

and grew up on Los Angeles County's Terminal Island.

Minoru "Min" Tonai died on Sept. 4. He was 94.

After Japan's military attacked the Navy at Pearl Harbor in the territory of Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941, the Tonai family would be uprooted and incarcerated, first at an assembly center, then at one of the 10 concentration camps operated by the federal government's War Relocation Authority. In the case of the Tonais, it was Amache WRA Center in Colorado.

After WWII and returning to Los Angeles, Tonai graduated from high school and enrolled at the University of California, Los Angeles. His eventual marriage to Mary Mitsuko Endo was delayed by America's entry into the Korean War.

He was drafted into the Army and was stationed for a time in Japan, where he was able to visit relatives. But it was only a matter of time until Tonai was sent to South Korea, where he served as a combat medic.

After his stint in the Army, Tonai returned to Los Angeles, completed his business administration degree at UCLA in 1955, got married in 1956 and started a family.

Tonai was Nisei Week Japanese Festival's grand marshal; in 2008, he received Nisei Week's Nikkei Pioneer Award; in 1998, he received the UCLA Asian American Studies Center's Lifetime Achievement Award; and in 2005, he received the JACCC's Chairman's Award.

The Japanese government awarded him its Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette honor in 2015 for promoting the status of Nikkei community in the U.S. and aiding in the mutual understanding between the nations.

Tonai was predeceased by his wife, Mary, in 2017, and his siblings. He is survived by his daughters, Susan Tonai Drews and Teresa Tonai, and son, John Tonai, as well as sisters-in-law, Yae Nagai, Elinor Sakado and Carole Endo; brother-in-law, George Endo; and many nieces,



Rosalind Uno

The daughter of Saburo and Mine Harada Kido, she was born in San Francisco on Nov. 14, 1933, and spent her early years in nearby Berkeley.

Rosalind K. Uno died July 18. She was 89.

During WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Poston II WRA Center in Arizona. One night her father, Saburo Kido — the wartime JACL national president — was beaten with "handmade ironwood clubs for 45 minutes" by other internees opposed to JACL policies. The family was removed to Salt Lake City for their safety. The family moved to Los Angeles after the war.

She married Edison Uno in 1953 and had their first daugh-

ter in Los Angeles. After a few years, the family moved to San Francisco's Nihonmachi neighborhood so that he could attend law school.

By the early 1960s, the Uno family moved to the Richmond district. Edison left law school following a heart attack and pursued administrative positions, while Rosalind was a fulltime homemaker and mother, with Edison's health ever-present concern. She became a widow in 1976, when her husband died from complications following heart surgery.

Uno's life was enriched by her decades long association with the Frank McCoppin Elementary School community, first as a parent volunteer on the school site committee and later as an employee of the San Francisco Unified School District. She continued to volunteer as a library aide up until the age of 86 when the pandemic closed school sites in 2020.

Rosalind is survived by her youngest brother, Wallace Kido (Terry Glazier), nephew Michael Kido (Noriko Sato), daughters Elizabeth (Gene Tom) and Rosanne, and grandchildren Jes and Karissa Tom, and Andrew and Jon Ehrenberg, and close cousin, Kimi Klein (Joel).



Amy Uyematsu

An award-winning poet and a mathematics teacher, Uyematsu was born and raised in Southern California after her parents were

released from incarceration at the Manzanar (California) and Gila River (Arizona) War Relocation Centers.

Amy Uyematsu died June 23 in Culver City, Calif. She was 75.

A Sansei, Uyematsu authored six poetry books: 1992's "30 Miles from J-Town," for which she won the Nicholas Roerich Poetry Prize; 1997's "Nights of Fire, Nights of Rain"; 2005's "Stone Bow Prayer"; 2015's "The Yellow Door"; 2016's "Basic Vocabulary"; and 2022's "That Blue Trickster Time" (2022).

Prior to that, Uyematsu authored a seminal essay titled "The Emergence of Yellow Power in America" that appeared in the newspaper *Gidra* in 1969 (see [ti-nyurl.com/3ua38jxh](https://www.nyurl.com/3ua38jxh)). She also contributed to "Roots: An Asian American Reader," a seminal textbook used in Asian American studies programs.

