



PACIFIC CITIZEN



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WARREN'S REPORT

Activist-Politician Furutani
Releases His Memoir.

CALL TO ACTION: HELP PROTECT OUR SACRED SITE

By Erin Shigaki

The Minidoka Pilgrimage formed so that we could safely return to a painful place and begin the incremental healing process. Our pilgrimage exists as a way to lift up the defiant resistance and extraordinary community care that occurred there and make our stories visible when such history has been erased from American memory and textbooks. Both sides of my family were incarcerated at Minidoka and my father was born there — delivered by a horse veterinarian in the absence of a medical doctor. Minidoka is a National Historic Site and above all, a sacred site.

Despite this, right now, a controversial proposal threatens Minidoka's future. The Bureau of Land Management (under the Department of the Interior — the very entity responsible for creating the atrocious camps that imprisoned us during World War II) is considering options to allow a New York private equity company called

LS Power to build up to 400 wind turbines on federal and private lands immediately surrounding the site.

At approximately 740 feet in height — by comparison, Seattle's Space Needle stands at 603 feet — the looming walls of wind turbines would dominate nearly a third of Minidoka's 360-degree view. The Lava Ridge project would forever desecrate and damage what we — Japanese American survivors and descendants of the incarceration — consider to be hallowed ground and a place where all Americans can learn about the multitude of incarceration stories.

I support renewable energy and a green future, but not at the expense of our community or other local communities who oppose the project. President Joe Biden has committed to both "deliver equity and environmental justice" (EO 14057) and "advance racial equity and support for underserved communities through the federal government" (EO 13985). Protecting Minidoka is a way for the president to honor those promises

right now.

As Japanese Americans, we know that Minidoka holds vital lessons to help the public understand that racial prejudice, hate and violence directed against the Asian American and Pacific Islander community are not new.

In 2023, the Bureau of Land Management has downplayed our significance by categorizing Japanese Americans as "tourists and recreationists" in its draft impact report. The federal government can and must honor their commitment and reparations to our community by leaving this important site untouched for future generations to come.

I implore you to write your comments to the Bureau of Land Management and spread the word about the April 20 deadline. Please Demand OPTIONA: NO ACTION

and tell your story.

Go to www.minidokapilgrimage.org/call-to-action for more information on how to submit effective comments. Please email the Minidoka Pilgrimage Committee with any questions or concerns at info@minidokapilgrimage.org.

The Bureau of Land Management is calling Japanese Americans "tourists" in relation to Minidoka, the site where more than 13,000 of us were incarcerated.

Table 3.6-3. Environmental Justice Key Observation Points				
KOP	Sensitive Viewer Group	Associated Environmental Justice Population	Location Description	Distance Zone
KOP 1	Tourists and recreationists	Japanese American community	Minidoka NHD and Minidoka WRC	Immediate Foreground
KOP 2	Tourists and recreationists	Japanese American community	Minidoka NHD and Minidoka WRC	Foreground

#StopLavaRidge
minidokapilgrimage.org

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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

MARCH MADNESS OF A DIFFERENT KIND

By David Inoue,
JACL Executive Director

March is a great time to be a sports fan. Spring training for baseball is in full swing, and this year, we had the added bonus of the World Baseball Classic face-off between the United States and Japan in the championship game, with superstars and MLB teammates Shohei Ohtani and Mike Trout facing off in the last at bat. The NCAA basketball tournament is also down to the Final Four without a single No. 1 seed remaining. I personally have been enjoying the success of my two alma maters, Cornell and Ohio State in wrestling (third- and fourth-place

teams, respectively, and two national champions for Cornell), hockey (OSU Women national runner-up, and Cornell and OSU Men into the Elite Eight of the Frozen Four), and women's basketball (OSU Women into the Elite Eight and playing for a spot in the Final Four).

And yet, this spring has also had some very troubling times in sports. On Boston sports radio, one of the producers and show participants, Chris Curtis, highlighted both his racism and sexism by referring to a female Asian American sports reporter as his favorite "nip." He then offered a half-hearted nonapology as served a one week suspension. Curtis' radio station also sought to defend his remarks.

At the NCAA wrestling championships, three-time national champion Aaron Brooks in his post-match interview offered the usual and expected praise to God, but then continued to refer to Muhammad as a false prophet.

As the National Hockey League has sought to promote that "Hockey Is for Everyone" by sponsoring LGBTQ Pride nights where players wear special jerseys during warm-ups, several players have refused to participate due to their religious beliefs, and at least one team canceled its participation due to concerns for the safety of its Russian players if they were to participate. This is despite the fact many other Russian players had already participated in previous games.

The "Hockey Is for Everyone" campaign exists only because of a problem that pervades many facets of sport: that it is white-male dominated and remains stuck in the locker room mentality that existed back when I was in high school.

The sports of hockey and wrestling, in particular, remain majority-white sports. Ironically, Aaron Brooks, and his Penn State teammate, Carter Sta-

rocci, are the two African Americans amongst the 10 national champions this year. Their presence at the top of the sport is promising from the perspective of racial and ethnic diversity in the sport, but also highlights that there are limits to what racial diversity will bring to sports.

It is likely no coincidence that the sports of wrestling and hockey are also two sports where there is a high degree of physicality and macho attitude. While the same could be said for the NFL, the NFL has a much wider appeal and must be more welcoming to fans who might be female or who identify LGBTQ.

Hockey and wrestling remain more niche sports. It is also no coincidence that at the NCAA wrestling tournament, prominent among the attendees was former President Donald Trump, who was welcomed heartily by the majority of the spectators and athletes. Whether it is a Trump campaign rally, a hockey game or wrestling meet, or sports or political talk radio, a growing commonality is hypermasculinity, overt exhibitions of Christian faith and the belief that they are the protectors of these values.

Title IX and affirmative action are what many of these athletes see as eroding their place in the campus hierarchy. In the either-or battles on campus, wrestling has often been on the chopping block for sports that fail to generate revenue relative to the cost of maintaining the sport and promoting gender equity as a predominantly male sport. The blame is, of course, Title IX, not the lack of a broad audience for the sport.

A decision must be made, whether to continue to double down on inflaming the passions of the core base of rabid fans or turn around and embrace the potential in a more diverse base.

There is a lot to be mad about this March tournament season, but is it an extreme madness for the sport and the perceived victimization dwindling extreme fan base, or is it the rest of us finally getting mad at the exclusionary attitudes, and truly pushing for greater openness and inclusion because some of us do love the sport, or love the political party.

David Inoue is based in JACL's Washington, D.C., office.



LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

LYING — IN THE SERVICE OF KINDNESS

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

Those with Alzheimer's and other memory disorders often live in the past, where they find comfort in memories of loved ones who are no longer alive and events that happened during their happiest years. That's why forcing an elderly parent (or spouse) to abandon their version of reality and join our "real world" can cause confusion, pain, anxiety, fear and anger.

So, dementia care experts often recommend a technique called "therapeutic fibbing." It helps you step into their current reality and spare them unnecessary upset and distress. In many ways, this technique is similar to telling a friend that you love the gift they gave you, even if you don't actually like it. Telling the absolute truth in that case doesn't change the situation and would only hurt your friend's feelings.

For example, let's say your Dad, who is suffering with Alzheimer's, repeatedly asks where Mom is even though she passed away six months before. Since your parents taught you to always be truthful, you reply, "Dad, Mom passed away six months

ago." Each time you will see his face absorb the painful shock that the truth provokes. Telling the truth could be cruel. How many times can you tell the truth and watch a loved one suffer the same loss again and again?

Instead, caregivers may be able to avoid anxiety attacks, agitation and intense distress by omitting some or all of the truth, i.e., therapeutic fibbing. You might respond, "Dad, Mom is fine. In fact, she told me to tell you she's meeting with friends and will be home later in the day." For people who are cognitively impaired to a level where they cannot absorb or process information well enough to understand it, therapeutic fibbing is a way to avoid upsetting them in ways that serve no purpose.

Therapeutic fibbing, however, is somewhat controversial and goes against the moral principle of honesty. Yet, when the reduced cognitive ability of dementia patients is taken into account, most gerontologists believe that the benefits of therapeutic fibbing often outweigh the cons. This practice may be described as the caregiver entering the dementia patient's world, which may even strengthen the bond between a senior and his/her caregiver.

Amy D'Aprix, developer of the Home Instead Senior Care Alzheimer's CARE Training Program, said, "Once I was asked if a daughter-in-law should tell her mother-in-law, who had dementia, that her son had just died. I said, 'Yes, she deserves to be told, once or maybe twice.' That's because the mom deserved the right to be sad or grieve even if she couldn't retain the information. But more often that, that simply feels cruel" (*source: Washington Post, "Is It Okay to Tell an Alzheimer's Patient a White Lie? March 17, 2018*).

