



PACIFIC CITIZEN



Manzanar, Distant Mountain Freedom

PHOTO: SANDY SUGAWARA

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CANE: 50 Years of Activism in SF Japantown

JACL PARTICIPATES IN 60TH MARCH ON WASHINGTON

Aug. 28 marked the 60th anniversary of the March on Washington. On Aug. 26, JACL joined nearly 200 organiza-



JACL Executive Director David Inoue (right) converses with Todd Endo (sitting), who participated in the original march 60 years earlier as a member of the JACL delegation.

PHOTO: KAORI INOUE

tions and thousands of individuals in continuing the work from that march 60 years ago. Todd Endo, one of the original marchers for JACL in 1963, joined the group for the morning along with members of his family, where they were able to hear addresses from three representatives from the Asian American community. Kiran Kaur Gill from SALDEF was one of the first speakers to kick off the day, followed by Norman Chen of TAAF and JACL Executive Director David Inoue spoke to close out the first hour. In his remarks, Inoue called for action on African American reparations as a continuation of the ongoing work from 60 years ago to bring social and economic justice for the African American community. "If we can pass Japanese Amer-



The March on Washington was held on Aug. 26; 60 years earlier there on Aug. 28, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF APIA VOTE

ican redress 35 years ago, we are long past due for African American reparations," Inoue said. "We need our leaders to establish commissions

to study the needs for reparations to bring racial healing to our country."

— JACL National

Jacksonville Shooting Highlights Need to Continue the Work of Racial Reconciliation and Repair as Highlighted by the March on Washington

By JACL National

On Aug. 26, a gunman targeted and killed three people specifically because they were African American. This is another one of the countless shootings that occurred this year already, but tragically comes on a time of remembrance for civil rights history.

This attack came juxtaposed on a historically symbolic day for civil rights, where JACL joined hundreds of thousands of advocates in honor of the 1963 March on Washington, which featured Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. This year's theme, "A Continu-

ation Not a Commemoration," is a renewed commitment to build a nation that lives up to its ideals — one that protects and values Black lives. Following this act of racialized violence, this theme could not hold more truth toward the need to dismantle systemic racism and white supremacy in all forms.

Just as a quarter million Americans, led by King, first marched against segregation 60 years ago, this year's march both memorialized and advocated for the continuance of his work against anti-Blackness, segregation and white supremacy.

In the 60 years since the March's beginning, our country's legacy of

racism continues to harm, disenfranchise and claim the lives of Black individuals at the hands of hate-fueled violence. In addition to revealing our country's longstanding history of anti-Blackness, the shooting also underscored the critical need to ban assault weapons.

The intersection of racism and gun violence is resulting in dire consequences. This is particularly true in a state such as Florida, which has passed laws to enable and embolden gun owners to brazenly turn to gun violence as their first option.

This mixed with a series of policy changes targeting multicultural and particularly African American

communities — incidents such as this are frighteningly more likely to happen. We must do better as a nation if we are to make true on the hopes and dreams of the past. ■



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NEVER FORGET?

By David Inoue,
JACL Executive Director

It has now been 22 years since the Sept. 11 attacks horrified and then brought together what was then a fractured country in the wake of the 2020 elections. Despite his unpopularity prior to the 9/11 attacks, President George W. Bush and New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani became, for a brief moment, apolitical, at least in our own country, ideal leaders who spoke for and to all of us as Americans.

A lot can happen in 22 years.

Today, we are fractured as a country more than ever, certainly more than we were in the time between the 2000 election and 9/11. Racial relations have deteriorated

to the point where veiled racism is no longer disguised. White nationalism is openly talked about proudly, and being called out for racist ideology is responded to with charges of being overly sensitive and worn as a badge of honor that the woke left is attacking them.

And as for the great leaders of 9/11? Giuliani, the former federal prosecutor and “tough on crime mayor” has himself been indicted on conspiracy charges to attempt to overturn the last presidential election along with former President Donald Trump.

On the other hand, the George W. Bush Institute, along with 12 other presidential library institutes and foundations, for the first time ever issued a joint statement to “reaf-

firm our commitment to the principles of democracy undergirding this great nation, protecting our freedom and respecting our fellow citizens.”

This action is unprecedented, perhaps underscored by the Eisenhower Foundation’s reasoning for not signing on that this would be the “first common statement that the presidential centers and foundations have ever issued as a group, but we have had no collective discussion about it, only an invitation to sign.” Again, this can be contrasted with the leadership from the Bush Institute, where it emphasized that the former president had indeed read the statement and signed off on it personally.

The Eisenhower Foundation’s stunning lack of awareness is really not so stunning. One would think that any person with any understanding of the current state of our democracy and the threat that former President Trump and his supporters represent would have been more than willing to sign on to such an innocuous statement about the importance of democra-

cy and respect diverse viewpoints. And yet, that is the state of things today.

The conservative movement has been subsumed by the radical right who believe in a theocratic Christian nation where minorities can have some rights, so long as they don’t change the dynamic of white supremacy. Was it fear from this part of the Republican party that prevented the Eisenhower Foundation from signing? Or is it because its own leadership subscribes to the false narrative that the 2020 election was stolen? Watching the first Republican presidential candidate debate — it is quite clear that the radical fringe is now mainstream perspective for too many Republicans.

We cannot have our leaders equivocating on the sanctity of the vote or the need to restore faith in public service and the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That is what has allowed the lies of former President Trump, Giuliani, Fox News and so many others to grow and spread to the majority of Republicans.

I know that those who believe the lies will not be the ones reading my words and certainly will not be agreeing with me. And that is why conservative leaders, and institutions such as the Eisenhower Foundation, who might still hold sway with some of those who might be convinced that in order to Make America Great Again, need to work together as a democracy with “compassion, tolerance, pluralism and respect for others” and not in a battle to dehumanize and destroy the other side.

That statement was nearly universally affirmed, with the exception of the one whose silence speaks just as loudly to those who need to hear this message most. Just as we needed leaders on Sept. 11, we need our leaders to step up today, for the benefit of our country, not just for political parties or to seemingly preserve a false sense of peace.

David Inoue is executive director of the JACL. He is based in the organization’s Washington, D.C., office.



NIKKEI VOICE

A New Take on ‘MADAMA BUTTERFLY’ Updates Puccini’s Opera to Modern Times

By Gil Asakawa

Even if you haven’t seen the opera, most people know the title “Madama Butterfly,” Giacomo Puccini’s famous work that debuted in 1904. It’s part of the operatic canon, a classic. But when the Boston Lyric Opera announced it would mount “Butterfly” in the fall of 2020, the world had different plans. Covid came along and shut down everything everywhere, all at once. By the spring of 2021, anti-Asian hate crimes were in the headlines, and then eight people were killed in Atlanta. Six of the victims were Asian women.

The BLO took an unprecedented step. The company reached out to Phil Chan, a dancer and activist who had co-founded Final Bow for Yellowface, an organization that calls out racist Asian stereotypes in classic ballet works like “The Nutcracker.” He also wrote a book with the same title. The BLO asked Chan to moderate a series of online discussions, “The Butterfly

Process.”

The intent was never to cancel the opera, says Chan, who loves opera, including “Madama Butterfly” and Puccini’s other works, such as the equally problematic “Turandot.” After overseeing the discussions for the BLO, the chrysalis of a new, modern “Butterfly” was born. The BLO then asked Chan to helm the production.

He wrote a new libretto and is directing the opera, with the story set not in Japan of the 1890s, but instead in 1940s California. The main characters, Cio-Cio-san and B. F. Pinkerton, fall in love on the eve of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the subsequent incarceration of more than 120,000 people of Japanese descent during World War II. She’s a Chinatown nightclub singer who’s sent to a concentration camp, and he is sent off to fight in the Pacific, not realizing she’s pregnant.

Chan admits he’s Chinese American. “You know, I’m not Japanese, my family was not incarcerated. I’m thinking am I the right person to tell this story?” he asked.

So, he relied on the BLO’s artistic advisor and dramaturg, Nina Yoshida Nelsen, who is biracial Japanese whose grandmother was imprisoned at Poston in Arizona during WWII. She co-founded the Asian Opera Alliance in 2021 and has performed in “Butterfly” dozens of times over her career. For Chan’s reimagining, she drew on her family history.

“She is the beating heart of this production,” Chan said. “Her family was incarcerated, so this is very personal. Just working with her brought out the human history of this in a very personal way.”

Bringing the JA Perspective

Nelsen acknowledges her JA roots. Her grandfather was in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and her grandmother’s family was incarcerated. But she wasn’t part of a JA community, having been born in Santa Barbara, Calif.

