

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

REALIZING  
POTENTIAL.

CELEBRATING  
96  
Years

"The Great American Gunshow" explores the humanity at the heart of the issues surrounding guns in the U.S. Pictured are lead artists Makoto Hirano and Jackie Soro (front).

PHOTO: JOHANNA AUSTIN



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The theater

performance delves into gun culture and its impact in the U.S.

## ‘THE GREAT AMERICAN GUNSHOW REVISITED’

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JACL Selects an Interim Executive Director.

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LTCIF Takes Steps to Help Local Businesses.

# NATIONAL, CHICAGO JACL OPPOSE IMMIGRATION RAIDS

Operation Midway Blitz already has claimed one life and injury to an ICE officer.

By P.C. Staff

**O**n the same day that an Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent shot and killed a man who attempted to flee the scene in his car after a traffic stop in Franklin Park, Ill., dragging and injuring the ICE agent, the National JACL and the Chicago JACL on Sept. 12 issued a joint statement vehemently opposing “the deployment of troops in American cities, especially the possibility of deployments in Chicago” in what

the federal government has dubbed Operation Midway Blitz.

In what turned out to be prescient, an excerpt from the JACL statement said, “The use of military personnel and resources in U.S. cities is not only a waste of taxpayer dollars and government resources, but it also puts American citizens, especially communities of color, at greater risk for violence or unjust targeting.”

According to published news reports, an ICE agent shot and killed 38-year-old Silverio Villegas-Gonzalez — a citizen of Mexico — when

he tried to escape arrest by driving away in his car, dragging the ICE officer. The Department of Homeland Security said the ICE agent opened fire while in fear for his life. The ICE operative was reported to be hospitalized and in stable condition.

In the statement, which can be read at [tinyurl.com/96metecd](http://tinyurl.com/96metecd), the Chicago JACL urged “the Nikkei community, in Chicagoland and beyond, to show up in this moment to protect immigrant rights and immigrant communities,” noting that many of its members “have a family

history of incarceration without due process during WWII.”

On a related note, the JACL Chicago is hosting with Nikkei Uprising an Oct. 5 workshop titled “Detention: Then and Now.” Details, including how to RSVP, are at [tinyurl.com/3zr77jua](http://tinyurl.com/3zr77jua).

The Chicago chapter will also participate in the Oct. 18 No Kings Rally, preceded by an Oct. 15 poster-making preparation day at the JACL Chicago office.

**For more information, visit the chapter’s website at [jaclichicago.org](http://jaclichicago.org).**

## JACL OK WITH AEA RULING

Calls rejection of Trump’s use of 1798 law ‘far from perfect’; prefers repeal.

By P.C. Staff

**T**he Japanese American Citizens League issued a statement Sept. 5 welcoming news that an appeals court ruled the president misused the Alien Enemies Act in March when he invoked it against a crime gang.

The JACL’s endorsement of the 5th U.S. Court of Appeals’ three-judge ruling on Sept. 2 was, however, reserved, calling it a “step in the right direction, but far from perfect.”

The 2-1 ruling can either be appealed to the full 5th Circuit or to the Supreme Court.

This case reached the 5th Circuit after President Donald Trump on March 15 invoked the AEA, citing an “invasion of the United States” by Venezuelan criminal gang Tren De Aragua. That led to the deportation and incarceration of Venezuelan nationals without due process and likely would have led to more deportations until

the Supreme Court on May 16 temporarily blocked Trump from continuing to use the 1798 law.

In its statement, JACL continued: “While the court found that the use of the AEA in this case was unlawful, the current standard for detainees to file legal challenges was not struck down. Currently, the standard is that detainees must be given a seven-day time period in which to bring any legal challenges to their detention and possible deportation. Given the limited deadline and the conditions in which they are confined, detainees still do not have time to access the legal resources necessary to challenge their detention.”

On June 3, JACL and 63 other Japanese American and Asian American organizations filed an amicus brief to the 5th U.S. Court of Appeals challenging President Trump’s use of the Alien Enemies Act of 1798, which may only be invoked in a time of declared war or an invasion or predatory incursion (see the June 6, 2024, *Pacific Citizen* or [tinyurl.com/3ss7z7vt](http://tinyurl.com/3ss7z7vt)).

Related to that, on July 20 at its National Board meeting in Albuquerque, N.M., JACL



adopted a resolution to create the Social Justice Action Committee in order to streamline JACL’s response time with regard to such tasks as filing amicus briefs, joining advocacy letters and acting on behalf of the National JACL (see the Aug. 8, 2025, *Pacific Citizen* or [tinyurl.com/kyz4zvhj](http://tinyurl.com/kyz4zvhj)).

In the recent past on at least two occasions, JACL has endorsed the Neighbors Not Enemies Act, which seeks to repeal the AEA (see the Jan. 27, 2025, *Pacific Citizen* or [tinyurl.com/38wt4tp](http://tinyurl.com/38wt4tp) and Oct. 7, 2020, *Pacific Citizen* or [tinyurl.com/mt5b6v7y](http://tinyurl.com/mt5b6v7y)).

The AEA has only been invoked on three occasions: the War of 1812 and World Wars I and II.

The last time it was invoked, the federal government used it to round up and incarcerate first-generation Japanese immigrants who were seen as community leaders but were at the time barred from becoming naturalized U.S. citizens because of their race and national origin. Similarly President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Executive Order 9066 led to the forced removal and incarceration of more than 125,000 ethnic Japanese, U.S. citizen or not, from the western-most states.

**Read the JACL’s statement at [tinyurl.com/32ht67hz](http://tinyurl.com/32ht67hz). Other articles related to the AEA may be read at [tinyurl.com/6ufan9bm](http://tinyurl.com/6ufan9bm) and [tinyurl.com/4byfczad](http://tinyurl.com/4byfczad).**

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# PACIFIC CITIZEN

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## REFLECTIONS

## LET NO TOWER RISE WHERE MEMORY STANDS

By Yerin Lee

**H**istory is written by the victors. The stories of the conquered are buried beneath their monuments. Columbus is praised as the discoverer of the New World. The bombing of Nagasaki is justified as a necessary end to war. But the voices of those who suffered — their grief, their trauma, their endurance — are silenced, reduced to footnotes, if remembered at all.

In this spirit, Little Tokyo stands as a proud figure of Japanese American resilience. Facing racism, forced incarceration and decades of exclusion, Japanese Americans refused to disappear. Instead, they endured, survived and thrived, building a

vibrant community from the point they had everything taken away. Their culture, rooted firmly, flourished and was passed down through generations. Little Tokyo embodies proof that justice ultimately triumphs over injustice.

Yet today, that legacy is currently facing the danger of erasure. The Fourth & Central Cold Storage Project, slated for 400 S. Central Ave., threatens to bulldoze this flame of resilience. If shiny skyscrapers and luxury buildings rise here, who will remember the historic neighborhood that once held the memories of Japanese Americans?

Since its establishment in the late 19th century, Little Tokyo has been an oasis for Japanese immigrants fleeing racial persecution, exclusion

and economic hardship. Despite discriminatory laws and widespread prejudice, these residents established thriving businesses, temples, schools and community centers, making themselves a home far and foreign from their ancestral lands.

The community's greatest trial came during World War II, when Executive Order 9066 forcibly displaced over 120,000 Japanese Americans, incarcerating them in remote camps solely based on their ethnicity. After the war, many returned and fought tirelessly to reclaim their neighborhood, determinedly preserving their identity against relentless pressures from redevelopment and gentrification. Little Tokyo remains one of only three historic Japantowns left in the United States, a testament to a community's enduring strength.

Equally troubling is how the voices of Little Tokyo's residents have been systematically ignored in planning the Fourth & Central Project. Despite the project's proximity, community consultation has been minimal, with developers frequently canceling

meetings and ignoring attempts at dialogue. The sole major change — a modest reduction in building height — was imposed without genuine community input, leaving central concerns about affordability and neighborhood character unresolved.

