



PACIFIC CITIZEN

Victory party
Tsuru signs from
past actions
PHOTO: HIRO NISHIKAWA



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VICTORY ACHIEVED

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**Korean War
Veterans Honored
for Their Service.**

BIDEN PAYS TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS OF CALIFORNIA SHOOTINGS

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Joe Biden honored 18 people killed in two California mass shootings, saying “we have to be there” with the communities that have been forever scarred by gun violence.

“Our prayers are with the people of Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay, and after yet another spree of gun violence in America,” he said at a Lunar New Year reception at the White House on Jan. 26.

Eleven people were killed at a Southern California ballroom dance hall Jan. 21, and seven others died Jan. 23 at two mushroom farms in the northern part of the state.

Biden said that he had spoken with Brandon Tsay, 26, who was at a second dance hall a few miles from the scene of the tragedy in Monterey Park when the same gunman entered, brandishing his weapon. Tsay disarmed the gunman, who then fled.

He praised Tsay’s courage, calling him a “genuine hero.”

“Brandon said he thought he was going to die, but then he thought about the people inside,” Biden said, asking the largely Asian American audience to ponder what could have happened had Tsay fled himself.

“I think sometimes we underestimate incredible acts of courage,” the president said. “Someone has a

semiautomatic pistol aimed at you and you think about others. That’s pretty profound, pretty profound.”

The shootings were carried out during celebrations of the arrival of the Lunar New Year, one of the most important Asian holidays, and sent fear through Asian American communities already dealing with increased violence directed at them, some of it due to misinformation

about the coronavirus. Authorities said Huu Can Tran opened fire late Jan. 21 on a mostly elderly crowd of dancers at the Star Ballroom Dance Studio in Monterey Park. Nine people were also wounded. Tran, 72, was later found dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.



Brandon Tsay, who saved countless additional lives by disarming the gunman who killed 11 people in Monterey Park, was hailed a hero by President Joe Biden, received Congressional accolades and given the Medal of Courage by the City of Alhambra.

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TYRE NICHOLS' DEATH SHOWS WE STILL NEED CHANGE

By JACL National

On Jan. 7, 2023, five police officers from the Memphis Police Department severely beat 29-year-old Tyre Nichols during a traffic stop in Memphis, Tenn. Nichols was hospitalized in critical condition and died there three days later. He was laid to rest earlier Feb. 1 in Memphis surrounded by family, friends, community members and civil rights advocates.

Nichols is only the latest victim of brutality and violence at the hands of the police. In 2022 alone, the number of people who have died at the hands of the police hit a 10-year high, with African

Americans accounting for over a quarter of deaths. In the nearly three years since George Floyd’s murder in May 2020, little has changed. Congress has failed to pass meaningful reform at the federal level.

At our 51st National Convention, JACL’s National Council passed a resolution in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement and specifically committed to advocating for the passage of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and the Breathe Act, which would make significant strides toward reforming police policies. Again, Congress has



failed to take action on either of these bills.

We must also focus on the local level. Policing systems are fundamentally broken and not just the result of a few bad apples. Nichols’ death shows this to be true. Resources must be directed to community-based solutions to uplift communities, not subject them to oppression from overpolicing.

They also define the ways community care and safety are practiced in our country for future generations. The JACL strongly reiterates the need for major reform in law enforcement, which includes in-

dependent community oversight, de-escalation of force and just and equitable police policies and practices.

It is past time we must make fundamental changes to our law enforcement agencies to ensure Black and Brown individuals are safe from oppressive and abusive police practices. Law enforcement officers must be held accountable for these heinous acts of violence.

If we are to ensure justice for those affected by the trauma of these actions, we must reform the systems that have enabled these acts of violence from the state upon the people. We can do better. We must do better. ■

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The *P.C.*'s mission is to 'educate on the past Japanese American experience and preserve, promote and help the current and future AAPI communities.'

* Your donations will help build and preserve a cohesive library of the *Pacific Citizen* to educate future generations.*

'I'm glad to see the Pacific Citizen growing and evolving with its website, and especially LOVE the much easier-to-navigate digital archives. It's a treasure trove for JAs to learn about our community's history, and for scholars and journalists looking to connect the past with the present. Thanks for the improvements, P.C.!'

— Gil Asakawa





FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SEE YOU IN LITTLE TOKYO!

By David Inoue, JACL Executive Director

It's been a long time coming, and long overdue, but we are finally able to announce that the 2023 JACL National Convention will be held in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo. The dates will be July 19-23, and its theme is "Rooted in Community," where we will look to highlight the many aspects of the Little Tokyo neighborhood and community.

For many Japanese Americans such as myself, we did not have a community center like Little Tokyo growing up. But if we aren't vigilant, there won't be one for

future generations either.

We are now down to only three historic Japanese American neighborhood communities: San Jose, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Los Angeles now also has the Sawtelle neighborhood in West Los Angeles as a second Japantown.

These communities continue to be places for members of the community to live, but more so, they serve as cultural centers, drawing people for community events and activities. The threat of gentrification and other competing urban needs still threaten the viability of these centers and is one of many topics we will be highlighting at the upcoming

convention.

There are many issues that have come to the forefront that we will also look to tackle. In Texas, legislators have proposed to reinstate Alien Land Laws to prevent the purchase of property by foreign nationals with citizenship from China, Iran, North Korea and Russia.

Less than five years after Florida became the last state to repeal its existing Alien Land Laws, politicians are proposing to bring the same laws back. At the same time, Florida's governor is seeking to control what is taught in Florida schools — and effectively all schools — by refusing to include a course on AP African American History. Attacks on education cut especially close to JACL, as so much of our work is to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to learn about the Japanese American experience during World War II.

And for JACL, we have much work to do internally. We can't ignore the crisis we experienced at our last meeting, where if not for the

last-minute entry of Larry Oda to the elections, we could have been left without a duly elected national president.

We will need to take some time to have conversations about the future of JACL and what we need to do to ensure the future success of the national organization and our chapters.

But we hope that it will not be all work. Meeting in Little Tokyo opens up so many opportunities to see the local community. Attendees can go to the Japanese American National Museum to view the exhibits before they close for renovation and find their family members in the *Ireicho*, a book listing all Japanese American incarcerated on display for this year.

We will also have events at longtime anchor of the community the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center and one of the newest pillars of the community, the Budokan. And, of course, there are the many local small businesses available to eat and shop at, and we hope that you will patronize as many

of the local businesses as possible.

Finally, there are so many possibilities for other activities. Live performances. A trip to Manzanar or Santa Anita. Guided tours of JANM, the Go For Broke National Education Center and the Little Tokyo neighborhood itself. There are so many places to visit during convention.

The possibilities are endless within the city of Los Angeles and its neighboring communities. For those with young children, extending your stay a few days might include a trip to a certain magical place for kids in Anaheim.

The staff and local Pacific Southwest District chapters and members are all excited about the possibilities of the 2023 convention in Little Tokyo, and I hope you are as well.

We look forward to revealing more information in the coming weeks and seeing you all in Little Tokyo in July!

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



NIKKEI VOICE

'EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE' WILL ADD MOMENTUM TO AAPI REPRESENTATION.

By Gil Asakawa

We are in a moment. An important moment for Asian American Pacific Islander and Desi representation in American pop culture. The film "Everything Everywhere All at Once" received 11 Academy Award nominations, the most of any film, in categories including Best Picture, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actor, TWO Best Supporting Actresses, Best Director and Best Original Screenplay. It's already won a wave of awards leading up to the Oscars.

