



PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING
95
Years



Angel Island detainees
PHOTO: EMILY MURASE

Although roughly 35% of immigrants who passed through the island were...

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NIKKEI PILGRIMS CONVENE AT THE ANGEL ISLAND IMMIGRATION STATION.

A WALK THROUGH

OUR HISTORY

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Viewpoints of Election Day 2024

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AA4D Hosts AAPI Election Panel Discussions.

Generations Gather in L.A. to Heal at 'KINTSUGI 2024!'

By Nancy Ukai, Contributor

More than 120 Nikkei from ages 20-95 came together in Los Angeles from Oct. 3-6 in an unprecedented gathering to heal and repair as a community from a legacy of racism that has been passed down for generations.

The "Kintsugi" event — titled after the traditional Japanese method of repairing broken ceramics — was sponsored by Tsuru for Solidarity, the national organization of social justice advocates that fights to close detention sites and support immigrant communities, in collaboration with the Japanese American National Museum and the USC Ito Center.

Sessions included a reading of "Growing Up Sansei" by Soji Kashiwagi's Grateful Crane Ensemble; a presentation by Dr. Donna Nagata

on her multigenerational research on the effects of wartime trauma for Nisei, Sansei and Yonsei; a session by Rev. Duncan Ryuken Williams on the Ireicho sacred book of names; and dancing in the FandangoObon, produced by Great Leap, on the Little Tokyo plaza in conjunction with the Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium meeting and a session on pilgrimage, memorials and monuments.

In her keynote address, author and filmmaker Dr. Satsuki Ina discussed four responses people commonly use when faced with World War II trauma: fight, flight, freeze and fawn.

A Nisei man told Ina afterward, "I'm going to show [the slide] to my son so he could see how I coped with trauma and tell him how sorry I am that I couldn't be a better father."

The program also included discussion groups by



Dr. Satsuki Ina
PHOTOS: NANCY UKAI

Multiracial/multiethnic panel participants included (from left) moderator Lisa Doi and Sophie Sarkar, Becca Asaki and Mariko Rooks.

generation: Nisei, Sansei, Yonsei and Shin-Issei, as well as a multiracial/multiethnic panel discussion moderated by Lisa Doi of the JACL Chicago chapter and featuring Becca Asaki, Mariko Rooks and Sophie Sarkar.



Pictured (front row, seated from left) are Marion Hori, co-president, Wasatch Front North; Shauna Shiramizu Riley, co-president, Wasatch Front North; 93-Year-Old Korean War veteran Norio Uyematsu, Salt Lake; and guests Gerald and Teruko Nisogi and (back row, standing from left) are Alyssa Kammerman, project assistant, Japanese exhibit Brigham City Museum; Suzan Yoshimura, Wasatch Front North; Alana Blumenthal, director, Brigham City Museum; Larry Grant, Wasatch Front North; Floyd Mori, Mount Olympus; and Candace and Aiko Flowers, Wasatch Front North.

PHOTO: PATTI HIRAHARA

UTAH PREPARES FOR 2025 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OBSERVANCE FDR PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY DIRECTOR TO KEYNOTE

Members from the Mount Olympus, Salt Lake and Wasatch Front North JACL chapters convened on Oct. 3 at the Idle Isle Restaurant in Brigham City, Utah, to discuss their first Day of Remembrance event, which will also be held in Brigham City on Feb. 15, 2025. The DOR will coincide with the grand opening of the first Brigham City Museum exhibit "Uncovering the Journey: Japanese American Pioneers in Box Elder County," whose story has never before been

told. The keynote speaker for the Day of Remembrance event will be William A. Harris, director of the FDR Presidential Library in Hyde Park, N.Y.

Next year signals the 83rd observance commemorating the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on Feb. 19, 1942. The DOR event's keynote speaker will be William A. Harris, director of the FDR Presidential Library in Hyde Park, N.Y. It will mark Harris' first visit to Utah to speak on this subject.

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

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

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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.!'

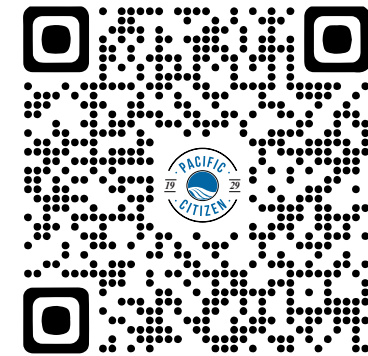
— Gil Asakawa



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

By David Inoue,
JACL Executive Director

It's been a pretty hateful few weeks from the news cycle. Constant messages against immigrants, whether it be the anti-Haitian immigrant lies spread by vice presidential candidate J. D. Vance, schools refusing to play San Jose State's women's volleyball team because of a trans woman on its roster or, more recently, Donald Trump claiming that Jan. 6 insurrectionists are being treated as badly as Japanese Americans during World War II.

Given the title of the article, you're probably expecting a treatise on the new commandment in the Bible from Jesus, telling his followers to "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." Given that many of those

promoting the hateful rhetoric are themselves Christian, and clearly in violation of this "second greatest commandment," in addition to many of the original 10, this would be the easy message for me to write about. After all, who doesn't love the exposure of blatant hypocrisy.

And that's why that doesn't make a great topic to write about. The hypocrisy of those who claim deep faith and then espouse hateful lies and rhetoric is something that doesn't need any more exposure. It is so blatant, it can go without saying.

Amongst many of us who promote progressive values and stand up for social justice, we also engage in a similar toxic social division. We value allyship and stand with those who are targeted by the hateful rhetoric. But particularly

in this election season, we accuse anyone who votes for the opposition candidate of supporting evil, failing to stand up to the worst just because they like the tax cuts, though every candidate for office seems to love tax cuts now. Everyone needs to pick a side, and if you pick the other side, you are endorsing everything that side might espouse on the campaign trail — all the lies, all the hate and all the fearmongering.

We need to find a way to separate the individual voters from the candidate they might be supporting. We are certainly not going to convince them to change their views if we paint them with the broad brush of supporting evil. Vance himself was once the darling of trying to overcome this divide with his book "Hillbilly Elegy." Unfortunately, the only long-term lesson from that book is that the people described in that book should be exploited for their fear of changes in society and the economy that are leaving them behind.

I recall approaching Mr. Vance after he had spoken at an event about the book, hoping to find some

common ground suggested that many of the challenges he describes in the book are similar to challenges faced by working-class minority families, particularly my own grandparents when they immigrated from China. Hoping for an enthusiastic agreement, I was met with a tepid response I would paraphrase as, "I guess so."

Part of the challenge is that our neighbors are less likely to be from diverse backgrounds. We tend to aggregate and associate based on similar demographics and politics. In the city of D.C. where I live, it is an extreme, but illustrative with what will likely be around 90 percent of voters voting for VP Harris, whereas if I drive about an hour or two in nearly any direction to Virginia, Maryland or West Virginia, that ratio will likely flip in favor of former President Trump.

It's easy to care about people living next door, but in these times, with the internet shrinking the world, we seem much more distant. We need to change that and think of those more distant but connected through means such as the internet

as also our neighbors. We invoke this when we talk of our need to embrace immigrants coming to our country; we need to embrace it when we think of the divide between urban D.C. and rural Virginia.

Many of the more rural voters for Trump say that what attracts them most to Trump is that he gets them. Maybe we need to spend some more time "getting them" as well. If we dismiss opposing voters as being hateful, that same hate will come back at us.

One might see the upcoming election as the so-called "dumpster fire." If it is, we don't need to add gasoline to that fire and antagonize the other side more. We can call out what might be hateful rhetoric, but let's also try to do something else: Forgive and open a dialog and get to the root of where that anger is coming from. Maybe then, regardless of the outcome of the election, we can pursue a path toward healing.

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



LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

CAREGIVER WELLNESS TIPS

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

More than 90 million Americans currently care for aging loved ones facing everything from disabilities to chronic disease to the everyday challenges of advanced age. According to the Caregiver Action Network, more of us are now caring for our aging parents or an aging spouse, a responsibility that comes with both rewards and risks.

The reward is that when caring for a parent, it's often our best chance to create new memories and find a connection we may never have discovered before, i.e., adult to adult. Many people find that caregiving provides a sense of fulfillment and that they like feeling useful and needed. It is also a meaningful act of service that connects us to a natural cycle of human life. Just as parents care for their children, so do children care for their parents as they age.