D'Aprix is adamant that therapeutic fibbing is not the one-size-fits-all answer. She also recommends that caregivers consider these other strategies:

- **Try changing the subject.** Instead of lying or getting into an argument, redirect the person to a new topic.
- **Empathize.** Listen for the emotion driving the patient's behavior and validate it, rather than argue with the facts. For instance, if the person is angry or agitated, acknowledge those feelings as real, which they are, even if the object of their ire is not.
- **Do not try to force** patients to see things through your eyes. They simply may not be able to do so, and any efforts may lead to greater agitation or suffering.
- **Accept their reality** even when it differs from your own. If your loved one is OK and not in danger, let them be in their own world.

Jason Karlawish, co-director of the University of Pennsylvania Memory Center, prefers calling this approach "loving deception." He says whether

or not to lie is about intent, reminding us that "the moral role of the caregiver is to respect the person's sense of identity and self." He strongly advises that "the default is the truth and that the mere fact that the truth may be painful isn't sufficient to avoid it. Only if the patient cannot process and make sense of a particular truth is it OK to lie."

The *Washington Post* article also quotes Mary Kay Mahoney, gerontologist at Bella Villaggio Senior Living in Palm Desert, Calif. "Therapeutic fibbing is all about meeting that person in their reality," she said, "because no matter how hard you try, you cannot change a person's dementia or Alzheimer's disease. So, what do you do? What is the most loving thing to do?"

Mahoney believes therapeutic fibbing is the best option for families and caregivers to communicate with their loved ones with memory disorders.

According to the Alzheimer's Assn., it is "important to put oneself in the shoes of your loved one and acknowledge how frightening" their situation must be. In her memoir, "Floating in the Deep End," Patti Davis, daughter of former U.S. President Ronald Reagan, devotes a chapter to what she dubs "creative lying." She recalls a few instances in which lies made him less flustered or worried about skipping an obligation.

"During one of these episodes, my father believed it was morning, and he needed to go to the office. We told him that the office called and said he didn't need to come in because it was being fumigated, so

no one was going to be allowed in," Davis wrote. "He accepted that, and shortly afterward, forgot about going to the office." Creative lying kept him calm, satisfied and grounded in their reality.

Davis offered a consolation for caregivers struggling with this choice. "Lying in the service of kindness is not a punishable offense. In fact," she said, "I suspect it earns us karma points" (*source: www.beingpatient.com, "The Pros and Cons of 'Therapeutic Lying' in Dementia Care," Feb. 11, 2022*). In caring for someone with dementia, white lies or bending the truth can help keep the peace.

In conclusion, at the end of the day, the debate continues. Ultimately, there no one "right" approach.

Most caregiving experts can agree on one thing: No one should be judged for how they manage each day caring for someone with dementia. There will always be a balance to strike between the difficulty of lying to a loved one. You should do whatever you can to reduce the stress and challenges for both you and your loved one.

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



A MOTHER'S TAKE

FROM INVISIBLE TO INVINCIBLE

By Marsha Aizumi

As most of my readers know, I write about things in my life or people that have touched my heart. This month is no exception. After almost 60 years, I received a voice message last month from a high school classmate saying, "Please call me back if you would like to." He had read my bio in our high school class reunion booklet and had decided to give me a call since I was not able to attend the reunion. I wasn't sure what prompted Steve to call me, but I was curious more than concerned. I remembered him to be a kind soul.

I came from a conservative white community, Temple City, Calif. I was the only Asian in our graduating class. After I listened to his message, I turned to my husband and said, "A former classmate from

high school just left me a message on my phone. Did I ever tell you I had a crush on him?"

My husband in his nonchalant way just gave me a look of acknowledgement, didn't say a word and turned back to the television program he was watching. As you can tell, he is not the jealous type. I left the room to call this classmate back.

In high school, I was very invisible. Like many Japanese Americans, I just kept my head down and tried to get good grades, so I could get into a good college. My mother never put pressure on me to clean my room or do very many chores. She would just say, "All I want you to do is study hard, so you can go to college."

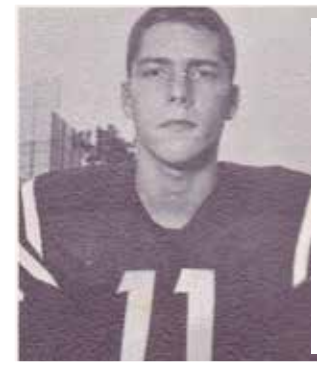
In talking to Steve, I could feel that introvert part of me again arise. Even Steve remembers that quiet girl who tried not to stand out and shared,

"If there was no name to your bio, I would have thought of 200 people before your name came up." Sounds just like what most people would have thought of me . . . if they even knew my name.

I tried out for cheerleader but didn't win. I practiced being a flag girl because I thought that would be cool, but I was so short that the flag kept hitting the ground. I thought being a song girl with pom-poms would be fun, but when I looked at all the song girls that were trying out, they were all cute, blond and preppy. I was short, wore braces, not outgoing and was a bit overweight. I figured I didn't fit the mold of a song girl. I did end up making the drill team, but there were a variety of us . . . all shapes, sizes and backgrounds.

So, that was who I was in high school: invisible, studious, shy and not part the "popular" crowd. Steve, on the other hand, was the star quarterback of our very successful football team. He was cute, athletic and very smart. I am sure many girls had a crush on him besides me.

When I called him back, our conversation started off a bit slow, but then as Steve continued to speak, emotion rose up into his voice, and he couldn't talk . . . all he could get out was how proud he was of me. In a follow-up email, he



(Left) Steve the football star

(Right) Marsha on the drill team

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MARSHA AIZUMI



said, "Let me try again to say what I blubbered about yesterday: I'm so proud of you for being the hero I'd hope to be in a life-challenging, life-changing situation."

I think the reason that this connection has touched me so deeply is because I realize in hindsight that it doesn't matter who I was in high school or what I did or what honors I received. It only matters that I found what brought out the passion in me, and I pursued it with my whole heart.

Not everyone wants to be an activist. Not everyone wants to write a book or speak or organize, like I have chosen to do. And sometimes, I don't even know how I stepped onto this path of activism. But this work is something that is a part of me and brings me great joy.

Yet, there are moments even today when I am faced with huge challeng-

es, and I start to feel like that shy, invisible high school girl and want to shrink away. Then as if an angel understands that I need a little bit more confidence and courage, she sends me, Steve, who shows me how far I have come and how much more I can do...

****I want to give credit to I2I (Invisible 2 Invincible), an LGBTQ+ organization in Chicago who inspired the title of this article.**

Marsha Aizumi is an advocate for the LGBTQ+ community and author of the book "Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance."



FELLOWS CORNER

REPARATIONS NOW: 40 FOR 40 MILE PRESIDENT'S DAY WALK IN SUPPORT OF HR 40



JACL Executive Director David Inoue (left) and his son, Akira, came out to support Rev. Dr. Robert Turner (center) at the Reparations NOW: 40 for 40 Mile President's Day Walk. Also joining them was JACL Norman Y. Mineta Policy Fellow Bridget Keaveney (right).

By Bridget Keaveney, JACL Norman Y. Mineta Fellow

Rev. Dr. Robert Turner, senior pastor of the Empowerment Temple AME Church, walked from his church in Baltimore, Md., to the White House in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 20. The journey, which Rev. Turner and several other activists took on foot on President's Day, equaled 40 miles, the same number used for House Resolution 40.

Once passed, HR 40 would establish a Presidential commission to study and develop proposals on appropriate forms of reparation and apology for Black Americans. Rev. Turner's 14-hour walk to the nation's capitol not only displayed the depths of his strength and faith but also re-emphasized the critical need for

a reparations task force to be created immediately.

Rev. Turner's journey to the White House started in the early hours of President's Day. Welcoming him upon his arrival in front of the president's residence were several representatives from various faith-based direct action groups and civil rights organizations, including the JACL.

JACL Executive Director David Inoue and his son, Akira, were in attendance, joining in the call for immediate presidential action. "There is powerful symbolism in Rev. Turner's walk of 40 miles for HR 40," said Inoue. "He and I both have boys of about the same age, and yet our experience of raising our sons will be very different because of the color of our skin.

