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SPECIAL VETERAN'S BATTLE

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'DEFINING COURAGE'

Nisei Vets' WWII Saga
Goes Live and In Person.

In a visit to Italy to record material for "Defining Courage," David Ono and Jeff MacIntyre came across this helmet that had been stored in a wine cellar for nearly 80 years. It is believed to have belonged to the 442nd's Stanley Hayami, who was killed in action.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF DAVID ONO

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Adm. Harry Harris Jr.
on a Possible China-
Taiwan Conflict.

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'Operation Utah'
Memorializes the
Fallen During the
Vietnam War.

Sen. Jani Iwamoto Awarded the Eleanor Roosevelt Award

By Floyd Mori

Utah State Sen. Jani Iwamoto is the recipient of this year's Eleanor Roosevelt Award, which was presented to her at the Utah Democratic Party's 29th annual Eleanor Roosevelt Award Luncheon on Oct. 3 at the Little America Hotel in downtown Salt Lake City. Sen. Iwamoto has announced her retirement from the Senate after this term.

Sen. Iwamoto was elected to the Utah State Senate in 2014. She serves in Senate leadership as Assistant Minority Caucus Whip, as well as a member of nearly two dozen legislative committees. She is passionate about criminal and social justice issues, campus safety and environmental quality.

Iwamoto previously served on the Salt Lake County Council, where she became the first Asian American

woman elected to a political office in the state of Utah.

The Oct. 3 awards program began with a welcome by Diane Lewis, who also gave closing remarks, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Gwen Springmeyer, who was awarded the Eleanor Roosevelt Award in 2021. After the invocation, Executive Director Thom DeSiraant gave remarks. The presentation of the award was given by Karen Hale, former Utah State Senator and a previous awardee.

During her acceptance speech, Sen. Iwamoto told much of the story of Japanese Americans during World War II when they faced extreme discrimination and were placed in American concentration camps. She mentioned Eleanor Roosevelt's disagreement with her husband, President Franklin D. Roosevelt,

Sen. Jani Iwamoto is pictured with her family as she accepted the Eleanor Roosevelt Award on Oct. 3 in Salt Lake City.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF FLOYD MORI



with regard to the treatment of Japanese Americans during the period of WWII.

Also on hand to congratulate Sen. Iwamoto were her husband, Steve, along with her mother and daughter, in addition to many of her friends from the community.

Among her many accolades, Sen. Iwamoto was a founding member of the Asian Pacific American Women's

Leadership Institute, and she has been a speaker for the New American Leadership Project, Asian Pacific American Institute of Congressional Studies, Asian Pacific Islander American Health Initiative, American Association of University Women, Hinckley Institute of Politics at the University of Utah, League of Women Voters, Real Women Run and other national and local organizations. ■

'MOMENTOUS': Asian Americans Laud Anna Mae Wong's U.S. Quarter

Anna Mae Wong was the first Chinese American film star in Hollywood.

PHOTO: U.S. MINT



By Associated Press

More than 60 years after Anna Mae Wong became the first Asian American woman to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, the pioneering actor has coined another first, quite literally.

With quarters bearing her face and manicured hand set to start shipping Oct. 25, per the U.S. Mint, Wong will be the first Asian American to grace U.S. currency. Few could have been more stunned at the honor than her niece and namesake, Anna Wong, who learned about the American Women Quarters honor from the Mint's head legal counsel.

"From there, it went into the designs, and there were so many talented artists with many different renditions. I actually pulled out a quarter to look at the size to try and imagine how the images would transfer over to real life," Anna Wong wrote in an email to the Associated Press.

The elder Wong, who fought against stereotypes foisted on her by a white Hollywood, is one of the five women being honored this year as part of the program. She was chosen for being "a courageous advocate who championed for increased representation and more multidimensional roles for Asian American actors," Mint Director Ventris Gibson said in a statement.

The other icons chosen include Maya Angelou, Dr. Sally Ride, Wilma Mankiller and Nina Otero-Warren. Wong will be the first Asian American to grace U.S. currency.

Wong's achievement has excited Asian Americans inside and outside of the entertainment industry.

Her niece, whose father was Anna May Wong's brother, will participate in an event with the Mint on Nov. 4 at Paramount Studios in Los Angeles. One of Wong's movies, "Shanghai Express," will be screened, followed by a panel discussion.

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REFLECTIONS

NISEI PROVED THEIR LOYALTY IN WWII AND DID MORE — SANSEI AND YONSEI THEN BUILT ON NISEI ACHIEVEMENTS

By Terry Shima, 442nd RCT, WWII

When Japan attacked Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941, the White House, War Department, U.S. Congress and the American public branded ethnic Japanese in the United States as spies and collaborators for Imperial Japan.

Draft classification for Japanese Americans was changed to 4-C, alien, which banned them from enlisting in the U.S. Armed Forces. Nisei drafted before World War II and residing along the Pacific Coast states were discharged; those in the interior U.S. were given menial assignments such as cleaning latrines.

Nisei draftees (1,432) in the Hawaii Territorial Guard, later designated the 100th Infantry Battalion, were shipped to the mainland for training and deployment to Italy for combat. And 120,000 ethnic Japanese, two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens, were rounded up from the Pacific Coast states on short notice and placed in internment camps guarded by sentries on the ground and in guard towers with machine guns. Separately, over 5,500 Japanese nationals on the FBI suspect list were arrested and detained in camps run by the Department of Justice.

Japanese Americans, individually and in groups, petitioned the government to allow them to serve in combat to prove their loyalty. For this and other reasons, the superior combat training record of the 100th Battalion and the strong performance of Nisei linguists who volunteered for secret intelligence duty in the Asia Pacific Theater convinced Washington to form the 442nd Regimental

Combat Team, consisting of 4,000 Nisei volunteers from Hawaii and the mainland, many from internment camps.

Many Nisei with college degrees volunteered because of the Japanese American Citizens League's promise to help open the executive-level job market then closed to Nisei. Finding jobs for Nisei graduates, many with advanced degrees, was a pressing concern for JAACL Executive Secretary Mike Masaoka during his final days in Italy prior to his discharge from the 442nd RCT.

Three thousand Nisei volunteers from Hawaii and the mainland, including many who studied in Japan, served in the Asia Pacific Theater, many in the combat zones, fighting soldiers of their parents' homeland.

They translated captured documents, interrogated prisoners of war, intercepted enemy communications, prepared propaganda and entered caves to persuade soldiers to surrender.

Nisei served in the second or third wave of nearly every Marine and infantry invasion to provide commanders tactical intelligence information in real time for counteraction, as well as served in every unit that needed language support, in the special forces in Burma, in the caves of Yan'an, China, interrogating Japanese captured by Chinese Communists.

Each Nisei linguist in the Pacific combat zone was protected by a white bodyguard; each of them

and the white officers of the 100th Battalion and the 442nd RCT were instructed to report any evidence of Nisei disloyal acts. Another 3,000 Nisei linguists served in stateside assignments, including the Pentagon.

Following training at Camp Shelby, Miss., the 442nd, minus the First Battalion, was shipped to Italy, where it merged with the 100th BN. While the 100th retained its unit designation, it served as the First Battalion of the 442nd RCT.

After one campaign in Italy, the 442nd RCT was shipped to the Vosges Forests section of France to engage the Germans in the southern front of a two-front war. Displaying combat smarts, winning difficult battles assigned to them and accepting assignments other units declined to handle, the 442nd RCT won the respect of their fellow white infantrymen and officers from other units.

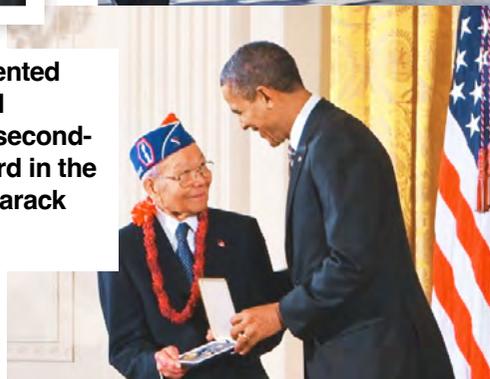
When so many combat commanders requested the assignment of the 442nd RCT to serve in their commands, the question of Nisei loyalty became a moot point.

In addition to serving as riflemen and military intelligence, Nisei were sprinkled in small numbers in the U.S. Navy, Marines, Merchant Marines, WAC, Nurses Corps and five who served as gunners in U.S.

Terry Shima in 2022



Terry Shima is presented with the Presidential Citizens Medal, the second-highest civilian award in the U.S., by President Barack Obama in 2012.



Terry Shima salutes at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. In the background is the Wall of Heroes.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF TERRY SHIMA

"You fought not only the enemy abroad, but you fought prejudice at home – and you have won. Keep up that fight, and we will continue to win."

Through his remarks and personal review, Truman confirmed the Army's validation of Nisei loyalty and removed from the table the stigma of ethnic Japanese disloyalty placed there when the war began. The first person known to the writer to make this observation was JAVA VP Col. Vic Mukai, USA (Ret), around 2004.

