



PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 92 YEARS

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Graphic Novel
'We Hereby
Refuse' Now
Available

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Historic Bell
Returned to
Okinawa

"Oh, I know we
can do it," said
Chuck Aoki
about the U.S.
wheelchair
rugby team's
quest for gold
in Tokyo.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF
CHUCK AOKI

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REDEMPTION READY

The U.S. wheelchair rugby team, led by Chuck Aoki,
is hungry for another shot at gold in Tokyo.

TOKYO OLYMPICS TO ALLOW LIMIT OF 10,000 LOCAL FANS IN VENUES

By Associated Press

TOKYO — A limited number of local fans will be allowed to attend the Tokyo Olympics, organizers announced recently as they tried to save some of the spirit of the Games where even cheering has been banned.

Organizers set a limit of 50 percent capacity — up to a maximum of 10,000 fans — for each Olympic venue, and officials said that if coronavirus cases rise again the rules could be changed and fans could still be barred all together. Spectators from abroad were banned several months ago, and now some local fans who have tickets will be forced to give them up.

The decision comes as opposition among Japanese to holding the Games in July remains high, though may be softening, and as new infections in Tokyo have begun to subside.

Still, health officials fear that in a country where the vast majority of people have yet to be vaccinated, crowds at the Olympics could drive cases up. The country's top

medical adviser, Dr. Shigeru Omi, recommended that the safest way to hold the Olympics would be without fans. Allowing fans presents a risk not just at the venues but will also lead to more circulation on commuter trains, in restaurants and other public spaces.

It's already become clear that these Olympics Games will be unlike any others, but organizers have said they are determined to hold them and billions of dollars in broadcast rights and ticket sales are at stake.

Still, much of the fanfare that surrounds them — people from around the world rubbing elbows, a celebratory atmosphere in the host city and the showcasing of the host country's culture — will be off the table or far more muted this year.

Seiko Hashimoto, the president of the Tokyo Olympic organizing committee, called the decision "the last piece for the Olympics" to proceed on July 23.

But as with everything about these Olympics — the first postponed in the history of the modern Games dating from 1896, though previous ones were canceled

during both World Wars — the decision raised many questions.

For one, it is not quite what it seems. Although a maximum of 10,000 fans will be allowed in any given venue, so-called stakeholders — including sponsors and sporting federation officials — will not be counted toward that total, according to organizing committee CEO Toshio Muto. Japanese media, for instance, reported that up to 20,000 people might attend the opening ceremony, over and above athletes, though Muto said he thought it would be less than that.

The decision on local fans was announced after so-called five-party talks online with local organizers, the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, the Japanese government and the government of metropolitan Tokyo. A decision on the Paralympics comes on July 16.

Hashimoto, meanwhile, left the door open for a no-fans Olympics if the conditions worsen around the pandemic.

"We need to be very flexible. If there is any abrupt change in the situation, we will hold five-party meetings again to make other decisions," Hashimoto said. "If there is an announcement of a state of emergency during the Games, all the options like no-spectator games will be examined."

Officials say local fans will be under strict rules. They will not be allowed to cheer, must wear masks and are being told to go straight home afterward.

"We would like people to go

directly home from the venue without stopping by anywhere," Muto said.

He said 3.64 million tickets were already in the hands of Japanese residents. He indicated that was about 900,000 more than the seats likely to be available. That will mean a lottery to see who can attend.

Tokyo organizers had expected about \$800 million in revenue from ticket sales, but Muto said the actual figure would be no more than half that. Any shortfall will have to be picked by some Japanese government entity.

The University of Oxford has said these are the most expensive Olympics on record. The official cost is \$15.4 billion, but several government audits suggest it might be twice that much. All but \$6.7 billion is public money.

The IOC relies on selling broadcast rights for almost 75 percent of its income. Another 18 percent is from sponsors. A cancellation would cost the IOC an estimated \$3 billion-\$4 billion in lost broadcast income — an enormous blow especially at a time when its income flow has already been slowed by the pandemic.

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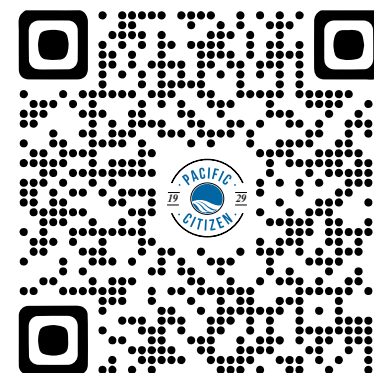
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'I'm glad to see the Pacific Citizen growing and evolving with its website, and especially LOVE the much easier-to-navigate digital archives. It's a treasure trove for JAs to learn about our community's history, and for scholars and journalists looking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

— Gil Asakawa



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IF YOU SUPPORT JACL, YOU SHOULD ALSO SUPPORT CRITICAL RACE THEORY

By David Inoue,
JACL Executive Director

It seems the greatest threat to our country right now is no longer Covid, it's not the Jan. 6 insurgency at the Capitol, nor is it climate change. The greatest threat to the American way is critical race theory. And yet, it seems too few people can actually define critical race theory. It does not assert that we need to be ashamed of who we are as a nation or that white people

need to be ashamed of being white.

Critical race theory is vitally important and core to what JACL has always done as an organization: shed light on how racism does impact policy and, as a result, people.

What we seek to do when we apply the concept of critical race theory is to see how racism often overtly discriminates, but also sometimes does so because of systemic prejudice. For JACL, this is core to understanding why it was possible to strip 120,000 people of their civil and

human rights during World War II.

It allows us to look at how the racism today against Asian Americans is rooted in the same xenophobia against Japanese Americans in the early 20th century that also came from the racism of the Chinese exclusion act.

It encourages us to look at the dynamics of how Japanese Americans achieved redress over 30 years ago, yet Black reparations for the long-ago injustice of slavery remains unachieved.

Just as anti-Asian hate persists today, the shackles of slavery, when looked at through the lens of critical race theory, were never really eradicated with the end of the Civil War or with the newly celebrated Juneteenth, but were reformed into laws and policies with the open intent of discriminating against Blacks up through their eradication in the 1960s.

Looking at our history through this lens also requires us to look at JACL's own history. As we look at the story of the civil rights movement, how did JACL's promotion of the successes of our own community feed into the development of the

model minority myth?

How did our actions as an organization lead to the further segregation of nearly 19,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans into the Tule Lake Segregation Center? Just as we decry the historic unjust mass incarceration of all Japanese Americans, under the false pretense of national security, there was no genuine assessment of loyalty in the segregation of Tule Lake prisoners that led to their further separation and intense terms of incarceration.

Today, we advocate for the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program as a means of supporting the interpretation of our incarceration story on our terms. We promote for the use of terms such as U.S. citizens rather than nonaliens to eliminate the euphemisms the government used to hide the racist intent of its policies.

We must continue to encourage the teaching of Japanese American history in schools so that children continue to learn about the imperfections of our American history but also the capacity of our country to approve redress and seek to correct

past injustices.

This is what critical race theory is really about — seeing history through a different lens, which does not whitewash the harms that our government has inflicted upon groups of people.

If any of these topics sound familiar, it is because many of them are the subject of plenary and workshop sessions at the upcoming JACL National Convention, "Communities Forged Under Fire," which will be held virtually July 15-18. We hope you will join us in extending this critical look at our own history for better and worse.

The JACL National Convention would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors. Diamond level sponsors this year are AT&T and State Farm. Additional sponsors are Comcast, MGM Resorts International, Verizon, AARP, Google, the Motion Picture Association and the JACL Credit Union.

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



NIKKEI VOICE

TOKYO'S SECOND OLYMPICS WILL BE FOREVER REMEMBERED FOR ITS UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES

By Gil Asakawa

As I write this, the "2020" Tokyo Olympic Games are 25 days away. It's the second time the Summer Games have been held in Japan. I was a kid living in Japan when Tokyo hosted its first Olympics, from October 10-24, 1964. It was a big deal for all Japanese, and for me and my family — a Hawaii-born Nisei dad working for the U.S. Army, my Issei mom from Hokkaido and my older brother and me (a younger brother would be born Oct. 29, less than a week after the Games' closing).

I was 6 years old and aware that the Olympics were really important for Japan. World War II was still less than a generation in the past, and the country had been rebuilt with incredible energy and focus after incredible devastation — including a firebombing of Tokyo by almost

300 American bombers in March 1945 and, of course, the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.

The timing of the Olympics was perfect.

