



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 92 YEARS

Intensive efforts are underway to find a matching bone marrow donor for Paul Goodman and thousands of other patients as well.

PHOTO: A3M

## HOPE FOR PAUL

The JA Community  
Rallies to Raise  
Bone Marrow  
Donor Awareness.

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JACL Applauds  
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UH Professor  
Recalls His Youth in  
SoCal Beach City.

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# JACL Applauds House Hearing on H.R.40 — Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act

By JACL National

The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties held a hearing on the reintroduction of H.R. 40 — Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act on Feb. 17.

H.R. 40 has been introduced in Congress every year since 1989, the year after Japanese American redress passed in the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. It is long past time that this legislation passed Congress and be implemented to begin the path toward restorative racial justice.

More than 30 years ago, redress

was achieved for the wrongful forced removal and incarceration during World War II of nearly 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry on the West Coast. This egregious abrogation of civil rights was carried out by our government ignorant to the citizenship and because of the racial and ethnic background of the victims. It took more than 40 years for our government to take full responsibility and offer a full apology and economic reparations to incarcerated.

We are now over 155 years past the end of the Civil War and the end of slavery and over 50 years past the passage of the Civil Rights Act, Voting Rights Act and Fair Housing

Act, which ended many of the Jim Crow Laws that extended the power of White Supremacy beyond the end of the Civil War. The legacy of these laws continues today.

Just as the CWRIC enabled Japanese Americans to tell our stories of the impact of incarceration, the H.R. 40 commission would provide members of the Black community to share the impact of the institution and the legacy of slavery.

This week, over 300 testimonies from the Japanese American community are being submitted to the Congressional Record in support of H.R. 40. JACL and several other Japanese American organizations have signed on to the “Why We Can’t

Wait” letter in support of H.R. 40.

Japanese Americans fully understand the power of redress and reparations in our community and cannot silently stand by as our government denies the same overdue apology and reparations to the Black community.

Just as our government took responsibility for the World War II incarceration of those of Japanese ancestry, it is time for our nation to take responsibility for the institution and ongoing legacy of slavery.



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## JACL 2021 NATIONAL CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to the ongoing safety issues presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, the JACL National Board has decided to postpone a physical convention until at least summer 2022.

In the interim, JACL National will be conducting a virtual convention, set for July 15-18, that will include National Council sessions, as well as the usual breakout sessions and workshops that are hosted during convention.

More information around the virtual convention and registration will be announced soon!

*For complete update and convention information, visit [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org).*

## DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 2021

Feb. 19, 1942, marks a significant date for the Japanese American community. On this day, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066,

which ultimately resulted in some 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast to be sent to one of 10 concentration camps for the duration of World War II.

Our community REMEMBERS, worked together for REDRESS and REMINDS all that such an action must never happen again.

*For DOR coverage, see the Pacific Citizen’s March 5 issue.*

## PACIFICCITIZEN 2021 SPRING CAMPAIGN

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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



## JACL MEMBERS

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FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

## WE'RE NOT ALONE IN FACING ANTI-ASIAN HATE, BUT WE ALSO NEED TO BE THERE FOR OTHERS

By David Inoue,  
JACL Executive Director

It was almost a year ago to the day that I was texting and calling with Kakehashi chaperones discussing whether we should proceed with the trip up to the final minutes before the first plane would take off for Japan. A then-mysterious virus had exploded in China and over a hundred cases had been found in Japan. For the next nine days, I would wake up early every day to see that day's morbidity report for every prefecture in Japan, paying close attention to

those where our Kakehashi students were staying.

Ten days later, our group of 75 students returned, safely, even as newly reported cases were appearing here in the United States.

Upon their return, several students and chaperones were barred from returning to work or class. They faced these restrictions despite the lack of any advice from the CDC or State Department that such a quarantine was necessary or warranted.

JACL issued our first statement regarding Covid, expressing concerns about the potentially prejudiced

treatment of travel to Japan, while European countries were experiencing infection numbers comparable to Japan, if not higher when considered relative to their overall population numbers. But the narrative had been set — this was an Asian disease.

It did not take long for reports of hate incidents targeting Asian Americans. At best, it was a hateful glare from someone else while waiting in line at the grocery store. Some escalated to open beratement, often with others standing by seemingly ignorant to what was happening.

At worst, there were the escalations to hate crimes, assaults and vandalism. The president wasted no time in calling it the “Chinese virus,” and White House staff was soon heard calling it “Kung Flu.” This served only to escalate and validate the anti-Asian sentiment.

There has been no abatement to the targeting of Asians. Most tragically, just a few weeks ago in San Francisco, Vichar Ratanapakdee, an 84-year-old Thai man was viciously pushed to the ground, resulting in his death.

Days later, video of a 91-year-old man being similarly shoved to the ground in Oakland's Chinatown also emerged. Since January 2020, over 3,000 hate incidents have been reported to online reporting systems operated by several different groups

who have been tracking this information.

Sadly, these recent assaults are nothing new, but part of an increasing pattern that predates President Trump's childish name calling and the Covid pandemic itself.

The reality is that the racism and xenophobia that serve as the basis of this wave of open anti-Asian hostility has always been here. It was the same anti-Asian attitudes that served as the basis for the wartime incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the Gentlemen's Agreement of 1907 and the Watsonville Riots of 1930 all preceded WWII. And since then, we have seen the anti-Japanese trade wars of the 1980s, which led to the brutal killing of Vincent Chin in 1982.

Today, we see the same attitude in rhetoric and actions against other immigrant communities, especially those who come from the “s---hole countries.”

When members of our Asian community try to distance themselves from the plight of Latinx immigrants and buy into the narrative of the “illegal immigrant,” we only reinforce the same underlying hate that can be just as easily be redirected at us.

It is so hard to not laugh in someone's face when they proclaim,

“My family came here the right way,” when their grandparents immigrated near the turn of the last century. My grandfather also immigrated in the early 1900s, and because of the Chinese Exclusion Act, he was what we would now call an “illegal immigrant.” Instead, we use the softer term, “paper son.”

In the longer term, education and increasing exposure to diverse communities for all Americans can erode the development of bigoted attitudes in children and future generations, but that will take time.

The rhetoric against immigrants and nonwhites of the past several years from our nation's leadership created this climate where it is acceptable to more openly express hate, both verbally and too often violently.

We desperately want and need for others to stand up for us when being confronted with racism on the street, and so many have stepped up to denounce what has been happening to our communities.

We need to do the same for others. This is the only way we can once again make all of these racist acts as unacceptable as they were just a few years ago.

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



LEGAL-EASE:  
AN ATTORNEY'S  
PERSPECTIVE

## YOU CAN'T BE 'A LITTLE BIT PREGNANT'

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

What you're about to read is extremely controversial. But before you write it off as some crazy, far-right conspiracy theory, consider the possibility that the Coronavirus pandemic is not as bad as we've been told. Donald Trump may have been telling the truth when he said, “Fake news.” The masks, social isolation and shutting down the economy may have all been a massive overreaction.

Thankfully, the JACL “strives to promote a world that honors diversity by respecting values of fairness, equality and social justice.” I'm hoping that some of the JACL community might find the information in this article helpful. It comes mostly from a *New York Times* article dated Aug. 29, 2020 (updated Jan. 19, 2021).

You've heard the phrase, “A little bit pregnant.” It means that the situation

that is being described is “binary.” It is something that either IS or ISN'T; there is no ambiguity or no gray area.

You can't be “just a little bit” of certain things. That's the way the government, the CDC and the mainstream news have treated Covid-19. So I, like everyone else, simply thought that's the way things are with Covid-19 — you're either “positive” or “negative.” You can't be “a little bit positive.” Until I did some research.

Dr. Michael Mina, an epidemiologist at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, said, “The standard tests are diagnosing huge numbers of people who may be carrying relatively insignificant amounts of the virus. Tests authorized by the FDA provide only a yes-no answer to infection and will identify as positive patients with low amounts of virus in their bodies.”

In other words, when it comes to the coronavirus, you can be “a little bit pregnant” or “a little bit positive.” Most of these people are not likely to be contagious, and identifying them may contribute to bottlenecks that prevent those who are contagious from being found in time. If your coronavirus test is positive, maybe it shouldn't be,” said Mina.

Let me explain. The most widely used diagnostic test for the new coronavirus is called a PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test. Here's how it works: A doctor or nurse swabs the inside of your nose for DNA. That DNA is put in a tube, packaged and sent off for further inspection. It then goes through the PCR test. PCR is a process that searches through your DNA.

What is it looking for? Simple — any evidence of a virus. It does this through a process called cycling (i.e., cycling thresholds or CT). Where it digs into your DNA until it finds the virus. Think of it like a magnifying glass. Each cycle zooms in further and further looking for trace amounts of the virus . . . until it finds one.

