lives to sharing the Japanese American incarceration history with public audiences.

Their interviews will help us share specific details of the wartime incarceration story, providing additional historic context for this segment of the film. Actress Tamlyn Tomita also sat for an interview, whose great-great-grandmother died in the same hospital complex where Kuromiya was born.

We are planning another day or two of shooting at William Way archives to capture Kiyoshi's extensive collection of papers and photographs. We anticipate starting postproduction by the end of this year, with a current timeline of late summer 2025 for a rough cut/picture lock.

Planned to coincide with the end of the Pew grant timeline in fall 2025 is the Kiyoshi Day symposium at William Way, where we will invite members of the respective movements that Kiyoshi was affiliated with for a sneak preview screening of the film. Following that, we will engage the attendees in a conversation about how we can better support each of our movements, as a tribute to Kuromiya, as we know that he would be there doing this work if he were alive today.

Thank you to Larry and Ann Kuromiya for their willingness to participate in this film, which is immensely better for their contributions during the Heart Mountain Pilgrimage. Thank you also to the staff and board of the HMWF, whose support during an already busy time made our location shoot possible. I look forward to sharing more updates about the project as it continues, and once the film is completed, bringing Kiyoshi Kuromiya's story to audiences around the country.

For more information about "The Kiyoshi Project," visit: <https://www.pewcenterarts.org/grant/kiyoshi-project>.

The effect of war trauma on Bruce Nakashima is the subject of “The Volunteer.”

TRAUMA, EVENTUAL HEALING EXPLORED IN ‘THE VOLUNTEER’

Must-see documentary about JA Vietnam War vet packs a wallop of raw emotion, poignancy in its crisp 35-minute run time.

By Alex Luu,
P.C. Contributor

Bruce Nakashima is a haunted man with multiple traumas. He is haunted by the trauma of being born in an incarceration camp for Japanese Americans during World War II. He is haunted by the trauma of what he saw and did as an Asian American soldier in the Vietnam War. He is haunted by the trauma of resembling the enemy on the battlefield.

In the pantheon of Vietnam War documentaries, none has presented a first-person perspective of the unfortunate dichotomy of having the same facial features/skin color as the “gooks” one is sent to fight and kill and the irreparable damage that war can wreak on one’s mind and heart.

In the 2023 documentary “The Volunteer” by director David Brodie, Nakashima gives his heartbreaking first-person account of how that dichotomy gave birth to a lifetime of anger, shame, guilt and pain. The film also traces the pivotal reunion between Nakashima and his war buddy LV Hendking, a reunion that to a great extent finally eases Nakashima’s collective trauma.

The origin story of “The Volunteer” is a testament to being in the right place at the right time, as well as the natural instinct of a documentarian. Brodie, whose career in the last 10 years has been split between editing commercials and documentaries for Netflix, had his first directing gig in 2018 on a national spot for Subaru that featured Meals on Wheels, the national program that delivers meals to senior citizens.

“Every year, Subaru does a campaign where you buy a Subaru and a portion of the money goes to a charity,” said the Los Angeles-based Brodie. “I came across Bruce and Chris Gordon-Clarke, who’s a veteran and was delivering food to Bruce. So, I interviewed them for the campaign. Bruce mentioned a bit about his service in Vietnam and dealing with that and his sense of isolation and how he didn’t really talk to people. I knew he had a lot more going on.”

Through Nakashima’s intermittent peppering of bits and pieces of his service in Vietnam during the initial filming of the Subaru spot, Brodie instinctively knew that there might be something else further and deeper that could be explored. So, he maintained contact with both men.

“I reached out to both men and got lunch with them and also got involved with the Meals on Wheels West program

that services Santa Monica, Venice and other parts of the Westside,” Brodie said. “I started delivering meals and got to know Bruce better through that and heard more and more of his story.”

Brodie’s burgeoning friendship with Nakashima led to a gradual trust on the latter’s part in being able to open up. Even though Nakashima had a lot to get off his chest, the whole process of sitting down and revealing the deepest wounds and scars of the Vietnam War did not come naturally. Therefore, Brodie gently suggested a more visual way to hopefully get at the heart of some difficult feelings.

“I just asked him to take out some of his old photos and have him talk about them and see what happens,” Brodie remembered. “That first sit down was about two hours, and it was emotionally devastating. He talked about the hypocrisy of his father serving overseas while the family was incarcerated.”

Much like the photos in the photo-sharing scene in the film, the expression on Nakashima’s face is worth a thousand words — he purses his lips and winces in discomfort, tired eyes almost reliving every microstory behind the weathered black-and-white photos. Nakashima pauses on a picture of himself, barely 3 years old and offers in a tone that is at once nostalgic and filled with frustration.

“There I am. I was born in Camp Rohwer, Ark. They thought that we were a threat to the United States. So, they, uh, put all the Japanese Americans in these camps,” he recalled. Sifting through photos of his father in combat uniform in World War II, the irony of it all does not escape

Nakashima. “My dad was fighting in, uh, Germany and Italy, and we over here.”

It was also at that first sit-down when Nakashima first mentioned a guy named LV. Brodie was immediately taken aback at the casualness with which Nakashima brought up the name.

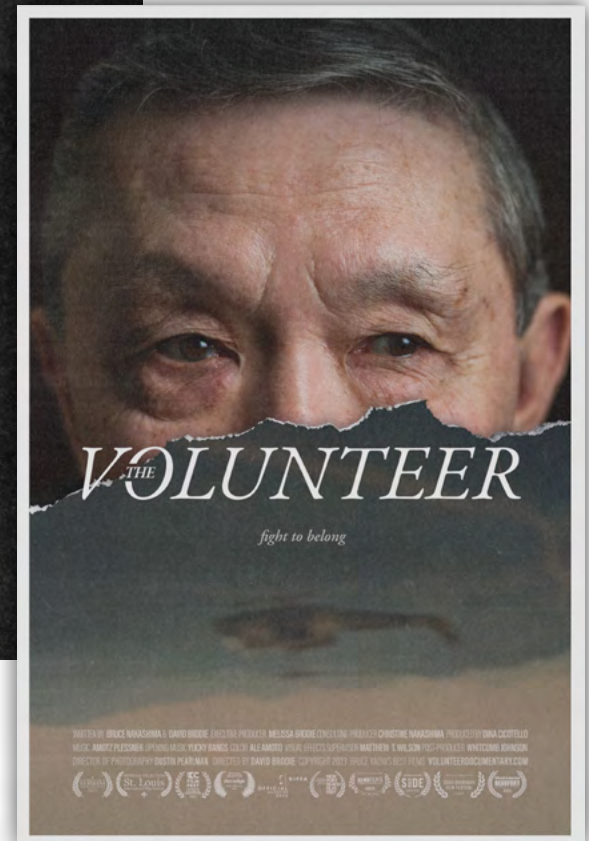
“I was thinking, ‘Who is this guy LV?’” Brodie recalled. “He would mention LV, and I wasn’t sure if LV was going to be just a secondary or minor part of the story or what, but I knew there was something interesting to explore about their friendship.”

