



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

Sakura Kokumai was recently awarded the 2019 Female Athlete of the Year award from the U.S.A. National Karate-do Federation.

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## AIMING FOR GOLD

**U.S. karate hopeful  
Sakura Kokumai  
has her sights set  
on Tokyo 2020.**

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**'The Poston  
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Program to be held  
in Anaheim, Calif.**

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**Kakehashi Alum  
Creates New  
Clothing Line,  
Akashi-Kama**

*Celebrating 90 Years*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I and my family spent over three years in Tule Lake from its days as a relocation center then as a segregation center. When the U.S. Army administered the questionnaire to determine loyalty, my parents chose not to respond to controversial questions 27 and 28.

My father said that responding "Yes" to question 28 would result in losing his Japanese citizenship. Since at the time there were laws that forbid alien Japanese from becoming American citizens, he would become a man without a country.

I was too young to answer the questionnaire, which the Supreme Court declared after World War II that the U.S. Army had no authority to administer the questionnaire. In reality, there is no way to accurately determine loyalty by means of a questionnaire.

After WWII when a law was passed to make it possible for Japanese aliens to become citizens, my father was the first one in Stockton to apply for and be granted citizenship of the United States of America.

One other thing I wish to mention is that it takes *courage* to deviate from the majority. I believe many who responded "No-No" had the courage to do so.

Sincerely,  
Terry Ishihara

Dear Editor,

This afternoon (July 22), it finally occurred to me that World War II has not ended with this small portion of the Nikkei Nation. They are still fighting against the National JACL's wartime policy and recommended procedures of the Salt Lake City (December 1942) meeting, which proved enlightened and successful.

The Nikkei Nation of WWII (incarcerated and Nisei veterans) is highly respected and admired by the press, government officials, knowledgeable historians and others.

Regardless of the decision by the JACL National Council in Salt Lake City at this year's National Convention (July 31-Aug. 4), this issue will remain.

A "no win" situation.

Onward!  
Mas Hashimoto,  
Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL

## JACL WELCOMES NEW DANIEL K. INOUE FELLOW

WASHINGTON, D.C. — JACL welcomes new Daniel K. Inoue fellow **Matthew Weisbly** to the Washington, D.C., office.

Coming from Phoenix via Los Angeles, Weisbly recently completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Southern California with a degree in History.

His senior thesis explored numerical data and oral histories of Ni-



sei soldiers with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

A longtime JACL member, Weisbly also served as the Youth Representative for the Arizona chapter and the inaugural Ted T. Namba fellow for the Pacific Southwest district.

After the completion of his new fellowship position, Weisbly wants to return to school to get his PhD in history.

Welcome Matthew!

— JACL National

## P.C.'s George Johnston Wins Prize From L.A. Press Club

The Los Angeles Press Club awarded the *Pacific Citizen's* George Toshio Johnston a first-place trophy at its 61st SoCal Journalism Awards on June 29 in Los Angeles.

The award was in the category Personality Profile for newspapers under circulation of 50,000 and was for a November 2018 *Pacific Citizen* story titled "Still Hovering: Ex-Door Gunner's Vietnam Memories Never Far Away," about Army veteran John Masaki, who served in Vietnam circa 1968 as a crew chief and door-gunner in a helicopter gunship.

Regarding the category-topping article, the judges' comment read: "The piece is personal, factual

and poignant. That combination makes for a powerful human interest personality profile. It represents thorough journalism."

The story can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/2FKbzrc>.

"The P.C. is thrilled to have George formally recognized for his story. He thought of the story concept for our Veteran's Special Issue, and the end product resulted in a feature that truly resonated with our readers and garnered much word of mouth," said P.C. Executive Editor Allison Haramoto. "George was able to bring to light John's heroism in serving his country during the war."

The first-place journalism prize is Johnston's second from the LAPC. In Decem-



The P.C.'s George Johnston holds his L.A. Press Club award for his featured November 2018 story.

ber 2017 at the 10th National Arts & Entertainment Journalism Awards, he won in

» See CLUB on page 4

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# PACIFIC CITIZEN



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By Marsha Aizumi

## A MOTHER'S TAKE PRIDE AROUND THE WORLD

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MARSHA AIZUMI

Last month, I had the wonderful opportunity of returning to Japan to speak on LGBTQ family acceptance. It was 12 days, three cities, six events and connecting with more than 1,200 people. To say it was impactful would be an understatement.

There were so many moments that moved my heart. I can't begin to list them all, so I will just give you the highlights:

**TOKYO:** Speaking at the University in Tsukuba and learning of the work they are doing was so inspiring. I spoke about the university Aiden attended and how its belief and support of him turned his life around.

The university and its staff made Aiden believe that his life mattered. The moderator of the panel, Professor Kawano, followed my comments with a story about an LGBTQ student coming up to him and saying, "This university is killing me."

Professor Kawano was so affected by this student's words that he has taken it upon himself to write and publish guidelines supporting LGBTQ students. He also created a safe space sticker, so that students will know who they can turn to for help, as well as coordinated

the event we spoke at that day.

And that student who once felt like the university was killing him is still alive today. One person, a professor, listened to him, and he found hope.

**NAGOYA:** At Showa High School, we spoke to more than 1,000 students, teachers, parents and staff.

I was touched by the courage of a transgender middle school teacher who came out to her school and shared her story. I was also moved by a young transgender man who vulnerably spoke about how he and his mother found their way back to each other after being estranged for 10 years.

Later, I met the mother of that young transgender man. We couldn't communicate directly because of our language differences, but somehow as we talked through a translator, there was a moment when we looked into each other's eyes, and we spontaneously hugged one another.

We were two mothers who struggled in the beginning, but in the end, the love we have for our children helped us to overcome any obstacles that were put in our way.

It was a special moment. And as her transgender son looked on, all I could feel was how much pride and love he has for his mother.

**SAPPORO:** We ended our tour in the city where my husband's father was raised. At this event, I met a representative from the

U.S. Consulate and a number of high school students. At the end of our presentation, the young people approached me hesitantly and asked to talk to me.

"We have some money in our club and want to do something to support the LGBTQ students on our campus," they told me. "What are some things we can do?"

I talked about doing a poster contest, organizing a diversity week and bringing in some LGBTQ speakers to share their stories to their school. They listened intently, and I believe that they will take these ideas back to their high school and implement one or two of them.

I applaud these young people who will be giving all students — whether LGBTQ+ or not — the message that being a positive voice is so important.

One of the things that surprised many of the people in Japan was just how unsafe parts of the United States can be.

The U.S. is seen as such a progressive place. I explained to them that Aiden will not travel to certain places due to the laws of that state. And there are even places where one might not feel safe as an Asian person.

So, we continue to work hard to bring greater



Two proud mothers of transgender sons during the Nagoya presentation



Getting ready to speak at Showa High School in Nagoya, Japan

awareness and knowledge to fight the fear and discrimination that still exists.

I shared how much I respect the people in Japan who are bringing to light this same hard work — many of the people in the audience were educators and leaders in their cities — and you could feel their hearts swell with pride.

June was Pride Month in Los Angeles, where I live. Pride Month to me is all about celebrating being proud of who you are, whether you are LGBTQ+, a parent or supporter of an LGBTQ+ person or just want people to be accepted and respected as they are.

I believe this trip to Japan helped people to be better allies, have dreams of raising greater LGBTQ+ awareness in the future and brought a sense of pride to all who were involved. I certainly felt that way. . . .

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



By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

## LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE PASSING DOWN THE FAMILY HOME

I am in the middle of a three-part series on Nursing Home care. In my last article, "Getting Old Is Not for Sissies" (June 28-July 11, 2019), I suggested that families take advantage of the Nursing Home Reform Act (1987) and insist on participating on a personal care plan for their loved one in a nursing home.

I truly appreciate the calls and emails of appreciation and encouragement that I've received and plan to follow-up with a second article on the illegal use of "psycho-tropic" drugs in nursing homes, as well as a third article dealing with illegal evictions. However, there's something "timelier" I want to address in this article — how to pass down the family home.

Many *Pacific Citizen* readers have already sold their homes and moved into retirement homes or moved in with their adult children. Others have properly funded their homes into their revocable living trusts to avoid probate court. Those homes will probably be sold upon the parent's passing with a step-up in basis and forgiveness of gain.

However, there are quite a few *Pacific Citizen* readers who plan to pass down the family home to a child or grandchild who plans to continue to reside in the family home. To be sure, the child or grandchild who inherits the family home will want to continue to pay the least amount of property taxes as possible.

