



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

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## 50 YEARS

THOMAS ADACHI •

## AFTER

CURTIS AND

## VIETNAM

HERMAN

### Ex-door gunner

DONALD F

### John Masaki reflects

MEIYUKI

### upon his war service

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### without regret.

SKYLAR H

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FRED HATA

MASAKI H

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IN MEMORY OF  
JAPANESE ANCES  
AND DIED IN TH

DONALD KITO \*

ROY KOBAYASHI

LIAM KONYU \*

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BERT MASUDA

ACE MATAYOSHI

N MATSUURA

» **PAGE 2** BU MIYAKE

JACL Congratulates  
Midterm Election  
Winners.

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Honoring the  
Military Service of  
Dr. Takashi Hoshizaki

PHOTO: GEORGET JOHNSTON





# 2018 MIDTERM ELECTIONS

By JACL National

The 2018 midterms have seen some victories for equity as voters around the country moved to elect officials who better represent them, their communities and this nation's increasing diversity.

For the first time in history, 100 women will sit in the House of Representatives in January. JACL congratulates the first Native American women elected to Congress: New Mexico's Deb Haaland and Kansas' Sharice Davids (also Kansas' first openly LGBT member of Congress) and the first Muslim women elected to Congress: Michigan's Rashida Tlaib and Minnesota's Ilhan Omar (also the country's first Somali-American legislator).

In addition, Ayanna Pressley has become Massachusetts' first Black congresswoman, and Veronica Escobar and Sylvia Garcia were elected Texas' first Latina congresswomen. California's Young Kim will also be the first Korean American woman to serve in Congress.

JACL celebrates these women, who represent the changing face of Congress and the hope that it can begin to serve the interests of all Americans.

JACL also celebrates the victories for civil rights that took place this election cycle. In Florida, Amendment 4 passed, restoring voting rights

to 1.4 million people — the largest enfranchisement since the Voting Rights Act. Also in Florida, Amendment 11 will revise the Florida Constitution to remove a provision that "aliens ineligible for citizenship" are not permitted to own property. This is reminiscent of the Alien Land Laws that prevented many Issei from owning property prior to the war.

Some races still remain to be determined, but regardless of the outcomes, we look forward to working with the new Congress when it convenes in January.

Following are AAPI candidates — federal, statewide and state office winners — that won their respective races in the Midterm Elections, held Nov. 6.

**Arizona:** Amish Shah, Kimberly Yee  
**California:** Ami Bera, Robert Bonta, Ed Chau, Phillip Chen, David Chiu, Steven S. Choi, Judy Chu, Kansen Chu, Tyler Diep, Vince Fong, Ash Kalra, Sydney Kamlager-Dove, Ro Khanna, Young Kim, Ted Lieu, Evan Low, Fiona Ma, Doris Matsui, Al Muratsuchi, Janet Nguyen, Richard Pan, Mark Takano, Phillip Ting, Betty Yee  
**Connecticut:** Tony Hwang, William Tong  
**Florida:** Anna Eskamani, Stephanie Murphy  
**Georgia:** Bee Nguyen, Sam Park, Sheikh Rahman

**Guam:** Lou Leon Guerrero, Michael San Nicolas

**Hawaii:** Henry J.C. Aquino, Della Au Belatti, Tom Brower, Rida Cabanilla, Romy Cachola, Ty J.K. Cullen, Lynn DeCoite, Stacelynn Kehaulani Eli, Jamie Kalani English, Tulsi Gabbard, Noe Galea'i, Cedric Asuega Gates, Sharon Har, Breene Harimoto, Mark J. Hashem, Troy Hashimoto, Mazie Hirono, Daniel Holt, Linda Ichiyama, David Ige, Lorraine R. Inouye, Aaron Johanson, Kaiali'i Kahale, Dru Kanuha, Jarrett Keohokalole, Michelle N. Kidani, Lisa Kitagawa, Bertrand Kobayashi, Dale Kobayashi, Sam Satoru Kong, Sylvia Luke, Scot Matayoshi, Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto, John M. Mizuno, Dee Morikawa, Sharon Moriwaki, Nadine Nakamura, Mark M. Nakashima, Clarence K. Nishihara, Scott Y. Nishimoto, Takashi Ohno, Val Okimoto, Richard H.K. Onishi, Sean Quinlan, Scott K. Saiki, Joy San Buenaventura, Calvin K.Y. Say, Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Gregg Takayama, Roy M. Takumi, James Kunane Tokioka, Ryan I. Yamane, Kyle T. Yamashita

**Idaho:** Susan "Sue" Chew  
**Illinois:** Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Theresa Mah, Ram Villivalam  
**Kentucky:** Nima Kulkarni  
**Maryland:** Kumar Barve, Mark Chang, Jay Jalisi, Clarence Lam,

Susan Lee, David Moon, Lily Qi, Kris Valderrama

**Massachusetts:** Tackey Chan, Sonia Chang-Diaz, Rady Mom, Tram Nguyen, Dean Tran, Donald Wong  
**Michigan:** Stephanie Chang, Padma Kuppa

**Minnesota:** Fue Lee, Kaohly Her, Samantha Vang, Jay Xiong, Tou Xiong

**New Hampshire:** Aboul Khan, Latha Mangipudi, Julie Radhakrishnan

**New Jersey:** Andy Kim

**New York:** Ron Kim, John Liu, Grace Meng, Yuh-Line Niou, Kevin Thomas

**North Carolina:** Jay Chaudhuri, Nasif Majeed, Muftaba Mohammed  
**Ohio:** Niraj Antani

**Oklahoma:** Cyndi Munson

**Pennsylvania:** Patty Kim

**Texas:** Angie Chen Button, Hubert Vo, Gene Wu

**Utah:** Jani Iwamoto, Karen Kwan

**Virginia:** Bobby Scott

**Washington:** Manka Dhingra, Mia Gregerson, Steve Hobbs, Pramila Jayapal, Joe Nguyen, Cindy Ryu, Sharon Tomiko Santos, Vandana Slatter, Monica Jurado Stonier, My-Linh Thai

**Wisconsin:** Josh Kaul

**Wyoming:** Mike Yin

Source: APAICS (Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies) as of Nov. 9

For more details on these elected officials, visit <http://apaics.org/aapi-candidates-new/>.

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Katharine Hirata

## JACL Welcomes New Norman Y. Mineta Fellow

By JACL National

**Washington, D.C.** — JACL welcomes its new Norman Y. Mineta Fellow, Katharine Hirata, to the Washington, D.C. office. Hirata joins JACL from the Bay Area, where she worked in development at YWCA San Francisco & Marin, a social

services nonprofit, and the Berkeley Student Cooperative, an affordable housing nonprofit. She also studied history at the University of California, Berkeley, and wrote her senior thesis about her grandmother's time at Poston, which inspired her to want to work for the JACL.

Hirata hopes to pursue a career in

public policy following the completion of her fellowship.

*The Norman Y. Mineta Fellow is funded through a grant from UPS. JACL Fellows receive travel benefits from Southwest Airlines, the official airline of the Japanese American Citizens League.*

The **Pacific Citizen's** mission is to "educate on the past Japanese American experience and to preserve, promote and help the current and future AAPI communities."

JACL member? ☒ Y ☐ N

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By Gil Asakawa

## NIKKEI VOICE

# SUSHI'S PLACE IN THE APPROPRIATION VS. APPRECIATION DEBATE



Authentic sushi in all its beautiful and artistic glory

I'm a snob about Japanese food. I can't deny that. I have strong opinions on the best tonkatsu fried pork cutlets, real vs. fake ramen and Japanese restaurants staffed by non-Japanese who can't pronounce menu items correctly. And, I'm pretty vocal about lousy sushi, even if many people think what they're eating is great.

That doesn't mean I won't pick up a tray of sushi at a supermarket, or dine at Japanese restaurants that aren't owned or run by Japanese. And I'm not offended — at least, not very much — by fusion dishes like sushirritos, those large sushi presented burrito-style with nori instead of tortillas.

Let's face it, one of the most wonderful example of cultural mashups — the Hawaii-born Spam Musubi — is an example of foodie fusion at its best. And Japanese curry, which is completely different from Indian or Thai curry, is a fusion dish that's a result of colonialism spreading the spice.

But I am offended by lousy Japanese cuisine presented as authentic, whether by Japanese or non-Japanese restaurateurs, that seems like a calculated marketing move to jump on a popular bandwagon.

Tokyo Joe's is one Colorado-based chain that was calculatingly designed to fill a culinary niche: fast-casual Japanese-inspired version of Panda Express' Chinese fare. The thought

that people who eat at Tokyo Joe's may think that's "real" Japanese food — it drives me crazy.

I've often griped about authenticity and appropriation in Japanese food and culture, from whitewashing Japanese characters with white actors and inaccurate portrayals of Japan in Hollywood and using that old-school offensive typeface "wonton," to disrespecting Japanese culture with poor imitations of its cuisine.

But my college roommate, Joe, who has for decades served to keep my head from blowing up too big, reminded me after one of my Facebook rants about authenticity that rock 'n' roll has its roots in cultural appropriation.

That made me think. And he's right. Rock 'n' roll music evolved out of a fusion of African-

American music (gospel, blues and jazz) with white Southern country and folk strains.

The primordial musical stew that cooked up Elvis Presley and other early rock pioneers was spiced with black artists who voiced the experience of the church and plantation, urban migration, racism and heartbreak.

But some of the major labels' early attempts to cash in on the rising popularity of black music with the young post-war generation (soon to be called baby boomers) were tepid whitewashed versions of black music, re-recorded by creepy white crooners like Pat Boone. But young people who knew better preferred the real deal, embodied in exciting, sexy, authentic (and black) performers such

as Chuck Berry and Little Richard.

White performers that caught the younger fans' attention had an authentic passion for black music, like Bill Haley and the Comets, Buddy Holly (who also wrote his own songs, which was revolutionary in itself) and, of course, King Elvis, who was mistaken for black when his first single went out over the radio waves.