This lack of meaningful engagement actively dismisses the rights, voices and lived experiences of Little Tokyo residents. It represents an erasure of the present, a dismissal of the community's role in shaping its own destiny.

Most concerning of all, the Cold Storage Project threatens to dismantle the cultural foundation established over generations, particularly affecting low-income residents and legacy businesses — the very heartbeat of Little Tokyo. Promises of luxury apartments, with only minimal affordable housing, ignore the realities

of a neighborhood whose median household income barely surpasses \$15,000 per year.

Rising rents and inadequate affordable housing would force out families who have anchored this community for decades. Small,

beloved businesses that are vital cultural cornerstones face displacement and closure, destroying the social fabric that binds the community together. To allow these changes is to dismantle the community, breaking chains of tradition and cultural continuity, ultimately demolishing Little Tokyo's future.

Allowing this development signals acceptance of cultural erasure, implying that the sacrifices and resilience of Japanese Americans matter less than developers' profits.

Yet, as we face this critical moment, it is only us to steer the future rather than have it imposed upon us. We can choose to honor our history instead of erasing it. Little Tokyo has survived incarceration, racism and redevelopment threats before. It must not fall silent now — nor should we.

*Yerin Lee is an artist, and she wrote this commentary with the Little Tokyo Community Council. Her perspective is informed in part by her experience as an immigrant to the U.S. from Korea.*



## LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

## TRUSTEE OR POWER OF ATTORNEY???

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

I started drafting living trusts and related estate planning documents close to 30 years ago. More often than not, parents will pick an adult child to be their "Successor Trustee" and also name the same adult child as their "Power of Attorney." So, one of the questions I get asked the most is, "When does he/she act as trustee? And when does he/she act as power of attorney?"

The answer is actually quite simple. If the asset, e.g., home and bank account, is in the trust, you control it as trustee since you probably named yourself as "Primary Trustee," i.e., you stay in control over your assets. However, your trust should also have named a "Successor Trustee" to take over in case of death or incapacity.

Quite often, when the aging parent starts to slow down, the adult child will step in and help the aging parent pay bills and handle other financial matters. But, I'll often get this call from the adult child, "The bank won't talk to me because I'm only the 'Successor Trustee,' and they said I have to be a 'Primary Trustee' to get information or give any instructions to the bank."

So, either the parent resigns as trustee, or we amend the trust to appoint the adult child to be a "Co-Primary Trustee" with the aging parent.

However, if the asset is not in the trust, e.g., IRA, retirement account with a beneficiary, life insurance, Social Security, government benefit, etc., you control it as Power of Attorney. A POA is a legal document that allows someone else to act on your behalf. A POA is an important part of any good estate plan. A POA generally is "durable," meaning it continues to be effective, allowing the agent to take action even if you become incapacitated at a later date.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau recommends only appointing someone you really trust. The CFPB also says to make sure your agent knows your wishes and preferences. Furthermore, POA designations are not written in stone — you can change them. If you decide that your agent isn't the best person to handle your finances, you can revoke or cancel your POA.

Given that it's so common for aging adults to eventually start slipping mentally, every older adult should execute a valid POA. Even younger adults — who could be suddenly disabled due to an accident or serious health crisis — should execute a POA. In California, we use two POAs, one for finances, sometimes called a Durable General Power of Attorney, and one for health care.

If you develop Alzheimer's or some other dementia or illness that causes incapacity and don't have a valid POA, the court could appoint a stranger to be your public guardian or conservator. Furthermore, that court process can be lengthy, expensive and very public. Wouldn't it be much safer to pick a trusted friend or family member? You bet! That's why you need to execute a POA.

A financial POA essentially allows a person (known as "the principal") to give someone else ("the agent," also known as "attorney-in-fact") the ability to act on the person's behalf. The principal needs to be of "sound mind" when signing the form. A POA generally is "durable," meaning it continues to be effective, allowing the agent to take action even if you become incapacitated at a later date.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau recommends only appointing someone you really trust. The CFPB also says to make sure your agent knows your wishes and preferences. Furthermore, POA designations are not written in stone — you can change them. If you decide that your agent isn't the best person to handle your finances, you can revoke or cancel your POA.

Note that POAs are governed by state laws, so the details can vary from state to state. But the general principles are likely to be similar throughout the country. In this article, I'll focus on California. If you, or your older relative, don't live in California, you'll need to look for specifics for your own state. Working with a lawyer could help you avoid potential abuses.

Yes, you could download a POA

from the internet. However, POAs done online may not contain the provisions you want or need. POAs drafted by a lawyer are generally broad in scope, enabling the agent to step in and assist with all kinds of things, e.g., finances, real estate, safety and anything else covered by the POA.

Also, checking boxes on a POA form you find online may or may not be effective when you need them. POAs can be effective immediately upon execution, allowing the agent to act now even if you still have capacity. While another POA might be "springing," meaning it springs into effect upon incapacity. This means that the agent can't act unless they have a letter (sometimes two letters) from their doctor or "attending physician" stating incapacity. POA forms seem to assume the principal has a doctor who knows him or her well, but that's a faulty assumption.

But, some people don't have a primary care doctor. What's more, most doctors are not trained to evaluate long-term capacity in older adults. But POA forms usually don't specify what qualifications the attesting doctors should have. Nor do POA forms specify what documentation or evidence a doctor should provide. Capacity can mean temporarily impaired or permanently impaired. POA forms usually don't address this. It would be unfortunate for a person to permanently lose their rights, if later their capacity might improve.

The next POA that attorneys use is called a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care. If you're in the hospital — awake and alert — and the doctor needs "consent" to perform an operation or procedure, they'll ask

you. As long as you can give "informed consent," you have the right to consent or refuse consent to any kind of treatment, service or procedure.

However, if you're in the hospital in a coma, or otherwise not able to give consent to a medical treatment or procedure, the HCPOA names an agent that can. They can consent or refuse to consent to any kind of treatment or procedure for you, including the right to "pull the plug." Notwithstanding the HCPOA, California law states, "You have the right to make medical and other health-care decisions for yourself so long as you can give informed consent." So, you're not giving up any rights.

One last word, a diagnosis of dementia, or even early Alzheimer's, is evidence of "diminished capacity," not lack of capacity. A person with diminished capacity may still execute a POA provided they have the mental capacity to understand the nature and consequences of the document they are signing. This mental capacity is often described as the "capacity to contract," meaning the principal must be able to comprehend the risks, benefits and consequences of the powers granted to the agent. Your estate planning lawyer will be able to help.

*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.*

# JACL SELECTS INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

National President Larry Oda touts Saki Mori's wealth of knowledge and experience.

By P.C. Staff

**J**apanese American Citizens League National President Larry Oda on Sept. 15 revealed the identity of the person who has been hired to serve in the capacity of interim executive director of the civil rights organization.

"It gives me great pleasure in announcing that Saki Mori has accepted the position of JACL interim executive director to start on Sept. 15, 2025," said Oda.

The development follows the departure of David Inoue, who served as the organization's executive director from 2017 until July 2 (see *July 4, 2025, Pacific Citizen*, [tinyurl.com/3adamehf](http://tinyurl.com/3adamehf)).

In a statement to the *Pacific Citizen*, Mori said, "I look forward to working with the National Board and staff to continue the organization's work and build the organization's capacity to continue its mission."

Mori's history with JACL includes serving as president of the New York JACL chapter and vp for membership under Jeffrey Moy, who preceded Oda as the civil rights organization's national board president. In 2019, she participated in the annual JACL-OCA Leadership Summit. It was there where Mori said that she "saw first-hand the national scope of JACL's history, work and impact."