The fewer numbers of cycles needed to identify a virus, the stronger that virus is. If more cycles are needed, the virus is weak, almost like it's not there at all. Most tests are set at 40 cycles, which means they search your

DNA up to 40 times looking for the virus — and therein lies the problem. The test results don't show you how many cycles it takes to identify the virus, it simply spits out a “yes or no” result.

“We've been using one type of data for everything, and that is just plus or minus — that's all,” Dr. Mina said. “We're using that for clinical diagnostics, for public health, for policy decision-making.” But yes-no isn't good enough, he added. It's the amount of virus that should dictate the infected patient's next steps. “It's really irresponsible, I think, to forgo the recognition that this is a quantitative issue,” Dr. Mina said.

Other experts raised similar concerns. Juliet Morrison, a virologist at the University of California, Riverside, said, “I'm shocked that people would think that 40 could represent a positive. Any test with a cycle threshold above 35 is too sensitive.” Scott Becker, executive director of the Association of Public Health Laboratories, said, “The number of people with positive results who aren't infectious is particularly concerning.”

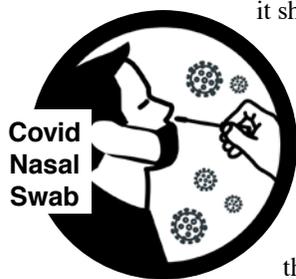
“It's just kind of mind-blowing to me that people are not recording the C.T. values from all these tests — that they're just returning a positive or a negative,” said Angela Rasmussen, a virologist at Columbia University in New York. “It would be useful information to know if somebody's positive,

whether they have a high viral load or a low viral load,” she added.

So, Trump might have been right after all. The tests could have been rigged to generate huge phony numbers, i.e., we have been getting fake news. You ask, “How could a scientific test spit out numbers that are all so wildly inaccurate? And how could all these so-called health experts miss this?” Think about it — Big Pharma companies stand to make billions of dollars off of a coronavirus vaccine.

In conclusion, whether or not you believe this information from the *New York Times*, you still need to protect yourself and others from Covid-19. And in the event you do receive a “positive” result from a coronavirus PCR test, remember it's not a death sentence. Hopefully, all you have is a low viral load, you're not contagious and you build up and strengthen your immunity system.

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





## A MOTHER'S TAKE

# SIMPLE GIFTS

By Marsha Aizumi

In December, Aiden and I participated in a virtual chat with a Subaru book club in Chicago that recently read our book, “Two Spirits, One Heart.” At the end of the meeting, a mother shared that though she did not have an LGBTQ child, she had a Down syndrome child, and so much of the feelings I talked about resonated with her . . . the shame, the sadness, the fear, but most of all, the love.

This got me to thinking about how I never really heard about any Nikkei families that had a Down syndrome child, and so I reached out to my social worker friend, Yasuko, who connected me with the Japanese Speaking Parents Association of Children With Challenges (JSPACC), which is part of Los Angeles’ Little

Tokyo Service Center.

It was through JSPACC that I met Keiko . . .

Keiko has two sons. Her second child is 9 years old and has special needs. His name is Leo. When Leo was born, the doctor had concerns. After a number of tests and waiting for the longest three weeks of her life, the doctor gave Keiko the test results. Her baby had Down syndrome.

With this diagnosis, things didn’t seem different at first. Leo slept well, he didn’t have any heart issues, like some Down syndrome children have, but what became noticeable was everything was delayed . . . crawling, walking, talking. And then when Leo hit what we call the “terrible twos,” this lasted longer than the normal one year.

“Leo is very stubborn and oppositional,” Keiko explained. Perhaps

that is part of his personality, but it is magnified, since he has Down syndrome. “Let’s go home,” Keiko would say. “NO!!!” Leo would dig in. Another time Keiko would say, “Let’s stay for a while. “NO!!!” her son would respond. Everything was a struggle. It was exhausting. I told Keiko she must have a lot of patience. She laughed and said she really doesn’t.

But then, she told me a story about the other side of being the mother of a special needs child. Her voice softened when she talked about a day when they were cleaning Leo’s room. As Keiko turned to put a stack of books away, she hit Leo in the eye with the corner of one of the books. His eyes teared up because she hit him hard. She grabbed him and hugged him tightly. Expecting him to lash out at her, Leo turned to her and said, “I love you. . . .” It was one of those moments that was unexpected — it showed how much he could forgive and be unconditionally loving.

Another story that really touched my heart was when Keiko talked about taking a vacation with the family. She said the four of them went to Las Vegas, and everything

was a battle of wills. Things that a family without a special needs child take for granted is different for their family. Walking 10 steps may be a struggle. She wanted to go to breakfast together, but Leo would not leave the room. So, her husband took their older son to breakfast, and Keiko stayed in the room with Leo. It wasn’t a vacation. It would have been easier to stay home.

However, the next year, they decided to try Vegas again. They stayed at the same hotel, but this time, Leo was one year older. Instead of splitting up at breakfast, the family — all four of them — went to the same restaurant that only two of them ate at the previous year. Keiko said this was one of her “happiest moments.” The family was able to have breakfast together! I could hear the joy and gratitude in her voice as she shared this story.

Keiko continued with some additional thoughts . . . “I found that at the second time in Vegas, not only was I able to have breakfast together in the morning but also eating together with the whole family is the happiest moment in daily life . . . This is happiness!!” she said.

“I felt like I got a flash of lightning

or something at the moment. A daily routine like eating breakfast at home sounds boring and a mundane event, but it’s not. IT IS SPECIAL, and I am very thankful every day! Is happiness . . . a gorgeous house with an ocean view? A huge diamond ring? A million dollars? NO, at least for me. We can find the most important things in a humdrum life. Because it’s not humdrum if you just realize it.”

Leo attends public school but is in special classes. He is doing well in school, and the teacher says he is “a good boy.” Keiko sometimes wonders if they are talking about the same Leo. But she smiles, and it feels like this is another happy moment.

I asked Keiko to tell me what she would like my readers to know. She said that she would like people to know that “we can learn so much from our children, even those with special needs.” She explained that her life is filled with ordinary moments that she could have overlooked, but today, she recognizes it as precious.

“We should see and be thankful for what we have, not begrudge what we don’t have,” she said. Leo has taught her all of these things . . .

» See GIFTS on page 12

# UPDATE ON MEMBERSHIP AND FUND DEVELOPMENT

By Phillip Ozaki,  
JACL Program Director for Membership  
and Fund Development

I’m deeply honored to be promoted to JACL’s Program Director for Membership and Fund Development and wanted to share a little bit about myself, a membership update and our plans for the future.

My first memory of JACL is reading Executive Order 9066 at my local Day of Remembrance as a teenager. My grandfather, Sam Ozaki, asked me to do it. My hero — grandpa was in Jerome, fought in France for the 442nd and became Chicago’s first Asian American public school principal. I’m a product of JACL’s programs. I won a scholarship and was JACL’s Norman Mineta Fellow in 2010. I led the efforts to pass the Congressional Gold Medal for Nisei Veterans, visiting Congress with a photo of my grandparents.

I always say that we have to change the paradigm of how we report on membership. Yes, it’s true that membership num-

bers have slowly declined for the last many years. However, we have to report on what is going well.

In 2020, membership revenue actually increased by about 8 percent. I’ll share why later. In addition, we must welcome last year’s 635 new members, which is the most ever in JACL’s recent history.

Finally, we also need to celebrate that about 75 percent of our members renew every year, compared to 60 percent for most nonprofits. Thank you for your belief in and loyalty to JACL!

Right now, I believe that new members are our most important membership metric because they are the future of our organization. In a survey of 368 new members, we learned that 91 percent engage with us on email, are well educated and have known our brand for quite some time.

A large proportion of new members are Yonseis who are charged up for social justice and participate in our youth programs. Another big chunk

are Sansei who want to re-engage with the community. It’s important to understand that our new members are a perfect representation of JACL’s multigenerational and diverse community in terms of profession, geography, mixed race/ethnicity and age.

We asked new members the primary reason that they signed up for JACL. At 29 percent, the second most-common response was “to advocate for the civil rights of all.” At 21 percent, the third most-common response was “to connect with my Japanese American heritage.” That makes the most common response, at 31 percent, “to get involved with the Japanese American community.”

More than half of new members are primarily here because of the “Japanese American” part of JACL. When we look for new members, we certainly must mention that our purpose for existing is social justice. However, we must remember that we are also here because of the power of belonging to a wonderful community like ours.

One of JACL’s biggest questions is if we should focus on the Sansei/Yonsei or on Shin-Nikkei and the greater AAPI community. When strategizing with Saki Mori, our new VP for Membership, we compared our stories.

My family has the camp legacy, while hers doesn’t. Saki is a Shin-Nikkei from New York whose family immigrated in the 1970s and ’80s. Although our family stories are different, we both agree on JACL’s role in transforming Asian America and as an activated network of Nikkei. We really mean it when we say, “There’s

a place for us at JACL, and we know there’s a place for YOU, too!”

