SHAPING EDUCATION ACROSS THE U.S.
Teachers from throughout the U.S. convene to learn about the JA incarceration experience.

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Broad Museum Features Takashi Murakami Exhibit.

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MNHS Holds Commemorative Nisei Soldiers Program.

PHOTO: MATTHEW WEISBLY
The 2022 JACL Teacher Training Workshop participants at Manzanar
JACL WELCOMES JACS FUNDING FOR ‘THE LEAGUE OF DREAMS’

By JACL National

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Park Service announced on June 21 its new round of funding for the Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) grant program. In total, 19 grants were funded for $3.4 million, with funding directed toward Japanese American and historical organizations, institutions and community partners aimed toward preserving the legacy and history of former Japanese American confinement sites during WWII. JACL is pleased that its proposal, “The League of Dreams,” was selected as an awardee.

“The League of Dreams” is a joint project between JACL National and celebrated film producer Lane Nishioka and will chronicle the history the JACL, from its founding in 1929 to the present day.

The film will document the organization’s rich 93-year history of advocacy work highlighting its work in fighting prewar racism and discrimination directed toward Japanese Americans. JACL’s activity during WWII, postwar advocacy including immigration reform and engagement in the civil rights movement, the passage of the 1988 Civil Liberties Act and the current focus on how our unique Japanese American experience is applicable to other civil rights struggles.

“There is an urgency I’ve felt for the last five years to document as many of our elder Nisei as we can before we lose them. Now, with the help of National JACL and the National Park Service’s Japanese American Confinement Sites Program award, we will be able to accelerate our efforts exponentially,” stated Nishioka. “Already we captured some great moments with many JACL members, but the most meaningful was the time I was able to spend with Norm Mineta.” This funding will enable JACL to capture more stories such as this to document our history. With more than $38 million in total grants distributed, including this most recent round, the JACS grant program has and continues to provide unparalleled support to the continued retelling and reinterpretation of the Japanese American experience. With these many diverse programs, newer generations of Americans will have the opportunity to learn about the legacy and the lessons of Japanese American wartime incarceration.

JACL CALLS FOR FURTHER REFORM AFTER JULY 4 SHOOTING IN HIGHLAND PARK, ILL.

By JACL National

The JACL was shaken by the recent mass shooting at a parade in Highland Park, Ill., over the 4th of July that left six dead and 38 injured. This attack was one of several mass shootings that occurred over the weekend and marks the most significant gun violence since the expired 10-year assault weapons ban of 1994. Although the new law was in place, some of the red flag provisions may have kept the gunman from acquiring his weapons. Although the recently passed legislation represents the most significant gun violence prevention laws passed in decades, it still falls short of what is needed to prevent the mass murders that have become a daily occurrence.

Congress must go further to pass measures including comprehensive background checks and reinstating the assault weapons ban with more stringent restrictions on high-capacity ammunition. These weapons serve only one purpose — to kill and maim large numbers of people in a short amount of time in the waging of war, and deserve no place in the hands of private citizens.
A former president and his closest colleagues may have sacrificed their own personal interests for the greater interest of our country. Congress that lacks the collegiality that we once knew is so distant in today’s hyperpartisan environment of many factors that seem to have contributed to a lack of redress were Sen. Inouye, who had come to prominence during the Watergate hearings as a member of the Senate Watergate Committee, and Sen. Mineta, who was elected to Congress as part of the Democratic wave in response to the Watergate scandal. It would be an understatement to say that the Jan. 6 insurgency is the modern Watergate. A mob breaking into the Capitol, assaulting the Capitol police and calling for the heads of Vice President Mike Pence and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi makes the Watergate scandal look like a parking violation relatively speaking, and yet our political leadership remains unable to coalesce to agree that what happened was wrong. Just as Watergate defined a generation, where we go from here will define our country. Will we continue down the path of obstruction, where the best form of government is no government, leading to the anarchy of Jan. 6? Or, do we get the leadership we need who will denounce such hyperpartisanship and work to ensure our government serves the people. We are now three months away from the midterm elections. We have seen the impact of past elections that have led to a regressive Supreme Court that values gun rights over the right to life, while ignoring the right of a pregnant woman to determine the future of her own life.

Thierry voting rights will we seek to exercise in November have been eroded by justices who believe only in justice for themselves and their allies, not for equal voting rights for all. The only way we can make a difference on these issues is if we vote, and not only for federal representation, but also for school boards, city council and state legislators. We need for both of our major political parties to engage in the process of legislating and taking part in an honest debate of issues. Right now, we don’t have that, and are faced with an uncertain future unless we make the difference with our votes. I still hold the hope that we can live out the ideals of the Mine-ta-Simpson Institute and return to a political system that works to pass bipartisan legislation like the Civil Liberties Act.

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

### WARNING SIGNS OF ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

At 64 years of age, I’m determined to keep my mind as sharp as possible for as long as possible. Yet, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, symptoms of the disease can first appear after age 60. Furthermore, the risk increases with age, i.e., the number of people living with the disease doubles every five years beyond age 65.

