



PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 92 YEARS

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Coverage of
2021 Day of
Remembrance
Events

**STOP
AAPI
HATE**

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Beloved Temple
in Little Tokyo
VANDALIZED
Community
Outraged and
Saddened

Our communities stand united against racism. Hate against Asian American Pacific Islander communities has risen during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Together, we can stop it.**

The Stop AAPI Hate website has recorded more than 2,808 incidents of hate crimes against Asian Americans since it began in March 2020.

PHOTO: STOPAAPIHATE.ORG

HIGASHI HONGANJI TEMPLE **VANDALIZED** — RACIALLY MOTIVATED INTENTIONS BEING INVESTIGATED

As the AAPI community continues to see a sharp increase in hate crimes, a beloved Little Tokyo landmark is the latest target.

Violence against the Asian American Pacific Islander community continues to rise, and on Feb. 26, a vandalism attack on Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo is being investigated as a racially motivated hate crime.

Higashi Honganji, located on Third and Central streets, was breached by an unknown male who hurled a rock through its front window, set fire to beloved wooden lantern stands and toppled over metal lanterns from their concrete bases.

Los Angeles County Fire and the Los Angeles Police Department were called to the scene; a suspect who was caught on video surveillance has not yet been apprehended. No security guard was on duty, and an alarm system installed at the temple was not activated at the time of the crime.

The destruction to the Little Tokyo landmark has shocked and saddened the temple's priests and staff, as well as the community at large.

"We are fortunate that no one was physically harmed in this incident," said Rinban Rev. Noriyaki Ito in a statement. "The damage was quite visible and led to a full day of news reporters coming to learn what had happened. . . . Probably the reason why it was so widely reported is because of the growing number of incidents labeled as hate crimes against Asians especially on the East and West coasts of our country."

The community at large immediately reacted. Nikkei Progressives, alongside community partners, friends in Little Tokyo and in partnership with Higashi, created a GoFundMe campaign to help raise funds for the temple to repair the damage.

Since its inception at the beginning of March, the campaign has raised \$85,838 (as of press time).

"THANK YOU so much for all your generosity. We have blown our \$50,000 goal out of the water with your incredible help!" Nikkei Progressives announced in a statement. "It has been amazing to see how much support the world has for Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple and Little Tokyo. HHBT is such a special place for so many of us. Even in the aftermath of an attack on their front door step, their inclination was to reach outward and see what the community needed from them and how they could move forward while building friendship and love."

NP also announced that all funds raised past the \$50,000 goal will "go to the temple to use at its discretion for security and operating funds."

According to Ito, the temple has never experienced such violence in its 45 years in the community.

"We will work to repair the damage and to restore the temple. But we need to repair the damage to ourselves as well," Ito said in his statement. "Like

many others in our AAPI community and beyond, we feel hurt and saddened and even angered by the recent attacks on those of Asian and Pacific Islander descent. For many of us, the temple is a second home, and this feels like an attack on our culture, our history, our community, our family. Together, we will grieve, and we will heal."

In response to the vandalism of Higashi Honganji, JACL National released a statement in partnership with community and faith organizations on March 5.

"While the incident is still under investigation, and the LAPD has said it is too early to call the incident a hate crime, any act of vandalism against a place of worship hurts the entire community," the statement read. "The violation of sacred spaces meant to serve as safe havens for their membership is deplorable. The prominent place of Higashi Honganji Temple in the Little Tokyo and Japanese American community demonstrates the continuing escalation of hate incidents against

the Asian American community and must be brought to an end. We all know the pain and fear that comes when houses of worship are desecrated. All arms of government should take every possible step to apprehend those responsible and to lead the society-wide condemnation of such assaults."

» See TEMPLE on page 8



Among the damage, a window was also broken and a fire was started on the front steps that was extinguished by a temple officiant.

PHOTOS: FACEBOOK



Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple was vandalized by an unknown assailant on Feb. 26.

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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





FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OH THE PLACES YOU'LL GO (If You Don't Do Anything to Get 'Canceled')

By David Inoue, JACL Executive Director

On March 2, the 117th anniversary of Theodor Seuss Geisel's birthday, the estate charged with preserving his legacy announced it would no longer publish six of his books that included hurtful racist imagery particularly of African Americans, Asian Americans and Inuits.

For Japanese Americans, it is well known that Geisel was the illustrator of numerous propaganda pieces during World War II depicting Japanese and Japanese Americans as subhuman and with racist caricatures.

While some are decrying this as "cancel culture" run amok, as someone who grew up with Dr. Seuss and

raised my own two children reading many of his books, this is a welcome announcement.

The images in question are among the worst in promoting racist caricature and, in fact, one of the discontinued books "And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street" had already been edited slightly in the 1970s to change the use of "Chinaman" to "Chinese man," and the caricature was toned down, though not completely removed.

In a 2019 study "The Cat Is Out of the Bag: Orientalism, Anti-Blackness and White Supremacy in Dr. Seuss' Children's Books" by Katie Ishizuka of the Conscious Kid Library and Ramon Stephens of the University of California, San Diego, they reviewed all 2,240 human characters appearing

in 50 Seuss books. Only 45, or 2 percent of the characters were people of color, and within that, 43 characters were portrayed as Orientalist and the other two as supposedly "African."

Furthermore, they identified white supremacist themes with the Asian and African characters placed in subservient roles to the white characters. Not only is there a lack of people of color, but also the few depictions present are of a racist nature. There is much more in this journal article worth reading, especially the explanation of the book "Horton Hears a Who!" It is available online (https://sophia.stkate.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1050&context=rdyl).

Research has shown that babies begin to discern differences in racial characteristics as early as three to six months. It should be made clear that discernment of differences in race is not a problem.

It is perfectly normal to recognize differences in appearance, as without this, we would all look alike and be indiscernible from one another. The problem is when prejudices are attached to physical attributes, and those prejudices begin to form as early as 3 years old, right about the age when Dr. Seuss books are likely in heavy rotation of reading

materials. Dr. Seuss' imagery can play a role in establishing the basis for some prejudices in young children, and it is for this reason that some of the worst offenders have been retired.

Almost immediately, the outcry was loud about "Cancel Culture," the rallying phrase for those who want to protect the past, what for them are the good old days and the freedom to speak one's mind regardless of the impact those words might have on others. It is that disregard that makes the cries of cancel culture ring hollow.

They ask, "Why can't we keep the books and simply explain the offensive imagery to our children?" Clearly they have not tried explaining racism or any discrimination to a 3 year old who does not have the cognitive ability to understand the prejudice that is building subconsciously.

The other retort is "Why not ban the Bible (or some other adult book)? It speaks of ownership of slaves, men dominating their wives and many other bad things."

Typically, those passages are not included as part of the preschool Sunday school curriculum, and parents and teachers will filter what is shared with children. With these

Dr. Seuss books, there is no filtering. Where claims of "Cancel Culture" truly fall flat is when put in context of what it really is, objection to responsibility. We are guaranteed freedom of speech by the government, but not freedom from consequence of our speech.

The real "culture" that has developed is one where the past president spread lies about the validity of the election and incited his followers to attempt an overthrow of the government, thus far without any real consequences.

Dr. Seuss Enterprises recognized the consequences of continued publication of the six books was too damaging not only to the children who might be exposed to the books, but also to the legacy of the name they are entrusted to protect.

We can only hope that more of our nation's leaders take a lesson they should have learned as children, probably as early as when they themselves were reading Dr. Seuss books, that there needs to be consequences for actions. That's not being canceled, it's taking responsibility.

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



NIKKEI VOICE

REMEMBERING DENVER'S CHINATOWN ROOTS IN THE MIDST OF RENEWED ANTI-ASIAN HATE

By Gil Asakawa

Hate crimes against Asians are on the rise. Again.

And this time, there's a difference: The "mainstream" media, from newspapers to TV news, has been reporting on the spike. Hate crimes against Asians in America are nothing new, and certainly the numbers became noteworthy with the coming of the coronavirus pandemic and political leaders like the former president calling it the "China Virus" or "Kung Flu."

Amidst this wave of attacks, a group of Asian Americans in Denver calling ourselves the "Re-envisioning Denver's Historic Chinatown Project" have been working to remind people that the level of hate against Asians existed even in the earliest days of Asian immigration to this country.

On Oct. 31, 1880, there was an anti-Chinese race riot that left businesses and residences destroyed. One man, Luck Young, was beaten to death and then hung from a lamp post.

The riot was sparked by a bar fight in a pool hall between two Chinese men and four white men. Within a couple of hours, thousands of white folks stormed through the Lower Downtown District — today called LoDo — chasing the Chinese out.

