HISTORY REDISCOVERED

Wartime artifacts and a 1947 list of JACL East Bay chapter members are found in an Oakland home.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF DELPHINE HRASUNA

Topaz Museum Board Announcement

WWII Memorial Planned for Torrance Park

Photo of artist Sadayuki Uno, Rohwer, AR, 1944, taken by Paul Faris, who was commissioned by Allen Eaton.
By JACL National

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Japanese American Citizens League announced recently that the 2022 National Scholarship and Awards Program is now underway. The JACL annually offers approximately 30 college scholarships for students who are incoming college freshmen, undergraduates and graduates, as well as those specializing in law and the creative/performing arts. There are also financial aid scholarships for those demonstrating a need for financial assistance.

Scholarship Program guidelines, instructions and applications have been posted on the JACL website (www.jacl.org) and can be accessed by clicking the “Programs” tab on the menu bar.

Continuing from the 2021 program, the application forms for the scholarship program will be completely online. Freshman applications must be submitted directly by the applicant to National JACL through the online form no later than March 4, 11:59 p.m. Hawaiian Standard Time (HST).

These freshman applications will then be disseminated to their respective chapters for review. Chapters will have one month to evaluate their applications and forward the names of the most outstanding applicants to National JACL. It is these applications that shall be forwarded to the National Freshman Scholarship Committee for final selection.

Applications for the nonfreshman scholarship categories (undergraduate, graduate, law, creative/performing arts and financial aid) are also to be sent directly by the applicant to National JACL through the online form no later than April 1, 11:59 p.m. HST.

All those applying to the National JACL Scholarship Program must be a youth/student or individual member of the JACL; a couple/family membership held by a parent does NOT meet this requirement. Applicants must also be enrolled in school in fall 2022 in order to be eligible for a scholarship. If a student has received two National scholarship awards previously, they are no longer eligible to apply, as the limit is two national awards per person.

For more information on the National JACL Scholarship Program, contact Scholarship Program Manager Matthew Weisbly at scholarships@jacl.org.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Earlier this month, dozens of Japanese American community members and others, including the Pacific Citizen, received an email from the Topaz Museum saying that four new directors had been appointed to its board.

Not one of us on the Wakasa Memorial Committee were copied on or received this important update.

This sends a conflicting message from the museum board’s previous statements that it would work with the committee and its advisory council of experts to seriously address the board’s desecration of the Wakasa Monument and Memorial site at Topaz.

We call upon the Topaz Museum Board to work openly, collaboratively and respectfully with the Wakasa Memorial Committee. This misstep by the museum can be corrected.

Sincerely,

Wakasa Memorial Committee

(Letter Dated Jan. 26, 2022)

‘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

PACIFIC CITIZEN 2022 SPRING CAMPAIGN

JAACL MEMBER? ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ $150 ☐ $200 ☐ OTHER _______

Name: ____________________________

Address 1: ____________________________________________________________

Phone Number: ____________________________ E-mail: ____________________________

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.*
Japanese Americans should go there

been frustrating for people like me: who already live there but happened
terrible stress for a lot of people
mind that the situation has been a
help manage the pandemic has been a
and provide boosters to its citizens,
from its internal battles to vaccinate
cron variant of Covid-19. Aside

select a Black woman, Biden was ex-
unexpected. By stating that he would
select a Black woman to the court.
announced his intention to retire. What
decisions programs at Harvard and the Uni-
the excellent qualifications she and
ahead of her. The Senator continued on to say about
one of the likely candidates, “Michelle

I've missed Japan so much that
I miss going to Japan. The last
time I was there was in the fall of
1949 and lived in Boulder, Colo.,
with a stop in Boulder, Corey
invited to capture the gardens.
Corey was inspired to shoot photos
of gardens in Kyoto. Specifically, Zen
gardens at Buddhist temples that
reflect the awesome peace and
tranquility that is part and parcel of
Japanese aesthetics.
Corey was born in New Jersey in
1949 and lived in Boulder, Colo.,
for 25 years, until his death from
cancer in 2008. Not only was he
able to capture spectacular, detailed
images of Japanese gardens, but also
his artistic legacy was that he was the
only Western photographer commis-
sioned to shoot the Imperial Gardens
in Kyoto.
When Emperor Akihito and Em-
peror Michiko visited Colorado in
1994 with a stop in Boulder, Corey
was invited to capture the gardens.
He's captured a lot of the most fa-
amous gardens in Japan and photo-
graphed them in all the seasons to
express the epic scope of his ap-
preciation for them.
Corey was inspired to shoot photos
of gardens in Japan after seeing a
PBS show about them in 1974. He
traveled often to Japan, where he
also met and married Reimi Adachi,
who today is the executor of his
estate and dedicated keeper of his
artistic legacy.
What made his art so special? Co-
rey was an old-school photographer,
and I don't mean just that he used
film and not digital cameras. When
Corey saw the detail and majestic
intricacy of a classic Kyoto garden,
he realized that just using a 35-milli-
meter camera wouldn't do the subject
justice. Nor a typical “large-format”
camera that used 4x5- or even 8x10-
inch sheets of film.
Corey found an antique “banquet
camera” from the early 20th cen-
tury and used it to photograph
people at — you guessed it — banquets.
It used a wide-angle lens to capture
everyone and held sheets of film that
were 8x20 inches.
The camera was a wooden con-
traption with black leather bellows
perched on a wooden tripod with a
black shroud that draped over the
photographer, like a stereotype of
a long-ago camera (which it was).
TOPAZ MUSEUM WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The museum also opens its newest exhibit, ‘Topaz Stories,’ at the State Capitol in Salt Lake City.

DELTA, UTAH — The Topaz Museum Board is happy to announce the appointment of four new members: Kiley Chase, Sherrie Hayashi, Ned Isokawa and Patricia Wakida. Their terms began in January.

