



PACIFIC CITIZEN



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PHOTO: SCOTT LEW

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JACL CELEBRATES RETURN OF THE KAKEHASHI PROJECT

Participants travel to Japan to promote
U.S.-Japan relations.

A New Look for the JACL Headquarters Building

The organization's San Francisco home receives a much-needed facelift thanks to a grant from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

By P.C. Staff

If you happen to be traveling down Sutter Street in San Francisco's Japantown, you might notice a definite difference to the neighborhood now, as one of its longest-standing building tenants has a new look!

JACL's national headquarters building, located at 1765 Sutter St., has a fresh-new paint job thanks to a \$177,880 California State nonprofit security grant through the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

Leading the organization through the grant application process was JACL national staffers Phillip Ozaki, Ashley Bucher and Bridgette Watson. Once the JACL was notified in February that it had secured the grant, plans began immediately to beautify the façade of its headquarters building and make arrangements to better keep its staff and historic headquarters safe.

"The new paint job is perfectly timed with the 50th anniversary of our headquarters building, which was gifted by Nisei in 1973 to continue the mission of our organization. We are very grateful for grants from the San Francisco Japantown Foundation and the California Department of Emergency Services for making this possible," said Ozaki, who serves as program director for membership and fund development.

Said Watson, operations manager:

"It took some time to find the right company for this project. I wanted to keep it local and work with people that understood the importance of our building and where it is situated in Japantown. The Colores Painting Co. did an incredible job. Honestly, I didn't realize the paint would be so bright! But I'm happy it turned out the way it did. The building looks more inviting now that it's finished. The painters only took about a week and a half to complete the project, just in time for the Cherry Blossom Festival."

Additional planned grant improvements include increased video camera protection, fence upgrades, more illumination, upgraded windows and doors, a building security consultant and workspace upgrades.

"It has been over 20 years since we've been in a position to address the many issues of deferred maintenance with regards to our headquarters," said JACL National President Larry Oda. "The condition of the exterior of our historic headquarters building is the most visible example of our neglect, and I'm happy that staff arranged for a community grant to fund the refinishing of the building. They're not done yet. . . . I look forward to the incremental improvements occurring in and on our headquarters. We may be fortunate to start the next 100 years of JACL with a state-of-the-art building thanks to our forward-thinking staff."

JACL officially dedicated its



JACL's San Francisco headquarters is sporting a brand-new paint job, just in time for the building's 50th anniversary.

PHOTO: BRIDGETTE WATSON

national headquarters building in 1975 as the official "center of our organization, a living museum for our traditions and a tribute to our heritage," according to a statement published by the JACL Building Fund Campaign.

The campaign helped raise funds to complete the building, specifically noting that "it is being built out of a far more precious material. Sacrifice. Painful, deep, genuine sacrifice. Sacrifice that began with the first Issei who immigrated to American shores to endure long-forgotten privations. Sacrifice of Nisei lives on distant battlefields. Sacrifice that is chronicled in the Great Evacuation. Sacrifice that goes by the name of racism and bigotry and has touched the lives of all Japanese Americans. But out of this crucible has been forged a magnificent heritage."

The JACL headquarters building was then rededicated in 1977 as the Masao W. Satow Memorial Building. Satow served as national director of JACL in its postwar heyday, during which he teamed with Mike Masao to preside over the organization during its time of greatest growth and influence. Throughout his 27-year tenure, which began in 1946,

he helped grow the JACL from 28 chapters to more than 90 by the time he retired at age 65 in 1973.

As the organization continues to prepare for its future and upcoming 100th anniversary, updating its building operations in San Francisco offers a bright start to a community recovering from the Covid pandemic.

"We are excited to be able to refresh the exterior of the JACL headquarters," said Executive Director David Inoue. "Hopefully, this will contribute to the reflection of a vibrant Japantown. Obviously, the pandemic was very difficult for many businesses, and we need to do all we can to create a welcoming atmosphere for visitors to come to the area and patronize our neighbors for shopping, dining and entertainment.

"It is with this same spirit we are looking forward to hosting our National Convention in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles," Inoue continued. "We need to protect our community enclaves. What were once thought of as ghettos have now become important cultural touchpoints and community gathering sites for the residents of San Francisco, San Jose and Los Angeles, as well as for many Japanese Americans across the country." ■

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* 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

AN EASTER PLEA FOR ENDING GUN IDOLATRY

By David Inoue,
JACL Executive Director

On Monday, March 27, we once again as a nation mourned another mass shooting event that took the lives of three young children and three teachers. There was once again near-universal agreement that the deaths were unnecessary and senseless. But that is where the agreement quickly ends.

The pro-death and killing side believes the answer is to promote gun ownership — the only thing that can stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun. It is our God given and constitutional right to own guns. We can protect our children with more armed security in the schools and by sending them

to school with bulletproof backpacks.

And damn any dissent from this orthodoxy of guns as we have seen in the Tennessee legislature, the state still raw from the pain of this most recent killing, where two Black men were ejected from that body for their participation in a mass protest of gun violence.

Justin Jones and Justin Pearson, both Black men and Jones also of mixed Filipino heritage, were expelled on a first-of-its-kind-purely-partisan vote in the Tennessee legislature.

All past expulsions in the modern era had been largely bipartisan and in response to egregious behavior by the expelled legislator such as bribery and sexual misconduct. Ironically, the first six times people were expelled was in the wake of the Civil War for

legislators unwilling to recognize the citizenship of Black people.

And this is where we see the reality of the pro-gun lobby, the core of the basis of our nation's love of guns as a means to oppress minorities, particularly Black people.

As the one person facing expulsion, but not being voted out, Rep. Gloria Jones responded to a question about why she was not voted out, "It might have to do with the color of our skin."

Throughout history, gun rights have been applied unequally depending upon one's race, just like citizenship and voting rights, which led to the expulsion of the post-Civil War Tennessee legislators.

Even though rights may have been given through the law, the application of the law meant that gun rights were only for white people. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was famously denied a permit to protect himself after his home had been firebombed.

From more recent news, NBA basketball player Ja Morant was publicly and rightfully so ridiculed for brandishing a gun in a social media post. And yet, if we consider that in contrast to Kyle Rittenhouse, who has been glorified for walking through the streets of Milwaukee and even using his gun on protesters, the double standard is clear.

It is good for white people to have guns and even to use them against those whom they disagree with, whereas it is reckless and dangerous for Black men, even if a famous basketball player, to carry a weapon.

Now, increased Black ownership of guns can be used to sell more guns to those who harbor racist beliefs that Blacks are the source of gun violence, despite the facts that state otherwise in most high-profile mass shootings.

The answer is not increased access to guns by Black people, but recognizing that we as a country have been promoting gun ownership by one segment of our population out of fear of others, and the media and news have been complicit in promoting this imagery of good gun ownership with white people and frightening gun ownership by Black people.

It is this fear that is actually used to promote further uptake in purchasing of more deadly and ridiculously unnecessary firepower.

The actions of the Tennessee House of Representatives are all about silencing and disempowering those they disagree with. They have used the power of the legislature rules to apply unequally to the Black representatives, Jones and Pearson.

Even more frighteningly, the alternative when these white supremacist legislators are unable to achieve their means through the misapplication of laws and policy, they will resort to violence. That is the result we had Jan. 6 at the U.S. Capitol. The message we are being given is that we must submit to an autocratic rule or face the consequences.

These past few weeks have been in the midst of the holiest of times for Christianity, Judaism and Islam. As a Christian, when we think of the proliferation of violence, and the central role that guns have played in that expansion of acceptability of violence as a solution, we do need to turn to the teachings of Christ, who taught nonviolence. Ironically, there is a growing theology on the right that teaches a Jesus that was ambivalent about the use of violence.

