

PACIFIC CITIZEN

PHOTO: COURTESY OF NETFLIX

ONE PIECE

» PAGE 5

JACL National
Announces
Board
Candidates.

» PAGE 9

Japantown
Mural in
Sacramento Is
Unveiled.

» PAGE 6

SAILING INTO ACTION

A long-running popular manga series
becomes a live-action TV hit.

CELEBRATING
95
Years

JACL Reveals 2024 Japanese American of the Biennium Awardees

By JACL National

The National JACL has announced the recipients of its Japanese American of the Biennium Award.

Receiving the awards at the JACL's upcoming 2024 National Convention are:

- **Dr. Satsuki Ina** in the category of education/humanities for her years of dedication to supporting victims of oppression, her research on intergenerational trauma and her use of storytelling and psychology in activism to make change.
- **Chief Judge Dana Makoto Sabraw** in the category of politics/public affairs/law for his years of public service in the court system and his work to ensure the civil and human rights of those in the justice system.
- **David Ono** in the category of arts/literature/communications for his work in the field of journalism, specifically his storytelling of the World War II history of the Japanese American community, and his dedication to supporting the Japanese American community.

The awards will be presented on July 13 at the organization's Sayonara Gala, the concluding public event of its National Convention, set for July 10-14 at the Sheraton Downtown in Philadelphia. This year's theme is "Looking Into the Future Together."

This award is given to select individuals to recognize their contributions to the Japanese American community. The JACL National Board confers these awards in consultation with past JACL leaders and other leaders in the Japanese American community.

Also taking place at the Sayonara Gala will be the presentation of the JACL Ruby Pin, the

JACL's highest service award for long-standing and significant individual contributions over a minimum of 20 years.

The 2024 JACL National Convention includes joint programming with OCA and APIAVote, including the 2024 Presidential Town Hall. To register to attend the convention or for tickets to specific events, including the Sayonara Gala, please visit <https://jacl.org/2024-jacl-national-convention>.



Dr. Satsuki Ina, 2024 Japanese American of the Biennium (Education/Humanities)

Dr. Satsuki Ina truly embodies the definition of speaking truth to power. Over the course of her 30-plus years of activism, she courageously speaks out, confronting authority, calling out injustices on their watch and demanding change. Her commitment to constantly addressing ways for a just society inspires many, young and old alike.

When she often commits to speaking out courageously, it assumes risk that makes people uncomfortable, but has faith that the process is what makes people think to affect change. Case in point, she participated in protests at Fort Sill and Fort Bliss to defend the rights of undocumented migrant children and families. Her participation showed the powerful impact of multigenerational and grassroots activism and exemplified the moral authority to protest.

Based on her personal family experience of being born in Tule Lake Incarceration Camp, Ina has made it her lifelong passion to research the long-term impact of incarceration trauma and its intergenerational impact. Her work was credited in an August 2023 published research project for the Fund for Global Human Rights by Devon Kearney on how intergenerational trauma affects the present and future of transitional justice. This shows how her work continues to influence the concepts of other projects.

Storytelling is the most important means of conveying a strong transformative message. With the recent release of her latest book, "The Poet and the Silk Girl," she continues to share stories to inform and inspire others to challenge our thinking, seek justice and be the change we want to see.



Chief Judge Dana Makoto Sabraw, 2024 Japanese American of the Biennium (Political/Public Affairs/Law)

Dana Makoto Sabraw was elected chief judge of the U.S. Courts for the Southern District of California in 2021 and continues to serve in that capacity. He was confirmed as a U.S. district judge in 2003. Previously, he served as San Diego County Superior Court Judge (1998-03) and as presiding judge of San Diego North County Municipal Court (1995-98). After receiving his bachelor of science from San Diego State University, he graduated from McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific, in Sacramento.

Among his many honors and recognitions, Sabraw received the California State Bar's 2023 Bernard E. Witkin Award for Excellence, the San Diego County Bar Assn.'s 2019 Outstanding Jurist Award and was named Person of the Year in 2018 by the *San Diego Union-Tribune*.

Of probably the greatest relevance to the JACL with its civil and human rights agenda is the fact that Sabraw presided over the case of the U.S. government's separation of families at the U.S. border. Sabraw ordered the government to stop separating families caught at the border and reunite the 2,500 children already apart.

The best description of Sabraw came from San Diego Superior Court Judge Joan Weber, who served with him in the Superior Court. She said, "Judge Sabraw is brilliant, has excellent judicial temperament and lawyers love being in his courtroom. He's a gentleman to every person who walks into his courtroom. I believe that's because he's such a quality human being."



David Ono, 2024 J.A. of the Biennium (Art/Literature/Communication)

Following is an excerpt from "More Than an Anchorman: ABC7's David Ono Celebrates a Milestone" by Ellen Endo, *Rafu Shimpo* (10/09/2021).

After 25 years at ABC7, the verdict is in on David Ono. He is the Tom Hanks of the nightly news.

» See AWARDEES on page 4

HOW TO REACH US

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

STAFF

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

The *Pacific Citizen* newspaper (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semi-monthly (except once in December and January) by the Japanese American Citizens League, *Pacific Citizen*, 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 206, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Periodical postage paid at L.A., CA

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to National JACL, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115.

JACL President: Larry Oda
Executive Director: David Inoue

P.C. EDITORIAL BOARD

John Saito Jr., chairperson; Ron Kuramoto, MDC; Rob Buscher, EDC; Marcia Chung, CCDC; Nancy Ukai, NCWNPDC; Sheldon Arakaki, PNWDC; Lisa Olsen, IDC; Mitchell Matsumura, PSWDC; Remy Kageyama, Youth Rep.

Subscribe

Get a one-year subscription of the *Pacific Citizen* newspaper at: www.pacificcitizen.org or call (213) 620-1767.

Advertise

To advertise in the *Pacific Citizen*, call (213) 620-1767 or e-mail: busrmgr@pacificcitizen.org.

LEGAL

No part of this publication may be reproduced without the express permission of the *Pacific Citizen*. Editorials, letters, news and the opinions expressed by columnists other than the national JACL president or national director do not necessarily reflect JACL policy. Events and products advertised in the *P.C.* do not carry the implicit endorsement of the JACL or this publication. We reserve the right to edit articles. © 2024

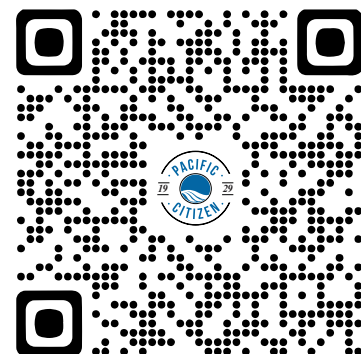
Periodicals paid at Los Angeles, Calif. and mailing office.

JACL MEMBERS

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you've moved, please send new information to: **National JACL**
1765 Sutter St.
San Francisco, CA 94115
(415) 921-5225 ext. 26
ALLOW 6 WEEKS FOR ADDRESS CHANGES.
TO AVOID INTERRUPTIONS IN DELIVERY, PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR POSTMASTER TO INCLUDE PERIODICALS IN YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS (USPS Form 3575)

JACL Members Not Receiving Your *Pacific Citizen*? Please contact Tomiko Ismail, JACL Membership/Database Administrator, at (415) 921-5225, ext. 26, or email tismail@jacl.org.