So, when I have trouble remembering somebody’s name, or the name of a restaurant, my “inner retard” sounds the alarm — “Could be early onset Alzheimer’s disease.” Fortunately for me, the Alzheimer’s Assn. lists my occasional memory lapses as “typical age-related change.” Yet, approximately 5.8 million people in the United States age 65 and older live with Alzheimer’s disease. Of those, 80 percent are 75 years old and older (source: www.cdc.gov/aging/aginginfo/alzheimers.htm).

Early intervention is critical to provide help and support as soon as possible. Treatments are more effective when they are started early.

Here are some warning signs of Alz-heimer’s disease from www.alz.org,

1. **Memory Loss That Disrupts Daily Life**
   One of the most common signs of Alzheimer’s disease, especially in the early stage, is forgetting recently learned information. Others include forgetting important dates or events, asking for the same information over and over and increasingly needing to rely on memory aids or family members.

2. **Challenges in Planning or Solving Problems**
   Some people living with dementia may experience changes in their ability to develop and follow a plan or work with numbers. They may have difficulty concentrating and take much longer to do things than they did before.

3. **Difficulty Completing Familiar Tasks**
   People with Alzheimer’s often find it hard to complete daily tasks. Sometimes they may have trouble driving to a familiar location or organizing a grocery list.

4. **Confusion With Time or Place**
   People living with Alzheimer’s can lose track of dates, seasons and the passage of time. They may have trouble understanding something if it is not happening immediately. Sometimes they may forget where they are or how they got there.

5. **Trouble Understanding Visual Images and Spatial Relationships**
   For some, having vision problems is a sign of Alzheimer’s. This may lead to difficulty with balance or trouble reading. They may also have problems judging distance and determining color or contrast.

6. **What’s a typical age-related change?**
   Getting confused about the day of the week but figuring it out later.

7. **Misplacing Things and Losing the Ability to Retrace Steps**
   A person living with Alzheimer’s may put things in unusual places. They may lose things. He or she may accuse others of stealing, especially as the disease progresses.

8. **Decreased or Poor Judgment**
   Individuals may experience changes in judgment or decision-making. For example, they may use poor judgment when dealing with money or pay less attention to grooming or keeping themselves clean.

9. **What’s a typical age-related change?**
   Making a bad decision or mistake once in a while.

10. **Withdrawal From Work or Social Activities**
    A person living with Alzheimer’s may experience changes in the ability to hold or follow a conversation. They may also have problems judging distance and determining color or contrast.

11. **What’s a typical age-related change?**
    Vision changes related to cataracts.

12. **New Problems With Words in Speaking or Writing**
    People living with Alzheimer’s may have trouble following or join- ing a conversation. They may stop in the middle of a conversation and have no idea how to continue or they may repeat themselves.

13. **What’s a typical age-related change?**
    Sometimes feeling uninter- ested in family or social obligations.

14. **Changes in Mood and Personality**
    Individuals living with Alzhei- mer’s may experience changes in mood and personality changes. They can become confused, suspicious, depressed, fearful or anxious. They may be easily upset at home or with friends or when out of their comfort zone.

15. **What’s a typical age-related change?**
    Developing very specific ways of doing things and becoming irritable when a routine is disrupted. If you notice one or more signs in yourself or another person, talk to a doctor. It’s natural to feel uncertain or nervous about discussing these changes with others. Voicing worries about your own health might make them seem more “real.” Or, you may fear upsetting someone by sharing observations about changes in his or her abilities or behavior. However, these are significant health concerns that should be evaluated by a doctor, and it’s important to take action to figure out what’s going on.

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@elderalawcalifornia.com. The opinions expressed in this article are the author’s own and do not necessarily reflect the views of Pacific Citizen or constitute legal or tax advice and should not be treated as such.
JAVA HOLDS DAY OF AFFIRMATION CEREMONY

The third-annual event commemorates the anniversary of President Truman’s review of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team at the White House in 1946.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Japanese American Veterans Assn. held its third annual Day of Affirmation wreath ceremony at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., on July 15 to commemorate the anniversary of President Harry S. Truman’s review of the returning 442nd Regimental Combat Team on the White House Ellipse on July 15, 1946.

The event is named the “Day of Affirmation” because President Truman’s salute to the Japanese American soldiers affirmed that all Japanese American soldiers, men and women, who served during World War II were to be regarded as America’s heroes and removed any doubt that they were loyal citizens of the U.S. Said Truman, “You fought not only the enemy, but you fought prejudice — and you have won.”

“The Japanese American Veterans Assn. is proud to present this wreath to honor the legacy forced by the valor and patriotism of the Japanese American men and women who served during WWII,” said Gerald Yamada, president of JAVA, during his ceremony remarks.

This year’s participants in the wreath ceremony are historically meaningful. Serving as the military escort was LTC Robert Vokac, U.S. Army Ret., grandson of Col. Virgil R. Miller, who was the commanding officer of the 442nd RCT starting with the battle to save the Texas Lost Battalion.

Also participating was Sandra Tanamachi, whose uncle, Saburo Tanamachi, was killed in action while serving with the 442nd RCT in its efforts to save the Texas Lost Battalion and is one of the first Japanese Americans to be buried at Arlington National Ceremony. Col. Miller was a pallbearer at Saburo Tanamachi’s funeral.

