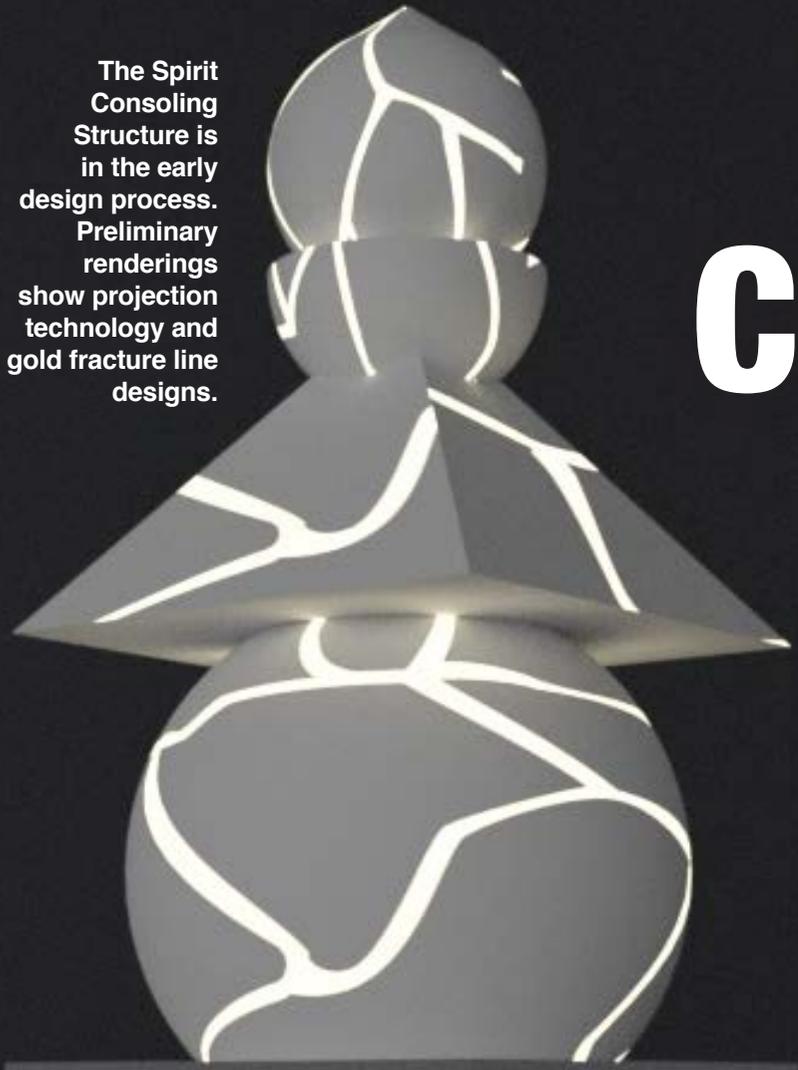




# PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 93 YEARS

The Spirit Consoling Structure is in the early design process. Preliminary renderings show projection technology and gold fracture line designs.



» **PAGE 6**

## CONSOLING SPIRITS

The *Irei* Names Monument seeks to make visible what was once erased.



» **PAGE 2**

Remembering Norman Y. Mineta

» **PAGE 5**

JANM Honors 30 Under 30 for 2022

# REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF NORMAN MINETA

Condolences from across the nation continue in memory of the late-U.S. Secretary of Transportation, who passed away on May 3 at age 90.



Norman Y. Mineta and his wife, Deni

**T**ributes and condolences honoring the extraordinary lifetime of the Hon. Norman Y. Mineta, who died peacefully surrounded by family in Edgewater, Md., on May 3 due to a heart ailment according to John Flaherty, Mineta's former chief of staff, continue across the country, honoring the man who broke racial barriers for Asian Americans and committed his life to public service.

Forcibly incarcerated as a young boy at Heart Mountain in Wyoming at the onset of World War II to eventually serving as the mayor of San Jose, Calif., early in his career to becoming Secretary of Transportation under both Democratic President Bill Clinton and Republican George W. Bush — where he ordered the grounding of all U.S. commercial flights following the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2011 — Mineta com-

mitted his lifetime to ensuring the betterment of all Americans.

In 2006, Mineta was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, by President George W. Bush, who in his remarks said of Mineta: "As I said when presenting him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Norm has given his country a lifetime of service, and he's given his fellow citizens an example of leadership, devotion to duty and personal character."

On May 7, the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies livestreamed special messages from the Mineta family, including his wife, Danealia ("Deni"), and sons, David and Stuart Mineta, as they addressed the AANHPI community following Mineta's death.

"I would like to express appreciation to the Asian American, Native Ha-

waiian and Pacific Islander communities gathered today. You are all family. Norm was of the community and loved the time he's been in the community," said Deni Mineta during the livestream. "And many of you are friends and colleagues and have been for decades. The closeness of this community, our ohana, exceeded all that we could have hoped for in our lives. While we haven't seen many of you for a while, please know that you remained in Norm's heart. You embraced Norm. You embraced our family. And you have been precious, precious friends. I want to thank you for your friendship, for being our ohana and loving Norm. Thank you."

Said Stuart Mineta: "Dad loved working and being with you all. He loved the work you were doing. That probably reminded him of his start so many decades ago. That sense of community joining together for the common good, that joining together was what helped lift him up to help others.

"Our family is profoundly touched and proud by the outpouring of condolences, but really, it's the stories that so many are sharing about their interactions with dad that have made such an impact on us," Stuart Mineta continued. "... We were lucky enough to follow his example. And to hear that he made such an impression on so many people just

reinforces what we knew about dad and how he lived his life. So, thank you for continuing his life's work of advocacy and service for others."

In remembering his father, David Mineta recalled, "In whatever way you knew dad, the feeling that brought you here today is very real. He loved you. And was proud of you. Just like the family we all are. . . . He cherished the work you did together. He exalted in your rise and promotions, and he sank with your lows and hardships. He was as proud of your achievements, personal, professional, you know, marriages, births, as any proud father or grandfather could be. All of it brought him sustenance. And it was beautiful. It was real and will always be even as he departs this world for the next. . . . Cry the necessary tears of mourning. Laugh out loud with the belly laugh that is required when remembering a funny moment. But know our community is fundamentally stronger for the love you gave him. And he gave us back. It is not hyperbole to say the imprint on the collective American experience is fundamentally different because of it. It is what we know is a basic truth and the very large extended family of Norman Y. Mineta. As dad would always say, thanks a million."

» See MINETA on page 8



Floyd Shimomura, John Tateishi, Norman Mineta, Frank Sato and Ron Ikejiri at the 2019 National JACL Convention in Salt Lake City.

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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





## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# PUBLIC HEALTH IS NOT DETERMINED BY PUBLIC OPINION

By David Inoue,  
JACL Executive Director

While most of the news from the courts has been the leaked decision from the Supreme Court regarding the likely overturning of *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, the lower federal courts have weighed in on two other public health issues with decisions that will likely reach the Supreme Court as well.

On April 18, Florida District Judge Kathryn Kimball Mizelle issued a decision blocking the government's ability to impose mask mandates,

stating the CDC exceeded the authority vested by Title 42 of the Public Health Act and also violated the Administrative Procedures Act, which requires public comment of proposed regulations.

The history of masks throughout the pandemic has admittedly been confusing. Initially, the recommendation was that masks be reserved for health care workers and traditional guidance that masks were unnecessary unless someone was symptomatic. Once we learned asymptomatic transmission was possible, guidance was quickly changed to recommend masks for everyone. This was not a

failure of public health, but a changing of guidance based on changing information about a newly discovered disease.

At this time, Covid remains present within our community and continues to spread widely. It is not the time to lift a mask mandate that remains a key strategy to prevent the spread of Covid.

However, the lifting of the mandate was met with soon-to-be posted videos of airline passengers gleefully removing and throwing away their masks. Visiting a restaurant or any public space now places mask wearers in the minority. Clearly, the mask mandate is not something people liked, but was it protective?

On the other hand, we have been excluding and expelling asylum seekers under the misguided policy that this would protect our country from the transmission of Covid from increased immigration.

Those who continue to support Title 42 expulsions and exclusions do not attempt to make a public health argument for keeping the policy in place. Most often, claims are that lifting Title 42 will lead to a flood of immigration that will

overwhelm border states and related social services.

On May 20, Louisiana-based District Judge Robert R. Summerhays issued an order blocking the discontinuation use of Title 42, which had been used to block immigration due to the Covid pandemic. Title 42 gives the government the power to restrict immigration in the event of a public health emergency to prevent the spread of communicable disease and was established in authority by the Public Health Act of 1944.

It is inarguable that our immigration system is broken, but Title 42 is not immigration policy, it is public health policy and not intended to be a means to limit people entering our country. As I have argued previously elsewhere, implementation of Title 42 under the false pretense of addressing a public health emergency is no different from Japanese American exclusion being enacted under the false pretense of a national security threat.

As a result of Judge Summerhays' ruling, we will continue to exclude immigrants from our country under the supposed need of preventing the spread of Covid, but if we are no

longer required to wear masks, is there really a threat?

