



PACIFIC CITIZEN

Eighty years
after the atomic
bombings in
Japan, with hope
and resilience,
humanity must
learn to do better.

CELEBRATING
96
Years



Three children pray at the Cenotaph in Hiroshima Peace Park on Aug. 12, 80 years after the bombing of Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945.

PHOTO: DARRELL MIHO

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PEACE BEGINS WITH US

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Nisei Week Honors
Pioneer Spirit
Award Winners.

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Seabrook Obon
Celebrates Its
80th Anniversary.

Silicon Valley JACL Launches Banned Book Club

The chapter utilizes its \$1,000 Legacy Fund Opportunity Grant to engage community members.

By Silicon Valley JACL

Silicon Valley JACL received the \$1,000 Legacy Fund Opportunity Grant and utilized this funding to launch the “SVJACL Banned Books: A Social Justice Initiative” program. This began with a promo launch event at San Jose Japantown’s Nikkei Matsuri Festival on April 27, followed by the first meeting of the Banned Book Club on June 8.

The Banned Book Club is an ongoing monthly event series to build community by fostering critical thinking, promoting intellectual freedom, and defending the right to access diverse ideas and narratives.

The promo launch event at Nikkei Matsuri included an interactive *chigiri-e* (torn paper collage) book-mark craft and a display of several books that have been banned

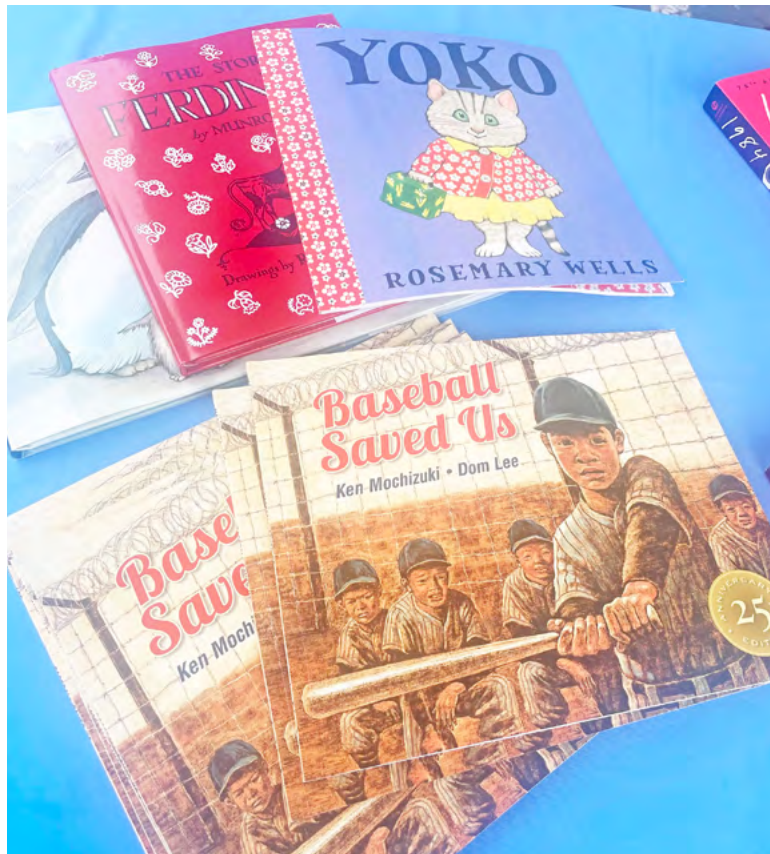
or contested, including our first book club pick, “1984” by George Orwell, plus several children’s books such as “And Tango Makes Three” by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson and “Baseball Saved Us” by Ken Mochizuki.

An unintentional benefit of displaying the books was that our chapter table acted as a way for parents to read the books to their children on the spot and initiate discussion about why these stories are seen as something to be censored.

Booth volunteers witnessed several multigenerational interactions where families were connecting and sharing lessons such as “some people think different types of families are bad, but we know that all types of families are good,” after reading the story of Tango the baby penguin with two dads; and grandparents sharing that they were part of a baseball team while in the World War II incarceration camps with their grandchildren after seeing “Baseball Saved Us” on the table.

Seeing so many community members express surprise that some of the books on display were banned or challenged in the U.S. truly highlighted how many of us take for granted the fact that we live in areas where diversity and inclusivity is generally a given.

Access to diverse stories where people can see their cultures reflected and



Banned book collection

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF SILICON VALLEY JACL CHAPTER

relate to the characters, especially in children’s books, is such an instrumental part of forming your sense of self and being proud to stand in your own skin, not to mention that access to stories and characters outside of what you personally experience helps broaden your worldview, which contributes to communities where differences in culture are celebrated and not suppressed.

We heard this phrase several times while tabling, “Why would they ban *that* book? It’s such a nice story!” And that’s the heart of the matter. Who is banning these books and why?

Reading and sharing banned books is an act of social justice

anyone can participate in, anywhere, at any time, and at any reading level from picture book to full-length novel.

In a political climate where diversity and inclusivity are under attack, it is more important than ever to do what we can to ensure access to stories that uplift marginalized voices and challenge the status quo. With our new collection of banned and contested books, Silicon Valley JACL hopes to do exactly that.

For more information about joining the Silicon Valley JACL chapter’s Zoom monthly book club, please email svjacobooks@gmail.com.



Chigiri-e display

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REFLECTIONS

BROTHERS IN SILENCE AND STRENGTH: JAPANESE AMERICAN SANSEI VIETNAM VETERANS

By David Miyoshi,
Vietnam Veteran

In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, the Nisei Week Foundation recently awarded its 2025 Inspiration Award to all Japanese American Vietnam War veterans — a first in its history. As a Sansei veteran and former Marine Corps officer, I feel compelled to honor my fellow warriors whose voices, often left in silence, shaped our generation.

Before the War: Camps, Streets and Quiet Defiance

Many of us grew up unaware of our families' internment stories during World War II. My own family, spared incarceration by geography, left me with a different silence, one shaped by empathy for my brothers

whose families were uprooted, humiliated and returned without acknowledgment. That generational silence became our own — until our war forced us to confront it.

In that silence, we sought belonging in the streets: East L.A., Crenshaw, Sawtelle, Westside, Little Tokyo, Gardena. Street clubs like the Devastators, Dominators, Algonquins, Buddha Bandits and Black Juans gave us identity, edge and expression. For some, toughness learned on the streets made the transition to military life natural once the draft came calling.

Inherited Wounds

Internment wasn't just history — it was trauma handed down. Some families resisted, split by betrayal or advised by lawyers to preserve citizenship at all costs. That defiance carried a price: shame, silence,

emotional distance.

Labor and Legacy

After WWII, many Nisei fathers returned to gardening, not just for income, but for restoration of pride. Under that sun, our own identities were shaped.

Youth Culture in Flux

Trench coats, khakis, Sir Guy shirts, French-toe shoes. Our style, our swagger — blending Black, Chicano and Asian influences — was not rebellion alone. It was armor. For many, street club life offered both shield and statement. When arrests came or dropout paths narrowed, military service became the alternative. Or the escape.

Into the Uniform

Enlisting wasn't always about patriotism, it was about survival, purpose and a way forward. Boot camp brought brutality — physical, emotional and racial. Our Asian faces marked us as enemy surrogates before we ever deployed. One episode seared itself into memory: I was ordered to dress in "gook" garb — coolie hat, black pajamas, rifle in hand — as the drill instructor shouted, "When you see this in Nam, you kill it."

Vietnam: First Impressions and Moral Fog

Stepping off the plane, the heat and stench hit hard. Some of us saw bodies before landfall. The

contradictions were vivid: serene locals, drug rituals, cruel beauty and the haze of violence.

