



PACIFIC CITIZEN

The Monterey Peninsula Flag inside JANM's main hall. Made in the 1930s, the flag is set to undergo a complete restoration.

PHOTO: KRISTEN HAYASHI

CELEBRATING
96
Years

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**IT'S A
GRAND
OLD FLAG**

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**'Changing
Perspectives' Opens
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JACL ANNOUNCES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DAVID INOUE'S DEPARTURE



A statement from JACL National President Larry Oda issued July 7 announced the departure of David Inoue as the organization's executive director, effective July 2.

In the statement, the JACL's National Board extended "its sincere appreciation for his service and

contributions to the organization and wishes him continued success in his future endeavors."

JACL also announced that Regional Director of the Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District Patty Wada and Director of Finance Tom Fernandez were named to provide executive

leadership for the organization during the transition.

The National Board was also quoted as stating, "The JACL

National Board will continue to work closely with staff, members and community partners during this transition period."

The statement also read: "Please be assured that this leadership transition will not impact our deep commitment to our membership, coalitions and the communities we serve. We are confident in the path ahead and remain focused on advancing the mission and values of the JACL."

— P.C. Staff

JACL AWARD HONOREES ANNOUNCED

Art Director Leo Akira Yoshimura and USC's Dr. Carol Folt set to receive awards at the organization's upcoming National Convention.

By JACL National

SAN FRANCISCO — JACL National is pleased to announce two national awards to be conferred during the 2025 National Convention in Albuquerque, N.M., set for July 17-20. The two awards to be presented are:

- President's Lifetime Achievement Award to visionary art director Leo Akira Yoshimura
- Robert Emmett Fletcher Jr. Humanitarian Award to Dr. Carol Folt.

Both recipients will be honored at the organization's Sayonara

Gala, which will conclude JACL's annual convention on the evening of July 19. These awards are given to select individuals to recognize their contributions not only to the Japanese American community but also the advancement of their fields for the betterment of all people.

The JACL National Board confers these awards with consultation from other leaders in the Japanese American community and past JACL leaders.

JACL applauds both awardees for their accomplishments and looks forward to recognizing them at the convention this month.

PRESIDENT'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: LEO AKIRA YOSHIMURA



The JACL President's Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to an individual in recognition of outstanding national leadership in promoting civil and human rights and/or representing the Japanese American community over

their lifetime.

Leo Akira Yoshimura is a second-generation Japanese American born and raised in Chicago as one of 11 children. Growing up, his mom urged assimilation. "Wear clothes that do not bring attention." "Do not ruffle feathers." "Even if your teachers are wrong, do not disagree with them." "Go unnoticed." "You must be more than the SAME so that you can never be sent to Manzanar again."

Yoshimura refused to be the SAME, refused to be INVINCIBLE — but it came with a price. Growing up, he was described as "that Jap," but deciding NOT to be invisible had positive results. He attended Loyola University, joining theater group, where he designed and built scenery — the first Japanese American to do so.



LETTER to the EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Why should the fact that "Little Tokyo is a Community of Immigrants" protect or exempt us from

immigration anger and violence? Have Japanese Americans/JACL/JANM (Democracy Center, I'm thinking of you) actively supported other immigrant/minority communities? Besides an occasional "tsk tsk" in a newspaper article that is ...

Why don't JACL chapters suggest (or demand) their members contact their Congressional representatives

to vote against a repressive law or a representative who voted for such laws? And march in protests. And donate funds. Or, should we simply ask for more apologies after we're slapped around or incarcerated again?

Perhaps we should stop being so nice, quiet and polite and focused on the past and then surprised

when we are included in a city's immigrant anger. Perhaps we can do something now. Something supportive. Something more. Something louder.

Sincerely,

Susan Handa,
Los Angeles, Calif.,
Venice/West Los Angeles
JACL Chapter



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➤ He then went on to study scenic design at the Yale School of Drama, the first Japanese American to be admitted to the prestigious design program; he received an MFA in 1971. From New Haven, Conn., Yoshimura moved to New York and worked as a design assistant for both opera and Broadway.

In 1975, in a career-defining decision, and despite a self-described lack of sense of humor, he accepted a position as an art director for a new TV show, “Saturday Night Live,” which was another first for a Japanese American.

This past year, Yoshimura celebrated his 50th season designing for “SNL.” Over that time, he has received 13 Emmy Award nominations, won seven times, and also received seven Art Directors Guild Awards. He continues his studies at the Art Students League of New York.

Throughout the past 50 years, Yoshimura has been acutely aware of his status as “that Jap.” He is proud of his professional accomplishments and, indeed, of being first in his

chosen field. He attributes his success to always finding a way to say “yes” and takes intense pleasure in being able to say “he’s done his work,” both as a designer and as a Japanese American.

ROBERT EMMETT FLETCHER JR. HUMANITARIAN AWARD: DR. CAROL FOLT

The Robert Emmett Fletcher Jr. Humanitarian Award seeks to honor individuals who have demonstrated exceptional courage and compassion by taking selfless actions to support Japanese Americans, particularly in times of injustice. Named after Robert Emmett Fletcher Jr., a white agricultural inspector who courageously stood by Japanese American families during their forced incarceration in World War II, the award will recognize individuals from outside the Japanese American community who have made a significant impact in advocating for justice, equity and humanity.

Dr. Carol Folt serves as the 12th president of the University of Southern California and holds the Robert C. Packard President’s Chair.



Known for always placing students at the center, she is a collaborative academic leader and an internationally recognized life scientist with faculty appointments in biological sciences, civil and environmental engineering and population and public health sciences.

Since joining USC in 2019, Dr. Folt has advanced academic excellence and innovation; increased accessibility and affordability; elevated belonging and inclusion; driven significant growth in the USC Health System; made meaningful advancements in sustainability; prioritized shared governance; enhanced USC’s winning legacy in athletics with honor and integrity; increased cross-school collaboration; built a new Capital Campus in the heart of Washington D.C., expanding USC’s role within the national conversation; amplified USC’s research enterprise; and established USC’s most comprehensive academic and research initiative, embedding ethics, analytics and artificial intelligence across the university’s scholarly and creative work.

Dr. Folt serves as past chair of the Association of American Universities board of directors and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and

Sciences in 2024.

Prior to USC, Dr. Folt served as chancellor of UNC-Chapel Hill and held several leadership appointments at Dartmouth College, including interim president, provost, dean of faculty and Dartmouth Professor of Biological Sciences.

She also is a distinguished scientist whose pioneering research on the effects of dietary mercury and arsenic on human and ecosystem health led to numerous national and global policy changes and consumption advisories.

Dr. Folt earned her bachelor’s degree in aquatic biology and a master’s degree in biology from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and her doctorate in ecology from the University of California, Davis.

Under her leadership, in 2022, the University of Southern California finally conferred degrees to 33 Nisei who were denied their college degrees because of their forced incarceration during World War II as a result of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Executive Order 9066. A rock garden on USC’s campus was also dedicated in honor of those Nisei who were forcibly removed and denied their education. (To read

more about Folt’s involvement in awarding the posthumous honorary degrees to the families of USC’s WWII-era Japanese American students, see the April 15, 2022, issue of the Pacific Citizen at <https://tinyurl.com/4w4x8vck>.)

The 2025 JACL National Convention will be held from July 17-20 in Albuquerque, N.M. Based at the Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town, JACL will host a series of workshops, plenaries and film screenings for attendees and community members.

This year’s theme, “Voices in Unity,” builds upon the plethora of stories that come from New Mexico, whether it be Japanese Americans incarcerated at Santa Fe, Native peoples who served as Codetalkers in WWII or the scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. It also comes from the multitude of stories within the Japanese American community and broader civil rights community.

