



PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 91 YEARS

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'TRANSFORMATIVE SOLIDARITY'

Social Justice Remains
at the Forefront for Tsuru
for Solidarity.



Eric Joselyn with a symbolic Daruma sign on July 17

PHOTO: HIRO NISHIKAWA

CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS, A CIVIL RIGHTS ICON

By Floyd Mori

One of the privileges of working on the staff of the JACL was meeting inspiring and important people. One such person was Congressman John Lewis, a civil rights icon. It was with sadness that we heard that Lewis passed away of pancreatic cancer. He did not want to give up, but he lost the battle on July 17 at the age of 80. He had served as a U.S. Congressman for his home state of Georgia since 1987.

Lewis was a college student studying to be a pastor in the early 1960s. Having been born in Georgia, he had gone to segregated schools and experienced racism. At 18, he was inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the work he was doing for civil rights. He wrote to Dr. King. They met, and Lewis became engaged in the Civil Rights Movement.

The Freedom Riders were a group of which Lewis was a member at the age of 21. These 12 people, five of whom were Black, would ride buses together through the segregated South. They challenged the region's

lack of enforcement of a Supreme Court ruling that deemed segregated public bus rides unconstitutional. These young activists often were beaten or arrested. In one of his last tweets before his passing, Lewis reported on the 59th anniversary of his release from jail after being arrested in Jackson, Miss., for using a white restroom during a Freedom Ride.

In 1963, Lewis was elected chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, an organization he helped found. He was invited to speak at the March on Washington in 1963 when Dr. King gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. Lewis was the youngest speaker that day and the last remaining.

As a student at Fisk University, Lewis wasted no time organizing and quickly found himself on the front lines of the civil rights movement. He led numerous demonstrations in Nashville against racial segregation, including sit-ins at segregated lunch counters.

Lewis was one of the leaders of the march in Selma, Miss., across the Edmund Pettus Bridge to Mont-



John Lewis and Floyd Mori

gomery, Ala., on March 7, 1965. They were marching for voting rights and equality. After Alabama State police troopers in riot gear met the group at the other side, many of the demonstrators were beaten. Lewis had his skull fractured as a police officer beat him brutally. The event became known as "Bloody Sunday." It is portrayed in the 2014 film "Selma."

Lewis attended a pilgrimage every year to honor those who marched that day in 1965. He was a key figure

in the march's 50-year anniversary commemoration. Amy Watanabe worked with me on organizing a group of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who went from Washington, D.C., to join in the march to show our support for the fight for civil rights. These mostly young AAPI leaders are now diligently continuing the work for civil rights and equality.

Also present at that commemoration were members of Congress, including Congressman Mark Takai of Hawaii. Congressman Takai had leis sent over from Hawaii to present to major participants of that event. He was an up-and-coming leader within the Japanese American community, but he sadly lost his life also to pancreatic cancer at the young age of 49 in 2016. Takai is greatly missed, as will be Congressman Lewis. It was a distinct honor to know these two fine gentlemen and call them friends.

Lewis passed away seven months after a routine medical visit revealed that he had stage 4 pancreatic cancer. He made a statement at that time:

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

This is a belated response to Mr. Sreescanda Subramonian's letter (*Pacific Citizen*, April 24-May 7, 2020) in which he says "declassified White House documents" about redress justifies his calling me "a legend in my own mind."

For one thing, there are no "classified documents" about redress, which was a political effort open to all, one that in no way af-

fects our national security, though it did affect our nation's understanding of its constitutional history.

For a second thing, Mr. Subramonian's documentary was disavowed and disowned by its financial backer, Nitto Tire, for asserting that there was no 442 role in the success of HR 442.

For a third thing, I hope your readers might consider the sentiments of Congressman Bob Matsui:

Bob Matsui on the Book Behind Redress

"Without Grant Ujifusa's 'Almanac of American Politics' — and its immense prestige and clout of Washington — Japanese American redress would not have happened.

"All 535 members of Congress worry about what the book says about them every two years, which enabled Grant to swing key Republican House members behind the bill. The 'Almanac' also created access to a small chunk of Ronald Reagan's time, but time enough to

tie redress to the personal memory the president had of fallen 442 hero Kaz Masuda.

"Ten minutes in the library with the new 1998 edition of the 'Almanac of American Politics' will give you a sense of how Congress really works and how redress navigated the tricky waters of establishment Washington."

— Congressman Robert Matsui

Sincerely,

Grant Ujifusa



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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.'

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

— Gil Asakawa

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A MOTHER'S TAKE

SAKAYE ARATANI — A SHINING LIGHT OF LOVE

By Marsha Aizumi

Many of us that are doing work to bring greater visibility and voice to issues have people who quietly give in ways that empower and encourage us to keep moving forward, even when faced with adversity. They are the “wind beneath our wings.”

They just give from their heart and because it is the right thing to do. My husband is one of these people in my life, and I would like to highlight another special lady to me: Sakaye Aratani.

Both personally and through her foundation, Sakaye and her wonderful daughter, Linda, have provided financial and name support to “Okaeri: A Nikkei LGBTQ Community.” Linda Aratani said that when she first approached her mom about helping Okaeri, without hesitation, Sakaye said, “This is an important issue that

we need to support.”

For those of you not familiar with Okaeri, we have mainly organized a large conference every two years but are now pivoting to more virtual programming due to COVID-19. In September, we are starting an Intergenerational Support Group for LGBTQ individuals, their parents and allies. And we hope to have another conference in 2021

We all know that Sakaye’s husband, George Aratani, was a hard-working businessman and philanthropist who wanted to provide for his family and the Japanese American community — he loved both so deeply. But most people might not know a lot about Sakaye Aratani.

Sakaye grew up in Hollywood, Gardena and Los Angeles. She was a pitcher on a baseball team but said she didn’t have a lot of hobbies outside of her interest in sports and poultry. She was so interested in poultry, she went to live with a Japanese family for one year to



Sakaye (left) and Linda Aratani in 2019

PHOTO: MARSHA AIZUMI

learn all about raising chickens and selling eggs.

“Later on my father started his own farm, and we sold eggs, too. We had about 1,500 chickens,” Sakaye explained. “When [World War II] broke out, my uncle wanted us to move to Reedley, which was near Fresno because he thought it would be safer than to live in the Los Angeles area. I had to sell 1,500 chickens to other farms, and eventually, I gave away about 50 percent of them, since we

were moving to Reedley. But I found every chicken a new home.”

Sakaye was 19 or 20 years of age, yet even at that young age, she had the determination and laser focus to accomplish this goal. Although Sakaye’s family moved to Reedley, they could not escape the evacuation order. They were interned at Poston Camp in Arizona.

Sakaye met her future husband when the flower shop owner she worked for asked Sakaye to drive

her to Little Tokyo. It was there where she first met George. When I asked her, “Was it love at first sight?” Sakaye laughed and immediately said, “Yes, I thought he was cute.”

Listening to Sakaye talk about her past made me feel that it was natural that she and George should fall in love. George’s father was a beloved and respected businessman who taught his son well. And then there was Sakaye, who learned about business at an early age.

Linda shared that her father’s dream when he started Mikasa was “to make a lot of money so he could give it away to the JA community. He knew that our community would need help to do the work that needed to be done.” The Aratani Foundation currently gives away grants to support around 50 Japanese American organizations.

I have always been so curious about where Sakaye’s attitude came from regarding the LGBTQ community. She explained that her grandfather was a very positive, loving and open-minded man, and so he passed this on to his granddaughter.

» See LOVE on page 10



By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

THE EPICENTER OF THE CORONAVIRUS

In early 2020, COVID-19 hit the Earth like a comet. For seniors in nursing homes, the ground that it seared was already pockmarked by frailty due to advanced age and cognitive impairments such as dementia and Alzheimer’s disease. Now comes a new “tsunami of suffering” — social isolation and death.

