

David Lin, Wife Jean, ID'd in Sept. Double-Homicide

He was the first non-Nikkei to serve as JACL national president.

By P.C. Staff

Jean and David Lin, a married couple residing in Hillsborough, N.J., have been identified by authorities and in published news reports as the victims of a double-homicide. Both were 69 years of age.

David Lin was elected Japanese American Citizens League national president in July 2012 (*Aug. 17, 2012, Pacific Citizen*, tinyurl.com/yhxjthhh) and was re-elected to a second two-year term for 2014-16. Lin was the first person of Chinese ancestry to serve as the president of the national civil rights organization. And in July 2024, Lin was presented with the JACL's Sapphire Pin at the organization's National Convention in Philadelphia.

"It is with deep sadness that we acknowledge the passing of past National President David Lin, a devoted Life Member of the Japanese American Citizens League for more than two decades," said JACL National President Larry Oda in a statement released to *Pacific Citizen*. "Throughout his years of service, David exemplified the highest ideals of leadership, commitment and integrity. He served the organization in numerous capacities, including as vp for membership, planning and development and as national president. Most recently, he continued his steadfast dedication as chair of the Investment Policy Committee."

Somerset County Prosecutor John P. McDonald announced the victims' identities on Nov. 7. According to the account on the Somerset

County Prosecutor's website and news reports, the slayings were discovered on the afternoon of Sept. 25 by Hillsborough Township Police, who went to the Lin household to conduct a welfare check.

Unsuccessful at making contact on an initial visit, officers entered the premises a second time about two hours later, where they encountered a knife-wielding man exiting a bedroom.

The two officers fired on the man as he approached them and "immediately began performing life-saving measures on the assailant, who was then transported to an area trauma center."

It was afterward when the bodies of the two victims were found in separate bedrooms on the second floor of the residence. According to the prosecutor's office, the cause of death for both victims were "blunt force injuries" to the head.

Neither a motive for the homicides nor the identity of the man police shot have been released, but he was hospitalized and listed at the time in critical condition. It is unclear whether he is a suspect in the double-homicide.

Unknown at this time is the identity of the party who requested the welfare check, and no explanation was forthcoming from authorities regarding the 43-day delay between the Sept. 25 discovery of the homicides and the Nov. 7 release of the victims' identities.

Prior to becoming JACL's first non-Nikkei national president, Lin, who was born in Taiwan, had served on

the Hillsborough Township Board of Education from 2006-09. Formerly the executive director of external affairs at AT&T, he is credited for having developed a relationship between JACL and AT&T.

Lin's other activities included serving as treasurer of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies and serving as the founding president of Asian Pacific Islanders for Professional and Community Advancement, a nonprofit organization that provides leadership opportunities and alliances for AT&T's Asian Pacific Islanders employees.

Other organizations that Lin was active with include OCA — Asian Pacific American Advocates, where he served as chair of the OCA Business Advisory Council, and as a member of OCA's New Jersey chapter board and as OCA national vp for economic development.

He also served as treasurer of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies and was a board member for Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics. At IW Group Inc., Lin had served as its vp of public affairs and advocacy.

Lin earned master's degrees in computer science and business administration from Rutgers University, where he also received a bachelor's degree in mathematics.

After presiding over the JACL's National Board, Lin would later launch the JACL Centennial Education Fund to raise \$3 million for the organization.

In a statement released to *Pacific Citizen*, JACL Interim Executive

Director Saki Mori wrote: "JACL staff and board are heartbroken with the news of David Lin's passing. I extend my deepest condolences to his family and close friends."

"I had the privilege of serving on the National Board with him from 2020-22 when I served as the vp of membership and he as the vp of planning and development. I will remember him for his strategic approach coupled with a tireless spirit that he demonstrated as a JACL member and leader. He was a confidante to many at JACL through his leadership and camaraderie that guided us over the years, and it will continue to support us as we near the organization's centennial. I am also grateful for his contributions to JACL and other Asian American organizations that leave a legacy of partnership that is critical to uplift our collective community."

Jason Chan, APAICS board of directors chair, in a statement said: "David was not only a valued member of our board, but a dear friend and mentor to so many of us."

"He believed deeply in the power of representation and service, and his wisdom and generosity of spirit left an indelible mark on this organization and on all who had the privilege to work with him."

In his LinkedIn feed, IW Group's Bill Imada wrote, "No words can explain how we feel about what has happened to David and Jean. Our hearts go out to his family — especially his parents — and to everyone who knew this caring couple."

Imada also announced the creation of a GoFundMe page, with raised funds to be "donated to the JACL"



Former JACL National President David Lin (left) received the Sapphire Pin from JACL National President Larry Oda during the organization's National Convention in 2024.

PHOTO: KRIS IKEJIRI

and "support leadership programs that David truly cared about during his life." The link is at tinyurl.com/2nn8pe66. Imada reported that to date, the GoFundMe campaign has raised more than \$16,000 toward its \$25,000 goal.

Added Oda: "On a personal note, I considered David not only a respected colleague but also a trusted friend whose wisdom, candor and thoughtful counsel were deeply valued. His graciousness and quiet strength earned the admiration of all who worked with him."

"David's passing is a tremendous loss to the JACL and the broader community he served with such devotion. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones during this difficult time. His legacy of leadership and service will be remembered with great respect and gratitude." ■

Arthur A. Hansen Dies at 87

Professor's career focus was JA incarceration experience.

By P.C. Staff

Dr. Arthur August Hansen, whose teaching career as a history and Asian American Studies professor spanned more than 40 years, has died. He was 87.

An academic whose focus was the Japanese American incarceration experience, especially in the area of resistance, Hansen died following a long illness at his Los Osos, Calif., home on Oct. 29.

Born in Hoboken, N.J., in 1938, Hansen spent the first 10 years of his life there until his family relocated to Santa Barbara, Calif. He attended the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees, as well as a doctorate in history.

Hansen's career in higher education began in 1966, when he was hired as a history professor at Cali-

fornia State University, Fullerton, until his retirement in 2008.

Although he was a prolific writer, having served as an author/editor of a dozen books, including such titles as "Manzanar Martyr: An Interview with Harry Y. Ueno," "Manzanar Mosaic: Essays and Oral Histories on America's First World War II Japanese American Concentration Camp" and "A Nikkei Harvest: Reviewing the Japanese American Historical Experience and Its Legacy," Hansen may best be remembered as the founding director of the Japanese American Oral History Project at CSUF in 1972, where he had recorded nearly 200 interviews.

Included among Hansen's many honors, accomplishments and accolades: being named as CSUF's Outstanding Faculty Member, College of Humanities & Social Sci-

ences, 2007's Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for Asian American Studies, serving as the senior historian at the Japanese American National Museum from 2001-05 and in 2014, being the co-recipient (with Mas Okui) of the Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award.

Hansen is survived by his wife, Debbie. A memorial service is planned for January 2026, to take place at CSUF. ■

MEMORIAM

(Editor's Note: Boldfaced names in blue in the PDF version of this page are active hyperlinks to published obituaries for the decedent.)

Fukui, June Kazuye, 88, West Hills, CA, Sept. 5.

Hamachi, Gladys Keiko, 91, Torrance, CA, Oct. 3.

Kimura, Mary Masako, 93, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 22.

Yoshioka, Larry Mitsugi, 82, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, Oct. 26. ■

PLACE A TRIBUTE

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