



PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 91 YEARS

The Orange County Japanese Garden's tea house was dedicated on Nov. 15, 1970. It is an expression of "Orange County's Japanese American Community."

PHOTO: PATTI HIRAHARA

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JACSC Holds First Virtual Education Conference.

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A LIVING MEMORIAL

The Orange County Japanese Garden undergoes a renovation as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE POWER OF NAMES

By David Inoue,
JACL Executive Director

It's a story nearly all of us who have non-European names share. My experience was in seventh grade, when one of my new teachers, while going down the roster list of students in the class, had trouble saying "Inoue." Giving up, and subbing in her own pronunciation, I became "Ooey-Ooey" for the next two years of middle school. All I could do was laugh it off along with everyone else who thought it was funny.

When my wife and I were determining names for our children, I wondered if we were making a mistake in giving them Japanese given names. I obviously did not want them to have the same experience I had.

Yet, there is a power in naming, and we wanted our children to be proud of their Asian heritage. Their Japanese given names also have meaning to their shared Chinese heritage.

At their Chinese language immersion school, their Chinese names

were not made up like so many of their classmates, but are based upon the Chinese characters of their given Japanese names.

In the past week, I have seen many other stories of people's names flood the Internet in the wake of Sen. David Perdue (R-Ga.) badly and likely intentionally mispronouncing colleague Sen. Kamala Harris' (D-Calif.) name.

Some share similar stories of mispronunciation, others loudly proclaiming the meaning and importance of their names. It is evident that my children will not be immune to potential mockery of their names, even decades after my own experience.

When considering the power of names, I recall my Sunday school classes where we learned that the early Jews did not give God a specific name, as God referred to Himself as "I am who I am," and various "words" were used to refer to God without assigning a name.

On the other hand, it was common practice for slaves to be stripped of their birth given names and either remain nameless property or assigned

new names by their owners. Different but clear examples of the power of naming, or not naming.

In just a few years, we have seen a revolution in the understanding of how we use pronouns to refer to one another. As we recognize the diversity of gender identity, we must also adapt the pronouns we use to refer to one another.

In all honesty, this is a change that should be welcomed by all. I appreciate the elimination of the uncertainty of whether the "Chris" that I am communicating over email with might be he, she or they.

And broadly, JACL has recognized the power of naming with the Power of Words educational campaign. We recognize the importance of how we call things, that Japanese Americans were not "nonaliens" but "American citizens."

Even our recommended use of the term "American concentration camps" was not without concern because we also understand the power of the term concentration camp, which is inextricably linked to the

Nazi death camps of the same era.

Some deride this recognition of the value of language as political correctness gone wild. They ask, "Why can't we just do things the way we always have." Past false pretenses of politeness have been the demand that minorities, LGBTQ+ people, women and people with non-European names simply accept that they did not conform to the majority norms, and to conform.

Sen. Perdue wanted to show his disdain and disrespect for Sen. Harris. But he clearly awoke something else that is much bigger and more powerful. It was an opportunity for so many to proclaim that we take pride in who we are, what pronouns we choose to use, how we describe our experiences and what we name ourselves and our children.

Anyone who refuses to recognize these fundamental characteristics of us as individuals, fails to recognize us as people, and we will not allow that to happen anymore.

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

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JANM Named One of 'AMERICA'S CULTURAL TREASURES'

The museum also receives a \$5.5 million grant over four years from the Ford Foundation.

LOS ANGELES — The Japanese American National Museum, founded in 1985, has been selected as one of the 20 Black, Latinx, Asian and Indigenous arts and cultural organizations designated as "America's Cultural Treasures." In addition, it is the recipient of a \$5.5 million grant over four years from the Ford Foundation, along with other lead-

ing foundations and major donors who have pledged to give more than \$80 million to this initiative.

"We are deeply grateful for this support that will help JANM meet its most urgent and immediate needs and help to stabilize the museum during this time of great uncertainty," said Ann Burroughs, president and CEO of JANM. "We are indebted to the

generosity of this group of funders, particularly to Darren Walker, the president of the Ford Foundation, whose visionary leadership is effectively changing the inequity in grant making that has historically overlooked organizations that represent America's rich cultural diversity. This has become starkly apparent as the impact of closures and reduced

revenue places the future of so many arts and cultural organizations at risk, especially those that do not have the benefit of generations of wealth backing them."

Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic that has overwhelmed arts and cultural institutions, especially

» See JANM on page 8



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

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



'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 OKAERI CONNECTS!

By Marsha Aizumi

When Aiden came out, I wish I had other Japanese parents to talk to and ask questions. I don't think I would have been so scared, sad and alone. So, when the opportunity to start a community gathering for support and connection for Nikkei LGBTQ+, their parents and allies came up, I was thrilled to be involved.

The idea for this group actually started to develop when I spoke at a LGBTQ+ workshop at the JAACL National Convention in Salt Lake City in 2019. During the Q & A session, one participant asked, "Where can a person who lives in a place that has

very little Japanese American LGBTQ+ support find a community?"

We could only direct this person to resources online and Okaeri events that happened every other year. But what was the individual and their family to do in between? Having contact with others that were Nikkei LGBTQ+, parents and allies could be so comforting.

Then, the COVID-19 pandemic entered our lives. At Okaeri, we began to pivot to monthly virtual programming to keep our community connected. Because of requests from our Nikkei LGBTQ+ community and that participant at the JAACL conference, Okaeri Connects! was born. On Sept. 6, we held our first meeting.



The 90-minute gathering drew more than 40 Nikkei LGBTQ+ individuals, parents and allies from all over the U.S. and two individuals from Japan. We were surprised to hear people found out about the meeting and came from Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Texas, Washington, D.C., and Washington State, as well as a large number from Northern and Southern California. About 75 percent were LGBTQ+, and the rest were parents and allies.

One person said to me that he found other older Nikkei gay men who were his age. And that same person connected with a younger gay man and thought perhaps he will become a mentor.

Young LGBTQ+ individuals met people who were Nikkei LGBTQ+ that were living as their true selves heading university programs, happily married, successful professionals and educators. They also met parents

and allies that were embracing their children and the Nikkei LGBTQ+ community with love and acceptance.

Our next meeting is Nov. 1 from 4-5:30 p.m. PDT. Please register if you are interested in attending at okaericonnectsnov1.eventbrite.com.

Okaeri Connects! is here for you and our Nikkei LGBTQ+ community. Also, check out our other Okaeri programs at www.okaeri-losangeles.org/upcoming-events. Questions? Please email okaericonnects@gmail.com.

P.S. We are starting a similar program for Japanese-speaking LGBTQ+ on Nov. 15 from 1-2 p.m. PDT. More details will be posted on our website soon, or you may contact me at maizumi8888@gmail.com.

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



LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE HOW TO LIVE 10 YEARS LONGER

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

I love sports. When I was in grammar school, my grandfather took me to my first Dodger game. I dreamed of one day growing up to be a professional baseball player. When I was in junior high school, I played basketball in the Junior Olympics and dreamed of playing basketball for the Lakers like my hero, Jerry West, aka "Mr. Clutch," aka "Zeke from Cabin Creek."

When I got to high school, however, I stopped growing. So, I gave up basketball and took up golf, where I was team captain for the Beverly Hills High School golf team in 1976. However, when I got to college, I succumbed to the notion that I wasn't ever going to be big enough to be a professional athlete, so I focused on finding a career in business.

Back in the 1970s, nobody told me that one day Colin Morikawa, at 5'9", would win a major golf championship, i.e., the 2020 PGA Championship. Back in the 1970s, I prayed and dreamed of growing bigger. I should have been more specific. Instead of growing vertically, I continued to grow horizontally.

When I graduated college, my belt size was 24. However, after the age of 24 when my physical activity slowed down, my belt size grew correspondingly by age. When I was 28, my belt size was 28. When I was 32, my belt size was 32. When I hit 38, my belt size was 38. Now weighing over 200 pounds, I promised myself not to get to a 40-inch waist.

Turned out, 200 pounds was too

big. At age 59, still wearing size 38-waist pants, I had a heart attack. My cardiologist told me to lose weight. So, I did. I stopped eating fast food and junk food and got down to 180 pounds. I looked better and felt better. Until recently, when I read a study about life expectancy by Harvard that was published by the American Heart Assn.

According to the study, you can extend your life by 10 years or more if you can follow these five healthy habits: (1) never smoke; (2) maintain a healthy body-mass index; (3) keep up moderate to vigorous exercise; (4) don't drink too much alcohol; and (5) eat a healthy diet (*source: www.cancer.org, May 10, 2018*).

Here is how these healthy habits were defined and measured:

- 1. Smoking**, well, there is no healthy amount of smoking. "Healthy" here meant never having smoked
- 2. Healthy body weight**, defined as a normal body mass index, which is between 18.5 and 24.9.
- 3. Healthy physical activity level**, which was measured as at least 30 minutes per day of moderate to vigorous activity.
- 4. Moderate alcohol intake**, which was measured as 5-15 grams per day for women, and 5-30 grams per day for men. Generally, that is 12 ounces of beer, 5 ounces of wine or 1.5 ounces of distilled spirits.
- 5. Healthy diet**, which was calculated based on the reported intake of healthy foods like vegetables, fruits, nuts, whole grains, healthy fats and omega-3 fatty acids, and unhealthy foods like red and processed meats, sugar-sweetened drinks, trans fat

and sodium.

The study highlighted how the combination of all five healthy habits could help prolong your life expectancy. Sticking to all five healthy habits at age 50 was associated with 14 additional years of life expectancy among women and 12.2 additional years among men (compared with not adhering to any of them).

"The findings should encourage and motivate people to adopt a healthier lifestyle," said Dr. Douglas Vaughan, chairman of the department of medicine at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine.

