



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 93 YEARS

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## 'SAMURAI RABBIT'

Stan Sakai's beloved  
'Usagi Yojimbo'  
animation gets a new  
update on Netflix.

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San Jose Honors  
Norman Mineta.

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President Biden  
Signs HR 3525.

"Samurai Rabbit"  
premiered  
on Netflix in  
April.

PHOTO: NETFLIX

## SAN JOSE WELCOMES NORMAN MINETA HOME FOR LAST TIME

Norman Mineta's hometown of San Jose, Calif., welcomed him home for the final time on June 15, as the remains of the late Transportation Secretary and former Mayor of San Jose were accompanied by his wife, Deni, and members of the family as their plane touched down at Norman Y. Mineta International Airport.

Mineta passed away on May 3 at age 90 following a lifetime of service to his community and country, serving as mayor of San Jose from 1971-75, 20 years in Congress and a Cabinet secretary in two presidential administrations, in addition to leading the country through the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks as Transportation Secretary, going on to spearhead the effort to establish the Transportation Security



**Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts from Troop 201 (Wesley United Methodist Church) and Troop 611 (San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin) salute the motorcade carrying the ashes of Norman Y. Mineta near the railroad tracks where the Mineta family and other San Jose residents of Japanese ancestry were forced onto trains carrying them to prison camps during World War II.**

PHOTO: CRAIG UYEDA

Administration in 2001.

Mineta's remains were carried by U.S. Coast guard Rear Adm. Joanna Nunan, after which a motorcade procession then made its way throughout the city of San

Jose to carry him to San Jose City Hall, where a ceremony was held to pay tribute to the man who broke barriers for Asian Americans and all Americans that he served.

The motorcade made several stops

along its route, proceeding through San Jose's historic Japantown, the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, the Mineta family home, Wesley Methodist Church (Mineta was a church member) and the railroad tracks where "the Minetas and hundreds of other San Jose residents of Japanese ancestry were forced, at gun point, onto trains taking them to prison camps in early World War II," according to an official statement.

There to greet the motorcade procession at the railroad tracks that cross Fifth Street between Empire and Washington were Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts from Troop 201 (Wesley United Methodist Church) and Troop 611 (San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin).

» See MINETA on page 8

## JACL Applauds the Signing of HR 3525 — A Bill for a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture

By JACL National

President Joe Biden signed into law HR 3525, the "Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture Act" on June 13. This bill would allow the eventual creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., where it would join the many other museums dedicated to sharing the stories, histories and cultures of other marginalized groups in our nation.

The four main goals of the newly

**President Joe Biden (seated) signs into law HR 3525 as members of Congress, including co-author Rep. Grace Meng (D-N.Y.) (second from far left) and VP Kamala Harris, stand witness.**

PHOTOS: DAVID INOUE



created commission are to map a plan of action for the implementation of the creation of the museum; develop a fundraising strategy for the building and operation of the museum; find an independent review of the fundraising strategy; and finally, present a legislative proposal to Congress for the museum's establishment and

construction.

While we are cognizant of the fact that the development of such a museum will take time and much work, support and input from our own community, we are confident that the commission will be able to craft a plan that will make such a museum possible and help to share

the stories of the Asian American community for generations to come.

Noted JACL Executive Director David Inoue: "We have been fortunate to have the National Museum of American History showcase our Japanese American history with recent dedicated major exhibitions. However, a museum dedicated to the history and culture of all Asian Pacific American communities will ensure these stories become a part of the permanent collection of what is shared in the Smithsonian, and the rich diversity of the Asian Pacific American community will be showcased for all Americans to learn and better understand."

The bill was passed by the House in April, followed by the Senate in May during Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

» See HR 3525 on page 8



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— Gil Asakawa



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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# JACL CONVENTION: EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED RIGHT NOW

By David Inoue,  
JACL Executive Director

This past week has been one of incredible highs and lows, which will continue into this coming week.

The week began with the Washington, D.C., memorial service for Sec. Norman Mineta. The service was a touching tribute to the many ways Sec. Mineta touched the lives of so many of us in so many different ways. The Washington service was followed this week with another in San Jose and will be followed by another on June 25 at the Japanese American National Museum.

In Washington, D.C., the next day after the memorial service, the local chapter celebrated its first picnic in three years. Overnight rainy weather cleared in time for a crowd so large it required two pavilions for everyone to be comfortably seated. For most of us in attendance, we hadn't seen one another for those three years, and it was a wonderful opportunity to gather and share some time together. Many of us had just been at the memorial service the previous day.

On June 13, President Joe Biden invited leaders from the Asian Pacific American community to celebrate the signing of the Asian Pacific American Museum Study bill into law.

This legislation will pave the way for a possible Smithsonian museum dedicated to the history and culture of Asian Pacific Americans in Washington, D.C.

On June 15, on the other side of the country, the Los Angeles Dodgers celebrated Japanese Heritage Night with, among many other events, the opening of the exhibit "Baseball's Bridge to the Pacific: Celebrating the Legacy of Japanese American Baseball." This museum-quality installation will be at Dodger Stadium through the All-Star Game in July, and likely beyond. It makes a trip to see the Dodgers worth your time regardless of your team allegiances.

Unfortunately, my presence in Los Angeles was coincidental to the Dodgers game as I was actually in town for a two-day conference on Gun Violence Prevention and the Asian American community.

This was the first such convening of the community on this issue — and long overdue. It had been scheduled before but made all the more relevant and necessary in the wake of the Uvalde and other recent mass shootings.

The week concluded with the 40th anniversary of Vincent Chin's murder. It's a somber reminder of the

intersection of anti-Asian violence that galvanized the Asian American community for the first time, leading to an activism that persists through to today and will continue into next week with the Unity March in Washington, D.C.

What all these diverse yet connected events signify is the importance of our upcoming National Convention, whose theme is "Strengthening Our Community Through Action." The theme is actually a carryover from before Covid-19 led to the unprecedented act of canceling the 2020 convention.

In many ways, our community struggled through Covid both due to the pressures we all felt from the shutdowns and enforced distancing, but even more by the wave of anti-Asian hate inspired by the false assertions that the disease was somehow related to us as Asian Americans, in addition to increasing anti-China rhetoric reminiscent of that directed toward Japan that led to Vincent Chin's murder. Just as 40 years ago, our community has risen to action.

I hope that you will join us in Las Vegas from Aug. 3-Aug. 6 for convention, whether you are a delegate or just looking to reconnect after these past years of isolation. It will

be bittersweet, just as this past week has been, as we remember those we have lost like Sec. Mineta, but we will have the hope of celebrating our community successes.

This will be our first opportunity to confer and pass important resolutions to set the policies for JACL going forward. We will also be electing a new board and passing the next biennial budget. As usual, the National Board will be meeting prior to commencement of the convention in the morning of Aug. 3, and the new board will convene for its first meeting on the morning of Aug. 7.

**To register for convention, please be sure to visit <https://jacl.org/2022-convention-registration>, and we will see you in Las Vegas.**

*Finally, I would be incredibly grateful if all of you reading this take a brief, important membership survey at [jacl.org/survey](https://jacl.org/survey). By sharing your personal JACL experience, we will be able to improve our membership program for years to come.*

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



## A MOTHER'S TAKE

# LOVE AND PRIDE

By Marsha Aizumi

With June being Pride Month, I wanted to talk about two experiences I had this month that made me reflect on being proud, not only as a mother, but also as a member of the Japanese American community.

On June 4, Aiden and I were part of an event in San Francisco, where the Progressive Pride Flag was raised in Japantown's Peace Plaza. Led by Elena Nielsen of the Japantown Rainbow Coalition and supported by both San Francisco and Berkeley JACL chapters, along with Jodo Shinshu Buddhist churches in the area and various other organizations, I felt so much appreciation for those who made this possible.

I saw organizations and allies outside the LGBTQ+ community and part of the JA community, and I could only believe as a mother that more and more people were celebrating and embracing all of whom my son is and all of whom those in the Nikkei

LGBTQ+ are.

Walking onstage with Aiden to say a few words representing Okaeri and the LGBTQ+ community, I felt a deep warmth and love to all who made this day possible, especially those who I worked with or oversaw all the details . . . Elena, Darcy Nishi and Tara Umemoto.

There are times when a part of me wonders if all the advocacy that is being done in the LGBTQ+ community is really making a difference. I see all the anti-transgender bills discriminating against transgender athletes, barring transgender individuals from the health care that will keep them living in hope, targeting parents who love their transgender children and are only trying to help them live as their true selves and the "Don't Say Gay" bill that passed in Florida.

And then I walked onto Japantown's Peace Plaza and saw those in our community coming together. I saw the Progressive Pride Flag waving proudly in the wind and I thought, "Yes we are making a difference in this moment and in this place."

There were many LGBTQ+ individuals who drove a great distance, including Aiden, Mary and me, just to be in community with our JA

LGBTQ+ friends, their families and allies. And though I could not always see the smiles on people's faces since so many of us were masked, I felt the pride, warmth and gratitude for this day.

