



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS

"I am an American,"  
Japanese Incarceration  
in a Time of Fear

» **PAGE 6**

## HISTORY REVEALED

The Anaheim MUZEO exhibit  
wows crowds and reveals new  
information about Japanese  
American pioneers in  
Orange County.

» **PAGE 4**

Historical Headlines  
Features First Edition of  
the *Pacific Citizen*.

» **PAGE 9**

COPANI 2019 Brings  
Together Nikkei of All  
Generations.



# JACL Welcomes New Membership COORDINATOR PHILLIP OZAKI



Phillip Ozaki has rejoined JACL as its membership coordinator in the organization's San Francisco headquarters office, effective immediately.

Ozaki is a returning JACL staff person. As the Norman Mineta Fellow in 2009, he coordinated JACL members to advocate for the passage of federal legislation that honored Japanese American World War II veterans with the Congressional Gold Medal.

From 2010-12, he served as membership coordinator and led the growth of the program. And from 2014-16, he volunteered on the New York chapter board.

Ozaki is also an activist for the civil rights of AAPI and LGBTQ people and their intersections. During WWII, his family was unconstitutionally forced into America's Japanese American concentration camps. He is half-Japanese American, as his mother is from the Philippines.

He has lived, studied and worked all over the country and the world. He studied sociology in his hometown, Chicago, and spent one year abroad in Japan. Recently, he completed a leading MBA program at ESADE Business School in Barcelona, Spain, as well as worked for a start-up in Berlin, Germany.

"I'm excited to work in the JACL membership department again. It's more urgent than ever to share our story of injustice during WWII to stop the current injustices to migrant families. I'm glad to be back and hope you'll join me in bringing new energy to JACL for solidarity, education and justice," said Ozaki.

Following are some ways to get involved:

- Upgrade to a premium membership and get a free poster: <https://jacl.org/member/join-or-renew-thousand-century-and-millennium-club-levels/> or email [pozaki@jacl.org](mailto:pozaki@jacl.org).
- Join or renew your JACL membership: <https://jacl.org/member>.
- Volunteer on the chapter or national level: email [pozaki@jacl.org](mailto:pozaki@jacl.org).

— JACL National

## HOW TO REACH US

Email: [pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)  
Online: [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)  
Tel: (213) 620-1767  
Mail: 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

## STAFF

**Executive Editor**  
Allison Haramoto

**Senior Editor**  
**Digital & Social Media**  
George Johnston

**Business Manager**  
Susan Yokoyama

**Production Artist**  
Marie Samonte

**Circulation**  
Eva Ting

The **Pacific Citizen** newspaper (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semi-monthly (except once in December and January) by the Japanese American Citizens League, *Pacific Citizen*, 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313 Los Angeles, CA 90012 Periodical postage paid at L.A., CA **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to National JACL, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115

**JACL President:** Jeffrey Moy  
**Executive Director:** David Inoue

## P.C. EDITORIAL BOARD

Rob Buscher, chairperson; Ron Kuramoto, MDC; Marcia Chung, CCDC; Nancy Ukai, NCWNPDC; Sheldon Arakaki, PNWDC; Kayla Watanabe, IDC; John Saito Jr., PSWDC; Juli Yoshinaga, Youth Rep.

## SUBSCRIBE

Get a one-year subscription of the *Pacific Citizen* newspaper at: [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org) or call (213) 620-1767

## ADVERTISE

To advertise in the *Pacific Citizen*, call (213) 620-1767 or e-mail: [pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)

## LEGAL

No part of this publication may be reproduced without the express permission of the *Pacific Citizen*. Editorials, letters, news and the opinions expressed by columnists other than the national JACL president or national director do not necessarily reflect JACL policy. Events and products advertised in the P.C. do not carry the implicit endorsement of the JACL or this publication. We reserve the right to edit articles. © 2019

Periodicals paid at Los Angeles, Calif. and mailing office.

# REP. JARED HUFFMAN INTRODUCES BILL TO RENAME CALIFORNIA COURTHOUSE IN HONOR OF JUDGE LOUIS GOODMAN, SUPPORTER OF JAPANESE AMERICANS IN WWII

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Rep. Jared Huffman of California's 2nd District, introduced a bill Oct. 21 to rename federal courthouse in McKinleyville, Calif., after the late Judge Louis E. Goodman, who served on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California and was a supporter of civil rights and Japanese Americans during World War II.

During the war, Goodman was the first judge to speak against the incarceration as unconstitutional and ruled against the U.S. government in two separate cases.

One of those cases was *United*

*States v. Masaaki Kuwabara*, in which Goodman ruled "that those American citizens of Japanese ancestry who were incarcerated could not be compelled to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces nor be found guilty of resisting the draft at the same time they were being denied the rights of citizenry."

After this ruling, "Judge Goodman would go on to play a major role in restoring the U.S. citizenship of thousands of Japanese Americans who had been pressed to renounce such citizenship while under duress and detained by armed guard."

Rep. Huffman spoke of Goodman,

saying, "Judge Goodman had the integrity to defend the rights of all Americans from the bench at a time when few stood up to unconstitutional discrimination against Japanese Americans. He did not waver from his duty to uphold the civil rights and liberties enshrined in the Constitution, despite significant professional and personal risk to himself. Renaming this federal courthouse in his honor is a fitting tribute to his courageous work to defend the Constitution and will ensure that future generations learn from his important legacy."

JACL Executive Director David Inoue echoed this sentiment as well.

"During WWII, there were few who stood up in opposition to

the incarceration of the Japanese American community. Our civil rights allies, politicians and even the Supreme Court turned their backs on the Constitution. Judge Goodman was one of the few who stood strong on two separate cases."

The JACL is proud to support Rep. Huffman's bill and eagerly hopes for its passage by Congress. The bill is cosponsored by Reps. Barbara Lee (CA-13), Juan Vargas (CA-51), Anna Eshoo (CA-18), Eric Swalwell (CA-15), Alan Lowenthal (CA-47) and Katie Porter (CA-45) and has been endorsed by the American Civil Liberties Union, the JACL, the Tule Lake Committee and the Humboldt Historical Society.

— JACL National

# 2019 SPRING CAMPAIGN

Pacific Citizen Newspaper  
123 Ellison S. Onizuka St. #313  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 620-1767  
[www.PacificCitizen.Org](http://www.PacificCitizen.Org)



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

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

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1: \_\_\_\_\_

City : \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number : \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail : \_\_\_\_\_

JACL MEMBER? ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$200 ☐ other \_\_\_\_\_

## PLEASE USE MY CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS:

P.C. Archive Project \_\_\_\_\_ P.C. Production Costs \_\_\_\_\_

\* Your donations will help build and preserve a cohesive library of the Pacific Citizen to educate future generations. \*

## JACL MEMBERS

### Change of Address

If you've moved, please send new information to:  
**National JACL**  
1765 Sutter St.  
San Francisco,  
CA 94115  
(415) 921-5225  
ext. 26

Allow 6 weeks for address changes.

To avoid interruptions in delivery, please notify your postmaster to include periodicals in your change of address (USPS Form 3575)





## A MOTHER'S TAKE

# A BUDDHIST MOTHER FINDS HER LIGHT

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MARSHA AIZUMI



San Mateo Buddhist Temple LGBTQ event, September 2019

By Marsha Aizumi

Sometimes the stories in my head are so consuming that I can't hear a perspective different than what is rattling around in my head. But I have learned that those stories in my head may not be completely accurate, and listening to others can give me a different perspective.

An example of this is the Buddhist community. As Aiden and I began to share our stories in the faith community, I didn't know any Buddhist churches or temples that were visibly talking about the LGBTQ+ community.

So, the story I made up in my head was that they were not supportive of me and my family. Later on, I heard different perspectives.

One ally from a Buddhist temple said she was shocked that I did not think her temple was supportive. Nothing in their theology condemns LGBTQ+, so she thought there was nothing to talk about. It is a nonissue she explained. But to me, it wasn't a nonissue. Their silence was a sign that we were not welcome.

Now that I am more aware, I see that many in the Buddhist community are visible and educating their sanghas. I am so grateful for Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara, Rev. John Iwihara,

Rev. Henry Adams and many other churches in the Buddhist community that are organizing multiple events to lift awareness in their sanghas.

I would like to feature one mother who is courageously bringing visibility and voice to this issue. When I talked with Janet Umezu, she expressed her reluctance to become an advocate initially, but slowly, she has stepped into the light and is sharing her story.

She has three children: one who identifies as lesbian, one transgender and a third is what I call a straight ally. She and her family have had to navigate their path as visible leaders in the Buddhist community, since her husband, Bishop Kodo Umezu, is a leader of the Buddhist Churches of America, which oversees more than 60 temples around the United States. And so, their journey has been deciding how visible they could and would be.

Like Aiden, their middle child was assigned female at birth. And like Aiden, Norio first came out as lesbian, but later transitioned to be male. In many ways, when I talked with Janet, our journeys were similar, especially the guilt that we were not there for our children and the sinking feeling we did something so terribly wrong as mothers.

Also, in the beginning, we both questioned whether our children had been unduly influenced and were making a wrong choice. Of course, today, we know our children do not have a choice. We were the ones who had to choose.

Where our stories diverge is that my husband and I were not highly visible members of a community, like the Umezu family. The bishop had taken his position as head of the Jodo Shinshu temples in the United States in 2012, and so their challenges were magnified.