But the risks caregivers face is also significant. As people live longer, and dementia and chronic disease become more common, the challenges of caregiving also increase. Add to that our increasingly busy lives and ever-shrinking social networks, and many caregivers are left feeling alone

and overwhelmed. While these feelings are unpleasant, they are normal.

The ongoing demands of taking care of someone else can strain even the most resilient person. The result is that the challenges and difficulties can ultimately take a toll on your physical health and emotional well-being.

Because there is so much on their plate, many caregivers don't spend time taking care of themselves. For example, they are less likely than others to get preventive health services, like annual checkups, and practice regular self-care. As a result, they tend to have a higher risk of physical and mental health issues, sleep problems and chronic conditions such as high blood pressure. They are even at an increased risk of premature death.

At least 40 percent of caregivers display symptoms of depression. "Caregiver responsibilities can lead to far more than physical exhaustion. The demands can create a tug on emotional, mental and physical health and compound the burdens they put on their bodies" (source: www.theepochtimes.com, 'Are You a Caregiver Who Neglects Yourself?' May 31, 2024).

That's why it's so important for

you to take care of yourself by following the advice of flight attendants: Put your own mask on first. You cannot care well for others if you can't care for yourself. Caregivers therefore need to be attuned to their own well-being and attentive to changes such as confusion, mood swings and forgetfulness.

To help caregivers, the following 5 Tips to Enhance Your Wellness as a Caregiver comes from www.caregiversupportservices.com:

Don't Be Afraid to Ask for Help

Sometimes, you need to ask for help either with the physical and emotional aspects of caregiving. It is not healthy to try to do everything all the time. In fact, overloading your schedule without support may put your health at risk in the future. Asking a family member or friend for help is an excellent way to start. Your family and friends might want to help you, but not know where their assistance would be most useful.

Be sure to let individuals know exactly what you need. In addition to seeking assistance from family members, you can seek help from support groups, organizations like Caregiver Support Services and health professionals such as a family doctor, a social worker or a financial planner.

Don't Be Too Hard on Yourself

It is important to avoid looking at what other people are doing, as measuring your accomplishments based on another is unhealthy. You have the opportunity to enhance your health and well-being by appreciating what you are doing in your life. Be flexible in the face of adversity, pat yourself

on the back and include enjoyable activities in your daily routine. You can also maintain your well-being by balancing expectations and taking a moment each day to acknowledge your achievements.

Plan Time for Yourself

As a caregiver, you spend most of your time caring for your elderly loved one or child with special needs. Although it is appreciable to advocate for the needs of your loved one or client, you must also plan time for yourself. Be sure to carve out time for yourself. You might consider activities that you find relaxing. For instance, you can stop to take a few deep breaths, do yoga or meditation to soothe your mind or take time for a cup of coffee to boost your neurons and reduce fatigue.

Build Social Relationships

Building strong relationships with friends, co-workers or other caregivers can be a healthy outlet when you face challenges and obstacles as a caregiver. Connecting with others to share a laugh or smile relieves stress and anxiety. You also can build relationships with other caregivers to learn about resources and care options.

Share Your Feelings

You may feel overwhelmed, and from time to time, you may want to share how you are feeling with others. Although this might seem intrusive to you, when you find someone who is reliable and helpful, you will find comfort in sharing your feelings. Mental health counseling is a safe way to talk about your emotions and seek advice from a

health professional. Counseling can help you improve your interpersonal and communication skills, develop greater self-esteem and the ability to change self-defeating habits.

In conclusion, it's important to make self-care a part of your day-to-day routine to ensure your own health and wellness. Once again, don't be afraid to ask others for help. Understand that many people want to help, and it makes them feel good to contribute. Accepting help from others isn't always easy. You may worry about being a burden, or you may feel uncomfortable admitting that you can't do it all yourself.

Finally, if asking for help is hard for you, start by asking for small things at first. Many large jobs can be broken down into simpler tasks. If you aren't comfortable asking face-to-face, send a text or email with your request. Consider a person's skills and interests when thinking about how they could help. Be prepared with a list of things that need to be done, and let the other person choose what they'd like to do.

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.

AMID CRITICAL ELECTION CYCLE, SOME JAPANESE AMERICAN PROGRESSIVES ARE RELUCTANT TO SUPPORT A MODERATE DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLATFORM

By Rob Buscher,
P.C. Contributor

In recent election cycles, great attention has been shown toward new voters as deeply entrenched party politics contribute to an increasingly pronounced divide between conservatives and liberals. Thanks to the work of APIAVote and other nonpartisan voter engagement organizations, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders of newer immigrant generations have been registering and voting in larger numbers than ever before.

While there is a significant variance within the political spectrum both within and across various Asian ethnic communities, recent data from the 2024 AAPI Voter Survey suggests that 66 percent of AAPIs plan on voting for Kamala Harris, while only 28 percent say they will vote for Trump in November. Further data from the same report suggests that the surge in Asian American voters during the 2020 election, especially first-time voters, equaled the margin of victory for Biden-Harris in several key battleground states.

For those reasons, it is unsurprising that many 501(c)(4) organizations and other groups who are endorsing specific candidates from either party are focused on partisan voter education that might result in new citizens and other first-time AAPI voters to vote for their party. As data suggests, the Democrats are doing a better job winning over this significant voter demographic, but this trend does not hold true amongst multigenerational U.S.-born Asian Americans, who make up a majority of the Japanese American community today.

According to a Pew Center survey conducted in January 2023, among U.S.-born Asian Americans of the second generation (Nisei), 78 percent of voters lean toward Democrat, compared to only 20 percent who identify with or support the Republican party. Those numbers decline significantly in the third generation, with only 58 percent leaning Democrat and 40 percent Republican.

For the Japanese American community specifically, approximately 55 percent identify as Democrat, compared to only 32 percent Republican, according to the 2024 study titled “By the Numbers: Japanese Americans,” published by AAPI Data. What is interesting to note, compared to its earlier 2020 study, support for Democrats dropped 3 percent from 58 percent, but Republican-leaning respondents only rose by 1 percent from 31 percent between 2020-24. This suggests that while an increasing number of Japanese American voters are reluctant to identify themselves with the Democratic Party, at least 2 percent are considering either backing third-party candidates, over the Republican Party.

To better understand the reasons why some Japanese Americans who are not planning to vote Republican are feeling less enthusiastic about the Democratic Party platform, several self-identifying Japanese American progressives were interviewed about their thoughts on the upcoming election.

Several respondents declined the interview, citing fears over job retaliation and wanting to keep their political views private. Another respondent who expressed that while they feel extremely reluctant to voice public support for her as an individual, they did not want to discourage people from voting for Harris by participating in this interview. Three individuals did respond at length, volunteering to share their perspectives with the *Pacific Citizen* readership.

Following are their viewpoints:

Takeo Rivera is a Yonsei multiethnic Japanese and Filipino American, who works as a tenure-line professor at a university based in New England. In his own words, Rivera is “reluctantly registered Democrat, though I’d be more accurately described as a democratic socialist.” As a voter, his core issues in the 2024 election cycle are the war in Gaza and climate change.

Asked how the Harris-Walz platform aligns with his views, Rivera wrote, “Fundamentally, I align with Harris-Walz on two key points: reproductive rights and not being far-right racist authoritarians who would make nearly every other issue a thousand times worse. But outside of that, the Harris campaign has demonstrated that they have a center-right platform that wouldn’t be out of place from the Republican party of 40 years ago. On Gaza, they are ineffectual and catastrophic, continuing to pledge unwavering military and political support to a genocidal apartheid state while gesturing meaninglessly to peace. On climate change, they don’t go nearly far enough, with Harris being pragmatic but cowardly in abandoning her anti-fracking stance.”

Another respondent who is based in Chicago, **Rev. Kenji Kuramitsu** is a Yonsei/Gosei with roots in Hawaii who previously served as JACL’s NY/SC co-chair. He works as a clinical social worker, writer and clergyman — and identifies politically as a Marxist-Leninist.

From Kuramitsu’s perspective, “As Marxists, we engage in elections strategically, joining the mass popular interest in politics to creatively advance our wider ideas and political platforms. Shaped by the JACL, the issues that are important to me include civil and human rights — here and abroad. While electoralism will not deliver revolutionary outcomes, it can provide temporary relief to act as a balm to the bodies and souls of impoverished and working-class people here in the imperial core and colonized peoples living under the thumb of U.S.-led imperialism across the globe. We engage in this way in order to raise consciousness about the deeper structural changes needed to create lasting change.”

