

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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TOGETHER We Stand

CELEBRATING
95
Years



Members of UCLA Kyodo Taiko and Bonbu Stories entertain the audience with a musical and dance interlude.

PHOTO: DON KUNITOMI/CHARLES JAMES

The 55th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage joins in fellowship in the spirit of democracy and justice.

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JACL Calls for Ceasefire in Gaza.

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Challenges to Democracy Examined

JACL CALLS FOR CEASEFIRE IN GAZA

By JACL National

Over the past seven months, the ongoing conflict in Gaza between the Israeli government and Hamas has caused untold strife, suffering and loss of innocent lives. The conflict has had worldwide impact, especially here in the United States as we have seen countless protests, counter-protests and unrest as people call for an end to the bloodshed.

Islamophobic and antisemitic hate incidents in the United States have continued to rise throughout the conflict, directly affecting Palestinian American and Jewish American communities.

The horrors that have occurred cannot be summed up in a single statement.

Similarly, the intricate and divisive nature of the conflict between Israel and Palestine is beyond what we as

an organization can fully explore in this statement, but these are conversations that are necessary for us not only as a community but as a nation to have.

As part of that conversation, we feel there is no other option but to call for an end to the violence and express our hopes for the Israeli government and Hamas to negotiate a ceasefire.

Amid the controversies surrounding the ongoing conflict, certain truths must be acknowledged. Since October 2023, the death toll has been staggering: Over 34,000 Palestinians and 1,400 Israelis have been killed, the majority of whom are civilians, and over 13,000 have been children.

Currently, over half a million people in Gaza face famine conditions due to the inadequacy of aid, lack of food and access to safe drinking water. Military operations in Gaza have caused the collapse of the health-care

system, making it nearly impossible for anyone to receive even the most basic medical care. The vast majority of Palestinians in Gaza, nearly 1.9 million, have been forced from their homes, adding to the already immense suffering.

As an American civil rights organization with a focus on domestic issues, while also dedicated to safeguarding the civil liberties of not only Japanese Americans but all individuals subjected to injustice and bigotry, we must denounce these egregious human rights violations. This is particularly crucial in light of the violence, bigotry and assaults on civil liberties we have witnessed in our nation.

The JACL urges the Biden administration to continue to advance negotiations for a ceasefire and provide and ensure the availability of humanitarian aid for the residents of Gaza. Furthermore, we condemn the

nationwide rise in hate crimes and hate speech, including Islamophobia, antisemitism and xenophobia.

We recognize that calling for a ceasefire does not mark the conclusion of discourse on this topic.

Even with a lasting end to the violence, there will be a significant need for healing, rebuilding and addressing the numerous injustices that have occurred.

As an organization, within our broader community, and as a nation, we will continue to engage in these difficult conversations, with the aim of becoming better informed and to promote justice and healing here in the United States and in our nation's engagements with Israel and Palestine.



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By JOHN SAITO JR.
P.C. Editorial Board Chair

P.C. REINVIGORATES ITS SPRING CAMPAIGN

The \$17 annual surcharge was proposed and approved at the 2016 JACL National Convention in an effort to increase revenue and avoid staff layoffs.

It was a pivotal moment: Our members were given the choice of either paying for the printed edition or getting the digital version sent to them via email at no cost.

The majority of our members, it turns out, opted for digital. In the first year that the surcharge was implemented, more than half did not add the \$17 P.C. fee to their membership renewal dues. In the ensuing seven years, the number of those who pay for the newspaper, ostensibly due to

the passing of our older members, has continued to decline.

The rapidly changing media landscape is now dominated by digital platforms. But I continue to subscribe to the *P.C.* newspaper. Maybe it's because I am compelled to support community journalism.

The other part is that I simply enjoy reading a newspaper. It's a pleasurable experience. As a lifelong subscriber to the *Los Angeles Times*, I've been torn between renewing or canceling my subscription. I have been on the phone with customer service trying to get a better deal than the \$1,095 yearly rate I'm currently paying.

I've enjoyed seeing that the *P.C.*

is now printed in full color on a brighter, thicker paper stock. The color has added a visual pop to the overall layout of our stories, columns, advertising and tributes.

In my current role as *P.C.* editorial board chair, I have been engaged with the other *P.C.* board members, Executive Editor Allison Haramoto and her staff in supporting *P.C.* operations. The staff informed the board that due to steady increases in printing and postage costs, they would like to raise the surcharge fee from \$17 to \$22. The *P.C.* prints 22 issues each year, so you would be

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Since 2017, newspaper subscribers to the *Pacific Citizen* have been paying a fee for the printed edition of the *P.C.* Prior to that, all JACL members received the newspaper as part of their membership.

JACL MEMBER? Y N \$50 \$100 \$150 \$200 OTHER _____

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

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

INFORMATION: 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 206 | Los Angeles, CA 90012 | TEL: (213) 620-1767 | WWW.PACIFICCITIZEN.ORG

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



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Please contact Tomiko Ismail, JACL Membership/Database Administrator, at (415) 921-5225, ext. 26, or email tismail@jacl.org.





FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SEE YOU IN PHILLY!

By David Inoue, JACL Executive Director

Four years ago, we were in the midst of a worldwide pandemic but also planning for the 2024 elections. Already canceled at this point, our convention had been planned for Las Vegas, where we planned to join with OCA Asian Pacific American Advocates to hold a joint convention with overlapping programming. Of course we went through with holding our convention in Las Vegas in 2022 and shared much of our program with OCA.

But now, here we are four years later — the pandemic is over, but

we again have a Biden vs. Trump election, and we are looking forward to once again collaborating with OCA and supporting APIA Vote’s Presidential Town Hall, which will be the afternoon of July 13 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Convention will be July 10-14 in Philadelphia, which is expected to be a significant swing state where the Asian Pacific American population could make the difference.

We look forward to leveraging the resources of being with OCA and APIAVote at the Sheraton hotel. We will share plenary sessions and workshops focusing on current topics of interest and important to the

upcoming election, both locally and nationally. As we all know, elections are always a balance between the global issues and local action, voting being one of those actions.

Being in Philadelphia, one issue mobilizing the local community is the threat to Chinatown, but this is an issue we see playing itself out in many other communities, one we looked at last year in Little Tokyo, one of our own few remaining Japantown enclaves.

We will also look at diversity and ethnic studies as a means of organizing, particularly in the face of so many attacks on efforts to diversify library collections, curriculum studies and even creating a student body or workforce that more closely resembles the actual population of a community.

The third core issue we will focus on are the proliferation of alien land laws and the return of historically discriminatory policies and laws targeting minority and particularly Asian and immigrant communities.

While we are collaborating with OCA and APIAVote, these and other workshops and breakout sessions will draw from the broader coalition of partners we work with both in the Asian American as well as the larger minority communities.

Speaking of collaboration with other community members, many of you have participated in the JACL/OCA Leadership Summit, which this year is celebrating its 40th year, including 30 years with OCA.

We will be having a special reception for those of you who are alumni and will be sending invitations for this special event shortly. If you don’t receive an email for this, please email policy@jacl.org to let us know your class year so that we can add you to the list or add your email to your name.

