

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 91 YEARS

The cover of Shirley Ann Higuchi's memoir, "Setsuko's Secret," set for release on Sept. 15

PHOTO: HIGUCHI FAMILY

## » PAGE 6

### A SECRET NO MORE

A book about the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans uncovers one family's history through it all.

## » PAGE 4

In an Unprecedented Year, JACL Holds a Virtual Meeting in Place of Its Convention.

## » PAGE 5

One *Hibakusha's* Memories of Hiroshima and It's Importance for Generations to Remember.





# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## WHAT IF JACOB BLAKE'S LIFE MATTERED AS MUCH AS KYLE RITTENHOUSE?

By David Inoue,  
JACL Executive Director

In response to the shooting of three people, two fatally, by 17-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse, Kenosha, Wis., Police Chief Daniel Miskinis blamed the victims, saying had they been respectful of the curfew, they would not have been shot.

These comments came in the wake of video of the police expressing their thanks for what Rittenhouse and his fellow vigilante militia members were doing and even more damning video of Rittenhouse walking away from the scene of the crime, right past multiple police officers.

This stands in stark contrast to the video, which sparked the outrage in Kenosha — and once again across the country — where police were caught on video shooting Jacob Blake SEVEN times in his back, right in front of his children. Amazingly, he survived, though he will likely be paralyzed from his waist down. Yet, reports say that he is being handcuffed to his hospital bed. Since when is a paralyzed man a serious flight risk?

What is the difference between Kyle Rittenhouse and Jacob Blake? We all know the answer, one is White and the other is Black. Here, we have juxtaposed in real time the disparate treatment of these two men by the police, the exact same police force.

Rittenhouse's stated purpose

being there was to protect property, and yet he was not protecting property when he ventured out into the street to engage with people who were not anywhere near the property he claimed to be protecting.

He went to Kenosha with the intent, the hope, that he would be able to shoot someone. We must recognize that any time someone unholsters his/her firearm, it is with the sole intent of killing someone or something. Yet, the Kenosha police ignored scores of vigilantes standing by with rifles and handguns displayed openly, fingers on triggers.

The vigilantes who went to Kenosha represent another aspect of Black dehumanization. The most important value for them is the protection of property, more important than the value of Blake's life.

The anger following each of these unjust attacks and murders of Black people at the hands of police often leads to violence and destruction of property. Unfortunately, this enables those who want to ignore the unjust killings to shift the narrative to the violence. The "questions" are inevitable, "What about Black on Black crime?" or, "I want to support them, but why do they have to resort to violence?"

This perspective is clear in Police Chief Miskinis' public comments that Tuesday's murders were because of curfew violations. There was a knife in Blake's car, therefore the shooting was justified. These are

the narratives that Miskinis and the Kenosha police want you to hear. The story here is the vandalism, the destruction of property.

However, the answer is so much more simple. Miskinis and so many others fail to recognize that none of this would happen if our law enforcement officers would simply stop unjustly shooting our Black brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers and children.

Among the things that would be true if the Kenosha police had not shot Blake in the back seven times: Blake would still be able to walk, Anthony Huber and Joseph Rosenbaum would still be fathers

to their daughters and both would be planning their weddings with their respective fiancées, and Gaige Grosskreutz would not be in danger of losing one of his arms.

Huber and Rosenbaum are dead not because they violated a curfew, but because the Kenosha police did not act as if Blake's life matters as much as the life of Rittenhouse. That is what started all of this, and that is what we must make sure that everyone remembers.

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

### CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

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

- Total Cases: 5,715,567\*
- Total Deaths: 176,617 (as of Aug. 25)
- Jurisdictions Reporting Cases: 55 (50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands)
- Data includes both confirmed and presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 reported to the CDC or tested at the CDC since Jan. 21, with the exception of testing results for persons repatriated to the U.S. from Wuhan, China, and Japan. State and local public health departments are now testing and publicly reporting their cases. In the event of a discrepancy between CDC cases and cases reported by state and local public health officials, data reported by states should be considered the most up to date.

Source: CDC

#### HOW TO REACH US

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

#### STAFF

**Executive Editor**  
Allison Haramoto

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

**Business Manager**  
Susan Yokoyama

**Production Artist**  
Marie Samonte

**Circulation**  
Eva Ting

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

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

#### P.C. EDITORIAL BOARD

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

#### Subscribe

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

#### Advertise

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

#### LEGAL

No part of this publication may be reproduced without the express permission of the *Pacific Citizen*. Editorials, letters, news and the opinions expressed by columnists other than the national JACL president or national director do not necessarily reflect JACL policy. Events and products advertised in the *P.C.* do not carry the implicit endorsement of the JACL or this publication. We reserve the right to edit articles. © 2020

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



## PACIFIC CITIZEN 2020 SPRING CAMPAIGN

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

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

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

Phone Number : \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail : \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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



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

— Gil Asakawa

#### JACL MEMBERS

##### Change of Address

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

Allow 6 weeks for address changes.

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





# LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

## HOW TO PAY FOR HOME CARE

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

**D**id you know that about 2 million older adults age 65 and older visit emergency rooms each year? And almost one-third of those visits are related to injuries, with many of those injuries sustained in the home. Here are some interesting statistics from the National Council on Aging:

- 1 in 4 older adults fall each year.
- Every 11 seconds, an older adult is treated in the ER for falls.
- Every 19 minutes, older adults die from falls.
- Falls are costly — hip fractures, broken bones and head injuries. The average cost is in the range of \$30,000.

ER doctors report that most families say, “We were afraid that something like this would happen.” According to surveyed ER physicians in the U.S. and Canada, 48 percent of home accidents can be prevented. Why? Seniors might feel unsafe in their own home, and they also might be ashamed to admit it, too embarrassed to ask for help or just plain stubborn.

Your adult children might be insisting that they move you into a nursing home or move you closer

to them, but they live out of town (or out of state). Or, you might feel that if you admit you need help, your children might insist that you move in with them, but you don't want to be a burden. You want your independence!

“Home is where the heart is,” the phrase might be a timeworn cliché, but its sentiment remains as true as ever. According to one AARP 2011 survey, “Aging in Place,” roughly 90 percent of American seniors wish to live at home for as long as possible. A person's home is the most important place in his or her life, offering a sense of familiarity, comfort and security.

Elderly adults cherish having a space that is truly their own — a space that doesn't simply act as a home but actually feels like one. Most important of all, you have control over your routine, activities and life decisions. You can live your life as you see fit, and you enjoy a sense of dignity unavailable to many other seniors you know.

Even in cases where physical or cognitive decline makes it difficult to live independently, seniors vastly prefer aging in place to moving into a long-term care facility. Seniors who age in place enjoy a sense of independence and comfort that only

home can provide. They also enjoy better health outcomes on average, despite lower care costs.

This kind of independence isn't possible for elderly adults who move to senior living facilities. In these facilities, residents have less control over their lives and routines. Many seniors become dependent on nursing staff, who are forced to split their time and attention between multiple residents.

However, aging in place also comes with a price tag. Many seniors need to modify their homes to make them safer and more livable. In addition, many seniors also need to hire an in-home caregiver to assist with activities of daily living. But, despite these costs, aging in place is typically less expensive than living in an assisted living or nursing facility.

According to Genworth Financial's Cost of Care Survey, the average cost of home health care in the United States is \$4,385 a month. Home health care will almost always be more expensive than basic home care because of the medical certifications and training required of the caregivers.

Home health aides offer skilled care such as checking a patient's pulse, temperature and respiration, as well as assisting with medical equipment such as ventilators. They will visit the

home as much as medically necessary but typically for shorter periods of time than home care aide visits. In 2019, the national average was \$22/hour with different state averages ranging from \$16-\$29/hour.

Typically, a home care aide will visit a home several times a week for visits lasting from 2-8 hours. In 2019, the national average for nonmedical, in-home care was \$21/hour, with different state averages ranging from \$16-\$28/hour. It should be noted that these are average costs from home care agencies. Private individuals can be retained to provide some of the same services with fees 20 percent-30 percent lower.

“But Judd, I can't afford that — I'm on a fixed income.” Good news: There's help. It's called In-Home-Supportive-Services, or IHSS. The goal of the IHSS program is to allow you to live safely in your own home and avoid the need for out-of-home care, i.e., nursing homes. The types of services that the IHSS will pay for include housecleaning, meal preparation, laundry and grocery shopping.

IHSS will also pay for services that need to be provided in the privacy of your own home. Personal care services such as bowel and bladder care, bathing, grooming and paramedical services, accompaniment to medical appointments and protective supervision for the mentally impaired are also covered.

Fortunately, most IHSS recipients can hire, fire and supervise their own caregivers under the Independent Provider (IP) mode of service. Most IP's are relatives of the client. In other words, that means that IHSS will pay your son or daughter for your care giving. Or, better yet, you can hire outside care so that your son and daughter can “visit” rather than “care-take.”

Since IHSS is run by the Department of Social Services, all you must do is first qualify for Medi-Cal. “But I was told I don't qualify since I have more than \$2,000 in the bank. Can you still help me?” You bet! You are *legally* allowed to convert nonexempt assets into exempt assets, “spend-down” excess assets or transfer them to a trusted adult child. “Won't that trigger a three-year waiting period?” No, not if you see an attorney experienced in Medi-Cal planning.