A third response came from a 68-year-old Sansei who is based in California but who wished to remain anonymous. Asked about their thoughts on the election, they replied, “Among Japanese American progressives, the choice between Trump and Harris is a no-brainer. What Trump has said on the campaign trail, and what we saw him do during his time in office, stands against everything that a Nikkei progressive should stand for. At the same time, I find it really difficult to support a candidate who continues to allow the detention of immigrants and whose role in the current administration grants her certain powers that she has not utilized for the greater good. It is important to remember that many of the current immigrant detention centers opened under Obama’s presidency, so on the issue of immigration, neither party has my vote.”

Evidenced by the recent resolution at the 2024 JACL National Convention, the war in Gaza is an issue that many JACLers and perhaps the broader Japanese American community feel very strongly about. According to responses from both Rivera and Kuramitsu, this issue seems to be driving a lot of the reluctance around vocally supporting the Harris-Walz ticket.





Rivera's position on the Gaza issue is partially shaped by his affiliation with the field of Asian American Studies. Expanding on this, Rivera wrote, "The Association for Asian American Studies was the first academic association to endorse the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement because Asian American studies scholars recognize the clear connections between the issues of Palestine and broader histories of Asians and American empire. Palestine is relevant to any community that has been orientalized, occupied or targeted by American bombs — something that many Asians — certainly Japanese — can relate to. And more tonnage of Biden's bombs were dropped on Gaza than in Hiroshima. So, despite the fact that Harris is poised to become the first Asian American president, she cannot authentically represent the anti-imperialist principles of the Asian American Movement that formulated the identity in the first place."

Regarding the Harris-Walz campaign stance on the war in Gaza, Kuramitsu wrote, "As a pastor, I am reminded of Jesus' call to 'put down the sword.' I therefore cannot endorse Harris' full-throated support for such violence, including the ongoing Israeli U.S.-backed genocide." Eliciting further concern for Kuramitsu is Harris' acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention, during which she claimed, "I will ensure America always has the strongest, most lethal fighting force in the world." In response to that, Kuramitsu wrote, "Harris' stated wish to create 'the most lethal fighting force in the world' shows a necropolitical commitment to furthering America's reputation as 'the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today' in the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s phrasing."

When asked what advice he might offer the Harris campaign to make their platform more appealing to progressives, Rivera wrote, "An arms embargo on Israel and more aggressive action to combat climate change. Moreover, they have embraced Republican talking points on immigrants, casually dehumanizing asylum-seekers — this needs to stop. Medicare for all would be a plus, but that's lower priority than the other points." Aside from these specific policy points, Rivera also commented on the vice president pick Tim Walz. "I will say that Walz's progressive record as governor of Minnesota is a plus, not a detriment, but on the campaign trail, he has disappointingly joined Harris in the center-right in an attempt to appeal to centrist voters."

In response to the same question, Kuramitsu wrote, "Harris' recent charm offensive with glitzy podcasters and pop culture icons has not been matched with any shift in her militaristic or imperialistic rhetoric. She is absolutely shedding progressive support by unceasingly sponsoring the bombs for the Zionist entity, even as her Republican colleagues (like Nikki Haley) sign the ordinance."

While neither respondent felt comfortable publicly sharing their voting choice, Kuramitsu offered the following parable on our two-party political system. "The Tanzanian anticolonial leader Julius Nyerere once joked that like many countries in the world, the United States is also a one-party system — but with typical American decadence, there are two of them." Reflecting more broadly on the election, Kuramitsu continued, "If we think dialectically and materially, and expand our political and theological imaginations outside of the confines of U.S. electoralism, reflecting with openness on the kind of world we would like to leave to our descendants, I pray we can approach elections with confidence and hope. This is not easy in fractious or intense times, but I pray we can draw on our wisdom traditions to guide our acts in such times."

The anonymous respondent from California also shared some thoughts on why they vote third-party. "Thankfully, I live in a state and a precinct that will overwhelmingly vote Democrat, so I feel safe voting for a third-party candidate. Some people say, well, if your vote's not going to count, why bother voting third-party? But I say, if we don't ever push back on this broken two-party system, how are we ever going to achieve real progress in this country? That said, whatever qualms that I have personally with the Democratic Party are not enough of a reason to risk another Trump presidency by voting third-party in a purple state."

While it is clear that there are specific policy issues preventing some Japanese American progressives from openly supporting Harris in the upcoming election, there is also a general lack of enthusiasm in a two-party system that restricts the Democratic Party Platform to taking more moderate positions. Only time will tell if this is enough to detract from the overall tally of Asian American voter decisions, and whether this will have broader implications on the election results as a whole. ■

THE 'BEING RED WHILE JA BLUES'

Not all Japanese Americans are Dems — here's proof.

By P.C. Staff

Muppet Kermit the Frog once sang "It's Not Easy Being Green." These days, for some who once considered themselves to be, if not explicitly Republican, conservative, it's not easy being red, a color once associated with communists and communism — but now the unironic color of today's Republican party.

Because political discourse between the left and the right in 2024 America seems more strident, more vocal and more dangerous than anytime in living memory, even when going back to the socially turbulent 1960s, the factions and fissures between and among the two sides churn like magma beneath terra firma, waiting to erupt — more so now on the right after Democrats fell in line following President Joe Biden's decision not to run for a second term as president, deferring to running mate Vice President Kamala Harris.

Now, in the era of former President Donald Trump, with his bid to retake the White House underway, some who once considered themselves staunchly Republican are now outcasts who no longer identify as such, though they still may identify as conservative.

Even a casual observer might recognize that the status quo has changed when prominent people like Dick Cheney, the stalwart Republican who served as vp under President George W. Bush, defense secretary under President George H. W. Bush and chief of staff to President Gerald Ford, and his daughter, former Rep. Lynn Cheney (R-Wyo.), have both publicly announced their support for the Democratic presidential ticket of Vice President Kamala Harris and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz — not Trump.

Meantime, for those red-leaning Japanese Americans within a demographic that mostly skews blue, Kermit had nothing to complain about. Blending in with algae and pond scum, eating bugs and having webbed feet are nothing compared to being a political conservative when most in your community register as politically liberal.

Fact is, however, as long as there have been Japanese Americans, there have been prominent Republicans in a sea of Democrats. Although not quite as rare as the Vaquita or Northern White Rhino (or is it RINO?), some popular examples from the past — all deceased — include former Long Beach Mayor Eunice Sato (*March 5, 2021, Pacific Citizen, [tinyurl.com/wjnfphb](https://www.pacificcitizen.com/wjnfphb)*), Sen. S. I. Hayakawa (*March 6, 1992, Pacific Citizen, [tinyurl.com/mr2vrj76](https://www.pacificcitizen.com/mr2vrj76)*) and newspaperman George Yoshinaga.

To get the perspectives of modern-day Japanese American conservatives, the *Pacific Citizen* approached some Nikkei unafraid to let the world know where they stand politically, even in this time of political tumult.

'Registered Republican'

For Doug Urata, being a registered Republican is an easy choice. For the semiretired financial services professional and longtime JACLer, "It's the only political party that I can do anything with," he said on the day of the vice-presidential debate between Sen. JD Vance (R-Ohio) and Gov. Tim Walz (D-Minn.).

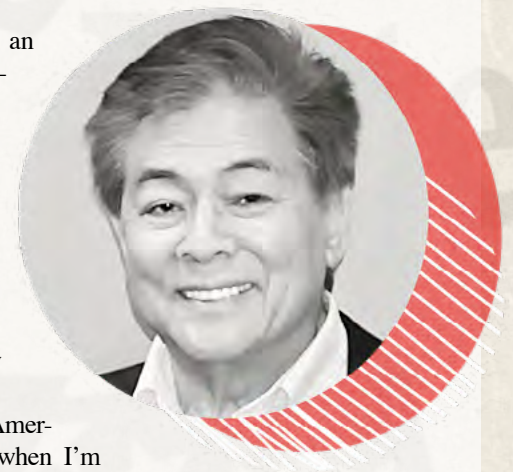
Asked what he thought the big issues would be between the two, Urata said he had to stick with issues over personalities. "I don't see a lot of articulation on what the Democrat ticket is really going to do. I see a lot of generalizations without really any substance behind it," he said.

