



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 93 YEARS

Vincent Chin has been with author Paula Yoo for over half of her life.

PHOTO: JAROD LEW

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## LOVE LETTERS TO OUR COUSIN VINCENT CHIN

On the 40th anniversary of his death, AAPI storytellers carry on his legacy.

» PAGE 2

Shinzo Abe  
Assassinated in Japan.

» PAGE 4

JACL Prepares for Upcoming National Convention.

# JACL Saddened by Recent Attack on Family in Portland

By JACL National

A family was assaulted in Portland, Ore., on July 2 while bicycling in a well-traveled and public space. The assailant verbally and physically attacked the family because they were Japanese; the man has been arrested and faces two counts of bias crimes in the first and second degrees.

He was apprehended due to the intervention and assistance of numerous bystanders. The family members who were attacked, the father and his 5-year-old daughter, escaped serious injury,



despite reports of the assailant striking the girl multiple times in the head.

This attack is especially distressing coming a few weeks after the commemoration of the murder of Vincent Chin 40 years ago. Vincent Chin, a Chinese American, was murdered because his killers mistakenly believed he was Japanese and blamed him for the ongoing trade wars and difficulties in the American auto industry, which led to their unemployment.

» See PORTLAND on page 5

## CORRECTION

The caption for the "Vandalism Hits Shofuso" article in the June 24 issue: A *koinobori* rests on the ground on June 16 after being pulled down in an act of vandalism at Shofuso House.



## JACL SENDS CONDOLENCES IN RESPONSE TO THE ASSASSINATION OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER ABE

By JACL National

Like the rest of the world, JACL is shocked and saddened by the assassination of Japan's former Prime Minister Abe Shinzo. We send our condolences to the people of Japan and especially his widow, Ms. Abe Akie.

During his tenure, Prime Minister Abe worked to ensure a strong relationship between Japan and the United States and recognized the importance of Japanese Americans in fortifying that relationship.

In the wake of the Tohoku

Earthquake in 2011, amongst many efforts to affirm the stronger bridges built between Japan and the world community, the JACL Kakehashi Program for Japanese American Young Adults was established in 2014 by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since that first cohort, nearly 1,000 young adults have had the opportunity to participate in this impactful foreign exchange.

JACL Executive Director David Inoue, an alumnus of the Japanese American Leadership Delegation 2018 and a past chaperone for JACL's Kakehashi Trip, offered these remarks in response to Prime Minister Abe's

passing: "Prime Minister Abe was a champion for reaffirming the strong ties between Japan and the United States. Under his leadership, programs such as the JACL Kakehashi Program have helped so many Japanese American youth to reconnect with their ancestry, whether their families have been in the United States for generations or are newly immigrated. As we hope to resume the Kakehashi Program in the coming year, we look forward to fortifying our identities as Americans with our Japanese cultural heritage and to honor the legacy of Prime Minister Abe's leadership in building bridges between our two countries."

## Japan's Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe Assassinated

By Associated Press

NARA, JAPAN — Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was assassinated July 8 on a street in western Japan by a gunman who opened fire on him from behind as he delivered a campaign speech — an attack that stunned a nation with some of the strictest gun control laws anywhere.

The 67-year-old Abe, who was Japan's longest-serving leader when he resigned in 2020, collapsed bleeding and was airlifted to a nearby hospital in Nara, though he was



not breathing and his heart had stopped. He was later pronounced dead after receiving massive blood transfusions, officials said.

Nara Medical University

emergency department chief Hidetada Fukushima said Abe suffered major damage to his heart, along with two neck wounds that damaged an artery. He never regained his vital signs, Fukushima said.

Police at the shooting scene arrested Tetsuya Yamagami, 41, a former member of Japan's navy, on suspicion of murder. Police said he used a gun that was obviously homemade — about 15 inches long — and they confiscated similar weapons and his personal computer when they raided his nearby one-room apartment.

» See SHINZO ABE on page 5

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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



## HOW TO REACH US

Email: pc@pacificcitizen.org  
Online: www.pacificcitizen.org  
Tel: (213) 620-1767  
Mail: 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313 Los Angeles, CA 90012

## STAFF

Executive Editor	Business Manager
Allison Haramoto	Susan Yokoyama
Senior Editor	Production Artist
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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# OUR BODIES, OUR CHOICE

**By David Inoue,**  
JACL Executive Director

**A**s we approach convention, this is my last column before convention convenes on Aug. 3 with the National Board Meeting and Welcome Reception, followed by National Council Sessions on the 4th. I am supposed to be writing about all the great things you will experience at convention. Unfortunately, I feel that I have to make a bit of a detour.

The rallying cry of "Our Bodies, Our Choice" is a longstanding one of the pro-choice movement, a movement that took a tremendous blow with the Supreme Court's decision last month. What has been especially distressing about this shift in the affirmation of women's rights was the earlier co-opting of this phrase by anti-vaxxers intent upon circumventing whatever Covid prevention measures were attempted by public

health departments, businesses and other individuals.

Covid-19 is not gone — my son is currently at a three-week music camp where they were struck by four cases of Covid in the first week. Camp administrators took immediate action, reinforcing indoor masking mandates and moving the older students outside for dining, allowing the younger students to space out more in the dining hall. They have not had another positive case since.

And yet, there are many other ways in which we see this argument play out in today's discourse. The rise in attention to gun violence raises questions about whether the right to own guns supercedes school children's rights to live, or at least live without fear of being shot at school. Do those bodies not also have any rights?

We continue to see the devaluation of Black bodies with excessive violence from police. Jayland Walker was fleeing from the police, but did he

deserve a hail of gunfire resulting in a reported 60-plus gunshot wounds?

Juxtapose this with the arrest of Robert "Bobby" E. Crimo III, the admitted shooter in the July 4 Highland Park, Ill., shooting. He was taken into custody without a single shot fired by law enforcement.

This was the case with Kyle Rittenhouse, Robert Aaron Long, Dylan Roof and any number of high-profile white men who have been known murderers on the run and considered dangerous by the police, yet seem to receive a certain deference from their arresting officers. Who would ever expect to be treated to a meal at Burger King after being arrested for mass murder?

What is clear is that while there are always bodies, and the autonomy of those bodies at play in many of these deep, divisive issues, the question is whose choice is it whether said bodies have the right to choice or even to live.

Women are now told they do not have autonomy over their own bodies. In some states, they can be forced to carry a baby to term or to their death as abortions are made illegal in all circumstances.

Contrary to centuries of public health common sense, individuals believe their individual rights override the right of the public to live

safely from threat of communicable disease. And gun culture combined with intentional misreading of the Constitution affords individuals a greater right to gun ownership than the public's right to live without fear of gun violence.

It is the police who decide who lives and dies, unfortunately too often with a racial bias to that preference. Whether it is our own community's legacy of unjust incarceration or the more recent decisions of the Supreme Court, these are issues of who controls our bodies and whether we can make our own decisions for our own safety and well-being.

If these decisions are important to you, I implore you to come to convention this year. Our convention theme is "Strengthening Our Community Through Action," and in preparation for the upcoming elections, there is nothing more important or needed than taking action and ensuring that our community's voice is heard at the ballot box and beyond.

I do want to take a moment to thank our sponsors, especially State Farm Insurance, our Diamond Level sponsor, and AT&T as our Platinum Level sponsor. In addition to their generous support of convention, their engagement reaches far beyond in their support for one of our flagship

activities, the JACL-OCA Leadership Summit held in Washington, D.C.

The Leadership Summit is one more example of the close collaboration with OCA that you will be able to see at this convention through our many joint sessions. Partnerships both with OCA and our corporate partners enable us to have far greater impact than if we were to operate in isolation.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2022 JACL Convention in Las Vegas from Aug. 3-7.

To register for convention, please be sure to visit <https://jacl.org/2022-convention-registration>, and we will see you in Las Vegas. Registration closes on July 27, and we will not have on-site registration available.

Finally, I would be incredibly grateful if all of you reading this take a brief, important membership survey at <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.



## LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

# THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF PETS

**By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.**

**W**hat pet lovers have known for centuries, scientific studies have now confirmed — pets enhance the quality and quantity of life for their human companions. Especially in these times of Covid, pets can ease social isolation. "We're social beings as humans. Animals provide emotional and social comfort that can't always be replicated by our friends and family" (*source: Special Time Edition, The Age of Anxiety, June 2020*).

One reason why it's so pleasant to have animals around is their lack of judgment. One of the key parts of the healing power of pets is that they love us in an unconditional way that human relationships rarely achieve. You could be "the meanest, roughest, toughest hombre that's ever crossed the Rio Grande," but your dog will still love you. They're simply there for us and us for them.

According to the American Heart



**Studies have shown that owning a pet improves the quantity and quality of life for their human companions.**

Assn., there is a link between contact with a pet (especially dogs) and a reduced risk for heart disease and greater longevity.

The National Institute of Health's review of heart-related studies on people who have pets showed that pet owners had decreased levels of cholesterol, triglycerides and blood pressure — all of which may minimize risk of a heart attack in the future.

A University of Pennsylvania study conducted by Erika Friedmann showed that people who suffered from heart disease were more likely to survive for a longer period if they had a pet at home.

