



PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 92 YEARS

Among other efforts, Steve Nagano started an online petition to rename Los Angeles' Fletcher Bowron Square.

PHOTO: PACIFIC CITIZEN

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San Francisco Japantown Landmark to Remain a Hotel.

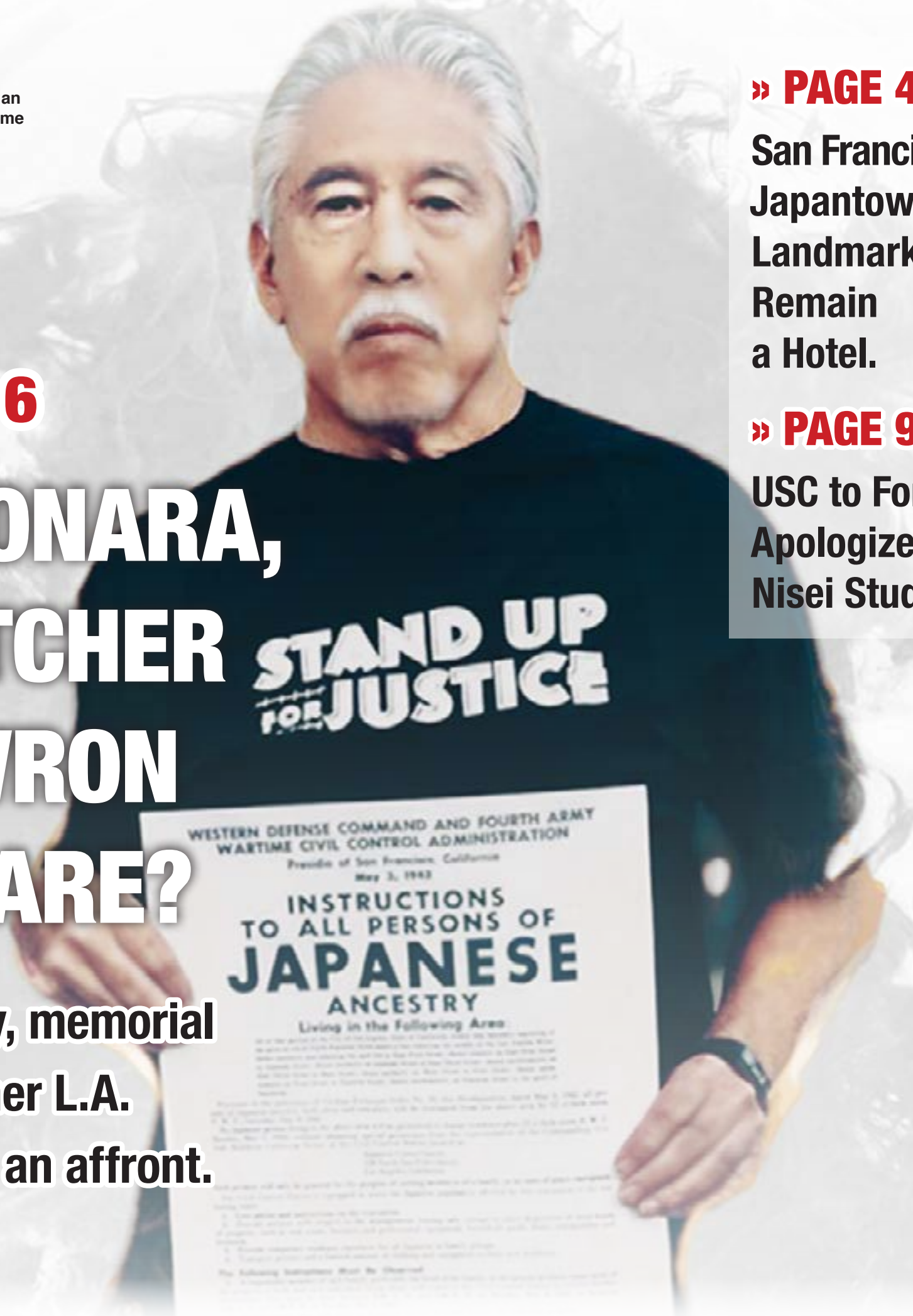
» **PAGE 9**

USC to Formally Apologize to Nisei Students.

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SAYONARA, FLETCHER BOWRON SQUARE?

For many, memorial to a former L.A. mayor is an affront.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I appreciate the *Pacific Citizen* article (*P.C.'s Oct. 8-21, 2021, issue, "Topaz Museum Hits a Rocky Patch"*) for bringing attention to the Wakasa murder and (literal) cover-up. My urgent concern is regarding the proper care and conservation of the stone monument itself and the unvarnished truth about [James Hatsuaki Wakasa's] murder, the government coverup and the almost miraculous discovery of the stone due to the research Nancy Ukai did in the National Archives. She found the map, and the two archeologists, on their own, went and spotted the stone, just barely showing above the ground.

It could have been covered up with dirt to hide it from vandalism and then excavated properly.

It's too late for a proper excavation, but now — is it being properly conserved? There are photos showing the stone outside in a courtyard, just having been rained on. It is

now snowing in Utah, where the harsh winters are notorious in Topaz legend — snow and way-below-freezing winters. Moisture can get into the stone, then freeze, after which the stone cracks where the water entered.

In her own words, Jane (Beckwith) has gone from being an avid collector to heading a museum. And heading a museum is not what she is trained to do. This important artifact in Japanese American history deserves to be in a location where it will be held in a place of honor and where it can be used as an instrument of education and enlightenment, like the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles.

I have not spoken to anyone there, but they are about to reinstall the exhibitions, and the stone monument could be given a place of honor. The Topaz Museum could graciously donate the Wakasa Stone, and the Takahashi Foundation would pay for its safe transportation.

The memorial stone is a major



discovery, a story that exemplifies the daily threat of death that our families lived under. Generational trauma and stress comes from this kind of story that our families tried to protect us from by silently grieving to themselves. Now, the stories can be told.

So, for me, my interest is in the history and the legacy and the preservation of the Topaz site, going forward. History is written by the victors. I want Japanese Americans to write the history of

Japanese Americans. Please tell your readers to keep a look out at the *Wakasamemorial.org* website and Facebook and Instagram pages for the most up-to-date information.

With respect,

Masako Takahashi, Topaz Survivor

Dear Editor,

Setting the Record Straight: Why Is JACL Supporting "Special Interest Legislation"?

In the Oct. 8-21, 2021, edition of the *Pacific Citizen*, Floyd Mori asks JACL members to support HR 1931, which would provide a \$10 million grant to be awarded to a Japanese American museum, extend the authorization for appropriations for the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant

program (Public Law 109-441) and repeal the existing sunset provision.

As the chief legislative strategist and national coordinator of the Japanese American National Heritage Coalition that worked for the creation and funding of the initial grant program, I cannot support passage of HR 1931 as currently drafted. Mori fails to disclose in his article that the proposed \$10 million grant would be awarded to only one Japanese American museum located in proximity "... to cities with populations that include not less

than 100,000 Japanese Americans, as certified by the most recent census." (*See HR 1931, Section 3(e)(2)*). Only two metropolitan areas would meet this requirement — Greater Honolulu Combined Statistical Area and Greater Los Angeles Combined Statistical Area — according to population data as of Oct. 13, 2021.

Using reauthorization of the Confinement Sites grant program to promote "special interest" legislation to benefit only one geographically limited population of the Japanese American community is

fundamentally in conflict with the organizing principle under which the 33 member organizations of the Japanese American National Heritage Coalition worked in creating and funding the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program.

We succeeded in creating a competitive federal grant program so that any grassroots group could apply for assistance to tell their story without any built-in legislative preference given to any group or geographic area.

» See LETTER on page 5

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The *P.C.'s* mission is to 'educate on the past Japanese American experience and preserve, promote and help the current and future AAPI communities.'

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

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

— Gil Asakawa



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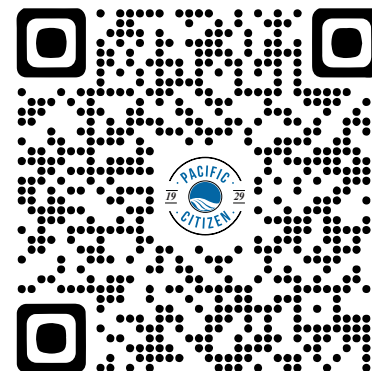
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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IT'S ALWAYS BEEN 'A MATTER OF TRUST'

By David Inoue,
JACL Executive Director

This past week, my child's school exploded with the news that the school would go virtual for the week after Thanksgiving to accommodate families that planned to travel out of the area for the holiday. In the absence of a Covid vaccine for children under 12, all children at the elementary school must quarantine for one week after traveling outside the D.C., Maryland or Virginia area.

I'll be honest, this policy has resulted in some stretching of the definitions of travel in the region for our family, even as we made last spring break a trip to a rather chilly Ocean City, Md., and this past

Indigenous People's Day weekend to Cape Charles, Va.

