



PACIFIC CITIZEN

Nihonmachi
Terraces
Founders
Monument

PHOTO: COURTESY
OF KIMOCHI

CELEBRATING
96
Years

顯彰之碑

一九八二年十一月廿六日の出立一竣工七周年記念
日米宗教連盟創設者初代会長大橋正石田日天

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Culturally sensitive services
aid Nikkei seniors.

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Films of
Remembrance
Showcase Returns.

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The Irei Project
Kicks Off
National Tour.

JACL CITES 'HEIGHTENED IMPORTANCE' OF 2025 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE IN STATEMENT

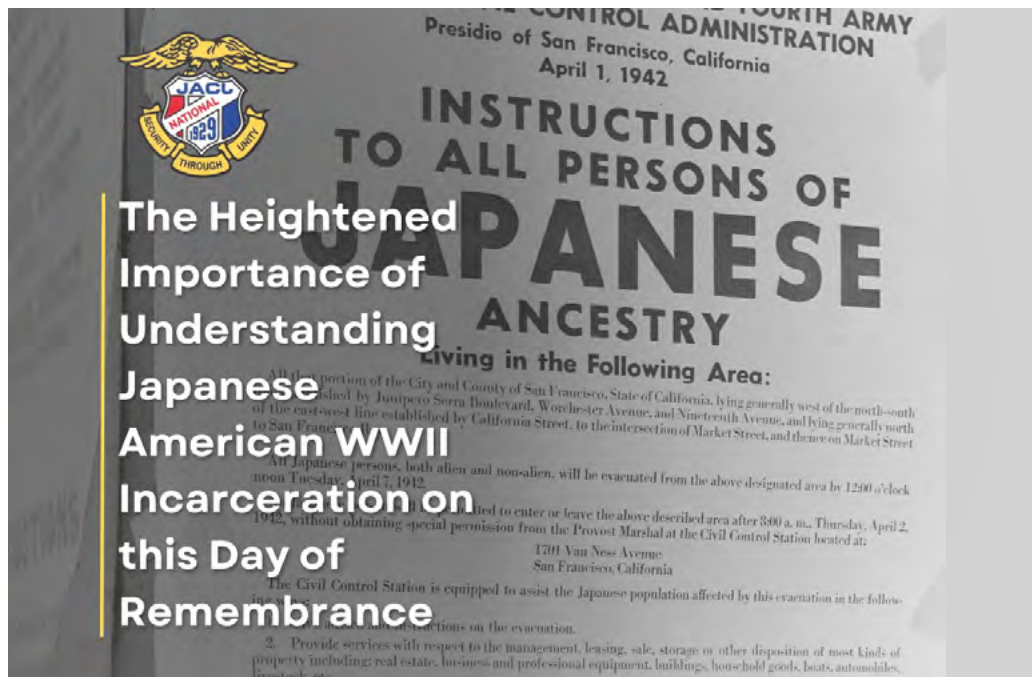
By P.C. Staff and JACL National

The Japanese American Citizens League on Feb. 19 — the Day of Remembrance — issued a statement connecting the significance of an executive order signed by the president of the United States 83 years earlier, under the political status quo then, and the many executive orders — several of which have already been contested in courts — that have come from the White House in 2025.

On Feb. 19, 1942, a little more than two months after America's declaration of war on Japan following its Dec. 7 attack on the naval base at Hawaii's Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. It would set in motion the forced removal from the West Coast and subsequent mass incarceration of all persons of Japanese ancestry, most of whom were U.S. citizens.

In the name of national security, entire families were stripped of their homes, livelihoods and dignity. Under duress from the government and the threat of their families being separated, some individuals renounced their American citizenship and were deported to Japan, a country they had little connection with other than their DNA.

Even as their nation denied their rights as citizens, Japanese Americans persevered. More than 33,000 men and women demonstrated their patriotism to the U.S. through their service in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 100th Infantry Battalion, Military Intelligence Service, Women's Army Corps, Army Nurse Corps and Cadet Nurse Corps.



They heroically risked life and limb for a country that had put their families behind barbed wire. Others demonstrated their belief in the U.S. Constitution, demanding their rights as Americans and refusing to fight for a country that had imprisoned them solely because of their ancestry.

The U.S. government and even members of the Japanese American community labeled them disloyal, and they were further segregated at the Tule Lake Segregation Center. Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu and Minoru Yasui pursued their cause through the courts and were ultimately denied justice by the Supreme Court.

In its statement, JACL said, "We now have a resurgence of calls to invoke the Alien Enemies Act, Alien Land Laws, broad harmful immigration policies that will lead to family separations and deportations of U.S. citizen children and the perversion of civil rights laws that have been critical to ensuring qualified people from all backgrounds have a chance to demonstrate their capabilities when they might be otherwise overlooked. "The lessons of the past demand more than

remembrance — they demand action. Never again is a promise to our ancestors and those who endured that we as a nation must now allow the government to use its power to target and discriminate against its people on the basis of race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin or disability," the statement concluded.

By 1988, the Japanese American community and those who supported its stance used the First Amendment right "to petition the Government for a redress of grievances," and the United States issued an apology for its actions and paid token monetary remediation. This followed a report from the U.S. Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians that concluded what had happened to ethnic Japanese in the U.S. at the time was not a matter of "military necessity" but, rather, "race prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership."

To read the JACL's entire statement, visit tinyurl.com/22kemn9s. The Pacific Citizen will include coverage of various Day of Remembrance events in its March 7, 2025, issue.

CORRECTION: Terry Hara is president of the Terminal Islanders Assn. and Paul Boyea is board member of the Terminal Islanders Assn. and chairman of the Terminal Island Preservation Initiative Committee ("The Fight to Preserve a Precious Legacy," featured in the Pacific Citizen's Feb. 7-20, 2025, issue).

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE LAW DOESN'T ALWAYS STATE THE OBVIOUS

By David Inoue,
JACL Executive Director

This past month, many of us across the country and even around the world observed a Day of Remembrance to commemorate the 83rd anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066.

Matthew Asada, serving as the press attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Ghana, shared reflections of his family's experience and the history of the Nisei veterans with members of the Accra community.

The signing of EO 9066 was especially monumental as it shifted the targeting from just Japanese, German and Italian nationals already being

incarcerated under the authority of the Alien Enemies Act and expanded incarceration authority to any person.

While the Alien Enemies Act was used to round up and incarcerate foreign nationals from all three of the World War II Axis powers, EO 9066 would be used only against Japanese Americans. EO 9066 was broadly written to be used against "any or all persons" at the secretary's discretion.

The president was, of course, very intentional in drafting EO 9066 in the way that it was. Had they written it to target only Japanese Americans, it would have been obviously discriminatory. Everyone knew that it would be used specifically against Japanese Americans, but they just couldn't say that part out loud.

In case there was any doubt, Attorney General Francis Biddle later wrote to President Roosevelt that "you signed the original Executive Order permitting the exclusions so the Army could handle the Japs. It was never intended to apply to Italians and Germans." The context and unspoken parts are what gave EO 9066 its power and devastating effect.

Laws are often written with a certain amount of vagueness and lack of clarity. It then becomes the responsibility of the courts to bring that clarity and interpret that uncertainty. Unfortunately, for the 125,000 people of Japanese descent, the Supreme Court ignored the context and ruled that it was OK for the government to enact policies such as curfews or exclusion orders for the sake of national security as it ruled in the Hirabayashi, Korematsu and Yasui cases.

Forty years later, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians gave its declaration that Japanese American incarceration was based in racism, not military necessity. Chief Justice John Roberts also declared Korematsu was incorrectly determined and no longer part of

court precedent.

The problem with Roberts' pronouncement is that he provides no details as to exactly what was wrong with the Korematsu decision. Ironically, the Muslim Ban case decision was a reaffirmation of the administration's wide latitude to act in the name of national security, in fact a reaffirmation of the Korematsu decision.

As an "originalist," Roberts and the other five conservative justices claim to look to the meaning of the original law as it was written, a contrast to the "contextualists." The reality though is that law must be looked at in the context of when and how it was written.

Now, the administration is seeking to backtrack on years of civil rights laws on the basis that the laws are written with broad language that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion and/or national origin. The argument has been made that programs such as affirmative action or Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Ability promoting programs are allegedly discriminatory against white men in particular.