Nursing homes have been the epicenter of the coronavirus since the beginning of the pandemic. In many states, more than half of coronavirus deaths are connected to long-term care facilities.

More than 43,000 long-term care residents and staff have died from COVID-19, representing over a third of the nation’s known coronavirus deaths, according to a Kaiser Family Foundation tally (Source: AARP, June 11, 2020).

As you get older, your risk for severe illness from COVID-19 increases. For example, people in their 50s are at higher risk for severe illness than people in their 40s. Similarly, people in their 60s or 70s are, in general, at higher risk for severe illness than people in their 50s. The greatest risk for severe illness from COVID-19 is among those

85 or older.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, there are things you should do to stay healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is particularly important for those at increased risk of severe illness, including older adults, to receive recommended vaccinations against influenza and pneumococcal disease. Remember the importance of staying physically active and practice healthy habits to cope with stress.

There are also other factors that can increase your risk for severe illness, such as having underlying medical conditions. By understanding the factors that put you at an increased risk, you can make decisions about what kind of precautions to take in your daily life.

Talk to your health-care provider about whether your vaccinations and other preventive services are up to date to help prevent you from becoming ill with other diseases.

It is especially important for people at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19, and those who live with them, to protect themselves from getting COVID-19. The best way to protect yourself and help reduce the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 is to:

- Limit your interactions with other people as much as possible.

- Take precautions to prevent getting COVID-19 when you do interact with others.

1. Venturing out into a public setting? What to consider before you go:

As communities and businesses across the United States are opening, you may be thinking about resuming some activities, running errands and attending events and gatherings. There is no way to ensure you have zero risk of infection, so it is important to understand the risks and know how to be as safe as possible.

People at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19, and those who live with them, should consider their level of risk before deciding to go out and ensure they are taking steps to protect themselves. Consider avoiding activities where taking protective measures might be difficult, such as activities where social distancing can’t be maintained. Everyone should take steps to prevent getting and spreading COVID-19 to protect themselves, their communities and people who are at increased risk of severe illness.

In general, the more people you interact with, the more closely you interact with them, and the longer that interaction, the higher your risk of getting and spreading COVID-19.

- If you decide to engage in

public activities, continue to protect yourself by practicing everyday preventive actions.

- Keep these items on hand and use them when venturing out: a cloth face covering, tissues and a hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, if possible.

- Try to avoid others who are not wearing cloth face coverings or ask others around you to wear cloth face coverings.

2. Are you considering in-person visits with family and friends? Here are some things to consider to help make your visit as safe as possible:

When to delay or cancel a visit:

- Delay or cancel a visit if you or your visitors have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days.

- Anyone who has had close contact with a person with COVID-19 should stay home and monitor for symptoms.

In general, the more people you interact with, the more closely you interact with them, and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread.

So, think about:

- How many people will you interact with?
- Can you keep 6 feet of space between you and others?
- Will you be outdoors or indoors?
- What’s the length of time that you will be interacting with people?

Encourage social distancing during your visit.

- Visit with your friends and family outdoors, when possible. If this is not feasible, make sure the room or space is well ventilated (for example, open windows or doors) and large enough to accommodate social distancing.

- Arrange tables and chairs to allow for social distancing. People from the same household can be in groups together and don’t need to be 6 feet apart from each other.

- Consider activities where social distancing can be maintained, like sidewalk chalk art or yard games.

- Try to avoid close contact with your visitors. For example, don’t shake hands, elbow bump or hug. Instead, wave and verbally greet them.

- If possible, avoid others who are not wearing cloth face coverings or ask others around you to wear cloth face coverings.

» See CORONAVIRUS on page 10



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY

By David Inoue,
JACL Executive Director

In the wake of the initial Black Lives Matter protests, President Donald Trump declared that he is our “law and order president” as federal law enforcement officers used tear gas and brutal violence to clear protesters from Lafayette Park and what has now been rechristened Black Lives Matter Plaza just steps away from the White House — steps that the president would soon be walking to cross the street for a now-infamous photo op.

Since then, we have seen the deployment of federal officers to Portland, Ore., and other cities in the U.S. Many have been justifiably troubled by this escalation of violence against protesters, especially in light of the fact that the protests themselves are against police brutality against Black people. Think globally, act locally.

Just like racism, though, it’s easy

to decry the obvious lawlessness of the current administration. Even more troubling are the occasions when the government’s actions are quietly, but even more egregiously, flaunting the law.

The Supreme Court recently ruled that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program could not be ended by the administration in the manner it had, and must reactivate the program. The Department of Homeland Security has instead announced that it will seek to end the program again and as a result will not resume the program.

In another high-profile Supreme Court case, the administration was barred from including a question about citizenship on the U.S. Census. It has now revealed the true intent of including that question — not to enforce the Voting Rights Act as stated in court, but to seek to exclude undocumented immigrants from apportionment of congressional districts.

The juxtaposition of law enforcement and our government acting contrary and even in opposition to the law was prominently on display at a Tsuru for Solidarity protest at the Berks Family Detention Center near Reading, Penn., recently.

Five Haitian families with a child less than a year old are being held there in defiance of the Flores Settlement because the government refuses to release the parents along with their children.

The court had ordered the children released but rescinded that order when another judge declined to order the release of the parents in response to COVID spread through the detention centers.

As a group of 100 or so of us gathered outside the detention center, singing and chanting in support of the incarcerated who had come outside for their scheduled time in the yard, a line of local police and sheriffs approached us to push us back across the street, threatening arrest to anyone who didn’t

comply.

And yet, in reality, the actual crimes were the violations of law that were happening behind their backs. In addition to the violation of the federal Flores Settlement, the Berks facility operates without a license, which was revoked years ago. Pennsylvania law prohibits the incarceration of children without trial, and children are not to be incarcerated alongside adults in the state.

I share these examples to demonstrate the uneven applicability of our laws, and more specifically, protections. We so often deplore, and rightfully so, the actions of the current administration. Yet, at the same time, we see in our own backyards, our small towns, the use of power structures such as the local police and institutional programs such as a detention center to continue to oppress and discriminate against communities, especially those of people of color.

As we fully understand and

expose these systemic injustices, we can chip away at the larger problems in our society. There is attention at the national level with our partners such as the ACLU and ADL leading lawsuits against the government to block or require activity in accordance with the law, or the courts.

We don’t always have the same attention at the local level to enforce the same vigilance over both the local and the federal governments’ action or inaction. And as in the case of Berks, this confluence of corrupted power structures often intertwine and reinforce one another, regardless of political party as Pennsylvania is led by a Democratic governor.

We rely upon our chapters to carry on the work of JACL at the local level and keep all of our elected and appointed officials in line with their oaths to uphold the law.

I remember one of the bumper stickers my parents put on our car — it was the slogan, “Think Globally, Act Locally.” These times were made for that slogan.

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



REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

CONTINUE TO BE DILIGENT

By Ron Mori

Now more than ever, it’s important for all of us to continue to take precautions and remain diligent. Older adults and those with underlying health conditions are still at high risk. Unfortunately, I’m concerned that some older adults and individuals with underlying health conditions are potentially letting their guards down.

While many businesses, restaurants, schools, churches and public facilities begin the process of reopening and the number of people allowed to gather in one place increases, the reported cases of COVID-19 are increasing at alarming rates in many states.

In testimony before members of Congress, White House health adviser Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, called this a “disturbing surge” and said that the coming weeks will be critical to slowing the outbreaks.

He also warned that it’s impossible to anticipate the dynamics of a possible second wave of infection in the fall, with Dr. Robert

Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, noting that the cold weather, people gathering indoors and flu season present additional risks in the months ahead.

The CDC reminds us that the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. It is thought to spread mainly by person-to-person contact between those who are in close contact.

