DECEMBER 2019 KAKEHASHI PROJECT
APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

By JACL National

Up to 92 participants will be selected to participate in this year’s JACL Kakehashi Program, coordinated by the JACL and the Japan International Cooperation Center and supported by funding from the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The application deadline is Sept. 22 at 11:59 p.m. Hawaiian Standard Time. The December trip dates are Dec. 16-24.

Selected participants will attend a nine-day trip to Japan, where they will visit a number of historical and educational sites, experience traditional and cultural activities and educational sites, experience traditional and cultural activities, and friendship between Japan and North America.

The Kakehashi Project is a people-to-people exchange program between Japan and North America. One of the program’s main objectives is to promote mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples of Japan and North America.

Requirements:
- Must be interested in U.S.-Japan relations, as well as Japanese American interests.
- Must be of Japanese ancestry.
- Currently enrolled in a community college, undergraduate, graduate or young professionals who have an undergraduate or graduate degree.
- Must have U.S. permanent resident status (citizens or green card holders) and travel with a U.S. passport.
- Must be at least 18 years old by the date of acceptance into the program and no older than 25 on the day he or she intends to depart for Japan.
- Japanese dual citizens under the age of 22 may apply.
- Those who have participated in Kakehashi or other programs funded by the Japanese government are ineligible.
- Those who have studied or stayed in Japan for more than a year are ineligible.
- You do not need to be a JACL member to be eligible.

Visit the JACL website at https://jACL.org/apply-to-the-kakehashi-project/ for more information. For questions, please email japan program@jacl.org.

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I recently returned from a two-week trip to Japan, mostly a vacation with my family. We traveled across the country all the way from Hiroshima up to Hokkaido. What was significant about those two destinations is that Hiroshima is where my wife was born, and my father grew up in the small town of Hombetsu, Hokkaido. As noted, I did some work there, including a meeting with the Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE), with whom we work in administering the Kakehashi program.

For JACL, Kakehashi has undergone several changes since it was first implemented for Japanese American as an experiment in 2014 by the Japanese government. It has grown from the initial trip of just a few students to as many as 200 students and chaperones per year. For a few trips, we also had the opportunity to include Asian American participants. Last year, this expansion was eliminated, at which time we argued for it to be reinstated. It was for the next trip, but it was implemented differently. As the Kakehashi program has developed, so too have the Japanese government’s organizations that the Japanese government partners with in administering the Kakehashi program. It designs unique programs for each of these organizations that bring different groups to Japan.

Since Asian Americans were added as a part of JACL’s cohort, the Japanese government has added trips in collaboration with the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute. Administration of the Asian American student component has now been transferred to the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies. It is unfortunate for JACL, which counts many non-Japanese Americans amongst our membership, but given the Japanese government’s goals, this administrative structure does return the program to the original focus of helping to support college students and young adults in their quest to develop stronger ties to their family’s Japanese heritage.

Throughout my recent trip to Japan, I was constantly reminded of the importance of developing an understanding of my Japanese heritage. I think about how my Japanese wife acts differently in Japan compared to when we are home here in the United States. I see our two children who, at the most charitable, understand very little Japanese, but are excited by the opportunity to immerse themselves in Japanese culture, including lots of time spent in the onsen.

And yet, none of us, except maybe our 7-year-old son, sees ourselves as being fully a part of Japanese culture. There is that recognition that we are American — and different — even for my wife, who maintains her Japanese citizenship. This was especially brought to the fore in my meeting with the JACL Japan chapter. Several of my conversations centered around the need for us as Japanese Americans to straddle our two countries. While we fit in more easily than many Americans into Japanese culture, we’re still not Japanese.

We may not fit perfectly, but at least we understand why. I would hope that Kakehashi participants are able to gain some of this understanding of how we retain many aspects of our Japanese backgrounds but remain, at our core, American.

**FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**KAKEHASHI CONTINUES TO Evolve, BUT THE HEART REMAINS THE SAME**

By David Inoue, JACL Executive Director

Finally, it is because of this dichotomy of culture that I have worked with the Japanese government and JICE to expand the expectations of the Kakehashi trip. In order to truly create a bridge, an exchange must happen, and for too long the interaction has been one way.

On the upcoming trip in December, and going forward, participants will be expected to prepare brief presentations about what it means to be Japanese American, particularly in the context of our history of incarceration during World War II. This may be based on personal family history or research and study. These presentations will be a part of the interactions Kakehashi participants will have with Japanese college students and fulfill the interest of the Japanese government for Japanese students to learn more about the Japanese American experience. The Kakehashi program is about building bridges. For Japanese American participation in the program, we have the potential to actualize BE the bridge. In this role, we can continue our dialogue with the government and people of Japan about JACL: sharing our mission as a civil rights organization and the diverse API communities that our membership represents.

We look forward to receiving applications for the Dec. 16-24 trip, which are due Sept. 22.

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

**A MOTHER’S TAKE**

**SHOWING UP**

By Marsha Aizumi

Changing Tides, an initiative within the Little Tokyo Service Center, will hold a mental health conference called “Making Waves” at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo on Sept. 28.

Aiden and I are so honored to be speaking at one of their workshops about how we have turned to mental health professionals to get us through some of our most difficult times. If you are interested in this conference, here is the link: https://thechangingtides.org/upcoming-events/making-waves. We would love to see you there!

Like the topic of LGBTQ+, mental health is a stigma in our Asian Pacific Islander community that prevents us from finding help to overcome challenges, obtain resources and seek out support that we may so desperately need. Instead, we suffer alone. I remember feeling so trapped when Aiden first came out as lesbian, with no one with whom to talk. I had many negative thoughts swirling in my head, which made me feel so ashamed, sad and fearful.

But we had turned to therapy a few years back when Aiden’s anxiety manifested in cutting himself. So, when faced with this challenge of understanding his sexual orientation and later his gender identity, we knew we could turn to therapy again to support us, if we needed it.

