



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

THE ANAHEIM UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT & ANAHEIM HIGH SCHOOL

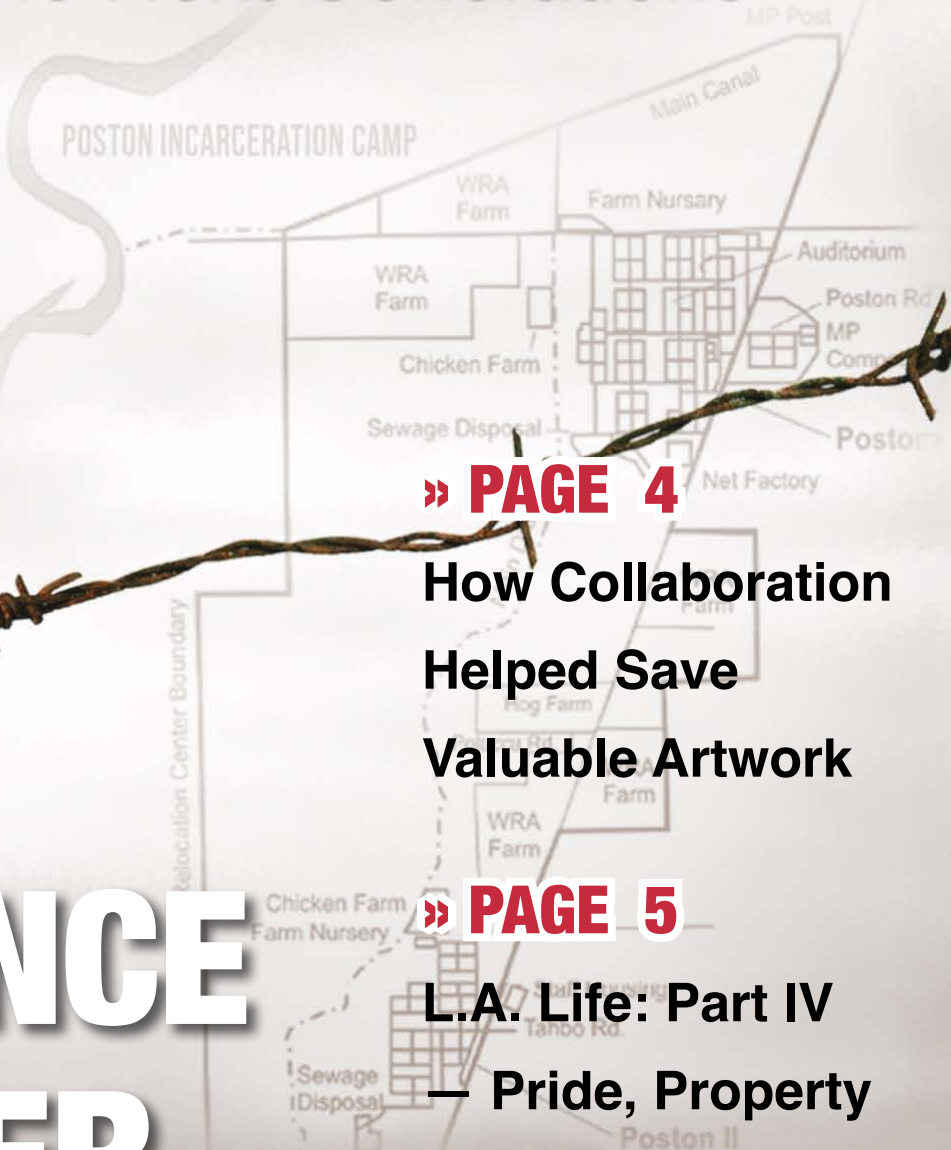
## THE POSTON EXPERIENCE

Paving the Way for the Next Generations



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# AN EXPERIENCE TO REMEMBER



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How Collaboration Helped Save Valuable Artwork

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L.A. Life: Part IV — Pride, Property and (Girl) Power

Deep Japanese American Roots Prevail in Anaheim.

