

PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 91 YEARS

Lacy Lew
Nguyen
Wright
and actor/
founder of
BLD PWR
Kendrick
Sampson
at a protest
in Beverly
Hills on
June 6

PHOTO: TOMMY
OLIVER

» **PAGE 6**

GAMBATTE FOR BLACK LIVES MATTER!

» **INSIDE:**

- JACL Chapters Take Action and Support BLM Across the Country.
- Social Justice Issues Highlight a Weekend of Tsuru Rising.



By David Inoue,
JACL Executive Director

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

40 ACRES AND A MULE

A broken promise to the freed slaves after the Civil War: 40 Acres and a Mule. And it is often what is referred to in the discussion around slavery reparations. What would that be worth today? Who would receive the equivalent? But lest we get hung up on such details, there is a path toward reparations with which Japanese Americans are quite familiar.

Since 1989, the year after the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 granted redress and reparations to Japanese Americans, the late-Congressman John Conyers and now Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee have introduced HR 40 — Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act.

The wisdom of our Congressional leaders in pursuing redress was that we needed a third party to come to the conclusion that reparations were needed. The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians was comprehensive and

meticulous in how it gathered information both about the facts behind the decision to mass incarcerate Japanese Americans, but also the stories of those who were imprisoned and lost everything.

We are now long overdue in similarly addressing the story of slavery and the ongoing oppression of Black communities in this country. Slavery did not end in 1865, it just changed how it kept people in chains. In some cases, quite literally as the criminal justice system was used to oppress and incarcerate. Rather than improve over time, the mass incarceration of Black people has actually increased due to policies such as “broken windows,” “Three Strikes” and the treatment of crack vs. cocaine in sentencing.

The advent of cell phone cameras has helped to shed a light on the extremes of police brutality as evidenced in the slayings of George Floyd and Ahmaud Arbery. But there is much more to the systemic oppression and discrimination against Black communities. A commission can be that light to illuminate the full extent of the toll anti-Black racism

has taken in this country.

Last year, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) emphatically stated that he was opposed to reparations because we as a nation have paid the price through the blood of a Civil War, civil rights legislation and electing a Black president.

In making that statement, he conveniently left out the fact that his own ancestors owned slaves. McConnell is one of the wealthiest U.S. Senators, with an estimated worth of over \$30 million.

I want to be clear that he did not accrue his wealth from his family's slave-owning past, but how he did accrue it is informative. A majority of his family's current wealth was through his wife's inheritance from family.

Because of the policy of slavery and policies such as redlining communities and discriminatory lending practices, Blacks were initially shut out of the opportunity to accumulate capital, the foundation of our capitalist economic system. The fact that many black families have not had homes to leverage for capital to finance education, further property

acquisition or even have the stability of a permanent home has crippled so many that it is impossible to catch up.

I hope this very brief description lays out some of the rationale behind why Black reparations are vitally needed. This is just one brief article. What we need is a full study to examine the legacy of slavery, Jim Crow and the many policies and laws created explicitly, and sometimes subconsciously, to oppress Black communities.

The other powerful statement that the CWRIC made through its proceedings was that it took the time to listen to the Issei and Nisei and their stories of what they felt and the impact incarceration had on them and their families.

Now, it's time for us to listen to Black stories, of their experience with race and racism in this country. Only then will we understand what has happened and what we need to do to right yet another wrong.

Passage of HR 40 is the first step in this process.

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

HOW TO REACH US

Email: pc@pacificcitizen.org
Online: 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; Danielle Pierce, EDC; 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 or call (213) 620-1767

Advertise

To advertise in the *Pacific Citizen*, call (213) 620-1767 or e-mail: 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. © 2020

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

U.S. Supreme Court Announces Landmark LGBTQ Decision

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In a historic decision, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on June 15 that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people cannot be fired or discriminated against in the workplace under the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964. LGBTQ leaders across the country rejoiced in the court's decision but could not deny the decision's short-

comings and continuing injustices facing people of color.

Glenn D. Magpantay, executive director of the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance, said, “Today's decision is welcome reprieve from the onslaught of crisis over the past year — aggressive ICE enforcement and mass deportations of immigrants, police brutality and

the killing of African-Americans and Trump's elimination of health care protections under the Affordable Care Act. We celebrate, and yet we must continue to right against anti-gay discrimination and legal and cultural racism!”

The decision is a watershed moment for the LGBTQ community, which has been working for decades

to secure basic protections from discrimination. The court's decision will directly impact millions of people across the country and allow them to live their lives and take care of their families with respect and dignity.

» See DECISION on page 8



PACIFIC CITIZEN 2020 SPRING CAMPAIGN

DONATE \$150 OR MORE AND RECEIVE ONE ENTRY TO OUR MONTHLY DRAWINGS!
WINNERS CAN CHOOSE FROM: Mikami Vineyard Zinfandel 750ml | Hello Kitty JANM Tote Bag | 1 year Pacific Citizen Newspaper Subscription

Name : _____

Address 1: _____

Phone Number : _____ E-mail : _____

JACL MEMBER? ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$200 ☐ OTHER _____

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.'

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

INFORMATION: 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313 | Los Angeles, CA 90012 | TEL: (213) 620-1767 | WWW.PACIFICCITIZEN.ORG



"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

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 REVOLUTION HAS MANY LANES



By Marsha Aizumi

Through all the news on TV, social media and everything around me, I feel overwhelmed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement. I would imagine many of you feel overwhelmed as well. To be honest, I didn't know what to do with it all. Then, I opened the pages of a book I am reading, and I found these words by Glennon Doyle, "I will not let the fact that I cannot do everything keep me from doing what I can."

I realize that I am overwhelmed because I can't do it all. Later that day, I saw a post on Facebook by Medicare for All that said:

*Some are posting on social media
Some are protesting in the streets*

*Some are donating silently
Some are educating themselves
Some are having tough conversations
with friends & family*

*a revolution has many lanes . . .
be kind to yourself and to others
who are traveling the same direction.*

The guilt of not doing everything began to lift, and I understand that I am contributing to moving equality and compassion forward in my own way. I am uncomfortable to protest in the streets, due to my age and COVID-19. But I can post things on social media. I can donate and educate myself. I am committed to have those difficult conversations with family and friends, which have been more than I have had in the past.

This Black Lives Matter movement

is a moment in time that is uniting many marginalized communities, including the Asian, Latinx, LGBTQ+ and so many others. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

I wonder if marginalized communities were so united and empowered during World War II, would more have spoken up and protested for the Japanese American community? Would my mother's family not have lost everything? Would my mom and dad not been imprisoned in the Gila River camp?

I do not agree with the looting and destruction of property, but advocacy, whether through protests, social media, donations or in quiet ways like education and discussions

with family and friends, can bring change. When our voices are heard, this is such an important part of our democracy. It visibly tells our elected leaders that if they don't make changes, we will find leaders who will listen to our voices.

One of the most important things I can do to make my voice heard is to VOTE IN NOVEMBER to support leaders who are looking out for my family and I. Leaders that will listen to OUR voices. Leaders who lead with compassion and humanity for our country and our world. And leaders who have our trust because they lead with integrity. Please vote to make your voice heard. . . .

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."



LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE UPDATING BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

True story. Many years ago, we set up a trust for an elderly Japanese couple. As normal, my office "funded" the home into the trust to avoid probate. The couple was also given a Trust Certificate to transfer their bank accounts into the trust — so far, so good. The problem was the life insurance policy.

As with most married couples, the husband named his wife as the beneficiary of his life insurance policy. However, the unthinkable happened, as the wife died first. The husband, up in years by that time, never updated the "beneficiary" on his life insurance policy. So, upon his death, PROBATE occurred — even though they had a living trust.

Lesson learned: ALWAYS make sure you have a "contingent" or "alternate" beneficiary named on your life insurance policy. The same goes with any of your financial accounts with beneficiaries. They include IRAs, company-sponsored retirement plans, annuities, as well as "pay on death" (POD) and "transfer on death" (TOD) bank accounts.

Sometimes, these "beneficiary" accounts will make up much — if not most — of your estate. Occasionally, a client will come into my office and say, "All of my financial accounts have beneficiary designations, do I still need a trust?" I would respond, "Do you own your home?" They would answer, "Yes." "Then you need a trust," I would say.