"It is truly impossible for me to fully understand what it is to walk a mile, let alone 40, in his shoes," Inoue continued. "It is especially important because of the Japanese American community's success in achieving redress that we demonstrate our solidarity with the Black community in their fight for reparations. I hope that the 1,000 cranes we brought to the event on behalf of Tsuru for Solidarity and the National Nikkei for Reparations Coalition helped to demonstrate that solidarity and strength of support from our community to the cause. I am also particularly grate-

ful to Jim and Jean Kawano, who folded all the cranes we brought."

Also present during the event were members of Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee's team, Garrett Auzenne and Krystal Williams. Williams delivered a powerful statement on behalf of the Congresswoman, whose commitment to reparative justice continues to make waves, both on the Hill and at the Administration.

A press release issued by the Congresswoman asserted: "There is no more appropriate time than President's Day during Black History Month to engage the White House on this issue," attesting that "Pastor Turner brings a message to the White House about the importance of HR 40 to commencing a reckoning about the continuing impact of the legacy of slavery on the African American community and our nation at large."

In a press statement, Dr. Ron Daniels, convenor of the National African American Reparations Commission and facilitator of the HR-40 Strategy Group, shared the country's growing interest in organizing and participating in HR 40 walks, thanks to the success of Rev. Turner's "40 for 40" walks.

Jarrett Smith, a government relations advocate at NETWORK Lobby, a Catholic social justice-based political advocacy organization, also provided his thoughts and reflections on the critical importance of HR 40.

"If someone looks at the transatlantic slave trade, it is impossible to tell the story without including the Catholic Church's involvement," said Smith. "This historic story involves a young Portuguese empire that received the Church's blessing to sell Africans into slavery. This atrocity took place from the 16th century to the 19th century. NETWORK Lobby believes in the dignity and humanity of all of God's children. The principles of NETWORK's Build Anew agenda ground our reparations advocacy."

When asked what Black reparations mean to him and what compels him to be involved, Rev. Turner responded, "Reparations is not only the most significant issue to African Americans but to the soul of America. It involves recognizing, repenting and repairing the harm caused by this nation on the people she has oppressed. While America has exploited several others, Blacks have been marginalized, brutalized and objectified since being kidnapped and brought to this nation all under the color of law. Reparations is what is needed to bring true healing, wholeness and justice to America."

Bridget Keaveney is the JACL Norman Y. Mineta Fellow. She is based in the organization's Washington, D.C., office.

HMWF Appoints **AURA SUNADA NEWLIN** as Executive Director

The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of Aura Sunada Newlin as its permanent executive director, which culminates a months-long, nationwide search.

Newlin is a fourth-generation Wyomingite, fourth-generation Japanese American, graduate of the University of Wyoming and former anthropology professor at Northwest College in Powell. She also was the longtime Heart Mountain board secretary before agreeing to serve as interim executive director.

A descendant of Heart Mountain incarcerated, Newlin became the HMWF's interim executive director last June 1 upon the departure of Dakota

Russell, who left the foundation to become the executive director of the House of the Seven Gables Settlement Assn. in Salem, Mass.

Newlin was selected after a search committee, led by Heart Mountain Board Vice Chair Douglas Nelson and Board Member Lia Nitake, reviewed applications from candidates from around the country.

After interviews conducted by the committee, they selected Newlin because of her intense knowledge of Heart Mountain history, academic credentials and desire to build the foundation into a leader for education and social justice.

Shirley Ann Higuchi, the foundation's chair, said Newlin's "selection will take our museum and the

Aura Sunada Newlin becomes HMWF's permanent executive director.

PHOTO: TED BRUMMOND/UW PHOTO SERVICES



Mineta-Simpson Institute to a whole new level. Aura's family incarceration history, her commitment to Wyoming and her credentials make

her the obvious choice to lead our foundation."

"This is an exciting time for the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foun-

ation as we grow to new heights and continue to establish ourselves as a nationally relevant institution," Newlin said. "I am humbled to continue as executive director for this foundation that means so much to me."

The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation preserves the site where some 14,000 Japanese Americans were unjustly incarcerated in Wyoming from 1942-45. Their stories are told within the foundation's museum, the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center, which is located between Cody and Powell.

For more information, call the center at (307) 754-8000 or email info@heartmountain.org.

A CHINESE AMERICAN DREAM

By **Matthew Weisbly**,
JACL Education and
Communications
Coordinator



My great-grandfather's name was Wing Foon Ong. The son of poor farmers, he had been born into a small rural village in Southern China near Guangdong in the late-1890s. Early in his youth, his family knew he was destined for more than such a simple life.

At the age of 14, it was decided that he would go off to America in search of a better life — the American dream like so many other Chinese immigrants before him. The year was 1919. Over 30 years earlier, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. This law, based on racism and xenophobia, made it so that my great-grandfather, a boy of only 12 or 13, was unable to immigrate to the United States. So, he lied.

He became a "Paper Son," buying someone else's name and immigration papers to say he was the son of American-born Chinese who had

returned to China to visit family, and he happened to be born there. After a month at Angel Island, he was finally let into San Francisco to begin his new life in the United States.

Unable to gain a quality education in California, he was told to go to Arizona, which only recently then

had become a state, and build a living there. With almost no English language skills, he moved to Phoenix and found work as a houseboy for Thomas Campbell, the state governor, who helped pay for his schooling. He began kindergarten at age 14, and six years later, he graduated from high school only slightly older than his classmates. He even won an Arizona scholarship contest during his high school years.

He got into business with his family, married a girl, had children and began a life in Arizona running a store. Having seen the inequities of his youth and his schooling, as well as the aftermath of World War I, he hoped to do more to protect others like him.

At the suggestion of his friend, Gov. Campbell, and with his financial support, he applied for law school and began at the University of Arizona in Tucson in 1938. His classmate and best friend ended up being Barry Goldwater, a future U.S. senator and 1964 presidential candidate. He lived his weeks in

Tucson going to classes and on his weekends, he came home to be with his family. In 1943, he graduated at the top of his class and became one of eight Chinese American lawyers in the country. He went home to Phoenix and began working as an immigration lawyer.

But that wasn't enough for him. In 1944, he ran for the state legislature and lost by 17 votes. He ran again in 1946, the year after World War II ended, and won. He became the first Chinese American, maybe even the first Asian American, to be elected to a state legislature. After two terms, he went back to law and worked helping Chinese immigrants in San Francisco and then reopened his business in Arizona alongside a successful Chinese restaurant before he decided to run again. He became a state senator in 1966. When he was done, he continued being a lawyer for the next several years before he passed.

My great-grandfather was a trailblazer for his time. He stood up to injustice and racism and won. Despite the very country he came to love even denying him from entering simply because he was Chinese, he spent the majority of his life representing so many Americans in the halls of the state legislature.

He helped many other immigrants get the fair chance they deserved. He even worked to support Taiwan and

the United States against the Chinese Communist Party once it rose to power in the 1950s. Everything he did I know he would do all over again because he cared for others and wanted to make the world, especially the United States, a better place.

I share this story because I would hate to think of what my great-grandfather would think of our country now — the one he loved and served for so many years. Despite all the hard work he did, I know people would spit on him, hit him and call him "kung fu" and "China virus."

The anti-Chinese rhetoric that seems to grip our country is the antithesis of all he believed in this nation. He had to face racism and the Chinese Exclusion Act just to be able to live here. He died thinking that this country was better off than when he arrived.

I'm not sure he would think the same thing now, especially as we see members of Congress question the loyalty of Chinese Americans and even Chinese American Congressmembers. The very laws he fought against are being proposed again in Texas, Virginia and other states.

It makes me seethe

with rage and cry in anguish to think of all the work he did and all the trails he laid for Asian Americans and Asian immigrants to be squandered by racist and xenophobic demagogues, media personalities and everyday people.

But this is why we do the work we do. It's why JACL and so many other organizations exist. We share these stories of our ancestors and our communities to protect and help others. Our country can and must do better, for everyone who is alive today and for everyone who made sacrifices before us — just like that small boy who decided to risk it all in leaving his village for a better life.

Matthew Weisbly is the education and communications coordinator for the JACL. He is based in the organization's Los Angeles office.



Wing Foon Ong was a trailblazer for his time, serving as a lawyer and eventual representative and senator for the state of Arizona.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MATTHEW WEISBLY



Thank You for Your JACL Membership!

We're grateful to have some of the most engaged and committed members around! Because of your loyal support, we have more premium membership upgrades and generous additional gifts than ever. We're also appreciative for those who renew year after year (some for 50 years or more!) and for our increase in new members. Your dedication is essential to our ongoing mission for social justice, education, and community!