But the competing processes of appreciation and appropriation — the real and the commercially invented (like Tokyo Joe's in our Japanese food example) — eventually converged into assimilation.

Black music became commercially popular in the form of Motown, soul music and the R&B of the 1960s and '70s, and white rock 'n' roll absorbed its original influences and then invented its own distinct styles, with the Beatles as the most obvious example.

So, is Japanese food undergoing its own period of assimilation after appreciation and appropriation?

It is, but I'm still in the appreciation camp. I look for the authentic experience and try to educate people about why I love the real thing. I know that change is inevitable, and that food culture by its nature absorbs, assimilates and evolves all the time. So, maybe out of the fakery will come new forms of Japanese-inspired cuisine. And maybe, I'll like it. Spam Musubi is a yummy example.

>> See SUSHI on page 9



By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

## LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

### DO I NEED A WILL???

Most of us are too busy with life to think about death. Perhaps that's why more than 64 percent of Americans don't have a will. According to a 2015 Rocket Lawyer survey, it's also partially because most people don't like to think about death and their own mortality. If you have not yet gotten around to writing your will, this article is written for you.

A 2016 Google Consumer Survey revealed that most people do not understand why they need a will. What most people fail to understand is that writing a will is really not about you at all. It is about helping your loved ones, i.e., not putting them through the legal and administrative turmoil that comes with dying intestate (i.e., dying without a will).

Perhaps, like many people, you plan to write your will just before you die. This is not a good idea. The obvious downside is that we really don't know when we are going to die.

Or, you plan to wait until you are close to death, i.e., very old and/or sick. But by then, you probably won't have the mental capacity to write your will.

Even the rich and famous die before they are able to write their wills. For example, this past summer, Aretha Franklin passed away at the age of 76. Even though she had been battling pancreatic cancer for quite some time, she didn't have a will. She even left behind a special needs son named Clarence who will need financial and other forms of support for his entire life.

In an interview with the *Detroit Free Press*, Franklin's longtime entertainment lawyer, Don Wilson (the estate's lawyer is David Bennet), doesn't paint a particularly optimistic picture.

"I was after her for a number of years to do a trust," Wilson said. "It would have expedited things and kept them out of probate and kept things private."

The one big lesson that can be learned from these celebrity deaths is that without a will, the surviving family members are left with a big old mess to clean up in probate court. In many cases, these messes can take years to be

sorted out after millions of dollars are spent in attorneys' fees and estate taxes.

Or, perhaps you might be putting off writing your will because you are waiting for some future event to happen before you make a will, e.g., "I'm expecting a child next year."

The problem with that strategy is that your life will never reach a point of "no change." Throughout your life, you could have changes in marital status, you may have children and you may eventually have grandchildren.

Many others think, "I don't have any assets, so I don't need a will." Wrong. You are not writing your will for today, your will is more likely to sit in a drawer for many years. You have absolutely no way of predicting the size of your estate when you die. In fact, you can be worth much more after you have died than you ever were alive.

Suppose your death was an accident, and somebody else was held responsible. There could be a substantial settlement that would go to your estate. Suddenly, the State (not you) determines who gets the millions of dollars from the settlement. You don't know when your will is going to come into effect, and

you have no idea what assets will be in your estate when you die.

The simple fact is — everybody needs a will. Even if your estate is small, relatives and friends will dispute how a deceased person's assets are dealt with and distributed. No will can sometimes mean a free for all. However, if you own your own home (paid for or not), a simple will is not enough.

In California, estates worth more than \$150,000 will end up in Probate Court. Probate is a legal nightmare!!! The reality of dealing with the courts can be stressful, complicated and confusing. Dealing with probate can be full of headaches and cost your heirs tens of thousands or more in probate fees. In addition, probate can take anywhere from approximately eight months to several years to complete.

In most cases, a Revocable Living Trust is going to be the best way to avoid probate and distribute your estate to your loved ones the way you intended. There is really no disadvantage for you to set up a Revocable Living Trust because you appoint yourself as the "trustee" of your trust, i.e., you remain in complete control of your property.

>> See WILL on page 9



# INTERNEED, IMPRISONED AND THEN ENLISTED

The military service of Dr. Takashi Hoshizaki  
Hoshizaki, Heart Mountain draft resister

By Joshua T. Mathew

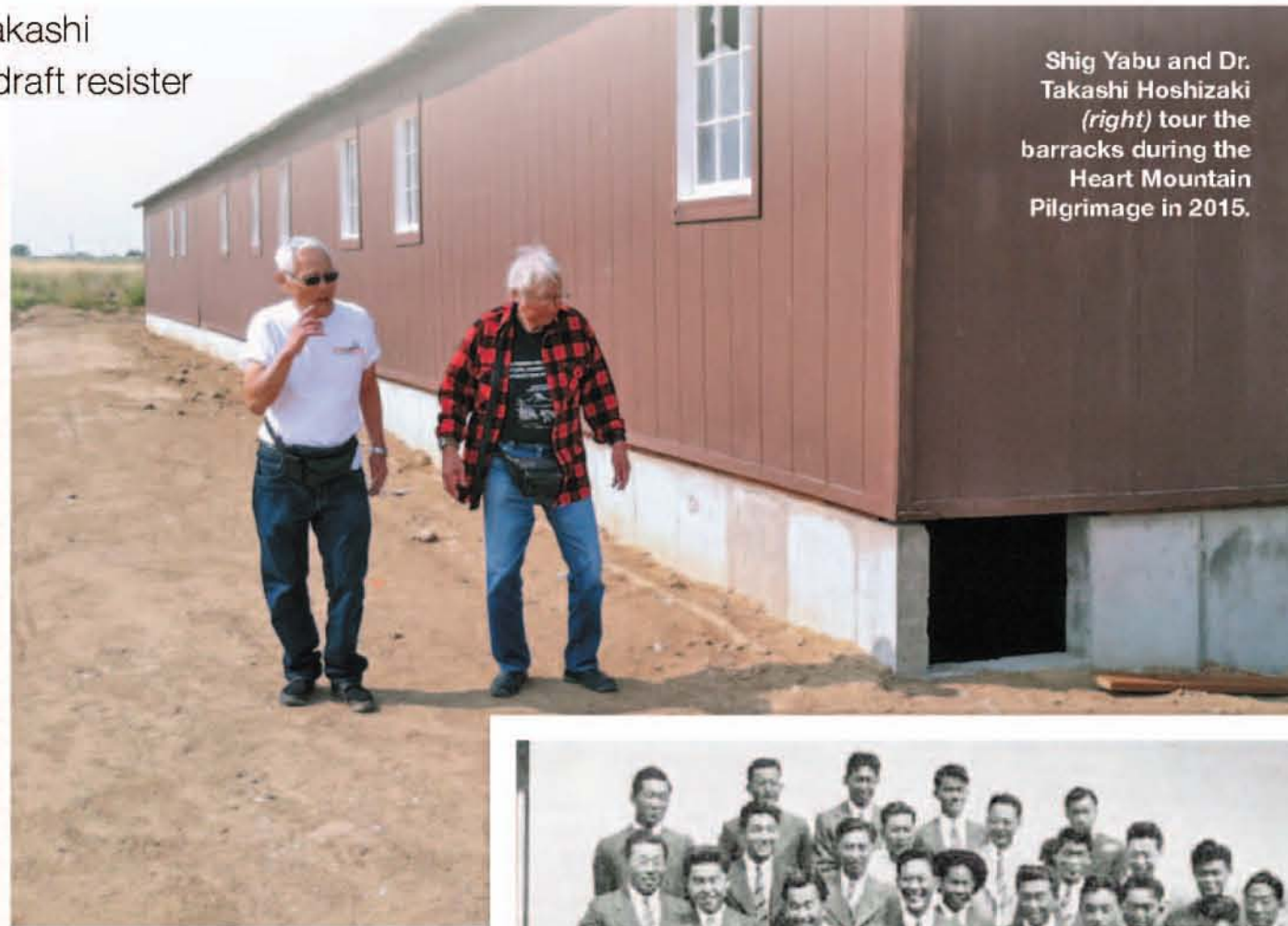
## INTRODUCTION

In 1944, a federal judge convicted 63 members of the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee for resisting the draft during World War II. Interned at the Heart Mountain War Relocation Center, the Japanese American defendants had contended that they would serve in the military if the U.S. government restored their civil rights and released their families from the incarceration center.

The Heart Mountain draft resisters, who sought to vindicate their rights through civil disobedience, have historically been distinguished from Japanese Americans who did so through military service, like the 442nd Infantry Regiment in Europe and Ben Huroki in the Pacific. However, the distinction between those who served and those who did not isn't so clear.

In 1999, Dr. Takashi Hoshizaki, a former member of the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee, wrote a letter to the *Pacific Citizen* (July 16-22, 1999) highlighting that of the six Heart Mountain resisters were young enough to receive draft notices during the Korean War, all accepted the call to serve. In addition to himself, Dr. Hoshizaki identified Masafume Imai, Tom Katsuyoshi Kawahara, Taizo Matsumoto, Masao Mayekawa and Lloyd Ichiro Okawa as Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee members who eventually served in the military when called upon by their country. (Imai served before the Korean conflict broke out.)

Most of these men have since passed away, with no known detailed narrative of their military service. For a course at Harvard Law School in which we studied the internment of Japanese Americans, I interviewed Dr. Hoshizaki on April 13, 2018, about his service to preserve that history.



Shig Yabu and Dr. Takashi Hoshizaki (right) tour the barracks during the Heart Mountain Pilgrimage in 2015.

PHOTO: PACIFIC CITIZEN COURTESY OF SAM MIHARA

## RESPONDING TO THE CALL

After being released from McNeil Federal Penitentiary, Dr. Hoshizaki transitioned into post-incarceration life and began his undergraduate studies, eventually earning his bachelor's degree at the University of California, Los Angeles. After he had started a master's degree program in plant physiology at UCLA, Dr. Hoshizaki received a draft call notice in 1953. He was allowed to complete his degree before entering the Army.