When you designate a beneficiary,

those assets will pass to the named beneficiary upon your death, without the need for probate. It's very important to review and update the beneficiary designations on all of your accounts on a regular basis and whenever you have a major change in your personal circumstances such as a divorce, marriage, adoption, the death of a spouse or birth of a child.

If you were married when you opened these accounts, you probably named your spouse as your beneficiary. If you were unmarried at the time, you might have named a parent or sibling. Since then, years may have passed without further thought about whether your initial beneficiary designations are still appropriate.

Unless you change the beneficiaries named on your accounts, your assets could pass in a manner that is inconsistent with your wishes (such as to an ex-spouse) and/or be subject to a potentially lengthy probate proceeding. Designating a current beneficiary typically avoids the need for the assets to pass through the probate process.

When reviewing the primary beneficiary(ies) of your accounts, make sure you have also named a contingent beneficiary(ies). Contingent beneficiaries are the individuals (or charities) who will receive your assets if your primary beneficiary(ies) predeceased you. For example, if your spouse is your primary beneficiary, you can name your child(ren) as your contingent beneficiaries.

"But Judd, my children are still minors, what can I do?" My sug-

gestion is to name your trust as the secondary or contingent beneficiary in order to eliminate probate if the primary beneficiary does not survive you. This eliminates the need to change beneficiary designations at a later time if the named primary beneficiary dies. The trust never dies, so a beneficiary change is never needed.

If minors are named as beneficiaries, a major advantage of a trust is that the trust can distribute a gift with terms and conditions, e.g., over time or upon graduation from a four-year college or university. Without a trust, they would "take" at the age of majority, i.e., 18 in California. You might say, "If you give an 18-year-old a million dollars, they might not have it at 21." I agree.

A professionally written trust should contain Sprinkling Provisions for minors. The trustee has broad, discretionary powers to "sprinkle" the money out to pay for the minor's college education, or health and general welfare. However, the minor does not take control until a later time that you designate, e.g., 21 years. At that time, the beneficiary is given control of your gift outright.

Another reason to name the trust as a beneficiary is that some families want to distribute their estates based on percentages. For example, 10 percent to 10 friends, family members and charities. The Beneficiary Form the bank gave you doesn't have enough room to list all 10. No problem — just name the trust the beneficiary.

Finally, some people have added a child's name on to their bank account

"just in case." The parent still considers the account to be his or hers. Furthermore, the parent intends it to be distributed upon death "equally" between all the children. However, upon the parent's death, the child on the account immediately becomes the legal and rightful owner of the account.

More often than not, however, the child who has access to the funds doesn't share it with his or her siblings, i.e., "Mom gave me this account." This can cause major sibling arguing and resentment. Don't do it. Instead, name the trust as the beneficiary. That way all the children will be guaranteed to share equally without having to fight.

In conclusion, understanding the

importance of beneficiary designation on bank accounts is a critical part of estate planning. To ensure that your beneficiary designations meet your specific needs and address any requirements of your state law, you should obtain guidance from an estate planning attorney when deciding upon the appropriate designations.

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@elderlawcalifornia.com. The opinions expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Pacific Citizen or constitute legal or tax advice and should not be treated as such.

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

- **Total Cases:** 2,374,282*
- **Total Deaths:** 121,809 (as of June 25)
- **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

TSURU RISING AT TANFORAN

Japanese Americans come out against racism and state violence.

By Josh Kaizuka,
Florin JACL

On a cool and breezy Sunday morning, survivors of the World War II American concentration camps walked onto a desolate and empty mall on June 7, traversing the unusually quiet landscape of the boarded up Tanforan Mall, which was shut down due to fears of protesters.

This small group was on its way to the Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Plaque, knowing full well that they could be hassled by mall security and police. Yet, they marched on undeterred with a mission.

The group of survivors included Kiyoshi Ina, whose mother was two months pregnant with him when she and her husband were forced into the stalls at Tanforan; Dr. Satsuki Ina, who was born a prisoner at Tule Lake; Hiroshi Shimizu, who, like Kiyoshi, was born a prisoner at Topaz; Akemi Ina, a survivor of Topaz; and Chizu and Emiko Omori, survivors of Poston.

They made their way lead by Rev. Ronald Kobata of the Buddhist Church of San Francisco, who conducted a ceremony to honor those who were imprisoned at the site, as well as those who died there. During the ceremony, Rev. Kobata also explained that the burning of incense was a symbol of “clearing away of the obstructions that we create in our heads that separates us,” a perfect start to the upcoming rally at nearby Orange Memorial Park, where people were gathering in a show of unity and defiance to

PHOTOS: JOSH KAIZUKA AND JOHN OTA



Kim Miyoshi with Japanese Americans for Justice delivered a powerful speech.

the status quo, the continued inaction and silence by far too many, for far too long.

Like the pent up anger and defiance to institutional and systemic racism that led to the nationwide reaction to the recent murders of George Floyd, Brionna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery, the inhumane treatment of immigrant families especially during a pandemic and renewed racist attacks on Asian Americans, the quiet Sunday morning in San Bruno exploded into the beat of drums by Baku-hatsu Taiko Dan from the University of California, Davis, at the Tsuru Rising rally that drew a crowd of more than 100 attendees.

Protesters could be seen wearing masks with messages of unity and support for Black Lives Matter. Many carried signs of support for immigrants and Black lives.

Members of the organizing groups carried giant cranes and banners with two clear messages — Japanese Americans support Black Lives and a demand that the current U.S. concentration camps be shut down.

Kim Miyoshi with Japanese Americans for Justice, one of the event’s main organizers, delivered a powerful and emotional message tying the history of past racism toward the Japanese American community and how many fell into a myth.



The group of survivors gathered at the Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Plaque, where Rev. Ronald Kobata conducted a ceremony to honor those who were imprisoned at the site.



Members of Baku-hatsu Taiko Dan from the University of California, Davis, performed at the Tsuru Rising event.

“So we took shelter in and allied ourselves to ‘Whiteness’ thinking that would keep us safe,” she said. “We were fed a model minority myth to believe basic human rights and dignity — must be earned . . . it was a lie . . . our act of gathering here today is an act of defiance . . . it is an homage to the Issei, Nisei and Sansei whose suffering and sacrifice paved the way . . . it is an EFF YOU to the racism that didn’t want us to see this day . . . but we are here.”

Miyoshi concluded her riveting speech by saying, “Our hearts beat today as one drumbeat. We dance as one community for all the stolen lives. We lift our tsuru wings with the names of all those who passed. And TOGETHER we RISE.”

Agreeing with Miyoshi’s message, Satsuki Ina, who also is a co-founder of Tsuru for Solidarity, observed: “We have so many missions forcing us to create coalitions with so many groups. If we are not united, we will not win the battle — together we rise.”

A surprising moment came as Kiyoshi Ina talked about how he was at Tanforan in 1942 “in my mother’s womb, she was two months pregnant with me.” Kiyoshi Ina became emotional as he talked about how his father and mother were forced

into the horse stalls and while other expecting mothers miscarried, his mother remained strong, and the government was not going to take her child away.

He also talked about how African-Americans were originally brought into this country as slaves. Other people of color were welcome when there was a need for manual labor. Kiyoshi Ina continued that “throughout history, people of color suffered from the white man. . . . Wake up America, we can’t exist like this,” and in what can only be described as a Superman moment, he started taking his Tsuru for Solidarity shirt off as attendees appeared stunned at what was happening.

It turns out that Kiyoshi Ina had a Black Lives Matter supershirt on underneath with support for groups including trans, queer, immigrants, disabled and incarcerated people.

Other speakers echoed the call to join with Black Lives Matter and help end ICE Detention facilities. And Chizu Omori said that the current administration “unleashed a wave of hatred on us by calling COVID-19 the ‘Chinese virus.’”

Omori went on to say that the president has “tacitly approved brutality and aggressiveness by police resulting in the death of George Floyd. . . . We join with Black Lives Matter to call for justice in our land.”

Currently, the Bay Area and Sacramento Tsuru for Solidarity regions are also focusing on shutting down the ICE Detention Facility in Yuba County. During the gathering, a letter by Juan Jose Erazo Herrera was read by Robin Goka Huynh with San Jose Nikkei Resisters.