She recalled, “Growing up, you’re as American as you can be, and you keep your head down, and you do your work and you get good grades. We grew up with Japanese food on New Year’s Day, and there were some words that I never knew the English words for like shoyu. But I wouldn’t say that I identified as ‘Japanese’ until people started typecasting me into Japanese roles. It wasn’t until people started telling me I was Japanese that I had to look into what does that mean and what does that mean for me.”

She found that meaning in “An American Dream,” an opera that tells the story of a Japanese American and German American

families during the war. Her character, which she portrays since it first opened in 2015, is much like her grandmother when she was in camp. And then during the height of Covid, she co-founded the Asian Opera Alliance.

“In the spring of 2021, right after the shootings in Atlanta, we started to see opera companies around the United States post on their social media saying, ‘We support our Asian artists,’ similar to what we saw post-George Floyd with all the Black artists,” she said. She saw one post from an opera company that made a generic call for an Asian American soprano.

That’s when she realized her career had been built on her ethnicity. “It was all ‘Butterfly,’ ‘American Dream,’ ‘Turandot.’ There was no, like, ‘Marriage of Figaro’ or ‘La Boheme’ or anything else. The only way we’ve ever seen in opera is as Asian.”

Nelsen thought about it and realized over a busy decade of work that she had only sung three non-Asian roles. “I was shocked by this,” she said. “And because I knew I had been pigeonholed into Asian roles, but I didn’t know how bad it was.”

She and a friend formed the Asian Opera Alliance, which advocates for AAPI artists on its website and social media. She knew of Chan, but the two had only spoken once before she met him through

the BLO, which asked her to participate in the Butterfly Process panel discussions. Now, they’re creative partners in this revamped “Butterfly.”

» See ‘MADAMA BUTTERFLY’ on page 9



BLO Artistic Adviser Nina Yoshida Nelsen and Stage Director Phil Chan at a recent rehearsal for “Madama Butterfly”

PHOTO: KATHY WITTMAN

ADVOCATING FOR ALL

JACL passes R1 and calls for further action for the inclusion of trans and nonbinary members in its continued support of the LGBTQIA+ community.

By Annakai Hayakawa,
Contributor

At the JACL National Council Meeting on July 20 during its recent National Convention in Little Tokyo, members overwhelmingly passed a resolution, R1, calling for increased support of transgender and nonbinary people.

The resolution states JACL National will offer all-gender bathrooms and lodging at events. This has been done before with success, said Vinicius Taguchi, president of the Twin Cities chapter and one of the resolution's authors. A simple adjustment can be made to already-existing bathrooms, such as pasting a "Gender Neutral" sign over the sign for a gender-specific bathroom during the duration of an event or conference, he added.

For Zara Espinoza, a member of the Twin Cities chapter and Young Professional Caucus officer of the Midwest District Council who spoke in support of the resolution, R1 gets at the core of the JACL's mission to fight for civil and human rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry.

"It goes beyond bathrooms — it's about how we are treating each other with dignity in our humanity," Espinoza said. "Sometimes I have to remind people in power of the exclusionary messages they are sending when necessary accessibility accommodations are not provided. As Japanese Americans, we should be able to understand why it's important to be supported and treated as fully human."

"We can't say we welcome our transgender and nonbinary members but say they must go somewhere else when nature calls or when they need to sleep," said Michelle Huey of the Florin-Sacramento chapter. "We can't say that we are a civil rights organization, but only when it is convenient."

Huey's opening statement kicked off a discussion of the resolution before the vote. She co-authored R1 with members from the Berkeley, San Jose and Twin Cities chapters along with the JACL National Youth/Student Council and Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District Youth Board.

"Having close friends who are queer and trans, it just felt like the right thing to focus on now," said Josh Kaizuka, one of the resolution's authors from the Florin-Sacramento chapter.

The resolution was also a response to the rise of anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation across the country, Taguchi said. A total of 492 anti-LGBTQIA+ state bills were proposed in the 2023 legislative session, according to the ACLU — many of them targeting trans and nonbinary people. Of that total, 78 have already been passed into law, including in Arkansas, North Dakota and Utah.

In Florida, where four anti-LGBTQIA+ bills have already been passed into law, domestic violence centers and bathrooms must now accept only those whose gender assigned at birth matches the facility's signage. Trans people are prohibited from participating in sports, and sex-reassignment surgery and health-care procedures for transition are banned. Schools must also notify parents if a student's gender expression does not match their sex assigned at birth.

Some of the resolution's authors originally joined



(Left) EDC NY/SC Rep. Sarah "Remi" Kageyama advocates for R1; (above right) R1 authors Josh Kaizuka and Vinicius Taguchi at the NC meeting.

PHOTOS: KRIS IKEJIRI

forces in 2020 after the police murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, writing a resolution to affirm the JACL's support for Black communities and Black Japanese Americans. The authors enjoyed working together, Taguchi said, and decided to team up again on the latest resolution.

In addition to offering gender-neutral bathrooms and hotel rooms, the resolution urges the JACL to create more educational opportunities for its members on topics like sexuality, gender identity and challenges faced by transgender and nonbinary people. It also calls for the inclusion of trans and nonbinary members in decision-making on policies impacting LGBTQIA+ communities.

Making all members of the JACL feel represented was key. "There are many Japanese Americans who are trans and nonbinary," Taguchi said. "It is the JACL's responsibility to acknowledge them and do what it takes for them to feel just as much a part of the organization."

Lastly, the resolution summons the JACL to take action beyond its membership and advocate for legislation and funding in support of trans and nonbinary people's well-being.

"I have friends who can't go home, who can't be with family, because of the new anti-trans legislation popping up in their states," said Sarah "Remy" Kageyama, Eastern District Council representative on JACL's NY/SC, who is nonbinary. When, during the council meeting the EDC proposed an amendment to the bill, Kageyama delivered a speech to the room in favor of passing the resolution. "To say that we are not experts, that we should not be guaranteed a say on issues that affect our lives so profoundly, is an outrage," they said.

JACL members of all ages were in support of the resolution. "Passing the resolution is a call to action to all chapters to implement the same standards to make our nonbinary and transgender colleagues feel welcome and comfortable," said former Congressman Mike Honda of the San Jose chapter. While in Washington, D.C., Honda helped found the Congressional Equality Caucus in 2008, with the goal of advancing LGBTQIA+ rights. The Caucus' initial three members have grown to 192 members today.

The JACL must use the resolution to "leverage our economic power," said Naoko Fujii of the San Jose chapter. She hopes the JACL and its network of fellow organizations join together to take action.

The next step is to "try to see how we can strategize, so the JACL rallies our allies to do a similar thing," she added. "We need to use our national platform."

This article was made possible by the Harry K. Honda Memorial Journalism Fund, which was established by JACL Redress Strategist Grant Ujifusa.



FELLOWS
CORNER

APALA'S CONVENTION MOTIVATED AND INSPIRED ME TO STAY CONNECTED AND ENGAGED

By Bridget Keaveney,
JACL Norman Y. Mineta Fellow

One year has passed since my participation in the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA)'s border tour of San Diego, Calif., and Tijuana, Mexico. The program was conducted in collaboration with the University of California Los Angeles' Labor Center, led by professor and activist Kent Wong.

As I wrote in an article that appeared in the *Pacific Citizen* last year, the experience left me charged and eager to expand my involvement in the immigrant rights movement. It was a transformational experience that propelled me into a year full of partnered advocacy with groups such as Tsuru for Solidarity and Value Our Families, as well as the Congregation Action Network in Washington, D.C.

I owe so much of what I now know to the teachers and mentors I connected with in spaces that are created and sustained by organizations such as APALA. Due to that experience and my growing affinity for the organization, I became interested in attending APALA's 17th biennial convention program in Seattle, which was held Aug. 3-6.

This year's convention theme was "Workers Rising Together," and it was centered on celebrating AAPI labor history and developing strategies toward collective liberation.

While the idea of attending a second convention less than two weeks after JACL's own National Convention seemed initially overwhelming, I was desperate to meet with activists who I knew would provide me with

the resources and tools needed to build worker solidarity and fight oppressive systems. I was overcome with gratitude when I was awarded a scholarship to attend APALA's convention.

As someone who hails from the Pacific Northwest, the idea of returning home and partaking in something as special as APALA's convention was all I could have wanted and more!

The scholarship required awardees to volunteer their time toward the convention. I was very fortunate to share this experience with my colleague and dear friend, Cheyenne Cheng, who also received a scholarship. The two of us couldn't help but laugh when we learned that the bulk of the convention's programming and our very own hotel placement was to be at Seattle's Westin Hotel, the very same hotel chain where the JACL convention had just been held in Little Tokyo.