To register for the convention or purchase tickets to specific events, including the Sayonara Gala, please visit: <https://jacl.org/2025-national-convention>. Full registration or Sayonara Gala tickets must be purchased no later than July 9.



A MOTHER’S TAKE

Embracing MDS

By Marsha Aizumi

When I first heard my diagnosis of MDS or preleukemia, I walked around in shock and disbelief. I didn’t feel sick, except for the thumping in my head. Doctors would ask me, “Are you fatigued, dizzy, short of breath?” especially when my hemoglobin was at a critical level (5.9), and I would respond, “No.” They would look at me and say things like, “Hmmm, that is interesting,” or, “That is unusual.”

In the beginning, I felt defeated momentarily, then I would bring up my fighting spirit, deciding giving up was not an option because I had too much to live for. But fighting seemed so hard, when I needed all my energy to heal. So, I made the decision to embrace my diagnosis, lean into this new journey, be grateful for my medical team, my family’s support and the community that was sending me so much love. I was also so grateful that the sabbatical I had taken gave me time and space to discover I had this “imbalance in my body.” This may sound strange, but I decided to “love” my MDS away.

The hardest part for me was changing my attitude from “I can’t

do this” or “I am sad about that” because I was missing out on things that were important to me or brought me joy. But I realized that I could not do anything about missing out on those things. What I could bring was a different perspective that would allow me to find ways to still experience events, even though it was not what I originally expected.

Case in point . . . I was sad that I could not attend Aiden’s baccalaureate, especially since he was speaking. But Mary videotaped his speech, and I now have this moment forever.

Next, the doctor told me I could not attend Aiden’s master’s graduation because my immune system would be at its lowest and large crowds were not advisable. For a moment, that made feel like I would be missing an important event. But then the doctor said that if I wanted to celebrate with the family afterwards and have dinner, he thought that would be OK.

Fortunately, the graduation was livestreamed, so in the air-conditioned comfort of my home, along with snacks, soda and my comfy sofa, I had a front-row seat. That day, the temperature was 100 degrees, and the graduation was outdoors. Aiden



The Aizumi family gathers to celebrate Aiden getting his second master’s degree.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MARSHA AIZUMI

even suggested that his younger brother and girlfriend should watch it with me, so I didn’t feel so alone. Stefen and Cat ordered decorations and came early to decorate. Then, Papa and Stefen went to get food that Aiden selected, so he and Mary came straight from the graduation to my home. It was a perfect day!

Finally, Aiden and Mary were chairing a Family Fun Day for Pride month. I had attended the three previous Family Fun Days, helping with set up and decorating, but once again, there would be many people, so I decided it was safer to stay home. Papa, Stefen and Cat attended, and this time there was no livestream . . . I was alone. However, I volunteered to watch Aiden and Mary’s dog, Kuma, so they didn’t have to worry about feeding Kuma, since it was an all-day affair.

I asked Tad to take some photos and videos if he was able. He sent me a number of videos and pictures. But then, something very magical happened. People started to send me texts with videos and photos, telling me what a good job Aiden and Mary were doing and what a

wonderful and fun event this was. Bantering back and forth with a number of people made me feel I was actually at the event. It was not the same as attending, and I could dwell on that, but I chose to focus on what I could do and be grateful for those moments.

I have learned that I have a choice as I walk through this new life with MDS. And choosing to find the beauty and the silver lining in every situation has made me feel empowered, rather than a victim

to this disease. Focusing on love, laughter, gratitude and joy continues to be my North Star, and it has served me well. I believe what you put your attention on is what you attract more of.

I leave you with this saying that my father used to repeat to me as I was growing up. In a way, I feel that he is on this journey with me because of this Serenity Prayer. May it bring comfort and support to anyone who is facing a challenge . . .

‘God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, And wisdom to know the difference.’

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.”



PFLAG Pasadena and SGV API celebrating Pride



“Legacy of JACL” panel participants (from left) Alice Yang, Jonathan van Harmelen, Chizu Omori, Lisa Doi and David Inoue

PHOTO: MARK SHIGENAGA

‘Changing Perspectives on Japanese American Incarceration’

The legacy of JACL takes center stage at the two-day conference in Oakland, Calif.

By Rob Buscher,
P.C. Contributor

Approximately 150 Japanese American scholars, artists and community organizers from around the country converged at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center on June 21-22 for a conference titled “Changing Perspectives on Japanese American Incarceration.” Its stated purpose was to have an intentional dialogue about topics that are not frequently discussed within the Japanese American community. The brainchild of 95-year-old Poston survivor Chizu Omori, this conference was organized by Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages, whose team ran logistics. The event also featured more than a dozen panel discussions, workshops, individual presentations, film screenings and Glenn Mitsui’s “Wakasa Spirit Stone” art installation.

The conference began with sessions that provided a general

historical grounding for the discussions that would follow. This included sessions titled “Multiple Sites and Complexity of Wartime Incarceration” and “Pre-War Origins of Incarceration.” The former examined what remains at each of the physical sites of confinement, while the latter explored the Yellow Peril and Asian Exclusion periods as precursors to the wartime incarceration.

After a Chinese banquet lunch at the nearby Peony Seafood Restaurant, the group reconvened for a multifaceted program about the Tule Lake renunciants. Tule Lake Pilgrimage Committee Chair Barbara Takei provided background on the topic, then introduced Emiko Omori’s new film “Defiant to the Last: The Story of the Tule Lake Jail.”

After brief remarks from the filmmaker, two descendants of renunciants Will Kaku and Jeff Ogata gave personal testimonies about their fathers’ ordeals during

Tsuru for Solidarity’s Mike Ishii and Dr. Satsuki Ina

PHOTO: LYDIA TANJII



and after World War II. Of particular note was a story that Ogata shared of a childhood memory in Little Tokyo when his father was spit on by another man he knew from camp. Ogata never found out who the man was or why it happened, but he guessed it was because his father had been a renunciant.

The first day of the conference concluded with a panel discussion titled “The Legacy of JACL,” which featured scholars of the incarceration Alice Yang and Jonathan van Harmelen, Chizu Omori, JANM curator and JACL Chicago past president Lisa Doi and JACL National Executive Director David Inoue.

Framed as one of the main topics in the conference, the session’s introduction touched on the Lim Report, which was made available to attendees in printed form. Commissioned by the JACL in 1989 to investigate the extent that the organization colluded with the federal government during WWII, the report was compiled by Deborah Lim, an attorney and instructor in Asian American Studies at San Francisco State University.

Highly critical of the JACL’s wartime activities such as supporting the government’s decision to forcibly remove and mass incarcerate Japanese Americans, the Lim Report

includes proof that Mike Masaoka and other wartime JACL leaders collaborated with the Army and other intelligence agencies, informed on Japanese American dissidents and attempted to suppress internal dissent within the community.

The report also reveals the great extent to which JACL leadership continued to condemn No-Nos and resisters in the postwar era, further damaging their standing in the community. Given its incriminating conclusions, the Lim Report has long been a source of tension within the Japanese American community. Critics of the JACL allege that the organization’s leadership continues to suppress it from public view.

The session began with a presentation on the history of JACL’s legislative advocacy by Harmelen. Omori then followed with her research demonstrating the JACL’s failure to resist the forced removal and subsequent animosity toward JACL officials in camp. As a specific example, she recounted the beating of Fred Tayama as an inciting incident to the Manzanar uprising, which occurred shortly after his return from a JACL meeting in Salt Lake City where a resolution was passed encouraging the government to allow Japanese Americans to be conscripted for military service from

within the WRA prisons. Another example was the murder plot at Puyallup targeting Jimmy Sakamoto, a founding member of JACL who advocated total cooperation with the government.