Herrera is an unaccompanied minor who came to the U.S. as a survivor of violence in El Salvador. He has a compromised immune system due to

Event attendees carried various signs in support of BLM and victims of racial injustice.



the violence perpetrated on him and has been in detention for more than two years. He is on a hunger strike in Yuba County as he continues to fight for better conditions for not only himself but other ICE detainees in Yuba County and in solidarity with those in other detention facilities, including Mesa Verde.

Then, everyone gathered around at a safe distance while Gregory Wada with Baku-hatsu Taiko Dan explained the “ei ja nai ka” song and dance. As Wada explained, it expresses Japanese American ethnic identity honoring and celebrating the immigrants with motions relating to farm and railroad laborers.

Miya Sommers with Nikkei Resisters led some chants to close out the park portion of the action. Sommers asked people to take a knee as a form of “protest and a way of connecting everyone to the land, connecting to each other, connecting to this moment . . . to remember all the lives lost to state violence, white supremacy and a commitment to change.”

As people knelt, Sommers talked about how it was a commitment to change. “Together we are in this fight for the long haul,” she said.

The Tanforan event ended with a car rally looping around the Tanforan Mall, drivers honking their horns and using their cars — decorated with signs and posters — as a call to action. No one was stopped or cited by the police.

The Tsuru Rising! Vigil at Tanforan was organized by Japanese Americans for Justice, San Jose Nikkei Resisters, Nikkei Resisters, Florin JACL-SV, Baku-hatsu Taiko Dan and the Bay Area and Sacramento Tsuru for Solidarity hubs, and supported by the Berkeley JACL and Buddhist Church of San Francisco.



Kiyoshi Ina took off his Tsuru for Solidarity T-shirt to unveil his BLM supershirt.

Dr. Satsuki Ina told the crowd that “if we are not united, we will not win the battle — together we rise.”



A fitting statement: To Protest Is Asian American

TSURU FOR SOLIDARITY RALLIES ACTIVISTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Support for the Black community and an emphasis on social justice issues highlight the weekend of events for Tsuru Rising.

By Ray Locker

As much of the nation protested the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, a coalition of activists led by the group Tsuru for Solidarity led a combination of virtual and in-person activities as part of “Tsuru Rising” on June 6 and 7 to support the African-American community and highlight social justice issues.

Starting on the morning of June 6, the group conducted a panel discussion led by Dr. Satsuki Ina, a Tsuru founder, that included representatives of Black Lives Matter and multiple social justice groups.

“Racism and state violence have been with us since the start of the country,” said Mike Ishii, a Tsuru co-chair.

The legacy of the Japanese American incarceration resonated with many of the participants, as they said it was one of many manifestations of racism perpetrated against people of color throughout our nation’s history.

“You know what it’s like to be the target of an illegal act,” said Sen. Mazie Hirono, the Hawaii Democrat who was the event’s keynote speaker.

“It’s not easy to end racism,” Hirono said. “We need to come together and vote. We have a choice to make.”

African-Americans have lived under structural racism for centuries, said Silky Shah, executive director of the Detention Watch Network, which monitors the detention of immigrants throughout the country. “These systems were created based on racism, specifically anti-Black racism.”

Bruce Embrey, co-chair of the Manzanar Committee, said Asian



Tsuru for Solidarity volunteers helped audience members hang paper cranes on the White House perimeter fence.

PHOTO: BYSTANDER

Americans have been the target of racist attacks since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and need to “become an ally” of the African-American community following the Floyd’s killing and subsequent Black Lives Matter protests.

Cranes Everywhere

On June 7, Tsuru activists joined with members of the African-American community and others at a series of events to hang cranes and speak out against other examples of structural racism, such as the systematic imprisonment of Black men for minor infractions.

In many cases, the spread of COVID-19 has become a death sentence for jail and prison inmates.

Cori Nakamura Lin stood outside the Cook County Jail in Chicago to protest the continued incarceration of people awaiting trial when they faced the spread of the disease that has already killed more than 120,000 Americans this year.

“One in six of the COVID-19 cases in Chicago are because of the jail,” Lin said. “This is as close as we have been to transformational change.”

Tsuru for Solidarity activists have protested at multiple Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention centers this year because they

have become incubation centers for COVID-19. The Chicago activists were joined June 7 by Cassandra Greer-Lee, whose husband, Nickolas Lee, died in the Cook County Jail from COVID-19 in April.

Greer-Lee said she repeatedly called Chicago and Cook County officials seeking help for her husband but got no answer. He eventually contracted the coronavirus and died from it while still in jail, where he was awaiting trial.

In Washington, members of the city’s Japanese American Citizens League chapter, as well as David Inoue, the organization’s national executive director, marched downtown to the newly named Black Lives Matter Plaza, which is just north of Lafayette Park and the White House.

“Where is the law and order,” Inoue said, “when we see Black men killed by those sworn to protect the law and to protect and serve us?”

A Time to Heal

The event concluded on June 7 with a series of healing circles featuring Japanese Americans and others. The circles are the creation of Tsuru Co-Chair Ina.

The details of the circles are private because many of the participants discussed deeply personal details about their struggles with the legacy of the Japanese American incarceration and other traumatic events.

“The Healing Circles for Change really demonstrate the Tsuru for Solidarity mission of healing through action,” said Julie Abo, a Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation staff member whose parents were incarcerated in the camps at Tule Lake and Minidoka. “After a weekend of participating and observing political actions and performances, this structured format for sharing our deepest thoughts and emotions while listening with empathy made us feel connected to this diverse community that is committed to social justice.” ■

PHOTO: MICHELLE CHEN



(From left) Tsuru for Solidarity members Emily Akpan, Lauren Sumida, Becca Asaki and Linda Morris outside Elmhurst Hospital in N.Y.

Solidarity in New York

Tsuru for Solidarity members speak out against injustice.

New York Tsuru for Solidarity members Emily Akpan, Becca Asaki, Linda Morris and Lauren Sumida gathered outside of Elmhurst Hospital on June 7 to remember and honor community members lost to the pandemic, state violence and white supremacy.

Elmhurst Hospital, the New York epicenter of the COVID-19 epidemic, is within an immigrant neighborhood heavily targeted by ICE even during the pandemic. Drawing upon their own family histories, Tsuru for Solidarity members spoke out against the injustices of ICE, policing and incarceration, as well as called for defunding police at a time where financial support to address our ongoing health crises and underresourced community services is so important.

Families for Freedom provided a written statement, which Tsuru for Solidarity read, supporting Black Lives Matter and condemning the ongoing police brutality, ICE raids, deportations and incarceration of minority communities.

Through a candle-lighting ceremony and hanging strings of tsuru on the fence across from Elmhurst Hospital, NY members honored all those whose lives have been lost to police brutality, the pandemic and white supremacy.

In addition, Akpan sang “Blue Hands” by duendita, a song in honor of Sandra Bland, with Lauren Sumida accompanying on cello.

NY Tsuru members concluded with a call to divest from the systems that do not value Black lives — to divest from policing and reallocate those funds into Black communities, housing, education, social services and health care, so that hospitals will never again have to shoulder a crisis like COVID-19 without the necessary funds needed to provide care. ■



Dr. Anthea Hartig, director of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, receives a string of cranes folded by Japanese American descendants of former Heart Mountain internees from JACL Executive Director David Inoue.

PHOTO: JULIE ABO

PHOTO: LINDA MORRIS



Tsuru were hung outside the hospital’s fencing to support the fight against COVID-19, racial injustices and brutality happening in the community and across the nation.

PHOTOS: ATHENA MARI ASKLIPIADIS



Protesters supporting BLM at the Fairfax District Protest on May 30



(From left) Sophie Kanno, Naomi Hayase and Athena Mari Asklipiadis participated in Loving Day outside Los Angeles' City Hall on June 12.

Sophie Kanno dons a kokeshi doll mask and a "No More Shikata Ga Nai" T-shirt at the Koreatown Protest on June 6.



GANBATTE FOR BLACK LIVES MATTER!

Collaboration is key, and action is needed now, as protests continue in Los Angeles and across the U.S. to end systemic racism once and for all.



More signs to relay powerful messages.

By Athena Mari Asklipiadis

Over the last few weeks, dozens of protests have been organized throughout Southern California following the murder of George Floyd at the hands of police in Minneapolis on May 25. Attending a few Los Angeles protests, I decided to speak to some Asian American activists to discuss their experiences on the frontlines, as well as gain an understanding as to why it is important for our community join the Black Lives Matter movement.