The riot didn't completely rid Denver of what had been a thriving Chinatown district. The first Chinese arrived in the 1870s, after the Trans-Continental Railroad was completed in 1869.

They started businesses along the alleyways of LoDo, and they established all sorts of business, including laundries and, unfortunately, opium dens. Because of the drug, which

was called "hop" by users, whites referred to the district derogatorily as "Hop Alley."

But the area wasn't just about drugs. Chinatown was an ethnic enclave. Even with Chinese immigration closed off, the residents and business folk returned to Denver's early Chinatown and were part of Colorado's ethnic mix into the late 1800s.

Today, LoDo is thriving again. It's anchored at one end by Coors Field, and is bookended by Sakura Square and Union Station.

A small plaque is attached to the wall of a building kitty-corner from Coors Field at the bustling intersection of 20th and Blake Streets. The plaque is part of a "Lower Downtown Walking Tour" and is titled "Hope Alley/Chinese Riot of 1880."

It describes the growing Chinese district but focuses on the opium dens and the negative "hop alley" reputation. It describes the fight that started the riot and notes that "one Chinese man lost his life" without mentioning his name, but then goes on to name the white people who saved fleeing Chinese by letting them into their businesses.

I applaud that white people rescued some Chinese, but the description strikes me as a classic example of history written from a white-centered perspective.

At the time, I was a member of the Denver Asian American Pacific Islander Commission and the commission agreed to make it a priority to replace this plaque with a more

accurate and appropriate plaque.

I helped draft a proclamation that was given by Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock last year for the 140th anniversary on Oct. 31. Since then, the effort became a project led by a group that also includes former commissioners (me) and a couple of respected historians and academics, as well as a couple of architects.

Our immediate goal is to redo the plaque and then find artists to paint a mural (or murals) on the large wall of the building where the plaque is mounted. We also want to eventually place other markers to note Chinatown locations and hope to launch annual Lunar New Year celebrations in the area.

This is a long-term project.



But it's heartening to be involved in a project like this that reflects and remembers the hardships that Asians faced a century and a half ago, and use that memory as one remedy to fight the hatred that we still face today. The persistence of hatred is terrible, but we can fight it with hope and education, looking to the past to create the future.

Gil Asakawa is former chair of the Pacific Citizen Editorial Board and author of "Being Japanese American" (Second Edition, Stone Bridge Press, 2015). He blogs at www.nikkeiview.com.

An official proclamation was given by Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock last year to mark "Denver's Chinatown Commemoration Day" on Oct. 31. Efforts are underway to update a plaque that currently is displayed with a more accurate and appropriate description.



SENIORS AT SAKURA INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITY IN BOYLE HEIGHTS GIVEN NOTICE TO LEAVE

The Feb. 26 announcement by Pacifica Companies announces plans to build high-rental income property on the Los Angeles site.

LOS ANGELES — Pacifica Companies, international real estate developers and current owners of the facilities formerly known as Keiro Nursing and Retirement Homes, officially announced on Feb. 26 its intentions to begin ceasing of operation at the Sakura Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) in Boyle Heights, Calif.

Development of plans to transfer all residents of the ICF, aged from their 80s into their 100s, out of the facility to make way for its conversion to a market-rate, high-rental income property have been stated to have begun on March 1, according to a memo delivered to family members.

The action appears to contradict a previously released statement by Pacifica Companies issued on Jan. 26.

One of the locations being considered as a potential destination point for the seniors of the ICF is the Kei-Ai Los Angeles skilled nursing facility (SNF) located in Lincoln Heights, Calif.

Kei-Ai Los Angeles, according to

the California Department of Health (CDPH) database, is by far the No. 1 SNF for cumulative Covid-19 deaths in California.

Conversely, the administration and staff of the Sakura ICF has been stellar in its prevention of even a single case of Covid-19 in that facility.

Given the increasing presence of new mutations of the virus, there is no basis for the families to feel comfortable with the forced transfer of residents to move them out of the ICF while the pandemic is still underway.

According to the CDPH, the two Kei-Ai SNFs owned by Pacifica Companies (the second one, Kei-Ai South Bay, is located in Gardena, Calif.) had a combined 269 complaints and nine serious violations since 2018.

By the LA County DPH's own evaluation criteria, these infractions should have disqualified Kei-Ai LA from being granted status as a Covid-19 receptor facility (as defined

in 42 CFR § 488.301 and mentioned on pages 17-19 of the LAC Office of Inspector General Report, October 2020).

In addition, Pacifica Companies did not inform residents, families or attending physicians of the change in status.

On Jan. 26, only hours before Pacifica Companies announced its intention to begin development of plans to cease operations at Sakura ICF, an ad hoc group of community activists, SOS (Save Our Seniors) staged a rally outside the Sakura Intermediate Care Facility in an effort to save the facility's 64 residents from being forcibly displaced (*see Pacific Citizen, Feb. 5-18, 2021*).

According to actor Tamlyn Tomita, one of the many speakers on that day, the situation is bigger than the fate of those residents.

"It is not just a Japanese American issue," Tomita said, referring to the rise of gentrification that has not spared Boyle Heights. "It is a neighborhood community issue."

It all began on Feb. 1, 2016, when the nonprofit Keiro Senior Healthcare sold its properties that housed four facilities specializing in culturally sensitive eldercare facilities for ethnic Japanese to the for-profit Pacifica Cos. LLC for \$41 million.

The California Attorney General's office mandated that to approve the sale, Pa-



The existing Sakura ICF (right) and a rendering of Pacifica's proposed multifamily housing units it plans to build on the existing site.

PHOTOS: SAVE OUR SENIORS



Signs in support of the Sakura ICF senior residents were also displayed on cars.

cifica must continue to offer unchanged for five years the same level of bicultural-bilingual care the mostly elderly residents of Japanese ancestry depended on for their physical mental and emotional well-being.

SOS' goal that day was to get an extension on the five-year agreement for the welfare of the ICF's residents, and it had launched a petition drive to gain support for that plan.

Pacifica, in the fall of 2020, applied to the Los Angeles City Planning Commission to convert the ICF into apartments.

In an official statement by the JAACL, it said, "Sakura Gardens is emblematic of a growing problem in the downtown and East L.A. area and across the nation as ethnic enclaves are being replaced by gentrification. The Covid pandemic has exacerbated the strain on neighborhoods like Little Tokyo and Boyle Heights, as we continue to lose the foundational community businesses and residents that made the communities what they are today. . . ."

"We call upon Pacifica Companies to pause and take stock of the dangers of proceeding with the closure to its residents, to whom they remain obligated as caregivers."

Family members, organizations

and other local stakeholders are now gathering to bring attention to the lack of oversight and accountability for the still-rising death count at Kei-Ai LA and are calling for elected officials to address the matter.

On March 1, Frank Shyong, a columnist for the *Los Angeles Times*, ran a report detailing the numerous Covid-related deaths of residents at the Kei-Ai Los Angeles facility."

Kei-Ai Los Angeles was the site of a recent, multid denominational public memorial for 113 that had fallen to Covid-19 at the two Kei-Ai facilities (now 114). Held by Save Our Seniors Network, it was also a call to action from elected officials to explain why skilled nursing facilities such as Kei-Ai LA are being used as dumping grounds for Covid-19 patients without proper oversight and transparency.

For more information on Save Our Seniors, visit <https://saveourseniors.network>.

A rally was held on Jan. 26 by SOS and community leaders and activists to protest against Pacifica's plans to displace its senior residents at its Boyle Heights, Calif., care facility.



REFLECTIONS

NO MAGIC BULLET EXISTS TO STOP HATE, BUT THERE IS A GROWING RESPONSE

By Ron Wakabayashi,
Past JAACL National Director

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following, lightly edited, was originally posted by the author on his Facebook feed and is reprinted with his permission.)

Hate crime apprehension, prosecutions and convictions are difficult and rare. At a federal level, establishing nexus is very rare. What the justice system requires to label an event a hate crime is a different animal from how the community defines and uses the

term. It will create misunderstanding.

"Hate crime" is not itself a crime. It is a statutory enhancement that adds penalties if bias motive can be proven. Because that requires having "evidence" of motive, of being able to document what's in somebody's head, it is hard to evidence. This challenge is over and above establishing federal nexus.

The legal bar is really complex. While I know most law enforcement is responsive to major hate incidents, policing and prosecution have limitations.

The community sense of hate incidents is different and more practical. It's having a strong sense that an incident has/had a bias motive. Sometimes, that is situational and circumstantial. It's our basic survival mechanisms recognizing a threat. We

can feel it. We can suspect it. But that doesn't reach the legal standard. What it does is cause anxiety and fear of an elevated sense of risk of victimization and vulnerability.