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The Day of Affirmation Wreath at Price of Freedom Wall at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

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ON VIEW NOW

Two noteworthy exhibitions at the Broad — ‘Takashi Murakami: Stepping on the Tail of a Rainbow’ and ‘This Is Not America’s Flag’ — reflect our interconnectedness over separateness.

By Alissa Hiraga, Contributor

As we rekindle after years of on-again/off-again isolation, art appears anew in museum spaces to heal and inspire us. Two new exhibits at the Broad art museum in downtown Los Angeles showcase the expansive artistic universe with an exhibit by Takashi Murakami entitled “Takashi Murakami: Stepping on the Tail of a Rainbow” and a special exhibition by more than 20 artists called “This Is Not America’s Flag.”

Fans of Takashi Murakami know it has been more than 20 years since “Superflat,” which examined Japanese art and animation’s inclination toward two-dimensionality. Murakami’s first solo exhibition “Takashi Murakami: Stepping on the Tail of a Rainbow” has recently emerged with 18 works, including the 32-foot-wide “100 Arhats” and the 82-foot-wide “In the Land of the Dead, Stepping on the Tail of a Rainbow.”

Fans will instantly recognize Murakami’s Mr. DOB in DOB in the Strange Forest sculpture. The works are Murakami’s expression of the human experience, war, pop culture and our global environment.

The exhibition will charm visitors with its augmented reality (AR) features. As Murakami’s characters appear, one might wonder if they are in your world or if you are in theirs.

Murakami and the artists of his Kaikai Kiki studio have sensed the metaverse for some time now, rendering art using digital mediums in what seems like light years ago. The immersive exhibition reflects our next-level journey — how we interact with technology and ultimately how we interact or will interact with one another.

Ed Schad, curator and publications manager at the Broad, shared his perspective: “I think that digital-experiences will continue to become increasingly available as a part of a museum visit. For a place like the Broad that is committed to expanding engagement, digital experiences offer expanded ways to do it.

“The job of a museum is to document, interpret and exhibit culture, and large swaths of culture are going in this direction,” Schad continued. “What makes Murakami’s use of digital worlds special is that it is a logical extension of what he has always done as an artist. Especially evidenced by his interpretation of manga and anime in ‘Superflat,’ Murakami goes where the energies of culture can be found, whether that is art made for galleries or art made for crypto wallets. The pandemic definitely shifted energies further toward digital realms, and I would guess that Murakami’s work will continue to pursue and interpret that shift.”

Another exhibition presented by the Broad was conceived from important discourse and the tragic consequences of racism. Importantly, the exhibition “This Is Not America’s Flag” represents hope — hope that we the people understand the histories that exist, and that we the people will challenge and disrupt injustices and inequities when we see them.

According to the Broad website, the exhibition was developed conceptually in the summer of 2020 during the groundswell of activism for racial justice in the wake of the murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor. . . . The exhibition includes works that both embrace the flag as the symbol of the nation and its ideals and subvert it to express injustices and inequities woven into the fabric of the U.S., past and present.

“This Is Not America’s Flag,” inspired by Jasper Johns’ “Flag” (created in 1967 during the height of the Vietnam War) and David Hammons’ “African-American Flag” (which delivers a sense of pride and confirms the presence of African-Americans in the U.S. and how being Black and American are one and the same) disrupts the flag’s idealized symbolism, inclusive of the country’s history of racial injustices and inequities.

Also among the works of 20 artists, including Laura Aguilar, Nicole Eisenman, Jeffrey Gibson, Jaar, as well as Johns and Hammons, is Wendy Red Star’s “The Indian Congress, 2021,” a powerful mixed-media installation with cutouts of leaders from Native American nations arranged in rows on a replica booth adorned with a U.S. flag motif, signifying in part the U.S.’s expansion into Native and Indigenous territories. Red Star’s work reminds the viewer of the important role we each have in honoring Native American histories and the traditional owners of the land.

See VIEW on page 9
JACL TEACHER TRAINING ‘CIVIL LIBERTIES IN TIMES OF CRISIS’ SHAPES EDUCATION ACROSS THE COUNTRY

The organization invites 72 teachers throughout the U.S. to learn about the Japanese American incarceration experience.

By Emily Murase, Contributor

As part of the National Endowment for the Humanities’ “Landmarks of American History and Culture” educator training workshops, the JACL selected educators from across the country to participate in the organization’s “Civil Liberties in Times of Crisis: The Japanese American Experience” over two sessions, six days each, which were held from June 19-24 and July 10-15.

The workshop was developed by Program Co-Directors Phillip Ozaki and Matthew Weisbly of the National JACL and Program Faculty Professor Susan Kamei of the University of Southern California and Professor Sharon Ishii-Jordan of Creighton University. Limited spots in the workshops were in high demand.

According to Ozaki: “Our team scored 192 applications for 72 spots and looked for highly qualified teachers from different parts of the country, especially those in states where one teacher learning about Asian American Pacific Islander history and civil liberties could make a significant difference to a home learning community.”

