



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 93 YEARS

» **PAGE 6**

## ALL TOGETHER

**'Manzanar  
Diverted'**

**Examines the  
Intersections of  
Race and History.**

» **PAGE 5**

**Amache  
Nears NPS  
Approval.**

» **PAGE 9**

**Utes Retire  
Wat Misaka  
Jersey.**

Ann Kaneko spent years making "Manzanar Diverted." She is pictured at the VC Film Festival.

# SF Board of Supervisors Unanimously Passes Resolution Commemorating 80th Anniversary of Executive Order 9066

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution commemorating Feb. 19, 2022, as the 80th Anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, which authorized the forced evacuation and removal of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Supervisors Connie Chan and Dean Preston introduced the resolution at the urging of the Japantown community, which has never received a formal apology or acknowledgement from the San Francisco City government for its implicit support for and assistance in the mass incarceration

of Japanese Americans.

“We applaud Supervisors Chan and Preston for bringing attention to the forced removal and exclusion of Japanese Americans in 1942 from San Francisco and other western cities and states as a result of Executive Order 9066,” said Diane Matsuda, staff attorney for the Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach. “What was done to our community was a clear violation and disregard of our human, civil and constitutional rights, and we hope that through this resolution, further information and education on this dark period of history will

prevent the repeat of this tragedy from happening again.”

“Today’s resolution is long overdue. Eighty years ago, when the Japanese American community needed support from our City leaders in San Francisco to help protect their civil and constitutional rights, rather than lend a hand, the police raided our homes, arrested our leaders and assisted the FBI and military in the forced evacuation of the Japanese Americans from San Francisco,” said Paul Osaki, executive director of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California. “The

City government never recognized its role and the harm it caused our community. Today’s resolution finally helps to set the record straight.”

“The Japanese American Citizens League was established in 1929 to address racism and the violations of civil rights and Constitutional rights of Japanese Americans. The San Francisco chapter has been part of the Japanese American community for more than 90 years. The complete disregard of people’s lives during World War II by Executive Order 9066, which imprisoned innocent citizens, continues to be a story in history that generations have been affected by,” said Judy Hamaguchi, president of the JACL San Francisco chapter. “Gratitude to Supervisor Preston and Supervisor Chan for

» See RESOLUTION on page 5

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

In the Feb. 4-17, 2022, issue of the *Pacific Citizen*, JACL Executive Director David Inoue endorses President Joe Biden’s promise to fill retiring Supreme Court Justice Steven Breyer’s position with a Black woman with the argument that “the need for affirmative action couldn’t be any clearer.” In support of this argument, Inoue cites Pew Research Center data to claim that Black women judges are underrepresented.

Inoue fails in his article to include any data showing the number of Asian American men or women appointed as federal judges. My guess is that Asian Americans are even less represented than Black appointees.

JACL’s endorsement of President Biden’s filter of using solely a selected skin color and gender as a

threshold criteria without first even considering professional qualifications of members of other ethnic communities flies in the face of JACL’s stated Mission.

On its website, JACL states that its ongoing Mission is “. . . to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry. The leaders and members of the JACL also work to promote cultural, educational and social values and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.”

In furtherance of its Mission, and even if one were to accept the argument that Inoue is making, JACL needs instead to object to President Biden’s skin color and gender filter because it blocks equal opportunity to Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry.

During World War II, JACL leaders and members believed in JACL’s Mission. They fought injustice and bigotry to show that Japanese Americans were not “non-alien.” JACL leaders and members also engaged in the 10-year fight to pass the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (aka “Redress”) to affirm that all Americans are entitled to equal protection under the law.

As we see the substantial increase in hate crimes being committed against the Japanese American and other Asian American communities, it would be very difficult for JACL to deny that its stated Mission is just as relevant today as it was in 1929, 1941 and 1988.

But today, JACL turns a blind eye to its Mission by endorsing a selection process to our highest Court that denies equality to Japanese Americans and other Asian Americans simply because of skin color. Or, does JACL believe that

there are no qualified Asian Americans who can even be considered for appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court?

JACL appears to have become a toothless lap dog sitting in the dark for fear that any light would force it to confront the shadows of past JACL leaders. JACL must realign its advocacy, beyond mere lip service, with its stated Mission so that JACL promotes and preserves the rights, values, heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community. If JACL does not do this, who will?

Sincerely,

Gerald Yamada,  
Vienna, Va.

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

## PACIFICCITIZEN 2022 SPRING CAMPAIGN

JACL 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.\*

‘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



### HOW TO REACH US

Email: [pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)  
Online: [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)  
Tel: (213) 620-1767  
Mail: 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

### STAFF

**Executive Editor**  
Allison Haramoto  
**Senior Editor**  
**Digital & Social Media**  
George Johnston  
**Business Manager**  
Susan Yokoyama  
**Production Artist**  
Marie Samonte

**Circulation**  
Eva Ting

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

**JACL President:** Jeffrey Moy  
**Executive Director:** David Inoue

### P.C. EDITORIAL BOARD

Rob Buscher, chairperson; Ron Kuramoto, MDC; Danielle Pierce, EDC; Marcia Chung, CCDC; Nancy Ukai, NCWNPDC; Sheldon Arakaki, PNWDC; Michaela Ishino, IDC; John Saito Jr., PSWDC; Marco Torrez, Youth Rep.

### Subscribe

Get a one-year subscription of the *Pacific Citizen* newspaper at: [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org) or call (213) 620-1767.

### Advertise

To advertise in the *Pacific Citizen*, call (213) 620-1767 or e-mail: [pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org).

### LEGAL

No part of this publication may be reproduced without the express permission of the *Pacific Citizen*. Editorials, letters, news and the opinions expressed by columnists other than the national JACL president or national director do not necessarily reflect JACL policy. Events and products advertised in the P.C. do not carry the implicit endorsement of the JACL or this publication. We reserve the right to edit articles. © 2022

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

### JACL MEMBERS

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you’ve moved, please send new information to: National JACL  
1765 Sutter St.  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
(415) 921-5225 ext. 26

Allow 6 weeks for address changes. To avoid interruptions in delivery, please notify your postmaster to include periodicals in your change of address (USPS Form 3575)





## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# OSCARS HAVE SOME DIVERSITY, BUT STILL IGNORE BLATANT RACISM

By David Inoue,  
JACL Executive Director

The nominees for the 94th Academy Awards were announced on Feb. 8. In the wake of the breakout win by “Parasite” for Best Picture two years ago, perhaps it wasn’t so surprising to see “Drive My Car,” a Japanese film, be nominated this year.

More expected still was the nomination for “Licorice Pizza.” It probably would have been more of a surprise had the movie not been nominated. And yet, it probably should not have been, and its appearance being considered next to a Japanese made movie is even more problematic once some of the content of “Licorice Pizza” is understood.

First, I want to make clear that I have not seen the whole movie, only the relevant sections, so I am basing my criticism only on the offensive material and in the context of reviews that share the plot of the movie and establish that there is pretty much zero value to the overall plot to include these scenes.

In addition to significant mentions on the internet, the Media Action Network for Asian Americans (MANAA) also issued an extensive press release highlighting the problematic scenes and why the movie should not be considered Academy Award material.

The scenes involve the portrayal of real-life restaurateur Jerry Frick, who did have two different Japanese wives. In the first scene, Jerry and

his wife, Mioko, are reviewing promotional copy about their restaurant, written by the main protagonist’s mother as he sits in the room in the background.

Jerry turns to Mioko and asks what she thinks, with the most offensively caricatured accent possible. She responds in Japanese that since it is a restaurant, the description should mention the food.

The Japanese is not subtitled, but Jerry then does provide a rough translation that there should be some mention of the food and some language is added to respond.

In a second scene at the restaurant, Gary, the main character, addresses Jerry’s wife as Mioko, with Jerry quickly replying that Mioko is gone and this is his new wife, Kimiko.

There is again an exchange where Jerry asks Kimiko’s opinion with another unsubtitled response in Japanese, but this time, he states he has no idea what she said because he doesn’t speak Japanese. From what I could find, the real Jerry Frick had lived in Japan for 15 years and spoke at least some Japanese.

It is clear that Jerry’s character is portrayed as over-the-top racist, probably to insulate writer/director Paul Thomas Anderson so he could

say it was clearly intended to mock the racist behavior itself.

And yet we see Gary, the main character, his mother, and Alana, the woman that he as a 15-year-old boy is pursuing, engage in all these interactions without flinching. In a *New York Times* interview, Anderson states that he wanted to portray the behavior just as it might have happened at the time.

But by extension, he demonstrates that such over-the-top racism is accepted by the main protagonist. It is that same acceptance that allows Anderson the “creative freedom” to include a scene like this without any further context and to make it even more exaggerated than it probably needed to be.

I, and probably most others who lived any part through the 1970s, can attest that this type of racism did exist, and we all know that even worse forms of racism persist today. But the question is whether it was necessary to further the plot or main character development.

There is no development of the Japanese wives who are mere props, their only speaking parts in Japanese, and they’re clearly interchangeable to the point where Gary does not realize the change in women.

We don’t see any growth in the

main characters because of these interactions, and perhaps might even find them less appealing because of the supposed close friendship between Gary and Jerry.

Anderson tries to further justify this portrayal by noting that his mother-in-law is Japanese and had and continues to experience reactions from people similar to this. If he wishes to portray that story, he should take the time and put in the effort to do so.