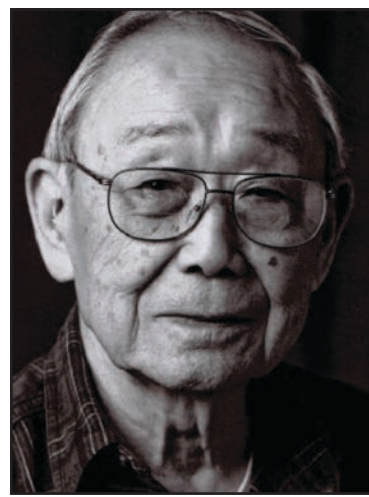
After graduating from the University of California, Los Angeles, with a bachelor's degree in mathematics, she taught that subject for more than three decades in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Mary Uyematsu Kao reflected on her sister's "superachiever" life. In an email to the *Pacific Citizen*, Kao wrote: "As years went by, her movement activism found a loving home in the poetry community. Her voice was uplifted, and a symbiotic love created the legacy she has left us with today — her six poetry books and the historic front-runner of Asian American texts — 'Roots: An Asian American Reader.'"

"'Roots' was used by Asian American students all over the country as the basis for starting Asian American Studies at their college campuses," Kao continued.

In 2012, the Friends of the Little Tokyo Branch Library honored Uyematsu for her contributions to the Japanese American community as a writer.

Uyematsu's survivors include her husband, Raul Contreras; son, Chris Tachiki; mother, Elsie Umatsu Osajima; and sister, Mary Uyematsu Kao.



Homer Yasui

The last surviving sibling of the nine children of the storied Hood River, Ore., Yasui clan, Yasui was born to Issei immigrants Shidzuyo and Masuo Yasui.

Homer Yasui died on July 25 in Seattle. He was 98.

Yasui's JACL résumé included stints as president of the Portland JACL chapter in 1973 and from 1980-81, followed by serving as the PNW district governor during the run-up to the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

A 1949 graduate of Philadelphia's Hahnemann Medical Col-

lege, Yasui would practice surgery for 29 years, retiring in 1987. Prior to that, during WWII he had been imprisoned at the Pinedale Assembly Center near Fresno, Calif., then transferred with his family at the Tule Lake WRA Center, also in California.

Yasui and Miyuki "Miki" Yabe, of Pasadena, Calif., were married in 1950 in New York after he completed a medical internship in Milwaukee, Wis. Upon learning that he would be drafted into the Army Medical Corps, Yasui instead opted to join the Navy and would be stationed in Iwakuni, Japan.

After being discharged from the Navy in October 1956, Yasui, with family in tow, moved to Portland, Ore. In 1958 he joined the Naval Reserve, retiring with the rank of captain in 1984.

Yasui was predeceased by his wife, Miki, who died on Dec. 14, 2018; their son, Allen Masuo Yasui; and his eight siblings. He leaves behind his three surviving children, Barbara, Meredith and John, plus eight grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and dozens of nieces, nephews and other extended family. ■

TRIBUTE

ROY HATAMIYA



Roy Riichi Hatamiya, a prominent Marysville, Calif., farmer of peaches, prunes, walnuts and almonds, died peacefully on Nov. 10, 2023, in Yuba City, Calif. at the age of 94. He was born in the District 10 area north of Marysville on Feb. 13, 1929, to the late Senichi and Satoki Hatamiya, pioneer immigrants from Hiroshima, Japan.

He was preceded in death by three sisters: Kikue (Tad) Tomita of San Jose, Tamaki (Eiitsu) Sugaya of Sunnyvale, Calif., and Kimiko, who died in infancy. He is survived by sister Toshiko (Kenji) Minabe of Livingston, Calif., and younger brothers George (Kashiwa) of Marysville, Calif., and Robert (Lillian) of Gridley, Calif.