The coronavirus spreads when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks, producing respiratory droplets that can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby, and they can possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

The message for all of us is clear: We must stay diligent in protecting ourselves and our loved ones. That means:

- Continue to practice social distancing. Staying at least 6 feet away from others is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick, such as older adults.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick, even inside your home.

- If you must go out in public, wear a mask.
 - Avoid crowds, particularly in confined and indoor spaces.
 - Wash your hands often, for at least 20 seconds — or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol, especially after being in a public place or sneezing, coughing or blowing your nose.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily, including tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets and sinks.
 - Monitor your health. Be alert for symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath and other signs the CDC has identified. If symptoms develop, take your temperature and follow CDC guidance.
- By taking these precautions and

staying diligent, we can help protect ourselves and our loved ones, as well as stay healthy and safe.

While we all look forward to a time when we can return to a more normal life, let’s keep in mind that it is going to be a slow and steady process to recovery. Continue to be diligent — remember we are all in this together.

For the latest coronavirus news and advice, visit [AARP.org/coronavirus](https://www.aarp.org/coronavirus).

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

COVID-19: U.S. AT A GLANCE

- **Total Cases:** 4,601,526
- **Total Deaths:** 154,002 (as of July 31)
- **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

PHOTOS: KRISTY ISHII



Kristy Ishii



Kristy with “Take Tegone Ramen” restaurant owner Tencho. The ramen shop, her favorite, was located one minute from her apartment. It is decorated with old Coca-Cola machines, pinball machines, trinkets and license plates from American thrift stores.

Kristy and her partner with her relative Hoshie, 66, from Kagoshima, Kyushu, in November 2017



Kristy makes peace signs with her teammate, Keisuke, on their men’s baseball team Club Tatebayashi (Gunma) in March 2017.

REFLECTIONS OF A NIKKEI EXPAT IN JAPAN



Kristy with her students after a speech contest



Kristy in March 2017 with her parents and younger brother, all dressed in yukatas, in Kyoto



(Left) Kristy and her co-workers in Koenji, Tokyo, for the Awa Odori Festival in 2019 and (right) with ladies from the Nikkei Ladies Organization at the New Sanno Hotel in Hiro, Tokyo.



Kristy is president of the JACL Japan chapter, and this is a photo of participants during the monthly English Cultural Exchange session in Tokyo.

By Kristy Ishii,
JACL Japan Chapter President

As I looked out from the fourth-floor entrance of Narita International Airport’s departure curbside area on June 1, memories of Japan flooded into my mind.

I arrived at NIA with a couple hundred fellow JET English teachers from Los Angeles four years ago in the summer of 2016 with wild eyes, huge ambitions and naive expectations. Thinking back on all the cultural mishaps, language blunders and obstacles that I encountered over the years — and overcoming those hardships — I know I was able to experience more than I ever could have imagined.

Memories of the local ramen shop where I could eat a bowl of hand-pressed noodles and practice speaking Japanese with ojisan at the bar area. My first league tournament with the men’s baseball city team in Tatebayashi (Gunma), with cherry blossom petals falling on the field during my first at bat. My trip to Kyushu to meet my Bachan’s cousin for the first time and seeing the family koseki with my Bachan’s name on it. My family’s first trip abroad in Japan and dressing up in yukatas for our walk along Kyoto’s famous Kiyomizudera Temple. The list goes on and on . . .

Four years later, I walked through that same airport with matured eyes and a much-deeper understanding of society in Japan. As I stood

in front of the security line entrance, I became overwhelmed with gratitude and love as I thought about all the families, friends, host families and mentors who helped me throughout my time in Tokyo.

My first two years in Gunma were through the JET Programme English Teacher position. In 2018, I jumped into a new career in Tokyo as a career consultant while continuing to build a community in Tokyo, particularly within our international Nikkei community.

With only a couple straggling travelers making their way through the sliding doors to the check-in lobby, I stood on the empty sidewalk, holding my partner’s hand, and my mask began to fill with tears. I braced myself for the nonexistent security line, as the final minutes of my time in Japan became my reality.

The current COVID-19 pandemic has changed many lives across the world. It has heightened sensitivities of some and forced others to sort out priorities in life with a finer comb.

For me, the decision to repatriate to the U.S. was not easy or desirable under the circumstances. But, the catalyst that gave me the green light to go home as soon as possible was being laid-off by my company.

I loved my co-workers, boss and work as a career consultant and recruiter. However, with everything moving to digital platforms and events being canceled left and right, my job became very impersonal.

Outside of work, as the current president of the JACL Japan chapter, I felt so connected and grateful for the greater Tokyo community, and the board and I were gearing up for a really exciting 2020. However, given the COVID-19 restrictions, community events also came to a halt.

Tokyo became a place of festered anxiety and germs, especially in the city’s crowded trains during the commute to work. Although I was at low risk of getting sick, my mind kept thinking about my father, who is a dentist, and my uncle, who works at the grocery store, as well as my two remaining grandparents, plus all my other friends and family back in the U.S.

I look back now and feel that being let go by my company was a blessing in disguise. It allowed me to let go of a place that I felt so dearly attached. After various stages of shock and disappointment, I started to turn toward a bittersweet acceptance of the situation.

I left family and friends at age 22 and returned at age 26. I left the U.S. when Barack Obama was president and returned with Donald Trump in leadership. I left when cities were bustling, and NPO conferences and galas were in season, and returned to yellow tape and signs that instruct people on how to continue their lives cautiously and virus free. I left college with a naive heart, filled with dreams and aspirations, and returned with a jumbled up bilingual vocabulary (Japenglish) and emotional scars from leaving so abruptly. Overall, I am returning with a more realistic set

of dreams and a much stronger sense of who I am as an individual. My journey in Japan has been incredibly life-changing.

Looking back on all the memories and times spent with loved ones in Japan, I feel like I have a new home, family and support system overseas. If I go back to Japan, I am determined to believe that moving back a second time will be very different than the first. Knowing that I can potentially return at some point in the future, if the opportunity arises, gave me enough courage to repatriate as hastily as I did during the pandemic.

I have learned over time that it is really tough to swallow when an expat friend leaves Japan. Anyone who lives or has lived in Tokyo will understand what I mean. You don’t really just bounce back and forth between the U.S. and Japan easily.

VISAs are not handed out left and right, as there are language expectations paired with certain work opportunities. Typically, people host a *soubetsukai*, or a “see-you-later” party. And no matter how much you try to keep in touch, you lose contact until a big event happens, or they come back to visit Japan.

I wanted so badly to say that final “see you later” in person and thank each and every one of my friends face to face for all the lessons and memories shared. But the circumstances just did not allow it to happen. So, I sit here, numb with gratitude.

» See REFLECTIONS on page 12

PHOTOS: HIRO NISHIKAWA

‘TRANSFORMATIVE SOLIDARITY’

Tsuru for Solidarity continues its social justice mission as it reunites with JACL to shut down the Berks Family Residential Center in Pennsylvania.

By Michael Ishii,
Tsuru for Solidarity Co-Chair

‘If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.’

— Lilla Watson

Sixteen months ago, Tsuru for Solidarity, a Japanese American social justice movement, held its first direct action at the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas.

During that trip, a small group also traveled to a community center in Laredo, Texas, a town on the southern U.S. border. We sat in a circle with young organizers from Laredo Immigrant Alliance and LatinX families recently released from detention. There, we shared survival stories, and a profound connection emerged among this group of strangers. Thus was born Tsuru for Solidarity’s first Healing Circle for Change.

What we learned on that initial trip to Texas inspired us to continue. The events of the world also required that we engage and step onto the battleground of white supremacy that is targeting all communities of color, including Asians.

In the months following, a passionate and vibrant discourse emerged in the Japanese American community about making ourselves present at detention sights — becoming the allies that the Japanese American community needed during World War II.

In Tsuru for Solidarity, we recognized how embodying that role also had the unforeseen consequence of transforming those who participated in direct actions.