Two really great things about our budget is that it’s quite diversified, and I can confidently say that we’re in a solid financial position. In a simplistic way, our budget has three big chunks. About one-third each are membership and investment income. Then the last third is a mix of fundraising, convention and *Pacific Citizen* revenue. By the way, new members and old ones, alike, do enjoy reading the *Pacific Citizen*.

I didn’t know the powerful story behind our investment income until recently. After we won redress and folks like my grandparents received their \$20,000 reparations checks, many were so grateful for JACL that they donated a portion of their check to JACL’s Legacy Fund (and other Endowment Funds).

They wanted to continue JACL’s important civil rights and educational programming for future generations. Now here we are today and those funds — which keep growing with legacy giving — are a major source of income.

Even though membership has exceeded budget in the last two years, we know that the decline will be slow and steady, which means that, with my new position, the time to search for new funding has arrived. These include institutional, new and upgraded donors and legacy (planned) giving. We have a very exciting education campaign that we will announce soon. Just as our members see value in JACL, especially in modern times, so will our newest partners.

» See UPDATE on page 8

Former JACL VP for Membership Haruka Roudebush presents one of Bob Matsumoto’s “Remembrance” posters to Karen Korematsu, founder of the Fred Korematsu Institute, for becoming a JACL Millennium Club member at the last in-person National Convention in 2019.



Dennis Ogawa and Libby Motika converse during the Zoom webinar.



Dennis Ogawa when he was in elementary school.

Photo taken in front of Santa Monica Nikkei Hall upon its completion in 1957.

PHOTO: THE RAFU SHIMPO



Ogawa at the Ireito monument in Santa Monica.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF DENNIS OGAWA



# DENNIS OGAWA SHARES MEMORIES ON GROWING UP IN SANTA MONICA

The Manzanar-born UH professor recalls his youth in the SoCal beach city.

By P.C. Staff

“Ogawa from Obama.” That’s how Professor Dennis Ogawa said his University of Hawaii students like to jokingly introduce him. It’s actually a bit of an exaggeration, since Ogawa, a UH humanities professor with more than 52 years in that post, was actually born at the Manzanar War Relocation Authority Center in California’s Inyo County, more than 200 miles from Los Angeles.

But Ogawa does indeed have familial roots in the Japanese beach town on the west coast of Japan’s Fukui Prefecture — and by living near the ocean, first as a lad in Santa Monica, Calif., and later, in Honolulu, Hawaii — he has kept true to his beach town roots in three far-flung locations.

He shared that and other memories during a Feb. 10 Zoom webinar sponsored by the Santa Monica Conservancy titled “Nisei Memories: A Second-Generation Japanese American Recalls Life in Santa Monica After His Family’s Release From Manzanar.”

Ogawa’s installment was part of the Conservancy’s series titled “Stories From the Diverse Communities That Shaped Our City.”

Before Ogawa began his “talk story,” moderator Libby Motika of the Conservancy shared how first-generation Japanese immigrants had a history in the beach adjacent city going back to the early decades of the 20th century, when Issei founded a fishing village north of the long-demolished Long Wharf and Santa Monica Canyon, on what would now be some very pricey beachfront property in the tony resort town.

Motika noted that the village at its peak had some 300 residents and the Issei fishermen hauled in more than 30 tons of fish daily, which was then sent by train to downtown Los Angeles, not far time- and distance-wise from where a young Sessue Hayakawa was “discovered” in a stage play by silent era producer Thomas Ince, who was tipped off by Hayakawa’s future wife, Tsuru Hayakawa.

Hayakawa’s stardom was launched when Ince tapped him for three silent pictures — “The Typhoon” (1914), “The Wrath of the Gods” (1914) and “The Sacrifice” — some shot not

far from the fishing village.

The fishing village was condemned in 1920 a few years after a devastating 1916 fire. The Japanese residents scattered, some to as far away as Terminal Island, with others staying in Santa Monica.

In the years before World War II, Ogawa’s Nisei mother and Issei father operated a small grocery store in Santa Monica, and they were often helped by an elderly Black neighbor from the south who lived in a shack next to the store. Ogawa later came to know him as Mr. Magnum. The elder Ogawa and Magnum became friends.

But with the United States’ entry into WWII, the Ogawa family would lose their Santa Monica home and business when they and many thousands of other ethnic Japanese were removed from the West Coast and incarcerated in 10 different WRA Centers, Manzanar in the case of the Ogawas and other local Japanese families.

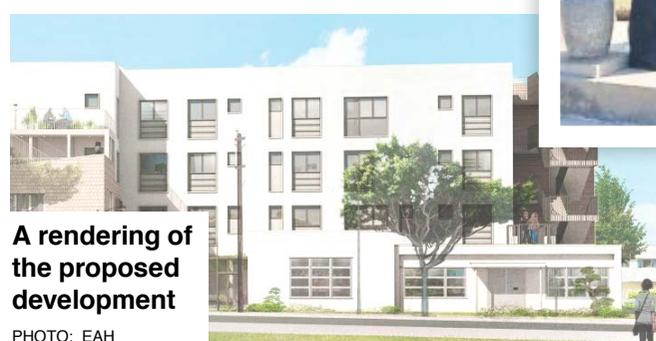
“My dad, when the war was over and we were released from the concentration camp,” Ogawa said, “wanted to go back to Santa Monica.” There was one problem: After the war, there was no housing available. “It was almost impossible to find a place.”

Still, Ogawa said his father was determined to do whatever he needed to return, taking a job as a dishwasher. Ogawa’s mother, meantime, found work cleaning houses. The Ogawas also found a place to live: With Mr. Magnum, in his one-room shack.

“It had a little running water and a toilet,” Ogawa said. “My mom and my dad, they slept on the floor and Mr. Magnum and I, we slept on the floor under the kitchen table. To me, it was kind of cozy.”

Magnum was Ogawa’s babysitter as his parents worked. “He was actually the one who raised me in the early days,” Ogawa said, which is why to this day he says he pronounces certain words with a southern Black accent.

As Ogawa attended Santa Monica schools, Ogawa would learn a valuable lesson that paid off as a young man. As a kindergartner at Garfield Elementary School, which was mostly Latino and Black, he recalled how his teacher, Mrs. Hamilton, bought a Christmas tree to the class that the students decorated.



A rendering of the proposed development

PHOTO: EAH

But during recess, as the kids played kickball, the ball bounced off the concrete through the classroom’s open window — and it knocked over the tree, demolishing all the work that had been done. “We thought we were going to get it. We were scared,” Ogawa said.

Instead, the teacher later told them they were good kids and that accidents happened. “She didn’t really even talk about the Christmas tree, but we all knew, and she wasn’t mad. And that stuck with me.”

A few years later, as a student at John Adams Junior High School, Ogawa was tripped during physical education class in a footrace by another student, and he wiped out on the concrete, resulting in his arms and knees getting bloodied. “Some of my buddies, they were going to kill the guy who tripped me,” Ogawa said. When the PE teacher arrived with a couple of the school nurses, Ogawa just said, “Accident.”

When it was time to graduate from junior high, Ogawa got a surprise from the PE teacher, who called him out by name to give him the school’s first-ever Sportsman of the Year award. “I was in shock,” Ogawa said. “I was speechless.”

When it was time for college, Ogawa said, “I was very fortunate, I got into UCLA.” In his application, he indicated that he wanted to become a PE teacher. “As I look back, I think part of the reason I was accepted at UCLA was because of my Sportsman of the Year award at John Adams.”

One of the common denominators for Santa Monica’s Japanese American community the Nikkei Hall, a building at 1413 Michigan Ave., built by the Nikkei Jin Kai, near the city’s Woodlawn Cemetery. Ogawa’s father was one of the organization’s active members.

“Nikkei Hall was like the gathering place,” Ogawa recalled. “My dad was part of the group that helped build the monument, at Woodlawn Cemetery, of the Issei.” Ogawa was referring to the

*Ireito* or memorial tower, a white granite monument at Woodlawn that was built in 1959 and rebuilt after it was damaged in the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

Ogawa remembered how local families would meet at the Nikkei Hall and then take buses to other locations, like Lake Arrowhead or Griffith Park for picnics. Sometimes there were non-Japanese guests who would join them, Ogawa said. One of those guests was actor Gabby Hayes.

After the war, however, despite the construction of the Nikkei Hall, Santa Monica’s Japanese community was unable to return to its prewar numbers, much less surpass them, unlike some other pre-existing enclaves such as what is now Sawtelle Japantown — and in 2018, a decision by the four remaining Nikkei Jin Kai members was made to disband the organization that owned it and sell the property.

Although it had been reported that a TV and movie production company would buy it, during the webinar the Conservancy’s Motika noted that there had been some new developments.