Following their treatment, people with a pet in their lives to return

to have a much greater chance of recovery. In fact, pets were found to be a stronger predictor of survival than even having a supportive family around the individual concerned.

These findings were especially true for people who lived alone, though people in multiperson households also experienced a health benefit.

For people living alone, owning a dog can decrease their risk of death by 33 percent and their risk of cardiovascular-related death by 36 percent, when compared to single individuals without a pet, according to the study. Chances of a heart attack were also found to be 11 percent lower.

Dogs force their owners to walk

them, thus promoting physical exercise. The American Heart Assn. found that dog owners are 54 percent more likely than the average person to get 30 minutes of physical activity a day. Walking a dog, for example, can also lead to numerous social interactions. Those social interactions are known to help with conditions like depression and anxiety.

"But Judd, what about cats?" Just how often do you see people walking their cats? (I'm not a cat person.) Although, cat lovers everywhere are likely to point out that furry friends of the feline variety have an equally soothing impact on their owners.

The soft fur of a cat (or rabbit) feels wonderful to touch. Stroking and cuddling a pet (dog or cat) helps you calm down quickly by lowering your pulse and heart rate.

In addition, dogs (or cats) can serve as emotional support animals. "I have seen that first-hand in my practice," says Dr. Sue Kim, an internal medicine physician at Stanford Health Care. "They can help to subvert loneliness or distract in times of stress. Also, they can help individuals endure social settings where they might otherwise not be able to."

Simply touching an animal can relieve stress. The feel-good hormone oxytocin can increase upon stroking the hair of a dog or rubbing an animal.

It's that connection. It's stroking the fur, the tactile sense and the feeling that a child has — this dog loves

me. Conversely, cortisol, a stress hormone, has been shown to decrease after time spent with animals, and studies suggest that petting dogs can lower our heart rate.

"Your blood pressure lowers when you interact with an animal in a friendly way, and your muscles relax, too," said Stanley Coren, a psychology professor and neuropsychological researcher from the University of British Columbia.

In conclusion, the scientific studies show that pets provide many health benefits. But they are not medicine. If you are thinking about getting a pet, keep in mind the downsides, e.g., expensive, messy, destructive, etc.

Finally, it may not even have to be a real pet. At least one study found cardiovascular benefits from "virtual" pets seen on videos. One study found that just watching a cat video gave participants an energy boost and improved their mood.

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

# JACL ANNOUNCES 2022 JAPANESE AMERICAN OF THE BIENNIAL AWARDEES

Sam Mihara and Dianne Fukami will be recognized at the organization's upcoming National Convention next month.

**By JACL National**

The JACL is pleased to announce the winners of the 2022 Japanese American of the Biennium Award. Sam Mihara will be recognized with the award in the area of Education and Humanities, while Dianne Fukami will be recognized for her contributions in the field of Arts, Literature and Communication. Mihara and Fukami will be recognized at the Sayonara Banquet to close JACL's National Convention in Las Vegas on Aug. 6.



## SAM MIHARA

Sam Mihara has made an indelible impact on educational and legal communities worldwide by teaching about the contemporary relevance of Japanese American experiences during World War II.

Mihara helps audiences understand the human costs of incarceration through recounting his own experiences as a Heart Mountain survivor: loss of family wealth; interruption of schooling; preventable blindness of his father; death of his grandfather from a misdiagnosed illness; and the daily hardships of concentration camp life. His well-researched presentations offer a sophisticated yet accessible lens on the subject matter, highlighting constitutional violations and underscoring common themes between past and present injustices.

In eight years, Mihara has delivered 330-plus presentations, reaching a staggering 90,000 individuals. His audiences include school children, college students, educators, corporate leaders, lawmakers and more. Reviews are uniformly excellent as he engages with firsthand stories that resonate across varied

demographics.

Mihara's work is moving mountains. While reaching a wide swath of the public, he also maintains an influential presence within many of the traditional feeder institutions of our nation's leaders.

Moreover, he donates 100 percent of his speaking fees to projects that will enable others to continue telling the Japanese American story. His dedication strengthens the work of JACL and other organizations advocating for the humane treatment of immigrants and justice for historically marginalized communities.

Former Ambassador of Japan to the United States Shinsuke J. Sugiyama heard Mihara speak during the 2019 Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation Pilgrimage in Cody, Wyo. He said afterward: "All Japanese people need to know about the Japanese American incarceration during World War II."

## DIANNE FUKAMI

As a distinguished contributor within our Japanese American community, Fukami's collective work products have impacted our nation and Japan in a multitude of ways.

During her 15-year career at KPIX, she reported on thousands of newscasts, produced election coverage, political debates, special events, sports team parades and the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

As founder of Bridge Media, she has produced numerous documentaries chronicling a multitude of Japanese American experiences.

Her most recent documentary, co-produced with Debra

Nakatomi, followed the life of Sec. Norman Mineta and was featured in a dozen film festivals. "An American Story: Norman Mineta and His Legacy" is a key component of the Mineta Legacy Project, an online resource for social studies educators.

In addition, she has won numerous accolades, most recently the 2018 National TV Academy's Silver Circle award for excellence. Fukami has been recognized with Associated Press, RTNDA, and Emmy awards.

A former NATAS Governor, Fukami received the chapter's Service Medallion in 1991 and was a founding chapter member of the regional Asian American Journalists Assn. She has been named the Distinguished Woman Warrior by the Pacific Asian American Women Bay Area Coalition for Outstanding Media Service, selected by the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a Japanese American Leadership Delegation and invited to the 2015 Worldwide Assembly of Women in Tokyo. She teaches

video storytelling at the Academy of Art University, where her students produce a half-hour weekly TV show.

The JACL's Japanese American of the Biennium Awards recognize a select few Japanese Americans for their contributions to their field of expertise and role as community leaders.

This year's pool of nominations was no exception. Nominees were scored on the basis of impact, quality of life, influence, human knowledge, obstacles and period of work.

JACL applauds Fukami and Mihara for their accomplishments and looks forward to recognizing them at next month's National Convention in Las Vegas. ■

## NATIONAL

## FELLOWS CORNER

### DON'T MISS THESE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS AT JACL'S NATIONAL CONVENTION!

*By Bridget Keaveney,  
JACL Norman Mineta Policy Fellow*



Greetings! My name

is Bridget Keaveney (she/her), and I serve as the JACL's Norman Mineta Policy Fellow. Welcome to the first edition of "Fellows Corner," found exclusively through the *Pacific Citizen*!

Fellows Corner will serve as a means of communication between the JACL's policy fellows and the *P.C.* readership. We hope to periodically bring to you all news and updates from the nation's capital! We also hope to provide personal accounts of what it's like to be a policy fellow at a national AAPI civil rights organization.

In this first installment of what will be a series featuring the voices and experiences of future fellows, my colleague, Alex Shinkawa, and I will be sharing with you all what to expect from JACL National for this year's upcoming National Convention!

As a member of staff for the JACL, I am heavily involved in the execution and management of several workshops and plenaries. Of the different programs that I'm in charge of overseeing, I'm most excited for our registered convention members to experience the following:

#### ***Reparatory Justice: The Fight for HR 40 and Japanese Latin American Redress'***

The JACL is proud to bring together a panel of speakers to discuss the fight for Black and Japanese Latin American reparations. Community leaders from both movements will share how they are working to articulate the needs of the communities they serve and the efforts that are being made to develop and pass appropriate forms of reparation and apology for Black and Japanese Latin Americans.

The intersections between the two communities will be explored while honoring their distinct differences. The need for reparations and healing for both communities is long overdue, and we hope you join us to consider how we, as an organization, can best support those courses of action.

Activists to be featured include:

- **Kenniss Henry (HR 40):** Member of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA) and appointed National Legislative Commission co-chair for the HR 40 working group
- **traci kato-kiryama (HR 40):** A multidisciplinary artist, writer/author, actor, arts educator, community organizer and co-chair of the National Nikkei Reparations Committee

• **Grace Shimizu (JLA):** Director of Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project, director of Campaign for Justice: Redress NOW for Japanese Latin Americans! and project manager of the updated traveling exhibit "The Enemy Alien Files: Hidden Stories of World War II"

• **Lisa Doi (Moderator):** Community Organizer for Tsuru for Solidarity and a Ph.D. student in American Studies at Indiana University Bloomington. She also serves as president of JACL Chicago, a member of the Midwest Buddhist Temple and a founding member of the National Nikkei Reparations Committee

I have learned in my time as a policy fellow that delaying justice only further harms the communities impacted. Reparations for Black Americans and Japanese Latins Americans are long overdue, and it is incumbent upon those of us who are in positions to advocate and mobilize to do so.

#### ***Phero Hill***



The JACL is pleased to announce that rapper Phero Hill will be featured at this year's Sayonara Gala.

"At first glance, Phero Hill may seem like your average, aspiring rapper. But through his intricate rhyme schemes and clever wordplay, the Los Angeles-based artist brings more than just bars and beats. He delivers thought-provoking lyrics inspired by his Japanese American identity and the struggles of understanding one's purpose in life.

