



# PACIFIC CITIZEN



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## A SONG FOR YOU

With 'Omoiyari,' Kishi Bashi Gives a Soundtrack to the Incarceration Experience.



KISHI BASHI  
MUSIC FROM THE SONG FILM:  
**OMOIYARI**  
おもいやり

# DID YOU MEET YOUR LONG-TERM PARTNER/SPOUSE THROUGH THE JACL?

If you are willing to share your story, please contact Pacific Citizen Contributor Emily Murase at [info@emilymurase.com](mailto:info@emilymurase.com) by Nov. 25 for an upcoming story about enduring connections facilitated by the JACL. Thank you!



PHOTO: GORDON D. JOHNSON/PIXABAY

## 'Defining Courage' at the Kennedy Center

Emmy Award-winning filmmakers Jeff MacIntyre and ABC-7 News Anchor David Ono presented their live documentary performance of "Defining Courage" at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 11. In addition to honoring veterans of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service, the program also recognized Terry Shima, 100, a veteran of the 442nd, who addressed the filled-to-capacity crowd.

In his remarks, Shima acknowledged President Harry S. Truman's signing of Executive Order 981, which abolished discrimination "on the basis of race, color, religion or national origin" in the U.S. Armed Forces. "This landmark executive order leveled the playing field and allowed racial minorities to achieve their career potential," said Shima. "I wish to salute the soldiers who did not return, all the veterans and the regulars in the U.S. Armed Forces and all Japanese who endured the internment camps and all who contributed to the greatness of America. Happy Veterans Day and God Bless the U.S.A." Pictured is Shima as he is honored by Ono and actor/activist Tamlyn Tomita.

PHOTO: JOHN TOBE



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

— Gil Asakawa



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# CHEATERS NEVER WIN, OR DO THEY?

By David Inoue, JACL Executive Director

As anyone knows me, I love to refer to the Houston baseball team as the Asterisks due to their widespread program to steal signs from other teams so their batters would know which pitch is coming. As an Ohio State alum, of course I am incensed by the obvious sign stealing program run by That Team Up North, now more widely referred to as Those Cheaters Up North. In both the case of the Astros and the Wolverines,

their fans, owners and administrators are insisting that the gains from sign stealing are limited, and they would have won anyway. That may be true, but we will never know.

Fortunately, in the sports world, cheating often only impacts bragging rights and, perhaps not as fortunate, those who might engage in recreational or perhaps more invested sports betting. In the end, no one really gets hurt.

Right now, we are seeing another case of cheating play itself out in the courts with much more importance and impact on every person. Former

President Donald Trump and many of his supporters are facing charges of allegations that they worked in various ways to change or block the vote counts in the 2020 election. It's nearly impossible to actually enumerate all the charges in multiple states and federally that are pending and addressing these concerns.

And then there are the widespread efforts by both parties to gerrymander districts to confer the greatest voting advantages to the party in power in states where they can still pick their own voters. Surprisingly, the Supreme Court finally stepped in to block an Alabama voting map that denied an additional potentially Black majority voting district. And yet, Supreme Court precedent still supports partisan gerrymandering. What might be considered cheating to skew results in your favor has been affirmed by the courts as permissible.

Where we are left is a culture that seems to have accepted cheating to advance one's own self-interest, so

long as you don't get caught. Although Michigan has since accepted its rather lenient punishment of a three-game only suspension of the head coach from the Big 10 conference, they initially sought to postpone punishment through the courts, claiming they deserved due process despite extensive damning evidence in the public. Football conferences are not official courts where due process is guaranteed, especially when the evidence is so damning.

This fortunately for the Trump family is the guarantee they have in their various cases. Whether it is the financial fraud cases in the New York case or the election tampering case in federal courts, they remain innocent until proven guilty by the court.

What we need to remember though is that the right to a fair trial is different from the right to coach a football team or run for president. Michigan realized they had to accept the consequences of what their team has seemingly been caught red-handed.

It's time the Republican party recognizes that its leading candidate for president similarly is a threat to democracy and unfit to run for president. Michigan is not a victim, and neither is President Trump, despite public relations efforts to make it seem so.

Just as I am waiting to see if Michigan is forced to vacate its past two wins against OSU as punishment for cheating, we will wait to see what happens with the Trump family and the cases against him. But just as Michigan's coach has been removed from coaching the final regular-season games, Trump can be told that he does not deserve to run for president.

In one case, it's just a game of football, in the other, the lives of every American can be impacted. We as a nation need to make it clear that cheating should not be rewarded and should have consequences.

*David Inoue is executive director of the JACL and is based in the its Washington, D.C., office.*



LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

# TIME TO GET OUT OF THE MARKET?

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

If you're a senior, most likely you have done it. With the price of everything going up, many of you have had to "dip" into your savings. You might say, "I have enough savings to last another five years." The problem is you are planning to live another 10-15 years. And if they don't get inflation under control, you may only have enough savings to last another three years. Sound scary??? You bet.

Many retired seniors will try to increase their "nest egg" by playing the stock market. They might say, "The stock market has done very well for me these past few years.



My investment adviser just gave me an article from *USA Today* (Oct. 10, 2023) that says, "Analysts expect the bull market (prices going up) to resume in 2024."

Others may have rental income to supplement their fixed Social Security income. They might say, "I'll wait to sell my rental property in six months since experts are saying that 'low levels of inventory' will keep prices strong." In fact, Lawrence Yun, chief economist for the National Association of Realtors, predicts that "Home prices will rise around 3-4 percent"

in 2024.

But wait! There is also a different market forecast. Some analysts strongly believe a recession is coming. They are skeptical that the U.S. can maintain economic growth with interest rates so high. Furthermore, they predict it could hit as early as 2024. Based on unemployment rates and several other factors, Citi Research has predicted a recession in early 2024 (source: [www.investoplace.com](http://www.investoplace.com), Oct. 27, 2023).

Now, I realize that for many, their minds "shut off" when it comes to news about the economy, e.g., "interest rate hikes," "jobless claims on the rise" or "GDP growth." So, the question is, "When is it time to get out of the market?" Both Democrats and Republicans are promising a strong economy, low unemployment and prosperity for all.

Despite hearing bright economic forecasts on the news, e.g., "Investors are hopeful the Fed will be able to navigate a so-called soft landing for the U.S. economy and avoid a severe recession in 2024" (source:

*USA Today* (Oct. 27, 2023), beware!!! To make it easier to understand all the chaos going on in the economy, think of business cycles.

A business cycle is like the tides to an ocean: a never-ending ebb and flow from high tide to low tide. All business cycles, also referred to as economic cycles, go through four identifiable phases: expansion, peak, contraction and trough. Throughout its life, a business cycle is "book-ended" by a sustained period of economic growth, followed by a sustained period of economic decline.

The lowest point on the business cycle is a trough, which is characterized by higher unemployment, lower availability of credit and falling prices. The trough phase follows the contraction phase and ends before another expansion phase. During this stage, supply and demand decline significantly, and employees do not have nearly as many materials. It's common for companies to lay off employees or close in the trough phase.

Governments and major financial institutions use various means to try to manage the course and effects of economic cycles. To attempt to end a recession, the government can employ expansionary fiscal policy,

which involves rapid deficit spending. Conversely, it can try to use contractionary fiscal policy to stop the economy from overheating during expansions by taxing and running a budget surplus to reduce aggregate spending.

Central banks try to use monetary policy to help manage and control the economic cycle by raising interest rates and slowing the flow of credit into the economy to reduce inflationary pressures and the need for a market correction. When the cycle hits the downturn, a central bank can lower interest rates or implement expansionary monetary policy to boost spending and investment. During expansion, it can employ contractionary monetary policy.

According to Investopedia.com, the popular sentiment of financial analysts and many economists is that recessions are the inevitable result of the business cycle in a capitalist economy. The empirical evidence, at least on the surface, appears to strongly back up this theory. Recessions seem to occur every decade or so in modern economies, and, more specifically, they seem to regularly follow periods of strong growth. This pattern recurs with striking consistency.



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There's no question the U.S. economic outlook has improved throughout 2023, but that doesn't necessarily mean the economy is in the clear heading into 2024. While a growing number of economists are optimistic about a potential soft landing in 2024, some economists are skeptical that the U.S. can maintain economic growth with interest rates so high. So once again, the question remains, "Which economic forecast do I believe?"