It was APALA, after all, who recommended we go with the Westin Bonaventure, given their contract status. I'm so grateful to have shared this experience with someone with whom I look up to. Both APALA and JACL have become a foundational part of our relationship, and I look forward to continuing to be involved in community with Cheyenne in the years to come.

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JACL and APALA members (from left) Cheyenne Cheng, Stan Shikuma, Sheldon Arakaki and Bridget Keaveney gather for a group photo.



JACL and APALA members Stan Shikuma (center) and Bridget Keaveney (in white hat) march alongside activists, fellow APALA members and hotel workers in the UNITE HERE Local 8 Hospitality Workers march on Aug. 4.

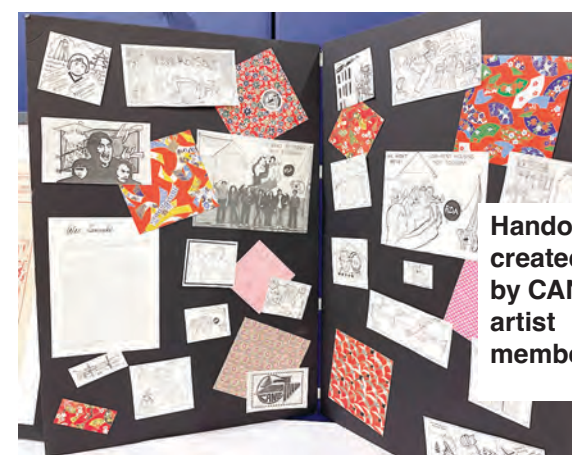
PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BRIDGET KEAVENEY



More than 200 individuals gathered to celebrate 50 years of CANE's involvement in the JA community on Aug. 19.

PHOTOS: EMILY MURASE

CANE member Donna Kotake (left) with emcee Joyce Nakamura



Handouts created by CANE artist members

CANE: 50 Years of Community Activism in SF Japantown

Community convenes to celebrate CANE's impact in helping residents and small businesses remain in the historical district.

By Emily Murase, Contributor

To mark the 50th anniversary of the Committee Against Nihonmachi Eviction (1973-2023), more than 200 people of all ages gathered at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center, or "The Center," in San Francisco Japantown on Aug. 19.

"Originally, the event was going to be a reunion — we had organized the 20th and 30th anniversary reunions as private events," explained Joyce Nakamura, who served as the event's emcee. "But as time passed, our group realized that many of the issues of 50 years ago are still issues for our community today." She added, "To tell you the truth, we are getting old, and we wanted this story to be told since so many people don't know this story."

CANE formed in February 1973 when mostly Sansei third-generation student activists came together to organize opposition to urban renewal and redevelopment that was destroying Japantown, the Fillmore District and the Western Addition, where the homes and businesses of Japanese Americans, Blacks and other people of color were concentrated.

Boku Kodama, an early leader, was a student reporter for the City College of San Francisco's newspaper, the *Guardian*, at the time. "I was on assignment and walked up and down Fillmore Street. This was around 1969. I was shocked by how run-down the neighborhood had become. When I was a kid growing up in the neighborhood, Fillmore Street

was bustling. Instead, I was accosted by drunk guys, hobos, actually, who rode the trains and ended up in the Fillmore because they knew they could get free housing in abandoned buildings. There was a lot of drugs and gambling."

In 1956, the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency deemed the Japantown/Fillmore/Western Addition neighborhoods "blighted" and ordered the eviction and removal of hundreds of residences and businesses to make way for the six-lane Geary Boulevard that would facilitate a speedy commute from downtown offices to residential neighborhoods on the western, more affluent side of town, completely bypassing the homes and small businesses of what was once the most ethnically diverse neighborhood in the City, composed of Black, Filipino, Japanese and Jewish migrants, immigrants and their families.

Replacing longtime family run businesses and Japantown homes was the Japanese Trade and Cultural Center (now called the Japan Center Mall), envisioned by city officials as a commercial showcase for the electronics and cars of some of the largest Japanese corporations such as Hitachi, Mitsubishi and Nissan. Yet, this major development project, covering four superblocks, included very little grassroots community outreach or involvement.

In a detailed August 2023 interview for Eastwind, early CANE member John Ota explained that the organization was founded on two principles: (1) to "stop the destruction and dispersal of the Japanese

community and keep Nihonmachi a residential and small business community" and (2) "uphold the rights of residents and small businesses." He noted that the Little Tokyo People's Rights Organization formed about the same time in Los Angeles.

CANE's chief tactics included street demonstrations and picketing and sit-ins at public hearings, as well as launching legal actions and media strategies to advance the above principles.

Explained Nakamura: "I was a student at San Francisco State University, seeking involvement in social justice work in the Japanese American community, when I first started working with CANE. The experience of working shoulder to shoulder with Japantown residents and small businesses opposing redevelopment, many of whom were Nisei/second generation, was a very different experience. Until then, I didn't see many Nisei who protested government action, fought City Hall."

According to Nakamura and Kodama, the Japantown community split between the Nihonmachi Community Development Corp., composed of longtime Japantown property owners and many Nisei merchants still rebuilding after the wartime incarceration who supported the Trade Center, and CANE, which organized the community to oppose evictions of longtime Japantown renters, the forced removal of small businesses and the development of properties by Kintetsu International, a major travel corporation based in Japan.

CANE members brought forth a

resolution to the 1974 JACL National Convention in Portland, Ore., to (1) affirm CANE's two principles and (2) pledge resources to CANE's work in San Francisco Japantown.

Despite a lack of support from the San Francisco JACLers affiliated with the NCDL, the resolution garnered overwhelming approval from the National Council of chapter delegates, representing 25,000 JACL members at the time, and was adopted by a vote of 68 chapters in favor and 3 against, according to Asian American studies researcher Dave Okita.

Nakamura further reported that in response to CANE's boycott against Kintetsu Enterprises in 1975, the National Youth Coordinating Council of the JACL youth group, the JAYs, supported the boycott by staying at the Jack Tar Hotel for the duration of the JACL National Board meeting, which was held at Kintetsu's Miyako Hotel.

Regarding the controversial split between the NCDL and CANE, Nakamura and Kodama both expressed that the Redevelopment Agency's heavy-handed approach to urban renewal was at fault. Today, Nakamura is an active member of the JACL San Francisco chapter, where she continues to work on social justice issues.

By building a broad-based coalition of Nisei and Sansei residents, merchants, students and advocates from other communities, CANE was able to help some residents and small businesses remain in Japantown.

Later, CANE members organized around the construction of Nihonmachi Terrace, a 245-unit low-income housing complex for seniors and physically challenged individuals; Kimochi Home, a culturally sensitive senior residential

facility; and the Center.

Kodama is nearing completion of "Ganbaro: The Fight for the Final Four Blocks," a comprehensive new video documentary he has written and directed.

Reflecting the theme "Celebrating Activism & Community, the Aug. 19 50th anniversary event featured a rousing opening by Jiten Daiko, an affiliate of the Buddhist Church of San Francisco, dedicated to building community. More than a dozen members of CANE shared their reflections on the impact of the organization's work on their personal lives, careers and the community.

Traveling all the way from Japan to speak as part of the program was Koichi Ando, a CANE member and a teacher in the inaugural class of the Japanese Bilingual Bicultural Program.

The JBBP is an award-winning Japanese language program in the San Francisco public schools founded by Japanese Americans; it is also celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

Other speakers included Cathy Inamasu, founder of the Nihonmachi Little Friends, also located in Japantown, which has offered Japanese bilingual and multicultural childcare since 1975.

The audience also enjoyed an electric performance by San Francisco rapper AK Black and celebrated musician Francis Wong. They also sang along with a one-day only performance by Band CANE composed of Bill Tamayo on the accordion, Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo on drums, Peter and Wendy Horikoshi on guitar and percussion and aided by Nakamura on the tambourine.

» See CANE on page 9

Local rapper AK Black (left) with Francis Wong



CANE Band jams for the audience. Pictured (from left) are Peter Horikoshi, Wendy Horikoshi, Joyce Nakamura, Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo and Bill Tamayo.

Jiten Daiko opens the event.



'SHOW ME THE WAY TO GO TO HOME'

The new art book by Sandy Sugawara and Catiana Garcia-Kilroy captures haunting images of all Japanese American incarceration centers.

Manzanar,
Winter's
Night

PHOTO: CATIANA
GARCIA-KILROY

By Gil Asakawa,
Contributor

Sandy Sugawara didn't start out to produce a beautiful coffee-table art book filled with photographs of every Japanese American concentration camp from World War II — or what remains of them today. She also didn't plan on enlisting a friend from a photography class, Catiana Garcia-Kilroy, to help capture the powerful images for the book.