*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](mailto: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.*



# REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

## NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN FOCUSES ON PROTECTING 50-PLUS VOTERS AND MAKING THEIR VOICES HEARD

By Ron Mori, AARP

**A**ARP recently launched “Protect Voters 50+,” a comprehensive voter engagement campaign to support and protect Americans age 50 and up as they vote in the 2020 elections. The campaign will provide information on where candidates stand on issues that matter to Americans 50-plus and help them cast their votes safely from home or in-person.

A centerpiece of the campaign focuses on providing customized, state-by-state information about voting options this fall. AARP's print publications will produce separate editions for each state, accompanied by direct mail, digital communications and paid media. The campaign will also advocate for enhanced absentee ballot access and pursue litigation when needed.

“The bottom line is that 50-plus voters are a major force in every election, and they are not a lock for either party,” said Nancy LeaMond, AARP executive vp and chief advocacy and engagement officer. “To win, candidates must talk about the issues important to them — including voting safely from home or in-person, preventing cuts to Social Security and Medicare and lowering prescription drug prices.”

“AARP is demanding action to make sure that Americans 50-plus — whether they are working parents, family caregivers or seniors in nursing homes — can vote and make their voices heard,” said John Hishta, AARP senior vp of campaigns. “Politicians need to protect the health and financial security of voters 50+, especially during this pandemic.”

The “Protect Voters 50+” campaign will provide people with the

information they need about this year's elections, including:

- Video voters' guides
- Battleground state polling
- Issue briefings
- Direct mail, text messaging, social media and paid media

The campaign will also focus on the core issues that AARP members and the 50-plus population say are most important to them: protecting Social Security and Medicare, lowering prescription drug prices, keeping residents and staff of long-term care facilities safe and helping Americans recover from the impact of the pandemic on the nation's economy.

This is the first time, Hishta said, that AARP will concentrate on helping people understand some of the changes in the election process that are taking place in states because of the pandemic.



“In many respects, we're serving as a communications vehicle to make sure people know how to vote,” he said. “We want to make sure people know what to expect and when to expect it.”

In battlegrounds across the country, AARP will track key races, sponsor debates and host townhall events. Election information will be provided through a

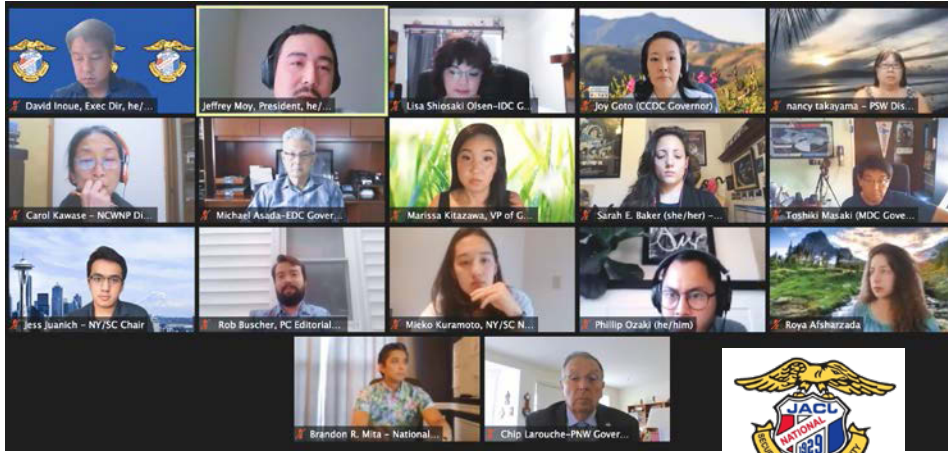
full-scale digital effort, including [aarp.org/election2020](http://aarp.org/election2020), AARP Now app, social media and news alerts.

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



The JACL held its national board meeting virtually in place of its annual convention on Aug. 15.

PHOTO: GEORGE T. JOHNSTON



## STAYING THE COURSE

In an unprecedented year, JACL holds a virtual board meeting in lieu of an in-person national convention.

By P.C. Staff

To say that 2020 has been “challenging” is something probably ALL Americans will agree with, no matter what side of the political fence they reside on, and the year is only three-quarters done. From Kobe Bryant’s tragic death to the Black Lives Matter protests in light of George Floyd’s murder to preparing for the most important political election in our nation’s history in a mere two months — 2020 has been a year unlike any other. Oh, and did we mention we’re all trying to survive a global pandemic that has seen countless lives lost due to COVID-19?

But no matter the twists and turns, JACL has stayed the course, adapting itself and forging ahead and planning its future — and though coronavirus forced the organization to postpone its annual national convention in June, JACL held an all-virtual national board meeting on Aug. 15.

The meeting’s tone was set as President Jeffrey Moy said, “It’s important that we continue to represent you, especially in these trying times.”

Executive Director David Inoue then presented a summary of JACL’s packed slate of actions, including support for the HEROES Act, BLM, Tsuru for Solidarity, immigration,

the Muslim Ban, U.S. Census and civic engagement, the Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium, Kakehashi program and its COVID-19 response.

In his report, Inoue said, “The outlook for the remainder of the year is that we will remain responsive to challenges from COVID with regards to operations, continuing to mostly work from home and also working on COVID-related issues in policy. Looking ahead to 2021, we are anticipating a return to normalcy as scheduling for events such as Kakehashi in March and the convention in July, but will continue to remain flexible on these activities as well.”

National Secretary/Treasurer Jim Kirihiro presented the 2021 budget and reflected on year-to-date 2020 actuals, which showed an operating net deficit of \$139,158. However, he reported that membership dues are \$12K above the pro-rata budget, thanks to strong January and May results.

Kirihiro remained confident that the overall trend will shift, as the market volatility situation has continued to improve since March when coronavirus effectively shut down the nation’s economy.

YTD as of June 30, JACL’s total assets were \$12,949,692, down from \$13,268,737 as of Dec. 31, 2019.

In presenting the 2021 budget, which was approved by the board, Kirihiro outlined in his report a \$1.74 million total budget, a 12 percent decrease from 2019-2020’s 1.98M budget.

“Our overall methodology was to be conservative whenever possible,” Kirihiro said. “We will have the ability to be flexible and adapt depending on what’s happening at the time.”

And in his final membership report as outgoing vp of membership and services, Haruka Roudebush reported 8,106 total members as of Quarter 2, a 233-member decline (-2.8 percent) since end-of-year 2019.

Forty-five chapters had membership losses of 5 percent or greater since EOY 2019, however 26 chapters recorded record gains in membership since EOY 2019, among them Berkeley, Livingston Merced, Portland, Downtown Los Angeles, Seattle and Stockton.

Among Moy’s first tasks is to appoint a new vp of membership, with Roudebush assuring the national board that he is willing to help until a successor is named.

“I encourage you guys to keep up your efforts to seek out ideas for ways to recruit new members . . . It’s been an honor to serve with you all,” he said. “I’m grateful for the opportunity to have been able to serve you all in this capacity, and I wish you all luck going forward.”

Right now, the entire world needs luck in navigating through the remainder of 2020 and beyond. But no matter the challenge, one thing’s certain: JACL is more than prepared to meet whatever else comes its way. ■

## JACL Legacy Fund Grants Committee Announces 2020 Funding Recipients

By Toshi Abe, EDC, and Roberta Barton, CCDC, Legacy Fund Grants Committee Chairs

The JACL Legacy Fund Grants Committee is pleased to announce funding recipients for the 2020 Legacy Fund program year. JACL chapters and districts are eligible to apply for a grant for a project or activity that is supportive of the National JACL Strategic Plan.

The Legacy Fund was established at the JACL National Convention in 1990 through donations from numerous Japanese Americans who contributed their redress monies to support research and education that would help prevent such future injustices.

Our thanks to the Legacy Fund Grants Committee for volunteering their time and expertise to the LFG Program: Sheldon Arakaki (PNW), James Craig (NCWNP), Jeanette Ishii (CCDC), Carol Kawamoto (PSW), Mika Kennedy (MDC), Janet Komoto (IDC), Teresa Maebori (EDC) and Caitlin Takeda (NY/SC).

Thanks also to Patty Wada, NCWNP regional director, and Matthew Farrells, vp for planning and development, for your kind words, advice and support of the LFG Program. Though not a committee member, we also wish to acknowledge Ron Katsuyama (Dayton JACL) for his expert statistical work with the committee’s scoring system.

Following are this year’s recipients:

**Philadelphia JACL and Seabrook JACL (\$5,000) — *The Third Location: Exhibit on Japanese American Resettlement in the Greater Philadelphia Region***

This joint exhibit was curated

by the Philadelphia and Seabrook JACL chapters to document the experiences of many Nisei who moved to the Greater Philadelphia Area. The exhibit shares the stories of individuals and families through the art objects they created. A selection of WRA commissioned photographs will also be on display.