“Last summer, the City of Santa Monica approved an affordable housing project on the site of the landmark hall. The original structure will be integrated into the new design to enhance public awareness of the historic site,” Motika said.

This occurred after the city designated Nikkei Hall a historical property, which paved the way to making a deal with San Rafael, Calif.-based EAH, a nonprofit developer of affordable housing for low-income people and families.

» See OGAWA on page 8

# THE JA COMMUNITY BRINGS HOPE FOR PAUL

The success of drive-thru donor events and online word-of-mouth campaigns are providing hope to Paul Goodman and thousands of others searching for a bone-marrow match.

By Athena Mari Askliadis, Contributor

When Paul Goodman was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia four years ago at the age of 25, his battle was rather a private one like that of many other patients who go through a life-changing cancer diagnosis.

Goodman, a budding filmmaker at the time, was working on his first feature film, “Evergreen” (2020), while going through rounds of chemo. During that process, he documented his treatments, recording himself at the hospital, sometimes in front of a bathroom mirror, describing what he was enduring. He edited the footage together with scenes from his film to create an introduction to “Evergreen” titled “Making a Feature Film Through Chemotherapy.”

His passion for filmmaking allowed Goodman an escape from reality.

“I wrote this story about two people getting in their car and driving from L.A. to Canada, and I used that motivation to get me through a lot of my chemotherapy. I just thought about what I would rather be doing, and I would rather be in my car, I would rather be on the road getting far away from cancer,” he shared.

After three years of treatment, Goodman was in remission and had that to celebrate along with his newly released award-winning film. It seemed like life was just getting back on track when alarming lumps appeared on the back of his neck at Thanksgiving of last year. After a hospital visit and testing, it was confirmed that he had relapsed.



Paul Goodman is an award-winning filmmaker.

## GIVE HOPE TO PAUL!

TEXT HOPE4PAUL TO 61474 TO JOIN TODAY  
REGISTER ONLINE @  
JOIN.BETHEMATCH.ORG/HOPE4PAUL

Goodman’s cancer was back.

But this time, instead of just chemotherapy, doctors recommended a bone marrow transplant. This lifesaving cure would not come easy though. His sister was found to be a 5/10 match, and no perfect 10/10 matches were found on the national donor registry. Being Hapa — Japanese and Eastern European/Jewish could be an obstacle in Goodman’s search, as just only 0.1 percent of the registry is Japanese, and 3 percent is mixed heritage.

Because matching relies on common HLA (protein markers on one’s genes) rather than just being based on blood type, finding a donor is much more complex than in blood or organ donations.

One would think that odds like these would discourage Goodman and his family, but it didn’t. Thanks to the very public stories of Hapa Japanese patients such as Krissy Kobata in SoCal and Baylor Frederickson in NorCal, both of whom had successful transplants, the Goodmans knew it was not an impossible feat.

Kobata’s aunt, Vickie Shinto, reached out to Bonnie Goodman, Paul’s mom, reminding her that she could count on recruiters from the nonprofit organization Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches (A3M) for help. Goodman and his family quickly realized they would definitely not be alone on this journey.

A3M, now in its 30th year, has strong roots in the Japanese American community. A program of the Little Tokyo Service Center and recruitment center for Be The Match, A3M was founded by a group of Japanese Americans, including longtime former director Sharon Sugiyama.

Sugiyama’s nephew, Nick, a searching patient, was the inspiration for starting the organization. Since then, it has operated as

Paul Goodman’s journey to find a bone marrow donor has been well-documented in efforts to raise awareness for thousands of other individuals also looking for a viable match to save their lives.



Paul (right) and members of his family

one of only two Asian-focused donor recruitment groups in the US — the other being the Asian American Donor Program (AADP) in Northern California.

Current A3M Director Susan Choi shares that Japanese Americans have been a “very supportive community, not only in starting the program, but in fundraising as well . . . they have been real champions of our mission.”

And thanks to that ongoing support, A3M is responsible for recruiting one-third of all Asian donors each year in the country. Choi went on to explain that “Japanese Americans have such a solid infrastructure . . . families all know each other, kids were brought up together, so things like basketball, cultural organizations and activities make it so much easier to recruit in their community.”

When first speaking with the family, A3M Lead Recruiter Chris Chen suggested drive-thru registration events as a new safe means that the organization has pivoted toward in order to find donors.

“They needed to spend their energy focusing on Paul and getting him the care that he needed. . . . People were still driving thru fast-food eateries, picking up groceries and hosting drive-by celebrations — the contactless drive-thru registry in accordance with CDC guidelines seemed low risk,” Chen said.

Carole and Steve Sugimoto, who are longtime friends of the Goodmans, took



Bonnie and Paul Goodman

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF A3M

## WHY REGISTER?



People with blood cancers and diseases can be cured by a stem cell transplant.



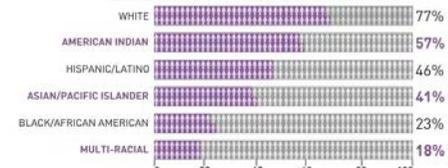
First, a matching stem cell donor must be found for a searching patient.



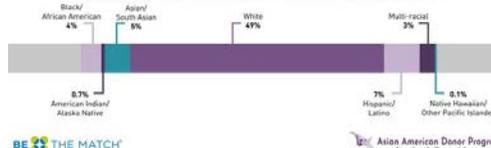
70% of patients won't have a match in their families, & must find an unrelated donor.

**ETHNICITY IS KEY WHEN FINDING A MATCH**  
Patients are more likely to match donors who share the same ethnic background, but the lack of diversity on the Be The Match registry makes it difficult for many patients to find one.

### CHANCES OF FINDING A MATCH



### NUMBER OF DONORS ON THE REGISTRY



BE THE MATCH

Asian American Donor Program AADP

## DOES IT HURT? WHAT HAPPENS IF I'M A MATCH?



If you're a potential match for a patient, Be The Match will contact you to see if you'd like to continue with the process. You always have a choice, but we hope you'll say yes.

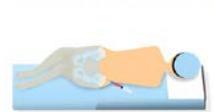


If you say yes, the next step is getting a full physical and blood test to make sure you're perfectly healthy to go through with the donation. Your health as a donor is our priority.



If you're the perfect match, you'll go through one of two donation methods. The patient's doctor will choose the method that's best for the patient, and you will always be informed.

### MARROW COLLECTION



#### LEAST COMMON PROCEDURE

Doctors use needles to withdraw liquid marrow from both sides of the back of the hip bone—not the spine. Donors are given anesthesia and feel no pain during the donation.

It's an outpatient procedure, so most donors are home the same day.

After donation, donors may feel sore for a few days to a week, but normal activities may be resumed the day after. Marrow replenishes within a few weeks.

### STEM CELL COLLECTION



#### MOST COMMON PROCEDURE

Blood is drawn from one arm, then passes through a machine that filters the stem cells from the rest of the blood, and then returns the blood to the donor's body.

Before the donation, donors will receive injections of filgrastim for five days to increase blood stem cell count in the blood. Flu-like symptoms may be experienced.

After donation, 99% of the filgrastim is gone and stem cell count normalizes.

BE THE MATCH

Asian American Donor Program AADP

Registering to be a donor is simple, and you can potentially save a life!



(Top)  
Volunteers  
Tyler  
Yamanouchi  
and Sandra  
Togashi at the  
Hawaii Drive.

Paul and A3M  
in the news.

Derek  
Sugimoto  
(front) and  
Grant Ito  
at Tanaka  
Farms in  
Irvine to  
help Paul.

the reins of Paul's search early on in order to relieve pressure on the family.

Based in Texas, the couple soon began remotely hosting planning meetings on Zoom and sending out emails to connect folks across the miles. Thanks to their efforts, starting in Orange County, Calif., where Goodman is from, in just a matter of weeks, donor registration drives began popping up not only all over California, but also in Washington, Texas and Hawaii!

What started as a quiet and rather private battle would soon explode into a massive community undertaking at the start of this year. With the knowledge that a perfect 10/10 match could be out there, Goodman's friends and family activated seemingly overnight, with the Sugimotos leading the way.

Other friends of the Goodman family began also stepping up, like Kathleen Nishida, who jumped in to help with communications. She and others sent out "emails to friends, family and businesses," as well as shared posters in local restaurants and stores.

Nishida said that the response was "incredibly swift . . . from all ages of volunteers from all types of JA and Buddhist associations." Soon, the number of volunteers in the "Hope4Paul" campaign grew to more than 100 strong.

Derek Sugimoto, who spent his childhood playing basketball with Goodman at Orange County Buddhist Church, took his parents' (Carole and Steve) lead and decided he needed to do something to help.

