



# PACIFIC CITIZEN



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## 'MEMORY AND THE NATION'

### 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, their resilience and their belief that civil liberties and



freedom must be vigorously defended inspire us today. 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.” ■

## 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,

Susan Tsukayama  
Oakland, Calif.

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

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## 2024 SPRING CAMPAIGN

'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



# JUNE KURAMOTO Awarded a National Endowment for the Arts Heritage Fellowship

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 passion 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 Bril 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/Diné), a quilter from Sheep Springs, New Mexico; Pat Johnson, community activist from Pochontas, 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.

Submitting 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 has 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-



June Kuramoto

cia Kinaga, attorney and co-founder of Asian Pacific Islanders With Disabilities of California (APIDC); Rev. Mas Kodani of the Senshin Buddhist Temple; Oakland-based koto teacher Shirley Muramoto; Chris Aihara, former executive director of the JACCC; and Akira Nakano, president and artistic director of Los Angeles Inception Orchestra. Also involved with supporting this award nomination is a group of senior kotoists, Kathy Ikeda, Cindy Oda and Debbie Kubota, as well as Kuramoto's family and friends.

"This award was three years in the making and was long overdue," said Tanaka.

In celebration of this award, Kuramoto's life and career will be the focus of a multimedia "Arigato" event this fall. In addition to this event, Kuramoto and her koto group will preside over a summer koto workshop and reunion for those Southern California Sansei who played koto in the 1980s and '90s.

The workshop has been made possible through grants from Keiro and the Eastside Arts Initiative. The "Arigato" event is supported by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center and the Aratani C.A.R.E. Award. More information on these upcoming events will be announced soon. ■



Longtime Hiroshima member and koto player June Kuramoto has been named a NEA National Heritage Fellow.

PHOTOS: KEN FONG PHOTOGRAPHY

# JANM Welcomes New Board Members

LOS ANGELES — The Japanese American National Museum has added 19 new trustees, governors and honorary members to its board.

"Our board members bring a multitude of international experiences to JANM's leadership. We are grateful for their devotion to strengthening the museum for years to come. I look forward to expanding the museum's work and mission with them to create a just future for all," said Bill Fujioka, chair of the JANM Board of Trustees.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Kathryn A. Bannai** was lead counsel in Gordon Hirabayashi's coram nobis case from 1982 to early 1985. Among other critical work, she successfully defeated the government's effort to dismiss Hirabayashi's case and persuaded the court to grant an evidentiary hearing. That hearing led to overturning Hirabayashi's convictions for resisting the curfew and exclusion orders promulgated under Executive Order 9066. In addition to practicing law, she has served as president of the Seattle chapter JACL and president of the New York chapter JACL.

**Ernest Y. Doizaki** was president of Prospect Enterprises, his family business that grew into a dominant presence in the seafood industry and the ship chandlery business. He sits on several boards in the Japanese American community, including Keiro Senior Healthcare, the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center and Southern California Japanese Chamber of Commerce.

**Bryan Fujita** is the chief investment officer at the Los Angeles Fire and Police Pensions, a \$30 billion pension plan providing retirement benefits to the public safety members of the City of Los Angeles. He leads all aspects of LAFPP's investment program including policy formulation, investment strategy development and implementation and risk management.

**Edward Morimoto** is the managing partner of Yuki Farms/TMY Capital Management, a private farming and real estate investment company in Los Gatos, Calif. As the nephew of the late trustee Tom Yuki, he steered the Yuki family farming business into a multifaceted real estate enterprise spanning agricultural, residential, retail and office properties.

**Joe Takai** is a partner at McKinsey and Company. He is a career startup operator, launching and scaling many successful ventures in partnership with established Fortune 500 companies and

leading a global team of entrepreneurs. As a business builder, he has developed new technologies and digital capabilities for product and service markets.

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**Vicki Ariyasu** is senior vp of content, education and inclusion, Disney Branded Television for Disney+, Disney Channel, Disney XD and Disney Junior.