**New York JACL (\$5,000) — *Yuri Kochiyama’s Harlem: Place, Politics and Social Change***

This project researches the life of Yuri Kochiyama, an activist in the Harlem neighborhood of New York City. This project will produce a walking tour guidebook of about 20 key locations throughout Harlem, where Kochiyama lived for 40 years. A live walking tour will be held in May 2021, and the guidebook and tour stops will be published online for use by local educators and organizers studying AAPI activism. It’s anticipated that the Yuri Kochiyama walking tour can become a part of the New York Day of Remembrance activities.

**New Mexico JACL (\$2,500) — *New Mexico Japanese American Film Festival***

This project highlights five film and media activists for a three-day film festival in Albuquerque, N.M. The film showings will be augmented by panel discussions featuring Emiko Omori, Chizu Omori, Alan Kondo, Claudia Katayanagi, Kerwin Berk and JACL’s David Inoue. The films to be shown include “Rabbit In the Moon,” “A Brief History of Tsuru for Solidarity,” “Kikan: The Homecoming,” “Crystal City Pilgrimage” and “A Bitter Legacy.”

**Twin Cities JACL (\$4,995) — *The Next Generations: A New Telling of the Japanese American WWII Experience***

» See GRANTS on page 10

## JACL CONCLUDES VIRTUAL ELECTIONS IN PLACE OF NATIONAL CONVENTION

By JACL National

The JACL concluded two weeks of virtual proceedings in place of an in-person National Convention to elect a new National Board on Aug. 23 for the next biennium. In addition, two individuals were awarded the Japanese American of the Biennium Award and a chapter was given the George J. Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Award.

In an official statement, the orga-

nization said, “While the onset of a pandemic has forced all of us to change the ways in which we work, we are glad to see many officers returning and hope to recognize awardees at our 2021 convention.”

JACL is happy to announce that the following candidates have been elected or re-elected to the JACL National Board for the next biennium:



• Jeffrey Moy, national president



• Sarah Baker, vp of public affairs



• Marissa Kitazawa, vp of general operations



• Mieko Kuramoto, NY/SC representative

• Justin Kawaguchi, NY/SC council chair

The remaining national board

positions will be appointed by Moy over the next several months.

Along with the National Board Elections, JACL is happy to announce the following awardees:

• Japanese American of the Biennium in the Areas of Arts, Literature and Communication: Lori Matsukawa

Matsukawa was nominated by the Seattle chapter and is being recog-

nized for her many years of work in the communications field in the Pacific Northwest, including working on a documentary series on the Japanese American incarceration.

• Japanese American of the Biennium in the Areas of Politics, Public Affairs and Law: Lisa Bartlett Sato

» See CONVENTION on page 8



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF KATHLEEN BURKINSHAW



A photo of the Ishikawa family exists where Toshiko Ishikawa cut herself out of the picture because she felt guilty that she was the only one left alive.

Kathleen Burkinshaw (left) and her daughter, Sara, holding a banner Sara made for Ribbon International 2020



A beloved family photo, Toshiko Ishikawa at age 3 and her Papa.

# MORE THAN A MUSHROOM CLOUD

Recalling one *hibakusha's* memories of Hiroshima and why it was so much greater than two paragraphs and a general photo in a school textbook.

By Kathleen Burkinshaw

Seventy-five years ago, my mother, Toshiko Ishikawa, stood outside chatting with her best friend on a sunny August morning. Then, an ear-shattering popping noise, followed by an intense burst of white light. The ground shook beneath them as they hugged each other and screamed. My mother was 12 years old when the United States dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan.

I was 5 years old when I first remember waking up to my mother's blood-curdling screams, the result of recurring nightmares— especially in the summer — that plagued her often since that horrific day. She'd tell me that it was nothing I needed to worry about.

In fact, for most of my childhood, I didn't know that she was even from Hiroshima! She told everyone she was from Tokyo. My mother would not teach me Japanese, cooked only a few Japanese dishes and if you visited, you wouldn't see Japanese décor in our home.

My mom married my father (an American serving at an Air Force base near Tokyo) at the U.S. Embassy and moved to the U.S. in 1959. She was shocked by the prejudice that people still had against the Japanese. To avoid questions, she told everyone she was from Tokyo. She became a U.S. citizen a few years before I was born, and she "Americanized" the

family home so that when I came along, no one would treat me the way she was initially treated (it happened anyway).

However, one picture had a place of honor in our home: It was a picture of my mom and her Papa. Every morning, she placed a fresh glass of cold water in front of the picture (because he, like so many others, had been thirsty from the heat of the atomic blast). This treasured photo was one of only six pictures she had from her childhood (stored somewhere not damaged by the atomic bomb). Any other pictures burned with her home on Aug. 6, 1945.

I was 11 the summer I realized her horrible nightmares that August also occurred in August the year before. I pestered her. She finally told me she was born in Hiroshima but lost her family, friends and home to the atomic bomb. She said it was too painful to discuss, and I couldn't tell anyone.

It wasn't until ninth grade when I read "Hiroshima" by John Hersey that I had an inkling of the horror in my mother's nightmares. Shocked and horrified, I asked my mom if she experienced what was in the book. Without looking at the book, she said, "It was a hell that NO words could describe." Again, I had to promise not to tell anyone — especially my teacher.

When I was 31 years old, I spent a month in the hospital and was finally

diagnosed with Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (a neurological chronic, progressive pain disease affecting the sympathetic nervous system and the immune system). Doctors attributed my immune system deficiencies to the radiation my mother was exposed to from the atomic bomb.

Once home, I needed help taking care of myself, as well as my daughter, Sara (4 at the time), while my husband worked during the day. My parents came to help.

My life suddenly changed. I had to give up the successful career I had worked so hard to achieve. I worried that the pain would prevent me from being a good mom to my daughter. Despair and hopelessness crept in.

That's when my mom began to share memories of Aug. 6 and the days afterward. She wanted me to know that she planned to commit suicide after she lost everyone she loved to the atomic bombing. But right before she jumped off the bridge, she heard her father's voice when he would tell her stories of their samurai ancestors and how one should have pride and honor their family.

So, she didn't jump, and now she was so glad because she had me and my daughter to love. She reminded me that the same samurai blood flowed through my veins so I would find strength and my own way.

It would be several years later when I would first speak publicly about my mother and Hiroshima. My daughter

was in seventh grade and came home from school terribly upset. Her class finished the section on World War II, and kids were talking about that "cool mushroom cloud" picture. Would I tell her classmates about the people under that cloud — like her Grandma?

I called my mom, fully expecting her to say no. She surprised me and said yes. The students would be close to the age that she was when the bomb dropped, and maybe they could relate to her story. And as future voters, they'd leave that classroom knowing nuclear weapons should never be used again.

The following week, I spoke to my daughter's class about the two coincidences that occurred on Monday, Aug. 6, 1945:

1. My mom had been sick over the weekend. Her Papa let her stay home one more day to rest, but the next day, she would join her classmates, who were in the center of town taking down the wooden buildings (out of fear that fire bombs used on Tokyo would be dropped there). That kept her *out* of the center of town that day.

2. Her Papa usually worked from home in the morning, then would head to his newspaper office in the afternoon. But that day, he left early to purchase a ticket at the train station for one of his employees. That would put her Papa *in* the center of town that day.

I would also discuss that after she



"The Last Cherry Blossom" was released in paperback on Aug. 25.

clung to her friend screaming, my mother woke up covered in cement, wood and dirt from the houses around them. Her friend was no longer by her side, but she heard her crying.

My mom heard her stepmother calling to her, telling her to dig from underneath while she dug above her. When she finally climbed out, she noticed eerie shades of dark blue, brown and red in the sky. She glanced toward her home — it was gone, as were all of the houses on her street. In the distance, fire swirled around like small cyclones — right where her Papa was.

Digging out her friend was interrupted by black, sticky rain, which they thought was oil. The next thing my mother remembered was waking up to her stepmother telling her that they needed to look for her Papa.

The crumbled roads and lack of landmarks made travel difficult. While walking, my mother felt a tug on her arm, and she heard a small voice asking for help. When she turned, she saw some creature with a face melting like lava. She couldn't tell if it was a boy or a girl, and she ran to her stepmother's embrace. That memory forever haunted her nightmares. When they finally arrived at what was left of the station, Papa wasn't there. My mother stayed hopeful, thinking he must be well enough to search for them.



Kathleen Burkinshaw (left) and Naomi Hirahara at JANM's virtual event "Daughters of Hibakusha Tell Hiroshima Stories"





PHOTOS: HIGUCHI FAMILY

# A SECRET NO MORE

Writing a book about the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans opened the author's eyes to her own family's history.

By Ray Locker,  
Contributor

Growing up in Ann Arbor, Mich., in the 1960s and '70s, Shirley Ann Higuchi didn't know any other Japanese Americans outside of her own family. Her connection with the Nikkei community came only through the copies of the *Pacific Citizen* that arrived at her family's home.

Somewhere in her family's history, she knew, was a place called Heart Mountain, the site in northwestern Wyoming where her parents had met as children in seventh grade. If her parents referred to Heart Mountain at all, they only called it "camp."