He and his girlfriend, Nat Laitha, used their creativity to help with online awareness and created a hub for information on all of Goodman's drives. The couple jumped in head first to create an impressive website — [www.ganbattepaul.com](http://www.ganbattepaul.com) — as well as spread flyers online via Instagram and Facebook.

The social media aspect of Goodman's search went viral in the JA community in January, garnering mas-

sive online attention and reshares. Support came in from everywhere from the brand-new basketball gym in Little Tokyo, the Terasaki Budokan, to restaurants like Azay in Little Tokyo to the Orange Coast Optimist.

Numerous JA chapters also supported Hope4Paul for weeks with social media postings as well as included drive information in the organization's weekly *DC Digest*.

Everyone seemed to be talking about Goodman and his search — from Buddhist groups to figure skaters to models to dentists — all tweeting, posting and resharing nonstop. The online chatter soon snowballed onto major press outlets and on news segments on KABC, KCAL and CBS in one week alone.

When asked why and how Goodman's search was able to gain such momentum, Derek Sugimoto shared that the contagious nature of the movement was a testament to how loved Paul Goodman is.

"Thankfully, Paul has participated in many different organizations, volunteered and been heavily involved in the JA and Buddhist community for his entire life. He's also always been charismatic, smart and is overall very likeable. . . . He's done a lot, and it just shows how great of a person he is."

The tight-knit nature of Japanese American culture and faith really seems to be a contributing factor as well. The quick action and hard work by the community exemplifies the phrase in Goodman's website address — *ganbatte*.

Much like the days during and after World War II incarceration, Japanese Americans have banded together and learned to endure and carry on despite harsh circumstances. Goodman's fight really seems to be no different in the amount of genuine, heartfelt responses.

Friend of the Goodman family, Bryan Furumoto of Anaheim, says it really shows the "depth and closeness of the JA and Buddhist Sangha." Those deep and wide community ties made

# Save a Life

*Although most people would happily join a donor registry in theory, there is, understandably, hesitation by some due to several misconceptions. For example, there are people who don't like needles, whether to get a vaccination or provide a small vial of blood, even for a wonderful cause like possibly saving someone's life.*

*Until a few years ago, that was the case: One had to actually have blood drawn that could be examined and analyzed before it could be put into a donor database.*

*Now, as noted, it's as simple (and painless!) as swabbing the inside of one's cheek.*

Although it could be said that the goal of A3M and AADP are ultimately the same — potentially saving the life of someone with a blood cancer — the two nonprofits have differing methods to achieve that goal.

As the name of the group suggests, Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches looks to its database to find someone who can be a donor for a potentially lifesaving bone marrow transplant.

AADP, meantime, uses a different approach: stem cells. And what are stem cells?

They are special human cells, found in umbilical cord blood, bone marrow and in the peripheral blood that circulates in the body. Under the right circumstances, stem cells can develop into other types of cells found within one's body.

According to AADP Executive Director Carol Gillespie, if someone in its database proves to be a match for someone fighting for his/her life, over a five-day period before collection, the donor receives injections of a drug called filgrastim, which "stimulates the growth of the stem cells that are in your bone marrow and mass produces them, multiplying them like crazy."

"On the fifth day," Gillespie said, "you'll go to the collection center, and they'll put a needle in both arms. They take the blood from one arm. That goes into a separating machine and the stem cells that were mass produced by the filgrastim goes into a separate bag."

"The other blood products just go right back into your other arm, so you're literally missing nothing, except those mass-produced stem cells. It usually takes maybe about six hours in bed for that process to happen."

That bag of stem cells is then hand carried — "we don't use UPS or FedEx because it's someone's life" — and the stem cells are delivered intravenously into the patient.

"Those stem cells know exactly what their purpose is, so they go immediately to the bone marrow and start reproducing, and hopefully, the patient will engraft within 30 days."

It's worth noting that when a bone marrow transplant or stem cell treatment takes place, the patient's immune system has been rendered ineffective by chemotherapy or radiation.

"This is the last resort for the patient," Gillespie said. As for whether there are statistics for the success rate for these treatments, there are, simply put, too many variables that can affect the outcome: the age and health of the patient, possible pre-existing conditions, the form of leukemia and when it was detected, whether the radiation and/or chemotherapy was able to destroy all the cancerous cells, etc. "That's why I can't give you a percentage," Gillespie said.

One thing is certain, however, and that is this: Left untreated, the leukemia wins. But, with a matching donor who can provide either a bone marrow transplant or stem cells, there is at least a fighting chance for the patient to claim victory — and live a mostly normal life. ■



Carole Sugimoto with Takanori Asada, store manager of Mitsuwa Marketplace in Plano, Texas

PHOTO: COURTESY OF A3M

» it possible for even far away places to seem close by, especially with the help of technology, he shared.

In Hawaii, volunteer and family friend Sandra Togashi utilized some of her OCBC contacts to help build a “Hawaii ‘Aloha4Paul’ team of 10 individuals and 16 volunteers” to run a drive-thru registration event at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin in Honolulu in January and inspire virtual drives, creating awareness in Maui and other islands.

And in Seattle, “Hope4PaulWA” co-chairs Tina Zumoto Ko and Andrea Mano mentioned receiving “support from other local Japanese American churches, such as Blaine Methodist Memorial Church in Seattle and St. Peter’s Episcopal Church.”

And of all of the most-unexpected places to expect a Mitsuwa Marketplace to be — Plano, Texas’ store location will be host to two February donor registration events.

But Hawaii and Texas weren’t the furthest places to hear about Goodman’s story. Bonnie Goodman was shocked to get a call from a woman living in Israel who somehow caught wind of the donor search. The woman was of Japanese and Jewish descent, like Paul, and his story struck a chord with her. She inquired about how she could register as a donor. Thankfully, Israel does have a robust cooperative registry that shares donors with the U.S.

Hazel Ando-Heu, another friend of the Goodmans, spoke about how amazed she was at the response, especially during these uncertain times.

“The fact that temples and community centers were able to host live drive-thrus during the pandemic is absolutely incredible!” said Ando-Heu.

Drive-thru registration events have been a pivot that recruitment organizations like A3M have had to quickly adapt to and organize. With local health guidelines in mind such as social distancing and facial coverings, recruiters are able to safely register the public and operate similarly to Covid testing sites.

Seeing places of worship and places like the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center and Tanaka Farms being so open to host drive-thru drives really touched the Goodman family. “I can’t say enough how grateful we are to our friends, family and the Japanese community and entire Asian community as well as the Hafu (Hapa) community,” said Bonnie Goodman.

Sadly, Paul Goodman is one of more than 50,000 patients worldwide searching for a marrow or stem cell donor each year. According to the National Marrow Donor Program, Be The Match, there are approximately 12,000 patients in the U.S. alone in need of a match. But thanks to the efforts of Little Tokyo-based A3M, who recruits more than 6,000 donors per year (prepandemic), patients like Goodman can remain hopeful to find a match, and for that, the family is very appreciative.

“We are very grateful for A3M in Southern California. If it wasn’t for A3M, we wouldn’t have been able to get the word out like it has been. And for there to be a group that has the experience in campaigning and sharing knowledge with families going through it for the first time. It’s comforting for people who for them this is all new,” Bonnie Goodman said.

Another patient of Japanese heritage who made headlines in the last few months is Kazumi Schmidgall, an Arizona high school teacher. Schmidgall’s daughter provided an update on her mom, sharing that she will proceed with an umbilical cord stem cell transplant in a few weeks unless an adult volunteer donor is found, which is her doctor’s preferred option.

It is a hope of A3M recruiters that the hundreds of new donors, recently inspired by Paul Goodman, could be the answer for other patients in need like Schmidgall if they are not a match for him.

Bonnie Goodman ended her interview by sharing how this experience has impacted her family. “It’s been so overwhelming in such a wonderful way and changed our lives,” she reflected. “I want to have my turn at helping people like they have helped our family. So, going forward, this will forever impact our lives. We are just very, very grateful.”

If you, or someone you know, are interested in becoming a lifesaving donor and are 18-44 years old, you can join by visiting [join.bethematch.org/Hope4Paul](http://join.bethematch.org/Hope4Paul) or by texting HOPE4PAUL to 61474. After filling out the online application, a cheek swab kit will be mailed to you with a prepaid stamped return envelope.

**For more information on the donation process, visit [www.a3mhope.org](http://www.a3mhope.org).**

**For up-to-date info on Hope4Paul events, visit [www.ganbattepaul.com](http://www.ganbattepaul.com).**

**For more about Paul Goodman’s films, visit [www.eighteastproductions.com](http://www.eighteastproductions.com).**

## UPDATE » continued from page 4

So, why haven’t we found the next big new fundraising sources yet? To no surprise, you should know that institutional givers also exclude AAPIs. According to Asian American Pacific Islander in Philanthropy (AAPIP), a 1990 study found that only 0.18 percent of \$19 billion in foundation funding went to the AAPI community. In 2020, AAPIP reports that AAPIs now make up 7 percent of the U.S. population, yet our distribution of foundation funding is still well below 1 percent.

