



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 92 YEARS



2021 JAACL NATIONAL CONVENTION

## » INSIDE!

**JACL Holds a Historic All-Virtual 51st Annual Confab.**

# JACL PROMOTES FELLOW TO NEW EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR POSITION

By JACL National

JACL is pleased to announce the promotion of Matthew Weisbly to the new education and communications coordinator position. Weisbly has served the past two years as the Daniel K. Inouye fellow. Before his time with JACL staff, he held staff positions and board position with on-campus departments and organizations while attending school at the University of Southern California. As a longtime JACL member, Weisbly also worked with

his local chapter in Arizona, as well as the Pacific Southwest District as a whole. "Growing up with the JACL, I never expected to one day work here, but these past two years, despite Covid, have been some of the most enriching experiences I've ever had," said Weisbly. "In a weird way it's because of Covid, though I've been able to continue as a fellow and now as a coordinator for JACL back in a city I love. I can't wait to be able to go out again and work in the community, continuing all the amazing work and

getting to use my background as a history major to push for more education on not only Japanese American history, but also Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history as a whole." Weisbly will begin his new position this week remotely but will represent the JACL staff in the Pacific Southwest District at an office based in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo alongside the *Pacific Citizen* staff.

**Congratulations Matthew!**



**JACL welcomes Matthew Weisbly as its new education and communications coordinator.**

PHOTO: JACL NATIONAL

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The *Pacific Citizen* newspaper (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semi-monthly (except once in December and January) by the Japanese American Citizens League, *Pacific Citizen*, 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Periodical postage paid at L.A., CA. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to National JACL, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115.

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Periodicals paid at Los Angeles, Calif. and mailing office.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

### Setting the Record Straight: JACL Hypocrisy?

In the *Pacific Citizen* issue No. 3390 (*P.C.*, July 2-22, 2021, issue), JACL Executive Director David Inoue writes, "If You Support JACL, You Should Also Support Critical Race Theory," claiming that "[CTR] is vitally important and core to what JACL has always done as an organization. . . ."

Inoue's article appears to attribute the racism that resulted in 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry being unlawfully imprisoned during World War II to "systemic prejudice."

Inoue's article seems to be not only a way for JACL to show support for CRT but for JACL to hide in the shadows so that it can avoid having to shed light on the whole truth and to hold leaders personally accountable for their racially motivated actions against

our community. However, CRT advocates appear to use personal accountability as a core method to expose racism.

If CRT advocates want to rename schools named after Robert E. Lee so that Black school children wouldn't feel intimidated by having to attend a school named in honor of the defender of slavery, why is JACL not advocating for the same protection for Japanese American children who have to attend a school named after President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who signed Executive Order (EO) 9066, or Earl Warren, who as California Attorney General was one of the main proponents for the forced evacuation?

If CRT advocates want to remove statues of Confederate soldiers because they are symbols of the racism against the Black community, why is JACL not advocating to close and defund the FDR Memorial in Washington, D.C., where there is no

mention made of Executive Order 9066 nor Roosevelt's unconstitutional denial of equal protection of the law for persons of Japanese ancestry?

If CRT advocates want actions taken against President Abraham Lincoln because his policies adversely affected Native Americans notwithstanding the price he paid to end slavery, why is JACL not advocating similar actions against Warren because of his support of EO 9066 notwithstanding his role to end "separate but equal" education for Black students?

If JACL supports CRT, then JACL must take actions that will honestly tell our whole and unvarnished story based on the facts and without sugar-coating the racism, rewriting history or omitting personal accountability for promoting racism.

The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (aka "Redress Commission") took the first step when it concluded that Executive Order 9066 was moti-

vated by "prejudice, war hysteria and lack of political leadership." In 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court concluded that EO 9066 was a "morally repugnant order."

Does JACL have the needed resolve and leadership to take the next step by holding personally accountable those who used war hysteria as a subterfuge to advance racism against persons of Japanese ancestry?

JACL must support actions that hold leaders like Roosevelt and Warren accountable for their actions and shed light on their motives. Otherwise, JACL support for CRT is only hollow, politically correct posturing amounting to hypocrisy.

Sincerely,  
Gerald Yamada\*,  
Virginia

\*The views and opinions expressed in this letter are mine and do not represent the views and opinions of any organization with which I am or have been associated.

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

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

— Gil Asakawa



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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# NOW IT IS TIME TO ACT

By David Inoue,  
JACL Executive Director

It was a long time coming, nearly five hours to be exact. We knew things wouldn't be easy conducting convention virtually, but five hours to pass Resolution 1 was probably a little more than anyone really expected. Fortunately, the rest of the afternoon went smoothly, though perhaps that was due to exhaustion from the prior debate.

While I am sure there were many sighs of relief at the conclusion of a long day of National Council meetings, which accomplished passage of two important resolutions and a biennial budget, in addition to two

previous days of workshops and National Council meetings, the work is really only just beginning.

On the first day of National Council sessions, David Lin, vp of planning and development, with the staff support of Phillip Ozaki, kicked off JACL's most ambitious fundraising campaign since the establishment of the Legacy Fund in 1990.

We hope to raise \$3 million over the next three years. This will be a tremendous effort for the organization, but it will also enable us to do the work called for in our budget and in response to the two passed resolutions.

It should be noted that Central California District Council Governor

Dale Ikeda is also leading a task force to examine our Legacy Fund and ensure it supports the work of the organization and our chapters as effectively as possible within the restrictions of the original donors' intentions. These initiatives will be crucially important to making sure JACL has the resources to do our work as a civil rights organization.

What will truly define what JACL is as an organization are the two resolutions passed on July 18. These resolutions affirm our need to serve as a leader in the civil rights community as we advocate not only for our own Asian American community, but also for others who have been denied their rights for far too long.

It is instructive even this year as we recognize 40 years since the public hearings for the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC), which led to Japanese American redress. The equivalent commission to examine Black reparations for slavery and its ongoing legacy remains unpassed by Congress.

Similarly, even as we have pushed

for further hate crimes legislation, nothing controversial, only the call for the government to do a better job of tracking data, we saw no progress toward passage for several years.

Yet, in the wake of the Atlanta and Indianapolis shootings of mostly Asian American victims, we were able to push through the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act with near unanimity from Congress.

It is disappointing that where Japanese Americans achieved redress so many years ago we cannot even get a commission passed today, or that while hate crimes actually impact Muslim and Jewish communities at a much higher rate than Asians, the only way to pass broad anti-hate crimes legislation is because Asians are being targeted.

The passage of the hate crimes act was instructive as to how it came to be our turn to bring something across the line. By attaching the Jabara Heyer NO HATE Act to the COVID-19 bill, we were able to use our moment in the spotlight to bring a victory for the wider community.

As Resolution 1 affirms, it is time

for us a Japanese Americans, as the JACL, to apply our time and effort to achieving justice for the Black community. Reparations are long overdue as is achieving a truly just system.

While it may have been challenging for us to pass the resolution at convention — not made any easier by the virtual setting — the real work begins now. Local chapters must join in the national efforts to pass significant legislation in HR 40, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and the BREATHE Act.

Let's take a moment to celebrate the statement we made in passing Resolution 1, but not too much time before we all begin the hard work of taking that statement to action. I look forward to you all joining together to work to make our statements come alive and bring about the justice and equity that we deserve and need as a nation.

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



## LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

# HOW TO BEAT THE SUMMER HEAT

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

Summer is here. Are you ready for the next heatwave? According to the Climate Science Special Report, not only have temperatures risen in the past, but they also are projected to continue to increase due to the release of greenhouse gases. In fact, heatwaves across the contiguous United States have occurred more often and lasted longer since the 1960s (*source: www.climate.gov*).

If you're over 65, the risk of illness from hot weather is particularly high, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which found that 36 percent of heat-related deaths in the U.S. were in that age category. As people age, bodies don't adjust well to sudden changes in temperature, and prescription medications and chronic illnesses can affect a response to heat.

"As you age, you don't notice the heat anymore," said Dr. Charles Maddow, director of emergency geriatrics at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth in Houston.

"Older bodies are not as hydrated and don't sweat as much — making it more difficult to cool down."

"Heat can really be threatening to older adults," said Dr. Christine E. Kistler, a physician in the Department of Family Medicine and the Division of Geriatric Medicine at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. "The heat you might have been able to take in your 30s, you're not physiologically able to cope with in your 80s."

Existing health conditions like diabetes, a history of heart disease and high blood pressure — more common in older adults — can also make people more susceptible to heat-related illnesses, Kistler said. Plus, diuretics, sedatives, beta blockers and other heart and high blood pressure medicines may make it more difficult for people to cool themselves.

According to a June 17, 2021, article by AARP, "How to Stay Healthy as Summer Temps Rise," seniors should check with their doctor about whether medications taken could contribute to overheating. In

the article, there are other strategies to avoid heatstroke and other illnesses on sweltering days:

(1) Heatstroke and heat exhaustion top the list and can be quite dangerous, Kistler says. If you start to feel sluggish, light-headed, nauseated or dizzy after being outside, listen to your body. Get into the shade or seek out air-conditioned areas. A cool shower or pouring cold water over wrists, ankles and the back of the neck can also help get the body temperature down, Kistler said.

If you're wearing a mask because of the coronavirus pandemic, make sure to take it off so you can breathe freely. If you still feel unwell after cooling down and hydrating, seek medical treatment. Kistler says she worries that people will be reluctant to seek treatment this summer because of the Covid-19 outbreak, but failure to do so for heatstroke can be dangerous.

The best thing to do if you know you'll be out in hot weather is to prepare behaviorally, says Maddow. Wear thin layers of light-colored clothing that can easily be shed. If you're outside, set a timer for 15 minutes to remind you to seek out a shady or air-conditioned spot after being in the sun, he says.

(2) Dehydration is a serious problem for older people. It's very important to keep up fluid intake in hot weather, says Krystal Culler, founder of Virtual Brain Health Center in Poland, Ohio, and a behavioral health expert who has worked with community-based senior programs and adult day programs. Culler said behavioral strategies such as drinking a full cup of water

with vitamins or medication, instead of a sip, can encourage people to drink more fluids. "Adding it into something that is already a part of your daily routine helps," she said.

The CDC's guide for protecting older adults in the heat notes that people shouldn't wait until they feel thirsty to start drinking fluids. The National Academy of Medicine suggests men drink 15.5 cups of fluid per day and women drink about 11.5 cups daily.

Culler says she has found that older people tend to drink more if they use small cups, which are refilled often, rather than giant "big gulp"-style containers, which can look overwhelming. Also, avoid alcohol and caffeine, as they can be dehydrating.

(3) Avoiding sunburn goes beyond making sure you aren't pink and peeling to the point of discomfort, says Kistler. Older people have an increased risk of skin cancer, so wear sunscreen with broad spectrum protection, a broad-brimmed hat and sunglasses.

(4) Heat rash, that prickly, itchy skin condition, can develop if you're out in the sun. Wearing light-colored, loose clothing made of breathable fabrics can help keep you cool and prevent rashes.

