



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 93 YEARS

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

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JACL Chapters Award  
2022 Scholarships.



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# GRADUATION 2022: ONE FOR THE AGES

More California Nisei finally receive  
belated college diploma recognition.



## JACL DEMANDS THE SENATE ACT TO PASS HR 8

By JACL National

On 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.

» See HR 8 on page 9

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear P.C. Staff,

I want to write and tell you that even though I am a very young boomer, and despite the fact that I love reading on my laptop, iPad and cell phone, I really love getting my P.C. issue as a hard copy. There is something deliciously "vintage" and "natsukashii" about holding a paper while sipping on my morning coffee and reading the articles while dropping toast crumbs in the middle, carefully emptying them onto my empty breakfast dish.

It is great to be able to cut out articles and send them to people that might be interested. I can also show people while I am out and about what the P.C. looks like and when holiday ad time comes around, I carry a photocopy of our local Contra Costa JACL chapter ads and the ad issue itself. It really gives the ad buyers an idea of what kind of publication the P.C. is and how great a newspaper it is.

I belong to several nonprofits, and JACL has, by far, the best newspaper/newsletter of them all. Thank you for continuing to do a great job on editing. My OCD spelling and grammar correcting tendencies never make their unwanted appearance while I am reading the P.C. Furthermore, it is so nice to see the ad for Kubota Mortuary every issue. My brother works there, and it makes me feel happy to

think of him every time I see the ad.

And don't get me started on the holiday issue. I LOVE the holiday issue. I love all the stories from all over the country and poring over their ads. I especially like to support those businesses when I travel. (Except for mortuaries — I am going to put off my use of them for a bit.) I like asking businesses to support us. And I love to tell our readers to make sure and mention that they saw the ad in the P.C. to the business when purchasing from them.

We are welcoming members who are NOT JA to our chapter. So, the P.C. is a wonderful way to show them what kind of organization we are. Thank you for making us look so good.

I also love the fact that the P.C. is inclusive in terms of diversity in its articles, opinions and letters. I love the letters to the editor, the pictures, seeing what the chapters are up to and, of course, reading the obituaries.

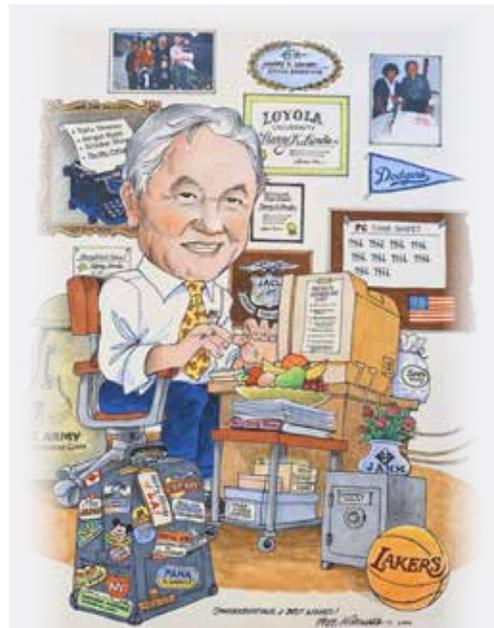
Our own Yas Aoki passed away recently, and this issue had his obituary. I am going to try to write up something about JACL multi-generational service and send it to you.

All of you at the P.C., please pat yourselves on the back and keep up the good work!

Best Regards,

Yoko Olsgaard,

Member, JACL Contra Costa Chapter



### 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](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org) and [editorial@pacificcitizen.org](mailto: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 strategist 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.)

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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

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 of-

fering 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 within 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 efforts 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.

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.



NIKKEI VOICE

I'M SO DISAPPOINTED TO SEE STEREOTYPED SNACK PACKAGING IN MY SUPERMARKET

By Gil Asakawa

Racial stereotypes used to be part of the American consumer landscape — everywhere you turned, there was a depiction, playful caricature or a ghastly exaggerated image of a person of color on commercials and ads on television or publications or on packaging on store shelves. But if nothing else, the recent years of anti-racism protests in the wake of the murders of George Floyd and the many Black men and women before him and since has awakened mainstream Americans and the media and institutions that serve them and let them know in no uncertain terms that racial images are no longer acceptable.

So, I had to rush to the supermarket in 2020 amidst the first waves of the Covid pandemic to buy up products like Aunt Jemima pancake mix and syrup, Mrs. Butterworth's syrup, Cream of Wheat, Uncle Ben's Rice and Land O'Lakes butter and eggs.