We do not see if the wives experience any pain from their husband’s treatment. Is the relationship an abusive one? Although Anderson does not want to look through a modern lens at this story, any current reading of this spousal relationship would indicate that it is to some degree.

Ultimately, this is a story Anderson has no right to portray, and that in itself is racist. That he has the arrogance to believe that he can tell this story the way he wants to because he believes he is telling the truth stinks of white privilege, and the Academy should not reward that with any sort of award.

*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

# HR 40: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

To be honest, I never got too excited about supporting the Black Lives Matter movement since to me — all lives matter. However, since this February is Black History Month, it only seemed fitting to write an article about some of the history between the African American community and the Japanese American community.

Although my past dialogue with Issei has been limited (at best), I have had several conversations with Nisei who recalled that during the war and internment, many of their Black neighbors came to help. For example, some belongings and treasures too difficult to carry away to the internment camps were stored in a local church basement and safeguarded by their Black friends.

I also found online several other stories of incredible support for incarcerated Japanese Americans. Takashi Hoshizaki, for example, recalled the shock and joy he felt at discovering his Black neighbors, the Marshalls, had traveled all the way

to the Pomona detention facility in order to bring apple pie and ice cream to his family.

Los Angeles resident Mollie Wilson had a number of Japanese American friends in pre-World War II Los Angeles. Throughout their internment, she kept in regular contact with several of them, sending morale-boosting letters, cards, pictures and gifts (*Source: The World, despite history, Japanese Americans and African Americans are working together to claim their rights, Feb. 23, 2016*).

Hugh McBeth, a Los Angeles-based Black attorney and the leader of California’s Race Relations Commission, was an outspoken defender of Japanese Americans during the war. A November 1943 article in the progressive Black newspaper the *California Eagle* called the “persecution of the Japanese American minority . . . one of the disgraceful aspects of the nation’s conduct of the People’s War.”

What is fascinating to me is that the Asian American movement began on the heels of the 1960s Black Civil

Rights Movement, taking inspiration from the Black Panthers, especially. “We mimicked a lot of those behaviors. We got black leather jackets, and we got berets as well,” said Ron Wakabayashi, a former national director of the Japanese American Citizens League (*Source: South Seattle Emerald, Japanese American Redress and African American Reparations Intertwined, April 7, 2021*).

Years later, somewhat “on the heels” of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (The Redress Bill), HR 40 was first introduced in Congress in 1989. HR 40 is a Congressional bill that seeks to explore reparations for slavery and address how slavery and its legacy have deeply harmed generations of Black people in America. The bill’s number refers to “40 acres and a mule” — a false promise of property and opportunity to Black people after the end of slavery in 1865.

According to a July 23, 2021, article in *laist.com*, HR 40, which would create a federal commission to study and develop reparation plans, was voted out of the House Judiciary Committee in April for the first time since it was introduced by the late-Rep. John Conyers in 1989. According to the article, a strong showing in the House could help convince President Joe Biden, who has signaled support for reparations, to create a commission by executive order.

Not surprisingly, “Just as Black

Americans supported our community’s struggle for redress, we will strive to support and show solidarity with Black people as they fight for reparations today,” said Michael Nishimura, a 29-year-old doctoral student and organizer of a virtual town hall meeting called “Reparations Then, Reparations Now!” (*Source: NBC News, “Because We Know It Is Possible”: Japanese Americans Join Fight for Reparation, Jan. 13, 2022*).

In a Feb. 16, 2021, press release, here are parts of what Ann Burroughs, president and CEO of the Japanese American National Museum, had to say:

“I wanted to convey our support for HR 40, which will create the Commission to Study and Develop Proposals for African-Americans Act. This study commission would thoroughly research the history of slavery as well as the post-Civil War Reconstruction era, the decades

of Jim Crow discrimination and our current period which includes Black Lives Matter. The commission would then offer possible remedies to historic racial discrimination, which the Federal government would implement.

“In supporting HR 40, JANM recognizes the value of commissioning a government study of the generations of racial prejudice and the failure of the country to address systemic racism. It also recognizes that the Japanese American community owes a historic debt to the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, which provided the example for its own fight for redress in the 1980s. Finally, in understanding the success of the Japanese American redress campaign, JANM acknowledges the essential role played by those who supported this effort because it was the right thing to do for America.

» See HR 40 on page 5





## A MOTHER'S TAKE

### MY JOURNEY WITH GRIEF

By Marsha Aizumi

Last month, I wrote about the passing of my brother, Marty Ogino. Since it was so sudden and this was a sibling that I loved so deeply, I experienced a depth of grief that I never knew before.

At my age and the age of many baby boomers, we will be facing the pain of death more often than the joy of birth, so I wanted to share my thoughts now that a month has passed since I lost my brother.

These are things I learned from others or through my experience. Since grief is so personal, perhaps these will not resonate with you. But I wish I learned some of these things, so I could have been a better friend as people grieved.

If it speaks to you, I hope it gives you permission to feel all that you feel in your time of grief and an understanding of what others may be going through. If it doesn't speak to you, it is just my personal thoughts and experiences . . .

#### THINGS THAT CONSOLED ME:

- I appreciated those who gave me space to grieve. I remember one person writing in an email two days after I lost my brother . . . "Marsha just needs time to heal." She was so right. And though I know I will still have difficult moments, time has eased the pain.
- I appreciated people crying with me and sharing their experiences of losing a sibling or loved one. I felt so vulnerable when I cried,

and when people were vulnerable back, my heart connected with them and I felt heard. This also gave me permission to lean into all that I was feeling and not judge myself.

- I appreciated my husband and best friend saying that I should do what I needed to do as I grieved. Sometimes that meant I stayed in bed, curled up, feeling my loss. Other times, it was to watch television to give myself some respite from the painful thoughts of no longer having Marty in my life. But mostly, it was to be allowed to grieve in the way that was best for me.
- I appreciated people sharing how much my brother touched their lives. Hearing stories made me remember the good Marty brought into the world and not just the sadness that he was no longer here.
- I appreciated people not trying to cheer me up or feeling bad FOR me. I know people were doing so out of love and care, but it made me feel like it was NOT OK to be sad. On the other hand, when people felt sad WITH me, it allowed me to be vulnerable in my grief. I know in the past I have

tried to cheer people up. In the future, I will be different. I will listen to what they need and just BE with them in their sadness, their memories or how they want to be comforted.

#### THINGS I LEARNED:

- Everybody grieves differently. We all must find our way back to our life in the way that works best for us. For me, it was not putting any timetable on my grief, but just allowing it to be what it was.
- Asking for what I needed and receiving the support was such a welcomed response. For meetings that I did not feel could be canceled, I asked for support, and others graciously stepped up to lead. That was such a gift. I didn't feel guilty, but I felt cared for.
- I could not love my brother so deeply without grieving his passing in the same way. I had to feel the pain and devastation, so as time allows me to heal, I could feel the love and the connection we had. If I numbed myself to the pain, I would have numbed all he was to me. Keeping my heart open was

hard, but it was important.

I hope some of my thoughts will help you if you lose someone you love or comfort someone who has lost a loved one. There is a children's book called "The Rabbit Listened" by Cora Doerrfeld. One of my dear friends, Jennifer, sent it to me.

The author wrote this book as a reminder that often what a person needs most is someone who will just be there with them and listen. I am so grateful for all of those who sat and listened to me.

Marty was such an amazing human being when he was alive, and I can see that he continues to be that amazing person even after he is gone. How else would I have been able to write this column and share all that I have experienced without his inspiration whispering in my ear. Rest in peace and love, dear brother. You will always be in my heart . . .

*Marsha Aizumi is an advocate for the LGBTQ+ community and author of the book "Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance."*



## REFLECTIONS

### PHASE 2 OF JAPANESE AMERICAN REDRESS HAS BEGUN

By Phil Tajitsu Nash

Phase 2 of the historic Japanese American campaign for redress is underway. The signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which many of you supported (thank you!), gave redress to Japanese Americans who were citizens and legal permanent residents when they were interned during World War II, but Japanese Latin Americans were excluded.

Now, after a major victory in the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), JLAs are calling upon everyone who supported Phase 1 of the redress campaign to call the Biden administration on Feb. 24 between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. ET to urge them to honor the rule of international law and give appropriate redress to Japanese Latin Americans.

In teaching about the Japanese American redress campaign for 38 years in my Asian American Studies classes, I have heard many students say that they wish that they had been around in the 1980s to participate in Phase 1 of the campaign.

This semester, I am happy to tell my students that they as individuals, student groups and members of local JACL chapters and other groups can now become active in Redress Phase 2.

Likewise, I have spoken at many Day of Remembrance activities over the decades to memorialize the Feb. 19, 1942, signing of President Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066.

Now, starting with the DOR in 2022, we can all get involved in Days of ACTION, as well as Days of Remembrance by contacting the JLA community and offering to help.

On the day after the Civil Liberties Act was passed in 1988, all of the supporters of that landmark bill should have seen 1988 as the end of Phase 1 of the Japanese American redress movement and started work on Phase 2: redress for the JLA members of the JA community.

Some participated in the Mochizuki lawsuit and other JLA redress efforts but, for a variety of reasons, most did not. However, thanks to the perseverance of the JLA community and their

strong supporters, an international human rights tribunal has looked at the situation and decided that the United States owes redress to JLAs.

