

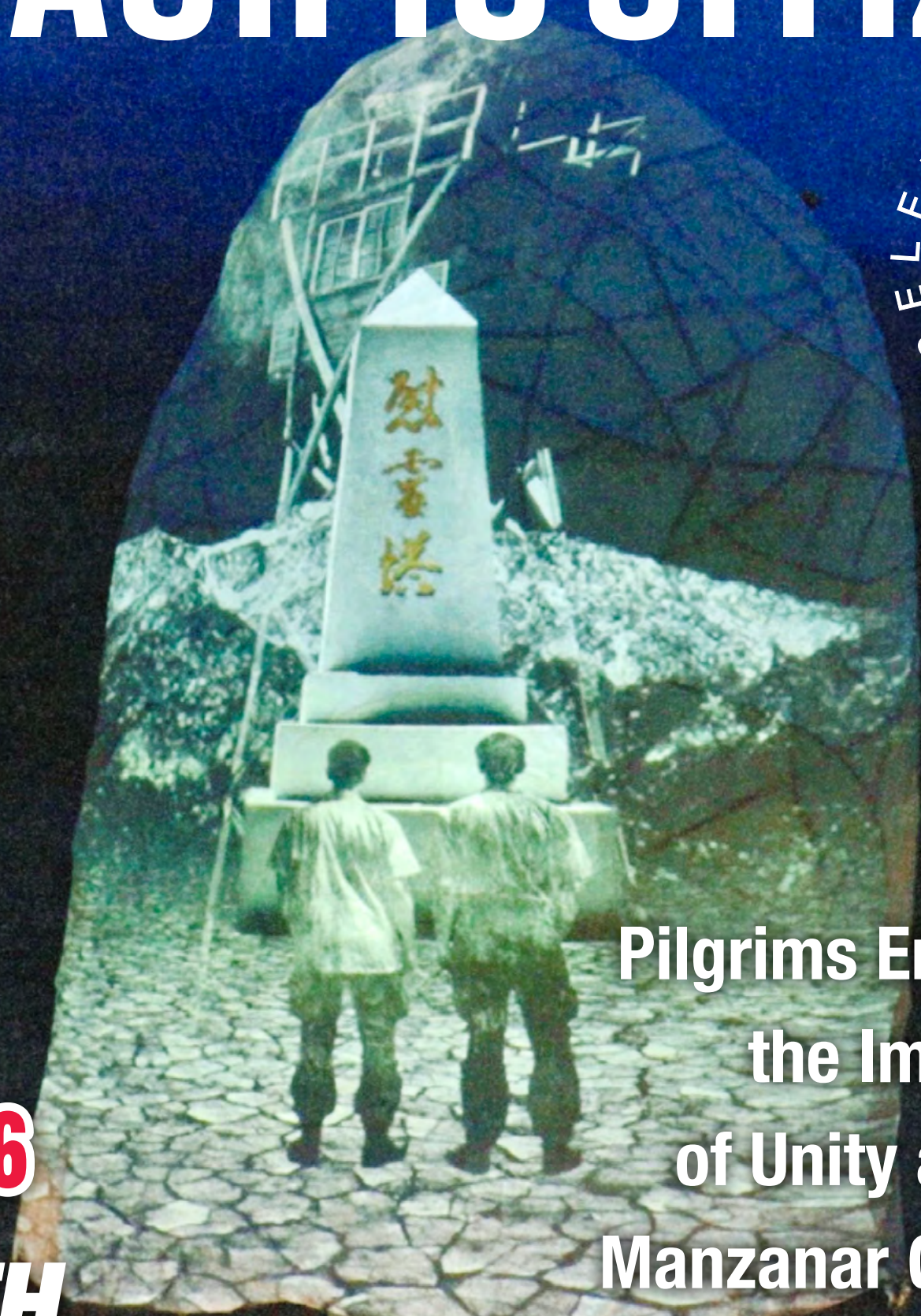


# PACIFIC CITIZEN

During the Wakasa Memorial Committee's night ceremony at the Manzanar Pilgrimage, images of James Hiroshi Ito, 17, and Katsuji James Kanagawa, 21, were projected on the Wakasa Spirit Stone paper lantern at the Manzanar site where the two young Nisei men were killed by military police in the 1942 Manzanar uprising.

ART: GLENN MITSUI/PHOTO: WATASE MEDIA ARTS CENTER

CELEBRATING  
**96**  
Years



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JUSTICE AND  
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## WITH YOUR SUPPORT, THE *P.C.* CAN CONTINUE



What price do you put on reliable journalism in an era when truth-telling and historical accuracy is under

attack by the federal government? To me, and I suspect many of my fellow *Pacific Citizen* readers, these are priceless values that I once believed to be universally held in our country.

At a time when government agencies are being dismantled and public educational institutions are defunded wholesale, it has never been more important to have trusted publications like ours that deliver quality content while adhering to the principles of journalistic integrity. As one of the last remaining Japanese American newspapers — and the only one that is truly national in its

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Unfortunately, the paper is not immune to the larger economic challenges that JACL is currently facing, and without your support, we cannot continue to deliver a professional quality publication. Donations to the *P.C.* enable our staff of professional journalists to continue doing what they do best: reporting on current events from the unique lens of Japanese America.

As a member of the *P.C.* Editorial Board, I encourage our readers to dig

deep and give generously to ensure that our publication not only survives the current crisis but also thrives in its ability to deliver hard-hitting content that would otherwise not reach our audiences.

If at any point in the last year you have been moved by what you read in the *P.C.* or learned something new from our paper, please consider contributing at any level that is meaningful to you.

*In Solidarity,*

**Rob Buscher,**  
*EDC Representative*  
*P.C. Editorial Board EDC Rep.*  
*and JACL Philadelphia Chapter*

## NIKKEI PROGRESSIVES COMMEMORATES BLOODY SUNDAY IN ALABAMA

Some 15 Nikkei Progressives members, friends and relatives traveled to Montgomery, Ala., in March to attend the 60th anniversary of the crossing of the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The event commemorated Bloody Sunday, which took place on March 9, 1965, and became one of the most pivotal moments in the Civil Rights Movement

after law officials brutally attacked activists as they attempted to cross the iconic bridge. While in Montgomery, members of the Nikkei Progressives group also visited the Equal Justice Initiative's Legacy Museum, National Monument for Peace and Justice (National Lynching Memorial) and the Freedom Monument Sculpture Park, as well as Michelle Browder's Mothers of Gynecology. ■



**Nikkei Progressives members on the Edmund Pettus Bridge at the 60th anniversary commemoration of Bloody Sunday and the March for voting rights in Selma, Ala., in March 2025**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKKEI PROGRESSIVES

## JACL NY/SC Condemns International Student Visa Revocations

*By P.C. Staff*

The National Youth/Student Council of the JACL issued a statement on May 14 denouncing the nationwide revocations of student visas for nearly 1,500 international students that has occurred in the past several weeks. The revocations were the result of an executive order signed by President Donald Trump on Jan. 20.

In its statement condemning "the revocation of at least 1,487 visas," the NY/SC asserted that the revocations were a "blatant attempt to intimidate university students and suppress political expression."

In the weeks after Trump signed

Executive Order 14161, aka "Protecting the United States From Foreign Terrorists and Other National Security and Public Safety Threats" ([see tinyurl.com/bdyttdp](https://www.tinyurl.com/bdyttdp)) on the day he became president for his second and final term, the Department of Homeland Security launched a nationwide crackdown targeting selected F-1 or foreign student visa holders studying at American universities.

The JACL NY/SC added that "free speech, due process and the right to assemble are not privileges — they are constitutional rights. The U.S. Constitution limits government

power; it does not grant rights only to U.S. citizens or those deemed 'American enough.'"

The surge in student visa revocations has also led to a surge in lawsuits filed by immigration lawyers on behalf of affected students.

Judges have also weighed in by issuing orders that temporarily restored students' records in dozens of lawsuits.

The entirety of the NY/SC's statement can be read at [tinyurl.com/yk3jxcbv](https://www.tinyurl.com/yk3jxcbv).

*(Associated Press contributed to this report.)*

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# WHY REPARATIONS MATTERS NOW

By David Inoue,  
JACL Executive Director

This past week was a historic rally in support of national reparations. While the mood at the rally was one of optimism and energy, we are facing an unfortunate reality and challenges in the movement to bring about reparations. The administration's attacks on diversity, equity and inclusion demonstrate a 180-degree reversal of over 60 years of civil rights law enforcement. Claiming that civil rights laws are supportive of only a select few, and not for all, Attorney General Pam Bondi and Assistant Attorney General Harmeet Dhillon have been peddling the narrative that groups that have been historically protected by civil rights laws are somehow gaining an unfair advantage, and to the harm of others, specifically white

men and Christians.