*Celebrating 90 Years*

# 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 participate in lectures and workshops.

Each trip will visit Tokyo and one other city to be announced.

The Kakehashi Project is a people-to-people exchange program between Japan and North America. One of

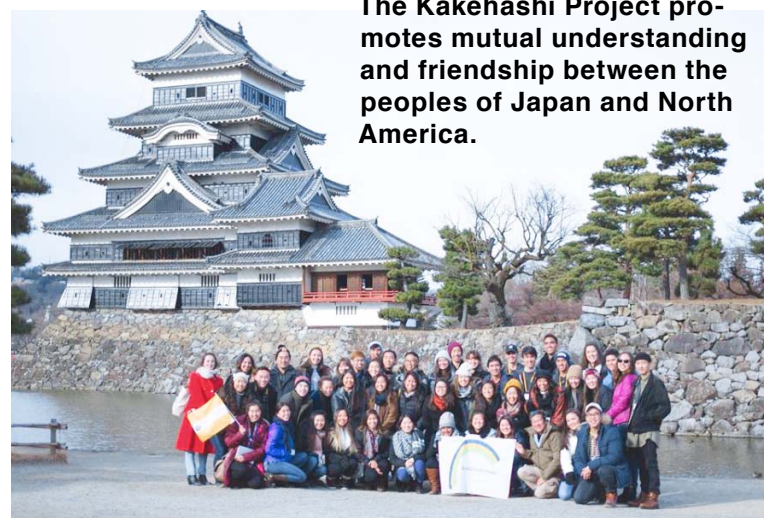


PHOTO: COURTESY OF JACL NATIONAL

The Kakehashi Project promotes mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples of Japan and North America.

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 re-

sident 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 [japanprogram@jacl.org](mailto:japanprogram@jacl.org).

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# PACIFIC CITIZEN

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# KAKEHASHI CONTINUES TO EVOLVE, BUT THE HEART REMAINS THE SAME

By David Inoue,  
JACL Executive Director

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 do 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 goals. JACL is only one of the many 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.

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 more 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 actually 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. Even after our family no longer saw the first 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 run 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 worthiness. 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.

In 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



**"Making Waves," a mental health conference hosted by Changing Tides, an initiative within the Little Tokyo Service Center, will be held at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles on Sept. 28.**

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](mailto: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.

Clement Hanami of the Japanese American National Museum, Shirley Ann Higuchi of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation and Nancy Ukai of 50 Objects Nikkei said the March 2015 announcement by Rago Auction House of New Jersey caught them by surprise.

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



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

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 hus-

band. 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

PHOTOS: JANM

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



Chair by Yorozu Homma at Heart Mountain



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



(From left) Heart Mountain's Shirley Ann Higuchi, JANM's Clement Hanami and 50 Objects Nikkei's Nancy Ukai participated in the panel discussion during the national convention of the American Association for State and Local History in Philadelphia.

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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.

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Jerry Matsukuma and his father, Shig



Ester and Shig Matsuguma with (bottom, from left) Jerry, sister Norma (Corning), brother Mark Matsuguma and sister Sandy (Takiguchi)



Jerry Matsukuma (with sunglasses on) at the mural's dedication ceremony in 1981



Brothers Jerry (left) and Mark Matsukuma



Jerry Matsukuma today



Jerry Matsukuma (left) and George Takei, pictured in front of his mural in 1981



Father and daughter, Jerry and Cami Matsukuma

# 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 entrepreneurship 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 customers came together to protect the store from looters and vandals during that time.

Jerry recalls that the store was not only open, but also it was busy! Being one of the few businesses in the area operating as normal, neighborhood 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 soon as 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' Annemarie Randle-Trejo, clerk, Katherine H. Smith, clerk and Al Jabbar, member; and Anaheim Elementary School District Board of Education Trustees' Ryan A. Ruelas, president, Dr. J. Paolo Magcalas, clerk and members Jackie Filbeck and Mark Lopez.