Previously, we had searched for the right therapist for our family and actually interviewed a number of people. In the end, we chose the one that Aiden was most comfortable with. As time went on, we saw that therapist because Aiden stopped cutting himself, we found another therapist that happened to be lesbian — and that therapist became a trusted confidant whom we hoped would help Aiden with his all-consuming panic attacks.

Although he had not come out yet, we suspected Aiden’s struggle with his sexual orientation might be the underlying cause. Was Aiden a girl that likes girls or was he really a boy that was born in the wrong body? Aiden looked for answers in many places, but he always had Diane, his therapist, to process through how he felt. Aiden no longer sees Diane professionally, but when we ran into her at social gatherings, I am filled with so much appreciation for all she has done to help our family and Aiden.

Today, I see the strongest people around me are willing to ask for help. Like Aiden, I have learned that it takes too much energy to hide a part of me that chips away at my happiness. Getting help has freed me to live more authentically and focus on areas like my advocacy that empower and bring me joy. My ability to show up for my son was the result of others showing up for me and me taking the steps to show up for myself.

For the next few months, I have decided to highlight other Asian families that have made choices to show up. A minister and his wife have agreed to talk about their journey of having a schizophrenic child, and a mother from the Buddhist community has agreed to talk about her journey having two LGBTQ+ children.

I hope their stories inspire you to support others or bring comfort to you if you are facing similar challenges. You may never know if your children or grandchildren are watching what you say or do until one day they come to you and share their true selves, trusting you will love them no matter what. Or, perhaps they will reach out to you for help with their mental health issues, trusting you will get them the help they need. How we show up for others may one day circle back to us and those we love.

If you know of others who have shown up for their children or a family member, please email me some information should they be willing to share their story. Perhaps I will be able to write about them in the future. I cannot write every story, but I want to write about different challenges families have overcome. I want to illuminate how API individuals and families have bravely broken through stigmas and sought the help they needed.

Here is my email address: maizumi8888@gmail.com. I hope that I hear from some of you, so we can broaden our understanding of areas in our API community where stigmas continue to exist and paralyze us.

You will be showing up in a way that may help even one other person, and for that, I will be so grateful. . . .

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.”
THE POWER OF COLLABORATION

How the Japanese American community stopped an auction and drew closer together

By Ray Locker

During World War II, art curator Allen Hendershott Eaton solicited artwork from prisoners in the 10 Japanese American concentration camps around the country and planned to exhibit the art around the country.

One artist was Estelle Ishigo of Heart Mountain, Wyo., who corresponded regularly with Eaton and sent him some of the paintings and sketches she created while incarcerated. Ishigo had hoped her collaboration with Eaton, who worked in New York for the Russell Sage Foundation, would help her get a job once Heart Mountain closed.

Although Eaton published a book in 1952 about the art — “Beauty Behind Barbed Wire” — he never pulled off the exhibition. His daughter, Martha, inherited his collection when he died in 1962. She then gave pieces to contractor John Ryan in exchange for his work repairing her home after a fire, and then she willed the rest to Ryan upon her death in 1990.

Thomas Ryan left the art to his son John, who had no real attachment to it. John Ryan hired Rago Auctions of Lambertville, N.J., to sell it for him, and Rago announced its plans in March 2015.

That auction galvanized the Japanese American community and led to a new cooperation and activism that remains strong, according to a presentation held on Aug. 29 at the national convention of the American Association for State and Local History in Philadelphia.


When they learned of the auction, Hanami, Higuchi and Ukai said they separately concluded that the auction had to be stopped.

Hanami worked within JANM to build opposition to the auction and try to get the artwork at the museum. Higuchi mobilized her foundation’s board to fund legal action to stop the auction. Ukai mobilized a social media campaign that featured a Not for Sale page on Facebook.

“If we don’t say anything,” Ukai said of her feelings at the time, “nobody else will.” Although the art was appraised for only $26,000, Heart Mountain offered Ryan $50,000 for the collection.

“I wanted to make them an offer they couldn’t refuse,” Higuchi said, knowing that the refusal of such a generous offer would show a lack of good faith on the seller’s part.

The three groups realized that the fight over the artwork brought together disparate elements of the Japanese American community that remained separated as part of the legacy of the WWII incarceration.

Hanami and Ukai said the legal action brought by the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation stopped the Rago auction in its tracks. JANM bought the artwork from Ryan and now has it as part of the museum’s collection.

One new development, Hanami said, is that the museum has an agreement with Heart Mountain for joint custody of the art created by Ishigo, a Caucasian artist who was incarcerated with her Japanese American husband. Ishigo’s art appeared in a special exhibit at Heart Mountain last year.

“We felt that Estelle’s artwork needed to be at Heart Mountain,” Higuchi said. “Her last wish was that her ashes be spread there.”

» See COLLABORATION on page 8

The artwork of Estelle Ishigo was featured in a special exhibit at Heart Mountain in 2018.

Chair by Yorozu Homma at Heart Mountain

PHOTOS: JANM

S. Imura sign at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles

JANM’s Clement Hanami worked within JANM to build opposition to Rago Arts’ intention to auction Japanese American artwork created during World War II.

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Become a valued JACL Thousand, Century or Millennium Club member and your heightened contribution will support the JACL’s advocacy and programs nationally and also secure our administrative and staffing needs. Each Premium Membership provides the impact of over 3 regular memberships (if not more), and a larger portion of your dues goes toward supporting your local JACL chapter. If you have a little extra to give, please upgrade today!

As a token of our gratitude, the first 100 members to upgrade will receive the gift of this 20” x 20” barbed wire tcon 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
L.A. LIFE PART IV: PRIDE, PROPERTY AND (GIRL) POWER

How a father/daughter duo and their associate are continuing to pave the way in their community from the ground up.

By Athena Mari Asklipiadis

It was humble beginnings for South L.A. entrepreneur Jerry Matsukuma. His father, Shigao “Shig” Matsuguma, worked as a gardener in the 1950s for years to support his growing family. (Jerry replaced the “g” with a “k” in his last name to reflect the original Japanese pronunciation.)