These products were being re-

moved from store shelves nationwide by their manufacturers because of the racial portrayals used to sell their contents: The smiling happy “Mammy” freed slave woman (albeit a modernized depiction who could be an office worker), the equally contented Black woman's body that made up the Mrs. Butterworth's bottle and the — again — equally contented Black men who graced the box of Uncle Ben's Rice (a train porter waiting to serve you, no doubt) and the smiling Black chef holding up your bowl of Cream of Wheat. Oh, and don't forget the supplicant Native American maiden in fringed leather dress and beads, her head decorated with a beaded headband and two colorful feathers, holding a box of Land O'Lakes Butter for you.

These have been a part of the American shopping and dining experience for literally generations. Hell, Aunt Jemima started hawking pancake mix more than 130 years ago. The fact that we — the entire country, including me — never once gave a thought to the symbolism of these caricatures

says a lot about the white-centered, privileged perspective through which we've always seen our world.

I bought these products of American culture because my wife and 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-yi, who?

And that's a good thing. We really have realized some of our dunder-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, part of the Kroger national chain. Near the end of one of the snacks and chips aisles was a cardboard floor display of something called “Taleen Japanese Style Peanuts.”

They were decorated with a caricature of a Japanese woman in geisha kimono and knotted air atop her slanty-eyed smiling face with tiny dark lips, holding an open parasol over her shoulder. To finish off the package, the name of the brand was in the wonton font that I consider racist.

I immediately got the clenched-gut sensation I get when I hear the “ching-chong” sound of some jerk imitating Japanese (or Chinese or some other Asian) language. It's the same feeling I've gotten all my life

when someone pulls their eyes back and overlaps their upper lip like they have buck teeth.

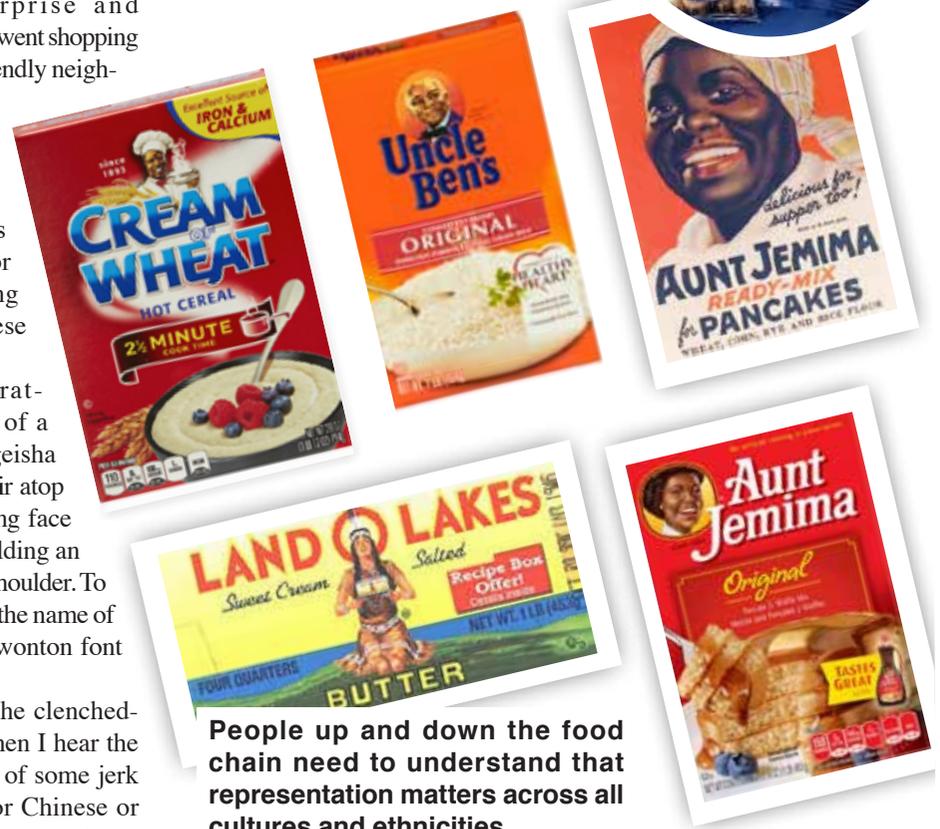
Taleen Japanese Style Peanuts, with the offensive packaging, is a popular brand where they're manufactured in Mexico. I'm sure they're a big hit in the Latinx supermarkets in the U.S. as well. But in an American supermarket chain where you can no longer find Aunt Jemima and the Land O'Lakes Indian maiden, these damned things feel like a slap in the face. My face.

I'm not demanding Taleen stop using the image — it's on large and small packages of the nuts. But I would like my neighborhood King Soopers to apply the same standards

on a product like this that the manufacturer did for the other brands that have evolved.