Under current law, i.e., Prop 58 (approved in 1986), parents are allowed to give their residential property to their heirs without triggering a tax reassessment. The intent of Prop 58 is to insulate children from absorbing a huge spike in property taxes and help them stay in the family home.

Under Prop 13, an existing homeowner might only be paying \$1,500 per year in property taxes. The guy that bought the same house across the street is paying \$10,000 per year in property taxes, i.e., assessed at market value. Under Prop 58, the existing Prop 13 property tax is passed down to the child.

California is the only state to offer this tax break. For more than 40 years in California, Proposition 13 has been untouchable, i.e., a "Sacred Cow." Politicians have feared for their careers if they dared suggest changes to the measure that capped property taxes, took a scythe to government spending and spawned anti-tax initiatives across the country.

But times are changing. Many seniors, who

were quite vocal 40 years ago, have either passed away or are not demonstrating or marching any longer. Younger state politicians believe that Prop 13 and Prop 58 robs communities of property taxes that fund vital public services for all residents, including seniors. In other words, these tax breaks may not be available for much longer.

Sen. Jerry Hill (D-San Mateo) introduced a new law that takes aim at Proposition 58.

"We need to close the legal loophole that has allowed some individuals to dodge thousands of dollars in property taxes while reaping rental income from homes they have inherited and do not use as their primary residence," he told the *San Francisco Chronicle* in December 2018.

"We're not touching Prop. 13. We're touching Prop. 58. The goal is to get people to pay their fair share," said Hill.

The proposed ballot measure would require people who inherit property in this way to move into the home within a year if they want the property tax break. The change would apply to future heirs, not those who have already inherited homes.

Currently, all real property in California is taxed under the same rules, regardless of how the owner uses it. The only reason for these measures is a desire to increase state revenues. But, changing the law now would be deeply

unfair to the younger generation that has been forced to pay the highest Social Security and Medicare taxes in history and are saddled with student debt and stuck with lower-paying jobs than their parents.

"But Judd, what can I do?" If you have a child or grandchild that you want to leave your home to, think about transferring your home and the existing Prop 13 tax rate to your child (or grandchild) *now*. If you act prior to any new laws, e.g., SCA 3, you will "dodge the thousands of dollars in property taxes" from going up.

But don't go sign and record a deed gifting your home away. There are legal safeguards that need to be implemented so that you receive a Lifetime Right to Occupy. There are also ways of preserving the "step-up" in basis. It would be highly advisable to consult with an attorney and your CPA before you act. ■

*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@elder-lawcalifornia.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.*



# JACL PSW DISTRICT COUNCIL HOLDS QUARTERLY MEETING AT UCI

Host SELANOCO JACL also makes its year-end plans.

By Patti Hirahara,  
P.C. Contributor

The JACL PSW District Council held its quarterly meeting, hosted by the SELANOCO JACL chapter, on July 14 at the Dr. Joseph White Room in the University of California Irvine's Cross-Cultural Center in Irvine, Calif. The PSW District Council is comprised of 27 chapters and is led by Gov. Carol Kawamoto.

Since 1966, the SELANOCO JACL has been active in Southeast Los Angeles and North Orange County activities, and its main focus as a chapter is to reach a younger audience and promote the message of the JACL.

According to Ryan Yoshikawa, president of the SELANOCO JACL, "The new generations are more aware of the political landscape, and I want to help give them an avenue to become a larger voice in their own community with a strong organization, such as the JACL."

When asking Yoshikawa what inspired him to become a board member and now chapter president, he said, "When I became a director of public relations for Tomo No Kai, a Japanese American cultural club at UCI in my senior year in 2017, I became the student liaison to the SELANOCO chapter. Through this, I was introduced to the fantastic board members and their hard work to maintain civil liberties for not just the Japanese American people, but also all citizens of the United States. The hard work and dedication of our board has motivated me to become the president of the chapter."

"They have an unwavering belief in the organization and the principles it was founded upon," Yoshikawa continued. "I was honored that I could become president of the SELANOCO chapter and continue its legacy of civil justice into the next generation. I want to help inspire others my age and younger to become more involved and aware of the power they have and the community they are a part of."

During the meeting, plans were discussed for upcoming events, including the biggest fundraiser for the SELANOCO JACL, its annual *Mochitsuki*, which was started in December 1974.

At this event, the chapter makes more than 100 pounds of mochi in preparation for the New Year. Each year, chapter members enjoy inviting college students to come and experience this annual tradition.

For many Japanese American youth, this is



SELANOCO JACL President Ryan Yoshikawa (right) welcomes delegates to the July 14 meeting at the University of California, Irvine, along with PSW District Council Gov. Carol Kawamoto (left) and former JACL National President and PSW Vice Gov. Gary Mayeda (center) working the video-conferencing system to communicate with JACL chapters who could not attend.

their first opportunity to make and eat their own mochi — which is why this event, in particular, helps to preserve the Japanese American legacy in the community.

In addition, the SELANOCO JACL celebrated its 53rd anniversary on April 23, having been chartered on that day in 1966 with Henry Yamaga serving as the chapter's first president. There were 101 charter members and five associate members who began the chapter; now the next generation of SELANOCO JACL members are continuing their legacy.

The SELANOCO chapter and its members have had a long history of involvement in the Southeast Los Angeles and North Orange County communities and have made a difference not only in the Japanese American community but also national and world affairs.

Its participation in Rotary Clubs, PTA's, Bar Associations, the Orange County Grand Jury, the Orange County Human Relations Commission and being active at the California State University, Fullerton, and University of California, Irvine, campuses is a key to its long-term success.

The SELANOCO Chapter is also working with Anaheim educational groups and the Poston Community Alliance to present a program at Anaheim High School on Aug. 24 entitled "The Poston Experience: Paving the Way for the Next Generations" and the City of Anaheim to present its new original exhibition "I AM AN AMERICAN: Japanese Incarceration in a Time of Fear" at the MUZEO Museum and Cultural Center from Aug. 25-Nov. 3 in Downtown Anaheim.

Among JACL business covered at the PSW District Council meeting was the upcoming

JACL National Convention, set to be held in Salt Lake City from July 31-Aug. 4; PSW District Youth Representative business; district committee reports; the PSW "90th Anniversary of JACL" celebration event on Oct. 26 at the Redondo Beach Marriott in Torrance, Calif.; PSW District Nominations Committee and election; and the 79th Annual Nisei Week Foundation Pioneer Spirit Luncheon, where SELANOCO's Ken Inouye and Yoshihiro



Tomo No Kai members Jamela Toso (left) and Marin Ihara talk with SELANOCO JACL board member Ken Inouye. In the background is a portrait of Dr. Joseph L. White, for whom the room where the meeting was held is named. Dr. White was professor emeritus in the UCI School of Social Sciences. At UCI, he founded the Cross-Cultural Center, the first of its kind in the University of California system, which bears his name, and the Counseling Center.

Uchida will be among the honorees.

The UCI Tomo No Kai students added a special touch to the meeting by greeting guests at the parking structure and guiding them to the UCI Cross-Cultural Center.

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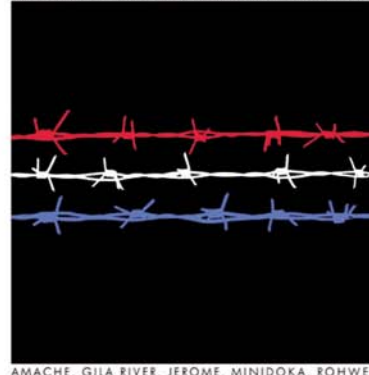
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As a token of our gratitude, the first 100 members to upgrade will receive the gift of this 20" x 20" barbed wire icon art lithographic poster print, signed by artist Bob Matsumoto. Upgraded members are also invited to attend the VIP Reception for the Sayonara Banquet at the JACL National Convention.

Ready to upgrade your JACL membership? Call us at (415) 921-5225 or upgrade online at: [www.jacl.org/member/](http://www.jacl.org/member/)

MANZANAR, TULE LAKE, HEART MOUNTAIN, TOPAZ, POSTON



AMACHE, GILA RIVER, JEROME, MINIDOKA, ROHWER

TM & © MATSUMOTO

## CLUB » continued from page 2

the category Commentary Diversity/Gender for a piece that appeared in the *Rafu Shimpo* titled "Horsing Around Pays Off for Scott Oshita, Todd Minobe," which focused on one of the members of an Academy Award-winning team that developed the animatronic horse puppet, which is a lifelike animatronic horse used in movies.