"Often described as an introverted, soft-spoken individual, Phero Hill found his voice through hip-hop using it to express the trials and tribulations of his life. This raw emotion can be felt through his infectious cadence and organic sound that is always cleverly crafted in each project. By dedicating himself to his craft, he is finally beginning to grow into form as the artist he was meant to be."

As a massive fan, I couldn't be more excited to see Phero Hill perform live! Hill's creative efforts have provided me and countless others an outlet to feel heard and validated. Through his music, Hill is able to encourage thoughtful dialogue surrounding mental health and identity.

*For questions, please email [policy@jacl.org](mailto:policy@jacl.org). We hope to see you all there, whether that be in-person or online!*

*Bridget Keaveney and Alex Shinkawa are based in JACL's Washington, D.C., office.*

» See HIGHLIGHTS on page 9

# NISEI BASEBALL EXHIBIT COMES TO DODGER STADIUM

The display shows the history of Japanese American contributions to the game.

*By P.C. Staff*

**B**aseball been berry, berry good to me!"

That catchphrase of the imaginary "Saturday Night Live" character Chico Escuela portrayed by cast member Garrett Morris back in the 1970s could just as well apply to the Japanese American community in general — and to Nisei Baseball Research Project principal Kerry Yo Nakagawa.

"My grandpa played plantation baseball on the Big Island. My dad and my uncles were great prewar players. I was an all-star shortstop. My son is an all-star catcher," Nakagawa told the *Pacific Citizen*. One could say the game is in his DNA.

Nakagawa, who has spent much of his life playing and documenting America's national pastime, can certainly attest to the importance of baseball in several interrelated areas: the introduction of baseball from America to Japan in 1872, followed by the role of Japanese Americans in promoting baseball in Japan; the game's boom in popularity with the U.S. occupation of Japan after World War II; the prewar pre-eminence of baseball as the No. 1 team sport among Japanese Americans; its significance during WWII for those Japanese Americans incarcerated in U.S. concentration camps; and the continuing modern-day impact of Japanese baseball players that began with Hideo Nomo, continuing with Ichiro Suzuki and now Los Angeles Angels sensation Shohei Ohtani.

Nakagawa's 26 years steering the NBRP is now converging as several seemingly disparate threads come together. This year marks 150 years since baseball was introduced to Japan and the 80th anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066, which authorized the removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans from the Pacific Coast.

Add to the June 15 Japanese Heritage Night at Dodger Stadium that saw the National League's Los Angeles Dodgers take on the American League's Angels, which included the unveiling of an exhibit titled "Baseball's



**Kerry Yo Nakagawa stands in front of one of the displays at the exhibition "Baseball's Bridge to the Pacific: Celebrating the Legacy of Japanese American Baseball," now at Dodger Stadium.**

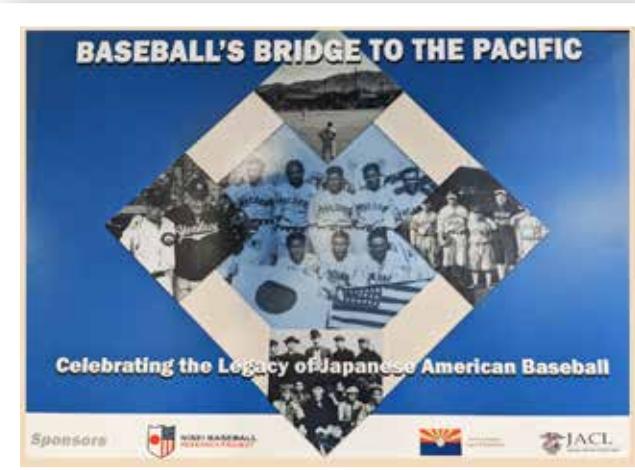
Bridge to the Pacific: Celebrating the Legacy of Japanese American Baseball."

Then there's the July 19 Major League All-Star Game, which will also be at Dodger Stadium and will feature the aforementioned Ohtani playing for the American League and, helping to steer the National League's finest, Dodgers' manager Dave Roberts, whose mother, Eiko Roberts, is from Japan.

The exhibit was originally envisioned to open during the All-Star Game — but then Dodgers Senior VP of Planning and Development Janet Marie Smith asked if it could be ready for Japanese Heritage Night.

It was a monumental task, but Nakagawa, recognizing the importance of this rare opportunity to put a spotlight on the historically significant exhibit, "scrambled" to make it happen in time.

With the exhibit set to run for a yet-to-be determined duration, Nakagawa is already thinking ahead to expanding it — and getting Major League Baseball and the Baseball Hall of Fame to acknowledge pioneering Japanese American baseball players in a fashion similar



**The new exhibit celebrates Japanese American contributions to the sport of baseball and will be featured during the upcoming MLB All-Star Game at Dodger Stadium.**

PHOTOS: SUSAN YOKOYAMA



**Pictured (from left) are Baseball writer Charlie Vascellaro, actor Ken Watanabe, Dodger manager Dave Roberts and NBRP's Kerry Yo Nakagawa on June 15 during Japanese Heritage Night at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles.**

to how both institutions have recognized African American ballplayers of the segregated Negro leagues.

It's natural next goal for Nakagawa, who over the years has helped to produce 2007's "American Pastime," a dramatization of a real-life baseball game in a camp between a young Nisei team against a local team comprised of white players, and "Diamonds in the Rough," a 2008 documentary movie about the father of Japanese American baseball Kenichi Zenimura, which featured the late Pat Morita.

Add to that school curricula ("Diamonds in the Rough: Baseball and Japanese-American Internment" and "American Pastime") that he has had a hand in producing and it's apparent that the Fowler, Calif.-born Nakagawa, who describes himself as a "multimedia person," is ready for that next stage of the Nisei Baseball Research Project.

Nakagawa wants nothing less than getting the Baseball Hall of Fame and Major League Baseball to acknowledge Japanese American ballplayers "with a permanent exhibit, with

enshrinement."

After all, as he puts it, African American baseball players may have helped to integrate the game, but it was Japanese American ballplayers who helped internationalize baseball in places like Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.

"We're so happy that the reaction has been great with our exhibit at Dodger Stadium. But we want to upgrade it," Nakagawa said, adding that he wants to get the exhibit into other baseball stadiums, add more multimedia elements — and that he's open to getting contributions to do just that.

Nakagawa also wants to make sure to credit the Arizona Baseball Legacy and Experience and the Arizona JACL for "their support and friendship toward our exhibit. Our ribbon cutting and success was because of these organizations and the Dodgers believing in us as well."

Chico Escuela would undoubtedly approve, "berry berry much."

**For more information, visit [NiseiBaseball.com](http://NiseiBaseball.com).**

## PORTLAND » continued from page 2

As we have seen all too often in the past two years with the rising reports of anti-Asian hate incidents, the underlying racism that led to the murder of Chin continues to persist to this day.

One aspect of this incident that does distinguish itself is the intervention from the bystanders. JACL applauds the individuals who stepped forward to stop the violence and ensure the perpetrator was apprehended

by the police. These people are the heroes who made sure that the violence did not escalate.

"We are grateful for the swift intervention of the people in the vicinity of the attack who represent the true hearts of Portland residents," stated Portland JACL Chapter President Jeff Matsumoto. "Like the vast majority of Portland residents, we are appalled at the racist attack that occurred as yet another example of anti-Asian bias and hatred, which we call upon all our fellow citizens to condemn and intervene when they see it happening."

## SHINZO ABE » continued from page 2

Police said Yamagami was responding calmly to questions and had admitted to attacking Abe, telling investigators he had plotted to kill him because he believed rumors about the former leader's connection to a certain organization that police did not identify.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and his Cabinet ministers hastily returned to Tokyo from campaign events elsewhere after the shooting, which he called "dastardly and barbaric." He pledged that the election, which chooses members for Japan's less-powerful upper house of parliament, would go

on as planned.

"I use the harshest words to condemn (the act)," Kishida said, struggling to control his emotions.

Even though he was out of office, Abe was still highly influential in the governing Liberal Democratic Party and headed its largest faction, Seiwakai, but his ultranationalist views made him a divisive figure to many.

Opposition leaders condemned the attack as a challenge to Japan's democracy. Kenta Izumi, head of the top opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, called it "an act of terrorism" and said

it "tried to quash the freedom of speech . . . actually causing a situation where (Abe's) speech can never be heard again."

