



PACIFIC CITIZEN

SECRET HARVESTS

A Hidden Story of Separation and the Resilience of a Family Farm



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Remembering a Topaz Life Lost: James Wakasa

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Berkeley JACL Hosts the Grateful Crane Ensemble.



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A 'SECRET' NO MORE

The Discovery of a Long-Lost Aunt Leads a Family on a Journey of Exploration.

a memoir

DAVID MAS MASUMOTO

Artwork by Patricia Wakida

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The JACL resolution relating to the recognition of and apology to Tule Lake resisters was passed four years ago, but little has happened that we know of to keep their promise.

Led by the JACL, during and many decades after World War II, former Tule Lake Resisters have been stigmatized as the “trouble makers.”

On Aug. 1, 2019, the progressive membership of the JACL, at their National Convention in Salt Lake City, passed a resolution offering a sincere apology to former Tule Lake Resisters for their acts of resistance and dissent. Also, the resisters suffered shame and stigma during and after the war due to JACL’s attitudes and treatment toward individuals unfairly labeled “disloyal.”

The JACL resolution further resolved that all JACL chapters gain a greater understanding of the issues surrounding the imprisonment, mistreatment and resistance of Tule Lake Resisters; further resolved to include a Tule Lake narrative in an updated JACL Curriculum Guide in both printed and online format and for the syllabus for Teacher Training Workshops; and further resolved that the National Council will recognize Tule Lake Resisters at an appropriate public ceremony during the 2020-21 biennium.

The curriculum guide shows 415 words describing the facts around Question 27 and 28, although the questions are not written out. More information about the short timeline to respond and versions would explain the chaos and misinformation that caused some families to break apart.

This letter reminds JACL leaders and members to fulfill their obligations set forth in their adopted Resolution of Apology to Tule Lake Resisters that includes the recognition of the resisters. An educational panel at the upcoming National Conference and at local Teacher Workshops are needed for new generations to be informed.

Sincerely,

Yukio Kawaratani and Nancy Kyoko Oda,
Members of the San Fernando Valley JACL Chapter
and former Tule Lake Inmates

CINCINNATI AND DAYTON JACL Chapters Hold Installation Dinner

The evening event also included a hate crimes presentation by the FBI’s Ferron Yi.

The Cincinnati and Dayton chapters of the JACL held a joint installation dinner on March 31 at Mei Japanese restaurant in Cincinnati, Ohio, where seven officers were sworn in by former MDC Gov. Betsy Sato.

The installation was the first in-person gathering since 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. Sworn in were Lindsey Brashear (Cincinnati treasurer), Christine Lucas (Dayton), Kurt Miyazaki (Dayton), Don Hayashi (Dayton president), Gordon Yoshikawa (Cincinnati editor “Grains of Rice”), June McVey (Cincinnati treasurer) and Kazuya Sato (Cincinnati president).

Following the dinner, immigration lawyer Charleston Wang spoke about a Jan. 29 shooting incident at Tokyo Foods Store in the suburb of Evendale, Ohio, in which a suspect used a pistol to shoot the front of the store several times. The store was closed at the time, and fortunately, no injuries were reported.

The suspect, identified by authorities as Daniel Beckjord, was arrested by Evendale Police and, at press time, was still in police custody. The incident, though determined not to be a hate crime by authorities, did spark community discussion about what constitutes a hate

Ferron Yi, an agent for the Cincinnati Division of the FBI, makes a Hate Crime presentation to the Dayton and Cincinnati JACL chapters.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF KAZUYA SATO



crime/hate incident.

As a result, other invited installation dinner guests included two FBI agents and a U.S. assistant prosecutor. Agent Ferron Yi of the Cincinnati Division, gave a hate crime presentation and participated in a Q & A discussion, telling the audience that hate crimes are one of the FBI’s top priorities.

Yi shared that a hate crime is “a criminal offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by the individual’s bias against a race, religion, disability, ethnic/national origin, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity.” She also said that there are hate crime incidents that may not be classified as a crime, but it is still vital to notify police and the FBI so that they can investigate.

“We all came away with a better understanding of what are hate crimes and hate incidents, as well as what to do when we come across such acts,” said Cincinnati President Sato. “The Cincinnati chapter will make a summary of the event in ‘The Grains of Rice’ (our publication) to disseminate the information and will be working with the Japan America Society of Greater Cincinnati to keep our eyes and ears open for future incidents.”



Betsy Sato (far right) of the Cincinnati JACL swears in (from left) Lindsey Brashear (Cincinnati treasurer), Christine Lucas (Dayton), Kurt Miyazaki (Dayton), Don Hayashi (Dayton president), Gordon Yoshikawa (Cincinnati editor “Grains of Rice”), June McVey (Cincinnati treasurer) and Kazuya Sato (Cincinnati president).

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

YES, ANOTHER COLUMN ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE

By David Inoue,
JACL Executive Director

I wrote my last column on the need to take action on gun violence, and yes, here is yet another column about the same topic. It's been barely a few weeks since the mass shooting at a school in Tennessee, followed by another at a Louisville bank. Both occurred in communities where it would seem everyone is friendly to one another, but also in communities, or states, where gun ownership is a fact of life. And yet, we've already moved on as a nation. There is no talk about mass shootings, of the children and their teachers killed while at their Christian school.

Instead, the new gun fear is that it could be anyone in any random situation that gets shot. Yes, you could be the next victim.

In just the past few weeks, we have seen a new epidemic of shootings. Ralph Yarl, a 16-year-old boy in Kansas City, Mo., was shot twice, all because he went to the wrong house to pick up his siblings.

Heather Roth and Payton Washington, two teen cheerleaders in Texas, were shot for attempting to get into the wrong car, one they thought was their own. Waldes Thomas and Diamond D'arville, Instacart delivery drivers in south Florida, had their car shot at when they went to the wrong address. And most tragically, Kaylin

Gillis died when she and her boyfriend pulled into the wrong driveway in rural upstate New York and were shot at by the property owner.

It may be a different type of shooting, just as random, but maybe it is creating a greater sense of impact that these are people getting shot at for no good reason, but someone with a gun decided to use it rather than use common sense that maybe there isn't a need to actually pull the trigger. Too many guns are going into the hands of people who are not trained in how and when to properly use them.

Typically, these recent shootings are referred to as accidental, the victims being in the wrong place at the wrong time. They don't have any connection to the shooters in the mass shooting incidents. Maybe the subconscious reaction to mass shootings is that it would never be me. These new shootings are different — the shooter has no connection to the victims, other than the victim somehow mistakenly crossed the shooter.

Statistically, I know that my risk of being a victim of gun violence remains very low, just as my risk of being in a car accident or having our house

burned down are also highly unlikely. However, in the United States, the risk for children and teens being killed by a gun is higher than their risk of being killed in an auto accident.

Car owners are generally required to be responsible enough to hold car insurance. Homeowners are required by their mortgage company to purchase homeowners insurance, and renters typically protect their belongings with renters insurance. And yet, we have no expectation of responsibility from gun owners. It's easier to get a gun license than a driver's license in many jurisdictions. If you don't like the gun laws in the state you live in, just go to another with lax gun laws to get your assault rifle, no questions asked.

When someone purchases a gun, it is with one intent: to someday use that gun to end the life of someone. In some cases, that may be justified self-defense, but increasingly, we are seeing cases where there is no plausible claim of self-defense.

Our Second Amendment to the Constitution may now be interpreted to guarantee the right of gun ownership, but the Second Amendment

says nothing about the right to take a life or the attempt to do so. While the Constitution is the established law of our land, we do have one other founding document, the Declaration of Independence. Perhaps the most famous line is "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

The impact of gun violence and fear is that we have lost these "unalienable Rights" in favor of the right of gun ownership. Above all, people like Kaylin Gillis have lost their right to life, the first of those rights, supposedly protected by our government, and the sole purpose of the government in the eyes of our Declaration of Independence, the document upon which our nation was separated from the tyranny of England. Now, we are subjected to the tyranny of gun owners.

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



LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

MUSIC: AN EXERCISE FOR THE BRAIN

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

Throughout human history, ancient cultures venerated the act of creating sounds and strongly believed that specific resonant

frequencies can produce healing effects. Ancient mythologies looked at sound not merely as pleasurable entertainment but also as a healing and therapeutically energetic force.

Though we can't see it, everything in the material world vibrates at a frequency. Sound is vibration in space and time. Musicians tune their instruments to a specific pitch in order to literally be "in tune" with each other. We've all seen the opera singer shatter a glass by singing a note at the exact pitch that resonates with the glass.