"I was more than happy to serve my country," he expressed to the *Wyoming Tribune-Eagle* in an article written in 2001.

In June 1953, at the age of 27, Dr. Hoshizaki entered the Army and completed an eight-week basic training program for combat support soldiers at Camp Roberts in San Miguel, Calif., located across Monterey County and San Luis Obispo County. It was built as an Army training camp in 1940 to support World War II efforts and



Heart Mountain resisters on the day of their release from prison at McNeil Island, Wash., on July 14, 1946. Dr. Takashi Hoshizaki is pictured in the back row, third from left.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF DR. TAKASHI HOSHIZAKI

placed in caretaker status in 1946 following the conclusion of the war; it was reactivated as a training camp for the Korean War.

Despite having a bachelor's and a master's degree, Dr. Hoshizaki entered at the rank of a "buck private." After completing his training at Camp Roberts, he was sent to an Army base in Monterey, Calif., where over a week he completed a series of surveys about his background and education, which would help determine his military assignment.

Likely because of his studies of plant physiology and UCLA's research focus on defoliants similar to Agent Orange, Dr. Hoshizaki was assigned to Camp Detrick in Frederick, Md., which served as the center of the military's biological and chemical weapons research.

Dr. Hoshizaki has highlighted how strange the assignment seemed in light of his opposition to the draft during WWII and his conviction, and he commented to the *Cody Enterprise* in 2015 that it was "absolutely crazy" that he would "go from someone who was thrown in prison to someone thrown into something highly classified."

However, after traveling across the country and despite being well-suited for the assign-

ment, Dr. Hoshizaki was not put to use at Camp Detrick, at least not toward research. In military "Hurry up and wait" fashion, Dr. Hoshizaki was "sort of set off to the side" and tasked with supporting the camp's librarian and sorting books.

With the exception of when researchers asked him to translate a document written in Japanese (Dr. Hoshizaki confessed that he could only translate a few words and numbers), he never got into the "actual work" of conducting chemical research.

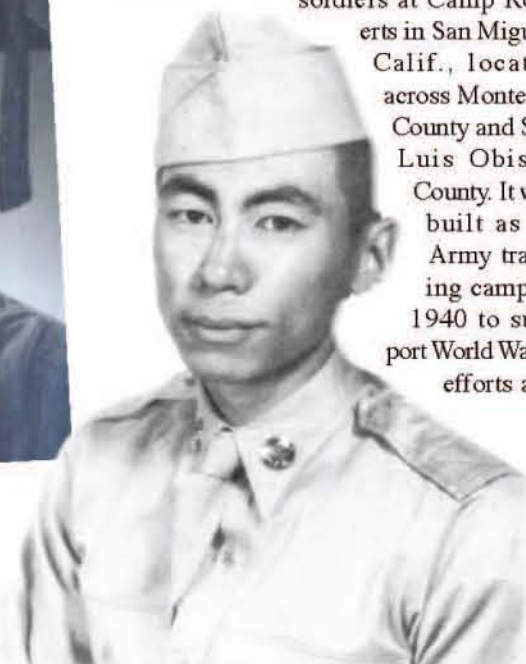
After several months of "sitting there in that library sorting out things," Dr. Hoshizaki received orders to transfer to Fort Hood, Texas. (He suspects his short-lived library assignment at Camp Detrick was due to either someone on the ground realizing his conviction related to his draft resistance or a private chemical company's interest in acquiring the base.)

Dr. Hoshizaki was then assigned as a hospital lab technician with the 4005th Medical Detachment, Area Service Unit that supported the U.S. Army Hospital at Fort Hood. There, he was responsible for drawing the blood of soldiers and their family members, or "dependents," and conducting the Venereal Disease



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF DR. TAKASHI HOSHIZAKI

(Above) Takashi Hoshizaki in his graduation photo from Los Angeles City College (LACC) on June 17, 1948



(Right) A photo of Takashi Hoshizaki in his U.S. Army uniform from 1953





PHOTO: PACIFIC CITIZEN COURTESY OF DON TANGUILG

(From left) Sam Mihara, Shig Yabu and Dr. Takashi Hoshizaki are pictured in 2017 at the Park County Library before their "Five Nisei" presentation.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF DENSHO

### Dr. Takashi Hoshizaki

Research Laboratory test (VDRL) on 100-200 blood samples per day, to screen for syphilis.

At Fort Hood, despite his junior enlisted rank, Dr. Hoshizaki's motivation and advanced education frequently allowed him to play an outsized role for a private and effect change.

For example, when Dr. Hoshizaki was tasked with evaluating blood samples, he began reviewing medical scholarship in his free time and discovered a faster procedure for screening the samples for syphilis.

He proposed the new procedure to his commander, a major, who was receptive, confirmed the new procedure's accuracy and ordered the materials necessary to roll out the new test.

Dr. Hoshizaki improved his unit's overall efficiency and was able to screen his samples faster. In classic Army fashion, he joked, "And so instead of a full day's work, I was able to finish the work at 11 o'clock in the morning."

Similarly, Dr. Hoshizaki's unit recycled, sterilized and sharpened the syringe needles that they used to draw the blood of soldiers and their dependents. However, he noticed that dependents were regularly complaining about the pain of the needle injection.

While others brushed aside these concerns, Dr. Hoshizaki, on his own initiative, examined some of the needles under a microscope and discovered that they had been improperly sharpened and jagged, resulting in the dependents' pain and complaints.



PHOTO: PACIFIC CITIZEN COURTESY OF SAM MIHARA

(From left) Sam Mihara, Shig Yabu and Dr. Takashi Hoshizaki, pictured in 2015, were all incarcerated at Heart Mountain.

Again, despite lacking the authority of a noncommissioned or commissioned officer, Dr. Hoshizaki organized and led training courses for his fellow soldiers, many of whom outranked him. He taught them how to properly inspect the needles and sharpen them to standard. As dull needles increase the risk of ulceration and scarring, the training that Dr. Hoshizaki prepared and led as a private helped take care of soldiers and their families.

Living with his wife, Barbara, Dr. Hoshizaki served at Fort Hood for a year and a half before receiving an honorable discharge from active duty. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, which was established by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1953 for service members who had served honorably between June 27, 1950, and July 27, 1954.

### THE BENEFITS OF MILITARY SERVICE

Dr. Hoshizaki is grateful for his time in the Army and the benefits of service, including personal development, exposure to Americans from diverse backgrounds and the support of the GI Bill.

In regard to personal development, Dr. Hoshizaki has expressed his appreciation of the "discipline and the mental/physical rewards from intensive training." He recalled, "When they (the drill instructors) blow the whistle at four in the morning, and we run out there standing in line and then get yelled at because we didn't bring our rifles and helmets." That discipline and corrective training helped instill

in Dr. Hoshizaki and his peers a care for equipment, an attention to detail and a collective responsibility.

Dr. Hoshizaki similarly highlighted the physical stresses of training at Camp Roberts. Describing portions of his training as "brutal," he recounted the marches that he and the other trainees completed at Camp Roberts and how, due to the extreme summer heat of central California, "guys [were] actually passing out as we [were] marching" from physical and heat exhaustion.

These mental and physical challenges underscored to Dr. Hoshizaki the dangers that he and his fellow trainees might face if deployed to war in the Korean Peninsula. Dr. Hoshizaki enlisted a month before the July 27, 1953, armistice, and, during basic training, the prospect of combat was real.

As a trainee, Dr. Hoshizaki worried that "we wouldn't be up to it in terms of physically and mentally of what we might be facing in combat."

The early wake-up calls, drill instructors' orders and the collective punishments first exacerbated his fears, and he recalled, "Wow guys, this is the way it's going to be."

Eventually, Dr. Hoshizaki came to view the mental and physical challenges as necessary to their preparation for war. Describing their marches in summer heat and the sight of fellow trainees collapsing from exhaustion, Dr. Hoshizaki said, "This is what we're going to probably be facing. And so, I sort of accepted

it on that basis."

Although this realization didn't make the marches any easier, Dr. Hoshizaki understood their purpose of developing his mental and physical resilience.

Dr. Hoshizaki is also grateful for "meeting people from all walks of life" through the Army. He grew up in a racially diverse neighborhood in Los Angeles, but he acknowledged that he and his community members were "all around in the same economic level."

Dr. Hoshizaki acknowledged that being imprisoned at McNeil Island first exposed him to people from significantly lower socioeconomic backgrounds. Similarly, in the military, Dr. Hoshizaki gained exposure to and befriended Americans from communities starkly different from his own.

His neighbors at Fort Hood, a fellow soldier and his wife, were from a Cajun community from the bayou of Mississippi. (Dr. Hoshizaki was surprised to learn that the soldier's wife had not worn shoes regularly before coming to Fort Hood.) Reflecting on his experience in the military, he commented, "It just exposed me to a whole other group of people," and his Cajun neighbors represented the "extreme range of people that I met."

Finally, Dr. Hoshizaki is grateful for the support of veterans' benefits programs. After being discharged from active duty, he entered a PhD program at UCLA with the support of GI Bill funding.

As the GI Bill facilitated his transition to civilian life, he commented, "I slipped right back to what I was doing before I went into the service." Dr. Hoshizaki ultimately earned his doctorate in botanical science from UCLA in 1961.

### CONCLUSION

Dr. Hoshizaki's experience in the Army bears many of the hallmarks of military service: befriending Americans from completely different backgrounds, developing physical and mental resilience through rigorous training and getting shouted at because someone forgot their helmet.

I wonder if the other Heart Mountain draft resisters who eventually served had similar stories to share. I hope that this article can help shed light on their stories of service. And because Dr. Hoshizaki's story helps show that he and his fellow Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee members were committed to serve once their rights were restored, I hope that it fosters further reconciliation.

