



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 91 YEARS

An aerial view of the  
Terasaki Budokan

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF LITTLE  
TOKYO SERVICE CENTER

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## TIP-OFF IS NEAR

Little Tokyo's much-anticipated  
Terasaki Budokan is set to make its  
community debut.

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Meet the Candidates Running for JACL's  
National Board for the Next Biennium

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City of Torrance Holds a Rally to Spotlight a  
Rise in Racist Acts Against Asian Americans





# Staci Toji Joins Go For Broke National Education Center's Board of Directors

**LOS ANGELES** — Go For Broke National Education Center announced on June 30 that Staci (Yamashita-Iida) Toji, Esq., has joined the board of directors of the national nonprofit organization. The founding attorney of an estate-planning firm, Toji brings a strong legal background and a wealth of community experience to GFBNEC's board.

A native of Torrance, Calif., Toji attended North High School and graduated magna cum laude from

Loyola Marymount University as a Valedictorian Finalist and Leadership Scholar with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and Asian and Pacific Studies. She entered Southwestern Law School's accelerated two-year SCALE Program, where she was a member of the International Law Journal Honors Program. She owns and operates Toji Law, which is dedicated to helping families of all generations plan for their future.

In addition to her involvement with GFBNEC, Toji is active with the U.S.-Japan Council and the Japanese American Bar Assn. She has been a regular contributor to the JACL's *Pacific Citizen* and the *Rafu Shimpo* newspapers.

Toji is also an accomplished hula dancer with Halau Keali'i O Nalani, performing and competing around the world for more than 25 years — including at GFBNEC's annual Evening of Aloha gala dinner. When she is not working or volunteering, Toji enjoys hiking, skiing and fishing at Mammoth with her husband, Justin, and two German Shepherds.

"I am truly humbled by my appointment to Go For Broke National Education Center's board of directors," Toji said. "My husband comes from a family of Japanese American veterans that is three generations deep, so I am grateful and excited for the opportunity to honor the WWII Nisei soldiers and uphold the values of freedom, equality and solidarity

that they fought so hard to protect."

Mitchell T. Maki, GFBNEC's president and CEO, noted that Toji first worked with GFBNEC as a board fellow from Kizuna, the Los Angeles nonprofit dedicated to engaging younger generations of the Japanese American community.

"We're excited to have Staci join our board of directors," Maki said. "I have been impressed by Staci's reverence for our veterans and GFBNEC's mission. Her commitment to our Torchbearers — the Yonsei and Gosei members of the GFBNEC family — will help our organization engage and educate a younger, broader and more diverse audience in the years ahead." ■

## GLA JACL AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Five high school graduates receive awards to further their education.

The Greater Los Angeles chapter of the JACL has presented scholarship awards of \$1,000 each to five graduating high school seniors. A GLA delegation of five members awarded the recipients outside their homes on June 13 and 14.

GLA members including Scholarship Chair Layne Sakamoto, Scholarship/Chapter Fundraiser Chair Miyako Kadogawa, President Janet Okubo, VP Programs/Membership Louise Sakamoto and Secretary Ayako Okada made the awards presentations.

This year's recipients are of Japanese descent from single-parent

families. The scholarship is named in memory of Hana Uno Shepard, a GLA chapter member who was active in the redress movement of the 1980s.

The 2020 scholarship honorees are:

• **Marissa Kawate-Rodriguez**  
Gardena Senior High School  
El Camino Community College  
Major: Microbiology



• **Ayame Lewis**  
San Pedro High School  
Pomona College  
Major: Biology and Japanese



• **Katie McNamara**  
Mira Costa High School (Manhattan Beach)  
University of Washington  
Major: Undeclared



• **Lauryn Murata**  
Torrance High School  
San Francisco State University  
Major: Prekinesiology



• **Mylee Sumoge**  
Carson High School  
Academy of Education & Empowerment  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
Major: Presociology



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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.\*

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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

### JACL MEMBERS

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By David Inoue,  
JACL Executive Director

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TEACH THE CHILDREN WELL

One of the most crushing experiences a parent can have is when you learn of your child's first experience with racism. For my son, it was at 5 years old when we were discussing the Astros' Yuli Gurriel and the 2017 World Series when he hit a home run off of the Dodgers' Yu Darvish and proceeded to pull his eyes back to mock the pitcher.

I found that one of my son's classmates had done the same to him earlier that school year, but he hadn't realized the malicious intent, and likely, the other student at the time didn't either.

With the onset of COVID, and the accompanying vitriol of some people toward Asian Americans, we are seeing this even more frequently.

Two high-profile incidents, in

particular, recently involved Japanese American families. One was confronted in a Torrance, Calif., parking lot and the other while hiking in Northern California. In both cases, young children were exposed to the ugliness that has reared its head against our community.

What makes this most painful for many of us as parents is the memory of our own experiences as children. I remember as a first grade student walking to school and being taunted by high school students waiting for their bus and other students throughout elementary school doing the same to me, as my own son experienced.

As a parent, it is always our hope that our children will have a better childhood than we did. Unfortunately, that dream has come crashing to an end.

COVID has disrupted our children's school experience. They are unable to even play with their closest friends, other than Zoom playdates and now maybe a socially distanced joint bike ride in the neighborhood. Add onto

this the experience of seeing their parents, or maybe even themselves, being attacked for the irrational reason of anti-Asian animus because of the very disease that is disrupting their own lives.

Add on to all of this the light being shined on anti-Blackness in our society, whether it be the senseless killing of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor or the harassment of Chris Cooper in New York's Central Park while birdwatching. Our kids are aware that all of this is happening, and likely, they have questions. Take the time to talk about all of this.

These may not be easy questions to answer, but the discussions will help you as parents to think through your own perspective, and maybe even bring some change to how you see things.

You will find that a child's perspective is much different from our own. Often, theirs is untainted by years of outside influence from the media or our friends, coworkers and others. They will have genuinely inquisitive

questions about why people have prejudices, with a certain degree of incredulity as to how it could even be possible.

Often, you can actually let them lead the conversation. Ask them what questions they have about a situation that might be in the news. Most importantly, ask them what they think. You can often frame incidents within the framework of their own perceptions and understanding. You may not want to go beyond that either, as sometimes, it is possible to go too far into a discussion where they are not ready emotionally or intellectually to go so deep.

I often find the hardest part is to withhold my own judgments as much as possible. Many of my own opinions are very strongly held, and for a child, the opinion and perceptions of a parent can be seen as absolute fact. They need to also recognize that our experience is not the only one.

I write this column with the hope that parents, grandparents and other mentors to our youth, our children, will take the time to have difficult conversations about what is

happening in the world now.

Kids need to know what is happening, but also understand why. For many Black families, especially for those with boys, there is a discussion that must take place about how to respond to the police, known as "the talk." That is just one of many discussions on how to respond to racism in society that take place in their households.

Asian American families need to be having the same discussions in our families about racism — how it impacts our families, and others, especially Black and Brown families. Perhaps the current climate is forcing more of us to have these conversations as well.

As the recent increase of incidents of anti-Asian hate have shown, racism has not improved from when I was a kid, and we now need to prepare our children to better understand and address the racism they will also face. Maybe together with our children we can make sure they and their children may never need to have "the talk."

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



By Ron Mori

## REIMAGINE EVERYTHING NEW AARP REPORT SHOWS EVIDENCE THAT MUSIC CAN IMPROVE BRAIN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Music can move the soul, and I can remember certain songs in association with a special event or memory. My favorite songs always put me in a happy place or at least take me to a more relaxed state.

A new report from the Global Council on Brain Health concludes that music can potentially stimulate brain health, manage stress and help treat brain health conditions as varied as dementia, stroke and Parkinson's disease. Brain health experts convened by the GCBH recommend that people of all ages consider incorporating music in their lives to help improve their quality of life and well-being.

According to the report, music can enhance mood and social connectedness, reduce anxiety and depression and might potentially reduce agitation for people living with dementia. Music can also be a tool for caregivers by helping ease the stress and burdens associated with caregiving, as well as help them engage in positive experiences with their loved ones.

There is also strong evidence that specialized music-based treatment might improve movement and recovery in patients with Parkinson's disease and stroke, including walking

and talking. Singing might also help people recover the loss of language functions after a stroke.

"Music is a universal language that everyone can enjoy with remarkable benefits," said Sarah Lenz Lock, AARP senior vp for policy and executive director of the GCBH. "This report suggests music can have a powerful role to play in healthy aging by enriching our brains' activity, improving our moods and fostering social connections. Over the next several months, AARP will celebrate those enhancing their brain health

through melody, while providing fun and unique virtual opportunities to engage with music and help make life better for older adults."