The Internet, and especially the YouTube universe, is awash in accolades for the film. And yet, I suspect that many people who watched it were left scratching their heads and saying, "Whaaa? I don't understand. I'm confused. What was that?"

Or, maybe that was just me.

I watched it again, and this time the story line and characters, along with their many crazy variations in

alternate "multiverses," made a lot more sense. So, if it left you puzzled, watch it again. And again. It will help.

The extra effort is worth it because "EEAAO" will likely win some Oscars, maybe most, possibly all of the categories it's nominated in. More than a few critics claim it's the best film of 2022, and some are even calling it the best film ever.

So, what is "EEAAO" about?

It's about Asian immigrants and their generation gap with American-born kids, about love and regret and family values. And, oh yes, it's about the existence of multiverses — a concept from science fiction and Marvel movies in which parallel universes exist with multiple versions of all of us, with different life paths and different, well, superpowers. Yes, it helps if you're a fan of Spiderman and Dr. Strange and Avengers movies.

It's about a Chinese immigrant family who is suddenly tossed about in a crazy narrative of different worlds and insane characters and awesome martial arts and violence

and monsters and the evil power of the Everything Bagel. Really. Although I was left dazed and confused at the end of my first viewing, I went with the flow the second time around and had a blast, like riding a roller coaster through a house of horrors.

The main characters are set in the first few minutes:

The mother is played by Michelle Yeoh, who is a grim Asian mom, strict wife and concerned businesswoman swimming through a flood of receipts and paperwork. But, she transforms and evolves throughout the plot.

Her husband, played by Ke Huy Quan, is meek and geeky, an almost childlike dad, who turns into a multiverse-traversing martial arts master.

Stephanie Hsu is perfectly cast as the daughter, whose seething anger at life leads to her being a supervillain monster in parallel multiverses.

Yeoh has been a veteran of Hong Kong and Chinese films, including her American breakout film, 2000's "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon." In some of her many iterations through "EEAAO," she uses her martial arts ability to great effect, but she gets the chance to show a much wider range of abilities as an actor here, including heartbreak and pure love.

If Quan looks vaguely familiar, it's because he got his start in Hollywood with two blockbuster Steven Spielberg productions: 1984's "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom" (as the perky sidekick kid Short Round) and 1985's "Goonies" (as the nerd Data).

We never really got to see his career as he grew because after a

few more years, he couldn't even get auditions for any parts, so he went to film school and worked behind the camera for three decades. His casting, shining performance and moving life story as an Asian American actor is alone worth the ticket (or rental, or purchase) price.

He was inspired by the 2018 film "Crazy Rich Asians," which proved a movie could be a hit with a mostly Asian cast and story line (Yeoh was a major character in that film, too).

"EEAAO" takes that success several steps further by being a financial success and critical hit while breaking a bunch of conceptual barriers and Hollywood stereotypes. It's certainly not like any hit movie we've seen before.

Thanks to the visionary leadership by the writing and directing duo of "The Daniels" — Dan Kwan and Daniel Scheinert, and dizzyingly split-second editing by Paul Rogers,

"EEAAO" is a thrilling funhouse experience.

Yes, it may be a blur when you watch it. But watch it again, and you'll be rewarded and warmed by the message of the movie: Family matters, and our community's cultural values can hold us up even in the craziest of times, for in the end, love does conquer all.

With "Crazy Rich Asians," 2021's "Shang Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings" (which, surprise, Yeoh also starred in!) and now "Everything Everywhere All at Once," Asians are truly having a moment in American popular culture.

Let's all enjoy the moment and support this and other movies so the moment can last into the future.

Gil Asakawa is the author of "Tabemasho! Let's Eat! A Tasty History of Japanese Food in America" (Stone Bridge Press).



"Everything Everywhere All at Once" is nominated for 11 Oscars. It has the chance to make Academy Awards history next month when the show airs live on March 12.



GO FOR BROKE STAMP SOON TO BE DESTROYED

The commemorative USPS stamps, printed in limited quantities, will end its availability in 2023.

By Stamp Our Story Campaign

GET THEM NOW, OR THEY WILL BE GONE FOREVER.

The U.S. Postal Service will stop selling the Go For Broke Japanese American Soldiers of World War II Commemorative Postage Stamp sometime this year. The remaining inventory will then be destroyed, postal sources shared with the Stamp Our Story Committee, the community group that led the 15-year campaign for the stamp.

All commemorative stamps are printed in limited quantities and sold for a limited time, typically one to two years. June of 2023 will mark two years since the Go For Broke Stamp was issued, first in Los Angeles, Calif., on June 3, 2021.

A stamp dedication ceremony was held at the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo to mark the occasion, for which even President Joseph Biden made a special White House statement. Similar events were held in eight other cities across the nation.

“We strongly encourage interested individuals and organizations in the community to buy up the remaining Go For Broke Stamps — let’s sell out the stamp!” said Wayne Osako, chair of the Stamp Our Story Committee. “This is a wonderful way to show your support for the Nisei soldiers’ legacy and send a message to Washington that more stories like ours ought to be shared.”

While the USPS makes it a policy of not discussing how many stamps it has left, nor sales figures, it has shared that it originally printed one million sheets (20 stamps per

sheet) of the stamp. Sheets are still available online at usps.com for \$12 per sheet at the going rate of 60 cents per stamp.

“We would love for the community to buy the stamps, particularly those whose loved ones and friends are Nisei soldiers,” Osako said. “Once the stamps are gone, they are gone. The Postal Service does not reprint nor reissue commemorative stamps.”

In addition to the stamp sheets, the USPS is also selling a Go For Broke Limited Edition Collectible Set for \$39.95, which includes a color booklet on the history of the Nisei soldiers. The booklet has rare photographs and a wartime map from late-Nisei veteran Lawson Sakai. A Go For Broke Soldiers Framed Stamp Art (\$39.95) and collectible color envelope cachet with the stamp (\$9.95) are also still being sold.

The USPS has not announced when it will cease selling the stamp and these items, so get them while you still can at the original price. Once the USPS stops selling them, the stamp resellers will sell some but raise prices.

Anyone can buy the stamp, and legally resell them later, at their own price. They can also be resold as part of nonprofit fundraising.

“Recently, some local organizations have sold the stamp as part of their auctions for fundraising,” Osako explained. “We encourage organizations to buy the stamp, use them and resell or auction them for fundraising, so the community benefits from the stamp. The late founders of our campaign worked tirelessly so we could have this opportunity to remember our Nisei veterans through the stamp.”



The USPS is still selling the Go For Broke Stamp Limited Edition Collectible Set (\$39.95) on usps.com. Soon, it will stop selling the Go For Broke Stamp and special items like this due to its sunset policy for commemorative stamps.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF USPS

To continue to raise awareness of the Nisei soldiers’ legacy this year and beyond, even after the stamp ceases to be sold, Stamp Our Story is releasing a short documentary film. The 18-minute film, titled “Stamp Our Story: Honoring America’s Nisei Veterans,” is being submitted at various film festivals and will also have special screenings across the nation.

The Stamp Our Story Committee is also working with organizations and postmasters to hold special postal cancellations using the Go For Broke Stamp. Manzanar National Historic Site and the Poston Community Alliance both held such events, with hundreds of participants, to commemorate the story of the Nisei soldiers.