Without the need for a Congressional fact-finding commission or other Congressional actions, the *Shibayama* case provides a clear opportunity for the Biden administration to give JLAs the redress they were denied in 1988.

During WWII, Isamu Carlos "Art" Shibayama and his family, people of Japanese ancestry living in Peru, were kidnapped by and forcibly transported to the U.S. They had their passports taken away, were branded "illegal aliens" and were held in a U.S. internment camp in Texas, as hostages to be exchanged with Japan. On Sept. 9, 1946, they were released from detention but neither permitted repatriation to Peru nor granted legal immigration status in the U.S.

In order to be allowed to stay in the U.S., the Shibayamas and other JLAs were forced to work for minimal wages under severe conditions in Seabrook, N.J., after World War II. Compounding the indignities, some (but not all) JLAs, such as Art Shibayama, served in the U.S. military during the Korean War and STILL could not get U.S. citizenship. Only later in life was he able to become a citizen, start a small business and raise a family in California.

After being excluded from the 1988 Civil Liberties Act, the JLA internees pursued five lawsuits and two failed pieces of legislation in Congress before deciding in 2003 to file an international law case at

the IACHR, part of the Organization of American States (an organization founded in 1948 to promote solidarity and co-operation between the countries of the Americas).

Fifteen years later, on Dec. 7, 2018, the IACHR approved Merit Report 154/18, which recommended in the *Shibayama* case that the U.S. government:

1. "Make integral reparation for the human rights violations established in this report, including both the material and moral dimensions, and adopt measures for economic compensation and measures of satisfaction. In this regard, the State should take into account the specific reparations requested by the petitioners as the parties come to an agreement about what constitutes integral reparation in this case."
2. "Adopt the necessary measures to ensure full disclosure of government information relating to the program of deportation and internment of Japanese Latin Americans during World War II, as well as relating to the fates of the individuals subject to this program." (IACHR Merit Report 26/20, page 16)

After two years of inaction by the Trump administration, the IACHR finally made public and published Merits Report No. 26/20 on April 22, 2020. It concluded that the U.S. was "responsible for the violation of the rights to equality before the law and an effective remedy established in articles II and XVIII of the American Declaration, to the detriment of Isamu Carlos, Kenichi Javier and

Takeshi Jorge Shibayama." Please refer to the OAS/IACHR website for more information (<http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/decisions/merits.asp>).

It has now been 22 months since that historic IACHR decision, and the time has come for the U.S. to complete the redress process it started in 1988.

I as an individual and AALDEF as an organization plan to work with the Japanese Latin American community throughout the coming year to publicize the WWII-era human rights violations committed against them and galvanize the nationwide Asian American and Pacific Islander community, the Latinx community, the African American community, the human rights community and all people of good will to support JLA redress.

*For more details about how you can get involved in Redress Phase 2, please refer to <https://jla.campaignforjustice.org>.*

*Professor Phil Tajitsu Nash is co-president of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund and teaches Asian American Studies at the University of Maryland. He participated in Phase 1 of the redress movement as a lawyer at AALDEF, a board member of the New York JACL, a researcher at the National Archives with Jack and Aiko Herzog-Yoshinaga, a lobbyist for the Washington Coalition on Redress and a reporter at the NY Nichibei and other community papers.*

## RESOLUTION » continued from page 2

leading this resolution, and we hope to continue the education and work to heal the damage done. The City must acknowledge the suffering and make efforts to right the wrong.”

“Today with the increase of anti-Asian hate attacks, the Board of Supervisors must recognize its role and participation in the forced evacuation and begin the conversations around restitution of the civil and economic losses the Japanese American community suffered,” said Chan. “With that, I look forward to continuing the work with Supervisor Preston and the Japanese American community to repair the past harms.”

“The legacy of internment of Japanese Americans is a shameful chapter in our nation’s history, one in which our City played a critical role,” said Preston, whose district includes Japantown. “As leaders, we must acknowledge and apologize for the past and work with community members and city agencies to reverse the damage, combat racism and ensure the strength and vitality of San Francisco’s Japantown.”

The Japantown community has also requested the Board of Supervisors formally commission a study to document its role in actively supporting racist and systemic forms of oppression toward San Francisco’s Japanese American community. ■

## HR 40 » continued from page 3

“Similarly, in dealing with over 400 years of racial prejudice, the United States must address this historic issue properly because it is the right thing to do for the country. HR 40 is a major step in understanding the events and ramifications of this story, as CWRIC was for the Japanese American World War II experience.

“We urge you to pass HR 40 out of your committee so the Commission to Study and Develop Proposals for African-Americans Act can begin the important task of documenting and sharing this American story so that this country can seek new remedies to a historic wrong.

“In conclusion, ‘communities of color’ should support one another against racial prejudice and discrimination. If you are so inclined to support HR 40, you can contact Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress (formally known as National Coalition for Redress/Reparations) at (213) 284-0336. Their email address is <https://ncrr-la.org/index.html>.”

*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](mailto: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.*

# AMACHE JAPANESE AMERICAN INCARCERATION SITE ON VERGE OF BECOMING NATIONAL PARK SITE

## Unanimous Senate passage puts preservation campaign waged by survivors, descendants and advocates near completion.

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — A former World War II Japanese American incarceration site in Colorado known as Amache is on the verge of becoming a national park site following unanimous Senate passage of the bipartisan Amache National Historic Site Act (HR 2497) on Feb. 14.

Once signed into law, the former incarceration site in southeast Colorado will fall under the protection of the National Park Service. Survivors and descendants of Amache will have their story honored, interpreted and preserved for generations to come.

The bipartisan legislation by Reps. Joe Neguse (D-Colo.) and Ken Buck (R-Colo.) overwhelmingly passed the House by 416-2 in July 2021. In the Senate, with leadership from Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) and John Hickenlooper, (D-Colo.), the bill passed unanimously, and slightly amended, through the Senate energy committee in the fall of 2021. The bill next heads back to the House of Representatives for a final vote.

“This continued growth of our national park system is crucial for it to preserve locations and stories in American history, including those that are not easy to hear but essential to tell,” said Theresa Pierno, president and chief executive of the National Parks Conservation Assn. “The unconstitutional imprisonment of Japanese Americans is an undeniably tragic story. But by preserving Amache, we can ensure that as a country we confront our mistakes, honor the stories of those who were unjustly imprisoned and protect the site for future generations.”

“Through bipartisan action and listening to the enduring voice of the Amache community and all of us who have called for its history to be preserved, we will soon see the Amache National Historic Site in our park system,” said Tracy Coppola, Colorado senior program manager at NPCA. “We commend Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper and Congressmen Neguse and Buck for their leadership in

providing a critical opportunity for our country to respect, honor and heal at Amache.

“We are forever grateful to the Amache Preservation Society, the Town of Granada, the National Park Service, Gov. (Jared) Polis, Amache descendants and the storytellers, historians, civil rights and military veteran groups, offices of tourism, preservation offices, county commissioners and other local elected for seeing this through. Amid the tremendous local and national support, this moment stands on the shoulders of giants — the Amache survivors, who, with incredible generosity and strength have waited for this day for so long, and who now will never be forgotten,” Coppola added.

“I have waited many, many years to see the day where we can be certain that Amache, as a place of reflection, remembrance, honor and healing, is protected for our current and future generations,” said Bob Fuchigami, an Amache survivor. “Passage of the Amache National Historic Site Act in the Senate brings me hope that we are finally closer to this certainty, and I thank Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper for their leadership. My parents did not live to see this day. The time is not only right; it is long overdue.”

“My father, David Takada, along with my grandparents, Kakuji and Fumi Takada, and my uncle, Andrew Takada, were all incarcerated in Amache,” said Michael Takada, Amache descendant and chief executive officer of the Japanese American Service Committee. “They lived for decades with a sense of shame and deep emotional pain and trauma. My grandparents have passed away, but my dad and uncle, 97 and 95, respectively, are fortunately alive and

in relatively good health. But we have a narrow window to help heal these wounds and provide a sense of closure for them and the few remaining Amache survivors. With each day, we are losing survivors and descendants. Thanks to bipartisan leadership in the U.S. House and Senate, the Amache bill is very close to the legislative finish line.”

Nearly 80 years ago, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, putting in motion one of the most shameful events in U.S. history that forced over 120,000 Japanese Americans — mostly U.S. citizens — from their homes. The men, women and children were sent without trial into incarceration sites and detention centers located primarily in the West and Southwest.

Japanese American incarceration was a part of the United States’ unconstitutional treatment of people of Japanese descent during WWII and a symbol of anti-Asian sentiment before, during and after the war.

The Amache incarceration site was only half-built when the first prisoners arrived in 1942, forcing many to construct the very housing units in which they were imprisoned. Taken from Colorado farmers by eminent domain, the site covered 10,000 acres on the high, desolate plains of Colorado close to the town of Granada. Surrounding the site was barbed wire and guarded watchtowers.

The government finally closed Amache on Oct. 15, 1945, after more than 7,500 Japanese Americans had been taken from their homes and incarcerated there.

Amache has the distinction of having the highest rate of military volunteerism per capita than any of the other incarceration sites and its prolific silkscreen shop created more than 10,000 war posters, a likely reflection of ongoing efforts of Japanese prisoners to actively prove their patriotism. Thirty-one Amache men were killed in the war, including one Medal of Honor recipient.

