

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 91 YEARS

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## A GARDEN FOR ALL GENERATIONS

The Orange County Japanese Garden and Teahouse Celebrates Its Milestone 50th Anniversary.



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JACL National Board Meets to Discuss 2021 Goals and Initiatives.

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Support Is Needed to Save SF Japantown Small Businesses.

Individuals recognized by the Orange County Board of Supervisors for the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Orange County Japanese Garden and Teahouse on Nov. 10 in the Orange County Civic Center in the City of Santa Ana. Pictured (from left) are Ron Ono, City of Santa Ana; Mayor Pro Tem Juan Villegas, Santa Ana City Council; Supervisor Lisa Sato Bartlett, OC Fifth District; the Hon. Consul General of Japan Akira Muto; Vice Chairman Andrew Do, OC First District; Supervisor Doug Chaffee, OC Fourth District; Supervisor Donald P. Wagner, OC Third District; Patti Hirahara, Orange County Japanese American History Preservationist; Chris Jepsen, Orange County Historian; and Jesse James, treasurer representing the Orange County Nikkei Coordinating Council.

PHOTO: 7 DREAMS PRODUCTIONS

# FULL-STEAM AHEAD FOR JACL NATIONAL AS 2021 APPROACHES

The organization meets virtually as it discusses organizational plans for the new year.

By P.C. Staff

Although still not able to meet in person because of the ongoing (and worsening) COVID-19 pandemic, the JACL National Board met virtually on Nov. 14 to solidify plans for the upcoming new year.

In attendance were several newly appointed National Board members, including Secretary/Treasurer Matthew Farrells, VP of 1,000 Club, Membership and Services Saki Mori and former JACL National President David Lin, who returns to a leadership role as vp of planning and development. All three individuals were named to the board by National President Jeffrey Moy and approved during a recent board conference call.

With the JACL National Board now complete and in place for the next biennium, Moy proceeded to welcome updates following a presentation by JACL National Legal Counsel Brandon Mita on "Nonprofit Board Governance and Your Duties as a Board Member."

Executive Director David Inoue then discussed JACL's recent organizational activities, including its work with NCAPA partners to follow up on the electoral process to begin identifying potential appointees to recommend to the incoming Biden administration across all levels of government, as well as supporting the Japanese American Confinement Education Act, introduced recently by Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA) and

Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT) that will reauthorize \$38 million in funding to support education programs on the Japanese American incarceration experience.

In his report to the board, Inoue stated, "The next two months and upcoming year will be very crucial to engaging our membership on our policy priorities to ensure we make progress. The JACE Act, HR 40 and Neighbors Not Enemies Act are three prime pieces of legislation where Japanese Americans and JACL can make a powerful impact. As we continue to find our footing as a membership and chapter-driven organization during COVID, how we engage our members will be especially important.

"We want to emphasize how important our chapters are," Inoue concluded. "We need to uplift our chapters and the work that they do and engage our members because that's what keeps us alive and active and moving forward."

VP of General Operations Marissa Kitazawa gave an update on the big question of the day: the status of the 2021 National Convention.

JACL had to forego its planned Las Vegas Convention this year and instead held a virtual gathering due to the pandemic. With the administration of an approved vaccine still potentially months away and with coronavirus cases spiking to new records across the nation, holding an in-person meeting this summer remains highly uncertain.

To discuss all options, the

board passed a motion suggested by Kitazawa to create a special committee to potentially implement ways to conduct business virtually, as the health and safety of its staff and members is its No. 1 priority.

Inoue also stated that a final convention decision needs to be made in early January.

"We need to decide sooner rather than later if we are going virtual to make it easier to negotiate with the hotel (Bally's Hotel and Casino). . . . The sooner we decide, the more flexibility the hotel will have in shifting things to where we can carry things over into 2022," he said.

Among other highlights: Secretary/Treasurer Farrells reported that JACL's net asset base continues to grow, resulting in \$358K over 2019 through Sept. 30, with total assets of \$14.28M.

Deficit has been reduced since the

end of Q2 and through Q3. Will continue to drive toward further reductions into year's end.

- Membership revenue was strong for the period, 17 percent above budget and 12 percent above 2019, period over period.
- 2021 will bring a more realistic budget regarding revenue expectations for the P.C., and more staff resources will be allocated on fundraising and development activities.
- According to Membership Coordinator Phillip Ozaki, new JACL members lean female (60 percent vs. 40 percent male) and under age 25, but still 33 percent are 40-plus.
- Students are 43 percent of new members, followed by regular/individual at 39 percent and couple/family at 13 percent.
- Half of all members are from California, but 1 in 8 are from other regions (NCWNP 32 percent, PSW 17 percent, PNW 13 percent, EDC 12 percent, MDC 12 percent, IDC 11 percent, CCDC 2 percent, National A. 1 percent).

*The next National Board meeting will be held in March 2021.*

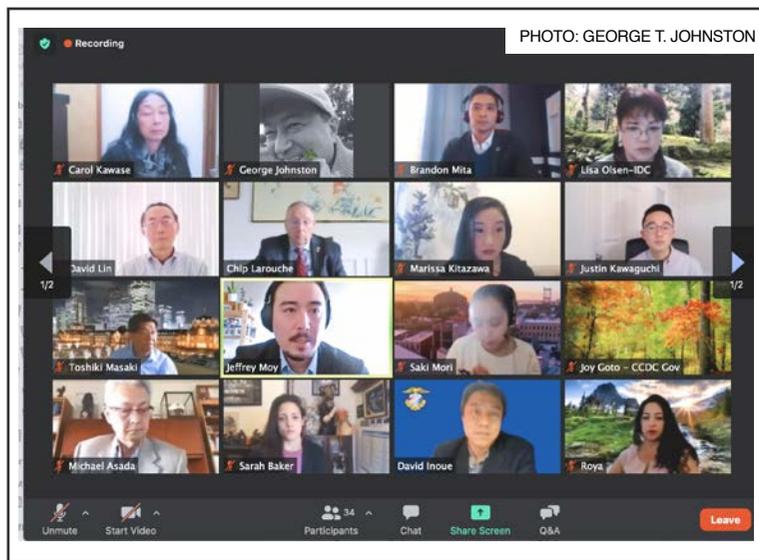


PHOTO: GEORGE T. JOHNSTON

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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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# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## SOMETHING EVERYONE CAN GIVE THANKS FOR

By David Inoue,  
JACL Executive Director

The original Japanese American Confinement Sites Program was signed into law in December 2006 with strong bipartisan support. In fact, the bill was led in the House by Rep. Bill Thomas of California, the powerful chair of the Ways and Means Committee. The Senate bill was led by the late-Sen. Daniel Inouye. Unfortunately, neither Thomas nor Inouye are still in Congress, and the original JACS program is running out of money.

Fortunately, just a month ago, Rep. Doris Matsui, the first co-sponsor on Rep. Thomas' bill, introduced HR 8637, the Japanese American Confinement Education Act. This legislation would renew the JACS program with fresh funding of \$38 million, which should continue the program for another 12 years.

In addition, the JACE Act establishes a new museum-based program to promote education regarding the Japanese American experience during World War II. This new program, in addition to the original JACS program, will bring with it \$10 million in new funding and comes at the suggestion of House Speaker

Nancy Pelosi.

The program is modeled after the recently signed-into-law Holocaust Education Act and similarly would be implemented through the leadership of a museum setting.

While this bill is led by a Democrat, the first co-sponsor in the House is Republican Congressman Rob Bishop, the ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee, which has jurisdiction over this legislation.

We could not have asked for a more ideal co-sponsor, as Bishop's career before coming to Congress was as a high school history teacher who chaired the history department at the high school where he taught.

Congressman Don Young (R-Alaska) stated upon introduction of the bill, "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."

The House bill has 21 co-sponsors, including five Republicans. The original JACS bill had 114 co-sponsors, with 22 Republicans among them, so we have quite a bit of work to get to similar numbers.

This is where you, JACL's membership,

are important. Congress is not done yet for the year, and we are making a push to gain support for this legislation.

On Dec. 1, the first of three days in our GivingTuesday Series, we want you to call your representative and ask him or her to support HR 8637 to ensure that the National Park Service will be able to continue to fund programs to enhance our understanding and knowledge about the incarceration experience through the lens of the confinement sites. The new education program would help to ensure more students have the opportunity to learn about the Japanese American experience with quality curriculum and resources.

For more information about the JACS program and the GivingTuesday Series, visit the JACL website, where we have fact sheets, reference materials to see if your congressional district has received JACS funding and more.