Aunt Jemima pancake mix and syrup are now branded with “Pearl

» 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. Transpor-

tation 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.



President Joe Biden (center) met with U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel and his wife, Ann Rule, during his first visit to Japan as president. Ambassador Emanuel then dedicated the Norman Yoshio Mineta Room in the official residence of the Ambassador to Japan in honor of the contributions Japanese Americans have made toward strengthening U.S.-Japan relations.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN TOKYO

"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

Join JACL and its partner organization, OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates in the entertainment capital of the world Aug. 3-7.

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 confab 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 awards luncheons and Sayonara 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](http://www.jacl.org).*

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION  
EXTENDED THROUGH MAY 31!**

**2022**

STRENGTHENING OUR  
**COMMUNITY THROUGH ACTION**

WELCOME TO Fabulous LAS VEGAS NEVADA

JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION

**AUGUST  
3-7, 2022**

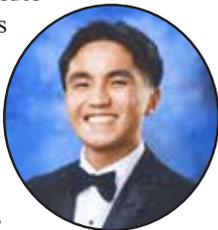
REGISTER AT:  
**JACL.ORG/2022-JACL-NATIONAL-CONVENTION**

# 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.



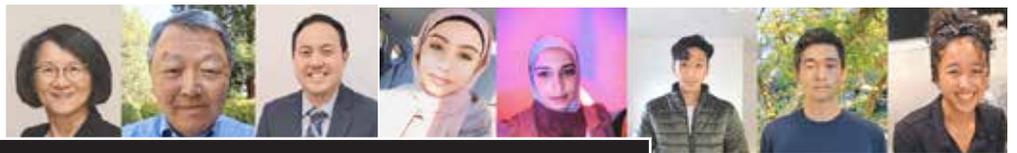
**ELLIE MIZUSHIMA**, daughter of Janet and Brian Mizushima, will graduate from C.K. McClatchy High School. Along with her accomplishments in the classroom, singing is a passion, and she has performed in school showcases, musicals and community theater. As an active member of the Sacramento Buddhist Church, 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.



**KYLE 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



» See FLORIN on page 8



## 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 undergraduates who are attending accredited institutions of higher learning located in Alameda or Contra Costa Counties.

- Bayan Al Rawas is attending Merritt College as a nursing major.
- Batool Rawoos is attending Berkeley City College as a business management major.

During the Zoom event, the chapter also recognized its memorial scholarship donors: the Beatrice Kono family (George Kono), the Terry Yamashita family (Reiko Nabeta), the Dan/Kathleen Date family (Gail Yamamoto, Eric Torigoe) and the George/Yoshimi Nakamura family (Ken, Mari and Cubby Nakamura).

JACL Berkeley chapter honored its Scholarship, Pioneer and Leadership awards winners during a May 15 Zoom event. Pictured (top row, from left) are Vera Kawamura, Ron Tanaka, Ryan Matsuda and (bottom row, from left) Bayan Al Rawas, Batool Rawoos, Jared Nakahara, Justin Takano and Zora Uyeda-Hale.

PHOTO: RYAN MATSUDA, BERKELEY JACL MEMBER

Vera Kawamura and Ron Tanaka were presented the chapter's Pioneer Award. This award honored Kawamura (retired State of California attorney) and Tanaka (retired PG&E senior manager) for their dedicated service.

Ryan Matsuda was presented the chapter's Youth Leadership Award to recognize his role in organizing and implementing community service activities and exemplifying the growing need for youth leaders with the desire, vision and skills to make a positive difference consistent with the chapter's mission.

Members of this year's Scholarship Committee includes Mark Fujikawa, Vera Kawamura, Karen Kiyo Lowhurst, Ryan Matsuda, Neal Ouye, Al Satake, Sharron Sue and Ron Tanaka (chair).

## FRENCH CAMP ANNOUNCES 2022 Chapter Scholarship Recipient

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

At 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 Seiichi (Jim) and Sueko Watanabe. He will be matriculating to the University of



Scholarship recipient Keiji Watanabe (left) and French Camp JACL President Dean Komure