If we claim to be a Christian nation, gun violence is the one area where we truly need to start living to the ideal of our Christian faith and put an end to the escalation of violence and false idolatry of gun ownership.

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



NIKKEI
VOICE

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SAKURA SEASON

By Gil Asakawa

When I was a kid in Japan, I don't remember going to *Hanami*, or "Flower Viewing" during sakura season. I knew the cherry blossoms were a big deal and recall how beautiful they were.

But it was after my family moved to northern Virginia in 1966, when I was 8 years old, that I realized that sakura are indeed a big deal.

The thousands of cherry trees that

are famously featured along the Potomac River's Tidal Basin and bloom every spring during Washington, D.C.'s National Cherry Blossom Festival were a gorgeous symbol of Japan's close relationship with America, and like the almost million locals and tourists who flock to the park for the American version of *hanami* during the National Cherry Blossom Festival, my mom and dad piled us kids into the big Plymouth Fury from Sterling Park and drove us on Route 7 to D.C.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival celebrates the bond between the U.S. and Japan through the gift of over 3,000 cherry trees that were planted in 1912. Some were planted in Sakura Park in New York City, and the rest in D.C.

Japan gave almost 4,000 more trees in 1965. Cherry blossoms are the national flower of Japan, and cherry trees are planted throughout the United States. San Diego's Balboa Park has 1,000 trees, and Los Angeles has over 2,000 at Lake Balboa in Van Nuys.

Sakura have also thrived in Seattle, Philadelphia, Brooklyn, Portsmouth New Hampshire, Maryland, Ohio and New Jersey, to name a few places to find them. Colorado, alas, where I live, has a poor climate and soil for Sakura, though the hub of the Japanese community in downtown Denver is called Sakura Square.

A precious few trees blossom every spring. One year, dozens of Sakura trees were planted in a suburb near Denver International Airport (and

a crew of volunteers helped plant them) but they alas didn't last long.

The cherry blossom is a perfect visual symbol of Japanese spiritual tradition: It's beautiful but brief.

Sakura blossom in mid-to-late March in Tokyo, and they're gone within a week or so. They encapsulate a very Zen and Shinto reality, of the brevity of life. Because of the limited window to catch the beauty of the blossoms, the Japanese carefully forecast the peak dates to enjoy *hanami*.

During that brief time, groups of friends and family plan picnics and drink under sakura as the blossoms bloom and then die, falling like snowflakes. Sakura start blooming in January in Okinawa, but they won't flower until even early May in my mom's hometown of Nemuro in Hokkaido.

This year, my wife, Erin, and I were fortunate to travel to Tokyo and Takayama at the end of March, and the first week in Tokyo, the blossoms peaked.

But it rained much of that week, and the temperatures got chilly, and as a taxi driver explained, that climate allowed the sakura to stay at their peak beauty for an extra week. We got to enjoy the blossoms even more at Ueno Park, along the shores of the Sumida River on a special boat cruise, and Nakameguro where sakura make a tunnel above the canal-like Meguro River that lit up at night.

I know there are Cherry Blossom festivals across the U.S. (the National Cherry Blossom Parade will be April 15 this year in D.C., Los Angeles' Cherry Blossom Festival April 15-16.

Spring is indeed in the air now, and catching a view of the beautiful sakura blossoming during this time makes for a special moment that is fleeting but oh so satisfying and rewarding to witness.

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



Sakura at Toyosu
PHOTO: GIL ASAKAWA

AUTHOR SEEKS DESCENDANTS OF ISSEI FOR BOOK

Veteran *L.A. Times* journalist makes an appeal to the Japanese American community.

By P.C. Staff

Writer Paul Richter is looking to interview present-day Japanese Americans about their forebears who emigrated from Japan and settled along the West Coast. The reason: He is writing a book for publisher Simon & Schuster about late-19th century-early 20th century Japanese immigration to the United States.

According to Richter, who covered the State Department for the *Los Angeles Times*, Japanese people who began arriving on the West Coast around 1890 soon faced a powerful “exclusion movement” — especially in California — that sought to “halt immigration and bar them from the mainstream economy. Both the Issei and Nisei faced discrimination in jobs, housing and public services.”

Now, more than a century later, he hopes today’s Japanese Americans will share what they know of their family lore, experiences and what might be preserved in family letters and papers for his yet-to-be titled book.

To Richter, who lives in the Washington, D.C., area and whose State Department beat covered the period from the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks until 2015, when he accepted the buyout the *Los Angeles Times* was then offering its employees, the period of Japanese immigration to America is one that deserves greater attention in the 21st century.

“I think it’s really an important piece of history,” Richter told the *Pacific Citizen*, “and it’s one that people don’t know a lot about.” He noted, for example, that President Theodore Roosevelt was greatly concerned with the harsh laws and conditions that early Japanese immigrants in California faced.

The backdrop to Roosevelt’s concerns: It was also a time of rising Japanese expansionism, militarism and imperialism, with Japan having defeated Russia in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05.

Japan’s victory came as a shock to Western powers, many of which had for centuries conquered and colonized much of the nonwhite world unabated. For the first time since the height of the Mongol empire in Eurasia, an Asian power had prevailed against European power.

According to Richter, “It was a real worry for Teddy Roosevelt because he was afraid we were going to get drawn into a war with Japan.” Because the Issei were Japanese citizens whose safety the Japanese government was obligated to protect, the harsh treatment “became a big international issue.”

“In both 1908 and 1913, we almost got drawn into a war with Japan,” Richter noted. “And, of course, the Japanese government had a big navy then; they were a formidable force.”

Despite the laws and policies that prevented the Issei from becoming naturalized U.S. citizens or joining certain professions, Japanese immigrants who worked in agriculture managed to thrive, even when they were precluded from purchasing farmland. According to Richter, however, Issei successes occurred in a fraught era.

“This whole period . . . was of major ethnic conflict, and it kind of lasted through the ’30s and laid the groundwork for the incarceration period during the war,” he said. “So, I just thought this was really important piece of California history, of American history.”

History doesn’t necessarily repeat itself, but similar patterns can arise. In 2023, Japan

and the United States are staunch international allies and can vie for national pride on a baseball diamond instead of engaging in armed conflict.

Also in 2023: The anti-Japanese sentiments of decades past in America have morphed into anti-Chinese rhetoric as a bellicose and expansionist China challenges the international order amid pandemic caused by a virus that originated there — and helped fuel a spike in anti-Asian violence here.

For those and other reasons, Richter felt it was time to re-examine history — and put a human face on it.

“One thing that I felt was missing was a good book that told the story from the viewpoint of the [Japanese] immigrants themselves and their children and their families,” he said. “That’s kind of the focus that I’m going to bring it.”

Richter says it will take a couple of years to complete the book, but he knows it is a story that is relevant and worth telling.

“Japanese immigrants were one of the groups that most took to American ideals and [were] so well-suited to prosper in America,” said Richter. “And yet, there was an ugly coincidence of disasters that that befell them in California. One of the history books says that, you know, they came to the wrong state at the wrong time. . . there was such challenges for the Issei and the Nisei.”

Veteran journalist Paul Richter is working on a new book about early 20th century Japanese immigration to the U.S.

Richter’s first book was 2019’s “The Ambassadors: America’s Diplomats on the Front Lines,” also published by Simon & Schuster. In it, Richter relayed “true-life stories of four expeditionary diplomats who ‘do the hardest things in the hardest places.’” Via this second book with the publisher, he hopes to put his journalistic skills to use to share the largely unknown but still relevant story of the first Japanese in America with today’s audiences.

(EDITOR’S NOTE: Those interested in the possibility of contributing family stories and artifacts of first-generation Japanese immigrants to Paul Richter’s upcoming book may reach out to the author via email at goldenlandbook@gmail.com.)