*Happy Veterans Day to you and yours.*



*Josh Mathew is a South Asian American student at Harvard Law School and a former U.S. Army infantry officer.*



# STILL HOVERING: EX-DOOR GUNNER'S VIETNAM MEMORIES NEVER FAR AWAY



The Bell UH-1C Iroquois military helicopter, nicknamed the "Huey"



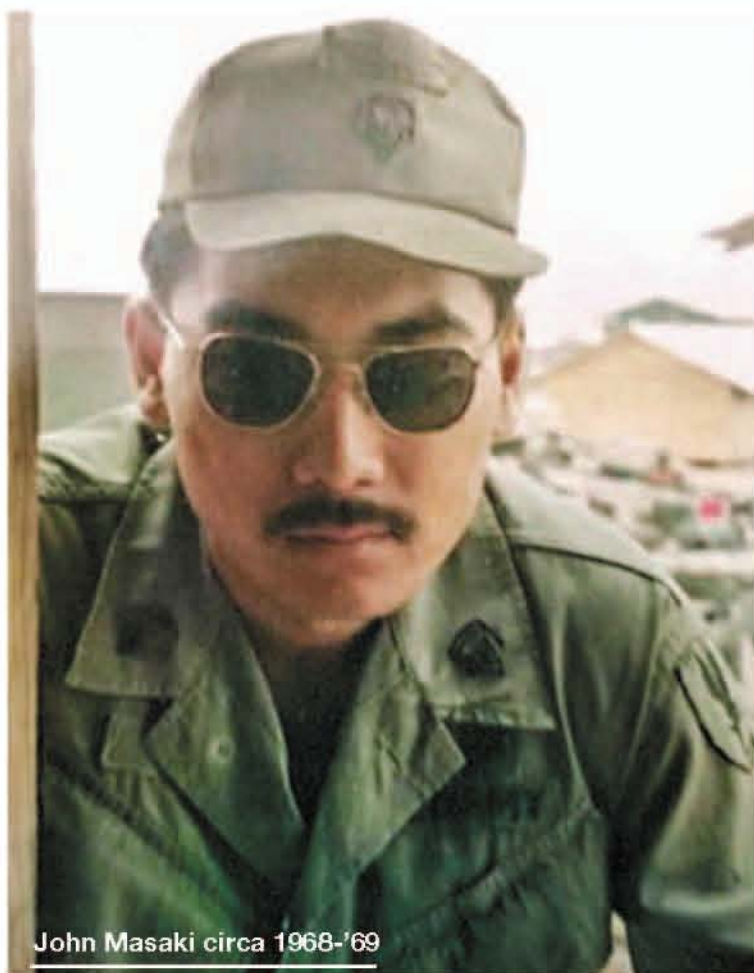
PHOTOS: COURTESY OF JOHN MASAKI

The Huey in action. Lt. Col. S.F. Watson, U.S. Army, NASM collection

Five decades give Army veteran John Masaki the distance to reflect without regret.

By P.C. Staff

"IT'S BEEN 50 YEARS."



John Masaki circa 1968-'69

He says it matter-of-factly, but with a hint of incredulity in his voice. "I was there 50 years ago in 'Nam, in country, exactly 50 years ago. I was there at the beginning of September of '68."

For John Masaki of Lomita, Calif., the Vietnam War was long ago. Not counting time spent going through basic training and then the specialized training needed to serve in the Army as a door gunner and crew chief on a Bell UH-1C helicopter gunship, followed by a few months in North Carolina, his time as a G.I. "in country" was just a year — or "11 months and 29 days," as he points out.

There is no denying, however, that that one year out of his 71 has had an outsized impact on Masaki's life to this day — and will continue to, for the rest of it.

♦♦♦

Born in Torrance, Calif., in 1947, John Goro Masaki was, as his middle name reveals, the fifth Masaki child, the youngest among four boys, who, with three sisters, was one of seven Sansei children born to Haruko (née Fujikawa) and Setsuo Masaki.

Like many Japanese Americans of that era, the Masaki family were farmers, and families were larger than now, since more offspring meant free labor to supplement the *braceros* (seasonal farm workers from Mexico) they employed, which was how John picked up his nickname, Juan.

"My mother used to call me Juan until she passed away," he said. "All the *braceros* called me Juan or Juanito. Didn't bother me."

Before World War II, "Sets," as he was known to some and as "Jim" by other friends, and Haruko — who also went by Helen — farmed in Torrance, Calif., on the west side of Hawthorne Boulevard, near Del Amo Boulevard.

Their firstborn was daughter, Irene. Next came eldest son Victor, followed by James, then Richard, who died in 2014. John and his younger sisters, Aki (also known as Helen, who died in 2017), and Christine, were born after the family had returned to

Los Angeles County, having been compelled by the U.S. government to leave their West Coast home like thousands of other U.S. citizens of Japanese ancestry.

The Masaki's would live in a horse stall at the Santa Anita racetrack in Arcadia, Calif., for six months before being moved yet again to be incarcerated at the War Relocation Authority Center in Rohwer, Ark.

The Masaki family was able to leave camp, however, when Sets found a sponsor in Brigham City, Utah, where he was hired to do farm work. He went first, and Haruko followed, kids in tow.

After the war ended, the family returned to Los Angeles County and resumed life as farmers. John was born in Torrance and grew up attending the same grammar school (now Madrona Elementary) from kindergarten through eighth grade.

Until the sixth grade, he was the only youngster who was Japanese, or Asian, for that matter, in his grade. In 1965, he graduated from high school, then worked for the family business while taking some classes at El Camino College.

"I wasn't a very good student," Masaki admitted. "I was kind of a screw-off."

The same year John graduated, family patriarch Sets died at age 52.

"He was as healthy as a horse," Masaki said. "It was an accident. He couldn't swim a lick, and he died, drowning."

The mid-1960s was also a time when the United States was escalating the war in Vietnam, and if you were a young man then, being drafted was a real possibility. For Masaki, that possibility became reality in 1967.

♦♦♦

As anyone who has watched episodes of TV's "M\*A\*S\*H" can attest, the military's use of helicopters began in earnest during the Korean War. But it was during the Vietnam War when the aircraft came into its own, both as a weapon and a means to insert and extract troops, as well as carry the wounded to safety.



One could reasonably argue that the “Huey” — aka the Bell UH-1C Iroquois and its variants — is *the* symbolic visual shorthand for the Vietnam War, due to the Army’s extensive use of Hueys for all sorts of tasks, but especially as helicopter gunships.

According to *Air & Space/Smithsonian* magazine, “Between 1966 and 1971, one Army helicopter was lost for every 7.9 sorties — 564 pilots, 1,155 crewmen and 682 passengers were killed in accidents alone. More Hueys were downed in Vietnam than any other type of aircraft.”

A formidable weapon for the time, a Huey gunship was manned by two pilots and two door gunners, one of whom served as crew chief, who was responsible for the maintenance of his helicopter.

Each gunship was equipped with either two 19-pod rockets with no miniguns or seven-pod rockets with M134 miniguns. The two door gunners each operated an M60 machine gun, which was fed a belt of 7.62 mm cartridges and could fire at a rate of up to 700 rounds per minute.

When an M60’s barrel would inevitably get too hot, or worse, jam, the gunners would swap it out with the spare gun barrel they always made sure to have. While each gunner would also be equipped with an asbestos glove for handling a hot barrel, they were also issued M16s, which they would carry were there ever a need to exit the chopper if forced to land in a hot zone.

“It wasn’t my job, necessarily, to kill people,” Masaki said. “My job was to protect the aircraft as well as ourselves and all the other aircraft and troops.”

That also meant the door gunners used their M60s for suppressive fire to keep the enemy at bay as other helicopters delivered troops into a landing zone, or LZ.

But while killing the enemy may not have been the main objective, it surely could and did happen if a North Vietnamese soldier wasn’t smart enough to keep his head down as gunships unloaded a withering barrage of gunfire.

“Come on — if you’re going to fire a weapon at the enemy, don’t you mean to fire and kill them?” Masaki asked. “It’s a play on words, I suppose.”

◇◇◇

While three of the four Masaki brothers also served in the military, John was the only Masaki son to serve in Vietnam.

“My oldest brother never went in because he didn’t have to,” he said. “He was the brainiac of the family.”

Like many young men of draft age at that time, Masaki had mixed feelings about the Vietnam War, getting drafted, sent there and, possibly, maimed for life or killed.

“It’s the strangest thing as I think back when I was going there. I never once thought, ‘Bail out, Johnny-boy. Don’t go to ‘Nam, what the hell for? A lot of people dying over there. What are we fighting for?’”

As to that last question, Masaki said he still doesn’t have an answer.

“To this day, I really don’t know,” he said, “other

than the U.S. of A. loves to promote its values on everybody else.”

Recalling his state of mind in the mid-1960s, Masaki said, “Mentally, I was just in limbo. Why would I want to go to Vietnam? Why would I even want to go in the Army if I don’t have to? I just kind of went along my daily functions of helping my family out, driving a truck for my dad’s business, going to El Camino to further my education.”

Then it happened. After getting his draft notice, Masaki got some advice from his older brother, James, who had already served in the military.

“When he knew I was going to get drafted, he said, ‘Let me give you some good advice. This is the best advice I could ever give you,’” Masaki remembered his older brother telling him. “Keep your nose clean. Don’t be an asshole.”

James knew his younger brother sometimes seemed to have a chip on his shoulder, and in the Army, that meant trouble.

“Do as you’re told. All you’ve got to do is do what you’re told to the best of your ability,” Masaki remembered his brother telling him, giving him examples like spit-shining his shoes and cleaning brass with Brasso polish.

“If the sergeant tells you it’s not good enough, don’t give him shit. Continue till he’s happy with it,” James told him.

Masaki would, of course, have to undergo that rite of passage known to anyone who has ever served in the U.S. military: basic training. In September 1967, he reported to Fort Ord, Calif.

“It was a rude awakening,” he said, noting that he had never been away from home before.