I was an economics major at UCLA in the late 1970s. They taught us about business cycles. That is, the market is cyclical, meaning there are peaks and valleys. What they didn't teach us, however, was that these cycles are done by design. In other words, business cycles are created on purpose by the 1 percent ruling elite who control the market, control the Fed and put presidents into office.

Every time there's a market "crash" (or market correction), the wealth gap between the top 1 percent and the 99 percent gets bigger, meaning the rich get richer, and the middle class begins to disappear. Jesse Ventura, former governor of Minnesota, once had a TV show called "Conspiracy Theory With Jesse Ventura" (2009-12). In one episode, he interviewed a woman, a member of the ruling elite, who spoke anonymously, "It's time for the shearing of the sheep."

You might say, "I don't believe in conspiracy theories. What about the Housing Market Crash of 2008? Banks lost millions on defaulted loans." NO — the banks got "bailed-out" using taxpayer money. Banks were actually better off after the bailouts than had the market never have crashed, i.e., it's done by design.

In conclusion, despite what you might hear on the news about the economy being stable, my advice is to think again. Throughout American history, there has always been business cycles. Historically, these cycles occur every eight to 10 years. Since the last crash (2008-09), it's been 14 years — we're overdue for a "market correction." When it does hit, the recession could be twice as bad. Getting out of a volatile stock market with high-risk investments might be a good idea.

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## JAPANESE AMERICAN LAWYERS HONORED AT JICC

The 'Japanese American Legacy Lawyers' program pays tribute to those who have made great contributions to bettering the lives of all Americans.

Japanese American Legacy Lawyers," a program honoring past and present attorneys of Japanese heritage who have contributed to bettering the lives of Japanese Americans and all Americans, was held at the Japanese Information and Cultural Center of the Embassy of Japan in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 2.

Attorneys Shirley Ann Higuchi, Stuart Ishimaru, Erika Moritsugu and Judge Raymond Uno (in absentia) were honored, and the names of dozens of attorneys from the past century were mentioned throughout the program. The event was part of a series sponsored by the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund as part of its 50th anniversary year programming and was organized by the JAACL (D.C. chapter), AALDEF and the Embassy of Japan. The 1882 Foundation and the Chinese American Citizens Alliance also co-sponsored the program.

Japanese Deputy Chief of Mission Koichi Ai welcomed the audience and expressed his support for public education about Japanese American history and celebration of Japanese Americans who have contributed to the good of all people.

Phil Tajitsu Nash, co-president of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund and a longtime teacher of Asian American Studies



**Awardees (from left) Stuart Ishimaru, Erika Moritsugu and Shirley Ann Higuchi are flanked by Koichi Ai, host deputy chief of mission (far left), and Phil Tajitsu Nash, moderator.**

PHOTO: JAPAN INFORMATION AND CULTURE CENTER, EMBASSY OF JAPAN

at the University of Maryland, gave an overview of the contributions of Issei, Nisei and Sansei Japanese American attorneys and then introduced and held a conversation with Higuchi, Moritsugu and Ishimaru about the attorneys who had inspired them, the lessons they had learned and the insights they wanted to share with future attorneys.

"These are legacy lawyers because they are wonderful role models for future generations of attorneys," said Nash. "But they are not THE legacy lawyers. There are so many alive now all over the country and many who made their mark over the past century. I hope students and community members will take the time to learn more about each of these inspiring legacy lawyers."

Higuchi is associate chief for professional practice at the American Psychological Assn. and chair of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Founda-

tion. In 2003, she was elected the first Asian American president of the D.C. Bar. She is also the author of "Setsuko's Secret: Heart Mountain and the Legacy of the Japanese American Incarceration," published by University of Wisconsin Press.

Ishimaru served as the inaugural director of the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, commissioner and acting chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and attorney and professional staff member at the Department of Justice and at the House Armed Services and House Judiciary Committees.

Moritsugu works at the White House as deputy assistant to the president and Asian American and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Senior Liaison. She has also had a diverse series of jobs in the private, nonprofit and government sectors.

A special recognition was given in absentia to Uno, who is a retired senior judge at the Third District Court for the State of Utah in Salt Lake City. Born in Utah, raised in California and forcibly sent to the Heart Mountain concentration camp during World War II, he served in the U.S. Military Intelligence Service, worked as a social worker and attorney in private practice and then became the first minority judge in Utah. He has served as a longtime human rights activist, JAACL chapter president, judo instructor and community leader.

Among other legacy lawyers mentioned during the program were:

- Sei Fujii and Takuji Yamashita (Issei)
- Saburo Kido, Judge Bill Marutani, Robert Takasugi and Minoru Yasui (Nisei)
- Jeff Adachi, Lorraine and Kathryn Bannai, Judge Dennis Hayashi, Paul Igasaki, Judge Bruce Iwasaki, Karen Kai, Donna Komure, Dale Minami, Leigh-Ann Miyasato, Peggy Nagae, Karen Narasaki, Don Tamaki, Robin Toma, Paul Uyehara, Ranko Yamada, Eric Yamamoto (Sansei) and law professors Neil Gotanda, Mari Matsuda, Eric Yamamoto and Kenji Yoshino (Sansei).

To view the program online, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UNHcPH9OvWk>. To find more information about Japanese American Legacy Lawyers, visit [www.densho.org](http://www.densho.org), [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org) and [www.njahs.org](http://www.njahs.org).



### A MOTHER'S TAKE

## INSPIRATION IN D.C.

By Marsha Aizumi



**Aiden and Momma's special dinner at Jula's on the Potomac**

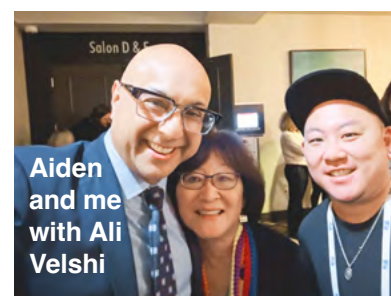
PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MARSHA AIZUMI

Last month, I was so fortunate to be in Washington, D.C., attending the PFLAG National Convention. PFLAG is the first and largest national organization in support, education and advocacy of parents, allies and LGBTQ+ individuals. Like JAACL, it has chapters all over the U.S. and over 200,000 members and supporters. PFLAG's motto is "leading with love." And so for four days, Aiden and I learned how to lead with love, both fierce love and compassionate love.

I shook the hand of Dr. Jill Biden and heard her say how President

Biden has our back. I thanked Ali Velshi from MSNBC, who has a podcast on banned books. I listened to stories from Dr. Jesse Ehrenfeld, American Medical Assn. president, who is an out gay man, and Karine Jean-Pierre, the White House press secretary who is also part of the LGBTQ+ community — all while attending workshops and talking with other parents and activists from around the country and the world. The adversity our parents in states like Florida, Texas and Oklahoma face made me so grateful to be living in California and having a governor like Gavin Newsom.

I also heard from activists around the world. I listened to parent activists in Panama, Uganda and Ukraine. I had dinner with activists from Taiwan and China. I listened to the difficulties in China and the dedicated advocates and parents who continue to be resilient and persevere. I heard about the work in Taiwan and how they want to have more parents be advocates. And I sat with activists from Korea



**Aiden and me with Ali Velshi**

who are also fighting hard for our LGBTQ+ community. In the end, I felt so inspired by all the adversity these countries face, and yet, they continue on with passion, unwavering determination and intention.

While I was in D.C., I also had lunch with JAACL staffers David Inoue, Cheyenne Cheng, Bridget Keaveney and Jack Shimabukuro. What a lovely time I had hearing from all of them and feeling so much gratitude for their support of Okaeri.

Two JAACL staff, Cheyenne and Phillip Ozaki, presented workshops at the recent Okaeri conference in Los Angeles. Phillip was part of

» See D.C. on page 8

# National Board Puts Legacy Fund Under Microscope

Feedback from statement on 6-year-old's slaying also gets scrutiny.

By P.C. Staff

The Japanese American Citizens League conducted its quarterly business meeting on Nov. 4 at the organization's relatively recently repainted national headquarters building in San Francisco.

National President Larry Oda noted that he had attended the previous weekend's Crystal City pilgrimage in Texas. "This is the first time I've been to where I was born in a long time," he said, before thanking JACL National VP for Planning and Development Gary Nakagawa, a member of the Houston JACL chapter, for his hospitality, which included being treated to Central Texas barbecue.

Oda also mentioned JACL's involvement in helping produce two performances of "Defining Courage" in San Jose, Calif., on Oct. 22, crediting former telejournalist Jan Yanehiro for her role in helping to bring the live-and-multimedia tribute to the World War II military service of Nisei to the Bay Area.