The GCBH report recommends ways people can engage with music, including:

- Listen to both familiar and new music. Evidence suggests music you know and like causes the strongest brain response and dopamine release, while new music can stimulate the brain and provide a new source of pleasure.
- Dance, sing or move to music to

not only provide physical exercise but also potentially help relieve stress, build social connections and stimulate your brain.

- Make music yourself by singing or playing an instrument. Learning to play a musical instrument can offer a sense of mastery and self-esteem while stimulating thinking skills.

A recent AARP survey found that adults who engage in music are more likely to rate their brain health and cognitive function as excellent or very good. To celebrate the power of music and help strengthen the minds

of those 50-plus, AARP is offering ways for older adults to engage with music, including the relaunch of its popular singing competition "AARP Superstar 2020."

In addition, AARP is teaming up with Daybreaker (<https://www.daybreaker.com>) to host a virtual "Dancing Through the Decades," a two-hour livestream dance adventure through the 1960s, '70s and '80s on July 18. Crank up the music and enjoy the summer.

To read the full report, "Music on Our Minds: The Rich Potential of Music to Promote Brain Health and Mental Wellbeing," visit [aarp.org/brainhealth](http://aarp.org/brainhealth).

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



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# JACL ANNOUNCES NATIONAL BOARD CANDIDATES FOR NEXT BIENNIUM

As a result of COVID-19, the organization will hold its first-ever online voting election.

For the first time in JACL's 91-year history, national officers for the 2020-22 biennium will be elected via online ballot due to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. The organization's Nominations Committee has created a series of procedures to ensure that anyone who wants to run for office is given the opportunity and JACL members will be able to hear from the candidates.

JACL chapters must designate a delegate to vote in the election. The ballot will be open from 2 a.m. PDT-2 p.m. PDT/5 a.m. EDT-5 p.m. EDT on Aug. 23, so that delegates in all time zones can vote.

Candidates can still file to run in this year's election. Interested individuals must email [policy@jacl.org](mailto:policy@jacl.org) as soon as possible in order to declare his/her intent to apply. Late filers must have the endorsement of his/her chapter president (or delegate) and four other credentialed chapter presidents (or delegates).

Due to the pandemic, the Nominations Committee will accept these endorsements via email sent by chapter presidents (or delegates) to [policy@jacl.org](mailto:policy@jacl.org). Applications must be submitted as soon as possible.

## The Nominations Committee will host three election webinars:

- **Introduction and Nomination of Candidates — Aug. 15**
- **Candidates' Forum — Aug. 16**
- **Announcement of Election Results — Aug. 23 at 3 p.m. PDT/6 p.m. EDT.**

On behalf of the Nominations Committee, I hope that you can join us for these important election webinars. Information on joining the webinars will be forthcoming.

I hope that you and your families are in the best of health during this difficult time.

*Sincerely,*

*Eric Langowski,  
Chair of the JACL Nominations Committee*

**Name:** Jeffrey Moy  
**JACL Chapter:** San Francisco  
**District Council:** NCWNP  
**Candidate:** National President (re-election)

## OFFICIAL STATEMENT:

"My name is Jeffrey Moy, and I am running for my second term as National President. I am the deputy director for Culture of Health Leaders, a leadership development program focused on improving the health of communities around the country. I have served JACL at the local, district and national level, and I have experience serving other community and civil rights organizations as well.

"I am completing my first term as National President, after serving two terms as VP for Public Affairs. I was also NY/SC Chairperson from 2012-2013, before stepping away for personal reasons. I was also EDC Youth Representative from 2010-2012, which included service on the Strategic Planning Committee (then called the Program for Action Committee) and Constitution and Bylaws Committee. I was the Washington, D.C., Chapter Youth Chair from 2010-2013.

"My professional experience largely comes from managing nonprofit programs, such as my work on the Fulbright Scholars Program or the leadership development programs for OCA – Asian Pacific American Advocates. I received a master's of public administration from Baruch College and a bachelor of arts in philosophy and psychology from the University of Southern California.

"The critical issue that JACL must continue to address is sustainability. Our strength as an organization is our amazing members. But we know that retaining these members and bringing in new members is a constant challenge. Fundraising also often feels like a struggle, even for programs that have successful track records. After over 90 years of existence, it is natural for people to question our relevancy.

"But those of us who have taken the time to really engage know how special JACL is. Even when things get frustrating, the legacy of civil rights work, the community we are a part of at the local, regional and national levels, and the advocacy work we continue to do today are uniquely ours.

"These shared values, particularly the deep-seated desire to fight back against injustice, is the fire that will help JACL continue to be a beacon of hope for years to come. We must continue to share that passion, so that people who are looking for a community to be a part of or an outlet to fight for justice, know that JACL will be there."

**Please state your definition of leadership and your perception of the role of the JACL National**

## Board:

"Leadership is finding a path forward for the people you represent, through a process of listening, engaging and working collectively. Leadership requires reflecting on your own experiences, making difficult decisions and taking action to create change. The JACL National Board's role is executing the organization's mission and vision in a way that respects our members' viewpoints, while also ensuring the sustainability of the organization. We respect the duties our members have entrusted us with by serving to the best of our ability."

## How would you implement JACL's Strategic Plan in your elected office?

"As National President, I would work closely with other National Board members to determine the best ways we can work together and with other members to accomplish the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan. This may include learning about best practices from chapters around the country, asking committees for recommendations or having National Board members work closely with staff to assess program areas. Throughout all this, the National President needs to keep the bigger picture in mind and articulate to members how their skills and passions can help JACL move forward."

## Articulate the current ideological differences between youth and older members and how you would address them.

"I don't believe that the ideological differences we see between generations in JACL are all that different than those we see everywhere in our society. To generalize, younger people want to be included and heard, while older people may be concerned that younger members have not had the appropriate training or the commitment to take on leadership roles.

"What we must remember is that our shared values are what has brought us together, and that we must stay committed to listening to each other and learning from each other. We are members of JACL because we hope for a more just society. If we take the time to connect and learn about each other at a personal level, we can get past the stereotypes and artificial boundaries that prevent us from reaching our goals."

## What is your vision for JACL? Where do you see JACL going in the next few years?

"JACL is uniquely positioned as the oldest Asian American civil rights organization in the country. As a



membership organization, we should be able to quickly mobilize around social justice issues and be present for our community and others facing injustice. A second term would allow me to continue building upon structural changes that should make it easier for our staff and members to have the resources they need, so that JACL can continue to be a force for years to come."

## How would you assist in or actively participate in raising funds for JACL?

"Working with the Executive Director, I would continue working to determine how else I can assist with the overall fundraising plan, whether through relationships with corporate sponsors or asking for individual donations.

"I also look forward to assisting the new VP for Planning and Development in continuing efforts to raise funds for our educational programming and with whatever ideas [he/she] bring to the role. Underlying all of this is an understanding that as we work generally to raise JACL's profile and strengthen our organization, more fundraising opportunities will come along."

## How would you develop and/or improve relations with the following groups including, but not limited to, youth groups, corporate sponsors and NCAPA organizations?

"Being strategic about how these relationships are approached by staff and other National Board members is important, but personally, I am always open to conversations with any of the groups listed. I have experience with serving the NY/SC and more recently with Kakehashi, and I make myself available to youth groups when asked. I have developed relationships with sponsors over the years and check in with them as requested. Similarly, my experience in D.C. has led to strong relationships with staff and board members for many NCAPA organizations."

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

- **Total Cases:** 3,416,428\*
- **Total Deaths:** 135,991 (as of July 15)
- **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*



# RALLY SPOTLIGHTS RACIST ACTS IN TORRANCE

A spike in COVID-19 assaults on Asians in the U.S. also raises concerns.

By P.C. Staff

**D**ozens of protesters and observers gathered in Torrance, Calif., on July 11 to exercise their right to exercise without becoming victimized for being Asian.

The rally took place in Wilson Park one month after two separate incidents occurred there on June 10 in which a woman, later identified by the Torrance Police Department as Lena Hernandez, 54, of Long Beach, allegedly harangued and threatened people of Asian Pacific descent.

Among the speakers at the rally were three Asians who said that they were victims of Hernandez: Sherry-Ann Bulseco, Kayceelyn Salminao and a father and son who asked to remain anonymous, with the father requesting to be referred to as Victim No. 3. All three are being represented by attorney Sandy Roxas.

Victim No. 3 told the *Pacific Citizen* that he was with his sons, ages 11 and 2, for a walk in Wilson Park on June 10 when he encountered Hernandez in the parking lot.

"I noticed this woman was shouting at me, so I rolled down my window and realized she was basically threatening me and making racial slurs," he said.

Victim No. 3 began recording the incident on his smartphone, and the video shows Hernandez — who he dubbed "Torrance Karen" — calling him "Chinaman." Earlier that day, Bulseco was at Wilson Park to exercise when she encountered Hernandez. Because she was recording her workout, she also recorded Hernandez racially harassing and threatening her.