Nakashima and LV Hendking met in Fort Benning, Ga. (now Fort Moore), when they were in paratrooper school and immediately hit it off. As Nakashima recalls in a light-hearted moment in the film, “I remember he was a big old Black kid, big and strong. Until I got in the service, I never was in contact with Black people.”

It was the same with LV in that he had never met any Asians and never saw any growing up in Alabama. Whether it was fate or just pure luck, the Japanese American from Los Angeles and the African American from Birmingham formed an immediate bond that transcended racial barriers

(Below) Poster for “The Volunteer”

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF DAVID BRODIE



“The Volunteer” examines the debilitating effects of war and the healing nature of friendship on Vietnam War veterans LV Hendking and Bruce Nakashima.



In photos from Bruce Nakashima's albums, he looks at images of himself as a toddler while incarcerated at the Rohwer WRA Center and of his uncle while serving in the Army in WWII.



Bruce Nakashima as a young soldier, taken during training camp

and developed into a brotherhood that included nicknames for each other. Nakashima was "Knock," and LV was "Hindu" in lieu of his last name, Hendking.

As filming progressed on "The Volunteer," Brodie would gradually find out that part of Nakashima's trauma stemmed from the fact that his external Asian features quickly became a liability that invited racist comments from some members of his platoon.

A fellow officer asked Nakashima to don a pair of black pajamas so he could take a picture of him and say that he had captured an enemy, a VC (Viet Cong). Nakashima was angered by the racist undertones of the officer's request, but there was nothing he could do about it.

There was another time when a fellow soldier suggested they "kill all these f***ing gooks." The not-so-subtle inference that Nakashima can be categorized as a gook was not lost on him and sowed a potent seed of discontent wherein the question, "What am I doing here then?" invaded his mind.

As stressful as it was to deal with the intermittent racist comments and jokes, the core of Nakashima's deep-rooted PTSD lay in what he referred to as "the incident" on a helicopter. What actually happened in this incident had done so much damage to Nakashima's psyche that the mere thought of recounting it sends him on a downward spiral. This painful reticence is captured midway in the film when Nakashima starts the story and then abruptly stops, as if struggling to breathe.

"It was hard for him to talk about," Brodie said. "He was unsure whether he wanted to talk about it. It was so raw and emotional and terrifying for him."

There were actually a few more times that Brodie had to stop filming due to Nakashima's inability to continue. It wasn't until the reunion between Nakashima and LV that the former was able to reveal details about what actually transpired on the helicopter.

Being in the Subaru commercial played a key role in Nakashima and LV's reunion. "After it aired, a lot of people recognized Bruce, like some of the people he went to school with started saying, 'Hey, that's Bruce!' and stuff like that," Brodie said. "It really sparked him to get on Facebook and look for LV." Nakashima found LV's niece and reached out

to her, and she contacted LV.

The reunion between Nakashima and LV is at once powerful and transformative, and it serves as the final missing piece of the puzzle of what has haunted Nakashima all these years.

In what is probably the most heartrending scene from the film, Nakashima immediately lets his guard down and falls into LV's arms and cries. LV embraces his long-lost friend and comforts him like a parent would a wounded child. Their embrace is long and cathartic, and it is more than apparent that Nakashima has found home again after being lost for so many years.

"When LV walked into Bruce's apartment and the way Bruce hugged him, I knew immediately that was the central arc, and it served as the foundation for the rest of the film," Brodie said. "With LV being there, it unlocked Bruce's ability to go back and really talk about what happened."

Similar to a surprise reveal at the end of a mystery, Nakashima finally recounts "the incident" in a shocking and gut-wrenching scene near the film's finish. Sitting next to LV, Nakashima finally has the strength to confront the specter that has haunted him since his early 20s.

After getting ambushed, he, LV and a few other soldiers were medevac'd out of enemy fire. LV was in and out of consciousness, having been shot multiple times. A couple of VC soldiers were also captured and put onto the helicopter alongside Nakashima and LV. In midflight before they reached the field hospital, one of the soldiers who was manning the machine gun yelled out, "All f***ing gooks. F*** 'em!" and threw the VCs out of the helicopter.

Seeing the prisoners fall to their deaths stunned Nakashima, but what happened next absolutely horrified him. The gunner grabbed him and started pushing him out of the helicopter. In that one instant, in the eyes of the racist gunner, Nakashima was not an American soldier on the side of the U.S. He was not on the same side as the gunner. He was the enemy, the gook. A few seconds more, and Nakashima would have plunged to his death.

LV woke up and grabbed Nakashima and said to the gunner, "He's my friend, he's my friend, he's not the enemy!" LV pulled Nakashima back into the helicopter, saving his life.

The full reveal of "the incident" proved to be healing for Nakashima. Akin to a frozen pipe that finally cracks, telling

this last part of his story was a cathartic release of decades of pent-up emotions and memories. As if a sign from the heavens, a heavy downpour arrived right at the end of Nakashima's testimonial.

"There was a storm warning all day, and we had this really difficult emotional shoot," Brodie remembered. "Right when they had finished their conversation about the helicopter incident, they went outside and the heavy rain came down. It played out exactly the way you see it in the film."

The indelible image of Nakashima and LV standing side-by-side on the porch and watching the downpour is pure poetry, the rain almost a metaphor of the washing away of deeply ingrained scars and pain — physical and psychological.

This led to Nakashima being able to reconnect and reconcile with people from his past. He started talking to some of his family members who he hadn't talked to in many years and, according to Brodie, he definitely "mended some broken fences."

"The Volunteer" saves another gut punch at the end that won't be revealed here.

Brodie got to know Nakashima's sister, Christine, and ended up asking her to be a consulting producer on the film. "She is an incredible person, really bright and genuine and kind," Brodie said. "I just thought it was important that someone from his family was empowered to say, 'This isn't good,' or 'This is misleading,' so I was sending her stuff to watch, and we would talk about it and give little helpful insights."

