



PACIFIC CITIZEN

LIBERATION OBON CALLS FOR FREEDOM

Protestors call for an end to
immigrant detention at the
Northwest Detention Center.

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Gentrification Plans
Spark Concern.

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Musical Traditions
Continue in Chicago.

CELEBRATING
95
Years

Protestors participate
in a silent procession
outside the fences of
the Northwest Detention
Center during Liberation
Obon, which was held
on Sept. 1.

PHOTO: PHOTO: ROB BUSCHER



Wisconsin JACL's Ron Kuramoto appears in the commercial.

PHOTO: YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Harris-Walz Campaign Releases Third Ad for AANHPI Demo

The campaign to elect the Democratic duo of Vice President Kamala Harris and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz for the presidency and vice presidency, respectively, has released its third commercial for television and online.

Directed at Americans of Asian, Native Hawaiian and Pacific

Islander heritage, its title — “My Mother” — focuses on the values that were inculcated to Harris and her sister by their mother, an immigrant from India.

In the 60-second spot, Harris in voiceover says her mother “taught us to never complain about injustice but to do something about it.”

Using snapshots and archival video of Harris with her mother, Shyamala Gopalan Harris, the ad shows Harris at different stages of her career in public service, including graduating from law school to becoming a prosecutor to becoming California’s attorney general to being elected U.S. senator and later, U.S. vice president.

The new ad complements two earlier advertisements, titled “Reduced” and “The Seal,” which had 15-second and 30-second running times, respectively.

“The Seal” opens with video of ex-President Donald Trump using such phrases as “kung flu” and “China virus” in reference to Covid-19, and ties the increase in American anti-Asian violence to his rhetoric.

Focused on the Affordable Care Act, “Reduced” states that the legislation “reduced AANHPI uninsured 63 percent” and makes the claim that Trump, if elected, would “rip it all away.”

Of note: Wisconsin JACL Chapter President and *Pacific Citizen* Editorial Board member Ron Kuramoto appears uncredited in both the “My Mother” and “Reduced” ads.

Also of note: Some of the video used in “The Seal” was recorded July 13 at the Presidential Town Hall that took place in Philadelphia, concurrent with the most-recent JACL National Convention (see *Pacific Citizen’s* July 26, 2024, issue).

To view “My Mother,” visit tinyurl.com/vcx42wss. For “The Seal,” visit tinyurl.com/3anrvkth. For “Reduced,” visit tinyurl.com/593ve6zs.

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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

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

JACL Calls for Local Programming Ideas for Funding

All JACL chapters in good standing are invited to apply to the 2024-25 Legacy Fund grant program to further the mission and vision of the JACL and build the chapter’s foundation to support its growth.

The grant program once again offers the 21-month project duration option in addition to the nine-month project option.

Awardees have the opportunity to showcase their intergenerational community building, project plan-

ning and Excel spreadsheet skills in addition to role modeling how to work toward specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound goals to hold the chapter accountable and reach benchmarks for future endeavors.

Apply now. Remember: Don’t forget to follow the directions!

Visit the JACL website at <https://jacl.org/legacy-fund-grants> for more information about how to apply.

“But, Where Are You REALLY From?” is a JACL Washington, D.C., chapter graphic novel funded by the Legacy Fund Grant program to be used by the Montgomery County Public Schools, Maryland, Grade 5 curriculum on U.S. history.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF JACL D.C. CHAPTER



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2024 SPRING CAMPAIGN

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

— Gil Asakawa



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Is There No Accountability?

By David Inoue,
JACL Executive Director

We have all heard the cries about the threat of misinformation and disinformation gone rampant. But exactly what is meant by these terms? Unfortunately, the past few weeks we have witnessed some extreme cases of how misinformation and disinformation can spread like wildfire, much to the detriment of targeted minority communities and individuals.

Sometimes, stories take on a life of their own. Supposedly, a single social media post said that someone's cat had been missing and the owner of the cat had speculated that the cat had been attacked by a Haitian neighbor. The only fact that seemed to be part of that story was that the cat was missing, but the speculation of involvement of a Haitian individual quickly spiraled into increasingly false narratives attacking the Haitian community. Former President Don-

ald Trump highlighted this falsehood during the Presidential Candidate debate and was immediately fact-checked by the moderators, who countered that the local authorities had stated unequivocally that the stories were false. In the following days, vice presidential candidate J.D. Vance doubled down on the story as important because it was bringing attention to the supposed plight of those in Springfield. In doing so, he admitted that the story was not true, but he didn't care. All that mattered was that people were talking about Springfield, even if that talk centered on lies he had told about the Haitian community, enflaming hatred toward the people, resulting in bomb and other threats to the community.

Even as the controversy in Springfield was brewing, in Washington, D.C., the Republican-led House of Representatives passed a full slate of legislation during what they called "Tough on China" week. Most concerning were bills to reinstate the

China Initiative in the Department of Justice and another bill limiting ownership of agricultural land near sensitive security sites. It has been widely noted that Chinese interests own less than 1 percent of agricultural land in the United States. This was all reminiscent of the anti-Japan bashing of the 1980s and perhaps reinforced by the public opposition of President Joe Biden to Nippon Steel's takeover bid for US Steel. The Japan bashing of the '80s culminated in the murder of Vincent Chin. We can only hope that we do not end in similar tragedy.

At the time of Vincent Chin's murder, we did not have hate crimes legislation as we do today. That would come years later with the passage of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, passed in remembrance of the law's namesakes, both of whom were murdered in incredibly heinous manners due to their individual identities as targeted minorities.

Which brings us to the third sign of how much we seem to have accepted overt racism as the new normal. At a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on hate crimes, Arab American Institute Executive Director and Co-Chair of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights Hate Crimes Task Force Maya Berry was viciously attacked by Louisiana Sen.

John Kennedy with accusations of support to Hamas and Hezbollah.

As Berry pointed out, this was a perfect encapsulation of why a hearing on hate crimes was so needed to reveal the depths of anti-Arab hatred existing at the highest levels of our own government. The accusations by Kennedy directly parallel the accusations of dual loyalty that Japanese Americans know all too well, and just as much today, American Jews. Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley lamented that he wanted an entire hearing focused on antisemitism just prior to his colleague's rant that highlighted one of the major components of antisemitism, that an Arab must be aligned with Hamas just as Jews must be aligned with Israel.

All of this has happened in the span of less than two weeks.

What ties all three items together is that the desire of those propagating the lies or passing new legislation are seeking to separate us into groups of us and them. For the purposes of the hearing on hate crimes, Berry and others who identify as Arab American or Muslim American are part of the other; in this case, ironically, Jews are part of the in-crowd with Sen. Kennedy.

In the House, it was obvious that the Chinese are the other, but how does the average American distinguish between Chinese and Chinese

American? As we learned over 40 years ago, Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz could not tell the difference between Japanese and Chinese American. And finally, the Haitian residents of Springfield now live in fear within their own community, and to what degree has that fear extended to other Haitian communities across the country?

These efforts to dehumanize and disenfranchise directly follow the history of anti-Japanese American tropes and pretty much how any community has ever been targeted. The point Berry tried to make throughout the Senate hearing was that an attack on a Jew was an attack on a Muslim as much as an attack on an Asian, Black or Hispanic. As any community is attacked, so are all of us. We must ALL fight back and call out this racism and not let it continue to go unrestrained.