Our survivors connected to their moral authority and found their voices once again when we traveled to Fort Sill in Oklahoma where they stood up to the government.

Descendants of survivors spoke of a connection to their family histories, something they had been seeking their entire lives. Families began talking openly among themselves about WWII incarceration. We found a way to reframe the narrative of our history in service and in alignment with other communities who were now being targeted. And in doing so, we were being healed.

We then began discussing the intergenerational trauma caused by the concentration camps — the consequential effects of the wartime incarceration upon our community. We saw how naming and speaking

out against white supremacy that had historically targeted our community gave us a sense of internal freedom and empowerment.

We planned a “Pilgrimage to Close the Camps” for June 2020 in Washington, D.C., which was later replaced, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, by a virtual national protest, “Healing Circles for Change” and “Kimochoi Night of Culture and Celebration,” as well as coordinated direct actions at seven sites across the country. Nearly 30,000 people participated over the course of two days.

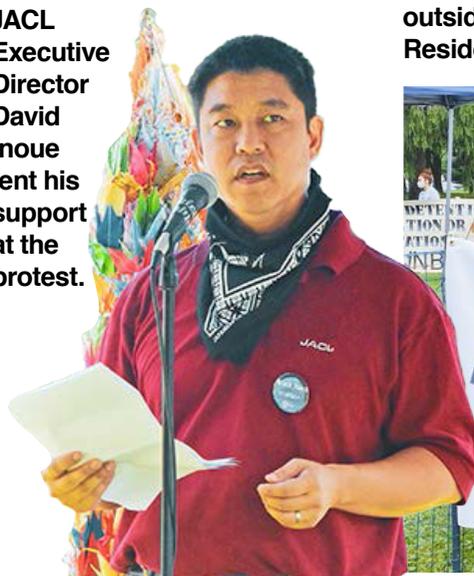
Coinciding with all of these developments was the ever-increasing growth of COVID-19, followed soon after by the uprisings and protests led by the Movement for Black Lives against anti-Black racism, requiring a country-wide reckoning of our history of violence and inequity toward Black people.

As a result, conversations began to occur about our own community’s assimilation into white culture and privilege, as a survival strategy, and our own history of anti-Blackness. We discussed how those dynamics have often placed us as a wedge against Black, Brown and Indigenous communities, affording many Japanese Americans middle-class status and creating a false narrative of the “model minority,” used as a tool of oppression against other people of color.

At what expense did being manipulated in this manner come? What effect did this have upon our identity and our principles? Upon younger Japanese Americans, many of them multiracial and struggling to understand their identity as we continued to assimilate?

In his book “Uprooted Americans: The Japanese Americans and the War Relocation Authority,” Dillon Myers, who ran the WRA, wrote:

JACL Executive Director David Inoue lent his support at the protest.



Protesters chanted and shouted messages of hope and resistance to the incarcerated families, who were allowed outside in the detention yard.



Philadelphia JACL’s Rob Buscher and Tsuru for Solidarity’s Mike Ishii



(Above) A “Close/Shut Down” Berks sign in Haitian Creole

The peaceful protest was held outside the Berks Family Detention Center in Philadelphia.

PHOTO: HIRO NISHIKAWA



Multiple organizations made their voices heard in unity outside of the Berks Family Residential Center on July 17.



Mike Ishii blows a conch horn in solidarity with Haitian activists.



PHOTOS: HIRO NISHIKAWA



JACL Philadelphia's Hiro Nishikawa



Ninaj Raoul (center) helped lead a Haitian drum circle to lift the spirits of those incarcerated.



Ninaj Raoul, co-founder of Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees

"The most important result of the WRA program was the relocation of more than 50,000 Japanese all across the United States. . . . This dispersion of the population led to an understanding and acceptance on the part of the great American public that would have never been possible."

Had Myers also succeeded in setting the conditions and convincing

us to erase ourselves in this process of assimilation?

As this discourse was taking shape, camp survivors began speaking out more forcefully and more publicly, sometimes for the first time, on their anger over their own incarceration and at the current attacks on the civil rights of immigrants, Muslims, Indigenous and Black and Brown people. They were challenging their own assimilation toward white supremacy.

Meanwhile, Tsuru for Solidarity has continued to join in coalition with directly impacted communities at detention sites to build relationships of mutual support and solidarity.

We are creating intentional relationships with other communities of color around collective support, resistance, preservation of culture and history and the struggle against white supremacy.

In doing so, new opportunities for healing our fractured community have been revealed. We have come

to use a term to loosely describe this whole process: "Transformative Solidarity."

An example of this is the work in process to build coalition with the Haitian community in support of their work to free Haitian families at the Berks Family Residential Center, a detention site in Pennsylvania.

On July 17, in partnership with Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees, Haitian Bridge Alliance and Families for Freedom, Tsuru for Solidarity, along with the New York Day of Remembrance Committee and JACL chapters from Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., as well as other members of the Shut Down Berks Coalition, organized a two-hour, socially distanced protest outside the Berks facility. Those imprisoned at Berks are almost exclusively Black immigrant families from Haiti.

After an opening land acknowledgement and calling of the ancestors, a powerful moment occurred when the incarcerated families were

allowed outside in the detention yard.

The protesters began drumming, chanting and shouting messages of hope and resistance in Creole. Japanese American taiko players joined in to form a cross-community drumming circle, and Haitian and Tsuru drummers led a call-and-response.

Both communities began blowing conches — the symbol of Neg Mawon, a legendary Haitian who broke the chains of slavery and blew the conch as a signal of freedom to other enslaved people.

The incarcerated families began jumping up and down and shouting back to the protesters, and the children, hearing the protesters calling to them in their native language, ran to the fence until guards intervened.

Both communities were able to come together by bringing their cultural traditions of liberation and struggle and art to a spontaneous form of communal resistance.

» See **SOLIDARITY** on page 12



Erwin J. Tan, M.D.
Director
Thought Leadership
in Health, AARP

"Family caregivers and care recipients should discuss what to do now, such as keeping in touch via phone

or email and determining who can provide care if the caregiver gets sick."

COVID-19'S IMPACT ON GEN X CAREGIVERS

Gen Xers — Americans born between 1965 and 1980 — are already more likely to be caregivers than those who belong to other generations. Based on a nationwide AARP study, AAPIs are almost twice as likely to care for their elders than the general population. Add coronavirus to the mix, and the stresses mount.



SELF-CARE DURING COVID-19

HOW TO COPE

People who are caring for others can take steps to manage the stress.



1. TAKE AN INVENTORY OF YOUR RESOURCES.

In high-stress situations, we kick into survival mode. Think back to other crises in your past, try to recall what resources you drew on that helped you through that time and write them down.

2. TAKE TIME FOR YOURSELF.

Days may feel chaotic but make time to exercise and talk to friends. Carve out a few moments in your day for a favorite hobby, like reading, drawing or baking. Even a long shower or bath can help calm frayed nerves.



3. DRAW ON YOUR STRENGTHS.

As a generation that went through adolescence during the AIDS epidemic, entered adulthood during a major recession, and today has high levels of debt, Gen Xers are accustomed to weathering hard times.

4. DRAW ON THE STRENGTHS OF YOUR PARENTS.

Older adults have the wisdom and ability to call upon past successful coping mechanisms.



AARP has been working to promote the health and well-being of older Americans for more than sixty years. During this pandemic, AARP is providing information and resources to help the AAPI community and those caring for them to protect themselves from the virus and prevent it from spreading to others.

For more information and resources about COVID-19, please visit aarp.org/coronavirus or simply scan the QR code below to follow AARP's AAPI Facebook page.



AARP
Real Possibilities

VANDALS DEFACE BUST HONORING FRANK OGAWA

PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



The defaced bust (left) of former Oakland City Councilman Frank Ogawa from the Facebook page of his grandson, Matt Ogawa. Pictured (right) is the bust before it was vandalized.