Japan's government had been remade by American Occupation into a democracy with a constitution. Its economy had struggled, but industry and agriculture were back on track. Japan was beginning to build a reputation for electronics and advanced technology, instead of its earlier reputation for low-cost manufacturing ("made in Japan" was once considered negative). Its cities had been repaired and rebuilt. A 1961 hit song by singer and movie star Kyu Sakamoto, "Ue O Muite Arukou," had been renamed and became a 1963 No. 1 hit in the U.S. as "Sukiyaki."

Japan was going worldwide. There was a sense of optimism in Japan

about the 1964 Olympics. It was a coming-out party for the country as it stepped into the spotlight of the world stage.

To prove its industrial strength and embrace of modernization, the country unveiled the Shinkansen — the Bullet Train — as the crowning achievement of its already extensive and famously reliable railroad system.

The Shinkansen was planned and constructed starting in the 1950s, but the first high-speed train line in the world began running between Tokyo and Osaka on Oct. 1, 1964 — just in time for the Olympics.

My dad took us on the Bullet Train in its early months for a thrilling four-hour day trip to Osaka and back. What an accomplishment!

I remember watching as much of the Olympics as we could on our fuzzy black-and-white TV set in our home in the Ogikubo district of Tokyo. I don't remember much of the competitions or who won what, but I shared the excitement that was in the air throughout Japan to be hosting the games.

I know now that the U.S. had a Judo team that included congressman-to-be Ben Nighthorse Campbell of Colorado, as well as Paul Maruyama of Colorado Springs, a Japanese language professor at the Air Force Academy that we've gotten to know over the years.

Since then, I've watched and rewatched the 1965 documentary film "Tokyo Olympiad" by director Kon Ichikawa, a terrific milestone of a movie that focused on the human side of the athletes, not just the awards and

competition (the Criterion Collection Blu-ray is highly recommended).

I don't know if anyone will be shooting a documentary of this year's Tokyo Olympiad. I hope someone does because it promises to be one of the most unusual international sporting events of all time.

Like the rest of the world, Japan is still struggling with the Covid-19 pandemic. And its rate of vaccinations has been slow and low. Japan has been largely closed to international travel. So, the government has decided the athletes and trainers can come to Japan, but no spectators. No fans. No tourists. And, sadly, no families of competitors.

That is true for both the Olympic Games, which run July 23-Aug. 8, and the Paralympic Games, which run Aug. 24-Sept. 5. Friends and families of world-class athletes competing in Tokyo will have to watch from home, not from the stands.

My heart goes out to one Denver family in particular. Robert Tanaka, a young man who has just announced he's qualified to compete in judo in the Paralympics, has been training

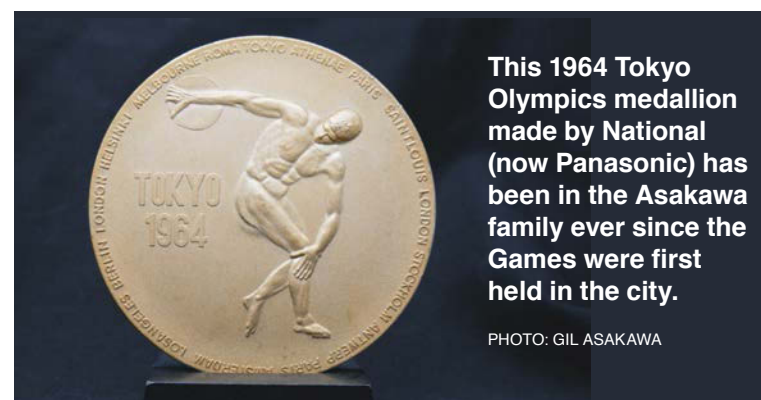
and fighting for this honor for years.

His family has supported him every step of the way. Now, his parents, Shelly and Rob Tanaka, and his brother, Nicholas, who had planned to travel with Robert to Tokyo until the games were postponed last year because of Covid, will root for him and have to send along good vibes from home.

I hope all goes well at the Olympics and the Paralympics a couple of weeks later. I hope athletes stay safe and healthy. I hope NBC's coverage finds ways to keep the competition exciting and compelling for viewers from around the world, even without the roar of the crowds to cheer the athletes on.

And, I wish the best of luck for Robert Tanaka and all the American athletes going to Tokyo and hoping to return with medals. *Gambatte!*

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.



This 1964 Tokyo Olympics medallion made by National (now Panasonic) has been in the Asakawa family ever since the Games were first held in the city.

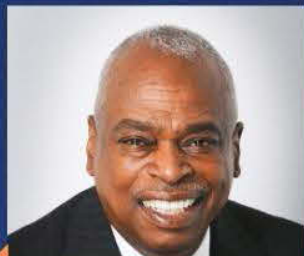
PHOTO: GIL ASAKAWA

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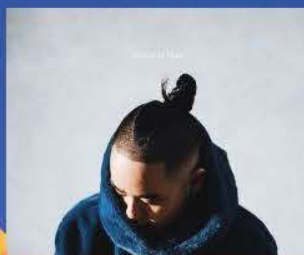


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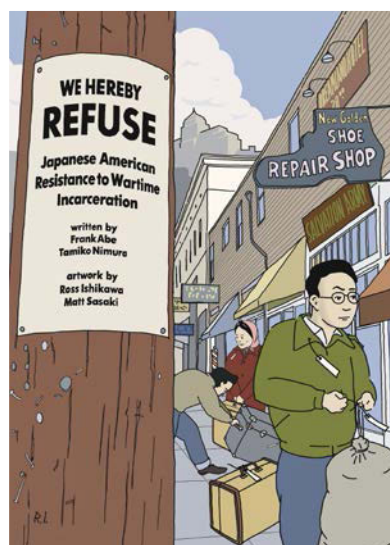
STORIES OF RESISTANCE DRAW UPON HISTORY

A new graphic novel makes an offer that can't be refused.



This page, illustrated by Ross Ishikawa, depicts the parents of one of the protagonists, Jim Akutsu, as father Kiyonosuke Akutsu leaves his family behind to be incarcerated by the government as his wife, Nao Akutsu, watches helplessly.

“We Hereby Refuse,” a graphic novel released for publication on May 18, presents an original vision of America’s past with disturbing links to the American present.



Ross Ishikawa

PHOTO: BRAD KEVELIN



Frank Abe

PHOTO: EUGENE TAGAWA



This page from the graphic novel, illustrated by Ross Ishikawa, features Mitsuye Endo upon learning that she won her Supreme Court case.

By P.C. Staff

In recent years, different aspects of the Japanese American experience during World War II have been told via the medium of the graphic novel.

The year 2012 gave us “Journey of Heroes: The Story of the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team,” written by Stacey Hayashi and illustrated by Damon Wong.

The 442nd story also got the graphic novel treatment with 2019’s “442,” courtesy of writers Koji Steven Sakai and Phinneas Kiyomura and illustrator Rob Sato (see *Pacific Citizen’s* Nov. 8-21, 2019, issue).

The late Sen. Daniel Inouye, who served in the 100th Battalion and lost an arm from combat before his career in politics, also had his story told in comic book fashion in the first issue of the second volume of the Association of the United States Army’s Medal of Honor graphic novel series (see *P.C.’s* June 26-July 16, 2020, issue).

The biggest splash, however, came in 2019 with the graphic memoir of actor George Takei’s “They Called Us Enemy,” which made the *New York Times* bestseller list and relayed the Japanese American incarceration experience of WWII as seen through the eyes of a young boy.

Now, in 2021, is the latest entry in



Tamiko Nimura

PHOTO: JOSH PARMENTER

the Japanese American graphic novel arena: “We Hereby Refuse: Japanese American Resistance to Wartime Incarceration” (ISBN 13: 978-1-63405-976-3, *Chin Music Press*, SRP \$19.95, 160 pages).

Written by Frank Abe and Tamiko Nimura and illustrated by Ross Ishikawa and Matt Sasaki, it was released on May 18.

The book is a project of Seattle’s Wing Luke Museum, which hired the four to tell three stories of individual resistance by Japanese Americans that resulted from President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Executive Order 9066, which was signed on Feb. 19, 1942.