It has inspired me to come back to Little Tokyo and see if we can do something similar next year. If you want to help make this happen, please email me at [maizumi888@gmail.com](mailto:maizumi888@gmail.com).

The second experience I had revolved around Aiden telling me about a sweet Netflix series called "Love on the Spectrum: US." As I watched the program, it gave me insight into the lives of individuals in the United States that live on the autism spectrum and their search for love. Just a spoiler alert . . . I will try not to give away any specific information about the program, but there may be some details that will alert you to some of the story lines.

Seeing autistic individuals share their stories vulnerably and watching the reactions of those that love them reminded me that no matter what kind of challenges our children face and no matter how difficult the situation, as parents, we want our children to feel love and be able to share their love.

Some of my most emotional moments have come when I see Aiden loved for who he is: the day he got married, the day he walked onstage to get his master's degree and the many days where he was recognized for his activism, courage and visibility. These are moments that

in the beginning of our journey, I never imagined would be possible.

I think the most touching parts of these autism stories were to see the hope not only in the eyes of the autistic individual, but also in the hearts of their parents. As a parent, I understood the joy, hope and love that often rolled down their cheeks. I also felt the joy of the autistic young person when they proudly shared that they were asked for a second date. And when some relationships moved into a boyfriend and girlfriend relationship, my heart just burst with delight as they awkwardly sealed the moment with a kiss, and you knew this was the first time they felt so loved by another outside of their own family.

Like autistic children, our LGBTQ+

children don't choose to be queer or transgender. They are wired that way. So, we as parents must choose . . . how are we going to love them, and how are we going to support them?

And in the same way, those of us in the JA community must choose how are we going to love and accept those who might be different. More and more I am seeing parents and the JA community choosing to stand on the side of love and acceptance, and that makes me feel so proud and full of gratitude . . .

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



**The Progressive Pride Flag welcomes all to San Francisco Japantown's Peace Plaza.**

**(From left) Stan Yogi, Marsha, Aiden and Rino Kodama at the Pride Flag Raising Event**



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MARSHA AIZUMI



**Shofuso Japanese House and Garden is located in Philadelphia's West Fairmount Park.**

PHOTO: SEAN MARSHALL LIN



**An exterior sliding panel lies askew after being knocked down in an act of vandalism that took place at Shofuso Japanese House and Garden.**

PHOTO: JASGP



**In the room that shows the mural painted on the fusuma panels by renowned Japanese artist Hiroshi Senju, a sign and stand were both knocked over. The sign may have been used to damage the fusuma.**

PHOTOS: JASGP

# VANDALISM HITS SHOFUSO

## Japanese House and Garden

Extensive damage to the Philadelphia site's interior mural reported.

By **George Toshio Johnston**,  
Senior Editor



**A rain gutter and kusaritoi (rain chain) hang down off the building after being partially yanked down by one or more vandals.**

PHOTO: JASGP

One or more vandals caused extensive property damage to Philadelphia's Shofuso Japanese House and Garden. The vandalism is believed to have occurred shortly before midnight on June 15 or after midnight on June 16.

According to the Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia's Associate Director of Organizational Culture Rob Buscher, the vandalism was discovered by employees on the morning of June 16 about an hour before the Shofuso Japanese House and Garden was scheduled to open at 11 a.m. ET.

According to Buscher, who also serves as the chair of the *Pacific Citizen* Editorial Board, there was extensive damage to two of the

*fusuma* (vertical sliding panels) located in the house's interior; the *fusuma* are part of the waterfall mural by renowned painter Hiroshi Senju of Japan. The mural was completed in 2007.

"It looks like one of them was either punched or kicked. So, there's a large tear and, like, a physical depression, in the *fusuma* itself," Buscher told the *Pacific Citizen*. "The other one looks like they may have kicked or thrown a stanchion that had like an informational sign into the *fusuma*. So, there's multiple points of contact where the mural was damaged. That kind of ripped up the top layer of the mural."

Buscher said that the estimated value of the mural is about

\$2 million. According to Associate Director of Exhibitions and Programs Yuka Yokoyama, Senju is quite well-known in Japan and was recognized at the 1995 Venice Biennale with an honorable mention for one of his waterfall paintings.

He added that there was damage to exterior parts of the building. "There were a couple of loose objects that were ripped down from where they were," Buscher said. This included a wind chime and *koinobori* (carp flag) that was taken down from the house's opening, as well as a few exterior *fusuma* panels that he said look "pretty badly damaged," possibly from a pry bar or "maybe they just yanked on it really hard until the wood gave."

Other exterior damage includes a "rain chain," or *kusaritoi*, that was partially pulled down. According to Yokoyama, when it rains, the chain makes a noise as water trickles

down it and is one of the "favorite attractions" for visitors to Shofuso Japanese House and Garden.

Buscher and Yokoyama both said that the Shofuso Japanese House and Garden staff reported the incident to the Philadelphia Police Department on June 16 at about 10:30 a.m. ET; as of 4 p.m. ET, no one from the PPD had shown up to take a formal police report.

According to Buscher, there is neither an alarm system nor a video surveillance system installed at the site.

The Shofuso Japanese House and Garden was originally built in 1953 as a gift from Japan to the United States and displayed in New York City. It was relocated to its current location in Philadelphia's West Fairmount Park in 1958. It is currently administered by the nonprofit Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia. ■

# WHAT MAY MEANS TO SOMEONE WHO'S JAPANESE AND JEWISH

By **Matthew Weisbly**

In the United States, we recognize the month of May as Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, as well as Jewish American Heritage Month. For people like me, who are both Asian American (Chinese and Japanese descent) and Jewish American (Ashkenazim), the month is a celebration that encompasses our identity in a unique way and is a reminder of the hardships that both communities have faced over generations and still do today.

Growing up in Arizona among a small Asian American population (that is now thankfully growing) and an equally small Jewish population, it was hard to see myself in everyday life. Many kids struggle with seeing themselves in popular media and culture, especially in the early to mid-2000s, but even more so for kids who were mixed race and even more so for someone who wasn't only mixed but was mixed Asian and Jewish.

For a lot of my childhood, I really thought I was the only one like me, aside from my siblings and a few cousins. It wasn't until I went to college that I found a community for mixed-race students at the University

of Southern California. There I found more people who were Asian (mostly Japanese) and Jewish like me.

Then in May 2020, only a few months into the start of the pandemic, I found the Jewpanese community group, started by my friend, Carmel Tanaka. It was a moment I'd dreamt of since I was a kid.

Fast forward to last month, May 2022, and I got to celebrate my identity. As part of my work here at JACL, we were able to partner with our friends at the Anti-Defamation League to celebrate both communities in a unique way and look at the

struggles both communities still face.

We started off with a mixer in Los Angeles, where members of the Japanese American and Jewish American communities could meet in an informal space and get to know one another, as well as talk about how great it was for our communities to come together during such a time of celebration and strife.

In mid-May, I was able to head to Washington, D.C., for a panel discussion that I never thought was possible. Myself and my friend, Carmel, not only met for the first time but also were the main speakers



**JACL/ADL panel participants (from left) Matthew Weisbly, Carmel Tanaka and Tema Smith.**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MATTHEW WEISBLY

for a panel on Japanese and Jewish identity.

I smiled from ear to ear while getting to share my identity. In the few years I've been here at JACL (as staff), it's been the highlight of my time here and something I truly

won't forget anytime soon.

**Matthew Weisbly is the education and communications coordinator for the JACL. A former Daniel K. Inouye fellow, he is based in the organization's Los Angeles office.**



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# SELANOCO ELEVEN PLUS ONE

In anticipation of the upcoming JACL National Convention, one chapter hopes to inspire others in recruiting the next generation of members and solidifying the organization's role in communities across the nation.

By SELANOCO JACL

The South East Los Angeles North Orange County (SELANOCO) chapter is excited to announce that 11 members of our chapter will be attending the upcoming JACL National Convention in Las Vegas, and one member will be attending the convention virtually.

In order to understand the historical significance of this group of SELANOCO members, let's review the history of the visionary leadership of the Nisei founders of the SELANOCO chapter.

During the 1970s, the Nisei leaders (Clarence Nishizu, Hiroshi Kamei, Jun Fukushima, Hon. Judge Richard Hanki and others) of the chapter understood that if SELANOCO were to continue to have a presence in the Orange County and JACL communities, they would need to identify/mentor the next generation of Japanese American/JACL leaders.

Under the guidance of the Niseis, the next generation of SELANOCO/JACL leaders, including Ruth Mizobe, Karen-Liane Shiba, Hiromi Ueha, Nicole Inouye, Gene Takamine and Kenneth Inouye, went on (as individuals) to hold EVERY NATIONAL JACL office except for vp of operations.

In addition, the SELANOCO chapter received the prestigious George Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Award in 1993.

Continuing the policy of developing the next generation of JACL leaders, the current members of the SELANOCO board of directors (Frank Kawase, Alice Ishigame-Tao, Steve Matsubara, B. J. Watanabe, Donna Nishizu, Todd Hasegawa and others) have consistently sought out members of the local community to join SELANOCO and advocate for social justice in Orange County, Calif.