For more information about these programs and to read about the Stamp Our Story Committee’s other educational programs, visit www.StampOurStory.org.



Two attendees show off their special Go For Broke Stamp event cancellation at the Poston Pilgrimage on Oct. 21, 2022, in Parker, Ariz.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF STAMP OUR STORY COMMITTEE



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The Hon. Consul General Youngwan Kim bestows the Republic of Korea Ambassador for Peace Medal to Paul Sunao Tarumoto.



The Republic of Korea Ambassador for Peace Medals

The Hon. Consul General Youngwan Kim of the Los Angeles Korean Consulate addresses the capacity crowd at the 2022 Korean War Veterans Tribute & Speakers Forum at the Orange County Plaza Conference Center. Seated are the Korean War veteran Ambassador for Peace Medal recipients and family members who were receiving the award for a posthumous awardee.

Norio Uyematsu (left) with the Hon. Consul General Youngwan Kim, who bestowed the Republic of Korea Ambassador for Peace Medal to Uyematsu prior to his attendance at the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance dedication in Washington, D.C., last July. Uyematsu was the only Japanese American Korean War veteran in attendance at the national event



PHOTOS: PATTI HIRAHARA

‘NEVER FORGOTTEN’

Veterans who served in the ‘Forgotten War’ are honored for their service as a Republic of Korea Ambassador for Peace.

By Patti Hirahara, Contributor



Master of Ceremonies Jon Kaji, councilmember of the City of Torrance



Hiroshi ‘Hershey’ Miyamura spoke in a prerecorded message for the Dec. 3 event. He died on Nov. 29, 2022, at the age of 97. Miyamura was the only Japanese American Korean War Medal of Honor recipient.

In 1996, a group of former Japanese American Korean War veterans convened to create a national organization in Los Angeles that became known as the Japanese American Korean War Veterans (JAKWV).

The charter officers included Robert M. Wada, president; Minoru Tonai, vp; Norio Uyematsu, vp; Sam Shimoguchi, treasurer; and Victor Muraoka, secretary.

The Korean War conflict — beginning on June 25, 1950, when North Korea invaded South Korea, and formally ending on July 27, 1953, when an armistice was signed between the two countries — is known as the “Forgotten War.”

The heroism and bravery exhibited by Japanese American Korean War veterans in defending the freedom of people that they never met should be commended, and all those who lost their lives should never be forgotten.

Sgt. Hiroshi “Hershey” Miyamura was the only Japanese American Korean War veteran to receive the Medal of Honor for his service. President Dwight D. Eisenhower presented the medal to him at the White House for his gallantry in action and his ability, upon capture, to survive 28 months as a Prisoner of War.

The stories of these Japanese American Korean

War veterans were highlighted in a book by Robert M. Wada and edited by Norio Uyematsu entitled “Americans of Japanese Ancestry in the Korean War — Stories of Those Who Served” under the auspices of the JAKWV. This is the only book that honored so many of those who served in the Korean War; it is now out of print.

Due to the group’s aging membership and others passing away, the JAKWV decided to close in 2019 and allow other Japanese American veterans groups to honor those that remained.

To recognize their historic contributions, the Veterans Memorial Court Alliance in conjunction with the Kazuo Masuda Memorial VFW Post 3670, the Gardena Nisei Memorial VFW Post 1961, Tanaka Farms and the OCO Club held the 2022 Korean War Veterans Tribute & Speaker Forum on Dec. 3 at the Orange County Plaza Conference Center in Irvine, Calif.

The master of ceremonies was Jon Kaji, City of Torrance councilmember, who welcomed the assembled audience.

The Dec. 3 event also featured a prerecorded greeting from Miyamura, who passed away only days before on Nov. 29 at the age of 97. He was honored for his service by Veterans Memorial Court Alliance President Ken Hayashi.

Another highlight of the event was the bestowing of the Republic of Korea Ambassador for Peace Medal to 20 veterans who served during the Korean War from the Hon. Youngwan Kim, consul general of the Republic of Korea in Los Angeles.

“The ceremony was quite inspirational to me, and I learned a lot about the Japanese American Korean War heroes through the event,” said Kim of his impressions of the event. “The Korean War is often said ‘a Forgotten War,’ which has been overshadowed by WWII and the Vietnam War.

“In this regard, we strive to ensure that the world remembers the noble service and sacrifice of the Korean War veterans,” he continued. “At the medal awarding ceremony, I realized that there

are also forgotten heroes of this so-called ‘the Forgotten War.’ They are the Japanese American Korean War heroes.”

“This year marks the 70th anniversary of the armistice and Korea-U.S. military alliance. The Korean government will continue to make every effort to keep the records of the sacrifices of the Korean War heroes, including the Japanese American heroes, and we will endeavor to honor them by remembering their stories and sacrifices.

“I personally will continue to help foster a better understanding between the Korean people and the Japanese American community,” Kim concluded.

Kim bestowed the Republic of Korea Ambassador for Peace Medal to surviving Korean War veterans Franklin Shigeo Hayakawa, Kenzo Mayeda, Harumi “Bacon” Sakatani, Robert Sueyoshi, Paul Sunao Tarumoto, George Joji Toya and Hiroaki Yamamoto.

Those posthumously honored were represented by family members.

They are:

- **Kenji Hashimoto**, represented by Les Hashimoto
- **George Sakashi Higa**, represented by Mike Higa
- **Herbert Hiroshi Hayakawa**, represented by Lisa Kaji
- **James Zentoku Ige**, represented by Robert Ige
- **James Yoshio Matsuura**, represented by Karen Tanaka
- **George Yutaka Mizushima**, represented by Alan Mizushima
- **Jenkuro Zen Mukai**, represented by Jill Mukai Kato
- **Walter Yoshio Sorakubo**, represented by Stacy Choi
- **Masaichi Sugamura**, represented by Teri Sugamura
- **Tetsuro Suzuki**, represented by Hiroko Suzuki
- **Walter Takeo Taira**, represented by Linda Taira
- **Masami Tsurudome**, represented by Lisa Osaka
- **Mack Toraichi Yamada**, represented by Sharon Suzuki

The logo for the Japanese American Korean War Veterans, a national organization created in 1996 to perpetuate the history of Japanese Americans who fought and served in the Korean War. The organization ended in 2019.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF NORIO UYEMATSU, JAKWV CHARTER VP

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Berks Detention Center Closed for Good

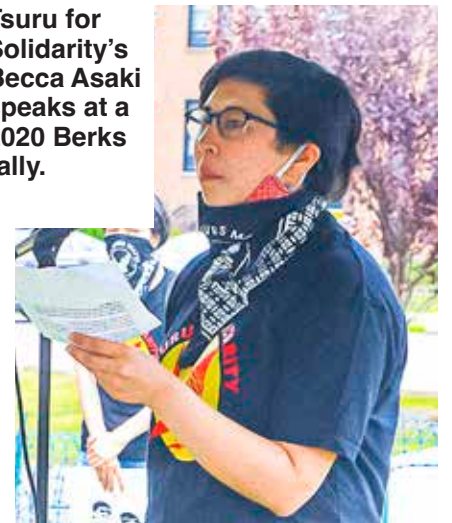
Following years of protests, victory is achieved through the dedicated organizing efforts of more than a dozen immigrant rights groups as part of the Shut Down Berks Coalition.



JACL Philly and Make the Road PA at 2019 Berks action

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ROB BUSCHER

Tsuru for Solidarity's Becca Asaki speaks at a 2020 Berks rally.