Continuing on the topic of "Defining Courage," JACL Executive Director David Inoue noted that the show's producers, David Ono and Jeff MacIntyre (both of KABC TV Channel 7 in Los Angeles), were preparing to bring it to the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 11; he also noted that JACL was involved in the Sept. 9 presentation of "Defining Courage" held at El Camino College in Torrance, Calif., that was held to raise funds for the Hawaii Community Foundation's Maui Strong Fund.

It being the first National Board meeting since the JACL National Convention, Inoue reported that the Bureau of Land Management was due to release its environmental impact study that would likely recommend a "blended solution" that could include a "certain amount of setback, whatever number of miles" to mitigate the expected impact on the viewshed the proposed construction of the 400-unit Lava Ridge wind turbine farm project would have on the site of the former Minidoka War Relocation Center in Idaho.

Looking ahead to the next two

**VP of Membership Dominique Mashburn (standing at left) and Membership Manager Ashley Bucher present their report during the JACL National Board meeting on Nov. 4.**

PHOTO: GEORGE T. JOHNSTON

JACL National Conventions, Inoue said the 2024 convention will be July 10-13. "I believe the Philadelphia chapter is considering doing something on the 14th as well," he said, adding that the 2025 convention is tentatively set for New Mexico, in Albuquerque.

Inoue also reported that the JACL headquarters had new security lights installed, along with new security cameras in front of the building. NCWNP Regional Director Patty Wada wanted it noted that credit for the upgrades should go to the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California "for installing and paying for those security cameras."

Eastern District Gov. Paul Uyehara then provided an update on the Legacy Fund Review Committee by giving some background about the impetus for the creation of said committee, namely to "just find out what the basic facts are about the endowment and whether the records are in order and if things are being managed properly."

After providing an overview of the complex, years-in-the-making problem — the basic facts about the origin of the Legacy Fund, whether the records were in order and even fundamental questions such as how much money is in the endowment — Uyehara related how he and Randall Gaines, outgoing interim business manager, and recently hired Director of Finance Thomas Fernandez had in October met "three or four times or two hours each to kind of wade through the books."

Uyehara said the consensus was that there were "three numbers" that were needed to understand the Legacy Fund: its corpus, the inflation-adjusted corpus and the trailing fund value. "We need those three numbers in order to put them into the policy and consider what those numbers mean, in terms of our exercising a prudent judgment about how

much money should be spent from the endowment for the subsequent two years," he said.

Based on those three numbers, a determination was made that as of Dec. 31, 2017, the core of the Legacy Fund endowment was about \$5.2 million, a figure that Uyehara said, "We are . . . especially concerned about protecting in order to make sure that the endowment is a perpetual fund."

Part of the problem going forward from that point in time is that there was an incorrect belief that funds allocated for spending that were not actually spent became a "quasi-endowment" that was still part of the overall corpus and thus eligible to be used to grow the Legacy Fund, when instead those unspent funds should have been kept in a separate account or at least somehow segregated and tracked separately — meaning the quasi-endowment did not exist. "The committee never really found evidence that there was any quasi-endowment, but we were still looking for it," Uyehara said.

"And one of the things that was important is . . . I'm pretty sure this part is pretty definite at this point, that in 2019 and 2020, there was money that was allocated by the budget that was unspent. . . . And we actually said, 'Well, why would you have money that's still in the endowment that we decided to spend?' And the answer was, well, staff thought that if you didn't withdraw the full allotment for the year, by the end of the year, you kind of lose it, like use it or lose it. So, we never took it out.

"And then we kind of poked around

and said, 'Well, who said that? And what was the basis for that?' And then the purported source of that conclusion said, 'Naw, I never said that. I don't know why we would say that.' Then we realized, 'OK, it was just a misunderstanding.' . . . So, there is this \$140,000 that's been in the endowment from the years 2019 and '20 that shouldn't be there, and so that's pretty significant.

"And it doesn't belong there. And then we're going to have to figure out a way, No. 1, we need to take the money and move it. But, we have to figure out before we move it if we should take the exact amount that's underspent or if we need to make some kind of adjustment that takes into account the fact that it wasn't timely withdrawn."

Uyehara continued: "The decision that was made is to use the so-called inflation-adjusted corpus measuring stick rather than using an inflation-adjustment on a historic dollar value. The difference is that the inflation-adjusted corpus takes into account the reinvestments that have been made since the '90s and tries to protect that as being, like, the nest egg that we want to really be concerned about because we have a legal duty to try to perpetuate the endowment forever, so that it can support JACL forever.

"So, we need to know that number because it goes into the decision-making process. . . . We all know what the exact numbers are now, but we can kind of tell, looking at the projections that we did, the calculations that we did in 2022, at the time of the 2022 convention,

taking into account the present-day value of the endowment.

"It looks like the inflation-adjusted corpus for this year is going to be somewhere around \$10 million, and the total fund balance as of the end of August was \$8.4 million, so significantly less than the inflation-adjusted corpus. And the corpus is around \$5.3 million.

"The very concrete question is, whether this happens at the level of (Secretary-Treasurer) Jonathan (Okamoto) putting together a budget proposal for the board, or if it happens next summer, the National Council authorizing the budget is going to be: When we look at these numbers now and look at market conditions and JACL needs, cash and everything, is 4 percent going to be too high for the next budget?"

Fernandez gave his director of finance report after the lunch break. In a short, JACL's status quo is that while it does not have many big "glaring huge issues," the organization is "over budget, yet we are performing to our budget." Regarding known overages, he noted as an example the expenses for the interim business manager and bookkeeper, as well as the fees paid to the recruiting firm utilized to fill the finance director position. Another expense that put JACL over budget was the "additional cost of moving the convention on short notice."

Next came the report from VP of Public Affairs Seia Watanabe, who gave a "quick overview of the statements we released since convention,"

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## New JACL NCWNP District Board Officers



The JACL NCWNP District Board was elected by its District Council delegates and installed into office on Oct. 29 at JACL national headquarters in San Francisco. The installing officer was Mark Kobayashi, former national treasurer. Pictured (from left) is the newly installed board: Steve Okamoto, Jeanette Otsuji-Hager (treasurer), Alan Teruya, Miko Sawamura (vice governor), Mariko Fujimoto (secretary), Sharon Uyeda, Carol Kawase (governor), Halle Sousa (youth representative) and Bruce Arao (youth representative).

PHOTO: COURTESY OF NCWNP

# A SONG FOR YOU

With ‘Omoiyari,’ Kishi Bashi gives a soundtrack to the incarceration experience and raises the question: Is there such a thing as Asian American music?

By Lynda Lin Grigsby,  
Contributor

If the show is where disbelief suspends, and the audience enters a magical world of bounty, the soundcheck is its bare soul. Onstage at the Aratani Theatre, the musicians warm up hours before the seats were filled. String bows dance in the air. The cello mourns loudly. Amid the cacophony, someone is missing.

“Where is K?” someone asks.

On cue, a door at stage right opens, backlit so only a silhouette of a man appears: average height and build with a shock of hair styled in gravity-defying spikes. Before he inhabits his stage persona of Kishi Bashi, the indie rock singer and songwriter, he’s just Kaoru or K.

“Do you want to get on with it?” K asks no one in particular.

For the soundcheck, he wears a white button-down shirt and carries his phone in a wallet case. For the show, Kishi Bashi dons a pale coat and tie — a signature look that simultaneously nods to and rebels against his classical training.

On this November night, the stakes are high. Kishi Bashi brings his music and film “Omoiyari” to the footsteps of history. In Little Tokyo in 1942, Japanese Americans wore their Sunday best to board buses headed for converted horse stalls and bleak desert barracks — experiences highlighted in the film with black-and-white evacuation photos.

For all the people in these historical photos who may be your family members, Kaoru

wants to tell their stories through music in “Omoiyari,” the album and its accompanying “song film,” about his experiences learning about the Japanese American incarceration. The film took six years to make. At the beginning of the journey, he felt insecure in his role.

“Is it my story to tell?” he told me before the soundcheck and performance. “Six years ago, I would not have felt comfortable. Now, I feel pretty confident.”

The lights turn on. Kishi Bashi strides across the stage to an eruption of applause in the sold-out theater, located at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo. He slides on the strap of the guitar and strums away disbelief.

## Forgotten Words

Kaoru Ishibashi is Shin-Nisei. Shin means new — a new Japanese American.

In a video conversation from his home in Northern California, he gestures toward the window behind him, obscured with boxes and sundries. The Santa Cruz Mountains are

behind there, he promises.