When WWII ended, President Truman decided to reorganize the federal government "to equalize treatment and opportunities especially for African Americans" while also recognizing the special wartime contributions of other minorities, such as the Nisei, the Navajo Code Talkers, the Chinese American pilots who flew the Hump to deliver war material to China and Filipino soldiers who served under Gen. MacArthur's command during WWII.

These combined achievements served as the backdrop to Truman issuing Executive Order 9981 on July 26, 1948, two years after he reviewed the 442nd RCT. This landmark Executive Order, which desegregated the Armed Forces, said: "There shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the Armed Forces without regard to race, color, religion or national origin."

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Terry Shima during WWII



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LEARNING FROM RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE

Adm. Harry Harris, Prof. Michael Beckley consider PRC's designs on Taiwan.

By George Toshio Johnston,
Senior Editor

When Russia finally invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24 after months of a build-up on the latter's eastern border, both Russia and most Western observers thought Ukraine would likely fall within days, if not weeks.

Governments in the West and in East Asia immediately realized that the parallels in that situation and the one between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China — aka Taiwan — might herald an invasion of the latter by the former.

Eight months later, the world has seen that Ukraine is not only still standing and fighting back, thanks to military aid from the West and the resolve of the Ukrainian people, but it also is possible that Russia's miscalculations might put the trajectories of both it and its leader, President Vladimir Putin, into an unrecoverable tailspin.

In the interim, speculation about the possibility of an invasion of Taiwan by China has not tapered, despite Russia's troubles with its own military action and the realization that a land invasion is unlike invading an island separated by 100 miles of ocean from the Chinese mainland.

As the Russia-Ukraine conflict went from concern to reality, tensions between the U.S. and the PRC have increased. Examples include:

- On Feb. 11, the White House releases an 18-page document titled "Indo-Pacific Strategy of the United States" ([see tinyurl.com/37xz4cny](https://www.tinyurl.com/37xz4cny)), the objective of which is ensuring a free, open, connected, prosperous, secure and resilient Indo-Pacific undergirded by defense treaties with Australia, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea and Thailand — and the advancement of the Major Defense Partnership with India
- An Aug. 2 visit to Taiwan by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi resulted in major saber-rattling by China and aggressive military maneuvers near Taiwan
- American military support for Taiwan, meantime, was reiterated by President Joe Biden on Sept. 18 on CBS' "60 Minutes," a repeat of remarks he made on May 23 at a news conference with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in Japan
- On Oct. 7, the Biden administration unveiled curbs on the sale of high-end semiconductors and related technology to China
- China President Xi Jinping was re-elected on Oct. 23 to his third term as the head of the Chinese Communist Party
- The Justice Department on Oct. 24 announces charges against 13 people, including suspected Chinese intelligence officers, in what is described as "a relentless effort by Beijing to steal American secrets and technology."

Meantime, Aug. 16 saw the publication of a book titled "Danger Zone: The Coming Conflict With China" by Hal Brands and Michael Beckley, and on Sept. 15, a webinar titled "The Impact of the War in Ukraine on the Indo-Pacific Region" — sponsored by



Japan House Los Angeles and the RAND Corp. — took place.

Both book and webinar addressed the topic of a possible China-Taiwan conflict, a situation that would inevitably draw in other regional powers — Australia, India, Japan, South Korea — and the world's premier military power, the United States.

The webinar was moderated by RAND Corp. senior political scientist Jeffrey W. Hornung and featured introductory remarks by Consul General of Japan to Los Angeles Kenzo Sone and Japan House Los Angeles President Yuko Kaifu. The panelists included Sasakawa Peace Foundation senior research fellow Taisuke Abiru; RAND Corp. senior policy researcher Dara Massicot; and RAND Corp. senior political scientist Dr. Michael Mazarr.

Its keynote speaker was retired Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr. (*See Feb. 21, 2014, Pacific Citizen.*) Harris, the son of a white American father,

Harry B. Harris Sr., and a native Japanese mother, Fumiko Ohno, is a 40-year Navy veteran who, before retiring in 2018, was the first Asian American to hold a four-star rank in the Navy. The pinnacle of his storied career was serving as commander of the U.S. Pacific Command (now known as the Indo-Pacific Command), after which he served as the U.S. ambassador to South Korea from 2018-21.

"Danger Zone" co-writer Beckley is an associate professor of political science at Tufts University and a nonresident senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

His first book, 2018's "Unrivaled: Why America Will Remain the World's Sole Superpower," uses facts and trends to make the case some might see as contrarian, that the future of the 21st century will see the U.S. remaining as the world's dominant economic, military and political power, with China's trajectory faltering.

The son of Barbara and Dennis Beckley, his maternal grandmother was a cousin of Gordon Hirabayashi, whose legal fight against Japanese American incarceration during WWII reached the Supreme Court. While incarcerated in a WRA Center, three of his grandmother's younger brothers served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team during WWII. One of those brothers was killed in action.

In his opening remarks made during the webinar, Harris asserted his belief that America is "at an inflection point in history" regarding the importance of the Indo-Pacific when viewed through his "twin lenses of having commanded U.S. Pacific Command and my time in South Korea as the American ambassador."

Before beginning his assessment of the current potential threat posed by the PRC vis-à-vis Taiwan, Harris took time to emphasize the problems posed by another bellicose player in East Asia. "Why is North Korea, far away in Northeast Asia, a challenge for the entire world? Well, the answer is simple. Kim Jong Un's missiles point in every direction.

"Today, North Korea stands out as the only nation in this century to test nuclear weapons. North Korea — toxic, despotic, erratic — is ruled with an iron fist by a brutal dictator, a man who values his pursuit of power over the prosperity and welfare of his own people. The North's unrelenting pursuit of nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them and the North's unmitigated aggression toward the South should concern us all."

Calling it "the elephant in the room," Harris then moved on to address what was unmentioned in the webinar's title: the People's Republic of China.

"The PRC doesn't keep its word, from Xi with the British on Hong Kong to its human rights abuses against the Uighers, Tibetans and others, to its attempts at commercial espionage, and its quest to intimidate, isolate and finally dominate Taiwan," Harris said.

"As I testified before the U.S. Senate when I was in uniform, I believe Beijing seeks hegemony not only in East Asia, but greater Eurasia and beyond. The PRC wants to set the rules for the region and indeed the world, which is why it's essential that free nations exercise vigilance."

Those sentiments were echoed by Beckley, who describes the scenario and trajectory currently facing the PRC as a "peaking power" problem, a historically dangerous set of circumstances that occurs when a nation that has been consistently and robustly rising over a long period of time slumps and ends up "falling short of their sky-high ambitions" for a number of intractable factors.

It's a situation that could just as well describe Russia and its misadventures in Ukraine. Beckley explained that countries facing the downside of the peaking power scenario don't drift silently and willingly into decline.

"These countries, they don't mellow out. They tend to expand abroad in a big way, both economically and militarily because they're trying to rejuvenate their slowing economies, they're trying to beat back rivals that might exploit their newfound

➤ vulnerabilities. And they also just want to accomplish long-standing national missions before it's too late," Beckley told the *Pacific Citizen*.

"As all Chinese leaders have said, they want to take back Taiwan, they want to take control of roughly 80 percent of the South China Sea, they want to take over parts of India that are basically the size of Austria and they want to be a dominant power in the world. And these peaking powers don't just give up those ambitions. They try to sort of batter their way through all the headwinds that they're facing. And so, when I started looking at just historically where you've seen this, it doesn't end well."

All the talk of the "how" the U.S. and "the Quad" — a loose grouping of America, Australia, India and Japan that could, in theory, include more like-minded nations — not to mention AUKUS, a security treaty among Australia, the United Kingdom and the U.S. for the Indo-Pacific region, might respond to a PRC invasion of Taiwan begs the question: Why should the U.S. care if China successfully conquers Taiwan?

Said Harris: "Taiwan is democratic, an idea factory, an imagination nation and a global force for good. I've called for ending the 50-year U.S. policy of strategic ambiguity in favor of strategic clarity. The new Indo-Pacific strategy specifically supports an environment in which Taiwan's future is determined peacefully by the Taiwanese."

From Beckley's perspective, he told the *Pacific Citizen* he could "understand people saying, 'Well, you know, who cares?' Same thing with Ukraine, there's a lot of people who say, 'Well, why do we care if Russia conquers Ukraine?'"

"President (Donald) Trump used to point at his huge desk in the Oval Office and say, 'This is China.' And then he pointed to the end of his little Sharpie and say, 'This is Taiwan.' And he said, 'China and Taiwan — there's not a f***ing thing we can do about it.'"

From Beckley's viewpoint, however, Taiwan is "pound-for-pound, the most strategically important place in the world."

"You know, if the main contest in the world is between the U.S. and China, then Taiwan matters a great deal because it's an unsinkable aircraft carrier in the heart of East Asia, it's at the crossroads of the Indian and Pacific Oceans where nearly half of the world's trade passes through. It would be this perfect launching pad for further Chinese expansion."

