



PACIFIC CITIZEN

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City of Hayward
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American Public
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Presidential
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Hosts DOR
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2023 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

JANM Observes the 81st Anniversary With an In-Person Event in Little Tokyo.



Scouts and survivors and representatives of the 10 WRA camps stand with banners to honor the memory of the thousands of Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during WWII in the aftermath of Executive Order 9066, which was signed on Feb. 19, 1942.

PHOTO: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON

STATEMENT FROM PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR. ON THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF JAPANESE AMERICAN INCARCERATION



THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, D.C. — When President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, 81 years ago today (Feb. 19), it

ushered in one of the most shameful periods in American history. The wrongful incarceration of 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent tore families apart.

Men, women and children were forced to abandon their homes, their jobs, their communities, their businesses and their way of life. They were sent to inhumane concentra-

tion camps simply because of their heritage. And in a tragic miscarriage of justice, the Supreme Court upheld these immoral and unconstitutional policies.

Despite losing liberty, security and the fundamental freedoms that rightfully belonged to them, 33,000 Japanese Americans volunteered or were drafted for service in the

U.S. military during World War II. While their own families were behind barbed wires, Japanese Americans fought in defense of the nation's freedom with valor and courage.

The incarceration of Japanese Americans reminds us what happens when racism, fear and xenophobia go unchecked. As we battle for the soul of our nation, we continue to combat the corrosive effects of hate on our democracy and the intergenerational trauma resulting from it.

We reaffirm the Federal Government's formal apology to Japanese Americans for the suffering inflicted by these policies. And we commit to *Nidoto Nai Yoni* — "Let It Not Happen Again."

Patsy Mink to Be Featured on U.S. Quarter

The first woman of color to serve in Congress will be featured as part of the U.S. Mint's 2024 American Women Quarters Program.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Mint is pleased to announce the following 2024 honorees for the American Women Quarters Program:

- **Patsy Takemoto Mink** was the first woman of color to serve in Congress. As a member of Congress, she fought for gender and racial equality, affordable child-care and bilingual education, most notably with the passage of Title IX, which was later renamed the Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act.
- **Dr. Mary Edwards Walker** was a Civil War era surgeon, women's rights advocate and an abolitionist. Walker often crossed battle lines to care for wounded soldiers. Captured by the Confederate troops as a suspected spy, she was held as a prisoner of war for four months. Walker is the only woman to be

- awarded the Medal of Honor.
- **Pauli Murray** was a poet, writer, activist, lawyer and Episcopal priest, as well as a staunch advocate for civil rights, fighting against racial and sex discrimination. In 1966, she co-founded the National Organization for Women with Betty Friedan and other activists. Murray is regarded as one of the most important social justice advocates of the 20th century.
- **Zitkala-Sa** (*meaning "Red Bird"*), also known as Gertrude Simmons Bonnin, was a writer, composer, educator and political activist for Native Americans' right to U.S. citizenship and other civil rights they had long been denied. She left her South Dakota home on the Yankton reservation at age 8 to attend a boarding school run by white missionaries, where her

native culture and traditions were prohibited.

- **Celia Cruz** (*Celia Caridad Cruz Alfonso*) was a Cuban American singer, cultural icon and one of the most popular Latin artists of the 20th century. Known as the "Queen of Salsa," Cruz's numerous honors and awards include five Grammy awards, a National Medal of Arts and a posthumous Lifetime Achievement Grammy.

"All of the women being honored have lived remarkable and multifaceted lives and have made a significant impact on our nation in their own unique way," said Mint Director Ventris C. Gibson. "The women pioneered change during their lifetimes, not yielding to the status quo imparted during their lives. By honoring these pioneering women, the Mint continues to connect America

through coins, which are like small works of art in your pocket."

The designs for the 2024 American Women Quarters will be released in mid-2023.

Mink, a third-generation Japanese American, was born and raised on Maui and served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 24 years; she won her historic seat in Congress in 1964.

» See MINK on page 5



Patsy Mink, pictured here at a 1993 press conference on educational equity, was a passionate speaker.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF WENDY MINK

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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




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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE IMPORTANCE OF REMEMBRANCE

By David Inoue,
JACL Executive Director

This year, we recognized another Day of Remembrance, the 81st anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066, paving the way for 120,000 individuals of Japanese ancestry to be imprisoned at American concentration camps. The need to remember could not be more pronounced than it is today.

We remember what happened on Feb. 19, 1942, but also remember all that happened leading up to the signing of EO 9066 and what has happened since. The signing of EO 9066 happened within the context of anti-Asian immigration laws, begin-

ning with the Naturalization Act of 1870, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the Gentlemen's Agreement of 1907 and Immigration Act of 1924.

Concurrently, numerous states were enacting laws preventing immigrants, particularly Asian immigrants, from owning property, widely known as Alien Land Laws. Of course, in the wake of all this, JACL was founded in 1929, very specifically as the Japanese American Citizens League.

Since the end of World War II and the unconstitutional mass incarceration of Japanese Americans, we have made significant progress with numerous changes to immigration law, first allowing Issei to obtain citizenship extending to only five

years ago when the last remaining state Alien Land Law was repealed in Florida. None of this would have been possible without the broader civil rights movement of the 1960s and the same partnerships forged in those early years, which helped bring about the victory of redress in the '80s.

We have also faced many challenges. At the same time that we were forging a successful redress campaign, our community struggled to fight anti-Japanese sentiment due to a growing trade war between our countries. The resurfacing of anti-Asian xenophobia brought back racist imagery, alarm at a Japanese takeover of America, acts of violence against companies with Toyota bashing with American autoworkers destroying cars with sledgehammers and, at its worst, the murder of Vincent Chin, a Chinese American mistaken for being Japanese.

It is important that we remember all of this, as today there is an ongoing effort to return to these racist policies of the past and misremember our history as if these atrocities never happened.

The efforts to rewrite history are

seen most vividly in the state of Florida, where Gov. Ron DeSantis and his ideologically driven school board are seeking to keep out education about African American history, banning the AP African American History class from being taught in Florida schools. Similarly, coordinated efforts are underway to encourage individuals in local school districts and library service areas to submit lists of books about multicultural experiences to be removed from their shelves.

As I noted earlier, the last remaining state Alien Land Law was repealed not more than five years ago in Florida. However, the state of Texas has recently introduced legislation to ban land ownership by noncitizens from China, Iran, Russia and North Korea. Gov. DeSantis has expressed support for such legislation in Florida, as well as Gov. Glenn Youngkin in Virginia. In theory, such laws would never stand due to discrimination on the basis of national origin, but under the fake guise of national security, Japanese Americans know well how fragile the Constitution's protections can be.

On Day of Remembrance, we re-

member because history can and does repeat itself despite subsequent repudiations and promises not to repeat. It is our opportunity to tell the story of Japanese American incarceration and how our community experienced it, just as we share in books in school and public libraries or as a part of K-12 school curriculums. By sharing the sometimes ugliness of our country's past and showing it for the ugliness that it was, we can shine light on any attempts to revive such policies as equally vile and rooted in racism.

We know well of the efforts in Texas and Florida, but what about your community? Your neighborhood? We must all be vigilant to any attempts to return us to the backwards policies of the past and continue to educate our respective communities about the damages such policies inflict upon the target communities and the wounds that remain not just for the community, but also our nation and our ideals.

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



NIKKEI VOICE

ON 'AUTHENTICITY' IN JAPANESE FOOD

By Gil Asakawa

Maybe not surprisingly, I've been a stickler for "authenticity" in food — especially Japanese food. I was born in Japan, and I've loved Japanese food all my life. I even wrote a book about the history of Japanese food in America, "Tabemasho! Let's Eat!" I'm a foodie who takes #foodporn shots of many of my meals. I love all cuisines and seek out new dishes to try. And I try to make sure that the food I like reflects traditional culture, accurately and with respect. That doesn't mean I won't eat "fusion" food.

Still, in the past, I've criticized the dilution of Japanese food cooked haphazardly for profit resulting in poor quality. In the past, I've called out cultural appropriation. I've changed my mind on a lot of these issues over the years.

In my book, I write about the origins of some of what we consider "traditional" Japanese foods and how things like tempura (Portuguese) and ramen (Chinese) were not originally

Japanese. And some of the dishes we cherish as standards of Japanese cuisine, like sukiyaki, weren't really eaten in Japan until the late 1800s.

So, food culture evolves. And we can't always stop it, even if we don't like it and try to criticize it. Japanese food, like Japanese culture, has always adapted as times changed.

These concepts of "authentic" and "traditional" have always been placed on ethnic cuisine, noting here that "ethnic" cuisine as a term assumes the person using it is *not* "ethnic" and therefore white, and anything "ethnic" is foreign, perhaps exotic. That's certainly how Japanese food was perceived for decades even until the 1980s and '90s. My book delves into the evolution of how Japanese food became so mainstream you can find (lame) sushi in supermarkets everywhere.