"I still felt that it was not my story to tell even though I was grateful that he trusted me," Brodie continued. "I felt that I was just helping him tell his story, and the less of me the better. It was really fantastic to have her be part of the process and still be within the family's control."

In "The Volunteer," we are reminded of the lower depths of humanity as well as its flip side of redemption, much like how Bruce Nakashima and LV Hendking are opposite sides of the same coin, blood brothers whose lives are forever connected.

The trailer for "The Volunteer" can be seen at tinyurl.com/2k3d5486 and is available for rental on Apple TV+ and Amazon's Prime Video.



Bruce Nakashima and LV Hendking with an abandoned North Vietnamese machine gun



Filmmaker David Brodie (above) in a lighthearted moment while interviewing Bruce Nakashima (right) on location at the Vietnam War veteran's Santa Monica, Calif., apartment



'Showtime 2024': AADAP SINGS PRAISES FOR 3

Music takes Aratani stage as organization marks its 52nd anniversary.

By George Toshio Johnston,
Senior Editor

The Asian American Drug Abuse Program again lived up to its "people need people" credo Sept. 21 in Little Tokyo's Aratani Theater, celebrating 52 years by celebrating three individuals for their accomplishments and community contributions at its music-laden "Showtime 2024" fundraiser.

Honored were Kaiser Foundation's John

Los Angeles City Councilman Marqueece Harris-Dawson addresses the audience at the Sept. 21 AADAP fundraiser after accepting the group's Social Justice Award.



Yamamoto, Los Angeles City Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson (8th District) and Murakawa Communications Founder and El Camino Community College Board of Trustees President Trisha Murakawa.

Serving as the evening's hosts were singer-actress Tia Carrere and Jennifer Paz, filling in for actor-writer-producer-director Mark Dacascos who, according to Paz, got stuck on location on a film shoot.

AADAP's Kuleana Award, which honors the support of a distinguished corporate or foundation partner, went to Kaiser Permanente's John Yamamoto, the health care provider's vp of community health and government relations at Kaiser Foundation Hospitals/Health Plan, Southern California.

According to AADAP, Kaiser and Yamamoto exemplify the spirit of *kuleana* through their strategic investments in community health, high-wage job creation, affordable housing and addressing health and economic disparities. AADAP board member Dr. Warren Yamashita presented the award to Yamamoto, who noted that he grew up in Maui and absorbed the meaning of *kuleana* through the local culture that emphasized helping others without being asked, even if "no one teaches you the formal definition of these words."

"You just learn how to treat people with aloha

... I learned that *kuleana* embodies a sense of personal and collective responsibility," Yamamoto said.

The next honoree, Harris-Dawson, accepted AADAP's Social Justice Award and was introduced via a video message from Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell (2nd District). According to AADAP, the Social Justice Award "celebrates an individual whose steadfast dedication to combating inequity and discrimination embodies the true spirit of social justice." AADAP recognized him for "leading community advocacy in South L.A., championing AADAP's Youth and Family Programs at the City Council and working to overcome systemic barriers to youth services."

Presenting the award was Ty Carter, AADAP board member and event chair, who said, "This Social Justice Award is presented to L.A. City Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson of the Eighth District, in recognition of your tireless commitment to advancing equity, uplifting marginalized communities and advocating for social justice."

In his remarks, Harris-Dawson said, "I'm happy to be associated with this organization and with the Social Justice Award. And you know, I also want to recognize John and Trisha, our other honorees tonight, and also Mike Watanabe," in reference to the longtime AADAP leader most-associated with its 52-year history, who died in 2023 (see *Pacific Citizen*, June 7, 2024).

The evening's final honoree, Murakawa, accepted the Mike Watanabe Leadership Award. Presenting her with it was AADAP Board Chair Mike Yoshiba, a partner at the law firm Richards, Watson and Gershon in recognition of Murakawa's "innovative spirit and unwavering dedication

to community service."

In her remarks after accepting her award, Murakawa said, "I am deeply honored to receive this Leadership Award, especially because it's named after someone as extraordinary as Mike Watanabe. To be recognized in connection with a leader who embodied such vision, passion and humility is truly profoundly humbling. ... I learned so much about leadership from Mike."

Interspersed with the award presentations were vocal performances, both energetic and heartfelt, that were well-received by a less-than-capacity audience, which may explain why the evening's fundraising goal of \$200,000 fell short by about \$23,000.

Nevertheless, the evening's lineup of entertainers Janice Javier, a finalist in "The Voice: Philippines"; soulman Leo Mercedez; Filipina sister act 4th Impact (comprised of Almira, Irene, Mylene and Celina Cercado); and co-host Carrere, delivered familiar, mostly upbeat 1970s and '80s era songs like "In the Stone," "September," "Shake Your Body (Down to the Ground)," "Got to Be Real," "End of the Road" and "Finally," to name a few titles, with Carrere turning on the torch with numbers like "Aloha 'Oe" and the sisters adding their harmonies on "Lady Marmalade" and "Bohemian Rhapsody."



AADAP board member Dr. Warren Yamashita (left) presents John Yamamoto with AADAP's Kuleana Award on Sept. 21 at "Showtime 2024" at the Aratani Theater in Little Tokyo.



(From left) AADAP board member Mike Yoshiba, award recipient Trisha Murakawa and event co-host Jennifer Paz

PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON

Little Tokyo Towers: Still Standing

A five-yearlong renovation, rehabilitation finishes just short of its 50th birthday.

By George Toshio Johnston,
Senior Editor

"Ladies and gentlemen, can you believe that the Little Tokyo Towers is nearly 50 years old?" asked Brian Yamasaki, Little Tokyo Towers board of directors member and event master of ceremonies, at the Oct. 26 rededication festivities for the facility.

It was a very believable query for the nonprofit Little Tokyo Towers, which was built in 1975 for \$8 million as part of the Little Tokyo

Redevelopment Project to "address the need for safe and affordable housing for the aging members of the Japanese American community." The intervening decades necessitated much-needed renovations and rehabilitation for the 16-story, 301 apartment building.

Five years earlier, when the estimated cost was more than \$50 million — it has increased — and the time for completion was a little more than a year, it had become apparent that renovations for Little Tokyo Towers were unavoidable. By Q3 of 2024, however, most of that was in the past.

"Today, we have a lot to celebrate" said Yamasaki. "After nearly 50 years, the Towers complex is completely remodeled for the safety and quality of the life for our residents for the next century."

"We have completed a comprehensive seismic retrofit, upgraded the elevator systems, modernized all apartment units, installed energy-efficient windows, repaired and replaced key systems like plumbing, electrical and HVAC. Additionally, the entire first floor has been remodeled, including an enhanced

audio-video system in this great hall. That's what I'm using right now," said Yamasaki.