Regarding China's territorial claims, Beckley said, "They don't stop at Taiwan. They, in some ways, begin at Taiwan."

As for a "when," Harris said, "My successor

in Indo-Pacific Command testified before Congress last year that the PRC could invade Taiwan in six years. That's 2027. We ignore Adm. Davidson's warning at our peril."

That's not to say a Chinese plan for an invasion of Taiwan is either imminent or inevitable. As former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson supposedly once said, "Everybody has a plan until they get punched in the mouth," something that Russia has learned over the eight months since its planned blitzkrieg on Ukraine turned into a quagmire.

Harris and Beckley gave their thoughts on what might China and its President Xi might be learning from Russia's experience. One unintended consequence Harris pointed out was that the invasion threw "a giant monkey wrench into Xi's plans" because one of his goals was to maintain "stability in the international order so that he has time to shape that order to his favor."

Instead, Harris said, "The very things that he seeks to weaken — the West, the U.S., the UN, our alliances with Japan, South Korea and Australia — are coming together with Ukraine as a catalyst."

"You can be assured, however, that Xi Jinping is watching Ukraine closely and learning. He's learning that control of the internet is vital. And I believe he's wondering — he's wondering if his army is as bad as Russia's appears to be, if his generals are as inept as Russia's appear to be, if his navy is as vulnerable as the Black Sea Fleet appears to be. And, he's wondering if he could first replicate for himself, then overcome the amazing American logistics machine."

Beckley wondered if the takeaway from Russia's experiences might actually embolden China.

"The Chinese are very derisive of the Russians. They see themselves as much more capable and competent than the Russians," he said. It's not that they have learned that they should not attempt to conquer Taiwan — rather, it's if you do it, "you've got to go big and brutal from the start."

"Don't allow that target to be resupplied by the international community, don't allow their military to fight back, you just got to wipe them out in a massive first strike. And frankly, this is what Chinese military writings and doctrine have been calling for, for decades."

"Their war plan, their Plan A, has always been to carry out a sort of Pearl Harbor-style strike on Taiwanese bases to basically wipe out Taiwan's offensive forces before they

can get off the ground and as well as to do that on Okinawa on the basis of the American bases there, so that the U.S. is sort of crippled and has to then send enforcers from over the horizon."

The U.S., however, has also learned some lessons. Beckley noted how, after Pelosi visited Taiwan, the PRC put on a "a show of force" to let the world know it could, if necessary, "blockade Taiwan." For Harris, that show of force following the Pelosi visit had an unintended — or in a Machiavellian way, not-so-unintended — effect.

"We learned more from that than they did," he said. "We know a lot more about Chinese strategy and tactics, communications capabilities and all of that then I think that they intended." Harris also pointed out that in warfare, "experience matters."

"The PRC hasn't fought a fight since 1979. There, they had their asses handed to them by Vietnam," Harris said. "So, they're not tested. No one who served in combat for the PRC against Vietnam is in uniform today, or if they are, they're only just a handful. . . . That's a significant issue. They've had some skirmishes with India on the northern frontier, but that doesn't count. So, they haven't been tested."

While the military capabilities of the PRC circa 1979 vs. its capabilities now may be vastly different, Beckley pointed out in "Unrivaled"

Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr. (Ret), the first Asian American to hold a four-star rank in the Navy, served as the webinar's keynote speaker.

PHOTOS: GEORGE T. JOHNSTON



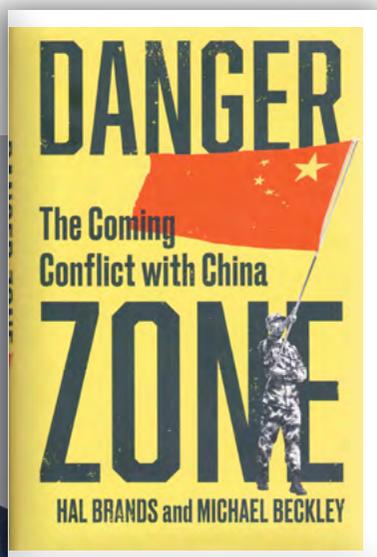
that though China's military is huge, it is also "surrounded by 19 countries," many of which are hostile toward its recent actions — and that puts a drain on China's capabilities, "something that we in the United States take for granted, like border security — and also internal unrest. So much of China's military forces are devoted to those missions before they even start projecting power abroad."

One of the unknown factors in a conflict is the resolve of the people living in a particular nation or region. When the U.S left Afghanistan, its military put up little fight against the Taliban. When Russia invaded Ukraine, it was a different story.

"The resolve of the Ukrainian people surprised not only Russia, but it also surprised us as well," Harris said. "I have no doubts about Taiwan's willingness to fight and die for their country." ■



"Danger Zone" author Michael Beckley





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NISEI VETS' WWII SAGA GOES LIVE AND IN PERSON

TV newsman David Ono relays stories of the 442nd MIS in 'Defining Courage.'

By George Toshio Johnston,
Senior Editor

In his nearly 27 years in the Los Angeles market at KABC Channel 7 as an Emmy Award-winning and Edward R. Murrow Award-winning TV newsman, David Ono has not only become a fixture in local news, his body of work includes having traveled overseas to share with his Southern California audience the aftermath of 2011's disastrous earthquake and tsunami in Japan's Tohoku region.

Ono has generously spent his time and resources off the air doing things like sharing his home for Asian American Journalists Assn. Christmas parties or serving as the master of ceremonies for various other AAJA events, as well as for other community organizations such as the Go For Broke National Education Center, Japanese American National Museum and Japanese American Citizens League.

On the evening of Oct. 1 at Little Tokyo's Aratani Theatre, Ono again utilized his master of ceremony and journalism skills in a new setting and context: an "immersive experience" that combined live music and narration with multimedia storytelling to relay an overarching saga for which he has become an unabashed evangelist.

That event was "Defining Courage," a globe-trotting live and recorded tour de force culmination of more than 20 years of stories focused on the contributions to this nation by Nisei who during WWII served in Europe as soldiers of the Army's 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team or in the Pacific in the Army's Military Intelligence Service. Those stories and the related story of Japanese American incarceration were supplemented with new



Musical director
Chris
Wade

material recorded this year in Italy and Japan.

Ono, who in November 2021 was awarded by the Japanese government an Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette for his corpus of work over the years covering Japanese American and Japanese issues, has undoubtedly been motivated by journalistic curiosity about a community with which the Texas-raised Ono shared a cultural heritage.

Another part, however, was a mission to share his own journey of self-edification. As a lover of history, he was chagrined to learn after moving to California that much of the narrative of Japanese Americans living in the city and county to which he moved in his early 30s was new to him.

"I came to California when I was a 30-year-old anchor-reporter. And I actually had never heard about this chapter before. I didn't know anything about it. And I'd never heard of internment camps. I never heard of the 442nd — and I was a history buff. And I thought I had read every book out there about World War II," said Ono.

That admission came during Ono's introductory remarks to a packed house at "Defining Courage." But he was not alone in his former dearth of knowledge about the Japanese American experience or the contributions of the Nisei soldier during WWII.

Jeff MacIntyre, his producing part-

Panorama of the three screens used to help convey the story told in "Defining Courage," held Oct. 1 in Little Tokyo's Aratani Theatre.



David Ono sits before a projected photo of Stanelly Hayami in his high school graduation photo.

"Defining Courage" co-producer Jeff MacIntyre after the show on Oct. 1

PHOTOS: GEORGE T. JOHNSTON



ner on "Defining Courage," also grew up having learned little about this uniquely American saga — and he was born and raised in Los Angeles.

Noting that he had "a kind of distant knowledge" remembered from the "standard two paragraphs in our history book that did speak to Japanese American incarceration during WWII," MacIntyre would also share in Ono's journey beginning more than 10 years ago with a project they worked together on titled "American Heroes," about the 442nd and MIS, which was made to coincide with the 2011 Congressional Gold Medal ceremony. (Editor's note: See the video at tinyurl.com/4usye4a9.)

"That really was a portal into that profound past and their incredible legacy. And that's what started my journey of learning," MacIntyre told the *Pacific Citizen*.

Ono was introduced to "Defining Courage" by actress Tamlyn Tomita, who has shared hosting duties with him at several community events over the years.

Special guests in attendance included Ono's ABC colleagues, including Chad Matthews, president, ABC Owned Television Stations; KGO San Francisco telejournalist David Louie, who retired in September after a 50-yearlong career; KABC President and General Manager

Cheryl Fair; KABC VP and News Director Pam Chen; Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles Kenko Sone; JANM President and CEO Ann Burroughs; and GFBNEC President and CEO Mitch Maki.

Representing the Biden administration was Erika L. Moritsugu, deputy assistant to the president and Asian American and Pacific Islander senior liaison.