Even if you can't stick to all five healthy habits, Vaughan pointed out how each individual factor also was tied to a reduced risk of premature death.

Although adhering to each of these factors is significantly associated with a reduced risk of dying from cardiovascular disease and cancer (the Top 2 killers in the United States), "It looks like cigarette smoking has a more powerful effect than the other lifestyle changes or behaviors," said Vaughan.

Dr. Jack Der-Sarkissian of Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center, agreed calling smoking "the least-debated health risk factor. Beyond cancer risk, smoking contributes to lung disease, heart disease and diabetes. The study shows that even minimal smoking — from one to 14 cigarettes a day — is associated with increased death due to cancer and heart disease."

"Yeah, yeah, I know cigarette smoking is bad for you. Tell me something I don't already know."

OK, fair enough — let's talk about

BMI, or body-mass index. Do you know what your BMI is? I didn't. BMI is a calculation derived from a person's weight and height; it is used as a screening tool for body fatness.

Getting weight below a BMI of 30 appears to help considerably. According to Vaughan, "Maintaining a reasonable body-mass index is a great way to protect oneself against the development of diabetes. So, in aggregate, we see the effect on longevity, but you can imagine it's largely through effects on cardiovascular risk and metabolic risk."

To calculate your BMI, go online to find a free Body Mass Index calculator. Hit the one that has "www.NHLBI" on it (National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute). It's quite simple:

Enter your height and weight, then hit "Compute BMI." Hopefully, your BMI is normal between 18.5 and 24.9. Mine is currently 26.9. I still have to lose 12-15 pounds.

Living a healthy life increases our longevity. By adopting better health habits, we can.

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.

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

- **Total Cases:** 8,312,667 *
- **Total Deaths:** 221,438 (as of Oct. 22)
- **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

JACSC HOLDS FIRST VIRTUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Among the weekend's highlights, the consortium also builds membership and momentum for JACS reauthorization.

By Ray Locker, Contributor

Members of the Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium are gathering support for a permanent extension of the federal program that has helped pay for the revitalization of multiple sites where 120,000 people were imprisoned during World War II.

The support was announced during the JACSC virtual meeting and educational forum, which was held Oct. 17-18. The bill by Rep. Doris Matsui, a California Democrat who was born while incarcerated at the Poston, Ariz., camp, will permanently reauthorize the National Park Service's Japanese American Confinement Sites program and add another \$38 million in funding (see story on page 5).

Matsui's bill, which was introduced Oct. 21, will also include about \$10 million to pay for educational programs to teach about the racism and human rights abuses in the incarceration and the issue's relevance today. It's modeled after the Never Again Education Act for Holocaust education that will fund programs through the national Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

"The JACS program is really the centerpiece of the consortium's work," said Ann Burroughs, chair of the consortium and president and CEO of the Japanese American National Museum.

David Inoue, executive director of the JACL, and Floyd Mori, a former JACL president who helped develop the first JACS bill, are working with Matsui's office on the new bill.

Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) will offer a companion bill in the Senate, Inoue said.

The bill has bipartisan support, as Republican Reps. Ken Buck of Colorado, Liz Cheney of Wyoming, Rob Bishop of Utah and Don Young of Alaska are original co-sponsors. Young also voted for the 1988 Civil Liberties Act that paid redress to former WWII internees and appeared with President Ronald Reagan when he signed the bill. Cheney's father, former Vice President Dick Cheney, also supported the Civil Liberties Act.

Young sent out a tweet on Oct. 21 announcing his support for the bill.

"I'm proud to join my friend, @DorisMatsui, as we introduce the Japanese American Confinement Education Act," Young said. "This bill takes crucial steps to educate younger generations about the horrors of Japanese internment, so that it will never happen again."

The weekend session and the

support for Matsui's bill showed the maturation of the consortium in the four years since it was created following the successful fight to stop a national auction of art created by incarcerated living in the 10 camps run by the War Relocation Authority.

"This is really only our fifth meeting, and it is really quite extraordinary," said JACSC Manager Mia Russell.

More than 200 participants in the weekend sessions included members of the groups that make up the consortium, as well as several prospective members. They heard experts in developing new approaches to oral histories, preserving and conserving heritage and developing successful museums in COVID times; they also were able to draw inspiration from upcoming leaders.

ADAPTING TO NEW CHALLENGES

All of the JACSC members have been forced to adapt to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Burroughs said, and Russell added that most JACSC members increased their online educational programs once the pandemic started.

JANM has adapted many of its exhibits to online presentations that can now reach thousands of people who are now limited in their ability to travel to the museum in the Little Tokyo neighborhood of Los Angeles.

"We had to determine how to pivot on a dime with the pandemic," said JANM curator Clement Hanami.

The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, led by Executive Director Dakota Russell, has also expanded its online offerings, which include a series of presentations featuring aspects of a new book by Shirley Ann Higuchi, chair of the HMWF.

Heart Mountain has also received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to provide more online programming, including a series of podcasts.

New JACSC member Denso is offering a new podcast series called "Campu" by Hana and Noah Maruyama, the grandchildren of internees.

MULTIGENERATIONAL TRAUMA

The weekend was kicked off by a session involving Higuchi and Dr. Satsuki Ina, a psychotherapist, former internee at the Tule Lake, Calif., camp and a founder of the group Tsuru for Solidarity.

They were joined by former

Allies in Action panel participants included (clockwise from top left) Vinicius Taguchi, JACL Twin Cities; Mike Ishii, co-chair Tsuru for Solidarity; Emily Akpan, Tsuru for Solidarity and NYC DOR; Susan Hayase, founder San Jose Nikkei Resisters; and traci love, Vigilant Love.



A special JACSC commendation was given to Kimiko Marr and Hanako Wakatsuki for their outstanding leadership contributions.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF JACSC

Minidoka internee Mary Abo; Lisa Doi, president of the Chicago chapter of the JACL whose grandparents were imprisoned at Rohwer; Erin Aoyama, a Brown University doctoral student and granddaughter of Heart Mountain internees; and Prentiss Uchida, a former Heart Mountain internee.

Higuchi said she has learned more about the multigenerational trauma suffered by her parents, herself and brothers from her parents' incarceration at Heart Mountain. That experience makes up the core of her recently released book "Setsuko's Secret: Heart Mountain and the Legacy of the Japanese American Incarceration."

Being separated from their fathers during the war influenced much of their behavior, Abo and Uchida said.

Abo's father was arrested by the FBI shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor and put in a Justice Department camp while the rest of the family was sent from its home in Juneau, Alaska, to Minidoka. Abo said her mother spoke little English and feared being shot by the police.

» See JACSC on page 8

PHOTOS: JULIE ABO



"WHAT WAS IT LIKE FIRST SEEING YOUR CHILD?"



Lisan, 67, father

"Amelia arrived. It was our first girl. When I looked at that very tiny baby, I was very...I was so nervous...I don't know.

You're so careful to touch, so careful to hold, so careful. It's just a small life that you helped to create, that's in your hand."

Amelia Lin (top right), founder of Saga, an app that helps families save the life stories of loved ones on audio. Here, she shows the audience the impact of capturing these precious stories in the voices of the storyteller. This is a recording of her father who describes how he felt when she was born.



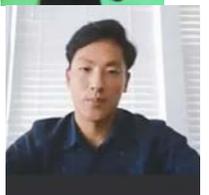
(Clockwise from top left) Erin Aoyama, Shirley Ann Higuchi, Satsuki Ina, Mary Abo, Prentiss Uchida and Lisa Doi share a lighter moment during the discussion on multigenerational trauma at the Friday kick-off session.



(Clockwise from top left) Kurt Ikeda, Rylan Sekiguchi, Amy Watanabe, Grace Morizawa, Stan Pesick and Genesis Ranel discuss new resources in education.



Cole Kawana explains the behind-the-scenes story of his AI avatars that simulate oral history as a conversation. In this earlier photo (above), he is pictured with the late Lawson Ichiro Sakai. Kawana and Amy Watanabe also both introduced the new free online Mineta Legacy curriculum that is now available.



FINDING COMMUNITY: A SPACE FOR JEWISH NIKKEI AND THEIR FAMILIES

By *Matthew Weisbly*,
JACL Daniel K. Inouye Fellow

I am a Japanese, Chinese, Jewish American. If you want to be nitpicky, I'm also Vietnamese, Korean and British according to my DNA test, but predominantly, I identify with my Japanese, Chinese and Jewish heritage.

On my Japanese side, I am Gosei, my great-great grandparents came from Kumamoto and settled in Hawaii before moving to California. My Chinese family left Canton (modern-day Guangdong) and settled right in Arizona when it was still a territory instead of a state. My Jewish family fled persecution by the Russian Tsars at the turn of the 20th century, following the mass diaspora to New York before going West to California. Growing up with this identity and history, I in all honesty thought I was the only one outside of my family.

Even as I grew older and was finally able to meet other mixed-race kids my own age — I also found a mixed-race student group in college — there was still some part of me that always felt like I was missing something.

Don't get me wrong, those spaces and experiences helped me to find an avenue to navigate my own identity and help to answer some of the difficult questions many of us grew up with. But as I also learned the stories of my grandfather's incar-

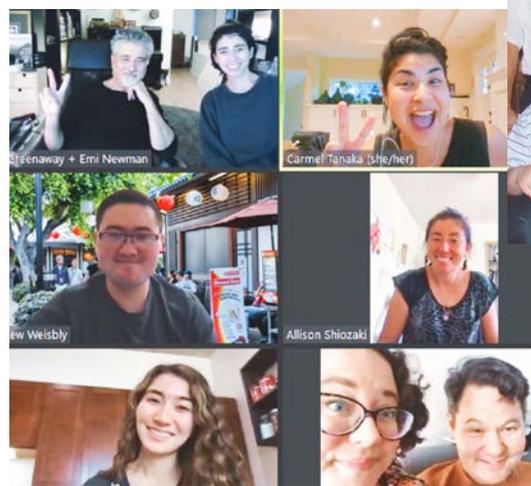
ceration in Gila River, Ariz., and my extended family's deaths in Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland, I was told by many just how fascinating and unique my family history is.