On May 30, a Black Lives Matter march was organized to start in the Fairfax District of Los Angeles at Pan Pacific Park. After a few hours, the protest became violent when police arrived, but most media outlets that day failed to deliver accurate coverage of the events, sensationalizing the story and demonizing protesters. For nearly two hours, the march went on without incident before the arrival of the Los Angeles Police Department. Prior to the police interference, the multiracial crowd filled the park and streets, cheers erupting when cars passing by honked in support.

Residents and business owners crowded the sidewalks, watched from balconies and rooftops and

cheered as the march passed. Some locals brought their own signs to join in from the sidelines, with some even bringing their children to watch the historic moment flow through the streets.

An overcome Black USPS worker wiped her tears as the crowd parted around her stopped postal truck. Protesters thanked her for her service as they noticed her crying happy tears and chanting along.

Drivers in stopped cars not able to move through the sea of the crowd honked not out of frustration, but in solidarity. Drivers even rolled their windows down to raise a fist, with some even getting out of their cars to stand on their hoods or out of their sunroofs to cheer on the protesters.

These images of support and solidarity were not seen in the news broadcasts that day, but rather overshadowed by the violence that ensued later in the evening.

Quickly, the peaceful march in beautiful, sunny and breezy Southern California turned aggressive and more reminiscent of a warzone than a community gathering for racial justice.

Baton-yielding police officers, agitators vandalizing police cars and buildings, tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets, flash bang explosions and crowds running and screaming

in the streets soon became the scene at the end of the march.

It is worth mentioning that there was curiosity and shock among protesters that so many vandals videoed were white and seemingly choreographed. Rumors that Antifa, the KKK or undercover police are to blame is yet to be determined by investigators in Los Angeles.

On the ground that day was Lacy Lew Nguyen Wright, associate director of BLD PWR. BLD PWR is actor/activist Kendrick Sampson's nonprofit initiative. You may recognize Sampson's name or face as a major organizer and voice of the Black Lives Matter protests in Los Angeles.

Wright shared with me about the moment when the peaceful protest quickly went sour for her and her team at Third and Fairfax when the LAPD arrived to disperse the crowd. Wright explained that while she and the other protesters did not leave, they never initiated any violence.

"We never pushed back," Wright recalled. "When we wouldn't move, cops began swinging their batons at us and shooting rubber bullets. I was there with my boss, Kendrick Sampson, and his assistant, Mario. Mario was hit so hard on the leg that we could see his bone. A street medic

'All of us — Blacks, Asians, Latinx, and Indigenous peoples — have been othered for too long by whiteness and systemic racism. Enough is enough.'

— Activist Sophie Kanno

came to help provide first aid, but we had to flee as the chaos broke out and get him to Urgent Care."

Stories mirroring Wright's went viral on social media that evening and in the following days.

The most disturbing accounts from the L.A. protest are those from protesters who were hit in the face by rubber bullets and those who were arrested and left in a van handcuffed for hours without access to a restroom or water.

But despite what many would con-

sider traumatizing experiences, it only fueled protesters to continue on in the days ahead. The irony that a peaceful protest against police brutality would end in police brutality further proved the activists' point.

One such activist is Sophie Kanno, who uses social media as her weapon in the fight to educate and activate others on this issue.

Kanno, aka @asian_soph and moderator of page @

mixedpresent on Instagram, shares her thoughts daily on racial equality and the importance of solidarity during these times.

Kanno reminds Japanese Americans that traditional sayings such as "The nail that sticks out gets hammered down" or "It can't be helped" (*shikata ganai*) have been ingrained in us for generations. Those types of phrases that echo in our minds do not motivate our community to strive for change — they only silence us.



In gridlocked traffic, drivers often stood on the roofs of their cars to voice their solidarity.

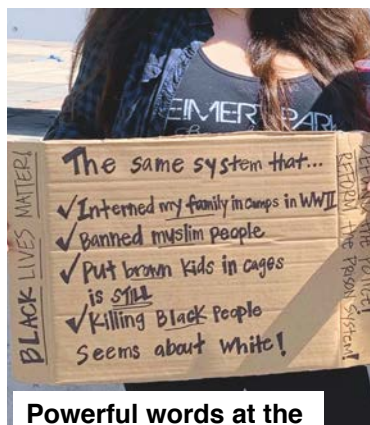


Signs of BLM support were everywhere during the Fairfax protest.



(From left) Actor Michael B. Jordan, Lacy Lew Nguyen Wright, actor and founder of BLD PWR Kendrick Sampson and actor Nev Schulman at a protest in Beverly Hills on June 6

PHOTO: TOMMY OLIVER



Powerful words at the Koreatown Protest

The inaction of Asian American officer Tou Thao during Floyd's murder proved to be an example of the common protest motto, "Silence is violence." It's something many

Asian Americans complain is an issue in our community.

Kanno says it's important Asian Americans have "uncomfortable conversations around race in America," and that we should "challenge the Asian American norm of staying silent and not speaking out."

Kanno also reminds us that during World War II, many groups stood by silently as Japanese Americans were shipped off to American concentration camps... and "even other Asian American groups were quick to distance themselves from JAs. This came as a result of fear. We were at war with Italy and Germany, too, but whiteness does not other whiteness."

Kanno went on to say that Japanese American incarceration "was a reminder that no matter what, the Japanese were seen as foreign enemies at home, they would never be true Americans... this mind-set has not gone away, it has simply evolved."

She added that COVID-19 resurfaced a lot of anti-Asian sentiments

and proved how quickly our community could be targeted again.

"If we want other groups to stand with us when we need them to, we must stand with them when they need us," said Kanno. "When Blacks marched and opened the door to a deeper conversation on systemic racism, they ultimately did that for all people of color. All of us — Blacks, Asians, Latinx and Indigenous peoples — have been othered for too long by whiteness and systemic racism. Enough is enough."

Speaking to Asian Americans, Wright added, "Yes, we have our own issues. But there is no tool of oppression used on the Asian American community that wasn't experimented on and used on Black, Brown and Indigenous communities first. They did not come up with internment camps for Japanese Americans. America already had practiced uprooting and relocating communities when they stole land from Indigenous communities."

These histories repeating themselves to various groups in different forms over centuries bonds us against the common enemy that is white supremacy and systemic racism.

A Koreatown gathering on June 6 titled "Yellow and Brown Folks United for Black Lives" was held at Liberty Park. Various speakers spoke to their communities in their own languages to illustrate similarities between the plight of their own groups to that of the Black struggle for equality.

"Too long we have allowed animosity between our groups to perpetuate. We must build a bridge and work to understand one another, the unique struggles that we face, the similar struggles that we face and the history of our groups in this country. In doing this, true unity and solidarity will occur. A people united will never be divided," said Kanno.

» See GANBATTE on page 12



Tensions started to rise when Los Angeles Police Department officers arrived on scene at the Fairfax protest.



Police disperse chemical agents into the crowd at Beverly and Fairfax on May 30.

LOVE GOES THE DISTANCE



Just because we're apart doesn't mean we can't stay connected. Caring for our family and friends is still as important as ever. So make time to connect, help plan out the medical care they need, and remind each other to stay safe and healthy.

Because staying connected is another way to say "I love you."

Let AARP help. For tips and resources during COVID-19, visit aarp.org/coronavirus

AARP[®]
Real Possibilities

INOUE'S MEDAL OF HONOR STORY GETS GRAPHIC RETELLING

The late Hawaii senator is feted by a non-profit Army organization.

By P.C. Staff

The Association of the United States Army has announced the latest installment to its Medal of Honor graphic novel series, and its subject is the late-Sen. Daniel Inouye.

Inouye, who served Hawaii as its senator for nearly five decades, was also a member of the segregated 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II. Originally an enlisted man like most of its Japanese American members, Inouye received a battlefield commission. He lost his right arm in combat and was originally awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the United States' second-highest military decoration.

Along with 22 other Americans of Asian Pacific heritage — 20 of whom were also members of the 100th/442nd — Inouye's DSC was

upgraded to the Medal of Honor in 2000 upon review that showed racism prevented him and those other soldiers from receiving that recognition initially.