Friendships with Vietnamese civilians coexisted with moments of horror — children tricked with booby-trapped candy, elders executed without hesitation.

Drugs, Defiance and Spirit

Marijuana, hash, opium — more than vices, they were escape hatches. Protests in disguise. Spiritual acts of rebellion. Some of us resisted orders, staged stoppages, sank into quiet revolt — echoes of our families' resistance decades prior. As an officer, I had to tread the straight and narrow and enforce reprimand of the violators, but somehow, I knew the cause of their rebellion.

Coming Home: Disoriented and Dismissed

Re-entry meant facing anti-war activists, emotionally distant families and inner collapse. Some of us retreated into garages turned foxholes. Others returned to campus, carrying the contradictions. Honored by few. Judged by many.

Student protestors spoke of peace. But for us? We had earned our voices the hard way. "I earned my voice," said one JA veteran, "by being in the trenches."

Racism and Reality

Discrimination didn't stay in the jungle — it followed us home.

A white girlfriend meant eviction threats in the South. Racist slurs reminded us that Japanese Americans, in some eyes, stood barely above Black Americans. The homecoming wasn't healing.

Education, Mistrust and Rebuilding

Some found success. Others carved out new identities through education, activism or quiet service. But mistrust lingered — of movements that didn't understand us and leaders who inflated body counts for optics.

Still, through resilience, faith and cultural inheritance, the JA Sansei veteran prevailed — channeling the pioneer spirit of our Nisei fathers in WWII. That same spirit earned respect, reshaped perceptions and upheld the honor of our families and our nation. Courage. Loyalty. Commitment. Sacrifice. The pioneering spirit of our forefathers, which forever changed the nation's perception of Japanese Americans, is the legacy that the JA Sansei Vietnam veterans carry forward to enrich posterity.

Congratulations to all Japanese American Vietnam veterans for being awarded the Nisei Week 2025 Inspiration Award. You deserve it.

David Miyoshi was honored recently by the Nisei Week Foundation with its 2025 Pioneer Spirit Award.



LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

WHAT IS DEHYDRATION???

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

You've probably heard that the human body is made up of over 70 percent water. Water is your body's principal chemical component and makes up about 50 percent-70 percent of your body weight. Your body depends on water to survive.

Drinking enough water every day is essential for optimal health. But despite everything we know about how critical water is for our health, statistics show that almost half of American adults do not drink enough water on a daily basis.

According to the Mayo Clinic's website (mayoclinic.org), you lose water every day through your breath, perspiration, urine and bowel movements. Not drinking enough water is the most obvious cause of dehydration. Even mild dehydration can drain your energy and make you tired. Therefore, you must replenish the body's water supply by consuming beverages and foods that contain water.

So, how much water is enough? You've probably heard the conventional wisdom that says eight glasses of water per day is the rule. But everything from your activity and hormone levels to your body weight can affect how much water you actually need.

Keep in mind that certain fluids and water-soluble fruits and vegetables count toward your hydration allowance.

It can be helpful to understand how the body normally works. As humans, we generally need to be drinking fluids every day, and it's good for us to be eating every day as well. It's also totally normal for us to be losing fluid every day. We lose it through urination, sweating and through our bowels. And if we're having runnier or looser stools, we might be losing more of it than we otherwise would.

A normal, healthy, functioning body keeps us hydrated by taking in fluid through what we eat and drink. So, the body is actually designed to go through these shifts

and has sensors to bring things back to the way it should be. When it comes to maintaining your fluid status, your body does have systems to sense low hydration and make adjustments.

Older adults are also especially likely to be at risk of dehydration. This especially happens to older adults because as we age, our compensatory mechanisms, such as getting thirsty when we're dehydrated and concentrating our urine, end up working less well as we get older.

So, why are older adults at risk? According to the Mayo Clinic, aging reduces the sweat response and thirst signals. Older people tend to have more events when the weather is hot because the heat stresses the body and its compensatory systems and can tip people over into acute illness. We see higher death rates among older people, as well as more emergency room visits.

Plus, older adults are especially likely to experience other issues that can often interfere with maintaining hydration. One big cause of this is medications. There are medications out there that tend to cause people to lose fluid or maybe don't make them as thirsty like diuretics, which are often taken for heart failure and other conditions. There is also a more popular type of diabetes medication available now.

Older adults might also be drink-

ing less because they are having urinary concerns. If people have been having some difficulty with leaks, accidents and wetness, part of the way they compensate is to drink less, especially if they're going out. About 7 percent of adults admit to not drinking any water at all.

And during the summer months, hot weather not only increases the risk of dehydration but also of heat stroke. So, during hot weather, take steps to stay cool and avoid heat stress and heat stroke. The outward symptoms of dehydration are fairly obvious, from dry skin and lack of energy to brain fog and muscle cramps. But the effects of chronic dehydration reach all the way down into the cells. Some of the most common signs and symptoms of dehydration include dark urine, bad breath, muscle cramps, fatigue, headaches and low blood pressure.

According to Dr. Leslie Kernisan, board-certified in internal medicine and geriatrics (betterhealthwhileaging.net), try offering an older person more fluids and see if they noticeably perk up within 15 minutes. If they do, you may not need to bring them in to see a doctor. You can just keep them drinking and sort of keep an eye on them because for mild dehydration, the treatment is usually to just take in more fluids orally, if possible.

So, treatment depends on the severity. Mild dehydration is generally treated with oral fluids, but moderate might require IV hydration. If it's severe, it might require even more than that to help the kidneys recover.

"If you suspect dehydration or are seeing symptoms, consider a medical evaluation," said Dr. Kernisan, "especially if you don't see visible improvement once you've given them some extra oral fluids and given it 15, 20 minutes or half an hour to kick in." If you have access to a blood pressure machine, check the blood pressure and pulse if to see how it compares to usual numbers.

However, if the person has been vomiting or experiencing diarrhea for a while and is really weak, you should take them to the doctor (or Urgent Care) for a full health evaluation.

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.

KANSHA CULMINATION 2025

Despite challenges, JACL Chicago's program celebrates intersectional solidarity.

By Amy Do

JACL Chicago's Kansha Project held its 14th annual Culmination Ceremony on June 28 at the Midwest Buddhist Temple. The cohort had two weeks to put together its culmination projects following a trip to Los Angeles' Little Tokyo and Manzanar National Historic Site in the Owens Valley. The projects ranged from written work to visual art, coded maps, posters, walking museums and physical art pieces.

Kansha 2025 was rife with challenges and obstacles caused by actions of the current Trump administration. At Manzanar, cuts to National Parks Service funding meant that the cohort was unable to participate in service projects. Instead, Ranger Sarah Bone and her staff at Manzanar structured an in-depth walking tour centered around primary sources, including former Manzanar Committee Chair Sue Kunitomi Embrey's story.

On the final day, illegal U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids took place mere blocks from Little Tokyo's Miyako hotel, where the cohort was staying.

The next day, local organizers were diverted to detentions that were directly impacting their communities, resulting in the cancellation of planned workshops. Traffic blockades threw a wrench in travel plans and proceeded through Day 3 programming, which became impossible. As a result, Kansha facilitators made the difficult choice to cancel the last day of programming to prioritize the safe return of the participants to Chicago. Despite these challenges, the cohort developed a strong bond, which showed in the content of their projects as well as their demeanor.

Kansha 2025 participants and facilitators with Ranger Sarah Bone under the tea house at Merritt Park, Manzanar National Historic Site

PHOTO: REBECCA JOY OZAKI



Kansha 2025 participants at the Culmination Ceremony at the Midwest Buddhist Temple. Pictured (from left) are Kendall Terashima, Emily Umeda, Benjamin Barlow, Katie Sasamoto Kurisu, Joshua Kazu Matsuura, Christel Melinga Thompson, Sora Seals, Jacqueline Fowler and Darcy Combs. (Not pictured is Kayla Moy.)