You can also see the information box on this page. When we gather together for the last Tuesday of the GivingTuesday series, let's plan to be thankful for the broad bipartisan support created for the JACE Act.

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

**JACL/AARP**  
**2020 Public**  
**Opinion Survey**

We want to hear your thoughts on recent events, perspectives on aging, and engagement with the Japanese American Community. You will have the opportunity to enter a drawing to win a \$100 gift card from Amazon and can help your chapter win a free registration for the next JACL National Convention.

Take the Survey at:  
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**! ACTION ALERT**



# GIVINGTUESDAY Series

**ANY MEMBER, ANYWHERE CAN TAKE ACTION TO GIVE BACK!**



## Join us for JACS Advocacy Day

The Japanese American Confinement Education Act (H.R. 8637) enables \$38M for the WWII Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) program and \$10M for new education programs. By "giving advocacy", you will help our community secure this funding!



**BY PHONE**

**Step 1:**

By Dec 1, call the House switchboard at **202-225-3121**.

**Step 2:**

Ask the staff - or leave a voicemail - to **"please support H.R.8637, the Japanese American Confinement Education Act"**. Share your story!

**Step 3:**

Share this information with family and friends



## Help us grow our membership

Website above or call 773-816-1318



## Join our end-of-2020 Membership Zoom/Call

More information coming soon

**For more info go to: [www.jacl.org/givingtuesdayseries](http://www.jacl.org/givingtuesdayseries)**



## A MOTHER'S TAKE ELECTION REFLECTION

By Marsha Aizumi

Like so many of us, I unplugged from the television on election night, unable to hear another word about the votes being cast. It was disheartening to think that we might have another four years of a person who didn't care about my son and so many other families and communities. But then each passing day brought more news seeming to signal a positive trajectory for the Biden/Harris ticket. Cautiously, I began to have hope again.

Since I am an educator, lessons have always been a part of my life. Whether faced with joy or sorrow, I believe that learning something for my future self could be gleaned from any experience, and so here are just a few lessons that touched me as I moved through the Biden/Harris campaign and election.

I learned from Stacey Abrams that

even in the midst of defeat, perhaps there is a greater plan — I just have to look for it.

Stacey worked so hard in Georgia to fight the voter suppression that I believe caused her loss for governor in 2018. She registered 800,000 voters for 2020! She also took her knowledge and taught other states how to organize and get out the vote. Thank you, Stacey Abrams, for being a ray of hope and voice for Georgia and eventually to so many others, like me. We still have work to do . . . let's take back the senate on Jan. 5, 2021.

I learned from now-President-Elect Joe Biden that age is just a number. By listening to his heart, he overcame two failed presidential attempts and multiples losses in the 2020 Democratic primary for president. Sometimes, timing is everything.

In Biden, I saw that being there for your children, whether it be by their hospital bedside, tucking them in at

**Biden/  
Harris  
creating  
a safer  
world for  
my sons**

PHOTO:  
COURTESY OF  
MARSHA AIZUMI



night or saying on national television that I am proud of my son who has recovered from drugs, can give them the best chance to find success and know they will always have a place to belong. A father is not determined by biology, but by being there when your children need you.

President-Elect Biden also taught me that the ability to forgive might be one of the most courageous and unselfish things I can do. Even after Sen. Kamala Harris criticized him at one of the presidential debates, he still chose her to be his running mate because she would be the best

person to lead the country with him. Wisdom comes in many forms.

I understand that leadership often means taking a stand, even if I don't think it will make a difference. Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.) took a stand after a woman told him, "We need to hear from you," and the Black voters were the turning point for Joe Biden's campaign. One voice CAN make a difference.

I believe that coming from humble backgrounds, raised by a single parent, does not define who you are. Only YOU can define who you are. And what we see today is the first mixed-race, Black and Southeast Asian woman, vice president-elect of the United States. How many little girls are now dreaming bigger because of Harris?

Finally, I believe you can be scared and brave at the same time. Whenever I picked up the phone to make a call for Japanese Americans for Biden/Harris, I felt scared. And then when I hung up the phone, I felt brave. We can all be courageous in small ways.

On the day Joe Biden was declared the new leader of our country, I saw cities around the world gather to rejoice, a country toll bells, world

leaders say, "Welcome back, America." A political commentator named Van Jones expressed his relief through tears as he shared, "It's easier being a parent this morning . . . easier to tell your kids character matters, telling the truth matters, being a good person matters."

On the day Joe Biden was elected, I also received a message from my cousin who has children and grandchildren who are both Japanese and Black, a text from a mother who has lesbian and transgender children and a Facebook friend who messaged me that we were a beacon of light for the world.

Grandmothers were celebrating, mothers and fathers were celebrating and the world was celebrating. I broke down in tears because I know that even though the days ahead will be challenging, the world is going to be better for so many people that I love. . . .

*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 HANDLING ALZHEIMER'S RELATIONSHIPS

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq

*'She's not the one with the disease, but she's having to live with it. So, as I might be asking for special consideration from her from time to time, I need to go ahead and give that to her. We get anxious, we get frustrated and we get the tenancy to take it out on those closest to us at the time. So, I try real hard not to do that anymore — real hard. Because I want the time we have left together to be the best that it can be.'* (Source: [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org))

A diagnosis of early-stage Alzheimer's disease doesn't just affect those with the disease — it affects everyone who loves and cares about the person affected. In the early stage of Alzheimer's, most people are still able to function independently. He or she might still drive, take part in social activities, volunteer and even work.

As a care partner (a term many choose to use rather than "caregiver," since a person in the early stage of dementia might not need much assistance), you might find yourself in a new and unfamiliar role. Your role as care partner is an important one: to provide support and companionship and help plan for the future.

With an early diagnosis, you and

the person with dementia now have the opportunity to make decisions about the future together, including legal, financial and long-term care planning. The person living with dementia can take advantage of available treatments, participation in clinical trials and you both can benefit from local resources and support services.

One of the greatest challenges care partners face is not knowing how much assistance to give or when to give it because the person with early-stage dementia is primarily independent with dressing, bathing, walking and might still drive, volunteer or work. The most difficult tasks might involve managing a daily schedule or household budget.

As a care partner, your support with these everyday tasks can help the person with dementia develop new coping strategies that will help to maximize his or her independence. Every relationship is different, but finding balance between interdependence and independence might increase confidence for both of you.

Remember, you are still the same person you were before the diagnosis, but now, everything has changed. As the care partner, you might be feeling overwhelmed by emotions that range from fear to hope. Emotions might be triggered by thoughts about how this diagnosis will impact your life and the anticipation of future

challenges. These questions and feelings are normal.

Learning to recognize your emotions can help you move forward and help the person with dementia live the best life possible. You might be unsure of where to go for information, anxious about what to expect as the disease progresses and concerned about your ability to support the person living with dementia.

Let's be honest — if you get sick, you'll be of no help to your loved one. Caregiving can tax your patience and foster fatigue, frustration and guilt, becoming a grueling grind that takes a heavy toll on the caregiver's body and mind. The effects on physical and mental health are well documented:

- 36 percent of family caregivers characterize their situation as highly stressful, according to a 2020 report from AARP and the National Alliance for Caregiving.
- A 2018 study from insurance firm Genworth found that four in 10 caregivers experienced depression, mood swings and resentment as a result of their labors.
- Research cited by the American Psychological Assn. found that among people age 55-75, those who are caregivers show a 23 percent higher level of stress hormones, which can lead to high blood pressure, and a 15 percent lower level of immune response, making them more vulnerable to

the flu and other infections (like Covid-19).

Over time, that physical and psychological wear and tear can lead to caregiver burnout — a condition of feeling exhausted, listless and unable to cope. It can cause caregivers to make mistakes that could endanger a loved one, such as mismanaging medication, or lead to unhealthy behaviors such as smoking or alcohol abuse.

That's why it's so important to watch for signs of caregiver burnout and take proactive steps to deal with it before it spirals out of control. The following are tips to reduce caregiver stress (*see [www.aarp.org/caregiving](http://www.aarp.org/caregiving), [www.aarp.org/caregiving/life-balance/info-2019/caregiver-stress-burnout](http://www.aarp.org/caregiving/life-balance/info-2019/caregiver-stress-burnout) for a complete list*):

- **Give yourself a break.** Ask a friend or relative to fill in for you for a few hours occasionally so you can take a walk, watch a movie or go out to dinner.
- **Simplify your communication.** Keeping extended family and friends up to date about your loved one's situation through phone calls or individual emails can be tiring, and you might not want to broadcast that information on social media.
- **Join a support group.** If you feel like you're alone in your struggle,

talking with other family caregivers can lift your spirits and help you think through solutions to various problems.

