



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 93 YEARS

Signed  
flags  
at Gila  
River

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COURTESY  
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GOGO

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# WE WERE HERE

Lessons of the WWII  
incarceration are kept alive  
as EO 9066 turns 80.

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Day of  
Remembrance  
Events Are  
Held Across  
the Country.

# PRESIDENT BIDEN FORMALLY RECOGNIZES THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF EO 9066



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

## DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF JAPANESE AMERICAN INCARCERATION DURING WORLD WAR II BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA A PROCLAMATION

Eighty years ago, on February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, stripping people of Japanese descent of their civil rights. That order and the subsequent actions carried out by the Federal Government represent one of the most shameful chapters in our Nation's history.

On this Day of Remembrance of Japanese American Incarceration During World War II, we acknowledge the unjust incarceration of some 120,000 Japanese Americans, approximately two-thirds of whom were born in the United States.

Despite never being charged with a crime, and without due process, Japanese Americans were forcibly removed from their homes and communities and incarcerated, simply because of their heritage.

For years, many Japanese Americans lived in harsh, overcrowded conditions, surrounded by barbed-wire fences and armed guards. Not only did they lose their homes, businesses, property and savings — they also lost their liberty, security and the fundamental freedoms that belong to all Americans in equal measure.

I have always believed that great nations do not ignore their most painful moments — they confront them with honesty and, in doing so, learn from them and grow stronger as a result.

The incarceration of Japanese Americans 80 years ago is a reminder to us today of the tragic consequences we invite when we allow racism, fear and xenophobia to fester.

Today, we reaffirm the Federal Government's formal apology to Japanese Americans whose lives were irreparably harmed during this dark period of our history, and we solemnly reflect on our collective moral responsibility to ensure that our Nation never again engages in such un-American acts.

We acknowledge the intergenerational trauma and loss that the incarceration of Japanese Americans has caused. We also uplift the courage and resilience of brave Japanese Americans who, despite being unjustly incarcerated, formed powerful communities and marshalled incredible dignity and strength.

Many of those whose families were incarcerated volunteered or were drafted to serve in combat — courageously serving in the 100th Infantry Battalion, Military Intelligence Service, Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, Army Nurse Corps and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team with unwavering patriotism.

The all-Japanese American 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team became two of the most decorated and distinguished military units in our Nation's history.

Countless Japanese Americans carry forward this legacy of extraordinary service today, and their work to preserve the history of this period strengthens

our Nation and our democracy.

We reflect on the bravery of civil rights leaders like Fred Korematsu, Minoru Yasui, Gordon Hirabayashi and Mitsuye Endo, and that of every Japanese American who organized and sought redress.

Their efforts helped bring about the first Day of Remembrance, led President Jimmy Carter to sign the law creating the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians and spurred President Ronald Reagan to sign the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which provided monetary reparations to living survivors and an official apology to the Japanese American community.

At the same time, we also acknowledge the painful reality that Japanese Latin Americans, who were taken from their Central and South American homes and incarcerated by the United States Government during World War II, were excluded from the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

Today, the National Park Service helps preserve several Japanese American incarceration camps. These tangible reminders of our history provide important spaces for reflection and learning about the injustices born of prejudice.

Preserving incarceration sites as national parks and historic landmarks is proof of our Nation's commitment to facing the wrongs of our past, to healing the pain still felt by survivors and their descendants and to ensuring that we always remember why it matters that we never stop fighting for equality and justice for all.

My Administration is committed to maintaining these national parks and landmarks for future generations and to combating xenophobia, hate and intolerance — including through the re-established White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

In the words of Dr. Frank Kitamoto, who was incarcerated as a child, "This is not just a Japanese American story but an American story with implications for the world."

The words we use to describe the historical and present treatment of communities of color and other underserved communities have profound meaning.

Today, we recognize that euphemistic terms that we have collectively used in the past — such as "assembly centers," "relocation" or "internment" — do not adequately describe the injustice experienced by some 120,000 people; we recognize the forced removal and mass incarceration of Japanese Americans and others during World War II; and we reaffirm our commitment to Nidoto Nai Yoni, which translates to "Let It Not Happen Again."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim February 19, 2022, as a Day of Remembrance of Japanese American Incarceration During World War II.

I call upon the people of the United States to commemorate this injustice against civil liberties and civil rights during World War II; to honor the sacrifice of those who defended the democratic ideals of this Nation; and to commit together to eradicate systemic racism to heal generational trauma in our communities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-sixth.

— JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.

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The *Pacific Citizen* newspaper (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semi-monthly (except once in December and January) by the Japanese American Citizens League, *Pacific Citizen*, 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Periodical postage paid at L.A., CA.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to National JACL, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115.

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

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

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

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

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

— Gil Asakawa





## REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

# OMICRON IS ADDING FUEL TO MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS – Part 1

Anxiety and depression are becoming chronic problems as the pandemic drags on.

By Scott Tanaka

It's been nearly two years since Covid-19 turned life as we knew it upside down, sending rates of depression and anxiety soaring. Then in November of last year, just when many people began to feel that the pandemic was easing, the wildly infectious omicron strain brought new fears of illness, as well as despair: Will this thing ever end?

"Our brains are not designed to live under chronic stress," said Karen Hahn, 54, a social worker in Washington, D.C., who says she has upped her dosage of antidepressants in recent weeks to try to lift herself out of a self-defeating depression-inertia loop worsened by omicron. "I'm laying on the couch napping all day Saturday going, 'Yeah, if



Rates of depression and anxiety have soared as a result of the ongoing pandemic.

PHOTO: AARP

I could just put my tennis shoes on and go outside and walk for an hour I'd feel better.' But, I can't even do that. I just want to nap." As a social worker myself, I want to say that what Karen is going through is understandable given the circumstances.

Americans' mental health needs during the pandemic already began raising alarms months ago. Last year, the National Alliance on Mental Illness HelpLine, which offers support for mental health and substance abuse issues, received 1,027,381 calls. That's up 23 percent from 2020 — when call volume was up 27 percent over 2019.

But the emotional strain has grown more acute in recent months, health experts say. Texas' statewide mental

health Covid support line, for example, has seen a 20 percent increase in calls since early December, says Greg Hansch, a social worker and executive director of the Texas chapter of NAMI.

While part of that uptick in calls for help was driven by the stress of the holiday season, he notes, it's also related to "the uncertainty of the omicron variant." Anxiety is often stoked by uncertainty, says Hansch, who believes that the pandemic's general unpredictability "has been a big driver of a lot of the mental health concerns of the last few years."

He also cites older people's genuine anxiety about getting sick, since they're more likely to suffer negative effects from a Covid-19 infection, as well as grief, with so many lives lost and experiences missed (weddings, grandchildren's births). There's also "guilt and shame, for people who do contract Covid-19 feeling like they've failed in some way," he added.

As we near the start of the pandemic's third year (it officially began on March 11, 2020, based on the World Health Organization's declaration), nerves are more frayed than ever, says Katherine Gold, M.D., an associate professor in family medicine at the University of Michigan Medical School and a primary care physician. "We're absolutely seeing just exhaustion from the pandemic," she reported. "People are tired of isolating and tired of all the restrictions and just tired of the fear of getting Covid — not only patients with

existing mental health conditions, but also people who don't really have a diagnosis of a mental health condition are feeling increasingly isolated or anxious."

She and other experts say the persistent pandemic is responsible for exacerbating two particularly big risk factors for mental health issues:

### Isolation

Reza Hosseini Ghomi, M.D., a geriatric neuropsychiatrist in Billings, Mont., says he's seeing more depression and anxiety among his older patients, sometimes as a result of the loneliness that can come with isolation. It "manifests typically as either anxiety or depression. [There's] a lot of sadness, hopelessness, 'Oh, this is never going to end.' And a lot of sleep issues."

### Chronic Stress

Many people have felt higher levels of anxiety for many months now, making it a chronic problem with potentially serious health consequences (among other things, it can suppress the immune system). "People are very resilient — we tend to recover from even deeply traumatic events," said Ahmad. "But that process of recovery becomes more difficult if the stress does not let up."