The courts have stepped in to assert that the health emergency is not justification to maintain mask mandates, yet are also sending the message that the public health emergency should remain justification to enact immigration policy.

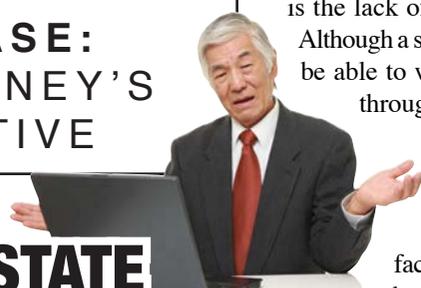
Ultimately, it is not the place of the courts to substitute legal arguments that supersede the need to respond to an emergency situation. We have seen this logic used previously to give the government wide latitude when questions of national security arise.

Ultimately, it must be the public health physicians, scientists and other experts who should be determining public health policy. While it is important to question if a threat exists, public health or otherwise, the courts must remain consistent in allowing the government to respond to threats to our country: foreign, domestic and, now more than ever, disease.

*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



# DO-IT-YOURSELF ESTATE PLANNING

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

In the wake of the Covid pandemic, many families are getting serious about putting their affairs in order. Perhaps for the first time, many parents have thought about how to protect their families from probate court and the importance of creating their estate planning documents, i.e., wills, trusts and powers of attorney.

If you simply leave all your assets to loved ones in your will, this could have unintended consequences. Before a person's property can be distributed in accordance with the will, the document must go through a court process called probate. The problem with probate is that no assets can be distributed until it is completed, which can take months or even years. The other major problem is that probate is expensive.

Many families are starting to understand that living trusts are not just for the rich. Avoiding probate benefits the not-so-rich, too. The only problem is that some families are saying, "We need a living trust to avoid probate," in the same breath

they're also saying, "Let's save a bunch of money and get a "Do It Yourself" (DIY) Trust online." The logic seems sound; after all, why pay thousands of dollars or more to an estate planning attorney when you can do it yourself?

But wait — have you ever heard the old idiom, "Penny wise and pound foolish?" That's what often happens when you try to save a few hundred dollars by creating an online trust, but your family may have to spend tens of thousands to go through the administration in probate court. Or even worse, litigate because there is something wrong with the document.

The first thing to know about estate planning is that there isn't actually a single document known as an "estate plan." Rather, an estate plan is made up of a collection of documents that create the legal solution needed in case of incapacity and eventually upon your death. Online sites and computer software programs are not designed to allow for differences in family dynamics, nor do they address your unique issues and concerns.

One of the biggest problems with DIY software packages and forms

is the lack of professional advice.

Although a software document may be able to walk you step-by-step through a form, it can never provide the advice that comes from an experienced estate planning attorney. In fact, the websites that sell these forms are required to clearly state that "No Legal Advice" is being given.

There is truly no substitute for advice from a licensed professional. It is very easy to overlook important legal and technical planning points that can cause your family to pay high fees in probate court, unnecessary taxes or lose public benefits like Disability, Medicaid or Medi-Cal.

It has been estimated that 40 percent of the trusts generated fail to avoid probate. The No. 1 reason why is that they are not properly funded. The biggest problem with DIY online trusts is they don't tell you how to properly fund your trust. So, even if you create a DIY online trust, i.e., sign and notarize a legal document that is titled "Living Trust," it may be ineffective, and your loved ones will still have to endure the probate process to finish what you started.

"Say what?" you ask. Simply executing a legal document called a Living Trust doesn't mean you keep your family out of probate court upon your death. You have to "fund" your trust for it to be effective, i.e., transfer title of your money and property into the name of the trust. That means retitling your assets into the trust, so the trust owns the assets.

As "Trustee" of your own trust, you still control your assets. But upon your death, you nominate a "Successor Trustee" who administers the trust according to your instructions.

Another major problem with DIY trusts is that they do not account for changing life circumstances. For example, what happens if one of your children dies before you? It's unfortunate, but it happens, e.g., car accident, cancer, stroke, etc. Will that child's share go entirely to the surviving child? Or to his or her children (i.e., your grandchildren)? Surely, you don't want your assets to be distributed to the wrong people at the wrong time.

Finally, some people try to avoid probate and avoid the need for proper estate planning by putting the child's name on their house while they are still alive. They'll say, "Since my child already owns my home, there is no probate required upon my death!" Which brings me to a second idiom, "Out of the frying pan and into the fire." In other words, trying to avoid a bad situation (probate) by escaping into a worse situation.

Sure, you avoid probate, but you lose the "step-up" in basis, which could cost your child hundreds of thousands of dollars in capital gain taxes. "Say what?" The only time the IRS will forgive gain is if you transfer on death. Let's say you paid \$100,000 for your home and you put your child's name on the deed. Upon your death, your child sells your home for \$1 million. They'll have to pay tax on a \$900,000 capital gain, approximately \$180,000 (20 percent).

Another huge problem is the possibility that you may want to tap the equity in your home to help pay for home care. However, you can't — you don't own it. Once you put your child's name on title to your home, you lose control of your home. Or, what if you want to sell your home and move into a retirement home? You can't.

Even worse, what if you put your home in your child's name and your child gets sued or divorced? Your home could be subject to a judgment creditor or messy divorce proceeding. Even worse — what if you put your home in your child's name and your child dies before you? Guess what, your son-in-law or daughter-in-law might own your home.

The bottom line is that a DIY living trust may save you some time and money in the short-term but could prove to be a financial disaster in the long term. If you want full peace of mind, you need an estate plan drawn up by a professional that is the right fit for your specific situation. It will pay off in the long run.

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



## A MOTHER'S TAKE

# INTERSECTIONALITY

By Marsha Aizumi

The initial eight days beginning the month of May were a whirlwind: my first in-person speaking engagement with Aiden in over two years, an Okaeri virtual workshop about well-being, a final farewell to my brother who passed away in January, a virtual support meeting for our Asian American Pacific Islander LGBTQ+ community and, of course, Mother's Day. It seems like a lot, but these were all places I wanted to be, and so as busy as it seemed, it was a smooth and gentle flow from one event to another with moments of rest.

All of these events highlighted the themes for the month of May: Mother's Day, Mental Health Awareness and Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage. I realize how I have been touched by the intersectionality of all of these themes, and I have grown from their influence.

Mental health, which continues to be a stigma for our AAPI community, has been a place where I have

ventured into unfamiliar spaces. It wasn't always fun, but having good mental health continues to inform how I feel about who I am and how I show up in the world.

My life today, though busy, is also filled with times of rest, walking, appreciating nature, flowers and candles. It is filled with watching BritBox detective programs, which I love, and getting to know Hercule Poirot, Inspector Morse or Lewis. It is taking time to rest and read books I love like Harry Bosch or Brene Brown.

Mental health, for me, is finding balance in my life, so that I can be present in the best possible way. And should I need professional help, I am not filled with shame to reach out for support. It is what has kept our family together because we didn't have all the answers.

Talking about reading a good book, I just finished an old classic . . . "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn." Anna Quindlen in the forward says, "The best anyone can say is that it is a



Our first in-person speaking event: Marsha, Aiden, Papa, Cousin Joy and Tim Cobb.



First book signing in over two years at Montebello Women's Club



Mother's Day 2022!

story about what it means to be human." I strive to be a good human being, but I am also learning what that means. This is all part of my journey still.

At the same time, I was reading Pema Chodrin's "Welcoming the Unwelcome." My favorite quote in this book was, "Some people naturally bring out the best in us. In their presence, we become more noble, brave and altruistic. We become less cynical, petty and self-doubting." I realize the people I love to spend the most time with fall into the first category . . . thank you to those who make me more noble, brave and altruistic!

I continue to grow and learn more about my Asian American history and family. Recently, I met with a cousin from Ohio and one from

San Diego to talk about family history. We shared pictures, stories and documents about our family.

Along with meeting with my family, I loved attending the PFLAG National API Connects space, where even more discussion about our AAPI heritage and family took place. At our last meeting, we had people representing the Hawaiian, Japanese, Chinese, Vietnamese and Indian LGBTQ+ communities.

I was thrilled to have one of the LGBTQ+ individuals ask for support, and we were able to connect him with another gay man from his ethnicity and another organization that specifically supports his culture.

If any AAPI individual needs support around the LGBTQ+ topic, please reach out to me at

[maizumi8888@gmail.com](mailto:maizumi8888@gmail.com) or visit <https://pflag.org/connects/communities/aapi> for additional information about support or resources.

Finally, celebrating Mother's Day with Aiden, Mary, Stefen, Cat and Papa just brought everything together for me. They are the best thing for my mental health; they nourish my spirit and have taught me to be a better mother, wife and human being.

Aiden coming out has led me back to my AAPI community and understanding how my heritage has influenced me to be the person I am today. Dolly Parton says, "Find out who you are. Do it on purpose." Even as a senior citizen, I am discovering more of who I am . . . and, yes, Dolly, I am living my life on purpose and with purpose.

**Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers, both biological and chosen!**

**Happy AAPI Month to all that share this rich culture!**

**Happy Mental Health Month to all of us that reach out for support so we can be the best humans possible!**

*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."*



## REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

# AARP Celebrates 15 AAPI Leaders During Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

By Scott Tanaka

In May, AARP is celebrating the immeasurable contributions of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community on our nation's culture and history as part of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. As AARP honors the history of AAPI resilience, there is an esteemed ensemble of AAPI members within the organization who are currently making progress through exemplary leadership.

There's an equal commitment in working to address the recent rise in anti-Asian violence directed toward AAPI elders. AARP is committed to the fight for social justice and ending intolerance, embracing a culture of

innovation and advocating for health care, financial resilience and personal fulfillment for all.

This month is the perfect time to recognize the strength of AARP's AAPI leaders. Here are a few 2022 Top 15 AARP leaders — individuals who are worth getting to know, as they are moving the needle and making positive change for families and communities.



**DAPHNE KWOK**  
Vice President,  
Office of Diversity,  
Equity and Inclusion  
Asian American  
and Pacific Islander  
Audience Strategy  
AARP

Daphne Kwok's work empowers Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to choose how they live as they age.

She brings to AARP her experience as a "leader of leaders" through her community service in promoting and empowering the AAPI community. For 11 years, she was the executive director of the Organization of Chinese Americans, a national membership-based civil rights organization, where she addressed hate crimes, campaign finance, immigration, Census 2000, English-only and affirmative action.

She was also the first elected chair of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, a network of national APA organizations. In addition, Kwok served as executive director of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies.

Kwok's board service includes chair of APIAVote, a member of the Comcast-NBCUniversal Joint Diversity Advisory Council, co-chair of the Nielsen External Asian Pacific Advisory Council and board member of the Asian American Advertising Federation.

**INDIRA VENKAT**  
Senior Vice  
President,  
AARP Research

Indira Venkat is the senior vp of AARP Research. She previously led the Consumer Insights function consisting of several issue-focused teams —

financial resilience, health security, personal fulfillment, strategic and local issues and brand and membership.

She is responsible for designing a research agenda that yields actionable insights and fosters innovative thinking about AARP's current and future consumers. Most recently, she led the strategic insights function at the Weather Channel, supporting all facets of programming, digital product and sales strategies.

Prior to that, as a member of Travel Channel's executive team, Venkat oversaw the Audiences and Research function covering research, program strategy, digital and short-form studios.

**BANDANA SHRESTHA**  
Director,  
AARP Oregon

As state director, Bandana Shrestha leads the day-to-day operations of AARP Oregon and is responsible for carrying out AARP's vision of health security, financial resilience and community engagement for over 500,000 members and Oregonians 50-plus and their families across the state.

During her 20-plus year career as a leader in local, national and

international organizations, Bandana has worked to drive people-powered solutions to affect positive social change, improve lives and transform communities.

Before her appointment as state director, Bandana served as AARP Oregon director of community engagement and led outreach and advocacy efforts on hunger, prescription drugs, caregiving, long-term care, grandparents raising grandchildren, as well as multicultural and volunteer engagement.

Most recently, Bandana led AARP's livable communities work in the state, including growing and supporting the Network of Age-Friendly Communities, advocating for affordable and accessible housing and transportation options at the state and local levels.

*To learn more about AARP's commitment to the AAPI community and see the full list of AAPI leaders being honored at AARP's AAPI Community's Facebook page, visit <https://www.facebook.com/AARPAAPI/> and website at [aarp.org/AAPI](http://aarp.org/AAPI).*

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



# JANM MARKS 3RD DECADE WITH THEME OF 30

The museum's annual fundraiser recognizes changemakers under 30.

By P.C. Staff

**Y**oung people back in the 1960s had a saying: Never trust anyone over 30.

But that was the past. In 2022, the Japanese American demographic of that generation is older by well more than double that figure — and looking to the future by putting its trust in a younger generation to carry on its heritage, legacy and traditions.

That spirit was epitomized when the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo celebrated its 30th anniversary by recognizing 30 community members under the age of 30 — on April 30, of course.

The anniversary also marked a return to an in-person setting at the Inter-Continental Los Angeles Downtown, with the event livestreamed for those unable to attend.

Celebrities in attendance included KTLA telejournalist Frank Buckley, who shared master of ceremony duties with Erin Aoyama, co-director of the Japanese American Memoryscape Project, and one of the evening's honorees, as well as actor-activist-social-media maven George Takei, who interviewed five of the honorees over the livestream.

Entertainment was provided by singer-choreographer Nobuko Miyamoto and percussionist Alex Smith. The national anthem was sung by Malea Emma.

Welcoming remarks were made by JANM Board of Trustees Vice Chair Randall Lee, who recognized the memory of Norman Mineta, who, prior to his May 3 death at 90, served as the chair of the JANM board of trustees.

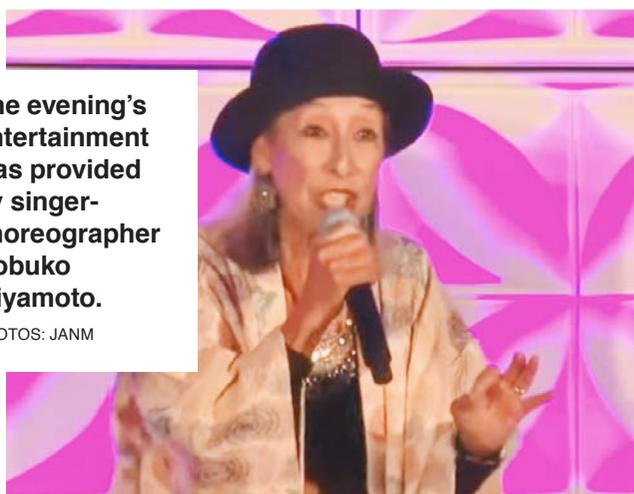
"Today marks the 30th anniversary of our opening as a museum, so it's fitting that tonight we both commemorate the past and look to the future with our theme, 'Honoring Our History, Reimagining Our Future,'" Lee said. His remarks were followed by JANM President



JANM recognized 30 Changemakers Under 30 during its fundraising gala on April 30, which also coincided with its 30th anniversary. Pictured are the honorees along with (center, seated) Frank Buckley, Ann Burroughs and George Takei.

The evening's entertainment was provided by singer-choreographer Nobuko Miyamoto.

PHOTOS: JANM



and CEO Ann Burroughs, who noted that the last time JANM was able to hold its annual fundraising dinner was in 2019.

After noting all the lives touched and achievements JANM had accrued over the years, Burroughs thanked the founders for their "tenacity and perseverance," as well as that of the staff in making sure that "what happened to Japanese Americans in 1942 wouldn't happen again to any other group."

The audience was also shown a video greeting from Japanese Ambassador to the United States Koji Tomita, who expressed his congratulations to the museum on its 30th anniversary. Tomita was followed by Kazuo Koshi, managing executive officer of MUFU Bank and JANM board of governors' member.

Next up were videos of JANM's history and an in memoriam roll call of recent passings of community members and supporters, followed by a video of JANM's educational program.

A speech by Jennifer Hirano, daughter of founding JANM President and CEO Irene

Hirano Inouye, who died April 7, 2020, followed. She addressed the Bid for Education program that was initiated by Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, her stepfather and Hirano Inouye's husband, who died in 2012.

After a fundraising bid by the museum's education staff, veteran volunteer Masako Koga Murakami, accompanied by her grandson, Cole Kawana (one of the 30 under 30 honorees) recalled how her volunteer work began in 1986 at 941 E. Third Street, a building that also at the time housed the office of the *Pacific Citizen*. She said she felt "fortunate to see how much the volunteers have contributed" to the museum's success.

Representing Toyota Motor North America was Chief Finan-

cial Officer Tracey Doi, who facilitated the drawing for a new Lexus 450h. She noted that more than 8,000 tickets were sold — which raised more than \$155,000 for the museum, which was augmented by an additional grant of \$100,00 by Toyota — with the winners of the vehicle being Dan Abrams and Nan Cohen of Sarasota, Fla.

All told, the evening raised more than \$203,000 by the end of the program. ■



KTLA-5 Los Angeles' Frank Buckley served as the event's co-master of ceremonies.



Longtime community activist/actor George Takei



## JANM's 30 Changemakers Under 30

- Emma Anderson
- Erin Aoyama
- Kaitlyn Chu
- Kraig Fujii
- Dina Alyce Fusaye Furumoto
- Keila Sachi Gaballo
- Jonathan van Harmelen
- Sara Hutter
- Bryce Ikemura
- Brandon Ishikata
- Nolan Minoru Jimbo
- Justin Kawaguchi
- Cole Yujiro Kawana
- Aidan Kosaka
- Emiko Otera Kranz
- Kenji Kuramitsu
- Kristi Mieko Lin
- Devon Matsumoto
- Kota Mizutani
- Nina Nakao
- Alec Nakashima
- Megan Tomiko Ono
- Mariko Rooks
- Miya Sommers
- Miye Ella Sugino
- Vinicius Taguchi
- Kai Vanderlip
- Matthew Weisbly
- Joy Emi Yamaguchi
- Derek T. Yamashita

# CONSOLING ALL THE SPIRITS OF WORLD WAR II

The *Irei* Names Monument seeks to make visible what was once erased — all the names of the Japanese Americans incarcerated.