MANZANAR RECEIVES GRANT TO REBUILD BASEBALL FIELD

Manzanar National Historic Site preserves and tells the stories of Japanese American incarceration during World War II. Visitors to the park come across a simple sign saying “baseball fields” in front of an expanse of dirt and scraps of chicken wire once used as back stops.

This is a huge missed opportunity because the story of baseball at Manzanar is one of its most deeply touching.

Japanese Americans, labeled “enemies of the state,” continued to enjoy the everyday American game of baseball. This speaks loudly of their resilience and the injustice of their incarceration. Over 120 baseball and softball teams divided into 12 leagues played year-round within the bleak and dehumanizing camp.

A grant from The Fund for People in Parks to rebuild the baseball field, complete with bleachers and announcer’s booth, will now enable the park to offer visitors a powerful image of life at Manzanar.

An educational display on the site will add



PHOTO: MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

context. The area will be archaeologically excavated during the work, possibly uncovering new objects. No grass will be planted, keeping this a dirt field, as it always was. Ceremonial games will be played on occasion, allowing for reconciliation and remembrance.

Said Steve Kluger, fund donor, author and baseball aficionado on the Fund for People in Parks website: “A memorial to Manzanar without its baseball diamond is like the Pledge of Allegiance without the flag . . . baseball was perhaps one of the few aspects of the lives they’d led prior to incarceration that they were allowed to keep with them after everything else had been taken away. The inclusion of a diamond might achieve what reparations alone couldn’t facilitate: healing.”

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TULE LAKE Committee Appeals Exclusion of Japanese American Voices in Tulelake Airfield Sale

The land under dispute is a 359-acre portion of the Tule Lake concentration camp's barracks area, where 27,000 inmates once lived and 331 died during WWII.

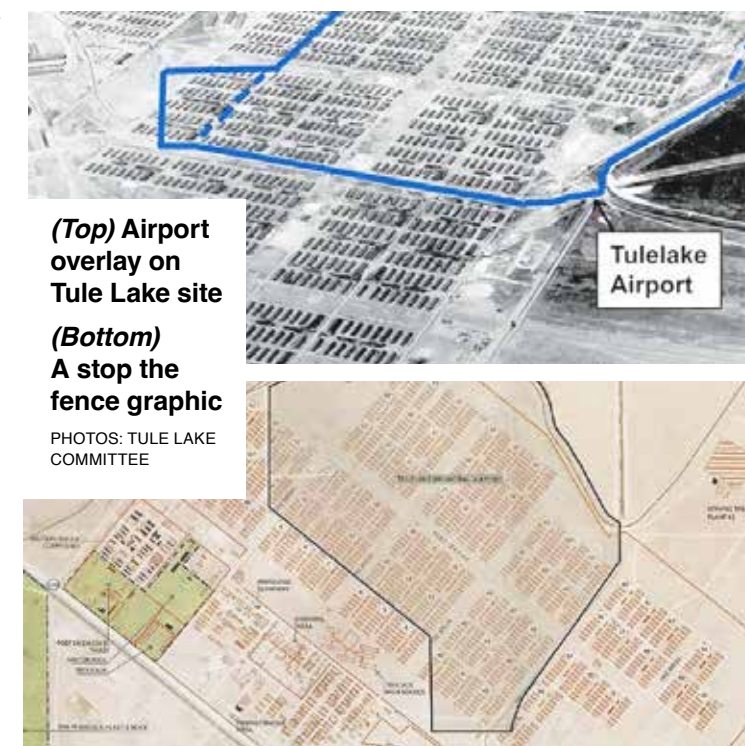
By **Barbara Takei**

The U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco is poised to decide if Japanese Americans have a right to assert claims over the purchase and sale of the Tulelake airfield — a small rural airfield sited in the middle of the World War II Tule Lake concentration camp. Tule Lake is an American site of shame, the only one of America's 10 concentration camps that became a maximum-security segregation center to punish those who protested their false incarceration.

On April 18, a three-judge panel will hear the Tule Lake Committee's challenge to the September 2020 decision of Eastern District of Cali-

fornia Judge William B. Shubb, who dismissed *TLC v. FAA, et. al.* He ruled that the court lacked "Federal jurisdiction" to consider the claim of Japanese Americans, leaving no rationale for survivors and descendants of those incarcerated at Tule Lake to have a voice concerning the historic site where 27,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were unjustifiably incarcerated.

The land under legal dispute is a 359-acre portion of the Tule Lake concentration camp's barracks area, where 27,000 inmates lived and 331 died. When the camp closed in March 1946, in an era of Jim Crow racism, the site was treated as worthless surplus property and given to the nearby city of Tulelake for use as an airfield. Like many places that



(Top) Airport overlay on Tule Lake site

(Bottom) A stop the fence graphic

PHOTOS: TULE LAKE COMMITTEE

have spiritual and emotional significance to people of color, this rare, historically significant site was paved over and erased.

Since 2000, Japanese Americans have worked to preserve the unique Tule Lake civil rights site. However, in 2014, Modoc County, the airfield's sponsor, prepared to implement a \$3.5 million Tulelake airfield expansion plan. It took two lawsuits to force compliance with environmental laws that protect historically significant Tulelake airfield.

The airfield's owner, the city of Tulelake, decided it no longer wanted responsibility for the historic site. Rather than negotiating a return to the Department of Interior, the city disposed of it, giving the concentra-

tion camp lands to the Oklahoma Modoc Nation for the sum of \$17,500 — approximately \$50 an acre.

In its bid to purchase the airfield, the Oklahoma-based Tribe promised to align with local farmers and ranchers to overturn Native American water rights and expand aviation on the Tulelake airfield site. In addition, it promised the city of Tulelake free legal representation in the conflict over the airfield.

Despite Modoc County's half-century role as the airfield's sponsor, the County's offer to match the Tribe was ignored. The Tule Lake Committee offered more than double the price paid by the Modoc Nation. It, too, was ignored.

To heal from the pain and trauma

of the government's racist forced removal and incarceration, Japanese Americans make pilgrimages and seek to preserve the Tule Lake concentration camp as a place of remembrance. The Tule Lake Committee has hoped that the Oklahoma Tribe and city of Tulelake would feel compassion for its desire to protect and have access to a place of great spiritual and historic significance. Instead, they dismissed Japanese American spiritual and emotional connections to this place of grief, pain and loss as "hypothetical" and "imagined."

Even though their brief (8/31/2022) acknowledged the former barracks area was "one of the most emotionally significant areas on the Airport property," the Tribe and the city of Tulelake argued, "an airport is not a recreational or sightseeing site." Their rationale for preventing site access to Japanese American survivors and descendants is that access "has always been restricted" and that the Tribe should derive "enjoyment and exercise of the property rights it received."

It is difficult to comprehend why the Oklahoma Modoc Nation considers Tule Lake's concentration camp land — a place of tragedy and human suffering — as an appropriate place to operate an aviation business.

The Tule Lake Committee trusts that the three-judge Ninth Circuit panel will recognize that denying Japanese Americans a voice in the treatment of the Tule Lake site is not a path toward reparative justice and healing. ■

JACL Saddened by School Shooting in Nashville

By **JACL National**

JACL is deeply saddened by the shooting on March 27 at a private Christian school in Nashville, Tenn., which took the lives of three students and three adults. This is already the 130th mass shooting this year alone, coming in the aftermath of several other high-profile mass shootings this year.

The week also marked the two-year anniversary of the Atlanta shooting, which claimed eight lives. It is another sad and stark reminder that no one is safe from gun violence. We once again join another communities in mourning those lost in yet another act of violence.