I was always more than happy to share it, and still am, but it made me continually feel like something was missing. It was like no one knew how it felt to have to live up to righting these two grave wrongs and continuing my family legacy. That is, until recently.

Over the summer, as we were finishing up with working on the "Tadama! A Community Virtual Pilgrimage," one of my friends reached out to me saying that there was a community member looking for anyone who was Japanese and Jewish to join a group that had just started.

When I heard about it, I jumped at the chance to finally meet someone else like me. I got in touch with the group's organizer and attended my first meeting in August. I would be lying if I said I wasn't nervous, but it's the mix of nerves and excitement, the kind you feel when you're going on a roller coaster, and I wanted so badly to feel like I found a space where people could understand these two parts of me — my history and culture and how proud I am to be a part of both.

When I logged on, there were about 15 of us, and everyone belonged to different age groups, generations



Members from the October Jewpanese Community Call

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MATTHEW WEISBLY

and lived in different locations. Most of the people on the call were Japanese Canadian Jews, some were also mixed like me, while others were parents of mixed-Japanese-and-Jewish kids.

But as we got to talking, which for this meeting was looking at experiences where we were proud of being able to intersect our identities, I knew I had found that missing piece.

I met other people who had those connections to the incarceration and the Holocaust, stories about hybrid meals and celebrating unique combinations of holidays. They interspersed English with phrases in Japanese, Hebrew and Yiddish.



Matthew Weisbly (front left) celebrating Hanukkah with his family and friends.



Matthew Weisbly

But also, I discovered the oddly unique connections that Japanese and Jews have had, whether it be in phrases, food or culture. It's been fascinating to speak with so many people who understand the struggles of growing up in these communities, all the while being able to help other families prepare their kids for the struggles they might face growing up.

So far, we've only had two meetings since the first time I was able to meet everyone. But it's something that I've started to look forward to

every month now.

I wanted to write this article so that other Jewish Nikkei and their families who might be looking for a space like this can join us and get to meet others like them. But also, I wrote this piece to give others the idea that if there is a community space you're looking for, and you haven't found it yet, don't give up.

There is someone out there just like you, and they're probably waiting to find you, too. Or, if you want to make it happen, start that space yourself.

If you are interested in joining the group, feel free to reach out to me at mweisbly@jacl.org. We'd love to have you join us!

Matthew Weisbly, a USC alumnus, is currently quarantining with family in Arizona and hoping to continue working with the community back in Los Angeles.

MATSUI INTRODUCES THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT EDUCATION ACT

The bipartisan legislation seeks to permanently reauthorize the JACS program.



Rep. Doris Matsui has introduced the Japanese American Confinement Education Act, which would permanently reauthorize the JACS program to preserve and educate Americans on the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congresswoman Doris Matsui (D-Calif.) introduced on Oct. 21 the Japanese American Confinement Education Act, a bipartisan legislation that would permanently reauthorize the Japanese American Confinement Site (JACS) program to preserve and educate Americans on the imprisonment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

The Japanese American Confinement Education Act would permanently reauthorize the JACS program within the National Park Service, which is currently set to expire in 2022.

This program has been one of the primary resources in the preservation and interpretation of the U.S. Confinement Sites where Japanese Americans were detained during WWII.

Additionally, the legislation establishes a separate, new five-year, \$2 million-per-year competitive grant to create educational materials about the Japanese American confinement.

This grant would require the recipient museum to develop and nationally disseminate

accurate, relevant and accessible resources to improve awareness and understanding of Japanese American Confinement in WWII.

Just over 75 years ago, the U.S. Federal Government, through Executive Order 9066, rounded up and imprisoned 120,000 Japanese Americans. Based solely on race, Japanese Americans were stripped of their homes, possessions and civil liberties and forced to live in remote military barracks. Yet, as time passes, the memory of mass, wrongful government roundup of innocent American citizens has grown increasingly distant.

"The imprisonment of Japanese Americans during World War II will forever be one of the most atrocious violations of American civil rights in the 20th century. Those of us in the Japanese American community know too well what discrimination feels like, what kind of mark it leaves and, most importantly, what we can do to stop it," said Matsui. "The Japanese American story is one that is not told nearly

enough. It is one of pain, one of redemption and one of enrichment.

"This bill will ensure that these lessons live into the future — that we continue bending the moral arc of this country by sharing these stories, lifting our voices and fighting so that we do not repeat the mistakes of the past," Matsui continued. "The essence of the American experience isn't that we're perfect, it is that we heal from seeing where we've been and teach our younger generations to build a more inclusive, equitable future."

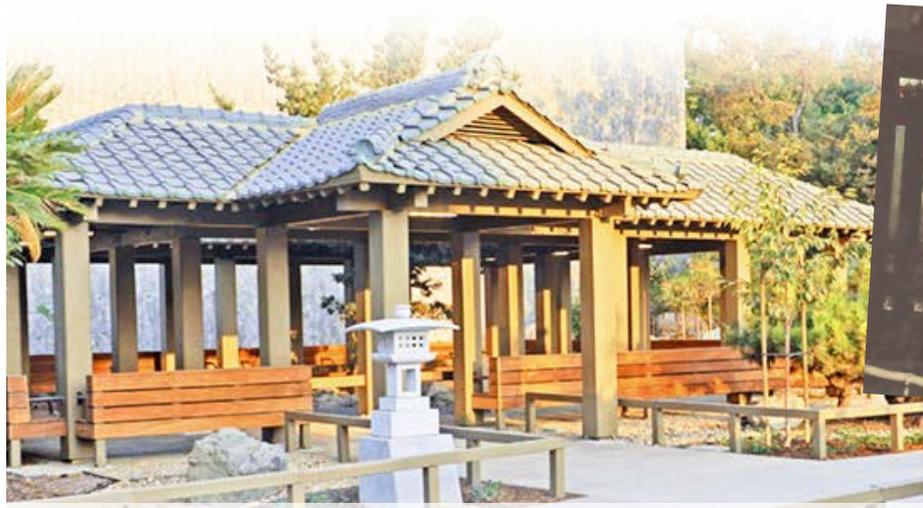
Other lawmakers joined in with their support of Matsui's bill as well.

"My parents and grandparents were imprisoned in Japanese internment camps during World War II while my Great Uncle Monso was fighting the war in defense of this country," said Rep. Mark Takano (D-Calif). "This was a dark time in our nation's history, but in order to move forward, we must not forget the lessons of the past. For that reason, I am proud to support the Japanese American Confinement Education Act to preserve the Japanese Confinement Sites and create an educational competitive grant to help educate younger generations about the unjust incarceration of Japanese Americans."

» See MATSUI on page 9

The Orange County Japanese Garden went through a major renovation this year in commemoration of its 50th anniversary. A new white stone Japanese lantern sits at the entrance of the tea house, which was a gift from the Orange County Nikkei Coordinating Council.

PHOTO: PATTI HIRAHARA



Chairman Hitoshi Nitta (left) and First VP Mas Uyesugi at the dedication ceremony of the Orange County Japanese Garden

PHOTO: COURTESY OF HITOSHI AND DIANE NITTA

REMEMBERING A HOME AND THE LEGACY OF ITS JAPANESE PIONEERS

The Orange County Japanese Garden undergoes a renovation as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

By Patti Hirahara, Contributor

Orange County has had many wonderful things happen in its Japanese community over the years, but none as special as a gift that was given from its Japanese American community to the County of Orange 50 years ago in 1970.

The groundwork was set 29 years before when officers from the Orange County JACL chapter went to the *Santa Ana Register* newspaper office due to their dismay of the bombing of Pearl Harbor by Japan on Dec. 7, 1941.

With a photo and story published in the *Register* on Dec. 11, 1941, four days after the attack, the JACL chapter members declared “their wish of tolerance and understanding on the part of all Americans toward American-born Japanese and other Japanese who obey the laws of this country and expect to call this country theirs for the rest of their life.” The photo cutline also said, “All are

native sons of Orange County; all attended school here.”

When asked about their parent’s attitudes, the group said “their parents were born in Japan, but they have been in the United States longer than they were in Japan, and this is home to them and they expect to make it their home until they die.”

For one member of the group, Santa Ana native Hitoshi Nitta, who was 24 years old and treasurer of the OC JACL chapter at the time, this meeting would set the stage for greater things to come.

Even with local JACL members’ valiant effort to prove their allegiance to the country of their birth and the place they called home, 120,000 men, women and children from the western United States were forcibly sent to Japanese American incarceration camps during World War II.

The people from Orange County were primarily sent to the camp in Poston, Ariz., from 1942-45. When discussions of resettlement were brought up in Poston upon the conclusion of WWII, the Nitta family

made history for their resettlement back to Orange County.

As noted in a *United Press* wire story, which was published in the *Pasadena Star News* on Jan. 8, 1945, “Shosuke Nitta, patriarch of the first Japanese American family to return to Southern California, today shuffled about his 100-acre ranch here after a two-and-a-half-year exile, happy over a heart-warming welcome home by worshippers at the Methodist Church in which he was active for years.” The day before “after services, churchgoers crowded around to shake their hands.”

The article continued, “It was a happy moment for the three generations of Japanese Americans, who had so feared prejudice against them, they stopped for food only once on the car trip from Poston to Santa Ana and that at the home of a Methodist minister in Indio, Calif. “We didn’t want to cause trouble,” Nitta said.