(5) Stay inside on the hottest days. Seek out air-conditioned areas. If you don't have air conditioning at home, some communities offer cooling centers during heat waves. There are also low-income energy assistance programs if you're having trouble paying your electric bill. Contact the

nearest office for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for more information.

(6) Take a dip. That could mean going for a swim or a float in a pool or a lake, but it can also mean taking a cool shower or running through a backyard sprinkler (with the kids or not).

(7) Seek out shade. Take a walk in the woods instead of on a path in full sun or do some gardening under a tree. If you need to go out, shift your timing to early morning or evening when the sun isn't as strong and more shade is available.

(8) Get more water. Get in the habit of sipping regularly. As people age, the ability to sense thirst wanes, so drink liquids often in hot weather, Maddow says. Flavoring water with fruits and even vegetables like cucumber can make it more inviting, Culler says, and some reusable water bottles include a core to load with lemons, apples or strawberries. Some fruits have a high water content, so choose watermelon or grapes for snacking.

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



## A MOTHER'S TAKE

# JACL CONVENTION — OKAERI WAS THERE!

By Marsha Aizumi

As Okaeri continues to expand its reach, David Inoue, executive director of the JACL, encouraged Okaeri to present a workshop at the 2021 JACL convention, which took place virtually July 15-18.

The workshop, called “Connecting Nikkei LGBTQ+ Individuals, Parents and Allies,” featured a panel of leaders in Okaeri, and I was asked to be the moderator. As part of the JACL convention’s solidarity track, David felt uplifting the work of Okaeri in the Japanese and Japanese American LGBTQ+ community was important.

That seemed very fitting, since at the 2019 JACL convention, Okaeri had organized a panel around the topic of LGBTQ+ support, and this would be continuing that discussion.

Actually, during the Q & A in 2019, one of the attendees asked, “Where can Nikkei get support when they don’t live in an area that has an abundance of resources and places to go for help?”

At the time, we did not have a lot of answers. However, inspired by this question, one year later in the middle of the pandemic, Okaeri began three support groups: one for English-speaking LGBTQ+ individuals, their parents and allies; one for Japanese-speaking LGBTQ+ individuals; and one for Japanese-speaking parents and allies. Okaeri Connects! was born.

During the past year, Okaeri Connects! has provided a monthly Japanese and/or English support group that our Nikkei queer, trans, parents or allies can attend. Although the groups were started to reach out to our families in the United States, individuals in Japan have found their way to Okaeri Connects! to be part of a community, share their stories and find resources as well.

Things in Japan are still so closeted. Japanese-speaking individuals have attended our English-speaking group, so that family members in the next room cannot understand what their children are saying in English through thin rice-paper walls.

The fear of rejection and dishonoring their family is so real . . . I understand that fear as our family lived through those days, too.

So, getting back to our JACL workshop, participants not only heard from panelists, but we also asked how Okaeri could support our community even better.

One person typed in the chat that continuing to do virtual events, where people from all over the country can attend, was important. Another person indicated they did not know about Okaeri and perhaps JACL chapters can lift up the visibility of this community space even more.

Then, an LGBTQ+ person shared a dream she has of flying the pride flag over the San Francisco Japantown area. She wants queer and trans stories to be part of the mainstream Japanese experience. I have that dream too. . . .

At the end of the workshop, we asked people to put in the chat how they felt as they were leaving our workshop. Besides the many words of appreciation, here are some of their closing words:

- Enlightening. Inspiring. Uplifted. Thankful.

And the one special thought that moved me the most was a thank you followed with “trying not to cry.”

The core values of Okaeri are love, hope and courage. We envision a world where our LGBTQ+ individuals and their families feel celebrated, respected and embraced. For anyone who wants to learn more about Okaeri

or how to get involved in small ways, please email me at Okaeri.la@gmail.com or visit us online at [www.okaeri-losangeles.org](http://www.okaeri-losangeles.org). We would love to hear from you and have you join us in making the world a safer place for our Nikkei LGBTQ+ individuals and families.

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



**Presenters at the Okaeri! Workshop at the 2021 JACL National Convention. Pictured (from top to bottom) are Stan Yogi, Justin Kawaguchi, Marsha Aizumi, Mika Yukimura and Zara Espinoza.**



## REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

# REPORT SHOWS DISCONNECT BETWEEN PATIENT, HEALTH CARE PROVIDER VIEWS OF DEMENTIA

By Ron Mori

While dementia remains highly stigmatized, a new AARP report shows that health care providers overestimate the worry that adults 40 and older would feel if they had dementia.

One in five adults say they would feel ashamed or embarrassed if they had dementia, while seven in 10 health care providers think their patients would feel this way — a 50-percentage-point difference, according to the research.

“The harsh stigma dementia carries can overshadow the facts that a diagnosis is just part of a longer story and that people can continue to live meaningful lives for years to come,” said Sarah Lenz Lock, AARP senior vp for policy and Global Council on Brain Health executive director. “We found that most adults look to their health care providers for straightforward information on dementia, showing a great opportunity for improved lines of communication when it comes to brain health.”

The study revealed that adults can



**Despite a dementia diagnosis, people can continue to live meaningful lives according to a new report by AARP.**

PHOTO: AARP

also benefit from learning more about the impact lifestyle changes have on the risk for cognitive decline and dementia. At least three-quarters of health care providers agreed that adopting brain-healthy behaviors can help with the symptoms of dementia.

“Risks for cognitive decline are much lower than most adults think, and there are many things you can do now to lower those risks as you age,” said Lock. “People should feel empowered to take control of their brain health by making lifestyle changes like being social, eating healthy foods, managing stress, exercising, getting better sleep and

engaging their brains.”

Other key findings support the need to increase awareness about brain health as people age:

- Half of adults believe it is likely they will get dementia — far more than will ever develop it — and a majority think they’ll experience cognitive decline as they age.
- More Hispanic/Latino and Asian American and Pacific Islander adults, compared to African American and white adults, are worried their mental sharpness has already declined.
- African American/Black adults and adults 70 and older perceive a lower level of stigma compared to white and Hispanic/Latino adults and younger adults.
- Nearly half of adults 40 and older say they do not know if there are treatments available for dementia and just four in 10 adults are aware there is no cure for dementia.

The research was conducted in part to help inform the work of the Milken Institute Alliance to Improve Dementia Care, of which AARP is a

member. The Alliance aims to transform and improve the complex health, community-based and long-term-care systems that people at risk for and living with dementia must navigate.

The Alliance and its members will work to address stigma within their spheres of influence. The research will be discussed at a Milken Institute Future of Health Summit panel titled “Dementia: Addressing the Stigma of America’s Most Feared Diagnosis.”

“This research confirms that dementia is a highly stigmatized condition, which often hinders physicians and patients from communicating openly about memory concerns,” said Nora Super, executive director of the Milken Institute Alliance to Improve Dementia Care. “Our Alliance, which includes 70-plus leading organizations, will share these results broadly with the goal of using this research to raise awareness and educate consumers, employers, health care providers and policymakers.”

Additional resources are available at [aarp.org/brainhealth](http://aarp.org/brainhealth).

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

# 'COMMUNITIES FORGED UNDER FIRE'

Not even a virtual National Convention could hold back JACL's jam-packed civil rights advocacy agenda.

By P.C. Staff

Although the 51st annual JACL National Convention was strictly a virtual event this year due to the still-rampant Covid-19 pandemic, that didn't stop the organization itself from providing a jam-packed schedule that included National Council sessions, plenaries and workshops and a Sayonara gala that recognized the ever-present need to remain as active as ever on the civil rights scene.

"Communities Forged Under Fire" brought together the JACL National Board and its chapters from across the nation July 15-18 in a convention that also included programming with OCA and support from its convention partners AARP, AT&T, Comcast, Google, JACL Credit Union, MGM, Motion Picture Assn., National Parks Service, State Farm, Tsuru for Solidarity and Verizon.

National President Jeffrey Moy reflected upon the JACL's very unique year.

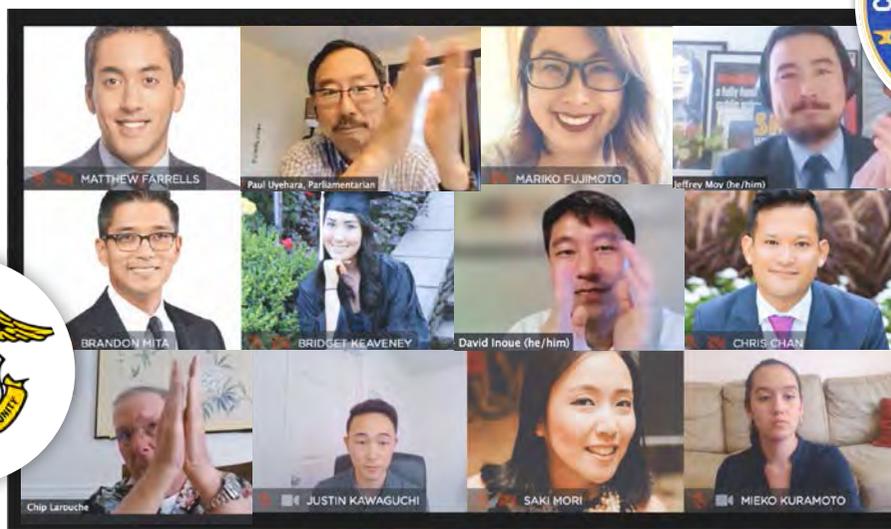
"It would be so easy for many of us to lament this difficult time and focus on what's missing and worrying about the future, but as crazy as it might seem, I'm more optimistic about JACL than I ever have been," said Moy. "If the last year and a half has taught me anything, it's that we are more resilient as ever and not just resilient but continuing to grow and blossom in even the harshest conditions.

"... It clearly shows that our members are willing to pull together and continue to learn so that we can continue to support each other as a community. ... I challenge all of you to dream about what you want JACL to be and then take those dreams and make them reality."

JACL Executive Director David Inoue then reported on the work JACL has accomplished in the past year, a highlight being passage of the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act with strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, as well as continuing to make education a key focus of its advocacy work.

Inoue stated, "With the idea of education being key to the long-term reduction in hate incidents, we continue to throw our full support behind programs such as the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program. The recently released president's budget includes full annual funding of the grants program for \$3.155 million, which is in line with both House and Senate appropriations requests."

JACL also supports HR 40 and the establishment of a commission, similar to the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, that would provide education and support for Black reparations, as well as immigration rights, collaborations with Tsuru for Solidarity and the Kakehashi Program and has added staff support and recently kicked off the organization's Centennial Education Fund (see story in this issue).



JACL conducted business sessions, offered numerous workshops and plenaries and celebrated its own during 2021's virtual convention.

"In the coming years, we hope to further expand the staff to enable JACL to lead more effectively in the Japanese American and broader civil rights community promoting our Japanese American story both for its uniqueness, but also its place as a part of broader American history and culture," Inoue stated.

Turning to membership, Saki Mori, vp for 1000 Club, Membership and Services, updated chapters with JACL's latest membership figures.

For Q2, Mori reported 7,869 active JACL members, up from 7,542 in Q1. For 2021, the organization added nine new or updated Millennium Club members and five new Life members.