Added Weisbly, “The point of the workshops is to teach 50 who will teach another 50.”

Participants came from Arkansas, Alabama, Northern and Southern California, Hawaii, Kentucky, Montana, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin, among other states.

“For some participants, this was their first trip to Los Angeles and, for many, a first visit to Little Tokyo,” said Weisbly. Most participants had some previous exposure to Japanese American history. Kymberly Mattern, a middle school social studies teacher from New York, studied the experiences of Indigenous peoples and Black history but had limited knowledge of Japanese American history.

“All I really knew about Japanese Americans was the World War II incarceration. At my Northern Virginia high school, we read (David Guterson’s) “Snow Falling on Cedars” in English, but never learned about [the Japanese American experience] in U.S. history class. . . . Before this workshop, I had never even really considered Hawaii as being part of Japanese American history. I am now inspired to teach noncontinental history,” said Mattern.

Cyrus Knower, a high school teacher from Philadelphia, explained that his interest in the workshop was rooted in the kinds of students he teaches.

“Many of my students come from immigrant families (Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic),” he shared. “Since Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory, Puerto Ricans enjoy some, but not all, of the same rights as full U.S. citizens. I know the issue of the rights of Japanese Americans during WWII will resonate with my students.”

“We had a home learning community,” said Min Tonai, a 96-year-old survivor of Santa Anita and later Amache in Colorado, about his family’s experiences during WWII.

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“Hearing firsthand from Mitch Maki and John Tateishi about how the Federal Commission [on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians] allowed families to share and generations to heal was exceptional. I have truly been blown away by the firsthand storytelling,” stated one workshop participant.

An important component of the workshop was field trips to Santa Anita Horse Racetrack (formerly Santa Anita Assembly Center) and the Manzanar National Historic Site (aka Manzanar Incarceration Camp) with Nisei survivors June Aochi Berk and Min Tonai, as well as Sansei Pat Sakamoto.

Berk was just 10 years old when she and her family were forced from their Los Angeles home to the Santa Anita Racetrack, where they were confined while the Rohwer incarceration camp in Arkansas was being constructed.

Raised on Terminal Island, Tonai is a 96-year-old survivor of Santa Anita and the Amache incarceration camp in Colorado who later served in the Korean War. Pat Sakamoto was born in Manzanar and regularly shares her family history with groups visiting the Manzanar National Historic Site.

One workshop participant explained, “The opportunity to . . . listen to June Aochi Berk say, ‘That horse stall was where I lived’ while experiencing the smells of the mure, the feel of the dust and the heat of the sun unveils the reality in our nation’s history that must be understood and acknowledged.”

The trip to Manzanar was equally impactful. According to one workshop participant, “Hearing a first-hand account of the experiences and losses from the incarceration camp (Manzanar) while at the same time hearing this survivor’s story along with the . . . relentless wind while standing in the California desert is an experience I’ll always have to share with my classes.”

Another participant observed, “During our trip to Manzanar, the long, four-hour drive from Los Angeles allowed us to experience the shock of the geographical change, the isolation and the feeling of seclusion Japanese Americans who were forcibly moved to Manzanar must have felt.”

Once at Manzanar, participants were greeted by Alisa Lynch, chief of interpretation for the MNHS, who said, “This place vibrates with history.”

Survivor Pat Morikawa stated, “My name was Pat Morikawa, Number 3959, my family number.”

The visit diverged from Mattern’s expectations. “I went into the workshops thinking I would hear a standard history,” she reflected. “Instead, I heard about a kid’s perspective that the incarceration camp was like ‘summer camp’; riding the bus for the first time, sneaking out to see the movies, going out with friends. I was exposed to the role of incarcerated parents shielding their children from the full horrible context, the implications of what was actually going on. It’s really moving that the parents did that. It’s actually really sad.”

Program Faculty Ishii-Jordan facilitated a similar NEH workshop in 2016 and co-developed JACL’s one-day teacher training workshop that has been in use for more than 25 years.

In reflecting on this year’s workshops, she stated: “It is very important for JACL members to understand that the JACL’s enduring commitment to teacher education is truly valuable. These teachers carry on the legacy of our parents and grandparents, their experiences and the impact of government actions in times of crisis. If the JACL doesn’t maintain this commitment, teachers will not have the opportunity to continue this legacy.”

Program Faculty Kamei recognized the contributions of all of the workshop staff. “In their evaluations, participants were very appreciative of opportunities to speak with former incarcerees, author Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, but especially the personal stories of Yonsei Phillip (Ozaki) and his Nisei grandfather, and Gosei Matthew (Weisbly’s) Eastern European and Jewish heritage, Sharon’s family history located in the Midwest and mixed with Eastern European heritage, plus my own family history, including my parents, who were founding members of the SE-LANOC (Southeast Los Angeles and North Orange County) JACL chapter — in short, the spectrum of experiences from within the JA community.”

In-depth: TEACHER TRAINING FEEDBACK

‘This was probably the most powerful and meaningful professional development I have ever done. Presentations from Nisei survivors and the stories they told in person and at Santa Anita and Manzanar were like nothing I have ever experienced.’

