SPECIAL HOLIDAY ISSUE

PACIFIC CITIZEN

DEC. 18, 2020-JAN. 21, 2021



A MOMENT IN TIME

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California

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Richmond, CA 94804

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to All Our Friends!
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Nishizaka

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John Pritchard

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from Amy Iwasaki Mass and Family

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Nabeta

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Editor CCJACL Rappa Newsletter

Contra Costa

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JACL

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from the
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&
Happy New Year!
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from
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Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year
wishes
from Betty and Ken Yamashiro

"It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see." Henry David Thoreau.

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Denise Higuchi Bjor

Wishing All Our Friends
and Relatives a Joyous
Holiday Season

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SHARON ISHII
JORDAN AND
FAMILY

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AND

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Cincinnati Chapter JACL

St. Louis



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From
The
St. Louis JACL



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2021



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© 2019-2020 The Pacific Citizen newspaper (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semimonthly (except once in December and January) by the Japanese American Citizens League. *Pacific Citizen*

123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Periodical postage paid at Los Angeles, CA
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to National JACL,
1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115
OFFICE HOURS — Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Pacific Time
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES: JACL MEMBERS: $12 of the national dues provide one year on a one-per-household basis. NONMEMBERS: 1 year – $50 payable in advance. Additional postage per year — $50 International Delivery. (Subject to change without notice.) Periodical postage paid at Los Angeles, Calif.

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Founded in 1929, JACL is the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization with a 10,000 membership base. JACL has 112 chapters nationwide, three regional offices, a Washington, D.C., office and a national headquarters in San Francisco. JACL's mission is to secure and uphold the human and civil rights of Japanese Americans and all Americans while preserving our cultural heritage and values.

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Letter From the Editor



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If there's one good thing to come out of 2020 for me, it's the time I was given to "reset" my life and take a step back to appreciate every moment I'm blessed to have.

Coordinating sports schedules, driving to/from various lessons, stressing out over daily traffic snarls, managing school activities, worrying about keeping my family's lives organized and on track: That all changed in March with three simple words: "Stay at Home."

Suddenly, my world changed, as did everyone else's around me. I went from seeing my family only a few short precious hours a day to being with them 24/7, together under the safety of our own roof.

With my "office" in the master bedroom, my husband's "office" on our kitchen peninsula, my kids' "classrooms" in their rooms, we've adjusted amazingly well under the circumstances. I'm not complaining one bit that I go through groceries like never before or have more trash than is humanly possible each week because my family and I are SAFE.

I'm absorbing each moment — playing board games together, piecing together puzzles, watching movies, taking daily walks as a family and just talking to one another — remembering to tuck the simplest of memories into my heart, grateful for the time I have now to truly enjoy each passing day. . . .

And I hope you, too, are safe, healthy and remembering these moments as well. The raging pandemic has caused so much death and heartache the world over, and our own nation's frustration in dealing with Covid, the division that has resulted due to the recent election, racial and social unrest and turbulent economy have certainly challenged us like never before.

I'm proud of the work we at the Pacific Citizen and JACL have been able to accomplish in spite of the obstacles and hardships we've encountered. Each of us has adapted, adjusted and made the very best out of an extremely difficult time.

Thank you everyone for banding together to work as a team to ensure that the work is still being done — at the national level, local chapters and P.C. team. We'll get through this together.

Soon, I pray, we'll be able to venture out and gain our sense of normalcy back. I hope 2021 will bring the resolutions we are all hoping for, making this moment in time just a faded, distant memory.

Until that day, enjoy each waking second of every day. I know I am.

— Allison Haramoto, Executive Editor

8 // MAKING 'MOCHI MAGIC'
By Allison Haramoto

12 // FINDING FRANK FUJINO: PART II
By George T. Johnston

16 // CLOTHING FOR ALL GENERATIONS
By Allison Haramoto

17 // THE MUNEMITSU LEGACY
By Annie Tang

21 // FROM ONE MOMENT IN TIME TO OUR NEXT
By David Inoue

24 // THE NY/SC: OVERCOMING ADVERSITIES, EMBRACING THE FUTURE
By National Youth/Student Council

28 // YEAR IN REVIEW

32 // 125,000 CRANES SOAR ABOVE COVID
By Tsuru for Solidarity

35 // HONORING JUDGE STEPHEN K. TAMURA

38 // 'FOSTER'-ING THE LOVE OF WRITING, EDUCATION AND ACTIVISM IN EAST LA
By Athena Asklipiadis

40 // 'CHRONICLES OF A SANSEI ROCKER'
By George T. Johnston

42 // HMWF ANNOUNCES MINETA/SIMPSON INSTITUTE
By Ray Locker

44 // COVID-19 AND 2020: IS HOPE FINALLY ON THE HORIZON?
By George T. Johnston

47 // USPS ANNOUNCES GO FOR BROKE STAMP

49 // A MOMENT IN TIME: THINKING ABOUT VISITING JAPAN
By Gil Asakawa

51 // ZOOMING IN
By Marsha Aizumi

53 // 2020: A DEFINING TIME
By Ron Mori

53 // THE ELECTION IS OVER — NOW WHAT???
By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