While the video does not show Hernandez

A group shot of rallygoers



PHOTOS: PACIFIC CITIZEN

Rally sign

dez going out of her way to purposely bump Bulseco, which she says did happen and caused her to exclaim "Jesus" in reaction, her video shows Hernandez telling Bulseco, "Go back to whatever f\*\*\*\*\* Asian country you came from," and, "Next time you ever talk to me like that you're going to get your a\*\* kicked by my family. They're going to f\*\*\* you up!"

Preceding the twin June 10 incidents was another that took place Oct. 11, 2019, at Torrance's Del Amo Fashion Center mall that also allegedly involved Hernandez, in which she was said to have verbally assaulted a mall custodian and then "pushed and struck" bystander Salminao when she tried to intervene.

According to attorney Roxas, photos of Hernandez were taken immediately after the alleged attack by Salminao's husband.

"He witnessed the assault, and he broke it up, and he followed Lena Hernandez until law enforcement stopped her at the Del Amo Mall," Roxas said.

Fast-forwarding to June 2020 after the two Wilson Park incidents involving Hernandez, Roxas told the *Pacific*

*Citizen*, "As soon as Kayceelyn saw those viral videos, she recognized her, and she called Torrance P.D. and said, 'This is the same suspect.'"

However, Roxas also said that when the Torrance police held a news conference on June 12, they said that they did not know the information for the alleged perpetrator — Hernandez — which she says is inaccurate.

"They had her information because they took her ID and wrote down all her information at the Del Amo Mall. But at the press conference, they were saying they didn't have her information, they were trying to ascertain it," Roxas said.

Roxas said the Torrance P.D. made another inaccurate statement. "They publicly put on social media — I think it was Instagram — that when people were calling them out, [asking] why didn't you do anything, why didn't you file charges against Lena, they said that Kayceelyn retracted her charges and didn't want to go forward . . . which is definitely a misstatement because Kayceelyn says that she kept following up with the Torrance P.D. and getting pushed to the side and not getting any attention."

After the Wilson Park videos were released on social media, City News Service reported that the Torrance police found Hernandez at a park in San Pedro.

A statement in a Torrance P.D. news release said that when Torrance police located Hernandez and interviewed her, the conclusion was: "Based on the fact all three incidents are misdemeanor crimes and did not occur in the presence of an officer, Hernandez was not arrested at the time of the interview."

When Hernandez was arrested for the Torrance mall incident at about 1 p.m. on July 3 — 266 days after the October 2019 incident — it was on a warrant charging her with battery, a misdemeanor. There were, however, no additional charges for the alleged

racist verbal assaults at Wilson Park.

Regarding the time lag in arresting Hernandez for her alleged part in the October 2019 battery, Victim No. 3 told the *Pacific Citizen*, "I think that everybody should be concerned by the fact that they only took action months after the battery she committed back in October. I think the public should be asking a lot of questions, like why did it take so long for them to take action for the initial battery back in October 2019, as well as why there are no charges for the 6/10 event, which was fully captured?"

"I think the public should be concerned that the [Torrance] city attorney, in his statement, said 'insufficient evidence' to bring any charges for the 6/10 attacks. I think the question is, 'Is he not seeing what the public sees in these videos? If these videos are not sufficient, than what is sufficient?'"

The reasons given by the Torrance City Attorney's Office for not filing criminal charges against Hernandez were found in a statement on the city of Torrance website that reads: "After a careful review of all the evidence available at this time, there is insufficient evidence to support filing any criminal charges against Ms. Hernandez. A prosecutor in a criminal case shall not institute a charge that the prosecutor knows is not supported by probable cause. Currently, there are critical gaps in the evidence regarding how each incident unfolded that result in the lack of necessary certainty required to initiate criminal prosecution against any suspect."

However, in a new development after the July 11 rally, Roxas told the *Pacific Citizen* that she might have new evidence that could change the status quo.

"At the [July 11] rally, though, there was a female individual who approached me and said she had

witnessed the verbal and physical attack of Sherry, the second victim who was on the stairs, so I have her information and she told me to forward her information to the city attorney," Roxas said. "The city attorney has indicated that there is insufficient evidence to move forward, but if there is new evidence that can be presented to him that potentially could have an effect on the case."

After posting bail on July 3, Hernandez was released by about 4:10 p.m. The City of Torrance website states: "Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Los Angeles County Courts have set bail for most misdemeanors at \$0.00."

An email with questions regarding Hernandez sent by the *Pacific Citizen* to a Torrance Police Department public information officer was unanswered. An arraignment date for Hernandez has been set for Oct. 5 at the Torrance Courthouse.

Roxas told the *Pacific Citizen* that she has discovered that Hernandez has three other incidents that occurred in 2020.

"In February, she was arrested for battery," said Roxas. "That case ended up being dismissed. In April, she was arrested for battery and for hit-and-run. She received two convictions for that and was sentenced to only five days in county jail for the battery. For the hit-and-run, she was sentenced to zero days in the county jail. She's currently on probation for those two cases that arose from April. This is someone who has a violent history."

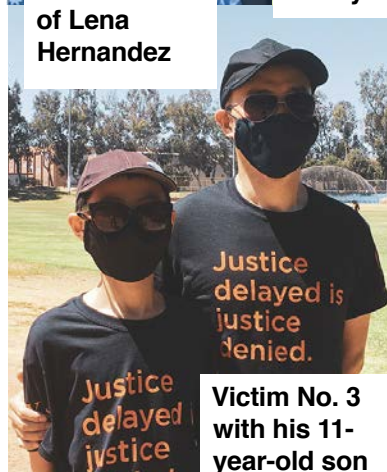
Regarding speculation that Hernandez may be suffering from mental illness, which could be used in her defense, Roxas said, "Because she has those prior convictions and they're so recent, she can't claim mental illness as a defense . . . because she just was convicted and she pled out



Screenshot of Lena Hernandez



Attorney Sandy Roxas



Victim No. 3 with his 11-year-old son



Kayceelyn Salminao, who said Lena Hernandez attacked her in October 2019 at the Del Amo Fashion Center



# TERASAKI BUDOKAN: OPENING TIP-OFF IS GETTING CLOSER

Rendering of the Budokan building

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF LITTLE TOKYO SERVICE CENTER

COVID-19 delays the grand opening, but a limited opening is a possibility.

By P.C. Staff

Although it definitely applies, whoever came up with the saying, “Good things come to those who wait,” did not have the long-gestating Terasaki Budokan in mind.

It’s also safe to say no one involved with its planning ever anticipated that the grand opening for Little Tokyo’s new recreation center and community space, which had been set for June, would become yet another victim of SARS-CoV-2.

However, because the “lockdown” imposed on nonessential businesses and services to slow the spread of the deadly virus did not apply to the Terasaki Budokan — a partnership between the City of Los Angeles and the nonprofit LTSC Community Development Corp. — construction has continued these past few months, with the only remaining work needing completion being getting the details right.

According to Mike Murase, the LTSC’s director of Service Programs and Budokan Capital Campaign director, everything should be completed by mid-July, and once a certificate of occupancy is issued, “we could start having activities here” — but on a limited basis.

“The grand opening that we were hoping to have in June or July we postponed indefinitely,” said Murase. “We have not rescheduled it yet, but we are probably looking at early next year to have a grand opening ceremony. But that doesn’t mean that we couldn’t be using it in a limited way as soon as it’s available to us.”

For Ryan Lee, that is OK.

“I think that’s a sacrifice we’ll be happy to make,” said the Little Tokyo Service Center’s Lee, director of the Terasaki Budokan, which is located on Los Angeles Street



Pictured at the construction site are (front row, from left) Kim Kawasaki, Scott Ito, Chris Aihara, Tak Suzuki, Minako Shirai-Ferrante, Adina Mori-Holt and (back row, from left) Mike Murase, Courtlyn Shimada, Ryan Lee and Michelle Chan.

between Second and Third Streets, steps away from the Little Tokyo Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library.

In other words, what’s a few more weeks of delay when you consider that the idea of a Little Tokyo-based multipurpose center for basketball, volleyball and traditional Japanese martial arts, meetings and a community hub goes back to 1994 for LTSC — and by the reckoning of some, even longer?

“There could be an argument made that there was a need for a budōkan, a Little Tokyo rec center back in the ’40s and the postwar years,” said Lee, who grew up in Pasadena, Calif., and whose grandparents, Alice and Robert Kikawa, were founding members of the Pasadena Bruins organization. “In the late 1940s when Japanese Americans were reassimilating back into American culture, it’s not like everybody was here with open arms ready to embrace the Japanese Americans. So, those sports leagues became kind of a bonding agent.”

Now, the dream of a Little Tokyo-based rec center is inevitable. Under the guidance of the Department of Public Health and other government officials, some limited activities may be allowed when the facility has its soft opening, Murase hopes.