—Workshop Participant

‘Each of the topics reviewed, from the idea of a “Community Interrupted” to “Shaping Imagery” (Art in the Camps) and the “Impact of Incarceration” were topics relevant to my U.S. History classes today.’

—Workshop Participant

‘Traveling to Santa Anita Park and Manzanar were essential to understanding what Japanese Americans experienced.’

—Workshop Participant

‘The feelings and emotions these historic sites evoked will have a significant impact on my teaching.’

—Workshop Participant

‘I am carefully processing the material we learned, and the story will find its way into my school’s curriculum in more meaningful, cohesive and specific ways.’

—Workshop Participant

‘I plan on working with my district’s Humanities department to develop grade-level appropriate lessons about the Japanese American experience and Executive Order 9066 and a district-wide recognition for the Day of Remembrance.’

—Workshop Participant

‘If we want truth in information, it is very important to work with teachers.’

—Sharon Ishii-Jordan

‘Know that your messages will be shared back in my hometown.’

—Workshop Participant

‘I will never forget.’

—Anonymous.
‘GO FOR BROKE’

The Manzanar National Historic Site honors Nisei soldiers and their commemorative ‘Go For Broke’ stamp during the July 4 holiday.

By Charles James, Contributor

The Manzanar National Historic Site hosted a special program over the July 4 holiday to honor the estimated 33,000 Japanese American soldiers that served in the U.S. Military during World War II and promote the issuance of a U.S. Postal Service “Go For Broke” commemorative stamp honoring the patriotism and bravery of the Nisei Japanese American soldiers that served during the war with the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service and Women’s Army Corps. The 442nd RCT’s motto, “Go For Broke,” signified their commitment to “putting everything on the line” when fighting. They lived up to their motto, “run by a lot of war hysteria . . . prejudice and racism that really made people want to turn against Americans who happened to be of Japanese heritage.”

According to Manzanar’s Chief Interpretive Ranger, Alysia Lynch Broch, the July 4 holiday program was the first opportunity the Manzanar National Historic Site has been able to host a live in-person public event since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Her husband, Alan Broch, is the former postmaster in Independence, Calif. During the event, sold stamps and postmarked cards from Manzanar to visitors during the program.

Darrell Kunitomi (left) gave a presentation on his Uncle Ted Fujioka, who was killed in France during WWII at the age of 19.

PHOTO: CHARLES JAMES

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The current chairman of the Stamp Our Story Committee is Wayne Osako. Osako joined Takahashi, Ohira and King in 2006 when working as a teacher for the Go For Broke National Education Center in Los Angeles. Osako proved instrumental in garnering support from various groups and was especially effective with the campaign’s social media aspects, which would be required for the plan to succeed.

Osako, who spoke at the MNHS program, said that both of his parents were Americans, born and raised in the U.S., and had been incarcerated during WWII.

“It was really a tragic era,” he said, “run by a lot of war hysteria . . . prejudice and racism that really made people want to turn against Americans who happened to be of Japanese heritage.”

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Darrell Kunitomi spoke after Osako, telling the audience about his 19-year-old uncle Teruo “Ted” Fujioka, who was killed in France during WWII at the age of 19. Kunitomi’s Uncle Ted was incarcerated at the Hollywood Hills, but shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, the family was first sent into detention at the Santa Ana Racetrack in Arcadia, Calif., before being sent to Heart Mountain.

His death, he wrote many letters to his friends and family. Kunitomi shared several passages of “Uncle Ted’s” letters with the audience.

Interestingly, Fujioka never wrote about the battles or the war. What he did write about was the importance of patriotism and the need for other Nisei to fight for the U.S. in order to guarantee their freedoms in the future, despite the incarceration of nearly 120,000 individuals of Japanese descent under the guise of “military necessity” and security.

The MNHS will be posting Kunitomi’s talk on YouTube in the near future. It is compelling to hear the words of Kunitomi’s 19-year-old Uncle Ted, especially in today’s political environment with the rise in racial enmity against Asian Americans and the re-emergence of white supremacy in American politics.

After the program segment by Kunitomi, Celeste Sakato spoke briefly about her mother and family, who were incarcerated at Manzanar from June 1942-August 1945. Her mother was in high school in Santa Monica, Calif., when her family was sent to Manzanar. Sakato spoke about how her mother described the poor conditions found when the family arrived and what they needed to do to survive. Sakato had three cousins born in Manzanar. Her father’s family lived in Redlands, Calif., but were able to move to Arizona rather than be sent to an incarceration camp. As with many other families, many of her uncles also served during WWII with the 442nd/100th.

There are many inspirational books and websites that speak to the bravery of the Nisei Japanese American soldiers during World War II. The 442nd became the most-decorated American military unit ever for its size and length of service. The 1951 movie “Go For Broke,” starring actor Van Johnson and several actual 442nd soldiers, is one of the few movies to acknowledge the contributions of Nisei soldiers. It gives an overall view of the 442’s story and is no longer under copyright protection, it can be viewed for free on YouTube. “Go For Broke” stamps are available at the U.S. post office and can also be ordered online.
In Dorothea Lange’s “Interior View of Japanese American Citizens League Headquarters, Centerville, California,” a framed photo is seemingly diminutive against the wall but more arresting once the visitor looks closer.