"Since 2010, we have had a steady increase in new members," Mori said. "Last year, JACL recorded its highest number of new members in a 10-year time span with 636 new members. For the new members, the demographics show that new members are female and are under 25 years old, yet a third of new members are 40 years old and older."

Also on a positive note, the growth in national staff to manage membership has benefitted JACL immensely.

"JACL is able to provide new ways to support chapters and chapter leadership and be more responsive to the needs of the chapters and membership," Mori reported.

Always a key moment in National Council proceedings is the budget report, which was given by JACL Secretary/Treasurer Matthew Farrells.

Farrells outlined several key business items:

- Overall, the 2021-22 budget nets a surplus of 18K in 2021 and 90K in 2022.
- Revenue: \$1.75 million in 2021 and \$2.04 million in 2022.
- Expenses: \$1.73 million in 2021 and \$1.95 million in 2022.

He highlighted a growth in investment income, which is budgeted at approximately 28 percent-33 percent of the organization's total revenue. He also mentioned more staff resources and fundraising capabilities, including the organization's just-launched CEF, which seeks to raise \$3 million within the next three years to support JACL's mission to promote education about the Japanese American experience.



in line with prior years.

In all, Farrells reported that there is a modest surplus budgeted for both 2021 and 2022, with more emphasis on revenue-generating activities, including additional staff resources that will help expand the organization's overall capacity.

JACL is also well on its way to achieving its fundraising goal in 2021 of \$402,000, as roughly \$325,000 has been raised in revenue to date. With the launch of the CEF, hopes are high for the foreseeable future.

However, questions from chapters were raised regarding contingency plans should numbers not reach their expected targets.

"We do have a contingency plan," Farrells said. "David, without speaking for him, I can say he is very cautiously adding to the staff, but without that position being filled as it's incremental to next year, that gives us a lot of flexibility if we don't see revenue projections hitting the mark. We would not pursue the additional head count."

Farrells also added, "There is a separate reserve. We have adequate cash reserves from this point of the year, and we haven't had to draw money from the endowment. Our reserves have grown, and that's another contingency if we're in a position where we would have to utilize it. However, we don't need to rely on it or forecast the need to rely on it."

*Additional convention coverage will be included in the Pacific Citizen's Aug. 6-19 issue.*



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

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## JACL NATIONAL COUNCIL OKS TWO RESOLUTIONS

Support for BLM, anti-Asian hate proposals both pass.

By P.C. Staff

When the JACL's National Council convenes to vote on proposed resolutions, it can be a time-consuming process even under the best of circumstances. Changes to wording, challenges to the intended — and unintended — consequences are debated, extensions to the allotted time and required breaks all can make for a long day of JACL business.

The added wrinkle of conducting those necessary negotiations remotely for the first time made the resolution process take even longer than usual.

But under the guidance of Resolutions Committee Chair and Chicago JACL Chapter President Lisa Doi, the members of the National Council, plus JACL's officers and staff put their perseverance on display and completed voting on the two resolutions that were proposed on July 18.

The first resolution was co-sponsored by the Berkeley, Twin Cities, Florin, Seattle, Hoosier, Omaha, Detroit, St. Louis and SELANOCO JACL chapters and the NY/SC.

It focused on whether JACL members should actively support the Black Lives Matter movement and "... passage of the BREATHE Act, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and other local and national policies that address implicit bias and systemic racism." Resolution No. 1 was approved by a vote of 52 in favor, with 13-1/2 voting nay.

Resolution No. 2, which focused on preventing and stopping the recent spike in incidents of anti-Asian hate and violence, was brought forth by the Berkeley, Twin Cities, Florin,

Omaha, St. Louis, SELANOCO and Seattle JACL Chapters and the NY/SC.

The steps R2 called for to achieve this goal included having JACL advocate for mandatory ethnic studies for K-12 students and having the National JACL and JACL chapters to call on local and national media outlets, elected officials and community leaders to denounce racial discrimination, white supremacy and xenophobia. It passed with 68 yes votes, 2-1/2 no votes and a 1/2 abstention.

In a statement released by JACL National, President Jeffrey Moy noted, "Central to both resolutions was the need to accomplish this work in collaboration and coalition with our partner communities. These two resolutions highlight how our communities truly have been 'Forged Under Fire,' as was the theme of our convention. Now begins the difficult work of promoting public education to ensure that all Americans understand and appreciate the rich diversity of our country and challenge structures and systems that prevent this country from living up to its full potential."

Early in the proceedings, Doi thanked Resolution Committee members Haruka Roudebush (NCWNP), Seia Watanabe (NY/SC), Eileen Yamada Lamphere (PNW), Hiro Nishikawa (EDC), Larry Grant (IDC), Kacie Ann Massoudi (CCDC) and Andrew Gruhn (PSW), as well as Patty Wada for providing JACL staff support.

The final wording for R1 can be found at [tinyurl.com/p97jyh9f](https://tinyurl.com/p97jyh9f), and the final wording for R2 can be found at [tinyurl.com/nnr28h](https://tinyurl.com/nnr28h). ■



(Clockwise from top left) JACL National President Jeffrey Moy, JACL Executive Director David Inoue, Parliamentarian Paul Uyehara and Resolutions Committee Chair Lisa Doi conduct the resolutions portion of the JACL National Council meeting on July 18.

## JACL ANNOUNCES THE LAUNCH OF THE CENTENNIAL EDUCATION FUND CAMPAIGN

The CEF aims to raise \$3 million in three years to raise the resources to ensure that the organization meets its mission to promote education about the Japanese American experience.

By JACL National

At JACL's 51st National Convention last week, the JACL Centennial Education Fund was officially launched to raise \$3 million in three years to fulfill JACL's mission as an educational institution.

As the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, JACL is uniquely positioned to tell the tragic story of the Japanese American incarceration experience during World War II, the injustice for all those who were affected, the valor of those Japanese Americans who served in 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 100th Infantry Battalion and Military Intelligence Services, etc., and, most importantly, the lessons to be shared and learned not only by Japanese Americans but also all Americans.

More recently, with more than 5,000 anti-Asian hate crimes and incidents committed against innocent Asian Americans around the country during the Covid-19 pandemic, it has become even more urgent and imperative that JACL ramps up its efforts in educating the American people about the painful lessons we learned as a community during WWII.

It is with this objective in mind that the JACL is launching this fundraising campaign to shore up JACL's position in fulfilling its mission by providing critically important educational programs, tools and resources managed or supported by the National JACL such as Teacher Training Workshops, curriculum guides, the "Power of Words II," "Our League of Dreams" documentary film and much more.

In announcing the campaign, JACL National President Jeffrey Moy stated, "This ambitious campaign is critically important for the JACL to redouble our efforts in providing educational opportunities and materials so that the United States of America can become a more perfect union for all Americans, regardless of their race, gender, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation."

Added JACL Executive Director David Inoue: "I am very excited, having watched this fundraising campaign from its inception to the launch today. We have a talented and committed staff and board of directors whose hard work and dedication



JACL's Teacher Training Workshops, like this one at the Manzanar National Historic Site, inspire educators and their students to never forget history.

PHOTO: JACL NATIONAL

will ensure a successful campaign to carry JACL into our next century as a nationally leading civil rights organization."

In support of this fundraising campaign, former U.S. Commerce and Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta and Deni Mineta have agreed to serve as the chairs of the Honorary Committee.

At the organization's Sayonara Gala during its National Convention on July 17, Sec. Mineta made the following remarks:

"We have all been through so much this past year, but as Japanese Americans, we have been through much worse. Though I was only a boy, the pain was real. Memories of leaving behind Skippy, our family dog, and then to have my baseball bat taken by the soldiers are stories I have shared with you all before. But my own parents lost much more, as did so many other families. That experience truly *forged our community* for years after. Today, we still seek to heal from the wounds of that experience. . . . The Centennial Education Fund campaign will raise the resources to ensure that JACL meets its mission to promote education about the Japanese American experience as a civil rights story important to key

issues today.

"We will achieve this by funding three core areas.

"First, we will expand the staff. The JACL staff right now is but a third of the size of the staff we had years ago. Already following this convention, we will be adding a new communications and education staff role.

"To help raise the profile of JACL nationally, we will develop a new video, 'Our League of Dreams,' which will help to tell the story of JACL's past, present and future.

"With the support of new staff and the education committee led by Carol Kawamoto, we will recommit the focus of the organization to its core education mission, including promoting the instruction of Japanese American history in schools with curriculum support and, most importantly, a robust teacher training program. And we will do this by building on the Greg Marutani Education Fund. . . .

"I hope you are as excited as I am with the prospect of *forging* a stronger JACL as it moves

» See CEF on page 11

# THIS SAYONARA CELEBRATION SAYS HELLO TO VIRTUAL

The annual banquet becomes a gala as the pandemic upends convention custom.



By P.C. Staff

It came at the end of the Sayonara Gala, but it no doubt summed up the view of all involved when JACL Executive Director David Inoue said, “We all hope that this is the first and last time that we conduct our convention virtually.”

Of all the dozens of National JACL Conventions held over the decades of JACL’s existence, the July 15-18 confab was the only one to take place not in a physical space but in cyberspace, due to the still-present global pandemic that caused the cancelation of last year’s convention.

Although a modern miracle in many ways, the technology that allowed the convention to take place virtually and let participants attend without leaving home was imperfect, as anyone who has taken a class or worked remotely over the past 16 months could attest.

“We apologize for some of the technical challenges we’ve been facing over the last few days, but there is a silver lining,” Inoue said. “Because of some of the challenges we’ve been having, we are actually doing our Sayonara Gala a little bit differently. We were originally going to stream it through the Cadence platform, but because we are going to do it through a Zoom meeting, this will give you the opportunity to see each other as you watch the Sayonara Gala proceedings.”

Following the presentation of the colors and the National Anthem, sung by JACLER Michelle Heckert, Inoue alluded to how echoes from the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment

of Civilians hearings from four decades ago still reverberate in the form of the current push to address reparations for descendants of enslaved African Americans, countering the rise in hate incidents toward Muslims, Jews and Asians, acceptance of transgendered people and fallout from the family separation policies for undocumented immigrants interdicted at the nation’s southern border. It all fit under the umbrella of the convention’s theme, “Communities Forged Under Fire.”

“Tonight, we celebrate that while we face these challenges, these fires, we face them together,” Inoue added.

Up next, JACL National President Jeffrey Moy thanked the conventiongoers for their

participation and those volunteers and staffers who helped produce the event.

“I also want to thank all of our wonderful sponsors,” Moy said, singling out Diamond Sponsors AT&T and State Farm “for their incredible support that has allowed us to hold this convention.”



David Chikahisa

Interspersed during the Gala’s proceedings were video greetings from State Farm’s David Chikahisa and AT&T’s Jason Chan. Other convention sponsors included Comcast Universal, MGM Resorts International, Verizon, Motion Picture Association, AARP, Google and National JACL Credit Union.

On the topic of finances, Moy also talked up a new fundraising initiative announced a day earlier at the convention and tied-in to the upcoming 100th anniversary of the founding of JACL: The JACL Centennial Education Fund.