Under Bondi, the Department of Justice is being drastically restructured, and staff are being eliminated to weaken its role in enforcing civil rights laws and actually refocus those civil rights defenses to remake Christian morality as the basis to our laws. Rather than protect LGBTQ+ individuals from discrimination, we are moving toward a justice department that supports such discrimination as a right of religious freedom. This is not only the decision to not protect groups under the law, but actively using the law to persecute the people it had been intended to protect.

Congress for now is not taking any action. The Republican majority is largely supportive, and the Democrat minority is too fearful to speak out on issues of racism right now, believing they will lose the working class white vote, a very specific segment of the

voting population, but by no means the most powerful voting bloc.

What we must recognize is that this is all connected. While attacks on diversity, equity and inclusion are not reparations in what we fully seek, they are part of what this country has done to reverse the legacy of slavery and years of ensuing discrimination post Civil War. Reparations is part of recognizing that the police brutality that everyone rallied against after the high-profile killings of George Floyd, Breanna Taylor and so many others is also part of why we seek reparations.

Unfortunately, many in our Asian American community have bought into the arguments against reparations and broader social justice. Given the odds against admittance to Ivy League schools, it is not hard to find an example of an aggrieved applicant who thinks they should have been accepted over the few who are accepted, but also the thousands more who were also rejected. This has led to members of our community being part of the efforts to roll back programs that increase the chances for some to have an opportunity, but contrary to the false narrative, do not have any better chance at a job or college admission than anyone else who faces a five percent acceptance rate to college.

Efforts to eliminate programs such as affirmative action and corporate diversity programs will typically do little to increase the opponent's chances of admittance or employment but will drastically limit the ability of colleges and employers to reach minority candidates to even be considered.

Reparations is not just about affirmative action, but the fight against affirmative action illustrates how a misunderstanding of programs such as diversity, equity and inclusion programs operate and ensure everyone has a shot at opportunities that have been so long closed off.

JACL needs to do a better job at educating our membership and the public about why we need programs to not only address unequal access but also when there is overt discrimination. Right now, there is some reticence about pushing too hard for reparations. Will it be divisive? Will it affect midterm elections?

The reality is that now, more than ever, we should be making the case for reparations, for enforcement of civil rights laws, for making sure everyone does have fair and equal opportunity.

These are all interrelated, and we cannot argue one without the other. White Japanese Americans have largely focused our argument around

the experience of redress, that we achieved redress, we are not always as good at making the fundamental arguments for why we need to promote reparations as a justice issue. When we argue that Black Lives Matter, we must also argue that reparations are due, otherwise we are not actually saying that their lives do matter.

We need to be making the case now for economic justice, environmental justice, criminal justice, health equity justice and racial justice both as important to us as a nation even as Congress passes a budget resolution that will attack all these pillars of what are important to JACL, but also serve as pillars to the reparations movement. Not only are these issues important, but they are related to one another and our fight for reparations.

Even as we are focused on recalling the injustices of the Alien Enemies Act, affirming the importance of birthright citizenship, we must recognize that the racism that targets these issues is the same racism attacking other communities. Together, we can fight back all of these, but not if we don't recognize that it must be together.

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



## LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

# STAY ACTIVE LONGER

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

Everyone ages. However, we all don't necessarily age at the same rate. Some 60-year-olds are in better shape than a lot of 40-year-olds, and there are 80-year-olds more active than a lot of 50-year-olds.

Biologically, you could be younger or older based on your physiological condition. While you can't change your chronological age, there are a lot of factors that go into how you age biologically.

It's not something we like to think about, but as we grow older, our health usually deteriorates. As a result, some of our functional abilities have declined. At some point, this decline becomes inevitable, but it's not entirely uncontrollable. This article, taken from a Special Health Report from Harvard Medical School, "Discovering Functional Fitness," is to help you maintain your functional abilities so that you can remain active as you age.

Even if you're in good health, age brings certain age-related changes —

and they often begin much earlier than you would expect. From the experts at Harvard, here are some age-related changes to be aware of:

- Muscles shrink. Muscle loss begins in your mid-30s, at a rate of 1 percent-2 percent a year. As you get into your 60s and 70s, muscle loss accelerates to 3 percent a year. These little changes make a difference over the years, contributing to achy joints, injuries and weight gain.
- Strength wanes. Beginning in your mid-30s, you lose about 1.5 percent of your strength a year, and that rate accelerates as you get older.
- Power declines. As muscles shrink, you lose not only strength, but also power, your body's ability to exert force or strength quickly. Power plummets at more than twice the rate of strength — 3.5 percent a year for power compared to 1.5 percent for strength.
- Aerobic capacity decreases. A 25-year-old heart can pump 2.5 quarts of blood a minute, but after age 30, heart and lung function be-

gin to decline at a rate of about 10 percent per decade. These changes affect your endurance.

- Joints stiffen. A decrease in flexibility and range of motion makes tasks like reaching overhead and stooping down problematic. Flexibility in the hip and shoulder joints declines about 6 percent per decade from age 55-85.
- Balance wobbles. As you become less steady on your feet, you're more likely to fall.
- Body fat increases. As your muscles shrink, you're probably gaining more fat, which can make it harder to get around and can tire you out faster.

All these problems add up, leading to a more sedentary lifestyle. Overall, you're less active, which only accelerates functional declines. The good news is that this doesn't have to be your reality.

Functional fitness, i.e., exercise for everyday activities, can boost your strength, endurance, coordination and balance.

In fact, some of the "side effects" of functional fitness training are positive, good things, such as better sleep, improved mood, reduced stress and protection against chronic conditions and diseases.

Here's how functional training can improve your life:

- You'll find it easier to perform everyday tasks. Based on the spec-

ificity principle, if you train to get up off the floor, climb stairs or walk on uneven surfaces, you'll get better at performing those activities, "task-specific training." That's because you're strengthening the specific muscles you need for those tasks, and you're stretching the ones that need to be flexible. You're building the endurance or power and enhancing the mobility or agility necessary for the activity.

- You'll play better. Functional training can keep you enjoying activities longer and improve your performance.
- You'll be less likely to get injured. Functional training improves your body's ability to work as a unit — the way it was designed to — rather than relying on one part to carry out more work than it should.
- You can reduce some kinds of pain. Functional fitness training can help to ease pain. Stronger muscles take pressure off of painful joints. Stretching tight muscles can improve posture and biomechanics when you move. And honing your movement patterns can ensure you engage appropriate muscles throughout the day.
- You'll be steadier on your feet. While balance training can help, functional training develops additional skills that complement better balance to save you from a fall.
- You can stay independent longer.

As everyday tasks become more difficult, you may need help to perform some activities and may need to give up others altogether. These impairments can often necessitate moving into assisted living or another type of long-term care facility, but the fitter you are, the less likely you'll need these services — or the longer you'll be able to delay them.

In conclusion, there are medications for a host of health issues that become more common with age. However, there really aren't any pills that are going to help you stand up from a chair, pick something up off the floor or get out of bed. That's why you need to exercise, i.e., functional fitness training.

Finally, remember — safety first! The last thing you want to do is hurt yourself while exercising. It's important to talk to your doctor before starting your functional fitness program.

*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. 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.*



## WAKASA MEMORIAL COMMITTEE HOLDS NIGHT CEREMONY AT MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE

The tribute was held to remember two Nisei incarcerated during the 1942 Manzanar Uprising.

The Wakasa Memorial Committee held a night ceremony during the 56th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage on April 26 to remember two Nisei incarcerated who were shot and killed during the Manzanar Uprising of Dec. 6, 1942. James Hiroshi Ito, 17, and Katsuji

James Kanagawa, 21, died from gunshot wounds and at least nine others were wounded by U.S. military gunfire and tear gas during the uprising.

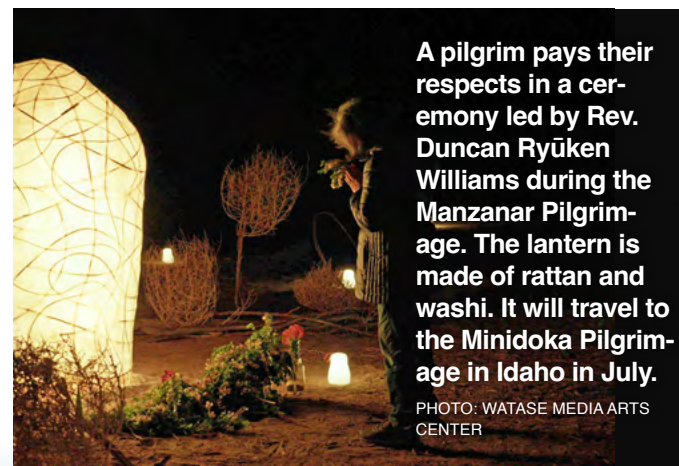
The ceremony was held at the site where the deaths and injuries occurred. Small lanterns were placed where men fell, according to a hand-drawn map found in the Eastern California Museum five years ago. A tribute video to Ito and Kanagawa by artist Glenn Mitsui was projected on the Wakasa Spirit Stone lantern, a washi sculpture made by camp survivors and descendants.