Twelve individuals will be representing SELANOCO at convention in hopes of inspiring others on the importance of recruiting new members and supporting the overall civil rights and educational mission of the JACL.

**SELANOCO FIRST-YEAR NATIONAL CONVENTION ATTENDEES (six plus one):**

**REILLY CHANG**, a two-year member, is a current member of the SELANOCO BOD and member of the programs committee. Chang joined JACL after participating in the Kakehashi trip in 2017. She joined JACL as a way to re-engage with the JA community. Chang is looking forward to meeting people from other chapters.

**CIELO CHAVARRIA** is a new member, OC student leader on the Orange County Human Relations Council and a student at Wellesley College. She joined JACL since she believes in human rights, American civil rights, and she believes in the strength, value and necessity of multiracial coalition. Chavarria is looking forward to meeting and learning from social justice leaders, engaging in dialogue and exchanging ideas with other members.

**RYAN TAKESHI GASHA (Sansei)**, is a new member, student member of the SELANOCO BOD and participant in the 2022 JACL/OCA Leadership program. Gasha joined JACL as a way to get more involved in the JA community. He is looking forward to going to convention to learn more about JACL and meet other members.

**BAYLEY HAGINO (Yonsei)**, a one-year current member of the SELANOCO BOD, participated in the Kakehashi program and got involved in the SELANOCO chapter when a friend invited her to a BOD meeting. Being involved with SELANOCO has given her the opportunity to learn more about the history of JAs and also be a part of the current changes being made in her community. Hagino is going to convention to learn more about JACL on a national level and meet other individuals in the JACL community.

**ERIN HITOMI (Sansei/Yonsei)**, a two-year member, current member of the SELANOCO BOD and member of the programs committee, was introduced to JACL by her close friend, Jamie Morishima. They were both looking for a way to reconnect with the JA community. Hitomi has

continued her relationship with SELANOCO since it has allowed her to focus on social justice and advocacy for JAs and other communities of color. She is going to convention to learn more about how JACL functions on a national level. Hitomi is looking forward to learning from other chapters' different perspectives.

**JAMIE MORISHIMA (Yonsei/Gosei)**, a two-year member, current co-president of SELANOCO and member of the programs committee, joined JACL after participating in the Kakehashi trip in 2020. Morishima is looking forward to her first JACL National Convention and the ability to meet in person the many people from across the country that she has met through JACL's Young Professional Caucus.

## ATTENDING VIRTUALLY:

**EADAN DURY** is a one-year student member of the SELANOCO BOD. Dury initially joined JACL through her association with the Tomo-no-Kai, the Japanese American club at the University of California, Irvine. She continued her involvement with SELANOCO because of its dedication to not only serving the JA community but also other communities

that need support. Dury is attending convention virtually in order to learn more about other JACL chapters, as well as to educate herself on the needs of other communities.

Current members of the SELANOCO BOD have continued the Nisei legacy of developing/encouraging the next generation of JACL leaders by inviting the new members to be on the SELANOCO BOD. In addition, the SELANOCO BOD has agreed to reimburse the first-year attendees for their convention registration fees as a way to reduce the financial cost of attending the convention.

## OTHER SELANOCO CONVENTION ATTENDEES:

**JOSEPH GU** is a three-year member, participant in the 2021 JACL/OCA leadership program, current member of the SELANOCO BOD and represented SELANOCO at numerous Anti-Asian hate vigils.

**KENNETH INOUE (Sansei)** has been a member for 46 years, prior JACL national president, national vp public affairs, P.C. Editorial Board chair, PSWD governor (twice), SELANOCO president and father of three daughters (all current JACL members) and "Ji-Chan."

**NICOLE INOUE (Yonsei)**, a member since birth, she is a prior National Youth/Student Representative, recipi-

ent of the Mike Masaoka Fellowship, PSWD board member, member of the SELANOCO BOD and current SELANOCO co-president.

**AMELIA KAWAGUCHI (Gosei)**, a student member since birth, this will be her third JACL National Convention.

**RYAN YOSHIKAWA (Nisei/Gosei)**, is a seven-year member, prior SELANOCO president and member of the SELANOCO BOD, current leader of the Young Professional Caucus and current PSWD governor. Yoshikawa is also the fourth member of SELANOCO to hold the position of PSWD governor.

SELANOCO looks forward to engaging with various JACL chapters at August's National Convention!

The continued presence of the SELANOCO Chapter in Orange County and in the National JACL organization has been made possible by the fact that young people want to be a part of and participate with a local/national organization that advocates for the rights of ALL people.

*To register for the National Convention, "Strengthening Our Community Through Action," set for Aug. 3-7 in Las Vegas at Bally's Hotel and Casino, visit [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org). Registration closes July 27.*



# USAGI YOJIMBO NEWLY REIMAGINED

Audiences have loved Stan Sakai's samurai comics for years; now, he's attracting a whole new legion of fans with his latest 'Samurai Rabbit' TV series.

By Gil Asakawa,  
Contributor

If you come across "Samurai Rabbit: The Usagi Chronicles" on Netflix, you may be in for a surprise. It's an animated series about a rebellious teenager and his group of friends and their adventures saving the city from . . . *yokai*.

Yep, *yokai*. Japanese ghost-spirits, most of them malevolent and dangerous. They're running (or floating) amok in the city of Neo-Edo, possessing people and things and causing a lot of havoc.

The teenagers fighting the *yokai* are all martial arts-fighting animals: The titular samurai is, as the name says, a rabbit, Yuichi Miyamoto, who's accompanied by Spot, his *tokage*, or pet dinosaur-lizard (Yuichi and Spot — who doesn't really speak, just squeals — are both voiced by Japanese American actor Darren Barnet). His posse of ghostbusters includes Kitsune, a fox (voiced by Shelley Rabara); Chizu, a cat who was raised by the evil Neko Ninja crew (Mallory Low); Gen the rhinoceros (Aleks Le); and Tetsujin the bear (Keone Young), who is the Buddhist priest guarding the magical Ki-Stone crystal.

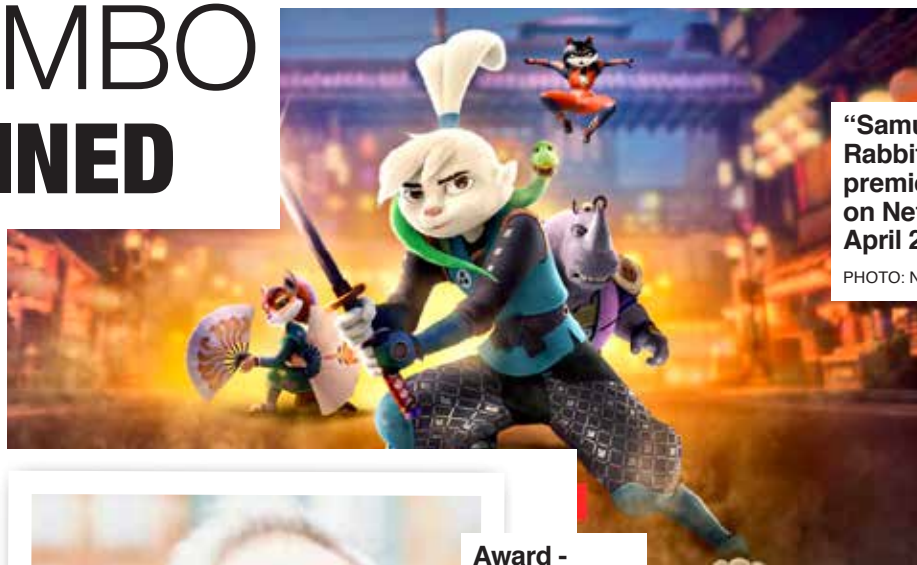
The series, which made its debut on Netflix on April 28, is a breathless, exciting, funny and action-packed samurai story, set not in the feudal Japan of the past, but of the future, where Neo-Edo is built like a traditional Japanese town but with neon and floating space vehicles, and the teenagers who star in the series stop to strike a pose and take selfies. The computer graphic animation is top-notch, and many of the characters and much of the scenes look almost photographic . . . except, of course, the characters are talking animals in samurai gear.

The story follows Yuichi, who is the descendant of Miyamoto Usagi, a samurai warrior from the 1600s, who desperately wants to become a famous samurai himself. The series intercuts scenes of Miyamoto fighting *yokai*, and Yuichi imagines himself doing the same.

But when he meets his new companions and ends up at the temple that houses the Ki-Stone, he inadvertently releases the *yokai*, who've been imprisoned inside it for centuries. The main *yokai* that escapes, Kagehito, mistakes Yuichi for his ancestor, who imprisoned the *yokai* in the first place.

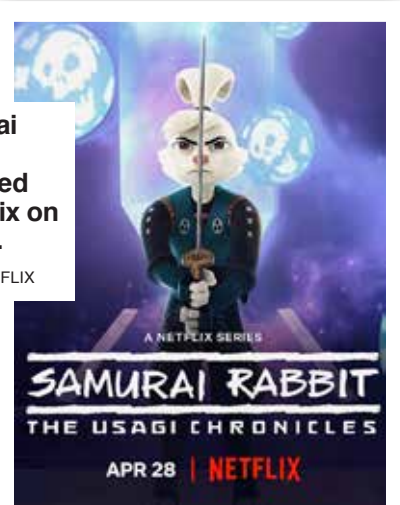
Yuichi and his friends are fun characters, and the series draws in viewers with its humor and action. But "Samurai Rabbit" also manages to be engaging by paying accurate tribute to historical Japanese culture — down to the use of Japanese words without pandering to audiences by explaining every word and phrase.