Being Shin-Nisei means he has no direct ties with the World War II incarceration experience, except that, as Ishibashi points out in the documentary, if he were born at another time, he would likely be incarcerated, too.

He uses the word “new” often in conversation to describe the Japanese American diaspora.

“New is good because it’s changing,” said Ishibashi. “It also seems fresh. It’s positive.”

During WWII, the Nisei were barely young adults when they were plucked from their homes and placed in untenable situations in desert prisons, courts of public opinion and on distant battlefields to prove their worth. To survive meant suppressing culture and shedding all signifiers of foreignness, including language.

Ishibashi calls this the universal immigrant decision: to transmit or shed culture. In “Theme for Jerome (Forgotten Words),” he mourns this process with both English and Japanese lyrics:

*She’d sing this melody*

*To her beloved sons*

*Forgotten words from Japan*

The song is a nod to a Japanese lullaby but with lost words. In the film, Ishibashi stands alone in the remains of the former Arkansas incarceration site and plays the violin forlornly. It is a devastatingly beautiful scene.

The pseudonym Kishi Bashi, which sounds whimsical and Japanese, is a persona forged out of growing comfort with his bicultural

identities. Before that, Ishibashi also jettisoned culture while playing in indie rock bands called Of Montreal and Jupiter One. Back then, he said, there was no space for Asian Americans or Asian Americanness in pop music, so he suppressed his culture into abstraction.

Then, he returned to it.

In the Japanese American community, there wasn’t much space, either. Here, a cultural shorthand ties people together — a byproduct of the war — where people greet each other by mapping their incarceration experience: Santa Anita/Manzanar/Gardena. This leaves little room for a self-proclaimed “postwar immigrant child” from Norfolk, Va.

In high school, Ishibashi’s parents took him to the Smithsonian Museum to complete a project on the incarceration. In 1994, he applied for a JACL scholarship but never heard back.

“It’s OK,” he said. It worked out. He attended the Berklee College of Music.

“The community has been fairly insular,” said Bill Yoshino, former JACL Midwest director, who also appears in the film. “Identity isn’t something that you’re just born into. It can also be learned.”

In the film, Ishibashi pieces together the war narratives through personal interviews with former incarcerated and his own relatives in Japan. The subtext is biculturalism is OK. As Kishi Bashi, he gives permission to celebrate heritage and speak another language.

“Honestly, it’s what makes America great,” he said.

**Musician Kishi Bashi in a scene from the film “Omoiyari”**

PHOTOS: LYNDA LIN GRIGSBY



Kishi Bashi’s newest album tells the stories of his experiences learning about the Japanese American incarceration during World War II.





**Kishi Bashi rehearses his music during a soundcheck prior to his performance at the Aratani Theatre in Little Tokyo.**

**‘Summer of ’42’**

Ishibashi is a musician first. His music is orchestral, romantic and lush. He defines his music as indie rock music, specifically experimental indie rock. In press releases of past performances, his music has been classified as Japanese American, which gives him pause.

“I don’t think your ethnicity defines your music,” he said. “If people want to waste one word and add Japanese to American singer/songwriter, then, you know, they can do that. But I don’t think you have to.”

To tell the story of the Japanese American incarceration through music, he reimagines this historical time by putting himself in the place of people in the photos. He focuses on personal stories, not just the conditions and injustice.

In the “Summer of ’42,” Ishibashi sings about young love:

*We’d sneak off to the desert  
The sand over your fancy shoes  
The first day that I met you  
I wrote down in my book  
I am in love with you*

For Ishibashi, there is much more to these war stories than the victimization. Who was loved? Who was left behind? During the turmoil of war and incarceration, people fell in love, had

babies, fell out of love and started over — all the things that give life meaning. By focusing on humanity, he brings people back from their modern consciousness to empathize with what it was like in ’42.

He gives this historical event its own soundtrack.

The Japanese word *omoiyari* means to “have compassion.” Choosing a Japanese word for the album and film’s title was an act of empowerment. MTV Documentary Films released the film theatrically in October and asked for the name to be changed. The reasons are familiar: The title is too hard to pronounce. What does it mean?

“The movie is about embracing biculturalness, so to make us change this title would be like a slap in the face,” said Ishibashi.

The song film “Omoi-yari,” as originally titled, makes its streaming debut on Paramount+ on Nov. 21.

**A Place for (Asian) American Music**

Asian Americans have always been at the center and margins of the mainstream music industry. Since the 1970s, there have been two streams of Asian American artists — those who highlighted Asian Americanness and those who just made music, said Eric Hung, executive director of the Music of Asian America Research Center.

The latter group of modern musicians —

Asian Americans who make music — arguably have more name recognition: James Iha of Smashing Pumpkins, Mike Shinoda of Linkin Park and Olivia Rodrigo, the Gen Z pop queen.

Latin music has its distinct sound in the American popular music scene, and so does country and rap — of course, there are crossovers and exceptions — but no such genre is associated with Asian Americans in popular music. It leaves Asian American artists to work in musical spaces that are not their “own.”

In the 1970s, musicians like Nobuko Miyamoto and Chris Ijima’s Yellow Pearl unapologetically made music about the Asian American experience. In their song, “We Are the Children,” they claim their identities:

*We are the children of the migrant worker  
We are the offspring of the concentration camp  
Sons and daughters of the railroad builder  
Who leave their stamp on America*

The songs and lyrics of consciously Asian American music drive a message and attract (and repulse) a specific audience. In the 1980s, jazz musician and activist Glenn Horiuchi weaved Japanese American themes into his music, but famously said, “and Japanese Americans don’t like it,” according to Hung. “Omoi-yari” is a musical memorial that can help raise awareness among indie rock fans who may not know the Japanese American incarceration history.

“But can it actually lead to meaningful political action?” said Hung. “This is also the inherent problem with music as a political

tool. Music by itself does not change laws.”

Hung attended a Kishi Bashi concert in Virginia Beach, where he watched Kishi Bashi perform some of the songs from “Omoi-yari” while images of the incarceration looped onscreen. The photos were familiar to Hung, making him wonder if the experience might differ for somebody who didn’t know about the camps.

“Maybe we are not the audience for this,” he said.

In the Aratani Theatre, Kishi Bashi pauses to ask people in the audience to raise their hands if they had family members affected by the WWII incarceration. A few hands shoot up. Most stayed down.

To the raised hands, he dedicates an ode: “Song for You,” about the threat of time and the erosion of memory. He doesn’t clearly define who he is singing to, so the people in the audience, with their hands down, also feel free to imprint their own meaning to the song.

He leaves it open. Onstage at the Aratani Theatre, Karen Ishizuka, a Sansei curator of the Japanese American National Museum, strides onstage to talk about her family’s incarceration experience.

“Welcome to Little Tokyo,” she says to the audience.

“Omoi-yari” is undoubtedly about her story, but this is Kaoru’s story, too, she says. This is the audience’s story. This is your story.

This is an American story.

**“Omoi-yari” makes its streaming debut Nov. 21 on Paramount+.**



**Kishi Bashi brings his music and film “Omoi-yari” to the footsteps of history.**



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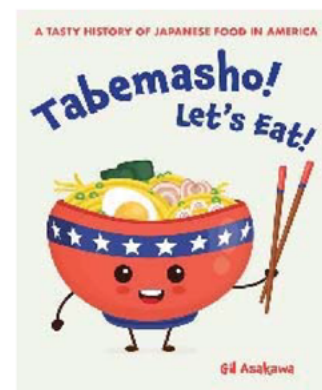
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Gil's latest book, "Tabemasho! Let's Eat! A Tasty History of Japanese Food in America," is now available in bookstores and online.





REIMAGINE  
EVERYTHING

## PLANNING FOR RETIREMENT

By JR Fujita

Perhaps you've worked 30-50 years and are thinking about retiring soon — or maybe, like me, you're looking to retire 10 or 20 years down the road. For some, retirement means transitioning to part-time or seasonal work, while for others, it might mean abandoning your commute and completely rejecting any regular routine. But no matter what retirement means to you, there are many ways to plan so that you are financially prepared for your new lifestyle when the time comes.

Retirement will look different for everyone, since it depends on what your goals are. Some will want to travel the world, others will become more involved in their community by volunteering and some will choose a combination of both. Whatever you do, you will have to carefully look at your

savings and consider the income you will receive from pensions, stock options, Social Security and any other income sources.