**Glen S. Fukushima** is a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress. In October 2021, President Joseph R. Biden nominated him to serve as vice chair of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation, and the Senate confirmed him for this position in April 2022.

**Kenneth S. Hamamura** is a retired business executive with more than 30 years of experience in the human resources field. He is a charter member of JANM and a member of the museum's Legacy Society.

**Ken Inouye** is assistant to the vice chancellor for administration at the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu and manages UHWO's Governmental Internship Program.

**Jeffrey Maloney** is chief counsel for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, an agency of the State of California dedicated to the protection of natural open space and urban parks and manages over 80,000 acres of parkland in the Los Angeles area.

**David Ono** is the coanchor for ABC7 Eyewitness News. He recently partnered with JANM on a national tour of "Defining Courage," an immersive live performance about the legacy of the Nisei soldier.

**Koji Sato** is senior vp and general counsel of Orient Corporation of America in New Jersey, a subsidiary of Orient Chemical Industries, Co., Ltd. in Osaka, Japan. He is currently responsible for its entire U.S. operations.

**Moira Shourie** is the executive director of Zócalo Public Square, a Los Angeles-based unit of ASU

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## 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 throughout 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 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



**Dr. Lawrence Matsuda (left) was the featured guest and speaker at the JACL Alaska chapter's Day of Remembrance programs on Feb. 18 and 19.**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF JACL ALASKA CHAPTER

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 bystanders, 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\\_uu.buzzsprout.com](https://anchorage_uu.buzzsprout.com).



**(Left) JACL IDC Gov. Lisa Olsen (third from right) with Gov. Brad Little and members of the Boise Valley JACL board. (Right) Gov. Brad Little with survivors from Minidoka and Tule Lake.**

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BOISE VALLEY JACL

## 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 statehouse, in conjunction with the Boise Valley JACL, has hosted this ceremony. It continues to be the longest-running statehouse Day of Remembrance ceremony in the nation and the only one that has been continuously presided over by the state's governor.

— Robert Hirai, President, Boise Valley JACL

## '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,



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

PHOTO: ALFRED LEUNG OF PRO BONO PHOTOGRAPHY



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

PHOTO: COURTESY OF SAN JOSE JACL

as well as censured and dismissed faculty who spoke against it.

She was inspired by the story of 1942 Student Body President Don True, who waved goodbye to SJSU 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 SJSU resolution and established an annual Day of Remembrance.

Dr. Yvonne Kwan, associate professor of Asian American Studies and coordinator of Asian American Studies at SJSU, 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 Palestinian 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 Reiko 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. ■

## 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 World War II, 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



FEBRUARY 19, 1942 Japanese American Day of Remembrance

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 devoted to using 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).*

## JACL CINCINNATI Remembers DOR



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

PHOTO: COURTESY OF CINCINNATI JACL CHAPTER

Cincinnati chapter of the JACL held its first Day of Remembrance Commemoration on Feb. 18 at Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati. The program combined the 80th anniversary of Japanese Americans coming out of various concentration 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 Yoshikawa, 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, Shinji 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. ■

# 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

What 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.