Two years later in 2014, Norio, who at the time still identified as lesbian, married Liz. It was a challenging moment for the family. Janet questioned how would their family be perceived? How would this affect her husband's position as a bishop?

Norio's wedding propelled Janet down a road that she may not have been ready for, but felt she had to face. Cautiously, Janet began to talk to others. She started with her friends and family. Most responded that it was OK. Then she talked with an 80-year-old member of a sangha, and this elderly woman's response was, "Is your child happy? That's all that should count." That conversation was one of the turning points in Janet's thinking. If an 80 year old can accept my child, then why can't I?

Other pivotal moments came when Janet heard the heartbreaking story of another transgender Buddhist individual. "Listening to her story, I did not want my children to feel like her," she said. Ironically, she also saw a video that I made sharing my journey. Watching that made Janet feel like she was not alone, and she also realized that sharing her story might help others.

So, with trepidation, Janet went before a camera in 2018 and shared her story for Okaeri, a biennial gathering of LGBTQ+ Nikkeis. At that filming, she met two other Nikkei families ... one with a young transgender daughter and a father and mother with two gay sons. The parents of the two gay sons were in town for the wedding of their oldest son to his partner. "It was so freeing talking to Janet Uradomo and Glenn and Karen Murakami," Janet said.

» See **LIGHT** on page 12



By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

## LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

# ILLEGAL NURSING HOME EVICTIONS

This is a follow-up article to the "Getting Old Is Not for Sissies" article (*Pacific Citizen*, June 28-July 11, 2019) in which I said, "In order to protect your loved one from nursing home abuse and neglect, you need to know the law and your legal rights." In this article, I want to discuss the illegal evictions of nursing home residents.

Although nursing homes and rehab centers are full of caring nurses and caregivers, the facilities themselves are in the "business" of making money. Therefore, decisions are often made not because it's about which type of care is best for your loved one, but because it's about money. Sorry — it's the nature of the beast.

Since Medicare pays a relatively high rate, many nursing homes follow a business model that emphasizes bringing in residents for "short-term" Medicare payment, i.e., up to 100 days. But then, when Medicare payment ends, they push those residents out to be replaced with new Medicare-funded residents.

Then, of course, the process repeats itself, with residents continually being brought in for

their Medicare payment, but then discarded when Medicare payment ends. This strategy clearly violates the Nursing Home Reform Law. Under the no-financial discrimination rule, a change in payment source must not lead to eviction. And change in payment source is not one of the six legitimate reasons for eviction.

But how many families know this? Very few. So, if the nursing home tells 10 families that it is discharging their loved one since Medicare payment has run out, and nine families take their loved one home, the nursing home makes out like a bandit. You need to know your rights under the law.

If you hear, "We are a short-term rehabilitation facility, and you need long-term chronic care," DON'T MOVE OUT!!! Request an appeal hearing. In the hearing, the resident or representative should emphasize that the resident has paid or is prepared to pay for the nursing home stay, through either Medicaid or private payment.

As a practical matter, the short-stay-only eviction almost never reaches the hearing stage because the nursing home has no legitimate argument. The real decision-point occurs when the nursing home falsely claims that a resident must move out. If residents panic and leave, they lose. But if they stay put, the nursing home generally will change its tune

and accept the residents' payment.

The Nursing Home Reform Law allows eviction only for six reasons: The resident has failed to pay; the resident no longer needs nursing home care; the resident's needs cannot be met in a nursing home; the resident's presence in the nursing home endangers others' safety; the resident's presence in the nursing home endangers others' health; and the nursing home is going out of business.

If a nursing home believes that it has grounds to evict a resident, it must give a written notice to the resident and resident's representative.

In general, the notice must be given at least 30 days before the planned eviction, though in some cases, a shorter notice period is allowed. If the resident appeals, a hearing officer decides whether the nursing home will be allowed to carry out the eviction. Hearing procedures vary from state to state.

The nursing home is justifying eviction by claiming that it cannot meet the resident's needs (#3). This is often employed when the resident or resident's representative complains about something. They say, "You complain about how poor the care is here, so you can be evicted under the reason that the nursing home cannot meet your needs."

A "cannot meet your needs" claim should be measured by what a nursing home is re-

quired to do under the law, and not by the nursing home's potentially deficient care. If a nursing home is required by law to provide the needed care, then the nursing home cannot base an eviction on being unable to meet the resident's needs.

If a nursing home claims that it cannot meet the resident's needs, the resident's doctor must document the resident's unmet need(s), the nursing home's attempts to meet the resident's needs and the ability of a proposed new nursing home to meet those needs.

Of course, there is also something particularly unseemly in a nursing home weaponizing the resident's care complaints to justify eviction.

In general, a resident's complaints should lead to the nursing home improving its care, rather than evicting the resident. Also, a resident has a right to make requests and complaints without retaliation.

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



# CELEBRATING 90 YEARS Historical Headlines

In celebration of JACL and the *Pacific Citizen's* 90th anniversary, following is a reprint of the very first edition of the organization's newspaper, then called the *Nikkei Shimin*, which was first published on Oct. 15, 1929. Page 1 of the newspaper offered "A Brief History of the New American Citizens League," and subsequent pages told of the newspaper's importance in showing "creative expression" to record actions for all perpetuity. To view the Oct. 15, 1929, edition in its entirety, please visit the *Pacific Citizen's* archives page at [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org). A celebration of JACL and the *Pacific Citizen's* milestone anniversary will be featured in the upcoming Holiday Special Issue, "A Lasting Legacy."

# The Nikkei Shimin

VOLUME I

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1929

NUMBER 1

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NEW AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

The New American Citizens League was started in San Francisco on October 19, 1928 by a group of American citizens of Japanese ancestry.

Eight days later, on October 27, the inaugural banquet was held at Clift Hotel. Over fifty second generation citizens were on hand and the first speaker for the evening was Saburo Kido, who had been elected president of the organization at a preliminary meeting.

Mr. Kido emphasized the fact that the citizens of Japanese ancestry had many difficult problems confronting them which must be solved sooner or later, and that to rely on the first generation was inevitable to a certain degree; but ultimately, the real solution would have to be made by the second generation members and this could be done only by co-operation.

The principal speaker of the evening, Frederick J. Koster of the Industrial Association of San Francisco, declared the necessity of citizens, regardless of race identity, to vote and become identified with the political institutions of the country. It is also essential, he said, that Japanese-American citizens should work into the industrial life of the nation and bring with them the patience and industrious qualities of their parents.

Speaking on behalf of the Japanese Consul-General, M. Iino, extended congratulations on the establishment of the new organization. T. Takimoto, secretary of the Japanese Association of America, also extended his congratulations, saying that he looked for greater progress of Japanese in America in the future.

The biggest undertaking of the League was the first Citizens League Convention which took place on April 5-6, 1929 in San Francisco.

The Convention was formally opened with a luncheon at the Sho Wa Low. Besides the delegates from the various localities, there were several American social workers who were invited to all the meetings. In order to become acquainted with each other, self-introductions were made. A short message of welcome was delivered by the president, Saburo Kido.

After luncheon, the group gathered at the Community House, and at 2 p. m. the business meeting began.

The first problem to be taken up was that of the Federation. Mr. Clarence T. Arai of Seattle was called upon to present his plan whereby all the leagues could be united. His plan was to organize a national body and to group the various chapters into districts.

Internal problems were then presented. Reports from the various delegates were made as to the progress they were making and also the nature of the difficulties they had to overcome. The meeting closed with the discussion of the next convention city. Seattle requested that the Northwest be given the honor to hold the next meeting. Seattle was awarded the next Convention unanimously.

Through the generosity of the Japanese Association of America, the Convention delegates were invited to a delightful Japanese dinner. Mr. T. Takimoto, who deserves much credit for bringing about the organization of the San Francisco chapter, gave a short talk. He impressed the members with the great responsibility they have as second generation people and that much was expected of them.

The evening was devoted to a meeting called "Delegates' Night." The meeting was opened with addresses from Miss Miva Sannomiya and Clarence Arai. Miss Sannomiya gave a

CITIZENS' LEAGUE CONVENTION, APRIL 5-6, 1929



First Row—Henry Takahashi, Mrs. Chas. Yonezu, Clarence Arai, Saburo Kido, Tamezo Takimoto, Miya Sannomiya, Yone Kuwahara.  
Second Row—T. Okamoto, T. Namba, Kay Nishida, G. Hiura, L. Oki, S. Muneno, George Tognasaki.  
Third Row—T. Ogata, H. Arie, Tamotsu Murayama, G. Isonaka, J. W. Aoki, H. R. Okamoto, M. Kuwada.  
Fourth Row—Chas. Yonezu, K. Imai, T. M. Yogo, Kay Tsukamoto, T. Koga, L. K. Kurisaki.

"pep" talk. She encouraged those present to show the first generation what the young people could do. Mr. Clarence Arai urged the members to exercise their citizenship rights. He gave examples of the work being done in Seattle along political lines.

Mr. Kenneth Fung who is the secretary of the Chinese-American Citizens Alliance gave a message of congratulation. He asked for the co-operation of the Japanese-American citizens. The keynote of his talk was: "The success of this Convention means our success because we have so much in common."