Survivors and descendants of Amache have worked for decades to honor and preserve the land at risk of being forgotten, with assistance from the Amache Preservation Society, civil rights groups, veterans’ groups, academics, public lands advocates, the Town of Granada and other local and state elected officials.

Once signed, the Amache incarceration site will be protected as an official site of the National Park System, with other Japanese American incarcerations sites such as Manzanar, Tule Lake, Minidoka and Honouliuli.

» See AMACHE on page 8



Amache entrance

PHOTO CREDIT: ATHENA MARI ASKLIPIADIS

# ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

Onscreen, ‘Manzanar, Diverted’ examines the intersections of race and history. Between the frames, it centers three generations of Japanese American female activists.

By Lynda Lin Grigsby,  
Contributor

Ann Kaneko is driving back to Los Angeles from the Mammoth Film Festival, somewhere between Big Pine and Independence. Big country stretches beyond Highway 395 where the Inyo and Sierra Nevada Mountains tower over the valley.

The road from Mammoth takes her right to Manzanar, so she plans to drop in. The casual way she says this implies a sense of intimacy with the historic site — like it is a relative’s house, and she wants to stretch her legs and say hello to all the aunties and uncles. The closeness between Kaneko and the place grew over five years as she worked on her new documentary, “Manzanar, Diverted: When Water Turns to Dust.”

The stories of land and water use, the forced removal of Native Americans and the incarceration of Japanese Americans all converge in this place.

“The intersectionality of the film emphasizes that we are all in this together,” says Kaneko. She stops to gas up her silver Prius at the same station in Mojave every time she makes this trip because prices



Ann Kaneko (left) attended the Mammoth Film Festival with Sky Vasquez, a filmmaker and member of the Bishop Paiute Tribe.

Ann at the Mammoth Film Festival



here are cheaper than in Los Angeles.

She considers herself an educator first, both as an independent filmmaker and a media studies teacher at Pitzer College in Claremont, Calif. Her camera’s focus makes her an activist and a sorority member of the intergenerational Japanese American activists featured in “Manzanar, Diverted.”

Kaneko is Sansei, the connection between Sue Kunitomi Embrey, the Nisei activist and longtime chair of the Manzanar Committee, and her Yonsei granddaughter, Monica Mariko Embrey, whose passionate spoken words about environmental justice can spur a sudden onset of goosebumps.

Many stories have sprung from the dust of Manzanar. Its emotional and psychic toll has been combed through

and picked apart, so before making this film, Kaneko often wondered what is new to tell?

She drives past the guard tower many times on the road to Mammoth in search of majestic peaks and crisp air. The open land surrounding Manzanar in the Owens Valley inspires awe — like a wilderness unchecked.

Nature is, as poet John Ruskin once described, a painting for us. A closer look tells a different story.

In her research, Kaneko discovered the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) owned almost all the land in the Owens Valley, including Manzanar. Before Japanese Americans were incarcerated on the site, Native Americans were violently forced out in order to tap the most precious resource — water. To supply water to Los Angeles residents, aqueducts slowly siphoned from the valley, turning water to dust.

Suddenly, the nature painting along the highway and the dust storms often depicted in World War II camp photos and videos eerily rising from the ground look like a vengeful spirit released on vulnerable people.

In the memory of her loved one, Sue Embrey, a former Manzanar incarcernee, coughs and coughs.

It was a dry and persistent cough, often aggravated by the Santa Ana winds that rustle branches outside her Echo Park home and stir up memories of her incarceration. Sue Embrey hated the wind.

She died in 2006 from inhaling air pollution released in the choking dust over Owens Lake, says Monica Embrey. The Los Angeles Aqueduct drained the lake’s precious snowpack and spring water.

Since 1926, the lake has sat dry with pollutants settled on the surface, ready to be picked up by the vengeful wind. The lake was drained so that Los Angeles residents could fill swimming pools and water thirsty lawns. This is not to make anyone feel guilty, an environmentalist insists in the film, it’s to point out the

disconnect between turning on a faucet and knowing where the water comes from.

It’s about knowing the impact on people and a sacred place like Manzanar, so traumatizing that a breeze could transport Sue Embrey back behind barbed wire, but also so important that she would fight to designate the place a national historic site and lead people back every year in a pilgrimage.

Kaneko and the Embreys want you to hear what Buddhist Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh called the sound of the Earth crying within us.

“I think of ways in which environmental injustice plays out is very much the heart of my work and part of why I’m so committed to and dedicated to ensuring that communities of color and low-income households, women and children are able to see justice,” says Monica Embrey, senior associate director of national energy campaigns for the Sierra Club.

At her desk in her home less than a mile away from her grandmother’s house where the Manzanar Committee was born and where her dad, Bruce Embrey, carries on the legacy, Monica Embrey has a picture of her grandmother and a Post-it note handwritten with an enduring message: “Love you.”

From this desk, she attends many virtual meetings — still a necessity in the pandemic — on how to ensure the burden of environmental pollution does not continue to fall on communities of color.

“Activism is its own energy, its own impulse,” said Char Miller, professor of environmental analysis and history at Pomona College, where former student Monica Embrey wrote her senior thesis on water and colonial history in Manzanar and the Owens Valley. “But its origins, in Monica’s case, are a partial result [of] bearing witness to her family’s engagement in and with the world. But it is also driven by her convictions about how to confront the inequities that persist — and new ones that erupt.”



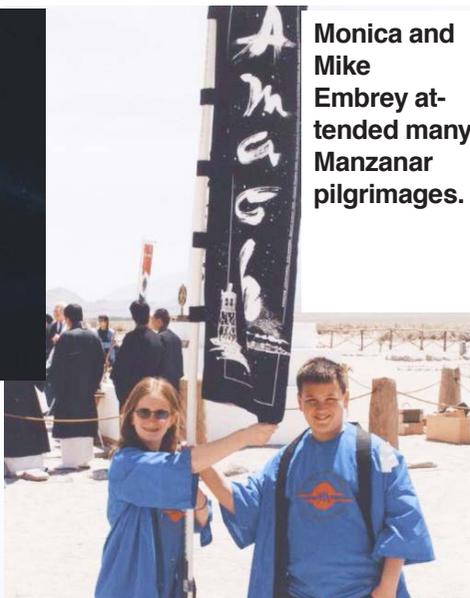
“She tirelessly pursued her ideas and explored related avenues until she found what she was looking for,” said Kathy Jefferson Bancroft (right) about filmmaker Ann Kaneko.



Ann Kaneko spent five years making “Manzanar, Diverted.”



Sue Embrey



Monica and Mike Embrey attended many Manzanar pilgrimages.



Sue and Monica



(From left) The Embrey family: Michael, Bruce, Monica, Jack, Sue, Donald and Phoebe.



“Ever since I was a little girl, my grandmother was my hero,” says Monica Embrey (left) with her grandmother and brother Michael.

Few other families, Monica Embrey jokes, have an annual family reunion on historic land with hundreds in attendance. Isn't she lucky? She grew up always within earshot of the latest community news and coalition effort, so even if she isn't directly from the land that held her grandmother prisoner, she is still born from it.

At a Feb. 4 virtual meeting of the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the agency charged with regulating sources of air pollution in Southern California, many residents took up the public comment portion of the meeting to report on an overwhelming odor of decaying animal carcasses seeping out from rendering plants in their neighborhoods and air pollution coming from the clog of ships in the ports of San Pedro and Long Beach.

One of the Sierra Club's priorities is to allow affected community members to tell their own stories. It is an intentional tactic inspired in part by the redress movement when Nisei like Sue Embrey unbosomed their memories about the camps before the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC).

“The period I spent in Manzanar was the most traumatic experience of my life,” said Sue Embrey at the Aug. 5, 1981, hearing. “It has influenced my perspective as well as my continuing efforts to educate, persuade, and encourage others of my generation to speak out about the unspeakable crime.”

With the picture of her grandmother looking on, Monica Embrey tries to safeguard the same space for vulnerable communities to speak out.

“There is something so profoundly powerful when people can tell their stories and speak their truth,” she says.

Call her a contrarian. Kaneko always tries to push the boundaries of storytelling.

“Why bother just doing the same old thing everyone else has done?” she says. “That's boring.”

You can see that in “Manzanar, Diverted” when the camera focuses on an anthill and then zooms out to a sweeping drone footage of the Manzanar monument, a sentinel against the background of the Sierra Nevada mountains described in “A Farewell to Manzanar” as “purple when the sun dropped and so sharply etched in the morning light the granite dazzled almost more than the bright snow lacing it.”

This is only her second film about the Japanese American World War II experience. Her 2012 short film “A Flicker in Eternity” tells the coming-of-age story of Stanley

Hayami from an idealist teenager to 442nd Regimental Combat Team soldier.

Her reluctance to make a film that overlapped with her own family's incarceration history — Rohwer and Jerome — was in part because she wondered what new story could be told, especially about Manzanar, arguably the most iconic of the camps?

Before she became a filmmaker, young Kaneko visited Manzanar with her parents and read that the camp was built on Los Angeles DWP land, but she did not know what that meant. How could she not know? Her family has lived in Los Angeles for three generations, and she considers herself to be smarter than the average bear.

The disconnect is intentional. That is how history is taught, says Kathy Jefferson Bancroft, the Lone Pine Tribal historic preservation officer, who is featured in the documentary. It is a deliberate sectioning off and sanitizing of intersecting histories.