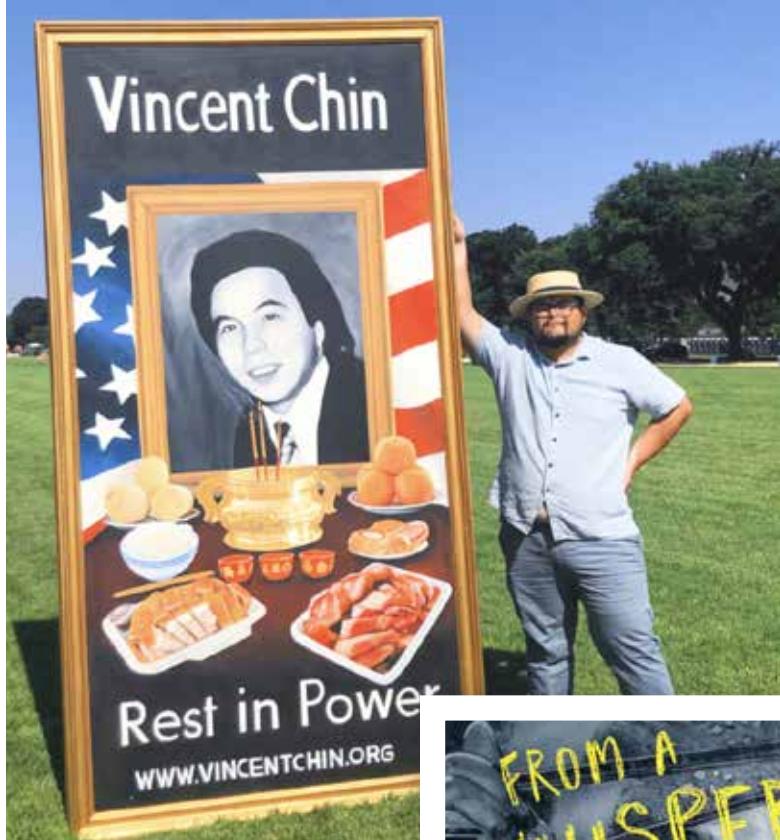
Tributes to Abe poured in from world leaders, with many expressing shock and sorrow. U.S. President Joe Biden praised him, saying "his vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific will endure. Above all, he cared deeply about the Japanese people and dedicated his life to their service."

Biden, who is dealing with a summer of mass shootings in the U.S., also said "gun violence always leaves a deep scar on the communities that are affected by it."

Japan is particularly known for its strict gun laws. With a population of 125 million, it had only 10 gun-related criminal cases last year, resulting in one death and four injuries, according to police.

# LOVE LETTERS TO OUR COUSIN VINCENT CHIN

Stories are the shape of our existence. On the 40th Anniversary of his death, three AAPI artists and storytellers carry on Chin's legacy.



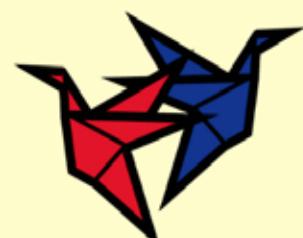
(Top) Artist Anthony Lee took the portrait of Vincent Chin to the June 25 Unity March in Washington, D.C.

(Bottom) The artist visits the Washington, D.C., Chinatown.



The 2021 book about Vincent Chin by Paula Yoo (pictured at top right) is written for young adults.

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[Visit jacl.org/survey](https://jacl.org/survey)

By Lynda Lin Grigsby,  
Contributor

A love letter is a blank canvas on which emotions are painted. For his latest commissioned piece, a portrait to commemorate the legacy of Vincent Chin, the artist Anthony Lee received little direction.

Lee was told to paint a version of the ubiquitous black-and-white picture of the fresh-faced man smiling with the bouffant hairdo. Inspiration was limited because Chin died at 27 years old before camera phones made it possible to document every moment of life.

Still, Lee picked up a brush and started pushing paint across the canvas. The artist laid his feelings bare in the portrait of the man he never met but heard about in whispers in his native Detroit, where Chin was killed 40 years ago.

While painting the contours of Chin's face, Lee saw himself, a Chinese American Cantonese-speaking man on the precipice of marriage. The artist composed his love letter — an altar scene with tufts of incense smoke that look like they could lift off the canvas and dance into nostrils.

"I want for the record to be known that even 40 years later, we still see him," said Lee, 30.

In Chinese culture, food offerings are gestures of enduring love. Chin is a part of every Asian American's family tree ever since his last words, "It's not fair," became a rallying cry of a movement. Chin is a part of your history, his real-life cousin Annie Tan implied as she stood by his gravesite at Detroit's Forest Lawn Cemetery last month and called him "our cousin Vincent."

Chin may have come into your life in a college Asian American Studies course or through Renee Tajima-Peña's seminal documentary, or in the fiery words of the founding members of the Ameri-



Vincent Chin has been with the author for over half of her life.

PHOTO: JAROD LEW

"I'm happy to be the cranky Korean auntie," says author Paula Yoo.

PHOTO: SONYA SONES



1993, with a fresh master's degree in journalism from Columbia University, Yoo started a job at the *Detroit News*. Initial feelings of pride and excitement eventually gave way to nervousness. After all, this was the same city where Chin was killed. Would a Korean American woman who drives a Nissan be safe?

It's a question Lee said the AAPI community in Detroit reckoned with after Chin's white assailants were sentenced to probation and acquitted in the civil rights case. Old Chinatown, whose spirit once pulsed with life, started fading when its people left for the suburbs.

"There's no wonder why Asian people don't really go there because Asians want to be where there's security," said Lee. "It was just a big pill the whole Asian community had to just take."

Lee is a mural artist who, during our Zoom meeting, twirled a naked paintbrush around his finger. He was lured by the blank canvases of the dilapidated building in Detroit's old Chinatown. He wanted to inject beauty into a place that time and people left behind.

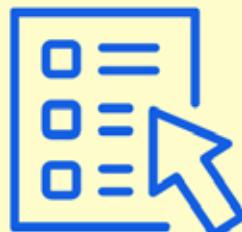
He lowers his voice to affect his inner idealistic self. "I wanted to be the change. I want to bring back Chinatown. I want to make things beautiful."

The answer was always no. And it becomes clear that the community was arrested in trauma that still bubbles to the surface 40 years later when people are called on to speak about Chin — voices tremble and tears spring from eyes like the wounds of injustice are still fresh.

*So stay with me  
And we'll face the tomorrows  
To find if our love  
Can overcome the sorrows  
Remember me always.*

"It's incredibly prescient," said Yoo about Chin's poem. "We have to honor those words and make sure that there is a tomorrow for his legacy."

For most of her life, Chin has been whispering to the author to tell his story — *remember me always*. In



Chin's death made him a symbol of a movement that unified AAPIs against racism and xenophobia. But when a person's image becomes a symbol, their tragic death defines their life — think Emmett Till's open casket or the police officer kneeling on the back of George Floyd.

In contrast, Yoo likes to look at the emotional journey of a character she writes. The subjects of her books are diverse — Olympic diver Sammy Lee and groundbreaking actress Anna May Wong — but her choice for a target audience is unwavering.

Yoo writes for children and young adult books about heavy issues in an age-appropriate and unflinching style of a journalist who injects the reader into the complexities of all the characters, including the killer with the baseball bat.

To write the book intended for high school-age kids, Yoo does not shy away from the violence or its stark fallout. On Zoom, Yoo, 53, holds up a dictionary-sized binder filled with court transcripts that dissected the circumstances of Chin's death. It drops to the floor with a loud thud.

"That's how you really understand how horrific racism is," said Yoo. "What did we lose here?"

Chin, who loved to read, could have been the next great American author, but we will never know for sure. For now, according to his words, we can only see if our love can overcome sorrow.

#### GIVING VISUALS TO DATA POINTS

Wearing a bright red blazer against the dark backdrop of a Detroit theater, Zia sighed.

"Here we go again," she said to the audience about the parallels of the

present-day to the atmosphere that led up to Chin's death 40 years ago. When the pandemic shut the world down and anti-Asian hate crimes skyrocketed, community leaders started intoning Chin's name again. Now, just like then, AAPIs are being scapegoated, attacked and killed. But for years, there was only one documentary to reference, "Who Killed Vincent Chin?" from 1987. Now there are two.

"Bad Axe" is a new documentary about one AAPI family's struggle to run their restaurant in the rural city of Bad Axe, Mich., amid pandemic closures, political divide and fear of safety so deep that in one scene, a family member asks to sleep with a gun.

At last month's commemoration of the 40th anniversary of Chin's murder, "Bad Axe" was screened alongside "Who Killed Vincent Chin?" creating a throughline to the present-day AAPI experience. In the theater, Tajima-Peña praised "Bad Axe," citing the casual racism depicted in a scene where a customer defies the restaurant's mask policy.

David Siev is a 29-year-old New York filmmaker who moved home to Bad Axe during the lockdown phase of the pandemic and turned the camera on his Cambodian Mexican American family to document mundane details and incidents of racial tension.

The film gives visual reference to data points — according to new research from the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism, anti-Asian hate crime increased nationally by 339 percent — similarly Tajima-Peña's film introduced the world to Lily Chin, a mother whose raw grief and astute activism



**In one powerful Black Lives Matter scene, Jaclyn Siev confronts armed counterprotestors later confirmed to be white supremacists.**

elevated her son's name beyond a list of victims.

In one of the film's most powerful scenes, Siev and his siblings attended a Black Lives Matter rally in Bad Axe after George Floyd's murder and confronted armed counterprotestors later confirmed to be white supremacists.

What started out as a beautiful protest in a predominantly white city devolved for a few tense minutes into direct verbal confrontation, with Siev's camera recording the adrenaline-pumping incident, including the anti-Asian slur hurled at Jaclyn Siev, the filmmaker's older sister. This scene animates all the exploding line graphs and research — anti-Asian hate is real.

Siev released footage of the documentary, including the BLM scene as part of a crowd-funding campaign to finish the film. Hate mail and trolling comments on social media came in.

There is a saying that Chun Siev, the family's patriarch, often says: "Teach your children well enough so they can eventually teach you."