The protagonists are based on real people: Hajime “Jim” Akutsu, Hiroshi Kashiwagi and Mitsuye Endo, the latter being one of four Japanese Americans whose legal challenges to the effects of E.O. 9066 reached the Supreme Court, with only hers resulting in a victory.

For co-writer Abe, “We Hereby Refuse” is his latest deep dive into his longtime interest in examining the Japanese American resistance narrative. In 2000, he produced the documentary “Conscience and the Constitution,” which was about the draft resisters of Heart Mountain, where the Cleveland-born Abe’s father was incarcerated.



Matt Sasaki

PHOTO: MATT SASAKI

Abe also had researched the life of Akutsu, whose story of resistance (including prison time) is now seen as the inspiration for John Okada’s seminal novel “No-No Boy.” His interest in that book led to Abe co-editing “John Okada: The Life & Rediscovered Work of the Author of ‘No-No Boy’” (see *P.C.’s* Feb. 22-March 7, 2019, issue).

According to Abe, “We Hereby Refuse” was a four-year process from getting the greenlight to getting the first run of the book published. And, even though he read comic books as a kid, writing in the medium was a different thing.

“It took me about a year to understand the graphic novel space,” Abe said. Something that helped him was Scott McCloud’s book “Understanding Comics,” which he said explained the medium as “juxtaposed pictorial images in a deliberate sequence, where often the emotion occurs in the white space between panels.”

Inspiration also came from Art

Spiegelman’s acclaimed “Maus” graphic novel. Abe allowed that having experience in another visual medium, filmmaking, also helped with the learning curve of how to write for a graphic novel.

In addition to the real-life “protagonists” of Akutsu, Kashiwagi and Endo, “We Hereby Refuse” also depicts — using their own words, in context, Abe pointed out — real-life wartime JACL leaders James Sakamoto (Emergency Defense Council, Seattle JACL), Saburo Kido (National JACL president), Tokutaro “Tokie” Slocum (Anti-Axis Committee, Los Angeles JACL) and Mike Masaoka (National JACL field executive), with the larger-than-life and still-controversial Masaoka among the four getting the most ink.

Abe pointed out that as writers, he and Nimura were supersticklers about making sure that what was said by the depicted JACLers was sourced and accurate. In other words, those are their words.

And, with those individuals long deceased and unable to defend themselves, Abe said it was incumbent upon him to be “studiously fair to their stories.” Going further, because they were gone, he felt it was important to not “take unwarranted dramatic license with that story.”



This page from “We Hereby Refuse,” illustrated by Ross Ishikawa, depicts a meeting between the JACL’s Mike Masaoka and the Army’s Karl Bendetsen.

» See STORIES on page 9

'WE ARE JUST TRENDING TOWARD GOLD IN TOKYO'

At the 2016 Paralympics, the U.S. wheelchair rugby team narrowly missed a gold medal chance. Led by star Chuck Aoki, the team is hungry for redemption in Japan.

By Lynda Lin Grigsby,
Contributor

On the morning of my phone conversation with Chuck Aoki, he had just returned to his Denver, Colo., home from his first real experience in a long time.

Well, as normal as it can get in a global pandemic.

After a year of staring at each other from little rectangles onscreen, the U.S. wheelchair rugby team finally arrived in its Birmingham, Ala., training facility together without pandemic-related restrictions.

They had the entire breadth of their isolation to imagine what the reunion would be like. Did jubilant tears spring from eyes or long-forbidden embraces linger a few seconds longer between teammates?

"No," said Aoki with a chuckle. "We are kind of tough guys. There's not that big, you know, emotional, 'Oh my God, I love you so much!'"

These are 12 men, in their 20s and 30s, who willingly take part in a brutal sport, nicknamed "murderball" for its unflinching full-on contact — "smashing" as Aoki likes to call it, when wheelchair crashes into wheelchair and body meets body.

They have different ways of expressing emotions. Their team reunion was punctuated with high-fives, excited smiles and the glint of passion and excitement in teammates' eyes for a delayed opportunity.

Redemption is just within reach, and Team USA is hungry for it. Aoki is, of course, best known as a veteran

of the sport and the unflappable team leader who is on a relentless quest for the elusive gold medal.

In 2012 at the London Paralympics, Aoki's debut, the team won a bronze medal. In 2016 at the Rio games, Team USA lost in double overtime and settled for a silver medal.

Aoki, 30, sees his third appearance at the Paralympics Games (Aug. 24-Sept. 5) as a continuum aptly described in his Twitter bio of a gold medal emoji next to the words, "Still missing."

"We are just trending toward gold in Tokyo," he said. "I certainly plan to come home with the gold medal."

LIKE VISION WITH SUPERHUMAN ABILITIES

I am embarrassed to admit that I came to my conversation with Aoki assuming a universality with sports as a tactile experience — a feeling of a ball landing in the hands, the swing of a bat and the subsequent impact. I was wrong. It is so much more.

Aoki was born with a rare genetic condition called hereditary sensory autonomic neuropathy type II (HSAN), which affects his ability to feel his hands and feet. Sure, a lot of playing rugby is about feeling, but could I imagine experiencing it differently?

"A lot of what I do on the court is visual," wrote Aoki in an email. "I try to 'see' plays before they happen, so that I can make my own moves accordingly."

His parents say Aoki's genetic

Wheelchair rugby is both elegant and brutal.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF CHUCK AOKI



"He's a little bit of a softie," says Jennifer Nelson about her son.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF CHUCK AOKI

condition gave him superhuman visual processing skills. He has no sensation below his elbows or his knees, so the kinds of things that newborns and infants do by touch, he had to learn to do by sight.

"I still remember seeing him pick things up," said Andy Aoki, his dad. "And he would really be looking at it. And now I realized, it was because he had to use his eyes. His hands are more like a tool that he can manipulate."

At a doctor's visit when Aoki was about 8 years old, long after his HSAN diagnosis, a doctor touched his hands in several places. *Do you feel this? How about this?* Each time, Aoki said yes. Ask him to close his eyes, said Jennifer Nelson, his mom. The answers changed once his



Chuck taught himself to read at 2 years old.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ANDY AOKI



"Oh, I know we can do it," says Chuck about U.S. wheelchair rugby team's quest for gold in Tokyo.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF CHUCK AOKI



Before rugby, Chuck (pictured here at 8 years old) played wheelchair basketball.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ANDY AOKI

superhuman ability was neutralized.

"It's just the way his brain is wired," said Nelson, 59.

Aoki's heightened visual acuity makes him sound like a superhero, specifically an underappreciated one. Aoki is Vision, one of Marvel's arguably best superheroes. In comic book pages, Vision is an advanced android that overcomes its programming to fight against bad guys and joins the Avengers. Vision has superhuman strength, a fast mind, superhuman speed and senses.

Aoki taught himself to read when he was about 2. Then, he taught himself to speed read before his 3rd birthday. At age 4, when his interest in sports took hold, Aoki started reading the sports section in the daily newspaper to follow his favorite hometown Minneapolis teams.

He read through the entire "Harry Potter" series, but he was still hungry. His passion for the fantasy genre has

AAPI OLYMPIANS AND PARALYMPIANS TO WATCH

After an unprecedented delay, the Summer Games are on! Here are some noteworthy AAPI athletes in the race for the medals at the Olympics (July 23-Aug. 8) and Paralympics (Aug. 24-Sept. 5).

BADMINTON



Beiwen Zhang — The women's singles player, who lives in Las Vegas, has competed for the U.S. since 2013. Zhang, 30, chose to play badminton at 8 after her dad enrolled her in a sports school.

CYCLING



Coryn Rivera — A Newport Beach, Calif., native who is of Filipina descent, she has won 72 U.S. national titles since turning professional at 16. Rivera, 29, is competing on the road cycling

team, which takes place on paved roadways.

DIVING



Jordan Windle — Windle, 22, won the 2019 NCAA title for Texas where he attended the University of Texas at Austin. Windle was born in Cambodia, where he

lived in an orphanage until he was adopted at 18 months by Jerry Windle.

FENCING



Alexander Massialas — Born and raised in San Francisco of Chinese, Greek and British descent, Massialas, 27, was

a two-time Olympian before Tokyo. The Stanford alumnus started fencing in the second grade. At the 2016 Rio Games, Massialas became the first U.S. male fencer to win two medals at an Olympics since 1904. He is coached by his dad, three-time Olympian fencer Greg Massialas.