"I'm here today as a Yonsei, a proud fourth-generation Japanese American," Moritsugu said in her remarks. "I grew up in Hawaii, where the service of the 100th Battalion was so taken for granted as a part of everyday life. . . . I only recently learned to appreciate the power of our adage, *okage sama de*. Because of the heroism of the greatest generation, we are who we are because of them. And I personally have many people in my family who served in WWII."

One of Moritsugu's relatives was her grandfather, Bronze Star recipient Richard Y. Moritsugu. Both he and two of his brothers served during WWII; he originally was assigned to the 100th Battalion in June 1942 but was re-assigned six months later to the MIS. She also mentioned her Uncle Curly, aka Pvt. Masato Nakae, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor and now has a village square



Tamlyn Tomita and David Ono introduce four Nisei Army veterans to the audience toward the end of "Defining Courage." Pictured (from left) are Tomita; Ono; Yosh Nakamura, 100th/442 RCT; Edward Nakamura, MIS; Shigeru Hayashi, 100th/442 RCT; and Ralph Matsumoto, MIS. Matsumoto's brother, Goro Matsumoto, was killed in action as a member of the 442nd.



An Immersive Experience Daring Us
To Live Courageously



Members of Raise Choir add their vocal accompaniment to “Defining Courage.”

PHOTO: DARRELL MIHO



David Ono introduces members of Raise Choir and the musical accompanists to the audience on Oct. 1 at the Aratani Theatre in Little Tokyo at “Defining Courage.”

PHOTO: GEORGE T. JOHNSTON



“Defining Courage” producer and narrator David Ono

PHOTO: DARRELL MIHO

near Pisa, Italy, named after him.

But military service was not the only legacy of Moritsugu’s relatives. She also noted how her great-grandfather and great-great uncle “were arrested and imprisoned in Hono’uli’uli, Hawaii.” Although her great-grandfather was paroled, her great-great uncle would be incarcerated in New Mexico for being a Japanese community leader.

Moritsugu also mentioned two of her other uncles, Ronald Kuroda and Robert Kuroda, who were, respectively, recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross and the Medal of Honor as members of the 442nd.

She noted how in 2021, a Frenchman with a metal detector found a class of 1940 high school class ring, engraved on the inside with “R Kuroda,” buried since Robert Kuroda was killed in action in October 1944. That man, identified in news reports as Sebastian, returned that ring to Kuroda’s descendants this past June.

In an interesting parallel, “Defining Courage” also had its own “found history” account: the rediscovery of what is believed to be the helmet of Pvt. Stanley Hayami, a former Heart Mountain internee who enlisted in the 442nd and was killed in action on April 23, 1945.

Eyewitnesses saw medics remove his helmet as they tended to him, and it was left there until one of the villagers, the uncle of Roberto Oligeri, retrieved it — and left it in the family’s wine cellar, where it lay for decades.

The chance rediscovery occurred in May when Ono and MacIntyre were shooting new footage for what would become “Defining Courage” while in San Terenzo, Italy. That was just one of the new twists to the stories of Japanese Americans overcoming societal obstacles and the triumphs and tragedies along the way that the program would include.

Interestingly, the Oct. 1 program was the third iteration of the live event, with the second a daytime performance for a private audience taking place a few days in advance.

The first version was done at the AAJA’s national convention in Los Angeles on July 29, exceeding all expectations.

“The vast majority of those journalists had never even heard the story before,” Ono told the *Pacific Citizen*. “Even though they’re Asian, you know, they weren’t [necessarily] Japanese American, they weren’t West Coasters. And so, they had never heard of it, the vast majority, and I had banked on that, that this would be new to them. And it was.”

Ono’s travels to gather new material also included a trip to Okinawa in July to supplement the role the Nisei in the MIS had in saving the lives of hundreds of Okinawans, who were indoctrinated by the Japanese military to commit suicide rather than surrender to American troops.

Most unique about “Defining Courage” was the live musical and vocal accompaniment that supplemented the visuals and Ono’s live narration. The conduit for that was vocalist and 2001 Nisei Week Queen Lauren Kinkade-Wong, who is involved with a gospel choir, Raise Choir, led by Chris Wade.

She recalled that when she performed at a Go For Broke National Education Center annual “Evening of Aloha” fundraising dinner, Ono was also a part of the program. According to Kinkade-Wong, he had already been contemplating doing a “deconstructed documentary” with live music. GFBNEC’s Maki suggested that the two work together.

“David and I met, and we discussed what he was planning on doing and how he wanted to have this whole presentation come across,” Kinkade-Wong told the *Pacific Citizen*, noting that the initial idea was to do about a “short 20-minute version of what became ‘Defining Courage.’”

Kinkade-Wong brought Wade, and he brought Raise into the mix. Wade would soon become

the musical director. “We started to talk about the types of music that David was looking for,” she told the *Pacific Citizen*. “He was looking for music that would be familiar,

but not necessarily extremely mainstream, so that it wouldn’t detract from the message. . . . We came up with some wonderful ideas.”

Thanks to Wade’s skills as “an amazing music arranger,” he would “create the layout of the music within the presentation itself.”

Having completed three presentations of “Defining Courage,” Ono and MacIntyre are assessing what will be next, namely how to literally take the show on the road — a far more challenging task compared to distributing a movie nationwide.

“In the short run, I’ve been asked to do it in cities across America, and so we’re contemplating what that means,” Ono said. “From Hawaii to San Francisco, Seattle, Chicago, Washington, D.C., Dallas, Houston, Denver, Portland — all of those cities. San Diego, too.”

That dream also includes New York City — and Ono’s dream would be to have “Defining Courage” take place in the one venue most-associated with immigration to America: the Grand Hall of Ellis Island. “I feel like symbolically, that’s a wonderful place to do it,” Ono said.

Ono admits, however, that it would be a big, time-consuming and expensive undertaking. For one thing, he would need to be present at each venue to narrate — and each performance in each city might have its own unique attributes, like what happened in Los Angeles with Mario Mariani and Roberto Oligeri from Italy present at the Oct. 1 show, which also included honoring Nisei veterans Shigeru Hayashi, Ralph Matsumoto, Edward Nakamura and Yosh Nakamura onstage.

Nevertheless, Kinkade-Wong is confident that taking “Defining Courage” and the live music on the road is quite feasible.

“I think the great thing about Chris Wade is that he has a lot of contacts throughout the country. A lot of it could be local hires that we bring in,” she said. “The music is already written, so it’s more of a factor just reading the music. So as far as that’s concerned, we’ve discussed that possibility and then just bringing in some of the key players like the soloists, but it’s definitely doable and something that we are setting our sights on achieving.”

For MacIntyre, telling these stories in this unique manner is inspirational and necessary in today’s divisive climate.



(From left) Tamlyn Tomita and David Ono introduce Italian guests Mario Mariani and Roberto Oligeri, holding what is believed to be Stanley Hayami’s helmet, and Italian-to-English interpreter Jonathan Vivanti.

PHOTO: SUSAN YOKOYAMA



This is believed to be Stanley Hayami’s helmet. It was retrieved after he was killed by a sniper while assisting a fallen comrade in arms. The hole in the top of the helmet was caused by corrosion. The helmet has been stored away for nearly 80 years and revealed to David Ono and Jeff MacIntyre this past summer.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF DAVID ONO

QUARTER » continued from page 2

Arthur Dong, the author of “Hollywood Chinese,” said the quarter feels like a validation of not just of Wong’s contributions, but of all Asian Americans. A star on the Walk of Fame is huge, but being on U.S. currency is a whole other stratosphere of renown.

“What it means is that people all across the nation — and my guess is around the world — will see her face and see her name,” Dong said. “If they don’t know anything about her, they will . . . be curious and want to learn something about her.”

Born in Los Angeles in 1905, Wong started acting during the silent film era. Her career spanned film, television and theater. Wong appeared in more than 60 motion pictures and also became the first Asian American to star in a U.S. TV show when she was cast in “The Gallery of Madame Liu-Tsong” in 1951.

Wong faced discrimination in Hollywood for years, traveling internationally to continue her acting career in English, German and French films. She was awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1960 and died in 1961.

In a press release from the U.S. Mint, “She is remembered as an international film star, fashion icon, television trailblazer and a champion for greater representation of Asian Americans in film. She continues to inspire actors and filmmakers today.”

For more information and how to purchase the quarters, visit [usmint.gov](https://www.usmint.gov).

—Additional reporting by the Pacific Citizen

NISEI » continued from page 3

This order leveled the playing field equally for all. Randy Sowell, an archivist at the Truman Library, observed that “the contributions of U.S. minority groups to the military effort in World War II contributed to the postwar movement to end discrimination against those groups in the Armed Forces and in U.S. society at large. President Truman was disturbed by reports of mistreatment of Black and Nisei veterans by civilians after the war.” JACL Executive Secretary Masaoka must have been pleased that his prayers were answered in EO 9981. Because of EO 9981, a few Nisei, but predominantly Sansei and Yonsei, third- and fourth-generation Japanese Americans, now would be found in all branches of service, in the cockpits of fighters and bombers as pilots, in the bridges of naval vessels and in sensitive war-planning staff positions.