So, *yokai* are introduced right away, but anyone watching picks up the meaning of the word by, well, watching. Spot is called *Tokage*, the word for "lizard" without explanation. Yuichi yells *ikuzo!* — the word for "let's go!" before leaping into a fight. Even set props in the background, like the *shoji* paper screens, are referred by their Japanese names. Watching the series, even though it's a sci-fi fantasy set in the 26th century, is a lesson in Japanese culture, traditions and language.



"Samurai Rabbit" premiered on Netflix on April 28.

PHOTO: NETFLIX



Award-winning cartoonist/artist/illustrator Stan Sakai, creator of "Usagi Yojimbo."

PHOTO: STAN SAKAI/INSTAGRAM



In "Samurai Rabbit," Yuichi fights off malevolent ghost-spirits with the help of his martial arts-fighting friends: Spot, Kitsune, Chizu and Gen the rhinoceros.

"Samurai Rabbit" follows the adventures of Yuichi, a descendant of Miyamoto Usagi, a Japanese samurai warrior from the 1600s.

PHOTOS: NETFLIX



The series is true to the culture and history of Japan, including the historical elements, even though it takes place in the future because it's anchored in actual Japanese history.

And it's completely on purpose, explains Stan Sakai, the creator and an executive producer of the series. "You can see I have [Japanese] machines in there, you know, like, there is a Pachinko or one of those game centers, and all the houses have this Japanese motif," he noted. "It's sort of very traditional, and when you get to Neo Edo, the adventures take place with more futuristic architecture, but it's built around the old traditional Japanese homes with the, you know, the sloping roofs and everything."

Sakai is the mastermind behind the series. "Samurai Rabbit" is the latest entry in a media empire that was started as a tribute to the classic samurai tales of old Japan that were memorialized in the films of director Akira Kurosawa and actor Toshiro Mifune. Those inspirations evolved into "Usagi Yojimbo," a comic book series launched in 1984 by Sakai, a Kyoto-born, Hawaii-raised Japanese American artist.

Sakai had envisioned a comic book that was based on the movies he loved, like the 1961 "Yojimbo," starring Mifune as a ronin, or a masterless samurai, who is a bodyguard for hire (*yojimbo* means "bodyguard"). Mifune also starred in the "Samurai Trilogy" of films in the 1950s directed by Hiroshi Inagaki, as Musashi Miyamoto, a legendary (real) samurai who was a



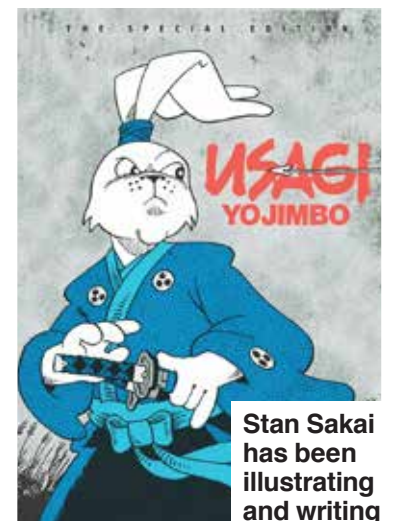
"Usagi Yojimbo" Tea Ceremony

PHOTO: STAN SAKAI



Sakai's "Usagi Yojimbo," the ronin rabbit bodyguard, took on the name Miyamoto Usagi and has been featured in comic books, artwork, memorabilia and much more through the years.

PHOTO: STAN SAKAI/INSTAGRAM



Stan Sakai has been illustrating and writing about the character "Usagi Yojimbo" for nearly 40 years.

PHOTO: STAN SAKAI/INSTAGRAM



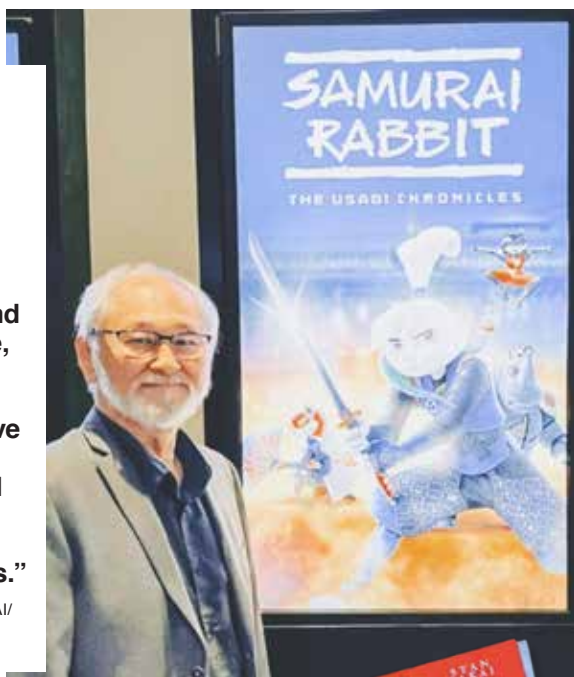
(Right)

Stan Sakai at the Netflix premiere of "Samurai Rabbit"

(Bottom)

Stan Sakai and his wife, Julie, together call themselves JUST and have produced the graphic novel "Chibi Usagi: Attack of the Heebie Chibis."

PHOTOS: STAN SAKAI/  
INSTAGRAM



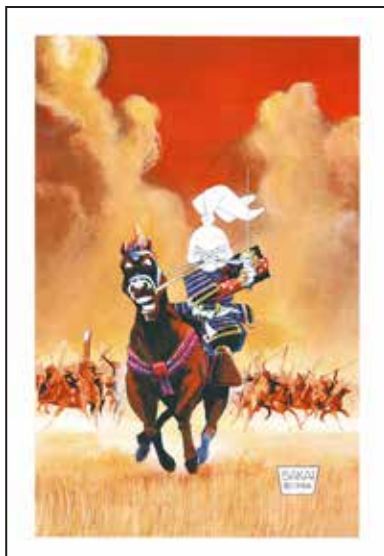
### Recent books by Stan Sakai

PHOTO: SUSAN YOKOYAMA



"Usagi Yojimbo" and TMNT

PHOTO: PINTEREST



"Usagi Yojimbo" The Ronin Book 1

PHOTO: STAN SAKAI

philosopher and a ronin made famous for fighting with two swords, one in each hand.

Generations of Japanese Americans have grown up watching "chanbara," or samurai sword-fighting movies for Saturday matinees, on late-night TV or on VHS, DVDs or now Blu-ray discs. Sakai was a fan from childhood, and when he was pondering the idea of drawing a comic book based on the samurai he loved so much, he was doodling and came up with the idea of a rabbit with his ears tied in a top-knot, samurai-style.

So, instead of human samurai, he turned the characters into anthropomorphized warriors and gave Usagi Yojimbo, the ronin rabbit bodyguard, the name Miyamoto Usagi in tribute to his early influences.

The character has been durable in various comic book series written and drawn by Sakai for almost 40 years now, but Miyamoto Usagi has also been a "guest star" on several episodes of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles franchise, a good anthropomorphic fit.

There were even Usagi Ninja Turtles action figures produced. Sakai has licensed Usagi role-playing games and has inspired two video games. "Usagi Yo-

jimbo" has won a handful of awards over the years, and in 2011, the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles organized a "Year of the Rabbit: Stan Sakai's Usagi Yojimbo" exhibit.

But wait — there's more! Sakai has collaborated with his wife, Julie, an artist in her own right, and the dynamic duo call themselves JUST, and they've produced "Chibi Usagi: Attack of the Heebie Chibis," an adorable graphic novel aimed at inspiring young readers to learn about traditional Japanese history and culture. You can even order a "Kawaii bundle" from the *StanSakai.com* website that includes an "Usagi Yojimbo" coloring book, the "Chibi Usagi" graphic novel and a cute

Chibi Usagi plush toy.

Sakai keeps busy, but he can concentrate on his core Usagi Yojimbo character and story lines because all of this rampant creativity is managed as a family business.

"Julie takes care of all the business things," Sakai said. And his step-son, Daniel Fujii, "takes care of negotiations and also dealing with clients and such, new projects. Like there would not be a TV series or streaming series with Netflix if it was not for Daniel."

It's a mom-and-pop shop and more, with a son added. "Very much," Sakai said. "Each one of us has our own business, too. Daniel also does licensing for other people. And Julie has her own art business as well."

Now that the business has diversified, as they say in the business world, Sakai watches over more, but he also has the ability to think even more deeply about the stories he wants to tell in all formats, whether it's comics or animation.