Despite having lost an arm fighting for his country, in 1963, Inouye would go on to become the first Japanese American elected to the U.S. Senate, where he served for nearly 50 years until his death in 2012.

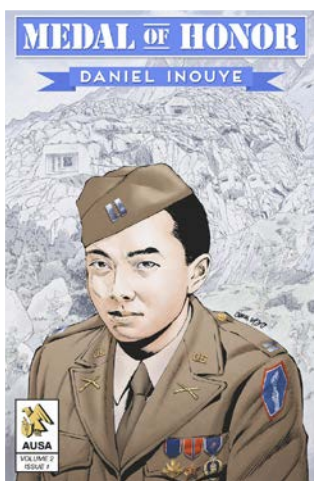
The graphic novel on Inouye is the first issue in the second volume of the AUSA's Medal of Honor series, which launched in 2018. Other Medal of Honor winners to have had graphic novels produced about their wartime exploits are Roy Benavidez, Sal Giunta, Audie Murphy and Alvin York.

Upcoming this year in the series are graphic novels on Sgt. Henry Johnson, the Harlem Hellfighter who fought in World War I; Dr. Mary Walker, a Civil War surgeon and the only woman to receive the Medal of Honor; and Cpl. Tibor Rubin, the Holocaust survivor who later fought in Korea.

The scripts for all have been written by comic book veteran Chuck Dixon ("Batman," "The Punisher," "The 'Nam") and this issue's artist is Peter Pantazis ("Justice League," "Superman," "Wolverine"). The colorist is Peter Pantazis, and the letterer is Troy Peteri.

All installments of the series can be viewed or downloaded for free at ausa.org/moh, and the direct link to the Inouye graphic novel is ausa.org/inouye.

The Association of the United States Army is a nonprofit organization devoted to the U.S. Army and its soldiers. ■



The graphic novel on the life of Sen. Daniel Inouye is part of the AUSA's Medal of Honor series.

JACL PHILADELPHIA HOSTS VIRTUAL VIGIL TO SHUT DOWN BERKS DETENTION CENTER



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ROB BUSCHER

Participants in the Virtual Vigil to Shut Down Berks Detention Center

The goal of drawing attention to the plight of immigrant detainees is front and center during the Tsuru Rising weekend of action.

By Rob Buscher, Contributor

As part of the Tsuru Rising weekend of action, JACL Philadelphia hosted a virtual vigil on June 7 in support of the individuals who continue to be detained in the Berks County Detention Center. Pennsylvania is one of two states in the nation that hosts a prison for immigrant children, known as the Berks County Detention Center, the other being Texas. Families have reported verbal abuse, workers' rights abuses, medical neglect and, in its first year of operation, a mother was raped in front of other families.

This virtual vigil brought together Japanese American incarceration survivors and their descendants, frontline community members and local advocates working within the Shut Down Berks Coalition.

Speakers included representatives from Tsuru for Solidarity, Japanese American Citizens League Philadelphia, Berks Stands Up and Sunrise Movement Berks. The primary goal was to draw attention to the plight of immigrant detainees who are being held in the Berks County Detention

Center and call on Gov. Tom Wolf and the Berks County Commissioners to Shut Down Berks.

In June 2017, a federal judge ruled that the detention of children is a violation of federal regulations. In December 2019, Pennsylvania Auditor General Eugene DePasquale released a report calling for the closure of this site, stating in a press conference, "William Penn would likely be deeply embarrassed that this is happening on Pennsylvania soil."

The vigil program began with JACL members Miiko Horikawa and Hiro Nishikawa, who shared personal testimony from their own childhood incarceration experiences. The history of wartime incarceration was then juxtaposed with the following statements, which were written by two families who are currently being held in detention at Berks, dated April 5, 2020.

My name is PM. I am from Haiti. I am detained at the Berks Detention Center with my wife MN, and our 2-year-old child, HMN. Since we arrived at Berks County Residential Center on March 18, my child has been severely sick. My wife and I

have reported it to the medical staff every day since we arrived. She has bumps all around her mouth, chin and lips. Sometimes they bleed. Her throat is severely swollen, so she can't keep any food inside. She has been feverish. Even though we reported this to the medical staff every day, they did not start giving her medical attention until March 30, 2020.

My daughter is not the only one who is sick at the facility. All of the families that have come and left have not been feeling well. At Berks, we are not given gloves or masks to wear. The only time that we are given gloves are the gloves we receive when we are cleaning the facility. The staff does not wear gloves or masks. They only wear masks when we are being served food. When we asked for these things, we were told that it wasn't necessary.

The staff who come and go from the facility are always around us. We cannot even take a shower without one of them sitting outside the door. We are all confined in a small space, and there is no way to distance ourselves from other families or the staff. There are less staff working at the facility right now, but they still come and go. We are all detained here together with our children and no way to leave. We are just legally seeking asylum and have not done nothing wrong.

We the detained families are still in charge of cleaning the bathrooms and bedrooms in the morning and the playroom for kids in the afternoon. The only time we are offered gloves is during the cleaning process. I have not noticed the staff doing more cleaning than usual, and we are still only cleaning these areas one time per day. We all share the bathrooms, and they are not cleaned extra or between uses.

» See CENTER next page

DECISION » continued from page 2

It will also directly improve the lives of 11.5 million gay, lesbian and bisexual people and 1.5 million transgender people living in the U.S., including those among the 5.2 million Asian Americans who live in one of 30 states where they

are at risk of being fired, refused housing or denied services simply because they are LGBT.

"Even with this landmark ruling, our work is not finished. There are still critical gaps in federal and state nondiscrimination laws for LGBTQ

people," said Stan Yogi. "When my husband and I visit my in-laws in Texas, we have no legal recourse if a restaurant or hotel refuses to serve us because we're gay."

While LGBTQ people now cannot be fired at work, it is still legal under federal law:

- For landlords, stores, restaurants and hotels to turn away LGBTQ

people.

- For hospitals, colleges and adoption agencies to deny services to LGBTQ people.
- To discriminate against transgender people in restrooms.

One in five or 1,304,286 Japanese in the U.S. live in one of 30 states where they are at risk of being fired, refused housing or denied services

simply because they are LGBTQ. They also have faced mistreatment at the hands of the police.

"With the Supreme Court leading the way, Congress must follow suit and pass the LGBT Equality Act. States and cities must defund the police and reinvest in communities. We must abolish ICE and restore immigrants' rights," said Magpantay. ■

'TADAIMA! A COMMUNITY VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE'

The online film festival sheds light on the diversity of Japanese American cinema.

By Rob Buscher,
Contributor

In the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, each of the annual pilgrimages to sites of wartime Japanese American incarceration has been canceled. These pilgrimages provide important educational and community-building opportunities for incarceration survivors, their descendants, the Japanese American community as a whole and the public at large.

Recognizing the ongoing significance of these pilgrimages, a broad coalition of Japanese American Confinement Sites and community organizations across the country have come together under the leadership of Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages to host "Tadaima! A Community Virtual Pilgrimage," which runs through Aug. 16.

The virtual festival offers online exhibits, workshops, performances, lectures, panel discussions, film screenings, a community archive and more. This completely free program is a collaborative undertaking by more than 50 Japanese American community organizations — perhaps the largest such national effort since the Redress movement.

As a film programmer, I have spent the past decade of my career working on film

festivals that have specialized in Japanese Cinema and the Asian American and Pacific Islander experiences onscreen.

While this has presented opportunities to delve into the Japanese American experience on occasion, working with "Tadaima! Virtual Pilgrimage" is the first time that I have been able to devote an entire festival program to the exploration of Japanese American issues and identity. As a biracial Yonsei, this is the most personal slate of films I have ever had the privilege of curating, and I am thrilled to share these titles with an international audience of Nikkei and our allies over the course of the next several weeks.