During WWII, their assignments were limited to the U.S. Army, and the highest Nisei rank was major. Following the Vietnam War, over 40 predominantly Sansei and Yonsei were promoted to generals and admirals, with one, a Sansei, serving as chief of staff of the U.S. Army, a four-star position once held by Gen. George C. Marshall. Over 80 other Asian Pacific Islanders, whose WWII performance also helped make EO 9981 happen, would also achieve flag rank.

The civilian side, led by a few Nisei but predominantly Sansei and Yonsei, would witness similar breakthroughs. Thanks to the Nisei WWII endeavor, discriminatory laws were repealed, our alien parents were now permitted to become U.S. citizens; members of

the U.S. Congress, now confident of Nisei loyalty, passed the Hawaii statehood bill.

The Commission of Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, mandated by the U.S. Congress, concluded that internment was not necessary, that it was caused by war hysteria, racial prejudice and the failure of political leadership.

President Ronald Reagan offered a formal apology for the internment. Nisei WWII soldiers received the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor the U.S. Congress can bestow. Additionally, U.S. Senators selected a Japanese American to serve as president pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, a position that constitutionally put Sen. Daniel Inouye third in line for the presidency. Eighty years ago, he was banned from military service.

Sansei and Yonsei remain vigilant to defeat racism executed against Asian and non-Asian minority groups. The Nisei, Sansei and Yonsei story speaks to the Greatness of America. God Bless the USA.

Terry Shima, 442nd Public Relations, 1945-46, joined JAVA around 2000, served as executive director from 2004-12 and has since served on the board of directors and in committees. Mike Masaoka selected Terry to serve in the 442nd Public Relations Office. When Mike departed Italy to be discharged, Terry succeeded him as head of the 442nd PRO. Terry returned with the 442nd to handle public relations in New York City for the return festivities, the presidential review in Washington, D.C., and the retirement of colors in Honolulu.

‘OPERATION UTAH’: BOOK MEMORIALIZES THE FALLEN

Marine Corps vet Hubert Yoshida documents an important but overlooked battle of the Vietnam War.

By George Toshio Johnston, Senior Editor

‘Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country.’

— President John F. Kennedy

As a former Marine Corps officer who, as a young man took to heart the words spoken at the president’s Jan. 20, 1961, inauguration and would serve his country during the Vietnam War, Hubert Yoshida knows a thing or two about what is necessary to complete a mission.

That may be why this past spring, the Watsonville, Calif.-born son of Sumie and Kenzo Yoshida, who still has boyhood memories from the Poston War Relocation Authority Center, completed a long-simmering mission: publishing his book, “Operation Utah: The Die Is Cast.”

One might presume that Yoshida began that book-publishing mission in 2020 with the free time gained upon retiring as vp and

chief technology officer at Hitachi Data Systems after 22 years, which was preceded by about 25 years at IBM.

Then again, maybe that mission began in 2016, when he returned to Da Nang, Vietnam, on a work-related trip and had the occasion to have a cordial meeting between a former enemy, a Viet Cong general named Mr. Tu who had fought in Operation Utah against South Vietnamese forces and American Marines.

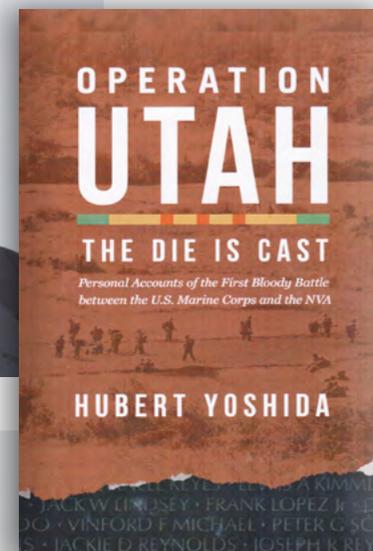
More realistically, however, it could be said that Yoshida’s mission to publish “Operation Utah” really began in March 1966, when he was a platoon commander in H Co., 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment.

KENNEDY CONNECTION

Becoming a Marine was not necessarily, however, something that carried over from when Yoshida was a young boy, the way a lad might think about becoming



Hubert Yoshida

**Book Review****‘Operation Utah: The Die Is Cast’**

Chronicling the 1966 battle U.S. Marines and South Vietnamese Forces fought against the North Vietnamese Army, the book clearly recounts courage, commitment and true grit.

By David Miyoshi, Contributor

Operation Utah: The Die Is Cast” is a book about the very first battle the Marines and South Vietnamese Forces fought against the North Vietnamese Army in the Vietnam War.

It is remarkably detailed in its coverage of what happened in that historic battle from March 4-7, 1966, in Vietnam’s Quang Ngai Province. The author, Hubert Yoshida, a Japanese American Sansei who as a young boy spent time with his family in an American concentration camp in Arizona, first

enlisted in the Marines and later, after overcoming discrimination, became a commissioned officer who led a successful assault to rescue another platoon overrun by the North Vietnamese Army.

In “Operation Utah,” Yoshida has written one of the most accurate and detailed accounts of a historic battle in Vietnam ever to be published.

I had the fortune of reading “Operation Utah” and was mesmerized by the almost minute-by-minute account of the utter terror and brutality the Marines of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, experienced when they first encountered the North Vietnamese Army on March 4, 1966, followed by the momen-

tous and bloody subsequent battles involving other battalions and regiments of Marines through March 7, 1966.

The book describes in vivid and meticulously arranged detail the evolution of the battles in chronological order and elucidates how the Marines, through their sheer guts, grit and esprit de corps were able to survive it. It is a virtual compendium of narratives of what happened to seemingly every Marine and Navy Corpsman that participated in Operation Utah.

The book’s chapters end with brief blurbs on the outcome of the surviving Marines, with the final chapter serving as a fitting photo gallery, tribute and somber epitaph to the Marines that were not so fortunate.

As a Japanese American Sansei myself who, as a commissioned officer in the Marine Corps, led a Combined Action Platoon in Danang South Vietnam, I can appreciate to some degree the rigors of training required to become a Marine and the elements of jungle combat in Vietnam.

➤ a cowboy or a fireman. In fact, he would go on to study physics at the University of California, Berkeley.

One day, President Kennedy himself visited the physics lab. Yoshida remembered the president's words from inauguration day. "When he was leaving, I felt that he and I had made eye contact for just a split second. I was inspired," Yoshida told the *Pacific Citizen*.

Despite the inspiration Yoshida and others of his generation gained from Kennedy, the atmosphere at Berkeley was of foment and unrest. But it was not just Berkeley. Something was in the air. As Bob Dylan would squawk, the times they were a changin'.

"I felt that I needed to do more than just hide behind my university exemption," Yoshida said. "It all seemed so banal, so I felt compelled to join the fight and do it with the best, the Marine Corps."

Yoshida applied for Officer Candidate School and in the best tradition of military intelligence, the math major was rejected. But that didn't deter him. He enlisted, much to the chagrin of his parents. It mattered not to Yoshida. "It was the best decision in my life," he recalled.

He did so well in boot camp that Yoshida would be awarded the American Spirit Medal. Thanks to that and his college degree, officers at the Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, where he was later stationed, resubmitted his OCS application — and this time, it went through.

MARINE CORPS VS. NVA

Operation Utah took place from March 4-7, 1965. During the years of the Vietnam War, Americans would become familiar with such events as the Battle of Ia Drang, the Tet Offensive, the Battle of Khe Sanh, the Siege of Hue, the My Lai Massacre and, of course, the Fall of Saigon.

But Operation Utah? According to the Morgan Hill, Calif.-based Yoshida, "there hasn't been much documented" about it, even though it was the first head-to-head battle between the Marine Corps and the NVA or the North Vietnamese Army — and for the Marines, it was a tragic and bloody lesson that resulted in 278 Americans wounded and 99 killed in action, with three more deaths that resulted from wounds. The NVA, meantime, suffered a body count of 600.

Why was it a lesson for the Marines? Yoshida is blunt in

his assessment.

"The Marine Corps did things wrong. I mean, they assumed that they could use a lot of artillery and aircraft and be dominant," he said. "They're fighting these primitive Third World countries — but it's really the boots on the field that have to make the difference." As it turned out, the Marines "were outnumbered two, three, four to one."

Not only were they outnumbered, Yoshida said the NVA "had the latest AK-47s, they had mortars, they had recoilless rifles. I mean, they were an army. They weren't Viet Cong because up until then, we were fighting Viet Cong, you know, chasing guerrillas around. It wasn't a pitched battle like this."

The mindset and commitment at the time was that Vietnam would simply be a "temporary action" and that the U.S. was there to "stabilize — and then leave the South Vietnamese in charge." That misreading, says Yoshida, "kind of set the tone. That's why I say, the die is cast."

Operation Utah drove home the realization that "this is going to be a long, long war."