Kiley Chase resides in Delta, Utah, and works at the Intermountain Power Service Corp. He grew up in Leamington, Utah, about 18 miles from Delta, and returned to the area after graduating from Utah State University.

He is a current member of the Delta City Council and has served as liaison to the Delta City Library Board, the Public Works Department and the Planning and Zoning Commission. He has a history of public service and is a past president of the Delta Area Chamber of Commerce.

Sherrie Hayashi is a descendant of the Fuji family, who was incarcerated at Topaz during World War II. She currently works at the University of Utah, where she earned her Juris Doctor, and serves as the director of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX Coordinator.

She is a former Commissioner of the Utah Labor Commission and served as a cabinet member of former Utah Governors Jon M. Huntsman, Gary Herbert. Hayashi is active in the Japanese American community and is a long-standing board member of the Salt Lake chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, as well as a past president.

Following in the footsteps of her grandparents and her parents, she resides in Salt Lake City.

Ned Nobuo Isokawa was born in Topaz. His family moved back to their hometown of Oakland, Calif., after the war ended, and he has lived in the East Bay ever since. After attending Oakland public schools, he enrolled at the University of California, Berkeley, and graduated with a B.S. degree in electrical engineering and a J.D. degree from the UC Berkeley Law School.

A retired attorney, he was a partner in the Oakland and San Francisco offices of large international law firms. From 2011-19, he served as board president of J-Sei, a senior service nonprofit serving the East Bay Japanese American community.

In 1993, he was board president of the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area and is a member of the Leadership Council of Asian Americans Advancing Justice—Asian Law Caucus.

Patricia Wakida is a fourth-generation Japanese American living in Oakland, Calif. She has dedicated much of her career to researching, writing and creating artwork reflective of her culture and history.

She is currently serving as an editor for Discover Nikkei, associate editor and writer for the Denso Encyclopedia Project and contributing writer for the Nichibei Times newspaper. She’s also served as an associate curator of history at the Japanese American National Museum, lead writer for the National Japanese American Historical Society’s exhibit on the Military Intelligence Service, exhibition lead writer for the Topaz Museum and co-editor/researcher/writer for “Only What We Could Carry: The Japanese American Internment Experience.”

Wakida’s public art installations includes a “Day of Remembrance” mandala with the Yosei Memory Project at the Fresno Fairgrounds, “I Am An American Family No. 25344,” at the Fresno Housing Authority, and she is currently working on a Japanese American public art work to be installed in Hayward, Calif., this year.

The new board members join Lance Atkinson, Scott Bassett, Lorelei Draper, Mark Nelson, Rick Okabe, Hisashi Bill Sugaya, Teresa Thompson and Board President Jane Beckwith.

In addition, the Topaz Museum recently opened its newest exhibit, “Topaz Stories,” at the Utah State Capitol Building’s third floor mezzanine; the exhibit will be on display through Dec. 31.

Thirty-one stories from the WWII Japanese American incarceration at Topaz Relocation Center are on display that reflect the diverse voices of three generations of men, women and children who were sent to the Utah desert, behind barbed wire and under armed guard, from September 1942-October 1945. Their only crime — their ancestry.

The exhibit features an innovative design by exhibit designer Jonathan Hirabayashi and a selection of artifacts from the Topaz Museum.

Originally set to open in 2020, the exhibit was postponed due to Covid and rescheduled through the efforts of Brad Westwood (Utah Department of Culture & Community Engagement) and Stephanie Angelides (Capitol Curator).

”Topaz Stories” exhibit will be on display at the Utah State Capitol building until Dec. 31.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOPAZ MUSEUM

IN PRAISE OF THE PEOPLE OF DELTA AND OTHER ALLIES

By Dianne Fukami

For those who are descendants of the almost 120,000 Japanese Americans incarcerated in 10 American concentration camps during World War II, as I am, or who were actually imprisoned there, we tend to think that these historic sites and the artifacts found there belong to us. Indeed, these sites and artifacts are part of our heritage and family history, and have a special significance to us in ways that others may not have experienced.

But the historical legacy of these camps, particularly as a cautionary lesson of the tragic consequences that happen when racism shouts louder than the Constitution, belongs to all Americans.

My father’s family was imprisoned at the Topaz concentration camp, not far from Delta, Utah. Dad was only 14 years old at the time, and my grandparents and my parents, who were actually imprisoned there, tend to think that these historic sites and the artifacts found there belong to us. Indeed, these sites and artifacts are part of our heritage and family history, and have a special significance to us in ways that others may not have experienced.

But the historical legacy of these camps, particularly as a cautionary lesson of the tragic consequences that happen when racism shouts louder than the Constitution, belongs to all Americans.

My father’s family was imprisoned at the Topaz concentration camp, not far from Delta, Utah. Dad was only 14 years old at the time, and I heard plenty of stories about it from my own family and others who were imprisoned there.

When I visited the Topaz site this past summer, I tried to imagine what it was like living in such a desolate place where the winters were cold and windy, and the summers, hot and dry — weather extremes my family had never experienced in the Bay Area.

As I walked around the site, there were many scenes that I can only imagine on the cracked ground, a bit of glass from an old cup, the metal skeletons of old tools used and abandoned, the remnants of a child’s toy. I feel a kinship to the land that others without my history may not.

I’m thinking of all this as plans are underway for the future of the Wakasa Monument and the Topaz site where it was discovered. On April 11, 1943, James Hatsuaki Wakasa, one of more than 11,000 Americans incarcerated at Topaz, was shot in the chest and killed by a military sentry as he walked close to the Topaz barbed-wire fence.