Both locations, while still in the allowable travel zone to avoid quarantine, are but just a few miles different, in one case even a shorter distance, and we could have found ourselves in Delaware or North Carolina, respectively, and needing to quarantine upon return.

Nevertheless, we adhered to the policy, including quarantining at the beginning of the year due to a previously planned vacation to the North Carolina beach, where the children were effectively still quarantined.

Among the reasons for deciding to go all virtual for the week following the Thanksgiving weekend was the concern that some families might travel and decide to simply

not follow quarantine policies. That we have come to the point of our school assuming parents will lie to avoid the policy is telling of where we are as a society in 2021.

For the past five-plus years, we have had a now-former president who has baselessly accused the press of lying, the one institution we count on for the truth. That same president himself made 30,573 false or misleading statements during his four years of presidency, not even including statements made before or after as tracked by the *Washington Post's* fact-checker team led by Glenn Kessler.

It is no wonder that President Trump endeavored so hard to discredit the press, whose responsibility it is to keep lies from public officials and corporations in check.

Efforts to hold Trump accountable for his greatest lie — that the election was stolen as an incitement to treason — fell short of the Senate votes needed for conviction. And this brings us to the reason why society has deteriorated to the point where telling lies without consequence has become normalized.

There are no consequences to telling the lie. FOX News' ratings have blossomed with its nonjournalists

feeding the American public a series of lies. The former president has seemingly escaped any punishment for his obvious misstatements and untruths, the euphemistic words the press likes to use since they cannot ultimately divine the president's intent when he makes these statements. I think we can confidently call them lies.

It seems there is no longer any effort to actually challenge and mete out consequences for lies, but tacit acceptance that it will happen and how do we proceed around that one fact that does seem to be true for everyone. It is sad when the only truth is that we can expect others to lie, and it has now permeated to the levels of our children's schools.

I think back to the True-False tests I took in elementary school. And later, further discernment of Fact vs. Opinion on other tests. Instead, our schools are now also the battlegrounds of what can be taught.

School boards are being assailed for promoting the instruction of diverse interpretations of our nation's history rather than the sanitized versions that many of us learned 20 or more years ago.

For some, this might mean not teaching about the Japanese Amer-

ican incarceration during World War II as a mistake made by our government, but as a military necessity, despite all other facts indicating otherwise. Ultimately, it is most important for them that our country not be seen in a negative light.

Our schools are our greatest defense against this counterculture of lies. We need to promote their ability to teach the truth to our children and ensure they provide the tools for our children to discern fact from fiction.

We also need to return to accountability. There needs to be consequences for lying and doing wrong, whether it is the former president and the Big Lie about the election, or it is for parents sending their children to school in violation of quarantine policies.

We can't continue to adjust society to accommodate the lies, or else the proliferation of lying will eventually tear apart the very fabric of our society.

Title Credit: Billy Joel's song "A Matter of Trust."

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

TAKE FROM THE RICH, GIVE TO THE POOR

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

As an economics major at UCLA, I learned that Democrats support a Keynesian economic theory, which says that the government should spend its way out of a recession. Therefore, Democrats gear their economic policies to benefit low-income and middle-income families. They argue that reducing income inequality is the best way to foster economic growth.

Low-income families are more likely to spend any extra money on necessities instead of saving or investing it. That directly increases demand and spurs economic growth. One dollar spent on increased food stamp benefits generates \$1.73 in economic output (*source: Moody's Economy.com*).

On the other hand, Republicans promote supply-side economics. That theory says reducing costs for business, trade and investment is the best way to increase growth. Investors buy more companies or stocks.

Banks increase business lending. Owners invest in their operations and hire workers. These workers spend their wages, driving both demand and economic growth.

Republicans advocate that taxes on businesses and the wealthy in society should be reduced, allowing them to hire more workers, in turn increasing demand and growth. These policies should enable wealthy owners to create more jobs for middle- and lower-class citizens, meaning the benefits are felt by everyone, e.g., benefits will "trickle down" to Joe the Plumber.

Which is better? I don't know, especially since the pandemic has shut down many businesses all over the country. What I do know is that typically, in the wake of a presidential election, the question is not if there will be tax reform, but when and to what degree. Historically, new administrations, regardless of party affiliation, propose tax policy changes for Congress to enact.

President Joe Biden is no exception.

The House Ways and Means Committee recently released its proposed "2021 Tax Reform" legislation. Democrats will be trying to push a \$3.5 trillion bill through Congress. The Democrats have an agenda to invest in education, green energy, health care and social services for the elderly and poor and expand childcare services.

President Biden has recently announced the donation of 500 million Pfizer vaccine doses to lower-income countries. According to the *Washington Post*, Pfizer is selling the doses to the U.S. at a "not-for-profit" price, though the price was not specified. (Although I found the cost on *France24.com*, \$3.5 billion.)

To pay for a historic and sweeping expansion of the social safety net, Biden and Democrats are planning to slap wealthy Americans with higher taxes. Biden's tax plan would take from the rich and give to the poor. Federal income taxes would rise significantly for high-income households, while middle- and lower-income households would see taxes decrease, according to a new analysis by the Tax Policy Center.

The good news is that the tax code changes sought by Democrats in the House of Representatives would actually reduce annual tax bills for Americans earning less than \$200,000 a year through 2025. Those earning over \$200,000 would rise slightly in 2023, escalating to a 10.6 percent increase for people earning \$1 million and more (*source: Reuters.com, Sept. 14, 2021*).

However, as Democrats get closer

to raising taxes, higher net-worth individuals are taking steps now to avoid some of those steeper levies later.

To avoid clients being hit at a higher marginal income tax rate next year, Mallon FitzPatrick, managing director and principal at Robertson Stephens in San Francisco, is advising high net-worth families to consider gifting an income-producing asset like real estate to a family member who falls in a lower bracket. The gift giver reduces taxable income, and the receiver pays a lower tax rate on the income from the asset.

Another way to report a lower taxable income next year would be to delay some of your charitable giving — and the deductions they earn you — until 2022. "Charitable income tax deductions are more valuable in a higher income tax rate environment," he added.

Although Biden originally called for raising the capital gains rate to 39.6 percent, advisers say many clients are breathing a sigh of relief at the latest proposals — capital gains rate, which applies to assets like stocks and real estate, to 25 percent from 20 percent.

Although, wealthier individuals are limited in how much they can prepare for what will likely be a higher capital gains rate in the future because policy makers have proposed making the hike retroactive to Sept. 13 of this year.

Still, many are dreading a higher tax bill. Lawmakers are also proposing reducing the estate and lifetime gift exclusion to around \$6 million

from the current \$11.7 million, meaning more people will be hit by the estate tax of up to 40 percent. Before the estate tax ensnares more people, plan to gift exemption amounts before the end of 2021.

There are a number of ways this can be done, FitzPatrick said. "You can give the gift outright, which means you surrender control of the assets to the receiver. The other option is to use an irrevocable trust. With some trusts, you also give up power over the assets — and therefore the estate tax liability — but you may still be able to set some controls on how the funds are distributed."

In conclusion, if you're a taxpayer who is wealthy enough to do so, you should consider gifting whatever you have left of that exemption before the effective date of the new tax. This requires identifying what assets you would gift, who you would gift them to and whether it makes sense to set up trusts for those recipients until they reach age 25. It would be a good idea to consult your tax attorney or CPA as soon as possible.

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.

BUCHANAN OWNERS DECLINE S.F.'S BUYOUT BID

The decision means the hotel won't become permanent housing for the homeless.

By P.C. Staff

An initiative by the city of San Francisco to purchase a Japantown hotel and convert it into housing for some of the city's multitude of homeless people ended with an announcement by the hotel's owner that it would not sell the property and instead continue operating it as a tourist hotel.

In a report that was published in the Oct. 19 *San Francisco Chronicle*, real estate private equity firm KHP Capital Partners announced it would not sell the Kimpton Buchanan Hotel, located at 1800 Sutter St., to the city as part of the San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing's plan to buy and convert four San Francisco hotels into permanent housing for the homeless. The city had planned to include using the Buchanan as part of the state of California's Project Roomkey.

According to the *Chronicle* arti-



One of the major community objections to the proposal is the Buchanan's next-door proximity to the Nihonmachi Little Friends nonprofit childcare center.

PHOTO: PATTY WADA



An attempt to convert the Buchanan Hotel in San Francisco's Japantown into permanent housing for the homeless was denied after swift community opposition to the proposal.

PHOTO: BRIDGET KEAVENEY

cle, KHP Capital Partners opted to keep the property "after a lot of consideration and feedback from the community" and that it would "move forward with operating the Buchanan as a tourist hotel" and continue to be "an important part of the community for years to come as San Francisco's economy recovers."

The city's plan had raised red flags with San Francisco's Japanese American community, and businesses and residents in J-town, already wary of

government overreach as a result of being directly and indirectly impacted by the federal government's forced removal of ethnic Japanese from the West Coast during World War II.