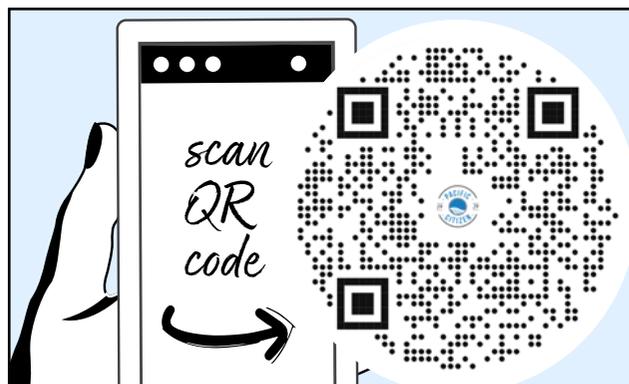
PHOTO: COURTESY OF FRENCH CAMP JACL

He graduated in the top 10 percent of his class with a 4.2 overall GPA and received the AP Scholar with Honors award, as well as lifetime memberships in the California Scholarship Federation and National Honor Society. In addition, Watanabe was a member of the varsity soccer team, where he earned 2nd Team All-League honors, and served as president of his school's Elderly Assistance Club, volunteering at local senior living centers.

Watanabe's graduation is a milestone for the French Camp chapter, as he represents its last Yonsei (4th generation) youth. Looking toward the future, the French Camp chapter looks forward to having the participation of the Gosei (5th generation) in its JACL activities.

California, Santa Barbara, this fall with plans of pursuing a degree in economics and accounting.

For more information on the JACL French Camp chapter, please email frenchcampjacl@yahoo.com.



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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 educational institutions where a historic injustice was redressed and diplomas were, finally, honorably presented in the names of those individuals.



Student Body Officers featuring Sumiko Watanabe, treasurer

PHOTO: COURTESY OF SCOTT ANANOS

# DELAYED BUT NOT DENIED

## 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 by the time the 1941-42 school year ended, those Japanese American students and their families were gone, removed to far-flung concentration camps.

### YOUTHFUL PERSPECTIVE

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 the daughter of Mexican immigrants. "We can see throughout history how many races and

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

» See MT. DIABLO on page 9



Teacher Laura Valdez

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THERESA HARRINGTON

Gayle Boesch displays the diploma of Sumiko Watanabe

Mt. Diablo Unified School District  
Mt. Diablo High School

Mt. Diablo yearbook

PHOTO: THERESA HARRINGTON

DIABLO 1942



John Ehara



Dave Furukawa



Hatsuko Kanagaki



Emiko Shintani



Sumiko S. Watanabe



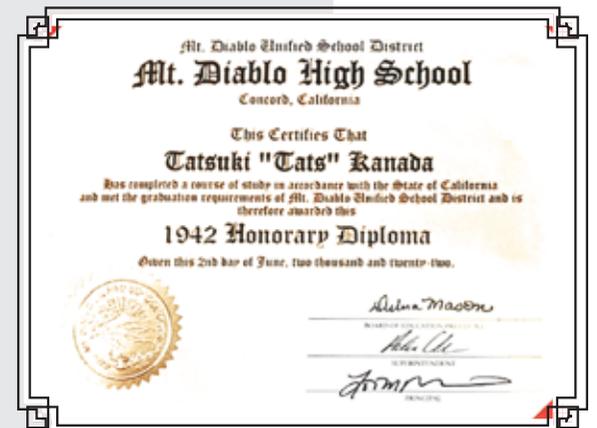
Masaru Yamashita

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF SCOTT ANANOS

## MT. DIABLO HIGH SCHOOL NISEI STUDENTS

(CLASS OF 1942 SENIORS IN BOLD)

*John Ehara, Isao Daniel Fukuchi, Fumiko June Fukuchi, Satoshi Fukuchi, **Dave Furukawa**, Sam Furukawa, Susie Furukawa, Irene Yoshie Hara, Yayoi Rose Hara, May Ann Hara, Minoru Ben Ikeda, Natsu Ikeda, Kazuyoshi Kaida, Tatsuki "Tats" Kanada, **Hatsuko Kanagaki**, Alice S. Kawauchi, George Kusaba, Shigeno Jack Kusaba, Fannie Satchiko Matsuda, Hitoshi Murata, Matsukio "Mats" Murata, Shigeji Nakanishi, Chizuko Catheran Nakatani, Yuriko Nakatani, Tohoru Tom Nakatani, Joey Y. Noma, Yoshie Lillian Okamoto, Manabu B. Sano, Hiroshi George Sano, **Emiko Shintani**, George Y. Tamori, Masateru M. Terada, Kikue T. Terazawa, Hiroshi Tsuji, Hirotsugu Jim Tsuji, Misako Watanabe, **Sumiko S. Watanabe**, Masaru Yamashita and Takashi "Tak" Yasuda*



# BOY, INTERRUPTED

Eighty years after being dropped from USC, Ted Matsushima gets his diploma.



Louise Lund gives the “Fight On” gesture in front of USC’s famous Tommy Trojan statue on the university’s campus.

PHOTO: CHRIS LUND

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 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 Issei 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.