With the ongoing omicron variant, he adds, "I worry that people have not had time to recover from previous waves, and that this is going to lead to even more people experiencing some of the most common symptoms associated with stress disorders."

Those include:

- Intrusive thoughts or dreams associated with the traumatic

- experience
- Social withdrawal (or avoiding items, people or places associated with the experience)
- Negative mood
- Hypervigilance (the sensation of being constantly on guard and easily startled)
- Difficulty sleeping
- Low energy

I know talking about mental health isn't always easy in the Japanese American community, it hasn't always been easy for myself either. I want to share, though, that I have greatly benefited from seeing a therapist at different times in my life.

Most recently, I worked with a licensed clinical social worker to help me process the passing of my grandfather due to Covid-19 and the struggles of not being able to visit my family for over a year. Seeing my mental health improve while in therapy is one of the reasons I chose to study social work.

My social work program allowed me to focus both on gerontology and adult mental health. My hope is that younger generations will consider going into the mental health field. Now more than ever, we need more Asian Americans in this field. There is value in working with mental health professionals that come from similar cultural backgrounds because of shared experiences. In my next article, I will share information on finding professional help and other resources.

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



## JACL LEGACY FUND GRANT TIPS — APPLICATIONS FOR 2022 ARE DUE MAY 1.

By Roberta Barton and Toshi Abe, JACL Legacy Fund Grant Co-Chairs

Applications for the 2022 JACL Legacy Fund Grant are due May 1. Instructions and the submission form can be downloaded from the JACL website (<https://jacl.org/legacy-fund-grants>). The LFG program supports a project or activity that is supportive of the National JACL Strategic Plan. Grants of up to \$6,000 will be awarded to selected applicants.

To assist districts and chapters preparing their proposals, the Legacy Fund Grant Committee and its co-chairs offer the following tips for success.

- **Unique and New Projects Are Always Appreciated.** Through the years, the Legacy Fund has supported a wide range of activities such as exhibits, film screenings, iconic speakers, archival research and cultural festivals. Creativity in developing a project that has not been done before could elevate

your proposal. Research the history of previous grant recipients on the JACL website. Browse the digital repository of past issues of the Pacific Citizen, too. These are great strategic resources to spark your creative ideas.

- **Develop Measurable Goals.** The Twin Cities application is a perfect example of well-defined goals. Their proposal provided an extremely in-depth description for each project goal in both qualitative and quantitative detail, outlining the desired outcomes, why the outcomes were critically necessary and specifically how their project would achieve the outcomes.
- **Be Specific With Your Budget Rather Than Describing Only Broad Categories (i.e. "Research").** The Detroit application provided a great concept of a budget. Each budget line item clearly explained how the estimate was computed. Explain how factors like market or industry standard, vendor quote, hourly rate or per diem rate influenced

your estimate. These details can be explained in your budget justification.

- **Diversifying Your Income Resources Is a Highly Desirable Advantage for Your Application.** Proposals that include additional funding outside of a Legacy Fund Grant can demonstrate a commitment to financial independence, which is one of the key intentions of the grant program. The Mile High application was an excellent example of funding diversity with less than 50 percent of its proposed budget coming from a Legacy Fund Grant.

In addition, another aspect of a successful application is a strong statement of district or chapter member involvement. Again, very specific information is better than a broad description. For example, the Twin Cities application included the actual name of the member assigned to each project task. True membership involvement as the driving force of a project is a major criterion for funding evaluation.

Proposals that clearly show a proven track record of success and excellent planning for subsequent phases of a project will be favorably viewed by evaluators. Making a strong case that your district or chapter has invested in human capital for long-term growth is important.

The Legacy Fund was established by the JACL National Council at the 1990 JACL National Convention in San Diego. Much of the original funds were donated by JACL members who gave portions of their redress awards to further the legacy of the JACL. Each year, a portion of the earnings from the Legacy Fund Endowment provides the funds to run the LFG program.

Legacy Fund Grant Committee representatives are Carol Kawamoto, PSW; Meg Mizutani, NCWNP; Sheldon Arakaki, PNW; Brynn Saito, CCDC; Mika Kennedy, MDC; Janet Komoto, IDC; Mariko Rooks, NY/SC; Susan Jacques, EDC. Committee co-chairs are Roberta Barton and Toshi Abe. ■

# FDR PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY COMMEMORATES DOR

The Library observes Day of Remembrance with a special virtual conversation featuring historian Greg Robinson, author of *'By Order of the President.'*

By FDR Presidential Library Staff

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum marked the 2022 Day of Remembrance — in observance of the 80th anniversary of President Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066 — with a special conversation featuring historian Greg Robinson, author of *'By Order of the President,'* on Feb. 16.

The virtual discussion, which had an encore presentation on Feb. 19, was moderated by Library Acting Director William Harris and made possible through the generous support of Patti Hirahara. (To view the program, visit <https://youtu.be/FoijlJY8Kx0>.)

In the tense weeks after Japan's Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, many Americans — particularly those on the Pacific Coast — feared enemy attack and saw danger in every corner. Rumors and sensational media reports heightened the climate of fear.

Signed by President Roosevelt on Feb. 19, 1942, EO 9066 led to the incarceration of 120,000 people of Japanese descent — including approximately 80,000 American citizens — during World War II.

It is widely viewed today as one of the darkest moments of the Roosevelt Presidency and a serious violation of civil liberties and basic human rights.

Robinson, a native of New York City who is a professor of history at the Université du Québec à Montréal, and Harris spoke in a wide-ranging conversation that touched upon multiple aspects of policy development and implementation, as well as the personal impact on Japanese Americans, which can never be forgotten in the broader discussion about decision-making and moral leadership.

"We cannot forget the individuals and their suffering, the people whose lives were harmed or, in some cases, broken by this policy and by how it was carried out," Robinson said.

In conducting research for his books, Robinson noted how he met and spoke with Japanese Americans who had been forcibly incarcerated during WWII and how the experience forever changed their lives.

"I think that the anger I felt or the sense of betrayal over the government's treatment of Japanese Americans is a product of my talking to people about how a very small thing to bureaucrats can be a very meaningful and



## THE VIEW FROM INSIDE

The following photographs were taken by George Hirahara and his son, Frank, at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center where they and other family members were incarcerated during World War II. In 1943, the Hirahara family purchased cameras and photographic equipment from a Sears, Roebuck and Company catalog and built a photo studio and darkroom underneath their family barrack. The two men took thousands of photographs from 1943-45. These photographs were part of an exhibition at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library in 2017. The extensive George and Frank C. Hirahara Photograph Collection is now housed at Washington State University.

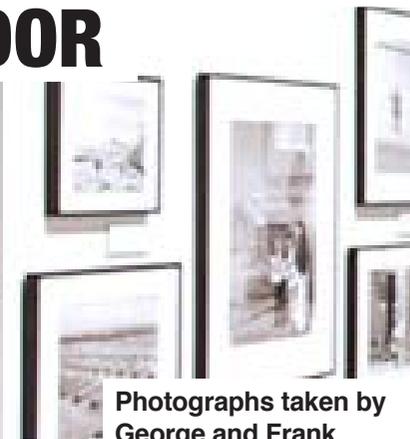


Children sit outside a barrack wearing a traditional form of wood-soled footwear known as geta.



A bride and groom pose for a wedding day photo on July 24, 1944, with friends and family members inside a camp recreation hall.

PHOTOS: GEORGE AND FRANK C. HIRAHARA COLLECTION, WSU LIBRARIES



Photographs taken by George and Frank Hirahara were part of a 2017 exhibit at the FDR Presidential Library.



Helen Yamamoto makes a running catch during a softball game on March 1, 1944.

decisive thing in people's lives," he said.

Robinson also provided insight into the Canadian approach to incarceration, which provided another lens through which to consider these policies, the origins of which, as Robinson noted, preceded the war by several years.

