



PACIFIC CITIZEN



MP Kills Jap
Trying to
Flee Center

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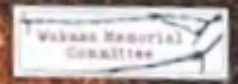
TOPAZ REMEMBERS JAMES WAKASA

Pilgrims gather in Utah to honor lives lost
in WWII American concentration camps.

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Memorial Day
Service to Be
Held at ANC.

A poster commemorating
the 2023 Wakasa memorial
event by Topaz descendant
Glenn Mitsui
PHOTO: NANCY UKAI



WAKASAMEMORIAL.ORG

ARTWORK BY GLENN MITSUI

VENICE-AREA COMMUNITY REGROUPS AT VJAMM

Speakers urge vigilance at L.A.'s Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument.

By P.C. Staff

The first in-person gathering in three years for the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument took place last month at the intersection of Lincoln and Venice boulevards in West Los Angeles.

The event, which was organized by Phyllis Hayashibara and the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument Committee, was last held in pre-pandemic times on April 18, 2019.

The 9.5-foot-tall, 6.25-ton-black-granite obelisk was unveiled at the busy intersection on April 27, 2017 (see *Pacific Citizen's*, May 5-18, 2017, issue) to mark the 75th anniversary of April 1942 when about 1,000 ethnic Japanese people were ordered by the federal government to gather at the intersection and board buses bound for the concentration camp known as the Manzanar War Relocation Authority Center.

By February 1942, President

Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066 paved the way to the removal from the entire West Coast of more than 120,000 Japanese Americans and Japanese to remotely located camps like Manzanar.

A federal re-examination decades later concluded that what happened to America's ethnic Japanese on the mainland during WWII was the result of war hysteria, racism and a failure of political leadership.

It was with that backdrop that several speakers gathered to urge continued vigilance against the rise of authoritarianism, racism and anti-Asian violence in present-day America. Among those speaking were former Los Angeles City Councilmember Mike Bonin and former California Assemblyman Warren Furutani.

Other speakers included Alice Stek, VJAMM Committee, Free Venice Beachhead and Venice Peace and Freedom Party; Emily Winters, VJAMM Committee

and Venice Arts Council; Nikki Gilbert, VJAMM Committee and Venice High School Alumni Assn.; Susan Nakashima, daughter of the late Arnold Maeda, whose words are engraved on the monument; Robert Kakehashi, Craig Tomita, filmmaker Brian Maeda, VJAMM Committee; Becky Dennison, Venice Community Housing; Marisol Perez, VCH Westside Youth Academy; Alvin Ho, Santa Monica Coalition of Asian and Pacific Island Employees; Manjusha Kulkarni, AAPI Equity Alliance; Issay Matsumoto, Nikkei Progressives; Patrisse Cullors, Black Lives Matter co-founder; Ryan Horio,

2023 Recipient of the Arnold Maeda Manzanar Pilgrimage Grant; Bruce Embrey, Manzanar Committee; and Suzanne Thompson, VJAMM Committee, Venice Arts Council.

Tax-deductible donations for educational outreach, VJAMM maintenance and the annual Arnold Maeda Manzanar Pilgrimage Grant may be sent to: Venice Arts Council/VJAMM, P.O. Box 993, Venice, CA 90294. Please make checks payable to "VCH/VJAMM."

VJAMM event organizer Phyllis Hayashibara

PHOTO: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON



Event speaker and former California Assemblyman Warren Furutani with Manjusha Kulkarni

PHOTO: FEMI YILDIRIM

HOW TO REACH US

Email: pc@pacificcitizen.org
Online: www.pacificcitizen.org
Tel: (213) 620-1767
Mail: 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 206 Los Angeles, CA 90012

STAFF

Executive Editor Allison Haramoto
Business Manager Susan Yokoyama
Senior Editor George Johnston
Digital & Social Media Marie Samonte
Production Artist Eva Ting
Circulation

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

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

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

— Gil Asakawa





NIKKEI VOICE

A 'CARE PACKAGE' That Gives You a Taste of Japan

By Gil Asakawa

If you like to watch YouTube videos about Japan, especially by ex-pats from the U.S., England, Australia and elsewhere who live in Japan and like to show viewers the country's culture, sights, festivals and food, you're probably familiar with sponsors who help underwrite these online creators.

The one that I started seeing the most often is Bokksu, a monthly box ("bokksu" is the Japanese pronunciation of box) shipped to your door that includes seasonal savory and sweet treats from different areas of Japan, with monthly themes.

We got a Bokksu package a few years ago as a gift, and we enjoyed the snacks (I ate most of it) right away, but we didn't sign up for a subscription. Just eating the snacks didn't appeal to me because I could go to my local Japanese supermarket (even in Denver there's one) or some of the Asian

markets (Hmart is all over the U.S.) and find most of the goodies.

But I recently got introduced to a different Japanese package service. It's called Kokoro Care Packages, and I like the different way that Kokoro Care approaches the boxes that you can order. Like the other services, Kokoro Care Packages can be ordered individually or via subscription so you can get boxes monthly or quarterly. The boxes (like the other companies) start at around \$50, and the products come from Japan.

But Kokoro Care Packages aren't just about opening and snarfing down the treats. There is even a Japanese snacks and sweets "Raku" assortment that has some unique-sounding items (like Grains Zenzai, a dessert soup from Shimane Prefecture, and Sour Yuzu Peels from Miyazaki Prefecture) along with a variety of Senbei rice crackers.

But there's also an "Amai" baking care package with ingredients for you

to make your own sweet Japanese treats such as Salt-Pickled Sakura cherry bloom (a popular condiment in the spring!) and Hateruma Kokuto Powder black sugar from Okinawa. The box comes with recipes and suggestions for using the items.

Kokoro Care Packages' other collections are carefully curated assemblages with names like "Redefining 'Wa,'" (Japanese cooking essentials), "Vegan Shojin Ryori: 'Zen'" (Shojin Ryori is the vegan cuisine that Buddhist monks subsist on), "Otsumami" (foods that pair with alcohol, which feature snacky items that would typically be served alongside drinks at a bar or izakaya like sardine jerky or smoked cod roe). There's also an "Umami" care package that includes the ingredients you'd need to make your own dashi, the essential soup stock of most Japanese cooking. And, of course, the recipes to make the dashi.

The "Redefining 'Wa'" box I received as an introduction to Kokoro Care Packages included a bottle of Marunaka shoyu from Shiga Prefecture that beats the old Kikkoman soy sauce hands down for depth of flavor without a spike of saltiness. I also got pure rice vinegar from Hyogo, and Shio Koji, the fermented rice

that's at the heart of shoyu, miso, rice vinegar and sake.

Plus, the Kokoro Care Packages website isn't just an e-commerce gateway for ordering the products — it's chock-full of information about the company's origins and its mission to bring organic products from small, family owned farms and businesses throughout Japan.

There's also a blog where Kokoro Care's freelance writers (who live in Japan) post about the products and the regions where it sources the goods.

One of Kokoro Care Packages' founders, Aki Sugiyama, is half-Okinawan and half-Japanese, and she lives in Japan, traveling throughout the country on the lookout for cool items to include in Kokoro Care Packages. The other founder, Lillian Hanako Rowlett, is Japanese Cana-

dian and after living and working in L.A., has moved back to Toronto to manage Kokoro Care's marketing. Both met while they worked in finance. They started Kokoro Care Packages four years ago and haven't looked back. Watch for the company to keep adding new items as well as nonfood stuff to their care packages.

Kokoro Care Packages carves out a different niche for themselves from the other Japanese goodie boxes. They're not just about things you can consume. They're things you can use.

And I love to cook, not just eat! Visit the Kokoro Care Packages website at <https://kokorocares.com/>.

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



Kokoro Care Packages contain themed Japanese specialty items and unique organic ingredients.