We will also have fun. On Wednesday, our welcome reception will be held at Philadelphia City Hall, an iconic building just a few blocks from the hotel. We will be screening the premiere of Lane

Nishikawa’s newest work, “League of Dreams,” highlighting the history of JACL through the memories of many of you. On Friday night, we will join OCA attendees for a night with Hip Hop for Change. Finally, the Shofuso Japanese Cultural Center will be holding a special public event on the Sunday following the conclusion of the convention.

If all that isn’t enough to get you to come to convention, there also happens to be a certain baseball team that will be in town playing the Philadelphia Phillies that Tuesday-Thursday.

We look forward to seeing you in Philadelphia July 10-14. To get more information and register for convention, visit <https://jacl.org/2024-jacl-national-convention>.

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



REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

TECH DIALOGUES: BASICS OF THE CLOUD

By Ryan Kawamoto

Summer memories like visiting family, soaking up the sun or dancing at upcoming Obon festivals can be wonderful moments to capture with a photo. If you took pictures on your phone or are planning to, storing them on the Cloud can be a great way to keep them safe and accessible and free up space on your phone. In this article, we will give readers more information about the Cloud, how to use it and why it’s such a useful bit of technology.

What Is the Cloud?

In the simplest terms, the Cloud refers to computer storage units

(servers) that are located all over the globe and accessible over the internet. These servers store files, photos and more, so that they can be easily accessed.

Am I Using the Cloud?

Yes! Every internet user benefits from the Cloud to some extent. Any data on the internet is stored in the Cloud, which includes all photos on any social media website, emails, streaming movies, etc.

Cloud Services

When talking about the Cloud, most of us usually think about iCloud, Google Drive, OneDrive, Dropbox and similar services. But these are just Cloud services.

One would compare Cloud services to storage unit businesses in the real world. You rent a storage unit and pay a monthly fee to keep using it. The bigger the storage, the higher the cost. Once you stop paying for it, you could get locked out of accessing its content.

Moreover, just like you could have multiple storage units from different companies simultaneously, you could also utilize various Cloud services.

Benefits of the Cloud (Vs. Hard Drive)

The Cloud has many benefits, and here are the top three related to personal usage:

- **Backup and restore data:** Wouldn’t it be nice to easily retrieve all the photos, messages and phone numbers if you lost or changed phones? That’s when backing up to the Cloud comes in handy. Most Cloud services make it easy to back up your data automatically, while you are using your devices, so that your photos and files are stored when you need them.
- **Mobility:** Contrary to traditional hard drives, you cannot misplace

the Cloud or misplace it. Cloud services allow you to access your data from anywhere globally as long as you have access to the internet.

- **Security:** Simply put, Cloud services are more secure than hard drives, since only a handful of people add a password to their hard drives to protect their data. You must set up a username and password to access your Cloud service account data, and most services require two-factor authentication when accessed from an unrecognized computer or location.

Three things to keep in mind:

- It is always a great idea to utilize your Cloud service provider’s extra security and recovery features. These include adding a backup email, linking your current phone number and activating two-factor authentication. Failing to do so, combined with forgetting your passwords to both your Cloud account and the email linked to it, could make your data inaccessible forever. (Well, until you remember any of the two passwords.)
- Your primary email password is

the most critical of all passwords because it is the door to reset the passwords of all online accounts linked to it, including your Cloud account.

- To access the data saved in your Cloud account, you must have access to an internet connection.

For more information, we invite you to access our free weekly virtual programming online at www.seniorplanet.org or call our toll-free national hotline at (888) 713-3495, open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. ET.

Ryan Kawamoto is a regional program manager for Older Adults Technology Services from AARP, a national nonprofit behind the award-winning Senior Planet program that brings together older adults to find ways to learn, work, create, exercise and thrive in today’s digital age. A longer version of this article was originally published on www.seniorplanet.org by Senior Planet’s resident “Techspert” Jonathan Ushindi Zaluke.



What Does It Mean to Be a JACL Member?

“It means that I’m a part of history. This group has been a staple in our community and I’m proud of the work that they do,” remarks Robbie Yoshikawa (AKA Kyori The Okapi, He/Him/His, SELANOCO Chapter). We are excited to welcome new members like Robbie who help propel our mission forward! If you’re not already a member, we invite you to join our vibrant community in our crucial pursuit of civil rights for all. - JACL Membership Department



Become a Member!

Visit jacl.org/member or contact us at mbr@jacl.org

JACL NATIONAL BOARD FACES DIFFICULT DECISIONS AHEAD OF JULY CONFAB

A sizeable budget deficit and calls for a statement on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict chief among issues facing the organization.

By P.C. Staff

As the JACL gears up for its upcoming National Convention in Philadelphia July 10-14, its National Board met for its quarterly meeting via Zoom on April 27 to tackle pressing issues, including a sizeable budget deficit and calls for a statement on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Since the start of the Israel-Hamas war, there has been a growing divide among the Japanese American community and increasing clamor for the JACL to call for an immediate ceasefire in the Middle East.

JACL Executive Director David Inoue addressed such concerns in his report, stating, “We remain in conversation with our various coalition partners on the impacts that the war in Palestine is having on Jewish, Muslim and Middle Eastern North African (MENA) communities. This is also in consideration of what has been happening with our NCAPA coalition, Nikkei4Palestine and the BDS petition.”

Speaking on behalf of their respective districts, several JACL governors voiced their concerns over JACL’s position in the matter.

MDC Gov. Eric Langowski introduced a resolution to advocate for a ceasefire in Gaza on behalf of his district in order to establish a framework for the organization so that JACL would not have confusion amongst its membership.

“We needed to have more framework as we head to convention to talk about this,” said Langowski. “People are asking us about this, and we want to at least have the direction we’re going and here’s what we have to say. I think it’s very difficult, and that’s very understandable, but I would like to see us have a framework to move ahead.”

Echoed IDC Gov. Lisa Olsen: “We



During his presentation, Secretary/Treasurer Jonathan Okamoto asked, “How are we going to close this gap? Are you going to create more aspirational revenue or are we going to make some internal operational decisions to lower expenses. Which way does the board think is the best way?”

During the budget presentation by Okamoto and JACL Director of

Finance/CFO Tom Fernandez, the following considerations were asked of the board as a means to decrease the shortfall: increase aspirational revenue goals, realign staff priorities to generate additional savings and alter National Convention events to generate additional savings.

Said Fernandez, “Estimated savings of shortening National Convention by one day would be \$81,000 approximately in savings.”

“We would still have a convention, but we would not have a National Council session,” said Inoue. “We would have other programming, but chapters would not be obligated to send a delegate. . . . Fundamentally, we are an education organization, and if we are providing content that is of more interest to people, that can actually bring more people in.”

Inoue also emphasized the need for a development director to bring in more revenue, which was supported by VP of Planning and Development Gary Nakamura.

“A really good, competent fund development director should be bringing in not just his/her annual salary but maybe three times that,” said Nakamura.

Following more discussion, the National Board tasked Inoue, Okamoto and Fernandez with assembling its finance suggestions to draft a new proposed budget, one that would be presented and voted upon during a National Board call on May 1. ■

do have such a gamut of opinions, and it is causing a few issues among some people in their opinions. It’s a very emotional issue, and the conversations are difficult.”