In 2018, Johnston also reported on a story about a license plate from Kansas that read "442 JAP." The P.C. story was instrumental in having the Kansas Department of Revenue change its policy, proscribing use of the three-letter combination "JAP" in its license plates and recalling more than 700 extant plates containing that word.



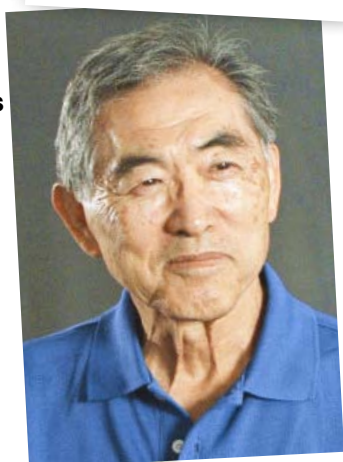
# 'THE POSTON EXPERIENCE'

**A special program highlighting the true experiences of Japanese pioneers from Anaheim, Calif., at the Poston, Ariz., incarceration camp during WWII will be held on Aug. 24.**

By Patti Hirahara,  
P.C. Contributor



**Panelists participating in "The Poston Experience" event include (from top) Don Miyada, Marlene Shigekawa, Robert M. Wada, NPS' Tom Leatherman and Gania Demaree-Trotter, whose father was principal of Anaheim Union High School from 1941-54, as well as superintendent of the Anaheim Union High School District from 1941-58.**



The history of the Japanese pioneers and their descendants in Anaheim, Calif., before World War II and their education at Anaheim High School has never been featured in a major educational event in Anaheim before, nor has the telling of their experience while at the Poston, Ariz., Japanese American incarceration camp where they were sent during World War II.

To preserve the legacy of these Japanese American students, the Anaheim Union High School District and Anaheim High School will present a special two-hour program entitled "The Poston Experience: Paving the Way for the Next Generations," which will be held on Aug. 24 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Anaheim High School, located at 811 W. Lincoln Ave.

Supporting organizations for the event are the Anaheim Elementary School District, the Anaheim High School Alumni Assn., SELANOCO JACL and the Poston Community Alliance.

Offering welcome remarks will be Anaheim Union High School District Superintendent Michael B. Matsuda, Anaheim High School Principal Roberto Saldivar and Ryan Yoshikawa, president of the SELANOCO JACL. Janet Brown, field representative from U.S. Congressman J. Luis Correa's Office of the 46th District, will also be in attendance.

The Japanese immigrated into Anaheim in the early 1900s, with Anaheim Union High School, as it was called then, being the center of North Orange County education for the Japanese community, not only for those who lived in Anaheim, but also others that lived in neighboring cities where students traveled many miles to go to school by bicycle or even walking.

Attendees now have the opportunity to relive this time in history and be part of a historic event where they will sit in the actual auditorium where the Anaheim High School

student body assembled, in 1942, and was told by their principal, Dr. Paul H. Demaree, that their Japanese American friends had been forcibly sent to Japanese incarceration camps due to their ethnicity and would no longer attend the school for the foreseeable future because of the war. These Japanese American students used this opportunity to say goodbye.

The majority of the 30 Japanese and Japanese American students from the Anaheim Union High School Classes of 1942-45 were evacuated to a Japanese American incarceration camp in Poston, Ariz., and they were not able to complete their education at Anaheim or become part of their school's graduating class.

However, this oversight was corrected in 1997, when the Anaheim Union High School District bestowed diplomas to surviving graduates during Anaheim High School's graduation commencement ceremony that year, more than 50 years later.

The Aug. 24 program will feature Orange County leaders who went to Poston during WWII, a special presentation about an Anaheim pioneer family represented by Anaheim High School Class of 1962 graduate Marlene Shigekawa, who will talk about the Shigekawa family and her work in preserving the legacy of the Poston, Ariz., camp where she was born, as well as vocal renditions of songs from that time from students from the Anaheim Elementary School District and the Anaheim High School Las Sirenas Women's Choir.

In addition, there will also be a special panel discussion that will include Don Miyada; Marlene Shigekawa; Robert M. Wada; Tom Leatherman, representing the National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program; and special guest Gania Demaree-Trotter, AHS Class of 1944, whose father, Dr. Paul H. Demaree, was principal of Anaheim Union High School from 1941-54, as well as superintendent of the Anaheim Union High School District from 1941-58.

This innovative program is geared not only for those that went to Poston but also the families



**Originally from Anaheim, Calif., the Shigekawa family is shown while incarcerated in Poston, Ariz. Pictured are Kiyoshi and Misako Shigekawa along with their son, Gerald (bottom), and daughter, Marlene, who was born in Poston.**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MARLENE SHIGEKAWA

whose descendants were sent there and were never told about their family's experiences. It is also an educational opportunity for students to learn about this time in history and how it reflects the current sign of the times in what minority families are facing today.

A new and original 10-minute documentary, which is being produced by AUHSD Summer Film Academy high school students entitled "Remember Us: An Historic Chapter at Anaheim High School," will also make its debut at "The Poston Experience" program under the supervision of faculty adviser Jeff Numainville from Katella High School.

Admission for the program will be free for all those in attendance. Seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis, with limited seating available. Carpooling is also recommended.

This is the second major event in Southern California over the years to focus on the Poston experience. And for those who cannot attend the October Poston Pilgrimage, this is a great opportunity for JACL members and families to learn about this time in history.

**For further event information on "The Poston Experience: Paving the Way for the Next Generations," please call (714) 392-2103 or visit the AUHSD Facebook page for updates @AnaheimUnion.**



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PHOTOS: COURTESY OF XAVIER SERVOLLE

Sakura Kokumai and her brother, Alex

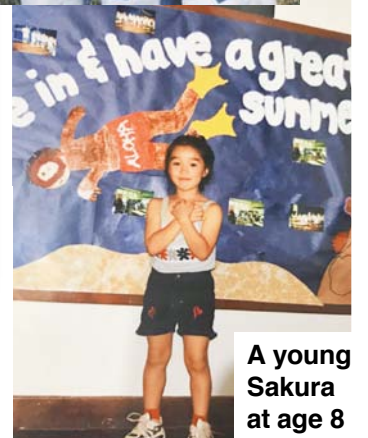


PHOTOS: COURTESY OF SAKURA KOKUMAI

Sakura Kokumai specializes in female individual *kata*, in which she is judged for how well she performs a preset karate routine.

**SAKURA KOKUMAI** AGE: 26**STYLE OF KARATE:** Shito Ryu**KATA LIST:** Chatan Yara Kushanku, Kakuren, Suparimpei, Anan, Anan Dai**HOMEBASE:** Los Angeles County

Sakura, 8, giving the "shaka" sign in Hawaii



A young Sakura at age 8

## OLYMPICS: KOKUMAI IS U.S. KARATE'S BEST HOPE TO NOT LEAVE EMPTY-HANDED

The L.A. County-based *karateka* presses the pedal to the medal in hopes of competing next summer in Tokyo at the Summer Games.

By P.C. Staff

When she's not in competition mode, Sakura Kokumai has a pleasant, friendly demeanor, and she looks like she could still be a college student.

But when Kokumai is wearing her karate *gi* and performing a *kata*, she becomes focused, fierce and formidable.

Art Ishii concurs. As chairman of the Nisei Week Nikkei Games and a rokudan *karateka* who is the senior instructor at

Matsubayashi Shōrin Ryū of Little Tokyo in Los Angeles, Ishii said, "What stands out with Sakura is her ability to focus on what she's doing. In discussions with her, I find her to be very disciplined, and she has her goals set. She has the discipline to do what it takes.

"She is totally committed," Ishii continued. "... I've seen world-class *kata* performed in many tournaments, and she clearly is in the top echelon of women's *kata*."



Sakura Kokumai, 26, is the United States' best hope to win a medal in karate next year in Tokyo at the Summer Games.



Sakura Kokumai with Walter Nishinaka and Kara Yokoyama at the Nikkei Games banquet on July 25



Posing with a young fan at the Nikkei Games banquet

PHOTOS: SUSAN YOKOYAMA



Sakura Kokumai (center) in Little Tokyo with instructors from Matsubayashi Shōrin Ryū



Sakura addresses students from Matsubayashi Shorin-Ryu.



Actress Tamlyn Tomita (right) with Sakura Kokumai at the San Fernando Valley Obon in July



Visiting the Pacific Citizen office in Los Angeles



As such, the 26-year-old, Hawaii-born Kokumai also appears to be one of — if not *the* — United States' best hope to win a medal in karate, which is making its Olympics debut at next year's Summer Games in Tokyo.