PHOTO: PACIFIC CITIZEN

The late Oakland City Councilman also had a plaza named for him.

By P.C. Staff

The bust of Frank Hirao Ogawa, who served as a city councilman for Oakland, Calif., from 1966-94 and had the City Hall Plaza renamed for him to honor his years of service, has been defaced.

The act of vandalism occurred after a July 25 protest in Oakland in support of the unrest that has roiled Portland, Ore.

A statement by Ogawa's grandson, Matt Ogawa, along with a photo of the defaced bronze bust of his Nisei grandfather, was posted on his Facebook page. In it, the younger Ogawa wrote: "My Grandfather fought so hard for the Oakland community and always aimed to give all minorities a chance and a voice. He wanted to take his experience and prove to America that Japanese Americans/minorities can make a difference despite the injustices that happened to himself . . ."

In response to the damage caused to the memorial for Ogawa, the Berkeley Chapter of the JACL issued the following statement:

"The Berkeley chapter of the JACL protests the vandalism to the bust of former Oakland City Councilman Frank Ogawa by unknown persons, but stand — as we believe Frank Ogawa would have done — in solidarity with the rights of citizens who exercise their rights to protest injustice, with the movement for Black lives, and against federal unmarked troops forcibly brought into our communities.

"Frank Ogawa was the first Japanese American to serve on the Oakland City Council and experienced state racism when he was shipped to the Topaz concentration camp in Utah without due process during World War II. Berkeley JACL will always remember and honor Frank Ogawa's great contributions to our community and will continue his work by supporting the Black Lives

Matter movement and all efforts to end racism."

In a statement sent to the Berkeley JACL on July 28, Matt Ogawa wrote, "I wanted to send a thank you to all of you for your support and attention in this matter. My grandfather had a very small family and there are virtually none of his immediate family members near Oakland or the East Bay. My father, his only surviving child, is now in L.A. I, myself, am in San Jose. I received word a few hours ago that Phase 1 of restoration has begun. I am not clear how long the full process will take, but the initial pictures look amazing.

"It really is heartwarming to know what a great community we have as Japanese Americans," Matt Ogawa continued. "I will try to get additional details and will keep you posted.

"Again, I really cannot thank you all enough for your support and care. It is a shame that this had to happen in the first place and that more people don't know just how much my grandfather cared for this city. He wanted nothing more than for minorities to have a voice and a seat at the table. He always talked about how he never wanted anyone to think Japanese Americans could not influence change." ■

VENTURA COUNTY JACL AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

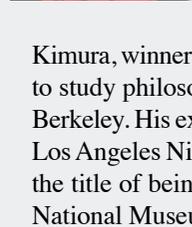
By Megan Gately

The Ventura County JACL chapter recently awarded \$1,000 scholarships to five graduating seniors from Ventura County high schools. The chapter held its scholarship reception via Zoom on May 31.

This year's recipients, chosen for their strengths in academics, extracurricular activities and community service, are:



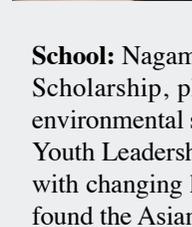
- **Paige Barrella, Santa Susana High School:** Barrella, recipient of the Masako Miyasaka Memorial Scholarship, plans on attending the University of California, Berkeley, to study political economics, with a future career goal in politics. She has been a member of the Okinawa Association of America and served as a student leader at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute.



- **Julian Kimura, Nordoff High School:** Kimura, winner of the VCJACL Outstanding Scholar Award, plans to study philosophy and classics at the University of California, Berkeley. His extracurricular activities include participating in the Los Angeles Nisei Week parade and Obon festivals, and he holds the title of being the youngest docent at the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo.



- **Maile Kuo, Newbury Park High School:** Kuo is the recipient of the Harry Kajihara Memorial Scholarship, named after the former JACL national president and Ventura County JACL chapter president. She will attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Fla., to study civil engineering and play lacrosse. Kuo is a native of Ventura County, where she also participated in Girl Scouts, Japanese dance and many JACL activities.



- **Emily Nagamoto, Newbury Park High School:** Nagamoto, recipient of the Dr. Tom Taketa Memorial Scholarship, plans to attend Duke University and major in environmental science. In 2019, she attended the Asian Pacific Youth Leadership Project teen conference, which she credited with changing her life. In high school, Nagamoto also helped found the Asian Culture Club.



- **Jonathan Saiki, Moorpark High School:** Saiki, winner of the Yoshiro Katsura Memorial Scholarship, will join his brother at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he plans on majoring in materials science and engineering. Among his life experiences is a visit with his grandparents to Manzanar, where he learned about what his grandmother's family experienced during their incarceration during World War II.

The Ventura County JACL wishes all five scholarship recipients the very best as they begin the next chapter of their lives. ■



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JAVA HOLDS DAY OF AFFIRMATION

The inaugural ceremony hails President Truman's tribute of the Nisei 442nd combat unit.

By Japanese American Veterans Assn.

Seventy-four years ago on July 15, 1946, at noon, President Harry Truman reviewed the 442nd Regimental Combat Team at the Ellipse of the White House, following its march down Constitution Avenue, and decorated its colors with its seventh Presidential Unit Citation.

The Japanese American Veterans Assn. commemorated the 1946 ceremony on July 15 at noon by laying a wreath at the Price of Freedom Wall at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., in honor of the Nisei soldiers who served in WWII.

The review by President Truman was historic because the 442nd RCT was a segregated, all-Japanese American combat unit, except for its officers. Over its short history, the 442nd RCT created a combat record that is unmatched.

The 442nd RCT was activated in 1943 while 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry were imprisoned in War Relocation Authority camps. Volunteers and Japanese Americans from Hawaii answered the call to form the 442nd RCT.

For those who joined the 442nd RCT while imprisoned in the WRA camps, the 442nd RCT was their opportunity to fight prejudice at home. The federal government's harsh treatment and overt prejudice against them would not diminish their belief in the American Dream that brought their immigrant parents to the U.S.

President Truman praised the 442nd RCT by stating:

"You fought not only the enemy, but you fought prejudice — and you have won. Keep up that fight, and we will continue to win — to make this great Republic stand for just what the Constitution says it stands for: the welfare of all the people all the time."

In his opening remarks at the Ceremonial Plaza, JAVA President Gerald Yamada said, "In his salute, President Truman honored the 442nd RCT's valor in fighting America's enemies abroad. More importantly, he congratulated them on winning their fight against prejudice at home."

Yamada continued:

- "President Truman affirmed that the soldiers standing before him were loyal Americans, thereby removing the stigma of being treated as 'nonaliens.'
- "He affirmed that their decision — to put country first — was the way to win the fight against prejudice.



President Harry S. Truman (center) decorates the colors of the Nisei 442nd RCT.

PHOTO: ABBIE ROWE, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, HARRY S. TRUMAN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM



A close-up picture of the JAVA wreath presented during the ceremony. Each of the 4,048 gold stars on the Freedom Wall represents 100 Americans who died in WWII.

JAVA President Gerald Yamada at the Day of Affirmation Ceremony

PHOTOS: NEET FORD



Pictured (from left) are wreath bearer Turner Kobayashi, son of Key Kobayashi, MIS; MSG Matthew Byrne, a Master Sergeant from the U.S. Army Band; JAVA President Gerald Yamada; and wreath bearer Catherine Luetze, daughter of Maj. Orville Shirey, 442nd RCT. Yamada presented Kobayashi and Luetze with a certificate and a JAVA coin inscribed with the bearer's name and "Day of Affirmation, July 15, 2020."

PHOTO: NICOLE YAMADA

- "He affirmed that they were entitled to share in America's opportunities and receive equal treatment under the Constitution.

"President Truman's salute was the critical turning point for Japanese Americans," Yamada continued. "It marks the decisive point that Japanese Americans, by keeping their faith in America, started winning the war against prejudice. This is why we call today — July 15 — the 'Day of Affirmation.'"