The principal speaker of the evening was Mr. Victor Kwong of the San Francisco Bulletin. He told of his dream, a dream of sincere Sino-Japanese understanding with the end in view of securing for Asia a political unity that may be a great pillar for peace of the world.

Following the speeches, a delightful social hour was observed by the delegates, through the efforts of Mrs. C. Yonezu, reception chairman who acted as the hostess and entertained the guests with refreshments. About sixty delegates were present.

On Saturday afternoon, Dr. H. Guy gave his message. It was one of the most inspiring and practical addresses ever delivered before a second generation group and some of the members who knew Dr. Guy well stated later that it was the best speech they had heard from him. Probably, the importance of the gathering as well as the quality of the delegates inspired Dr. Guy. The following is a brief summary of his message:

1. Get means of publicity.
2. Have definite aim of character.
3. Cultivate the SPIRIT to render public service.

After his talk, discussion groups were held under the following leaders: Membership rights: Clarence T. Arai

Vocation Problems: Saburo Kido  
Vocation Problems: Miya Sannomiya.

Better Relations: Hisashi Arie  
A recess was then taken in order to attend Consul-General Ida's reception at his home. Vice-Consul Toyogi Kaneko welcomed the delegates and gave a short message. A brief response was made by Saburo Kido and refreshments were served. A program of entertainment, in charge of Mr. Minoru Iino, then followed which was enjoyed by the delegates.

The final business meeting was opened at 4 p. m. The organization committee's report was presented for adoption. The name "Japanese American Citizens' League" was the one

recommended and it was accepted.

Following this meeting, the delegates were invited to a dance in the Berkeley U.C. YWCA sponsored by the Triple O Society and J.U.C. Club. Thus the curtain of fairs was rung down on this Convention.

In the succeeding months, the activities of the League were confined to monthly dinners; but this was broken by a congenial social given by Mr. and Mrs. I. Abiko at their home. Over eighty members of the League and friends were present, including Consul General Ida and members of the Lowell High School Party going to Japan. Interesting games planned out by Yuki Kuwahara and Henry Takahashi added merriment to the occasion. The consensus of opinion was that all had one swell time.

The latest activities of the League have been the boat ride and picnic at Paradise Cove Park on September 8 and the starting of our publication.

The officers who carried on the work of the League for the first year were:

President, Saburo Kido; Vice-Presidents: Henry Takahashi, Kay Tsukamoto, Toshi Takao, Shizu Sakai, Dr. Tokutaro Hayashi, Mrs. Charles Yonezu, Kay Nishida; Recording Secretary, Hide Sasaki, Corresponding Secretary, Eiko Enomoto; Treasurer, Henry Uyeda.

## OUR PURPOSE

By IYAO KAWAKAMI

One of the purposes of this publication is to give the new Japanese-American citizens an appropriate medium through which they can express themselves. Before proceeding further, however, I would like to give my own opinion of the phrase "creative expression."

"Creative expression" is perhaps the finest record of man, for it determines the cultural progress of a nation or a race.

Contemplating the present quality of "creative expression" in art and daily life, if one compares it, let us say, with those of the "Golden Age" in Greece, Rome, England and France, the comparison reacts most unfavorably on the "creative expression" of our day. The reason is not hard to find — people everywhere are becoming more standardized and less individual in their ways of living and thinking. Also, they are content to follow the "Old Masters" or to imitate them whenever possible.

But it is at this point that the solution appears. We, the Japanese-Americans, are in a position where we represent the blending of two races

or, in another sense, we are an entirely new group of young people in America. It would not be amiss, therefore, to believe that new forms of creative expression will rise from our group. Let us first, however, consider the basic soil in which our creative expression will take root.

There are, to my conception, three promising aspects of Japanese-American life. In the first place — the agricultural aspect; secondly, the industrial aspect; and lastly, the social or intellectual aspect.

The agricultural aspect is, despite the various legislative restrictions placed on it, a steadily progressing one. The first generation of Japanese farmers have learned bitter lessons from Mother Nature, and are now in the position to reap the honest efforts of their toil; and without doubt they shall reap moral rewards as well as material ones. Their sons and daughters have been given a splendid heritage of patient pioneering.

The industrial aspect is, perhaps, the most practical and lucrative one. As the Japanese population in America increases, there will constantly grow a demand for well-trained, efficient business men and women. This will inevitably lead to the social aspect which is based, in majority of the cases, on industrial success.

The social and intellectual aspects are, by far, the least developed by the Japanese-Americans. There are, to be sure, individual examples of social and artistic leadership; yet they cannot begin to compare in quantity or quality with those other races in America. The Japanese-American, in most cases, confronts the pitfall of imitation or unoriginality; and those are precisely the things that one must learn to avoid.

It is in order to help the new American citizens avoid these pitfalls and in order to encourage the development of healthy sincerity in the matter of expression that we wish to introduce this publication to the Japanese and American people. If it is not taking too much for granted, I would like to conclude with the following two stanzas which I wrote recently:

From America's oft-quoted "melting pot"  
Have bubbled out thousands of newspapers  
With their editorial fire or rot  
Catering to — or cutting up capers.  
Some may be fit to be read, others not —  
Though all, at times, indulge in hot vapors.  
We rejoice at the power of the press  
For good, but not its abuse in a mess.

At first, all our papers were in English  
(Though even that speech has undergone change.)  
But when the aliens come, (by our wish  
To clear away the wilderness and range).  
They settled and then started to publish  
Needed news in their own tongues —  
Some quite strange.  
If we promise no transient example,  
Before you cast your ancient eggs —  
sample!

## CONGRATULATIONS

By SABURO KIDO,  
President of New American  
Citizens League of San Francisco.

It is with great joy and pride that I write this message to the members of the staff for making our dreams of having a publication come true. Ever since the organization of the league, the Board of Governors have recognized the necessity of a newspaper or magazine which would

» See CONGRATULATIONS  
on page 8

PACIFIC CITIZEN

COMING  
SOON

NOVEMBER  
VETERANS SPECIAL

DECEMBER  
HOLIDAY & JACL  
90TH ANNIVERSARY  
SPECIAL ISSUE

CONTACT SUSAN at  
213.620.1767 ext.103  
or email: BusMgr@  
pacificcitizen.org



# FROM THE BEGINNING

How a call for minority family scrapbooks turned into a full-scale telling of the Anaheim Japanese pioneer story

By Patti Hirahara,  
P.C. Contributor

It all started 20 years ago, in 1999, when the Anaheim Public Library published a request that it was looking for minority family scrapbooks from people who lived in the Anaheim, Calif., to be a part of its “Shades of Anaheim” digital photo project. Photos that were scanned, by the library, would become part of the Anaheim Public Library’s digital photo collection.

I was the first to volunteer 12 personal scrapbooks covering my 44 years in Anaheim and my professional career. The Anaheim Free Methodist Church, Anaheim’s Orange County Buddhist Church and other Japanese American families in the city also participated in the project.

This would be the start of documenting Anaheim’s Japanese community in the Anaheim Public Library Heritage archives. It was also the first time my father, Frank C. Hirahara, allowed some of his priceless Heart Mountain photographs to be part of a digital collection.

I worked with Jane Newell, who is now the Anaheim Public Library Heritage Services Manager, on this project. From this initial start, I kept in touch with Newell about what we could do in the City of Anaheim to tell the Japanese American story here.

When my father passed away in 2006, my mother and I felt that now would be an opportunity to start the discussion of preserving the Japanese American legacy in our hometown, a city we had lived in since 1955.

As is written on the Anaheim Public Library’s family photo collection page, “When Frank C. Hirahara passed away in 2006, he could not have imagined that his family’s history would allow historians and museums to create photographic collections and exhibits across the U.S. that would tell the tale of the Japanese immigration into the United States, their history in America and the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII.”

“Beginning with the Hirahara family’s 2009



The Hirahara family received a City of Anaheim Declaration from the Anaheim City Council in 2009 for donating the only four-generation family collection to the city, as well as sponsoring the Hirahara Family exhibit. Pictured (from left) are Patti Hirahara, Council Member Lorri Galloway, Mayor Pro Tem Bob Hernandez, Mary Hirahara, Mayor Curt Pringle, current Anaheim Mayor Harry S. Sidhu and Council Member Lucille Kring.

Anaheim exhibit ‘Four Generations and 100 Years in America,’ Frank C. Hirahara is being remembered as a pioneer, not only here in Anaheim, but also in the Pacific Northwest and across the U.S. His foresight is now allowing other Japanese American families to tell their stories through his photographs, and for some, allowing them to discover a piece of history that they never knew existed,” the Anaheim Public Library commented.

From that point forward, this initial 2009 “Museum Without Walls” concept exhibition about my family, which was funded by my mother, Mary Hirahara, showed the City of Anaheim that there was interest by the local community to see future exhibitions about the Japanese pioneers in Anaheim.

We became the first four-generational family in the City of Anaheim’s archives, and we donated many artifacts, photos and documents about our family, which became the first Hirahara Family Collection to be created.

As with any community, projects cannot proceed without funding. So for the next nine years, my mother made a monetary donation, each year, to ensure that there was a fund that

could be used to help create an exhibition.

In knowing that this money could be used as a matching grant-funding source, Jane Newell and the Anaheim Public Library applied for many grants to help fund a potential exhibition, and I continued to volunteer to help the endeavor.