We’re delighted to have a handful of very solid corporate partners, and I am confident that we will find more. State Farm, AT&T, Verizon, Comcast and UPS have helped fund our youth and leadership programs, National Convention and more.

For our large corporate partners, it makes sense to partner with the oldest and largest AAPI civil rights organization. We must strike the right balance of corporate funding. It’s no secret that we do not agree with unjust corporate behavior. On the other hand, many corporations share our values. Right now, there is a huge emphasis on racial equity infrastructure that we must tap into.

Finally, we must continue to innovate the way we engage regular people like you and me in our fund development. This means that, on one hand, we have to promote our different philanthropic vehicles including premium memberships and legacy giving, which I already mentioned. Did you know that as of last year, you can now make monthly automatic donations on our website?

Similarly, one new benefit for premium and life members is monthly credit card payments. Many corporations offer their employees workplace matching programs. Last year, about a dozen folks hosted birthday fundraisers on Facebook, including myself.

Finally, I wanted to send a few appreciations. First, thank you to Haruka Roudebush, who served as the VP for Membership the last few years. Haruka helped organize our National Membership Committee, which has been an effective and fun community that shares membership ideas across the country.

Second, I want to thank artist and supporter Bob Matsumoto, who donated “Remembrance” posters that give tribute to Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II. Through Bob and Haruka’s leadership, we were able to increase premium and life memberships to bring in an extra \$41,400, which is one key to 2020’s membership growth.

Thank you to all of our members, donors, partners and P.C. subscribers. Despite the pandemic, we’ve been meeting our membership budget goals to fund critical programs because of you.

Lastly, thank you to JACL’s volunteers, and there are well over 500 of you. We could not have our reach and impact without grassroots chapter leaders, those who sit on district and national committees, the National Youth/Student Council and the Young Professionals Caucus. Together, we will bring JACL and our community into a new era of prosperity. ■

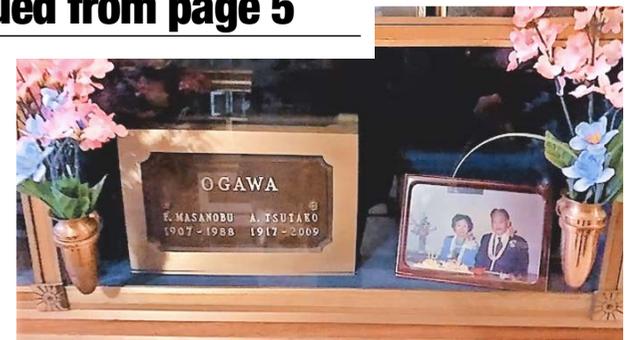
## OGAWA » continued from page 5

Now, the original Nikkei Hall will be part of a 58-unit affordable housing development for homeless people, at an estimated cost of more than \$34 million. EAH bought the property with a \$3.8 million loan from the city’s Housing Trust Fund.

At UCLA, Ogawa did become a PE major and an English minor, and that “led to the field of communications for me and eventually a Ph.D. in communications.” That was in 1969; while at UCLA, he was one of the founders of the Asian American Studies Center.

After becoming a professor at the University of Hawaii and the former chair of its American Studies Department, Ogawa focused on Japanese American Studies, Television and Ethnic Identity and Multicultural Studies. He would also author several books and would receive from the emperor of Japan the Imperial Decoration Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Ray with Neck Ribbon, in recognition of his role in the development of Japanese studies in the U.S. He also served as a founder and the chairman of Hawaii’s Nippon Golden Network, a pay cable service.

Still, Santa Monica is one of Ogawa’s *furusato* or hometowns. He said he tries to return at least once a year to visit his parents’ remains,



**The niche for Ogawa’s parents’ remains at Woodlawn cemetery**

which are interred at a niche at Woodlawn. “I’m really thankful for being able to share some of these memories,” Ogawa said.

He also remains dedicated to the “Ogawa from Obama” ethos.

“Santa Monica Beach is where I grew up,” Ogawa said. “Two of my buddies, I scattered their ashes there, and I will be joining them when I pass away. Part of my ashes will be scattered in Santa Monica waters. But my ashes will also be scattered on a beach in the Waikiki area . . . and the last part will be scattered at Obama.”

**The Santa Monica Conservancy posted a YouTube video of the webinar at [tinyurl.com/58b9y7vb](https://tinyurl.com/58b9y7vb). To learn more about the history of Japanese people in Santa Monica, visit [tinyurl.com/9zoiobp1](https://tinyurl.com/9zoiobp1). To support the Santa Monica Conservancy, visit [smconservancy.org](http://smconservancy.org).**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE SCHMIDGALL FAMILY

**Kazumi Schmidgall also needs a bone marrow match.**

# MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE AND AT DUSK PROGRAM SET FOR APRIL 24

The 52nd annual event will be held virtually this year.

LOS ANGELES — “Upholding Democracy and Constitutional Rights for All: No More Concentration Camps” is the theme for the 52nd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, which will be held online on April 24 at Noon. The 2021 Manzanar At Dusk program will also be held online in the hours following the pilgrimage event.

Manzanar was the first of the American concentration camps in which more than 120,000 Japanese Americans and their immigrant parents were unjustly incarcerated

during World War II.

Under normal circumstances, more than 1,000 people from all walks of life attend the Manzanar Pilgrimage each year, including students, teachers, community members, clergy and former incarcerated. Planning is already underway for this year’s online program.

Like last year, the Covid-19 pandemic will prevent the Manzanar Committee from sponsoring the traditional live program at the Manzanar National Historic Site. As

such, this year’s program will be a “Virtual Manzanar Pilgrimage,” to be released on the committee’s web site, YouTube channel and on its Facebook page.

In addition, Manzanar At Dusk, which was canceled last year, will also be held online. The program is co-sponsored by the Nikkei Student Unions at California State University, Fullerton; California State University, Long Beach; California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; the University of California, Los Angeles; the University of California, Riverside; and the University of California, San Diego.

The Manzanar Committee is dedicated

to educating and raising public awareness about the incarceration and violation of civil rights of persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II and to the continuing struggle of all peoples when Constitutional rights are in danger. A non-profit organization that has sponsored the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage since 1969, along with other educational programs, the Manzanar Committee has also played a key role in the establishment and continued development of the Manzanar National Historic Site.

Further details about the 52nd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage and the 2021 Manzanar At Dusk program will be announced at a later date.

*For more information about this year’s virtual program, call (323) 662-5102 or email [52ndpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org](mailto:52ndpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org).*



**Crowd shot looking west toward the Manzanar cemetery and the Eastern Sierras during the 48th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, April 29, 2017, at the Manzanar National Historic Site.**

PHOTO: GANN MATSUDA/ MANZANAR COMMITTEE



**IN HONOR OF 2021 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE  
PRESERVE OUR STORY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME**

## JACL Needs Your Help To Tell Our Story – “OUR LEAGUE OF DREAMS”

Raising funds now toward production of the first feature documentary film on the 90 plus year history of the Japanese American Citizens League

*Produced by filmmaker LANE NISHIKAWA*

**DONATE NOW ON OUR GO FUND ME PAGE:**

<https://bit.ly/OURLEAGUE>

**CHECK OUT OUR SHORT SNEAK PREVIEW!**

<https://youtu.be/R0Yn2vm3fpM>

Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is a non-profit, tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

## Get 5000 Reward Points when you transfer a balance to a new JACL VISA Premier Credit Card



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**No ATM Charges**

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**More reward points per purchase**



**National JACL Credit Union**

800-544-8828 [www.jaclcu.com](http://www.jaclcu.com)



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

**Annual JAACL National Convention**  
July 15-18  
Virtual Event

Join JAACL at its annual convention, which will be held virtually featuring a National Council meeting as well as breakout sessions and more! Be sure to visit JAACL's website for complete convention information and announcements as they become available.

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

## NCWNP

**Hayward Honors the Day of Remembrance**  
Hayward, CA  
Feb 27; 4 p.m.  
Virtual Event

**Price:** Free; Preregistration Is Required.

Hayward Public Library, in partnership with the Hayward Arts Council and the JAACL Eden Township chapter present this DOR program that will feature speakers including East Bay artist/historian Patricia Wakida, who was commissioned to design new artwork for the Hayward Heritage Plaza Japanese American Art Project. Also speaking will be Hayward Arts Council Executive Director Winda Shiimizu.

**Info:** To register, visit [tinyurl.com/Remember2021](http://tinyurl.com/Remember2021). For additional information, visit <https://hayward.librarycalendar.com>.