Perhaps there is something good about this sense of honesty, that racists feel no shame in showing us who they are. But now we need to make sure that all of those who claim to oppose racism, do so, and hold the racists accountable for their speech and their actions.

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



LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

Want To Live Longer?

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

According to a new study, owning a dog is linked to a longer life. Dogs are constant, nonjudgmental companions and loyal allies. The research, published in Scientific Reports, is the latest in a growing body of research suggesting that canine companions may be good for human health — especially for people who live alone (<https://time.com/5028171/health-benefits-owning-dog/>).

There are many ways in which dogs enrich our lives and contribute to healthier lifestyles. First of all, they boost your physical activity level. Dogs, of course, need to be walked, which offers an incentive for getting outside and walking yourself, even for short spurts. Numerous studies have shown that having a dog leads to a more active lifestyle and that dog owners are more likely to achieve recommended exercise levels than nonowners.

Pets (dogs and cats) provide companionship, emotional support and

an opportunity to care for something other than ourselves. Dogs can listen to the same stories repeatedly and still wag their tails with delight while hearing the voice of their owner. The reciprocal relationship between people and pets is simple and based on unconditional love, affection, fun and joy.

Dogs improve the lives of the elderly. Having a pet to care for helps seniors fill the long hours of the day that used to be devoted to family responsibilities and work. It gives them a reason to get out of bed and adds structure to their day, centering around pet mealtimes and walking schedules. Plus, as they tend to their animal companions, seniors are reminded to take care of themselves.

Dogs provide a sense of safety, protection and love. They help you be calmer, more mindful and less stressed in your life. Walking with your dog puts you more in touch with nature and helps you focus on the here and now, pushing worries away. They also make you more social and less isolated. Dogs can pro-

vide the opportunity to socialize with people every day, especially if you go to a dog park, walk your dog in a neighborhood or take your dog with you on errands. And because having a dog also requires that you go out into the world on a regular basis, dog owners tend to be less isolated than nonowners, especially as they age.

In addition, "It's also possible — and very likely — that pets may provide an immune-boosting effect on its owner's microbiome. Studies have also suggested that dog owners have lower reactivity to stress and faster recovery of blood pressure following stressful events.

But what if you can't own a pet because you live in a retirement community that doesn't allow pets? There are some other challenges that should be considered before adopting a pet. You may not feel up to the 10- to 15-year commitment of adopting a pet. Or, you may not be able to afford to feed a pet and take it to the vet and pay for unexpected veterinary bills, which can add a new element of financial stress for seniors and their families. Seniors need to have a support system in place to take care of their pet in case they suddenly need to leave home for travel or an emergency.

The good news is that there are many ways to incorporate the joys of interacting with a dog into your life without having to take one home

with you on a permanent basis.

If you have a senior suffering from dementia or predementia, groundbreaking technology is offering a solution to fight against loneliness. Robotic animals can effectively mimic the health benefits of live animal companions for seniors with dementia, without the associated burden of care, expense or potential safety issues. Peer-reviewed studies show robotic animals can reduce the behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia and reduce the need for dangerous psychotropic medications.

Here's some better news: Although there are several robotic dogs available on the market (of various price ranges), there is one that stands out — Tombot Jennie. Tom Stevens, Tombot's CEO and co-founder, teamed up with Jim Henson's Creature Shop after his mother had to give up her dog after she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's dementia.

The experts at Creature Shop rose to the challenge by crafting a hyperrealistic companion robot puppy that seniors with dementia absolutely love.

Understanding a senior's need for companionship and strong preferences for appearance, feel and behaviors, Tombot Jennie resembles a 15-pound Labrador puppy and includes dozens of internal sensors, allowing her to wag her tail when pet-

ted, respond to voice commands and perk up and bark when asked if she wants a treat. Tombot Jennie looks, feels and behaves much like a real puppy — minus the floor-wetting.

Tombot Puppies help individuals, families and communities cope with health adversities. Touch sensors allow her to react to you based on how and where she is being touched. Voice activation software enables your Tombot Puppy to react to your commands.

Just like your smartphone, you can recharge your Tombot Puppy by simply plugging it in overnight. Tombot comes with a free smartphone app that allows you to name your Puppy, customize its functionality and track user interactions on a day-to-day basis.

Finally, according to the website (www.tombot.com), you can reserve your Tombot Jennie, as they have sold out their first litter.

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.

OLYMPIA MURAL REDEDICATED

By Anna Schlecht

One of Olympia's most iconic murals, "The Great Wave Off Kanagawa," recently underwent a restoration and was rededicated to the Japanese American community on Sept. 8. The restoration work was completed by local artists in partnership with the Olympia Japanese American Citizens League and Rainbow Community Arts.

The rededication, which took place at Childhood's End Gallery in Olympia, acknowledged the contributions and perseverance of people of Japanese heritage in the greater Olympia area.

Perhaps the most universally recognized of Japanese wood block prints, "The Great Wave" was created by Japanese ukiyo-e artist



"The Great Wave Off Kanagawa" mural restoration project. Pictured are Joe Tougas (left) and Austin Davis.

PHOTO: ANNA SCHLECHT

Katsushika Hokusai in 1831 as part of a series of 36 views of Mt. Fuji. Shortly after the Childhood's End Building was bought by Joe Tougas and Richenda and Bill Richardson, Tougas asked a group of his friends to help him re-create this image.

This mural was one of the first significant public art pieces created by Tougas.

"I basically set it up as a paint-by-numbers outline with each area marked for a specific color of paint," said Tougas. "It took us about 10 days, gallons of paint and a fair number of evenings at the Rainbow Restaurant to celebrate our progress."

The results of Tougas' work with friends has been appreciated for decades.

According to Stephanie Johnson, the arts program manager for the City of Olympia, "This mural has remarkable staying power and is one of the few community murals to have lasted more than a decade and certainly the only one to remain in Olympia for nearly 50 years. It continues to be an iconic entrance to downtown from the west, drawing from one of the most recognizable and enduring images in the world."

Reiko Callner of the Olympia chapter of the JACL shared the importance of a public touchstone: "We are surrounded by art and mementoes that acknowledge mainstream history. There are, however, few visual representations of the historical and cultural contributions of minorities in the Pacific Northwest. Pike Place Market, for example,



Pictured at the mural's rededication ceremony are (back row, from left) Olympia Mayor Dontae Payne, artist Austin Davis, artist Joe Tougas and (front row, from left) JACL Olympia's Bob Nakamura, Hisami Yoshida, Reiko Callner and Jan Yoshiwara and Rainbow Community Arts' Anna Schlecht.

was largely established by Japanese American farmers, none of whom sell at the market today. As with those farmers, our Japanese forbears who worked in the oyster beds and other foundational businesses in Olympia were scattered, some never to return, by their unjustified incarceration during World War II. Like the panel art at Pike Market, the dedication of this mural to the Japanese American community helps to counteract that erasure."

Artist Austin Davis was selected to restore this mural. "It was really exciting to be asked to restore this amazing artwork. Having grown up nearby, I've seen this mural for years. I had my high school senior portrait taken in front of this mural. And now I have the honor of

restoring it and working side by side with Joe, who first painted this mural."

The funder, Rainbow Community Arts Olympia, is slowly expanding to support public artworks after decades of sponsoring the annual Pride Festival events.