While the investigation is ongoing, we know that at least one semiautomatic weapon was used to carry out this heinous act. We should not and cannot sit idly by as the gun deaths, especially in

mass shooting events, continue to set new record numbers. For the past two years now, firearms have been the leading cause of death among children and adolescents according to CDC data.

We join President Joe Biden and

others who continue to call upon Congress to take action now to ensure another mass shooting like this one, the 129 others this year, and the hundreds of others that have plagued our country in the last three years alone, never happen again.

Simple actions such as an assault weapons ban and the elimination of high-capacity magazines can have a significant impact on reducing the number of mass-casualty gun violence incidents. Congress must act now. ■



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JACL Celebrates Return of the KAKEHASHI Project

Thirty-seven participants travel to Japan to broaden understanding of their cultural ties and promote better U.S.-Japan relations.

By JACL National, Cheyenne Cheng, Bridget Keaveney, Scout Hayashi and Halle Sousa

JACL is pleased to have once again taken part in the KAKEHASHI Project in conjunction with the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japanese International Cooperation Center. MOFA has worked with JACL since 2014 to send more than 1,000 Japanese American students and young adults to Japan on trips that broaden their understanding of their cultural ties to Japan and facilitate exchanges that promote better U.S.-Japan relations.

In late March, 37 participants and three chaperones from across the country returned from the first in-person KAKEHASHI Project trip in three years! Attendees were divided into two groups, with Group A visiting Gifu and Group B visiting Okinawa, where they participated in several site visits, cultural experiences and exchanges with local communities.

Participants also had the opportunity to meet high-ranking representatives of the Japanese government, including Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary and Special Adviser to the Prime Minister Kihara Seiji and Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Yoshikawa Yuumi.

JACL looks forward to seeing what lessons participants have learned and will share in their respective communities now that they've completed their trip. With more than 1,000 alumni across all of its KAKEHASHI Project trips, JACL is excited to be able to offer this wonderful experience to Japanese American youth again and looks forward to continuing its relationship with MOFA and JICE.

For more information on the KAKEHASHI Project, visit www.jacl.org/kakehashi.

Following are reflections by JACL Chaperones Bridget Keaveney, Norman Y. Mineta Fellow, and Cheyenne Cheng, youth and programs manager, as well as personal insights from 2023 KAKEHASHI Project participants Scout Hayashi and Halle Sousa.

Bridget Keaveney, Group A Experience

In Gifu Prefecture, students and young

professionals alike were able to visit a number of cultural sites that evoked feelings of reconnection and inspiration. Participants began their visit to what is known as the "Heart of Japan" and "Land of Clear Waters" by traveling to Ogaki City, where they visited Ogaki Castle and the quaint riverside town known as Kawaramachi.

Participants were soon whisked to partake in the art of crafting Wagashi, a traditional Japanese confection, thanks to a locally operated and owned Wagashi shop. Continuing onward with their cultural experiences, participants also had the chance to visit the timeless village of Shiragawa-Go, a historic mountainside settlement registered as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site.

On the last day of their visit to Gifu Prefecture, participants visited the Gifu Sekigahara Battlefield Memorial Museum, where Japan was reunified under the Tokugawa Shogunate in 1600.

Participants ended their last day by returning to Ogaki City, where they met and interacted with local community members as generously organized by members of Gifu World Youth.

Community members and participants alike were treated to a traditional Japanese Iaido performance that showcased the martial art of drawing a katana sword methodically.

Our participants' visit to Gifu would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of the JICE coordinators, Hiroko Taniguchi and Haruka Tsuda, as well as local travel agent Ryohei Shimizu, all of whom went above and beyond in ensuring that each participant was not only accounted for but also had the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in the rich history and traditions of Gifu Prefecture.

Their seamless leadership and coordination of the trip will forever be ingrained in the minds and hearts of our Kakehashi participants who had the privilege of visiting beautiful Japan.



Group A in Shirakawa-Go. Pictured (far right) is JICE Coordinator Haruka Tsuda.

PHOTOS: BRIDGET KEAVENEY



JACL chaperone Bridget Keaveney (center) with JICE Coordinator Haruka Tsuda (left) and local travel agent Ryohei Shimizu (right) at Nagoya Train Station, awaiting to take the bullet train back to Tokyo.

Pictured are (from left) Bridget Keaveney (Mineta Fellow), Alex Shinkawa (former Inouye Fellow) and Cheyenne Cheng in Tokyo.

PHOTO: CHEYENNE CHENG



Group B "Best Group" after the presentation of their action plans with JACL's Cheyenne Cheng (seated, second from right) and Hikari Kobayashi, JICE's Youth Exchange and China Division director (seated, far right)

PHOTO: CHEYENNE CHENG



JICE Coordinator Hiroko Taniguchi gave a rousing welcome to Group A participants on their first day in Tokyo.



Kanda House, Shirakawa-go, Gifu. Once belonging to the Kanda family, this home is believed to have been constructed in 1850. Shirakawa-go is registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

PHOTOS: BRIDGET KEAVENEY





Cheyenne holds the 1,000 cranes that were presented to the Himeyuri Peace Museum. Some cranes are from Tsuru for Solidarity and others were folded by the participants!
PHOTOS: CHEYENNE CHENG

Cheyenne with some of the participants at the Homestay Experience



Cheyenne Cheng, Group B Experience

Group B, aka the BEST group, had the lovely experience of going to Okinawa, where we visited many historical sites, engaged in a number of cultural experiences and engaged in conversation with the amazing community!

After touching down at Naha Airport, we started our time in Okinawa at Shuri Castle, the palace of the Ryukyu Kingdom. Participants were able to partake in the reconstruction efforts by breaking down rubble from the 2019 fire back into sand for later building projects. They ended the day at Kokusai-dori Street, the main tourist and shopping street in Naha, where we all were able to secure lots of omiyage to bring back to the U.S.!

Our second day in Okinawa was long but incredibly meaningful. Our first stop was at the University of Ryukyus, where participants did an exchange with students and discussed topics such as Okinawan culture, immigration and experiences of being a student under the Covid-19 pandemic.

Afterward, we went to the Himeyuri Peace Museum where (JACL National VP of Membership and Services) Dominique Mashburn and I presented 1,000 cranes on behalf of her family and JACL. Fittingly, we ended the day at Sefa-Utaki, the sacred birthplace of the native religion of the Ryukyuan people.

Our last day in Okinawa was spent in the Yomitan village, where we had many hands-on cultural experiences. Participants had the privilege of experiencing homestays with Okinawan families, though it was only for a few hours rather than a few days.

Many were able to try on bingatas, play the shamisen and cook traditional Okinawan food all while attempting (or succeeding) to communicate with their homestay families in Japanese!

After a tearful departure, we spiced things up with an Eisa and Karate experience. Eisa is a form of folk dance that originated in Okinawa, and participants were able to wear costumes and play the drums. We were taught a brief history of martial arts and martial arts equipment, then saw a kata demonstration and learned a few of the moves!

Participants left feeling full . . . emotionally, spiritually and physically. We all left Okinawa thankful for the brief time we were there and for the connections we made.

None of this would have been possible without the work and coordination with our

local travel agent, Airi Goto, and our JICE coordinators, Sachiko Moridera and Keisuke Matsuzawa.

'I Am Proud of Who I Have Become, Growing Up Japanese and American'

By Scout Hayashi, KAKEHASHI Participant

Few things are more comforting than feeling ordinary.

It's a minority opinion in the ethos of American exceptionalism, where being unique

is always a good thing. But I was the only Nikkei child I knew in the suburbs of North Carolina, comfortable in neither white spaces, nor in Asian American ones. Being unique just meant being alone.

