» PAGE 4
U.S. Ambassador to Japan Dedicates Room Honoring Norman Y. Mineta.

» PAGE 5
JACL Chapters Award 2022 Scholarships.

» PAGE 6
GRADUATION 2022: ONE FOR THE AGES
More California Nisei finally receive belated college diploma recognition.
O n May 24, our nation once again felt outrage, pain and sadness in response to what we call another senseless mass murder of innocent children. Or is it really a numbness that we now go through the motions of expressing our anger for a few days and then move on with our lives until the next act that stirs our ire.

In Uvalde, Texas, there are now 21 households where they will not have that luxury of moving on with their lives, where there is now an empty bed and seat at the dinner table. And yet, according to GunViolenceArchive.org, Uvalde is the 213th incident of a mass shooting this year.

There were at least 15 additional shooting incidents on May 24 resulting in a fatality. There have been 17,194 fatalities due to gun violence this year to date, every one of those deaths impacting loved ones and communities.

PACIFIC CITIZEN CALLS FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Think you have the “write” stuff? Then read on.

If you have journalism experience and are interested in contributing news articles to the Pacific Citizen, please email your writing samples (or links to samples) to pc@pacificcitizen.org and editorial@pacificcitizen.org.

You can also mail your samples to the newspaper’s physical address: Pacific Citizen, attention: Allison Haramoto/George Johnston, 123 Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Also include biographical information and a few paragraphs on why you are interested in reporting on news of interest to Pacific Citizen readers.

Remuneration for published articles will be provided by the Harry K. Honda Memorial Journalism Fund established by redress settlement grant Ujifusa (Pacific Citizen, March 18, 2022) to enhance the Pacific Citizen’s national news coverage.

(Pictured above is P.C. Editor Emeritus Harry Honda in a drawing by Pete Hironaka.)

PACIFIC CITIZEN CALLS FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Think you have the “write” stuff? Then read on.

If you have journalism experience and are interested in contributing news articles to the Pacific Citizen, please email your writing samples (or links to samples) to pc@pacificcitizen.org and editorial@pacificcitizen.org.

You can also mail your samples to the newspaper’s physical address: Pacific Citizen, attention: Allison Haramoto/George Johnston, 123 Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Also include biographical information and a few paragraphs on why you are interested in reporting on news of interest to Pacific Citizen readers.

Remuneration for published articles will be provided by the Harry K. Honda Memorial Journalism Fund established by redress settlement grant Ujifusa (Pacific Citizen, March 18, 2022) to enhance the Pacific Citizen’s national news coverage.

(Pictured above is P.C. Editor Emeritus Harry Honda in a drawing by Pete Hironaka.)
THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

By David Inoue, JACL Executive Director

In the aftermath of yet another school shooting that took the lives of 19 children, all about the same age as my own, the angry reactions from around the country emphasized, “No more thoughts and prayers, we need action.”

So, of course this would set up an interesting response on Saturday and Sunday in synagogues and churches across the country. I imagine every single sermon that weekend spoke to the massacre in some way or another. If nothing else, I imagine many clergy felt the need to highlight the importance of prayer in a time like this and that there does remain a place for prayer.

And yet, I would suggest that in reality, thoughts and prayers have been incredibly effective because we have misunderstood where they have been directed. The Saturday following the Uvalde massacre, I attended a bat mitzvah, which I could probably find much to write about broadly, but what stood out in the many scripture readings, psalms and singing of the morning was a verse from Leviticus about the commandment regarding false idols. Our gun problem in this country is one of idolatry.

While many of us have been observing prayer to the victims, for their well-being, others have been offering their prayers to the gun industry, the culture of machismo and ridiculously unnecessary amounts of firepower. What should be abundantly clear at this point is that there is no justifiable need for any average citizen to own weapons whose sole intent is mass killing. These are weapons of war, intended unfortunately for the current war in Ukraine, not for use in our streets or in homes for self-defense. They are intended for use in the constructs of a well-regulated militia.

The Second Amendment is probably one of the most-parsed clauses in our Constitution. The Supreme Court has affirmed the individual right to own firearms ostensibly for the purpose of self-defense, but it recognizes the right of the state to some regulation and limitations. One of those limitations must be the banning of individual ownership of assault rifles.

The Senate is currently seeking compromise on lower threshold laws at gun safety such as red flag laws, increasing the minimum age for purchases, banning of high-capacity magazines, safe storage requirements and the ever popular, but unpassable by Congress, background check requirements.

We also see the shifting of blame from guns to mental illness, the inadequate response from police on the scene in Uvalde, the false argument that gun laws don’t work because cities like Chicago and Washington, D.C., have the strictest gun laws but the highest incidence of gun violence. Ignore the fact that those guns in Chicago and D.C. are probably purchased a short drive away in Indiana or Virginia, where guns are easier to purchase than alcohol. Without the gun involved in the mass shooting in Uvalde, or other sites, we would never have to have a discussion about the intersection of mental health and guns, nor the police response to mass shooting incidents.

The simple fact remains: These intersections would not exist without the availability of guns capable of mass casualties.

The Second Amendment is probably one of the most-parsed clauses in our Constitution. The Supreme Court has affirmed the individual right to own firearms ostensibly for the purpose of self-defense, but it recognizes the right of the state to some regulation and limitations. One of those limitations must be the banning of individual ownership of assault rifles.

The Senate is currently seeking compromise on lower threshold laws at gun safety such as red flag laws, increasing the minimum age for purchases, banning of high-capacity magazines, safe storage requirements and the ever popular, but unpassable by Congress, background check requirements.

We also see the shifting of blame from guns to mental illness, the inadequate response from police on the scene in Uvalde, the false argument that gun laws don’t work because cities like Chicago and Washington, D.C., have the strictest gun laws but the highest incidence of gun violence. Ignore the fact that those guns in Chicago and D.C. are probably purchased a short drive away in Indiana or Virginia, where guns are easier to purchase than alcohol. Without the gun involved in the mass shooting in Uvalde, or other sites, we would never have to have a discussion about the intersection of mental health and guns, nor the police response to mass shooting incidents.