By Rob Buscher, JACL Philadelphia

On Jan. 31, the Berks County Residential Center, otherwise known as Berks Detention Center, finally closed its doors.

Pacific Citizen readers may remember the Berks Detention Center coverage from 2019-20 when JACL Philadelphia and Tsuru for Solidarity participated in a series of protests at the immigrant detention center, which is located about 65 miles northwest of Philadelphia. After years of community advocacy, the center had stopped detaining children in March 2021 amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, after sitting empty for nearly one year, in January 2022, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement began using the

center to hold adult women. It should be noted that nearly all of these women, and the families detained at Berks before them, were legal asylum seekers.

Prior to its closure, families had reported verbal abuse, workers' rights abuses, medical neglect and at least one case of sexual assault. In its more recent iteration as an immigrant women's prison, detainees were isolated by denying visitation rights, fed with poor-quality food that lacked nutritious value, given little time outdoors and the detainees themselves were forced to clean their own facility.

Thankfully, after more than eight years of community organizing, Berks has finally closed its doors.

Liliana Perez, a member of immigrant rights group Casa Pennsylvania and a former Berks detainee, shared her reaction to the news.

"This victory feels like a dream," she said. "I feel happy, content and free. Closing Berks Detention Center is the best thing that could have happened. I spent more than one month in detention, and my sick daughter was never cared for or given the medicine she needed while I was in prison. This detention center created a lot of suffering, and I am overjoyed to see it finally close. The same freedom that I have (now) should be given to other immigrants in Pennsylvania and across the country."

This victory was achieved through the dedicated organizing efforts of more than a dozen immigrant rights groups from across the region who, since 2015, have combined their efforts through the Shut Down Berks Coalition.

The coalition regularly organized site-based vigils, rallies at the state capitol in Harrisburg, protests at ICE regional headquarters in Philadelphia and countless other direct actions and letter writing campaigns.

It is impossible to estimate how many hours were devoted by the many diverse groups of activists who contributed to the efforts of the Shut Down Berks Coalition, but a victory party hosted last week in Reading, Penn. (located 7 miles from Berks), demonstrated the diversity

of the individuals involved in this movement.

About 75 people were in attendance at the victory party, among whom were members of Pennsylvania Immigrant and Citizenship Coalition (PICC), Make the Road PA, Juntos, Casa Pennsylvania, Free Migration Project, Council on American Islamic Relations Philadelphia, Berks Stands Up, Universalist Unitarian Church Reading, Tsuru for Solidarity, Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees, New York Day of Remembrance Committee and the JACL Philadelphia chapter.

The event was celebratory in nature, bringing together members of the coalition for a buffet-style meal, drinks and dancing. In the background played a slide show featuring photos taken throughout the eight-year campaign.

Sansei incarceration survivor and longtime member of the Shut Down Berks Coalition Hiro Nishikawa attended the event and shared some memories of his involvement in the campaign.

"I've lost count of how many times and which orgs led the vigils and rallies I joined in front of the Detention Center where undocumented aliens were housed. It was frustrating when we learned that the building facilities were owned by the surrounding municipality, which had a financial interest in 'renting' the facility for revenue income — regardless of the nature of incarceration."

Nishikawa was first alerted to the Shut Down Berks movement through the immigrant rights advocacy work he was involved in, which called for comprehensive immigration reform. The last significant effort in Congress for immigration



JACL Philly member Kako Yamada at the Berks rally

JACL Philly's Ellen Somekawa (left) at a 2020 Berks rally

JACL Philly members at the 2019 Berks action





SDB protesters are arrested during a 2016 rally at Berks.

PHOTO: HIRO NISHIKAWA



JACL Philly at Shut Down Berks Coalition press conference at the Department of Human Services Philadelphia

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ROB BUSCHER

reform took place in 2013, when a bill that had passed the Democratic-controlled Senate failed to gain traction in the Republican majority House of Representatives. Given the lack of comprehensive legislative reform in the past decade, site fights like Berks have become more pronounced in the overall advocacy strategy for many immigrant rights groups.

A highlight of the event featured powerful remarks from Lorena, a young mother who was incarcerated with her son at the detention center for nearly two years.

In a heartfelt speech that she spoke in Spanish before being translated into English, Lorena said, "For me, it is a pleasure. The best news I have heard. Happy to know that there will never again be families in Berks Detention. No more depressed children locked up.

"Freedom is the most valuable thing that can be had, thanks to the support from everyone," she continued. "Families should not arrive to be confined, no matter where they are from. I am more than happy that it will be closed down."

While the coalition members spent the evening basking in the warm glow of victory, many are now looking at the fight ahead as their organizations plan to continue advocating for comprehensive immigration reform and an end to the immigrant detention system.

Becca Asaki, from Tsuru for Solidarity and New York Day of Remembrance Committee, shared the following statement about what the closure of Berks means within the larger context of the immigrant rights movement.

"In the face of an escalation of criminalization, militarized targeting and continued cruel treatment of migrants across the country, it is more important than ever to celebrate wins like shutting down the Berk Family Detention Center," she said. "This win demonstrates the power of communities coming together to demand an end to harmful detention sites that inflict trauma on children and families. Tsuru for Solidarity and the New York Day of Remembrance are proud of the role we played in bringing the moral authority of Japanese Americans into this fight and in building a multiracial coalition with directly impacted communities in this effort."

Indeed, Japanese Americans in Pennsylvania and throughout the country must continue to stand against immigrant detention. Our community knows better than many, the lasting trauma that incarceration has wrought across generations.

Nishikawa was present at the very first Berks vigil organized by the Universalist Unitarian



JACL Executive Director David Inoue at a 2020 Berks rally

Church in 2015, so it was fitting for him to be present at a victory celebration he was not sure would ever come to pass. He shared his reactions to the closure.

"Given the public ownership of the Berks facility, many of us did not expect this 'shut down' outcome," he said. "But we are happy to see it happen. The unexpected impact of attending the Shut Down Berks celebration was the joy of meeting folks from the past vigils under pleasant circumstances. However, recent events are presenting new situations involving refugees from armed conflicts, natural disasters, political upheavals and so forth. So, how will the busloads of refugees being shipped to U.S. cities be managed fairly and humanely?"

As Japanese Americans, it is a moral responsibility to contribute our historical perspective and lived experience to these movements, as Nishikawa has so eloquently modeled through his years of allyship to contemporary immigrant communities.

As JACL members, we must continue this work as we amplify the voices of the frontline communities who are currently being impacted by the institutional violence of mass incarceration. ■



Victory party JACL Philly members (from left) Hiro Nishikawa and Rob Buscher and Tsuru for Solidarity NY members Michael Ishii and Becca Asaki

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF HIRO NISHIKAWA



A former Berks detainee speaks at the victory party.



Veteran Casey Kunimura, 97, unveils the CGM Nisei soldier plaque.

HONORING OUR VETERANS TODAY AND ALWAYS



(Left picture) The CGM Nisei soldier plaque at the Japanese garden in Salt Lake City's Japantown

Ret. Judge Raymond Uno (left) and Casey Kunimura, 442nd RCT

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF SEN. JANI IWAMOTO



By Sen. Jani Iwamoto

Veterans Day weekend 2022 indeed special and memorable with the dedication of a plaque in the Salt Lake City Japantown garden to honor Congressional Gold Medal Nisei veterans.