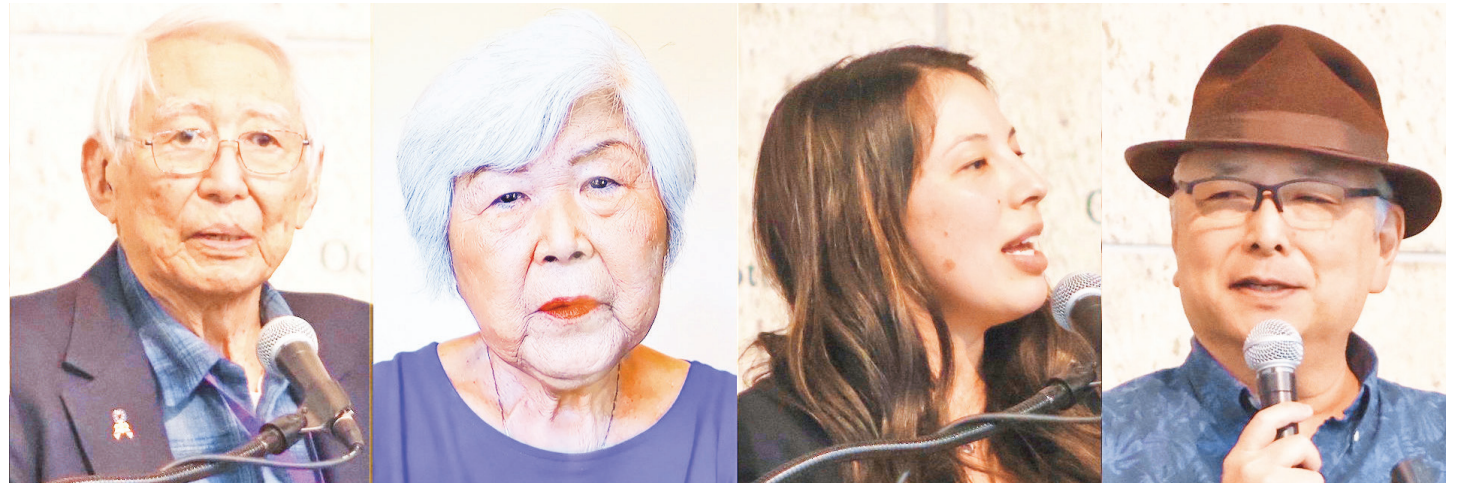
But at this DOR gathering, the focus was on the grievances suffered by those incarcerated who resisted — and as a result suffered from the federal government's brutish tactics to quell the dissent caused by the abrogation of their rights.

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 Incarceration of Civilians hearing. Due to a technical malfunction, however, only the audio was presented to the audience, and the video 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,



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 TOSHIO JOHNSTON

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, the Inouye family was orig-

inally incarcerated at Arizona's Poston and transferred to California's Tule Lake after he answered the same loyalty questionnaire Hoshizaki — and thousands of others — had been given. "For question 27, he answered 'no' because he had family in Japan. So, for question No. 28, he answered neutral because he was a transnational citizen, who actually answered truthfully," Oda said of her father.

Later, while incarcerated at Tule Lake, Oda said, "My father was arrested without charges in front of my mother and sisters and rushed to the stockade with bayonets. He said, 'I cannot fight, but I will write.' During this November to February, my parents exchanged 33 letters."

She noted that her father participated in a failed hunger strike to protest the awful conditions the stockade prisoners endured. In her closing remarks, Oda said, "Unlike many, he and my mother chose to tell me their story. Tuleans are still outcast and discriminated by our own community. That must stop. Today, we Tuleans are no longer silent. Our community must live in peace."

Tsuchida described her Kibei grandfather as someone who was not an "extraordinary or exceptional man when it came to being someone of significance to the community." Born in Loomis, Calif., Tamotsu Tsuchida was taken to his father's hometown in Kumamoto, Japan, returning as an adult to San Francisco where he became "an active member of the Buddhist church, and he was starting to run

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 CWRIC 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."

» See L.A. on page 8

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.





# 'MEMORY AND THE NATION: DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 2024'

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

William Harris, director of the FDR Presidential Library and Museum, addresses the DOR program attendees. Shown on the screen is the Chiura Obata painting of the Topaz incarceration camp, which was a gift from the JACL in May 1943 to First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to express its gratitude for her concern of the treatment of Japanese Americans. The painting was displayed in her New York apartment until her death.

PHOTO: JACLYN NASH, COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

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 of the Smithsonian. "Our National Museum of American History, a place that looks to our past to inspire a better shared future, is the ideal location for this poignant program of remembrance and healing."