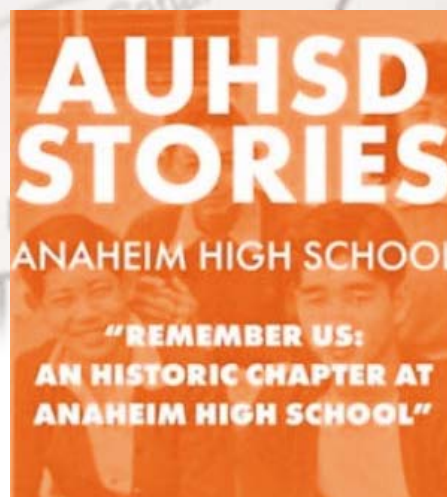
The interweaving of in-person and video presentations also heightened the interest of the crowd. AUHSD Superintendent Michael Matsuda kicked-off the event by sharing the history of the significance of having the event at Anaheim High School's Cook Auditorium.

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. Demaree 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.

Demaree, 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.



Patti Hirahara at her alma mater, Anaheim High School, where she graduated in 1973.



Congressman Lou Correa (center) and students from the AUHSD Film Academy with adviser Jeff Numainville (left)

PHOTOS: SHANE SATO



Michael Matsuda, the first Japanese American Superintendent of the Anaheim Union High School District

PHOTOS: SHANE SATO



(Above) "Poston Experience" participants (from left) Patti Hirahara, Don Miyada, Robert M. Wada, Marlene Shigekawa, Congressman Lou Correa (Calif.-46th District), Gania Demaree-Trotter, AUHSD Superintendent Michael Matsuda, NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Pacific West Region Representative Tom Leatherman and Anaheim High School Principal Robert Saldivar



Joe Nakamura is the only Japanese American ASB student body president in Anaheim High School's 121-year history. He was president of the Class of 1959 and was a special guest at the "Poston Experience" event.

PHOTO: PATTI HIRAHARA



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.



Certificate presented to the SELANOCO JACL





AHS Dance performed "Cherry Blossom" video tribute



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



The AESD student singers

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.

"From 1926-42, there were 70 students of Japanese ancestry who graduated from Anaheim High, with four students not being able to attend their graduation, in 1942, due to their forced removal during WWII," he added.

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. There was also a group photo of the only Japanese club that existed from 1941-42.

Hirahara gave a brief history of the early Anaheim Japanese pioneer community. They came to Anaheim in the early 1900s and established local community businesses, as well as worked on truck farms and ranches. The community even established an Anaheim Japanese Business Assn.

The Anaheim Japanese Free Methodist Church and a Japanese language school were also created in the city before the war.

In 1940, there were 567 Japanese living in Anaheim, with 221 being born in Japan and 346 being born in the U.S. or elsewhere. There are also 63 Japanese Americans

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 JAs went during WWII.

Her video presentation 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 M. 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 chartered many organizations as 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 back to Poston and learn about the place of her birth. Shigekawa was happy to come back to Anaheim High School 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 unscripted presentation by panelist Demaree-Trotter, who is 92 years old and an alumna 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 new 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 Correa presented each with a United States 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."



Dr. Paul H. Demaree in 1943



AUHSD Student Ambassador Hazel Fernandez led the Pledge of Allegiance

PHOTO: PATTI HIRAHARA

PHOTO: RYAN RUELAS



AHS CROWN members



Anaheim ASB students welcomed attendees

PHOTO: RYAN RUELAS

» See POSTON on page 9

**POWER » continued from page 5**

**Cami Matsukuma today in action**

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE MATSUKUMA FAMILY



**Cami Matsukuma (left) and June Yamaki working hard!**



**Original Yellow Brotherhood home address sign**

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF JUNE YAMAKI



**Jerry Matsukuma with members of his All Capital team**



**The All Capital team**

**COLLABORATION » continued from page 4**

**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 in Washington to push for funding of the Japanese American Confinement Sites program, which is run by the National Park Service.