- **Nurture positive relationships.** You may be overwhelmed, but take the time to talk with your closest friends and family members.
- **Spend an evening with someone who is a good listener.** Limit your interactions with negative people who will drag down your mood and perspective.
- **Take care of your own health.** Set a goal to establish a good sleep routine and exercise a certain number of hours every week.
- **Be sure to eat healthy foods and drink plenty of water.** See your doctor for recommended immunizations and screenings.
- **Tell your physician** that you're a caregiver and bring up any concerns you might have. A daily relaxation and meditation practice can be beneficial as well.

*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.*

PHOTOS: DAVID TOSHIYUKI/FACEBOOK

# SAVE JAPANTOWN!

The future of San Francisco Japantown's small businesses hangs in the balance as the unrelenting pandemic continues.

By Haruka Roudebush, Contributor

Like communities everywhere throughout the United States, San Francisco's Japantown community has witnessed dramatic changes in day-to-day life since COVID-19 shelter-in-place restrictions took effect in mid-March.

In addition to the stress and necessary adjustments stemming from the disruption to everyday life and concerns for public health and safety, Japantown is now faced with increasing anxiety for the future of the community as the pandemic continues to take its toll on the economy.

As the small businesses of the neighborhood have struggled to survive despite the earnest support of the community, Japantown's two major commercial landlords in the main Japan Center shopping mall have remained unresponsive to attempts by mall tenants to negotiate rents, late fees and repayment of back rent from the months COVID kept neighborhood businesses shuttered or operating at greatly reduced capacity.

Many are concerned that the continuing demands of the Japan Center mall landlords threaten the imminent closure of small businesses in the mall, and with the potential loss of Japantown's shops and restaurants en masse, the fate of the community grows precariously uncertain.



The "Picnic at the Plaza" program has helped generate nearly 70 percent of Japantown restaurant revenue since its start in mid-July.

Japantown is now faced with what seems to be the next iteration of challenges to its survival since the forced relocation and incarceration of the community during World War II. The shopping mall itself has its own controversial history in the community.

It opened in 1968 as the Japanese Cultural and Trade Center following the displacement of 8,000 neighborhood residents and family businesses, as the city Board of Supervisors deemed the area as blighted and designated it to be redeveloped by the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency in the late 1950s.

Since the opening of the shopping center, the Peace Plaza, with its iconic concrete pagoda flanked by the mall buildings to the east and west, has dominated the neighborhood's remaining square blocks and is a main attraction and gathering point for

visitors and locals alike.

Within the mall, the main building landlords are currently the Kinokuniya Bookstores of America, the corporate entity of one of the mall's anchor tenants, as well as Beverly Hills-based real estate investment firm 3-D Investments, whose quick purchase of its holdings in the Japan Center in 2006 from Japan-based corporation Kintetsu Enterprise Company of America also evoked outcry from the community.

The possibility of the new ownership deciding to tear down the mall to redevelop the property into market-rate high-rise housing was a primary concern of the community



at the time of the sale. Community leaders and organizers concerned for the preservation of Japantown's cultural heritage then turned to the city government for support that resulted in a set of agreements made by 3-D Investments and enforceable by the city government that promised that the developers would not sell the properties for 15 years and that they would maintain the cultural heritage of the neighborhood by retaining Japanese-themed commercial tenants in the mall, as well as commitments to allow the community to use the malls for annual celebrations such as the Cherry Blossom Festival and make financial contributions to local community organizations.

The covenant made under then-Mayor Gavin Newsom is currently set to expire in 2021, at which time it is uncertain what the developers will choose to do with their mall properties.

Shortly after the COVID-19 shelter-in-place order took effect in San Francisco on March 17, the entire mall was also forced to close for what was initially assumed a limited time. However, as the pandemic has dragged on for months, back rent and bills have been mounting, already resulting in several businesses in Japantown closing permanently.

While restaurants in the Japan Center have continued to operate to serve take-out and delivery orders, restaurants inside the mall without immediate street access to set up outdoor dining have suffered major losses of

revenue from indoor dining.

San Francisco's shelter-in-place restrictions began to ease in June, allowing for patrons to re-enter the mall for limited capacity and contactless shopping. But with severe declines in foot traffic to retailers and restaurants, businesses have only been able to generate a fraction of their normal volume of business.

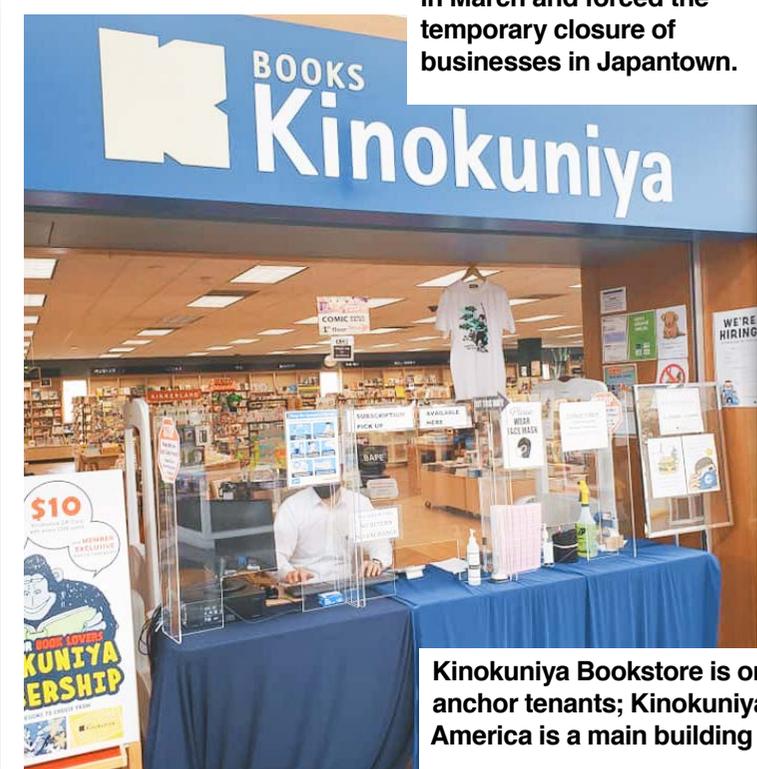
"From talking with some of the other businesses in the malls, most of us were only bringing in about 20-30 percent of the revenue we'd normally be bringing in," said Ryan Kimura, owner of Pika Pika, a shop operating Japanese photobooths in the Kinokuniya building. "It's not enough to cover our overhead."

For businesses like Pika Pika that are designated as entertainment spaces — including bars, arcades and karaoke lounges — COVID-19 restrictions have prevented them from reopening at all since March. Unfortunately, now with the recent spike in COVID cases nationally, all indoor dining in San Francisco was suspended on Nov. 13, presenting another slowdown in business for the immediate future.

Meanwhile, as the mall's businesses have suffered, Kinokuniya and 3-D have continued to demand full rent from their tenants, as well as continuing to charge for Common Area Maintenance (CAM) fees and utilities, as well as adding on late fees for rent.

The charges for CAM fees in the mall had already been an existing issue of contention with tenants, as CAM charges had increased over

San Francisco's shelter-in-place order took effect in March and forced the temporary closure of businesses in Japantown.



Kinokuniya Bookstore is one of the mall's anchor tenants; Kinokuniya Bookstores of America is a main building landlord.



# A GARDEN FOR ALL GENERATIONS

In honor of its 50th anniversary, the Orange County Japanese Garden and Teahouse celebrates its milestone with a COVID-19-safe event.

By Guadalupe Carrasco, Contributor

Due to the ongoing pandemic brought on by COVID-19, opportunities to share historic milestone stories with the public have been challenging. However, in keeping with strict city and county health guidelines, the County of Orange was able to hold a safe event to celebrate a cultural landmark within the Japanese American community.

The County of Orange, in cooperation with the City of Santa Ana and the Orange County Nikkei Coordinating Council, hosted a commemoration event in honor of the Orange County Japanese Garden and Teahouse's 50th anniversary on Nov. 10. The event, opened to a small number of invited guests, honored the traditions of the Japanese culture and heritage of the Japanese American community.

One year ago, the county was made aware of the upcoming anniversary of the Orange County Japanese Garden and Teahouse due to a bronze plaque commemorating the struc-

ture's dedication on May 27, 1970, which is on display in the garden. After numerous communications, the wheels were put into motion to have the garden and teahouse renovated by the Orange County Civic Center Authority (City of Santa Ana/County of Orange), find documentation about the history of the garden to create a special commemoration event on its 50th anniversary and find both the people who were part of the original fundraising committee of the Japanese American Community Services Inc. (JACS), as well as the original Issei adviser descendants.