Rev. Duncan Ryūken Williams led more

than 70 pilgrims, including camp survivors, in the ceremonial offering of flowers, incense and prayers. Manzanar descendant Bruce Embrey, co-chair of the Manzanar Committee, spoke about Ito, who was a family friend.

*For more on the Manzanar Pilgrimage, see related story on page 6.*

— Nancy Ukai

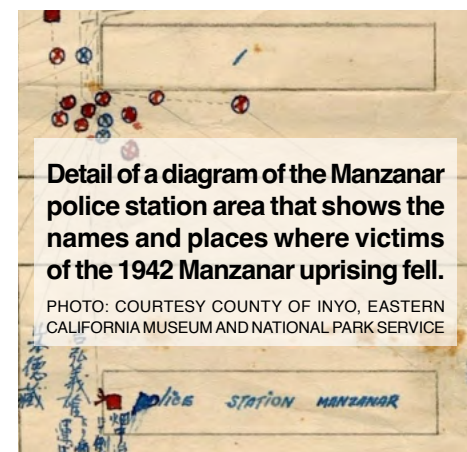


A pilgrim pays their respects in a ceremony led by Rev. Duncan Ryūken Williams during the Manzanar Pilgrimage. The lantern is made of rattan and washi. It will travel to the Minidoka Pilgrimage in Idaho in July.

PHOTO: WATASE MEDIA ARTS CENTER



Small lanterns were placed at dusk at the places where victims fell from tear gas and gunfire. PHOTO: NANCY UKAI



Detail of a diagram of the Manzanar police station area that shows the names and places where victims of the 1942 Manzanar uprising fell.

PHOTO: COURTESY COUNTY OF INYO, EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM AND NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## BERKELEY JACL HOLDS AWARDS EVENT

The chapter presents its Scholarship, Pioneer and Youth Leadership awards.



Berkeley JACL chapter honorees are (seated, from left) Keith Yasumura, Tai Tachibana, Hayley Takeshima and (standing, from left) Neal Taniguchi, Tim Takeda, Kieran Taylor, Takumi Lee and Charlotte Sandford. PHOTO: ERIC KAWAMURA

By Berkeley JACL

The Berkeley JACL chapter awarded scholarships to six entering freshman students, honored its Pioneer award recipient and recognized its Youth Leadership recipient during its awards event held on May 3 at the Richmond Country Club in Richmond, Calif.

Scholarships were awarded to six high school seniors in recognition of their academic achievements, community involvement, school activities, work history, JACL involvement, written essay, letter of recommendation and group interview. Following are this year's recipients:

- **Takumi Lee (Skyline High School, Oakland)** will attend the University of California, San Diego, as a biology major. Lee received the Berkeley Scholarship Committee scholarship.
- **Charlotte Sandford (Head Royce School, Oakland)** will attend Colgate University and major in Asian Studies. Sandford received the Terry Yamashita memorial scholarship.
- **Tai Tachibana (Berkeley High School, Berkeley)** will attend the University of Washington and major in international studies. Tachibana is the first recipient of the Kagawa Family memorial scholarship.
- **Hayley Takeshima (Acalanes High School, Lafayette)** will attend California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, as an electrical engineering major. Takeshima received the Dan/Kathleen Date memorial scholarship.
- **Kieran Taylor (Berkeley High School, Berkeley)** will attend Berkeley City College and major in computer science. Taylor received the George/Yoshimi Nakamura memorial scholarship.
- **Keith Yasumura (Tilden Preparatory School, Walnut Creek)** will attend the University of California, Berkeley, and major in applied math. Yasumura received the Bea Kono Memorial scholarship.

Neal Taniguchi was presented with the chapter's Pioneer Award. This award recognizes leaders who have served the community and the Berkeley JACL with dedication and vision. Born and raised in Fresno, Calif., Taniguchi earned a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's degree in public policy from UC Berkeley. He then worked in various positions for the City of San Francisco, San Mateo Superior Court and recently retired as CEO of the San Mateo Superior Court. Taniguchi also served as the past NCWNP District Council governor and National JACL vp of general operations. He currently serves as a member of the board of trustees for the Berkeley chapter and oversees the chapter's Issei and scholarship funds.

Tim Takeda received the chapter's Youth Leadership Award. This award recognizes youth leaders with the desire, vision and skills to make a positive difference in the community consistent with the chapter's mission. Born and raised in Bristol, Vt., Takeda's family recently moved to the Bay Area, where he is a student at Chabot Community College in Hayward, Calif. Under his leadership, in May 2024, Takeda established the first Japanese American organization at the community college — the Chabot College Nikkei Student. As NSU president, he organized the college's first Day of Remembrance commemoration. Takeda exemplifies the growing need for youth leaders to make a positive difference consistent with the chapter's mission.

Members of the scholarship committee are Ron Tanaka (chair), Jennifer Doi, Mark Fujikawa, Vera Kawamura, Ryan Matsuda, Neal Ouye and Joe Takano.

Members of the scholarship committee are Ron Tanaka (chair), Jennifer Doi, Mark Fujikawa, Vera Kawamura, Ryan Matsuda, Neal Ouye and Joe Takano.



## Thank You for Your JACL Membership!

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



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The NCWNP District's Daruma Award honorees

PHOTO: CATHY FUJIMORI



The gala's keynote speakers were Roy and PJ Hirabayashi, co-founders and artistic directors emeritus of San Jose Taiko, who spoke about their families' WWII incarceration experience and gave a musical performance.

PHOTOS: EMILY MURASE



## 'ART, ADVOCACY AND ACTIVISM'

The NCWNP hosts its 2025 gala award banquet and honors several awardees and unsung heroes of the district.

By Emily Murase,  
P.C. Contributor



NCWNP District Gov. Carol Kawase welcomed attendees to the 2025 gala luncheon.

Celebrating the theme of "Art, Advocacy and Activism," more than 200 JACLers from the Northern California Western Nevada Pacific District convened for the 2025 Gala Award Banquet on April 5, a cloudless day in the beautiful suburb of San Ramon, east of San Francisco.

The NCWNP District is the JACL's largest regional district, representing more than 3,000 members from 31 chapters. The event, held every two years, featured many unique silent auction items, donated by chapters and members, to shine a light on honorees and raise money for district activities.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, longtime NCWNP District Gov. Carol Kawase opened the gala with welcoming remarks. The gala was an opportunity to showcase achievements reflected in this year's event theme, such as the pioneering work of Roy and PJ Hirabayashi, founders of San Jose Taiko, and to acknowledge the extraordinary work of the JACLers receiving awards.

Kawase explained that the Japanese phrase *Nana korobi, ya oki*, meaning "seven times down, eight up," embodies the perseverance of the community and serves

as the inspiration for the District Daruma Awards. Kawase noted the dedicated efforts of the Gala Committee, including Thaya Mune-Craig, Debbi Endow Hatanaka, Nikki Hikari, Mariko Fujimoto and Kiana Lovgren, who, together, spent a year planning the event.

Emcee Jana Katsuyama, the Emmy award-winning TV journalist for KTVU Fox News, then welcomed JACL National President Larry Oda for brief remarks. Oda invited everyone to mark their calendars for the 100th anniversary of the historic JACL building in Monterey next year, a building that embodies the themes of "advocacy and activism."

Oda also paid tribute to Nikkei actor-author George Takei for bringing the Japanese American wartime experience to life through the hit Broadway play "Allegiance" and three accomplished women Nikkei artists Miki Hayakawa, Hisako Hibi and Miné Okubo, whose work is showcased at the Smithsonian American Art Museum until Aug. 17.

Next, Consul General of Japan Yo Osumi reported on his office's new initiatives to strengthen U.S.-Japan relations, including the Nikkei Next Generation Initiative, held in San Francisco Japantown in November 2024. In addition, the Nikkei NextGen Women Leaders convened in San Jose Japantown

in March; participants included Mayor of Mountain View, Calif., Ellen Kamei and NCWNP District Secretary Mariko Fujimoto.

Regarding education, Osumi highlighted the continuing success of the Kakehashi Program, which sends Japanese American college students and young professionals on tours of Japan. He also stated that additional educational resources on studying abroad and scholarships are available on the Consulate's website. Osumi then introduced his staff person, Mayu Hagiwara, consul and director of the Japan Information and Cultural Center.

Over lunch, keynote speakers Roy and PJ Hirabayashi, co-founders and artistic directors emeritus of San Jose Taiko, took center stage and presented a slideshow. They shared parts of their Japanese heritage. PJ's mother, originally from Fukushima, was one of 11 children, while Roy's grandparents arrived from Hiroshima in the early 1900s. As early immigrants to the U.S., both of their families experienced the wartime incarceration.

PJ and Roy spoke about how the activism among ethnic communities in the 1960s and '70s, particularly in San Francisco and Berkeley, catalyzed their work. Initially, drumming was just a way of connecting with the Issei generation through music.