Since June 2020, the Buchanan was already being used as a temporary shelter-in-place hotel due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Some who live and work in J-town say that since the hotel began that policy, crimes and aggressive behavior by homeless people have increased, along with more trash, sidewalk sleeping, drug paraphernalia and human waste in the streets.

Although many in J-town are sympathetic to the plight of homeless people, they also are concerned by the outsize negative impact the 131-room Buchanan — by far the largest of the four hotels the city wanted to buy — would have on the district's economic well-being, already staggered by the effects of the pandemic, as well as an increase in crime and a decrease in the safety of residents and tourists by a large influx of homeless, many of whom suffer from mental illness, drug addiction or a combination thereof.

KHP Capital Partner's decision arrived in the aftermath of public Zoom meetings and a petition drive against the hotel's conversion.

See related story in the Sept. 10-24, 2021, *Pacific Citizen* or visit [tinyurl.com/2j628npd](https://www.pacificcitizen.com/2j628npd). ■



A MOTHER'S TAKE

OKAERI 2021 CONFERENCE

By Marsha Aizumi

On Nov. 12-14, Okaeri will present its fourth biennial conference for our Nikkei LGBTQ+ community, their families and allies.

This conference will be a once-in-a-lifetime event, since we are doing a virtual format, which allows people from all over the United States and Asia to connect without having to pay for travel and accommodations. You can just push a button to log on within the comfort of your home. Okaeri 2021 focuses on the Japanese and Japanese American community, but all are welcome to join.

A past attendee, Rino Kodama, shared this reflection:

"I was stunned by the intergenerational, interfaith, Nikkei LGBTQIA+ community that had gathered from across the country to attend Okaeri 2018. At the time, I was 20 years old, had just joined Taste the Rainbow, a

queer and trans dance team at UCLA and was transitioning to using they/them pronouns.

"The idea of even beginning to find the language (in Japanese) to talk to my parents about my queerness seemed terrifying at the time, but I felt comforted knowing there is a community like Okaeri to fall on when I was ready.

"Since attending three years ago, I have found webs of chosen families, from mentors to older siblings to new friends that I could continue growing with and find mutual support in. I feel so wonderfully lucky to be a part of this community and am deeply grateful for every speaker, attendee, volunteers and organizers for making Okaeri the unique sanctuary that it is."

I was talking with another past attendee who said, "When I walked into Okaeri 2018, it was magical." I believe the magic comes from those who attend and are looking

for a space to connect, feel seen and valued.

I believe the magic also comes from the people who organize this event and bring a wish to truly give with a heart of love. It is over one year of hard work and heart investment, but in the end, it has been worth every moment to hear the wonderful comments about no longer feeling alone and knowing that they have a place to belong, not only in the LGBTQ+ community, but the Nikkei community as well.

Okaeri 2021 will have a diverse list of 23 workshops, including topics related to:

- Mental Health
- Family Acceptance (One in English and one in Japanese)
- Processing Trauma (a workshop for only LGBTQ+ individuals)
- A Diverse Panel of LGBTQ+ (For Japanese-speaking individuals)
- Queer Artists
- Transgender Legal
- Being "Out" in the Workplace (LGBTQ+ only)
- Intersectionality
- Creating Inclusion in Faith Spaces

And we will also have over 10 affinity groups, which are informal groups where you can talk about various issues with people who have similar identities.

- LGBTQ+
- Buddhists
- Christians
- Adoptees
- Parents/Families

On Nov. 12, we will open our conference with a speed meetup. We hope that you will get to know new people and throughout the conference you will make deeper connections.

On Nov. 13, our conference begins with a plenary panel of four individuals, including Jen Ruggirello, Mariko Rooks, Janet Umezu and Keisuke Lee-Miyaki, talking about "Owning Our Story, Finding Our Light." The panel will be moderated by Mia Barnett.

And on Nov. 14, our special guest will be Gia Gunn from "Ru Paul's Drag Race," who will not only be sharing her story, but also is creating a special performance for Okaeri.

You can check out ALL of the workshops and meetups at our conference website:

<https://pheedloop.com/okaeri/site/home/>.

It is our hope that all who attend will feel and see LOVE, HOPE and COURAGE, which are the core values of Okaeri. And when you leave, it is our greatest hope that you will feel CELEBRATED, RESPECTED

AND EMBRACED.

Okaeri means "welcome home" in Japanese. Please join us . . . Okaeri!!!!

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."



Love, hope and courage are core values of Okaeri.

LETTER »
continued
from page 2

Mori is now using a proposed amendment of the authorization for appropriations provision as a subterfuge to ask the JAACL membership to support new legislation that would promote the financial interests of only one geographic area of the Japanese American community.

You should know what you are buying if you answer Mori's call for support. You would only be supporting a new \$10 million grant program that would benefit the Honolulu or Los Angeles area.

HR 1931 is not needed to continue the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program. Even if the grant program is funded to the full level of its \$38 million authorization, the grant program would continue, so long as Congress continues to fund it.

Congresswoman Doris Matsui has been the leading advocate in Congress every year since the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program was enacted to ensure that the program was funded even in years when the president's budget included no funding for the program.

It is irrelevant that an authorization provision has reached any limitation in amount or time but has not been amended by reauthorization. Once Congress starts to fund an authorized program, the federal government fully recognizes the legal rule that an appropriation act carries its own authorization. In short, there is no need to pass HR 1931 to continue the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program.

If Mori wants to support a new \$10 million grant program to be awarded to a Japanese American museum located in either the Honolulu or Los Angeles area, he should be straight forward and advocate for a separate bill to accomplish this rather than embedding it with a misleading, implicit argument that the authorization for appropriations provision must be reauthorized to continue the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program.

Sincerely,
Gerald Yamada
Vienna, Va.

PANDEMIC CUISINE — ODD PAIRINGS, OLD FAVORITES ON THE MENU

Americans are more willing than ever before to try new foods and broaden their tastebuds. Natto anyone?

By Associated Press

NEW YORK — Whether it's kimchi, beets or broccoli, the pandemic has had a strange impact on food cravings that goes beyond the joy of comfort eating.

Nearly a year into isolation, many people are embracing foods long forgotten or rejected for taste, texture or smell. Some have forced themselves to re-evaluate health-focused foods to help boost their immune systems. And with home cooking at a high, there's a new adventurousness in the kitchen.

For Maeri Ferguson, 31, in Brooklyn, it's all about pears.

After recovering from Covid-19, she spent months without normal taste and smell. So many foods she loved just didn't satisfy. Now, Ferguson can again sense sweetness, saltiness and spiciness, but most foods lack nuance in flavor. Not pears.

"My whole life I always passed on pears. Not because I didn't like them. They just intimidated me," Ferguson said.

During the pandemic, a friend gave her a handy slicer as a gift and she pushed herself to figure out how to spot a good pear. It was one of the first foods she could truly taste.

"I'm a full convert," Ferguson said. "I'll never forget biting into a juicy, red pair and finally tasting that sweet flavor and just the faintest tartness. It was a profound experience, and one that made me treasure a food I used to only tolerate."

While Ferguson may not have pear sales soaring, a big pandemic winner

is fermented foods.

Suddenly, interest in making kimchi, miso and sauerkraut has rocketed. Kombucha was already a trend and helped popularize home fermenting.

"Health became the priority No. 1 for many last year," said Anastasia Sharova, a chef in Stuttgart, Germany, who runs Happybellyfish.com, an online cooking school focused on healthy food. "Second, everyone got extra time at home, so it was finally possible to try out new things in the kitchen that require time. Third, food fermentation is perceived as a hobby on its own and it's a great community activity, even if your community is on Zoom or just within your own family."

Anne Alderete is enjoying something she never thought she would:

natto. Made of fermented soy beans, natto is popular in Japan but considered too slimy and stinky for some.

"I've smelled it many times since I'm half Japanese and lived in Tokyo after college for seven years," said the 47-year-old Alderete in Los Angeles. "I long wanted to understand the magic I was just not tasting. I was reminded of dirty old socks."

Now, she devours store-bought natto nearly every week. Among her favorite ways to eat it is spread on a thick slice of toast topped with cheese and melted in the broiler.

"I feel somewhat virtuous when I eat natto because the health benefits are many, but it's also because it's brought me closer to my roots," Alderete said.

The long shelf life of many fermented foods is another draw.

While health concerns and comfort foods have played a role, one expert thinks that changes in the way we eat also come from having more time at home to digest an onslaught of news about nutrition and the food chain.

"The pandemic has allowed many of us to finally acknowledge some uncomfortable truths about the food system," said Ryan Andrews, a registered dietician who wrote a book on plant-based eating.

"People have learned about the unsafe working conditions in meat-packing plants, the unfair wages of farm laborers, the chronic diseases we all face related to diet, the inhumane ways in which we raise factory-farmed animals and the immense ecological toll of industrialized agriculture," said Ryan, an adviser for Precision Nutrition, which certifies nutrition coaches.