Anyway, I've recently realized how I've been blurring my own lines of "traditional" vs. "modern" or "fusion."

I've made Kakimochi chips for years from my wife Erin's auntie's recipe, mixing sugar, corn syrup,

butter, sesame seeds and shoyu over Tostitos minitortilla chips — yes, Mexican corn chips. This week, I found at Trader Joe's a bag of "Umami Flavored Corn Tortilla Chips," and I first thought, "Aha! Cultural appropriation!"

Umami, the Japanese concept of the fifth taste, savory (after sweet, sour, salty and bitter), has become the food fad du jour. But you know what? The chips are addictingly delicious.

Ramen is another easy example of adapting Japanese cuisine to suit local tastes. Yes, you can go out to restaurants and pay \$15 for a bowl of ramen. Some of them, like the cheesy spicy "Cremoso Diablo" at my favorite Denver ramen restaurant, Tokio, are definitely *not* traditional Japanese.

Instant Ramen is a treasure trove for experimentation and evolution. From the humble origins of Nissin's original packet of chicken-flavored instant ramen in 1958, to the same company's introduction of Cup Noodles in 1971, not just college students, but several generations of Japanese (and Americans) have grown up eating the simple-to-make, inexpensive hearty noodles. There are a myriad of companies in all parts of the world, not just Japan, making instant ramen these days.

One is a pretty new brand, Chef Woo, named after a famous chef, Song Wu Sao of ancient China, but based in South Carolina. What sets Chef Woo's instant ramen apart is that it's 100 percent plant-based with

no animal products, including its chicken and beef flavors. Try some if you see it in your store, or check out <https://chefwoo.com/>.

Meanwhile, I love the Korean-made Nongshim brand's Tonkotsu bowl-o-ramen, which I buy from Costco. It really has a satisfying tonkotsu pork broth flavor. I've found myself adding my own protein to the ramen and wandered farther and farther from my snooty "traditional" Japanese standards. Last week, I had it with slices of Canadian bacon and Italian provolone cheese. It was a delicious, filling multinational treat.

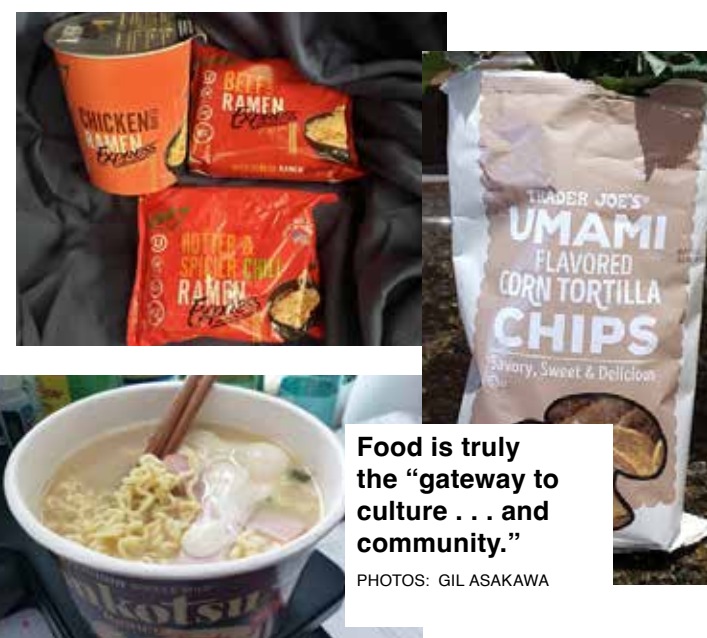
I just learned from a food critic in Austin, Texas, about a place I've got to try if I ever get back to the Lone Star state: Ramen del Barrio. The chef is white, New England-born but trained in Japanese restaurants.

And being in Austin, he fell in love with Tex-Mex ingredients.

The one I have to try is Ramen with Menudo. That sounds like the kind of combination that I'm surprised Japanese haven't already tried, since there's a cultural tradition of eating every part of an animal including beef tongue and offal. Menudo, a traditional Mexican dish made with cow tripe (stomach lining) but served with Latin spices and ramen noodles and soup, sounds like a culinary match made in heaven.

Food is truly the gateway to culture . . . and community!

Gil Asakawa is the author of "Tabemasho! Let's Eat! The Tasty History of Japanese Food in America."



Food is truly the "gateway to culture . . . and community."

PHOTOS: GIL ASAKAWA

Artist/historian Patricia Wakida designed the sculpture honoring the Japanese American residents of Hayward whose lives were uprooted in 1942 as a result of EO 9066.

PHOTO: CARL S. GUTEKUNST



Wakida addresses the audience at the reception held at the Hayward Public Library following the sculpture dedication ceremony.

PHOTO: ROBBIN KAWABATA

DEDICATION HELD FOR PUBLIC ART JAPANESE AMERICAN MEMORIAL

The new sculpture, designed by Patricia Wakida, includes the names of 606 Japanese American residents who were forced into incarceration camps from the Hayward, Calif., region.

By Robbin Kawabata

Dozens of Bay Area community members paid tribute to the 606 Japanese American residents of the Hayward area who were removed in 1942 at a ceremony on Feb. 4 dedicating a new public sculpture installed at the Hayward Heritage Plaza.

The sculpture, designed by artist and historian Patricia Wakida, was commissioned by the City of Hayward nearly three years ago and includes the names of persons of Japanese ancestry from the Hayward region who were forced into incarceration camps as a result of Executive Order 9066.

More than 60 Hayward city officials and guests attended the dedication ceremony at the Hayward Heritage Plaza, which is the same park where these Japanese American families were ordered to report with their baggage for the buses that would take them to the Tanforan detention center in nearby San Bruno, Calif., on May 8, 1942.

Before the area was called Hayward, it had other geographical iden-

tifiers including Eden Township, its most common name in the 1900s, when it existed as a largely agricultural area with fruit orchards, truck crop farms and dozens of flower nurseries run by Japanese American immigrant families. Flower production thrived in the cool Bay Area climate and required less land than vegetable or fruit farming, since it utilized glass-covered greenhouses and lath-covered structures.

Following the passage of EO 9066 in February 1942, 108 Civilian Exclusion Orders, according to region, were issued to remove Japanese Americans on the West Coast from their homes under penalty of fines and imprisonment.

Exclusion Order No. 34 affected the area of Alameda County from San Leandro to Warm Springs and ordered Japanese Americans to register at the Civil Control Station on 920 C St. in Hayward on May 4, 1942, and then required about 600 of them to assemble at the Hayward Plaza at Watkins and C Streets on May 8. The others assembled in Centerville on May 9.

Renowned photographer Dorothea Lange was hired by the Wartime Civil Control Administration agency to record the removal of the Japanese

Americans on location in Hayward. Lange's photo shoot of the day has resulted in some of the most iconic government photos produced of the WWII camp experience, including portraits of the Mochida family, the Aso family, Mae Yanagi and Hisako Hibi and her daughter, Ibuki.

The new sculpture has been installed in close proximity to a series of historical markers describing the events that occurred there in 1942. The sculpture, fabricated of stainless steel, consists of three distinct layers that represent "Earth, man and heaven," according to artist Patricia Wakida.

"The largest metal cylinder references the surrounding geography and land, the 'Earth,' where the names of the 606 people we are honoring and remember are etched upon," described Wakida. "The uppermost cut edge of the cylinder echoes the undulating surrounding hills, with its spring streams and oak and bay laurel forests. The shape of the Hayward hills is meant to capture the vista and root the names in this site-specific place.

"The second cylinder, or 'man,' tells the story of the Japanese Americans who settled in this region and were predominately engaged in the



Pictured at the Hayward Public Library reception are (front row, from left) Mae Yanagi Ferral, Sumi Haramaki Lampert, Ibuki Hibi Lee, Frank K. Hashimoto and Satoshi Hibi and (standing, from left) City of Hayward Council Member George Syrop, City Manager Kelly McAdoo, Library Director Jayanti Addleman, Council Member Julie Roche, Jane Yanagi Diamond, Fred M. Shinoda, Kayoko Mochida Ikuma, Tooru Mochida, Mayor Mark Salinas, Aileen Yamashita Hisaoka, Takeo Kato and Patricia Wakida.

PHOTO: RUSSELL FOOTE PHOTOGRAPHY/FOOTEPHOTO.COM

floral industry, growing carnations, chrysanthemums, lilies and roses among other cut flowers and plants for the booming flower industry," Wakida continued. "This image of the once ubiquitous greenhouse that enabled the community to bloom, despite a rampantly anti-Asian climate, is mirrored by an image of the stark barracks at Topaz — the roses of their labor transforming into lengths of barbed wire that would entwine in their lives during the war.