They started San Jose Taiko in 1973 with the strong support of Rev. Hiroshi Abiko, then of San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, and taiko became a way to define a Japanese American voice. They were inspired by Asians for Community Action, based in San Jose and active from 1970-74, with young leaders such as Chris and Dan Kubo, as well as the duo of singer-songwriters Chris Iijima and vocalist Nobuko Miyamoto, who were powerful community activists.

PJ and Roy explained that the first taiko groups all started on the West Coast: San Francisco Taiko Dojo in 1968, Kinnara Taiko of the Los Angeles-based Senshin Buddhist Temple in 1969 and San Jose Taiko in 1973. The first national conference of taiko groups, now known as North American Taiko Conference, was held in 1997 in Los Angeles.

The conference is held every two years, and its 2011 gathering, held at Stanford University, featured more than 800 attendees. This year's gathering will be held in Phoenix, Ariz., at the Phoenix Convention Center from Aug. 29-Sept. 1.

After realizing that there was very little change in the repertoire of taiko compositions, PJ composed "*Ei ja nai ka*/Isn't It Good," which has now become a regular feature of Bon Odori festivals throughout Northern and Southern California, Oregon and Hawaii; it is even performed in Japan.

» See NCWNP on page 8



JACL National President Larry Oda offered opening remarks.

PHOTOS:  
EMILY MURASE



Gov. Carol Kawase (left) with awardee Marlene Shigekawa

PHOTO: CATHY FUJIMORI



Consul General of Japan Yo Osumi with keynote speakers Roy and PJ Hirabayashi

PNW District Gov. Sheldon Arakaki and Sacramento chapter member Miko Sawamura

PHOTOS: EMILY MURASE



### AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

#### 2025 TOUR SCHEDULE

- GRANDPARENTS-GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR** (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Jun 15-25  
Tokyo, Hakone, Hiroshima, Kyoto. Craftmaking hands-on experiences. **WAITLIST**
- 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) . . . . . Aug 27-Sep 9  
Pre-cruise in Budapest, Bratislava, Vienna, Weissenkirchen, Linz, Passau, Vilshofen, 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 15-28  
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.

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Ernest or Carol Hida



# THE MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE: 'TRUTH, JUSTICE AND DEMOCRACY'

The 56th annual event emphasizes the importance of unity in preserving freedom for all in the future.

By Charles James,  
P.C. Contributor

Around 2,500 participants braved cold, windy weather to join this year's 56th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, themed "Truth, Justice and Democracy." The event, held at the Manzanar National Historic Site located in Independence, Calif., took on added urgency and significance against the backdrop of the current Trump administration's controversial policies regarding civil rights that are guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution.

The unjust treatment of Japanese Americans during World War II is not only being echoed but also is being repeated, threatening rights to free speech under the First Amendment and the right to due process under the law in the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution. These amendments prohibit denial of "life, liberty or property" without due process by federal and state governments.

Being in the country illegally (or unlawfully) is not a crime, yet the Department of Homeland Security is detaining tens of thousands of immigrants, most of whom have committed no crimes. While it is a violation of federal immigration law to remain in the country without legal authorization, it is a violation punishable by civil penalties, not criminal. Many of the detainees are being called and treated as criminals without any evidence or proof.

The pilgrimage's day program began with emcees Glen Kitayama and Seia Watanabe (JACL's vp of public affairs) welcoming visitors on behalf of the Manzanar Committee.

Kitayama's remarks emphasized the importance of unity, remembering our past and

reminding attendees that it is happening again. He recalled his friend, the late Alan Nishio, telling participants at the pilgrimage eight years ago during President Donald Trump's first administration that Manzanar "serves as a place and cautionary tale during crises."

"A few weeks ago," said Kitayama, "the Trump regime invoked the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 for only the third time in our country's history. The second time this was used was 83 years ago to imprison our community during WWII. We cannot be silent on this issue and watch our democracy crumble."

The Manzanar Committee dedicated this year's pilgrimage to the memory of activists Gann Matsuda, Kanji Sahara and photojournalist Mario Reyes with the *Rafu Shimpo* newspaper. Sahara's family attended the event and received warm applause from the crowd.

MNHS Superintendent Jeremy Scheier addressed the crowd, acknowledging the Manzanar Committee's crucial role in establishing the site. He noted that it "attracts over 100,000 visitors annually who leave with a deeper appreciation of civil rights," and he also expressed "gratitude for the committee's efforts to preserve this history."

Following the superintendent's comments, Jeremiah Joseph of the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, told the audience, "It's important to remember people's rights, due process and the effort to secure our homelands." He noted that "American values and Indigenous values include equality and justice for all."

Joseph also mentioned the current fight in Inyo County over Conglomerate Mesa, where

an open pit gold mine operation is being considered in an area considered sacred to native tribes. He expressed hope that those attending the pilgrimage will become involved and support their cause to stop the mining project.

Bruce Embrey, chair of the Manzanar Committee, then gave his opening remarks. Embrey is the son of the late Sue Kunitomi Embrey, an activist and longtime chair of the Manzanar Committee. She established the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage and obtained National Historic Site status for the former concentration camp.

Embrey said, "Our pilgrimage and the Manzanar National Historic Site are more important today than ever before." He noted that efforts are underway "to erase our history on the heroism of the 442nd, 100th battalion and the MIS, which have been removed from government websites."

Embrey also mentioned attempts to "erase the stories of Jackie Robinson, the Navajo and Cheyenne code talkers and so many others who fought to defeat fascism and preserve democracy and are in jeopardy as well." The Stonewall National Historic Site, the birthplace of the modern-day LGBTQ rights movement, has also had its website rewritten to exclude the trans community.

"This is not just insulting," said Embrey, "This is dangerous. It is dangerous because narratives matter." He asked those present to remember that "the government, pushed by white nationalists and large corporations, fabricated an entire narrative that our families were a threat to America's national security." That "lie," he noted, "led to the

Visual reminders of the parallels of the wrongful incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII and current human rights injustices today

PHOTOS: CHARLES JAMES



Manzanar Committee Chair Bruce Embrey



unconstitutional, illegal incarceration of more than 125,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, both citizen and immigrant alike." (Note: Embrey's complete remarks can be found on the Manzanar Committee website at [www.ManzanarCommittee.org](http://www.ManzanarCommittee.org) and on YouTube.)

The Manzanar Committee, along with other organizations, has advocated for reparations for the Black community, land and treaty rights for all Indigenous peoples, the enactment of fair and humane immigration laws, an end to discrimination of the LGBTQ+ community and an end to genocidal violence in Gaza.

Michele Nakamura and Wendi Yamashita gave tribute to Manzanar Committee member Gann Matsuda, who passed away on Oct. 12, 2024, at the age of 61. Both speakers met Matsuda as students and expressed their profound respect for his mentorship and commitment to Japanese American history and student activism. Nakamura then read a remembrance poem written by Lianne Urada titled "Gann Was in Our Corner."

Musical interludes were provided before, during and at the end of the pilgrimage program by Bonbu Stories, UCLA Kyodo Taiko and the multitalented Japanese artist Ken Koshio from Phoenix, Ariz.

The program's keynote speaker, Dr. Satsuki Ina, is a psychotherapist specializing as a community trauma consultant. She acknowledged Sue Kunitomi Embrey for her



Manzanar co-MCs Seia Watanabe, who is also JACL National's vp of public affairs, and Glen Kitayama.



UCLA's Kyodo Taiko group performed during the pilgrimage program.



Rex Takahashi (middle) received the prestigious 2025 Sue Kunitomi Embrey Award.





**CAIR-LA attorney Ramsey Judah spoke on behalf of refugees.**

**The 10 American concentration camp banners plus the 442nd Regimental Combat Team banner**



**Volunteers Dan Kwong (left) and Sho Yamada helped to rebuild the baseball field that played a key role at the camp in the 1940s.**

contributions and advocacy for truth, justice and democracy, stating that “she has been an inspiration to me all my life.”

Ina told the audience that “what is happening in our country is personal. It’s you and me. It’s Japanese Americans, it’s people of color. We are once again being targeted with oppressive and repressive policies and practices that will essentially lead to the destruction of our democratic country.”

According to Ina, the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 made it possible to begin arresting and removing not just aliens but also nonaliens, including American citizens, with 125,283 people of Japanese ancestry taken from their homes and losing everything they owned. She says it resulted in decades of trauma that are still being dealt with today. Illegal loyalty oaths and renunciation of citizenship by some 5,000 incarcerated added to the suffering.

This suffering continues today because “some people look like they’re immigrants.” Putting it bluntly, Ina said that we are faced with “what is, in fact . . . a fascist regime hell bent on a nationalistic racist policy of redeeming white supremacy and eliminating those considered unwanted.”

Ina ended by saying, “We need to stop the continued multiplication of detention sites. The intention of this administration is to remove and incarcerate 11 million immigrants at 500 detention sites. We need to speak loudly, educate people about our history and organize.”