The legacy embodied in President Truman's salute was credited by Yamada to not only the 442nd RCT but also to:

- The 100th Infantry Battalion from Hawaii, which was activated in 1942 and fought in Italy for nine months, creating its own exemplary combat record before being attached to the 442nd RCT in 1944.
- The Military Intelligence Service, which provided linguistic support to American and Allied forces in the Pacific war zone.
- The 1399th Engineering Construction Battalion, which served in Hawaii to rebuild Pearl Harbor and completed 54 construction projects that were critical to the defense of the Islands against further Japanese invasion.

Yamada also included the Japanese American women who volunteered to serve in the U.S. military as a part of the legacy.

He concluded by saying, "They all helped to forge the legacy from which Japanese Americans started to benefit and will continue to benefit in the future," and Yamada called on "all Americans to embrace their legacy — by keeping faith in America's values and its future — especially in the most difficult of times, as did the Nisei soldiers."

Following the ceremony's opening remarks, LTC Brett Egusa (USAR) carried a wreath

with a ribbon inscribed with "In Honor of the World War II Nisei Soldiers" from the Ceremonial Plaza to the Price of Freedom Wall.

Each gold star on the Freedom Wall represents 100 United States soldiers killed in action during WWII. Eight of these stars are dedicated to the almost 800 Japanese Americans who were killed in action and the more than 30 officers who served in the 442nd RCT and were killed in action.

Catherine Luetze, daughter of Maj. Orville Shirey, who served with the 442nd RCT, and Turner Kobayashi, son of Key Kobayashi, who served with the Military Intelligence Service, accompanied the wreath.

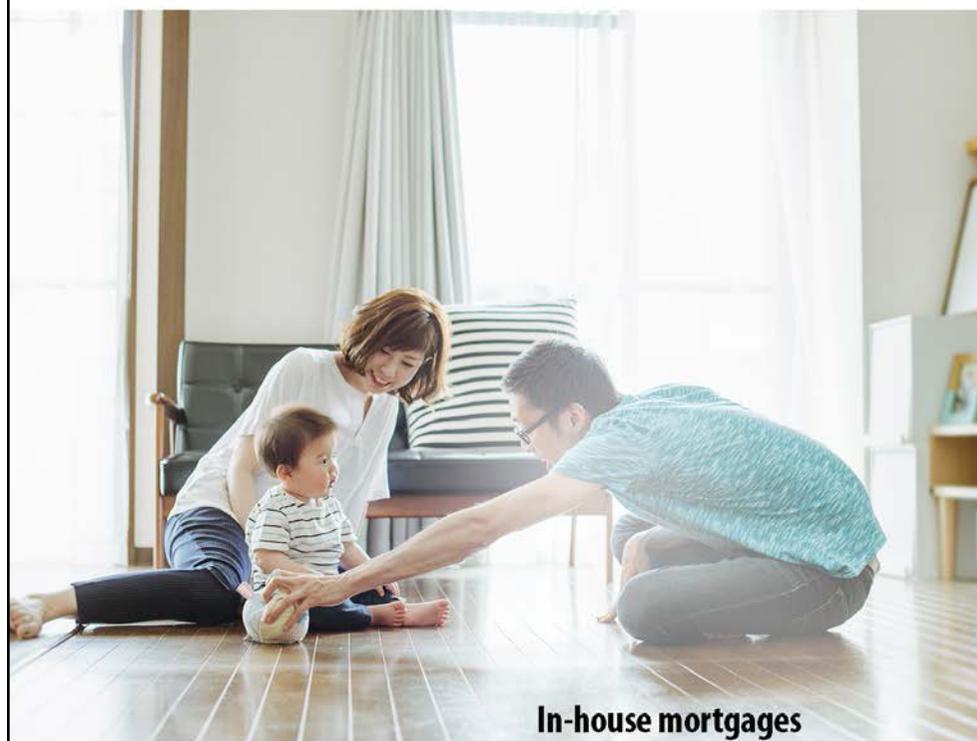
When the wreath was set in place, each of the wreath bearers touched it before taking their place facing the Freedom Wall. Those present were asked to face the Freedom Wall, bow their heads and observe a moment of silence.

The moment of silence ended when Yamada stated, "For those who served, thank you for your service." The sounding of "Taps" by a U.S. Army bugler followed, which concluded the program.

In support of the Day of Affirmation, the Veterans Memorial Court Alliance held a floral tribute three hours later on the same day at the Japanese American War Memorial Court in Los Angeles at noon.

To view the entire JAVA Day of Affirmation ceremony, visit the JAVA website at <https://java-us.org> and click on the Day of Affirmation webpage.

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ICON » continued from page 2

“So I have decided to do what I know to do and do what I have always done: I am going to fight it and keep fighting for the Beloved Community. We still have many bridges to cross.”

“He loved this country so much that he risked his life and his blood so that it might live up to its promise,” President Barack Obama said in a statement. “And through the decades, he not only gave all of himself to the cause of freedom and justice, but inspired generations that followed to try to live up to his example.”

Lewis acted as a symbol of the civil rights movement and advocated for what he liked to call “good trouble”

for more than 30 years while serving in the U.S. House of Representatives. He considered the peaceful protests against Black men after the killing of George Floyd as “good trouble.” He was known as the “Conscience of the U.S. Congress” and was a brave advocate for justice and equality.

A lot of progress has been made over the past 60 years that Lewis has been working for civil rights, but there are still bridges to cross, as he said. Unfortunately, racism has not ended. The fight must go on, and we need to do our part to bring more justice to the world. ■

LOVE » continued from page 3

Linda observed, “There must have been a trickle-down effect that influenced my mom.” And those qualities are also so apparent in Linda. Being open and giving was just part of who they were and are today. Sakaye also said that George was equally as giving, especially when it came to the JA community and others who needed help.

Sakaye remembers traveling to Japan and making friends with those from the gay community. She said there were so many gay bars in Japan. I asked, “Did you ever go to any gay bars?” Instantly, she perked up and said, “Oh, yes!!” There was not a hint of judgment or discomfort in her voice. You could tell those were good memories.

I learn so much when I interview guests for my column. From Sakaye, I learned the importance of teaching our children what is right, just and kind because those lessons get handed down to generations that follow.

I learned that having a positive attitude can add years to your life. At 100 years of age, she radiates so much love and happiness. When I asked her how she was doing during COVID-19, she didn’t lament about how hard life is right now, but said

In Japanese, the word *kaeru* means both “frog” and “return.” *Okaeri* means “welcome home.”



to me, “No problem!”

Finally, I learned that bringing your voice to any community can change the trajectory of any movement. The Aratanis have made such a difference in the Nikkei LGBTQ community.

Sakaye’s final words to me were, “We should all be open minded and helpful to other people and our community.”

This is the legacy the Aratani family and their foundation have brought to our Nikkei community. They are a shining light of love to all who meet them and for many of us that can call them our friends . . .

Marsha Aizumi is an advocate in the LGBTQ community and author of the book “Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance.”

CORONAVIRUS » continued from page 3

- Consider keeping a list of people you visited or who visited you and when the visit occurred. This will help with contact tracing if someone becomes sick.

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

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**

There will be a virtual National Board meeting on Aug. 15.
Info: Visit www.jacl.org.

Tsuru for Solidarity: Community Conversations National Event

Check for dates; 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.

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/](https://www.janm.org/how-does-the-past-influence-your-present-ny-sc-digital-storytelling-competition/).

Bystander Intervention Training Virtual Training Sessions

Aug. 10, 2 p.m.
Aug. 12, 1 p.m.

Price: Free; preregistration is required. Join AAJC (Asian Americans Advancing Justice) and Hollaback! who are partnering to offer free online workshops on Bystander Intervention. These sessions will teach you on what to look for and the impact that bystander intervention has on individuals and communities.