“We carry this with us through our lives unless somebody or some experience wakes us up to the fact that these are all of our histories,” says Bancroft.

In Buddhism, Thich Nhat Hanh calls it interbeings, the belief in which we live in connection to all others — there is no you or me, just us. When this connectivity is severed, we risk atrocities both to each other and to the Earth.

In 1863, the U.S. military violently forced the Newe and Paiute people off their land in the Owens Valley. They were forced to take a 200-mile journey to Fort Tejon, so the government could take control of the land and water. Many Owens Valley Native Americans died on the journey. The survivors came back because they were of the land.

The land bore witness to another forced removal in 1942, this time to Manzanar.

“It was like watching another vanquishment,” say Beverly Newell, Bancroft's aunt, in the film, about the Japanese Americans coming into the valley.

The film layers footage of the valley's indigenous people in moments of joy with clips of Japanese Americans doing the same around their barracks during WWII. This is Kaneko's way of reminding us we are in this together.

Between the frames, the connectivity of these intergenerational female activists is what sets this film apart.

“I think that's what's so great about Ann's work,” said Bruce Embrey. “Highlighting Kathy's work and passion for her people, showing how we are stronger together is just so important to help keep persevering and working to make our country a better place.”

She likes to make things, says Kaneko, so if she were to make pots instead of films, the pots would likely be deconstructed or reimagined in ways that make the everyday household item seem new again.

Is she an activist? She turns the word over with her tongue, tries it on, and decides it does not fit. She is an educator.

It's a mindset that she carries on from her mother, Masako Kuratomi Kaneko, whose heart's desire to become an educator was thwarted by the forced removal. Her mother helped pay for her younger sisters' education. When she received her reparations money, she gave most of it away to educational institutions and told her daughter to be who she wanted to be. Make films, don't worry. These were opportunities she did not have for herself.

So, Kaneko makes an intimate film about the history of the Owens Valley in her own style and tells a story about the place differently.

At the Mammoth Film Festival, about 20 people attend in the waning grip of Omicron. The resort town can feel exclusive, like a Hollywood offshoot except with snow, a lot of it heaped on the side of the roads on a sunny day in February.

It's one of the rare opportunities these days to watch her film in a darkened theater with a real audience. Kaneko looks for brief cameos of the back of a little girl with pigtails.

Her daughter Ceiba, 11, appears in the film as mostly a sprite-like presence flitting through in one scene and eating a persimmon in another while standing near the aqueduct.

Making this film was the first time Kaneko brought her daughter to work and placed her within earshot of discussions about intersecting histories and environmental justice, as told by intergenerational female activists. Bancroft is like her auntie now whenever they return to Owens Valley.

Ceiba is not from the land, but she is born from it.

For more information, visit [www.manzanardiverted.com](http://www.manzanardiverted.com).



## AMACHE QUOTES

**KEN KITAJIMA,**  
Amache survivor:

*“As a young boy at Amache, I never thought I’d see an America that cared about my story. I am now a 91-year-old veteran who served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, 1950-54. Thank you, Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper, for your leadership and the great decisions made regarding Amache as a National Park Historic Site. When signed by the president, long-lasting U.S. history will be made.”*

**MIN TONAI,**  
Amache survivor:

*“Many young men at Amache served in the U.S. Army, though their country incarcerated them for their Japanese ancestry. I was 10 and incarcerated along with my mother and siblings at Amache, where I was also a Boy Scout. In 1943, our camp troop went to the Granada Railroad Station at four in the morning to see the young enlisted men off. Our scout commissioner told us to play as loud as we could. Years later, I served as a medic in the U.S. Army Korean War. In the 1980s, I worked to preserve Amache, organizing reunions and working on various preservation efforts. Thank you to the Senate for passing the Amache National Historic Act so that these efforts are not forgotten.”*

**KEN TSUKADA,**  
Amache descendant:

*“Amache should be considered a National Historic Site as well as a WWII memorial to honor the 120,000 individuals who served our country through incarceration. My grandfather died there; my cousins were born there, and all left after ‘serving’ the U.S. in a time of war. When I think of Amache, I am proud of all those who sacrificed their lives with humble dignity and courage beyond anything I have ever had to endure. And, yes, proud that America could recognize its mistakes and provide the opportunity for the descendants to fulfill many of the dreams that were stolen. Today, we are one giant step closer to seeing this through.”*

**DR. KAREN  
KOREMATSU,**

*Founder and Executive  
Director, The Fred T.  
Korematsu Institute:*

*“My father, Fred Korematsu, was an American civil rights hero who bravely resisted the Japanese American incarceration during World War II and dedicated his life to protecting the civil liberties of all people. His story resonates today as a critical example of the lifelong impacts of losing one’s fundamental rights and freedoms. Now, more than ever, the lessons of history need to be learned. I commend the Senate, and the leadership of Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper, for today’s vote on the Amache National Historic Site Act, and will be looking to President Biden to see this through.”*

**JARED POLIS,**  
Governor of Colorado:

*“The Amache site as a National Park unit highlights the injustices of the internment of Japanese Americans, one of our nation’s darkest chapters. Colorado is home to world-class national parks and adding the Amache site honors those values and our history.”*

**DR. DYLAN MORI,**  
Mile High Japanese American  
Citizens League President:

*“Japanese American incarceration was part of the U.S. government’s racist and xenophobic policies throughout history. By acknowledging this part of our past, we can continue the process of healing and reconciliation. The passage of the Amache National Historic Site Act will help to*

*ensure that the history of Amache in Colorado is not forgotten.”*

**JOHN HOPPER,**  
Amache Preservation Society  
and Granada School District:

*“The Amache Preservation Society has always wanted to do what was best for the Japanese American families that had to endure Amache. It is for this reason that we feel that it needs to become a part of the National Park System. For the sake of our country and the future of our children, the Amache National Historic Site Act needs to become law.”*

**ANN BURROUGHS,**  
Chair of the Japanese American  
Confinement Sites Consortium:

*“The Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium is proud to support the Amache National Historic Site Act, which reaffirms the National Park Service’s commitment to preserving and interpreting sites that convey difficult chapters in our nation’s history. The Japanese American story illustrates the rich cultural heritage of the nation spanning generations, while the incarceration of over 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry in violation of their civil liberties provides lessons today in learning from history and correcting our mistakes to prevent them from happening again. Because of today’s Senate passage, we now look forward to building upon a legacy of government and community partnerships to protect Japanese American confinement sites with the designation of Amache National Historic Site.”* ■

## AMACHE » continued from page 5

## JACL APPLAUDS PASSAGE OF BILL TO ADD AMACHE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE TO NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

By JACL National

The Senate unanimously passed legislation on Feb. 14 to establish the Amache National Historic Site, located outside of Granada, Colo., as a part of the National Park System. The legislation was led by Colorado Senators Michael Bennet (D) and John Hickenlooper (D) and Colorado U.S. Representatives Joe Neguse (D) and Ken Buck (R).

Amache was one of the 10 American concentration camps where nearly 120,000 people of Japanese descent were incarcerated during WWII under the false pretense of national security. Over 7,000 men, women and children were at Amache, formally known as the Granada War Relocation Center.

The passage of this legislation this week is particularly poignant as on Feb. 19, we commemorate the 80th anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s signing of Executive Order 9066, which paved the way for the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans in the following months.

The result was thousands of families uprooted from their homes with little to no time to pack any belongings or set their affairs in order. The government issued a formal apology for what it had done through the passage of the Civil

Liberties Act of 1988.

JACL Executive Director David Inoue stated upon passage of the legislation: “This is an important action by our nation in acknowledging the injustice that was inflicted upon the Japanese American community by our government. This will be an opportunity to share not only the injustice of what happened to those incarcerated at Amache, but also puts their story in the context of Colorado’s history and the bravery of Gov. Ralph Carr, who was the rare politician who stood up for the rights of Japanese Americans and opposed the incarceration. His steadfast values cost him his political career.”

JACL looks forward to President Biden’s signature on this bill and the expanded opportunities for the American people to learn our nation’s dark history with an eye to how we can make our country better in the future. ■



STACI TOJI, ESQ.

TOJI LAW, APC

Estate Planning for the Generations

3655 Torrance Blvd., Suite 300 | Torrance, CA 90503

(424) 247-1123 | staci@tojilaw.com | www.tojilaw.com

LIVING TRUSTS | WILLS | POWERS OF ATTORNEY

# NEW LEADERSHIP AT MINIDOKA NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, FRIENDS OF MINIDOKA

**JEROME, IDAHO** — The National Park Service is pleased to announce the selection of Kurt Ikeda and Emily Teraoka to serve as the director of interpretation and education and lead park ranger, respectively, for Minidoka National Historic Site. In addition, Friends of Minidoka is equally pleased to announce the selection of Robyn Achilles to serve as the organization’s executive director.

Minidoka National Historic Site, established in 2001 as a unit of the National Park Service, interprets the exclusion and unjust incarceration of approximately 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II; more than 13,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated at Minidoka alone. Since 2003, Friends of Mini-

doka has supported the mission of Minidoka National Historic Site by engaging in education, research and historic preservation activities.

Ikeda will manage the site’s interpretation, education and community outreach programs, and Teraoka will oversee all aspects of the visitor center operations and further development of the site’s interpretative exhibits and programming. Achilles brings more than 20 years of nonprofit leadership experience to Friends of Minidoka, most recently with the Community Library in Ketchum, Idaho.