According to Kokumai, the karate competition will be divided into two categories (subdivided by respective gender): *kumite*, where two competitors in the same weight class actually throw hands and feet, and *kata*, where competitors are judged for how well they perform a preset form or series of movements traditionally used to train *karateka* in the fundamentals and practical applications for a particular hand, foot, elbow or knee strike.

The category in which Kokumai hopes to compete is female individual *kata*.

If she makes the cut, Kokumai will be just one of 10 women *kata* competitors from the entire world vying for a medal of gold, silver or bronze. (As the host nation, Japan automatically gets one of the 10 spots per gender.)

In the months between now and the beginning of the next Olympics on July 24, 2020, Kokumai will be training and participating in World Karate Federation and USA National Karate-do Federation sanctioned Premier League tournaments and competitions at a rate of about one per month, traveling to spots around the world so that she can qualify.

"We compete, we win rounds and we get the points, which are directly transferred to the world ranking system," Kokumai told the *Pacific Citizen* exclusively.

The points she referred to are called "Olympic points," and competitors need to accrue as many as possible in the run-up to the Games. Even now, Kokumai is currently attending the Pan American Games in Lima, Peru, which run until Aug. 11.

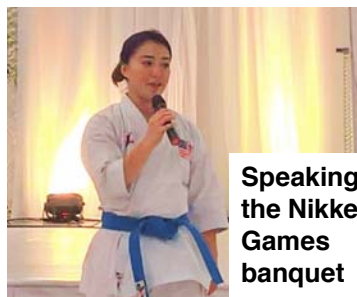
Kokumai will be a favorite there, having in mid-July been named the 2019 Female Athlete of the Year at the USA Karate Nationals, after her eighth first-place finish in the category "Female Elite Kata."

For Kokumai, currently ranked No. 1 in the U.S., the training and travel regimen between now and the Olympics will be like a yearlong marathon — and afterward, there is also the Karate World Championships to consider in November 2020, set to take place in Dubai.

With the strong likelihood that Kokumai will earn a spot on the U.S. Olympic team sometime next spring, it will be the culmination of about 20 years of practicing karate, mainly in the style Shitō-ryū, but in years past, she also studied Shotokan, Gojū-ryū and Ryūei-ryū.

Ironically, despite her many accolades, earning a spot on the U.S. Olympic team as a karate *kata* competitor was never Kokumai's goal. It only became a consideration for her and other *karateka* around the world after

PHOTO: NAME



Speaking at the Nikkei Games banquet

## 'Everything I learned in karate, I can apply it to life outside of the sport.'

— Sakura Kokumai

the International Olympic Committee announced in 2015 that karate — along with baseball/softball, sport climbing, surfing and skateboarding — would become an Olympic sport for the 2020 Games.

It was an unasked-for option in which Kokumai found herself at the right time and place, coupled with having the right skills.

With the Summer Olympics returning to Japan for the first time since 1964, the IOC's addition of karate was like a gift to Japan, as well as a one-off opportunity for Kokumai, since karate will not be part of the 2024 Summer Olympics.

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When Chieko and Keiji Kokumai originally moved from Okayama Prefecture's Tamano city years ago to live in the U.S., karate was not high on the to-do list for their future children.

In fact, the Hawaii-born Sakura Kokumai said that she is the only member of her family — she also has a brother two years younger — to practice the martial art, which can trace its origins to Okinawa Prefecture, Southern China and India.

Her motivation for studying karate, which translates to "empty hand," has evolved over the years.

Kokumai told the *Pacific Citizen*: "Everything I learned in karate, I can apply it to life outside of the sport."

Because of her bicultural and bilingual upbringing, Kokumai attended college in Japan, first at Doshisha University, where she focused on linguistics and education, then to Waseda University for a master's degree in international studies. She also, however, continued to practice karate along the way.

Also, because of her bicultural background, Kokumai has been asked if she chose to represent the U.S. in karate for the Olympics for opportunistic reasons, in other words because the competition to land a spot on the U.S. team would be easier than if she wanted to compete for Japan.

Having been a member of the USA Karate National Team since 2007, the fourth-degree or yondan *karateka* scoffs at that characterization.

"Karate was never in the Olympics in the first place. It all just came at the right time. I did karate because I love the sport. I've represented the sport since I was 14. I never chose something over something else," Kokumai told the *P.C.*

In a variation of how the loyalty of Nisei to the U.S. was questioned during WWII, Kokumai said sometimes she has encountered Japanese people who think the same thing about herself, albeit with a more positive spin.

"It's always been a topic that the Japanese people tend to

bring up," Kokumai says about the reaction after the IOC announced karate's inclusion in the Olympics.

"They would say, 'Oh, Sakura, you were so smart that you decided to represent the U.S.A. for the Olympics so that you can go to the Games,' or, 'Why did you choose the U.S. over Japan?'" she said.

"I would get those questions a lot, especially by the Japanese media," Kokumai continued. "It's always been hard because, for me, I started karate in Hawaii. I looked up to athletes on the U.S.A. team. There was never a point where it was like, 'I have to choose.' Naturally, I've represented the U.S. since I was 14. So, those kinds of questions always tend to come up."

For Kokumai, pursuing the path of karate has been a journey in which the journey itself was its own reward, with the awards and recognition more like an unintended positive outcome.

"It's not gymnastics, track or swimming where everyone knows the sport and the athletes that are involved in it," Kokumai said. "But that feeling of all the sacrifice, pain and hard work paying off is an incredible feeling. It makes it all worth it."

Ishii noted how that for Kokumai, her commitment to karate is something many people may not realize is a solitary, even lonely pursuit.

"Unlike, say, the U.S. basketball team — they practice together, they train together, they travel together — in this karate world, because she's a specialist in women's *kata*, it's a lonely world, unlike a volleyball or basketball team. She travels to competitions all over the world by herself," Ishii said.

"It's a committed, lonely journey," he continued. "When you think about it in those terms, it's even more of a commitment because you're the one who has to get up, you're the one who has to say, 'Oh, I've got to train, I've got to prepare and then I've got to go to Turkey in four days,' and then come back and train some more."

Ishii noted that despite her busy schedule and having to prepare for the Pan Am Games, Kokumai committed to appear at the Nikkei Games banquet in Orange County on July 25 to perform karate *kata*.

Right now, Kokumai's eyes are on making sure she attends all the necessary tournaments between now and the Olympics, with little thought to what she might do afterward, such as follow in the footsteps of American *judoka* Ronda Rousey, who parlayed an Olympic bronze medal into an action movie career.

"If the opportunity comes, I would love to give it a shot," Kokumai laughed. "But people who know my personality know that I'm a very shy person. So me being involved in that is something I'd never expect."

"It's pretty scary not to have plans after the Olympics," she continued, "but I obviously will be involved in karate. I won't retire from that — ever." ■

## NISEI WEEK SPECIAL!!



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12953 Branford St.

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# FORT SILL PROTESTS CONTINUE

Tsuru for Solidarity and Buddhist priests join together to voice opposition against the unjust detention of migrant youth.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF LINDA MORRIS, TSURU FOR SOLIDARITY



**Rev. Duncan Williams and Rev. Egyoku Nakao conduct a peaceful prayer service at Fort Sill in front of a U.S. Army artillery weapon draped with leis, donated by the Oshima family, that the group brought with them. Kanesaburo Oshima was killed by a guard while incarcerated at Fort Sill during World War II on May 12, 1942, at the age of 58.**

More than 400 people from across the country converged on Lawton, Okla., on July 20 to participate in a second protest at Fort Sill, where the Trump Administration announced plans to incarcerate an estimated 1,400 asylum-seeking migrant children as early as next month.

Tsuru for Solidarity members and a delegation of Buddhist priests joined the protest rally. Many of the Japanese Americans and their supporters had participated in a similar protest rally in front of Fort Sill on June 22.

Protesters braved the more than 100-degree heat and closed down the street leading into Fort Sill. Unlike the heavy-handed tactics taken by the military police on June 22, there were no visible military police or Lawton police officers present at this protest.

Rev. Duncan Ryuken Williams led the delegation of Buddhist priests. Following a Buddhist memorial service, Williams placed leis on a field artillery display in front of Fort Sill.

Before Mike Ishii, one of the co-founders of Tsuru for Solidarity — created by Japanese American survivors and descendants of former WWII prison camps for those of Japanese ancestry — led the group

in a “Close the Camps” chant, he said, “This is nothing. If you bring the children here, every one of us represents thousands and thousands of people back home. And we will come back. You haven’t seen anything yet.”