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

Name : _____

Address 1 : _____

Phone Number : _____ E-mail : _____

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



THE P.C.'S SPRING CAMPAIGN HELPS SUPPORT ITS DIGITAL ARCHIVES

By Nancy Ukai,
Pacific Citizen Editorial
Board Member, NCWNP

W'e're all guilty of having gone down the rabbit hole of the internet, but have you gotten lost in the digital archives of the *Pacific Citizen*?

All of the JACL's newspapers are digitized and available for free on the *P.C.*'s website under "Newspaper Archives," starting with the inaugural issue in October 1929.

Prewar news accounts make for sobering yet compelling reading. An article in November 1941 titled "'42 Production Plans" alerts readers that "the cooperation of every Japanese farmer has been requested for the Defense Program of 1942, which calls for the largest production in the history of American agriculture."

One month later, Pearl Harbor was attacked, and within half a year, Japanese American farmers were losing uncounted millions of dollars

in crops and generational wealth in land.

Details deepen one's understanding of the humiliations and erasures. A June 1942 report titled "It Happened in May ..." records the Japanese Tea Garden's closure after three decades of serving as a San Francisco landmark. Five members of the Hagiwara family were "evacuated." A proposal to turn it into a "super deluxe hamburger stand" did not materialize.

A baseball game between Placer Junior College and Placer Union High School in California was canceled because 150 Nisei students were forced to leave school.

Nikkei history was a perennial topic in the *P.C.* In a correction letter (April 1941), Paul Parker of Berkeley wrote that the first Japanese settlers did not come to Monterey in 1897, as was stated in an earlier *P.C.* issue, but 20 years earlier. Cattle buyer D. W. Jones "had taken a band of sheep to Japan in 1872, and they did so well under his guidance that he



came back five years later" with three Japanese: Okee, Kada and Hasegawa "to make further purchases."

Carol Kawase, president of the NCWNP district, uses the archives to research the history of chapters. I noticed that in the April 1941 issue, my uncle, Tetsuo Takayanagi of Berkeley, was a member of the Oakland chapter. After release from Topaz, he entered the MIS and later moved to Massachusetts, never to return to California (but he subsequently joined the Boston chapter).

The *P.C.* archives even help PhD

candidates do research. Jonathan Van Harmelen recently was awarded a doctorate in history at the University of California, Santa Cruz. His dissertation is about the relations of the U.S. Congress and Japanese American lobbyists leading up to and during World War II.

He said in an email, "I used the *P.C.* archives for research because the JACL did an excellent job of cataloging all the hate speech in Congress as part of their effort to mobilize support for their lobbying campaigns."

"At the same time," Van Harmelen said, "it displayed cold indifference toward No-Nos in Tule Lake for being unpatriotic and mocked renunciants for leaving the U.S. for Japan. As I argue, Congress pushed the government to punish Tule Lake inmates for insubordination, and as a consequence, many JACL supporters distanced themselves from the events in Tule Lake."

"The *P.C.* back issues are a gold

mine for commentary and discourse about politics and elections and how it affected Japanese Americans in the 1940s," he concluded.

Van Harmelen also used the *P.C.* to write two articles for the Japanese American National Museum's "Discover Nikkei" series about Teiko Ishida, the first woman appointed to the JACL's National Board in 1939. During the war, she wrote a column in the *P.C.* titled "Calling All Chapters."

According to *P.C.* Executive Editor Allison Haramoto, a photographic archive will soon be made available to the public. In our visual world, such images will help future storytelling about Japanese American history.

Please join me in supporting the *Pacific Citizen* by contributing to its Spring Campaign so that staff can continue their efforts to make archival material available and accessible to all, from casual readers to the scholarly community. ■



LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

MUSIC FOR THE BRAIN

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

I grew up watching "Star Trek" (the original series with George Takei playing Sulu, helmsman of the starship USS Enterprise). You might remember, practically every episode had Dr. McCoy, "Bones," waving an electrical device that made a sound pitch at various frequencies over the patient's body to heal it.

Music is so powerful, and doing something as simple as listening to it can boost your memory and heal your body. According to an article called "The Sound of Healing: Sound Used as a Therapeutic Treatment" (Dec. 29, 2023), the use of sound as opposed to chemotherapy and more invasive surgery would truly be a paradigm shift in cancer treatment.

Dr. Anthony Holland, in his TEDx talk called "Shattering Cancer With Resonant Frequencies," said, "I believe the future of children's cancer hospitals will be a different place. They will be a place where children gather and make new friends, they probably won't even know they are sick. They'll play with their toys, all the while unaware that above them a beautiful blue plasma light is emanating healing, pulsing fields shattering their cancer painlessly, and nontoxically, one cell at a time."

"But Judd, that's too far into the

future. Can music help me now?" YES. It turns out that listening to music can also be considered an exercise for the mind. Music is actually one of the most powerful stimulants to the brain. If you play instruments, even better! By playing an instrument, you're exercising not only the brain but also the body.

Music is even more important if you want to prevent premature aging of the brain. Listening to music can help prevent memory problems and improve your hearing. Good news since we know hearing loss can happen as we age.

Dr. Masaru Emoto, a Japanese scientist and author of the best-selling book "The Hidden Messages in Water," discovered that water can be encoded with vibrational information. Dr. Emoto pointed out that the human body is mainly water, and apparently, water loves beautiful, harmonious frequencies.

"I believe that music was created to bring our vibration back to its intrinsic state. It's human nature to create music that readjusts the vibrations distorted by history. That's why I'm so certain that music is a form of healing before it is an art," Dr. Emoto said. "It can become a matter of life and death if we allow our 'life force' to become compromised by the chaotic noise and toxicity of the modern world."

In one of his studies, called the "Wisdom of Water," it demonstrated how different types of sound produce different crystalline patterns in water. When exposed to Mozart's "Symphony No. 40," distilled water samples produced ornate and geometrically symmetrical crystals. On the other hand, distilled water that had been exposed to heavy metal music produced distorted formations.

The "Mozart effect" truly exists, said Dr. Kiminobu Sugaya, head of neuroscience at the Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences. In experiments with local community residents, he found that when this type of classical music was played, "We saw a 50 percent increase in brain function" (source: *The Epoch Times*, "Classical Music Alters the Brain," May 8, 2024).

Music promotes the brain's secretion of endorphins, enkephalins, dopamine and serotonin. Sugaya mentioned that attending a classical music concert is ideal because dopamine released in the brain can make you appear more charming to your partner. Also, beautiful music can also increase oxytocin, a love hormone.

Sound waves can be both good and bad for you. A recent Harvard-led study found that noise exposure may raise risks of cardiovascular problems. Long-term exposure to transportation noise from cars, trucks, trains and planes may raise the risk of cardiovascular disease (source: www.harvard.health.edu, Dec. 4, 2023). Earlier studies also linked noise exposure to short-term changes in blood pressure, heart rate and blood vessel narrowing.

You can also use music to reduce stress. Stress is one of the main causes of memory loss! When people are

stressed and frustrated, they tend to have difficulty creating short-term memories, which will then damage the ability to create long-term memories. Just like music helps reduce stress levels, it can also improve your mood.

Neuroscientists used to believe that music only impacts the right hemisphere of the brain. However, recent findings show that music affects regions throughout the entire brain. Research has shown that listening to music can reduce anxiety, blood pressure and pain, as well as improve sleep quality, mood, mental alertness and memory.

When you listen to music you enjoy, a state of excitement and pleasure is triggered because of this dopamine release. When listening to your favorite part of a song, you experience around the same pleasure as you would from eating food, doing drugs or having sex. Listening to music also produces oxytocin, increasing your emotional understanding and creating peak emotions.