Prior to accepting the interim ED role with JACL, the New York City-based Mori, who earned her bachelor's degree in political science (international relations) and French language and literature from Trinity College in 2005 and describes herself as a Shin-Nisei, most recently served as the director of special projects at the consulting firm Perch Advisors LLC, where she supported nonprofit clients with program management, grants management and workforce development.

"She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in organizational development and fundraising," Oda added. "We look forward to her leadership."

Reflecting on the challenges she will face as JACL's interim executive director, Mori said, "I am now entrusted to serve the JACL at a time of transition when the organization and its partners are on the front lines to protect our communities.

"I am responsible for ensuring the organization's continuity of operations for its programs and services," she continued. "However, there is a greater responsibility currently, and JACL's commitment to and work on civil rights, social justice and civic engagement is needed now more than ever by our members, chapters, partners and communities across the country."

Mori's hiring comes as the organization, which describes itself as the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, faces several challenges.

One such challenge is declining membership, which was just below 9,000 members in 2017 to just below 7,000 in 2025. Another is a large budget deficit, which earlier this year led to staffing cuts and pay reductions for remaining staff.

It also remains to be seen whether JACL has overcome the problem it faced in 2022 — a biennial election year for board officers — when no one ran for any office, including that of national president until Oda, who had served as JACL national president from 2006-10 in two back-to-back biennial terms, entered the race at the last moment.

Another looming milestone and potential opportunity for the organization, which led the drive to win redress in 1988 for Japanese Americans incarcerated by the federal government during WWII, is its centennial in 2029.

*(Following is a Q & A between Pacific Citizen and Saki Mori that was conducted via email.)*

**The Pacific Citizen: Why did you decide to accept this role?**

**Saki Mori:** I accepted this role because I believe I possess the skills and experience that JACL is seeking

now to support the board and staff during a time of leadership transition. As a member, former National Board member and chapter leader, I already have the institutional knowledge of the organization that gives me a running start to work on organizing priorities and supporting the staff with their roles, responsibilities and programs to maintain operations.

**The P.C.: What are your greatest strengths that you'll be bringing to this role, and what are areas that you feel you will need to bolster?**

**Mori:** My career in nonprofits, ranging from direct service to executive management, is grounded in organized and responsive organizational management that takes into consideration day-to-day operations, program planning and management, grants management and funder deliverables and organizational budget and administrative management.

I am keen on understanding what's working, what are challenges, where improvements can be made and providing space for new ideas, approaches and strategies to inform the organization and its programs.

Although, the board and staff have been very frank and open about the challenges and the work that needs to take place, I will only truly know the work ahead once I start the job. Whether it's an immediate priority to something that is running well with the organization, I will conduct additional assessments with the staff and board and lean on the staff for their perspective and guidance for addressing priorities.

**The P.C.: Will you be applying for the permanent JACL executive director position?**

**Mori:** Pursuing the permanent role will depend on a few factors for me, including location. For this interim capacity, I will work remotely. At this time, the permanent role requires the position to be based in San Francisco or Washington, D.C., and for me, personally, a move is not an easy decision to take lightly.

**The P.C.: Understanding that serving as "interim executive director" is by definition temporary, what is**

**your commitment to serving in this interim capacity? What is the difference from your perspective on the role of interim ED vs. serving as the permanent ED?**

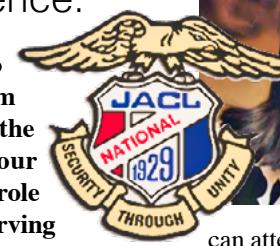
**Mori:** I will work in a full-time capacity for this role and will take on most of the roles and responsibilities required of an executive director. The main responsibility is to maintain the continuity of operations for the organization as it seeks a permanent hire. Thus, I won't necessarily be able to initiate work and projects that would be considered long-term.

Once a permanent hire starts, the person in the role will set out their own agenda, vision and strategies for near- and long-terms. This doesn't necessarily preclude me from leading projects that would take time to plan and execute; however, the work will have to be very focused and discrete in its planning, goals, execution and timeline.

**The P.C.: You have previously served as vp of membership on the JACL National Board, and right now, JACL's membership is slightly below 7,000. What are your thoughts on how the organization can increase its membership, and how quickly? In addition, what is the value proposition of being a JACL member in 2025 and beyond?**

**Mori:** I'm looking forward to returning to the work on membership for the organization and working together with Dominique Mashburn, vp of membership, and Ariel Imamoto, membership manager, to determine ways to address the immediate needs to build up membership and initiate work to develop strategies on membership recruitment and retention.

Right now, our Japanese American community and communities across the country are looking for organizations like ours that provide community, learning/education, taking action and more. In this near term, we need to maximize on this need and figure out how to ramp up our outreach and visibility, so that people



can attend our events, access our resources (such as the *Pacific Citizen* archives!) and connect with our members.

For the long-term, we need to critically examine our membership development and take an inventory on what attracts people to join, what programs are relevant and impactful for our members and what are activities that interest our membership that we're not offering.

Ultimately, I believe that establishing a comprehensive and thoughtful membership recruitment and retention strategy that can be feasible for both national and our chapters to implement can stabilize the organization's membership numbers and provide a healthy foundation to grow and sustain our membership. Both for the near- and long-term, we also need to understand the true capacity and resources (people power, time and funding) needed to drive and sustain the membership base that we are seeking to establish.

**The P.C.: What do you think is the role of the *Pacific Citizen* as an asset to help JACL raise its profile and grow the organization?**

**Mori:** The *Pacific Citizen* has a significant and instrumental role to support JACL in how it carries its mission and serves its members and chapters. Overall, I would like to help establish a more coordinated structure with organizational communications so that information and updates can optimize responsiveness, outreach and awareness to the JACL community.

The *Pacific Citizen* is a critical asset where the voices of our membership and community have a platform to exercise our civil rights and demonstrate civic engagement. I'm excited to work with the *Pacific Citizen* team to strengthen their work and identify opportunities to maintain its mission and grow their visibility. ■