Lee Kiefer — The 27-year-old fencer identifies as White and Filipina. In 2017, she became the

first U.S. female foil fencer to earn the No. 1 world ranking. She could be the first U.S. woman to win a gold medal in individual foil. She is married to fellow fencer and Olympian Gerek Meinhardt. She is attending medical school at the University of Kentucky.



Gerek Lin Meinhardt — The San Francisco native is a veteran. He started fencing at 9 after taking piano lessons from coach Greg Massialas'

wife. Tokyo will be his fourth Olympic appearance. He will become the first American fencer to make four Olympic teams since Mike Marx competed in his last Olympics at Atlanta 1996. He's also studying to be a medical doctor at the University of Kentucky.



Sabrina Massialas — The younger Massialas sibling, 24, is a replacement fencer in Tokyo. In 2014, she was the first-

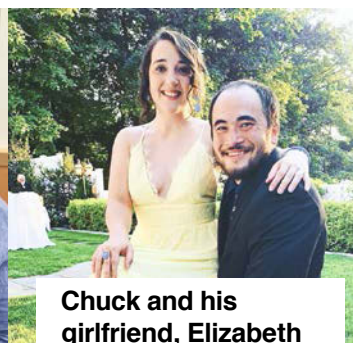
Chuck with his grandparents, Grace and Toki Aoki, in 1993.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ANDY AOKI



In 2015, Chuck (center) earned his bachelor's degree from Metro State University in the Twin Cities. He surrounded here by brother Henry, dad Andy and mom Jennifer Nelson.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ANDY AOKI



Chuck and his girlfriend, Elizabeth Gregory

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM @ CHUCKAOKI

The U.S. wheelchair rugby team has been training for this moment for five years now. No one predicted a global pandemic would threaten their quest for the gold medal.

Last March, when coronavirus forced a national shutdown, Andy Aoki's heart sank. No one knew for sure if the Olympics and Paralympics would be postponed or canceled. In the history of the modern Olympics, the games have been canceled three times because of two world wars. What would happen in a global pandemic?

For years, Andy Aoki watched his sports-loving son experience almost unbearable disappointment when his body could not keep up with his passion.

Aoki was an able-bodied kid until he was almost in his teens, but injuries plagued him. One baseball season, Aoki, injured, could not play, so he came to all the games to keep score. When doctors finally cleared him to play, Aoki broke his hand right before a game.

"It was really heartbreaking," said Andy Aoki, 61, a political science professor at Augsburg University in Minneapolis. "It just brought me to tears the kinds of disappointments

he had experienced."

During the height of the pandemic, hope often danced with uncertainty and despair. Aoki retreated to a small town outside of San Antonio, Texas, where he lived on a remote ranch with his girlfriend, Elizabeth Gregory, and her parents. He trained without access to a gym or a promise of a third Paralympic opportunity. Then in May in his hometown of Minneapolis, George Floyd's death spurred massive protests, riots and a national reckoning with race and racism.

On the Texas ranch, Aoki could only watch.

"For Chuck, it was mostly about frustration," said Gregory, 22. "He expressed feeling a lot of powerlessness and frustration around everything."

Aoki's disability taught him to adapt — another Vision-like superpower — to find what he can control in challenging situations and let go of the rest. He refocused his energy on his studies, remotely, as a PhD student at the University of Denver in comparative politics and international relations. He worked out, sometimes with the virtual company of his teammates on Zoom. He concentrated on crossword puzzles and played with their pandemic puppy, a Cavapoo (Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and Poodle mix), named Winnie. Any reference to the word "win" is purely coincidental.

With the Olympics now on, rebranded as Tokyo "2020ne" and slated to start July 23 (the Paralympics begin after the Olympics end), uncertainty lingers amid Japanese protest over hosting potential "super spreader" events amid an ongoing pandemic.

But all Aoki can do is train and hope.

"Being a Paralympian has always been about adapting to the circumstances we're dealt, and this year is no different in that way," Aoki wrote last June in an Instagram video caption of him dressed in red, white and blue and sprinting in his chair on a remote Texas road. In the background, undulating mountains kiss a cerulean sky.

Of course, there is a throughline to this kind of physical and emotional adaptability in Aoki's family lineage. During World War II, his parents, grandparents and great-grandparents were forcibly incarcerated at Amache and Minidoka. The ability to adapt may not have started in the desolate camps, but it is in his blood.

SHIKATA GA NAI

Andy Aoki, a Sansei, grew up in a Portland, Ore., home where the *Pacific Citizen* sat on tabletops alongside local daily newspapers. His parents, Toki and Grace (Yasumura) Aoki, and his grandparents, Shigeru "George" and Tsuruyo "June" (Mitsui) Aoki, ran a neighborhood grocery store called 34th Food Center, named after its location on 34th and Clinton. Both his parents and grandparents worked in the store and lived upstairs in separate apartments.

The Aoki's family history is pieced together through research, oral history and family documents. After Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, life for Japanese Americans living on the West Coast spun out of their control.

Shigeru Aoki, an Issei, was arrested and detained at two Department of Justice camps separate from his family for most of the war. He was arrested for being a member of the Sokoku-kai Society, which the FBI determined was a dangerous group. According to family records, the

sustained, said Henry Aoki, 24, his younger brother: "He's a giant nerd."

In sports, it's called reading the court, the ability to anticipate an opponent's move and react accordingly. Aoki can do that quickly with more than one person at a time, in theory, because that part of his brain is more developed than the average person.

Wheelchair rugby is both elegant and brutal. Players often spin in their chairs, best described as chariots of destruction, to disorient their oppo-

nents then violently smash into them to vie for possession of the ball.

The contact is so violent that players often get knocked over. It's the smashing that defines the sport for Aoki.

"This contact usually reverberates throughout my whole body, so even if part of me doesn't have sensation, the other parts do, and I get feedback from that," he said.

PANDEMIC PAUSE

ever U.S. fencer to win a Youth Olympics Games gold medal.

GOALBALL (PARALYMPICS)



Marybai Huking — Goalball is a team sport adapted for athletes with vision impairment. Huking, 24, was born with albinism and is legally blind. She is a Paralympian bronze medalist.

GOLF



Collin Morikawa — Representing the U.S. men's team, Morikawa, 24, only turned pro in 2019, the same year he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration at the University of California, Berkeley. Last year, he won his first major championship victory at the PGA Championship.



Danielle Kang — The LPGA star, 28, started playing golf at 12. In 2020, she was the two-time and back-to-back champion at the LPGA Drive On Championship. Kang was born in San Francisco and speaks fluent Korean.

GYMNASTICS



Yul Moldauer — The

gymnast, 24, was born in South Korea and adopted as a baby by Peter and Orsa Moldauer. He is the U.S. reigning champion of the parallel bars. He grew up on a farm outside of Fort Collins, Colo. He is named after actor Yul Brynner.



Akash Modi — The Edison, N.J., native, 26, was named as an alternate. He started gymnastics in 2001 because his parents did not want him jumping on the furniture at home.



Laura Zeng — The individual rhythmic gymnast, 21, made her debut at the 2016 Rio Olympics. Zeng was born in Hartford, Conn., and attends Yale University.



Sunisa Lee — The 18-year-old gymnast made history as the first

Hmong American to ever make the U.S. Olympic gymnastics team. For one day at the U.S. Olympics team trial, the St. Paul, Minn., native had a lead on Simone Biles.

KARATE



Sakura Kokumai — The Hawaii native, 28, has been a member of the national team since 2007. She won six senior Pan American championships and captured the 2019 gold medal in individual

kata at the Pan American Games.

RUGBY



Joanne Fa'avesi — Known as "Nana," the rugby sevens player, 29, won a silver medal at the 2015 Pan American Games. She identifies as Tongan, Samoan and German.

membership was a gift, but Shigeru Aoki never attended meetings.

At Minidoka, Toki, Shigeru's Nisei son, who was just finishing high school, wrote desperate letters to reunite with his father. The trauma of the family separation likely followed him through his life. In challenging times, Japanese Americans have a saying, *Shikata Ga Nai*, meaning, "It cannot be helped."

It's a phrase that traveled over oceans and rose out of the WWII camps to describe cultural norms of endurance. It picked up some negative connotations to mean complacency in the face of adversity, but in a global pandemic, refocusing energy on what is controllable seems like a healthy mindset.