When laws such as the 13th Amendment were written to broadly

abolish slavery, they didn't need to specify that we were creating this law to abolish slavery of any person and other people that have been subjected to slavery throughout our country's history, it was very specifically in response to the fact that our country had institutionalized the slavery of Black men, women and children. Some things are clear without being stated explicitly in the law.

Similarly, when the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed, it was not passed in the context that overwhelming numbers of white men were being discriminated against, but because people of color, particularly Black people, were being targeted by Jim Crow laws that essentially replaced the oppression of slaveholding.

Today, so-called originalists are trying to make us think that these laws were all passed with race neutrality in mind. As Japanese Americans know all too well from Executive Order 9066, it is the context of the law that truly matters.

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

GET A GOOD NIGHT'S REST

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

How do you feel when you wake up in the morning? Are you refreshed and ready to go, or groggy and grumpy? For many people, the second scenario is all too common. According to the CDC, about 35 percent of Americans sleep less than the recommended seven hours each night.

An uninterrupted night of peaceful slumber can make all the difference in how you feel the next day. But habitual restorative rest is important over the long run, too. As mounting evidence shows, getting a good night's sleep on a regular basis is vital to your health and well-being.

On the other hand, insufficient sleep can make you too tired to work efficiently, exercise or eat healthfully. Over time, sleep deprivation increases the risk for a number of chronic health problems. And, sleep medications may not always be the most effective option. Growing evidence backs the use of cognitive behavioral therapy, a drug-free approach to treating insomnia.

This article on getting a good night's sleep without drugs is based on a special report from Harvard

Medical School, "Improving Sleep."

Medical conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, arthritis and thyroid disease bring symptoms like pain, shortness of breath or a frequent need to use the bathroom that can prevent you from falling asleep or jolt you awake in the middle of the night. Medications used to manage these conditions can cause sleeplessness as a side effect.

Another potential cause for insomnia is that your bedtime habits are preventing you from sleeping. The blue light that cell phones, TVs and computers emit blocks the release of melatonin, a hormone that signals your body when it is time to sleep.

Eating a large meal, especially one that is accompanied by a few glasses of wine or coffee, is another known sleep disruptor.

Following are 10 tips from Harvard Medical School for achieving longer, more rested sleep:

1. Create a sleep sanctuary in your bedroom. Reduce clutter, which can be distracting and anxiety-provoking. Use blackout curtains to keep the room dark, or wear an eye mask.
2. If outside noise is an issue, consider buying a white noise

machine to drown it out.

3. Keep electronic devices like your computer, cell phone and tablet out of your bedroom. Or, at least turn them off an hour before bed.
4. Try to go to sleep at the same time each night. About two hours before bedtime, dim the lights to prepare your body for sleep.
5. Avoid caffeine and alcohol for at least four to six hours before bedtime. Drink all liquids sparingly close to bedtime, to prevent a full bladder from waking you up.
6. Eat a moderate-sized dinner two to three hours before bed. Have just enough food to ensure that you are neither too hungry nor too full during the night.
7. Do something calming before you go to bed, such as meditating, taking a warm bath, drinking a cup of chamomile tea or listening to gentle music.
8. Try to get outdoors in the morning. The sunlight helps set your internal clock.
9. Limit daytime naps to 20 minutes or less, and do not take them late in the day (after 3 p.m.)
10. If you can't sleep, don't watch the clock. Get out of bed and do something calming, like read a book, until you start to feel sleepy.

Once you crawl between the sheets, relaxation techniques such as deep breathing or progressive muscle relaxation (*see below*) can help you calm your body and mind. Mindfulness meditation has also proven helpful for battling insomnia. This type of meditation involves

focusing on your breathing and then bringing your mind's attention to the present without drifting into concerns about the past or future.

Progressive muscle relaxation, which involves tensing and relaxing your muscles in sequence, starting with your feet and working your way up your body, is a tried-and-true, drug-free technique for achieving both physical and mental relaxation. A typical approach is this:

1. Lie on your back in a comfortable position. Put a pillow under your head if you like, or place one under your knees to relax your back. Rest your arms, with palms up, slightly apart from your body. Feel your shoulders relax.
2. Take several slow, deep breaths through your nose. Exhale with a long sigh to release tension.
3. Focus on your feet and ankles. Are they painful or tense? Tighten the muscles briefly to feel the sensation. Let your feet sink into the floor or the bed. Feel them getting heavy and becoming totally relaxed. Let them drop from your consciousness.
4. Slowly move your attention through different parts of your body: your calves, thighs, lower back, hips and pelvic area; your middle back, abdomen, upper back, shoulders, arms and hands; your neck, jaw, tongue, forehead and scalp. Feel your body relax and your lungs gently expand and contract. Relax any spots that are still tense. Breathe softly.
5. If thoughts distract you, gently

ignore them and return your attention to your breathing. Your worries and thoughts will still be there when you are ready to acknowledge them.

For some people with insomnia, a racing or worried mind is the enemy of sleep. Techniques to quiet a racing mind or a tense body — such as meditation, breathing exercises, progressive muscle relaxation and biofeedback — can be learned in behavioral therapy sessions or from books or classes.

If you're looking to improve your health and happiness and prefer a drug-free approach to treating insomnia but don't know where to start, I have created a free audio clip that is currently available online on YouTube. Simply search "ELS theta wave music" on YouTube.

You'll find a 15-minute induction (to stop the excess chatter in your mind), followed by an hour of theta wave deep relaxation music meant to help you fall asleep. I listen to it every night. It works!!!

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. 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.

FILMS OF REMEMBRANCE SHOWCASE RETURNS

The 14th annual event, featuring Japanese American wartime incarceration-related films, concludes March 8-9.

By Rob Buscher,
P.C. Contributor

Films of Remembrance (FoR), the annual premier showcase of Japanese American wartime incarceration-related films, is returning for its 14th year in its usual venues in San Francisco Japantown at AMC Kabuki 8 and San Jose Betsuin the weekend of Feb. 22 and 23. The event's producer, the Nichi Bei Foundation, has also announced that new for 2025 is the expansion of FoR to include two new venues in Southern California that will take place March 8-9.

Enabled in part by support from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program of the California State Library and the Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation, the showcase will be presented for the first time at Japanese American National Museum's Tateuchi Democracy Forum on March 8 in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo and the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute on March 9 in Gardena, Calif.

Featuring an all-time record-sized program of 19 films, this year's slate of content includes animation, narrative shorts, documentaries and one narrative feature. At least one filmmaker from each film is expected in attendance, with cast and crew flying from as far as South Korea and the East Coast to participate in postscreening Q & A discussions and filmmaker receptions.

Exclusive to the San Francisco and Los Angeles dates, there will also be a special Showcase Presentation of the epic feature-length-scripted narrative film "Kintsukuroi," which chronicles one family's journey all the way from the forced removal to postwar resettlement. Helmed by writer-director Kerwin Berk, the film's 130-minute runtime includes combat re-enactments featuring the 442nd RCT and other topics related to daily life in camp as the film chronicles the fictional Ito family's journey through the years surrounding World War II.

Consisting mainly of short films that are 20 minutes or less, the 2025 Showcase is grouped in thematic screening blocks of

three to six films based on the topics they explore. Each venue has a slight variance between the programs but includes nearly the full slate of films.

Following the in-person events, there will also be a two-week pay-per-view virtual streaming period taking place March 10-24, during which time audiences nationwide can participate. This will coincide with the launch of a new permanent online archive of past FoR titles called "Films of Remembrance On Demand," which will offer year-round access to stream some of the best titles from previous showcases with both pay-per-view and monthly/yearly subscription options.

Full details about the in-person programs, including a film synopsis of each title and trailers, are currently available online at 2025.filmsofremembrance.org, where tickets can be purchased for in-person screenings on an individual program basis; an All-Day Pass is also available.

Following are highlights of the 2025 showcase.