## Thank You for Your JACL Membership!

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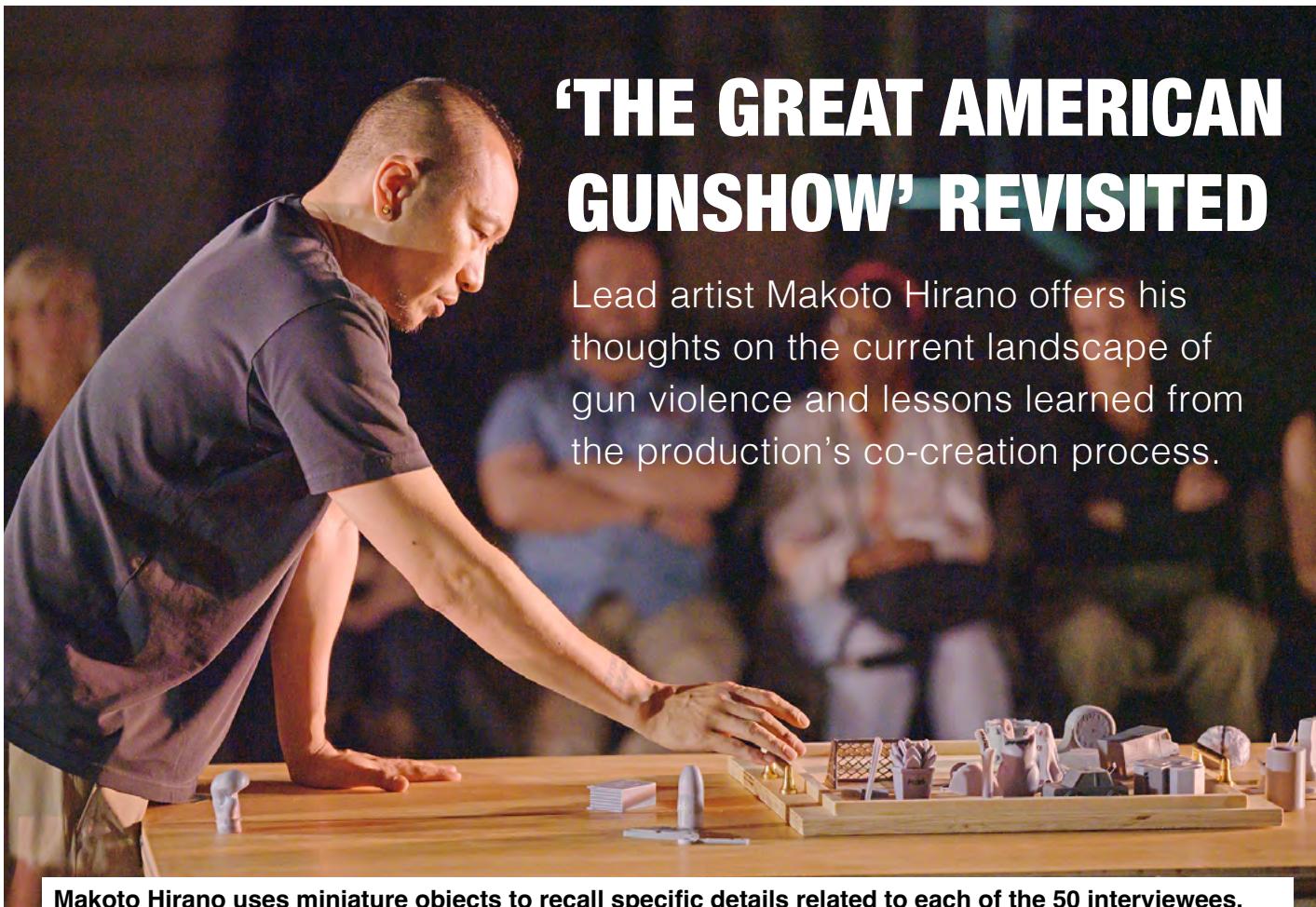
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**Makoto Hirano uses miniature objects to recall specific details related to each of the 50 interviewees.**

PHOTOS: JOHANNA AUSTIN

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

In August 2025, Team Sunshine Performance Corporation performed the latest iteration of “The Great American Gunshow,” an interview-informed devised theater performance exploring American gun culture, gun violence and trauma, as well as the tension within U.S. society over the “right of the people to keep and bear Arms.”

The performance was held over three nights at Safe-Hub, a nonprofit organization that provides a physically and emotionally safe space for young people in the Kensington/Harlowgate neighborhood of North Philadelphia.

Helmed by lead artist Makoto Hirano, “Gunshow” documents, maps, archives and reflects society’s collective experience through a theatrical presentation designed as a unique hybrid of a live performance event and a participatory forum. The son of Shin-Issei immigrants raised in Chicago, Hirano is no stranger to guns, having served in the US Marine Corps prior to getting his bachelor’s in fine arts degree in dance at Temple University.

Created through 75-plus hours of interviews with Philadelphians experiencing different aspects of gun culture, “Gunshow” explores the humanity at the heart of the issues surrounding guns and invites the audience to engage in a more nuanced discussion as a way to imagine a better future for Philadelphia.

Hirano participated in an interview with *Pacific Citizen* during the summer of 2021, when the project began in earnest. In that year, U.S. gun deaths were reported at an all-time record high of 14.6 deaths per 100,000 people. This alarming statistic was accounted for through a significant increase in gun homicides during the pandemic. That year also recorded the highest number of gun suicides in a single year since the Center for Disease Control began recording such data in 1968. Gun suicides have

## ‘THE GREAT AMERICAN GUNSHOW’ REVISITED

Lead artist Makoto Hirano offers his thoughts on the current landscape of gun violence and lessons learned from the production’s co-creation process.



**“The Great American Gunshow” lead artist Makoto Hirano**

continued to rise, reaching their current peak in 2023 with a recorded 27,300 deaths. Although there has been a decrease in gun violence in the past two years, guns remain the leading cause of death for children and teens.

In an interview conducted after the Philadelphia production concluded, Hirano offered his thoughts on the current landscape of gun violence, as well as lessons learned from the intensive co-creation process.

**Rob Buscher for the *Pacific Citizen*:** Since our first interview in 2021, how has the project progressed, and what was the timeline for the recent Philadelphia production in August 2025?

**Makoto Hirano:** In 2021, our pilot phase began in Bloomsburg, rural Pennsylvania. . . . We started that project without a map at all. We did a thing called snowball sampling — we met people through other participants until we had enough interviews. August of ’22 is when we did our Bloomsburg performance. We also did a performance of that same version in Philly. The rest of ’22, all of ’23 and most of ’24 — almost two years was spent designing the process for our most recent production.

**Buscher:** There are obvious differences between rural Bloomsburg and Philadelphia, but what specifically led to this lengthy retooling of the devised theater process?

**Hirano:** Ultimately, it was our conversations with Michael O’Bryan. He’s a local who really knows Philly and a super smart dude. We brought him on as a local adviser/mentor. In one of our first meetings, he said, “You can’t do what you did in Bloomsburg here in Philadelphia.” I’ll never forget this. Mike said, “If you go about it the way you did with Bloomsburg, without a map, you might accidentally leave out the people who are most affected by gun violence in Philadelphia.” And that had never occurred to me. We were eight months out from starting interviews, and

we paused everything. We had to rethink the whole project, the whole process, everything about it. That process took like an extra year.

**Buscher:** It sounds like Michael had a profound impact on the direction of this production. Were there other people in Philadelphia who helped develop a more intentional model for engaging the populations who are most impacted by gun violence?

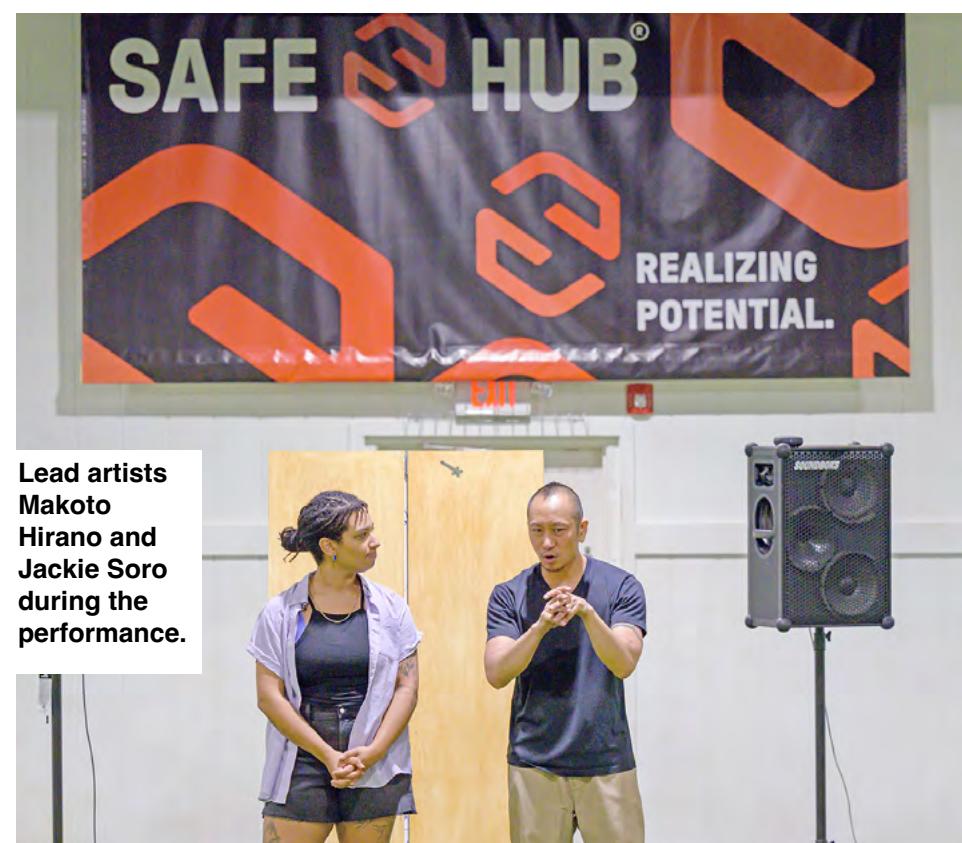
**Hirano:** There’s another person named Kevin Carter, who we met through Mike. Kevin is a counselor and a licensed clinical social worker. He has run a lot of grief counseling groups throughout the city and other places. Kevin said, “You want to interview people who are

at the highest risk of gun violence, the people that this is a regular thing for?” And we were like, “Yes, not just them, but yes, absolutely.” And he said, “For those people, what are you going to offer them that’s going to address their urgent, immediate safety concerns? If you’re not going to somehow address that, why would they want to meet you?”