Attorney Ramsey Judah with the Council on American-Islamic Relations in Los Angeles (CAIR-LA) said, “As a Palestinian American,

seeing the pictures and videos in this camp reminds me of all the refugee camps I grew up seeing in Palestine. I can tell you: People forced from their homes look the same everywhere. The fear on their faces looks the same. The pain in their hearts is the same. The look of hopelessness is the same.

“All of our struggles are connected — and so our communities must be as well,” Judah continued. “Our unity will prevent another Manzanar, another genocide, another Muslim Ban and an end to the dehumanization and unjust targeting of immigrants. Now is the time to unite in ways that will not only bring true freedom and justice on this land for all, but also reparations for systematically oppressed people and land back to our indigenous communities here and around the world.”

Judah was followed by Jillian Stineman from UCLA’s Nikkei Student Union. Her family was incarcerated in Manzanar during WWII and believes her awakening as a Japanese American and an Asian American began with Manzanar.

Stineman expressed concern about the continuing Israeli genocidal assault on Palestinians in Gaza with hundreds of Palestinians killed each day. She also stated that critiques of Israel are not inherently antisemitic.

“We often hear the phrase “never again,” said Stineman, “an eternal promise that we will no longer allow what happened to Japanese Americans to happen to anyone else. If I have



**An interfaith religious service was held at the Manzanar Cemetery’s Soul Consoling Tower.** PHOTOS: CHARLES JAMES

learned anything during my college career, it is understanding that the rights we have today, the right to free speech, the right to vote, the right to an education, the right to be legally integrated into society were won very recently in history.”

The prestigious Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award was awarded to Rex Takahashi, an original member of the Manzanar Committee since 1969. He developed the text displayed on the California Historical Landmarks plaque at Manzanar. Despite very determined resistance from the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Takahashi’s draft of the text with references to Manzanar as a “concentration camp” and listing “hysteria, racism and

economic exploitation” as causes that created Manzanar, prevailed.

The day program closed with the traditional Camp Roll Call and Banner Procession of the 10 concentration camps, which include a banner honoring the 442nd Army Regimental Combat Team, the country’s most-decorated combat unit in American military history for its size and duration of service. That was followed by a procession to the Soul Consoling Tower Monument and an interfaith religious service. The evening’s events included the Manzanar At Dusk Program and a memorial held by the Wakasa Memorial Committee to remember two Nisei killed during the Manzanar Uprising of Dec. 6, 1942. ■



**Keynote speaker Dr. Satsuki Ina delivered a powerful address on the anti-democratic threats posed by the U.S. government.**

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## NCWNP » continued from page 5

Today, PJ and Roy continue their art activism. In 2008, PJ launched TaikoPeace to promote a peaceful world through taiko drumming. In April, they embarked on a trip to Japan, beginning with a performance at the Japanese Overseas Migration Museum in Yokohama to celebrate the launch of a new exhibit focused on San Jose Japantown and ending with visits to world-famous taiko studios in rural Japan.

### HONOREES

NCWNP Gov. Kawase presented Marlene Shigekawa with the NCWNP Award of Excellence for her landmark work as a writer/director/film producer. Her latest film, "The Blue Jay" (2023), is a 14-minute narrative film inspired by her family's experience as incarcerated of the Poston, Ariz., concentration camp that is part of an online curriculum for high school and college students.

Her earlier work, "For the Sake of the Children" (2016), is an hourlong documentary focused on the mothers at the Poston concentration camp during WWII. She is also known for her children's books, including "Blue Jay in the Desert" and "Welcome Home Swallows."

Shigekawa serves as executive director of the Poston Community Alliance to preserve the legacy of the Poston incarceration experience. In presenting the 2025 Award of Excellence to Shigekawa, Kawase explained that Shigekawa's work embodies the event's theme of art, advocacy and activism.

In her acceptance speech, Shigekawa shared her experience screening "The Blue Jay" at Parker High School, a public school not far from the location of the Poston concentration camps. The diverse student audience was composed of many students of color, including Mexican Americans and Native Americans, who felt that the film made their own struggles visible. "What matters is not the number of awards you receive for your work, but that moment when you know you've touched a young person," explained Shigekawa.

### Daruma Awards

Next, Kawase presented the 2025 Daruma Awardees, who were recognized as the "unsung heroes" of the district. NCWNP Youth Board Chair Kiana Lovgren presented the District Youth Board Daruma Award.

**Carolyn Adams, Berkeley Chapter:** A Millenium Club member like her parents, Adams dedicated her career to teaching in Berkeley as one of the earliest Asian American teachers in the district. She is a longtime member of the Berkeley chapter board, contributing to the

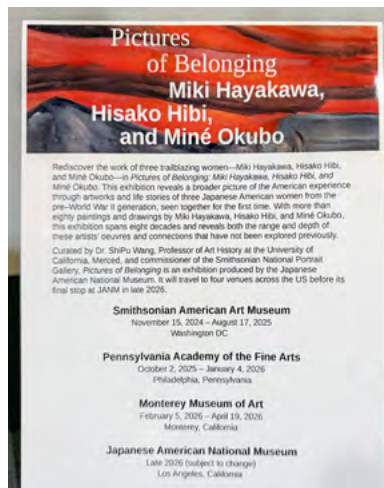
newsletter and the scholarship program. She also speaks regularly in the community about the Japanese American experience.

**Joe Bowes, Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter:** For more than 40 years, Bowes and his wife, Christine, have been dedicated JACLers. He contributes essential support for the upkeep of the JACL Kizuka Hall and the Japanese Memorial Garden in Salinas. Nicknamed "Taiko Joe," he has also crafted hundreds of taiko drums from scratch.

**Gael Forest-Knowles, Sonoma County Chapter:** An inspirational ally, Forest-Knowles partnered with the Sonoma County JACL chapter in 2022 to advocate for the inclusion of Hebrew, Japanese and other languages in a local city monument. She serves on the board of the Congregation Shomrei Torah, which is working actively on immigration protection.

**Nick Hori, Silicon Valley Chapter:** In 2009, Hori became the chapter's youngest board member. Over the past 16 years, he has assumed the roles of District and National Convention Delegate, District Youth Representative and a member of the Young Professionals Caucus. Known to have a "great brain," Hori is also very outgoing and an expert networker with other chapters.

**Arleen Mataga, Lodi Chapter (posthumous):** Mataga served as chapter secretary for 31 years and regularly attended quarterly district

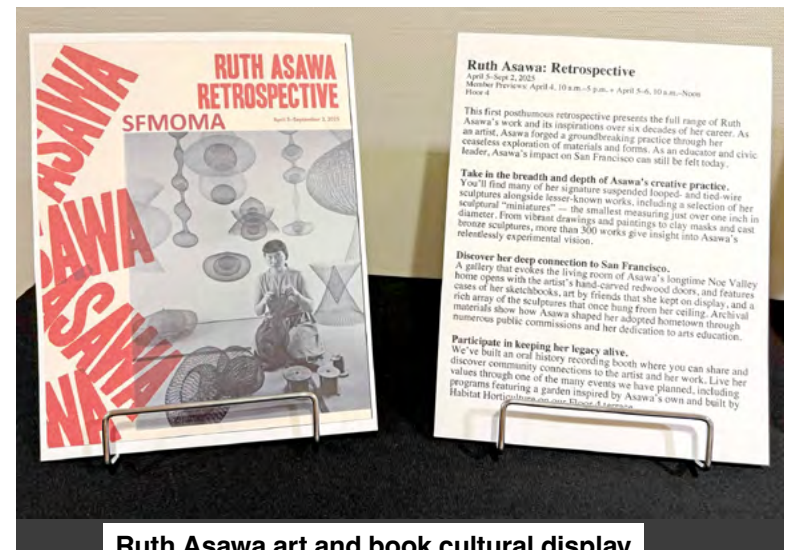


An exhibit on Japanese women artists on display

meetings and national conventions as the Lodi Chapter Delegate. She was a perennial volunteer at many Japanese American events and fundraisers, including the Lodi Buddhist Church. Mataga also shared her experiences in the Japanese American community as a docent at the California Museum in Sacramento.

**Janet Mitobe, Eden Township Chapter (posthumous):** A former chapter president, Mitobe served on the board for more than 40 years, from 1981 until her untimely death in 2023. She worked tirelessly on such landmark projects as the Watkins Street Japanese American Memorial Market (completed in 2021) and the Japanese American Memorial at Hayward Heritage Plaza Park (dedicated in 2023).

**Steve Sue, Stockton Chapter:** A chapter board member since 2006, Sue has served as president since 2011. He contributes an enormous



Ruth Asawa art and book cultural display

amount of time, talent and resources to JACL activities, including district meetings and national conventions. A founding executive director of the Asian Repertory Theater, he formerly produced "Our Voice," a local TV program showcasing Asian Americans in the Stockton area.

