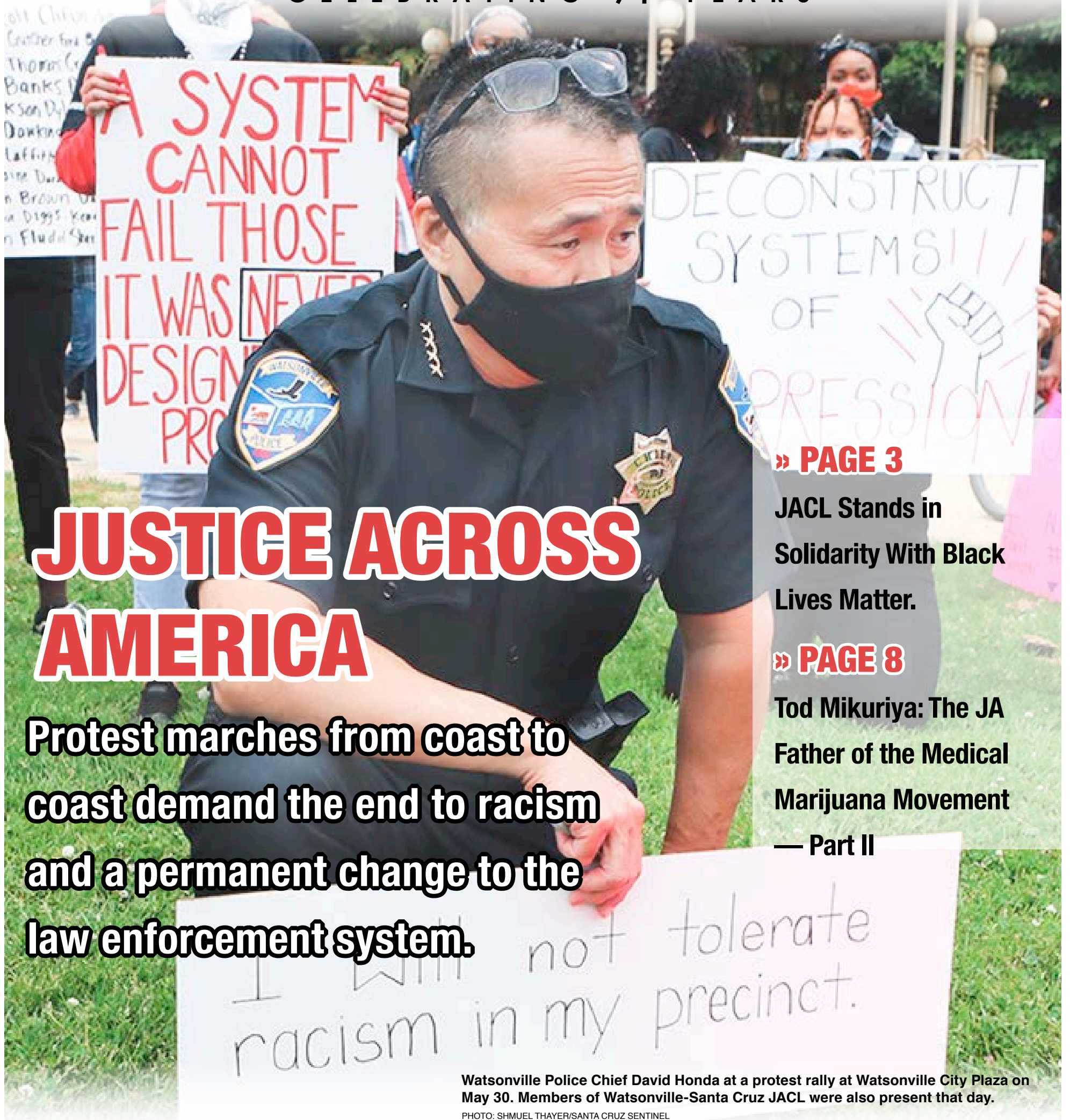




PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 91 YEARS



JUSTICE ACROSS AMERICA

Protest marches from coast to coast demand the end to racism and a permanent change to the law enforcement system.

» PAGE 3

JACL Stands in Solidarity With Black Lives Matter.

» PAGE 8

Tod Mikuriya: The JA Father of the Medical Marijuana Movement — Part II

Watsonville Police Chief David Honda at a protest rally at Watsonville City Plaza on May 30. Members of Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL were also present that day.

PHOTO: SHMUEL THAYER/SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am confused, hurt, exasperated, angry. I read articles about police brutality, see pictures of black victims and hashtags of their names on social media. But not just now — for years and years, these stories of dehumanization and racism have faded in and out of American consciousness. When will something change?

The most important question, though, is what will I do about it? I sit behind a screen, enraged about what I see or hear, but what have I actually done to demonstrate this rage and show my solidarity? I've lived my life with the

privilege of being an Asian female, nonthreatening in the eyes of law enforcement. I was taught that in any emergency, you call 911 or ask a police officer for help. I am privileged.

Which brings me to the conversation around the model minority myth. I was raised with the idea that America is a meritocracy and that success in America is a reflection of how hard you work.

My family told me that my Issei grandparents lived the American Dream because of their *gaman* attitude and work ethic. But what my family didn't tell me was that the American Dream is selective.

On the surface, the narrative seems

universal and attainable, but deeper down, there are institutionalized forces at work pushing groups of people down and pitting groups of people against one another.

My family has responded to this point by reflecting on Japanese American internment and America's hatred of the Japanese at one point in history. But institutionalized racism against black Americans and Native Americans precedes internment, the Chinese Exclusion Act and Yellow Fever, keeping these communities marginalized and oppressed for centuries.

Minorities' struggles and experiences with prejudice and stereotypes should not be compared. Rather, our collective experiences as minorities in America should be recognized

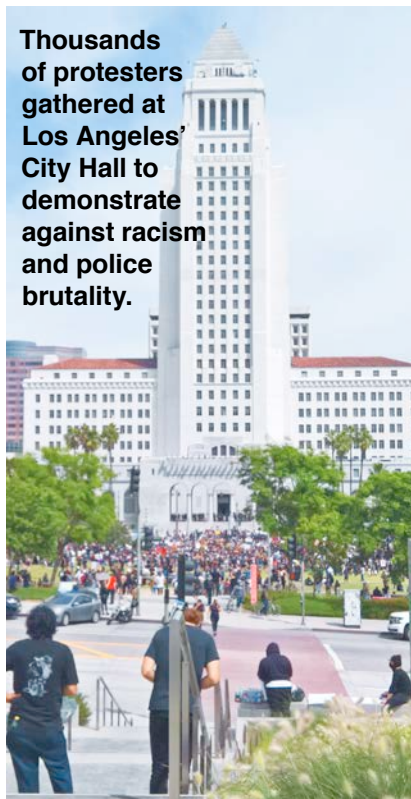
and held in solidarity.

I am learning, I am trying. I challenge myself to do better and to be better, to have difficult conversations and, most importantly, to listen.

I am in no place to tell others what to do, but I challenge all of us — members of the Japanese American community, Asian American community and broader American community — to listen to voices that have been suppressed for so long. Only then will we understand how to be allies and only then, I think, will we start to heal.

Sincerely,

Marisa Kanemitsu,
South Bay JACL



Thousands of protesters gathered at Los Angeles City Hall to demonstrate against racism and police brutality.

PHOTO: SUSAN YOKOYAMA

RALLYING CRY ACROSS AMERICA

U.S. protests over the death of George Floyd at the hands of police officers in Minneapolis incites Americans to speak out against racial hatred and injustice.

"I can't breathe." Despite saying those very words numerous times as he was pinned to the ground, handcuffed and immobilized, his airway constricted as a police officer's knee pressed down upon his neck, George Floyd's plea went unheard in Minneapolis, Minn., on May 25.

Floyd, a 46-year-old African-American man who was arrested for trying to use a counterfeit \$20 bill, died after being held face-down for 8 minutes, 46 seconds by Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin.

Chauvin, who was fired after the incident, was arrested on May 29; he now faces a second-degree murder

charge in connection with Floyd's death after having been charged initially with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. Three other officers at the scene — Tou Thao, J. Alexander Kueng and Thomas Lane — have also been fired and are currently in police custody, arrested on June 3 and charged with aiding and abetting second-degree unintentional murder, as well as aiding and abetting second-degree manslaughter.

Floyd's death at the hands of law enforcement has sparked protest marches all across America, calling for an end to racial injustices and police brutality. Peaceful protests have also turned more violent, involving widespread looting, vandalism and mass destruction.

Days later, the call for justice and equality continues in the U.S. and now the world, protesters united: "Black Lives Matter." ■

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

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"I'm glad to see the *Pacific Citizen* growing and evolving with its website, and especially LOVE the much easier-to-navigate digital archives. It's a treasure trove for JAs to learn about our community's history, and for scholars and journalists looking to connect the past with the present. Thanks for the improvements, *P.C.*!"

— Gil Asakawa

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By David Inoue,
JACL Executive Director

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HONORING THE MEMORY OF OUR PAST LEADERS

As we continue to reel as a nation, first from the COVID pandemic and now what seems to finally be a recognition from our country of the injustice that black men and women face, it seems that JACL has not had the time to acknowledge our own loss. Within the time of just a few weeks, we learned of the passing of Helen Kawagoe and Lillian Kimura. Lillian was JACL's first female president, serving one term from 1992-94, and Helen soon followed her with two terms from 1996-2000. We have not had a woman elected president since.