With the garden being in the jurisdiction of the Orange County Board of Supervisor's First District, Vice Chairman Andrew Do's office began working on creating a large special commemorative event. However, as

the COVID-19 pandemic grew into epic proportions earlier this year, staff began brainstorming alternative ways to safely commemorate such a special occasion.

Documents found in the Orange County Archives by local historian Chris Jepsen showed the actual dedication was held on Nov. 15, 1970. This information gave the planning team more time to allow the garden renovation to be completed. It also created an opportunity for a smaller group to be assembled to mark this historic anniversary.

Unfortunately, many of the Japanese pioneers who were a part of this milestone garden project, as well as their descendants, had already passed away, so few clues were left of what had transpired.

With Jepsen doing further research, it was discovered that the County of Orange Civic Center Commission approved the plans for a 75-foot-by-102-foot Japanese garden, which replaced a portion of a dusty parking lot along the east wall of the new Richard Neutra-designed courthouse, that was dedicated in January 1969 (see *Pacific Citizen's* Oct. 23-Nov. 5, 2020, issue).

According to County of Orange documents, "The garden, to be a gift to the County by the Orange County Japanese American community, was first proposed to the OC Board of Supervisors on Jan. 16, 1968, and approved in principle by Resolution 68-63."

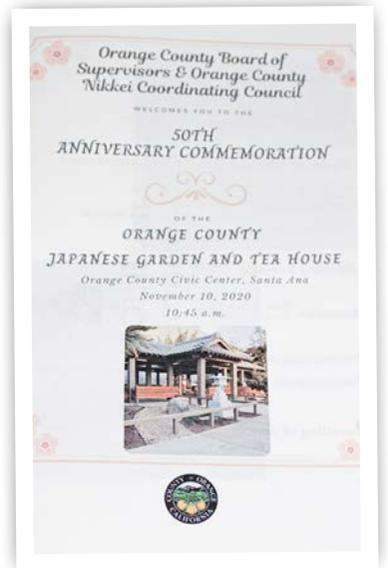
This proposal was unique since the discussion was done by the county's chief administrative officer in an oral presentation in which no written documents were presented. It was understood that the Jap-

Orange County and Santa Ana Officials gather for group photo at the OC Japanese Garden's 50th Commemoration Ceremony. Pictured (from left) are Fourth District Supervisor Doug Chaffee, Fifth District Supervisor Lisa Sato Bartlett, Vice Chairman and First District Supervisor Andrew Do, Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles Akira Muto, Third District Supervisor Don Wagner and Santa Ana Mayor Pro Tem Juan Villegas.



Hon. Consul General Akira Muto and OC Supervisor Lisa Sato Bartlett

The check-in and temperature check table was created with both cultural and Covid-19 requirements in mind. Pictured is Joyce Rivero, wearing a Japanese women's haori jacket, who welcomed guests.



The event's official program

anese garden was going to be funded by private donations.

In looking at the County agreement filed on July 2, 1969, the project was delayed by seven months but completed six weeks after the original projected completion date of Sept. 30, 1970. The county also agreed to accept the gift and maintain it as a Japanese garden with the recommended help of those that had the skill to prune and maintain the site for future generations.



Vice Chairman Supervisor Andrew Do, First District, Orange County Board of Supervisors, offers welcome remarks on behalf of his district, which includes the City of Santa Ana and the Orange County Civic Center, where the Japanese Garden and Teahouse has thrived for 50 years.



The 50th Anniversary Commemoration Plaque of the Orange County Japanese Garden and Teahouse, November 1970-November 2020



OC Supervisor Lisa Sato Bartlett, JACL's Japanese American of the Biennium for 2020, was the master of ceremony.



SELANOCO JACL President Ryan Yoshikawa (left) congratulates plaque honorees Patti Hirahara and Chris Jepsen on their work to locate historic information on the OC Japanese Garden.

Having worked for the City of Santa Ana for 51 years, Administrative Services Manager and Landscape Architect Ron Ono was honored for his work on acquiring funding for the renovation of the Orange County Japanese Garden and overseeing the renovation in time for its 50th anniversary and rededication on Nov. 10.



Once the Japanese garden was accepted by the county, the county would take full responsibility for the garden and the liabilities that would arise from those that used the garden in the future. This agreement was signed by Chairman of the OC Board of Supervisors William Hirstein and Orange County JACS Chairman Hitoshi Nitta.

The Japanese Garden and Teahouse was dedicated on Nov. 15, 1970, and now, 50 years later, another significant ceremony was held on Nov. 10 at a small outdoor setting to rededicate and commemorate its establishment.

Orange County Supervisor Lisa Sato Bartlett, Fifth District, served as the event's master of ceremonies, and she led the Pledge of Allegiance with the assistance of Orange County's own 95-year-old Don Miyada, who



On behalf of the OCNCC, Kenneth Inouye receives a City of Santa Ana Certificate of Recognition from Juan Villegas, mayor pro tem of the City of Santa Ana and vice chairman of the Orange County Civic Center Authority.

is one of the last surviving members of World War II's 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team.

"It was my honor and privilege to participate in the 50th anniversary celebration of the Japanese Garden and Teahouse," Supervisor Bartlett said. "This is a very special place and a wonderful tribute to the Japanese American community for their many contributions to Orange County over the years."

She then proceeded to introduce the event's honored guests, which included the Hon. Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles Akira Muto and his wife, Misako; Supervisor Do, representing the First District and Vice Chairman of the Orange County Board of Supervisors; Supervisor Doug Chaffee, representing the Fourth District; Supervisor Don Wagner, representing the Third District; Juan Villegas, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Santa Ana; the Hon. Kirk Nakamura, presiding Judge of the Orange County Superior Court; David Yamasaki, court executive officer of the Superior Court of

Host representatives of the Orange County Nikkei Coordinating Council are (from left) SELANOCO JACL Rep. Kenneth Inouye and OCNCC Treasurer and Orange County Japanese Garden Project Coordinator Jesse James with the *Rafu Shimpō's* Michael Komai.



California, County of Orange; Ryan Yoshikawa, SELANOCO JACL president; Miyada and his wife, Setsuko, representing the Kazuo Masuda VFW Memorial Post 3670; Takashi Kushi, Orange County Gardeners Assn. vp; and Michael Komai, publisher and president of the *Rafu Shimpō, Los Angeles Japanese Daily News*.

Representing the JACS, the original organization that spearheaded the fundraising efforts for the Orange County Japanese Garden 50 years ago, were Diane and Hitoshi A. Nitta, whose father, Hitoshi, was chairman of JACS and whose grandfather, Shosuke, was a garden Issei adviser; JACS Charter Board Member Keiko Sadakane and Janice Munemitsu, whose father, Tad, was a JACS board member and canvassing chairman and whose grandfather, Seima Munemitsu, was a garden Issei adviser.

In attendance from the Orange County Nikkei Coordinating Council were Jesse James, treasurer and Orange County Japanese Garden project coordinator; and Kenneth

Inouye, who was the 2019 OCNCC Nisei Week Japanese Spirit honoree and an OCNCC representative.

Supervisor Do was then asked to give welcome remarks on behalf of the First District. "The Japanese Garden and Teahouse is an expression of the resilience and vibrancy of the Orange County Japanese American community. . . . The history of the garden has been a well-kept secret for 50 years. But with this rededication, especially with the upcoming completion of the County Civic Center and our new soon-to-be completed County Administration North building, the Japanese Garden and Teahouse will continue to thrive and be used by our residents for the next 100 years," said Do.

Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles, Akira Muto, stated that he and his wife were honored to join in this special occasion.

"I extend my gratitude for all the contributions made by the Japanese American pioneers who established the foundation of the dynamic community we have been blessed with today," Consul General Muto said.



PHOTOS: PATTI HIRAHARA

Descendants and board member of the original Japanese American Community Services Inc. Pictured (from left) are JACS Board Member Keiko Sadakane, Diane and Hitoshi A. Nitta, whose father, Hitoshi, was JACS chairman, and Janice Munemitsu, whose father, Tad, was a JACS board member and canvassing chairman.

"The garden is an excellent example of where grass-roots exchanges have brought greater understanding."

Juan Villegas, mayor pro tem of the City of Santa Ana, then presented a Certificate of Recognition to the Orange County Nikkei Coordinating Council. Villegas reminisced about his 31-year career in law enforcement and how one of his favorite memories was being assigned to look after this Japanese garden as a member of the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

The Orange County Board of Supervisors also presented a proclamation to the Orange County Nikkei Coordinating Council for their support on the project.