Chun Siev is a survivor of the

Cambodian genocide who achieved the American dream by building a successful family business. The classic immigrant story rarely includes what it takes to hold on to the dream. Maybe that means fighting like hell against injustice.

"Standing up for other people shouldn't be political," said Jaclyn Siev in the film. "It's just doing the right thing."

Chin's death marked the beginning of the Asian American movement, a time when the model minority myth was cast aside in favor of loud rallying cries for justice and representation. There was a time when AAPIs were invisible, said Zia, unprotected under civil rights laws until Chin's case broke open the black-and-white binary. Forty years ago, the movement was the first step for the next generation of activists, writers and artists to tell their stories.

Our stories are what Dr. Michael Eric Dyson calls "the shape of our existence." During the commemoration's webinar, the Georgetown University sociology professor said our stories tell people, "In many ways you think I am the other, but I am really you."

That's why it's important to continue to keep talking about Chin, said Siev. "And as the conversation continues to carry forward, I'm proud to carry that weight."

#### DON'T WORRY, CUZ

On a sunny June day in Detroit's Forest Lawn Cemetery, the commemoration of Chin's life was solemn and resolute. Guests were prompted to recite a call to action, "Let justice roll."

In a time of rising hate, it's hard to see what has changed since Chin's death. History is always going to

"People do want to listen to our stories because they're important," says "Bad Axe" director David Siev.



repeat itself, said Yoo, but so does hope, especially in the darkest hour.

"Hope also repeats itself."

The mural of Chin currently stands in Detroit's Old Chinatown on the corner of Peterboro Street and Cass Avenue — except for one weekend in June when its artist took it to Washington, D.C., to attend the Unity March, which brought together "the diverse Asian diaspora with multicultural partners across the LGBTQ+, Muslim, disability communities, Black, Indigenous and Pacific Islander, Latino and Arab American communities" to "advance socioeconomic and cultural equity, racial justice and solidarity." Chin would have wanted to be there.

In his love letter, Lee wants to say, "Don't worry about this. We got this. Don't think that like this is the end of the story."

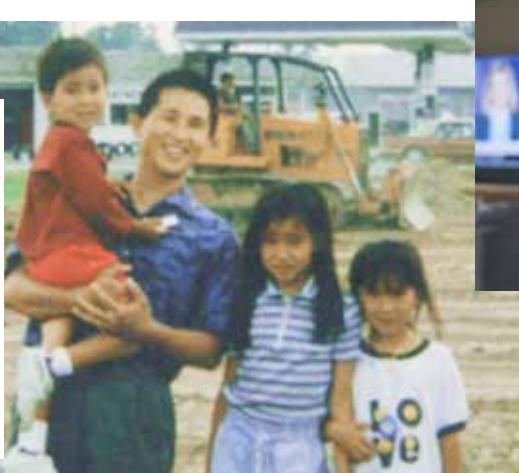
He likes to think art is a sign of dignity, of not just surviving, but thriving. "Bad Axe" won the special jury award at March's South by Southwest film festival in Austin, Texas, and will be released in theater and streaming platforms in the fall.

At Chin's gravesite after the formal speeches concluded, the mood shifted from solemn to ebullient. Participants were given red flowers to lay at Chin's grave. In the procession of people, laughter erupted. A woman joked in Cantonese about all her hair turning white. These were all markers of resilience and joy.

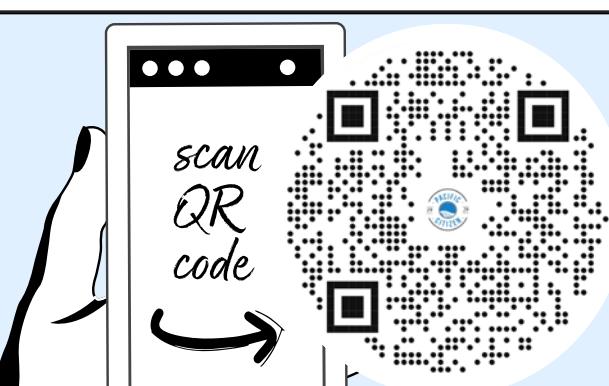
Around Chin's grave marker, the grass grows long and lush.

This is for our cousin Vincent. Let justice roll. ■

**Patriarch Chun Siev is a Cambodian refugee who escaped the genocide of the Killing Fields and achieved the American Dream in the city of Bad Axe, Mich.**



**Chun Siev felt helpless as his family-owned restaurant suffered the economic impact of the pandemic shutdown.**



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# 'WHO KILLED VINCENT CHIN?' RETURNS TO PBS

The much-honored documentary still packs a wallop.

By P.C. Staff

**W**ithin a year of the June 23, 1983, death of Vincent Chin at a Detroit hospital after having been pummeled in the head several times by a baseball bat wielded by Ronald Ebens as his stepson, Michael Nitz, held Chin down, filmmakers Christine Choy and Renee Tajima-Peña were already at work.

Their project? A critical landmark, a documentary by Asian Americans about the fateful intersection of the lives — and one death — of three men; the city in which they had lived; the automotive industry in which they had found employment; a nation locked in an economic sumo match with another, based not in Europe but in Asia; an emotionally and spiritually broken mother; the violence-spawned birth of a pan-Asian American movement for equal justice; and the legal system through which the dead man's family and supporters would seek justice.

The name of that project, which would see the light of day in 1987, was "Who Killed Vincent Chin?"

The 82-minute-long documentary would go on to receive an Academy Award nomination in the feature documentary category and win many honors from several other august organizations.

In late 2021, the Library of Congress chose "Who Killed Vincent Chin?" as one of 25 films selected annually for inclusion in its National Film Registry to be preserved for future generations. Furthermore, the

Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' Film Archive also recently chose it to be restored.

On June 20, the restored and still-relevant "Who Killed Vincent Chin?" returned to the PBS airwaves on its series "POV" in an encore rebroadcast, more than 30 years after its original airdate, supplemented by new interviews with many of the principals involved in the making of the documentary and the justice for Vincent Chin movement. (*It is scheduled to air again on July 16; check your local listings.*)

Nearly 40 years ago, "Who Killed Vincent Chin?" which she also co-directed, was the first major film project for Tajima-Peña. To use sports to analogize the situation, it was like she stepped into the batter's box for the first time and hit not just a homerun but also a grand slam.

But both she and her producing partner and co-director, Christine Choy, had to leap over many hurdles, including what she described as systemic racism, some of which she said still exists now.

"We were really one of the first in public media," Tajima-Peña told the *Pacific Citizen*. "The networks never did Asian American stories ... Asian Americans would get funding for other projects, maybe you know cultural things like that, maybe some history stuff."

She recalled how at the time, someone in the hierarchy decided to give her and Choy a white "overseer" as they worked on "Who Killed Vincent Chin?"

"We weren't trusted to be impartial and objective — meaning professional — documentary filmmakers, approaching a subject that had to deal with Asian Americans," said

Tajima-Peña. "By the same token, their assumption was a white filmmaker is impartial and objective. . . . There's no biological basis for professionalism, so that was really racist."

In new interviews produced to accompany the rebroadcast of "Who Killed Vincent Chin?" Detroit Public Television senior producer Bill Kubota — himself a documentarian whose credits include "Most Honorable Son," about WWII tail-gunner Ben Kuroki — learned that one behind-the-scenes person who helped get Choy and Tajima-Peña's project produced was named Juanita Anderson, who back then worked for WTVS Channel 56, which later became Detroit Public Television.

Kubota says that it was Anderson who recognized that the Chin slaying was not just local in scope but national. She not only recruited the two Asian American filmmakers, but she also helped get the project funding. "She's like the unsung third person in this project that really made it go," he said.

Tajima-Peña concurred. "We just lucked out with the DPTV and Juanita Anderson. Juanita at that time was one of the highest-ranking Black women in public media in the country — and you're talking about only a few Black women in public media. And the president of the station, Bob Larson, also came on as executive producer. Juanita and Bob said, 'You know, about this overseer guy, we'll handle him. You just make the film,'" she said. "And that's the only reason we had the freedom to make what we produced because they stepped in and said, 'You've got to go out and make the film in your own voice.'"

Since that time, Tajima-Peña's filmography has grown, and she is now a professor of Asian American Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles, and the director for its



(Left)  
Christine  
Choy

PHOTO: SASHA  
MASLOV

(Top right)  
Filmmaker  
Renee  
Tajima-  
Peña



(Right)  
Juanita  
Anderson



Center for EthnoCommunications and has an endowed chair in Japanese American Studies. That filmography includes another landmark project that also aired on PBS, the five-hour documentary series "Asian Americans" (May 14, 2020, *Pacific Citizen*), for which she served as the producer.

Regarding that project, Tajima-Peña revealed how, fast-forwarding nearly 40 years later and with her notable track record, "PBS tried to do the same thing for the 'Asian American' series," she said, referring to how "some suits at PBS" were insisting that, despite her status as the showrunner, they wanted to assign what she described as another "white overseer" who was not only younger but had herself never served as a showrunner.

One of the outcomes of the Vincent Chin slaying was the birth of the Detroit-based American Citizens for Justice, which formed organically amongst the then-smaller (compared to now) community of diversified Asian American groups. Active in AJC then and now are Helen Zia, Roland Hwang and James Shimoura.