PHOTOS: KEVIN MOY



Kansha 2025 participant Sora Seals stands next to her culmination project, a painting titled, “仕方 (Shikata),” a critique of the phrase “仕方がない” (shikataganai).

Participant Sora Seals created an acrylic painting and said that Kansha “. . . was a key moment in me forming my own racial identity and alignment with my own Japanese American identity.” Her artwork showcased artifacts throughout history and dialogue with historical ideas about activism and resistance.

“I am so incredibly grateful to the donors,” said participant Kendall Terashima. “Without donations, I would absolutely have been unable to go on this trip, and without this trip, I would have really . . . probably lived the rest of my life without exploring this side of my identity.”

Participant Jackie Fowler also shared their commitment to giving back, saying, “It’s a community that I’m going to continue to be involved in in the future. This program is a great way to involve future community members. I think investing back into our community is really the best thing we can do to keep these stories alive.”

The culmination concluded with a live Q & A session with the audience and the participants, who reflected deeply on how the trip had been a positive experience. They spoke of growth, joy and resilience in the face of history repeating itself. The community then gathered at Konbini and Kanpai, a Nikkei-owned Wrigleyville restaurant, for a reunion celebration.

At the core of Kansha and all intersectional activism is solidarity and resistance of institutional oppression. The 2025 cohort and the

Kansha community rose to the challenge and found meaning and connection between the past, the present and each other.

The Kansha Culmination and reunion was funded in part by the JACL Legacy Fund Grant. The Kansha Alumni Leadership Board is incredibly grateful to the JACL, community donors and this year’s cohort for continuing to uplift the Kansha Project, a vital program for the Nikkei community in Chicago. The Kansha Project has been an entry point for young leaders to become engaged with the local community.

Approximately 50 percent of program alumni continue on to join the Kansha Alumni Leadership Board, the JACL Chicago Board, the National Youth/Student Council or join a program planning committee for local programs such as Intergenerational Conversations: Ripples of the Past, a multigenerational program that brings together Nikkei across Chicagoland to process the impact and traumas of World War II or Camp Daikon, and a social justice youth retreat planned with local Nikkei abolitionist collective Nikkei Uprising.

Next year, the Kansha Project will celebrate its 15th anniversary. Additionally, Kansha, Too! is currently set to take place for Nikkei-identified individuals 18+ and their families in October 2026, following the grand reopening of the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. Applications for the next Kansha Project will be released in February 2026 for the June 2026 trip. Chicago and midwestern JACL members ages 18-25 are encouraged to apply.

To learn more about the Kansha Project, visit <http://jaclchicago.org/kansha-project>.

REFLECTIONS



COMMEMORATING 80 YEARS SINCE HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI BOMBINGS: OPEN LETTER TO JAPANESE CANADIANS

By Maya Tali

“The children are always ours, every single one of them, all over the globe.”

— James Baldwin

Japanese Canadians are commemorating the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as Gazans today suffer the impact of “six Hiroshimas” (1). The silence from the Japanese Canadian community as the war persists is a disgraceful paradox of the sentiment: “Never Again.”

Growing up as a second-generation, mixed-Japanese/Jewish Canadian, I was horrified by the countless stories of the victims of wars and the ways in which the Second World War impacted my family and communities.

Books, movies and plays such as “Barefoot Gen,” “Sadako” and “Grave of the Fireflies” were mingled in my educational curriculum alongside “The Diary of Anne Frank,” “Boy in the Striped Pyjamas” and “Hana’s Suitcase.”

Moreover, they were graphic: eyeballs dangling from their sockets; melting skin hanging from burnt bodies; rib bones protruding through skin. Piles and piles of bodies. Those images haunt me to this day.

Commemoration events and exhibitions across the country are marking the 80th of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the liberation of Nazi concentration camps.

At the same time, we are witnessing the deliberate starvation, torture and killing of Palestinian people by the state of Israel. As of July 23, 2025, 111 deaths have been reported due to severe malnutrition — at least 80 of them children (2).

Over the past 22 months, the media has reported stories from Gaza, too horrific for the majority of us in Canada to fully comprehend the magnitude of the situation:

People buried and burnt alive, their limbs pulled from under the rubble of their homes.

Children being orphaned by carpet bombings, while they search

deserted streets for supplies for their families.

Mothers too weak and frail, unable to provide milk to their newborns.

These narratives are eerily similar to the aforementioned Japanese stories I heard and read about as a child, myself. Yet, despite glaring similarities between these two wars, Japanese Canadian groups commemorating Hiroshima and Nagasaki have remained hushed about the dire situation in Gaza.

The Japanese elementary school curriculum mandates all children to learn about the atomic bomb; as children of post-war Japanese immigrants, we could not choose to ignore this history. And likewise, as victims of the Holocaust, my Jewish family members instilled the message of peace and coexistence and the irreparable traumas of war experienced by children.

In Canada, Japanese Canadians were ostracized and labelled as enemy aliens, and children lost connection to their cultural heritage and language.

“Never Again” loses all meaning if we choose to ignore modern crimes against humanity while commemorating historic atrocities.

There is no excuse for turning away from our sisters, brothers and children in Gaza as we gather with community to mark the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I implore you to pay attention to the genocide. To speak out against it. To use your money and voting powers in good conscience. And, most importantly, to never allow this suffering to be normalized.

References

1. <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/news/archive/2025/gaza-bombing-equivalent-to-six-hiroshimas-says-bradford-world-affairs-expert.php>
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/acb6116e-18cb-4af4-9eee-1c005869ef70>

Maya Tali is a Nisei Japanese/Jewish Canadian with a passion for environmental and social justice.

NISEI WEEK'S FANTASTIC FOUR

Foundation's Pioneer Spirit Award luncheon offers kansha.

By George Toshio Johnston,
P.C. Senior Editor

The 83rd Nisei Week Japanese Festival was all about the coronation on Aug. 9 of the 2025 Nisei Week queen and her court.

By Aug. 13, that newly coronated cohort — Queen Kimi Look, First Princess Megan Ayumi Miyamoto, Miss Tomodachi Mika Fumiyo Megumi Dyo and Princesses Samantha Kimiyo Cirelli, Emma Yasuko Shojinaga Fukunaga, Casey Mariko Kuramoto and Mia Miyoko Takatsuka — were putting their grace and charm to work by performing one of the first official duties of their 12 months of service, helping out Nisei Week as it turned its attention toward recognizing four deserving Japanese American community members.

With members of the Nisei Week court serving as escorts, those four — Miya Iwataki (nominated by the Little Tokyo Historical Society), Gene Kanamori (nominated by Keiro), Katsuyoshi Miyazato (nominated by the Nanka Fukuoka Kenjinkai) and David Miyoshi (nominated by the Orange County Nikkei Coordinating Council) — were honored at the Nisei Week Pioneer Spirit Awards luncheon.

The venue was the cozy Toshizo Watanabe Culinary Cultural Center, well-lit thanks to the bright summer sunshine entering via the adjacent James Irvine Japanese Garden. As Pioneer Committee Chair Joyce Nakashima noted, each in the quartet was “an individual that is a dedicated, long-standing community volunteer and who is a leader in our community.”

Last year, when seven women were honored,

David Miyoshi gives a thumbs up at the Nisei Week Pioneer Spirit Award luncheon.



(From left) Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, Miya Iwataki and Helen Ota



(From left) Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, Kats Miyazato, Helen Ota and Kimi Look



Gene Kanamori speaks on behalf of his Pioneer Spirit Award cohort.



