The Smithsonian brings to light a new chapter in the DOR story.

Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History hosted the annual Day of Remembrance with the FDR Presidential Library and JACL in Washington, D.C. Pictured (from left) are Minister and Head of Chancery Masaru Sato, Embassy of Japan in the USA; Dr. Anthea M. Hartig, Elizabeth MacMillan director, National Museum of American History; William Harris, director, Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum; Perrin Ireland, artist and biologist and great-granddaughter of Franklin D. Roosevelt; and David Inoue, executive director, JACL.

PHOTO: JACLYN NASH, COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY
STATEMENT FROM PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN ON THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF JAPANESE AMERICAN INCARCERATION

The following statement was released by the White House on Feb. 19.

On this day in 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which led to the forcible incarceration of over 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent — half of whom were children. It was shameful. Families were separated. Communities were torn apart. People were stripped of their dignity. And the unconstitutional and unconscionable policy was even upheld by the Supreme Court.

In the face of injustice, 33,000 Japanese Americans stepped up and courageously served in the U.S. military during World War II. They demonstrated loyalty and patriotism. We honor those service men and women, as well as the legacy of civil rights leaders like Fred Korematsu, Minoru Yasui, Gordon Hirabayashi and Mitsuye Endo, along with every Japanese American who organized and worked to right a wrong. Their sacrifice, terrorized and incarcerated, and the legacy of civil rights leaders like Fred Korematsu, Minoru Yasui, Gordon Hirabayashi and Mitsuye Endo, along with every Japanese American who organized and worked to right a wrong. Their sacrifice, along with those of other Americans, led to the incarceration of over 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent — half of whom were children. It was shameful. Families were separated. Communities were torn apart. People were stripped of their dignity. And the unconstitutional and unconscionable policy was even upheld by the Supreme Court.

I decided to run for president to restore the Soul of America. To confront racism, xenophobia and hate in all its forms. To strengthen and preserve our democracy.

We remember the tragic legacy of Executive Order 9066 — and the trauma it inflicted — by reaffirming the federal government’s formal apology to Japanese Americans. And by stating unequivocally: “Nidoto Nai Yoni” — to “Let It Not Happen Again.”

Sincerely,

Susan Tsukayama
Oakland, Calif.

LETTER to the EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I recently read the article about “Shōgun” in the Pacific Citizen (Feb. 23-March 7, 2024) and really enjoyed it and learned from it, too. I appreciated the photos with the actor’s names and who they are portraying. We’ve only watched two episodes but can’t wait for Episode 3. Hiroyuki Sanada is terrific, as is every other actor in this show, and wow, it is very well cast. Love the costumes and the panoramic views of Osaka and other areas. As you say, it is a masterpiece for the ages! Now on to the podcast as we wait for the next episode.

Sincerely,

George Johnston
Los Angeles, Calif.
The accomplished musician receives the nation’s highest honor in the folk and traditional arts.

The National Endowment for the Arts recently announced this year’s NEA National Heritage Fellows, recipients of the nation’s highest honor in the folk and traditional arts. This year, kotoist June Kuramoto is one of 10 recipients of this prestigious honor, which includes a $25,000 award.

Since 1982, the NEA has presented this lifetime honor in recognition of individuals whose dedication and artistry contributes to the preservation and growth of the diverse cultural traditions that comprise our nation. Each fellowship recipient will be honored in Washington, D.C., in the fall.

“I am honored to announce the 10 gifted recipients that have been named 2024 NEA National Heritage Fellows,” said NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson. “Through their dedication to and generous stewardship of their traditions and cultures, these artists and culture bearers carry forward their knowledge and pass it on to future generations. They offer us the opportunity to see things from different perspectives, help us make sense of the world and celebrate our rich collective heritage comprised of our diverse lived experiences.”

In addition to Kuramoto, the other recipients are Brit Barrett, tap dancer from Chicago; Fabian Debora, Chicano muralist from Los Angeles; Rosie Flores, rockabilly and country musician from Austin, Texas; Trimble Gilbert (Gwich’in), fiddler from Arctic Village, Alaska; Todd Goins, carousel carver and restorationist from Marion, Ohio; Susan Hudson (Navajo/Dine’), a quilter from Sheep Springs, New Mexico; Pat Johnson, community activist from Pocahontas, Ark.; Zuni Olla Maidens, traditional Zuni dancers and singers from Zuni, N.M.; and Sochietah Ung, Cambodian costume maker and dancer from Washington, D.C.

Submittting the nomination for Kuramoto was Janice Tanaka. Kuramoto was working as an assistant editor at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center on an anthology called “Counterpoint” and periodically worked at the Visual Communications office in Silverlake in the 1970s, where Tanaka was an intern.

According to Tanaka, “No other Sansei woman had been so instrumental in bringing Japanese American culture to a wider audience than June. When the band Hiroshima was formed in the late ’70s, they performed at Maryknoll, and it was life-changing for me to see a Sansei woman play jazz on the koto. When I learned about her Crenshaw roots, I had found someone I could identify with. Soon, I was taking koto lessons from June at her home in Boyle Heights. After her long career on the road with Hiroshima, it was time to recognize her for her achievements as an individual artist and her dedication to our community.”

Kuramoto found out about the award through a call from her congressional representative, Judy Chu (D-California). “When I heard from Representative Chu, I was speechless. No words could express the gratitude I have for this great honor, and I want to thank all the people involved in making this happen,” said Kuramoto.

Support letters for her nomination came from community leaders Patri-
**ALASKA JACL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 2024**

By Alaska JACL Chapter

The JACL Alaska chapter used a grant from the JACL Legacy Fund to sponsor Day of Remembrance programs at the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and Alaska Pacific University on Feb. 18 and 19, respectively, to reach as broad and diverse an audience as possible, in person in Anchorage and online through-out Alaska and beyond.

The programs featured poet and author Dr. Lawrence Matsuda. Matsuda shared his story of being born in the Minidoka concentration camp during World War II and his family’s later struggles upon returning to Seattle following the war to pick up their lives and move forward. Reading poetry from his two books, “A Cold Wind From Idaho” and “Shapeshifter,” he reflected on men-ce hes personally affected by the presentation included those in earlier times, as well as those in person in Anchorage and online through-out Alaska and beyond. The programs featured poet and author Dr. Lawrence Matsuda. Matsuda shared his story of being born in the Minidoka concentration camp during World War II and his family’s later struggles upon return-ing to Seattle following the war to pick up their lives and move forward. Reading poetry from his two books, “A Cold Wind From Idaho” and “Shapeshifter,” he reflected on the experiences and feelings from camp life. Those present in the audience during the presentation included those personally affected by the Minidoka incarceration experience, as well as those in the general public learning about it for the first time.

