

NOTABLE 2022 LOSSES

WARREN MINAMI (83)

The Potomac, Md., resident died Jan. 9, 2022. He was a retired senior executive with the International Monetary Fund. As a child, his family and he were incarcerated at the Gila River War Relocation Authority Center in Arizona during World War II.

Minami's Asian American community involvement included serving on the board of governors of the Japanese American National Museum and as the chair of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation.

JEFFREY L. YOSHIOKA (63)

Yoshioka, who died Feb. 20, earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from San Jose State University and helped found the Silicon Valley JACL chapter in 2009. He served as its president and treasurer, using his skills as a certified public accountant. He helped organize the annual Silicon Valley JACL Basketball Tournament.

Among his other involvements, Yoshioka participated with the JACL Health Trust, National Japanese American Memorial Committee, API Justice Coalition, the Japantown Community Congress, and he represented the chapter at Day of Remembrance and other community events. The JACL's NCWNP district honored him with its Unsung Hero award.

YURIKO KIKUCHI (102)

The dancer-choreographer died March 8 in New York City. She was born Yuriko Amemiya in San Jose, Calif. A Kibei Nisei who furthered her dance training in Japan early in life, she returned to the U.S. in 1937. During WWII, Kikuchi was incarcerated

at the Gila River War Relocation Center.

She went to New York City when she was released in 1943 after signing a loyalty oath, and in 1944 joined the Martha Graham Dance Co. and became known as an acolyte of the noted dancer and choreographer. Known professionally just by her first name, she was said to be the first nonwhite dancer in Graham's company. Kikuchi appeared in the 1956 film version of "The King and I." In 2012, she was presented with the Martha Hill Dance Fund Lifetime Achievement Award.

JOHN KORTY (85)

The Oscar- and Emmy-winning filmmaker died March 9 in Point Reyes Station, Calif. Korty was best-known for directing the acclaimed 1974 telefilm "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman," "Who Are the Debolts? And Where Did

They Get 19 Kids?" and the 1976 telefilm "Farewell to Manzanar," the adaptation of the book of the same name written by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and her late husband, James D. Houston. It won the 1977 Humanitas Prize, which honors film and TV writing, in the 90-minute category.

The Houstons and Korty collaborated on writing the telefilm's screenplay and were nominated for a Primetime Emmy in the category Outstanding Writing in a Special Program, Drama or Comedy, Adaptation.

NORMAN YOSHIO MINETA (90)

The Edgewater, Md., resident died May 3. For much of his adult life, he was known as a barrier-breaking public servant, having served as mayor of San Jose, Calif., and beginning in 1974, he would serve 10 terms as member of the House of Representatives for California's Silicon Valley. During his service in Congress, Mineta was a member of the "Big Four" of Japanese Americans in Congress — Sens. Matsunaga and Inouye and Rep. Matsui — who helped shepherd the Japanese American Redress bill through both houses, culminating in 1988 with President Reagan's signature.

As Commerce Department secretary under President Clinton and Transportation Department secretary under President George W. Bush, Mineta became the first Asian American Cabinet member, serving in Democratic and Republican administrations.

As a 10-year-old during WWII, Mineta accompanied his family when they were incarcerated at the Heart Mountain WRA Center in Wyoming. Returning to San Jose after the war, he went on to graduate from the University of California, Berkeley, with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He served in the Army for three years as an intelligence officer in Korea and Japan. After being discharged, he returned to San Jose to run his father's Mineta Insurance Agency.

Mineta's foray into politics came in 1967, when San Jose's mayor tapped him to fill a vacant seat on the city council. He won re-election and served four more years on the council before winning the city's top seat in 1971, making him the first Asian American mayor of a major city, which now has an airport that bears his name. President Bush awarded Mineta the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

As Bush's Transportation Department secretary, Mineta led the department during the crisis of Sept. 11, 2001. After a second plane crashed into the World Trade Center, Mineta ordered the Federal Aviation Administration to ground all civilian aircraft — more than 4,500 in flight at the time, a first in the history of U.S. aviation. He would oversee the creation of the Transportation Security Administration.

MASARU HASHIMOTO (86)

The Watsonville, Calif., resident died June 20. At age 6, his mother, some of his brothers and he were



incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center (Camp 1, followed by Camp 2) in Arizona as a result of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066.

In his adult years, Mas, as he was known, served in the Army from 1958-60. He married Marcia Hashimoto, who survives him, in 1970. Both were educators, with Mas Hashimoto teaching U.S. history at his alma mater, Watsonville High School, for 36 years.