Shig would later acquire properties and then later operated liquor stores Midway Liquor and L & J Liquor in South Los Angeles. His two sons, Jerry and Mark, joined the family business through the early 2000s and expanded their entrepreneurial skills into real estate and property management.

During the years serving the community at their stores, it became obvious that there was a special relationship the family had with the public.

While many area stores did well, L & J was a bit different because of the customer service and friendship the brothers, Jerry and Mark, had with patrons.

During the 1992 Los Angeles riots, most stores in South L.A. were ravaged by fires or looted, but that was not the case for L & J Liquor.

In fact, quite the opposite happened. Much like the beloved Holiday Bowl, neighbors and community folks piled in, buying everything off the shelves.

“We did our best business during the riots,” said Jerry Matsukuma.

Not many other local business owners could say the same, unfortunately. Many of them would find their buildings set afire or desecrated.

It was clear that the store and Jerry Matsukuma’s family were accepted and defended by locals in such a rare way.

One thing particularly noticeable about the brothers and that sets them apart from other Japanese Americans is their ability to code-switch.

According to Wikipedia, “In linguistics, code-switching or language alternation occurs when a speaker alternates between two or more languages, or language varieties, in the context of a single conversation.”

Besides speaking colloquial English, the pair speak what is known as AAVE or African-American Vernacular English.

Growing up in South L.A. amongst peers of various races, with a large growing black population in Crenshaw, speaking in neighborhood slang became second nature for the brothers.

Because of the comfort the two had with the community and the vehicle of common speech, they seemed to earn a special form of respect and acceptance by locals — something that many other area business owners perhaps lacked at that time.

The family did not only operate a business to make a livelihood, but also they invested in relationships with the people of South L.A., and it showed. This would continue into their ability to create lasting connections with their area clients and tenants today.

Besides real estate and store ownership, Jerry Matsukuma has a background in art and a strong pride for his Japanese ancestry. If his name sounds familiar, that is because his signature is below a large tile mural he designed in Downtown Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo, which is located just outside of the Japanese Village Plaza in 1981.

The text and photography mural is “dedicated to the pioneering spirit of those Nikkei whose lives, struggles and achievements make a full and moving picture — both a part of and an interacting element in the large American panorama,” according to its description.

Cultural pride is something still very tied into the fabric of Jerry Matsukuma’s current property management company, All Capital Property Management, with whom he operates with his daughter, Cami.

The duo not only manages properties in South and Greater Los Angeles, but also they get their hands dirty, working hard as licensed contractors.

There is something quite beautiful in seeing a dad and his daughter working side by side, even if it’s a bit messy — in the dirt under a house or solving plumbing issues — together. Their bond translates into a very nice working relationship.

» See POWER on page 8
THE POSTON EXPERIENCE
The Anaheim program paves the way for telling the Japanese American incarceration story.

By Ryan Yoshikawa, President, SELANOCO JACL

Each time a program is created to tell the story of what happened to Japanese Americans and their Japanese descendants during their forced evacuation during World War II, one expects to see the same elements put together to tell this 77-year-old story.

To the surprise of all who attended “The Poston Experience: Paving the Way for the Next Generations” program, presented by the Anaheim Union High School District and Anaheim High School on Aug. 24, the unique interpretations of this story were all done by current Anaheim grade school and high school students on what happened in the City of Anaheim in 1942 and at the Poston War Relocation Center in Arizona during WWII.

The “Poston Experience” really started as some of the attendees arrived at Anaheim High School and drove into the parking lot. Everyone was welcomed by Anaheim High School students from the Associated Student Body and the BROS and CROWN student groups. The students did a great job and were so friendly in guiding all of us to the Cook Auditorium. For those with a disability, the students were happy to help direct people to parking options or call for assistance to get attendees into the appropriate entrance to see the program.

As members of the SELANOCO JACL chapter entered the auditorium, we were welcomed by the prerecorded voices of the Anaheim High School Las Sirenas Women’s choir singing “Don’t Fence Me In,” “Don’t Sit Under the Apple Tree” and “Sentimental Journey,” which were the big song hits of the 1940s. We also saw “The Poston Experience” title overlaid with a photo of the Poston camp projected on the main curtain of the stage.

SELANOCO JACL member Patti Hirahara worked with the Anaheim Union High School District and her alma mater of Anaheim High School, since last year, to help put this program together, as well as acted as mistress of ceremonies and moderator during the two-hour event.

Joe Nakamura, student body president of the Anaheim High School Class of 1959, said of Hirahara’s dedication, “In creating opportunities to tell the Japanese American story, she has kept their memories alive, memories that are all too often forgotten, especially by the younger generations. Her work to preserve the history of the Japanese American legacy is priceless.”

Nakamura is the only Japanese American ASB student body president in Anaheim High School’s 121-year history. What was also impressive to see was the amount of elected officials who were in attendance at the program. Congressman Lou Correa from California’s 46th District; Anaheim City Councilmember Dr. Jose F. Moreno, District 3; Anaheim Union High School District Board of Trustees’ Annmarie Randle-Trejo, clerk, Katherine H. Smith, clerk and Al Jabbar, member; and Anaheim Elementary School District Board of Education Trustees’ Ryan A. Raqias, president, Dr. J. Paolo Magalas, clerk and members Jackie Filbeck and Mark Lopez.

The interweaving of in-person and video presentations also heightened the interest of the crowd. AUHSD Superintendent Michael Matsuda kicked-off the event by sharing the history of the significance of having the event at Anaheim High School’s Cook Auditorium.

This is where the 14 Japanese and Japanese American students sat in the front row, in 1942, for a special assembly for the entire student body called by Anaheim Union High School Principal Dr. Paul H. Demareae to tell the students that their Japanese classmates would be leaving for Japanese incarceration camps and saying goodbye.

One of those students happened to be Matsuda’s mother, Ruth Ikeda, who never saw her son become superintendent of the same school district that she and her sisters had attended before WWII.