HONORING THE FALLEN

After meeting his former enemy in 2016, Yoshida wrote a blog about the encounter. As might be expected in the internet age, Yoshida related how "people started contacting me asking about relatives they had that were in Operation Utah."

"I started corresponding with them and remembering all the people that I had known," Yoshida said. He realized that what he personally encountered in Operation Utah was just a small portion of a much larger picture. "You don't know what the rest of the battle was like. So, I started researching it and got to meet a lot of the veterans from different units."

The long-gestating mission crystalized with a simple realization: He needed to document it.

"I've got to let these people know, the relatives and the families and friends, what happened to their

particular loved ones. . . . I wanted to write a book to honor them."

In spring 2022, that book was completed. Mission accomplished. Yoshida emphasizes that "Operation Utah" is not a book about himself. "It's more about who these young people were then. They were young people, they were young men in their teens and early 20s. . . . It's more of a memorial to the men who died in Operation Utah."

Although the book is now complete and the story of Operation Utah has been corrected and documented in greater detail than ever before, with the stories of those who paid the ultimate price memorialized, Yoshida knows what he encountered has not been purged from his mind — and that it never will be.

"Being in combat is something that stays with you. Just about every night, I think of some of that," Yoshida told the *Pacific Citizen*. "What happened, what I did, what I didn't do — and it's just something that's part of you, then, for your life." ■

➤ "Operation Utah" makes clear that the culture of the Marine Corps is unique amongst the branches of the U.S. military. It's evident that the core values of honor, courage, commitment and grit are integral to that culture.

In Marine Corps Officers Candidate School (OCS), the staff try to both assess and instill into a candidate these core values. To me, commitment and grit are the qualities that give a Marine resilience in the face of adversity and compels him or her to persevere through to victory as the Marines in Operation Utah so ably demonstrated.

OCS training in the Marine Corps has a particular process that can be exemplified by my own personal experience going through it. I suspect Lt. Yoshida had a similar experience, if not more harrowing.

Near the end of the 10-week program, I vividly recall one morning being ordered by the platoon sergeant to don a Chinese coolie hat and black pajamas, step on the squad bay stage and growl back at the platoon candidates.

Although perplexed, I did as he ordered, and the platoon sergeant then bellowed to the candidates, "This is what the fricken' enemy looks like — when you get to Nam, you destroy it, do you understand!" Initially, I felt

insulted, offended and angry, but I held my composure, believing a Marine should not become rattled under any circumstances.

As fortune would have it, that was the proper response because immediately thereafter, the platoon sergeant pulled me to the side out of earshot of the other candidates and whispered, "Candidate Miyoshi, you're going to make a fine lieutenant."

Mind you, at that time, no other candidate knew whether they were going to be commissioned a 2nd lieutenant. Eight days later, the commissions were announced just prior to graduation on Dec 16, 1966.

I later realized that the morning the platoon sergeant put me on that stage was Dec. 7, 1966, the 25th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. To this day, I believe on that stage the platoon sergeant was assessing my grit and commitment to the Marine Corps.

I heartedly recommend you read "Operation Utah."

David M. Miyoshi is a Los Angeles County-based attorney who specializes in international business, real estate and estate planning. He is active in veteran's affairs in the Southern California area and publishes a free monthly newsletter on current international financial, economic and political affairs. His website is miyoshilaw.com.

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

Dear Travelers,

We thank you very much for your patience these past 2 ½ years and your past patronage. It has been a very challenging period, and we are slowly recovering and starting to operate our tours again. Japan has re-opened for organized group tours and finally, for individual travelers. No visa required.

We look forward to traveling with you again. In the meantime, please stay safe and healthy until we meet again. Thank you very much.

2023 TOUR SCHEDULE

HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVALS HOLIDAY TOUR (Ernest Hida) Feb 4-15
Abashiri, Sounkyo, Sapporo, Otaru, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Tokyo.

Hyobaku Ice Festival, Asahikawa Snow Festival, Sapporo Snow Festival, Hyoto Winter Festival.

GRAND CANYON-ROUTE 66-LAS VEGAS HOLIDAY TOUR (Carol Hida) . . Mar 5-10
Phoenix, Sedona, Flagstaff, Grand Canyon, Route 66, Las Vegas.

JAPAN SPRING COUNTRYSIDE HOLIDAY TOUR (Ernest Hida) Mar 28-Apr 7
Tokyo, Sado Island, Kanazawa, Amanohashidate, Tottori, Matsue, Tamatsukuri Onsen, Hiroshima.

JAPAN HOLIDAY CRUISE (Carol Hida) **SOLDOUT** Apr 7-24
MT RUSHMORE-YELLOWSTONE HOLIDAY TOUR (Carol Hida) Jun 7-15

Rapid City, Mt Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial, Sheridan, Devil's Tower National Monument, Cody, Yellowstone National Park, Jackson, Grand Tetons National Park, Salt Lake City.

GRANDPARENTS-GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR (Ernest Hida) Jun 18-28
WAITLIST

Tokyo, Hakome/Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto. Craftmaking hands-on experiences.

HOKKAIDO SUMMER HOLIDAY TOUR (Ernest Hida) Jul 16-28
Chitose, Furano, Asahikawa, Wakkanai, Rishiri Island, Sapporo, Otaru, Noboribetsu, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Tokyo.

COASTAL NEW ENGLAND HOLIDAY TOUR (Carol Hida) Aug 6-11
Plymouth, Plymouth Rock, Harbor Cruise, Mayflower Ship, Provincetown, Lobster Dinner, Cape Cod, Hyannis Port, Martha's Vineyard, Newport.

EASTERN CANADIAN CAPITALS HOLIDAY TOUR (Carol Hida) Sep 6-14
Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Toronto, Niagara Falls.

CHICAGO HIGHLIGHTS HOLIDAY TOUR (Carol Hida) Sep 25-29

KENYA WILDLIFE SAFARI HOLIDAY TOUR (Carol Hida) Oct 19-Nov 1
Nairobi, Amboseli-Nakuru Lake-Masai Mara National Parks, Mt. Kenya Safari Club, Sweetwaters Camp, Jane Goodall Chimpanze Sanctuary.

JAPAN AUTUMN COUNTRYSIDE HOLIDAY TOUR (Ernest Hida) Oct 22-Nov 3
Narita, Mito, Iwaki Hawaiian Show, Yamagata, Sakata/Shonai, Akita, Morioka, Sanriku Railway coastal train ride, Hanamaki Onsen, Matsushima, Aizu Wakamatsu, Tokyo.

CLASSICAL JAPAN HOLIDAY TOUR (Ernest Hida) Nov 9-20
Tokyo, Mt Fuji, Yamanashi, Shizuoka, Nagoya, Hiroshima, Kyoto.

For more information and reservations, please contact:

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL
312 E. 1st Street, Suite 240 * Los Angeles, CA 90012
Tel: (213)625-2232 * Email: americanholiday@att.net
Ernest or Carol Hida

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

Irei — A National Monument for the WWII Japanese American Incarceration — Launches Los Angeles, CA

JANM
100 N. Central Ave.

Led by USC Ito Center Director Duncan Ryuken Williams and Project Creative Director Sunyoung Lee, the Irei Monument Project expands and re-envisions what a monument is through three distinct, interlinking elements: a sacred book of names as monument (Ireicho), an online archive as monument (Ireizo) and light sculptures as monument (Ireihi). The Ireicho contains the first comprehensive listing of more than 125,000 persons of Japanese ancestry who were forcibly incarcerated during World War II. Visitors can now view the book and leave a special hanko (stamp/seal) for each person in the monument as a way to honor those incarcerated. The project's online archive is now searchable alphabetically or by camp.

Info: Visit ireizo.com for more information and janm.org.

NCWNP

Kabuki Theatre Appreciation Class With JETAANC

San Francisco, CA
Nov. 17; 6:30-8:30 p.m. (third Thursday of each month)

JCCNC
1840 Sutter St.

Price: Free; Donations Encouraged
Interested in Japanese Kabuki theater? Learn why millions have come to love the drama, spectacle and beauty of this powerful theater tradition. The class is free and open to the public. No preparation needed. All ages welcome!

Info: Visit www.jetaanc.org/kabuki-club for more details.

Mochitsuki Workshops

San Francisco, CA
Dec. 17; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. (30-minute shifts)

JCCNC
1840 Sutter St.

Price: Center Members \$20; General Public \$25
Mochi is a very important part of traditional Japanese New Year's celebrations! During this workshop, you'll learn how to make mochi from one of Japantown's manju makers, George Yamada, owner of the Yamada Seika manju-ya, which served the community for 36 years and closed its doors in 1999.

Info: Visit www.jccnc.org.

PSW

Riverside JACL General Meeting

Riverside, CA
Nov. 12; Noon-3 p.m.

Old Spaghetti Factory
3191 Mission Inn Ave.

Price: Members and Friends \$25; Veterans and Students \$20

Join the Riverside JACL's first in-person meeting in 2022 and catch up on what's happening with the chapter. The luncheon also includes elections for the 2023 board of directors, team trivia contest and a raffle.