Aside from your goals, you will also need to consider your expenses such as mortgage/rent, taxes, vehicle and home maintenance, health care and everyday costs that continue to rise such as gasoline and groceries. According to AARP, the general rule of thumb is that you will need 80 percent of your working income to maintain your standard of living, and Social Security is meant to replace about 40 percent of the average retiree's work earnings. Using the Social Security calculator ([ssa.gov/prepare/plan-retirement](https://ssa.gov/prepare/plan-retirement)) can help you determine when you might want to consider claiming your benefits.

If you decide to take on new hobbies or pursue traveling in comfort, you will need to consider those additional expenses as a part

of your retirement budget.

As always, you should plan for unexpected expenses by maintaining a minimum amount in your savings account for emergencies. You may also want to find ways to reduce your expenses such as updating your car insurance to reduce or eliminate coverage you may not need. If you anticipate reducing your miles driven each year, for example, check with your insurer to see if you qualify for discounts.

If work has been your primary source for social connections, you should consider where to seek these connections in retirement. A good way to meet like-minded people and develop new friendships is through volunteering in your community.

No matter when you plan to retire, planning and preparation are key to enjoying your retirement years. If you find retirement is not what you expected, you can always return to the workforce or adjust accordingly based on your current situation.

For more tips on planning for retirement, visit [aarp.org/retirement](https://aarp.org/retirement).

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

## D.C. » continued from page 4

a panel for queer parenting, and Cheyenne presented with an Okaeri intern on creating queer-friendly spaces. At lunch with JACL, Bridget said she would love to hear more about PFLAG and my experience at the conference. This article was made possible by you, Bridget!

While all of these moments were special in their own way, I think the most special moment, however, is a tradition that Aiden and I have when we attend conferences together. We reserve one night to have dinner . . . just the two of us. Aiden gets to pick the restaurant, and I get to pick up the bill. For this conference, Aiden chose Julia's on the Potomac because he thought I would enjoy not only the food but also being on the river.

Over dinner, we talked about our time at the conference and what we were learning and experiencing. As we sat watching the riverboats move

past us on the Potomac, I thought what an extraordinary moment this was for a mother and her transgender son — how we are so close, how we can talk with so much ease and openness and how much we cherish this tradition we have. I thought about the work PFLAG, Okaeri and JACL are doing to help other families create their own special connection and moments. I was overwhelmed with a sense of deep gratitude.

With the world in turmoil and times of deep divide, I continue to find moments of gratitude and hope. I find people who are not giving up on equality and justice for all, but fighting harder to bring awareness and advocacy to their communities.

I see parents who may struggle when their children come out, but keep loving their children the best they can while they are all finding their way. However you are standing up or taking action, please know it does not go unnoticed. It is the fuel that keeps the spark burning brightly in the hearts of so many of us that are doing this work.

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."



Me spending time with my friends at JACL

## Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue is in PRODUCTION NOW

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are done!

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Contact  
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for more information

## NATIONAL » continued from page 5

five in total. They were:

- The 60th anniversary of the March on Washington
- The Jacksonville, Fla., mass shooting
- Condemnation of the attack on Seattle's Wing Luke Museum
- Denunciation of the slaying of a 6-year-old Palestinian American boy
- The response to the xenophobic statements made by Nebraska's governor.

A lengthy discussion ensued over the statement released regarding the child's slaying (see [tinyurl.com/5623rxf](https://tinyurl.com/5623rxf)) and the feedback that was received, ranging from commenting on international events, i.e., the deadly attack on Israeli citizens on Israeli territory by Hamas militants and Israel's subsequent counterattack on Hamas in the Gaza Strip to whether JACL should have only addressed the killing as a possible hate crime, whether the statement was partisan, too strong or not strong enough and, on a related note, whether the executive director should express his personal views in the *Pacific Citizen* on the Israeli-Hamas conflict apart from his role

as the executive director.

Regarding the statement, Uyehara felt it could have been edited to be "80 percent cleaner and more focused" without losing the message of what the statement wanted to express. *Pacific Citizen* Editorial Board Chair John Saito Jr., meantime, believed that using words like "murder" and "murderer" in the statement was problematic because "you're still presumed innocent until proven guilty. . . . You have to be careful here, too. He hasn't been convicted."

Regarding membership, 1000 Club & Membership and Services VP Dominique Mashburn and Membership Manager Ashley Bucher reported that there was a decrease in 2023 compared with 2022. In addition, Bucher reported that for the membership CBL proposal, "We're getting ready to resubmit for the same thing for next year's convention. Essentially, we're resubmitting the same proposal except maybe for premium category names," she said. "We're getting that final feedback now, and then we are excited to resubmit this and hopefully have it pass."

The JACL National Board will next meet in San Francisco in February. ■



FELLOWS CORNER

# MY 2023 POSTON PILGRIMAGE EXPERIENCE

An inspiring journey to see firsthand the importance of ‘solidarity, intersectionality, community care and healing’

By *Bridget Keaveney, JACL Norman Y. Mineta Fellow*



On Oct. 13, my colleague and I made the journey to Poston, Ariz., to stand alongside survivors, descendants, fellow activists and educators in honoring the nearly 18,000 Japanese Americans who were forcibly removed and incarcerated at Poston Incarceration Camp, located on the Colorado River Indian Tribes reservation.

This year’s pilgrimage program was organized by the Poston Community Alliance in collaboration with the local Colorado River Indian Tribes Tribal Council, made up of four distinct Native American tribes: the Mohave, Chemehuevi, Hopi and Navajo.

Together with the CRIT Tribal Council, the Poston Community Alliance worked to “uphold the memories of camp life and highlight the significant links and relationships between the Japanese American incarcerates and members of the tribal community.”

In preparation for my first pilgrimage experience, I spent time beforehand reflecting upon the events and relationships that brought me to this very moment.

My earliest memory of learning about the Japanese American incarceration was through a friend of my parents, who was Japanese American. They had very briefly mentioned it during a conversation that I had overheard when I was 8 or so years old; however, it all but left me until my first year of college, during an Ethnic Studies course,

when I officially learned about the Japanese American incarceration in a classroom setting.

My interest and curiosity to learn more eventually led me to the Japanese American Museum of Oregon, where I had the opportunity to delve deeper and learn from local educators and advocates about the importance and need to preserve this history and protect the legacy of those who endured the unimaginable.

As a Shin-Nikkei raised in rural Oregon who had difficulty in fully embracing their identity and heritage, it meant the world to finally connect with other Japanese Americans. My understanding of Japanese American history has expanded thanks to those who welcomed me with open arms. It is thanks to these connections that the work of preserving Japanese American history has more or less become my life’s work.

In the five years since my first day at JAMO, I have met and befriended a number of survivors and their descendants who have shared with me their personal experiences and work in collective healing.

It has been incredibly humbling to hear firsthand from so many people within the community their personal journeys and reasons to advocate on behalf of other harmed communities. The injustice against the Japanese American community is one that I am still learning by the day and is one that I hope to further educate myself on in the years to come. It is for those reasons that I jumped at the chance to attend and participate in the Poston Pilgrimage this year.

My colleague, Matt Weisbly, and I proceeded to register ourselves for the program. We then found ourselves making the four-hour drive from Los Angeles to Poston.

The landscape engulfing us was dry, dusty and hot. As we made our way toward Poston, I couldn’t help but imagine the sheer fear that must have gripped those who were forcibly removed, not knowing where they were going and for how long. As I reflect back on this moment of our trip, I am overwhelmed with emotion.

Shortly after we arrived at our

destination, we were given a warm welcome by members and volunteers of the Poston Community Alliance. Our time there began with a presentation by Grant Din of the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, who provided an in-depth history lesson on the former Angel Island immigration station, sharing that many of the earliest people to immigrate were those who were Japanese. The provided historical context allowed me and others the chance to understand the Japanese diaspora experience at the time.

Following his presentation, the day after was a daylong experience of visiting historical buildings and monuments, as well as attending several workshops. There was also a beautiful opening ceremony that was held in collaboration with the CRIT Museum and included several traditional indigenous dances in addition to a blessing provided by Buddhist priest and historian Duncan Ryuken Williams.

Once the opening ceremony came to an end, the other attendees and I proceeded to head to the Poston Monument Memorial. Upon arriving on location, the first thing Matt and I took notice of was a paper crane on the ground, which was covered in a layer of dust. It wasn’t long before we took notice of the other paper cranes strewn across the two pillars that are present, which serve as the monument.