Demareae, who was born in Japan and spoke fluent Japanese, was also superintendent of the Anaheim Union High School District at that time, and due to his special compassion for his Japanese American students and continued support while they were incarcerated, this program was dedicated in his honor.

Robert Saldivar, who is the first Anaheim High School alumnus to become principal in Anaheim High School’s history, offered his comments on behalf of Anaheim High School and its student body.

Congressman Lou Correa (left) offers congratulations and special recognition from the United States Congress House of Representatives to Tom Leatherman of the NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program for his participation in helping to educate the community about the incarceration on Anaheim’s Japanese Americans during WWII.

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Anaheim High School was first established in 1898 and is the oldest high school in the AUHSD and the third-oldest high school in Orange County.

"Anaheim Union High School, as it was called then, was the center of North Orange County education for the Japanese community, not only for those that lived in Anaheim, but also others that lived in neighboring cities where students traveled many miles to go to school by bicycle or even walk," Saldivar said.

Saldivar introduced the first video documentary created by AUHSD Film Academy students entitled "Remembering Us: An Historic Chapter at Anaheim High School," which set the tone for the entire program.

This touching video featured the story of Ruth Ikeda Matsuda and her children, Superintendent Matsuda and Jackie Counts, who reminisced about life in Anaheim at that time and how former AUHSD Superintendent Jan Billings, who was in attendance, agreed to a suggestion by Michael Matsuda to have surviving Anaheim High School Japanese American students return to receive their diplomas along with the Anaheim High School Class of 1997 at their commencement, 50 years later.

There was also a commentary from Demaree's daughter, Gania Demaree-Trotter, who was a special guest at the event. This presentation was able to show how deep the roots of Japanese American heritage is at Anaheim High School.

Dr. Paul H. Demaree in 1943

PHOTO: PATI HIRAHARA

AHS Dance performed "Cherry Blossom" video tribute

PHOTO: RYAN RUELAS

AUHSD Student Ambassadors Hazel Fernandez and Jerry Derus led the Pledge of Allegiance

PHOTO: PATTI HIRAHARA

AHS Las Sirenas Advanced Women's Choir and Director Jerry Derus

PHOTO: COURTESY OF OSCAR GONZALEZ

The AESD student singers

PHOTO: SHANE SATO

Anaheim ASB students welcomed attendees

PHOTO: COURTESY OF JEFF DERUS

and their descendants buried in Anaheim's Cemetery, with the first being Joe Ogihara in 1907.

Anaheim High School Dance Production students also did a video tribute titled "Cherry Blossom" for the Poston Experience, choreographed by Dance Director Oscar Gonzalez, to the music of the old Japanese folk song "Sakura." It was a moving piece, portraying an interpretation of their emotions of the Japanese American incarceration within our own country.

The 800 people in attendance saw reminders on the stage of two duffle bags labeled with the words “Never Forget” and “All We Can Carry,” along with two suitcases with a Japanese designed paper umbrella to remind the audience of what worldly possessions all the Anaheim Japanese pioneers had left to take with them when they departed their beloved city to go to a life of uncertainty.

Marlene Shigekawa, whose family is an Anaheim Japanese pioneer, is president of the Poston Community Alliance, and Poston is where the residents of Anaheim and the majority of Orange County’s As went during WWII. She also served on the panel discussion entitled “The Shigekawa Family Journey — An American Story” showed a detailed video, produced by Shigekawa, of her family’s time from Orange County to Poston and after the war along with some footage of the Poston War Relocation Center and its history.

The first part of the program concluded with a video presentation by the Anaheim Elementary School District that was introduced by Superintendent Dr. Christopher Downing. The video portrayed some of the history of Poston’s grade school situation at that time.

A small group of Anaheim elementary school students sang two songs that were created in Poston Camp One’s grade schools in 1943 and ’44 entitled “Safety Everywhere” by June Yasukochi and “The Postman,” which was uncovered in Poston WRA records. In seeing the children sing those songs, it was a flashback to those times and reminded us how things have not really changed after all these years.

To bring a personal perspective to the “Poston Experience” story, a panel discussion was highlighted by photographs and newspaper articles that related to each participant. Two gentlemen on the panel, who have deep roots in Orange County’s Japanese American community, spoke of their experiences as a Congressional Gold Medal recipient and a member of the Boy Scouts in Poston, respectively.

Don Miyada joined the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team in 1944 and is one of the oldest survivors of the most-decorated unit for its size and length of service in the entire history of the U.S. Military. He has been very active with the Go For Broke National Education Center and shared his experiences in being honored with the Congressional Gold Medal in Washington, D.C., for his service to his country.

Robert R. Wada, who donated his Poston Boy Scout uniform to the Smithsonian National Museum of American History’s Japanese American Collection in 2017, shared his personal story of the hatred and racism he experienced as a young boy in his Boy Scout uniform when he was on an outing outside of Poston. Wada, a Marine and Korean War veteran, has championed many organizations as a high school student president and is the author of “From Internment to Korea to Solitude.”

Shigekawa also served on the panel discussion. She was born in the Poston War Relocation Center along with her older brother, Gerald. She was the first in her family to go to college and learn about the place of her birth.

Shigekawa was happy to come back to Anaheim and be joined by Shigekawa family descendants from across the U.S., as well as her Anaheim High School classmates from the Class of 1962.

All of the attendees were impressed with the undocumented presentation by panelist Demaree-Trotter, who is 92 years old and an alumnus of the Anaheim Union High School Class of 1944. As the daughter of principal Dr. Paul Demaree, her profound remarks of the incarceration and the importance of this program were amazing, and at the conclusion of her comments, she received a standing ovation from the audience.

Her remarks were put on YouTube and as of this writing, she has had almost 3,000 views. Last but not least was panelist Tom Leatherman, representing the National Park Service’s Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program. The JACS Grant program encourages and supports the preservation and interpretation of historic Japanese American confinement sites during WWII. Leatherman gave the audience a better idea about what the program has been doing since its establishment in 2009.