It was the culmination of the latest chapter for Little Tokyo Towers, which began in 1971 via the Little Tokyo Community Development Advisory Committee, which begat the joint-partnership of the Los Angeles Buddhist Church Federation, the Southern California Christian Church Federation, the Southern California Gardeners Federation and the Pacific Southwest District Council of JACL.

The rededication included book-ended performances by Taiko Center of Los Angeles and the Grateful Crane Ensemble, remarks by board of directors Secretary Miniver Choi and blessings from Rev. Dr. Richard Kuyama and Rev. Shumyo Kojima.

In his address, Yamasaki name-checked the other Little Tokyo Towers board of directors: Bob Kawahara (president), Kent Kawai (vp), Lisa Arakaki (treasurer), Choi (secretary), Rev. Bill Briones, Roger Ishihara, Ryan Iwasaka, Rev. Shumyo Kojima, Rev. Dr. Richard Kuyama, Jamie Morishima, Amber Murakami-Fes-



"Portraits of Little Tokyo Towers" mural

PHOTO: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON

ter, Kazuo Oda, Mariko Rooks, Rev. Abe Shiraiwa and Nancy Takayama.

Yamasaki also recognized other notables: Department of Housing and Urban Development, West Regional Asset Management Branch Chief Christina Wong; field representative Eric Moon; Consul Aya Ishii, representing Council General

Kenko Sone of Japan for Los Angeles; Wende King and Royal Property Management; former board member Glenn Sanada; board consultant and financial adviser Mitch Thompson; attorney Jason Hobson; Little Tokyo Service Center; Colin Rice and David Beacham of the RAHD group; construction project manager Mark O'Brien, Alliant Construction Management; Tyler Kramer of construction company Icon National; OWIU Design; resident relocation coordinator Jason Arakaki; board project manager Susan Kun; artist Nancy Uyemura (creator of the Bee Connected tile mural in front of the building); artist Shizu Saldamando (illustrator of the "Portraits of Little Tokyo Towers" mural); artist Mike Saijo; and photographer Alan Miyatake of Toyo Miyatake Studio.

"I would like to acknowledge the Little Tokyo residents who have shown incredible patience throughout the construction process," said Yamasaki. He added, with his voice breaking, "It's because of the residents — you guys are the heart and soul of the Towers and their reasons for existence."

PSWD » continued from page 4



**2024 PSWD lunch attendees
Ron Osajima and B.J.
Watanabe**

PHOTOS: DOUGLAS URATA



Ron Wakabayashi

Katsura, who worked as a supervisor of juvenile hall for the Ventura County probation department for 33 years, was recognized for her longtime community service and participation in Japanese American cultural activities, including the annual spring cleanup event at Ventura County's historic Japanese cemetery and work on her chapter's Scholarship Committee, having also funded a memorial scholarship in honor of her late husband, Yoshi Katsura. Over the years, she has also served as a member-at-large, vice president and book club coordinator.

Yoshikawa then revealed the afternoon's surprise. "I think we did a good job of not letting them know who they are. They are someone who does not like to take credit and probably wouldn't want to be recognized in this way if we let them know," he said. "So, it is my honor to present the Sapphire Pin to Nancy Takayama."

He related that Takayama has been a member of the San Fernando Valley chapter since 2000 and has served in various leadership roles, including president and vice president. She is currently the PSW District's board member-at-large and has been active in preserving historically and culturally significant sites, with the Tuna Canyon Detention Station being a case in point. She is also on the board of the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center and in 2015 was recognized as one of five Women of the Year by the Downtown JACL and the Japanese Women's Society of Southern California (see May 10, 2015, *Pacific Citizen*, [tinyurl.com/3kzs9phe](https://www.tinyurl.com/3kzs9phe)).

"I am very thankful that Ryan listed all the organizations that I volunteer with," Takayama said. "I do it because of ... the friendships that I have with all the organizations and the people. It's the people that have the greatest

impact in my life."

Yoshikawa then spoke of the transition that had taken place, with him now the outgoing district governor, having been elected as JACL's national vp of general operations at last summer's national convention, and with Joseph Gu, co-president the SELANOCO/Orange County chapter, now serving also as the PSWD's governor. "Although my time on the PSW board has been rather brief, because I only joined the board about half-ish a year ago, I would also like to extend my thanks and appreciation for the leadership of the PSW board as well," Gu said, thanking Yoshikawa, Takayama, Andrew Gruhn, Alayne Yonemoto and Ryan Gasha.

With the conclusion of the awards ceremony, it was time for the screening of "Removed by Force," which was followed by remarks by filmmakers Kawamoto and Kaneko, both of whom also took some questions from the audience.

In addition to Yamagata and Kaji, other notable persons in the audience included former JACL National Director Ron Wakabayashi, B.J. Watanabe and Ron Osajima, El Camino College Board of Trustees President Trisha Murakawa, P.C. Editorial Board Chair John Saito Jr., former PSWD office manager Carol Saito, Riverside JACL Chapter President Michiko Yoshimura, San Fernando Valley Chapter President May Wood, SELANOCO/Orange County JACL Chapter Co-President Ryan Gasha and Caitlin Chen of California Bank & Trust.



**Carol Saito (left) and Trisha
Murakawa**

JACL ALARMED BY WSJ'S REPORT ON NATIONAL ARCHIVES' SHOGAN

By P.C. Staff

The JACL released a statement Nov. 4 demanding accountability from the National Archives and Records Administration's Colleen Shogan and a meeting with the archivist following a *Wall Street Journal* report.

In an Oct. 29 article, the business-oriented newspaper reported that Shogan had "ordered the removal of prominent references" at the National Archives Museum, including not only the government's treatment of Native Americans but also "the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II from planned exhibits."

The article also stated that a "proposed image of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. be cut from a planned 'Step Into History' photo booth in the Discovery Center" and that "Shogan and her top advisers told employees to remove Dorothea Lange's photos of Japanese American incarceration camps from a planned exhibit because the images were too negative and controversial." (Editor's note: *WSJ* subscribers may read the article at <https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/national-archives-history-colleen-shogan-f8512bc3>.)



In its news release, the JACL stated "its concern that the National Archives is pursuing a policy of erasing Japanese American and other histories from the public record. The National Archives, of all places, has a profound responsibility to the unadulterated preservation of the full history of the United States of America."

JACL also said it had requested a meeting with Shogan to "give her the opportunity to defend these allegations" and further stated that if "these allegations prove true, there can be no other path than for her immediate resignation."