**LASER Talks With Dr. Jasmine Alinder and Katharyne Mitchell**  
Santa Cruz, CA  
March 11; 5-6:30 p.m.  
Virtual Event  
**Price:** Free  
University of California, Santa Cruz

Join Dr. Jasmine Alinder and Katharyne Mitchell during this discussion that is part of the

LASER program that brings together artists, scientists, scholars and the public for conversations. This presentation will include Alinder's discussion regarding the Japanese American incarceration experience.

**Info:** To register, visit <https://ias.ucsc.edu/events/2021/laser-talks-march-11-2021>.

**JAMsj Tohoku 10th Year Anniversary Event**  
San Jose, CA  
March 12; 5-6:30 p.m.  
Japanese American Museum of San Jose  
Virtual Event  
**Price:** Free but donations are welcome.

This event will look at the past, present and future of Tohoku, 10 years following the deadly and destructive earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster. The program will feature a video produced by Darrell Miho, followed by an introduction to the Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum. Miho will be joined by Hazuki Kumagai, curator for the museum for a Q & A session. The program will also feature a Q & A with representatives from Futaba Mirai Gakuen High School in Fukushima and presentations by nonprofit organizations located in the Tohoku area that focus on education.

**Info:** Call (408) 294-3138 or email [publicprograms@jamsj.org](mailto:publicprograms@jamsj.org) for more information.

**Spring 2021 Wagashi Sweets Virtual Cooking Workshop**  
San Francisco, CA  
March 14; 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Japanese Cultural and Community Center Northern California  
Virtual Workshop  
**Price:** \$7 Center Members; \$10 General Public

Join instructors Larry Sokyo Tiscornia and Kimika Soko Takechi for a virtual traditional Japanese sweets workshop themed around "mushimanju," a steamed wheat flour bun filled with sweet bean paste. Step-by-step instruction will be provided over Zoom. Easy recipes will also be provided where participants will be able to follow along and show their finished sweets at the conclusion of the workshop.

**Info:** To register, visit <http://bit.ly/wagashispring2021>.

## PSW

**Japanese Cooking for Beginners with Azusa Oda: Chirashi Zushi**  
Los Angeles, CA  
Japanese American National Museum

Feb. 27; 11:30-1:30 p.m.  
Virtual workshop

**Price:** \$20 Member; \$25 General  
This interactive workshop will feature cookbook author and designer Azusa Oda as she teaches participants how to cook chirashi zushi in celebration of Girl's Day in Japan. Oda's blog, [humblebeanblog.com](http://humblebeanblog.com), shares contemporary variations on simple and delicious Japanese recipes.

**Info:** Visit [janm.org](http://janm.org) for more information and how to sign up.

**20th Anniversary Caregiver Conference**  
Los Angeles, CA  
March 13; Noon-3:30 p.m. PST  
Virtual Event  
**Price:** Free

Join Keiro at its annual conference that continues Keiro's work to support and equip family caregivers with practical knowledge to enhance the quality of care their loved ones receive. The program will also feature a panel discussion on caregiving during the Covid pandemic, as well as two breakout sessions about reflections from past caregivers on their experiences and culinary tips for caregivers. A virtual resource fair is also included.

**Info:** Registration is required by March 10. Visit [Keiro.org/caregiver-conference](http://Keiro.org/caregiver-conference) or email [programs@keiro.org](mailto:programs@keiro.org) with the subject "Conference Registration."

**VJCC Virtual Sake Social**  
Los Angeles, CA  
March 20; 2-4 p.m. sake/bento pickup; virtual event begins at 6 p.m.

Venice Japanese Community Center  
Virtual Event  
**Price:** \$25-\$125

The VJCC is hosting a virtual evening of specialty sake and food pairings curated by Scott Hada, sake expert and co-owner of Aki Restaurant. Enjoy 3-300 ml handpicked premium sakes while savoring a specially created bento box. 3 bottles are enough for 2-4 people to share. Net proceeds will go toward VJCC restroom remodeling project.

**Info:** To purchase a ticket, visit [VJCCvirtualsake.eventbrite.com](http://VJCCvirtualsake.eventbrite.com).

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

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

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

## PNW

**Lan Su Garden Chinese New Year Celebration**  
Portland, OR  
Thru March 7  
Lan Su Garden  
239 N.W. Everett St.

**Price:** \$12.95 General Admission  
Visit in person the Lan Su Garden as it wraps up its 2021 Chinese New Year activities celebrating the Year of the Ox. The garden features a special new phoenix from China, donated by ACHIEF, a sculpture that will nest in the garden's Lake Zither during the festival. There is also a visitor mobile app that provides free access to garden audio tours and a special New Year's scavenger hunt. While visiting, please adhere to health and safety protocols.

**Info:** Visit [www.lansugarden.org](http://www.lansugarden.org) for admission tickets and additional information.

**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

**Colorado Dragon Boat Film Festival**  
Denver, CO  
March 4-7  
Virtual Event  
**Price:** \$55 Denver Film Members; \$65 Nonmembers; \$12 Individual Film Tickets.

The 6th Annual festival will be available virtually through its partnership with Denver Film. This year's theme "representASIAN" focuses on films, organizations and individuals that highlight Asian American culture and identity. The fest will also feature virtual Q & A's and conversations with filmmakers and the Denver community.

**Info:** Tickets and festival passes, along with additional information, can be found at [www.denverfilm.org](http://www.denverfilm.org).

## EDC

**Kimono In Print: 300 Years of Japanese Design**  
Worcester, MA  
Thru May 2  
Worcester Art Museum  
55 Salisbury St.

**Price:** Museum Admission  
This is the museum's first exhibit devoted to examining the kimono as a major source of inspiration and experimentation in Japanese print culture from the Edo period (1603-1868) to the Meiji Period (1868-1912). This dialogue between print and kimono design is illustrated by approximately 70 Japanese prints.

**Info:** Visit <https://www.worcesterart.org/exhibitions/kimono-in-print/>.

**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://japan.societyboston.wildapricot.org>. ■

## ADVERTISE HERE

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

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

# In MEMORIAM

**Agari, Tadashi, 73**, Stockton, CA, Jan. 11; he is survived by his siblings, Tomiko Varga, Atsushi (Wendy) Agari and Susumu (Leng) Agari; he is also survived by nieces and nephews.



bert and Tayeko; brothers, Steven (Susan) and Austin (Ruby); 2 nephews; he is also survived by many other relatives.



**Matsumoto, Edna Uyeno, 96**, Pasadena, CA, April 26, 2020; she was predeceased by her husband, Ben; she is survived by her daughters, Donna (Brian) Wakano and Doreen (Bob) Ono; gc: 1.



**Ochiai, Sachi, 101**, Los Angeles, CA, July 25, 2020; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Manzanar WRA Center in CA; she was predeceased by her husband, Richard, and daughter, Sheryl; she is survived by her son, Alan; daughter-in-law, Kathy; gc: 2.



**Tamaki, Marion, 93**, Plymouth Meeting, PA, Jan. 5; she was an active member of the JACL at the local and national levels; she was predeceased by her husband, Dr. H. T. Tamaki; she is survived by her children, Dwight (Patricia), Greg (Julia), Karen Buescher (Phil) and Drew Tamaki; gc: 9.

**Asahino, Myrtle Yoshioka, 87**, Fountain Valley, CA, Sept. 11, 2020; she was predeceased by her husband, Steve, and sister, Misao "Sue" Rivera; she is survived by her children, Steven, Karen (Dan) Sell-eck, Kathryn (Rich) Tait and Kenny (Catherine); siblings, Isamu (Ruth) Yoshioka, Janet Nagasako and Cherry (Jerry) Kobashigawa; gc: 6.

**Hashimoto, Melvin, 55**, Rolling Hills Estates, CA, April 5, 2020; he is survived by his son, Kaleo Hashimoto; siblings, Daune (Patty), Rick (Patty) Hashimoto and Mae (Mike) Kuratani; he is also survived by many nephews, nieces, cousins and relatives.

**Hashimura, Gary Akira, 67**, El Segundo, CA, June 23, 2020.



**Nakatani, Sayo, 90**, Pasadena, CA, July 24, 2020; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Heart Mountain WRA Center in WY; she is survived by her husband, Clifford; children, Mark and Lori (Magallanes); brother, Shizuo (Judy) Nakawatase; gc: 3.

**Nako, Sarah Tomoye, 93**, Placentia, CA, Aug. 13, 2020; she was predeceased by her husband, Robert, and daughter, Debbie Y. Nako; she is survived by her daughter, Eileen (Frank) Fetters; gc: 1; ggc: 2.

**Inadomi, George, 89**, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 6, 2020; he is survived by his wife, Jeanette; children, Jennifer (Doug), LeeAnn (Robert), Matthew (Suzie); siblings Iris (Bob), Jean (Phil), Kiyo (Atsushi) and Larry (Gale); gc: 7.