In addition, Leatherman’s appearance with the panel coincided with the City of Anaheim Public Library’s month of 5,000-square-foot exhibition “I AM AN AMERICAN: Japanese Incarceration in a Time of Fear,” which opened for a special preview that afternoon at the city’s MUZEO Museum and Cultural Center in Downtown Anaheim; the exhibit will close on Nov. 3.

As a surprise to the panel participants, Congressman Carlos Curbelo and second-term U.S. Congress House of Representatives Certificate of Special Recognition. The wording on the certificate was uniquely important and said, “I join with Congress to honor your participation in ‘The Poston Experience — Paving the Way for the Next Generations’ program to educate the community about the incarceration of Anaheim’s Japanese Americans during World War II.”

He also honored the young filmmakers who created the Anaheim High School documentary, as well as the SELANOCO JACL for its participation.

Janet Brown, president of the Anaheim High School Alumni Assn., concluded the program and offered her thanks to all who came to the “Poston Experience” event.

“Without the help of the Anaheim High School Alumni Assn., many aspects of coordinating the event with the students and public would not have been possible,” said Hirahara.

“Comments from community leaders, attendees and students gave high marks utilizing the words of excellent, impressive and well-done to summarize their feelings about the event. Many were surprised at how much they did not know about this time in history. In addition, students who attended the event are now asking their teachers when they will be teaching them more about what happened during this time in history.

“We at the AESD were so honored to be a part of the ‘Poston Experience’ event,” said AESD’s Ruelas. “As an educator and trustee, I believe it is superimportant that our students in the AESD and AUHSD hear the stories of the WWII era and the fear that plagued society during that time. History is important so that we learn from our mistakes and not make the same errors of the past and prevent an event like Poston from happening again. It was an amazing event, so informative, and we at the AESD were proud to be part of this experience.”
A NEW COLLABORATION

The Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium exists “today because of this work,” Hanami said. “There is a sense of collaboration. That’s one of the great things to come of this.”

The consortium was created in 2016 to continue the cooperation that started during the auction fight. Its members meet annually on that started during the auction 2016 to continue the collaboration. That’s one of the Hanami said. “There is a sense of community and political activitY, was a driving force behind the anti-drug coalition Yellow Brotherhood.

Many of the Matsukumas’ clientele are also Japanese American seniors who are handled gently as many look to All Capital for their estate needs.

In addition to the Matsukumas, June Yamaki adds to the team’s expertise, bringing her years of experience in real estate and specialty in estate clean/pack outs, as well as interior remodeling.

Yamaki, much like her counterparts, also has longtime roots in South L.A.’s Crenshaw area.

Her mother, Martha Yamaki, a known community and political activist, was a driving force behind the anti-drug coalition Yellow Brotherhood.

June Yamaki happily shared her mother’s scrapbooks filled with photos and clippings from her days of activism, volunteering and work under former Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, among other esteemed names.

But probably the most eye-catching piece of history in her collection was the original Yellow Brotherhood sign, which is proudly displayed on the wall. It is a tangible reminder of the hard work and dedication her mother and the previous generation had given our community.

Martha Yamaki’s influence definitely lives on through June’s ability to navigate and work seamlessly with such a diverse clientele base. To see such a strong legacy of women representing us well and smashing stereotypes of our patriarchal history is nothing short of amazing!

Together, this dream team serves South L.A.’s ever-changing community while honoring the amazing legacies of their hard-working families who paved the way.

For more information about All Capital Property Management, visit allcapitalproperty.wordpress.com or call (323) 889-3751.

This article is part of a series on South L.A.

Athena Mari Asklipiadis, a Hapa Japanese/L.A. native, is the founder of Mixed Marrow, a filmmaker and a diversity advocate.

### AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

**2019 TOUR SCHEDULE**

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**HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVAL HOLIDAY TOUR (Carol Hida)**

- Feb. 1-15
- Exlusive event: Sapporo Snow Festival
- Hotel in Hokkaido

**HAWAII 3-ISLAND HOLIDAY TOUR (Carol Hida)**

- Feb. 28-Mar. 13
- Exlusive event: Pearl Harbor

**TAJ MAHAL & RED SEA HOLIDAY TOUR**

- Sept. 1-15
- Exlusive event: Red Sea Swimming

**AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL**

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- Feb. 1-15
- Exclusive event: Sapporo Snow Festival
- Hotel in Hokkaido

**HAWAII 3-ISLAND HOLIDAY TOUR (Carol Hida)**

- Feb. 28-Mar. 13
- Exclusive event: Pearl Harbor

**TULIP FESTIVAL & GREAT LAKES ADVENTURE TOUR**

- Apr. 1-15
- Exclusive event: Red Sea Swimming

**AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL**

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For more information and reservations, please contact:

**AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL**

312 E. 1st Street, Suite 240 * Los Angeles, CA 90012
Tel: (213) 625-2232 * Email: americaholiday@att.net
Ernest or Carol Hida  Elaine Ishida
(Tel: 714-269-4534)
MIS VETERAN POSTHUMOUSLY RECEIVES CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

Congressman Ro Khanna presents the military award to Shunso Frank Watanabe’s family.

During a Town Hall meeting in Sunnyvale, Calif., on Aug. 24, Congressman Ro Khanna posthumously presented the Congressional Gold Medal award to the family of Shunso Frank Watanabe for his service in the Military Intelligence Service during World War II.

Joining this ceremonial portion of the meeting were officials from the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco, including Consul General Tomochika Uyama, Consul Ryoosuke Kamono and Vice Consul Ryo Aono. Consul General Uyama congratulated the Watanabe family and expressed his pleasure to attend the ceremony.

Accepting the award on behalf of Watanabe, who passed away on June 18 (the same day that the congressman’s office received confirmation that he would be receiving the award), were his daughter, Alysa Sakkas, president of the Cupertino Toyokawa Sister Cities, and 20 other family members.