“The lack of an answer does look poor to some people, and by not releasing a statement, it looks like we’re not taking this issue seriously to some people,” said PSW Gov. Ryan Yoshikawa. “Unfortunately in my discussion, it’s not very clear as to what direction our members would like us to go.”

Said National President Larry Oda, “We’re trying to toe that line, and we have so many different opinions. Everyone sees something from their own perspective, and we’re trying to encompass all of those into our response, and I think what we can agree on is maybe not as JACL but personally we don’t want to see innocent civilians killed, and this is occurring on both sides.”

Following a seconded motion, the National Board voted overwhelmingly to accept the resolution and directed Inoue and his staff to issue a formal statement (*see page 2 of this issue*).

The meeting’s other primary issue was to gain approval of the proposed budget for the next biennium despite it reflecting a \$400,000 budget shortfall due in large part to the deficit incurred following last year’s National Convention and lower-than-expected fundraising earnings forecasts.

A PROCLAMATION ON AANHPI HERITAGE MONTH 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. — This month, we celebrate the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities, whose ingenuity, grit and perseverance have pushed our great American experiment forward.

From Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders whose ancestors have called their lands home for hundreds of years to Asian immigrants who have newly arrived and those whose families have been here for generations — AA and NHPI heritage has long been a part of the history of our great country and a defining force in the soul of our Nation.

As artists and journalists, doctors and engineers, business and community leaders and so much more, AA and NHPI peoples have shaped the very fabric of our Nation and opened up new possibilities for all of us. . . .

This year, we are also celebrating the 25th anniversary of the White House Initiative and President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, who work across government to advance equity, opportunity and justice for AA and NHPI communities.

I have always believed that diversity is our Nation’s greatest strength. That is why I launched the first-ever National Strategy to Advance Equity,

Justice and Opportunity for AA and NHPI communities. This strategy works to harness the full potential of these communities — from combating anti-Asian hate to making government services accessible in more languages. . . .

Racism, harassment and hate crimes against people of AA and NHPI heritage also persist — a tragic reminder that hate never goes away; it only hides. Hate must have no safe harbor in America — that is why I signed the bipartisan COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, which makes it easier for Americans to report hate crimes, and I also hosted the first-ever White House summit against hate-fueled violence.

We are also working to address the scourge of gun violence, which takes the lives of too many AA and NHPI loved ones. . . .

Our Nation was founded on the idea that we are all created equal and deserve to be treated equally throughout our lives. We have never fully realized this promise, but we have never fully walked away from it either. As we celebrate the historic accomplishments of AA and NHPIs across our Nation, we promise we will never stop working to form a more perfect union.

— Joseph R. Biden Jr.

CAMPAIGN » continued from page 2

paying \$1 per issue. The P.C. editorial board approved the increase in March and presented the proposal to the JACL National Board at last month’s board meeting. The increase would take effect next year.

The P.C. board is sensitive to any fee increases that might impact our readers’ finances. I recall that after the \$17 surcharge was approved in 2016, at least one JACL chapter paid the surcharge for all of its members. If any of you have concerns about this planned increase, please let me know. You can email me at jsaitojr@jacl.org.

Additionally, the staff has asked for the board’s support during its

current Spring Campaign, P.C.’s annual fundraising appeal to readers. The P.C. budget is thin as a razor, and the surcharge doesn’t cover the actual cost of what it takes to print the paper. So, the money will go toward supporting operations. We hope to raise \$25,000. I’ve made my gift, and I hope you will, too.

And oh, my persistence in contacting the *L.A. Times* paid off. I was able to get their best rate of \$1 per day.

Thank you for reading!

John Saito Jr. is the Pacific Citizen editorial board chair and president of the Venice-West Los Angeles JACL chapter.



Looking into
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'TEN TIMES BETTER' SPOTLIGHTS FORGOTTEN STAR

Decades after leaving the world of dance, a documentary offers George Lee a new deal.

By Gil Asakawa,
P.C. Contributor

Few people would know the name George Lee. But once upon a time, he was an Asian pioneer of dance, in ballet and on Broadway. He may be forgotten today, but filmmaker Jennifer Lin and producer Jon Funabiki want to remedy that lapse and remind the world of Lee's importance in a new documentary, "Ten Times Better."

Lin didn't know about Lee either, but she came across a photo and rave reviews of a young Asian dancer chosen by the legendary choreographer George Balanchine in the New York City Ballet's 1954 premiere of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker." He cast Lee for the suite's "Tea Divertissement," which is commonly called "The Chinese Dance." The number was usually performed by white dancers in yellowface.

Lin was researching the early days of "The Nutcracker" for a documentary, "Beyond Yellowface," about the history of casting white dancers in Asian roles in the arts. Lin and Funabiki (both are former reporters, and Funabiki still teaches journalism) were working on the yellowface documentary together.

"And specifically, 'The Chinese Dance' in 'The Nutcracker' is an element of that story," Lin said, so she asked the New York City Ballet for any material from the 1954 performance. While looking through a box of publicity photos, Lin was surprised to come across a photo of Lee.

"And I thought, 'Wow, I didn't realize that the New York City Ballet back in 1954 had an Asian dancer,'" Lin said. "So, I was poking around the files. And I also saw newspaper clips and reviews of the premiere because it was an instant hit, as you can imagine. And many of the reviewers actually cited George Lee and said

how phenomenal he was how not only was he incredibly acrobatic and athletic, he was a good dancer."

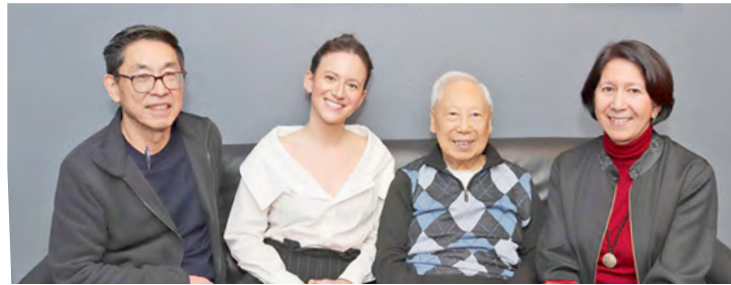
But after that debut, Lee's trail went cold. "The thing that really was the catalyst to trying to find George Lee is the fact that after 'The Nutcracker,' he never performed again for the New York City Ballet," said Lin. "So, I could find no trace of him really with other ballet companies at the time. I became obsessed with trying to find George Lee and asking him what happened. Because if he was good enough for George Balanchine, he certainly was at the top of his game."

When he found that he couldn't get a lot of positions dancing ballet, Lee was told by the Hollywood star Gene Kelly that he should pursue roles in Broadway musicals. And that's what he did, most notably in the stage and touring productions of "Flower Drum Song," the pioneering musical starring Asian Americans that was set in 1950s Chinatown.

After Lin found a clipping that Lee had become an American citizen, that gave Lin enough information to research him on [Ancestry.com](https://ancestry.com). Using dogged reporter skills, she found five George Lee phone numbers, and the last one she left a message for called back.

"And he said, 'This is George Lee.' I said, 'George Lee, the ballet dancer?' He goes, 'Yes, this is George Lee, the ballet dancer, but why are you looking for me?' And then he added, 'You know, I was nobody. So, why are you looking for me?' And that was our first phone call," recalled Lin.