For Aoki, his disability has always been his identity. But during the pandemic, when anti-Asian hate and racial attacks surged, it gave him pause and time to reflect on his other identity — his Japanese American heritage.

He watched the viral video footages of Asian American Pacific Islanders getting attacked and thought: *They look like me. The victims look like my dad, my brother.*

The solitude of the pandemic and

the string of current events spurred an interest to explore his heritage and the AAPI experience.

"I'd like to reflect on it more and be able to teach my kids about it one day, especially given the history that, you know, my own family has had in this country," said Aoki.

But first there's this business of winning a gold medal.

THE PACK LEADER

Three teams stand in the way of USA's gold medal: Australia, Japan and Great Britain.

Every elite athlete has a game day ritual, a set of procedures to offer a sense of control in an otherwise unpredictable pressure cooker that is the Olympics and Paralympics. Swimming's GOAT Michael Phelps famously straps on headphones and blasts music to tune out and dial in right before a race.

Phelps is a lone wolf. Aoki is the pack leader.

Aoki does the same on the bus ride over to the venue. With headphones on and music blaring, he silently "sees" his opponents' plays

2020 ONE



in his head. He likes to make a new playlist for every major competition. The Tokyo playlist has yet to be curated, but Linkin Park, AC/DC, and Lil Wayne are on high rotation.

"The younger guys on the team are like, 'You listen to them still?' And I'm like 'Yeah, they're not that old.'"

Closer to the game, he checks in with the team. Then, he has a snack (usually a Nutella sandwich or chewy gummy snacks) until he pushes onto the court and slams into other players for four quarters.

Off the court, Aoki is affable, the kind of guy one gravitates to at dinner parties for a comfortable conversation. On the court, his demeanor changes — brows furrow, gaze intensifies — and suddenly, he's very unapproachable. One minute he's happily eating gummy snacks, then the whistle blows, and he's a heaving beast on wheels.

"Chuck has an incredible ability to make the players around him better," said Jeff Butler, a Paralympian teammate. "He loves adjusting strategy in real-time, and he always makes sure that everyone is on the same page and that their voice is heard."

In Tokyo, Covid restrictions mean friends and family cannot be in attendance. It will just be Aoki and his team, a family of sorts.

Aoki grew up loving team sports and being around people. Before rugby, he played wheelchair basketball, but he had a hard time competing because of the impairments in his hands. To be eligible to play wheelchair rugby, an athlete must have an impairment at least three limbs. In wheelchair rugby, Aoki is surrounded by people and athletes who have the same challenges.

"I love the intensity. I love smashing. I love all that stuff, but really on a deeper level, it was just a community that I fit into for the first time," he said.

In the days leading up to the Paralympics, Aoki is everywhere. He's shooting promos for NBC and gabbing with podcast hosts about

Minnesota sports. Through it all, he radiates a quiet confidence and a presence of ease that makes him one of the most recognizable athletes of the games. It's something Aoki would not have any other way. He is trying to raise and change perceptions of people with disabilities.

A gold medal can help, but will it happen?

"Oh, I know we can do it," he responds, without missing a beat.

A gold medal will complete the circle like a trinity of accolades for competing at the most elite level in wheelchair rugby. And for Aoki, it may not close the chapter on competing. He is not ruling out another Paralympics appearance in 2024.

"It's just one of these things where, you know, I have a limited time where I can compete at this level," he said. "If I can still contribute and be a meaningful member of the team I don't want to leave."

If all goes according to plan, at the next summer Paralympics in Paris, Aoki may push onto the court with one heavier medal count and a new pair of prestigious titles: four-time Paralympian and PhD.

By then, maybe people can call him Dr. Chuck Aoki. ■

»

SKATEBOARDING



Heimana Reynolds — The Native Hawaiian's discipline is the skateboard park. He won the 2019 Park World Championship title. Reynolds, 23, teaches kids skateboarding at his family's skatepark in Honolulu.



SOFTBALL

Dejahn Mulipola — The Polynesian American catcher won gold at the 2019 Pan American Games. The 23-year-old is a native of Garden Grove, Calif.



Keilani Ricketts Tumanuvao — The pitcher from San Jose, Calif., is of Samoan descent. In 2019, she was a Japan Cup gold medalist.



Madilyn 'Bubba' Nickles — The right-handed pitcher and shortstop, 23, is a Merced, Calif., native. She got the nickname from her dad. Her mother and grandfather, Joe Kusunoki, is from Guam.



Janie Takeda Reed — The left-handed hitting softball outfielder, 28, is half-Japanese American and a Pan American

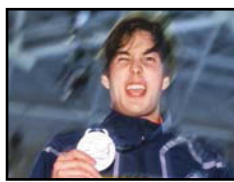
gold medalist.

SURFING



Carissa Kainani Moore — The four-time world champion from Honolulu is of Chinese, Caucasian and Hawaiian descent. Moore, 28, was the youngest person to win a surfing world title. She was the first woman to compete in the Triple Crown of Surfing, Hawaii's most prestigious contest series.

SWIMMING



Jay Litherland — The Rio Olympian is a triplet with his brothers Kevin and Mick. Litherland, 25, is of Japanese descent. He has triple citizenship in the United States, Japan and New Zealand. He can

also swim a mean 400m.



Torri Huske — The 18-year-old Stanford student holds the American women's record for 100m butterfly. Her mom grew up in a Chinese labor camp.



Erica Sullivan — Making her Olympic debut, she placed second in the 1500m freestyle at the trials. She is a two-time open water U.S. national champion.

VOLLEYBALL



Erik Shoji — (Men's Indoor) Once named the best libero, Shoji, 31, grew up in Hawaii and

made his Olympics debut in Rio. He is the son of Mary, a former basketball player, and Dave Shoji, a volleyball coach.



Kawika Shoji — (Men's Indoor) Erik's older brother is the team's setter, who will be playing for gold with his sibling.



Garrett Muagututia — (Men's Indoor) The outside hitter, 33, is of Samoan descent. He was a member of the gold medal team at the 2012 Pan American Cup.



Micah Christenson — (Men's Indoor) The Hawaii native, 28, is a setter on the team, a USC alum-

nus and a 2016 Olympian.



Justine Wong Orantes — (Women's Indoor) The Torrance, Calif., native played indoor and beach volleyball for the University of Nebraska. She is of Filipina, Chinese and Mexican descent.

WATER POLO



Johnny Hooper — The Los Angeles native is of Japanese descent. On the national team, he is the attacker.

WEIGHTLIFTING



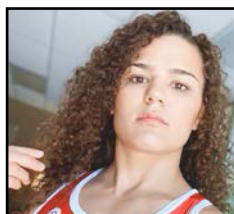
Harrison Maurus — Hailing from Auburn, Wash., Maurus, 21, is

of Native Hawaiian descent. He holds 10 current American records.



Jourdan Delacruz — At 23, the Filipina American lifter (49kg) is a two-time Pan American champion.

WRESTLING



Kayla Miracle — The 2019 Senior World Team member, 25, is competing in the women's freestyle 62 kg. She is of Japanese descent.

**This is not a comprehensive list of AAPI athletes competing in the Olympics and Paralympics.*

TOKYO » continued from page 2

The decision comes just as Tokyo has emerged from a state of emergency as the curve of new cases has flattened. The seven-day average for new infections in the city is about 400 daily.

The capital and other areas are now under “quasi-emergency” status until July 11. The new rules will allow restaurants to serve alcohol during limited hours, the main outcome from the reduced restrictions.

Overall, more than 14,000 deaths have been attributed to Covid-19 in Japan, which has managed the pandemic better than many countries but not as well as some others in Asia. Its vaccination campaign remains behind many Western countries’ rollouts, with about 6.5 percent of Japanese fully vaccinated and 16.5 percent with at least one shot.

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, who has favored allowing fans, said before the official announcement that he would bar fans if conditions change. Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike echoed that.

“If a state of emergency is necessary, I will be flexible and open to no fans in order to achieve that the Games give top priority to safety and security for the people,” Suga said.

He said he took “seriously” Omi’s recommendations but did not follow them.

In recent polls, support seems to be increasing for holding the Olympics, though a majority still appear to favor postponing or canceling the Games, depending how the question is worded.

The Olympic Games begin July 23 and will be broadcast in the U.S. on NBC.