"I think that public opinion definitely played a crucial role in Roosevelt's decision to sign EO 9066 and let the Army handle Japanese Americans. There was a near consensus among the congressional representatives of the West Coast that Japanese Americans had to be dealt with, and there were people who were threatening to take the matter public or to find ways to put pressure on the president," Robinson said. "Certainly, the case of Canada where West Coast public opinion pushed the Canadian government to remove Japanese Canadians from the coast in spite of the fact that the Army and the Navy in Canada said that it was not necessary tends to indicate that there's other forces other than military necessity that come into play."

The conversation also went on to explore Eleanor Roosevelt's views, her acquiescence to the broader policy and her ultimate shift on the subject, resulting in public acts and private efforts in support of Japanese Americans.

"That's one of the most fascinating aspects of the connection between FDR and Japanese Americans is the fight and the struggle between FDR and Eleanor," Robinson said. "... she could only go so far because of her loyalty to FDR at least in public, but she found all these different ways to help Japanese Americans to make clear her sympathy. ... In 1943, she

actually visited the Gila River Camp and gave a speech to the inmates and then afterward went to Los Angeles and sort of in the face of West Coast public opinion said the sooner we get these people out of the camps the better ..."

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, located in Hyde Park, N.Y., endeavors through exhibits and programs to critically assess all aspects of the president's life and political career, as well as that of Eleanor Roosevelt, their professional associates and family and the times in which they lived.

Within the permanent exhibit, "Confront the Issues" areas offer visitors the opportunity to explore multiple viewpoints related to controversial and troubling aspects of the Roosevelt era, such as Japanese American Incarceration.

According to Harris, "It is imperative for us, as a public institution, to provide a forum for a fair and rigorous assessment of this pivotal time in American and world history and of the man who led the nation during these turbulent times."

In 2017, the FDR Library commemorated the 75th anniversary of DOR with a yearlong special exhibition, "Images of Internment: The Incarceration of Japanese Americans During World War II."

This commenced an effort that will remain ongoing at the Library to explore Japanese American incarceration and the long-term impacts of EO 9066.

A highlight from the Library's own collection, and featured prominently in the 2017 exhibit, is the watercolor painting "Moonlight Over Topaz, Utah" by Chiura Obata, which was made for Eleanor Roosevelt.

Obata and his family were confined at the Central Utah (Topaz) camp. He established an art school there and continued his own work as a painter. In May 1943, shortly after Mrs. Roosevelt's well-publicized visit to the Gila River camp in Arizona, a delegation from the Japanese American Citizens League visited the White House to express their gratitude

**Ayako Matsushita on her graduation day from Heart Mountain High School in 1944. Before the war, she attended Marshall High School in Los Angeles.**



for her concern for the treatment of Japanese Americans.

During their visit, they presented this painting of the Topaz camp to the First Lady. On June 16, Mrs. Roosevelt sent a letter to Obata thanking him for the painting; she displayed it in her New York City apartment until her death in 1962.

"Many might find it surprising that we are willing to frankly assess this dark period in American history. But the Library will continue to be a place of responsiveness, reflection and redress," said Harris. "It is our goal that ultimately no one will find it surprising that we want to listen to all voices and support and advance scholarship, study and understanding to the triumphs and the tragedies of the American story."

Designed by Franklin Roosevelt and dedicated on June 30, 1941, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum is the nation's first presidential library and the only one used by a sitting president.

Administered by the National Archives and Records Administration since 1941, the Library preserves and makes accessible to the American people the records of FDR's presidency.

For more information about the Library or its programs, call (800) 337-8474 or visit [www.fdrlibrary.org](http://www.fdrlibrary.org).

— Additional reporting by P.C. Staff

**Historian Greg Robinson (left) talks about the Japanese American incarceration with Library Acting Director William Harris during the FDR Library's DOR event.**



# L.A.'s 2022 DOR PUSHES BLACK REPARATIONS TO THE FORE

Event marking the 80th anniversary of Executive Order 9066 puts the commission process in the spotlight.

By P.C. Staff

The 2022 Day of Remembrance in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo arrived on Feb. 19 amidst a convergence of the past, present and future that was simultaneously auspicious, hopeful and troubling.

Despite a marked slowdown in the city and county's Covid-19 infection rate that would, by Feb. 25, relax mandatory indoor masking rules for the fully vaccinated, the pandemic nevertheless relegated what is typically an in-person event that draws hundreds to a mostly virtual event that took place in the main hall of the Japanese American National Museum and live-streamed worldwide via YouTube to thousands.

As this DOR was taking place and Russia was preparing to invade Ukraine on the other side of the globe, here it was also Black History Month and the Presidents Day Holiday weekend, with this DOR marking 80 years to the day of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066, 41 years since the launch of the multicity Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians hearings and 33 years, six months and nine days after President Ronald Reagan signed HR 442 on Aug. 10, 1988. News that President Biden would formally nominate attorney Ketanji Brown Jackson to be the first Black woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court was still days away.

The intersections of the 80th anniversary of EO 9066, the subsequent success of the Japanese American Redress Movement and Black History Month was not lost on the planners and participants of this year's DOR commemoration, the theme for which was "Power of Communities, Building Strength Through Collective Action."

It was, rather, an inspiration to advance HR 40, which seeks to form a federal commission similar to the CWRIC, which was foundational to the success of redress, but focused on the feasibility of reparations for African American

descendants of slavery.

In a statement released before the event, JANM Board of Trustees Chair Norman Mineta said, "On the 80th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, we ask everyone to join us in advancing social justice and equity. JANM was established to preserve the stories of Japanese Americans. We share these stories today to uphold the American ideals of equality, justice and liberty. We understand what happened in their absence and will never let it happen again."

"So, while we honor the generations before us, we educate the generations after us," Mineta continued. "Together, we highlight past lessons to understand the plight of communities experiencing the same injustices we faced 80 years ago."

This particular 2022 DOR began with a spirited but scaled-down taiko performance by Maceo Hernandez (East L.A. Taiko, the Taiko Center of Los Angeles and J-Town Taiko Club) and percussionist Alfredo Ortiz.

After thanking the duo, JANM'S Public Programs Coordinator Joy Yamaguchi introduced the museum's president and CEO, Ann Burroughs.

"Many, many people have contributed to today that have helped with the planning, and I'd very specifically like to thank our partners in this — Go for Broke National Education Center, the Japanese American Citizens League, the Pacific Southwest District, Japanese American Progressive Asian Network for Action and Visual Communications," Burroughs said.

Burroughs then introduced Vivian Matsushige of the 2022 Day of Remembrance organizing committee.

"This is a historic year as exactly 80 years ago today, on Feb. 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. This authorized the military to remove and incarcerate persons of Japanese ancestry into concentration camps during World War II," Matsushige said. "We see this as a piv-

otal moment when our community's constitutional rights were clearly violated and forced us to commit to a collective struggle toward justice. This year's theme, 'Power of Communities: Building Strength Through Collective Action,' honors this fight over the last 80 years since the signing of EO 9066."

Hernandez and Ortiz returned to accompany a prerecorded video "roll call" of the 10 WRA Centers, Department of Justice camps and citizen isolation centers where Japanese American citizens and Japanese nationals then ineligible to become naturalized citizens were held without due process. The video then segued to an 'In Memoriam' tribute to Japanese American and Asian American community members and allies who died since the last DOR.

Richard Katsuda of Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress then introduced the next speaker, Emiko Kranz, as a member of the Go for Broke National Education Center's board of directors and UCLA student who is in her final year of concurrent master's degrees in Asian American Studies and Community Health Services.

Referencing the experiences of mainland Japanese Americans during WWII, Kranz said, "Though my understanding of this history began through my grandparents' stories, it expands through my Asian American Studies courses. While ethnic studies courses are now widely available, this was not the case until 1968 when a multiethnic coalition, the Third World Liberation Front, pushed forward the longest student strike in U.S. history, a five-month battle for self-determination through community-centered education."