My parents, who came from large Japanese American families, did their best to offset this feeling. You will always be different, they told me, but that is something to be proud of.

However, it is one thing to be told a fact, and another to believe it. I was not proud when I failed my weekly kanji quizzes, nor when enduring "banana" (white on the inside) jokes.

Still, I laughed. It was easier than explaining how four generations in America and the World War II incarceration had taken a language and culture from me. I became quite adept at diluting the enormity of my Japanese American experience into a palatable, if anemic, performance. Sure, I can write your name in Japanese. Omg, of course I love matcha-flavored anything!

The March 2023 Kakehashi project was the first time I felt ordinary without having to perform. In the eyes of my Japanese American peers, I saw reflected this experience each of us had thought unique.

I never thought I would have the chance to discuss my complicated relationship with Japan with anyone, let alone with perfect strangers. But with every conversation, I felt a stone I didn't realize I had been carrying disappear.

We came from different states, careers and families, but we were the same in little ways that mattered. Most of us were not fluent, but we did not translate shinkansen or Anglicize the pronunciation of our Japanese names.

I played jan ken pon with a friend for the first time. And our group had the propensity to oooh and ahhh in perfect synchronization like a live studio audience . . . which would always prompt more laughter! We joked that it was due to our Japanese ancestry, but every time it happened, I felt a little more at home.

Our initial stay in Tokyo included a tour of the Japanese Overseas Migration Museum where, for the first time, I saw my family's place in history mapped on a wall in four different languages for all to see.

I don't know where in Japan my great-great-grandparents came from, but I know that they moved to Hawaii in the initial wave of 1885, which meant there is a good chance they were from Okinawa or Hiroshima.

The museum even had lesser-known details of the migration story. Decades of newspaper clippings documented early anti-Japanese sentiment and legislation in America. Some of which diverted Japanese emigrants to Brazil and Central America, where other diasporic communities took root.

The memories made in this museum prompted conversation about our family's histories for the rest of the program. I learned that some of our grandmothers and grandfathers had been incarcerated in Rohwer and Jerome together. I wondered if they had met. If they had, would they have ever guessed their descendants would meet in Japan so many decades later?

When our group traveled to Gifu prefecture, we shared our families' stories with members of the Gifu community. Though I had assumed that Japan did not particularly care about those who had left the nation, it was clear some still do.

I spoke to a family who was interested in Japanese American culture. Though the kids were nervous about speaking English to an American, they told me about their plans to study art and music in university. I told them about my favorite artists from the Japanese diaspora (Kishi Bashi and Rina Sawayama).

In Gifu, we also got a taste of Japanese history. We toured the Sekigahara Battlefield Memorial Museum. The pivotal battle in 1600 that led to the unification of Japan is considered as impactful to a nation's history as Waterloo or Gettysburg. Yet, few of us had ever heard of it.

I was absolutely fascinated by the Shakespearean loyalties and betrayals of the daimyo involved; it was one of the first things I researched once I returned home.

We also visited a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Ogimachi village in Shirakawa-go, founded in the 11th century. The 250-year-old gasshou-zukuri-style houses scattered



Scout writes a silly little note to the gods and spirits.
PHOTO: SACHI KOIDE



First time on a Shinkansen
PHOTO: LAUREN SADATAKI



Ogimachi Village in Shirakawa-go
PHOTO: SCOTT LEW



Scout Hayashi (backrow, second from left) and fellow participants in a selfie photo with the group's beloved JICE coordinator, Taniguchi-san.
PHOTO: MEGUMI THURSTON



Hannah Rex shares her family history with Gifu World Youth.

PHOTO: LAUREN SADATAKI



Discussing our Japanese American heritage

PHOTO: BRIDGET KEAVENEY

throughout throughout the village all face north to south, letting the sun melt snow off the heavily slanted roofs to water the crops. The roof's thick layers of thatching aided the village's sericulture by providing cool and dry habitats for silkworms and a covered space to spin the silk.

I loved seeing this depth of Japanese history layered beneath an exceedingly modern culture. The gabled roofs of traditional Japanese homes poking up between rectangular apartments felt so metaphorical. The knowledge that I visited the Sekigahara battle site and a Don Quixote (a gargantuan modern superstore) in a single day still gives me whiplash.

Back in Tokyo, we visited Meiji Jingu. My knowledge of Shintoism is tenuous at best, and my scientific education often causes some spiritual skepticism. But the sanctity of a Shinto shrine is undeniable.

I had the unshakable feeling that someone, or something, was listening to my prayer. I also felt the strongest connection with my ancestors, even the ones who spent most of

their lives overseas. As a little joke to myself, I bought an academic success omamori and hoped it would last me the next four years of medical school.

I hope the lessons I learn from the Nikkei experience will translate to greater empathy for future patients with similar family histories.

As I decide which medical school to attend, I look at how active the local JACL chapter is and for opportunities to learn Japanese history and language alongside anatomy and cardiology.

But all of that won't come for another few months. Today, I stay involved in the Japanese American community by listening to the Yon-Say podcast (hosted by and introduced to me by my fellow Kakehashi alumni, Sachi Koide!).

A friend from the program, Finn Laubscher, and I realized we have more to say about our Japanese American identities and are now working on a blog. Our group chat is still actively making plans to meet up at cherry blossom festivals and the JACL convention this spring and summer. Not to fall into cliché, but

I feel like I did make lifelong friends, that the parallel threads of our histories have knotted in a way that will not be easily unraveled.

As I've continued to read about Japanese emigration, I've also begun to unpack the nuances of my family's place in Japanese colonialism. Japan's complicated past in Asia necessitates careful engagement with my identity in pan-Asian spaces. In the Japanese American experience, there must be room for joy, as in the Kakehashi program, and accountability. Though, I am still learning what that looks like for me.

On the second to last day of the program, my favorite movie, "Everything Everywhere All at Once," wins seven Oscars. With its multiversal perspective on intergenerational trauma fresh in my mind, I think about the scars that emigration and incarceration left on my family.

I do not speak Japanese or celebrate all the holidays, so my children likely won't either. When I visit Japan, I speak too loudly and have to Google what to do at a shrine. My family and I will forever be guests in a place we used to call home.

I also think about a universe where my family had never left Japan. My dad, a Civil War enthusiast, may have obsessed over Sekigahara the way he does over Gettysburg.

Maybe I would call myself a seikagaku-sha instead of a biochemist. I'm sure we would have been happy, but I feel no sense of regret over these lives we would never live.

» See PROJECT on page 12



View from Tokyo Tower.

PHOTO: SCOTT LEW

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VJAMM Commemoration and Fundraiser Set for April 20

In its first in-person gathering in three years, the event's keynote speaker will be community activist and Manzanar Pilgrimage pioneer Warren Furutani.

The Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument Committee is pleased to announce its first in-person commemoration in three years, which will be held on April 20 from 11 a.m.-Noon on the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards in Los Angeles. Confirmed as the event's keynote speaker is community activist and Manzanar Pilgrimage pioneer Warren Furutani, who recently released his memoir, "ac-tiv-ist." Additional confirmed speakers include Bruce Embrey, co-chair of the Manzanar Committee, which is planning its 54th Manzanar Pilgrimage on April 29, and Ryan Horio, recipient of the third annual Arnold Maeda Manzanar Pilgrimage Grant (co-sponsored by the VJAMM Committee and the Manzanar Commit-

tee) and currently a student at the University of California, Los Angeles, and a member of the Kyodo Taiko team.