“Fortunately, the murder plan did not go through, though an effigy of Sakamoto was created,” Omori commented. “It was spat on, urinated on and then burned. I understand that such an effigy of Mike Masaoka was also created. Having heard something like that really jolted me and made me realize that throughout the incarceration, there was bad blood between the JACL and some Issei and Kibei. I consider this a tragedy of epic proportion where immigrant groups go through a transition when the old world of the immigrant confronts the new world of America, and there is a generational conflict. In our case, it played out in the camps, leading to tragic results. The JACL leadership assumed positions of power, pushing an assimilationist, patriotic stance. They had a right to their position, but it enabled the government to use them, to be played by government authorities, leaving the camps to roil in a constant state of potential violence.”

Doi gave a compelling presentation of research related to the progressive youth JACL staff in the Pacific Southwest during the late 1960s, naming figures such as Warren Furutani, Ron Hirano, Victor Shibata and Ron Wakabayashi. Doi described the hiring of this cohort as a sea change moment, suggesting that by the early 1970s, these Sansei progressives on the JACL staff succeeded in affecting a major culture shift within the organization. This effort was not without its detractors, as Doi would then share many examples of letters to the editor in the *Pacific Citizen* in which JACL members opposed some of their more progressive statements.

» See CONFERENCE on page 8

Tule Lake Committee Chair Barbara Takei



Sisters Chizu and Emiko Omori

PHOTOS: MARK SHIGENAGA

Post-‘*CRAZY RICH ASIANS*,’ a Pair of Rom-Coms Arrive

‘Worth the Wait’ and ‘Meet Cute in Manhattan’ give Asian American flavor on a beloved genre.

By Paul Goodman,
P.C. Contributor

In the rom-com, a genre built for audiences to escape and meet cute, fall in love and get swept away in a larger-than-life, whirlwind romance, there are always some who identify more with the supporting cast than the main characters.

In classic Western rom-coms like last-century’s “You’ve Got Mail” (1998) and “When Harry Met Sally” (1989), as well as more recent takes such as 2011’s “Crazy, Stupid, Love.” or 2012’s “Silver Linings Playbook,” the main cast, and the perspectives of the main characters, represent what the film industry believes are the acceptable love stories that audiences will pay to see.

Usually, that identifies with one shared, homogenous and common characteristic, a visual pallet so bland you rarely have to ask the waiter how to pronounce it. That was until 2018, when one movie delivered the *umami* for which many had been so desperately searching. Budgeted at \$30 million, the latest tally for “Crazy Rich Asians” has it at a worldwide boxoffice gross of just under \$175 million, surely one of the more profitable recent rom-coms made.

That success opened the doors for new stories, new protagonists, new flavors in the vanilla scoop that was the American romantic-comedy culinary landscape. Over the seven years after “CRA’s” release, we’ve had storied hits like “To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before” (2018), “Always Be My Maybe” (2019) and “Beef” (2023), which cast Asian Americans in lead roles, facing traditional first-world problems common to all, like exploring high school crushes or dealing with road rage.

In other words, studios realized that they’ve been serving the same Kraft Velveeta on Wonder Bread toast to audiences hungry for cultural significance, ideas and people that cater to a 21st-century American demography.

This spring, timed to celebrate AANHPI Heritage Month, two films — “Worth the Wait” and “Meet Cute in Manhattan,” both of which can be viewed on Tubi and other streaming services — stepped up to continue the path first forged by “Crazy Rich Asians” and deliver Asian American faces and voices in roles that audiences had in the past been denied.

Seattle was the backdrop for

one of the most iconic rom-coms in cinema history, “Sleepless in Seattle,” which included iconic landmarks such as Pike’s Place, Alki Beach and Lake Union, venues that, upon viewing that movie, you wouldn’t believe are located in a city where almost 20 percent of its residents identify as Asian or Asian American.

That’s not an issue in Tubi Original’s “Worth the Wait,” which follows the arcs of three different relationships that all intersect in different ways throughout. Yes, the entire starring cast is Asian-identifying, but this movie doesn’t wave a flag throughout, pronouncing any heroism for merely casting with the same broad strokes as its counterpart Seattle narrative “Sleepless.”

“Worth the Wait” instead gives us the meet cutes and dorky falls, the quippy lines and flirty smiles of a real American love story. There’s rom and there’s com, and the film’s Asian-ness is only a distracting point to those who can’t believe these six people could fall in love.

It took “Crazy Rich Asians,” blatantly warning viewers in the title, that they were about to watch a film about (gasp) Asian people, to invent a media space where Asian stories can be about everyday things. Pregnancy, young love, distance, hardship, fear and trauma don’t need an Asian suffix to be a movie about Asian people.

Just like no one needed to identify Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan to authenticate their love stories, “Worth the Wait” does us the respect of presenting love stories we can relate to without having to hold audiences’ hands and explain the latter half of *Asian American*.

For one of the distaff cast members of the three couples, Ali Fumiko Whitney (Riley), who also served as an executive producer, “Worth the Wait” was a project that represented that perspective. “I’m very passionate about being a part of projects that tell these stories and cast Asian talent,” she told the *Pacific Citizen*. “That was a big reason why I wanted to help EP this film and hopefully many more films with more Asian stories and Asian actors and directors and writers.”

While giving the platform for a modern love story, “Worth the Wait” also speaks to the generational journey of many Asian Americans. Poignant questions for many people in the community, “What generation are you?” and “How far away are you from your immigrant ancestors?” in this film



that follows many different central characters and narratives, the main protagonists might all have different answers.

Curtis, played by “The Fast and the Furious” franchise fave Sung Kang, is a rideshare driver and may say first or second generation. Same with Mary, played by Kheng Hua Tan, the mother and stepmother of a couple hoping to get pregnant.

There are later generation characters like Leah, played by Lana Condor and hapa Asian Americans, as well as expats and international stories.

“Worth the Wait” puts on full display a complex tapestry of Asian American experiences and interweaves these characters through their relationships. There isn’t one type of Asian, just like there isn’t one type of love story.



(Top left) “Worth the Wait”

(Top) “Meet Cute in Manhattan”

(Above) Terrence Chen and Kendall Leary re-create a scene from “Lady and the Tramp” in “Meet Cute in Manhattan.”

(Left) Ricky He and Ali Fumiko Whitney co-star in the ensemble Asian American cast of “Worth the Wait.”

Romantic love, platonic love, familial love all mirror the identity and history of a vast migration of peoples, a fictional community that came to be in the very real neighborhoods of Seattle.

Another icon of rom-com city backdrops is undoubtedly New York City. Whether a chance encounter in a coffee shop or a fated meeting atop the Empire State Building, New York, and especially Manhattan, is the one of the focal points for fictional love in the known universe.

» See ROM-COMS on page 9

STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER? YES, INDEED

Monterey Peninsula JACL's grand old flag is set to have a starring role in a 2026 JANM exhibition.

By George Toshio Johnston,
P.C. Senior Editor

Most Americans likely associate the word “big” with redwood trees, blue whales, elephants — maybe the state of Texas.

How about Monterey, Calif.? Huh?

Abalone? Affirmative. Cannery Row? Concurred. The Monterey Bay Aquarium? Aye aye. But when thinking “big,” the beautiful seaside-adjacent locale is not typically what comes to mind.

Think again. Why? For that, one must first revisit 1938, before the Japanese American Citizens League had reached its 10th birthday, when Japanese Americans living on the Monterey Peninsula were thinking very, very big, and the community decided to make a very, very big statement with a gargantuan American flag.