"Asian American activism with the TWLF



JACL's Matthew Weisbly spoke about the importance of the Japanese American community to help others and aid other communities in their fight for justice and equality.

and beyond was greatly inspired by the African American movement and Black leadership, which brought forward systemic racism as a common antagonist for all seeking liberation. Alongside students collecting under pan-Asian identity, as well as African American, Chicano, Latino and Native American students, Japanese American activists helped push back on administrators' attempts to stifle the movement and successfully negotiate for the creation of the S.F. State School of Ethnic Studies, the beginning of ethnic studies installment on campuses nationwide."

As foreshadowed by Katsuda, following Kranz' remarks were curated clips from the CWRIC hearings. Next on the microphone was Miyako Noguchi, filling in for the absence of Jan Tokumaru.

"As we heard today, a crucial piece in the fight for reparations for the Japanese American community was being able to tell our own narratives and testify about the firsthand impact of the camps on ourselves and our families, friends and loved ones," Noguchi said before introducing the event's main feature, a panel discussion among Traci Kato-Kiryama of Vigilant Love, Kathy Masaoka of NCRR and Dreisen Heath, a researcher and advocate in Human Rights Watch's United States Program.

Heath noted that the late Rep. John Conyers first introduced HR 40 in 1989 after the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 and that versions of the proposal to form a governmental commission to study African American reparations have successively been introduced into Congress for more than three decades.

"We've hit almost an apex, right, where we only have an opportunity to either go over the mountain or come back down. And, you know, the optimism of the collective building that we've all done over these last few years feels like we're going over that hump," Heath said, pointing out that "we have 217 votes, folks, and you know what that means? This bill can pass in the House. But political will, right?"

The political context always matters for this advancement."

Although the CWRIC testimony by Japanese Americans that began in 1981 proved to be a powerful turning point for the eventual viability of redress, it wasn't initially welcomed.

"In fact, we didn't want it at first," said Masaoka. "You know, if you think of it as kind of amusing, they offered this Commission, and we said, 'No, this is just going to delay reparations. We want reparations now. We want individual payments now.' But we realized the importance of the Commission."

Kato-Kiryama, meantime, remembered how powerfully she was affected upon viewing a looped recording of CWRIC testimony.

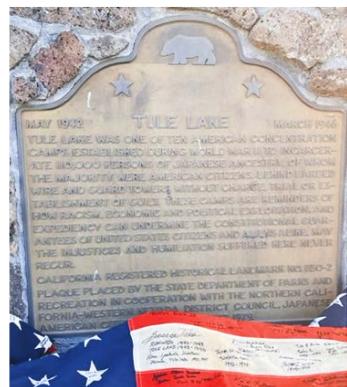


Percussionist Alfredo Ortiz (left) and Maceo Hernandez of East L.A. Taiko opened the DOR ceremony with a spirited performance.

Vivian Matsushige of the 2022 Day of Remembrance organizing committee

Participating panelists in the 2022 L.A. DOR program were (from left) Vigilant Love's Tracy Kato-Kiryama, Dreisen Heath, a researcher and advocate in Human Rights Watch's United States Program, and Kathy Masaoka of NCRR.

PHOTOS: GEORGE T. JOHNSTON



(Photos from top)

**About 30 camp survivors gathered in Little Tokyo on Feb. 19 to donate a signed flag to JANM.**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF BACON SAKATANI

**Children of the camps like twins Yetsuko Saguchi (left) and Kaz Tanaka are now the spokespeople of the WWII Japanese American experience.**

**Signed flags at Gila River, Tule Lake, Poston, Jerome and Topaz**

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF JOHNNY GOGO

**Bacon Sakatani (left) folds the flag with George Iseri and Judge Johnny Gogo.**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF BACON SAKATANI

**A 48-star flag flies at Manzanar again. This time it is signed by former incarcerated.**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF JOHNNY GOGO



## THE SIGNATURES SAY WE WERE HERE

An American flag donated to JANM overflows with signatures from the children of the camps, a dwindling precious resource in the effort to keep the lessons of the incarceration alive.

By Lynda Lin Grigsby,  
Contributor

**K**az Tanaka's fingers dance over the fabric and stitches of the American flag laying regally on the table in front of the Japanese American National Museum. On the red-and-white stripes, she looks for her signature among the many. This isn't the flag she signed months ago in San Gabriel, Calif. Hers would be easy to spot because along with her own name, she signed her older brothers' names — George Tsuyoshi and Robert Kenji Hamamoto, who died in 2006 and 2011, respectively.

Tanaka signed their names as a tribute to their experiences.

"We all suffered together," she said at the Little Tokyo event on Feb. 19, which brought together about 30 survivors and Santa Clara County Judge Johnny Gogo to donate a 48-star signed flag to JANM. This flag is not the one she signed, but Tanaka attended the donation ceremony to bear witness.

It's been 80 years since the start of the incarceration experience that united the attendees in an unlikely class. Now, the alumni of the camps have an unofficial yearbook — one of five signed flags overflowing with signatures of people affected by the World War II incarceration. Much has been said about the flag-signing campaign and the 80th anniversary of Executive Order 9066. The ceremony and the milestone anniversary drew news cameras and reporters, who dropped in and asked questions about camp experiences, then left.

Stay a little longer and the real story bubbles to the surface.

Among the survivors, there are many references to loved ones long gone, ailing individuals who could not make it to the event, as well as people who signed the flag a year ago but are no longer here to tell their stories.

Most survivors at the event are in their 80s and 90s. They are the

children of the camps like Tanaka, who was 3-1/2 when she was imprisoned at Rohwer. This is what's happening now — we are at risk of losing the last of the truth-tellers: The ones who saw, smelled and felt the immediate impact of the incarceration.

"We are the only resource," said Tanaka, 82, by phone from Alhambra, Calif., where she slips into self-reflection over the ephemeral nature of humanity. "Everyone has their own story."

**I**n keeping the lessons of the Japanese American WWII experience alive, which Gogo said is the intent of the flag-signing project, it's hard to ignore the dwindling resources. This brings up a question that reflects the urgency of the moment: How do we remember the lessons of history when the last of the survivors and their firsthand stories are gone?

Tom Ikeda answers the question by referencing historian Roger Daniels: Democracy needs to be won and rewon by each generation. To do this, camp stories need to be collected, preserved and shared in perpetuity.

For 26 years, Ikeda has been spearheading this effort as the founding executive director of Densho, the Seattle-based nonprofit, where he has been a Cassandra-like figure warning of the day when the last live-telling of the first-person stories will disappear.

Densho has collected thousands of stories on the WWII Japanese American experience through filmed interviews that are available online for the next generations to discover and rediscover. The opportunity to interview Issei and older Nisei survivors is gone.

It is the children of the camps, the younger Nisei or older Sansei, who are the current spokespersons for the WWII Japanese American experience. They are the ones who signed the 48-star flags. Their memories are tenuously reconstructed from snapshots of a child's brain and blended with second-hand retelling of stories. Like Tanaka, who remembers the



biting cold of snow against her skin at Rohwer and the glee of running up and down the aisle of a train bound for Arkansas from the Santa Anita Assembly Center.

The breadth and depth of the Japanese American WWII experience is not just restricted to the camps, even though that is what most people ask about. It's also about the impact of the incarceration experience in the years after the camps closed. These are the stories that only the children of the camps can tell.

"It's not just the history, it's the lessons," said Ikeda, 66. "And when you focus on the lessons, that's our reason to be."

Bacon Sakatani, 92, signed a star on the 48-star flag donated to JANM. At the event, he was invited to fold the signed flag into the traditional triangle, an unexpected honor that turned his eyes into oceans. He performed the flag folding ceremony with his friend, George Iseri, while survivors shouted words of encouragement and the occasional joke, "Don't mess up, Bacon!"

Most teenagers like him at Heart Mountain had a good time, said Sakatani, a San Gabriel Valley JACL member. He still relishes in memories of being in the camp's Boy Scouts and spending a week in Yosemite with other Japanese American teenage friends. This opportunity would not have been afforded to him in the rural area of El Monte, Calif., where he grew up.