“Dorothea Lange’s photograph was taken in 1942 and is the earliest work in the exhibition and the only work made during the World War II era,” said Sarah Loyer, curator and exhibitions manager at the Broad. “Despite being an outlier in this way (all of the other works were made from the 1960s to the present), it is an exceptional example of an artist voicing criticism by engaging the U.S. flag. Like many artists in the exhibition, Lange relies on our shared understanding that the flag represents the rights to freedom and justice.”

An intentional crop of the U.S. flag in the photo is symbolic of Lange’s opposition to Executive Order 9066. The other side of the photo shows a Japanese American baseball team on the lower half; the upper half shows Japanese and Japanese American members of the Japanese American Citizens League Headquarters.

Loyer added: “Here Lange captures images of imprisoned Americans next to the flag meant to represent them and their rights to freedom and justice, a juxtaposition meant to shine light on how the government’s actions were in violation of these rights.”

“Takashi Murakami: Stepping on the Tail of a Rainbow” and “This Is Not America’s Flag” are both on view at the Broad until Sept. 25. To experience the AR feature, bring a smartphone with the latest version of the Instagram app. For more information, visit https://www.thebroad.org/art.

Further information on “Interior View of Japanese American Citizens’ League Headquarters, Centerville, California” can be found at https://www.getty.edu/art/collection/object/108FZQ.

Dorothea Lange (American, 1895-1965), photographer Interior View of Japanese-American Citizens League Headquarters, Centerville, California, negative April 7, 1942; print about 1960s Gelatin silver print, 20.2 x 30.5 cm (7 15/16 x 12 in.). The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, Gift of the John Dixon Collection, 2000.52.1

Just as the first workshop was wrapping up, a national controversy erupted over Julie Otsuka’s 2002 award-winning novel “When the Emperor Was Divine,” which is based on the author’s family history with the incarceration at the Topaz incarceration camp in Utah.

A Wisconsin school board rejected the recommendation from district teachers to include the book in the 10th grade Advance Placement English curriculum. It was dropped on the basis that it lacked “balance” and supposedly did not fully present the American government perspective. According to the book’s publisher, Alfred A. Knopf, the book is taught in hundreds of schools nationwide.

In a strongly worded letter to the Muskego-Norway School District dated June 13, 2022, JACL National’s board member of the Washington, D.C., and Tokyo JACL chapters. She previously was a board member of the San Francisco JACL chapter and serves as Executive Director of the Japantown Task Force. Previously, she was a board member of the Washington, D.C., and Tokyo JACL chapters. She is very excited to become the newest contributor to the Pacific Citizen.

Program faculty Sharon Ishii-Jordan speaks to participants.

PHOTO: MATTHEW WEISBLY

The educator workshop would not have been possible without the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Japanese American National Museum, the Manzanar Committee, the Go For Broken Education Fund, the Miyako Hotel and the Little Tokyo Historical Society.

Emily Moto Murase, PhD, is a board member of the San Francisco JACL chapter and serves as Executive Director of the Japantown Task Force. Previously, she was a board member of the Washington, D.C., and Tokyo JACL chapters. She is very excited to become the newest contributor to the Pacific Citizen.

PHOTO: MATTHEW WEISBLY

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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.

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, 12-3 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 Fuji, Kathy Fuji-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 lives of the film “Sansei Granddaughters’ Journey” in hyperenlarged form or reimagined as little-known photographs by Dorothea Lange and Ruth Orkin that they never knew were resting places for the living children that they have in our lives. Info: Visit www.ncwnp.org for more information.

PALO ALTO/BAY AREA

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 www.buddhistchurch.org.

BASEBALL’S BRIDGE TO THE PACIFIC: CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF JAPANESE AMERICAN BASEBALL
Los Angeles, CA
Dodger Stadium
1000 Vin Scully Ave.
Price: Free
This exhibit pays tribute to the 80th anniversary of Executive Order 9066 and the 150th anniversary of U.S.-Japan Diplomacy. It consists of historical panels and printed artifacts that chronicle the introduction of baseball to Japan in the early 1870s to the first Japanese American teams in 1903. The early tours by these Kikei teams to Asia starting in 1914 helped usher in the start of professional baseball in Japan in 1936.

PHONE PIERCE BRONZE DRUM
East Coast
Aug. 16; 7 p.m.
Virtual Event
Price: Free
Phong Nguyen talks with William Pierce about his novel of ancient Vietnam based on the true story of two warrior sisters who raised an army of women to overthrow the Han Chinese and rule as kings over a united people. This event is presented by Brookline Books.

PSW

Baseball's Bridge to the Pacific: Celebrating the Legacy of Japanese American Baseball
Los Angeles, CA
Dodger Stadium
1000 Vin Scully Ave.
Price: $29.75 (includes book copy)
This year’s event marks a return to an in-person celebration of Japanese culture featuring bonsai, martial arts, singing, dancing, drumming delicious foods and all other aspects of Japanese culture. This important cultural event will celebrate ancestral spirits and feature lighted lanterns that will help guide familial ancestral spirits back to their resting places.
Info: To purchase advance tickets, visit https://webstore1.centroamericanspcaon.org/comozooconservatory/calendar/1000014.