The plaque's dedication could not have happened without Ret. Judge Raymond Uno's thoughtful vision and kind generosity. Judge Uno donated a fund — in the name of his parents, Clarence Hachiro and Osako Teraoka Uno — to the Japanese Church of Christ to advance this special commemoration.

It was so important to Judge Uno that these veterans' names be visible — and forever remembered.

The CGM plaque is also dedicated to Mitsugi Murakami Kasai, who served in the U.S. military from 1946-73 and was an advocate for the rights of Japanese Americans and their place in history. The structure for the plaque was donated and constructed by SL County and SMG, which runs the Salt Palace Convention Center.

Also resting in this garden is another plaque that is dedicated to the Issei and Nisei pioneers who settled in Utah.

The accuracy to ensure inclusion of the names of the Utah veterans was a true labor of love, with careful review of obituaries, books, articles and discussion with families and help from the National Japanese American Historical Society, National Veterans Network and our local records. The stories learned

were priceless and humbling. The brilliance and expertise of Paul Seo (Creative Awards) made certain the plaque would honor soldiers with great care and reverence.

After the plaque dedication, community members enjoyed manjū, bento boxes and videos made during the original CGM ceremonies, with photos of individual Nisei soldiers at the Japanese Church of Christ.

Special photos were also displayed of Nisei soldiers from the Special Collections, J Willard Marriott Library at the University of Utah, from the Japanese American Veterans of World War II Exhibit that is part of the Mitsugi Kasai Memorial Japanese American Archive, curated by Lorraine Crouse for the local CGM event in 2011.

Videographer Kiyoshi Nagahama of Digital Bytes also interviewed Casey Kunimura, a 97-year-old veteran from the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and other families of veterans present for the plaque dedication.

What an honor it was for the community to come together to express gratitude and ensure the stories of Nisei soldiers will be forever remembered. We are hopeful to have another plaque dedication in another location in Salt Lake City in the coming months! ■



The roll call of the camps is a Manzanar Pilgrimage tradition.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MANZANAR COMMITTEE

Manzanar Annual Pilgrimage Date Set

The 54th annual event and 2023 Manzanar at Dusk program are planned for April 29.

LOS ANGELES — “Our Legacy: Generational Struggles Towards Democracy” is the theme for the 54th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, which will be held live and in-person, conditions permitting, at the Manzanar National Historic Site on April 29.

The 2023 Manzanar at Dusk program will also be held live and in-person in the hours following the 54th Annual Pilgrimage each year, including students, teachers, community members, clergy and former incarcerated. Planning is already underway for this year's program.

Unlike the last few years when the Covid-19 pandemic forced the Manzanar Committee to move the annual pilgrimage to an online, recorded video format, this year's event will

return, conditions permitting, to its traditional program at the Manzanar National Historic Site.

The 2023 Manzanar at Dusk program, which has also been held online the last two years, will follow the afternoon pilgrimage program, conditions permitting, at 5 p.m. PDT at the Lone Pine High School gymnasium, located at 538 S. Main St. (U.S. Highway 395), in Lone Pine, Calif., approximately eight miles south of the Manzanar National Historic Site, across the street from McDonald's.

Now in its 25th year, Manzanar at Dusk is co-sponsored by the Nikkei Student Unions at California Polytechnic University, Pomona; California State University (CSU); Fullerton CSU; Long Beach; the University of California, Los Angeles; and the University of California,

San Diego.

Through a creative presentation, small group discussions and an open mic session, participants will have the opportunity to interact with former incarcerated in attendance and others to hear their personal stories. Participants will also be able to share their own experiences and discuss the relevance of the Japanese American Incarceration experience to present-day issues.

Further details about the 54th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage and the 2023 Manzanar at Dusk program will be announced at a later date.

Both the Manzanar Pilgrimage and the Manzanar At Dusk program are free and open to the public. For more information, call (323) 662-5102, or e-mail info@manzanarcommittee.org.

A promotional graphic for the 2023 JAACL National Scholarship Program. It features a group of six young women of diverse backgrounds smiling and posing together. In the foreground, there is a large, dark, diamond-shaped graphic with the text "2023 JAACL NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM" and "Applications Open Now!". Below this, the website "jaacl.org/scholarships" is listed. The JAACL logo is also visible.

SHOOTINGS » continued from page 2

Days later, farmworker Chunli Zhao, 66, opened fire at two mushroom farms in Half Moon Bay, killing seven current and former co-workers, police said.

The White House scheduled its Lunar New Year celebration before the shootings.

Both communities "will be affected by what they saw and what they lost for the rest of their lives," Biden said, referring to the trauma inflicted and the need for treatment. "And as a nation, we have to be there with them. We have to be there with them. We don't have a choice."

He led the gathering in a moment of silence to honor the victims.

Biden had ordered American flags on federal facilities lowered to half-staff through sunset Jan. 26 out of respect for the Monterey Park victims. He said that he has been in touch with California Gov. Gavin Newsom. He also sent VP Kamala Harris, a native of the state, to Monterey Park on Jan. 25 to offer condolences on behalf of the government.

"Thank you for taking such incredible action in the face of danger," Biden told Tsay in a brief video of the conversation that the White House shared Jan. 26 on Twitter. "I don't think you understand how much

you've done for so many people who are never even going to know you."

Tsay replied that he was still processing what had happened.

"For you to call, that's just so comforting to me," Tsay told the president.

Tsay was also among President Biden's special guests during his annual State of the Union address on Feb. 7.

During his remarks, Biden said: "Joining us tonight is Brandon Tsay, a 26-year-old hero. . . . Two weeks ago, during the Lunar New Year celebrations, he heard the studio's front door close and saw a man pointing a gun at him. He thought he was going to die, but then he thought about the people inside. In that instant, he found the courage to act and wrestled the semi-automatic pistol away from the gunman who had already killed 11 people at another dance studio. He saved lives. It's time we do the same as well. Ban assault weapons once and for all. We did it before. I led the fight to ban them in 1994. In the 10 years the ban was law, mass shootings went down. After Republicans let it expire, mass shootings tripled. Let's finish the job and ban assault weapons again."

NEVER FORGOTTEN » continued from page 5

Honoring the Japanese American Korean War veterans were Joseph Dyer, veterans and military liaison, and Francis Hur, deputy district director from Congresswoman Michelle Steel's office from California's 48th District.

Robert Horsting then led a Q & A session with Korean War veterans George Iseri and Bacon Sakatani. Robert M. Wada and Min Tonai were scheduled to participate but were unable to attend. Wada, who worked tirelessly to promote the Japanese American Korean War veterans and create monuments in their honor, passed away on Jan. 18 of this year.

Members of the Korean War Veterans Tribute Committee included Ken Hayashi, Kristen Hayashi, Les Higa, Horsting, Ellyn Iwata, Lily Kozai, James Nakamura, David Uyematsu and Tim Yuge.

After the conclusion of the event, Norio, George and I went to eat at a local ramen shop. What happened when we were ready to pay the check was truly amazing.

A customer passed by our table and since Norio and George were wearing their Korean War Army caps, the gentleman said, "Thank you for your service." We were surprised and honored that the gentleman took the time to stop and talk to us.

After he left, we were ready to pay the bill and were told the gentleman had paid our entire check. We were in shock that an unknown stranger would do that for us. So, Norio got up and thanked him before he left.