For his efforts nine years later, Nitta was honored in 1966 by Emperor Hirohito for helping to improve relations between Japan and the U.S.

I became interested in the history of the Orange County Japanese Garden when I found a donation receipt, an

Three of the principals who were part of the Orange County Japanese Garden’s dedication on Nov. 15, 1970, were (from left) Min Inadomi, project legal co-counsel and dedication master of ceremonies; Christine Galanis, County of Orange information services coordinator; and Mas Uyesugi, fundraising chairman at the Orange County Civic Center. The event marked the culmination of three years of planning, hard work and fundraising between Civic Center officials and the Orange County Japanese community.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF HITOSHI AND DIANE NITTA

architectural drawing, a location map and a donation thank you letter signed by Japanese American Community Services Board Chairman Hitoshi Nitta and Fundraising Chairman Mas Uyesugi in my family’s records at my parent’s home last year.

I started asking people if anyone knew about the Japanese Garden, yet no one seemed to know of its existence except Ron Inadomi, who had taken pictures at the garden several years before.

He sent me a photo of a plaque that was set on a rock in the garden and its brief inscription. The plaque reads: “Dedicated and presented for the pleasure of all people in Orange County by the Japanese American community. A grateful Arigato in honor of our pioneer fathers and for the blessings of freedom. May 27, 1970.”

In seeing this, that meant 2020 would be the garden’s 50th anniversary, but there seemed to be a deeper meaning to the words that were inscribed on that bronze plaque that had become green over time.

This short but meaningful statement was left for us as a reminder of how one community persevered to leave its Japanese American legacy here. But even though I knew a brief history of the establishment of the garden, I wanted to know more on how it all began.

In 1968, the Orange County Board of Supervisors paved the way for a special project to be constructed in the area of the Orange County Courthouse in the City of Santa Ana, Calif., by passing a resolution on Jan. 16, 1968.

This project, to be totally funded by donations, was to be a symbol of friendship and gratitude from the Orange County Japanese American community in the form of a 75-foot-by-102-foot Japanese garden and tea house that would replace a dusty parking lot along the east wall of the new Orange County Courthouse, which was opened in 1969.

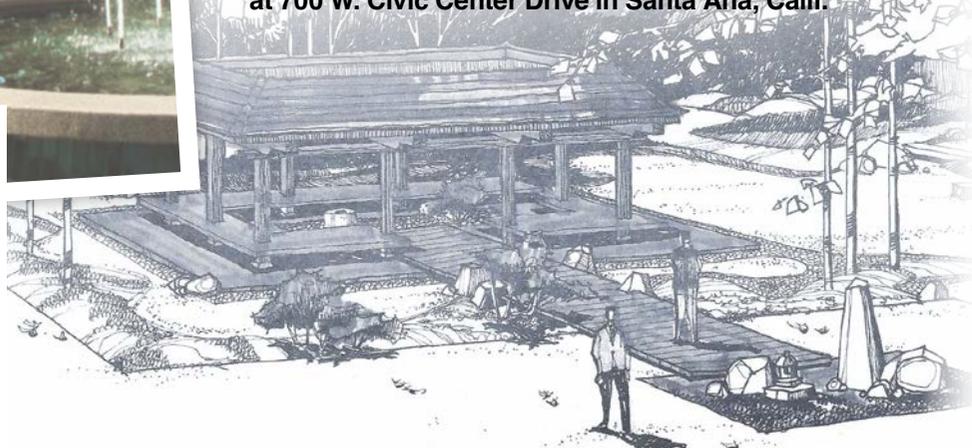
According to recent research conducted by Chris Jepsen, a noted Orange County historian, “Plans for the garden were unveiled in June of 1969 by Japanese American Community Services, a nonprofit group chaired by Hitoshi Nitta along with Mas Uyesugi and Paul Nagamatsu, first and second vps; Richard Kasuya, treasurer; and Sumi Akiyama, secretary.

In 1968, Japanese American Community Services had an architectural drawing made for a proposed Japanese garden and tea house in the Orange County Civic Center at 700 W. Civic Center Drive in Santa Ana, Calif.



Historian Chris Jepsen found this photo in the Orange County Archives and when discovered, the event was not identified as to what was taking place. Now, the photo has been identified as the Orange County Japanese Garden Dedication on Nov. 15, 1970, where Justice Stephen Tamura, a native of Santa Ana and a jurist with the Fourth District Court of Appeals, was the main speaker.

PHOTO: COURTESY THE ORANGE COUNTY ARCHIVES



“The plans featured a cedar pavilion or tea house with Japanese roofing tile, a dry stream bed, sculpted earth and traditional plantings,” Jepsen continued. “It was also to feature stone lanterns and other artifacts from Japan.”

The goal of the Orange County Japanese Garden Project was to raise an estimated \$50,000 for the cost of creating the garden and tea house, which was quite a sum of money in those days. Therefore, the committee sent out 2,200 letters to Orange County’s Japanese American families in June of 1969 to raise the funds.

A fundraising letter sent by Uyesugi appealed to the community by stating the following points, “We ask you to please search your generous hearts and consider . . .

“The many opportunities accorded us by our Orange County communities. They have provided us a chance to earn a good living, to live in comfortable homes and enjoy the freedoms.”

The letter continued to say, “We have set our goal high, so we will be able to build not just an average garden, but one to which we can point to with pride. A unique garden which will be a fitting tribute to our Issei pioneers, Nisei’s, Sansei’s and all future generations.”

The plans for the Japanese garden gift were then offered to the Orange County Board of Supervisors on July 1, 1969, and approved.

Fortunately, Jepsen was able to unearth documents that were thought to have been lost. The documents give a glimpse on how these Japanese American pioneers felt about this garden.

In one of the documents, Nitta said, “The Japanese Garden Project is truly a challenge to all Japanese Americans here in this community. This is to be installed in the Orange County Civic Center. Those of us who have become involved in the project have been inspired by the challenge. In the days and weeks ahead, we hope that through a broad cooperative spirit and effort within

the entire community, we will be able to put this garden project over the top.”

James Okazaki, who was Orange County JACL president and legal counsel to the project, said, “To borrow an old adage, we submit that there is a time and place for everything, including monuments and memorials. The Japanese Garden proposed for the Orange County Civic Center is such a monument; a living memorial, as it were, to Japanese of all generations who have struggled and strived and have become so much a part of this proud county of ours.”

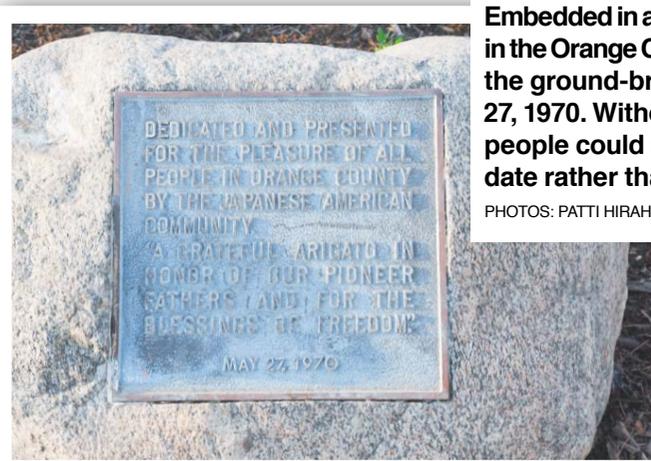
Okazaki also said, “From all indications, this project must indeed have been meant to be, for this is the commemorative year for the celebration of the centennial of the coming of the first of our parents to our Pacific shores, as well as the 100th birthday of the City of Santa Ana where the garden is to be located. There must be a time within our patterned lives to pause, to reflect, to give thanks, and what better time than this historic year for this community to collectively take stock of our manifold blessings and to dramatically show our beloved county that we are proud to have been part of her heritage.”

Although written 50 years ago, these statements hold so true today. The year 1970 would have commemorated 25 years since the closing of the Japanese American incarceration camps during WWII and the continued resettlement of Japanese Americans to Orange County.

In talking with one of the surviving members of the old Japanese American Community Services Board, Keiko Sadakane, she said, “The group met at the same church the Nitta family returned to in 1945 for their meetings, the First United Methodist Church in Santa Ana, and the Orange County and SELA-NOCO JACL chapters were part of the project.”

Sadakane was also invaluable in providing background information

The Orange County Japanese Garden is located near the Plaza of the Flags in the Orange County Civic Center in Santa Ana, Calif.



Embedded in a rock is this bronze plaque that was placed in the Orange County Japanese Garden to commemorate the ground-breaking ceremony of the garden on May 27, 1970. Without knowing the significance of the date, people could assume this was the garden dedication date rather than the ground breaking.

PHOTOS: PATTI HIRAHARA

about the campaign.

Unfortunately, no other records noting who donated to the garden could be found except my family’s copy of an August 1970 issue of the *Santana Wind* newspaper, which was published by the Orange County JACL.