This project began as a personal visual record of Amache, the camp where her parents spent WWII. Like many Japanese Americans, Sugawara was raised in a home where stories of camp life and the wartime incarceration experience just weren't shared. When Sugawara's son asked her mother about it for a school project, she said she couldn't discuss it because it was too painful.

"But as my parents got older, particularly my mother, when she was in the hospital, and dying, she started talking about it like nonstop," she said.

When Sugawara mentioned to her mother that she'd like to take photographs of the camps, she recalls her mom asking, "Why would you want to do that?"

Those are awful places. And I said because people can, you know, forget about them."

Sugawara began her self-motivated project of chronicling camp sites with her camera while her mom was still alive, including Amache in Colorado, where her parents had been incarcerated. But after her mother's death, the project evolved to ultimately include every camp and publish the images in a book. "It was my mother's death that made me realize that I was really serious about doing a book that told people what these camps were like," she said. "Once my mom died, I decided that I really wanted to make it much more serious and hopefully would tell people a lot more than just a few camp photos would."

BOX OF LOST MEMORIES

Part of the book's inspiration came from a box Sugawara found when she was packing her mother's belongings.

"When I got home, I discovered a metal box," she recalled. "And in it, my father had his wallet that he carried around all the time. I recognized it, and I thought, 'Oh, that's weird. My mom kept his wallet.' And then there were some credit cards and IDs and stuff. And then I saw that he had his meal tickets from Amache and a few other camp passes. And also his

Boy Scout card."

"I am not actually a photojournalist. I'm a journalist, a reporter, but I never actually took pictures," Sugawara explained. "And when I started taking photographs, I think I kind of stayed away from photojournalism because it felt too much like work."

Sugawara was taking a photography class and was more inclined to shoot landscapes. In 2018, she and a friend from the class, Garcia-Kilroy, who is a development economist in her day job, began going to camp sites to shoot photos.

Garcia-Kilroy knew some of the history of the incarceration, but she had no idea of the tragic scope. "When Sandy said, 'Well, you know, my family was incarcerated. I had no idea that it had been, you know, whole families, 120,000 people incarcerated in these camps. I had no idea where they were, just a very vague idea,' she recalled. "So, this really needs to be more broadly known. And then from a photography perspective, I thought it was a very interesting challenge in terms of how to use photography to reflect on memory, but also subjective memory."

Sugawara explained: "After my mom died, and I discovered my dad's box, I decided I really wanted to do something meaningful. And I decided that photography is a way if we can make this an immersive experience, if we could make people feel what it was like to be at these places and to understand the loneliness and the isolation that maybe that would be an effective way for people who otherwise might not be interested in learning about the camps to learn about the camps."

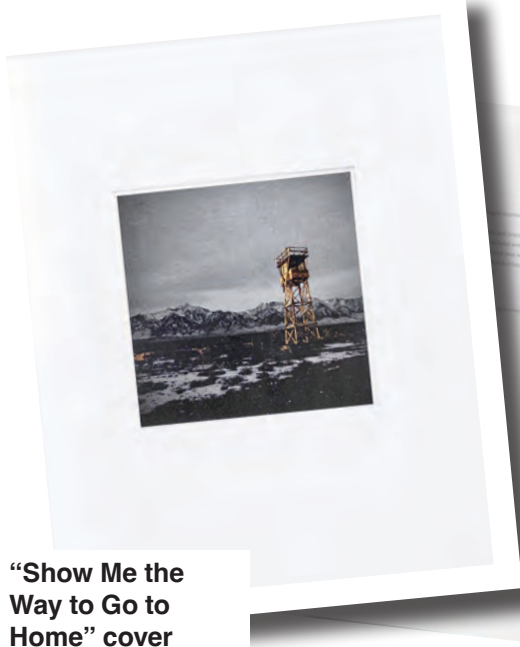
They didn't plan at first to visit all 10 camps. "Some of the photographers that we talked to said it could be redundant," Sugawara said. "If you do 10 camps, they might all end up looking alike. But we realized that, in fact, that wasn't the case. Each camp had its own unique personality, its own unique history. And at some point, we realized, well, we didn't want to just, you know, two camps or three camps so that it would feel like somehow they weren't as important. So, we eventually decided that we needed to do all 10 camps."

MAKING THE BOOK

When people think of photographs of the Japanese American concentration camps, the prevailing

A photo of Sandy Sugawara's father's wallet

PHOTO: SANDY SUGAWARA



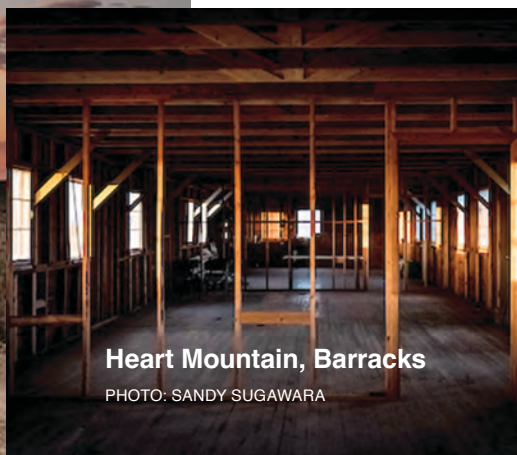
"Show Me the Way to Go to Home" cover





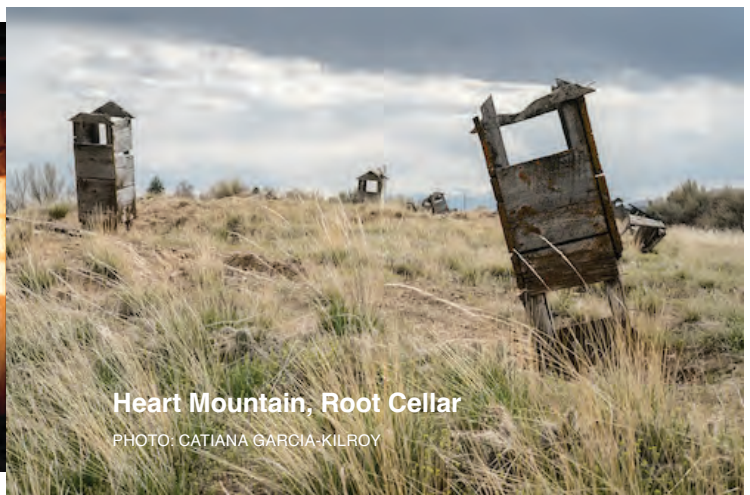
Amache, Road to Nowhere

PHOTO: SANDY SUGAWARA



Heart Mountain, Barracks

PHOTO: SANDY SUGAWARA



Heart Mountain, Root Cellar

PHOTO: CATIANA GARCIA-KILROY

imagery that’s conjured up in their minds are the classic black-and-white photographs of Ansel Adams and Margaret Bourke-White that ran in *LIFE* magazine during the war or the WRA government photographs that have been reproduced. One of the few books with contemporary photographs of the camps was “Placing Memory: A Photographic Exploration of Japanese American Internment (Volume 3),” published by Todd Stewart in 2008.

“Show Me the Way to Go to Home” adds a powerful and beautiful volume to the library of Japanese American historical record. Published by Radius Book, which specializes in art books, it’s not just a typical photo collection with images. The images are the main event, to be sure. But there are also passages of text by Sugawara and Garcia-Kilroy, as well as Donna K. Nagata, and poetry by Brandon Shimoda and Christine Kitano. The foreword for the tome is by Karen Korematsu.

Radius put an amazing level of effort into making the book itself a work of artistic expression. The photographs of each camp are reproduced on heavy stock in vivid color, and the historical notes that state the name, dates opened and closed, acreage and peak population, as well as a brief introduction about each camp, are printed on thick rice paper.

The box that Sugawara mentions that contained her father’s wallet is the first thing that readers see when they flip open the front cover. “The Box” with text by Sugawara, is a slim booklet on fine paper that’s sewn into the inside front cover, which displays a photo of a metal box with a key inserted in it.

Open the booklet and Sugawara explains the items she found inside starting with an autograph book where her father entered his friends’ new addresses in various concentration camps. Each page is stamped

“Detained Alien Enemy Mail Examined.” The box also held other documents: A notice of incineration for her grandfather, who died of undiagnosed rectal cancer while incarcerated; a photograph of her grandfather’s funeral at Amache; the wallet with various IDs; a meal ticket for Amache; the Boy Scouts membership card; and photos of her parents and their families.

Once readers turn to the actual book, there’s a short poem by Kitano, “Gaman,” and Shimoda’s longer poem “Gila River.”