The simple fact remains: These intersections would not exist without the availability of guns capable of mass casualties.

I have given a “Cultural Artifacts” workshop for years with these and more representations, most of which have also been banished. Washington Redskins? Who? Cleveland Indians’ Chief Wahoo? Who? Frito Bandito? Ai-yi-yi, who? That’s a good thing. We really have realized some of our dumber-headed assumptions as a society, and now we’re even working on renaming places across the country with racist names like “Squaw Valley” and “Chinaman Gulch.”

Imagine my surprise and disappointment when I went shopping the other day at my friendly neighborhood King Soopers to apply the same standards on a product like this that the manufacturer did for the other brands that have evoluted.

Aunt Jemima pancake mix and syrup are now branded with “Pearl Taleen Japanese Style Peanuts, with names like “Squaw Valley” and “Chinaman Gulch.” Imagine my surprise and disappointment when I went shopping the other day at my friendly neighborhood King Soopers to apply the same standards on a product like this that the manufacturer did for the other brands that have evolved.

And yet, we continue to allow a fringe religious group that continues their thoughts and prayers to their almighty guns to hold our country hostage. Children’s, teacher’s, senior’s and law enforcement lives are the acceptable collateral. We are only a pro-life Christian nation until the more important religion of guns takes over and children’s lives no longer matter out of the womb and Blue lives are subservient to warped interpretations of the Second Amendment.

I fear that we will continue to claim our outrage at the loss of life following what is becoming a daily mass shooting incident but deem them worthy sacrificial lambs in the worship of our nation’s false god. We will all continue to offer thoughts and prayers, and they are working, just not the way most of us might have intended.

David Inoue is executive director of the JACL. He is based in the organization’s Washington, D.C., office.

> See SUPERMARKET on page 12

People up and down the food chain need to understand that representation matters across all cultures and ethnicities.
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN DEDICATES THE NORMAN YOSHIO MINETA ROOM AT OFFICIAL RESIDENCE

With the president in attendance, Ambassador Rahm Emanuel’s designation highlights the many contributions the late-Norman Y. Mineta and other Japanese Americans have made to strengthening the U.S.-Japan relationship.

By U.S. Mission Japan

President Joseph R. Biden’s first stop on his visit to Japan on May 22 was at the historic U.S. Ambassador’s residence in Tokyo. Ambassador Rahm Emanuel and his wife, Ann Rule, personally welcomed the president to their home.

On the importance of the president’s visit to the residence, Ambassador Emanuel stated, “It is an honor to welcome my dear friend, President Joe Biden, to the residence on his first visit to Japan as president. I have known the president for more than two decades, and now welcoming him as president is deeply meaningful to me. On a fundamental level, this visit is about strengthening the U.S.-Japan Alliance as we advance the relationship from alliance protection to alliance projection in the Indo-Pacific. In addition, it is also about deepening the personal friendship and bond between the president and prime minister (Fumio Kishida).”

With President Biden in attendance, Ambassador Emanuel dedicated the residence’s Norman Yoshio Mineta Room to highlight the many contributions Japanese Americans have made to strengthening the U.S.-Japan relationship. Mineta, the former U.S. Transportation Secretary and first Asian American Cabinet member, died on May 3 at age 90.

At the dedication, Ambassador Emanuel reflected on Mineta’s career in public service: “He had a distinction as one of the first Japanese American mayors, but also, as a testament to his integrity and character, he served two presidents of both parties as part of their cabinets. Norm Mineta and I worked together when I was a freshman Congressman, and he was Secretary of Transportation. He helped me secure modernization of Chicago’s public transportation Brown Line.”

A dedication certificate from President Biden reads: “Norman Yoshio Mineta was a strong supporter of the United States-Japan bilateral relationship and a leader in the Japanese American community. A son of Japanese immigrants and forced into a U.S. World War II incarceration camp as a child, he became the first Asian American mayor of a major city and went on to a distinguished 20-year career in Congress. He was the first Asian American Cabinet member, serving two U.S. presidents, a Democrat and Republican.

“After Sept. 11, 2001, Secretary of Transportation Mineta prohibited all U.S. airlines from discriminating against passengers based on ethnicity or religion, remembering his experience as a Japanese American during WWII. The President of the United States of America Joseph R. Biden and Mission Japan dedicated this room on May 22, 2022.” In honor of the president’s visit, Ambassador Emanuel and Rule also dedicated two Delaware Peach Blossom trees and an American Holly tree in the residence garden, along with a commemorative plaque.

Ambassador Emanuel explained the planting’s significance: “Given the president’s visit to Japan at this critical juncture, the Delaware Peach Blossoms and American Holly dedicated today will become part of the great bipartisan commitment to the U.S.-Japan Alliance. As the Peach Blossom and Holly deepen their roots, they will also serve as a symbol of the United States and Japan’s deepening relationship.”

Some of the other dedications over the past 70 years include the 1958 planting of dogwood trees as a living memorial to Japanese statesman Yukio Ozaki and a memorial plaque for Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (2013).

REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2022 JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION


Taking action for our community will be among the many topics centered around this year’s JACL National Convention theme “Strengthening Our Community Through Action,” as the organization prepares to unite and reunite, in-person and virtually, at Bally’s Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev., Aug. 3-7.

This year’s convening will take place at the same time and place as JACL’s partner organization, OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates, and marks the first time since the JACL gathered in-person at a National Convention in three years due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Now, JACL looks forward to reconvening in person! Join the organization for celebratory awards events, enlightening workshops and lively reunions to toast its achievements and future goals. Be sure to sign up now, as registration closes on July 27; there will be no on-site registrations at Bally’s.

