



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING  
**96**  
Years

Yukari  
Marumoto  
Mikesell  
with her  
family's car  
on opening  
night of the  
new JANM  
exhibit  
"Cruising  
J-Town"

PHOTO: ROB  
BUSCHER

» **PAGE 6**

As part of a new JANM exhibit,  
a family's car carries them  
away to freedom.

## 'CRUISING J-TOWN'

» **PAGE 4**

AAJA Honors  
Outstanding  
Members.

» **PAGE 5**

Communities  
Unite at NCPA's  
Day of Action.



# JACL: ICE'S FORT BLISS DETENTION CENTER A 'DISGRACE'

By P.C. Staff

The JACL issued a statement Aug. 28 that called the federal government's new detention center operated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement at Fort Bliss, Texas, a "disgrace to the memory and legacy of the more than 125,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans unjustly imprisoned during World War II."

The Trump administration's decision to open the facility, which can hold up to 5,000 inmates, is especially irksome to JACL because the active military installation was also

used by the Department of Justice and the Immigration and Naturalization Service during World War II to "confine Issei, first-generation Japanese immigrants."

In a related development, the *Associated Press* reported that the Trump administration awarded the \$1.2 billion contract to build and operate the Fort Bliss facility not to "a large government contractor or even a firm that specializes in private prisons" but to Acquisition Logistics LLC, a "small business that has no listed experience running a correction facility" that "lacks a functioning website and lists as its

address a modest home in suburban Virginia owned by a 77-year-old retired Navy flight officer."

In its statement, the JACL drew a distinction between the 10 concentration camps operated by the War Relocation Authority that incarcerated tens of thousands of ethnic Japanese, including U.S. citizens, forcibly removed from the West Coast and the several internment camps operated by the DOJ and INS that targeted "enemy aliens" through the Alien Enemies Act. In both cases, however, due process was ignored.

During WWII, Fort Bliss was

among the facilities that held first-generation Japanese immigrants who were at that time proscribed from becoming naturalized U.S. citizens.

In its statement, JACL also said: "While the terminology has shifted from 'enemy alien' to 'illegal alien,' the outcome remains the same: the dehumanization of entire groups of people and their mass detention without regard for the protections for all persons guaranteed under the Constitution."

To read the entirety of the JACL statement, visit [tinyurl.com/ckfs9fd](https://tinyurl.com/ckfs9fd).

To read the AP news article, visit [tinyurl.com/2w43yz9x](https://tinyurl.com/2w43yz9x).

## JACL Denounces Border Patrol Presence at Gov. Newsom Event

'Outrage' over 'attempt to intimidate' Calif. governor's news conference at JANM.

By P.C. Staff

The JACL issued a statement on Aug. 15 excoriating what it described as an "attempt to intimidate" California Gov. Gavin Newsom with the appearance of dozens of armed and masked Customs and Border Patrol operatives at a news conference held Aug. 14 at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

The CBP presence near the entrance to JANM occurred simultaneously to Newsom's news conference, held at JANM's Democracy Forum. Newsom was in Little Tokyo to announce his plan to hold a special election in November that would let Democrats redraw voting districts and give the party five more seats in the House of Representatives as a countermeasure to efforts in Texas to also redraw districts but to instead increase the number of Republicans

representing that state in the House.

In its statement, which was posted to its Facebook page ([facebook.com/JACLNational](https://facebook.com/JACLNational)), JACL said that the area where the CPB gathered was "the historic site where, in 1942, members of our community were ordered to report for forced removal to temporary detention centers and, later, to concentration camps" and an "affront to the memory of the thousands of Japanese Americans who were forcibly removed from this very site over 80 years ago."

JANM, meantime, on its FB page ([facebook.com/jamuseum](https://facebook.com/jamuseum)), reported: "As the press conference began, around 75 armed Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) agents swarmed the sidewalk in front of the museum and arrested at least one passerby."

In the same post, Ann Burroughs, president and CEO of JANM, wrote: "It was a deliberate act of provocation and intimidation. The parallels

are stark: entire communities were forcibly removed from the West Coast in 1942 and today our immigrant brothers and sisters face the

terror of ICE and CBP raids across the country. It was a miscarriage of justice then, and it is a miscarriage of justice now." ■



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## A MOTHER'S TAKE

## MY JOURNEY CONTINUES

By Marsha Aizumi.

On July 1, I was admitted to City of Hope for a stem cell transplant from my brother. MDS (preleukemia) has been a roller coaster of emotions.

On July 8, my brother's stem cells were infused into my body. The doctor described this journey like an inverted bell curve: You start at the top and start to fall, then get to the bottom, stay there for a while, until you begin to rise again.

I feel like I am still at the bottom of the bell curve and have had to pull up all the strength and patience to ride out this difficult part of my journey.

Here are a few things that have helped me immensely through the most challenging times.

**Be a Goldfish:** If you have watched "Ted Lasso," you will know that he says the goldfish has the shortest memory of all animals. So, he says, "Be a goldfish" to those when they make a mistake or have a bad situation. Throughout this journey, I have tried to take it one day at time.

If it was a challenging day, I told myself, "Be a goldfish." Leaving behind difficult days gave me the ability to not dwell on the past but look forward to better days.

**Always Look for Hope:** The hardest part of this journey has been not feeling scared. I felt scared when I thought about the financial impact on my family. I felt scared when I thought about dying. I felt scared about losing the life I had come to know. But being scared made me feel helpless, pessimistic and hopeless. What I did to turn this around was to reach out for support (one of the STAR CONCEPTS in a previous article I wrote).

I reached out to the City of Hope and received a financial grant. I reached out to friends and family to keep my focus on being positive and lift up my spirits. One friend gave me a saying that I connected with personally and would repeat whenever I felt afraid. And I started a Caring Bridge account and posted ways that I needed support.

**Live in Gratitude:** I tried to think



Hand-painted rocks from Ellen and Suzie. They now inspire others at City of Hope.

JANM is now selling this goldfish soap. A nice gift for "Ted Lasso" and obon fans.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MARSHA AIZUMI

off and on for the next three hours. I was frustrated. When my night nurse left her shift, she looked so sad.

The next night, I pulled her aside. I told her I knew she was doing her best, and I didn't want her to think that I was judging her. I was tired, frustrated and living on lack of sleep. I said that I was sure that we would figure out some options, and the day shift, all fresh, helped me to do just that. That next night, when she left her shift, she came to say good-bye and gave me a hug. She said I was one of her favorite patients, and she doesn't say that to all she cares for.

I believe that any situation can be a teaching moment for me. I believe that no matter how challenging the situation, I can still be loving and kind. I have been told, my intention is the greatest determinate of how a situation will turn out. Even if I fall

short, my intention will always be how can I be better the next time.

After 25 days in the hospital, I was discharged 17 days after transplant, which my medical team said was amazing. Many transplant recipients stay around 30 days. I was home for 12 days, and then I spiked a fever and had to be readmitted.

To avoid rejection of the transplant, my immune system must be suppressed so that the new stem cells can be accepted. Infections are very common, but I never expected it to happen so soon for me.

I am writing this column from my hospital bed feeling stronger and hoping to be released soon. Thank you to all of you who have sent me positive thoughts, prayers or any form of encouragement on [caring-bridge.org](https://caring-bridge.org) and in other forms.

It is like having you by my side, at my back and walking in front, cheering me forward. You can never imagine how much everything you are doing is part of my journey of healing. I am forever grateful.