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



Theodore “Ted” Matsushima’s daughter, Louise Lund, and her husband, Chris, hold up her father’s honorary diploma from USC, which the university finally awarded 80 years later.

PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON



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.

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.

## A CHANGE IN DIRECTION

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.

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.

## LIFE GOES ON

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/apaa/nisei/](http://alumni.usc.edu/apaa/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.

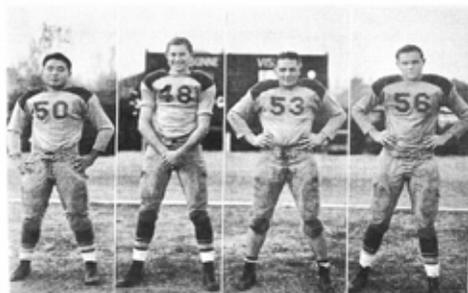
“We are going to go through a thorough research on the internet to find the lost families. This project isn’t over yet.”

## Varsity Football



Ted Matsushima in 1981

PHOTO: CHRIS LUND



As a scholar and an athlete, in this 1940 photo from the Narbonne High School yearbook, Ted Matsushima (pictured at far left) served as co-captain of his varsity football team.

PHOTO: CHRIS LUND

# 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 the Seven Gables Settlement Association in Salem, Mass.

Aura 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 barrack and 1943 root cellar, as well as expanded its national and international outreach activities.

He has 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 is resolute 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



PHOTO: HEART MOUNTAIN WYOMING FOUNDATION

PHOTO: TED BRUMMOND/ UW PHOTO SERVICES

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

site where some 14,000 Japanese Americans were unjustly incarcerated from 1942-45. The stories of those incarcerated are told within the HMWF's museum, Heart Mountain Interpretive Center, located between Cody and Powell.

*For more information, call the interpretive center at (307) 754-8000 or email [info@heartmountain.org](mailto:info@heartmountain.org).*

## FLORIN » continued from page 5

Templars. His experience with the Lodi Templars, a team that began in the early 20th century when Japanese Americans were excluded from other baseball leagues, helped him interact and learn from players of all ages and occupations while embracing and carrying on the long-standing traditions of the club. In addition, Seo has been an active member of the Sacramento Buddhist Church, where he participated in the sports program, Boy Scouts, Jr. YBA and Dharma School, where he volunteered as a teacher's assistant for the second grade class. During the pandemic, Seo learned the importance of speaking out against API racism. Seo stated, "It is crucial that we not only teach how to identify things that are wrong but how we can prevent them from repeating." He intends to pursue a career as a financial adviser.

**BRYCE TAKAHA**, son of Shelley and Blake Takaha, will graduate from John F. Kennedy High School in Sacramento.



In addition to scholastic achievement awards, he was instrumental in forming Teens Create Dreams, a talent show, as part of the Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation. Among his many activities, Takaha was a youth basketball coach for SASF, and a member of the Sacramento Buddhist Church's YBA. His extracurricular activities involved sports — basketball camps both at SASF and the Buddhist Church, soccer with the Greenhaven Soccer Program, as well as golf, track and cross country at high school. He values educating youth to help change society because they can speak up. Takaha plans to major in computer science. ■

## 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.



**A contractor lifts the Wakasa Monument using a forklift on July 27, 2021.**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE UTAH DIVISION OF STATE HISTORY

**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 Hatsuaki 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 archeology 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 archeologists, 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." ■



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**MT. DIABLO » continued from page 6**

district, as well, and I don't recall learning it," she said. "I remember learning about the Holocaust and different parts of World War II, but I don't remember really learning about it."

"In fact, my ex-husband was in the Air Force, and we were stationed in Arkansas, and I think I learned about it because I passed by one of the camps in Jerome."

**SEEING IS BELIEVING**

In the 80 years since 1942, the racial and ethnic makeup of Mt. Diablo High School's student body has changed. Back then, most of the students were white Americans, and the largest nonwhite group was Japanese American. In 2022, the students are more than 90 percent Hispanic American, with some students living with parents who may be undocumented.

For those and other reasons, Valdez, who also teaches history at the school, believes that her students can identify with what happened to their Nisei forerunners, since they are aware of issues surrounding immigration, deportations and the like. "I think that there's a lot of parallels in some ways," she told the *Pacific Citizen*.

For fellow history teacher and yearbook adviser Scott Ananos, the impact of EO 9066 is as clear as the difference between the MDHS yearbooks of 1942 and '43. In 1942 and before, though a minority presence, Japanese Americans, whether in class portraits or photos of student officers, sports teams or other activities, are visible and apparent.

So, too, is the complete absence of Japanese faces in 1943 and after.