Hardship came after Heart Mountain. Sakatani called the three years after camp "the most terrible time of our lives." It is a time period many survivors don't want to talk about, he said. This is where memories seem to fail most frequently for the children of the camps.

In 2010, Sakatani was interviewed by Densho about his post-camp experience. In the video, his rapid-fire words slow down as he talks about living in a shack with his family after returning to the West Coast with almost nothing.

Not even a washing machine, Sakatani says in the video. One of his chores was to light a fire before dinner to heat a tub for his mother to wash clothes. His gaze drifts off. His voice cracks. He is right back in the shack as a young man, and his face floods with emotions.

"Oh, that was really something," Sakatani laughs self-consciously in the video, coming back to the present as he reflexively touches his neck. Ikeda's soft voice

offscreen validates the emotions, and Sakatani nods appreciatively. At the time, Sakatani could only peek at these hard memories. His tone during the Densho interview alternates between self-deprecating and thoughtful.

Over a decade later, on the phone from West Covina, Calif. a few days after the flag donation event, his choice of words about the WWII Japanese American experience is stronger.

"We were brainwashed," said Sakatani.

The U.S. government coerced Japanese Americans to comply through propaganda that the incarceration was for the greater good — a part of the war effort, he said. Since the interview, he has researched more and processed more feelings. There is a lot to be angry about. His feelings have changed, but his Densho interview is frozen in time. Without being able to pick up the phone and call survivors like Sakatani to ask about their feelings, what do we risk losing?

"We lose the whole truth," he said. "We incarcerated need to keep talking about it."

Commemorative projects like the flag-signing and oral history collecting are not perfect, but they provide opportunities to have a larger conversation about the Japanese American WWII experience. They are catalysts for democracy to be won and rewon by subsequent generations.

In its new home at JANM, the signed flag will become a part of a new exhibit that tells the stories of the incarceration, said Ann Burroughs, president and CEO of JANM.

The flag-signing project was always for a larger purpose, said Gogo, 53. The intent of the project was always to honor the Japanese American survivors of WWII.

"It's always been their flag," said Gogo. "It was never my flag."

For a year now, Gogo has been carrying versions of the 48-star flags to parking lots, churches and recreational centers to collect survivors' autographs. What started out as an idea to fill one flag grew into a national educational tour now with over 1,000 signatures filling five flags.

The first signed flag was donated to the Japanese American Museum of San Jose and the second to the Fred T. Korematsu Institute in San Francisco. Gogo will donate another signed flag on March 28 to the Japanese American Museum of

Oregon. The last signed flag will likely travel with a photographic exhibit about the WWII incarceration. Each time he parts with a flag, he feels a twinge of sadness.

"It's kind of like setting a bird free, right?" said Gogo. "You're letting it out into the world to carry on its mission and live its life."

The flag donated to JANM is a special flag. It is the largest of the five signed flags. Unfurled on the table, it is breath-taking and regal. The signatures give the flag its own unique personality. George Takei, of "Star Trek" fame, signed the flag in Los Angeles.

Shig Yabu, 89, signed the flag at the Boys and Girls Club of Camarillo, Calif., where he served as a longtime executive director. Alongside his signature, Yabu drew the outline of Heart Mountain and a picture of the magpie bird he immortalized in his 2007 children's book "Hello Maggie!"

At the event, longtime Walt Disney animator and the book's illustrator, Willie Ito, 87, also signed the flag. He signed in the space right below Yabu's name. Of course, he would sign there. Ito chuckled and put the cap on the pen.

For this campaign, the flag has traveled to different states and to nearly all the former WWII Japanese American concentration camps. In his visits to the camps, Gogo saw flag poles, so he asked for permission to fly the signed flags at Amache, Rohwer, and Manzanar. Then he stood back and watched them flap in the wind.

The choice of a 48-star flag was deliberate. This was the version incarcerated saw flying at their camps. Japanese American soldiers carried a version of this flag onto the battlefields with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 100th Infantry Battalion. The irony is not lost. Soldiers died for this flag. Children pledged allegiance to this flag that promised freedom to everyone except Japanese Americans.

Now, their names are written on the flag to take back the narrative.

The 48-star flag is a symbol that is frozen in time. It is antiquated and obsolete because of the number of stars represented on the flag, but the meaning of the flag lives on. It symbolizes the unity and power that Japanese Americans were excluded from during WWII.

The signatures say we were here. Gone, but not forgotten. Mistreated, but not defeated. And justice will prevail. ■



(Photos from top left)

**Flags at Amache**

**Most kids his age had a good time at Heart Mountain, says Sakatani. He would not have had the opportunity to join the Boy Scouts otherwise. It was the years after the camp closed that was most difficult.**

PHOTO: LYNDIA LIN GRIGSBY

**At Heart Mountain, teenagers had the opportunity to join the Boy Scouts and visit Yosemite.**



**Collecting oral histories is an important part of winning democracy. Tom Ikeda interviews Yoshimi Matsuura in Minneapolis.**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF DENSHO

**Signed flag at Minidoka**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF JOHNNY GOGO





Vice President Kamala Harris said it is essential to present American history accurately.

White House Aide Erica Moritsugu read President Biden's Day of Remembrance proclamation.

Smithsonian Secretary Lonnie Bunch III discussed the role of museums in racial reckoning.

## PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION OPENS PANEL SERIES ON 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF EO 9066

The three-day event panels were presented by the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, the National Park Service, Japanese American National Museum, JACL and the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation.

By Ray Locker

Eighty years after the signing of Executive Order 9066 is no time to give in to the demands to sanitize the history of the Japanese American incarceration, President Joe Biden said in a proclamation released on Feb. 18 (see Page 2).

"The words we use to describe the historical and present treatment of communities of color and other underserved communities have profound meaning," Biden said.

"Today, we recognize that euphemistic terms that we have collectively used in the past — such as 'assembly centers,' 'relocation' or 'internment' — do not adequately describe the injustice experienced by some 120,000 people; we recognize the forced removal and mass incarceration of Japanese Americans and others during World War II; and we reaffirm our commitment to *Nidoto Nai Yoni*, which translates to 'Let It Not Happen Again,'" he said.

Biden's proclamation, read by White House aide Erika Moritsugu, was released at the start of three days of online panels on the incarceration and its effects 80 years after it was authorized by the executive order signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on Feb. 19, 1942.

The panels were presented by the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History,

the National Park Service, the Japanese American National Museum, Japanese American Citizens League and the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation.

"As Americans, we are unified under the Constitution to keep working to perfect our union," Smithsonian Secretary Lonnie Bunch III said. "We must be able to look into the past with clear eyes."

Bunch's call came at a time when some local school systems and state legislatures have banned books and passed laws to sanitize the teaching of history that involves racial discrimination and oppression, such as the Japanese American incarceration.

Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and multiple panelists said it was essential to present American history accurately, particularly to ensure that abuses such as slavery and incarceration don't happen again.

It's essential, Harris said, "to look without flinching at the human cost of racism and xenophobia. Because it is only by understanding our past that we can build a better future."

### Racial Reckoning and Japanese American Museums

Museums are on the front lines of teaching the history of the Japanese American incarceration, participants in the first panel on Feb. 19 said. Kevin Gover, the Smithsonian's undersecretary for museums and culture, said

he didn't remember the first time he learned of the incarceration but that it wasn't during his public school education in Oklahoma.

"I was outraged by this injustice," Gover said, "but I was also outraged that this injustice was never taught in any of my American history classes."

Ann Burroughs, president and CEO of JANM, said Bunch's call to action about confronting the nation's racist past is a critical part of her museum's mission. "It's a new direction for all of us," she said, adding that JANM has always been devoted to "public education to ensure that this history was never forgotten."

Much of the struggle to present an accurate history of the incarceration revolves around language, said Karen Ishizuka, chief curator of JANM. She recalled a 1998 controversy about an exhibit at the Ellis Island National Historic Site about using the term "concentration camp" to refer to the War Relocation Authority camps that held Japanese American internees.