With reports that the number of reported hate crimes against Asians increasing by more than a factor of 10 during the past year and a steady stream of media reports of serious assaults, there is deep concern.

Understand that the API community had anxiety that the hate crime rate would rise. We could hear the inciting rhetoric coming from the Trump administration. Our antenna was up. Community organizations began to monitor and collect suspected incidents more than a year ago.

Before I retired almost a year ago, our regional office of the USDOJ

Community Relations Service recorded this happening, and we began alerting cases. It took a year before it broke into public attention.

This is not our first experience with anti-Asian backlash. It has had a presence throughout our history in the United States. In the 1980s, concurrent with the period of the campaign of Japanese Americans to seek redress for the wartime incarceration, the growing trade conflict with Japan was the driver for a period of increased incidents.

Before the Vincent Chin murder, JAACL chapters submitted more than 300 media-reported incidents. We annotated those submissions and published a report that Rep. Norman Mineta distributed to Congress.

» See RESPONSE on page 9

MANZANAR COMMITTEE Holds DOR Program

The virtual event ties together national events that have occurred within the pandemic as well as a dialogue sparking hope moving forward.

By P.C. Staff

The Manzanar Committee's DOR program took place Feb. 13 and was a virtual affair. (It can be viewed at: [youtube.com/watch?v=AHozc4QX2qk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHozc4QX2qk).)

Following video of a live recording of a band led by taikoists Kenny and Chizuko Endo that combined traditional Japanese instrumentation with Western instrumentation, Los Angeles DOR Chair Glen Kitayama began the program.

Alluding to the origin of the modern DOR programs, Kitayama said, "Seventy-nine years ago, one of the worst violations of civil rights in the United States happened when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, authorizing the military to forcibly place Japanese Americans from the

West Coast into concentration camps without any formal charges or trial."

Kitayama reviewed what happened in the year since the last DOR program in Los Angeles (see *Pacific Citizen*, Feb. 21, 2020) and tied them together with a litany of other disturbing incidents that happened during the pandemic-caused lockdown: the increase in incidents of anti-Asian violence, the Black Lives Matter protests that arose after the deaths of people like George Floyd while under arrest by the police, the detention of illegal immigrant families and children by the government and the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

Kitayama said the Jan. 6 event "exposed to many the serious threat of white supremacy and domestic terrorism in the United States" that was the "logical conclusion to a presidency that embraced white

nationalism and the darker nature of a society that seeks to divide us."

Next came a prerecorded roll call of the 10 WRA Centers and other incarceration camps operated by the federal government that held Japanese Americans during WWII, followed by Manzanar Committee member Jason Fujii, who introduced poet Perrin Tanimoto, who recited her poem, "We Are Americans."

Alan Kondo of Nikkei Progressives then introduced featured speaker Mario Perez of the Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice. Perez, who was born in Mexico City and came to the U.S. with his parents to the U.S. illegally at age 5, relayed the fear his family lived under and how the seriousness of his situation really hit home for him when he tried to open up a bank account without documentation, like a Social Security

number or California ID card.

"I am currently running the Emergency Response Network, which is a hotline that we have available for folks," Perez said, adding that they want to document every arrest to prevent the violation of "numerous human rights."

Andie Kimura of the Go for Broke National Education Center introduced a dialogue between Curtiss Takada Rooks, program coordinator of Asian Pacific American Studies and an assistant professor at Loyola Marymount University, and his daughter, Mariko Fujimoto Rooks, a senior at Yale University.

Mariko Rooks pointed to some potential signs of hope in the status quo. "I'm seeing a lot of shifting in people in places that I never expected to, and I think a large part of that was because of the pandemic," she

said, citing how the isolation blocked people from escaping from news coverage of issues like Black Lives Matter, which compelled them to examine the issue on a deeper, more personal level.

Curtiss Rooks expanded on that, tying the success of the redress movement to a congressional entity that has not received the credit it was due, namely the Black Congressional Caucus, and Rep. Ron Dellums' "impassioned and passionate" speech in favor of redress.

He also cited the 14th Amendment to the Constitution that granted citizenship to any person born in the U.S.

"Even our ability to have citizenship as Japanese immigrants, migrants, comes on the backs of America dealing with its original sin, right, of enslavement, and so the 14th Amendment allows for birth citizenship to all persons," Rooks said. "So, without Black folks, the second generation would not be guaranteed citizenship."

Mariko Rooks noted how her maternal grandfather, a 442nd vet, was able to take advantage of the GI Bill and get an education, which led to a solid, middle-class life. Black GIs, however, were unable to fully take advantage of the same benefit, which had a negative effect on subsequent generations of African Americans. ■



Glen Kitayama



Perrin Tanimoto



Mario Perez



Curtiss Rooks



Mariko Rooks

GVJCI Features Multiday DOR

The Feb. 27 closing event focuses on the 'Campu' podcast and an update on the CSU Japanese American Digitization Project.

By P.C. Staff

The Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute's Day of Remembrance activities culminated with a live Zoom webinar on Feb. 27 moderated by GVJCI board member and GVJCI DOR committee member Alvin Takamori.

In Takamori's intro, he noted that in a "normal year, the GVJCI would have a bus headed up to the Manzanar Pilgrimage at the end of April, but this year, you won't need the bus. The Manzanar Pilgrimage, just like this program, will be online."

The live webinar was the final installment of the GVJCI's DOR multiday program that featured an interview of "Campu" podcast producers (and siblings) Hana Maruyama and Noah Maruyama, conducted by Taylor Weik.

The second part of the GVJCI DOR program featured an interview by Eileen Yoshimura of Greg Williams and Jennifer Hill of California State University, Dominguez Hills, and its contribution to the larger CSU Japanese American Digitization Project.

"Campu" is an eight-part podcast that, according to its description

(densho.org/campu/), "... tells the story of Japanese American incarceration like you've never heard it before" by using Densho's archive of audio recordings of oral histories that weave together "narratives out of the seemingly mundane things that gave shape to the incarceration experience: rocks, fences, food, paper."

The title "Campu" refers to the Japanese American "camp" experience, pronounced the way an Issei might pronounce the word. The siblings combined their differing strengths — history for Hana, who is a Ph.D. candidate in American

Studies and audio engineering, and production and music composition for Noah — along with their shared heritage as descendants of people who experienced incarceration during World War II.

The Maruyamas discussed the genesis of "Campu" and how the pandemic-caused lockdown actually allowed them to focus on producing the podcast in association with Densho.

The second half of the Zoom webinar provided an update of CSUDH's progress on JAD, with Williams, the director of the Archives and Special Collections Department at the university, and Hill, a project archivist.

"We'll be showing you how easy it is to access these collections and documents, and we'll also be telling you about what happens to documents once they're donated to the university," Yoshimura said.

"We ended up getting material from 18 different Cal State Universities and putting it into our website at Cal State Dominguez Hills," Williams said. He added that the collection was supplemented by materials donated by 11 other institutions, such as the Eastern California Museum and the California Historical Society.

The California State University's JAD can be accessed at <https://csu-jad.com/>.

"The interesting thing that we found along the way was that people would also and still be donating material," Williams added, noting that they are still accepting collections. "If the material is sitting in your garage, it's not going to help anybody."

A recording of the GVJCI's program can be viewed at youtu.be/dB9oVnrYW0o. ■

CSUJAD

The CSU Japanese American Digitization Project, the 23-campus California State University system archives, and other, similar collections across the state now offer scholars, librarians, archivists, educators and the interested public far easier access to a wide variety of archival material about this crucial subject. With the help of grant funding, the project digitizes and describes these archival collections in order to bring these significant stories together for worldwide access and contribute to the deepening of our understanding of Japanese American history.

George and Mizzi Naahara Papers
Atsushi Art Ishida Collection

Greg Williams Eileen Yoshimura Jennifer Hill Noah Maruyama

Alvin Takamori Hana Maruyama Taylor Weik

SANSEI RECOUNT THEIR AWAKENINGS TO THE REALITY OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN INCARCERATION

Panelists participate in several events to commemorate the 79th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066.

By Ray Locker,
Contributor

When members of the Sansei generation of Japanese Americans realized the scope of what their elders had endured during World War II, they reacted with a fervent activism born out of the anger of their discovery, a panel convened by San Jose's Japanese American museum on Feb. 13 said.

"I got pissed off," said Dale Minami, a San Francisco attorney who led the fight to overturn the wartime conviction of Fred Korematsu, the legendary protester of the Japanese American incarceration.

Minami was one of four members of the online discussion that was sponsored by the Japanese American Museum of San Jose along with author Shirley Ann Higuchi, chair of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation; Democratic former California Assemblyman Warren Furutani; and former U.S. Rep. Mike Honda (D-Calif.).