PHOTO: GIL ASAKAWA

The Vincent Chin Institute Officially Launches



Helen Zia (center) announces the launch of the Vincent Chin Institute on April 26 in Washington, D.C. Zia, the VCI's founder, said that the institute was founded more than four decades after Vincent Chin was murdered in Detroit, Mich., in response to the recent increase in anti-Asian violence and as a resource to remind Americans of the multiethnic coalition that formed in response to Chin's 1982 slaying. Also present were U.S. Reps. Grace Meng, Mark Takano and Judy Chu, JAACL Executive Director David Inoue, Smithsonian Under Secretary for Education Monique Chism, Deputy Assistant to the President and Asian American and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Senior Liaison Erika Moritsugu and Acting Director for the Asian Pacific American Center Yao-Fen You. The news conference also introduced the publication of the "Vincent Chin Legacy Guide." A PDF of the publication can be downloaded at vincentchin.org/guide-request-form. PHOTO: LES TALUSAN

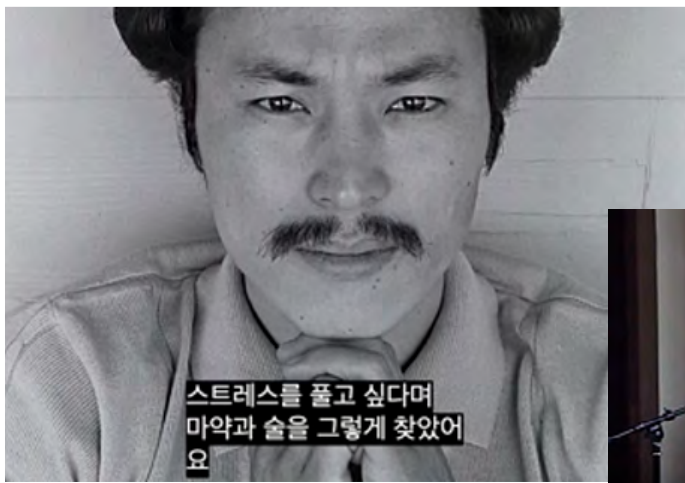
AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

2023 TOUR SCHEDULE

- MT RUSHMORE-YELLOWSTONE HOLIDAY TOUR** (Carol Hida) **WAITLIST**
Rapid City, Mt Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial, Sheridan, Devil's Tower National Monument, Cody, Yellowstone National Park, Jackson, Grand Tetons National Park, Salt Lake City.
- GRANDPARENTS-GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Jun 18-28
Tokyo, Hakone/Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto. Craftmaking hands-on experiences. **WAITLIST**
- HOKKAIDO SUMMER HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Jul 16-28
Chitose, Furano, Asahikawa, Wakkanai, Rishiri Island, Sapporo, Otaru, Noboribetsu, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Tokyo.
- EASTERN CANADIAN CAPITALS HOLIDAY TOUR** (Carol Hida) Sep 6-14
Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Toronto, Niagara Falls.
- CHICAGO HIGHLIGHTS HOLIDAY TOUR** (Carol Hida) Sep 25-29
- KENYA WILDLIFE SAFARI HOLIDAY TOUR** (Carol Hida) . **Rescheduled to 2024**
Nairobi, Amboseli-Nakuru Lake-Masai Mara National Parks, Mt. Kenya Safari Club, Sweetwaters Camp, Jane Goodall Chimpanzee Sanctuary.
- JAPAN AUTUMN COUNTRYSIDE HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Oct 22-Nov 3
Narita, Mito, Iwaki Hawaiian Show, Yamagata, Sakata/Shonai, **WAITLIST**
Akita, Morioka, Sanriku Railway coastal train ride, Hanamaki Onsen, Matsushima, Aizu Wakamatsu, Tokyo.
- CLASSICAL JAPAN HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Nov 9-20
Tokyo, Mt Fuji, Yamanashi, Shizuoka, Nagoya, Hiroshima, Kyoto.

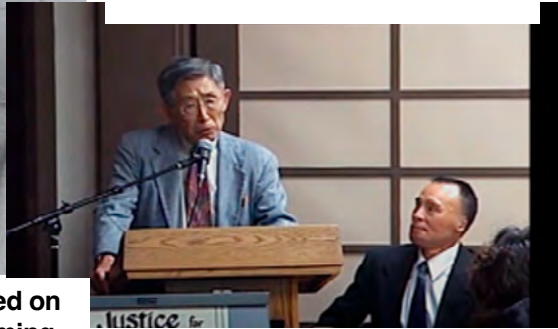
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Ernest or Carol Hida



“Free Chol Soo Lee” includes footage of investigative journalist K. W. Lee (left) speaking at an event with Chol Soo Lee present. Chol Soo Lee died in 2014.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ‘FREE CHOL SOO LEE’



The version of “Free Chol Soo Lee” that appeared on PBS’ “Independent Lens” and is currently streaming includes the option of Korean-language subtitles.

PBS MAKES ‘FREE CHOL SOO LEE’ AVAILABLE FOR FREE

Film conveys events that sparked a pan-Asian American movement for justice.

By P.C. Staff

When “Free Chol Soo Lee” was named the U.S. Documentary Competition Selection winner at its January 2022 Sundance Film Festival premiere (See *Pacific Citizen’s* March 18-31, 2022, issue), a journey of international travel, film festival appearances, interviews panel discussions and more began for its filmmakers, journalists Julie Ha and Eugene Yi.

That 16-monthlong journey does not include the years-long effort the documentary’s directing and producing duo endured to tell the true tale of the injustice visited upon the titular Korean immigrant who was imprisoned for a slaying he didn’t commit — and the seminal, yet-largely-unknown pan-Asian American movement that arose to free him.

Ha and Yi’s latest boulder-size milestone: the national PBS broadcast of “Free Chol Soo Lee” on April 24 as part of the network’s documentary series “Independent Lens.”

If, however, you missed its national broadcast, its short theatrical run or

you’re not a subscriber to streaming service Mubi (which acquired the documentary), take heart: Through May 23, “Free Chol Soo Lee” can be streamed on the PBS website (pbs.org/video/free-chol-soo-lee-zhm-by-cl) and PBS’ “Independent Lens” YouTube.com channel (youtube.com/watch?v=wEkN5JOhGCO), and until July 22, on your smartphone or tablet via the PBS app.

According to Ha and Yi, there is additional good news for viewers whose primary language is Korean: The streaming versions offer Korean-language subtitles. Clocking in at just under one hour and 25 minutes, this version of the documentary is “largely the same version” as the theatrical version, Yi told the *Pacific Citizen*. “We did have to make a cut for time,” he said, adding, “It’s a pretty minor cut.”

Ha added that the credit roll is also slightly different. “We have footage of modern-day K. W. Lee walking through San Francisco’s Chinatown carrying the walking stick that Chol Soo Lee had carved for him,” referring to investigative journalist K. W. Lee, who was one of

the instrumental figures who helped in the quest to free his nonrelated fellow immigrant by reporting on the inconsistencies and shortcomings of the legal system that imprisoned the wrong man.

Unchanged in the documentary is the other part of the equation that aided in the years-long odyssey to release Chol Soo Lee: the many Chinese Americans, Japanese Americans and Korean Americans who joined one of the first pan-Asian American movements to release him from prison, where he was on death row for killing a fellow inmate in what he described as an act of self-defense while incarcerated — which never would have happened had he not been wrongly imprisoned in the first place.

Although “FCSL” did not get the Oscar nomination hoped for by fellow Asian American journalist Sandra Gin — whose coverage of the case decades ago was foundational to the modern-day documentary — the picture nonetheless received many other accolades in addition to what it received at Sundance and the many other film festivals in Los Angeles; Sacramento, Calif.; San Francisco; Canada; Hong Kong; Busan, South Korea; and the United Kingdom.

But as wonderful as awards and recognition may be, for Ha and Yi the larger purpose was recognizing the pain and suffering Chol Soo Lee endured and relaying to a younger generation the saga of those who stood together to free an unjustly prosecuted individual.

“There are these young Asian American activists who come to our screenings, and they can’t believe what they’re seeing,” Ha said. “They thank us afterwards for exposing them to this story.”

For Ha and Yi, that’s the real reward that “Free Chol Soo Lee” delivered. “It’s been amazing to see how this story translates across cultures, across generations, across language. I think it’s just touching people on this universal human level. They’re connecting to Chol Soo’s pain, his struggle, his resilience. They’re also quite inspired by this movement of Asian Americans that formed in his name.”