Info: Contact [Michiko Yoshimura at my141@sbcglobalnet](mailto:Michiko.Yoshimura@my141@sbcglobalnet) for more information.

Elemental Funk Concert Fundraiser

Gardena, CA

Nov. 12; 3-7 p.m.

Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute

Main Hall

1964 W. 162nd St.

Price: Early Bird Tickets \$35; General Admission \$40 (Must be 21+)

Get ready to Groove! Do you miss listening and dancing to those old school live bands? Well join the GVJCI at this entertaining event featuring Elemental Funk, who will perform hits ranging from Earth, Wind & Fire to Bruno Mars. Beer, wine and appetizers will be available for purchase.

Info: Visit www.jci-gardena.org for more details.

24th Anniversary Aurora Benefit Concert Featuring Asako Tamura

Los Angeles, CA

Nov. 20; 2:30 p.m.

JACCC's Aratani Theatre

244 S. San Pedro St.

Price: Tickets Available for Purchase

In celebration of its 24th year, the Japanese Language Scholarship Foundation welcomes world-renowned Soprano Asako Tamura, who has been praised for her exquisite tonartistic sensitivity and mesmerizing stagecraft. Recently, she was honored to sing the "National Anthem" as the first foreign opera singer at the Exhibition Game of the Yankees vs. the Nationals.

Info: To purchase tickets, visit <https://my.jaccc.org/fy23-rentals/112022-auroraconcert>.

Hana Holiday Craft Show

Torrance, CA

Dec. 3; 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Torrance Cultural Arts Center

Toyota Meeting Hall

3330 Civic Center Dr.

Price: Admission and Parking Free

Come and support local artists and small businesses while shopping for handmade and other unique gifts for a jump-start to the holiday season. This one-day only crafting event will feature gifts, apparel, home goods, accessories and much more.

Info: For more information, email hanacraftshow@gmail.com.

San Diego JACL Virtual Dialogue:

Gary Sosa

San Diego, CA

Dec. 8; 6:30 p.m.

Virtual Event

Price: Free

Join the San Diego JACL as it presents its monthly virtual dialogue featuring Gary Sosa, English as a second language associate professor at Palomar College, as he shares his discovery of and search for his Japanese-Mexican roots, his 442 connection and an overview of the Japanese immigration to Mexico, followed by conversation about genealogical research and multiracial Japanese Americans.

Info: To RSVP and receive the Zoom link, email sandiegojacl@gmail.com.

'Wakaji Matsumoto — An Artist in Two Worlds: Los Angeles and Hiroshima, 1917-1944'

Los Angeles, CA

Dec. 10; 5-6:30 p.m.

JANM

100 N. Central Ave.

Price: Free

This event features a conversation about the historic significance of Wakaji's work and the story behind the collection. Curator Dennis Reed and project liaison Karen Matsumoto, Wakaji's granddaughter, will be joined by Masami Nishimoto, writer for the Chugoku Shimbun, and others involved in highlighting Matsumoto's work to delve deeper into his photographs and legacy.

Info: Visit www.janm.org.

PNW

'Resilience — A Sansei Sense of Legacy'

Portland, OR

Thru Dec. 22

Japanese American Museum of Oregon at Naito Center

411 N.W. Flanders St.

Price: Contact Museum for Ticket Information

Eight artists' work reflects on the effect of EO 9066 as it resonated from generation to generation using traditional Japanese methods in the construction of their work, as well as iconography relating to Japanese culture as a starting point for personal explorations on the subject of the incarceration camps. Artists featured are Kristine Aono, Lydia Nakashima Degarrod, Reiko Fuji, Wendy Maruyama, Tom Nakashima, Roger Shimomura, Na Omi Judy Shintani and Jerry Takigawa.

Info: Visit <https://jamo.org/exhibits/resilience/> for more details.

'Be Water My Friend' Exhibit

Seattle, WA

Ongoing Exhibit

Wing Luke Museum

719 S. King St.

Price: Museum Admission

Do you ever wonder how Bruce Lee developed the philosophy behind his most iconic quote? This exhibit invites viewers to step into the mind, body and spirit of Bruce Lee to see how his pursuit of knowledge informed his philosophy and life. The exhibit's interactive technology

interweaves beautiful imagery with the legendary martial artist's personal objects and books to bring his journey to life.

Info: Visit <https://www.wingluke.org/exhibit-be-water-my-friend>.

MDC

Hoosier JACL Holiday Party

Indianapolis, IN

Dec. 10; 12:30-4 p.m.

Masa Sake Grill

5946 E. 86th St. (located near

Costco, behind Castleton

Square Mall)

Price: Details to Follow

Save the date for the Hoosier chapter's 2022 holiday party, which will be held at Masa restaurant. A menu is available at masasakegrill.com. All guests are welcome to attend. More event details to follow.

Info: Email info@hoosierjacl.org.

IDC

'ZOTTO: A Supernatural, Immersive Japanese Folktale at Sakura Square

Denver CO

Nov. 18-Dec. 11

Sakura Square

1905 Lawrence St.

Price: Tickets \$45

ZOTTO is an immersive and multisensory Japanese folktale and theatrical journey. Audiences will explore three generations of Japanese American women and their relationship to Denver's rich yet sordid history as they encounter Japanese spirits and demons and other unexpected characters, discover hidden secrets within forgotten spaces and engage with interactive elements that will ask them to consider the relationship between intention and impact.

Info: To purchase tickets visit <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/zotto-a-supernatural-japanese-folktale/>. For questions, email boxoffice@zottofolk.com.

'Fantastic Brush: 20th Century Chinese Ink Art From the Robert and Lisa Kessler Collection'

Denver, CO

Thru Dec. 30

Denver Art Museum

100 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy

Price: General Admission

The 23 ink paintings featured in this exhibit include works from some of the most important artists in 20th-century China, including Zhang Daqian, Qi Baishi, Xu Beihong, Wu Changshio and Wu Guanzhong. Each comes from different backgrounds and art experiences, with some having studied in Japan to learn Japanese art as filtered through the Japanese experience.

Info: Visit www.denverartmuseum.org for more details.

EDC

'The Chinese Lady'

Cambridge, MA

Nov. 10-Dec. 12

Central Square Theater

450 Massachusetts Ave.

Price: Tickets \$19-\$72

This play centers around 14-year-old Afong Moy, who arrives in New York Harbor from Guangzhou Province in 1834 and is immediately put on display for the American public as "The Chinese Lady." For the next 50 years, she believes herself an ambassador to life in her native China. This poetic tale offers a whimsical portrait of the U.S., giving voice to its hidden history.

Info: For more information, visit <https://www.centalsquaretheater.org/shows/the-chinese-lady>.

'Creative Confluence: South Asian Community Reflections, Connections and Dialogue' Exhibit

Towson, MD

Thru Dec. 17

Asian Arts Gallery, Center for the Arts

Towson University

1 Fine Arts Dr.

Price: Check Website for Admission

Information

Discover the intersecting and distinct experiences of 22 South Asian artists who share their perspectives on lineage, self-identity, ideas of homeland, spiritual traditions, sensory experience and connections to the natural world.

Info: Visit www.towson.edu for more details.

'Yayoi Kusama: Love Is Calling' Exhibit

Boston, MA

Thru Dec. 31

Institute of Contemporary Art

25 Harbor Shore Dr.

Price: Check Museum for Tickets

As part of the exhibition "The Worlds We Make: Selections From the ICA Collection," Yayoi Kusama's beloved "Love Is Calling" is an immersive, vividly colored art installation that surrounds visitors and creates an illusion of infinite space and haunting sound recordings as Kusama recites a love poem in Japanese. This 1-2-minute experience is limited to six visitors at one time. Reservations are required.

Info: Visit <https://www.icaboston.org/kusama-know-before-you-go>.

'Power and Perspective: Early Photography in China'

Salem, MA

Thru April 2, 2023

Peabody Essex Museum

East India Square, 161 Essex St.

Price: Check Museum for Admission

This exhibit explores how the camera transformed the way we imagine China and provides a rich account of the exchanges between photographers, artists, patrons and subjects in treaty port China, offering a vital reassessment of the colonial legacy of the medium.

Info: Visit <https://www.pem.org/exhibitions/power-and-perspective-early-photography-in-china>.

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FOR MORE INFO:

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In MEMORIAM



Abe, Herbert, 91, and Abe, Rose, 85, Orosi, CA, April 29 and April 30; during WWII, Herbert and his family were incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ; during WWII, Rose and her family were incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ; Herbert was a veteran (Coast Guard); Rose earned her B.A. from S.F. State and M.A. from Fresno Pacific University; Herbert was predeceased by his siblings, Fumiko Kawase, Mary Sakaguchi, Lily Nagata, Alice Kurihara, Molly Osato and Franklin Abe; Rose was predeceased by her siblings, Bob Shiba and Bill Shiba; she is survived by her sisters, Mickey Tsujihara, Amy Kiritani and Keiko Tai. Herbert and Rose are also survived by their children, Debbie Ball (John), Wendy Fukushima (Jeff) and Duane Abe (Mari); gc: 6.