Music can affect our exercise because as our body becomes tired and wants to stop exercising, it sends signals to the brain to stop. Listening to music competes for the brain's attention and can help us overcome those feelings of fatigue. Not only does music help us exercise longer and harder by helping us push through the pain, it can actually help us use our energy more efficiently. A 2012 study showed cyclists who listened to music required 7 percent less oxygen to do the same work as those who cycled in silence.

Music is actually one of the most powerful stimulants to the brain, and when you're listening to music, your brain is highly engaged in the sound.

If you play instruments, even better! By playing an instrument, you're exercising not only the brain but also the body. It is a stimulator for both your visual and motor functioning and can improve your brain's ability to adapt.

If you want to keep your brain engaged throughout the aging process, listening to or playing music is a great tool. A stereo system puts out vibrations that travel through the air and somehow get inside the ear canal. These vibrations tickle the eardrum and are transmitted into an electrical signal that travels through the auditory nerve to the brain stem, where it is reassembled into something we perceive as music.

Scientific research shows that Solfeggio frequencies (based on the white keys of a piano), will calm people, and one will heal better and faster when they are relaxed and calm. Some studies have found that 432 and 528 Hz have a destressing effect on the brain, possibly reducing cortisol levels and raising oxytocin, and 174 Hz, aka the healing frequency, has been found to have the greatest effect on the physical body and could alleviate pain and stress and improve concentration.

Judd Matsunaga is the founding attorney of Elder Law Services of California, a law firm that specializes in Medi-Cal Planning, Estate Planning and Probate. He can be contacted at (310) 348-2995 or judd@elderlawcalifornia.com. The opinions expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Pacific Citizen or constitute legal or tax advice and should not be treated as such.

JACL Objects to BLM's Lava Ridge Wind Farm FEIS



Claim: Minidoka site's 'solemnity' would be harmed, despite halving of project's size.

By P.C. Staff

In reaction to the Bureau of Land Management's June 6 release of its Final Environmental Impact Statement regarding the Lava Ridge Wind Project, the Japanese American Citizens League released a statement citing its "disappointment" with the report, which opens the doors to eventual commencement of the construction of a wind farm, despite the BLM's assertion that its approval is for a "preferred alternative" that is "almost half of the project's originally proposed size."

At issue is the effect the wind farm would have on the viewshed from Idaho's Minidoka National Historic Site, formerly Idaho's World War II-era Minidoka War Relocation Authority Center, one of the 10 government-operated WRA centers where ethnic Japanese, the majority of whom were U.S. citizens, were incarcerated after being removed from the West Coast beginning in 1942.

In its statement from VP Public Affairs Seia Watanabe and Education and Communications Coordinator Matthew Weisbly, the JACL said it "is deeply disappointed by this blatant disregard for those who suffered during their incarceration at Minidoka and the lasting trauma to the Japanese American community that persists and is perpetuated by actions such as this."

The BLM stated that the preferred alternative arrived at in its FEIS "reduces the area disturbed

from the initial proposal by 50 percent, lowers the number of turbines from 400 to 241 to remove the most sensitive locations and imposes maximum height limits of 660 feet for turbines."

The JACL stated that the wind turbines would "permanently alter the sense of solemnity appropriate to the recognition and remembrance of the 13,000 people forcibly removed from their homes and incarcerated there only because of their Japanese ancestry."

Regarding the distance between the Minidoka site and the proposed wind farm, the BLM in a June 6 news release stated: "The preferred alternative adjusts the corridor configuration such that the closest turbine to the Minidoka National Historic Site would be nine miles away, helping to preserve the visitor experience of the remote nature of the former incarceration site for Japanese Americans during WWII."

The FEIS also stated that the preferred alternative "reduces potential impacts to sage grouse, large wildlife migration routes and winter concentration areas, cultural resources, Jerome County Airport and agricultural aviation uses, public land ranchers and adjacent private landowners."

To view the entirety of the JACL's statement, visit tinyurl.com/yf47pkwc.

To view the BLM's Final Environmental Impact Statement, visit tinyurl.com/3aksdfby. ■

AWARDEES » continued from page 2

Ask leaders of Japanese American organizations about Ono, and his years of devoting his time and talents to community come to mind. Since landing a key position with Los Angeles' ABC7 Eyewitness News in 1996, Ono has reached beyond his anchor desk to become an award-winning filmmaker, discovering untold stories of people and events around the world.

"He has become a staple of the Nisei Week Coronation and a testament to community service," commented James Okazaki, past Nisei Week Festival chairman. "As emcees, he and Tamlyn Tomita are a perfect pair."

Okazaki explains that he was particularly moved by the sensitivity captured in Ono's documentary "Legacy of Heart Mountain," which chronicled the stories of the people who were held in the Wyoming concentration camp during World War II. Okazaki's relatives were at Heart Mountain for three and a half years.

Born in Japan to a Caucasian father and Japanese mother, Ono took his mother's maiden name

sometime in the 1990s. His father was in the military and served in Japan for several years. The family moved to Texas, where Ono grew up in San Antonio, largely among Latinos, and attended the University of North Texas.

"The first time I heard the term 'hapa' was in college when a friend from Hawaii used that term," he recalled. "'What's that?' I asked. She said, 'You are. You have the look.'"

It wasn't until he was hired by station KOVR in Sacramento that Ono began connecting with the Japanese American community.

He is doing pieces on race in America and continuing to explore new aspects of the story of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 100th Battalion and the long-hidden role Nisei linguists played in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) during World War II.

The truth is: Ono is more than an anchorman. In 25 years as a broadcast journalist, he has given a new dimension to the profession. And, yes, he's also a good guy. ■



A MOTHER'S TAKE

PRIDE IS LOVE, HOPE AND ME

By Marsha Aizumi

June is Pride Month! In keeping with the feeling of being proud and Nikkei, Okaeri has created an event called "Okaeri Matsuri" on June 29 from 4-9 p.m. It was formerly known as "Queer Obon," but in keeping with our hope for greater inclusivity and welcome, we have changed the name to be more open to all faiths. Admission is free, but registration is required. We want to celebrate queer and trans joy inspired by Japanese summer festivals.

LOCATION: Terasaki Budokan, 249 S. Los Angeles St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

TO REGISTER, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/okaeri-matsuri-registration-887272795817>.

One of Okaeri Matsuri's lead organizers, Keith Nishida, shared these thoughts: "We created this event so LGBTQ+ individuals can show up without leaving a part of who they are at home. Instead of feeling judged and rejected by the JA community, Okaeri Matsuri welcomes you to show up as all of who you are and feel loved, seen and safe."

Okaeri Matsuri will feature odori dancing, food, drinks, games and other entertainment. You will also get to dance to the brand-new Okaeri Ondo song, which was created in partnership with Great Leap. Taiko Project will be performing, and Bibi Discoteca will grace the stage as well. We are excited that Gia Gunn will be returning to lead the dancing with Mariko and Cam. Azay will once again be our food vendor.

Do you want to practice some of the dances? Come to Nishi Hongwanji Temple parking lot at 815 First St. in Los Angeles. Here are the two practice sessions dates:

- Sunday, June 23, from 2-4 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 26, from 6-8 p.m.

In June, Aiden and I also spoke at the Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library.