Said a Rainbow Community Arts spokesperson: "We are dedicated to supporting artists of color who work on public art projects that lift up our diverse communities. Rainbow is keen to expand our public arts landscape to celebrate the communities that have often been erased from public view. This and other murals help to bring that diversity back into focus."

This article was reprinted with permission by Anna Schlecht.



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LIBERATION OBON CALLS FOR FREEDOM

More than 300 protestors call for an end to immigrant detention at the Northwest Detention Center.

By Rob Buscher, P.C. Contributor

Tsuru for Solidarity hosted the Liberation Obon, a one-of-a-kind protest action at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Wash., on Sept. 1. At its peak attendance, more than 300 protestors joined the peaceful direct action, which called for an end to immigrant detention in Tacoma.

The action was planned and executed in partnership with longtime Shut Down NWDC movement leader La Resistencia, a grassroots organization led by undocumented immigrants working to end the detention of immigrants and stop deportations.

In addition to a taiko performance and bon odori led by members of Kokon Taiko and other Seattle-area taiko troupes (featuring JACL member Stan Shikuma), the Liberation Obon included a variety of other music and dance traditions from Mexican and Indigenous cultures including the Puyallup tribe.

Speakers included Buddhist Reverends Ron Kobata, Dylan Matsumoto and Patti Nakai, alongside a representative from Blaine United Methodist Church. In addition, members of La Resistencia, including founder Maru Mora Villalpando, and individuals whose families are being directly impacted by immigrant detention gave powerful testimony. Detainees were also able to call into the protest using Zoom to speak in real time with those gathered in support of their release.

One highlight of the action was the silent procession from the entry gate to the exit gate of the prison. Led by Buddhist clergy and members of both Tsuru and La Resistencia, including the son of a Guatemalan immigrant currently held in detention at the NWDC, the procession walked along the length

of the perimeter fence ringed with razor wire. Two strands of origami cranes were ceremoniously tied to the exit gate, and individuals were able to pay their respects before rejoining the procession.

Tsuru's involvement in the Shut Down NWDC campaign began in 2019 and has continued throughout the pandemic. The campaign has further intensified over the past year in the aftermath of the tragic death of Charles Leo Daniel, a citizen of Trinidad & Tobago who took his own life on March 7, 2024, after nearly four years of being held in solitary confinement.

Notably, the United Nations has



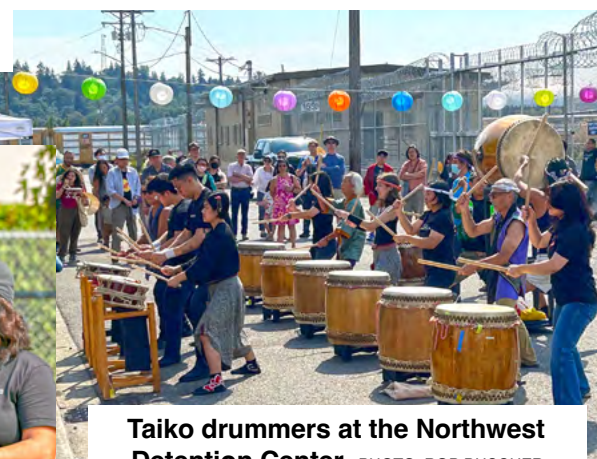
La Resistencia members dedicate a memorial plaque to Charles Leo Daniel. PHOTO: XUESEN ZHAI

classified solitary confinement extending more than 15 consecutive days to be a form of torture. According to a 2020 report titled "Conditions at the NWDC" by the University of Washington Center

for Human Rights, the Tacoma ICE facility holds people in solitary confinement longer on average than any other immigration detention center in the country.

Following Daniel's death, La Resistencia began an encampment outside the center on March 12, which has continued to current day. The encampment initially began in solidarity with detainees who began a hunger strike after Daniel's death, with members of La Resistencia and Tsuru joining the strike from outside the detention center.

The Liberation Obon offered a much-needed morale boost to those who have been living in tents and trailers outside of the prison for nearly six months.



Taiko drummers at the Northwest Detention Center PHOTO: ROB BUSCHER

As the afternoon action continued, the tone of the protest gradually became more celebratory as a local taqueria came to feed the protestors, and members of the Puyallup tribe shared drumming and participatory circle dancing with the crowd. Hundreds of participants engaged in these and the bon odori dances.

Tsuru members also built a three-foot-tall daruma statue and invited La Resistencia leaders to color in the first eye, signifying the wish to end immigrant detention. The event ended with a piñata and cumbia dancing before the participants parted ways.

Although the fight to shut down the Northwest Detention Center is far from over, this action has injected new enthusiasm into the movement from a diverse chorus of voices.

» See FREEDOM on page 9



JACL member Stan Shikuma leads a silent procession during the Liberation Obon protest at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Wash.

PHOTO: ROB BUSCHER



A butsudan altar for Charles Leo Daniel

PHOTO: ROB BUSCHER

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Thursday, December 5, 2024 Interview Your Family Members	Thursday, May 1, 2025 Records in Japan	Thursday, September 4, 2025 Introduction to DNA
Thursday, February 6, 2025 Finding Records in the U.S. - Part 1	Thursday, June 5, 2025 Shutterfly Book - Part 1	Thursday, October 2, 2025 Share Your Stories

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Artist's conception of how the Fourth & Central project might look after completion

IMAGE: FOURTHANDCENTRAL.COM



Henry Aoki (left) and Zen Sekizawa flank fellow demonstrators holding an anti-gentrification banner on April 6 outside the former site of Suehiro Cafe.



Painter and sculptor Nancy Uyemura addresses the news media Aug. 16.

FOURTH & CENTRAL PLANS SPARK CONCERN

Latest pressure to gentrify Little Tokyo, surrounding area, puts community members on high alert.



Little Tokyo Against Gentrification organizer David Monkawa speaks at the Aug. 16 news conference.



Members of Little Tokyo Against Gentrification march to Los Angeles City Councilman Kevin de Leon's office on Aug. 16.

PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON



Zen Sekizawa addresses the Los Angeles news media on Aug. 16.



The Fourth & Central project would be built at Los Angeles Cold Storage, seen above in the lower right corner of the image.

IMAGE: APPLE MAPS

By George Toshio Johnston,
Senior Editor

It has certainly been a year of note for Little Tokyo.

On one hand, the downtown Los Angeles district marked 140 years since Hamanosuke Shigeta opened a restaurant here in 1884.

As to be expected over that many years, Little Tokyo has had its peaks, periods of outward stability and troughs. Yet, it continues to be, in an emotional and spiritual sense, the still-beating heart of the diffuse and changing Japanese American (and expat Japanese) communities across Southern California — even for those who actually haven't stepped foot on its more-often-than-not icky sidewalks in several years.

On the other hand, earlier this year, Little Tokyo also received the ignominious distinction of having been added to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 2024 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. This, despite the February groundbreaking of the First Street North Project ([see Pacific Citizen's April 26, 2024, issue](#)), the dedications of the Daniel K. Inouye National Center for the Preservation of Democracy and the Norman Y. Mineta Democracy Plaza ([see Pacific Citizen's Feb. 9, 2024, issue](#)) and, in 2022, the long-gestating official opening of the Terasaki Budokan ([see Pacific Citizen's March 18, 2022, issue](#)).

And constantly playing in the background to all that: the ever-present dissonant thrum of that tendentious term — gentrification.