As to whether he needed a thick skin to be Japanese American and Republican, Urata said, "I've noticed that when I'm around people who are staunch Democrats, come hell or high water, they almost don't want to associate with you if you're Republican."

Urata also recalled an incident when he was vilified on social media because of his political beliefs. "Foolishly, I made some comment on Facebook and someone accused me of being a disgrace to the Japanese American community. And I'm like, 'Really? You have no idea who I am. You don't know what I've done for the community,'" Urata said.

Nevertheless, Urata admits that he has had some reservations about some of what Trump has spouted. "Believe me, I'm not a big fan of the kinds of things that Trump says. I think he needs to quit tweeting so much and stick with the issues," he said. In other words, for Urata, Trump's message trumps the messenger. "I think people need to look at black and white — what's on the paper."

And, on the issues, Urata disagrees with the Harris-Walz ticket. "There's nothing there. Nothing comes out of her mouth that makes any sense."



» See BLUES on page 8

A WALK THROUGH OUR HISTORY

Pilgrims unite at the Angel Island Immigration Station and retrace life-changing steps taken by their ancestors.

By Emily Murase,
Contributor

What was a pleasant and gentle 35-minute ferry ride for the hundreds of Nikkei pilgrims who traveled to Angel Island on Oct. 5 was instead a harrowing and life-changing experience for their ancestors, Japanese immigrants who undertook a three-week journey to the same destination from the Port of Yokohama, including stops in Hong Kong, Manila and Honolulu, more than a 100 years before.

Not far from its far-more-famous-sister Alcatraz Island, Angel Island sits in San Francisco Bay. While the Statue of Liberty on New York's Ellis Island, completed in 1886, famously beckoned, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free" to primarily European communities, the U.S. Congress enacted the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882, severely restricting new Chinese immigration.

The limited exception was Chinese family members of U.S. citizens who, then, suddenly proliferated through the use of "paper names,"

an underground market of forged documents attesting to family connections to Chinese already settled in the U.S.

Known as the "Guardian of the Western Gate" among staff who worked there, the Angel Island Immigration Station was built in 1910 with the express purpose to control the flow of immigrants primarily from Asia, according to the Angel Island Conservancy. The Angel Island Immigration Station was designed to interrogate, physically examine, approve and, in many cases, deport would-be immigrants to this country.

Between 1910 and 1940, the immigration station processed an estimated 85,000 Japanese pioneers and fortune-seekers, encouraged by the Japanese government, labor brokers and farmers seeking picture brides to start families.

Since 2014, the Nichi Bei Foundation, which publishes the *Nichi Bei News* in San Francisco Japantown, has partnered with the Angel Island State Park, the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation and the California Genealogical Society to host the Nikkei Angel Island Pilgrimage.

Notwithstanding the contrast with Ellis

Island, Nichi Bei Foundation President Kenji Taguma has called Angel Island the "Plymouth Rock" for Japanese Americans.

Through five previous pilgrimages, more than 2,000 people have connected with the rich history of the Angel Island Immigration Station. This year's event was held on Oct. 5 and featured bus transportation from Sacramento and San Jose, bringing about 250 attendees from throughout Northern California.

The ceremony at the Immigration Station opened joyously with a performance by TaikoPeace, a movement by PJ Hirabayashi to connect the energy of taiko with social justice, and Bonbu Stories, a new Asian American storytelling collaborative, under the mentorship of Hirabayashi. She, together with spouse Roy Hirabayashi, were among the founders of the pioneering San Jose Taiko Group in 1973.

Rev. Masato Kawahatsu of the San Francisco Konko Church, assisted by his spouse, Alice, performed a ritual blessing of the pilgrimage.

A longtime resident of San Francisco Japantown, Alice Kawahatsu recalled attending the very first pilgrimage in 2014. "I remember that there were over 500 people on that first pilgrimage. Everyone was so excited. Even though many of us grew up in and around the San Francisco Bay Area, many had never visited Angel Island," she said.

"At that very first pilgrimage, we were treated to a very dramatic play about a Japanese picture bride, written and directed by Judy Hamaguchi (SFJACL president), where Ryoji Oyama (another SFJACL board member at the time) played the lead as the farmer groom awaiting his bride," Alice Kawahatsu continued.

The play, entitled "Longest Journey Home," focused on the life of Toshiko Inaba, who, through a toxic combination of racism and sexism, became the longest-detained person of Japanese ancestry on Angel Island, despite having been born in Walnut Grove, Calif. After

Rev. Masato Kawahatsu offers a blessing at the Angel Island Immigration Station Pilgrimage.

PHOTO: MARK SHIGENAGA



US Immigration Station

Fencing Out Freedom

Although it is often compared to Ellis Island, Angel Island was not a place of welcome. Instead, it was used to keep immigrants, specifically those from China, out.

The US Immigration Station opened in 1910. Over the next thirty years, it processed nearly a million people from over eighty countries. Most were processed quickly on board their ships. Some European and Japanese immigrants were held a few days. Some Chinese immigrants also moved on quickly; however, many spent up to several months in detention.

While on the island, families were separated. Sometimes women and children could walk around, but men were kept crammed in the barracks or a small fenced area. Conditions were unsafe and unsanitary.

Some who were forced to stay here wrote poems of sorrow, anger, and hope on the walls.



Did You Know?

• The US Immigration Station was built in 1910 and was used to process immigrants from over 80 countries.

• Many immigrants were held in detention for several months.



Exclusionary Immigration Station

A map of Angel Island State Park

PHOTOS: EMILY MURASE

Angel Island State Park

More to Explore

• **Quarry** - A large quarry was used to build the station.

• **Quarry Chamber** - A chamber used to store tools and equipment.

• **Camp Reynolds** - A camp for immigrants.

• **Batteries** - Batteries used for the station's power.

• **Ferry Departure Times** - A schedule for ferry departures.

• **Waka** - A collection of poems written by immigrants.

• **Waka Mural Site** - A site where a mural of the waka poems was painted.

• **Fort McDowell** - A fort on the island.

• **United States Immigration Station** - The main building of the station.

• **Pyrite Cave** - A cave on the island.

• **Backcountry** - A backcountry area on the island.

• **Ship** - A ship docked at the station.

• **Ship** - Another ship docked at the station.

• **Ship** - A third ship docked at the station.

• **Ship** - A fourth ship docked at the station.

• **Ship** - A fifth ship docked at the station.

• **Ship** - A sixth ship docked at the station.

• **Ship** - A seventh ship docked at the station.

• **Ship** - An eighth ship docked at the station.

• **Ship** - A ninth ship docked at the station.

Pictured (from left) are keynote speaker David Mineta with former Angel Island Gala Chair Nobuko Saito Cleary and Executive Director of the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation Edward Tepporn.



Kansha Award recipient Linda Harms-Okazaki (center) with Kenji Taguma (left), Danielle Wetmore and Grant Din.

PHOTOS: MARK SHIGENAGA

her 16-month detention which spanned from 1928-30, she was ultimately deported back to Japan. Later in life, she was able to rejoin family in the U.S., but this was many decades after the wrongful denial of her initial attempt to establish citizenship.

At this year's pilgrimage, the program focused on the impact of U.S. immigration policies on Asian American communities and personal family connections to the Immigration Station. Grant Din of the California Genealogical Society shared reflections on Nikkei connections to the island.

Judy Higuchi of San Jose, a descendant of a World War II incarceree, shared her story of how an inquiry by Marissa Shoji, a local Girl Scout pursuing her Gold Award, led to the discovery of new branches of her family tree, including family members who came through Angel Island.

David Mineta, son of the late longtime U.S. Congressman and Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, welcomed the opportunity to speak about his grandmother, Kane Mineta, who arrived at Angel Island in 1914 as a 20-year-old picture bride.

"I am often asked to talk about dad, but today,



Sleeping quarters of detainees
PHOTO: EMILY MURASE



Judy Higuchi shared her family's history at the pilgrimage event.
PHOTO: MARK SHIGENAGA



An intergenerational presentation of immigrant stories
PHOTO: EMILY MURASE

I get to talk about grandma,” he quipped to the pilgrims. Through genealogical research conducted with Din, Mineta discovered many new details of his family’s immigration story, details he relishes sharing with the rest of his extended family.