"I think I had a very isolated and narrow view of the Japanese American incarceration because there wasn't a lot of information given to me on that topic," Higuchi said. "My parents never said much about that experience, except sometimes my mother would say that was where she met my father when they were children. She made it seem like camp wasn't that bad and kind of a fun place to be."

Higuchi now has told the history of both her family and the incarceration in her new book, "Setsuko's Secret: Heart Mountain and the Legacy of the Japanese American Incarceration." The book, set to be released Sept. 15 by the University of Wisconsin Press, is a memoir and history of the Japanese American experience from the arrival of the first wave of Japanese immigrants through the incarceration to the present.

The book is rooted in Higuchi's discovery in 2005, at her mother's deathbed, that Setsuko Saito Higuchi



The Higuchi family in 1962. Pictured (from left) are Ken, Shirley, Bill and Setsuko. Bob is sitting on his mother's lap.

wanted her traditional condolence gift donated to the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation. She had anonymously donated a substantial sum of money to the foundation's effort to build a museum on the site where almost 14,000 people spent the war years living behind barbed wire.

Shortly after her mother's death, Higuchi was invited by Heart Mountain officials to join them at a dedication of a walking tour at the camp site in her mother's name. They then invited her to join the foundation board, and she became the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation board chair three years later.

◆◆◆

## THE 'SANSEI EFFECT'

Through the last dozen years leading the foundation, Higuchi learned that her experience resembled that of other Sansei. Their Nisei parents often kept the details of the Japanese American incarceration from

them, leaving the children to navigate the consequences of that ordeal on their own.

Higuchi calls this the "Sansei Effect," the sense among third-generation Japanese Americans that they will never live up to the expectations and experiences of their parents while often understanding little about what these parents withstood.

"We did not know what the incarceration had done to my parents' generation and how it created the various rules — spoken and unspoken," Higuchi wrote in "Setsuko's Secret." "For my older brother, Ken, that confusion manifested itself in sporadic outbursts of anger — he once flipped over a six-person round table in the family room for reasons I cannot recall — and a manic desire to live up to the expectations he believed our parents had for him."

Ken Higuchi, who became an engineer working for a defense



Sumiko Aikawa, shown here embraced by Shirley Ann Higuchi, learned about the hardships of Heart Mountain from her aunt, Chiye Higuchi, when Chiye returned to Japan in the 1950s.

PHOTO: RAY LOCKER

Shirley Higuchi (center) leads the Pledge of Allegiance on Aug. 20, 2011, the grand opening of the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center. To her right are Sen. Daniel Inouye, Secretary Norman Mineta and Sen. Alan Simpson.

PHOTO: HEART MOUNTAIN WYOMING FOUNDATION



Setsuko Saito at the docks in San Francisco before she sailed for Tokyo for an arranged marriage that she rejected. Pictured (from left) are Yoshio, Hiroshi, Setsuko and Kathy Saito.



Classmates Bill Higuchi and Setsuko Saito sit next to each in the center of the front row in the photograph of their ninth grade class at Heart Mountain High School.

contractor, died in a 1986 car accident. Shirley Higuchi believes his death was connected to the stress he placed on himself as a Sansei.

"Many Sansei feel lost, in part because they do not understand the events that shaped their parents and grandparents and that directed their behavior," she wrote. "They do not know why their parents were obsessed with propriety, worked all of the time or carried an unspoken shame."

Finding a better understanding of the multigenerational mental health trauma experienced by many Japanese Americans has led Higuchi to become more active in the series of healing circles led by Dr. Satsuki Ina, a psychologist who was born while her parents were incarcerated in the Tule Lake, Calif., camp.

◆◆◆

## A RICHER HISTORY

Higuchi also discovered more details about the lives of many of the people with whom she works at Heart Mountain, including Takashi Hoshizaki, one of the 85 men from Heart Mountain who resisted the military draft in 1944 and were sent to federal prison.

The story of the draft resisters was long obscured by community leaders who emphasized the valor of the Nisei soldiers who served in Europe and Asia with the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 522nd Field Artillery Battalion and the Military Intelligence Service.

Hoshizaki, who is now a Heart Mountain board member, was 18

when he resisted the draft. After his release from prison in 1946, he earned a Ph.D. in botany and spent decades working on research for the space program.

"His career after the war included service in the Army and conducting research as a botanist in Antarctica," Higuchi said. "I realized he was more than just someone who promoted civil rights and stood up for his own rights at Heart Mountain."

She also learned more about the relationship of former Wyoming Sen. Alan Simpson and his family with Heart Mountain. Simpson's father, Milward, was a World War I veteran who led the Cody, Wyo., American Legion post. Not long after the Heart Mountain camp opened, Milward Simpson visited Heart Mountain to welcome the legionnaires among the new incarcerated.

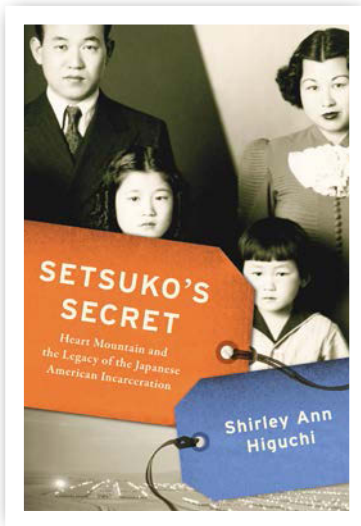
One was Clarence Uno, the father of Raymond Uno, who would later become the national Japanese American Citizens League president and the first minority judge in Utah.

"Milward Simpson also encouraged his sons, Pete and Al, to visit the Japanese American incarcerated at Heart Mountain, which led to the meeting of Al and Norman Mineta, which is well known and discussed in my book," Higuchi said.

Alan Simpson met Mineta, who would later become a U.S. representative from California and a two-time Cabinet member, during a Boy Scout jamboree at Heart Mountain. Their 77-year friendship is one of the most cherished parts of Heart Mountain history.







**“Setsuko’s Secret: Heart Mountain and the Legacy of the Japanese American Incarceration.”** The book is set to be released Sept. 15.

◆◆◆  
RELEVANCE FOR TODAY

Higuchi said “Setsuko’s Secret” is relevant to today’s political climate in which the current administration is promoting border and immigration policies similar to those that plagued Japanese Americans before, during and after WWII.

She recounted the story of what happened in the days following the 9/11 attacks, when Mineta was the Secretary of Transportation for Republican President George W. Bush.

“I think the book is a reminder of what the government, politicians and the media should not do during a wartime crisis or other dramatic moments that can occur in our nation’s history, like Sept. 11,” Higuchi said. “When President George W. Bush stood up with then-Secretary Norman Mineta and said, ‘We do not want to do to Muslim Americans what we did to Norm in 1942.’ That shows that at the greatest levels of our nation’s leadership, we can get

support for other groups in times of crisis.”

Higuchi has used her research for “Setsuko’s Secret” as material for a series of columns she has written for media outlets that includes the *Seattle Times* and the *Salt Lake Tribune*. She has seen multiple parallels between the incarceration and current policies involving private prisons and immigrant detention centers, family separations and the Muslim ban.

◆◆◆

**A FINAL DISCOVERY**

It wasn’t until the end of the writing of the book that Higuchi realized more hidden elements of her family’s history.

Last November, she traveled to Japan as part of the Japanese Foreign Ministry’s Up Close program to speak to students and government officials about the incarceration. Part of the program involved going to Saga Prefecture on the island of Kyushu to visit family members

from where her father’s family had emigrated to the United States.

There, she met her cousin, Sumiko Aikawa, who recounted the time in 1957 when Higuchi’s grandmother, Chiye Higuchi, spent a night with Aikawa, her niece, and told her about the suffering the family endured during the incarceration. Until then, Higuchi said she never knew how her grandmother viewed the incarceration.

“I had spent my entire life believing that Grandmother Chiye was a rock, someone composed who had few needs,” Higuchi wrote. “She never expressed much emotion other than the love I felt emanating from her during my childhood. Like all of my relatives, I thought the incarceration experience for her, as well as for the rest of Japanese Americans, was just a blip on the screen. I never realized the extent of my grandmother’s anguish during the war and the years afterward.”

*JACLDC is hosting a book event on Oct. 7. Check the chapter’s website for details (<https://jacl-dc.org/>). If you preorder a book from *Politics and Prose in Washington, D.C.*, write “JACLDC book event bookplate” in the message to the bookseller in the order form, and you’ll get an author-signed bookplate in your book (until they run out)! Visit <https://www.politics-prose.com/book/9780299327804>. For more information, visit the “Setsuko’s Secret” Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SetsukosSecret/>.*

*“Setsuko’s Secret: Heart Mountain and the Legacy of the Japanese American Incarceration” is also available for advance purchase at Amazon (<https://www.amazon.com/Setsukos-Secret-Mountain-Japanese-Incarceration/dp/0299327809>). It is also available at your local independent bookseller at <https://www.indiebound.org/indie-book-store-finder>.*

# HOW TO STAY CONNECTED



Charlotte S. Yeh, M.D.  
Chief Medical Officer  
AARP Services, Inc.

“For the 45 and older population, about one in three have evidence of loneliness. And we know that for the 65 and older population, 40% and more are impacted by loneliness.”