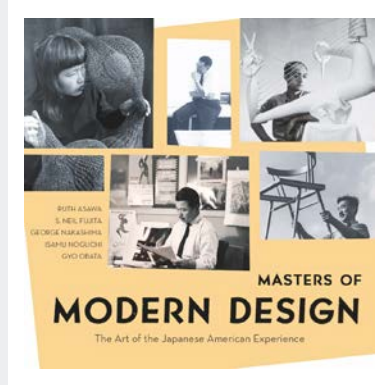
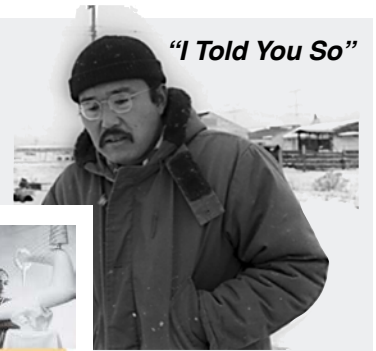
Each of the weekly film programs adhere to the general themes of the virtual pilgrimage and are designed to complement the many other programs being offered online. There are also several key themes such as reclamation of Japanese cultural identity, overcoming intergenerational trauma and envisioning a more inclusive and sustainable future as a community.

In selecting these films, I have endeavored to show the variety and nuance within the so-called "camp genre" of Japanese American cinema. I have also expanded the scope of this project to include works by Nikkei filmmakers whose topics express solidarity

with other marginalized communities, as well as other general history topics within the AAPI movement from the Japanese American perspective.

The opening ceremony featured Robert Nakamura's "Manzanar" (1972) — a meditative and visceral short documentary that explores the ruins of Manzanar less than three years after the first pilgrimage took place. This groundbreaking film that helped define a genre was paired with "Pilgrimage" (2006), a work by Robert's son, Tad Nakamura, which explores the history behind the first pilgrimage to Manzanar and burgeoning pilgrimage movement. We will revisit the Nakamura's work during our closing ceremony when Robert and Tad Nakamura join in for a live discussion about their new film "Third Act," currently a work in progress.

Including Nakamura's "Manzanar," this program features several early films from the birth of the Asian American cinema movement courtesy of the archives of Visual Communications — the country's oldest Asian American media organization based



in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo. Duane Kubo's "Cruisin' J-Town" (1972) explores Little Tokyo through the eyes of Dan Kuramoto — multi-instrumentalist frontman for the band Hiroshima,

and Alan Kondo's "... I Told You So" (1974) is a lyrical exploration of poet Lawson Inada's works.

Art is a common theme across many films such as "Hidden Legacy: Traditional Performing Arts in the WWII Internment Camps" (2014), which reveals how the community used art to help cope with the difficult camp years. "Masters of Modern Design: The Art of the Japanese American Experience" (2019) examines the careers of Nisei luminaries such as George Nakashima and Ruth Asawa, whose careers as artists had lasting impacts on Modern design during the postwar era.

» See 'TADAIMA' on next page

CENTER » continued

No one here speaks my language, and it is very hard to communicate and express our feelings about being detained when it is so dangerous. I worry for my wife and my daughter, who are not well and are terrified. We are asking for help to stay alive. We have close family in the United States who will receive us. I do not know why our lives are being risked at this moment.

My name is GSC. I am detained at the Berks Detention Center with my wife, MC, and our two daughters, MBT, who is 11-years-old, and GRSC, who is 3-years-old. We are very scared about COVID-19 and contracting it while we are detained here. Inside the facility, no one wears gloves or masks. We have never had any meeting with any of the staff explaining what the situation regarding COVID-19 is. We only learn what is going on from the TV news. On the TV, there seems to be a lot of panic and concern, great steps being taken, but not here in the facility.

I am so worried that it might get inside because there are

More recently, Rob Buscher (kneeling) and Shut Down Berks coalition members protested outside the Department of Human Services in Philadelphia.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ROB BUSCHER

still around 20 people living here, not including staff. Many people are still sick inside the facility. One of the families that is staying here with us, their child was severely sick and feverish. We are not well, and we are scared. We are not allowed to have our own hand sanitizer, gloves or masks to protect ourselves. We are still all together in this one building. We are scared all the time. No person in this facility speaks our language. We cannot communicate with anyone our fears, and they cannot talk to us either. Just to make motions or sometimes send in a person on the phone who can speak our language. We are not safe.

My family is here in the

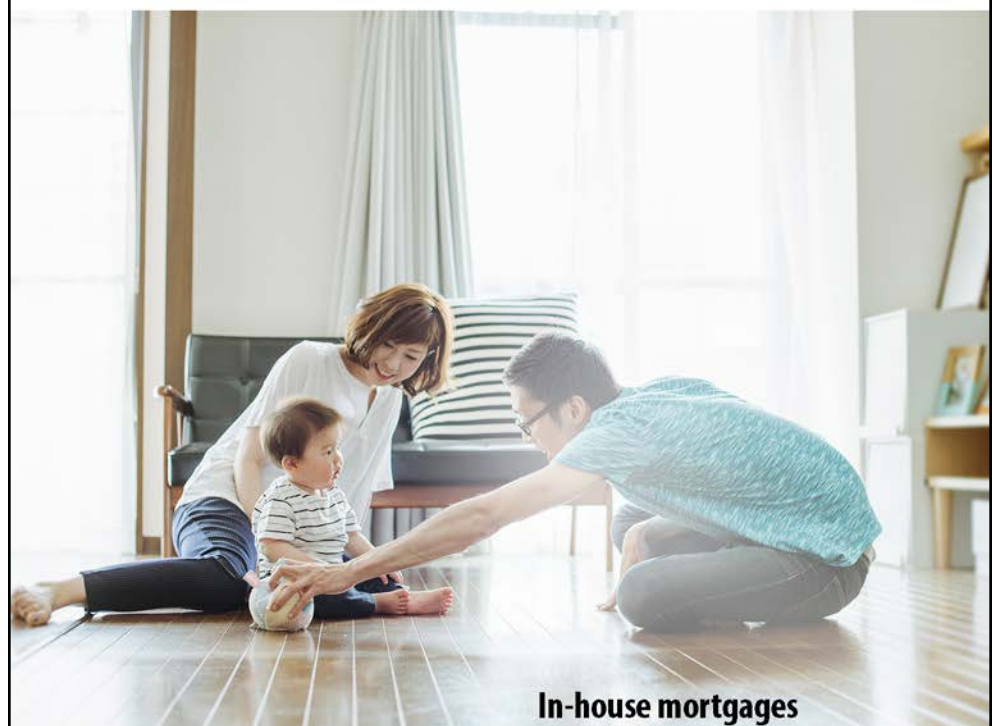


United States ready to receive my wife, myself and my children. I was granted a stay of deportation by a court, so I cannot be deported. I ask that we be allowed to leave this detention center and be safe with our family.

Gov. Tom Wolf and the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services have the power to issue an Emergency Removal Order. JACL members can help amplify this action by calling Gov. Wolf and demanding he take action.

- Gov. Tom Wolf (717) 787-2500
- Lt. Gov. John Fetterman (717) 787-3300
- PA DHS Secretary Teresa Miller (717) 787-2600

You Paid for Your House - Don't Pay to Get Your Loan



In-house mortgages
Low fixed rate
Flexible terms up to 15 years
No origination fees

800-544-8828 www.jaclcu.com



*JACL Credit Union is an Equal Housing Lender-NLMS ID# 644166



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.

'Tadama! A Community Virtual Pilgrimage'

National Event

Thru 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, "Tadama!" will feature prerecorded and live-streamed content, as well as opportunities to engage as a com-

munity.

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

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

Virtual Delicious Little Tokyo Los Angeles, CA Virtual Event Every Weekend From June 26-July 26

Online

Price: Free

Go Little Tokyo's Fifth Annual Delicious Little Tokyo transforms into a monthlong virtual series of events for all to experience and celebrate authentic culinary experiences from Los Angeles' Little Tokyo. The foodie festival will feature interactive workshops, live chats and themed weeks with live videos spotlighting Little Tokyo businesses all on Go Little Tokyo's Instagram and Facebook platforms (@GoLittleTokyo).

Info: For more information and announcements, visit golittletokyo.com/delicious, #GoLittleTokyo, #DeliciousLittleTokyo.

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," 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/>.

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
(213) 620-1767

TADAIMA » continued

This program also includes several films about the parallel experiences of Latin American Nikkei that offer a different but relatable perspective on the events of World War II. The Spanish-language documentary "Nikkei" (2011) details one family's journey from Japan to Peru to Venezuela as they fled wartime persecution in South America, while "Hidden Internment: The Art Shibayama Story" exposes the lesser-known extradition and subsequent incarceration of Latin American Nikkei in U.S. concentration camps.