Artistic Interpretations is a six-film shorts block either exploring topics related to art in the camps, like the short doc "Obata's Yosemite," about a University of California, Berkeley, painting instructor who taught art classes at Topaz, or films that tell the story in an artistic way, like the short animation "Uprooted." Documentary photographer Haruka Sakaguchi shares part of her journey to tell the story of camp through a National Geographic-produced short doc titled "Loyal American." Another highlight is the short documentary "Cactus Blossoms Revisited" from scholar Koji Lau-Ozawa and author Brynn Saito, which delves into a collection of poetry that was written and published by high school students at Gila River concentration camp.

» See FILMS on page 9



The 14th annual showcase features films commemorating the forced incarceration of Japanese Americans in concentration camps during World War II.



"A Nikkei Canadian Story"

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

2025 TOUR SCHEDULE

- CLASSICAL JAPAN HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) **WAITLIST** . . . 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, 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) **WAITLIST**. Aug 27-Sep 9
Pre-cruise in Budapest, Bratislava, Vienna, Weissenkirchen, Linz, Passau, Vilshofen, Post-cruise in Prague. **Bonus Discount - Limited Time Offer.**
- JAPAN AUTUMN COUNTRYSIDE HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Oct 16-27
Tokyo, Sado Island, Kanazawa, Amanohashidate, Tottori, Matsue, Tamatsukuri Onsen, Hiroshima.
- KENYA WILDLIFE SAFARI HOLIDAY TOUR** (Carol Hida) **WAITLIST**. . . Oct 15-29
Nairobi, Amboseli-Nakuru Lake-Masai Mara National Parks, Mt. Kenya Safari Club, Sweetwaters Tented Camp, Jane Goodall Chimpanzee Sanctuary. **FINAL TOUR**
- OKINAWA HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Nov 13-23
Naha, Onnason, Islands of Ishigaki, Iriomote & Taketomi.

For more information and reservations, please contact:

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Ernest or Carol Hida



"Loyal American"

MORE THAN A CAREGIVING COMPANY



Carelife provides home care for the elderly and works to educate and assist families with important life choices.

By Gil Asakawa,
P.C. Contributor

Richard Miyazato is in his early 50s, but he has been on a personal journey to provide elder care for more than 15 years. That's when he founded Carelife, a Torrance, Calif.-based company in the Los Angeles area that offers home care for older people with illnesses or who are homebound with conditions such as dementia or Alzheimer's. He's the CEO of the company, which launched in 2010.

But his interest in helping people goes back more than a decade before that.

"So, it all started back in 1999, actually way back after I graduated from college and I worked a couple of years at Mitsubishi trading operation, but it just wasn't my calling," Miyazato explained. "So, I reshifted my career path, went back to school, studied health care and, yeah, it was always something that I had internally that I wanted to go into senior care. I think it is just my calling."

About that time, he saw an ad in the *Rafu Shimpo* newspaper for a caregiver, a Japanese-speaking advocate for a Japanese man in a hospital. Miyazato grew up like many Japanese Americans taking Japanese classes, but the serious ones, not the Saturday morning classes. He went every night after school.

"I could be an advocate for this patient," Miyazato recalled thinking. "So, I called this company, and I started as a caregiver just because I wanted to kind of get my feet wet and just to understand what this was all about."

After his Japanese patient went back home, Miyazato contacted the company that had hired him. "I went up to the CEO, and I said, you know what, I really enjoyed this. Is there any way that I could help, you know, if you could hire me and help develop some kind of a home care division assisting the Japanese community?"

It wasn't interested at first, but then the company called him back and asked him to start a division providing home care. "And so that was back in 1999. I helped launch this division at this company. And I worked there until about 2009, 2010."

Meanwhile, his passion for home care hit closer to home in 2006, when his mother was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. He explained in an article written for Black History Month about the inspiration of Muhammad Ali, the champion boxer who late in life suffered from Parkinson's Disease but lit the 1994 Olympic Torch in Atlanta. Miyazato became involved in the Parkinson's community, which eventually led him to work with the Muhammad Ali Parkinson's Center.

His mother, who was from Fukushima, was just in her 60s. She later developed



Richard Miyazato with 442nd RCT veteran Frank Fukuzawa

Alzheimer's, and so did his father, who was from Fukuoka and also in his 60s. Miyazato, an L.A.-born Shin-Nisei, helped both his parents deal with their health needs — a challenge of which many Japanese Americans with aging loved ones are familiar.

"I think that was really the catalyst, for me to kind of start helping my parents, especially my father, just really to navigate this whole complex system and try to understand it more deeply, to see what we as a family, especially as a Japanese community, could do."

In California and especially the L.A. area, there are many community organizations, including Keiro and the Little Tokyo Service Center, that can also offer help to assist families with caregiving needs, questions and services. But finding the necessary hands-on help or in-home care is often complex and difficult to navigate. "When it came down to the specifics of, you know, neurology doctor I should see, you know, it's just the whole slew of questions that was very challenging," said Miyazato.

He realized, "I'm pretty sure there are a lot more Japanese Americans [and those in the] Japanese community that are going through the same trials and tribulations that we were going through."

For Parkinson's, for example, Carelife created a trademarked physical therapy program that differentiates it from other care providers.

"We partnered with a doctor of physical therapy, and we created, for example, an exercise program called Moving With Care-

Pictured at a JANM VIP reception (from left) are Carelife's Richard Miyazato, actor George Takei, Sue Miyazato, Hiroshi Nakamoto and Brad Takei.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF RICHARD MIYAZATO



In this undated photo taken at JANM, pictured (from left) are Hitoshi Nakamura, Hiroshi Nakamoto, Akie Abe (widow of Shinzo Abe), Shinzo Abe (former prime minister of Japan), Sue Miyazato and Richard Miyazato.

givers, which is pretty unique because, you know, we try to help people with Parkinson's do a lot of these, you know, easy-to-do exercise programs at home to help with their muscle atrophy and stuff like that," he said.

And though Carelife welcomes patients of all backgrounds and offers services in English, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Spanish and more, Miyazato is especially proud to be part of the Japanese American community. He's involved in and donates to a number of organizations, including the Go For Broke National Education Center, for which he provides door-to-door transportation for veterans to attend GFBNEC events such as its annual gala.

He has also donated electric beds to Keiro to make the quality of life better for its patients. Like many of his interactions, he was inspired by someone he met, a terminally ill patient who wanted to be able to continue having some independence while being cared for. He bought 22 beds for the Keiro facility. And yes, he still raises funds for the American Parkinson's Disease Assn.

"We are more than a caregiving company," he wrote in an enthusiastic email. "We help educate family members and give back to the community that supports our business!"

For more information on Carelife and its services, visit www.carelifeinc.com.

Kimochi founders Sandy Mori and Steve Nakajo

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF KIMOCHI



Kimochi transportation services



SERVING OUR SENIORS

Culturally sensitive services in the Bay Area are aiding the Japanese American community and providing elders the opportunity to thrive.

By Emily Murase, P.C. Contributor

Back in high school, I didn't know anything about Kimochi. What I did see was a group of Sansei, third-generation Japanese Americans, who were a few years older than me, giving care and attention to Issei, first-generation Japanese Americans, in San Francisco Japantown. These Sansei were able to relate to the Issei and put smiles on their faces."

Now serving as executive director of Kimochi, Inc., for nearly a decade, Steve Ishii could not have imagined back then that he would become an integral part of the Kimochi family.

Founded in 1971, Kimochi, Inc., is a pioneering senior services agency based in San Francisco Japantown. Co-founders Sandy Mori and Steve Nakajo identified the need to better serve Issei seniors. At the time, Mori was a dietician who was concerned about the ability of Issei seniors to access nutritious, culturally sensitive meals and social services in general.



Kimochi Home San Francisco



Nihonmachi Terrace cook event (Alice Kawahatsu is shown on the far left).



Kimochi chef Akitoshi Takazawa at the lunch program



Rev. Masato Kawahatsu at the front of the Nihonmachi Terraces Tower



Kimochi Home San Mateo



Kimochi hot meal program in the 1970s

Kimochi hot meal program today

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF REV. MASATO AND ALICE KAWAHATSU



Nakajo was a lecturer at San Francisco State University in the College of Ethnic Studies, newly established after student activism in the late 1960s. He came up with the name Kimochi to refer to the feelings or bond between Issei grandparents and Sansei grandchildren. As a part of his class, students received credit for volunteering to help seniors in San Francisco Japantown.