The idea that targeted frequencies can have a resonant effect on us, physically and psychologically, is not as outlandish as it may first sound. I grew up on the original "Star Trek" (the ones with George Takei playing Sulu, helmsman of the starship USS Enterprise). Every episode had Dr. McCoy waving an electrical device that made a sound pitch over someone's body to heal it.

Music is so powerful that it can produce healing effects and boost happiness.

Evidently, microscopically, cells emit sounds, as if they're singing to its neighbors. "By using an atomic force microscope to listen to the specific sound that a cell emits, we can identify its unique sonic signature," says Dr. James Gimzewski of UCLA. This research, called "sonocytology," finds unhealthy cells through their sonic signatures and then plays their own destructive sounds back to them until they are destroyed through the law of resonance.

The use of sound as opposed to chemotherapy and more invasive surgery would truly be a paradigm shift in cancer treatment. Dr. Anthony Holland, in his TEDx talk called "Shattering Cancer With Resonant Frequencies," said, "I believe the future of children's cancer hospitals will be a different place. They will be a place where children gather and make new friends, they probably won't even know they are sick. They'll draw pictures, color in their

books and play with their toys, all the while unaware that above them a beautiful blue plasma light is emanating healing, pulsing fields shattering their cancer painlessly, and nontoxically, one cell at a time."

"But Judd, that's too far into the future. Can music help me now?" YES. Listening to music can also be considered an exercise for the mind. Music is actually one of the most powerful stimulants to the brain, and when you're listening to music, your brain is highly engaged in the sound. If you play instruments, even better! You're exercising not only the brain but also the body.

Music is even more important if you want to prevent premature aging of the brain. Many people think they only need to worry about memory once they're older, but because of their habits and diets, they might start noticing memory problems way too soon. Listening to music can help prevent memory problems and improve your hearing.

Dr. Masaru Emoto, a Japanese scientist and author of the best-selling book "The Hidden Messages in Water" discovered that water can be encoded with vibrational information. Dr. Emoto pointed out that the human body is mainly water, and apparently, water loves beautiful, harmonious frequencies.

In one of his studies, called the "Wisdom of Water," it demonstrated how different types of sound produce different crystalline patterns in water. When exposed to Mozart's "Symphony No. 40," distilled water samples

produced ornate and geometrically symmetrical crystals. On the other hand, distilled water that had been exposed to heavy metal music produced distorted formations.

"I believe that music was created to bring our vibration back to its intrinsic state. It's human nature to create music that readjusts the vibrations distorted by history. That's why I'm so certain that music is a form of healing before it is an art," he said. "It can become a matter of life and death if we allow our 'life force' to become compromised by the chaotic noise and toxicity of the modern world."

Another 2018 study from Japan concluded that music played at certain frequencies may carry spiritual or healing benefits for their listeners. Music is so powerful, and doing something as simple as listening to it can boost your memory and prevent years of struggle. As a bonus, singing along to your favorite artists can also drastically improve brain function.

You can also use music to reduce stress! Stress is one of the main causes of memory loss. When people are stressed and frustrated, they tend to have difficulty creating short-term memories, which will then damage the ability to create long-term memories. Just like music helps reduce stress levels, it can also improve your mood.

However, it is not just any song! A happy tune can immediately bring you out of a somber mood and brighten your mind. Some songs can stimulate the brain and make you more alert, which will improve your attention span and focus while

learning new information.

You can even find specific playlists to improve mood in most streaming services, so it's worth checking it out whenever you notice that you require an energy boost. Having a "Happy" playlist in a lower volume while doing something related to memory can also bring positive results. Happy songs can drastically improve your mood, reduce stress and enhance alertness.

In conclusion, scientific research has discovered that five songs in particular, across a number of genres, have been shown to trigger dopamine release and subsequently increase your happiness. Here are the five songs (*source: www.inc.com, "Science Says Listening to These 5 Songs Will Make You Remarkably Happy," Jan. 5, 2017*):

1. "Clair de Lune" by Debussy
2. "Adagio for Strings" by Barber
3. "Piano Sonata No. 17 in D Minor" ("The Tempest") by Beethoven
4. "First Breath After Coma" by Explosions in the Sky
5. "Adagio for Strings" by Tiesto.

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

A PROFOUND SILENCE

By Marsha Aizumi

This month, the Gardena Buddhist Church LGBTQ+ group called Ichi-Mi had a premiere of a short documentary called “A Profound Silence.” This film reminded me of the LGBTQ+ voices that have been silenced not only in the Buddhist community, but also in other spaces as well: in homes, at work, with friends and in Christian churches.

These voices have stayed silent for fear of rejection by our Japanese and Japanese American community and those that our LGBTQ+ individuals love. It also reminded me how important it is not to “gaman” or say “shikata ga nai,” both of which imply that we must tolerate or accept.

I am not saying that these words are not appropriate in some situations,



Pictured (from left) are Wayne I., emcee, and Marie M. and Amy U., co-chairs of Ichi-Mi.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MARSHA AIZUMI

but I believe that our actions and words need to be weighed carefully because in some cases, it can make a difference to those we care about.

In the film, “A Profound Silence,” Rev. John Iwohara, a Gardena Buddhist Church minister, says that the LGBTQ community is “made up of our kids, our uncles, our parents . . . and so we have basically been discriminately against our family” when we don’t stand by them and show up for them.

In the beginning when Aiden and our family encountered so much silence from the JA community, we were not sure if we were being rejected or accepted. I remember that whenever I had to speak in front of a JA audience about our journey, I was afraid to make eye contact with people, not wanting to see their looks of disapproval and disdain. I searched out people I knew who would smile or cry with me. Those connecting with my emotions felt like my “village.”

When churches and temples began to have events lifting up the LGBTQ+ voices, as well as the voices of families and allies, I began to feel safer in faith spaces. Being rejected by the world has made me more cautious in certain settings, but the more the silence is being broken, the more I am willing to venture out.

Just in the last month, Aiden and I have spoken at Wesley United Methodist Church in San Jose. Also, I have been able to attend LGBTQ+ events sponsored by three Methodist churches: Faith UMC, West LA

UMC and Centenary UMC, along with Gardena Buddhist Church’s premiere of “A Profound Silence.” Silence can be chilling . . . visibility can bring a ray of hope.

I can relate to how fear can paralyze us from speaking up. Fear stopped me from getting support and resources when Aiden first came out. Reaching out to others or often standing up in the middle of a questions-and-answer session, vulnerably sharing my fears and hopes took courage.

I still remember the trembling of my hands and the quivering in my voice at the start of our journey. But reaching out for support led us to people and organizations that helped to turn my fear into optimism and possibilities. Those in the religious community have helped me to heal from feeling unworthy of God’s love.

My husband owns a hair salon, In Vogue Hair Design, in Montebello. In the beginning, when Aiden was transitioning, Tad said it was hard to talk about all the changes that were happening to our family. Would he say the right things? Would his clients accept him or would they leave his salon?

But slowly, he gathered up the nerve to talk about his journey. He found that some people were curious

to learn more about his experience as the father of a transgender son, and some people even shared that they had someone in their family that was transgender.

But there was one person who didn’t agree because of their religion. However, that one person, for reasons unknown, changed the way they thought. Was it because Tad had the courage to talk about Aiden? Or was this part of his client’s journey of acceptance and knowing the father of a transgender person brought a personal face to the issues. Whatever the reason, my husband had not been silent . . . and I believe that made all the difference.

Thank you to all the churches and temples who are no longer being silent, but lifting up their voices to tell our family and so many other families that they are not alone, they are welcome and they are loved. You are making a difference too. . . .

To check out “A Profound Silence,” please visit www.gardena-buddhistchurch.org/ichi-mi.

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.”



REFLECTIONS

GRATITUDE FOR MY KAKEHASHI EXPERIENCE

By Megumi Thurston,
Kakehashi Participant

Megumi Thurston was one of 37 participants who traveled to Japan in late March as part of the KAKEHASHI Project, co-sponsored by JA CL and the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japanese International Cooperation Center. For more information on the program, visit www.jacl.org. Following is her recollection of her trip experience.

“And” is one of the shortest words in the English language but has the immense job of “connecting words of the same part of speech, clauses or sentences that are to be taken jointly.” This word is used to unify, combine and has the power to connect two seemingly opposite things. This is exactly how I would describe my Kakehashi Program experience.