A military trial ruled that Mr. Wakasa’s killing was justified, though there is no evidence to support that ruling. At the time, the government allowed the Topaz prisoners to hold a funeral service for Mr. Wakasa, but ordered a monument in his honor destroyed. In July 2021, the monument, in the form of an unmarked half-ton stone, was found partially buried in plain sight near the edge of the Topaz barbed-wire fence, presumably at the location where Mr. Wakasa was killed.

When it was removed, there was no sign of writings, personal mementos or anything else that might have been buried with it. Except for its extraordinary symbolism, it looks remarkably ordinary.

When camp authorities ordered the monument torn down, it was an attempt to erase from memory the killing and the injustice that it represented. Our community now has an opportunity to remember Mr. Wakasa and acknowledge those Japanese Americans who had erected the monument in mute protest of the brutal injustice caused by racial demonization.

There are plans to hold a ceremony in April 2023 at the Topaz Museum and questions about how to display the Wakasa Monument.

At first blush, it feels as if any remembrance ceremony should be the exclusive domain of the Topaz descendants and other Japanese Americans whose families were incarcerated during WWII.

But looking at history through such an exclusionary lens ignores and dismisses our community allies: the people who are not Japanese Americans who nonetheless, throughout the years, joined our fight to have our story told, and without whose support the Topaz Museum would simply not exist.

I am talking about the people of Delta, Utah, and the dozens of volunteer docents who staff the Topaz Museum on a daily basis greeting the 10,000 people who visit annually.

As a Topaz descendant, I am grateful to the people who are not Japanese American who serve on the museum’s board of directors and volunteer their time because they understand that the powerful lessons in democracy that the museum holds are as much about the country’s future as they are about its past.

I am indebted to Jane Beckwith, a former high school teacher born and raised in Delta, who passionately dedicated countless hours for the
Tom Ikeda announced his pending retirement on Jan. 20. Ikeda released the following statement where he discussed his decision and his future plans.

“During my tenure at Densho, I have poured my heart into the organization’s founding executive director. I am announcing my retirement. I turn 66 years old this week, and it’s time for me to shift my priorities and spend more time with my family. I am going to retire, but not until I am certain that Densho is in excellent hands and that have driven the organization from its start are honored throughout the search process and transition to new leadership. Because of that, I have confidence that this change will lead to great new opportunities and growth for Densho and all of our supporters.

I have poured my heart into Densho for the past 26 years and consider it my life’s work to preserve and share the story of World War II Japanese American incarceration so that it is never forgotten. My commitment to this history and this community will continue long after my retirement. Exciting new chapter for Densho and for me.”

Following 26 years at the helm of Densho, longtime founding executive director Tom Ikeda announced his pending retirement on Jan. 20. Ikeda released the following statement where he discussed his decision and his future plans.

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LIVING TRUSTS | WILLS | POWERS OF ATTORNEY
Wartime artifacts and a 1947 list of JACL East Bay chapter members are found in an Oakland home’s crawl space.

By Nancy Ukai, Contributor

While Nate Oyler was poking around the earthen crawl space of his Oakland, Calif., home last year, he found an old wooden crate that couldn’t be moved because it was surrounded by ductwork. However, he was able to squeeze his arm inside of the trunk, where he pulled out several World War II treasures: a 1945 burlap rice sack from Arkansas, a small carved plaque of a Scottie and a precious document for JACL history that contained a 1947 list of East Bay chapter members.

The Berkeley chapter listed 118 names, including present Alameda member Cookie Takeshita, 91. Many Nisei are listed whose children remain JACL members today. Other East Bay members fresh out of War Relocation Authority centers following the conclusion of WWII and rebuilding their lives were in Richmond (77), Oakland (68), Alameda (5), Piedmont (3), Hayward (2), San Leandro (2) and Albany (1).

The Oakland home was the former residence of Hisae and Sadayuki Thomas Uno, and the camp crate, shipped from Rohwer, Ark., was addressed to the “Oakland WRA” office.

Ryen Anderson was excited about his husband’s find and went to the Berkeley JACL website to tell the chapter. “The thing that made us get in contact with the JACL was this list of people who were in the JACL in the 1940s. People’s grandchildren and children are probably still living in the Bay Area,” Anderson said. “We recognized a couple of names like Frank Ogawa. And the owner of the house.”

Sadayuki Uno lived in the house for many years with Hisae, according to neighbors. Uno was born in Hiroshima in 1901 and arrived in San Francisco on Dec. 1, 1917, from Yokohama on the Tenyo-maru.

He and Hisae Ishiyama, a Nisei from Stockton, married in 1931. Eleven years later, the Unos were incarcerated in the Fresno Assembly Center and transferred to Jerome, Ark., then to Rohwer (16-1-A) and released to Oakland on Nov. 6, 1945.

The hand-carved Scottie is signed and dated on the back: “Fresno Assembly Center, 8-21-1942.”

Author Delphine Hirasuna, who featured Uno’s carved caricatures of WWII leaders in her book, “Art of Gaman,” about crafts made in the camps, went to an estate sale at the Uno home years ago and purchased a photograph of Sadayuki Uno carving a Noh mask at Rohwer in 1944.

“The whole room was loaded with camp objects he had made, and the backyard had wooden trunks that he used to bring stuff back from Rohwer,” Hirasuna recalled.

“One thing that amazed me was that he had more than a dozen plaster face masks of people that were in camp, of children and adults.” Hirasuna didn’t buy any, however, and wonders what became of them.

The Scottie carving may have been made using a butter knife, before Uno had access to proper carving tools. It was wrapped inside a burlap rice bag stamped “August 1945.”

Digital copies of the worm-eaten membership lists were emailed to East Bay JACL chapters, which elicited stories of postwar hardship. “I was surprised my mother joined the JACL because she was so busy raising our family and working in the nursery,” said Flora Ninomiya, a director for 30 years of the Contra Costa chapter. She spotted the name of her Nisei mother, “Mrs,
Jeff Suda’s father married Kikue Kato, a Nisei who was incarcerated at Topaz, in 1952. Miles received his university diploma decades later in a special ceremony.