Matsuda’s presentations brought together the injustices that happened in the past with what is occurring today, noting that the reason for the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII was racism, propaganda, and failed leadership.

In addition, Matsuda reminded the audience that dictators and tyrants love by-standers, and he challenged the audience to act by making a political contribution, running for office, sending a letter to the editor, marching in a protest or contributing to social justice organizations—just do it, and do it now, he emphasized.

To listen to a podcast of Dr. Matsuda’s presentation, visit [https://anchorage_ja_clu.buzzsprout.com](https://anchorage_ja_clu.buzzsprout.com).

**Matsumoto Artwork Featured on Billboards for DOR 2024**

Billboards in several West Coast cities remember the injustice inflicted upon Japanese Americans during WWII.

Bob Matsumoto, a veteran advertising creative director who was forcibly incarcerated along with his family in Manzanar during WWII, has created commemorative artwork that was featured on billboards in several West Coast cities with large Japanese American communities, among them Los Angeles and Sacramento.

The late Japanese American photographer Toyo Miyatake took the underlying photo of his fellow internees when he was held at Manzanar; Matsumoto is seated seventh from the left in the front row, with his immediate family standing directly behind him. Matsumoto, now 86, grew up in Sacramento and was 4 years old when EO 9066 was issued. He went on to serve in the U.S. Navy and became an award-winning Madison Avenue advertising creative director and teacher.

In 2017, he created “Remembrance/Barbed Wire,” an artwork that features a stark image of red, white and blue barbed wire against a black background, honoring the Japanese Americans who were forcibly incarcerated during WWII. At the time of its creation, Matsumoto said, “I created this image to honor the steadfast loyalty of Japanese Americans to America, even though we were interned by our own government. It’s a symbol of the loss of freedom and dignity we suffered and a bold reminder of the history we can never forget.”

Today, Matsumoto is devoting his creative skills to combat hate in America with images that speak to all groups and generations.

Matsumoto’s design is available to purchase as a T-shirt or poster at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles or online at [www.barbedwireicon.com](http://www.barbedwireicon.com).

**IDaho Governor Proclaims Day of Remembrance**

At the governor’s office, Idaho Gov. Brad Little proclaimed Feb. 19 a Day of Remembrance. Attendees at the ceremony included survivors from Tule Lake and Minidoka, as well as Intermountain District Council Gov. Lisa Olsen, Boise Mayor Lauren McLean, U.S. Attorney Josh Hurwit, members of the Boise Police Department, National Park Service and Friends of Minidoka, Honorary Consul of Japan in Idaho Ed Klopfenstein and members of the Boise Valley and Snake River JACL chapters.

This gathering marked the 22nd year that the Idaho state-house, in conjunction with the Boise Valley JACL, has hosted this ceremony. It continues to be the longest-running statehouse Day of Remem-brance ceremony in the na-tion and the only one that has been continuously presided over by the state’s governor.

— Robert Hirai, President, Boise Valley JACL

**JACL Cincinnati Remembers DOR**

The Cincinnati JACL held its first DOR program on Feb. 18.

Cincinnati chapter of the JACL held its first Day of Remem-brance Commemoration on Feb. 18 at Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati. The program combined the 80th anniversary of Japanese Americans coming out of various con-centration camps to settle in Cincinnati at the conclusion of World War II after being incarcerated following the issuance of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on Feb. 19, 1942.

The program featured a PowerPoint presentation on EO 9066 by Gordon Yoshiakawa, who remembered how his family was uprooted from Marysville, Calif., and forcibly placed in Tule Lake, then in Topaz, Utah. The family later settled in Cincinnati.

In addition, Shinnji Sato spoke about what is happening in Gaza now and urged JACL to support Palestinians who are suffering from Israeli attacks.

He talked about his close childhood friends who are Palestinian Americans and their anguish with the current overseas situation.

Don Hayashi, president of the Dayton chapter of the JACL, was in attendance, and he suggested to Sato that he reach out to the Midwest District Council to voice his concerns.

**'Youth Activism: Building Community’**

By Naoko Fujii, San Jose JACL

The San Jose Nihonmachi Outreach Committee held its 44th annual Day of Remembrance on Feb. 18. More than 200 attendees participated in this year’s program, titled, “Youth Activism: Building Community,” which highlighted the redress and reparations movement and encouraged youth to become active in their communities.

University of California, Berkeley, and San Jose State University student groups were well-represented.

Featured speaker Nina Chuang, former SJSU Associated Students president and San Jose JACL youth member, shared her experience as a leader of a student-led movement that convinced SJSU to acknowledge and make an official apology for its role in the execution of Executive Order 9066.

SJSU served as a processing center for 2,487 Japanese Americans, including 125 SJSU students, before they were sent to concentration camps during World War II. Chuang recounted that during that time, university leaders showed intolerance to any resistance and criticism to the order. She was inspired by the story of 1942 Student Body President Don True, who waved goodbye to SJUSA Japanese American students as they boarded buses on their way to concentration camps. This story inspired her as president to lead the student-led project that resulted in a SJUSA resolution and established an annual Day of Remembrance.

Dr. Yvonne Kwan, associate professor of Asian American Studies and coordinator of Asian American Studies at SJUSA, spoke about her long journey to establish an Asian American Studies major, which will be launched in fall 2024. Kwan also leads a County of Santa Clara-funded project titled “AAPI Perspectives, Activism and Oral History,” which is recording oral histories of influential Japanese Americans. The project is set to launch publicly in June 2024 in collaboration with the Japanese American Museum of San Jose.

Speakers emphasized the urgency of activism. Samir Laymoun of the Pale-stinian Heritage Committee described the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, urging global intervention.

Jordan Tachibana, congressional aide to U.S. Representative Ro Khanna, presented a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition to No Nakayama, NOC chair, and led the candlelight procession around Japantown. And Avery Teruko Wong and Evelyn Zhang, high school interns, staffed the informational table and presented their Google Earth Social Justice Tour of San Jose Japantown.