"It's something you know about, but when you see it, that has such a huge impact on everyone," said Ananos. Even among older staff members, one might assume to not necessarily align with the idea of presenting honorary diplomas to the Nisei students who didn't get their diplomas from MDHS, the difference between the 1942 and '43 yearbooks made a huge difference. "The visual really led them to jumping in and assisting us right away," he added.

**SOCIAL MEDIA ACTION**

According to MDHS Class of 1958 alumna Kimiyo Tahira Dowell, what led to her school's 2022 recognition of Nisei students was a Facebook post.

In the private Facebook group for MDHS alumni was a 2021 post about the rise in anti-Asian violence. A retired attorney, Dowell remembered that in 2003, California passed AB 781, which allowed state high schools to retroactively grant diplomas to Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during WWII.

She also knew that in the intervening years, her alma mater had not taken up the issue of recognizing Nisei students who were denied the chance to get their diplomas the way other schools did. Could this belated recognition be an antidote to the surge in anti-Asian violence, serve as an example of restorative justice and teach the younger generation something about U.S. history, albeit one of the sadder aspects?

"The response was fabulous. They said, 'Let's do it, let's do it!'" Dowell told the *Pacific Citizen*. When Valdez, who was also a member of that Facebook group, saw Dowell's post and the positive responses, she knew she had to reach out to Dowell. Soon, the two began communicating.

**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 a permanent memorial on campus," she said. What form that memorial will ultimately take will be determined as the next school year progresses.

Wrapping up the very special 2022 MDHS graduation ceremony, Ananos said,



(From left) Kimi Tahira Dowell, students Arshpreet Garcha and Evelin Suarez Martinez and teacher Laura Valdez PHOTO: THERESA HARRINGTON

"The moment that this all came together for me was at graduation, when Kimi read the names of all the students who were forced to leave the schools, and our student body gave her a standing ovation. And she was moved to tears."

"I think that it is so important that these moments are recognized and remembered, and the hardships realized by all of us. It's not just one of those history things. It's just a humanity thing, where people feel like they're part of the community again. ... It was a really cathartic and positive moment."

**(EDITOR'S NOTE: To view the MDHS 2022 graduation ceremony, visit [youtu.be/-NSutMqtQbE](https://youtu.be/-NSutMqtQbE). To view the March 23 MDUSD board meeting, visit [vimeo.com/691620554](https://vimeo.com/691620554).)**

**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.*



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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 JAACL 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

Let's unite and reunite, in-person and virtually, to take action for our community! This year's convention builds upon last year's theme of "Communities Forged Under Fire" and welcomes partner organization OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates.

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

## 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/CATStagedreading1](http://tinyurl.com/CATStagedreading1).

**San Jose Buddhist Church Obon 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 Live, bringing fun to your home, including live cooking demonstrations and cultural performances for the entire family.

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

## PSW

**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.  
**Info:** Registration closes on June 12; visit [www.keiro.org](http://www.keiro.org).

**Virtual Book Talk: 'When Can We Go Back to America?'**  
June 18; 1:30 p.m. (HST); 4:30 p.m. (PST)  
Price: Free

Author Susan H. Kamei weaves the voices of more than 130 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://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_LN5jU-JAdQqIQGYieclMJAgQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LN5jU-JAdQqIQGYieclMJAgQ).

**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 \$40; Four Bentos \$80; Donations Also Accepted

GVJCI's largest fundraiser is back with this preorder/pickup event featuring chicken teriyaki, rice, yakisoba, spam musubi and green salad. There will also be an onsite plant sale. Proceeds benefit GVJCI's programs.  
**Info:** 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.  
**Info:** Visit [www.jamo.org](http://www.jamo.org).

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

The Tule Lake Pilgrimage Committee presents this year's pilgrimage that will include hybrid and virtual options. More announcements coming soon on event programming throughout this holiday weekend.

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

## MDC

**Spotlight Series: 'Nicole Leung Is Too Chinese to Be American and Too Little American to Be Chinese'**  
Chicago, IL  
Thru July 2

**Chinese American Museum of Chicago**  
238 W. Third St.  
Nicole Leung explores notions of inclusion and exclusion as a second-generation Chinese American.

**Info:** Visit <https://ccamuseum.org/spotlight-series-opens-3-19-22/>.

## 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.cherryblossomdenver.org](http://www.cherryblossomdenver.org) 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 invite 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 June 10 to Melanie Assis, DU Anthropology departmental assistant at (303) 871-2677.

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

**Price:** Registration Open Thru 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 or email [denih@heartmountain.org](mailto:denih@heartmountain.org).