Berkeley JACL Awards Scholarship, Pioneer and Youth Leadership Awards

By Berkeley JACL Chapter

The Berkeley JACL chapter awarded scholarships to four entering freshman students, two college undergraduates, honored its accomplished Pioneer award recipient and recognized its Youth Leadership recipient during its April 30 awards event held at the Richmond Country Club in Richmond, Calif. Scholarships were awarded to four high school seniors. This year’s recipients are:

- **Jacob Flores** (Castle HS, Kaneohe, Hawaii) will attend Oregon State University as a business administration major. He is the recipient of the George/Yoshimi Nakamura memorial scholarship.
 - **Cynthia Lee** (Castro Valley HS, Castro Valley, Calif.) will attend California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, as an environmental science major. She is the recipient of the Terry Yamashita memorial scholarship.
 - **Nicholas Sandford** (Head Royce School, Oakland, Calif.) will attend George Washington University or the U.S. Military Academy at West Point as an international relations major. He is the recipient of the Bea Kono memorial scholarship.
 - **Kaitlyn Yasumura** (Carondelet HS, Concord, Calif.) will attend Scripps College in Claremont, Calif., as an undeclared major, with a premed interest. She is the recipient of the Dan/Kathleen Date memorial scholarship.
- In addition, the chapter awarded scholarships to two college undergraduates attending an accredited institution of higher learning located in Alameda or Contra Costa Counties. This year’s recipients are:
- **Lindsey Kojima**, a junior at the University of California, Berkeley, is a nutritional sciences major. She is from Culver City, Calif., and graduated from Culver City High School in 2020.
 - **Nina Takahashi** is a freshman at the University of California, Berkeley, majoring in film and Japanese. She is from Beaverton, Ore., and is a 2022 graduate of Southridge High School.

Berkeley JACL also presented Kaz Mori, one of the first Japanese American high school principals in the East Bay area, with the chapter’s Pioneer Award, which honors those with the vision, compassion and energy to lay a foundation for building a strong Japanese American community and nurturing future leaders.

And Danielle Yuki Yang was presented the chapter’s Youth Leadership Award for serving as UC Berkeley’s Nikkei Student Representative (NSU) to the Berkeley JACL chapter to plan the annual Day of Remembrance and NSU visits to incarceration camps. Yang also served as the editor of the chapter digital newsletter, the “Berkeley Blast.”

Among the event’s speakers, Jennifer Doi, who is currently pursuing her doctorate in psychology from the Wright Institute in Berkeley and is a 2023 National JACL Kakehashi Project participant, provided a program overview to the attendees.

The scholarship committee includes Ron Tanaka, chair; Mark Fujikawa, Vera Kawamura, Karen Kiyo Lowhurst, Ryan Matsuda, Mali McGuire, Neal Ouye and Al Satake.



Recognized by the Berkeley JACL are (seated, from left) Kaz Mori, Cynthia Lee, Nina Takahashi and Kaitlyn Yasumura and (standing, from left) Charlotte Sandford (representing Nicholas Sandford), Jennifer Doi and Rachel Hirota. Not pictured are Jacob Flores, Lindsey Kojima and Dani Yang.

PHOTO: HACH YASUMURA

REMEMBERING NORM, ONE YEAR LATER

Friends give cheers to the humanity of Norman Mineta.

By P.C. Staff

When Norman Yoshio Mineta died at 90 just over a year ago on May 3, the United States lost a trusted, admired and beloved public servant.

The news articles and tributes rightly touted his many achievements — Mineta was the first Asian American mayor of a major city on the U.S. mainland (San Jose), he was elected in 1975 to the House of Representatives to represent his district in the state of California and was later appointed to serve on the Cabinet under a Democrat and then a Republican — Presidents Bill Clinton as secretary of commerce and George W. Bush as secretary of transportation, respectively.

Furthermore, he received a Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2006, and his hometown's airport is named after him. On May 9, the Department of Transportation's headquarters in Washington, D.C., will be renamed the William T. Coleman Jr. and Norman Y. Mineta Federal Building, to honor, respectively, the nation's first African American and first Asian American to be in charge of that agency.

In the Japanese American community, Mineta was, of course, one of the four Nikkei congressmen, along with Sen. Daniel Inouye and Sen. Spark Matsunaga and Rep. Robert Matsui, to help redress become a reality in 1988. He was also an active member of such community organizations as the Japanese American National Museum, which he served first as its board of governors chair and later, its board of trustees chair, and the U.S.-Japan Council, which he served as vice-chair of its board of councilors.

As noteworthy as those achievements are, there was also a very human side to Mineta of which the general public may not have known — but was nevertheless apparent to those who knew and worked with him on a personal level. There were aspects to his persona that made him unique, empathetic and memorable.

Not only did Mineta have an impish sense of humor, but he also had a preternatural ability to connect with people by remembering names and details of those he encountered years earlier — an invaluable ability for anyone in politics.

It is from that perspective that the *Pacific Citizen* has compiled the recollections and anecdotes of those who worked with Norman Mineta over the decades.



PHOTO: PACIFIC CITIZEN DIGITAL ARCHIVE

Mike Honda, House of Representatives for California's 15th district (2001-13) and 17th district (2013-17): In his first few months of being a mayor, I was the campus ombudsman at San Jose State, and he came to the cafeteria in a wheelchair. I said, "Norm, what are you doing?" and he says, "You know, I just wanted to understand what it felt like and what people in wheelchairs go through in getting around the city."

As a result of that, he understood that crossing streets was difficult because you had curbs. So, when people see curb cuts, that's what Norm did. When he became secretary of transportation, and he wrote that first bill called ISTEA, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Equity Act, and he put in there requirements for bikes, bike lanes, trails for hikers and horseback and bikers. And also curb cuts.

Little things like that are just things that people don't really think about on a daily basis.

Ron Wakabayashi, former JACL national director, former executive director of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations and former Western regional director of the Justice Department's Community Relations Service: The experience that has always stood out to me was I had lunch with him in the House dining room and just the way he spoke to the waitstaff and the way they greeted him with real affection.

After we have lunch, he gets a call, and he says, "Ron, I'm gonna have to run. You go ahead and finish up."

The waitstaff was around there, and one of them approached me and he says, "You know, your friend is the nicest man in the Congress."

I say, "Yeah, I don't doubt that. But I don't know all the people in the Congress." He says, "Well, we do because they all come eat here, and he's the only one that asks us about our families and actually knows the names of all our family members."

I think that reflects the core of who he was. I mean, he was thoughtful and considerate of the waitstaff in a real deep way. That's the Norm story that stands out to me.

John Tateishi, former JACL national redress chair, national redress director and national executive and author, "Redress: The Inside Story of the Successful Campaign for Japanese American Reparations": He was not at all full of himself, nor was he impressed by the fact that others had such respect for him. When I knew Norm, he was in the House and hadn't been there all that long, maybe four years, five years. But already, he was seen by his colleagues, both Republicans and Democrats, as a rising star in the House, and people used to talk about him as the future speaker of the House — and this is at a time when it really meant something to be speaker . . . someone who really garnered a lot of respect from colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Ron Wakabayashi, who had begun this program to build up relationships between Japanese Americans and the Japanese leadership in Japan, was able to get this program started where a delegation of Sanseis would go to Japan and meet with the leadership in the government, starting with the prime minister and down through the cabinet. One delegation had gone as a sort of pilot, and Ron asked me to go on the second delegation as a delegation leader.

There were those . . . who said that it was a huge mistake, that I would be seen as an agent of Japan if I did this, which I thought was so absurd. . . . Keep in mind this is during the time when we had a huge trade war with Japan going on.

So, I'd gone to Norm's office to work with Glenn Roberts, his legislative director, on rewriting this new bill that we're going to have reintroduced as the redress bill, 442. We were struggling with a title, and we came up with something, and then we went in to talk to Norm. And he says, "Hey, what's this about you being an agent for Japan?" and I explained that it was just a bunch of hogwash.

After the meeting was over, as we're walking out the door, he says, "Hey, John," with this really serious look on his face, and then he cracks this big smile and says, "Give Hirohito my regards." That's the kind of guy he was.

» See NORM on page 7



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More than 120 pilgrims gathered in Utah recently for the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the death of James Hatsuaki Wakasa. Participants were invited to touch the Wakasa stone monument, which was unearthed in September 2020.

PHOTOS: NANCY UKAI

TOPAZ REMEMBERS JAMES HATSUAKI WAKASA

Pilgrims gather in Delta, Utah, to mark the 80th memorial of the slain incarcerated and honor all who died in the WWII American concentration camps.