We also helped create the Anaheim Public Library’s Family Photo Collection page, and in 2015, the Hirahara family was the first to debut on the site.

Good news was finally received in 2018, when the Anaheim Public Library received a National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant in the amount of \$38,833 for its Anaheim Japanese American Heritage Project.

Work started right away to reach out to the Japanese American community to continue to gather oral histories about Anaheim families and those that were active in the Anaheim community before and after World War II.

A date was then set with the Anaheim Muzeo Museum and Cultural Center to use its 5,000-square-foot exhibition space and lobby area to feature the story of the Anaheim Japanese pioneers, their incarceration into the Poston War Relocation Center in Arizona and evacuation to other parts of the U.S., as well as their resettlement back to Anaheim following the end of WWII.

People and organizations from other parts of Southern California and the U.S. also contributed by loaning artifacts and information, which enhanced this local endeavor.

Since there had never been any written research created about these Anaheim Japanese pioneers, student interns from Anaheim High School, Chapman University and Magnolia High School were recruited to start looking up information from the early 1900s about this community and the student alumni from Anaheim High School, which is also my alma mater.

I worked with the students to create documentation that would preserve this history for future generations, and funding for these



Former Anaheim Mayor and past Muzeo Chairman of the Board Curt Pringle is pictured in the Muzeo exhibit’s re-creation of a Poston large family barrack.

interns was provided by private sources.

Curt Pringle, who was the mayor of the City of Anaheim in 2009 and is now past chairman and a member of the board of directors of the Muzeo Museum and Cultural Center, offered his perspective on the current exhibition, which was made possible as a result of the joint collaboration between the Anaheim Public Library and the Muzeo.

“The Muzeo of Anaheim has been a local museum of arts and culture for over 10 years now,” Pringle said. “When we established the Muzeo, we wanted to bring an awareness of cultural and historical issues to the community. The ‘I AM AN AMERICAN’ exhibit on the Japanese American incarceration is the perfect expression of such an important time in our history and the local impacts of those past actions.”

Pringle continued, “We wouldn’t be where we are today in telling the Japanese American pioneer story in Anaheim without the steadfast work of the Hirahara family. We are so thankful to them for the decades-long toil to bring this important reflection to our entire community.

“The entire Muzeo family and the entire Anaheim community thanks the Hirahara family for making sure this important story is told in such a complete way.

“No matter how much you know about the Japanese internment and Japanese American incarceration story, the ‘I AM AN AMERICAN — Japanese Incarceration in a Time of Fear’ exhibit at the Muzeo will bring to life this story in a new and impactful way,” Pringle concluded.

Current City of Anaheim Mayor Harry S. Sidhu, who was also a City of Anaheim council member in 2009, also reflected on the Anaheim Muzeo exhibition.

“Anaheim has always been a city of immigrants. As an immigrant myself, ‘I AM AN AMERICAN’ hits home for me and many in our city,” Sidhu said. “Since the earliest days of our city, we have had a strong Japanese American community, which thrived despite the unthinkable challenges of incarceration and discrimination during and after World War II. We proudly call Anaheim the ‘City That Empowers the American Dream,’ and



The Hirahara Family Photo Collection — the Hirahara’s became the first Anaheim family to be featured in the Anaheim Family Photo Collection format debut.



# 'I AM AN AMERICAN'

The 'I AM AN AMERICAN: Japanese Incarceration in a Time of Fear' exhibit debuts, and an unknown history is revealed.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MARY OKAMOTO



O.K. Grocery in Anaheim



Nori Uyematsu was commander of the Kazuo Masuda Memorial VFW Post 3670, where he served three terms.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM, INDEPENDENCE, CALIF.

Mary Kageyama Nomura — the Songbird of Manzanar's singing voice can be heard throughout the exhibit.

By Patti Hirahara,  
P.C. Contributor

After a 20-year wait and thousands of hours and money invested in its creation, the "I AM AN AMERICAN: Japanese Incarceration in a Time of Fear" exhibit opened at the MUZEO Museum and Cultural Center in Anaheim, Calif., on Aug. 25. Through its first six weeks, the exhibition has had rave reviews, with more than 2,000 visitors going to see this first-of-its-kind exhibit in Orange County.

This original 5,000-square foot exhibit on the unknown history of Anaheim's Japanese pioneers and their forced relocation to a Poston, Ariz., incarceration camp from 1942-45 is depicted through a vast array of oral histories, artifacts, photographs and video presentations coordinated by Anaheim Public Library Heritage Center's Jane Newell and curator Joyce Franklin.

A partnership with the Anaheim Public Library and the Muzeo Museum and Cultural Center, "I AM AN AMERICAN" presents the story of an amazing testament of courage and determination by Japanese American pioneers and their descendants who came

to Anaheim in the early 1900s, establishing farms and businesses in the Orange County community. Anaheim, now the 10th-largest city in California, began in 1857 as a colony of German farmers and vintners.

With no written information available on this unknown story, a group of student interns from Anaheim High School, Chapman University and Magnolia High School used Ancestry.com and other online resources, as well as browsed through reference books in the Anaheim Heritage Center, to gather information.

Newell, Patricia Grimm, Franklin and myself worked to find information that could be used to write the narratives for the exhibit, with Marlene Shigekawa providing information about the Poston War Relocation Center.

In looking through 1920s phone directories, it was hard to gather information about the Japanese pioneers that lived in Anaheim since many were just listed as "Japanese" with no name associated with the listing.

It was also interesting to see what businesses they felt that they could run since Japanese Americans represented a small percentage in the community. They ran a barber shop, fruit and produce stores, the O.K. Grocery store, nurseries, pool halls, restaurants and some became gardeners as an occupation.

The community had an Anaheim Japanese Business Assn., and Los Angeles-based *Rafu Shimpō* newspaper also once had a branch office in the city.

Anaheim also attracted a Japanese Free Methodist Church along with a Japanese language school that was originally located where La Palma Park now stands today. The original white church building was relocated to 914 N. Citron St. in 1940, where it still remains; the congregation, however, moved to a brand-new church location on 1001 N. Mayflower St. in 1964.

The only definitive information on these Japanese pioneers was found in U.S. Census records taken in 1910, 1920, 1930 and 1940, which gave a clear indication of how the

Japanese community grew in Anaheim.

In 1940, there were 567 Japanese, with 221 born in Japan and 346 born in the U.S. or elsewhere. Out of this total, 337 were males, and 230 were females. In comparison to the rest of the total population in the City of Anaheim, this group represented 2.2 percent of the total population.

An increase in the population from 1930-40, proved that the Japanese American population would have continued to grow if World War II had not occurred.

Another indication of how the Japanese community was present in Anaheim came from information found on those buried in the historic 15-acre Anaheim Cemetery, founded in 1866, which is the county's oldest public cemetery.

Of these early settlers, 63 were from Anaheim Japanese pioneer families, as well as their descendants who had lived in the area after WWII. The first to be buried there was Joe Ogihara in 1907.

Education was also an important opportunity for these Japanese pioneers, who all wanted their children to go to school. Many of them attended Katella School, which was an elementary school in Anaheim during that period.

There are unfortunately no elementary student records of these early days, but a valedictorian speech was found that was published by Paul T. Hirohata in his book "Orations and Essays," when he was a U.S. correspondent for the *Japan Times* newspaper in the 1930s. This finding offered a look at one of the school's valedictorians, Sakaye Saiki, who gave the valedictory address on June 9, 1932, when she was 15 years old.

Anaheim High School was first established in 1898 and is the oldest high school in the Anaheim Union High School District. 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 who lived in Anaheim, but also others who lived in neighboring cities where students traveled many miles to go to school.

The Anaheim High School Japanese American student alumni profiles showed how many students excelled in sports and in class leadership positions. The profiles also showed a Japanese club was established on campus from 1941-42.

The "I AM AN AMERICAN" exhibit starts with the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941 and allows the visitor to see information regarding the Japanese American incarceration through artifacts from the Poston Community Alliance; the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego; the Munemitsu Family Collection

Joe Nakamura with rare photos of the Nakamura family



Miko and Rev. Carl Yoshimine, former minister of the Anaheim Japanese Free Methodist Church



PHOTOS: PATTI HIRAHARA

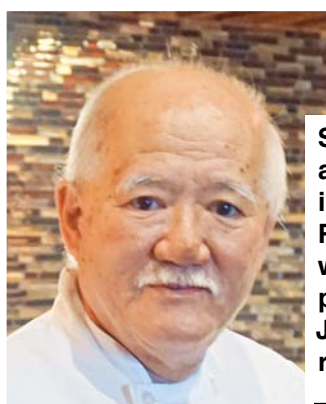


An information panel from the Smithsonian on the Congressional Gold Medal, featuring one on display from the Poston Community Alliance

SELANOCO JACL President Ryan Yoshikawa (center) and friends at the Muzeo exhibit. SELANOCO is a supporter of the exhibit.



Anaheim High School ROP students created a Poston War Relocation Center model for the Anaheim exhibit.



Steve Yamamoto and his family owned Tabi-ji Restaurant, which was the largest privately owned Japanese restaurant in Anaheim.

from Chapman University; personal artifacts from Don Miyada, Kristopher Kato and Lorna Hankey Ross; photos of early Anaheim from Mary Okamoto; and a collection of Gene Sogioka watercolors from the Jean La Spina Sogioka Collection.