Each pillar featured several panels that included historical information about the camp, including daily life. As I absorbed the information, I couldn’t help but notice the families and individuals around me taking in the monument. It was a beautiful moment that brought together not only generations of families together but also activists and other community members alike. To have the opportunity to pay tribute onsite and in person is something that I will cherish for the rest of my days.

Soon after, we made our way to the last remaining buildings left of Poston, located on site 2 of the former camp. It was there that I learned that Poston was made up of three sites, each given

a different name to distinguish them: Roasten, Toastin and Dustin.

We began our tour by visiting the ground’s school buildings and auditoriums. Unfortunately, over time, many of those said buildings have been vandalized or torched, ruining their state and leaving them in a hazardous state. Of the buildings that we visited, the most well-maintained and protected was the former barrack, which was housed in a large shedlike building.

Outside of my experience visiting the preserved barrack at the Japanese American National Museum, I had never seen another one in person until that moment. It was shocking to see just how fragile and open it was; granted, many pieces were missing or on the cusp of breaking off, but using my imagination and the information plaques surrounding me, I was able to piece together not only a good visual but also a better understanding of what it must have been like calling such a small enclosed space home.

With barely any insulation, it wasn’t hard to imagine how challenging and unbearable it must have been



A view of the former auditorium, which is located on site 1 of Poston.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BRIDGET KEAVENEY

to fight off the hot dry air and local verminents on a daily basis. I was told that temperatures could reach up to 115 at their hottest. Sitting on this fact, I took in every inch. This may be the one and only time I will get the chance to fully confront and process the realities of camp life, and I wanted to make sure I left as informed as I could be on the harsh conditions that resulted from such an inhumane decision.

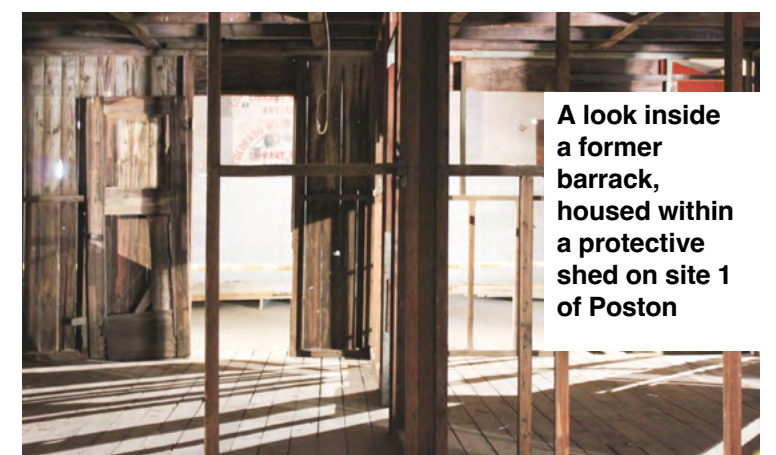
We proceeded to finish our day at La Pera Elementary School, where attendees had the chance to immerse themselves further through the various workshops that were made available. La Pera Elementary stands on where site 2 of Poston once stood. Seeing it be used in the present very much felt like a full-circle moment. Our afternoon started with boxed lunches and a presentation by Matthew Asada, son of former EDC Gov. Michael Asada.

In his presentation, Matthew shared with us his family’s history and his journey of retracing and uncovering his family’s roots in this country. It was a touching tribute to his ancestors, made all the more special with the presence of his family at the pilgrimage.

I’m very grateful to have learned as much as I did during that session. Once lunch was completed, participants were allowed to attend the workshops of their choice. Both my colleague Matt and I attended a session on Poston’s Labor History and on the Munemitsu & Mendez Family Stories. Both were incredibly insightful, each leaving me with a wealth of knowledge I didn’t have prior.

» See POSTON on page 12

Amelia Flores, chairwoman of the Colorado River Indian Tribes, provides welcoming remarks at the Poston Pilgrimage’s opening ceremony at the CRIT Museum.



A look inside a former barrack, housed within a protective shed on site 1 of Poston

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## NATIONAL

**Irei — A National Monument for the WWII Japanese American Incarceration**  
Los Angeles, CA  
JANM

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

## NCWNP

**Komebukuro Bag Sewing Workshop**  
San Francisco, CA  
Dec. 7; 6-9 p.m.  
JCCCN

1840 Sutter St.  
**Price:** Center Members \$60; General Public \$70  
In this workshop, your instructor will guide you how to make your own komebukuro bag, traditionally a "rice bag" used to hold rice that are brought to temples in Japan as offerings during festivals and ceremonies. This class is for beginners; however, participants must have completed the "Introduction to Sewing" workshop or can demonstrate proficiency with a sewing machine. Space is limited.  
**Info:** To sign up, visit [www.jccncc.org](http://www.jccncc.org).

**'The Story Continues': 35th Anniversary Exhibit**  
San Jose, CA  
Thru Jan. 7, 2024  
Japanese American Museum of San Jose

535 N. Fifth St.  
**Price:** Cost Included With Admission  
Curated with memories, personal photos and excerpts from past exhibits in the Rotating Gallery, "The Story Continues" chronicles 35 years of the museum's history and the dedicated founders and volunteers who envisioned and established the Japanese American Museum of San Jose.  
**Info:** Visit [www.jamsj.org](http://www.jamsj.org).

**'Takashi Murakami: Unfamiliar People — Swelling of Monsterized Human Ego'**  
San Francisco, CA

Thru Feb. 12, 2024  
**Asian Art Museum**  
200 Larkin St.

**Price:** Museum Admission  
Takashi Murakami's first solo exhibition in San Francisco is one that features the artist's signature combination of fun, spectacle and playful social commentary. In vibrantly colored paintings and sculptures, Murakami uses monsters to embody the hopes and fears of the digital age.  
**Info:** Visit [exhibitions/asianart.org/exhibitions/takashi-murakami-monsterized/](http://exhibitions/asianart.org/exhibitions/takashi-murakami-monsterized/).

## PSW

**'The Nutcracker' With Live Orchestra**  
Los Angeles, CA  
Dec. 1-2  
JACCC

Aratani Theatre  
244 S. San Pedro St.  
**Price:** Ticket Prices Vary  
Let Principal Ballerina Petra Conti and her newly founded company, Hollywood Ballet, take you into this classic winter wonderland fairytale. Local and international dancers will come together for an enchanting journey to the live music of the Dream Orchestra of Los Angeles, directed by Daniel Suk and choreographed by Eris Nezha. This is the perfect way to welcome in the holidays.  
**Info:** Visit [www.jaccc.org](http://www.jaccc.org).

**Kami Band Workshop: New Year's Wreath Shimenawa**  
Gardena, CA  
Dec. 4; Class Times (10 a.m.-Noon, 12:30-2:30 p.m., 3-5 p.m.)  
Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute

1964 W. 162nd St.  
**Price:** \$20  
Taught by instructor Maggie Meza, participants will make a New Year's wreath in which all supplies will be available with registration. This is a very popular workshop in advance of the New Year's celebration, so be sure to register early. The same instruction will be offered at three different times.  
**Info:** Visit [www.jci-gardena.org](http://www.jci-gardena.org).

**Oshogatsu Family Festival**  
Los Angeles, CA  
Jan. 7, 2024  
JANM

100 N. Central Ave.  
**Price:** Free, But Advanced Tickets Recommended  
The popular annual New Year celebration will include free crafts, performances and cultural activities for all ages to help

ring in the Year of the Dragon. Don't miss your chance to celebrate one of Japan's longest and most important holidays! In addition, Kodomo Taiko will perform a traditional mochitsuki, musically pounding rice into the sweet treat, mochi. Tickets will be made available this fall.  
**Info:** Visit [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org).

## PNW

**Meet Santa in the Heart of Chinatown-International District**  
Seattle, WA  
Dec. 9

Chinatown-International District  
504 Fifth Ave. S  
**Price:** Photo Prices Vary  
The Wing Luke Museum's C-ID Santa gives families an opportunity to connect with their heritages during the most magical time of year. Photos taken by Truong Nguyen Photographer will be available for purchase; all proceeds benefit the museum's exhibits, programs and historical preservation efforts. Reservations are required; a very limited amount of walk-in appointments will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.  
**Info:** Email [visit@wingluke.org](mailto:visit@wingluke.org) or call (206) 623-5124.

**Mochitsuki 2023**  
Portland, OR  
Dec. 17; 3-4:30 p.m.  
Oregon Buddhist Temple  
3720 S.E. 34th Ave.  
**Price:** Mochi \$6/lb.