Although it may be new to the younger generation, gentrification, similar to its cousin, redevelopment, is, like Little Tokyo, not new. What's happening is simply the latest in a long-running series of machinations that seems to be baked into our system: the haves trying to make a buck at the expense of the have-nots, owners vs. renters, change vs. preservation, displacement vs. staying put, outsiders vs. incumbents.

Add politics, class, ethnicity, culture and race to the mix and it's akin to pouring vinegar on baking soda.

In Little Tokyo, it's no different.

----- Fourth & Central -----

Late in the morning on Aug. 16 at First and Spring Streets near City Hall, a gathering of about a dozen members representing Little Tokyo Against Gentrification held a news conference, with participants standing in a line while holding a long banner that read "Fight Gentrification."

For LTAG, comprised of J-Town Action and Solidarity ("a collective dedicated to revolutionary organizing & building community power in Little Tokyo," according to its website that also unironically hawks such merch as "Death to Capitalism" greeting cards), Save Our Seniors Network and Greater Los Angeles JACL, it was an opportunity to share with the representatives of the news media — who nearly outnumbered the participants — their opposition to a huge proposed development on the outskirts of Little Tokyo.

Another goal of the rally was to present in person to City Councilman Kevin de Leon,

whose district encompasses downtown Los Angeles — including Little Tokyo and the Arts District — a demand to revisit and redo the environmental impact report required before the \$2 billion mixed-use development known as Fourth & Central could commence.

Fourth & Central is the project of Denver-based Continuum Partners LLC on the 7.6-acre site owned by Los Angeles Cold Storage, a privately owned company in business since 1895.

As presently envisioned, Fourth & Central would be a 10-building project with 1,500-plus residential units; 410,000 square feet of office space; 101,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space; and a 68-room hotel, according to [fourthandcentral.com](#), which also states: "Fourth & Central is crafted to respond to the needs of the community, including the creation of affordable housing and living wage jobs close to growing transit opportunities."

Speakers at the LTAG news conference had a different take.

----- 'Zero Awareness' -----

After introducing herself and saying, "I care deeply about what the future is for Little Tokyo," facilitator Zen Sekizawa introduced the first speaker, Ana Iwataki.

After relating that she is "literally getting a Ph.D. in gentrification in Little Tokyo" at the University of Southern California, Iwataki said, "This Fourth & Central project concerns me. An environmental impact report is supposed to thoroughly research and present all the impacts on the surrounding area, including on historical and cultural resources. But historic preservation is not just about saving the facade of a building so that market rate tenants will move into it. Preserving a culture can only happen if people can afford to stay and maintain their lives."

Iwataki added, "Little Tokyo is just a place where developers have already made money by failing to know us. They are telling us who they are. Their attitude shows zero awareness of what Little Tokyo actually is, who lives here, what makes it significant, and if they don't know what's here, why would they care about preserving it?"

Speaking next was David Monkawa. Expressing his concerns regarding Fourth & Central, he said, "It's going to change Little Tokyo forever. What we see is ... seven years of construction dust getting into the lungs of our children at the childcare center and of our seniors in Little Tokyo Towers, the largest low-income Asian housing unit on the West Coast."

Referring to Continuum Partners founder Mark Falcone, Monkawa said, "If you're going to come here and build your megablock, your megacity right next to Little Tokyo, you're going to have to listen to our needs. You're going to have to listen to the voices of people in Little Tokyo. And what we need right now is low-income housing. Lots of it."

----- 'Corporate Greed' -----

The need for affordable housing was particularly relevant to artist Nancy Uyemura. In the 1980s, she moved into the then-inexpensive Little Tokyo-adjacent loft space in what would become known the Arts Dis-

trict. Over time, in a scenario that has been replayed several times in several cities arose: Artists like Uyemura helped make a once blighted area become more desirable. Then, when the inevitable hipster cachet caught on, artists with no ownership were pushed out.

"I lived two-thirds of my life in Little Tokyo, or Little Tokyo adjacent," Uyemura said. "I was in the Arts District for over 34 years, and then we got evicted due to the gentrification that was happening in downtown L.A., especially in the Arts District."

Uyemura was among the several artists — many also Japanese American — living at 800 Traction Ave. in the Arts District who were evicted in 2017 when New York-based private equity firm, DLJ Real Estate Capital Partners, bought the building, as well as 810 Traction Ave.

Referring to the "corporate greed" that led to the owners sell the building, Uyemura noted that since being evicted, "it's flipped over at least two or three times. The bank owns it now, and they want to try and sell it, but they just trash the building. And for someone that's lived in that building and worked in that building and been in that neighborhood, helped create that neighborhood, it's really heartbreaking."

Uyemura was referring to how, after DLJ Real Estate Capital Partners bought the Traction Avenue buildings, both were resold in 2021 to New York-based Livwrk and L.A.-based Daniel Kotzer. In 2024, after Livwrk defaulted on its loan from Thorofare, the commercial real estate lender listed the properties in a foreclosure sale.

----- 'Completely Disrespectful' -----

Getting to the main goal of the rally was next speaker, Henry Aoki of J-Town Action and Solidarity. "We've gathered here today to demand that there be a redo of that EIR process, of that environmental impact report process. ... We're calling on Councilmember Kevin de Leon, CD 14, to support a redo of this process. We're calling on the (Los Angeles) Planning Department to push for a redo of this process. We believe that this process has been unjust."

Referring to Continuum Partners, Aoki said, "We've seen them come to community meetings and disregard the opinions of community members. We've seen them claim that they're listening, but they don't have actual community consultants. They don't have actual guarantees for affordable housing. They talk around issues; they don't give us concrete details of what we're asking for. This has been completely disrespectful."

However, the plan to march from the corner of First and Spring Streets to de Leon's office while participants held their banner hit a snag: Monkawa announced that he had learned the councilman was not present in his office, but that his staff had agreed to meet with LTAG representatives on Aug. 23. Nevertheless, the group used the opportunity to march to City Hall as news cameras recorded.

Although LTAG could not count that day as a victory, the situation was different some four months earlier, when many of the same participants held a victory rally a few blocks away at the previous site of Suehiro Cafe on First Street in Little Tokyo proper.

----- 'Bittersweet Victory' -----

If there was one saga that exemplified the controversy over the destiny of Little Tokyo in the past couple of years, it was that of Suehiro Cafe, which had been in operation in Little Tokyo since 1972 but closed its doors Jan. 9 and had since reluctantly relocated to the corner of Fourth and Main Streets, several blocks away and beyond the borders of Little Tokyo.

The restaurant's owner, Kenji Suzuki, took over the operation from his mother, Junko Suzuki, who, with his aunt, Yuriko, co-founded it. The property owner, Anthony Sperl, began eviction proceedings against Suzuki, claiming that he had failed to pay the rent. Suzuki, however, maintained that the rent checks had been sent as always in a timely manner, but that Sperl failed to cash them as a pretext to evict Suzuki and replace the eatery with a cannabis dispensary.

If there ever was a time for a group like J-Town Action and Solidarity to act, this one was tailor-made. As word of the forced departure of the beloved eatery spread, several peaceful rallies and demonstrations arose, upset not only because the seemingly unethical way in which Suehiro's eviction was executed but also, adding insult to injury, the fact that the landlord had filed paperwork to replace it with a cannabis-related shop that was out of line with the history and tradition of Little Tokyo.