Patty Hirota, another Berkeley chapter member, was born in 1947, the year the list was typed with the name of her father, Tad Hirota.

She recalled: “A lot of people were still mad at the JACL back then because the JACL told us to cooperate and go into the camps.”

After imprisonment at Amache, Colo., she and Tamaki Ninomiya, were forced to leave before President (Franklin D.) Roosevelt signed Executive Order (9066). On the very day we left, my father was arrested by the FBI,” Flora Ninomiya said. He was sent to federal prison camps in Bismarck, N.D., and Lordsburg, N.M.

Meanwhile, her mother took the children and her father-in-law to Livingston, but all were sent to the Merced camp and then to Granada, Colo. (Amache).

“My father was separated from us. The government said that we could be reunited if we agreed to go to Japan after the war. My mother, with five children, all American citizens, refused. During this time, I was 6- to 10-years-old,” Flora Ninomiya remembered.

“All the time I was growing up, I could not talk of my experience. Now, I know how important it is to tell my story, so I speak at the Rosie the Riveter Museum (a National Park Service unit) for the Contra Costa JACL,” she said.

Jeff Suda, a Berkeley chapter member, said that his father, Miles Noboru Suda, was in the UC Berkeley engineering program when he was forcibly pulled out of school and sent to Jerome, Ark.

“He became chief of the survey team for Jerome,” Jeff Suda said, and after checking the sewer and utility lines for the American concentration camp, drove into town and smuggled in supplies, including live chickens.

Jeff Suda’s father married Kikue Kato, a Nisei who was incarcerated at Topaz, in 1952. Miles received his university diploma decades later in a special ceremony.

Patty Hirota, another Berkeley chapter member, was born in 1947, the year the list was typed with the name of her father, Tad Hirota.

He had returned to Berkeley to reunite with his wife, Hisa, after serving in Japan with the Military Intelligence Service. The two met at Topaz and married there in two ceremonies, Patty Hirota said, “a civil ceremony and a Buddhist ceremony in Topaz.”

After the war, Tad and Hisa Hirota pooled their money together with his parents and bought a small, two-bedroom house in West Berkeley, an area where Japanese Americans were allowed to buy property.

The Berkeley Interracial Committee conducted a survey to help returnees find housing and jobs, Patty Hirota wrote in a family history.

“Temporary hostels were organized, and students with cars met the returnees. Despite these efforts, Berkeley was racially segregated in housing and employment when WWII started, and there was condemnation and harassment of Japanese Americans.”

Cookie Takeshita was only 17 when the 1947 list was compiled — she has remained a member for 75 years.

She recalled: “A lot of people were still mad at the JACL back then because the JACL told us to cooperate and go into the camps.”

After imprisonment at Amache, Colo., she remembers arriving in the East Bay and her father using the family’s $25 government stipend to take a taxi back to Alameda.

Her father had originally come to California to purchase movie rights for his sister’s cinema chain in Fukuoka, Japan, but stayed on and eventually became a gardener.

Yasutaro Takano had to build up his business again from nothing, Cookie Takeshita said. He never increased his fees for those first customers who hired him after the war, she said.

Sansei whose relatives’ names are on the lists include Karen Korematsu (uncle Hiroshi Korematsu); Keiki Fujita (father Bill Fujita), Patty Hecht Saito (father Leo Saito), Ed Oda and this writer, who was surprised to find her aunt, Eleanor Ukai, listed at the West Oakland address of the Issei family home.

For more information about the 1947 JACL East Bay chapter list, contact the Berkeley JACL at admin@berkeleyjacl.org.

The Suda family, circa 1959. Pictured (back row, from left) are Miles Noboru Suda, Kikue Kato Suda and (front row, from left) Vicki Suda Fukumae and Jeffrey Suda.

Cookie Fujita holds a horseshoe from Tanforan that her family brought back with them following World War II.

Flora Ninomiya shows the “persist, resist” cap that she knitted.

Flora Ninomiya’s parents, Hayane Kanagawa Ninomiya and Tamaki Ninomiya, were married in Berkeley in 1930.
JAPAN’S BORDER POLICY KEEPS THOUSANDS OF FOREIGNERS IN LIMBO

By Associated Press

TOKYO — More than a year ago, Sebastian Bressa finished his paper-work to become a language teacher in Tokyo and made plans to quit his job in Sydney. His life has been in limbo ever since.

Japan has kept its door closed to most foreigners during the pandemic, and the 26-year-old Australian is one of hundreds of thousands denied entry to study, work or see their families.

Japan has become one of the world’s most difficult countries to enter, and some are comparing it to the locked country, or solokot, policy of xenophobic warlords who ruled Japan in the 17th to 19th centuries.

The current border rules allow in only Japanese nationals and permanent foreign residents and have raised the ire of foreign students and scholars who say the measures are unfair, unscientific and force talented visitors to go to other countries.

Critics say the rules are also hurting Japan’s international profile and national interest.

About half a million foreigners — including academics, researchers and others with highly skilled jobs and 150,000 foreign students — have been affected, various statistics show.

“I think the most difficult thing for me has been this state of living in limbo,” Bressa said. “I can’t plan that far ahead in the future, just not knowing where I end up the next month or two.”

Japan plans to keep the border measures in place through the end of February as it copes with a record surge of cases in Tokyo and other major cities. Makoto Shimoaraiso, a Cabinet official working on Japan’s Covid-19 response, said the situation is painful, but he asked for patience, noting much higher infection levels overseas.

Japan recently decided to let nearly 400 students enter, but many others including those on foreign government-sponsored scholarships still cannot get in.