Suddenly, he said, "The organic lentil and mushroom soup that didn't sound so appealing prepandemic became part of the weekly meal routine."

Others are reconnecting with their childhood favorites, revisiting peanut butter and jelly sandwiches or whipping up grilled cheeses to eat with canned tomato soup. You can count raisins in as well.

"We absolutely see, especially in the past year, how consumers lean into nostalgia and reconnect with brands they remember from their childhood," said Harry Overly, president and CEO for Sun-Maid. ■



Interest in kimchi and natto has skyrocketed during the pandemic as Americans seek to broaden their food tastes.

PHOTO: PINTEREST

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SAYONARA, FLETCHER BOWRON SQUARE?

For Steve Nagano, memorial to an L.A. mayor is an affront.

By George Toshio Johnston,
P.C. Senior Editor, Digital and
Social Media

Within the city and county of Los Angeles are many, many points of interest, sites, buildings, bridges and more named after local politicians, public servants and civic leaders. Kenneth Hahn State Recreational Area. Vincent Thomas Bridge. Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Julian Dixon Library. Edward R. Roybal Learning Center. Tom Bradley International Terminal. Mark Ridley-Thomas Bridge.

But who among the preceding individuals feted by having a landmark named in their honor said the following?

- “Japanese can never be Americans in the true sense.”
- “We are worried about the problem of divided loyalty on the part of many American-born Japanese.”
- “They are race apart. The accident of birth should not make Japanese born on American soil of parents, who are alien in legal effect and at heart, citizens of the United States.”
- “I advocate the securing of land by the federal government in locations removed at least several hundred miles from the coast . . . where they may be put to work.”
- “When the war is over, it is hoped that we will not have again a large concentration of the Japanese population in Los Angeles. By that time, some legal methods may be worked out to deprive the native-born Japanese of citizenship.”

Full disclosure: That was a trick question. None among those listed is known to have said anything of the sort. Those words were actually spoken after the United States declared war on Japan, following its attack on Pearl Harbor, by someone whose 1938–53 tenure as mayor of Los Angeles is the second-longest in the city’s history.

Within a short walk of City Hall — and Little Tokyo — is a site that is named for him: Fletcher Bowron Square.

Little Tokyo resident Steve Nagano is leading a campaign to rename it.

Fletcher Bowron Square occupies most of one city block in downtown Los Angeles, bordered by W. Aliso and W. Temple streets to the north and south, respectively, and N. Main and Los Angeles streets to the west and east, respectively.

Although a bit rundown and in need of a renovation, FBS can actually offer a bit of a respite from the hubbub of DTLA since it doesn’t attract many intentional visitors. Along the Main Street side are the *de rigueur* tents of America’s ubiquitous urban campers. Its most prominent feature is the colorful Triforium Sculpture.

FBS shares the block with the Los Angeles Mall, which various Yelp reviewers have decried for its lack of cellular service or have savaged with comments like “truly melancholy,” “dark, dismal and desolate” and the

“only things missing are a pack of wild dogs and a bear smoking a cigarette.”

More than 20 years into the new millennium, there have been two trends that arose side by side.

One is the cultural shift that resulted in the reassessment of those aforementioned eponymous sites for some people from yesteryear whose views and actions are now viewed askance by today’s standards.

Perhaps they owned other humans as chattel. Maybe they espoused discredited theories like eugenics or advocated White supremacy or fascism. In some cases, they were military and political leaders who committed treasonous acts.

These reassessments have, in some cases, led to the removal of statues of these figures or the renaming of schools, buildings and other sites upon further reflection and from a 21st-century perspective.

The second trend is people getting tripped and trapped in emails and tweets when their own words are deemed racist, sexist, nationalist, ageist, ableist (all of the “ists”) — or just seen as plumb mad dog mean-spirited. These have led to job loss, cancellation, banishment and shunning.

In the case of the second trend, however, the only thing new is the medium. The penultimate POTUS used Twitter as his bully pulpit to bypass media gatekeepers and communicate directly with his followers.

In Mayor Fletcher Bowron’s era, he did the same thing, but the medium was radio; those quotes of his came from transcribed addresses broadcast on radio station KECA.

Sometimes, the two trend lines intersect. For Fletcher Bowron and his square, this is

one of those times.

According to Steve Nagano, 72, his interest in renaming Fletcher Bowron Square began about three years ago when a friend showed him a decades-old front-page article from the *Los Angeles Times* that reported Mayor Bowron didn’t want Japanese people returning to the city after the war ended.

“I didn’t think very much of it,” Nagano, a retired public school teacher, told the *Pacific Citizen*. “But that was a time when African Americans were talking about, you know, renaming things. So, flippantly I said, ‘Yeah, we got to rename that,’ you know. And then I started looking into him.”

Nagano was appalled enough by what he found about Bowron’s words to start an online petition to rename Fletcher Bowron Square; produce a video he put on YouTube that utilized an actor reading excerpts from Bowron’s transcribed radio addresses; and, send a letter to L.A.’s current mayor, Eric Garcetti, that urged him to “begin the process to rename the square, a name that would be representative of the history of the location and the multicultural makeup of the city of Los Angeles.”

Nagano further articulated his reasons for renaming FBS in a 2020 article he wrote for East West ezine: “Our imprisonment during WWII, stems from the same systems that racialized stealing the land from and committing genocide (ethnic cleansing) against the indigenous people and instituting a system of enslavement, which to many, continues today. It is from the same system that took property from our Issei, shattered dreams of our Nisei, stripped many of their dignity, aspirations and self-respect, and continues to plague our community today.”



(Photos from top)
Tents of the unhoused line the sidewalk along N. Main Street, toward which a wall announcing Fletcher Bowron Square faces outward.

A metal plaque affixed to the N. Main Street wall of Bowron Square marks the site as the home to the long-defunct *Los Angeles Star* newspaper.

The sign for Fletcher Bowron Square and the Los Angeles Mall, where W. Temple and Los Angeles streets intersect.

PHOTOS: PACIFIC CITIZEN



Steve Nagano displays a replica of a 1942 sign instructing persons of Japanese ancestry where to congregate for removal.

On the topic of history, Nagano told the *P.C.*, “I don’t consider myself a historian, but I love history. And I don’t think we should erase it. And I have the faith in the people that they know enough to discern what is correct or proper.”

Meantime, Abraham Z. Hoffman, 83, who is a historian, shares some traits with Nagano. Both are educators, with Hoffman, who still teaches at Los Angeles Valley College, holding the title of adjunct assistant professor of history. He is also the author of a 2010 article titled “The Conscience of a Public Official: Los Angeles Mayor Fletcher Bowron and Japanese Removal,” which appeared in *Southern California Quarterly*.

Like Nagano, Hoffman was born in the L.A. neighborhood of Boyle Heights. On the removal of statues of Confederate “heroes,” he and Nagano are in accord. “I think that in some cases, pulling down statues of Confederate generals is . . . a good idea — but I don’t want them destroyed. I think they should be put in a museum where their very existence is put into a historical context,” he told the *Pacific Citizen*.

On whether Fletcher Bowron’s name should be removed from Fletcher Bowron Square, however, he disagrees with Nagano.

By doing that, “you’re erasing all of the good things he did,” asserted Hoffman, who pointed out that “when he was elected in 1938, it was on a reform platform because the previous mayor was corrupt.”

The administration of Bowron’s predecessor, Frank Shaw, is regarded as “being the most corrupt in the city’s history,” according to the 2005 book “Los Angeles Transformed: Fletcher Bowron’s Urban Reform Revival, 1938-1953” by Tom Sitton.

In the book’s introduction, Sitton wrote: “The 1938-1953 mayoral administration of Fletcher Bowron transformed Los Angeles. Not only did the city cope with the tumultuous effects of World War II, it also experienced major changes in its political, social and economic development. The Los Angeles of today is the product of many decisions and actions occurring over many decades. But certain eras — like the Bowron years — marked a particular confluence of these factors that altered patterns and changed the course of the city.”

In spite of his alarming rhetoric aimed at ethnic Japanese, on Nov. 3, 1946, Bowron

spoke at a testimonial dinner attended by 1,200 people — 500 of whom were Nisei veterans — to, according to a *Pacific Citizen* article from Nov. 9, 1946, “pay tribute to the wartime record of Americans of Japanese ancestry from Los Angeles.” (See right.)

Bowron was quoted: “I am glad indeed to make the public declaration that I have been convinced beyond all peradventure of doubt, the Nisei have been true.”

An editorial in the same issue stated: “It is an exceptional public official who will admit that he has been wrong. One such exception was New York’s former mayor, Fiorello LaGuardia, who once said: ‘When I make a mistake, it’s a beaut!’ Last week, another mayor admitted he had been wrong. He is Mayor Fletcher Bowron of Los Angeles and the mistake he made concerned his attitude toward Japanese Americans at the outset of the war.”

That Fletcher Bowron said what he said is not a matter for debate. Furthermore, his attitudes toward Japanese Americans were not at all outré for the time — they were shared by many, common folk and those in positions of power and influence alike.