Higuchi, Honda and Minami said their parents didn't tell them much about their wartime incarceration, while Furutani said his father's open discussion of his imprisonment in Rohwer, Ark., inspired his activism.

Furutani said he emulated himself after African American activist Malcolm X because he didn't think the calmer civil disobedience efforts of people like Martin Luther King Jr. went far enough.

The panel was brought together as part of a series of discussions tied to Higuchi's new book — "Setsuko's Secret: Heart Mountain and the Legacy of the Japanese American Incarceration." Higuchi wrote that she grew up in Ann Arbor, Mich., with no Japanese American friends or neighbors, and that it was only on her mother's deathbed in 2005 that she realized Setsuko Higuchi's commitment to building something at the Heart Mountain, Wyo., site where she had been incarcerated.

Honda was a baby when he and his family were forced from their homes south of Sacramento and sent to the Japanese American concentration camp at Amache, Colo. He was drawn to public service by the examples of Japanese American leaders such as Norman Mineta, a former Heart Mountain internee who became mayor of San Jose, a U.S. representative and a Cabinet Secretary under two presidents.

"The promises made to us weren't the Ameri-

can dream, they were the American nightmare," Minami said.

While a student at the University of California Berkeley School of Law, Minami read the decisions in the Japanese American incarceration cases involving Korematsu, Mitsuye Endo, Gordon Hirabayashi and Minoru Yasui. He saw through the thin legal reasoning in three unsuccessful challenges by Korematsu, Hirabayashi and Yasui and was determined to right those wrongs.

In 1982, he joined the legal team that was successfully able to get Korematsu's original 1942 conviction thrown out.

All of the panel said they believed Japanese Americans needed to unburden themselves of the multigenerational trauma associated with the incarceration and embrace who they really are, not the Model Minority myth foisted on them by Caucasian society.

While Furutani, Honda and Minami said they grew up in areas with many Japanese Americans, unlike Higuchi, they did not see Asians represented in the wider society at all.

The only Asian Honda saw on television, he said, was the character of Hop Sing, the Chinese immigrant cook on the series "Bonanza."

Honda said he knew something was wrong and needed to change. "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem," he said.

The challenge facing the Japanese American community now, Furutani said, is that the next Nikkei generation is multiracial, which means the community must expand what it means to be Japanese American.

David Ono, the afternoon anchor for ABC7 news in Los Angeles, said it was remarkable how much of a "hellion" Furutani was during the 1960s, when he led movements to establish Asian American studies programs on California campuses and help start the pilgrimages to the Manzanar concentration camp.

Mineta spoke at the end of the panel and echoed the need for activism and that Japanese Americans had to remember that they had almost lost their citizenship rights during the war. He said he will always cherish being called an American citizen.

The program was organized by Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation Board Members Lia Nitake and Prentiss Uchida, who was incarcerated at Heart Mountain as a child.

Higuchi mentioned Heart Mountain's newest project — the creation of the Mineta-Simpson Institute, which will be dedicated to the lives and careers of Mineta and former Sen. Alan

Panel participants included (clockwise from top left) Shirley Ann Higuchi, Warren Furutani, moderator David Ono, Norman Mineta, Dale Minami and Mike Honda.

PHOTOS: DAVID FUJIOKA



Simpson, a Wyoming Republican who met Mineta while both were Boy Scouts in 1943.

The San Jose event was the first of many that week in February in which the panelists participated in memory of the 79th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066.

Higuchi spoke with Dr. Rob Citino of the National WWII Museum in New Orleans about "Setsuko's Secret" and the incarceration's impact on the Japanese American community and the rest of the country.

She told Citino there was no better way to examine the systemic racism used against African Americans than HR 40, the House

bill to create a commission to study potential reparations for Black Americans.

Higuchi cited the example set by Mineta and the late Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) in 1979, when they pushed for a commission to study the Japanese American incarceration. That led to the creation of the Commission on the Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, which conducted hearings that eventually led to the passage of the 1988 Civil Liberties Act.

That law apologized for the incarceration and paid each surviving internee \$20,000. ■

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"

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feature documentary film on the 90 plus year history
of the Japanese American Citizens League

Produced by filmmaker LANE NISHIKAWA

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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

Heart Mountain's newest project, the Mineta-Simpson Institute, will educate and feature programming on the lessons to be learned from the incarceration experience.

The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation announces:
The Mineta-Simpson Institute



"In their spirit, the Institute will seek to inspire bipartisan solutions to vexing and complicated problems and emphasize the need to find principled common ground."

Mrs. Danaelis Mineta
and
Mrs. Ann Simpson

For more information, go to:
<https://www.heartmountain.org/>



PHOTOS: DAVID FUJIOKA

'PRESERVING IDENTITY AND CULTURE'

The Day of Remembrance event sparks renewed pride in Japanese heritage.

By Ray Locker, Contributor

The legacy of the Japanese American incarceration, authorized 79 years ago on Feb. 19, was widespread confusion among the Nikkei community about their heritage, members of a panel led by the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation said during a virtual event on Feb. 18.

Shirley Ann Higuchi, chair of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation; Clement Hanami, curator at the Japanese American National Museum; Noriko Sanefuji of the National Museum of American History; Erin Aoyama, a Brown University doctoral student; and Takashi Hoshizaki, a former Heart Mountain internee, joined the online Heart Mountain event.

All but Hoshizaki acknowledged they had spent years of their lives not understanding either the experiences of their family members during World War II or, in Sanefuji's case, what happened to the Nikkei community

in the United States.

Higuchi said the federal government succeeded in fragmenting the Japanese American community and forcing them to assimilate into wider society. As a child growing up in Ann Arbor, Mich., Higuchi said she knew no other Japanese Americans, while her mother strived to have her children emulate Caucasian families in town.

Hanami said the incarceration showed what can happen when democracy fails, and the more he learns about the experience, the prouder he is to be Japanese American.

It was only when he was in college, Hanami said, that he realized his mother was a *hibakusha*, a survivor of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in August 1945.

Hanami has spent the last few years curating an exhibit about art created during the incarceration and bringing the art to museums around the country. Last year, he joined Higuchi at a Day of Remembrance event at the National Museum of

Clement Hanami

Erin Aoyama



Shirley Ann Higuchi



Noriko Sanefuji



Takashi Hoshizaki

American History in Washington, D.C.

Sanefuji was born and raised in Japan. It was only after she moved to the United States for college that she learned about the incarceration. She has remained in the United States and clearly sees her identity as Shin-Issei and part of the global Nikkei community.

She later became the co-curator of the National Museum of American History's "Righting A Wrong" exhibit about the Japanese American incarceration.

Aoyama is half-Japanese American

and half-Caucasian. Her father, whose family was incarcerated at Heart Mountain, said little about that experience during her childhood, and it took years for her to learn more about that part of her heritage. She now teaches about the incarceration at Brown.

Hoshizaki was 16 when he and his family were forced from their home in Los Angeles and sent to Heart Mountain, where he remained until 1944. That was when he was one of 63 young men convicted of resisting the military draft and sent to prison.

Now a member of the Heart

Mountain board, Hoshizaki was pardoned by President Harry Truman in 1947. He earned a Ph.D. in botany, went on military research missions to Antarctica and was part of the space program for decades.

Events such as Heart Mountain's and those around the country over the years have helped each of the panelists learn more about their community and how it fits into the larger history of the United States, they said. All said they would never remain silent about what had happened and the lessons the incarceration holds for the country today.

The "Preserving Identity and Culture" event was moderated by Dakota Russell, executive director of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, and supported by the Embassy of Japan in the United States. ■

GEORGE TAKEI Leads DOR Discussion

The Day of Remembrance event features a discussion of 'And Then They Came for Us.'

By P.C. Staff

Public libraries in the State of California welcomed a Day of Remembrance discussion sponsored by Berkeley Public Library that featured a virtual screening of the

film "And Then They Came for Us," followed by a panel discussion joined by Abby Ginsberg, Satsuki Ina, George Takei and moderated by Christen Sasaki on Feb. 19.

The Zoom event centered around the significance and importance of Day of Remembrance, which marks the date, Feb. 19, 1942, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, paving the way to the forced incarceration and constitutional rights violations of 120,000 Japanese Americans throughout the duration of World War II.

"And Then They Came for Us" features Takei and Ina, as well as others who were incarcerated, along with newly discovered photos taken by Dorothea Lange, and also features present-day Japanese American activists as they speak out against the Muslim registry and travel ban so that such injustices will never again be repeated.

Moderator Sasaki, an assistant ethnic studies professor at the University of California, San Diego, welcomed the day's participants and immediately spoke of the importance of the film with its award-winning director/producer Ginsberg.