"The third and uppermost circle, or 'heaven,' features four circular motifs that represent peace, solidarity, Japan and the United States, and finally a remembrance of the day that the community was forced into exile by their own government. These circular symbols intentionally hang above the greenhouses and barracks like constellations in the night sky," Wakida concluded.

Honorees whose names appear on the sculpture or were born in camp and who were present at the

event were Jane Yanagi Diamond, Mae Yanagi Ferral, Frank Koji Hashimoto, Satoshi Hibi, Aileen Yamashita Hisaoka, Kayoko Mochida Ikuma, Takeo Kato, Sumi Haramaki Lampert, Ibuki Hibi Lee, Tooru Mochida and Fred M. Shinoda, who acknowledged his fellow honorees by reading their names and asking them to wave or identify themselves.

Speakers at the ceremony included Hayward Mayor Mark Salinas, Memorial Art Committee project leader Robbin Kawabata, Ferral, Wakida, Lois Oda from the Eden Township JACL chapter and Master of Ceremonies Victor Fujii. Musicians Peter and Wendy Horikoshi and Kyle Kashima performed the original song "Tanforan" at a reception held after the ceremony at the Hayward Public Library.

Funding for the sculpture was primarily from the City of Hayward, with additional funding from the JACL Legacy Fund Grant. ■



Master of Ceremonies Victor Fujii speaks at the outdoor dedication.

PHOTO: CARL S. GUTEKUNST



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EXTRAORDINARY HEROES AND THE POWER OF SPORTS

The FDR Presidential Library and Museum presents a conversation with Bradford Pearson, author of 'The Eagles of Heart Mountain.'

By P.C. Staff

In observance of Day of Remembrance, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum presented a conversation with author Bradford Pearson, author of "The Eagles of Heart Mountain: A True Story of Football, Incarceration and Resistance in World War II America," on Feb. 19.

Held in the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home and streamed live, the event also featured Director William H. Harris and was made possible through the generous support of Patti Hirahara.

Following the issuance of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066 and the forced incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans and people of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast during WWII, nearly 14,000 of them were sent to Heart Mountain, relegated to living in barracks built behind barbed-wire fences on the outskirts of Cody, Wyo.

In fall 1943, Heart Mountain High School formed its first football team, the Eagles, and in his book, Pearson describes how against tremendous odds, the team—made up mainly of young men who had never played football before—managed to have

an undefeated season, crushing opponents from nearby Wyoming high schools all while facing the difficult challenges of living an incarcerated existence.

Before Pearson was welcomed to the stage, Harris took a moment to introduce Ken Oldenburg of the National Park Service, who announced a new initiative by NPS Hyde Park.

"Today, the home of Franklin Roosevelt National Historic Site launches a 10-video series that will celebrate the lives of 10 incarcerated, one from each of the 10 (WRA) camps, '10 Camps, 10 Stories,'" said Oldenburg, who then presented an introductory video to the series.

"In a presidency filled with accomplishments, EO 9066 would prove a stain on Roosevelt's administration," the video shared. "While we can debate at length the legality or ethical issues of this Executive Order, in this series, we will share some of the inspirational human stories from inside the camps, stories of struggle, sacrifice, spirit and success. The Roosevelt Vanderbilt National Historic Site is humbled to present '10 Camps, 10 Stories: Beyond the Barbed Wire.'"

A new story will launch each month and will air through the NPS' social media outlets and

YouTube page. The series will conclude on Dec. 10, the 75th anniversary of Human Rights Day, an event heavily supported by former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

Harris then welcomed Pearson, an author/journalist originally from Hyde Park, N.Y., who discovered the story of the Eagles following a trip to the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center in Cody, Wyo., while on another assignment.

"This whole team of Japanese American high schoolers for me was so interesting in that we think of football as probably the most American sport . . . so we think about the implications of this group of teenagers who were being told they weren't 'American' enough . . . it spins the story around from an 'Americanness' standpoint, which they're being imprisoned for their perceived lack of being American," said Pearson, describing what drew him to want to discover more about this team and its ability to not only inspire and uplift those on the Eagles but also the 14,000 individuals incarcerated at Heart Mountain during WWII.

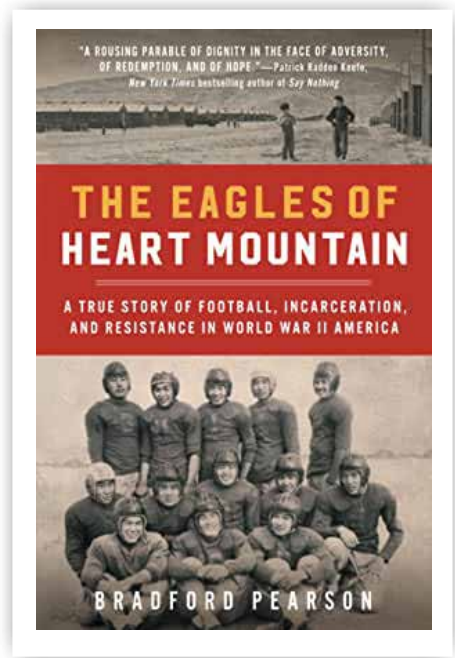
Young men on the team also had to eventually deal with the question of joining the Army and being questioned about their "loyalty" to the U.S., all while playing their games against high schools from surrounding areas who would be bussed to Heart Mountain because the Eagles were not permitted to leave their forced confinement.

In addition, the Eagles were often outweighed by their competition by 20, 30, 40 pounds on average, but their speed more than made up for any inequities involving their body size, according to Pearson. To this day, the team still holds the greatest winning percentage of any football team in the history of the state of Wyoming.

"Nobody wanted to lose to the Eagles . . . because the Heart

Mountain team was so good — they would basically just beat anyone who would come in, and these teams didn't want to get embarrassed by this group of Japanese Americans who they were told were disloyal and violent and were going to kill Americans," said Pearson.

The author then immediately emphasized that "no Japanese American was ever convicted of sabotage or espionage against the U.S. government during WWII, which is the exact thing that the federal government used as evidence to send them to the camps. . . . The reason Japanese Americans were sent to camps — none of that ever came to fruition or came to bear in the U.S. during the war."



To view William Harris' conversation with Bradford Pearson in its entirety, visit FDR Library YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8CbK55aX7g>.



Author Bradford Pearson (left) discusses his book "The Eagles of Heart Mountain" with FDR Presidential Library and Museum Director William H. Harris.

MINK » continued from page 2

In 2021, U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono wrote a letter to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, urging the U.S. Mint to include Mink.

"Patsy Mink was a champion for social justice, equality and civil rights — she was a trailblazer in every sense of the word," said Hirono in a press release. "As the first woman of color to serve in Congress and a lead author of Title IX, Congresswoman Mink

worked to ensure that all women in our country have every opportunity men have."

Authorized by Public Law 116-330, the American Women Quarters Program features coins with reverse (tails) designs emblematic of the accomplishments and contributions of American women.

Begun in 2022 and continuing through 2025, the Mint is issuing

five quarters in each of these years. The ethnically, racially and geographically diverse group of individuals honored through this program reflects a wide range of accomplishments and fields, including suffrage, civil rights, abolition, government, humanities, science, space and the arts.

(For more on Patsy Mink, see the Pacific Citizen's Nov. 18-Dec. 15, 2022, edition.)

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NARA Sunday, April 23

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★ Sunday, April 23, 2023 - 7:00pm ★

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Presented By

Traci Ishigo (left) of Vigilant Love chats with Manjusha Kulkarni of AAPI Equity Alliance on Feb. 18 at the Day of Remembrance event at the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo.

PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON



Video screens featuring the late Jim Matsuoka speaking at a CWRIC hearing in the early 1980s flank speakers who remembered him by quoting and telling stories about their friend.



Kotoist June Kuramoto plays the composition "Thousand Cranes" during one of the musical interludes at the Los Angeles Day of Remembrance observance.

IN-PERSON DAY OF REMEMBRANCE RETURNS TO LITTLE TOKYO

The late Jim Matsuoka is feted as JANM hosts again after Covid-19-imposed interruption.

By P.C. Staff

As noted in her opening remarks, Japanese American National Museum Chief Development Officer Kelli-Ann Nakayama reminded the overflowing crowd that the Feb. 18 gathering to mark the Feb. 19, 1942, issuance of Executive Order 9066 was the first time since February 2020 that the JANM site in Little Tokyo served again as the venue for an in-person Day of Remembrance event (see *Pacific Citizen*, Feb. 21, 2020).