“Even though we may be alone in our own space, that doesn’t mean we can’t be connected. It is important that we remember that help is not just physical, but it’s emotional, it’s spiritual. We need to focus on what allows us to flourish...and how can we continue to thrive even if we are just in our own space.”

## HOW TO FIGHT THE SOCIAL ISOLATION OF CORONAVIRUS

Travel bans and recommendations to avoid nonessential air travel may mean that distant family members may not be able to connect in person while the COVID-19 outbreak is still ongoing.



Here are some things to keep in mind to reduce the threat of social isolation and loneliness as the pandemic continues:

1. Social isolation and loneliness are serious health issues
2. Plan and connect
3. Make a list of organizations that can help
4. Remember pets (their value and their needs)
5. Know who’s most at risk for social isolation and loneliness

## COVID-19 DEMANDS ATTENTION TO MENTAL HEALTH

It’s completely normal to feel sadness, anxiety, and stress during the COVID-19 pandemic. Common signs of distress include feelings of hopelessness or fear, changes in eating and/or sleeping patterns, difficulty concentrating, and physical symptoms such as headaches and stomach problems.

Taking care of your emotional health during the COVID-19 pandemic will help you plan clearly and protect yourself and your family. Here are some actions that can help ease depressive symptoms during this stressful time:

- Limit news consumption and stick with trusted information
- Connect across distance
- Exercise regularly
- Practice mindfulness and meditation
- Consider telehealth

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](https://aarp.org/coronavirus) or simply scan the QR code below to follow AARP’s AAPI Facebook page.





# INDIANA UNIVERSITY APOLOGIZES FOR JAPANESE AMERICAN BAN

Enacted during WWII, the college also will commission a plaque and organize an event to share the history of JAs.

By Eric Langowski,  
Hoosier JACL

In the last semester of my senior year at Indiana University, my focus was on my future graduation, until my mind was forced back to the past. I discovered that my soon-to-be alma mater had enacted an explicitly racist ban on Japanese Americans during World War II led by Board of Trustees President Ora L. Wildermuth. Wildermuth proclaimed that the ban was necessary because “I can’t believe that any Japanese, no matter where he was born, is anything but a Japanese.”

To make matters worse, I realized walking to class the next day that the campus gym was named after Wildermuth — someone who would’ve readily denied my grandmother (or even myself) admission to the university.

I knew I needed to do something. I thought about my grandmother, who was lucky to be admitted to a university in Kansas after being rejected from other schools. For

Nisei, attending a college was leave clearance from the camps and a much-needed opportunity to start a new life. IU could have been this opportunity, but it chose not to be.

Weeks later, I held a Day of Remembrance event calling for IU to apologize. I met with dozens of administrators, deans and local stakeholders, explaining our community story and why an apology was needed.

There was some quick progress when IU removed Wildermuth’s name from the gym. A few months later, I published a definitive report on the ban in the *Indiana Magazine of History* (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2979/indimagahist.115.2.01>). Yet, further progress was hard to come by.

In 2020, I returned to IU and presented another DOR event that called for an apology (and reparations in the form of retroactive diplomas) alongside leading Asian American faculty. In response to this petition, IU President Michael A. McRobbie issued an apology for the ban in July.

McRobbie directed IU’s archives to identify and apologize directly to any descendants of those denied admission, commission a plaque containing IU’s statement of regret and organize a committee of faculty to plan an event sharing the history of Japanese Americans and IU’s ban.

As I went through the process of getting this apology, I reflected often on the legacies of redress. I sought out descendants of those denied admission to see what they wanted from IU. I spoke to hundreds of people who had never heard the Japanese American story before. I built coalitions with Asian American faculty, students and alumni. I created an irrefutable report that made it impossible to argue an apology was not necessary. This was all for just one university. I cannot begin to imagine how difficult it was for Nisei and Sansei leaders to get redress passed by Congress. I am grateful for the legacy of redress for inspiring and guiding my efforts at IU. I hope that the descendants of those denied admission find solace in the apology. ■

## JACL Applauds IU’s Apology for Ban on JA Students During WWII

The organization released the following statement in response to IU’s apology:

Indiana University President Michael A. McRobbie released a statement on July 22 on behalf of the university apologizing for the actions the university took during World War II in banning Japanese Americans students.

The statement and actions taken within are the culmination of work taken on behalf of Hoosier JACL member and IU alumni Eric Langowski. On Feb. 19, 2020, in honor of Day of Remembrance, Langowski delivered a petition to the University Board of Trustees that asked for a formal apology for the university’s wartime actions.

At the 2019 National Convention in Salt Lake City, the JACL National Council approved a resolution to seek apologies from Midwest Schools, including Indiana University, for exclusionary actions enacted during WWII.

In 1941, 3,500 Japanese Americans enrolled in schools across

the Midwest, with this number dropping to 650 in 1942 following the start of the war. The history of Japanese American students has been addressed on the West Coast, but this resolution and actions show that there are a wide variety of wartime stories that need to be taught.

We applaud Indiana University for its acknowledgment of past actions and look forward to the fulfillment of their promised remediation. We also hope that other Midwestern Universities will follow suit.

If you know of someone who was denied admission to Indiana University or another Midwestern University, please contact the Nisei College Redress Project at [ncrp@jaclichicago.org](mailto:ncrp@jaclichicago.org). ■



## USPS RELEASES NEW STAMPS DESIGNED BY JA ARTIST

Lettering artist Dana Tanamachi puts her artistic ‘stamp’ on a new commemorative set honoring the importance of gratitude.

Thank you. Two simple words that mean the world right now, especially during today’s challenging times. To commemorate and bring renewed awareness of the

importance of offering gratitude, the USPS released Aug. 21 new Thank You Forever stamps designed and lettered by Brooklyn-based Yonsei artist and Houston native Dana Tanamachi under the art direction of Greg Breeding.

Featuring gold foil and cursive script with a floral design swirling around the words “thank you” and background colors of blue-gray, purple, muted green and soft maroon, the stamps can be purchased in books of 20 at U.S. Post Offices and online at [usps.com](https://usps.com).

Tanamachi, who operates Tanamachi Studios in New York, a boutique design firm specializing in custom typography and illustration, is an award-winning commercial artist who has drawn art for some of the U.S.’ most popular consumer brands and publications, including Google, Nike, Starbucks, *O The Oprah Magazine* and *TIME*. Her work often features designs such as patterned flowers and vines with vintage typography.

In a 2018 interview with the *Pacific Citizen*, Tanamachi identified her work as being styled with a “Japanese aesthetic and influences from the art nouveau, art deco and arts and crafts movements.”

Tanamachi, a graduate from the University of North Texas in 2007 with a design degree, told the *P.C.* that she chose to become a commercial illustrator and design artist because she likes having a definite task to accomplish. It’s easier for her to do than, say, conjuring up something out of the blue on a blank canvas.

“I like partnering with people and brands to communicate certain things about their ideals,” Tanamachi said. “I like working toward a goal. I like

to try to communicate something directly through illustration.”

She also credits her grandmother, Mitsuye “Mitzi” Nimura Tanamachi, as being her artistic inspiration, having grown up admiring the beautiful things her grandmother would make. “I grew up watching her make the most beautiful, ornate things . . . from very simple materials,” Tanamachi said. “I grew up watching my grandmother kind of express her creativity in these ways, but that generation didn’t have any of the opportunities that we have today. I try to honor her with things that I make.”

Unfortunately, Mitsuye Tanamachi passed away from COVID-19 complications at age 97 on Aug. 5. But Dana Tanamachi’s work continues to pay homage to her roots, gratitude for her family, inspirations and future design projects. As her postage stamp designs say, “Thank You” is most appropriate. ■



The Dana Tanamachi designed “Thank You” Forever stamps were released by the USPS on Aug. 21.

PHOTO: USPS



## CONVENTION » continued from page 4

Sato was nominated by the Pacific Southwest District and receives her award in recognition of her years of public service, having served in Orange County for more than a decade.

Currently, she serves on the Orange County Board of Supervisors while also holding a seat in multiple other state and county boards.

• **The George J. Inagaki Chapter**

Citizenship Award:  
The JACL Seattle Chapter



The Seattle chapter is commended for its tireless work over the last biennium, particularly in the fields of youth leadership

development, API LGBTQ conversations, mixed-race workshops, JA Legacy Programs, outreach to other POC communities, scholarships and much more.

JACL will be formally awarding all of this year’s recipients at the 2021

National Convention in Las Vegas. On behalf of the JACL national staff, the organization congratulates all incoming National Board officers and awardees for their tireless work and contributions to the Japanese American community. ■



# UCLA SCHOLAR HIRABAYASHI DIES

Lane Hirabayashi was the inaugural Aratani Chair on Redress

By P.C. Staff

Following a battle with cancer, Lane Ryo Hirabayashi died on Aug. 8. He was 67.

Regarding the death of the UCLA professor emeritus and inaugural George and Sakaye Aratani Endowed Chair of the Japanese American Incarceration, Redress and Community, UCLA Asian American Studies Center director Karen Umemoto, in an email to the *Pacific Citizen*, wrote, “We mourn the passing of our dear friend and colleague Lane Hirabayashi, who left us too early in his productive life.”