Lillian's election also saw the adoption of several resolutions seeming to usher in a new age of focus on what were seen as women's issues. Today, I think we can all agree that they are universal issues such as sexual harassment, family leave and a woman's right to choice.

Yet, where are we as a nation, nearly 30 years later? The MeToo movement revealed the true depths of how pervasive and unaddressed

sexual harassment is in our society. Family leave was the signature policy issue for Ivanka Trump throughout the 2016 campaign and the first few years of her father's term. The result has been a mere 12 weeks of leave only for federal workers. Paid family leave remains a benefit for too few workers, generally those in more privileged positions.

And with recent Supreme Court appointments, many fear that the longstanding precedent of *Roe v. Wade* could be overturned by an activist Supreme Court and as individual states also seek to erode women's rights to choice and even access to basic health care.

More distressing is the fact that the average white woman still earns only \$.81 to every dollar earned by a white man. The differences become even more stark when broken out by ethnicity.

Some Asian ethnicities do well, with Asians on average earning \$.90 to the dollar. This is boosted by Indian women, who earn \$1.20 per dollar, Chinese women are on par with white men and Japanese women earn \$.92 per dollar.

However on the other side of the averages are Nepalese women, who

earn \$.50 per dollar, Cambodian women at \$.57 per dollar and Vietnamese women at \$.67 per dollar earned by a white man.

For other minority groups, the differences are also stark. African-American women earn \$.62, Native American women earn \$.57 and Latinx women earn \$.54 per dollar. Statistics from were taken from <http://www.equalpaytoday.org/equalpaydays> and <https://www.napawf.org/equalpay#data-and-resources>.

These disparities persist despite women typically attaining both undergraduate and graduate degrees at higher rates than men, with these differences again even more pronounced for minority groups.

Gender disparities such as this have the power to reinforce themselves. When our second child was born and we were faced with the cost of two children in childcare, we had to seriously consider whether it was worth it for both of us to work, or if it might make more sense to have one stay at home with our children.

At the time, with my wife's income being the lesser one, it obviously would have meant her leaving her job at the time, negatively impacting her

opportunities for advancement and growth for the time she was away.

Fortunately, we worked things out, but many other families are not able to make things work and must make the decision of which job is able to better support the family if one parent must stay home with the children.

If I might continue my digression around my own family, I often hear fathers talk about how they are in the fight for gender equality because of their daughter. I, too, want equality for my daughter, but that's not fighting for gender equality, that is fighting for my own daughter.

It is the fight for other people's daughters, wives, mothers that we must make the expectation. This is why it is important to recognize the differences even within our own Asian American community as shown in the statistics above.

In a final case of symmetry, Lillian began her term as president in the wake of the 1992 L.A. riots that occurred following the acquittal of four Los Angeles police officers who had beaten Rodney King, also caught on video.

Nearly 30 years later, we are now in a fight for justice for the brutal

deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and so many others. We must recognize that racism is not limited to the extremes of the lynching of black men.

We absolutely must call for justice for their deaths, but we must also seek justice for the racism and sexism that manifests itself more often in our daily lives. In particular, we must fight against disparate wages, home ownership rates and access to health care services. Our education system is based on neighborhood boundaries long ago set by discriminatory redlining policies. The system is rigged, and we must rebuild it to work for all.

As our country is freshly invigorated in the fight for racial justice, we must recognize and remember the bright intersection with gender inequality and the multiplying effect it has on the effects of racism. We do this to honor the memory of Lillian and Helen, but also because this is what JACL must stand for.

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

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK (COVID-19)

COVID-19: U.S. AT A GLANCE*

- **Total Cases:** 1,891,690*
- **Total Deaths:** 109,192 (as of June 5)
- **Jurisdictions Reporting Cases:** 55 (50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands)

• Data includes both confirmed and presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 reported to the CDC or tested at the CDC since Jan. 21, with the exception of testing results for persons repatriated to the U.S. from Wuhan, China, and Japan. State and local public health departments are now testing and publicly reporting their cases. In the event of a discrepancy between CDC cases and cases reported by state and local public health officials, data reported by states should be considered the most up to date.

Source: CDC

OUR OUTRAGE FOR GEORGE FLOYD'S MURDER IS NOT ENOUGH

By JACL National

It has been one week since George Floyd was lynched by four Minneapolis police officers. The death of George Floyd was preventable, as were the deaths of Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, Nina Pop, Breonna Taylor, Sean Reed, Charleena Lyles and countless other black lives who have been lost to systemic racism in the United States.

Officer Derek Chauvin, now being charged with murder and manslaughter, was not alone in George Floyd's murder. Also complicit were officers Thomas Lane, J. Alexander Kueng and, most visibly, Tou Thao, an Asian American officer who, instead of using his authority to stop Chauvin, chose to enable and protect his partner.

The JACL denounces the actions of Officer Thao and stands with the black community in demanding justice for George Floyd and all black lives.

We must recognize that as violence has erupted from the roots of peaceful protest, it reflects the violence we as a nation have inflicted upon the black community in our 400-year

history as a colonized nation.

The genocide began with the colonization of Native American land, to the capture, indentured servitude and enslavement of African peoples, to Jim Crow and beyond.

We continue to see the legacy of our traumatic history today in the inequities of COVID-19 as black lives are disproportionately impacted by our failed health-care system.

During World War II, our community found itself fractured in the midst of the incarceration experience; families, friends and neighbors torn apart by the decisions they were forced to make. We remained divided in the post-war years as we sought a path forward trying to find our place in the changing narrative of American society.

In the fight for civil rights, there were those who joined black leaders like Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. to ensure civil rights were not solely for the API community, but all communities of color.

Yet, we also played into the model minority myth, a divisive narrative that has simultaneously served to both benefit and victimize. The privileges we have gained from this

dangerous trope have only further driven a wedge between API's and other communities of color.

We cannot continue on this path: We must stand together if we want to create lasting change.

Japanese Americans sought and achieved redress for our unconstitutional incarceration during WWII. It is time that we as a nation come to a reckoning with our history of oppression and seek reparations for the legacy of slavery — to begin taking the necessary steps to right a grave wrong.

It is painful to acknowledge that, in many ways, Mr. Thao does represent our community and our own complicity and failure to act for racial justice for black lives.

As API's, we sit at the intersections of privilege and oppression. While our experiences with privilege and oppression as individual communities are highly varied and nuanced (for example, the frequent exclusion of Pacific Islander and South and Southeast Asian communities in discussions around race and social issues, or the privilege those of us with lighter skin experience), it cannot be said that we do not benefit

from the same systems that serve to hold us down.

Our privilege comes at a price, one that has historically served as a way to further oppress black lives. If we cannot come to terms with and address the privileges we hold and why, then we are part of the problem. Our inaction is causing harm, despite most of our best intentions to do good. We can have the intention to do anti-racist work while still committing racist acts.

It is easy and justified to be outraged by the scenes of the police taking the life of an unarmed, handcuffed man. We must also be enraged by the systems that have led to the deaths of so many black men and women.

We have a broken economic system that underpays people for honest work. Hiring decisions continue to be clouded by prejudice. Housing discrimination persists because of unequal access to capital and the legacy of redlining. If we do not feel the same outrage for the daily discrimination that continues to exist, outrage over George Floyd's murder is hollow and meaningless.

There can be no peace so long as our society and our government remain violent, both in physical action and policy, toward our own citizens. Our time to stand together is now. Black Lives Matter. ■

AN OPEN LETTER ON THE MURDER OF GEORGE FLOYD

By JACL Twin Cities Chapter

June 1, 2020

Mayor Jacob Frey and Police Chief Medaria Arradondo
Minneapolis City Hall

Dear Mayor Frey and Police Chief Arradondo,

We as an organization are sending our thoughts and prayers to the family and friends of George Floyd, a beloved member of the community who was callously murdered by members of the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) on Memorial Day last week. But thoughts and prayers are not enough. We need action, and we need reform. We join the black community in calling for an actively anti-racist system that seeks out racism and works to eradicate it.

Japanese Americans have known what it is like to be unfairly persecuted by authorities on the basis of their appearance, as was the case during World War II. More recently, Asian communities around the world have been unfairly targeted by heightened xenophobia related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

And yet, we cannot pretend that

Asian Americans are immune from being racist simply because we are People of Color.

No evidence of this is clearer than the role of former MPD Officer Tou Thao who willfully failed to intervene while former MPD Officer Derek Chauvin pressed his knee into George Floyd's neck. It is the duty of all humans to actively confront racism and prevent it from claiming more innocent lives.

While many law enforcement officers are committed to protecting and serving all those within their communities, we need them to step up, speak out against and stop those who are not.

A single "bad cop" is too many, and those who allow them to remain in uniform are also at fault. It is therefore necessary for all four of the MPD officers responsible for George Floyd's murder to be brought to justice. And, we call for concrete steps to be taken to prevent unwarranted, excessive police violence which too often results in the tragedies of officer-involved killings.

We call for the Minneapolis Police Department to transparently communicate acceptable and unacceptable officer behaviors so that civilians

can report them to supervisors when necessary. To facilitate this, we call for the institution of an emergency hotline so that inappropriate or dangerous police behavior can be immediately reviewed and stopped before it's too late.

This immediate accountability and oversight was a crucial missing piece in the murder of George Floyd. Concerned civilian bystanders were helpless to stop actions that they knew to be wrong and life-threatening. The tools we have now in some cases, including body cameras and cellphone footage, are valuable only after the fact. By then, it is too late.

Just as it is now too late to save George Floyd's life, but it is not too late to prevent other unnecessary violent acts and murders. Now is the time to be proactive and usher in concrete reforms, reforms that extend beyond Minneapolis to the rest of the country.