That last DOR occurred right before the March 2020 lockdown that came about because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Nakayama also noted that the 2023 DOR, the theme for which was "Uniting Our Voices: Making Democracy Work for All," was missing a pair of stalwart community members: Norman Y. Mineta, who died in May 2022, and Jim Matsuoka — to whom this DOR was dedicated

— who died in October 2022.

"This is our first Day of Remembrance without our friend, extraordinary leader and JANM board of trustees chairman, the late Hon. Norman Y. Mineta. All of us here valued Secretary Mineta for his steadfast support and wealth of contributions to the advancement of equality, justice and liberty for all. He was a beacon of inspiration and support for JANM," Nakayama said.

She then memorialized Matsuoka. "He fought for equality, fairness and justice for all people," Nakayama said, adding that he "always spoke out about injustice against the community" and "educated the general public."

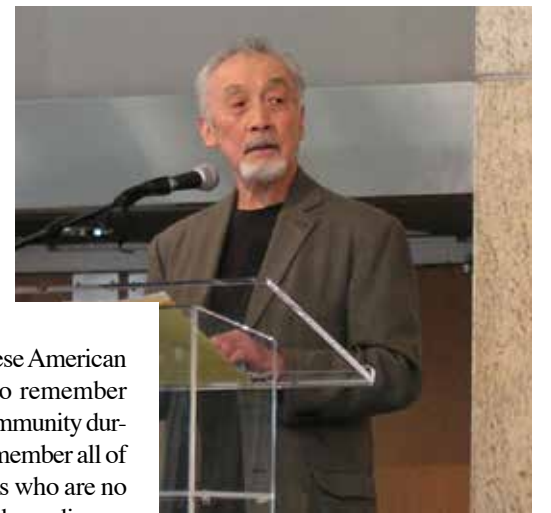
Nakayama then introduced the next speaker, DOR Committee Co-Chair and Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress member Richard Katsuda.

"It's so great to be back at the Japanese American National Museum, where we can sit side-by-side and feel

the warmth of the Japanese American community. We have to remember what happened to our community during World War II. We remember all of those former incarcerated who are no longer with us," he told the audience. Katsuda then introduced DOR Committee members Nancy Takayama, president of the San Fernando JACL chapter, and Glen Kitayama to read the camp roll call.

Boy Scouts from Troops 292, 361, 379 and 738, as well as Girl Scouts from Troop 1521 carried banners representing the 10 War Relocation Authority camps and escorted surviving former incarcerated (or descendants of survivors) representing those held in the camps to an area in the front of the stage. The number of residents that each camp held was included as each person's name and the camp they represented was read aloud.

They were:



Los Angeles Day of Remembrance Committee Co-Chair Richard Katsuda speaks to the audience at the DOR ceremony held at the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo.



JANM Chief Development Officer Kelli-Ann Nakayama speaks to the audience toward the beginning of the 2023 Los Angeles Day of Remembrance.



Banners accompany scouts and representatives of the WRA camps and Justice Department-operated camps and citizen isolation centers.



L.A. DOR committee co-chair and JACL Education and Communications Coordinator Matthew Weisbly gives the closing remarks at the 2023 Day of Remembrance held Feb. 18 at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

- **Fay Tozawa**, *Camp Amache, Colo.* (7,318)
- **Carrie Morita**, *Gila River, Ariz.* (13,348)
- **Hal Keimi**, *Heart Mountain, Wyo.* (10,767)
- **Kanji Sahara**, *Jerome, Ark.* (8,497)
- **Pat Sakamoto**, *Manzanar, Calif.* (10,046)
- **Jun Arai**, *Minidoka, Idaho* (9,397)
- **Kay Oda**, *Poston, Ariz.* (17,814)
- **June Berk**, *Rohwer, Ark.* (8,475)
- **Mas Yamashita**, *Topaz, Utah* (8,130)
- **Richard Murakami**, *Tule Lake, Calif.* (18,789)

Also noted in the roll call were Japanese Americans who fought for the U.S. in WWII by serving with the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service, with Ed Nakamura representing.

This was followed by the reading of the sites of the Justice Department-operated camps and citizen isolation centers that held 5,500 Japanese Americans across the continental United States and the then-territory of Hawaii.

Kitayama then asked those able to stand for a moment of remembrance for those ethnic Japanese who were incarcerated in those camps, as well as those who lived outside the exclusion zones but were nevertheless affected by the xenophobia of the time.

“We also pay tribute to the thousands of Japanese Latin Americans* and German and Italian Americans who were incarcerated by the U.S. government,” he added.

Following the procession ceremony, Takayama introduced Nishita Vaddella, a senior at Gretchen A. Whitney High School in Cerritos, Calif., and winner of the Tuna Canyon Detention Center Marc Stirdivant Scholarship for Justice, who read her prize-winning essay to the audience via video.

Alluding to how sailors of yesterday used the North Star for guidance, Vaddella likewise said one’s community can also serve as a North Star — but then asked, “What happens when our community is struck by tragedy and injustice? Do we remain lost forever?”

She answered her question:

“The Tuna Canyon Detention Station has chosen to remember, to educate and to enable. Once the site for unjust crimes that could have been erased from history, it is now a North Star for thousands of individuals who choose not to remain lost any longer.”

Next in the program, Katsuda introduced a dialogue between Manjusha P. Kulkarni and Traci Ishigo. Kulkarni serves as executive director of AAPI Equity Alliance, formerly Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON).

In March 2020, she co-founded Stop AAPI Hate, an aggregator of hate incidents against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders that arose with the spread of the coronavirus.

Ishigo, meantime, serves as director of Programs and Healing Justice at Vigilant Love, described by Katsuda as a “solidarity-based grassroots organization that works to protect the safety and justice of communities impacted by structural Islamophobia and white supremacist violence.”

Asked how she “came into this work,” Kulkarni, the offspring of South Asian immigrants, recalled an incident in high school while living in Montgomery, Ala., with echoes of the experiences of mainland Japanese Americans during WWII.

“When I was in AP American history in 11th grade, my teacher asked the class, ‘If India were at war with the United States, should Manju be incarcerated?’ And 24 out of 25 kids in the class, many of whom were my friends, voted to incarcerate me.” The one friend who did not vote that was African American.

“And let me say, even though this was my favorite teacher, a very kind woman, she actually told that story to defend the incarceration, not to challenge it,” Kulkarni added.

Later, her path would take her to work for the Southern Poverty Law Center, the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund, the ACLU, the South Asian Network and, most recently, at AAPI Equity Alliance.

Related to Kulkarni’s experience, Ishigo later in the conversation said, “When you think about what happened to our community and the ways that Japanese Americans were characterized as national security threats and as dangerous, we have to think about how is it that we can

really . . . build relationships with many communities and get to really know the real stories of what is impacting various communities.”

The conversation was followed by a musical interlude featuring Hiroshima kotoist June Kuramoto live playing “Thousand Cranes” to a recorded track as a tribute to Matsuoka, which was followed by a video in memoriam tribute, conducted by Jan Tokumaru, to community members of note who died recently.

Following that, Tokumaru reiterated how this particular DOR was dedicated to the late Matsuoka. A video of Matsuoka speaking at the 2019 pilgrimage to Manzanar, where he had been incarcerated, and at one of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians hearings, gave several speakers the opportunity to gather onstage and take turns to talk about Matsuoka’s life, achievements and memorable quotations and quips.

Another Hiroshima member, band founder Dan Kuramoto, followed with another musical interlude, performing “Amazing Grace” on the flute.

The closing statement was given by L.A. DOR committee co-chair Matthew Weisbly, the JAACL’s Education and Communications coordinator. Reflecting on how 2023 marks 81 years since Executive Order 9066 and the 35th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, he remarked that redress was “an achievement that could not have been accomplished were not for the support of so many communities who stood with us — a united voice saying that this was a wrong that must be righted.”

“Yet, 80 years after Executive Order 9066 and 35 years after the signing of the Civil Liberties Act, we find so many issues that still must be addressed across our country, many of which we’ve already discussed here today,” Weisbly added, referring to societal problems such as gun violence, anti-Asian violence, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

Striking a hopeful note as a “descendant of Chinese immigrants who suffered under the Chinese Exclusion Act, a former incarcerated at Gila River, Ariz., and Tule Lake, Calif., and European Jews who were murdered during the Holocaust,” Weisbly nevertheless said that “there is not only hope for our future, but action that we can take today.”

To view the recording of the 2023 Day of Remembrance event at JANM, visit tinyurl.com/457cr2mb.

***To view the recording of the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute’s Day of Remembrance event, which focused on Japanese Latin Americans, visit tinyurl.com/3ntyjhfd.**

Day of Remembrance 2023



By JAACL National

Feb. 19, 2023, marks the 81st anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, resulting in the mass incarceration of over 120,000 Japanese Americans.