“As I noted in the article, he didn’t really understand much about the Japanese Americans. And a lot of what he came to believe was in wartime,” Hoffman said. “There had always been in California, since the early 1900s, a certain amount of prejudice against the Japanese, because they were they were doing too well, they were working very hard, particularly in the agricultural sector. And this aroused a certain amount of resentment.”

In Hoffman’s article, he points out that Bowron depended upon research by an administrative assistant that appear to have served as fodder for Bowron’s radio addresses. From the article:

- Early in January 1942, Bowron requested Alfred Cohn, his sometime administrative assistant and, at the time, a police commissioner, to produce an information memo on the Los Angeles Japanese community.
- Cohn’s confidential memo of January 10, 1942, consisted of an odd distillation of rumors and half-truths. According to Cohn, the Los Angeles Japanese community was “an unassimilable race, forbidden to intermarry with Caucasians, prevented by law from owning real property in the State of California, closely knit to their native land in every conceivable manner.”

Mayor Bowron of Los Angeles Admits Wartime Prejudice Against Japanese Americans

LOS ANGELES—Mayor Fletcher Bowron of Los Angeles, who was an outspoken advocate of the mass evacuation of persons of Japanese ancestry from the Pacific coast during the war, declared at the Veterans testimonial dinner on Nov. 3 that he had been convinced “beyond all peradventure of doubt” that Americans of Japanese ancestry have been loyal to the United States.

“As some of you know, during the early part of the war, I was outspoken not only against Japan, but I now freely confess,

too, to a great extent against Japanese in general,” Mayor Bowron said. “I feared that blood would tell in some cases and that it would be extremely difficult to separate those, even though in the vast majority, who could be relied upon as loyal to this, the land of their birth, and those who in their hearts retained the pride of their ancestry to the extent that when there was opportunity, they would act to give aid and comfort to the government of the land of their forefathers.

“I am glad indeed to make the public declaration that I have been convinced beyond all peradventure of doubt, the Nisei have been true.” More than 1200 persons attended the testimonial fete at the Rodger-Young auditorium, including 100 civic leaders and military officials, to pay tribute to the wartime record of Americans of Japanese ancestry from Los Angeles.

Five hundred Nisei veterans and 30 Gold Star mothers were among the guests.

Col. Elliot R. Thorpe, commanding officer of the military language school at the Presidio of Monterey, was the main speaker at the dinner and declared that Japanese American soldiers “have done much to shorten the war and contribute victory to the United States.”

“We must carry on the work,” Col. Thorpe said. “We were glorious in war. Now we must work harder to rebuild Japan into a democratic nation. The Nisei are the ‘eyes and ears’ of tomorrow between the two nations. We must demonstrate patiently to the people in Japan that to live in the world of peace, Japan herself must be at peace.

“There is opportunity for the Nisei and much more vital work to be done.”

Ralph G. Martin, author of the “Boy from Nebraska,” also spoke at the dinner. John Maeno was toastmaster.

Bowron’s Admission

It is an exceptional public official who will admit that he has been wrong. One such exception was New York’s former mayor, Fiorello LaGuardia, who once said: “When I make a mistake, it’s a beaut!” Last week another mayor admitted he had been wrong. He is Mayor Fletcher Bowron of Los Angeles and the mistake he made concerned his attitude toward Japanese Americans at the outset of the war.

Mayor Bowron was one of the earliest advocates of mass evacuation and sponsored delegations to Washington to demand the removal of Japanese Americans from the Los Angeles area. As he admitted in his speech on Nov. 3 at the testimonial dinner for Japanese American war veterans in Los Angeles, Mayor Bowron thought that race and ancestry would be powerful factors in determining the loyalty of persons of Japanese ancestry in the United States. His appeal for mass evacuation was based on a fear of sabotage and treachery.

In his talk before 1200 persons at the Los Angeles dinner last Sunday evening, Mayor Bowron said that Japanese Americans had proved their loyalty in the war “beyond all peradventure of doubt.”

Mayor Bowron was not the only Californian who thought in the weeks which followed the outbreak of war that the state’s Japanese American population represented a threat to security and that mass evacuation would provide a solution. Mayor Bowron has admitted he was wrong and last Tuesday more than a million other Californians repudiated the racist principles which are symbolized by evacuation and by racist legislation by their vote against Proposition 13.



Bowron meets an unidentified Japanese man in Little Tokyo on March 27, 1950.

PHOTO: TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO, GIFT OF THE ALAN MIYATAKE FAMILY, 96.267.23, USED WITH PERMISSION OF JANM



Mayor Bowron meets with three Japanese men at Little Tokyo’s Miyako Hotel on March 27, 1950, four years after admitting his error on advocating removing ethnic Japanese from the West Coast.

PHOTO: TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO, GIFT OF THE ALAN MIYATAKE FAMILY, 96.267.23, USED WITH PERMISSION OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

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Malina Miura



Jason Kunisaki

VENICE-WEST L.A. JACL ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The chapter honors six students for their academic achievements and community activism.

The Venice-West Los Angeles chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League announced its scholarship winners recently.

Max Kaito of Harbor City, Calif., and Jason Kunisaki of Culver City, Calif., were awarded the Chiyo M. Hattori Memorial Scholarship, designated to outstanding students pursuing an education in medicine.

The chapter also awarded the Jack Nomura Memorial Scholarship to four top area high school seniors, Kaila Imada, Akari Johnston, Malina Miura and Lucca Necci. The scholarship is named in honor of the late Jack Nomura, who was a longtime board member of the JACL's West L.A. chapter.

Kaito is entering his second year at the Nova Southeastern University Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Allopathic Medicine in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He graduated with honors from UCLA in 2017 after being named 2013 class valedictorian at Gilbert High School in Arizona.

After finishing medical school, Kaito said he would like to focus his practice on mental health issues in the Japanese American community.

Kunisaki is a fifth-year student at the University of Utah School of Medicine pursuing both an MD and PhD degree. He graduated from Washington University in St. Louis in

2017 with a degree in biology — genomics and computational biology.

Kunisaki, who plans to pursue a career as a physician scientist, is co-president of the Salt Lake City JACL and led chapter efforts in administering more than 1,500 Covid and flu vaccines to Asian American seniors earlier this year.

Kaito and Kunisaki were both awarded a \$2,500 scholarship.

Imada was part of the first graduating class of the Geffen Academy UCLA, a college preparatory school. The daughter of Susan Iida and Jeff Imada graduated with a 3.8 grade point average, was co-founder of the school's Christian affinity group and participated as a singer and actress in school productions. She has also immersed herself as a parkour athlete, which involves military-style training in extreme sports and has a surgically repaired ACL to prove it. She is currently attending the University of Washington as a business major.

Johnston graduated from Culver City High with a 3.7 grade point average. A member of the Silver Key honor club, Johnston was drawn to the school's arts program, where she took an interest in animation, digital filmmaking and film/television production. Outside of school, she was a Girl Scout for 12 years and participated in programs that addressed climate change and student activism. The daughter

of Sachi and George Johnston of Culver City, Johnston is attending the Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles.

Miura graduated from Culver City High School with a 3.7 grade point average and was a member of the varsity basketball team for three years. A Girl Scout, she received her Gold Award after creating a pen-pal program through the Culver City Sister City Committee and her school's Spanish and Japanese language classes. Students practiced their reading and writing skills by sending letters to fellow students in Uruapna, Mexico, and Kaizuka, Japan. The daughter of Allison and Ramsey Miura of Culver City is attending the University of California, Irvine, as an undeclared major.

Necci graduated from Santa Monica High School with a 3.9 grade point average. He was captain and a league champion for his varsity wrestling team and also was a cellist on the school orchestra for three years. And with a brown belt in karate, the son of Grace Akazawa and Michael Necci of Santa Monica has been a paid instructor to youth students of his local martial arts dojo. He is currently attending the University of California, Santa Barbara, as a political science major with plans to pursue a career in law.

For more information, contact the Venice-WLA JACL at venicewlajacl@gmail.com or visit the chapter on Facebook.



• *Possibly the most incredible thing about Cohn's bigoted memo was the degree of seriousness with which Bowron accepted it. The mayor had little or no social contacts with the Los Angeles Japanese or Nisei . . .*



For Nagano, the question of whether to rename Fletcher Bowron Square has an easy answer: Yes.

But, as Hoffman pointed out, Bowron, "when he realized he was wrong, he owned up to it" — and he apologized. That cannot be said for most of the men in power who, at the time, espoused many of the same opinions spoken

by Bowron on the radio but who also were actually in a position to prosecute the eventual incarceration of thousands of ethnic Japanese people, citizen or not, far from their homes, farms and businesses along the West Coast.

And, should Nagano achieve his goal to rename Fletcher Bowron Square, what might that name be? He has a few ideas, but for now, he's leaning toward a Tongva word — *Pokuu'ngare xaa* — which his source says means: "We are together, we are as one."