In August, the JACS program

announced \$2.8 million in grants to pay for restoration projects at various sites around the country and media projects. Heart Mountain received the largest grant of this cycle — \$424,700 to help restore the site’s root cellar.

The joint appearance at the AASLH conference was another sign of the increasing collaboration between Japanese American groups. All three panelists said they planned to do more appearances together with the hope of telling more stories behind the rescued artwork.

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.

Bur 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 JA 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](http://allcapitalproperty.wordpress.com) or call (323) 889-3751.*

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

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



**Yellow Brotherhood house**

**AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL  
2019 TOUR SCHEDULE**

- Western Mediterranean Holiday Cruise (Carol Hida) . . . . . Aug. 18-31  
Rome, Gibraltar, Malaga, Barcelona, Provence, Monte Carlo, Monaco, Florence/Pisa. Holland America Line
- Yellowstone & Mt. Rushmore Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida) Waitlist . . . . . Sept. 22-29  
Jackson Hole, Yellowstone National Park, Sheridan, Mt. Rushmore.
- Japan Autumn Countryside Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Oct. 17-28  
Tokyo, Sado Island, Kanazawa, Shirakawago, Amanohashidate, Tottori, Matsue, Tamatsukuri Onsen, Kobe.
- Kenya Wildlife Safari Holiday Tour (Carol Hida) Waitlist . . . . . Oct. 9-21  
Nairobi, Amboseli-Nakuru Lake-Masai Mara National Parks, Mt. Kenya Safari Club, Sweetwaters Tented Camp, Jane Goodall Chimpanzee Sanctuary.
- Kyushu-Shikoku Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) Waitlist . . . . . Nov. 10-22  
Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Ibusuki, Kagoshima, Miyazaki, Beppu, Matsuyama, Kochi, Takamatsu, Shodo Island, Tokushima.

**2020 TOUR SCHEDULE PREVIEW**

- HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVAL HOLIDAY TOUR (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Feb. 2-12  
Abashiri, Sounkyo, Sapporo, Otaru, Lake Toya, Tokyo. Hyobaku Ice Festival, Asahikawa Snow Festival, Sapporo Snow Festival, Hyoto Winter Festival.
- HAWAII 3-ISLAND HOLIDAY TOUR (Carol Hida) . . . . . Mar 3-11  
Honolulu, Big Island Hawaii, Maui.
- JAPAN SPRING COUNTRYSIDE HOLIDAY TOUR (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Apr 2-14  
Tokyo, Shimoda, Lake Kawaguchi, Takayama, Kyoto. Geisha Show in Kyoto.
- NEW ORLEANS GETAWAY TOUR (Elaine Ishida) . . . . . Apr 15-19  
Walking tour of the French Quarter, City tour, Louisiana swamp cruise, enjoy Jazz club, beignets at Café Du Monde, New Orleans Cooking School.
- TULIP FESTIVAL & GREAT LAKES ADVENTURE TOUR (Carol Hida) . . . . . May 7-15  
Chicago, Grand Rapids, Holland Tulip Festival, Mackinac Island, Green Bay, Milwaukee.
- GRANDPARENTS-GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Jun 21-Jul 1  
Tokyo, Hakone/Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
- CANADIAN ROCKIES-GLACIER NATIONAL PARK TOUR (Carol Hida) . . . . . Jul 28-Aug 3  
Calgary, Glacier National Park, Kootenay National Park, Lake Louise, Columbia Icefields Parkway, Moraine Lake, Banff.
- KENYA WILDLIFE SAFARI HOLIDAY TOUR (Carol Hida) . . . . . Sept.
- CLASSICAL JAPAN HOLIDAY TOUR (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Oct 7-19  
Tokyo, Lake Kawaguchi, Nagoya, Gifu-Cormorant fishing, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
- PAINTED CANYONS OF THE WEST TOUR (Elaine Ishida) . . . . . Oct 4-12  
Denver, Grand Junction, Bryce-Zion Canyon National Park, Springdale-Utah, Arches-Canyonland-Capitol Reef-Grand Staircase National Parks, Las Vegas
- OKINAWA HOLIDAY TOUR (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Nov 11-20  
Naha, Onnason, Islands of Ishigaki, Iriomote and Taketomo.