Meantime, the Japanese American National Museum's President and CEO Ann Burroughs also reacted to the *WSJ* report. In the JANM news release, Burroughs said, "We cannot ignore what may be considered to be uncomfortable truths simply because they are 'too negative and controversial' and might cause discomfort for some, and as the repository of this nation's documented history, neither should the National Archive."

The entire statement can be read on the JACL website at [tinyurl.com/2xbr5rtp](https://www.tinyurl.com/2xbr5rtp).

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

2025 TOUR SCHEDULE

- HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVALS TOUR** (Ernest Hida) **WAITLIST** Feb 3-14
Abashiri, Sounkyo, Sapporo, Otaru, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Tokyo.
Hyobaku Ice Festival, Asahikawa Snow Festival, Sapporo Snow Festival,
Hyoto Winter Festival.
- CLASSICAL JAPAN HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Mar 16-27
Tokyo, Mt Fuji, Yamanashi, Shizuoka, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
- TREASURES OF IRELAND TOUR** (Carol Hida). Apr 7-15
Dublin, Limerick, Killarney, Blarney.
- KOREA HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Apr 10-23
Seoul, Bullet Train, Gyeongju, Busan, Jeju Island, Jeonju, Daejeon,
Nami Island, Seoul, DMZ, K-Drama sites.
- JAPAN SPRING COUNTRYSIDE HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) May 11-23
Tokyo, Ashikaga Flower Park, Yamagata, Sakata/Shonai, Akita, Morioka,
Sanriku Railway coastal train ride, Hanamaki Onsen, Matsushima,
Nikko/Kinugawa Onsen, Tokyo.
- MUSIC CITIES HOLIDAY TOUR** (Carol Hida). May 12-19
New Orleans, Memphis, Nashville.
- GRANDPARENTS-GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Jun 15-25
Tokyo, Hakone, Hiroshima, Kyoto. Craftmaking hands-on experiences.
- HOKKAIDO SUMMER HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Jul 13-25
Hakodate, Lake Toya, Noboribetsu, Otaru, Sapporo, Wakkanai,
Rishiri Island, Asahikawa, Furano, Tokyo.
- DANUBE RIVER CRUISE** (Carol Hida) . . **WAITLIST**. Aug 27-Sep 9
Pre-cruise in Budapest, Bratislava, Vienna, Weissenkirchen, Linz, Passau,
Višňohofen, Post-cruise in Prague. **Bonus Discount - Limited Time Offer.**
- JAPAN AUTUMN COUNTRYSIDE HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Oct 16-27
Tokyo, Sado Island, Kanazawa, Amanohashidate, Tottori,
Matsue, Tamatsukuri Onsen, Hiroshima.
- KENYA WILDLIFE SAFARI HOLIDAY TOUR** (Carol Hida) Oct 15-29
Nairobi, Amboseli-Nakuru Lake-Masai Mara National Parks, Mt. Kenya Safari Club,
Sweetwaters Tented Camp, Jane Goodall Chimpanzee Sanctuary. **FINAL TOUR**
- OKINAWA HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Nov 13-23
Naha, Onnason, Islands of Ishigaki, Iriomote & Taketomi.

For more information and reservations, please contact:

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL
312 E. 1st Street, Suite 240 * Los Angeles, CA 90012
Tel: (213)625-2232 * Email: americanholiday@att.net
Ernest or Carol Hida

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

NCWNP

Shamisen and Koto Winter Recital
San Francisco, CA
Dec. 1; 3-5 p.m.
JCCCN

1840 Sutter St.
Price: \$5 General Admission
 Enjoy an afternoon of traditional Japanese music by students of the Center's shamisen and koto program under the direction of sensei Ko Ishikawa. Space is limited so be sure to get your tickets in advance!
Info: Visit www.jcccn.org.

'Topaz Stories 2024'
Emeryville, CA
Thru Dec. 13
J-Sei
1285 66th St.

The stories provide personal accounts of the forced removal, camp life, the dispersal of the JA community through resettlement, the heroism of Nisei soldiers, the challenges of returning to California and the impact of the camp experience on survivors and subsequent generations.
Info: Visit <https://topazstories.com/topaz-stories-2024-exhibit>.

'Ruth Asawa: Untitled (S.272)' Exhibit
San Francisco, CA
Ongoing Exhibit
Asian Art Museum
200 Larkin St.
Price: Museum Admission
 Asawa is a pioneering figure both in the civic landscape of San Francisco and in the history of American art. This exhibit of her works represents a visionary bridge between the major themes of sculpture in the modern postwar period and the subsequent era of contemporary art.
Info: Visit exhibitions.asianart.org for more details on this exhibit.

PSW

'Honoring Common Ground'
Los Angeles, CA
Nov. 23; Noon-5 p.m.
JANM
100 N. Central Ave.
Price: \$6 Admission; \$5 Seniors, \$3 Students; Free for JANM Members
 Enjoy an afternoon of celebration and activities honoring JANM's core exhibition "Common Ground: The Heart of Community," which highlights 140

years of Japanese American history. The afternoon will feature nostalgic music, a souvenir photo booth, docent-led tours and a chance for the community to contribute to the museum's memory archive booth.
Info: Visit www.janm.org.

'Giant Robot: Asian American Pop Culture'
Los Angeles, CA
Nov. 24; 1-2 p.m.
Virtual Film Screening and Book Launch on Zoom
Price: Free
 Greater Los Angeles JACL cohosts with Sansei Legacy to present this program that will feature a virtual meeting with Eric Nakamura, who launched "Giant Robot." The short feature "Eric Nakamura LA at Play" will be screened, followed by a presentation by Nakamura. Moderator will be Mitchell Matsumura.
Info: To RSVP and receive a Zoom link, email greaterlajacl@gmail.com.

JACCC Holiday Tea
Los Angeles, CA
Dec. 7, 8, 14, 15; 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-4 p.m.
JACCC
244 San Pedro St.
Price: \$110 (+\$26.40 Ticket Fee)
 Celebrate the season with JACCC's Holiday Tea where participants will indulge in one-of-a-kind afternoon tea service of a blend of Japanese and Western traditions while immersed in JACCC's lush Japanese garden.
Info: Visit jacc.org.