"This truly makes my day to know that what we did 70 years ago is not forgotten, and George and I were acknowledged for our service for what we did for our country," said Uyematsu.

Of the more than 5,000 Japanese American Korean War veterans who fought and served in the Korean War, 247 were killed in action, and now many have passed

Event program

PHOTO: PATTI HIRAHARA



away. Of those that remain, they have a very special story to tell.

I think Robert M. Wada said it best that "To Forget Would Be a Dishonor, To Remember Will Be Everlasting," and with the JAKWV no longer in existence, we should continue to honor these Korean War veterans before it is too late.

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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

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

NATIONAL

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

100 N. Central Ave.

The Ireichō 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

'Reparative Justice: Together We Rise' San Jose, CA

Feb. 19; 5:30-7 p.m.

San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin Annex

632 N. Fifth St.

Price: Free But Seating Limited

Presented by the Nihonmachi Outreach Committee, this event commemorates the 81st anniversary of EO 9066 and will feature Valentin Lopez, chairman of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band; WWII incarceration survivors Sumi Tanabe and Susie Yasui, San Jose Taiko and a candlelight procession.

Info: Visit sjnoc.org or email info@sjnoc.org or call (408) 505-1186.

Bay Area Day of Remembrance 2023: 'Carrying the Light for Justice' San Francisco, CA

Feb. 19; 2-4 p.m.

Christ United Presbyterian Church

1700 Sutter St.

Price: Free

Commemorating Day of Remembrance, this program will feature keynote speaker Don Tamaki, a spoken word performance by Lauren Ito, candlelighting ceremony and an interfaith benediction and procession.

Info: Visit www.njahs.org or call (415) 921-5007.

IKKAI

San Jose, CA

Premieres Feb. 25; 4-7 p.m.

San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin Annex

640 N. Fifth St.

Price: Email for Ticket Link

KAMBARA+ is pleased to announce its premiere performances of IKKAI, which means once: a transplanted pilgrimage, an immersive project choreographed by Yayoi Kambara. Weaving together modern dance, Ei Ja Nai Ka dance choreographed by PJ Hirabayashi and taiko, IKKAI explores the struggles for reparations and healing and current/future solidarities with communities

facing the violence of xenophobic policies.

Info: For a link for tickets, email suyeda9356@aol.com.

Northern California Time of Remembrance 'Uprooted! An American Story' Sacramento, CA

March 11; 1-3 p.m.

California Museum

1020 O St.

Price: General Admission \$15; College Students \$10; Free for Ages 18 and Under

This program, presented by the Florin, Lodi, Placer County and Sacramento JACL chapters, features the grand opening of "Uprooted! An American Story," which has undergone an extensive redesign incorporating interactive and innovative features. It demonstrates the power of education and preservation through the story of Japanese American incarceration and the civil rights movement to the present.

Info: Visit NCTOR.org or call Nancy Whiteside at (916) 508-6587.

PSW

2023 Los Angeles Day of Remembrance — 'Uniting Our Voices: Making Democracy Work for All' Los Angeles, CA

Feb. 18; 2 p.m.

Japanese American National Museum

100 N. Central Ave.

Price: Free but RSVP Required

This year's program is dedicated to Jim Matsuoka, a former incarcerated who fought for Japanese American redress and reparations as well as other forms of social justice. It will also feature Manusha Kulkarni in conversation with traci ishigo.

Info: Visit janm.org for more details.

'The Pink Dress' Community Reading Los Angeles, CA

Feb. 18; 3 p.m.

Centenary United Methodist Church

300 S. Central Ave.

Price: Suggested Donation \$10

Centenary Church is holding this community reading of "The Pink Dress" to commemorate the Japanese American internment during World War II. The book is a retelling of a true incident from camp experienced by a longtime member of the church, Moonza Kitashima. In the book, Tsuki, a young internee, wants to wear a beautiful pink dress to her junior high graduation, but the camp administration wants all students to wear green. Following the reading, there will be a Q & A session with author Leslie K. Gray, Kitashima's daughter, led by Rev. Mark Nakagawa.

Info: Visit centenarydtla.org or call (213) 617-9097.

45th Annual L.A. Chinatown Firecracker Run: Year of the Rabbit Los Angeles, CA

Feb. 18-19

Los Angeles Chinatown Plaza 943 N. Broadway in Downtown Los Angeles

Price: Registration \$28-\$60

Registration is now open for the 2023 Firecracker event, with a choice to participate in-person or virtually. Don't miss your opportunity to participate in one of the largest and oldest running races in the U.S. This event is produced by the nonprofit L.A. Chinatown Firecracker Run Committee.

Info: For further information and how to register, visit <https://firecracker10k.org>.

GVJCI Day of Remembrance 2023 'Campaign for Justice: The Japanese Latin American Story' Gardena, CA

Feb. 25; 2-4 p.m.

Virtual Event

Price: Free But Donations Accepted

This virtual live program will feature the 2004 short film "Hidden Internment: The Art Shibayama Story," followed by a discussion with a panel of experts featuring Grace Shimizu, Phil Nash and Chieko Kamisato.

Info: Visit www.jci-gardena.org, email info@jci-gardena.org or call (310) 324-6611.

Confinement in the Land of Enchantment Albuquerque, NM

Feb. 26; 2-3:30 p.m.

International District Library

7601 Central Ave. N.E.

Price: Free

Albuquerque's readers theater group, JACL Players, chronicles the lives of 4,555 men of Japanese ancestry who the U.S. government incarcerated as "enemy aliens" in Lordsburg, Santa Fe, and Fort Stanton during WWII. This multimedia performance is 50 minutes and will be followed by a post-play discussion with the cast.

Info: For more information, contact louisnikki9@gmail.com.

Ventura County JACL Book Club Discussion Ventura, CA

March 22; 7 p.m.

Virtual Zoom Event

Price: Free

Join the Ventura County JACL Book Club as it discusses "An American Son: The Story of George Aratani" with author Naomi Hirahara. This is a virtual event, so please contact the chapter to receive Zoom meeting information.

Info: Contact Betty Katsura at (805) 218-2769 or email bettykatsura@gmail.com.

PNW

'A Long Road to Travel: The Service of Japanese American Soldiers During World War II' Portland, OR

Opens Feb. 18

Japanese American Museum of

Oregon at Naito Center

411 N.W. Flanders St.

This exhibit focuses on the often-arduous journey taken by Nisei soldiers to serve their country, overcome prejudice at home and achieve recognition for their heroism. It also expands on the "What If Heroes Were Not Welcome Home" exhibit and explores important stories and encourages thoughtful reflection, asking visitors to consider what they would have done in the same situation.

Info: Visit <https://jamo.org/exhibits/a-long-road>.

'Resisters: A Legacy of Movement From the Japanese American Incarceration' Seattle, WA

Thru Sept. 18

Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience

719 S. King St.

Price: Check Museum for Admission Prices

This exhibit leads visitors through a historical narrative beginning with the experience of Japanese American internees in the 1940s and the complicated feelings of shame, anger, fear and varied faces of resistance from within the community. The story illustrates generational trauma and cultural aftershocks of incarceration while highlighting the lingering sense of injustice at home and abroad.

Info: Visit <https://www.wingluke.org/exhibit-resisters>.

MDC

Twin Cities JACL Day of Remembrance St. Paul, MN

Feb. 18; 3-5 p.m.