Sincerely,

Executive Board, Japanese American Citizens League,
Twin Cities Chapter



Americans also gathered in Washington, D.C., to make their voices heard.

PHOTO: JACL NATIONAL

JACL PSWD STATEMENT ON GEORGE FLOYD'S MURDER



On May 25, 2020, George Floyd was killed by negligence and inhumanity of the highest degree. The crime was perpetrated by a man sworn to protect and serve the community and its citizens. Unfortunately, this is just the latest iteration of an institutionalized problem that has plagued this nation since its inception. Racism.

The Japanese American Citizens League's Pacific Southwest District stands in solidarity with the protesters who are risking their lives by lawfully protesting the systematic discrimination that black Americans face on a daily basis. This problem can only be solved through the cooperation of all Americans. The JACL PSW hopes to devote its resources to furthering the cause of equality for black Americans and all other races and creeds.

The JACL PSW condemns the actions of police officers who abuse the power granted to them by discriminating against black Americans. The damage that these individuals wreak is two-fold.

The first and most important consequence is that black Americans are forced to live in constant fear for no reason other than the color of their skin. The second is that their actions vilify the entire police force, which makes it harder for officers who justly uphold the law to perform their duties.

Individuals who use this tragedy as a pretext for crime and violence mitigate the protesters' message of equality and pursuit of justice. They harm our community by destroying property and looting small businesses that are already suffering from the effects of COVID-19.

The use of violence gives those who are prejudiced a reason to strike down this noble struggle. We must distinguish ourselves from these individuals who undermine our mission to right the wrongs committed by racists and bigots.

This problem has been a scourge on America for too long. Now is the time to make a difference. The road to reform will be slow, so we mustn't allow ourselves to become complacent and forget about the tragedy committed in Minneapolis.

Protester. Police. Black. White. Latinx. Indigenous American. Asian and Pacific Islander. LGBTQ. Straight. No matter what defines us, everyone who believes that black lives matter must band together to champion the cause of equality. We will seek justice for our brothers and sisters, and we will hold those who kill and hide behind a badge accountable for their actions.

Our Declaration of Independence proclaims, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

We will create a society where this sentiment is made a reality. So long as individuals and institutions discriminate against our neighbors and friends, depriving them of their God-given rights, we will stand together to stop this injustice. Black Lives Matter. ■

VCJACL Recognizes Hospital Workers

Ventura County chapter members thank first-responders for their COVID-19 dedication.

By Ventura County JACL

The BEST Strawberries for the BEST Health Care Workers" flyer accompanied the recent donation of strawberries from Ventura County JACL to staff at Pleasant Valley Hospital in Camarillo, Calif., for their hard work and efforts in combating the current coronavirus pandemic.

Chapter members thanked the hospital's staff for their ongoing dedication and

commitment to helping care for community members.

VCJACL's Julia Miyamoto delivered the strawberries, which were grown by specialty farmer Jason Tamai of Tamai Family Farms in Oxnard, Calif.

Hospital personnel received the berries and quickly distributed them to its 325 employees. Staff were impressed, surprised and commented enthusiastically on the berries' very sweet flavor.

One wrote, "It is heart warming to

see and experience all the support and generosity and the community coming together in this difficult time." ■

PHOTOS: VCJACL



VCJACL chapter member Julia Miyamoto (center) delivers the berries.



Jason Tamai of Tamai Family Farms donated the strawberries.



A Pleasant Valley Hospital supervisor gives a thumbs up upon receiving the strawberries for her department.



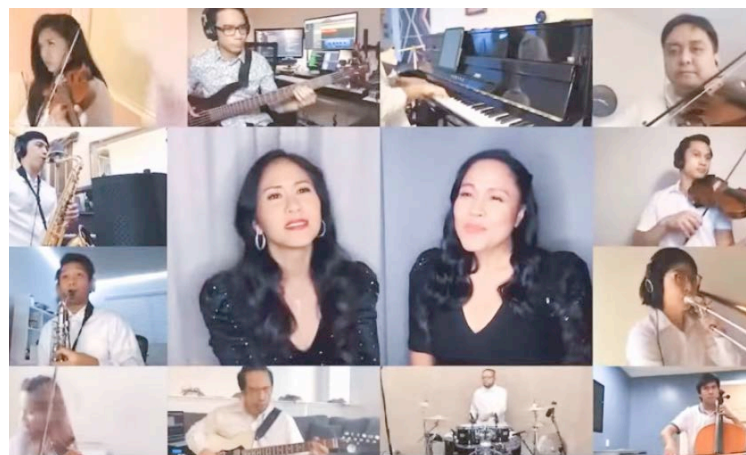
Daniel Mayeda



Adele Lim



Linda and Sakaye Aratani



Various artists performed together from remote locations during EWP's First Virtual Visionary Awards & Gala.



EWP'S SHOW GOES ON TO HONOR THREE WITH VISIONARY AWARDS

The delayed gala becomes a virtual affair due to novel coronavirus.

By P.C. Staff

In the ongoing battle between the novel coronavirus vs. the world, East West Players displayed its “show must go on” credo by transforming its 54th Visionary Awards and Silent Auction into the First Virtual Visionary Awards & Gala.

Originally set to take place on April 27 at the Hilton Universal City in Studio City, Calif., the date was changed to May 31 and the venue became a cyberstitched mix of prerecorded and live-streamed-from-home segments viewable on YouTube and FaceBook.

And, in spite of the to-be-expected technical glitches, the show did eventually go on. Score: EWP 1, Virus 0.

But there was an added level of surreality to the proceedings as TV news outlets in Los Angeles simultaneously broadcast live the looting, vandalism and fires caused by the berserkers who hijacked the peaceful demonstrations of those protesting the death of George Floyd by

members of the Minneapolis police.

Addressing the situation, honoree Daniel Mayeda said, “I have to admit I feel a little awkward standing here alone in my living room, desperately in need of a haircut, wearing a tux, talking to an iPhone.”

Mayeda was one of three who received the EWP's Visionary Award, the other two being the Aratani Foundation and screenwriter Adele Lim.

In his introduction for Sakaye Aratani, the widow of George Aratani, and their daughter, Linda Aratani, TV newsman David Ono of KABC-TV said, “To say that the Aratani Foundation has had an impact on the Asian American and, specifically, the Japanese American community here in Southern California and nationally would be an understatement.”

Ono noted that since the Aratani Foundation was founded in 1994, its largesse has “transformed Little Tokyo,” citing the Japanese American National Museum's George and Sakaye Aratani Central Hall, the

Japanese American Cultural and Community Center's Aratani Theater and the Union Center for the Arts Aratani Courtyard.

“This legacy and work continues today, led by their daughters, Linda and Donna,” Ono said.

Accepting the EWP's Visionary Award remotely were Sakaye Aratani and Linda Aratani. Sakaye Aratani recalled going with her late husband to the EWP's former location on Santa Monica Boulevard and seeing late artistic director Nobu McCarthy and her successor, Tim Dang. “We want to appreciate everything they've done for us,” she said.

Mayeda, an entertainment attorney who joined the EWP board of directors in 1994 and has served in various capacities with the organization, including board chair, was introduced by Dang as EWP's longest-serving board member in East West Players history.

The co-founder and chair of the Asian Pacific American Media Coalition, the associate director of the Documentary Film Legal Clinic at UCLA School of Law (which trains attorneys to help documentary filmmakers pro bono to “help underrepresented storytellers get their stories out to the public”) and a shareholder with the law firm Ballard Spahr (formerly Leopold, Petrich and Smith), Mayeda recalled that when he joined the EWP board in 1994, the theater company was in an area real estate agents called “Silver Lake adjacent.”

» See EWP on page 7

NCWNP DISTRICT HONORS NISEI VETERANS

The chapter holds a virtual Memorial Day program and reminds all that nothing can erase the achievements and sacrifices made by Japanese American service members.

By Holly Kawase Kirkman

More than 400 people from across the contiguous U.S. and Hawaii, and even as far away as France and Japan, united via Zoom and Facebook livestream on May 25 to honor the sacrifices of Nisei veterans in a one-of-a-kind memorial service sponsored by JACL's Northern California Western Nevada Pacific District.

While the shelter-in-place mandate made the traditional plan for the event — ordinarily co-sponsored by the Golden Gate Nisei Memorial Post #9879 VFW and held in Section R of the Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno, Calif. — impossible, NCWNP and a talented tech team from Yuen Designs came together proudly to create a unique program that gave community members near and far the opportunity to learn, reflect and honor a Japanese American legacy together.

Steve Okamoto, JACL San Mateo chapter president and vp of the Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Committee, emceed the service program, opening with a warm welcome preceding the “Pledge of Allegiance” and “Star Spangled Banner,” played by Todd Yuzuriha of the Minidoka Swing Band.

Next came a solemn invocation by Rev. Henry Adams, delivered from the hondō of the San Mateo Buddhist Temple, where he is resident minister. The observance then held a moment of silence in memory of the men and women who died serving in the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, 232nd Combat Engineer Company and the 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion, as well as all veterans and active duty service members defending our country with honor and dignity.

“For the Nisei soldiers,” Okamoto reminded viewers, “their motto, ‘Go For Broke,’ meant that they would put everything on the line to win the war against the Germans in Europe, as well as the war against racial prejudice at home.”

Because the memorial service co-

incided with the 75th anniversary commemorating the liberation of the French towns of Bruyères, Belmont and Biffontaine from German occupation by the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team in October 1944, the program reached across the ocean to mark the occasion with a video message of friendship and gratitude from former Bruyères Mayor Yves Bonjean.