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: [americanholiday@att.net](mailto:americanholiday@att.net)  
Ernest or Carol Hida Elaine Ishida (Tel: 714-269-4534)





PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ALYSA SAKKAS

Alysa Sakkas (pictured at podium) offers remarks upon accepting her father's Congressional Gold Medal. Also pictured during the award ceremony is Consul General Tomochika Uyama (right), Congressman Ro Khanna (third from right) and members of Watanabe's family.

**POSTON »**  
**continued from page 7**

I was happy to represent the South East Los Angeles and North Orange County (SELANOCO) chapter of the JACL and the next generation of community leaders, as the SELANOCO chapter president. We were proud to support the Anaheim Union High School District in having this event. It focused on giving Anaheim High School students a chance to connect with the story of the Japanese American incarceration and showed how our entire community can come together to present the history of Anaheim and Orange County.

The program was also able to give a great stage for the students of local Anaheim schools to help share the tragic story of the incarceration of Japanese Americans. It brought community members together to remember the strength it took to rise above the difficult post-war years, as well as present the story from the perspective of young students.

This rejuvenation is something the incarceration story needed, as the generations who survived the camps are passing away. It's been 74 years since the closing of the camps, and we still need to stand together against injustice to all people. We hope programs such as this continue to be created and pushed to give more people a chance to give their insights on this tragic time in U.S. history.

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

*To view some of the videos shown during the event, please visit @AZ-PostonAHS on Facebook.*



PHOTO: COURTESY OF RYAN RUELAS



**Ryan A. Ruelas is president of the Anaheim Elementary School District Board of Education Trustees and a teacher at Anaheim High School.**

**MIS VETERAN POSTHUMOUSLY RECEIVES CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL**

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

The Congressional Gold Medal



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 of Japan in San Francisco, including Consul General Tomochika Uyama, Consul Ryosuke 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."



**Shunso Frank Watanabe was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his service in the Military Intelligence Service during World War II.**

**Shunso Frank Watanabe in uniform in 1945**



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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## NCWNP

**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.

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

**'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 led 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 JJML Productions at [jjmlproductionsllc@gmail.com](mailto:jjmlproductionsllc@gmail.com).**

**Public Program and Panel Discussion on the Life and Career of Kaneji Domoto**  
Berkeley, CA  
Sept. 26

**University of California, Berkeley Wurster Hall Auditorium**  
Room 112  
**Price: Free**

This panel discussion will focus on Kaneji Domoto's prewar and postwar career and his history of activism and involvement in redress, as well as cover the influence the Domoto family had on the flower

industry. It will feature author Gary Kawaguchi, University of Minnesota Professor Gail Dubrow and Domoto family members. A reception will also be held prior to the panel.

**Info: Call (510) 642-5124 or email [designarchives@berkeley.edu](mailto:designarchives@berkeley.edu).**

**The Life and Career of Kaneji Domoto Exhibition**  
Berkeley, CA  
Thru Dec. 16  
**University of California, Berkeley Environmental Design Library, Wurster Hall**  
Room 210

Renowned Nisei landscape architect Kaneji Domoto's life and work is the focus of this retrospective exhibit that pulls from original correspondence, photographs and drawings from the Domoto Collection. The exhibit will also survey Domoto's life, including his apprenticeship and architectural work at Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin studio in Wisconsin, prewar, and his architectural achievements at Wright's Usioan Community in New York, postwar.