What does registration include?

- **In-Person Registration:** Full access to convention events (plenaries, National Council sessions, JACL and OCA workshops, both lunches and Sonora Gala), as well as full access to JACL’s digital platform.
- **Virtual Registration:** Access to JACL’s digital platform on mobile and desktop that includes limited streamed events (National Council sessions, some workshops and more), engagement through chatting and Community Forum features and more. This option does not include electronic voting for National Council sessions or Q & A features.
- **Bally’s** is also now accepting hotel reservations through its website at https://book.passkey.com/go/SBJAC2.

To keep participants as safe as possible, JACL will be following all recommended CDC health protocols, including proof of up-to-date vaccination status, masking and social distancing.

For complete JACL National Convention details and registration prices, visit www.jacl.org.
FLORIN JACL AWARDS 2022 SCHOLARSHIPS

The chapter acknowledges four Sacramento-area high school seniors.

The Florin JACL chapter is pleased to announce its 2022 scholarship award honorees. This year’s recipients are outstanding seniors attending Sacramento-area high schools. Each applicant was judged on achievements in academic and scholastic honors, extracurricular activities — including leadership positions, community service, work history, Japanese cultural activities and JACL involvement — letter of recommendation and a personal interview. Congratulations to the following award recipients.

JARED DEGUZMAN, the son of Cindy and Victor DeGuzman, will graduate from C.K. McClatchy High School in Sacramento. He has been on the honor roll throughout his high school years and a leader in the Asian and Pacific Islander Student Alliance. DeGuzman’s love for sports extends to varsity volleyball, basketball and track, and he volunteered as a coach for the Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation. In addition, he was a member of the Teens Create Dreams talent show committee to raise funds for WEAVE, which helps victims of sexual assault. He also was a teaching assistant for Jan Ken Po Gakko, a Japanese American cultural summer school, where he learned more about the Japanese incarceration experience. He was even able to travel to Japan with his family, where he became more aware and appreciative of his Japanese roots. DeGuzman plans to major in kinesiology and become a trainer, coach or physical therapist.

ELLIE MIZUSHIMA, daughter of Janet and Brian Mizushima, will graduate from C.K. McClatchy High School. Along with her accomplishments in the classroom, singing is a passion, and she has performed in school showcases, musicals and community theater. As an active member of the Sacramento Buddhist Church, she has volunteered as a teacher’s assistant for the kindergarten Dharma class and is an active member of the Jr. YBA. She also gives generously of her time to the community; she is active in the Girl Scouts and has participated in fundraising concerts for the Asian Community Center Senior Services. Mizushima traveled to Japan in 2019 and from viewing the memorial at the atomic bomb site in Hiroshima, she stated, “Every life is precious, and education should emphasize that in order to lower conflict.” Mizushima intends to major in communications.

KYLEE SEO, son of Audrey and Derek Seo, will graduate from Inderkum High School in the Natomas School District, where he played on the varsity golf and baseball teams. He has also trained and played with teams at the Sacramento Sports Center and the Lodi JACL.

BERKELEY JACL HONORS PIONEERS AND LEADERS OF THE FUTURE

The Berkeley JACL chapter celebrated leaders of the future and honored accomplished Japanese American pioneers during its May 15 awards event via Zoom. Scholarships were awarded to three high school seniors to recognize their academic achievements, community involvement, school activities, work history, JACL involvement, written essay, letter of recommendation and group interview. This year’s recipients are:

• Jared Nakahara (Albany High School) will attend the University of California, Los Angeles, as a neuroscience major. He was named the recipient of the Terry Yamashita Memorial Scholarship.

• Justin Takano (El Cerrito High School) will attend the University of California, San Diego, as an undeclared major. He was the recipient of the George/Yoshimi Nakamura Memorial Scholarship.

• Zora Uyeda-Hale (Albany High School) will attend the University of California, Berkeley, as a society and environment major. She was awarded the Dan/Kathleen Date Memorial Scholarship. Additionally, the chapter awarded scholarships to two college undergraduate graduates who are attending accredited institutions of higher learning located in Alameda or Contra Costa Counties.

[continued...]

FRENCH CAMP ANNOUNCES 2022 Chapter Scholarship Recipient

This year's winner is the chapter’s last Yonsei recipient.

A t the Stockton-Lodi-French Camp JACL trichapter picnic held at Micke Grove Park in Lodi, Calif., on May 29, Keiji Watanabe was awarded the 2022 French Camp JACL Chapter Scholarship award. pioneers during its May 15 awards event via Zoom. A senior at Whitney High School in Rocklin, Calif., Watanabe is the son of Steven and Marissa Watanabe and the grandson of the late Seichi (Jim) and Sueko Watanabe. He will be matriculating to the University of California, Santa Barbara, this fall with plans of pursuing a degree in economics and accounting.
May and June are the months when high school and college students graduate en masse. At many schools, 2022 was the first time since 2019 that in-person graduations were allowed, due to safety practices to limit the spread of Covid-19.

This year was also special for another reason: Some Nisei students who were unable to complete their high school or college educations 80 years earlier in 1942 — most of them now deceased — were able to have their descendants receive belated honorary diplomas.

Following are two stories of students who were unable to complete their high school or college educations earlier in 1942 — most of them now deceased — were able to have their descendants receive belated honorary diplomas.

Mt. Diablo High’s students honor their Nisei predecessors.

By George Toshio Johnston, Senior Editor

Among today’s many hot-button issues, both social media use (and misuse) and the teaching of ethnic studies in high school can get as heated and stifling as the inside of a parked car at noon in late June.

Nevertheless, it was a Facebook post that was read by an ethnic studies teacher in Concord, Calif., that resulted in an emotional and reconciliatory convergence on the evening of May 24.