“We’ve launched an ambitious fundraising effort, the Centennial Education Fund, to fuel our core work. We will continue to add to that capacity as fast as we can to keep up with the new opportunities that are presenting themselves to us,” Moy said. (For more information, see CEF article in this issue and visit [jacl.org/centennial](http://jacl.org/centennial).)



Mieko Kuramoto

Following an informational video about JACL’s activities, JACL National Youth/Student Council Youth Chair Justin Kawaguchi and JACL NY/SC Youth Representative Mieko Kuramoto announced that the 2021 Vision Award winner was Tsuru for Solidarity.

Calling the decision to honor the group known for its origami crane activism a “no-brainer,” the duo lauded the movement, which began in 2019, for leading demonstrations to end immigrant detention centers for children, launching letter writing campaigns and countering anti-Black racism and anti-Asian violence.

Accepting the Vision Award was Tsuru for Solidarity’s Lisa Doi, who is also the Chicago JACL chapter president.



Lisa Doi

“We appreciate the ongoing support and collaboration of the NY/SC, JACL National and many JACL chapters across the country,” Doi said after noting how earlier that day, Tsuru for Solidarity had joined other immigrants’ rights organizations in Texas to demand the shutdown of Fort Bliss, “where over 2,000 immigrant

“Take 15” by the Mark H Taiko Connection



children are being detained.

“Fort Bliss was also a site where 91 Japanese Americans were held during WWII, so we are back in Texas to demand that we stop using detention sites,” Doi added.

Following the presentation of the Vision Award was a video featuring rap performances by G Yamakawa. Also interspersed within the gala were two music videos, “To Fly” by Portland Taiko and “Take 15” by the Mark H Taiko Connection, as well as a comedic interlude by comedienne Atsuko Okatsuka.



Atsuko Okatsuka

Next was the presentation of the Japanese American of the Biennium Award.

With “normal” altered by the Covid-19 pandemic, Moy had to explain why 2021’s JA of the Biennium was different. “Given that we didn’t have a Sayonara Banquet last year, we wanted to make time this year for a more formal presentation,” he said. “So tonight, it is my pleasure to present the JA of the Biennium Award to two deserving recipients.”

They were Orange County (California) Supervisor Lisa Bartlett, two-term member of the county’s Board of Supervisors, winner of the award for 2021, and Seattle-based telejournalist Lori Matsukawa, who retired in 2019



G Yamakawa



Lisa Bartlett

after a 40-year career marked by several Emmy Award wins and the co-founding of the Seattle Chapter of the Asian American Journalists Assn. She won JA of the Biennium for 2020 but was denied the chance to receive her award because of the pandemic.



Lori Matsukawa

Next in the program was the Hon. Norman Mineta, whose storied political career included serving as mayor of San Jose, U.S. congressman and presidential cabinet member (Secretary of Commerce and Secretary of Transportation).



Norman Mineta

In his remarks, Inoue, too, noted how present-

ing the 2021 JACL Convention remotely was a challenge. “We have been through so much this past year, but as Japanese Americans, we have been through much worse,” he said.

Mineta added that in the coming years, “We will begin to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the formation of several local groups that would eventually become the first JACL chapters. Then, we as a national organization will celebrate our 100th anniversary in the year 2029.

“JACL was one of the first national organizations to represent Asian Americans and to this date, we are still the largest. There have been times when JACL struggled, but now as we move into the future and reassess where we want to be as an organization at our centennial, we also realize we need to make sure we have the resources to do this.”

Referring to the aforementioned JACL Centennial Education Fund, Mineta added, “The National Board, under the leadership of President Jeffrey Moy and VP of Planning and Development David Lin — our former national president — is kicking off an ambitious but achievable campaign to raise \$3 million in the next three years.”

Mineta noted that the goal was to address an expansion of the JACL staff, which he said was one-third the size that it was when compared with years past, the rollout of a new video, “Our League of Dreams,” by Lane Nishikawa, and a recommitment to the core mission of education, via the Greg Marutani Education Fund.

Marutani, who died in 2019, was also the last to win the JACL’s Ruby Pin, and in 2021, the same honor was presented posthumously to Ron Katsuyama, who died on March 2. Moy, who fondly recalled his JACL-related interactions with Katsuyama, then introduced a short video about his life.

“On behalf of Ron and our family, I would like to thank the National JACL for awarding Ron the Ruby Pin. This is such an unexpected honor,” said his widow, Jane Katsuyama.



Jane Katsuyama

Medal-winning Olympic ice dancing siblings Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani were next in the program. Alex Shibutani expressed their “respect for the JACL,” and Maia Shibutani added, “It’s on all of us to learn about and preserve our history, so we can share our stories with the world.”



Michelle Heckert



Jeffrey Moy

Wall panels being prepared for installation. “Exiled to Motown” is comprised of more than 160 wall panels. This 53-foot timeline endeavors to place the history of Japanese Americans in Detroit in conversation with national Asian American histories and the broader histories of Detroit.

PHOTOS: MIKA KENNEDY



Part of the exhibit's timeline wall, titled “Making Detroit Home,” and an ikebana-inspired paper crane art piece

PHOTOS: TOSHIKI MASAKI

## WHAT CAME AFTER THE WAR: ‘EXILED TO MOTOWN’ AND MAKING COMMUNITY IN THE MOTOR CITY

A new exhibit at the Detroit Historical Museum pays homage to the stories making up the ever-evolving fabric of Japanese American life in Detroit and beyond.

By *Mika Kennedy*,  
JACL Detroit Chapter

“Exiled to Motown,” JACL Detroit’s exhibit of Japanese American community in metro Detroit, opened on July 16 at the Detroit Historical Museum. We’ve been calling it an exhibit of “community” for years, and it’s even in the museum’s Community Gallery — a space that allows community organizations to develop their own exhibits about elements of Detroit’s multifarious history that have not been well examined by the museum’s professional collections.

In an interview conducted more than a decade ago, however, Mary Ishino stated, “We don’t have any Japanese American community here.” She and Soh Suzuki were both members of the JACL Detroit chapter, and she was giving her story to a collection of oral histories that would eventually be published in a 2015 book titled “Exiled to Motown” — the precursor to the 2021 Community Gallery exhibit.

The phrase “exiled to Motown” is an homage to the first large wave of Japanese migration to Detroit, which was spurred by the War Relocation Authority’s resettlement program. As early as 1943, incarcerated Japanese Americans who had been forcibly removed from their homes in the West were permitted to leave camp for cities in the Midwest and on the East Coast.

One can see the imprint of this wave in the names of the JACL chapters that formed in its wake: Chicago, Cincinnati, Dayton, Detroit and more. Of course, it wasn’t the WRA’s intention to preserve Japanese American communities with this alleged gift of freedom. The resettlement was motivated by the assumption that dispersing Japanese Americans across majority-white areas would speed assimilation, shearing Japanese Americans from their culture and thereby eliminating the perceived “enemy alien” Asian threat.

In this context, the feeling that “We don’t have any Japanese American community here” haunts and har-

**Pictured are exhibit co-curator Celeste Shimoura Goedert with her parents, both of whom helped create the ikebana art piece behind them.**



rows. If this wartime resettlement constituted the first big wave of Nikkei in Detroit, what happened? Had the community existed and then dissipated? Had it never been at all? At what point does something become a community? At what point do we admit its failure?

On one hand, these are historical questions. On the other, they are spiritual, existential and embodied ones. We don’t have a Japanese American community in Detroit; yet, we do. We exist enough to fill a book, but that doesn’t mean Ishino’s feeling wasn’t just as true. Maybe both have to be.

If anything is true about what it means to be Japanese American in Detroit, it’s that the whole idea is bound up in paradox. Our history and our present constitute innumerable trajectories and points of entry all

tangled into one.

These are inextricable from the histories of things one probably doesn’t associate with Japanese Americana, too: Think Ford Motor Co. Think milk cartons. Actually, never mind the tiny details — Detroit, as a whole, is not a city that people typically associate with Japanese America. But historically, neither Detroit nor Japanese Americans tend to limit themselves to the associations of others.

Maybe what distinguishes a community is story — stories we tell about and for ourselves and stories that others come to know us by. When we tell stories, we make connections. We renew them. We take things that happened and put them into conversation with other things that happened. We link people and places, and it’s these linkages that make community.

### MAKING COMMUNITY

In order to be heard, stories need to be told — over and over again. Similarly, communities are always in the process of making. There’s no finish line. So, after the “Exiled to Motown” book was published, the project couldn’t end.

The JACL Detroit chapter wanted to keep telling its story, ideally to as many new audiences as possible. In 2018, the chapter decided to apply for a JACL Legacy Grant to fund a traveling exhibit that paired the book’s oral histories with documents and photographs from the chapter’s archives.

Community members explore the “Exiled to Motown” exhibit at the Detroit Historical Museum during the opening reception on July 16.



Japanese American community members lent more than 50 objects to the “Exiled to Motown” exhibit. Some were brought from Japan at the turn of the century; others were acquired on later visits. Some were built during incarceration and brought to Detroit, others were made or acquired while living in Detroit. Not every object is visibly “Japanese” — some are employment cards, typewriters, ’50s mod dresses. All of them are Japanese American.

**Exhibit co-curator Mika Kennedy (left) with Consul General of Japan in Detroit Yusuke Shindo and Deputy Consul General Hiromi Otsuki**

PHOTO: TOSHIKI MASAKI



After a successful initial run, the chapter reached out to the Detroit Historical Museum about bringing an expanded version of the exhibit to its Community Gallery. The exhibit was originally slated for June 2020. Covid-19 had an alternative proposal.

There is no upside to a pandemic that has killed more than 4 million people worldwide and is still continuing to do so.

In lieu of an upside, the chapter reached for recommitment: to tell stories because they are so easily lost. Because stories can lift you out of isolation. Because we are here, and that is never to be taken for granted. The exhibit's opening date at the Detroit Historical Museum shifted to July 2021. The chapter had roughly 13,800 feet of gallery space (by volume) with which to tell community stories.

We knew we couldn't tell every story in the "Exiled to Motown" book; at the same time, we also wanted to add new stories, too — stories linked to objects that made up the fabric of Japanese American life in Detroit today because history has always been dynamic, and its telling is never complete.

To highlight this idea, we open the exhibit with the reminder, "This exhibit is also about you. What is your place in this story?" The history of the Japanese American community in metro Detroit is not a series of events that happened to someone else, somewhere else: This history is alive and functioning within the space you occupy, as a visitor to

the exhibit.

Similarly, Detroit's Japanese American community is not the area's origin story: It is indebted to and linked with the Anishinaabe whose lands we occupy, as well as Detroit's legacy of slavery, the structural racism we carry forward to this day.

To build a bridge between the Detroit Historical Museum's professional collection and our own exhibit, we created a 53-foot timeline with three streams: key moments in Detroit's industrial and racialized history, stories from the JACL Detroit archives and key moments in Japanese and Asian American history nationally.