In talking about the circumstances that led to the delay in Watanabe receiving his medal, Sakkas said: “We don’t know much about my dad’s time serving in the Military Intelligence Service because he never talked about it.”

In 2010, President Barack Obama granted the Congressional Gold Medal to Nisei servicemen, collectively to those who served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service.

Sakkas recalled that she asked her father at the time why he wasn’t invited to the ceremony, which was held in Washington, D.C. He replied, “I don’t know. Maybe I didn’t serve long enough time.”

In the process of connecting with the Veterans Administration early in 2018 to seek available services for her ill father, Sakkas discovered that Watanabe’s Army personnel records were destroyed in a 1978 fire.

“They (the VA) had no record of my father’s service,” Sakkas recalled, to audible gasps from the audience.

Therefore, Sakkas sent a copy of the discharge orders Watanabe had saved to the VA and also to Congressman Khanna’s office, requesting if they could look into whether her father had been overlooked to receive the Congressional Gold Medal.

When Sakkas told her father, he humbly told her, “It was SO long ago, no one cares about that — just forget it.”

And so Sakkas stopped further pursuit. Watanabe passed away on the very day that Congressman Khanna’s office called with the news regarding the forgotten inquiry. Khanna’s office had determined that Watanabe should have received the Gold Medal award.

The day before the belated ceremony to posthumously present the award, the Watanabe family also learned of an additional tribute to Shunso Watanabe: Consul General Uyama’s office sent a photo of the name Shunso F. Watanabe that is inscribed on the MIS Historic Learning Center in the Presidio of San Francisco.

No one in the family was aware that it had been there since the center’s opening in 2014. Sakkas ended her remarks by saying, “Dad was always a very quiet and modest person, but I know he is here with us today, in spirit. Thank you again for the recognition for him, for our family and for the many other people who served in the Military Intelligence Service.”

Congressman Khanna concluded the ceremony to say, “This is a recognition from the United States government and it is a recognition of your father being a true American hero and his story being the best of what America represents.”

To view some of the videos shown during the event, please visit @AZPostonAHS on Facebook.

Ryan A. Ruelas is president of the Anaheim High School Alumni Assn., the Poston Community Alliance, the Anaheim Elementary School District and the SELANOCHO JACL.
CALENDAR

NCWNP

COPANI XX 2019
San Francisco, CA
Sept. 20–22
West Bay Conference Center
1290 3rd 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 Nikkei 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.

Chiura Obata: An American Modern
Sacramento, CA
Thru Sept. 25
Crocker Art Museum
216 O St
Price: Free for members; Adults $12; Students/Students Military $8; Youth 6–18 Free
Born in Japan, Chiura Obata emigrated to the U.S. in 1903 and began a 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.

‘Alternative Facts: The Lies of Executive Order 9066’ Screening
Sacramento, CA
Sept. 29; 2 p.m.
California Secretary of State Auditorium
1020 O St
Don’t miss this opportunity to see the Sacramento premiere of Jon Osaki’s award-winning documentary film about the false information and political influences that lead to the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion led by Osaki.
Info: Visit https://www.alternative-facts9066.com/about-or-contact.html.

Public Program and Panel Discussion on the Life and Career of Kaneji Domoto
Berkeley, CA
Sept. 26
University of California, Berkeley
Wurster Hall
Room 210
Kaneji Domoto's life and work is the focus of this retrospective exhibit that pulls together original correspondence, photographs and drawings from the Domoto Collection. The Domoto Collection, which includes his architecture and fine art, is housed at the University of California, Berkeley Environmental Design Library, in Berkeley, CA.
Info: Call (510) 642-5124 or email designarchives@berkeley.edu.

The Life and Career of Kaneji Domoto
Exhibition
Berkeley, CA
The Domoto Collection, held at the University of California, Berkeley Environmental Design Library, Wurster Hall
Thru Sept. 25
Renowned Nisei landscape architect Kaneji Domoto’s life and work is the focus of this retrospective exhibit that pulls together original correspondence, photographs and drawings from the Domoto Collection. The Domoto Collection, which includes his architecture and fine art, is housed at the University of California, Berkeley Environmental Design Library, in Berkeley, CA.
Info: Call (510) 642-5124 or email designarchives@berkeley.edu.

PSW

Aki Matsuri 2019: Japanese Fall Festival
’Longevity: The Way of the Turtle’
Albuquerque, NM
Sept. 22; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Mexico Veterans Memorial
1100 Louisiana Blvd. S.E.
Price: Admission, $5; Children 12 and under are free
This annual family oriented event, hosted by the New Mexico JACL chapter, will take attendees on a journey through the arts, music and crafts of the Mexican culture, complete with vendors, performers and interactive activities for all ages. Back by popular demand is a raffle-eating contest under the leadership of the youth group from the UNM Japanese Language Club. Tickets for admission can be purchased online at www.nmjacl.org.
Info: Visit http://nmjacl.org for more information and a program lineup.

Keiro Symposium: Aging Into Tomorrow Long Beach, CA
Oct. 5; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
The Westin Long Beach
333 E. Ocean Blvd.
Price: $50 Registration
Join Keiro for a day of innovative, thought-provoking sessions and panels that explore what aging into tomorrow can mean for our community. Keynote speakers include Dr. Candice Hall of Next Advanced Healthcare and Tracey Doi, CFO for Toyota Motor North America. Registration is required.

Kokoro Craft Boutique
Los Angeles, CA
Sept. 10; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
JANM
Price: Free
Kokoro Craft Boutique is a group of local artisans that offer an array of 50 vendors selling handcrafted wares such as ceramics, glass art, pet accessories, jewelry, kimono fabric fashions, Gi and more. Okonomiyaki and many other classic Japanese food! There will also be a Cosplay table.