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



## REFLECTIONS

## ALMOST THERE: REMEMBERING LORDSBURG

By Katie Masano Hill, JACL Norman Y. Mineta Policy Fellow

On July 27, 1942, Toshio Kobata and Hirota Isomura were murdered by a U.S. Army guard while being transferred to the Lordsburg Internment Camp in New Mexico. It has now been 83 years since that act of violence,

a tragedy that poses a poignant reminder of what happens when fear is weaponized, and power goes unchecked.

One week before this painful anniversary, I had the honor of joining a pilgrimage to Lordsburg. The visit was led by Victor Yamada and Nikki Nojima-Louis of the New Mexico JACL chapter and Mollie Pressler of the Lordsburg Museum. I was joined by community members, including Julie Abo, who helped guide our incense ceremony at the site where Mr. Kobata and Mr. Isomura were killed.

Standing in the sunbaked desert, under the telephone pole that presents the only marker of the murders, we lit incense and offered prayers. As I was saying their names and reading a tanka poem written by a Lordsburg prisoner, the flame unexpectedly burned my finger.

At that moment, I felt the presence of Mr. Kobata and Mr. Isomura reaching through the silence and smoke. I also felt the presence of my Great-Uncle Yoshi, who never got to escape Tule Lake.

Mollie shared with us the tragic and dehumanizing details that followed their deaths; their bodies buried improperly, how one of the men was still alive after being shot and begging for his life.

The official story claimed that two elderly men, one with a spinal injury whose whole body would tremble while he walked and the other with damaged lungs from tuberculosis, somehow ran from armed soldiers: an impossible fabrication.

As we stood at the site where they were killed, I was struck by how close they had come to the prison camp entrance. That realization filled me with a deep, aching sorrow and confusion. Why murder two prisoners, why do it at all? Why harm these elders in this way? Why subject them to such inhumanity?

I also thought of my own great-uncle, Kahei Sam Morikawa, who was interned under the Alien Enemies Act at 61 years old and taken to Fort Missoula, Lordsburg, Santa Fe, Crystal City, Topaz and then Tule Lake. Standing on the land where he once stood, where he survived extreme conditions of hate and brutality, I could feel the weight of his resilience. You can read more about his story at <https://jacl.org/kahei-sam-morikawa>.

There are hard lessons buried in places like Lordsburg. Lessons about what this country has done and too often chooses to forget. But there is

also strength in remembrance. By returning with care and intention, we resist the erasure. We honor the humanity of Mr. Kobata and Mr. Isomura. We say their names. And in doing so, we transform memory into a call for justice.

In this space, I reflect not only on Mr. Kobata and Mr. Isomura but also on others whose lives were lost behind barbed wire and in the margins of official history. I think of Kanesaburo Oshima. James Wakasa.

Shoichi Okamoto. James Ito. Katsuji James Kanegawa. I think of my Great-Uncle Yoshi. I think of those whose names we will never know, whose stories were lost behind barbed wire, under layers of silence.

Their stories are not just history. They are warnings. We must remember.

*Katie Masano Hill is based in Washington, D.C.*



(From left) Katie Masano Hill, Julie Abo and Sue Ann Kenmotsu-Butler offer gassho and incense in solemn remembrance of those lost at Lordsburg.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF KATIE MASANO HILL

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# AAJA HONORS OUTSTANDING MEMBERS

Seattle's Ken Mochizuki, Rose Tibayan get Lifetime Achievement recognition at the 2025 convention.

By George Toshio Johnston,  
P.C. Senior Editor

The Asian American Journalists Assn.'s national convention ended the awards presentation of its well-attended gala, held on Aug. 2 in the Sheraton Grand Seattle's Grand Ballroom in Seattle, on a poignant note with its two Lifetime Achievement Awards. One went to a still-living recipient who was unable to attend because of esophageal cancer; the other was received posthumously by a surviving spouse, also because of cancer.

On hand to receive the prize for Ken Mochizuki was his friend, former TV newscaster Lori Matsukawa, followed by widower Don Villar, secretary-treasurer of the Chicago Federation of Labor, present to accept the award on behalf of his late wife, Rose Eileen Flores Tibayan. Both recipients in their own way represented AAJA25's convention theme, "Forging Our Legacies."

In her preface to the Lifetime Achievement Awards, AAJA Executive Director Naomi Tacuyan Underwood explained, "Our association's highest honor, the AAJA's Lifetime Achievement Award, isn't simply a recognition of time. It's a tribute to perseverance, vision, integrity and impact. It's about individuals whose . . . influence will be felt for generations to come."

Matsukawa, who retired in 2019 after her long career as a news anchor on Seattle's NBC affiliate KING, echoed that sentiment in a postconvention interview with *Pacific Citizen* about Mochizuki. "His reaction to receiving the award has just been amazing," she said. "When he first heard that he was going to receive the award, he couldn't believe it. He says, 'Well, you know, AAJA hardly knows me.'"

Turns out AAJA did know who Mochizuki was — he was, after all, the first member of AAJA's Seattle chapter to serve as its treasurer and later as its president.

Matsukawa conveyed Mochizuki's acceptance speech on his behalf. "I wish I were there with you, since I was there when AAJA was born. But esophageal cancer has won today's battle, though it hasn't won the war," she said, reading his words.

Mochizuki, whose vocations and avocations spanned acting in film and on TV and stage, TV news production and

This slide of Ken Mochizuki was displayed for the audience attending the AAJA Convention's gala when he was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award in absentia.



print journalism, most notably for Seattle's *International Examiner*, also made his mark as an author, having penned the novel "Beacon Hill Boys," which became an indie film.

But it was writing books for children and young adults where Mochizuki made his biggest splash, with 1993's award-winning "Baseball Saved Us" (illustrated by Dom Lee) — about how the game helped a young boy endure life in a World War II concentration camp for Japanese Americans — having become a perennial favorite to the present day, with more than 600,000 copies sold to date.

Perplexingly, the free expression advocacy nonprofit PEN America reported in an article from early 2025 titled "The 23 Most Banned Picture Books of the 2023-2024 School Year" that "Baseball Saved Us" was among the books tied for fifth place on that list.

The gala's other Lifetime Achievement Award went to Tibayan, who before her June 2024 death following a 14-monthlong battle with cancer had served as the director of public affairs for Chicago's Department of Budget, Management and Finance. Prior to that she had earned her master's degree in journalism from Columbia University before working as an award-winning broadcast journalist in Guam, Fort Myers, N.J., Philadelphia, San Francisco and Milwaukee. The Chicago AAJA chapter has since created the Rose Tibayan Scholarship Fund in her honor.

Of this late wife, Villar said, "Everybody loved Rose. There was just something about her. And even press corps loved her because they knew if they had a question, they'd get a straight answer."

In other recognitions, the AAJA Visibility Award went to Lucy Liu, who was present and participated in a Q & A for the audience. Best-known for her roles in such movies as "Kill Bill," "Charlie's Angels," "Chicago," "Presence" and "Red One," as well as such TV series as "Ally McBeal" and "Elementary," Liu most recently starred in and produced "Rosemead," which was inspired by a 2017 article written by former *Los Angeles Times* reporter Frank Shyong about a dying Asian immigrant woman who acted pre-emptively to prevent her mentally ill son from going down a path she believed would end in tragedy for others.

In other AAJA awards, the President's Award went to Glenn and Karen Sugihara for their nearly four decades of service to the Asian American

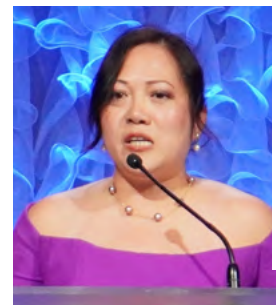
Journalists Assn., with Glenn serving as its accountant and chief financial officer and Karen serving as an accountant consultant.