To conclude the rededication ceremony, a special plaque unveiling was made by the Orange County Board of Supervisors and the Orange County Nikkei Coordinating Council to honor those that made the 50th anniversary of the Orange County Japanese Garden and Teahouse possible.

» See GARDEN on page 12

## LISA BARTLETT: A PROFILE OF MORAL COURAGE

A personal perspective of the Orange County member of the Board of Supervisors

By Kenneth K. Inouye, Contributor

Lisa Sato Bartlett is a member of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, serving the Fifth District. She was elected to this position in 2014 and has served as the chair of the Orange County Board of Supervisors on two separate occasions; she is currently serving her second term as a member of the Board of Supervisors.

I had the privilege of working with Supervisor Bartlett while I was serving as an appointed member of the Orange County Human Relations Commission.

During the time that I worked with her, I noted that Supervisor Bartlett consistently supported activities

that recognize the needs of the diverse population that lives/works in Orange County.

She is truly one of the best examples of an elected official who advocates for the rights and interests for all the people in Orange County, not just those from her political party or supporters.

Supervisor Bartlett recently received the JACL's Japanese American of the Biennium award in the field of political/public affairs for her many years of public service and the moral courage that she exhibited when she publicly accused a sitting member of the California Assembly of harassment.

The assemblyman sought the endorsement of the powerful Orange County Republican Central

Committee as he sought to run for another term.

She made these accusations even though her prior allegations against this assemblyman had been previously swept under the rug (the assemblyman had strong allies within the Republican party).

It should be noted that since Supervisor Bartlett filed her complaints, three other women have stepped forward to accuse the assemblyman of having made unwanted advances toward them as well.

By making these allegations, Supervisor Bartlett placed herself in the awkward position of being a whistleblower against a senior elected official from the same political party.

When she was questioned why she would "betray" her own political party, Supervisor Bartlett stood firm and said, "We cannot continue to endorse someone who uses his title and the powers of his office to prey on women."

It should be noted that Supervisor Bartlett knew that her actions could have an adverse impact on her political career, but she also knew that her willingness to come forward would encourage others who might have similar circumstances to also come forward as we strive to create an America where ALL WOMEN can live free of harassment of any kind.

My fond hope is that Supervisor Bartlett's actions will help pave the way for other policy makers to

make their decisions based upon principles and what is right for their constituents as opposed to sticking to the "party line," which is often based on self-interest and political gain.

America can truly be a better place if ALL OF OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS had the moral courage of Supervisor Bartlett. ■



## JAPANTOWN » continued from page 5

Tenant Pika Pika, classified as an entertainment space, has been unable to reopen since March due to COVID-19 restrictions.



Japantown restaurants are only open for take-out and delivery orders, with many setting up stands in the plaza to serve customers.

PHOTOS: DAVID TOSHIYUKI/FACEBOOK

The tenants' attorneys' attempts in May to initiate further rent relief negotiations with Kinokuniya and 3-D have not progressed since.

At public meetings, our landlords have claimed that we're all in this together, but what they've shown is that they're not willing

to negotiate," said Stephen Jordan, proprietor of the Sakura Sakura shop in the West Mall. "They're more concerned about collecting rent than the livelihood of our community."

Newsom issued an executive order establishing a statewide eviction moratorium by the end of March 2020, which has since been extended through the end of March 2021. Similarly, San Francisco Mayor London Breed placed a COVID eviction moratorium for the city of San Francisco that was extended through the end of September, and again through the end of November.

By October, with the expiration date of the city's eviction moratorium approaching, the tenants' attorneys began working with San Francisco city officials to draft an ordinance to extend the moratorium deadline to match the state's deadline to the end of March 2021, as well as provide a pathway for the city's small businesses to repay back rent owed over the course of the following two years without the threat of eviction.

Kimura and other Japan Center businesses initiated a citywide campaign titled "Save SF Small Businesses" to lobby the city Board of Supervisors to pass the ordinance, which was sponsored by city district supervisors Aaron Peskin, Ahsha Safai and Japantown's own district supervisor, Dean Preston.

The campaign garnered more than 1,000 signatures for its online petition and inundated district supervisors with emails and phone calls from constituents, with additional social media support from primarily Yonsei community activists and organizers from the recently formed Japantown for Justice organization.

Voices in support of the ordinance

during public comment at the Board of Supervisors' hearings came prominently from small business owners and community members from San Francisco's Chinatown and Japantown communities, including Judy Hamaguchi, San Francisco JACL chapter board member.

During the Land Use and Transportation committee hearing on Nov. 2, Supervisor Peskin stated, "... our imperative is to maintain the cultural fabric of different neighborhoods in San Francisco ranging from Chinatown, that I represent, to Japantown that Supervisor Preston represents, and other neighborhoods across the city, and we cannot afford to delay this because if we do, we will wake up to communities like Chinatown that are decimated with the unique cultural heritages that they represent."

The ordinance was passed by the Board of Supervisor's Land Use and Transportation Committee on Nov. 2, and with a unanimous 11-0 vote by the full city board on Nov. 10. The ordinance was further amended on Nov. 17 to clarify provisions in the legislations to allow small businesses with under 10 employees to terminate their leases early upon paying back rent owed.

While the passing of the ordinance has provided a temporary sense of relief to Japan Center tenants from the threat of eviction, businesses are still burdened with what might be insurmountable debt, even with a two-year repayment period for back rent.

Mall tenants hope that the ordinance will apply pressure for the landlords to respond to requests for relief, as attorney Matsuda explained: "Landlords and tenants can continue to negotiate on their own, but what this ordinance does is provide a framework that they can work off of."

It remains to be seen if Kinokuniya and 3-D will open up negotiations with their tenants moving forward, and small businesses still face the daunting challenge of recovering in the economic downturn while having to find a way to repay back rent once the eviction moratorium ends.

Beyond reliance on the city government to provide a legislative remedy,

the pandemic has prompted months of heightened community support for Japantown's small businesses and organizations.

In an effort to generate foot traffic for the remaining businesses and restaurants, the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California, with financial support from the Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation and the Japantown Community Benefits District (JCBD), coordinated the "Picnic at the Plaza" program, which provided socially distanced and sanitized public outdoor seating for Japantown restaurant patrons to enjoy their takeout orders every weekend from mid-July through the end of November.

While weekday foot traffic remains slow due to the lack of tourists, weekend patronage has been bolstered, and the program has helped generate an estimated 70 percent of Japantown restaurant revenue since its start and more than 18,000 patrons served.

Other community efforts to support small businesses have come from fundraising and relief campaigns, including the San Francisco Japantown Foundation, which has raised over \$140,000 to be disbursed to Japantown businesses and organizations through grants, as well as the JCBD's "Heart of Japantown" COVID relief campaign, which raised \$500,000 from the community within a month of its launch in late May.

Neighborhood businesses were awarded \$5,000 grants from this fund, which JCBD Director Grace Horikiri said were used to help cover overhead expenses such as rent, employee wages and other expenses.

"Some of the funds were also used to purchase PPE for the businesses, including masks and face shields, and installing sneeze guards for store counters. We opened up grant applications for small businesses in September, and we had 80 businesses apply. Thankfully, we were able to fund all 80 businesses," said Horikiri.

A portion of the funds raised by the "Heart of Japantown" campaign were also used to extend the "Picnic at the Plaza" program through November,

which was initially scheduled to end in September. In addition to providing legal counsel, APILO has also provided the mall's tenants with language support, translating government public health and business operations updates for non-native English speakers into Japanese and Korean.

With the pandemic's crippling effect on the economy, the community's response to support Japantown's small businesses has been encouraging for neighborhood merchants.

Remarked APILO Director Dean Ito Taylor: "Even with the challenges our community is facing, it has truly been inspiring to see this outpouring of love and support for the Japantown community. It's times like these where the strength of our communities and connections really comes through."

Added Pika Pika's Kimura: "I'm truly thankful for the community's individuals and orgs that really stepped up to help the small businesses, and I think even more so in the community, we're realizing the power of our [community's] ecosystem, how important it is. With that being said, our landlords and property owners are a huge part of it. If they're not at the table with us, a whole lot of the burden will fall on everyone else."

The community remains anxious for the future as the possibility of the collapse of Japantown's small business community remains, and much will depend on what relief, if any, the Japan Center's landlords are willing to provide.

For updates on future developments between the Japan Center mall tenants and Kinokuniya and 3-D, APILO will provide additional information at <https://www.apilegaloutreach.org/save-japantown/>.