Japan Consul General for Los Angeles Kenko Sone quipped that maybe in 2025 there would be one male who might receive an award (see Sept. 6, 2024, *Pacific Citizen*, [tinyclub.com/yctndtde9](https://www.pacificcitizen.com/tinyclub/2024/09/06/kenko-sone)).

Kosei Murota, who literally arrived from Tokyo a day earlier, was able to see his predecessor's wish come true as the smaller 2025 group actually skewed male, with only Iwataki as this year's distaff honoree.

Murota displayed his own sense of humor when he said, “If you find any inappropriate remarks, it's due to jet lag.” Waxing a bit more serious, he related how in 2007, he had been assigned to serve in Washington, D.C., at the Japan Embassy as its first secretary under then-Ambassador Ryoza Kato, who he described as “my hero.”

“I rather boastfully talked about my experiences with the Security Treaty North Korea and China,” Murota said. He recalled that Kato said, “It's OK you do this, but you don't know, there is a big, big missing piece in the postwar history of U.S.-Japan relationship. That is Japanese Americans.

“Japanese people don't know much about the history of Japanese Americans. And isn't it sad ... that Japanese Americans don't wholeheartedly love the country of their ancestors? So, what we should do is to build that missing piece.”

Murota promised Kato he would work on that — but said he was pulled away to focus on those security issues. Now, however, with his current assignment, he can finally fulfill his promise to Kato. He also credited his Japan Consulate colleague, Consul Aya Ishii, for letting him know that the Nisei Week Pioneer Spirit Award luncheon would be his first opportunity to do so.

In closing, Murota said, “I extend my heartfelt congratulations to 2025 pioneers and your families and wish you continued great success.”

Serving as the luncheon's mistress of ceremonies was 2025 Nisei Week Foundation President Helen Ota, who acknowledged the presence of Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, who presented certificates of recognition to the awardees.

Ota also gave shout-outs to Nakashima and

committee members Joann Shin Cordeiro, David Yamahata, Nolan Maehara, Sandy Sakamoto, Keith Inatomi, Jerry Fukui and Lindsey Sugimoto, who was absent, having just given birth to a baby girl; Don Tahara, whose Far Bar prepared the bento lunches; and from Japan Airlines, Southwestern Region U.S.A. VP and Regional Manager Linus Lee and Global Sales Director Yukie Morinaga. Later in the program, Ota also acknowledged Alan Miyatake of Toyo Miyatake Studios, Sarah Fukui of Fukui Mortuary and Sapporo Ichiban, which provided each place setting with a multipack of its instant ramen.

“This year, we selected four individuals, which made it very difficult for us to narrow down our honorees because we had so many deserving applicants,” Ota said. “But these individuals that we are honoring today have really shined, exemplifying the true meaning of the pioneering spirit in the Japanese and/or Japanese American community throughout Southern California”

Kanamori spoke on behalf of his fellow honorees. “On behalf of myself, Katsuyoshi, David and Miya, we want to thank all of our family and friends who have come out today to support and celebrate with us. ... We're not done yet. We will continue our work, helping people, helping our community, and we're always going to support the Nisei Week foundation. So, thank you again, on behalf of all of us.”

Table displaying County of Los Angeles certificates and Nisei Week Pioneer Spirit Awards



PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON



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After the Aug. 6 ceremony, atomic bomb survivor Junji Sarashina stops to pray for the victims and say goodbye to his beloved wife, Kiyoko Sarashina, whose name was added to the cenotaph at this year's ceremony.

PEACE BEGINS WITH US

It's been 80 years since humanity turned against itself, but with hope and resilience, the world must learn to do better.



A mother and her son look at a large mural on Aug. 12 showing the destruction of the Genbaku Dome and the surrounding area after the bombing in Hiroshima.

PHOTOS: DARRELL MIHO

By Darrell Miho,
P.C. Contributor

It has been 80 years since atomic bombs were detonated in Japan over Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Eighty years since humanity turned against itself. In those 80 years, leaders of the most-advanced countries have learned nothing about how to live in peace. Nuclear weapons are now up to 250 times more powerful than the bomb that was used in Hiroshima. With more than 12,000 nuclear warheads worldwide, humanity is just a push-of-a-button away from the end of the world as we know it.

On Aug. 6, more than 40,000 people descended upon Hiroshima Peace Park for the annual Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony. One of those in attendance was Junji Sarashina, a Lahaina-born *hibakusha* (bomb-affected person), now living in Buena Park, Calif., who moved to Hiroshima with his family when he was 8 years old.

Sarashina-san was 16 years old and 1.5 miles from the hypocenter when the atomic bomb, named the “Little Boy,” unleashed the force of 16 kilotons over Hiroshima at 8:15 a.m. Ironically, he was working in a factory building artillery shells for the Japanese war efforts. He was knocked unconscious by the blast, but luckily, he did not sustain any major injuries.

He attended this year's ceremony as a guest of the city of Hiroshima, along with his son, James, and his granddaughter, Emily. James was there to represent his mother, Kiyoko Sarashina, who was also a *hibakusha*, who unfortunately was tragically killed in a car accident two years ago. They all shared tears

as they remembered her — wife, mother and grandmother.

Sarashina-san has mixed emotions about being in Hiroshima for the 80th annual ceremony. While he enjoyed returning to the city where he spent his childhood, the painful memories of that fateful day are seared into his memory. As Junji Sarashina talked about his experience, he retold his story with such clarity — as if it happened yesterday.

“What I've seen is something unimaginable,” he recalled. “The tremendous explosion, buildings collapsing, the bright glows of rays and heat. The whole city is burning.



Emily and James (standing) and Junji Sarashina pose for a photo after the ceremony with the Cenotaph and Genbaku Dome in the background on Aug. 6 in Hiroshima, Japan.

The only thing you can see is the flame and smoke — smoke so thick that you can hardly see the city itself. When I tried to go into the city, that's when I saw many victims, burned people, no face, no hair, no clothes, skin burned, bleeding, wounded, some of them wandering aimlessly.”

As president of the American Society of Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Survivors, Sarashina-san has told his story countless times over the years to students, adults, church groups and many others to remind people of what he calls “the living hell” that he lived through.

After the ceremony, we all sat together in a coffee shop and talked about how Sarashina's story is different from most other *hibakusha*'s stories. He is a U.S. citizen, he survived the atomic bomb and he served in the Korean War in the Military Intelligence Service. Emily reminded us of the strength and resiliency her grandfather has, yet, Japanese American *hibakusha* stories have received little recognition.

We need to honor the *hibakusha* the same way we honor the 442nd/100th. We need to remember their stories the same way we remember the incarceration of people of Japanese ancestry during World War II. There will come a time when there will be no more *hibakusha* left to share their stories, and that time is coming soon. The average age of *hibakusha* is 86. ASA only has one member left who shares his story regularly, and he recently told me he is ready to retire.

The stories themselves are powerful reminders of the destructive force nuclear weapons have on not just the land but also on people's lives. When Sarashina-san

recounted his story, he talked about wandering the streets of Hiroshima for three days because he was unable to go home due to all of the debris that blocked the roads and train tracks.

One of the vivid memories he talked about is how he saw a black ball, a child, curled up on the ground, cradled by the mother. The child was burned so bad, he doesn't even know if it was a boy or a girl. He saw 5,000-6,000 dead bodies. No 16 year old should witness such horrible sights, but Sarashina-san did. He tells his story again and again, not because he wants to remember those horrific days, he tells them so that we never forget.

Any visit to Hiroshima should include two places, Miyajima, designated by the Japanese government as one of the three most beautiful places in Japan, and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, a stark reminder of the devastation that destroyed a city and the lives of the people who lived there. The two places are polar opposites of beauty and destruction.