Remaining awards and their recipients were:

- Leadership in Diversity & Solidarity: Weijia Jiang (senior White House correspondent, CBS News)
- AAPI Community Impact Award: Tayo, a project of the Filipino Young Leaders Program (FYLPRO)
- Community Impact Award: Documented, an independent, nonprofit newsroom
- Suzanne Ahn Civic Engagement & Social Justice Award: Josie Huang (Pasadena, Calif.-based public radio correspondent and host at LAist 89.3)



Don Villar accepted the AAJA Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of his late wife, Rose Tibayan.



AAJA Executive Director Naomi Tacuyan Underwood

PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON

- AAJA-Medill Innovator Award: Ke "April" Xu
- Member of the Year: Annie Z. Yu
- Chapter of the Year: Chicago
- Affinity Group of the Year: Yung AAJA
- Changemaker of the Year: S. Mitra Kalita
- Mentor of the Year: Katherine Lewis
- Emerging Journalist of the Year: Stephanie Lai

Recognized for having died recently were K. W. Lee and Yasutsune "Tony" Hirashiki. To view the list of 2025 Journalism Excellence Award recipients, visit [tinyurl.com/3a9a4dxa](https://tinyurl.com/3a9a4dxa).

The next AAJA national convention will take place in Minneapolis, Minn., June 24-28. ■



## 2025

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Using her scarf as a backdrop to show the wording on Ken Mochizuki's transparent Lifetime Achievement Award is Lori Matsukawa, who accepted the award on his behalf.



# ASSEMBLING FOR ACTION

NPCA's nationwide gatherings include the Japanese American community.

By P.C. Staff

The Japanese American community response to President Donald Trump's March 27 Executive Order 14253 manifested itself late last month at five sites, some under the stewardship of the Interior Department's National Parks Service.

The gatherings were part of the larger National Day of Action, set in motion by the nonprofit National Parks Conservation Assn., which is dedicated to protecting America's parks for the future and is unaffiliated with the NPS.

Several Japanese American organizations, including JACL, gathered at four separate sites on Aug. 23 — Little Tokyo, Seattle, Manzanar National Historic Site and Tule Lake National Monument — and on Aug. 25 at the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, Calif., to speak out against the decree, titled "Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History."

The order seeks to "ensure that all public monuments, memorials, statues, markers or similar properties within the Department of the Interior's jurisdiction do not contain descriptions, depictions or other content that inappropriately disparage Americans past or living (including persons living in colonial times)" (see [tinyurl.com/me3ub22p](https://tinyurl.com/me3ub22p)).

On May 20, Interior Secretary Doug Burgum's Secretarial Order 3431 ([tinyurl.com/k969yhtb](https://tinyurl.com/k969yhtb)) implemented E.O. 14253 by installing means, including QR codes, by which visitors could report for removal of or changes to signage at NPS sites that might "inappropriately disparage" someone, even if historically factual or accurate.

Following are reports on activities that took place on Aug. 23 in Seattle, Manzanar and Los Angeles.

## SEATTLE

On a beautiful and sunny Saturday morning, more than 200 people

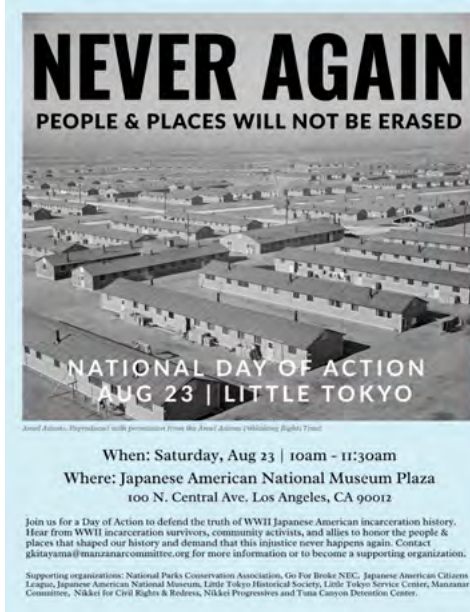
gathered at the Overlook Walk of the Waterfront Park on the shores of Elliot Bay in Seattle for the Protect Every Park Gathering.

The event took place just across the water from Bainbridge Island, which was the first place where Japanese Americans were forcibly removed from their homes and sent to government-operated concentration and internment camps. Some of those former camps — Manzanar, Minidoka, Tule Lake, Amache and Honouliuli — are now National Historic Sites operated by the NPS and thus potentially affected by Trump's executive order.

This hourlong event featured taiko drumming by Matsuri Taiko and addresses by NPCA's Graham Taylor; Dr. Lawrence Matsuda; Bainbridge Island Councilman Clarence Moriawaki; Huy Pham of Asian & Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation; Washington State Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos (D-37th District); and Erin Shigaki



**Pictured (clockwise from upper left) are Graham Taylor, Dr. Lawrence Matsuda, Bainbridge Island Councilman Clarence Moriawaki, Huy Pham, Washington State Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos and Erin Shigaki.** PHOTOS: RYAN KOZU



of the Minidoka Pilgrimage Planning Committee and Tsuru for Solidarity.

The overall sentiment for the day was summed up best by Pham, who said, "We want parks, not prisons! Park Rangers, not ICE agents!"

## MANZANAR

According to the Manzanar Committee, approximately 125 people showed up for the National Day of Action that took place on a cloudy day at the Manzanar National Historic Site, located between the California towns of Lone Pine and Independence.

Inyo County Supervisor Jeff Griffiths (District 2) served as the master of ceremonies. He introduced speakers Jeremiah Joseph of the Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribe; Inyo County Supervisor Jeff Griffiths (District 2); Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embrey; Bernadette Johnson of National Parks Conservation Assn.; Manzanar survivor Pat Sakamoto; Virginia Figueroa and Fran Hunt of climate action and environmental protection nonprofit Inyo 350; Wendy Schneider of Friends of the Inyo; and Noah Williams of the Bishop Paiute Tribe.

"They're trying to erase our stories," said Embrey of the motivation behind this particular



**Glen Kitayama of the Manzanar Committee speaks in front of the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo during the Day of Action.** PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON



**L.A. Taiko Collective**

executive order. "They're trying to erase communities because our story undermines and negates their ideology." He added, "We are especially concerned that the historic sites that tell crucial stories of our history ... will be censored or shuttered."

Regarding the effort to report and remove language that might be construed as disparaging to U.S. history, NPCA's Johnson said, "A real democracy doesn't shy away from confronting such truths, despite how painful and unflattering. ... By telling these stories, our national parks are more than just natural and cultural treasures, they are critical democratic institutions."

On the topic of keeping stories of sites like Manzanar truthful, blemishes and all, Sakamoto, who was born at the Manzanar War Relocation Center in 1944, said there were thousands of stories that people like her late mother, for whom she promised to be the voice of, lived through. "I'm afraid they're going to erase all of that by what's happening now," she said. "I won't be able to tell my mother's story."

## LOS ANGELES

For an event that began planning just two weeks earlier, according to mistress of ceremonies Dana Fujiko Heatherton, the outcome was

solid: More than 520 people gathered in front of the Japanese American National Museum for "Never Again: A National Day of Action."