According to Ishii: "I was a student of Steve Nakajo's at San Francisco State. He taught 'Introduction to the Japanese American Community.' As a result of the class, I began volunteering at Kimochi. . . . I recall that people who worked at Kimochi at that time were remarkable. This was really not a '9-5' job. They were so dedicated that they worked into the evening to make sure to meet the needs of isolated seniors, especially men. They took them to dinner and to Japanese movies.

"I remember a senior who lived in the heart of the Tenderloin," Ishii continued. "It took time to break through the trust barrier, to open his door, to want to receive a hot lunch, to engage with Sansei at that time. The Kimochi Sansei would persuade him to come to Japantown and have dinner. To accept a ride was a huge thing. I saw his transformation from being stoic to engaging. He began to accept social worker visits. The turnaround was inspiring. To be honest, I didn't think that it would happen. This Issei man who was so isolated in the Tenderloin became happy, put on weight. As an 18-year-old seeing this transformation, I thought it was just fantastic!"

Early on, Nakajo, Kimochi's founding executive director, secured a space in the Kinokuniya Mall to serve as a drop-in center for Kimochi seniors, which continues today. Nakajo and Mori successfully applied for public funding to run a hot

meal program for seniors, which began in 1974.

Ishii recounted, "A lot of Issei did not want to eat the soup and sandwiches offered at existing senior meal programs. They preferred rice, miso soup, chicken teriyaki and beef sukiyaki." To create culturally sensitive menus, Kimochi hired Keiichi Kobae, a chef trained in Japan. Later, Kobae was succeeded by Akitoshi Takazawa, who served as head chef for more than 30 years.

Kimochi evolved from a volunteer-based program where university students escorted seniors to the grocery store or drove them to their medical appointments to a solid nonprofit with public and private funding to support a full range of staffing and operations. Its headquarters is located at 1715 Buchanan St. in the heart of San Francisco Japantown.

Today, the Kimochi Nutrition Program serves 250-300 meals per day, including home delivery, featuring Japanese favorites such as chicken curry, *niku jaga* stew, oden and even *unagi kabayaki* broiled eel.

At its peak, when the Covid pandemic restricted meals to takeout only, the program served 800 meals per day. "We want to ensure that seniors have at least one nutritious meal per day," said Ishii.

In addition to the core nutrition program, Kimochi offers comprehensive social services for seniors including:

- Social Services (translation services, Social Security/Medicare enrollment, etc.)
- Senior Center Activities (arts and crafts, activities)
- Family Caregiver Support in San Francisco and San Mateo
- Transportation Via Group Van (drivers trained for stairs assistance)
- Adult Day Program

Kimochi also offers culturally sensitive housing at two facilities. The Kimochi Home in San Francisco Japantown, built in 1984, is a 20-bed facility for ambulatory seniors that offers small single and shared rooms. Residents receive 24-hour nonmedical supervision and assistance with bathing, dressing and taking medications. Temporary short-term stays are also available.

Based on community feedback, Kimochi expanded to a residential facility in San Mateo, Calif., offering services to nonambulatory as well as ambulatory seniors. The 14-bed facility, which opened in 2016, offers similar services as the San Francisco facility.

Concluded Ishii: "Volunteering with Kimochi over 48 years ago changed my life. As a direct service nonprofit, volunteerism is essential. It can be for an hour, a half-day or full-day once a week or multiple times per week. With limited funding, volunteers are a crucial link to be able to provide human contact to a senior. The Kimochi volunteer may be the only person the client sees in a day. That interaction and warmth are so important in this work."

Another key facility serving older members of the Japanese community is the Nihonmachi Terrace, located in San Francisco Japantown. Founded by the Japanese American Religious Federation in 1975, the complex offers 245 units of affordable housing, in a high-rise tower offering smaller units for older residents as well as apartments and townhomes that offer three to four bedrooms suitable for families. Through the leadership of U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, a \$30 million

renovation was completed in 2011.

Rev. Masato Kawahatsu and his wife, Alice, who are affiliated with the Konko Church, have lived at the Nihonmachi Terrace for nearly 40 years. Rev. Kawahatsu explained, "As you know, a minister doesn't earn a large salary, so we really appreciate the opportunity to live in affordable housing. I walk our dog together with other residents, and we grow and share vegetables together. Sometimes, I am asked to perform funeral services for families in the complex.

"I especially enjoy spending time at the beautifully landscaped Japanese garden," Rev. Kawahatsu continued. "Inside the garden is a monument that commemorates the original members of the Japanese American Religious Federation, including Archbishop Nitten Ishida of the Nichiren Hokke Buddhist Temple and Rev. Fumio Matsui of the Konko Church."

Added Alice Kawahatsu: "When we first moved in, there were a lot of Japanese *Obaachans* (senior women) here. I used to volunteer to help cook at community and holiday celebrations held in the social hall as a way to build relationships and feel in community with them. I would learn about these women's long and remarkable journeys. This is a really great community, and I'm so glad that we were able to raise our two children here in Japantown."

To explore extending senior services from housing to assisted living, the Japanese American Religious Federation convened a Japantown Senior Housing Task Force and, as a result of its findings, the Federation purchased the former site of the Sokoji Buddhist Temple and the Obahai Shalome Temple at 1881 Bush St. in 1996, to develop the Kokoro Assisted Living Facility.

Opened in 2003, the facility offers 54 residential units, of which 37 are designated for low- to moderate-income residents. Residents are provided with family-style dining with Japanese menu options in what was once the synagogue's sanctuary.

The studio and one-bedroom apartments accommodate single residents and couples and includes regular housekeeping. There is also a wide variety of recreational activities offered at the facility including Japanese traditional crafts, calligraphy. There is also the opportunity to attend community events. The safety, health and wellness of residents are priorities.

Culturally sensitive services for seniors in the Japanese American community are not limited to San Francisco Japantown. Other Northern California-based agencies include J-Sei in the East Bay, Yu-Ai Kai Japanese American Community Senior Service and Asian Community Services Senior Services in the Sacramento Valley. Together with Kimochi, Nihonmachi Terrace and Kokoro Assisted Living, these programs provide community-based culturally-rich services to seniors for healthy aging.

Contributor Emily Murase writes from San Francisco Japantown. Her father, Kenji, helped conduct the needs assessment for the Kokoro Assisted Living Facility, hoping to stay there at the end of his life but received in-home care instead. She encourages caregivers who are at risk of burnout to use the respite services offered by several agencies.



Rev. Masato Kawahatsu and friends in the Nihonmachi Terrace Lobby



Nihonmachi Terrace Apartments

Nikkei Manor Receives \$625K Bequest From Seattle JACL

The Seattle chapter of the JACL announced recently a major donation of \$625,000 to Keiro Northwest, the operator of Nikkei Manor Assisted Living facility as a part of a bequest it received in 2023 from the Shigeo and Toshiko Iseri Family Trust.

“Nikkei Manor is an invaluable institution of our community,” said Kyle Kinoshita, Seattle JACL chapter president. “They’ve been providing bilingual, affordable and compassionate care for decades. We are proud to fulfill the wishes of the Iseri family to support Nikkei Manor’s steadfast commitment to serving our community.”

Keiro Northwest is a community-based nonprofit organization in Seattle’s Chinatown-International District, dedicated to serving elders. Its assisted living facility, Nikkei Manor, is Seattle’s oldest Asian American Pacific Islander senior care facility.

Seattle JACL and Keiro Northwest have deep ties. Seattle JACL members and leaders helped in the founding of Keiro Northwest in 1975, its capital campaign to build Nikkei Manor in 1998 and throughout its rich history of service.

In 2023, the Iseri family, who resided in Michigan, bequeathed funds to Seattle JACL with the



Keiro Northwest’s assisted living facility, Nikkei Manor, is Seattle’s oldest AAPI senior care facility.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF SEATTLE JACL



Seattle JACL presented the check for the award in a small ceremony at Nikkei Manor. Pictured (from left) are Susan Okamoto Lane, Keiro Northwest board member; Kyle Kinoshita, Seattle JACL board president; Amy Nguyen, Nikkei Manor executive director; Alicia Taniguchi Eng, Keiro Northwest board member; and Sheldon Arakaki, Seattle JACL board treasurer.

direction that half of the funds benefit a residence caring for aged members of the Japanese American community. The other half is to be used for Seattle JACL youth scholarships.