By Lynda Lin Grigsby, Contributor

In 1903, on a ship bound for the United States, Ayaka Takahashi — as the ship’s manifest identified him — befriended a passenger who questioned the need for the vowel at the end of his surname if it wasn’t pronounced. Japanese, like many languages, is amorphous. Sometimes the “i” at the end of the word speaks, but sometimes it is silent. As the story goes, the Issei took the “i” and dropped it in the Pacific Ocean, and the waves carried its superfluousness away. He became Ayaka Takahash.

“It was a deliberate choice made by my grandfather,” said Janis Hirohama, a South Bay JACL member. “And it is a meaningful part of our family history.”

Takahash’s reclamation of his name signified a rare form of agency during a time when Japanese American names and identities were often changed because of U.S. government misspellings or lexical gaps. A misspelling can live for generations and render a person into abstraction until the name is taken back.

What if we can take back our names like Takahash by throwing out unnecessary letters, crossing out misspellings and writing in the correct spelling? Would that simple act of reclamation plant a seed of healing?

A first of its kind memorial to honor all Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during World War II seeks to answer those questions by establishing a master list of incarcerated names. We know official records often cite that 125,000 Japanese American people were forcibly evacuated, but up until now, the records have been a scattering of camp intake forms, draft cards, even camp rosters handwritten by incarcerated — but no master list of all incarcerated existed.

It makes the historical event — a

lived experience in your families — an abstraction experienced by what Duncan Ryuken Williams calls an “undifferentiated mass who were guilty by association.” This pain can only be repaired if names are given back.

Spearheaded by the USC Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture, with Williams as the director, the *Ireichō*, or “Book of Names,” is one part of the ambitious memorial funded by the Mellon Foundation to bring into focus the individuals behind the undifferentiated mass. The faceless people on the scattering of records, reduced to numbers written on tags, were people like Takahash who suffered, loved and laughed. In the *Ireichō*, his name will be listed as he intended.

### A Healing Memorial

The *Irei* Names Monument seeks to make visible what was once erased. The USC Shinso Ito Center received a \$3.4 million grant over three years from the Mellon Foundation to build the memorial.

The idea borrows from the Buddhist tradition of writing and recitation of ancestors’ names as an act of bringing the past and the present together. For a community to be made whole, we must count every individual, said Williams, a Soto Zen Buddhist priest and scholar.

The memorial will be composed of three elements:

### *Ireichō* or the Book of Names

The master list of names of all the

people incarcerated during WWII — including Department of Justice camps — will be completed in June. The list then goes to the book’s design team — Jon Sueda and Chris Hamamoto from the California School of the Arts in San Francisco. The names will be sequenced by age, starting with the oldest Issei and ending with the last baby born behind barbed wire. This sequencing gives a sense of the community at the camps, said Williams. In September, three bound books, which will be Gutenberg Bible size, will be displayed at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo.

### *Ireiō* or Consoling Spirits Website

The beta version of Ireizo.com will launch in the fall to provide more details of individuals incarcerated during WWII. Here, the names will be listed in alphabetical order and mapped to camps and additional information from Densho archives. The full version will launch in 2023.

### *Ireihī* or Spirit Consoling Structure

Like the memorial at the Manzanar National Historic Site, the *Ireihī* will encourage pilgrimages. Seven small-scale monuments will be installed at confinement sites and visitors’ centers starting in 2024. A large-scale version of the monument will be unveiled at JANM in 2025.

The *Ireihī* Names Monument will be born during a time when many are rethinking memorials. The idea came out



Ayaka Takahash (seated, left) with his family in 1946.



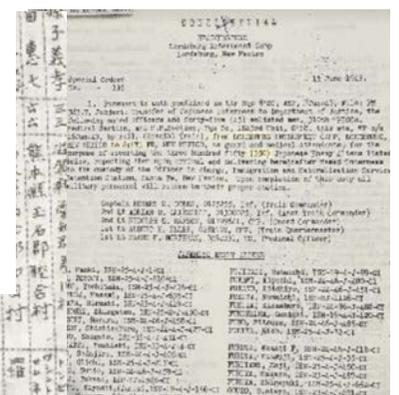
The *Ireihī* or Spirit Consoling Structure is in the early design process. Preliminary renderings show projection technology and gold fracture line designs.



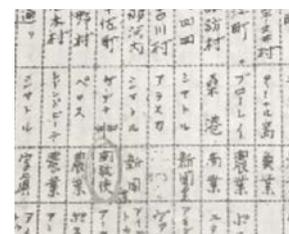
“It’s such a massive undertaking,” said Duncan Ryuken Williams about the process of creating a master list of all Japanese Americans incarcerated during WWII. He is pictured in 2021 going through the WRA’s Final Accountability Roster.



According to Janis Hirohama, the memorial is about so many individual stories. She is pictured at the 2018 Poston Pilgrimage with her family’s memorial brick.



Translators went through handwritten camp rosters like this one from the Lordsburg camp.



of the movement to think beyond monuments as permanent and static — like Abraham Lincoln sat down and never got up despite history continually being reinterpreted around him. This memorial will be dynamic and interactive, said Williams. Names will scroll and change. The idea is to take this memorial beyond remembrance to repair.

What is this memorial trying to repair? First, it seeks to correct misspellings. Surnames like Matsukuma became Matsuguma with the click of a typewriter key.

“The way we don’t honor those who have come before us is by replicating the errors, which are unfortunately replete in these government rosters,” said Williams.

During WWII, Japanese American names were taken away and replaced with unique numbers. The memorial also seeks to restore full identities.

“Names matter,” said Hirohama, a Sansei Buddhist minister’s assistant. During WWII, her grandparents were incarcerated at Poston. “My family is more than ‘Family Number 41919.’”

**Getting to 99.9 Percent Accuracy**

In 2019, Williams wanted to organize a collective national moment of chanting and recitation of the names of the 125,000 victims of the WWII incarceration — all he needed was a master list of names. It was a moment of ambitious idealism that quickly ended when he found out no such list existed.

Well, he thought to himself, I guess I need to create it.

“I see why nobody’s ever done this,” said Williams. “It’s such a massive undertaking.”

To put together an accurate master list of former WWII incarcerees meant gathering rosters from the main War Relocation Authority camps and the Department of Justice camps — which rarely get included in the official count. During the war, individuals and families often transferred from camp to camp, creating a confusing spiderweb of information that the memorial’s 12-person team picked through and cross-checked with a complex flow chart.

The goal was to determine with 99.9 percent certainty what the actual number of persons of Japanese ancestry were incarcerated in any confinement sites, said Williams. Among the records he came across were camp rosters written in Japanese script that included information about a person’s name and address before the incarceration. Romanizing the names was not as easy as it sounded.

“Although there were typical names that I could easily decipher, there were also a number of cases

where a character could be read in a few different ways,” said Yukari Inoue Swanson, a translator and research assistant on the project. “I had to make the best guess with the consideration of name trends in the late-19th century.”

Through the verification process, Williams created a series of rules to help guide the team in its decision-making process. One rule he calls the “rule of historicity” calls for the use of the name that was correct at that time. When Williams came across Takahash’s name, it raised a red flag. By chance, he knew Hirohama, who told him about the dropped “i” in the Pacific Ocean, so Takahash’s name remained in the book of names as intended.

**Kintsugi and Community Interaction**

The Sept. 23 *Ireicho* installation at JANM will have all the pomp and ceremony of a religious procession. The vision is clear, but the exact route is yet to be determined. A group of clergy members will carry the books from Maryknoll Japanese Catholic Center to JANM.

During WWII, Maryknoll and the site of the old Nishi Hongwanji Temple — now the plaza in front of JANM — were gathering spots for transportation to both the Santa Anita Assembly Center and Manzanar.

The healing power of the memorial will lie in the interaction with its audience. In a Japanese tradition called *kaigan*, artifacts are enlivened through interaction. For a year after the book of names installation at JANM, survivors and their family members will be invited to correct misspellings, add names that may have been omitted, as well as add gold lines on the glyph between each name. Each gold line — a symbolic link between the past and the present — honors the memory of the person.

“It’s a way of involving the community to correct the record and repair the history,” said Williams.

Repair is transitory. It changes and morphs. Another Japanese tradition called *Kintsugi* calls for the repair to be visible and celebrated. When a bowl or teapot breaks, it is fixed with gold-adorned fracture lines.

The memorial in all three of its elements continues the repair work in the Japanese American community that started with a government apology in 1988. Healing is a process that, if done right, draws you in and changes you. With the *Irei* Names Memorial, it also shows how the names — and the people — were all interconnected.

In mid-May when I talked to Williams from Japan where he is visiting family, the team of name

translators and cross-checkers were on the last phase of verification.

“We’re seeing the light at the end of the tunnel,” said Williams, a Shin Issei or first-generation Japanese American who lived and worked in the U.S. with visas for 33 years before becoming an American citizen in 2020.

He has another rule called the “camp survivor rule,” which stated that what a survivor wants overrides all.