"You know, when I first started, I was concerned with what do I do next month? Now, I'm laying the

foundations for stories that would take about another 10 years," Sakai said. "It's like, one story I did called 'The Hidden' about the hidden Christians in Japan. I was laying down the foundations for that about eight years before I actually wrote that story. And the same with 'Grasscutter.' It's probably one of my most acclaimed stories — it won an Eisner Award, it was used as a textbook in Japanese history classes on the college level. And, you know, it's received a number of awards, including the American Library Association Award, and that took about five years just to do the research."

Because Sakai is so deeply rooted in Japanese culture, it's easy to assume he has lived a good deal of his life in Japan. But his family moved from Kyoto to Hawaii when he was just 2 years old. So, he simply immerses himself in research to be able to depict the culture that is such a foundation of his entire Usagi catalog.

"I do as much research as I can, but within reason because this is a fantasy series. I mean, it's possible I can get away with a lot," he said, chuckling.

Asked if he worries about whether his audiences get all the cultural references he throws into the comics and the series, Sakai acknowledges that he creates the comic books for himself, primarily. However, he added, "Recently, I get input from people saying, 'Oh, I liked it when you did this story about the tea cup about the tea ceremony' or 'when you did this for the yokai.' I integrate those things, and I'm in a great position because I write and I draw everything. My publishers don't see any of it until I set it up, fully completed. So, I have that trust from the publishers."

The Netflix series is more aimed at a specific audience: young viewers who may have outgrown cartoons for video games but would watch a cool show about teenagers being rebellious and silly and at times overconfident. It's an American production with American characters but with lots of real Japan thrown in.

Whether or not audiences realize it, Sakai's using characters audiences could identify with to teach them about Japan. The series is shown worldwide by Netflix, including recently in Japan.

"In France, it's been doing very well," Sakai said. "Internationally, good. In some countries, it's No. 1 in the kids' market. So, I'll be really interested to see how it does in Japan."

That will be a challenge because the series will be subtitled, even though the subject is ostensibly Japanese. Sakai notes that his comics have traditionally not done well in Japan "because it's not translated into Japanese. And there has never been a Western comic book that has made any type of impression in the Japanese manga market."

Sakai says that popular Western comics are rare in Japan, and even Marvel had to produce comics for Japan with new stories that were written and drawn in Japan in order to appeal to the market there.

But stateside, Sakai's family business and the Usagi empire has a rosy future. There are already 10 more episodes already in postproduction to follow the first season of "Samurai Rabbit's" 10 episodes that will stream on the platform later this year or early next year. "And after that," Sakai hinted, "we have something big, really big plans."

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## MINETA » continued from page 2

On the day the Mineta family was forced to leave their hometown of San Jose for Heart Mountain, Wyo., following the issuance of Executive Order 9066, Norman Mineta was wearing his Scout uniform.

At San Jose City Hall, Mineta's ashes were placed to Rest in Honor, the first such ceremony in the city's history.

During the City Hall ceremony, a special proclamation honoring Mineta's lifetime of service was given to his widow, Deni Mineta, by San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo and Vice Mayor Charles "Chappie" Jones. Other speakers included Mineta Transportation Institute's Rod Diridon Sr., former Santa Clara County Supervisor Blanca Alvarado, Rev. Gerald Sakamoto of the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin and Imam Tahir Anwar of the South Bay Islamic Community Center.

A memorial service, which was attended by more than 800 people, including former President Bill Clinton, was held at the San Jose Civic Auditorium on June 16. During the service, Liccardo officially declared June 16 to forever be known as "Norman Mineta Day in San Jose."

"Our community knew him not as 'Mr. Mayor,' 'Mr. Secretary,' 'Mr. Congressman' but simply as Norm," Liccardo said during the service. ■

### A program from the Mineta Ceremony at San Jose City Hall

PHOTO: TAMMY MATSUMOTO



Deni Mineta with (left) San Jose Vice Mayor Charles "Chappie" Jones and San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo

# A REMEMBRANCE OF A DEAR FRIEND, Norman Y. Mineta

By Mas Hashimoto,  
JACL Watsonville-Santa Cruz  
Chapter

I've been very fortunate in having many great friends during my lifetime. Norman Yoshio Mineta was very special. At gatherings, he and I would sit together, and we wouldn't talk much. We didn't have to. And the time was precious.

Norman passed away of a heart ailment with his family by his side in Edgewater, Md., at age 90 on May 3. He was born to Japanese immigrants in San Jose, Calif., on Nov. 12, 1931, and was the youngest of five children. He was 10 when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, drawing the U.S. into World War II and changing his life forever.

He was wearing his Cub Scout uniform and clutching a baseball mitt and bat when he and his siblings boarded a train in San Jose to Heart Mountain, Wyo., following the issuance of Executive Order 9066. He recalled a U.S. soldier confiscating the bat, calling it a deadly weapon.

"Some say the internment was for our own good," Norm later recalled. "But even as a boy of 10, I could see the machine guns and the barbed wire faced inward."

They stayed at Heart Mountain for only 18 months. The Mineta family had to be removed for their safety. "No Nos," pro-Japan, and others broke the windows of their barrack room when it became known

that Norm's older sister, Etsu, was engaged to Mike Masaoka, the executive director of the JACL. Their misguided anger blamed Masaoka and the JACL for the incarceration.

Norman Mineta was a teenager when his family returned to San Jose. Norm graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1953 and then served for three years as an Army intelligence officer. He then worked for his father's insurance company in San Jose before being prepped by the city's Japanese American community leaders for political office.

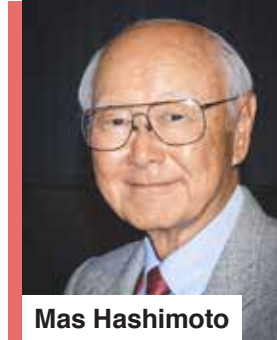
I asked Norm, "When you sold your first insurance policy, did you ever think that you would . . ." He started to laugh because he knew my next words " . . . become Secretary of Commerce?"

During his tenure in Congress representing Silicon Valley from 1975-95, he championed civil liberties and played a key role in the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

President George W. Bush, tapped him as Secretary of Transportation in January 2001. His career was most sharply defined by the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

While some in the nation wanted all Arabs and Muslims in this country rounded up and placed in concentration camps, to his credit, President Bush stated that we weren't going to do to the Arab and Muslim Americans in this country like we did to Norm and his family. Norm was in the right place and at the right time.

Bush awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, saying Norm was "a wonderful American story about someone who overcame hardship and prejudice to serve in the United States Army, Congress and the Cabinet of two presidents. As my Secretary of Transportation, he showed great leadership in helping prevent further attacks on and after 9/11. Norm has given his country a lifetime of service, and he's given



Mas Hashimoto



Norman Mineta's ashes were placed to Rest in Honor, the first such ceremony in the city's history.

MINETA PHOTOS: TAMMY MATSUMOTO

his fellow citizens an example of leadership, devotion to duty and personal character."

San Jose's airport had been named in his honor in 2001 — Norman Y. Mineta International Airport. "What an honor, I told him," He replied, "Yeah, but this little old lady came after me at the airport. 'You, Mineta?' she asked. 'Yes.' 'Well, there's not enough ladies' rooms in this airport!'"

Today, there's the Norman Y. Mineta Highway (a portion of Highway 85 in San Jose). Light-heartedly, he told us not to call him if we get a speeding ticket on that stretch of the road.

When Norm was serving in Congress, a Los Angeles man sent him a token gift to make up for what he had lost as a boy. It was a bat that had belonged to and was signed by Hall of Famer Hank Aaron. It was worth \$1,500 — more than the \$250 a House member could accept as a personal gift, according to federal rules — and Norm had to return the bat to its sender. "The damn government's taken my bat again," he said at the time. Post script: When he worked briefly at Lockheed-Martin as a civilian before becoming Secretary of Transportation, the U.S. government returned the bat to Norm, saying they had no use for it.

Norm and I were on the same frequency, and at gatherings, dinners and conventions, we would gravitate toward each other, for we were both the youngest in the family, experienced "camp," our families were threatened by the pro-Japan and No Nos, served in the U.S. Army,

worked for JACL's basic mission and became public servants. In my role as a public school teacher, I, too, served the public.

One of the last remembrances that we have of our dear friend was when he stood up with our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL chapter at the 2019 National Convention in Salt Lake City, UT, in support of our Nisei 100th/442nd/MIS's opposition of an apology resolution to the Tule Lake No Nos. We lost that vote.

I asked, "Of all the assignments you've had, which did you enjoy the most?" Without hesitation, he replied, "Mayor of San Jose. I saw things getting done!"

Think of Norm when you're at the Norman Y. Mineta International Airport in San Jose or at any airport, at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in Washington, D.C., on the light rail in San Jose, on Highway 85 or when you think of our JACL mission for civil and human rights, for social justice and equality and educational outreach on our Nikkei history.

Norm helped to break the color-race-political barrier for Asian Americans in this country, for which we are eternally grateful.

He had a big heart, and for 90 years, it served all of us. Rest in peace.

"Hey, Uncle Mas!" Oh, that is how Norm greeted me, and that's another story . . .

**Onward!**

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Mas Hashimoto passed away on June 20. The world has lost another legend.