“We will not be able to have such things as contact sports — basketball volleyball, judo. We could have karate, the kata portion of it anyway [with masks], where they could be distanced and still train,” Murase said.

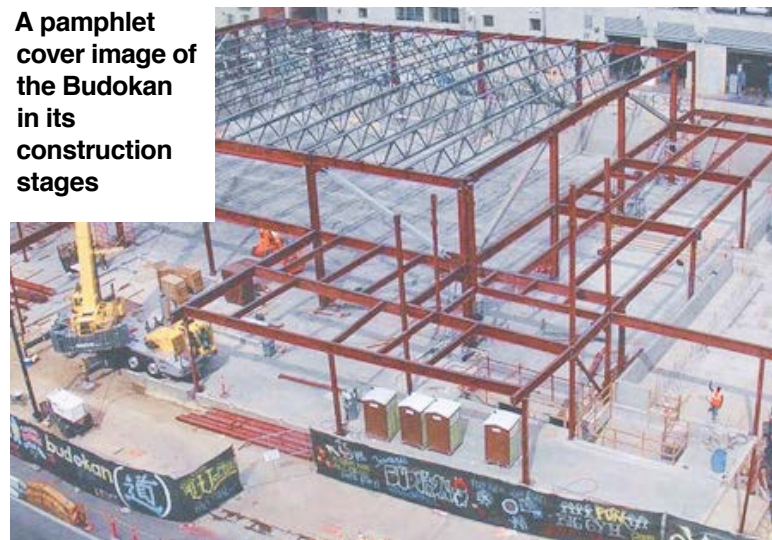
Despite the Japanese meanings of *budō* (martial way) and *kan* (building or meeting hall), it’s obvious that because of the primacy of basketball within Southern California’s Japanese American communities compared to nearly any other community or cultural activity (including judo, kendo, karate, et al, as well as volleyball), the heart of the 51,000-square-foot Terasaki Budokan will be a main floor large enough for an Olympic-sized basketball court or, when partitioned, space for two side-by-side basketball courts, with removable bleachers for sports fans.

The facility, designed to meet LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards including a system for reusing water, will also have underground parking, a meeting room, a second-story terrace and an outdoor events area with a stage, not to mention advanced video recording capabilities to use to improve training.

Lee praised Walton Construction and architectural firm Gruen Associates.

“They’ve done a really fantastic job of keeping us apprised as to what’s going on with the construction.

A pamphlet cover image of the Budokan in its construction stages



Every day, there’s something new that comes up with a project this big, and it’s been really great to work with them.”

Yes, by any measure, the Terasaki Budokan is a big deal.

According to Murase, a tipping point in turning the long-held dream into a reality came in May 2017. That was when the Terasaki Family Foundation made a \$3.5 million donation toward the Budokan of Los Angeles and gave it a new official name: the Paul I. Terasaki Budokan. (Paul Terasaki invented tissue-typing technology that made organ transplants possible — and himself a multimillionaire and philanthropist.)

“Even fundraising professionals gave us the advice and opinion that we would not be able to raise the funds to make this happen,” Murase reflected. “We went against the professional advice and said, ‘We’re going to do it.’”

Murase said the donation by the Terasaki Family Foundation was important not just for the amount of money but also for the credence it conferred.

“The faith that the family had in us made it possible to market the project and present it in a way where there were credible people with resources that believed in the project and provided a lot of momentum.

“We’ve had a number of other challenges throughout this process, and one by one, we were able to overcome them,” Murase added.

One unforeseen setback that hit the project particularly hard was the Sept. 4, 2019, death of 49-year-old LTSC Executive Director Dean Matsubayashi.

“He played a critical role, particularly in identifying resources, and I think he was the one who best understood how government funding and foundation funding worked,” Murase said.

In an article from the Sept. 6-19, 2013, *Pacific Citizen*, Matsubayashi said, “I would like to thank the City of Los Angeles for their partnership with LTSC on the Budokan project and for their recognition on the importance of expanding recreational opportunities in the downtown area for a broad range of potential users, especially for many within the area who don’t have access to affordable recreational opportunities.”

Murase said another turning point for the project occurred with the August 2017 groundbreaking.

“That was a point when the community looked at the Budokan project with new eyes because they saw something actually happening. It became more real,” he said.

It marked yet another obstacle overcome, namely, finding a site in downtown Los Angeles with the necessary size for such a project.

Murase noted that more than 25 sites in and near Little Tokyo were considered. Among those sites was the area known as First Street North.

“There was community opposition by some people, although a number of people wanted to see it built there,” he said. “The challenge of finding a suitable site within Little Tokyo was very difficult.”

Another key component in the path to the creation of the Budokan cited by Murase was community outreach.

“We went to a lot of the basketball organizations, the martial arts organizations, we met with individuals



Artist’s rendition from the Sept. 6-19, 2013, P.C.

PHOTO: PACIFIC CITIZEN



and families who had resources and ties to Little Tokyo and were able to, one by one, get people's support, and now we're at a point where, in the last year as we publicized images of the building going up, we dispelled the notions of the naysayers who thought it could never happen," he said.

Asked whether those meetings showed a spirit of cooperation or if it was like herding cats, Murase said it was both — but he added, "We are very thankful for the community support that we got over the years. There were people who stuck with us through thick and thin, people who came on board at a much later time

but supported us in very significant ways, and so we consider this a project as something that was done by the community."

For Murase, the Terasaki Budokan is for the up-and-coming generation, whether from Orange County, the San Fernando or San Gabriel Valleys, the South Bay or the Westside — and he wants it to be a special experience.

"They're not walking into a high school gym or a rec center gym anywhere. To come to Little Tokyo to play basketball in that special place and then walk out into the community, go out to the restaurants, go to JANM and the JACCC and make some memories with their friends and their family as they grow up — that's what we want to see," Murase said.

"That kid who's in the third grade now or in the eighth grade now, when they graduate from college and become adults, they'll have a memory of Little Tokyo and a memory of an experience they shared with people

they liked, their teammates, their family," he continued. "That's got to be the special thing. That's what we want to see. We want generations of JA kids and other kids to experience that feeling."

But because of the coronavirus, Murase said, "The grand opening that we were hoping to have in June or July we postponed indefinitely. We have not rescheduled it yet, but we are probably looking at early next year to have a grand opening ceremony."

Until that day comes, Murase says the thinking is to first do "a much more modest virtual grand opening so that people can at least see the facility. It will be like a video tour of the facility. We have a lot of other preparations that we want to be doing, including reaching out to the community to reconfirm their interest in using the space."

Murase also noted that the pandemic has given him a different perspective on how the grand opening

for the Terasaki Budokan might be approached.

"What we're going through now changed a lot of us and probably changed the world. So, when we get through this, we're not going back to resume whatever was going on. We'll be doing a lot of the same things but with new eyes, new ideas, and I think even for the grand opening, we had planned a sort of an extravaganza that focused on the Budokan's accomplishments.

"I'm personally rethinking that," he continued. "Maybe when the facility can be opened to the public, we should have a community gathering to celebrate the fact that all of us got through this and not so much a focus on the grand opening of a building, but celebrating a community and its people, resilience, sticking together and overcoming another hardship that Little Tokyo has gone through."

For Lee, he boiled it down thusly: "We're hoping to really be a home court for all. That's our slogan." ■

### A full-court basketball gymnasium is among the Budokan's highlights.



A layout rendering of the Budokan's main features

# Safety is a family affair



Living in a multigenerational household means taking extra precautions to keep everyone safe and healthy. Limit outdoor activities and wear protective gear when necessary to go out in public. Because going the extra mile to protect yourself also protects your family.

**Keeping each other safe is another way to say "I love you."**

Let AARP help. For tips and resources during COVID-19, visit [aarp.org/coronavirus](https://aarp.org/coronavirus)

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## JACL » continued from page 4



**Name:** Sarah E. Baker  
**JACL Chapter:** Seattle  
**District Council:** PNW  
**Candidate:** National VP for Public Affairs (re-election)

### OFFICIAL STATEMENT:

“My name is Sarah Baker, and I am reapplying for the position of National VP for Public Affairs. I work as a program manager for Communities Rise, a nonprofit based out of Seattle that provides legal trainings and pro bono services to NPOs within the State of Washington. I graduated from North Seattle College with a bachelor of arts in international business and am presently working toward my master’s degree in public administration at Seattle University.

“One challenging issue I feel the JACL must address is how we can be better allies and advocates for Black lives. As the rallying cry of ‘Black Lives Matter!’ has been taken up around the world, we must ask ourselves as a national organization what we can do to continue dismantling systems of oppression.