Aiden and Marsha Aizumi at their book signing at the Monterey Park Library

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MARSHA AIZUMI

If you want to see a library that is not only beautiful as a venue but also openly supports LGBTQ+, please stop by and visit them. While some libraries are banning books or afraid to lift up LGBTQ+ stories, this library is visibly showing their Pride everywhere. Thank you to the staff at the Monterey Park library for lifting up our story, book and creating PRIDE displays throughout their library.

I would like to close with an excerpt from a poem that Aiden wrote, "What Is Pride?"

I am so proud of my son. And I am so proud of this amazing LGBTQ+ community that is filled with resilience, beauty and courage. **HAPPY PRIDE EVERYONE!**

PRIDE IS LOVE

It is lifting each other up, standing together, crying together, Celebrating together

PRIDE IS HOPE

Hope that we continue to overcome. Hope for tomorrow. Hope that one day, Our lives as LGBTQ+ people will be seen for how wonderful we are.

PRIDE IS ME

It is waking up every day to face the world authentically as a queer, trans, Japanese American man. It is holding true to myself. It is being visible for the next generation of LGBTQ+ folks. It is honoring where we have been and knowing how much further we need to go and hoping my story, voice, life will somehow contribute to that progress.

— Aiden Takeo Aizumi

Marsha Aizumi is an advocate for the LGBTQ+ community and author of the book "Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance."



2024 JACL
NATIONAL
CONVENTION
PHILADELPHIA

Scan the QR Code or visit the link below!



CONVENTION
REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN!

JACL.ORG/2024-JACL-NATIONAL-CONVENTION

JACL ANNOUNCES NATIONAL BOARD CANDIDATES

The JACL Nominations Committee announces that the following candidates are seeking election for national office at the organization's upcoming National Convention in Philadelphia, July 10-14.

- **Larry Oda, president**
- **Matthew Asada and Ryan Yoshikawa, vp of general operations**
- **Seia Watanabe, vp for public affairs**
- **Dominique Mashburn, vp for One Thousand Club, membership and services**
- **Jonathan Okamoto, secretary/treasurer**

No candidates have filed for the position of vp for planning and development, National Youth/Student Council chairperson or National Youth/Student Council representative.

Other individuals interested in running for national office can view the forms on the JACL 2024 Convention website (<https://jacl.org/2024-convention-forms>) to view the procedure for running from the floor of the convention. Individuals are encouraged to contact Eric Langowski at elangowski@jacl.org prior to the convention.

Following are candidate statements:

LARRY ODA, JACL National President

My name is Larry Oda, and I am a candidate for JACL National President. I have been a member of JACL for over 50 years and have experienced its growth and influence. Because of the struggles, sacrifices and accomplishments of our predecessors, we now enjoy the credibility and stature that comes with a valued organization.

To be relevant in our second hundred years, we need to be vigilant and assertive in our pursuit of equity in America. We are small in numbers but large in influence. We must continue our presence socially and politically to inspire our fellow Americans to strive for a nation that values all its citizens and cooperate in advancing us all.

I am the first in my family to attend college. I studied to be a teacher, but circumstances led me to other endeavors. I've always been interested in things mechanical, and tinkering with cars was a natural path. As I evolved along the continuum of experiences and learned different technologies, I also had mentors that inspired me to pay it forward. There are many examples in my family where they've shared what little they had with those who had less, and it taught me that this is what you do.

The heavy lifting has been done for us to position ourselves in the nation, and unless we continue to pursue the vision of JACL and maintain our strength, we may slowly falter and fail, and the story of our contributions will be lost to history.

To continue to be relevant, we must make a concerted effort to recruit new members, train our youth to be effective leaders and encourage our members to support JACL in their legacy plans. By doing these things, we will ensure that our stories will continue to be told.



MATTHEW ASADA, JACL VP of General Operations

For the past two years, I have taught undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Southern California. I returned to a state that my California-born Nisei grandparents had been forced to leave, moreover, to teach at a university that they were never able to attend.

While here, I dug into their Japanese American story — just one of 125,000 incarceration stories — to learn about how my 16-year-old grandfather's personal appeal to the U.S. attorney general freed his father from detention and how the family lost their farm in the 19th year of a 20-year mortgage. After relocating to Seabrook, N.J., my family never spoke about either, and it was only after my grandparents' passing that we discovered these stories.

As an American diplomat — the first to come from the unique Japanese American community in Seabrook Village — for two decades, I have worked to make the U.S. Foreign Service more reflective of the diversity of our country. As the elected union leader of the 15,000-person bargaining unit and the head of the 1,000-person Asian American employee association, I have worked with congress, the media and external civil rights organizations to create a new statutory employee right to improve national security and strengthen civil rights protections.

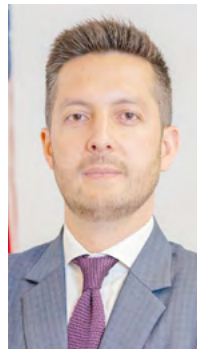
I am now running for JACL national office to strengthen JACL as a platform for community building, storytelling and advocacy. I'm a fourth-generation JACL member whose family has long been involved at the Seabrook chapter level. After conclusion of my father, Michael Asada's, active-duty military service, he returned to Seabrook and most recently served as Eastern District governor.

If elected by you, I look to build on that familial legacy and contribute my diplomatic, nonprofit association and labor and educational experiences to JACL at the national level.

RYAN YOSHIKAWA, JACL VP of General Operations

Hello fellow members of the JACL! I am Ryan Yoshikawa, the current Pacific Southwest District Governor, and I am excited to announce my candidacy for the position of vp for general operations.

I have a bachelor's of science degree in chemical engineering from the University of California, Irvine, and am a product engineer for a medical device company in Irvine. I am so fortunate to have grown up



in sunny Southern California for my entire life, surrounded by great leaders in the Asian American community.

I aim to honor these great pioneers by improving the JACL's focus on cultivating leaders through engaging and educational programming. Programs that highlight the JACL's amazing leaders and staff, as well as provide opportunities for new voices to be utilized, are the key to continuing to improve our communities across the nation.

As PSW district governor, I was able to aid in planning and coordinating the 2023 National Convention in Little Tokyo. Despite many unforeseen challenges, our goal of creating a unique showcase of Southern California and its community was a success and shined a light on our membership, ideals and future of the organization.

As vp of general operations, I plan to utilize my engineering background to methodically organize our procedures and center our organizational goals. I believe focusing on getting more members and nonmembers to participate in the convention is a key way to engage more people and inform them of what we want to achieve.

I want to thank all the people who have inspired and lead me to becoming the person I am today and for giving me the support to encourage me to take this opportunity of better serving the JACL and our AANHPI community. I hope to earn your votes of confidence at the 2024 National Convention and enjoy spending time with you all!

SEIA WATANABE, VP for Public Affairs

Hello! I am Seia Watanabe, the current vp for public affairs, and I am running for re-election. I work for the Little Tokyo Community Council, a community coalition in Little Tokyo made up of small business owners and stakeholders, as their social media coordinator, and I work in the independent film industry as a producer and assistant director.

I previously served as the PSW District youth representative on the NY/SC, president of CSULB Nikkei Student Union and currently help the Manzanar Committee as an organizer for Katari: a place-based educational program that educates college students about Manzanar.

I came into this position with the goal of maintaining the JACL's position as a leader within the civil rights community and to help modernize workflow and communication channels within the organization, but found that coming out of a tumultuous time, there was much more work to be done internally in order for the JACL to restabilize and grow.

My two years on the board has opened my eyes to how expansive our work is as an organization, but also the areas that need



more support. In our modern age, we need communication pipelines and functions that allow our members to act fast on pressing issues and make their voices heard.