East Side Freedom Library

1105 Greenbrier St.

Price: Free

Join the Twin Cities JACL as it offers a multigenerational look at the legacy of WWII incarceration. This year's event will feature best-selling author Bruce Henderson and his book "Bridge to the Sun," about the thousands of Nisei who were trained as interpreters and interrogators in the Military Intelligence Service Language School in Minnesota. A discussion on the significance of the Japanese American incarceration experience today will follow the presentation featuring Henderson, moderator Yuichiro Onishi and panelists Sally Sudo, Saengmany Ratsabout and Ryan Sudo.

Info: Visit eastsidefreedomlibrary.org.

IDC

Idaho Falls 2023 Day of Remembrance Idaho Falls, Idaho

Feb. 25; Noon Panel Discussion

Theater at the Artitorium on Broadway 271 W. Broadway St.

Price: Free

Sponsored by the Idaho Falls JACL, Friends of Minidoka and the National Park Service, this event will include an open exhibit, film screening of "Betrayed: Surviving an American Concentration Camp" and panel discussion.

EDC

FDR Presidential Library and Museum Presents 'The Eagles of Heart Mountain: A True Story of Football, Incarceration and Resistance in WWII America' by Author Bradford Pearson

Hyde Park, NY

Feb. 19; 2 p.m. and Streaming Online

Henry A. Wallace Center FDR Presidential Library and Home

4079 Albany Post Road

Price: Free But Registration Required for In-Person Attendance

The FDR Presidential Library presents this DOR conversation and book signing with Bradford Pearson, whose book honors the resilience of extraordinary heroes and the power of sports during WWII. This program is made possible through the support of Patti Hirahara.

Info: To register, visit <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ejlo3mijbbd65c31&ose-q=&c=&ch=>.

'Lunar New Year' Curated by Adam Chau Baltimore, MD

Thru March 25

Baltimore Clayworks

Main Gallery

5707 Smith Ave.

Multiple cultures are represented in this project featuring artwork from such artists as Ian Basset, Ling Chun, Juliane Shibata, Hitomi and Takuro Shibata and Michah Sweezie.

Info: Visit <https://baltimoreclayworks.org/event/lunar-new-year-curated-by-adam-chau-main-gallery/>.

'Hokusai: Inspiration and Influence' Exhibit Boston, MA

March 26-July 16

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave.

Taking a new approach to the work of Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849), this major exhibit explores the impact on other artists and brings together more than 90 woodblock prints, paintings and illustrated books by Hokusai and more than 200 works by his teachers, students, rivals and admirers.

Info: Visit <https://www.mfa.org/exhibition/hokusai-inspiration-and-influence>.

National Portrait Gallery: 'One Life: Maya Lin' Washington, D.C.

National Portrait Gallery

8th and G Streets N.W.

The show presents a range of photographs, sculptures, models and images of her completed works and has received support from the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Initiatives Pool.

Info: Visit <https://npg.si.edu/exhibition/one-life-maya-lin-exhibition>.

ADVERTISE HERE

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

FOR MORE INFO:

pc@pacificcitizen.org
(213) 620-1767

In MEMORIAM



Higaki, Katsuko, 98, Twinsburg, OH, July 23, 2022; she was predeceased by her husband, Shigeo Higaki; she is survived by her 3 children; sister, Mary Yaeko Loo; sisters-in-law, Jane Komeiji, Chizu Segawa, Asako Nakamura and Katsuko Higaki; gc: 7; ggc: 5.



Iba, June, 91, Laguna Hills, CA, Aug. 26, 2022; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ; B.A., CSULB; she was active in Girl Scouts, PTA; she was predeceased by her daughter, Elaine; she is survived by her children, Nadine (Jaime Nahman), Diane Ohnemus (Steve Barker), Lynn (Derek Johnson) and Wayne (Patty); she is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 10; ggc: 4.

Ishino, Fumiko, 92, Gardena, CA, July 14, 2022; she was predeceased by her husband, Nobuyoshi; she is survived by her sons, Glenn (Arlene) Ishino, Bryan (Lynette) Ishino and Tracy (Caroline) Ishino; she is also survived by many nephews, nieces and other relatives gc: 8; ggc: 3.



Kanemoto, Gary, 80, Saratoga, CA, July 1, 2022; B.A., San Jose State Univ.; veteran, USAF; he was predeceased by his sister-in-law, Eileen (Quinn) Kanemoto; he is survived by his wife, Judie; children, Kim and Curtis (Melissa); brothers, Ted, Harvey (Julie), Tim (Jocelyn) and Benson (Eileen); sister-in-law, Kayo Kmak (Ray); brother-in-law, Michael Ozawa (Kathy); gc: 1.

Kodama, Richard Hirokazu, 84, Gardena, CA, June 29, 2022; he is survived by his wife, Myrna; daughter, Christie; sisters, Jean and Vivian; he is also survived by many other family members and friends.



Kubota, Marcelle, 90, Bellingham, WA, June 10, 2022; she is survived by her children, James (Linda) Kubota, Christine (Michael Pietro) Kubota, Marc (Sheri White) Kubota and Michele Kubota; sisters-in-law, Irene Neves and Jean Cassill; she is also survived by nephews and nieces; gc: 5.

Minami, Norio, 81, Santa Ana, CA, Nov. 5, 2022; he is survived by his wife, Eileen Tanaka-Minami; daughter, Kristen Minami; siblings, Masaru (Raquel) Minami and Emiko (Gene) Chan; brother-in-law, Glenn (Shirley) Tanaka; he is also survived by 2 nephews and other relatives.



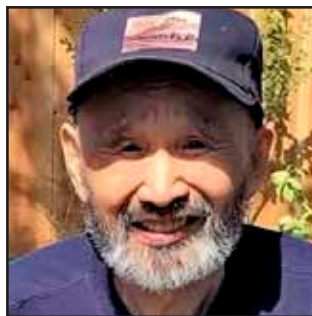
Nagasawa, Hitoko, 99, Sacramento, CA, Aug. 10, 2022; she was predeceased by her husband, Fujio, son, Rick, and 2 siblings; she is survived by her son, Gary (Judie Lew), daughter-in-law, Deb Nagasawa; brother, Joe Koyama; gc: 3; ggc: 5.

Nishikawa, Eleanor, 102, San Jose, CA; she was predeceased by her husband, Shigeo; she is survived by her children, Gary (Marsha), Karen (Bill) and Randy (Dianne); siblings, Kiyo Wakatsuki (Charlotte) and Jeannie Wakatsuki-Houston; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 5; ggc: 4.

Nomura, Fred, 84, Portland, OR, May 12, 2022; he was predeceased by his wife, Cherie Cheney Ferrell; he is survived by his daughters, Vicki, Kelli and Lori Nomura; step-daughters, Brenda and Amy Ferrell; brothers, Maynard, Dennis and Mike Nomura.



Ogasawara, Pauline, 97, Palo Alto, CA, June 29, 2022; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Minidoka WRA Center in ID and the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA; activities: Palo Alto Buddhist Temple; she was predeceased by her husband; Stome, and siblings, Masao (Mutt) Tamiyasu, Mikio Tamiyasu and Jinx (Susie) Fujii; she is survived by her daughters, Vicki Okamoto (Allen) and Debbie Ogasawara-Gaasterland (Larry); siblings, Toshiko Fukuhara, Eddie Tamiyasu and Lynn Tamiyasu-Lee; gc: 2; ggc: 2.