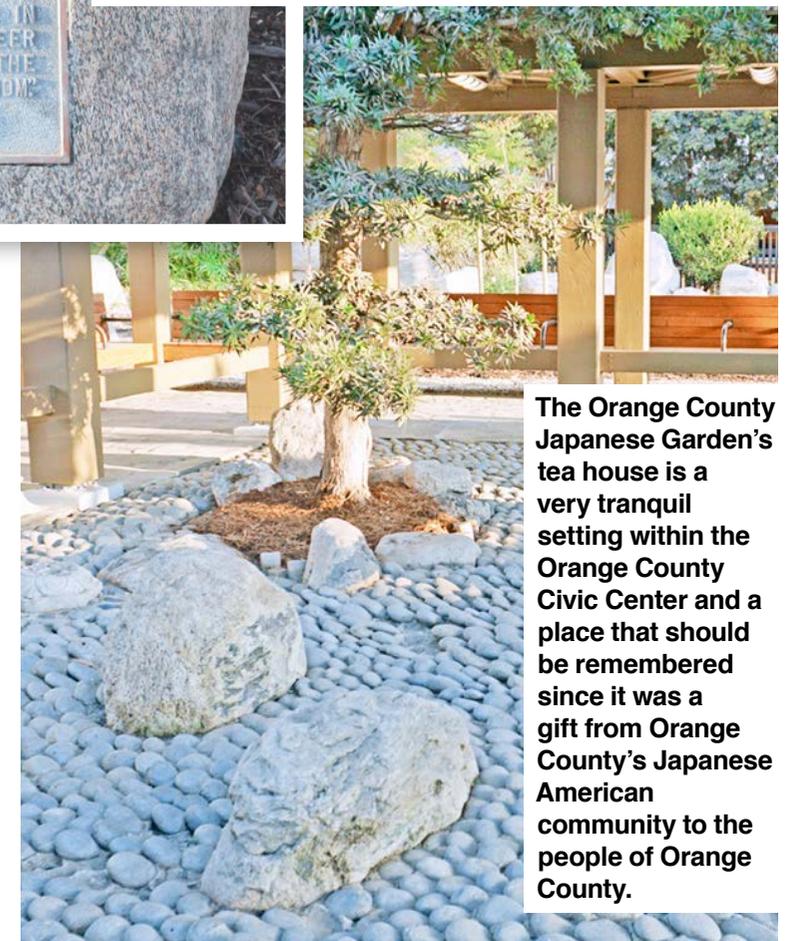
This gave me a partial list of donors who had donated \$38,300 toward the garden’s \$50,000 goal. Residents from the City of Anaheim lead the list with 101 donors, followed by Garden Grove with 89 and Santa Ana with 77 rounding out the top three communities who donated toward the garden fund.

In combining the names from the *Santana Wind* and the Japanese American Community Services’ own promotional solicitation pamphlet, the partial list of donors totaled more than 641 organizations and families throughout Orange County and beyond.

Each Orange County Japanese family was also visited by a member of the volunteer canvassing team to explain the project and why it was such an important endeavor.

The Japanese Garden and tea house broke ground on May 27, 1970, and was dedicated almost six months later on Nov. 15, 1970. The committee said, “You’ll find nothing like this in Japan because this is an expression of Orange County’s Japanese American community.”

“The Japanese in Orange County wanted to present this gift to the



The Orange County Japanese Garden’s tea house is a very tranquil setting within the Orange County Civic Center and a place that should be remembered since it was a gift from Orange County’s Japanese American community to the people of Orange County.

county as a permanent landmark for all to view,” Nitta said at the dedication ceremony. “It would also serve as a remembrance for the love of beauty emphasized by our parents and to be carried on by their succeeding generations.”

Nitta died in 1978 at the age of 61. Therefore, I asked his oldest son, Hitoshi A. Nitta, on how his grandfather and father would feel about this garden 50 years later.

“Having family roots connected to Santa Ana for more than 100 years makes the Japanese Garden location there especially meaningful,” Hitoshi A. Nitta said. “Knowing that my grandfather and father were among the community leaders who envisioned this project and brought it to fruition reminds me of what my parents always taught us . . . to love and respect our Japanese heritage but to never forget that we are Americans.”

Many dignitaries and pioneers of the Orange County Japanese community were present at the dedication ceremony, but now, the majority of those notable pioneers has passed away.

According to Jepsen, “The *Los Angeles Times* editorialized, ‘Today, when so many think only of what they can get from their government, it is heartening to see one segment of our society stop to count their blessings and then dedicate themselves to a task of unselfish giving. To our

Japanese American neighbors, we say, “Arigato — thank you.”

It was the committee’s hope that the Japanese Garden would be utilized by the many people who worked in and visited the Civic Center area.

People have said through the years that county workers enjoyed eating their lunch in the tea house where they could view the Japanese landscaped surroundings, but as of three years ago, the garden had to be fenced off to the public due to the number of homeless individuals that would frequent the area.

However, once Orange County was made aware of the garden’s upcoming 50th anniversary in 2020, Orange County Vice Chairman/Supervisor Andrew Do’s office began preparations to commemorate this milestone anniversary with the Orange County Nikkei Coordinating Council since the original Japanese American Community Services organization was no longer in existence.

“The Japanese Garden in Orange County’s Civic Center is a symbol of unity and patriotism on behalf of the Japanese community,” said Do. “It is an honor and privilege to be part of the Japanese Garden’s 50th anniversary this year. The garden is an expression of the resilience and vibrancy of the Orange County Japanese American community.

» See LEGACY on page 12

HARADA HOUSE TO BE FOCUS OF CIVIL RIGHTS WEBINAR

The story of the historic home in Riverside, Calif., serves as the foundation for the upcoming virtual event.

RIVERSIDE, CALIF. — The civil rights message central to the history of the Harada House, a National Historic Landmark, serves as the foundation for a virtual webinar that will be held on Nov. 12.

Three Riverside-based organizations are collaborating to present a panel discussion and conversation about civil liberties and racial justice in the present moment, framed within the context of the Harada House as a symbol of dignity, perseverance and social justice. The Museum of Riverside, which is the steward for the Harada House, is supported by the Harada House Foundation and

Inlandia Institute in presenting this free program.

In 1916 in Riverside, Japanese immigrant Jukichi Harada was criminally prosecuted in a racially motivated attempt to deny the Harada family their own home.

Panelists for this webinar will consider what today would parallel this lawsuit and its effort to deprive people in the U.S. of their rights based on race.

Questions at the heart of the discussion include “What is democracy? How does it work? Is the concept fixed or fluid? Are we getting better at it? How are our laws enforced?

What must happen next?”

Against the backdrop of civil rights victories in Riverside — notably the Harada family’s judicial triumph in 1918 — a group of leaders will discuss peaceful paths to effect positive change, share indicators that the system can be improved and highlight stories of persistence and choosing the greater good.

One desired outcome is further recognition that the Harada House serves as a symbol and beacon of hope in the continuing struggle for social justice.

Confirmed panelists include Jack Clarke, Best, Best & Krieger; Larry

Gonzalez, City of Riverside’s chief of police, Kristen Hayashi, JANM director of collections management and access/curator; and Michelle Magalong, University of Maryland and president of the Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation. The panel will be moderated by Museum of Riverside Director Robyn G. Peterson.

The webinar will start at 6 p.m. on Nov. 12. To sign up to view the webinar, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/HaradaDiscussion>.



Harada House NHL plaque

PHOTO: PACIFIC CITIZEN

JANM » continued from page 2



JANM in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo was recently named one of “America’s Cultural Treasures.”

PHOTO: COURTESY OF JANM

in communities of color, the funders, led by an initial investment of \$50 million from the Ford Foundation, with leadership support from Bloomberg Philanthropies and Barbara and Amos Hostetter, as well as additional support from the Abrams Foundation, Alice L. Walton Foundation and Tom and Lisa Blumenthal, organized the national component of the initiative to provide \$81 million in operational and general support funds to an initial cohort of 20 organizations that are significant national anchors for artistic and cultural diversity in America.

The “America’s Cultural Treasures” initiative seeks to highlight those 20 organizations for their “vital contributions” to the diversity of expression and excellence in America, as well as bring greater recognition to a group of organizations that have been impactful, despite historically limited resources and funding streams.

They, along with others, represent the cultural heritage and creativity of communities that have been historically marginalized, underfunded and underrepresented in the narrative of American culture,” the Ford Foundation stated.

“This recognition as one of ‘America’s Cultural Treasures’ validates the role that JANM has played over the years to preserve Japanese American history and culture and be part of the nation’s conscience to ensure

that no other groups are similarly targeted,” Burroughs continued. “We are honored to be part of this distinguished company of arts and cultural organizations and extend our heartfelt congratulations to each. We are delighted that our Little Tokyo Historic District sister organization, East West Players Theater, has also been included. We look forward to deepening relationships with our partners across the country.”

Other groups named included the Alaska Native Heritage Center, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Apollo Theater, Dance Theater of Harlem, Museum of Chinese in America, National Museum of Mexican Art and Urban Bush Women, among others.

“These organizations represent the very highest ideals of artistic excellence and are truly America’s Cultural Treasures,” said Darren Walker, president of the Ford Foundation. “We hope that other arts philanthropists and corporations will join in increasing support to the many cultural organizations that reflect our nation’s rich and diverse history.”

The national grants, which range from \$1 million-\$6 million, are meant to bolster each organization’s general operating budgets to help them navigate the current health crisis. Grantees could also receive as much as \$100,000 for organizational capacity building.

JACSC » continued from page 4

Uchida’s father left Heart Mountain to work on the Great Northern Railroad. Uchida said he resented his father’s presence after his work on the railroad ended and he returned to join them in camp.

ANTI-RACIST ALLIES IN ACTION

Amidst the rise of anti-Asian sentiment during the pandemic and the call for Black Lives Matter, a resurgence and new activism is taking hold in the Japanese American community, and many people are looking for ways to be supportive.

Another panel held during the education conference featured several community leaders, who all gathered to talk about positive steps forward in expressing social justice for all.

Susan Hayase, a community leader who has been active for decades, recently founded San Jose Nikkei Resisters, who are working on a collaborative community effort, Nikkei for Black Lives, and supporting HR 40.

Emily Akpan, a Black Nikkei who is building a coalition of Black Nikkei, expressed gratitude for longtime activists and spoke out for recognition, acceptance and space

within the Japanese American community for Black Nikkei.