Thank you! - JACL Membership Department



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Visit jacl.org/member

or contact us at mb@jacl.org

First Manzanar PILGRIMAGE: December 1969

(Editor's note: The following is an excerpt, reprinted with permission, from "ac-tiv-ist," the newly published memoir written by Warren T. Furutani. In it, he recalls his life's journey to effect positive change. Part of that effort includes serving on the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education, the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees and the California State Assembly. The following is his recollection of how today's annual Manzanar Pilgrimage came to be.)

So, it was decided, but the name couldn't be the Manzanar March (sounds like something composed by John Philip Sousa). It would be a pilgrimage. It was to return or travel to a special place. Victor Shibata had found the perfect word — pilgrimage — the Manzanar Pilgrimage.

That's when Victor and I decided we should go up to the Owens Valley and see Manzanar for ourselves.

We were told it was a mile or so outside of Lone Pine and if we reached Independence, Calif., we had gone too far.

Just north of Lone Pine we came upon a road sign that said Manzanar Road. We were there, we had found it, so we turned east onto a rough asphalt road that quickly turned to dirt. The dirt roads seem to crisscross, and we imagined they were the roads in the camp. With our limited knowledge, we filled in the blanks and visualized the camp site.

Then in the distance we saw a pick-up truck rumbling along. As it got closer, we could see the cowboys inside the cab and the rifle racks in the rear window. In a cloud of dust, they pulled up to where Victor and I were surveying and re-imagining the camp site.

They asked what us "boys" were doing out there. Victor, very capable of taking on any physical threat, and myself, making sure I was a little behind Vic, returned the verbal volley by saying we're not "boys" and this is Manzanar concentration camp where Japanese were incarcerated by racists like you during WWII. Yes, we were filled with piss and vinegar in those days. Plus, we had the moral high ground, and we were on a mission.

The cowboys started laughing, which further made us angry. Then, they clarified their source of laughter. If we were looking for the camp Japanese were put in during the war, we were on the wrong side of Hwy 395. Manzanar was on the west side of the highway, and we were in the wrong place.

With an "Ah shucks," we thanked them for their directions and proceeded to the other side of the highway. We had been given our **first lesson** in humility about the camp issue. No matter how righteous our cause, you need the right directions to get to where you want to go.

We found the guard houses and the old auditorium which now houses the Inyo County Department of Highways. We had heard of a cemetery area which was located around the back; we found a dirt road and drove until we saw it.

A stark white memorial stood out above the under-growth of the upper desert. This was the cemetery. I had the feeling of being somewhere significant—a true pilgrimage, coming face to face with my own history.

Later, in our efforts to find out more about the camps, we stumbled upon some folks who could shed the light of reality on this political issue around which we were trying to organize.

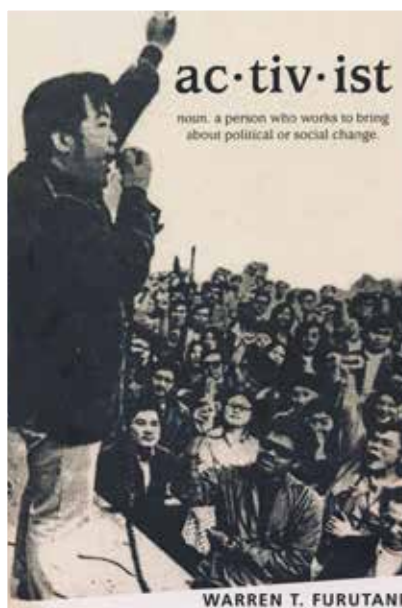
Sue Kunitomi Embrey, whom we had met in our

Furutani (*below*) in the early days of his political career.

PHOTO: P.C. DIGITAL ARCHIVE



(Right) The cover of "ac-tiv-ist," Furutani's just-published memoir.



Warren Furutani speaks at the intersection of Venice and Lincoln boulevards, site of the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF WARREN FURUTANI

WARREN'S REPORT: Furutani Rewinds With Memoir

New book explores the activist-politician's journey from movement O.G. to Oji-san.

*If anyone should ever write my life story,
For whatever reason there might be,
You'll be there between each line of pain and glory
'Cause you're the best thing that ever happened
to me.*

— Jim Weatherly, "You're the Best Thing That Ever Happened to Me"

By George Toshio Johnston,
Pacific Citizen Senior Editor

Over the course of his 75 years, Warren Tadashi Furutani has been called many things: Politician. Visionary. Leader. Motivator. Columnist. Organizer. Orator. Firebrand. Rabble-rouser. Troublemaker. Movement O.G. (As in "original gangsta" of "the movement," the 1960s social justice umbrella term that encompassed the sundry anti-war, anti-imperialist, pro-Civil and Women's rights sentiments.)

Maybe also some choice words from allies and opponents alike that might be found misspelled on a restroom stall. (In some

instances, he might agree!)

Above all, however, the one word he'd cop to would be activist. Now, one can add to the list author, thanks to Furutani's new memoir, which happens to be titled "ac-tiv-ist," subtitled "noun: a person who works to bring about political or social change."

But he makes it a point that he sees himself as a lowercase activist. "The title is not capitalized, it's lowercase," Furutani told the *Pacific Citizen* in advance of his Feb. 25 book launch at the Japanese American National Museum's Tateuchi Democracy Forum in Little Tokyo. "I'm not trying to make it a proper noun, or I'm *the* activist. No, that's bullshit. I'm talking about a common, lowercase activist that integrates it into their life."

Furutani also notes that he didn't do this by himself. He had friends and allies along the way. His parents. His wife. His mother-in-law, Aiko Yoshinaga-Herzig. His childhood friend, Julie Jefferson. Many, many others.

As noted, Furutani is now 75. "I think when people get to a certain part of their life, they clearly realize that there's a lot less forward than there is behind," he said. Noting that writing has been a big part of his life for years, be it columns like "Sweet and Sour" and "The Warren Report" for community newspapers (including this one) or position papers, he realized it was time to collect a lifetime of memories and experiences as a participant in "the movement" into something that will outlive him. Thus was born "ac-tiv-ist." (*It is available for \$21 at www.ac-tiv-ist.com.*)

Another motivating factor for writing the book: Furutani noted he has had friends and relatives who never committed their experiences and thoughts to the written word, leaving the world a bit poorer as a result. "I have thought about writing a book for quite a while," he said. "It's one of those things you keep pushing off."

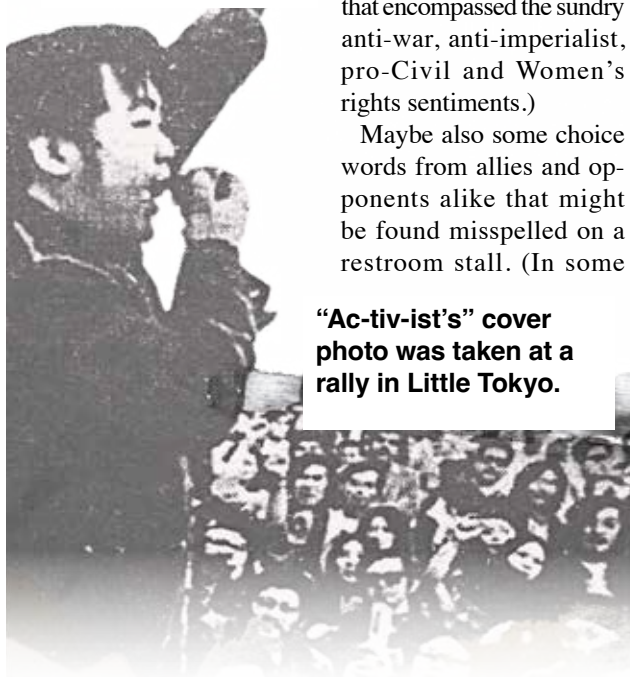
Meantime, many of Furutani's peers and fellow travelers — Nick Nagatani, Harry Manaka, Mary Uyematsu Kao, Nobuko Miyamoto, Karen Ishizuka — have themselves written and published books of their own.

At the book's launch, moderator and longtime friend Mark Pulido recalled to the audience that he would tell Furutani he needed to write a book "for the people, for the community and especially for the next generations



Warren Furutani takes the mic at a rally in his earlier days as an activist.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF WARREN FURUTANI



"Ac-tiv-ist's" cover photo was taken at a rally in Little Tokyo.

Lisa and Warren Furutani show their excitement over his run for a seat on the Los Angeles Unified School District's Board of Education.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF WARREN FURUTANI



Warren Furutani addresses the audience who came to see him read from his newly released memoir, "ac-tiv-ist," at the book's launch in Little Tokyo.

PHOTO: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON

Warren Furutani signs a copy of "ac-tiv-ist" at its launch on Feb. 25 at JANM's Tateuchi Democracy Forum in Little Tokyo.