The museum underwent a major revision of its exhibition area and reopened in 2019. There are many new photographs, murals, artifacts from the destruction and artwork created by the survivors, but most importantly, there are more displays of personal belongings accompanied by stories of the deceased. Visitors learn about the people of Hiroshima.

The day I visited the museum, five days after the ceremony, the line outside was long, and the museum was packed, but inside there was almost utter silence. The only sound one heard was shuffling feet and snuffles from



焼け跡に立つ少女(資料館本館入口の写真)
1945年(昭和20年)8月9日 原子爆弾投下直後 撮影: 藤井幸子さん
A girl standing in the burned ruins
August 9, 1945. Photo by Yukiko Fujii. Courtesy of The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

当時10歳だった少女は、爆心地から約1,200メートルの自宅で焼死しました。1階で暮らしていた食堂の長椅子に座っていた時、開け放った扉から射し込む強烈な熱線を身体の右側から浴び、爆風で飛び散ったガラス片で負傷しました。火災の直前に避難した家から家族と共に脱出し、比治山に避難しましたが、直接熱線が当たった右手に重い火傷を負い、終戦直後にくっついた指を切り離す手術を受けました。やがて少女は成長し、結婚後2人の子どもを育てながら幸せに暮らしますが、30代になり、がんに侵されました。広島原爆病院で手術を受け、持ち直しましたが、がんの転移により体調不良が続くようになり再入院して、1977年(昭和52年)に42歳で亡くなりました。



新島瓦の店で二十歳の時の藤井幸子さん
1955年(昭和30年)7月1日 撮影: 藤井幸子さん
Yukiko Fujii at the age of 20, in front of her workplace
July 1, 1955. Shimizu-ya. Courtesy of Yukiko Fujii

This 10-year old girl was exposed to the atomic bombing at home located roughly 1,200 meters from the hypocenter. At the time of the bombing, she was sitting on a bench on the first floor in the diner, which was run by her family. She was exposed to the intense heat of the flash piecing through the open window from the right. She was injured by glass fragments shattered and blown by the blast. She managed to escape with her family members from under the collapsed house just before the fire broke out and fled to Hujiyama Hill. Directly burned by the intense heat, she suffered severe burns to her right hand; her fused fingers were surgically separated after the war. The girl grew up, got married, had two children, and was living happily. Then, she developed cancer in her thirties. She made a brief recovery after an operation at the Hiroshima Atomic-bomb Survivors Hospital, but the cancer had spread, afflicting her with physical disorders. She was readmitted to the hospital but died in 1977 at the age of 42.

One of the displays in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum shows two photos of Yukiko Fujii. One was taken on Aug. 9, 1945, shortly after the bombing, and the other is 10 years later on July 1, 1955.



Hundreds of people release lanterns along the riverbank of the Motoyasu River to pray for peace and honor the victims and survivors of the atomic bombs.

as time has passed, they have learned that it is more important to live in peace rather than hold a grudge. They chose forgiveness over vengeance. Peace over anger. Their hope is that no one ever has to experience the “living hell” they went through.

We all want peace in the world. We all want peace in our lives. It all begins with peace in our hearts. The bombs may have ended the war, but 80 years later, the silent battles the *hibakusha* face and their outward fight for the abolishment of all nuclear weapons continues to this day.

It is now our responsibility to carry on their fight for world peace. We must continue to share their stories for the same reason that Sarashina-san does, so that future generations never forget. Peace begins with us.

those overcome with emotion. Children and adults were all respectfully quiet as they absorbed the sorrow of the stories and exhibit.

It's an emotional experience learning about the lives of the people who were affected. It's a major shift from the previous exhibit, which focused on the physical destruction of the city. The current exhibit, with more personal belongings and stories, will create a stronger connection with visitors and, as a result, bring more awareness about the devastating affects that nuclear weapons have on people's lives.

As one of ASA's directors and someone who has met with more than 400 *hibakusha* around the world, I have heard countless

stories from survivors, who mostly declined to be interviewed on camera, yet still took the time to tell me about their experience.

Stories of hardship, loss and overcoming tremendous odds and having to do things that no child should have to do, like being tasked with cremating bodies. I made a promise to them that I would continue to tell their stories so that we never forget their pain and suffering and continue their fight for a world free of nuclear weapons.

If there is one thing that we can learn from the *hibakusha*, it's forgiveness. Despite surviving one of the most heinous crimes against humanity, none of them hate America, not that they never did, but over the years



After the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony, thousands of people line up to pay their respects at the Cenotaph, where the names of those who are deceased are placed.

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Bon odori commences with Tamiko Ooka on taiko.

SEABROOK OBON CELEBRATES 80TH ANNIVERSARY

The annual festival highlights its meaningful purpose — it's all about community, legacy, culture and resilience.



Former JACL EDC Governor and Seabrook Chapter President Michael Asada



Soh Daiko's Tamiko Ooka (left) and Hoh Daiko's Louise Ogata



Shotokan Karate Academy's Sensei Ray Owens leads a martial arts demonstration.

PHOTOS: ROB BUSCHER

By Rob Buscher,
P.C. Contributor

A diverse crowd of more than a thousand gathered to celebrate the 80th annual Obon at Seabrook Buddhist Temple in rural Bridgeton, N.J., on July 19. Located about 40 miles south of Philadelphia near the former grounds of Seabrook Farms, once the largest single employer of Japanese Americans leaving camp during the postwar resettlement, the current temple was built in 1969. Prior to then, the Buddhist congregation met at a different building in the Seabrook company housing complex known as Hoover Village. Obon has been celebrated at Seabrook in some format since 1945, with the Bon Odori festival happening annually since 1949.

The 80th annual festival was dedicated to the memory of Seabrook Temple's members and community supporters. As the program brochure explained, "This is to maintain the mindful training of venerating those to whom we owe a lifelong debt of gratitude. The focal point however, is the knowledge that everything we are is surely due to the many known and unknown conditions that have molded us since time began. People of the past have sacrificed so that life would be better for us and we must never forget that . . . just as we want to leave this world a better place for our having been here."

Highlights of the festival included a book talk by "The Spinach King" author John M. Seabrook Jr., the grandson of Charles F. Seabrook, who is sometimes credited as the Henry Ford of agriculture for his production line advances in the process of canning and shipping frozen vegetables. The younger Seabrook is an accomplished writer and journalist whose most recent book chronicles the rise and fall of his family's business empire. Other presentations included an introduction to Buddhism delivered by the temple's supervising minister, Rev. Kurt Rye, and a martial arts demonstration by Shotokan

Karate Academy. The festival also featured retail vendors, crafting stations for children and food trucks.

Following the opening procession, which was led by members of Seabrook Temple's Hoh Daiko, a children's choir from the Upper Deerfield Township Schools sang the national anthem. After the first round of bon odori, which consisted of 12 songs, Hoh Daiko opened the taiko performances and was followed by Nen Daiko of the Ekoji Buddhist Temple in Fairfax Station, Va. The taiko showcase closed with Soh Daiko Drummers of the New York Buddhist Church and was followed by a second round of bon odori. The festival ended with a brief memorial service led by Rev. Rye in the temple's meditation garden, where attendees were able to light lanterns in commemoration of their lost loved ones.

The main attraction, of course, was the bon odori led by Seabrook Minyo Dancers, the local troupe who practices out of the temple. Established in 1975 by longtime JACLer Sunako Oye, the Minyo group is currently led by JACL Seabrook Chapter President Stefanie Pierce, who also serves as treasurer of the JACL Eastern District Council. Asked for her impressions of the 80th anniversary festival, Pierce shared, "Since Covid hit, it's been down, and so we're doing everything we can to get people to come back, but it's tough. We're still trying to climb back from Covid. It used to be more of a family reunion."