Dr. Anthea M. Hartig, the Elizabeth MacMillan director of the National Museum of American History and the first woman director at the nation's flagship history museum, opened the program. Feb. 19 is also special to Hartig since it is the day she joined the Smithsonian five years ago.

In her remarks, Hartig stated, "At the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, 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

Dr. Anthea M. Hartig, Elizabeth MacMillan director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, welcomes the audience to the 82nd anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066 with the "Memory and the Nation" Day of Remembrance panel discussion program on Feb. 19 in the Warner Bros. Theater.

PHOTO: PATTI HIRAHARA

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."



David Inoue (left), executive director of the JACL, moderates the panel discussion for the National Museum of American History's Day of Remembrance program. Also pictured (from left) are Dr. Madeline Hsu, professor of History and director of the Center for Global Migration Studies, University of Maryland; William Harris, director of the FDR Presidential Library and Museum; and Perrin Ireland, great-granddaughter of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and a board member of the Roosevelt Institute.

PHOTO: JACLYN NASH, COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY



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



Perrin Ireland, great-granddaughter of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, talks about the Roosevelt legacy at the National Museum of American History's DOR program.

PHOTO: PATTI HIRAHARA



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 HIRAHARA

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 National and the organization’s D.C. chapter were part of this important endeavor. Panel moderator and JACL Executive Director David Inoue offered his comments about the event.

“The panel provided a different perspective from what we usually hear at ‘Day of Remembrance’ events with the participation of the FDR Presidential Library and Museum,” he said. “This was especially providential given that the event was held on President’s Day. With the theme of ‘Memory and the Nation,’ it is important that our nation’s memories include these darker memories, both to remind us that we are not perfect and to seek to learn from those past imperfections. It has been refreshing to also see the Roosevelt Library ensure that the full story of Roosevelt’s legacy be told, including the signing of EO 9066 and subsequent actions against Japanese Americans’ civil rights throughout the war.”

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.

Another important partner for the 2024 event was the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center. Acting Director Yao-Fen You offered a background history of the event and said, “I’m honored to join you this afternoon for the Smithsonian’s annual Day of Remembrance program. APAC’s late founding director, Dr. Franklin Odo, started the Smithsonian’s DOR programming in the early 2000s, and we’re proud that this vital tradition has continued.”

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,’

while younger generations fail to elicit this important historic material as they believe ‘it is not for them to ask.’

“Dr. Odo’s profound insight underscores the importance of intergenerational dialogue in preserving our history,” she continued. “As we honor the sacrifices and resilience of Japanese Americans, let us heed Dr. Odo’s call to action: to not only listen to the voices of the past but to actively engage with and pass on their stories, ensuring that the lessons learned from this dark chapter in history are never forgotten.”

A special guest in attendance was the Hon. Minister Masaru Sato, head of chancery at the Embassy of Japan to the United States.

Said Sato in an emailed statement: “During my time in the U.S., I have had many opportunities to learn about [Japanese Americans’] experiences. I have been moved not only by what they endured but also by how they responded.

“... In the aftermath of WWII, as the U.S. and Japan have strengthened our bilateral relationship, the Japanese American community has formed a crucial bridge of cultural understanding between our peoples. I am gratified that so many Japanese Americans are eager to connect with their Japanese heritage, and I believe that Japan must also learn from the Japanese American community and its history.

“Remembering that history shapes our shared future,” Sato continued. “It fuels our commitment to the common values of dignity and justice. It compels us to pursue peace, partnership 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 Edson (co-president) and Lisa Mori, Drs. Brad and Lori Sakaguchi (co-pres), 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, Martha Watanabe, Cheyenne Cheng (JACL staff), Jack Shimabukuro (Daniel K. Inouye fellow) and Brent Seto (Mike M. Masaoka fellow).