PHOTO: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON



When the JACL and the Manzanar Committee, which Warren Furutani co-founded with Sue Kunitomi Embrey, applied to have this bronze plaque placed at the Manzanar National Historical Site, Furutani told the audience at his Feb. 25 book launch that they had to fight to get the words "concentration camps" and "economic exploitation" included.

coming up in the movement, coming up in the struggle."

Furutani credits Nagatani and Manaka for helping him "in terms of the writing process" and connecting him with their editor, Candice Ota, who he had already known. The key, however, was playwright Tim Toyama.

"Tim told me that 'What you have here, Warren, is not an autobiography, what you have is a memoir.' And when he told me it was a memoir, that sort of made everything come into focus," Furutani recalled. It wasn't, in other words, a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation. "It's about you, and you're the expert. . . . They're my memories."

And now that he's written his memoir, Furutani wants everyone to revisit their memories and write their own life's story.

For Furutani, those memories include having a "cool dad" for a father. Although Warren Furutani is often associated with the Sansei (which he is by virtue of Mary, his Nisei mother), he points out that it was his dad, Chuck, who was a Sansei, making Warren and his three brothers Sansei-Yonsei. He also points out that, despite growing up in the Japanese American enclave of Gardena, Calif., his family was "not mainstream Japanese American community."

Part of that was undoubtedly because of Chuck Furutani. "He was different than all of my friends' Nisei fathers. They would grunt at you and barely acknowledge you. . . . My brothers and I always got skewered by our friends by saying our dad was the cool dad. And he was. He had motorcycles, he had hot rods, he gave the neighborhood kids rides on the motorcycle. When my friends would come over, he would talk to them."

Regarding his father, Furutani writes in his book: "The only thing he ever preached to his sons was not to be afraid to be different." That ethos would come to the fore as Warren Furutani came of age during the aforementioned social tumult of the 1960s and found his voice, unlocked by the times.

So, in 2023, "ac-tiv-ist" is Furutani's way to rewind, remember and reassess his life's work and accomplishments — and regardless of whether one agrees with his politics, his motivation has always been to make the world a better, fairer and more just place — and those accomplishments, including getting elected to the Los Angeles Board of Education, the Community College Board of Trustees and the California State Assembly, are undeniable.

One example: AB 37, which then-Assemblymember Warren Furutani pushed so that honorary diplomas could be awarded to California's Japanese Americans whose educations at public institutions were disrupted during World War II due to the effects of EO 9066.

Another example: AB 1775, which established Jan. 30 in California as Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution, to recognize the Oakland, Calif.-born Korematsu for his stance against what EO 9066 spawned, which would lead to the Supreme Court case *Korematsu v. United States*.

Yet another example: Helping to ensure among the 92 words on the bronze plaque at the Manzanar National Historical Site were the phrases "concentration camps" and "economic exploitation."

Prior to that, Furutani and the late Victor Shibata would become known for starting the Manzanar Pilgrimage (which will have its 54th iteration on April 29), which is detailed in the book. (*Editor's note: See the excerpt beginning on page 6*).

It came about because there was a realization that Japanese Americans and Asian Americans needed something to rally around, something inspiring like the Poor People's March on Washington or in California, the United Farm Workers' March to Sacramento. Realizing they also needed a destination, they figured a good place might be where older relatives spoke of in hushed tones: a camp. They decided the destination should be the Manzanar War Relocation Center. And, instead of a march, Shibata came up with a more appropriate term: a pilgrimage.

» See FURUTANI on page 12



Joe Virata performs at the book launch of Warren Furutani's memoir, "ac-tiv-ist," on Feb. 25.

PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON



Marsha and Alan Furutani also performed at the Feb. 25 book launch of Warren Furutani's memoir, "ac-tiv-ist."

anti-war organizing, was a teenager in Manzanar. She was also the editor of the *Manzanar Free Press* newspaper in camp. I co-founded the Manzanar Committee with Sue.

Several other older voices started to share their experiences about camp with us Sansei activists. One was the no-nonsense mom of one of the founding members of the Yellow Brotherhood who actively got involved in the Movement, Victor's homeboy, Art Ishii.

Art's mom, Amy Uno Ishii, was a tell-it-like-it-is, no-BS, Nisei woman. Amy not only filled in the blanks about camp but was not afraid to call "bullshit" when others tried to sugarcoat the camp experience.

But this Ishii gene wasn't limited to mom and son, it had also been inherited by Amy's brother, an unorthodox Nisei community leader in San Francisco's JA community. Edison Uno was one of the rare outspoken leaders around a myriad of issues related to civil rights, the war in Vietnam and issues related to other communities of color. He was also a recipient of the no-bullshit gene.

So, when we activists complained about the Japanese community's reticence to talk about camp, he put it in perspective for us. His metaphor was that of a rape victim. Someone who gets raped does not want to recount or relive the event. It takes great resolve and courage to do so. The JA community was raped by the camp experience, and they were unwilling to talk about it publicly. It was difficult. Thus, **lesson two** in humility was imparted on us.

Finally, when we went on the first Pilgrimage, we were confronted by reality. In our ignorance — not stupidity (we didn't know better) — we went on the first Pilgrimage the week after Christmas. No one who knows the Owens Valley goes up there during that time of year unless they're going skiing. It was cold and the wind was blowing off the eastern Sierra Nevada Mountain range. **Lesson three** in humility was the reality — and we just got a glimpse of it — of the harsh environment that folks endured while in camp.

The **fourth lesson** was the discovery that what we called the First Manzanar Pilgrimage, was actually the twenty-fifth. After we came back from our first pilgrimage, we heard about a lay Buddhist priest and layman Christian minister: Reverend Sentoko Mayeda and Reverend Shoichi Henry Wakahiro. These two individuals had been leading a small group of Manzanar alumni back to the camp every year since it closed to pray for those remains in the cemetery. That's why the Pilgrimage annual ceremony takes place at the cemetery. ■

JACL Legacy Fund Grants 2023 Announcement



Are you a chapter in good standing and thinking about furthering the mission and fulfilling the vision of the JACL? If so, apply for a 2023 Legacy Fund Grant today and use it as seed money to execute a multigenerational project or activity where your chapter (or district) can take a leadership role in local programming.

Legacy Fund Grants will be awarded for projects and activities that support the mission of JACL and are supportive of the National JACL Strategic Plan.

When you are ready to apply, email LFG@jacl.org to request an application and receive complete instructions and possible project ideas. If a chapter application, please CC the chapter president if it is not

the chapter president sending the request. If a district application, please CC the district governor if it is not the district governor sending the request.

The JACL National Council established the Legacy Fund at the 1990 JACL National Convention in San Diego. Much of the original funds were donated by JACL members who gave portions of their redress awards to further the legacy of the JACL. Each year, a portion of the earnings from the Legacy Fund Endowment provides the funds to run the LFG program.

To learn more, visit the JACL National Legacy Fund Grant page on the JACL website at www.jacl.org.



"Always Remember, Never Forget" Teacher Training Workshop in 2018, made possible by an Idaho Falls Legacy Fund Grant

Ceremonies at TOPAZ, Salt Lake City to Mark 80th Anniversary of Murder of JAMES HATSUAKI WAKASA

The Topaz Museum Board and Wakasa Memorial Committee will co-host memorial events at the Topaz concentration camp in Delta and Salt Lake City, Utah, to honor the memory of James Hatsuaki Wakasa, who was walking his dog when he was killed by an Army guard on April 11, 1943, at Topaz.

The memorial events in Utah will require registration and commence April 21 at the Salt Lake City Buddhist Temple. An evening program will feature a presentation on Wakasa's life, followed by a panel discussion by officials from the Utah State Historical Preservation Office and the National Park Service, as well as a stone conservator.

At Topaz on April 22, a ceremonial walk will retrace Wakasa's steps from his barrack to the sacred place where he died. After his death, a monument was built nearby in his memory but taken down by gov-

ernment order. A brief interfaith ceremony will be held near the fence where he died. After the memorial walk, a ritual ceremony will be live-streamed to the RJ Law Community Center from the courtyard of the Topaz Museum in Delta.

The Wakasa Monument, a 2,400-pound memorial stone, was erected in 1943 near the fence at Topaz by Issei friends and members of the landscape committee, in defiance of the authorities' orders not to build a monument. Soon after, they were ordered by War Relocation Authority administration to destroy the monument. The builders, instead, buried the stone.

The top was rediscovered in 2020, unearthed by the Topaz Museum Board and relocated to the museum's courtyard in 2021.

To register for the events, please visit www.wakasa80th.org.