On records from Rohwer where George Takei was a child of camp, he was listed as Hosato George Takei. At Tule Lake, he was listed as Hozato George Takei. His birth certificate cites Hosato Takei, so Williams contacted the actor, who told him that the origins of his famous name traced back to the reign of King George VI.

Takei’s dad was an Anglophile so fascinated with the British royal family that he started calling his son the regal name. There is something poignant about calling a child a king while he is incarcerated behind barbed wire.

The former “Star Trek” actor asked to be listed in the book of names as George Hosato Takei. Even with a well-known name, there still so much to learn about each individual. Eighty years after the WWII incarceration, agency and power are back in the hands of the powerless. ■

**NJAHS AWARDED PANDEMIC RECOVERY GRANT**

**SAN FRANCISCO** — The National Japanese American Historical Society has been awarded a grant through the National Writing Project’s Building a More Perfect Union grant program for humanities organizations across the U.S. to assist in recovering from interruptions to operations due to the coronavirus pandemic.

As part of the American Rescue Plan: Humanities Grantmaking for Organizations at the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Building a More Perfect Union program funds organizations to develop programming in anticipation of the upcoming 250th anniversary of the founding of the U.S.

“We are delighted to be a part of America’s recovery, and we are honored to be a recipient of a grant awarded by the National Writing Project. It comes as an opportune time for us to gear up to receive visitors and explore with them the meaning and legacy of the Japanese American Redress movement,” noted NJAHS Executive Director Rosalyn Tonai.

The NJAHS’ project, “Japanese American Redress: Reckoning and Recovery,” will develop an

interactive multimedia kiosk display at the Military Intelligence Service Historic Learning Center, which will inform and engage the public in a lesson of democracy — the exploration of the Japanese American call for restitution, the governmental means by which it was pursued and the subsequent passage of the watershed Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

NJAHS will design and produce interactive elements that draw upon first-person narratives, primary documents, visual records and scholarly analysis.

“Each project contributes to a shared national conversation in important ways,” said Elyse Eidman-Aadahl, executive director of the National Writing Project. “Building a More Perfect Union recognizes the unique role that local, regional and cross-regional humanities organizations play in understanding and making visible fuller stories of our national experience.”

*To learn more about the NJAHS’s Building a More Perfect Union grant, please visit [www.njahs.org](http://www.njahs.org).*

## MINETA » continued from page 2

Remembrances from across the nation are many. Following are anecdotes, tributes and loving memories of the late Norman Y. Mineta.

### *Jeffrey Moy (JACL National President)*

"I first met Secretary Mineta, then-Congressman, as a child in a chance encounter at a local hardware store in Maryland. I never imagined that years later, I would be lucky enough for our paths to cross again and again, whether at various events in Washington, D.C., or at JACL conventions. That so many others undoubtedly feel the same way underscores how important Norm was to our community and the impact he had across generations, whether through the various political positions he served or as a great friend and supporter of JACL. I will forever remember how he championed civil rights, working across the aisle with class and dignity, willing to listen but never straying from his core values. While his loss is immeasurable, his mentorship and support of our community leave an everlasting legacy for all of us to carry forward."

### *David Inoue (JACL Executive Director)*

"Secretary Mineta was well known for his leadership in the Japanese American and Asian American community, especially with JACL. What I will remember most was at an event where everyone, as always, wanted to talk to him, but he took the time to pull my then-8-year-old son aside and spoke with him at length with all his attention. It was this warmth that guided Secretary Mineta throughout his career and made him such a great mentor to so many people. He often spoke of how important the words 'American Citizen' were to him, and he provided us all with a model of how to be the best possible."

### *John Tateishi (former JACL Executive Director and former JACL National Redress Committee Chair)*

"As the nation mourns the passing of Norm Mineta for his many contributions in his lifetime of public service, we in the community feel his loss on a deeply personal level and recognize that we have lost one of the best among us. Despite all his many achievements and national stature, Norm remained humble and never forgot his roots in the community and opened the portal through which hundreds of Asian Americans have passed to run for public

office. And having worked with Norm for several years on the redress campaign, I know that he was a driving force of the JACL's redress effort even before we took the campaign public, and I know, too, that his leadership and dedication were instrumental in the success of the campaign. There would not have been redress without Norm Mineta, of that, I am absolutely certain."

### *Floyd Mori (past JACL National President and Executive Director)*

"Norm Mineta and his encouraging spirit will be sorely missed in the AANHPI community. He was one of a kind who was a shining star, yet he served others willingly without question. He was a mentor and supporter of all that I did during the past 50 years. He was a dear friend who influenced my life always for the better. Our love and condolences to his family."

### *Ron Wakabayashi (past JACL National Director)*

"His accomplishments are many and significant, but the image pictured for me is just having lunch in the House Dining Room and seeing the powerful politician bantering with the wait staff. He knew them by name and their families. He knew the milestones and trials for each of them. I'd seen this in Japanese American community events. He knew everyone by name, by situation and family. Wait staff or community members, he was just a decent, thoughtful and considerate man. His work rested on these qualities.

"When the vote on HR442 was before the House, Speaker Jim Wright, who was an early co-sponsor, had Norm chair that session. He presided over the vote. A trivia note is that he, the bill author, did not vote. Since he would be a beneficiary, he abstained. It would have been a conflict of interest. But, the votes were there because his colleagues so respected him and his integrity.

"I'm surprised at how deeply his passing affects me. The community communication with the news of his passing shows a deeply personal sense of loss. He was the best of us. I am so sad because I am so grateful."

### *Karen Narasaki (former JACL Washington Representative and former U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Commissioner)*

"I was given the assignment of asking him to address the JACL convention in

Utah on the issue of marriage equality. The ask was only to remind JACL members how Congressman Barney Frank had moved redress out of his committee, but Mineta insisted on taking a strong position supporting the right for same-sex couples to marry. His speech is one of the reasons JACL maintained its historic position by a handful of votes. He told me that a good Congressman should be willing to risk losing donors and an election to be on the right side of history.

"I sat in meetings with him when he was Secretary of Transportation, after 9/11, with members of the South Asian, Middle Eastern and Muslim communities, experiencing discrimination at airports where he committed to reminding the airlines of their obligations not to discriminate and am certain that Mineta is one of the reasons that President Bush made an early visit to a mosque to try to stem the backlash. Through it all, he mentored thousands of community leaders, young elected officials and federal appointees. He was generous with his wisdom, with his time and with his friendship."

### *Dianne Fukami (producer/director, 'Norman Mineta and His Legacy: An American Legacy')*

"It was a privilege and honor to get to know Norm really well during the seven years of production on the documentary film 'Norman Mineta and His Legacy: An American Legacy.' In his presence, he made you so comfortable, and he's so self-effacing you forget that he had been at the highest levels of power and about all of his accomplishments. Because he was the same age as my Nisei parents, I understood him, but on the other hand, he had the drive and courage to excel at a level other Japanese Americans rarely reach.

"I hope that he is remembered for his integrity, his love for people and his commitment to help underrepresented people, whether it was people of color, people with disabilities or people in the LGBTQ community. He was one of a kind and will be truly missed." (Related article: [See pacificcitizen.org/norman-minetas-legacy-chronicled-on-pbs/](https://www.pacificcitizen.org/norman-minetas-legacy-chronicled-on-pbs/).)

### *Japanese American Veterans Assn. Mineta served as JAVA Honorary Chair and received the organization's Courage, Honor and Patriotism Award in the fall of 2017.*

"The nation will always be deeply in-

debted to Norm for his generous support and service throughout the years. He dedicated his life to public service and giving back to the community. He was one of the strongest advocates in educating the American public about the injustices and discrimination that were imposed on persons of Japanese ancestry living in America after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. He has used his personal knowledge of those injustices to inspire others and his public service skills to right those wrongs.

"His vigorous commitment to ensuring that those wrongs are never repeated against any oppressed group demonstrated his unwavering patriotism and faith in America. He is a role model, showing that through perseverance, strength and integrity, all Americans can use shared experiences to find common ground to unite to fight against prejudice and injustice and preserve the continued success of our democracy.

"All of us will be thinking of Norm in the coming days and months as we adjust to his passing. Norm will be missed."

### *JANM*

### *Mineta served as the museum's Board of Trustees Chair.*

"As JANM looks to the future, the museum will always remember Secretary Mineta, whose achievements have inspired the Asian American community and uplifted the nation. Norm helped steer and elevate JANM to national prominence. His generosity, diplomacy and love for his country helped the Asian American community and other communities of color address acts of violence from the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001, to the alarming rise in anti-Asian hate. He was a stalwart advocate of advancing the American ideals of equality, justice and liberty for all. Norm's legacy will never be forgotten," said Ann Burroughs, president and CEO of JANM.

"Norm always said that everyone has two arms: One to climb the ladder of success and one to reach down, pick someone else and pull them up behind you. He was a beacon of inspiration and support for the Museum, the nation and the world. His voice shaped national and international conversations on social justice, and his light will continue to live in all of us and inspire generations of leaders. We extend our deepest condolences to his family and all of his many friends and colleagues who have had the special gift of friendship and time with Secretary Mineta." ■

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## JACL WELCOMES NEW OPERATIONS MANAGER BRIDGETTE WATSON

JACL is happy to announce our newest team member, Bridgette Watson! She has an academic background in journalism from City College of San Francisco and photography from the Brooks Institute of Photography. Watson is also certified as a teacher of English as a Foreign Language.