A letter to Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, signed by hundreds of academics and Japan experts and submitted last month in a petition drive, called for a relaxation of the border controls to enable educators, students and scholars to pursue their studies and work in Japan. It said many already have given up Japan studies, opting to focus elsewhere, such as South Korea.

“They become the bridges between Japan and other societies. They are future policymakers, business leaders and teachers. They are the foundation of the U.S.-Japan alliance and other international relationships that support Japan’s core national interests,” the letter said. “The closure is harming Japan’s national interests and international relationships.”

However, the border controls have wide public support. Many Japanese tend to think troubles such as the pandemic come from outside their island nation.

Tightening border controls quickly after omicron outbreaks began overseas may have been unavoidable, Nippon University crisis management professor Mitsuru Fukuda said, but the decision to exclude only foreigners appears aimed at rallying public support. With careful preventive measures, Japan could allow foreign visitors just as many other countries are doing, he said.

“People should not have to compromise their freedom and human rights in exchange for their lives,” Fukuda said.

Japan’s coronavirus cases plunged as delta variant infections subsided in the fall, and Kishida has said closing the border to most foreign travelers in late November helped delay the latest surge in infections. He contends that overreacting is better than doing too little, too late.

Japan has just begun giving booster shots, but only 3.5 percent of the population have received them, and the medical system has been inadequately prepared for the latest huge wave of cases, leaving many sick with Covid-19 to isolate at home.

The border closures did not keep omicron out of U.S. military bases, where Japan has no jurisdiction, including troops that fly directly into the country without observing Japanese quarantine requirements.

Clusters of cases among U.S. troops rapidly spread into neighboring communities including those in Okinawa, home to the majority of the 50,000 American troops in Japan, beginning in late December. Infections at U.S. bases exceeded 6,000 last month.

On Feb. 2, Japan reported nearly 95,000 new confirmed cases, a record, and Tokyo’s cases exceeded 20,000 for the first time. Some pandemic restrictions are now in effect in much of Japan, including Tokyo and other big cities like Osaka and Kyoto, for the first time since September.

Phillip Lipsy, a political science professor at Toronto University in Canada who is part of the petition drive, said he was denied entry despite his Japanese roots and his dedication to the study of Japan.

“I grew up in Japan. I am a native speaker of the language, my mother is Japanese and she lives in Tokyo. But under the current policy, I cannot enter Japan because of the color of my passport,” Lipsy told an online meeting.

With the outlook uncertain, many people are changing their studies or careers, he said.

“These are fateful decisions with long-term consequences,” he said. “The border closure is depriving Japan of a generation of admirers, friends and allies.”

JACL APPLAUDS NOMINATION OF JUDGE KENLY KIYA KATO TO THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

By JACL National

President Joe Biden announced recently his eleventh round of judicial nominees, which included Judge Kenly Kiya Kato to the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

Judge Kato is currently in Washington, D.C., to face questions from the Senate Judiciary Committee as it considers her nomination.

The daughter of former incarcerated Judge Kato’s parents and grandparent were imprisoned during World War II alongside 120,000 other persons of Japanese Ancestry. Her focus on constitutional protections and equal opportunity to justice was influenced by her family’s incarceration experience.

“Hearing those stories of my family’s first-hand experiences impressed me from a very young age the critical importance of securing our constitutional rights for everyone,” Kato told the senate judiciary committee on Feb. 3.

Since 2014, Judge Kato has served as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Central District of California. She has also held her own private practice and once served as a Deputy Federal Public Defender in the Los Angeles area.

After receiving her J.D. from Harvard Law, she served as a law clerk for Judge Robert M. Takasugi, who was formerly appointed to the United States District Court of the Central District of California.

We applaud the diversity of President Biden’s nominees to the court, including the recent Senate confirmations of judges Lucy H. Koh and Jennifer Sung to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Asian American and women jurists remain underrepresented in our federal courts, and these nominations and appointments help to close that gap.

—Additional reporting by the P.C.
TANFORD MEMORIAL STATUE AND PLAZA SET TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION

The memorial plaza includes a bronze statue to honor the 8,000 Bay Area residents of Japanese ancestry that were imprisoned at Tanforan ‘Assembly Center’ during WWII.

SAN BRUNO, CALIF. — A ground-breaking ceremony marking the start of construction of a memorial plaza that includes a bronze statue to honor the 8,000 Bay Area residents of Japanese ancestry that were unjustly imprisoned at Tanforan “Assembly Center” during World War II is set to take place on Feb. 11.

Located inside the San Bruno BART Station, the historic site of the detention center, the exhibit showcases Lange’s historical photos of the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans on the West Coast alongside Kitagaki’s contemporary images that include some of Lange’s original subjects from 1942.

The forthcoming bronze statue brings to life one of Lange’s photographs of the young Mochida sisters on their way to Tanforan.

Blach Construction is preparing the site, installing the statue and constructing elements for the plaza, including benches, seat walls and anhore stall to represent the accommodations of those detained at Tanforan.

Designed by Sandra Shaw, the statue and memorial plaza are estimated to be completed in spring 2022.

Speakers scheduled at the event include Steve Okamoto, vice chairman of the Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Committee; Rep. Jackie Speier, U.S. congresswoman, District 14; Supervisor Dave Pine, San Mateo Board of County Supervisors, District 1; Director Robert Raburn, BART Board, District 4; and Rico Medina, mayor of the City of San Bruno.

The TACMC is composed of former detainees from Tanforan, as well as Japanese American activists and others from the Bay Area. The TACMC has been working together since 2012 to plan for the memorial, raising approximately $1.2 million for the creation of a historic and cultural icon for the City of San Bruno.

The memorial will educate the public as to what happened to the 120,000 West Coast residents of Japanese ancestry and remind people that these atrocities can never happen again.

To learn more, visit https://www.tanfordmemorial.org/

KYOTO » continued from page 3

Corey worked with it to figure out the best exposures to get all the details, the color and lighting he envisioned for every image.