Vigilant Love Founder traci love advocates for communities impacted by Islamophobia and violence in the greater Los Angeles Area.

Vinicius Taguchi of Twin Cities JACL was propelled into action by the local killing of George Floyd and has been organizing community conversations around police accountability at the local and government levels ever since.

Moderator Mike Ishii, co-chair of Tsuru for Solidarity, lead this impactful multigenerational panel of movers and shakers and concluded that finding partners is key, and that their work is also a means for healing the community and individuals. Anyone is welcome to join these leaders and their organizations.

PRAISE FOR ‘TADAIMA’

The consortium also recognized Kimiko Marr of the Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages and Hanako Wakatsuki of the National Park Service for their public history leadership, creativity and hard work in creating this summer’s “Tadaima! A Community Virtual Pilgrimage,”

which “provided a much-needed sense of community during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

“Tadaima!” spanned nine weeks from June-August and presented dozens of films, prerecorded and live presentations, seminars, performances and interactive demonstrations about various aspects of the Japanese American incarceration and its relevance to current issues.

MEMORIAL FOR LANE RYO HIRABAYASHI

Participants also offered a memorial to longtime University of California, Los Angeles, professor and researcher Lane Ryo Hirabayashi, who died at age 67 in August. John Tobe, the new chair of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, introduced a moving short film, produced by Marr, featuring members of the Japanese American community paying tribute to Hirabayashi.

His academic work inspired hundreds to follow his lead, said the NPS’ Wakatsuki. Hirabayashi helped guide her graduate studies, and she is now chief of interpretation and education at the Minidoka National Historic Site and currently acting as chief of interpretation at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial.

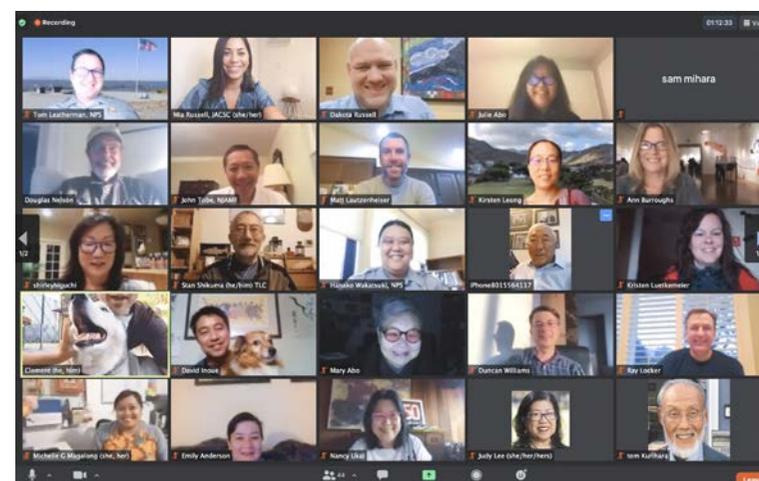
Densho’s Brian Niiya said he was grateful for Hirabayashi’s work to expand the field of Asian American studies and Japanese American history. Hirabayashi, Niiya said, also restored the landmark film “The Issei” and used many other films in his teaching.

CLOSING REMARKS

Many leaders commended Russell for leading JACSC’s first education conference.

They also welcomed Judy Lee of the Museum of Riverside, who is helping to restore the iconic Harada House in Riverside, Calif.

For more information on the JACSC, please contact Mia Russell at mia@jacsc.org.



Participants during the closing remarks meeting for the JACSC education conference that was held Oct. 17-18, with a public facing program on Oct. 16.

PHOTO: JULIE ABO

MATSUI » continued from page 5

“The forced internment of our fellow citizens through Executive Order 9066 is one of the darkest chapters in American history. The fact that it occurred during my lifetime highlights just how fresh of a wound this is for Japanese Americans across our country,” said Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska). “. . . Tragically, many of our young people no longer study this terrible moment in history, which puts our ability to learn lessons from this era at risk. . . . If we do not acknowledge, reconcile and learn from our history, we are doomed to repeat it. . . . It is my great hope that we take these lessons to heart and honor the families who were devastated in the very country they called home.”

“I’m honored to support Congresswoman Matsui’s Japanese American Confinement Education Act, which would help ensure that generations of Americans know about the dark legacy of U.S. Confinement Sites,” said Rep. Grace Meng (D-N.Y.). “. . . While we have taken steps to memorialize and atone for this wrong, we must make sure that future generations also know of this painful history.”

“I am honored to co-introduce this measure to assure that all Americans know and understand one of our country’s darkest chapters, a chapter that saw our leaders committing and justifying a historic wrong against our Constitution and peoples of all races,” said Rep. Ed Case (D-Hawaii). “This chapter spared no part of our country, including my home state of Hawai’i, where, despite generations of loyal and constructive contribution, hundreds of Japanese Americans were interned at camps like Honouliuli, an only recently rediscovered site now memorialized as a national monument. It is only by knowing and understanding what happened and why that we can recognize future warning signs and avoid ever repeating this dark history.”

“When Representative Robert Matsui and I were lobbying to pass the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 along with Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga, our goal was to have the United States government acknowledge its mistake in illegally forcing thousands of people of Japanese ancestry from their homes and businesses to be imprisoned during WWII,” said Sec. Norman Mineta. “While the government apology and redress payments were essential elements of that bill, we all knew that educating the American people on the Japanese American WWII experience was of vital importance to ensure that no other group is similarly targeted. The original Japanese American Confinement Sites program was a continuation of the educational process to preserve our history and

share this story with future generations. Rep. Doris Matsui’s bill, the Japanese American Confinement Education Act, enables the National Parks Service to maintain its successful outreach program about a story that all Americans should learn to ensure that this shameful chapter in our history is never forgotten and never repeated.”

In addition, JACS Consortium stakeholders also voiced their support of Matsui’s bill. “The Japanese

American Confinement Education Act will both continue and expand the promise of the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program to further the interpretation and telling of the Japanese American wartime experience,” said David Inoue, executive director of the JAACL. “What makes our country great is our capacity to recognize, remember and learn from our past mistakes to ensure that we not repeat them. This legislation affirms that greatness as a nation.”

“The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation strongly supports the Jap-

anese American Confinement Education Act, which will enable us to preserve sites where more 120,000 people were unfairly incarcerated during WWII,” said Shirley Ann Higuchi, chair of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation. “It will educate the country and the world about the need to prevent something like this from happening again.”

Original co-sponsors of the bill are Reps. Rob Bishop (R-Utah), Mark Takano (D-Calif.), Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.), Tom Suozzi (D-N.Y.), Don Young (R-Alaska), Ed Case

(D-Hawaii), Ken Buck (R-Colo.), Adam Smith (D-Wash.), Judy Chu (D-Calif.), Ro Khanna (D-Calif.), Grace Meng (D-N.Y.), Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) and Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.).

The Japanese American Confinement Education Act is also supported by Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation, Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, JAACL, JACS Consortium, JANM and the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans. ■

Notice of Upcoming Renovation Project in Los Angeles, CA.

Little Tokyo Tower

455 East 3rd Street. Los Angeles, CA. 90013



Little Tokyo Tower renovation will begin in the Second Quarter of 2021. The renovation of this 16 story tower will encompass the complete renovation of interiors, (living units), and exteriors, (common spaces), as well as the waste line replacements, seismic upgrades, community rooms, dining hall, Library and the construction of an additional elevator. Project will be completed in phases with tenant relocation. All units will receive new finishes, all corridors and common areas will receive new finishes, new roofing, and limited divisional work (please see list of divisions below) will be completed during this renovation.

Divisions

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 02-000 SITE WORK | 09-000 DRYWALL/FLOOR/CEILING/PAINT |
| 03-000 CONCRETE | 10-000 SPECIALTIES |
| 05-000 METALS | 11-000 EQUIPMENT |
| 06-000 WOOD & PLASTIC | 14-000 ELEVATORS & HANDLING SYSTEMS |
| 07-000 WATERPROOF/INSULATE/ROOFING | 15-000 FIRE PROTECTION/PLUMBING/HVAC |
| 08-000 DOORS/HARDWARE/GLASS/GLAZE | 16-000 ELECTRICAL |

Subcontractors interested in the Little Tokyo Tower project need to reply no later than November 30th, 2020, via email to LT@mfrg-icon.com.

If you would like additional information or have questions, please reach out to our team members listed below;

Dan Kern, Senior Project Manager (310) 903-8839
Kevin Schelbrack, Director or Pre-Construction (310) 701-4968

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

'Campu' Podcasts From Densho Online Series
Price: Free

Densho has just released the first three episodes of a new podcast by Hana and Noah Maruyama. The series draws heavily on Densho's oral history archive to tell the story of the World War II incarceration from the perspective of those who experienced it.

Info: Visit <https://densho.org/campu/>.

'Broken Promises' Virtual Exhibit Burnaby, Canada
Ongoing
Nikkei National Museum & Culture Centre
Virtual event
Price: Free

The new traveling exhibit "Broken Promises," co-curated by the Nikkei National Museum with the Royal British Columbia Museum and the Landscapes of Injustice research collective, explores the dispossession of Japanese Canadians in the 1940s. It illuminates the loss of home and the struggle for justice of one racially marginalized community. You'll learn about life for Japanese Canadians in Canada before World War II, the administration of their lives during and after the war ended and how the legacies of dispossession continues to this day.

Info: For more information about the exhibit, visit <https://centre.nikkeiplace.org/exhibits/broken-promises/>.