» See MEMORY on page 9

**The National Archives Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum prepared a special handout for the DOR event to show the FDR Presidential Library’s commitment to telling the story of a grave injustice.**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE FDR PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

**Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum**

**The Incarceration of Japanese Americans During World War II**

On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked America's Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor. In the tense weeks following the surprise attack, Japan swiftly expanded its offensive to the Philippines and across the Pacific. Many Americans—especially those living on the Pacific coast—feared enemy attack. Intense public anger and dismay was soon joined by deep anxieties about the possibility of Japanese military action along the breadth of America's Pacific coast. Public fear and anger focused on people of Japanese ancestry, an outcome influenced by longstanding racial prejudice and suspicion.

President Roosevelt and many of his military advisers had long worried about the loyalty of Japanese Americans, having monitored communities as early as 1936. In the immediate aftermath of Pearl Harbor, the FBI and local police began raiding homes to detain suspicious Japanese foreign nationals, along with smaller numbers of German and Italian foreign nationals. Without serious evidence, in early 1942 civilian and military leaders on the West Coast accused members of the region's large Japanese American community of working with Japan's military to plan acts of sabotage and espionage.

Despite the lack of evidence supporting widespread rumors and claims, newspapers, military leaders, and political figures, including California Attorney and future Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren, insisted there was no way to distinguish loyal from disloyal Japanese Americans. In this atmosphere, despite conflicting advice regarding internal security, Roosevelt promulgated Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942. In the coming months, approximately 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry were forced from their homes and confined in remote government-run camps. Roughly 80,000 were American citizens.

Manzanar Camp, Dorothea Lange, 1942. (continued)



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.

PHOTO: JACLYN NASH, COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

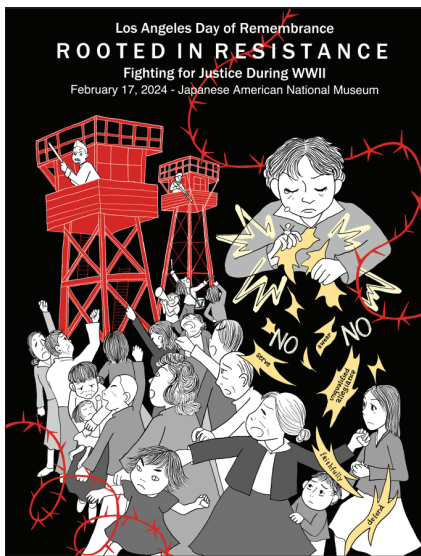


Pictured (from left) are National Museum of American History staff who coordinated this year’s DOR program along with the Asian Pacific American Center, whose talents, dedication and commitment contributed to this annual commemoration: Robert Battley, Dan Holm, Theodore Gonzalves, Magdalena Mieri, Noriko Sanefuji, Karrie Kotcho and Anthea M. Hartig (the Elizabeth MacMillan director of the National Museum of American History). Not pictured are Valeska Hilbig, Mike Johnson, Eden Cho, Chris Lang and Rick Lee from the Asian Pacific American Center.

PHOTO: JACLYN NASH, COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

L.A. » continued from page 5

L.A. DOR poster



John Tonai pays tribute to his father, the late Min Tonai, seen on the video monitor during the In Memoriam portion of the program, which also honored Alan Nishio, Martha Nakagawa and Amy Uyematsu, who all died in 2023.

PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON

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 be bothered and burdened with the “stigma of being that no-no, a disloyal, a troublemaker” from Tule Lake.

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 tell because that’s the way it was.”

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 need to prove it to you or anyone else.’ And there it was — the truth. . . . He said no and no to those questions. And he had every right as a citizen to do so.”

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 incarcerated or descendants of incarcerated made their way to the front of the stage, accompanied by a Boy Scout from Troops 242, 365, 738 or 764, or a Girl Scout from Troop 12135, each

bearing an affiliated banner.

Participating in the procession were:

- June Ruriko Tearstan, 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 Ark. (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 Shudo 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 Igawa, 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/2zxszzzt](https://tinyurl.com/2zxszzzt). The program can be viewed at [tinyurl.com/4ed2m562](https://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.