Growing up with a first-generation Japanese immigrant mother, I ate shake onigiri on the weekends, had

more cutely decorated pencils than could fit in my pencil case and went to Kumon for math after school every Tuesday. I could speak Japanese and English and had two passports.

In the summers, I would visit my grandparents in Japan and do *suika wari*, which is essentially when you are spun around a few times, blind folded, and given a stick to find and crack open a fresh watermelon. After a long day in the hot sun, I would curl up in my futon and drift into sleep to the sound of the *semi*, or cicadas.

While the summers in Japan were so relaxing and peaceful, the benefits and beauty of having mixed heritage were easily drowned out by the struggles my mother experienced day to day in the U.S.

My mom was born and lived in Japan until her late 20s, her education was fully Japanese-based and her whole family is a 13-hour flight away. I was born in Japan, and my parents and I lived there until I was 3 years old. When the three of us moved to the U.S., my mother knew barely any English.

During the first years in the U.S., my mother took care of me and taught me Japanese. Since my father didn’t know any Japanese, I helped translate and tried to understand the world around me. My mom often tells me now that “we grew up together,” and it is true.

Whenever she was homesick or needed a shoulder to cry on, I was there with a box of Kleenex, ready to absorb every tear before it even fell off her cheek. As I got older I couldn’t help but think about how lucky my American friends were because they all had well-established parents who were educated in the U.S. and never had to worry about their parents feeling like they didn’t fit in.

Their parents would come to our elementary school’s career days and tell us where they went to college, where they worked and what they did day to day. At that time, my mom

was juggling multiple jobs, and I constantly felt bad she had to work so much.

These are feelings I always had growing up but never fully understood and came to peace with until I went on the Kakehashi Program trip.

Before this trip, Japanese American culture had always been compartmentalized into two parts — either we were talking about Japanese culture, food, language and family OR the American side of things. I was never taught Japanese American history or culture as a combined topic, only one or the other.

After spending a week with so many other Japanese Americans, I realized how unique but also how similar we all are. I had never met a Sansei, Yonsei or Gosei before going on the Kakehashi Program trip, but as I spoke with my new friends,

I realized how diverse the Japanese American culture and experience really is.

I met Japanese Americans whose grandparents were from Hawaii, whose grandparents had to change their names to fit in in the U.S. during a time of severe discrimination and others who were adopted into families with Japanese parents!

While my mom did not immigrate to the U.S. during the time of Executive Order 9066, I saw that her struggles with adapting to a new culture and land were similar to the struggles that other Kakehashi member’s ancestors went through.

» See EXPERIENCE on page 9



The 37 Kakehashi participants and JACL chaperones

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MEGUMI THURSTON

Scout Hayashi and Megumi Thurston (right) at Tokyo Tower in Japan

The Wakasa Memorial Committee quilt honoring Poston individuals who passed away while incarcerated.

A close-up of James Wakasa's quilt square

PHOTOS: EMILY MURASE



A paper heart for James Wakasa



A funeral ceremony photo of James Wakasa's memorial service at Topaz on April 19, 1943

The Wakasa Committee tribute to veterans



REMEMBERING A TOPAZ LIFE LOST

A memorial event is held in San Francisco to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the murder of James Wakasa.

By Emily Murase, Contributor

Under bright skies in San Francisco Japantown, delicate cherry blossom petals swirled around the 80th remembrance of the murder of James Hatsuaki Wakasa at Peace Plaza on April 11. Organized by the Wakasa Memorial Committee in partnership with the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, which oversees the venue, the event drew dozens of survivors and descendants of Topaz and other U.S. concentration camps, as well as their families and friends who wished to pay tribute to wartime survivors and veterans.

Due to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066, which required the removal of individuals of Japanese descent from the West Coast, 8,000 San Francisco residents were forcibly removed to Topaz, Utah, a remote, barren location during World War II. According to Lisa Barr of the Utah Division of State History, an additional 3,000 people from Washington, Oregon

and Hawaii were also assigned to the primitive prison camp.

There, in the harsh Utah desert, the incarcerated suffered immeasurable hardships, and many did not survive. As a backdrop for the commemoration event, the Wakasa Memorial Committee created banners of quilt squares to display, with each square commemorating an incarcerated or veteran whose life was lost during wartime.

Wakasa, an Issei, immigrated to the U.S. in 1903 to pursue a culinary career after attending Keio University in Japan. On April 11, 1943, Wakasa, 63, was walking his dog after dinner when he was killed by a bullet to the chest that was fired by Pvt. 1st Class Gerald Philpott, 19, a military police sentry who was in a guard tower, according to Topaz descendent and researcher Nancy Ukai. Philpott was court-martialed but acquitted of all charges, unbeknownst to the Topaz incarcerated.

Grief-stricken incarcerated asked that a memorial service be held at the location where Wakasa was killed. Fearing organized unrest and

possible riots, prison authorities denied the request and ordered the memorial to be held at a different location. According to local news reports, more than 2,000 incarcerated attended the April 19, 1943, service.

The remembrance event opened with an indigenous land acknowledgement by Topaz-born Wakasa Memorial Committee member Masako Takahashi, followed by an interfaith tribute to Wakasa, incarcerated and veterans of Topaz and other incarceration sites.

Rev. Masato Kawahatsu and his wife, Alice, performed a purification blessing in the Konko tradition, and Topaz descendant Rev. Michael Yoshii, the celebrated pastor of Buena Vista United Methodist Church (retired), spoke about the collective trauma suffered by the Topaz incarcerated who also demonstrated tremendous resilience.

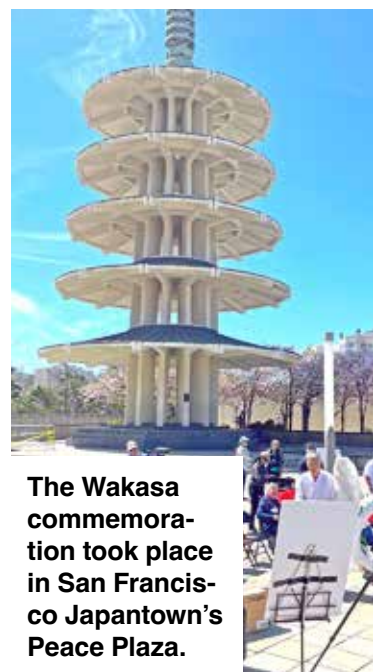
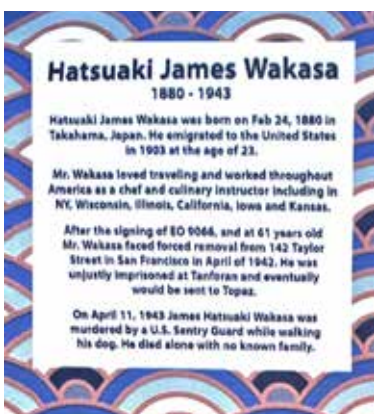
Rev. Yoshii explained that Wakasa's funeral was the joint effort of six members of the clergy representing a diverse group of faiths, and featured the hymn "Rock of Ages," which was sung in Japanese by Kaoru Inoue.

The hymn refers to seeking refuge in God as a rock during hardship and remains particularly timely to this day, the week of Easter and the resurrection of Christ.

Following the interfaith blessing was musician/poet/educator Lewis Jordan's live performance of "Rock of Ages," the very same hymn that was featured at Wakasa's funeral 80 years ago.

A few short days after Wakasa's funeral, outraged and grief-stricken incarcerated erected in tribute to Wakasa a nearly six-foot-tall stone monument, estimated to weigh half a ton, on the very spot of his murder. When it was discovered by prison authorities, the monument was ordered to be taken down immediately.

However, in a secret that was only unearthed in 2020 when, according to John Ota, writing for "EastWind," archaeologists Jeff Burton and Mary Farrell, following a hand-drawn map that Ukai found in the National Archives, discovered that the memorial stone had not been destroyed and was instead buried on the Topaz grounds, undisturbed for 77 years.



The Wakasa commemoration took place in San Francisco Japantown's Peace Plaza.

Topaz survivors and friends gather during the 80th anniversary commemoration of the murder of James Wakasa in San Francisco.



Pictured (from left) are musician Lewis Jordan, Topaz-born Masako Takahashi and archaeologist Mary Farrell



A purification blessing was conducted by Rev. Masato and Alice Kawahatsu.

» See LOST on page 12



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Artist Patricia Wakida created block prints to illustrate David Mas Masumoto's Aunt Shizuko for "Secret Harvests."