With the main reason for the L.A. gathering being the nationwide Day of Action that sought to keep NPS sites from sanitizing American history, the bigger picture of recent events — stepped-up Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrests, unlawful deportations, detention camps, alarm at perceived authoritarianism and fascism — was alluded to often by the speakers, drawing the assemblage to spend part of their Saturday just yards from where Americans of Japanese ancestry and their Issei parents, at the time ineligible to become naturalized U.S. citizens, had gathered in 1942 to be bussed to be incarcerated for much, if not all, of the duration of World War II.

"My grandparents went through this, and our parents went through this," said Craig Watanabe, who was present with his wife, Deborah Watanabe. "I realized it's happening again. Things never change — and it's got to change."

Watanabe made that remark within spitting distance of not just what happened in 1942 but also just feet from where, on Aug. 14, dozens of armed

» **See ACTION on page 9**



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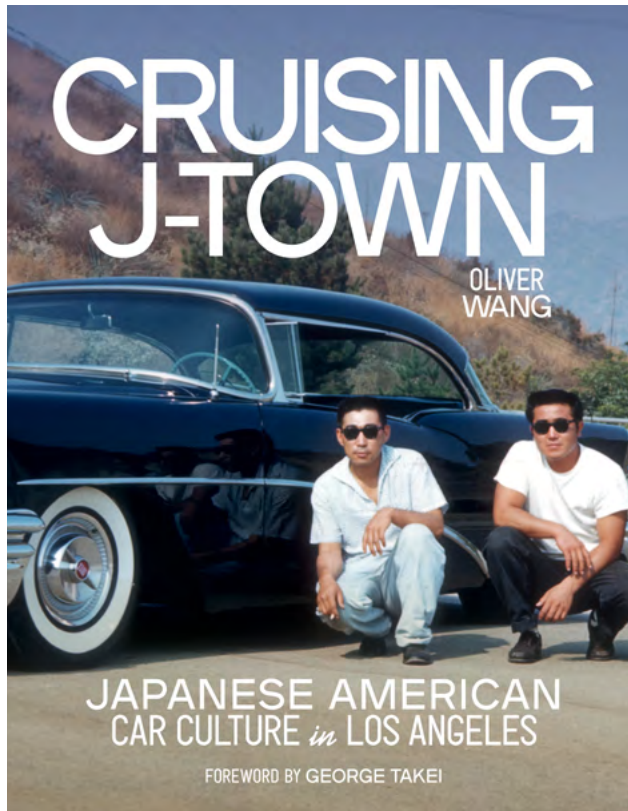
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**“Cruising J-Town” is a new exhibit featuring Japanese American car culture history. A companion book, written by curator Oliver Wang with a foreword by George Takei, is available for purchase now.**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF JANM

**George Takei, who wrote the foreword to the “Cruising J-Town” companion book, tours the exhibit.**



**Oliver Wang in front of the exhibit title**

PHOTOS: ROB BUSCHER

## ‘CRUISING J-TOWN’

**JANM Board President William Fujioka addresses the gathered crowd during the exhibit’s opening reception.**

PHOTOS: ROB BUSCHER



**The first Japanese auto race at Ascot Park in 1915**



**A look at the exhibit gallery**



**The meteor and another custom car in the exhibit**



**Members of Go-Hans roadster car club**

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF JANM

A special JANM exhibit gives an eye-opening look at community history, healing and for one family, a car that carried them to freedom.

**By Rob Buscher,  
P.C. Contributor**

In Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo, the Japanese American National Museum opened on July 31 a special exhibit titled “Cruising J-Town,” about the history and culture of the automobile, its influence on Japanese Americans and the community’s unique contributions to car culture in Southern California.

Produced in collaboration with ArtCenter College of Design in Pasadena as part of the JANM on the Go series, the exhibit features more than 100 objects, including rare photographs and home movies, car memorabilia, concept car designs and five classic cars, each rooted in key moments in Japanese American history.

Spanning more than 110 years, the exhibit begins with a section on Issei drag racers that features a news clipping titled, “Japanese Speed Demons Circle Old Ascot Park.” Linking the timeline of auto culture in Los Angeles to the growing Nikkei diaspora in the early 1900s, this section explores the evolution of car culture from a community-centered perspective.

It also demonstrates how Japanese Americans experienced cars primarily as utilitarian work vehicles in the prewar era. As truck farmers and gardeners, cars granted autonomy to many Issei who sought self-employment as a means to

build wealth for their families.

Another section covers the role that automobiles played in the actual logistics associated with forced removal during World War II, transporting persons and possessions to temporary detention centers. Later in the War Relocation Authority camps, a motor pool (which included some vehicles forfeited by incarcerated persons) was used to transport building materials and other goods the lengthy distance across camp.

The exhibit then moves into the hot rod era, when many Sansei started their own car clubs as suburbanization coincided with the postwar stabilization of household finances in the late 1950s-’60s.

While car clubs were part of a broader cultural movement happening in that era, unique to the Japanese American experience were the *Sakanaya* — fish monger trucks that essentially functioned like Japanese grocers on wheels for the suburbanized Japanese American communities of Greater Los Angeles.

This period also saw the expansion of Nikkei-owned gas stations and auto repair shops as a common sight throughout Southern California. The exhibit ends with a section detailing several accomplished Japanese American automobile engineers and designers. The final section also includes several displays related to Japanese imports and their impact on contemporary custom car culture.

Exhibit curator Dr. Oliver Wang has spent years researching

and writing about Japanese American car culture, though he admitted to not being a car person himself in remarks given during the exhibit’s opening reception.

“This room is filled with car people, many of them would know within 20 seconds that I am not a car person,” explained Wang. “But as my wife, Sharon, has observed, I’m a car person, person. Meaning that as a writer, as a scholar and now as a curator, I’ve spent the past four decades deeply invested in documenting and sharing Asian American stories and histories, especially because those stories have so rarely been included in literature or history books or museum exhibitions.”

Wang encouraged the audience to view cars as a means to understand the history and culture of Japanese America. He elaborated, “Japanese American car culture is, pardon the pun, a powerful vehicle through which to tell personal family and community stories because cars and trucks have been such a vital part of this community’s history, going back well over 100 years. . . . ‘Cruising J-Town’ isn’t really about cars. It’s about a community of people who have been part of L.A.’s social and cultural fabric for six generations and counting. Car culture is a way to tell these stories, but it’s the people who come first always.”

In an interview conducted during the opening weekend of the exhibit, Wang shared that his ultimate goal was for the Japanese American community to feel seen and heard.

Although Wang himself is Chinese American, his Japanese American wife and her family’s relationship to cars were part of the inspiration for the exhibit. His father-in-law, Don Mizota, is a car guy and was one of the first interviewees included in



the project; he previously owned a 1963 Stingray.

Wang reflected on some lessons learned from working with the community: “[Japanese Americans] deserve to have their humanity centered through the everyday ways in which cars and trucks form this commonality that people can relate to. It’s a touchstone in the same way that food and music can be. Everyone’s got a car story they can connect with.”

The exhibit’s companion book, authored and edited by Wang, features excerpts from the interview he conducted with his father-in-law and dozens of additional articles spanning the exhibit narrative and other topics that did not fit into the gallery setting.

Published by Angel City Press, the book’s foreword, written by George Takei, succinctly articulates the highly emotional connection Japanese Americans held with their cars before camp, the symbolic loss of selling or abandoning their vehicles during the war and a physical embodiment of regaining wealth and status in the postwar resettlement era. The 272-page book is illustrated with vintage and contemporary photographs and is available for purchase at JANM’s online store.