To view Nagano's video, visit youtu.be/s_y-T3nCrLA. To sign his petition, visit tinyurl.com/yp9692v3.

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TOMITA CONFERRED AWARD BY L.A. CONSUL GENERAL OF JAPAN



Tamlyn Tomita is pictured with Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles Akira Muto during her commendation ceremony.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF CONSUL GENERAL OF JAPAN IN LOS ANGELES

The actress and community activist is recognized for her significant contributions to promoting friendship between the U.S. and Japan.

The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles presented actress/community activist Tamlyn Tomita the Commendation of the Consul General award during a ceremony at the residence of the Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles on Sept. 30.

The Commendation of the Consul General was established to recognize an individual or group who has helped advance the mission of the Consulate General and has provided significant contributions to mutual understanding and promoting friendship between Japan and

the United States.

“Ever since my father, Shiro Tomita, co-founded the Asian Task Force in the LAPD in the late 1970s, I have learned what it means to give back and serve our Japanese American, Japanese and other communities here in Los Angeles,” Tomita told the *Pacific Citizen*. “As Japanese Americans, we are part of a community whose rich cultural heritage stretches back thousands of years and is proudly and joyfully shared with other Americans across our great nation.

“I am so very thankful and humbly honored in receiving this award,

but I am ever so more grateful at the opening up of minds and the opening up of the hearts Consul General and Mrs. Muto shared with me, my mother and my friends,” Tomita continued. “With all the titles and commendations, nationalities and identities, we were just a small group of newfound friends enjoying a magnificent kaiseki dinner prepared by Chef Mima and trying to make the world a better and brighter place for all.”

Tomita, since making her big-screen debut in the 1986 film “The Karate Kid Part II,” has appeared in more than 130 film and TV pro-

ductions, in addition to focusing her energies on boosting the presence of Asian Americans in Hollywood productions and authentically representing characters’ cultural backgrounds as much as possible.

In addition, she has served as a board member of the Nisei Week Foundation, supports the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center and served as master of ceremonies at numerous community events.

She is expected to continue to play an important role in the Japanese American community and advancing the Japan-U.S. relationship. ■

USC SEEKING NISEI STUDENTS WHOSE EDUCATIONS WERE DISRUPTED BY WWII

The University of Southern California will apologize and confer honorary degrees to Japanese American students who were derailed from their studies following the issuance of Executive Order 9066 by Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1942 and their forced incarceration throughout the duration of World War II.

In an announcement by current USC President Carol Folt on Oct. 14, the university will recognize the descendants of the Nisei students at next year’s commencement cer-

emony as well as confer honorary degrees at the Asian Pacific Alumni Assn. gala in April.

USC believes there were 121 Nisei students at the institution when EO 9066 was issued. Following the conclusion of WWII, many students were denied re-entry at USC and had to restart their college educations elsewhere. Even transcripts from the university were not given to the students under then-University President Rufus B. von KleinSmid.

The Japanese American National Museum welcomed USC’s decision.



“This gesture by USC to grant honorary degrees posthumously recognizes the deep pain and hardship suffered by those students. It is an

important step in addressing a grave injustice,” said JANM President Ann Burroughs in a statement. “It is a sad legacy of wartime racism that some families may still not know that their deceased relatives once attended USC and that they are now eligible to receive this belated honor.

Richard Watanabe, professor of population and public health sciences at Keck School of Medicine of USC and a USC alumnus ’86, ’88 and ’95, is among those making an effort to identify those individuals or their survivors so that they can

be properly recognized.

In a statement, Watanabe wrote, “USC is asking for help in finding these individuals or their families for the honorary degrees. If you . . . know of anyone who should be honored, please send contact information to me at the email rwatanab@usc.edu (please note the missing ‘e’ in my email address), and I will make sure the information is forwarded to the university. Please help us ensure all who deserve this extremely belated, but important, acknowledgement are properly honored.” ■

JACL Receives National Endowment for the Humanities Grant

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Endowment for the Humanities announced recently it would be awarding \$28.4 million in grants for 239 humanities projects across the country, among them, JACL’s “Civil Liberties in Times of Crisis: The Japanese American Incarceration.”

The NEH Landmarks of American History and Culture grants support vital research, education, preservation, digital and public programs. JACL’s program for teachers and educators will take place in summer 2022.

The planned one-week program will be available for two different sessions in late June and early July and will bring educators to Los Angeles’ historic Little Tokyo community to take part in the program, including guest speakers, trips to Santa Anita Racetrack and the Manzanar National Historic Site. The program is returning after a five-year hiatus, and JACL will be opening up applications to interested attendees in January 2022.

“The grants announced today

demonstrate the resilience and breadth of our nation’s humanities institutions and practitioners,” said NEH Acting Chairman Adam Wolfson. “From education programs that will enrich teaching in college and high school classrooms to multi-institutional research initiatives, these excellent projects will advance the teaching,


preservation and understanding of history and culture.”

Said Carol Kawamoto, chair of the JACL’s National Education Committee: “I think for the participants, this will be a great opportunity to learn firsthand Japanese American history and personal experiences of those who lived it. They will be able to

envision the hardships and the reality faced of being incarcerated as they tour Manzanar. This will allow the teachers to connect to our history and help incorporate this knowledge into the classroom with their students.”

— Additional reporting by JACL National





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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

Okaeri: A Nikkei LGBTQ+ Community Conference
Nov. 12-14
Los Angeles, CA
Virtual Event
Price: \$10-\$25 (Scholarships Available)

Join Okaeri for a weekend of support, education and community that will begin with a "speed meetup" where you'll get to meet new friends. On Nov. 13 and 14, participants will choose between 23 workshops and 11 affinity groups. Nov. 13 will also feature Okaeri Performs! an event that will showcase queer and trans community performers. On Nov. 14, the conference will close with its keynote, Gia Gunn, who was featured on "Ru Paul's Drag Race."

Info: Visit <https://www.okaeri-losangeles.org/conference>.

NCWNP

'Two Nails, One Love' Virtual Book Talk With Alden Hayashi
Berkeley, CA
Nov. 7; 1 p.m.
Virtual Event
Price: Free

Berkeley JACL presents this virtual book talk with Alden Hayashi as he discusses his new book "Two Nails, One Love," a candid, touching and relevant story about a Sansei man finding himself in modern society and covers many of the universal themes of the Japanese experience in the U.S. There will also be a raffle for the opportunity to win a copy of his new book. All proceeds from the book sale, now being sold at East Wind Books in Berkeley, are being donated to the Berkeley Chapter by Hayashi to support civil rights work by the organization.
Info: Email admin@berkeleyjacl.org for the link to the Zoom event.

'Gambatte! Legacy of an Enduring Spirit' Exhibit
Sacramento, CA
Thru Nov. 7
The California Museum
10th and O Streets
Price: \$7-\$10

Don't miss this encore presentation of contemporary images taken by photojournalist Paul Kitagaki Jr. that echoes historic images by U.S. War Relocation Authority photographers who documented the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII. Updated and expanded for 2021, the exhibit returns with 30 new photographs, audio interviews and behind-the-scenes video highlighting the resilience of Japanese Americans during WWII.
Info: Visit <https://www.californiamuseum.org>.

City of Watsonville Veterans Day 2021
Watsonville, CA
Nov. 11; Begins at 9:30 a.m.
St. Patrick's Church (Meeting

Location)
721 Main St.
Price: Free

Join the city in honoring veterans during the annual Veterans Day Commemoration. Veterans are invited to march in the Walk of Honor Parade down Main Street and East Beach Street. Assemble time is 9:30 a.m., with the march commencing at 10 a.m. Community members are invited to line the streets in appreciation of the veterans, and a ceremonial program is planned at 11 a.m. Masks will be required for the in-door event.

Info: For questions, please contact Lt. Col. U.S. Army (ret.) Harry Wiggins at (831) 566-5208.

Japanese American Museum of San Jose Winter Auction Virtual Holiday Shopping Experience
San Jose, CA
Nov. 6-15
Virtual Event

Price: Virtual Auction
Start getting ready for the holidays at JAMsJ's Virtual Holiday Shopping Experience, one of the museum's largest fundraisers of the year. This is the perfect opportunity to shop for gifts for your loved ones as well as share in the joy of the holiday season.

Info: Visit www.jamsj.org, email winterboutique@jamsj.org or call (408) 294-3138.

Nihonmachi Little Friends' 46th Anniversary and Sushi Social
San Francisco, CA
Nov. 19; 7-7:30 p.m.
Virtual Event
Price: \$25

Join Nihonmachi Little Friends at its anniversary celebration that will feature special sushi bento boxes from We Be Sushi and special recognition of Robert "Bob" Rusky, an attorney and parent of an NLF alum. The event will also give an introduction to a new multimedia website project featuring the Issei women who founded the Japanese YMCA at 1830 Sutter St. Muscial performances by the Preschool and Afterschool Program students will also be showcased.
Info: To purchase event tickets, call NLF at (415) 922-8898 or email nlfchildcare@gmail.com.