While he wanted to adhere to his brother’s advice, Masaki recalled an incident during basic training at Fort Ord when he was assigned K.P. duty as a low-ranking E1.

A fellow G.I., who was a rank above him, told him, “Hey Jap, come over here. Clean out the grease pit.”

Although upset, he remembered his brother’s advice and remembered that he was supposed to follow orders, so he let it slide.

The next time Masaki had kitchen patrol, though, it happened again — and this time, Masaki let his Chicano tormenter have it.

When he got called in, he was asked by his company commander why he caused the fight. Masaki told him that it was the second time he had K.P. duty and the second time the other man called him a Jap.

“He called you what?” Masaki was asked. “A Jap,” he replied. “And I’ll knock the crap out of him if he does it again.” Masaki was dismissed.

The other G.I. never gave him a problem again and was busted down a stripe — and Masaki never had to do K.P. again. Still, he knew he screwed up.

“I didn’t need to fight him,” he admitted. It was a close call and a lesson learned.

◇◇◇



PHOTO: NARA

The Bell UH-1 military helicopter was the workhorse of the Vietnam War.



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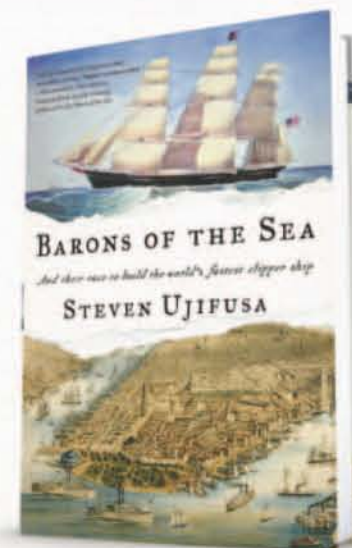
# BARONS OF THE SEA

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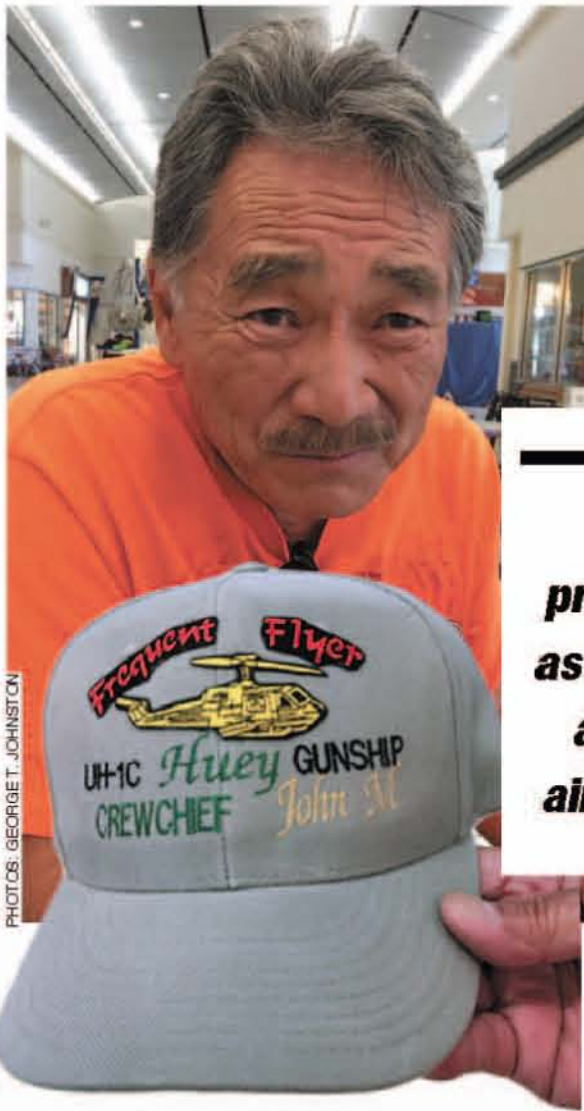
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John Masaki and a close-up of his cap in a photo taken last month

**'My job was to protect the aircraft as well as ourselves and all the other aircraft and troops.'**

"Were they on the left or on the right?" No one was sure. "Could it have been me?" he wondered. It might have been. Or not. To this day, Masaki doesn't know.

There was another incident that has stayed with Masaki, in which he was given conflicting orders for what could have resulted in a court martial, and in this case, there was no doubt it was he who pulled the trigger.

Masaki recalled as they came upon an LZ, he reported via radio that he had "spotted a runner." The gunship captain said, "Hang on" — but the command aircraft ordered, "Take him out." With his target moving quickly, Masaki chose to follow the orders from above and unloaded, killing the target — who

it turned out was a noncombatant. He was threatened with a court martial. Masaki said he was "shaking in my boots."

However, the situation calmed down, and he never heard about it again. But Masaki says the memory of that disturbing, tragic incident has stayed with him ever since.

♦♦♦

After leaving the Army, Masaki had to deal with what a lot of veterans did and still do — return to civilian life, which for him meant driving for the family's truck-

ing business hauling strawberries and going back to school. As one might imagine, there's not much work in the civilian world for a helicopter door gunner.

He had entertained thoughts of re-enlisting.

"When I got out of the service, I was kind of lost," he said. "I thought, 'Oh my. What am I going to do now?'"

"My first thought was, 'Boy, I'd sure like to learn how to fly a helicopter,'" he continued. "I'd like to be a pilot."

Masaki said he could have easily reupped, gone to warrant officer training school and, thanks to his experience, qualified. What stopped him from taking that course of action was that he might have to return to Vietnam to pilot a medevac chopper or a slick, neither of which appealed to him.

A slick was a helicopter with no external weapon systems used to transport troops to landing zones, where the likelihood of getting shot at or shot down was much higher than being in an assault chopper.

"If the Army could have said, 'OK, John, here's what we're gonna do. We're gonna give you a warrant officer commission. You are going to become a pilot. We are going to send you to Nam, but you start out in the gun platoon, I would have done it,'" Masaki said.

But his civilian life changed with a phone call from a man named Edward "Bud" Milton, from Visalia, Calif. Milton grew up knowing a lot of Nisei and Sansei. He wanted a Japanese American to sell insurance and memberships for the Automobile Club for the Gardena office, and he heard about Masaki.

Masaki jokes that at the time he couldn't even spell "insurance" — but he learned about it — and sales — and worked for AAA for about three years. It put him on the path of sales, eventually also working for companies such as Dun & Bradstreet, Moore Business Forms and the New York Life Insurance Co., where he continues to this day in a retired active status, while also doing work for some other companies.

Masaki would also get married and become a father to three children. Although the experiences could never be left completely behind, Vietnam was receding into the background of his civilian life.

But there were two big events that would have a big impact on Masaki's life: an acrimonious divorce from his ex-wife of more than 20 years and, in 2004, becoming registered with the VA, formerly known as the Veterans Administration but now known as Veterans Affairs.

As a Vietnam vet who served in combat, he was more than eligible for its services, which in retrospect Masaki realizes he

needed — and wishes he had taken advantage of earlier.

For many reasons — denial, pride or ego, not wanting to appear weak or thinking that there is a stigma to receiving treatment that could prevent them from becoming employed in certain careers — there are military vets who don't take advantage of what the VA offers. Masaki finally saw the light and has no regrets.

For example, serving on a noisy helicopter and firing a machine gun ruined Masaki's hearing. A base doctor in Vietnam gave him earplugs and told him to wear them, but Masaki, who also had to monitor radio transmissions, refused.

Wearing them might save his hearing, but missing a radio message could cause him to lose his life. Thanks to the VA, though, he has hearing aids that have made a huge difference in this life.

He also has COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), which he blames on having been a smoker for more than 50 years. While he doesn't blame the Army for making him start smoking, it certainly didn't discourage smoking, which was part of the macho culture of the time.

♦♦♦

Fifty years after serving in Vietnam, life for John Masaki is good. While he no longer can play tennis, he does play golf when he can. He gets together with friends, has spoken with young people about his Vietnam War experiences, rides his Harley and does line and ballroom dancing.

As for serving in Vietnam as a door gunner on a combat helicopter, he has no regrets. In recent years, he said he actually has thought about his wartime experiences more than when he was younger.

Masaki also realizes that his wartime experiences probably had an ill effect on some of his interpersonal relationships. All in all, in retrospect, he said, "The military did me justice." In fact, Masaki thinks many there are many young people would benefit from having to serve their country for a couple of years.

"I know some guys probably feel ashamed that they did what they did in the service or they don't want to discuss it at all. That's not me," said Masaki. "I'm proud of the fact that I served because I was told to serve. I didn't join. But I didn't run away from my obligations, either."



John Masaki with his motorcycle at Los Angeles Air Force Base on Oct. 21.



# COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AMBASSADOR PROGRAM SEEKING INTERNS FOR NPS SITES

Among the available National Park sites is an internship at the Manzanar National Historic Site in California's Owens Valley.

The Community Volunteer Ambassador program is looking to hire 55 interns for National Park sites around the country, among them the Manzanar National Historic Site, for the 2019-20 calendar year.

The CVA is looking for applicants ages 21-29 for its 50-week AmeriCorps internship program that is hosted at more than 50 National Park sites throughout the country. Interns will assist in the area of education, event planning, outreach and volunteer coordination.

With more than 55 National Parks to choose from, there is a location that is suitable for many types of academic backgrounds. CVAs receive top-notch federal-level training so that they can assist National Park Service staff with daily duties.

CVA interns also receive a \$1,760 per month stipend plus health insurance; a

\$5,920 AmeriCorps Education Award upon successful completion of the program; one-week, all-expenses-paid training in Austin, Texas; housing or housing search assistance; noncompetitive hiring status on USAJobs.gov; hands-on training and resources, including training on how to navigate the federal job market; and a chance to relocate for 50 weeks to work for a National Park.

Interested applicants for the Manzanar National Historic Site must be U.S. citizens or permanent, legal U.S. residents; possess a two-year degree or higher; be between the ages of 21-30 throughout the entirety of the term; be eligible to serve in AmeriCorps National and State programs.