Tsuru for Solidarity members who participated in the rally with Ishii included Becca Asaki, Linda Morris, Lauren Sumida and Carl Takei.

Williams was able to organize a Sangha Support Group comprised of 129 Buddhist priests and laypersons, guided by a seven-member steering committee.

Buddhist priests who were able to attend the Fort Sill rally included:

- Rev. Duncan Ryuken Williams, committee chair and author of “American Sutra”
- Rev. William Briones, Los Angeles Honpa Hongwani Buddhist Temple (Nishi Hongwani)
- Rev. Ryuji Hayashi, Koyasan Beikoku Betsuin of Los Angeles
- Rev. Shumyo Kojima, Zenshuji Soto Mission
- Rev. Myozen Joan Amaral, Zen Center of North Shore
- Rev. Gyokuko Carlson, Dharma Rain Zen Center

» See FORT SILL on page 12

## FILM REVIEW: ‘THE FAREWELL’

Dual immersion and family are depicted in Lulu Wang’s wonderful telling of an immigrant family.

By Connie K. Ho,  
P.C. Contributor

With Warner Bros. Pictures’ “Crazy Rich Asians” premiering last year, ABC’s “Fresh Off the Boat” currently on television and Disney’s “Mulan” set to debut next year, there seems to be a rising tide for Asian American representation in Hollywood.

Not since the telling of “The Joy Luck Club” in the 1990s has the stories of Asian American families appeared so frequently. The recent release of writer-director Lulu Wang’s story heralds another wonderful telling of an immigrant family.

“The Farewell” centers on Billi (played by Awkwafina), who lives in Brooklyn, N.Y., and her grandmother (Zhao Shuzhen), who lives in Changchun, China. They communicate regularly and have a close relationship, and it devastates Billi when she finds out that her grandmother has been diagnosed with cancer and handed a death sentence.

Billi’s family has decided not to tell her grandmother the diagnosis, and they go about planning a return home to China under the guise of a wedding for a cousin, who is a marrying a Japanese girlfriend. Billi is asked not to attend the reunion, with her parents afraid that she will blow their cover. She decides to go anyway, and the narrative follows her experience abroad.

Wang’s story was first told as a segment on the radio show “This American Life,” and much of “The Farewell” dovetails with the piece; on the clip, Wang described how she came to China to spend time with her grandmother and how she was asked to keep the same ruse for her family’s sake.

Even though much of the film is in Chinese with subtitles, there are universal themes to which many can relate. A theme weaved throughout is the experience of leaving home and how that may cause anguish, whether for the individual who finds him or herself in a new country and has to navigate a new way of living or the pain that a parent may feel when left in the home country, having to cope with a child living abroad and no longer close at home.

Another theme is the comparison of values and living styles of East vs. West.

Billi is told that many Chinese families would not choose to tell an elder that they are dying of a disease. An uncle who immigrated to Japan notes that not telling his mother her

prognosis is allowing him to shoulder for her the emotional toll and burden of having to face death, something that he believes resonates with those who live in a society with Eastern philosophy.

The uncle sees Billi as selfish in wanting to tell her grandmother about her lung cancer, saying how those in the West may view telling the truth as necessary, but it is more a way to remove his/her own burden and responsibility.

In “The Farewell,” viewers are made to confront their own mortality as well. There’s an exploration of Buddhist memorial services, where bows are made at shrines with pleas to ancestors. Incense and items are burned as offerings while tables are decorated with flowers and candles. It’s a rare and unique look into the ways that those with Buddhist philosophy would worship and mourn family members.

With the infusion of religion, there is also the debate of what’s right, and what’s wrong, what is truth, and what is a lie. The family has opted not to tell Billi’s grandmother about her diagnosis, and each relative has a differing perspective on the lie. Moviegoers are asked to consider when the circumstances for a lie are good, when the lie is bad and how a lie can impact others.

In addition, there’s the feeling of code switching that many immigrants may feel and experience on a daily basis, where individuals are alternating between multiple languages and cultures.

The main character speaks with her grandmother in Chinese, but between long, tense moments of dialogue, she reverts to English to speak with her parents to inject opinions or thoughts that she doesn’t want others to necessarily understand. Billi also often asks for clarifications on terms or words as others who grow up speaking a second language may identify with.

As an Asian American growing up in Southern California, it’s not often that this particular viewpoint is reflected and represented in the media — the feeling of being split between two cultures in the East and West — and so it is heartening to see some of those experiences highlighted onscreen.

There’s a clear juxtaposition of American culture with Asian culture where characters are seen in a variety of scenes that sprinkle in cultural activities, whether that be exercising and doing Tai Chi

out in a courtyard, taking glamour photos in a studio for a wedding album or relishing dinner at a banquet with feasts of delicious seafood along with a round of karaoke.

There is also a sense of the politeness culture found in Asia and a focus on “saving face,” where families believe in putting up a strong front rather than showing any signs of weakness.

Similarly, the depictions of the characters break stereotypes of Asian representation in mainstream media. The family members all grapple with multidimensional issues, whether that’s striving to achieve a better life through education or dealing with both the benefits and deterrents of technology.

In one scene, Billi attempts to take a look at her grandmother’s old home, where she had spent time playing when she was young; Billi is seen looking into the past and coming to terms with how that relic of her childhood is no longer there.

The director paints a layered image of these situations and emotions, pulling at the heartstrings and noting the range of moments this one family experiences.

The movie is a colorful exploration of these various ideas. It is encouraging to see the nuanced storytelling, and it is something that leaves audiences wanting to discuss, prod and converse on the topics furthermore.

The cast lifts the film in more ways than one, with actress/rapper Awkwafina adding her comedic timing, Zhao relaying a warmth and energetic spirit to the role of grandmother Nai Nai and Tzi Ma providing a stern yet conflicted take as Billi’s father.

**The film opens nationwide on Aug. 2. Details are available at [tickets.thefarewell.movie](https://tickets.thefarewell.movie).**



**“The Farewell,” written and directed by Lulu Wang, stars Awkwafina, Zhao Shuzhen and Tzi Ma.**





Alec Nakashima (back row, seventh from left) and his Kakehashi Project group

ALL PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ALEC NAKASHIMA



Alec at Mount Bandai in Japan, the inspirational source of his clothing line.



Alec with his Kakehashi host parent at Mount Bandai

# AKASHI-KAMA

Kakehashi Project alum Alec Nakashima designs his new sustainable clothing collection with direct inspiration from his memories of Japan.

Alec with his first-run collection of Noragi jackets



Red Wave Noragi



By Allison Haramoto,  
P.C. Executive Editor

To say that Alec Nakashima experienced a true “aha” moment in Japan is an understatement.

While on his first trip there in 2018 as a member of the Kakehashi Project — a program sponsored by the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and coordinated by the JACL and the Japan International Coordination Center that allows young Asian Americans to travel to Japan to gain a greater understanding of Japanese culture and history — Nakashima was instantly drawn to the country’s beauty and cultural significance.

While on tour of Mount Bandai during a homestay near Fukushima with his host family, Nakashima, then a product manager for a Silicon Valley company, was inspired to take a huge leap of faith. The result? The idea for his original clothing line, Akashi-Kama, was born.

Nakashima, who is a 27-year-old fourth/fifth generation Japanese American originally from Lodi, Calif., said, “This was all birthed from an idea I had on my incredible Kakehashi experience. After I got home, I kept looking for something that blended the beauty of the Japanese aesthetic with an American influence, a product uniquely paralleling my Japanese and American heritage.

“I had this desire to create something that blended that concept and design — a fusion of these two distinct worlds,” Nakashima continued. “But I couldn’t find anything that I was picturing in my mind, so I decided to

design my own.”

Akashi-Kama launched online officially in May after Nakashima spent nearly 11-plus months coming up with designs, sourcing materials, taking production meetings and finding manufacturers to bring his sketches to life, each reflecting what being “JA” means to him.

“‘Akashi’ comes from a place in Japan, but it also comes from a middle section of my last name, and ‘kama’ refers to color,” said Nakashima of his clothing line’s name. “I wanted it to be something that you’ve never had any mental association with, something that’s really unique.”

Having a product background and an entrepreneurial spirit helped him, but it really comes down to hard work, family support and faith in his product that spurred Nakashima onward.

“I left my full-time job to consult part-time so that I could do Akashi-Kama. I really believed in it — the soul of it is so strong, our hardworking history inspired me to see it through. I had to teach myself to push through obstacles and indicators that told me to stop, but I knew this collection could make an impact if I saw it through,” Nakashima said.