Also finding a connection to his grandmother was former San Francisco Supervisor and retired professor of Asian American Studies at San Francisco State University Eric Mar, who recently discovered his Japanese ancestry through genetic testing. Since then, he has sought information about his grandmother, Kimiyo Mondo Kanemasu of Oakland, Calif. “I know she arrived on Angel Island as a picture bride from Hiroshima in 1913. On my next trip to Japan, I intend to visit Hiroshima,” Mar said.

Mar also noted the sexism he has encountered in doing genealogical research. “It is so much easier to find information about men since their names don’t change,” he said. “I’m trying to learn about each of my grandmothers, biological and nonbiological, Chinese and Japanese. It is definitely harder to find information about women relatives.”

To aid the pilgrims with their genealogical research, Linda Harms-Okazaki of the California Genealogical Society spoke about available resources. The event featured free family history consultations with a team of volunteers from the California Genealogical Society. Harms-Okazaki has supported the pilgrimage with free consultations over the years, publishes a regular genealogy column in the *Nichi Bei News* and conducts family history workshops in the Nikkei community. For her dedicated service, Taguma presented Harms-Okazaki with a Kansha Appreciation Award as part of this year’s program

Following the formal program, pilgrims

were directed to the Angel Island Immigration Museum and the nearby Detention Barracks Museum. Rev. Kawahatsu conducted calligraphy name-writing, while others met with volunteer genealogists at the first museum. Pilgrims also browsed the barracks, furnished with period items, with a focus on the Chinese and Japanese poetry scrawled into the walls by sometimes desperate would-be immigrants over a century ago.

On his first pilgrimage was Haruki Kato, a native of Gifu Prefecture. After spending a year at Cal State Stanislaus studying Japanese American history with Sheryl Okuye Sauter in 2023, he joined the staff of the Japantown Task Force in 2024 as part of his Optional Practical Training, which allows foreign national students and recent graduates to work legally in a related field of study. At age 24, Kato is about the age of many of the immigrants.

“The pilgrimage made me think about the

many challenges endured by the early Japanese immigrants,” he said. “The bunk beds in the barracks were narrow and crowded together. How did early immigrants survive detention? I saw the poetry scrawled on the walls, mainly in Chinese, but some Japanese. It was sad and inspiring at the same time.”

Celebrated community photographer Mark Shigenaga, a Sansei from San Rafael, Calif., discovered his connection to Angel Island during the very first pilgrimage in 2014, which he described in a previous interview with ArtsEdForAll: “It was during this pilgrimage that I met Grant Din. A chance discussion subsequently led to an exploration of my grandfather, Kakuro, and great-uncle Shigeo’s history on this island, who were shipped from Hawaii to California and destined to become interned at various Department of Justice camps a few months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Grant’s access to the National Archives and Records Administration led to a

wealth of new insights to the journeys of the Shigenaga brothers and are, today, cherished by our family.” Shigenaga’s grandfather, Kakuro, and great-uncle, Shigeo, are both featured in the exhibit “Taken From Their Families,” which is located in the Mess Hall of the Barracks Museum.

The 2024 Nikkei Angel Island Pilgrimage provided community members the important opportunity to connect with their ancestors and each other, with ripple effects for months and years to come.

For more information about the Angel Island Immigration Station, visit <https://www.aiisf.org/>.

Author Emily Murase’s grandmother, Moto Murase, likely passed through Angel Island as a picture bride from Yamaguchi Prefecture to marry Mantsuchi Murase of Parlier, originally from the same prefecture.



Obon dancing at the pilgrimage



Roy and PJ Hirabayashi of TaikoPeace gave a performance to open the ceremony at the Angel Island Immigration Station.

PHOTOS: MARK SHIGENAGA

JACL Annual Giving
LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE TOGETHER
A VISION FOR JACL’S FUTURE

JACL is looking to hear from YOU!

We are one community with many voices and we want yours to be heard. Please share your feedback or donate to contribute to JACL’s future.

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Physical check or response can be sent to: JACL HQ 1765 Sutter St, San Francisco, CA 94115

What does JACL mean to you?

What do you envision JACL to be for your descendants or future members?



BLUES » continued from page 5



‘Still Undecided’

A generation ago — five years ago, even — longtime businessman-turned-politician Jon Kaji was completely comfortable being described as a Republican. Today? Not so much. “I did support President Trump in 2016 and also in 2020,” said the city councilman for Torrance, Calif.’s District One. “At this juncture, though, I’ve been looking at Trump’s rhetoric in certain areas, which at this point I still find unsettling. Comments regarding race, comments about women’s right to choose reproductive rights and even certain comments about foreign policy and the global economy, you know, have set me back.”

As a result, in what may be a surprising development for those who over the years have followed Kaji — whose Japanese American community bona fides include involvement with JACL at the local and national levels, the Japanese American National Museum and pushing to get his alma mater, the University of Southern California, to belatedly bestow honorary diplomas to Nisei students expelled after the U.S. declared war on Japan (*April 15, 2022, Pacific Citizen, tinyurl.com/2m43udpt*) — he revealed, “I became an independent about three years ago.”

Asked whether it was a case of him leaving the Republican party or the Republican party leaving him, Kaji said, “I think the party that I was previously loyal to has completely changed, and I feel like party leadership has gone in a completely different direction than where I was, say, 20 years ago. So, I feel like I and others have been left behind.”

That doesn’t, however, mean that Kaji has defaulted to voting for Harris-Walz. “At this point, I’m still undecided on which way I’ll go for the general and what my reasons for being undecided still is that I’m still unclear on the vice president, meaning Vice President Harris’ positions in certain key policy areas, so I’m continuing to research and watch before I make any sort of decision,” he said.

Although he recognizes the importance of the upcoming general election, Kaji’s focus is on his role as a city councilman. “Being an elected official in the city of Torrance has been a great experience. If I have a party, it’s the party of Council District One in the city of Torrance. So, my focus is on very local, hyperlocal issues, such as trash pickup, street maintenance.”

Regardless of the outcome of the Nov. 5 election for the next president of the United States, Kaji’s focus is local. “I filed papers to run for re-election in 2026, and I think that serving in this local district is my sole focus,” he said. “That’s all I’m going to consider at this moment.”

‘Right-Wing Neanderthal’

For Michael Ramirez, having an arch sense of humor comes with the territory. “I am a constitutional conservative, free-market capitalist and a knuckle-dragging, right-wing Neanderthal,” he told the *Pacific Citizen*.

But the two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist’s (*Oct. 7, 2016 Pacific Citizen, tinyurl.com/mnw56fnd*) take on the two major party candidates — maybe most politicians — is disdainful at best. “Our Founding Fathers should have put an IQ test as part of the requirements to run for office — but that would exclude the vast majority of our nation’s politicians,” he said. Ouch.

Still, as he hews to his conservative convictions, he doesn’t much like what’s being offered. “If I saw a real Republican or a true conservative that embraces and defends our Constitution, who believes in a free-market economy, or even had the slightest clue about basic economics, or for that matter, a candidate who was able to delineate between right and wrong, I would gladly support them,” Ramirez stated.

From Ramirez’s perspective, what passes for old-school Republican mores today is lacking: “There is no one representing those values or our founding principles in this presidential election cycle.”

For Ramirez, the choice between bad and worse is one for which there is no compromise. “I refuse to exchange my principles for political expedience.” Somewhere in Muppet land, Kermit abides. ■



**COMING SOON:
New Membership Categories!**

By Ashley Bucher, JACL Membership Manager

Since I started at JACL, updating our membership categories has been an ongoing conversation. I remember being confused about the categories early on, and I quickly learned that this confusion was widespread among members and even leadership. “Why is Thousand Club \$200 and not \$1,000?” “I thought Century Club was only a lifetime category. There’s an annual one, too?” “Why does the Thousand Club Spouse pair with Century Club?”

In December 2022, the membership team began reimagining what our Premium and Life categories could look like. Dominique Mashburn (vp for membership), Phillip Ozaki (former development director) and I met to discuss this weekly for many months. After thoughtful conversations with staff, board, membership chairs and members, we planned to present an amendment to the Constitution-and-Bylaws at the 2023 JACL National Council meeting in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo during the National Convention. Unfortunately, we ran out of time to vote on the new categories.

Although we were discouraged and thought our hard work was all for naught, we realized how we could

maximize the next year to make 2024 a success. The Eastern District Council suggested that we change our time-based Premium categories to be more timeless and recognizable. With this revision and additional feedback from a membership-wide survey, we brought our new and improved CBL amendment to the 2024 National Council in Philadelphia this past summer.