PSW

Safety for Seniors Seminar
Gardena, CA
Nov. 12; 1-2 p.m.
Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute
GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall
1964 W. 162nd St.
Price: Free

Join the GVJCI for an in-person seminar on safety for seniors. Ron Mark, director of the Center for Criminal Justice Research and Training at California State University, Long Beach, will be giving an online presentation on how to stay safe when out in public, what types of behavior to look out for to avoid potentially dangerous situations and much more. A Q & A session will follow the presentation.

Info: To register, visit the *GVJCI Programs/Classes/Events section on the website at www.jci-gardena.org or call (310) 324-6611.*

Wooden Chopsticks, Metal Chopsticks: Grab Japanese and Korean Culture Through the Languages
Los Angeles, CA
Nov. 18; 7 p.m.
Virtual Lecture
Japan Foundation Los Angeles
Price: Free

Japan and Korea are neighboring countries that share many similarities and contrasts in customs and language. In this lecture, sampling from various Korean and Japanese video clips, Dr. Don Lee, professor of Korean and Japanese at Mt. San Antonio College, in Walnut, Calif., will explore some unique aspects of the two cultures, especially as it connects to how people communicate with one another. All are welcomed to explore the two cultures!

Info: Registration is required. Visit https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_jjXSwVU9QV-43XrdkdNjmw.

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

100 N. Central Ave.
Price: Timed advanced tickets are required; JANM members do not need a timed ticket. Just show your membership card for free admission. Stanley Hayami's diary and writings from camp and during his wartime incarceration are brought to life in this presentation that reveals the hardship he and his family faced during World War II. At the age of 19, he was killed in Italy after being drafted into the U.S. Army's 442nd Regimental Combat Team. His legacy lives on through these letters, which were donated to JANM by his family.
Info: Visit www.janm.org.

Mine Okubo's Masterpiece: The Art of 'Citizen 13660'
Los Angeles, CA
Thru Feb. 20, 2022
JANM

100 N. Central Ave.
Price: Check Museum Website for Ticket Information
Mine Okubo's graphic memoir, "Citizen 13660," was first published in 1946. Through nearly 200 illustrations, Okubo captures how WWII and the subsequent incarceration upended her life. This is the first time the materials comprising her book will be on exhibit. Included will be sketches she completed while she was incarcerated at Tanforan and Topaz, original drawings and a draft of the final manuscript.
Info: Visit <https://www.janm.org/exhibits/mine-okubo-masterpiece>.

'Hayao Miyazaki' Inaugural Exhibit
Los Angeles, CA
Thru June 5, 2022
Academy Museum of Motion Pictures

6067 Wilshire Blvd.
Price: Advanced ticket reservations required. Adults \$25; Seniors \$19; Students \$15; Free for Children 17 and under.

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures is pleased to announce details of the museum's inaugural "Hayao Miyazaki" temporary exhibition. Curated in collaboration with Japan's renowned Studio Ghibli, which Miyazaki co-founded in 1985, the exhibit marks the first North American museum retrospective dedicated to the acclaimed artist and his work. More than 300 objects will be featured, exploring each of Miyazaki's animated feature films, including "My Neighbor Totoro" and the Academy Award-winning "Spirited Away."

Info: Visit www.academymuseum.org for additional details and information.

PNW

Multiracial Artists in Conversation
Hosted by Seattle JACL
Seattle, WA
Nov. 6; 10 a.m.-Noon
Virtual Webinar
Price: Free

Joint the Seattle JACL as it hosts a free Mixed-Race Webinar that will delve into concepts including what does it mean to tell your own story? How do you claim and celebrate all parts of who you are? Speakers for the panel event are defining their own narratives through the arts — including photography, visual art and writing. Mixed-race youth, adults and families, as well as the arts community, will benefit from this inspiring discussion about what it means to be a storyteller of your own narrative, be it on a canvas, in a book, onstage or in everyday life.
Info: To register to receive the Zoom link, visit <https://forms.gle/3SqN41eYK8sTm8tN8>.

Grace, Grit and Gaman: Japanese American Women Through the Generations
Portland, OR
Thru Dec. 31
Japanese American Museum of Oregon

411 N.W. Flanders St.
Price: Check Museum for Admission Prices
Curated by Marsha Matthews and Linda Tamura, this new exhibition shares the rarely revealed story of the grace, grit and gaman (perseverance) displayed by JA women. Viewers will gain a view of multiple generations of JA women and the unique challenges they have faced — in their own ways, on their own terms and in their own times.
Info: Visit <http://www.oregonnikkei.org/exhibits.htm> for more information.

MDC

Sukiyaki Lunch Presented by the Twin Cities JACL
Bloomington, MN
Nov. 13; Noon-2 p.m.
Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church
9920 Normandale Blvd.
Price: \$10 for TCJACL Members; \$12 Nonmembers; \$5 Children Under 10
The TCJACL board is bringing back the Sukiyaki Lunch, a traditional lunch consisting of sukiyaki, rice, cucumber

salad and dessert. This event will replace the Chrysanthemum Banquet held in previous years. There will also be a boutique sale, so come browse and purchase, as well as catch up with friends and make new acquaintances. Because meals will be limited to 100, reservations will begin on Oct. 1. The chapter is closely watching Covid numbers and will make an announcement should event details change.

Info: To make a reservation or for more information, email Sylvia Farrells at angelseyf@gmail.com or call (952) 888-8771.

Hoosier Chapter Annual Holiday Luncheon
Indianapolis, IN
Dec. 5; 1 p.m.

Ocean World Restaurant
1206 W. 86th St.
Price: Information to Come
Join the Hoosier chapter of the JACL at its annual holiday luncheon. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate the spirit of the season and join friends and family as the chapter celebrates its accomplishments and achievements. More information to follow!
Info: For more information, visit www.hoosierjacl.org or email info@hoosierjacl.org.

EDC

Japanese Screen: Parodies and Legends
Worcester, MA
Thru December
Worcester Art Museum
55 Salisbury St.
Price: Museum Admission

This exhibit will feature a handscroll by painter Furuyama Moromasa representing one of the most elaborate and extensive works by the artist. It contains 20 separate paintings, each approximately four feet long. The screen will be unrolled in stages to exhibit different portions of the scroll.
Info: For more information, visit <https://www.worcesterart.org/exhibitions/japanese-screens/>.

Asia in Maryland Fall 2021 Exhibition
Towson, MD
Thru Dec. 11
Towson University, Asian Arts Gallery
8000 York Road
Hours: Mon.-Sat., 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
(Closed Nov. 24-28)

Explore work by 33 artists that express the divergent and interconnected experiences and aesthetic styles of AAPI's in Maryland. Artists include Tima Aflitunov, Annika Cheng, Bok Kim, Anson Lin, Manzar Rassouli, Ellie Rha, Nimi Trehan, Carole Lee and Monica Youn. The Asian Arts and Culture Center was recently named best art space by Baltimore magazine's 2021 Best of Baltimore list.
Info: Visit https://events.towson.edu/center_for_the_arts_gallery#.
YTqXVy1h3Gl.

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FOR MORE INFO:
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In MEMORIAM

Fujinami, Akiko, 90, Aug. 17, and Fujinami, Yoshio, 95, June 14, Gardena, CA; they are survived by their sons, Gary (Kym) Fujinami and Alan Fujinami; siblings/in-laws, Masako (Shoji) Hiraoka, Junko Hagiwara and Kan (Michiko) Ijichi; gc: 1.



Hayakawa, Bill, 92, Gardena, CA, Feb. 15; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Heart Mountain WRA Center in WY; after the war, he served in the Army; he was predeceased by his sister, Ida Kunitsugu; he is survived by his wife, Helen; children, John (Mary McHugh) Hayakawa, Gary Hayakawa, Karen (Kenneth) Natsuhara and Susan (Ross) Snailer; sisters, Kay Mori and Mary Sata, sister-in-law, Mae Suto; gc: 5; ggc: 2.



Hayashi, David Ron, 64, Stockton, CA, July 4; member of French Camp JACL; he is survived by his wife, Candice; daughters, Carissa (Joe) Borges and Kelsey Hayashi; parents, Kiyoshi and Mario Hayashi; siblings, Linda Liang and Michael Hayashi; gc: 1.

Hayashi, Dennis, 65, Las Vegas, CA, Aug. 7; he was predeceased by his father, Shiunro Hayashi; he is survived by his mother, Marion Fumiko Hayashi; children, Dale, Dan (Cynthia Herrera), Joey and Lynne Hayashi; he is also survived by a niece, nephews and great-nephews.



Masaki, Victor Katsuo, 79, Manhattan Beach, CA, Feb. 3; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Rohwer WRA Center in AR; he was predeceased by his siblings, Richard (D'Ann) and Aki/Helen (George) Yamaoka; he is survived by his son, Craig (Charity); siblings, Irene (Carl) Christensen, Christine (Larry) Chen, James and John (Jeanne); an uncle, Nori Uyematsu; gc: 1.