Similarly, thousands of Japanese Latin Americans and Japanese Canadians were incarcerated en masse in their own countries or, in some cases, kidnapped to the United States against their will to serve as “prisoners of war.”

As we look back and mourn one of the darkest moments of our community’s and nation’s history, we also celebrate the many triumphs as well.

This past year for example, we saw the passage of legislation to study the creation of a National Museum of Asian-Pacific American History and Culture, where the stories of all AANHPI communities will be celebrated and remembered.

Toward the end of 2022, we saw the passage of two major bills, namely, the Norman Y. Mineta Japanese American Confinement Education (JACE) Act and the World War II Japanese American History Network Act. Both bills will support organizations that work to educate the public about the experiences of Japanese Americans during World War II.

This year also marks the 35th anniversary of one of the greatest triumphs of our community in the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 as a response to our history of incarceration.

It was the culmination of nearly two decades of multigenerational work by former incarcerated, their children and grandchildren, members of Congress, community leaders, supporters and thousands of allies across multiple communities.

While no amount of money could heal the traumas of everything our community lost, it was our government’s acknowledgment of its wrongdoing that allowed our community to begin the healing process.

The Civil Liberties Act showed the power of community organizing in how it forced our government to acknowledge and apologize for the suffering it caused to its people. In the 35 years since the passing of this bill, our journey toward achieving true reparatory justice continues.

HR 40, or the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act, has been introduced in some form in every Congressional session since 1989, the year after the passage of Japanese American redress.

It was first introduced by Rep. John Conyers and more recently by Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee. Much of the framework of HR 40 is based on the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC), which helped pave the way for the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

The African American community was one of the first to support the Japanese American community in its path toward redress, and now it is time that Japanese Americans do the same.

Late last year, the JAACL, the National Nikkei Reparations Coalition and over 70 other Asian American organizations joined together to send a letter to President Joe Biden calling for the creation of a commission to begin the process for the African American community toward reparations and healing.

As we continue into 2023 and beyond, we look back on our triumphs and hardships, as well as our solidarity in the hopes that we can make a change for a better future for all people in this nation.

When our country seems more divided than ever, let us stand together and show that the unimaginable tragedies our ancestors suffered are not forgotten and are worthy of our government’s recognition and repair.



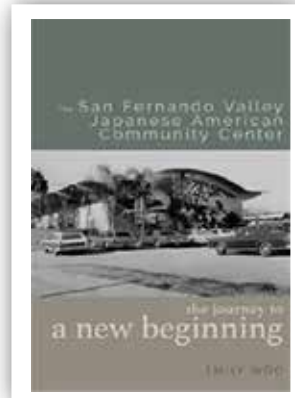
JACL CHAPTERS ESCHEW VIRTUAL REALITY

San Fernando Valley, SELANOCO, Ventura County return to in-person installations.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: JACL was no exception to protections put into place to slow the spread of Covid-19 beginning in 2020, with chapters suspending in-person annual installation events. But by early 2023, California Gov. Gavin Newsom made his Feb. 28 declaration to end the Covid-19 state of emergency. In-person JACL chapter installations in the state were back. Following are reports from three Southern California JACL chapters that recently held installations.)



Keynote speaker Emily Woo, right, shows off an envelope presented to her by Barbara Okita on behalf of the San Fernando Valley JACL chapter.



This is the cover of the book by Emily Woo on the history of the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center.

she received local recognition on the Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles Facebook page. About a month after that, she and her project were highlighted on the National Girl Scouts Facebook page. "I hope that one day in the future, another young person

will have the passion and the perseverance to create a second edition of this book," she said.

Just before Chapter President Takayama addressed the audience, the recent deaths of Pat Kubota, 98, and Tom Doi, 101, were noted. Both had been active with the SFVJACC and the San Fernando Valley JACL.

Takayama spoke about the importance of community and the National JACL Convention in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo in July.

— P.C. Staff

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY JACL

"I think 2020 was the last time we had our installation, and it's really nice to be together again." With those words of welcome by chapter board member Barbara Okita, the San Fernando Valley JACL celebrated its 81st installation, the Year of the Rabbit and a return to in-person board installations in Pacoima, Calif., on Jan. 12.

Chapter members marked the occasion at the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center's Sakaguchi Hall with food, fun activities and a keynote speech by former Girl Scout Emily Woo and an installation of officers conducted by Pacific Southwest District Gov. Ryan Yoshikawa.

After introducing special guests in attendance, such as Ventura County JACL's Anne Chilcott, SFVJACC President Charles Muranaka and Nikkei Senior Gardens' Daniel Okazaki, chapter member Jean-Paul deGuzman provided the opening meditation (and would at the end of the gathering give the expression of gratitude).

Yoshikawa commenced with the swearing-in ceremony. Taking the oath to serve as the chapter's board of directors for 2023 were Chapter President Nancy Takayama, Barbara Okita, May Wood, Lana Kobayashi, deGuzman, Nancy Gohata, Kiyoko Fukumoto, Tomo

Hattori, Michiko Tokunaga Kus, Mitzi Kushida, Marcia Mahony, Kyoko Nancy Oda, Marion Shigekuni, Phil Shigekuni, Geri Shiraki, Patty Takayama, Mabel Takimoto, Linda Tanaka, Jami Tanihana, Jaelyn Tomita and Karen Yoshino.

In her keynote speech, Woo, now a second-year student at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, Calif., described herself as a fifth-generation Chinese American and spoke of her family's many years of involvement at the SFVJACC, including activities like basketball, taiko and for her, Girl Scout Troop 1466.

It was Woo's project for her Gold Award — Girl Scout's highest achievement — that was the subject of her speech. Woo interviewed SFVJACC's elders for posterity and used those interviews as the springboard for a book she had published titled "The San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center: The Journey to a New Beginning."

Noting that a Gold Award project must be measurable and sustainable, provide proof that has made a positive difference in the community and show that the positive difference is long-lasting, Woo said she was inspired by Barbara Oda, who shared with

Woo something that had been on her mind for many years.

"She told me that every Japanese American community center had a book about its history — every Japanese American community center except for ours," Woo said. "With the stories, the people, the photos scattered all over the place, it was a foreseeably long and time-consuming project. And after all this time, it had never come together." Realizing there was a limited window of opportunity to get that history from still-living elders, Woo decided that she would, with her father serving as the cameraman, record their oral histories.

Woo also decided that she would embark on journey to "write and publish a book about the history of the SFVJACC, available as a printed book and an e-book to make it more accessible, as well as a supplementary video of interviews."

Such an endeavor would be a huge task for an adult. For a then-16-year-old girl, it would prove to be overwhelming. "I thought about giving up. I'm a teenager, teenagers don't write books, professors write books," Woo recalled. "Can a high schooler really write a book?"

Not only did Woo write her book,



Jean-Paul deGuzman gives the expression of gratitude before the installation lunch's closing.

PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON



The newly installed SELANOCO chapter leadership share a light moment at the installation luncheon on Jan. 28.

PHOTOS: ALAN ODA

SELANOCO JACL

The full heritage of the Southeast Los Angeles and North Orange County (SELANOCO) JACL chapter was celebrated at its 57th annual installation, held on Jan. 28 in Fullerton, Calif., at the Old Spaghetti Factory.

Jamie Morishima, who served as co-president with Nicole Inouye for 2022, continued her role as she welcomed Joseph Gu as the chapter's new co-president.

Recalling the two years she served as both 2021 president and 2022 co-president with Morishima, outgoing Co-President Inouye said, "I'm grateful. I'm standing on the shoulders of the giants of the community. Gratitude is the word that best describes my term as president."

As for Morishima, she said, "Everyone here has played such a big role in our success." Reflecting on the anti-Asian sentiments and actions that arose with the pandemic, she allowed how serving was "disheartening at times," adding that she was nevertheless "grateful for the community we serve."

Gu, an alumni of the University of California Irvine's Tomo No Kai student group, has been involved with the SELANOCO chapter for four years. Morishima and Gu agreed they look forward to a "busy 2023."

The oath of office was administered by Dominique Mashburn, JACL National vp for 1000 Club, Membership and Services. A total of 20 members will serve as chapter officers and board members for the upcoming year.

The chapter's Clarence Nishizu Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Erin Hitomi. Active with the Statewide Poverty Action Network, Hitomi is currently pursuing her master's in public health. She has also participated in food reclamation and redonation programs and was a member of her temple's Junior YBA (Young Buddhists of America) and basketball teams.

Mary Anne Foo, executive director of the Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA), was the featured guest speaker. She recalled growing up in Yuba City, Calif., in the 1980s when it was "really bad" for Japanese Americans, in particular, and Asian Americans, in general, due in large part to trade tensions between the U.S. and Japan. She recalled it was a time during which Vincent Chin was bludgeoned to death in 1982 by an unemployed Detroit autoworker who blamed Chin — a Chinese American mistaken by Ronald Ebens as Japanese — for losing his job.