"This film would not have

worked without George and Satsuki in it. Period. End of story," Ginsberg said. "I'm so grateful that they each gave me the time and trusted me enough to let me include the way they tell their stories in the film and their experiences. It has been a total honor to work on this project with them from Day 1."

The film, which also focuses on the Muslim ban and the Japanese American community's outcry over it, features clips from a rally held in San Francisco's Japantown that Ina helped to organize.

"I think what was happening and continuing to happen over the past four years has been so resonant with the experiences of the Japanese Americans during WWII, the racist targeting of a community of people. Back then, there was very little organizing and protesting against our removal and incarceration," said Ina, a writer, activist and psychotherapist whose book "Be Strong, Don't Cry" will soon be released. "The importance of Abby's film was tying together what was happening historically and mobilizing the Japanese American community to use this opportunity to stand up for other communities and in doing that, this very powerful healing and solidarity was formed . . . and we could use our stories as a bridge so people can have the broader perspective of how racism has been a part of U.S. history from the very beginning."

Actor/activist Takei, whose book "They Called Us Enemy" details a first-hand account of his incarceration experience during WWII, spoke about the deep significance Feb. 19 has

had on his entire life.

An unforgettable experience for him was being invited to speak at the 75th anniversary DOR event at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Library in New York.

"Going there on that significant day — Feb. 19 is a very important day," Takei said, elaborating that the event was led by a member of the Roosevelt family. "He understands the internment story and the cruelty of it and the untruth and lies that were involved on the part of the government to incarcerate Japanese Americans. It was a strange but enriching experience for me. And here we are in the year 2021, and the internment of Japanese Americans is still powerfully resonant today."

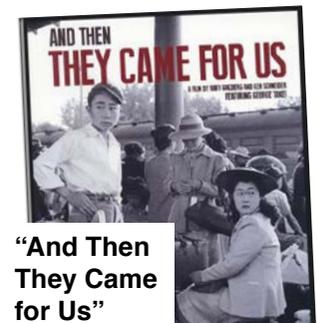
Also discussed was the importance of HR 40 and its relevance to the Japanese American experience.

"It's an American story at its core, and we as Americans need to work in constant with everyone," Takei said, "because it's related to the African American story. In many ways, African Americans have a greater reason for redress and restitution than Japanese Americans."

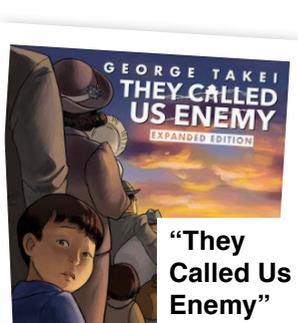
Takei also spoke of the importance for young people to become engaged in activism.

"Classes and libraries that we're reaching this afternoon are playing a vitally important role in getting young people of Japanese American heritage a sense of who they are and their identity and that they have a very important role in defining the America that we all envision our future America to be."

Echoed Ina: "We have a voice . . . to take action on behalf of other Asian American organizations and groups. There is definite value of having DORs and calling together our memories as a way to inspire us to keep fighting for social justice." ■



"And Then They Came for Us"



"They Called Us Enemy"



Panelists participating in the Berkeley Public Library DOR event were (clockwise from top left) Abby Ginsberg, Christen Sasaki, Satsuki Ina and George Takei.

MVBT MEMBER ELLEN KAMEI CHOSEN AS MOUNTAIN VIEW MAYOR

She becomes the first Buddhist to lead the city. Her family has long ties with the temple and BCA.

By Jon Kawamoto,
Editor, Wheel of Dharma

Mountain View Buddhist Temple member Ellen Kamei, whose family has long ties with the temple and the BCA, made history when she was selected as Mountain View's mayor — becoming the first Buddhist to lead the city.

Kamei, who was elected to the Mountain View City Council in 2018, was unanimously chosen by her council colleagues as mayor on Jan. 12. Before that, she served as vice mayor in 2020 alongside former Mayor Margaret Abe-Koga. It's believed that Abe-Koga and Kamei were the first Japanese American female mayor and vice mayor, respectfully, in the mainland United States.

"I became a member of the Mountain View Buddhist Temple, my paternal family's temple, when I returned back to the city after graduate school," Mayor Kamei said in a statement. "In fact, it is in the gardens of Mountain View Buddhist Temple that my husband proposed.

"I feel renewed hope for 2021," she continued. "The road ahead is still long, and there is much work to be done. Yet, I am heartened by the path of public service to the community that I learned through my experience as a temple member."

MVBT President Bob Matsumoto detailed Kamei's long ties with the temple.

"The Kamei family are no strangers to the Mountain View Buddhist Temple," he wrote. "Ellen's grand-

parents, Kenzo and Ruth Kamei, were very active in the temple helping with various events, especially Obon. Ruth was also very active in the BWA. Ellen's extended circle of relatives that are active in the temple include the Ozawa, Inouye, Nishimoto and Uyehara families."

Kamei was born and raised in Silicon Valley, the daughter of a first-generation Chinese and Puerto Rican American mother from New York City and a third-generation Japanese American father born at Heart Mountain internment camp in Wyoming. She is also multilingual and can speak Spanish, Japanese and Mandarin.

Her grandparents, Kenzo and Ruth Kamei, met in Mountain View, and her grandfather later owned his small business as a flower grower and passed the tradition on to her father.

"The nursery was first located in Mountain View, and I would spend many days with them at their home in Waverly Park, planting the seeds for my roots in the city," Kamei said in her biography on the city of Mountain View website.

The Kameis later moved their nursery to Morgan Hill.

Kamei was an active member of both the Morgan Hill Buddhist Community Center and San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, where she participated in Girl Scouts, Jr. YBA, Judo and Suzume No Gakko. She served as a Dharma School assistant during high school and participated in the

Padma Program.

Kamei received her bachelor's degree in English at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and her master's degree at the Fels Institute of Government at University of Pennsylvania. She also attended Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

After completing her undergraduate studies at UC Santa Barbara, she went to the Mie Prefecture of Japan as a Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program assistant language teacher, where she taught kindergarten, elementary and middle school for two years.

When Kamei moved back to California after graduate school, she moved in with her grandfather and

became a board member of the Japantown Community Congress of San Jose.

As a board member, she served as a coordinator for the Nikkei Community Intern Program, an eight-week summer internship. She is honored and proud to share that her family will provide ongoing funding for one participant of the Nikkei Community Internship (NCI) Program in San Jose Japantown. It will be called "The Kamei Family" Scholarship.

In November 2019, Kamei was proposed to by Chris Takeuchi in front of the garden at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple. Kamei and Takeuchi were recently married in the same spot in October 2020 under Covid-19 restrictions.

MVBT Resident Minister Rev. Yushi Mukojima praised Kamei's selection as mayor and the milestones it marked.

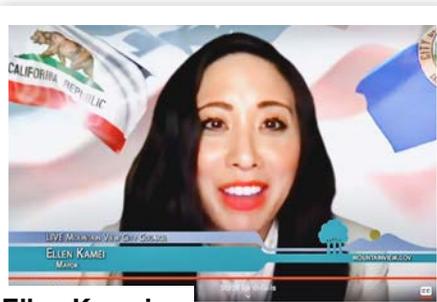
"I am really proud that Ellen, a member of the MVBT, was inaugurated as mayor of the city of Mountain View in January," Rev. Mukojima said in a statement. "It was an amazing and historic event for several

reasons: She is a woman, Japanese American, and Mountain View's first Buddhist mayor.

"Buddhism emphasizes the teaching of equality and, just as Buddhism has been supported by countless wonderful women, Ellen shows us clearly how our community is sustained by many women leaders," Rev. Mukojima continued.

"I also believe that Ellen's great achievements will give the young people in our Sangha both courage and hope about America's future," Rev. Mukojima said. "I sincerely hope that, with Ellen as our role model, we can realize a wonderful world where all women are proud of and confident in their talents and abilities and will not be afraid to become leaders who contribute to the well-being of their community and the world. We stand together in full support of Ellen in her new challenges. Again, congratulations, Ellen!"

(Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the Wheel of Dharma newspaper and has been reprinted with permission.)



Ellen Kamei was chosen unanimously as mayor of Mountain View, Calif., by her colleagues at the City Council; she served previously as vice mayor.

TEMPLE » continued from page 2

David Inoue, executive director of the JACL, said, "It is imperative that acts of hatred such as this are made unacceptable both from our governmental leaders and within the local communities surrounding our Asian American community places of worship, businesses and households."

(To view the entire JACL National statement, visit www.jacl.org.)