As I stood before 69 chapters in the Sheraton’s Freedom Ballroom, I braced myself for questions and objections. (If you thought the membership categories were confusing before, trying to make changes is doubly confusing!) To my genuine surprise, each and every voting card rose up high. I looked across the sea of orange cards, and a wave of gratitude washed over me.

Our delegates not only took the time to review and understand the amendment but also believed in it enough to vote “yes.” On behalf of the membership team, we can’t thank our chapters enough for trusting us with the future of JACL membership.

Now for the exciting part — making JACL history together!

» See MEMBERSHIP on page 12

| | Previous | | New | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Standard Memberships | Student/Youth | \$30 | No Change | |
| | Regular/Individual | \$65 | No Change | |
| | Couple/Family | \$110 | No Change | |
| Premium Memberships (Annual) | | | Bronze + Couple/Family | \$125 \$170 |
| | Thousand Club + Thous. Club Spouse | \$200 \$232 | Silver + Couple/Family | \$250 \$295 |
| | Century Club + Thous. Club Spouse | \$350 \$382 | Gold + Couple/Family | \$500 \$545 |
| | Millennium Club + Mill. Club Spouse | \$1,000 \$1,036 | Platinum/Millennium + Couple/Family | \$1,000 \$1,045 |
| | Life Trust Memberships | Thousand Club Life | \$3,000 | Sapphire Life Trust + Couple Special |
| | Century Club Life | \$5,000 | Ruby Life Trust + Couple Special | \$5,000 \$9,000 |
| | | | Diamond Life Trust + Couple Special | \$10,000 \$18,000 |



Thank You for Your JACL Membership!

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



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

Asian Americans for Democracy Hosts Online Panels Supporting Harris Campaign

By Gil Asakawa, Contributor

Thank goodness for technology. And I know that the scientists who we're going to have as guests today can all attest to the brilliance and the efficiency and the helpfulness that this brilliant technology can afford us," said actor-activist Tamlyn Tomita, as she welcomed attendees to a Sept. 12 Zoom webinar discussion hosted by Asian Americans for Democracy. "We're so honored and very, very humbled to have four world-renowned scientists, including two Nobel Laureate winners, who are working together in conjunction, in community, with all of us at Asian Americans for Democracy to prevent another Trump presidency because of the literal danger that he poses to science."

Asian Americans for Democracy (AA4D) is an organization that was formed to promote the presidential candidacy of Kamala Harris and Tim Walz. AA4D is an outgrowth of CAPA21, a political action committee, which is itself an outgrowth of the Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans, formed by activist and attorney Dale Minami in 1987. Tomita is the chair of CAPA21.

The scientists who spoke during the September discussion were Gang Chen, an MIT professor who was arrested and prosecuted by the Trump administration on baseless charges that were ultimately dropped; Steven Chu, a Stanford University 1997 Nobel Laureate in Physics and former U.S. secretary of energy under President Barack Obama; Randy Schekman of the University of California, Berkeley, and a 2013 Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine; moderator Andrea Liu, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania; and author-activist Helen Zia, who is also a member of AA4D.

The discussion focused on the former president's handling of anti-Asian and specifically anti-Chinese policies, with Chen, the first speaker, explaining that his 2021 arrest and unjust imprisonment under a Trump administration "China Initiative" was for allegedly failing to disclose ties to Chinese educational programs when he applied for a U.S. grant. He was released a year later when the DOJ dropped all charges. More than 200 MIT faculty signed an open letter protesting Chen's arrest.

"My story is really an American story," Chen said. "I was born in China, but I came to the States as a student pursuing the American dream. I came here viewing America

as the land of freedom and of unity."

He said the incident upended his life, and he still hasn't fully recovered since his return to MIT as the Carl Richard Soderberg Professor of Power Engineering and director of the Pappalardo Micro and Nano Engineering Laboratories. He said his family lives in fear, and he is hesitant to travel anywhere out of the country. He no longer applies for federal grants for his research.

The other speakers cited Trump-era anti-Asian sentiments, his demonization of Chinese during the Covid pandemic and the rise of anti-Asian hate crimes. Schekman, who isn't Asian, made the point, which others agreed with, that the dangers of having the former president return to the Oval Office would affect all immigrants.

"I'd like to broaden the discussion. Though this is focused on Asians and Asian Americans, it's just a piece of a larger picture of prejudice against immigrants in this country," he noted. "My grandparents, on both sides, emigrated from Eastern Europe." He added that they would have been slaughtered by the Nazis if they hadn't come to America to pursue freedom.

The most poignant moment of the September call with scientists came after the Zoom was officially turned off, and Chen admitted to Tomita, "I want to say that the first time I cried when I came to the United States was watching 'Joy Luck Club' (the 1993 film in which Tomita was one of the ensemble stars)," he said. "That was the first time I cried."

Visibly moved, Tomita replied for the three other women who starred in the classic film about Chinese immigrants and their American-born daughters: "I will tell Ming-na (Wen) and Rosalind (Chao) and Lauren (Tom). They would, they would be so touched. Oh, my gosh."

The exchange brought the conversation full circle, highlighting the lived experiences of Asian immigrants to the U.S., then and now.

In addition, on Oct. 10, Tomita and Zia hosted another "Zoominar," as she called it, with a group of AANHPI creatives that also shared why they were supporting Kamala Harris' run for the White House. The panelists included playwright and screenwriter David Henry Hwang; writer and performer Kristina Wong; actor and comedian Amy Hill; filmmaker, director and screenwriter Freida Lee Mock; writer and journalist Jeff Yang; playwright and filmmaker Philip Kan Gotanda; writer, speaker and podcaster Phil Yu; actor Lauren Tom; actor and

singer Jon Jon Briones; and writer and performer AJ Rafael.

In particular, Tomita credited Hwang in his introduction for igniting her activism through his plays such as "M. Butterfly," an Asian-centric reworking of the Puccini opera "Madama Butterfly," and "Yellowface," his response to the Broadway megahit "Miss Saigon" (itself a modernized version of the "Madama Butterfly" plot), which originally starred a white actor playing an Asian character.

Hwang talked about the history of hate that Asians have endured in the U.S. For him, in particular, the experience is especially painful, as he was once attacked and stabbed in the neck. He also added, "We've had a lot of experience with having to deal with various stereotypes,

and some of them have changed over time, but one that has remained very constant is this perpetual foreigner stereotype that is one's forebears can have been in this country for many generations, and people still go, oh, you speak really good English or whatever — where are you really from?"

He continued, "And we've experienced firsthand how this stereotype dovetails with any time there is tension between the U.S. and any other Asian nation, and that Asian Americans are the first people that are caught in the crossfire. All of us experienced this

very painfully during the pandemic and the spike in anti-Asian hate that continues to this day."

The two webinars and other videos are available to view on the AA4D website at <https://asianamericans4democracy.org/>.



Tamlyn Tomita moderated the discussion.

David Henry Hwang (above) and Gang Chen

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

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.
- 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
Tel: (213)625-2232 * Email: americanholiday@att.net
Ernest or Carol Hida

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

NCWNP

Tsubaki Fall Craft Fair
Sacramento, CA
Nov. 3; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Nisei Hall
1515 Fourth St.
Price: Free

Sacramento JACL, in conjunction with the Creative Space, presents this fall craft fair that will feature crafts made by the SAC JACL Tsubaki Craftees along with many talented local artisans. Also available for purchase will be Asian-inspired crafts, jewelry, art, textile crafts, books, baked goods and so much more!
Info: Visit <https://www.thecreative-spacesac.com/newvendor-application-2-1>.

'Topaz Stories 2024'
Emeryville, CA
Thru Dec. 13
J-Sei
1285 66th St.

The stories provide personal accounts of the forced removal, camp life, the dispersal of the JA community through resettlement, the heroism of Nisei soldiers, the challenges of returning to California and the impact of the camp experience on survivors and subsequent generations.
Info: Visit <https://topazstories.com/topaz-stories-2024-exhibit>.

'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.