Pictured (from left) are JACL members David Inoue, Lisa Doi, Karen Kiyo Lowhurst, Barbara Takei, Nancy Ukai, Satsuki Ina, Stan Hirai, Kenzie Hirai, Mari Nakamura, Alex Hirai and Jani Iwamoto.

PHOTO: MIKE ISHII



Poster by Topaz descendant Glenn Mitsui



Akemi Ina was born at Topaz a day after Wakasa was killed.

By Nancy Ukai, Contributor

Eighty years after James Hatsuaki Wakasa was murdered by a guard at the Topaz, Utah, concentration camp, Japanese Americans from ages 9-92 came from across the country to pay their respects and retrace Wakasa's last steps before he was shot in the chest and killed on April 11, 1943.

On a dry, sunny morning last month, a group of approximately 120 walked a quarter of a mile in silence from Wakasa's barrack at Block 36-7-D to the exact place where he died, inside the camp's barbed-wire fence. Another group of 15 sat in folding chairs outside of the fence.

"It was powerful to do the walk and try to imagine what it was like to be there," said Lisa Doi, president of the JACL's Chicago chapter.

"As a Yonsei, I try to imagine what it was like for my great-grandparents who were incarcerated," she said.

Eric Pikyavit, a member of the Kanosh Council, blessed the land and asked people "to forgive but never forget."

He told the group that "walking over, I could feel a lot of energy, and as I got closer (to the fence), it was turning to a lot of pain."

The participants attended memorial events on April 21-22 that were co-hosted by the Wakasa Memorial Committee, which first proposed the idea, and the Topaz Museum Board.

The weekend's commemoration followed an earlier tribute to Wakasa that was held in San Francisco's Japantown Peace Plaza on April 11 (see *Pacific Citizen's* April 21-May 4, 2023, issue).

The Wakasa Memorial Committee created the ceremonies, while the Topaz Board managed the logistics and organized an evening at the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple. Paper flowers were folded, and presentations were made on Wakasa's life by this writer and archaeology at Topaz by Utah State Historical Preservation Office archaeologist Chris Merritt and on the Wakasa memorial by stone expert John Lambert.

Pilgrims traveled from California, Illinois,

Indiana, New York, Oregon, Salt Lake City, Washington and Washington, D.C., to "pay attention," said Rev. Duncan Ryuken Williams, a Buddhist priest, because "attention is love."

"To love someone even if we have never met them is to pay attention. None of us gathered here today ever met James Hatsuaki Wakasa," Williams said. "He left no family, no descendants to remember him, so it is up to us to remember him."

An important part of the morning ceremony was to purify and bless what writer and *Topaz Stories* Editor Ruth Sasaki called the "cursed land."

"When Mr. Wakasa was shot, his blood became a part of this land," Williams said.

Rev. Amy Uzunoe of the Konko Church of Portland, Ore., threw salt over the site where Wakasa died and into the indentation in the land where his monument had been removed 20 months earlier by the Topaz Museum Board, which engaged the services of a local forklift operator.

This pre-emptive action gave rise to the formation of the Wakasa Committee, which advocates for professional protection of the site and equal partnership with community members in decisions on the site and artifacts.

But defenders of the Topaz Museum say that an apology has been made, and that all must "move on."

A positive step toward reconciliation is the cooperative meetings currently being convened by the Utah SHPO, which brought together three members each from the board, the committee and state and federal officials, plus a stone expert. The meetings began in September 2022.

The place where Wakasa was killed was a source of contention in 1943, too, Rev. Yoshii noted.

Topaz incarcerated wanted to hold Wakasa's funeral in 1943 at his death spot but were "vetoed," he said in his sermon.

"The administration was concerned that if they allowed the funeral to be held at the site of his death, people would be stirred to unrest and perhaps massive protest. This was the ultimate in crowd control and silencing of people's voices," Yoshii said.

Attendees lined up to offer paper flowers at al-

tars set up on both sides of the fence.

Like the funeral of 2,000 mourners in 1943, paper flowers were in abundance. But this time, flowers were made by schoolchildren in Wakasa's hometown in Ishikawa Prefecture, carried from Japan to Utah by this author and also by 21st century friends of Wakasa: historians in Georgia, children in Portland and Seattle and a 97-year-old Nisei in San Francisco whose husband was incarcerated at Topaz.

Civil rights leader Rev. France Davis, retired minister of the Calvary Baptist Church in Salt Lake City, walked with former Utah State Sen. Jani Iwamoto to the site where he read scripture. Rev. Davis marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1965 from Selma to Montgomery for voting rights.

Joshua Shimizu beautifully sang "Rock of Ages" in the desert, ending with a verse in Japanese, as it was sung in 1943.

An afternoon ceremony at the Topaz Museum was led by Williams and Uzunoe to purify the Wakasa stone monument.

After the ceremony, survivors and descendants were invited to line up and touch the stone to reconnect with the hands of their Issei ancestors, who would have been the last people to touch it before the boulder was pushed into the ground and buried. It rested in the earth for 77 years.

Among the event's attendees was a three-generation family who drove from Vacaville, Calif., to attend the ceremonies. The youngest, 9-year-old Akimi, saw her great-great-grandfather's name on a Topaz quilt of obituaries researched and designed by Topaz descendant Kimiko Marr. It hung in the Delta community center where the stone ceremony was live-streamed.

"Nanny, we found grandfather's name!" Akimi told her obaachan, Sharon Mayeda Godfrey. The family of four touched the Wakasa stone and pledged to learn more.

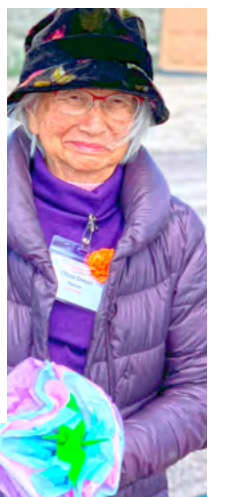
Nancy Ukai is a director on the Berkeley JACL board and a member of the Wakasa Memorial Committee.



Rev. France Davis (left) and Rev. Michael Yoshitake tie paper flowers to the barbed-wire fence.

PHOTO: BARBARA TAKEI

Chizu Omori, 92, a Poston survivor, holds a flower made in Wakasa's hometown of Ishikawa Prefecture.



Nancy Ukai (at left in photo) collected shika flowers, origami dogs and senbazuru when she visited Wakasa's hometown in Japan. Ukai brought back the handmade items to place at the Utah memorial.



(Left) Helium balloons (circled in red) show the location of Guard Tower 8 from which Wakasa was shot. (Right) Pilgrims tie balloons to the Guard Tower sign.

NORM » continued from page 5

Debra Nakatomi, owner, Nakatomi & Associates, and co-producer, “Norman Mineta and His Legacy: An American Story”: I first met Norm when I was working at national headquarters of JACL in the late '70s, and it was in the very early days of redress. Norm was in Congress, and I was a very, very young staffer at JACL in those days. I met Norm at that point, and I never even dreamed that I would have any connection with him later on. Of course, years and years later, I reconnected with him on many occasions and then ended up co-producing with Dianne Fukami this documentary on his life and career, which was really a great experience.

Something that really struck me about Norm was that his capacity for recall was just astounding. It was maybe a few years later that I had had seen Norm again at a JACL convention. He remembered that he had met me at JACL, and he remembered that I was from Sacramento. I had seen him do that over many years that we were working with him on the documentary. We saw that occur with him, whether it was in San Jose, or in D.C., that he remembered time and place where he met people. And we would see people just be totally astounded that he even remembered their names, let alone little tidbits about their background.

We came to realize that that was the hallmark of Norm. With a twinkle in his eye, he would say, “You know, I was in insurance, and it was really important for us to know people and know their names and their background.”

There was this warmheartedness about him. Later on, I would hear him telling stories about how important your name is — your name is your integrity. He was really interested in people and their stories, and I think that was one of his superpowers. In some ways, it could be very disarming. And in other ways, it's the mark of a really kind of special human being.