Sakazaki, Shoya, 95, Clarksburg, CA, Aug. 19, 2022; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA; he was predeceased by his sisters, Yukimi Sakazaki Tetsuko Sue (Noburu) Hamasaki; he is survived by his wife, Ikuko; son, Kenneth (Jennifer); sister, Hideko Heidi Sakazaki; he is also survived by a nephew, 2 nieces and several grandnieces and grandnephews; gc: 5; ggc: 1.

Sato, Mitsuo 'Buster,' 95, Houston, TX, July 7, 2022; he was predeceased by his sisters, Kayoko Sato Shinbo and Shizue Sato Vied.

Shinoda, Judy, 61, Tustin, CA; she was predeceased by her husband, Douglas; she is survived by her children, Blake Shinoda and Blair Shinoda (Kristopher) Atzeff; parents, Keith and Anita Sharf; siblings, Jill Sanford, Kathy Lycette and Royce Sharf; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews; gc: 1.

Sugano, Dean Keisuke, 91, Culver City, CA, June 10; he was predeceased by his wife, May; he is survived by his children, Alan Dean (Suzanne) Sugano, Amy Hana Ota (John Matsubayashi); sister, Margaret Kamio; gc: 4.



Takahata, Teruko 'Terrie,' 90, Akron, OH, Nov. 11, 2022; she was predeceased by her husband, Tsutomu, and siblings, Grace Yamahiro, Tsuru Fujimura and James Hosaka; she is survived by her children, Susan Spannauer (Ray), Linda Takahata-Keller (Charles), Dean (Mary) and Naomi Kittel (Mark); sister, Nancy Tanaka; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 8; ggc: 4.



Tamiyasu, Susie, 97, Portland, OR, Aug. 7, 2022; she was predeceased by her first husband, Masao Tamiyasu, and her second husband, Tommy Wong; she is survived by her son, Larry (Libbi Layton); siblings, Betty Nakamura and Kiyoshi Kaneshige; gc: 2.

Torikawa, Jean Ryoko Shioji, 89, Honolulu, HI, Oct. 23, 2022; she is survived by her sons, Glen K. and Wayne T.; siblings, Fay Sekiya, Claire Ann Treat and James Shioji; gc: 1.

Toyooka, Frances Tsuruko, 101, Portland, OR, Oct. 4, 2022; she was predeceased by her husband, Jim; she is survived by her children, Janet Thibault, Ron Toyooka (Elana) and Dan Toyooka (Karen); gc: 11.



Uyeda, Walter, 85, San Jose, CA, July 21, 2022; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Heart Mountain WRA Center in WY; veteran (Army); he is survived by his wife, Barbara; children, Jennifer and Mark; sister, Amy; gc: 5; ggc: 5.



Watanabe, Scott, 64, San Jose, CA, June 12, 2022; he is survived by his sister, Lori (Henry) Louie; he is also survived by a nephew, a niece and two grandnephews.

Watanabe, Yukio, 88, Whittier, CA, Sept. 9, 2022; his was predeceased by his wife, Alice; he is survived by his older brother, sister-in-law, nephews, nieces and other family members.

Yamaguchi, Donald Mitsuo, 91, Rolling Hills, CA, July 27, 2022; B.A., Univ. of Hawaii; B.S., University of N.D.; M.D., Harvard Medical School; he is survived by his wife, Dr. Mitsue Yamaguchi; children, Donald Paul Yamaguchi, Kathryn Yamaguchi Tome and Amy Yamaguchi.

Yoshimine, Eunice Miwako, 94, Yorba Linda, CA, Sept. 19, 2022; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ; she is survived by her husband, Rev. Carl Yoshimine; sons, Jon, Jeffrey (Susan) and Jordan; gc: 3; ggc: 4.

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PLACE A TRIBUTE

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

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



PHOTO: COURTESY OF AARP

AARP IS HELPING A TINY BUDDHIST TEMPLE IN HAWAI'I

By Craig Gima,
Guest Columnist and AARP Communication Director

Like many of the plantation-era Japanese Buddhist temples in Hawai'i, the Guzeiji Soto Mission of Molokai (pictured above) has struggled to find relevance and purpose as membership died off and the children of members moved away and assimilated into other religions. The temple's membership of more than 100 in the 1960s has dwindled to less than 20 mostly older parishioners today.

"The mission of our church is to help the community. Whatever the community needs, the church tries to help in some way," said Lisa Takata, president of the Molokai Soto Mission.

When it was founded more than a century ago, during the height of Japanese immigration to Hawai'i, the temple provided a sense of community and a gathering place for the Japanese men who worked the pineapple fields and later for their families, according to Takata.

When the Covid-19 pandemic hit, a minister who flew in quarterly from Oahu to hold services couldn't come. The annual Obon dance, the temple's biggest event, which attracted people of all races and religions, was canceled, and the temple sat mostly idle.

But things are happening again at the Soto Mission, thanks in part to a \$11,500 AARP Livable Communities 2022 Community Challenge Grant. The grant paid for a Wi-Fi hotspot at the mission, which is used to host tech classes for kupuna (elders). Other grants, awarded with the help of the Krause Family foundation 'Alana Ke Aloha, helped pay for tables, benches and the beautification of public spaces at the mission.

Molokai, the second smallest of the major populated Hawaiian islands, is a rural community with a population of a little more than 7,000 residents. Cell coverage and internet access is spotty.

Even with the new hotspot, some of the older residents and parishioners still had difficulty going online because they didn't know how to use their phones, tablets and other devices. That's where the tech classes at the mission come in.

The classes are intergenerational — students from Molokai High School answer questions from kupuna about how to use their devices.

"As kupuna, we are often filled with fear about trying new things on our equipment for fear of the 'unknown,'" said Mary Kalilikane, one of the kupuna in the class, in an email. "What if we get into something we don't want or the dark web or do something that will make our phone inoperable?"

Some kupuna learned how to Facetime so they could keep in touch with family who've moved away.

"It's different when you are just talking to someone on the phone and now you can see them. They're showing them grandbabies," Takata said. "When they can Facetime family, I think that's a big thing. They (their children) are like, 'Wow mom, you're Facetimeing, what's going on?'"

"Hopefully, the church can be a community space where people can come. The hotspot is already there, and people can learn all kinds of things," Takata said. "We want to serve the community in whatever way we can."

Craig Gima is the communications director for AARP Hawai'i.

2023 AARP Community Challenge Grants

WHAT IS IT? The AARP Livable Communities Initiative is giving grants to fund quick-action projects that help communities become great places to live for people of all ages. The grants range in size from several hundred dollars to tens of thousands of dollars for larger projects. AARP is looking for projects that improve public places; transportation; housing; diversity, equity and inclusion; digital connections; community resilience; civic engagement; and community health and economic empowerment.

WHO CAN GET GRANTS? Nonprofits and government entities with great ideas for fast-tracked projects can apply. A key element of the grants is that projects must be completed by Nov. 30.

WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR? We are offering \$2,500 Capacity-Building Microgrants for projects that support walkability and community gardens. The grants come with webinars, one-on-one coaching and other learning opportunities for recipients. Also new are Demonstration Grants for projects that encourage replication of promising local efforts that build capacity for transportation system changes and accessory dwelling unit design competitions.

HOW DOES MY ORGANIZATION APPLY? Visit aarp.org/communitychallenge to learn more and apply. ■

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

Dear Travelers,

We thank you very much for your patience these past 3 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

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, Hakone/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 Chimpanzee 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:

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