**Info: Call (510) 642-5124 or email [designarchives@berkeley.edu](mailto: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.  
**New 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 Japanese culture, complete with vendors, performers and interactive activities for all ages. Back by popular demand is a ramen-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](http://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 Medicine and Tracey Doi, CFO for Toyota Motor North America. Registration is required.

**Info: Visit [https://www.keiro.org/what-we-do/events/keiro-symposium?utm\\_source=eblast&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=19jul18-reg](https://www.keiro.org/what-we-do/events/keiro-symposium?utm_source=eblast&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=19jul18-reg).**

**Kokoro Craft Boutique**  
Los Angeles, CA  
Oct. 6; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
JANM

**100 N. Central Ave.**  
**Price: Free**

The 11th annual boutique returns featuring 50 vendors selling unique jewelry, kimono fabric fashions, Giant Robot merchandise, handbags, ceramics, glass art, pet accessories and much more. In addition, performances by harpist Audrey Kato and Yuuju Daiko will also take place. All proceeds will benefit JANM's education programs. Those who make a boutique purchase of \$25 or more will receive a free same-day admission to the museum.

**Info: Visit [janm.org/events](http://janm.org/events) or call (213) 830-1883.**

**Poston Pilgrimage**  
Parker, AZ  
Oct. 11-12

**Blue Water Casino and Various Poston locations on the Colorado River Tribes Reservation**  
11300 Resort Dr.  
**Price: \$195, Adults; \$165 (Students 12-17); \$50, Child (5-11); Free, Children Under 5**

The Poston Community Alliance is planning educational workshops, entertainment, exhibits and a banquet for this year's Poston Pilgrimage. Please visit social media for updates on this event: [www.facebook.com/postonpreservation](http://www.facebook.com/postonpreservation) and [www.instagram.com/postonpreservation](http://www.instagram.com/postonpreservation).

**Info: Please email [postonalliance1@gmail.com](mailto:postonalliance1@gmail.com).**

**'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

**Screening of 'Hiro's Table'**  
Portland, OR  
Sept. 29; 2:30 p.m.  
**Clinton Street Theater**  
2522 S.E. Clinton St.

**Price: \$10 General admission; \$8 JACL members (if purchasing in advance, contact Portland JACL for discount code)**

Presented by the Portland JACL, this screening of the award-winning documentary follows Japanese chef Hiroji Obayashi and his family from his busy Los Angeles restaurant to his retirement in the Pacific Northwest. A Q & A with director/producer Lynn Hamrick and Obayashi follows the screening.

**Info: Visit <https://cstpd.com/show/portland-jacl-presents-hiros-table>.**

## CCDC

**Water Lantern Festival**  
Fresno, CA  
Sept. 21; 4:30-8:30 p.m.  
**Woodward Park**  
7775 N. Friant Road

**Price: \$30 until Aug. 30; \$35 until Sept. 20; \$40 on Sept. 21.**

The Water Lantern Festival is an incredible experience where family, friends and strangers celebrate 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](http://waterlanternfestival.com).**

## MDC

**Kizuki Chicago Japanese Matsuri 2019**  
Chicago, IL  
Sept. 21-22; 11 a.m.-5 p.m.  
**NEWCITY Plaza**  
1457 N. Halsted St.

**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 foods 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.

**Info: Visit <https://www.chicagoasian-network.com/events/kizuki-chicago-japanese-matsuri-2019>.**

**Screening and Q & A: 'And Then They Came for Us'**  
Minneapolis, MN  
Sept. 22; 2-4:30 p.m.  
**Pangea World Theater**  
711 W. Lake St.  
Suite 101

Please join the Twin Cities JACL at this special screening of the film "And Then They Came for Us," which will be followed by a Q & A with TC JACL members including Sally Sudo and Janet Carlson. Teachers who send a lesson plan about the WWII experience of Japanese Americans to [mnsansei@comcast.net](mailto:mnsansei@comcast.net) by midnight on Sept. 19 and bring a copy to the screening will be entered into a drawing for one of 10 DVDs of the film.