David Mas Masumoto with his Aunt Shizuko

A 'SECRET' NO MORE

The discovery of a long-lost aunt leads to an exploration of stories that reveals family secrets in author/farmer David Mas Masumoto's 'Secret Harvests.'

By Alan Oda,
Contributor

"Every family has secrets," says David Mas Masumoto, "secrets that need to be told."

His latest book, "Secret Harvests," is about a relative whom he had not previously met, but more significantly, an aunt that was presumed dead many years previously. Masumoto tells of the bewilderment of learning about his long-lost relative, leading to the exploration of stories and tales revealing the secrets of her and her family, surrounding an almost

anonymous life. The author, along with artist Patricia Wakida, were featured in a March 18 conversation held at the Tateuchi Democracy Forum, presented by the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, to discuss the new book.

Masumoto is as famous for his authorship as he is for his organic produce, grown on the family farm (www.masumoto.com) in Fresno, Calif. His award-winning sustainable farming also includes nectarines, apricots and seedless grapes; the family's famous Sun Crest peaches are described as "one of the last truly remaining juicy peaches."

PBS also broadcast the documentary "Changing Season on the Masumoto Family Farm," based on the narrative of his family's agricultural succession. The farm planted its roots in 1948 after Mas' father, Takashi "Joe" Masumoto, returned to the Central Valley after being forcibly incarcerated in an Arizona concentration camp during World War II. Mas Masumoto attended the University of California, Berkeley, not planning on following in his father's footsteps. But after studying sociology and then learning about its connection to the ecosystem and the earth, he returned home to embrace and cultivate the family business.

As a writer, he has written 12 books, including the newly published "Secret Harvests." Masumoto is also a columnist for the *Sacramento Bee* and the *Fresno Bee*.

In speaking about how being a farmer helps with his writing and vice-versa, Masumoto embraces each and has found a way to inter-

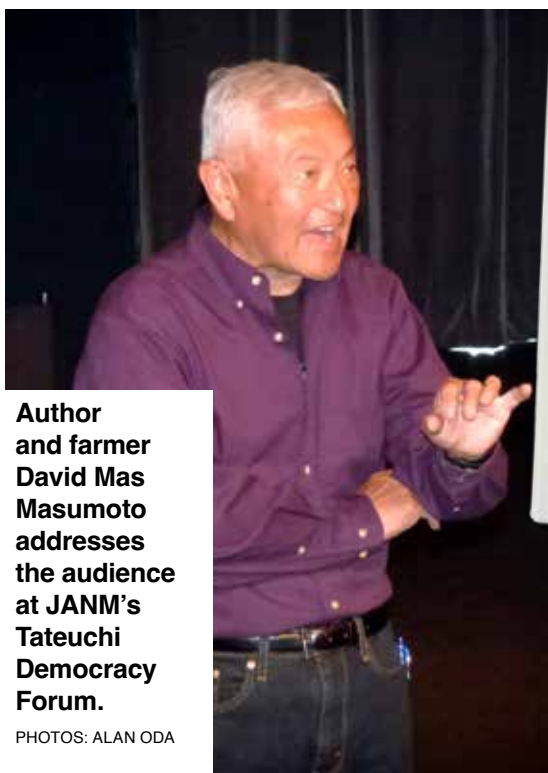
connect them both.

"They are intertwined and woven together," Masumoto said. "Farming allows me the time and solitude to think, reflect and write. Especially with our perennial crops, I have a wonderful dormant winter season with writing during long nights and cold days. It's perfect for an author to drill deeper into topics. I also write a lot about family and nature and at the same time I can be literally out in the real world of nature daily. . . . Writing has provided me with a wonderful entry point into the world of growing food."

Masumoto also explored new ways to work the farm and build upon the multitude of relationships needed to successfully sustain efficient operations while understanding the power of human contact and emotions as part of how to nurture his crops.

"Writing allows time for reflection and a hope to put things in context," he said. "The true value of food is not based solely on the price you get from a sale. It's also about the experiences that surround food — in most cases, food is a communal act and embodies family, tradition, community and people. It's what good writing can do, too. . . . The art of storytelling has thrust our farm into a different universe, and I've been fortunate to build a relationship between words and produce, between our physical labors and the spiritual world of growing life."

Masumoto's latest offering, "Secret Harvests," unearths his own intergenerational family story, peeling back layers to cultivate new light on his own identity and that of his family all while sustaining his connection to his farmland.



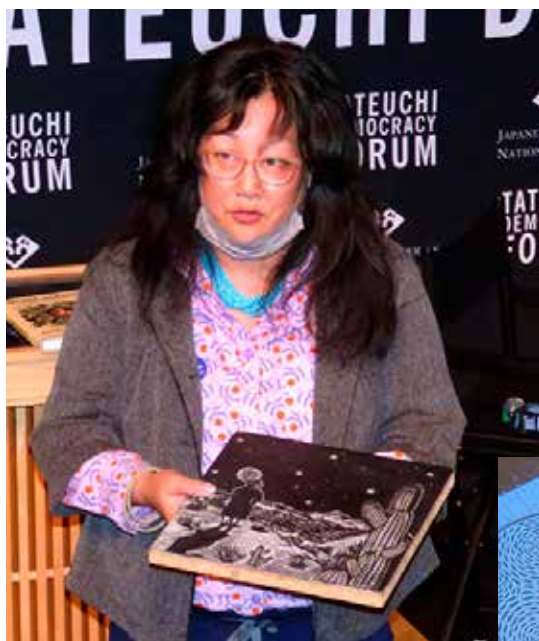
Author and farmer David Mas Masumoto addresses the audience at JANM's Tateuchi Democracy Forum.

PHOTOS: ALAN ODA

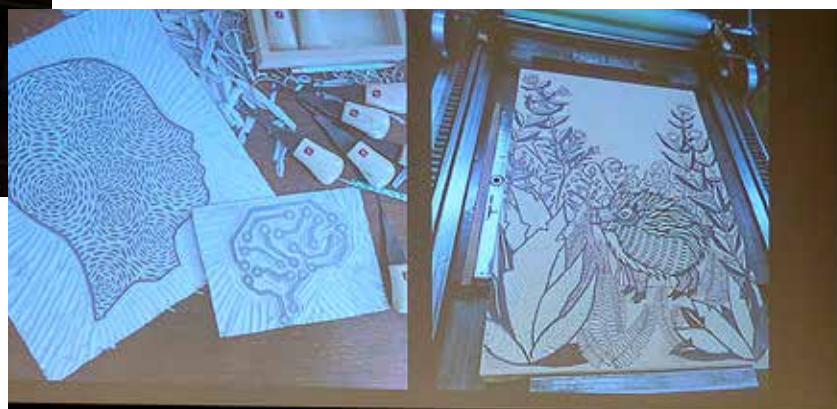


David Mas Masumoto's latest book, "Secret Harvests," is a story of exploration following the discovery of a long-lost aunt.

Artist Patricia Wakida talks about one of her 34 block prints that are featured in “Secret Harvests.” PHOTOS: ALAN ODA



Additional block print images from “Secret Harvests”



Artist Patricia Wakida elaborates on the block print tools used to create her artworks.

He begins by telling of his meeting with his then-94-year-old Aunt Shizuko after a surprise call from a local funeral home. Masumoto learned that his aunt was in its hospice care program, just a few miles away from his family’s farm. Shizuko Sugimoto was mentally disabled due to childhood meningitis and was separated from her family when they realized they could no longer provide the needed care and support for her while they were incarcerated with other Japanese Americans during WWII.

Sugimoto became a “ward” of the State of California, which led to 70 years of moving around state mental institutions — the family completely unaware that she was still alive until her final years.

Masumoto chronicles his Aunt Shizuko’s life, based on documented history and delving into his family archives using “creative nonfiction” storytelling. He tells many stories describing the tragedy, loss and resilience of war-era Japanese Americans, but also documents the dubious history of care for the mentally disabled for this population.

Masumoto’s Aunt Shizuko was his mother’s sister. Born in 1919 to a family of Central Valley farmers, she was afflicted with meningitis at the age of 5. Limited medical care led to her permanent brain damage. “(We) were aliens, we were poor. We had no health treatment. Her brain stopped developing,” said Masumoto.

The family provided for Shizuko through the Great Depression, until the family was relocated to Arizona. A deal was made with local authorities to allow Shizuko to become a “ward of the state.” Masumoto learned that his aunt was then assigned to numerous institutions throughout California, her family having lost contact with her while incarcerated at Gila River.