It's that time of year again! Mochi pickup will be in the OBT basement. Orders will be accepted until Dec. 12. Don't miss your opportunity to ring in the new year with delicious, freshly made mochi.  
**Info:** To place orders, visit [https://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com/files/ugd/5bafd7\\_c9d75d7d4f61472185bbdf445d035f59.pdf](https://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com/files/ugd/5bafd7_c9d75d7d4f61472185bbdf445d035f59.pdf).

**'A Sense of Place: The Art of George Tsutakawa'**  
Portland, OR  
Thru Dec. 31  
Japanese American Museum of Oregon  
411 N.W. Flanders St.  
**Price:** Museum Admission

For the first time, artist George Tsutakawa's work will be on exhibit in Oregon thanks to a collaboration between JAMO and the Tsutakawa family. The exhibit will include examples of the artist's work in watercolor, sumi, metal sculpture and fountain design. Tsutakawa's public works can be found in cities across the U.S., Canada and Japan. An exhibition highlight is a large model for Fountain

of Wisdom, Tsutakawa's first fountain sculpture, created in 1960 for the Seattle Public Library.  
**Info:** Visit [www.jamo.org](http://www.jamo.org).

## MDC

**JACL Chicago Annual Meeting**  
Chicago, IL  
Nov. 29; 6-8 p.m.

**Konbini & Kanpai**  
1433 W. Belmont  
**Price:** Free (But Drinks Will Be Available for Purchase)  
Join JACL Chicago for its annual member meeting at Konbini & Kanpai. It's a great opportunity to gather with the community, reflect on the past year of wins for the chapter and look toward the future. A light dinner will be provided by the chapter, and drinks will be available for purchase, including craft beer, wine, sake and nonalcoholic beverages.  
**Info:** For questions, contact Rebecca Ozaki at [rebecca@jaclichicago.org](mailto:rebecca@jaclichicago.org).

**Lunar New Year 2024 Celebration**  
Chicago, IL  
Feb. 10, 2024  
Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace  
**Price:** Free

The Asian American Coalition of Chicago presents the 41st annual Lunar New Year Celebration hosted by the Japanese American Community. This event, the largest pan-Asian event in Illinois, welcomes in the Year of the Dragon, traditionally known for good luck and prosperity.  
**Info:** Visit [aacchicago.org](http://aacchicago.org) for more event information..

## IDC

**The Go for Broke Spirit: Portraits of Legacy by Shane Sato**  
Boise, ID  
Thru Feb. 18, 2024  
Boise State University  
Albertsons Library  
1865 W. Cesar Chavez Lane

This project centers around veterans who served in World War II as members of the 442nd RCT, 100th Battalion and the Military Intelligence Service who are featured in Shane Sato's photographic book, a passion project that began for him 20 years ago.  
**Info:** Visit <https://www.boisestate.edu/student-life/event/the-go-for-broke-spirit-portraits-of-legacy-by-shane-sato/>.

## EDC

**Mochitsuki With the JACL D.C. Chapter**  
Bethesda, MD  
Dec. 2; Noon-2:30 p.m.  
Thomas Pyle Middle School

**6311 Wilson Lane**  
**Price:** Activity Free; Bento Preorder JACL Member (\$23), Nonmember (\$30) and Onsite (\$35)

Join the JACL's DC chapter at its Mochitsuki event that will feature mochi pounding led by Kota Mizutani. There will also be crafts for sale and raffles during the event, which will also have preordered bentos. A limited number of bentos will be available to purchase onsite. To ensure food orders, please register before Nov. 30. Please also purchase mochi in advance through the Eventbrite link.  
**Info:** For questions and more information, email [jaclwdc@gmail.com](mailto:jaclwdc@gmail.com). Register in advance on Eventbrite.

**AARP Massachusetts Virtual Event Series: 'Downsizing and Decluttering'**  
Nov. 30; 7-8 p.m.  
Virtual Event

**Price:** Free  
To register, sign into your [AARP.org](http://AARP.org) account or create an account. AARP membership is not required.  
**Info:** Visit <https://events.aarp.org/event/bc7c56d8-9bdc-47ea-b596-714573c99707/summary>.

**Ruth Asawa Through Line Exhibit**  
New York, NY  
Thru Jan. 15, 2024  
Whitney Museum of American Art  
99 Gansevoort St.

**Price:** Museum Admission  
This exhibition highlights drawing as the through line in Asawa's work. The presentation comprises more than 100 works..  
**Info:** Visit [www.whitney.org](http://www.whitney.org).

**'Toshiko Takaazu: Shaping Abstraction' Exhibit**  
Boston, MA  
Thru September 2024  
Museum of Fine Arts  
465 Huntington Ave.

**Price:** Museum Admission  
Toshiko Takaazu was a masterful artist best known for her ceramic sculptures. This exhibit draws from her distinctive palettes and layering of glazes.  
**Info:** Visit <https://www.mfa.org/exhibition/toshiko-takaazu-shaping-abstraction>.

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# In MEMORIAM

**Aoki, Amy Emi, 97**, Honolulu, HI, June 7.

**Fukuhara, Joe Susumu, 90**, Oceanside, CA, April 14; born in Olympia, WA, his family moved to Hiroshima before WWII and he lost his sister to the atomic bomb; veteran, Army; career included stints at Union Bank's Little Tokyo branch and Rafu Shimpo's advertising department; activities included the Japanese Language School Kyodo System, Rafu Chuo Gakuen, Hiroshima Kenjin-kai, Little Tokyo Lions Club, Little Tokyo Business Assn., Little Tokyo Community Development Advisory Committee, and the Japanese American Community Credit Union; he was predeceased by his sister, Shizumi; he is survived by his wife, Yoriko; daughters, Christine Reiko (McDaniel), Eileen Michiko (Giese) and Janet Shizue (Fukuhara); sister, Emiko (Yagyū); gc: 4.

**Iwai, Mieko 'Amy,' 105**, Waipahu, HI, March 19.



**Kagawa, Roy A., 88**, Hilo, HI, March 15.

**Kamiyama, Russell, 72**, Vallejo, CA, July 15; he was predeceased by his son, Paul; he is survived by his children, Troy, Aisha (Jake), Shaun (Kelsey) and Amanda; gc: 8.

**Kosaka, Ronnie, 81**, Lodi, CA, April 12; veteran, Army (Vietnam War); activities included Lucky Anglers, Lodi Moose Lodge, Lodi Elks Lodge and Lodi Boat & Ski Club; he was predeceased by his brother, Gerald Kosaka; sister-in-law, Brenda Kosaka; he is survived by his life partner, Phyllis (Tiny) Pleasant; son, Jay Pleasant; sisters, Arlene (Nobi) Tamura, Louis Glasser and Judy Kosaka; he is also survived by many nephews and nieces.



**Kuwaye, Jeffrey Alan, 45**, Mesa, AZ, April 16; he was predeceased by his grandmother, Barbara Kuwaye and grandfather, Charles Kuwaye; he is survived by his wife, Cortnie; children, Gabrianna, Chasden and Miabella; step-children, Jacob, Arianna, Bella and Brennan Lueders; parents, Paul Kuwaye and Chong Pun Kim; sisters, Naomi Carter (Kuwaye) and Stephanie Kuwaye; and step-siblings, David, Monique Bunel and Victoria Quibell.



**Miyashiro, Susumu, 91**, Huntington Beach, CA, Feb. 18; B.A., University of Hawaii (agriculture); veteran, Army; he is survived by his wife, Thelma; children, Milton (Mary), Lisa (Nicolas) and Howard (Carla); brother, Lloyd; gc: 8.

**Moriguchi, Guy S., 63**, Los Angeles, CA, March 10.

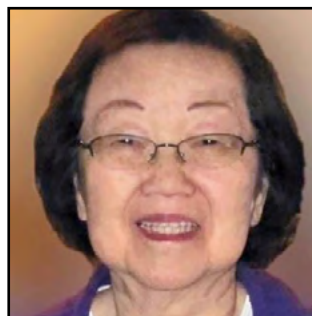
**Motoyasu, Ken, 80**, Torrance, CA, April 2; he is survived by his wife, Joyce; children, Wayne (Stacie Wu) Motoyasu, Weston (Lisa) Motoyasu and Stacie (John) Nguyen; siblings, Peggy Kozawa, Nancy Tanita, Paul Motoyasu and Judi Motoyasu; sister-in-law, Jeanne (Richard) Sahara; gc: 5.