All three individuals identify as descendants of the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans and bring their personal identities and

professional experiences to the education and preservation of the site.

“We are beyond fortunate to have staff as talented and dedicated as Kurt, Emily and Robyn on our team” said Wade Vagias, superintendent for three National Parks in southern Idaho, including Minidoka. “The future of both Minidoka National Historic Site and Friends of Minidoka is so bright with these three individuals in positions of leadership.”

“We are so grateful to have Robyn as our new executive director,” said Andy Dunn, president of Friends of Minidoka. “Her passion, vision and leadership abilities bring so much to Friends of Minidoka.”

“Robyn hit the ground running and has already shown that she is



(From left) Kurt Ikeda, Robyn Achilles and Emily Teraoka will lead the Minidoka National Historic Site (Ikeda and Teraoka) and Friends of Minidoka (Achilles).

the perfect person to take Friends of Minidoka to the next level,” Dunn continued. “As the partner organization for Minidoka National Historic Site, working with NPS is a huge part of what we do, and we are equally

excited about the new staff there. Our two organizations had big shoes to fill, but Kurt, Emily and Robyn are more than capable to usher in a new era of preserving and protecting Minidoka’s legacy.”

# TANFORAN MEMORIAL BREAKS GROUND

In a ceremony held on Feb. 11 by the Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Committee, ground was officially broken to begin construction of a memorial to the 8,000 people of Japanese descent who were unjustly imprisoned at Tanforan Assembly Center in April 1942. The memorial will be constructed on the site of the original Tanforan Racetrack, currently housing the San Bruno BART Station and the shops at Tanforan shopping center.

The memorial is being partially funded by the National Park Service: Japanese American Confinement Sites Program, the San Bruno Community Foundation, the San Bruno Culture and Arts Commission and the new owners of the Shops property, Alexandria Real Estate



Members of the Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Committee at the groundbreaking ceremony

PHOTO: COURTESY OF STEVE OKAMOTO

Equities. In addition to the hundreds of individual donors, RHAA, a landscape architect firm, has donated its services as architects and engineers on a pro bono basis.

During the ceremony, Congresswoman Jackie Speier (D-CA 14th District) gave an emotional speech, which was followed by the “turning of dirt.” The first group to “turn dirt”

was the TACMC, which was led by Chairman Doug Yamamoto.

Steve Okamoto, vice chair of the committee, said: “The committee has had to overcome years of delays,

frustration and obstacles. But the day has finally arrived when we can take the first step to creating this memorial and honor our parents and grandparents who had to suffer through humiliation and the loss of homes and businesses.”

The memorial will be completed in the spring, where a ribbon-cutting event will take place, highlighted by the unveiling of a bronze statue that is modeled after Miyuki and Hiroko Mochida who are depicted while waiting for a bus to transport them and their family to Tanforan.

The TACMC is asking for additional donations to complete the funding for the memorial.

For more information, visit [www.tanforanmemorial.org](http://www.tanforanmemorial.org).

# UTES RETIRE MISAKA’S JERSEY

Wataru Misaka’s jersey retirement ceremony at the University of Utah



Sen. Jani Iwamoto and Rep. Steve Eliason, the floor sponsors of SCR 3 (Concurrent Resolution Honoring Wataru Misaka), at the 2020 General Session

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF SEN. JANI IWAMOTO



Wat Misaka is pictured with JACL National President Jeffrey Moy in 2019. Misaka received the President’s Award at the organization’s National Convention.

PHOTO: GEORGE T. JOHNSTON

The number 20 basketball jersey will forever be remembered at the University of Utah’s Jon M. Huntsman Center. In a ceremony held on Jan. 22 at the University of Utah, the Utes officially retired the jersey belonging to former player Wataru “Wats” Misaka, making him the eighth men’s player from Utah to have his jersey hung from the center’s rafters.

Participants in the ceremony consisted of members of Misaka’s family, including his daughter, Nancy Umemura, and son, Hank Misaka, as well as State Sen. Jani Iwamoto and State Rep. Steve Eliason, both of whom were co-sponsors of a 2020 resolution honoring Misaka, which was passed by the Utah State Legislature.

Misaka, who passed away in 2019 at age 95, helped guide the Utes to

the 1944 National Championship and the 1947 NIT title before being drafted by the New York Knicks in 1947, becoming the first player of Japanese descent and the first nonwhite player in the NBA, which was then known as the Basketball Association of America.

Speaking on behalf of the family during the ceremony, Umemura said: “I want to thank three groups of people. First, to those who made this event possible, to Sen. Jani Iwamoto, to Rep. Steve Eliason, and to Max Chang for sponsoring the resolution in the Utah Legislature and for petitioning the university to this, to [University of Utah Director of Athletics] Mark Harlan and the Athletics Department for honoring Wat in this permanent way, and to

» See UTES on page 12

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

**2022 JACL/OCA Leadership Summit**  
Washington, D.C.; May 21-24

**Event Details:** Covid vaccination is required; all government safety protocols will be followed, including masks for all activities.

**Application Deadline to Register:** March 6. Participation is open to all current JACL members.

This four-day annual program introduces community leaders from across the U.S. to the national policy-making arena. The conference is structured to provide a broad overview of the decision-making process at the federal level, including meetings and briefings by public officials, key policymakers who serve in Congress, the White House, federal agencies, advocacy organizations and the media. **Info:** To learn more and to register, visit <https://jacl.wufoo.com/forms/kjmqxag0ulgxnt/>.

## NCWNP

**Active Threat Training and Response for Communities and Businesses**  
Sacramento, CA  
March 7, 9 a.m. and Noon; March 9, 9 a.m. and Noon  
Virtual Webinar  
Price: Free

The Sacramento Urban Area Security Initiative is offering this webinar that will provide individuals with the confidence needed in order to protect and defend their own lives and dependents in the event of an intruder, active shooter or threat or other terror attack. Participants will learn how to make decisions and respond when an active threat has been identified. Training is approximately one hour of content and then additional time for a Q & A session.

**Info:** Spaces can be reserved on Eventbrite. For more info., contact [BGlynn@pd.cityofsacramento.org](mailto:BGlynn@pd.cityofsacramento.org) for more information.

**'Disrupted Life: Replica Barrack From the Tule Lake Internment Camp' Exhibit**

Yuba City, CA  
Through May 1

The Sutter County Museum  
1333 Butte House Road  
Price: Free Admission

"Disrupted Life" discusses anti-immigration sentiments in the U.S. and the effects and aftermath of Executive Order 9066 in 1942. The exhibit also includes a replica barrack to demonstrate what daily life was like at the Tule Lake Internment Camp. This exhibit was developed by the Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology at California State University, Chico, with support from, among others, the Marysville chapter of the JACL.

**Info:** For more details about the exhibit, visit [www.suttercountymuseum.org](http://www.suttercountymuseum.org).

'Silent Spikes: Following in the

**Footprints of Chinese Railroad Workers' Exhibit**  
San Francisco, CA  
Thru May 22

San Francisco Public Library  
100 Larkin St.  
Price: Free

This exhibit honors Chinese railroad workers who helped build the Central Pacific western portion of the Transcontinental Railroad. Their story is told through historical images and contemporary photos, chief among them are those by Beijing-based freelance photographer Li Ju that chronicle the route from Sacramento to Promontory Summit, Utah. The images underscore the tremendous achievement of the largely anonymous 12,000-20,000 Chinese construction workers who connected the U.S. from west to east.

**Info:** Visit <https://sfpl.org/exhibits/2022/01/19/silent-spikes>.

**Taiko Drumming Class**  
San Jose, CA  
Contact Playful People for Dates  
Historic Hoover Theatre  
1635 Park Ave.

**Price:** \$165 Per Participant  
Playful People Prods. And San Jose Beat Institute continue their popular six-session Taiko Drumming class with a new series that begins on Feb. 5 and meets on the first and third Saturdays of the month. Rome Hamner will lead the instruction and children over 10 and adults are welcome. Masks will be provided as well as hand sanitizer, water and clean, socially distanced drum stations for the workshop.

**Info:** For more information, visit <https://playfulpeople.org> or call (408) 878-5362.

## PSW

**The Future of Space Cooperation Between the U.S. and Japan**  
Santa Monica, CA  
March 7, 1:30-5 p.m.; March 8, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**In-Person and Webinar Event (In-Person Participants Must Show Negative Covid-19 Test)**

The U.S. and Japan have made enormous strides in astronomy, space exploration and space research in recent years. This wide-ranging discussion will discuss the future of space as seen by leading experts in the U.S. and Japan. Day 1 will survey how the U.S. and Japan are preparing for the next few decades of space science; Day 2 will delve deeper into the possibilities and challenges for future space economy.

**Info:** To register, visit <https://www.japanhouseela.com/events/rand-us-japan-space-science-cooperation-space-economy/>.

**Terasaki Budokan Grand Opening**  
Los Angeles, CA  
March 12; 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Terasaki Budokan  
249 S. Los Angeles St.  
Price: Free

The Terasaki Budokan grand opening is a community event that will feature games, performances, activities and food

to officially welcome this facility that will be open for youth, families and seniors, offering sports, community activities and opportunities to connect visitors to Japanese American culture and a vibrant and sustainable Little Tokyo.