PICTURES TELL THE STORY

The photographs of the camps are next, with Amache being first. The landscapes capture the lonely desolation of Colorado’s Eastern Plains, with crumbling foundations scattered amidst rebuilt guard towers and a barrack, as well as an original barrack with its torn tar paper exterior that was moved back to the camp from neighboring Granada’s town park, where it was used to store equipment.

The images evoke a wide-open wildness of scrub and grass and sunshine and sky, and the emotional impact of Sugawara and Garcia-Kilroy’s vision matches the feelings that wash over anyone who attends a pilgrimage to the forlorn site.

The other camps are represented with a variety of treatments that show each location’s desolation as well as the breathless beauty of Western sunsets and sun-bleached stones. The pair of photographers are exceptionally good at shooting a certain slant of sunlight, both outside and interiors, on concrete and soil.

On photos of Poston in Arizona, some of the images show the timeworn remains of incarceration along contemporary indigenous lives reflected in murals on

crumbling adobe walls and a lonely basketball hoop and backboard.

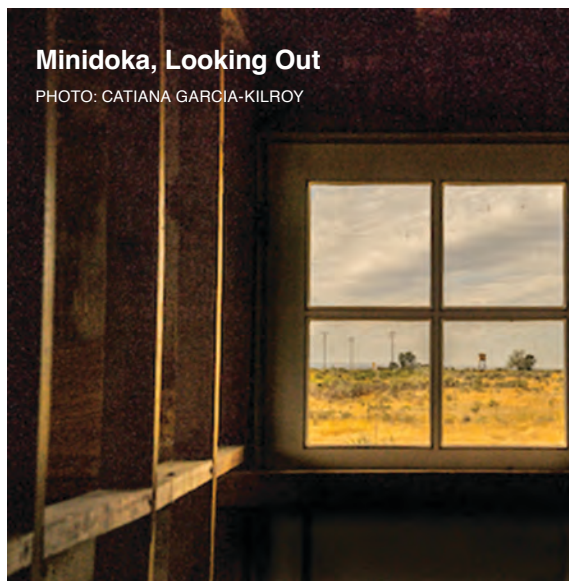
The photographs are carefully composed whether they’re straightforward landscapes or abstract closeups, like the cracked wall that has the book’s titular graffiti scrawled on it: “Show me the way to go to home.”

The book closes with essays about artist Chiura Obata, who was incarcerated at Topaz in Utah, and several other Japanese Americans and their wartime experience, followed by text by Korematsu, Ronald Reagan’s words when he signed the bill providing reparations for Japanese Americans, and an essay, “Intergenerational Impact of the Japanese American Incarceration” by Nagata.

The book is full of visual wonder and intellectual curiosity; even those who know about the Japanese American incarceration will be moved and affected by “Show Me the Way to Go to Home.”

“I’ll tell you one story about Amache,” Sugawara said. “We were wandering through Amache, and this couple came up to me and they said, ‘Were you here?’ And I said ‘No, but my parents were.’ And they said, ‘We are so sorry. We really apologize.’ So, we started talking about Amache. They said that they’d never heard of this before. ‘This is terrible. This is awful.’ ‘And that’s the importance of trying to preserve this and tell the stories in as many ways as possible because, you know, each day at least one or two people learn about it,” Sugawara concluded. “And that’s the goal.”

NOTE: Some online bookstores have sold out of copies of the book, but it’s still available from the publisher, Radius Books (radiusbooks.org), for \$65 with free shipping.



Minidoka, Looking Out

PHOTO: CATIANA GARCIA-KILROY



Poston, Mural

PHOTO: CATIANA GARCIA-KILROY



Topaz, Moon Over Topaz

PHOTO: SANDY SUGAWARA



Dr. Kensaku Nakayama addressed deep concerns about his mother's care since she was evicted from Sakura Intermediate Care Facility.

PHOTO: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON



Panelists and participants of the Save Our Seniors Network workshop at JACL's recent National Convention in Little Tokyo.

PHOTO: KRIS IKEYURI



Margaret Miyauchi-Leong's father was also evicted from Sakura Intermediate Care Facility and suffered greatly during the Covid pandemic.

PHOTO: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON

Convention Workshop Nurses Old, Continuing Concerns

The Save Our Seniors Network's workshop keeps spotlight on Kei-Ai facilities in L.A. County.

By Alan Oda,
Contributor

During a July 22 afternoon session at the 2023 JACL National Convention, speakers at the workshop organized by the Save Our Seniors Network expressed their frustration at what they perceived as a decline in the level of adequate care, the lack of culturally competent resources and allegations of forced evictions that participants said have occurred at Kei-Ai nursing homes and senior care facilities, formerly owned by the nonprofit Keiro until the properties were sold to a for-profit corporation seven years ago.

Following the workshop, SOSN held a news conference at which Pacific Southwest District Gov. Ryan Yoshikawa announced that JACL National had given its support for an "investigation into Kei-Ai and its treatment" of its residents (see *Pacific Citizen*, Aug. 25-Sept. 7, 2023, issue).

It was the latest in the continuing imbroglio that arose after Keiro's 2016 \$41 million sale of its senior care facilities that served the Southern California Japanese American community since the 1960s to a San Diego-based real estate development firm (see tinyurl.com/3ba4t8xs). After the sale, the new owners renamed the four former Keiro facilities under a new name, Kei-Ai.

SOSN, an organization of family members and other supporters of seniors residing or formerly residing in Kei-Ai facilities, has been at the forefront of pushing Kei-Ai to honor its commitments, including a five-year moratorium on making changes that expired on Feb. 1, 2022.

It was at the SOSN workshop that participants discussed their demands for an official investiga-

tion into alleged deteriorating conditions at the Kei-Ai Los Angeles Nursing facility, which experienced "a disproportionate mortality rate resulting in 115 deaths" during the peak of the Covid 19 epidemic.

A March 21, 2021, *Los Angeles Times* column by Frank Shyong about the fatalities at Kei-Ai was headlined, "How did a home built for Japanese American seniors become the state's deadliest nursing facility?" For its part, Kei-Ai responded to the *L.A. Times* column on its website (see tinyurl.com/2j4fzbrs).

Panelists and other speakers argued that new owners Pacifica Cos. reneged on its commitment to maintain culturally appropriate services to its senior residents. "[The residents] had Japanese food, entertainment, kids would come by and sing Japanese songs, there were Japanese crafts. After Pacifica took over, all of that disappeared," said Margaret Miyauchi-Leong, daughter of a Sakura Intermediate Care Facility resident who was evicted in 2021.

It was during the Covid outbreak that the Miyauchi family suffered

its greatest loss. "Kei-Ai was the only facility available. We were concerned about Covid, but we were told not to worry. We took [my Dad] to the lobby and waved goodbye," Miyauchi-Leong said.

During the pandemic, the family was restricted to video chats with Miyauchi-Leong's father. "He wanted to try to call us, but he was hard to understand." Once he was diagnosed with Covid, "by December the video was shut off. When we went to go check, they said, 'We think it's broken, but we can't fix it,'" recalled Miyauchi-Leong.

"When we called to speak to him, we were told he was either having breakfast or walking down the hall," yet when Miyauchi-Leong's sister visited, "Dad was wearing an oxygen mask, confined to his bed. The staff said he needed the oxygen because he just returned from physical therapy." The family was later told, "Your dad was in such poor condition, we couldn't find any hospital beds so we put him on oxygen" at Kei-Ai. "When a facility lies to you like that, that is a crisis in itself," said Miyauchi-Leong.

According to the workshop, an

investigation by the *L.A. Times* revealed that Kei-Ai Los Angeles was one of 27 nursing homes in Los Angeles County that received Covid patients from hospitals and other nursing facilities. The program received little publicity. The lack of beds at local hospitals, including intensive care facilities, apparently resulted in the County designating convalescent facilities for overflow Covid patients. SOSN believes this program, as well as inadequate and sometimes inept allocation of resources, led to the high fatality rate at Kei-Ai Los Angeles, exacerbating an already difficult situation.

Prompted by the Covid-related deaths at Kei-Ai, Rep. Judy Chu (D-Calif.) called for an investigation of Kei-Ai and Pacifica Senior Living via a Nov. 17, 2022, letter sent to Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, the administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (see tinyurl.com/imp6vm37b). (Editor's note: As of press time, an inquiry to Chu's office as to whether a reply from Brooks-LaSure's office had not been received.)

SOSN also believes criminal charges filed against a Fairfax Dis-

trict nursing facility — not operated by Kei-Ai — provides grounds for similar legal action against Kei-Ai. Earlier this year, Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón, citing the Covid-related deaths of 13 patients and a 32-year-old nurse, announced charges on March 14, 2023, against the management, its CEO and corporate officers of Silverado Memory Care and Assisted Living, plus the administrator of the company's Beverly Place location.