That was when nearly 40 now-deceased or now-elderly former Mt. Diablo High School students were finally recognized, eight decades after being denied the opportunity to take part in a vital rite of passage woven into the fabric of American society: striding across a stage before one’s peers and family, wearing a flowing robe while crowned with a mortarboard cap with a tassel to accept a high school diploma.

Those freshman, sophomores, juniors and seniors who attended Mt. Diablo High School in 1942 who were denied the opportunity to get their diplomas that year — and the immediate years afterward — were the school’s students of Japanese ancestry. America’s entry into World War II after Japan’s Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor and President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Feb. 19, 1942, Executive Order 9066 saw to it that the time the 1941-42 school year ended, those Japanese American students and their families were gone, removed to far-flung concentration camps.

When Anahí Nava Flores, 16, who will be a junior in the fall at MDHS, learned in Laura Valdez’s ethnic studies class about what had happened 80 years earlier to her predecessors who were Nisei, she told the Pacific Citizen of her reaction to this knowledge.

“It did not shock me at all, learning that this was going on in the U.S., here in America,” said Nava Flores, who is white. “This is my first year teaching ethnic studies. … I’ve gotten a lot out of it. I hope the kids have, too.”

As a teacher and someone who grew up in the Concord area, Valdez’s perspective stretches back further than that of her students. But thinking back to when she was in high school, she says she didn’t learn anything about the experiences of Japanese Americans during WWII. “I grew up in this many communities have faced xenophobia and racial discrimination and prejudice.” Her reaction was different, however, when she found out what had happened eight decades prior was so close to home. “When I learned that this happened here in Concord, here in California, it really shocked me,” Nava Flores, said, adding, “They did everything. They took the courses, they did the learning, they passed their classes … and because of xenophobia and racial discrimination, they were forced to withdraw from this school and be placed into an incarceration camp.”

**TEACHING THE TEACHERS**

It was also a learning experience for her teacher. “It’s been very eye-opening for myself and for my students,” said Valdez, who is white. “This is my first year teaching ethnic studies. … I’ve gotten a lot out of it. I hope the kids have, too.”

As a teacher and someone who grew up in the Concord area, Valdez’s perspective stretches back further than that of her students. But thinking back to when she was in high school, she says she didn’t learn anything about the experiences of Japanese Americans during WWII. “I grew up in this
Eighty years after being dropped from USC, Ted Matsushima gets his diploma.

By George Toshio Johnston, Senior Editor

After Vincent Oda received his April 15 issue of the Pacific Citizen in the mail and read its cover story, the Syracuse, Utah, resident thought of something was amiss.

The article, about the University of Southern California’s Asian Pacific Alumni Assn.’s annual scholarship gala, contained a list of 35 Japanese American students who, in 1942, were dismissed from the university because of their ancestry after the U.S. declared war on Japan when it attacked Pearl Harbor weeks earlier.

As a result, those young people were unable to complete their educations at USC. Over the ensuing years, there was a realization that an injustice had happened to them, and that something should be done to heal it.

But USC had an ironclad policy: No posthumous diplomas. But that was before Carol Folt became the university’s president in 2019. Folt decided that it was time to make a new policy, and she was the person with the authority to do it.

So it was that at the April 1 event, USC broke its precedent and presented honorary diplomas eight decades later to the families of those Nisei whose college educations were disrupted by WWII.

When Oda read the P.C.’s article and the list of names, though, he thought to himself that one name seemed to be missing. Didn’t Uncle Ted, of Ogden, Utah, attend USC during that time? He definitely remembered when his uncle once gave him a USC sweatshirt after returning from a trip to California.

There was one way to confirm: Text his cousin, Louise Lund of San Francisco, and ask whether her father, Theodore Matsushima, who died at 85 on Aug. 31, 2007, did in fact attend USC at that time and if so, find out if he, too, should have received one of those honorary diplomas.

WHO WAS TED MATSUSHIMA?

Ted Matsushima was the son of Fusaé and Sukito Matsushima. His Issai parents also raised his two younger sisters, Edith and Ruth, mother of Vince Oda.

By the time he was in high school, Ted Matsushima had become one of those rare boys who excelled at sports and academics. He was not only a co-captain of the football team, but also was the valedictorian of his graduating class at Nathaniel Narbonne High School in Los Angeles.

Ted would find confirmation from cousin Louise that her father, Theodore Matsushima, had indeed attended USC — on a full scholarship, no less.

Neither she nor her husband, Chris, however, had any inkling that USC had been searching for Nisei Trojans denied the opportunity to complete their degrees.

Had it not been for her cousin, Vince — and his subscription to the Pacific Citizen, which he still receives in the name of his deceased father, 442nd Regimental Combat Team vet Jimi Oda (whose life was saved by Medal of Honor recipient Sadao Munemori) — Louise might never have known that her father was among those eligible for an honorary degree from USC.

A CHANGE IN DIRECTION

Young Ted Matsushima, by anyone’s reckoning, was destined for success, with a trajectory toward distinction in any field he wished to pursue all but preordained.

For Theodore Matsushima, however, and thousands of Japanese Americans living on the Pacific Coast of all ages, the events of Dec. 7, 1941, and Feb. 19, 1942 — Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor and President Roosevelt’s Executive Order 9066, respectively — derailed all manner of plans, aspirations, dreams and desires.

After Ted’s father was taken in for questioning by government authorities and released, the elder Matsushima decided that his family would decamp for northern Utah to work on a farm, allowing the Matsushima family to avoid being incarcerated in one of the 10 War Relocation Authority Centers that would confine more than 120,000 ethnic Japanese living in America, U.S. citizens and legal resident aliens alike.

LIFE GOES ON

Although graduating from USC would not happen for him, Ted Matsushima’s life was not ruined — far from it.

He served his nation as a member of the Army’s Military Intelligence Service. He met his future wife, Ruth Oda, in Utah, and together, they raised four kids — Louise, Milton, Brian and Joseph. He also found work as a civilian at Hill Air Force Base in Utah, utilizing his knowledge of chemistry.