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

**'Tule Lake Stockade Diary' Conversation with Nancy Kyoko Oda**

March 26  
Virtual Event  
Price: Free

Sponsored by the SFV JACL, this event features JP DeGuzman, Soji Kashiwagi and Nancy Kyoko Oda in a conversation about the groundbreaking new book "Tule Lake Stockade Diary." The diary, originally written in Japanese and translated into English, tells Tatsuo Ryusei Inouye's story of struggle and resilience in his own voice.

**Info:** RSVP to [nt.high.mtn@gmail.com](mailto:nt.high.mtn@gmail.com) to receive a virtual link for the March 26 event.

To order the book, visit <https://tulelakesstockadediary.com>.

**The Interactive StoryFile of Lawson Ichiro Sakai**  
Los Angeles, CA  
Ongoing

Japanese American National Museum  
100 N. Central Ave.

**Price:** Museum Entry Price  
This new exhibit uses cutting-edge technology to allow the viewer to interact with the image of Sakai and ask questions about his life and experiences as a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team during WWII. Sakai was filmed over five days, providing answers to more than 1,000 questions. His responses were captured by 27 cameras that allow the video to be projected as a holographic image once the technology becomes more accessible.

**Info:** For a detailed description of the exhibit, visit <https://www.janm.org/exhibits/lawson-sakai>.

**'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](http://www.academymuseum.org) for additional details and information.

## CCDC

**Fields of Fresno AG Tours**

Fresno, CA  
March 12  
Price: \$85

Presented by the Fresno County Historical Society, guests will enjoy a mansion tour, followed by a curated motor coach ride with multiple stops at unique agricultural sites throughout the county. The trip includes a catered lunch and tastings at designated locations, along with a chance to interact with farmers and business owners.

**Info:** For tickets, visit <https://www.valleyhistory.org/product-page/fields-of-fresno-ag-tours-2022-season>.

## PNW

**'Organizing in Solidarity: Continuing the Fight for Reparations' Event**

Portland, OR  
Feb. 26; 1:30-3:30 p.m.  
McMenamins Kennedy School  
5736 N.E. 33rd Ave.

**Price:** Free (Registration for Tickets Required)

Join the JACL Portland chapter and Japanese American Museum of Oregon for this program that will "explore the present-day struggle for reparations for Black Americans and the critical role that solidarity between communities has in addressing systemic racism." A screening of Jon Osaki's "Reparations" will be shown, along with a panel discussion with Osaki, Sen. Lew Frederick (Oregon State Senate District 22) and traci kato-kiriyama.

**Info:** For tickets, visit <http://ow.ly/lvg550HFW4q>.

**'Japanese American Remembrance Trail Tour'**  
Seattle, WA

Thru March 26  
Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience  
719 S. King St.

**Price:** Book Tickets in Advance as Space Is Limited

The Wing Luke Museum will hold in-person Saturday neighborhood tours that will highlight different sites to memorialize and remember the stories and history of old Japantown before WWII and the unjust incarceration of JA citizens. The tour is approximately 1.5 miles long.

**Info:** To register/cost, visit [wingluke.org/tours](http://wingluke.org/tours) or call (206) 623-5124.

## MDC

**'Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II' Exhibit and Guest Speaker Dale Minami**

Saint Paul, MN  
May 21  
Minnesota History Center  
345 Kellogg Blvd. W

This Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit will be on display at the Minnesota History Center from April 23-July 3. The special event program on May 21 will feature a special program with exhibit viewing and reception, planned in partnership with

the Minnesota Historical Society, as well as guest speaker Dale Minami. More details to be announced.

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

## EDC

**Family Memories: A Conversation About Camp and Its Aftermath**  
March 12; 1 p.m. EST

Virtual Event  
Price: Free

Join David Sakura, PhD, and Margie Yamamoto of the New England JACL as they engage in a conversation about their families' experiences during and after World War II. This program will be moderated by Erin Aoyama.

**Info:** To register, visit [https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZ0tcuGgqjvGdALoxsc7b44z\\_1dCanu7d2B](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZ0tcuGgqjvGdALoxsc7b44z_1dCanu7d2B).

**Book Talk: 'The Wok' by J. Kenji Lopez-Alt**  
Brookline, MA

March 23; 6 p.m. EST  
Coolidge Corner Theatre  
290 Harvard St.

**Price:** In-Person Event, Tickets \$55 and Covers Admission and a Signed Copy of the Book; Vaccination Required

J. Kenji Lopez-Alt, the mastermind behind one of the decade's best-selling cookbooks, returns with the definitive guide to the science and technique of cooking in a wok for fast, fresh cooking for the entire family.

**Info:** For more information and tickets, visit <https://www.brooklinebooksmith.com/event/live-brookline-booksmith-j-kenji-lopez-alt-dan-souza-wok>.

**Exhibit: 'Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II' a Smithsonian Institution Poster Exhibition and Programs**

Woonsocket, RI  
Thru March 31  
Museum of Work & Culture  
42 S. Main St.

**Price:** Contact the Museum for Pricing Information

This poster exhibition traces the story of Japanese national and Japanese American incarceration during WWII and the people who survived it. The museum will also offer a short documentary, musical reflections, informational videos, illustrative graphic novel panels, a digital exhibit, visual art and book nook where visitors can learn about the JA experience through classic children's books.

**Info:** Visit <https://www.rihs.org/event/righting-a-wrong-japanese-americans-and-world-war-ii-smithsonian-poster-exhibition-and-programs/>.

## ADVERTISE HERE

Events in the calendar section are listed based on space availability. Place a 'Spotlight' ad with photos of your event for maximum exposure.

FOR MORE INFO:  
[pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)  
(213) 620-1767

# In MEMORIAM



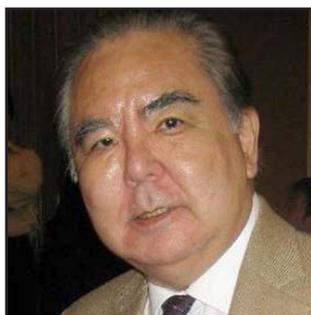
**Cooper, Alex Walter, 34**, Gilbert, AZ, Dec. 23, 2021; he is survived by his parents, Kiyomi and Kelvin Cooper; siblings, Rosanne and Helena.

**Fujimoto, Jo Ann, 74**, Hilo, HI, Dec. 4, 2021; she was predeceased by her husband, Walter; she is survived by her children, Mindy Roberts (Cody), Brent Fujimoto (Brandi) and Cheryl Fujimoto; sister, Deborah Okubo; gc: 4.



**Fukuoka, Ronnie, 88**, Westminster, CA, Dec. 1, 2021; a Marine Corps veteran (Korean War), he is survived by his wife, Yaeko; son, Cary; brother, Tomio; he is also survived by many gc, ggc, nieces and nephews.

**Hatchimonji, Ruth Mikiko, 94**, Torrance, CA, Dec. 19, 2021; she was predeceased by her husband, Ike; she is survived by her children, Alan Hatchimonji (Souzan), James Hatchimonji (Rachel) and Susan Gates (James); sister, Muriel Sunada; gc: 6; ggc 2.



**Hayashi, Seigo, 78**, Monterey, Park, CA, Nov. 13, 2021; an Army veteran (Vietnam War), he was born at the Gila War Relocation Authority Center in AZ; he is survived by his ex-wife, Sachi Hayashi; daughter, Sandy Sutro (Alex); sisters, Amy Harman, Nancy Hayashi and Connie Hayashi-Smith; gc: 1

**Ishikata, George, 59**, San Francisco, CA, Dec. 30, 2021; retired veteran (Army); former Pacific Region commander, Civil Air Patrol; he is survived by his wife, Lena; brother, Chikao; and a nephew.

**Kasai, Wayne, 66**, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 17, 2021; he is survived by his wife, Gretchen; son, Wylie Kasai; siblings, Mark (Amy), Candice (Mark Riley) and Jon; he is also survived by 2 nieces and other relatives.



**Kobayashi, Susan Lee, 76**, Bishop, CA, Sept. 6, 2021; she is survived by her husband, Stephen; she is also survived by other relatives.

**Kuwahara, Tom Nobe, 62**, Lomita, CA, Dec. 19, 2021; he is survived by his wife, Emily; children, Drake and Leanne; mother, Suzuko Kuwahara; brother, Roger Kuwahara (Lori); he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Murao, Masami, 92**, El Cajon, CA, Dec. 27, 2021.



**Nakatomi, Shirley, 80**, Sacramento, CA, Dec. 23, 2021; she was predeceased by her husband, Allan; she is survived by her daughters, Kelly Gallagher, Laine Anderson (Kevin) and Allison Amos (Sean); siblings, Shig Kihara (Joy), Sally Kihara, JoAnn Westerman and Faye Miyagi (Nobu); she is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 2.

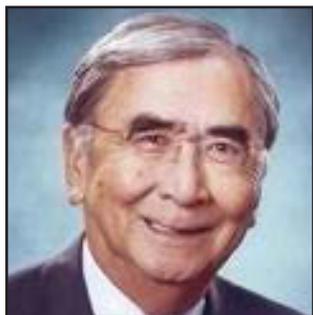
**Nishimura, Victoria Ancheta, 78**, Van Nuys, CA, Dec. 12, 2021; she is survived by her husband, Toshio; step-children, Denise Nishimura Klante and Darin (Sheri) Nishimura; sister, Donna Suter; brothers-in-law, Hisao (Barbara) Nishimura and Tomio (Kung) Nishimura; step-gc: 3; step-ggc: 3.