In addition to covering the many site-specific experiences of wartime incarceration, the festival delves into the resettlement of Japanese Americans postwar — a time in which communities were further dispersed into sparsely populated regions throughout the country. Of particular note are "Relocation, Arkansas" (2016), which investigates the issue of racial triangulation among the few Japanese American families who chose to resettle in the Jim Crow-era Deep South, and "Good Luck Soup" (2016), which explores similar themes through the story of a mixed-race Japanese American



family in Cleveland, Ohio.

"Tadama!" also explores stories of resilience among the Japanese American business community, whose families returned to the West Coast and resumed their trades after WWII. "Seed: The Life of the Rice King and His Kin" (2016) tells the story of fourth-generation family owned Koda Farms. "First Street North" (2019) highlights longstanding family businesses Fugetsu-do and Bunkado in Little Tokyo while also exploring the relationship that its Shin-Issei (new first-generation Japanese immigrant) filmmaker has to the Japanese American incarceration narrative.

Other films invite viewers to delve into their own family histories, as the documentary subjects reclaim the lost histories behind their Japanese heritage. In "Finding Dohi" (2019), a Japanese

Hawaiian mother and daughter journey to Japan to meet their last living relative for the first time. In "A Vanished Dream" (2019), biracial African-American journalist Regina Boone honors her father's dying wish by investigating the disappearance of her grandfather, who was imprisoned during WWII.

Many of the films deal with the intergenerational trauma that persists within the descendants of incarceration camp survivors. Dr. Satsuki Ina's seminal film "Children of the Camps" (1999) explores the lifelong impacts of trauma on childhood camp survivors in documentary format. Rea Tajiri's "Strawberry Fields" (1997) tells the story of a Sansei woman who journeys to Poston in an attempt to reconcile with her family's tragic past.

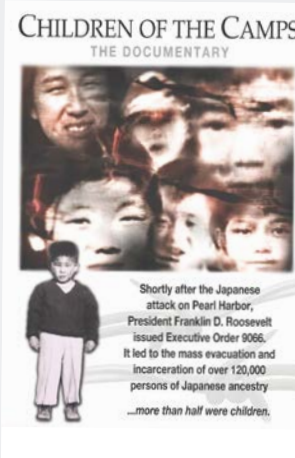
And the program also seeks to illuminate members of the Japanese American community who have been advocating alongside other communities of color. "America Needs a Racial Facial" (2016) and "The Ride" (2017) — two short films directed by the late-San Francisco Public Defender Jeff Adachi — are particularly adept at exploring these issues. Another film titled "My America... Or Honk If You Love Buddha" (1997) by accomplished

documentarian Renee Tajima-Peña, who recently helmed the PBS "Asian Americans" series, explores the emerging landscape of late-90s Asian America a little more than three decades after the Immigration Act of 1965 allowed mass migration from Asia.

Even with the multitude of perspectives represented in this program, this is by no means a comprehensive filmography, and there are many great works that were not included in the festival lineup. That being said, it is my hope that these films will help Japanese Americans and fellow Nikkei living in diaspora throughout the world who have experienced similar discrimination before, during and after WWII to better understand our shared experiences.

Now at a time when we must physically distance ourselves from one another amidst the global pandemic, participating in the Tadama! Virtual Pilgrimage is a powerful reminder that we are capable of building community wherever we are.

For more details on "Tadama! A Virtual Pilgrimage" and to watch these films and others free online, visit <https://www.jampilgrimages.com/film-festival>.



In MEMORIAM

Higashi, Blake Shiro, 63, Kahului, HI, Jan. 23; he is survived by his partner, Debbi Amado; children, Brandon (Lauren) and Amy (Lenn) Nakama; mother, Joan Higashi; brother, Harvey (Winona) Higashi; gc: 3.

his wife, Judy; sisters, Lisa Higashi, Ali Higashi and Stephanie (Stephen) Lee; mother-in-law, Michiko Uota; brother-in-law, Clifford Uota; he is also survived by many nieces and other relatives.

Higashi, Kelly K., 51, Temple City, CA, Nov. 13, 2019; he is survived by

Kimura, Tadashi, 80, San Fernando, CA, Nov. 16; he is survived by a

sister-in-law, Jeanne Diane Kimura; an uncle, Masao Kimura; 2 nieces and a nephew; cousins; and other relatives.

Kiriu, Nobutaka 'Bob,' 86, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 7; he was predeceased by his wife, Emiko "Emi" Kiriu; he is also survived by other relatives.

Mitsuuchi, Yukio, 94, Oxnard, CA, Dec. 30, 2019; he was predeceased by his wife, Mary, and son, Gary Mitsuuchi; he is survived by his sons, Paul (Karen) and Brent (Wendy); brother, John (Nobuko) Mitsuuchi; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

Morinaga, Brian, 53, Santa Barbara, CA, Jan. 26.

Nakamura, Eugene, 93, Panama City, FL, Jan. 11; he was predeceased by his wife, June; he is survived by his son, Jayson K.K. Nakamura; and sisters, Joyce Satow and Irene Nakamura.

Nakamura, Marjory Sachiko, 75,

Diamond Bar, CA, Nov. 13, 2019; she was predeceased by her husband, Ronald; she is survived by her stepchildren, David Nakamura and Lori Hirano; siblings, Ellen Agcaoili, Marilyn Izumita and Tom Kanegae; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grand-nephews; gc: 5.

Ota, Jeanette Frances, 74, Mililani, HI, Jan. 12.

Ota, Reiko, 97, Santa Paula, CA, Jan. 31; she was predeceased by her husband, Tetsuo; she is survived by her children, Larry (Anita) and Gordon (Ann) Ota; gc: 5; she is also survived by nephews and other relatives.

Sato, Edna Fujiko 'Fudge,' 92, Monterey Park, CA, Jan. 1; she is survived by her children, Glenn (Aishala) Sato and Candice Sato; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

Sato, Harry M., 92, Chicago, IL, Feb. 14.

Sato, Janet, 80, Ontario, OR, Jan. 28.

Tamura-Frazier, Cheryl, 69, Oakland, CA, Feb. 3.

Tamura, Jane M., 96, Honolulu, HI, Jan. 30.

Tamura, John, 94, Sherman Oaks, CA, Jan. 26; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Jerome WRA Center in AR; an Army veteran, he was predeceased by his wife, Tomoko; he is survived by his children, Paul (Dennis Tran), Glen (Kenneth Comstock), Amy (David) Muramatsu and Susan (George) Geller; brother, Ed (Haru) Tamura; gc: 5.

Usui, Frank Masamitsu, 96, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 10, 2019; he is survived by his wife, Susie; daughters, Karen (Ron) Broberg, Reiko (Ken) Koyanagi, Debbie (Robert) Oye and Teresa (Kenny) Wong; siblings, Terry (Roy) Nakawatase and Jim (Nancy) Usui; sister-in-law, Aiko Usui; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 10; ggc: 1.

Uyeki, Junichi, 92, Culver City, CA, Jan. 7; he was predeceased by his wife, Kimiko Ikeda Uyeki; he is survived by his son, Mike (Aki); brother, Tsuneo (Misuzu) Uyeki; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

Watamura, Yoshiko, 97, Monterey Park, CA, Dec. 4, 2019; she is survived by her daughters, Linda Watamura and Marina Ota; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5; ggc: 3.

TRIBUTE

JAMES SAKAMOTO



James T. Sakamoto, age 95, passed away on Saturday, March 28, peacefully in his home in San Jose. He will be remembered always for his generous, gregarious and friendly nature.

Jim was born April 18, 1924 in Mayfield, Calif., (now Palo Alto) to Yasutaro and Fusa Sakamoto and was the fifth of eight children. Jim grew up in Alviso, Calif., but after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 the family moved inland to Stockton in an attempt to avoid the mass incarceration of Americans of Japanese descent. Eventually the family was sent to the Stockton Assembly Center and then to a concentration camp in Rohwer, Ark.

After he was released from the camp Jim spent time in Colorado and then served in the military and eventually returned to San Jose. Soon after relocating he met Kazuko Baba, fell in love, and married. In 1953 he established Sakamoto Barbershop in San Jose's Japantown. The barbershop quickly became a community hub where people gathered and were greeted by his big smile and loud "hellloooo" for over 50 years.