Roy married Momoko Miriam Kawahara of San Lorenzo, Calif., in 1961, and together they raised three children: Michael of Yuba City, Calif., Ford (Tracy) of Albany, Calif., and Leslie (Randy Schieber) of San Bruno, Calif. He had four grandchildren: Evan and Alison Schieber, and Elle and Jude Hatamiya. Many nephews and nieces and their offspring fill the family tree.

Roy completed elementary school in seven years at the District 10 rural grammar school in June 1942. The following month, he was incarcerated with his family at the Tule Lake concentration camp in northeastern California and later transferred to the Amache concentration camp in Colorado.

He completed high school in three years, finishing at Amache High School. Upon his family's return to Marysville at the conclusion of the war, Roy attended Yuba College and completed his education at the University of California at Davis, majoring in pomology.

Roy joined his father in the management of H.B. Orchard Co., Inc., a farming enterprise founded by his father in 1919. Roy's brothers later joined the operation. By the time the three brothers retired in 2005, H.B. Orchard Co. had grown from an 80-acre family farm into 1,100 acres of orchards. Roy had a gift for metalworking, and together with his brothers fabricated many pieces of farm equipment.

Roy served as director and secretary of Reclamation District 10, director of Sunsweet Growers, director of the Federal Land Bank Association in Yuba City, member and president of the Marysville Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, member of UC Davis Alumni and Cal Bear Backers, and member of the Yuba County grand jury, as well as an appointed member to the California Cling Peach Advisory Board.

Roy's two avocations were music and fly fishing. He learned to play the French horn and trumpet in grammar school, and while incarcerated in the wartime camps, he played trumpet in dance bands. A 2012 documentary, "Searchlight Serenade," produced by PBS station KEET of Eureka, presents the story of dance bands in the concentration camps. Roy was one of nine surviving musicians discovered and interviewed for the film.

After starting to work on the ranch, Roy was persuaded to take up fly fishing by his cousin Tom Hatamiya. This led to many years of enjoyment, fishing for trophy rainbows and brown trout in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico with three longtime friends, Bob Kells, George Post and Bob Hanke, all of Yuba City. Trips to Canada and Argentina highlighted his experiences.

At his request, no memorial service will be held. Donations may be made in his name to the Marysville Chapter of the JACL (P.O. Box 2253, Marysville, CA 95901, or go to marysvillejacl.org) or to the National Japanese American Historical Society (njahs.org).

TRIBUTE

TOM AONO



Tom Aono, 94, of Mission Viejo, Calif., died peacefully on Sept. 29, 2023. Tom was born Feb. 21, 1929, in Portland, Ore., to Yosaku and Sueko Aono. During WWII, Tom and his parents and sisters, Toshiko (Chikara Koike) and Yoneko (James Sugimura) were incarcerated at Minidoka in Idaho. The family returned to Portland and after Tom graduated from Gresham Union High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving in Japan during the Occupation.

Tom moved to Chicago where he met Lily Takagi (b. Fresno, Calif., Jerome and Rohwer). In 1956 Tom and Lily married and together they raised five children. Tom practiced as a structural draftsman where his work took him and the family to Michigan, Georgia and back to the Chicago suburbs. In 2000 he and Lily moved to Mission Viejo, where he eventually retired after 58 years in the profession. Tom will be remembered for his vivid recall of names and faces, love of cars, golf and bowling, and trips to the casino. We will fondly remember his devotion to our family and kindness toward friends new and old.

Tom is predeceased by Lily, his devoted wife of 63 years. He is survived by his five children: Fred Aono (Jenny Kiyomura), Caryn Aono, Joanne Aono (Brian Leber), Kristine Aono (Val Giddings) and Roberta Jeannette (Jeff). Tom was a proud grandpa to Marissa (Aono) Rudisill (Daniel), Alexandra Aono (Jack Custer), Colin Aono, Naomi Aono (Nikolai Laba), Calvin Giddings, Griffin and Carter Jeannette and great-grandpa to Kaleb and Luke Custer, and Benjamin and Elijah Rudisill.

The family wishes to express special appreciation to his devoted caregivers.

A celebration of Tom's life will be held on Feb. 3, 2024, at the Norman P. Murray Center, 24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, Calif. For more information, please contact the family at rememberingta@gmail.com.