Hanako Wakatsuki, the director of interpretation at the Hono'uli'uli National Historic Site in Hawaii, said she is a fourth- and fifth-generation descendant of internees who lived in camps run by the Interior Department, the same "agency that oppressed my family."

Despite that, she said, the NPS tells the incarceration accurately and without resorting to the euphemisms that once characterized that period, words such as "evacuation" and "internment" instead of "forced removal" and "incarceration."

Wakatsuki was one of the key organizers of the panels, along with Noriko Sanefuji, a museum specialist at the Smithsonian's National

Museum of American History. Wakatsuki and other panelists also emphasized the importance to protect NPS sites from outside threats.

Shirley Ann Higuchi, chair of the HMWF, said she also didn't learn about the incarceration in school or at home, even though both of her parents were incarcerated in the camp at Heart Mountain, Wyo.

Her parents, however, always took their children to museums, she said, and "museums are an easy way for children to connect and learn about our history." That's why, Higuchi added, that the HMWF is so diligent about presenting accurate history at its museum and through its educational programs.

### Redress and Reclaiming History

Day of Remembrance events seem commonplace now, said author and documentarian Frank Abe, who led the creation of the first Day of Remembrance event in Seattle in 1978. But for more than 30 years after the end of the incarceration, the narrative of what happened to 120,000 people was dominated by people such as S. I. Hayakawa, a Republican senator from California and a native of Canada who was not incarcerated. Hayakawa called the incarceration beneficial for Japanese Americans because it forced them to assimilate into larger American society.

"It was really quite maddening," said Abe, co-author of a new graphic novel about the incarceration — "We Hereby Refuse."

Seattle's 1978 event provided the impetus for others to follow, such as the 1979 Tanforan Day of Remembrance in San Francisco, the 1979 Tule Lake pilgrimage and the 1981 Day of Remembrance in San Jose, according to Susan Hayase, a leader in the San Jose redress and remembrance movement.

These events, Hayase said, "provided a forum that had not previously existed anywhere." The energy released in these events led to the successful redress campaign that culminated in the 1988 Civil Liberties Act in which the federal government apologized for the incarceration and authorized paying \$20,000 to each surviving internee.

Historian Brian Niiya of Densho said it was amazing to consider how quickly Day of Remembrance events went from something new to a tradition that occurs every year. "If you were joining in in the mid-1980s, you could have sworn they had been going on for years," he said.

This year's national event has evolved from what have traditionally been local events, said David Inoue, executive director of the JACL. He said at least 50 local JACL chapters conducted events this year.

» See PANEL on page 12

## Portland JACL Swears in New Board

In February, the Portland JACL board was sworn in by PNW Governor Sheldon Arakaki. Pictured (from left) in the "unmasked" photo are Sheldon Arakaki, Connie Masuoka, Amanda Shannahan, Spencer Uemura, Jenny Yamada, Chris Lee, Jillian Toda-Currie, Setsy Sadamoto Larouche, Sachi Kaneko, Heidi Tolentino and Marleen Ikeda Wallingford. Other board members not able to attend the ceremony were Maki Doolittle, Weston Koyama and Jeff Matsumoto. All of these board members will serve two-year terms and continue the stellar work of the chapter in advocating for civil rights, cultural preservation and membership growth.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF PORTLAND JACL





Reiko Nakawatase Gaspar in 1944 with her classmates at Poston Camp 1's Japanese garden outside of their school barracks.



Watercolor of Hoover Village in Spring

PHOTO: MASATADA IKEDA



Two Women in Kimono tsumami canvas made at Seabrook.

PHOTO: KIYO TSUTSUMIDA NOJIMA



Seabrook Minyo dancers perform "Ume ni mo Haru" at JACL's Chow mein dinner in 1957.



Grayce Kaneda Uyehara (at right) is interviewed about resettlement by local radio.



Fishermen in a motor boat.

PHOTO: MATSUGORO YOSHIDA

## 'THE THIRD SPACE':

# Japanese American Resettlement in Greater Philadelphia

A new exhibit explores myriad questions Japanese Americans faced following their forced incarceration during World War II.

By Rob Buscher, Exhibit Curator and JACL Philadelphia Chapter President

What does it mean to be an internally displaced person in your own country, and where do you go when there is no home left to return to?

These are questions that many Japanese Americans living in the West Coast of the United States faced in the aftermath of Executive Order 9066, which ultimately led to the forced removal and mass incarceration of more than 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry during the Second World War.

While much work has been done to share the experiences of the Japanese Americans who were forced into U.S. concentration camps administered by the War Relocation Authority from 1942-46, far less attention has been given to documenting and sharing the stories of this community as they began to rebuild their lives in the postwar era.

Philadelphia became the first major city on the East Coast to welcome Japanese American students to continue their education at local schools amidst the incarceration of WWII. This paved the way for a significant community of resettlers into the region both during and after the war.

The story of resettlement into this region is unique because of the interfaith allyship that created an atmosphere of tolerance for most individuals who resettled here. This was largely due to the advocacy efforts of the Quaker-led American Friends Service Committee headquartered in Philadelphia, but also the Presbyterians and other Pennsylvania-based faith groups.

With the aid of Quaker institutions such as Swarthmore and Bryn Mawr Colleges, college-aged Nisei were invited to settle in the Philadelphia region as early as fall 1942 to resume their studies.

Later as the WRA began large-scale resettlement to the region, a number of unconventional allies presented themselves. The American Federation of Labor Pennsylvania Local 929 Union and Seabrook Farms in nearby Bridgeton, N.J., opened their farms and factories to the Japanese American laborers whose permanent leave from the WRA camps was conditional on their employment.

At its peak, the Japanese American community reached nearly 7,000 in the Greater Philadelphia region. Those who settled in the city of Philadelphia and nearby suburbs dispersed almost immediately, with few visible traces beyond JACL chapter convenings and participation in the annual Philadelphia Folk Fair.

Inversely, the Japanese Americans who came to live and work on Seabrook Farms were perhaps the only community on the East Coast who closely resembled a Japantown for several decades following the resettlement period.

Although Japanese Americans experienced a fairly positive reception in Greater Philadelphia comparative to other regions of the country, incarceration survivors and their descendants were still traumatized by their wartime experiences.

Many were stigmatized from outwardly expressing their Japanese culture and faced intense pressure to assimilate into mainstream American culture from both within and outside the Japanese American community. Despite these factors, the Japanese American com-

munities of Philadelphia and Seabrook found ways to maintain a connection to their Japanese American identity through community organizing and material culture.

Art played a particularly important role in both the wartime incarceration and resettlement to Greater Philadelphia as Japanese Americans processed and, in some cases, documented their experiences through photographs and other forms of visual art.

"The Third Space" exhibit shares stories about individuals and families who underwent these experiences, told simply through the family photos and art objects they created in that period. These artifacts convey a nuanced history of the resettlement from a local community perspective.

For context and comparison, the exhibit also includes photographs taken by the WRA Photography Section during both the incarceration and resettlement. Shown opposite of family photos and art objects created within camp and during the resettlement, the exhibit juxtaposes the Japanese American community's lived experiences with government propaganda narratives that euphemize the wartime incarceration.

This exhibit was originally planned to take place Aug. 15-Oct. 4, 2020, at the Fleisher Art Memorial in South Philadelphia. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent quarantine resulted in the extended closure of this exhibition venue for the foreseeable future.

While it is regrettable that the exhibit was delayed indefinitely as originally intended in a physical setting, the unexpected postponement presented an opportunity to rethink what a presentation of this topic could look like in the virtual setting.

Through a collaboration with Da Vinci Art Alliance, a virtual exhibition space was created that would allow audiences to engage in real-time with exhibit artifacts as they might in a physical gallery setting.

The decision to stage this exhibit within the environment of a residential camp block was not taken lightly. The virtual exhibit space was developed through many months of collaboration with DVAA Co-Director and Exhibit Programmer Bryant Girsch, who used a video game development software called Unity to design this environment.

Given the complexity of designing such a space with the limited resources available, it was impossible to create a space with total historical accuracy to the WRA camps. As such, this space is not meant to be a specific location among the WRA detention facilities.