“I always remember him to be very, very smart,” Oda recalled of his uncle, who in his mind’s eye always seemed to be smoking a pipe or cigar.

According to Louise Lund, while she remembers that he did take a correspondence course to study law, her father never did return to a college campus to formally get a degree. That door had closed.

But once she and her husband, Chris, had learned that USC had conferred honorary diplomas to descendants of Nisei alumni whose college educations had been interrupted, they contacted Grace Shiba, the executive director of USC’s Asian Pacific Alumni Assn., to see if Ted Matsushima was eligible to receive one of the diplomas other Nisei Trojans received on April 1.

THE ROUTE BACK TO USC

According to Shiba, she asked the Lunds to complete an online form (alumni.usc.edu/pac/nisei) that the registrar’s office could then process. “Once they were able to locate the student’s records, it was approved and confirmed that he was one of our Nisei students,” Shiba told the Pacific Citizen.

As it turned out, the turnaround time was extraordinarily quick, since USC had already done some preliminary research on Matsushima. The query by the Lunds would complete and expedite the process.

On May 13, the Lunds, who had already received Theodore Matsushima’s diploma in the mail, were present for the university’s 2022 commencement ceremony — and his formal welcome back to the USC community.

The Matsushima family’s “golden child,” as Chris Lund called his father-in-law, had finally found a sort of posthumous completion of his youthful goal: earning a diploma from the University of Southern California.

“At first, I thought it was too little, too late. And then I thought about how it affected our family. I feel like it’s probably a good thing,” Louise Lund said following the May 13 ceremony.

“Even though I have mixed feelings, I think they’re recognizing that an injustice was done. So, that helps me kind of think about my dad just walking on the campus and feeling what he felt.”

At USC, meantime, the quest to find more Nisei Trojans whose lives were also interrupted continues, according to Shiba.

“We are going to go through a thorough research on the internet to find the lost families. This project isn’t over yet.”
Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation Executive Director to Step Down

POWELL, WYO. — Dakota Russell, executive director of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, recently left his position May 31 to assume the leadership of the House of Representatives.

Aurora Sunada Newlin, secretary of the HMWF’s board of directors and descendant of Heart Mountain incarcerated, will take the helm as interim executive director.

Russell joined Heart Mountain in 2016 as museum manager and became executive director in 2018. He has led the foundation’s restoration of the original 1942 barracks and 1943 root cellar, as well as expanded its national and international outreach activities.

He also made significant progress in its capital campaign to build the Mineta-Simpson Institute at Heart Mountain, which will host workshops and create programming designed to use the lessons of the past to build a better future. Groundbreaking for the new wing will take place July 30 at the annual Heart Mountain Pilgrimage.

Russell leaves the HMWF in a position of strength. “It is bittersweet to be leaving,” Russell said, “but I am proud of what we’ve been able to accomplish in my time here. Heart Mountain is now a national leader in educating about the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, and telling that story is more important than ever.”

Newlin, a HMWF board member since 2013, is a Wyoming native and teacher of Asian American studies at the University of Wyoming. She was previously a tenured faculty member in anthropology and sociology at Northwest College and is a longstanding board member of the National Consortium on Racial & Ethnic Fairness in the Courts.

Newlin said she was selected in her commitment to Heart Mountain’s continued success. “I take this responsibility seriously and will do what it takes to advance the Foundation’s mission,” she said.

“I’m forever in Dakota’s debt for his multifaceted contribution to our foundation and museum, and we are thrilled that Aura is taking on this post with her considerable accomplishments,” said Shirley Ann Higuchi, chair of the HMWF board.

Douglas Nelson, vice chair of the HMWF board, said Russell made “huge contributions to building our future, and we’re grateful for Aura agreeing to step in. She’ll do a wonderful job.” The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation preserves the historic site where some 14,000 Japanese Americans were unjustly incarcerated from 1942-45. The stories of those incarcerated are told within the NPS issued its report in February. The committee has asked the Topaz Museum Board to issue regular public reports with photographs on the condition of the memorial site and stone. No public updates have been made since the NPS issued its report in February. According to a statement by the Wakasa Committee, “The National Park Service has agreed to oversee such a project, and the Utah State Historical Preservation office has agreed to collaborate. They are awaiting the board’s approval and invitation.”

New Interim Executive Director

Aura Sunada Newlin (left) and Outgoing Executive Director Dakota Russell

Wakasa Monument’s Future Still Uncertain

The Topaz Museum seeks public input to guide the preservation of the Wakasa Monument as the Wakasa Committee asks for a professional excavation at Topaz.

DELTA, UTAH — The Topaz Museum Board announced recently plans to launch the Topaz Community Outreach Project as part of its effort to preserve and interpret a recently discovered stone monument, first erected in 1943 in honor of James Hatsuki Wakasa, who was shot and killed on April 11, 1943, by a sentry guard while forcibly incarcerated during World War II at the Topaz concentration camp in Utah.

Over the course of the next seven months, as revealed in an official press release, the Topaz Museum Board will gather crucial community input and perspectives on the future of the Wakasa monument. The collected feedback, combined with recommendations from the National Park Service, will be assembled into a public Interpretive Project Plan. This plan will provide executable guidelines for the long-term preservation and interpretation of the monument.

The Topaz Community Outreach Project will include community engagement via online and print surveys, as well as public meetings, held both virtually and in person.

In the 11 months since the stone was unearthed, the Wakasa Memorial Committee, in an official statement, has asked the Topaz Museum Board to carry out a professionally led community archaeology excavation of the site where the Wakasa monument was unearthed by the museum. Without conducting a more thorough excavation with proper documentation led by qualified archaeologists, it is difficult to interpret what was at that site.