FOUR-STAR GENERAL’S FAMILY RETURNS ANCIENT BELL TO JAPAN

The family of Pensacola Gen. Roy S. Geiger returns the bell to Okinawa after holding possession of it for 74 years.

By Associated Press

PENSACOLA, FLA. — An ancient Japanese temple bell that has been at the center of a Pensacola family for decades began its journey back to its birthplace on June 21, thanks to the generosity of the patriarch’s surviving family members.

The family of Pensacola Gen. Roy S. Geiger, a four-star general who was one of only two Marines to receive the Navy Cross for heroism in both World Wars, has held possession of the bell for 74 years.

“I see my life, when I look at the bell, my lifetime flashes before my eyes,” said Geiger’s granddaughter, Melanie Curtis. “It’s been part of me since before I was born. My girls have rung it, my grandkids rung it and my grandmother rang it for me when it was dinnertime. It’s in family pictures. It’s always been there.”

Memorabilia and other “treasures,” including the temple bell from the Japanese prefecture Okinawa, are the last pieces of Geiger’s physical war bequest that have lived with Curtis and her family.

The bell will be placed in the Okinawa Prefectural Museum & Art Museum after an online ceremony that was held Monday evening in Pensacola between the Curtis family and Alex Kishaba, president of the Japanese nonprofit organization Ryukyu America Historical Research Society in Okinawa.

Back in its designated birthplace, the return of the temple bell was commemorated in accordance with the June 22 celebration of the end

of the Battle of Okinawa in 1945.

BELL’S JOURNEY TO AMERICA

On March 31, 1916, Geiger reported for duty at Naval Air Station Pensacola and began flight training. One year later, he became the fifth Marine to receive his gold wings.

Curtis said Geiger was given the bell from Okinawa residents after the Battle of Okinawa in World War II, the largest amphibious assault in the Pacific. In the clash, the U.S. Army and Marine Corps fought the Imperial Japanese Army from April 1-June 22, 1945, when Japanese forces surrendered their troops, two months before the Japanese capitulation following the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

After the 1945 battle, Geiger returned to Pensacola with the bell, where it became a family heirloom. Most recently, it hung with a gong outside Curtis’ family home in a circular driveway off of Scenic Highway.

Ten years ago, Curtis’ lifelong Okinawan housemaid was the first person to point out the cultural significance of the bell, recognizing its origin and the connection between the artifact and Geiger.

Within weeks, Kishaba was contacted by a reporter who knew the brother of the housemaid. The housemaid, who would return home to Okinawa for vacation, brought a photo of the bell from Curtis’ curious mother to Kishaba.

“After taking one look at the photo, I was trying to find times to fit in a visit to Pensacola to see Melanie and

the bell,” Kishaba said.

JOURNEY HOME

Tracing down the temple bell, Kishaba ventured to Pensacola in 2014 in hopes of returning the artifact to Okinawa.

Curtis, however, wasn’t quite ready to give up her connection to her war hero grandfather, who was the glue of their longstanding family legacy.

As she prepared to move to a new home earlier this year, Curtis began to contemplate the best plan of action for the bell’s placement and existence. The decision came much easier this time around.

“Over time, I’ve thought about it and I truly believe it needs to go back to the Okinawan people,” Curtis said.

Curtis agreed to its repatriation and partnered with Kishaba and liaison and former U.S. Navy pilot Jeff Schneider to prepare for the bell’s crating and shipping details to Okinawa.

The cultural significance behind the bell unfolds part of Okinawa’s history and practice of Buddhist ideals. Kishaba defined it as a “secondary bell” that was rung to notify the Okinawan people, whether waking time at 7 a.m. or in the case of approaching opposition forces, such as that in the Battle of Okinawa.

The handles curving at the head of the bell are dragons — the symbol of Okinawa that garnishes castles in stone throughout the island. The round spheres dotting the rusted seafoam bell align with its sibling bells in the Okinawan museum and temples; however, it lacks the in-



The bell is being returned to its designated birthplace in Okinawa.

grained writings that usually tell Okinawan history and stories.

“The bell is a missing link to our (Okinawan) history — it’s a chain to our legacy. For the same of our children, they need to know their history and that’s what museums are for in the first place. Forgetting your ancestors’ history is like forgetting your parents, so we are very thankful to Melanie for sending the bell back,” Kishaba said.

Although Geiger passed away one year before Curtis was born, the war stories passed down through generations play like a broken record as she now begins a new chapter in her life, starting with letting the bell go.

“This bell is precious to them and their culture. It’s too special to them. I’ve enjoyed it, and my family has, but it needs to be shared,” Curtis said.

STORIES » continued from page 5



Wide firebreaks crisscrossed the area. The barracks all looked alike. Kids often got lost.

Illustrated by Matt Sasaki, this panel shows one of the book’s three protagonists, Hiroshi Kashiwagi.

“I took extra care to portray these men fairly within the context of the times, while using their own words,” Abe said. Furthermore, Abe wanted to emphasize that above all, it was the government that was the true malefactor that forced Japanese Americans to make decisions that under normal circumstances no one would ever have to make — and suffer the consequences of those decisions.

“The book shows through its actions, the government divided the Japanese community through a succession of orders, edicts and congressional legislation. It’s the government that drives the action in this book,” Abe said, who added that, “Our ‘characters’ are forced to navigate this new terrain for only one reason, and that is their race. Their race is the only thing they have

in common.”

For Abe, one of the book’s accomplishments was telling Endo’s story. The lives and stories of Akutsu and Kashiwagi are, comparatively, better known, despite Endo having been involved in a Supreme Court case.

Because Endo neither spoke to the press nor discussed the case publicly, most people only know that she won her case and that’s all, unlike with Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi and Minoru Yasui, whose high court losses were famously revived and revisited in the 1980s.

But including Endo’s story, and that of the Mother’s Society, which he first learned of in Mira Shimabukuro’s book “Relocating Authority,” was important because it showed how Issei and Nisei women — not just men — also took a stand against the government’s oppressive actions.

One revelation depicted in the book is that the government actually offered Endo a chance to leave camp and join her sister in Illinois if she would drop her legal case — but she refused, knowing that her stance was the more difficult choice, even though that meant staying incarcerated at the Topaz WRA Center for two more years.

“I would call it the choice that defined her character,” Abe said. “What defines Endo’s character is that when presented the choice of her personal freedom or doing what’s best for all, she chose all, she chose the community.”

Although the book is still new, the first printing of “We Hereby Refuse” sold out and a second run had to be ordered. “The book is flying off the shelves,” Abe said. “I’m pleased that the book has found its audience.” ■

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 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.

Heart Mountain Pilgrimage July 23-24 Virtual Event

Due to lingering concerns about the Covid-19 pandemic, this year's pilgrimage will be a virtual event — complete with a fabulous slate of planned events. There will be virtual tours of the site, live-streamed programs and educational videos shown throughout the weekend. Festivities kick off on July 23 at 6 p.m. MT with an exciting announcement about the future of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation and the Interpretive Center. To help cover the costs of producing this year's online pilgrimage, please consider supporting the HMWF with a "virtual registration" donation. Stay tuned for more information about the pilgrimage!

Info: Visit www.heartmountain.org.

Tule Lake Pilgrimage July 31 Virtual Event

In keeping with this year's theme, "Incarceration — Injustice — Protest — Resistance: Then and Now," the event will explore Tule Lake's unique status as the only one of the 10 WRA concentration camps that was converted into a maximum-security Segregation Center. More than 12,000 Japanese American activists were punished with segregation, with thousands stripped of U.S. citizenship to enable their deportation, all because they spoke out against the injustice of their incarceration. The pilgrimage will also include a memorial tribute to Tule Lake's beloved poet laureate Hiroshi Kashiwagi. More details and information about the event will follow.

Info: Visit www.tulelake.org.

NCWNP

Taiko Drumming Workshop San Jose, CA July 17; 3-5 p.m. Historic Hoover Theatre 1635 Park Ave. Price: \$80 Per Drum Station (Up to Three People)

Playful People Productions is offering a fun and energizing in-person workshop taught by the South Bay Beat Institute for children over 12 and adults. This two-hour experience will be taught by Rome Hamner and Kristy Oshiro and will include a professional performance by

SSBI artists. The workshop is limited to 12 drum stations. The workshop includes masks as needed, hand sanitizer, water and clean, socially distanced drum stations for the workshop.