Rather, it is an approximation of the aesthetic surroundings that many Japanese American community members witnessed during their incarceration ordeal. We discourage anyone from viewing this environment as a documentary equivalent of the conditions that Japanese Americans experienced in camp.

Some might find it odd that this setting was chosen for an exhibition on the topic of resettlement. However, by staging the exhibit in an environment that resembles camp, it reminds the audience that whatever successes the Japanese American community may have enjoyed in the postwar era were built on the hardships that the community endured during their wartime incarceration.

Additionally, this setting is meant to evoke the lasting impacts of trauma on both incarceration survivors and their descendants, which continues to influence the community's artistic psyche to this day.

» See 'THE THIRD SPACE' on page 12

**L.A. DOR »****continued from  
page 5**

“I was really struck because I saw people who look like my aunts and uncles, right? They could be my parents, it could be my grandparents,” Kato-Kiriyama said. “They were angry and emotional and articulate and eloquent. And speaking in public. It was mind-blowing. And I just felt like it fought against so many tropes of our community being just totally submissive and quiet and not standing up.”

Dreisen added that “the power of testimony” can change the trajectory for African American reparations and getting to that point is “at the heart of what we’re doing here.” Kato-Kiriyama noted, however, that the current iteration of HR 40 expires on Dec. 31.

Getting the last word was JACL Education Communications Coordinator Matthew Weisbly.

“Of the many allies who joined our fight, the African American community was one of the earliest to lend their support, knowing that their own community’s history of enslavement, Jim Crow, segregation and years of unending inequality was just another example of democracy failing communities of color, but also knowing that the Japanese American fight for redress can serve as a powerful example in the fight for African American redress.

“And now, over 30 years later, after our fight was won, the African American community still looks for the chance to begin theirs,” Weisbly continued. “As Dreisen mentioned, HR 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act, has been introduced in nearly every congressional session since Rep. John Conyers first introduced the bill in 1989.

“Last year, HR 40 for the first time passed through committee to the House floor for final markup and vote. The Japanese American campaign for redress from the CWRIC, the Civil Liberties Act lasted less than 10 years. While the African American campaign for redress from the first time HR 40 was introduced has now lasted over three times longer. It has long been time for action.

“But now more than ever, we as Japanese Americans need to do our part,” Weisbly concluded. “As you heard from our speakers, it is now time to strike and use our community’s history to help others and help another community whose campaign for justice is long overdue and who stood up to support us in our fight.”

**(EDITOR’S NOTE: The recording of the Los Angeles 2022 DOR can be viewed at [tinyurl.com/ayjjvnf9](https://tinyurl.com/ayjjvnf9).)**

## 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 PSW****2022 JACL/OCA Leadership Summit**

Washington, D.C.; May 21-24

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/kjqmxag0ulgxnt/>.**

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

**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).**

**‘Furusato: The Lost Village of Terminal Island’ Film**

Los Angeles, CA  
March 13; 2 p.m.  
Virtual Event  
**Price: Free**

Greater Los Angeles JACL presents this film screening that will also include a panel of Terminal Island residents following the showing. **Info: For a Zoom link to the program, email [Louise Sakamoto at LSakamoto@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Louise.Sakamoto@LSakamoto@sbcglobal.net).**

**‘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.” **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://tulelakestockadediary.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>**

**PNW****‘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.**

**Na Omi Shintani: ‘Dream Refuge for Children Imprisoned’**

Portland, OR  
April-September  
Japanese American Museum of Oregon  
411 N.W. Flanders St. (Entrance on 4th Avenue)  
**Price: Ticket Admission**

“Dream Refuge for Children” is an installation by San Francisco artist Na Omi Shintani that explores the trauma of children that have been incarcerated. Shintani has created a series of cots arranged in a circle with an image of a sleeping child drawn directly on each mattress that draws parallels between different children who have been imprisoned and denied their culture. **Info: Visit [www.jamo.org](http://www.jamo.org).**

**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**

**Responses: Asian American Voices Resisting the Tides of Racism**  
New York, NY  
Thru March 27

**Museum of Chinese in America**  
215 Centre St.

At a time when Chinese and Asian Americans are being blamed for the coronavirus and targeted in assaults across the country, this exhibit has been created to help navigate this crisis by exploring the lessons of history and raising a collective voice against the tide of anti-Asian hate and violence.

**Info: Visit <https://www.mocanyc.org/event/responses/>.**

**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 and more.

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

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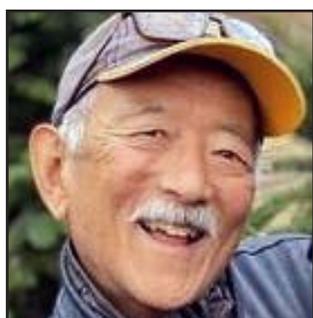
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# In MEMORIAM

**Anzai, Aaron Masayuki, 60**, Pearl City, HI, Sept. 18, 2021; he is survived by his mother, Norma Anzai; sister, Donna Robinson; 2 nephews, a niece and a grandniece.

**Higa, Marie Dorothy, 95**, Dallas, TX, Nov. 9, 2021; she is survived by her husband, Riosuke (aka Pete); children, Bill, Lisa and Mori Lou; gc: 3; ggc: 2.

**Hunt, Chiyoko Higa, 94**, Hickory, NC, Dec. 25, 2021; she was predeceased by her daughters Eiko and Fumiko; she is survived by her daughter, June Starnes (Bill); gc: 2.



**Ida, Richard, 69**, Napa, CA, Dec. 27, 2021; he is survived by his wife, Janet; sons, Adam (Erika) and Brandon (Kari); brother, Jim (Carol); brother-in-law, Bruce (Peggy); gc: 5.



**Kaneyuki, Melvyn, 80**, Torrance, CA, Sept. 15, 2021; he is survived by his children, Julie (Curt), Stephen (Diane) and Cyndi; siblings, Grant (Claudia), Gail O'Malley and Kane (Jasmine); gc: 2.

**Kobayashi, Nash Isamu, 66**, Phoenix, AZ, Oct. 26, 2021; he is survived by his wife, Michelle; hanai brother, Ralph (Sophia) Takafuji Jr.; hanai sister, Carol (Keith) Kawamoto.

**Koga, Michiko, 92**, Montebello, CA, Dec. 8, 2021; she is survived by her children, Craig Koga, Wayne Koga (Heather) and Sandra Mora (Manuel); she is also survived by 3 nephews, 1 niece and other relatives and friends; gc: 5; ggc: 1.

**Mayeda, Minoru, 94**, Oceanside, CA, Dec. 17, 2021; a veteran (Army), during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Gila River WRA Center in AZ; he was predeceased by his wife, Sueme; he is survived by his sons, Rick and Scott (Dawn); gc: 2.

**Morikawa, Josephine Sawako, 98**, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 30, 2021; she is survived by her children, Jim Morikawa, Pauline (Thomas) Nishi and Sylvia Morikawa; sister, Anna Ohmura; gc: 1; ggc: 2.

**Morikawa, Hideo, 91**, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 10, 2021; he is survived by his wife, Haruko; children, Maryann (Gary) Fukushima, Kelly (Will) Kwong and Sarah (Ken) Sumida; gc: 6.



**Nakao, Raymond, 67**, Buckeye, AZ, Nov. 24, 2021; he is survived by his sons, Jacob and Matthew Nakao.

**Nishimura, Masako, 102**, Wahiawa, HI, Oct. 1, 2021; she was predeceased by her husband, Buster Tatsumi; she is survived by her children, Richard (Pamela) and Pearl (Jack Wiedlin); siblings, Junichi Kawamoto (Leila) and Mary Matsumoto (Yoshio); sister-in-law, Takeko Kawamoto; gc: 3; ggc: 9.

**Noda, Dave, 68**, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 2, 2021; he is survived by his wife, Cheryl; daughters, Lisa (Scott) and Tracy; sisters, Patty (Jerry) and Elaine; he is also survived by nieces and nephews.