John Tateishi: The remarkable thing about Norm is that he never forgot a name and a face. Norm and Harry Kitano and I were featured as speakers at this event, which was sponsored by the JACL in Detroit. Afterwards, they had this reception for us, and my being the junior member of the three of us, I got in line first, and then Norm and then Harry. I've been in Detroit several times, but I didn't have that knack of remembering names and faces, and people would come up and they'd say, “Hey, John, it's really nice to see you again,” and I'm standing there trying to remember, “Who was this person?”

Norm nudges me and says, “Hey, trade places with me.” So, Norm is standing first in line. People would come up, and he would know them by name. There was this one woman, she was a small, older Nisei woman who came up, shook his hand and said, “Hi, congressman, you wouldn't remember me,” and he said, “Of course, I remember you, Michi! It's been a long time, it's really great to see you. And how's your sister? Did she

get over her whatever it was, and how's your dog?”

They had this really wonderful conversation. I'm next, and she comes over and says, “That's remarkable. I met him for about 10 minutes about five years ago. Wow.” I said, “Well, that's because you're so memorable.” But he would do that with anyone he met. He would meet you for like five minutes — and he'd remember you forever.

Mike Honda: He said one time to me, “The people you want to make friends with are the janitor and the secretary. You know, why, Mike?” I said, “Why?” “Because they've got the keys to the bathroom.”

What that really meant was, if you need to get into some place, and you have no access, the janitor or the secretary will be able to get you in. You don't need to know the CEO. I've always remembered that. Anytime I got a promotion, or I visited someplace when I was a congressman, I'd always go to the waitstaff, go to the kitchen and talk to them.

When Obama first became president, we had a Democratic retreat. I went into the kitchen, and I saw it was mostly Latinos and some Indo Americans in the waitstaff and the kitchen staff, and a lot of Black folks, too.

I said, “You know the president is coming?” “Yeah, we know, but we won't be able to see him.” So, I told the manager, “You should have your waitstaff lined up outside, along the wall where we're being served and let

People lined the streets of San Jose to show their appreciation and support as Norman Mineta's funeral procession passed through his beloved hometown.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF RON IKEJIRI



the president just go right down the line and thank them.” I watched that happen. It was really cool. Those are the kinds of lessons that Norm sort of taught, but I don't think he said these things to impress anybody. He just shared those ideas and values.

Ronald K. Ikejiri, Esq., JACL Washington representative, 1978-84, Gardena, Calif. City Council member, 2001-13 and Gardena mayor pro tem, 2004-05, 2008-09 and 2011-13: In the summer of 1978, I was a house guest of the Mineta family in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. I was just appointed as the JACL Washington representative and was searching for a place to live. Every summer, May, David and Stuart would return to San Jose during the summer months, and I was fortunate to be asked to be a house sitter.

More than a place to stay, it was actually a postgraduate first-hand Introduction to Mineta Politics 101. Congress was in session during those summer months, so Norm and I acted like the “Boys of Summer,” and I learned so

much by watching and listening to Norm as he took on his leadership role in the House and representing his San Jose constituency.

Norm taught me the importance of that within 24 hours of meeting someone, you send a letter to acknowledge and thank them for their kindness to meet with them in person. This was before the age of email and internet, so it was a real typewritten letter and sent with a stamp.

Perhaps the most memorable image that I have of Norm is that when I would come “home,” and Norm would be sitting in the JFK Rocker with a table across the chair arms and signing letters to constituents. Norm had a distinctive style. He would cross out the typed name on the letter, write in the first name in blue ink and at the bottom write, “Thanks a Million!”

In June of 2022, along the memorial route through San Jose to honor Norm, there is a picture of a constituent holding a homemade handwritten poster. It read: “Thanks a Million.” I smiled. Yes, Norm. “Thanks a Million!” ■



DEFINING COURAGE

“Defining Courage” is a powerful live show that brings to life the remarkable stories of the Nisei soldiers of World War II.

Americans of Japanese ancestry...they were the greatest fighting units in US history.

- Live Storytelling, Music & Choir
- Stunning Cinematography
- Unforgettable Evening!

ONE NIGHT ONLY!
Wednesday, June 7 • 7:00pm
 Renée and Henry
Seegerstrom Concert Hall
 Costa Mesa, CA

Tickets & Info:
DefiningCourageShow.com

Presented By:





**JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**

LITTLE TOKYO, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

JULY 19-23, 2023

Join us for a sunny, lively, and invigorating 53rd annual JACL Convention, "Rooted in Community", in the heart of L.A.'s Little Tokyo!

Reunite with friends, hang with Tamlyn Tomita at a special reading of "Question 27, Question 28" and David Ono at a special showing of "Defining Courage," and more!

TICKET OPTIONS

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

Virtual Registration
 Early Bird* - JACL Members: \$35
 Regular: \$50
 Student/Youth: \$25

Meal Tickets
 Sayonara Gala Ticket and Day Pass: \$200
 Sayonara Gala Nonprofit Table for 10: \$1,500
 Sayonara Gala For-profit Table for 10: \$2,000
 Youth Luncheon Ticket and Day Pass - JACL Members: \$75
 Youth Luncheon Ticket and Day Pass: \$100

Day Passes
 Community Day Pass: \$10
 Community Day Pass - Students and JACL Members: FREE

**Early Bird is only available for a limited time!*

REGISTER TODAY!

Register and learn more at jacl.org/2023-jacl-national-convention or scan QR code:



SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

Email convention@jacl.org for more info!

Sponsorship - Starts at \$1,500
Exhibitor - Starts at \$300 (JACL chapter rate)
Ads - Start at \$100 (JACL chapter rate)

SCHEDULE

Full Registration gives you access to a 5 day event, including Sayonara Gala, Youth Luncheon, workshops, and more!

Please note: schedule is still tentative

- WEDNESDAY >>>** Delegate Orientation
Youth Orientation
Welcome Reception
- THURSDAY >>>** National Council
"Question 27, Question 28" with Tamlyn Tomita
- FRIDAY >>>** Workshops
NY/SC Youth Luncheon
- SATURDAY >>>** Workshops
General Reception
Sayonara Gala
- SUNDAY >>>** David Ono's "Defining Courage"

Ongoing: opportunities to Stamp the Ireichō at the Japanese American National Museum. Visit jacl.org/ireicho to register!



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

Please visit jacl.org/convention or scan the QR code above to register for Convention!

Our 2nd preference: to register by mail, please fill out this form and we'll give you a call to confirm the rest of your information.

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.

Memorial Day Service to Be Held at Arlington National Cemetery

The 75th annual event will also include a gravesite visit and placing of a floral arrangement at nearly 220 identified gravesites.

The JAACL DC chapter, JAACL National, Japanese American Veterans Assn. and the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, in partnership with the Kobayashi family, are sponsoring the annual Memorial Day Service at Arlington National Cemetery in the Columbarium Ceremonial Courtyard on May 28 at 10 a.m. (EDT).

This year marks the 75th consecutive memorial service honoring veterans and their families, and the theme is "75 years: Honoring Our Heroes." The event's keynote speaker will be Maj. Kay Izumihara, USAR. She has been in the U.S. Army Reserves for 20 years, with about a third of her Army career spent on active duty. She is currently assigned to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and provides support to the Joint Intelligence Operations Center.

The event will also welcome Kaitlyn and Aiden Lawrence, siblings

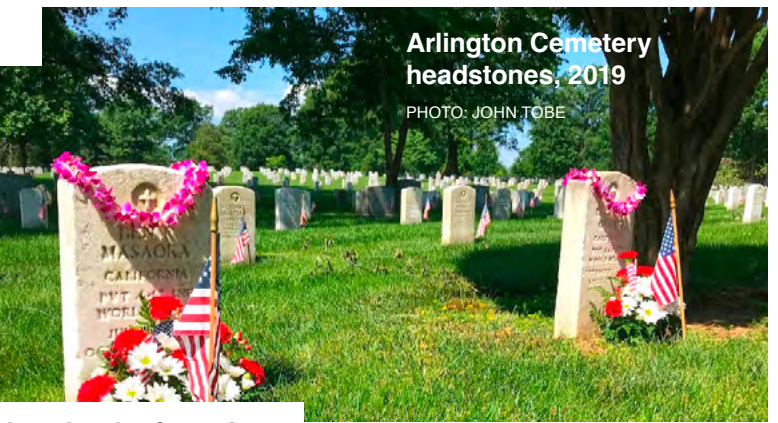
from Spark M. Matsunaga Elementary School and Kingsview Middle School in Germantown, Md., to deliver remarks about honoring the service and sacrifice of veterans and their families. In addition, a special tribute will be made honoring Robert (Bob) Nakamoto, SSGT, US Air Force, a former Topaz incarcerated, a Korean War veteran and a former president of JAVA.