The VJAMM Committee dedicated the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument on April 27, 2017, to commemorate the forced removal of some 1,000 persons of Japanese ancestry from Venice, Santa Monica and Malibu in April 1942 and their incarceration in what would become the American concentration camp at Manzanar.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 on Feb. 19, 1942, empowering the U.S. Army to ultimately forcibly remove some 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast states of California, Oregon and Washington to temporary assembly centers on

Ryan Horio, recipient of the third annual Arnold Maeda Manzanar Pilgrimage Grant, is a student at UCLA and a member of the Kyodo Taiko team.

PHOTOS: VJAMM COMMITTEE



This year's event keynote speaker, Warren Furutani, speaks at the April 2019 VJAMM Commemoration event.

county fairgrounds and race tracks, Department of Justice detention facilities and 10 War Relocation Camps, all de facto prisons without due process for the duration of World War II.

Persons of Japanese ancestry had been tracked and surveilled in parts of the United States since the 1930s, so after Imperial Japan bombed the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941, U.S. government agents quickly rounded up perceived leaders in the Japanese American community.

This included Issei ("first generation," born in Japan) who owned their

own businesses, publishers of Japanese-language newspapers, Buddhist priests, martial arts dojo masters and Japanese-language school principals for their influential roles in their respective organizations.

Many found themselves imprisoned in Department of Justice detention facilities, with no immediate way of communicating with their families about where they had been taken.

The VJAMM Committee hopes that the VJAMM Commemoration will "remind us to be forever vigilant about defending our Constitutional Rights. The powers of government

must never again perpetrate an injustice against any group based solely on ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, race or religion."

The VJAMM Committee also appreciates Ester and Jung Chaing of Hama Sushi Restaurant in Venice for hosting the 11th annual VJAMM fundraiser on April 20 from 4-9 p.m. Hama Sushi, located at 213 Windward "on the circle" in Venice, is generously donating 10 percent of all dinner proceeds to the VJAMM Committee for educational outreach, continuing maintenance of the monument and funding for the annual Arnold Maeda Manzanar Pilgrimage Grant.

» See VJAMM on page 12



REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

VALUING THE INVALUABLE

By Craig Gima
Guest Columnist and AARP
Communications Director

When his mom had a stroke, Wesley Tong returned to Hawai'i from Tokyo, where he was teaching college and high school English, to become her full-time caregiver.

"It's tough to be a caregiver and work at the same time," Tong said. Caregiving is also expensive. The family went into debt to pay for an assisted living facility so Tong could return to Tokyo to close out his life there before moving in with

his mother.

Tong is just one of an estimated 38 million unpaid caregivers in the United States. According to AARP's recent Valuing the Invaluable Report, family caregivers provide an estimated 36 billion hours of care annually for parents, spouses, partners and friends with chronic, disabling and serious health conditions. If they were paid hourly for their work, the value of their care is estimated to be \$600 billion.

What caregivers do, they do at great emotional and financial cost. They sacrifice income, job security and their savings. Plus, many

family caregivers cut back on their work hours and even leave the workforce to take care of loved ones, putting their career advancement and retirement savings at risk.

More than three out of every four family caregivers pay out of pocket for care-related expenses like equipment, transportation and home modifications. It adds up fast. On average, family caregivers spend 26 percent of their income on caregiving activities.

At the same time, they are saving taxpayer money by allowing loved ones to remain at home, where they want to live, instead of in more expensive and often taxpayer-supported nursing facilities.

Family caregivers are the backbone of our fractured long-term care system in America. The stress on family caregivers and our system of long-term care will continue to increase as the population gets older and there are fewer younger family members or friends to provide care.

It's time to do more to support caregivers, who have done so much for others.

This year on Capitol Hill and state houses across the nation, AARP is continuing to fight to:

- Make providing care easier, including through expansion of resource navigation tools, caregiver training and inclusion in care, as well as through increased access to paid care at home and other supports.
- Alleviate the financial and other challenges faced by many family caregivers that can undermine their own well-being, including better access to respite care, paid leave and financial relief such as through family caregiver tax credits and reimbursement programs.
- Improve the health and well-being of family caregivers, many of whom have seen their own personal situations worsen, including through needs assessments and other tools.

When Tong lived in Tokyo, he noticed that the government seemed to do more to help older residents. Older people weren't afraid that they couldn't afford health care and the government-provided transportation services for people who had mobility issues.

Since he's been back in the U.S., Tong's had trouble accessing government services for family caregivers, and he worries about his family's ability to pay for the care his mother needs. The good news is that his mother seems to be improving and no longer requires 24/7 care. But she still needs someone to watch out for her. He worries about his own health and is trying to take better care of himself and his mother.

Being a family caregiver isn't easy. It's an act of love. It shouldn't be something caregivers have to do alone.

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



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Thank you! - JACL Membership Department



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

NCWNP

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.

Miso Making Workshop at Aedan Koji Kitchen San Francisco, CA April 30; 1-3 p.m. Aedan Koji Kitchen 613 York St. Price: Center Members \$55; General Public \$65

Join instructor Mariko Grady, founder of Aedan Fermented Foods, as she guides participants in the basics of making traditional miso paste by hand. All ingredients and supplies will be provided, and all will take home a quart size jar of miso to finish fermenting at home.
Info: Visit www.jcccnc.org and to register online, visit <http://bit.ly/aedannmisoapr2023>.

Japanese Heritage Night With the San Francisco Giants San Francisco, CA May 16; 6:45 p.m. Oracle Park 24 Willie Mays Plaza Price: Special Event Ticket Purchase Thru April 17

Join the JCCCNC and the San Francisco Giants at Japanese Heritage Night vs. the Philadelphia Phillies. Purchase your special ticket through the JCCCNC and receive a limited-edition bucket hat. The event will also feature recognition of the San Francisco Fuji Athletic Club, the first Issei baseball team on American soil. Tickets with various seating locations are available; must be reserved by April 17.
Info: Visit www.jcccnc.org for event details.

PSW

Japanese American Support for African American Reparations Los Angeles, CA April 16; 1 p.m. Virtual Event Price: Free

Greater Los Angeles JACL will have Ron Wakabayashi speak about AB 3121, which was enacted on Sept. 30, 2020, and established a task force to study and develop reparation proposals for African Americans. The presentation is for the purpose of requesting endorsement of the AB 3121 mission and has been initiated to support broad community engagement with this issue.
Info: For a Zoom link, please RSVP to greaterlajacl@gmail.com.

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 Japanese culture, music, food and performances 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/>.

Kodomo no Hi (Children's Day) Celebration 2023 Los Angeles, CA April 29; 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. JACCC Campus 244 S. San Pedro St. Price: Free

JACCC will hold its Kodomo no Hi celebration with activities including family workshops, kids crafts, beverage, food and retail vendors, entertainment and film screenings. Children's Day, officially observed on May 5, has been a day of celebration in Japan since ancient times.
Info: For more information and to register for the event, visit www.jaccc.org.

Exploring the YUMIVERSE with Yumi Sakugawa Los Angeles, CA May 18; 6:30-8 p.m. JANM's Aratani Central Hall 100 N. Central Ave. Price: Free

Join artist Yumi Sakugawa for an evening of mindfulness centered around their new coloring book that will leave participants feeling more relaxed, less anxious and more creatively inspired. This interactive event will begin and end with guided meditation and provide space for creative exploration through coloring.
Info: Visit www.janm.org to RSVP.

PNW

'Who We Are' Virtual Screening and Discussion Seattle, WA April 15; 1-3:30 p.m. Virtual Event Price: Free

Seattle JACL is pleased to host a discussion on the documentary film "Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America," which explores the history of anti-Black racism in America and the enduring legacy of white supremacy and our collective responsibility to overcome it. Event attendees are asked to watch the film prior to the event; the film is available for streaming on Netflix. Seattle JACL has also obtained a screening license for those who are not Netflix subscribers.
Info: To register for the Zoom link, visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91042504131>.