**Noda, Mihoko 'Mimi,' 66**, Albany, GA, July 27, 2021; she is survived by her children, Megumi Noda and Susumu Noda; sisters, Yuko Sato and Chikako (Mark) Ledbetter; she is also survived by a nephew.



**Osaki, Herbert Susumu, 91**, Portland, OR, Feb. 10, 2022; he was predeceased by 3 brothers and 1 gc; he is survived by his wife, Etsuko; children Alan Osaki (Phyllis), Lora Wahl (Joseph), Lynn Hishinuma (David), Jill Standridge and Dean Osaki (Yukiko); 2 siblings; gc: 12; ggc: 2.

**Oshita, Fumio, 93**, Monterey Park, CA, Oct. 10, 2021; he is survived by his wife, Fujiko H. Oshita; children, Russell (Colline) Oshita and Jane (Chris) Oshita-Antonucci; gc: 3.

**Otani, Jon Kiyoshi, 84**, Honolulu, HI, Dec. 25, 2021; he is survived by his wife, Elsie; children, Debra (Matthew) Hart, Ryan Otani, Dane (Edie Lum) Otani, Cheryl (Scott) Nakai and Steven (Jill) Otani; sister, Sandra (Ralph) Ichiyama; gc: 8; ggc: 3.

**Sato, Toyoko, 96**, Lomita, CA, Dec. 3, 2021; she was predeceased by her husband, Yuzy; she is survived by her children, Garry (Esther), Robert (Anna), Carolyn and Brian; gc: 4; ggc: 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.

**Sakamoto, Paul Toshiro, 57**, Pinole, CA, Oct. 18, 2021.

**Sato, Barbara Bennett, 79**, Plymouth, MA, Dec. 12, 2021.

**Shimada, Charles Toshio, 62**, Huntington Beach, CA, Dec. 26, 2021

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

**Shimizu, Hitoshi, 92**, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 30, 2021; he was predeceased by his wife, Kiyoko; he is survived by his daughters, Robyn (Martin) Cohen and Patti (John) Heyl; siblings, Dorothy Miyake and Melvin Shimizu; gc: 5; ggc: 1.



**Stewart, Michi (Sachiko Nakamura), 92**, Syracuse, NY, Dec. 9, 2021; she is survived by her children, Vita Volturno-Malvasi (Michael Malvasi) and Angel Volturno (Carl Dandy), Vince Volturno (Tina) and James Volturno (Susan); gc: 6; ggc: 1.

**Sugimoto, Katsumi Eric, 96**, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 22, 2021.

TRIBUTE

JIMI MITSUNAGA



Jimi Mitsunaga was a Nisei born on March 5, 1934, in Salt Lake City, Utah. He passed away on Jan. 31, 2022. He was predeceased by his wife, Barbara Keiko Mitsunaga, and is survived by their four children, Janice, Darrell, Tracy and Hollis, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Jimi received both his BS and LLB degrees from the University of Utah in 1958. He was one of the first 50 minority attorneys in Utah and worked

tirelessly to promote the provision of legal services to underserved communities, including minority communities. Jimi was the founder and first director of the Salt Lake Legal Defender Association of Utah and also founded the Asian Association of Utah. He served the community in many capacities including as president of the Utah Minority Bar Association (UMBA), president of the Salt Lake Japanese American Citizens League, chairman of the Criminal Law section of the Utah State Bar and chairman of the Governor's Asian Advisory Council for the State of Utah.

Among his many awards and honors, Jimi received a lifetime service award from UMBA and the Raymond Uno Award for the advancement of minorities in the profession from the Utah State Bar. UMBA honored Jimi by also establishing the Jimi Mitsunaga Excellence in the Law Award, which is presented to a member of the Utah State Bar who has excelled in the practice of criminal law or has made a substantial contribution toward the mission and purpose of UMBA.

Jimi worked long hours and Barbara was busy with running his law office, but they also orchestrated many memorable summer vacations so that their family could spend precious time together. Those memories will always be cherished.

PLACE A TRIBUTE

'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis.

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**PANEL » continued from page 8****Healing a Fractured Community**

While events such as the Day of Remembrance have become outlets for exploring the community's sense of itself, of belonging and

of history, they are also necessary to help heal the overall Japanese American community.

In a panel featuring Karen Korematsu of the Korematsu Institute, Mia Russell of the

Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium, Kimiko Marr of Japanese American Pilgrimages, Barbara Takei of the Tule Lake Committee and Mike Ishii of Tsuru for Solidarity, speakers said there still remains multiple obstacles to embracing the incarceration's protest history.

That protest history lives on with the Nikkei community's opposition to the previous administration's border policies and travel bans, said Ishii, who said Tsuru for Solidarity was formed after Takei asked him at the 2018 Tule Lake pilgrimage to work on opposing the ban on travel from predominantly Muslim nations.

"When we did that," Ishii said, "we were thinking of our survivors."

The Japanese American community, he said, will never reach parity with others until it heals itself, which is what all communities of color need to do.

**Empowering the Community**

Jeffery Robinson, a former official with the

American Civil Liberties Union and a documentary filmmaker, summed up the challenges faced by all communities of color in the final session.

**'Who controls the past controls the future.'**

— Quote by George Orwell

Quoting novelist George Orwell, Robinson said, "Who controls the past controls the future."

"We're living in a time," Robinson said, "where there is so much discussion about attempts to

homogenize the past."

Robinson said his work for reparations for the African American community for slavery took a different turn after he met with the JAACL and Tsuru for Solidarity about HR 40, the bill to create a commission to study reparations.

That meeting, he said, showed him that the Japanese American community had already gone through the same issues Robinson was confronting with HR 40.

Robinson's lesson, he said, was that both communities had much to learn from each other, which can create a sense of unity needed to prevent the sanitization of American history. He also emphasized that people of all races and background need to work together, which he said helped him complete his recent film "Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America."

To see the various panels and learn more about the Day of Remembrance, visit <https://www.youtube.com/c/NationalParkService>.

**'THE THIRD SPACE' » continued from page 9**

Throughout the curation process, this exhibit has undergone many different iterations, some that included a more extensive historical narrative than what is represented here in this final version.

Ultimately, the images speak for themselves, as they are perhaps the strongest testament to the realities of both wartime incarceration and the postwar resettlement. Photographers have been credited whenever possible, with original captions used in all government photographs. Other images that were crowdsourced from various Japanese American community members bear only a simple descriptive caption based on information provided.

"The Third Space" title of the exhibit has several meanings. In its most literal sense, the title refers to the physical act of resettling in a third location. We can also define the third space within the discourse of dissent as "the space where the oppressed plot their liberation."

Given the history of Japanese American activism in the postwar era, this reading certainly rings true among the resettlement communities of Greater Philadelphia, who played an active role in the Redress Movement, epitomized by local JAACL leaders like Grayce Uyehara and Judge William Marutani.

From a media arts perspective, the third space can be used to reference a hybridized approach – using a virtual environment to explore historical reality, as evidenced in this exhibition space. In a different context, this last reading can also be used to describe

the blurred lines between fact and fiction embodied by government propaganda that sought to minimize perceptions of institutional violence that Japanese Americans viscerally experienced throughout the war years and postwar resettlement.

The cognitive dissonance that Japanese Americans felt amid such campaigns also resembles a third space, which they inhabited psychologically in attempting to reconcile these vastly different narratives.

Through this exhibit, one hope is to reframe the conversation around postwar resettlement from the local Japanese American community's perspective, demonstrating the unique challenges associated with being a people internally displaced within their own country.

In addition to telling a more complete version of this history, by reframing the resettlement as such, we hope to encourage individuals within the Japanese American community and public at-large to take a more active role in supporting current day refugee resettlement and ending immigrant detention.

Although this exhibit may raise more questions than it does provide answers, the hope is that by bringing these community narratives into public discourse, others will be encouraged to tell their own stories. Only then will we be able to fully understand the complicated history of the postwar resettlement and its lasting impact on the Japanese American community today. ■

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