Stop AAPI Hate, the nation's leading coalition documenting and addressing anti-Asian hate and discrimination amid the Covid-19 pandemic (www.stopaapihate.org), released new data Feb. 9 in response to the growing number of hate crime attacks in the U.S. against AAPI's.

According to Stop AAPI Hate:

- Between March 19, 2020 (when Stop AAPI Hate began collecting reports) and Dec. 31, 2020, Stop AAPI Hate received more than 2,808 firsthand accounts of anti-Asian hate from 47 states and the District of Columbia.
- Between March 19 and Dec. 31, 2020, Stop AAPI Hate received 126 accounts of

anti-Asian hate involving Asian Americans over 60 years old (7.3 percent of total incidents).

"These recent incidents are stark reminders that urgent action must be taken to protect our AAPI community from hate, discrimination and violence," said Stop AAPI Hate Co-Founders Manjusha Kulkarni, executive director of Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council, Cynthia Choi, co-executive director of Chinese for Affirmative Action and Russell Jeung, Ph.D., professor of Asian American Studies at San Francisco State University, in an official statement. "It is up to all of us — businesses, government and community partners — to come together and immediately support victims and families affected by these incidents and work together to create long-lasting solutions that empower our communities with resources, support and education." ■



INCIDENT REPORT

1. Day and time of the incident:
2. Where did it happen? (Streets, buildings, signs)
3. What were you doing before the attack? What did the attacker(s) do/say?
4. How many attacked you?
5. What did your attacker(s) look like? (Ethnicity, clothing, hair/facial, tattoos, height/weight, car)
6. Do you have any injuries? Any that needed medical attention?
7. Are there any witnesses?

"My name is _____ and I'd like to report a HATE CRIME that just happened (to me/that I witnessed)."

MY CONTACT INFO: _____

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFO:

<https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/civil-rights/hate-crimes>
www.StopAAPIHate.org | www.StandAgainstHatred.org

My local Sheriffs/Police Department: _____

Officer's name taking my report: _____

Incident Report Number: _____





Eunice Sato served as the mayor of Long Beach, Calif., from 1980-82.

EUNICE SATO, FORMER LONG BEACH MAYOR, DIES AT 99

By P.C. Staff

Eunice N. Sato, whose many accomplishments included serving as mayor of Long Beach, Calif., from 1980-82, being honored in 1996 by the government of Japan with a *kunsho*, the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Rosette, for her role in advancing U.S.-Japan relations and in 2015 having a Long Beach, Calif., school — the Sato Academy of Mathematics and Science — named after her, died Feb. 12, four months before her 100th birthday.

Born in 1921 in Livingston, Calif., Eunice Noda was attending San Jose City College when the U.S. declared war on Japan after its Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 on Feb. 19, 1942, but Noda and her family were able to voluntarily evacuate from California before the mass roundup and incarceration of thousands of ethnic Japanese on the West Coast. She was able to join relatives in Colorado, whose Gov. Ralph Carr welcomed Japanese Americans as a matter of principle but at great personal political cost.

The bravery Carr exhibited as a politician may have indirectly inspired her to pursue politics after her marriage to Thomas Takashi Sato, whom she met in Japan during the postwar occupation, when he was serving under Gen. Douglas MacArthur and she was utilizing her master's degree earned at Columbia University Teacher's College to teach at Yokohama's Ferris Seminary.

After they married, their children, daughter Charlotte and twin sons, Daniel and Douglas, were born in Japan.

The seeds of Eunice Sato's political career began after they returned to California in 1956 and she began volunteering for the PTA and her church. Her commitment to her community led to her winning run for the Seventh District City Council seat in 1975.

When Sato was elected mayor



of Long Beach, she broke barriers as the first woman mayor of Long Beach and the first Asian American woman mayor of a city of its size. A staunch Republican, she is credited for helping lay the groundwork for the revitalization of Long Beach's downtown, which was described as being "at the rock bottom" in the mid-1970s.

At the state level, Sato's political achievements caught the eye of Gov. George Deukmejian, who appointed her to serve on three state commissions, and President George H.W. Bush, who appointed her to serve on the National Advisory Council on Educational Research.

When the issue of Japanese American redress was heating up in the 1970s and '80s, Sato was a prominent voice for those Japanese Americans who were opposed to the proposed monetary payment component.

For her, like Colorado's Gov. Carr, it was a matter of principle. In a 1987 *Los Angeles Times* article, she was quoted: "I think it is demeaning to think you can pay off with dollars," she said. "Paying any sum of money won't erase the fact that (the internment) took place and people were hurt and deprived and lost their basic lives."

When President Ronald Reagan signed the historic redress bill on Aug. 10, 1988, which included an apology and a \$20,000 compensation check, Sato backed her words with action and without fanfare donated her check to the JACL Legacy Fund.

Sato was predeceased by her husband, Thomas, who died in 2013, and her siblings, Joseph, Rose, Julia, Robert and Art. She is survived by her daughter and sons and their families. ■

Covid-19 Claims Lives of Three Asian American Journalists

David Ibata, Corky Lee and Jimmy Lee succumb to the virus that has ravaged on for more than a year.

By P.C. Staff

In yet another intersection of death and the coronavirus, three Asian American journalists have died from complications related to Covid-19.

Chicago-based journalist David Ibata, 66, died Jan. 26, New York-based photojournalist Corky Lee, 73, died Jan. 27 and Los Angeles-based journalist Jimmy Lee, 48, died Feb. 7.

The Asian American Journalists Assn. reported that Ibata co-founded the Chicago AAJA Chapter in 1989 with broadcast journalist Linda Yu. Ibata's career included stints as an editor at the *Chicago Tribune* and *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

"AAJA is devastated by the loss of our longtime member, David Ibata, a pioneer whose career and legacy has inspired so many of us," said Michelle Ye Hee Lee, president of AAJA. "He will be remembered for his generosity and service to our AAJA family, and his dedication to helping so many AAPI journalists enter and thrive in the industry. We will miss him."

The Queens, N.Y.-born Lee documented Asian American lives for

Jimmy Lee

PHOTO: PEER JOHNSON



Corky Lee

PHOTO: SHIRLEY NG



David Ibata

PHOTO: COURTESY OF AAJA



five decades. In 2009, Lee won the AAJA's Dr. Suzanne Ahn Award for Civil Rights and Social Justice for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. (Related: See *Nikkei View*, P.C., Feb. 5-18, 2021.)

One of Lee's most-famous photos was a re-creation of an iconic 1869 photo taken at Promontory Summit, Utah, where the eastern and western lines of the transcontinental railroad were joined, a photo in which none of the 12,000 Chinese laborers were included. In 2002, Lee re-created the photograph but with Chinese Americans in the same spot, and in 2014, he did it yet again but with descendants of those Chinese laborers on the 145th anniversary of the original photo.

In a statement, Lee's family said, "He did what he loved, and we loved him for it. His passion was to re-discover, document and champion through his images the plight of all Americans but most especially that of Asian and Pacific Islanders."

Jimmy Lee (no relation) was an editor at *KoreAm*, a Los Angeles-based slick, English-language magazine aimed at younger Korean Americans. It was founded in 1990 by Jung Shig

Ryu and James Ryu and folded in 2015. Lee was managing editor from 1999-2007. In 2004, an article he wrote was a runner-up for a New California Media Award.

Lee was recorded in a YouTube video of a roundtable of former *KoreAm* editors and spoke of the issue of *KoreAm* that came out on the 10th anniversary of the 1992 Los Angeles Riots.

"Putting that one together was pretty daunting," Lee said. "I think we tried to tackle more than we probably should have. I think for the most part we succeeded, but we really tried to take a look at the riots in a historically comprehensive sort of way. I think that the end result turned out to be very satisfying."

"The riots were a very sort of defining moment for *KoreAm*, especially for the community, but specifically for *KoreAm*. It was right there at its infancy, we sort of kind of grew up with it." ■

RESPONSE » continued from page 4

From that flowed the formation of a coalition of the JACL, Chinese for Affirmative Action and the Asian Law Caucus organized a response under the coalition name of "Break the Silence." I recently sent Helen Zia, a journalist and Asian American activist, buttons from that era. She's working on a television capture of Vincent's murder.

Later in my career, when I served as the director of the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, I was on site at a local Japanese cultural center that had been vandalized with racial graffiti. I recall overhearing a Sansei mother, speaking to her 6-year-old daughter wearing a basketball uniform, saying, "Young Lady, you can go to practice tonight, but don't you dare come outside. You stay inside with the coach until your

father comes." The guidance was for the little girl's safety. The message was, "BE AFRAID!"