Decades later, after Shizuko had suffered a stroke, the local funeral home did its own research, discovering the obituary of Masumoto’s father, which they used to search for Shizuko’s living relatives. Masumoto said that “they wanted to make sure ‘Miss Sugi,’ the name she was known by, didn’t die alone.”

“Secret Harvests” weaves his family’s travails before, during and after WWII with Shizuko’s story, with Masumoto also piecing together his aunt’s nine-plus-decade journey that culminated with their meeting in 2012.

Describing his use of the aforementioned creative nonfiction storytelling, Masumoto said “when you don’t have [all of] the facts, you have to use a bit of your imagination, your emotions.” There was very little written documentation to work with, “but that was because my grandparents were illiterate. Does that mean their story doesn’t count?”

“So, you can’t make stuff up. It’d be easier if I’d written a novel, but I’m a bad novelist,” Masumoto continued. “That began a journey to discover this mystery . . . it wasn’t a problem to be solved.”

Masumoto uses the imagery of ghosts to describe his collective upbringing. “Ghosts are the ancestors I live with, I farm with,” he said, with the ghost of Shizuko being the focus of the story. “She experienced generational trauma that I inherited.” Throughout the writing of the book, Masumoto said he kept asking questions — “We live with ghosts that actually want to talk to you.”

Acclaimed artist Wakida, who joined Masumoto at the JANM book discussion event, was then chosen by Masumoto to illustrate the book. Wakida, a Yonsei (fourth-generation Japanese American) artist, is herself a writer about Japanese American history and culture. She has served as a community developer, working with JANM, the Densho history project, the Oakland Museum of California and the Topaz Museum. Wakida now owns a linoleum block and letterpress business, which involves hand carving and creating unique artistry using her 100-year-old printing equipment (www.wasabipress.com).

“David asked me in 2018 to work on this project. I created 34 (hand-carved) block prints for the book,” said Wakida. She used drawings and photographs for much of her work but noted “some of the chapters weren’t that superobvious” when it came to the artwork, requiring some creativity. “I used my husband and son to pose as models to create some of what eventually became wooden, then linoleum blocks.”

Through her artwork, Wakida said, “I wanted to make Shizuko visible. I wanted to make her wholly, totally vibrant. David gave me full freedom with my work.”

Wakida took particular care in creating the cover image. “There were no photos of Shizuko as an adult. I knew the women of the time dressed in bonnets to keep them from sexual harassment,” she said. “I tried to make Shizuko as beautiful as she could be. I felt it was a way to honor her even though she herself couldn’t tell her story.”

“I never gave (Wakida) an idea of what she should do,” said Masumoto. “I sometimes changed my writing based on the imagery she created.” He said the book was a challenging project, noting “it went through 65 drafts. It got better, these projects evolve through the work . . . we [continually] add to our own stories.”

Masumoto then told of his first meeting with his Aunt Shizuko. “She was comatose (after her stroke) when she arrived at the assisted care center, and they nursed her back to life,” he said, explaining that she awakened from her coma after three months. When he met her, Masumoto said her first words were “where

have you been?”

We were strangers, yet “the first thing she did was kick me in the leg because she wanted her shoes tied,” Masumoto recalled. Shizuko was known for “her feistiness, her energy. She loved to go around to the staff and punch them. She had a spirit about her.” He recalled his aunt also “loved hot coffee. She’d then fling her Styrofoam cup over her shoulder against the wall. She wasn’t very Japanese. . . . Marie Kondo wouldn’t have liked her.

“She wasn’t perfect, but she seemed to love an imperfect life,” said Masumoto. “We share the same spirit with our farm. Beauty is found in the imperfect, the incomplete . . . life as the impermanent.”

As he wrote the book, Masumoto said, “I was very ignorant about disabilities. [I learned] we are disabled by our society, not our bodies.” Being Japanese made Shizuko’s life even more difficult, stating she was once labeled as “Mongoloid,” an outdated and degrading term once used to describe Down’s Syndrome. “Shizuko wasn’t a failure, there were multiple levels of systemic failures. She strove to live with her disability, she was not a failure,” he said.

Shizuko Sugimoto died in 2013, a year and a half after waking from her coma. “Stories don’t end. Her passing was the beginning of piecing together her story,” said Masumoto. “It brought the family together as I asked questions. It solidified the bonds of family. I also had to respect some of this was what they wanted to forget. The story continues.

“The Japanese use the term *shikata ga nai*, ‘it can’t be helped.’ What does this really mean? It’s such a common term used by families. For Shizuko, it was both a blessing and a curse,” said Masumoto, an apt term to describe the life of his aunt.

When asked about what he wants his readers to take away from the book, Masumoto said, “Start asking questions about your own family. Every family has secrets, not all of it is (family) dirt. It’s the power of language. ‘Secrets’ can simply be questions left unasked. It’s not a one-time thing. It’s about sharing.”

“Secret Harvests” is now available via the JANM online store (janmstore.com/collections/books-media) and other popular retailers.

BERKELEY JACL TAKES A 'SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY' AT FREIGHT AND SALVAGE

The chapter hosts a special performance by the Grateful Crane Ensemble of Los Angeles.

By Sandra Doi, Berkeley JACL Board Member

On an unusually sunny Saturday morning, Berkeley JACL chapter members and guests took a "Sentimental Journey" at Freight and Salvage music hall in Downtown Berkeley on March 18.

More than 120-plus members, guests and JA community members from as far as Sonoma, Loomis and Los Angeles enjoyed a musical performance by the Grateful Crane Ensemble of Los Angeles that incorporated song, music and an endearing mix of nostalgic stories, memories and Nikkei references.

The Berkeley JACL and J-Sei supported this event, and through the organizing efforts of board member Nancy Ukai, BJACL gifted free tickets to all Nisei guests. The chapter was especially pleased to see many in attendance with their extended Sansei and Yonsei family and friends.

The Grateful Crane Ensemble of

Los Angeles featured four singers during their performance: Jason Fong, Haruye Ioka, Keiko Kawashima and Merv Maruyama. Accompanying them were Lisa Jo on piano and Danny Yamamoto (of the band Hiroshima) on drums. The group simply and elegantly played music spanning decades of the Nisei experience, described in three separate time periods that all Nikkei can easily identify as "before the war, during the war and after the war."

Written by Soji Kashiwagi to show gratitude for the Nisei, the show is full of references that any growing up in or adjacent to a Nikkei household will fondly recall.

There are many shared experiences that are interwoven throughout the show, such as the inclusion of "Haruga Kita," the song every Issei taught their English-speaking grandchild about the coming of spring, and the invoking of words the audience all laughingly shouted out, which all our parents instilled in us, such

as *Mottai-nai, monku'monku* and *shigata ga nai*.

The group also called out many businesses and experiences long gone (Benkyodo Mochi shop) that defined many of our shared childhood lives. Ioka and Maruyama's perfect comedic mimicry of grandparents, parents, uncles and aunts brought much laughter and evoked heart-felt memories.

I was personally delighted to find out that the Kashiwagi family had roots in Loomis, Calif., where my own family originated, and that the senior Mr. Kashiwagi was an author and playwright ("Starting From Loomis and Other Stories (Nikkei in the Americas)," and

that Mrs. Kashiwagi still lives in Berkeley. Their son, Soji, was born in Oakland and raised in San Francisco, where he has produced a number of Nikkei-oriented original performance pieces.

Another delight was to meet another Nisei from Loomis, Nob Nimura, who at age 95 astounded us with his memory. When I inquired about his Loomis Ace Hardware jacket, and whether he knew my family, he said, "Dois, Block 40, your dad is Steve, right, but we called him Josh back then."

Mr. Nimura not only knew my dad, though he confessed he was in the rival group of boys, but he golfs every week with my cousin, he was

incarcerated with my entire family and apparently, one of my aunt's taught him to jitterbug. My Yonsei son, Nick, was fascinated.

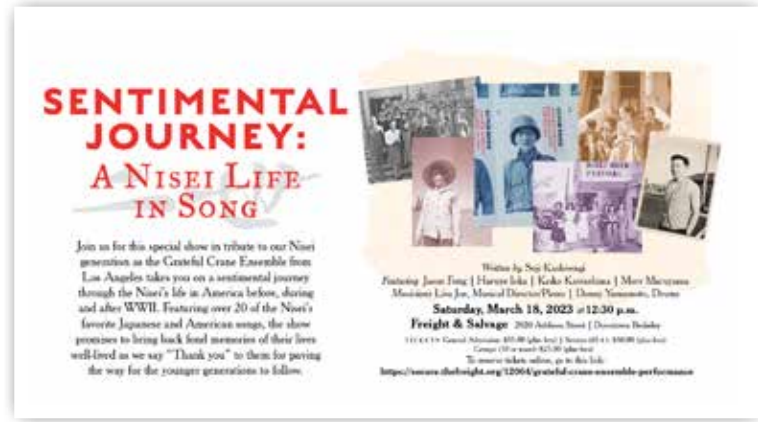
There are still two more opportunities to catch this unique show: in Watsonville in August and in the San Jose area. The Nisei who attend are truly treasures of our community, and I hope all consider bringing along your Sansei, Yonsei and beyond family.