Fulfilling an Unmet Need

It’s often reported that Asian American and Pacific Islanders are the fastest-growing racial group in the United States. Over the next 50 years, Diverse Elders Coalition reports the number of AAPIs aged 65 and older is expected to grow more than 350 percent, from 1.6 million

to 7.3 million people.

Despite this, there is inadequate health services that are culturally responsive to the diverse backgrounds of AAPI seniors.

There are troubling disparities in health outcomes across different racial groups in the U.S. The rising affordability crisis of senior services, language barriers to receive service, as well as stigma and isolation are all part of the puzzle.

For the Japanese American community across the United States, demographics are older on average than the general population. This is even more so for those that are born in Japan. According to a 2019 Pew Research Study, 25 percent of all Japanese American Shin-Nikkei (those born in Japan after World War II, many of whom were war brides) are 65 years of age or older, compared to 17 percent of the general population.

After careful consideration, Seattle JACL singled out Keiro Northwest and Nikkei Manor for the award, acknowledging its efforts to provide high-quality, affordable assisted living services in a linguistically and culturally-sensitive manner.

Seattle JACL presented the check for the award in a small ceremony at Nikkei Manor on Dec. 20, 2024. ■



The 55th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage presentation of the camp flags

PHOTO: CHARLES JAMES

Manzanar Committee Announces 56th Annual Pilgrimage

The April 26 event will also feature the Ireichō Book of Names interactive memorial monument.

LOS ANGELES — The Manzanar Committee has announced that the 56th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage is scheduled for April 26 at the Manzanar National Historic Site. This year’s

theme is “Truth, Justice and Democracy.” In addition, as part of the pilgrimage, Irei Project representatives will present the interactive memorial Ireichō Book of Names, a groundbreaking initiative dedicated to memorializing people of Japanese ancestry who were forcibly incarcerated during World War II.

People attending the pilgrimage are encouraged to memorialize those who were incarcerated by placing a *hanko* (stamp) below the names of family members, friends and others imprisoned in the camps. Time to stamp a name in memory of those incarcerated in camp in the Ireichō will be available by appointment only at <https://bit.ly/ireicho>.

“The annual Manzanar Pilgrimage is a reminder of the strength and determination of the Japanese American community and the importance of preserving our history,” said Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embrey. “We are honored that Rev. Duncan Williams is bringing the Irei Project to this sacred space to continue our commitment

to remembrance, healing and education.”

Manzanar was the first of the 10 American concentration camps in which more than 125,000 Japanese Americans and their immigrant parents were unjustly incarcerated during WWII.

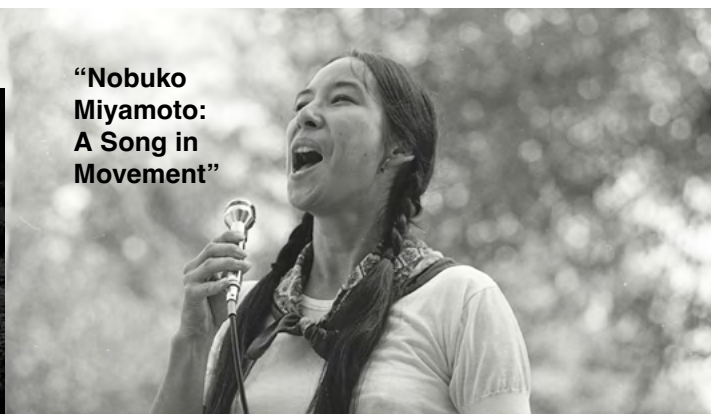
For the event’s daytime pilgrimage program, cultural performances will begin at 11:30 a.m., while the main portion of the program begins at Noon and runs until 2 p.m. The 2025 Manzanar at Dusk program will also be held following the 56th Annual Pilgrimage beginning at 5 p.m. Now in its 27th year, it is co-sponsored by the Nikkei Student Unions at California Polytechnic University, Pomona; California State University, Fullerton; California State University, Long Beach; the University of California, Los Angeles; the University of California, Riverside; and the University of California, San Diego.

Bus transportation is available to the pilgrimage from Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo and Gardena. Buses will also take participants to the Visitor Center at the Manzanar National Historic Site following the pilgrimage afternoon program and will return to Southern California that evening. Anyone wishing to attend the Manzanar at Dusk program that evening should make other transportation arrangements.

Reservations for bus transportation will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Complimentary fares are available for those who were incarcerated at any of the former American concentration camps or other confinement sites during WWII.

Both the Manzanar Pilgrimage and the Manzanar at Dusk program are free and open to the public. For more information, call (323) 662-5102 or email info@manzanarcommittee.org. To learn more about the Irei Project, visit <https://ireizo.org/about/>.

FILMS » continued from page 4



The **Untold Stories** block offers three short documentaries on lesser-known topics about camp, such as the Japanese Canadian incarceration. “A Nikkei Canadian Story” profiles Dr. Henry Shibata, who was a teenager during WWII and had recently turned 16 by the close of the war when he repatriated with his family to their native city of Hiroshima. Shibata would eventually return to Canada where he would become a medical doctor and participate in the Japanese Canadian redress campaign. “Murder in the High Desert,” the latest from seasoned documentarian Emiko Omori, details the murder of James Wakasa by a camp guard at Topaz and explores subsequent efforts to memorialize his death through the Wakasa Monument Committee. “Amache: An American Injustice,” explores the recently designated National Historic Site, examining the role that Denver University Archeology Department’s annual Amache Survey has had on both unearthing important artifacts and helping former incarcerated to remember their past.

Family Histories groups two short-documentaries with “Snapshots of Confinement,” a feature documentary that explores the role that incarcerated-shot photos and family photo albums can play in historical remembrance. Featuring Diana Tsuchida, founder of Tessaku oral history project as the key interview, the film expertly navigates the ways that photography provided agency to incarcerated in telling their own stories authentically while also enabling future generations to feel closer to their ancestors. The accompanying

preroll shorts include “Irei – To Console the Spirits,” about Duncan Ryuken Williams’ Ireicho monument project, and “Grandpa Cherry Blossom,” about botanist Francis Uyematsu, who once owned a 120-acre flower nursery in Manhattan Beach, Calif.

Taking a Stand is a three-film program featuring two short docs and a feature, all on topics related to activism. L.A.-based Sansei filmmaker Robert Shoji returns with his latest work “Jim Matsuoka Will Not Be Rushed,” a short doc making use of Matsuoka’s CWRIC testimony from the L.A. hearing, showing a brief but fervent verbal altercation between him and Commissioner William Marutani. “The United States vs. Takashi Hoshizaki,” produced by Kimiko Marr of Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages, tells the story of the last living Heart Mountain draft resister.

This program closes out with the feature doc “Nobuko Miyamoto: A Song in Movement,” co-directed by Quyen Nguyen-Le and Tadashi Nakamura, who also serves as director of JANM’s Watase Media Arts Center. A project of JANM, this sweeping documentary follows the life of visionary artist-activist Nobuko Miyamoto. Chronicling such topics as her early childhood in camp, Broadway musical debut in “Flower Drum Song” and participation in seminal Yellow Power movement folk group “Yellow Pearl,” the film covers eight decades of Miyamoto’s groundbreaking cultural work that unites communities and sets the bar for Asian American storytelling.

The March 9 event in Gardena will include two exclusive programs. The first is

a free event starting at 11 a.m. that presents author Art Hansen in conversation with writer Naomi Hirahara, related to the release of Hansen’s new book, “A Nikkei Harvest: Reviewing the Japanese American Historical Experience and Its Legacy.” Combining more than 14 years of book reviews published in the *Nichi Bei Weekly*, the collection intertwines together what University of Pennsylvania History professor Eiichiro Azuma calls, “A must read for both academics and laypersons.” Titled “Book of Remembrance,” this program is sponsored by the George and Sakaye Aratani CARE Award and the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

A second Gardena-exclusive program is “Baseball Behind Barbed Wire,” a short documentary telling the story of baseball in camp. Director Yuriko Gamo Romer explores how baseball invoked some semblance of normalcy for incarcerated, even as camp guards pointed their rifles inward and the barbed wire kept them confined. Joining Romer in a post-film discussion will be Manzanar Baseball Project’s Dan Kwong.