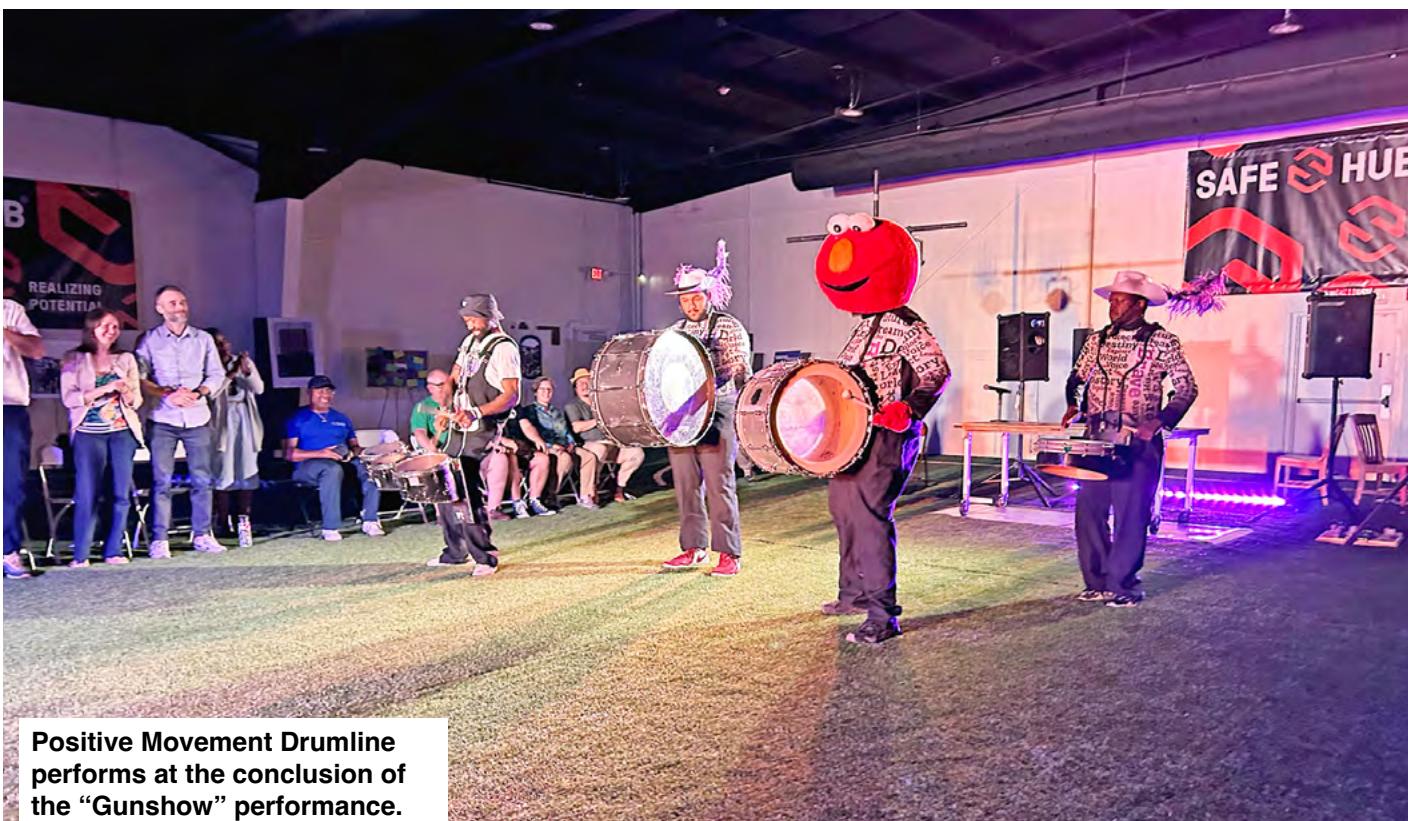
I had no answer for that . . . because then they’re just retraumatized, right? Then, we had to ask: “Is the project in service to them, their story and anything that supports them?” I didn’t have an answer for that. Michael O’Bryan first challenged us about the process, and then Kevin Carter asking us that question was the second whammy. We realized we were nowhere close to putting out a call for interviews.

**Buscher:** How did you move forward from that point in the project?

**Hirano:** Alex Torra was my partner in crime, who serves with me as co-director of Team Sunshine. Sarah Branch served as a community liaison for about two years of this process, which eventually became kind of a co-creator,



**Lead artists  
Makoto  
Hirano and  
Jackie Soro  
during the  
performance.**



**Positive Movement Drumline performs at the conclusion of the “Gunshow” performance.**

PHOTO: ROB BUSCHER

co-thinker role. The three of us were making decisions together, regularly brainstorming and having ideas, meeting with Mike.

We decided to focus based on something that came straight out of Mike O'Bryan. He said, "Who are the most at risk of being shot at or killed?" I didn't know. Mike said, "Black men." Then, we found this interactive website where you could look up Philly gun violence data. In a given year, you could look at specific time spans, where the shootings happened and in what zip codes.

Through that, I figured out the highest level of gun violence was in four zip codes in North Philly. They're right next to each other. Kensington, Nicetown-Tioga, Hunting Park and Frankford. We knew we had to do the project there. We had to focus a lot of our interviews with people from those neighborhoods and do the performance there.

Another thing we learned from that website was that between 2014-24, if you were Black, male, between the ages of 18 and 25 and outside between 8 p.m. and 3 a.m. in any of those four zip codes, it's very likely you would get shot because that's who's being shot the most. Immediately, it was about race. And I thought that we have to focus on young Black men. So, in that sense, race played a huge role.

**Buscher: Speaking of race – in our 2021 interview, you shared this driving question of “How safe do I feel as a Japanese American?” That was during a moment when more people were buying guns during the pandemic. How did you navigate the conversation of race in this version of the project?**

**Hirano:** Since we started “Gunshow,” race was always a topic. It never isn't. But the way we talk about race in Philadelphia and in Bloomsburg as it relates to guns is so different. We focused on it a lot in the Bloomsburg version because I was a person of color going into their predominantly white community, asking a bunch of questions and making a show about it. So, race was an inescapable part of the project.



In a different way, it's inescapable in Philly because of crime and redlining and because of economic inequalities that are all race based. In the early days, I was thinking of this project as the intersection of being Asian and gun violence. That was my early hunch of what this project was going to be about. During the pilot phase, we released our notions about Asian-ness as the intersection because as it turns out, guns are the intersection of almost everything. The points of intersection are slightly different in each community, but it's multifaceted wherever we go.

**Buscher: How did you source your interviewees, and can you tell us a little about the interview process?**

**Hirano:** We started with an intake form. . . . We ended up interviewing 50 people in total, with a heavy emphasis on the local residents of the four zip codes where gun violence is most prevalent. . . . The interviews were free-flowing. I told participants we could start anywhere. At times, I would try to steer us toward a particular topic related to what the person shared, but for the most part, we just let it flow. I love connecting with people like that, and it feels like one of the ways that I'm in my zone.