Also in an email to the *P.C.*, David Yoo, vice provost and professor of Asian American Studies and History at UCLA, wrote, “Professor Lane Hirabayashi will rightly be remembered for his wide-ranging and insightful scholarship and contributions to Japanese American studies, but informing and indeed infusing all of his work was a deep commitment to community-based partnerships grounded in the social movements that helped spawn the interdisciplinary fields of Asian American and ethnic studies.”

Hirabayashi’s path to his advanced scholarship on Japanese American and Asian American topics seems almost preordained: He was the son of Joanne and James A. Hirabayashi, an anthropologist who was also the first dean at San Francisco State University’s School of Ethnic Studies, and the nephew of Gordon Hirabayashi, whose challenge to WWII-era legal machinations targeting U.S. citizens of Japanese ancestry (and legal permanent residents then-barred from becoming U.S. citizens) reached the Supreme Court but lost, only to be revived again in the 1980s as one of three *coram nobis* cases.

Lane Hirabayashi grew up north of San Francisco with his younger sister, Jan. After high school, he earned his undergraduate degree from California State University, Sonoma, and later earned his master’s degree and Ph.D from the University of California, Berkeley.

His teaching career included stints at San Francisco State University, the University of Colorado at Boulder and the University of California, Riverside.

In October 2006, following a yearlong search, Hirabayashi was awarded the first George and Sakaye



Professor Emeritus Lane Ryo Hirabayashi (center) with AASC Director Professor Karen Umemoto (left) and Professor Valerie Matsumoto in 2018.

PHOTO: BARBRA RAMOS/UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER

Aratani Chair on the Japanese American Internment, Redress and Community at UCLA’s Asian American Studies Department, a position funded by \$500,000 from the Aratani Foundation.

Hirabayashi also served as UCLA’s Asian American Studies Department chair from 2007-10. After retiring from UCLA in June 2017, he was succeeded in the Aratani chair by Valerie Matsumoto, who paid tribute to her predecessor by writing in an online post, “Lane Hirabayashi was a valued friend and colleague — a prodigious scholar, teacher and activist, whose work and ideals were deeply rooted in family tradition.”

Among the works Hirabayashi worked on while ensconced at UCLA are 2008’s “Japanese American Resettlement Through the Lens: Hikaru Iwasaki and the WRA’s Photographic Section, 1943-1945,” for which he won the 2009 Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature; 2013’s “A Principled Stand: Gordon Hirabayashi v. the United States”; and 2018’s “NCRR: The Grassroots Struggle for Japanese American Redress and Reparations.” (See [tinyurl.com/y5u6686j](https://www.pacificcitizen.com/y5u6686j) for a more in-depth listing of Hirabayashi’s works.)

In 2016, Hirabayashi also contributed to the *Pacific Citizen* article titled “Executive Order 9066 at 75: Will the Japanese American Experience Trump a Repeat of History?” (See [tinyurl.com/yd6qm99q](https://www.pacificcitizen.com/yd6qm99q).)

Regarding his decades of scholarship, UCLA’s Umemoto added, “We are grateful for the chronicles of Japanese American World War II incarceration history and the important stories of human resistance and strife he gifted the many generations to come, but no words can capture the loss we feel knowing there were many more stories he still had to tell. May he be an example to us of a scholar who not only excelled in the scholarly world of academe, but who made such an indelible mark on the communities with whom he worked to promote public history.”

Referring to Hirabayashi’s contributions as an educator, UCLA’s Yoo added, “As a teacher, he mentored and influenced many students over the years, but his role as a teacher also extended to bringing people together through forums, a book series and numerous other projects, including several that I had the good fortune to collaborate with him on at UCLA. Professor Hirabayashi left us too soon, but his legacy will remain.”

When Hirabayashi retired from UCLA, he said: “I am grateful to both the Asian American Studies Center and Department for the opportunity to serve as the Aratani Endowed Chair at UCLA for the past decade. It’s been an honor. And I especially thank the Aratani family for their support of my varied AEC initiatives.”

Hirabayashi is survived by his wife, Marilyn Alquizola; sister, Jan; and his grandchildren.

**(EDITOR’S NOTE: To view the tribute written by UCLA’s Valerie Matsumoto, visit [tinyurl.com/y49hrust](https://www.pacificcitizen.com/y49hrust). To view the tribute written by Densho’s Brian Nüya, visit [tinyurl.com/y4kep935](https://www.pacificcitizen.com/y4kep935).)**

*‘I especially thank the Aratani family for their support.’*

— Lane Hirabayashi at his 2017 retirement

# KAMALA HARRIS SEIZES HISTORIC MOMENT IN ACCEPTING VP NOMINATION

She becomes the first Black woman and first South Asian American woman to be a VP nominee on a major-party ticket.

By Associated Press

WILMINGTON, DEL. — Kamala Harris accepted the Democratic nomination for vice president on Aug. 19, cementing her place in history as the first Black woman and first South Asian American woman on a major-party ticket and promising she and Joe Biden will rejuvenate a country ravaged by a pandemic and driven by racial and partisan divides.

In an address capping the third night of the virtual Democratic National Convention, the California senator evoked the lessons of her late mother, Shyamala Gopalan, a biologist and Indian immigrant, saying she instilled in her a vision of “our nation as a beloved community — where all are welcome, no matter what we look like, where we come from or who we love.”

“In this election, we have a chance to change the course of history,” Harris said. “We’re all in this fight.”

Mixing a former prosecutor’s polish with the deeply personal, Harris also spoke of her Jamaican father and getting a “stroller eye’s view” of the civil rights movement as her parents protested in the streets in the 1960s.

“There is no vaccine for racism,” Harris said. “We have got to do the work.”

Harris addressed a party that has staked its future on bringing together a racially diverse coalition of voters. She was preceded in the convention program by former U.S. President Barack Obama, meaning the nation’s first Black president introduced the woman trying to be the first Black person to hold the vice presidency.

Obama said Harris was the “ideal partner” for Biden and was “more than prepared for the job.”

Harris is a former district attorney and California state attorney general. She promised to speak “truths” to the American public. She also said she and Biden, who tapped her as his running mate the previous week, believe in a country where “we may not agree on every detail, but we are united by the fundamental belief that every human being is of infinite worth, deserving of compassion, dignity and respect.”

Democrats hope Harris can galvanize their party’s faithful — who are divided between progressive and moderate wings — and win over swing voters still deciding between



Kamala Harris cemented her place in history by becoming Joe Biden’s official running mate on the Democratic ticket for the upcoming 2020 presidential election.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK

Biden and Trump. But she also was introducing herself to a national audience that may not have been paying close attention to the race until now.

The Biden campaign is hoping Harris can excite young voters and people of color, especially after months of protests over institutional racism and police brutality that swept the country.

Harris is known for her tough questioning in the Senate, particularly during confirmation hearings of two Trump nominees, Brett Kavanaugh for Supreme Court Justice and William Barr for attorney general. She also caused a stir by broadsiding Biden during a primary debate last summer over his opposition to busing in the 1970s to integrate public schools.

But things didn’t always go smoothly. Harris launched her presidential bid with expectations that she would electrify the field, only to see her campaign struggle to find a consistent message and fizzle months before the first votes were cast.

Some voters are paying particularly close attention to Harris because she could be called upon to step into the role of party standard-bearer as soon as 2024, should Biden — who will be 81 by then — opt not to seek a second term. Biden hasn’t expressly said he’d serve just a single term, but he has talked about being a bridge to a new generation.

Harris said her mother instilled in her and her sister values that charted the course of their lives.

“She raised us to be proud, strong Black women,” Harris said. “And she raised us to know and be proud of our Indian heritage.”



**GRANTS » continued from page 4**

This project proposes to train a new generation of speakers for the Twin Cities JACL Speakers Bureau by organizing workshops to train new speakers, followed by a program at the 2021 Day of Remembrance to allow newly recruited speakers to share their presentations with a wider audience. The workshops will be conducted over three half-day sessions at the East Side Freedom Library in St. Paul, Minn. In conjunction with the workshops, the chapter proposes to create a condensed version of the Smithsonian Museum exhibit "Righting A Wrong."

**Snake River JACL/IDC (\$2,000) — MINIDOKA!**

A program with multiple components, it honors the more than 500 incarcerated from Minidoka who lived in the Ontario, Ore., area. The project features an exhibit of artifacts from the Four Rivers Cultural Center and Museum and from local residents, a presentation by Mia Russell, executive director of Friends of Minidoka, a live performance by the Minidoka Swing Band, a showing of the film "Minidoka: An American Concentration Camp" and a Swing Band presentation to Ontario middle school students that also includes a school visit to the exhibit.

**Detroit JACL (\$5,000) — Exiled to Motown: Japanese Americans in Detroit (2020 expansion)**

Building on its successful 2018 project,

"Exiled to Motown" is reimagined as an interactive, multimodal exhibition to bring stories of Detroit's Japanese American community into a three-dimensional space. New stories from members of the Detroit JACL chapter will be collected as well. This exhibit connects the history of Japanese Americans in Detroit to the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII. The exhibit will be hosted in the Detroit Historical Museum's Community Gallery.