**San Jose JACL youth members (from left) Nina Chuang, Avery Teruko Wong, Evelyn Zhang and Jordan Tachibana**

**PHOTO: COURTESY OF SAN JOSE JACL**

**Matsumoto lead the candlelight procession around Japantown.**

**PHOTO: COURTESY OF SAN JOSE JACL**

**Michael Sera and Jordan Tachibana lead the candlelight procession around Japantown.**

**PHOTO: ALFRED LEUNG OF PRO BONO PHOTOGRAPHY**
2024 L.A. DAY OF REMEMBRANCE REFUTES SHAME, BLAME

Tule Lake descendants, Fair Play Committee member relay words, deeds of resistance.

By George Toshio Johnston,
Senior Editor

W hat Richard Katsuda told the capacity crowd in Los Angeles’ Japanese American National Museum main hall encapsulated the several Day of Remembrance events taking place in mid-February. It was a simple message of purpose applicable to all DOR ceremonies: to “remember that over 125,000 Japanese Americans were imprisoned” by their government as a result of an American president’s executive order dated Feb. 19, 1942.

But at this DOR gathering, the focus was on the grievances suffered by those internees who resisted — and as a result suffered from the federal government’s brutish tactics to quell the dissent caused by the abrogation of their rights.

Katsuda’s remark was made on Feb. 17 during the Stories of Resistance portion of the program, before introducing four speakers whose addresses fit the 2024 DOR’s theme: “Rooted in Resistance: Fighting for Justice During WWII.” The speakers were Dr. Takashi Hoshizaki, one of the 63 members of the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee; Kyoko Nancy Oda (via a recorded video), who was born in the Tule Lake Segregation Center — formerly the Tule Lake WRA Center — and whose Kibei-Nisei father, Tatsuo Inouye, was placed in the camp’s stockade; Diana Tsuchida, granddaughter of Kibei-Nisei Tamotsu “Tom” Tsuchida, who was originally incarcerated at the Topaz WRA Center and later removed to Tule Lake; and Soji Kashiwagi, son of playwright Hiroshi Kashiwagi, described by Katsuda as the “poet laureate of Tule Lake.”

The four speakers were preceded by a recording of historian Yuji Ichioka testifying at a Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of雅系 Americans (CWRIC) hearing. Due to a technical malfunction, however, only the audio portion of the recording was not shown. (The visual portion of Ichioka speaking was added in postproduction to the streaming YouTube video of the event.)

Hoshizaki, 100, noted the stance of the FPC, which he said was “give to us our civil rights, and we will gladly serve” in the U.S. military, which would create complications for those men of draft age. Regarding the infamous loyalty questionnaire that was circulated through the WRA camps, he said he answered “yes” to question 27 and “no” to question 28, which made him a “yes and a no boy.” Along with the other resisters, he was sentenced to three years in a federal penitentiary, but he was released after serving two years in prison at McNeil Island in Puget Sound.

After President Truman pardoned the resisters, Hoshizaki attended Los Angeles City College and the University of California, Los Angeles. Noting how he was still young enough to serve in the Armed Forces and having received his second draft notice in spring 1953, he said there were about six others among the Heart Mountain resisters who would eventually serve in the Army.

“Now that we had our civil rights back and we were released from the concentration camp, we gladly served,” Hoshizaki said. He went on to serve for two years as a medic at Fort Hood in Texas, which made him eligible for the GI Bill, which he used to continue his studies at UCLA.

Speaking via a recorded video, Oda spoke of her father, Tatsuo Inouye, who had demonstrated judo at the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. A storekeeper in L.A.’s Boyle Heights area when Executive Order 9066 went into effect, he opened his own employment agency and living a relatively simple life in Nihonmachi.” That changed with WWII.

Originally incarcerated at Utah’s Topaz WRA Center, Tamotsu Tsuchida would answer “no” to 27 and 28 of the loyalty questionnaire — which put him on the short list for Tule Lake. But before that happened, Tsuchida said her grandfather fought a fellow Topaz resident over an anonymous op-ed that appeared in the Topaz Times camp newspaper that he thought was directed at him. The altercation detoured him to the citizen isolation center in Leupp, Ariz., before rejoining his family at Tule Lake.

Tamotsu Tsuchida was on the verge of renouncing his and his wife’s U.S. citizenship and moving to Japan until a friend persuaded him that going to a war-torn, hungry, defeated and atom-bombed Japan wasn’t the best course of action.

In 1981, he was able to testify at a CWRC hearing. His granddaughter quoted him as saying, translated from Japanese, “He said that the U.S. government must have known that in a postwar era, there would one day be a political reckoning about the government’s wartime actions. It was obvious that if a particular ethnic group was targeted, the government would need to take responsibility for such discriminatory action and pay restitution.”

Speaking at the 2024 Day of Remembrance (from left) were Takashi Hoshizaki, Kyoko Nancy Oda (via recorded video), Diana Tsuchida and Soji Kashiwagi. PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIJO JOHNSTON

June Ruriko Tearstan, representing Camp Amache, aka the Granada War Relocation Center, is accompanied by a Boy Scout banner bearer from Troop 738 on Feb. 17 in Little Tokyo at the 2024 Day of Remembrance.

(From left) Hank Oga represents Rohwer, Esther Taira represents Topaz, Richard Murakami represents Tule Lake, Ed Nakamura represents the 100th/442nd/MIS and Dan Mayeda represents Tuna Canyon.

> See L.A. on page 8
By Patti Hirahara, Contributor

Each year, many organizations and institutions offer Day of Remembrance observances across the country to remind us of the impact of the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on Feb. 19, 1942, which led to the wrongful incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II, 82 years ago. In Washington, D.C., the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History hosted a special program to hear about the Executive Order from a new perspective.

“The Day of Remembrance program is a powerful example of the Smithsonian’s ability to help the nation grapple with its complex history,” said Lonnie Bunch, secretary ofting history, our mission is to empower people with the broadest possible audience and continue the important work of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History, a place that looks to our past to inspire a better shared future, is the Memory and the Nation: Day of Remembrance program with the Smithsonian,” said Lonnie Bunch, secretary of the Smithsonian. “Our National Museum of American History, a place that looks to our past to inspire a better shared future, is the Memory and the Nation: Day of Remembrance program with the Smithsonian.”