The pressure tactics worked. It was learned that Sperl's idea to operate a cannabis business was scuttled and that a different Japanese restaurant might replace it.

So it was that on April 6, on the same afternoon that the Japanese American National Museum was holding its posh annual fundraiser just a few blocks away at the tony environs of the Vibiana (see the Pacific Citizen's June 7, 2024, issue), members of J-Town Action and Solidarity met outside 337 E. First St. to celebrate — somewhat ruefully — a quantum of victory. Sekizawa announced to cheers that "no dispensary is coming to Little Tokyo" — and then introduced the next speaker, Aoki.

"This is, of course, a bittersweet victory for us. We stopped the dispensary. But we could not stop the eviction of Suehiro Café," he said. Referring to news that Sperl wanted to bring a different Japanese restaurant, Aoki asked, "Now obviously, that raises the question, right? Why on earth was Suehiro Café, a Japanese restaurant, evicted just to bring in a new Japanese restaurant?"

"So this, I think, points to a basic problem, right, when a few landlords, a few developers think they can just do whatever they want in this community. No developer should be allowed to decide that their own personal will trumps what means to this community, right? The community has a say. And that's why we came out here to fight. And we are willing to fight any landlord, any developer who thinks they can treat our community like this."

(Note: Part 2 of this story regarding the challenges facing Little Tokyo and other ethnic enclaves in the U.S. will appear in a future issue of Pacific Citizen.)

CARRYING ON TRADITION THROUGH MUSIC

Tatsu Aoki and the Toyoakimoto legacy of innovation and tradition in the Japanese cultural arts of Chicago

By Emily Murase,
P.C. Contributor

Tatsu Aoki was born to the celebrated Toyoakimoto *Okiya geisha* house where young professional entertainers were trained in the Japanese traditional cultural arts for more than 300 years in Yotsuya Araki-cho, the heart of Tokyo's historic entertainment district.

Trained in the Fujima School of Japanese classical dance since the age of 4 and in the *shamisen* three-stringed lute since the age of 5, Aoki was expected to carry on the family tradition. Now in his 60's, Aoki has done just that, but an ocean and a continent away from Araki-cho, in Chicago.

"I was a student of geisha subculture and regularly performed in the Japanese traditional arts until I hit my rebellious high school days. In fact, it was my father who introduced me to the 'underground arts,'" explained Aoki. "This was an eclectic mix of work pioneered by avant-garde artists such as composer Toru Takemitsu, filmmaker Hiroshi Teshigahara and writer Kobo Abe, who experimented with a variety of Western techniques and arts." Inspired by his father's work as a movie producer, Aoki, still a teenager, produced experimental films with other independent filmmakers.

Aoki was exposed to Western rock bands and became fascinated with Deep Purple and Led Zeppelin. Intent on exploring new musical influences, he traveled to Los Angeles at age 18, moved to New York and eventually enrolled in intensive English classes at the University of Ohio in Athens.

While seeking a university that would allow him to explore Black avant-garde jazz music, as well as experimental film, Aoki landed at the Art Institute of Chicago. There, he had the opportunity to apprentice with jazz greats from the South Side of Chicago in the 1970s and '80s. Legendary avant-garde jazz saxophonist Fred Anderson became his mentor.

Around this time, he met a network of Asian American musicians in California, including Anthony Brown, Glenn Horiuchi, Mark Izu, Jon Jang, Miya Masaoka and Francis Wong. With Wong, Aoki has enjoyed an artistic collaboration lasting more than 30 years and counting.

"It was through them that I first heard a recording of obon folk dancing accompanied by traditional Japanese instruments. This inspired me to compose my own music using taiko drums and *shamisen*, the sounds of my childhood," he recalled.

"What I found among these musicians, primarily based in the San Francisco Bay Area, was a visceral and visible commitment to Asian American identity through the arts," said Aoki. "Their music was more than just a hobby; their music demonstrated a professionalism in community cultural arts that was not really evident in the Midwest."

In 1984, Aoki founded Innocent Eyes and Lenses, a nonprofit organization dedicated to Asian American artists and arts programs that reflect the Asian American experience in the state of Illinois.

In 1987, Jang and Wong formed Asian Improv aRts and Asian Improv Records to showcase the artistry of Asian American musicians within the social context of Asian American empowerment and community activism.

"I used to commute to the San Francisco Asian American Jazz Festival each year. Then, I decided to bring the model to Chicago. The Chicago Asian American Jazz Festival was born in 1995 with Francis Wong as the headliner. This November, we'll be celebrating the 29th edition," said Aoki.

Reflecting the decades of close collaboration, Aoki rebranded IEL as Asian Improv aRts Midwest in 2004 and continues to serve as its executive director. Asian Improv aRts Midwest is home to three cultural organizations, each led by highly trained professional artist instructors:




The Aoki family backstage at the Tsukasa Taiko Performance in 2022. Pictured (from left) are Kioto, Eigen, Tatsu, Miyumi (front) and Yukiko.
PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE AOKI FAMILY

Tsukasa Taiko, Shubukai Dance Studio in the tradition of the Fujima School of Japanese classical dance and Toyoakimoto Shamisen.

Aoki and his wife, Yukiko, of Tokyo, raised three now-adult children, who have continued the *okiya geisha* house tradition of the performing arts family. Elder daughter Kioto leads Tsukasa Taiko, son Eigen was the first to pursue taiko training and younger daughter Miyumi plays taiko drums and dances in the Fujima style.

According to Kioto, growing up with parents from Japan set her apart from most of her Japanese American peers. "My parents are from Japan, and I was raised speaking Japanese. I feel lucky that my parents spoke Japanese to me. I appreciate that now. My grandparents are still in Japan." She quipped, "I didn't have access to Oreo cookies or Doritos in my house until my youngest sibling was born."

While younger siblings Eigen and Miyumi are pursuing careers in other fields and perform on the side, Kioto has followed in her father's footsteps as a professional performer and a visual artist. "I am a taiko solo artist as well as a photographer and filmmaker." 



A family *shamisen* performance

PHOTO: RIKA LIN

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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FREEDOM » continued from page 5



Members of La Resistencia paint the Daruma eye to signify their wish to end immigrant detention.

PHOTO: XUESEN ZHAI

Meanwhile, Tsuru is preparing for its next major event, the Kintsugi conference, which is set to take place in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo from Oct. 3-6. Named after the Japanese craft practice of repairing broken pottery with gold lacquer to accentuate and thus appreciate its imperfections, the Kintsugi conference is conceived as an intentional gathering space for Japanese Americans to better understand community trauma and explore healing practices now and for the future.

The program will feature

speakers, workshops and restorative practices for those experiencing intergenerational trauma. Over the course of four days, participants will engage in practices of repair, including solidarity as a means of further strengthening the Japanese American community.

The Kintsugi conference is rooted in the work of scholars and educators, as well as traditional healers and psychologists who have studied Japanese American intergenerational community trauma for decades, including Tsuru for Solidarity co-founder Satsuki Ina.

Of the conference, Ina wrote, "We will explore the fractures that have divided our psyches, our families and our communities. Just as a treasured celadon bowl can lay frac-

tured for decades, we will witness and learn about the efforts to repair these fractures that have emerged from our collective desire to be whole again.