PSW

'Contested Histories: Preserving and Sharing a Community Collection'
Los Angeles, CA
Thru Jan. 5, 2025
JANM

100 N. Central Ave.
Price: Museum Admission

In 2015, JANM was entrusted with the safekeeping of the Eaton Collection, consisting of 400 items made by Japanese American incarcerated. Now, the exhibit returns to JANM, where many of the restored artworks will be on view for the first time.
Info: Visit www.janm.org

D'FESTA Los Angeles (The Ultimate K-Pop Experience)

Buena Park, CA
Thru Nov. 7
The Source OC
6940 Beach Blvd.

The immersive and interactive K-Pop exhibition originally from Korea is now in the U.S. See exclusive content from nine K-Pop groups in an art exhibit, a virtual stage and a 45-minute performance film.
Info: Visit <https://dfesta-us.com>.

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.

CCDC

Wendy Maruyama: 'A Sculptural Survey — Craft, Material, Process 1972-2024'
Fresno, CA
Thru Jan. 5, 2025
Fresno Art Museum
2233 N. First St.

Price: Museum Admission
 Artist and educator Wendy Maruyama has been making innovative woodwork for more than 40 years. Included are examples of her traditional studio craft: utilitarian and fanciful furniture pieces, wall reliefs, life-size elephant heads, room-size paper installations. Her commentary explores themes of feminism, her Japanese American heritage and her personal family history.
Info: Visit <http://www.fresnoartmuseum.org>.

Art of the Word: 'Once Upon a Book — Featuring the Illustrations of

Grace Lin'
Fresno, CA
Thru June 29, 2025
Fresno Art Museum
2233 N. First St.

Price: Museum Admission
 This exhibit features Grace Lin's original illustrations from "Once Upon a Book," co-written with Kate Messner. In the book, Alice is tired of winter and decides to escape by reading one of her favorite books. She steps inside the book and becomes a part of the story . . .

Info: Visit <http://www.fresnoartmuseum.org/exhibitions/current-exhibitions/>.

PNW

'Made With Love: 45 Years of Ikoi No Kai'
Portland, OR
Thru Jan. 5, 2025
Japanese American Museum of Oregon
411 N.W. Flanders St.

Price: Museum Admission
 The Ikoi No Kai community lunch program has come to embody the concept of keiro, or respect for elders, to local Japanese Americans. For 45 years, the Portland program has supported seniors, and this exhibit centers on the many voices that have contributed to Ikoi no Kai's unique dining and social experience.
Info: Visit <https://jamo.org/ikoi-no-kai/>.

'Kintsugi: The Restorative Art of Naoko Fukumaru'
Portland, OR
Thru Jan. 27, 2025
Portland Japanese Garden
611 S.W. Kingston Ave.

Price: Garden Admission
 Kintsugi is an ancient method of mending damaged ceramics using natural lacquer dusted with powdered gold. It highlights the beauty of imperfections, rather than try to hide them. This exhibit will explore themes of healing through artwork by kintsugi artist and master conservator Naoko Fukumaru.
Info: Visit <https://japanesegarden.org/events/kintsugi-the-restorative-art-of-naoko-fukumaru/>.

IDC

Denver Mochitsuki 2024
Arvada, CO
Nov. 2; 2-4 p.m.

Simpson United Methodist Church
6001 Wolff St.
Price: Recommended donation is \$10 Adults, \$8 Children 18 and Under and Adults 65+ and Additional \$5 for Those Who Wish to Pound Their Own Mochi.

Mile High JACL will be hosting this Mochitsuki at Simpson United Methodist Church and all are welcome to attend and participate. Learn how to pound your own mochi and take it home with you. All donations received will go toward the chapter's scholarship fund for high school students.

Info: Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/denver-mochitsuki-2024-tickets-1023139918037?aff=oddtcreator>.

MDC

WWII Nisei Post Luncheon
Chicago, IL
Nov. 2; Noon-3 p.m.
Midwest Buddhist Temple
435 W. Menomonee St.

Price: Suggested Donation \$25
 The greater Chicago Nikkei community invites guests to this luncheon honoring World War II Nisei veterans of Post 1183: Enoch Kanaya, Roy Kurotsuchi, Maseo Menda, James Tajiri, James Takaki and their families. The luncheon will also include a deluxe bento, beverages, presentations, tributes and a group photo. Seating is limited.

Info: Visit <https://www.jaclchicago.org>.

JASC Holiday Delight
Chicago, IL
Dec. 14; 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
5700 N. Lincoln Ave.

Price: Free
 Get your holiday shopping done in one stop at the JASC Holiday Delight! This year's annual event will feature a silent auction, raffle, cultural performances, Asian collectibles, handcrafted items, children's activities and a visit from Santa! All proceeds will benefit JASC programs and community initiatives.
Info: Visit tinyurl.com/jaschd.

EDC

Japanese Gift Giving Culture
With Mary Eberhardinger
Boston, MA
Nov. 14; 6 p.m.
Virtual Event
Price: Free

Join the Japan Society of Boston and Professor Mary Eberhardinger to learn about gifting culture and etiquette in Japan so that you can feel prepared for your next gifting occasion in Japan. Learn some useful tips and tricks to become

a great gifter, and you will learn how to use *furushiki* with Ko•Kyoto.

Info: Visit <https://www.japan-societyboston.org/events/japanese-gifting-culture>.

'Yellow Face'
New York, NY
Thru Nov. 24
Todd Haimes Theatre
227 W. 42nd St.

Price: Ticket Prices Vary
 David Henry Hwang makes his Round-about debut with the Broadway premiere of "Yellow Face," his hilarious is-he-or-isn't-he comedy of identity, show business and (perhaps) autobiography. It stars Daniel Dae Kim.

Info: Visit <https://www.roundabout-theatre.org/get-tickets/2024-2025/yellow-face/>.

Odaiko New England's 30th Anniversary Concert

Arlington, VA
Dec. 1; 7 p.m.
Regent Theatre
7 Medford St.
Price: \$35 Odaiko New England Supporters Premium Seats; \$25 General; \$18 Students/Seniors/Military

This anniversary performance promises to be an evening filled with entertaining taiko music for everyone. Come help celebrate the 30th anniversary concert!
Info: Visit <https://www.onetaiko.org/performances/30th-anniversary-concert>.

'The Inventive Brush: Calligraphic Echoes From China, Japan and Korea'

Boston, MA
Thru Dec. 13
99 Albany St.

A showcase of the diversity of contemporary calligraphy with works of three Massachusetts-based artists, Mike Yunguo Mei, Michiko Imai and YoungSun Jang. Audiences can explore the works as more than words and characters beyond the respective countries of the 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>. ■

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In MEMORIAM

Aoki, Hideko, 88, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, June 10.

Arakaki, Henry Toshihiko, 95, Hacienda Heights, CA, July 17.

Beppu, Jo Ann Kumiko, 72, Wahiawa, HI, June 29.

Eguchi, Wayne, 73, Manhattan Beach, CA, July 13.

Fujimoto, Susan Kay, 73, Hawthorne, CA, July 1.

Fukushima, Allen Isao, 68, Honolulu, HI, July 28.

Goshi, Rita Teru Nagamine, 82, Waipahu, HI, June 22.

Hashiguchi, Miyeko, 100, Torrance, CA, Sept. 22.

Hashizume, Kazuo Ken, 83, Montebello, CA, July 18.

Higa, Hiroko, 82, Gardena, CA, Aug. 8.



Honkawa, Yoshi, 100, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 23.

Iba, Richard Kiyokatsu, 92, Kaneohe, HI, July 5.

Jackson, Fumiko, 97, Kaneohe, HI, July 5.

Kadomatsu, Hiroshi, 86, Santa Monica, CA, June 29.

Mendez, Hiroyuki, 72, Anaheim Hills, CA, Sept. 9.

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

Kadomatsu, Hiroshi, 86, Santa Monica, CA, June 29.

Nakamura, Robert T., 94, Milwaukee, WI, Sept. 8.

Ochi, Thomas Hiroaki, 86, Monterey Park, CA, Sept. 24.

Ogawa, Satoe, 87, San Francisco, CA, Aug. 24.



Okayama, Elizabeth Toyomi, 84, Chicago, IL, Sept. 2.



Sakauye, Steve, 77, Santa Barbara, CA, Aug. 20.

Sasamoto, George Nobuo, 99, Chicago, IL, Aug. 11.

Soohoo, Edmund, 75, Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 20.

Sueki, Atari, 65, Honolulu, HI, Aug. 4.

Suenaga, Patricia, 72, Montebello, CA, May 15.