The San Francisco and Los Angeles events both culminate in a special Showcase Presentation of “Kintsukuroi,” before concluding with a Filmmakers Reception. Attendance to the catered reception is included with the All-Day Pass and is free for ticketholders of “Kintsukuroi.” Reception-only tickets can also be separately purchased online, in limited numbers.

For tickets and additional information on specific venues and films, visit:
<http://www.filmsofremembrance.org/>.

Uyematsu Named Among Top O.C. Influential Persons

Norio Uyematsu of Anaheim, Calif., was named recently by the *Orange County Register* newspaper to its 125 Most Influential Persons in Orange County, Calif., list for 2024.

Uyematsu, who turned 94 in January, continues to travel to Japan and throughout the U.S. to preserve the Japanese American legacy, as well as promote the forgotten stories of those who fought and served in the Korean War.

For the past two years, Uyematsu, a member of the Salt Lake JACL, worked on the first Japanese pioneer exhibit in Box Elder County history, which had its grand opening at the Brigham City Museum on Feb. 15 during the 2025 State of Utah Day of Remembrance program.

Sponsored by the Wasatch Front North



JACL in conjunction with the Mt. Olympus JACL and the Salt Lake JACL chapters, the

DOR event welcomed William A. Harris, director of the FDR Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park, N.Y., where he spoke about the “Japanese American Incarceration and the FDR Presidential Library: Frank Assessments and Forthright Approaches to History.”

Joining Harris to give the Utah perspective was Jani Iwamoto, honorary consul of Japan in Salt Lake City and a former Utah State Senator who helped pass legislation designating Feb. 19 as a Day of Remembrance in the State of Utah.

The event’s master of ceremonies was Floyd Mori, former national president and executive director of the JACL.

—Patti Hirahara

JACL Expresses Concerns Over Trump’s Executive Orders

League slams ‘perversion of civil rights laws.’

By P.C. Staff

The Japanese American Citizens League issued a strongly worded statement recently, expressing its alarm and concern over some of the many executive orders signed by President Donald Trump since he was inaugurated Jan. 20.

In its statement, JACL said it was “especially concerned with Executive Orders calling for the end of birthright citizenship, an escalation of the border crisis including the invocation of the Alien Enemies Act, the overt discrimination towards LGBTQIA+ individuals and the rollback of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility initiatives.”

The organization also slammed what it described as “the perversion of Civil Rights laws to advance a white supremacist agenda.”

On Jan. 20, Trump signed 26 executive orders. The executive order titled “Protecting the Meaning and Value of American Citizenship” seeks to reinterpret the accepted meaning of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution and end automatic conferral of U.S. citizenship to anyone born in the United States or where a newborn is subject to U.S. jurisdiction, a legal concept known as *jus soli*.

The 14th Amendment, which contains 80 words, reads:

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

On Jan. 23, Seattle-based U.S. District Judge John Coughenour, who was nominated by President Ronald Reagan in 1981, signed a temporary restraining order blocking that executive order. On Jan. 21, 18 state attorneys general joined a legal challenge to the executive order. In California, Attorney General Rob Bonta filed a lawsuit “challenging the Trump Administration’s unconstitutional executive order seeking to end birthright citizenship” (see tinyurl.com/45jcznkd).

In its statement, JACL said it “opposes these executive orders and the attempts to dismantle generations of civil rights law” and added: “We especially recognize the ugly hatred directed at the transgender community. Revoking the recognition of transgender people on their federally issued documents will not erase them and pitting transgender people against women and false fears for our children will not be a winning strategy.”

To read JACL’s statement in its entirety, see tinyurl.com/4ufjnbpew.

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

NATIONAL

2025 JACL National Convention
Albuquerque, NM
July 16-19
Price: Registration Information Forthcoming

Save the date for this year's JACL National Convention in the beautiful city of Albuquerque! This year's event will feature plenaries, special events and the annual Sayonara Gala. Full details, including how to register, will be released shortly. Stay tuned!

Info: Visit www.jacl.org.

NCWNP

Nakayoshi Event: Sushi Making
Monterey, CA
March 1; 1-3 p.m.
Monterey JACL Hall
424 Adams St.

Price: Adults \$10; Children \$5

Come and put together your own sushi roll. This is a great opportunity to make sushi and meet community members at the same time! In addition to sushi, curry bowls will also be available for an additional \$5.

Info: Call (831) 648-8830 or email jacl93940@gmail.com.

Intro to Mizuhiki Collage
San Francisco, CA
March 16; 1-3:30 p.m.

The Center
1840 Sutter St.

Price: Members \$50; General Public \$60

In this class, participants will learn how to create a mini collage with one mizuhiki design knot. The class will cover a version of the Sakura cherry blossom flower to create a design perspective of pulling colors of the washi paper to coordinate with mizuhiki cord colors. Instructor Kathy Yoshida has been creating mizuhiki cards for more than 20 years.

Info: To register, visit bit.ly/Center-Mizuhiki

Qi Baishi: Inspiration in Ink
San Francisco, CA
Thru April 7
Asian Art Museum
200 Larkin St.

Price: Museum Admission

The work of Qi Baishi (1864-1957) remains an inspiration to audiences worldwide. Blending minimal brushwork with passages of abstraction, Qi changed the course of traditional Chinese painting.

Info: Visit <https://exhibitions.asianart.org/exhibitions/qi-baishi-inspiration-in-ink/>.

PSW

'Only the Oaks Remain' Display Exhibit

La Canada Flintridge, CA
March 8; 3-5 p.m.

Descanso Gardens
1418 Descanso Dr.

Price: Members Free; Adults \$15; Students/Seniors \$11; Children \$5

The camellias of Descanso Gardens have a storied past. Hear from Consul General Kenko Sone of Japan; Dr. Kendall Brown, professor and Japanese Garden expert; and descendants of survivors of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station. Remarks will be followed by a walk through the Camellia Forest and the Japanese Garden, which will feature a display of "Only the Oaks Remain" from the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition.

Info: Email remembertunacanyon@gmail.com.

Remembering the Atlanta Spa Hate Shootings
Rosemead, CA
March 15; 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Rosemead Community Recreation Center (Near City Hall)
3936 N. Muscatel Ave.
Price: Free

This event, hosted by the Anti-Asian Hate Crimes Coalition, features speakers Esther Young Lim, Dr. Ethan Huynh, Paul Kim, Paul Chang and JACL's Matt Weisbly. The presentation will also talk about local Asian hate crime victims and other issues affecting the AAPI community.

Global Journalism: A Lecture With David Ono
Thousand Oaks, CA
March 16; 3 p.m.

Goebel Senior Center
1385 E. Janss Road

Price: General Admission \$10

This event features ABC7 news anchor David Ono as he discusses his news career from his time with ABC7 covering historic events to his stage show "Defining Courage" about the legacy of Nisei soldiers in WWII.

Info: Purchase tickets in-person at the Goebel Adult Center or call (805) 381-2744.

56th Manzanar Pilgrimage
Independence, CA
April 26; 11:30-2 p.m.

Manzanar National Historic Site

This year's annual pilgrimage will include the Manzanar at Dusk program as well as the Ireicho "Book of Names" national tour stop where, by appointment, individuals can place a *hanko* stamp in the book to remember their family members and friends who were forcibly incarcerated during WWII. More details about the pilgrimage event will be released soon.

Info: Email info@manzanarcommittee.org.

CCDC

Art of the Word: 'Once Upon a Book — Featuring the Illustrations of Grace Lin'
Fresno, CA
Thru June 29

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

Sukiyaki!
Seattle, WA
March 1; 1-6 p.m.

Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church
3001 24th Avenue South
Price: \$20

This fundraiser will feature delicious sukiyaki, traditional ohagi, tsukemono, baked goods, Blaine Cookbooks and more. In-dining and take-out available. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Altadena UMC Disaster Relief as they rebuild their church and neighborhood after the Southern California wildfires.

Info: Visit www.blaineonline.org.