"The striking joinery of lacquer mixed with gold dust used to repair the bowl symbolizes our community's history of trauma and healing," Ina continued. "Rather than hiding or disguising these fissures, we will delve into the racism and injustice that created them, and we will acknowledge the powerful healing taking place as we gather for Kintsugi 2024."

To learn more about Kintsugi and register online, visit: <https://tsuruforsolidarity.org/current-campaigns/kintsugi>.

Like her father, she trained at the Art Institute of Chicago. Today, as the leader of Tsukasa Taiko, Kioto is in charge of one of the largest taiko groups in the Chicago area, with over 50 members. In addition to local, regional and national performances, Tsukasa Taiko also offers instruction to students of all ages, not only in taiko drums, but also *shamisen* and *shinobue* bamboo flute.

The family, also a member of the local JAACL chapter, has performed together for countless events, including at the annual Taiko Legacy performances at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago and the MIYUMI Project, a collaboration of Asian American and African American musicians, named for Aoki's younger daughter. Yoko Ono collaborated with the MIYUMI Project for the music, later album, created for the 2016 unveiling of the Sky Landing sculpture in Chicago's Jackson Park, her first permanent work in the United States.

A particular performance highlight was the 2023 trip to Japan where Kioto and Miyumi received their professional names Chitose and Toho, respectively, from Toyoko Toyoaki, the grandmaster of the Toyoakimoto performing arts tradition.

Accompanied by their father, whose professional name is Toyoaki San-ju-ro, Miyumi and Kioto had to demonstrate mastery of works not only on the *shamisen*, but also on the *shinobue* flute by Miyumi and the *tsuzumi* hand drum by Kioto, at a formal recital. Only a very small percentage of students in Japanese cultural arts are able to earn professional names and only after years of rigorous training.

On both professional and personal levels, Aoki has fulfilled his obligation to carry on the tradition of the Toyoakimoto house and has inspired not only his children, but also countless others in the Chicago area and beyond to pursue the Japanese traditional arts.



AIRMW/Tsukasa Taiko's 2018 "Reduction 6" Performance at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago in 2018

PHOTO: KEN CARL



Tatsu Aoki performs with his mentor, Fred Anderson.

PHOTO: ANDY PIERCE

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

2024 TOUR SCHEDULE

- 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.

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) Aug 27-Sep 9
Pre-cruise in Budapest; Bratislava, Vienna, Weissenkirchen, Linz, Passau, Vilshofen; Post-cruise in Prague. **Bonus Discount - Limited Time Offer.**
- 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.
- OKINAWA HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Nov 13-23
Naha, Onnason, Islands of Ishigaki, Iriomote & Taketomi.

For more information and reservations, please contact:

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

312 E. 1st Street, Suite 240 * Los Angeles, CA 90012
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Ernest or Carol Hida

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

INTL.

Heroes of the Vosges Museum
Bruyères, France
Oct. 19 Opening Date
Heni-Mathieu Musee
Price: Free

This start-up museum will honor the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team and the French Resistance who bravely fought in battle during World War II. The museum will open during the celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Bruyères, Belmonte and Biffontaine.
Info: Visit vosgesheroes.org.

NCWNP

'Kintsukuroi' Screening and Discussion
Castro Valley, CA
Oct. 5; 1 p.m.

The Chabot Theater
2853 Castro Valley Road
Price: \$15 Presale; \$20 At the Door
Eden Township Japanese Community Center, Eden Township JACL and the Chabot Theater present this screening of "Kintsukuroi," followed by a Q & A with the cast and crew.
Info: Visit <https://www.edenjapanesecc.org/eden-township-jacl-chapter>.

'Ruth Asawa: Untitled (S.272)' Exhibit
San Francisco, CA
Ongoing Exhibit
Asian Art Museum
200 Larkin St.
Price: Museum Admission

Asawa is a pioneering figure both in the civic landscape of San Francisco and in the history of American art. This exhibit of her works represents a visionary bridge between the major themes of sculpture in the modern postwar period and the subsequent era of contemporary art.
Info: Visit exhibitions.asianart.org for more details on this exhibit.

Watercolor Painting
San Francisco, CA
Mondays; 10 a.m.-Noon
The Center
1840 Sutter St.
Price: \$40/Month Members and \$11 Drop-In; \$48/Month Nonmembers and \$14 Drop-In

In this weekly class, participants will learn the basics of watercolor painting through the instruction of Wendy Yoshimura. Subjects include still-life objects.
Info: Visit jccnc.org.

PSW

'Trans Allyship: Learn, Grow, Act'
Sept. 28; 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Virtual Symposium
Price: Free

Through guest speakers, workshops and discussion groups, this event, sponsored by Okaeri, JACL and PFLAG SGV API, aims to educate and inform allies about the transgender community to help them make better-informed and more inclusive social, community and civic choices that support transgender individuals.
Info: Register at bit.ly/TransAllyship-2024.

Aki Matsuri Japanese Fall Festival
Albuquerque, NM
Sept. 29; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
EXPO NM
300 San Pedro Dr. N.E.
Price: \$10 Admission

Dive into the heart of Japanese tradition with this festival featuring an unforgettable exploration of Japan's rich cultural tapestry. Enjoy culinary delights, traditional performances, workshops, a children's corner and multiple vendors selling authentic Japanese arts, crafts, clothing and much more.
Info: Visit www.nmjaci.org for ticket information and schedule.

'Echoes of Resilience: Imagining the Possible in Preserving Japanese American Heritage' 2024 JACSC Education Conference
Los Angeles, CA
Oct. 4-6
JANM
100 N. Central Ave.

Price: Free and Open to the Public
This event brings together scholars, activists and community members dedicated to preserving the history of Japanese American incarceration during WWII. Highlights will include a panel on the Irei: National Monument and the immersive FandanObon event celebrating diverse cultural traditions.
Info: Visit www.janm.org for tickets.

2024 Akimatsuri Fall Festival
West Covina, CA
Oct. 5; Noon-6 p.m.
East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center
1203 W. Puente Ave.
Price: Free

Come together at the ESGVJCC to embrace the autumn spirit and celebrate Japanese American culture. There will be delicious food, cultural performances, unique vendors and games and enter-

tainment for all.
Info: <https://www.esgvjcc.org/2024-akimatsuri-fall-festival>.

Ebb and Flow Community Mental Health Conference
Los Angeles, CA
Oct. 12; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
JANM
100 N. Central Ave.

Price: \$20 General Admission
This event is Little Tokyo Service Center's second annual mental health conference in partnership with JANM and will be a welcoming space for the Asian American community to address, examine and understand mental health in its various forms. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided.
Info: Visit www.LTSC.org.

'Removed by Force: The Eviction of Hawaii's Japanese Americans During WWII' Documentary
Torrance, CA
Oct. 20; 2 p.m.
Faith United Methodist Church
2115 W. 182nd St.

Price: Free
Following the screening, there will be a panel discussion with the film's co-producers, William Kaneko and Ryan Kawamoto, along with Carol Hayashino.
Info: Email admin@faithsouthbay.org or greaterlajaci@gmail.com.

2024 Poston Pilgrimage
Parker, AZ
Oct. 25-26
Blue Water Resort & Casino
11300 Resort Dr.
Price: Early Bird Registration \$195 Adults/\$100 Children; After Sept. 1, \$250 Adults/\$150 Children.