Career educator and former incarcerated Marielle Tsukamoto spoke of her trip to visit the Hill 555 Monument in Bruyères, reflecting on the sacrifices and struggles of the Nisei soldiers and how their story is an important learning opportunity for future generations.

Dr. Shinye Gima, a WWII MIS veteran, closed the first half of the program with a veteran's perspective on commemorating this solemn occasion in the era of COVID-19, emphasizing for us all that while the pandemic will change our lives, it cannot erase the things we achieve, celebrate and honor. Todd Yuzuriha then returned to the screen for a traditional military closing performance of “Taps.”

» See NCWNP on page 7



Yves Bonjean, Marielle Tsukamoto and Mitch Maki



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF YUEN DESIGNS



STAND UP

Asian Americans need to speak out and stand up for themselves, psychologists say in panel.



Program panelists included (clockwise from top left) psychologists Satsuki Ina, Gordon Nagayama Hall, Carolee Tran and HMWF's Shirley Ann Higuchi.



By Ray Locker

Dr. Carolee Tran, a Vietnamese American psychologist practicing in Sacramento, Calif., was shopping in her local Costco when an older white man approached her in the aisle.

"You're a disgusting, animal-eating Asian woman," he said to her.

Tran, who was 8 years old when her family fled the collapse of South Vietnam in 1975, was not having it. "I said to him, 'Shut the f--- up, get out of my face or I am going to call the manager.' I am sick of it.

"My daughter thought I was going to get killed," Tran said.

Tran, who joined psychologists Satsuki Ina and Gordon Nagayama Hall in a panel titled "Lessons From the Past: Yellow Peril in COVID-19 Times," presented by the JACL on May 27 in conjunction with Asian American Heritage Month, said the time has come for Asian Americans to shed their historic reticence to speak up.

For too long, the panelists in the webinar, which was watched by more than 250 people, said that Asian Americans have tried to fit into the "model minority" niche consigned to them by white Americans; that provided comfort for many older people, particularly those who

were among the 120,000 Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II.

Now, however, there is greater awareness that being a model minority is a myth that has stripped many Asian Americans of their identity and feelings of self-worth.

Ina, who born in the Japanese American concentration camp in Tule Lake, Calif., said for years she internalized the fears that surrounded her and her family after the incarceration. Her family was first sent to the camp in Topaz, Utah, and then to Tule Lake when they protested their treatment. After her birth, her father was sent to the prison in Bismarck, N.D., and then the family was sent together to Crystal City, Texas, where they were released in 1946, a year after the war ended.

"I had to rise above the legacy of fear they had lived through to find my voice," said Ina, who is one of the founders of the social justice group Tsuru for Solidarity.

For most of her young life, Ina said, she followed the message that she had to be good and study hard. When most of her class of 100 students at the University of California, Berkeley, were out protesting, she was one of the two or three who showed up to class until her professor told her to get out with the rest of

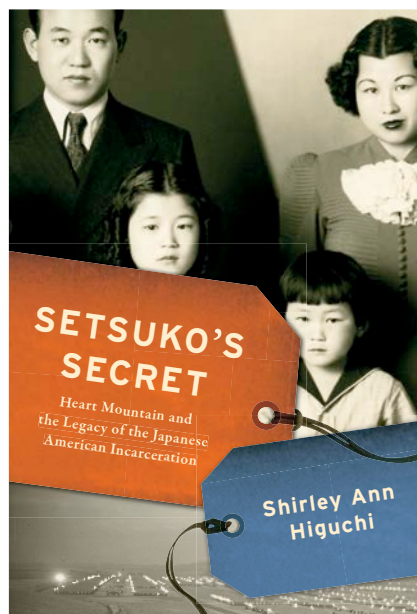
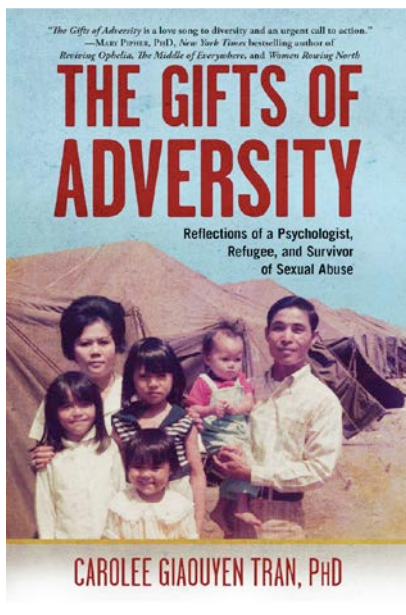
the class. "It kept me quiet for many years," she said.

Now, however, as Ina witnesses the treatment of Latinx immigrants to the United States and the Trump administration's family-separation policies, "I am pissed off and more activated than ever before."

The webinar was moderated by Shirley Ann Higuchi, chair of the board of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, a sponsor of the event, and the senior director for legal and regulatory affairs for the American Psychological Assn. Other sponsors were the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, the Asian American Psychological Assn. and the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center.

Tran has captured the lessons she's learned in a new book, "The Gifts of Adversity," which recounts her journey from Vietnam to become the nation's first Vietnamese American psychologist and her survival after suffering seven years of sexual abuse at the hands of a Roman Catholic priest. Higuchi is the author of an upcoming book that tells of her family's experiences before, during and after the incarceration: "Setsuko's Secret: Heart Mountain and the Legacy of the Japanese American Incarceration."

» See STAND on page 10



Four generations of women at a refugee camp, Dr. Tran is in the striped shirt sitting next to her maternal great-grandmother; sister, Jane; grandmother; and sister, Betty. Dr. Tran's mother is in the back holding her sister, Kathy.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF DR. CAROLEE TRAN

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MOUNT OLYMPUS JACL MEETS AT SALT LAKE CITY CEMETERY

In advance of Memorial Day weekend, chapter members also participate in a cemetery cleanup.

By Floyd Mori

Because of the coronavirus and stay-at-home orders, most JACL chapters have not been holding activities or even board meetings. The Mount Olympus JACL chapter in Utah did not meet for its March board meeting since its major spring event had been canceled, and people were not supposed to venture out of their homes except for essential items because of the pandemic. The April board meeting was held over the phone.

However, since the stay-at-home restrictions were eased somewhat in the middle of May for most of Utah, Mount Olympus JACL Chapter President Dick Mano decided to hold a board meeting at the Salt Lake City Cemetery. Board members were invited to clean up the Japanese section of the cemetery, followed by a short board meeting. This was in anticipation of the Memorial Day weekend.

Besides the regular matters for the board to discuss, the chapter also held a drawing. Because the Fund-a-Rama, the chapter's major fundraising event for the year, which normally benefits the scholarship fund, had been canceled, the chapter held a drawing since some of the prizes had already been gathered and tickets had been issued before the cancellation.

Board members present were Mano, Rebecca Oniki, Reid Tateoka, Floyd Mori, Irene Mori, Carolyn Valentine and Gary Okamoto. Also helping with the clean up were Linda Mano, Shauna Tateoka and Chris,



Andrew and Brandon Okamoto. Amy Tomita and Sadie Yoshimura joined the meeting by phone.

Mano returned to the cemetery a few days later to place a beautiful floral arrangement at the site of the monument erected in honor of the Japanese American veterans who were serving in the military when they died in World War II. The floral and written tribute to the veterans was from the Utah chapters of the JACL.

For years, the Japanese American community, including the three Utah JACL chapters (Salt Lake, Mount Olympus and Wasatch Front North) have been holding a Memorial Day service at the Japanese section of the Salt Lake City Cemetery to honor the Japanese American veterans of WWII and others who served in the military of the United States.

Usually joining with the JACL chapters have been the Dai Ichi Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Japanese Church of Church and the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple.

The memorial service is normally held on the Sunday morning of the Memorial Day weekend. It honors the achievements, sacrifices and lives of the Japanese American men who were killed during WWII along with other Japanese American veterans who have passed on since that time. The service is held at the World War II Japanese American Veteran's Monument at the Salt Lake City cemetery, overlooking the Salt Lake Valley.

Most of those killed and honored whose names are listed on the monument were members of the



The Mount Olympus JACL chapter held its board meeting at the Salt Lake City Cemetery and did a service cleanup of its Japanese section.

Japanese American Veterans' Monument with the floral tribute from the Utah JACL chapters at the Salt Lake City Cemetery

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF FLOYD MORI

100th Infantry Battalion/The 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service. These U.S. Army units of WWII were honored with the U.S. Congressional Gold Medal of Honor in 2010. These Japanese American veterans have often been credited with helping to usher in the civil rights movement because of their heroism, patriotism and valor.

Many decades ago when the people of Japanese descent died in Salt Lake City, they were not allowed to be buried in the main part of the Salt Lake City Cemetery but were assigned plots far away from the major portions of the cemetery. The main part is an area that is across the street from and below the monument for the Japanese American veterans. The Japanese section looks like a

nice area now, but it was originally the undesirable part of the cemetery. Adjacent to the Japanese section is an area of Chinese graves.

It would be hoped that the racism of those years long gone would also have disappeared. Unfortunately, it is still with us and needs to be addressed. We must be ever vigilant in order to not let history repeat itself with regard to the egregious mistreatment that Japanese Americans received before, during and after WWII.

Floyd Mori was born and raised in Utah. His oldest brother, Shigeru Mori, has his name on the Utah Veterans' Monument at the Salt Lake City Cemetery. Floyd Mori is a member of the National Veterans Network and worked on securing the Congressional Gold Medal awarded to Japanese American Veterans of WWII.