In her remarks, Hartig stated, “At the Smithsonian, our mission is to empower people to create a just and compassionate future by exploring, preserving and sharing the complexity of our past. We see public history as an important educational and civic component of a democratic society. Learning history helps people understand that today’s world is not inevitable, but the result of a myriad of choices and actions made by individuals and communities.

“In this moment of global intersecting crises, we all experience or are affected by some level of grief, loss and fear,” she continued. “The Smithsonian’s efforts to ‘explore the legacy of race and racism in the United States’ by reckoning with racism and acknowledging differing views can bring about a reconciliation. Panel discussions like today’s that bring together differing viewpoints can be incredibly powerful and even healing. “Especially here, it is important to have open dialogue with the Japanese American community, with whom we have included in this program for close to 20 years. Folding in the FDR Library and Museum and descendants of both the Roosevelts, great-granddaughter of Franklin D. Roosevelt Perrin Ireland, and internees and their descendants into that conversation helps us to transform our shared understanding of the past and explore its complexities and lived experiences. We remain committed to sharing this with Smithsonian audiences for generations to come,” Hartig concluded.

In his welcome remarks, William Harris, director of the FDR Presidential Library and Museum, said, “To jointly host this Day of Remembrance program with the Smithsonian was an important part of our ongoing efforts to learn, listen and grow as an institution. We remain committed to sharing this history with the broadest possible audience and demonstrating every day that we will do our part to ensure that this story is never forgotten.”

The FDR Library’s mission is to foster a deeper understanding of the lives and times of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt and their continuing impact on contemporary life, as well as share history in a forthright manner and provide opportunities for the public to explore the individuals and actions or inactions of the president and first lady, administration figures and close associates. Added Harris: “Over a decade ago, we committed the library to addressing Japanese American incarceration in this manner. We do this through permanent and temporary exhibits, as well as education and public programming. The FDR Library cannot change the devastating reality of incarceration. We can, however, work to ensure that with the recent change in terminology from internment to incarceration, the FDR Presidential Library acknowledges this new reference and when changes are made in the future, we will work to make information consistent in this regard.”

Also present at the event was FDR’s great-granddaughter, Perrin Ireland. “I was extremely grateful, on behalf of my family, to be included in the ongoing act of remembering, understanding, honoring and mourning this tragedy, which should never have happened. I want to share my appreciation for the grace that was extended to us and to the FDR Library that we got to be here to have conversations about healing,” she said.

“The event is important because we must keep this conversation alive as time passes since the incarceration,” Ireland continued. “Whether it is the incarceration exhibit that the library hosted several years ago or the honoring of Fred Korematsu posthumously through our Four Freedoms Awards Freedom Medal in 2020, we, the family, know we cannot go back and change the past, but we are working to participate deeply in collective healing, awareness and ongoing conversation about the generational trauma the incarceration event imposed on Japanese Americans.”

The 2024 DOR program was supported by the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum and the Roosevelt Institute, the Japanese American Citizens League (national and Washington, D.C., chapter), Patti Hirahara, Nori Uyematsu and the C. V. Starr Endowment for Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Studies, administered by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center. Erika Moritsugu, who was appointed by President Joe Biden in April 2021 as deputy assistant to the president of the United States and Asian American and Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander senior liaison, participated in the event.
in the program to share her personal reflections and deliver President Biden's statement commemorating this year's Day of Remembrance.

In addition, the JACL D.C. chapter and JACL National prepared a special handout for the FDR Presidential Library to show the FDR Presidential Library's commitment to preserving our history, including Edson (co-president) and Lisa Mori, Drs. Brad and Lori Sakaguchi (co-tips), Lauren Iwamiya (youth co-chair), Julie Abo (board member), Janice Faden (board member), Noriko Sanefuji (board member), Tom Kurihara (veteran and Heart Mountain member), Jennifer L. Jones, curator, Division of Political and Military History at the National Museum of American History, and Jennifer Hill, collections manager, Brigham City Museum. Uyematsu's story has inspired the Brigham City Museum to create its first Japanese pioneer exhibit, which will open in February 2025.

The program’s panel discussion included Harris, Ireland and Dr. Madeline Hsu, professor of History and director of the Center for Global Mitigation Studies at the University of Maryland. A screening of Ireland’s animated short “Executive Order 9066 — Japanese American Internment,” which she produced, created and illustrated, was also shown; it is one of the most popular videos on the FDR Library’s YouTube site.

In 2012, on the 70th anniversary of the signing of EO 9066, Dr. Odo moderated the Smithsonian’s Day of Remembrance program, which featured a presentation by Secretary of Veterans Affairs Gen. Eric Shinseki.

You explained, “Dr. Odo highlighted a paradox about the telling and sharing of stories of Japanese Americans during World War II — across the generations. Dr. Odo explained that many older Japanese Americans keep their narratives to themselves because they feel ‘it is not for them to tell.’

Salt Lake City JACL member Nori Uyematsu, 93, (center) donates his post-Japanese American Korean War veterans memorabilia to the Smithsonian. Witnessing the donation are (from left) Uyematsu’s relatives Janet Fujikawa, Bill Roberts and Melanie Kito; Patti Hirahara (who served as an inspiration for this year’s DOR event); Alana Blumenthal, director, Brigham City Museum in Brigham City, Utah; Jennifer L. Jones, curator, Division of Political and Military History at the National Museum of American History; and Jennifer Hill, collections manager, Brigham City Museum. Uyematsu’s story has inspired the Brigham City Museum to create its first Japanese pioneer exhibit, which will open in February 2025. It is also working with the FDR Library.

The panel watches the animated short “Executive Order 9066 — Japanese American Internment” by Perrin Ireland, which she personally illustrated and produced for the FDR Presidential Library. The YouTube video had 130,000 views before the program and now an additional 1,000 following the event.

PHOTO: PATTI HIRARHARA

The JACL Executive Director David Inoue offered reflections and delivered President Biden's statement to the common values of dignity and justice. It compels us to pursue peace, part-nership and greater understanding — between individuals, communities and nations. I am grateful to be here with all of you in service of that mission, guided by the memory of those who have come before us and whose legacy we honor.”