## HR 3525 » continued from page 2

"It's about time for a national museum to capture the courage, the character, the imagination and, maybe from my perspective, looking at it from a little bit from a distance, the dreams and the heart and soul

of the generations of our fellow Americans that came before you," said Biden during the signing ceremony. " . . . Today it's clear that the battle for the soul of America continues. That's why a museum like this is

going to matter so much. Museums of this magnitude and consequence are going to inspire and educate. More than anything else, it's going to help people see themselves in the story of America."

In a statement made via Twitter, Meng wrote, "I am ecstatic & overjoyed at this historic moment &

honored & proud to have championed this crucial effort, especially after fighting for this legislation in Congress over the past 7 years. Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders have shaped our nation since its founding."

We applaud Rep. Grace Meng (D-N.Y.) for her leadership and vision to bring us to this point and

look forward to the appointment of the commission members and the initial steps they take toward making a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture a reality.

— Additional reporting  
by P.C. Staff



# 'SANSEI GRANDDAUGHTERS' JOURNEY: FROM REMEMBRANCE TO RESISTANCE'

A new exhibit set to open at the Shops at Tanforan features the work of five noted third-generation Japanese American artists.

**SAN FRANCISCO** — A new art exhibition called “Sansei Granddaughters’ Journey: From Remembrance to Resistance,” set to open July 24 at the AZ Gallery at the Shops at Tanforan in San Bruno, Calif., honors the history about the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II and provides an opportunity to understand the terrible injustices that took place.

The gallery, which sits on the land where the former Tanforan Racetrack and Tanforan temporary detention center once stood, will host the exhibit through Sept. 3 and will feature the work of five noted third-generation (Sansei) Japanese American artists who have dedicated their wide-ranging art careers to honor the legacy of the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII.

The participating artists are Shari Arai DeBoer, Ellen Bepp, Reiko Fujii, Kathy Fujii-Oka and Na Omi Judy Shintani. The display will include works of art ranging from video, installation works, prints, paintings and mixed-media pieces.

“The premise of this exhibition is that art and personal stories provide understanding and associations to all communities and generations in ways that go beyond textbooks. Through art and education, deeper understanding can bring healing and awareness and ultimately a less-divided world,” according to the Sansei Granddaughters’ Collective.

Added Bepp: “Through our collective art, we serve as a voice for those who no longer are able to tell their



**The Sansei Granddaughters’ Collective. Pictured (from left) are Na Omi Judy Shintani, Reiko Fujii, Ellen Bepp, Shari Arai DeBoer and Kathy Fujii-Oka.**

PHOTO: BOB HSIANG

stories, and we will continue to push for racial equality and social justice today and in the future.”

Eighty years ago, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which unjustly ordered the forced removal of Japanese Americans from their homes and subsequent incarceration in American concentration camps. As descendants, the five artists share a unique vision that, through art, brings to life the dehumanizing conditions in which Japanese Americans were forced to live, including poor housing and food, a lack of privacy and inadequate medical care.

“The injustice of our government incarcerating innocent men, women and children based on greed, fear and racial prejudice, resulting in the loss of life, homes, businesses,

trust and self-esteem, is deplorable,” said Reiko Fujii. “I am adamant about chronicling their stories so that they are a recorded part of American history and that these people’s experiences are not forgotten.”

A main feature of the exhibition will be the Aug. 14 screening of the film “Sansei Granddaughters’ Journey” (2020, 27 minutes), which documents the five artists’ experiences on an annual pilgrimage in 2018 to the WWII Manzanar National Historic Site. This film was produced and directed

by DeBoer, Bepp, Fujii, Fujii-Oka and Shintani and includes archival photos from families and the Densho Encyclopedia.

To further deepen the public’s understanding of this forced incarceration, the exhibit coincides with this year’s unveiling of the Tanforan Memorial, located between the San Bruno BART Station and the Tanforan shopping mall, as well as the updated permanent exhibition “Tanforan Incarceration 1942,” which is within the San Bruno BART Station. Some of the scheduled programs will present personal stories about the Tanforan incarceration experience.

“The core of my art is about searching, understanding and healing — things you can’t get from a textbook,” said Shintani.

The aim of this exhibition and educational programming is to inspire dialogue about racial discrimination, identity and civil liberties, trauma experienced by those rounded up and incarcerated and more.

“People who are different are not necessarily dangerous, even if they ‘resemble’ the enemy in some way,” said Shintani. “Learning from the past can lead to the equitable and humane treatment of all people.”

*The “Sansei Granddaughters’ Journey” exhibit will be at the AZ Gallery, the Shops at Tanforan, located at 1150 El Camino Real, Suite 254, San Bruno, Calif., from July 24-Sept. 3. Admission is free. For more information, email [SanseiGranddaughters@gmail.com](mailto:SanseiGranddaughters@gmail.com).*



**“My Mother, My Daughter” by Kathy Fujii-Oka.** After attending a SF Bay Area Women’s March, Fujii-Oka wanted to pay tribute to the women in her family. As an artist, Fujii-Oka links the ancestry of her mother through herself and to her daughter and grandchildren, whose generation will continue to carry the torch of empowerment for women and people of color.

PHOTO: DON FELTON

## AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

Dear Travelers,

Good News! JAPAN IS OPEN! The Japanese Government has re-opened its borders on June 10 to international visitors and it will be done in stages, starting with organized group tours. Individual travels will be forthcoming later. New entry requirements have been established for this re-opening.

Our US domestic tours have been operating. We thank you very much for your patience for the past 2 years.

We look forward to traveling with you in 2022 and 2023. In the meantime, please take care, continue to be safe and stay healthy until we meet again.

If you have any questions about our tours, please contact us by email.

Thank you very much.

## 2022 TOUR SCHEDULE

**GRANDPARENTS-GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR** (Ernest Hida) . . . . Jun 19-29  
Tokyo, Hakone/Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto. Craftmaking hands-on experiences.  
(CANCELLED - RESCHEDULED TO JUNE 2023)

**CANADIAN ROCKIES-GLACIER NATIONAL PARK TOUR** (Carol Hida) . . . Aug 17-23  
Calgary, Glacier National Park, Kootenay National Park, Lake Louise, Columbia Icefields Parkway, Moraine Lake, Banff. (WAITLIST)

**KENYA WILDLIFE SAFARI HOLIDAY TOUR** (Carol Hida) . . . . . Sep 4-15  
Nairobi, Amboseli-Nakuru Lake-Masai Mara National Parks, Mt. Kenya Safari Club, Sweetwaters Tented Camp, Jane Goodall Chimpanzee Sanctuary.

(CANCELLED - RESCHEDULED TO OCT 2023)

**GRAND CANYON-ROUTE 66-LAS VEGAS HOLIDAY TOUR** (Carol Hida) . . . Oct 9-14  
Phoenix, Scottsdale, Sedona, Flagstaff, Grand Canyon, Route 66, Las Vegas.

**JAPAN AUTUMN COUNTRYSIDE HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Oct 9-21  
Tokyo, Shimoda, Shizuoka, Mt Fuji, Yamanashi, Matsumoto, Takayama, Kyoto.

**OKINAWA HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Nov 10-20  
Naha, Onnason, Islands of Ishigaki, Iriomote and Taketomo.

## 2023 TOUR SCHEDULE PREVIEW

HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVALS TOUR . . . . . Feb 4-15

JAPAN SPRING COUNTRYSIDE HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . . Mar 28-Apr 7

JAPAN HOLIDAY CRUISE . . . . . Apr 7-24

MT RUSHMORE-YELLOWSTONE HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . . Jun 7-15

GRANDPARENTS-GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR . . . . . Jun 18-28

HOKKAIDO SUMMER HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . . July

EASTERN CANADIAN CAPITALS HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . . Sep

KENYA WILDLIFE SAFARI HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . . Oct

CHICAGO GETAWAY HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . . Oct

JAPAN AUTUMN COUNTRYSIDE HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . . Oct

CLASSICAL JAPAN HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . . Nov

For more information and reservations, please contact:

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

312 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 240 \* Los Angeles, CA 90012

Tel: (213)625-2232 \* Email: [americanholiday@att.net](mailto:americanholiday@att.net)

Ernest or Carol Hida

**NOTE:** During this pandemic, our office is closed temporarily, therefore, please contact us by email only. For any mailings, please send it to:

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Montebello, CA 90640-9997

**Artwork featured in the exhibit by Reiko Fujii**

PHOTO: REIKO FUJII





A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

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

## NATIONAL

**52nd JACL National Convention: 'Strengthening Our Community Through Action!'**

Las Vegas, NV  
Aug. 3-7

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

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. Enjoy full access to four days of programming, expanded workshop and mixer opportunities, Sayonara Banquet and Awards luncheons, in addition to National Council meetings and an in-person election of officers. Programming will be in-person and virtual.

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

## NCWNP

**Bonsai Demonstration by Katsumi Kinoshita**

Monterey, CA  
July 2; 1 p.m.  
JACL Hall  
424 Adams St.  
**Price:** Free

The JACL of the Monterey Peninsula is pleased to announce this Bonsai demonstration by California Master Bonsai instructor Katsumi Kinoshita, known for his unique expertise and talents in the art of Bonsai. Attendees will be able to watch Kinoshita shape and transform a Bonsai in about an hour.