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# ASIAN AMERICANS TAPPED TO LEAD

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

By P.C. Staff

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.

Finally, leading streaming TV service Netflix on Feb. 28 announced that movie producer Dan Lin would take over the post of head of film with the announced departure of Scott Stuber from the role he had held for seven years.

For Tang, who has been at the *L.A. Times* since 2019 and is both the paper's first woman and Asian

American journalist to serve as its top editor, being elevated to this new role has come at a time of a years-long period of decline in the newspaper business in general. Furthermore, at the *L.A. Times* specifically, the resignation of Merida was followed by the tumult of the paper's layoff of 120 journalists in January.

"It is challenging, there's just no way around that. But I just remain very optimistic," Tang told the *Pacific Citizen*. "I've lived through different eras of journalism, but I feel extremely privileged to even be in this profession.

"The work that we do is as important now as it has ever been, some would say even more important, because of the kind of industry-wide challenges we're all facing. That goes for small papers, medium papers and very large papers."

Tang, who earned a bachelor's degree (economics) from Yale and worked as an attorney after earning a J.D. from New York University School of Law, became a journalist while living in Seattle — and found the profession to her liking. "I remember basically taking a leave from my law firm — and then I just never really looked back," she said. "I went from the *Seattle Weekly* to the *Seattle Times* and then went to the *New York Times*."

Her career at the *N.Y. Times* spanned 20 years, in which she served in several editorial capaci-

ties. Prior to joining the *L.A. Times*, she worked at the American Civil Liberties Union. "For a couple years, I was the director of publications and editorial at the ACLU at the national office," Tang said.

Well before embarking on a career that led to journalism, Tang's life's journey began when she was born in Taipei, Taiwan, after which her family moved to Tokyo when her father's work took them there for a few years. "Then we emigrated to L.A., and we settled in Gardena. I'm in touch with lots of my high school and elementary school friends, actually. It's still very much my home," she said.

One of the below-the-radar developments at the *L.A. Times* has been the growth of its *L.A. Times Studios*. 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.

Born in Los Angeles to Korean immigrants, Choi's path to interim chief began when he joined the LAPD in 1995, after earning a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Southern California. One of his most-recent duties in his new capacity after being sworn in by Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass was addressing and congratulating



Dominic Choi

PHOTO: COURTESY OF LAPD



Terry Tang

PHOTO: © 2022 RICARDO DEARATANHA/LOS ANGELES TIMES

the latest graduating class of LAPD recruits. According to the *Associated Press*, by taking the interim chief role, he is not allowed to apply for the permanent chief position.

In an interview with KTLA, Choi said, "I knew going into this that I had two choices. If I applied for the interim position, I couldn't apply for the permanent position. I have a personal timeline that I will be spending, serving the city in this capacity. And so, I chose to stick to that timeline. For me, it's not about rank. It's serving and being true to myself and my goals."

The significance of Choi's appointment to the interim chief post was not lost on Terry Hara, who retired from the LAPD in 2015 after a 35-year-long career and having earned the rank of deputy chief and achieving the distinction in 1998 as the first Japanese American to be promoted to the rank of captain.

For Hara, Choi's appointment is a reflection of how far the LAPD has advanced. "When I first came on

and joined the department in 1980, there were approximately 7,600 officers — 66 Asian Americans in the department," he told the *Pacific Citizen*. He contrasted that to today, when the LAPD has approximately 10,000 officers, with more than 1,000 of whom are of Asian Pacific Islander heritage.

"I think the recent appointment of 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 been 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." ■

## 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).

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Rep. Judy Chu represents the 28th Congressional District of California; Hon. Tammy Duckworth was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2016; Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi represents the 66th Assembly District in the Los Angeles South Bay and Harbor Area; Consul General Kenko Sone; and Rep. Mark Takano represents the 39th Congressional District of California. ■

## MEMORY » continued from page 7

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.