The chapter's goal with this timeline is both to bring people into the story of Japanese Americans in Detroit, but also to better tell our story: There are pieces of our history that can only be told in relation to these broader histories and are legible only when visualized between them. In addition to the timeline, the exhibit includes themed sections that focus on the resettlement's terms of engagement and what it means to arrive in a place fresh from an incarceration camp, as well as the practicalities of coming and working in Detroit.

Memories from camp filter into many of these Detroit stories. They are indelible, but the camps are also not where this community history begins or ends.

Japanese Americans have been in Detroit for more than 100 years, such as Tadae Shimoura, who charmed his way into a job at Henry Ford's — and whose family is still an integral part of Detroit's Japanese American community today.

Or Mary Kamidoi, who came from Stockton, Calif., via Rohwer and ended up working at Ford's, too — and living across the street from the rhythm and blues of Hitsville, USA.

In Detroit, Japanese Americans designed wax milk cartons. In Detroit, veterans of the 442nd became beloved dental school professors. In Detroit, Vincent Chin was murdered in 1982 after being mistaken for Japanese.

In Detroit, Japanese American history is still being made.

"Exiled to Motown" can't tell every story. We don't know them all. There are photos without captions and people who've passed on, who can't be asked for one more detail. Some stories will always be private. Others are screaming to be let out but haven't yet made it here.

And if only we had enough time: We are humans living in a material world that must answer to the size of a wall, the space on a hard disk, the balance of a bank account, the limits of our own human capital. But what we *can* do is tell each story with intention and infuse care into every object label and design pixel, every font-point and every mitered corner. We can hope that each detail invites someone new to listen.

**WHAT COMES AFTER**

"Exiled to Motown" is driven by a desire to connect the stories of Japanese Americans in metro Detroit with the experiences of others living in Michigan, as well as with the rest of Japanese America beyond the Motor City. It is also driven by a desire to connect with each other — to find what exhibit contributor and Detroit-based Rising Voices Executive Director Laura Misumi calls "joyful space."

The 2021 "Exiled to Motown" exhibit opened at the Detroit Historical Museum with a special reception the evening of July 16. A few hours before the reception was set to begin, all of Interstate 94 through Detroit and a number of other primary thoroughways were closed due to flooding.

Coupled with the lingering shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic, we weren't sure how many people would

end up attending. Soon, however, both new and familiar faces began to arrive at the museum — exhibit contributors and longtime JACL Detroiters Mary Kamidoi and Terry Fujishige, as well as an entire contingent of Shimouras; Asian American artists and scholars from metro Detroit; our past collaborators from the Novi Public Library; potential future collaborators from the Freer House, eager to share addition stories of early Japanese visitors to Detroit at the turn of the century; and even Detroit's new Consul General of Japan, Yusuke Shindo, who had arrived in the United States only a week prior.

I think the exhibit becomes a joyful space when the conversations start happening — when viewers move slowly through the panels, behold treasured family items, engage in conversations with one another and fold paper cranes to give to the exhibit.

It becomes a joyful space when the stories start multiplying: Stories of having performed traditional Japanese dance at Detroit's Far Eastern Festivals in the 1970s, or a father who'd driven cabs in Detroit (though the teller's family had since left Detroit for Hawaii). Stories from Shin Nikkei expressing surprise that

they could see themselves, even in the stories of Japanese Americans whose lives and communities often felt so separate. Stories from people in Japan, whose family had hosted Tadae Shimoura during a trip across the Pacific.

Personally, I feel joyful because these stories remind me that community is always in the making. Our histories are dynamic, and stories beget stories. In fact, Detroit's city motto is *speramus meliora, resurget cineribus*, which means, "It will rise from the ashes. We hope for better things."

We share this hope through our stories and make community with every telling. Who will you share this one with?

*Exiled to Motown will be at the Detroit Historical Museum thru Oct. 3. To learn more about the exhibit, plan a visit or order a copy of the "Exiled to Motown" book, visit [exiletoMotown.org](http://exiletoMotown.org).*

*\*Note: Like the "Exiled to Motown" exhibit, this article uses "Japanese American" to describe anyone who is part of a family of Japanese descent and has chosen to live in the United States, regardless of citizenship status or blood quantum.*

**Detroit Historical Museum staff member Tracy Irwin (right) and a student volunteer work to install part of the "Working in Detroit" wall display.**

PHOTOS: MIKA KENNEDY



**The automotive industry is integral to the city of Detroit and Japanese American life within it. This section explores the early relationship between Japanese Americans and American automobiles, as well as the postwar era of Japan-bashing and the 1982 murder of Vincent Chin.**

PHOTO: MIKA KENNEDY



**Exhibit-goers are invited to fold a crane to display as part of the exhibit's ikebana art piece. After the exhibit's run, the cranes will be donated to Tsuru for Solidarity.**

## PLENARY LOOKS BACK AT JACL'S PAST

The Young Professionals Caucus also previews the future.

By P.C. Staff

With every passing year, the JACL moves farther from its 1929 genesis and closer to its centennial. For the organization, that means the elders who actually experienced the Japanese American incarceration — no doubt the largest collective experience that tested both the community and the JACL — have become fewer, with the future leadership of the organization transitioning to a newer generation different from, though still connected to, the JACL's traditional Nisei and Sansei cohorts, different not only in composition but in perspective.

It was therefore fitting that one of JACL's newer groups, the Young Professionals Caucus, hosted a plenary at the 2021 JACL National Convention titled "Looking Back & Moving Forward: JACL's History."

Officially founded at the 2018 National Convention, the YPC is an affinity group within JACL for young professionals interested in "creating community rooted in healing, professional development, advocacy and education to navigate adulthood together."

Following a short introduction, which included a glossary of terms, by Mile High JACL Chapter Presi-

dent and IDC YPC Representative Dylan Mori, Elizabeth Fugikawa, also of Mile High, took over as the moderator of the session.

The discussion was divided into subsections that gave an overview of the different eras of Japanese American and JACL history: JACL's founding, incarceration, postwar expansion, the Japanese American redress movement, organizational shift and the post-2021 future. Following that, the session was opened to audience discussion.

Fugikawa noted that in the early era of JACL's founding, "JACL was only open to American citizens for membership, so this means that the Issei could not join or participate in the vast majority of JACL events."

The incarceration period of 1941-46 might have been the section most fraught with potential landmines for some in the audience; it bullet-pointed JACL complicity with the U.S. government, Mike Masaoka and wartime leaders, the *Pacific Citizen* and camp newspapers, "loyalty through blood," condemnation of the resisters and "disloyal" resettlement across the Midwest and presence in Washington, D.C.

"In 1946, the JACL National Council did issue a formal condemnation of the resisters from Tule Lake, those who segregated as

Clockwise (from top left) Elizabeth Fugikawa, Bridget Keaveney, Karman Chao and Dylan Mori



'disloyal,' whether it was because they renounced their U.S. citizenship under duress, or they entered 'no-no' to the loyalty questionnaire or those of the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee who resisted the draft because their constitutional rights were being violated," Fugikawa said.

"This condemnation shaped the JACL and the way that we view our history and how for a long time we viewed those who resisted, and it divided the community. And that divide . . . persists to this day."

Fugikawa noted how JACL's decision viewed from today's perspective might be looked at with dismay, it is not so simple as to

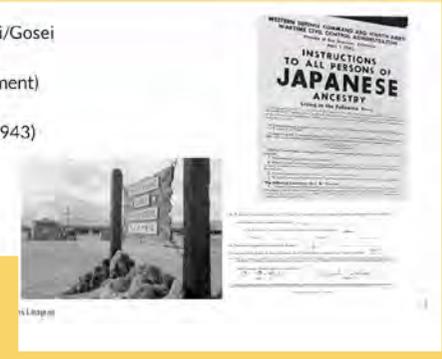
say "it was bad."

"At the time, in the context of being incarcerated, incredible xenophobia and hatred, and the fact that JACL leaders, they were like my age — I must say, I wouldn't make the greatest decisions ever if I was in that position, so it's a double-edged sword and a trickier situation than we'd like to say," Fugikawa said.

The postwar expansion period (1946-the late-'70s) was the heyday of the Nisei and included community dispersal, the Walter-McCarran Act of 1952 (that for the first time allowed naturalization for Issei and other immigrant Asians wishing to become U.S. citizens), education and memory, the birth of the model

### Glossary | Terms

- Issei/Nisei/Sansei/Yonsei/Gosei
- Nikkei
- Incarceration (vs. Internment)
- Executive Order 9066
- Loyalty Questionnaire (1943)
- Redress/Reparations



minority myth and the beginning of the pilgrimage movement to former incarceration sites.

Fugikawa also noted that the JACL in this era filed amicus briefs in landmark Supreme Court cases that did not explicitly involve Japanese Americans, such as *Brown v. Board of Education* and *Loving v. Virginia*.

For the latter, Fugikawa said, "My grandparents wouldn't have been able to legally marry if not for the *Loving v. Virginia* decision, so I will thank JACL for their efforts there."

It was during this period that the Sansei, Fugikawa said, began to rise and participate in the various movements that flowered in the 1960s, including the civil rights and antiwar movements.

"They created Asian America as a concept and advocated for ethnic studies and Asian American studies. They joined the Black Power Movement, the Third World Liberation Front, protested the Vietnam War, all of these things," she said.



(From left) Moderator David Inoue and guests John Tateishi and Dreisen Heath

## 'Redress and Reparations'

The JACL National Convention opens with a discussion on the current fight for Black reparations.

By P.C. Staff

Opening day plenary discussions began with "Redress and Reparations," which examined the lessons that can be transferred from the Japanese American incarceration experience to today's current fight for Black reparations.

Led by Moderator and JACL Executive Director David Inoue, the plenary welcomed featured speakers John Tateishi, JACL's redress director and former national executive director, and Dreisen Heath, researcher and advocate in Human Rights Watch's U.S. Program focusing on racial justice issues.

Tateishi spoke about the fight for redress and the pivotal role played in Congress by Sen. Daniel Inouye, Sen. Spark Matsunaga, Rep. Norman Mineta and Rep. Robert Matsui in the establishment of the Commission of Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians in 1980, which was followed by a series of crucial public hearings held in the summer

and fall of 1981.

"Dan Inouye suggested a commission. He noted that I had been doing a lot of public work, and he said that the education part was probably the most important thing if we were going to pass any kind of legislation and he suggested a federal commission. None of us wanted to do that," Tateishi recalled. "We knew that is what he had in mind. . . . When Dan Inouye says you establish a federal commission, you pretty much don't have a choice. . . . It was to serve as an education vehicle because its position would be to investigate what was happening and provide information to the public about it."

Establishing the CWRIC wasn't easy, but it turned out to be the perfect opportunity for the Nisei to finally talk aloud about their wartime experiences.

"That's what changed everything," Tateishi said. "These stories would be aired every night on the national news — there would be something aired about the commission hearings. It gave us the support from the public, and it made it possible to run a legislative campaign."

It ultimately proved to be the strategy that won Japanese Americans redress, when President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

Inoue then spoke about HR 40, introduced by the late-Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) in 1989 and then reintroduced in 2017, now referred to as the "Reparations Remedy Bill," which seeks to address the intergenerational harms caused by enslavement and structural racism on African Americans.