'Contested Histories: Preserving and Sharing a Community Collection'
Los Angeles, CA
Thru Jan. 5, 2025
JANM
100 N. Central Ave.
Price: Museum Admission
 In 2015, JANM was entrusted with the safekeeping of the Eaton Collection, consisting of 400 items made by Japanese American incarcerated. Now, the exhibit returns to JANM, where many of the restored artworks will be on view for the first time.
Info: Visit www.janm.org

Celebrating Little Tokyo at 140 Years' Exhibit
Los Angeles, CA
Thru Jan. 5, 2025
JANM
100 N. Central Ave.
Price: Museum Admission
 This new pop-up exhibit highlights Little Tokyo's past with items from Koharu

restaurant, the Nozaki beauty shop, the School of Modern Fashion, the Tanaka photography studio and other local establishments over the decades.
Info: Visit www.janm.org.

CCDC

Wendy Maruyama: 'A Sculptural Survey — Craft, Material, Process 1972-2024'
Fresno, CA
Thru Jan. 5, 2025
Fresno Art Museum
2233 N. First St.
Price: Museum Admission
 Artist and educator Wendy Maruyama has been making innovative woodwork for more than 40 years. Included are examples of her traditional studio craft: utilitarian and fanciful furniture pieces, wall reliefs, life-size elephant heads, room-size paper installations. Her commentary explores themes of feminism, her Japanese American heritage and her personal family history.
Info: Visit <http://www.fresnoartmuseum.org>.

Art of the Word: 'Once Upon a Book — Featuring the Illustrations of Grace Lin'
Fresno, CA
Thru June 29, 2025
Fresno Art Museum
2233 N. First St.
Price: Museum Admission
 This exhibit features Grace Lin's original illustrations from "Once Upon a Book," co-written with Kate Messner. In the book, Alice is tired of winter and decides to escape by reading one of her favorite books. She steps inside the book and becomes a part of the story . . .
Info: Visit <http://www.fresnoartmuseum.org/exhibitions/current-exhibitions/>.

PNW

'Made With Love: 45 Years of Ikoi No Kai'
Portland, OR
Thru Jan. 5, 2025
Japanese American Museum of Oregon
411 N.W. Flanders St.
Price: Museum Admission
 For 45 years, the Portland program has supported seniors, and this exhibit centers on the many voices that have

contributed to Ikoi no Kai's unique dining and social experience.

Info: Visit <https://ljam.org/ikoi-no-kai/>.

'Kintsugi: The Restorative Art of Naoko Fukumaru'
Portland, OR
Thru Jan. 27, 2025
Portland Japanese Garden
611 S.W. Kingston Ave.
Price: Garden Admission
 Kintsugi is an ancient method of mending damaged ceramics using natural lacquer dusted with powdered gold. It highlights the beauty of imperfections, rather than try to hide them. This exhibit will explore themes of healing through artwork by kintsugi artist and master conservator Naoko Fukumaru.
Info: Visit <https://japanesegarden.org/events/kintsugi-the-restorative-art-of-naoko-fukumaru/>.

IDC

Wasatch Front North JACL 2025 Day of Remembrance
Brigham City, Utah
Feb. 15
Brigham City Community Center
24 N. 300 West
 This year's DOR commemoration will be held along with partner chapters Mt. Olympus and Salt Lake JACL to present guest speakers William A. Harris of the FDR Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park, N.Y., and former Utah State Sen. Jani Iwamoto. The event is also being held in conjunction with the opening of the Brigham City Museum of Art and History's special exhibition "Uncovering the Journey: Japanese American Pioneers in Box Elder County."
Info: To register, visit wfnjaci.org.

MDC

JASC Holiday Delight
Chicago, IL
Dec. 14; 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
5700 N. Lincoln Ave.
Price: Free
 Get your holiday shopping done in one stop at the JASC Holiday Delight! This year's annual event will feature a silent auction, raffle, cultural performances, Asian collectibles, handcrafted items, children's activities and a visit from Santa! All proceeds will benefit JASC programs and community initiatives.
Info: Visit tinyurl.com/jaschd.

EDC

'Yellow Face'
New York, NY

Thru Nov. 24
Todd Haimes Theatre
227 W. 42nd St.
Price: Ticket Prices Vary
 David Henry Hwang makes his Roundabout debut with the Broadway premiere of "Yellow Face," his hilarious is-he-or-isn't-he comedy of identity, show business and (perhaps) autobiography. It stars Daniel Dae Kim.
Info: Visit <https://www.roundabout-theatre.org/get-tickets/2024-2025/yellow-face/>.

JACL D.C. Chapter Mochitsuki 2024
Rockville, MD
Dec. 8; Noon-2:30 p.m.
Tilden Middle School
6300 Tilden Lane
Price: Register before Dec. 4 for Preorder Prices
 The D.C. chapter is hosting its annual New Year's tradition, Mochitsuki, and all are welcome to join for a fun-filled Japanese American community event where people of all ages can take part in pounding rice, purchasing handmade holiday crafts and the recently published graphic novel "But, Where are you REALLY From?" Bentos and mochi will be sold on a preorder basis, with limited extras available to purchase for walk-ins.
Info: To register and for more information, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jacl-dc-chapter-mochitsuki-2024-tickets-1080042860269>.

'The Inventive Brush: Calligraphic Echoes From China, Japan and Korea'
Boston, MA
Thru Dec. 13
99 Albany St.
 A showcase of the diversity of contemporary calligraphy with works of three Massachusetts-based artists, Mike Yunguo Mei, Michiko Imai and YoungSun Jang. Audiences can explore the works as more than words and characters beyond the respective countries of the artists. This exhibit is a collaboration between the Pao Arts Center, Japan Society of Boston and Korean Cultural Society of Boston.
Info: Visit <https://www.paoartscenter.org/events/2024/inventivebrush>.

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

PACIFIC CITIZEN

Send a Gift Subscription!

\$55 Print Subscription (Non-JACL member) or \$40 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

Anama, Hisako, 88, Honolulu, HI, July 15.

Asato, Dorothy Yukino, 97, Torrance, CA, June 30.

Berman, Ann, 88, Honolulu, HI, June 25.

Higa, Edward Tetsuo, 92, Kailua, HI, May 16.

Ichikawa, James Tsuyoshi, 86, Carson, CA, June 24.

Ito, Robert Takeshi, 89, Honolulu, HI, July 25.

Kaminishi, Miyoko, 96, Torrance, CA, May 23.

Koike, Miyoko, 97, Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 1.

Kozai, Marvin Tadayoshi, 80, San Diego, CA, July 12.

Lancaster, Miyuki, 95, Lodi, CA, July 7.

Matayoshi, Nancy Hiroko, 98, San Gabriel, CA, Aug. 3.



Matsuoka, Robert Guy, 77, Twin Falls, ID, Aug. 25.