That image, by the way, appeared upside down on the back of the camera, so he had to know exactly what he wanted in the frame and adjust the camera just so, until his composition was perfect.

Then, he would uncover the lens and expose the film for 20, 30 minutes or more. If the light or weather changed or someone inadvertently walked through the scene, he would cover the lens and wait to then uncover it again. It was precise and painstaking.

The effort shows in his work, which is now — thanks to Reimi Adachi’s persevering efforts — under the care of the Department of Special Collections and University Archives for the University of Massachusetts, Amherst Libraries. Adachi’s indefatigable determination also led to Corey’s first-ever gallery exhibit in Kyoto last year.

A few years back, when the city of Denver launched a direct flight between Denver and Tokyo, Corey’s photos were out on display at Denver International Airport to celebrate, and they were glorious.

One of the best Japanese restaurants in the Denver area, Izakaya Amu in Boulder, has Corey’s work proudly hanging on its wall, absolutely enhancing the artistic level of the cuisine.

Anyone who loves Japan, gardens or photography should visit WilliamCorey.com, the online repository of some of the artist’s work, as maintained by his widow.

It’ll make you want to visit Japan. Really.


ALLIES » continued from page 4

past 30-plus years to make the museum a reality and who continues to do so today on an unpaid basis.

Our allies also include the dozens of National Park Service employees who educate the public about a time in our nation’s history when democracy failed, in the hopes that by doing so, such failure is never repeated.

We need to acknowledge the people of all backgrounds including the Indigenous People of the Great Basin, who once lived freely on the land we ironically now call the Topaz concentration camp.

Their experience and that of our families are reminders of Martin Luther King Jr.’s powerful words: “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutual interlocking tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

When the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 passed leading to redress and reparations for the harm done to Japanese Americans, it was the result of coalition-building and allyship, the countless people both within our community and outside who joined in solidarity to support us.

By embracing that example and by including the input of many voices, the significance of the Wakasa Monument and its role in Japanese American history will rightfully become a part of the tapestry of mainstream American history for current and future generations.

Dianne Fukami is a documentary filmmaker, journalist and retired educator. A descendant of a Topaz family, her most recent work was the film “Norman Mineta and His Legacy: An American Story.” She has written and produced many films about the Japanese American experience.
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.

**NCWNP**

**Taiko Drumming Workshop**

San Jose, CA  
Series begins Feb. 5  
Historic Hoover Theatre  
1635 Park Ave.  
Price: $15 Per Participant  
Playful People Prods. and San Jose Beat Institute continue their popular six-session Taiko Drumming class that meets on the first and third Saturdays of the month. Roman and students lead the instruction and children over 10 and adults are welcome.  
Info: https://playfulpeople.org or call (408) 878-5362.

**Executive Order 9066 at 80: Incarceration and Reparations**

Then and Now  
San Francisco, CA  
Feb. 10; 1-6 p.m.  
Asian Art Museum Samsung Hall  
200 Larkin St.  
Price: Free  
Asian Art Museum Ticket Plus Museum Admission  
This program begins with a screening of John Doak’s award-winning documentary “Alternative Facts: The Lies of Executive Order 9066.” Following the screening, the filmmaker joins Sheryl Davis and Don Tamaki for a discussion about the ties between the Japanese American redress campaign and the Black reparations movement.  
Info: To purchase tickets, visit https://buy.acmeticketing.com/events/474/detail?eventdate=2022-02-10T00:00:00-0800. Buy tickets at the museum's community library or call 415-655-6800.

**Beyond Confinement: Stories of Japanese American & Native American Resistance Northern California**

Feb. 12; 1-3 p.m.  
Virtual Event  
Price: Free  
This DOR program will bring the Native American experience through storytelling and narration as it focuses on the Japanese American experience and its parallels with those of Native Americans.  
Info: To register, visit NCTOR.org. Registration deadline is Feb. 8.

**Book Talk: ‘We Hereby Refuse’: The Bay Area Allies of the Resisters**

Northern California  
Feb. 13; 3-4:30 p.m.  
Virtual Event  
Price: Free  
This book talk features Frank Abe, writer of “We Hereby Refuse: Japanese American Resistance to Wartime Incarceration” and Wayne Collins Jr., Sadako Kashiiwagi and Kathleen Purcell.  

**San Jose’s 42nd Annual Day of Remembrance**

San Jose, CA  
Feb. 19; 3-4 p.m.  
Virtual Event  
Price: Free  
But Donations Welcome “Overcoming Hate & Fear,” will address the erosion of civil liberties in wartime, what Japanese Americans had to endure during the war and the current increase of anti-Asian hate incidences have done to our community. Guest speakers will be Cynthia Choi, Eiko Yamauchi and Bekki Shibayama.  
Info: View the program at www.sinjc.org.

**PSW**

‘Look to the Sky: America’s Concen- tration Camps’ Exhibit  
Los Angeles, CA  
Feb. 11, 2022  
Virtual Event  
Price: Free  
This documentary photography project by John Torais depicts the contemporary physical conditions of the 10 WW II WRA camps. The initial project took place from 1990-92 and Torais has revisited most of the sites and recorded the changes that have taken place.  
Info: For a Zoom link and more information, email Louise Sakamoto at LSakamoto@sbglobal.net.

**San Diego JACL and National Conflict Resolution Center Bystander Challenge Workshop**

Feb. 16, 6-7:30 p.m.; Feb. 23, 6-7:30 p.m.  
Zoom Online Workshop  
Price: Free  
San Diego JACL chapter presents this two-part online workshop on the bystander’s role in decreasing inappropriate communication and behavior in the community workplace. Participants will learn how to have challenging conversations in ways that demonstrate respect, inclusiveness and dignity for everyone involved. Space is limited.  
Info: To register, visit https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-bystander-challenge-jactickets-214866660967?et=pe&email=BlissContent1&clid=808c912d-5081-59a7-9d58-0b8f9e7e3d3. For questions, contact sandiogoliac@gmail.com or Dana Brett at dbrett@ncronline.com.