Heath went on to speak about the many iterations of HR 40 and how now might finally be the time to see a commission established to examine Black reparations.

"The power of this study in particular is that we have never had even a federal apology for slavery by the federal government. So, to have a comprehensive report that documents the range of federal and systemic wrongs that have been committed to Black people in this country is absolutely crucial to healing our community," Heath said.

She also spoke about the many complex discussions about what

reparations should look like.

"There wasn't just economic damage. We're also talking about psychological damage. These are all the remnants that continue to impact Black people today," Heath said. "Reparations should come in many different forms to address the ills of systemic racism in this country."

All agreed that education within the community is still as important today as it was 40 years ago.

"I always felt like you change the minds of one person at a time. You know there's anger out there and you talk rationally about what this all means and why it's so important for the country, and surprisingly, people start to listen," Tateishi said. "You have to educate people however way you can."

"It's been just incredible to work and collaborate with you all," said Heath. "Keep up those efforts. . . . I've seen Asian and Black solidarity as one of the historic connectors. . . . Using your experience in your fight for what is right and what it has meant for you and your community [can] change the trajectory of this country." ■

**CEF » continued from page 6**

In sharing the specifics of this campaign with the National Council during its convention, David Lin, JACL vp for planning and development and the lead for this campaign, announced that the entire National Board is supportive of the CEF by having either donated or pledged to the new drive. Additionally, several past JACL national presidents have made generous donations as well. In total, those donations/pledges have

already surpassed \$40,000.

“It is my distinct honor and privilege to lead the JACL Centennial Education Fund campaign,” said Lin. “We will raise the much-needed funds to sustain the JACL in furthering its mission to educate Americans about the tragic lessons of Japanese American incarceration during WWII and in envisioning the next 100 years of civil rights in America so that future generations

of Americans will be able to live in a more inclusive and more accepting society.”

And Carol Kawamoto, chair of the JACL National Education Committee, stated, “As an educator myself, I know the power of education in broadening people’s perspective every single day. I applaud and wholeheartedly support this fundraising campaign. We need to do more to educate the American public on the lessons we learned as a community.”

*For any questions regarding the*

*CEF campaign, please contact David Lin, JACL vp for planning and development, at [dlin@jacl.org](mailto:dlin@jacl.org) or Phillip Ozaki, JACL development and membership director, at [pozaki@jacl.org](mailto:pozaki@jacl.org). For full details, visit the campaign’s website at [www.jacl.org/centennial](http://www.jacl.org/centennial).*

**JACL’s leadership formed the historic WWII Nisei units. On June 3, the organization celebrated the issuance of a new commemorative “GO FOR BROKE” forever stamp.**



**CELEBRATION » continued from page 7**



**Maia Shibutani Alex Shibutani**

Those stories now include a children’s book series by the pair, “Kudo Kids.” Alex Shibutani said, “Moving forward, we will continue to strive to represent you well, use our voices and make the path better for the generations that follow us.”

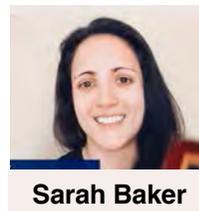
Kawaguchi and Kuramoto returned to recap the winners of the first Digital Storytelling Contest, with the theme, “How Does the Past Influence Your Present” (see P.C., Oct. 9-22, 2020, issue <https://www.pacificcitizen.org/ny-sc-announces-digital-storytelling-contest-winners/>). The categories were journalistic-style essay, visual art, video presentation, poetry or

creative writing and the winners were poet Sam Hamashima for his collection of six poems titled “Family Heirlooms” and Jessica Bukowski and Kristin Sato for their stop-motion animated film “Enryo.”

Presenting the George Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Awards was the Venice-West L.A. JACL chapter, represented by President John Saito Jr. and board members Carol Sebata Young, Carole Yamakoshi and Shannon Tsumaki. The winner — for the fourth consecutive time — was the Seattle JACL.

“When you’re looking for a model JACL chapter, they check all

the boxes,” said Young. Accepting the Inagaki prize was 2020 Seattle JACL chapter President Sarah Baker, who said, “When I was putting together the application for this award, the thing that really struck me was not how much programming we’ve done over the past couple of years, but by the content and relationships that we’ve built in the process.”



**Sarah Baker**

As the gala glided toward its conclusion, the keynote speaker was Wade Henderson, interim president and CEO of the Leadership Conference of Civil and Human Rights, who spoke of the decades-long relationship between that organization and JACL. He lauded the success of 1988’s Civil Liberties Act, which authorized an apology and a



**Wade Henderson**

I learned from my experience working on the Civil Liberties Act to secure reparations for descendants

\$20,000 redress payment to still-living Japanese Americans who were affected by Executive Order 9066.

“You successfully moved this bill through from start to final passage. It was a breakthrough for civil rights legislation,” Henderson said. He added that “being part of that collective effort is one of the prouder moments of my professional career.”

Regarding the long-percolating movement on reparations for descendants of African slaves in America, Henderson said, “JACL has always led on demanding reparations for African Americans. Speaking personally, I’m using the lessons

of formerly enslaved people today and to support a commission on truth, racial healing and transformation. I’m so pleased that JACL and organizations across the AAPI community are supporting these efforts as well.”

Closing the gala, Inoue noted that the next JACL National Convention is slated for Aug. 3-8, 2022, in Las Vegas.



That desire to learn more about Japanese American history and how the mass incarceration of West Coast ethnic Japanese during WWII that many of their parents’ generation didn’t discuss would lead to the redress movement.

“In 1978, the National Council of the JACL, by resolution, decided officially to start the fight for redress,” Fugikawa said, segueing into the next subsection of JACL history. “But this decision to fight for redress and fight for money, that also split the community. There’s a theme here, you’ll notice, of a decision and resolutions that end up dividing the community, for better or worse.”

With the 1988 legislative success of redress in 1988 and monetary payments that began in 1990, the next era was that of an organizational shift, in which JACL (and the Japanese American community) would grapple with unfinished business of past positions but also expand advocacy and alliance with other communities.

This era, from 1990-present, covered the foundation of JACL’s

Legacy Fund, the issuance of the controversial Lim Report, a recognition of and apologies for JACL’s mistakes, advocacy for same-sex marriage and against Islamophobia, the support of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and the DREAM Act and the formation of the Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium.

“Now it’s 2021, and we have to look forward. What will JACL do?” Fugikawa asked. She cited support for HR 40 (African American reparations), dealing with anti-Asian violence and prejudice, Tsuru for Solidarity and “things yet to be determined.”

With the conclusion of the condensed history of JACL’s past and its involvement with and impact upon the greater Japanese American community, the time came for audience participation.

Kiyo Fukumoto, weighing in on the future of JACL, said, “I think that the people who are in it are very credible — they’re dedicated people, and it’s great.”

But he also warned of the challenges facing the U.S. and how

JACL might help. “It’s here for us to join and be a part of and now, for all of you, the realities of what this country is now facing — we’re starting all over, we’re going back to the prejudice and discrimination, except the fingers are being pointed at different people, including the whites.”

For Fugikawa, she related how her motivation to join and remain a JACL member, despite its complex history, was more personal.

“JACL was the first place that I actually felt proud of my identity, that I didn’t feel alone in my identity,” she said. “I walked into a room of young people at a convention, and they looked like me. No one questioned that I had the right to be there, and I was immediately welcomed by the elders in the community, including the late Ron Katsuyama, who I think we all knew and adored.”

Karl Endo is encouraged by the JACL and the future of the YPC: “As far as direction goes, JACL is a leader, and I think it behooves the Young Professionals to unite people of color, come up with some

standards and drive that home across the country. By uniting on a national basis, the Young Professionals are in a position to bring together all the civil rights groups. . . . I think that’s a real good place for JACL and the Young Professionals to take a position on a national basis.”

Ken Inouye, who noted that half the board of his chapter, SELANOCO, is under age 40, recalled how the JACL is perceived outside the Japanese American community. He recalled visiting the family of a young Vietnamese man who was killed. “The Vietnamese family said to me, ‘JACL is here. We will

get justice.’ “We are here, but what we’re learning is that you need to be a part of what’s going on,” Inouye continued. “We can’t be an outsider kicking the tires. We need to be inside the car steering the direction, and I think through the logic of the elders, we were trying to be at the table so that we can make decisions that affect us all.”

“I’m so proud to be a JACLer,” he concluded. “I know there are things that happened in the past that I guess we just have to let go because I know JACL is there trying to make things better for all people.”

**Glossary | Organizations & People**



# ‘HEART MOUNTAIN, WYOMING, AND THE JAPANESE AMERICAN INCARCERATION’

Heart Mountain hosts 72 educators in the first NEH-sponsored workshops.

By Ray Locker, Contributor

Seventy-two teachers from Alaska to Florida participated in two weeklong workshops for educators conducted by the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation in June and July that were backed by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

“Heart Mountain, Wyoming, and

the Japanese American Incarceration” tracked the Japanese experience in the U.S. from the first immigrants in the 1800s through the incarceration and redress.

It wove that experience with those of the Native American nations that lived on the land that became the Heart Mountain camp and the white settlers, such as Buffalo Bill Cody, who brought the irrigation projects that made Heart Mountain possible.

The foundation attracted a faculty that included some of the leading experts on the incarceration from around the country, as well as local Wyoming educators from the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Northwest College and the University of Wyoming.

Tyson Emborg, a master teacher from Mountain Vista High School in Highlands Ranch, Colo., developed the workshop curriculum. Emborg first became interested in Heart Mountain 20 years ago after watching the documentary by Frank Abe, another member of the workshop faculty, about the Heart Mountain draft resisters.

At a time of rising racism and increased hate incidents against Asian Americans, it’s important to reach educators, Emborg said.

“There’s an exponential impact you have when you reach the educators who will then take this to their students,” he said. “You will have students who learn this history and see it with the modern relevance.”

“These aren’t isolated incidents,” Emborg continued. “They’re part of a pattern.”

The workshops are part of a larger strategy by the foundation to develop more curricula about the incarceration, said Shirley Ann Higuchi, the foundation’s chair.

“There’s the constant question about why this isn’t being taught in school,” Higuchi said. “We have to educate people about what happened in 1942 to a group of American citizens because of their race. It’s one of the critical issues of our time.”

## POSITIVE REACTIONS

Participants in the first session,

which ran from June 21-25, reacted enthusiastically in surveys.

Some teachers said they would share the lessons learned with other faculty members at their schools and push for the Japanese American incarceration to be included in their curricula.

“This is something other educators MUST KNOW,” one response said.

Others said they learned many details of the incarceration for the first time, and they thanked Heart Mountain for providing them access to former incarcerated, such as Takashi Hoshizaki, Sam Mihara, Naomi Oshita and Bacon Sakatani.

One of the issues that separates this workshop from others is that no other combines the different elements of Heart Mountain and the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming – the Native American nations that lived here, the Caucasian settlers, the irrigation developers like Buffalo Bill Cody and the Japanese Americans forced to live at Heart Mountain for 39 months.

Heart Mountain received 370 applications for the 72 workshop spots.