'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 internee 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 Central Postal Directory 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>.

'Resisters: A Legacy of Movement From the Japanese American Incarceration' Seattle, WA Thru Sept. 18 Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience 719 S. King St. Price: Check Museum for Admission Prices

This exhibit leads visitors through a historical narrative beginning with the experience of Japanese American internees in the 1940s and the complicated feelings of shame, anger, fear and varied faces of resistance from within the community.
Info: Visit <https://www.wingluke.org/exhibit-resisters>.

IDC

Memorial Commemoration of the Murder of James Hatsuaiki 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/>.

Amache Pilgrimage Granada, CO May 19-21 Price: Registration for events is free; attendees will need to cover costs of transportation and meals outside of the Pilgrimage potluck. Various Locations: Amache Site, Granada Community Center, Granada High School

Nikkeijin Kai of Colorado and Amache Preservation Society continue to coordinate the original Pilgrimage memorial services and potluck lunch for the May 20 Pilgrimage and due to increased interest in Amache becoming a National Historic Site, the Amache Alliance, the University of Denver Amache Project, National Parks Conversation Assn. and Colorado Preservation will be providing additional weekend events.
Info: For more information and to register, visit <https://amache.org/pilgrimage/>.

EDC

25th Annual National Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk Washington, D.C. April 1; 9 a.m. National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During WWII (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 Higurashi.
Info: Visit www.njamemorial.org.

'Hokusai: Inspiration and Influence' Exhibit 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>.

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

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In MEMORIAM



Akabori, Nelson Seigo, 86, Sacramento, CA, Jan. 14; veteran, Navy; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA; he was predeceased by his wife, Nancy; he is survived by his two daughters; 1 brother; gc: 4; ggc: 6.

Fukunaga, Takamari, 99, Pahala, HI, Nov. 11, 2022; he is survived by his children, Alvin (Jackie) Fukunaga, Allen Fukunaga and Elaine Kamakura; siblings, Yoshikage (Shino) Fukunaga, Suetaka (Vicki) Fukunaga, Shigeyuki Fukunaga and James Susumu (Ella) Fukunaga, Setsuko Toriano and Etsuko Sato; he is also survived by many nephews, nieces and cousins; gc: 3; ggc: 2.

Goya, Mitsue, 90, Los Angeles, CA, March 5; graduate, Honolulu Business College; she was predeceased by her husband, Robert Kwanji Goya; she is survived by her sons, Calvin (Shirley) and Allan (Lynelle); brother, Sueichi (Shine) Taguchi; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and friends; gc: 1.



Hisatake, Joseph L., 71, Honolulu, HI, July 24, 2022; he is survived by his wife, Gay Kuehnel-Hisatake; 5 children; brother, Gil; gc: 3.

Hori, Kazuko Natsuko, 87, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 20, 2022.

Ishii, Kay Kikuko Kawabe, 82, Gardena, CA, March 13; M.A.; Ph.D.; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Heart Mountain WRA Center in WY; she was predeceased by her husband, George Ishii Sr.; she is survived by their children, Keri-Jean Ishii, George (Lory) Ishii Jr. and Brent Ishii; gc: 2.

Ishii, Sally Seidler, 80, Honolulu, HI, Feb. 6; BSN, University of Hawaii; she is survived by her husband, Thomas Ishii Jr.; sons, Wade and Jon; gc: 3.



Joo, Aiko, 95, Palo Alto, CA; she was active in Palo Alto Buddhist Temple; she was predeceased by her husband, Kishiro, and siblings, Harry (Sachi) Higaki, Juichi (Hisaye) Higaki, Shigeru Higaki, Mae Higaki and Isamu Hamai; she is survived by her children, Tom (Grace) Joo, Grant (Judy) Joo, Dan (Faith) Joo, Sandra Wagner, Gordy (Linda) Joo, Cammie (Gary) Uyeda and Judy (Darel) Tsuji; siblings, Naomi Higaki and Emi Hamai; sister-in-law, Sumiko Higaki; gc: 15; ggc: 4.

Kadota, Marian Michi, 91, La Palma, CA, Aug. 24, 2022; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Heart Mountain WRA Center in WY; she is survived by her husband, Frank; brothers, Norman (Yone) Shiota and Art (Kenji) Shiota; children, Danny (Gale), Dave (Holly), Steve and Nancy Wong; gc: 6; ggc: 3.

Kodama, Jane Nanaye, 76, Granada Hills, CA, Feb. 17; she is survived by her daughters, Kelly (John) and Michelle; and 3 sisters.

Kurusu, Bessie, 95, Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 2, 2022; she was predeceased by her husband, George; she is survived by her children, Susan (Terry) Matsunaga, Phyllis Amy (Bruce) Kurisu-Saltz, Kay Keiko (Gene) Mori and Alan (Glenna) Kurisu; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4.

Masaki, Edward Shigeharu, 89, Honolulu, HI, Aug. 22.



Momoki, Shinji, 79, San Jose, CA, July 11, 2022; he is survived by his daughters, Eva and Shirley; siblings, Naoko, Yoshihito and Kiyotsugu; he is also survived by nieces and a nephew.



Morisaki, Fusako Mary Ann, 102, Sacramento, CA, July 7, 2022; she was predeceased by her husband, Kiyoshi; she is survived by her children and other family members.

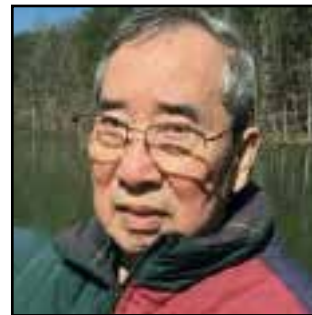


Murata, Miyoko, 89, East Stockton, CA, Jan. 23; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Manzanar WRA Center in CA; she was predeceased by her husband, Matsukiyo; she is survived by her children, Robert Murata, Julia Teranishi (Paul) and George Murata; siblings, Setsuko Tanaka and Sam Motoike; gc: 3.

Nagase, Goro, 89, Newark, DE, Sept. 10, 2022; he was predeceased by his wife, Takako; he is survived by his children, Terumi (Chris) McKenna and George Nagase; brother, Mitsumasa Nagase; gc: 1.

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.

Sato, Norman Hitoshi, 80, Gardena, CA, Jan. 14; he is survived by his siblings, Wilbur Sato and Jane (Herbert) Kimata; he is also survived by nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews and other relatives.



Tanikawa, Ruby Shigeko, 97, San Jose, CA, Feb. 22; she is survived by her brother, Mac (Jane) Tanikawa; sister-in-law, Wakako Tanikawa; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews and great-grandnieces.

Uehara, Bertram Hiroshi, 67, Honolulu, HI, Jan. 3; B.A., University of Hawaii; MBA, Chaminade University; he is survived by his siblings, Valerie J. Uehara, Betty K. Arai, Dean T. Uehara and Bryce H. Uehara.

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



Yuki, Thomas Masami, 87, Los Gatos, CA, Dec. 10, 2022; veteran, Army; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center (Camp II) in AZ; B.A. and MBA, Santa Clara University; founding board member, American Bank and Trust; activities: San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin; board of trustees, JANM; he is survived by his wife, Carol Shibata Yuki; children, Cheryl Wells (Rick), Trisha Yuki-Richards (John), Karla Cabico (Carl), Mariko Yuki and Jason Yuki; siblings, Emie Yamate (Minoru), Penny Morimoto (Edward) and Herbert Yuki (Barbara), he is also survived by many cousins, nieces and nephews; gc: 6.

Sato, Tomio 'Tom,' 90, Huntsville, AL, Feb. 24; veteran, Army; M.E., University of Alabama in Huntsville; he was predeceased by his siblings, Takao, Kimio, Yukio Sato and Mildred Wakakuwa; he is survived by his wife, Marlene; their children, Stanley, Sam (Sheila), Cliff Sato and Julie Harrell (Alan); he is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 3; ggc: 1.