The DOR program brought many other notable individuals to the event. Following are some of their comments.

Eric Saul, historian and museum director

“It was a very touching presentation. In my 45 years in covering this subject, what struck me the most was having two institutions discuss this topic and stating that an injustice had been done during the Japanese American incarceration during WWII. It made me cry to know what I had said 45 years ago so resonates today.”

Paul Richter, former Los Angeles Times Washington correspondent and Japanese American history researcher

“The event provided a moving description of how the dark days of incarceration began, with new insight into the role of President Roosevelt and the other American officials involved in the decision.”

Howard S. High, president, Japanese American Veterans Assn.

“I appreciated having panelists like William A. Harris, Perrin Ireland and Madeline Y. Hsu from different professional backgrounds. The multifaceted insights they brought to the discussion helped enhance public understanding and engagement by offering a model for how historical discussions can inform and shape our present and future.”

The JACL D.C. chapter and JACL National had a large contingent of about 30 people in attendance, including Edison (co-president) and Lisa Mori, Drs. Brad and Lori Sakaguchi (co-tips), Lauren Iwamiya (youth co-chair), Julie Abo (board member), Janice Faden (board member), Noriko Sanefuji (board member), Tom Kurihara (veteran and Heart Mountain survivor), Paul and Lou Igasaki, Warren and Arlene Minami, Marsha Watanabe, Cheyenne Cheng (JACL staff), Jack Shimabukuro (Daniel K. Inouye fellow) and Brent Seto (Mike M. Masaoka fellow).
L.A. » continued from page 5

Serving as the caboose of the four speakers was Kashiwagi, wearing a hat once worn by his late father in the 1950s as a UCLA student, a hat that would make him appear “eccentric and weird enough so that no other Nisei on campus would ever bother talking to him.”

The reason: It was a way to avoid the loaded question Nisei of that time would inevitably ask each other: “Which camp were you in?” The hat tactic worked, and he didn’t have to ask each other: “Which camp were you in?”

It was a topic that wasn’t discussed in the Kashiwagi household. “I remember my dad was one of the few Nisei in San Francisco who was actually out there talking about camp — but not Tule Lake or being a no-no. Not in public. Not at home. It was one of those dark family secrets locked away in a closet, never to be opened,” Soji Kashiwagi said, even as he wondered why his father wasn’t a member of the 100th/442nd. “I didn’t ask, and he didn’t wonder why his father wasn’t a member of the 100th/442nd. ‘I am always loyal to America. I don’t need to prove it to you or anyone else.’ And there it was — the truth…”

Soji Kashiwagi began to better understand his father after attending a Tule Lake pilgrimage, when he began to see his father in a new light. “My dad said he was always loyal to America and would have proudly fought for his country, if his country released him from camp and gave them his rights and freedom back. ‘How dare you put me in camp and then question my loyalty,’ he said. ‘I am already a loyal American. I don’t have to prove it to you or anyone else.’ And there it was — the truth…”

The program began with Michael Murata singing and accompanying on keyboard his original composition, “Okagesama De,” followed by remarks from JANM CEO and President Ann Burroughs and L.A. DOR Committee member and JACL Education Programs Manager Matthew Weisbly.

DOR Committee members Nancy Takayama and Glen Kitayama then announced the camp roll call, in which a procession mostly comprised of surviving Japanese American incarcerees or descendants of incarcerees made their way to the front of the stage, accompanied by a Boy Scout from Troops 242, 365, 728 or 764, or a Girl Scout from Troop 12135, each bearing an affiliated banner.

Participating in the procession were:
- June Ruiriko Taseant, Amache Colo. (WRA)
- Carrie Morita (descendant of a Gila River survivor), Gila River, Ariz. (WRA)
- Hal Keimi, Heart Mountain, Wyo. (WRA)
- Kanji Sahara, Jerome, Ark. (WRA)
- Pat Sakamoto, Manzanar Calif. (WRA)
- Kiyo Fukumoto, Minidoka, Idaho (WRA)
- Grace Oga, Poston, Ariz. (WRA)
- Hank Oga, Rowher Ar. (WRA)
- Esther Taira, Topaz, Utah (WRA)
- Richard Murakami, Tule Lake, Calif. (WRA)
- Ed Nakamura (100th/442nd/MIS)
- Daniel Mayeda (descendant of a Tuna Canyon survivor), Tuna Canyon Detention Station (DOJ)
- June Ruriko Uyematsu, Utah (WRA)
- Kiyo Oga, Poston, Ariz. (WRA)
- Kanji Sahara, Jerome, Ark. (WRA)
- Hal Keimi, Heart Mountain, Wyo. (WRA)
- Pat Sakamoto, Manzanar Calif. (WRA)
- Kiyo Fukumoto, Minidoka, Idaho (WRA)
- Grace Oga, Poston, Ariz. (WRA)
- Hank Oga, Rowher Ar. (WRA)
- Esther Taira, Topaz, Utah (WRA)
- Richard Murakami, Tule Lake, Calif. (WRA)
- Ed Nakamura (100th/442nd/MIS)
- Daniel Mayeda (descendant of a Tuna Canyon survivor), Tuna Canyon Detention Station (DOJ)

Murata returned to the stage with Miko Tokumaru to perform “Don’t Fence Me In,” which was popular during the time of incarceration. Joy Yamaguchi and Jan Tokumaru followed with the In Memoriam portion of the program, honoring recently deceased people who, as Tokumaru put it, “contributed uniquely to highlighting and preserving our community and this history.”

Those commemorated were Fred Bradford, Karen Ito Edgerton, Alan Furutani, Itsuki Charles Iwata, Mary Karasawa, Bob Moriguchi, Martha Nakagawa, Alan Nishio, Wilbur Sato, Cathy Tanaka, Minoru Tonai, Rosalind Uno, Amy Uyematsu, Mike Watanabe and Gayle Hane Wong.

Tonai, Nakagawa, Nishio and Uyematsu each received additional accolades from, respectively, John Tonai, son of Min Tonai; author Naomi Hirahara; Evan Lockwood, grandson of Alan Nishio; and Carrie Morita, who paid tribute to Uyematsu by reading excerpts from one of her books, “36 Views of Manzanar.”

Closing remarks were from DOR Committee member and JANM public programs associate Elizabeth Morikawa.