IDC

Translators’ Revolution’
Book Talk: ‘Babel: Or the Necessity
of Translation’
Portland, OR
Aug. 6; 6-8 p.m.
Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 S.E. 34th Ave.
Price: Free
Come and celebrate Japanese culture at this year’s in-person Obon gathering at the Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple Obon. Food, music, dancing, cultural exhibits will be featured and include offerings for the entire family.

APRIL-SEPTEMBER

JAPANESE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF OKLAHOMA
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 who 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 rejected by their culture.
MEMORIAM

Ando, Hiroshi, 91, Los Gatos, CA, May 17; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Heart Mountain WRA Center in WY; veteran, USAF (Korean War); he is survived by his wife, Sachiko; daughters, Carolyn Ando-Verwilt (Bart), Gayle Barkdoll (Andy) and Lorraine Tatsukawa (John); siblings, Minoru Ando and Sayuri Yamanishi; gc: 6.

Hayashi, Marilyn, 91, Skokie, IL, May 18; she is survived by her children, Lynne Oshima-Wong (George), Ellen Patnichak (Cari) and Karen Nakagawa (Terry); gc: 6; ggc: 2.

Iida, Glenn, 74, Santa Clara, CA, May 12; veteran, USAF (Vietnam War); he is survived by his wife, Karen; daughters, Valerie (Eric) and Denise (Tyler); siblings, Mike (Carolyn) and Nona; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 2.

Imoto, Kinuyo Jane Omori, 89, Vista, CA, May 5.

Kimura, Phillip, 53, San Carlos, CA, May 10; he is survived by his parents, Tom and Jo; sister, Julie.

Minami, Fumiyo, 89, San Gabriel, CA, April 28; she is survived by her husband, Mitsuji; son, Michael (Jane); gc: 3; ggc: 6.

Nakagawa, Hiro, 95, Santa Clara, CA, May 20; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ; veteran, Army; he was predeceased by his wife, Kimiko; he is survived by his children, Victor (Dennita), Doug (Trace) and Susan (Dan); gc: 7; ggc: 7.

Nakagawa, Edward Takeshi, 87, Battle Ground, WA, May 6; author of the novel, “Tule Lake”; he is survived by his wife, Mary; adopted children, Kimiko Griffith, Isaac Miyakawa, Huong Komanecik, Mahn Miyakawa, Keith Miyakawa and Kanka Hanson; sisters, Caroline Adams and Marylyn Miyakawa; gc: 7.

Sasaki, Lilly, 84, Montebello, CA, April 24; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Gila River WRA Center in AZ; she was predeceased by her husband, Ted; she is survived by her daughters, Susan Tuggy (Stephen), Nancy Sasaki and Kathy Sasaki (Billy Gifford); siblings, Izad Inadomi, Minoru Inadomi (Taye) and Grace Naruse (James); gc: 2.

Taniguchi, Kazuto, 96, Gardena, CA, May 12; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ; inducted into Army (442nd RCT, L Co.); recipient, Congressional Gold Medal; he was predeceased by his wife, Mitt; siblings and in-laws, Hatsumi (Ben) Ogata, Tsutako (Minoru) Takata, Itsuko (Mark) Asada, Natsuko (Flavio) Ciferri, Torazo (Teiko) Taniguchi and Henry Kato; he is survived by his children, Warren (Lisa Tanka-ka) Taniguchi, Lori (Terry Stewart) Taniguchi, Larry Taniguchi and Pat Taniguchi; sister, Yasuye Kato; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Tetamoto, Wallace Yasuyuki, 89, Honolulu, HI, May 14.

Furukawa, Naoye Marian, 99, Sacramento, CA, May 15; he is survived by his wife, Sachiko; daughters, Carolyn Ando-Verwilt (Bart), Gayle Barkdoll (Andy) and Lorraine Tatsukawa (John); siblings, Minoru Ando and Sayuri Yamanishi; gc: 6.

Imoto, Kinuyo Jane Omori, 89, Vista, CA, May 5.

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Serata, Henry, 89, San Francisco, CA, June 8; during World War II, his family and he were incarcerated at the Topaz WRA Center in UT; veteran, Army (Korean War); he is survived by his wife, Adelina; daughters, Teresa Serata (Charly Kagay) and Louise Heckert (Bruce); gc: 4.; ggc: 1.

Serata, Joseph, 80, San Francisco, CA, Aug. 22, 2022, at the Midwest Buddhist Temple of Chicago, 435 W. Menomonee St., Chicago, IL 60614. The service will be livestreamed at bit.ly/MayNakano. The community will miss her delicious cooking and her refreshing honesty.