So now, we have community response. We have escort services for our elders by younger members of the community. We have outright security patrols. We have distribution of handheld sound alarms. We have rallies and protests. Hell, I'm anxious in my retirement as a Ji-san taking daily walks. And, I am saddened by the anti-Black and anti-Asian tensions agitated in another layer of reaction.

I have written about how the approach of reopening schools presents another period of anxiety. Will we have a spike in bullying and incidents that parallel what Arab, Muslim, Sikhs and others experienced after 9/11? Most of the worst incidents, murders, involved

Sikhs. Mistaken identity tied to turbans.

Will more opportunities for incidents exist because lockdowns will decline?

The work of Stop AAPI Hate is appreciated as are other initiatives launched to protect the community. Women and elderly are overrepresented among the victims. There is a streak of extreme violence in the physical assaults reported. Immolation, a face slashed with a box cutter, body slams.

No magic bullet exists. I know there is a growing response. USDOJ incoming leadership is in active preparation. The White House has issued one executive order already to address the problem. Community response has been very strong. Lean forward and stay tuned. More to come.

Ron Wakabayashi is a former JACL national director.

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.

NATIONAL

Annual JACL National Convention July 15-18 Virtual Event

Join JACL 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 JACL's website for complete convention information and announcements as they become available.

Info: Visit www.jacl.org.

NCWNP

Takaramono Vintage Auction Fundraiser San Jose, CA April 10-19 Japanese American Museum of San Jose Online Event

JAMsj is excited to offer its second Takaramono Vintage Auction Fundraiser, the museum's way of staying connected, sharing love for "cherished" items and raising well-needed funds while the museum remains closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. There are more than 200 items that will be available during the auction event.

Info: Visit jamsj.org.

Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival San Francisco, CA April 10-11 and April 17-18 Virtual Edition Price: Free

One of California's most prominent celebrations of Asian traditions and the biggest on the West Coast. Since 1968, this event celebrates Japanese and Japanese American culture in San Francisco's Japantown.

Info: Visit sfcherryblossom.org for more information.

May 22; 1-3 p.m.

Virtual Event Benefit for Watsonville Buddhist Temple Price: \$25 Per Person or \$50 Per Household (Includes Play Screening and Discussion)

"Betrayed," a two-act play by Hiroshi Kashiwagi about a young Nisei couple who meet at Tule Lake and fall in love, only to be torn apart by two controversial "loyalty" questions during World War II, will feature Helen Ota and Michael Palma. Following the play, a discussion will be held featuring Satsuki Ina, Soji Kashiwagi and cast members Ota and Palma.

Info: Tickets are available at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com): Search "The Betrayed." Ticket holders will receive an email with the link to the virtual play 48 hours before the showing. For additional information, email Buddhist@wbtemple.org.

PSW

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](https://www.vjccvirtualsake.eventbrite.com).

'We Hereby Refuse' With Frank Abe, Tamiko Nimura and Ross Ishikawa

Los Angeles, CA April 24; 2-3:30 p.m. Japanese American National Museum Virtual Program

Price: Free for Members; \$10 Nonmembers

The new graphic novel "We Hereby Refuse: Japanese American Resistance to Wartime Incarceration" presents an original vision of America's past with disturbing links to the American present. Authors Frank Abe and Tamiko Nimura will read from the graphic novel. Artist Ross Ishikawa will share his use of 3-D modeling to re-create scenes from Japanese American history, and YURI Education Project creators will demonstrate a free online curriculum that accompanies the book.

Info: Visit www.janm.org for more information.

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.

PNW

'Where Beauty Lies' Exhibit Seattle, WA Thru Sept 19 Wing Luke Asian Museum 719 S. King St.

Price: Museum Admission Fees

What defines beauty? The museum's latest exhibit examines the complicated history, culture, industry, psychology and politics of beauty from the Asian American perspective. Personal stories, reflections, art and artifacts representing a diversity of identities and experiences all showcase the ideas of what beauty truly means.

Info: Visit wingluke.org. All visitors are required to sign a Coronavirus/Covid-19 waiver of liability. Health and safety protocols are in place. Check the museum for exact hours of operation.

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

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

Info: www.digitalwingluke.org.

IDC

How to Talk About What Matters: Anti-Asian Racism in the Time of COVID Boulder, CO

April 7; 5-6:15 p.m. MDT University of Colorado Boulder Virtual Programming Event Price: Free

Join the Center for Inclusion and Social Change for its virtual, interactive dialogue program that will address issues that matter, particularly anti-Asian racism, which has been steadily on the rise since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. Don't miss this thought-provoking discussion.

Info: To register for the event,

visit <https://www.colorado.edu/iss/2021/02/05/apr-7-how-talk-about-what-matters-anti-asian-racism-time-covid>.

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>. ■

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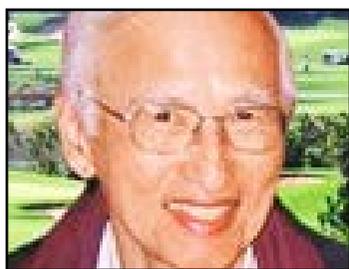
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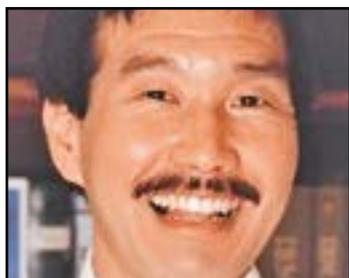
Hatley, Katsumi, 77, Miamisburg, OH, July 20, 2020; she was predeceased by her grandson, Paul Hatley III; she is survived by her children, Patty (Tim Hosler) Beavers and Paul (Brenda) Hatley Jr.; gc: 3; ggc: 1.

Higa, Jon, 76, Honolulu, HI, June 3, 2020; he is survived by his sisters, Jane Testa, Sally Koba and Jackie (Daryl) Wong; 1 nephew.



Itano, Sadao, 91, Altadena, CA, July 31, 2020; he is survived by his wife, Hideko; children, Alan Itano, Christine (Christopher) Itano-Cosner and Alison (Gary) Itano-Lee; gc: 3.

Kamimura, Charles 'Chuck' Seikin, 89, Hilo, HI, May 4, 2020; he is survived by his wife, Hatsue "Hats" Kamimura; siblings, Eugene Kamimura and Alice (Fidel) Salcido; brother-in-law, Tadashi (Ruth) Nakashima; sisters-in-law, Lillian Miki and Elizabeth Nakashima; he is also survived by nieces and nephews.



Kawamura, Ben Tsutomu, 72, Berkeley, CA, Aug. 14, 2020; he was predeceased by his brother, Hiroshi (Pam) Kawamura; he is survived by his siblings, Hideo (Jane) Kawamura, Kimiko (Tom) Inoshita,

Tomi (Fred) Nagahori, Mineko (Jim) Tominaga, Eiko Uyehara and Junko (Tim) Kajita; 19 nieces and nephews; 21 grandnieces and grandnephews.

Matsuda, Kazue Kay, 93, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, Sept. 19, 2020; she was predeceased by her siblings, Shizuko, Kiyeko, Hiroshi, Takashi and Kiyoshi.

Miura, Ruri, 96, Alhambra, CA, June 22, 2020; she was predeceased by her husband, Toshio, and sister, Susie Emi; she is survived by her children, Marsha (Al-

vin) Wakasa, Adrienne (Rick) Oka and Nolan (Trudy) Miura; siblings, Kei Ishigami, Miyo Kunitake and Yoshi Dionzon; sister-in-law, Masaye Miura; gc: 4; step-gc: 2.



Odanaka, Katsuko, 94, Mission Viejo, CA, July 21, 2020; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Manzanar WRA

Center in CA; she is survived by her children, Nancy Melgares, Carol Constantin, Paul Odanaka and Eileen Vavra; gc: 7; ggc: 3.



Ono, Shiro, 87, Torrance, CA, Aug. 4, 2020; he is survived by his wife, Keiko; daughters, Candace (Lester) Ingram, Susan (Mike) Ono Coffey, Stephanie Ono and Cheryl Ono; sisters, Keiko Yamane and

Marsha (Shoye) Iwo; gc: 5; ggc: 1.

Oshiro, Satsuki Grace, 90, Pukalani, HI, May 16, 2020; she was predeceased by her husband, Kenneth Kiyoshi Oshiro; she is survived by her children, Carolyn, Lorraine, and Guy; sisters, Ethel, Jane and Hazel.

Yoshimoto, Wayne, 64, Sunnyvale, CA, May 13, 2020; he was predeceased by his parents, Roy and Dottie Yoshimoto; he is survived by his wife, Phyllis; daughters, Lani and Christine (Gary); sister, Dee Dee (Jerry); gc: 2.