Akabori, Nancy Namiko, 82, Sacramento, CA, July 19; former campaign coordinator for the Rep. Robert Matsui; she was predeceased by her sister, Mitsi; she is survived by her husband, Nelson; sisters, Miki, Nori and Vicki; two daughters; gc: 5; ggc: 8.

Anzai, Yoko, 93, Torrance, CA, Aug. 10; she is survived by a nephew and a niece; grandnieces and grandnephews and other relatives.



Furuyama, Andrew, 37, Mission Viejo, CA, Aug. 5; B.A., San Francisco State University; he was predeceased by his aunt, Grace Umemoto; he is survived by his wife, Kimberly (Gee) Furuyama; parents, Jim and Kay Furuyama; brothers, Steven (Deborah) and Jonathan (Amy) Furuyama; uncles and aunts, Ken (Suellyn) Kambara, Kim (Jim) Dorman, Kary Kambara, Chiyeko (Jeff) Sutter, Kenkichi (Lila) Furuyama and Emiko Sherman; he is also survived by a nephew, nieces and many other relatives.



Gilmore, Tomiko, 78, Dayton, OH, Aug. 26; she was predeceased by her husband, George Gilmore, and her brother, Kasauki Dobashi; she is survived by her daughter, Ruby (James) Tibbs-Mahone; stepson, Dan Gilmore (Holly) gc: 2.



Hayashi, William Hideo, 95, Puyallup, WA, May 24; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at a WRA Center; veteran, Army (MIS); he was predeceased by his wife, Florence; he is survived by his partner, Ellen Johnson; children, Karen (James) McKenzie, Jacqueline (Roger) Beeman and Keith T. (Sandra) Hayashi; gc: 4.



Ichikawa, Laura, 62, Long Beach, CA, June 17; B.A., California State University, Long Beach; activities: volunteer, Go for Broke National Education Center; she was predeceased by her parents, Robert S. Ichikawa and Christie O. Ichikawa; she is survived by her brothers, Robert D. Ichikawa and Ross A. (Lori) Ichikawa; 2 nieces, 1 nephew and friends.

Ishimoto, Harvey, 75, Sacramento, CA, Aug. 7; B.S., industrial engineering, California State University, Fresno; he is survived by his wife, Margaret; children, Jennifer and Brian; gc: 2.



Joyce, Kiyomi, 91, Springboro, OH, Aug. 20; a hibakusha (atomic bomb survivor), Nagasaki; activities: Riverbend Art, JACL, the International Affair and the Dayton Art Institute; she was predeceased by her husband, Paul; she is survived by her daughters, Paula and Karen; sons-in-law, Ron Olszewski and Douglas Cleary; siblings; gc: 3; ggc: 2.



Kubota, George, 91, Bellingham, WA, March 14; After graduating from the University of Washington with a B.S. in microbiology he was drafted into the U.S Army; he was preceded in death by brother, James; sisters, Ruby Kubota and Lillian Winfield; mother, Nobuko (Sakurazawa) Kubota; father, George T. Kubota Sr., brothers, Francis Kubota and Herbert Kubota; and grandson, Dominic Pietro; he was survived by his wife Marcelle; he is survived by his children James (Linda) Kubota, Christine (Michael Pietro) Kubota, Marc (Sheri White) Kubota and Michele Kubota; sisters, Irene Neves, Jean Cassill; gc: 5.

Masunaga, Wayne Yoshio, 71, Los Angeles, CA, July 20; he is survived by his wife, Lynn; daughter, Samantha; sisters, Elaine (Michael) Shikuma and Janet (Robert Kuwahara) Masunaga; sister-in-law, Rachel Ruiz; aunt, Ruth Shinto; cousins, Gordon (Clare) Kodama; Marilyn (Charles) Braun; Barbara (Terry) Wong; Jimmy (Diane) Shinto; and Pam (Tim Schenkelberg) Shinto; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Nagase, Goro, 89, Newark, DE, Sept. 10; he was predeceased by his wife, Takako; he is survived by his children, Terumi (Chris) McKenna and George Nagase; brother, Mitsumasa Nagase; gc: 1.



Okura, Hiroshi 'Johnny,' 100, Chicago, IL, Aug. 21; veteran, Army (WWII; 442nd, Battery A, 522nd FAB); he was predeceased by his wife, Toshiko; son, Gerald, siblings, Harue (Ishii), Kazuki, Atsushi, Toru and Yukiko (Takata); he is survived by his son, Terrence (Jurate); gc: 2; ggc: 4.

Quon-Oyama, Lai (Donna), 69, San Diego, CA, Aug. 19; she is survived by her children, Lisa Festa and Joseph Oyama.



Sakaguchi, Sono, 95, Seattle, WA, Aug. 13; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Minidoka WRA Center in ID; she was predeceased by her husband, Paul; she is survived by her children, Ann, Paul Jr. (Stacie) and Mark (Debbie); siblings, Atsushi Kiuchi, George (Lillian) Kiuchi, Lillian Yuriko Yamamoto, Kiyoe (Sho) Doi, Frank Kiuchi; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews; gc: 4; ggc: 5.



Sato, Grace Shigaki, 91, Tempe, AZ; B.A., University of Hawaii; she was predeceased by her husband, Carl; son, Jason; she is survived by her daughters, Barbara and Lauren.

Tsukashima, George, 100, Gardena, CA, Aug. 27; he is survived by his wife, Jean; children, Ronald (Jean) Tsukashima, Dan (Shirley) Tsukashima and Darlene (Edmund) Hosaka; gc: 5; ggc: 11.

Yamasaki, Kiwa, 82, Camarillo, CA, July 30; she was predeceased by her husband, Mutsuo Yamasaki; daughter, Merry Yamasaki; sister, Kinuyo Umemoto; she is survived by her children, Carolyn (partner, John D. Tull) and Kenny Yamasaki; siblings, Masazumi (Setsu) Yanagihara and Kayo (Minoru) Yamaguchi; brother-in-law, Yusaku Umemoto; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Yasunaga, Fumiye, 103, Valley Glen, CA, Aug. 5; she is survived by her sons, Edward Yoshio (Mary Ann), Roger Teruo (Terry) and Dennis Tsuneko (Julie); she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6; ggc: 2.



Yee, Howard Lawrence, 73, Sacramento, CA, June 14; he is survived by his siblings, James (Franzelle) Yee, Tommy (Sharon) Yee, Mary Yee, Parker (Alicia) Yee and Shirley (Kevin) Fujitani; aunt, Linda Tom; he is also survived by nephews, nieces, a great-nephew and cousins.

Yokoyama, George, 75, Torrance, CA, July 20; he is survived by his wife, Jinny; children, Denise and Lauren (Dean) Yokoyama. ■

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REIMAGINE EVERYTHING



THANK YOU TO OUR VETERANS

By Scott Tanaka

In honor of Veterans Day, I am happy to share AARP's Veterans and Military Families Health Benefits Navigator 2.0. Enrolling in a health care plan can be a grueling process, especially when it comes to finding the right information and knowing where to turn for assistance. This is particularly true when it comes to accessing veterans' health benefits. Never assume your eligibility until you've made a full inquiry with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of Defense.

The free online tool includes:

- Detailed information on accessing health benefits provided through VA and DOD
- Instructions on how to apply and enroll in VA health care
- Information on how to expand health care options with Medicare and Medicaid
- Connections for representatives who have experience and know VA's benefits process

For the 17 million-plus Americans

who served in the U.S. military, accessing health care benefits from VA or DOD can be a confusing and frustrating process at times.

Nearly 60 percent of all veterans, for example, are eligible for VA health care services, yet less than half of those eligible veterans use VA health benefits, according to RAND research.

And, the results of a 2021 survey conducted by the VA Center for Women Veterans found that women veterans age 50-plus are the least likely group to use their earned benefits.

Yet, quality of care delivered by the VA is generally equal to or better than care delivered in the private sector. Frustration with the application process and confusion about qualification requirements keeps many veterans from receiving their health benefits.

That's why AARP created the Veterans and Military Families Health Benefits Navigator 2.0 to compile valuable information and resources to help veterans, military families and their caregivers navigate their health benefits options.

The expanded tool will help even more veterans and their caregivers

access health care information. The 2022 edition has additional resources for military caregivers, plus NEW sections with easy-to-find, detailed information on veterans' specialty care programs and services from VA for women veterans and mental health care.

Veterans and military families can access the tool at AARP.org/VetsHealthNavigator. AARP also provides free resources for caregivers who often play a critical role in helping veterans access the care they need. The new **Military Veterans Caregiving Guide** can be accessed by visiting www.aarp.org/VetsCareGuide.

AARP is committed to providing trusted information that veterans and military families can use when it's needed. Visit our website to learn more and find additional resources at www.aarp.org/Veterans. Thank you to our veterans and military families for their tireless service and relentless sacrifice.

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



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