While Zia's background was in journalism, Hwang and Shimoura's profession was law, and both put their legal training to work in the early days of the Vincent Chin legal proceedings.

Shimoura told the *Pacific Citizen*

that in those early days, however, the local press "was not on our side." He says Zia, however, made contact with a *New York Times* reporter whose news reporting on the Chin incident put a national spotlight on the case. If not for Zia and the *N.Y. Times* reporter's journalism, "I'm not sure where we'd be right now," he said, referring to the momentum that reporting helped start.

Interestingly and disturbingly, both Hwang and Shimoura separately told the *Pacific Citizen* that the status quo with regard to anti-Asian violence in 2022 is, from their perspectives, worse now than it was in 1982.

"I think this current situation in 2022 is probably 10 times worse. You had Trump, you know, basically, stoking up white nationalism and nativist alt-right rhetoric about foreigners," Shimoura said.

"You have a society which I think has more or less validated the ability to attack people, whether you're Muslim or Asian or Black and blame them for the world's ills. These last three years, especially since the pandemic hit, I don't think a day goes by where you don't have an attack or killing of an Asian in the U.S. somewhere, randomly — and as bad as it was in '82-'83, we didn't have an assault of the day. Now, it's everyday something's going on."

As for the importance of "Who Killed Vincent Chin?" being shown again nationally to mark the 40th anniversary of Chin's death, Kubota said, "I think it remains surprising how many people don't know about this case. While it rallied all the Asian American groups around here, it's kind of faded into the past for the rest of the population. . . . This is a big chance to reach the folks through news coverage again."



(Above) Vincent Chin when he was a young man with a bright future awaiting him.



The *Pacific Citizen* reported on the Vincent Chin case in the 1980s. On the left is a screenshot from Sept. 19, 1986, and right, from June 5, 1987.



(EDITOR'S NOTE: "Who Killed Vincent Chin?" can be viewed on PBS.org at [tinyurl.com/2p8b6duh](http://tinyurl.com/2p8b6duh).)

# BIDEN AWARDS MEDAL OF HONOR TO FOUR FOR VIETNAM WAR HEROISM

Spc. Dennis M. Fujii and the late-Staff Sgt. Edward N. Kaneshiro, both of Hawaii, are recognized during the July 5 White House ceremony.

**By Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — President Joe Biden on July 5 bestowed the nation's highest military honor to four Army soldiers for heroism during the Vietnam War, bravery that he said had not diminished even with the passage of time.

Biden presented the Medal of Honor to Staff Sgt. Edward N. Kaneshiro, Spc. Five Dwight W. Birdwell, Spc. Five Dennis M. Fujii and Ret Maj. John J. Duffy. Speaking at a ceremony in the White House East Room, Biden praised their heroism, noting that many like them don't receive "the full recognition they deserve."

"It's just astonishing when you hear

what each of them have done," said Biden. "They went far above and beyond the call of duty. It's a phrase always used but . . . it takes on life when you see these men."

Addressing the three living soldiers and relatives of Kaneshiro, who is deceased, the president said, "I'm proud to finally award our highest military recognition, the Medal of Honor, to each of you."

Biden noted that more than 50 years had passed "since the jungles of Vietnam where, as young men, these soldiers first proved their mettle. But time has not diminished their astonishing bravery, their selflessness in putting the lives of others ahead of their own and the gratitude that we

as a nation owe them."

Kaneshiro, killed in action by hostile gunfire in Vietnam in 1967, received his honor posthumously for a Dec. 1, 1966, raid where his unit came under fire by North Vietnamese troops. His actions were credited with helping his unit withdraw from the village where they were fighting. Kaneshiro was born and raised in Hawaii, the son of Japanese immigrants.

Birdwell was honored for his actions helping to head off an assault and evacuate wounded at Tan Son Nhut Airbase near Saigon on Jan. 31, 1968.

Duffy was recognized for leading troops who came under ambush after their commander was killed in action.

Fujii received a Medal of Honor for actions over four days in Laos in February 1971 treating the wounded and directing air strikes against enemy positions after his air ambulance was forced to crash land. Staying behind to administer aid, it would be several days before he was airlifted to safety. Upon completion of his tour, he joined the Army Reserve; today, Fujii currently resides in Hawaii.

"Servicemembers like Mr. Fujii and Mr. Kaneshiro risk their lives to protect our nation, and we have an

## HAWAII WELCOMES HERO DENNIS FUJII HOME

HONOLULU — Spc. Five Dennis Fujii came home last week (Mar. 2) to a hero's welcome, his mother's tears and his fiancee's kisses. The tall 21-year-old soldier, who was decorated with the Silver Star for bravery directing artillery and helicopter gunship fire during a battle in Laos, was greeted by a crowd of about 100 at Honolulu International Airport.

Wounded slightly by shrapnel during the engagement, he is home on convalescent furlough.



PHOTOS: FACEBOOK

## Military Honors . . .

Honolulu Staff Sgt. Edward Noboru Kaneshiro, 38, of 2549-B 10th Ave., might possibly win a Congressional Medal of Honor for his feat in Vietnam, a Honolulu paper reports. He already is a recipient of the Silver Star. The action for which the Medal of Honor has been suggested took place Dec. 1 at a village in the Kim River Valley in Vietnam. Kaneshiro is a graduate of Leilehua High School, a veteran of 7½ years in the Army and formerly served with the 25th Infantry Wolfhounds. He and his wife, Mitsuko, are the parents of three children.



**Articles about Fujii and Kaneshiro were featured in the *Pacific Citizen's* March 12, 1971 (Fujii), and Jan. 20, 1967 (Kaneshiro), issues.**

CLIPPINGS:  
PACIFIC CITIZEN

above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against the enemy of the United States."

According to an official White House statement, the Medal of Honor is "awarded to members of the armed forces who distinguish themselves conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of their own lives

Since its inception in the 1860s, more than 3,500 service members have been awarded the Medal of Honor.

— Additional reporting by P.C. Staff

## FELLOWS CORNER

### HIGHLIGHTS » continued from page 4

**By Alex Shinkawa,  
JACL Daniel K. Inouye Fellow**

Hello everyone, my name is Alex Shinkawa, and I am the Daniel K. Inouye Fellow at JACL National's office, and on behalf of the whole team planning this year's National Convention, I am extremely excited to see you all in Las Vegas next month!

After two years of Covid and online events, we are finally returning to an in-person convention at Bally's Las Vegas Hotel and Casino that will be held from Aug. 3-6. The theme for this year is "Strengthening Our Community Through Action." The current National Board will meet prior to the convention starting on Aug. 3, and the newly elected board will meet after the convention on the morning of Aug. 7.

This year's National Council Session will be held in person on Aug. 4; all delegates or proxies must be present. However, the session will be live-streamed so that it can be viewed remotely, but only in-person speakers will be recognized.

Along with our National Council Sessions, this year's convention will have a variety of workshops and plenaries aimed at invigorating and educating JACL members, and these events will be open to all convention attendees.

Workshops will cover topics



ranging from sustainable career cultivation, education advocacy, combating misinformation about Critical Race Theory and even a live episode of YPC's "Speaking Nikkei Podcast."

Luncheons and banquets will include awards ceremonies that highlight exceptional chapters and members of the community that have made an impact, and we are excited to present awards in person. These events will also include entertainment such as taiko performances and a live demonstration of karate and koto music from U.S. Olympian Sakura Kokumai, who most recently participated in the 2020 Tokyo Summer Games.

Of course, between the workshops, demonstrations, meetings and plenaries, there will be time to explore the many sites and attractions that the dynamic city of Las Vegas has to offer. Take the opportunity to catch shows at the many casinos, shop, and dine at world-renowned restaurants. It is also just a short distance to landmarks such as the Hoover Dam and Red Rock Canyon.

Our team hopes that this National Convention will help our community forge a path forward as we emerge from the pandemic. We hope to see you there so be sure to register before the July 27 deadline! ■

REGISTRATION IS OPEN  
THROUGH JULY 27!  
**2022**

**STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH ACTION**

**JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**AUGUST 3-7, 2022**

**BALLY'S LAS VEGAS**

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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

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

## NATIONAL

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

Las Vegas, NV

Aug. 3-7  
Price: Visit [jacl.org](http://jacl.org) for Event and  
Pricing Information

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.

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

## NCWNP

'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).

## ADVERTISE HERE

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

FOR MORE INFO:  
[pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)  
(213) 620-1767

## Wish Upon a Tanabata Star Celebration

San Francisco, CA

Thru July 31

JCCCNC

1840 Sutter St.

Price: Free

Please join the JCCCNC as it celebrates the Tanabata "star festival" throughout the month of July as it displays beautiful colored streamers, lanterns and paper-strips imbued with the hopes, wishes and dreams of many. Tanabata is one of Japan's most aesthetic cultural holidays. The center invites all to participate in this year's celebration by making a "wish" for the future and have it turned into a tanzaku decoration with your personalized message.

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

## Palo Alto Buddhist Temple Obon 2022

Palo Alto, CA

Aug. 6, 4-8 p.m.; Aug. 7, 4-6:30 p.m.