When asked about particularly memorable interactions during the opening weekend of the exhibit, Wang responded, “Seeing the 50-person Marumoto clan come through, meeting members of the family and watching them interact with other patrons to share their family story . . . these kinds of people who don’t know each other but are still finding a way to connect with each other. That’s magical, and at some level, I understood that could happen, but to actually see it happening is enormously gratifying.”

A late addition to the exhibit checklist, the Marumoto family’s 1931 Chevrolet sedan was featured during opening weekend only. The car was used to explore the role that vehicles played during the so-called “voluntary evacuation” when more than 5,000 Japanese Americans self-evacuated from the exclusion zone in the aftermath of Pearl Harbor.

Few families were able to make the journey as it required an employment guarantor outside of Military Area 1 to sponsor each adult of working age. Additionally, there was a limited window between late-February 1942 and March 27 when Western Defense Command decided to close the border of California to Japanese Americans.

A majority of the “voluntary evacuees” used personal vehicles to drive themselves, their families and limited belongings that they could fit with them in their cars.

Purchased by Masaichiro Marumoto, the Chevy sedan was originally used as a leisure vehicle for weekend trips from the Marumoto farmstead in Gardena, Calif., to Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo, where the family did its weekly grocery shopping and worshipped at the old Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple on First Street.

In the 12 years prior to the war, the Marumotos did well for themselves as proprietors of a successful farm business – even owning a second vehicle – a work truck that was used in the fields and for transporting their crop yield.

After Masaichiro’s wife, Asako, had an emergency appendectomy in early 1942, they were cautioned by the doctor that the temporary assembly centers might not have adequate medical facilities for her continued care. They made the difficult decision to chance fate by leaving the exclusion zone with their four children and whatever they could carry in a small trailer hitched to the rear of their car. Together with Masaichiro’s younger brother, Kenichi, and Asako’s cousin, they made a three-car caravan in exodus from the exclusion zone.

The favored destination for self-evacuees was Colorado, where Gov. Ralph Carr welcomed Japanese Americans to resettle in his state, an extremely unpopular political position that ultimately cost him his re-election campaign.

In the Marumoto family’s case, they chose Utah, where a distant uncle of Asako, Asakichi Okuda, resided in the farmlands to the north of Salt Lake City. Having worked for some of the farm owners in Mormon pioneer country, Asakichi was able to broker a sponsorship for his niece, Asako, and her husband, Masaichiro, to self-relocate along with their four children in March 1942. Of the six people who took the perilous journey across three state lines, only one survives today – Yukari Marumoto Mikesell.

Yukari turns 90 on Dec. 25 and was just 6 years old when



**Members of the Marumoto family gather for a picture at the exhibit.**

PHOTO: SHELDON MARUMOTO

she rode to freedom in her parents’ car. She credits father Masaichiro’s spirit of resistance for the family’s unorthodox response to the government evacuation orders.

“My father was born under the sign of the tiger. My romantic view is that a tiger cannot be caged. So, that’s why we moved,” Mikesell recalled.

Selling what they could, Masaichiro gave away the family’s truck for free to the man who purchased his beloved work horses that he named Dodge and Aka.

Like other families who went to camp, the Marumotos burned many of their prized Japanese possessions. Items that were too precious to destroy were buried in the ground, such as the family sword. As they drove away from the farmstead that had been the manifestation of their American Dream, Mikesell remembers her father singing “*Tabi no Yokaze*” (Night Wind’s Journey), a song from the popular 1938 film “Aizen Katsura.”

The granddaughter of Masaichiro and Asako, Sandra Mikesell Buscher organized a 50-person family reunion in conjunction with the opening weekend of “Cruising J-Town,” in part to celebrate the car’s inclusion in the exhibit, but also as a means of providing closure to a dark chapter in the family’s history.

Buscher reflected on a particularly impactful aspect of her grandparents’ journey, recalling, “One of the things I found very inspirational: My grandfather, as they were leaving the farmhouse after they burned possessions and broke dishes and setting out into the unknown, he sang this song, ‘*Tabi no Yokaze*.’ The first verse says, through flowers and sleep you survive, that’s the path a man must walk, don’t cry for me hori-hori bird, I walk alone in the moonlight.”

That was only the beginning of a journey that would test the Marumoto family as they navigated difficult mountainous and desert terrain in an era before the interstate highway system.

To this day, Mikesell remembers the constant feeling of dread she and her family experienced on the road. One incident that transpired during their first night set the tone for the remainder of their trip.

“The first night,” Mikesell recalled, “we stopped because it was dark. My father had been driving a long time, and he had to rest. We were woken up by soldiers who surrounded us with their guns drawn.” Unbeknownst to them, the family had accidentally camped on government land on the outskirts of an U.S. Army installation.

Mikesell’s 10-year-old brother, Hiroki, was the only member of the family with a strong enough command of the English language to talk the soldiers down and explain the misunderstanding. After producing the sponsor letters from their employment guarantors, the family was allowed to continue on their way — but not without forfeiting Hiroki’s BB gun and a transistor radio. Mikesell continued, “From then on, they were scared to turn off the car. They were afraid to stop, so they drove through the nights.”

The three cars split up and drove at their own pace as they tried to reach their destination as quickly as possible. With four young children, the Marumoto family pulled up the rear, giving their only road atlas to Asako’s cousin, who could travel the fastest without a trailer hitched to his vehicle.

Mikesell explained how her parents navigated the remaining route without a map: “When [the lead car] made different turns at major roads, which veered off of the main roads, they would toss one of the zabutons (cushions) on the ground,” she remembered.



**Masaichiro and Asako Marumoto in an undated family photo**



**The Marumoto children on Evacuation Day**

**Oliver Wang gives members of the Marumoto family a curator’s tour of the exhibit.**

PHOTOS: ROB BUSCHER



**The Marumoto family’s 1931 Chevrolet Special, which was on display during the exhibit’s opening reception. The car transported the family to Utah after they “voluntarily evacuated” themselves following the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the onset of World War II.**



➤ In addition to the challenge of navigating unknown terrain without a map, the family also had to contend with the prospect of anti-Japanese racism. Along the way, signs reading “No Japs” became a frequent spectacle.

“Near the border of Nevada, my father parked the car a few blocks outside of this mountain town. He walked by himself into the town, and when he went into the store, they didn’t want him there,” Mikesell recalled. “They only let him buy his bologna and a loaf of bread to get him to leave town.”

While African American motorists of the era had “The Negro Motorist Green Book” to tell them which towns and businesses were safe — and which were best to avoid — Japanese American self-evacuees had no such guidance.

With each stop they took for gasoline, bathroom breaks and food — the Marumoto family risked their lives only months after the attack on Pearl Harbor when anti-Japanese fervor was at its peak.

Mikesell remembers clearly the moment she understood the level of danger her family faced while on the road.

“One of these times, my dad left us on the outskirts of town, we were fighting, you know how kids argue. My mother finally turned around and yelled how can you be so naughty and fight

when you don’t know if your father’s going to come back? It was something I’ll never forget.”

After arriving in Utah, the family then used the car as a means of transportation and as a work vehicle until 1954, when they purchased their next car. Working as sharecroppers, the Marumoto family bought a small plot of land from the Mormon farmers whose land they worked and built a new house.

There in the yard at the edge of the farm field the car sat for several decades until it was towed to the garage of Mitsumasa “Bill” Marumoto, the youngest son of Masaichiro, in Westminster, Calif. Bill and his brother, Hiroki, had hoped to restore the car one day, but both passed away before they were able to do so.