**Haruka Roudebush is the immediate past JACL National VP of 1,000 Club, Membership and Services. He currently serves on the JACL NCWNP District's Executive Board and works as the senior programs manager at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California.**

the past year without itemized justification from the landlords' property management company.

Over the past year and a half when Kinokuniya brought in Davis Property Management company to administer rent and CAM fees in the building, CAM fees had more than doubled for tenants.

Kimura elaborated: "Once Davis Property Management came in, my CAM fees and utilities went from about \$1,000 a month to \$3,500. Restaurants that use gas and water probably have had to pay even more than that. With back rent, I owe over \$50,000 since March. We've been closed since then, and we haven't been bringing in any revenue during that time.

"We weren't sure at that point when we'd be able to reopen," Kimura continued. "The tenants in the Kinokuniya building collectively asked Kinokuniya's property management company in late March for some sort of rent relief. We were initially told in April that they would defer one month of rent and have us pay it back over the period of six months, starting in August."

It quickly became evident that the initial remedy offered by Kinokuniya would be insufficient. However, Kinokuniya did not offer any further relief or leniency after its tenants requested additional assistance.

By May, the tenants of the Kinokuniya building had enlisted the help of attorneys Diane Matsuda and Dean Ito-Taylor from community advocacy organization Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach (APILO) and attorney Alan Low of law firm Perkins Cole, who agreed to provide legal counsel to the Japan Center businesses in negotiations with Kinokuniya and 3-D pro bono.

# JAVA OBSERVES VETERANS DAY WITH ANNUAL CEREMONY

PHOTOS: NICOLE YAMADA

Adhering to health safety guidelines, the organization holds its traditional event to honor America's heroes.

By JAVA Research Team

While many traditions have been upended this year, the Japanese American Veterans Association, along with the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, kept to tradition and held its annual Veterans Day Ceremony on Nov. 11 at the National Japanese American Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Instead of audience applause, heart and thumbs-up emojis floated over the JAVA Facebook feed, as viewers from far-away locales such as California, Florida and Hawaii expressed their gratitude for the sacrifices made by Nisei veterans and their families.

JAVA VP and U.S. Army Veteran Howard High served as the program's emcee. He opened the ceremony noting that the JAVA/NJAMF Veterans Day Program was selected by the Veterans Day National Committee from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as one of the "Veterans Day observances throughout the country to represent a fitting tribute to America's heroes."

High then introduced JAVA President Gerald Yamada, who welcomed viewers and noted that the day's damp weather reminded him of his days in basic training in Fort Lewis, Wash. Yamada then reflected on the "huge debt of gratitude" owed to the Nisei soldiers who served during World War II.

"They served with valor," Yamada said. "They amassed a heroic combat record, which is yet to be surpassed. They left us a legacy from which we have benefitted and will continue to benefit. They are an inspiration for all Americans. Their service kept America safe and free. Their service proved their loyalty in spite of the prejudice, war hysteria and distrust that confronted them. They truly are America's heroes."

"Let us also honor the 800 Nisei soldiers whose names are inscribed on the granite panels of this memorial behind me," Yamada continued. "They died defending America's freedoms — not knowing whether their sacrifice would make a difference. History would say to those 800 Nisei soldiers, 'You can rest in peace. Your sacrifice did make a difference.'"

Next, Rhianna Taniguchi, NJAMF board member and U.S. Army National Guard veteran, addressed the virtual audience. After thanking veterans for their service, Taniguchi highlighted the remarkable diversity of the armed services and under-

scored the Nisei's contribution to that diversity.

"The story of Japanese American military service during WWII reminds us that no matter what race you may be, what language you may speak or what religion you may practice, all Americans have a place in our country and in our ranks," Taniguchi said. "Those who know their story are well-equipped to serve tomorrow's veterans because they know that our nation and our military are strengthened by its diversity. It's our responsibility and honor to share that history."

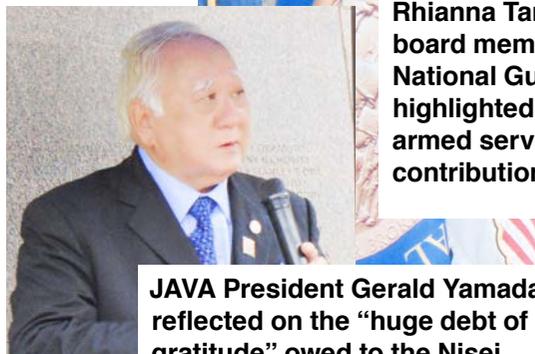
Taniguchi also encouraged listeners to go beyond words and find a way to reach out to a veteran. She urged all to consider mentoring a veteran at work, donate money to a veterans organization and learn about veterans issues like PTSD. She finished by sharing her hope that on this Veterans Day, "each and every one of us can make a difference in the life of a veteran."

Taking the podium, U.S. Coast Guard RDML Andrew M. Sugimoto, assistant commandant for intelligence, opened by sharing how personally significant it was for him to finally visit the memorial.

He explained that his father was forcibly incarcerated in Arkansas before volunteering to fight in WWII. Other family members also served — an uncle in the 442nd, two uncles in the MIS and some made parachutes and critical war supplies while in the incarceration camp.

For Sugimoto, the "dedication, sacrifice and courage exhibited by those who served in our nation's Armed Forces" felt particularly personal at the memorial, and he offered that the Japanese word *giri* or "moral devotion" undergirds the sacrifices and spirit of service of those that came before us.

The Rear Admiral continued that his sense of duty began when he took the oath of office. He added that the powerful words of the oath have been spoken by "17.4 million Americans who have paused their personal pursuits, have said goodbye to loved ones . . . and have done so to ensure that every one of us still has the ability to speak our minds, follow religions



JAVA President Gerald Yamada reflected on the "huge debt of gratitude" owed to the Nisei soldiers.

Rhianna Taniguchi, NJAMF board member and U.S. Army National Guard veteran, highlighted the diversity of the armed services and the Nisei's contribution to that diversity.



of our choice, vote, love those who we want to and be secure in our inalienable rights."

Sugimoto emphasized that such liberties, even though they might be taken for granted, were "secured by our veterans who chose to serve."

He also suggested the Japanese word *kansha* or "gratitude" was also fitting for Veterans Day. He then thanked the 17.4 million veterans who "selflessly secured" American freedoms. He also thanked military families — "the husbands, the wives and the kids [who] each and every day provide the love and foundational support for service members to go out and honor that oath of office."

Sugimoto closed by suggesting the that the memorial's sculpture of the entwined golden cranes bound by barbed wire not only

"embodies [his] family's experiences, their need for communal support and interdependence on one another while struggling for freedom" but also represents the service members' daily fight for freedom and need for support. Sugimoto told watchers that he is hopeful for the future and that his "hope was brought by the very service of our nation's veterans," for which he is eternally grateful.

Following the remarks, JAVA Executive Council Member LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret), and Sugimoto placed a wreath before the 800 names of Japanese Americans killed in action during World War II.

The wreath laying was followed by a moment of silence for the fallen. Before ending the program, High thanked the event's speakers and JAVA co-sponsor NJAMF for helping the organization honor our veterans and remember the sacrifices they have made to preserve our freedom. ■



(From left) LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret) and U.S. Coast Guard RDML Andrew M. Sugimoto observe a moment of silence for the fallen.



In his remarks, U.S. Coast Guard RDML Andrew M. Sugimoto said he is "hopeful for the future" because of the sacrifices and "service of our nation's veterans."

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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 Giving Tuesday Series

Virtual events Dec. 1, 15, 29

Price: Free

Giving Tuesday is an international movement that inspires hundreds of millions to give! Any JACL member, anywhere, can participate in one or all of the upcoming events:

Advocate! Join JACL to ask your Congressional officials to support the Japanese American Confinement Education Act. This bipartisan legislation will fund \$48M for the JACS program and education.

Pledge to Grow Our Membership: JACLers will have the opportunity to solicit their friends and family for membership. If you would like to join, watch out for JACL emails or call (773) 816-1318.

End-of-Year Membership Call: More information coming soon!

Info: Contact [pozaki@jacl.org](mailto:pozaki@jacl.org) for questions and more information.

### '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.

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

## NCWNP

Virtual Yosakoi Dance With Ito Yosakoi  
San Francisco, CA

Fridays Thru Dec. 18; 7-9 p.m.

Online Class

Price: Member \$12/month or \$3 individual class; Nonmember \$17/month or \$5 individual class; first class is free for first-time participants

Join the Ito Yosakoi Dance Group's weekly classes via Zoom to learn the lively, energetic dance style of Yosakoi dancing, which originated in Kochi, Japan. No experience is required!

