

In MEMORIAM

(Note: Boldfaced names in the PDF version of this are active hyperlinks.)

Abe, James Ichiro, 87, Pearl City, HI, April 19.

Akagi, Judith, 78, Honolulu, HI, April 24.



Akimoto, David Yu, 34, Gardena, CA, May 6.

Arakaki, Harry Koichi, 92, Rosemead, CA, July 18.

Baba, Derek, 71, Honolulu, HI, April 27.

Harada, Masako, 96, Gardena, CA, June 25.

Ishibashi, Ernest Masao, 81, Los Angeles, CA, June 15.

Ishibashi, Roger, 73, Los Angeles, CA, June 15.

Kirihara, Michelle Sachiko, 48, Honolulu, HI, April 19.

Kiyama, Glenn Isao, 92, San Diego, CA, Feb. 13.

Kobayashi, Stanley Masaki, 93, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 23.



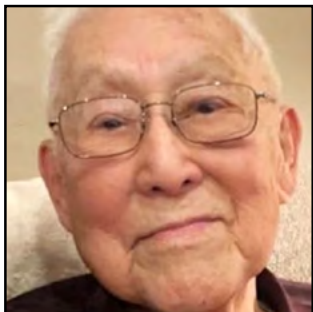
Kobayashi, Marian Sumako, 87, Fremont, CA, April 28.



Kono, Grace Masako Nomura, 99, Torrance, CA, May 24.



Manabe, Hiroko, 92, Blue Bell, PA, May 15.



Matsusaka, Eugene, 99, Tacoma, WA, May 20.



Mishima, Steve, 69, Redondo Beach, CA, June 7.

Morimoto, Martha Miyo, 88, Honolulu, HI, Feb. 18.

Nishimori, Andrea, 78, Santa Maria, CA, May 4.

Niwa, Ujinobu, 99, Brea, CA, April 11.

Ozawa, Hisako, 101, Los Angeles, CA, July 13.

Saito, Fumio, 85, Huntington Station, NY, April 30.

Shishido, Anna, 99, Arleta, CA, June 29.

Takahashi, Patsy Joyce, 85, Perry, Mich., June 22.



Tsukiji, Lori Ann, 70, Sacramento, CA, May 22.

Yates, Ikuko Ando, 87, Sulphur Springs, TX, March 24.

Yokoi, Fred, 96, West Sacramento, CA, March 22.

Yayoi Kusama Dies

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama, (see Dec. 15, 2017, *Pacific Citizen*, [tinyurl.com/3t5d8xuul](https://www.pacificcitizen.com/3t5d8xuul)), who splashed her signature polka dots on paintings, sculptures and museum installations around the world, has died, her studio said. She was 97.

Kusama died Aug. 14 at a hospital in Tokyo, Yayoi Kusama Studio said, without specifying the cause of death.

"She continued to paint until her final days, never setting aside her brush, and continued exploration of forever love and eternal soul," the studio's statement said. "We will carry forward Kusama's wishes and, through art, continue to bring hope and strength for the future to people around the world."

Kusama, one of Japan's most-respected contemporary artists, was widely exhibited around the world, including the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York and the Museum Ludwig in Germany.

Repetitive motifs were her trademark, in various shapes, resembling netting, swirls or worms, but most often dots, dancing proudly on her canvases, or as sparkling balls or dots of light in her installations, in all their vibrant psychedelic glory.

"Polka dots are fabulous," Kusama said in a 2012 interview with the *Associated Press*, appearing in her signature orange bob wig and polka dot attire.

"I want to create a thousand paintings, maybe two thousand paintings, as many as I can draw," she said in her childlike but matter-of-fact tone. "I will keep painting until I die."

Kusama insisted she drew the way she saw the world: covered with spots, part of the hallucinations she said she had from childhood.

News Briefs

Kara Chu Crowned 2026 Nisei Week Queen; Ai Kusayanagi Is First Princess

Representing the Orange County Nikkei Coordinating Council, Kara Kimiko Chu was named this year's Nisei Week Queen. Ai Grace Kusayanagi (Japanese Restaurant Association of America) received the first princess title. Tapped for Nisei Week princess honors were Emily Kaori Gruhn (Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute), Deena Maiko Umeda (Venice Japanese Community Center & Venice-West Los Angeles Japanese American Citizens League), Meagan Sueko Pham (San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center) and Kailah Julianne Tokushige (Gardena Evening Optimist Club), with Jacqueline Fujiko Naito (East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center) winning Miss Tomodachi.

LTSC, 4th & Central Development Pact on Community Benefits Agreement

The Little Tokyo Service Center's years-long opposition to the redevelopment by the owners of Los Angeles Cold Storage into the megadevelopment known as Fourth & Central that detractors asserted would have a negative impact on Little Tokyo appears to have paid off in the form of concessions. The Community Benefits Agreement would, according to an LTSC news release, provide more Extremely Low-Income (ELI) affordable housing than required under the DTLA 2040 Community Plan; create permanent space for community-serving businesses and organizations rooted in Little Tokyo and Skid Row; establish a dedicated community investment fund to support neighborhood priorities over the long term; and create new safeguards and public oversight for alcohol permits and protection of public health, including creation of an Alcohol Advisory Group. LTSC also said the developer agreed to limit the height and density of the buildings.

Declared Insane, Man Who Killed, Dismembered Mother Found Not Guilty

Facing a maximum term of life in confinement, David Hoetzlein, 25, of Camarillo, Calif., will be placed in a maximum-security state mental hospital for treatment after having been found not guilty by reason of insanity for the 2022 slaying and dismemberment of his mother, Tomoko Hoetzlein, 62, and then putting her remains in a dumpster. David Hoetzlein admitted to the killing while in court on Aug. 13.

Hawaii: Five Indicted on Charges Including Bribery, Obstruction of Justice

An Oahu grand jury on July 24 indicted Hawaii Lt. Gov. Sylvia Luke, former Human Services Director Ryan Yamane, former budget analyst for the Senate Committee on Ways and Means Ford Fuchigami, former PUC Chair and Luke campaign treasurer Leo Asuncion Jr. and businessman Toby Solidum on charges including "bribery, campaign finance violations, false statements and obstruction of justice." The five are accused of having used campaign donations and other funds to obtain continued state funding for Solidum's COVID-19 testing operations.

DoJ: Tax Preparer Gets 27-Month-Prison Term For Filing False Returns

U.S. District Judge Sherilyn Peace Garnett on Aug. 6 sentenced Ann Quach, 50, of Thousand Oaks, Calif., to 27 months in federal prison for filing more than 1,700 false tax returns, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. Quach, who on Feb. 18 pleaded guilty to one count of aiding in the preparation of false tax returns and one count of wire fraud, was also ordered by the judge to pay \$6,481,731 in restitution. In other DoJ news, on Aug. 28, Chinese nationals Yang Song, 39, of Corona, Calif., and illegal immigrant Wenhui Huang, 41, of Chino Hills, Calif., were sentenced to federal prison for leading a large-scale scheme to defraud Apple Inc. through the fraudulent "returns" of thousands of counterfeit Apple devices totalling some \$16.2 million in losses.

— P.C. Staff

PLACE A TRIBUTE

'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis.

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