Kato, Martha, 75, NV and CA, Feb. 16; she is survived by her husband, Richard Moriguchi; children, Kevin, Denise and Kurtis; daughter-in-law, Irma; gc: 3.

Kobayashi, Tammy, 61, South Pasadena, CA, July 31; she was predeceased by her father, Hideo Kobayashi; she is survived by her mother, Eva Kobayashi; sisters, Dian (Shaun) Shimoda-Kobayashi and Wendy (Tom) King; an uncle, aunts, 2 nephews, cousins and other relatives.

Masaki, Emi, 94, Sacramento, CA, May 11; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Topaz WRA Center in UT, where she graduated from high school; she was predeceased by her husband, Akito; she is survived by her children, Ross (Grace) Masaki and Beckie (Enrique DeAnda) Masaki; gc: 2.



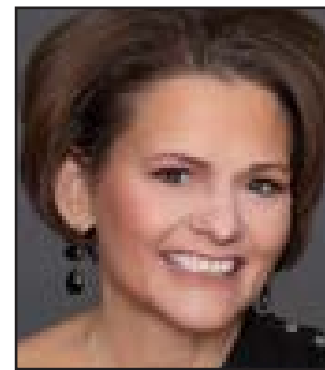
Masaki, Megan, 35, Greensboro, NC, June 21; she is survived by her mother, Becky Wilkerson, stepfather, Len Wilkerson, and father, Jon Doan; husband, Derrick Masaki; and children, Hailey Doan, Jayden and Kai Masaki; siblings, Justin Doan and Stephanie Wilkerson; 1 nephew.

(Lori) Shimada; she is also survived by many nieces and other relatives; gc: 2.



Shimada, Jeffrey, 75, Dale City, VA, Jan. 20; he was predeceased by his wife, Sandi; he is survived by 2 children; Sandi's 2 daughters and their families; brother, Gerry Shimada (Betty); gc: 5.

Tamanaha, Harue, 92, Torrance, CA, Feb. 2; she is survived by her children, Howard (Laura) Tamanaha and Joy (Rex) Frye; gc: 4.



Tanaka, Amy C., 51, West Chester, Ohio, Aug. 29; she was predeceased by her father, John William Clarke; she is survived by her husband, Chris; children, Davis, John and Kate; mother, Jane Clarke; siblings, Brigid Clarke, Caleb (Anna) Clarke, Erin (Chad) Kasprzak and Peter (Sarah Dyer) Clarke; in-laws, Don and Susan Tanaka; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Tanaka, May Misao, 99, Los Alamitos, CA, Aug. 25; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Rohwer WRA Center in AR; she was predeceased by her husband, Jack; brothers, Frank, George and Jimmy Shimazaki; sisters-in-law, Jeanne Shimazaki, Jean Shimazaki, Frances Tanaka and Rose Nakamura; brothers-in-law, James and Fred Tanaka; she is survived by her children, Darryl (Debbie), Wesley (Erin), Brenton and Jill; siblings, Florence Kubota, Janice Nishioka and Roy (Tina) Shimazaki; sister-in-law, Joyce Tanaka; gc: 1.

Yamada, Frances Sumiko, 82, Montebello, CA, July 7; she is survived by her husband, David; children, Stephanie (Rodny) Mitsuuchi, Michael, Natalie (Kris) Tachibana and Kristie (Mark) Lopez; siblings, Jane Dote and Greg (Mary) Hayakawa; she is also survived by many other relatives; gc: 6.

TRIBUTE

MARY NOBUYO YOSHIFUJI



Mary Nobuyo Yoshifuji passed away peacefully on Sept. 28, 2021, at the age of 98. She was born in Seattle to Rokuyemon and Kinuyo Hamano. When WWII broke out, the Japanese community along the West Coast was ordered by the federal government to relocate to internment camps. Mary's family in Washington was relocated to Minidoka, Idaho, for the duration of the war.

Camp policy allowed Japanese to leave the camp if they had a sponsor and job in the Midwest or

East Coast. At the age of 19, anxious to leave camp, and full of adventure, she was able to relocate to Detroit, where she met her future husband, Sakaye, through mutual friends. After the war ended, when the Japanese could return home, they were married in San Francisco, settling in San Mateo until Sakaye's untimely death in 1986.

She is survived by a daughter, Cindy Ward (Bill); and two sons, Steve (Marilee) and grandson, Michael (Samantha), plus three great-grandsons, Jaiden, Damian, and Brendon; and Brent (Wendy) and granddaughter, Stephanie (Soyary). She is also survived by her sister, Katharine Kato; niece, Elaine, and nephew, Spencer (Johanna).

She worked at the Geological Survey from 1957-1988, establishing several long-lasting friendships during her employment there. After retiring, Mary enjoyed traveling and spending quality time with family. For the past two years, Mary lived at Cadence Millbrae Living Community.

Due to Covid restrictions, a Celebration of Life will be held in the future for family and dear friends. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Mary's memory to either of the following organizations: Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC), 1840 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115; and Kimochi San Mateo, 453 N. San Mateo Dr., San Mateo, CA 94401.

PLACE A TRIBUTE

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

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REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

AARP SURVEY: VOTERS EXPRESS WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION TO MAKE IT EASIER TO SAVE FOR RETIREMENT

By Ron Mori

A new AARP survey of voters ages 25-plus found an overwhelming majority (92 percent) agree that elected officials should support legislation that makes it easier for all workers to save for retirement from their paycheck. I have been very fortunate to work at companies that have had retirement savings plans and matching contributions. As I have discovered, this is not the general practice among employers. In addition, 91 percent of voters support establishing a program if their employer does not currently

offer them a way to save. More than 50 million American workers have no access to a retirement savings plan through their employers, and more than a quarter (26 percent) of nonretired people have no retirement savings. “America’s retirement savings crisis is causing too many families to fall short. Voters overwhelmingly support legislation that will make it easier to save for retirement,” said Nancy LeaMond, AARP executive vp and chief advocacy and engagement officer. “Congress has an opportunity to help Americans secure their financial future by enacting

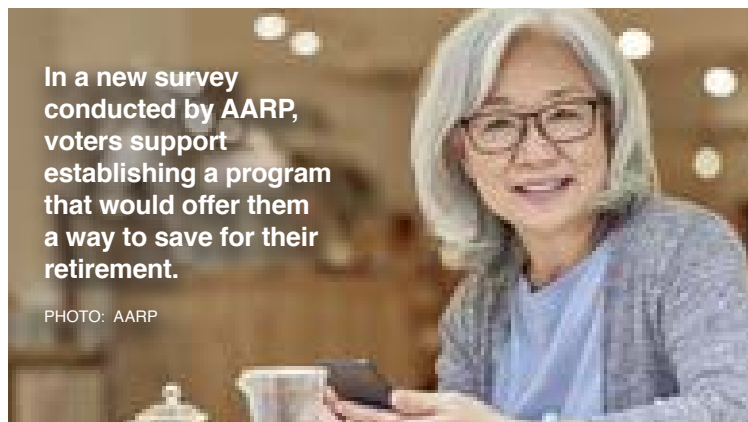
federal Automatic IRA legislation. The time to act is now.” Previous AARP research found that Americans are 15 times more likely to save for retirement when they can do so at work and are 20 times more likely if their workplace savings plan is automatic. Additional Survey Findings: Regardless of their political leanings, voters say that each of the following would be important features for a retirement savings program at work:

- Portability, so that workers can take their accounts with them when changing jobs (99 percent very/somewhat important)
- Available to all employees who do not have a way to save for retirement at work, including those who work for small businesses (98 percent very/somewhat important)
- Payroll deduction, so that contributions are automatically deducted from each paycheck and deposited into a retirement account set up in each worker’s name (96 percent very/somewhat important)
- Voluntary, so that participants are not required to make any contributions (90 percent very/somewhat important)

Anxiety and regrets about retirement savings are common among voters ages 25-plus.

- More than 6 in 10 (63 percent) are anxious about having enough money to live comfortably throughout their retirement years.
 - Only 3 in 10 (29 percent) voters ages 25-44 believe that they will be able to save enough money for retirement.
 - Among voters ages 45-plus who are not yet retired, 8 in 10 (81 percent) wish they had more money saved for their retirement years.
- Voters recognize the importance of being able to save for retirement while working.
- Virtually all voters surveyed (99.7 percent) say that it is important for people to save money for retirement while they are working.
 - Roughly two-thirds (65 percent) of employed voters say that they

are currently participating in a retirement savings plan offered by their employer. These voters almost universally (96 percent) say that having a workplace plan is important in helping them save for retirement. This AARP survey of registered voters ages 25-plus was conducted by SSRS from Sept. 22-Sept. 29, 2021, via the probability-based SSRS Opinion Panel, with 944 respondents completing the survey online and 66 completing the survey by phone. The confidence interval for the total sample is ± 3.9 percent. *Ron Mori is a member of the Washington, D.C., JACL chapter and manager of community, states and national affairs — multi-cultural leadership for AARP.*



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