## BOARD MEMBERS AND ADVISERS

The faculty included Heart Mountain board members, such as Mihara and Hoshizaki, as well as longtime advisory board members and participants in previous foundation events.

Hanako Wakatsuki, a former board member who is now the superintendent of the Honouliuli National Historic Site in Hawaii, conducted three classes over two days.

Erin Aoyama, the granddaughter of former Heart Mountain incarcerated, led classes on the relocation of Japanese Americans during the war. She is finishing her Ph.D. work at Brown University.

Hana Maruyama presented a class on the relationship between the Native American nations and the land. She is the granddaughter of former incarcerated and was an assistant to Higuchi before she attended the University of Minnesota to earn her Ph.D. in American Studies. She is joining the faculty of the University

of Connecticut this fall.

Writer and documentarian Frank Abe led a class in the Heart Mountain draft resistance, a topic that many of the participating educators knew little about. He used his new graphic novel, “We Hereby Refuse,” for his session on the draft resisters in the camps.

## MULTIGENERATIONAL TRAUMA

Essential to the workshops were sessions about the multigenerational trauma that affected the incarcerated and their families. Donna Nagata, a clinical psychologist at the University of Michigan, told the participants about her experience as the daughter of two incarcerated and her research about the effects of the incarceration on the Sansei and Yonsei generations.

The husband-and-wife team of Gordon Nagayama Hall and Jeanne Nagayama Hall of the University of Oregon discussed the corrosive effect of the Model Minority myth on Japanese Americans, which was a legacy of both the incarceration and the continuing racism against Asian Americans.

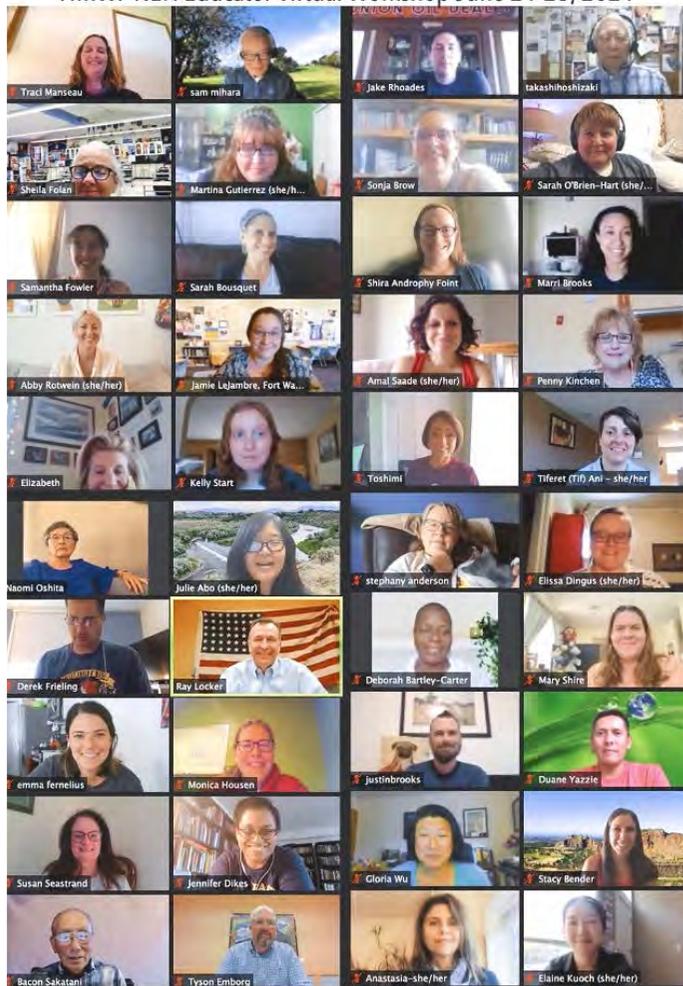
Karen Korematsu, the founder and executive director of the Fred T. Korematsu Institute, said she only learned about her father’s resistance against the incarceration while she was a student in high school. That’s when a fellow student gave a presentation that mentioned her father’s experience, something she had never been told at home.

## BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Higuchi and other foundation leaders decided to seek a grant from the NEH in late 2018 after the board voted to create what is now the Mineta-Simpson Institute. The plan is to develop curricula, media and other programming to take the lessons of Heart Mountain and the incarceration beyond the borders of the site in Wyoming.

The foundation has applied for a second NEH grant to conduct the workshops next year. Foundation leaders said they hope these sessions will be conducted in person. ■

HMWF NEH Educator Virtual Workshop June 21-25, 2021



Not pictured: Amber Severson and Naoko Akiyama

HMWF NEH workshop session participants

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF HMWF



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Hana Maruyama shares her research on the intersectionality of the Japanese American incarceration and U.S. Settler colonialism

# TULE LAKE COMMITTEE RELEASES UPDATE ON PRESERVATION EFFORTS

The TLC is asking the community at large to make their voices heard in support of Tule Lake when the open comment period begins this fall.

By Tule Lake Committee



A rally was held on June 30, 2018, at Tule Lake's jail during the 2018 Tule Lake Pilgrimage to protest incarcerating children and families.

PHOTO: DOREY NOMIYAMA



The Tule Lake committee recently issued an update on its efforts to preserve the history and integrity of the Tule Lake concentration camp site, including its opposition to an obtrusive airfield fence.

The TLC has been waiting for the Federal Aviation Authority and Modoc County to complete mandatory reviews of the proposed fence project, a process that includes public comment on the draft environmental reports.

It has been informed that these studies will be completed in another three or four months and is asking for public support and comments to be voiced and submitted in an effort to stop the fence from being constructed that would harm efforts to preserve the only War Relocation Authority

concentration camp converted into a maximum-security facility used to punish and deport protesters.

### Background on the Stop the Fence Campaign

After a token 37-acre portion of the 1,110-acre concentration camp was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 2006 and added to the Valor in the Pacific National Monument in 2008, the TLC saw the threat to the site's preservation due to FAA and Modoc County plans to enlarge the footprint of the Tulelake airfield with an improved runway and hangers, as well as the airfield fence.

Significance of the concentration camp site was underscored by Congressional action in 2019 when Tule Lake was designated as a stand-alone National Park site and renamed as the Tule Lake National Monument.

Yet, the FAA and Modoc County continue to press forward on "improvement" plans, refusing to explore the alternative of moving the rural airfield, given the impossibility of moving a historic site.

It's been eight years since more than 38,000 organizations and individuals protested the FAA and Modoc County's plan to build a massive

three-mile-long, 8-foot-high fence, an intimidating warning to visitors that would destroy the setting, feeling and association aroused by this rare civil and human rights site.

In response to the nationwide outrage, the FAA and Modoc County were compelled to undertake mandatory environmental review to study fence impacts.

The two studies, a draft Environmental Impact Report and an Environmental Assessment, are nearing completion. The TLC awaits the public comment period for these documents, the time to oppose any destructive, incompatible uses of the concentration camp site.

The TLC is asking the community at large to send a clear and strong message: "Protect Tule Lake, don't destroy it."

### Litigation Settlement Talks Over the Tulelake Airfield

In other news, the TLC is discussing settlement of pending lawsuits in Federal Appeals Court and Modoc County Superior Court over the City of Tulelake's 2018 sale of the Tulelake airfield. The TLC is encouraged and hopeful that the parties can agree on appropriate uses and activities for

a site where 331 Japanese Americans died and where thousands more lives were destroyed.

Since 2014, the TLC has filed five lawsuits addressing two issues: seeking comprehensive environmental review over the proposed fence on the concentration camp site and lack of due process in the city of Tulelake's July 2018 giveaway of the Tulelake airfield.

The TLC's most recent lawsuits, *Tule Lake Committee v. FAA, et. al.*, and *Tule Lake Committee v. Bill Follis, et. al.*, seek to void transfer of the Tulelake airfield to a party that promised to expand aviation-related activity on the Tule Lake concentration camp site.

Both cases are temporarily stayed as parties work toward settling issues of access and protecting an irreplaceable civil rights site from incompatible, destructive activity.

The TLC is encouraged in the search for resolution of these issues and grateful to the team of attorneys who have generously donated their time to prevent bulldozers from destroying the fabric of a rare social justice site.

The TLC appreciates and looks forward to your vigilance and support to preserve Tule Lake.

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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

**DUE TO HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS IN THE U.S. BECAUSE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, PLEASE CHECK REGARDING THE STATUS OF EVENTS LISTED IN THIS ISSUE'S CALENDAR SECTION.**

## NATIONAL

**Tule Lake Pilgrimage  
July 31  
Virtual Event  
Price: Free**

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](http://www.tulelake.org).**

## NCWNP

**47th Annual Nihonmachi Street Fair  
San Francisco, CA  
Aug. 7-8; 11 a.m.-6 p.m.  
San Francisco Japantown  
(Post Street From Webster to Laguna  
will be closed for this event)  
Price: Free**

The Nihonmachi Street Fair is back after being forced to cancel last year due to the pandemic. All performances this year will be held at the Peace Plaza Stage. For the safety of all participants and attendees, masks are mandatory if you have NOT received a Covid vaccination. The event will feature AAPI nonprofit organizations, Asian artisans, children's arts & crafts as well as live music. On Aug. 8, in partnership with NBC11 Bay Area, a special Olympics Closing Ceremony event will be held featuring Japanese group dancing at Noon and 3 p.m. led by the San Francisco Buddhist Church. **Info: Visit <https://www.nihonmachi-streetfair.org> for more information.**

**Mochi Magic — Matcha Madness:  
Virtual Cooking Class With Chef  
Kaori Becker  
San Francisco, CA  
Aug. 14; 1-3 p.m. PDT  
Virtual Zoom Class  
Price: \$15 Center Members;  
\$20 General Public**

This new quarterly cooking class will feature mochi instructor and author of the cookbook "Mochi Magic" Kaori Becker. She will teach participants how to make three recipes from her book featuring the classic Japanese matcha tea flavor. Workshop Zoom login information, recipes, ingredients/supplies lists will be provided upon registration. The workshop menu includes mochi donuts with matcha glaze, matcha mochi cupcakes and matcha mochi pancakes. **Info: To register, visit <https://14797.blackbaudhosting.com/14797/Mochi-Magic---Matcha-Madness-with-Chef-Kaori-Becker>.**

**Midori Kai 25th Anniversary Arts & Crafts E-Boutique  
San Francisco, CA  
Sept. 5-18  
Virtual Event  
Price: Free**

Midori Kai, a nonprofit professional women's organization, will offer its online boutique for 14 days featuring unique Asian arts and crafts, jewelry, clothing, vintage kimonos, pottery and food items from throughout the Western U.S. and Hawaii. There also will be a virtual silent auction. In honor of the event's anniversary, congratulatory videos from throughout the community will be shown from the community.