At the same time, the democratic process of our organization is what makes us a strong and united community. I believe that my experience will allow me to help our national board move forward and find a new balance that allows our organization to adapt to modern-day needs, while staying true to our mission. If re-elected, I would build off my newfound knowledge of the challenges we face as an organization to help the JACL enter a new and productive era.

DOMINIQUE MASHBURN, VP for One Thousand Club, Membership and Services

My name is Dominique Mashburn, and I am running for the position of national vp for One Thousand Club, membership, and services. I currently work at Beacon Day School and Learning Institute for Autism and Related Disorders as the executive administrator and public relations. I studied Earth and environmental science at the University of California, Los Angeles, and am currently obtaining an additional degree in business with a concentration in project management.

In my role at Beacon Day School, I have dedicated my career to advocating for students with moderate to severe disabilities, particularly autism and related disorders. My passion for helping others extends beyond my professional life, as I come from a family deeply committed to the values of care and support. This background has instilled in me a strong sense of responsibility and a commitment to making a positive impact in the lives of others.

I strongly urge the JACL to focus on disability rights and accessibility. The Japanese American community, like any other, includes individuals with disabilities who deserve to have their voices heard and their needs met. Ensuring that our events, programs and initiatives are inclusive and accessible to all members is not just a legal obligation but a moral imperative. By prioritizing disability rights, we can create a more inclusive organization that truly represents and serves all its members.

One of the most significant challenges the JACL faces is addressing the intersectionality of our diverse community's needs. As we continue to advocate for civil rights and social justice, we must also recognize and address the unique challenges faced by members with disabilities. By doing so, we can strengthen our organization and foster a sense of belonging and empowerment for everyone.



'ONE PIECE' SAILS INTO ACTION

Steven Maeda on the challenges of producing a live-action version of a long-running popular manga series.

By Gil Asakawa,
P.C. Contributor

No pressure: Steven Maeda was asked four years ago if he could help produce a live-action version of “One Piece,” a popular Japanese manga that had already been adapted into a popular anime. Except, “popular” doesn’t begin to describe the cultural and commercial impact of “One Piece.” The manga, which debuted in 1996, has more than 1,100 chapters in its narrative arc, while the anime, which began its run in 1999, also has more than 1,100 episodes. There have been volumes of manga and 15 movie-length anime.

What’s the big deal? On the surface, the series’ popularity seems outsized. “One Piece” is a story about a ragtag crew of young pirates who travel a fantasy world that isn’t set in the future or the past, or even in Japan, sailing from place to place to find adventures while searching for a treasure called the “One Piece.”

The plot sounds simple, but the story lines get ridiculously complex and colorful, populated by all manner of characters, among them fishmen who are like humans with fishy features and powers to manipulate water; scary evil monsters; and a clown bad guy who can pull apart his body parts and ends up as a disembodied talking head during much of the series’ first season — he’s the comic relief, though there’s lots of humor throughout the show.

And, “One Piece” has attracted a huge fan base that is crazy loyal.

So, when Steven Maeda was called for this project, he knew what was at stake. Fans of Japanese manga and anime are so loyal that they can sink a live-action adaptation if they don’t feel it treats the original content with respect or lives up to their expectations. Just to name a few, “Cowboy Bebop,” “Ghost in the Shell,” “Full Metal Alchemist” and, in a twist, the American-made



“One Piece”
showrunner
Steven Maeda

PHOTOS: COURTESY
OF NETFLIX

animation “The Last Airbender,” which was made into a failed 2010 movie, were all trounced by fans and critics.

But the L.A.-based Sansei Maeda, 61, was up to the challenge. His impressive résumé as a producer and writer included a string of notable TV shows ranging from “Pan Am” and “Lie To Me” to “Lost,” “CSI: Miami” and “The X-Files.”

He wasn’t familiar with “One Piece,” though, so he dug into the source material and began reading the manga.

“I did a really quick read of the

first 100 chapters. There are over 1,000 more to get through them all, but I really fell in love with it,” he said. “It was such a unique world. And you know, it’s a pirate show, but it’s not your typical pirate show. It’s about so much else — dreams and trust and loyalty and friendship. And overcoming a tough past as well. So, there was a lot of stuff to like about it.”

Maeda liked it enough to stick with the project for four years. He signed on as one of the showrunners alongside Matt Owens and served as creator, executive producer and

scriptwriter for the first season of the series, which dropped on Netflix in October 2023. This April, Maeda and Owens were honored with the “Best Children’s Episodic, Long Form and Specials” award for the series’ premiere episode, “Romance Dawn,” from the Writers Guild of America, Hollywood’s top screenwriting nod.

“The one that we got was just for the pilot episode. Just for a single episode, which was lovely,” Maeda said. “It was quite an honor to receive it. I was totally surprised — I didn’t even know we got nominated.”

Maeda says “One Piece” isn’t exactly a “children’s show” because the manga and anime have a diverse, worldwide audience. But he’s proud that the series can be enjoyed by the whole family. “It’s not a very saccharin kind of show,” he said. “It’s definitely about good things and about hope and optimism, but also there’s some real darkness to it.”

He’s proud not only of completing the show’s first season and creating the world of the story, but also casting

a diverse crew, which includes martial arts actor Mackenyu, who is the son of classic samurai film actor Sonny Chiba, as swordsman Roronoa Zoro, and the star of the series, Iñaki Godoy, a Mexican actor who plays Monkey D. Luffy, the irrepressible young man whose goal is to become “King of the Pirates.”

That diversity was mandated by the manga because Eiichiro Oda created the characters as a diverse team. “He was very specific about it. He said, Luffy is Brazilian. Zoro is Japanese. I think Sanjay is French, Nami is American,” said Maeda. “And he had like these countries kind of picked out for everybody. And so we took that and went, OK, you know what, we may not be able to exactly match that. But let’s let that be our guidepost. Yeah. And we really want to have an international show. We want a diverse cast.”

The cast was also dictated by budget and the fact that the series was shot in Capetown, South Africa. “One Piece” was already an

“One Piece” centers around an explorer named Luffy, who sails the ocean with his crew in search of a legendary treasure.



a comic titled “Monstrous.”

“I’m very, very happy that it turned out the way it did. But four years is a long time, including a year that I spent in Cape Town, which is a wonderful city where we shot the show,

but very far away and very hard to get home. So yeah, it’s time to let the show go fly and do its thing.”

Production on Season 2 is scheduled to begin this month and is expected to follow the Arabasta Saga. ■

expensive production because of the amount of state-of-the-art computer graphics used and the emphasis on real sets whenever possible instead of obvious, low-quality green-screen special effects.

And, the travel and housing for the cast and crew in South Africa made it a priority to hire there. Luckily, Maeda says there was a lot of talent there. But for the starring roles, Maeda sought out actors everywhere. It was crucial to find exactly the right person to play Luffy.

“We got so lucky finding Iñaki because we saw so many casting tapes, and it was very, very difficult to find somebody who really could be that optimistic and that sunny without being really annoying. A lot of people were like oh, my god, if I have to spend an episode with this guy, I’m going to kill him. And so it was important to find somebody who you really believed was optimistic and you know, a really selfless

person. That was the key, finding Iñaki I think, because if we had cast that character wrong, no one would like the show.”

Iñaki was clearly the right choice for Luffy. In fact, “One Piece” was embraced by both the existing fan base for the manga and anime and new viewers who were able to catch onto the characters’ fantasy world.

