

In MEMORIAM

Community Gathers to Celebrate Alan Takeshi Nishio

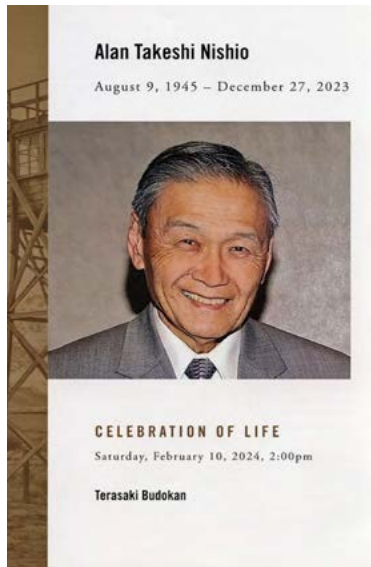
Terasaki Budokan hosts hundreds to bid farewell to respected, beloved figure.

By P.C.Staff

More than three decades ago, Alan Nishio was part of a group of Japanese Americans interested in getting built in Little Tokyo some sort of recreation center that could help bring the community together.

Although there was likely no inkling then that someday the community would gather at what would become the Terasaki Budokan to honor and celebrate Nishio's life, it was fitting the event took place there as a testament to his foresight when, on Feb. 10, more than 600 fans, friends and family members gathered to pay him tribute.

A respected, influential, beloved, well-known, decorated and accomplished member of Los Angeles' Japanese American community, Nishio died at age 78 on Dec. 27, 2023, after a years-long battle



The program cover for Alan Nishio's celebration of life, held at the Terasaki Budokan

with leiomyosarcoma (see *Pacific Citizen's* Jan. 26-Feb. 8, 2024, issue, tinyurl.com/vcw5psk3).

Serving as master of ceremonies for Nishio's celebration of life was Chris Aihara. The program included musical performances by Kira Nishio Lockwood, Ty Nishio Lockwood, June Kuramoto, Kimo Cornwell, Dan Kuramoto, Michael Murata, Scott Nagatani and Miko Shudo, as well as a multimedia presentation by Nagatani.

Speakers included Evan Nishio Lockwood, Mike Murase, Sue Oda Omori, Kathy Masaoka, Sara Mitsue Ty, Jaffe Dickerson, Amy Watanabe, Erich Nakano, Alexa Emiko Ty and Aihara.

Nishio's life was summed up by a friend and peer, Ron Wakabayashi, who said, "He was the best of us."

Note: A PDF of Nishio's celebration of life program may be viewed at tinyurl.com/y6t2y9nd.

Aoki, Richard Shigetoshi, 91, Pearl City, HI, Nov. 19, 2023.

Hamler, Russell 'Huck,' 99, Pittsburgh, PA, Dec. 26, 2023; reported to be the last surviving member of the Army's 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), aka Merrill's Marauders, which fought secretive missions against the Japanese army in Southeast Asia during WWII. He fought in three of the unit's five major battles, earned the Combat Infantryman Badge and was awarded a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star and, in 2022, a Congressional Gold Medal; he was predeceased by his wife, Imelda, aka Jean; and their sons, Jeffrey Hamler and James Hamler.



Kobata, Glenn, 69, Sacramento, CA, Aug. 6, 2023; BA, biological science, Calif. State Univ. Sacramento; he is survived by his siblings, Hannah Guro (Michael) and Stanley Kobata (Kris); he is also survived by nieces, nephews, a grandniece, a grandnephew and other relatives. ■

TRIBUTE

KIRK TAKEUCHI



Kirk Mamoru Takeuchi was born in Santa Barbara, Calif., to Mamoru and Yukiko Takeuchi. He passed peacefully on Jan. 25, 2024, after a yearlong battle with cancer. He was trained in judo and aikido by Sensei Kenji Ota. He was an award-winning athlete in track.

He became a hero at age 25 when he apprehended a purse snatcher — receiving the "Extra Step Award" from the Kiwanis Club of Santa Barbara and a commendation from the state

of California. In 2014, he and wife Shelley moved to New Mexico, where Kirk's relatives were incarcerated in the Santa Fe Internment Camp during WWII. He was a member of the NMJACL.

TRIBUTE

DAISY UYEDA SATODA



Aug. 15, 1927-Dec. 31, 2023

Daisy Uyeda Satoda passed away peacefully at her home in San Francisco, surrounded by family, on Dec. 31, 2023. She was born in Watsonville, Calif., the sixth of 12 children.

Daisy was 14 when her family was unjustly incarcerated in the Topaz Concentration Camp in Utah during WWII. She and her classmates spent their entire high school years behind barbed wire and as a result,

the Topaz High School Class of 1945 formed a unique bond. Daisy was instrumental in organizing class activities, including over 30 reunions since 1970.

Daisy settled in San Francisco after the war. She attended college and worked for the Red Cross and then the Japanese American Citizens League, where she met Yone Satoda. They married in 1961 and had three children. She was active in the children's schooling, sporting and scouting functions, but always found time for crossword puzzles, soap operas and baking.

Daisy was also active in community organizations including the Japanese American National Museum, Japanese American Library and Nikkei & Retirement, where she provided public relations, fundraising and event planning. She loved writing and her work appears in five published anthologies which focus on Japanese American experiences and the WWII incarceration.

Daisy loved Hawaii; she and Yone vacationed there annually for 30 years. She also enjoyed visiting Paris and Japan. We will miss her presence, wit and style.

Daisy was predeceased by Yone in 2017. She is survived by her children, Caroline (Elbert Suen), Nancy and David (Allie); grandsons, Christopher, David Jr. (Marie), Nicholas, Tyler and Timothy; sister, Juneko (Tom) Sugihara; and many nieces and nephews. A private service was held.

TikTok Star Lynn Yamada Davis, 67, Dies

By P.C. Staff and Press Reports



Lynn Yamada Davis displays her karaage chicken in an episode of her internet program "Cooking With Lynja."

PHOTO: YOUTUBE

The world of TikTok, the social video app popular with teens and young people worldwide, lost one of its older-skewing sensations: Lynn "Lynja" Yamada Davis, 67, who died Jan. 1.

Over its years of existence, Davis'

"Cooking With Lynja" gained 17 million followers and connected with viewers for her "zany style and cooking tips" and "quirky dance moves." The cause of death was esophageal cancer. She was a resident of Holmdel, N.J.

According to the obituary that appeared in the *New York Times*, "Cooking With Lynja" began during the pandemic lockdown when her son, Tim Davis, began recording his mother as a way for him to keep his cinematography skills sharp. In addition to TikTok, she also had legions of followers on YouTube and Instagram, with Davis appearing in more than 100 videos.

Prior to her becoming an "internet sensation," Davis — who was born in New York City in 1956 to Mabel Fujisaki Yamada and Tadao Yamada — grew up in Fort Lee, N.J., after her parents were released from being incarcerated at the Poston War Relocation Authority Center in Arizona during

World War II.

Davis went on to a career in telecommunications, including working at Bell Labs after graduating from Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. She later earned a master's degrees in business administration and public health from Columbia Business School.

Despite those achievements, it was thanks to social medi, her cooking skills and personality that Davis would gain fame as "the internet's grandma." She was named to Forbes' annual "50 Over 50" list, a compilation of impactful women older than 50 and was nominated thrice for the Streamy awards, winning in 2022.

Davis is survived by her husband, Keith Davis; daughters, Hannah Mariko Shofet and Becky Steinberg; sons, Tim Davis and Sean Davis; and siblings, Jay Yamada and Karen Yamada Dolce. ■

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