According to Larry Oda, JACL national president and stalwart member of the Monterey Peninsula JACL chapter, Monterey's Fourth of July parade “used to be a big deal” back then. The chapter wanted to participate and show its patriotism. The idea of a float got floated but lost air when it was realized that only a limited number of people could ride one.

“Someone came up with the bright idea that, ‘Hey, if we make a banner of some sort, we could all carry it,’” Oda told the *Pacific Citizen*. “And someone decided, ‘Well, what about an American flag?’”

But not just any run-of-the-mill, ordinary stars and bars — it needed to be big. Really big. And for a job this big, this demanding, this labor intensive, this important, the task fell to the only group of people within the Monterey JACL with the requisite skills to make it

happen: the chapter's women's auxiliary.

There was, of course, a real-world reason the Issei and Nisei versions of Betsy Ross volunteered to do it. “They were the ones that knew how to sew,” said Oda. And “sew” it began.

◇◇◇

What the Monterey JACL brought to the 1938 Fourth of July parade was, by all accounts, a stellar success, a sight and delight to behold. At 40 feet by 70 feet, the grand

The Monterey Peninsula grand flag, unfurled for repair work, nearly fills the entirety of the floor space of JANM's main hall.

PHOTO: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON



Japanese American National Museum CEO and President Irene Hirano, Sen. Daniel K. Inouye and Larry Oda of the Monterey Peninsula JACL pose behind the folded grand flag at a ceremony in front of the museum in Little Tokyo to mark the flag's addition to the JANM collection in August 2001. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MONTEREY PENINSULA JACL

new flag was believed to be the largest American flag in the state, maybe in the country (sorry, Texas). Nearly 50 women and men were needed to carry it taut along the parade route. Each stripe was the width of a bolt of red or white fabric. It took some 1,250 woman-hours to complete. The cost of the materials was \$100, equivalent today to \$2,280. If the labor hadn't been voluntary, who knows how much that would have added to the cost.

One of the behind-the-scenes stars of the grand flag project was, Oda says, Grace Kodama, mother of Beverly Ito, who now serves as Keiro's president and CEO. The family owned a dry cleaner in Monterey, and Kodama was an accomplished seamstress who also figured out how to cut the 48 five-pointed white stars needed for the blue field.

“There's lots of legends about this, that the flag that the women of the chapter handmade it,” Oda said. It depends, of course, on how “handmade” is defined. Regardless, Kodama was savvy enough to realize that sewing the different pieces together by hand was impractical. Oda noted that Ito had told him that her mother bought an industrial sewing machine to sew the flag. “If you look at the stitching, you can tell it's a machine stitch,” Oda said.

The Monterey JACL grand flag proved to be so popular that in the remainder of the 1930s and into the early 1940s, it was loaned out and paraded at many different venues, parades and county fairs from San Francis-

co to the Salinas/Monterey/Watsonville areas and, during World War II, in Utah. After the war, it was paraded through the streets of Idaho Falls, Idaho, by Nisei military veterans who had returned home.

Somewhere along the line, though, the chapter lost track of the flag. No one seemed to know what happened to it or where it went.

“We thought that we'd loaned it to somebody, and no one gave it back,” Oda recalled. But can anything that big really be lost? Evidently not because according to a letter that accompanied the flag when it was donated to the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo, it was rediscovered in 1971 “in a state of disrepair” in a trunk in the chapter's JACL Hall. The found flag made a comeback, though, appearing regularly at Monterey Fourth of July parades in the 1980s and '90s.

So, how did the Monterey grand flag end up in Los Angeles this past April, spread across the floor of the Central Hall at JANM? The answer to that goes back a quarter century.

◇◇◇

In 2000, the JACL held its then-biennial convention in Monterey, Calif. According to Oda, this was a time when JANM would have a booth at JACL conventions — and at the JANM booth that year were Nancy Araki and Florence Ochi.

The chapter, meantime, had been discussing what to do with the flag, which was stored in a trunk in the JACL Hall's basement. According to Oda, Araki and Ochi said, “You should give it to us. We'll take care of it.”

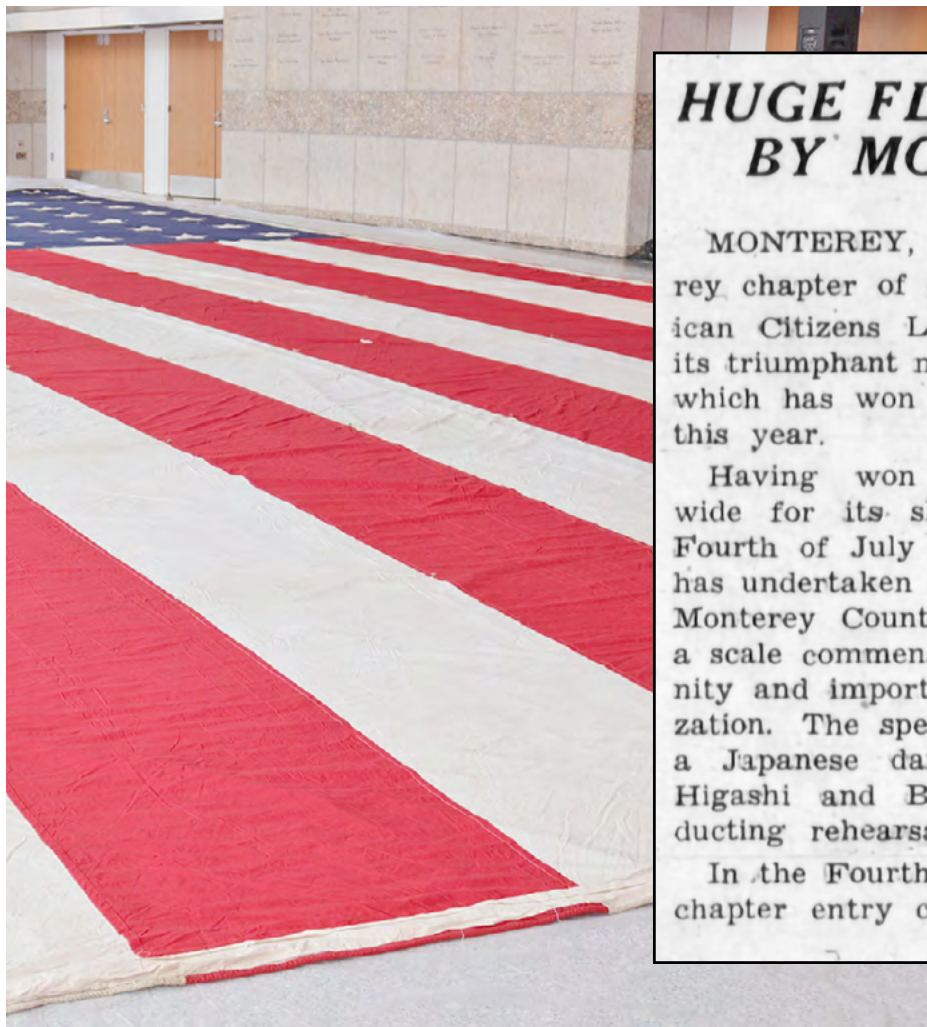
“To us it was a good idea,” Oda said. “That way, it'll be preserved.”

A plan was made to have the grand flag participate in one last Fourth of July parade in



The Monterey Peninsula JACL's grand flag was last publicly displayed in Little Tokyo at the 2001 Nisei Week Parade before it was turned over to JANM, where it has been stored for nearly a quarter century.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MONTEREY PENINSULA JACL



HUGE FLAG BORNE IN FOURTH LINE BY MONTEREY PENINSULA CHAPTER

MONTEREY, Calif.—The Monterey chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League is continuing its triumphant march in civic events which has won for it wide acclaim this year.