**Seattle JACL (\$5,000) — Seattle JACL: 100 Years of Activism**

This project creates a portable multiscreen display to tell the chapter's story and share its legacy. Each screen will be devoted to a specific subject and can be a stand alone or shown in combination with other screens. Exhibit booklets will be printed for chapter members to share with the greater community.

**Portland JACL (\$2,250) — Mochitsuki 25th Anniversary Headliner**

Mochitsuki is Portland's annual Japanese New Year celebration and has been a premier event in the local community since 1996. The chapter will secure a performer/artist that centers around the histories and experiences of Japanese Americans and improve visibility of the culturally significant event through diversified promotion. Students and young professionals will also experience a "meet and greet" with the performer/artist. ■

## 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/OCA Virtual Leadership Summit**

**Sept. 24-29**  
**Virtual event**

Join JACL and OCA in this year's summit, which has been held for more than 35 years and is dedicated to fostering bonds between the two organizations, as well as training community leaders in advocacy. Even though this year's event is online, the programming will remain virtually the same as an in-person program. Applications are open now through Aug. 30. **Info: For questions, contact Matthew Weisbly and Cheyenne Cheng at [policy@jacl.org](mailto:policy@jacl.org). A tentative schedule is available online at [jacl.org](http://jacl.org).**

**NCWNP****Midori Kai 2020 Boutique San Francisco, CA Virtual Shopping and Auction Event**

**Sept. 1-15**  
**Info: Free**

This year's event is completely virtual where you can still find amazing items from talented and creative artisans including accessories, apparel, home/art, dessert/dining, jewelry, textiles and much more! Get your holiday shopping off to an early start by joining this virtual event.

**Info: Visit [www.midorikaiboutique.com](http://www.midorikaiboutique.com) or email [posaki@gsmanagement.com](mailto:posaki@gsmanagement.com).**

**PSW****Okaeri Connects! 2020 Los Angeles, CA Sept. 6, 4 p.m. PDT (90-min. duration)**

**Virtual event via Zoom**

Join Nikkei folks seeking community and connection at Okaeri 2020, which is intended to provide support, resources and information for Nikkei LGBTQ+ community

members and allies of all ages and backgrounds. People from all locations can join in the conversations and share with the community this year! **Info: Visit [okaericonnects.com](https://www.okaericonnects.com) or for questions, email [okaericonnects@gmail.com](mailto:okaericonnects@gmail.com).**

**Leadership Through Crisis, Lessons Learned Los Angeles, CA Sept. 16-17; 7-9 p.m. ET Virtual Conversation**

This first edition of the U.S.-Japan Council's Bilateral Boardroom, the conversation will convene key decisionmakers from business, government and the civil sector in the U.S. and Japan. The program will also include a tribute to the late Irene Hirano Inouye. Featured speakers will include Jamie Dimon, chairman/CEO of JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Phyllis Campbell, chair, Pacific Northwest Region, JPMorgan Chase & Co.

**Info: To register, visit <https://www.usjapanCouncil.org/events/bilateral-boardroom/#registration>.**

**LTSC 40th Anniversary Celebration Gala Los Angeles, CA Oct. 10**

**Price: Free with registration**

Join the Little Tokyo Service Center as it celebrates its 40th anniversary with a virtual gala highlighting the organization's diverse programming, accomplishments and vision built on years of service to the community. Please kindly consider donating to help reach its fundraising goal as well. A silent auction will also be featured at the event.

**Info: Visit [www.ltsc.org/40thAnniversary](http://www.ltsc.org/40thAnniversary).**

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

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

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

**Keiro No Hi Festival Los Angeles, CA Virtual Event September Price: Free**

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

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

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

Although the museum's doors are temporarily closed, there is still a plethora of curated stories, digital content and neighborhood resources available to access and view. Viewers can check out Education, YouthCAN, Collections and Community Art all online! **Info: [www.digitalwingluke.org](http://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://japansociety-boston.wildapricot.org>.** ■

**INTRODUCING**

**EARN 1.30%<sup>APY</sup> ON NEW E-TRANZ ACCOUNT**

**Plus up to \$5 back on ATM fees and no monthly service charge!**



**National JACL Credit Union**

**APPLY @ [jaclcu.com/etrantz/](http://jaclcu.com/etrantz/)**

**ADVERTISE HERE**

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

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



# In MEMORIAM

**Aburamen, Betty Sakayo, 89**, Hilo, HI, March 22; she is survived by her daughters, Phyllis (Kevin) Takei and Cathy (Lance) Miyasato; brothers and sisters; gc: 4; ggc: 1.

**Fujimoto, Clarence Shizuo, 70**, Honolulu, HI, March 11.

**Fujimoto, Reiko, 90**, Long Beach, CA, Jan. 29; she is survived by her son, James Masahiko Fujimoto; gc: 1.

**Fukuda, Takeshi, 82**, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 25.

**Goto, Steven Minoru, 63**, Murrieta, CA, Feb. 26; he is survived by his wife, April Goto; siblings, Michael (Kathi) Goto, Wayne Goto and Amy Iwashina; mother, Grace Harumi Goto; brother-in-law, Jeffrey (Lillian) Mayeda; sister-in-law, Stacy Mayeda (Greg Adamson); he is also survived by many nieces, aunts and cousins.

**Hirayama, Chris, 59**, Seattle, WA, March 29; he was predeceased by his father, Nobie, and sister, Lisa; he is survived by his mother, Mary; siblings, Kim (Jennifer) and Lara; 1 niece.

**Honda, Takeno, 99**, Keaau, HI, April 28; survived by children, Glenn (Renee) Honda and Brenda (David) Cabatbat; sisters, Chieko Machida and Miyako Yano; gc: 2; ggc: 3.

**Imamura, Makoto, 83**, Cupertino, CA, March 22; he was predeceased by his wife, Lilly Yuriko Imamura; he is survived by his children, Susan (Bob) Van Dyne, Don (Alison) Imamura, Gail Imamura and Bobby Imamura (Niki); gc: 8.

**Ishiara, James, 78**, Los Angeles, CA, March 16; he is survived by his wife, Mary Ishiara.

**Kadomatsu, Kazuko, 77**, Culver City, CA, May 7; she is survived by her husband, Hiroshi Kadomatsu; children, Robert (Kelly) Kadomatsu and Amy (Robert Lopez) Kadomatsu; brother, Masami (Nancy Masako) Matsumoto; brothers-in-law, Noboru Matsumoto and Yasushi Udagawa; gc: 3.

**Katayama, Ryoko, 72**, Los Angeles, CA, May 1.

**Maeda, Kazue, 84**, Torrance, CA, March 12.

**Maeda, Kenjiro, 89**, Seal Beach, CA, March 13.

**Masamitsu, Kay Kazue, 97**, Los Angeles, CA, May 1; she was predeceased by her husband, William Masamitsu, son, Kenneth Masamitsu, and great-grandson Ian Miller; she is survived by her children, Thomas (Susan), Kathryn and Frances; daughter-in-law, Elizabeth Masamitsu; brother, Sammy (Chiyeko) Kishimoto; gc: 5; ggc: 6.

**Nitta, Mildred, 89**, Kahului, HI, March 30; she was predeceased by her siblings, Fred Tsukumo Arai, Patsy Fumiyo Araki, Janice Akiyo Kawachi, Rose Tomie Ohashi and Catherine Itsuko Tomita; she is survived by her husband, Kaoru; daughters, Sandra (Glenn) Sato, Lorraine (Ronald) Ishikawa, Leslie (Bill Kearsley) Nitta and Annette (Anthony Balag) Nitta; sister, Harriet Haruko (Calvin) Goshi; gc: 8; ggc: 2.

**Oki, Tadashi, 96**, Panorama City, CA, May 6; he was predeceased by his sister, Louise Uyeda; he is survived by his children, Jo Ann Oki, David (Joyce) Oki and Dennis Oki; siblings, Tom (Susie) and Tak

(Beverly) Oki; gc: 1; ggc: 1.

**Shimizu, Helen Hazue, 89**, Hilo, HI, Feb. 23; she was predeceased by her husband, Robert, and grandson, Kai; she is survived by her children, Lindy (Steve) Belcher, Renee (Tom) Stoner and Marty (Donna) Shimizu; siblings, Herbert Yamanaka, Elsie Franca, Annie Tanaka and Lorraine (Mel) Kunishima; sister-in-law, Margie Yamanaka; hanai daughter, Elverta (Dan) Yoshida; gc: 4; ggc: 1.

**Shiogi, Fujio, 98**, Tacoma, WA, Feb. 12; during WWII, his family and he were removed to the Portland Assembly Center and Stockyard, then incarcerated at the Minidoka WRA Center in ID; an Army veteran (MIS), he was predeceased by his wife, Yukiko; he is survived by his children, Nancy (John) Kloster, Michael (Priscilla) Shiogi; gc: 7; ggc: 14.