The Wakasa Committee has asked the Topaz Board that the excavation be scheduled before or around Sept. 11, the 80th anniversary of the opening of Topaz in 1942. The committee has also asked the Topaz Museum Board to issue regular public reports with photographs on the condition of the memorial site and stone. No public updates have been made since the NPS issued its report in February.

According to a statement by the Wakasa Committee, “The National Park Service has agreed to oversee such a project, and the Utah State Historical Preservation office has agreed to collaborate. They are awaiting the board’s approval and invitation.”

For more information, call the interpretive center at (307) 754-8000 or email info@heartmountain.org.
Making the Case

As Dowell began using information provided in the school’s 1942 yearbook from Ananos to assist with her internet research to track down those Nisei MDHS students of 1942 and the immediate years thereafter, Valdez gave her students an assignment: Write a business letter and email it to a school board member or the principal to ask for approval from the school board to grant retroactive diplomas.

“We needed some student voices behind it to get it done,” said Valdez. “So, I really started actively teaching and recruiting the ethnic studies students to write letters, and they just started flooding the inboxes of all of the board members.”

Adding to the effort, Dowell, Valdez and two seniors, Arshpreet Garcha and Evelin Suarez Martinez, attended the Mt. Diablo Unified School District’s March 23 board meeting to advocate for issuing retroactive diplomas to the Nisei alumni from 80 years before.

All five board members and the superintendent approved the request unanimously. The stage was set to recognize those Nisei who attended MDHS in 1942 with honorary diplomas on May 24.

The Kanada Brothers

For siblings Gordon Kanada and Karen Leong, the recognition for their uncle, Tatsuki “Tats” Kanada — aka Uncle Tuffy — was special in many ways, allowing that getting the diploma was “bittersweet” and a form of “academic justice” for their uncle, who died in 2007.

“I was overjoyed,” said Gordon Kanada. “Even though it took so long, it’s nice to be recognized.”

Tats Kanada was one of the five Kanada brothers; they also had a sister, Aki. According to Gordon Kanada, Tats was a junior in 1942 and thus didn’t graduate from MDHS; he and his family members were forcibly removed to the Gila River WRA Center in Arizona.

The eldest brother was Frank Kanada, father of Gordon and Karen. His four younger brothers — Harry, George, Tatsuki and James — all served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. James, the youngest, however, did not come home; he was killed in action on April 5, 1945. It was a devastating blow to his surviving family.

Looking Ahead, Looking Back

For the MDHS Class of 2022 — and the honorary members of the Class of 2022, those Nisei from 80 years ago — the ceremonies have been completed and the well-earned diplomas distributed.

According to Valdez, however, there is still another yet-to-come project related to the Nisei students. “My class of ethnic studies kids for next year really want to put together another yet-to-come project related to the Nisei students. “My class of ethnic studies kids for next year really want to put together another yet-to-come project related to the Nisei students.”

HR 8 » continued from page 2

It is the school shootings that elicit the strongest cries of “Never Again.” Yet, it has been over four years since Parkland, over nine years since Sandy Hook and over 23 years since Columbine. Our response as a nation has been to teach our children how to respond to a lockdown drill.

We can do better. In fact, we can do much better, yet the Senate has yet to pass HR 8, a bill to establish minimum background checks prior to the purchase of a firearm.

As the first meaningful step toward addressing the pandemic of gun violence in this country, the Senate must act decisively and immediately to pass HR 8. We must then engage in meaningful dialogue as a nation on what we can do to ensure that our children’s lives are not an acceptable cost of our Second Amendment rights.

Thoughts and prayers are not enough — we need action now.

100 Years! Announcing The:

JACL CENTENNIAL EDUCATION FUND

A centennial is a celebration of the past and our chance to envision the next 100 years of civil rights in America.

By investing in JACL’s Centennial Education Fund, you solidify our leadership position as the leading Asian American voice in telling the story of the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II and you secure the future such that the lessons from this tragic chapter of U.S. history will always be remembered.

“I personally want to pass these stories onto future generations so that it would never be forgotten and to move forward the values of our beloved country so the United States could be an even more inclusive and tolerant nation.”

- Norman Y. Mineta, Honorary Chair, Centennial Education Fund

Donate Today: To educate the public about our story, enhance educational resources, and combat hate crimes.

Donate Online: www.jacl.org/centennial | By Check: Please send to JACL Headquarters 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115 with memo “Centennial Education Fund” | By Phone: 415-921-JACL (5325)
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


NCWNP

Summer Hangout Series: ‘God Said This’ San Jose, CA June 17 and 18; 6 p.m. (Enjoy Museum Starting at 5:15 p.m.) Price: $15 This program engages high school- and college-aged actors to experience plays written by Asian American playwrights. In Leah Nanako Winkler’s “God Said This,” a family is forced to come together and overcome their differences during a time of need. Info: For tickets, visit tinyurl.com/CATStaggedreading1.

PNW

Na Omi Shintani: ‘Dream Refuge for Children Imprisoned’ Portland, OR Thu or 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. Info: Visit www.jamo.org.

PSW

2022 Alzheimer’s Conference Los Angeles, CA June 15; 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. Info: Registration closes on June 12; visit www.keiro.org.

Virtual Book Talk: ‘When Can We Go Back to America?’ June 16; 1:30 p.m. (HST); 4:30 p.m. (PST) Price: Free Author Susan H. Kami weaves the voices of more than 150 individuals who lived through forced incarceration during World War II and tells their harrowing experiences and the long-term impact of this dark period in American history. Info: To register, visit https://a2z02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LN8ujJ4AaJkayJQ0IYceMkQ2.

GVUCI 2022 Matsuri Benito-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: $40, Four Benkos $80; Donations Also Accepted GVUCI’s largest fundraiser is back with the preorder/pickup event featuring children tenyaki, rice, yakisoba, spam musubi and green salad. There will also be an onsite plant sale. Proceeds benefit GVUCI’s programs. Info: Call (903) 687-0135 or email natsumi@jaci-gardena.org.