In addition, Watson worked for a few years in the hospitality industry as a manager and sales agent before transitioning to the academic field managing Continuing Medical Education programs, event planning and project and grant management for UCSF and then UC Berkeley.

Watson also has experience working in organic farming, something she initially did pre-pandemic in Scotland and during the pandemic in New Mexico. She lives in the Pacifica, Calif., area and loves its proximity to the ocean.

"I'm happy to be part of

working with a nonprofit that focuses on making the community better," said Watson to the *Pacific Citizen*. "I hope to focus on keeping things up to date within our office in San Francisco and the JACL and be more involved with the Asian American community and learn more about my heritage. Looking forward to making a difference."

*Welcome Bridgette!*

—JACL National

## JACL CALLS FOR NATIONAL ACTION TO COMBAT WHITE SUPREMACY IN THE WAKE OF RECENT TRAGEDY IN BUFFALO

By JACL National

On May 14 in Buffalo, N.Y., 10 people were murdered in a supermarket in an attack perpetrated by a self-identified white supremacist. This is sadly yet another attack that has affected communities of color in the last several years; a grim reflection of the history of our nation, in which white supremacy has been an ever-present and violent institution.

In a manifesto that the attacker posted online prior to the shooting were references to the "Great Replacement," a conspiracy theory built upon an anti-Semitic lie that states that Jews are intentionally replacing white Americans with minority populations.

This dangerous ideology has been cited by other mass shooters in the past and was one of the major factors behind the anti-Semitic massacre in Pittsburgh in 2018 and the attack on an immigrant community in El Paso in 2019. The "Great Replacement" was also responsible for many of the racist views that led to the scapegoating of Japanese Americans in the lead-up

to their incarceration during World War II.

Also incredibly troubling is the role that the internet played in radicalizing the murderer, providing the propaganda of misinformation and hatred as well as the forum to broadcast his despicable acts in real-time. Virtual content platforms must be more proactive to stop the spread of hate and extremism. The shooter did not act independently, but with the support of a broad network of encouragement, that has been allowed to flourish online.

White supremacy continues to be a dangerous terrorist movement that threatens our country and our safety. It must be addressed at all levels from individuals to institutions, to politicians, in order to continue to protect the communities that are the most impacted by these atrocities. Attacks like these are sudden, violent and intended to evoke fear and helplessness within us, but we refuse to be intimidated.

Prosecution alone will not stop this hatred, it must be at all levels within our

county, both public and private. Efforts must be directed toward prevention of the spread of misinformation, education on racial issues and proper training for response and reporting groups and should include language access to ensure minority communities are able to effectively provide crucial information to the institutions that are sworn to protect them.

We will continue to fight against these threats and demand swift and responsible action from our elected officials, law enforcement professionals, and corporate leaders to hold those who spread this rhetoric accountable and to eventually stop hate crimes.



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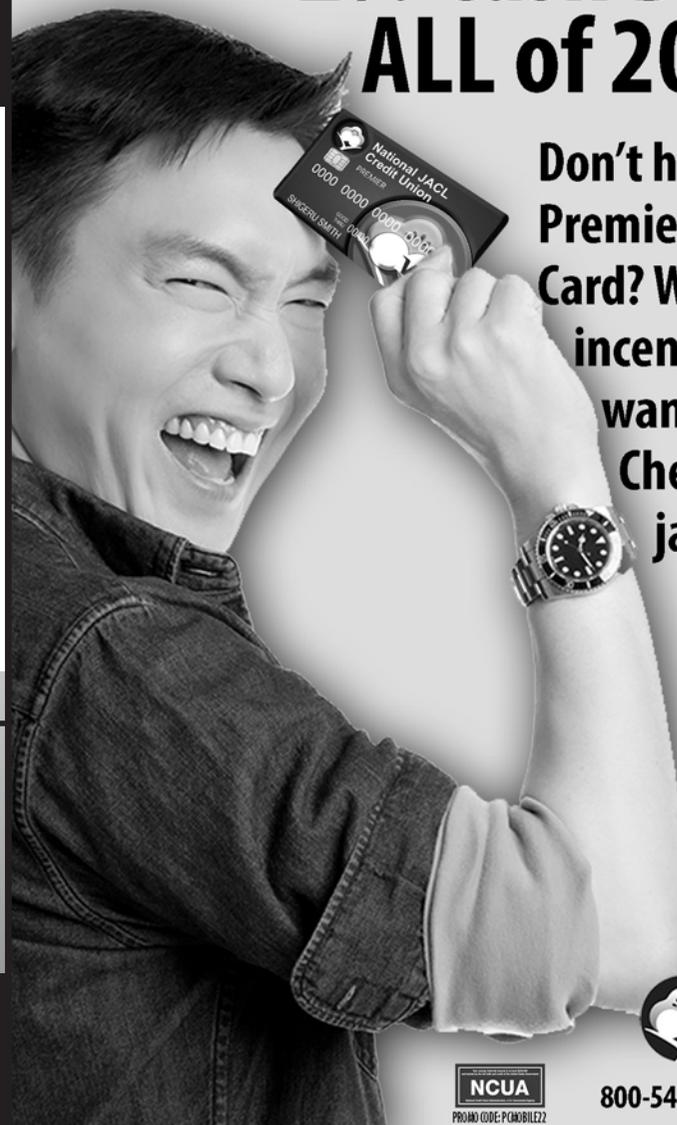
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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

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

## NATIONAL

**52nd JACL National Convention: 'Strengthening Our Community Through Action!'**  
Las Vegas, NV  
Aug. 3-7

**Price: Visit [jacl.org](http://jacl.org) for Event and Pricing Information**

This year's convention welcomes partner organization OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates. Enjoy full access to four days of programming, expanded workshop and mixer opportunities, Sayonara Banquet and Awards Luncheons, in addition to National Council meetings and an in-person election of officers. Programming will be in-person and virtual.

**Info: Visit [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org) for more information. Registration closes July 27. Virtual rates are also available.**

## NCWNP

**The Healing Art of Kintsugi**  
San Francisco, CA  
Virtual Crafting Workshop Presented by JCCNC

**Price: \$75 Center Members; \$85 General Public; Registration Includes All Materials Kit**

Learn how to repair and create your own kintsugi art pieces in this virtual crafting workshop led by instructor Alexandra Kitty, artist and author of "The Art of Kintsugi: Learning the Japanese Craft of Beautiful Repair."

**Info: Register online by June 1 at <http://bit.ly/jccnckintsugi>.**

**Nikkei Open 2022**  
Half Moon Bay, CA  
July 30  
Half Moon Bay Golf Links (Ocean Course)

**2 Miramontes Point Road**  
**Price: \$325; Foursome \$1,300**

Mark your calendars for the 27th Annual Nikkei Open Charity Golf Tournament, which will be a best ball scramble format with hole-in-one and closet to the pin contests. Participants can play in one of two flights of competitions sponsored by longtime supporter Sumofish.

**Info: Visit [www.jccnc.org](http://www.jccnc.org) for more information.**

## PSW

**Hisashiburi: A Long Time Since the Last Time**  
Los Angeles, CA  
June 5; 3-5:30 p.m.  
Terasaki Budokan  
249 S. Los Angeles St.  
**Price: Ticket Prices Vary**

Kizuna is delighted to host an afternoon reunion and joyful celebration honoring the time spent apart during the pandemic and the reasons to connect again. Join the organization as it looks forward to an exciting summer of new growth and youth engagement.

**Info: Email [info@gokizuna.org](mailto:info@gokizuna.org) for full**

**details or visit <https://gokizuna.org/hisashiburi>.**

**2022 Alzheimer's Conference**  
Los Angeles, CA  
June 11; 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. PDT  
Zoom Webinar  
**Price: Free**

Presented by Keiro and Alzheimer's Los Angeles, this event will bring together a panel of expert speakers to educate the community on Alzheimer's disease and related disorders with topics including how to become a "Dementia Friend" and practical tips for caregivers. This conference will be available with Japanese interpretation.  
**Info: Registration closes on June 12; visit [www.keiro.org](http://www.keiro.org) for additional details and registration information.**

**GVJCI 2022 Matsuri Bento-to-Go Fundraiser and Plant Sale**  
Gardena, CA  
June 25; 11 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute  
1964 W. 162nd St.

**Price: Two Bentos for \$40; Four Bentos for \$80; Donations Also Accepted**  
GVJCI's largest fundraiser of the year is back as a preorder/pickup event, with hopes of preselling 1,200 bento that will include grilled chicken teriyaki and rice, yakisoba, spam musubi and green salad. There will also be an onsite plant sale. Special Matsuri 2022 T-shirts are also available for purchase. All proceeds will benefit the GVJCI's programs.  
**Info: For more information, call (310) 324-6611 or email [matsuri@jaci-gardena.org](mailto:matsuri@jaci-gardena.org).**

## PNW

**Na Omi Shintani: 'Dream Refuge for Children Imprisoned'**  
Portland, OR  
Thru 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).**

**2022 Tule Lake Pilgrimage**  
July 1-4  
Virtual Event

The Tule Lake Committee presents this year's pilgrimage which will include hybrid and virtual options. More announcements coming soon on event programming  
**Info: Visit [www.tulelake.org](http://www.tulelake.org).**

## MDC

**'Then They Came for Me: Incarceration of Japanese Americans During WWII and the Demise of Civil Liberties'**  
Milwaukee, WI  
Thru May 29  
Jewish Museum Milwaukee  
1360 N. Prospect Ave.