## EDC

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

**Simu Liu: 'We Were Dreamers'**  
Book Tour  
Boston, MA  
June 20; 7:30 p.m.  
The Wilbur  
246 Tremont St.

**Price:** Tickets \$40-\$80 (Ticket Includes Copy of Liu's Book "We Were Dreamers: An Immigrant Superhero Origin Story")

Join Simu Liu, star of Marvel's first-ever Asian superhero film "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings" as he gives fans an inside look at growing up between cultures, battling stereotypes and landing the role of a lifetime.

**Info:** Visit <https://thewilbur.com/artist/simu-liu/>.

**Unity March**  
Washington, D.C.  
June 25; Noon-3 p.m.  
National Mall

The goal of this event is to bring together 25,000 Asian Americans and allies to tell a story of pan-Asian/pan-racial power, unity and resilience. The event coincides with the 40th anniversary of the murder of Vincent Chin.

**Info:** Visit <https://unitymarch.webflow.io/>.

## MEMORIAM

**Aoki, Yasuhiko, 91**, El Cerrito, CA, Dec 31, 2021; Army veteran (Korean War). During WWII, he was incarcerated at Fresno Assembly Center in CA and the Jerome and Rohwer WRA Centers in AR. He was predeceased by his siblings, Mitsuyoshi (Erma), Yaeko Tsuji, Shizuma (Madelyn), Nobuko Tsukida (Bill), Wakao (Cathy), Tomoyo Johnson (Ross) and Stanley (Ysabel). He is survived by his wife, Margaret; children, Joan (Curt Kawabata) and Kathryn; siblings, Kaoru (Yachi), Chiyeko Fukumoto (Dick), Reiko Takeuchi, Masami (Georgia), Sueko Sumida, Sanaye Fisher (Mark), Diana Fujisaka (Steve) and Ronnie; gc: 1.

**Hamaguchi, Glenn Toyoyuki, 78**, Fountain Valley, CA, Jan. 29; he was born at the Manzanar WRA Center in CA; 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 Yokoyama-Hamaguchi; children, Derek (Carla) 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 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 by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

### 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 fond 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 retired three years later after the plant was operational, and he and Kikue moved to Hawaii and finally to Roseville, Calif. Joe eventually moved back 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 [Deborahikeda@att.net](mailto:Deborahikeda@att.net).

**Kamikawa, Jo Ann Sayoko, 70**, Torrance, CA, April 19; she is survived by her sisters-in-law, Keiko Kamikawa and Haruko Kamikawa; she is also survived by nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews and many other relatives.



**Okada, Blanche Haruyo, 102**, Garden Grove, CA, Jan. 28; she was predeceased by her husband, Yutaka; siblings, Mabel Iguchi, Mary Morikawa and George Ochi; 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.

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

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

TRIBUTE

**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 sister, Laurie Katagiri-Hoshino.

**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.

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

**Miyahira, Glenn T. 'Smiley, 69**, Wailuku, HI, Jan. 25; veteran (Air Force); he is survived by his children, Scott Miyahira and Kelsey Miyahira; former spouse, Gail Miyahira; brother, Abel (Clarice) Miyahira.



**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.

**Nakashima, Richard, 86**, Kaneohe, HI, Dec. 25, 2021.

**GEORGE H. INOUE**



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 is survived by his sister, Mary "Mel" Tsuji, 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 amazing caregivers. He was predeceased by his wife, Betty (1992), his parents (Sadame and Tamaye Inouye), and siblings, John Inouye, Ann Kodama and Lily Moritsugu.

George was born outside Stockton, Calif., on May 23, 1919; he graduated from Sacramento High in 1938 and attended Yuba Community College. George, his siblings and their Issei parents were interned at Amache Camp in Granada, Colo. In 1942, George enlisted in the Army and served with the Military Intelligence Service as a translator and photographer. He was honored with a Congressional Gold Medal in 2012.

George 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. 8985 since 1948. He was also one of eight directors helping improve the California Board of the Bracero 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.

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

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

TRIBUTE

**SATORU SAKUMA**



Satoru (Sat) Sakuma, 96, passed away peacefully in his sleep on May 17, 2022.

Sat was born Oct. 28, 1925, on Bainbridge Island, Wash., to Takeo and Nobu Sakuma. He was one of 10 children, eight brothers and two sisters. Sat attended school and worked on the family strawberry farm until the evacuation in 1942. Executive Order 9066 required all persons of Japanese descent, including U.S. citizens, to be

evacuated out of certain zones and relocated to internment camps. Bainbridge Island was the first zone evacuated, the Sakuma family were one of the first families relocated to internment in Manzanar, Calif. At the time of evacuation, Sat was 15 and a freshman in high school. After the first year in camp, the family was relocated to Minidoka, Idaho, to join the remaining Japanese Americans that were evacuated from Washington. This is where Sat first met his future wife, Kazuko (Grace) Arima. Grace's family was interned in an adjacent block in Minidoka—Grace's family returned to Idaho after the war.