Having won plaudits far and wide for its showing on the big Fourth of July parade, the chapter has undertaken to participate in the Monterey County Fair program on a scale commensurate with the dignity and importance of the organization. The special offering will be a Japanese dance number. Clara Higashi and Beth Gota are conducting rehearsals.

In the Fourth of July parade the chapter entry carried an American

flag, made by the young folks of the chapter, which is believed to be the largest one in California.

It took 50 second generation to carry the immense banner along the line of march, and it was loudly applauded. The Monterey Evening Herald said:

"The Japanese American citizens group, bearing their magnificent great flag, received much well-earned applause. Not only did these young people do a big job in making the flag but theirs was the hardest work of all in the line of march, holding it taunt the entire distance."

The flag measures 40 by 70 feet. Materials cost \$100, and it took 1,250 working hours to complete.

Pacific Citizen article from July 1938 about the then-new grand flag made by the Monterey Peninsula JACL chapter

PHOTO: PACIFIC CITIZEN ARCHIVE

its hometown just days after the 2000 JACL convention wrapped and then transport it to Little Tokyo. "That was the last time we carried it down Alvarado Street, which is the main street in Monterey."

In 2001, the Monterey Peninsula JACL's grand flag made its Los Angeles debut as part of that year's Nisei Week parade before going to JANM. What happened to it then? According to Dr. Kristen Hayashi, JANM's director of Collections Management and Access, "It's been in storage, folded in a military triangle since it came to the museum."

◇◇◇

With the museum currently closed and with plans under way for a new core exhibition that the flag could be a part of in 2026, the time was finally right to resurrect Old Glory. With the floor of the Central Hall available to examine, clean and repair it, the grand flag was brought out of storage. Just like the flag, JANM itself is undergoing a substantial renovation.

"One of the outcomes of this renovation is to create a new core exhibition," said Hayashi. Its title is "In the Future We Call Now: Dreams of Democracy, Realities of Racism," and the big flag will be a big part of it.

The team at JANM literally had its hands full dealing with an artifact of this size. According to Hayashi, the flag's condition had to be assessed, and it needed to be photographed for documentation purposes. It also needed to be vacuumed, no easy task for something this large. Tears needed to be repaired and discolorations tended to by a company that specializes in fabric restoration.

"There were these ropes that were originally attached on the underside of the flag so that they could hold onto the flag for the parades," Hayashi told the *Pacific Citizen*.

"Normally, we don't remove anything that's original from the artifact. But in this case, we felt that the ropes were doing more harm, like they were causing abrasion and to the flag, to the material." But the location of where the ropes had been were photographed and documented if there ever was a need to someday put them back.

Another factor: Exposure to light and air can accelerate the flag's deterioration. To be a part of next year's exhibition, it would need a custom-made protective case; for that, the museum enlisted the services of Ralph Appelbaum Associates.

As part of "In the Future," the flag will be in its new display case, folded into a triangle, Hayashi said, and juxtaposed with the museum's actual concentration camp barracks, also undergoing a renovation. On one hand, there will be the flag, which represents aspirations of Japanese Americans who were "trying to show their patriotism, loyalty to this country." On the other will be the stark barracks, representing what can happen when America strays from its ideals. "I think seeing those two artifacts together will be very poignant," she said.

In 2026, then, and two years short of the 90th anniversary of its public debut, the Monterey Peninsula JACL chapter's grand old flag will make its return to being in the public eye. Its journey has been both glorious and pitiable, and it has earned every blemish, abrasion and stain on it, not unlike the nation it represents.

"Just reflecting on this work that we're doing on this enormous U.S. flag, I think has been very meaningful to me," Hayashi said, "and it really underscores JANM's mission, which is to promote appreciation and understanding for America's ethnic and cultural diversity through the experience of the Japanese American story."

JOIN THE SEARCH

Help Marsha & Others Find a Lifesaving Stem Cell Donor

Marsha Aizumi, a beloved community leader, advocate, and founder of Okaeri, is seeking a life-saving stem cell donor.

YOU CAN SAVE LIVES!



Earlier this year, Marsha was diagnosed with Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS), a form of pre-leukemia that requires a stem cell transplant. **A matching donor could save her life**—but like many patients of Asian descent, finding a match is especially difficult due to **underrepresentation in the national registry**.

Marsha has dedicated her life to creating safe and inclusive spaces for LGBTQ+ individuals and families, particularly in the Asian American & Nikkei community. **Now, she needs our help.** Support Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC) and Okaeri in registering stem cell donors to find a match for Marsha!

YOU CAN HELP!

By joining the NMDP registry to be a potential donor, you could be a life-saving match for Marsha—or someone else! All it takes is a **simple cheek swab**.

To register, you must be:

- Between the ages of 18 and 40
- A resident of the U.S., its territories, or freely associated states
- Able to meet NMDP's health guidelines
- Not already registered through another U.S. organization

Attend an in-person registry event with LTSC and Okaeri:

June 6-8, 2025: 4PM-11PM

Orange County Fairgrounds

June 21, 2025: 9AM-1PM

Ripple Effect: Walk for Suicide Prevention

June 28, 2025: 10AM-7PM

Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute Matsuri

July 11-13, 2025: 4PM-11PM

Santa Anita Park

July 19-20, 2025: 2PM-8PM

Orange County Buddhist Church Obon Festival

August 2-3, 2025: 3PM-9PM

Gardena Buddhist Church Obon Festival

More info: www.LTSC.org/MatchforMarsha



Scan to learn more



CONFERENCE » continued from page 4

Inoue gave the final presentation of the panel, which began with a slight tone of rebuttal as he offered some thoughts on JACL's wartime strategy as an outgrowth of the lack of a Japanese American political voice: "A lot of this goes back to the idea of power, who has political capital and the ability to influence things. During the war, I think Japanese Americans found themselves without that ability to influence — we didn't have that power."

Inoue expanded his remarks to share the JACL's postwar success of building coalitions with NAACP, enabling the organization to become a founding member of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. Among JACL's resulting contributions to other civil rights victories, this included passage of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965.

Inoue did not shy away from criticism of the JACL's past decisions, as he admitted that the 1965 legislation indirectly led to the acceleration of the model-minority myth. He linked this example to the larger issue being discussed, saying, "This goes back to what happened during the war with how there are oftentimes ancillary effects of what we do, that some populations might be affected negatively, obviously in

the case of the resisters." Inoue then ended his remarks by talking about contemporary advocacy issues in which the JACL is engaged, and he also called for Japanese Americans to work toward building greater unity within our own communities.

During the discussion that followed, Takei challenged JACL to address its own history in perpetuating the loyal-disloyal narrative, citing the 2019 Tule Lake apology resolution as a failure, due to the amendments made at the National Convention that year.

The 2019 resolution was met with staunch resistance from a handful of influential members who opposed the resolution's original text. Takei shared, "The initial resolution that was circulated among many Japanese American organizations had language that was acceptable, respectful and would have begun the healing of that divide. And apparently, the conservatives at the convention that year hijacked the process, added language that not only justified the organization's hostile behavior but also added language that demonized more people and created more hurt." Takei then challenged the organization to do better, adding, "On behalf of all the people who were in Tule Lake who were so demonized by the



The two-day conference was held at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center.



Artist Glenn Mitsui's "Wakasa Spirit Stone" art installation

PHOTOS: ROB BUSCHER

organization for so many decades, why can't you fix this?"