The show shot to the top of Netflix’s worldwide list of English-language shows in its first week and set new records for views, beating out previous champs “Wednesday” and the fourth season of “Stranger Things.” Netflix green-lighted a second season in the second week of streaming.

But Maeda is stepping back a bit for Season 2. He’ll continue to be an executive producer, but he won’t be taking on day-to-day duties. He’s pursuing a “labor of love” with his wife, Tiffany Greshler, who was also a screenwriter on “One Piece,”



The live-action TV series on Netflix stars (from left) Emily Rudd, Iñaki Godoy and Mackenyu.

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL 2024 TOUR SCHEDULE

- GRANDPARENTS-GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Jun 16-26
Tokyo, Hakone/Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto. Craftmaking hands-on experiences. **WAITLIST**
- PANA CONVENTION (COPANI)** Sep 5-8
Asuncion, Paraguay
- EASTERN CANADIAN CAPITALS HOLIDAY TOUR** (Carol Hida) Sep 18-26
Montreal, Via Rail Canada, Quebec, Ottawa, Toronto, Niagara Falls. **Waitlist**
- ICELAND HOLIDAY TOUR** (Carol Hida). Oct 2-8
Reykjavik, Blue Lagoon, Strokkur Geyser, Gullfoss/Golden Falls, Thingvellir National Park, Viking Ship Museum.
- KOREA HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) **Waitlist**. Oct 11-24
Seoul, Bullet Train, Gyeongju, Busan, Jeju Island, Jeonju, Daejeon, Nami Island, Seoul, DMZ, K-Drama sites.
- JAPAN AUTUMN COUNTRYSIDE HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) **Waitlist**. . Nov 10-22
Kyushu-Shikoku. Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Ibusuki/Kagoshima, Miyazaki, Beppu, Matsuyama, Kochi, Shodo Island, Tokushima, Takamatsu.

2025 TOUR SCHEDULE PREVIEW

- HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVALS HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Feb 3-14
Abashiri, Sounkyo, Sapporo, Otaru, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Tokyo. Hyobaku Ice Festival, Asahikawa Snow Festival, Sapporo Snow Festival, Hyoto Winter Festival.
- CLASSICAL JAPAN HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Mar 16-27
Tokyo, Mt Fuji, Yamanashi, Shizuoka, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
- TREASURES OF IRELAND TOUR** (Carol Hida). Apr 7-15
Dublin, Limerick, Killarney, Blarney.
- KOREA HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Apr 10-23
Seoul, Bullet Train, Gyeongju, Busan, Jeju Island, Jeonju, Daejeon, Nami Island, Seoul, DMZ, K-Drama sites.
- JAPAN SPRING COUNTRYSIDE HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) May 11-23
Tokyo, Ashikaga Flower Park, Yamagata, Sakata/Shonai, Akita, Morioka, Sanriku Railway coastal train ride, Hanamaki Onsen, Matsushima, Nikko/Kinugawa Onsen, Tokyo.
- MUSIC CITIES HOLIDAY TOUR** (Carol Hida). May 12-19
New Orleans, Memphis, Nashville.
- GRANDPARENTS-GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Jun 15-25
Tokyo, Hakone/Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto. Craftmaking hands-on experiences.
- HOKKAIDO SUMMER HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Jul 13-25
Hakodate, Lake Toya, Noboribetsu, Otaru, Sapporo, Wakkanai, Rishiri Island, Asahikawa, Furano, Tokyo.
- DANUBE RIVER CRUISE** (Carol Hida) August
- OKINAWA HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Oct 6-19
Naha, Onnason, Islands of Ishigaki, Iriomote & Taketomi.
- JAPAN AUTUMN COUNTRYSIDE HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Oct 16-27
Tokyo, Sado Island, Kanazawa, Amanohashidate, Tottori, Matsue, Tamatsukuri Onsen, Hiroshima.
- KENYA WILDLIFE SAFARI HOLIDAY TOUR** (Carol Hida) Oct 15-29
Nairobi, Amboseli-Nakuru Lake-Masai Mara National Parks, Mt. Kenya Safari Club, Sweetwaters Tented Camp, Jane Goodall Chimpanzee Sanctuary.

For more information and reservations, please contact:

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL
312 E. 1st Street, Suite 240 * Los Angeles, CA 90012
Tel: (213)625-2232 * Email: americanholiday@att.net
Ernest or Carol Hida

CANDIDATES » continued from page 5

I am committed to bringing vivacity and growth to our membership while ensuring that our organization remains inclusive and responsive to all its members' needs. Thank you for your support.

JONATHAN OKAMOTO, Secretary/Treasurer



It would be an honor to continue serving in the role of secretary/treasurer for a new term.

The past year has allowed me to build a much clearer view of the inner workings of JACL finance, along with some of the incumbent shortcomings.

Fortunately, my past job experiences and personality traits are tailored to resolve and improve upon the problematic issues that may be hampering our growth as an organization.

The leadership roles I've taken over the years have allowed me to identify potential areas of improvement and remediate the processes and procedures to realize the positive outcomes.

The immediate issue that JACL currently faces is one of finance and one that many organizations grapple with. Expenses are greater than revenue. The challenge that lies ahead is how to increase revenue, decrease expenses or, more realistically, both.

Currently proposed in the 2025/2026 budget are solutions that add a very high level of transparency to where our revenues come from and where our funds are spent.

Visibility allows our members to ask pointed and critical questions on spend. It also highlights obvious areas of waste and potential opportunities to further save.

While a reduction in spend is often "simple," such as fewer events or reduced rent, the JACL situation is complex. The largest expense, by far, is JACL staff costs. The challenge is how to bridge the budget gap without negatively impacting the lives of our people.

My vision will be to use the detailed data we've collected from staff experiences, validate the accuracy of the data with actual 2024 financials, identify inefficient operational areas within JACL, optimize those processes with technology and use the reclaimed hours to reinvest into new activities that benefit chapters.

The collective technology and marketing knowledge within the national staff can be focused to better train chapters on how to create marketing campaigns for their local areas. Campaigns that build new interest in JACL and its activities. Campaigns that ultimately seek to grow membership, grow membership dollars and actively promote the good that JACL offers to the community.

If re-elected, my vision will be to work with the National Board to strengthen JACL with a solid financial foundation from which to continue moving forward.

JACL National Board elections will take place on July 13.

SIMPLE & MODERN JACL MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

An explanation of the proposed Membership CBL Amendment in advance of next month's National Convention

By *Dominique Mashburn, vp for 1000 Club, Membership and Services, and Ashley Bucher, JACL membership manager*

Convention is just around the corner, and we're excited to see many of you next month in the City of Brotherly Love! We at the Membership Department are feeling hopeful that our CBL amendment, which the National Board moved at the April 27 board meeting, will pass at this year's National Council.

The amendment has two focuses: 1) modernizing out-of-date policies that are no longer in use, and 2) resolving confusion around premium and life membership categories with inspiring new levels. This amendment is largely the same as the one we proposed last year and didn't have time for at the National Council. Notable changes from last year are new names for premium categories, which we explain below.

For the first focus, one dated policy is that if you want to change your chapter, you need to write the executive director. In practice, that is not something people do, and it's also not a great use of the executive director's time. So, our update is to instead write the staff about changing your chapter.

Another area includes a restriction of one emailed *Pacific Citizen* newspaper per household. We believe all active members in a household — whether they're part of a couple/family membership or student/youth — should be eligible to receive the *P.C.*

An additional policy says folks can only join as a National Associate (general member) if they're not geographically close to a

chapter. We believe anyone should be able to join as a National Associate for any reason — perhaps there is a chapter close to them but the chapter is inactive.