Yoshioka, Yaeko, 97, Captain Cook, HI, June 10, 2020; she is survived by her children, Glenn Yoshioka, Kirk (Melissa) Yoshioka, Clayton Yoshioka, Sandra Yoshioka and Doreen (Gary) Thorne; gc: 2; ggc: 1.

TRIBUTE

GEORGE TSUGAWA



George Tsugawa, 99, of Woodland, Wash., passed away peacefully on Nov. 27, 2020. He was born in Everett, Wash., on June 20, 1921, son of Masaichiro and Kazuno Tsugawa, immigrants from Japan.

George spent much of his childhood working at the family's produce stand and taking care of his family since his father died at a very young age. In high school, George enjoyed playing basketball. He graduated from Beaverton High School in 1939.

During WWII, George was incarcerated at Minidoka WRA Center in Idaho with his family. He has shared recollections of time spent there as a message of hope during hard times.

On April 1, 1950, George married the love of his life, Mable Taniguchi. In 1955, George and Mable moved to Woodland, Wash., to establish the Tsugawa Brothers Farm with his brother, Akira. Work on the farm was a family affair with his six children. He was concerned being the first non-Caucasian family to settle in Woodland. However, being good, hard-working citizens and contributing to the community, racial prejudice slowly diminished.

In 1981, Mable opened Tsugawa Nursery. Together, they would spend the rest of their lives transforming a small business into a destination garden center in Woodland, Wash. Always the farmer, George could be found in the greenhouses or in his garage working on plants. His work ethic, charisma, and legacy will be remembered.

In 2013, George was selected "Citizen of the Year" by the Woodland Chamber of Commerce. He enjoyed his church community at the Woodland Presbyterian Church.

George lived a life that spanned the depths of the Great Depression, incarceration at Minidoka War Relocation Center, and the advent of the Tech Revolution. His love of country, family, and friends was an inspiration to all that knew him.

George is predeceased by his wife, Mable, of 61 years; sons, Martin Tsugawa and Dan Tsugawa; brothers, Henry Tsugawa and Akira Tsugawa; sisters, Toshiko Ogura and Sachi Osumi; he is survived by his children, Mary Lynn Archer, Lori Whaley, Karen Tsugawa and Brian Tsugawa; brother, Dr. James Tsugawa, and sister, Helen Fujishin; 12 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

A service will be held at a later date. Donations may be made in his memory to JACL.

TRIBUTE

KIMIKO UMEMOTO KISHI



Jan. 2, 1922-Feb. 3, 2021

Kimiko Kishi passed away peacefully in Orinda, Calif., on Feb. 3, 2021, at the age of 99.

Kimi was born in Los Angeles, Calif., to parents Manzaburo Umemoto and Nuino (Takimoto) Umemoto, from Wakayama, Japan. Kimi was attending Los Angeles City College when World War II began. Her family was first detained at the Pomona Assembly Center and later incarcerated at the Heart Mountain internment camp in Wyoming. Kimi

served as assistant to the block manager at Heart Mountain and, after leaving camp, she worked as assistant secretary at a Presbyterian church in Minneapolis, Minn.

In Minneapolis, Kimi met her future husband, Fred Kishi, who was attending the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Service Language Training School at Fort Snelling. They married in 1945, shortly before Fred was sent to Japan as part of the U.S. military occupation forces. After his return, the couple settled in Fred's hometown of Livingston, Calif., where Fred and his brother Sherman built a successful farming business and became prominent community leaders.

Kimi and Fred raised four daughters on the farm and played active roles in the local community. They both enjoyed playing and watching sports. Despite Fred's loyalty to the S.F. Giants, Kimi always rooted for the L.A. Dodgers, and later in life, she faithfully supported the many sports teams of her six grandchildren.

Kimi was active in church activities and enjoyed quilting, playing bridge, and traveling. She and Fred traveled to school board conventions and sweet potato growers' conferences across the United States. Kimi also visited Japan several times and traveled to Central America and Europe. She proudly attended her grandchildren's college graduations from coast to coast.

Kimi's family wishes to express their gratitude to the staff at J-SEI Home, a nonprofit Japanese residential care home in Hayward, for their kind and attentive care of Kimi since 2018. In her final years, Kimi lost her sight and short-term memory, but she never lost her kind-heartedness, love of dessert, and surprisingly dry sense of humor.

Kimi is predeceased by her husband, Fred Kishi; brothers, Masaru Umemoto and Kazuo Umemoto; and sister, Kiyoko Takeguma. She is survived by her daughters, Susan Kishi (David Schuricht), Ruth Ann Kishi (Michael Woodring), Patti Kishi (Robert Chad) and Jan Kehoe (Brian Kehoe); grandchildren, Keith Schuricht (Christine Schuricht), Sachi Schuricht, Elise Chad, Takeo Kishi (Cara O'Shell), Megan Kehoe, and Brent Kehoe; great-grandsons River Schuricht, Linden Schuricht, and Kosei Kishi; and many nieces and nephews.

No public memorial service is planned at this time. Donations in memory of Kimi may be made to Livingston United Methodist Church, 11695 Olive Ave., Livingston, CA 95334; UC Berkeley Foundation, 1995 University Ave., Suite 401, Berkeley, CA 94704-1058, Note: Fund #W8805 (46805) - Kishi Family Endowment for Japanese American Studies; or Japanese American National Museum, 100 N. Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

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

AARP EXPANDS RESOURCES FOR VETERAN AND MILITARY FAMILY CAREGIVERS WITH RELEASE OF NEW FINANCIAL WORKBOOK

By Ron Mori



PHOTO: AARP

AARP and the Elizabeth Dole Foundation announced recently that the new Respite Relief Program for Military and Veteran Caregivers is going nationwide in 2021. This free program grants family caregivers access to no-cost, short-term assistance to help those caring for wounded, ill or injured veterans or service members at home. “Across the country, more than 5.5 million veteran and military family caregivers have been caring for loved ones through the Covid-19 pandemic, taking on more responsibilities along with increased worry, stress and anxiety,” said AARP CEO Jo Ann

Jenkins. “AARP is heartened to collaborate with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation to help communicate the support available to these hidden heroes. Respite relief can help lighten that emotional burden for veteran and military caregivers.”

The Elizabeth Dole Foundation’s Respite Relief Program offers care assistance provided by CareLinx — a qualified in-home respite care provider — and national outreach support by AARP, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Wounded Warrior Project. Veteran and military caregivers can apply online at <https://hiddenheroes.org/respite> to receive 24 hours of respite care to help with activities of daily living such as cooking, grocery shopping, housekeeping, bathing and medication reminders.

“Now more than ever, military and veteran caregivers are feeling burned out and in need of a break,” said EDF Founder Sen. Elizabeth Dole. “We’re proud to offer the Respite Relief program and provide caregivers the much-deserved opportunity to recharge and practice self-care.”

Research from AARP and the National Alliance for Caregiving finds that many caregivers believe services like respite care would be helpful, though use of these programs remains low.

Just 14 percent report having used

respite care, though 38 percent feel it would be helpful, according to Caregiving in the U.S. 2020.

New AARP Financial Workbook for Veteran and Military Family Caregivers

AARP also released a free financial workbook available for veteran and military caregivers. The workbook highlights caregiving costs to help individuals track what they spend on caring for their military veteran. Understanding out-of-pocket costs allows caregivers to plan and save, which can take significant financial pressure off the household budget.

Other AARP free resources and timely information for veteran and military caregivers include:

- Veterans and Military Family Caregiving Guide
- Veterans and Military Family Caregiving Handbooks
- Supporting Veteran and Military Family Caregivers in a Pandemic Fact Sheet
- For more information on these and other resources for veterans, visit www.aarp.org/Veterans.

‘Sky Blossom: Diaries of the Next Greatest Generation’

On April 30, AARP Movies for Grownups will screen “Sky Blossom: Diaries of the Next Greatest Generation,” which takes a candid look at the millions of teens and millenni-

als caring for injured veterans and service members in homes across America.

It’s also a highly personal documentary for the filmmaker, award-winning MSNBC news anchor Richard Lui. Lui’s own experience of caring for his disabled father inspired him to explore how military kids and teens cope with providing this kind of care for injured parents every day, and how they are struggling to find balance in their lives as a result of these injuries.

The families featured in “Sky Blossom” share a new perspective of what it means to be a military family, and the film reveals rare insights into the experiences of military children nationwide.

Troops used to look up and say, “Here come the Sky Blossoms” — paratroopers rushing to their aid. Today, there’s a brave new generation answering that call.

Don’t miss the complete feature-length screening of this film at the AARP Movies for Grownups screening on April 30. Check www.aarp.org/freemovies to learn more about upcoming screenings.

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

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