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

**Twin Cities JACL Chrysanthemum Banquet**  
Bloomington, MN  
Nov. 9; 11 a.m. Silent Auction; Noon Banquet Program  
**Normandale Hylands Methodist Church**  
9920 Normandale Blvd.

**Price: TBA Soon**  
Please join the TC JACL at its annual banquet. This year's guest speaker is Marsha Aizumi, a regular contributor to the Pacific Citizen and author of the book "Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance."

**Info: Please call (612) 338-8405 or**

email Amy Dickerson at [adickerson323@gmail.com](mailto:adickerson323@gmail.com) to RSVP.

**Crystal City Pilgrimage**  
Crystal City, TX  
Oct. 31-Nov. 3

**98 Popeye Lane**  
Survivors and descendants of this incarceration camp, along with their friends and family, will be making the pilgrimage to Crystal City. During the three-day event, there will be a meet and greet mixer, opening remarks and educational workshops, the pilgrimage and a "Stop Repeating History: Immigrant Support Rally and Vigil," followed by closing remarks.

**Info: Visit [https://www.facebook.com/pg/CrystalCityPilgrimageCo/events/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/CrystalCityPilgrimageCo/events/?ref=page_internal) for more information.**

## EDC

**Yayoi Kusama: Love Is Calling**  
Boston, MA  
Sept. 24-Feb. 7, 2021

**Institute for Contemporary Art**  
25 Harbor Shore Dr.

An icon of contemporary art, Yayoi Kusama has interwoven ideas of pop art, minimalism and psychedelia 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 kaleidoscopic of the artist's Infinity Mirror Rooms. For the 90-year-old artist, this exhibit represents the culmination of her artistic achievements.

**Info: Visit <https://www.icaboston.org/exhibition/yayoi-kusama-love-calling>.**

**JACL D.C. Chapter Keiro 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 Keiro Kai, an afternoon featuring Bingo, sushi, games and much more for the whole family!

**Info: Visit <https://jacl-dc.org>.**

**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. Artist Yoshitomo Nara launches the series with new works he created in Shigaraki, one of Japan's oldest areas for pottery making.

**Info: Visit <https://www.japan-society.org/page/programs/gallery/entrance>.**

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**FOR MORE INFO:**  
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(213) 620-1767

# In MEMORIAM

**Asamoto, Robert Takaaki, 90**, Torrance, CA, June 25; he is survived 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, Mitsuko; brothers, Mark, Gary, Jeffery and Sammy; and 2 nephews.

**Eto, Mieko, 89**, Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 29; she is survived by her sons, Takashi, Hiroshi and Isao; gc: 4; ggc: 2.

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



**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 (Nomie) Matsuda; sisters, Josephine 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, Kimi 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, Toshie and Yoshinori Kawaguchi; siblings, Julie and Makoto (Wendy).

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

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

**Hada, Jane, 95**, Denver, CO, Sept. 4; she was predeceased by her husband, George; she is survived by her son, Kerry (Linda), sister Josephine Shioji, sister-in-law, Marie Nakayama; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews.



**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, Kiyoka (Masao) Kawamura, Masami Iwasa, Miyo (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.