(Note: The video of the 2024 Los Angeles Day of Remembrance may be viewed at tinyurl.com/2zxzszzt. The program can be viewed at tinyurl.com/4ed2m562.)

Left to right photos:
- JANM President and CEO Ann Burroughs speaks at the Feb. 17 Day of Remembrance in Little Tokyo.
- JACL Education Programs Manager and Los Angeles DOR Committee member Matthew Weisbly addresses the audience.

2024 Los Angeles DOR Committee members Nancy Takayama, representing JACL, and Glen Kitayama, representing the Manzanar Committee, address the audience at the Japanese American National Museum.
Three Asian Americans have been tapped recently for leadership roles at the Los Angeles Times, the Los Angeles Police Department and Netflix. The positions were, respectively, interim executive editor, interim police chief and head of film.

In late January, L.A. Times Executive Chairman Patrick Soon-Shiong announced that he had tapped editorial page editor Terry Tang to serve as interim executive editor. The announcement came in the aftermath of the Jan. 9 resignation of the paper’s executive editor, Kevin Merida, who joined the L.A. Times in June 2021. One of Tang’s first acts was the Jan. 30 appointment of Hector Becerra as the paper’s managing editor.

The LAPD, meantime, on Feb. 7 announced that Assistant Chief Dominic H. Choi had been appointed to serve as interim chief, effective March 1, in the aftermath of Chief Michel Moore’s Jan. 12 announcement that he would retire in February. Moore’s Jan. 12 announcement came in the aftermath of Chief Dominic H. Choi had been appointed to serve as interim chief, effective March 1, in the aftermath of Chief Michel Moore’s Jan. 12 announcement that he would retire in February.

In collaboration with Searchlight Pictures, in 2023, the Times acquired the short documentary film “The Last Repair Shop,” which was nominated for an Academy Award. “It is a glorious film. If you get a chance, just go on the L.A. Times website and watch it,” Tang said.

Source: "Dominic Choi is actually a reflection of that change for the city of Los Angeles, as well as the diversity in ranks of the LAPD. And I’m very, very happy and proud to have a part of that change," said Hara. Prior to his appointment in his new capacity at Netflix, Lin’s résumé includes stints at Warner Bros. Pictures, where he was the senior vp of production. Born to Taiwanese immigrants, the filmmaker also founded Rideback Prods., which was behind Netflix’s live-action remake of “Avatar: The Last Airbender” and “The Two Popes.” Among Lin’s other producing credits are: “Death Note,” “It” and “The Lego Movie.”

By P.C. Staff

ASIAN AMERICANS TAPPED TO LEAD

L.A. Times, LAPD, Netflix name Tang, Choi, Lin for top spots.

Dominic Choi

PHOTO: COURTESY OF LAPD

Terry Tang

PHOTO: COURTESY OF DEARATANHA/LOS ANGELES TIMES

JANM » continued from page 3

Media Enterprise at Arizona State University.
Kent Tsukamoto is the retired founding partner of Accuity LLP. Certified Public Accountants (Accuity), a Hawai‘i-based firm that is the successor to the Honolulu Office of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC).
HONORARY BOARD

REPUBLICAN PRESENTED TO THE 28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF REP. JUDY CHU

MEMORIAL LA CORONADO

The FDR Presidential Library and Museum, which is part of the National Archives, created a special handout for the event to explain what the FDR Presidential Library and Museum has done to educate the public about the Japanese American incarceration.

March 8-21, 2024

To view this year’s Smithsonian Day of Remembrance program, please check the National Museum of American History’s website for an online link.

Thank You for Your JACL Membership!

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

Thank you! – JACL Membership Department

Not a member? Join us today!
Visit jacl.org/member or contact us at mb@jacl.org
California Cherry Blossom Festival 2023
San Francisco, CA
April 13-14 and April 20-21
San Francisco Japantown
Sutter Street
Price: Free

This festival is one of California’s most prominent celebrations of Asian traditions and the largest Cherry Blossom Festival on the West Coast. All are welcome to join in the festivities as the city celebrates Japanese and Japanese American culture. There will be food, entertainment, exhibits, and much more to enjoy!


Theater: ‘Larry the Musical: An American Journey’
San Francisco, CA
March 16-17, April 14
Brava Main Stage
2781 24th St.
Price: Ticket Prices Vary

This musical pays homage to Larry Itliong’s remarkable legacy as a labor activist in California’s Central Valley.

Info: Visit https://www.brava.org/all-events/larrythemusical.

Japanese Heritage Night With the San Francisco Giants
San Francisco, CA
May 17; 7:15 p.m.
Oracle Park
24 Willie Mays Plaza
Price: Starting at $32 for JCCNC Members

Join the JCCNC at Japanese Heritage Night as the San Francisco Giants take on the Colorado Rockies. This year’s special event giveaway is an exclusive Giants Cherry Blossom Jersey, which will be available with your electronic ticket. The evening will also feature special pregame entertainment that will highlight local cultural performances.


PSW
‘Giant Robot Biennale 5’
Los Angeles, CA
March 2-Sept. 1
JANM
100 N. Central Ave.
Price: Museum Admission

This recurring art exhibition partnered with Eric Nakamura, founder of Giant Robot, highlights creative works celebrating the ethos of Giant Robot, a staple of Asian American alternative pop culture and an influential brand encompassing pop art, skateboard, comic book, graphic arts and vinyl toy culture.


‘J. T. Sata: Immigrant Modernist’
Los Angeles, CA
March 15-Sept. 1
JANM
100 N. Central Ave.
Price: Museum Admission

James Tadano Sata (1896-1975) created some of the most adventurous photographs made in America in the 1920s and ’30s, having taken photos in and around Little Tokyo, at the sea and in the mountains of Southern California. At the onset of WWII, he was forced to abandon photography and instead made drawings and paintings about life in the camps.


PNW
Chinese Characters Across Asia: Continuity and Transformation in Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese Seattle, WA
April 3; 7-8:30 p.m. In-Person and Zoom Livestream
University of Washington
Kane Hall 210
Price: Free; Reservation Required

Professor Zev Handel will explain how the building blocks of the Chinese script were adapted to represent the words and sounds of Japanese via their transformation into the scripts known as kanji and kana and why it is the only one of these languages that still uses Chinese characters in its writing.