Panels from the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center and the National Veterans Network show the creation of the Congressional Gold Medal along with the history of the 442nd Infantry Regiment and 100th Battalion during WWII.

A large family barrack section re-creation is also a favorite feature of the exhibit, as it shows how Japanese families lived at the Poston War Relocation Center during WWII during their forced incarceration as a result of Executive Order 9066.

In addition, the exhibit features video oral histories and rare family photos and artifacts of families who lived or participated in community activities in Anaheim. They are Nancy Eagan, Rev. Marvin Harada, Chieko Inouye, Ikuko Iwashita, John Iwashita, AUHSD Superintendent Michael Matsuda, Joe Nakamura, Joe Natsuhara, Dr. Gerald Shigekawa, Misako Shigekawa, Nori Uyematsu, Steve Yamamoto, Rev. Carl Yoshimine and his wife Miko Yoshimine, and Frank, Mary and Patti Hirahara in the City of Anaheim's video about the Hirahara family's 100 years in America.

Nakamura was one of the first to record an oral history for the exhibit, and he shared his

feelings on the selection process: "The story of the Japanese Americans in Anaheim would not have been realized without Patti Hirahara. She was instrumental in requesting individuals in the Japanese American community to share their stories for the Muzeo Project.

"Jane Newell, Anaheim Public Library Heritage Services manager at the Muzeo, reviewed a book that I had written about my family and felt that their forced relocation experience during World War II was unique and should be shared," Nakamura continued.

"My parents were among 8,000-plus Japanese Americans who were not incarcerated but nonetheless forced to evacuate. After registering with the Western Defense Command, they began a 700-mile journey across the San Bernardino Mountains, the Mojave Desert and registered their arrival in Utah on March 24, 1942. They survived the bitterly cold winter sleeping on the dirt floor of a converted farm animal shelter.

"The option that my parents chose is not widely known and has received little historical recognition or documentation," Nakamura said. "Our government recognized this injustice and provided reparation to all who were forced to relocate, and I was honored to have my parents' story included in the 'I AM AN AMERICAN' exhibit," Nakamura concluded.

Many interviews focus on the unknown his-

tory of the Anaheim Japanese families, before and after WWII, as well as their incarceration in Poston. Marlene Shigekawa also produced a short video documentary about the Poston War Relocation Center, which is shown in the exhibit's little theater.

The resettlement of Anaheim after WWII showed how the Japanese community found Anaheim an attractive place to do business. From the late 1960s, the City of Anaheim also became the center of Japanese commerce in Orange County with its East West Shopping Center and Pear Tree Center being built within a one-mile area on Ball Road between Dale Street and Beach Boulevard.

In researching the total amount of Japanese and Japanese American businesses in Anaheim, the total came to 47 of those that could be found.

The aerospace boom also made Anaheim an attractive place to live for electrical engineers such as Frank C. Hirahara, who spent his entire career working on projects for America's space program, becoming personal friends with Astronauts Ellison Onizuka and Sally Ride.

Anaheim also has two Japanese churches in the city, the Anaheim Japanese Free Methodist Church, which is now known as the Anaheim Free Methodist Church, and the Orange County Buddhist Church. In their oral histories, complete with photo displays and artifacts, Rev. Carl Yoshimine and Rev. Marvin Harada both show how their churches have grown over the years.

Visitors who have visited the Muzeo exhibit have shared how amazed they are at all the

information that is shown in this one exhibit. History teachers have commented that this exhibit is a must see for high school students, with hopes that the "I AM AN AMERICAN" exhibit could become a traveling exhibit to be shared in other cities in Orange County and throughout Southern California.

The Anaheim Public Library received a National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant in 2018 in the amount of \$38,833 for its Anaheim Japanese American Heritage Project, as well as received additional funding from Mary Hirahara, the Anaheim Public Library Foundation, the Friends of the Anaheim Public Library and private donors to create this unique City of Anaheim exhibit.

With the exhibit being scheduled to close on Nov. 3, the Muzeo will be open from Wednesday-Sunday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. for the remainder of the exhibit's run. Group tours of 15 persons or more can receive a 15 percent discount off the entrance fee and can be booked by contacting Baggio Ardon, guest services manager, at (714) 765-6455. For more information, visit [www.muzeo.org](http://www.muzeo.org).

In seeing how this exhibit has been received, it is truly gratifying to see how one project, 20 years ago, was the spark that started the preservation of the Japanese American legacy in Anaheim. I know all of us that live in Anaheim are proud of this endeavor and hope more people will come and see this exhibit to learn the important part Japanese American history played in the success and growth of this vibrant city that so many of us call home.



A mesquite and ironwood vase made by Taju Koide and Sosuke Yamada in Poston during WWII. It is on loan from the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego.

PHOTOS: PATTI HIRAHARA



A WWII large family barrack re-creation with a watercolor painting done by Gene Sogioka titled "Family Violence Behind the Curtain"



PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE FRANK MT. PLEASANT LIBRARY OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES, LEATHERBY LIBRARIES AT CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

The Munemitsu family immigrated from Japan to the U.S. in the early 1900s and became farmers, primarily of strawberries in Orange County. During World War II, various family members were forced to move to Japanese American incarceration camps, one of them being Poston in Arizona. During this time, the Munemitsu's leased their land to the Mendez family, who were later involved in the *Mendez v. Westminster* court case in 1946, which desegregated California public schools. Some of their family's personal artifacts from Poston are on display at the Muzeo exhibit. Pictured is a rare photo of (from left) Seiko Munemitsu, Mr. Ota and Saylo Munemitsu at the Poston incarceration camp in the 1940s.



## BEGINNING » continued from page 5



PHOTO: SHANE SATO

(From left) NPS Representative Tom Leatherman, Anaheim Community Services Director Larry Pasco, Muzeo exhibit donor Mary Hirahara and Anaheim City Council Member Stephen J. Faessel, District 5, at the Muzeo's special preview event of "I AM AN AMERICAN: Japanese Incarceration in a Time of Fear."

our Japanese American community truly embodies that spirit."

The City of Anaheim is a unique example of how one American city can work within its own community to share the Japanese American pioneer story in a major museum exhibition, as well as incorporate its schools into the project

as well. The Anaheim Union High School District and Anaheim High School have created an educational program on this subject.

Telling the story of Anaheim High School's 70 student graduates of Japanese descent before WWII and those that were forced to relocate

in 1942, "The Poston Experience: Paving the Way for the Next Generations" educational program on Aug. 24 (*Pacific Citizen*, Sept. 13-26, 2019) was a unique concept, having been created and presented at the same time. This was a phenomenal milestone.

Some 800 people came to the historic Anaheim High School Cook Auditorium from all parts of the country to witness videos created by current Anaheim high school and elementary school students depicting their interpretation of what happened 77 years ago to Japanese Americans, complemented by a panel discussion. This was a very powerful message to show how this untold story continues to impact all generations to this day.

I hope that those who read this article will be inspired to do the same in their communities, as well as start creating their own family collection and consider donating it to their local library, college, university or museum.

For an idea on how to get started, following is the template of the Hirahara Family Collection

at the Anaheim Public Library (<https://www.anaheim.net/2626/Hirahara-Family-Photo-Collection>), as well as a video produced by the City of Anaheim in 2009 (<https://youtu.be/n8T0G6xJS4A>).

A 20-year dream came true in the City of Anaheim, and I look forward to seeing how this story will become part of the educational curriculum, at all levels, for future generations. ■

## CONGRATULATIONS » continued from page 4

serve as a mouthpiece. Though the English section of the Japanese-American News gave us wonderful support by giving all our undertakings full publicity, still we felt something lacking.

Oftentimes, we have read in the Japanese section of local papers articles pertaining to us, second generation members; and we have had the desire to express our ideas and thoughts as a reply because we thought our elders misunderstood us. Inability to write in Japanese, however, has been the chief handicap. Also, the Board of Governors have done their utmost to stimulate interest in the league and build up a strong, unified body; but they have fallen short of the goal they have set up. A publication such as we now have will be of great aid.

The publication can be the connecting link between the first and second generation Japanese by trying to dissolve any misunderstanding which may be existing at the present time. It can portray to the American public what we, American citizens of Japanese ancestry, are thinking in regards to our duties as a citizen as well as our diverse problems. It can give expression to what is considered true

American ideals and guide the growing generation to become American citizens we can all be proud of.

Considering the potential power of the publication to do good, I cannot help but impress on the members of the staff the grave responsibility that lies on their shoulders. In their hands lies the power to help mold the second generation members for good or bad.

The public is expecting great things. I am confident that the members of the staff will do their utmost so as not to disappoint these supporters. Of course, we cannot expect perfect models of journalism from the beginning; but we hope that improvements will be made gradually as time goes on. We all appreciate the great sacrifice that is being made by the members of the staff.

In closing, I wish to congratulate the members of the staff for the splendid work they have done. This venture is a great and noble one. Everyone is expecting that this work, once launched, will be continued. I hope and feel sure that the sincerity of the members of the staff will make this publication the voice of the American citizens of Japanese ancestry of the Pacific Coast in the near future.

## 'AND THEN THEY CAME FOR US' SCREENS AT THE PANGAEA WORLD THEATER

By Cheryl Hirata-Dulas

Pangea World Theater and JACL's Twin Cities chapter partnered to screen Abby Ginzberg and Ken Schneider's timely film "And Then They Came for Us" to a full house in Minneapolis, Minn., on Sept. 22.