"My mom and dad were

PSWD Gov. Ryan Yoshikawa swears in the SFV JACL board members for 2023.



active in civil rights. They said ‘ignore it’ whenever I experienced intimidation. My Mom told stories of drawing the shades when riding the train to avoid items being thrown at them,” recalled Foo, who herself would have drivers try to run her over as a pedestrian. “It eats at you. For a while, I wanted to be white. I (didn’t) want to be Asian.”

Moving to Orange County in the 1990s, Foo was again the subject of hostility, as drivers shouted, “Get out of here, gook,” while once again trying to hit her with their cars. She detailed the 1996 murder of Thien Min Ly, who was stabbed to death while rollerblading at Tustin High School. The suspect reportedly bragged to others “Oh, I killed a Jap (sic) a while ago.”

In response to the hate crimes as well as other important social service needs, OCAPICA was formed in 1997. The organization grew from the staff of one to currently 120. Foo applauded JACL with its participation in civil rights and diversity work.



Outgoing SELANOCO Chapter Co-President Nicole Inouye (left), with new chapter Co-President Joseph Gu and incumbent Co-President Jamie Morishima on Jan. 28 in Fullerton, Calif.

“We have a lot to learn from JACL,” said Foo. “They were the first ethnic organization to support LGBTQ in 1984, they accepted same-sex marriages in 1992, 24 years before the NAACP.” During 9/11, she said JACL was active in fighting efforts to “round up and put Middle Eastern people into camps.”

Foo concluded by thanking the SELANOCO JACL for being a “great encouragement” for the on-

going work of OCAPICA. “Together, we’re going to solve anti-Asian, anti-anybody hate.”

The attendees reflected the multi-generational history of the SELANOCO chapter, some being Sansei, active for decades who openly affirmed the incoming Yonsei leadership. “The (chapter’s) Nisei were the first to really bring in the Sansei, now we’re handing it off to the Yonsei,” said Ken Inouye, two-time chapter president and a former JACL national president.

Nicole Inouye said her father’s long involvement with the SELANOCO chapter allowed her to be involved with JACL since her childhood, “and even then, what I said mattered. The Niseis passed the torch to us — we are so thankful for them and for everyone that followed.”

— Alan Oda

(Editor’s note: The preceding portion of this article was funded by the Harry K. Honda Memorial Journalism Fund.)



VENTURA COUNTY JACL

The Ventura County JACL Chapter turned on the star power at its Jan. 29 installation luncheon in Simi Valley, Calif. Not only was it held at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum honoring the namesake Hollywood actor who later became governor of California and the 40th president of the United States, the guest speaker was actress Tamlyn Tomita.

Ventura County Chapter Co-President Lily Anne Welty-Tamai introduced Tomita. She started her entertaining, stream-of-consciousness speech by stating, “I come with no notes. And I come with just the full heart and big ears to listen to all your stories because that is basically my job and profession, and my blessing to be a part of this community is to be a storyteller of the stories that I still continue to be exposed to and to be able to share it, as that is my calling from God.”

Tomita, after being awarded the 1984 Nisei Week queen title, got her start in show business in 1986’s “The Karate Kid Part II.” She parlayed that into a decades-long acting career. Her monologue was

an opportunity to “just be able to talk to story,” thanks to the resurgence of the “Karate Kid” franchise in the guise of the streaming series “Cobra Kai.” A few seasons in, the Daniel LaRusso character (Ralph Macchio) and Tomita’s Kumiko character were able to reconnect.

After noting how the franchise’s Mr. Miyagi character (portrayed by the late Pat Morita) was “from Okinawa, but he won a congressional Medal of Honor,” Tomita, who has Okinawan ancestry, said, “I have a responsibility to those writers of ‘Cobra Kai’ to tell them what the story is of what it means to be Okinawan.”

For Tomita, it’s been a continuing journey, being a Japanese American from the San Fernando Valley on her father’s side, with the internment camp experience, and “knowing that I come from Okinawa and being in a film called ‘Karate Kid II’ and knowing that I have those two responsibilities, those two obligations, those two blessings, to be a part of this world of storytelling ... Telling these stories is a superpower that we all have.”

Tomita also revealed that she has recently done voiceover work

for three projects, two of which are among the most-iconic Japan-based tokusatsu intellectual properties, the other being an IP related to “Avatar: The Last Airbender.”

Following Tomita’s speech was the formal installation of the Ventura County JACL’s 2023 board, with the oath conducted by Yoshikawa. Returning as co-presidents were Megan Gately and Welty-Tamai; serving as vps are Janice McCormick and Jessica Wan (also the chapter’s webmaster); secretary Anne Chilcott; and longtime treasurer Ken Nakano. Members-at-large are Joanne Nakano, Mark Chilcott, Janice Tanaka (grants coordinator), Samantha Wylis and Sarah Taketa (scholarship chair), and serving as a historic Japanese American cemetery coordinator is Betty Katsura.

Yoshikawa also presented a certificate to the chapter for being a 2022 recipient of a JACL Legacy Fund grant. There was also a raffle; some won ceramics made by Kiyo Fukumoto. Those who did not win did not, however, go home emptyhanded, as there were bags of vegetables from local farms for all attendees.



Tamlyn Tomita, at the podium (right), entertains the audience at the Ventura County JACL installation lunch held Jan. 29 at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley, Calif.

PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON



(From left) Janice Tanaka, Lily Anne Welty-Tamai, Ryan Yoshikawa and Megan Gately show off the 2022 Legacy Fund certificate won by the Ventura County JACL chapter.

ABCUSD OBSERVES DAY OF REMEMBRANCE



In attendance at ABCUSD’s Day of Remembrance event at Cerritos High School on Feb. 21 were (seated, from left) Richard Murakami and Bill Shishima and (standing, from left) Frank Yokoyama, Kyoko Oda, Ernie Nishii Kay Oda and Jenny Chomori.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF KYOKO ODA

CERRITOS, CALIF. — Living history lessons were observed and presented at ABCUSD middle and high schools’ Day of Remembrance events for two full days via Zoom and onstage performances beginning on Feb. 21.

The ABC Unified School District, formed in 1965, covers the Southern California cities of Artesia, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens and portions of Lakewood, Long Beach and Norwalk and serves more than 18,000 students.

ABCUSD staff went full force in supporting the district-wide experience to educate students on the 81st anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. This year marks the fifth year that this innovative program has been part of the curriculum.

Said Ernie Nishii, a trustee clerk at ABCUSD, “It is the only program of its kind in terms of depth, reach and commitment by the community and the district.”

Nishii supported the Day of Remembrance programming in memory of his artist mother, Ernie Jane Masako Nishii, who passed away in 2017 of ALS. After going to the Tule Lake pilgrimage in 2009, she embedded her memories in artful compositions using clay, wood, fabric, barbed wire and wood.

During the in-person event, many students lined up to ask questions that the 90-plus-year-old elder participants, many of whom were docents from the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo, answered without hesitation.

“I didn’t get a repeat question from the five sessions,” said Joyce Okazaki.

Cerritos City Council Member Frank Yokoyama attended the

Cerritos High School assembly with his son, who is a 10th grader. Yokoyama’s grandfather was incarcerated at Tule Lake Concentration Camp, then Topaz, Utah.

Also in attendance were Lauren Yokomizo from L.A. County Board of Supervisors Janice Hahn’s office, as well as Artesia City Council Member Monica Manalo and Hawaiian Gardens City Council Member Dandy De Paula.

Also in attendance were ABCUSD Interim Superintendent Toan Nguyen and trustees Brad Beach, president, and Olga Rios, who commended the program at their district board meeting that took place following the Cerritos High School assembly event.

Specialist Audrey Rios coordinated practice sessions, locations, moderators and technical support in breakout rooms.

“We look forward to the ABCUSD Day of Remembrance every year,” said Sansei Kyoko Oda. “The Nisei speakers always express their appreciation to their parents. It’s remarkable that they all do Zoom.”

Professional experts Jenny Chomori, Janet Fujii and Jason Fujii from the Manzanar Committee have been instrumental in program quality and content. During other years, Min Tonai from Amache, Kanji Sahara from Rohwer/Jerome and Marvin Inouye from Crystal City, Texas, were on the event panel discussion.

Former incarcerated who were primary resources are Bob Moriguchi from Amache, Colo.; Hal Keimi, Bacon Sakatani and Mike Hatchimoniji from Heart Mountain, Wyo.; Iku Kiriya and Joyce Okazaki from Manzanar, Calif.; Kay Oda from Poston, Ariz.; and Kyoko Oda from Tule Lake Segregation Center. Richard Murakami’s family was shipped to Tule Lake, Topaz and finally Heart Mountain, Wyo.