DETAILS ANNOUNCED FOR UPCOMING MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE

By Manzanar Committee

LOS ANGELES — The Manzanar Committee announced on March 17 that Manjusha Kulkarni and Dr. Arthur A. Hansen will be among the featured speakers at the 54th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, which will be held live and in-person, conditions permitting, at the Manzanar National Historic Site on April 29 at Noon.

The committee also announced that bus transportation to the pilgrimage will be available from Los Angeles.

Kulkarni is the executive director of the AAPI Equity Alliance and a co-founder of Stop AAPI Hate. Hansen, one of the leading scholars documenting and researching Manzanar and the Japanese American incarceration, is the author of the new book "Manzanar Mosaic: Essays and Oral Histories on America's First World War II Japanese American Concentration Camp."

Also featured will be Brenda Ling, superintendent of the Manzanar National Historic Site, and James Matsuoka, son of the late Jim Matsuoka.

"Our Legacy: Generational Struggles for Democracy" is the theme for this year's pilgrimage, which will be dedicated to the late Jim Matsuoka of NCR and the late Rev. Alfred Tsuyuki of Konko Church of Los Angeles.

"Our 54th pilgrimage is being held nearly 78 years after Manzanar was shuttered," said Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embrey. "Yet, many of the challenges and issues our community faced remain with us today. We continue to fight for democracy and talk about equality and racist violence.

"Manzanar, for many reasons, symbolized the negation of democracy," Embrey continued. "But

we believe it is as important as ever to lift up Manzanar as a beacon for democracy and human rights. It is a place where we can gather to demand a better America precisely because it is a place where our community struggled to preserve democratic values. It is a place where our families, even while living behind barbed wire, worked to hold our nation accountable to the promise of equal treatment under the law. This is what we mean when we say our legacy is one of struggling for democracy.

"Our families fought for decades to be heard and to regain their rights. The decades-long battle to rebuild shattered lives and disrupted communities, to gain political representation, for redress, for ethnic studies — that's our legacy. We want to lift this up in gratitude and so that we all remember democracy must be nurtured and guarded. The challenges facing our community, our country, must be confronted with strength and determination if we wish to be true to our legacy," Embrey concluded.

For the daytime pilgrimage program, cultural performances will begin at 11:30 a.m., while the main portion of the program begins at Noon.

The Manzanar Committee has also announced that seats on the bus to the pilgrimage from Los Angeles' Little Tokyo are now available. The bus will depart at 7 a.m., arriving at the pilgrimage at approximately 11:30 a.m. and will also take participants to the Visitor Center at the Manzanar National Historic Site following the afternoon program. The bus should arrive back in Los Angeles at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The nonrefundable fare is \$60 per seat. Complimentary fares are available

for those who were incarcerated at any of the former American concentration camps or other confinement sites during World War II.

Anyone wishing to attend the Manzanar at Dusk program that evening should make other transportation arrangements.

To reserve seats on the bus, call (323) 662-5102 or visit <https://manzanarcommittee.org/2023-bus-reservations>.

The 2023 Manzanar at Dusk program will follow the afternoon pilgrimage program, conditions permitting, at 5 p.m. at the Lone Pine High School gymnasium, located in Lone Pine, Calif., approximately eight miles south of the MNHS.

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

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 email info@manzanarcommittee.org.



The late Rev. Alfred Tsuyuki is shown here performing the Shinto purification rite during the 50th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, which was held on April 27, 2019, at the Manzanar National Historic Site.

PHOTO: MARK KIRCHNER/MANZANAR COMMITTEE



REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

LETTING GO OF OUR CLUTTER

By JR Fujita

As we work on spring cleaning, it can be an overwhelming and daunting task. We can probably find overstuffed closets and drawers filled with clothes we no longer wear because they are out of style, too small or too big, too good of a deal to pass up, or we are still waiting for that perfect occasion that never happened — or we simply forgot it was hanging in the closet.

We may have an abundance of reusable take-out containers, meat trays, empty yogurt containers and jars, as well as endless condiments and plasticware — after all, we think

we may need it sometime. But our space likely remains the same.

By spending just 10-15 minutes per day decluttering, we can organize our living spaces to make them safer and more practical.

Organization is the key to decluttering our homes by first grouping alike items together — and all in one place. Start by sorting items and then classify the items into three categories: keep, recycle/donate and toss.

If you are keeping an item to pass onto your loved ones, be sure that they want it. In the end, everything should have a place where it belongs — otherwise, it often leads to purchasing duplicate items we

don't really need.

When it comes to recycling or donating items we no longer need, check your local area to see where you can properly recycle or donate items. It might be a charitable organization, a church, school or library, or you may even want to sell high-value items online.

If you use social media, you can find local community pages that are intended for giving away free items to a new home. In most instances, items should be clean and in reusable condition — otherwise, it is probably time to put it in the garbage.

The same applies to electronic files on our computers, tablets and smart phones. We can purge files we don't use to help minimize our scam and fraud risk. We can also organize alike items into folders, and delete photos that have no recollection or meaning to us instead of paying for additional electronic storage we don't need. Printed photographs and video tapes can also be converted into electronic

form to help reduce space, improve accessibility and are less likely to be damaged or lost.

Letting go of our belongings can be tough, but if we have items that are not used, it is probably clutter we don't need to keep. Downsizing may be in our future as we choose to age in place for as long as possible.

AARP offers a free Downsizing and Decluttering workshop as well as other helpful resources and tips you can find at <https://www.aarp.org/home-family/your-home/info-2021/simple-decluttering-and-organization-tips.html>.

JR Fujita is a senior state and community engagement specialist for AARP California. He is based in Sacramento.



By spending just a few minutes each day decluttering household items, we can organize our living spaces to make them safer and more practical.



The House Chamber recognizes the guests in the gallery who were assembled to observe DOR proceedings in the Washington State Legislature.

PHOTO: LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES

WASHINGTON STATE Legislature Acknowledges the 81st Anniversary of the SIGNING OF EO 9066

Day of Remembrance returned in person to Olympia, Wash., for the first time since 2020 as the Washington State Legislature paused to acknowledge the signing of Executive Order 9066 to reflect on and honor the lessons, blessings and responsibilities of the phrase "... with liberty and justice for all."

The 45-minute event, which was observed on Feb. 19, saw the Nisei Veterans Committee provide the color guard, the Seattle Buddhist Church Boy Scout Troop 252 lead the House chamber in the Pledge of Allegiance and the invocation presented by Seattle Nichiren Buddhist Church's Shami Johnny Valdez.

Due to Covid restrictions, the number of invited guests was limited; however, community organizations, including the Olympia, Puyallup Valley and Seattle JACL chapters, sent one or two representatives to observe the proceedings. House

Speaker Laurie Jinkins recognized the guests in the gallery upon the reading and passing of House Resolution 4615.

The event also honored veterans that served in the U.S. Army during World War II. Two U.S. Army Military Intelligence Service veterans, Nisei Hiro Nishimura and Katz Okamoto, were specifically recognized.

When asked what the proceedings meant to him, Olympia JACL President and Nisei Veterans Committee member Bob Nakamura said: "The ceremony helps keep the memory alive as a remembrance for the innocent lives that had nothing to do with the wartime Japan and acknowledges the injustices that were placed on the Japanese and Japanese Americans that were very loyal to America and would have given their lives in defense of America." ■

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL 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) WAITLIST
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
Tokyo, Hakone/Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto. Craftmaking hands-on experiences. **WAITLIST**
- HOKKAIDO SUMMER HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Jul 16-28
Chitose, Furano, Asahikawa, Wakkanai, Rishiri Island, Sapporo, Otaru, Noboribetsu, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Tokyo.
- 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) Rescheduled to 2024
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:

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

Ernest or Carol Hida

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

NATIONAL

Irei — A National Monument for the WWII Japanese American Incarceration

Los Angeles, CA
JANM
100 N. Central Ave.

The *Ireicho* contains the first comprehensive listing of more than 125,000 persons of Japanese ancestry who were forcibly incarcerated during World War II. Visitors can now view the book and leave a special *hanko* (stamp/seal) for each person in the monument as a way to honor those incarcerated. The project's online archive is now searchable alphabetically or by camp. **Info: Visit [ireizo.com](https://www.ireizo.com) for more information and [janm.org](https://www.janm.org).**

NCWNP

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 Northern California Chery Blossom 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](https://www.sfcherryblossom.org).