Although many of the familiar faces were missing, a few people living outside the area did return for the event, including former EDC Gov. Michael Asada. General attendance by local residents of South Jersey outside of the Japanese American community also appeared to be higher than past years since the pandemic ended. Asked if there was anything particularly exciting about this year's Obon, Pierce shared some of the new dances that Philadelphia-based KyoDaiko member Tamiko Laincz brought back with her from a recent trip to Japan. Pierce elaborated, "She keeps bringing

➤ us back new dances, and so we're trying to bring them in. Some of the older ladies are very traditional, and they're like, 'They're too fast,' but we've got a couple that we're all excited about."

Among the new dances at the 2025 Obon were Shiawase Samba, Bling Bang Bang Born and Pokemon Ondo, which drew many of the younger attendees into the circle. In the weeks before the festival, Seabrook Minyo hosted several dance practice sessions at the temple. They also used digital technology to help attract a wider audience. Pierce explained, "We streamed them on Facebook Live. We're trying to get into the age, you know, social media and all that."

Sensei Ray Owens of Shotokan Japanese Karate Academy and current leader of Seabrook Temple's own taiko troupe Hoh Daiko shared some of his thoughts on this year's celebration. "I think the temple is doing really well. Eighty years is great, and I hope I'm here for the 100th." Owens has been involved in the Obon for 20 years already.

Louise Ogata is another member of Hoh Daiko whose parents worked at Seabrook Farms. Having grown up in the area, Ogata returned after college and began teaching at the same elementary school she attended, Charles Seabrook School in Upper Deerfield. As one of the founding members of Hoh Daiko, Ogata reminisced about the importance of taiko at the festival.

"I remember the first time that Soh Daiko came from New York, the first group [on the East Coast]. I was just blown away by Soh. I thought, 'Wow, that's what I want to do!' At the time I was dancing. I thought, 'I like dancing, but I think I like the drumming better.' It would take over 10 years before we finally started our own," she said. Ogata was among the founding members of Hoh Daiko, which formed in 1991.



Another founding member of Hoh Daiko was also present at this year's Obon, Tamiko Ooka, who now leads New York Buddhist Church's Soh Daiko. Ooka's family has a longstanding connection to both Seabrook Farms and its Buddhist Sangha, as her grandfather, Kikuo Ooka, used his carpentry skills to help build the temple. Ooka reflected on her memories of Obon past: "As a child, Obon was a time of joy, wearing my yukata, dancing for my relatives who had passed and enjoying good Japanese food. In junior high through college, I found my passion for taiko and saw Obon as a time to drum in remembrance and connect with my taiko community."

A recent member of the Japanese American Leadership Delegation organized by the U.S.-Japan Council, Ooka shared how her impressions of the event have evolved. "I've come to see the Seabrook Obon Festival as something even deeper: It's about community, legacy, culture and resilience. This 80th anniversary of the Seabrook Obon Festival made me reflect on what it must have been like for those who celebrated the first Obon here after WWII, many just arriving from internment camps, forced to rebuild their lives again. It's remarkable that they

created a community and preserved this meaningful tradition. Seeing their children and grandchildren now leading the way is incredibly moving. In a remote area like Seabrook, continuing to share and celebrate Japanese and Japanese American culture is more important than ever."

Rev. Kurt Rye also offered some thoughts on the significance of Seabrook. "I always talk about Seabrook because of the Japanese American history, and the Buddhist history is so unusual to this temple," he said. "The people in California are really, truly amazed by it." As one of only three temples associated with the Buddhist Churches of America on the East Coast, Seabrook has been an important bastion for Jodo Shinshu since the postwar era.

With fewer Japanese Americans living in the region, however, the future of the congregation is uncertain. Rev. Rye continued, "We're so

grateful that the people in the past set it up for us to be able to be here today. I think that's part of the drive with people wanting the temple to continue because the numbers are decreasing, that's not any secret. But people feel very strongly because it's not like there's another Buddhist temple around. If this temple closed, not only that part of Buddhist history but also Japanese American history could be lost."

Seabrook Obon has certainly changed over the years when more of the camp survivors and descendants would return to the region, almost like a pilgrimage. In order for the temple to continue, new audiences and congregants must form their own relationship with Buddhism.

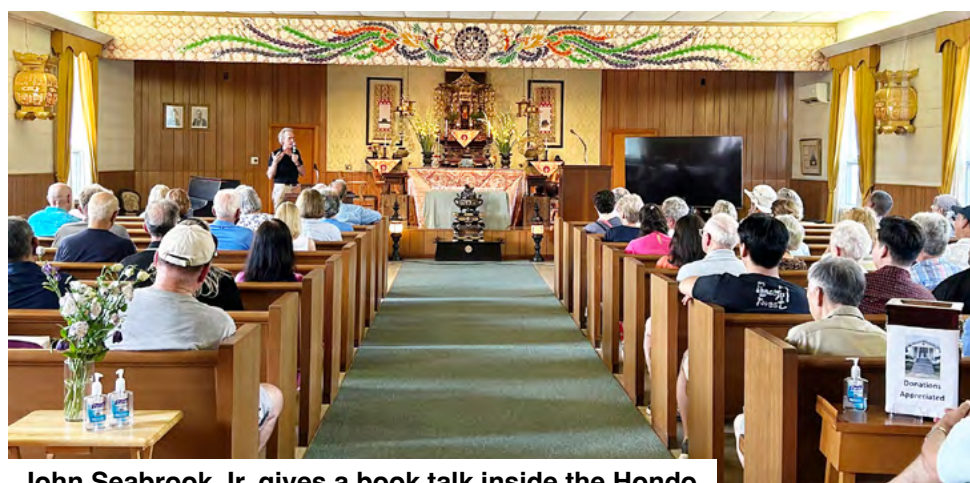
Tamiko Ooka reflects on some of the changes that have allowed this Obon to remain relevant despite the dwindling population of Japanese Americans in Cumberland County.

"While there are some noticeable changes since I was a child such as new faces, new bon odori songs and new food offerings, it's heartening to see so many new people stepping up to support the event and carry the torch forward," she said. "It's also reassuring to know that the greater community understands the importance of preserving this tradition. I believe those who have passed on would be smiling, knowing that their efforts continue to live on through us."

Thankfully, based on the warm reception that this year's Obon received from not only current members of the Sangha but also the broader community in South Jersey, the Seabrook Temple and its Obon seem likely to continue for many years to come. ■



The Seabrook Buddhist Temple



John Seabrook Jr. gives a book talk inside the Hondo.

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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

NCWNP

'Ruth Asawa: Retrospective' Exhibit
San Francisco, CA
Thru Sept. 2

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
151 Third St.

Price: Museum Admission

Discover Ruth Asawa's extraordinary experimental vision and how San Francisco became the center of her creative universe in the most expansive exhibition of the artist's work to date.

Info: Visit <https://www.sfmoma.org/exhibition/ruth-asawa-retrospective/>.

'Topaz Stories: Children Behind Barbed Wire' Exhibit

San Jose, CA

Thru Nov. 2

Japanese American Museum at San Jose

535 N. Fifth St.

Price: Museum Admission

This exhibit features 30 stories primarily about children and teens in the Topaz, Utah, incarceration camp.

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

New Japanese Clay

San Francisco, CA

Thru Feb. 2, 2026

Asian Art Museum

200 Larkin St.

Price: Museum Admission

The world of contemporary Japanese ceramics is brimming with approaches to the medium of clay. This exhibit showcases your idea of what is possible in this time-honored form.

Info: Visit <https://exhibitions.asianart.org/exhibitions/new-japanese-clay/>.