EWP » continued from page 5

The plan to move to its current location in Little Tokyo meant raising funds to cover relocation costs and a tripling of its operating budget, Mayeda noted. While EWP worked hard to overcome those challenges during his tenure, he said that the pandemic-caused shutdown and related show cancellations has hurt EWP's financial status quo and that this may be "the most-serious challenge that the theater has faced in its 54-year history."

"But," he continued, "I am confident that with all the people watching tonight, including people watching all across the country, that you will all rise up and support the theater and enable it to survive and advance and thrive."

Actor-producer Daniel Dae Kim introduced the final honoree, Adele Lim, a screenwriter who co-wrote

the megahit 2018 film "Crazy Rich Asians."

"When I came to this industry, I was very much an outsider — Asian, female and a recent immigrant," she said. "I found it very challenging breaking into an industry and writing stories, characters and roles that could not be any further from who I was or my experiences. But things are changing now, they're different, thanks to the tenacious fighting spirit of our community and our homegrown organizations such as East West Players, CAPE and Gold House."

At the end of the show, it was announced that EWP reached its goal of raising \$200,000.

A recording of the First Virtual Visionary Awards & Gala can be viewed at tinyurl.com/yc4kuehv. ■

NCWNP » continued from page 5

To memorialize the special Sister City relationship Hawaii has between Bruyères and Honolulu, the second educational half of the program was sponsored by the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Organization in Honolulu and led by volunteer Jayne Hirata.

Hirata's program showcased the many diverse ways that the Japanese American World War II veterans are remembered and honored, not only in Hawaii or the mainland U.S., but also across the world.

The exciting and thought-provoking series of offerings included excerpts from the KHON2 news special "Back to Bruyères: The Legacy of the 100th" and a live interview with producer/editor Pamela Young; a re-enactment video from BCo/100Bn/442RCT Reenactment Group of Maizuru, Japan; a memorial

video and message from Dr. Mitch Maki of the Go For Broke National Education Center; excerpts from JN Production's documentary "Dream Big! A Postwar Success Story: The Nisei Soldiers of WWII" and remarks from Col. Keith Horikawa regarding the contemporary ongoing legacy of the 100th Battalion; and a showing of the "Go For Broke" music video and interview with musician and educator Kaze Jones. Closing reflections and words of thanks from Yoshio "Yosh" Nakamura, a 442nd Regimental Combat Team veteran, concluded the program of remembrance.

By hosting this event virtually, the NCWNP District was able to include individuals, video and music that would not have been possible in an

in-person program.

"The program was a fitting and moving Memorial Day for our community," one participant said. Another viewer mentioned, "The Memorial Day event had me using my tissues too! It was wonderful."

To view the recorded program on YouTube, visit <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLO4DS60PnFfyI-fBmMTV98wSFhlKJMa4V>.



"The Nisei Soldiers of WWII"

TOD MIKURIYA: JA FATHER OF THE MEDICAL MARIJUANA MOVEMENT

This second installment focuses on Mikuriya's research successes.

By Rob Buscher,
Contributor

The following article is a continuation from the May 22-June 4, 2020, issue of the Pacific Citizen about the early career of Japanese American medical marijuana pioneer Dr. Tod Mikuriya.

Although Dr. Tod Mikuriya's time at the National Institute of Mental Health was brief, his experience working within a federal agency would shape his thinking for decades to come. It was clear to him that based on the overwhelming scientific bias that he witnessed at the NIMH, the government had committed to willful ignorance of the medicinal properties of cannabis.

After compiling the data for his "Position Paper on Marihuana," Mikuriya was convinced that the only sensible course of action was for the government to decriminalize the substance so that medical researchers could resume scientific study of its medicinal properties that were once widely acknowledged in U.S. pharmacology prior to the 1937 prohibition.

In 1970, Mikuriya moved to Berkeley, Calif., where he would become a fixture in the medical marijuana movement. In 1971, he joined Amorphia, a special interest group that was spearheading the California Marijuana Initiative.

Mikuriya consulted on the medical language used to support the ballot initiative also known as "Proposition 19" — to decriminalize the personal use of marijuana for persons 18 years of age or older — which was put to a vote in the 1972 California general election.

Fellow CMI advocate Gordon Brownell recalled, "With his short hair, sharp clothes and pleasant smile, Tod was a good spokesperson in the legislative arena. He particularly liked it when he could confront a conservative Republican legislator and go up to him and say something like, 'Hi. I'm a medical doctor and a Republican. Do you support decriminalization of marijuana and getting the government out of our private lives?'"

Aside from his clean-cut appearance and professional credentials, what made Mikuriya stand out from other marijuana activists was his focus on the medical applications of cannabis. Although the CMI was defeated, it garnered support from more than a third of the electorate.

Fellow advocate Michael Aldrich,

Ph.D., explained in the "Dr. Tod" biopic documentary, "We regarded 30 percent of the statewide vote as an enormous victory. It meant that for the first time anywhere, California proved that marijuana had an actual political constituency, particularly in San Francisco, Santa Monica and other liberal places. But it was an active political constituency. And George Moscone, who was our state senator from San Francisco at the time and our state Senate Majority Leader, understood right away that because the overwhelming third voted in favor of legalizing marijuana cultivation and possession throughout the state, the constituency deserved the opportunity to lower the penalties for marijuana at the very least."

With their newfound support from Sen. Moscone, Mikuriya and his fellow advocates spent the next two years convincing the Republican majority State Senate committees related to narcotics enforcement that California could save as much as \$100 million a year by decriminalizing marijuana possession for personal use.

Aldrich continued, "The reason for the cost was because possession for any amount of marijuana was punished as a felony, and that meant that you had to go to state prison for at least a year if you got caught with even a seed in your purse. We worked out the figure between arrest costs, parole officers, the cost of courts and incarceration involving

marijuana cases."

One of the challenges that Mikuriya and other advocates faced was the lack of a comprehensive bibliography of the medical uses of cannabis. In 1973, Mikuriya amassed the many resources he had collected over the years into a compendium guide for medical practitioners that he titled "Marijuana Medical Papers 1839-1972," which he self-published through a loan from his parents.

Referencing their parents' progressive attitude toward Mikuriya's work, Mary Jane Mikuriya wrote, "My parents' understanding of medical marijuana evolved with Tod's evolution and discovery of its many uses throughout history. Mother was a trained research scientist who found the information Tod was discovering over time very interesting. Their long conversations, actually more like a friendly scientific cross examination about cannabis, its side effects, its cultural uses and practices were very interesting to her. She was pleased and proud Tod was working to help his patients. She supported him speaking out to help those in need, even if it was against the law."

Marijuana has been a highly controlled substance in Japan since 1948, where even today, getting caught with a gram or less intended for personal use can carry up to five years' imprisonment and a hefty fine.

However, the elder Tadafumi Mikuriya also supported his son's work. "Dad was always supportive and

proud of Tod as he spoke up and challenged social norms," said Mary Jane Mikuriya. "He followed him carefully and shared the news of Tod's activities, good and bad, with our Japanese relatives."

Thus, with his parents' blessing and financial backing, Mikuriya created the most-comprehensive volume of medical marijuana texts to date — a much-needed asset in the ongoing effort to legalize marijuana. An excerpt from the introductory statement of Tod's publication reads:

Medicine in the Western World has forgotten almost all it once knew about therapeutic properties of marijuana, or cannabis. Analgesia, anticonvulsant action, appetite stimulation, ataraxia, antibiotic properties and low toxicity were described throughout medical literature, beginning in 1839 when O'Shaughnessy introduced cannabis into the Western pharmacopoeia. As these findings were reported throughout Western medicine, cannabis attained wide use. Cannabis therapy was described in most pharmacopoeial texts as a treatment for a variety of disease conditions.

The active constituents of cannabis appear to have remarkably low acute and chronic toxicity factors and might be quite useful in the management of many chronic disease conditions.

More reasonable laws and regulations controlling psychoactive drug research are required to permit significant medical inquiry to begin so that we can fill the large gaps in our knowledge of cannabis.

Mikuriya's book, along with another study he led titled "Costs of California Marijuana Law Enforcement," helped win over the fiscally conservative Republican leadership in Sacramento, who would enact SB 95 in 1975. The bill decriminalized possession of marijuana for personal use under one ounce from a felony to a misdemeanor.

Mikuriya would spend the next 15 years continuing to lobby for marijuana reform, which was increasingly difficult during the return to social conservatism marked by the Reagan presidency years.

It was not until the AIDS epidemic of the early 1990s when the pathway to legalizing medical marijuana would finally open. Lacking access to proper medical care amidst society-wide prejudice at a time when little was known about their disease, many AIDS patients had taken to self-medicating with marijuana as a solution to pain management and restoration of appetite.

Acknowledging the opportunity that this presented, pro-marijuana advocate Dennis Peron mobilized San Francisco's gay community and its allies to successfully campaign for Proposition P — a ballot question in the city election that would lead to the legalization of medical marijuana in the city of San Francisco.



Mikuriya was featured in a 1972 California Statewide Steering Committee Proposition 19 ad for the decriminalization of marijuana.



Mikuriya with his sisters, Beverly and Mary Jane, and their parents, Anna and Tadafumi.



Dr. Tod Mikuriya when he worked at the NIMH

Tod with his parents on Christmas

Mikuriya was asked to write the text of the ballot question, which read:

The people of the city and county of San Francisco recommend that the State of California and the California Medical Association restore Hemp medical preparations to the list of available medicines in California. Licensed physicians shall not be penalized for, or restricted from, prescribing Hemp preparations for medical purposes to any patient.