**Deanna Tsukamoto, Florin Sacramento Valley Chapter:** Tsukamoto poured her energy, enthusiasm and organizational skills into revitalizing the Women's Forum to focus on Japanese cultural activities such as the tea ceremony and the art of wrapping with furoshiki. Today, the Women's Forum has become one of the chapter's most successful activities, thanks to Tsukamoto's vision and dedication.

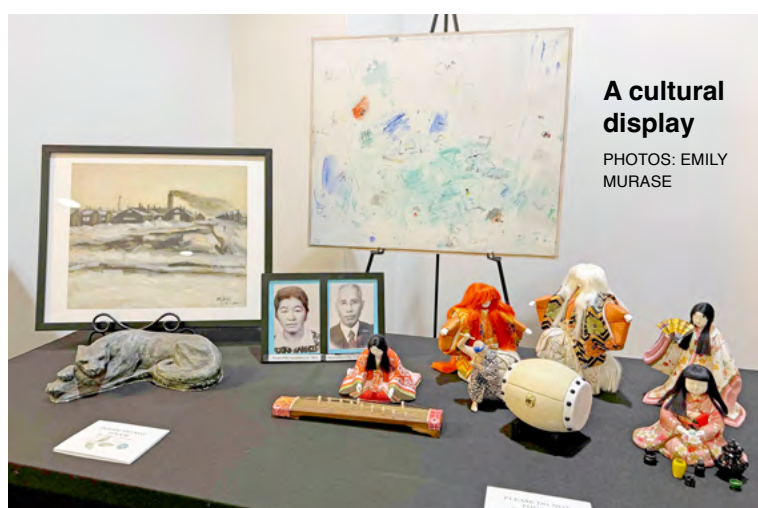
**Halle Sousa, District Youth Board:** Sousa has worked behind the scenes to expand youth engagement at the district and national levels for several years. She implemented an \$11,000

grant to enhance youth members from the district to the JACL National Convention and currently serves as the district representative to the National Youth/Student Council. Sousa is also vice chair of the NCWNP District Youth Board.

Finally, JACL Awards were presented to four stalwart JACL district leaders who represent 120-plus years of combined service to their chapters and the NCWNP District. Marcia Hashimoto of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz chapter received the Silver Pin for exemplary service to her chapter. Debby Hatanaka, Lily Kawafuchi and Mark Kobayashi each received the Sapphire Pin for their many years of service to the district and national levels.

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

**Pictured at the NCWNP Youth Board Fundraiser are (from left) Halle Sousa (San Jose chapter), Kiana Lovgren (Berkeley chapter) and Grant Nieda (Silicon Valley chapter).**



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## A MOTHER'S TAKE

# LOVE, LAUGHTER and PRELEUKEMIA

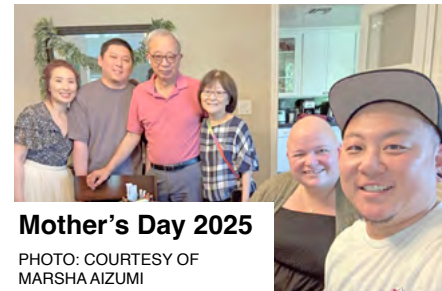
By Marsha Aizumi

To My Pacific Citizen Readers:

Since you have been with me on so much of my personal journey, I wanted to update you on what is going on with me at the present time. I know my column has been a bit MIA the past few months.

I went on sabbatical in February to rest and re-energize after leading Okaeri for 10 years. To be honest, I was tired, and the Okaeri steering committee and staff were all so capable that I felt I could step back and take a break.

During that time, I started experiencing a thumping in my head and sought medical advice. At first, my doctor thought it might be from stress and a vitamin deficiency, but blood tests showed something even more serious. My blood numbers were so low that I



Mother's Day 2025

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MARSHA AIZUMI

was put in the hospital and given a blood transfusion, then referred over to the City of Hope.

I am currently being treated at the City of Hope for something called MDS, which is preleukemia. I started what they call gentle chemo and then hope to move into a stem-cell transplant program.

In some sense, this journey has been what the Beatles called "A Magical Mystery Tour." There have been so many amazing things that have happened to me in these past two months and yet so much has been unfamiliar, so I have had

to lean into the unknown.

But I seem to see things in lessons or formulas. This formula for success (STAR) was given to me years ago, and when faced with adversity, I have referred back to it. In case any of you or people you love are facing challenges, it is my hope that these four areas will serve as inspiration for you. In the future, I hope to expand on these areas and how it is relating to my journey.

## THE STAR CONCEPT

**Sense of Purpose:** Having a powerful purpose has been shown as an important aspect of facing adversity and overcoming it. I had that when

Aiden came out as lesbian and then transgender. It helped me overcome my fear and stand up for him with LOVE. It gave me courage. Once again, I face adversity, and this concept has become my North STAR.

**Tabernacle Choir:** We all have a voice or images in our head that speak to us. Sometimes, that voice is positive, but for me, there are more times that I hear a voice filled with uncertainty, worry, anxiety and fear, especially during this challenging political climate and now my health. Replacing that negative voice has

always been important for me to step into the unknown with faith, optimism and confidence.

**Attention:** Where I am putting my attention during this challenging time is to focus on what I need medically while guided by these four words: Love, Laughter, Gratitude, Joy (LLGJ). I believe our immune system is strengthened by positive feelings and words, while our immunity can be lowered by pessimism, loneliness and helplessness. Don't get me wrong . . . I have had moments of anxiety, fear and other negative feelings, but in the end, I strive to let go of those feelings and focus on what is positive and brings me joy in my life.

**Reach Out for Support:** Having a strong support network has been crucial as I navigate any challenges. Of course, I have my wonderful husband, who has walked every step of the way with me. He has been my greatest supporter. And my sons and their partners have also been such an amazing source of LLGJ. I have also had a powerful network of people praying for me or sending me positive thoughts. I have two angels named Chris and Peter who have provided me with resource and valuable insights. They are a touchstone of love and positivity.

People have asked me how they can support me. The best thing you can do is send me positive thoughts, prayers and visualize me having 100 percent health. I have set up a Caring Bridge account and will send updates through that website ([www.caringbridge.org](http://www.caringbridge.org)). Just search for my name.

I have found new power within myself by focusing on my sense of purpose, replacing negative thinking with positive thoughts, leaning into love, laughter, gratitude and joy, while surrounding myself with a network of support. I am staying optimistic, feeling good and have the best medical team I could ever ask for at City of Hope. I'll keep you posted on my journey.

*'There are only two ways to live your life.*

*One is as though nothing is a miracle.*

*The other is as though everything is a miracle.'*

—Albert Einstein

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



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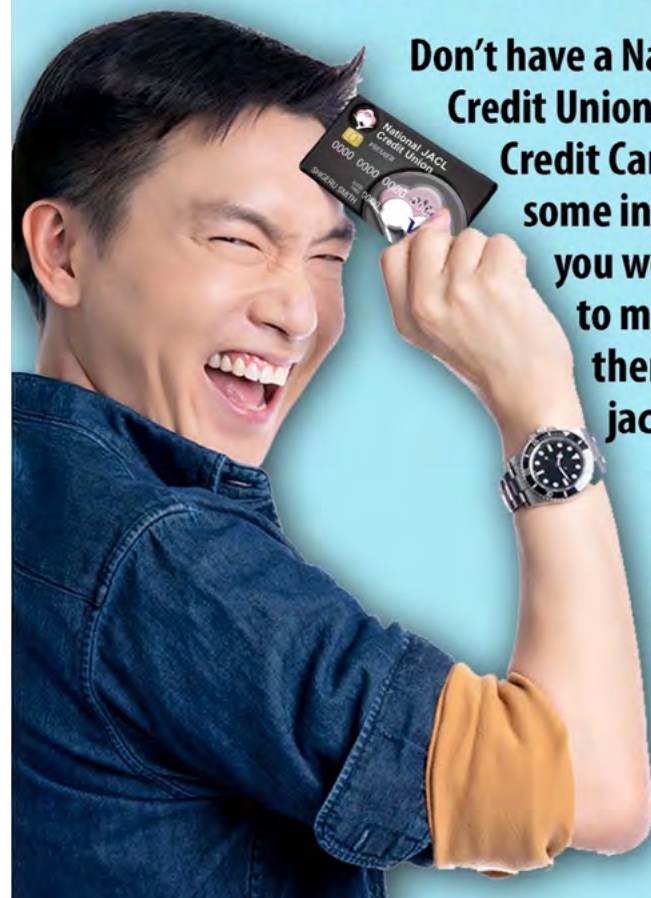
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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

NATIONAL

**2025 JACL National Convention**  
**Albuquerque, NM**  
**July 17-20**  
**Price: Registration Now Open.**  
Save the date for this year's JACL National Convention in the beautiful city of Albuquerque! This year's event will feature plenaries, special events and the annual Sayonara Gala. Full details, including how to register, are available on the JACL website.  
**Info: Visit [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org).**