When the Marumoto family learned of the “Cruising J-Town” exhibit, Buscher and her cousin, Brandon Marumoto, contacted a local car club in Orange County in the hopes that they might stabilize it for inclusion in the main gallery display.

Unfortunately, the car’s wooden frame suffered significant wood rot in the years it was exposed to the elements, and the work was unable to move forward in time for the exhibit.

Still, Wang, JANM VP of Exhibitions and Art Director Clement Hanami and the exhibitions team at ArtCenter were able to accommodate the car by parking it outside a sliding glass door visible from inside the main gallery.

Following its inclusion in the opening weekend of the exhibit, the car has now entered the possession of a private collector, who hopes to restore it to working condition.

Reflecting on the car’s journey as she bid adieu to the storied vehicle, Mikesell reminisced, “It’s not ours anymore, but it’s in good hands. It’ll do whatever gets done to it. It’s lived a good life. And it brought the family together.” Mikesell took



**Yukari Marumoto Mikesell with her family’s car**

PHOTOS: ROB BUSCHER



**Yukari Marumoto Mikesell bids farewell to her family’s car.**

a final glance at the car as she walked back into the gallery, singing a few bars of “So Long, Farewell.”

All of Masaichiro and Asako’s children met their spouses as a result of their resettlement in Utah. The Sansei, Yonsei and Gosei descendants who now make up more than 50 members of the Marumoto clan exist today because of this 1931 Chevy sedan and their family’s March 1942 journey to freedom.

*‘Cruising J-Town’ is free and open to the public Wednesdays-Sundays from Noon-5 p.m. through Nov. 13 at the Peter and Merle Mullin Gallery at ArtCenter College of Design. For more details on special events and other resources related to the exhibit, visit [www.janm.org/exhibits/cruising-j-town](http://www.janm.org/exhibits/cruising-j-town).*



**Rob Buscher with his great-grandfather’s car**

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**ACTION » continued from page 5**

and masked Border Patrol agents arrived as Gov. Gavin Newsom held a news conference inside the Daniel K. Inouye National Center for the Preservation of Democracy's Tateuchi Democracy Forum to announce his drive for a temporary redistricting initiative to counterbalance Texas' mid-decade redistricting effort at Trump's request (see article in this issue and [tinyurl.com/3srpcand](https://tinyurl.com/3srpcand)).

For retired teachers Rosemary Lee and Robert Matano, showing up to hear the words from representatives of NPCA, the Gabrieleno San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, JANM, Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, Nikkei Progressives, Manzanar Committee and Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights, as well as individuals who experienced Japanese American incarceration firsthand, was part of something bigger.



Rosemary Lee and Robert Matano

"I am appalled that we're going fascist," said Lee. "The plan, the Project 2025, is being followed perfectly, and people need to understand that. I would also add that the employees at the parks were the first to go out and protest en masse."

"I'm for protecting the parks, and I'm for protecting the rights of immigrants, and that immigrants are welcome here," said Matano. "I hate the Gestapo."

According to Rich Yamashita, an adult leader of Gardena-based Scout Troop 719, having scouts attend the Day of Action was a fit under the rubric of the Citizenship merit badges, an "opportunity to get our scouts to be involved and be informed about what was going on. ... This location here is where we show them where something happened during 1942."

After acknowledging the presence of Albert Lord, representing California Attorney General Rob Bonta's office, Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance), Los Angeles Community College District board of trustees President



Pictured (clockwise from upper left) are Ann Burroughs, Dennis Arguelles, Glen Kitayama, Tak Hoshizaki, Kyoko Oda, Abigail Chun, Rev. Yoshi Kuramoto and Vlad Carrasco.

PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON

Kelsey Iino and Los Angeles City Councilmember Ysabel Jurado (D-District 14), Heatherton said, "Our history is getting erased before our eyes. We cannot let this happen. We cannot be silenced while this is occurring."

Next was JANM President and CEO Ann Burroughs, who said, "The implications what's happening now stretch far beyond America's historical sites and parks, which is why we have to continue to challenge the revisionist history."

Speaking to the day's raison d'être was NPCA Southern California Director Dennis Arguelles, who said, "Our parks play a critical role, preserving and telling the stories that shape our nation, including those chapters where we fail to live up

to our own democratic ideals. ... This administration's recent order to supposedly bring sanity back to American history is nothing less than an attempt to impose its own narrow, jingoistic and chauvinistic

view of American heritage."

Referring to the Trump White House, Manzanar Committee member Glen Kitayama said, "They've begun to overhaul the National Park Service, the Smithsonian and other public institutions to censor how American history is remembered, presented and taught. ... We cannot normalize fascism."

The next speaker was Tak Hoshizaki, 99, a Korean War Army veteran and one of the 63 members of Heart Mountain's Fair Play Committee, which advocated for draft resistance during WWII while they and their families were denied equal treatment under the law. For that stance, FPC members were

» See ACTION on page 11



Jeanette Fujita Konishi and Kyoko Oda flank event mistress Dana Fujiko Heatherton as the crowd sings "Happy Birthday" to Konishi, whose 80th birthday coincided with the day's event.



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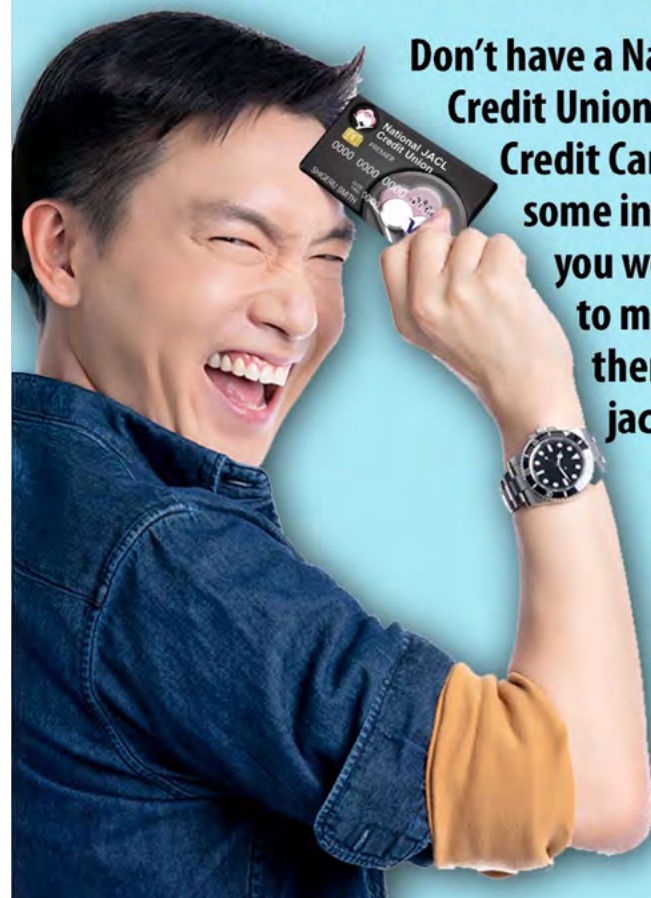


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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## NCWNP

**Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm Colony Pilgrimage**  
Placerville, CA  
Oct. 4; 11 a.m.  
Wakamatsu tea and Silk Farm Colony  
941 Cold Springs Road  
Price: Registration Deadline Is Sept. 19; Prices Vary Per Departure Location

This 4th biennial pilgrimage is an opportunity to learn about the site of the first large settlement of Japanese in America, as well as visit with descendants of the Wakamatsu colony. Bus packages are available to purchase from various Bay Area locations. The event will also feature tours and exhibits, free family history consultations, sake tasting, a taiko performance and much more.  
Info: Visit [www.nichibeifoundation.org/wakamatsu](http://www.nichibeifoundation.org/wakamatsu).