Info: To register and more information, visit <https://advancingjustice-aaajc.org/events>.

NCWNP**A Virtual Book Talk With Marilyn Chase on ‘Everything She Touched: The Life of Ruth Asawa’**

San Jose, CA

Virtual Event on Aug. 16; 2-3:30 p.m.

This virtual book talk event, hosted by Berkeley JACL, will feature a conversation with Marilyn Chase, author of “Everything She Touched: The Life of Ruth Asawa,” who survived adolescence while incarcerated during World War II with her family and then went on to become a much-accomplished sculptor and influencer of the arts in her adopted hometown of San Francisco.
Info: Email admin@berkeleyjacl.org for Zoom link and information.

PSW**Japanese Food Lab Home Cooking Series**

Los Angeles, CA

Japan House Los Angeles

Thru Aug. 20

Price: Free

Join Japan House Los Angeles at its YouTube channel as culinary curator Tomoko Imade Dyen shares recipes on how to make delicious and authentic Japanese cuisine. If your work-from-home lunches have gotten a bit repetitive, or you’re looking to experiment with new cooking methods and techniques, join in and be ready to create culinary treats!
Info: Visit <https://www.japanhouse.jp>.

JANM Online Museum Collection

Los Angeles, CA

Japanese American National Museum Online

JANM’s Museum Collections Online features selected highlights from the museum’s permanent collection of more than 60,000 unique artifacts, documents and photographs. Among

the collections that can be viewed online are the “Stanley Hayami Diary,” “Hisako Hibi Collection,” “George Hoshida Collection” and “Hideo Date Collection,” among others. Although the museum is temporarily closed, viewers can still experience its inside treasures.

Info: www.janm.org.

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.

Info: Visit <http://fromhiroshimatohope.org> and <https://www.facebook.com/FromHiroshimaToHope>.

Wing Luke Museum Online Digital Content

Seattle, WA

Wing Luke Museum

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

Info: www.digitalwingluke.org.

EDC**Japan Society of Boston Free Online Resources**

Boston, MA

Virtual classes and information

Price: Free

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

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

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

FOR MORE INFO:
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In MEMORIAM



Asaka, Connie Tamura, 96, Seattle, WA, April 5; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Tule Lake and Minikoda WRA Centers; she was predeceased by her siblings, Toshio Tamura and Kyoko Tamura; she is survived by her son, Gary (Barbara); gc: 2; ggc: 3.



Bergin, Chikako, 76, Reno, NV, March 12; she was predeceased by a sister and a brother; she is survived by her husband, Phil; son, Bill (Dawn) Bergin; 2 brothers; gc: 6.



Craft, Kuniko, 92, Morgan Hill, CA, April 12; she is survived by her daughter, Ginger Craft; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Douglas, Fujiko, 89, Hesperia, CA, March 26; she is survived by her husband, Charles; sons, Edward Clyde Douglas and Richard (Masae) Douglas; gc: 3.

Hirano, Fusako, 99, Seattle, WA, Jan. 28; she was predeceased by her husband, Kiyoshi; she is survived by her sons, Robert (Barbara) and Raymond; 2 sisters and 1 brother; gc: 3.

Fujii, Kazuo Kenneth, 77, Sunnyvale, CA, April 3; he is survived by his wife, Carolyn; children, Greg (Renee) and Jenny (Jeff); brother, Jack (Sandy); gc: 5.

Ginoza, Dale Yukie, 56, Los Angeles, CA, March 13; he is survived by his daughter, Lauren Maile Minami; sisters, Terry Ginoza Seekins (Jon) and Sandy Ginoza Emocling (Leonard); parents, Shirley and David Ginoza; 2 nephews; 1 niece and extended family and friends.



Horio, Kenneth K., 81, Los Alamitos, CA, April 18; an Army veteran (Lt. Col., ret.), he is survived by his wife, Jeannette Horio; children, Debbie (Dan) Denehy, Darnell (Ed) DeMasters and Darren Horio; sister, Amy (Kenneth) Tanaka; gc: 4.

Imahara, Grant Masaru, 49, Los Angeles, CA, July 13; roboticist-engineer who gained celebrity as an onscreen talent whose credits include "MythBusters," "White Rabbit Project," "Sharknado 3: Oh Hell No!" "Drunk History" and fan-made series "Star Trek Continues," died of a brain aneurysm. The USC grad also worked at special-effects companies THX and Industrial Light and Magic, where his credits as a model builder included such titles as the three "Star Wars" prequels, the two "Matrix" sequels, "The Lost World: Jurassic Park," "Galaxy Quest," "XXX: State of the Union," "Van Helsing," "The Lost World: Jurassic Park," "A.I. Artificial Intelligence" and "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines."

Jabami, Kazuyo, 71, Long Beach, CA, Feb. 23; she is survived by her husband, Koh Jabami; children, Steven (Yuri Uehara), Koji Jabami and Naomi Jabami; brothers, Hiroshi (Eiko) and Takekazu Tabuchi; gc: 2.

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

he is also survived by other relatives.

Murakami, Haruki 'Harry,' 92, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 26, 2019; he was predeceased by his wife, Toki, and sister, Katherine "Kazuko" Nagao; she is survived by her children, Laura (Jonathan) Kono and Gregg Murakami; gc: 3; ggc: 1.



Nakamura, Stacey Tsuyoshi, 61, Houston, TX, January; he is survived by his father, Stanley; sister, Charlene (Neil Fletcher); a nephew and a niece.



Otani, Ida S. Nishiguchi, 97, Sacramento, CA, April 19; active with JACL (Reno charter member and Placer County); she was predeceased by her husband, Robert "Bob" Otani and 6 siblings; she is survived by her children, Robert "Kelley" (Neena Kaur Otani) and Maureen (Les) Otani Johnson; siblings, Joy King and Mimi Davis; sister-in-law, Grace Uyeda; several gc and step-gc.



Sakai, Lawson Ichihiro, 96, Morgan Hill, CA, June 16; after Japan's Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, Sakai attempted to enlist in the military but was classified 4-C (enemy alien);

following President Roosevelt's Feb. 19, 1942, EO Order 9066, the Montebello, CA-born Nisei and his family, as Seventh-day Adventists, were able to self-evacuate to Delta, CO, managing to avoid incarceration at a WRA Center; in 1943, Sakai joined the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (E. Co.) and was wounded during the Rescue of the Lost Battalion in late October-early November 1944. Sakai was awarded a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart and the Combat Infantryman Badge; after the war, he and Mineko Hirasaki were married in April 1946, and they operated a travel agency in Gilroy, CA, until retirement in 1990. Active in 442 veterans activities, Sakai founded the nonprofit Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans. In 2018, Sakai

spoke in favor of a drive that proved unsuccessful to rename a Palo Alto middle school after a fellow 442nd veteran Fred Yamamoto (*P.C.*, March 28, 2018). Sakai was predeceased by his wife, Mineko; sisters, Misako (Perry) Sumida and Mieko Sakai; he is survived by his children, Kenneth (Lynda) Sakai, Joanne Sakai (Dallas Foster), Janet (Noriaki) Ito and Dennis Sakai (Linda Durrin); gc: 7; ggc: 1.

CORRECTION ////////////////

Molly Mariko K. Maeda
Nov. 23, 1919-June 15, 2020
(*Pacific Citizen*, July 17-29, 2020)

TRIBUTE

FLORENCE MATSUSHITA



April 6, 1926-July 7, 2020

Lily was born to Taizo and Shinako Kuwabara in Sacramento. Family was always her priority throughout her long, full life of 94 years.

Her family, with seven children, owned a chicken hatchery. In her early years, Lily performed "odori" (Japanese traditional dance) and even danced at the California State Fair.