2022 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage Powell and Cody, WY June 28-30 Price: Registration Open Through June 15 This year’s pilgrimage honors Japanese Americans who fought to be seen and heard. Info: To register, visit https://shopheartmountain.org/products/2022-pilgrimage-registration-or-contact-Deni-Hirsch-at-(307)754-8000-of-denii@heartmountain.org.

EDC

Vincent Chin 40th Remembrance and Redaction 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 viciously motivated beating on June 19, 1982, that led to his death. Info: Visit https://www.vincentchin.org.


MDC


IDC

Cherry Blossom Festival 2022 Denver, CO June 25 & 26 Sakura Square in Downtown Denver Price: Free This year’s Cherry Blossom Festival will welcome cultural activities, arts and crafts, delicious food options, entertainment and the annual JARCC All Things Japanese sale. Info: Visit www.cherryblossom.denver for event details.

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 invites the public to visit any time during the field season, in particularly at this special community open house. Info: If you plan to attend, please RSVP by going to DU Anthropology Departmental assistant (at) 303-877-2677.

2022 Tule Lake Pilgrimage Thru September Price: Ticket Admission Pricing Information.

NCWNP

Summer Hangout Series: ‘God Said This’ San Jose, CA June 17 and 18; 6 p.m. (Enjoy Museum Starting at 5:15 p.m.) Price: $15 This program engages high school- and college-aged actors to experience plays written by Asian American playwrights. In Leah Nanako Winkler’s “God Said This,” a family is forced to come together and overcome their differences during a time of need. Info: For tickets, visit tinyurl.com/ CATStaggedreading1.

San Jose Buddhist Church Oton at Home 2022: Moichido San Jose, CA July 11; 1-6 p.m. Virtual Event This year’s obon will be held virtually “moichido” or one more time on Facebook. This year’s obon will be held virtually “moichido” or one more time on Facebook. Info: Visit https://unitymarch.web

PHOTO: Hamaguchi, Glenn Toyoyuki, 78, Fountain Valley, CA, Jan. 30; he was born at the Manzanar WRA Center in California; he was predeceased by his sisters-in-law, Ethel Nishimura and Marsha (Ronald) Black; and brother-in-law, William Yokoyama; he is survived by his wife, Gail Yo- koyama-Hamaguchi; children, Derek (Carolyn) Hamaguchi and Tiffany (Ken) Yoon; brother, Ronald Hamaguchi; sisters-in-law, Ann Yokoyama and Carol (Ken) Nakano; brothers-in-law, Thomas (Chit) Yokoyama and Tom Nishimura; gc: 4.

Ito, Thomas Ichiro, 83, Ridgefield, CT, Feb. 28; he is survived by his wife, Betty; children, Kristin and Tom; sister, Carol Ann; gc: 4.

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 Yasuhiko 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 by many nieces, nephews and others.

TRIBUTE

JOE SHIKAMI

Joe T. Shikami passed away on March 29, 2022, at 94. He was the beloved husband of the late Kikue Shikami. He was preceded in death by sisters Mabel Kitsuse, Ruth Tachi, Florence Nakazawa and brother Reginald Shikami. Joe is survived by sister Helen Hori and brother James Shikami. He was the fondest uncle to many nieces and nephews and will always be remembered as a very kind and generous man.

Joe was born in West Los Angeles, Calif., to Senkichi and Sumie Shikami on March 27, 1928. During WWII, he was incarcerated at the Manzanar War Relocation Authority Center, from which he left to live with his sisters in Cincinnati. He then moved to Chicago to live with sister Helen and her husband, Mike Hori. He attended and graduated from Senn High School in Chicago. He served in the U.S. Navy after WWII and at the start of the Korean War. He met Kikue Narui of Yokohama, Japan, and they married on Dec. 19, 1952, at the U.S. Consulate in Yokohama, Japan, and moved to Chicago. With his new wife. He attended and graduated from Roosevelt University with a bachelor’s degree in business management. Joe was sent to Tokyo, Japan, with a small management team from the Kellogg Co. of Battle Creek, Mich, where he was the CEO to enter that emerging Japanese market. In 1978, Joe was hired by the Quaker Oats Co. as the CEO to open a plant in Taiwan. Joe eventually moved to West Los Angeles after Kikue passed away.

A memorial service and celebration of his life will be held on June 24, 2022, at 10 a.m. in Santa Monica, Calif., at Woodlawn Cemetery, 1847 14th St., Santa Monica, CA 90404. For more information, contact Deborahkeda@att.net.
Katagiri, Iao Masami, 70, Los Angeles, CA, April 29; B.A., UC Berkeley; M.P.A., Harvard; she was predeceased by her sister, Grace; she is survived by her husband, Mike (Stella Maxwell), her children, Mike (Stella Maxwell), Mitzi Nakashima and Julie Inouye (Dr. Michael Rubottom), her grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and two step-great-grandchildren, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and several amazing caregivers. She was predeceased by her husband, Betty (1992), her parents (Sadame and Tamaye Inouye), and siblings, John Katagiri-Hoshino, she is survived by her sister, Laurie Katagiri-Hoshino.

Matsuno, Amy, 88, Honolulu, HI, Feb. 20; she was predeceased by her husband, Mik; 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.

Miyake, Jack, 92, Gardena, CA, Jan. 16; he is survived by his wife, Chieko; children, Lynis (Michael) Taggart, Elaine Miyake and Neal (Mik) Miyake; gc: 3.

Miyahira, Glenn T. ‘Smiley, 69, Wallulu, HI, Jan. 25, veteran (Air Force); he is survived by his children, Scott Miyahira and Kelsey Miyahira; his wife, Katsuko; children, Sharon (Wayne) Metzger, Kelly (David Ortega) Yamashita and Jeffrey (Cheryl) Yamashita; gc: 5.