Jim was an avid fisherman who, into his early eighties, would take groups of "seniors" from Yu Ai Kai on trips to "cement boat." His lifelong community involvement was also reflected in his membership in the Japantown Business Association, VFW Post 9970, and his early contributions to the Cypress Golf Club, and in a way, the notorious backroom poker games in his barbershop. Jim also held the distinction of bowling a perfect "300 Game" in the mid-50's when it was a rare and difficult achievement. He was also known to enjoy a pai gow table almost as much as he enjoyed his ponies. Throughout his life "Jimmy" was a friend to everyone who walked into his shop and was known for his generosity and charisma. The unofficial "Mayor of Japantown" always had a big smile and friendly greeting for everyone he met.

Jim was preceded in death by his Sister Clara (Honda), brothers Tom, George, Frank and younger brother Donald and is survived by sister Bertha (Okumura) and youngest sibling Paul Sakamoto PhD. He leaves behind his wife Kazuko and daughter Joanne (Barry) Yoshida, three grandchildren, Gary (Mika) Yoshida, Sherry (Jeff) Borg and Michelle (Ken) Lopez, and six great-grandchildren, Brendan, Camryn, Cadee, Kaylee, Kennadi and James.

Due to the extraordinary situation we are all facing, the memorial service is limited to family only. Thank you for your understanding.

MAGICAL GSH
A Brand New World
www.MagicalGSH.com

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



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

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.kubotanikkeimortuary.com

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

GANBATTE » continued from page 7

The following week, on June 12, Hapa Japan, a mixed Japanese group and festival, joined other mixed-race organizations to protest on Loving Day at Los Angeles' City Hall.

Loving Day, founded by Japanese-Belgian New Yorker Ken Tanabe, celebrates the day interracial marriage was legalized in all 50 states on June 12, 1967, via the Supreme Court case *Loving v. Virginia*.

Sonia Smith Kang, president of Multiracial Americans of Southern California, who was in attendance at the protest, reminded protesters that if not for various brave Black folks who fought for interracial marriage with their partners, like Mildred and Richard Loving, and if not for the Civil Rights Act of 1964, many other minorities and immigrants would not have the rights they do today.

Also at the protest at City Hall was Duncan Ryuken Williams, director of the USC Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture and Hapa Japan Founder.

Williams addressed the group at the protest and mentioned the intersectionalities and parallels between the shooting deaths by guards of Japanese Americans in incarceration camps during World War II to the police brutality and killings of Blacks.

Another parallelism between WWII and today's events was the presence and support of the Quakers, who joined the crowd at City Hall chanting "Black Lives Matter."

During WWII, the "Religious

Society of Friends" (also known as Quakers) utilized their American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) to provide support to Japanese Americans during and after their forced incarceration.

Many JAs may remember that Quakers provided water and aid as JAs were boarding trains leaving to the American concentration camps, as well as gave JA children gifts during the holidays.

Additionally, their support after WWII was instrumental, as Quakers assisted many JA families with resettlement and housing following their release. Seeing a new generation from the same loyal group 75 years later in solidarity chanting next to descendants of those who were wrongly incarcerated was touching, but sadly, it was also proof that we are still fighting the same injustices in our country today as we were then.

Wright reminds us that protests and words alone mean nothing if not moved into action.

"A protest is a great first step in getting involved in activism, but after that, the real work begins," she said.

And by "work," Wright means supporting Black businesses, hiring diverse employees and assisting in the movement.

"Find the places you hold power, and use that power for racial equity," she said. "That can be at your jobs, at your schools, in your homes, at the voting booth."

On June 20, Nikkei Progressives, a

"grassroots, all-volunteer, multigenerational community organization," released a video voiced by multiple Japanese Americans outlining the course of actions they plan to take to support Black Lives Matter.

Nikkei Progressives also encouraged the JA community at large to 1) Donate to Black Lives Matter — LA and the Movement for Black Lives, 2) Contact L.A. City Council to support the People's Budget, 3) Educate ourselves on how to challenge and dismantle racism and engage in dialogue to combat anti-blackness.

Nikkei Progressives is one of several Japanese American groups doing something to become a better ally to the Black community. Tsuru for Solidarity and Japanese Americans for Justice also making a difference.

Wright clarified the role of being a true ally: "I am not here to 'help' the Black community. They don't need our help. They need our collaboration. We all need to be in this work together if we want to dismantle the systems that oppress all of us. We must do this work together because all of our oppression and liberation is tied together. In the words of Lilla Watson, 'If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.'"

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

flowers were laid on a small candle-lit altar assembled by Linda Ando.

"It was very meaningful for me to be able to take part in the Tsuru for Solidarity action at the Pacific Northwest Detention Center," said Seattle JACL's Tsuki Nomura-Henley. "As a Japanese American whose father was born in incarceration, I feel that I have the moral imperative to show up for those whose rights are being violated or who are oppressed."

Added Asakawa: "For me, the action made clear how systemic racial oppression shows up across time and communities of color in this country. It was powerful to hear the speakers connect experiences of oppression that are too often presented as distinct and separate: the violent policing of Black lives, incarceration of immigrants, forced removal of the Indigenous people to whom the land at the NWDC belongs and my own Japanese American community's history of incarceration. In exposing these interconnections, the action made me understand how no one community can be free from white supremacy until we all are."



PHOTO: STANLEY SHIKUMA

La Resistencia, a co-sponsor of the event, spoke about her husband, who was held at the NWDC for 10 months until he was abruptly deported, as well as detailed the inhumane conditions at the center.

The program was a remembrance ceremony for a small fraction of those who have been killed by police or died in ICE custody. As she called out their names one by one, Nina Wallace shouted, "Say his name!" to which participants all repeated the names together as



CHICAGO NIKKEI PROTEST AGAINST INJUSTICE

Tsuru for Solidarity activists and Japanese American community members have protested at immigration and customs enforcement detention centers this year, in addition to jails — sites that have all seen high rates of COVID-19 infections and transmission.

On June 7, members of Tsuru for Solidarity converged in front of the Cook County Jail in Chicago to also protest against mass incarceration and police brutality toward communities of color.

Organizers of the event also invited Cassandra Greer-Lee (pictured

above at right) in partnership with the Chicago Community Bond Fund, to participate in the demonstration in honor of Greer-Lee's husband, Nickolas Lee, who died of COVID-19 in April while he was awaiting trial in the Cook County Jail.

During the demonstration, participants hung thousands of paper cranes outside of the jail in memory of those who died in police custody due to COVID-19, those who perished at the hands of police officers and family members who passed away in World War II incarceration centers. ■

Florin JACL-SV Unites in Support of BLM in Sacramento



Raymond Lee and Joshua Kaizuka place 1,000 cranes on the memorial site in Sacramento, Calif., on June 4.

PHOTO: RHONDA RIOS-KRAVITZ

Florin JACL-SV members Josh Kaizuka (left) and Jessie Morris Jr. participated in the Sacramento Public Defender Black Lives Matter March and Rally in Sacramento, Calif., on June 8 at the Sacramento Superior Court Building. The march was part of a statewide rally where public defender offices throughout California participated during the noon hour.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF JOSH KAIZUKA

Members of the Florin JACL-SV presented 1,000 tsuru to show their support of the Black Lives Matter movement at Cesar Chavez Memorial Park in Sacramento, Calif., on June 4. The makeshift shrine included tributes to victims of police brutality and racial injustice. Pictured are (from left) Janice Kamikawa, Norb Kumagai, Josh Kaizuka, Kaitlin Toyama, Michelle Huey and Ray Lee.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF RAY LEE



TSURU RISING IN SEATTLE AND TACOMA

By Barbara Yasui

On June 7, Seattle Tsuru for Solidarity members, the JACL and Japanese American community gathered in front of the old Immigration Station and Assay Office in the International District in Seattle. There, they held signs and tsuru and listened to Stanley Shikuma talk about the infamous history of the building when it served as a detention center from 1934-2004.

Those gathered then headed for the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma for a honk-in to demand freedom for the immigrants being held at the center.

Erin Shigaki served as master of ceremony and narrator for a powerful program that was livestreamed by JACL Seattle's McKenna Asakawa. Chrissy Shimizu from Tsuru for Solidarity spoke about the need to stand in solidarity with our Black, Brown and Indigenous siblings. In addition, ShaCorrie Tunkara of