As WWII escalated, she and her family were sent to Pinedale Assembly Center and then to the Poston II Intern-

ment Camp in Arizona, where she graduated high school in 1944. Lily left camp to attend Deaconess Nursing School in St. Louis, Mo., and received her RN degree in 1947.

After the war, she returned to Sacramento and worked for Sutter Hospital, when she met the love of her life, Willy Suda. They married, started a family and built a beautiful home in Fresno, a dream come true! They owned and directed Fresno Clinical Lab and other labs in the Central Valley.

Lily was a past president of the Fresno Buddhist Women's Assn. She was a fabulous cook who loved to entertain. They hosted many celebrations, including two weddings at their home.

They were lifetime members of Belmont Country Club and played golf with their friends all around the world. They celebrated 66 happy years of marriage until Willy's passing in 2015.

Lily was a wonderful mother to Kathleen Suda (Wayne Cederquist), Patricia Suda Merrikh (Rami), Laura Sato (Kreyne) and Richard Suda, M.D. (Jeru). She was an inspiration to her 9 grandchildren, Robert, Keith, Karen, Leah, Brooke, Russell, Kirk, Jarrod, Nolan and 9 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her brother, Machi Kuwabara, of Sacramento. We will never forget her smart wit, gentle demeanor, strong will and beautiful smile! The family will have a private burial and a celebration of life at a later date. Remembrances may be sent to the Fresno Buddhist Temple, 2690 E. Alluvial, Fresno, CA 93720.

TRIBUTE

DOROTHY TOYODA



Dorothy F. Toyoda, beloved aunt of Ginger Takahashi, Patti Toyoda, Bobby Toyoda and Kathy Toyoda, passed on March 24, 2020, and was laid to rest on July 15, 2020, at age 97.

She lived long and well and is now resting peacefully, being reunited with her mother, Matsuye; father, Suyehiko; brothers, Bob (Mary) and Susumu (Hiroye); and nephews, Richard and Paul. She will be missed.

In lieu of flowers or koden, the family asks that you consider making a donation to support a local business/restaurant or charity.

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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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or call (213) 620-1767 ext. 104

REFLECTIONS » continued from page 5

Because of the people, friendships and connections I made, in a way, I am at peace with leaving Japan. I have left so much of myself by leaving friends and second families that I feel the strong need to go back, eventually. But right now, something in my gut tells me that I need to be home with my family. The COVID situation, the layoff, the relocation from Tokyo all gave me the green light to reserve that one-way ticket back to California.

When will I come back? I don't know. But I hope that my friends in Japan will remember all the fun times, the laughter, the tears and the memories we made so that we can pick up right where we left off. The end of a chapter is coming to a conclusion.

With tears of gratitude, I thank you for supporting me through this journey. お世話になりました、また今度だよね!



TOKYO IN THE PANDEMIC

The climate in Tokyo and the Kanto region right now is very different than that of my small town in Salinas, Calif. People in Tokyo have been commuting on trains and dining out after just one month of a recommendation to shelter in place, during the state of emergency.

There were no penalties for companies that did not allow work-from-home options or adjusted hours to avoid crowded trains. Without watching the news clips of international COVID-19 stories, it would be very feasible to go about your daily life without feeling like there was a global pandemic because everything is still running as per usual in Japan.

Granted, the social culture in Japan is much



Kristy and members of the JAACL Japan chapter during a trip to the National Museum of History in Japan. Membership Chair Taka Go (pictured second from right) provided bilingual tour information for the group. John and Debbie Ino (center) offered much guidance and support for the chapter during its activities and events.

less touchy — no handshakes, no shoes in the house, no chatter on public transport, etc. Masks are also quite the common household item, as it is used for keeping moisture levels high enough during the dry winter seasons, as well as to block out odors and allergens while in the city centers.

However, the Japanese government has not, and will not, take the testing approach, like the U.S. has done, thus the infection numbers are not quite as trustworthy for many locals in Japan.

The Olympics are on the line for 2021, and



The Journey Home: All but seven flights were canceled for international departures from Narita International Airport on June 1. Chicago, Los Angeles, Mexico City, San Francisco and Singapore were the only flights operating at the time. The departure gate was nearly empty, and the stores beyond security and immigration were primarily closed.

some large Japanese corporations like Fujitsu are allowing certain employees to have permanent remote work options. Along with the changing of the hanko seal procedure (a 100-plus-year tradition of signing legal documents with a stamp) to being more digitally friendly, Japan will hopefully be able to capitalize on the current situation and pivot for a more sustainable work culture in the future.

For those of you who have faced difficult situations and decisions, especially during 2020, please know that you are not alone. For anyone who is curious about life in Japan, from an Asian American perspective, I would be happy to share my thoughts and

experiences with you.

I miss the Japanese food, my partner, friends and host families who live in Japan, and I would love to talk to anyone who is curious about what life is like in Japan during COVID-19.

Kristy Ishii has four years of experience working in Japan and has achieved N2 of the JLPT Language Certification Proficiency Test (business level advanced). She spends her time coaching young professionals to discover their fullest potential, researching job opportunities and baking Shokupan (Japanese milk bread) to keep some of the Japanese food tastes part of her daily routine.

SOLIDARITY » continued from page 7

PHOTOS: HIRO NISHIKAWA

Ellen Somekawa and Eric Joselyn with their artistic and symbolic signs



Ellen Somekawa, one of the Tsuru protesters from Philadelphia, commented: "Most impactful to me was seeing the families waving to us and dancing. It was impossible not to imagine my own family members back there and wonder what it would have been like if they had had allies present for them in that tangible way."

When white counter-protesters appeared and parked across the street from the protest with racist signs, Japanese Americans held large protest signs with their backs to the counter-protesters, forming a wall between them

and the Haitian community.

In a Healing Circle following the action, Lauren Sumida, a Tsuru for Solidarity Communications Committee co-chair, reflected: "I'm appreciative for an opportunity to stand in solidarity. When I see these young children in Berks, I'm heartbroken wondering how many generations of their children will be trying to heal the trauma these families are now experiencing. We understand this . . ."

In conjunction with continued direct action, Tsuru for Solidarity has launched an online campaign, targeting the governors of Texas and Pennsylvania, called #FreeMyFriends.

The campaign incorporates images of Mawon and the Daruma that children and families can download, color and post on social media. The campaign is available on the Tsuru for Solidarity website and social media outlets.

The Daruma, a doll that represents Bodhidharma, is seen as a symbol of perseverance and hope and, during the Edo period, was also used as a healing talisman to protect children from epidemic disease.

In all of this work, Japanese Americans are beginning to find a path that allows us to understand and reconcile our history as we reach out in support of other communities.

We are beginning to have important conversations and reflection on our own role in the move toward proximity to white power. In addition, we are renewing our resistance to racism and state violence while also exploring and facilitating healing practices that are helping us process the intergenerational trauma

caused by our community's experience in the camps during WWII.

In the past week, we offered the first of four Zoom webinars called "Tsuru Rising: Community Conversations." The first webinar focused on Japanese American identity and intergenerational trauma. Future webinars will explore issues of policing, detention and surveillance of communities of color; U.S. patterns of forced removal and mass incarceration and the Japanese American relationship to settler colonialism; and a community forum on anti-Blackness in the Japanese American community.

Meanwhile, we continue to build coalitions and stand in solidarity with directly impacted communities at detention sites across the country. We are also developing new initiatives for the fall and 2021.

Please visit our website, where you can sign up to receive updates, participate in online actions and get connected to a chapter nearest you.

The movement is just beginning, and we welcome you to join us.

For more information, visit:

Tsuru for Solidarity: <https://tsuruforsolidarity.org/>

Tsuru Rising! Virtual Protest: <https://tsuruforsolidarity.org/tsururising2/>

#FreeMyFriends: <https://tsuruforsolidarity.org/contagion-in-the-camps/>

Tsuru Rising: Community Conversations: <https://tsuruforsolidarity.org/tsuru-rising-community-conversations/>

Poster signs