The term Hemp medical preparations means all products made from Hemp, Cannabis, or Marijuana in all forms that are designed, intended, or used for human consumption for the treatment of any disease, the relief of pain, or for any healing purpose including: the relief of asthma, glaucoma, arthritis, anorexia, migraine, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, nausea, stress, for use as an anti-biotic and anti-hemetic, or as any healing agent or as an adjunct to any medical procedure for the treatment of cancer, HIV infection or any other medical procedure or herbal treatment.

Mikuriya was deliberate in his choice of words to “restore Hemp medical preparations” using this opportunity to educate the public about the past inclusion of medical cannabis in the U.S. pharmacopeia.

Prop P passed by an overwhelming margin of 4-to-1, paving the way for the first medical marijuana dispensary, the San Francisco Cannabis Buyers Club, to open. Mikuriya helped draft the intake protocol for

the dispensary, which included a required letter of diagnosis from a licensed physician. In the years that followed, he would continue his advocacy efforts for statewide legislation that would eventually be introduced in 1996 as Proposition 215.

Mikuriya explained in his biopic documentary, “As one of the authors of the Prop 215, my claim to fame is getting the phrase ‘for any other condition that Cannabis is helpful’ included.”

He would also write the protocols for dozens of other dispensaries that were opened after Prop 215 passed. In the aftermath of the statewide legalization of medical marijuana, oncologists and AIDS specialists largely embraced cannabis as part of their treatment plans, but few others were willing to do so.

Decades of information suppression regarding the medical uses of cannabis meant that physicians knew little about its effects, appropriate dosage or even what conditions it could be used to treat.

Additionally, because federal law still forbade the use of marijuana as a controlled substance, law enforcement agencies threatened to revoke prescription-writing privileges of doctors who approved marijuana use.

Despite the legislative victories in California, the Clinton administration had elevated the Office of National Drug Control Policy to a cabinet level department, and by the end of 1996, over 544,700 individual arrests were made on marijuana possession charges nationwide.

Mikuriya’s high-profile role in the medical marijuana movement drew the ire of Barry McCaffrey, the director of ONDCP, colloquially known as the “Drug Czar” who publicly ridiculed Mikuriya’s medical philosophy as “a Cheech and Chong Show.” Even today, the debate about whether state laws on marijuana can supersede federal laws is a legal grey area that patients and medical practitioners must navigate with caution.

Not knowing how long he would

be able to operate under the precarious legal circumstances, Mikuriya felt a sense of urgency to authorize as many patients as possible and thus opened the Mikuriya Practice in 1996, where he began practicing cannabis therapy full time.

Never losing sight of his Japanese heritage, Mikuriya used the family mon crest on his business cards and website. As a psychiatrist, his examination mainly consisted of a discussion about the patient’s history related to mental and emotional health and did not include a physical.

Unfortunately, this would be his undoing as state and federal law enforcement conspired with the conservative-leaning members of the Medical Board of California, who strongly opposed Prop 215 to fabricate a formal investigation into his practice in 2003.

Mikuriya’s attorney, Bill Simpich, explained, “The hardcore anti-215 crowd in the Attorney General’s office realized they were going to lose and decided to round up all the reports filed by District Attorneys and cops who were ‘sore losers’ in Prop 215 cases and seek the records of the victorious patients.”

The case deviated from the normal protocols related to medical board investigations, which are typically only conducted when patients or health-care providers issue a formal complaint. Documentation from state medical board records support this claim, as the record shows all complainants were members of law enforcement.

In an article from the fall 2015 issue of Nevada County Cannabis, patient advocate Bobby Eisenberg wrote, “The case against Dr. Tod was nothing short of a good old-fashioned witch-hunt. Not one patient filed a complaint against Tod, nor was there any evidence that a single patient had been harmed. The District Attorneys and Sheriffs were frustrated being unable to successfully prosecute legitimate cannabis patients for possession and cultivation due to Tod’s recommendations and testimonies.”

During the trial proceedings,

Mikuriya once again found solace amidst the Quaker community from the Quaker Fellowship he belonged to in Berkeley. Several of his Quaker friends attended the trial as a show of solidarity.

Beverly Mikuriya wrote, “These white men, well-connected, dressed in business suits, sat facing the judge and stood out from the rest of the attendees at the trial because they all wore a 4-inch-wide round lapel button that said, ‘Witness.’ They came in each session and did not talk among themselves nor to anyone at the trial, but their presence was very noticeable. Tod was comforted by their support — once again, the Quakers played an important role during Tod’s life.”

In January 2004, the Medical Board of California ruled that Mikuriya had committed gross negligence and nearly revoked his license. An excerpt from the ruling alleges that Mikuriya “committed acts of gross negligence, repeated negligence, recommended and approved the use of a controlled substance without conducting a prior good faith examination and failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of 16 patients.”

Mikuriya’s penalty was reduced to a hefty fine and probation period of five years, but it left a lasting impact on his outlook for the remainder of his life.

Mary Jane Mikuriya wrote, “What Tod went through with medical cannabis was just like living again during the war years . . . waiting for the next personal attack, and he never knew where it might be coming from.”

Mikuriya shared similar sentiments in one of his final interviews with *O’Shaughnessy’s* journal that was published posthumously: “The cannabis prohibition has the same dynamics as the bigotry and racism my family and I experienced starting on Dec. 7, 1941, when we were transformed from normal-but-different people into war-criminal surrogates.”

After being diagnosed with cancer in March 2006, Mikuriya continued

to see patients and had an active role in organizing a medical marijuana symposium in March 2007 before succumbing to his illness in May 2007.

Mary Jane Mikuriya recalled her brother’s funeral service, where more than 300 attended.

“In the Quaker tradition, each participant stood up to tell some remembrance of the deceased. The remembrance event took over three hours, and people just did not leave the memorial. At the reception, people told one another how Tod spoke up against the law on their behalf,” she remembered.

Mikuriya was buried in the Quaker cemetery across from his childhood home in Fallsington, Penn.

Although he did not live to see his vision fully realized, so many of the medical marijuana movement’s victories in the past decade can be directly attributed to the work that Mikuriya began.

Medical marijuana has been legalized in 33 states, including the District of Columbia. All but six of the Democratic presidential primary candidates were in favor of outright legalizing marijuana. Presidential candidate Joe Biden wants to let the states decide and is in favor of scrapping past federal marijuana convictions.

Longtime JACL sponsor AARP issued a statement from its Board of Directors in September 2019, with the organization “supporting the use of medical marijuana in the states that have legalized it and supporting further research on medical use of cannabinoids to help alleviate the symptoms of diseases and the side effects of the treatment for diseases.”

Perhaps it is time that the JACL consider an official policy position on the subject as well. Civil rights group ACLU has actively opposed marijuana prohibition since 1968, objecting to the government’s criminalization on the grounds that it violates “the rights of individuals to make choices concerning their own bodies and private behavior.”

» See TOD on next page



Mikuriya at the beach



Dr. Tod Mikuriya


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Cool Consultations logo



Dr. Tod Mikuriya

STAND » continued from page 6

Higuchi's parents, William and Setsuko, were forced from their homes in San Jose and San Francisco and met as children in the seventh grade in the Heart Mountain school. They reunited as students at Berkeley and married in the 1950s.

Hall, who is a psychology professor at the University of Oregon, said Asian Americans face a constant stream of "microaggressions" from non-Asians, including questions about where they were really born or comments about how Asian American women are "exotic." He cited a study that found that 78% of Asian Americans face some kind of microaggression every two weeks.

The son of a Japanese American woman who was incarcerated at the camp in Poston, Ariz., and a Caucasian man who served in the Navy during World War II, Hall said he learned that people "can be an ally even if they are not part of a group."

His father, Charles Hall, grew up in Washington state, where he attended a Methodist church with a largely Japanese American congregation. When his father got leave during the war, he told his commanders he was visiting family members in

Pennsylvania. Instead, he went to the camp in Heart Mountain, Wyo., where his friends from home were incarcerated.

"He stayed in the camp," Hall said. "He did it because these people were his friends. He wasn't trying to be noble."

Second Class Petty Officer Charles Hall of Cold Bay, Alaska, is listed as a visitor in the Sept. 18, 1943, edition of the *Heart Mountain Sentinel*.

After the war, Charles Hall quit his local Elks Club when they refused to admit Japanese Americans and joined the Nisei Veterans Committee. "My dad became an honorary Nisei."

That kind of bearing witness for others is critical to her current work with Tsuru for Solidarity, Ina said. That group fights to raise awareness of the treatment of Latinx immigrants and also organizes "healing circles" to help people cope with multigenerational mental health trauma.

Tran agreed. "We need to ally with other people about how this is a repeat of history," she said. "We need to fight it with whatever we can. Every bystander needs to stand up." ■

TOD » continued

The ACLU further explains in its statement, "Marijuana prohibition and the policies surrounding it result in a series of other civil liberties violations, including threatened rights to free speech and protection from illegal searches and seizure." Between 2001-10, more than 7 million arrests were made for marijuana possession alone. Data gathered by the ACLU shows that the policing and enforcement of marijuana laws are also significantly biased along racial lines. Although more white Americans use marijuana on a regular basis, African-Americans are actually 3.73 times more likely to be arrested. Selective prosecution

of these cases has likewise resulted in a disproportionate number of African-Americans serving jail time on low-level possession charges.

Regardless of whether the JACL adopts a formal stance on this issue, it is clear that the Japanese American community has long held stake in this conversation, thanks to the tireless advocacy of Dr. Tod Mikuriya.

