

# In MEMORIAM

(Editor's Note: Boldfaced names in blue in the PDF version of this page are active hyperlinks to published obituaries for the decedent.)



**Adachi, Shin, 96**, San Leandro, CA, Oct. 21, 2024.

**Fukutomi, Grace Yoshiko, 97**, Los Angeles, Nov. 20, 2024.

**Hashimoto, Amy Emiko Kusumoto, 100**, Los Angeles, CA, April 16.

**Hughes, Sumi T., 91**, Pasadena, CA, March 17.

**Imanaka, Wayne Yoshio, 86**, Montebello, CA, Jan. 29.



**Inaba, Shigeko, 96**, Granada Hills, CA, Dec. 14, 2024.

**Ishii, Gerald Ken, 81**, Fresno, CA, Jan. 12.



**Kawasaki, Edward, 95**, Beaverton, OR, Jan. 1.

**Kitagawa, Isao Kenneth, 80**, Huntington Beach, CA, Jan. 8.

**Leong, Nancy Kyoko, 75**, Pomona, CA, Feb. 21.

**Miyauchi, Takeyuki, 97**, Los Angeles, March 7.



**Nishi, Mataye Jane, 100**, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 21.

**Nakaoka, Kimiko, 95**, Manhattan Beach, CA, March 6.

**Narusawa, Raymond Nobuo, 96**, Alhambra, CA, March 23.



**Russey, Masaye Kawai, 90**, Crofton, MD, Feb. 19.

**Sakamoto, Howard Nobuyoshi, 84**, Alhambra, CA, Feb. 17. ■

## TRIBUTE

### KIYOKO UCHIDA



Kiyoko Uchida (née Oba), a beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully at the age of 101 in Pacific Grove, Calif. Born on July 15, 1923, in Alameda, Calif., to parents who came to the U.S. from Japan, Kiyoko lived a long and meaningful life centered around family, hard work and perseverance.

During World War II, Kiyoko and her family were among the many Japanese Americans who were unjustly sent to one of the incarceration camps, taken first to the Santa Anita racetracks and then to Heart Mountain, Wyo. Despite that difficult chapter, she carried herself with strength, grace, and resilience — qualities that would define her throughout her life.

She later married Kiyoshi Uchida, and together they raised three children. For nearly 70 years, Kiyoko worked alongside her family at Pacific Grove Cleaners, the Uchida family business. She served as the bookkeeper and secretary until she was 95 years old — an enduring symbol of her dedication and commitment.

Kiyoko is survived by her children: Steven (Theresa), Karen (Tony) and Randy (Donna); five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Her family meant everything to her, and she loved them deeply.

Kindness was at the heart of who Kiyoko was. She never spoke poorly of anyone and was always thoughtful and loving to those around her. She found joy in the little things — like playing rummy tile with close friends and spending time with her family playing board games or watching her favorite shows.

Not many people are lucky enough to live to 101, and reaching that milestone speaks to just how special she was. She lived a full life, quietly but powerfully, touching the lives of everyone who knew her. She will be deeply missed and remembered forever.

## TRIBUTE

### ROBERT 'BOB' YOSHIMITSU FUCHIGAMI



**May 15, 1930-March 25, 2025**

Bob was the youngest son born to Tokuye and Heita Fuchigami on May 15, 1930, in Marysville, Calif. He joined his elder brothers, George, Bill, Walter and Torao "Tosh," working on the family fruit and vegetable farm. He also had three sisters: Mary, Nobuko and Kazuko. In spring 1942, his family of 10 was forcibly moved to the incarceration Camp Amache, located in southeastern Colorado, where he would spend the next three years. This injustice weighed heavily on him, and he would work tirelessly for the remainder of his life to ensure the preservation and lessons of this history would not be forgotten. "Never Again" was his motto and how he signed his books. His input was crucial in helping to make the Amache Historic Act legislation into reality. Too young to serve with his brothers in the United States military during WWII, Bob enlisted with the U.S. Navy during the Korean War and served from 1950-1954. Bob valued education, which equaled freedom to him. He completed a B.A. in education at San Jose State University, followed by a M.A. in special education, also at San Jose State University. Bob received a fellowship and was able to continue his studies at the University of Illinois with an Ed. D. in special education in 1964. It was in Illinois that he met Sally, his beloved wife of 58 years. They married in 1962 and their first child, Kathleen, was born soon after. Bob began his career in higher education as an assistant to associate professor with the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Hawaii. There, he initiated and developed a degree program to train teachers in the new field of Special Education. Bob followed up as an Associate Professor in Special Education at the University of Oregon. A second daughter, Ellen, arrived just prior to Bob accepting a position as coordinator and professor for the Special Education Program at Sonoma State University. After becoming Dean of Graduate Studies, Bob would move on to become the assistant superintendent of public instruction, director of special education of the State of California in 1985. His final professional years were back at Sonoma State University, and he retired as professor emeritus in 1992. He and Sally became both domestic and global travelers, visiting some of the world's most beautiful places in the decades following retirement. They settled in Kittredge, Colo., to be closer to grandchildren in 2005. Bob was an inspiration to everyone he met, from the campers he welcomed to Camp Unalayee in the Trinity Alps, Northern California, his longtime friends the "Elams" in the Bay Area, his Boy Scout troop from Greeley, Colo., all his students and everyone fortunate enough to cross his path during his almost 95 years. His devotion to education and unwavering optimism were legendary. He will be greatly missed by the remaining family, especially grandchildren Alex, Jared and Sejal.

## News Briefs

### IMF, BEA Reports: Calif. Now World's 4th Largest Economy, Passing Japan

Recently released data from the International Monetary Fund and the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis showed that California's gross domestic product passed Japan's to become the world's fourth-largest economy. IMF and BEA data pegged the Golden State's GDP at \$4.1 trillion; Japan's GDP came in at \$4.02 trillion. The top three economies in size are the U.S., China and Germany.

### Pioneering Dancer George Lee, 90, Actor-Dancer Patrick Adiarte, 82, Die

The subject of the documentary "Ten Times Better" (*Pacific Citizen*, May 10, 2024), George Lee died April 19. At the height of his career, he appeared in stage productions of "The Nutcracker" and "Flower Drum Song." Producer Jon Funabiki noted: "When he joined us for the world premiere of 'Ten Times Better' in New York, we were astonished by his stamina as he participated in special events and media interviews" and that he and executive producer Jennifer Lin were "happy that the film helped to secure his place in history." Meantime, dancer-actor Patrick Adiarte, who also appeared in stage productions of "Flower Drum Song" and "The King and I," as well as TV's "M\*A\*S\*H," died April 15.

— P.C. Staff

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