The CVA will work closely with the MNHS VIP manager, chiefs of Interpretation and Cultural Resources and the Manzanar Superintendent. They will also attend

events in local and Japanese American communities, work alongside youth and volunteer groups at Manzanar, collaborate in hosting site visits and build on Manzanar's current social media offerings to appeal to a broad and diverse audience.

The CVA will also have a proactive role in connecting people across a diverse spectrum geographically, socio-economically and of different ages, as Manzanar is located in a rural area, with underserved populations, including Latinx, Asian Americans, African-Americans and native Paiute and Shoshone peoples, who have often been marginalized in their own homelands.

The civil rights story of Manzanar is relevant to all Americans — the past is always present here.

The CVA program runs from Jan. 28, 2019-Jan. 13, 2020.

Application deadline closes on Nov. 30.

Apply Now to be a  
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- Be U.S. citizens or permanent legal U.S. residents
- possess a 2-year degree or higher
- Be between 21-30 throughout the majority of the year
- Be eligible to serve in AmeriCorps National and State programs (There is a 4-year maximum)
- Be willing to relocate
- Be able to commit to serving the complete term: 1/28/2019 - 1/13/2020

Get More Info and Apply at  
[www.CVAInternships.org](http://www.CVAInternships.org)

For more information on the CVA program, please visit [www.cvainternships.org](http://www.cvainternships.org). Applicants can choose a state or region to see the internship opportunities and apply by visiting <https://www.cvainternships.org/pacific-west>.

## MANZANAR COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES FOURTH ANNUAL STUDENT AWARDS PROGRAM



PHOTO: GANNI MATSUNAGA/MANZANAR COMMITTEE

Pictured are some of the winners of the Third Annual Manzanar Committee Student Awards Program.

LOS ANGELES — The Manzanar Committee announced on Oct. 30 its Fourth Annual Manzanar Committee Student Awards Program, a creative works program in which K-12 students may submit essays, short stories, poetry, works of art including collages, drawings, posters and works involving technology, including animation, podcasts, movies or videos.

The awards program will recognize students who demonstrate an understanding of his/her guiding principles of social justice in today's society. Winning entries will be eligible for prizes up to \$100, and their works may be presented at the 50th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage on April 27, 2019, on the Committee's website and/or blog.

"The Manzanar Committee Student Awards Program provides students an opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of the guiding principles of social justice of the past and how they relate to our society today," said Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Jenny Chomori. "With 2019 being the 50th Anniversary of community-organized camp pilgrimages, we need to take a look at the past and see what we have learned."

"With immigrants being separated from their families, the exclusion of refugees and the widespread denial of Constitutional rights across our nation today, we need to make sure the next generation is capable of carrying on the struggle for democratic rights of all peoples," Chomori continued. "Our Student Awards Program is a vehicle for students to demonstrate their understanding of human and civil rights and to show how they will be able to help educate others on the current issues facing our communities."

Categories for submissions include short prose genres, art and technology. The deadline for entries is March 15, 2019. Winners will be contacted shortly after this date, so that they can make plans, if they so choose, to attend the 50th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, where they will be presented with their award.

Entry forms and further information, including program rules, can be downloaded at [http://www.manzanarcommittee.org/The\\_Manzanar\\_Committee/studentawards/StudentAwards\\_2019\\_App.pdf](http://www.manzanarcommittee.org/The_Manzanar_Committee/studentawards/StudentAwards_2019_App.pdf).

A printable brochure for the Student Awards Program can be downloaded at [http://www.manzanarcommittee.org/The\\_Manzanar\\_Committee/studentawards/studentawards\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.manzanarcommittee.org/The_Manzanar_Committee/studentawards/studentawards_brochure.pdf).

For more information, send an E-mail to [studentawardsprg@manzanarcommittee.org](mailto:studentawardsprg@manzanarcommittee.org) or call (323) 662-5102.

## SUSHI >> continued from page 3

For now, though, meh sushi is rampant, including at Tokyo Joe's. Some Chinese and Korean restaurants have added sushi to their menu (and some have just decided to call themselves "Asian fusion" and sell everything from Chinese and Thai to sushi and teriyaki), and unskilled "chefs" sloppily roll up rice and ingredients without regard for the correct texture or slight vinegary flavor of the rice.

I've long since accepted the idea of huge "handrolls" at nontraditional sushi bars with stuff thrown into a cone of nori seaweed. And I've gotten used to the idea of a California Roll with rice on the outside, which can now be found even

in Japan (as American-style sushi). As a side note, my mom looked aghast the first time she saw a California Roll and said, incredulously, that it was "inchiki sushi," or fake sushi, because putting rice on the outside of a roll seemed like such a stupid idea.

Here's what I hate about lousy sushi: Fishy ingredients (fresh sashimi isn't fishy), overcooked or undercooked rice, no flavoring and sloppy, loosely rolled pieces. But I'm not an absolutist. I can even put up with cheap supermarket sushi when I have a comfort food craving for, say, an inari sushi, which incidentally most non-Japanese don't seem to appreci-

ate. When a restaurant serves bad sushi for good money, that's when I get mad.

But when I'm hankering for the real deal, it's worth the extra step — and miles — to seek out authentic Japanese food. Crank up Little Richard over Pat Boone, anytime!

A longer version of this column was originally written for DiscoverNikkei.org.

Gil Asakawa is former chair of the Editorial Board of the Pacific Citizen and author of "Being Japanese American" (Second Edition, Stone Bridge Press, 2015). He blogs at [www.nikkeiview.com](http://www.nikkeiview.com).

## WILL >> continued from page 3

A Living Trust is a legal document, just like a will, that allows you to give instructions on who receives your estate when you pass away. In other words, a trust has "Will Power," but avoids the high costs of probate. Remember, the law allows you to protect your loved ones from the high costs and delays of probate — take advantage of it.

Judd Matsunaga is the founding attorney of Elder

Law Services of California, a law firm that specializes in Medi-Cal Planning, Estate Planning and Probate. He can be contacted at (310) 348-2995 or [judd@elderlawcalifornia.com](mailto:judd@elderlawcalifornia.com). The opinions expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Pacific Citizen or JACL. The information presented does not constitute legal or tax advice and should not be treated as such.



A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## NCWNP

### SUSHI SOCIAL

**San Francisco, CA**  
**Nov. 16; 6-8 p.m.**  
**Nihonmachi Little Friends**  
**1830 Sutter St.**  
**Price: \$125**

Nihonmachi Little Friends invites you to its Sushi Social, celebrating 43 years of service to the community. The evening will feature a wine tasting by Jason Mikami of Mikami Vineyards, fine sushi prepared by We Be Sushi Chefs and a musical performance by Dr. Anthony Brown and Nihonmachi "Big Friends." All proceeds will benefit NLF's programs and its Building Fund. RSVP by Nov. 2.

**Info: Call (415) 922-8898 or email [nlfchildcare@gmail.com](mailto:nlfchildcare@gmail.com).**

### WINTER KAISEKI WORKSHOP:

#### NEW YEAR'S MENU

**San Francisco, CA**  
**Dec. 8; Noon-3 p.m.**  
**Japanese Community Cultural Center of Northern California**  
**1840 Sutter St.**  
**Price: \$45 Members; \$55 General Public**

This popular seasonal workshop is themed for Oshogatsu (New Year's) and will feature six dishes, including hamachi, Ozone and daikon, made primarily through demonstration, with participants providing the final artistic touches.

**Info: To register, visit <http://bit.ly/kaisekiwinter2018>.**

### MOCHITSUKI WORKSHOP

**San Francisco, CA**  
**Dec. 9; Half-hour shifts from 11 a.m.-6 p.m.**  
**Japanese Community Cultural Center of Northern California**  
**1840 Sutter St.**  
**Price: \$15 Members; \$20 General Public/Children 5 and Under Free**

See how fresh mochi is steamed, pounded and shaped at the JCCCNC's annual mochitsuki workshops with George Yamada, retired owner of the former Yamada Seika Manju shop in Japantown. Bring home up to two pounds of freshly made mochi! **Info: To register, visit <https://14797.blackbaudhosting.com/14797/Mochitsuki-09Dec2018>.**

### KIMOCCHI SILVER BELLS ARTS & CRAFTS AND FOOD FAIRE

**San Francisco, CA**  
**Dec. 15; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
**The Event Center at St. Mary's Cathedral**  
**1111 Gough St. (near Japantown)**  
**Price: Free; complimentary Kimochi shuttle service available to/from Japantown (pickup/dropoff at Peace Plaza on the corner of Post and Sutter Streets)**

Don't miss this one-stop shopping event for all your holiday gifts! This annual event, benefiting Kimochi, Inc., will feature delicious food items and unique craft and art items sure to delight everyone on your holiday

shopping list. Featuring numerous vendors, this event has been helping the community for more than 20 years.

**Info: Visit [www.kimochi-inc.org](http://www.kimochi-inc.org).**

**'LOYAL AMERICANS: JAPANESE AMERICAN IMPRISONMENT DURING WORLD WAR II' EXHIBITION**  
**Hayward, CA**  
**Extended thru Dec. 30; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Wed.-Sun.)**  
**Haywood Area Historical Society**  
**22380 Foothill Blvd.**  
**Price: Free**

Supported by Eden Township JACL, this exhibit features artifacts and stories from Japanese American families extracted from their homes and later incarcerated during World War II. Many of the personal accounts and loaned artifacts are from local families and their descendants. Thanks to a generous grant from the Edwar E. and Donna L. Martins Foundation, admission to the museum is currently free.

**Info: Visit [www.haywardareahistory.org](http://www.haywardareahistory.org) or call (510) 581-0223.**

## PSW

**FUJIMA KANSUMA 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**Nov. 18; 3 p.m.**  
**Japanese American Cultural and Community Center**  
**Aratani Theatre**  
**244 San Pedro St.**  
**Info: Tickets \$15**

Join the JACCC together with the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage as they present the 100th birthday celebration of Madame Fujima Kansuma. The event will celebrate her long career as a master artist, her important role in supporting and sustaining the vitality of Japanese American cultural heritage and her recognition as a National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellow.