**‘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.jamsj.org>.

**Watsonville Veterans Day Program**  
Watsonville, CA  
Nov. 11; 10:30 a.m.  
Watsonville’s Mello Center for the Performing Arts  
250 E. Beach St.  
This program honors Nisei veterans who bravely served during WWII. The event’s featured guest speaker is Tom Graves, author of “Twice Heroes, America’s Nisei Veterans of WWII and Korea” and a Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL member.  
Info: Visit [watsonvillesantacruzjacl.com](http://watsonvillesantacruzjacl.com).

**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](mailto: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](http://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>.

**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](mailto:lola.hongo@gmail.com), [sluyeda83@gmail.com](mailto:sluyeda83@gmail.com) or [shar6416@aol.com](mailto: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](http://www.janm.org/events).

**Shichi-Go-San 2025**  
San Diego, CA  
Nov. 16 and 17; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Japanese Friendship Garden and Museum  
2215 Pan American Road E  
Price: \$220 Per Child Member Price and \$250 Nonmembers; Registration Is Required.  
Celebrate Shichi-Go-San, where children will have the opportunity to be dressed in traditional kimonos and photographed in the museum’s beautiful garden. Traditionally in Japan, girls (ages 3 and 7) and boys (age 5) are brought to nearby shrines in order to pray for good health.  
Info: Visit <https://www.niwa.org/shichigosan>.

## PNW

**‘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 features the work of Oregon artist Karen Illman Miller, who has practiced katazome for the past 30 years.  
Info: Visit [www.japanesegarden.org](http://www.japanesegarden.org).

**Frank S. Matsura: Portraits From the Borderland**  
Portland, OR  
Sept. 27-Feb. 8, 2026  
Japanese American Museum of Oregon  
411 N.W. Flanders St.  
Price: Museum Admission  
This exhibit features photographs from the studio of Washington-based Japanese photographer Frank Sakae Matsura, who created some of the most visually potent and nuanced images of Indigenous peoples from the era.  
Info: Visit [www.jamo.org/matsura](http://www.jamo.org/matsura).

## MDC

**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](http://www.crystalcitypilgrimage.org/2025-pilgrimage).

**‘Toshiko Takaezu: Worlds Within’ Exhibit**  
Madison, WI  
Thru Dec. 23  
Chazen Museum of Art  
University of Wisconsin  
750 University Ave.  
This exhibition is the first nationally touring retrospective of Takaezu’s work in 20 years. It aims to trace the evolution of her practice and reframe Takaezu as one of the most compelling and innovative American artists of the last century.  
Info: Visit <https://chazen.wisc.edu/exhibitions/toshiko-takaezu-worlds-within/>.

## CCDC

**UJCC Central Valley Asian Crafts Fair**  
Clovis, CA  
Sept. 20; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
United Japanese Christian Church  
136 N. Villa Ave.  
Price: Free

Get an early start on holiday shopping at this craft fair featuring Asian food, entertainment, great gifts, handcrafted items and many new vendors.  
Info: Visit [www.ujcclife.com](http://www.ujcclife.com).

**‘Visions of Faith’ Art Exhibit**  
Clovis, CA  
Oct. 11; 6-8 p.m.  
United Japanese Christian Church  
136 N. Villa Ave.  
Price: Free  
This unique art exhibit will feature the works of renowned Japanese Master Sadao Watanabe, the first time ever that these works of art have been shown in the Central Valley. The exhibit will include 25 woodblock prints, including 17 pieces signed and numbered by Watanabe himself.  
Info: Email [info@ujcclife.com](mailto:info@ujcclife.com).

## 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>.


**Japanese Celebration: Bostox 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](http://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/1FAIpQLSeJyNOXCklhv5P-bOYhFnLkXCxNSMMFtCxo2hiVHEI-GH2D0O4Q/viewform?pli=1>.

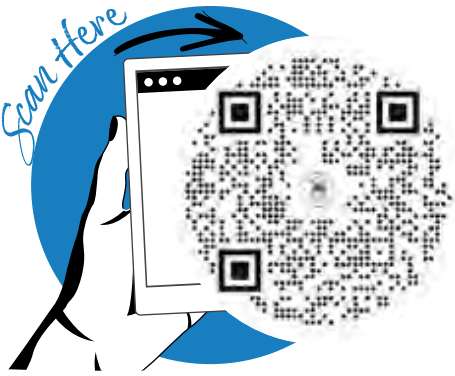
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## ACTION » continued from page 9

sentenced to “three years in federal penitentiary” until pardoned by President Truman. Alluding to how the story of the FPC had been “swept under the rug” for many years, he said, “Today, we look around and say, ‘The same thing now is happening.’”

Kyoko Oda, 80, who was incarcerated with her family at Tule Lake, said, “Across the country today, our history is in danger of being erased at places like the national monument at Tule Lake and Manzanar. Our government describes it as ‘content correction.’ ... We must preserve and protect our national parks’ historical integrity, or there will be no democracy for tomorrow.”

The event was not all fire and brimstone. Heatherton introduced Jeanette Fujita Konishi and said, “Today is her 80th birthday. There are lots of places she could be today. And she said she needed to be here.” More than 500 voices joined to sing “Happy Birthday” for her. The voices would soon join again as some of the speakers led protest chants.

Speaking next was Nikkei Progressives member Abigail Chun. “The histories of our communities must continue to be preserved and shared, not only for ourselves, but for everyone,” she said. “Our past teaches us the importance of fighting against our erasure, as well as the erasure of others.”

Representing CLUE Justice was Rev. Yoshua “Yoshi” Kuramoto, a pastor at San Pedro United Methodist Church, who told the crowd: “We stand side by side, people of all colors and all religions, across identity lines, firmly against the threats of fascism.”

Vlad Carrasco, director of climate justice for the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights Los Angeles, said, “We’re gathered here today in the heart of Little Tokyo because here is where, in 1942, families were kidnapped, separated and sent to internment camps. The struggles of the Japanese Americans in 1942 is clearly connected to the struggles for justice today.”

— *Ryan Kozu contributed to the Seattle portion of this article.*

## News Briefs

### Judge Rules Trump's Use of National Guard Violated Posse Comitatus Act

Weeks after President Trump — without the consent of California Gov. Gavin Newsom — ordered to downtown Los Angeles 4,000 California National Guard troops by invoking § 12406 of Title 10 of the U.S. Code ([tinyurl.com/3zny4ynm](https://tinyurl.com/3zny4ynm)) and later, an additional 700 Marines, to protect federal property and personnel, U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer on Sept. 2 ruled that the president had “violated the Posse Comitatus Act.” The 1878 federal statute proscribes the president from ordering the military to serve in a domestic police role unless authorized by Congress. Breyer’s ruling arose from the federal lawsuit filed by California that asserted Trump “unlawfully bypassed” Newsom and violated California’s sovereignty by putting the National Guard under federal control. Following the anti-Immigration and Customs Enforcement protests that began June 6 near the downtown Federal Building, police herded crowds through Little Tokyo. Overall damage estimates to property caused by protesters and subsequent cleanup in downtown Los Angeles was pegged at about \$1.4 million, according to an L.A. city controller report. No specific figures just for Little Tokyo were reported. The total estimated costs caused by the protests, including additional police officers, the Los Angeles Fire Department, overtime and other city services was estimated at more than \$32 million. (*Related stories: [tinyurl.com/mvwfr4ak](https://tinyurl.com/mvwfr4ak) and [tinyurl.com/3neae7ca](https://tinyurl.com/3neae7ca)*) After Breyer’s ruling, the White House said it will appeal.