The film shows how vital it is to speak up against efforts to register or ban Muslims today by documenting the truth of what occurred to Japanese Americans and people of Japanese descent during World War II after they were forcibly incarcerated following the issuance of Executive Order 9066.

In addition, retired *St. Paul Pioneer Press* reporter Leslie Suzukamo penned two epilogues to bring audience members up to date on the issues being discussed. The first epilogue recounted the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to uphold the Muslim ban while simultaneously, in a seemingly contradictory action, reversing Fred Korematsu's 1945 case.

Thanks to communications with Satsuki Ina of Tsuru for Solidarity, Suzukamo's second epilogue reflected on current immigration issues and gave examples of how Japanese Americans continue to determinedly voice disapproval of the U.S. government's policies and actions at the southern border.

After the epilogues were read, recordings of local hip-hop artist Guante's readings of two of Ina's poems, "Elena" and "We Came Back for You," were played. Ina's emotive poems spoke of her experiences at the migrant detention center in Dilley, Texas, not far from Crystal City, where Japanese Americans, including those from Peru, were

held during WWII.

Next, WWII incarceration survivor Sally Sudo and CAIR-MN's Civil Rights Attorney Ellen Longfellow spoke. Sudo described her memories of Puyallup and Minidoka, where she spent her early elementary school days. Longfellow detailed the ways the ban has affected the local Somali community, many of whom are represented by U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar (MN, 5th District).

Sudo and Longfellow were then joined by Twin Cities Board Member Janet Carlson in a Q & A session. The ensuing discussion centered around ways audience members can contribute to efforts to address the troubling border situation.

The subsequent audience survey, which was completed by half of those attending, revealed that the event had inspired all of the respondents to take action against injustices that were discussed. One wrote, "No more silence," while others pledged to share their concerns with friends and, especially, teachers.

Finally, to support the chapter's youths' effort to contribute origami cranes to Tsuru for Solidarity, their cranes, many of which had been folded at a recent Obon Festival and the previous day's Normandale Japanese Garden festival, were displayed. After the discussion, many audience members folded cranes for the project as well.

Pangea and the Twin Cities Chapter plan to meet to discuss further collaborations on events addressing immigration, racial injustice and social inequality. ■

# A little extra... ...goes a long way!

## Upgrade to a Premium JACL Membership today!

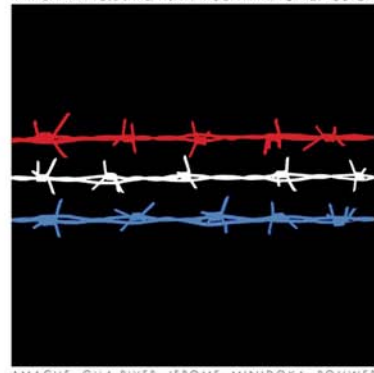
Become a valued JACL Thousand, Century or Millennium Club member and your heightened contribution will support the JACL's advocacy and programs nationally and also secure our administrative and staffing needs. Each Premium Membership provides the impact of over 3 regular memberships (if not more), and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

Premium Membership  
Categories

Thousand Club (\$200)  
Century Club (\$350)  
Millennium Club (\$1,000)

Thousand Club Life  
(one-time payment of \$3,000)  
Century Club Life  
(one-time payment of \$5,000)

MANZANAR, TUJE LAKE, HEART MOUNTAIN, TOPAZ, POSTON



AMACHE, GILA RIVER, JEROME, MINIDOKA, KOHWEY

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

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



# WE ARE NOT ALONE: NY/SC @ COPANI 2019



**COPANI included (from left) JACL's Kota Mizutani (U.S.), Leo Uba (Argentina), Alex Miki (Canada), JACL's Mieko Kuramoto (U.S.) and Marisa Sato (Brazil).**



**Former JACL NY/SC Youth Chair Kota Mizutani (left) and NY/SC Representative Mieko Kuramoto (center) lead a panel on Nikkei youth.**



**COPANI President and Program & Logistics Roji Oyama leads a discussion.**

PHOTO: FACEBOOK

JACL participates in the 20th biennial conference that welcomed participants from 13 different countries throughout North and South America, as well as Japan.

*By Kota Mizutani*

It could have been the site of any JACL or Japanese American community event. The participants were Nikkei of all generations congregating in San Francisco's Japantown to see old friends, make new connections and discuss the future of their communities.

But at this particular gathering, the discussions were immersed in Spanish, Portuguese, German, French and Japanese. And instead of focusing on a single country, the conversations revolved around the future of Nikkei from all countries.

This rare opportunity to engage in a global Nikkei community took place at the 2019 Convención Panamericana Nikkei (Pan American Nikkei Convention), or COPANI, a biennial gathering of Nikkei from around the world, which was held in San Francisco's Japantown from Sept. 20-22.

Some 244 participants representing 13 different countries throughout North and South America, as well as Japan, attended the conference, which opened with a keynote address by the Hon. Sec. Norman Y. Mineta, as well as a speech by Carole Hayashino, who spoke of the Hawaiian experience. In addition, participants took part in a number of workshops, including two led by JACL Executive Director David Inoue on civil rights in the Japanese Canadian and American Communities that featured JACLers Karen Korematsu and Satsuki Ina.

At this year's COPANI — themed "The Future Is Here" — JACL's National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) had the honor of co-hosting a joint youth workshop and youth leadership panel along with Alex Miki, chair of the National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) Young Leaders Committee (YLC).Committee

The NY/SC and YLC youth workshop was the second session of two youth programs, following an identity-based workshop led by Dr. Curtiss Takada Rooks of Loyola Marymount University. This first morning workshop invited participants to reflect on their identities and hopes for the future in small group discussions.

It was eye-opening to listen to COPANI's diverse youth share both similar and, at times, distinct experiences as Nikkei. Some shared experiences as Shin-Nikkei, Sansei or Gosei. Some did not identify as Nikkei at all, but

as Japanese. Regardless, most of the participants were able to communicate their shared desire to form stronger connections across Nikkei communities.

Building off the morning session, the NY/SC and YLC facilitated an afternoon workshop that tasked participants with brainstorming concrete actions to shape a global Nikkei youth community.

Participants split into small groups based on specific themes, such as "Culture" and "Advocacy," and brainstormed specific points for collaboration across national borders. These ideas included hosting a world Nikkei culture festival and creating a business network for Nikkei entrepreneurs. The takeaways from these discussions will be digitally visualized and shared publicly.

Immediately following the joint workshop, the NY/SC and YLC hosted a panel session on youth leadership and membership retention for all COPANI 2019 attendees. The moderator (myself, U.S.) and panelists (Mieko Kuramoto, U.S.; Alex Miki, Canada; Marisa Sato, Brazil; and Leandro Uba, Argentina) discussed not only how they personally came to understand their identities, but also how all Nikkei organizations can better empower youth to take leadership roles.

The panel session concluded with a preview of an ongoing project, launched by COPANI youth, to build a "Nikkei App" as a way to connect young Nikkei digitally.

All in all, COPANI 2019 left me with a set of valuable takeaways. I learned that World War II inflicted unique and continuing damage on each Nikkei community. I also learned that most Nikkei communities are struggling to retain sustainable membership. And I learned that almost all Nikkei youth are highly skilled at putting away folding chairs and tables from years of experience at community events.

In other words, while COPANI 2019 might've appeared to be typical JACL event, it was an important reminder that we in the United States are far from the only Japanese "Americans" with a story to tell.

**Kota Mizutani is the former chair of the NY/SC. A JACL member, he currently works in Washington, D.C.**



**COPANI 19 welcomed 244 participants representing 13 countries throughout North and South America and Japan.**

PHOTO: FACEBOOK



**(From left) JACL Executive Director David Inoue, National Association of Japanese Canadians Executive Director Kevin Okabe and former JACL President Floyd Shimomura**



**COPANI 2019 attendees gathered in front of San Francisco's famous Palace of Fine Arts for a group photo.**

PHOTO: FACEBOOK



**JACL members Henry Isakari and Meg Mizutani**



**A COPANI group shot**



A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## NCWNP

**Tribute to Asian & Pacific Islander American Veterans 2019**  
**San Francisco, CA**

**Nov. 9; 10 a.m.-Noon**

**Military Intelligence Service Historic Learning Center**  
**640 Old Mason St.**

**Price: Free Ceremony and Bento is \$15 Per Person; Honored Veterans are Free**

This annual Veterans Day weekend ceremony and concert will feature Anthony Brown and Janice Mirikitani. The ceremony will be followed by a private lunch reception to celebrate veterans who served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam.

**Info: Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tribute-to-asian-pacific-islander-american-veterans-2019-tickets-76514945261>.**

**Nihonmachi Little Friends Sushi Social**  
**San Francisco, CA**

**Nov. 22; 6-8 p.m.**

**1830 Sutter St.**

**Price: Suggested donation \$125**

In celebration of the agency's 44th anniversary, this Sushi Social will feature wine tasting with Jason Mikami of Mikami Vineyards, sake tasting with Todd Eng of the Sake Brothers and special recognition of Charles Stewart, who designed the Tane Maki (Plant a Seed) Garden. Guests will also enjoy a musical performance by Nihonmachi "Big Friends," led by Anthony Brown with Mark Izu and Shoko Hikage, as well as delicious sushi prepared by We Be Sushi chefs.  
**Info: Call (415) 922-8898 to make a reservation or email [nlfchildcare@gmail.com](mailto:nlfchildcare@gmail.com).**

**Annual Holiday Artisan Market**  
**San Francisco, CA**

**Nov. 22-23; 10 a.m.-6 p.m.**

**Asian Art Museum**

**200 Larkin St.**

**Price: Museum Admission Fee Not Required**

Get all of your holiday shopping done at this annual Holiday Artisan Market that will feature one-of-a-kind handmade goods by local makers, including jewelry, ceramics, books, specialty food products, ornaments, cards, fashion and accessories and gifts for the entire family.