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

**Yuko Mabuchi Trio Performance**

Santa Cruz/San Francisco, CA  
July 8 (Santa Cruz) 7 p.m.;  
July 9 (San Francisco) 7 p.m.  
Santa Cruz: Kuumbwa Jazz Center  
320-2 Cedar St.  
San Francisco: SFJAZZ Center  
Joe Henderson Lab  
201 Franklin St.  
**Tickets:** Prices Vary

The Bay Area welcomes the Yuko Mabuchi trio of Yuko Mabuchi, Del Atkins and Bobby Breton for these two special performances. A classical pianist, Mabuchi fell in love with jazz piano and arrived in Los Angeles from Japan in 2010 to further her musical passion. An award-winning musician, don't miss this opportunity to see the Trio perform live.

**Info:** Visit <https://www.kuumbwajazz.org/calendar/yuko-mabuchi-trio/> and <https://www.sfjazz.org/tickets/productions/yuko-mabuchi-ss22/>.

**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. This year's program will bring fun to your home, including programming such as live cooking demonstrations, cultural performances from San Jose Taiko and Chidori Band, plus much more! .

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

**'Sansei Granddaughters' Journey: From Remembrance to Resistance' Exhibit**  
San Bruno, CA  
July 24-Sept. 3

**AZ Gallery, The Shops at Tanforan**  
1150 El Camino Real  
Suite 254

**Price:** Free  
**Opening Reception:** July 30, 12:30-3 p.m.  
This new exhibit features the work of Sansei Japanese American artists who have dedicated their careers to honor the legacy of the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII. Participating artists include Shari Arai DeBoer, Ellen Bepp, Reiko Fujii, Kathy Fujii-Oka and Na Omi Judy Shintani. A main feature of the exhibit will be the Aug. 14 screening of the film "Sansei Granddaughters' Journey," a 27-min. film that documents the five artists' experiences on an annual pilgrimage in 2018 to Manzanar.

**Info:** Visit [www.sanseigranddaughters.com](http://www.sanseigranddaughters.com).

**Nikkei Open 2022**  
Half Moon Bay, CA

July 30  
Half Moon Bay Golf Links (Ocean Course)  
2 Miramontes Point Road  
**Price:** \$325; Foursome \$1,300

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

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

**76th Annual Japanese Food and Cultural Bazaar at the Buddhist Church of Sacramento**  
Sacramento, CA  
Sept. 18; 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

This year's drive-thru bazaar will feature preordered food including chicken teriyaki, karaage chicken, chow mein udon and spam musubi. The bazaar will also feature commemorative merchandise including T-shirts, bags and aprons also available through presale. Food items must be preordered by Sept. 4.

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

## PSW

**APAICS Women's Collective**  
Las Vegas, NV  
June 30-July 2

**Caesar's Palace Las Vegas**  
3570 Las Vegas Blvd. South  
**Price:** \$250 Registration

The APAICS Women's Collective Summit brings powerful AA and NH/PI women

together to share, inspire and take bold action toward creating a more representative democracy in this three-day event which participants are invited to learn in several programs ranging from networking to leadership training to community building.

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

**Manzanar WWII Special Program**  
Independence, CA  
July 2-4

**Manzanar National Historic Site**  
and Independence Post Office  
**Price:** Free

The MNHS and the Independence Post Office are partnering to honor the service and sacrifices of Nisei soldiers of World War II during this special three-day commemoration event. The July 2 and July 3 program will feature Darrell Kunitomi, who will present a program about his uncle, Ted Fujioka's, short but dramatic life while tracing his journey as a soldier in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The programs will also feature the sale of "Go For Broke" stamps; an appearance by Wayne Osako, co-chair of the Stamp Our Story Committee, is also scheduled. The July 4 program will feature descendants of Japanese American WWII veterans who will participate in Independence's July Fourth Parade.

**Info:** For more information, visit [www.nps.gov/manz](http://www.nps.gov/manz).

**Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple**  
2022 Obon Festival  
Culver City, CA

July 16-17; 3-9 p.m.  
**Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple**  
12371 Braddock Dr.  
**Price:** Free

"Together Again" is the theme of this year's Obon festival, as the temple welcomes the community back to honor ancestors who have passed and celebrate those still here today. The two-day event will feature food, games, a silent auction, raffle drawing and Bon Odori dancing (7 p.m.).

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

**'BeHere/1942: A New Lens on the Japanese American Incarceration'**  
Los Angeles, CA  
Thru Oct. 9  
JANM

100 N. Central Ave.  
Created by visionary Japanese media artist Masaki Fujihata, this exhibit invites visitors to see things in the photographic archive that they never knew were there as a result of careful curation of little-known photographs by Dorothea Lange and Russell Lee, some presented in hyper-enlarged form or reimagined as video. Visitors will become photographers themselves, actually participating in the scene, thanks to this unique exhibit.

**Info:** Visit [www.janm.org/exhibits/behere1942](http://www.janm.org/exhibits/behere1942).

## PNW

**Na Omi Shintani: 'Dream Refuge for Children Imprisoned'**  
Portland, OR  
April-September

**Japanese American Museum of Oregon**  
411 N.W. Flanders St. (entrance on 4th Avenue)

**Price:** Ticket Admission

"Dream Refuge for Children" is an installation by San Francisco artist Na Omi Shintani that explores the trauma of children that have been incarcerated. Shintani has created a series of cots arranged in a circle with an image of a sleeping child drawn directly on each mattress that draws parallels between different children who have been imprisoned and denied their culture.

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

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

**Virtual Event**

The Tule Lake Pilgrimage Committee presents this year's pilgrimage which 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 in their experience of diaspora as a second-generation Chinese American through the manipulation of the museum space itself, intentionally obstructing the audience's ability to enter the gallery space and mimic a sense of displacement in fully identifying with, and belonging to, a single culture.

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

## IDC

**Amache Community Open House**  
Granada, CO

June 30, 7-8:30 p.m.; July 1, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

The University of Denver Amache project will be leading four weeks of field research at Amache and the Amache Museum in Granada, Colo., June 14-July 8 and invite the public to visit any time during the field season, in particularly at this special community open house. June 30 will include a talk about Amache history at the Granada Community Center and July 1 will feature visits with the archaeologists, guided tours of family barracks, reconstructed structures and other areas of interest, exhibits at the Amache museum and a dinner for all open house participants.

**Info:** If you plan to attend, please RSVP to **Melanie Assis, DU Anthropology departmental assistant, at (303) 871-2677 or email [melanie.assis@du.edu](mailto:melanie.assis@du.edu).**

**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. Programs will explore overlooked Nikkei contributions to pop culture, single out voices striving for representation

today and dig into what it means to be Japanese American in the 21st century, in addition to reflecting on and remembering the experiences of those who were incarcerated at Heart Mountain during WWII.

**Info:** To register, visit <https://shop.heartmountain.org/products/2022-pilgrimage-registration> or contact **Deni Hirsch at (307) 754-8000 or email [denih@heartmountain.org](mailto:denih@heartmountain.org).**

## EDC

**18th Annual Chinatown Main Street Summer Festival**  
Boston, MA

July 2; 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

**Boston Chinatown**

**Price:** Free

This street fair includes performances, arts and crafts activities, food vendors and more for this community event that welcomes families and the community to enjoy Asian culture.

**Info:** Visit <https://www.chinatownmainstreet.org/post/get-ready-for-summer-festival>.

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

July 16; 4:30-8:30 p.m.

**National Museum of the U.S. Army**  
1775 Liberty Dr.

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

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

**'The Go For Broke Spirit' Photo Exhibit**

Washington, D.C.

Thru July 22

**Japan Information and Culture Center**

1150 18th St. N.W.

This exhibit features images of Japanese American veterans who served during World War II by Shane Sato, a photographer based in Los Angeles. Check website for museum hours.

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

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

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# In MEMORIAM

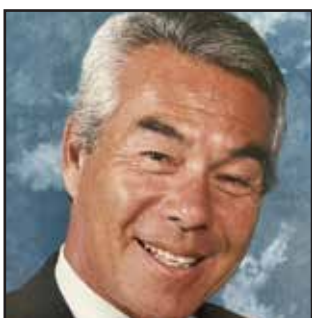


**Hashimoto, James Haruo, 99**, Willow Grove, PA, March 16; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Manzanar WRA Center in CA; he was predeceased by his 7 siblings; he is survived by his wife, Ann; children, Lynn (Scott) Shmidheiser, Lorene Lani (Robert) Duggan and James Kei (Lexie) Hashimoto; gc: 3.

**Iriye, Shirley Shigeko, 102**, Lake Forest, CA, April 5; she is survived by her children, Sharon Iriye (Kathie Maier), Richard (Beth) Iriye and Donald (Nancy) Iriye; sister, Yo Shiomi; gc: 6; ggc: 1.

**Ito, Fumie, 98**, Montebello, CA, Feb. 21; she is survived by her children, Christine T. Ito and Kenneth T. Ito; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

**Ito, Grace Y., 96**, Lakewood, CO, Feb. 17; she was predeceased by her husband, James; siblings, Kay, Charles, Samuel, Fred and Unis; she is survived by her son, David; sister, Ruth Shinto; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews.