Inoue responded by explaining the challenges of working through the National Council to build consensus on policy decisions. Inoue then shared his opinion, saying, "I think at the time, that probably is the best that JACL can do." Another audience member then challenged the JACL to honor the original terms of the resolution, which included a public apology ceremony to survivors and descendants of Tule Lake.

Tsuru for Solidarity Executive Director Mike Ishii offered comments to diffuse the situation. "This is an amazing conference that is bringing scholars, organizers and activists together to open up the conversation, but it's not the same as a repair process," he said. "A repair process has to be thought about very intentionally — it's not a drive-by, it won't be a one-time conversation — it needs input from the community whose agency was stolen from it during the war and had no collective process around its future and what was happening to it." Following Ishii's contribution, the conference adjourned for the day.

The next morning began with two break-out sessions that offered a variety of options. This included panel discussions on kidnapped Japanese Latin Americans at Crystal City and JA incarceration on indigenous land, individual presentations about mass deportation

today and postwar resettlement outside of the West Coast, as well as workshops on family genealogy and digital storytelling. After a lunch break, the full audience reconvened for a presentation by Mitsui, who exhibited his art installation "Wakasa Spirit Stone," followed by a panel discussion with other members of the Wakasa Memorial Committee.

Next came the session led by Tsuru for Solidarity co-founders Dr. Satsuki Ina and Ishii that was formatted as an intimate conversation between two self-declared best friends who, in Ishii's own words, "should not be friends based on our histories." Ishii's grandfather was the outspoken JACL leader Jimmy Sakamoto, who was nearly murdered in camp. Ina was born in Tule Lake, the daughter of renunciants Itaru and Shizuko Ina. The session challenged attendees to consider how institutional white supremacy has succeeded in dividing our community from one another and explored ideas of repair.

Ina offered remarks, reflecting on the significance of the conference. "This gathering is an experience of repair," she said. "We are talking to each other in ways that it has taken decades for us to. Leaders have emerged, stories have been uncovered and we know so much more about our history now than we have before."

The session then explored possible strategies for repair, including efforts to understand the root of our own

individual hurt as the start of a self-healing journey. One attendee shared that because they so deeply loved their late grandfather who was a member of the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee, they felt indebted to be angry on his behalf. Upon further reflection, they were uncertain if he would want them to carry such anger forward in current times.

Ishii linked these comments to the resister issue. "None of us have control over the circumstances that we were born into. We have to grieve that, what we can't change," he said. "Around the fractures of this community, we keep looking in the rearview mirror, wanting something different. It's not going to change, it's done. What we can do now is grieve to heal this deep sense of despair and loss for lost opportunities or disappointments or real suffering that took place."

This conference has laid the groundwork for further conversations to repair the deep wounds inflicted by JACL's wartime strategy and its long-reaching impact on No-Nos, renunciants, resisters and their descendants now more than 80 years later.

Recordings of the conference are available free online on JAMPilgrimage's website and YouTube channel at www.jampilgrimages.org/changing-perspectives-session-recordings.



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ROM-COMS » continued from page 5

“Meet Cute in Manhattan” is the other new Asian American rom-com that pays homage to the city and the genre but also manages to also subvert it in its own way.

Writer, executive producer and lead actor Terence Chen appears in a New York coffee shop wearing a Jeremy Lin jersey when love interest Nora (Kendall Leary) spills a drink on him. That’s where these characters meet, and, like so many other meet cutes in film history, that’s where their relationship begins. Contradicting stereotypes but reinforcing the standard boy-meets-girl trope is that Chen’s character, Jason, is forward and asks her out. Not only does he ask her out, but he has charm and charisma. She is attracted to him.

It is refreshing to see Jason as an object of desire, an Asian male lead amid Hollywood’s history of emasculating typecasting and neutered side characters, especially from Nora, who fits a classic American appeal, only further validating Jason’s machismo for those that might be more comfortable with romantic segregation.

Both “Meet Cute in Manhattan” and “Worth the Wait” identify with

Asian heritage while delivering a latter-day American romance. Being Asian American is at the core of both these stories, but from the choir’s perspective, they are never preaching.

In a post-“CRA” world, the release of these films comes in an era of storytelling where we don’t have to justify why we are here. Like the generations before us that often sacrificed everything for a better future, these films can represent the lives they built. Characters, not totally free from discrimination, are free to love and have crushes, be artists, live good lives, marry whoever they chose.

A rom-com is the ultimate idealism, a cinematic escape where you are witty, beautiful and loved. For so long, that space was strictly reserved for the usual suspects. But with each generation, the feast grows, and audiences have shown that a rotating table is just as good as a square one.

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

Anaheim City Council Recognizes Veteran Norio Uyematsu



Members of the Anaheim City Council, family and friends congratulated 94-year-old Korean War veteran and Salt Lake JACL member Norio Uyematsu on June 10 in honor of his enduring commitment to preserving and promoting the stories of Korean War Veterans and in deep appreciation of his advocacy, dedication and service to the history of the United States. Pictured (from left) are Councilmember Carlos A. Leon; Bishop Marvin Harada, BCA; John and Jeanne Masaki; Patti Hirahara; Councilmember Natalie Rubalcava; Councilmember Ryan Balus; Norio Uyematsu; Mike Uyematsu; Anaheim Mayor Ashleigh Aitken; Mayor Pro Tem Natalie Meeks; Councilmember Kristen Maahs; and Councilmember Norma Campos Kurtz.

Anaheim resident Uyematsu has been busy in 2025, from having his story on the front page of Japan’s *Asahi Shimbun*, having his Day of Remembrance interview debut on the FDR Presidential Library’s YouTube site, which now has more than 1.2K views, being featured on KABC-TV’s “ABC7 Salutes” program for his Korean War Service and being a featured speaker in Los Angeles’ Korea Town on June 21 for the 75th anniversary observance of the beginning of the Korean War on June 25, 1950, where he spoke about his Korean War service and was acknowledged with a standing ovation.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE CITY OF ANAHEIM



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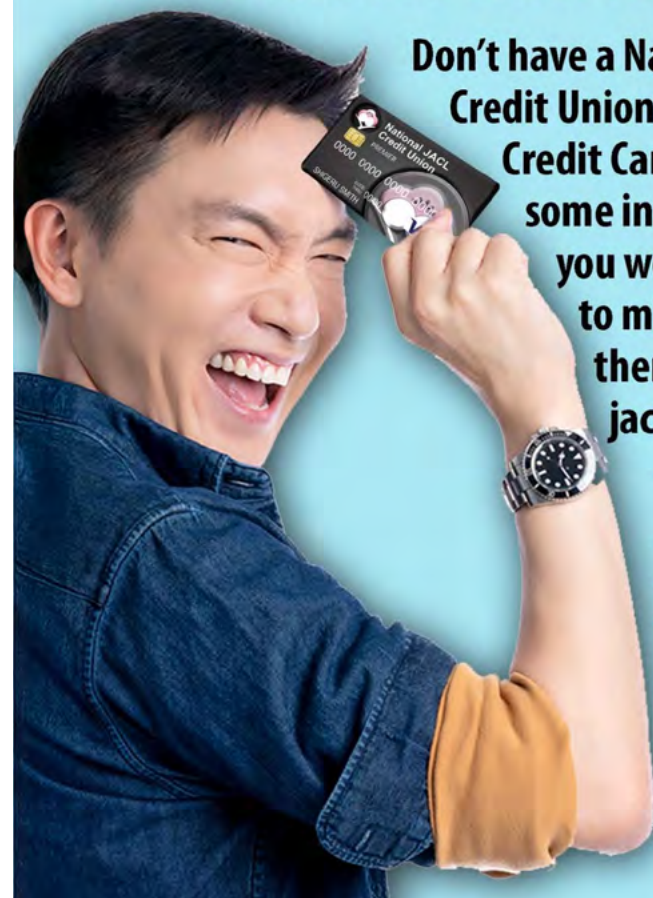


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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

NATIONAL

2025 JACL National Convention
Albuquerque, NM
July 17-20
Price: Registration Is Open.
This year's National Convention in the beautiful city of Albuquerque 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.