**Info: Visit <http://www.asianart.org/events/1848?starttime=1570690800>.**  
**Veterans**

**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

**The Go for Broke Spirit: Legacy in Portraits**  
**Los Angeles, CA**

**Nov. 3-Nov. 24**

**George J. Doizaki Gallery**

**244 S. San Pedro St.**

**Price: Free and Open to the Public**

This exhibition brings together the stories of the Japanese American soldiers who fought in America's wars and the works of photographer Shane Sato, whose portraits of Japanese American WWII veterans are featured in his book "The Go for Broke Spirit: Portraits of Courage." Gallery hours are Wednesday-Sunday, Noon-4 p.m.; closed Mondays, Tuesdays and holidays.

**Info: Visit <http://www.jaccc.org/jaccc-calendar/2019/11/3/the-go-for-broke-spirit-legacy-in-portraits>.**

**U.S.-Japan Council 2019 Annual Conference**  
**Hollywood, CA**

**Nov. 4, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Nov. 5, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.**

**Loews Hotel Hollywood**

**1755 N. Highland Ave.**

**Price: Check website for registration information.**

Now celebrating its 10th anniversary, this year's conference theme "Bold Ideas, Bolder Leadership: The Next Stage of U.S.-Japan Relations" will highlight diverse leaders and leadership styles across several industries to showcase potential for further U.S.-Japan collaboration. There also will be leadership workshops geared toward providing training, as well as professional development opportunities for attendees.

**Info: Visit <https://www.cvent.com/events/2019-annual-conference/registration-edf757092cca4a9c-8028060fadf43902.aspx?fqp=true>.**

**'Under a Mushroom Cloud: Hiroshima, Nagasaki and the Atomic Bomb'**  
**Los Angeles, CA**

**Nov. 9-June 7, 2020**

**Japanese American National Museum**

**100 N. Central Ave.**

To commemorate the upcoming 75th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on Aug. 6 and Aug. 9, 1945, this special exhibition will present photographs, explanatory art that will shed light on this painful history as well as provide a safe space for discussion with the hope that such events never happen again.  
**Info: Visit [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org).**

**An Introduction to Arab Culture**  
**San Diego, CA**

**Nov. 16; 3-5 p.m.**

**Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library**

**9005 Aero Dr.**

**Price: Free**

San Diego JACL and American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee are co-sponsoring this panel presentation

that will explore diversity and culture of the Arab and Muslim American communities. Panelists will include Doris Bittar, SD president of the ADC; Ojeni Touma of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement; Sarab Aziz from the University of San Diego; and Ty Odeh, San Diego Arab American Business Leader.

**Info: RSVP to [info@jacisandiego.org](mailto:info@jacisandiego.org).**

## PNW

**'Shining Through: Reflections of an Oceanic Future' Exhibit**  
**Seattle, WA**

**Thru Nov. 10**

**Wing Luke Museum**

**719 S. King St.**

**Price: Included With Museum Entrance Fee**

In this exhibit, five Pacific Islander artists look forward into the unknown, drawing upon stories, myths and personal experiences to imagine the future. Using photography, poetry, illustration, sculpture, sound and film, the artists transform the gallery space into a vision of the past, present and beyond.

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

**Veterans Day at Portland Japanese Garden**  
**Portland, OR**

**Nov. 11; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**

**Portland Japanese Garden**

**611 S.W. Kingston Ave.**

In observance of the holiday, the garden will be open to all guests and free admission will be given to all veterans and active military to honor their service.

**Info: Visit <https://japanesegarden.org/events/veterans-day-2/>.**

## CCDC

**Boy Scout Troop 199 16th Annual Crab Feed**  
**Clovis, CA**

**Nov. 2; 5 p.m.**

**United Japanese Christian Church**

**136 N. Villa Ave.**

**Price: \$50**

Join the community at this all-you-can-eat crab dinner benefitting Boy Scout Troop 199. Each ticket comes with crab, salad, pasta and dessert. There will also be a fun 50-50 raffle, in addition to a silent raffle and a dessert raffle. Presale tickets are available through the Boy Scout troop.

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

**Grateful Crane Ensemble: 'Just Like Old Times — A Special Concert for Nisei and Sane'i'**  
**Clovis, CA**

**Nov. 9; 2-4 p.m.**

**United Japanese Christian Church**

**136 N. Villa Ave.**

**Price: Free**

"Just Like Old Times" is the Grateful Crane Ensemble's nostalgic journey back to some of your favorite Japanese and American songs of all time. The concert is co-sponsored in part by the Central California District Council of the JACL. Refreshments will be served.

**Info: Visit [ujcclife.com](http://ujcclife.com) or email Debbie Ikeda at [deborahikeda@att.net](mailto:deborahikeda@att.net).**

## IDC

**Japan Culture Day**

**Denver, CO**

**Nov. 2; 11 a.m.-4 p.m.**

**First Baptist Church of Denver**

**1317 Grant St.**

**Price: Free**

Come out and enjoy a day to learn, participate and enjoy Japanese Culture. The event will feature performances, talks, presentations, booths, Japanese food and an appearance by the Consul General of Japan in Denver.

**Info: Visit <https://bit.ly/2mKcD7o> or email [japancultureday@denversist-ercities.org](mailto:japancultureday@denversist-ercities.org).**

**16th Annual Indigenous Film & Arts Festival Finale 'The Book of the Sea' (Kniga Morya)**  
**Denver, CO**

**Nov. 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

**Denver Museum of Nature and Science**

**Phipps Theater**

**2001 Colorado Blvd.**

**Price: Free (Suggested \$5 Donation)**

This festival, which celebrates indigenous film, art and music, will close with a screening of "The Book of the Sea," co-sponsored by the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and the Denver American Indian Commission. Directed by Aleksei Vakhurshev, this film follows contemporary Inuit and Chukchi hunters as they navigate the frigid waters off of Russia's Bering Strait in search of the whales, walruses and seals that have sustained their people since the beginning of time.

**Info: Visit <http://www.iiirm.org>.**

## MDC

**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.**

**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.**

## EDC

**'Films of Remembrance New York' New York City, NY**

**Nov. 9; 3:15-11 p.m.**

**Tenri Cultural Institute of New York**

**43A W. 13th St.**

**Price: \$10 Each Screening/\$33 All-Day Pass/Students Free With ID**

Presented by the Nichi Bei Foundation, this daylong showcase of films commemorates the signing of Executive Order 9066 and the subsequent incarceration of some 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry into American concentration camps during WWII. This event highlights the work of New York-based filmmakers. Films to be screened include "And Then They Came for Us," "Resistance at Tule Lake" and "Alternative Facts: The Lies of Executive Order 9066." All filmmakers of the films being screened will be in attendance.  
**Info: For more information and tickets, visit [www.nichibei.org/films-of-remembrance-NY](http://www.nichibei.org/films-of-remembrance-NY) or email [programs@nichibefoundation.org](mailto:programs@nichibefoundation.org).**

**Yayoi Kusama: Love Is Calling**  
**Boston, MA**

**Thru 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>.**

**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.japansociety.org/page/programs/gallery/entrance>.**

## ADVERTISE HERE

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

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



# In MEMORIAM

**Aoyagi, Kyoko, 89**, Belmont, CA, June 25.

**Arakaki, James Yoshio, 90**, Montebello, CA, Oct. 7; he is survived by his sons, Dean (Lisa) and Brian (Susan); sister, Aki (Tom) Maeda; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

**Azama, James Tsutomu, 88**, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 2; he is survived by his wife, Helen; children, David (Cathy), Karen (Rodney) Kihara, Susan (Lloyd) Mencinger and Sharyn (Terence) McIlhargey; sisters, Yoshino Azama, Betty Tanikawa, Fumi Carlson and Iku (Shinsuke) Shibata; gc: 8.

**Hasegawa, Vernon Koji, 80**, Hilo, HI, Aug. 15.

**Hieshima, Grant Bunji, 77**, Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 9; he was predeceased by his brother, Alan Hieshima; he is survived by his wife, Donna; sons, Glenn (Suzanne) and Michael (Marla); siblings, Georgia (Hiroshi) Ueha, Adele (Isaac) Inouye and Eric Hieshima; gc: 4.



**Honda, Ikuko, 95**, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 23; she was predeceased by her grandson, Brad Honda; she is survived by her children, Mel (Donna), Arnold and Marilyn (Allen) Muro; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5; ggc: 4.

**Horiuchi, Iwao, 90**, San Gabriel, CA, July 25; he is survived by his children, James, Roy (Lorena)

Horiuchi, Robert (Pandora) and Nancy (Anthony Chang) Gallo; siblings, Setsuko "Sally" Deguchi, Shiichi "Hank" Horiuchi and Hisashi Horiuchi; gc: 8; ggc: 2.