Having found a garment manufacturer in Oakland, Calif., and a Japanese American-owned distributor that imports fabric from Japan in Torrance, Calif., Nakashima then had the help of his wife, Lacey, who is a marketing professional, to assist him in establishing Akashi-Kama’s website and social media presence.

The first collection of Akashi-Kama launched featuring Japanese Noragi jackets that are

cut and tapered with a more modern American flair.

Featuring three colors — indigo, red and black — the Noragi designs, which are sized for both men and women in XS-L, also feature gold Akashi-stamped agglets.

“You would never find the gold ends on a traditional Japanese jacket. I thought it was a cool way to add my design and flair on it. It adds movement to the design and are meant to be worn untied,” said Nakashima.

And each item, from the stitching to the tags, has been designed in a sustainable way in the Bay Area and completely self-funded.

“I’m really particular about the product quality. There were a lot of shortcuts we could of taken, ways to cut corners, but my vision from Day 1 was to be true to my heritage. I couldn’t give it any less,” Nakashima stated.

In addition to the Noragi jackets, the collection also features T-shirts and hoodies that feature a Mount Bandai logo.

The response since Akashi-Kama launched has been extremely positive.

“We had a modest 125 Noragi jackets for our first run,” said Nakashima. “The incredible thing is that through the ability of marketing and community word of mouth, we’ve sold out of most of our stuff.”

Which is great news, as Akashi-Kama’s second collection is set to launch in early August.

“What has been really cool for me to see is that we have people of all age ranges buying them,” said Nakashima. “It’s been eye-opening. Anyone can wear these designs. It’s timeless.”

So what does Nakashima’s family think about Akashi-Kama?

“They are behind me 100 percent. They are entrepreneurs (Nakashima’s grandparents own Pacific Bowl in Stockton, Calif., and had a chain of grocery stores there), and they know this is my passion.”

Nakashima plans to continue for as long as possible.

“I really want to keep telling our story through my designs. It’s my unique voice — I have to stay true to my experience as a Japanese American.”

For more information on Akashi-Kama, visit <https://www.akashi-kama.com/> or visit [instagram @akashi\\_kama](#).



Indigo Noragi

Specialized gold ends



Alec Nakashima and his wife, Lacey, with his first collection



Akashi-Kama Green Mountain hoodie



Akashi-Kama’s clothing collection is available online.



Yahiko Noragi



A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## NATIONAL

**The 2019 JACL National Convention**  
Salt Lake City, UT  
July 31-Aug. 4  
Little America Hotel  
500 Main St.

Going on now! Join JACL at its annual National Convention in Salt Lake City! Registration is open! Don't miss this opportunity to connect with JACLers from across the country as the organization continues its civil rights advocacy mission.

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

## NCWNP

**Midori Kai Arts & Crafts Boutique**  
Mountain View, CA  
Sept. 14; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Mountain View Buddhist Temple  
Gym

575 N. Shoreline Blvd.

**Price: Free**

It's never too early to get a jump-start on holiday shopping! This event will feature many talented and creative artisans, including handcrafted jewelry, clothing, pottery, Asian foods, live entertainment and much more. All proceeds benefit nonprofit organizations, including the Asian Pacific Islander Leadership Institute, Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach, Japanese American Museum-San Jose and Yu Ai Kai-Keiro Kai Program.

**Info: Visit [www.midorikai.com](http://www.midorikai.com) or email Phyllis Osaki at [posaki@gsmanagement.com](mailto:posaki@gsmanagement.com) or Marsha Baird at [marshabaird@me.com](mailto:marshabaird@me.com).**

**COPANI XX 2019**

San Francisco, CA

Sept. 20-22

West Bay Conference Center  
1290 Fillmore St.

Buddhist Church of San Francisco  
1881 Pine St.

**Price: Registration prices vary; visit the website for more information.**

Every two years, COPANI brings together international Nikkeis to celebrate Japanese heritage, obtain knowledge about the Japanese American experience outside the U.S., practice foreign languages, make new friends and exchange ideas and interact with peers in engaging workshops. This year's keynote speaker is Hon. Norman Mineta.

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

**Chiura Obata: An American Modern**  
Sacramento, CA  
Thru Sept. 25  
Crocker Art Museum  
216 O St.

**Price: Free for members; Adults \$12; Seniors/Students/Military \$8; Youth: \$6**

Born in Japan, Chiura Obata emigrated to the U.S. in 1903 and began a seven-decade career that saw him emerging as a leading figure in the Northern California art scene and as an influential educator. This exhibition offers more than 100

paintings, drawings, prints and personal items from the artist, many of which have never been on public display. They range from the artist's early formal studies as a student in Japan to the California landscapes for which he is most recognized.

## PSW

**Buddhist Temple of San Diego Obon Festival**

San Diego, CA

Aug. 3; 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Buddhist Temple of San Diego

2215 Pan American Road E

**Price: Entrance fee for Japanese Friendship Garden; free after 4 p.m.**

Outdoor festivities begin with music, cultural displays, food sales — all are welcome to attend this family friendly event celebrating Obon. There is an entrance fee for the Japanese Friendship Garden; dancing begins at 6 p.m. at Spreckels Organ Pavilion next to the garden; this is free.

**Info: Visit <https://www.japanese-city.com/calendar/events/index.php?elD=34614>.**

**Gardena Buddhist Church Obon**  
Gardena, CA

Aug. 10, 3 p.m.-10 p.m.; Aug. 11, 3 p.m.-9 p.m.

Gardena Buddhist Church

1517 W. 166th St.

**Price: Free**

Gardena Obon Festival is the largest Obon festival in the South Bay area. There will be delicious food booths, bingo, cultural demonstrations, plants for sale, crafts, games, taiko performances and nightly Obon dancing at 6 p.m.

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

**U.S.-Japan Council's Emerging Leaders Day at Angel Stadium**  
Anaheim, CA

Aug. 18; 1:07 p.m.

Angel Stadium

2000 E. Gene Autry Way

**Price: \$35**

Come join the Emerging Leaders Program alumni from the U.S.-Japan Council as they host a special Japanese Heritage Day at Angel Stadium, where they will be cheering on star Shohei Ohtani as he takes on the Chicago White Sox. All tickets come with a guaranteed Ohtani Bobblehead. Order deadline is Aug. 5.

**Info: Visit [angels.com/usjc](http://angels.com/usjc) or email [joshuamorey@jmoreyins.com](mailto:joshuamorey@jmoreyins.com).**

**Japan America Golf Classic**  
Tustin, CA

Sept. 14; Noon

Tustin Ranch Golf Club

12442 Tustin Ranch Road

**Price: Individual golf participant, \$300**

Since 1968, the Japan America Golf Classic has drawn a full tournament of Japanese and American business people, with proceeds benefiting children in schools, as well as the Hitachi Japanese Kite Workshops and Japan Bowl of California. Format play is Shamble Format. The

day ends with a silent auction and reception, followed by an awards dinner at 6:30 p.m.

**Info: Call (310) 965-9050, ext. 104 or email [info@jas-socal.org](mailto:info@jas-socal.org).**

**'At First Light: The Dawning of Asian Pacific America'**

Los Angeles, CA

Thru Oct. 20

JANM

100 N. Central Ave.

This multimedia exhibition explores and celebrates the emergence of a politically defined Asian Pacific American consciousness and identity. A co-production between Visual Communications and JANM, this exhibition serves as a reminder — as well as a call to action — of what can be accomplished when people unite as a community with commitment.

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

## PNW

**Obon Festival 2019 at Oregon**

Buddhist Temple

Portland, OR

Aug. 3; 3-9 p.m.

Oregon Buddhist Temple

3720 S.E. 34th Ave.

**Price: Free**

Oregon Buddhist Temple presents a whole day of fun for the entire family at its annual Obon event. In addition to a temple talk, there will be entertainment, food and beverages, a beer garden, children's activities, artisan vendors, a performance by Portland Taiko and much more.

**Info: Visit [oregonbuddhisttemple.com](http://oregonbuddhisttemple.com).**

**From Hiroshima to Hope**  
Seattle, WA

Aug. 6; 6-9:30 p.m.

Green Lake (North Shore)

7201 E. Green Lake Drive.

**Price: Free and open to the public**

A tradition since 1984, come and gather at Green Lake for the annual toro nagashi (lantern floating) ceremony honoring the victims of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as all victims of war. Created by local peace, faith and community organizations, this event is the oldest and largest anywhere outside of Japan. All are welcome to experience the feeling of community on this evening. Limited edition posters created for this event by artist Yoshiko Yamamoto are available to purchase with a donation at the event.