Miyamura, Fusaye Helen, 83, Culver City, CA, Sept. 24.

Nagasawa, Tomi, 95, Centennial, CO, Sept. 7.

Nakano, Joe, 102, San Diego, CA, Sept. 24.

Okita, Dennis, 86, Sherman Oaks, CA, Oct. 1.

Radle, Tracy Chieko Yamamoto, 60, Great Falls, VA, May 10.

Rollins, Marie Motoyo, 94, San Marino, CA, Aug. 15.

Shimoide, Yoneko, 102, Culver City, CA, Aug. 16.

Shishido, Betty Umeda, 99, Arcadia, CA, July 20.

Tanahashi, Tamotsu, 88, Los Angeles, CA, July 6.

Tokumoto, Wayne, 71, Kahului, HI, Aug. 24.

Uchida, Gennie Masaaki, 83, Culver City, CA, Sept. 18.

Yoshihata, Joyce, 88, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 29.

2nd JA West Point Grad Matsumoto Dies

By P.C. Staff

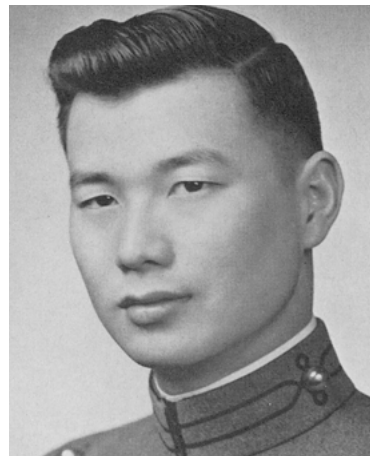
Retired Army Col. Glenn Kenge Matsumoto died at the Shell Point Retirement Community in Fort Myers, Fla., on Sept. 8. He was 95.

A Nisei, during World War II his family and he were incarcerated at Arizona's Poston I War Relocation Authority Center from 1942-44.

After the war, his family and he lived returned to the West Coast and settled in Bakersfield, Calif. He joined the Army in 1947 and was admitted to the United States Military Academy in 1950, becoming the second Japanese American West Point graduate.

Matsumoto is survived by his second wife, Suzanne, his four adult children: Kirsten, Stephen, Karl and Eric; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

His family asks that in lieu of flowers to consider donating to the



Glenn Matsumoto

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE MATSUMOTO FAMILY

Dubin Center, 12685 New Brittany Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33907 or online at dubincen.com in memory of Col Glenn Matsumoto. Online condolences may be made at www.fortmyersmemorial.com.

TRIBUTE

BARBARA BERTHIAUME



Barbara Gail (Yoshida) Berthiaume passed away peacefully on Oct. 18, 2024, aged 79, at her home in Port Ludlow, Wash., surrounded by family and friends. She was born on June 16, 1945 to Michiko (Sagami) and Tadao Yoshida in Havre, Mont., shortly after they left the Minidoka incarceration camp for Japanese Americans. She was raised in the small farming community of Bowmont, Idaho. After graduating from the University of Idaho, she moved to Seattle, where she earned her Masters of Social

Work from the University of Washington and met her husband, Ed Berthiaume. Together they raised a family while traveling the world, living in France, Singapore and England, before settling back to the Pacific Northwest.

Barbara possessed boundless energy and compassion, which she used to help those in her community wherever she lived. In London she had a private counseling practice, conducted transition training for international families and Fulbright Scholars, and served on the board for International Families in Global Transition. In Washington she volunteered for the PSO Bluebills, a nonprofit organization in Jefferson County, raised money for Dove House Advocacy Services, and served on the boards for the Japanese American Citizens League and the Hospice Foundation for Jefferson Healthcare. In her personal life she was known to offer reassuring counsel to friends during difficult times.

Barbara was also a passionate advocate for preserving the legacy of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, an all-Japanese American infantry unit in World War II. She was especially committed to honoring her uncle, Yohei Sagami, the first Nisei killed in action in France. Through a series of public lectures and a memorial installed in Bruyeres, France, Barbara worked to ensure the story of the 442nd will not be forgotten.

She is survived by her husband, Ed, her two children, Christopher and Jennifer, her two grandchildren, Alice and Kai, and her siblings, Ann Costello, David Yoshida and Bruce Yoshida.

A memorial will be held for family and friends on Nov. 17 at the Bay Club in Port Ludlow. In lieu of koden, donations may be made to Dove House Advocacy Services of Port Townsend.

News Brief

Rafu Shimpō Cuts Back to Weekly Schedule, Loses 2 Key Employees

Citing increased costs, a front-page article in the Oct. 31 edition of *Rafu Shimpō* announced that the 121-year-old L.A.-based Japanese American community newspaper was going to a weekly schedule from three-days a week. Unreported were the Nov. 1 departures of senior editor Gwen Muranaka, and office manager and English-language advertising lead Gail Miyasaki. (For a more details, visit tinyurl.com/bdt7nfy2.)

TRIBUTE

RUBY INOUE



Ruby Chizuko Inouye passed away in the early hours of Oct. 7, 2024 at the golden age of 104 years.

Ruby was born in North Platte, Neb., on Feb. 5, 1920, to Kin and Kunikiyo Nabeta. She was the second of seven children. Her early years were spent in Salt Lake City, Utah; Shizuoka, Japan; and Los Angeles, Calif. She was sent to Topaz, Utah, during World War II where she met her husband, Hirotsuke Inouye. They were married on Christmas Day in 1943. She moved to Redwood

City in 1945 and had lived there ever since. She is survived by all six of her children, all of whom have retired — Margaret Renn, principal and schoolteacher; Jeanette Muzac, nurse/case manager; Donald Inouye, businessman/auto mechanic; Bette Matsuoka, fashion designer/business analyst; Gogo Heinrich, architect/project manager; and Kenny Inouye, mechanical engineer. She also leaves behind seven grandchildren, eight great-grandsons and one great-granddaughter.

Ruby's husband, Hirotsuke, was a graduate of Stanford University. Her children and grandchildren are graduates of Stanford, UC Berkeley, UCSF, UC Santa Barbara, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, San Jose State, San Francisco State, Sacramento State, University of Colorado-Boulder, Lesley University, University of Portland, Canada College, Cabrillo College and California Western School of Law. Ruby believed in education and 20 years ago she began the Ruby C. Inouye Scholarship for young Buddhists. She herself attended Woodbury College in Los Angeles, and she continued taking various courses at Canada College throughout her adult life.