In the fall of 1944, at the age of 18, Sat was drafted into the United States Army. With both apprehension and excitement, he boarded the train to Fort Blanding, Fla., for basic training. Sat served his tour of duty with the segregated Japanese American 442nd combat team in the European Theater, both in the infantry and as a radio operator. Additionally, two of Sat's brothers also served in the 442nd as three other brothers served in Military Intelligence during the war. By the end of the war, the 442nd infantry was the highest decorated army unit for its size and length of service in U.S. military history. The mantra of the 442nd was "Go for Broke," as they put everything on the line both in the war abroad and as well as the fight against racism and discrimination.

After the war, the family moved to the Skagit Valley where the older Sakuma brothers had already started farming strawberries — Sat along with his five brothers started Sakuma Bros. Farms, which continues today, as the legacy is continued by the third and fourth generation of Sakuma Family members. Under Sat and his brother's leadership, the Sakuma Family business developed a reputation of excellence in the small fruit industry and as leaders in the community.

After returning to the Skagit Valley, Sat and Grace were married on December 6, 1954, and had four children who were raised on the family farm. Sat continued to work on the farm throughout his career even keeping his desk at the office until the very end.

Sat loved attending sporting events with friends and family. He also had a passion for gardening that he meticulously maintained well into his 90s before recruiting help to keep up with a beautiful dahlia and daffodil display in addition to a robust vegetable and fruit offering. Sat loved his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and religiously attended all their sporting and extracurricular events. Spending time with family meant everything to him.

Sat will be greatly missed by all those who knew him. Sat is survived by his two sisters, Lucy Ota and Lillian Aoyama, four children, Bryan (Barb) Sakuma of Burlington, Becky (Ken) Ogata of Seattle, Carol (Cliff) Schroeder of Anacortes and Glenn (Kimberly) Sakuma of Burlington; 15 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Preceding his death were his wife, Grace; parents, Takeo and Nobu; and seven brothers.

Viewing 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 (BIJAC), Ashely Gardens.

Please visit [www.hawthornefh.com](http://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.

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

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



## REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

# HEALTH HABITS FOR MENTAL WELL-BEING

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.

By covering topics like sleep, stress management, healthy eating and exercise, AARP demonstrates that its healthy living offerings can help Americans develop and maintain

healthy habits for their mental well-being.

- AARP can help you take simple, but meaningful, steps to improve your mental well-being — and develop good habits for the future.
- As Americans continue to face uncertainty on multiple fronts: public health, economic and global conflicts, their resiliency and coping skills has been tested, but older adults are poised to bounce back.
- Mental well-being is a cornerstone of healthy living. AARP wants to help you get healthier and stay healthy.

Following the Memorial Day holiday, I want to highlight AARP's free resources for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental health challenges:

- **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/2022/01/1261402-aarp-vmf-dole-mental-health-booklet-2022012749.pdf>.

To view all of AARP's resources for veterans, military and their families,

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

PHOTO: AARP

visit <https://www.aarp.org/home-family/voices/veterans/?intcmp=AE-HP-FTR-VETS>. One of the highlighted stories features Dr. Cynthia Macri, a Japanese American medical doctor who served in the Navy for 35 years. Read her story here: <https://www.aarp.org/home-family/voices/veterans/info-2022/japanese-american-military-experience.html?intcmp=AE-HF-VC-VET-BB>.

Visit AARP's Mental Health Resource Center at [www.aarp.org/mentalhealth](http://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.*



## SUPERMARKET » continued from page 3

Milling Company," ironically the name of the company that invented the pancake mix and the original name for two years until it was recast as Aunt Jemima (after holding auditions for a Black woman to play the part).

My goal isn't to cancel Taleen, I just want people up and down the supermarket food chain to understand that representation matters. If every other racial stereotype has been banished but Asians are still fair game, at a time when anti-Asian hate is still alive and well, even though the "mainstream" media doesn't cover the story, then it sets up a frightening inequality and can tell some crazy person out there that Asians are OK to target.

Representation matters. And Asian Americans deserve a place as equal in modern America with all people, all colors.

*Gil Asakawa is the author of "Tabemasho! Let's Eat! A Tasty History of Japanese Food in America," which will be published by Stone Bridge Press this year. He blogs at [www.nikkeiview.com](http://www.nikkeiview.com).*

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