**Oshima, Fujie Dorothy, 89**, Torrance, CA, Dec. 21, 2021; she is survived by her son, Glenn Oshima; brother, Yoshiki Oshima; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Otani, Stanley Kiyoshi, 63**, Monterey Park, CA, Nov. 16, 2021; he was predeceased by his parents, Shizuko and Frank Shigeichi Otani; he is survived by his sister, Janet (Tommy) Nakamura; he is also survived by a nephew and many cousins.

**Pouillon, Sara Marie Kamata, 50**, Owosso, MI, Dec. 5, 2021; she was predeceased by her parents, Lawrence Higa and Linda Moorhead; mother-in-law, Cheryl Pouillon; son, Donnie Pouillon; and nephew, Alex Leisure; she is survived by her husband, Steve; children, Michael, Andrew (Kylie), Joshua and Alyson; siblings, Jenny Higa, Lisa Breliniski and Paul Leisure; father-in-law, Donald Pouillon; step-father, Donald Moorhead; gc: 2.

**Shida, Koji, 97**, Monterey Park, CA, Dec. 5, 2021; veteran (WWII); he is survived by his wife, Kimiko; children, Joanne (Phil Tokeshi) Shida-Tokeshi and Kevin Shida; sister, Kay Tsukuno; gc: 2.



**Shimada, Kurato, 85**, San Jose, CA, Dec. 25, 2021; he is survived by his wife, Jean; children, Sydney (Chip) and Todd (Michelle); gc: 6.

**Shimamoto, Glenn, 65**, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 14, 2021; he is survived by his wife, Liz Ann; children, Bryan Shimamoto, Amy (Brian) Lew and Grace Shimamoto; sisters, Lisa (Ralph Fernandez) Shimamoto and Diane (Wayne) Yokoyama; he is also survived by 2 nephews and other relatives; gc: 4.

**Shimotsu, Mits, 85**, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 4, 2022; veteran (USMC); during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Manzanar WRA Center; he is survived by his wife and children.

**Shindo, Richard Takeshi, 94**, Torrance, CA, Nov. 16, 2021; he was predeceased by his son, Mark; he is survived by his wife, Elene; daughter, Leigh Shindo; daughter-in-law, Jennifer McGlone; gc: 4.



**Yamada, Emiko**, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 19, 2021; she was predeceased by her husband, Henry Takashi Yamada; she is survived by her children, Merilynn and Ron (Emiko) Yamada; sisters-in-law, Jean Tomiko Urushima and Akiko Kato; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and other relatives; gc: 2.

**Yamada, Walter Chuji, 84**, Waipahu, HI, Nov. 18, 2021; he is survived by his wife, Irene; children, Keith (Stella) Yamada and Suzanne (Bradford) Hull; siblings, James Yamada, Stephen Yamada and Marjorie Kubota; gc: 5.



**Yamaguchi, Ryoza, 69**, Paia, HI, Dec. 29, 2021; minister at the Pa'ia Rinza Zen Mission (30 years); he was predeceased by his wife, Adrienne; he is survived by his children, Jesse (Charlotte Lin), Mika and Naomi; siblings, Toyohiko, Norio, Yoshio, Katsuhiko, Kesuke, Rikuko Yoshida and Miho Umemiya.

**Shudo, Noriko, 93**, Los Angeles, CA Nov. 21, 2021; she was predeceased by her children, Etsuko, David and Daniel; brother, Mitsu-haru Uehara; sister-in-law, Yoshie; gc: 3.

**Tani, Yukio, 90**, Sanger, CA, Nov. 4, 2021; veteran (USAF); during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Poston and Tule Lake WRA Centers in AZ and CA; he was predeceased by his siblings, Ben, George and Yoshiko Yamate; and nephew, John Kooda; he is survived by his wife, Midori; sons, Stanley 'Alan' Tani (Joy) and Edward L. Tani (Lourdes); sister, Keiko (Robert) Kooda; gc: 3.

**Tanigawa, Elfriede, 90**, Waipahu, HI, Dec. 9, 2021; she is survived by her sons, Kenneth (Liane) Tanigawa and John (Kelly Urata) Tanigawa; sister, Karin (John); gc: 7; ggc: 1.



**Tanaka, Shigeo Mae, 94**, Sacramento, CA, Dec. 21, 2021; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Granada WRA Center (Camp Amache) in CO and graduated from the high school as class valedictorian; she was predeceased by her husband, Tadao; and children, Janice Lee and Paul; she is survived by her children, Dave (Gail), Ronald, Barbara and Thomas; son-in-law, Raymond Lee and daughter-in-law, Karen; brother, Shiori (Audrey) Sakamoto; gc: 4.

**Tomei-Saito, Katherine, 92**, Rosemead, CA, Oct. 24, 2021; she is survived by her son, Rueben Fuke Sr.; stepchildren, Karen Tonnis, Gail Tichman and Pat and Mike Saito; she is also survived by many gc, ggc, nieces and nephews.

**Yamada, Emiko**, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 19, 2021; she was predeceased by her husband, Henry Takashi Yamada; she is survived by her children, Merilynn and Ron (Emiko) Yamada; sisters-in-law, Jean Tomiko Urushima and Akiko Kato; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and other relatives; gc: 2.

**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.  
**CONTACT:**  
 Editorial@pacificcitizen.org or call (213) 620-1767 ext. 104

**KUBOTA**  
 Sharing. Community. Legacy.  
 久保田葬儀社  
 T 213-749-1449  
 F 213-749-0265  
 911 Venice Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90015  
 www.kubotamortuary.com

**福井 FUKUI MORTUARY**  
 Five Generations of Experience  
 FD #808  
 707 East Temple Street  
 Los Angeles, CA 90012  
 Ph. 213/626-0441  
 Fax 213/617-2781  
 Gerald Fukui  
 President

**UTES » continued from page 9**

Bruce and Chris Johnson, creators of ‘Transcending: The Wat Misaka Story’ film, who have been longtime advocates for Wat.

“Second, I want to thank our extended family and friends, many of you who are here today and represented here today. We love and appreciate you more than we could ever say. We want to acknowledge our mom, Katie, who helped Wat to be the man that he was.

“Finally, I was thinking that Wat would have turned 98 last month. Thank you to the Utah community for supporting Wat and our family for nearly 100 years. That’s amazing,” Umemura concluded.

Said Sen. Iwamoto, in a statement exclusively to the Pacific Citizen: “When we did the concurrent resolution in 2020, we played a video of Wat playing basketball with his infamous moves and read the resolution. We then had the University of Utah Athletic Director Mark Harlan surprise the body with the announcement of the retiring of his jersey. It was a special moment and touching since Wat has recently passed. So many legislators reached out to me from the House and Senate — the younger legislators saying

how cool it was and some of the more senior legislators telling me how they remembered the games and the wins. Wat never wanted a resolution, the retirement of his jersey or any fanfare. He was humble and kind to anyone who was lucky enough to meet him.

“Standing on the floor with Wat’s kids and grandkids, seeing the video, hearing the music — so very emotional,” Iwamoto continued. “Thinking of the gentle person who moved a nation and after serving in World War II. . . . Through being Wat, he forged lifetime friends at a time when the nation was divided. And this particular afternoon hit me personally because we are divided more than ever with AAPI hate and a national call to action against Critical Race Theory. It was a perfect time and place. The cheers from the crowd for Wat — it was a perfect afternoon when everyone came together for one of the humblest of human beings I’ve ever known.”

Misaka was inducted into the Utah Sports Hall of Fame in 1999, the Japanese American Sports Hall of Fame in San Francisco in 2002 and the University of Utah’s Crimson Club Hall of Fame.

**Members of Wat Misaka’s family and supporters celebrate the resolution being spoken and passed on the floor in 2020.**



**Celebrating the retirement of Wat Misaka’s jersey are (from left) University of Utah President Taylor Randall and Wat Misaka’s family: Cary and Nancy Umemura (Nancy is Wat’s daughter), Joel Umemura, Kennah Misaka, Hank Misaka (Hank is Wat’s son) and Erin Misaka.**

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF SEN. JANI IWAMOTO

The 2020 resolution honoring Misaka that was passed by the Utah State Legislature acknowledged Misaka’s significant contributions as a citizen of Utah and his considerable historical achievements.

In addition, he was honored by the JACL at its 2019 National Convention, which was held in Salt Lake City, as the recipient of its President’s Award.

**Elder Law Services of California**  
 Judd Matsunaga’s  
 ELDER LAW SERVICES OF CALIFORNIA  
 A Professional Law Corporation

- Medi-Cal Planning
- Asset Protection for Long-Term Care
- Living Trusts & Wills
- Powers of Attorney
- Trust Administration
- Probate



JUDD MATSUNAGA  
 Attorney at Law

**Home & Hospital  
 Appointments Available!**

**Multiple Office Locations**

Torrance • Los Angeles (LAX) • Pasadena  
 Enicno • Fountain Valley • Westlake Village  
 Valencia • Palm Springs • San Diego • San Jose

[www.elderlawcalifornia.com](http://www.elderlawcalifornia.com)  
**800-403-6078**

**Get 5000 Reward Points when you transfer a balance to a new JACL VISA Premier Credit Card**



- 9.9% APR Fixed Rate
- No ATM Charges
- 25 Day Courtesy Pay
- More reward points per purchase



800-544-8828 [www.jaclcu.com](http://www.jaclcu.com)