**2022 Los Angeles Day of Remembrance**

Los Angeles, CA  
Feb. 19; 2-4 p.m.  
JANM Virtual Event  
Price: Free  
The annual Los Angeles DOR will be headlined by a conversation between traci kato-kiriyama and Kathy Masaoka, Japanese American activists, and Dreisen Healt, an expert on reparations and reparatory justice, about the need for solidarity around reparations work in the present day.  
Info: RSVP at: https://www.janm.org/events/2022-02-19/2022-los-angeles-day-remembrance.

**The Art of ‘Citizen 13660’**

Los Angeles, CA  
Thru Feb. 20, 2022  
JANM  
100 N. Central Ave.  
Price: Check Museum Website for 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 work will be shown in its entirety.  

**‘Hayao Miyazaki’ Inaugural Exhibition Los Angeles, CA  
Thru June 5, 2022  
Academy Museum of Motion Pictures  
6067 Wilshire Blvd.  
Price: Advance 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, including each of Miyazaki’s animated feature films, including “My Neighbor Totoro” and the Academy Award-winning “Spirited Away.”  

**CCDC**

Day of Remembrance Program Feb. 12  
Fresno, CA  
Zoom Social Hour/Lunch and Program 1-3 p.m.  
Fresno County Historical Museum  
Big Fresno Fairgrounds  
112 S. Chance Ave.  
(Free Parking at Chance Ave. Lot)  
Price: $40 Per Person (COVID-19 Vaccination and Mask Required)  
This year’s DOR program will pay tribute to the Hon. James Arida, recipient of the 2022 Distinguished American Award “Spirit of Education Award.” Justice Arida is the former presiding justice of the California Fifth District Court of Appeal and author of “Tears of Honor,” a novel about the heroic Japanese American soldiers of WWII. The program will also include the CCDC JACL officer installation  
Info: RSVP by Feb. 7. For questions, contact Travis Nishi at tsnishi@sockal.com or call (559) 281-6497. Make checks payable to CCDC JACL and mail to P.O. Box 26925, Fresno, CA 93729.

**Day of Remembrance: Honoring the 442nd Regimental Combat Team**

Alaska  
Feb. 19; 4-6:30 p.m. Alaska Standard  
Virtual Event  
Price: Free  
Join the Alaska JACL and St. John Meth- odist Church as the event will feature a virtual presentation of Legacy Tours of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, WWII battlegrounds and memorials in France, as well as discussion panels with Stuart Hirai, Dr. Brian Yamamoto and Nora De Biever.  
Info: Join the Zoom presenta- tion at https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/92338843637.

**We Hereby Refuse: Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of Executive Order 9066**

Feb. 19; 4 p.m.  
Virtual Event  
Price: Free  
Mukai Farm & Garden along with the Vashon Heritage Museum, 4 Culture and Humanities Washington present this DOR program that will feature a discussion with the authors of a new graphic novel as well as commemorate the anniversary of Executive Order 9066.  
Info: For more information, visit mukaifarmandgarden.com; to view the program, visit tinyurl.com/y6phdse2a9.

**‘Cascadia Art Museum Day of Remembrance’**

Edmonds, WA  
Feb. 20; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
190 Sunset Ave. S.  
Tickets: General Admission $9-$12; Children, Members and Students Are Free  
Along with commemorating the signing of Executive Order 9066, this program will also celebrate the last day of the Kenjiro Nomura, American Modernist: An Artist’s Journey” Exhibition. The full day will feature events, performances, workshops and food honoring Japanese Americans.  
Info: Tickets are available at CascadiaArtMuseum.org/DOR.

**MDC**

The TEAACH Act: What It Means for Illinois, Education and the Japanese American Community Chicago, IL  
Feb. 20; 2-3:30 p.m.  
Chicago History Museum  
1601 N. Clark St.  
Price: Day of Remembrance 2022 features a variety of speakers celebrating the passing of the TEAACH Act, the bill that finally recognized the Asian American history that was taught in public schools. The program will also feature a showcase of classroom-ready resources for teaching as well as feature Ho Etsu Taiko, who will take the stage to perform a new work composed especially for DOR 2022. Masks and vaccinations required.  
Info: For more information and registration info, visit https://chicagodpor.wordpress.com.

**EDC**

2022 Lunar New Year Celebration Boston, MA  
Feb. 13; 11 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Pao Arts Center  
99 Albany St.  
In-Person and Virtual Event  
Tickets: $10 Suggested Donation  
Pao Arts Center’s family-friendly celebration is back with virtual and in-person options to celebrate the Year of the Tiger! Sign up to receive virtual activities from participating artists or stop by in-person (proof of vaccination and masks are needed for entry) to experience cultural events such as Lion Dance, brush painting, crafts and much more.  

**PNW**

Day of Remembrance, Japanese Incarceration, 80 Years Later  
Colorado  
Feb. 19; 6-7:30 p.m.  
Zoom Webinar  
Price: Free  
This program, presented by Colorado College, will feature a memorial and conversation on the forced removal and internment of Japanese Americans during WWII, its legacy and ongoing afterlife. The program will feature descendants and grandchildren of the camps: writer Jami Nakamura Lin, poet Brynn Saito, musician/composer Patrick Saito, and artist/performer Kimiko Tanabe and hosted by Brandon Shimoda, poet/writer and professor of creative writing at Colorado College.  
Info: Visit https://coloradocollege.zoom.us/webinar/register? Widem=V2yOdSFiQMmDvbp6pzv8Vw.
Ikeda, Randall Riki, 59, Orange, CA, Dec. 12, 2021; he is survived by his wife, Shauna; children, Brennan Ikeda and Kaylin Ikeda; mother, Betty Ikeda; sister, Lianne (Jason) Akiona; mother-in-law, Kaaren Onouye; sister-in-law, Teri Yoshihake (Tim), a nephew, nieces, uncles, aunts and cousins.