She learned that Lee, now 89 but still mentally sharp and full of amazing stories, was a biracial son of a Polish ballerina and a Chinese acrobat in Shanghai who died when he was young. His mother raised him to be a ballet dancer with strict Russian-style instruction, and he still



George Lee (pictured third from left) with producers (from left) Jon Funabiki, Cory Lin Stieg and Jennifer Lin.

credits her for his success. She's the one who took him as a refugee to safety, first in the Philippines and eventually to the United States, and gave him the advice that stayed with him through his dance career: He had to be 10 times better than the Americans to be taken seriously.

"I will always remember Jennifer's excitement when she called me or sent me emails to give me the latest update about what she learned," Funabiki said. "She would say: 'Can you believe this story? ... He used to perform in the Shanghai nightclubs when he was just a child! ... They spent two years in a refugee camp in the Philippines ... in the jungles! ... George Balanchine picked him for 'The Nutcracker!' These were the tidbits that Jennifer would share with me as she learned more and more from George."

"Beyond Yellowface" was put on hold for "Ten Times Better," which has a running time of 31 minutes, so the team could tell Lee's story quickly. It serves as a keystone for "Yellowface" because Lee was the dancer who was able to succeed on his talent in spite of resistance to Asians in ballet — at least for a while.

"Clearly, he wanted to do more in ballet, but people said he was too short or that he wasn't the right 'type' for the parts that he auditioned for," Funabiki added.

Lin and Funabiki arranged to meet Lee at his post-dancer workplace, as a blackjack dealer at the Four Queens



George Lee at the Four Queens Casino in Las Vegas, where he works as a blackjack dealer

PHOTOS: PETALINA PRODS.

Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas for the past 40 years. He chose his new career when he was performing in Vegas. He knew he couldn't dance forever, so he got out of showbiz.

"What struck me the most was how gentle and humble George seemed to be," recalled Funabiki about meeting him in person. "He brought a lot of his old photographs and memorabilia to show to us. Clearly, he was proud of his accomplishments, but not in a bragging sort of way."

Lee's co-workers at the casino didn't know about his life as a dancer. But when he went to a reunion of the cast of "Flower Drum Song" — both the Broadway production and the Hollywood film version — from the late 1950s and early '60s, he was warmly received as a long-lost colleague.

The documentary has also revived the glories of his past career with the New York dance world.

When Lee attended a New York screening of the film, Lin says, "As we walked out on stage, everyone spontaneously started applauding. There were more than 200 people



in the auditorium, including the president of the New York City Ballet, the artistic director of the New York City Ballet and the executive director of the School of American Ballet, which is the premier ballet academy in the United States. All of these people were there to hear George's story. And everyone was applauding.

"And so, the man who told me on our first conversation that he's nobody, why would anyone be interested in his story, was getting recognized there by the ballet fans of New York City," said Lin. "That was one of the high points of this whole journey, seeing George quietly but happily receiving their attention as he should because he's a pioneer. This is lost history of the first Asian American male dancers in the ballet world."

(Editor's note: To learn more about this documentary, visit tentimesbetterfilm.com.)

This article was made possible by the Harry K. Honda Memorial Journalism Fund, which was established by JACL Redress Strategist Grant Ujifusa.



As a youngster, George Lee performed a classic Russian Trepak dance in Shanghai nightclubs.

PHOTO: GEORGE LEE PERSONAL COLLECTION



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A traditional interfaith service was held at the "Soul Consoling Tower."

PHOTOS: DON KUNITOMI/CHARLES JAMES



Banners representing each of the 10 WRA concentration camps and the famed 442nd Army battalion

'PEACE, JUSTICE AND THE DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY'

The 55th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage welcomes all in fellowship to remember the lessons of the past and join in unity to combat present-day issues threatening democracy and justice.

By Charles James, P.C. Contributor

The first Manzanar Pilgrimage was held in December 1969 with a group of about 150 people. At the 55th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage held on April 25 at the Manzanar National Historic Site, that number would increase tenfold to at least 1,500.

This year's theme at the pilgrimage was "Peace, Justice and the Defense of Democracy," a clearly fitting topic given the history that created the Manzanar Concentration Camp during World War II and today's divisive, polarized social and political environment that finds many Americans still facing threats from ignorance, racism, stigmatism and hysteria largely based on falsehoods, appeals to prejudice and hate.

The Manzanar Committee is determined to stand up to the trends that threaten not only the human and civil rights of all Americans, but also the threats facing many groups around the world from antisemitism, Islamophobia, xenophobia, racism, voter suppression and anti-LGBTQ rights, to mention just a few.

Manzanar was the first of 10 concentration camps operated by the War Relocation Authority several months after the attack by Japan on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. Nationally, the American government forcibly relocated and incarcerated at least 120,000 people of

Japanese ancestry. They lost their homes, belongings, businesses and their jobs. Two-thirds were denied their civil rights guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution as U.S. citizens. It was one of the most egregious examples in American history of a government failing to protect the rights of a group of its citizens.

Two-thirds of the 11,070 Japanese Americans (citizens of the U.S. by birth) were processed through the Manzanar Concentration Camp during WWII. The camp population peaked at 10,046, dwindling to 6,000 by 1944. Some 90 percent of all those sent to Manzanar were from the Los Angeles area. The last few hundred internees left in November 1945, just three months before the end of the war. Many incarcerated spent three and a half years at Manzanar.

The Pilgrimage Day program included several speeches, along with cultural and musical performances by UCLA's Kyodo Taiko, Bonbu Stories and artist-musician Ken Koshio from Phoenix. As always, the interfaith ceremony was held in closing to commemorate those buried at the cemetery.

Jeremiah Joseph, cultural resource protector and a land restoration specialist of the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, offered a welcoming speech to the area and praised Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Kathy Bancroft, who in the past welcomed visitors to the pilgrimage on behalf of the native tribe. Joseph's

comments were followed by a few words from the acting-Superintendent of the Manzanar National Historic Site Gavin Gardner.

Bruce Embrey then offered opening remarks on behalf of the Manzanar Committee. "We return to Manzanar because we believe it is our duty to honor our families and to say what happened here must never happen again," he said. Embrey noted that many are "worried about the future of our country because of a re-energized white nationalist movement that threatens our basic democratic rights." He further noted that the hostility and name-calling and the "attempts to dehumanize others because of their religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or racial background are reminiscent of what happened to Japanese Americans" when they lost their democratic rights and freedoms in 1942 with Executive Order 9066.

"We must stand up to efforts to silence and censor student protesters and academics seeking to support a ceasefire and end to genocide in Palestine. . . . We have to act," Embrey continued. "We must remind America it owes Black Americans reparations; the indigenous people must get their land back, and we must uphold the human and civil rights of all people."

The keynote speaker for the pilgrimage was Don Tamaki, a well-known and respected attorney who somewhat famously and historically served as co-counsel in the 1980 landmark Supreme Court case that overturned the 1944 Fred Korematsu criminal conviction for refusing to go along with the incarceration orders of Japanese Americans during WWII.

The overturned case would serve as an important "boost" that led to the eventual success of Japanese American reparations in 1988 for former camp internees. Tamaki also serves on the California Reparations Task Force for Black American redress, and during his speech, he noted the historical and contemporary nexus between reparations for Japanese Americans in the past and Black American communities today.



Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embrey delivers opening comments at the 55th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage.



Keynote speaker Don Tamaki



Jeremiah Joseph of the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe welcomes visitors.



Phoenix-based musician Ken Koshio entertains the audience with a musical interlude.



UCLA's Kyodo Taiko performs during the ceremony.



P.C. Contributor Charles James gathers information from a young Buddhist priest.



Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award recipient Ron Wakabayashi (center) with members of the Manzanar Committee

Student speaker Maiya Kuida-Osumi was a recent participant in Katari: Keeping Japanese American Stories Alive, the Manzanar Committee's joint educational project with the NPS.

Youth participants are key to the future of the Manzanar Pilgrimage.



"Pilgrimages are powerful because they shine a light — truth," said Tamaki. "Today, few things are more contentious than the teaching of truth. At least 37 states have adopted new measures that limit how America's history of racism, from slavery to Jim Crow, can be discussed in public schools. Since 2021, states have introduced 137 bills limiting what teachers can teach about race, history, politics, sexual orientation and gender identity." He went on to note, "The fact is, when it comes to race, America has been truth-challenged since its inception."

Tamaki then proceeded to give a history lesson on how Japanese American reparations came about with the support of the Congressional Black Caucus and that it is important to support reparations for Black Americans for slavery in California. "We can learn from

the leaders of this pilgrimage, who know that reparations is a justice issue, about holding the nation to its professed ideals." (A YouTube video of Tamaki's complete remarks has been posted by the Manzanar Committee under the title "2024 Manzanar Pilgrimage (55th Annual — Don Tamaki Keynote).")

Omar Altamimi, senior policy and advocacy coordinator of CAIR CA, shared that Islamophobia is at an all-time high with a plague of record-breaking reports of threats and acts of violence, citing several examples. He went on to state that "Silence is complicity. Silence empowers abusers and wrongdoers. Today, we are called upon to break that silence as we witness a genocide that has taken the lives of 34,000 people, 14,000 children." Altamimi called for peace in Gaza.

Student speaker Maiya Kuida-Osumi spoke

briefly about her experience participating in Katari: Keeping Japanese American Stories Alive, which is a joint educational project between the Manzanar Committee and the National Park Service.

Embrey next presented Ron Wakabayashi with the Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award, saying, "We are honored to recognize Ron for all his outstanding contributions to our community and defending the civil rights of all Americans thanks to his leadership advancing justice for the Japanese American community and defending human rights for all."

Wakabayashi was one of the pioneers who participated in the first organized Manzanar Pilgrimage in 1969, and through the years, he has served in an astounding number of key positions during his lifetime. He was the national youth director for the Japanese

American Citizens League in the late 1960s, a founder and director of the Asian American Drug Abuse Program, the JACL national director during the redress campaign and the executive director of the Los Angeles City Human Relations Commission and the director of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations.

At the closing of the day's program, the traditional interfaith service was conducted at the "Soul Consoling Tower," the large concrete obelisk in the camp cemetery built in August 1943 to memorialize those who died at Manzanar.

Concluded Embrey, "We return to Manzanar because we believe it is our duty to honor our families and to say that what happened here must never be forgotten and must never happen to anyone anywhere." ■

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CHALLENGES TO DEMOCRACY EXAMINED

Latest threats to civil liberties test America's mettle.

By P.C. Staff

(EDITOR'S NOTE: On June 29, 2023, California's Reparations Task Force issued its 1,100-page report, commonly referred to as "The California Reparations Report." It examined how nearly 250 years of slavery, plus another nearly 100 years of "Jim Crow" policies, had a deleterious effect on Americans of African ancestry, extending to the present. It also recommended more than 115 actions that could be taken to remediate the historic harms that resulted, while drawing a throughline of systemic white supremacy in how America has treated racial minorities and indigenous people.

On Aug. 10, 2023, California's attorney general issued an apology from the state for its role in the mass removal and incarceration of its ethnic Japanese — both U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents then-deemed ineligible to become naturalized citizens — that was the result of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066.

In each instance, an Asian American played vital roles in these reparative justice initiatives. In the former, Japanese American attorney Don Tamaki, whose résumé includes serving as a member of one of the three legal teams that in the 1980s revisited failed attempts to legally challenge aspects of the constitutionality of the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II in Supreme Court lawsuits brought by Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu and Minoru Yasui, using an obscure legal procedure, writ of error coram nobis. Tamaki, senior counsel at San Francisco-based Minami Tamaki LLP, was on the team that overturned Korematsu's criminal conviction. He is the co-founder of the Asian Law Alliance and has served as the executive director of the Asian Law Caucus. In 2021, California Gov. Gavin Newsom appointed him to serve on the nine-member California Reparations Task Force, of which he was the one member of Asian ancestry.

In the latter, it was Filipino American Attorney General Rob Bonta who led the state's Justice Department in its effort to revisit California's complicity in the abrogation of the rights of its residents of Japanese ancestry during WWII — and issue a formal apology.

It was with that backdrop that the National JACL, the Japanese American National Museum, the Florin JACL-Sacramento Valley and California Asian Pacific American Bar Assn. worked together to present Tamaki and Bonta at "Our Fragile Democracy: Historic and Present-Day Attacks on Our Civil Rights and Civil Liberties," held — and livestreamed — on Feb. 24 at the Tateuchi Democracy Forum at the Japanese American National Museum's Daniel K. Inouye Center for the Preservation of Democracy.

What happened to the Japanese American community at the onset of World War II must never happen again to any other community."

With those words, William Fujioka, chair of JANM's board of trustees, set the tone of what was to follow at "Our Fragile Democracy: Historic and Present-Day Attacks on Our Civil Rights and Civil Liberties."

Preceding Fujioka, however, the event began with a welcome by Deputy Attorney General IV Elizabeth Sarine, one of the event's sponsors, who introduced master of ceremonies Amy Watanabe, managing director of client services at Nakatomi PR and a former Sen. Daniel K. Inouye JACL fellow. She in turn introduced Tamaki.

"It's fitting that we're here at the Democracy Center because the truth itself, and therefore democracy itself, is under threat as never before. In 2021, the Capitol was defiled. Five people died. Twenty-five thousand troops were deployed to protect the peaceful transfer of power, and millions continue to believe the election was stolen, despite no evidence of that," said Tamaki in reference to the insurrection that occurred on Jan. 6, 2021, following the November 2020 general election in which Joe Biden defeated Donald Trump in the race for the presidency. "When conspiracy theories take root, and alternative facts hold sway over the real ones, history tells us that society can descend into a very dark place when the truth doesn't matter."

After thanking Bonta for "his office's apology, shining a light on truth and memorializing the fragility of our democracy," Tamaki recounted how during WWII, some government and military officials conspired to justify the roundup, removal and incarceration of ethnic Japanese in the U.S.

Referring to Gen. John L. DeWitt, who was in part tasked with that role, Tamaki said, "The burden fell on to DeWitt to issue a final report to justify putting Americans into concentration camps. There was only one problem. It was entirely made up, and the government knew it at the time."