They may be astounded at how many cultural touchpoints we share, and this show does an admirable job of helping to recall them. And you never know. You might connect with an old-time family friend and be gifted with amazing stories of your own.

The Grateful Crane has an upcoming performance of "Sentimental Journey" in Watsonville at the Buddhist Temple on Aug. 19 at 3 p.m. (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sentimental-journey-a-nisei-life-in-song-tickets-597850475867>).

The San Jose show will be at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin. For ticket information, contact Reiko Iwanaga at atyrequest@yahoo.com.

For more information on the Grateful Crane Ensemble, visit <https://www.gratefulcrane.com/index.html>.




**JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION
REGISTRATION MAIL-IN FORM**

LITTLE TOKYO, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

JULY 19-23, 2023

Joining us for Convention? Please visit jacl.org/convention to register!

Our second preference: to register by mail, please fill out this form and we'll give you a call to confirm the rest of your information. Thank you!

1) YOUR INFORMATION

Name: _____

JACL Chapter: _____

Phone (required): _____

Email (to receive Convention updates): _____

2) REGISTRATION TYPE

Includes Full access to convention events (Plenaries, National Council, workshops, Youth Luncheon, General Reception, and Sayonara Gala)

- Early Bird* - JACL Members: \$300
- Regular: \$375
- Early Bird* - Student/Youth Members: \$200
- Regular - Student/Youth: \$275

*Early Bird is only available until May 15, 2023

Additional Donation: \$ _____

3) TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

4) PAYMENT INFORMATION

Please make checks to "JACL" or enter credit card information below:

Card Type: Visa MC AmEx Discover

Card #: _____

Exp. Date (MM/YY): _____ Security Code: _____

Signature: _____

5) MAIL

Please mail this form to:
JACL Membership
1765 Sutter St
San Francisco, CA 94115

Questions?
please contact
convention@jacl.org or
(415) 921-5225 ext. 25.

EXPERIENCE »
continued
from page 4



Megumi Thurston (far left)
with her new Kakehashi
friends

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MEGUMI THURSTON

Immigrants are such an important part of our country, and I am grateful I have been able to live through this process with my mom. I am proud of who she has become and am in awe of those in similar situations who have made America their second home.

Through the program, I met so many open-minded young people from all over the U.S. who had such diverse interests and academic backgrounds. Through interaction with my new friends, I realized where some of my random “quirks,” such as actively nodding my head (maybe too much) while someone was speaking, came from! Or saying “ooh” or “noo” after someone said something surprising was something that pretty much everyone in the group did as well. We did not have to watch anime or like spam to prove we were Japanese “enough,” we all understood each other instantly at a deep level because of our rich backgrounds.

We all offer something distinct to the program and the world, and I feel at peace knowing there are so many young Japanese Americans working to connect the two countries that have given us so much. My biggest takeaway from this program is that without the struggles of being from such culturally different countries, I wouldn’t have the self-reflection, change in perspectives and gratitude that I have today.

The Kakehashi Program really emphasized the importance of being Japanese AND American and being Japanese American all at the same time. This experience truly changed the way I saw myself and those around me, and I couldn’t be more grateful that I got to participate in it. ■



REIMAGINE
EVERYTHING

THE POWER OF THE
VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

By JR Fujita

Since a young age, I have volunteered for many organizations such as church, sports clubs, walks and runs, youth and a variety of disease-related events. My volunteer role has varied over the years. In more recent times, I enjoy serving in leadership positions and volunteering with family and close friends. I appreciate opportunities when I can utilize my experience and skills, while making a difference

and giving back to the community for a good cause. I also enjoy learning something new or developing a new skill while volunteering. I have served on a board of directors, advisory board and held multiple leadership positions on committees and work groups.

My personal experience has also informed my work at AARP and how I support others that want to volunteer. With so many volunteer opportunities available, finding the right match is important. A great

match is one that you find enjoyable, fulfilling and rewarding.

Having a thorough onboarding experience, feeling needed and valued and having fun while volunteering are also important elements of the volunteer experience. Volunteers often select causes they are passionate about or from word of mouth. Volunteering should not be a chore, but rather an activity you enjoy doing – and when it is convenient for you, on your own schedule.

AARP’s Create the Good (*create.thegood.aarp.org*) offers many volunteer opportunities including in-person, virtual and hybrid positions for a variety of organizations. By registering, you can receive notifications when new volunteer opportunities are available in your area.

You can also get ideas, inspiration and information from the monthly newsletter, access to project guides and helpful articles. Create the Good connects you with ideas to help you get inspired in your community –

service projects can be big or small.

You can also contact your local AARP office at (888) 687-2277 – many may need volunteers to help with community events, workshops, tax preparation, reading to elementary school students, office support, online programs and volunteer advocates to use their voices to help improve local, state and national laws for older adults and their families.

We celebrate National Volunteer Week, April 17-21. National Volunteer Week was first established in 1974 by Presidential Proclamation to recognize and celebrate the service of millions of Americans. To all who have volunteered or will volunteer – THANK YOU! Your service and contributions are much appreciated. Without volunteers, many organizations and community events are not possible.

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

THIS HAORI DRAWS INSPIRATION FROM TRADITIONAL SUMMER FESTIVALS

By Kacie Yamamoto

When AKASHI KAMA founder Alec Nakashima sets out to create something, picturing a scenario around the piece is essential. For the brand’s new Haori shirt, it was the celebration and festivity surrounding traditional Japanese Obon garments that initially sparked inspiration.

Obon, a Japanese holiday traditionally held throughout the summer months of the year, is home to one of Japan’s largest festival seasons. Festivals with customs like lantern floating, Obon dances and fireworks are commonplace throughout the season to commemorate the ancestors. Attendees often wear traditional Japanese festival garments to these celebrations – pieces they may only break out of their closets once a year for these occasions.

The need for a garment inspired by Japanese festival wear, but with an increased sense of versatility outside of this event, was the idea Nakashima used to spark the AKASHI KAMA Haori shirt – a lightweight versatile garment constructed from linen that can be worn at any time of year and for any occasion.

Originally debuting late last year, the brand’s



The AKASHI KAMA Haori shirt as shown in this photo taken at Joshua Tree, Calif.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ALEC NAKASHIMA/ AKASHI KAMA

Close-up image of the Haori shirt

Haori shirts draw inspiration from three distinct festival garments – happi coats, hanten and haori. The shirt blends aspects of all three pieces, drawing heavily from their relaxed, roomy silhouettes. It follows the release of the brand’s signature Noragi Jacket, a blazeresque garment inspired by historical Japanese workwear clothing that’s been featured in “GQ” and other publications.

Each Haori shirt is made in Los Angeles from Japanese cotton. Produced from a mill outside of Osaka, this traditional fabric, called double gauze, has the softness of linen while simultaneously

being able to hold each of the rich colors the garment comes in.

By nature of the occasions the Haori is designed around, the short-sleeve, breathable Haori shirts are inherently a more casual garment. Almost a cousin of the Noragi, the Haori fulfills a need in the brand’s collection – serving as the perfect piece for the hotter weather during the spring-summer pocket Obon sits in. Nakashima chuckles when describing how

hot he got trying to wear one of the brand’s Noragi to Obon in past years. “A long-sleeve garment was not a great idea in July,” he said.

Designed by Nikkeijin, a Japanese word referring to people who are ethnically Japanese who emigrated to other countries, the Haori serves as another example of AKASHI KAMA’s expertise in blending traditional influences with American style to create pieces for anyone to wear.

“I think our audience really has done a great job of understanding and appreciating the symmetry of the two sides of our brand and our aesthetic,” Nakashima said. “I want us to continue to make that a focus.”

The Haori shirt will be restocked in spring 2023 on AKASHI KAMA’s website at www.akashi-kama.com.



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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

NATIONAL

JACL National Convention
Los Angeles, CA
July 19-23

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel
120 S. Los Angeles St.