‘Craft, Community and Care: The Art and Legacy of Bob Shimabukuro’
Portland, OR
Thru April 14
Japanese American Museum of Oregon
411 N.W. Flanders St. (entrance on Fourth Avenue)
Price: Museum Admission

This exhibit explores the life of Okinawan American artist, artist and writer Bob Shimabukuro, who was instrumental in the Pacific Northwest’s Japanese American redress movement, as well as an acclaimed woodworker and furniture maker. He also served as editor/columnist for the Pacific Citizen and the International Examiner in Seattle.


New Years All Year Round: Theater, Dance and Sound
Seattle, WA
Thru January 2025
Wing Luke Museum
Uwajimaya Kidspace Gallery
719 S. King St.
Price: Museum Admission

The new year is a great time for reflecting, celebrating and spending time with family. Lion dancers move to the sound of drums and firecrackers. Families gather around the table to enjoy a delectable feast. Blessings in the new year comes in many forms.


MDC
‘Chinese Cuisine in America: Stories, Struggles & Successes’
Chicago, IL
Chinese American Museum
238 W. 23rd St.
Price: Museum Entry

This exhibit highlights the struggles, resiliency and entrepreneurial spirit of Chinese Americans in America, tying in its immigration history to the popularization of Chinese cuisine, from chop suey to dim sum to spicy hotpot.


Japanese American Veterans Memorial Program
Minneapolis, MN
May 16; 10-11 a.m.
Fort Snellling National Cemetery
7601 34th Ave. S
Save the date for this important event that will honor more than 100 local Japanese American veterans. Volunteers are needed for various tasks in preparation for the event.

Info: For more information, email chiralatudelas@tcjwl.org.

47th Utah Asian Festival 2024
Salt Lake City, UT
June 6-8 p.m.
Utah State Fairpark
1055 W. North Temple
Price: Free

This annual festival demonstrates unity in the Asian community and showcases a wealth of traditions, including performances, exhibits and food. Don’t miss this event that features something for the entire family to enjoy.

Info: Visit https://utahasianfestival.org/

‘Pictures of Belonging: Miki Hayakawa, Hisako Hibi and Miné Okubo’
Salt Lake City, UT
Thru June 30
Utah Museum of Fine Arts
Marcia and John Price Museum Building
410 Campus Center Dr.
This exhibit reveals a broader picture of the American experience through artwork and life stories of three Japanese American women from the pre-WWII generation, seen together for the first time.


Kalama, WA
March 20-April 14
Tidal Basin
Price: Various Event Ticket Prices

What began as a friendship gift of cherry blossom trees from Japan in 1912 at the Tidal Basin now spans four weeks as this celebrated springtime event features a Cherry Blossom Parade, art installations, fashion show, kite festival, cultural events and much more!

Info: Visit nationalcherryblossom festival.org

Virtual Cooking Class: Tonkatsu, Tofu Tonkatsu and Katsu Sando
March 23; 5 p.m.

Instruction Debra Samuels will lead participants through this class to make one of the most popular dishes in Japan today: tonkatsu. Participants will make the traditional fried pork cutlet, discover how tofu can be a healthy substitute and make a katsu sando.

An ingredient list will be provided before the class.


Concert: Bruce Liu
Boston, MA
March 23; 8 p.m.
Jordan Hall
50 Gainsborough St.
Price: Ticket Prices Vary

Chinese pianist Bruce Liu makes his Boston debut with a program that spans the centuries. Liu will demonstrate the versatility and virtuosity that will make him a must-see artist for decades to come. This concert is presented by Celebrity Series of Boston.


‘Pictures of Belonging: Miki Hayakawa, Hisako Hibi and Miné Okubo’
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Thru June 30
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MEMORIAM

Conductor Seiji Ozawa, who led the Boston Symphony Orchestra, dies at age 88.

Tokyo (AP) — Seiji Ozawa, the Japanese conductor who amazed audiences with the light physicality of his performances during three decades at the helm of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, has died, his management office said. He was 88.

The internationally acclaimed maestro, with his trademark mop of salt-and-pepper hair, led the BSO from 1973-2002, longer than any other conductor in the orchestra’s history. From 2002-10, he was the music director of the Vienna State Opera.

He died of heart failure at his home in Tokyo, according to his office, Veroza Japan.

He remained active in his later years, particularly in his native land. He was the artistic director and founder of the Seiji Ozawa Matsumoto Festival, a music and opera festival in Japan. He and the Saito Kinen Orchestra, which he co-founded in 1984, won the Grammy for best opera recording in 2016 for Ravel’s “L’Enfant et les Sortileges (The Child and the Spells).”

In 2022, he conducted his Seiji Ozawa Matsumoto Festival for the first time in three years to mark its 30th anniversary. That turned out to be his last public performance.

That year, Ozawa also conducted the Saito Kinen Orchestra to deliver Beethoven’s “Eigend Overture” live to Japanese astronaut Koichi Wakata at the International Space Station. The event was co-organized with the Japan Aerospace and Exploration Agency, just as the world was divided by the coronavirus pandemic.

“Music can link the hearts of people — transcending words, borders, religion and politics. It is my hope that through music, we can be reminded that we are all of the same human race living on the same planet. And that we are united,” Ozawa said in a statement.

Ozawa exerted enormous influence over the BSO during his tenure. He appointed 74 of its 104 musicians, and his celebrity attracted famous performers including Yo-Yo Ma and Itzhak Perlman. He also helped the symphony become the biggest-budget orchestra in the world, with an endowment that grew from less than $10 million in the early 1970s to more than $200 million in 2002.

When Ozawa conducted the Boston orchestra in 2006 — four years after he had left — he received a hero’s welcome with a nearly six-minute ovation.

Ozawa was born Sept. 1, 1935, to Japanese parents in Manchuria, China, while it was under Japanese occupation.

After his family returned to Japan in 1944, he studied music under Hideo Saito, a cellist and conductor credited with popularizing Western music in Japan. Ozawa revered him and formed the Saito Kinen (Saito Memorial) Orchestra in 1964 and eight years later founded the Saito Kinen Festival — renamed the Seiji Ozawa Matsumoto Festival in 2015.