NCWNP

**Japanese American Community Picnic**  
**Lodi, CA**  
**May 25; 11 a.m.**  
**Micke Grove Park**  
**San Joaquin Picnic Area**  
**11793 N. Micke Grove Road**  
**Price: \$10 Entrance Fee Per Car**  
The community is invited to enjoy a potluck lunch and races, games and fun events for all ages. Please bring enough food for your family and at least five to six more. Please also bring your own plates, utensils and drinks.  
**Info: Contact Derrick Egi at (209) 483-0511.**

**Changing Perspectives on Japanese American Incarceration**  
**Oakland, CA**  
**June 21 and 22; 9 a.m.-5 p.m.**  
**Oakland Asian Cultural Center**  
**388 Ninth St.**  
**Price: \$150**  
This two-day conference will feature speakers and workshops focused on Japanese American history. Registration includes lunch on both days. Featured speakers include Frank Abe, Dr. Satsuki Ina, David Inoue, Mike Ishii, Barbara Takei and Nancy Ukai.  
**Info: To register, visit [jampilgrimages.org/changing-perspectives](http://jampilgrimages.org/changing-perspectives).**

**‘Ni Do To: A Transplanted Pilgrimage’**  
**San Jose, CA**  
**Thru July 13**  
**Japanese American Museum at San Jose**  
**535 N. Fifth St.**  
This transformative lobby experience of shared connection journeys through ancestral joy, historical trauma and community resilience with the narrative of Japanese American incarceration

through various interactive technologies.  
**Info: For info, visit <https://www.jamsj.org/ndt>.**

PSW

**‘Rite of Passage: The Story of Japanese American Redress’ Screening and Q & A Discussion**  
**Thousand Oaks, CA**  
**May 24; 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
**Thousand Oaks Grant R. Brimhall Library Community Room**  
**1401 E. Janss Road**  
**Price: Free**  
The Ventura County JACL presents this screening of Janice D. Tanaka's documentary that will also include a Q & A discussion with former JACL leaders John Tateishi, Ron Wakabayashi and camp internee Marilyn Yoshiko "Winkie" Takahashi Fordney.  
**Info: Email [infovcjacl@gmail.com](mailto:infovcjacl@gmail.com).**

**San Diego Premiere of ‘League of Dreams’ Film**  
**San Diego, CA**  
**May 31; 4 p.m.**  
**Ultrastar Cinemas, Hazard Center, Mission Valley**  
**7510 Hazard Center Dr. Suite 100**  
**Price: General Admission \$20; JACL, PacArts, API Coalition, ABA/JABA Members \$15; Seniors/Students \$10**  
Don't miss the San Diego premiere of "League of Dreams," Lane Nishikawa's new American film examining the 95-year history of the Japanese American Citizens League, the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the U.S.  
**Info: For tickets, visit [www.jaclsan-diego.org](http://www.jaclsan-diego.org).**

**Annual Summer Natsu Matsuri Festival**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**June 21, Noon-9 p.m.; June 22, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.**  
**Venice Japanese Community Center**  
**12448 Braddock Dr.**  
**Price: Free**  
This two-day event will feature festival food favorites, games, martial arts demonstrations, a taiko performance, ondo dancing, Japanese cultural exhibits, music and dance featuring Elemental Funk and much more.  
**Info: Visit [www.vjcc.com](http://www.vjcc.com).**

**LTCC Annual Dance Benefit**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**June 28; Doors Open 6-11 p.m.**

**Nishi Hongwanji Kaikan**  
**815 E. First St.**  
**Price: Tickets Start at \$50**  
This year's benefit dance will feature live music performed by Kokoro. All proceeds will support the mission of the Little Tokyo Community Council.  
**Info: For questions, contact [info@littletokyola.org](mailto:info@littletokyola.org).**

CCDC

**Art of the Word: ‘Once Upon a Book — Featuring the Illustrations of Grace Lin’**  
**Fresno, CA**  
**Thru June 29**  
**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

**Grand Opening of ‘Far From Home: The Internee Experience at Fort Missoula’**  
**Missoula, MT**  
**May 31; Noon Ribbon Cutting**  
**The Historical Museum at Fort Missoula**  
**Building 322, Fort Missoula**  
This exhibit explores how internees survived and created meaningful experiences while incarcerated at Fort Missoula during World War II. This grand-opening event will feature a ribbon-cutting ceremony and refreshments.  
**Info: RSVP to Matt Lautzenheiser at [mlautzenheiser@missoulacounty.us](mailto:mlautzenheiser@missoulacounty.us) or call (406) 258-3471.**

**‘Sadako and Paper Cranes: Through Our Eyes’**  
**Portland, OR**  
**Thru Sept. 7**  
**Japanese American Museum of Oregon**  
**411 N.W. Flanders St.**  
In observance of 80 years since the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, this exhibit examines the devastation of nuclear war through the eyes of Sadako Sasaki.  
**Info: For information, visit <https://jamo.org/sadako/>.**

**2025 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage**  
**Powell and Cody, WY**  
**July 24-26**  
**Heart Mountain Interpretive Center**  
**1539 Road 19**  
**Price: Pilgrimage Registration Prices Vary**  
This year's pilgrimage is designed to inspire hope and resilience for future generations. Featured events include the premiere of "Hello Maggie!" the stamping of the Ireicho, the debut of a short film exploring cultural connections to Heart Mountain, multigenerational discussion groups, a transformative art healing workshop and the ever-popular Sayonara Banquet.  
**Info: For more information and to register, visit [www.heartmountain.org](http://www.heartmountain.org).**

IDC

**‘Uncovering the Journey: Japanese American Pioneers in Box Elder County’**  
**Brigham City, UT**  
**Thru June 21**  
**24 N. 300 West**  
**Price: Check Museum for Admission Pricing**  
Explore the rich history of Box Elder County's Japanese American community. Discover the untold stories of early agricultural settlers, local war heroes and pioneering civic leaders. This exhibit highlights the lasting impact of Japanese Americans on Box Elder County's culture and history.  
**Info: Visit <https://brighamcitymuseum.org/uncovering-the-journey-japanese-american-pioneers-in-box-elder-county>.**

MDC

**Kansha Project Culmination**  
**Chicago, IL**  
**June 28; 3:30-6:30 p.m.**  
**Midwest Buddhist Temple**  
**435 W. Menomonee St.**  
**Price: Free**  
Over the past 11 years, the Kansha Project has become a flagship program of JACL Chicago, sending more than 100 alumni across cohorts to Los Angeles' Little Tokyo and the Manzanar National Historic Site. This program will celebrate participants' experiences as they share and reflect on their 2025 trip.  
**Info: For free tickets, visit <https://bit.ly/kanshaculmination2025>.**

**2025 Crystal City Pilgrimage and Conference**  
**San Antonio, TX**  
**Oct. 9-12**  
**Conference Portion: DoubleTree**  
**San Antonio Airport Hotel**  
**611 N.W. Loop 410**  
**Price: \$395**

Registration is now open for this year's pilgrimage and conference, themed "Crystal City Rising — Neighbors Not Enemies." Event programming will be centered around the present-day attacks on immigrant communities, concluding with a visit to the site of the former prison camp in Crystal City. Participants will also have the opportunity to stamp the Ireicho book.  
**Info: Visit [www.crystalcitypilgrimage.org/2025-pilgrimage](http://www.crystalcitypilgrimage.org/2025-pilgrimage).**

EDC

**77th Annual Memorial Day Service**  
**Fort Meyer, VA**  
**May 25; 10 a.m. EDT**  
**Arlington National Cemetery Columbarium**  
**1 Memorial Ave.**  
**Price: Free**  
This year's annual commemorative service is presented by JACL National and the D.C. chapter along with the Japanese American Veterans Assn. and National Japanese American Memorial Foundation.  
**Info: Visit [jacl-dc.org](http://jacl-dc.org).**

**Japanese War Brides: Across a Wide Divide**  
**Delray Beach, FL**  
**Thru Aug. 17**  
**Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens**  
**4000 Morikami Park Road**  
**Price: Museum Admission**  
This exhibit explores the lives of more than 45,000 Japanese women who immigrated to the U.S. in the aftermath of WWII. It illuminates previously unknown American immigration stories and offers a space to rethink how we hate, why we love and what it means to be American.  
**Info: Visit <https://morikami.org/upcoming-exhibitions/>.**

**Arts of Japan**  
**Boston, MA**  
**Ongoing**  
**Museum of Fine Arts**  
**465 Huntington Ave.**  
**Price: Museum Admission**  
This exhibit is dedicated to Japanese prints.  
**Info: Visit <https://www.mfa.org/gallery/arts-of-japan>.**

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# 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.)