**Takagishi, Kay Kumiko, 102**, Chicago, IL, April 24; she was predeceased by her husband, Samuel Takagishi; she is survived by her children, Kerrie, Mark (Rhonda) and Stephen (Colleen); sisters, Marie Kitazumi and Naoko Nakamura; gc: 6; ggc: 6.

**Yamasaki, Donald Yoshio, 75**, Kahului, HI, May 5; author of "Issei, Nisei, Sansei, Three Generations of Camp Life in Puunene, Maui, Hawaii"; he is survived by his wife, Shirley; children, Stephen (Amy) Yamasaki, Scott (Jodi) Yamasaki, Shane (Lani) Yamasaki, Suzanne (Sean) Smith; gc: 6.

TRIBUTE

**STEVEN J. DOI**



**June 28, 1928–Aug. 3, 2020**

Steven J. Doi passed peacefully at age 92 after a brief illness with his daughters by his side. He was predeceased by his loving wife of 53 years, Charlotte. Born in Auburn, Calif., to Thomas Toshiteru and Ima Doi on June 28, 1928, he is survived by his daughters, Sharon Doi and spouse Michael Swan, Sandra (Doi) Sandford and spouse David Sandford and grandchildren Lia and Samantha Swan and Nicholas and Charlotte Sandford.

Steve was the only bilingual Japanese/English attorney in San Francisco for many years and provided pro bono work and advice to numerous community organizations. A man of boundless energy and enthusiasm, Steve was president or held board positions with the Japanese American Citizens League, Pine Methodist Church, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce, Omotesenke Tea organization, the Japanese Cultural and Community Center, the International Farmers Aid Association, San Francisco State University, Asian INC., Nichibei Kai, the Japanese American National Library, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce, the Japan Society, Osaka San Francisco Sister City, the Sumitomo Bank, Morning Star School and Cathedral High School. These groups all benefited from his time and attention, his organizational skills and his contacts (but maybe not his corny jokes). Steve was a lieutenant (retired) in the United States Army, serving in heavy artillery during the Korean War. At the root of his volunteering was that he cared deeply about people and had a strong desire to serve.

Steve's personality and fierce work ethic were forged from the great difficulties of World War II and the incarceration of the Japanese Americans. He emerged as a man who would lead in the healing and building of the Japanese American community in San Francisco. Married to Charlotte for 53 years, he mourned her loss every day. He spent many evenings with his grandchildren and treasured his time with them. The family is very grateful to Ming Laoposri, Koon and Jhoon for their loving care.

In the future when it is safe to gather, the family will hold a community memorial in San Francisco in his beloved Japantown.

TRIBUTE

**TOSHIKO NAKAMURA WILKINSON**



Toshiko Nakamura Wilkinson passed away on April 23. She was 98. Before WWII, her voice was familiar to those of the Japanese community who tuned into KRKD for the Friday evening programs presented by the Nippon Hoso Kyokai.

During WWII, she was interned at Manzanar with her parents and sister for three years. Just before the war ended, she returned to Los Angeles to finish her last two years at UCLA.

She worked for a year as a translator, a civilian assigned to GHQ in Japan. She saw Gen. MacArthur stride out of the Imperial Hotel. She was saddened to see so much devastation of war. She was very happy to see her grandmother and relatives for the first time. She had a chance to travel, to see Nikko in autumn and Kyoto in spring.

Her real calling came as an elementary school teacher. She was with the L.A. Unified for 31 years. She married Leland Wilkinson when interracial marriage was illegal in 17 states. They made their home in Los Alamitos, where they raised their only daughter, enjoyed family gatherings and entertained friends. Lee passed away in 2005. They were married for 51 years.

She leaves her daughter, Susan; gc Liam, Kitri (Paul Spencer) and Remy; and nieces, Barbara (Bob Hamton) and Kathy Ikeda.

**PLACE A TRIBUTE**

'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$20/column inch.

**CONTACT:**  
Editorial@pacificcitizen.org  
or call (213) 620-1767 ext. 104

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

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



**STACI TOJI, ESQ.**

**TOJI LAW, APC**

Estate Planning for the Generations

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

LIVING TRUSTS | WILLS | POWERS OF ATTORNEY



**CLOUD » continued from page 5**

My mother's stepmother tripped, and when she looked down, it was Papa. He was unconscious, and he soon became one of the 80,000 people that died immediately or within hours of the bomb being dropped.

"I looked at his lifeless body, with his head the color of navy blue, swollen like a blowfish, but I didn't see that man. Instead, I saw my beloved Papa, dressed in this handsome three-piece suit, Panama hat and shoes that he personally shined with great care. I didn't see him on the funeral pyre. I saw him walking away proudly twirling his walking stick as he did when he walked me to school," Toshiko Ishikawa once recalled.

I get very emotional discussing this moment with students. I can still hear my mother's voice. And every time she talked about it, she cried as if it was happening all over again in front of her.

When teachers asked about a book, I called my mom to tell her about their request. Her only response, "Why would anyone care about a little girl in Hiroshima?" A few days later, I received a copy of that treasured photo of my mother with her Papa. I knew she also had happy, loving memories from her childhood. I decided to start writing a book.

It would begin almost a year before the atomic bomb dropped. I decided I would write about Japanese daily life and culture, as well as the mindset of the people in Japan in 1944-45. I wanted readers to realize that Japanese children like my mom all loved their family, their friends, worried what might happen to them and wished for peace. *All* the same feelings/wishes of the Allied children.

I wrote "The Last Cherry Blossom" (a paperback version was released on Aug. 25) so that readers could witness the horror of that day through my mother's 12-year-old eyes — something you would never get from two paragraphs and a mushroom cloud picture in a textbook.

My mom lived to be 82 years old. She wasn't sick until the last few months of her life. During those months, I received my publishing contract. She placed it in front of her Papa's picture and said to me, "Now I know why I lived when everyone I loved died. I couldn't tell my story, but I had you, and you can do that for my Papa, my family."

She never quite understood that I did it for her, too. I'm grateful that she also read a rough draft during that time because she died two months later in January 2015.

We honored her that summer in Hiroshima by adding her picture/story to the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for Atomic Bomb Victims and her name to the leather-bound books in the cenotaph at Peace Park.

"The Last Cherry Blossom" was published in 2016, and I'm humbled by the reception it has received. It's now used in classrooms worldwide, including the Hiroshima International School, where it is required reading for its sixth-grade classes.

In 2018, "TLCB" became a United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs Education Resource for Teachers and Students.

"The book's powerful message raises awareness with the younger generation . . . especially pressing now that the hibakusha are getting older . . . a moving testament to why nuclear weapons should never be used again" said John Ennis, senior political affairs officer for the U.N. Disarmament Office.

In 2019, I had the opportunity to honor my mom and her story at the United Nations, as well as discuss with New York City teachers how to add nuclear disarmament to their curriculum alongside 2017 Nobel Peace Prize winners (under the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and

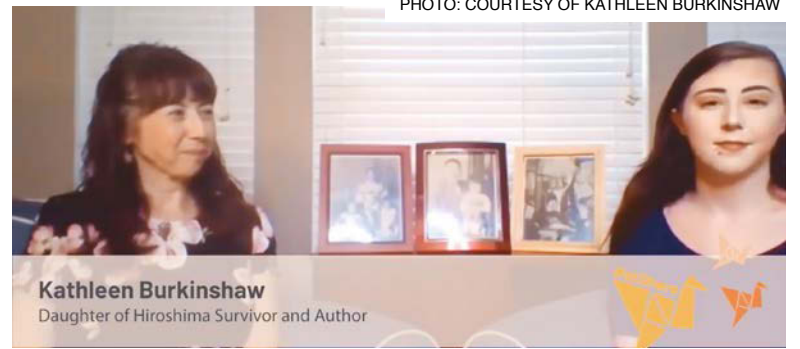


PHOTO: COURTESY OF KATHLEEN BURKINSHAW

**Kathleen Burkinshaw and her daughter, Sara, speaking virtually for the #StillHere National event, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Hiroshima atomic bombing**

Setsuko Thurlow).

In a statement given after my presentation, Dr. Kathleen Sullivan, 2017 Nobel Peace Prize winner, said ". . . most atomic bomb survivors do not speak about their experience. It's impossible to imagine. . . . We owe a great debt to you as we learn about these crude weapons . . . and what they do to us."

Recently, I had the privilege to honor my mother and atomic bomb victims at the following events for the 75th commemoration: May Peace Prevail on Earth, Ribbon International 2020 and #StillHere Hiroshima Nagasaki 75 National Event. And on Aug. 15, award-winning author and friend Naomi Hirahara and I spoke at the Japanese American National Museum's virtual

event "Daughters of Hibakusha Tell Hiroshima Stories."

*Hibakusha* stories cannot die with them. Statistics about and treaties to eliminate nuclear weapons are extremely important. However, in order for future voters/voters to genuinely care about those statistics/treaties, they need to make that connection with the humanity under those famous mushroom clouds, so that the same deadly mistakes are not repeated.

My mother was the bravest person I will ever know. I'm honored that she entrusted my daughter and me with her memories and her heart. As second- and third-generation *hibakusha*, we will continue to tell her story. Her voice mattered then, and it matters now and always. ■

# LET'S GO!!!



## vote.org