Tamaki went on to describe how DeWitt's final report differed from naval, FBI and FCC intelligence reports that concluded "Japanese



California Reparations Task Force members (from left) Jovan Scott Lewis, Sen. Steven Bradford, Lisa Holder, San Diego County Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe, Cheryl Grills, Donald K. Tamaki, Amos C. Brown, Assemblymember Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer Sr. and Kamilah V. Moore

PHOTO: STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Americans had done no wrong, that there was no reason for the mass removal, and that the Army's espionage claims were quote, 'intentional falsehoods.'

"Caught in an ethical dilemma, alarmed Justice Department lawyers became whistleblowers, urging the solicitor general (Charles Fahy) that they had a duty to disclose the evidence and not to lie to the Supreme Court," Tamaki said. Instead, this evidence was "suppressed altered, and one crucial report was even ordered burned."

Japanese American redress, not to mention the *coram nobis* cases, may have never happened had something completely random and unexpected happened, namely discoveries decades later by attorney Peter Irons and researcher Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga of documents that disproved the government's claim that the treatment of those of Japanese heritage was justified for military necessity.

Tying in his experiences as a pro bono attorney for the revived Korematsu case and serving on the Reparations Task force, Tamaki said, "Over the years, I've wondered how anti-Japanese American hatred could be so overpowering as to cause all three co-equal branches of government, each designed to be a check and balance on the excesses of the others, to fail so spectacularly. Before serving on the Reparations Task Force, delving into slavery and its aftermath, I viewed the incarceration as a stand-alone example of anti-Asian hate. Now, I view it as a subchapter in a racial pathology that began long before Asian Americans arrived on this country's shores."

Viewed from that perspective, Tamaki noted it was the explanation of how, in 1882, "Congress passed the nation's first travel ban, the Chinese Exclusion Act. During this ultraracist era, Japanese immigrants arrived, a slew of

anti-Asian legislation followed, including California 1913 alien land laws, prohibiting Japanese immigrants from owning most kinds of real property." Jumping to the present day, it also explained why, Tamaki relayed, that of the more than 600 organizations that have endorsed African American reparations, more than 50 of them are Japanese American groups.

Bringing things back to the theme of the event, Tamaki asked: "If we don't face the ugly, inconvenient truth, how do we improve as a nation? More to the point, how do we save our democracy?"

As he approached the end of his speech, Tamaki said, "The truth-telling of the attorney general's apology and the Reparations Task Force reminds us that democracy is not always lost in a sudden coup d'état. No, we can lose our democracy incrementally. If alternative facts are trotted out in place of the real ones, if racism shouts louder than the Constitution, if our three-branch system of checks and balances, which was designed to thwart the rise of kings and tyrants, is undermined, and, most importantly, if we fail to stand up and demand truth and accountability to the rule of law, our democratic institutions can end up hollowed out from within to a point that we will no longer recognize them."

Tamaki's speech was followed by a "fireside chat" between JANM CEO Ann Burroughs and California Attorney General Rob Bonta, during which she began by asking him, "What was it that motivated you to issue that apology, and why did you feel that it was important to frame it as a reparative apology?"

In part of his answer, Bonta replied, "You can't change the past. But you can acknowledge it, you must acknowledge it, you can apologize for it — and you can make sure it never happens again and take affirmative



"Our Fragile Democracy" panel discussion participants (from left) Gabriel Chin, Susan Kamei, Damon Brown, Lisa Doi and Clay Zhu on Feb. 24 in Little Tokyo.

PHOTO: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON



California Attorney General Rob Bonta answers a question during the “fireside chat” portion of the “Our Fragile Democracy” event held at JANM’s Tateuchi Democracy Forum.

PHOTO: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON

steps to do the opposite of the painful thing, the unjust thing, the racist thing.” Bonta also acknowledged that the timing of the apology — Aug. 10, 2023 — was done to coincide with “the 35th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.”

The chat was followed by a panel discussion moderated by University of Southern California Professor Susan H. Kamei, who authored “When Can We Go Back to America? Voices of Japanese American Incarceration During World War II” (*Pacific Citizen*, Sept. 10, 2021, tinyurl.com/bdey9xp9).

Joining Kamei on the panel were University of California Davis School of Law Professor Gabriel “Jack” Chin; Special Assistant Attorney General Damon M. Brown of the California Department of Justice; Ph.D. candidate Lisa Doi, president of Chicago JACL chapter, a co-

chair of Tsuru for Solidarity and project manager of the new core exhibit at the Japanese American National Museum; and Clay Zhu, managing partner of the Silicon Valley Branch of DeHeng Law Offices and co-founder of the nonprofit Chinese American Legal Defense Alliance.

Echoing Tamaki’s “racial pathology that began long before Asian Americans arrived on this country’s shores” remark about a system that had denied naturalization and land ownership rights to Asian immigrants, not to mention putting Japanese Americans into concentration camps, Chin supplemented his presentation with various slides that showed America’s history of marginalizing the rights of non-European people.

Chin cited the Naturalization Act of 1790, which restricted U.S. citizenship to “being a free white person,” and a unanimous 1922 Supreme Court decision, *Ozawa v. United States*, which held that because Takao Ozawa, a Japanese immigrant was not white, he “could not naturalize” because racial restriction was a “rule in force from the beginning of the government, a part of our history as well as our law”

Zhu, a self-described “first-generation immigrant from China,” began his remarks by noting that he became a U.S. citizen in 2020. “For the first time in 20-plus years living this country, I did not feel safe. So, I went ahead and got my citizenship. I thought that was my natural protection. I could show

my U.S. passport and say, ‘I belong here.’ I quickly realized it did not help because I could not, you know, hide my face and my skin color.” He also went from mostly representing companies in corporate and commercial cases to becoming a legal activist. In 2020, Zhu and several colleagues formed the Chinese American Legal Defense Alliance. “We basically sue government officials for systematic discrimination against Chinese Americans,” he said.

In his segment, Brown picked up on the history and status quo over the laws regarding land ownership. “I don’t think it should be lost on anyone that these laws are taking and depriving individuals of land ownership. Land ownership is directly connected to power and agency in this country,” he said. “You could not vote in this country unless you were a white male landowner, which also disenfranchised poor whites. You could not vote in many places if you were not a landowner.”

Brown added, “I think it’s important to continue to have this discussion, understanding why land is at issue here, why that is what is being looked at as a way to disenfranchise, in this case, Japanese and other Asian people here in this country because it’s a threat to white supremacy. And those that would uphold those systems and institutions in this country to maintain power will go to any lengths in order to keep it.”

Doi, who began by noting she was the only nonlawyer on the panel, said she wanted to discuss what Tsuru for Solidarity and JACL at the national and chapter levels, as well as other Japanese American organizations, have

been focusing on.

On the topic of reparations, Doi said, “In 2021, Tsuru was asked by several national Black reparations organizations and the ACLU to solicit testimony from the Japanese American community in support of HR 40, which is a piece of federal legislation to do a federal study on the history and legacy of slavery and sort of a study bill about reparations that was mirrored in AD 3121.

“It made it to the House Judiciary Committee, which is the farthest it had ever made it in its nearly 40 years of being introduced on the House floor. And, as I think Don articulated so well, this was, I think, an easy ask in many ways for Japanese Americans to speak out in support of this piece of legislation. And very quickly, we got over 300 letters of testimony in support.”