Marcia and Mas Hashimoto were also active members of the Watsonville Buddhist Temple. He stayed productive to the end of his life, contributing a column to the *Pacific Citizen* that appeared in the June 24, 2022, issue, a tribute to his late friend, former Transportation Secretary and U.S. Rep. Norman Mineta.

SHINZO ABE (67)

The former prime minister of Japan was assassinated July 8 as he delivered a political speech on a street in Nara, Japan.



A leader in Japan's Liberal Democratic Party, Abe served two terms as Japan's prime minister, September 2006-September 2007, and December 2012-September 2020.

Abe was Japan's longest-serving prime minister, but was seen as a polarizing figure, as part of his legacy included the 2014 reinterpretation of Japan's postwar constitution that allowed "collective self-defense," meaning that for the first time since WWII, Japan's Self Defense Force could join U.S. Armed Forces in military actions beyond its borders.

HENRY FUHRMANN (65)

The Claremont, Calif., resident died Sept. 15. Fuhrmann spent 25 years at the Los Angeles Times in various capacities. Before accepting a buyout in 2015, Fuhrmann's name was in the paper's masthead as its assistant managing editor.

Active in the Asian American Journalists Assn. locally and nationally, Fuhrmann was the eldest of four siblings born to Ronald and Yukiko Fuhrmann, née Miyamoto.

Fuhrmann is credited for championing the L.A. Times to change its guidance on the word "internment" to describe camps operated

by the U.S. government during WWII for Japanese Americans, since the word by its definition applies to foreign nationals, not U.S. citizens. A celebration of life is scheduled for Feb. 19, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Little Tokyo.

FRANKLIN ODO (83)

The Amherst, Mass., resident died Sept. 28. The Hawaii-born author-academician's achievements in research and historical inquiry in the area of Asian American Studies led to Odo becoming the inaugural director of the Smithsonian's Asian Pacific American Program for a 13-yearlong stint beginning in 1997. At its 2008 National Convention, the JACL presented to Odo its President's Award.

Odo's educational résumé included degrees from Princeton University (B.A. and Ph.D.) and Harvard University (M.A.). His teaching career included stints at Occidental College; University of California, Los Angeles; California State University, Long Beach; University of Pennsylvania; Hunter College; Princeton University; Columbia University; University of Hawaii at Manoa; and University of Maryland-College Park. Odo's most recent-position was teaching American Studies at Amherst College.

CECILIA MARSHALL (94)

The Falls Church, Va., resident died Nov. 22. The daughter of Philippine immigrants, "Cissy" Suyat was born in Pu'unene, Maui, Hawaii.

After WWII ended, she moved



to New York City, became a court stenographer and landed a job as a legal secretary at the NAACP.

Her future husband was Thurgood Marshall, the first African

American Supreme Court justice and before that, the NAACP's lead attorney in the landmark 1954 high court case *Brown v. Board of Education*.

MARY URASHIMA (62)

The Huntington Beach, Calif., resident died Nov. 20. She was a dedicated advocate for the preservation from demolition of the Japanese mission site known as Historic Wintersburg in Huntington Beach, Calif., which included the Furuta Gold Fish Farm, in the century-old property in the former Wintersburg Village.

In 2014, Urashima wrote "Historic Wintersburg in Huntington Beach." That same year, the JACL's Pacific Southwest District presented her with its Community Hero Award. In 2018, the California Preservation Foundation presented her with its President's Award.

In February, however, the Wintersburg site was left in shambles by a fire, followed within hours by the demolition of buildings on the site prior to an arson investigation. Urashima, quoted on the LAist.com website, said, "I'm devastated. I'm heartbroken." ■

TRIBUTE

SEI SHIMOGUCHI



Resident of Oakland, Calif.

Our beloved Sei Shimoguchi passed away suddenly on Friday, Nov. 11, 2022, at the age of 62. He is survived by his loving wife, Karen; their devoted daughter, Sam; parents, Sam and Kuni; sister, Maya (Mark); brother, Ty (Amie); and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Sei was born in Los Angeles, Calif., and grew up on the Westside of L.A. He had a lifelong love of sports and especially excelled in basketball.

After graduating from UCLA and then from Loyola Law School, Sei practiced law for over 35 years. An avid surfer, he loved to vacation with his family to the Monterey Coast and Lake Tahoe area, where they enjoyed biking, hiking and golf. He worked for the State of California Commission on Judicial Performance until his untimely passing.

Sei cared deeply for family and friends, and never hesitated to lend a hand. He was a beautiful writer and patient adviser, a treasured gem to those whose lives he touched. He took great joy in watching his family pursue their creative passions. He cared fiercely about the environment. We remember Sei as a kind, generous, funny and intelligent man, who loved his family more than anything else. We will love and miss him forever

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 \$20/column inch.

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