At the conclusion of the memorial service, participants and organizers will together fan out across ANC and place floral arrangements and offer heartfelt gratitude at nearly 220 identified gravesites, which supplements the annual custom of soldiers placing American flags at the tombs of the more than 400,000 individuals who are interred at ANC.

To visit the list of individuals who the organizations will honor with a

gravesite visit and the placing of a floral arrangement, visit <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Uul93Ck-pqpfNj57-VEmToyX0CQVsCgqV/edit>. If you have loved ones, friends or colleagues missing from the list, please email jaclwdc@gmail.com, and the chapter will make sure that they are added to the list and properly honored. If you would like to contribute to the cost of the arrangements honoring our fallen heroes, please visit the JAACL DC website (jacl-dc.org) to make a contribution. Please add a note that your donation is for the Memorial Day service.

Besides the officially organized Memorial Day and Veterans Day services held by ANC, this Memorial Day observation is the



"Taps" played by a bugler from the United States Army Band in 2020.

PHOTO: LINDA SATO ADAMS

posted on the JAVA website (<https://www.java-us.org>).

For more information, please visit the sponsors' websites:

Japanese American Veterans Association, <https://www.java-us.org/>, or contact Neet Ford, executive director, at javapotomac@gmail.com.

National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, <https://www.njamemorial.org>, or contact Peyton Elmendorf at njamfdirector@gmail.com.

Japanese American Citizens League, DC Chapter, jacl-dc.org, or contact Julie Abo at jaclwdc@gmail.com.

Japanese American Citizens League, National, www.jacl.org, or contact Bridget Keaveney at policy@jacl.org.

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY 2023

Below are the names of those honored at Arlington National Cemetery for Memorial Day. Flowers will be placed at each of these gravesites after the service on May 28.

Last Name	First Name	Partner Name
ANDO	Tomomi	Mariko Mukai
BUTO	Jun	Ann
ENDO	Norio Bruce	
FELDMAN	Horace	Joan Jacobs
FUJIKAWA	Joseph Y	Grace Yamada
FUJISHIRO	Katakazu Kenneth	Jane E.
FUJITA	Harold H.	
FUJITA	Sadaske	
FUJIWARA	Sakuo	
HADA	Juji John	
HADA	Victor K.	
HARA	Minoru	
HARANO	Roger	
HEARD	Thomas	Misato
HENJOJI	Grant	
HIGGINS	Martin	Majorie Jewkes
HIRABAYASHI	Grant	Ester
HIRAI	Ernest	Kiku
HIRAMA	Jiro Jay	
HIROSE	Jack	Kinu
HIROSE	Toro	Hanako
IGHIKAWA	Grant	Millie
ICHIJUI	Joseph	Asako
ISHIDA	Harno	
ISHIDA	Sam	Marie T.
ISHIHARA	George	
ISHII	Shigeru	
ISHIO	Sunao Phil	Constance
ITANAGA	Richard	
ITO	William K.	Emma
IWATA	Miki	
KANAYA	Jimmie	Kimiko
KANAZAWA	Robert H.	Marian Y.
KANAZAWA	Tooru	Masako
KATO	John Komei	Yoshiko Kurahashi
KAWAKAMI	Raymond Kiyochi	
KAWAKAMI	Takeshi	Nancy
KAWAMOTO	Yukio	Sayoko
KOBAYASHI	Henry E.	Terry M.
KOBAYASHI	Key K.	
KOBAYASHI	Tadao	
KOKUBU	Jimmie T.	
KOZAI	Kenneth	
KUGE	Thomas	
KUMAGAI	Takeshi	Irene E.
KURLAN	Norman F.	Gerrie

Last Name	First Name	Partner Name
KUROKAWA	David Arthur	
KUROSAKA	Tokuo	Aiko
KUWABARA	Kenichi George	
KUWAYAMA	Yeichi Kelly	Fumiko
MADOKORO	Shigeshi	Imiko
MASAOKA	Ben F.	
MATSUI	Victor	Teru
MATSUMOTO	Hisao	Tayeko
MATSUMOTO	Hisao	Reiko
MATSUNAGA	Robert S.	Suzuko
MATSUURA	Kaname	Satoko
MATSUURA	Tadashi	
MILLER	Virgil R.	Ann
MIYAMASU		Brenda Ann
MIYASHIRO	Shigeo	
MIYATA	Herbert Yoshimi	Hisako Shibuta
MORI	Yukiya	
MORIHIRO	Roy T.	
MORIKAWA	Eddie Isamu	
MORIMITSU	Arthur T.	Virginia
MORITA	George	
MORITA	Ronald Kiyoshi	
MUKAI	Thomas Victor	
MURAKAMI	Fred Kazuo	
MURAKAMI	Henry K.	Hisayo
MURAKAMI	Kiyoshi	
MURAKAMI	Raymond Shoji	
MURAKAMI	Yoshito Yosh	Marta
NAGANO	Hiroshi	
NAGAOKA	Minoru	Kuniyo
NAGATO	Fumitake	
NAKADA	Pershing	
NAKADA	Minoru Paul	
NAKAGAWA	Gordon Ross	
NAKAGAWA	Hisashi	
NAKAMOTO	Robert	Sylvia
NAKAMURA	George	
NAKAMURA	John M.	
NAKAMURA	Luther S.	Shizu
NAKAMURA	Tadashi	
NAKASATO	Burnett Tokio	
NAKASHIMA	Raito	
NAKASHIMA	Wataru	
NAKAYAMA	Homer S.	
NAKAYAMA	Joseph	Lily T.
NOGUCHI	Hideyuki	
OBA	Stanley T.	
OBATA	Benjamin T.	Mitsuko
OKA	George Y.	Caryl Smith
OKAMOTO	George T.	Paula
OKAMOTO	Yoichi R.	Grace Hisako
OKAZAKI	Saige	
ONOYE	Lloyd M.	Ruth Ludlow
OSATO	Timothy	
OTA	Robert Y.	Yasue
REDDEN	Dugene	

Last Name	First Name	Partner Name
SAKAI	Paul	Marie L.
SAKAKURA	Hideaki David	
SATO	Fumiko Ono	
SATO	Kay Megumi	
SHIMA		Betty F.
SHIMA	Daniel Yasuo	Michele PM
SHIMA	Otto F.	
SHIMABUKURO	Makoto	Matsue
SHIMADA	Sandra K.	
SHIMAMOTO	Edward M.	Elizabeth Dempsey
SHIMAMOTO	Kunio	
SHIMAMURA	Barry	
SHIMIZU	George Takashi	Helena B.
SHIMIZU	Jimmy T.	
SHIMIZU	Osamu	Charlotte R.
SHIMOMURA	Ichiro	
SHIOZAWA	Roy R.	
SUGAHARA	Kay Keichi	Yone
SUGIYAMA	Yone J.	Toku M.
SUMIHIRO	Sumio	
SUZUKI	Matthew David	
TAGAWA	Jack	
TAIRA	Calvin Satoru	
TAKAHASHI	Terry Yoshio	Carol Fumiko
TAKAHATA	Saburo	
TAKATA	Charles	Yuki E.
TAMASHIRO	Samuel	Yukiko F.
TANAKA	John	
TANAKA	Richard Masao	
TANAKA	Ruth A.	
TANAMACHI	Saburo	
TOMISATO	Yuro	
TOMITA	Theodore	Lols Pauline
TOYOTA	Shichizo	
TSUNEISHI	Warren Michio	Betty Teruko
TSURUSAKI	Shiro	
TSUTSUI	Tanaki	
UYEMURA	Edward Hiroyuki	
YAMADA	Fred Shoji	
YAMADA	Gordon Tamio	Kiyoko Nishida
YAMADA	Jutaro	
YAMADA		Laura Lillian
YAMAGUCHI	George T.	
YAMAMOTO	Richard	Fumie
YAMASAKI	Marjorie Wetzel	
YAMASHITA	Kanshi S.	
YAMASHITA	Ted Kazuo	
YAMAUCHI	Kiechi	
YAMAZAKI	Alfred A.	Grace Frances
YANO	Max William	Reiko Kasuga
YOSHIDA	Robert K.	
YOSHIDA	Robert K. II	
YOSHIMASHI	Taro	
YOSHIMURA	John P.	
YOSHINO	John	Mary Louise

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! "Rooted in Community" 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 this third annual online celebration of life created and conceived by 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 this event, which honors and remembers family and friends who have passed with special remembrance to the early pioneers who worked and lived in the area from the 1900s and who left no families. Co-sponsors of the event are Aldergate United Methodist Church, Mountain View Buddhist Temple, Mountain View Japanese 7th Day Adventist Church, Nichiren Buddhist Temple, Palo Alto Buddhist Temple and Santa Clara Valley Japanese Christian Church.