'Redefining Mental Health: Centering Voices of AANHPI Youth and People With Lived Experience'

San Francisco, CA
April 14-15
Virtual Event
Price: Free

Join the National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health and special guests for this two-day event dedicated to centering the voices of Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander youth and people with lived experience and redefining mental health and well-being in the AANHPI community. **Info: To register, visit <https://www.naapimha.org/event-details/redefining-mental-health-registration>.**

'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 inspired by his globe-spanning journeys, photography, poetry, astrology and ancient art. **Info: Visit <https://exhibitions.asianart.org/exhibitions/color-trip-yoshida-hodakas-modern-prints/>.**

PSW

'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." The discussion will feature filmmaker/publisher Jeffrey Gee Chin, actor Eijiro Ozaki and additional cast/crew. Books and merchandise will be available. **Info: To register, visit bit.ly/AROatVJCC.**

Monterey Park Cherry Blossom Festival

Monterey Park, CA
April 15, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and April 16, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Barnes Park
350 S. McPherrin Ave.
Price: Free

The city honors its Japanese influences with this free festival featuring drums, martial arts, a tea ceremony, handmade crafts, Japanese culture and food and fun for the entire family. Planned and coordinated by community volunteers, this event strives to provide a cultural arts event that offers a forum for learning, entertainment, fun and support of the community. **Info: Visit <http://www.montereypark.ca.gov/673/Cherry-Blossom-Festival>.**

West Covina Cherry Blossom Festival

West Covina, CA
April 22; Noon-6 p.m.
Plaza West Covina
112 Plaza Dr.
Price: Free

All are welcome at this day of traditional Japanese culture, music, food, performances and much more at this event welcoming the spring season sponsored by the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center and the City of West Covina.

Info: Visit <https://www.esgvjcc.org/2023-cherry-blossom-festival/>.

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 incarceree Clarence Matsumura and Holocaust survivor Solly Ganor. Matsumura was incarcerated along with his family at Heart Mountain during WWII, and Ganor was a child living in Lithuania before the Nazi invasion forced him and his family into a Jewish ghetto and then a forced-labor camp in Bavaria. Matsumura served in the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion and rescued 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>.**

'Resilience — A Sansei Sense of Legacy'

Tacoma, WA
Thru July 7
Washington State History Museum
1911 Pacific Ave.

This exhibit features eight artists whose work reflects on the effects of EO 9066 as it resonated from generation to generation. It includes the works of Lydia Nakashima Degarrod, Na Omi Judy Shintani, Reiko Fujii, Wendy Maruyama, Kristine Aono, Tom Nakashima, Roger Shimomura and Jerry Takigawa.

Info: Visit <https://www.washingtonhistory.org/exhibit/resilience/>.

'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 incarceratedees 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

Corporate Social Responsibility From Japan to the U.S.

Chicago, IL
April 6; 6-7 p.m. (CST)
Virtual Event
Price: Free

Featuring speaker Tara Havlicek, program manager for Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation, this virtual event will highlight the company's grantmaking in the U.S., along with Mitsubishi Electric's charitable giving and volunteer efforts both in Japan and the U.S. and why it is an important part of the corporate strategy.

Info: To register for a Zoom link, visit www.jaschicago.org.

IDC

'Dear Corky' Film Screening and Discussion

Denver, CO
April 4; 6-7:30 p.m.
CU Denver
1201 Larimer St.
SCB Room 2500

Price: Free; Meter Parking
"Dear Corky," a 17-minute short, captures the breadth of iconic Asian American photographer Corky Lee, as well as his fight for social justice and increased Asian visibility in American photojournalism. The discussion will feature panelists Gil Asakawa, Peggy Lore and William Wei. **Info: To register, visit <https://ucdenver.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUvdOysqDgqG9VaK201zjmwvbxzugaECgxz>.**

Memorial Commemoration of the Murder of James Hatsuaki Wakasa

Delta/Salt Lake City, UT
April 21-22
55 W. Main
The Topaz Museum Board and Wakasa

Memorial Committee will co-host these events to honor the memory of Wakasa. Events include a memorial program, panel presentation by officials from the Utah State Historical Preservation Office and the NPS, as well as a stone conservator. They will discuss the long-term preservation of the Wakasa memorial stone and site. The events will also include a ceremonial walk. Registration by April 3 required or until capacity of 160 is reached.

Info: To register, visit <https://www.wakasa80th.org/register/>.

EDC

'The Nosebleed'

Washington, D.C.
March 31-April 23
Woolly Mammoth
641 D St. NW

Price: Tickets Now Available
Playwright Aya Ogawa's "The Nosebleed" delves into parenthood, as both a parent and a child — and what it takes to forgive. **Info: Visit <https://www.woollymammoth.net>.**

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. **Info: Visit www.njameorial.org.**

'Hokusai: Inspiration and Influence'

Boston, MA
Thru 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, paintings and illustrated books by Hokusai. **Info: Visit <https://www.mfa.org/exhibition/hokusai-inspiration-and-influence>.**

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In MEMORIAM

Aoyama, Elana Leash, 51, San Francisco, CA, Jan. 26; she is survived by her daughter, Reyna Aoyama; ex-husband, Frank Aoyama; mother, Judy; she is also survived by many other relatives.

Bringentoff, Mariko, 86, Palmdale, CA, Dec. 5, 2022; she is survived by her husband, Heinrich; 4 children; gc: 10; ggc: 16.

Enomoto, Sandra, 72, Sunnyvale, CA; she is survived by her husband, Martin; children, James (Sharon) and Allison (Keith); sister, Gail (Tom) Osaki.



Fujii, Brian David, 60, Las Vegas, NV, Jan. 16; he is survived by his parents, Frances and Tosh Fujii; sisters, Julie (Mike Solheim), Karen (Ron Turner) and Kim (Steve Kumpf); she is also survived by 2 nieces.

Fukunaga, Carolyn, 90, Santa Ana, CA, Oct. 30, 2022; she is survived by her children, John (Sandy), Steve (Roann) and Carol Fukunaga; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5; ggc: 10.

Futa, Walter Sunao, 89, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 24, 2022; he is survived by his children, Baryn Futa, Mark Futa, Catherine (George) Garties and Pamela (Robert) Campbell; brother, Roy (Kathleen) Futa; gc: 5.



Gracey, Robert, 94, Bishop, CA, Jan. 16; he was the 2016 recipient of the Manzanar Committee's Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award for his work in establishing the Manzanar National Historic Site; he was predeceased by his wife, Lorna Gracey.

Hiranaka, Bernice Claire, 90, Lihue, Kauai, HI, Aug. 31, 2022.



Iki, Jane, 89, Palo Alto, CA, Oct. 3, 2022; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Topaz WRA Center in UT; she was active in Peninsula Bonsai Club, Kusamura Bonsai Club; she was predeceased by her husband, Sam; she is survived by her children, Darrell (Donna), Gordon (Theresa), Naomi (Bonnie) and George (Sarah); siblings, Flo Omori, Dorothy Miyahara (Don) and John Nakata (Charlene Fischer), gc: 4; ggc: 1.

Ishii, George, 86, Gardena, CA, Aug. 12, 2022; he is survived by his wife, Kay; children, Keri-Jean Ishii, George (Lory) Ishii Jr. and Brent Ishii; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

Iwata-Uyeki, Aki, 50, Culver City, CA, Nov. 24, 2022; B.A., UC Irvine; she is survived by her husband, Dr. Mike Uyeki; sons, Nicholas and Noah; and her parents.



Kasamatsu, Kenneth Shigeru, 75, West Covina, CA, July 31, 2022; B.A., USC; he was active in Asian American Drug Abuse Program (board chair, 2003-16) Keiro Nursing Home; Japanese American Cultural and Community Center; Little Tokyo Service Center; BSA; Nisei Week Foundation; LEAP (board of directors); founder, Pacific Commerce Bank; founding member USC Asian Pacific American Support Group (now the USC APA Alumni Association); he is survived by his wife, Bonnie; daughters, Tami (Michael) Bailey and Tricia Kasamatsu; mother, Tamiye Kasamatsu; sister, Jayne (Gideon) Young.

Kawase, Jim, 96, El Monte, CA, Aug. 23, 2022; he is survived by his sons, Clifford and Eric Kawase; he is also survived by many other relatives; gc: 1.



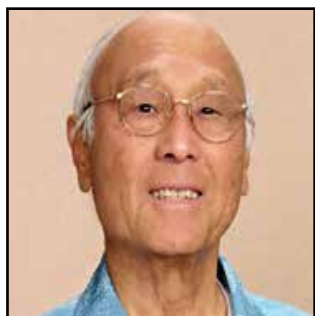
Kiriya, Miyeko Meg Mori, 102, Salt Lake City, UT, March 20; member, Mount Olympus JACL chapter; she was predeceased by her siblings, Shigeru Mori and Nobuo Mori; she is survived by her children, Karen (Danny) Setjo, Lane (Arlette) Kiriya and Glenn (Emily) Kiriya; siblings, Tom Mori, Yukiko Kik Mori Tawa, Selma Mori Yagi, Floyd Mori and Steve Mori; ggc: 3.