After the panel wrapped up its discussion, National JACL Education Programs Manager Matthew Weisbly concluded the event. “So, we stand here today because of Attorney General Bonta and his team for recognizing that what our community went through was wrong and the governmental bodies like his office were wrong for supporting such actions. But as you’ve heard also from our panelists, there’s so much work that needs to be done.”

To view a recorded video of “Our Fragile Democracy: Historic and Present-Day Attacks on Our Civil Rights and Civil Liberties,” visit tinyurl.com/5797r7wu. To read a longer version of the P.C.’s coverage of “Our Fragile Democracy,” visit pacificcitizen.org/challenges-to-democracy-examined/.

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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 for more information and janm.org.

NCWNP

'The Volunteer' Screening and Discussion
Virtual Event
May 26; 1 p.m.
Price: Free

Hosted by the NCWNP District JACL, this program will feature a screening of David Brodie's award-winning documentary "The Volunteer" and a discussion moderated by author/historian/filmmaker Robert Horsting that will feature panelists Hubert Yoshida, a Vietnam veteran, and LaShelle Natsuko Burch, a licensed clinical social worker.
Info: Attendees can RSVP by emailing info@jac-ncwnp.org by May 22.

Sacramento JACL Scholarship Luau
Sacramento, CA
June 9; 11:30 a.m. Social; 12:30 p.m. Luncheon; 1:30 p.m. Awards
Nisei Hall
1515 4th St.
Price: Members \$20; Nonmembers \$22
This year's special awards ceremony for the Sacramento JACL's scholarship recipients will feature a delicious luau-themed luncheon and a celebration cake.
Info: Dress is Hawaiian-inspired. RSVP by June 3 to sacjacinfo@yahoo.com.

Japan Day 2024
Sacramento, CA
June 23; 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Nisei Hall
1515 4th St.
Price: Free

Come join the Sacramento JACL for a day of classes showcasing Japanese culture. Demos include microwave mochi,

Japanese line dancing, sakura felt pin craft and a spam musubi contest!
Info: To participate in the spam musubi contest, email sacjacinfo@yahoo.com for an entry form.

'Taken From Their Families: Japanese American Incarceration on Angel Island During World War II'
San Jose, CA
Thru June 23
Japanese American Museum San Jose
535 N. Fifth St.
Price: Museum Admission

This exhibit features stories from 24 individuals from Hawaii and the West Coast who were incarcerated on Angel Island after Dec. 7, 1941, and whose lives were changed forever because of it.
Info: Visit <https://www.jamsj.org/exhibitions>.

PSW

Ondo Classes at the GVJCI
Gardena, CA
May 22, 29, June 5, 12; 6-7 p.m.
Gardena Valley JCI
1964 W. 162nd St.
Price: \$5 for Each Class

Get ready for summer by participating in the GVJCI's ondo (Japanese dance) classes for all ages! All levels welcome; registration is required.
Info: To register, visit <https://gvjci.wufoo.com/forms/qs9869i0ek098q/>.

Sake in the Park
Los Angeles, CA
July 26; 7-10 p.m.
Grand Park in Downtown Los Angeles
Price: Fundraiser Event
Save the date! Summer is just around the corner, which means that Sake in the Park is almost here. This year's celebration will take place in Grand Park, the biggest venue in the event's 16-year history. This event is a fundraiser for the Little Tokyo Service Center and will include an inclusive ticket with unlimited food and drink. Early bird tickets go on sale June 1.
Info: Visit www.ltsc.org/sake.

'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. "Giant Robot Biennale 5" will feature artists Sean Chao, Felicia Chiao, Luke Chueh, Giorgiko, James Jean, Taylor Lee, Mike Shinoda, Rain Szeto and Yoskay Yamamoto, among others.
Info: Visit www.janm.org.

'J. T. Sata: Immigrant Modernist'
Los Angeles, CA
Thru 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.

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. For questions, please email connects@okaeri.org.

PNW

Olympia 32nd Annual Bon Odori Festival
Olympia, WA
Aug. 10; 5-9 p.m.
South Puget Sound Community College
2011 Mottman Road S.W.
Price: Free

Come and join the Olympia JACL as it celebrates the return of its annual Bon Odori festival, now in its 32nd year, the first since 2018. The day will feature food trucks, karate demonstrations, a performance by Fuji Taiko and traditional bon odori dancing.
Info: Contact Reiko Callner at (360) 791-3295 for more information.

Genji Mihara: An Issei Pioneer
Seattle, WA
Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington
1414 S. Weller St.

An Issei pioneer, JCCCW's feature exhibit on the life of Issei leader Genji Mihara (1890-1982) is part of a larger biographical project on Mihara, who immigrated to Seattle in 1907. Features include original photos and artifacts donated by Mihara's family, historical research and quotes from oral history interviews, including one from Mihara himself in the 1970s.
Info: Visit www.jcccw.org.

MDC

'Muttsu no Kazoku: Six Families' Journey From Internment to Scott'
Exhibit
Scott, AR
Thru July 27
Plantation Agriculture Museum
4815 Hwy. 161 S
Price: Museum Admission

This exhibit tells a story that has long been overlooked, as it explores life for the Shingu, Futamachi, Nakamura, Oshima, Yada and Yoshimura families before, during and after WWII, with a special focus on their lives in the farming community of Scott after their release from Rohwer War Relocation Center.
Info: Call (501) 961-1409.

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. With more than 80 paintings and drawings, this exhibit spans 8 decades.
Info: Visit <https://umfa.utah.edu/pictures-of-belonging>.

EDC

2024 Boston AAPI 5K
Carson Beach, MA
May 18; 9 a.m.
South Boston

AAPI 5K is a community run celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Proceeds will benefit local AAPI nonprofits.
Info: Visit <https://raceroster.com/events/2024/76132/2024-boston-aapi-5k>.

'Corky Lee's Asian America: 50 Years of Photographic Justice' Book Release
Boston, MA
May 23; 6-8 p.m.
Pao Arts Center
99 Albany St.
Price: Free

This book features a selection of the best photos from Lee's vast collection, from his pictures of New York's Chinatown in the 1970s to his coverage of diverse Asian American communities until his passing in 2021. There will also be a pop-up photo exhibition and a special screening of the film "Dear Corky" by Curtis Chin.
Info: To RSVP, visit <https://www.paoartscenter.org/events/2024/corkylee>.

P1Harmony Concert
Boston, MA
May 26; 7:30 p.m.
Wang Theatre
270 Tremont St.
Price: Ticket Prices Vary.

Popular South Korean boy band P1Harmony merges melodic pop, dance beats and hip-hop style with the talents of their vocalists and team of rappers.
Info: To purchase tickets, visit <https://www.bochcenter.org/events/detail/p1harmony>.

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In MEMORIAM

Akamine, Benny Shigeru, 70, Hilo, HI, March 22.

Arakawa, Sueko, 88, Monrovia, CA, Dec. 8, 2023.



Bouley, Minori Cecilia Theresa Naraki, 92, Bountiful, UT, April 15.

Furuta, Chikara 'Chik,' 81, Huntington Beach, CA, March 4.

Gotanda, Yukie, 107, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 9, 2023.