**Imagawa, Satoshi, 51**, Los Angeles, CA July 14.

**Jones, Yoko Fuji, 87**, Honolulu, HI, Aug. 21.

**Kanaya, Carolyn Yukiko Abe, 89**, Chicago, IL, Sept. 3; she was predeceased by her daughter, Sherri Kanaya; she is survived by her husband, Enoch; children, Carola Kanaya, Barbara Kanaya (Stephen)



**Kasai, Ryo, 92**, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 24; he was predeceased by his brother, Towru Kasai; he is survived by his wife, Marian Chiyoko Kasai; children, Mark (Amy), Wayne (Gretchen), Candice (Mark Riley) and Jon Kasai; sisters-in-law, Yoshiko Matsui and Yoshiko Kasai; gc: 3.

**Kuriyama, Sally, 88**, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 7; she was predeceased by her brothers, Masaharu, Shinji, Keizo and Teruichi Kozai; she is survived by her daughter, Jan (Bruce) Unoura; siblings, Toshiaki (Tomiyo) Kozai, Nobuko Bevins and Henry Kozai; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Kuroda, John Goro, 93**, Orange, CA, Sept. 3; he is survived by his wife, Noriko; children, Jon, Lee, Emi (David) Negron and Erika McKee;

he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3; ggc: 1.



**Kusuda, Mary, 95**, Santa Ana, CA, Aug. 26; she was predeceased by her husband, Mitsugi "Mike" Kusuda; she is survived by her children, Susan (Chris) Bacon, Ernie (Sandy) Kusuda, Nancy (Dan) Esterly, Frances (Dave) Sheegog and Dave Kusuda; siblings, Fusako Shibuya and Masachika Tsuji; gc: 11; ggc: 6.



**Nakamori, Misato, 93**, Los Angeles, CA, July 27; she was predeceased by her husband, Kenso, daughter, Tazuko Okuno, and sister, Misue Tamura; she is survived by her children, Takayuki (Yoko) Nakamori, Junko (Eisuke) Kuroda; gc: 4; ggc: 2.

**Nakamura, Casey, 75**, Honolulu, HI, Sept. 11.

**Nakamura, Yoshio, 87**, Honolulu, HI, Sept. 15.



**Okamura, Rose, 88**, Placentia, CA, Sept. 23; she was predeceased by her husband, Yoichi Bob Okamura, and son, Richard Okamura; she is survived by her children, Diane Kakimi, Donna Katagi and Robert (Sandy) Okamura; gc: 7; ggc: 4.



**Ozawa, Kazuko, 83**, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 11; she is survived by her husband, Eju Toshimaru Ozawa; children, Yasuko, Ryuko and Eddie.



**Saito, Paul Y., 96**, Ontario, OR, June 17; an Army veteran, he was predeceased by his brothers, Harry, Joe and Abe; and sister-in-law, Dorothy; he is survived by his wife, Sumi; children, Al (Dian), Ray (Cathy), Marilyn, Paul Jr. (Janet) and

Kathy; sisters-in-law, Sharon Wanda, Nell Saito and Dorothy Nishioka; gc and ggc.



**Sugimoto, Christopher, 38**, Hilo, HI, Sept. 11.



**Uematsu, Gregory, 72**, Santa Ana, CA, Sept. 12; he is survived by his wife, Patty; sister, Jeri Uematsu; 2 nephews, 1 niece; he is also survived by many cousins and relatives.

## 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@pacificcitizen.org  
or call (213) 620-1767 ext. 104

**KUBOTA NIKKEI**  
MORTUARY  
久保田日系葬儀社  
日本語でも親切にお世話させていただきます。  
T 213-749-1449  
F 213-749-0265  
911 Venice Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90015  
www.kubotanikkemortuary.com

**福井 FUKUI**  
MORTUARY  
Five Generations of Experience  
FD #808  
707 East Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Ph. 213/626-0441  
Fax 213/617-2781  
Gerald Fukui  
President



STACI TOJI, ESQ.

TOJI LAW, APC

Estate Planning for the Generations

3655 Torrance Blvd., Suite 300 | Torrance, CA 90503  
(424) 247-1123 | staci@tojilaw.com | www.tojilaw.com

LIVING TRUSTS | WILLS | POWERS OF ATTORNEY





# REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

## AARP SURVEY FINDS WOMEN WANT TO SEE A VARIETY OF AGES IN PRODUCT ADS

By Ron Mori

I recently took my mom to a national big box beauty store, and we were both immediately overwhelmed as we walked into the store. I immediately thought to myself that it was going to be impossible to find the one product that she was looking for in a sea of beauty products, test samples and images featuring youthful faces. It was information overload, and the only way out was the entrance door. Lucky for us, we found the aisle as we were just starting to give up.

A national survey of nearly 2,000 U.S. women finds a significant number of respondents in their 50s and above feel ignored by the beauty and personal grooming products industries, AARP reported, upon the release of “Mirror/Mirror: AARP Survey of Women’s Reflections on Beauty, Age and Media™.” AARP conducted this study as part of a longer-term effort to shape a new image of aging in advertising, marketing and media.

Forty percent of Gen-X women (ages 39-54) and 53 percent of Boomer women (ages 55-73) disagreed with the statement “the beauty and

personal grooming product industry creates products with people my age in mind.” Seventy percent of women age 40 and older want to see more perimenopausal and menopausal beauty and personal grooming products.

The survey, key elements of which will appear in the November issue of *Allure*, also reveals dissatisfaction with how women are portrayed in advertising, with 64 percent of Gen X women and 74 percent of Boomer women reporting that they feel older adults are underrepresented in product advertising, and more than 7 in 10 women in both age groups stating they are more likely to purchase products from brands that depict people of a variety of ages in their ads.

Interestingly, 76 percent of Millennial women (ages 22-38) reported they, too, are most likely to purchase products whose ads feature people of a variety of ages.

Elsewhere, 85 percent of women of all ages reported they wish ads had more realistic images of people, and 75 percent of women said that seeing beauty and personal grooming ads with real people makes them feel better about themselves. Survey results indicate that companies seeking to connect with consu-

mers should produce advertising campaigns that show people of all ages.

Advertisers should show ads with age diversity, especially if they want to target consumers ages 50-plus, who say they are eager to buy from brands that represent them, according to the survey results.

Consumers ages 50-plus overwhelmingly (80 percent) say that marketers portray their lifestyle based on stereotypes. Furthermore, 70 percent say they are more likely to buy brands that feature people who are their age in advertisements.

Although women ages 50 and older are decision makers for their households, they are feeling particularly overlooked. Three in four women in this group feel people their age are underrepresented in media imagery, and more than half feel invisible when viewing ads.

With more than 80 percent of consumers ages 18-plus saying they feel better about brands that feature a mix of ages in their ads, age diversity in ads provides the opportunity



Consumers feel better about brands that feature a mix of ages in their ads.

for brands to connect with consumers of all ages. Women age 50 and older spend an average of \$29 monthly on beauty and personal grooming products, representing nearly \$22 billion in annual sales.

“Mirror/Mirror: AARP Survey of Women’s Reflections on Beauty, Age and Media™” was conducted in July 2019 and polled 1,992 U.S. women. The complete results are available online at [www.aarp.org/womenonbeauty](http://www.aarp.org/womenonbeauty).

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

### LIGHT » continued from page 3

The filming of her story changed Janet’s thoughts dramatically. “I was still in my shell until then. I didn’t think that what I had to say was worthy,” she said. Now that she has “come out,” there are others in the Buddhist community who



The Umezu family . . . (from left) Kodo, Janet, Michelle, Marie, Amy, Norio and Liz

have been telling her how important it was for them to see a Buddhist mother who has struggled and often still does, but is making her way and courageously sharing her journey for others to hear. She is helping others feel not so alone.

Janet admits that it was easier to accept her daughter being lesbian. Last year, Amy got married in a Buddhist church. My husband and I were honored to be invited to their wedding, and I was so moved by the images and love that filled the day, as well as the joy that was a part of so many moments. It is the kind of day every mother wishes for her child when they find their life partner.

Norio eventually transitioned to be Janet’s son shortly after his marriage in 2014. Accepting her transgender son has been a more difficult process. For a time, they were not close because Norio was living in Iowa, and the distance made it difficult to feel connected.

In the end, Janet said, “On this journey,

there are ups and downs . . . some days I feel it is too much, then other days I have to remind myself that it’s OK. You’re watching your children grow up to be happy individuals and being their authentic self.”

Presently, exciting things are happening for their family. Norio and Liz are expecting their first child, and Janet is excited to be a grandmother for the first time. Persevering through all their discomfort has brought them closer together. In fact, Norio and Liz have now moved back to California to be closer to family.

Janet has not been silent. The bishop has not been silent. Their children have not been silent. As a family, they are bringing their true selves to this issue. In the end, they are finding what they are made of and how deep their love, courage and faith can be. They have owned their story. And as Brené Brown would say, by owning our story, “We discover the infinite power of our light.”

*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.”*

### Get 4000 Reward/Travel Points with a new VISA Premier Card



9.9% APR Fixed Rate

No ATM Charges

25 Day Courtesy Pay

More reward points per purchase

800-544-8828 [www.jaclcu.com](http://www.jaclcu.com)