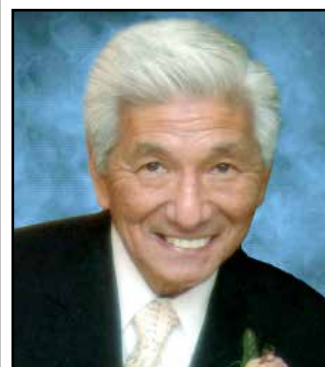
Sato, Wesley, 88, Park Ridge, IL, Sept. 24, 2022.

Shimizu, Junko, 88, Cottonwood Heights, UT, July 17, 2022; B.A., UCLA; she was active in Women's State Legislative Council, JACL, YWCA, Women's Republican Club, Salt Lake Council of Women; she is survived by her husband, Masaru Tom Shimizu; sons, Timothy (Valentina), Scot (Cara), Mark and Joshua; brothers, Hidetoshi (Kieko), Tetsuo (Noriko) and Masatake (Michiko); gc: 4.

Tanaka, Cathy, 73, Hacienda Heights, CA, March 1; she is survived by her husband, Masaru; sons, Eric (Traci) and Ryan (Aya); siblings, Jerry Fukui and Chris (Kenny) Kohler; she is also survived by nephews and a niece and other relatives; gc: 3.

TRIBUTE

FRANKLIN 'FRANK' HIROSHI ADACHI



A memorial service for Franklin "Frank" Hiroshi Adachi, 87-year-old Nisei and veteran of the Korean War who passed away on Jan. 11, 2023, will be held on Saturday, April 15, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. at Gardena Valley Baptist Church, 1630 W. 158th St., Gardena, CA 90247.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Geraldine Adachi; stepson, Dickson (Lisa) Hatai; stepgrandsons, Dylan and Kyle Hatai; he is also survived by other relatives.

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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Gerald Fukui
President

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I'm glad to know the joy of cross-country practices in the muggy North Carolina heat. And it was America that taught me the value of protesting injustice and voicing a dissenting opinion.

I am proud of who I have become, growing up Japanese and American. Though I have felt profoundly alone in both countries, I never really was. I just needed to find a crowd I could get lost in, if only for a brief nine days.

'The Experience Was Absolutely Life-Changing'

By Halle Sousa, KAKEHASHI Participant

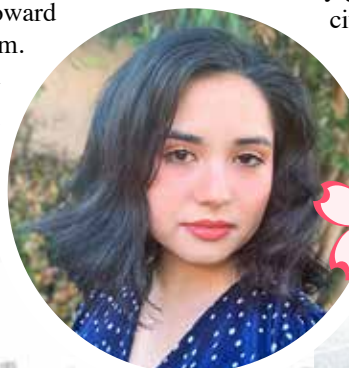
I am not afraid to say that I have often struggled with my connection to the Japanese in Japanese American. While I am ethnically Japanese, I cannot help but feel like a fraud when I tell people this. I am not even conversational in the language, and to say that my cultural knowledge is above average would be generous.

Unfortunately, generations of assimilation in the United States have deprived individuals such as myself from many parts of our heritage. That is not to say that our community has lost all cultural ties, and it goes without saying that the Japanese American identity is incredibly diverse and nuanced.

There are undoubtedly those whose experiences differ from mine. However, I find myself longing for what was lost when my ancestors immigrated all those years ago.

It is for this reason that I was immediately drawn toward the Kakehashi Program.

I desperately wanted



Halle (right) with Meg Kosai at the top of Tokyo Tower



Wall of sake barrels at Meiji Jingu

PHOTO: SCOTT LEW

to bridge these cultural gaps and knew that I could do so much more swiftly with the help of the JACL and the Japan International Cooperation Center.

Having returned from the program just under three weeks ago, I can say with full confidence that the experience was absolutely life-changing and strongly recommend it to anyone in a similar position as myself.

With such a packed schedule, it is difficult to summarize the entire trip in a single article. Nevertheless, I will do my best to provide some highlights. Our cohort was split into two groups, with both following an identical itinerary in Tokyo and surrounding areas, going our separate ways to different cities and then reuniting in Tokyo once again.

At the beginning of our trip, we heard an informative lecture from Glen Fukushima, a third-generation Japanese American professional with decades of experience in U.S.-Japan relations, and then visited the Japanese Overseas Migration Museum and the Nissan Global Headquarters Gallery in Yokohama.

As a history buff and genealogy enthusiast, I was particularly impressed by the museum and how Japanese immigration to the Americas and the events that followed were so well-documented and cared about.

I saw familiar faces in an exhibit featuring Japanese Americans such as Norman Mineta and George Takei and read stories from families whose experiences were so similar to mine.

My group then flew to Naha, the biggest city in Okinawa. I was particularly excited about this part of the trip, as I had heard so many great things despite knowing very little about it myself.

We learned extensively about the history of the Ryukyu people at Shuri Castle and the Himeyuri



A view of Shuri Castle, which was once the palace of the Ryukyu Kingdom in Naha, Okinawa

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF HALLE SOUSA

VJAMM » continued from page 9



Arnold Maeda, pictured here in 2018, advocated tirelessly to inspire the VJAMM Committee to persevere in its efforts to erect the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument.

Peace Museum and interacted with locals through an exchange with Ryukyu University, a home visit in Yomitan village and a Karate and Eisa workshop.

It seems obvious that there would be parallels between our experiences, but I nevertheless found myself surprised by many of them. For example, we had a lot in common with the college students from extracurricular activities to life challenges.

However, I believe that one of the most striking was the issue of youth engagement. This was highlighted during our group's homestay in Yomitan village when one of the hosts mentioned the struggle to get young Okinawans interested in preserving local traditions.

With youth membership in the JACL continuing to decrease, I am well-aware that we face a similar problem back home. While I was saddened by the fact that this is not a confined issue, I am given hope by all of the passionate young people I met on this trip, both Japanese American and Okinawan alike.

Simply visiting Japan, let alone being led on a guided tour of some of the most famous parts of the country, is a privilege that many Nikkei never get to experience.

As such, I am incredibly grateful to both the JACL and JICE for providing me with this opportunity and kick-starting what I hope to be a lifelong journey of cultural reconnection and discovery.

I also got a lot more out of this trip than I expected, namely friendships that I hope to maintain for years to come. And while this trip still left me with a lot of questions, I do not think that this is necessarily a bad thing.

In fact, I look forward to returning in the near future, whether it be by myself, with family or with the friends that I made along the way and continuing to make up for all of the lost time.

Maeda inspired the VJAMM Committee to persevere in its seven-year quest to erect the monument on the same corner he, as a teenager along with his parents, reported for the bus trip to Manzanar in 1942 with only what they could carry.

The Arnold Maeda Manzanar Pilgrimage Grant encourages college students to speak out against injustice as Maeda did during his lifetime and help the Manzanar Committee plan and attend the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage.

For more information about the annual Arnold Maeda Manzanar Pilgrimage Grant, visit www.venicejamm.org, [facebook.com/VeniceJAMM](https://www.facebook.com/VeniceJAMM) or [manzanarcommittee.org](https://www.manzanarcommittee.org). For information on Hama Sushi, please visit www.hamasushi.com/menus or call (310) 396-8783.



The Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument is located on the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln boulevards. The nine-foot-6-inch-tall solid black granite obelisk marks the spot where some 1,000 persons of Japanese ancestry from Venice, Santa Monica and Malibu lined up with only what they could carry in April 1942.

PHOTOS: VJAMM COMMITTEE