NCWNP

Picnic at the Plaza San Francisco, CA
Saturday and Sundays Thru Nov. 1; 11:30 a.m.-8 p.m.
Japantown's Peace Plaza
Price: Free

Bring your take-out food and enjoy it at the Peace Plaza's free outdoor dining space, complete with canopies, lighting, heaters, hand-washing stations, restrooms and socially distanced sanitized tables and chairs. Enjoy a meal while supporting Japantown businesses. This program is brought to you by the Center in cooperation with the S.F. Recreation and Parks Department and the Japantown Merchants Assn. Funded by the Henri and Tomoye Takahashi

Charitable Foundation.
Info: Visit jcccnc.org.

Kimochi Silver Bells Arts & Crafts Faire
San Francisco, CA
Nov. 1-12
Virtual Shopping Event
Price: Free

One of Kimochi's longest-running fundraising event, Silver Bells will feature 12 days of shopping with proceeds directly supporting Kimochi programs and services for seniors in the Bay Area. The event will feature hand-crafted items from 60-plus artisans and include ceramics, jewelry, scarves, bags, T-shirts, greeting cards, food and specialty wine and sake. This is an excellent opportunity to purchase holiday gifts in a safe environment: your own home!

Info: Log on to www.kimochisilverbells.org to begin shopping.

Nihonmachi Little Friends' 45th Anniversary Event
San Francisco, CA
Nov. 20; 7-7:30 p.m.
Virtual Event
Price: Free

Join Nihonmachi Little Friends as it celebrates its 45th anniversary with a virtual program. The evening will highlight 1830 Sutter's Listing in the National Register of Historic Places, as well as NLF's preschool and afterschool programs in action during the pandemic. There will also be a performance by Nihonmachi "Big Friends," led by Dr. Anthony Brown. Guests are also encouraged to order a special Sushi Bento Box from We Be Sushi, who has partnered with NLF the last few years and will donate 25 percent of the proceeds to NLF.

Info: Email nlfchildcare@gmail.com or call (415) 922-8898 for more information. To order a bento, visit www.nlfchildcare.org and click on the invitation link.

PSW

36th Annual Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival
Los Angeles, CA
Thru Oct. 31
Online film festival
Price: Ticket packages are available for purchase

Established in 1983 by Visual Communications, LAAPFF is the largest film festival in Southern California dedicated to showcasing films by

Asians and Pacific Islanders around the world. The festival presents approximately 200 films, as well as the C3:Conference, LT@Home series and much more!

Info: Visit festival.vcmedia.org for more information.

GFBNEC's 'An Evening of Aloha'
Los Angeles, CA
Nov. 14, 4-5 p.m. PST
Virtual event

Join the Go For Broke National Education Center as it streams live for the first time 'An Evening of Aloha' celebration gala honoring our brave Nisei veterans.

Info: Visit goforbroke.org.

JACL PSWD's 'Developing a New Generation of Leaders' Virtual Fundraiser
Los Angeles, CA
Nov. 21; 1-2 p.m. PST
Virtual Event
Price: Free

In lieu of its annual luncheon, the PSWD is sponsoring a virtual fundraising event "A New Generation of Leaders" featuring six future leaders who will speak about their JACL experiences from their respective perspectives, including their experience as a JACL scholarship recipient, Kakehashi participant and much more. The event will feature participants Kurt Ikeda, Kristy Ishii, Justin Kawaguchi, Emily Nagamoto, Yuki Torrey and Matthew Weisbly, as well as presenters Marissa Kitazawa and Douglas Urata.

Info: To participate, visit www.jaclpsw.org/virtual-fundraiser.html.

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

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.

IDC

Third-Annual Denver-Takayama Sister Cities Culture Day
Denver, CO
Nov. 7, 7-9 p.m. MST
Virtual Online Event
Price: Free

Join the Mile High chapter of the JACL and the Takayama Denver Friendship Assn. for this all-virtual event that features a walking tour of Old Town in Takayama, Japan, and its historic district, local cuisine cooking demonstrations and learn how to do Rajio Taiso or daily radio calisthenics, a gentle set of warm-up exercises with music. The event will also feature Q & A sessions and a speech appearance by the consul general of Japan in Denver.

Info: Register for the Zoom meeting at <https://tinyurl.com/y5adwva3>. For more information, email japan-cultureday@denversistercities.org.

MDC

'Quilts Uncovering: Women's Stories'
Indianapolis, IN
Thru Jan. 31, 2021
Eiteljorg Museum
500 W. Washington St.
Price: See Museum's Website

This exhibit features 30 fascinating quilts by women artists from the early 1800s to the present day in the Western states and reveals captivating experiences and stories of women in the West and Native America. The quilts document people, places and events, and serve as visual records that help us study and understand Western art, history and cultures. One quilt on display contains blocks made by students who were incarcerated at Poston War Relocation Center during WWII.

Info: Visit www.eiteljorg.org.

'Vibrant Line': Works on Paper by Tanaka, Shinoda and Tawara
Idaville, IN
Thru Nov 29
Indianapolis Museum of Art
4000 N. Michigan Road
Price: See Museum's Website

Three very different modern Japanese artists stay inside the lines to express what's possible with ink on paper — from photorealistic etchings of old rural Japan to calligraphy influenced by abstract expressionism, see the artworks of master etcher Ryohei Tanaka, painter Tawara Yusaku and calligrapher Toko

Shinoda in this exhibit that incorporates abstract interpretations of natural phenomena.

Info: Visit <https://www.mutualart.com/Organization/Indianapolis-Museum-of-Art-Newfields/3CB126D19FEF393C>.

EDC

Easy Japanese Home Cooking for Nonchefs
Boston, MA
Nov. 14; 5-6 p.m.

Price: \$15 for General Admission; \$10 Japan Society Members

The Japan Society of Boston is offering a class on cooking sukiyaki via Zoom. Participants will be sent a list of ingredients a few days before the class and will make the dish with Japan Society intern Emily Knick, who will be sharing her favorite recipe. Registration is required.

Info: Visit <https://www.japan-societyboston.org/event-3997192>.

Kimono Couture: The Beauty of Chiso
Worcester, MA
Opens Nov. 28
Virtual Exhibition
Price: Free

The Worcester Art Museum is partnering with Chiso, the distinguished Kyoto-based kimono house, to present the first exhibition of historic and contemporary kimonos from Chiso's collection. The exhibit highlights the history and artistry of the prestigious 465-year-old garment maker with 14 kimonos from the mid-1600s to 2000s. In addition, a selection of related works — paintings, kimono fragments and woodblock-printed books — from the Chiso art collection will also be featured, reflecting the creative collaborations between the kimono maker and several celebrated Japanese artists since the late-19th century.

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

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>.

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In MEMORIAM

Horita, Shizuko, 88, Los Angeles, CA, April 6; she was predeceased by her daughter, Marilyn Horita-Hill; she is survived by her husband, Ted Horita; son, Neil (Claire) Horita; son-in-law, Cameron Hill; gc: 2.

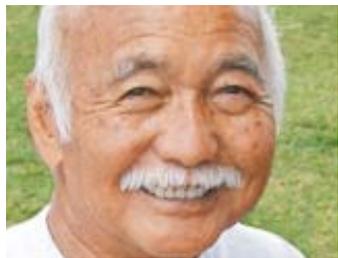
Horiuchi, Katsuhiro, 91, Pasadena, CA, April 10; an Army veteran (Korean War) and Heart Mountain Reunion Committee volunteer, he is survived by his wife, Barbara (Hirata); children, Kris (Daniel Solien), Keary (Lisa Mann) and Kent (Lauren); siblings, Hana Nakamoto and Bob Horiuchi; gc: 4.

Inoue, Teruko, 100, Hilo, HI, April 28; she is survived by her daughter, Karen Inoue; son-in-law, George Kawachi of Hilo; sisters, Kayo (Hiroshi) Kawai and Mie (Edwin) Kuramoto; gc: 4; ggc: 2.

Inouye, Teruko 'Terrie' Hazama, 93, Gardena, CA, May 12; she was predeceased by her son, Stan; siblings, Eddie Hazama, Harriet Kawaguchi and Frances Enomoto; she is survived by her husband, Ben; daughters, Sharon (Vince) Louie and Stephanie (Daniel) Kraft; sister, Misao Okino; gc: 1.

Isago, Hiroshi, 97, Los Angeles, CA, March 11; she was predeceased by her husband, Masumi Isago; she is survived by her daughter, Karen Inoue; son-in-law, George Kawachi; sisters, Kayo (Hiroshi) Kawai, Mie (Edwin) Kuramoto; gc: 4; ggc: 2.

Kikuchi, Hideo Bill, 97, Los Angeles, May 2; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Manzanar WRA Center in CA, the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA and the Crystal City Relocation Center in TX; he was predeceased by his wife, Maria Victoria Shizuka Naganuma; he is survived by his children, Steven Hisao (Janie) Kikuchi, Joseph Yukio (Pauline) Kikuchi and Elsie Akemi (Chuck) Spallone; family friend, Hisako Matsumoto; gc: 5.



Kikuyama, Ichiro, 87, Lahaina, HI, May 6; he is survived by his wife, Hideko; sons, Ben (Sylvia) Kikuyama, Dan (Susan) Kikuyama, John (Dahna) Kikuyama and Dean (Marj) Kikuyama; siblings, Anthony "Masa" (Florence) Kikuyama, Hideo "Harry" (Tsuneko) Kikuyama, Michael Kikuyama and Edna Goya; brother-in-law, Yoshiharu "Sammy" Nakamura; gc: 4; ggc: 2.

Kimura, Sadami, 104, Torrance, CA, April 9.

Kina, Elaine Y., 92, Kaului, HI, Jan. 31; she was predeceased by her husband, Richard Kina, and son, Patrick Kina; she is survived by her children, Karen (John) Yoshida, Nelson Kina and Kathy (Henry) Fong; sister-in-law, Maria Arakaki; gc: 8; ggc: 7.