“Asian communities have a long-standing history of anti-Blackness. It is time for us to take a hard look at why that is and take the necessary steps to correct this deeply internalized racism. We must constantly remind ourselves that we can have anti-racist intentions while still committing racist acts.

“By supporting Black lives, we are supporting not just one group of people, but also all disenfranchised peoples. We are currently seeing one of the largest civil rights movements in history. As the organization largely responsible for gaining reparations for Japanese Americans, there is absolutely a precedence for us to work with the Black community to help them obtain reparations for their history of enslavement within the United States.

“But this singular action will not be enough if we do not also address our own proximity to whiteness and the privileges that we have historically reaped through tropes like the model-minority myth. We have a lot to learn, a lot to unlearn and a lot of work to do. The time is now.”

**Describe relevant experiences including any personal and professional qualifications that qualify you for the National JACL office you seek:**

“Throughout my career, the

majority of my work and volunteer experiences has been centered on nonprofits, with a specific focus on the areas of social justice and advocacy. I have a wide breadth of experience within leadership roles, and I am passionate about serving my community. I am currently attending Seattle University for my master’s in public administration, which also lends itself to the work I wish to pursue in the JACL.”

**Please state your definition of leadership and your perception of the role of the JACL National Board.**

“To be a leader is neither to dictate nor is it to reach a place of complacency within one’s position; it necessitates active participation and listening to the needs of the group that is being represented. In order to effectively take on a leadership role, it is imperative to account for the voices that create the whole and find a way to guide the decision-making processes involved in facilitating those needs. The National Board of the JACL serves as the acting arm of the membership base. Those that serve within these leadership roles are tasked with representing members of the JACL to the best of their ability by being aware of the current issues and having an understanding of the needs of the organization as a whole.”

**How would you implement JACL’s Strategic Plan in your elected office?**

“If re-elected to the position of VP for Public Affairs, I would ensure that the voice of the organization be representative of the Strategic Plan by working with other officers on the National Board, specifically the Executive Director and National President. Having an awareness of the organization’s past and current positions on national issues pertaining to civil rights and social justice will be key in carrying out the roles and duties of this position, in addition to clearly and concisely communicating with other community leaders and advocates on behalf of the organization.”

**Articulate the current ideological differences between youth and older members and how you would address them.**

“The main differences that I see between the younger and older generations within the JACL surround implementation of succession planning and new goals in terms of outreach and advocacy with other communities.

“As we bring in new youth that do not necessarily have the same history with the JACL as some of our more-seasoned members, it is hard to convey the experiences and legacy that come with time. Creating a clear support structure and pipeline

for incoming leaders is key to the continued success of the organization. This will require participation by all members to make sure that we continue to be leaders within the National AAPI network in relationship to current events while maintaining the integrity and knowledge of our past.”

**What is your vision for JACL? Where do you see JACL going in the next few years?**

“As the United States’ oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, I see the JACL as a leader amongst AAPI civil rights and advocacy groups. As such, my vision for the JACL is to strengthen our ties with other organizations, both within and outside of the AAPI communities, as well as continue to be at the forefront of current social justice issues.

“In the next few years, I see our organization serving our membership by continuing to be strong leaders in the areas of diversity and inclusion. To do this, we must continue to build relationships with similarly aligned organizations while simultaneously working to increase our own capacity as a membership-based group. Work must be done both internally and externally to achieve these goals.”

**How would you assist in or actively participate in raising funds for JACL?**

“I would help to build up existing relationships and create new ones with potential funding sources. Being a member of the National Board means being a voice for the larger organization. By being a strong leader and advocate, I plan to help bring the JACL forward to highlight our group with new funders. This can be done through my ties with local groups as well as outside of my immediate network.”

**How would you develop and/or improve relations with the following groups including, but not limited to, youth groups, corporate sponsors and NCAPA organizations?**

“As mentioned previously, it is important within leadership roles to listen to the voices of the people you represent. As such, it is critical to build relationships with other groups based on what our members find to be important. This can be done through a variety of ways, including but not limited to, being visible as a representative of the JACL to build relationships on behalf of the organization, actively working to engage with groups that we are already affiliated with and reaching out to new groups and organizations to build relationships that will be mutually beneficial to both parties.

“To me, visibility and intention are key factors in how we can develop and improve upon our ties to other groups. Going beyond this, we must actively listen to and take the lead of organizations that differ from ours

to better learn about their issues and how we can be supportive of those causes.”



**Name:** Marissa Kitazawa  
**JACL Chapter:** South Bay  
**District Council:** PSW  
**Candidate:** National VP for General Operations (re-election)

### OFFICIAL STATEMENT:

“My name is Marissa Kitazawa, and I am running for a second term as VP of General Operations. As the granddaughter of Japanese American incarcerated during World War II and a Hiroshima bomb survivor, I have always been inspired by the resiliency of my own family. JACL’s immediate support for the American Muslim community during 9/11 inspired me to begin my career in community organizing. Once I graduated undergrad from Pitzer College, JACL provided me my first job as a program associate, and I built leadership and educational programs that empower youth through community storytelling, intergenerational dialogue and coalition building for the Pacific Southwest District.

“Currently, I am the director of content creation at Dailey & Associates, where I spearhead creative video production for our Fortune 500 clients. I received my M.A. in social documentation from UC Santa Cruz and my B.A. in media studies and economics from Pitzer College.

“My professional career path is an unconventional one. I’ve had the privilege to work across multiple sectors from nonprofit and academia to for-profit. I have always been grounded in social justice, and this has influenced my professional trajectory. At my current industry, I have successfully built up the in-house content creation infrastructure and personnel teams for multiple advertising agencies. This allowed me to understand, operationally, what structural support is needed.

“As a 90-plus-year-old organization, we must look at how we can be relevant and sustainable for future generations. This past term, I began to lay out the framework by updating our organizational structure, reactivating our Personnel Committee and updating our internal policies. I spearheaded the programming for the (2019) SLC Convention, proved it could be a profitable program and explored its untapped potential. My experiences as former staff, former PSW Governor and my first term as VP of General Operations uniquely

qualifies me for this role. I am proud of the work we have accomplished so far, but I am also just getting started.

“My hope is that JACL can continue to play a vital role in civil rights and uplift other communities. I’d be honored to continue to play a part in our organization’s legacy as your VP of General Operations.

**Please state your definition of leadership and your perception of the role of the JACL National Board.**

“My leadership inspiration comes from a quote by Nelson Henderson: ‘The true meaning of life is to plant trees; under whose shade you do not expect to sit.’ As an organization with 90 years of history, we struggle with staying relevant with the changing needs of the community today. My role as VP of General Operations is to strengthen the organization so that we can be sustainable and continue to make meaningful change for the community. In addition, I believe it would be my job to evaluate our infrastructure, build capacity, collaborate with the rest of the board and staff to determine how we can pivot and continue to grow as an organization.”

**How would you implement JACL’s Strategic Plan in your elected office?**

“All of the strategic plan initiatives are ongoing and embed themselves deeply within the general operations of the organization. In my elected office, I believe we can use the off-year National Convention as a venue in which we can showcase and strengthen these initiatives.

“For the past convention in Salt Lake City, I took on the role of programming because I wanted to demonstrate how we could utilize the potential of our convention. I believe this can be a model to continue to refine moving forward.”

**Articulate the current ideological differences between youth and older members and how you would address them.**

“When I first joined JACL in 2010, the ideological differences between the youth and older members were very apparent, and the divide felt very clear. The youth represented a very progressive political view, and the older generation clung to their cultural conservative values. This question is extremely complex, and the ideological differences can be explored further by examining the intergenerational trauma brought on by experiences of the Japanese American Incarceration to our community.

“I’ve witnessed JACL slowly change through the years. I’ve been inspired by the organization’s ability to have intergenerational dialogue about our experiences during World War II and what’s currently happening at our borders in the immigration

» See next page



» detention centers.

“At the Salt Lake City Convention, it was really important for me to create a space where our membership could have a dialogue about the experience of the resisters and JACL’s position. We witnessed those meaningful and emotional testimonials happen on our debate floor, but regardless of our ideological differences, there was respect.”

“As VP of General Operations, I plan to continue to create spaces like this so that we can continue to have those tough conversations with each other. We need spaces where we can talk about Black Lives Matter and how we can be better advocates for our community. These conversations are necessary to have so we can grow both personally and as an organization.”

**What is your vision for JACL? Where do you see JACL going in the next few years?**

“As the largest and oldest AAPI civil rights organization with a rich history, JACL is uniquely positioned with its membership network of fierce advocates and activists, progressive educators, young upcoming leaders and talented artists. My vision for JACL is that we can continue to play a vital role within the civil rights world, and we continue to educate and uplift other communities.”

“In my second term, I would like to continue my initiatives to strengthen our structural capacity so we can support our staff, expand our services, advocate for what we believe and continue to grow our chapters. I’m inspired by the movement, dedication of our current board, and I believe we have the momentum to keep it going.”