Rev. Ray Fukumoto, director of the Interfaith Network, and panel moderator Mitchell Matsumura, co-president of the Greater Los Angeles JACL, reviewed the history of the efforts to provide medical care, particularly for seniors, for the Nikkei community.

Much of this was in response to the difficulty for Japanese Americans to receive adequate medical care. Prior to the creation of the Keiro nursing facilities, Japanese American pioneers created hospitals to offer services to Japanese Americans in Los Angeles and Boyle Heights because of anti-JA discrimination.

» See WORKSHOP on page 12



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'MADAMA BUTTERFLY' » continued from page 3

Preserving the Classic in a New Context

Chan says again that the intent has never been to cancel "Butterfly."

"It's about finding a new way to tell this story with a little bit more nuance, and something that addresses the American story but without changing the Puccini music," he said. "I think that was our biggest challenge — the music is good. That's why people like it. That's why people buy tickets. And it's, I mean, it's like gut wrenching, it's beautiful. So, how do we keep the music but not change the intention of what the work is and still make it feel artists have artistic integrity for today. This is not radical, this is not the woke Butterfly, it's just changing the setting.

"But yes, you know, it has to deal

with the sexism, the Orientalism, the exotic suffocation, the sexualization, the violence in the opera," he continued. "It's not perfect. I'm not saying this is like now a perfect version. But, it's a version that at least shows the pain points so that the audience can be a little critical about it while keeping the music as is. At the end of the day, I want the audience not to notice all the work and just be able to see a beautiful story.

"I think that's why art is powerful because it can take something that feels like it's a history lesson and actually make it a human story and make you feel something," he concluded. "And it's my hope that after someone sees this story, they'll think about how we see each other with more nuance

and more empathy better."

The Boston Lyric Opera's "Madama Butterfly" will be staged Sept. 14-24 at the Emerson Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St. in Boston. The New England JACL chapter is sponsoring "Our Story: Cultural Legacies of Japanese American Incarceration," a free conversation and performance with the BLO that will be performed in person and livestreamed online at

<https://blo.org/event/our-story-cultural-legacies-of-japanese-american-incarceration/>

Gil Asakawa is the author of "Tabemasho! Let's Eat! The Tasty History of Japanese Food in America."

CANE » continued from page 5



Vintage silkscreen bilingual CANE poster (left) and vintage silkscreen CANE poster

At the conclusion of the program, Kodama announced the CANE Archive Project to document and share the history of the organization as well as the formation of a Sansei Legacy Fund that will be dedicated to the preservation of San Francisco Japantown.

Additional information about the event, including reflections by speakers in the program and a roster of the CANE 50th Anniversary Committee, can be found at the CANE50.org website.

This article was made possible by the Harry K. Honda Memorial Journalism Fund, which was established by JACL Redress Strategist Grant Ujifusa.

APALA » continued from page 4

My overall experience at APALA's convention was excellent. I left feeling inspired and motivated to stay connected and engaged on the issues that were presented, which ranged from gender justice to inter-generational movement building. The following three memorable events most impressed me: The workshop entitled, "Did You Eat Yet? Empowering a New Generation of Undocumented Asian and Pacific Islander Immigrants," the march with UNITE HERE Local 8 Hospitality Workers and my first experience acting as a voting delegate.

The workshop I listed was facilitated by Empowering API, which received APALA's John Delloro Trailblazer Award this year for its work in uplifting and equipping undocumented Asian and Pacific Islanders in reclaiming their agency and histories. The workshop was programmed around the group's published storytelling zine called, "Did You Eat Yet? Stories of Undocumented Asians: The Differences That Shape Us & The Experiences That Unite Us."

The zine in question was gifted to all those who attended and was used as a point of reference throughout the duration of the session as a means of eliciting conversation surrounding how to best advance undocumented-led initiatives and mobilize support for undocumented APIs.

I was completely taken by the stories, poems and artworks that were featured and carefully crafted by the contributors to the zine. I highly recommend that all those who are interested in reading the zine to purchase a copy using the following URL link: tinyurl.com/orderzine. According to Empowering API, all proceeds will help raise funds to produce a second edition of the zine in 2024 and create more resources and visibility for all undocumented immigrants such as scholarships, training, webinars, etc.

The march in which APALA convention delegates and guests participated was organized and led by UNITE HERE Local 8 Hospitality Workers, which aims to "transform thousands of traditionally low-wage jobs into good, family-sustaining, middle-class jobs." The march began

with a protest at the Embassy Suite in Pioneer Square, where APALA members and hospitality workers alike came together to demand living wages, job security, respect in the workplace and a fair contract.

The protest was quickly followed by a march to Hing Hay Park, which is located in Seattle's historic International District. Once gathered in that location, activists, APALA members and hotel workers alike advocated for more sustainable, inclusive, fair tourism industry practices.

According to KIRO 7 NOW of Seattle, the weekend of Taylor Swift's concert and the Toronto Blue Jays game in late July generated more than \$7 million in room revenue, which is "\$2 million more than profits generated in any single day in Seattle's history" (KIRO 7 News Seattle). As overheard during the protest, it's only fair that the very people working to keep the business alive share in that prosperity and are properly recognized for their labor.

Finally, my participation as a voting delegate alongside my fellow APALA D.C. chapter members was extremely special and memorable. Having attended the JACL National Convention as a staff member for the last three years, I have never had the opportunity to participate in National Council.

I always wondered what the process of strategizing with my fellow chapter members would be like and how it would feel to enthusiastically raise my voting card for a resolution that I was passionate about. I feel a deep affinity for my chapter and its members, as it is made up largely of friends I have made through my time partnering and working with other AANHPI organizations in D.C.

To be able to share in the experience with those whom I am endlessly inspired by, in a city and region of the U.S. that holds a special place in my heart, meant a great deal to me. I will forever look back on this moment with great fondness and admiration for those campaigning for workers, immigrants and civil rights.

Bridget Keaveney is the JACL Norman Y. Mineta fellow. She is based in the organization's Washington, D.C., office.

Special Issues

Coming Soon

September - Scholarship Issue
 Congratulation your graduates with a message in our special issue and read about the 2022 winners of the JACL National Scholarships!

November - VETERANS Special
 Celebrate or acknowledge the Armed Forces or the Veterans in your life by placing their name and photo in our newspaper and forever saved in our archives! Prices start at \$30 per 2"x1"

December - Holiday Special Issue
 Great fundraiser activity!!
 Holiday issue packages have been sent to all JACL Chapters. If you haven't received it yet, please email/call Susan.

Contact Susan at (213) 620-1767 ext.103
 email: BusMgr@PacificCitizen.org

Thank You for Your JACL Membership!

We're grateful to have some of the most engaged and committed members around! Because of your loyal support, we have more premium membership upgrades and generous additional gifts than ever. We're also appreciative for those who renew year after year (some for 50 years or more!) and for our increase in new members. Your dedication is essential to our ongoing mission for social justice, education, and community! Thank you! - JACL Membership Department

Not a member? Join us today!
 Visit jacl.org/member
 or contact us at mb@jacl.org

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

NATIONAL

2023 JACSC Education Conference
Los Angeles, CA
Sept. 22-24

JANM
100 N. Central Ave.
Price: Free

The Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium and USC Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture are hosting this conference that will convene around the theme of "Memory and Monument-Making: Repairing Our Racial Karma." All who are interested in monument-making and memory work from a comparative, multicompany and international lens are welcome. The conference will also include various speakers, sessions and evening activities.

Info: Visit www.janm.org.

Irei — A National Monument for the WWII Japanese American Incarceration

Los Angeles, CA
JANM
100 N. Central Ave.

The *Ireichō* contains the first comprehensive listing of more than 125,000 persons of Japanese ancestry who were forcibly incarcerated during World War II. Visitors can now view the book and leave a special *hanko* (stamp/seal) for each person in the monument as a way to honor those incarcerated. The project's online archive is now searchable alphabetically or by camp.

Info: Visit ireizo.com for more information and janm.org.

NCWNP

'Takashi Murakami: Unfamiliar People — Swelling of Monsterized Human Ego'

San Francisco, CA
Sept. 15-Feb. 12, 2024
Asian Art Museum
200 Larkin St.

Price: Museum Admission

Takashi Murakami's first solo exhibition in San Francisco is one that features the artist's signature combination of fun, spectacle and playful social commentary. In vibrantly colored paintings and sculptures, Murakami uses monsters to embody the hopes and fears of the digital age.