**Buscher: It sounds like you might have experienced some secondary trauma delving into these subjects with victims of gun**

**Hirano:** We went through the hardest, most challenging artistic process that I've ever had the pleasure of being part of. . . . It was so hard, and it was so exhilarating to do it because every single day for the eight-week rehearsal process, it felt like we were moving something forward.

**Buscher: To your earlier point on creating a digestible show, how did you balance the heavy subject matter with the overall audience experience?**

**Hirano:** It took a while to figure that out, but we realized the solution was to highlight the people and organizations who are doing the incredible work already. These people are not in the news and so often not being recognized by the city, but they are the ones who are addressing the needs of people on the ground level.

**Buscher: What are some of the solutions the interview participants shared with you?**

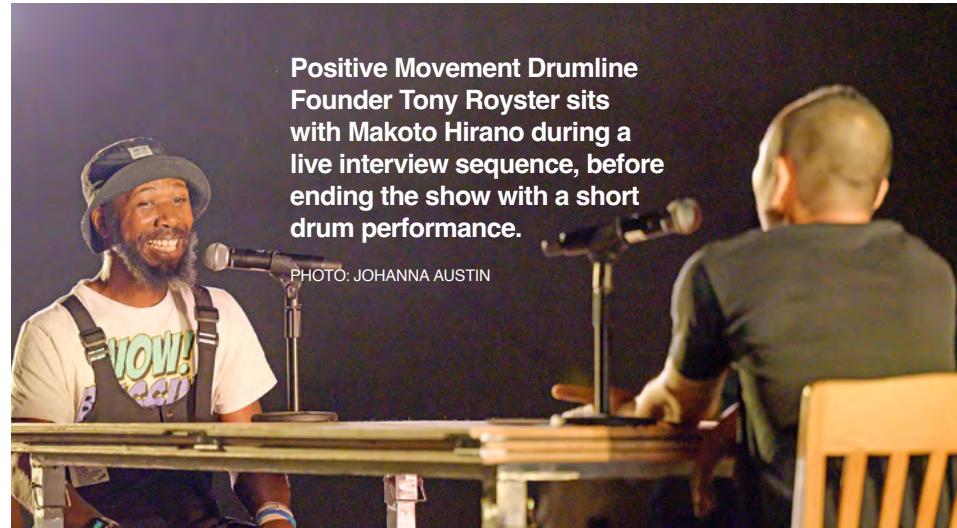
**Hirano:** We learned so many things from so many people, but everyone shared the same thing: You can't solve guns because guns in Philly isn't one issue. Even if we magically made guns disappear, we still have the underlying issues that are causing the violence. It's because people are suffering. People are in need on many levels, and their needs are not being met.

**Buscher: Having done this version of the show, are there any lessons learned or things that you'll take into the next iteration of the project?**

**Hirano:** One of the many huge things that we learned in this project is that there are five or eight different versions of Philadelphia that people are living in, as it relates to guns. Gun violence for some people, it's their daily life whether they choose it or not. And some people, it's out of sight, out of mind. There's no attempt to understand it by many who do not experience gun violence directly. I feel really sad about it, and that makes me want to do this project more and in other places.

Doing this production, I've learned a lot that will inform how we go forward. “Gunshow” is really a project about how we are in relationship with each other. How we are navigating the identity of “we” together. Maybe “we” can do it better? And then using guns as the excuse to gather. Simply put, it feels like a vehicle to have really fascinating yet effecting conversations.

*To read more about “The Great American Gunshow” and support future productions, visit [www.teamsunshineperformance.com/gunshow](http://www.teamsunshineperformance.com/gunshow).*



# Students Unearth WWII Alien Enemies Act Stories to Influence the Courts

Through archival research and interviews, JACL interns uncover histories of Japanese American hardship to warn: Don't let history repeat.

**By Mayu Altekar-Okazaki, Satoshi Isayama and Kiyone Tanaka-Gacayan, San Jose JACL Interns**

**N**ine students are working currently with JACL's Social Justice Action Committee to gather and retell personal histories of Japanese Americans and Japanese Latin Americans detained by the Alien Enemies Act during World War II.

Through interviews with descendants and archival research, the team is weaving narratives that expose how wartime authorities denied due process and equal protection to innocent Japanese immigrants.

The stories are being prepared for use in public exhibits, social media campaigns and amicus (friend of the court) briefs to shine a light on forced removals, indefinite detentions and deportations of Japanese enacted under the AEA.

The Alien Enemies Act Stories Project complements JACL's work to support the ACLU's challenge to the use of the AEA in the courts and is part of a broad-based communications plan to ensure that the injustices of the past are known — and remembered — to prevent history from repeating itself.

Following are personal profiles of JACL student interns and their AEA Stories Project reflections.

**MAYU ALTEKAR-OKAZAKI, PALO ALTO HIGH SCHOOL, SOPHOMORE**



**JACL National President Larry Oda and Mayu Altekar-Okazaki with her AEA panels at July's JACL National Convention**

PHOTO: DARRELL MIHO

When I learned about the Alien Enemies Act last year, I was shocked that I had never heard about it before. Hearing how the FBI arrested people without notice or due process, with false reasoning, reminded me of the current events going on today. Learning that the president has used the AEA to force a similar terrible fate on even more people made me want to bring awareness to the experiences of Japanese so that history wouldn't repeat itself.

I was able to research and interview four descendants of those detained by the AEA, including JACL National President Larry Oda, whose story was included in the amicus brief filed on behalf of the JACL and over 60 AAPI organizations on June 2.

By using stories collected by me and Katie Masano Hill, JACL's Norman Y. Mineta policy fellow, I created two 6-foot panels to display at the JACL National Convention in Albuquerque, N.M., to inform more people about the struggles that 17,000 Japanese nationals went through.

I was also given the opportunity to staff the exhibit table and share more information about details of the AEA with convention attendees and explain why it's so relevant today.

## SATOSHI ISAYAMA, PALO ALTO HIGH SCHOOL, JUNIOR



**Victor Uno and his cousin, Elizabeth Uno, at the Crystal City Pilgrimage booth at the San Francisco Nihonmachi Street Fair in August**

Even though I studied Japanese American history through high school classes and the Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education, I didn't fully grasp the weight of the term "incarceration" until I spoke with Victor Uno.

When Victor shared his grandfather's experiences during WWII, I realized how shallow my understanding was. Uno, a retired union electrician and social justice organizer, told me the story of his grandfather, George Kumemaro Uno, who is a reminder to persevere and aid others in the face of adversity.

Born in Japan in 1886, George Uno was a self-taught entomologist, railroad worker, painter and community leader. He moved to the U.S. in the early 1900s to build a better life for his growing family. He spoke both English and Japanese, as well as helped establish a Christian church in Salt Lake City. Above all, he was a man who cared deeply for his family. Having 10 children,

George Uno dedicated himself to provide for them — being one of the reasons they came to America in the first place.

In 1942, George Uno was detained and incarcerated under the Alien Enemies Act for over five and a half years, much longer than most incarcerated held under Executive Order 9066.

Wayne Collins, the attorney who helped many Japanese Americans, helped him finally get released in 1947 — two years after WWII ended. The government never found any evidence of espionage or wrongdoing; he was simply a hard-working entomologist.

"The only thing that feared George Uno was four-legged creatures," Victor Uno recounted, "because the Germans taught him taxidermy in the Crystal City internment camp."

While his wife and children were sent to the Amache incarceration camp, George Uno was held in DOJ camps across the country, including Bismarck, Santa Fe and Crystal City, due to his Issei status.

Despite the injustice, he remained strong — teaching English and stepping up as a community leader inside the camps. Learning this history made me think differently about the world we live in today.