**Info: Visit [jaecc.org](http://jaecc.org).**

### BEARY BEST FRIENDS

**XMAS BOUTIQUE**  
**Buena Park, CA**  
**Nov. 18; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.**  
**Holiday Inn Buena Park**  
**7000 Beach Blvd.**  
**Price: Free**

Asian and Hawaiian crafts and food abound at this annual event that is always jam-packed with holiday gifts and numerous vendors throughout the hotel. Asian artwork, pottery, clothing items, pictures, frames, food and much more will all be available, just in time for holiday gift purchases. Don't miss this annual shopping event!

**Info: Visit <https://www.etsy.com/in-en/local/event/383360298041/beary-best-friends-xmas-boutique-november-18>.**

**MOCHITSUKI AT WLBT**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**Dec. 15**

Come and join this WLA Jr. YBA fundraiser at its annual Mochitsuki event, where traditional mochi will

be made using an usu (mortar) and kine (pestle or wooden mallet) until it reaches a white pasty consistency. The steamed rice will then be shaped into round pieces. Electronic mochi-making machines that pound the rice will also be used. WLBT will use both. All are encouraged to come and participate.

**Info: Visit <http://westlosangelesbuddhisttemple.org/activities/mochi-tsuki-at-west-los-angeles-buddhist-temple>.**

**ALOHA KALIKIMAKA: HO'IKE 2018**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**Dec. 26; 3 p.m.**  
**Aratani Theatre**  
**244 S. San Pedro St.**  
**Price: Tickets \$25-\$30**

Halau Keali'i O Nalani present this special event, supported in part by the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center Ukes for Little Tokyo program. Under the direction of Kumu Hula Keali'i Ceballos, founded in 1991, this group serves as ambassadors of Hawaiian culture and has grown steadily to include more than 200 students. The event will also feature a special appearance by the Ukes for Little Tokyo Ensemble.

**Info: Visit <https://web.ovationtix.com/trs/pe/c/10340719>.**

### NEW YEAR CELEBRATION IN LITTLE TOKYO

**Los Angeles, CA**  
**Jan. 1; 10:50 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
**Little Tokyo**

**Events held at Weller Court, Japanese Village Plaza and Frances Hashimoto Plaza**  
**Price: Free**

Kick off the new year in Little Tokyo with the annual Japanese New Year's Oshogatsu Festival! Following an opening ceremony at Weller Court featuring taiko drumming, Japanese traditional dance, kendo, food booths, mochi making and more, the event moves to the Japanese Village Plaza where more food, entertainment and cultural programs will be on display, in addition to arts, crafts and games for children at the Frances Hashimoto Plaza.

**Info: For complete event details and times, visit <https://www.japanese-city.com/calendar/events/index.php?eID=34933>.**

## PNW

**'CONTESTED HISTORIES: ART AND ARTIFACTS FROM THE ALLEN HENDERSHOTT EATON COLLECTION' POP-UP DISPLAY**  
**Seattle, WA**  
**Nov. 24 and 25; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.**  
**NVC Hall**  
**1212 S. King St.**  
**Price: Free**

JANM will travel its pop-up display of the Allen Hendershott Eaton Collection for two days in November. The display includes physical or digital representation of every item in the collection — more than 400 individual photographs, sculptures, paintings and watercolors, jewelry items, vases, beads, nameplates and other handmade items from the WWII incarceration camps that Japanese Americans were forced to endure. The display is intended to help gather information about each individual object so that the museum's efforts to preserve

and catalog the collection can be complete.

**Info: Visit [nvcfoundation.org](http://nvcfoundation.org) or call (206) 322-1212.**

### BLAST OFF TO BEYOND

**Seattle, WA**  
**Thru Jan. 6, 2019**  
**Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience**  
**719 S. King St.**  
**Price: General admission**

Youth and families blast off in this new KidPLACE exhibit, which explores the skies and beyond. The field of aerospace is diverse and this exhibit celebrates the role Asian Pacific Americans play in space exploration and technology.

**Info: Visit [www.wingluke.org](http://www.wingluke.org).**

## IDC

### ART CURATOR TALK AT DENVER ART MUSEUM

**Denver, CO**  
**Dec. 5; 6-8 p.m.**  
**Denver Art Museum**  
**100 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy.**

Funded by a grant to the National Association of Japan America Societies from the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, the Richard J. Wood Art Curators Grant allows for a talk at a Japan American Society by a curator of Japanese art at a well-known museum or private collection in the U.S. The Denver Art Museum is pleased to welcome Anne Nishimura Morse of the Museum of Fine Arts of Boston for a special evening on Dec. 5.

**Info: Visit [jascolorado.org](http://jascolorado.org).**

## MDC

### MOCHITSUKI AT THE MIDWEST BUDDHIST TEMPLE

**Chicago, IL**  
**Dec. 15; 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
**435 W. Menomonee St.**  
**Price: Free**

During Mochitsuki, the temple's social hall transforms into a joyful gathering centered around the tradition of pounding rice and making mochi. Come out and take a turn pounding the rice with wooden mallets until it becomes smooth. Other volunteers will then form the finished mochi left either plain or filled with sweetened azuki beans. Mochi will be available for purchase. Everyone is welcome to join this annual tradition!

**Info: Call (312) 943-7801 or email [office@mbtchicago.org](mailto:office@mbtchicago.org).**

### ASIAN AMERICANS IN SCIENCE: A SCIENCE FUSION EVENT

**Saint Paul, MN**  
**Feb. 2; Noon-4 p.m.**  
**Science Museum of Minnesota**  
**120 W. Kellogg Blvd.**  
**Price: Members are free; \$18.95 Nonmembers**

Meet science and technology professionals from a variety of Asian backgrounds and have a blast with their interactive displays and presentations. Bring the whole family to these fun events, as each full-priced adult admission will get four free kids admissions (17 and under). **Info: Call (651) 221-9444 to purchase tickets. Special rates are available for people with limited income.**

## EDC

### SAKE TASTING WITH JAPANESE SAKE MASTER

**Boston, MA**  
**Dec. 1; 6:30-8 p.m.**  
**Oficio**  
**129 Newbury St., 2nd Floor**  
**Price: \$75**

Kojima Travel Consulting has invited Yuichi Yamagishi, a world-class sake master from Niigata, Japan, to showcase the region's sake. The tasting, in collaboration with Gabrielle Morriveau, sake sommelier and manager at Craft and Cru in Milton, will include four different Niigata sakes, plus bonus samplings of several other Niigata sakes. Light refreshments will be served.

**Info: Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/niigata-sake-tasting-in-boston-with-renowned-japanese-sake-master-tickets-51294705846>.**

### 'Akari: Sculpture by Other Means' at the Noguchi Museum

**Long Island City, NY**  
**Thru Jan. 27, 2019**  
**The Noguchi Museum**  
**9-01 33rd Road (at Vernon Boulevard)**

**Info: Closed Mondays and Tuesdays**  
 Several installations on the second floor of the museum allow visitors to experience ways that Isamu Noguchi's Akari — a modular ecosystem of lightweight, collapsible paper lanterns — can create and transform space. Noguchi's electrified paper, bamboo and metal Akari light sculptures have become among the most ubiquitous sculptures on Earth.

**Info: Visit <https://www.noguchi.org/programs/exhibitions/akari-sculpture-other-means>.**

### Bruce Lee: A Life (Book Talk)

**New York, NY**  
**Feb. 1, 2019; 6-8 p.m.**  
**Asian American/Asian Research Institute CUNY**  
**25 W. 43rd St.**  
**Room 1000**  
**Price: Free**

Journalist and best-selling author Matthew Polly will talk about his book "Bruce Lee: A Life," the definitive account of the legend's life, 45 years after his sudden death at age 32. Following a decade of research that included more than 100 interviews with Lee's family, Polly offers a thorough look into the martial arts master's life, his rise and career in Hollywood and the challenges he endured in juggling his career and family life with that of his Asian roots and success in America. **Info: Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bruce-lee-a-life-book-talk-registration-50914470552?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>.**

## ADVERTISE HERE

Events in the calendar section are listed based on space availability. Place a 'Spotlight' ad with photos of your event for maximum exposure.

**FOR MORE INFO:**

**[pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)**  
**(213) 620-1767**



# IN MEMORIAM

**Agustin, Emiko, 85**, Seattle, WA, Aug. 25.

**Amano, Gish, 94**, Ontario, WA, Oct. 2; he was predeceased by his daughter-in-law, Sue Amano, and brother-in-law, James Kanetomi; he is survived by his wife, Tamae; children, Grant (Sally), Dinah (Larry) Goto and Nancie (Eric) Larson; sister, Yoneko Kanetomi; gc: 8; ggc: 13.

**Arsenault, Jitsuko S., 87**, Boise, ID, Aug. 20; she was predeceased by her husband, George; she is survived by her four children; gc: 9; ggc: 13.

**Ezaki, Tom, 97**, San Jose, CA, Aug. 31; he was predeceased by his wife, Nobuko; son, Michael Lee; he is survived by his children, Tom Jr., Sharon (Tom) Fujii and Melvin (Deborah); gc: 4; ggc: 3.

**Furuya, Mary Kobata, 93**, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 4; she is survived by her husband, Jack; children, CJ and Kimberly Joy.

**Hamasaki, Charles, 95**, Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 31; he is survived by his wife, Fumiyo; children, Julie (Tom Ozeki) and Roman and children from a previous marriage, Vincent (Susan), Kevin and Jon; gc: 5.