'Taken From Their Families: Japanese American Incarceration on Angel Island During World War II'
Portland, OR
Thru April 16

Japanese American Museum of Oregon
411 N.W. Flanders St.

Price: Museum Admission

This exhibit, which features the stories of 24 individuals, explores the lesser-known history of Angel Island during WWII. The

former immigration center was used to process prisoners of war and Nikkei community leaders living on the West Coast and Hawaii.

Info: Visit <https://jamo.org/angel-island/>.

Side by Side: Nihonmachi Scenes by Tokita, Nomura and Fujii
Seattle, WA
Thru May 11

Wing Luke Museum
George Tsutakawa Art Gallery
719 S. King St.

Price: Museum Admission

This exhibit, curated by Barbara Johns, features the works of Kamekichi Tokita, Kenjiro Nomura and Takuichi Fujii, who received widespread recognition and praise for their paintings, which provide an intimate view of what nihonmachi's familiar streets, alleys, storefronts and houses looked like before WWII. The exhibit features their work from the 1930s during the height of their artistic recognition and is the largest exhibition featuring the three artists' works.

Info: Visit www.wingluke.org.

IDC

The 48th Utah Asian Festival
Salt Lake City, UT
June 7; 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Grand Building of the Utah State Fairpark
155 N. 1000 W

This festival connects new Americans, immigrants and refugees to the more historic ethnic groups in the community and is a chance for all to meet various community leaders and establish new friendships in order to support Utah Asian communities. Come and experience cultural performances, children's activities and spotlights on cultural, nonprofit and commercial organizations.

Info: Visit <https://utahasianfestival.org>.

MDC

Intergenerational Conversations: Ripples of the Past
Chicago, IL
March 1; 2:30-5:30 p.m.

5700 N. Lincoln Ave.
Price: Free

This program sponsored by Chicago JACL brings Chicago-area Nikkei of all ages together to connect the process the trauma of WWII forced displacement and incarceration through personal story sharing. The program was created to bridge the gap in programming for the community's need for containers to reflect on and heal from the generational impact of incarceration.

Info: Visit <https://jaclchicago.org/programs/intergenerational-conversations>.

EDC

Play: "Sumo"
New York, NY
Thru March 23

The Public Theatre
425 Lafayette St.

Price: Ticket Prices Vary

In an elite sumo training facility in Tokyo, six men practice, eat, love, play and ultimately fight. This New York premiere of Lisa Sanaye Dring's new drama offers a view of the sacred world of sumo wrestling. This play also features live taiko drumming by Shih-Wei Wu.

Info: <https://publictheater.org/productions/season/2425/sumo/>.

'Akira: Architecture of Neo-Tokyo'
Delray Beach, FL
Thru April 6

Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens
4000 Morikami Park Road

Price: Museum Admission

This exhibit traces the architectural world-building process of Japan's most influential animated science-fiction film "Akira" and highlights the artists, designers and director of the meticulous backdrops that bring to life the futuristic urban environments of this classic anime..

Info: Visit <https://morikami.org/upcoming-exhibitions/>.

'Pictures of Belonging: Miki Hayakawa, Hisako Hibi and Mine Okubo'
Washington, D.C.
Thru Aug. 17

Smithsonian American Art Museum
8th and G Streets N.W.

This exhibit presents an in-depth look at the careers of three trailblazing American women of Japanese descent and asserts their rightful place in American art.

Info: Visit <https://americanart.si.edu/exhibitions/pictures-of-belonging>.

Arts of Japan
Boston, MA
Ongoing

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave.

Price: Museum Admission

This exhibit is dedicated to Japanese prints, specifically 19th-century *ukiyo-e* prints and contemporary pieces. ■

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FOR MORE INFO:

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News Briefs

Gabbard, Patel Sworn In After Narrow OKs

WASHINGTON — A pair of APIDAs (Asian Pacific Islander Desi Americans) picked by the president to helm federal government agencies have been approved by the Senate — barely — and sworn in to their respective posts. Samoan American Tulsi Gabbard was sworn in as national intelligence director on Feb. 12 after the Senate confirmed her nomination 52-48. A day later, the Senate voted 51-49 to confirm Indian American Kashyap Pramod Vinod Patel, aka Kash Patel, to serve as FBI director. Gabbard is a Republican who had served in the House of Representatives when she was a Democrat serving Hawaii from 2013-21. She also had served in the Hawaii Army National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve. Patel, a former federal defender and Department of Justice counterterrorism prosecutor, was sworn in Feb. 21, becoming the ninth person to serve as FBI director.

U.S. Bases in Japan Receive Bomb Threats

TOKYO — After emails threatening bombings at 32 U.S. military installations located in Japan's southernmost prefecture were sent to government websites, a similar email-borne threat was sent to the website of the Japanese city adjacent to Yokota Air Base, located in Tokyo prefecture. *Stars and Stripes* reported that Japanese police were investigating the

bomb threats that were first sent to prefectural and municipal officials in Okinawa, where the majority of American armed forces in Japan are located. A day later, the website for the city of Fussa received a similar email, demanding the same amount in ransom — about \$120,000 — to prevent the bombings from taking place on Feb. 23 and 24. The military news outlet quoted an Air Force spokesperson who said, "At this time, we do not perceive a credible threat . . ." Yokota Air Base is home to the 374th Airlift Wing, 5th Air Force and U.S. Forces Japan. Among the bases threatened on Okinawa were Kadena Air Base and Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

Remains of WWII's SSgt. Hop Returned to S.F.

SAN FRANCISCO — In advance of a Feb. 7 memorial service at Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno, Calif., the Army on Jan. 31 — with a escort by the San Francisco Police Department — transported the long-missing remains of Army Air Force SSgt. Yuen Hop, who was killed during World War II in 1944 at age 20, from San Francisco International Airport to a mortuary in Daly City, Calif. Prior to the motorcade, a ceremony took place on the airport's tarmac at which Hop's sister, 93-year-old Margery Wong of San Francisco, was in attendance. After the B-17 Hop was in was shot down on a mission over Germany, he and two fellow crewmembers were unaccounted for; other crewmembers were captured and incarcerated in German POW camps. In 2024, however,

Hop's missing remains were recovered and identified.

Bostonian Acquitted on PRC Agent Claims

BOSTON — A federal jury on Feb. 10 found a local Chinese American man not guilty of charges of acting as an agent of a foreign government — the People's Republic of China — and conspiracy. Litang Liang, 65, had been accused of providing the Chinese Communist Party with intel on local individuals and organization possessing pro-Taiwan and anti-Chinese government beliefs. The jury's not-guilty verdicts on both charges were unanimous. Meantime in New York City, on Feb. 11, Linda Sun — a former deputy chief of staff for Gov. Kathy Hochul and, under former Gov. Andrew Cuomo, deputy diversity officer — pleaded not guilty to additional charges accusing her and her husband, Chris Hu, of acting as agents for the Chinese government. Last year, Sun was charged with, among other allegations, violating the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

S. Korea: Exclude Us From Plans to Hike Tariffs

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korean officials have asked the Trump administration to exclude their country from U.S. plans to impose aggressive tariffs on trade partners, emphasizing that Seoul is already applying low duties on American products under the free trade agreement between the two nations. South Korea's government said Deputy Trade Minister Park Jong-won made

the request while traveling to Washington for meetings with unspecified officials from the White House, the Department of Commerce and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. The South Korean Trade Ministry didn't say what Park heard from the Americans. In other South Korea news, President Yoon Suk Yeol appeared in two different courts Feb. 20, contesting his arrest on rebellion charges in one and fighting an effort to remove him from office in the other. Both cases — one on criminal charges, one an impeachment — are related to his brief imposition of martial law in December.

LTSC Adds 4 Members to Board of Directors

Following its annual board retreat, the Little Tokyo Service Center announced the addition of four new members to its board of directors: Fabiola Delgado, Sarah Fukui, Naomi Iwasaki and Nancy Okubo. In other community nonprofit news, Asian American Drug Abuse Program has announced that Sam Joo has been named its new CEO, effective March 3. He replaces Dean Nakanishi, who retired last June. Silicon Valley PR/marketing firm PRxDigital Inc. has announced Madison Nguyen has joined to lead economic development and business growth initiatives. She is California's first Vietnamese American woman elected to public office; she formerly served as a San Jose city councilmember and vice mayor.