Price: Registration Required/Virtual Rates Also Available

Come join JACL at its annual National Convention, which will be held in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo this July! This year's theme, "Rooted in Community," encompasses the cultural exploration into the area's community organizations, museums, history, shopping and food, as well as continues to build on last year's theme "Strengthening Our Community Through Action." This year's confab will include a welcome reception at the Terasaki Budokan, Youth Awards Luncheon, Sayonara Banquet at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, David Ono's "Defining Courage" and a Tamlyn Tomita-led reading of "Question 27, Question 28," as well as workshops, plenaries and National Council sessions.

Info: For more information and to register, visit www.jacl.org.

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

Story Circle of the Japanese Diaspora: WE Never Die
San Francisco, CA
May 20; Noon
Virtual Event
Price: Free

First Voice presents the third annual Story Circle of the Japanese Diaspora: WE Never Die, an online celebration of life created and conceived by America's first nationally recognized Asian American storyteller, Brenda Wong Aoki, and Asian American jazz pioneer composer

Mark Izu. The event is a healing ritual to celebrate the eternal spirit within.
Info: To register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/story-circle-of-the-japanese-diaspora-we-never-die-tickets-565832850287>.

Pioneer Memorial Interfaith Community Service
Palo Alto, CA

May 28; 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Alta Mesa Memorial Cemetery (Japanese section, Lot BC)
695 Arastradero Road
Price: Free

The Sequoia chapter of the JACL is co-sponsoring the annual Pioneer Memorial Interfaith Community Service and all are welcome to attend this event, which honors and remembers family and friends who have passed with special remembrance to the early pioneers.
Info: For more information, contact Mike Kaku at mikejacl@yahoo.com.

PSW

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. Don't miss this great family event!
Info: Visit www.jaccc.org.

Asian Pacific Heritage Month Kickoff
Los Angeles, CA
May 4; 6-9 p.m.

JANM
100 N. Central Ave.

Join JANM and Visual Communications to kick off Asian Pacific Heritage Month in Little Tokyo! Celebrate our community's abundance and joy through music, food, film and art. Admission to all of JANM's exhibitions will be free throughout the evening. The event is produced in collaboration with the 39th Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival, which will run from May 4-23.
Info: RSVPs are strongly encouraged. Visit www.janm.org.

Women of the Year Luncheon
Montebello, CA
May 7; 12:30 p.m.
Quiet Cannon

Crystal 1 & 3

901 N. Via San Clemente
Price: Adults \$50; Child \$25

The Downtown Los Angeles chapter of the JACL and the Japanese Women's Society of Southern California have selected four noteworthy community leaders for its annual 2023 Women of the Year Award. Presentations will be given to Kyūka Kanesaka (aka Yukari Kanesaka), Matsutoyo Sato, Fumiyo (Fumi) Stark, and Margaret Nitta Takimoto.
Info: Call Amy Tambara at (323) 722-3897 for more information.

San Diego JACL Monthly Community Dialogue: Capt. Shawn Takeuchi
San Diego, CA

May 11; 6:30-8 p.m.
Virtual Event
Price: Free

Meet Capt. Shawn Takeuchi of the San Diego Police Department and learn about his work and life as a Shin-Nisei. These monthly informal dialogues are designed to help build community.
Info: To receive the Zoom link and RSVP, email sandiegojacl@gmail.com.

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

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

'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 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.
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/>.

IDC

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.

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 for people to learn more about the Amache site and its community.
Info: For more information and to register, visit <https://amache.org/>.

MDC

A World A'Fair (Dayton International Festival)
Xenia, OH
May 5-7

Greene County Expo
1120 Fairgrounds Road
Come join the Dayton JACL chapter, which has participated in this event for more than 45 years, as it helps celebrate the Dayton International Festival. Come experience the culture of more than 30 countries in this event that will also offer

food, beverages, family fun and cultural exhibits and demonstrations.
Info: Contact Don Hayashi at hayashi-don@gmail.com or call (937) 890-2729.

Pan-Asian Voter Empowerment Asian American Action Day 2023
Springfield, IL

May 9 (Buses leave at 6 a.m., lobby from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., rally in the Rotunda at 2 p.m. and return to Chicago by 7 p.m.)

State Capitol in Springfield
Take part in Asian American Action Day in Springfield is an opportunity for individuals to speak with elected officials and directly influence legislation. All participants must attend a Lobby Day 101 training prior to AAA Day. Transportation and food will be provided.

Info: For more information on training days and additional event questions, please contact Rebecca Ozaki at rebecca@jaclchicago.org. To register, visit bit.ly/AAADay2023 by May 2.

EDC

Boston Red Sox AAPI Celebration
Boston, MA
May 3; 7 p.m.

Fenway Park
Price: Ticket Prices Vary
Come see the Boston Red Sox take on the Toronto Blue Jays at this AAPI Celebration event presented in conjunction with Quincy Asian Resources and Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center.
Info: For information and tickets, visit <https://www.mlb.com/redsox/tickets/promotions/themes/aapi-celebration>.

'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 — both during his lifetime and beyond — and brings together more than 90 woodblock prints, paintings and illustrated books by Hokusai.
Info: Visit <https://www.mfa.org/exhibition/hokusai-inspiration-and-influence>. ■

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In MEMORIAM

Akagi, Noboru 94, Honolulu, HI; Jan. 15; M.D. Keio University School of Medicine; founder, Aiea Taiheiji Kendo Club; president, Kendo Federation; recipient, Koroshō (Distinguished Service Award) from the All Japan Kendo Federation.



Asaki, Nobu, 95, Annapolis, MD, Oct. 15, 2022.

Baba, Richard, 89, Kaneohe, HI, March 12.

Enoki, Shirley Setsuyo, 86, Hilo, HI, March 14.

Futa, Jeannette Sumi, 80, Laguna Niguel, CA, Dec. 16, 2022; she is survived by her husband, Bill; children, Kristine (Matt) Armstrong, Todd (Pete) and Darren (Annie); mother, Kimiko Ishii; sister, Barbara Fujioka; gc: 5.



Hayashi, Haruo, 96, Arroyo Grande, CA, Dec. 7, 2022; veteran, Army (442nd RCT); during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Gila River WRA Center in AZ; he was active with the Lucia Mar School District Board and a member of the San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury; he was recognized as San Luis Obispo County Agriculturist of the Year; grand marshal, Arroyo Grande Harvest Festival and Nisei Week Pioneer; he was predeceased by his wife; Rose, son, Robert and brother, Akio; he is survived by his sons, John (Leslie), Howard (Stephanie), Alan (Kimberly) and Edwin (Janet); gc: 7; ggc: 1.

Iseda, Minako 'Minnie,' 90, Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 25, 2022; she was predeceased by her husband, Kho; she is survived by her son, Gerald Iseda, she is also survived by many other relatives and close friends.

Kiyohiro, Shizue, 99, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 1; she is survived by her children, Tracy Kiyohiro and Bonnie (Robert) Inai; brother, Noboru (Lily) Kamibayashi; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4; ggc: 6.

Komura, Toshiro, Sacramento, CA, July 27, 2022. He is survived by his sister and brother-in-law, Keiko and Paul Duax; and many relatives.

Kurata, George Satoru, 89, Westminster, CA, July 4, 2022; he was predeceased by his daughter, Lisa Sato; he is survived by his wife, Eleanor; children, Kyle (Helen) Kurata and Laura (Kevin) Dolan; son-in-law, Garret Sato; gc: 6.

Kuwano, Suzanne, 77, Santa Monica, CA, July 7, 2022; she is survived by her children, Jill and John Kuwano; sister-in-law, Mari (Joe) Sato; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1.

Misono, Nobu, 106, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 20; she was predeceased by her husband, George Sukenari Misono, and daughter, Helen Hisako Yamaguchi; she is survived by her daughter, Mary Misono; gc: 4 and ggc.

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.

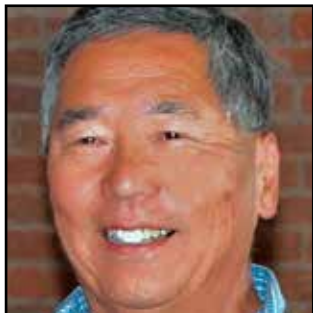
Mura, Miyoko, 85, La Palma, CA, Feb. 18; she is survived by her husband, Hideo Mura; sister, Namiyo Ashioka; siblings-in-law, Tsuyoshi (Mie) and Isao (Carol) Mura, Lily Kiyomi Watanabe and Keiko (Roy) Kinoshita; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Murakami, Dorothy Kashiko, 97, Pearl City, HI, Dec. 31, 2022.