Info: Visit <https://playfulpeople.org> or call (408) 878-5362.

Community Kitchen Virtual Potluck: Family Favorites San Francisco, CA July 20; 6-8 p.m. Virtual Zoom Event Price: Free

This is the final monthly Community Kitchen Potluck before in-person quarterly dinners begin again in August. Here's your opportunity to share your family's favorite Japanese and Japanese American dishes over Zoom! If you're looking for additional recipe ideas, the Center's Nikkei Potluck cookbook has recipes for all kinds of dishes, including desserts and potluck favorites.

Info: To register, visit <https://14797.blackbaudhosting.com/14797/72021-Community-Kitchen-Virtual-Potluck-Family-Favorites>. To purchase a cookbook, email programevents@jccnc.org.

Author Talk: Minamata Story: An EcoTragedy With Manga Author Sean Michael Wilson San Francisco, CA July 26; 6:30-7:30 p.m. Virtual Event Price: Free; Advance Registration Required

Manga Author Sean Michael Wilson will present his new book and share the process of researching and writing the book as well as connecting with survivors from the Minamata community who continue to live with the consequences of mercury poisoning from a chemical company that dumped toxic chemicals near the Japanese fishing village of Minamata and other coastal towns during the 1950s. This special webinar will also include an audience Q & A.

Info: To register, visit <http://bit.ly/minamatastory>. To purchase the book and receive a 20 percent discount with the code JCCC, visit <http://bit.ly/minamatastorybook>.

PSW

A Life in Pieces: The Diary and Letters of Stanley Hayami Los Angeles, CA July 9-Jan. 9, 2022 JANM 100 N. Central Ave. Price: Timed advanced tickets are required; JANM members do not need a timed ticket. Just show your membership card for free admission.

Stanley Hayami's diary and writings from camp and during his wartime incarceration are brought to life in this presentation that reveals the hardship he and his family faced during World War II. At the age of 19, he was killed in Italy after being drafted into the U.S. Army's 442nd Regimental Combat Team. His legacy lives on through these letters, which

were donated to JANM by his family.
Info: Visit www.janm.org.

San Diego Obon Festival & Odori San Diego, CA Aug. 7; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Japanese Friendship Garden/ Buddhist Temple of San Diego 2215 Pan American Road E. Price: Free

The Japanese Friendship Garden is proud to continue the tradition of celebrating our ancestors with this celebration that will take place inside the garden's gates this year. Bon Odori performances will be held inside the Inamori Pavilion and taiko drummers will perform in the lower garden that will also feature various vendors throughout the 12-acre space.
Info: For updates and questions, email info@btsd.net.

Virtual 32nd Las Vegas Buddhist Bon Odori Obon and Bazaar Las Vegas, NV Aug. 7; Noon Virtual Event Price: Free

Las Vegas Buddhist Church recognizes the hard sacrifices made within the past year and to recognize the struggles, triumphs and changes that have emerged, it will be holding a virtual event with the theme "Coming Together." It welcomes all in the community to celebrate 2021 and the return to normalcy as much as possible. Don't miss this celebration of life and recognition of peoples' ancestors and what the future still holds.

Info: For more information, visit ivsangha.info@gmail.com.

Forest-Bathing at the James Irvine Japanese Garden Los Angeles, CA Thru Sept. 26 JACCC 244 S. San Pedro St.

Take time out from your day and enjoy the tranquility of the JACCC's beautiful Japanese garden located in the heart of Little Tokyo and Downtown Los Angeles. Closed since the beginning of the pandemic, the JACCC is now offering several 30-minute time slots each day by appointment only.

Info: Visit www.jaccc.org.

Welcome Back to JANM! Los Angeles, CA Japanese American National Museum 100 N. Central Ave. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. PDT Friday, Saturday and Sunday only; closed Mon.-Thurs. Price: Timed, advanced tickets are required. No walk-in visitors. Admission is accepted up to 30 minutes after ticket time. No ticket refunds. Please contact JANM to rebook a new time.

JANM has reopened! Reserve admission tickets to visit the museum once again. Current exhibits include "Under a Mushroom Cloud," which commemorates the 75th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; "Common Ground: The Heart of Community," which chronicles 130 years of Japanese

American history.
Info: Visit www.janm.org.

USC Pacific Asia Museum Reopening Pasadena, CA 46 N. Los Robles Ave. Price: Pay What You Wish Thru June 6; Free Admission to Frontline Workers Thru Memorial Day Weekend

After a year of closure, the USC Pacific Asia Museum is excited to announce its reopening! Reservations can be made on USC PAM's website. All visitors must purchase or reserve advanced timed entry tickets online. Onsite ticket purchases will not be available. Incredible programming will be offered in celebration of AAPI Heritage Month as well as continued Zoom workshops and online programming.

Info: Visit <https://pacificasiamuseum.usc.edu>.

PNW

The 89th Annual Seattle Bon Odori Virtual Event 2021 Seattle, WA July 17; 5 p.m. Price: Free

As with last year's event, the 2021 Bon Odori will be a virtual event to protect its Sangha members and Seattle community. However, there will be preordered food, cocktail and merchandise sales held via drive-thru pickup.

Info: For the livestream event, visit www.youtube.com/c/SeattleBonOdori. For more information about preorders, visit www.Seattlebetsuin.com/vsbo21/.

'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.

IDC

A Celebration of Excellence Through the Tokyo Games Dinner and Watch Party Denver, CO July 27; 4 p.m. VIP Reception; 6 p.m. Main Event Japan America Society of Colorado Mile High Station 2027 W. Colfax Ave. Price: Visit website for ticket and registration information.

Join the Japan America Society of Colorado for a casual cocktails, dinner, watch party and silent auction along with a special tribute to women in leadership who have contributed to the Colorado-Japan relationship: Kelly Brough, Kim Day, Inta Morris and Consul General of Japan in Denver Midori Takeuchi. This event is sponsored by Comcast

NBCUniversal.
Info: Visit www.jascolorado.org for registration and additional information.

EDC

Glenn Kaino: 'In the Light of a Shadow' Thru Sept. 4 MASS MoCA 87 Marshall St.

"In the Light of a Shadow" is inspired by the connection between two protests — the tragic events known as "Bloody Sunday" from Selma, Ala., and Derry, Northern Ireland. The installation provides an immersion experience of moving shadows and evocative soundscape and spans the entire football-field size of the Building 5 gallery. Kaino is known for previous exhibits at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, the Andy Warhol Museum, the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Museum of Contemporary Art in San Diego, among others.

Info: Visit <https://www.wbur.org/artery/2021/04/02/mass-moca-glenn-kaino-in-light-of-shadow>.

'The View From MemChurch' by Rosanna Yamagiwa Alfaro Huntington Theatre Company Audio Theatre

This short audio play by NE JACL member Rosanna Yamagiwa Alfaro is featured in the Huntington Theatre Company's "Dream Boston" series. Alfaro's play is set in Harvard Yard as two friends from the class of 1960 reunite on Commencement Day on May 25, 2023. The cast includes Emily Kuroda, Alberto Isaac and Calley Chase.

Info: To listen to the play, visit <https://www.huntingtontheatre.org> and click on the "Dream Boston" icon.

Conservation in Action: Japanese Buddhist Sculpture Boston, MA Museum of Fine Arts 465 Huntington Ave.

Don't miss this rare behind-the-scenes look at the conservation of seven Buddhist sculptures. Visitors are invited to watch as conservators study and treat the sculptures in a public conservation studio. The wooden figures, images of worship depicting Buddhas, Guardian Kings and a Wisdom King, are decorated with polychromy or gilding and date from the 9th-12th centuries. The conservation project occupies an entire gallery in the museum, allowing visitors to observe the techniques employed to carefully clean the sculptures.

Info: Visit www.mfa.org. ■

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In MEMORIAM

Ichinose, Sadami, 91, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 20; he is survived by his wife, Sachiko Ichinose; children, Craig (Naomi) Ichinose and Karen (Wayne) Nakatsu; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

Iwaki, Kyoko 'Patsy,' 94, Irvine, CA, Feb. 13; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ; she was predeceased by her husband, Toshimi "Tosi" John Iwaki; she is survived by her children, Billy (Gloria), Lynn and Mike (Teri); gc: 4.