PNW

Screening of ‘Hiro’s Table’
Portland, OR
Sept. 29; 9 p.m.
Clifton Street Theater
2522 S.E. Clifton St.
Price: $10 General admission; $8 JACL members (if purchasing in advance) for Portland JACL for discount code
Presented by the Portland JACL, this screening of the award-winning documentary follows Japanese chef Hiroi Obayashi and his family from his days in Las Vegas to restaurants to his retirement in the Pacific North-west. A Q & A with director/producer Lynn Hamrick and Obayashi will follow the screening.

CCCD

Water Lantern Festival
Fresno, CA
Sept. 21; 4:30–8:30 p.m.
Woodward Park
7775 N. Friant Rd
Cost: $5 before Aug. 30; $5 after Aug. 30; $35 until Sept. 20; $40 on Sept. 21.
The Water Lantern Festival is an incredible experience where families, friends and strangers celebrate Japanese life together. With your event ticket, you’ll be able to make your own unique water lantern, which will be launched during the evening event. It’s a moment to mark peace, love, friendship and thankfulness to the community, the environment, to the world.
Info: Visit waterlanternfestival.com.

MDC

Kizuki Chicago Japanese Matsuri 2019
Chicago, IL
Sept. 21–22; 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Japanese American National Museum
601 S. Wabash Ave.
Price: Free
This is the largest Asian/Japanese festival in Chicago. The two-day event will feature a schedule packed with Japanese art, martial arts performances, fashion, vendors, kids activities, music and, of course, food! There will also be a Cosplay Contest as well. All of the festival food will be prepared by chef Kevin Yu and his team from Kizuki Ramen & Izakaya and will feature takoyaki, chicken kaarage, potato croquette, okonomiyaki and many other classic festival foods. This is an event for the entire family to enjoy.

Screening and Q & A: ‘And Then They Came for Us’
Minneapolis, MN
Oct. 22; 2-4:30 p.m.
Pangea World Theater
711 W. Lake St.
Info: Please email postonalliance@gmail.com.

JACL D.C. Chapter Keiko Kai Bethesda, MD
Sept. 28; Noon-2:30 p.m.
North Bethesda Middle School
8935 Bradmoor Dr.
Price: Free
Join the JACL D.C. Chapter for Keiko Kai featuring Bungo sushi, games and much more for the whole family!

En trance
New York, NY
Through 2020
New York Japan Society Gallery
333 E. 47th St.
This exhibit features a series of art projects aimed at bringing visual art and interactive experiences into the institution’s public spaces. The works of the Los Angeles-based artist Naia Shiragaki Nara launch the series with new works he created in Shiragaki, one of Japan’s oldest areas for pottery making.

EDC

Yayoi Kusama: Love is Calling
Boston, MA
Sept. 24–Feb. 7, 2021
Institute for Contemporary Art
25 harbor Drive
An icon of contemporary art, Yayoi Kusama has interwoven ideas of pop art, minimalism and psychodelia throughout her work in paintings, performances, room-size presentations, outdoor sculptural installations, literary works and more during her influential career. This exhibit is the most immersive and expansive of the artist’s Infinity Mirror Rooms. For the 90-year-old artist, this exhibit represents the culmination of her artistic achievements.

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MCDC

Kokoro Craft Boutique
Shinagawa, Japan
Oct. 6; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
JANM
Info: For updates on this event: www.janm.org.

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MEMORIAM

Asamoto, Robert Takaaki, 90, Torrance, CA, June 25; he was predeceased by his sons, Steve, Dale (Sharon) and Gary (Annette) Asamoto; brother, Mickey (Jane) Asamoto; gc: 6.

Bronner, Joseph, 58, Yuba City, CA, June 29; he was predeceased by his father, John; he is survived by his mother, Matsuiko; brothers, Mark, Gary, Jeffrey and Sammy; and 2 nephews.

Eto, Mieko, 89, Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 29; she is survived by her sons, Takao, Mieko, 89, and Bernice (Minoru) Ouye; brother, Gary (Annette) Asamoto; brother, Robert (Eng Ho) Iwasa; gc: 3.

Fujita, Takaye, 96, Monterey Park, CA, July 24; she was predeceased by her husband, Kyoshio; she is survived by her sons, Donald (Caren) and Steve Fujita; sister-in-law, Yoko Umeda; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Iwasa, Yoshio, 92, Sacramento, CA, Aug. 8; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ and would serve in the Army in Europe; he was predeceased by his siblings, Bernice (Minoru) Ouye, Kyoka (Masao) Kawamura, Masami Iwasa, Myo (Ted) Kobata and Takao Iwasa; he is survived by his wife, Ritsuko; children, Keiko Watanabe, Ken Iwasa, Arthur (Christy) Iwasa and Robert (Eng Ho) Iwasa; gc: 3.

Kono, Irene Yaeko, 89, Mission Viejo, CA, July 31; she is survived by her daughters, Grace (Vernon Wells) Kono-Wells and Deborah (Anthony) Hsu; many siblings; gc: 1.

Matsuda, William, 90, Daly City, CA, Aug. 16; a Korean War veteran, he is survived by his wife, Tomoko; son, Eric (Nomo) Matsuda; sisters, Jose- phine Matsuda and Sumi Matsuda; he is also survived by many family members and friends.

Nakamura, Takashi ‘Tak,’ 65, Gardena, CA, Aug. 8; he is survived by his mother, Kiyomi Nakamura; 2 nieces; he is also survived by many other relatives.

Roehm, Linda Kawaguchi, 56, Monterey Park, CA, July 18; she is survived by her 2 children; parents, Yoshie and Yoshinori Kawaguchi; siblings, Julie and Makoto (Wendy).

Sakino, Haruo, 96, Los Angeles, CA, July 23.

Shirasu, Byron Gishin, 70, Aiea, HI, Aug. 18.

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.

CONTACT:
Editorial@pacifictimeton or call (213) 620-1767 ext. 104

OBITUARIES

LTSC CHIEF DEAN MATSUBAYASHI DIES AT 49

The executive director of the Little Tokyo nonprofit had battled a brain tumor.