**Price: Contact Museum for Admission Pricing**  
This multimedia exhibition illustrates the impact the WWII incarceration had on those who experienced it firsthand and the lasting repercussions on the generations that followed. Imagery from noted American photographers Dorothea Lange and Ansel Adams, alongside works by Toyo Miyatake and artifacts from the Chicago-based Japanese American Service Committee collection are on display.  
**Info: Visit [www.jewishmuseummilwaukee.com](http://www.jewishmuseummilwaukee.com).**

## IDC

**Amache Community Open House**  
Granada, CO  
June 30, 7-8:30 p.m.; July 1, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

The University of Denver Amache project will be leading four weeks of field research at Amache and the Amache Museum in Granada, Colo., June 14-July 8. June 30 will include a talk about Amache history at the Granada Community Center, and July 1 will feature visits with the archaeologists, guided tours of family barracks, reconstructed structures and other areas of interest, exhibits at the Amache museum and a dinner for all open house participants.  
**Info: RSVP by June 10 to Melanie Assis at (303) 871-2677 or email [melanie.assis@du.edu](mailto:melanie.assis@du.edu).**

**Cherry Blossom Festival 2022**  
Denver, CO  
June 25 & 26  
Sakura Square in Downtown Denver  
**Price: Free**

This year's Cherry Blossom Festival will take place in person! The event will welcome cultural activities, arts and crafts, delicious food options, entertainment and the annual JARCC All Things Japanese sale.  
**Info: Visit [www.cherryblossomdenver.org](http://www.cherryblossomdenver.org) for event details.**

**2022 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage**  
Powell and Cody, WY  
July 28-30

**Price: Registration Open Thru June 15**  
This year's pilgrimage programs will explore overlooked Nikkei contributions to pop culture, single out voices striving for representation today and dig into what it means to be Japanese American in the 21st century, in addition to reflecting on and remembering the experiences of those who were incarcerated at Heart Mountain during WWII.  
**Info: To register, visit <https://shop-heartmountain.org/products/2022-pilgrimage-registration> or contact Deni Hirsch at (307) 754-8000 or email [denih@heartmountain.org](mailto:denih@heartmountain.org).**

## EDC

**Asia North 2022: 'Remembrance, Resilience, Power + Pride'**  
Baltimore, MD  
Thru May 28  
Motor House and Stillpointe Theatre  
120 W. North Ave.

This exhibition provides a healing and empowering space for regional Asian and AAPI artists to express remembrance, resilience, power and pride within the context of the ongoing triple pandemic

of Covid-19, social, environmental and racial injustice and economic insecurity. In resistance to these injustices, this exhibit celebrates pride in cultural heritage and calls attention to the importance of civic engagement and environmental stewardship.

**Info: Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, Noon-2 p.m. and 7-10 p.m. For more information, visit [www.towson.edu](http://www.towson.edu).**

**'The Go For Broke Spirit' Photo Exhibit**  
Washington, D.C.  
June 9-July 22

**Japan Information and Culture Center**  
1150 18th St. N.W.

This exhibit features images of Japanese American veterans who served during World War II by Shane Sato, a photographer based in Los Angeles. The exhibit runs Monday-Friday, with Saturday hours on June 11.

**Info: Visit <https://www.java-us.org> for more information.**

**Vincent Chin 40th Remembrance and Redication**  
Detroit, MI  
June 16-19  
Virtual Event

This four-day commemoration will remember and celebrate the life of Vincent Chin, who was the victim of a vicious racially motivated beating on June 19, 1982, that led to his death. His murderers never spent a day in jail, targeting him because he was Asian. This commemoration will include a special screening of the film "Who Killed Vincent Chin?" in addition to a national conversation on democracy, racial justice and Asian Americans. This event is presented by the Vincent Chin 40th Remembrance and Redication Organizing Committee and American Citizens for Justice.

**Info: Visit <https://www.vincentchin.org>.**

**JAVA's Day of Affirmation Dinner**  
Fort Belvoir, VA

July 16; 4:30-8:30 p.m.  
National Museum of the U.S. Army  
1775 Liberty Dr.

**Price: \$150 Per Ticket; Business Attire**  
Join the Japanese American Veterans Assn. as it welcomes speaker LTC Robert Vokac, USA (Ret), who will speak on memories from his grandfather, Col. Virgil R. Miller of commanding the 442nd RCT. The event will also commemorate the 1946 triumphant return of the 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team from the battlefields in Europe to Washington, D.C., where they were received by President Harry Truman and presented the seventh presidential unit citation.

**Info: Email [javapotomac@gmail.com](mailto:javapotomac@gmail.com) for questions or visit [www.java-us.org](http://www.java-us.org).**



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# **In MEMORIAM**



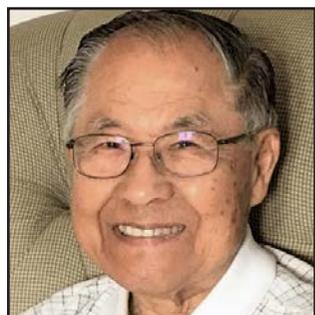
**Hashimoto, Yoshiko, 94**, Monterey Park, CA, Jan. 12; she was predeceased by her husband, Mitsuo; son, John Hashimoto; she is survived by her daughter, Theresa Hashimoto; sisters-in-law, Reiko Yamasaki and Hiroko Hashimoto; she is also survived by 3 nephews; 5 nieces and many other relatives.

**Hayashi, Leo Ryo, 90**, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 10, 2021; he is survived by his wife, June; sisters, Marie and Naomi; children, Ray, Don, Susan and Kei; gc: 7.

**Hisayasu, Yaeko, 91**, Arleta, CA, Feb. 10; she was predeceased by her husband, Bruce; she is survived by her children, Toru (Diane), Makoto Hisayasu, Dawn (Wesley) Naritoku; brother-in-law, Etsuo Hisayasu; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4; ggc: 1.

**Iketani, Roy, 91**, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 3; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ; veteran (Navy); graduate, UCLA; former president, Southwest Los Angeles JACL Chapter; active with East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center; he was predeceased by his wife, Nancee; he is survived by 7 children; a sister; gc: 10.

**Ito, David Kazunori, 73**, Waipahu, HI, Feb. 18.

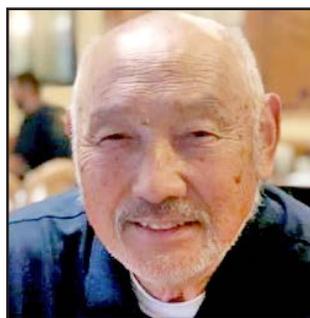


**Ito, Satoshi, 84**, Williamsburg, VA, Jan. 19; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Rohwer WRA Center in AR; B.A., CSU, Long Beach; M.A. & Ph.D. UNC; he was predeceased by his first wife, Jeanne; siblings, Yemiko "Emi" Mukai and Henry Manabu Ito; he is survived by his wife, Carolyn True Ito; children, Loren Ito (John) Hardenbergh and Todd Toshio (Kirsten Leenaars) Ito; step-daughters, Sarah (Michael Marot) True-Marot and Betsy True (Richard) Costner; brother, Sam Osamu (Stacy Kim) Ito; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6.

**Kawai, Ernest G., 75**, Upland, CA, March 31; he is survived by his wife, Sandi; daughter, Julie Kawai; brothers, Glen (Geri) Kawai, Reid (Cathy) Kawai, Ted (Linda) Kawai and Bill (Martha) Kawai; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Masunaga, Don Akira, 75**, Los Angeles, CA, April 18; B.A., CSULA; he is survived by his wife, Rachel Ruiz Masunaga; daughter, Jennifer (Doug Ellison) Masunaga; siblings, Elaine (Michael) Shikuma, Wayne (Lynn) and Janet (Robert Kuwahara) Masunaga; he is also survived by 2 nephews, 1 niece, 2 great-nieces and 1 cousin; gc: 1.

**Matsuno, Amy, 88**, Honolulu, HI, Feb. 20; she was predeceased by her husband, Miki; she is survived by her children, Mike (Stella Maxwell), Susan (Patrick) Soken and Charlene (Brian Furuto) Takeno; brothers, Dickey Hamasaki (Fran) and James Hamasaki (Linda); gc: 4.



**Matsuno, Kinya, 84**, San Francisco, CA, Jan. 27; he was predeceased by his brother, Shozo; he is survived by his wife, Phyllis, children, Michael (Tami), Miwa (Bryan) and Mitchell; siblings, Nana Matsuda, Koji (Tomoko) Matsuno and Suzu (Don) Tokunaga; gc: 5.