Attorney Dale Minami will be this year's keynote speaker. Other highlights will include a screening of Marlene Shigekawa's "The Blue Jay," an opening ceremony with remarks from Tribal Chairwoman Amelia Flores, tribal community performances, visits to the Poston exhibit within the Museum of the Colorado River Indian Tribes and educational workshops and bus tours of the Poston Monument and Camp I school sites.
Info: Visit www.postonpreservation.org. Registration is limited to 250 attendees due to facility space.

'Celebrating Little Tokyo at 140 Years' Exhibit
Los Angeles, CA
Thru Jan. 5, 2025
JANM
100 N. Central Ave.
Price: Museum Admission

This new pop-up exhibit highlights Little Tokyo's past with items from Koharu restaurant, the Nozaki beauty shop, the School of Modern Fashion, the Tanaka photography studio and other local establishments over the decades.
Info: Visit www.janm.org.

PNW

Democracy Summit
Tacoma, WA
Sept. 27; 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Tacoma Dome Exhibit Hall
2726 E. D St.
Price: Free

Join Asian, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities from around the state to celebrate our culture, our voice and our vote. This free program will include a candidate forum among the top two candidates for governor, as well as keynote speakers and cultural performances.
Info: To register, visit <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeHseOmnMWK-gMDIE-VkjbqBt4Y42vnSVCN3AvOt9vRZ-TQO2qw/viewform>.

Sound Check!
Seattle, WA
Oct. 6; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wing Luke Museum
719 S. King St.

Price: Museum Admission
This exhibition explores the role music has played in Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander lives and communities as an element of cultural heritage and identity through various photos, framed artworks, podcasts, artifacts, audio and video.
Info: Visit www.wingluke.org/soundcheck.

IDC

'Whiskey & Wagyu' 2024 JASC Annual Gala
Denver, CO
Oct. 9; 6-9 p.m.
ReelWorks Denver
1399 35th St.
Price: JASC Members \$135; General Public \$235

JASC welcomes attendees to an evening of celebration, culinary delights, exceptional networking and fundraising as it celebrates the anniversary of the Japan America Society of Colorado.
Info: Visit www.jascolorado.org.

EDC

'The Paradox of Seabrook Farms' Film Screening and Meeting With Director Helga Merits
Bryn Mawr, PA

Sept. 28; 10:30 a.m.
Bryn Mawr Film Institute
824 Lancaster Ave.
Price: Tickets \$10 and Can Be Purchased in Advance.

Don't miss this documentary about Seabrook about "the workers at Seabrook Farms, the biggest industrial vegetable plant in the U.S. in the 1950s, who had to build up a new life for their families in very difficult circumstances." The documentary features interviews with Mas Nakawatase and former EDC Gov. Michael Asada. A meeting with the film's director follows.
Info: Email Sept28SeabrookParadox@gmail.com or call (610) 283-8645.

'The Inventive Brush: Calligraphic Echoes From China, Japan and Korea'
Boston, MA
Thru Oct. 13
Pao Arts Center
99 Albany St.
Price: Museum Admission

This exhibit showcases the diversity of contemporary calligraphy with works of three Massachusetts-based artists. This exhibit is a collaboration between the Pao Arts Center, Japan Society of Boston and Korean Cultural Society of Boston.
Info: Visit <https://www.paoartscenter.org/events/2024/inventivebrush>.

'Kyo Hyogu: Behind the Hanging Scroll' Exhibit
Washington, D.C.
Thru Oct. 25
JICC, Embassy of Japan
1150 18th St. N.W., Suite 100
Price: Free

This exhibit highlights hyogu, the traditional Japanese art of mounting calligraphy and paintings, with roots tracing back to the Nara period (710-794).
Info: Visit <https://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/jicc/exhibits/kyo-hyogu.html>.

'Yayoi Kusama's Let's Survive Forever'
Boston, MA
Thru Dec. 31
WNRD Museum
500 Washington St.
This exhibit is featured among 20-plus other immersive exhibits.
Info: Visit <https://wndrmuseum.com/exhibit/lets-survive-forever-boston/>.

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In MEMORIAM



Akabori, Jack, 89, Sacramento, CA, Aug. 21.

Asato, Kelly Asato, 65, Pukalani, HI, Feb. 7.



Awaya, Jason George, 30, Honolulu, HI, May 7.

Doi, Hunter T., 67, Moss Beach, CA, June 27.



Domoto, Peter Ken, 86, Camano Island, WA, June 26.

Fujinami, Harumi Rose, 93, Monterey Park, CA, Aug. 22.

Hiu, Eloise Aizawa, 88, Honolulu, HI, Feb. 23.

Ishii, Kuniko, 104, Santa Ana, CA, June 5.

Kaneda, Patsy Hisako, 90, Gig Harbor, WA, Aug. 2.

Kobayashi, Bill, 92, Los Angeles, CA, June 2.

Kobayashi, Gordon, 62, Sacramento, CA, July 7.

Kuwatani, Sachi, 95, San Francisco, CA, July 18.



Matsuka, Kikue, 87, Lake Forest, CA, May 16.

Mishima, James Sunao, 92, Palm Springs, CA, June 9.

Miyahira, Dennis Yoshito, 75, Kapolei, HI, July 28.

Morishige, Jane Takako, 82, Honolulu, HI, July 1.



Nakaishi, Jeffery Kenny, 68, Syracuse, UT, March 15.

Okamoto, Richard Kunio, 105, Honolulu, HI, April 19.

Uota, Nobuko, 86, Morgan Hill, CA, June 27.

Urata, Roy Yukinori, 83, Waimanalo, HI, July 23.

White, Fumi Niikawa, 85, Federal Way, WA, July 1.



Yamamoto, Allan Tsutomu, 88, Honolulu, HI, Feb. 14.

Yamamoto, Clarence, 81, Kahului, HI, Jan. 29.



Yamamoto, Madelon, 91, Los Angeles, CA, April 1.

Yamasaki, Terumi, 85, Bartlett, TN, March 15.

Yamauchi, George Joji, 74, Santa Monica CA, Feb. 1.

Yokooji, Daren, 66, Denver, CO, Aug. 3.

Yoshida, Fern, 78, Las Vegas, NV, March 31.

TRIBUTE

KENNETH SUGINO

Kenneth Kenichi Sugino, USC PharmD, age 90, California-born resident of Thousand Oaks, passed away on Aug. 26, 2024. He was predeceased by his parents, Kikuichi and Haruyo (Inouye) Sugino; sisters, Arlene (Joe) Hamashita and Evelyn (Bill) Yamamoto. Beloved husband of Lily (Kamiya), father of Kent (Lily Siao), Lisa (Jay Rosenthal), Steve (Mari), Dr. Julie (Matt Hipp) Sugino; grandfather of Kai, Miya, Haru, Leo, Rinka, Caitlyn, Brandon; brother of Bob (Lynda); survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives. Funeral will be Sept. 28 11 a.m. at Oxnard Buddhist Temple.