By P.C. Staff

LOS ANGELES — Dean Matsu- yashi, a longtime staffer at the Lit- tle Tokyo Service Center who had served as its exec- cutive director since 2012, died Sept. 4. He was 49.

Matsubayashi, who was diagnosed in May 2018 with a gli- oblastoma (an aggressive brain tumor), was most recently involved in pushing forward the completion of the long-standing Terasaka Bud- dokan in Little Tokyo, set to open in spring 2020. It was one of the many current projects the LTSC was pursuing under his leadership.

“He fought fiercely and heroically to beat this cancer,” wrote his wife, Kim Kawaratani, in an email to the Pacific Citizen.

In a statement, LTSC board of di- rectors President Dick Kaku wrote: “Dean’s contributions and accomplish- ments at Little Tokyo Service Center were immeasurable and are too vast for me to attempt to fully describe in this letter. They notably include helping guide the organization to a position of strength and stability after the worst economic crisis the country has faced since the Great Depression, building coalitions and partnerships across ethnic and geographic boundaries, achieving national recognition as a leader in the community deve- lopment field and advancing the dream of the Terasaka Budokan project to fruition.”

Taking the reins as LTSC’s interim executive director is Erich Nakano.

The Los Angeles-born Matsubayashi was the son of Kay and George Matsubayashi. He grew up in the Venice-Culver City area, participating in community activ- ities such as Little Tokyo Basketball and Boy Scouts as a member of Troop 764, where he attained the rank of Eagle Scout in 1988.

After graduating from Venice High School, where Matsubayashi played basketball for three years and won MVP honors for two years as the varsity point guard, he attended and graduated magna cum laude from the University of California, Irvine, double-majoring in political science and sociology.

Matsubayashi then attended the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Har- vard University for graduate school, earning a master’s degree in public policy. He first served at LTSC in 1996, establishing its affordable housing and economic development programs.

Matsubayashi met his wife, Kim Kawaratani, when they were both attending Harvard, where she was working on her master of education. They moved to California in 2002 to start a family and attend law school, and during that time, he served as associate director for planning and community deve- lopment at Asian Americans for Equality.

Upon returning to California in 2000, he rejoined LTSC as a senior project manager and director of community economic development. He and Kawaratani married on Sept. 22, 2001; 18 years to the day later will be his funeral service. “Dean always made me laugh, had a big, big heart, was always genuine and true to himself,” Ka- waratani told the Pacific Citizen.

“He was the love of my life, my best friend, a patient and loving husband and a wonderful father to our two beautiful kids.”

Under his leadership, Matsu- baya-yashi helped guide LTSC’s work in Little Tokyo, as well as the Affor- dable Housing Collaborative that builds affordable housing in Los Angeles’ ethnic neighborhoods.

As an advocate for community- based sustainable development, he helped develop such coalitions as the Alliance for Community Transit L.A., the API Equitable Develop- ment Task Force, API Foreclosure Prevention Task Force, California Coalition for Asian Pacific Ame- rican Community Development State Network, L.A. Maturating Acquisition Loan Task Force and L.A. Neighborhood-Based CDC Coalition.

In addition to Kawaratani and his parents, Matsubayashi is survived by his daughter, Emma, 11, and son, Sei. He is also survived by his siblings, Erik, Craig and Tina, and his parents-in-law, Lilian and Yukio Kawaratani. His funeral service will take place at 1 p.m. on Sept. 22 at the Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, located at 815 E. First St. in Los Angeles.
By Ron Mori

The sad reality is that many of us are dependent on prescription drugs. While prescription drugs are an essential part of our lives, prices for these essential prescription drugs are not affordable.

AARP recently released new data and information illustrating the impact of high prescription drug prices on Americans — specifically people living with cancer, prediabetes or diabetes and heart disease.

As a part of AARP’s nationwide Stop Rx Greed campaign to lower drug prices, AARP unveiled a new infographic at the National Academy for State Health Policy annual conference in August to show the impact of high prescription drug prices.

The skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs is leading more and more Americans to ignore their doctors’ orders when it comes to how they should be taking their medications. Instead, consumers are asking their doctors for a cheaper drug, delaying refilling their prescriptions, taking less than the prescribed dosage, skipping doses, using alternatives to prescription medicines or going outside the country to buy their drugs.

“The data shows that there is a relatively high percentage of the population not taking their medicines is a sign that this is a pervasive issue,” said Leigh Purvis, director of health services research for AARP.

Purvis also said that the data indicates “a clear link between people being inadherent and higher health care costs down the road.”

It’s a lot less expensive to take medicine, she said, “Than going in for heart surgery or having a heart attack 10 years down the road.”

The data shows that nationally in 2017, nearly 11 percent of Americans over age 18 were diagnosed with diabetes and nearly 13 percent with prediabetes. The annual price of the Lantus SoloStar insulin pen, commonly used to treat both conditions, went from $2,907 in 2012 to $4,703 in 2017 — a 62 percent increase.

In 2017, nearly 83 million American adults reported having a diagnosis of high blood pressure. The annual price of Benicar, a drug commonly prescribed to such patients, went from $1,643 in 2012 to $3,509 in 2017 — a 114 percent increase.

“It’s despicable that nearly one-third of Americans have to choose between filling life-saving medications or paying rent and buying food,” said Elaine Ryan, vp of state advocacy and strategy integration for AARP. “AARP is deeply committed to winning the fight against skyrocketing drug prices on behalf of our 38 million members and all Americans. We strongly urge Congress and state legislatures to continue taking meaningful action on this crisis now.”

In 2016, 28 percent of Americans stopped taking a prescription drug as prescribed due to cost, according to the State Health Access Data Assistance Center and as shown in the infographic. The infographic also highlights recent price increases for three prescription drugs commonly prescribed to treat cancer, diabetes and heart disease.

For more information about the analysis, as well as to learn more about AARP’s Stop Rx Greed campaign, visit www.aarp.org/rx. To view infographics state by state, visit www.aarp.org/rxstates.

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