**Ito, Ichiro, 83**, Danbury, CT, Feb. 28.

**Ito, Mitsuo, 90**, Waipahu, HI, Jan. 18; he is survived by his children, Warren Ito, Wilburt (Annette) Ito and Wendie Baysa; gc: 5; ggc: 7.

**Ito, Setsuko, 85**, Marana, AZ, March 23; she was predeceased by her husband, Richard Mullen; she is survived by her children, Natalie Mullen and John Mullen; gc: 3.



**Ito, Isao Curtis, 74**, El Cajon, CA, March 16; veteran (Navy); he is survived by his wife, Laura; children, Sara and David Gull (Amy); siblings, Eugene (Jane) Ito and Lorene (Keith) Kimura; he is also survived by many cousins, nieces and nephews; gc: 2.



**Kawai, Carolee Itsue, 76**, Sunnyvale, CA, April 5; graduate, Colorado State Teachers College; she is survived by her husband, Arthur; children, Kami (Derek) Takegami and Kendra (Lane) Tsuchiyama; gc: 4.

**Matsuno, Barbara, 90**, Los Angeles, CA, April 6; she was predeceased by her husband, Raymond; sister, Terry (Toshio) Tanimoto; she is survived by her children, Lori (Rich Forgey) Matsuno and Craig (Lynne) Matsuno; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

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

**Murakami, Mikiko, 83**, Honolulu, HI, Oct. 13, 2021.

**Murakami, Tadayuki, 89**, Gardena, CA, Nov. 23, 2021.

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

**Nishida, Kikuko, 90**, Los Angeles, CA, March 6; she was predeceased by her husband, John; daughter, Gwen; she is survived by her children, Debra (Neil), Robert (Leah) and Russell (Lori); son-in-law, Chris (Christine); she is also survived by many nieces, nephew and other relatives; gc: 6.

**Nishiyama, Diane Sachiko, 79**, Torrance, CA, Feb. 1; she is survived by her children, Darren Yip and Susan (Paul) Bright; gc: 1.



**Okada, Bob Shozo, 77**, Duarte, CA, May 3; during WWII, his family was incarcerated at the Rohwer WRA Center in AR, where was born; he was predeceased by his brother, James Okada; he is survived by his wife, Barbara; siblings, Joann (Kei) Higa and Dr. Donald (Marlene) Okada; brothers-in-law, Stan (Irene) Kinoshita and Larry Kinoshita; sisters-in-law, Frances (Dennis) Scott, Kathy (Carl Neitzel, D.) Kinoshita and Jo Anne Gooch.

**Saito, Sachie, 74**, Streetsboro, OH, Oct. 13, 2021.

**Sato, Sachio, 88**, Rosemead, CA, Feb. 28; he was predeceased by his wife, Alice Midori Sato; son, Douglas Kiyoshi Sato; he is survived by his son, Darryl Yoshio (Janice) Sato; siblings, Wilbur Sato, Norman Sato and Jane (Herbert) Kimata; sisters-in-law, Marion Nishimura and Doris Iwamura; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.



**Shintaku, Thomas Kazuo, 83**, Mt. Prospect, IL, Jan. 22; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at a WRA Center in AZ; they later moved to Chicago; veteran (Army); he was predeceased by his siblings, Katherine Pattillo, Linda (Michael) Jaeger and Susan (Jeffrey) Corbett; he is survived by his sons, Jeffrey (Heather) Shintaku and Douglas (Naoko) Shintaku; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6.

**Shishido, Mae, 93**, Huntington Beach, CA, Jan. 13; she is survived by her son, Wayne Shishido; gc: 1.

**Sato, Yasuko Moriya, 87**, Marshall, NC, March 26; she is survived by her daughter, Gloria Greene (Mark); gc: 2; step-gc: 2.

**Sato, Yoko, 86**, Des Plaines, IL, Sept. 28, 2021.

**Yamashita, Hiroko, 83**, Marietta, GA, May 8.

## TRIBUTE

### BEN H. SHIMOMURA



Ben Hiroyuki Shimomura, age 101, passed peacefully on April 14, 2022, in Woodland, Calif. Ben was born on Dec. 4, 1920, in Sacramento, Calif. His parents were Itaro and Sawano Shimomura, emigrants from Wakayama, Japan. His parents managed the Bassett Ranch, located west of Winters, which produced apricots and almonds. In 1926, his sister, Harumi, was born. In his youth, Ben attended Apricot School, a rural, one-room school near his home. He did chores on the ranch and helped with the harvest in the summer. He attended Winters High School where he played on the varsity baseball team. Ben made the honor roll and was elected secretary of his senior class. In 1939 he graduated and was pictured on the front cover of "The Poppy," the high school yearbook.

After graduation, Ben took vocational training classes at the University of California farm at Davis. However, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Ben and his family were forcibly placed in an incarceration camp in Amache, Colo., along with others of Japanese ancestry during the Second World War. At Amache, Ben met Lois Morimoto from the Turlock area while both were working in the camp motor pool. They married in Denver, Colo., in 1945 at war's end.

Ben and Lois returned to Winters, Calif., after a few years, were able to lease and then buy the Bassett Ranch, where Ben had grown up. Ben resumed raising apricots and almonds. They had four children: Sam Shimomura, Floyd Shimomura, Susan Shimizu and Linda Don. Ben loved to fish and was a big fan of the Giants and 49ers. He also loved to play "the slots." But most of all, Ben enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Ben was predeceased by his wife, Lois; his son, Sam; and his infant grandson, Matthew Don. Daughter-in-law Patricia Shimomura passed away shortly after Ben.

Ben is survived by his sister, Harumi March, and three of his children: Floyd (Ruth) Shimomura, Susan (Grant) Shimizu and Linda (Richard) Don; and grandchildren: Mark (Jamie) Shimomura, Lisa Shimomura (Malcolm Quon), Brian (Alissa Nakaji) Shimomura, Tim Shimizu, Craig Shimizu, Stacy Don (Mike Maben) and Stephanie Don (Lukas Fend), and great-grandchildren Reina Shimomura, Ryan Shimomura, Ben Quon, Russell Quon, Peyton Maben, Cameron Maben, Julian Fend and Dylan Fend.

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## REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

# AARP Celebrates Pride Month: 'Real Conversations With AARP Featuring George Takei'

By Scott Tanaka

In celebration of Pride Month, join AARP and the Asian American and Pacific Islander community for a riveting conversation with "Star Trek" star and activist George Takei on June 29 at 7 p.m. ET.

With an uncanny eloquence and his signature wit, Takei will share the story of his family's forced internment as Japanese Americans during World War II. He will also go into the feeling of what it was like to be a kid watching it all unfold in front of him.

Having Takei share his personal story is so important because we know that so many others who lived through this experience have not had their stories told. I think about my paternal great-grandparents and grandparents who were imprisoned at the Manzanar and Poston incarceration camps and how they never talked about what happened.

Although they are no longer with us and their stories have not been told, I believe their experience has been passed down through the generations and impacts who I am today. These stories must be told so that we do not forget what happened.

Takei will also take audiences through his rise to celebrity as a sci-fi icon, his remarkable journey as a social media megainfluencer and his passionate fight for LGBTQ rights

and marriage equality in America. His conversations have empowered others to beat the odds and make a difference.

In addition, he will talk at length about feeling tormented when he wasn't out. He felt that his peers and colleagues were coming out and risking their careers and relationships for it, but he felt the need to keep his romantic life hidden for the sake of his career. Takei credits the work of LGBTQ activists for paving the way for him to come out in an easy way.

To register to join this powerful conversation, visit <https://aarp.cventevents.com/dlskqcyrl>. Please note, AARP membership is not required.

AARP's unwavering commitment to the LGBTQ community reflects our core belief in the dignity, worth

and potential of every individual. We reject discrimination based on a person's age, race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Our commitment can be measured by what we say — and what we do. At AARP, we work hard every day to fight for and empower people to choose how they live as they age.

"What we do, we do for all" is a guiding principle articulated by our founder, distinguished educator Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, and we proudly carry it forward.

To learn more about AARP's commitment to the LGBTQ community, visit [aarp.org/pride](https://aarp.org/pride).

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

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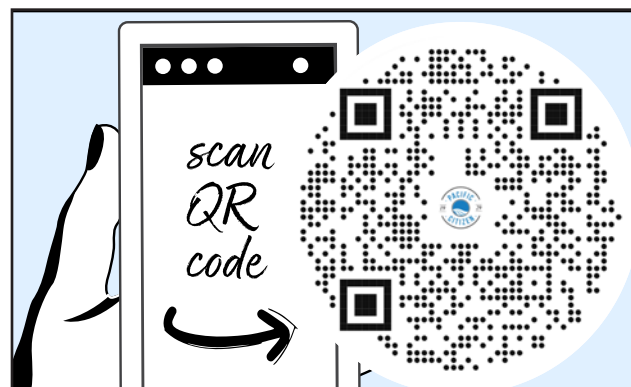
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