Kikuchi, Jean, 72, Grover Beach, CA, Dec. 14, 2020; she was predeceased by her sister, Nancy Doi; she is survived by her husband, Ron Kikuchi; children, Craig Kikuchi,

Kerry Kikuchi and Michelle (Todd) Akey; mother-in-law, Susy Eto Bauman; brother-in-law, Gerry (Margie) Kikuchi; sister-in-law, Lauren Eto (Jim Wawro); gc: 4.



Kiyohara, Henry, 82, Gardena, CA, Jan. 3; he was predeceased by his sister, Janice (Stan) Urasaki; he is survived by his wife, Kimiko; daughters, Lisa Iida (Kenichi) and Dina Ringer (Brian); brothers, Tom (Betty), Sam (May) and Steve; gc: 2.

Marumoto, Noriyuki, 92, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, May 12; an Army veteran; he is survived by his wife, Toyoko Marumoto; children, Roger (Kathy) Marumoto, Patricia (Gary) Lehto, Todd (Joni) Marumoto and Kimberly (David) Barbis; sisters,

Chiyomi Ogawa and Junko Marumoto (Becky Quist); siblings-in-law, Betsy Marumoto and Tok Mayeda; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6; ggc: 2.

Miyake, Masako, 102, Montebello, CA, May 2; she was predeceased by her husband, Shinpei, and daughter, Nancy; she is survived by her children, Judy Asazawa, Kathie (Robert) Nishida and Robert (Connie Wang); gc: 4; ggc: 4.



Morita, Reiko, 92, Sacramento, CA, April 29; she was predeceased by her husband, George Morita, and son, Bobby Morita; she is survived by her children, Mike Morita (Christine), Pat Morita, Terry Jaramillo and Penny Morita; brother, Ben Horita; gc: 5,

ggc: 13; gggc: 6.

Nakamura, Clarence Tsuyoshi, 86, Honolulu, HI, May 6; he is survived by his wife, Matsuno; children, Randall Nakamura and Aileen Sarme (Reginald); gc: 2.



Nakamura, Earl Iwao, 73, Ewa Beach, HI, May 6; he is survived by his son, Travis (Nichole); siblings, Wayne (Catherine), Calvin, Lloyd and Lynn; longtime companion, Myrna Saniatan; gc: 1.

Nakamura, Elaine, 69, Gardena, CA, March 23.

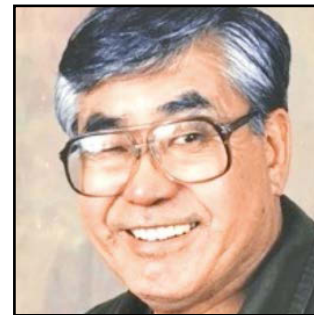
Nakamura, Garrett, 78, San Gabriel, CA, March 20; an Army veteran; he is survived by his wife, Cecilia; sons, Aaron (Leanora) Nakamura and Derek (Christine Brossin) Nakamura; brother, Tom (Janet) Nakamura; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.



Shiosaki, Fred A., 96, Seattle, WA, April 10; a 442 veteran, he was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart; he was predeceased by his wife, Lily (Nakai) Shiosaki; siblings, George, Roy, Floyd Shiosaki and Blanche Okamoto; he is survived by his children, Nancy and Michael; son-in-law, Edward; he is also

survived by many nieces and nephews.

Sugano, Norman, 69, Torrance, CA, Jan. 13; he is survived by his wife, Maya; son, Rand Sugano; siblings, Carol Mizuno, Patricia and Ted (Cindy) Sugano; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.



Suzuki, Willie, 87, Torrance, CA, May 15; during WWII, part of his family and he were incarcerated at the Gila River WRA Center in AZ; he later served in the Army; he was predeceased by his wife, Nancy; siblings, Joe, Dorothy, Mariko, Robert, Frank, Fred, Tom and Haruko Watanabe; he is survived by his wife, Gerry Suzuki; daughter, Leslie Reno; gc: 1.



Tanaka, Kameo 'Kam,' 83, Kahu-lui, HI, April 1; Air Force veteran; member of the Hawaii State House of Representatives 12th District; he was predeceased by his son, Robert Yoshino Tanaka; siblings, Yoshiharu, Yoshinobu, Yoshikazu, Katsuichi, Yoshie Kamimoto and Sumiko Yoshino; he is survived by his wife, Amelia "Mellie" Tanaka; sons, Kevin (Saane) Tanaka and James (Edel Bolosan) Tanaka; siblings, Joe (Barbara) Tanaka, Tsuruyo Hoshide, Kikue (Nobuo) Kanemoto and Kathy (Mark) Miyakawa; gc: 7; ggc: 1. ■

TRIBUTE

KAZ NAKAMOTO

Nakamoto, Kaz, 76, San Francisco, CA, May 18, 2021, he lost his battle with cancer and passed peacefully with his family at his side. He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. Survived by his wife, Cindy Morino; daughter, Remi (Derek Lau); sons, Jeremy (Jeanie) & Tony; grandchildren, Lucas, Logan, Landry, Noah, and Emi and siblings, Helene Mihara, Judy Nakamoto and Yuji Nakamoto. A private family memorial service will be held at the BCSF in July.

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

RETAIL DRUG PRICES CONTINUED TO RISE FASTER THAN INFLATION DURING THE PANDEMIC

By Ron Mori

A new AARP report shows that retail prices for 260 widely used brand-name prescription drugs increased more than twice as fast as general inflation, rising 2.9 percent compared to an inflation rate of 1.3 percent, according to a new report from AARP's Public Policy Institute.

The average annual cost for one brand-name medication used on a regular basis was over \$6,600, more than \$1,500 higher than in 2015. For the typical older American taking four to five prescription drugs per month, the annual cost of therapy would

have been more than \$31,000 last year, more than the nearly \$30,000 average annual income for Medicare beneficiaries.

Although 2020 had the slowest average annual price increase since at least 2006, it was still more than twice the rate of inflation and followed several years with considerably higher average annual price increases.

AARP analyzed how these price trends accumulated over time and found that the average annual cost of drug therapy for one brand-name drug used regularly would have been almost \$3,700 lower in 2020 if retail price changes had been limited to

inflation between 2006 and 2020.

These cost increases have had significant impact on medications used to treat common chronic conditions.

- Between 2015 and 2020, the retail prices of several widely used prescription drugs used to treat diabetes increased, such as Victoza, which increased from \$7,936 per year in 2015 to \$11,300 in 2020, and Trulicity, which increased from \$6,567 to \$9,323 over the same time period.
- Medications for asthma and COPD also continued climbing in costs, such as Spiriva Handihaler, which increased from \$3,886 per year in 2015 to \$5,289 per year in 2020, and Symbicort, which increased from \$3,391 to \$4,282 over the same time period.

Drug price increases also play a major role in Medicare Part D spending. A second AARP PPI analysis found that between 2015 and 2019, Medicare Part D spent nearly \$40 billion more on 50 top brand-name drugs that was solely attributable to drug price increases that exceeded inflation.

Medicare Part D spending for the top 50 drugs would have totaled \$250.8 billion over the study period — instead of \$289.1 billion — if price changes had been limited to

the rate of general inflation.

"On average, nearly 90 percent of the top 50 brand-name drugs had annual price increases that exceeded the corresponding rate of inflation from 2015 through 2019," said Leigh Purvis, director of health care costs and access for AARP Public Policy Institute and co-author of the reports. "It's unfair that drug prices keep rising, even for medications that have been on the market for decades. Americans can't afford to keep paying the highest drug prices in the world."

AARP has been at the forefront of calling on national and state lawmakers to take action to lower prescription drug prices and is pushing for support on a number of federal policy solutions, including:

- **Price Negotiation:** Allow Medicare to negotiate the prices of prescription drugs for its beneficiaries and allow other insurers to have access to the Medicare-negotiated prices.
- **Inflation Based Rebates:** Require drug manufacturers to pay a penalty when their prices for prescription drugs covered by Medicare Parts B and D increase faster than inflation.

- **Out-of-Pocket Cap:** Create a hard out-of-pocket spending cap for Medicare Part D enrollees.

To view "Rx Price Watch Report: Trends in Retail Prices of Brand-Name Prescription Drugs Widely Used by Older Adults, 2006-2020," visit www.aarp.org/rxpricewatch.

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



AARP has been at the forefront of calling on lawmakers to take action to lower prescription drug prices.

PHOTO: AARP



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