Support of the museum's efforts to document and share the history of the Japanese American experience is also made possible by the National Museum of American History's

Japanese American History Endowment. Leadership support for the endowment was provided by SF Gassho Trust, Terasaki Family Foundation, Advanced Fresh Concepts, Hawai'i Air Cargo, Ronald Yoshino, Patti Hirahara and Terry K. Takeda, Mary Hirahara, Tom Hoshiyama and Dr. Himeo Tsumori.

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.

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



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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## NATIONAL

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

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

## NCWNP

**Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival 2024**  
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!  
**Info: Visit [www.sfcherryblossom.org](https://www.sfcherryblossom.org).**

**Theater: 'Larry the Musical: An American Journey'**  
San Francisco, CA  
March 16-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 JCCCNC Members

Join the JCCCNC 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.  
**Info: Visit <https://www.jcccnc.org/japanese-heritage-night-2024/>.**

## 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.  
**Info: Visit [www.janm.org](https://www.janm.org).**

**'J. T. Sata: Immigrant Modernist'**  
Los Angeles, CA  
March 15-Sept. 1  
JANM  
100 N. Central Ave.  
Price: Museum Admission  
James Tadanao 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.  
**Info: Visit [www.janm.org/exhibits/jt-sata](https://www.janm.org/exhibits/jt-sata).**

**JANM Museums Free-for-All Day**  
Los Angeles, CA  
March 23  
JANM  
100 N. Central Ave.  
Price: Free  
SoCal Museums announces this Museums Free-for-All day that will include more than 30 museums, including JANM, that will open its doors and offer free general admission on this day!  
**Info: Visit <https://www.janm.org/events/2024-03-23/socal-museums-free-all-2024>.**  
**Okaeri Connects! LGBTQ+ Support**

**Group Virtual Event**  
**English Speaking LGBTQ+ only — Second Sundays from 4-5:15 p.m.**  
**Japanese Speaking LGBTQ+ only — Third Sundays from 4-5:15 p.m. (9 a.m. JT)**  
**Japanese Speaking Parents/Allies — Third Sundays from 2-3:15 p.m. (7 a.m. JT)**  
Price: Free

Are you a Nikkei LGBTQ+ individual or have a Nikkei LGBTQ+ loved one? We create affirming spaces by sharing our personal experiences and stories. We believe that building relationships, being seen and connecting ourselves within our Nikkei community can improve the quality of our lives.  
**Info: To register, visit [Okaeri.org/connects](https://www.okaeri.org/connects). For questions, please email [connects@okaeri.org](mailto:connects@okaeri.org).**

## 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.  
**Info: Visit <https://www.washington.edu> for more information and to register.**

**'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 activist, 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.  
**Info: Visit [www.jamo.org](https://www.jamo.org).**

**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.  
**Info: Visit [www.wingluke.org](https://www.wingluke.org).**

## 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.  
**Info: Visit [www.ccamuseum.org](https://www.ccamuseum.org).**

**Japanese American Veterans Memorial Program**  
Minneapolis, MN  
May 16; 10-11 a.m.  
Fort Snelling 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 [chiratadulas@tcjacl.org](mailto:chiratadulas@tcjacl.org).**

## IDC

**47th Utah Asian Festival 2024**  
Salt Lake City, UT  
June 8; 11 a.m.-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 Haya-kawa, 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 artworks and life stories of three Japanese American women from the pre-WWII generation, seen together for the first time.  
**Info: Visit <https://umfa.utah.edu/pictures-of-belonging>.**

## EDC

**National Cherry Blossom Festival**  
Washington, D.C.  
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 [nationalcherryblossomfestival.org](https://nationalcherryblossomfestival.org)**