### Japan's Ministry of Defense FY '26 Budget Request Is Highest Ever

Citing security threats from China, North Korea and Russia, Japan’s Ministry of Defense on Aug. 29 revealed a military budget request of \$60.2 billion for FY 2026. Part of a five-year-long buildup, the 2026 request would see spending of \$874.8 million for SHIELD, aka Synchronized, Hybrid, Integrated and Enhanced Littoral Defense program, which includes unmanned aircraft, surface and underwater vessels and \$207.3 million for hypersonic weaponry. Also for FY 2026, the Japan Air Self-Defense Force will become the Japan Air and Space Self-Defense Force. ¶ In related news, the Army announced it will deploy its Typhon midrange missile system to Japan for Resolute Dragon 25, a Marine Corps-led bilateral military training exercise scheduled for Sept. 11-25 across Japan, including Okinawa. Some 12,000 Japan Self-Defense Forces personnel and nearly 1,900 U.S. personnel, mostly Marines, will participate in the exercise. ¶ The *Stars and Stripes* newspaper reported that Japan’s Ministry of Defense said the Marine Corps will keep its MQ-9A Reaper drones on Okinawa indefinitely beyond their original yearlong deployment. ¶ Also on Okinawa’s Kadena Air Base, authorities announced the arrest of Chinese national Dai Long for entering the base via Gate 2 on suspicion of violating the Special Criminal Act for trespassing on a U.S. military facility.

### PRC Criticizes Late August Taiwan Visit by American Sens. Wicker, Fischer

The two-day visit that began Aug. 29 by Sen. Roger Wicker (D-Miss.), the Senate Armed Services Committee chairman, and Sen. Deb Fischer (R-Neb.) to meet with senior Taiwan leaders to discuss U.S.-Taiwan relations, including regional security and trade, was slammed by the People’s Republic of China. A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said it undermined “China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, and sends a gravely wrong signal to the separatist Taiwan independence forces.”

### Linsanity No More: Ex-NBA Star Jeremy Lin Announces Pro Ball Retirement

The Harvard hoopster who set off the short-lived “Linsanity” craze announced his retirement as a pro basketball player on Aug. 30.

— *P.C. Staff*

## MEMORIAM

**Asato, Herbert Mitsuo, 95,** Kailua, HI, Feb. 16. **Oyama, Helen Mitsue, 88,** Spanaway, WA, June 24.

**Matsumoto, Yoshitaka 'Yoshi,' 93,** Monterey Park, CA, July 1. **Taone, Richard Masao, 78,** Chicago, IL, Aug. 3. ■

### TRIBUTE

#### HUBERT YOSHIDA



Hubert Masayoshi Yoshida passed away in Placerville, Calif., on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at the age of 86. He was a former resident of Morgan Hill, Calif., for 49 years before moving to Placerville, Calif.

Hubert is survived by his wife of 61 years, Laura Okamoto Yoshida, their two children, Elizabeth and Michael, and two grandsons, Joshua and William.

He leaves behind his sister and brother-in-law, Joyce and John Runde, sisters-in-law June Yoshida, Mary Okamoto and

Jean Okamoto and many beloved cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Kenzo and Sumie Shikuma Yoshida, and his brother, Victor Yoshida. Hubert was born in Salinas, Calif., and at the age of 3 the family was interned in Poston, Ariz.

They returned to Watsonville, Calif., where he attended school while working on the family farm. Upon his completion of Watsonville High School, he went on to graduate from the University of California, Berkeley, with a degree in mathematics.

In 1962 Hubert joined the Marine Corps, a lifelong dream of his. He had hopes of becoming an officer but was rejected due to his eyesight. He then enlisted as a recruit. At the completion of boot camp, Hubert received the American Spirit Honor Medal. It was awarded to the most outstanding recruit of all the armed force enlistees at that time. He was then assigned to El Toro Marine Corp Base where he met his wife, Laura.

In 1963, Hubert reapplied for Officer’s Candidate School and was accepted for the school in Quantico, Va. After graduation, he was stationed at Camp Pendleton in preparation for the beginning of the Vietnam War. Hubert served in Vietnam from 1965-66 as a platoon commander in H Co., Second Battalion, Seventh Regiment, Third Marine Division. During his time in Vietnam, he received two Bronze Stars for gallantry. He left the Marine Corps with the rank of captain.

In 1967, Hubert joined IBM and was employed with them for 28 years. During his employment at IBM, he and his family lived in Connecticut, Japan and England, with their home base being in Morgan Hill. After retiring from IBM, he joined Hitachi Vantara and retired as Chief Technology Officer. The years Hubert spent at Hitachi were significant years for personal growth. He was able to share the experience, knowledge and vision he had gained throughout his life reaching people and businesses worldwide.

After 23 years with Hitachi, Hubert retired. His new goal was to author a book about the war in Vietnam. “Operation Utah: The Die Is Cast” was written. It describes the first, bloodiest battle between the Marine Corps and the regular forces of the North Vietnamese. In writing this book, a network was formed for the Marines and their family members who had served their country during the war in Vietnam. It brought together many veterans allowing them to reconnect, piece together and share their stories of the battle and its true history.

Hubert loved his family, his pets, his country, his God, the Marine Corps, being physically fit and enjoying life to the fullest. His strength and determination was unmatched. With all of his achievements and successes, he remained a simple man.

A celebration of his life will take place on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025.

It will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the Gilroy Lodge on the Hill, 2765 Hecker Pass Highway, Gilroy, CA 95020.

To honor, Hubert’s memory and in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Wall of Faces at:

[www.memorialcourtalliance.org](http://www.memorialcourtalliance.org)

Or may be sent to:

Veterans Memorial Court Alliance  
244 S. San Pedro St. Suite A  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

It was a project that Hubert was deeply interested in. Please address it as: Hubert Yoshida Memorial.

Donations may also be made to Stanford Cancer Research at:

[med.stanford.edu](http://med.stanford.edu)

#### PLACE A TRIBUTE

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

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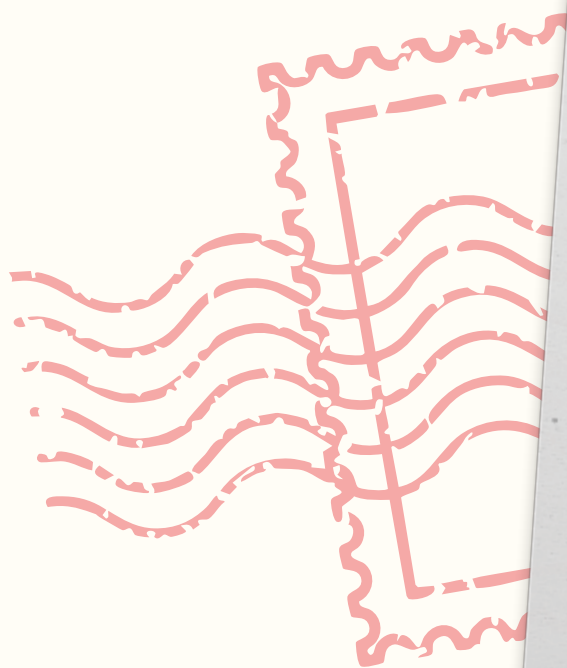
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