Info: For more information, contact Mike Kaku at mikejacl@yahoo.com.

'Color Trip: Yoshida Hodaka's Modern Prints'

San Francisco, CA

On View Now

Asian Art Museum

Chong-Moon Lee Center for Asian Arts & Culture

200 Larkin St.

The museum presents 50 of Japanese artist Yoshida Hodaka's works in his first solo exhibition in the U.S. Hodaka (1926-95) embraced traditional woodblock print technique while forging his own unique style.

Info: Visit <https://exhibitions.asianart.org/exhibitions/color-trip-yoshida-hodakas-modern-prints/>.

PSW

'Rabbit in the Moon' Screening and Discussion

Carson, CA

May 15; 1-4 p.m.

California State University,

Dominguez Hills

1000 E. Victoria St.

Price: Free

The "Rabbit in the Moon" documentary takes an honest look at the incarceration of Japanese Americans in American concentration camps during World War II. A panel discussion will follow on the impact of the incarceration on children in the camps and subsequent generations. Speakers will include Dr. Don Hata, Eileen Yoshimura and Tom Philo.

Info: To register, call (310) 243-3741.

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.

Info: Visit www.janm.org to RSVP.

Makoto Taiko Annual Concert

Los Angeles, CA

June 24; 7-8:30 p.m.

Aratani Theatre

244 S. San Pedro St.

Price: Tickets are \$20, \$30 and \$45

Makoto Taiko takes center stage as it presents its annual concert, "Legacy," honoring Makoto Taiko sensei Koji Nakamura and his 40 years of playing taiko, as well as his many years of leadership with the Pasadena, Calif.-based group. The 129-member ensemble will perform both modern and traditional compositions.

Info: Visit www.jaccc.org.

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.

'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.

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. There will also be 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/>.

Celebrating AAPI Heritage Month Through Music

Arvada, CO

May 20; 3:30 p.m.

Simpson United Methodist Church

6001 Wolff St.

Price: VIP \$30; General Admission \$15

This event will feature musical performances in celebration of AAPI Heritage Month and support Asian Girls Ignite. Come see Margaret Ozaki Graves, soprano, along with Jerome Sibulo, bass-baritone; Kevin Sakai, clarinet; and Jessica Nilles Kressin on piano.

Info: To purchase tickets and for more information, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/celebrating-aaapi-heritage-month-through-music-tickets-601451817577>.

MDC

Meet Constance Hays Matsumoto and Kent Matsumoto, Authors of 'Of White Ashes'

May 25; 6 p.m. (CT)

Virtual Event

Price: JASM Member Free; Nonmembers \$8

Join the Japan America Society of Minnesota and the Twin Cities JACL for this virtual Zoom event featuring authors Constance Hays Matsumoto and Kent Matsumoto. The story follows in the aftermath of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the tumultuous path two friends must take to survive their childhood and live the American dream.

Info: To register, visit <https://japanamericasocietyofminnesota.wildapricot.org/event-5213512/Registration>.

Como Park's Cherry Blossom Festival

Saint Paul, MN

June 10

Como Park and Conservatory

1225 Estabrook Dr.

Price: Free

Como Park's 20 cherry trees were a gift from Japan and specially developed to withstand the cold Minnesota winters. More information is forthcoming.

Info: Visit japanamericasocietyofminnesota.wildapricot.org for further

event details.

Twin Cities JACL's Summer Picnic

Edina, MN

Aug. 6; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Rosland Park

4300 W. 66th St.

Price: Free

Save the date for the Twin Cities JACL's Summer Picnic, which will be filled with great friends, food, activities and much more. Stay tuned, as more information will follow.

Info: Contact tcjacl.org.

EDC

75th Annual Memorial Day Service at Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA

May 28; 10 a.m. EDT

Arlington National Cemetery Columbarium

Price: Free

Join JACL National and its Washington, D.C., chapter along with the Japanese American Veterans Assn. and the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation as it honors our nation's veterans during its annual Memorial Day Service. The keynote speaker is Maj. Kay Izumihara, USAR. The service will be in-person and recorded for JAVA Facebook. Info: Contact jaclwdc@gmail.com for questions or additional information.

'Hokusai: Inspiration and Influence' Exhibit

Boston, MA

Thru July 16

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave.

This major exhibit takes a new approach to the work of Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849).

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

Eric Carle Loves Japan!

Amherst, MA

Thru Aug. 20

The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art

125 W. Bay Road

This exhibition explores Eric Carle's long association with the country of Japan and its picture book museums he visited there. Among the works on display are never-before-seen photographs of Carle's visits to Japan over a 32-year period.

Info: Visit <https://www.carlemuseum.org/explore-art/exhibitions/upcoming-exhibition/eric-carle-loves-japan>.

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In MEMORIAM

Akamine, Edward Shigeo 'Shige,' 77, Maui, HI, March 2.

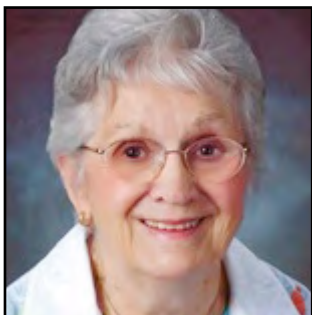
Baba, Tomomi, 84, Torrance, CA, April 10; she is survived by her children, James (Josie) Baba, Kenny (Shelly) Baba; Jane Dagg and Arleen Dobravolskis; brother, Morio (Yoshiko) Osumi; gc: 8 ggc: 9; and many nieces and nephews.

Enoki, Ronald, 74, Honolulu, HI, Jan. 29.

Fujii, Yasuyuki, 73, Honolulu, HI, March 25; he is survived by his children, James Fujii and Amy Fujii; and brothers, Hideharu Fujii (Tomoko) and Kiyoshi Fujii.

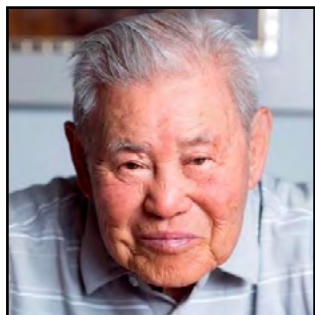
Harada, William Moriyee, 92, Honolulu, HI, Jan. 14.

Hatakeda, Misa, 95, Fresno, CA, Dec. 24, 2022; during WWII, she was incarcerated at a WRA Center; in her teens, she endured the hardships of Japanese internment during WWII; she was predeceased by her husband, Ben; she is survived by her daughters, Lisa Lo (Michael) and Karen Herberts; gc: 1.



Hayashi, Marguerite, 92, Denton, TX, Oct. 23, 2022; she was predeceased by her husband, Kinji; she is survived by her children, Jocelyn M. Stroupe, Lisa B. Flood, Robert J. Stroupe Jr. and Madelein M. Blundred; and her stepchildren, Glenn D. Hayashi, Gloria A. Siebold and Gerald E.

Ishii, Kazuko Kashiwagi, 88, Seattle, WA, Nov. 20, 2022; she was predeceased by her husband, Sam; she is survived by her daughter, Lillian "Junko" Ishii (Jeff Scott) Hayashi; gc: 8; ggc: 11.



Marumoto, Masako Dobashi, 95, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 25, 2022; she was predeceased by her husbands, Joseph Dobashi and Kaz Marumoto; she is survived by her daughters, Nancy (Ron) and JoAnn (Ted); gc: 4; ggc: 5; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other family members.