**Kamada, Kenneth Hiroshi, 59**, Los Angeles, CA, March 26, 2020; he is survived by his parents, Her-

TRIBUTE

LOIS TOMOKO TOYAMA



April 21, 1924-Dec. 31, 2020

Lois Tomoko Toyama passed away peacefully at the age of 96. Lois was born in Cortez, Calif., on April 21, 1924, to Masui and Tome Kawamura. She and her six siblings spent their early years working on the family farm. When World War II started, her family was incarcerated at the Turlock Assembly Center, where Lois was given her Modesto High School diploma by her principal, and later at the Amache

internment camp in Colorado. After the war, Lois returned to California and attended Reedley College, but then moved to Chicago where she enrolled at the Baptist Missionary Training School (now part of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School). While living in Chicago, Lois met and married Saburo "Zip" Toyama. They came back to California in 1953 and settled in East Los Angeles where they raised their four sons Tim, Norm, Nate, and Titus.

Lois worked for the L.A. Unified School District, serving as a children's center teacher for over 20 years. In her retirement, she traveled with husband Zip around the world, took care of her grandchildren, and tirelessly supported her son Tim's movie projects. One of her most memorable moments was attending the Academy Awards in 1998 to see Tim's film, "Visas and Virtue," awarded an Oscar for best live-action short film.

Lois especially enjoyed hosting the family's annual July Fourth and Thanksgiving gatherings. As the family grew larger and multicultural, it was not unusual to have sushi with carnitas, persimmon salad, fried chicken, manju, and vegetarian Chinese dishes on the menu!

Lois' Christian faith was a source of her positive outlook on life. She and Zip were active members of Mission Valley Free Methodist Church. Even as she approached the end of her life, Lois kept up with the Daily Devotions - the large type version.

Lois was preceded in death by her parents, Masui and Tome; husband, Saburo; son, Norman; and siblings, Seichi Otow, Peter Makoto "Mac" Kawamura, Yuki Omi, Elsa Okuda, Joy Asami and Ruth Shinobi Matsuno. She is survived by her sons, Timothy (Naomi Yoshida), Nathan (Carol Wilbanks), Titus (Donna Komure), daughter-in-law Blanca (Olguin), her six grandchildren, Vanessa, Aaron, Elizabeth, Lucinda, Megan and Kaitlin, and many nieces and nephews. Due to the COVID pandemic, a memorial will be held at a later date.

www.fukuimortuary.com (213) 626-0441

PLACE A TRIBUTE

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

CONTACT:

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

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REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

# AARP FOUNDATION TAX-AIDE

By Ron Mori

Tax season is here, and I'm happy to report that the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program has adjusted to our new normal. The Tax-Aide program provides in-person and virtual tax preparation help to anyone, free of charge, with a special focus on taxpayers who are over 50 and have low to moderate income.

My mother is a big Tax-Aide fan, and she is so happy to know that adjustments have been made to keep clients and volunteers safe for this tax season.

Tax help is provided in safe environments based on a number of factors, including where you are located, Covid-19 spread and volunteer availability. Tax-Aide service started on Feb. 12, in keeping with the IRS announcement that it will start accepting returns on that date. If you need tax help, visit [aarpfoundation.org/taxaide](http://aarpfoundation.org/taxaide) to request tax help or answer any questions you might have.

The U.S. tax code is complicated. As a result, many taxpayers overpay, turn to services they can't afford or don't file — missing out on credits and deductions that they've earned.

The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program has more than 36,000 volunteers that provide free tax preparation and filing services in nearly 5,000 communities.

Tax-Aide volunteers are trained and IRS-certified every year to make sure they know about and understand the latest changes and additions to the tax code. I am proud to say that this is the largest volunteer-based tax assistance and preparation program in the U.S.

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, Tax-Aide offers several options for taxpayer assistance. These options vary by location and are subject to change.

- **In-Person:** In Tax-Aide's traditional in-person service, taxes are prepared and filed by IRS-certified tax counselors — now with strict physical distancing measures in place.

- **Low-Contact:** Taxpayers interact with IRS-certified volunteers in one or two short, in-person meetings to exchange documents.
- **Contact-Free:** Taxpayers interact with Tax-Aide counselors online or by phone and exchange documents electronically.
- **Self-Preparation:** Tax-Aide provides taxpayers with free access to software so they can prepare their own taxes. Taxpayers can also request help from a Tax-Aide counselor to coach them through the process via computer screen-sharing.
- Social Security cards and/or ITIN notices/cards or other official documentation that show the taxpayer identification numbers for every individual on your return.
- Government-issued photo ID for each taxpayer.
- Checking or savings account information if you want to direct deposit any refund(s) or direct debit any amounts due.
- Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN)

(for each individual if applicable). In 2020, 1.5 million taxpayers who used AARP Foundation Tax-Aide received more than \$1 billion in income tax refunds. Now that is a lot of money and refunds.

*If you have any questions about the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program, please contact us at [taxaide@aarp.org](mailto:taxaide@aarp.org) or call (888) 227-7669.*

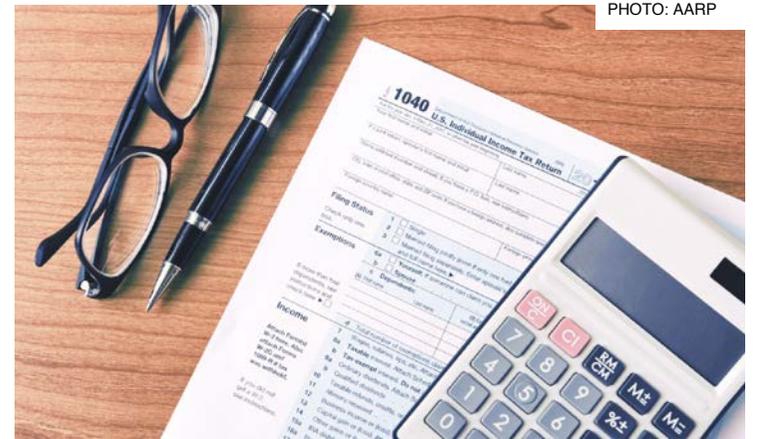


PHOTO: AARP

The information below includes items you might need for Tax-Aide service to help you prepare your tax returns. This is a general list; there might be additional materials you'll need based on the type of service needed.

- Previous year's tax return(s).

## GIFTS » continued from page 3

As I listened to Keiko share her stories, I choked up more times than I ever have in my interviews. Perhaps it was because I related so closely to struggling with my child, but recognizing simple moments that I no longer take for granted.

I also walked away with a more compassionate heart for parents who might be struggling with a defiant child. We all know those situations at the store, where we see parents dealing with a child who is kicking and screaming as they lay on the ground.

I used to think *that child is a spoiled kid*, but maybe, just maybe it is a special needs child. I will not judge that parent in the future. I will look at them and smile with reassurance and understanding because I will

remember the stories of Keiko and Leo. Yes, Leo you have been my teacher too . . . .

*'Tis the gift to be simple, 'Tis the gift to be free  
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be  
And when we find ourselves in the place just right  
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight*

— Joseph Brackett, a Shaker Elder

*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."*

Little Leo . . .  
Here I am . . .



### Notice of Upcoming Renovation Project

#### Little Tokyo Tower

455 E. 3rd St., Los Angeles, CA 90

カリフォルニア州ロサンゼルスで予定される改修プロジェクトの通知。  
リトル東京タワー  
455 East 3rd St. カリフォルニア州ロサンゼルス。90013

- 09-000 DRYWALL/FLOOR/CEILING/PAINT 乾式壁/床/天井/塗料
- 10-000 SPECIALTIES 専門分野
- 11-000 EQUIPMENT 装置
- 14-000 ELEVATORS & HANDLING SYSTEMS エレベーターとハンドリングシステム
- 15-000 FIRE PROTECTION/PLUMBING/HVAC 防火/配管/HVAC
- 16-000 ELECTRICAL 電気
- 02-000 SITE WORK 現場工事
- 03-000 CONCRETE コンクリート
- 05-000 METALS 金属
- 06-000 WOOD & PLASTIC 木材とプラスチック
- 07-000 WATERPROOF/INSULATE/ROOFING 防水/断熱/屋根
- 08-000 DOORS/HARDWARE/GLASS/GLAZE ドア/ハードウェア/ガラス/ガラス



Subcontractors interested in the Little Tokyo Tower project need to reply no later than **April 15th, 2021, via email to [LT@mfrg-icon.com](mailto:LT@mfrg-icon.com).**

リトル東京タワープロジェクトに関心のある下請け業者は、遅くとも返信する必要があります。2021年4月15日、メールで

If you would like additional information or have questions, please reach out to our team members listed below; 追加情報が必要な場合や質問がある場合は、以下のチームメンバーに連絡してください。

Dan Kern, Senior Project Manager  
(310) 903-8839

Kevin Schelbrack, Director of Pre-Construction  
(310) 701-4968