NCWNP

‘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: Visit <https://www.jamsj.org/ndt>.

2025 Mountain View Buddhist Temple Obon Festival and Bazaar
Mountain View, CA
July 19, 4-9 p.m.; July 20, Noon-8 p.m.
Mountain View Buddhist Temple
575 N. Shoreline Blvd.
Price: Free
This year's festival and bazaar will feature delicious food offerings, games, cultural exhibits, performances, crafts and so much more! Don't miss this family-friendly event!
Info: Visit obon.mvbuddhisttemple.org.

2025 Okaeri Norcal Japantown LGBTQ+ Post-Pride Potluck
San Francisco, CA
July 19; 1-3:30 p.m.
The Center
1840 Sutter St.
Price: Free Entry; Registration Required.
This fun potluck, hosted by the Center and Okaeri, will be a great opportunity to meet other Nikkei LGBTQ+ folks and allies from around the Bay Area while enjoying delicious food.
Info: Visit <https://www.jccnc.org/events/2025-okaeri-norcal-post-pride-potluck/>.

‘League of Dreams’ Sacramento Premiere
Sacramento, CA
July 26; 1 p.m.
The California Museum
1020 O St.
Price: \$20 General Admission; Free for Students
The Florin JACL-Sacramento Valley and California Museum present this screening that will follow with a Q & A with filmmaker Lane Nishikawa and former JACL National Executive Director John Tateishi.
Info: For tickets, visit <https://tinyurl.com/SacPremiere>.

PSW

‘Brushed Between Worlds’ Art Exhibit
Albuquerque, NM
Thru July 25
Japanese American Cultural Center
1501 San Pedro Dr. N.E.
Price: Free
This exhibit will feature the artwork of local artists Junko Nakao and C. Hitoshi Nakagawa and their poetic nod to sumi-e, watercolor and storytelling rooted in nature and memory.
Info: For questions, call (505) 308-8090.

2025 Nishi Obon
Los Angeles, CA
July 13; Noon-6 p.m.
Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
Price: Free
This annual obon festival will feature delicious food, a produce market, entertainment, bingo, games and Obon Odori dancing from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Info: Visit www.nishihongwanji-la.org.

Sake in the Park
Los Angeles, CA
July 18; 7-10 p.m.
Grand Park in Downtown L.A.
Between First and Temple Streets
Price: Early Bird Until June 15 \$150; General Until July 17 \$175; At the Door \$200
This year's benefit, supporting Little Tokyo Service Center, includes unlimited food and drink from 20-plus breweries and food providers. Come on out and support a great cause and savor in delicious food and drink offerings.
Info: Visit www.LTSC.org/Sake.

Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
2025 Obon Festival
Culver City, CA
July 19-20; 3-9 p.m.

12371 Braddock Dr.
Price: Free
All are welcome to attend this year's festival that will feature food, games, a silent auction, opportunity drawing and Bon Odori dancing that will begin at 7 p.m.
Info: Visit VHBT.org.

8th Annual Keiro No Hi Festival
Los Angeles, CA
Sept. 13; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
Price: Free for Attendees 60+; \$20 for Attendees 59 and under; Registration Required.
This festival will feature live entertainment with performances by local older adults, food, vendors and much more. Registration is required before Aug. 22 or capacity is reached.
Info: Email events@keiro.org.

2025 VJCC Golf Tournament
Whittier, CA
Sept. 22
Candlewood Country Club
14000 Telegraph Road
Price: \$200
This year's tournament will be a handicapped four-person team scramble format, with the shotgun start at 9 a.m., followed by an awards and buffet lunch at 2 p.m. Registration deadline is Sept. 12. All proceeds will benefit the VJCC Building Fund.
Info: Email golf@vjcc.com or call (310) 822-8885.

RAP Arts and Crafts Fair
Los Angeles, CA
Sept. 27; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Venice Japanese Community Center
12448 Braddock Dr.
Price: Free
Don't miss your opportunity to get a jump-start on holiday shopping with this craft fair that will feature plenty of unique craft items and much more!
Info: Interested in becoming a vendor, contact lola.hongo@gmail.com, sluyeda83@gmail.com or shar6416@aol.com.

PNW

‘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
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 and the ever-popular Sayonara Banquet.
Info: For more information, visit www.heartmountain.org.

MDC

Intergenerational Conversations: ‘Ripples of the Past’ Program
Chicago, IL
Aug. 30; 3:30-6:30 p.m.
Midwest Buddhist Temple
435 W. Menomonee St.
Price: Free
This program from the JACL Chicago chapter brings Chicago-area Nikkei together to connect and process the trauma of WWII through personal story sharing.
Info: RSVP by Aug. 16. Visit <https://jaclchicago.org/programs/intergenerational-conversations/>.

Ground Blessing for Snow Country Prison Memorial and Pilgrimage to Bismarck
Bismarck, ND
Sept. 5
Courtyard of the Historic Barrack Building
This pilgrimage to Bismarck will celebrate the completion of the Snow Country Prison Japanese American Internment Memorial. The Bismarck Pilgrimage activities include a Native American ground blessing of the site, an honoring of those interned there during WWII and education programs and cultural performances.
Info: To learn more, visit <https://uttc.edu/about-uttc/visit-our-campus/snow-country-prison-memorial-at-bismarck/>.

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
Themed "Crystal City Rising — Neighbors Not Enemies," event programming will be centered around the present-day attacks on immigrant communities,

Participants will also have the opportunity to stamp the Ireicho book.
Info: Visit www.crystalcitypilgrimage.org/2025-pilgrimage.

EDC

‘Yakyu/Baseball: The Transpacific Exchange of the Game’
Cooperstown, NY
Opens in July
Baseball Hall of Fame
25 Main St.
Price: Museum Admission
This exhibit explores the exchange of baseball between Japan and the U.S. from the Meiji era to today and the transpacific circulation of baseball concepts, style of play and people that shaped the shared culture of the game.
Info: Visit <https://baseballhall.org>.

Think!Chinatown Summer Events
Chinatown Night Market
Manhattan, NY
July 25, Aug. 15, Aug. 30
Manhattan's Chinatown
Price: Free
Think!Chinatown's Night Market is here to build community with food and friends.
Info: Visit www.thinkchinatown.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 illuminates previously unknown American immigration stories.
Info: Visit <https://morikami.org/upcoming-exhibitions/>.

Celebrating Sano Gofu: 50th Anniversary of Sho-Fu-An
Duxbury, MA
Thru August
Art Complex Museum
189 Alden St.
Price: Museum Admission
This exhibit displays the paintings, sketches and architectural plans of Sano Gofu, a famous watercolor artist from Japan.
Info: Visit artcomplex.org.