PSW

8th Annual Keiro No Hi Festival

Los Angeles, CA

Sept. 13; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Price: Free for Attendees 60+; \$20 for Attendees 59 and under; Registration Required.

This festival will feature live entertainment with performances by local older adults, food, vendors and much more. Registration is required before Aug. 22 or capacity is reached.

Info: Email events@keiro.org.

JANM's Nikkei Children's Book Festival

Los Angeles, CA

Sept. 20; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Daniel K. Inouye National Center for the Preservation of Democracy
100 N. Central Ave.

Price: \$10 General Admission

During the festival, readers of all ages can celebrate the breadth and diversity of children's literature across the JA community. The festival will also be full of author storytimes for kids, Q & A's for adults, activities for all ages and a special pop-up bookstore from the JANM Store. The festival is sponsored by the Port of Long Beach.

Info: Visit www.janm.org/OnTheGo.

'Cruising J-Town: Behind the Wheel of the Nikkei Community' Exhibit

Pasadena, CA

Thru Nov. 12

ArtCenter College of Design

1111 S. Arroyo Pkwy.

This exhibit chronicles the people and stories behind how Japanese Americans have played vital roles in car scenes throughout the region. Generations of Nikkei have steered their family stories via their relationship to car culture. Presented by JANM on the Go.

Info: Visit <https://www.janm.org/exhibits/cruising-j-town>.

2025 VJCC Golf Tournament

Whittier, CA

Sept. 22

Candlewood Country Club
14000 Telegraph Road

Price: \$200

This year's tournament will be a handicapped four-person team scramble format, with the shotgun start at 9 a.m., followed by an awards and buffet lunch at 2 p.m. Registration deadline is Sept. 12. All proceeds will benefit the VJCC Building Fund.

Info: Email golf@vjcc.com or call (310) 822-8885.

RAP Arts and Crafts Fair

Los Angeles, CA

Sept. 27; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Venice Japanese Community Center
12448 Braddock Dr.

Price: Free

Don't miss your opportunity to get a jump-start on holiday shopping with this craft fair that will feature plenty of unique craft items and much more!

Info: Interested in becoming a vendor, contact lola.hongo@gmail.com, sluyeda83@gmail.com or shar6416@aol.com.

Mochi Ice Cream Social & Midautumn Moon Festival Celebration
San Diego, CA

Oct. 4; 2-5 p.m.

Chuang Garden

404 Third Ave.

Price: \$15 Per Person; Space Is Limited

The SDCHM Young Professionals Advisory Council and the San Diego JACL invite you to this fall celebration that will feature mooncakes, boba and mochi ice cream and much more!

Info: To register, visit <https://sdchm.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/sdchm/eventRegistration.jsp?event=37931&>.

Monster Maker With Debbi Michiko Florence and Mark Nagata

Los Angeles, CA

Nov. 15; 2-3:30 p.m.

Daniel K. Inouye National Center for the Preservation of Democracy
100 N. Central Ave.

Price: \$5 General Admission

Author Debbi Michiko Florence and artist Mark Nagata come together here for a special reading of Florence's new book "Monster Maker: The Strange Creatures of Mark Nagata." A conversation with the two follows the reading, moderated by JANM's Director of Retail Enterprise Maria Kwong.

Info: For tickets, visit www.janm.org/events.

PNW

'Sadako and Paper Cranes: Through Our Eyes'

Portland, OR

Thru Sept. 7

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

In observance of 80 years since the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, this exhibit examines the devastation of nuclear war through the eyes of Sadako Sasaki.

Info: For information, visit <https://jamo.org/sadako/>.

'Natural Patterns: Katazome Stencil Dying'

Portland, OR

Thru Sept. 15

Portland Japanese Garden
The Calvin and Mayho Tanabe Gallery
611 S.W. Kingston Ave.

Price: \$22.50 Admission

Katazome is a method of using paper stencils and resist paste to dye fabrics. This exhibit will feature the work of local Oregon artist Karen Illman Miller, who has practiced *katazome* for the past 30 years.

Info: Visit www.japanesegarden.org.

MDC

Intergenerational Conversations: 'Ripples of the Past' Program

Chicago, IL

Aug. 30; 3:30-6:30 p.m.

Midwest Buddhist Temple

435 W. Menomonee St.

Price: Free

This program from the JACL Chicago chapter brings Chicago-area Nikkei together to connect and process the trauma of WWII through personal story sharing.

Info: RSVP by Aug. 16. Visit <https://jaclchicago.org/programs/intergenerational-conversations/>.

Ground Blessing for Snow Country Prison Memorial and Pilgrimage to Bismarck

Bismarck, ND

Sept. 5

Courtyard of the Historic Barrack Building

This pilgrimage to Bismarck will celebrate the completion of the Snow Country Prison Japanese American Internment Memorial. Activities include a Native American ground blessing of the site, an honoring of those interned there during WWII and education programs and cultural performances.

Info: To learn more, visit <https://uttc.edu/about-uttc/visit-our-campus/snow-country-prison-memorial-at-bismarck/>.

2025 Crystal City Pilgrimage and Conference

San Antonio, TX

Oct. 9-12

Conference Portion: DoubleTree
San Antonio Airport Hotel

611 N.W. Loop 410

Price: \$395

Themed "Crystal City Rising — Neighbors Not Enemies," event programming will be centered around the present-day attacks on immigrant communities. Participants will also have the opportunity to stamp the Ireicho book.

Info: Visit www.crystalcitypilgrimage.org/2025-pilgrimage.

IDC

Colorado Dragon Boat Festival 25th Anniversary

Denver, CO

Sept. 6-7

Sloan's Lake Park

Price: Free

Don't miss this special anniversary event honoring the Year of the Wood Snake. The weekend promises races, food vendors, cultural performances and activities for the entire family.

Info: Visit www.cdbf.org.

EDC

'Yakyu/Baseball: The Transpacific Exchange of the Game'

Cooperstown, NY

Now Open

Baseball Hall of Fame

25 Main St.

Price: Museum Admission

This exhibit explores the exchange of baseball between Japan and the U.S.

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

Think!Chinatown Summer Events
Chinatown Night Market

Manhattan, NY

Aug. 30

Manhattan's Chinatown

Price: Free

Think!Chinatown's Night Market is here to build community with food and friends.

Info: Visit www.thinkchinatown.org.

Celebrating Sano Gofu: 50th Anniversary of Sho-Fu-An

Duxbury, MA

Thru August

Art Complex Museum

189 Alden St.

Price: Museum Admission

This exhibit displays the paintings, sketches and architectural plans of Sano Gofu.

Info: Visit artcomplex.org.

Japanese Celebration: Boxton Red Sox vs. Detroit Tigers

Boston, MA

Sept. 26; 7:10 p.m.

Ticketholders with special event tickets will receive a Japan-inspired hat.

Info: Visit www.mlb.com/redsox.

Ireicho Tour: New York Stop
New York, NY

Oct. 20-21

Japan Society

333 E. 47th St.

Price: Free

Don't miss this opportunity to stamp the Ireicho Book of Names.

Info: To request to stamp the Ireicho Book of Names, fill out the following form at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJyNOXCkIhv5P-bOYhFnLkXCxNSMMFtCxo2hiVHEI-GH2D004Q/viewform?pli=1>.

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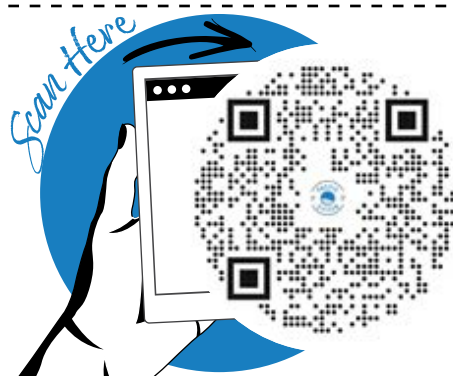
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In MEMORIAM

(Editor's Note: Boldfaced names in blue in the PDF version of this page are active hyperlinks to published obituaries for the decedent.)