TRIBUTE

CHIE KONDO



July 27, 1918-July 26, 2019  
Chie Kondo (née Tokunaga) passed peacefully in Oberlin, Ohio, where she had been living with her daughter and son-in-law for 20 years. Born in Berkeley, Calif., she graduated from University High School and attended the University of California, Berkeley. In 1940, Chie married George Eichi Kondo, and during the war, they were incarcerated along with their family members at the Tanforan Assembly Center and Topaz Relocation Center in the Utah desert. Having secured a sponsor and employer in Highland Park and then in Chicago, Chie and her husband left Topaz to work in Illinois until the war was over. After the war, they returned to the house they owned in Berkeley and achieved a successful business operating Ashby Laundry, enabling them to build a home in Oakland, which they — especially she — happily enjoyed for several years. They then made a life-changing move to San Francisco, where she became an employee of the Sumitomo Bank as well as a volunteer at Japan Town's Kimochi Home, while George held the position of JACL regional director of the Northern California-Western Nevada Pacific District. After retirement, in order to be close to their daughter's family, they left California for State College, Pa., in what would be their last move together; and when her husband passed and her daughter's family relocated to Ohio, she made her final move alone to be with them. In her lifetime, she had become highly accomplished in the home arts, including cooking, sewing, knitting, gardening and entertaining; she was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother and an admired friend to many people of all ages and backgrounds. She is survived by her sister, Yae (Jun) Wada; daughter, Jean (Bruce) Weigl; gc: 2; ggc: 2, 3 nieces and 1 nephew.

## 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 Matsubayashi, a longtime staffer at the Little Tokyo Service Center who had served as its executive director since 2012, died Sept. 4. He was 49.



Matsubayashi, who was diagnosed in May 2018 with a glioblastoma (an aggressive brain tumor), was most recently involved in pushing forward the completion of the long-gestating Terasaki Budokan 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 widow, Kim Kawaratani, in an email to the *Pacific Citizen*.

In a statement, LTSC board of directors President Dick Kaku wrote: "Dean's contributions and accomplishments 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 development field and advancing the dream of the Terasaki 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 activities such as 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 Harvard 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 would live in New York for two years while she attended law school, and during that time, he served as associate director for planning and community development 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," Kawaratani 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, Matsubayashi helped guide LTSC's work in Little Tokyo, as well as the Affordable 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 Development Task Force, API Foreclosure Prevention Task Force, California Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development State Network, L.A. Maturing 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, 7. 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.

**PLACE A TRIBUTE**  
'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$20/column inch.

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# REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

## NEW ANALYSIS SHOWS 28 PERCENT OF AMERICANS DO NOT FOLLOW THEIR MEDICATION REGIMENS

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 often and how much of their medicines they should be taking.

On average, 28 percent of pre-Medicare-age adults say they aren't adhering to their prescriptions as written because of the high

cost of 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.

"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 in adherent 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.

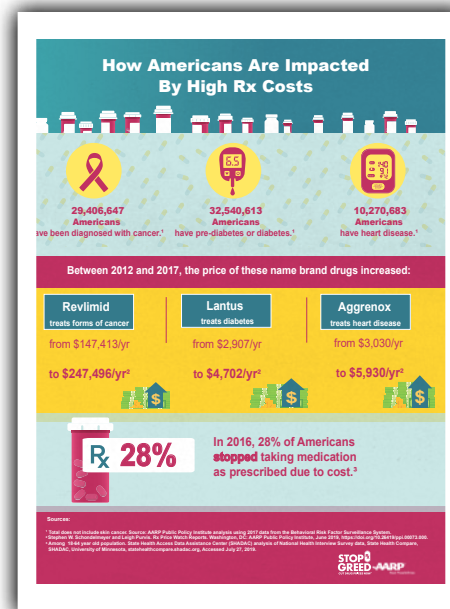
"It's despicable that nearly one-third of Americans have to choose between filling life-saving medications or paying rent and buying food," said Elaine Ryan, vp of state advocacy and strategy integration for AARP. "AARP is deeply committed to winning the fight against skyrocketing drug prices on behalf 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 used 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](http://www.aarp.org/rx). To view infographics state by state,

visit [www.aarp.org/rxstates](http://www.aarp.org/rxstates).

Ron Mori is a member of the Washington, D.C., JACL chapter and manager of community, states and national affairs — multicultural leadership for AARP.



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