**Momita, June T., 84**, Clayton, CA, Nov. 18, 2021; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Jerome WRA Center in AR and the Heart Mountain WRA Center in WY; B.A., UCLA; she was predeceased by her brothers, Edward and Eugene; she is survived by her husband, Milton; children, Helene (Scott), David and Adam; sister, Naomi; gc: 3.

**Nakashima, Famatta C., 65**, Aurora, CO, Feb. 9; she was predeceased by her husband, Dennis; siblings, Rosalyn L. Gaffney and Garcia Robert Gaffney; she is survived by her children, Mandi (Christopher) Bishop, DJ (Christy) Nakashima and Nicholas (Samantha) Nakashima; sister, Deborah L Gaffney; gc: 4; ggc: 2.

**Okada, Harvey J., 71**, Santa Clara, CA, Feb. 24; he was predeceased by his sister, JoAnn Sperlinski; he is survived by his wife, Tina; children, Jacob and Sarah; sister, Jane Okada, brother-in-law, John Sperlinski; he is also survived by 2 nieces and 1 nephew.

**Agin, Alice Katagiri, 75**, Culver City, CA, April 22; Ph.D., UCLA; she is survived by her husband, Larry Agin; son, Edward Agin; she is also survived by cousins, nieces and nephews.



**Djou, Adam Wing-Tak, 57**, San Marino, CA, April 20; he is survived by his wife, Barbara Tomiko Yasuda; daughter, Reilley Wei-Ling Djou; father, Sih-Liang Djou; mother, Lucy Djou; brother, Ben (Amy) Djou; he is also survived by 3 nephews.

**Endo, Doris, 99**, Morton Grove, IL, Feb. 21; she was predeceased by her husband, Harry; daughter, Donna Ichikawa; siblings, Jerry Ito, Kiyo Ito, Hiroshi Ito, Grace Motooka and June Aragaki; she is survived by her children, Alan (Nancy) and Hisa (Ricardo) Garcia; sister, Shigeo Ito; gc: 6; ggc: 1.

**Hashimoto, Ichiro, 85**, Winnetka, CA, March 30; B.S., M.S. and Ph.D., UCLA; he is survived by his wife, Margaret; siblings, Toji, Midee and Kimiko; he is also survived by 2 nieces.



**Hashimoto, Richard 'Dick,' A., 89**, Biloxi, MS, Feb. 4; veteran, Air Force; he was predeceased by his son, Richard Alan Hashimoto; former wife, Louise Gordon Sword; he is survived by his sons, Greg (Sharon) Hashimoto and Steve (Becky) Hashimoto; gc: 4; ggc: 1.

TRIBUTE

**JIMMY KOIDE**



Jimmy Hiroshi Koide, 93, passed away May 5, 2022, in Albany, Calif. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mariko Sekiguchi (2008), and sister, Margaret Kusaba (2021). He is survived by his sister, Ruth Ichinaga; children, Wayne (Suzie), Roger (Claudia), Karen (Sei) and Teri (Wade); grandchildren, Donald, Timothy, Emma, Hana, Maia and Sam; and great-grandchildren, Isis, Eve, Ala, Kanoa, Adelaide and Jane.

Jimmy was born in Oakland, Calif., on Sept. 7, 1928, the second child of Tohru and Tsurue (Furusho) Koide. During WWII, the Koide family was uprooted from their home in Berkeley, Calif., and relocated to the Topaz Internment Camp in Utah. Upon their release, Jimmy completed his senior year at Berkeley High School. In 1946, he volunteered to serve in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Fukuoka, Japan, near his mother's ancestral home. Jimmy graduated from the California College of Arts and Crafts with a B.A. in 1954 and was thereafter employed as a commercial artist. Through his sister, Ruth, Jimmy met and fell in love with Mariko. They married in 1954 and first settled in Berkeley, moving to El Cerrito in 1960. In 2019, Jimmy moved to Belmont Village Senior Living in Albany.

He was an active member of the Christian Layman Church and forged strong and enduring friendships there. He loved teaching calligraphy at the J-Sei Senior Center, painting, tennis and bowling, and he cherished his many friends from those activities. He touched all who crossed his path with gentle kindness. We remember him as a patient, thoughtful and loving man. He is gone from our sight but not from our hearts.

Memorial service: 2 p.m., Sunday, May 29, Christian Layman Church (Grand Advent SDA Church), 278 Grand Ave., Oakland. Please wear a mask to protect the elderly.

TRIBUTE

**ESTHER IZUMI**

Esther Izumi of Alhambra, Calif., died March 5, 2022. She was 97. During WWII, she was incarcerated at the Santa Anita Assembly Center in Arcadia, Calif., before being moved to the Granada WRA Center, aka Camp Amache, in Colorado. She was predeceased by her husband, Robert; sisters-in-law, Dorothy Hoshi and Alice Kai; parents, Aya and Yasujiro Tani; siblings, Lillie Nakamura (Kay), Rose Maeda (Mike) and Daniel Tani; she is survived by her children, Gary and Gail; siblings, Hannah Hogan (late Donald) and Benjamin Tani; brother-in-law, Richard Izumi; and many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Watanabe, Asako (née Narahara), 92**, Philadelphia, PA (formerly of Chicago, IL), April 21; a longtime JACLer, she was predeceased by her husband, Arnold; she is survived by her children, Martha and Thomas (Lynn); sister, Hisako Takami; she is also survived by many nephews and nieces; gc: 2; Memorials appreciated to Japanese American Service Committee, 4427 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60640 or charity of choice. ■

**PLACE A TRIBUTE**

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

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# WOMEN OF THE YEAR LUNCHEON TRADITION RESUMES

Awaya, Nishimoto are recognized for community contributions after two-year interruption.

By P.C. Staff

The Women of the Year Luncheon was held for the first time since 2019, due to a pandemic-caused suspension.

But thanks to the rollout of effective Covid-19 vaccinations, a decision to continue in 2022 the nearly six-decades-long tradition of honoring women of Japanese ancestry for their support, volunteerism, dedication and contributions to community and

cultural activities was made, with the two-yearlong layoff causing no missteps for the event's organizers.

So it was that on May 1 at the Quiet Cannon in Montebello, Calif., that the Japanese Women's Society of Southern California and the Downtown Los Angeles Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League feted with the usual aplomb the afternoon's honorees, Yoko Awaya

and Miyoko Nishimoto.

The luncheon began with introductory remarks from George Kita, president of the Downtown Los Angeles Chapter of JACL, and Joyce Chinn, president of the Japanese Women's Society of Southern California, as well as an invocation by the Rev. Jeffrey Snell of Westwood Presbyterian Church.

Honored first was Tokyo-born

Awaya, a renowned master of the koto and founder of Awaya-kai (1974) and the Yoko Awaya Koto Music Conservatory (1994), both of which she formed in the years after emigrating from Japan in 1965. Awaya has been a consistent teacher, performer, contributor and recording artist over the ensuing decades.

Awaya's award was presented by Beverly Findlay-Kaneko, an Awaya-kai board member who noted that "Awaya sensei's 50th anniversary concert is in fall 2023 and also will feature a multicultural program" in Torrance, Calif.

Nishimoto was the day's other honoree. Born in the capital city of Fukuoka prefecture and raised in the

Yoko Awaya



Displaying awards and certificates of recognition are (from left) Joyce Chinn, president of the Japanese Women's Society of Southern California; Yoko Awaya; Miyoko Nishimoto; and George Kita, president of the Downtown L.A. Chapter JACL.

PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON



Pictured (from left) are Nancy Takayama, PSWD JACL; Amy Tambara, Downtown L.A. Chapter JACL; Kitty Sankey, Downtown L.A. Chapter JACL; Ken Inouye, past JACL national president; Joyce Chinn, president of the Japanese Women's Society of Southern California; Nancy Nix, Downtown L.A. Chapter JACL; George Kita, president of the Downtown L.A. Chapter JACL; and Rodney Nakada, Downtown L.A. Chapter JACL.



Miyoko Nishimoto

city of Ureshino in Saga prefecture, she was recognized for her more than three decades of volunteerism and participation with such groups as the Orange County Japanese American Assn., the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Southern California, Southern California Amami Kai, Southern California Saga Kenjinkai and more.

Presenting Nishimoto's award was Ken Inouye, past chair and current treasurer of the Orange County Human Relations Commission, stalwart

SELANOCO JACL chapter member and former JACL national president. He noted that "anyone from Orange County knows this incredible woman" who went out of her way to make people feel comfortable.

Serving on the luncheon committee were Joyce Chinn, Kay Inose, Toshie Kawaguchi, George Kita, Rodney Nakada, Miyuki Namaki, Nancy Nix, Tomoko Sakurai, Kitty Sankey, Patricia Sookdet, Amy Tambara, Marie Tanaka, Yuko Uyesugi and Rose Yoshiyama. ■

Honor our heritage, community, and family *today* by getting vaccinated for a safer *tomorrow*.

May is AANHPI Heritage Month—time to honor our community's contributions to making America stronger. Take pride in our past by making history today. Stay healthy and get everyone in your family vaccinated. Talk to a doctor if you have any questions.

Find vaccines and boosters near you at [vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov)



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