**Nakano, Katsuto, 97**, Fresno, CA, April 23; activities included the Fresno Buddhist Church; he is survived by his wife, Ruth; brother, Bob. Jamie and Britney; sisters, Helene (Sam) and Judy; he is also survived by several cousins, nieces and nephews.

**Nishioka, Sharon Michiyo, 84**, Los Angeles, CA, May 20; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Gila River WRA Center; she was predeceased by her sister, Mariko Kawamoto; she is survived by her brother-in-law, Raymond Kawamoto; she is also survived by a nephew, a niece and cousins.



**Otsuka, Alice Mutsuko, 91**, Garden Grove, CA, Sept. 20; graduate, CSUF; she was predeceased by her husband, Kengo; and 14 siblings; she is survived by her children, Leigh Curran (Tim) and Bill Otsuka (Tami); gc: 1.



**Sekikawa, Helyn Miyoko, 90**, Sacramento, CA, Feb. 13; she was predeceased by her husband, Bill Sekikawa; brother, Robert; she is survived by her children, Keith (Allison) and Karin; brothers, George Yabu and Ben Yabu (Jane); she is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 2.

**Yoshizumi, Harold, 88**, Pearl City, HI and Monterey Park, CA, March 24; he was predeceased by his wife, Lily; he is survived by his children, Terri (Gary) Shundo and Dean (Claudia) Yoshizumi; siblings, Ethel (Seiji) Koshimizu and Richard (Lynn) Yoshizumi; gc: 5.

**Yukawa, Joseph James, 78**, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 8; he is survived by his wife, Amy. ■

TRIBUTE

**MARTHA MASAKO TOJI-UEJO**

Martha Masako Toji-Uejo of Richmond, Calif., died Sept. 29, 2023. She was 88. She is survived by her husband, Donald, and their adult children and spouses, Caron and Dr. Stephen Moy, Michael and Sandra Uejo, Curtis and Diane Uejo and Alan and Sherri Uejo; and grandchildren, Prezleigh & Josh Colburn; Kiahna & Ken Haren; and Hailey Uejo & Chase Uejo.

TRIBUTE

**YONE ITO**



Born on June 5, 1926, to Chiyo and Noboru Kato, Yone Ito of Hayward, Calif., died Oct. 30, 2023. She was 97.

During WWII, the family was incarcerated at Tanforan Assembly Center, San Bruno, Calif., and Topaz, Utah. Upon returning from Utah, Yone worked for Transocean Airlines, the Emporium in San Francisco and San Leandro Printing. San Leandro Printing sponsored her classes at the San Francisco Art Institute, and she went on to own her business, Ito Typesetting, specializing in desk-top publishing and graphic design. In her retirement years, she volunteered at Eden JACL Senior Center in San Lorenzo and was a board member for the chapter. She was artistically talented, and in her spare time, she enjoyed Japanese brush painting and was an accomplished knitter, quilter and pie maker.

She was preceded in death by her siblings, Sumi Uyeda, Masao Kato, Hideo Kato, Haruo Kato and Yoshio Kato. Survived by brothers, Takeo and Kiyoshi Kato; her daughter, Kathleen (John Oshima); son, Scott (Kathy); grandchildren, Chris and Kate; and many nieces and nephews.

Service will be private.

TRIBUTE

**MAY MIYOKO SATO**



May Miyeko Sato, 95, of Lansdale, Pa., passed away on Oct. 28, 2023, after a brief illness. She was born on Sept. 1, 1928, in Seattle, Wash., the third of 10 siblings born to Tsuneshin and Suimatsu Kaname. During World War II, she and her family were forcibly relocated to Tule Lake, Calif., where they remained from 1942-45.

After World War II, the family moved to Hartford, Conn., and then the Philadelphia area. May stayed in Hartford with relatives to complete her senior year of high school and then worked as a secretary for Travelers Insurance. She helped support the family by sending funds and assisting her non-English-speaking father with the startup of the family business, T. Kaname & Sons, Waverly Gardens, in Glenside, Pa. She lived briefly in New York City and then moved with some of her sisters to Chicago, Ill.

On April 25, 1953, May married Kay Sato in Chicago, Ill. They eventually settled in Rochelle, Ill., to raise their family. She is survived by four daughters: Diane Bjornson of Arlington, Va.; Joanne (Jeff) Rowe of Charlotte, N.C.; Linda (Keith) Adams of Rockville, Md.; Marianne Sato of Lansdale, Pa.; four grandchildren: Suzanne (Brad) Harris of Forest Park, Ill; Kirsten (Kurt) Bugden of Charlottesville, Va.; Michael Bjornson of Chicago, Ill.; and Stephanie (Trey Barhite) Rowe of Statesville, N.C.; and her two youngest siblings: Roy and Judy Kaname of Lansdale, Pa.

A service for May will be planned at a later date when she will be reunited with her late husband, Kay, at Arlington National Cemetery. Donations can be made in May Sato's memory to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, [www.lls.org](http://www.lls.org). To leave a note, memory or photograph, please request a link at [www.forevermissed.com/may-miyeko-sato](http://www.forevermissed.com/may-miyeko-sato).

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**POSTON » continued from page 9**

The Labor History workshop was presented by Katie Nuss, who delved into Poston's agricultural history. It was revealed to us that a majority of those who were incarcerated at Poston were gardeners from California. It was shared that the "development of agriculture was a priority in 1942 of the Office of Indian Affairs," who



A string of cranes hangs from the Poston Memorial Monument.

were intent on bringing vegetation to the area.

An irrigation system was soon created by hand by those imprisoned at Poston that consisted of a canal that ran through all three sites within the camp. An infographic from earlier in the day shared that 34 varieties of food crops were harvested, with white daikon being one of the most successful crops.

In addition, it was written that nearly 85 percent of the food that was consumed in Poston was grown on site. In total, those who farmed were able to yield 9,149 pounds of crops per acre. The contributions emitted from that time are still felt today by members of the CRIT.

Learning the historic intersections between the two communities, and the camaraderie that developed as a result, was moving to say the least. I appreciate the message that was made toward the end of the presentation that asserted that CRIT members and Japanese Americans jointly hold the Poston story.

For the Munemitsu and Mendez Family Stories workshop, I had the privilege of listening directly to historian and descendant Janice Munemitsu, who shared her family's history and ties to the Mendez

**A paper crane is found on the dusty grounds of the Poston Memorial Monument.**

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BRIDGET KEAVENEY



family, who are credited for their role in desegregating schools in California through their monumental case, *Mendez, et. al v. Westminster (1947)*, seven years before *Brown v. Education (1954)*.

During the incarceration, Janice's father, Tad Munemitsu, leased their family farm to Gonzalo and Felicitas Mendez. As written on Janice's website in her book, "The Kindness of Color: The Story of Two Families behind Mendez, et al. v. Westminster, the 1947 Desegregation of California Public Schools," "When the Mendez family moved to the Westminster farm, the Mendez children were denied entry to the 'white' school and forced to go to the 'Mexican' school with inferior academics. Racism by the government and school districts denied both families of their consti-

tutional amendment freedoms and rights, but acts of kindness along the way created the path to justice (About the Kindness of Color)."

I was moved by what I had learned through this presentation and left feeling more motivated to fight against laws restricting citizenship and land ownership, as well as segregation of schools and book bans.

Our pilgrimage ended with a banquet and keynote by Williams, who, together with Creative Director Sunyoung Lee, co-created a project entitled "Ireicho," a sacred book that not only addresses the historic erasure of the incarceration camps but also brings visibility to the 125,000 persons of Japanese ancestry who were incarcerated at that time by listing out their full name.

As I reflect back on my time

attending this year's pilgrimage, I harbor an overwhelming sense of appreciation. The past five years have allowed me to connect and learn from inspiring advocates, and through them, learn the importance of solidarity, intersectionality, community care and healing.

I owe a debt of gratitude to every teacher I have had in this space, including all those whom I met at this year's pilgrimage. It is not lost on me how incredibly privileged I was to attend a pilgrimage whereby I got to stand on the very land that was once shared between the members of the CRIT and incarcerated Japanese Americans.

It was a powerful experience that served more or less as a culmination of everything that I have worked on thus far, starting with my work on archiving the works and letters of celebrated artist Rose Niguma, an Oregonian who was incarcerated at Minidoka. It is because of that experience that I feel as strongly as I do in continuing this work.

I am once again thankful to everyone who made this experience possible for me, and to my colleague and best friend Matt, with whom I underwent this enriching experience.

*Bridget Keaveney is based in JACL's Washington, D.C., office.*

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