**Info: Visit <http://fromhiroshimatohope.org>.**

## CCDC

**Toro Nagashi: Floating Lantern Ceremony**

Fresno, CA

Aug. 10; 6:30-9 p.m.

Woodward Park Lake next to

Japanese Garden

114 W. Audubon Dr.

**Price: Lanterns, \$25**

First held in 1946, Toro Nagashi ("floating lanterns") is a Japanese

ceremony in which participants float glowing paper lanterns down a river to guide the spirit of the nonliving back to the afterlife after their visit during Obon. The cost to purchase a lantern is \$25. Instead of a time of mourning, Toro Nagashi is meant to be more a joyful celebration.

**Info: Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/toro-nagashi-tickets-61965604792>.**

## IDC

**A Taste of Colorado**

Denver, CO

Aug. 31-Sept. 1, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.;

Sept. 2, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Civic Center Park

E. Broadway Avenue and Colfax

Avenue

**Price: Free**

Produced by the Downtown Denver Partnership, this three-day event features worldly cuisine, music stages and shopping, as well as local artisans featured in the Arts & Crafts Marketplace and interactive activities and games for kids. This is the ultimate end-of-summer activity for the whole family to experience Colorado's diverse cultural traditions.

**Info: Visit [www.atasteofcolorado.com](http://www.atasteofcolorado.com).**

## MDC

**Japanese Obon Festival**

St. Paul, MN

Aug. 18; 3-9 p.m.

Marjorie McNeely Conservatory in

Como Park

1225 Estabrook Dr.

**Price: Adults, \$5; Children/Seniors, \$3; Free for children under 3.**

Bonsai, martial arts, singing, dancing, drumming, delicious food and other aspects of Japanese culture will be featured at this family-friendly event, reminiscent of Japan's annual Obon holiday. The day will culminate at dusk with the main event — the lantern lighting. Six stone lanterns and floating paper lanterns throughout the Japanese pond will create a vision of peacefulness and harmony to commemorate the dead.

**Info: Visit <http://www.comozoconservatory.org/attractions/gardens/japanesegarden/japanese-obon-festival/#/japanese-obon-festival>.**

**Minnesota's Secret Language**  
School Photo Display

St. Paul, MN

Thru Sept. 2

Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center

200 Tower Ave.

**Price: Free (admission fee is required to visit historic site, which includes a "mock up" Military Intelligence Service Language School classroom). Exhibit hours are Tues.-Fri. (10 a.m.-4 p.m.)/ Sat./Sun. (10 a.m.-5 p.m.); closed on Mondays except Labor Day (10 a.m.-5 p.m.)**

View photographs and narratives telling the remarkable story of the Japanese American men and women who trained as linguists at the MISLS at Camp Savage and Fort Snelling during World War II.

**Info: Visit [mnhs.org/event/7226](http://mnhs.org/event/7226).**

## EDC

**'Prince Shotoku: The Secrets Within'**

Cambridge, MA

Thru Aug. 11

Harvard Art Museum

32 Quincy St.

Don't miss this rare opportunity to view the significant 13th-century Japanese sculpture icon "Prince Shotoku at Age Two." The prince is regarded as the founder of Buddhism in Japan. At age 2, he was believed to have taken several steps forwarded, faced east and praised the Buddha. A sacred relic, the eyeball of the Buddha, then appeared between his hands. This sculpture — the oldest and finest of its kind — depicts that miraculous moment.

**Info: Visit <http://www.harvardartmuseums.org/visit/exhibitions/5756/prince-shotoku-the-secrets-within>.**

**Quincy August 2019 Moon Festival**  
Boston, MA

Aug. 18; Noon-5 p.m.

Quincy Center

Coddington St.

**Price: Free**

Join the City of Quincy at its August signature event, awarded Best Street Festival 2018. Come for an afternoon of food trucks, a craft beer garden, Asian cultural performances, music, arts and crafts, a kid's zone with petting zoo and much more!

**Info: Visit <https://quincyasianresources.org/august-moon-festival>.**

**Royal Celebrations: Japanese Prints and Postcards**

Boston, MA

Thru Sept. 15

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave.

As Japan welcomes a new emperor, the MFA offers an exhibit of prints, postcards and illustrated books from its collections that depict important events in the Japanese imperial family from 1868-present.

**Info: Visit <https://www.mfa.org/exhibitions/royal-celebrations>.** ■

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# MEMORIAM



**Adachi, Michael, 75**, Los Angeles, CA, May 5; he is survived by his longtime friend, Cathy Lewis; siblings, Kellene and Patrick; he is also survived by nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

**Aramaki, Dennis Nobuo, 75**, Northridge, CA, April 28; he was predeceased by his wife, Nancy Akiko; he is survived by his children, Liane M. (Albert Bradford) and Eric; siblings, Kenneth T. (Kwi Cha) and Ethel H. (Roy) Kubo; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.



children, Debra (Paul) Sigona, Lynne (Mike) Conrads and Lisa (Frank) Usuki; sisters, Shizuko Kawamoto and Miyeko Yuki; gc: 6.



**Furuyama, Teruko 'Terri,' 94**, North Hills, CA, May 20; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Manzanar WRA Center in CA, where she met her future husband; she was predeceased by her husband, Tomio "Tom"; she is survived by her children, Alice Kuroda (David), Dennis (Terry), Steve (Diana), Ron (Nancy Kawahara), Gary and Randy; gc: 9; ggc: 5.

**Goodrich, Emiko, 94**, Pleasant View, UT, May 23.



**Hayashi, Clara, 89**, Whittier, CA, June 12; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center; she was predeceased by her husband, Roy; siblings, Kaneo Makishima, Morio Makishima, Sakae Ikemoto, Takeshi Makishima, Joe Makishima, Blossom Ikemoto and Ben Makishima; she is survived by her children, Sandra Minner (Bill), Patricia Ruiz and Dean Hayashi; sister, Alma Koyasako; sisters-in-law, Ruth Hayashi, Emmie Makishima and Kazuko Makishima;

gc: 4; ggc: 1.

**Hirotsu, Gary, 91**, Cupertino, CA, May 25; he is survived by his wife, Agnes Hirotsu; children, Terri Tsugita and Scott Hirotsu; son-in-law, Scott Tsugita.



**Imada, Toshiye, 93**, Torrance, CA, June 1; she was predeceased by her husband, Tadashi; she is survived by her sons, Jeff and Brian (Imogene) Imada; siblings, Hiroshi, Art (Betty), Ted (Betty) Teruko Matsumoto, Tayeko Nakagawa and Susan (Danny) Ikeda; gc: 2.

**Imaizumi, Ellen Kawa, 64**, Monterey Park, CA, April 27; she is survived by her husband, Kenny; sons, Ryan and Scott; brothers, Jon (Karlie) and Mark (Ada) Kawa; sisters-in-law, Kristine (Don) Takao and Patti (Earl) Masuda; she is also survived by other relatives.



**Kajikawa, Matthew Wataru, 35**, Torrance, CA, May 22; he is survived by his father, Norman (Barbara) Kajikawa; mother, Diane (Wayne) Phillips; sisters, Courtney Kajikawa (Brandon Oshiro) and Kristen Kajikawa; half-sisters, Allison and Isabella Kajikawa; stepbrother, Nick Wong; he is also survived by a nephew.

**Kiyohara, Tom Eiji, 86**, Torrance, CA, April 29; he is survived by his wife, Jane; children, Susan Yamamoto, Steve (Lisa) Kiyohara and Glen (Sandy) Kiyohara; gc: 8.

**Lew, Mae Kimiyo, 77**, Reseda, CA, April 20; she is survived by her son, Nathan (Marilou) Lew; gc: 4.



**Mikawa, Chiyo (Fujimoto), 95**, Lodi, CA, May 12; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Gila River WRA Center in AZ; she was predeceased by her husband, Ben Mikawa; she is survived by her children, Brenda Metcalf (Michael), Janet Niino (Ken) and Vic Mikawa; gc: 5; ggc: 4.

**Myose, Tamaki, 93**, Diamond Bar, CA, May 24; she is survived by her husband, Susumu; children, Jean (Glenn) Nakatani and Dennis Myose; gc: 3.