A few other sections are out of sync with ideal practices and would cost staff valuable time if they were followed exactly. If we make these simple updates, we'll be able to remove confusing discrepancies and save time.

Our second area of focus is bettering premium and life categories. For many of us, points of confusion with our current categories include Thousand and Century being both premium (annual) as well as life levels, and Century being higher than Thousand. The names no longer make sense based on the prices and membership goals.

However, before we retire them, we want to recognize the people who founded these clubs. Thanks to in-depth research by David Kawamoto, we know a good amount of history.

The Thousand Club was officially founded in 1947 to get 1,000 members to give \$25 per year, for \$25,000 extra for JACL. We also recently learned that the Century Club was inspired by the Ota family of Los Angeles when they gave a \$100 donation during the 1970 JACL National Convention and pledged to give at this level annually. Should this amendment pass, we plan to honor the founders on our website, *Pacific Citizen* and other channels to ensure they're properly honored and remembered.

Considering all of this, we re-envisioned these categories based on being proactive, inclusive, courageous and having a mindset of abundance. For new premium names, we



decided to go with the names Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum/Millennium because the amounts and names make sense — they're timeless, and they are easily recognizable. We thank the EDC for proposing these names at last year's convention.

Proposed Premium Levels:

- New \$125 Level: Bronze Level
- \$250 Level: Silver Level replaces Thousand Club (price increases by \$50)
- \$500 Level: Gold Level replaces Century Club (price increases by \$150)
- \$1,000 Level: Platinum/Millennium Level

The Bronze Level is new, and we hope it will encourage upgrades from Regular/Individual (\$65). Silver and Gold will replace Thousand Club and Century Club, and the price increase so the levels are more evenly spaced between \$125 and \$1,000. Current Thousand Club and Century Club members are welcome to upgrade to these levels or renew at whatever level ➔

JACL Receives Equity Award From Courts Group

By *Ray Locker, Contributor*

The JACL was honored for its civil rights work by the National Consortium for Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts during the group's annual conference in Salt Lake City on May 21.

The consortium is dedicated to eliminating unfairness in the judicial system against people of color and marginalized groups. Its leader are judges, lawyers and court officers from around the country.

Floyd Mori, a former president and executive director of the National JACL, accepted the award from Shirley Ann Higuchi, chair of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation and a consortium board member.

Heart Mountain nominated JACL for the consortium's Equity Award and cited its work on behalf of migrants separated from their families at the border, civil rights and reparations for Black Americans.

Higuchi said JACL was an ideal recipient of the award, particularly in Salt Lake City, which was the group's home during World War II when Japanese Americans were forced from the West Coast and incarcerated



Pictured (from left) are James Williams, Floyd Mori, Shirley Ann Higuchi and Donovan Foughty with the Equity Award. Williams and Foughty are members of the National Consortium for Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts board of directors. Williams is the former chief public defender in Chatham and Orange counties in North Carolina, while Foughty is a judge in the Northeast Judicial Court in Bismarck, N.D.

in 10 concentration camps.

Mori, who now lives in Salt Lake City, also led a panel on the Japanese American incarceration in Utah during the war. More than 11,000 Japanese Americans, most of them

from the San Francisco area, were incarcerated at the camp in Topaz, about 110 miles south of Salt Lake City.

In a presentation the next day, Mori talked about growing up in Utah and how his family hosted two families of relatives who had voluntarily left California for Utah to avoid being put in a camp. "I've been to eight of these camp sites," he said, "and they're really in places no one wanted to live."

He traced the history of Japanese Americans, including workers who built railroads throughout southern Utah and founded communities of Japanese American along the rail lines.

Many Japanese Americans left camps during the war for Salt Lake City and some of the defense plants nearby. After the war, various development schemes in the city led to the disappearance of much of the city's Japantown.

Still, the city was a hub of Japanese American activity. Raymond Uno, a former Heart Mountain incarceree and JACL president, became the first minority judge in Utah. David Ushio, another JACL executive director in the 1970s, was born and raised in Utah, Mori said. ■

SACRAMENTO JAPANTOWN MURAL UNVEILED

Thanks to community efforts, the project is officially celebrated on May 29 to remember and reclaim the history of the city.

Community members and dignitaries convened on May 29 on the corner of Fourth Street and Capitol Mall to celebrate the completion of the Sacramento Japantown Art Mural, a project spearheaded by Reclaim Sacramento Japantown and a donation drive led by the Florin JACL.

“This project is a way to celebrate and remember what was and reclaim the history of Sacramento Japantown,” said Jamie Katayanagi, head of the Reclaim Sacramento Japantown group.

Reclaim Sacramento Japantown members, who also include Florin JACL-Sacramento Valley members Michelle Huey, Roy Imura, Josh Kaizuka and Barbara Takei, along with Sacramento JACL members Miko Sawamura and Hach Yasumura, came together to see what could be done to reclaim the lost Sacramento Japantown.

Sacramento Japantown was part of Sacramento’s West End, a diverse and thriving cultural district. Japantown disappeared in 1942 when Japanese Americans were removed and sent to 10 U.S. concentration camps during World War II. Following the war, many returned to Sacramento, but as Japantown began to thrive once again, residents and business owners were removed again, this time in the name of “redevelopment.” Not only did Sacramento Japantown disappear, but also the cultural district known as the West End as well.

To reclaim and remember the history of Sacramento Japantown, the mural, created

by Karen Tsugawa, an artist and designer from the Sacramento region, blended Japanese American art and history to create the educational piece of history and reflection.

“The mural design is based off of historical photos from Sacramento’s Japantown and combining them with the visuals from Hanafuda cards, along with origami birds and sakura trees to showcase the vibrancy of the community — including the hardships from having the entirety of this Japantown they loved being completely redeveloped by the city,” said Tsugawa, who also is a graphic designer and web developer. “As a mixed Japanese American with ties to Sacramento, I felt it was important to have the community be included in as many parts of the painting of the mural as possible since for many it depicts places and memories close to their hearts. It was an honor to have so many come out to help paint and support.”

The project could not have been completed successfully without the support of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians. The site of the mural was recently purchased by the group.

“I reached out to the tribal council explaining the project and the history of displacement and removal due to first WWII and then how racism resulted in the destruction of Japantown in the guise of ‘redevelopment,’ and within a few days, the council had met and



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF JOSH KAIZUKA



The Sacramento Japantown mural, an installation spearheaded by Reclaim Sacramento Japantown and the Florin JACL, was officially celebrated on May 29.

Pictured (from left) are Miko Sawamura, Jason Jong, Sharon Ito, Jim Tabuchi, Karen Tsugawa (the mural’s artist), Hach Yasumura, Barbara Takei, Michelle Huey and Josh Kaizuka.

gave us the green light to move forward. It was amazing, and we are so appreciative of their support,” said Kaizuka.

Following the tribe’s approval on April 15, Reclaim Sacramento Japantown and Florin JACL began fundraising on April 24 with a goal of raising \$20,000. The goal was met and exceeded thanks to donations from across the country, with 31 major donors, including Sacramento City Council Member Katie Valenzuela, who apologized on behalf of the city for its role in the demise of Japantown, and Sacramento County Supervisor Phil Serna.

Reclaim Sacramento Japantown anticipates using the excess funds for the project for educational and promotional endeavors. It is currently thinking about next steps to further reclaim Japantown’s history in Sacramento.