Special thanks to Mary Jane and Beverly Mikuriya for sharing their memories and photographs that helped shape this article and Fred Gardner for the wealth of information about Dr. Tod Mikuriya and the medical marijuana movement published in his O'Shaughnessy's journal.

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

2020 TOUR SCHEDULE

KENYA WILDLIFE SAFARI HOLIDAY TOUR (Carol Hida) Sep
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.

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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

DUE TO HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS IN THE U.S. BECAUSE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, PLEASE CHECK REGARDING THE STATUS OF EVENTS LISTED IN THIS ISSUE'S CALENDAR SECTION.

NATIONAL

JACL National Convention

Continue to follow JACL on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, JACL.org and PacificCitizen.org for updated information regarding this year's National Convention. There will be a virtual National Board meeting on Aug. 15.

Info: Visit www.jacl.org.

Tadaima! A Community Virtual Pilgrimage National Event
June 13-Aug. 16
Price: Free

Hosted by the Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages website, this collaboration brings together representatives from many different parts of the Nikkei community who are committed to actively memorializing the history of Japanese American incarceration during WWII. Spread across nine themed weeks, "Tadaima!" will feature prerecorded and live-streamed content, as well as opportunities to engage as a community.

Info: For more information, visit <https://www.jampilgrimages.com>.

Presidential Town Hall National Event
June 27
Price: Free

This nonpartisan event will be the largest convergence of Asian American and Pacific Islander professionals and community leaders in this opportunity for the presidential candidates to participate and address issues relating to the AAPI community's needs for the future. In addition, a series of workshops will also be organized before and after the event to support community building — all done within an interactive environment.

Info: Visit <https://www.apiavote.org>.

NCWNP

Your Family, Your History With Genealogist Linda Harms Okazaki
Biweekly Webinars Thru Aug. 5 via Zoom

Price: Sessions 2-8 Course Enrollment \$30 Members/\$50 General Public
(Course enrollment includes access to webinar video recordings)

Have you ever wanted to research your family history but didn't know how to begin? Genealogist Linda Harms Okazaki will guide you through the research and help you to write your story. Each session

includes a homework assignment and culminates with sharing your final written report.

Info: For course information and to register, visit <http://bit.ly/yourfamilyyourhistory>.

PSW

Queer Nikkei Stories: Intergenerational Conversations
June 18

Los Angeles, CA
Online via Zoom 6:30-8 p.m.
Price: Free; RSVP

Okaeri, JANM and Visual Communications invite you to listen and participate in conversations with several generations of LGBTQ+-identified Japanese Americans as they talk about their experiences at the intersections of these identities. Join George Takei, USC student/JACL member Justin Kawaguchi and June Lagmay, founder of Asian/Pacific Lesbians and Gays, who will be in dialogue with Aya Tasaki, a bicultural advocate. The audience will also be encouraged to take part in a Q & A portion, and the event will also include short films about Takei and Lagmay and their impact within the LGBTQ+ community and beyond.

Info: RSVP at janm.org/events.

JANM Online Museum Collection
Los Angeles, CA
Japanese American National Museum Online

JANM's Museum Collections Online features selected highlights from the museum's permanent collection of more than 60,000 unique artifacts, documents and photographs. Among the collections that can be viewed online are the "Stanley Hayami Diary," "Hisako Hibi Collection," "George Hoshida Collection" and "Hideo Date Collection," "Estelle Ishigo Collection," among others. Although the museum is temporarily closed, viewers can still experience its inside treasures.

Info: www.janm.org.

Keiro No Hi Festival
Los Angeles, CA
Virtual Event September

Price: Free
 Keiro No Hi, or "Respect for the Aged Day," is a Japanese holiday that honors and celebrates older adults. This third-annual event will take place in September, with registration opening in June. The "Quality of Life" Fine Arts Showcase will feature artwork created by community members. Last year featured artwork and projects submitted by more than 1,100 individuals. Everyone in the community age 60 and above

is invited to participate.

Info: Visit the Keiro website for registration information coming soon and more event details.

PNW

Wing Luke Museum Online Digital Content
Seattle, WA
Wing Luke Museum

Although the museum's doors are temporarily closed, there is still a plethora of curated stories, digital content and neighborhood resources available to access and view. Viewers can check out Education, YouthCAN, Collections and Community Art all online!

Info: www.digitalwingluke.org.

EDC

Japan Society of Boston Free Online Resources
Boston, MA
Virtual classes and information
Price: Free

The Japan Society of Boston is offering free online resources featuring Japanese language learning tools, Japanese cooking, origami, arts and lectures and much more, all in a virtual online capacity.

Info: Visit <https://japansocietyboston.wildapricot.org>.

Kimono Couture: The Beauty of Chiso
Worcester, MA

Thru July 26
Worcester Art Museum
55 Salisbury St.

This is the first exhibition outside of Japan of historic and contemporary kimonos from the collection of Chiso, the distinguished Kyoto-based kimono house founded in 1555. The exhibit will include 13 kimonos from the mid-1600s-2000s. A special video will also document the contemporary creation of a kimono, from start to finish.

Info: Visit <https://www.worcesterart.org/exhibitions/kimono-couture/>. ■

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In MEMORIAM



Hashii, Francis Regis, 69, Lanai City, HI, Nov. 5, 2019; he is survived by his partner, Kathleen Rose Fowler; siblings, Aileen Kimi Krause (Steven), Patrick Anne Hashii (James Bradley Barnett), Michael Timothy Hashii (Mayumi); a niece and a nephew.

Higa, Terri, 64, Foster City, CA, May 5; she is survived by her siblings, Lori, Max and Randy; aunt, Helen; and a godson. A celebration of life is pending.

Kawata, Sam Tetsuo, 99, Culver City, CA, Nov. 24, 2019; he is survived by his children, Christine (Dennis) Yamamoto and Rick Kawata; siblings-in-law, Amy Nakano, Helen Izuki and Hoover Ushiyama; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1; ggc: 2.

Kawauchi, Yoshihiro Burt, 92, Huntington Beach, CA, Feb. 11; he is survived by his wife, Tamiko; children, Mark (Becky) Kawauchi and Coleen Kawauchi; brother, Kazuo (Haruko) Kawauchi; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

Matsumura, Carolyn, 75, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 18, 2019; she is survived by her husband, Robert Masakatsu Matsumura; children, Loren Kimi (Gary) Siapno and Michael Tadao (Jill) Matsumura; sisters, Grace Keiko (Joe) Seto and Eleanor Kumiko (Otto) Nakano; sister-in-law, Martha Nakano; she is also survived by other relatives.

Matsumura, Masaru, 87, Hilo, HI, Jan. 6; he is survived by his daughter, Dale (Robert) Wall; sister, Shizuko

Shimazu; sister-in-law, Marie Matsumura; and a niece.

Nakaki, David Kiyoshi, 62, Tustin, CA, Dec. 9, 2019; he was predeceased by his brother, James Nakaki; he is survived by his children, Karen (Kevin) Little, Mitchell Nakaki and Claire Nakaki; mother, Atsu Nakaki; sisters, Linda (Steve) Ritter and Susan (Matt) Lorenzini; sister-in-law, Kathryn Nakaki; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.



Nishimura, Frances, 102, Portland, OR, Dec. 4, 2019; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA, where he met her future husband, Shizuo "Nish" Nishimura; they were later moved to the Amache WRA Center in CO; she was predeceased by her husband, Shizuo; son, Wesley; she is survived by her children, Gene (Susan), Elaine (Gary) and Karen (Ed); sister, Toshiko; gc: 2; ggc: 2.

Oshita, Hanako, 97, Redondo Beach, CA, Dec. 3, 2019; she was predeceased by her husband, Mitsuo, and children, Irene and Robert; she is survived by her sister-in-law, Clara Ike; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2; ggc: 1.

Ota, Ruth Tomiko, 88, Burbank, CA, Nov. 8, 2019; she is survived by her husband, Tadashi; children, Sandi (Norman) Mochinaga and Ron Ota; gc: 3; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3; ggc: 4.



Paloma, Erma Iwami, 77, Corona, CA, Feb. 7; a retired school teacher in the Corona/Norco Unified School District, she is survived by her husband, Steve; daughter, Michelle (Shiro) Hamada; gc: 1; celebration of life to take place at a future date in Honolulu, HI.

Shigetomi, Fumi, 98, Pasadena, CA, May 4; donations in her memory may be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Altadena, the Pasadena Humane Society or Pasadena Nikkei Seniors.



Cedric Shimo, flanked by the co-directors of "The Registry," Steve Ozone and Bill Kubota
PHOTO: GEORGE T. JOHNSTON

Shimo, Cedric Masaki, 100, Los Angeles, CA, April 1; a graduate of Roosevelt High School in the Los Angeles neighborhood of Boyle Heights, Shimo had graduated from UCLA and was attending grad school at UC Berkeley when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor; he was drafted into the Army on Jan. 8, 1941. Shimo appears in a longer version of the MIS documentary "The Registry" and tells of attending the MIS Language School in Camp Savage, Minn., where he was placed into the three-month speed-up class for advanced students. Before he could graduate,

however, he was expelled. "I'm the only one that's ever been kicked out of MIS school. I had a good reason, though," he said. That reason: His request to visit the Manzanar WRA Center while on furlough to see his mother before he was shipped overseas to serve was denied because the West Coast was an exclusion zone for people of Japanese ancestry, despite his being in the Army. "I think I must have raised too much of a fuss because they expelled me," he said in the movie, adding later, "I'm not ashamed of what I did." He was demoted and transferred to the 525th Quartermaster Corps, a "labor battalion," which later became the 1800th Engineer General Service Battalion. Shimo would later receive an honorable discharge. In 2008, he was also awarded an Order of the Rising Sun kunshō from Japan. In 2009, he was awarded an honorary degree from UCB because his education had been interrupted by the war. (P.C., Nov. 20-Dec. 17, 2009). After WWII, Shimo had a career with the American Honda Motor Co., where he served as a vp. As a retiree, he served as a docent at the Japanese American National Museum. He was predeceased by wives Mitsuko Uyeno and Mildred Sasaki; he is survived by his son, Roderick; 2 nieces, a nephew, a grandnephew and many other relatives and friends.

