News Briefs

CAPAC Survey: Most Japanese Americans View President 'Unfavorably'
In an Oct. 27 statement, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus said 69 percent of surveyed Japanese American voters viewed President Donald Trump unfavorably, adding that "Japanese Americans are still waiting for him to deliver on his promises of lower costs and greater economic opportunities." The results were from a recent poll conducted of likely Asian American Pacific Islander voters in advance of the Nov. 3 elections. According to CAPAC, the top five most important issues for Japanese Americans were the economy (89 percent), the cost of living (82 percent), health care (68 percent), foreign policy (58 percent) and election fairness (57 percent). CAPAC also found "66 percent of Japanese Americans are not confident that the federal government will act in the best interest of the public's health, and 72 percent of Japanese Americans think the government is spending too little on health care." CAPAC also criticized the president with regard to Executive Order 14253, aka "Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History," noting the "administration posted signs at the Manzanar and Minidoka National Historic Sites where Japanese Americans were unjustly incarcerated during World War II, encouraging guests to report any information considered critical of American history."

Duly Noted: Sean Metzger Is New UCLA Asian American Studies Dept. Chair
The 2026 Guggenheim Fellow, 2026 Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History at Harvard fellowship recipient and since 2012, professor at the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television, received the new title in late September. ¶ The government of Japan on Oct. 23 presented its Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays, to Dr. Takashi Hoshizaki.

— P.C. Staff

O.C. Black Chamber Recognizes Ken Inouye

Former JACL national president awarded for distinguished service.

Longtime civil rights advocate Kenneth K. Inouye was honored with the Black Chamber of Commerce of Orange County's 2026 Distinguished Service Award at its 42nd Annual Awards Banquet. The sold-out event took place Oct. 1 at the Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa.

Inouye, who served as the Japanese American Citizens League national president from 2004-06, was recognized for his decades of public service, advocacy and efforts to strengthen relationships among Orange County's diverse communities. The award was presented by Alison Edwards, CEO of Groundswell, formerly OC Human Relations.

A prominent leader in the Japanese American community, Inouye co-founded the Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA) in 1997. He also served for 23 years on the Orange County Human Relations Commission, including as chair, advocating for civil rights, social justice and greater understanding among communities.

The Black Chamber praised Inouye's longstanding partnership with the organization and his contributions to African American, minority business and veterans communities.

The recognition adds to Inouye's distinguished record of service, including his 2019 Nisei Week Pioneer Spirit Award, and highlights his enduring commitment to building bridges across racial and cultural lines throughout Southern California.

— SELANOCO Orange County JACL



Alison Edwards, CEO of Groundswell, presents Kenneth Inouye with the Black Chamber of Commerce of Orange County's 2026 Distinguished Service Award.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF SELANOCO ORANGE COUNTY JACL/ERIC KAWAGUCHI

Portland Community Celebrates Its Nikkei Elders



Pictured *(front row, from left)* are Frank Nakata, Richard Noburo Endow, Tom Fujii, Shu Konno, Seichi Konno, Aya Fujii, Taka Mizote and Alice Watanabe and *(back row, from left)* Terry and Linda Nishikawa, Lynn Fuchigami Parks, Tiffany Koyama Lane, Rev. Vonn and Karen Magnin.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF PNW JACL

The Greater Portland Japanese American Community celebrated its elders at the DoubleTree Hotel near the Lloyd Center in Portland on Oct. 10.

Sponsored annually by the Gresham-Troutdale JACL, the Japanese Ancestral Society, Portland JACL, the Japanese American Museum of Oregon and the Veleda Club, the luncheon highlighted the lives of the elders who have reached their 95th birthday.

For 2026, there were 30 honorees, with eight attending in person.

Honorees able to attend in person were Richard Noburo Endow (95), Aya Fujii (99), Tom Fujii (99), Seichi Konno (101), Shu Konno (99), Taka Mizote (102), Frank Nakata (100) and Alice Watanabe (101).

The program included words before and after the meal, a congratulatory message from Portland City Councilor Tiffany Koyama Lane and was highlighted by a presentation that honored each of the 30 elders with a capsule of their life and contributions to the Greater Portland Community.

The names of the elders honored who were unable to attend in person were Linnea Foss (104), Amy Furumasu (98), Jim Hasegawa (95) Kimi Iwamoto (104) Fude Kagawa (98) Misako Kodama (99) Jean Kozawa (97) Mishie Matsumoto (96), Tsuyako Monas (98) Ella Morisato (98), George Morishige (104), Setsuko Morishige (97), Janet Nagata (97), Sam Naito (104), Harry Nakamura (96), Etsuko Osaki (95), Bertha Saiget (101), Sachiko Kawara Simmons (95), Kazue Sumoge (100), Satoru Terada (99), Chiyoko Watanabe (99) and Vivian Wong (99).

A special acknowledgment was delivered for those elders who had passed since last year's event.

This included Bessie Asai, Paul Ase, Dan Hinatsu, Michiko Kiyokawa, Afton Nozaki, Hideo Ouchida, Robert Ouchida, Henry "Shig" Sakamoto, Dorothy Sato and Jeanne Shioshi.

The tentative date for next year's luncheon has been set for Oct. 23.

— PNW JACL

In Memoriam

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

Arakaki, Jordan, 40, Honolulu, HI, June 1.

Bauza, Eric, 46, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 25.

Hayata, Tomoaki 'Tomo,' 96, Huntington Beach, CA, Sept. 6.



Imai, Dorothy, 97, Seattle, WA, Sept. 15.

Jaberg, Elaine Noriko, 81, Whittier, CA, Oct. 12.

Katayama, Kenneth Kenji, 72, Monterey Park, CA, July 31.

Kawahara, Larry Hiroshi, 79, Gardena, CA, Oct. 10.



Miya, Kerry Alan, 76, Layton, UT, Aug 25.

Nakazono, Sayoko, 80, Monrovia, CA, Sept. 9.

Takehara, Yohko, 80, Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 14.

Yoshitani, Dean Masaaki, 57, Alhambra, CA, Sept. 30. ■

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'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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GLA JACL Represent at Torrance No Kings Day

Richard Kato and Mitchell Matsumura participate at the Oct. 17 No Kings rally at Torrance City Hall in California.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MITCHELL MATSUMURA