**Hayase, Michiko, 88**, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, Aug. 18; she was predeceased by her husband, Charles; son, Henry; she is survived by her children, Paul (Sandra) Hayase and Helen (Alf Andersen) Hayase; siblings, Kumiko Ebihara and Hiroaki (Michiko) Watanabe; relatives including Nancy (Mounir Botros) Kikuchi, David (Nikkie) Hayase and Mark Hayase; gc: 3; ggc: 1.

**Higa, Bernard, 71**, San Jose, CA, Oct. 1; an Army veteran, he is survived by his sister, Bertha Higa-Baral.

**Higashigawa, Masami, 86**, Gardena, CA, Sept. 4; a Korean War veteran, he was predeceased by his siblings, George, Harriet and Miyako; he is survived by his wife, Harumi; children, Sharon (Mike), Calvin (Susan) and Nathan (Corinne); siblings, Shigemi, Ellen, Arlene and Grace; gc: 7.



**Igawa, Kenneth, 73**, Monterey Park, CA, Sept. 11; a Vietnam War veteran, he is survived by his wife, Keiko; children, Yoko and Kenji; siblings, Kiyoshi (Wakiko) Igawa and Margaret Momoyo (James S.) Yasuda; brother-

-in-law, Takami Shimonaka; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Itami, Galen, 69**, Portland, OR, Sept. 21; he is survived by his wife, Patty; children, Lindsey (Phill) and Nick (Carly); gc: 4.

**Kato, Etsuko, 96**, Monterey Park, CA, July 27; she is survived by her husband, Noboru; children, Amy E. Kato (John Esaki), Gary and David (Mai) Kato; cousins, Mariko Wada and Helen Shiozaki; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

**Kitagawa, June Kiyomoto, 89**, Colma, CA, Sept. 5.

**Matsuoka, Yukie, 83**, San Jose, CA, Oct. 3; she was predeceased by her husband, Robert Minoru; siblings, Dennis Kuramoto, Terance Kuramoto and Toshiko Kukino; she is survived by her children, Cheryl Cavanagh, Denise and Eric; siblings, Richard Kuramoto, Gerald Kuramoto, Burton Kuramoto, Saeko Sato and Kiku Sasaki; gc: 5; ggc: 2.

**Mimura, Howard, 86**, Garden City, ID, Oct. 8.

**Momii, John, 93**, Seattle, WA, July 7; he is survived by his daughter, Machiko.

**Nakanishi, Toshiko, 89**, San Gabriel, CA, Oct. 15; she is survived by her daughters, Arline Masayo, Nancy Kiyomi and Dorothy Kaname Nakanishi; brother, Katsushi (Hiroko) Ikeda; brother-in-law, Yohei Nakanishi; sisters-in-law, Yoneko Nakanishi and Masuko Ikeda; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Nakata, Kenneth, 75**, San Gabriel, CA, Oct. 7; he is survived by his wife, Masako Nakata; children, Jennifer (Sean Commons) and Michael (Larrianni) Nakata; siblings, Richard Nakata and Jane Sakamoto; gc: 4.



**Nakawatase, Betty, 93**, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 14; she is survived by her children, Ronald, Gerald (Rose), Vicki (Mike) Shimaji and Pam Nanson; siblings, Johnny (Lilly), Eiji (Barbara), Kiyo (Donna), Tak Nakamura and Kazue Matsui; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 8; ggc: 3.

**Nakayama, Courtney, 73**, Granite Bay, CA, Sept. 7.

**Nishimura, Earl, 85**, Las Vegas, NV, Aug. 24; he served in the Marine Corps in the Korean War and as an LAPD detective.



**Okumoto, Toshiaki 'Don', 87**, Baldwin Park, CA, Sept. 10; he was predeceased by his wife, Youko Okumoto; brothers, Akio Okumoto and Toshio Okumoto; he is survived by his daughters, Mariko Mari Okumoto and Akiko "Aki" Okumoto; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.



**Omura, Sugako, 96**, Cleveland, OH, Sept. 18; she was predeceased by her husband, Masayoshi; she is survived by her children, Michael (Chong) and Kenneth; gc: 1.

**Sase, Hugo, 92**, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 11; he is survived by his wife, Sadako; daughters, Suzy (John) Sasaki and Stacy (Allen Ebens) Sase; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

**Sato, Richard, 91**, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 13; he is survived by his children, Candy Suminaka, Theodore (Junko), Doreen (Neal Moody) and Stanford (Josie) Sato; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5.

**Shinmei, Mitsuko, 96**, Irvine, CA, Sept. 15; she is survived by her chil-

dren, Irene (Bruce) Hasegawa, Cliff (Janis) and Victor Shinmei; sister, Kiyoko Kusunoki; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4; ggc: 2.

**Shiraishi, Randolph, 69**, Las Vegas, NV, Sept. 11; he is survived by his children, Anne, Daniel and Paul; sister, Cynthia Gibbons.

**Sugimoto, Ruby, 71**, Sacramento, CA, Oct. 28; she is survived by her sister, Judy (William) Young; step-mother, Hiroko Sugimoto; stepbrother, Dennis Matsuno; sister-in-law, Pearl Sugimoto.



**Suto, Mary, 97**, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 5; she was predeceased by her husband, Fred Kazuo Suto; daughter, Barbara Suto; great-granddaughter, Nichole Suto; and brother, Lee Yokota; she is survived by her children, Margaret (Tony) Nunes, Steve (Margaret) Suto and Roberta Suto; sister, Lily Miyashita; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4; ggc: 11; gggc: 1.

**Takahama, Teruko, 96**, Gardena, CA, Aug. 14; she is survived by her children, Haruiki (Consuelo) and Chigusa Noguchi; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3; ggc: 3.

**Toyota, Emiko, 98**, Pasadena, CA, Sept. 26; she is survived by her children, Marilyn (Ray) Yutani, Wayne and Lisa (John) Shaw; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6; ggc: 3.



**Tsukamoto, Sueno, 84**, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 16; she is survived by her children, Jon Tsukamoto, Fae (David) Terukina and Cathy (Alan) Watanabe; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1.

**Uyeda, Miki, 93**, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 3; she is survived by her children, Lori Hayashi, Kelvin (Sharon) Uyeda and Kerri Wilfong; gc: 5.



**Watanabe, June Atsuko, 88**, San Gabriel, CA, Sept. 18; she is survived by her husband, Mitsuru; siblings, Chieko Maejima and Kazumi (Nobue) Maejima; sisters-in-law, Masako Watanabe and Yasuko (Ken) Elsing; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Yamauchi, Wakako, 93**, Gardena, CA, Aug. 16; a playwright ("And the Soul Shall Dance"), during WWII her family and she were incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ; she was predeceased by her daughter, Joy; she is survived by her sister, Yuki Sugiyama; son-in-law, Victor Matsushita; gc: 2.

## DOROTHY WAKAMATSU

Dorothy Toshiko Wakamatsu, 100, Oct. 7, of Chicago, Ill., born in San Gabriel, Calif., in 1918. Settled in Chicago following incarceration at Gila River, Ariz. Together with her husband Shigeo Wakamatsu, former JACL national president, they were prominent members of Chicago's post-WWII Japanese American community. Predeceased by her husband, Shigeo; survived by her son, Brent. Memorials to JACL Chicago, 5415 North Clark St., Chicago, IL 60640.

## 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 \$20/column inch.

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By Ron Mori

**A**re you an entrepreneur? If you are, you deserve some major kudos! Too often, the hard work and talent, as well as the contributions entrepreneurs make locally and globally, goes unnoticed.

I've always worked for others throughout my career. That's what most of us do — and my Japanese American upbringing instilled in me the values of working hard for my employers and getting ahead that way. I've never really thought about starting my own business.

But anyone who *has* launched a business, large or small, knows the labor, time and commitment it takes to toil toward success. Entrepreneurship is not easy by any measure. It takes resiliency and fortitude to pursue your passion every day. It takes resources, networks, mentors and a bit of innovation to be a successful entrepreneur. AARP supports aspiring small business owners by equipping them with information and resources to determine if being a business owner is right for them.

Throughout the month of November,

## REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

### WE SALUTE YOU, *ENTREPRENEURS!*

AARP is recognizing and supporting 50+ entrepreneurship with a series of events that will inform, educate and inspire aspiring and existing entrepreneurs.

The month will kickoff with an online Small Business Roundtable of entrepreneurs and small business professionals who will host community conversations. Just visit the website (<https://community.aarp.org/t5/Work-Jobs/Small-Business-Roundtable-Discussion-with-the-Experts/m-p/2067800>) and follow the conversation. Topics include: How to start a business, how to turn your side hustle into your main hustle, relevant tools and resources, networking and marketing to grow your business and a host of other small business topics.

AARP will also host two live Telephone Town Hall events on funding and marketing your small business. Information about all of these events is available online at [www.aarp.org/startabusiness](http://www.aarp.org/startabusiness).

Additionally, on Small Business Saturday, the Saturday after Thanksgiving, we encourage small business owners to let their community and networks know they are "open for business." It's also a way to give back and support your local economy.

If you're an aspiring entrepreneur, use the

day to support a small business and as an opportunity to network, learn about being in business for yourself, identify local resources to help you get started and seek experienced business owners as mentors.

AARP recognizes the challenges that must be overcome for entrepreneurs to launch and sustain a business. We collaborate nationally and locally to offer learning opportunities to inform and educate individuals interested in launching new enterprises as business owners.

In addition, there are a host of organizations such as Small Business Administration ([www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)), SCORE ([www.score.org](http://www.score.org)), National Urban League ([www.nul.org](http://www.nul.org)), Institute for Veterans and Military Families (<http://ivmf.syracuse.edu>) and US Chambers of Commerce, just to name a few, that provide training, mentoring and one-on-one support.

Check out AARP's free tools and resources at [www.aarp.org/50plusentrepreneurship](http://www.aarp.org/50plusentrepreneurship) and [www.aarp.org/startabusiness](http://www.aarp.org/startabusiness) to get a jump-start on launching, scaling and growing your business.

Ron Mori is a member of the Washington, D.C., JACL chapter and manager of

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