

PHOTO: PACIFIC CITIZEN

October of 1982, who resigned in May 1983 after being accepted in UC Berkeley's Summer Program for Minority Journalists.

Following the departure of Imamura, Seriguchi joined the paper as news editor in December 1983 and later became its editor. Her last issue as editor was May 10, 1985, after which she became the executive director of the then-nascent Asian American Journalists Association. At that point, Shimabukuro became *Pacific Citizen's* acting editor and Yamamoto became assistant editor.

During his time on the *P.C.* staff, Shimabukuro began writing a column for the paper, titled "One Thing Leads to Another," accompanied by a photo of him smiling and wearing a T-shirt. Although his words were indicative of his wit and worldview, that photo, Alice Ito believes, would later work against him.

"The fact that he was wearing a T-shirt in his headshot was not very well received. In those days, to be professional meant that you had on a collared shirt, if not a tie. Again, he was pushing the edge in those days of what people thought was appropriate," Ito said.

Shimabukuro and Yamamoto would continue to produce the paper, even as the *Pacific Citizen* moved from the JACCC, where it had an office separate from the JACL's Pacific Southwest District office, to 941 E. Third Street in what is now known as L.A.'s Arts District, encountering an unexpected problem that made producing the paper in the summer unbearable: an out of order air conditioning system.

Yamamoto recalled that one of Shimabukuro's highlights at the time was producing the 1985 Holiday Issue, which was devoted entirely to the topic of Interracial Families, which for the Japanese American press was a landmark. Mira Shimabukuro said she remembered that issue well, as she was pictured among the many photos on the cover, since she herself was the result of the mixed-marriage between her father and his first wife.

Yamamoto also noted that under Bob Shimabukuro's leadership, the issue included another first to of sorts, since it included an article written by Sam Shimabukuro on his gay interracial relationship with his partner, Bruce MacDonald. He also, Yamamoto recalled, added a different cartoonist named Shinji in the paper.

Mira Shimabukuro said she felt that

her father was "always trying to push the edge a little bit at *Pacific Citizen*" about what the paper might cover or take on. While that might be considered forward-thinking now, Bob Shimabukuro's thoughts on the editorial direction of the paper, like that photo of him that accompanied his column, may have worked against him.

Although Shimabukuro proved he was capable at putting the paper out for more than a year, his bid to take on the role as *Pacific Citizen* editor failed. He was passed over in favor of Lynn Sakamoto-Chung, who became editor in August 1986; his last issue was the December 1986 Holiday Issue, after which he left Los Angeles for Seattle.

"He was perturbed that he was never made the editor of the newspaper and that was one factor in his decision to leave California," Ito said. "It was a disappointment to him, but I think, again, during that era, he thought perhaps one reason was that he was outspoken in his writings and in the way that he conducted work and that perhaps there was some thought on the part of the board of the *Pacific Citizen* that might have been one of the factors in their decision."

It may, Ito said, have been an example of the Japanese saying about how the nail that sticks up gets hammered down. But it must have worked out, since she and Bob married in Seattle in 1988, and he was able to care for his ailing brother.

For Mira Shimabukuro, her father's memory and legacy provides some solace amid the loss. "Losing him right now is incredibly difficult because he was such a multifaceted person and we were very close. He was an incredibly incisive storyteller that I think people can see in his writing. He was also an incredibly kind and gentle human being. Up here in Seattle, the community is really mourning him," she said. "He was an incredible father."

Bob Shimabukuro was predeceased by his parents, Zenshu and Yasuko Shimabukuro. In addition to his widow, Alice Ito, and children, Mira Shimabukuro (Wayne Au) and Zenwa Shimabukuro, he is survived by a grandson, Mako; siblings, Toki Shimabukuro, Ann Colunga (John Droegmiller), Roy Shimabukuro, Ned Shimabukuro (Dee); and Irene Whitaker (George); and nieces and nephews.



Shimabukuro's column during his stint at the *P.C.* (top)



# MEMORIAM

**Amimoto, Richard 84**, Monterey Park, CA, Jan. 2; Army veteran; he is survived by his children, Alan Amimoto and Diane (Bernie) Vlach; siblings, Shun (Pat), Kanji, Barbara, Jerry (Pam) and Eugene (Teri); gc: 5.

**Higashi, Kiyo, 86**, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 27; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA and later moved to the Jerome WRA Center in AR; she was predeceased by her siblings, Tomiko Akahori, Yoshiko Uyetake and Keiso Uyetake; she is survived by her husband, Robert; daughters, Taryn, Kelly and Dorré; siblings, Sue Miyazaki and Kenji Uyetake; gc: 1.

**Higashi, Richard Tadao, 79**, Culver City, CA, Jan. 2; Army veteran; he was predeceased by his siblings, Frances Iwamizu and Steve Higashi; he is survived by his siblings, Barbara (Richard) Heister and Larry (Vicki) Higashi; brother-in-law, Harvey Iwamizu, sister-in-law, Michi Higashi; 2 nieces and 2 nephews.

**Higashida, Rose Kikuye, 91**, Jan. 28; and **Higashida, James Hikari, 92**, Northridge, CA, Feb. 14; they are survived by their children, Kathy Kozai (Gerald), Neil (Donna) Higashida and Terri (Chuck) Amano; they are also survived by nieces, nephews and other loving relatives; gc: 6.