Ozawa first arrived in the United States in 1960 and was quickly hailed by critics as a brilliant young talent. He attended the Tanglewood Music Center and was noticed by Leonard Bernstein, who appointed him assistant conductor of the New York Philharmonic for the 1961-62 season. After his New York debut with the Philharmonic at age 25, the New York Times said “the music came brilliantly alive under his direction.”

He directed various ensembles including the San Francisco Orchestra and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra before beginning his tenure in Boston in 1970.

At the time, there were few nonwhite musicians on the international scene. Ozawa embraced the challenge, and it became his lifelong passion to help Japanese performers demonstrate they could be first-class musicians. In his 1967 book “The Great Conductors,” critic Harold C. Schonberg noted the changing ranks of younger composers that Ozawa and Indian-born Zubin Mehta were the first Asian conductors “to impress one as altogether major talents.”

Ozawa’s management office said his funeral was attended only by close relatives as his family wished to have a quiet farewell.

Arakaki, Ellen Leiko, 91, Gardena, CA, Oct. 21, 2023; she was predeceased by her husband, Eugene; brother, Thomas; she is survived by her children, Darlene (Armando), Brian (Virginia) and Craig (Maria); siblings, Dennis (Karen) and Stan (Ruth); sister-in-law, Doris; gc: 3; ggc: 1.

Edgerton, Karen Ito, 76, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 23, 2023; B.A., M.A., Ph.D., UCLA (anthropology); professor and researcher; UCLA Asian American Studies; she was predeceased by her husband, Robert Edgerton; she is survived by her sister, Robbie Ito (Leilani) Flores; a nephew and a niece.

Hiroshi Tauchi, 94, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Feb. 2. He was a resident of Saratoga, Calif., since 1970.

John was born Hiroshi Saiga in Saihaku in Tottori Prefecture, Japan, on Nov. 19, 1929. In 1950, at the age of 20, he was adopted by his aunt and uncle who were living in Los Angeles and changed his name to Hiroshi John Tauchi. He received his bachelor of science in statistics and accounting in 1955 and his MBA in 1957, both from UCLA.

After graduation, John served as Computer Systems manager for the UCLA Health Science Computing Facility. There, he helped develop and program the BMDP (Bio-Medical Data Package) statistical programs, which was widely utilized in research for over 50 years. He then worked at IBM in statistical programming and computer language development for 28 years, including two overseas assignments in Tokyo. At both UCLA and IBM, he wrote scholarly works and gave scientific presentations that were included in bibliographies for teaching statistics.

John was known for a lifetime of community service and building cultural bridges through his bilingual abilities and love of travel. Soon after arriving in the U.S., he helped build a preschool at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Los Angeles. After moving his family to Saratoga in 1970, he joined the West Valley Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, where he served as president and longstanding board member. He helped found the Daruma Cultural Festival, helped purchase a senior citizen community center, and received an outstanding chapter service award in 1974.

In 1984, John became involved in Saratoga’s Sister City program with Muku-shi, outside of Kyoto, where he volunteered to lead many group trips to Japan, as well as all across the Pacific Rim. John also served as president of the Hakone Foundation board and was named the Rotary Club’s Volunteer of the Year in 1996. His last trip to Japan as a group leader was in 2018 at age 88.

John received the Santa Clara County Asian American Hero Award in 2005, for many years of “time, talent and leadership” to the Saratoga Sister City, Hakone Foundation, Saratoga Rotary, West Valley JACL, Saratoga Chamber of Commerce, Saratoga Taiko and Bamboo Society.

John is survived by his wife of 63 years, Aiko; children, Pamela Tauchi-Nishi (Steven Nishi) of Honolulu, Byron Tauchi of New Orleans, Ryan Nishi, Erin Nishi, Noah Boonin and Emi Boonin.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 30, at 10 a.m. at Hakone Gardens in Saratoga. In lieu of flowers or okoden, donations may be made in Hiroshi John Tauchi’s memory to the Hakone Foundation at https://www.hakone.com/donate.
AARP FOUNDATION OFFERS
FREE TAX-AIDE ASSISTANCE

By JR Fujita

E ach year, many of us scramble to prepare and file our taxes before the dreaded spring deadline. Once submitted, we wait in anticipation for a refund, or we learn with disappointment that we owe more money. But what if there was a way to lessen the stress of tax season?

For more than 50 years, the AARP Foundation has provided free tax assistance through its Tax-Aide Program, which is available to those with low to moderate incomes. Volunteers across the country are trained and IRS-certified annually to ensure they know and understand the latest changes to the tax code. Since 1968, AARP Foundation volunteers have helped more than 78 million taxpayers.

Tax-Aide sites are now open across the country, and appointments are highly recommended or required. To find your nearest Tax-Aide site and make an appointment, visit the online site locator at aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/locations/.

Prior to your appointment, you will want to have all your tax documents in order, including your checking or savings account information for any direct deposits. You will also want to bring any documents for deductions such as your home mortgage, medical expenses, donations (in-kind and monetary), class tuition/fees and supplies, as well as any charitable volunteer work such as nonreimbursed roundtrip mileage and meals (if your volunteer work was during a mealtime). It is also helpful to bring your past tax return(s) for easy reference and comparison.

If you prefer to prepare your own taxes online, you can request help from a volunteer counselor who can guide you through the process remotely, using your own computer.

Tax-Aide also provides taxpayers with access to free software to prepare taxes on their own. Access to free software is limited to those with an AGI (adjusted gross income) of $79,000 or less. You can estimate your AGI by checking the amount on line 11 of your tax return from last year (form 1040 or 1040-SR).

For more than 50 years, the AARP Foundation has provided free tax assistance through its Tax-Aide Program.

PHOTO: AARP

Judge Johnny Gogo received the 2024 Distinguished American Award from the Central California District Council during its Day of Remembrance program on Feb. 10 at the Fresno County Historical Museum. The event also included the CCDC JACL officer installation and featured guest speaker Kerry Yo Nakagawa, director of the Nisei Baseball Research Project. Gogo was honored for his unwavering support of the Japanese American community for his flag-signing project that consists of 48-star American flags that have been signed by survivors of Japanese American concentration camps during World War II. Judge Gogo is pictured with his award (center) with Korean War veterans George Iseri (left) and Bacon Sakatani.

PHOTO: NADINE TAKEUCHI

For additional questions about Tax-Aide, email taxaide@aarp.org or call toll-free (888) 227-7669.

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