Mayemura, Terumi, 77, Gardena, CA, March 27; predeceased by brothers, Shinobu, Nobuo, John and George, and lifelong companion, Faye Nakamura; survived by siblings, Susumu (Ana) Mayemura and Mary (Richard) Eubank and many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Mayo, Herbert Jiro, 83, Honolulu, HI, April 2.

Meguro, Masato, 94, Hilo, HI, March 26; an Army veteran, he is survived by his wife, Fumi Meguro; children, Howard (Karen), Kurt and Elaine (Jeff) Hara; sister, Kimiko Apo; daughter-in-law, Helene Meguro; gc: 7.

Nakano, Francis T., 89, Hilo, HI, March 7; she is survived by her son, Daryl Nakano; daughter-in-law, Joan Nakano; sons, Fred Fujiwara and Sheldon Yokomizu; sister, Jeri Na-

kano; she is also survived by many grandchildren, nieces and nephews.



Nakano, Norman Taro, 92, San Jose, CA, March 31; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center; a Navy veteran, he is survived by his wife, Hisako Irene Nakano; children, Patti (Jay) Young, Vickie (Larry) Yamaoka, Karen (Jeff) Whitworth, Carl (Elise) Nakano; sister, Mary Tsukamoto (Dave); gc: 7; ggc: 4.

Nishimoto, Yoshiko, 96, Seal Beach, CA, March 26; she was predeceased by her husband, Bunso Nishimoto; she is survived by her

daughters, Akiko (John) Kobayashi, Chihiro (Harushi) Honbo and Rieko (Ronald) Kuroda; sister, Misako Ueno; gc: 6; ggc: 9.

Ota, Roy Atsumi, 75, Los Angeles, CA, March 8; survived by wife, Yoshiko; children Kristie and Kevin; and many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

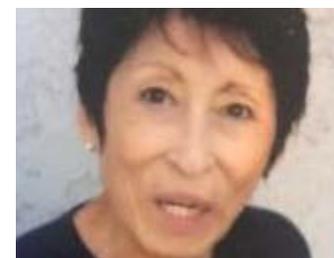
Oye, Yukie Hinomoto Oye, 83, Kamuela, HI, April 14; survived by children, Alton (Brandie) Oye, Georgianne (Jon) Lawson and Marvis (Lane) Yanagisawa; siblings, Toshiaki (Hiromi) Hinomoto, Haruo (Sanae) Hinomoto, Fusae Yamamoto, Mitsue Fushida and Masae Hinomoto; gc: 6.



Suda, Michael, 89, Haiku, HI, Feb. 20; he was predeceased by his son, Mark; he is survived by his wife,

Miyoko; daughter, Mavis.

Suzuki, Hajime, 79, March 4.



Takenaka, June Sayeko, 80, Los Angeles, CA, April 14; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Heart Mountain WRA Center in WY; she was predeceased by her husband, Tommy Tatsuo Takenaka and eldest son, Mark; she is survived by her sons, Paul, Ryan and Eric; siblings, George Kazuo Igi and Nancy Teruko Obrero; gc: 9.

Tsurutome, Masako, 101, Gardena, CA, Jan. 15; she is survived by her daughter, Miyoko Ono; sister, Harue Tsurutome; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Yamasaki, Etsel Kazuyuki, 83, Los Angeles, CA, May 1.

Yoshinaga, Toshio 'Bull,' 94, Los Angeles, CA, March 30; an Army veteran (WWII), he was predeceased by his brothers, Nadao, Hisao and Fumio; he is survived by his sons, Steven (Brenda), Jay (Vera) and Jerry (Wendy); gc: 9; ggc: 7.

TRIBUTE

MAYKO TARUMOTO

Mayko Tarumoto, 98, passed away on Aug. 20, 2020, in Torrance, Calif. She was predeceased by her husband, Bob, and a daughter. She is survived by her sister-in-law, four children, five grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, a great-great-grandchild and nieces and nephews. She was beloved by family and friends.

Mayko grew up in Bell, Calif. She and Bob were interned during World War II at the Rohwer Internment Camp in Arkansas. Upon early release, they moved to Chicago. In 1955, they moved back to Los Angeles, settling in the Gardena-Torrance area. She was active in the Japanese American community. Her involvement included the Gardena Valley Chapter of JAACL, the Gardena Valley Pioneer Project, the Gardena Valley Baptist Church and the Boyle Heights Japanese Retirement Home (later named the Keiro Retirement Home). She also worked at the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute, coordinating senior services.

Mayko was a caring, gracious, and kind person much beloved by family and friends. She was full of life and will be deeply missed by all that knew her.

PLACE A TRIBUTE

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

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REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

TWO-THIRDS OF ADULTS ARE SUFFERING FROM SOCIAL ISOLATION

By Ron Mori

A new study has found that two-thirds of adults report experiencing social isolation and high levels of anxiety since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to “The Pandemic Effect: A Social Isolation Report,” a just-released study conducted by the AARP Foundation in collaboration with the United Health Foundation. The report notes that many of those affected have not turned to anyone for help, perhaps because many don’t have reliable social support networks.

Social isolation is a public health crisis. Social isolation is defined as an “absence of meaningful social relationships.” Studies have found the health risks of social isolation can be more harmful than obesity, and prolonged isolation is equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

In a united effort to help those affected, the foundations recently expanded the website *Connect2Affect.org*, which was originally launched by the AARP Foundation in 2016.

The site offers resources to address social isolation, including an assessment that individuals can take to find out if they or a loved one are at risk for social isolation and get guidance on how to strengthen their social bonds.

Negative Emotions

“The Pandemic Effect: A Social Isolation Report” found that for adults 50 and older who have experienced social isolation during the pandemic, half report feeling less motivated, more than four in 10 (41 percent) report feeling more anxious than usual and more than a third (37 percent) have felt depressed.

A third of women over age 50 reported going 1-3 months without interacting with people outside of their household or workplace, and adults with low and middle incomes who reported experiencing social isolation also said they feel more depressed than adults with higher incomes.

Furthermore, only 11 percent of adults, regardless of age, turned to

a medical professional when feeling down or sad, and almost a third reported that they did not look to anyone for support.

Responding to the Crisis

Commander Scott Kelly, a renowned astronaut who spent 340 days isolated in space, has teamed up with the AARP Foundation and the United Health Foundation to spread the message about the seriousness of social isolation and provide tips on how to successfully emerge from it.

“Living on the International Space Station for nearly a year with literally no way to leave wasn’t easy, so I took precautions for my mental and physical health seriously,” said Kelly. “I’m advocating for individuals, particularly vulnerable older adults, to use available tools like *Connect2Affect.org* to strengthen their social connections.”

To get help, the *Connect2Affect.org* provides resources to help individuals assess their risk for social isolation, as well as find support services in their area. Helpful resources include:

- Social Isolation Risk Assessment — A questionnaire to help individuals determine how connected they are, and which resources would benefit them most.
- Connect2Affect Chatbot — Designed to provide friendly conversation with the goal of helping rebuild social connections. Chatbot conversations are secure, private and accessible 24/7.
- “Social isolation is taking a toll on individuals and communities nationwide, and it’s especially pernicious for those who are 50 or older. This survey shows that older adults who have lower incomes and who are women are at greatest risk,” said Lisa Marsh Ryerson, president of the AARP Foundation. “The tools and resources at *Connect2Affect.org* are designed to help older adults build and maintain the social connections they need to thrive.”
- Dr. Rhonda Randall, executive vp and chief medical officer at United-



A recent study shows that two-thirds of adults are suffering from social isolation. AARP is teaming up with the United Health Foundation to offer ways for individuals to address and improve this public health crisis.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF AARP

Healthcare, added, “Many people don’t know that social isolation can have lasting effects on not only mental health — but also physical health. We’re focused on finding practical solutions to the lack of connections, companionship and the sense of belonging that we all need as humans.”

Please continue to stay safe, and ask for help if you feel isolated and need assistance.

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

LEGACY» continued from page 7

“This year, we also commemorate 75 years since the closing of the Japanese American incarceration camps,” Do continued. “As we remember those who were stripped of their civil liberties, let’s never forget the tenacity and resilience of the Japanese American community. In solidarity, Orange County stands with you.”

In addition, Ron Ono, administrative services manager of the City of Santa Ana Parks, Recreation and Community Services Agency/Landscape Architect City of Santa Ana, worked with the Orange County Civic Center Authority (City of Santa Ana and the County of Orange)

to receive funding for the Japanese Garden project renovation on Dec. 11, 2019, and have the work implemented in January of this year.

The majority of the renovation was finished in September; finishing touches are being completed now.

At the suggestion of Ono, the Orange County Nikkei Coordinating Council provided a new Japanese stone lantern and a time capsule to preserve significant documents about Orange County’s Japanese Community from the early years to the commemoration of this 50th anniversary.

To be able to have this garden be a symbol of what the Orange County Japanese pioneers had envisioned 50 years ago is an amazing tribute to this community and its \$50,000 gift that keeps on giving.

It is hoped that the rededication of this unique garden will remain as a site of inspiration and a remembrance of the beauty of the Japanese culture here in Orange County for future generations.

Being a Yonsei who has lived in Orange County for more than 60 years, I hope the history of this important landmark will now be remembered by all those who live not only in Orange County but throughout this country as a site created by an entire Japanese community who came together to honor their pioneers and a home they held so dear. ■



Pictured are Japanese American Community Services Chairman Hitoshi Nitta and his wife, Mary.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF HITOSHI AND DIANE NITTA



The Japanese Garden, designed by Japanese architects, is 75 feet by 102 feet in size.

PHOTOS: PATTI HIRAHARA

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