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

NATIONAL

Irei — A National Monument for the WWII Japanese American Incarceration
Los Angeles, CA
JANM
100 N. Central Ave.

The *Ireihō* 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.

The Past Is Not Past: Japanese American WWII Incarceration and the Yonsei Generation
March 23; 5-7:30 p.m.
Webinar Event
Price: Free

In the first major public event for the Yonsei Project, Dr. Donna Nagata will share her preliminary findings and interpretations of her recent survey of 500 Yonsei descendants of WWII incarceration, whose responses show that the past is anything but over. She will be joined in conversation by Dr. Satsuki Ina, Brandon Shimoda and Daryn Wakasa.
Info: To register to receive a link for the event, visit https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlcu-pqz8tGtOkmYXoUYSA6Cknn_4-fbZW.

NCWNP

'Color Trip: Yoshida Hodaka's Modern Prints'
San Francisco, CA
On View Now
Asian Art Museum
Chong-Moon Lee Center for Asian Arts & Culture
200 Larkin St.

The museum presents 50 of Japanese artist Yoshida Hodaka's works in his first solo exhibition in the U.S. Hodaka (1926-95) embraced traditional woodblock print technique while forging his own unique style of fantastic, landscapes.
Info: Visit <https://exhibitions.asianart.org/exhibitions/color-trip-yoshida-hodakas-modern-prints/>.

Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival
San Francisco, CA
April 8-9 and 15-16; 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

San Francisco Japantown
Price: Free

The 56th festival is one of California's most prominent celebrations of Asian traditions and the largest Cherry Blossom Festival on the West Coast. All are welcome to join in the festivities in person again!
Info: Visit sfcherryblossom.org.

PSW

Keiro Caregiver Conference
Santa Ana, CA
March 18; 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Wintersburg Presbyterian Church
2000 N. Fairview St.
Price: Free

This year's in-person conference theme is "Discovering Your Inner Caregiver," which will cover three key traits for successful caregiving: communication, compassion and creativity. Registration is required and will feature presentations, valuable resources and a bento lunch.
Info: Visit www.keiro.org/caregiver-conference or email programs@keiro.org.

JANM Book Club: 'Secret Harvests' With David Mas Masumoto and Patricia Wakida
Los Angeles, CA
March 18; 2-3:30 p.m.
JANM Tateuchi Democracy Forum
100 N. Central Ave.
Price: Event Included in Admission (General \$16; Members Free)

Join author David Mas Masumoto and artist Patricia Wakida for the launch of their new book "Secret Harvests: A Hidden Story of Separation, Silence, Shame and the Resilience of a Family Farm." They will be joined in reading, reflection and discussion by Sean Miura.
Info: Visit www.janm.org.

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.

'Transborder Los Angeles: An Unknown Transpacific History of Japanese-Mexican Relations'

Book Event
Gardena, CA
March 25; 2-4 p.m.
GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall
1964 W. 162nd St.
Price: Free; Registration Required
This discussion focuses on Yu Tokunaga's new book on Los Angeles farmland during the years between the Immigration Act of 1924 and the Japanese incarceration in 1942, weaving together the narratives of Mexican and Japanese immigrants into a single transpacific history.
Info: Visit jci-gardena.org.

'Faith, Hope and Courage'
Torrance, CA
March 25; 2-4 p.m.
Faith UMC
2115 W. 182nd St.
Price: Free

This event will feature personal sharing of Christian faith journeys from LGBTQIA individuals and also help promote Okaeri LA's fifth biennial conference, which is set for Nov. 10-12. Featured speakers will include Aiden Aizumi, Colleen Tani and Rev. Kenneth Schoon.
Info: To RSVP, call Faith UMC at (310) 217-7000 or email murakami4@aol.com.

'A Rebel's Outcry' Short Film Screening and Book Talk
Los Angeles, CA
April 2; 2-4 p.m.
Venice Japanese Community Center
12448 Braddock Dr.
Price: Free

Join the Little Tokyo Historical Society and Venice Japanese Community Center for a screening of the short film "Lil Tokyo Reporter," followed by a paneled book talk on the LTHS award-winning biography "A Rebel's Outcry" featuring filmmaker/publisher Jeffrey Gee Chin, actor Eijiro Ozaki and additional cast/crew.
Info: To register, visit bit.ly/AROatVJCC.

PNW

'Parallel Barbed Wire' Exhibit
Powell, WY
Now Open
Heart Mountain Interpretive Center
1539 Road 19

This new exhibit features the remarkable stories of Heart Mountain incarcerated Clarence Matsumura and Holocaust survivor Solly Ganor. The exhibit details their remarkable friendship throughout their lives.
Info: Visit www.heartmountain.org for exhibit information and further details.

'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. 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 of Japanese American incarceration in the 1940s and illustrates generational trauma and cultural aftershocks of their unjust experience.
Info: Visit <https://www.wingluke.org/exhibit-resisters>.

MDC

Yayoi Kusama: To Infinity and Back Again
Chicago, IL
March 21; 6-7 p.m. (CST)
Virtual Event
Price: Free

Join the Japan America Society Chicago in this presentation about the life and art work of this legendary artist. This lecture, presented by Mary Ellen Murphy, will offer details of Kusama's career and also feature Kusama's work in various formats, including her current fashion project with Louis Vuitton.
Info: Visit www.jaschicago.org for Zoom details.

IDC

Japan Cup
Westminster, CO
April 15
Front Range Community College
3645 W. 112th Ave.

Japan Cup brings together students of Japanese for a competition on a wide variety of subject matter. This event is sponsored by the Japan America Society of Colorado.
Info: Visit jascolorado.org.

EDC

25th Annual National Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk
Washington, D.C.
April 1; 9 a.m.
National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II (Located at Louisiana, New Jersey and D St., NW)
Price: Free

All are invited to participate in this annual walk commemorating and continuing our fight for civil rights. Event speakers will include Wade Henderson and Shirley Ann Higuchi. Event sponsors are the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, Japanese American Veterans Assn., JACL Washington, D.C., chapter and Ekoji Buddhist Temple.
Info: Visit www.njamemorial.org.

'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 — both during his lifetime and beyond.
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.
This is the first biographical exhibition of the architect/sculptor/environmentalist.
Info: Visit <https://npg.si.edu/exhibition/one-life-maya-lin-exhibition>.

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In MEMORIAM



Kimura, Emiko, 102, Sacramento, CA, July 28, 2022; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA and the Topaz WRA Center in UT; she was predeceased by her siblings, Fumiko, Kazuo and Machiko; she is survived by her sister, Teruyo Kunibe; nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews and great-grandnieces and great-grandnephews.



Sasaki, Paul, 71, Sunnyvale, CA, June 17, 2022; B.S., UC Berkeley; M.A., San Jose State University; he is survived by his siblings, Dale (Mary) and Barbara Sasaki; he is also survived by a niece and a nephew and other relatives.

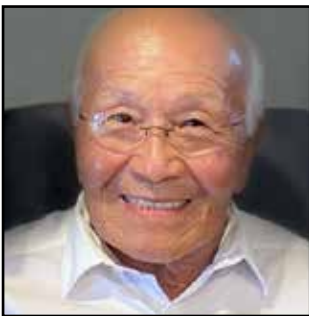
Arimoto, Randall, 68, Hillsborough, CA, Jan. 27; B.S., S.F. State University (valedictorian); he was predeceased by his parents, Ann and Kiyoshi; he is survived by his wife, Yoko; children, Jenny, Deanne and Brent; sister, Connie.



Mayeda, Arthur, 90, Pasadena, CA, June 24, 2022; B.B.A., Woodbury University; he is survived by his wife, Ruth (Honda); children, Mark, Alise Carrie; gc: 5.

Tada, Spencer Ken, 80, La Habra, CA, Sept. 18, 2022; he is survived by his wife, Elaine Miyoko Tada; son, Stuart Tada; siblings, Byron (Pauline) Tada and Lana (Herbert) Oshiro; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Uchida, Roy T., 77, Las Vegas, NV, June 24, 2022.



Domoto, Gary Takeshi, 78, Fresno, CA, Dec. 30, 2022; he is survived by his wife, Cecelia; daughters, Kecia Sakazaki (Eric) and Karrah Fowler (Mark); siblings, JoAnn Namba and Steve Domoto; gc: 4.

Fukai, Chester, 95, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 15, 2022; veteran (Korean War); he was predeceased by his wife, Shigeko, and son, Brian; he is survived by his children, Jennifer and Perry (Monica); brothers, Stanley (Yaeko) and Akira (Sheree); gc: 3.