**How would you assist in or actively participate in raising funds for JACL?**

“As a board member, I believe it is our fiduciary duty to give AND get. In addition to making a personal donation, I’ve secured over \$20,000 through corporate sponsorships and in-kind service for the chapter, district and national level over the years.”

“In my professional career, I’ve worked serving both the general and multicultural markets. While working at IW Group, I connected our Fortune 500 directly with the Asian American community. This experience has provided me a stronger understanding of how to build meaningful relationships with our corporate sponsors. In addition, I’ve been building relationships with many of our JACL sponsors since I was on the staff side. These personal relationships have allowed me to engage in honest dialogue with sponsors like AT&T and Union Bank on what they are looking for in the future, how we can improve and how to best collaborate with them moving forward.”

**How would you develop and/**

**or improve relations with the following groups including, but not limited to, youth groups, corporate sponsors and NCAPA organizations?**

“My strength is my ability to collaborate and work with others. I believe in allowing others to have a seat at the table. I have a strong relationship with AAPI nonprofits and our JACL sponsors that I plan to continue to cultivate for JACL, whether that is garnering support on a particular issue or collaborating at convention. It really is about starting that initial dialogue in order to build a meaningful and authentic relationship. I truly believe that we can uplift others as we uplift ourselves.”



**NOTE:** *The following application was received by the Nominations Committee after the deadline. Late filed applications cannot be accepted or rejected until the National Council convenes. In order to provide as much information about candidates or potential candidates during this difficult period, we are including this individual’s responses in this P.C. issue.*

**Name:** Mieko Kuramoto  
**JACL Chapter:** Wisconsin  
**District Council:** MDC  
**Candidate:** National Youth/  
Student Council Representative  
(re-election)

**OFFICIAL STATEMENT:**

“For me as a young Japanese American from the Upper Midwest, the National Youth/Student Council was the first place I found a real sense of community, a sphere where I could articulate my identity as an Asian American and connect it to political and social issues that were important to me. When studying Asian American history at Smith College, I would occasionally find myself learning about the JACL in the classroom, and I was inspired and proud to read about the organization that stood up to the United States government in court to demand reparations for the egregious civil rights violations committed against our community; the first non-LGBT national organization to support marriage equality; and above all, I never forgot the moments in my first convention that compelled me to join the JACL in the first place: watching young people fight to push through a resolution that would sup-

port HR 40, the House Bill granting reparations for slavery. It was that kind of cross-community solidarity that compelled me to embrace this organization that I have come to love; the organization that has shaped me, my worldview, my college life and my career goals so profoundly.

“In many ways, I remain in awe of the JACL legacy. It is often mentioned that we are the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the country, which is a standard we bear proudly. However, I want this organization to be as pioneering as that legacy implies. With the high level of institutional structure and organization that we possess, including our national reach, this organization has the potential to be a major force in the AAPI community and the advocacy nonprofit sphere. We struggle, however, to push past the symbolic action and contribute to our fullest potential, particularly as a civil rights organization with as many resources, as much structure and the volume of membership that we have.

“In my second term as National Youth Representative, I will connect youth and young organizers to the resources and platform that the JACL offers. I, myself, have been a beneficiary of the leadership development opportunities supported by the JACL, and I know that we have the resources to be supporting youth in activist endeavors; be that immigration justice, anti-migrant detention work, protesting police brutality or working in solidarity with other frontline communities. We are a unique organization in the high-level and institutionalized roles there are available for young people at chapter, district and national levels, but connecting the young people who have the passion and the purpose to those resources is key. Getting youth to take full advantage of Youth Leadership Summit funding, engaging scholarship recipients and Kakehashi participants and working across youth and Nikkei organizations to publicize opportunities for political and activist work is my goal for the coming term, and I look forward to turning our community’s strength into action.”

**Please state your definition of leadership and your perception of the role of the JACL National Board.**

“Being a leader as an organization means strengthening our commitment to social justice activism, and leadership within the organization means strengthening and supporting our community in order to do so. As a civil rights organization, our commitment to social justice activism should be our highest priority, and by providing the JACL community with resources, building a pipeline of leadership among young AAPI leaders and fostering intergenera-

tional bonds, we can become stronger leaders and better advocates.

“I see the role of the National Board as a unifying body for the organization. One of the strengths of the JACL is its regional character — different chapters have different cultures, respond to different needs in their regions and communities, etc. The National Board, however, represents the organization in all its diversity and should act as a unified face for national advocacy efforts. With that goal in mind, the National Board must actively seek out new sources of revenue and partnerships that can help support our organization, as well as keep updated with civil rights and social issues that will allow us to expand our advocacy work.”

**How would you implement JACL’s Strategic Plan in your elected office?**

“The National Youth Representative is a unique office in its focus on the younger generations of JACL leadership, and I believe this is one of the most critical demographics to reach with the Strategic Plan. I will work to increase the engagement with youth members through an active approach to social justice issues, including expanded political advocacy, more efficient public relations and stronger leadership amongst community partners. I also plan to market the organization to young AAPI leaders by establishing a pipeline of leadership — I see it as important that we recruit a diversity of young people into the JACL to facilitate multiple perspectives in the leadership for years to come. Our leadership development strategies at the NY/SC level continue to be grounded in the JACL mission, vision and history, but I will continue to seek out new and innovative programs to increase engagement.”

**Articulate the current ideological differences between youth and older members and how you would address them.**

“Realistically speaking, our priorities between the generations are similar: We seek to fortify our community and approach issues of civil rights and social justice from our own identities/ histories as Japanese and Asian Americans. However, in the past, there has been generational split over the approach to activism, what issues should concern the JACL and what fall outside of our purview, and disagreements over the interpretation of the JACL’s mission as a civil rights organization.

“In addressing these intergenerational issues, I would point to the movement Tsuru for Solidarity as an example. Their structure is thoroughly intergenerational and integrates both the perspectives, wisdom and experience of the older generation with the ideology and worldview of the younger to foster a cohesive movement with a clear

goal. Mutual respect is the foundation of this cohesion, and in my role as the National Youth Representative, I would like to offer more opportunities for the generations to collaborate, cooperate and have open dialogue with one another. Creating opportunities to foster that mutual respect and understanding is a key element to my approach to intergenerational issues, and as part of this effort, I aim to create more platforms for idea exchange, such as workshops and mentorship programs.”

**What is your vision for JACL? Where do you see JACL going in the next few years?**

“The JACL enjoys a depth of history and a longevity that is relatively rare. . . . In the coming years, I would like to see the JACL be as pioneering as that legacy implies. There have been many moments in JACL history when we have taken risks to be on the cutting edge of issues that we now proudly count as part of our history. . . . I want to see the JACL revive this legacy. We need to step up to this platform that has already been built for us and take bolder strokes as advocates.”

**How would you assist in or actively participate in raising funds for JACL?**

“I believe that the highly structured youth component of the JACL, specifically the NY/SC and our representation on the National Board, is an underutilized component in soliciting funds from donors. The degree to which there are high-level and institutionalized roles for youth demonstrates a commitment to youth leadership development and community service that the JACL could make a more marketed characteristic.”

**How would you develop and/ or improve relations with the following groups including, but not limited to, youth groups, corporate sponsors and NCAPA organizations?**

“As the National Youth Representative, I will actively encourage NY/SC members and other JACL youth to incorporate solidarity work as one of their primary focuses.

In this past year, in particular, we have taken inspiration for our work from the movement Tsuru for Solidarity, which focuses its activism in developing relationships with other communities and social justice organizations.

In the past, the NY/SC has built strong relationships with organizations that serve Black, LGBTQ and immigrant rights communities in developing programs and Youth Leadership summits. I will continue to seek to develop deeper, long-term relationships with other organizations such that the NY/SC can delve deeper into and learn more about issues around which the JACL can be stronger allies.”



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](http://www.jacl.org).

### Tsuru for Solidarity: Community Conversations National Event

Begins July 25 from 1-3 p.m.

Price: Free

Registration is limited.

Tsuru for Solidarity is offering a series of Community Conversations to provide an opportunity to explore

identity and intergenerational trauma, anti-Black racism in our community and what it means to be in solidarity with other communities historically targeted by racism and violence. The first session will be on Japanese American Identity and will feature Dr. Donna Nagata, psychologist and professor at the University of Michigan; Dr. Satsuki Ina, co-organizer Tsuru for Solidarity; and moderated by Brian Niiya, content director at Densho. Info: To register and to receive more information, visit [www.tsuruforsolidarity.org](http://www.tsuruforsolidarity.org).

### Tadaima! 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, "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>.