Palo Alto Buddhist Temple

2751 Louis Road

Price: Free

Food and Obon dancing are back this year at the PABT Obon 2022! All are welcome to experience live music, Obon dancing, taiko performances, Japanese food, arts and crafts and much more for the entire family to enjoy. Food preorder deadline is July 23.

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

## 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 available through presale. Food items must be preordered by Sept. 4.

**Info:** Visit [www.buddhistchurch.org](https://www.buddhistchurch.org).



## PSW

### Smartphone Classes

Mondays Thru Aug. 22 (No Class

Aug. 3)

Gardena, CA

Gardena Valley JCI

1964 W. 162nd St.

Price: \$10 Per Class (Upstairs

Classroom 207/208); Free for JCI

Gardens Residents

These lessons will cover the basic functions of the smartphone such as adding contacts, making phone calls, sending text messages and using the camera, in addition to explaining what apps are, how to use and download apps, as well as data usage, wifi connections and storage.

**Info:** Visit [www.jci-gardena.org](http://www.jci-gardena.org) or  
or call (310) 324-6611 for class details  
and to register.

## JANM 30th Anniversary Digital Film Festival — 'Barbara Kawakami: A Textured Life'

Los Angeles, CA

July 29; 5-6:30 p.m.

JANM

Virtual Event

Price: Free

At 100, Barbara Kawakami is a noted author, historian and storyteller who has dedicated her life to researching and sharing the untold stories of Issei women working on plantations in Hawaii. This event will discuss the film "Barbara Kawakami: A Textured Life" as well as delve into Kawakami's research, storytelling and legacy, featuring Fay Toyama, Kawakami's daughter, and other special guests.

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

## Sansei Rocker Symposium

Los Angeles, CA

July 30; 2-4 p.m.

JANM

Virtual Event

Price: Free

Join a panel of "Sansei Rockers" as they discuss Harry Manaka's book "Chronicles of a Sansei Rocker," which explores the dynamic Japanese American music and dance scene of the 1960s and '70s. Tina Fujino, Gerald Ishibashi, David Honjio and Harry Manaka will reunite in a conversation about community, history and rock music.

## 2022 Natsumatsuri Family Festival

Los Angeles, CA

Aug. 13; 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

JANM

100 N. Central Ave.

Price: Free

Save the date for the 2022 Natsumat-

suri Family Festival, an annual summer celebration featuring free cultural performances, crafts and activities for families and kids of all ages. Admission will also be free to the museum for all exhibitions and there will be special perks for museum members.

**Info:** RSVPs are requested. Visit [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org) for more details.

## Okinawan Festival

Honolulu, HI

Sept. 3-4; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Hawaii Convention Center

1801 Kapiolani Ave.

Price: Tickets Available for Purchase

This year's festival will feature live entertainment, food booths, Obon dancing and Hawaiian cultural exhibits. Food specialties will include Okinawa soba, andagi and andadogs. Don't miss this fabulous cultural event on Oahu!

**Info:** Call (808) 676-5400.

## PNW

### Obon Fest 2022

Portland, OR

Aug. 6; 2-9 p.m.

Oregon Buddhist Temple

3720 S.E. 34th Ave.

Price: Free

This year's Obon Fest at the Oregon Buddhist Temple will feature live entertainment, food and beverages, children's activities, Obon dancing, cultural displays and much more fun for the entire family! All are welcome at this annual event paying homage to family and friends who have passed away.

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

## 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).

## MDC

### Twin Cities JACL 'Nikkei With Disabilities' Webinar

Saint Paul, MN

July 26; 7-9 p.m.

Virtual Event

Join the Twin Cities JACL chapter and the East Side Freedom Library as they host local scholar Selena Moon and

invited panelists about the experience of disabled Japanese Americans during World War II incarceration and their fight for redress, disability and civil rights.

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

## IDC

### 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 [## EDC](https://shop-heartmountain.org/products/2022-pilgrimage-registration-or-contact-Denii Hirsch at (307) 754-8000 or email denih@heartmountain.org.</a></p>
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### 13th Annual Asian American Mental Health Forum 'Building Resilience: Healing Trauma Across Generations'

July 30; 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Virtual Event

Price: Free

This forum features a panel discussion, interactive workshops, networking rooms and performances. The event's keynote speaker is Jeanie Y. Chang, founder of Your Change Provider. This forum is made possible by Asian Women for Health.

**Info:** To register, visit [www.bit.ly/2022AMHF](http://www.bit.ly/2022AMHF).

### 52nd Chinatown August Moon Festival

Boston, MA

Aug. 14; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Location: Main Stage and Beach, Tyler, Hudson and Oxford Streets

Price: Free

This festival is filled with cultural performances (including lion dancing, Chinese music and singing, traditional folk dance and martial arts), as well as Chinese calligraphy, arts and crafts and various vendors of Chinese food and merchandise. This festival is presented by the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Assn.

**Info:** Visit <https://ccbabsoston.org/en/chinatown-august-moon-festival-2022>. ■

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# In MEMORIAM



**Acosta, Sumiko, 58**, New York, N.Y., May 13; she was predeceased by her parents, Miyo and Tanemori Suzuki; she is survived by her husband, Tony Acosta; son, Rocky J. Smith; and sisters, Eiko, Mieko and Nana.



**Gregory, Chie 'Yukie' (Tokita), 89**, Brookville, OH, May 29; she was predeceased by her husband, Clinton, and siblings, Rie, Haruei and Kouichi; she is survived by her children, Jeanie Kupper (Thomas), Larry Gregory (Shelley) and Janice Flores (Michael); brother-in law, Matt Gregory; sister-in-law, Jann Gregory; she is also survived by other family members and friends; gc: 6; ggc: 4.



**Chin, Jenny Gee, 96**, Sacramento, CA, April 6; she was predeceased by her daughter, Teri Lee Chin, and her husband, Stewart; she is survived by her children, Cynthia Lee Shinoda (Philip) and Steven Lee Chin (Val); siblings, Phoebe Yee and Arthur Gee; gc: 4; ggc: 3.



**Iida, William, 70**, SeaTac, WA, May 17; B.A., Univ. of Wash.; he was predeceased by his brother, George, and brother-in-law, Jerry; he is survived by his sister, Eileen Suzuki; sister-in-law, Charlene Iida; he is also survived by nieces and nephews.



**Furuyama, Hisayo, 102**, Los Angeles, CA, April 3; she was predeceased by her husband, Tomigi Furuyama, and daughter, Grace Umemoto; she is survived by her children, Chiyeo Sutter, Kenkichi Furuyama, Emiko Sherman and Jim Furuyama; sisters, Yoshiko Saito and Misao Tanno; gc: 11; ggc: 17.

**Kaita, Kent, 73**, Davis, CA, May 8; B.S., UC Davis; veteran, USAR; he was predeceased by his siblings, Gary and Nancy; he is survived by extended family members and friends.

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## PLACE A TRIBUTE

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

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



**Kawano, John, 94**, Des Plaines, IL, May 10; he was predeceased by his wife, Masako Martha, and siblings Cike, Tom (Mary), Mak (Frances) Frank (Toki), Joe, Sam (Aiko), Mary (Charles); he is survived by his children, Alan (Diane Lamotte), Susan (Patrick) DiMario and Nancy (Mat) Littleton; siblings, Fran, Jim (Fujiko) and Eddie (Diane) Kawano; in-laws, Marietta Hidaka, Rita (Kenny) Ima-moto, Richard and Larry Fujio; gc: 4.



**Muranaga, Yoshiko, 94**, Las Vegas, NV, February; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Granada WRA Center (Camp Amache) in CO; she was predeceased by her husband, Kenichi, and siblings, Frank (Ethel) and Grace (Tom); she is survived by her son, Mark (Leticia); five sisters-in-law; gc: 4; ggc: 4.

**Nakamura, Jennie Lee, 90**, Everett, WA, May 26.

## TRIBUTE

### DIANE KIKUEYE (TANI) SHIGETA



1924-2022

Diane Kikueye Shigeta, age 97, of Nampa, Idaho, passed away peacefully at home on June 6, 2022.

Diane was born on Sept. 23, 1924, in Los Angeles, Calif., to parents Yasuemon and Aki Tani. She was raised in Venice, Calif., and was the seventh of eight children. Her childhood was filled with adventures. Her family operated a small produce farm which kept her busy with gardening and farm life. During this time, citrus groves were a large part of the Los Angeles landscape, so along with her siblings and friends, they witnessed the history of pre-urbanization. Her talks of the walks along the marshland to view the continued and new construction of Marina del Rey, and LAX, were fascinating.

She attended school in Venice until the war began. Living along the Pacific Coast, her family was then forced to leave their home and transfer to the Manzanar internment camp in Inyo County, Calif., where Diane graduated from Manzanar High School. During internment, her family continued their hard-working ethic, helping to sew camouflage nets for the war effort and other activities to aid in the war. Diane's wonderful personality and beauty earned her to become one of the Queens of Manzanar.

With her adventurous spirit, she volunteered to travel back east to work at a cannery in Bridgeton, N.J., and months later to Minneapolis, Minn., where she found a dream job working for the Donaldson's department store downtown. It was here that she met her eventual longtime husband Gorge, a 442 regiment soldier on furlough from Europe. A loving marriage that lasted for 75 years.