**Nakagawa, Bernice, 90**, Cupertino, CA, June 11; she was predeceased by her brother, Ed; she is survived by her husband, Tad; children, Paul, Laurie (Gary) Mitchell and Chris Zercher; brother, Gary (Candy) Akizuki; sister-in-law, Jane Akizuki; gc: 6; ggc: 4.

**Nakamura, Chiyoko, 102**, Los Angeles, CA, May 1; she is survived by her daughters, Diane Nakamura and Charlotte Murakami; son-in-law, David Murakami; gc: 2.

**Oda, Yukio, 83**, San Dimas, CA, May 6; he is survived by his wife, Akiko; sons, Ronald Takashi Oda and David Hiroshi Oda; he is also survived by other relatives.



**Ogawa, Tayeko, 94**, Sacramento, CA, April 23; she was predeceased by her 7 siblings; she is survived by her husband, George; daughters, Gale Ogawa, Jeanie Ogawa and Nancy Lee (Stevy); gc: 2.

**Sakamoto, Midori, 92**, Gardena, CA, May 21; she is survived by her husband, Roy; children, Jeanne Sakamoto/Ikeda and David (Lois) Sakamoto; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

**Sakurai, Lillian (Nishijima), 92**, Grover Beach, CA; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ; she was predeceased by her siblings, Lloyd, Paul, Ray, Sue Tsuyaru and Alice; she is survived by her husband, Kiyoshi; siblings, Horace (Ann), Victor (Susan), Peter (Debbie), Julia, Ruth Yamasaki, Linda Kuromi; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

**Tadakuma, Raymond, 93**, Pasadena, CA, May 16; he was predeceased by his wife, Fumiko; he is survived by his son, Michael (Laura) Tadakuma; sister, Chisato (Sam) Hillis; he is also survived by 3 nieces and many other relatives.



**Tademaru, Haruko, 100**, Baldwin Park, CA, April 22; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Granada WRA Center (Camp Amache) in CO; she was predeceased by her husband, Harry; son, Roy Tademaru; she is survived by Helen Ideno, Eugene Tademaru and Sharon Mukoyama; brother, Frank Fujita; gc: 6; ggc: 11.

**Uchida, Mitsuye, 95**, Los Angeles, CA, May 8; she is survived by nieces, nephews and many friends here and in Japan.

**Uchimura, Moritaka, 93**, Los Angeles, CA, May 26; he is survived by his wife, Ayako; daughters, Catherine Uchimura and Nancy (Alan) Matsunaga; gc: 4.



**Watanabe, Kiyoko, 82**, Port Chester, NY, June 13; she was predeceased by her husband, Kyoichi; she is survived by her children, Kenneth A. (Thea) Watanabe, Shauna Leigh (Ronald) Esposito, Kate Watanabe, Kim (Kenneth) Cohen, Kelly (Daniel) Bedford and Katherine Watanabe; gc: 11.

**Yagi, Stanley, 93**, Arleta, CA, June 13; he is survived by his sister, Lois Yagi; he is also survived by a niece and a nephew and other relatives.

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By Scott Tanaka, MSW

# REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

## A CAREGIVER'S JOURNEY

It was been some time since I have written an article for the *Pacific Citizen*, so it is good to be back!

I am still in my role at the Center to Champion Nursing in America, an initiative of AARP Foundation, AARP and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. My efforts currently focus on increasing the diversity of stakeholders and coalition building for the Future of Nursing: "Campaign for Action," a national initiative of those same organizations to transform health care through nursing and build healthier communities for everyone in America. I also support the campaign's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Steering Committee, state Action Coalitions, consultants and advocacy efforts concerning building a culture of health and promoting health equity.

Last year, I had the honor of moderating a panel on preparing to care on behalf of AARP at the JACL National Convention in Philadelphia. It was an honor for me, as I got to speak as someone who is passionate about helping our older adults and someone who has worked as a social worker with family caregivers.

The panel was titled "Caregiving at Any Age — a Multigenerational JA Perspective," and it included Lindsey Anne Keiko Wong, a millennial, who, at her young age, has already served as a caregiver for both her uncle and her grandmother. She's a Yonsei on her Japanese American side and a third-generation Chinese American who lives in Oakland, Calif. Wong spoke eloquently about accepting her role as a caregiver in her 20s and how she gave culturally-appropriate care for the JA and Chinese sides of her family.

Gil Asakawa, current JACL Mile High chapter president, published author and former Editorial Board chair of the *Pacific Citizen*, also joined Wong and shared about how earlier in the year, he and his brother moved their

mother into a memory care center. He spoke about his mother's deterioration over the years and the difficulties of placing his mom, who is an Issei from Hokkaido, in a place without any Japanese-speaking residents or staff, and how she lights up when he brings her familiar Japanese snacks such as *osembe* or *mochi manju*.

The final two panelists, Heather Harada and Kevin Onishi, are employees of Keiro, an organization that focuses on improving the quality of life for older adults and their caregivers in the Japanese American and Japanese community in the Los Angeles, Orange County and Ventura County areas of Southern California.

They spoke about Keiro's services and the organization's mission of serving older JAs, as well as the difficult decisions families have to make when a loved one needs to be placed in a facility, whether it's at Sakura Gardens in Los Angeles or the center where Asakawa's mom now lives.

This year, I will once again be on a panel, representing AARP, and we will continue our conversation on family caregiving. For those attending JACL's National Convention in Salt Lake City, I hope you will join us for a candid conversation on family caregiving.

The panel is titled "Planning Your Family Caregiving: Roles, Responsibilities and Resources" and will include insights from registered nurse Tomoko Tsukamoto.

Tsukamoto was born and raised in Japan, and her husband is a third-generation Japa-

nese American. She has three sons and two grandchildren. Tsukamoto has resided in Japan, California, Washington, Kentucky, Michigan and Utah, and she enjoys all the outdoor amenities and beauty that Utah has to offer. Tsukamoto also enjoys participating in community cultural activities as a koto player.

Tsukamoto's professional background includes being a registered nurse and case manager for the cancer/transplant unit at Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City. Her nursing education includes bachelor of science in nursing and master of science in nursing degrees from Weber State University in Ogden, Utah.

She also is a certified biotherapy and chemotherapy provider, as well as a trainer for

the Pediatric End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium. Tsukamoto currently works as an adolescent and young-adult cancer patient navigator for the Huntsman-Intermountain Cancer Care Program.

This workshop session will discuss preplanning around caregiving as a family, the role of the health care team, what resources are available and how to get started. Our hope is to walk you through a caregiver's journey, as well as discuss important documents and information that you will need to know.

I know that everyone's caregiving experience will not be the same, but my hope is that you will leave having learned something new and with tools that you can take back to your family and health care providers. We will end with a Q & A, so please come with your questions!

*Scott Tanaka is a board member for the Washington, D.C., JACL Chapter, and Project Coordinator for AARP's Public Policy Institute.*



Registered nurse Tomoko Tsukamoto will be a featured panelist at this year's convention.



Scott Tanaka (left) moderated a caregiving panel at last year's JACL National Convention that included (from left) Lindsey Anne Keiko Wong, Gil Asakawa, Kevin Onishi and Heather Harada. Tanaka will once again be moderating a panel this year.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF SCOTT TANAKA

## FORT SILL » continued from page 8

- Rev. Eijun Linda Ruth Cutts, San Francisco Zen Center
- Rev. Zenshin Greg Fain, Tassajara Zen Mountain Center
- Jitsujo Tina Gauthier, ZCLA
- Rev. Jisan Tova Green, San Francisco Zen Center
- Rev. Gesshin Greenwood, Institute of Buddhist Studies & Empty Moon Zen Sangha
- Juliet Hwang, Plum Village Community of Engaged Buddhism
- Rev. Michael Mui Lewis, Great Mountain Zen Center
- Roshi Wendy Egyoku Nakao, Zen Center of Los Angeles
- Stephen Nakasone, Los Angeles Higashi Hongwanji Temple board member
- Judy Nakatomi, Plum Village Community

- of Engaged Buddhism
- Kenley Neufeld, Dharmacharya, Plum Village Community of Engaged Buddhism
- Rev. Inryu Bobbi Ponce-Barger, All Beings Sangha
- Rev. Tenku Ruff, Soto Zen Buddhist Assn.
- Kairen Eric Russell
- Roshi Grace Schireson, Shogaku Zen Institute

Fort Sill has a long history of incarcerating people of color. During World War II, Fort Sill held 700 people of Japanese ancestry. Prior to this, Fort Sill imprisoned different indigenous tribes, including Comanches and Apaches. Some of those who participated in the July 20 rally were also descendants of the Trail of Tears. ■

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