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News Briefs

SCOTUS Ruling on Judges a Win for Trump
WASHINGTON — In a 6-3 ruling that split along ideological lines, the Supreme Court on June 27 ruled that federal judges lack the authority to grant nationwide injunctions. The ruling was a blow to groups that attempted to enlist federal judges to block at a national level President Trump’s executive order blocking birthright citizenship for U.S.-born children to people in the country illegally or temporarily, contravening the Constitution’s 14th Amendment, which automatically confers citizenship to anyone born on U.S. territory. The *Associated Press* reported, however, that “the court left open the possibility that the birthright citizenship changes could remain blocked nationwide.” Nonprofit group Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIA Vote) said the executive order also “seeks to deny citizenship to children born in the U.S. whose parents hold legal, nonpermanent statuses such as H-1B visas or Temporary Protected Status, unless a parent is a green card holder or U.S. citizen” and would have “serious consequences for all immigrant communities, including Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (APIs).”

UCLA Awards Hoshide Prize to Welty Tamai
The UCLA Asian American Studies Center has announced that the recipient of the 2024-25

C. Doris and Toshio Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Prize in Asian American Studies has been awarded to Dr. Lily Anne Welty Tamai. A continuing lecturer for the UCLA Asian American Studies Department for almost a decade, Tamai was recognized for “her innovative teaching and generous mentorship of undergraduate and graduate students, especially in fostering their intellectual and personal growth,” according to the UCLA AASC. “It is an honor to receive recognition for my teaching from the Asian American Studies Center for the Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Award,” said Tamai, who is also the co-president of the Ventura County JACL chapter and has authored a forthcoming book titled “Military Industrial Intimacy: Mixed-Race American Japanese, Eugenics and Transnational Identities.” The UCLA AASC also announced that the recipients of the 2024-25 Don T. Nakanishi Award for Outstanding Engaged Scholarship in Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies at UCLA are graduate student Yee Thao and undergraduate student Ryan Horio.

122-Year-Old Rafu Shimpō Leaves Little Tokyo
In a front-page announcement in its June 20 edition, the *Rafu Shimpō* announced that it will move from its office near Little Tokyo to the Los Angeles suburb of Montebello. The article stated that this relocation is “the first time in its 122-year history that the *Rafu Shimpō*’s headquarters will be outside of Little Tokyo or Downtown” and that the

newspaper, which publishes articles in English and Japanese, is “not immune to the pressures that have been faced by legacy Japanese American businesses trying to survive in Little Tokyo.” On Oct. 31 of last year, the venerable Los Angeles Japanese American community newspaper announced that it would go to a weekly publication schedule. In the 1980s, the *Rafu Shimpō* published six days a week.

2 Los Angeles Press Club Awards Go to P.C.
At its 67th Southern California Journalism Awards held June 22, the Los Angeles Press Club gave first-place and second-place recognitions to the *Pacific Citizen*’s George Toshio Johnston. In the News Feature, Society/Culture/History category, a first-place award was for the article “Finding Private Taira,” which was published in the Nov. 1, 2024, edition. The judge’s comment read: “A fascinating account of a woman looking for the final resting place of her uncle, a WWII veteran, in Italy — as well as piecing together clues from her family’s past. The writing is strong and compelling, and the similarities between then and now are included in a powerful way” (bit.ly/3QVgnh7). The second-place win was in the Entertainment News or Feature category for an article titled “No Joke — Coalition Pressures Offending Comedian” (tinyurl.com/mr3wk9yt).

Okinawa Marks 8th Decade Since Battle’s End
The *Stars and Stripes* reported that 4,000 people attended a June 23 ceremony at the

prefecture’s Peace Memorial Park to mark *Irei no Hi*, the 80th anniversary of the end of the Battle of Okinawa. The newspaper quoted Gov. Denny Tamaki asking the audience to remember the lessons from the battle and think of how to “break down the absurd current situation and bring lasting peace to the world.” In a separate report elsewhere on Okinawa, *Stars and Stripes* also reported that Marine Lance Cpl. Jamel Clayton, 22, who was convicted June 24 in Japanese court of strangling and attempting to sexually assault a woman, has appealed the verdict. He was sentenced to seven years in prison.

Accused Bombing Accessory Leaps to Death
The *Los Angeles Times* reported that Daniel Jongyon Park, 32, of Kent, Wash., who was arrested for allegedly shipping bomb-making materials to the man killed May 17 in the bombing that also destroyed a Palm Springs, Calif., fertility clinic, has himself died. Park, who was facing terrorism charges, died of injuries sustained after jumping from a balcony inside a federal detention facility in Los Angeles.

Prison for Execs in Defective Humidifiers Case
Gree USA Inc. executives Simon Chu, 70, of Pomona, Calif., and Charley Loh, 67, of Arcadia, Calif., were sentenced to federal prison for conspiring to defraud the U.S. and failing to report information about defective Chinese-made dehumidifiers.

— P.C. Staff

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.)

Bonnemere, Loretta Shizuko Uye-hara, 89, San Dimas, CA, June 13.



Fujikawa, Yoneo, 44, Bellingham, WA, Dec. 14, 2024.

Furuya, Yasuko Irene, 85, Monterey Park, CA, April 22.

Hamashita, Pamela Mary, 73, Mission Hills, CA, March 20.

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

Hirano, Kazuo, 88, Rosemead, CA, May 18.

Honda, Harold Haruo, 80, Los Angeles, CA, May 27.

Inouye, Dorothy Marion, 96, Monterey Park, CA, June 10.

Kimura, Masao, 96, Fountain Valley, CA, Dec. 21, 2024.



Kimura, Nancy Susan, 72, Cincinnati, OH, March 9.

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

Miyaguchi, Janis Emi, 65, Gardena, CA, March 2.

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

Oka, Irene Keiko, 78, Norwalk, CA, March 18.

Okamoto, Takashi, 95, Gardena, CA, June 2.

Otsuka, Stella, 101, Westminster, CA, May 9.

Ryozaki, Evelyn Izumi, 68, Los Angeles, CA, April 6.

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



Tokunaga, Sheryl Natsuhara, 69, Sacramento, CA, May 13.



Tomita, Rachel Teruko, 89, Huntington Beach, CA, Feb. 20.

Williamson, Emie, 75, Corpus Christi, TX, March 3.



Yamaguchi, Jimmie, 87, Fremont, CA, May 12.



Yamasaki, Yoshiko, 91, Gardena, CA, April 24.



Yamashiro, Jean Setsuko, 89, Honolulu, HI, Jan. 5.

PLACE A TRIBUTE

‘In Memoriam’ is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$25/ column inch.

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2025 JAACL NATIONAL CONVENTION

WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO!

JULY 17-20, 2025 - ABQ, NM

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- FILM SCREENINGS
- 3 PLENARIES
- A DOZEN WORKSHOPS
- YOUTH AWARDS LUNCH
- SAYONARA GALA
- NM COMMUNITY EVENTS!

CONVENTION SILENT AUCTION!

TAKE PART IN PERSON OR ONLINE!

SUPPORT JAACL'S NATIONAL YOUTH STUDENT COUNCIL'S 2025 SILENT AUCTION! ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS SUPPORTING THE NYSC AND CREATING THE LEADERS OF FUTURE GENERATIONS.

SILENT AUCTION WILL OPEN AT 6:00 PM MST ON JULY 17, 2025, AND CLOSE AT 7:00 PM MST ON JULY 19, 2025.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SILENT AUCTION IS OPEN TO ALL, BUT SOME ITEMS WILL NEED TO BE RETRIEVED IN PERSON BY 8:30 PM MST ON JULY 19TH, 2025, AT SAYONARA GALA.

VISIT [HANDBID.APP.LINK/JACL-SA](https://handbid.app/link/jacl-sa) OR DOWNLOAD THE HANDBID APP



CHECK OUT THE FULL SCHEDULE AND LIST OF WORKSHOPS ONLINE:

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT:
[JACL.ORG/2025-NATIONAL-CONVENTION](https://jacl.org/2025-national-convention)