Masuda, Scott, 59, Culver City, CA, Oct. 6, 2022; he was predeceased by his wife, Amir; he is survived by his son, Shaun, and other relatives.

Ryono, Chika, 86, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, Nov. 19, 2022; she is survived by her daughter, Pamela; siblings, Hitoshi, Mitsue and Reiko; she is also survived by many other cousins and relatives.

Shimizu, Fumio 'Steve,' 102, Laguna Woods, CA, Nov. 24, 2022; WWII veteran, Army (442nd RCT); recipient of Purple Heart, Bronze Star, French Legion of Honor, EAME and Congressional Gold Medal of Honor medals; he is survived by his wife, Dorothy; and children, Craig, Stephanie, Kerry and Cheryl; gc: 2.



Tsuyuki, Alfred Yoshihisa, 81, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 21, 2022; he is survived by his daughters, Alyne and Cheryl (Nate Sovatha) Tsuyuki; siblings, Makoto Tsuyuki, Christine Megumi Nagashima and Hitomi Tsuyuki; gc: 2.

Fujima Kansuma Dies at 104

Renowned sensei of kabuki dance had an illustrious career.

By P.C. Staff



Fujima Kansuma

PHOTO: PACIFIC CITIZEN DIGITALARCHIVE

Born Sumako Hamaguchi in San Francisco on May 9, 1918, Fujima Kansuma, who dedicated her life to teaching classical Japanese dance to several generations of students, died Feb. 22 of congestive heart failure at 104. Her decades of activity included serving in 2018 as the choreographer at age 100 for the Nisei Week Parade in Little Tokyo.

"She was the embodiment of beauty, grace and genuine love and kindness to all," wrote June Aochi Berk — one of Kansuma's myriad students — in an email to the *Pacific Citizen*. "I am filled with heartfelt gratitude to have been her student from the age of 5, and to this day, at 90, I feel so fortunate to have watched her dance onstage and known her grace and kindness and love through all my life."

Hamaguchi's pursuit of learning classical Japanese dance continued when the family moved to Los Angeles and, after graduating from high school, Japan, where her kabuki dance teachers were Onoe Kikugoro VI and Fujima Kanjuro VI, who would later give Hamaguchi her *natori* or professional name, Kansuma.

After returning to the United States in 1940, Kansuma opened her first dance studio in Los Angeles and would later add more classes in other municipalities in L.A. County.

When the United States and Japan went to war, Kansuma's family and she would be held at the Rohwer WRA Center in Arkansas. According to a *Smithsonian Magazine* article by writer Yuka Murakami, however, Kansuma's wartime incarceration experience was unique.

"Her camp experience was unlike any other, with consistent interest from her students to continue their practice and from people across the different camps who wanted to see her perform. For this she was granted special permission from camp authorities to return to Los Angeles under armed guard to retrieve costumes and phonograph records."

Kansuma was then allowed to visit different camps to perform. "The military and the WRA authorities gave her permission to travel to the many other WRA incarceration camps to spread hope and beauty during a bleak and hopeless time," Berk told the *Pacific Citizen*. Noting that she was a "rock star" before there was such a thing, she added, "Madame Kansuma also made it her mission in camp (Rohwer) to bring joy and beauty to give hope to the elder Issei by creating beautiful dances for all to enjoy. As one of her students in Rohwer, we also traveled to Jerome to perform Japanese dance there."

Kansuma was recognized with the Order of the Precious Crown, Apricot, by the Japanese government in 1985 and the National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1987.

"She was an angel of kindness to all," Berk added. "May she continue to live on in our hearts and beautiful memories of her endless dancing. She would always say to us, her students: 'To be a better dancer, you first need to be a better person.'"

She is survived by her daughter, Miyako Tachibana, son-in-law Noriyoshi Tachibana, and grandchildren Jonathan Tachibana, Taizo Tachibana and Miwa Tachibana. ■

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FURUTANI » continued from page 7

Bill to Extend Honorary Degrees to Former JA Internees Passes California Assembly

A California bill to extend honorary degrees to individuals whose college education was disrupted due to the evacuation of Japanese Americans during World War II was passed unanimously by the Assembly on May 4.

"I am very pleased with the Assembly's action today," said Assemblymember Warren

Assemblymember Furutani was instrumental in crafting the Japanese American Internment Diploma Resolution. The board approved the first-ever resolution to retroactively grant a high school diploma to any person who was enrolled in a LAUSD high school immediately preceding his or her internment and did not graduate as a result.



"AB 37 marks the 'unfinished business' of our time with respect to honoring a class of individuals who endured a grave injustice."

Warren Furutani, D-South Los Angeles County

T. Furutani, D-South Los Angeles County. "Today's vote represents a resounding endorsement of a measure that is, frankly, long overdue."

Assembly Bill 37 calls on California's higher education institutions to confer honorary degrees to individuals who were removed from their studies during WWII. Over 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were forcibly removed from their homes and communities during the War and incar-

"AB 37 marks the 'unfinished business' of our time with respect to honoring a class of individuals who endured a grave injustice," said Furutani.

While a number of institutions in the state and country have sought to extend due recognition to these individuals, the vast majority of institutions in which these former students were enrolled have not done so.

"These institutions have had an opportunity to extend honorary degrees to these college-

This article from the May 15, 2009, *Pacific Citizen* reports on the progress of AB 37, which Furutani authored when he was a California assemblyman. The bill was later turned into a law that conferred honorary diplomas to Japanese American students at public institutions whose educations were disrupted by the forced evacuation and incarceration that resulted from Executive Order 9066.

But, as Furutani noted in the book and when he read that chapter at the book launch, getting to Manzanar that first time in 1969 to scout it as a place to go was a humbling experience on many levels. For one thing, they learned that going there in December — it gets really cold there in the winter! — was not a good idea.

Also humbling: They later learned that the Revs. Sentoko Mayeda and Shoichi Henry Wakahiro — a Buddhist priest and Christian minister, respectively — had already been leading a small pilgrimage of former incarcerated to pray at the Manzanar cemetery for 25 years.

The younger generation that Furutani once represented also had another lesson to learn: the reason why their elders didn't speak much about the camp experience to their offspring.

"At our first pilgrimage, Edison Uno spoke from San Francisco. And Edison gave us a lesson in humility, which was that when we complained about no one wanting to talk about camps, he said, the Japanese American community was like a rape victim. And no rape victim wants to recount what took place," Furutani said.

The release of "ac-tiv-ist" has allowed the always-loquacious Furutani to look back and reflect on the lessons learned, the pain and glory — and he's still here to tell the tale, having been a son, a brother, a husband, a father and now, a grandfather.

No one who reaches 75 is without some regrets — but overall, Furutani is OK with what he has learned on his journey.

"There's different chapters and periods in your life where hubris took over, where your ego gets in the way and you do some stupid things based on, you think you're more than what you really are. So, I've had some missteps that way," he said.

It's all part of life. Right now, Warren Furutani is in a good place and is still engaged as ever, as evidenced

by a recent Letter to the Editor that was printed in the Jan. 27 *Los Angeles Times*, commenting on two recent mass shootings in which the perpetrators were Asian. A point he was trying to make: In 2023, an Asian person can be a mass killer or be a world-class professional baseball pitcher and home run slugger. Just another type of human being, in other words.

Although Furutani notes that he has "the maladies of a 75-year-old," he points out that in the book, he addresses undergoing bariatric bypass surgery, which was "really important for me health wise." His advice for maintaining one's health is pretty simple: keep off the excess weight and don't smoke. "I'm still kicking — and thank goodness for my wife, Lisa. She's really healthy."

He added: "My brothers and I had lunch the other day, and we said, 'We're all living on house money.' So, we're doing OK."

For Warren Furutani, what he wants to impart in "ac-tiv-ist" is that we're all in this together, sometimes you have to rock the boat and be different, but still find common ground — and help one another.

"This is where perspective, point-of-view and context comes into play," Furutani said. "If you have a perspective, how to look at it, that nobody does this on their own and you put it in the context of the times and the impact and how it relates to other situations — that's where I think the analysis relative to the movement, in not just our movement but all movements — becomes important.

"It's not about, you know, heroes and heroines and that's how you make history, that you have to wait for that special person to come along," he continued. "There are special people, but it's done with a people's movement. That's why our sign off was always, 'Power to the people.'" ■

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