### National Youth Council Storytelling Competition

National

Entry Deadline is Aug. 15

JACL's National Youth/Student Council is conducting a Digital Storytelling competition on "How Does the Past Influence Your Present?" It is open to all youth ages 13-30 and submissions are being accepted in a variety of formats: journalistic essay, visual art, video/film, poetry or creative writing. The top two entries will receive an all-expenses paid opportunity to attend the 2021 JACL National Convention in Las Vegas and present their work, as well as having it featured online and in the Pacific Citizen.

Info: Visit <https://nysc.jacl.org/how-does-the-past-influence-your-present-ny-sc-digital-storytelling-competition/>.

## 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? Genealogist Linda Harms Okazaki will guide you.

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

## PSW

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.

Info: [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org).

## PNW

'75 Years and Counting: From Hiroshima to Hope' Seattle, WA

Virtual Event Aug. 6-9

Price: Free

Marking the 75th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the 78th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, this virtual event will feature the release of the short film "75 Years and Counting: From Hiroshima to Hope" and the Window Peace Lantern Project that encourages community members to create a Peace Lantern for display in their window from Aug. 6-9. This event is being held in lieu of the traditional in-person event at Green Lake. Peace Lanterns can be posted to social media with the hash tag #FromHiroshimaToHope to

spread the message of peace and hope widely. This year's activities are sponsored by funding from the City of Seattle Office of Arts & Culture and the Abe Koller Peace Education Fund. Info: For more information, visit <http://fromhiroshimatohope.org> and <https://www.facebook.com/FromHiroshimaToHope>.

## EDC

Japanese Home Cooking for Nonchefs

Boston, MA

Virtual class on Aug. 1 from 5-6:30 p.m.

Price: \$10 for Japan Society Members and \$15 for Nonmembers

The Japan Society is offering an on-line cooking class on Okonomiyaki, a savory pancake and iconic Japanese street food. The class will be hosted via Zoom.

Info: To register and for more information, visit <https://www.japan-societyboston.org/event-3901022>.

## 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.

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# In MEMORIAM

## TRIBUTE

### ALBERT BUNJI IKEDA



**Albert Bunji Ikeda, 85**, of Shannondell in Audubon, Pa., and formerly of Seabrook, N.J., passed peacefully Friday afternoon June 26, 2020, at the home of his son in Harleysville, Pa.

Mr. Ikeda was born in Salinas, Calif., on July 12, 1934, and was the son of the late Albert Shizuo Ikeda and the late May Kubota Ikeda. He, as well as many other Japanese Americans, was held in an internment camp following the outbreak of World War II and eventually moved to Seabrook to begin a

new life.

Bunji graduated from Bridgeton High School and matriculated at Drexel University in Philadelphia where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He later earned a master's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Pennsylvania.

Following college, he served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He saw active duty for six months and was stationed at Fort Devens, Mass., and Camp Drum, N.Y. Mr. Ikeda achieved the rank of captain and continued to serve as a reservist until 1969.

He was a dedicated employee at RCA, Burroughs, General Electric and Lockheed-Martin during his working career as an engineer. His accomplishments included Nimbus weather satellites, communication satellites for the U.S. Air Force, the antenna for the Hubble Space Telescope and the toilet used in the space shuttles. His proudest contribution was helping to select the Computer Aided Design (CAD) system for all of GE AstroSpace.

In his community, he was a member of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) for 60 years. Bunji was president of the Philadelphia Chapter JACL for two years and also proudly served as the co-chair of the JACL National Convention which was held in Philadelphia in 1998.

He was a member, Deacon and choir member of the Valley Forge Presbyterian Church for more than 50 years. He built a 15-foot high cross that was used for many of the church's Good Friday and Easter Sunday services.

Mr. Ikeda was a dedicated husband, father, brother, uncle, and grandfather. He enjoyed ballroom dancing with his wife and attending sporting events and music and dance recitals of his children and grandchildren. He was a former Little League Baseball coach and was active with the Boy Scouts of America.

During his retirement at Shannondell, he remained active. He started, coordinated and taught line dancing for 13 years. He enjoyed participating in the activities at the Shannondell Fitness Center. He also sang in the Shannondell Choir and Bunji was the only male member of the Shannondell Tap Dance Team.

Survivors include his wife, Eiko Hada Ikeda; two sons, Kevin Ikeda and his wife, Constance, and their children, Peter Ikeda and Beth Palmer (husband: William); son, Craig Ikeda and his wife, Leila, and their children, Jan Grove (husband: Christian) and Emilie Ikeda. He is also survived by one brother, Norman Fumio Ikeda, and numerous brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by sisters Laye Nagahiro and June Mick, and a brother, Gary Ikeda.

Funeral services were held at the Valley Forge Presbyterian Church in King of Prussia, Pa., on Saturday, July 11, 10 A.M. ET (9:30 a.m. visitation). The church's pastor, Rev. Tim Dooner, will officiate.

The burial followed the services at the Deerfield Presbyterian Cemetery in Upper Deerfield Township, N.J.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are requested to: Valley Forge Presbyterian Church, 191 Town Center Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406 or to The Foundation @Shannondell of Valley Forge, 10000 Shannondell Drive, Audubon, PA 19403.

**Abe, Beatrice Toshiko, 97**, Hilo, HI, April 22; she is survived by her children, Randall (Linda Mae) Abe, Mervyn Abe, Lance (Amy) Abe and Joyce Yamamoto; caregivers, Sergio & Ruth Cabal; she is also survived by many nephews, nieces and cousins; gc: 6; ggc: 11.

**Fukuhara, Frank Kiyoshi, 105**, Malibu, CA, April 19; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Manzanar WRA Center; he served in the Army; he was predeceased by his first wife, Fumi Fukuhara, and brother, Henry Fukuhara; he is survived by his wife, Ihoko; daughters, Irene Horiuchi and Jeannie (Norio) Kazahaya; siblings, Jimmy Fukuhara, George (Masa) Fukuhara, Willie

(Hiroko) Fukuhara, Tomi Matsunaga and Lily Takayama; gc: 4; ggc: 2.

**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.

**Kimura, Kenichi, 94**, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 30, 2019; he was predeceased by his wife, Yoshiko, and son, Richard; he is survived by his children, Robert (Soraya), Steven (Wanda) Kimura and Susan (Gary) Goto; gc: 6; ggc: 4.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Yamamoto, Michiko, 87**, Whittier, CA, Jan. 30; she is survived by her daughter, Wendy Yamamoto; siblings, Hideo (Nancy) Kagawa and Masayo Nishikawa; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives. ■

## TRIBUTE

### MOLLY MARIKO K. MAEDA



**November 23, 1919-June 15, 2020**

Molly Kageyama was born and raised in Oregon, where she received a business degree at Oregon State College. She and Milton Maeda married at an assembly center horse stall so they could go to Minidoka together. After Milton passed away in 1971, Molly built a life volunteering at church and community. She was known for gifting food and crafts she made. Molly will be missed by

daughters Sharon Maeda and Diane Sugimura (Rich), granddaughter Lea Sugimura Tiernan (Joe), great-grandchildren, Sean Jitsuto and James Hiroshi Anthony Tiernan.

For her life story, visit [butterworthfuneralhome.com](http://butterworthfuneralhome.com).

Molly wished remembrances to Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church, Mary's Place or Wing Luke Museum.

## TRIBUTE

### FLORENCE MATSUSHITA



Florence S. Matsushita passed away peacefully, after a nine-month battle with cancer, on July 11, 2020. She was 95. She is survived by her children, Pat Day, Kathy Matsushita and Gary Matsushita and his wife, Josie, and two grandchildren, Andrew Day and Elizabeth Matsushita, as well as her older brother, Haruki Yoshizumi. She was preceded in death by her husband, Keichi Matsushita, and two sisters, Kay Shimonishi and Chobe Etow.

She grew up in California and had many memories and stories of her early years of the fascinating itinerant lifestyle of her immigrant family, from being born on an island in the Stockton Delta, living near the Cannery Row district of Old Monterey, relocating to the Alameda Tube district of Oakland just blocks from what is now Jack London Square, and finally settling in the agricultural town of Watsonville, where she became an outstanding student at Watsonville High School. In 1942, her family was relocated to an internment camp in Poston, Ariz., and she received her high school diploma in the camp. After being released from the camp, she went to Detroit where she married Keichi and had three children. The family moved back to California to Santa Clara in 1957.

Florence worked for 30 years as a retail clerk in the Payless Drug Store and, after retiring, found another career as a surgical liaison volunteer at the Santa Clara Kaiser Hospital. She was a valued volunteer for 17 years, contributing almost 8,800 hours. When she wasn't volunteering at the hospital, or helping her daughter, Kathy, each week in preparing and serving bagged lunches and coffee to the homeless in a local city park, she enjoyed cooking and working on crafts at home — sewing clothing and making tiny Japanese umbrellas out of donated cigarette wrappers. Even though things slowed down for her in her later years, she still never lost her optimism and humble spirit of caring for others.