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News Briefs

'Shōgun': Four Emmy Award Wins Bring Record-Breaking Total to 18

The first season of "Shōgun" ([Feb. 23, 2024, Pacific Citizen](http://Feb.23.2024.PacificCitizen)) cut down all rivals Sept. 15 at the 76th Primetime Emmys, which aired on ABC. Originally released on the FX network and made available for streaming on Hulu, it won in the categories Outstanding Drama Series, Lead Actor in a Dramatic Series for Hiroyuki Sanada (Toranaga Yoshii), Lead Actress in a Dramatic Series for Anna Sawai (Toda Mariko) and Direction (Frederick E.O. Toye) for the penultimate ninth episode, "Crimson Sky." Prior to the telecast, "Shōgun," which had originally been released as a limited series in February before getting greenlighted for two more seasons, won 14 Emmys in 16 categories at the Creative Arts Emmy Awards a week earlier, scoring in the categories Guest Acting, Casting, Costumes, Makeup (nonprosthetic and prosthetic), Hairstyling, Stunt Performance, Production Design, Editing, Visual Effects, Main Title Design, Sound Editing, Sound Mixing and Cinematography. In the run-up to the awards ceremonies, "Shōgun" had received a record-breaking 25 Emmy bids. With his win, Sanada, who also served as a producer, became Japan's first actor to win an Emmy in his category. Sawai's win in her category was also a first for Japan. The rise and recognition of onscreen talent of Asian descent was underscored when Steven Yuen, who had won a Lead Actor Emmy in a different category at the 75th Emmys for Netflix's "Beef," presented Sanada with his award. Sanada was the second Asian actor to win a Lead Drama Actor award, with the first being Lee Jung-jae in 2022 for Netflix's "Squid Game." For Sawai, the win made her the first Asian actress to win in her category. (Ali Wong won the best Actress in a Limited Series or Movie for "Beef.") In other samurai-related Emmy news, Netflix's "Blue Eye Samurai" won four animation Emmys: Outstanding Animated Program ("The Tale of the Ronin and the Bride") and three wins in the category Outstanding Individual Achievement in Animation.

Tateishi's 'Redress' in Paperback; Yamashita's 'Entanglements' Published

John Tateishi's "Redress: The Inside Story of the Successful Campaign for Japanese American Reparations" (*Heyday, 408 pages, ISBN: 9781597146463, SRP \$22*) was reissued as a paperback on Aug. 27. According to its author, "Redress" includes a new, short preface written for this edition. (*The preface is available online at tinyurl.com/94-zht5r.*) Of Wendi Yamashita's "Carceral Entanglements: Gendered Public Memories of Japanese American World War II Incarceration" (*Temple University Press, 196 pages, ISBN 978-4399-2040-4, SRP \$26.95*), which was published Aug. 30, Dean and Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education and Professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder Daryl Joji Maeda writes: "Yamashita shows how narratives of Japanese American incarceration instantiate discourses of gender, sexual, racial, and national/colonial power yet also contain avenues for critique and disruption. By reading cultural performances and practices, such as commemorations, digital archiving and pilgrimages, through the lenses of queer of color critique and critiques of settler colonialism, Yamashita powerfully argues that critically remembering incarceration can generate understandings and solidarities that decenter racism, patriarchal heteronormativity and empire."

Visual Communications Accepting Applications for Armed With a Camera

The Asian American and Pacific Islander community media arts organization has announced that it is now accepting applications for its 2025-26 Armed With a Camera fellowship. This year's accompanying theme will surround the idea of "Re-Envisioning." Over a 12-16 month period, VC will work with fellows, culminating with their projects premiering at the May 2026 VC Film Fest, aka the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival. The deadline to apply is Oct. 19 at 10 p.m. PDT. To apply, visit tinyurl.com/2w5369az. To learn more about Armed With a Camera, visit vcmedia.org/lawc.

DoJ: Pair Operating Birth Tourism Scheme for Chinese Nationals Are Guilty

The Department of Justice announced Michael Wei Yueh Liu, 59, and Jing Dong, 47, both of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., were found guilty Sept. 13 of one count of conspiracy and 10 counts of international money laundering for operating a birth tourism business. Sentencing is set for Dec. 9. Liu and Dong face a maximum prison sentence of 205 years. They were arrested in 2015 for operating "maternity hotels" that charged pregnant Chinese thousands of dollars to give birth here.

— P.C. Staff



TECH DIALOGUES

Spam and How to Clean Your Email Inbox

By Ryan Kawamoto

Most of us have encountered spam in one form or another. In this article, I'm not talking about the beloved canned meat used to make musubi! Spam is unsolicited, usually commercial, messages sent to a large number of recipients or posted in a large number of places. Below, I'll share ways to respond to spam and offer tips to keep your email inbox clean after you do.

How to Deal With Spam?

When you receive spam, do not click unsubscribe from a spam/phishing email. It's best to instead report them as spam. All email providers (Gmail, Outlook, Yahoo, etc.) have the option to report an email as spam.

With email tracking technology, scammers can tell when a recipient opens, clicks or engages with an

email. They use this information to know which spam recipients are currently active and improve their scams. The more spam messages you open, the more you will receive. That's why the best way to deal with spam is to delete or report it before opening it.

How to Identify Email Scams?

Before opening an email, the sender's name and subject line of the email can already raise some red flags. Many of us have been duped, and more sophisticated spam messages require a more thorough look inside. Here are some red flags to look for:

- Requests for your personal information
- Sense of urgency
- Wrong organization logo and branding
- Typos and grammatical mistakes
- Unusual or weird sender

email. Email not related to the organization.

- The "To" field might contain multiple recipients
- Impersonal or awkward greetings, such as "Dear customer" or "Dear Mr. account holder"
- Weird links not related to the organization
- Emails from organizations that you do not have an account with.

I Have Thousands of Emails in My Inbox. What Should I Do?

If your inbox is full to the brim with spam emails or otherwise, rest assured that you are not alone. According to recent data, the number of emails sent received worldwide in 2023 was 347.3 billion per day. This figure is projected to increase to 376.4 billion daily emails by 2025. With this large number of emails piling up daily in our inbox, keeping it clean and decluttered can be challenging.

For people with overflowing inboxes, email providers make it simple to delete emails in bulk and unsubscribe from any email list.

Here are a few techniques to clean up your email inbox while minimizing the number of relevant emails deleted:

- Delete emails sent more than two months ago
- Filter emails with keywords,

select all and delete.

Another way to clean up your email is with email cleaner software. Although these tools can help clean up your inbox faster, they are often not free and might come with a learning curve.

When and How to Unsubscribe

Deleting emails from marketers is sometimes not enough. If you delete 10 emails today, you'll still receive 10 more tomorrow. If the marketer is a business you are not interested in receiving emails from, then unsubscribing is the best way to go. You might have subscriptions to multiple email lists from the same marketer, in which case you'll need to unsubscribe to each one of the email lists individually.

Once unsubscribed, you should no longer receive emails from that business. To unsubscribe from any email list, you only need to look for the **unsubscribe** button from a recent email and click it. The unsubscribe button is often at the top or bottom of the email.

Email Inbox Tips

Stay on top of keeping your email inbox clean by following these few tips:

- Invest time to clean up your email inbox
- Once the inbox is clean, try to keep

the inbox count at zero. Whenever you check your email, read the important ones and delete the ones that are not before finishing the session

- Ask yourself if you'd like to receive emails from a website or business before giving away your email.

Remember Our Email Golden Rule

Just because a website has one good article doesn't mean it deserves your email address.

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. It's open Monday -Friday from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. ET and Saturday from 9 a.m.-2 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 version of this article was originally published on www.seniorplanet.org by Senior Planet's resident "Techspert" Jonathan Ushindi Zaluke.

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