**Info: Visit [www.midorikai.com](http://www.midorikai.com) for more information.**

## PSW

**A Life in Pieces: The Diary and Letters  
of Stanley Hayami  
Los Angeles, CA  
Thru Jan. 9, 2022  
JANM**

**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:ivsangha.info@gmail.com).**

**L.A. Dodgers Japanese Heritage Night  
Los Angeles, CA  
Aug. 8; 1:10 p.m.  
Dodger Stadium  
1000 Elysian Park Ave.  
Price: Special Event Ticket Available for Purchase**

Come out to Dodger Stadium to see the Boys in Blue take on their crosstown rivals the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim to celebrate Japanese Heritage Day. Your special event ticket package includes your ticket to the game and an exclusive Japanese Heritage Day cap. Pregame festivities will also be held celebrating Japanese culture.

**Info: Visit <https://www.mlb.com/dodgers> to purchase tickets and for more information.**

**2021 Nisei Week Virtual Experience  
Los Angeles, CA  
Aug. 14; 3 p.m.  
Virtual Event  
Price: Free**

This year's virtual program will air on the Nisei Week Foundation's YouTube channel in place of a traditional in-person festival. A mix of live streaming and pre-recorded segments will feature highlights Nisei Week fans have come to love about this festival over the years. The event will also showcase this year's queen candidates and the announcement of a 2021 Nisei Week Queen and Court, as well as elements of the popular Closing Ceremony, complete with Obon dancing. **Info: Visit [www.niseiweek.org](http://www.niseiweek.org) for more information.**

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

## PNW

**'From Hiroshima to Hope' Annual  
Lantern Floating Peace Ceremony  
Seattle, WA  
Aug. 6; 6 p.m.; Family Program 7 p.m.;  
Lantern Floating Ceremony 8 p.m.  
Green Lake  
Located South of the Bathhouse on  
Green Lake's Northwest Shore at  
West Green Lake Drive North and  
Stone Avenue North  
Price: Free**

The annual lantern-floating ceremony

honoring victims of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and all victims of violence is back this year at Green Lake. The event will feature keynote speaker Naomi Ishisaka, Seattle Times columnist, artist and social justice advocate. The event will feature music, special speakers, family programming and the traditional lantern lighting ceremony.

**Info: For more information, visit [www.fromhiroshimatohope.org](http://www.fromhiroshimatohope.org).**

**Oregon Buddhist Temple Virtual  
Obon 2021  
Portland, OR  
Aug. 7  
Virtual Event  
Price: Free; Donations Accepted; Obon-in-a-Box for Minimum \$25 Donation**

The Oregon Buddhist Temple invites the public to join its virtual 2021 Obon. For minimum donations of \$25, Obon-in-a-Box will be available featuring a plain uchiwa fan for bon odori dancing, a Buddhist-themed sticker, origami paper to create your own folding art, tea to share with family and friends and snacks to share or keep to yourself. There will also be an online raffle for an opportunity to win the gift basket of your choice.

**Info: Visit [www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com](http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com) for more information. The deadline to submit your order is July 30.**

**'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](http://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.**

## CCDC

**36th Annual Toro Nagashi Celebration  
Fresno, CA  
Aug. 21; 7-8:30 p.m.  
Shinzen Friendship Garden  
114 E. Audubon Dr.**

Limited seating for 250 guests will be available in the Shinzen Garden to celebrate this annual celebrations featuring the lighting of paper lanterns that will be placed in the Japanese garden's beautiful water features. Also available to view is the Clark Bonsai Garden. **Info: Visit <http://www.shinzenjapanesegarden.org/news---events.html> for more information about this upcoming event.**

## IDC

**2021 Colorado Dragon Boat Festival  
Denver, CO  
Sept. 25-26  
Sloan's Lake Park  
Price: Free**

While the summer festival is normally held in July, this year's event has been

rescheduled to September to adhere to public health concerns in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic. This year's event will feature the renowned Dragon Boat races, exhibitors, food vendors, live music and performances and much more!

**Info: Visit <http://www.cdbf.org> for more information.**

## EDC

**Hiroshima Day With First Parish  
Dorchester  
Dorchester, MA  
Aug. 6; 6 p.m.; Film Screening 8 p.m.  
First Parish Dorchester  
10 Parish St.  
Price: Free**

This program will commemorate the Aug. 6, 1945, bombing of Hiroshima. Origami crane folding will begin the program at 6 p.m., which will then be strung and hung in the entrance to the meetinghouse as a symbol of peace. At 8 p.m., the documentary "Paper Lanterns" will be screened. The film tells the story of atomic bomb survivor Shigeaki Mori, who spent his life finding the families of 12 American POWs killed by the Hiroshima bomb. The film's producer/co-director Barry Frechette will be on hand for a Q & A following the screening.

**Info: Visit <https://actionnetwork.org/events/hiroshima-day-barry-frechettes-film-paper-lanterns?nowrapper=true>.**

**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>.**

**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.

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

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FOR MORE INFO:

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# In MEMORIAM



**Asai, Kikuji, 102**, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 22; he was predeceased by his wife, Kiyoko; he is survived by his children, Nobuo Asai, Noriko (Paul) Thomas, Keiko Blanchard and Emiko (Skip Purper) Asai; gc and ggc.

**Endow, Reynold Keiji, 77**, Sacramento, CA, June 22.



**Horii, Robert, 91**, Gardena, CA, Jan. 25; Army veteran, Korean War; past president, Gardena Evening Optimist Club and Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Gila River WRA Center in AZ; he is survived by his wife, Mary; sons, Dwayne (Galena) Horii and Brian (Thea) Horii; siblings, Louise Kawamoto, Harry Horii; gc: 4.

**Kobayashi, Robert Jiro, 91**, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, June 22; Army veteran; he is survived by his children, Hope (William) LaSalle, Mark (Susan) Kobayashi and Brad Kobayashi; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5.

**Maruyama, Kiyoko Kay, 95**, Los Angeles, CA, June 25; she was predeceased by her husband, George; she is survived by her children, Lynn and Clifford (Janet); siblings, Haruo (Betty) and Alice; gc: 4; ggc: 2.



**Matsuoka, Iwao Matt, 102**, Los Angeles, CA, June 18; he is survived by his wife, Yoshie; children, Daniel (Keiko), Joyce (Dave), Jon (Lehua) and Matthew (Yuka); brother, Akira; gc: 6.

**Nakagawa, Viola Sadako, 100**, Los Angeles, CA, June 3; she was predeceased by her husband, Fred Nakagawa; she is survived by her sister, Dorothy Matsuda; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews, other family members and friends.



**Nakamura, Nobuye, 95**, Honolulu, HI, April 16; she was predeceased by her husband, William; she is survived by her children, Gwen (Steven) and Don; sister, Hisae; gc: 3; ggc: 4.

**Ogomori, Ruth Mitsuko, 102**, Gardena, CA, Dec. 14, 2020; she was predeceased by her husband, David Uichi Ogomori; brother, Jack Satoru Shimizu; sons-in-law, John Tengan and Ron Yamamoto; she is survived by her children, Diane Tengan, Susan Yamamoto and Howard (Sharon) Ogomori; gc: 6; ggc: 3.

**Sameshima, Yukiko, 87**, Anaheim, CA, Jan. 19; she was predeceased by her husband, Akira; she is survived by her children, Cassie, Eugene and Wayne; daughter-in-law, Angela; gc: 3; ggc: 1.



**Shudo, LuAnn Emiko Hiji, 67**, Westlake Village, CA June 4; she is survived by her husband, David Shudo; children, Justin, Tachi and Miko Shudo; siblings, Kenji (Akiko) Hiji, Doris (Clifford) Kotake and Donald (Alice) Hiji; she is also survived by many nieces and relatives.



**Tagashira, Dennis Shoichi, 74**, Martinez, CA, March 9; Vietnam War veteran, USMC, 2 tours; he was predeceased by his wife, Barbara Diane Robertson Tagashira; sisters, Gail S. Tagashira and Joan H. Wylie.

**Tagawa, George Satoru, 91**, Monterey Park, CA, Jan. 27; he is survived by his wife, Jane Hatsue Tagawa; nieces and a nephew; he is also survived by many other relatives.

**Utsumi, Kathleen Mariko, 87**, Redondo Beach, CA, Jan. 27; she was predeceased by her husband, Donald Noboru Utsumi; siblings, Shinya Honda and Michiko Tanaka; and brother-in-law, Robert; she is survived by her daughters, Beverly (Stanley) Sugimoto, Lori (Warren) Louie and Donna (Glenn) Gebhardt; sister, Yasuko; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and friends; gc: 6; ggc: 2.



**Watanabe, Allan Toshihiko, 77**, Oxnard, CA, Jan. 2; born at the Manzanar WRA Center; Vietnam veteran, Army; he was predeceased by his siblings, Shirley Yamaguchi and Ronald Watanabe; he is survived by his sister-in-law, Pat Watanabe; 2 nephews; 2 grandnieces; 1 grandnephew and large extended family.

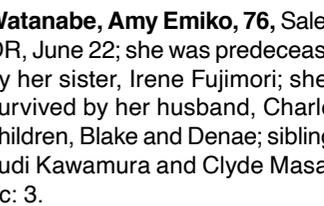


**Yakura, John, 88**, Visalia, CA, March 13; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Rowher WRA Center in AR; he was predeceased by his siblings, Rutsu, Sumiko, Mitsuko and James; he is survived by his wife, Chiz; children, Stephanie (Tom) Kaku and Brian (Kathleen) Yakura; sister, Keiko (Paul) Sumida; in-laws, Sumiye Yakura, Tak and Hisaye Okamoto and Kiyomi Fukushima; gc: 2



**Yamamoto, Sueko 'Sue,' 90**, Las Vegas, NV, March 14; she was predeceased by her husband, Milton Yukio Yamamoto, and son, Milton Yukio Yamamoto Jr.; she is survived by her children, Lani Donnelly, Mona Kato and Randy Yamamoto; gc: 8; ggc: 6.

**Yamamoto, Yoneko, 101**, Lihue, HI, Dec. 6, 2020; she was predeceased by her husband, Tony Yamamoto, three brothers and two sisters; she is survived by her daughter, Merle (Franklin) Oaski; gc: 3; ggc: 6; and gggc: 3.



**Watanabe, Amy Emiko, 76**, Salem, OR, June 22; she was predeceased by her sister, Irene Fujimori; she is survived by her husband, Charles; children, Blake and Denae; siblings, Judi Kawamura and Clyde Masaki; gc: 3.



**Watanabe, Glenn Norito, 72**, Kahului, HI, April 9; he is survived by his wife, Victoria Juan Watanabe; sister, Louise Wandasan; sons, Brody (Leslie) Watanabe and Taylor Watanabe; gc: 2.



**Yamamoto, Yoshiko, 97**, Arlington Heights, IL, Feb. 23; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Gila River WRA Center in AZ; she was predeceased by her husband, Tadashi "Todd" Yamamoto; she is survived by her children, Diane (Bob) Lippold, Sharon (Tony) White, Pat (Rick) Walters and Craig (Jan "Trom") Yamamoto; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 8; ggc: 10.

TRIBUTE

**MARGIE MAYUMI NAKA**

Margie Mayumi (Yoshimura) Naka, 75, passed away on June 11, 2021, peacefully at home with her family by her side. She is survived by her husband, Frank, daughters, Kathy (Brian) and Allison (Brian), and her grandchildren, Justin, Jessica and Bryce.

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