— P.C. Staff

In MEMORIAM



Aochi, Fusako Joan, 96, Oakland, CA, Jan. 2.

Fukuoka, Fujiye, 104, Gardena, CA, Jan. 22.

Fukutomi, Grace Yoshiko, 97, Santa Clarita, CA, Nov. 20, 2024.

Geisler, Kathleen Kaoru Takemoto, 68, Rockville, MD, Nov. 21, 2024.

Hashimoto, Kenneth Takumi, 70, Fresno, CA, Nov. 19, 2024.

Ifuku, Dorothy Chiyono, 92, Nov. 7, 2024, Santa Monica, CA.

Ikeda, Janet, 63, Dec. 22, 2024, Arroyo Grande, CA.

Ishimoto, Jordon, 75, July 12, 2024, Fresno, CA.

Ishioka, Tatsuo Roy, 84, Jan. 1, Los Angeles, CA.

Isozaki, Masuko, 98, Dec. 30, Montebello, CA.



Ito, Carol Miyoko, 84, Honolulu, HI, Jan. 19.

Ito, Warren, 57, of Lodi, CA, Nov. 18, 2024.

Ito, Yasuo Marvin, 84, Culver City, CA, Feb. 4.

Kobashi, Herlinda, 84, Gilroy, CA, Dec. 27, 2024.

Kowata, Takeyuki, 'Tak,' 93, Anaheim and Yorba Linda, CA, Jan. 7.

Masumoto, Joyce S., 79, Anaheim, CA, Jan. 11.

Mayebo, Ronald, 82, Fresno, CA, Nov. 22, 2024.

Murakami, Paula Kaye, 75, Spokane, WA, Feb. 4.

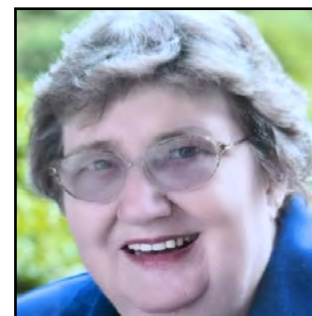
Nagahori, Fred Nobuyoshi, 87, Mission Viejo, CA, Dec. 31, 2024.

Nishihira, Mildred 'Millie,' 92, Torrance, CA, Dec. 4, 2024.



Norisada, Joe, 96, Spokane, WA, Jan. 29.

Quade, Susan Sumiko, 95, Morgan Hill, CA, Dec. 1.



Saito, Esther Coldren, 87, Gaithersburg MD, Jan. 23.

Shibata, Corey, 55, Honolulu, HI, Jan. 8.

Shibata, Hiroshi, 87, Jan. 5, Torrance, CA.

Sonoda, Ronald, 85, Jan. 24, Elk Grove, CA.

Tanaka, Akiko Myung Ja, 81, San Jose, CA, Dec. 15, 2024.

Takahashi, Tae Pauline, 98, Las Vegas, NV, Dec. 26, 2024.

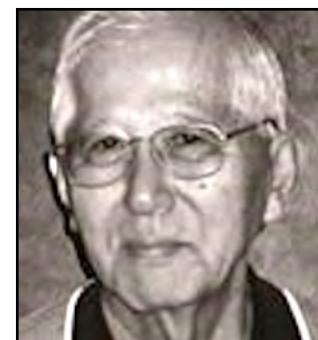
Takeda, Ruby, 88, Dinuba, CA, Dec. 12, 2024.

Takemoto, Margaret Mariko, 93, Arlington, VA, Oct. 9, 2024.

Takeshita, Jean, 85, St. Paul, MN, Dec. 22, 2024.

Toyama, Frederick, 94, Sacramento, CA, Jan. 28.

Uyehara, Ethel, 101, Santa Maria, CA, Jan. 17.



Watanabe, Sachio, 94, Lodi, CA, Dec. 14, 2024.

PLACE A TRIBUTE
 'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$25/column inch.
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Ireichō Book Kicks Off National Tour

The monument will be available to stamp as it makes its way across the nation.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Irei Project, in partnership with the Japanese American National Museum, officially kicked

off a national tour of the Ireichō book on Feb. 18 that will include tour stops across the nation at the 10 War Relocation Authority-operated Japanese American concentration camps during World War II.

The Book of Names was displayed alongside the original copy of Executive Order 9066 at the National Archives/Navy Memorial Visitors' Center in Washington, D.C., where 100-year-old Masaharu Ishii stamped his sister's name in the Ireichō to officially start the tour.

Named after the Japanese term for "consoling the spirits," the Ireichō monument honors both those who have gone before as well as those who carry on the memories and legacies of forced removal, unjust incarceration and family separation.

It contains the names of 125,284 individuals of Japanese ancestry who were unjustly



Masaharu Ishii, 100, kicks off the national tour by stamping his sister's name in the Ireichō in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 18.

PHOTO: NATHAN MORGAN

incarcerated during WWII to different camps and communities throughout the U.S.

Every visitor to the monument is invited to

contribute to the creation of the monument by marking one or more names in the Ireichō with a blue *hanko* stamp. For many survivors and descendants of the WWII forced incarceration, leaving this mark has been a way to honor the personhood of a family member who suffered the indignities and losses of the wartime incarceration.

Stamping opportunities continued to commemorate the Day of Remembrance at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History from Feb. 19-21.

The national tour will continue until late summer 2026, when the Ireichō will be formally gifted to JANM by the Irei Project.

For more information on the Irei Project national tour and to make an appointment to stamp the Ireichō book, visit <https://ireizo.org/tour/>.

Ireichō National Tour Stops

April 26-27: Manzanar, CA — Presented in conjunction with the Manzanar Pilgrimage

May 13-17: Amache, CO — Presented in conjunction with the Amache Pilgrimage

May 21-22: Jerome/Rohwer, AR — Presented in conjunction with the Jerome/Rohwer Pilgrimage

June 2-7: San Francisco Bay Area, CA — Presented in conjunction with Berkeley Historical Society Museum and Palo Alto Buddhist Temple

July 11-13: Minidoka, ID — Presented in conjunction with the Minidoka Pilgrimage

July 24-26: Heart Mountain, WY — Presented in conjunction with the Heart Mountain Pilgrimage

Sept. 5-7: Bismarck, ND — Presented in conjunction with the Snow

Country Memorial Pilgrimage and the United Tribes Technical College for Fort Lincoln Internment Camp

Oct. 10-12: Crystal City, TX — Presented in conjunction with the Crystal City Pilgrimage

Oct. 24-25: Poston, AZ — Presented in conjunction with the Poston Pilgrimage

Oct. 31-Nov. 2: Gila River, AZ — Presented in conjunction with the Gila River Indian Community and the JACL Arizona chapter

Nov. 8-9: Chicago, IL — Presented in conjunction with the Japanese American Service Committee in partnership with the JACL Chicago, Chicago Japanese American Historical Society and Japanese Mutual Aid Society of Chicago

Feb. 14-19, 2026: Sacramento, CA — Presented in conjunction with the Northern California Time of Remembrance/Sacramento-Walerga Assembly Center gathering

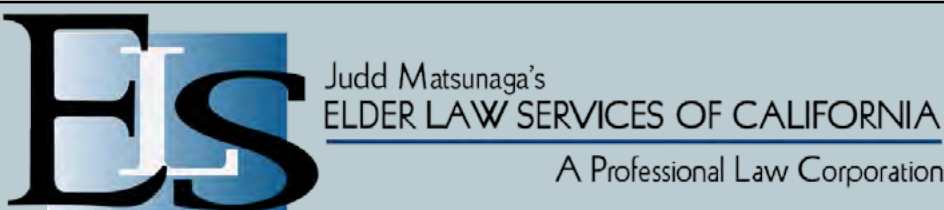
March 27-30, 2026: Seattle, WA —

Presented in conjunction with Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community and Puyallup Valley JACL chapter

April 8-11, 2026: Honolulu, HI — Presented in conjunction with the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii

May 1-2, 2026: Topaz, UT — Presented in conjunction with the Topaz Pilgrimage

July 4-5, 2026: Tule Lake, CA — Presented in conjunction with the Tule Lake Pilgrimage ■



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