Arai, Ben Masanobu, 87, New York, NY, May 21.



Asato, Toshio, 85, Honolulu, HI, April 29.

Ashida, Ronald Hiroshi, 79, Fowler, CA April 14.



Baba, Franklin Shigenobu, 91, Turlock, CA, June 3.

Doi, Akira Steven, 96, Honolulu, HI, May 2.

Fukushima, Glenn Mitsuo, 59, Las Vegas, NV, April 29.

Hannigan, Kiyoshi John, 74, Las Vegas, NV, June 2.



Kaihara Jr., Henry Hiroshi, 92, Lakewood, WA, July 13.



Shibata, Victor Shozo, 82, Sacramento, CA, July 22.

Shimomura, Yoneo, 101, Chicago, IL, June 7; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center.



Kawahata Jr., Harry Masato, 87, Sacramento, CA, May 1.



Shirahama, Hideko, 100, Chicago, IL, Aug. 4.



Kimura, Teresa Sachiko, 72, Morton Grove, IL, Aug. 7.



Sueoka, George Haruo, 94, San Jose, CA, Aug. 4.

Suyenaga, Umeko M., 90, Roseville, CA, Feb. 10.

Kitagawa, Janice Sachiko, 80, La Palma, CA, June 26.



Tamaki, Martha Kimie, 96, Tacoma, WA, July 8.



Lim, Barbara Lyn (Uyeda), 75, Sacramento, CA, April 6.

Tamaye, Jarrett Akira, 47, San Francisco, CA, July 7.

Nishina, Fusae, 94, Los Angeles, CA, July 3.

Utsunomiya, San, 95, Oak Park, IL, Aug. 3.

Petties, Chiyoko, 91, Tacoma, WA, May 2.

Yamaga, Lucky Shoso, 97, Costa Mesa, CA, April 30.

News Briefs

Kimi Look Crowned 2025 Nisei Week Queen; Members of Court Named

Gardena Evening Optimist Club-sponsored Nisei Week queen candidate Kimi Look, 25, was crowned the 2025-26 Nisei Week queen at the 83rd annual Nisei Week Coronation and Awards Celebration, held Aug. 9 at Little Tokyo's Aratani Theatre. Megan Ayumi Miyamoto (San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center) was crowned first princess, and Mika Fumiyo Megumi Dyo (Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute) was named Miss Tomodachi. Rounding out the court were princesses Samantha Kimiyo Cirelli (Venice Japanese Community Center and Venice-West Los Angeles JACL), Emma Yasuko Shojinaga Fukunaga (Japanese Restaurant Association of America), Casey Mariko Kuramoto (Orange County Nikkei Coordinating Council) and Mia Miyoko Takatsuka (East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center).

Japan's Youth Baseball Delegation Sweeps at Torrance Friendship Games

With Toru Ohtani, father of baseball superstar Shohei Ohtani, serving as one of the coaches, 20 young baseballers from Japan participated in the inaugural Torrance Friendship Games, a "weeklong cultural celebration of international friendship, youth athletics, and economic collaboration" that included games played Aug. 8-10. The event was done in collaboration with Torrance-based youth baseball organization 310 Baseball. The Japanese delegation won all six baseball games.

PM Ishiba Expresses 'Remorse' on 80th Anniversary of Japan's WWII Defeat

On the 80th anniversary of its surrender announcement that paved the way to the Sept. 2, 1945, formal end to World War II, Japan on Aug. 15 commemorated the event and recognized its more than 3 million war dead, with Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba expressing "remorse" and calling the war a mistake. ¶ Meantime, a day after President Trump hosted Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the leaders of several European nations and NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte to discuss how to advance negotiations between Ukraine and Russia, Ishiba said, without giving specifics, Japan is considering how it can help provide security guarantees to Ukraine amid Russian aggression within constitutional constraints on its military beyond the self-defense of its borders. His remarks came after Rutte stated that Japan, along with Australia, was among a coalition of 30 nations working to support Ukraine after Russia's February 2022 invasion.

Prison for Chinese Man in U.S. Illegally for Exporting Weapons to N.K.

The Department of Justice sentenced Shenghua Wen, 42, of Ontario, Calif., to eight years in federal prison Aug. 18 for "illegally exporting firearms, ammunition and other military items to North Korea." The citizen of the People's Republic of China has been in the U.S. illegally since December 2013. He pleaded guilty June 9 to one count of conspiracy to violate the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and one count of acting as an illegal agent of a foreign government. ¶ The DOJ announced that Chinese national Li Liu, 27, aka Qiunan Li and Xiaoying Zhao, of Los Angeles, was sentenced Aug. 14 to 28 months in federal prison for "laundering approximately \$3.5 million in money stolen from victims of investment scams." Co-defendant Shuai Lyu, 28, a Chinese national here illegally, pleaded guilty June 4 to one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering and faces up to 20 years in federal prison at his Sept. 4 sentencing. ¶ The DOJ announced Aug. 11 that Mary Ann Magdamit, 31, of Carson, Calif. — a dual citizen of the U.S. and the Philippines — pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud after being accused of stealing checks, and debit and credit cards from the mail and selling them to accomplices. The former USPS employee, who was based at the main post office in Torrance, Calif., faces up to 30 years in federal prison. ¶ Jeffrey Ying, 38, of Fremont, Calif., is facing up to 10 years in federal prison after being charged Aug. 7 with theft of major artwork. Using aliases, including Alan Fujimori, Ying allegedly stole approximately \$216,000 worth of rare and historical Chinese manuscripts from the UCLA East Asian Library and UCLA Library Special Collections. He was arrested Aug. 5 before an alleged attempt to flee to China. ¶ Abraham Yongduk Park, 67, of La Mirada, Calif., was sentenced Aug. 7 to 46 months in prison and ordered to pay \$6.9 million in restitution and \$535,041 in forfeiture for his role in defrauding the Small Business Administration of millions of dollars in loans through the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program. According to court documents, Park had submitted more than 120 fraudulent applications for loans.

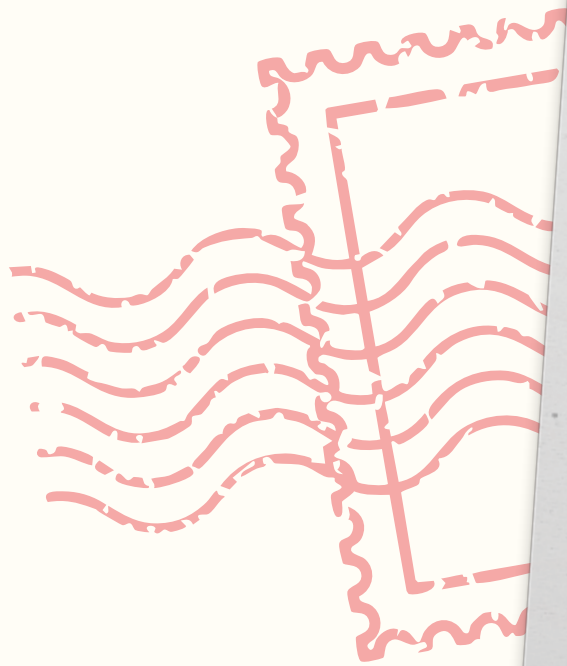
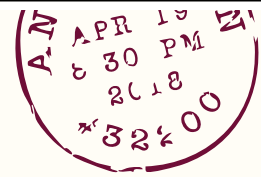
— P.C. Staff

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