Murakami, Gary, 84, Kailua, HI, Dec. 4, 2022.

Murata, Sachiko, 96, Anaheim, CA, Feb. 27; she was predeceased by her husband, Paul Seiichi Murata; she is survived by her children, Steven (Jeanne) Murata, Karen (Navid Dehghani) Murata and Penny Murata.; siblings, May Sasao, Jean Hiraishi, Barbara Cogburn and Seito (Nancy) Gytoku; sister-in-law, May Gytoku; she is also survived by nieces, ne-phews and other relatives; gc: 5.

Nomiyama, Takashi, 96, Culver City, CA, Oct. 1, 2022; he is survived by his wife; daughters Janice (Richard) Wong, and Grace (Marc) Nomiyama Marchicelli; gc: 2; and nieces, nephews and other relatives.



Ogawa, Donald, 70, Caldwell, ID, Sept. 27, 2022; he is survived by his mother, Lilly Yamaki; step-mother Judi Ogawa; siblings Ed Ogawa, Jeff Zmuda (Cheryl), June Ogawa, Kapri Zmuda and Wendi Zmuda-Scott; daughter, Melissa McGladrie (Randy); grandchildren and other relatives.

Sakaniwa, Kumpei, 97, Los Angeles, CA, March 7; his activities included coaching and managing with North Venice Little League, Nisei Athletic Union and Crescent Bay Optimist League and Venice Bulldogs Pop Warner; he was predeceased by 6 siblings; he is survived by many nephews and nieces.

Sawai, Miyako, 94, Littleton, CO, Jan. 28.

Shigematsu, Jean, 86, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 17; she is survived by her sons, David and Ronald (Grace) Shigematsu; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3; ggc: 3.

Shigeno, Cheryl Lyn, 70, Portland, OR, Feb. 18; she was predeceased by her brother, Dennis Shigeno; she is survived by her siblings, Bonnie Sumida, Debbie Bellinghausen (Michael) and Thomas Shigeno; she is also survived by a nephew, nieces and a grandniece.

Tanaka, Raymond, 80, Honolulu, HI, Jan. 27; veteran, Army; he is survived by his wife, Jeanette; children, Troy (Beth) and Ruth (Gordon) Tanaka-Gum; siblings, Michael (Mai), Doris Niiyama, Nancy (Susumu) Hashimoto and Evelyn Tanaka; gc: 4.

Tateishi, Jean, 83, Portland, OR, Dec. 7, 2022; during World War II, her family and she were sent to the Portland Assembly Center and later incarcerated at the Minidoka WRA Center in ID; she was active with the Oregon Buddhist Temple and Veleda Club; she was predeceased by her sister, Julia Ninomiya; she is survived by cousins Jayne Minamoto and Janet Kondo.

Uchiyama, Hisako, 86, Pittsburgh, PA, Oct. 23, 2022; she is survived by her daughter, Elizabeth Guzman; gc: 2; ggc: 3.



Yamaguchi, Miyako, 96, Fresno, CA, Oct. 3, 2022; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ; she is survived by her husband, George Yamaguchi, and sons Glenn, Bruce and Ron.

Yukawa, Shojun, 92, Huntington Beach, CA, Nov. 3, 2022; he is survived by his wife, Shizuko Yukawa; their daughters Eileen (Larry) Kubota, Joy (Steve) Crouse and Sandy (Rod) Brink; and brother, Rev. Kosho (Michiko) Yukawa; gc: 13; ggc: 14.

TRIBUTE

STEVE ALAN YAMAGUMA



Steve Yamaguma passed away at the age of 71 on March 5, 2023, after an extended illness. Steve grew up in San Mateo, Calif., and graduated from San Jose State University with a degree in graphic design before settling down in San Jose, and finally Santa Clara, Calif.

Steve was multitalented and excelled in both art and music. His love of art caused him to start his own graphic design/marketing business called Yamaguma and Associates, which he later renamed Design2Market. Steve's talent, imagination and creativity resulted in him winning many awards and accolades for his work throughout his career.

Steve was also a naturally gifted musician, playing the clarinet, ukulele, guitar and taiko drums. He was one of seven taiko players who trained under Sensei Seiichi Tanaka of the San Francisco Taiko Dojo and was an original founding performing member of San Jose Taiko Group.

Steve was always deeply committed to giving back to his community and used his graphic design skills to help the numerous charitable/community organizations that he supported throughout his life.

Steve is survived by a large and loving family, including his wife, Lynn Reiko Toma; son, Grant; parents, Joe and Kimi Yamaguma; siblings, Cheryl Peterson (Greg), Richard Yamaguma (Janis) and Lisa Yee (Keith); as well as many cousins and nieces and nephews. He also leaves behind an army of friends that he collected along life's journey.

An extended version of Steve's obituary can be viewed at tinyurl.com/mryx9bff. A memorial service/celebration of life will be held on April 29, 2023, at 3 p.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church in San Jose. Given the number of anticipated attendees and the size limitations of the church, the service will also be live streamed and can be viewed at tinyurl.com/386wpkmy for those who prefer to attend remotely.

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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LOST » continued from page 5

Topaz descendant Rev. Michael Yoshii

PHOTOS: EMILY MURASE



Poston survivor Chizu Omori places a paper flower offering during the ceremony.

Topaz descendant and Wakasa Memorial Committee member Nancy Ukai



Topaz survivor Kiyoshi "Kenny" Ina



Paper flowers were dedicated during the memorial.

PHOTO: NANCY UKAI



Farrell was a featured speaker at the San Francisco memorial event. When Farrell and her partner, Burton, discovered the long-buried stone monument, Takahashi, who leads the Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Foundation, offered to assist in the professional excavation and preservation of the stone. However, the privately owned Topaz Museum declined the offer and instead, without input from the Japanese American community, unearthed the monument using untrained methods, thereby damaging the stone.

The Wakasa Memorial Committee advocates for placing the Wakasa Memorial Stone and the Topaz Concentration Camp under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, rather than private ownership, as is the case currently.

In her remarks, Farrell explained, "The stone has a lot to say. It shows that the Topaz prisoners did not accept the narrative that Wakasa's shooting was a 'justified military action' as alleged by prison authorities. . . . The Issei went to a lot of trouble to build, then bury the monument."

Farrell urged the community to advocate to the NPS to sponsor a community archaeology project at Topaz, similar to previous efforts conducted at the Manzanar National Historic Site, where survivors, descendants, family members and friends can

work together to uncover remnants of the life the incarcerated experienced there. She also explained that such projects facilitate community healing for the generations of harm caused by the wartime incarceration.

Another featured speaker was Topaz-born Dr. Patrick Hayashi, who retired as associate president of the University of California system. In describing the monument, Hayashi stated: "The first time I saw the monument . . . I thought it was beautiful. On the outside — it is plain and simple, solid and strong, just like our parents and grandparents. But on the inside, it is rich, complex and deep.

"My mother's spirit lives there. The monument embodies not just my mother's spirit, but the spirit of all the people who were imprisoned in Topaz," Hayashi continued.

In his remarks, Hayashi also criticized the handling of the memorial stone and mourned the controversy that has ensued since its excavation, but concluded, "Today, we pledge to fight together to make sure that what happened to Mr. Wakasa will never happen again — not to us, not to our community, not to anyone."

Ukai, the final speaker, spoke about her journey as a founding member of the Wakasa Memorial Committee. She has dedicated her efforts to gather information about James Wakasa. Recently, she traveled to

Wakasa's hometown of Takahama in Ishikawa Prefecture, where she was welcomed warmly by local families.

Ukai discovered many new supporters of the effort to remember Wakasa. In fact, upon her return to the U.S., she brought with her folded origami cranes and paper flowers that were made by those supporters to share at the memorial services.

The memorial concluded with survivors and descendants of Topaz and other U.S. concentration camps making offerings of paper flowers to the Wakasa altar.

In many ways, the remembrance event demonstrated the resilience of the many incarcerated individuals and families, including James Wakasa, not unlike the cherry blossom trees on the San Francisco Japantown Peace Plaza that have survived a year of strong elements but have continued to bring joy to generations of residents and visitors alike.

The hourlong San Francisco Wakasa remembrance ceremony can be viewed on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0iH-GQikl0>.

Emily Murase, whose father was incarcerated in Poston, writes from San Francisco Japantown and serves as executive director of the Japantown Task Force.

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