On Feb. 14, 1946, they married in Minneapolis and soon after relocated in New Plymouth, Idaho, where they operated one of their first business adventures. She was one half of the hard work and management that entailed, all while raising nine children.

They eventually settled in Nampa, Idaho, where beautiful gardens, yards and meals followed this remarkable woman with her culinary distinction and a green thumb. Diane spent her retirement years traveling with Gorge and her family to their favorite locations. She loved the family holidays where traditions were kept, and laughter and conversations were abound.

Diane was preceded in death by her husband, Gorge; parents, Yasuemon and Aki Tani; a son, Gregory Alan; a son, Marc; three brothers, four sisters and two sons-in law (Hiroshi Kawamura and Steve Hamilton). She is survived by her children, Pamela, Georgiane (Warren), Leslie, Greigson, Alan, Ginger (Jon), Bridget (Geoff), Garrin (Angela), grandchildren, great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

We love you, Mom and Dad.

Memorial Service for both Gorge and Diane will be held at the Parkview Cemetery (New Plymouth, Idaho). Please contact Nampa Funeral Home-Yraguen Chapel at (208) 442-8171 for time and date.

A special thank you to Jodi for your wonderful friendship with our parents and being a great friend of our entire family.



**Tanner, Yukie, 87**, Aurora, CO, April 13; she is survived by her husband, Gerald; sons, Jim (Leona) Tanner and John (Lori) Tanner; gc: 3.

**Wong, Pearl, 90**, Daly City, CA, June 8; she was predeceased by her husband, Richard, and her youngest daughter, Melainie (Dean Hedani); she is survived by her daughters, Cookie (Jim Chanteloup) and Michele (Randy Hirai); siblings, Jane, Howard Lau (Doris) and Mamie; gc: 3. ■

## Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL's Mas Hashimoto Dies

By P.C. Staff

In a region known for its towering, long-lived trees, a giant of another sort fell when Watsonville, Calif.'s Masaru Hashimoto died on June 20. He was 86.

According to published reports, in recent years Hashimoto had been fighting pulmonary fibrosis, and he died from its complications.

Known to all as "Mas" — or, according to a Densho oral history, "Mousie" as a boy — the revered and admired educator was born in Watsonville on Sept. 15, 1935, to first-generation Japanese immigrants Nami (Haraguchi) and Ikuta Hashimoto, the seventh and last-born son, preceded by six brothers.

Mas' father died when he was 3. At age 6, his mother and some of his brothers were removed to the Salinas

Assembly Center in California prior to being incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center (Camp 1, followed by Camp 2) in Arizona as a result of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066.

A noted public speaker on the Japanese American experience, Hashimoto was a stalwart and active member of the Japanese American Citizens League's Watsonville-Santa Cruz chapter. Regarding Hashimoto's societal contributions and activism, JACL National President Jeffrey Moy said, "Mas Hashimoto was a pillar of the community, always present for JACL, whether representing Watsonville-Santa Cruz in-person at conventions and other events or digitally through the chapter newsletter. He was steadfast in his beliefs and deeply passionate about civil rights, but also welcoming and well-

respected by all. Through his work as a teacher and community leader, he had a profound impact on countless people across generations. It's hard to imagine a National Council session without his presence, and I know he will be deeply missed by all."

Echoing those sentiments was JACL Executive Director David Inoue, who said, "What Mas will be remembered for is his role as an educator. He imparted his passion for protecting the fundamental civil and human rights of all people to so many of his students and members of the community with whom he interacted. He and I often spoke about the importance of JACL engaging with non-Japanese Americans to ensure that our story is not only remembered but also that they, too, could carry it on to others. It was important that the Japanese American story connect to the experiences of other communities so that we could truly understand our shared fight for justice and develop solidarity with one another."

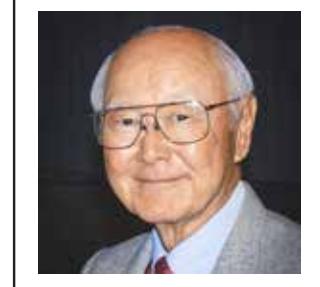
In his adult years, he served in the Army from 1958-60. Mas married Marcia Hashimoto, who survives him, in 1970. Both he and his wife were educators. Mas Hashimoto spent 40 years at Watsonville High School — four as a student and 36

as a teacher of U.S. history before retiring in 1996. During his career, he taught nearly 7,000 students.

Marcia and Mas Hashimoto were also active members of the Watsonville Buddhist Temple. He stayed productive to the end of his life, contributing a column to the *Pacific Citizen* that appeared in the June 24, 2022, issue, a tribute to his late friend, former Transportation Secretary and U.S. Rep. Norman Mineta.

After retiring as a teacher in 1996, Hashimoto continued to educate others as a public speaker. In an oral history with Densho, he said, "I go to different schools . . . to teach about the Japanese American [incarceration] experience. . . . I go to third, fourth grades because it's in the curriculum. Eighth grade, juniors in high school, seniors. If it's seniors, then it's more on civics. So, more on the Korematsu case and Min Yasui and Gordon Hirabayashi, to colleges and university, to Rotary clubs."

According to a published obituary, among Mas Hashimoto's recognitions for his civil service are "Grand Marshall of Watsonville's 4th of July 2011 Parade; KSBW's Jefferson Award; the United Way of Santa Cruz's City Community Hero Award; American Red Cross



**Mas Hashimoto's signature signoff, "Onward!" will always continue to inspire others to take action.**

Lifetime Achievement Award; recognition from LGBTQ organizations; Freedom Rotary Club's Paul Harris Award; JACLer of the Biennium; Buddhist Temple Dana Award; Okamoto Award; recognition by the Consul General of Japan and friends and Family of Nisei Veterans; City, County, and State Assembly Proclamation Awards; Prevention and Student Assistance 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award; and ongoing scholarships in Mas' honor awarded by the Class of '65 to graduates of WHS who are the first in their families to attend college."

To view Hashimoto's TEDx lecture, visit [tinyurl.com/2p8k9j8u](http://tinyurl.com/2p8k9j8u).

To read the transcript of Densho's oral history with Hashimoto, visit [tinyurl.com/2p8mp66m](http://tinyurl.com/2p8mp66m).



**A stalwart JACLer, Mas Hashimoto is pictured at the 2019 National Convention in Salt Lake City with (from left) his wife, Marcia, Victor Kimura and JACL Executive Director David Inoue.**

PHOTO: PACIFIC CITIZEN

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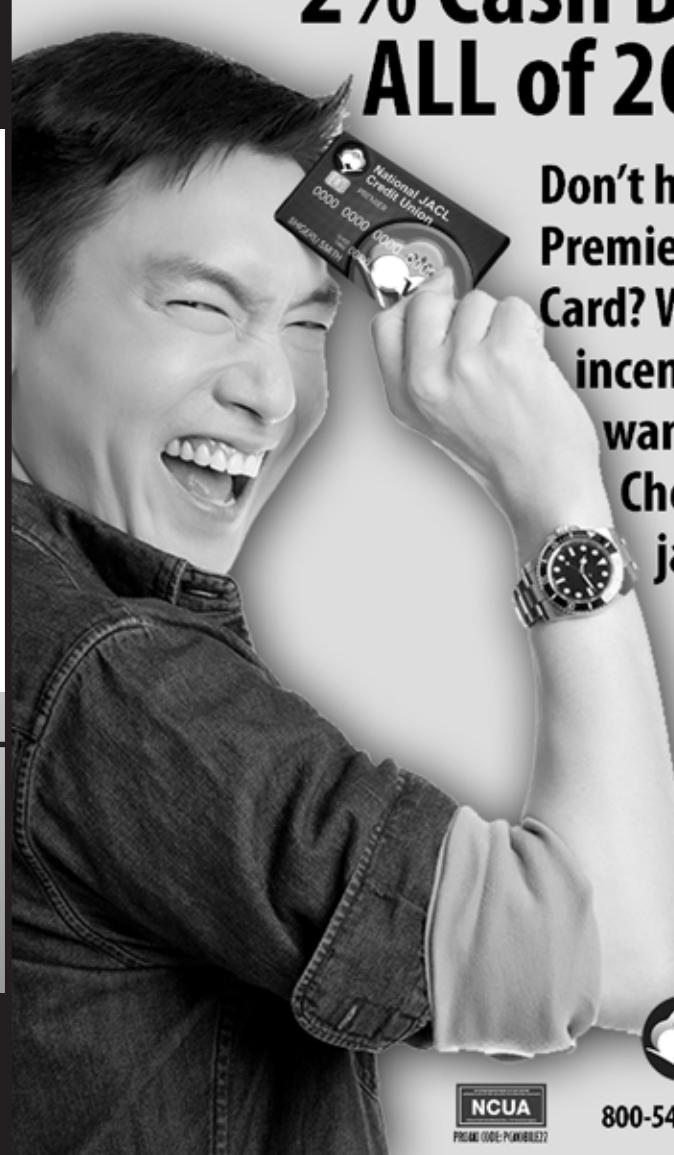
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