Hori, Nancy Asako, 91, Torrance, CA, July 30, 2022; she was predeceased by her husband, John Mitsuo Hori; she is survived by her daughters, Teri Lerch, Joni (Tom) Heideman and Sharon (Dan) Spafford; her sister, Jean Nakagawa; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and extended family; gc: 6; ggc: 1.

Kawai, Eli H., 84, Honolulu, HI, Aug. 12, 2022.

TRIBUTE

Ushijima, May Shizue, 87, Hilo, HI, Nov. 5, 2022.

Yokoi, Daniel A., 51, Las Vegas, NV, Aug. 18, 2022.

Yamashita, Benjamin, 87, Canaan, NH, Aug. 9, 2022.

Yoshimura, Nora Garvey, 91, Chicago, IL, Oct. 16, 2022; she was predeceased by her husband, Albert; she is survived by her children, Joseph Edwin Swain (Gail Knox), Albert Kunio Yoshimura Jr. (Oksana Chrystyna Yoshimura) and Valerie Nao Yoshimura (William Shay); she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5; ggc: 4.

Yamashita, Yoshiko, 96, San Jose, CA, July 24, 2022; she was predeceased by her husband, Kaname; she is survived by her daughters, Linda (Bob), Patty (Eric) and Robin (Lon); gc: 4.

Yano, Thomas D., 69, Lihue, HI, Oct. 24, 2022.

TRIBUTE

YOSHIE OKUMA



Yoshie (Nakamura) Okuma, age 99, was born on June 14, 1923, in El Centro, Calif., and passed away peacefully on Jan. 31, 2023, in San Diego.

Yoshie grew up in El Centro with her eight siblings until being evacuated in 1942 to Santa Anita and then the Poston Internment Camp.

Yoshie married Keisuke Okuma, and together they relocated to San Diego after the war.

She is lovingly remembered by her children, Michael Okuma and Keiko Negoro, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. A celebration of life will be held at the Buddhist Temple of San Diego on Saturday, March 18 at 11 a.m.

TRIBUTE

MASAKI TAKANO



Masaki Takano, 90, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on Feb. 12, 2023. Born in Alameda, Calif., in 1932, he spent most of his life in the Bay Area, outside of two years in Hawaii in the '60s. During WWII, he and his family were incarcerated at the Amache Relocation Center. He is survived by his three children, Lani (James Kotcher), Kent and Julie (Sean Peters), as well as five grandchildren, Jamie, Jenna, Allyson, and Kelsey, and Connor. He also

leaves behind two sisters, Teruko Isono and Ikuko Takeshita, and his loving extended family of nieces, nephews and their children.

Masaki worked at Hawaiian Air, and became vice president of Sales/North America. He went on to work as a consultant in the travel industry.

Masaki loved fishing, golf, going to basketball watch parties at the church and spending time with friends and family. He was a former president of the Alameda Buddhist Temple, and an active member his entire life. In 2018, he was Co-Grand Marshall for Alameda's Fourth of July Parade.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, April 21, at 3 p.m. at the Alameda Buddhist Temple (2325 Pacific Ave). Face masks required. Please carpool as parking will be very limited.

SUELLEN UMEKO YONEDA



Feb. 10, 1926-Dec. 29, 2022

Suellen was known to her family and friends by various loving names such as "Sue," "Mom," "Mrs. Yoneda," "Mrs. Y." and especially her favorite, "Babun."

Suellen was a kindergarten teacher at Hookena, Kona-Hawaii for many years. While there, she met and married T. Ted Yoneda, who also was a teacher at Hookena.

Every New Year's Eve, her granddaughters and daughters would converge at the Yoneda house to learn "the art" of Japanese cuisine, Babun-style. And on New Year's Day, friends and relatives would "pā'ina" at the Yoneda house, watching Bowl games and enjoying all the great food prepared the night before.

In 2016, at the "young age" of 90 and still working as a yard duty supervisor at Kennedy Elementary School, the Stockton Record profiled Sue on the front page of their newspaper. Her story was also featured on "Good Day Sacramento," and on other various TV news channels.

Suellen began her battle with cancer almost 20 years ago but battled Stage 4 cancer for five years. Throughout Kaiser's Oncology Department, she was known for her sunny disposition and as "the walking miracle".

Suellen is survived by her husband, T. Ted Yoneda of Stockton; her daughters, Maryam (David) Davis of Stockton, Jayne-Lei (David) Goad of Acampo and Elane (Mark) McCarty of Ripon; and her son, Theodore (Cheryl) Yoneda of Fairmont, W.V.; granddaughters, Courtney (Grayland) Walter, Taylor Davis, Madison (Bill) Doyle; grandsons, Ezra and Isaac Yoneda; great-grandchildren, Liam Aguilar, Apollo and Kiyomi Walter and Holden and Aeriss Buchanan; brothers, Susumu and Kenneth (Loretta) Hayashi of Hilo, Hawaii; sister, Ruth Hayashi; and sister-in-law, Leslie Hayashi of Honolulu; nieces, Melanie Russell, Cassie Petre, Elena Owens, Tessi Iha, Darlene Brodtkin, Kristi Hayashi, Kendra Jitchaku; and nephews, Eric Hayashi, Eric and Russell Ogi.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Tsurukichi and Hisayo (Kitayama) Hayashi; brothers, Adrian Hayashi, Mark Hayashi, Etsuo Hayashi, Yoshi Hayashi, Stanley Hayashi, Larry Hayashi; sister, Kathleen Rowland; and nephew, Greig Ogi.

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.
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REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

AARP HAWAI'I SPONSORING STAGE AND SCREEN PERFORMANCE ABOUT NISEI IN WWII

By Craig Gima

For more than 35 years, Los Angeles TV anchor David Ono has been telling award-winning news stories on television. The saga of the World War II Nisei soldiers of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service are the stories closest to his heart. Ono traveled to battlefields in France, Germany, Italy and Okinawa, as well as Hawai'i, to tell their story, and the videos he and producing partner Jeff MacIntyre filmed are now a stage show, "Defining Courage." The journey from small-screen news series/documentary to big-

screen and stage production with live narration, music and chorus started with a speech, Ono recalls. For years, Ono had emceed the fundraising banquet for the Go For Broke National Education Center, but he was stumped when asked to give the keynote address. "What if I add video and take people to the battlefields where they (Nisei soldiers) fought?" Ono wondered. The result was a drop-the-microphone success. Asked again to present "Defining Courage" at the Asian American Journalists Assn. national conference in Los Angeles last year, Ono added original music, a chorus and new video and stories shot just weeks before. He left the audience wiping

away tears and got a standing ovation. (Author's note: I was in the audience and saw the production.) With music and on a big screen onstage, seeing the battlefields of the dense forests of Bruyeres and the cliffs of the Gothic line in Italy that 100th Battalion soldiers climbed at night and where, as Ono narrates, some "fell silently to their deaths, not screaming so they wouldn't give away the position of their buddies," has a powerful impact. The next performance, on March 18, is in Hawai'i, where the 100th Battalion, 442nd RCT and MIS originated. That's not accidental, Ono said. He has wanted the first performance outside of Los Angeles to be in Hawai'i. The Daniel K. Inouye Institute, Japanese American National Museum, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, National Park Service, Pacific Historical Parks, the AARP Hawai'i State office and other donors are making it possible. AARP Hawai'i is a co-sponsor of the showing as part of our efforts to support veterans, military caregivers and diversity. We also recently sponsored the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to Filipino American and Chinese American WWII veterans and their families. Donations from sponsors will help offset the cost of produc-

tion, preshow publicity and tickets for veterans. "It ('Defining Courage') is the story of the greatest generation and the incredible sacrifice in the shadow of great discrimination and hate, and they were still able to rise to the occasion," Ono said. "It's not a history lesson. I don't want people to think they are going to go in there and learn about something 80 years ago and go home." Ono wants people to remember that these were ordinary people who were able to find courage to accomplish extraordinary feats. "At those moments when I feel I need a dose of courage, I think about those guys. As bad as you think your situation is, it is nothing compared to what they did. They still found a way to rise to the occasion." Ono is talking to organizations and possible sponsors to bring the show to other places after Hawai'i – possibly

to the U.S. Japan Council conference, the JAACL national conference, Chicago and Washington, D.C. It's also hoped proceeds from the March 18 show at the Hawai'i Theatre will defray the cost of another showing for high school and college students later this year in Hawai'i and the development of educational curriculum around the show. "We're hoping that this is just the beginning," Ono said. *To learn more about sponsorship opportunities and/or buy tickets to the Hawai'i "Defining Courage" performance, visit www.DefiningCourageshow.com. To find out about AARP's veterans initiative and resources for military caregivers, visit www.aarp.org/veterans.* *Craig Gima is the communications director for AARP Hawai'i.*



"Defining Courage" was shown recently in Washington, D.C. PHOTO: DARRELL MIHO

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