Nakashima, Jean, 83, Colma, CA, Feb. 25; she is survived by her husband, Yoshio; brother, Ken (Rebecca) Takahashi; children, Karen, Paula and Steven; gc: 2.


Nishida, Beryl, 82, Clearfield, PA, March 11; she is survived by her husband, Edward; children, Scott Edward Nishida (Ilanca, Heather), James (Candy) Nishida and Jennifer (Jeff) Bowen; gc: 11; ggc: 7.

Okada, Blanche Haruyo, 102, Garden Grove, CA, Jan. 28; she was predeceased by her husband, Yutaka; siblings, Mabel Iuchi, Mary Morikawa and George Oh; she is survived by her children, Donald (Denise) Okada and Sherie (Jay) Kato; sister, Alice Miyamoto-sister-in-law, Namiye Okada; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

Shintaku, Kristi Y., 53, Los Angeles, CA, April 11; she is survived by her husband, Norman; daughters, Nicole, Kelli and Sarah; parents, Raymond and Betty Toyama; brother, Greg (Minh) Toyama.

Wakamato, Charles, 83, Irvine, CA, April 5; B.A., M.A. (UCLA); he is survived by his wife, Sharon; children, Craig (Karen) Wakamato, Ken (Dana) Wakamato and Sue (Bryan) Wakamato-Lee; gc: 8.

Yamashita, Isamu, 90, Los Angeles, CA, March 7; he is survived by his wife, Katsuko; children, Shannon (Wayne) Metzger, Kelly (David Ortega) Yamashita and Jeffrey (Cheryl) Yamashita; gc: 5.

**TRIBUTE**

**GEORGE H. INOUYE**

May 23, 1919-Jan. 11, 2022

George H. Inouye passed away peacefully at his home in Yuba City, Calif., on Jan. 11, 2022, at age 102-3/4. He was survived by his sister, Mary “Mel” Tsui, four children, Joanne Inouye, Wayne Inouye (Shannon), Mitzi Nakashima and Julie Inouye (Dr. Michael Rubottom), seven grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and two step-great-grandchildren, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and several remarkable friends. An example of his outstanding leadership and contributions includes:

- He was a farmer in Yuba City from 1947 until his retirement in 1993. Mechanically minded since he was a child, George repaired cars, trucks and other farm equipment. He even invented several designs for tractor attachments, which John Deere uses today. After the war, he served on numerous agricultural boards in northern California. Additionally, George was an active volunteer in the community, frequently serving on the boards of the Marysville Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), Marysville Buddhist Church, Northern California District Church Board and Yuba City Lions Club. George was honored with numerous awards from each of these organizations. He served on the school board of trustees for Central Gaither Elementary from 1958-70 and was a member of the VFW Nisei Post No. 895 since 1948. He was also one of eight directors helping improve the California Board of the Bracerom program from 1956-59. He personally sponsored three men who eventually became U.S. citizens.

- Memorial Services and a Celebration of George’s Life will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2022, at 1 p.m. at Marysville Buddhist Church, 125 B St., Marysville, CA 95901. Face masks, proof of Covid vaccination and temperature check required upon entering the church. In lieu of flowers, donations in the memory of George Inouye may be made to the Marysville Buddhist Church, the Marysville JACL (P.O. Box 2253, Marysville, CA 95901) or a charity of your choice.

- Viewings will be June 2, 2022, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Hawthorne Funeral Home, Mount Vernon, Wash. A memorial service will be held June 3, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. at Bethany Covenant Church, Mount Vernon, Wash.

- Memorial donations in Sat’s name can be made, in lieu of flowers, to the Skagit Valley Hospital Foundation, Skagit County Fire District 5-Allen Dept, Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community (BUAC), Ashely Gardens.

- Please visit www.hawthornefh.com to share your thoughts and memories and sign the online guest register.

- Arrangements are under the care of Hawthorne Funeral Home, Mount Vernon, Wash.
By Scott Tanaka

As the country continues to grapple with the ebbs and flows of the Covid-19 pandemic, many are eager to move into a sense of normalcy. Many in the 50-plus community have developed coping mechanisms that show a strong sense of resiliency and the need to anchor themselves. Ongoing public health concerns, economic issues and global conflicts are still weighing on older adults. With the recent horrific events that took place in New York, California and Texas, taking care of ourselves and each other is even more important. This is true for all of us.

Following the Memorial Day holiday, I want to highlight AARP’s resources for veterans, military and their families. Visit AARP’s Mental Health Resource Center at www.aarp.org/mentalhealth for more tips, tools and resources that can help you and your loved ones develop healthy habits for mental well-being.

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

AARP Caregiving Resource Guide: Older adults and their family caregivers can use this guide to find programs, services and agencies in their community that provide a variety of health, legal and financial assistance. You can access by going to https://www.aarp.org/caregiving/local/info-2021/state-caregiver-resources.html.

AARP Mental & Emotional Health Support For Veteran & Military Family Caregivers: For those in the military community who might be grappling with stress, review these five steps to practice self-care. Learn more here: https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/home-and-family/voices/veterans/202201/1261402-aarp-vmf-dole-mental-health-booklet-2022012749.pdf.

To view all of AARP’s resources for Military Family Caregivers: Health Support For Veteran & Related Family Caregivers, visit https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/home-and-family/voices/veterans/2022011261402-aarp-vmf-dole-mental-health-booklet-2022012749.pdf.

AARP’s healthy living offerings can help Americans develop and maintain healthy habits for their mental well-being.

PHOTO: AARP

SUPERMARKET

continued from page 3

Don’t have a JACL Premier VISA Credit Card? We’ve got some incentives you won’t want to miss.

Check them out at jaclcu.com/visa!

9.9% APR Fixed Rate
No Annual Fees
25 Day Courtesy Pay
More reward points per purchase

2% Cash Back for ALL of 2022!!!