**Virtual Cooking Class: Tonkatsu, Tofu Tonkatsu and Katsu Sando**  
Virtual Event  
March 23; 5 p.m.  
Instructor 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.  
**Info: Visit [www.japansocietyboston.org](https://www.japansocietyboston.org).**

**Concert: Bruce Liu**  
Boston, MA  
March 23; 8 p.m.  
Jordan Hall  
50 Gainsborough St.  
Price: Ticket Prices Vary  
Canadian 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-hear artist for decades to come. This concert is presented by Celebrity Series of Boston.  
**Info: Visit <https://www.celebrity-series.org/productions/bruce-liu-piano/>.**

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# In MEMORIAM

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

**T**OKYO (AP) — Seiji Ozawa, the Japanese conductor who amazed audiences with the lithe 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.

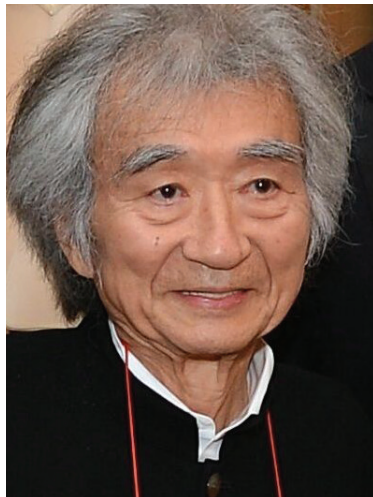
He died of heart failure at his home in Tokyo, according to his office, Veroza Japan.

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 Sortilèges (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 "Egmont 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



Seiji Ozawa, seen in this public domain State Department photo.

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 mu-

sic 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 1984 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 con-writing 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, UCLAAsian American Studies; she was predeceased by her husband, Robert Edgerton; she is survived by her sister, Robbie Ito (Leland) Rorex; a nephew and a niece.

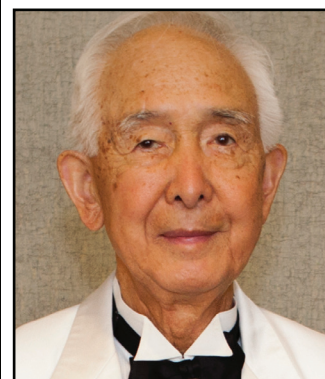
**Hazama, Yoshiko, 92**, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 7, 2023; she was predeceased by her husband, George Valentine Hazama; siblings, Taro Ishimoto and Nori Komorita; she is survived by her sons, Dr. Mark Hazama (Merlin) and Wayne; sisters, Michi Nishimura and Susan (Dr. Morris Nakamura); sisters-in-law, Mae Hazama and Mary Ishimoto; gc: 2.

**Kushida, Akito, 94**, Sacramento, CA, Nov. 13, 2023; veteran, Army; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA; he was predeceased by his wife, Lillian; siblings, Hattie Sumida, Shigeko, Shig and Yuki; he is survived by his sons, Gerry (Wendy), Bruce (Martha), Duane (Stacey) and Cary; siblings, Tak and Marion; gc: 5; ggc: 2.

**Yoshihiro, Akira, 75**, Huntington Beach, CA, Nov. 12, 2023; he is survived by his wife, Marilyn; brother, Eiji (Susan); sisters-in-law, Doris (Richard) Romero, Carol Kumai and Marlene (Pat) Britt; and nephews.

### TRIBUTE

#### HIROSHI TAUCHI



Hiroshi John 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 program, 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 Muko-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 and Teresa Tauchi (Sam Boonin) of Oakland; and grandchildren, 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>.

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REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

## AARP FOUNDATION OFFERS FREE TAX-AIDE ASSISTANCE

By JR Fujita

Each 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/](http://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).

If your income falls within these guidelines, please visit [taxaide.aarpfoundation.org/online-self-and-assisted-prep](http://taxaide.aarpfoundation.org/online-self-and-assisted-prep). For additional questions about Tax-Aide, email [taxaide@aarp.org](mailto: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.*



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

PHOTO: AARP

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