Info: Visit [jccnc.org](http://jccnc.org).

'Seize' Discussion Book Launch Event  
San Francisco, CA

Dec. 5; 11 a.m.-Noon

Online Event

Price: Free

Join the JCCNC as it presents a virtual book discussion of Brian Komei Dempster's latest release "Seize." During this event, Dempster will share poems from his new collection alongside photos and video clips. Dempster is also the author of the poetry collection "Topaz," as well as the editor of "Making Home From War: Stories of Japanese American Exile" and "Resettlement."

Info: Visit [jccnc.org](http://jccnc.org).

Artist Brian Ida in Conversation on his 'CON.TEXT' Exhibit

San Jose, CA

Jan. 16; 1-2 p.m.

Online Event

Artist Brian Ida will discuss and show videos of his unique Ink Portraits from his "con.Text" series, which is currently on display in the JAMsj Rotating Exhibit area. The intent of this series is to portray individuals as the embodiment of strength and pride standing definitely in the face of oppression and fear by a power against them.

Info: To register for the event, visit <https://bit.ly/2lmJpX3> or call (408) 294-3138 for more information.

## PSW

Japanese American in New York: Nikkei Trans-Regional Dialogue

Los Angeles, CA

Dec. 5; 2-3:30 p.m.

### Online Event

Price: \$10 Suggested Donation; RSVP Required.

Join author-historian-attorney Daniel H. Inouye as he explores the unique stories of a divided community of Japanese New Yorkers before WWII. Through oral histories, memoirs, newspapers, government documents, photographs and more, he will delve into his book "Distant Islands: The Japanese American Community in New York City, 1876-1930s," which often unacknowledged the rich history of New York Japanese American Issei and Nisei.

Info: Visit [janm.org](http://janm.org) to RSVP to this event.

### JANM Virtual Kokoro2020

Los Angeles, CA

Thru Nov. 30

Online

This 12th annual craft fair, presented by JANM volunteers, will be entirely virtual this year, with proceeds benefitting JANM's education programs. In lieu of this year's in-person shopping extravaganza, viewers will instead be able to watch videos featuring this year's craft vendors on JANM's YouTube channel. Shoppers will be able to purchase available items during the online event period. Organizers just ask that shoppers write Kokoro2020 on their orders so JANM will receive a share of the proceeds.

Info: Visit [janm.org/kokoro](http://janm.org/kokoro) for more information and updates. The YouTube channel can be viewed at [YouTube.com/janmdotorg](https://www.youtube.com/janmdotorg).

### 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. Although the museum is temporarily closed, viewers can still experience its inside treasures.

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

## CCDC

Book Discussion With John Tateishi

Idaville, IN

Fresno, CA

Dec. 9; 6 p.m.

Online Event

### Price: Free

CCDC District presents this book discussion with John Tateishi, author of "Redress: The Inside Story of the Successful Campaign for Japanese American reparations. Moderated by the Hon. Dale Ikeda, this event will explore Tateishi's first-hand experiences with helping to win redress for Japanese Americans.

Info: Email [ccdcgov@jacl.org](mailto:ccdcgov@jacl.org) for more information and the Zoom link.

## 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).

## IDC

'Abstract and Form' Exhibit

Yuma, CO

Thru Nov. 29

The Orphanage

300 S. Main St.

This exhibit features the abstract multimedia paintings of Kathleen Umemoto and the prints, collages, drawings and paintings of Richard Farley. Umemoto works with natural materials such as coffee or tea and common castaway objects to imprint, stain and texture her pieces of art. Farley, a career urban designer and architect, uses various media such as acrylic, watercolor, and ink wash on his pieces.

Info: The exhibit is open Tues.-Sat. from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sun. 1-4 p.m. Visit [orphanageyuma.com](http://orphanageyuma.com) for more information.

## MDC

'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/3CB126D-19FEF393C>.

'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. One quilt on display contains blocks made by students who were incarcerated at Poston War Relocation Center during WWII.

Info: Visit [www.eiteljorg.org](http://www.eiteljorg.org).

## EDC

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.

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://japansocietyboston.wildapricot.org>.



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# In MEMORIAM

TRIBUTE

## SHIGEKO KAWANO

Feb. 22, 1926-Oct. 9, 2020



Shigeko Kawano passed away peacefully on Friday, Oct. 9, 2020, in Medford, N.J., at the age of 94. She was born in Los Angeles and was the oldest daughter of Seizo and Toshiko Sakamoto. Shigeko and her family lived in the Boyle Heights area and her father owned a pharmacy in nearby Little Tokyo.

In 1942, after President Roosevelt authorized the removal of all people of Japanese descent (including U.S. citizens) from the coastal areas of the western U.S., Shigeko and her family lost

their home and livelihood.

The Sakamotos were incarcerated at Poston I, one of three concentration camps located in the desert of western Arizona. Shigeko often recalled the searing heat and dust storms that leaked through the thin walls and floor of her family's one-room barrack quarters.

While incarcerated, Shigeko graduated high school. She was released from the camp to attend Temple University in Philadelphia with the help of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council (NJASRC) that was led by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). So, at the age of 17, Shigeko left her family behind and traveled by train to Philadelphia. During most of her train trip, she had to sit on her suitcase or stand as soldiers refused to allow her to use a seat.

On the way to Philadelphia, Shigeko stopped in Kansas City, Mo., to visit her future husband, James. She first met James in 1940 when he worked in her father's store while attending pharmacy school at the University of Southern California. While Shigeko and her family were in Poston, James was in the Heart Mountain concentration camp in Wyoming. Through the help of the NJASRC, he was able to leave the camp to complete his studies at Drake University (Des Moines, Iowa). After working in Kansas City, James moved to Philadelphia where he would later open his own pharmacy. After a period of dating, Shigeko invoked an old saying that a woman can propose marriage during a leap year (1944). They got married that year and Shigeko often said with a glow that she married the person she loved since she was 14.

Shigeko worked at the AFSC while attending Temple but discontinued her studies to start a family. Nonetheless, she remained an avid reader throughout her life, discussing books she read with her sons up to her final weeks.

After James and Shigeko moved from Philadelphia to the western suburb of Merion, Shigeko played an active role in Merion Friends Meeting (Quaker) and her sons' scouting activities. After her sons left home for school, she became a licensed practical nurse and worked part-time at Lankenau Hospital in Wynnewood, Pa.

Shigeko also had many artistic interests. She was accomplished in ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arranging, with exhibits at the Philadelphia Flower Show, Philadelphia Museum of Art and Longwood Gardens. She enjoyed painting, quilting, sewing, knitting, baking and cooking. Additionally, she took classes in carpentry, sculpture, pottery and stained glass among others. All the while, Shigeko worked tirelessly as the bookkeeper for James's pharmacy.

After James retired, Shigeko and James moved to Medford Leas, a Quaker-sponsored, senior independent living continuing care community situated within an arboretum. They loved traveling and their trips to Europe, Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii and California often included family and grandchildren. After James passed away in 2012, Shigeko would visit her great-grandchildren in California and enjoyed visits from them at her apartment at Medford Leas.

Shigeko was a loving daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother. She was predeceased by her husband, James, and son, Gary, and is survived by her sister Hiroko Nakata, sons Arn (Sandy) and Jim (Madelyn), grandsons Tom (Angela) and Mark (Yumi), and great-grandchildren Koby, Emi, Mateo and Kaique.

In remembrance of Shigeko's life, donations may be made to the American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker humanitarian social service agency, and the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund, a national scholarship program created in the spirit of the NJASRC to address the higher education needs of Southeast Asian Americans.

AFSC  
1501 Cherry St  
Philadelphia PA 19102  
<https://www.afsc.org>  
NSRC Fund  
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Portland CT 06480  
<https://nsrcfund.org/support/donate>

**Kita, Suzanne, 76**, Hilo, HI, April 4; she was predeceased by her husband, Robert Susumu Kita; she is survived by her sons, Scott Kita and Oran Kita; sisters, Carol Rimmer and Eileen Therrell.

**Kobata, Akiko, 101**, Long Beach, CA, March 27; she is survived by her son, Brian (Nancy); gc: 2.

**Kono, Mitsuko, 94**, Harbor City, CA, March 4.

**Kuboshige, Shinobu, 96**, Torrance, CA, March 2.

**Kumada, Yo, 71**, Torrance, CA, March 30.

**Kusaba, Sadako, 84**, Long Beach, CA, April 10; she is survived by her siblings, Katsu (Kyoko) Kusaba, Masako Tani and Eiko Hamachi; she

is also survived by cousins, nieces and nephews.