“This highly-visible mural has started a lot of conversations, and since starting the project, a lot more people have mentioned that they’ve heard about Japantown,” said Huey. “It’s been heartwarming to see so many people taking photos in front of the mural, learning about Japantown and acknowledging that redevelopment was harmful. . . . Karen’s vision was brilliant, and although the wall won’t stay up forever, her vision to have the removable panels means the mural will live on in some form. Reclaim Sacramento Japantown has garnered a lot of community interest and support. A lot of community groups are asking us to come to their next meetings to teach them about Japantown, and many people are asking what our next project will be. I’m excited to see what’s next.”

they feel is right for them. We kept the Millennium name in the Platinum/Millennium Level because it works (1,000 years for \$1,000).

Additionally, we plan to retire “and Spouse” levels (usually a \$32-\$49 add-on) and replace them with “Couple/Family” for a consistent add-on rate of \$45. This number comes from the difference between Regular/Individual (\$65) and Couple/Family (\$110). This change is important to us because the language “Couple/Family” is more inclusive, family-friendly and reflects the modern times we live in. We define Couple/Family as two adults and children 17 and under.

For new life names, we thought it would be meaningful to name them after levels that already exist in JACL. We were inspired by our award pins — Sapphire, Ruby and Diamond.

Proposed Life Levels:

- \$3,000 Level: Sapphire Life Trust replaces Thousand Life Trust
- \$5,000 Level: Ruby Life Trust replaces Century Life Trust
- New \$10,000 Level: Diamond Life Trust


With the new \$10,000 level, we hope folks will consider upgrading their current life membership by paying the difference. We have strong evidence for life membership upgrades and had five people in the past year upgrade from the \$3,000 level to the \$5,000

level by paying \$2,000. We believe adding Diamond Life Trust is a great way to increase revenue and keep life members financially involved.

We would also like to mention that current Thousand Life Trust and Century Life Trust members will receive a notice to let them know the name of their membership has changed to Sapphire or Ruby, respectively. (These members won’t need to do or pay anything, it is just an FYI that the name is changed.)

To avoid confusion, we also wanted to share that this proposal does not contain changes to Standard Levels: Student/Youth, Regular/Individual or Couple/Family. This proposal also does not propose changes to chapter dues/dues standardization. Lastly, should the amendment pass, we will allow members to upgrade to new levels right away and aim to officially transition to the new levels starting Jan. 1.

We sincerely appreciate your support of our amendment. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at dmashburn@jac.org and abucher@jac.org. The proposal and related documents can be accessed at bit.ly/cbl1 or the QR code. We could not have pulled this amendment together without the valuable guidance of Tiffany Ikeda, the CBL Committee, Paul Uyehara, Phillip Ozaki and so many others. Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you in Philly!



Special Issues Coming Soon

September - JACL Scholarship Special
Celebrate your 2024 graduates with a happy CONGRATULATIONS message in the Pacific Citizen!

November - VETERANS Special
Acknowledge the Armed Forces or the Veterans in your life by placing their name and photo in our newspaper and forever saved in our archives! Prices start at \$33 per 2"x1"
Call/email for a quote!

DECEMBER
Holiday Special Issue
Great fundraiser opportunity for Chapters!!

Contact Susan at
(213) 620-1767 ext.03
email: BusMgr@PacificCitizen.org



REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

TECH DIALOGUES: Five Cybersecurity Tips You Should Know

By Ryan Kawamoto

A decade ago, having a password like “m0chi_l0ver” using zeroes for o’s might have been sufficient in keeping your online accounts secure and being a nice memorable tribute to your ongoing addiction to mochi. However, protecting your accounts these days might require a few further steps. Here are five cybersecurity tips that you can easily apply today without paying a penny.

1) Use 2-Factor Authentication (2FA)

There are three possible factors of authentication:

- **Something you know:** This includes authentications like passwords, PINs, secret questions and answers, etc.

- **Something you have:** A physical item you possess, like a key, a smart card, a security token, etc.

- **Something you are:** This involves your biometrics like fingerprint, facial recognition, voice, etc.

Two-factor authentication, or 2FA, combines any two of the factors above to add an extra layer of security before giving access to a given account. The most common 2FA involves a username and password (Something you know) and a secret PIN sent to your smartphone (Something you have). In this instance, knowing your password wouldn’t be enough for someone to gain access to your account. They will also have to have your smartphone and unlock it to get that PIN.

2FA is highly recommended for your primary email and bank accounts.

2) Protect Your Mobile Devices

Since we just learned that our smartphones are the most common second factor of 2FA, we must protect them as well — not only in the literal sense. Here are ways you can protect your smartphone:

- Use a strong PIN or password combined with your fingerprint or facial recognition.
- Enable device encryption to protect your data when your phone is locked. All iPhones and some Android devices encrypt their data by default.
- Back up your smartphone regularly to an external drive or cloud storage. Doing so gives you peace of mind if you ever find yourself in a situation where the only solution is completely erasing your smartphone, such as device loss, theft or ransomware attack. You can always restore your data on the new device.

3) Always Update Your Software

Yes, sometimes updates can be scary by carrying a lot of changes that will only make your device more complex than it already is. But they also have security patches to fix any discovered vulnerability from the previous version that hackers could exploit.

An easy way to stay on top of updating your device software and

operating system is by enabling “Automatic Update.”

Above all others, be sure always to keep your antivirus software updated.

4) Limit Access Permission for Apps

Nowadays, apps usually ask for more access permission than necessary. For instance, an application for taking notes shouldn’t need access to all your photos and location. **Moreover, no application should have access to your location all the time, even maps.** Fortunately, both iOS and Android offer ways to limit access for each app on your smartphone. The steps for changing the access permission for your apps are similar on both operating systems:

- Open the Settings app.
- Tap Privacy & Security.
- Select a permission type. If you allowed or denied this permission type to any apps, you’ll find them here.
- To change an app’s permission, tap the app, then choose your permission settings. For example, if you selected **Location** in the previous step, you will see all the apps currently using your location and their access level. Selecting one of the apps from the list allows you to switch its access level from **Always** (All the time) to **While**

Using the App or even Never.

5) Monitor Your Accounts Regularly

Last but not least, regularly review your bank and credit card statements for suspicious activities. You can quickly do it with online banking. The sooner you catch a suspicious activity, the better your chances to revert the damages.

But why stop at bank accounts? You should review the same for your other online accounts, like social media accounts and any online retail accounts.

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.



Judd Matsunaga's
ELDER LAW SERVICES OF CALIFORNIA
A Professional Law Corporation

- Medi-Cal Planning
- Asset Protection for Long-Term Care
- Living Trusts & Wills
- Powers of Attorney
- Trust Administration
- Probate

Home & Hospital
Appointments Available!



JUDD MATSUNAGA
Attorney at Law

— Multiple Office Locations —
Torrance • Los Angeles • Pasadena
Encino • Fountain Valley • Westlake Village

800-403-6078
www.elderlawcalifornia.com

3% Cash Back on Balance Transfers for New Accounts!

Don't have a National JACL Credit Union Premier VISA Credit Card? We've got some incentives you won't want to miss. Check them out at jaclu.com/visa!

- 9.9% APR Non-Variable Rate
- No Annual Fees
- 25 Day Courtesy Pay
- More reward points per purchase



National JACL
Credit Union

800-544-8828 www.jaclcu.com



PROMO CODE: PCVISA24