Info: Visit exhibitions/asianart.org/exhibitions/takashi-murakami-monsterized/.

'Hell: Arts of Asian Underworld'
San Francisco, CA
Thru Sept. 18

Asian Art Museum
200 Larkin St.
Price: Admission Required

From the humorous to the grotesque, see the many ways that Asian cultures have envisioned the realm of the condemned over time. Organized as a journey, view various conceptions of the underworld, finally arriving at depictions of the ways one might potentially make an escape or exit from Hell.

Info: Visit exhibitions.asianart.org.

Concert: San Jose Taiko Celebration — 50 and Beyond
San Jose, CA

Oct. 14; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
California Theatre
345 S. 1st St.

Price: Ticket Prices Vary

This 50th anniversary concert will feature a medley of San Jose taiko songs from the past and present, including classics and some new favorites, as well as a preview of the art/work that's ahead. The musicians will tell their story and the story of Japanese/Asian Americans in the Silicon Valley through their music.

Info: Visit <https://taiko.org/50th>.

'We Are Bruce Lee: Under the Sky, One Family' Exhibit
San Francisco, CA

Now Open
Chinese Historical Society of America
985 Clay St.

Price: \$12

Bruce Lee had a special message for the world, but he had to overcome racial and cultural stereotypes to achieve it. In this exhibit, guests will see original artwork and documents by Lee that showcase his tenacity and determination, as well as learn about his hunger for stardom and acceptance in his bid to face and overcome the racism of Hollywood.

Info: Visit www.chsa.org.

PSW

Keiro No Hi Festival
Los Angeles, CA
Sept. 17; 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

JANM
100 N. Central Ave.

Price: Registration Required

Join Keiro for live entertainment, interactive activities, access to JANM exhibitions, food and much more! Attendance will be limited and available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Registration is required.

Info: Visit www.keiro.org.

Arts and Crafts Fair
Los Angeles, CA
Sept. 23; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Venice Japanese Community Center
12448 Braddock Dr.

Price: Free Admission and Parking (Cash or Check Only)

Come to the VJCC for a day featuring Japanese-inspired clothing, Hawaiian handmade crafts, original and custom jewelry, gifts and holiday items and food items, with all proceeds benefitting the VJCC.

Info: Visit www.vjcc.com.

Aki Matsuri Japanese Fall Festival
Albuquerque, NM

Sept. 24; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Villa Hispana (New Location)
Expo NM, Gate 3

300 San Pedro Dr. NE
Price: Presale (\$7.50 while they last); General Admission \$10; Children 12 and Under Free; Parking \$10

The New Mexico JACL has been holding the Aki Matsuri festival for more than 25 years, as it is the chapter's main annual event and serves as a venue to share Japanese and Japanese American culture with all of New Mexico. This year's event theme is "Ta-Ke" (bamboo), the "Way of Strength and Resilience," and will feature a headline performance by Watsonville Taiko. There will also be food, music, dozens of vendors, cosplay contest, dance, art, martial arts demonstrations and much more for the whole family to enjoy.

Info: Visit www.nmjaccl.org to prepurchase admission tickets to avoid long lines.

Poston Pilgrimage
Parker, AZ

Oct. 13-14
BlueWater Resort and Casino and Poston Site
11300 Resort Dr.

Price: Registration Now Open

Registration for the Poston Pilgrimage is now open! The weekend's activities, organized by the Poston Community Alliance, will include a newly created Poston exhibit housed within the Museum of the Colorado River Indian Tribe, pilgrimage, lunch, banquet and workshops featuring Katie Nuss, Stamp Our Stories' Wayne Osako, Janice Munemitsu, Nancy Ukai, Shane Sato, Reid Nishikawa and Kathy Nakagawa.

Info: Visit postonpreservation.org.

20th Annual VJCC Golf Tournament
Chino Hills, CA

Oct. 14
Los Serranos Golf Club
15656 Yorba Ave.
Price: \$180

This annual golf tournament, hosted by the VJCC, is an opportunity to gather with friends, family and supporters to help the center raise funds for future renovation projects. Registration includes greens fee and 1/2 cart, tee gifts, prize fund, food, lunch buffet and side games. There will also be a \$10-per-ball Golf Ball Roll fundraiser as well.

Info: Visit www.vjcc.com.

PNW

'A Sense of Place: The Art of George Tsutakawa'
Portland, OR

Sept. 7-Dec. 31
Japanese American Museum of Oregon

411 N.W. Flanders St.

Price: Museum Admission

For the first time, artist George Tsutakawa's work will be on exhibit in Oregon thanks to a collaboration between JAMO and the Tsutakawa family. The exhibit will include examples of the artist's work in watercolor, sumi, metal sculpture and fountain design. Tsutakawa's public works can be found in cities across the U.S., Canada and Japan. An exhibition highlight is a large model for Fountain of Wisdom, Tsutakawa's first fountain sculpture, created in 1960 for the Seattle Public Library.

Info: Visit www.jamo.org.

'Parallel Barbed Wire' Exhibit
Powell, WY
Now Open

Heart Mountain Interpretive Center
1539 Road 19

This new exhibit features the remarkable stories of Heart Mountain internee Clarence Matsumura and Holocaust survivor Solly Ganor. Matsumura was incarcerated along with his family at Heart Mountain during WWII, and Ganor was a child living in Lithuania before the Nazi invasion forced him and his family into a Jewish ghetto and then a forced-labor camp in Bavaria. Matsumura served in the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion and rescued Ganor. The exhibit details their remarkable friendship throughout their lives.

Info: Visit www.heartmountain.org for exhibit information and further details.

EDC

Boston Lyric Opera Presents 'Madama Butterfly'
Boston, MA

Sept. 14, 17, 22, 24
Emerson Colonial Theatre
106 Boylston St.

Price: Ticket Prices Vary

Amid Puccini's lush and sweeping score, "Madama Butterfly" unfolds in 1940s America under the shadow of WWII. This new production will take audiences through the nightlife of San Francisco on the eve of Pearl Harbor and will examine the experience of Japanese Americans during a critical moment in U.S. history. This production is presented by BLO Artistic Adviser Nina Yoshida Nelsen, Stage Director Phil Chan and Choreographer Michael Sakamoto.

Info: For more information and tickets, visit <https://blo.org/butterfly/>.

Book Talk: 'California Against the Sea — Visions for Our Vanishing Coastline'

Brookline, MA
Sept. 29; 7 p.m.
Brookline Booksmith

279 Harvard St.

Price: Free

Environmental journalist Rosanna Xia presents this riveting exploration of sea level rise along the West Coast through human stories and ecological dramas. The overheated Pacific Ocean is rising and pressing in, imperiling wildlife and the maritime towns located along its coastline. This discussion will talk about how climate change is threatening the places we love so fiercely.

Info: To register, visit <https://www.brooklinebooksmith.com/event/rosanna-xia-kerri-arsenault-california-against-sea>.

New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill: 'Chiaozza: A Sculpture Exhibition'

Boylston, MA
Thru Oct. 15
11 French Dr.

Price: Check Website for Ticket Information.

This exhibit of imaginative, colorful sculptures and wall works is displayed across the New England Botanic Garden. Discover the surprising creative parallels between growing plants and marking art featuring artists Adam Frezza and Terri Chiao.

Visit <https://nebg.org/chiaozza/>. ■

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In MEMORIAM

Ajifu, Robert, 54, Aiea, HI, June 23.

Furuto, Mabel, 100, Los Angeles, CA, March 3; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Santa Anita Assembly Center, the Jerome WRA Center in AR; and the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA; she was predeceased by her husband, Takao; she is survived by her children, Amy (Kazu) Takaki, Susan (Glenn) Saita and Michael (Lisa) Furuto; brother, Bill (Regina) Kobayashi; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews and caregivers Koji, Nicole, Clara and Marie; gc: 4; ggc: 5.



Hamasaki, Milton Tetsuya, 96, Sunnyvale, CA, March 9; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Santa Anita Assembly Center and the Gila River WRA Center in AZ; he was predeceased by his wife, Helen; and sisters, Alice (Ryuji) Adachi, Margaret (Kenji) Honbo and Masako Hamasaki; he is survived by his children, Craig (Betty) Hamasaki, Lori (Scott) Leonard and Karen (Danny) Kuniyoshi; gc: 7.



Honda, Joyce, 84, Sacramento, CA, March 30; graduate, Armstrong College in Berkeley, CA; she is survived by her children, Daryl Honda, Wesley Honda and Kristl (Alan) Plinz; gc: 1.