Due to the corona virus pandemic, a private family service will be held.

## 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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**RALLY » continued from page 5**

on two very similar cases, battery and hit-and-run.

One of the speakers at the July 11 rally was Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi, a Democrat whose district includes Torrance, who said, “I’m here to support the victims. I’ve talked several times with the city attorney of Torrance. We will continue to explore all the legal as well as political [and] legislative angles for the victims.”

Another speaker was South Bay JACL Chapter President Kent Kawai, representing JACL’s Pacific Southwest District, who said, “We are here to support justice and, more importantly, have the City of Torrance take measures to make sure that all the parks and recreational facilities are safe from hate and racism.”

Other community groups with representatives at the rally included Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress and Media Action Network for Asian Americans. Also present to show support for the rally was Torrance City Councilman Tim Goodrich, who told the *Pacific Citizen* that he was “sickened” by the news of the two Wilson Park incidents.

“There is no room for that in our city,” he said. “I think that you’re going to find that 99 percent of the people here in Torrance are good people,” he said. “It gives our city a bad name, and the woman doesn’t even live here.”

Torrance has a population of more than 145,000, nearly 40 percent of which is of Asian descent; about 9 percent of the population claims Japanese ancestry. Torrance is also home to more than 200 U.S. offices of Japan-based businesses.

**(EDITOR’S NOTE: To view the two smartphone videos taken by the Wilson Park victims, use the following links. Please note that the videos contains offensive language; discretion is advised. Wilson Park incident No. 1: [tinyurl.com/y4zm6w2s](https://tinyurl.com/y4zm6w2s). Wilson Park incident No. 2: [tinyurl.com/y487jpnq](https://tinyurl.com/y487jpnq).)**



The alarming rise of numerous verbal and physical incidents of anti-Asian racism that have occurred nationwide in the wake of the spread of SARS-CoV-2, sparked an online news conference that was held on July 1 to address the results of an initiative that tracked that alarming trend.

Over the many weeks preceding the news conference, the Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Center — sponsored



**Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi addressed the crowd at the Wilson Park Rally on July 11.**



**Torrance City Councilman Tim Goodrich**



**PSW's Kent Kawai**

by A3PCON, Chinese for Affirmative Action and the Asian American Studies Department of San Francisco State University — collected more than 800 incidents of anti-Asian discrimination and harassment, including 81 assaults and 64 potential civil rights violations across California.

Participating in the news conference were California Assemblymen Muratsuchi and David Chiu (D-17th District), also the chair of the Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus; Manju Kulkarni, executive director of A3PCON; Russell Jeung, chair of the Asian American Studies Department at San Francisco State University; and Cynthia Choi, co-executive director of Chinese for Affirmative Action.

One shared observation among the participants was that antagonistic statements and verbal cues by President Donald Trump — who continues to call the novel coronavirus “kung flu” and place blame on China for the global pandemic — have exacerbated the situation and are partly responsible for prompting attacks on Asians in the U.S. over the last three months, especially on women and the elderly.

In her introductory comments, Kulkarni provided the backstory behind the Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Center.

“On March 19, we developed Stop AAPI Hate, the nation’s leading aggregator of COVID-19 hate-related incidents against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders,” she said. “Since then, we have received over 2,000 incident reports from 45 states and the District of Columbia. Forty-two percent of those incidents come from the state of California.”

Kulkarni also said that Stop AAPI Hate has urged Gov. Gavin Newsom and the state to establish a “racial bias strike team to further investigate the widespread and growing problem of COVID-19-related hate against the Asian American community in

Participants exercise their right to exercise without harassment in Torrance’s Wilson Park.



PHOTOS: PACIFIC CITIZEN

California and take immediate action to identify the most effective policies to reduce and end those unacceptable attacks.”

Muratsuchi listed several anti-Asian incidents, including the ones at Wilson Park, and said, “We need to send a message that racism against anyone, against any group, is simply not acceptable.”

Chiu, who provided a Northern California perspective, noted that before the first case of COVID-19 was reported in the U.S., business in San Francisco’s Chinatown began to drop — and incidents of anti-Asian violence began to rise. He cited a video of an “elderly Chinese man in our city’s Bayview-Hunters Point district beaten just for collecting cans, the woman who was robbed and dragged in the Stockton Tunnel just next to Chinatown.”

“I would submit that the documented incidents are . . . just the tip of the iceberg for what is actually happening in our country,” Chiu continued.

Jeung, who was experiencing a poor connection, concurred and noted that since its launch, Stop AAPI Hate has logged about 10 incidents per day.

Choi, who credited Jeung for being “the engine” for compiling the data, shared a litany of incidents that could be categorized as verbal harassment, avoidance/shunning, physical assault and incidents that have taken place at retail stores, the workplace and online. She then introduced Donalene Ferrer, who described an April 1 incident in Oceanside, Calif., that involved a neighbor who drove past them and yelled, “You started the corona!” at her, her mother and 17-year-old daughter as they walked their dog.

Ferrer said when she saw the neighbors, who “lived literally three doors down from my mom’s house,” getting out of their car, she saw two males, a female and two young kids and a baby. Ferrer decided to confront them and told them that she was a nurse and that her father had served in the military and “fought for this country” and that “you really shouldn’t be teaching your kids racism.”

Ferrer said the young woman started yelling at her and her daughter and said, “F\*\*\* you,” and “Come over here and say it

to my face” as she held her baby.

Choi concluded her statement by pointing out that a recent state audit shows that local law enforcement has failed to respond appropriately by prioritizing such incidents compiled by Stop AAPI Hate as hate crimes, “as well as the issue of not proactively engaging with the community about what constitutes a hate crime and that they failed in appropriately reporting and responding.”

Kulkarni concluded by saying, “I think for us what’s really important is looking back to, again, the collective action and what our government can do and should do to address some of these issues. It’s not incumbent simply on each of us to come up with solutions, but also for our elected officials to do so. That’s why we are urging the governor to come up with not only the task force or strike team but to also look at very specific measures.”

Other recent hate-speech, violent, threatening and related incidents that have occurred recently include:

- In June, a Japanese cookware store in Torrance received a letter with a bomb threat. The owner, a Japanese national, declined to give the name of his store.
- On July 4, an Asian American family hiking near Mt. Tam was confronted by a White American woman who was upset that they had their dog with them and told them they “can’t be in this country.” The father, identified in news reports as Hiroshi, recorded the incident on his phone. The woman was later identified as Beth Taska, formerly the VP of human resources at 24 Hour Fitness and, more recently, the chief people officer at Topa Equities. She has since resigned.
- Also on July 4, an Asian American family celebrating a birthday at a Bernardus Lodge & Spa in Carmel Valley were recipients of a vulgar gesture and verbal harassment by a man later identified as Michael Lofthouse, CEO of cloud storage firm Solid8. He was recorded on a video saying, “Trump’s going to f\*\*\* you! You f\*\*\*\*\* need to leave! You f\*\*\*\*\* Asian piece of s\*\*\*!” He has since apologized for his behavior and has resigned. ■

## Cops Arrest Suspect for Vandalizing Japanese Restaurant

Torrance P.D., Carson Sheriff’s capture man for breaking window.

In yet another in a spate of incidents and crimes victimizing Asians and businesses operated by Asians, a Japanese restaurant in Torrance, Calif., had its window shattered.

The incident became known via an email from the Los Angeles office of the Consulate General of Japan. Japanese nationals were informed of the incident, which took place on July 13. The email urged Japanese residents to be cautious and safe.

In a call to the Torrance Police Department, the *Pacific Citizen* learned that the incident — described as an act of vandalism — took place on July 13 at about 10:15 a.m. at Matsui Restaurant, located at 21605 S. Western Ave.

According to the Torrance P.D., there was “some kind of disturbance” between a white male and someone from the nearby Daiso discount store. The man picked up some rocks and threw them through the window of the restaurant. “He also hit the windshield of a vehicle and the hood of a vehicle, causing some damage,” said the officer. The man also was heard yelling, “Japanese caused 9/11.” Police arrived soon afterward, but the person had already left the scene.

The Torrance police officer told the *Pacific Citizen* that “the next day, we were informed that the same suspect was involved in an incident in the Carson area. . . . Our detectives did contact Carson Sheriff’s. They worked together, and they determined that it’s the same suspect from both incidents.”

The suspect has been arrested for the Carson incident. The cases have been filed with the district attorney, and the suspect has been charged with assault with a deadly weapon from the incident in Carson and vandalism charges for the incident in Torrance, with allegations of a hate crime.

An employee at Matsui told the *Pacific Citizen* that the incident occurred before the restaurant opened, everyone is fine and the shattered glass has since been repaired. He mentioned that the Daiso “had video of the guy that did it.”

— P.C. Staff