Tahara, Masayoshi, 90, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, Dec. 24, 2019; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Granada WRA Center (Camp Amache) in CO; he was predeceased by his wife, Sumiko; he is survived by his children, Stanley Tahara, Donald Tahara (Jocelyn), Patty Tahara Rassouli (Abbas) and Korie Tahara Jacobs (Craig); gc: 2.

Takeuchi, Ted Tetsuo, 92, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 14; he is survived by his wife, Sumiye; son, Gary; gc: 3.

Uemura, Yoshiko, 87, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 14, 2019; she was predeceased by her husband, Kakichi; she is survived by her children, Kazuhide, Kazuaki and Joann; many gc and ggc.

Umemoto, Tom, 95, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 24, 2019; he is survived by his brother, Herb; a niece, 2 nephews, 2 grandnieces and 1 great-grandniece.

Wakinaka, Asa, 94, Torrance, CA, Feb. 21; he was predeceased by his children, David Wakinaka and Lester (Lori Furuya) Wakinaka; he is survived by his wife, Bernice; sisters, Katsuko Matsumoto, Yanchie Mae (Nob) Kawamoto and Kikue June Kawamoto; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and by other relatives.

Walleit, Kellye Nakahara, 72, Pasadena, CA, Feb. 16; she is survived by her husband, David; two children; gc: 4.

Yamamoto, Jewel, 97, Colleyville, TX, Nov. 15, 2019; she was predeceased by her husband, Roy; she is survived by her children, Karen (Lyndon) Wells, Allan, Yue Yamamoto and Brad Yamamoto; gc: 3; ggc: 3.



Yamane, Naomi, 87, Tumwater, WA, Jan. 20; she was predeceased by her husband, Tonney, and brothers Madoka, Nob and Ken; she is survived by her daughters, Debra and Kim.

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

AARP AND THE WOMEN'S ALZHEIMER'S MOVEMENT UNVEIL GROUNDBREAKING REPORT ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND ALZHEIMER'S, DEMENTIA AND BRAIN HEALTH

By Ron Mori

Seventy-five top Alzheimer's and dementia experts collaborated on a 10-year strategic plan for researchers, policymakers and caregivers.

A new report released by AARP and the Women's Alzheimer's Movement synthesizes years of data and findings to help explain why women are disproportionately affected by Alzheimer's disease.

Two-thirds of the 5.8 million Americans living with Alzheimer's disease today are women, and they also do the majority of caregiving for people with Alzheimer's and dementia.

"It's Time to Act: The Challenges of Alzheimer's and Dementia for Women" is a comprehensive examination of the state of research and offers a first-ever five-point strategic plan for all who seek meaningful change in the next decade.

At current rates, 13.8 million Americans will be living with dementia by the middle of the century, and most of them will be women — yet there is still no vaccine or cure.

Ten years ago, the Women's Alzheimer's Movement partnered with the Alzheimer's Assn. and, with additional support from AARP, first cast a spotlight on the extraordinary burden that women carry for Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia in "The Shriver Report: A Woman's Nation Takes on Alzheimer's."

Since that time, there are still not enough answers to address the enormous physical, social and financial challenges these brain diseases place on women.

"It's Time to Act" is the culmination of a yearlong effort by AARP and WAM supported by the AARP Foundation's A. Barry Rand Fund for Brain Health Research. The two organizations convened 75 dementia researchers, advocates and policy experts to examine the current state of research, identify gaps in knowledge and forge a path forward with a strategic plan addressing both science and policy. This group will collaborate to drive change for women and dementia over the next decade.

"At AARP, we recognize that we can't simply sit back and wait for a cure for Alzheimer's disease and dementia. We need to work to reduce risk, improve care and help people keep their brains healthy while they age," said AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins. "But no one organization or researcher can do it alone. We need to tap into everyone's strengths and also make a call for women to take ownership of their own brain health."

"Medical research has historically left women out of clinical trials, making the assumption that they are basically the same as men," said Maria Shriver, founder of the Women's Alzheimer's Movement. "That has led to a gap in knowledge about women's health in general and Alzheimer's in particular. We have got to close that gap. And, if the COVID-19 crisis has taught us nothing else, it is that we must be prepared for an epidemic that data predicts — and science accepts — as inevitable fact. We cannot allow Alzheimer's and dementia to continue to claim the lives of our mothers, aunts, grandmothers, sisters, nieces, daughters and friends in record numbers."

Founded by Shriver, the Women's Alzheimer's Movement is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to raising awareness about women's increased risk for Alzheimer's and to educating the public — women and men — about lifestyle changes they can make to protect their brain health. Through annual campaigns and initiatives, WAM raises funds to support women-based Alzheimer's research at leading scientific institutions around the country.

The report's recommended strategic plan details a global strategy to help all women and their families who are contending with Alzheimer's and dementia, regardless of income, ethnicity, education or cultural background. The five-step action plan strives to:

- **Eliminate the Stigma of Dementia.** Stigma stands in the way of diagnosis and quality care for this serious, public health problem.

- **Empower Women to Stay Brain Healthy.** Science has shown that we can all do a great deal to promote our own brain health.
- **Ensure That Research Is Inclusive.** Researchers must learn why dementia affects so many women and underserved communities, and they should report such data in their findings.
- **Support Family Caregivers.** All family caregivers should have access to training and local services that help them perform their duties. They should have paid leave and health care benefits.
- **Improve Medical Training for Dementia.** Health care providers must do a better job of addressing, spotting and treating cognitive decline in older women.

The full report and recommendations are available online at <https://www.aarp.org/health/brain-health/global-council-on-brain-health/womens-report>.

"Putting the spotlight back on better brain health will improve lives for everyone — but it will make the greatest difference for women because women bear a disproportionate burden, and underserved communities are especially affected," said Sarah Lenz Lock, senior vp at AARP and executive director of the Global Council on Brain Health.

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

STATEMENT FROM AARP CEO JO ANN JENKINS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The following statement was released by AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins:

"As we witness the protests over racial injustice and face the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, we believe our nation desperately needs healing. The incidents of racial violence and COVID-19's disproportionate impact on people of color are not random, but instead are the result of inequality due to a lack of social, economic and political opportunities. Discrimination of any kind corrodes our communities and our society from the inside out.

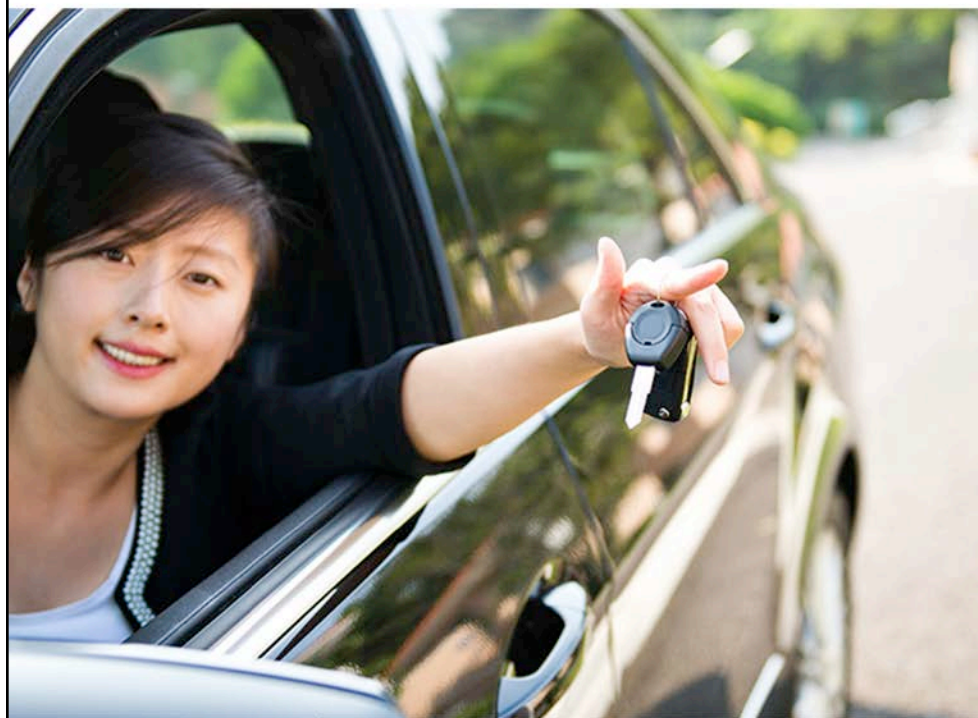
"AARP today continues to be guided

by the promise that our founder, Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, made over 60 years ago: 'What we do, we do for all.' Through our advocacy, programs and services, we fight against discrimination, advocate for access to health care and work to improve the lives of all people, especially those most vulnerable.

"As we consider this moment in time, it's clear this work is more important than ever. During these difficult days, AARP will use its voice, resources and trust in our brand to continue our fight for what is right so all people can live a life of dignity regardless of race, age or income." ■



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