Suzuki, Grace, née Ujifusa, 90, Golden, CO, July 20.

Suzuki-Slakter, Nancy Sachiko, 82, Honolulu, HI, April 6.



Tanaka, Mary, 101, Fresno, CA, Aug. 1.

Tsukamoto, John, 85, San Francisco, CA, June 29.



Tsukida, William Nobuo, 89, Fresno, CA, June 25.



Tsutakawa, Richard, 90, Lodi, CA, April 9.

Yamamoto, Chloe Shizue, 87, Honolulu, HI, Feb. 17.

Yamamoto, Susan, 77, Honolulu, HI, Jan. 11.

Yamasaki, Nobuyuki, 68, Torrance, CA, June 12.

Yamauchi, James, 80, Sacramento, CA, July 19.

Yasuda, Cindy Masae, 81, Monterey Park, CA, March 9.

Yoshida, Ayako, 98, Honolulu, HI, April 22.

Yoshida, Fumiko, 94, Pearl City, HI, April 29.

Yoshida, Jennifer, 58, La Cañada Flintridge, CA, April 27.

Yoshida, June Setsuko, 85, Union City, CA, March 21.

Yoshida, Seiichi, 98, San Mateo, CA, Feb. 9.

Zane, Sandy Fumiko, 96, Hilo, HI, June 26.

Manzanar Committee's Matsuda Dies

By P.C. Staff

Gann Matsuda of Culver City, Calif., died Oct. 12. He was 61.

Known equally for his leadership and activism with the Manzanar Committee and his enthusiasm for National Hockey League team Los Angeles Kings, Matsuda is survived by his parents, Sue and Morley Matsuda, and many friends.

Matsuda's involvement with the Manzanar Committee included organizing annual Manzanar Pilgrimages and overseeing its press relations, website and social media. He also was a leader in the movement opposed to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's proposed development of a large solar-power farm that many believed was detrimental to the viewshed at the Manzanar National Historic Site. (See Oct. 20, 2014 *Pacific Citizen*)

Matsuda was also a member of the Manzanar National Historic Site Advisory Commission, which led the way toward having the former Manzanar War Relocation Authority Center gain status as a national

historic site. (See March 13, 1992 *Pacific Citizen*)

Related to his Manzanar Committee activism, Matsuda was also instrumental in the formation of Katari, described as a "grassroots organization devoted to educating and promoting dialogue with college-aged students around the Japanese American experience," which began as Keeping Japanese American Incarceration Stories Alive.

Matsuda's Japanese American community involvement stretched back to his days as an undergrad at the University of California Los Angeles, at which he was one of the founding members in 1981 of the UCLA Nikkei Student Union.

At that time, Matsuda was also a driver behind NSU's support of the Japanese American redress movement, and later, the campaign for UCLA Professor Don Nakanishi to gain tenure.

As a hockey fan, Matsuda created and maintained the website frozen-royalty.net.

A celebration of life for Gann Matsuda is being planned and will be announced at a later date. ■

Azay Restaurateur Akira Hirose Dies at 70

By P.C. Staff

Kyoto-born Akira Hirose, whose long and esteemed career as a chef and restaurateur was most recently exemplified through his Little Tokyo restaurant, Azay, died Sept. 26. He was 70.

The appreciation for his commitment and ties to the Japanese American community in general and the Little Tokyo community in particular was such that both the Japanese American National Museum and the Go for Broke National Education Center issued statements after news of his death was disseminated.

"We are devastated by the loss of Chef Akira, whose food, hospitality, and kindness were part of the cultural fabric of the museum and the neighborhood," said JANM President and CEO Ann Burroughs. "Whether serving a grand dinner at a gala or a bento lunch for local seniors, the quality, authenticity and originality of his food was always evident. He will be greatly missed."

"We are honored and grateful for Chef Hirose's participation and culinary talents at many Go for Broke events, in particular at our annual

Evening of Aloha Gala dinners," said GFBNEC President and CEO Mitch Maki. "We will always remember and cherish his dedication to the community and his shared commitment in support of our Nisei veterans."

The Sayonara Gala dinner at the 2023 JAACL National Convention was prepared by Hirose's Azay restaurant.

Trained in France, Hirose would go on to utilize French and his native Japanese cuisines to acclaim in Los Angeles at L'Orangerie and Belvedere at the Peninsula Beverly Hills.

With his American wife, Jo Ann Maehara, Hirose returned to Japan and they operated Azay-le-Rideau in his hometown. Returning to Southern California, they opened Maison Akira in Pasadena in 1998. It closed in 2019, after which Hirose opened Azay in the former site of Little Tokyo's Anzen Hardware.

In recent years, Hirose faced such health challenges as a liver transplant and eyesight issues. He is survived by his wife, Jo Ann; their children, Michelle and Philip; and other relatives in the U.S. and Japan. ■

News Briefs

WNBA Names Nakase Valkyries Head Coach; UCLA Reappoints Osako

WNBA expansion team Golden State Valkyries on Oct. 10 named **Natalie Nakase** its head coach. ♪ UCLA's Office of Strategic Communications on Oct. 2 announced the reappointment of **Mary Osako** to a second term as UCLA's vice chancellor for strategic communications. ♪ The Swedish Academy named South Korean writer **Han Kang** the winner of its Nobel Prize in literature on Oct. 10. ♪ Former CFO of defunct law firm Girardi Keese **Christopher Kazuo Kamon** pleaded guilty to two counts of wire fraud on Oct. 11.

— P.C. Staff

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'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis.

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EVERY VOTE MATTERS

By JR Fujita



Election Day 2024 is just around the corner. On Nov. 5, Americans will choose the next president and vice president, as well as federal, state and local leaders. Every vote counts!

Each state has specific voting laws, so it's important to prepare

prior to Election Day. Some states require formal requests to vote by mail, others have deadlines, ID requirements and procedures that can change from one election to another — so things may have changed since you last voted. To help make you aware of important dates and election information, AARP has published nonpartisan state voter guides (<https://www.aarp.org/politics-society/government-elections/info-2024/state-voting-guides.html>), which provide not only information on how to vote but also where candidates stand on key issues.

One thing is clear: Older voters have a huge influence on American

elections. In fact, voters 50-plus are the majority of voters in every election, and they are stretched to the limit. They want to see politicians address their day-to-day challenges like caring for their loved ones and protecting their hard-earned Social Security benefits.

More than 48 million family caregivers across the country assist their parents, spouses, siblings, grandparents and other loved ones every day so that they can live independently in their homes — where they want to be. Both parties have a big opportunity to win these voters. Caregivers can make the difference in a close election.

Americans have also worked

hard and paid into Social Security over their working lives — and they expect the benefits they have EARNED to be there for them when they retire. It's their money, and it's time for both parties to come together and agree on a solution to fix the Social Security shortfall, so that we can protect the financial security of current and future generations.

Remember, YOUR voice makes a difference, so be sure to vote in this important election!

JR Fujita is a community outreach and engagement manager for AARP. He is based in Sacramento, Calif.

MEMBERSHIP » continued from page 8

We're looking forward to transitioning to the new categories starting in January 2025. If you'd like to upgrade early, please visit www.jacl.org/newcats. If you have any questions, our inbox is always open at mbr@jacl.org.

The membership department is thrilled to present a summary of the organization's new membership category changes below! Details and meanings behind the new names are available on the JACL website (www.jacl.org/newcats).

The history of the categories that are being retired is also featured here, as it is important to also honor the organization's past.

Premium Level Changes:

- 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
- Instead of "Spouse" add-ons, members can add +\$45 to any category above to become "Couple/Family," which is more inclusive and consistent. For example, Silver Club Couple/Family is \$295 (\$250 Silver Club + \$45 Couple/Family).

Life Levels Changes:

- \$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

The following membership categories will have **NO CHANGES**:

- Student/Youth
- Regular/Individual
- Couple/Family

(Also, there will be no changes to chapter dues/dues standardization. In addition, current Thousand Club and Century Club annual members (and any annual members) may renew at whichever membership level they prefer. 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. It is just an FYI that the name has changed.)

This amendment would not have passed without the guidance and support of Tiffany Ikeda, the CBL Committee, Paul Uyehara, Phillip Ozaki, Kim Hirose, Chip Larouche, Saki Mori, Sheldon Arakaki and so many others. Thank you for your JACL membership. Our future is brighter because of you! ■

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