Memories remain fresh for Japanese

American descendants, especially now as the Alien Enemies Act is being used again to detain and deport Venezuelan immigrants without evidence or due process.

I'm grateful to help share George Uno's story — and the Uno family's — because at a time when people's rights are under threat once more, it's more important than ever.

**KIYONE TANAKA-GACAYAN, SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY, FIRST YEAR**



**Kiyone Tanaka-Gacayan and Satoshi Isayama**

I have always felt drawn to history, especially Japanese American history — that is why I volunteer at the Japanese American Museum of San Jose and why I took interest in participating in the JACL's Alien



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email: BusMgr@PacificCitizen.org

► Enemies Act Stories Project.

When I joined the project, I already had a rather strong background in Japanese American history. That proved to be advantageous when I was researching the complicated story of Erich Nakano's grandfather, Minoru Nakano, through his government records.

Reading through the government files made his past traumas painfully real. Feeling both crushed — and *angry* — I had to reconcile the fact that they sent Minoru into the Department of Justice Santa Fe Internment Camp despite stating that he never did anything subversive.

It was just the fact that he, and so many others, were labeled “enemy aliens” or “disloyal” simply because of their Japanese ancestry and were punished because of it.

Thousands of Japanese immigrants were denied due process, and these stories of hardship — many just the same as Minoru’s — are only a reminder that we must stay vigilant.

Anybody, if they have the label “enemy alien” forced onto them, can be targeted next.

The AEA has left many of its victims unable to speak about the trauma they endured. Seeing the pain that my family still holds today, I want to ensure that I, and the other people of my generation, take the steps to put an end to these modern injustices.

#### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The wartime law Alien Enemies Act of 1798 grants the president authority to regulate, detain and deport noncitizens during either a declared war or in response to an “invasion” or



**Austin and Naoko Fujii at the AEA information table in New Mexico**

PHOTO: DARRELL MIHO

“predatory incursion” by foreign governments.

In WWII, President Franklin D. Roosevelt invoked the AEA following the Pearl Harbor attack through Proclamation 2525 (Dec. 7, 1941). The law enabled sweeping restrictions on noncitizens — where they could live and travel and what items (such as radios, cameras and books) they could possess — which led to internment and deportation without due process, regardless of immigration status or criminal history.

The proclamation eventually led to Executive Order 9066 (Feb. 19, 1942) and the mass incarceration of 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry.

#### MODERN USAGE

With the AEA last being used in WWII to target over 31,000 Japanese, German and Italian noncitizens based solely on their ancestry, it has now been invoked against alleged Venezuelan gang members — despite the absence of a declared war or foreign incursion.

President Donald Trump cited the law in 2017 to first justify the unofficially named Muslim travel ban (Executive Order 13769), and he has now referenced it again during his 2024 campaign and 2025 inaugural address, signaling intent to use the statute.

In response, the San Jose JACL launched the Alien Enemies Stories Project to document the personal accounts of about 17,000 Japanese and Japanese Latin Americans who were incarcerated under Proclamation 2525.

On March 15, President Trump issued an executive order invoking the AEA, then deported a plane load of Venezuelan immigrants — the ACLU was the first to legally challenge Trump’s inappropriate usage of the AEA. The JACL aims to support the ACLU’s lawsuits through amicus briefs with stories taken from the AEA Stories Project.

“Our goal is to remind the courts and the public that the AEA is not just a relic — it caused irreparable harm to our community,” said Naoko Fujii, chair of the JACL Social Justice Action Committee. “By sharing these stories, we aim to connect the dots between past and present due process violations.”

#### CONCLUSION

The symbolic location of the 2025 JACL National Convention — New Mexico — underscored the AEA’s legacy. Convention participants went on guided pilgrimages to both the Department of Justice camp in Santa Fe and the U.S. Army camp in Lordsburg. Both sites held enemy aliens including Japanese, Germans and Italians. Participants felt firsthand what it was like to endure 95-degree heat in uncooled barracks.

The Alien Enemies Act Stories Project continues to bring this history to light. Justice across generations demands that we listen, learn — and act.

*To read and learn more stories about the Alien Enemies Act, visit [jacl.org/alien-enemies-act-stories](http://jacl.org/alien-enemies-act-stories).*

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NCUA

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 and much more.  
**Info: Visit [www.nichibefoundation.org/wakamatsu](https://www.nichibefoundation.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 [watsonvillesantacruzjac.org](http://watsonvillesantacruzjac.org).**

**Big Steps for Little Friends 5K**  
San Francisco, CA  
Oct 19; 9 a.m.  
**Lindley Meadows in Golden Gate Park**  
This 5K run/walk celebrates Nihonmachi Little Friends' 50th anniversary; those who register before Oct. 3 will receive a commemorative event T-shirt.  
**Info: To register, visit [www.nlfchildcare.org](http://www.nlfchildcare.org).**

## PSW

**'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>.**

**'Kintsukuroi' Screenings**  
San Fernando, Norwalk and Torrance, CA  
Sept. 27 (San Fernando/Norwalk) and Sept. 28 (Torrance)  
**San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center, Milagro Cinema and George Nakano Theatre**  
**Price: General Admission Ranges From \$15-\$25**  
JACL's PSW District Board is excited to announce these screenings of "Kintsukuroi" along with director Kerwin Berk and several of the film's cast and crew members who will be available for questions following the film's conclusion.  
**Info: For tickets, visit [https://humanitix.com/us/search?query=KINTSUKUROI&locationQuery=California&lat=36.778261&lng=-119.4179324&plId=ChiJPV4oX\\_65j4ARVW8IJ6IJUyS](https://humanitix.com/us/search?query=KINTSUKUROI&locationQuery=California&lat=36.778261&lng=-119.4179324&plId=ChiJPV4oX_65j4ARVW8IJ6IJUyS).**

**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; 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&>**

**'The Kindness of Color'**  
Los Angeles, CA  
Oct. 4; 2-3:30 p.m.  
**JANM**  
100 N. Central Ave.  
**Price: \$5 General Admission; Free for Museum Members**  
Join author Janice Munemitsu and Tommy Dyo as they discuss her book "The Kindness of Color" and delve into their families' survival during WWII.  
**Info: For tickets, visit [www.janm.org/events](http://www.janm.org/events).**

**WWII Camp Wall Fundraising Concert Featuring Hiroshima**  
Torrance, CA  
Oct. 15; 7 p.m.  
**Torrance Cultural Arts Center**  
3330 Civic Center Dr.  
**Price: Tickets Start at \$75+**

Proceeds from this special concert will go toward the construction of the WWII Camp Wall Monument. The concert will be followed by some live auction items and a meet & greet with the legendary artists. A separate afterparty (separate tickets required) follows.  
**Info: Email [HiroshimaTrioTix@gmail.com](mailto:HiroshimaTrioTix@gmail.com).**

**(Re)Generations: UCLA Asian American & Pacific Islander Studies Reunion**  
Los Angeles, CA  
Oct. 18; 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
**UCLA James West Alumni Center**  
325 Westwood Plaza  
**Price: General Admission \$108.55 and Young Alumni \$55.20**

This full-day celebration will unite alumni, students, faculty and community members across many generations. Hear inspiring conversations from alumni and community leaders, participate in Talk Story sessions and learn about UCLA's Asian American Studies Center.  
**Info: To RSVP and for more information, email [abigailchun@ucla.edu](mailto:abigailchun@ucla.edu).**

## PNW

**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 [chazen.wisc.edu/exhibitions/toshiko-takaezu-worlds-within/](http://chazen.wisc.edu/exhibitions/toshiko-takaezu-worlds-within/).**

## IDC

**2025 Civil Liberties Symposium**  
**'The Coram Nobis Cases: Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu & Minoru Yasui'**  
Boise, ID and Ketchum, ID  
Oct. 7, University of Idaho College of Law; Oct. 8, The Egyptian Theatre; Oct. 9, The Community Library with Livestream Available

**Price: Free; Reserve Seats**  
Learn about these landmark cases and the overturning of their criminal convictions for their wartime civil disobedience. Attorneys from the legal teams — Kathryn Bannai, Lorraine Bannai and Peggy Nagae — will discuss their cases and implications for today. This symposium is presented by Friends of Minidoka and Minidoka National Historic Site.  
**Info: To reserve tickets, visit <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJyNOXCKlhv5PbOYhFnLkXCxNSMMFtCxo2hiVHEIGH2D004Q/viewform?pli=1>.**

**www.showclix.com/event/2025-civil-liberties-symposium-10-08-25?blm\_aid=23609345.**  
To view the livestream, visit [https://vimeo.com/event/5372546?blm\\_aid=23609345](https://vimeo.com/event/5372546?blm_aid=23609345).