**Asato, Herbert, 95**, Kailua, HI, Feb. 16.

**Ashida, Ronald Hiroshi, 79**, Fresno, CA, April 14.



**Daniels, Ritsuko 'Nancy,' 89**, Spokane, WA, Nov. 21, 2024.

**Hara, Eleanor Naoko, 94**, Walnut, CA, Feb. 28.

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

**Hashimoto, Leslie Miyoko, 38**, Sandy, UT, Jan. 28.

**Hongo, Yoshiko 'Yo,' 98**, Los Angeles, CA, March 12.



**Ichiuji, Mary 'Bea' Aramaki, 97**, Phoenix, AZ, April 7.

**Ishioka, Tatsuo Roy, 84**, Culver City, CA, Jan. 1.



**Itami, Linda Kuenstler, 81**, Mesa, AZ, April 14.

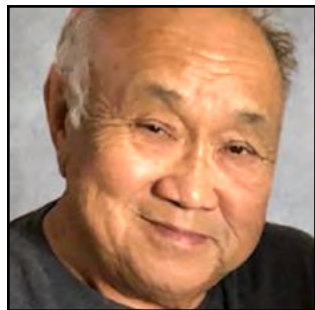
**Kozaki, Rand Harold, 72**, San Bernardino, CA, Feb. 20.

**Kurakusu, Hideo, 97**, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 18.

**Murphy, Chiyoko, 97**, Torrance, CA, Feb. 24.

**Nagabe, Nancy Yorimi, 85**, North Hills, CA, Dec. 10, 2024.

**Nagano, Michihiro, 92**, San Jose, CA, April 6.



**Namba, William 'Bill' Toshio, 82**, Fresno, CA, March 29.

**Nishimoto, Franklin Kiyohide, 91**, Huntington Beach, CA, April 24.

**Nishimura, Pauline Michiko (Itano), 89**, Carol Stream, IL, April 4.



**Ogawa, Ken, 91**, Milwaukie, OR, April 17.

**Ota, Jacqueline Kiyomi, 83**, Santa Monica, CA, March 18.

**Sasaki, Lori Lynette, 65**, Lodi, CA, April 20.

**Sato, Harry Yoshito, 91**, Rolling Hills, CA, April 7.

**Takei, Kazuko, 95**, Monterey, CA, April 13.



**Tanaka, Gonbee, 89**, San Francisco, CA, April 6.

**Tashima, George Susumu, 96**, Los Angeles, CA, April 10.

**Tsutsui, Deborah Lynn, 70**, Grover Beach, CA, March 7.

**Ueda, Chieko, 89**, Torrance, CA, March 24.

**Ueno, Henry Masuo, 96**, Portland, OR, March 9.



**Vaillancourt, Jacob John Nakaji, 25**, Campbell, CA, March 21.

**Yamada, Ken 'Andy,' 67**, Beaverton, OR, March 31.

**Yamasaki, Gordon Kaoru, 73**, Gardena, CA, April 11.

**Yanagisawa, Kiyoko, 92**, South Pasadena, CA, March 28.

**Yanari, Mitsie Mitsuko, 98**, Pasadena, CA, Nov. 29, 2024.

## News Briefs

### Injured Japanese American Bicyclist Suspects Hate Motivated Attack

Aki Maehara told the *L.A. Times* the driver of car that struck him April 29 as he rode an e-bike in the suburb of Montebello, Calif., directed a racial epithet at him before hitting him. The 71-year-old Japanese American professor, who has taught the history of racism in the U.S. at East Los Angeles Community College and the history of the Vietnam War at California State University Long Beach, suffered injuries to his elbow, neck, cheekbones, jaw, hips and lower back. Because he has been harassed in the past while teaching and because he was wearing a full-face helmet that hid his facial features, he told the *Times* that he believes he may have been the target of a hate crime and shared with the police the name of a possible perpetrator. No arrests have been made.

### Suspended H.S. Baseball Coaches Reinstated After Ethnic Taunts at Game

The Pinole Valley High School varsity baseball team's coaches have been reinstated this month after being suspended following an April 23 game with Albany High School. An Albany High School parent made the accusation that during the game, chants of "Baljeet" — the name a South Asian character from the TV cartoon "Phineas and Ferb" — originated from the Pinole Valley dugout when an Albany pitcher, who is of South Asian heritage went to the mound. When another Albany player — of Chinese heritage — entered the game, he was taunted with, "P.F. Chang, is that you?" and "He can't see through those eyes." (P.F. Chang is a Chinese-style restaurant chain.) Following an investigation by the West Contra Costa Unified School District, head coach T'won Blake and assistant coach Will Tipton were reinstated because it could not be determined that the taunts did in fact originate from the Pinole Valley team's dugout.

### Oakland's Mayor-elect Taps Miya Saika Chen for Chief of Staff Role

Barbara Lee, the mayor-elect of California's other major city on the San Francisco Bay, has appointed Miya Saika Chen to serve as her chief of staff. Saika Chen's résumé includes 20 years of local, state, and federal government experience. Lee was scheduled to be sworn in May 20. Former Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao was recalled by voters Dec. 17, 2024. She and three associates were later indicted on charges of bribery, conspiracy, and mail and wire fraud.

### Japanese Government Taps Orange County Duo for Spring 2025 Decorations

Kimiko Fujita of North Tustin, Calif., and Makiko Shirai of Santa Ana, Calif., have been named by the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles to receive Spring 2025 Decorations of Japan honors. Fujita, who was one of six honorees recognized May 4 with a Woman of the Year award presented by the Japanese Women's Society of Southern California and the Downtown Los Angeles Chapter of the JACL, will receive the Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays. Shirai, who will receive Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Rays, joined the Consulate-General of Japan in Los Angeles on Sept. 1, 1988, serving for more than 35 years until her May 3, 2024 retirement.

### UConn Alum Kaitlyn Chen Drafted By, Cut From Golden State Valkyries

Former UConn guard Kaitlyn Chen, a third-round draft pick by the WNBA's Golden State Valkyries, was cut May 14 after she made her professional debut May 6 in Los Angeles in a preseason game against the Los Angeles Sparks. She scored two points in eight minutes of play.

### Visual Communications Announces VC Archives Artists in Residence

The Los Angeles-based AANHPI community-based media nonprofit announced its four new VC Archives Artists in Residence. They are filmmaker Mia Barnett, director-screenwriter Derek Benig, filmmaker and multidisciplinary artist Habiba Hassaan and storyteller Linda Wei.

### Journalist Chan Tapped as USC Annenberg Senior Fellow After CJR Firing

The University of Southern California announced that Sewell Chan will be a senior fellow at the USC Annenberg Center for Communication Leadership & Policy, focusing on the fight for press freedom in the U.S. The news came after reports that the former *Texas Tribune* editor in chief was fired in April following an eight-month stint as executive editor of the *Columbia Journalism Review*. When Chan was hired, Dean and Henry R. Luce Professor of Journalism Jelani Cobb said, "We could not be more excited about working with him as he charts a new course for the *Columbia Journalism Review*."

— P.C. Staff

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# Japanese American Citizen League New Mexico Chapter

**The JACL New Mexico Chapter  
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are excited to welcome you to the**



**JACL National Convention  
in Albuquerque, New Mexico  
July 17 - 20, 2025**



**Soar in a  
one-of-a-kind  
balloon ride**

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**Visit the Botanic Garden,  
Aquarium and Zoo**



**Hike Sandia's  
trails or ride the  
longest tram in  
the Americas  
to the crest**

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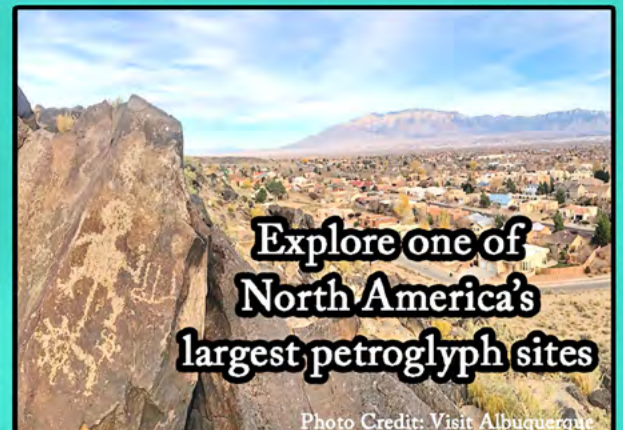
**Visit historic Old Town**

Photo Credit: Julia O'Connell



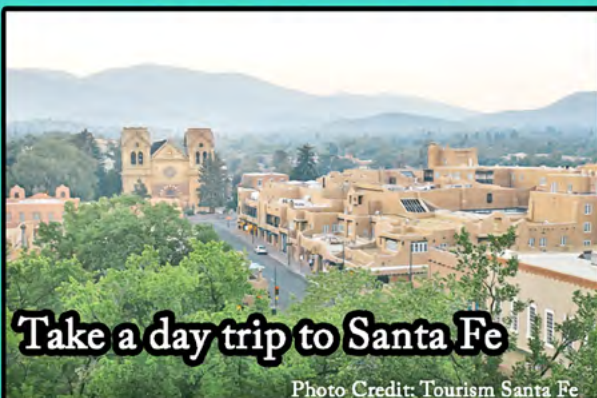
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**Take a day trip to Santa Fe**

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