Hamano, Momoyo, 98, Honolulu, HI, Dec. 4, 2023.



Hayashi, Tazue, 96, Cerritos, CA, Oct. 13, 2023.

Hohri, Yuriko, 94, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 28, 2023; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Santa Anita racetrack and the Jerome WRA Center in AR; she was predeceased by her husband, William; she is survived by her daughters, Sasha Hohri and Sylvia Hohri; gc: 3; ggc: 5.

Hirayama, Asayo, 95, Redondo Beach, CA, Dec. 20, 2023.



Inaba, Miyoko, 98, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 6, 2023.

Kawachi, Sharon, 75, Kahlui, HI, March 24.

Kawaratani, Aiko, 95, Monterey Park, CA, Dec. 2, 2023.

Kawase, Joan Ota, 83, Brea, CA, Nov. 19, 2023.



Kikuchi, David Kenshin, 92, Pasadena, CA, March 9.

Kita, Kohtaro Roberto, 2, Fairfax, VA, Oct. 17, 2023.

Kitada, Pauline Naomi, 78, Kahlui, HI, Jan. 10.

Kitahara, Chris, 64, Corning, CA, Oct. 5, 2023.

Kitamura, Nelson Dennis, 71, Duncanville, TX, Nov 21, 2023.



Kitayama, Louise, 80, Arlington, MA, Oct. 26, 2023.

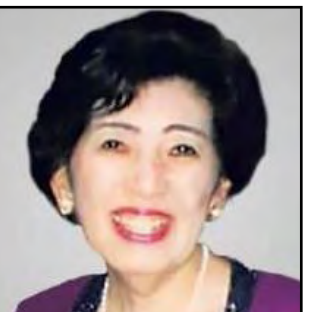
Kobayashi, Frank Toshimi, 93, Honeyville, UT, Jan. 29.

Martinez, Joan Masayo Kitada, 73, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 16; she is survived by her husband, Johnny Martinez; sons, Brion (Brianna) and Russell (Tracy) Martinez; brother, David (Jocelyn) Kitada; gc: 4.

Masunaga, Harold, 91, Honolulu, HI, March 9.

Matsumoto, Amy, 89, Torrance, CA, Dec. 22, 2023.

Matsumoto, Edwin S., 89, Kaneohe, HI, Feb. 20.



Miyamoto, Jean, 90, Monterey Park, CA, Jan. 8.

Morisaki, Helen, 94, Los Angeles, CA, March 6.

Morris, Susan Tsurumaki, 65, Sacramento, CA, Sept. 15, 2023; she was predeceased by her brother, Dennis; she is survived by her husband, Don; children Caiti and Christopher; brother, Michael; and parents Kiyoshi and Irene.

Murase, Hiroko, 64, New York, NY, Jan. 25.

Nagao, Edward, 87, Elk Grove, CA, Oct. 1, 2023; he was predeceased by his parents; brother-in-law, Masao Kuwamoto; sister-in-law, Tosh Henna; he survived by his wife, Setsuko Lil; children, Michael and Michelle (Jason Allen); brothers, Fred Nagao (Rose), Harry Nagao (Karen) and Ronald Nagao (Zee); sister-in-law, Keiko Hendrix (Wayne); brother-in-law, George Kuwamoto (Faye); he is also survived by many nephews, nieces, great-nephews and great-nieces.

Nakamoto, Miyoko, 95, Gardena, CA, Oct. 8; she was predeceased by her husband, Yoriyoshi 'Danny'; she is survived by her daughters, Lori (Paul) Prybylla and Shari (Alex Kawana) Nakamoto; sister, Lorraine (Masao) Kato; gc: 1.

Nishikida, Mark, 58, Belmont, CA, Oct. 23, 2023; he is survived by his mother, Diane Morneault; sister, Jennifer (Timothy Giacomini); and nephews.

Oda, Fred Masuo, 90, Mission Hills, CA, Nov. 4, 2023; he is survived by his wife, Gladys Keiko Oda; children, Stanley (Gina) Oda, James Oda and Linda Hash; brother, Takashi (Suzuko) Oda; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

Oda, Janet Keiko, 74, Aiea, HI, Feb. 21.



Okada, Kathryn Kameko, 31, Yuma, AZ, Dec. 2, 2023.

Philanthropist Hisako Terasaki, 95, Dies

Hisako Terasaki, a Nisei artist who with her late husband, Paul Terasaki, helped the Japanese American community and promoted Japanese culture via their philanthropic efforts, has died. She was 95.

She grew up in the Los Angeles neighborhood of Boyle Heights, with her sister, Tokiko, and their parents, Shuichi and Chizu Sumioka.

During WWII, the Sumiokas were incarcerated at Arizona's

Poston War Relocation Authority Center.

Postwar, Hisako Sumioka returned to Los Angeles, studying art and earning a bachelor's degree in education. In 1954, she and Paul Terasaki were married. He died in 2016.

She is survived by Mark (Rindy) Terasaki, Keith (Cecilia) Terasaki, Taiji (Naoko) Terasaki and Emiko (Daniel Cook) Terasaki; six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

TRIBUTE

GRACE SACHIKO HATA



Grace Sachiko Hata, a woman of profound grace and unwavering strength, passed away peacefully in the morning of April 18, 2024. Born on May 7, 1930, in the historic city of Kyoto, Japan, Grace embodied the essence of heritage and tradition throughout her remarkable life journey.

Grace was the cherished daughter of Eitaro and Nobuo Nishimura, with deep roots tracing back to the prestigious Zohiko lacquerware company, a revered institution with a legacy spanning over three centuries. From her upbringing, she inherited not only the richness of her family's heritage but also the values of diligence, resilience and a profound appreciation for craftsmanship.

In the presence of her beloved husband, Hugo Masami Hata, Grace's life blossomed with love and purpose. She was first married in Honolulu, Hawaii, and from this union, she was blessed with three beloved sons: John, Michael and Andrew. Later, she remarried in Los Angeles, Calif., where she and Hugo welcomed three more children into their hearts: Ira, Brice, and Faye. Their bond was a testament to her nurturing spirit and unwavering love.

As the eldest of four daughters, Grace embodied the role of a guiding light within her family, inspiring those around her with her wisdom and compassion. Her presence was a source of comfort and strength, a beacon of warmth in times of joy and sorrow alike.

Beyond her familial roles, Grace found immense fulfillment in sharing her passion for music. For many years, she graced the community of Monterey Park, Calif., with her talent and dedication as a piano teacher. Through her teaching, she not only imparted musical skills but also instilled a sense of discipline, creativity and cultural appreciation in her students, particularly within the Nisei community.

Grace Sachiko Hata leaves behind a legacy of love, resilience, and enduring grace. Her memory will forever be cherished by her family, friends, and all whose lives she touched with her kindness and wisdom. Though she may have bid farewell to this earthly realm, her spirit will continue to inspire and uplift those who were fortunate enough to have known her.

In honoring Grace's memory, let us celebrate the beauty of her life and the profound impact she made on the world around her. Though she may be gone from our sight, her legacy will forever resonate in our hearts.

Rest in eternal peace, dear Grace, knowing that your love will continue to shine brightly in our hearts forevermore.

PLACE A TRIBUTE

'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$20/ column inch.

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