## CCDC

### '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 <http://baseballhall.org>.**

### 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 as it continues its national tour along the East Coast.  
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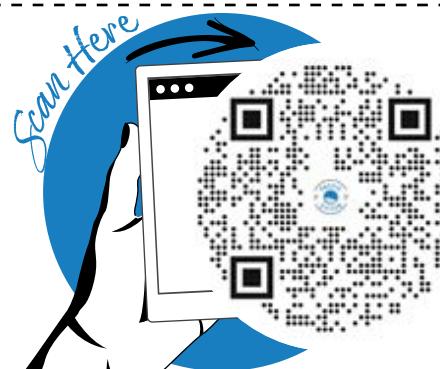
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## LONGSTANDING LITTLE TOKYO RESTAURANT CLOSES



Pictured (from left) are Jenni Kuida, Tony Osumi and Maiya Kuida-Osumi as they enjoy their visit to Mitsuru Sushi & Grill on Aug. 23 before the longstanding Little Tokyo restaurant — in business for 49 years and operated by Mamoru and Dora Hanamure — closed its doors Aug. 31. Set to take over the location next year will be the J-Pop Culture Café.

PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON

### PLACE A TRIBUTE

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

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# 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.)

**Arakaki, Loretta Chiyoko, 95,** Honolulu, HI, March 28.



**Asato, Takao Kenneth, 70,** Honolulu, HI, April 27.

**Kanogawa, Masako, 96,** Montebello, CA, Aug. 6.

**Nishioka, John Thomas, 74,** Chicago, IL, April 3.

**Kawaguchi, Sumie, 96,** Cerritos, CA, July 29.



**Kubo, Chisato, 97,** Fountain Valley, CA, July 15.



**Kunimura, Hiroko, 96,** Gilroy, CA, Aug. 25.



**Kurokawa, Roger N., 80,** Folsom, CA, Aug. 31.



**Igawa, Irene Emiko, 82,** Honolulu, HI, Aug. 8.

**Nosé, Yulie Kiyasu, 103,** Rockville, MD, Aug. 27.

**Masatsugu, Alice Fujiko, 97,** Mililani, HI, July 27.

**Oshima, Akiyoshi, 75,** San Jose, CA, Aug. 27.

**Matsumoto, Carol Jean (Cihlar), 68,** Anaheim Hills, CA, July 31.

**Sanwo, Patti Gale, 77,** Modesto, CA, June 26.

**Nishioka, Jimmy Fumio, 89,** Torrance, CA, April 21.

**Taniguchi, Judy, 85,** Sacramento, CA June 13.

**Yamada, Linda Eiko, 63,** Los Angeles, CA, June 4.

**Yanaga, Tsuruye, 80,** Montebello, CA, June 13.

**Yasaki, Masao, 99,** Los Angeles, CA, June 28. ■

## News Briefs

### Post-ICE Raid, Hyundai to Continue With Plans to Spend \$2.7 Bil in Ga.

In the aftermath of the Sept. 4 Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid on the Ellabell, Ga., electric car-battery factory being built by carmaker Hyundai and battery manufacturer LG Energy Solution — both South Korean corporations — that resulted in the arrests of 475 foreign workers, most of whom were South Korean citizens, Hyundai on Sept. 18 said it would go forward with its previously announced plans to spend \$2.7 billion to increase vehicle production capacity at the Ellabell site, according to the Associated Press. News of the raid, with reports of those arrested being physically restrained with handcuffs and chains, and detained under "deplorable conditions," left South Koreans and their government in shock. South Korean President Lee Jae Myun quoted as saying Korean businesses would "hesitate to make direct investments in the United States." A legal representative for four of the detained workers said most of the 320 South Koreans who were detained had B-1 visas or were in the U.S. with a visa waiver. A chartered Korean Air Boeing 747-8i that left Atlanta with 316 South Korean nationals, 10 Chinese nationals, three Japanese nationals and one Indonesian arrived in Seoul on Sept. 12. After the raid on the battery plant site, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus issued a statement that in part read: "Instead of targeting violent criminals, the Trump administration is going after immigrants at work and in communities of color to meet its mass deportation quotas." A Georgia-based special agent in charge of Homeland Security investigations was quoted as saying the detainees were "illegally present in the United States or in violation of their presence in the United States, working unlawfully."

### Report: Most Prisoners Held at Honouliuli Internment Camp Were Koreans

According to a report in the *Honolulu Civil Beat*, the majority of 4,000 prisoners held at the Honouliuli internment camp during World War II were Koreans. The camp was best-known for incarcerating 400 Japanese Americans who resided in Hawaii before Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor (see Oct. 8, 2024, *Pacific Citizen*, [tinyurl.com/y58tndk4](http://tinyurl.com/y58tndk4)). The report said that the 2,700 Koreans were captured prisoners of war, many of whom had been conscripted into the Japanese military.

### Golden State Valkyries' Natalie Nakase Named WNBA Coach of the Year

After leading the Golden State Valkyries to 23 regular season wins, head coach Natalie Nakase was named Coach of the Year by State Street Investment Management in partnership with the WNBA. Under Coach Nakase, the Valkyries also became the league's first expansion team to make the playoffs in an inaugural season. ¶ Elsewhere in professional sports, the NFL's Washington Commanders quarterback Jayden Daniels placed a Japanese flag decal on the back of his helmet, below an American flag sticker, in tribute to his Japanese great-grandmother.

### Calif. Judges Assn. Honors Gogo With Humanitarian Award for Flag Project

Since 2021, Superior Court of Santa Clara County Judge Johnny Cepeda Gogo has been getting Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during World War II by the federal government to sign a 48-star U.S. flag as a gesture of healing. On Sept. 13, the California Judges Assn. honored the Guam-born Gogo with its Alba Witkin Humanitarian Award for his efforts. In addition to a crystal award for Gogo, the CJA prize included a \$1,000 donation to the charity or organization of his choice.

### Jury: L.A. County Awards Filmmaker \$3 mil+ After Injury From Projectile

After movie director Cellin Gluck sued Los Angeles County for negligence and battery following his getting hit in the face by a projectile shot by a sheriff's deputy at a 2020 police brutality protest, a jury last month awarded the filmmaker \$3.5 million for violating his civil rights. The jury also awarded his daughter, Caroline, \$300,000. The *Los Angeles Times* reported, however, that because the jury also concluded that Gluck was 20% responsible for the harm done and the crowd was 15% responsible, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Michael Shultz reduced the amount of the jury's award by 35% to \$2.275 million for Cellin Gluck and \$195,000 for Caroline Gluck. The impact of the rubber bullet not only fractured Gluck's face, its impact also embedded shrapnel into his nasal cavity and "left him with permanent disfigurement, vision problems and severe emotional trauma." Gluck is the son of J. F. Gluck and Sumiye Hiramoto, a Nisei from Lodi, Calif. Gluck directed 2015's "Persona Non Grata," which told the story of Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara during WWII.

— P.C. Staff

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