Nakamura, Stanley, 85, La Jolla, CA, Sept. 5, 2021; a graduate of UC Davis (zoology) and USC (dentistry); he is survived by his wife, Linh; children, Damien and Emily; brother, Stephen; brother-in-law, Mark; sister-in-law, Camille.

Okazaki, Lillian, 96, Portland, OR, Oct. 24, 2021; she was predeceased by her husband, Minoru, and son, Jon; she is survived by her sons, Mark, Jeff and Chris; gc: 8; ggc: 1.

Obata, Emie, 94, Torrance, CA, Dec. 31, 2021; she was predeceased by her husband, Shuichi; she is survived by her sister-in-law, Michiko Sakakura; 6 nephews; she is also survived by many grand-nieces, grand-nephews and other relatives. gc: 8; ggc: 1.

Riggins, Kinue Sato 'Cherry,' 89, Chillicothe, MO, Jan. 3, 2022; she was predeceased by her husband, Fred Riggins; brothers, Masami Sato, Takashi Sato and Fumio Sato; and grandson, Jeremy Gann; she is survived by her children, Shirley Goodin (Jack), Jay D. Riggins (Robin) and Edward Riggins (Lisa); siblings, Katsunori Sato, Nobuko Sato and Takeshi Sato; gc: 9; ggc: 6.


Tribute

Betty Sachiko Yumori, also known as “Mom,” “Auntie Betty,” “Betty-chan,” and “Betty-san” was 90 years young when she ended her journey peacefully on January 12, 2022. She was a native of California, happily married to Ben for 63 years, a loving and a devoted mom to her daughter, La Donna and an awesome aunt.

She worked her way up to become the Accounts Payable Manager at W&J Sloane in Beverly Hills for 27 years.

She was an active and passionate volunteer for over 60 years with the Japanese American community.

Her past involvement was with the Venice Culver JACL, Southwest District JACL, JA Republicans and Keiro Retirement Home as a president, secretary, delegate or fundraiser. She did cross the party line when she supported Democrats Daniel Inouye, Norm Mineta and others in Washington D.C.

She enjoyed hosting the annual Yumori Christmas Eve dinner for 69 years. She was an outgoing, friendly, thoughtful, generous, fun, wonderful friend, organizer, opinionated and advice giving person.

She enjoyed being with family, friends, playing mahjong, bridge, poker games, dancing and protesting when needed.

Her Mac and Cheese was a family favorite and she has left her recipe for 63 years, a loving and a devoted mom to her daughter, La Donna and an awesome aunt.

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Her Mac and Cheese was a family favorite and she has left her recipe so we can still enjoy it.

She was predeceased by her husband Ben and survived by her daughter La Donna Yumori-Kaku, son-in-law Mike Kaku and her many nieces, nephews and nieces.

She is on her next journey to enjoy catching up with past family, friends and getting a poker game together. Due to Covid there will not be a funeral. A private service will be held for family.

In lieu of flowers or koden please donate to the Venice Japanese Community Center Inc. to the “Legacy Tree in memory of Ben and Betty Yumori”. 12448 Braddock Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90066.


Advertisement
AARP celebrates the Year of the Tiger

By Scott Tanaka

Growing up as a fourth-generation Japanese American in Los Angeles, Lunar New Year was not something my family celebrated. For us, like many Japanese American families in my community, we celebrate the New Year on Jan. 1. I can still remember our large family gatherings where all my relatives would come over to my great-grandmother, Yukiko Oka-zaki’s home. We called her Grandma “O” for short. She cooked all the traditional Japanese food and would make enough food to feed an army. Which is why it was always a tradition for us to keep the feast going into the next day. My grandmother, Amy Tanaka, eventually took over the cooking and carried on the tradition. I, of course, enjoyed all the dishes she would make, including her sushi and shrimp tempura, but I loved her kimpira gobo!

To this day, I have not been able to find anything that compares to hers. My great-grandmother and grandmother have both since passed, but I am grateful to both for helping me stay connected to my Japanese heritage.

Lunar New Year became a much bigger deal for me when I started working at AARP. Before Covid-19, we would have a big Lunar New Year celebration with lots of food and fun activities. We even handed out the traditional red envelopes to each AARP employee. Though the envelopes did not contain money, we made sure to include some lychee candy and a note explaining the significance of Lunar New Year. It was always a great way to bring members of our Asian American Employee Resource Group together and the broader AARP community.

During the pandemic, we have still found ways to celebrate virtually, but we are all looking forward to when we can gather again in person. One virtual offering from AARP that I would like to share is our Lunar New Year Photo Booth. I invite you to visit AARP’s virtual Lunar New Year Photo Booth at digitalbooth.com/aarplunarnewyear to celebrate the Year of the Tiger.

In a modern twist to the classic photo booth, text or email a digital photo from your phone or desktop to share your photos with family, friends or social media from now through Feb. 18. I do hope that this New Year brings you and your family renewal and that the Year of the Tiger be full of vitality and inspiration.

New year, new beginning; it’s time to acknowledge the year that was and boldly move forward in the year to come. AARP wishes everyone joy and happiness, peach and health in the New Year. And to help you achieve these goals, AARP will be there every step of the way.

Visit https://www.aarp.org/aapi for a wealth of resources and services to help you move forward toward a fresh start on your new year.

Scott Tanaka is a member of the JACL Washington, D.C., chapter and is a policy, research and international affairs adviser at AARP.