Simmons, Marcie, 87, Burbank, CA, July 4, 2022, in Chicago. She was predeceased by her parents, Masao and Hisako Kawamoto; and her sister, Amy Kawamoto. She is survived by her brother, Ted Kawamoto; children, Megan and Matt Nakano; nephew, Jon-Erik (Julia) Kawamoto; and grandnephew, Ben Kawamoto. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. CT on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022, at the Midwest Buddhist Temple of Chicago, 435 W. Menomonee St., Chicago, IL 60614. The service will belivestreamed at bit.ly/MayNakano. The community will miss her delicious cooking and her refreshing honesty.

Takano, George, 86, Sunnyvale, CA, April 25; she was predeceased by her husband, Isuwo Hiroshima, Noby Amanoto, Sadie Katayama, Janice Hiroshina and Bob Hiroshina; she is survived by her husband, Masamichi; daughters, Tracey Kemp (Jeremy Kemp) and Wanda Nakano; sisters, Asami Endo and Nardine Kawamoto; and her sister, Amy Kawamoto. She is survived by her children, Victor (Dennita), Doug (Trace) and Susan (Dan); gc: 7; ggc: 7.

The community will miss her delicious cooking and her refreshing honesty.

Taniyama, Sada, 95, Los Angeles, CA, May 15; she is survived by her daughter, Hitoko Katayama (Henry); gc: 2; ggc: 4.

Hanaoka, Stanley, 94, Los Angeles, CA, July 4, 2022, at Kanto At Home in Los Angeles. He was a member of the 442nd and Retired from the Civil Service.

FUJIKI MORTUARY

KUBOTA Sharing. Community. Legacy.

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 or call (213) 620-1767 ext. 104

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the death of May Nakano (née Satsuki Kawamoto). May was born on May 31, 1943, at the East Lillooet Japanese Canadian Internment Camp in Bridge, Sver, British Columbia, and passed away on July 4, 2022, in Chicago. She was predeceased by her parents, Masao and Hisako Kawamoto; and her sister, Amy Kawamoto. She is survived by her brother, Ted Kawamoto; children, Megan and Matt Nakano; nephew, Jon-Erik (Julia) Kawamoto; and grandnephew, Ben Kawamoto. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. CT on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022, at the Midwest Buddhist Temple of Chicago, 435 W. Menomonee St., Chicago, IL 60614. The service will be livestreamed at bit.ly/MayNakano. The community will miss her delicious cooking and her refreshing honesty.

TRIBUTE
WISCONSIN’S 35 MOST INFLUENTIAL ASIAN AMERICAN LEADERS INCLUDE JACLERS

Ron Kuramoto and Kevin Miyazaki are selected to Madison365’s annual list of community leaders.

By Cheryl Lund

Two members of the JACL Wisconsin chapter were recognized recently by the nonprofit news publication Madison365 as being among Wisconsin’s most influential Asian American leaders: Ron Kuramoto, JACL Wisconsin chapter president, and Kevin Miyazaki, JACL Wisconsin chapter board member.

Kuramoto and Miyazaki were selected to the publication’s 2022 list “Wisconsin’s 35 Most Influential Asian American Leaders.” Madison365 has been recognizing Black and Latino leaders in Wisconsin since 2015. In 2020, the publication began recognizing Indigenous and Asian American leaders.

Wisconsin has approximately 194,000 AAPI as of 2020, with the largest populations being ethnically Hmong, Indian and Chinese (source: aapidata.com).

Kuramoto has served in numerous professional and board positions for nonprofit organizations in both the Southern California and greater Milwaukee areas over the past 40 years, including Public Allies, the Wisconsin Nonprofits Assn., Future Milwaukee Leadership Programs and Leadership Wisconsin.

This year as an AAPI Coalition of Wisconsin board member, he successfully advocated for the use of the Asian American Education Project to provide free professional development workshops for K-12 educators through the Wisconsin Association of School Boards.

Also in conjunction with AAPI Coalition of Wisconsin, Kuramoto spoke at the Wisconsin Council for Social Studies Conference on the Japanese American incarceration experience and helped to develop and film the “Celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage in the Classroom” webinar with PBS Wisconsin.

And in mid-July, Kuramoto was a featured speaker at a widely covered teach-in that was organized by parents, students and the AAPI Coalition of Wisconsin. The protest was held as a result of the Muskego Wisconsin School Board’s refusal to accept Julie Otsuko’s incarceration novel “When the Emperor Was Divine” as part of its curriculum (https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/education/2022/07/18/rally-backs-book-rejected-muskego-focus-japanese-americans/10051434002/).

Kevin Miyazaki

Miyazaki is an artist and photographer based in Wauwatosa, Wis. His artwork focuses on issues of ethnicity, migration and place, often addressing family history and the incarceration experience of Japanese Americans during World War II.

He is also a food, cookbook and travel photographer whose assignment work has taken him to 22 countries and 30 states for clients such as the New York Times, Food Network and Architectural Digest.


In addition, Miyazaki completed a solo gallery exhibit entitled “Incarceration, Friend or Foe” in Racine, Wis., and has been featured in galleries all over the U.S., including New Jersey, New York City, San Francisco and Seattle.

Among his accolades are being the recipient of the Mary L. Nohl Fund Fellowship and being hosted as an artist in residence at the Center for Photography at Woodstock.

Miyamoto attended Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in 1990.