Iwamiya, Hiroshi 'George,' 96, Lodi, CA, March 6; veteran, Army, WWII; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Rohrer WRA Center, in AR; A.A., San Joaquin College; in 2008, he received his delayed high school diploma; he was predeceased by his siblings, Shig, Fumi and Haruko; and niece, Kelly Yamane; he is survived by his wife, Christine; children, Joseph, Edward (Trina), Todd and Liza (Gary) Kanemura; siblings, Tosh Nishimoto, Tom (Akemi) Iwamiya and Dick Iwamiya; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 8.



Johnson, Margaret Miyoko, 86, Citrus Heights, CA, June 3; she was predeceased by her siblings, Betsy, Violet, Helen and Kenneth; and her son, Peter; she is survived by her husband, Bruce; son, Dale; and sister, Millie; gc: 3; ggc: 3.

Miyashiro, Frances, 100, Honolulu, HI, May 30.

Miyamura, Wanita Lou May, 70, Boise, ID, Feb. 25.

Nakayama, Masami, 85, Rosemead, CA, April 17; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ; veteran, Army; he was predeceased by his sister, Yoko; he is survived by his daughter, Jennifer Nakayama; he is also survived by many cousins.

Oki, Takashi, 95, Whittier, CA, March 18; he is survived by his wife, Beverly Masaye Oki; children, Mike Oki, Lyle Oki, Kari (Harvey) Moriyama and Stacy (Martin) Skredsvig; brother, Tom (Susie) Oki; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4.

Ozeki, Masako Mae, 102, Alhambra, CA, May 25; she was predeceased by her husband, Ben; and son, Phillip Ozeki; she is survived by her daughter, Carol Ann (Eric) Mayr; brother, Leo Meguro; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1; ggc: 1.



Naito, Kiyoshi, 88, Colma, CA, May 31; veteran, Army; B.A., economics, University of California, Berkeley; volunteered with Buddhist Churches of America and as chairman and president of the Hokubei Mainichi newspaper; he was predeceased by his sisters, Sakiye Kusama and Shigeno Takahashi; he is survived by his wife, Tazuko Janice Naito; daughter, Jane Naito; and sister, Yasuko Fukuda.



Nakaishi, Jimmie, 95, Leawood, KS, March 24; veteran, Air Force (Korean War, Vietnam War); he was predeceased by his wife, Sumiko Sue Nakaishi (née Matsumura); he is survived by his children, Drake Nakaishi (Kathleen); Richard Nakaishi (Lana) and Kathy Finnegan (Jim); gc: 6; ggc: 5.



Nakano, Jean, 74, Los Angeles, CA, July 4; she is survived by her husband, Wayne; daughter, Erin Midori Nakano (Louis Andrew) Israel; father, Bob Iwao Sugasawara; brother, Roy Isao (Alison Michie) Sugasawara; she is also survived by a nephew and other relatives; gc: 2.

Oye, Akiko, 94, Santa Maria, CA, Jan. 6.

Ray, Reiko Ann, 93, Miamisburg, OH, July 30; she was predeceased by her husband, John Ray; and daughter, Lisa Ray; she is survived by her son, Thomas Ray; sister, Keiko Maeda; gc: 5.

Taniguchi, Yoko, 87, North Hollywood, CA, April 8.

Tsunoda, Dennis, 72, Kailua, HI, Feb. 13.

Yamada, Helen Yoko, 87, Mountain View, CA, March 11; she is survived by her sisters, Etsuko Yoshino, Jane (Masa) Onuma.



Yamamoto, Ken Thomas Damian, 47, Lewisville, TX, March 9.

Yonamine, Mabel Masaye, 95, Waianae, HI, March 3; she is survived by her son, Marvin Masao Yonamine; daughter-in-law, Laurie Satomi Yonamine; gc: 3.

Yoshii, Akira, 52, Chicago, IL, March 25; he was predeceased by his father, Tsuneo; he is survived by his mother, Masako; brothers, Hiroshi and Osamu.

TRIBUTE

ANNA MARIE NAKAMURA



Anna Marie "Aiko" Nakamura, age 99, passed away on Aug. 17, 2023, in Evanston, Ill. Beloved wife of the late Mark M. Nakamura; she was preceded in death by her parents, Shunzo "Joe" and Yoshie (Mihara) Miyamoto, and her brothers, James and Frank Miyamoto; dear mother of Gail (Bill) Radzevich, Claire Rees, Guy (Ann), Kathy, Joan (Tim) Crowe; fond grandmother of Scott (Jennifer) and Brian (Sandi) Rundio, Sean and Samantha Crowe; loving great-grandmother of Kyle Scott and

Anthony John Rundio. Interment will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL, 60022 or a charity of your choice is appreciated.

TRIBUTE

ALICE NINOMIYA



Alice Yoshiko Ninomiya, 91, born April 3, 1932, in Richmond, Calif., to Tamaki Ninomiya and Hayane Kanagawa, eldest of six children, died peacefully on May 23, 2023. Interned at Amache, Colo., during WWII, she returned to Richmond where she graduated from Richmond Union High School and then received a degree in history from UC Berkeley and her teaching credential from San Francisco State. Alice taught kindergarten and third grade at

Dover School in San Pablo until her retirement in 1985. A lifelong student, Alice enjoyed reading, cooking, traveling, YMCA workouts, and studying art and music at the Richmond Adult School and Contra Costa College. She was active with the Berkeley Methodist United Church (BMUC), Contra Costa JACL and West Contra Costa Retired Educators (WCCRE).

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, Sept. 30, at 11 a.m. at BMUC. Memorial gifts can be made to Berkeley Methodist United Church, 1710 Carleton Street, Berkeley, CA 94703 or WCCRE Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 703, El Cerrito, CA 94530.

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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WORKSHOP » continued from page 8

“We learned the lesson ‘take care of your own’ from our Japanese parents,” Fukumoto said, adding, “My parents heavily donated to Keiro until they were betrayed by the sale (to Pacifica) seven years ago.”

On its website, Keiro stated it made “the difficult decision (in 2016) to shift the central pillar of its work from facility-based care” to refocus and provide services for “the larger and diverse needs of our community’s older adults.” Keiro now provides Quality of Life classes, grant funding and palliative care resources.

Matsumura, also serving as the SOSN Outreach director, said, “10,000 baby boomers are retiring every day. Japanese Americans have the largest percentage of those over 65, 19 percent. JAs cannot depend on health-care agencies to provide bilingual and bicultural services.”

Other speakers described their experiences with changes in the level of service since Pacifica gained ownership. Dr. Kensaku Nakayama told the story of his mother, Tomiko, who lived at the Sakura Intermediate Care Facility for eight-and-a-half years. Nakayama said, “She was blessed by bicultural, bilingual care. . . . Unfortunately, due to the

sale of ICF, my mother was evicted in 2021 because Pacifica wanted to create townhomes. The facility is still closed.”

Nakayama said they were able to find another facility, though it lacked Japanese culturally based services. “She is receiving good care, but there are no Japanese residents,” he said. “She was very mobile until she moved to the new facility; she is now wheelchair-bound and showing cognitive decline.”

Nakayama continued, “When you live in these facilities, you look forward to food. When you take away their cultural [cuisine], it’s a problem. Her opportunities to have conversation with others (who speak Japanese) were also taken away.” He said during a recent visit with his mother that it required a two-hour conversation before she realized she was talking to her son.

“Bicultural/bilingual services is not a lifestyle issue, it’s a life-and-death issue,” said Nakayama.

This article was made possible by the Harry K. Honda Memorial Journalism Fund, which was established by JACL Redress Strategist Grant Ujifusa.

Yakima Valley Museum Opens New Exhibit

‘Land of Joy and Sorrow — The Japanese Experience in the Yakima Valley’ highlights pioneers who built new lives there following the end of WWII.



Members of the Yakima Japanese American community and their friends gathered to witness the historic dedication of “Land of Joy and Sorrow — The Japanese Experience in the Yakima Valley,” a new permanent exhibit at the Yakima Valley Museum in Yakima, Wash., on Aug. 24. Of the 160 people who were in attendance, many were descendants from families that lived in the Yakima Valley before and after World War II. “Land of Joy and Sorrow” builds upon the museum’s initial exhibit “Japanese Pioneers of the Yakima Valley,” which opened on Oct. 2, 2010. It was one of the museum’s most popular exhibitions and won a Washington State Museum award during its 10-year run from 2010-20.

Yakima Valley Japanese pioneers came to the Yakima Valley in the late 19th century and grew in numbers to form a Japanese community of 1,018 people who were involved in farming and providing services and lodging for the Yakima Valley community.

After the conclusion of WWII, only 10 percent of the area’s Japanese American community returned. Now, their story will be permanently told at the Yakima Valley Museum for future generations.

PHOTO: PATTI HIRAHARA

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