Muto, Eiko, 98, Sylmar, CA, Feb. 14; she was predeceased by her husband, Fumio Muto, and her brother, Joe Murakami; she is survived by her children, William Muto (Carol), Janet Yamamoto and Dennis Muto; gc: 7; ggc: 13.



Iwao, Michio, 100, Chicago, IL, Feb. 20; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Gila River WRA Center in AZ.

Kawaguchi, Mary, 100, San Jose, CA, 2022; she was predeceased by her husband, Yasuo Kawaguchi; she is survived by her children Gail (Russ), Jon (Frances) and Tim (Nadine); sister, Alice Inami; gc: 7; ggc: 1.

Kiyohara, Aiko, 89, Anaheim, CA, Dec. 8, 2022; she was predeceased by her brothers Yukiwo John, Michiwo and Toshiaki Arita; she is survived by her children Alan (Lisa) Kiyohara, Gary (Melody) Kiyohara and Julie (Julio) Rivera; sister, Tomoko Inouye; gc: 5; and nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Lam, Betty Haruko, 89, Torrance, CA, Dec. 17, 2022; she was predeceased by her husband, John Ho-Sun Lam and son, Derrick Lam; she is survived by her son, Darin (Julie) Lam; daughter-in-law, Tressa Lam; gc: 4; ggc: 1; and by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Mano, Louise Setsuko, 83, Torrance, CA, Feb. 16; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Manzanar WRA Center in CA; A.A., Los Angeles City College; she was predeceased by her brother, Robert Sakamoto; she is survived by her husband, Bob; daughters, Christine (Lyle Ota) Maekawa and Stephanie (Scott) Mibu; sisters, Mildred (Mako) Mizukami and Irene Cohen; gc: 4; ggc: 2.

Uehara, Yoshiko Mutsuko, 96, Anaheim, CA, Dec. 11, 2022; she was predeceased by her husband, Charles; she is survived by her brother-in-law, Donn Uehara; sisters-in-law, Tomiko Shimabukuro, Toshiko Neumann and Hazel Uehara; she is also survived by nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews and other relatives.

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

Yamate, Meiko, 99, Monterey Park, CA, Feb. 7; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Topaz WRA Center in UT; she was predeceased by her husband, George Isamu, and her siblings, Hiro Egashira, Eiko Iwata and June Koba; she is survived by her children, Curtis, Glenn, Brian, Patti and Terri; gc: 6; ggc: 8.

TRIBUTE

MARTHA MASAKO TAURA



Jan. 24, 1930-April 14, 2023

Martha Taura, 93, peacefully passed away, April 14, 2023. Preceded in death by parents Yasuo Frank Sugimoto and Kumae Shibatsuji, four sisters Yuriko and Ayako Sugimoto, Sachiko (Sachi) Yasunaga (Carl) and Mitsuko (Miki) Ojima (George) and husband Masayasu Bill Taura.

She is survived by her children Jill Kiku Taura (Takamasa Onose), Richard Bill Taura and Constance Mie Tsuchiya (Todd Tsuchiya) and her four beloved grandsons, Joseph, Jacob and Ian Taura and Kyle Tsuchiya.

Martha's loving kindness will live on in her family and in all who had the good fortune to know her. Koden (memorials) may be directed to the family for charitable designation.

TRIBUTE

KIMIKO SIDE



Kimiko Side, a leader in the area's Japanese and Japanese American community organizations, died on March 21, 2023, in Denver, Colo. She was 100. Mrs. Side chaired the Denver chapter of the Denver Takayama Sister City organization for a decade starting in 1994. Under her leadership, fundraising and community projects blossomed to a healthy level that is sustained today. She was president of the Japanese Association of Colorado for many years. During her tenure she commissioned Bill Hosokawa to write a history of the Colorado Japanese Americans in the U.S. titled "Colorado's Japanese Americans: From 1886 to the Present."

Mrs. Side received numerous awards, including: Official Commendation of the Japanese Consul General of Denver in 2002, Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Commendation Award in 2009, the Min Yasui Community Volunteer Award in 2010 and the Order of the Rising Sun Gold and Silver Rays, conferred by the Emperor of Japan in 2012.

Born Kimiko Sumitomo in Peiping, China, on Sept. 29, 1922, she immigrated to Japan in December 1945. In Tokyo, she learned English to further herself in her secretary job. She met a young GI, Eugene "Gene" Jesse Side. They married in November 1951. In 1959 they moved to the U.S., eventually settling in Denver. They raised their family and opened a Japanese gift store named Madame Butterfly. Eventually they opened a wholesale import/export company known as Sidelines Inc.

Throughout her life Kimiko studied and taught Japanese arts and crafts, focusing on Kofu Ikebana, origami and dollmaking. For decades she taught classes at the Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple, and shared her arts and crafts at the annual Sakura Matsuri, (Cherry Blossom Festival) and at the Simpson United Methodist Church at the annual Hina Matsuri (Doll Festival). Her dolls can be viewed at the Denver Art Museum, Fort Collins Museum of Art and Simpson Methodist Church.

Her husband, Eugene Side passed away in December 2020. She is survived by her sisters, Chikako Inomata, Ayako Yamada and Kiyono Goto, all of Japan; her daughter, Deborah Side and son-in law, Brian Lang of Boston, Mass; her son, Daniel Side of Denver; and her grandchildren, Audrey Lang, Caden Side, Conner Side and Caia Side.

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REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

Executive Order: CAREGIVING

By Craig Gima

Being a family caregiver was one of the most rewarding and, at the same time, challenging experiences Teresa Madden has ever experienced.

“Some of the memories that I had caring for my father are just magical and wonderful,” Madden said. “They were some of the best moments I had with him when I was taking care of him, but it’s also some of the most heartbreaking and stressful experiences I’ve ever endured.”

News that President Joe Biden signed an executive order directing federal agencies to improve services for family caregivers, long-term care workers, early educators and veterans is encouraging, Madden said.

“I definitely think there’s a need,” Madden, who has been interviewing Hawai’i caregivers for a play, “Malama (take care of) the Care-

givers.” “We need to become more aware of what caregivers have to go through. We, as a society, have taken caregivers for granted.”

According to a recent AARP report, 38 million Americans provide an average of 18 hours of care a week to their family and friends. If they were paid for the service, the value of their work totals an estimated \$600 billion. This conservative estimate doesn’t look at how much family caregivers spend on care or the loss of work income because of caregiving.

During the April 18 White House ceremony, Biden said his executive order to help caregivers is the “most comprehensive set of actions any administration has taken to date” on long-term care issues. Federal agencies will take “over 50 actions to provide more peace of mind for families and dignity for care workers, who deserve jobs with good pay and good benefits.”

The order includes improved

access to home-based care for veterans, enhanced job quality and pay for long-term care workers, as well as additional support for family caregivers.

Madden said her late father, an officer and Vietnam veteran, knew how to navigate the Veterans Administration and got excellent care. But when he wasn’t able to communicate, Madden and her mother struggled to figure out how to help him.

“We didn’t know what to do,” she said. Home-based services for veterans are especially needed, she said, and caregivers need more access to mental health as well as respite care.

Biden’s order directs the Department of Health and Human Services to consider issuing guidance to improve the quality of home care

jobs through Medicaid funding. It also directs DHHS to consider testing a new dementia care initiative including support for respite care and more support for family caregivers when a loved one is being discharged. It also directs the VA to consider expanding access to its Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers and expand mental health support for caregivers in the program.

Nancy LeMond, AARP executive vp and chief advocacy and engagement officer, said the order is “an important step forward” and recognizes “the need to make family caregivers a national priority to meet the rapidly growing needs of families across America.”

“We will continue to work with bipartisan leaders in Congress to advance legislation that can further deliver relief to family caregivers such as paid leave, family caregiver tax credits and other reimbursement programs and support.

“AARP has spent decades fighting for family caregivers across the country, and we won’t stop until their needs are addressed — and their voices are heard.”

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



President Joe Biden on April 18 signed an executive order to help caregivers on long-term care issues and provide support for care workers and family caregivers. The order, as Biden announced, is “the most comprehensive set of actions any administration has taken to date” on caregiving issues. PHOTO: THE WHITE HOUSE/FACEBOOK

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