**Murakami, Patrick, 83**, Kahului, HI, April 1; he was predeceased by his wife, Jessie; he is survived by Michael, Scott, Susan (Jun) Castro and Cindy Richardson; siblings, Ralph Murakami, Hazel Nitta and Myrtle Tajiri; gc: 1.



**Nakatani, Masayoshi, 93**, Kahului, HI, Feb. 13; he was predeceased by his wife, Kazue Nakatani; he

is survived by his daughter, Debie (Mike) Amby; gc: 3.



**Namba, Lydia Cuizon, 65**, Kurtistown, HI, Feb. 19; she is survived by her husband, Kenneth Namba; children, Phillip Namba, Christopher (Joy) Namba and Hisae Namba; sisters-in-law, Shirley Andre and Doris (Kermit) Johnson; gc: 3.



**Oshiro, Betty, 88**, Paramount, CA, March 22 and Oshiro, Eric Yuichi, 61, La Mirada, CA, April 8; both deaths related to COVID-19; Betty was predeceased by her husband, Larry Masao Oshiro; she is survived by her children, BrendaLou (Kenneth) Harada, Eric (Lori) Oshiro and CherylAnn (Alan) Kamikubo; siblings, Irene (Henry) Yamashita, Jeanne (Francis) Yamada and Herbert (Lana) Oshiro; gc: 4; Eric was predeceased by his parents, Larry and Betty Oshiro; he is survived by his wife, Lori; sons, Ryan and Steven Oshiro; sisters, BrendaLou (Kenneth) Harada and CherylAnn (Alan) Kamikubo; he is also survived by a niece, nephew and many extended family members and friends.

**Sumida, Henry Shuichi, 80**, Long Beach, CA, Feb. 26; he is survived by his wife, Carolyn (Yumi); daughters, Laura Sumida-Aoyagi (Kevin) Aoyagi, April (Nicholas) James; gc: 3; ggc: 1.

TRIBUTE

## NAOMI YAMAMOTO



June 1930-Nov. 2020

Naomi Yamamoto, loving wife, mother and grandmother, passed away peacefully on Nov. 1, 2020, at the age of 90 in Turlock, Calif. Naomi was a wonderful, loving person with a positive outlook on life, and she will be truly missed.

Naomi was born and raised in San Francisco. She earned a degree in education from San Francisco State University and taught in Oakland. In 1960, she

married Kiyoshi Yamamoto from the Japanese American farming community of Cortez, near Ballico, Calif. Together they raised three children, Ko, Holly and Victor on the family farm while growing almonds, peaches and grapes. After the children reached high school age, Naomi came back to teaching, working as a special education teacher at Ballico-Cressey Elementary School for 18 years.

Naomi is survived by her children Ko (Elaine) Yamamoto, Holly (Tom) Smith and Victor (Gayle) Yamamoto, and four grandchildren: Westin Smith, Cara Smith, Ryan Yamamoto and Joshua Burch. She is predeceased by her parents Ichiro and Shimako Shibata, husband Kiyoshi, and her brothers Eichi and Keiji Shibata.

In lieu of flowers or koden, donations can be made in her name and directed to the charity of your choice.

See [www.allenmortuary.com](http://www.allenmortuary.com) for an expanded obituary.

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# REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

## FOCUS ON YOUR MENTAL HEALTH



By Ron Mori

Last month, I wrote about how two-thirds of adults report experiencing social isolation and high levels of anxiety since the beginning of the pandemic. Unfortunately, we are now in the second wave of the pandemic, and health experts are warning us to keep our guards up as we enter the holiday season. For me, each month is getting tougher to cope with the stress and anxiety of the unknown.

I try to cope with humor, and I often joke with my co-workers about my nine months working in my basement home office. Now that the days are shorter, there have been times when I come up from my basement, and it's dark outside.

I have to admit, it is taking a toll on my mental health. However, a new free monthly Livestream event series focused on mental health is helping me stay focused and feeling empowered.

Our new AARP AAPI series, "Reimagine Asian America," features Dr. DJ Ida, executive director of the National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Assn., as well as other experts and storytellers committed to creating a more humane and equitable world for Asian Americans across generations.

Tough topics are discussed, and viewers of our Facebook livestream can ask real-time questions of our distinguished panel. Our next livestream will focus on "Building Togetherness: COVID-19 and the Holiday Season." It takes place on Dec. 9 at 4 p.m. EST on the AARP AAPI Facebook page. You will need to register in advance in order to participate in this free event.

Dr. Ida will moderate a conversation with experts on how we build togetherness as communities practice social distancing during the holiday season. Especially important are the alarming statistics that I have written about before on the negative impact of social isolation as a public health crisis.

According to "The Pandemic Effect: A Social Isolation Report" — a study conducted by AARP Foundation in collaboration with the United Health Foundation — many of those affected have not turned to anyone for help, perhaps because many don't have reliable social support networks.

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

Unpaid family caregivers also reported having more symptoms of depression and anxiety and starting or increasing substance



use to cope with the stress of COVID-19 on top of caring for their loved ones, compared to the other respondents. The survey included almost 5,500 adults.

A recent report based on a nationwide survey from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention about the types of mental health challenges people are facing during the pandemic found that nearly 31 percent of unpaid family caregivers reported seriously considering suicide in the preceding 30 days, compared with 11 percent of the other adults taking the survey who were not caregivers.

This new data has mental health experts concerned about its ripple effects. A lot of the services available for caregivers, such as respite and home health care, have been affected by the pandemic. With only online social support available, experts worry that the isolation of caregivers can make the situation worse.

The survey also indicates that unpaid caregivers are doing worse over time. Experts say this is worrisome. Most unpaid family caregivers say they don't have a choice, and half of them are very stressed, according to the report "Caregiving in the United States 2020" by the National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP.

Seventy-two percent of people who say they feel alone as an unpaid family caregiver say they have high emotional stress, according to the study. During this holiday season, don't forget to think about family caregivers you know, and reach out to them during these difficult times.

For additional articles on mental health, check out the AARP Mental Health Resource Center page at <https://www.aarp.org/health/conditions-treatments/mental-health-resource-center>.

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

### FOR HELP:

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: (800) 273-TALK (8255)
- Veterans Affairs Caregiver Support Line: (855) 260-3274
- National Alliance for Caregiving resource page
- AARP Community Connections
- AARP Support Line: (877) 333-5885
- AARP Family Caregivers Facebook Discussion Group

## GENERATIONS » continued from page 7

The following three individuals were honored on the plaque for their significant work on this yearlong project.

They were Ron Ono, administrative services manager/landscape architect for the City of Santa Ana; Chris Jepsen, Orange County Archives assistant archivist and president of the Orange County Historical Society; and Patti Hirahara, administrator of the Hirahara Family Collections and Orange County Japanese American history preservationist.

Ono was responsible for securing funding for the renovation of the 50-year-old garden. In asking him why he felt it was important for the garden to be renovated, he said: "The Japanese Garden and Teahouse represents a proud and unique symbol of the Japanese culture. The many Japanese American families that originally donated to build this unique facility were somehow affected by the tragedy of the Japanese American incarceration and their displacement. These pioneers and their children wanted to give back to Orange County a symbol of peace, gratitude and respect in this beautiful place."

"I feel their efforts to give back should be preserved for all to remember as a gift that keeps on giving," he concluded.

Jepsen was critical in finding documents that provided historical reference for this Orange County Japanese Garden project. Since there was no central file of information, the Orange County Archives is now creating a file on the Orange County Japanese Garden with

original blueprints, photographs, documents and news clippings that will tell the history of the garden for years to come. The original documents will be stored at the archives and a copy of all the information will be placed in the time capsule.

The final person named on the plaque is Hirahara, who made the original inquiry about the garden to notify the County of Orange and the City of Santa Ana about its milestone anniversary, worked to find descendants of the original committee, as well as those that worked on the project, helped to share original documents she had found in her family's records to honor the more than 643 organizations and families that donated to the garden and worked with Supervisor Do's office to help organize the rededication.

The County of Orange and the Orange County Nikkei Coordinating Council are hoping to have a community event next year where members of the Japanese American community will be able to view the garden and witness the time capsule ceremony. The event is subject to COVID-19 restrictions and guidance.

The Orange County Japanese Garden has survived for 50 years, and its Japanese pioneer spirit still shines through this pandemic. With the current renovation completed, it is the Japanese American community's wish that this special gift will be enjoyed by all who visit. Currently, the garden is closed to the public but hopefully will be reopened soon. ■

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