Besides being a full-time mother, Ruby worked in the greenhouses of Sequoia Nursery alongside her husband and husband's family. When it was apparent that six children were going to go to college, Ruby began working at Lenkurt Electric Co., then on to Philco Ford/Ford Aerospace starting as a secretary and then as a numerical control programmer, running the computer programs for the machinery making equipment used in satellites and defense systems. She retired from Ford Aerospace after 26 years and after her last child was out of college. In 1995 she was honored at the San Francisco Cherry Blossom Festival as an outstanding senior citizen.

Ruby loved to travel. She had been to Japan, Hawaii, Utah, Texas, Colorado, Nevada and Oregon. A few years ago she even went around the world. Well, sort of — in Las Vegas she went to Paris, Bellagio, Venice, Rio, Luxor and New York-New York. Always looking towards the future, she renewed her passport which expires in 2028.

She had a lot of advice for longevity: "Be strong." "Eat what you want." "Enjoy your family and cherish your friends." "And when everyone around you is taking turns dying, skip your turn."

In memory of Ruby, donations can be made to the "Palo Alto Buddhist Temple — Ruby C. Inouye Scholarship," Palo Alto Buddhist Temple, 2751 Louis Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303.

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

SCAMMED » continued from page 3

There are several companies that offer identity-theft protection services. But the one I signed up with (i.e., highest-rated) is Aura. “Aura has a neat interface to monitor essential financial vulnerabilities, such as bank accounts, and identity-theft records. The up-front pricing is refreshing, it is simple to use . . .” according to [TechRadar.com](https://www.techradar.com).

In conclusion, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Walk away from high-pressure sales tactics. Watch out for deals that are only “good today.” Finally, don’t fall for the sales pitch that says you need to pay immediately.

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.



REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM GIFT CARD FRAUD THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

By JR Fujita

The holiday season is a crucial time to stay vigilant against the increase in fraud and scam attempts. Scams become particularly rampant during the holidays, which can be overwhelming.

Gift cards are a favorite target for fraudsters. While they are convenient, a survey by the AARP Fraud Watch Network revealed that 1 in 4 consumers has either given or received a gift card that had no value or partial value. Remember, gift cards should never be used as payment for bills. When purchasing a gift card, consider using a credit card, which typically offers \$0 fraud liability and better protection than debit cards or cash. Always check that the protective stickers or scratch-

off coverings on gift cards are intact, and consider selecting cards from the back of the display.

For those receiving gift cards, it’s wise to use them promptly or load the balance onto a digital wallet or online account with the retailer. This helps prevent fraud, especially if the store were to go out of business. If you’re buying cash credit/debit gift cards that can be used anywhere, pay attention to expiration dates, inactivity fees and terms and conditions.

When shopping online, make purchases directly from reputable companies rather than responding to ads, emails, phone calls or texts that could be scams. Avoid using public Wi-Fi for online transactions, as card information can be stolen from unsecured connections. If buying through platforms like Facebook

Marketplace, always use the platform’s payment option to protect yourself. Again, scammers often provide links that could compromise your security, so never click on a link that is sent to you.

Using a credit card for purchases offers greater fraud protection compared to debit cards. If possible, register your gift card, and check whether you can add a PIN for added security against unauthorized use.

As the year draws to a close, be prepared for an increase in unwanted phone calls, many of which will be robocalls. To protect yourself, let unknown callers go to voicemail, and block persistent unwanted calls. These calls often claim to offer credit card assistance, preapproved loans, home security, medical supplies, vacations or even impersonate government officials regarding taxes or unpaid bills. The Internal Revenue Service will always contact you by mail — never by phone.

If you’re considering monetary

gifts to charities this season, always donate directly to the organization rather than over the phone. The Better Business Bureau and the IRS can help verify legitimate charities. The BBB also provides a scam tracker tool, and the IRS can confirm a charity’s eligibility for tax-deductible donations. Be cautious, as fake charities often mimic legitimate ones, and veterans and military families are frequently targeted by these scams.

For the latest updates and information from the AARP Fraud Watch Network, visit aarp.org/money/scams-fraud or call their helpline at (877) 908-3360 if you suspect a scam. This toll-free service is available Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. ET. Stay alert, and protect yourself this holiday season!

JR Fujita is a community outreach and engagement manager for AARP and is based in Sacramento, Calif.

Consumers must stay extra vigilant during the holiday season when making purchases using a gift card or credit/debit card.

PHOTO: 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!*

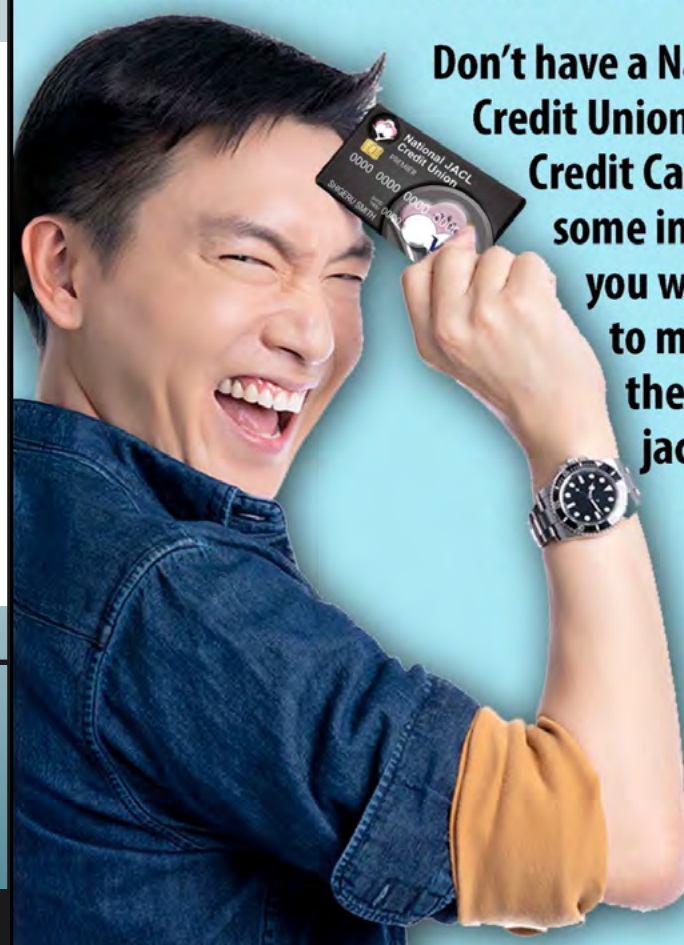


JUDD MATSUNAGA
Attorney at Law

— 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