**Inada, Mary Hatsumi (née Tanabe), 101**, Bakersfield, CA, Jan. 21; she was predeceased by her husband, Yasuo; daughter-in-law, Jeannie; and grandson, Donald; she is survived by her children, Kazuo (Suzie), Ronald (Shirley), Richard and Jeanne Brey (Jack); sisters, Kiku Uchida and Shirley Yuriko McCrory; longtime family friend, Carol Cook; gc: 8; ggc: 19; gggc: 11.

**Inouye, Chieko, 100**, Signal Hill, CA, Dec. 28, 2020; she was predeceased by her husband, Dr. Milton M. Inouye; brothers, George (Yoshiko), Kiyoshi (Misako), Toru (Marian), Hideo and Dr. William (Sharon) Shigekawa; she is survived by her daughters, Emily (David) Cook, Dr. Carolyn Inouye and Marianne Inouye; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and other relatives.

**Inouye, Dwight Hideo, 71**, Provo, UT, Dec. 29, 2020; he was predeceased by his siblings, Charlotte and Dillon; he is survived by his wife, Jeannie Lew; 8 children; 3 siblings; gc: 27.

**Kamibayashi, Yuriko, 89**, Torrance, CA, Jan. 13; she was predeceased by her husband, Warren; she is survived by her children, Lianne (Ken), Neal (Naomi) and Eric (Lisa); sisters, Yoneko, Rosie and Joan; gc: 4; ggc: 2.

**Katsumata, John Masao, 82**, Long Beach, CA Oct. 26, 2020; he was predeceased by his older brother and a great-nephew; he is survived by a niece; 2 great-nephews; a great-niece and other relatives, a godson and close friends.

**Kawaguchi, Bruce, 71**, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 24; he was predeceased by his father, James Kawaguchi; he is survived by his wife, Judy (Kuwahara); mother, Peggy Kawaguchi; brother, Kirk Kawaguchi and many other relatives.

**Matsunaga, Aiko, 91**, Chicago, IL, Dec. 17, 2020; she was predeceased by her husband, Robert; and son, Lyle; she is survived by her son, Ross (Yvonne); gc: 2.

**Matsunaga, Keiko, 77**, Los Angeles, CA, Jan 23, 2021; born during WWII while her parents were incarcerated at the Gila River WRA Center in AZ; she was predeceased by her husband, John T. Matsunaga; she is survived by her sister, Emiko Keimi (Albert); she is also survived by many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and other relatives.

**Matsushita, Yurika (Nagasawa), 89**, Culver City, CA, Feb. 26; she is survived by her children, Brian, Ron and Joni (Mostert); siblings, Sumi Yonemoto, Masaru Nagasawa and Sachi Mimura; gc: 2; ggc: 1.

**Nakasone, Thomas, 88**, Culver City, CA, Jan. 12; Army veteran; he was predeceased by his siblings, Johnnie Nakasone and Sumiko Hoshizaki (Howard Hoshizaki); he is survived by his wife, May (Higuchi); daughters, Lisa Nakasone-Quan (Allanson Quan) and Eva Nakasone (Ted Nishimura); gc: 3.

**Nakayama, Marie Togami, 94**, Albuquerque, NM, Dec. 8, 2020; she was predeceased by her husband, John Nakayama; she is survived by her children, Karen (Robert), Ken and Nancy (Michael); brother, Paul (Illinois); gc: 2.

**Nakayama, Shigekazu, 57**, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 14; predeceased by parents, Shigeo and Tadao Nakayama; survived by aunt, Kasumi Sakai and many cousins and friends.

**Oda, Sam, 90**, Kent, WA, April 13; he was predeceased by his siblings, Chieko Watanabe, Marge Kanno, Carol Kamaya, Koke Oda, John Oda and Jim Oda; he is survived by his wife, Kermie Waki Oda; children, Janet Maeda, Jennifer Hirai and Stanley Oda; and sister Mary Mitamura; gc: 6; ggc: 1.

**Oda, Stanley, 82**, Los Angeles, CA, March 11; he is survived by his wife, Pauline; children, Joy Oda-Okamoto and David Oda; siblings, Edna and Warren Oda; gc: 2.

**Sasaki, Clarence, 80**, Branford, CT, Feb. 4; Army veteran; he is survived by his wife, Carolyn; sons, Peter (Jackie) and John (Rachel); Gordon (Joanne); sister-in-law, Beth Lindahl; brother-in-law, Robert Lindahl; a niece and a nephew.

**Sasaki, George, 89**, Gardena, CA, Nov. 10; Army veteran; he was predeceased by 5 sisters and 3 brothers; he is survived by his sister, Sachi Hori; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Takeda, Alfred Masaru, 83**, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 16; he is survived by his wife, Jinko Takeda; children, Willie Takeda, Aileen (Scott) Zeidman, Jeff (Christine) Takeda and Wayne (Daniela) Takeda; siblings, Lorraine (Kazuo) Watanabe and Tom (Rumi) Takeda; gc: 10.

**Takeda, Yayoi, 89**, Vacaville, CA, Oct. 24, 2020; she was predeceased by her first husband, Jacob William Gopp; and second husband, Yuki Takeda; she is survived by her children, Helen (Roger) Smith, David (Colleen) Gopp and Dewey Gopp; brothers, Kikuo, Shigeo and Masao; gc: 8; ggc: 8.

**Wakamoto, Harold, 88**, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 11; he was predeceased by his wife, Yaeko; he is survived by his children, Carole, David and Wendy; gc: 2.

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