

Sacramento JACL: Matsui Guest at 2026 Installation



Pictured (front row, from left) are Sacramento Mayor Pro Tem Eric Guerra, Rep. Doris Matsui, Sacramento JACL chapter VP Debbie Eto, chapter board member Esther Hokama; and (second row, from left) Assemblywoman Stephanie Nguyen, chapter Secretary Randy Fong, board member Michael Luszczak, chapter President Roger Fujii, chapter Treasurer Kathy Delmendo and chapter President Emeritus Janice Luszczak.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF SACRAMENTO JACL

The Sacramento JACL held its installation and Community Recognition Award event at Fuji Restaurant on Jan. 24, with special guests U.S. Rep. Doris Matsui (D-Calif.), Assemblywoman Stephanie Nguyen (D-10th District) and Sacramento Mayor Pro Tem Eric Guerra in attendance.

The Hon. Charles Kobayashi installed the chapter's officers, who are as follows: Roger Fujii, president; Debbie Eto, vp; Kathy

Delmendo, treasurer; and Randy Fong, secretary.

In addition, Community Recognition Awards were presented by Matsui, Nguyen and Guerra to Asian American leaders Bill Wong and John Yoshikawa, former ACC Senior Services CEO Connie Rusynik, VFW 8985's Andy Rosenau and longtime restaurateur Russell Okubo.

Matsui concluded the event with a stirring speech. ■

News Briefs

5-Plus Years Prison Sentence for Pasadena Who Made Bomb Threats
U.S. District Judge Sherilyn Peace Garnett sentenced Nathalie Nguyen, 40, of Pasadena, Calif., to 64 months in federal prison on Feb. 4. Nguyen, who pleaded guilty in April 2025 to one count of stalking and one count of threat by interstate commerce to kill another person and damage and destroy buildings by fire and explosives, had stalked her victim and his wife, then impersonated them to further stalk staff at a U.S. consulate in Vietnam, which she threatened to bomb. Nguyen was also ordered to pay more than \$5,000 in restitution.

Judge Sentences 'Pig-Butchering' Perpetrator to Nearly 4 Years in Prison
U.S. District Judge R. Gary Klausner on Jan. 27 sentenced Chinese national Jingliang Su, 45, to nearly four years in federal prison for his role in swindling more than \$36.9 million from victims. With several partners, Su engaged in a so-called "pig-butchering" scam, in which victims are drained of their financial assets after trust is gained by the perpetrators over a period of time via social media and dating apps. Su was also ordered to pay \$26.9 million in restitution.

Irvine, Calif.-Couple Plead Guilty for Hiding Millions in Cash Transactions
A married couple from Irvine, Calif. — Alex Nguyen, 50, and Sam Nguyen, 52 — owners of Newport Gold Post Inc. in downtown Los Angeles' Jewelry District, pleaded guilty Dec. 19, 2025, to federal criminal charges of concealing millions of dollars' worth of cash transactions from the federal government, failing to maintain an anti-money laundering program, and using the unreported cash at other family businesses, at a casino, and for other personal expenses. After receiving millions of dollars in cash from customers, they failed to file necessary IRS paperwork. Alex Nguyen pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy and one count of filing a false tax return, and Sam Nguyen pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy. U.S. District Judge Michelle Williams Court has scheduled June 5 for sentencing hearings for the defendants. Alex Nguyen will face up to eight years in federal prison; Sam Nguyen will face up to five years in federal prison.

— P.C. Staff

In MEMORIAM

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

Kimura, Mary Masako, 93, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 22, 2025.





Nakano, Kraig Koji, 66, Torrance, CA, Jan. 25.

Choy, Christine, 73, New York, NY, Dec. 7, 2025.

Fukui, June Kazuye, 88, West Hills, CA, Sept. 5, 2025.



Guting, Tara-Marysa, 28, Tacoma, WA, Dec. 19, 2025.

Hada, Calvin T., 71, Louisville, CO, December 2025.



Hamachi, Gladys Keiko, 91, Torrance, CA, Oct. 3, 2025.



Hara, John, 83, Alton, IL, Dec. 26, 2025.

Hotta, Virginia, 99, El Cerrito, Calif., Jan. 5.

Ichinaga, Jon, 70, Torrance, CA, Jan. 1.

Ishimatsu, Dorothy, 98, San Jose, CA, Dec. 10, 2025.

TRIBUTE

EMIKO SUYEIRO

A private Celebration of Life for Emiko Suyehiro, 97-year-old, Tosa-Shi, Kochi, Japan-born Nisei, who passed away on Dec. 10, 2025, in Los Angeles, was held.

She is survived by her daughter, Kim (Michael Thies) Suyehiro Thies; she was also survived by other relatives.

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TRIBUTE

HELEN KIMIKO YAMANAKA

Aug. 19, 1930-Jan. 14, 2026
Resident of Alameda, Calif.

Helen passed away peacefully in her sleep at the age of 95. She was the youngest of five children born to Masaki and Shige Funatsu. Helen is survived by her son Benjamin, Mita Basconcillo, grandchildren Brendan Yamanaka, Brady Yamanaka, Nenita Reyes & Elvie Johnson, Natishae Basconcillo & Carlos Zuniga, Noel & Crisjel Basconcillo, great-grandchildren Sharissa Daquioag, Adrian Zuniga, Hamala Johnson, Camila Zuniga, Naielle Basconcillo and Cristian Basconcillo. Helen is preceded in death by her husband, Ben Yamanaka, son Bruce Yamanaka and siblings Kay Hama, Alyce Tanouye, Harry Funatsu and Betty Funatsu.

Helen was born in Turlock, Calif., and during WWII she and her family were relocated and interned at Amache Relocation facility in Granada, Colo. Helen worked for Marcus Foster middle school in Oakland, Calif.

She loved playing golf with the Alameda Nine Holes Golf Group and volunteering at the Alameda Hospital Gift Shop and Meals on Wheels. She loved visiting Mastick Senior Center in Alameda and playing mahjong. Helen was a loving and devoted wife, caring and supportive mother to her sons, grandkids and great grandkids and a loyal friend to many.

Memorial services to be held on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. at the Buddhist Temple of Alameda. In lieu of flowers please consider a memorial donation to the charity of one's choice.

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 \$25/column inch.

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