56 // A PASSION FOR BALLET
By Rob Buscher

58 // IN MEMORIAM 2020

JACL Chapter Ad Index

Alaska..... 46
Arizona 23
Berkeley 34,36,37
Boise Valley 11
Chicago 6,7
Cincinnati 4
Contra Costa..... 2,3
Dayton 4
Detroit 4
Downtown L.A.....54
Eden Township 22
Florin-Scramento 30
Fresno 46
Greater L.A. 27
Holiday Helpers 55
Hoosier 3
Idaho Falls 46
JACL "Annual Giving" 63
Livingston-Merced 46
Lodi 31
Marysville 22
Mile High 26,27
Mount Olympus 3
New England 23
New Mexico 30
New York 3
Olympia 31
Omaha 3
Philadelphia 23
Pocatello-Blackfoot 30
Portland 20
Puyallup Valley 23
Riverside 11
Salinas Valley..... 48
Salt Lake City 46
San Diego 22
San Fernando Valley 43
San Jose 31
San Mateo 23
Santa Barbara 27
Seabrook 30
Seattle 30
Selanoco 3
Sequoia 46
Silicon Valley 46
Snake River 30
Sonoma County 31
St. Louis 4
Stockton 18,19
Twin Cities 4
Venice-West L.A. 48
Ventura County 10,11
Spring Campaign Thank you 52
Wasatch 46
Washington, D.C. 30
Wisconsin 3

DISTRICT COUNCILS

Central California..... 46
Eastern 30
Intermountain 27
Midwest 4
N. Cal Western Nevada Pacific 22
Pacific Northwest 11
Pacific Southwest 30

Chicago

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

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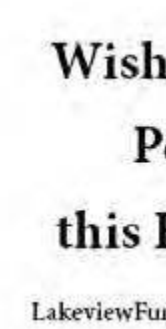
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Wishing you a better 2021...

Happy Holidays to Everyone
from
Lisa Sloan

Happy Holidays!

The Yatabe Family



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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In Memory of
HIRAO "SMOKY" SAKURADA

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The American Legion

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Tonko and Paul Doi - Chicago
Laura Muraoka and Peter Izui - Chicago
Tom and Verna Muraoka - Honolulu
Grace Kido - Chicago

In Memory of

Tomoye and Shiro Muraoka
George Izui
George Kido
Mitsuji and Ritsue Doi

Wishing everyone health & happiness in the New Year

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Happy 2021!

Lisa Doi (Chicago)
and
Eric Langowski (Hoosier)

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Chicago

Wishing you a healthy 2021
Lynn Oda

***Holiday Greetings** from the TAKAGI's*

Bob and Nancy
Kelli and Danny Nitahara
Bruce and Ellen
Glenview, Illinois

Happy Holidays

Karen & Rick Okabe
Salt Lake City, Utah

We are an Open & Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ.

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Season's Greetings to all our JACL friends

Carol & Bill Yoshino

To a Healthy 2021
from
Richard and Kathy Yamada

Happy Holidays to all
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Jonathan Friedman
Morton Grove, Illinois

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
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from
Judy Tanaka
&
Cary Wong

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Chicago Japanese American Historical Society
CJAHS

Seasons Greetings
From
May, Megan and Matt Nakano
Chicago

Happy Holidays
SHARON HARADA
Livermore, CA

HOLIDAY GREETINGS
Ron & Joyce Yoshino
yosh44@aol.com & jyoshino44@aol.com



Happy Holidays!
Wishing you a happier and healthier 2021
but still with Work from Home!

Love,
Cashew & Filbert

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Tsune Nakagawa
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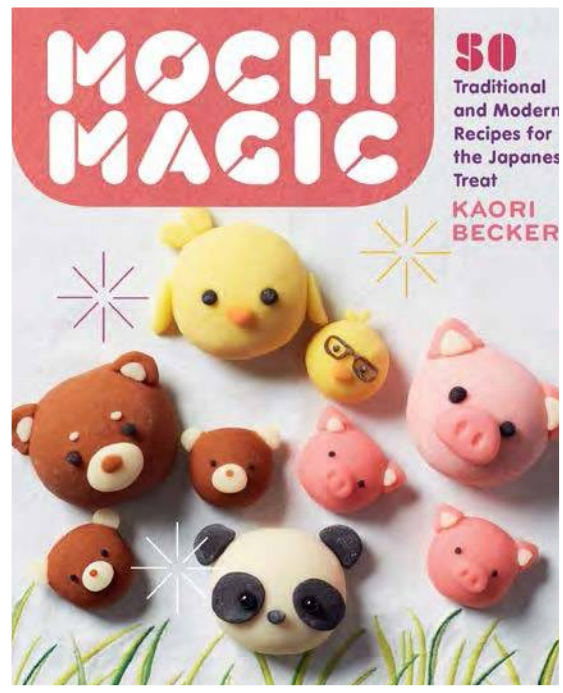
Happy Holidays to all

From a Friend in
CHICAGO

Making 'Mochi Magic'

Kaori Becker's new cookbook offers delectable recipes that showcase her love and passion for the sweet Japanese dessert.

By Allison Haramoto, P.C. Executive Editor



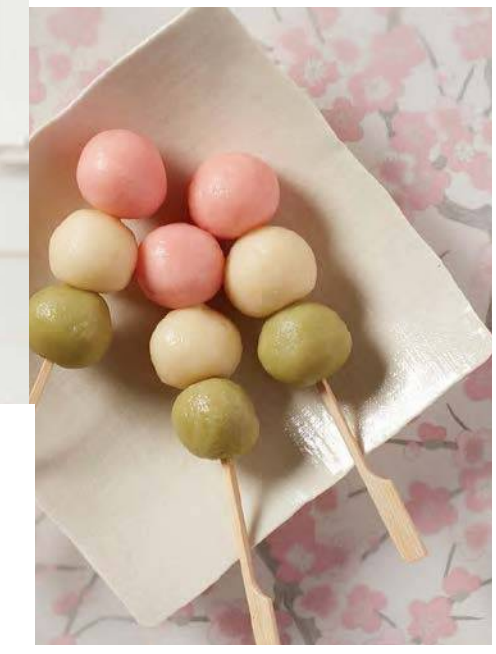
"Mochi Magic," which contains 50 recipes for making delicious and unique mochi, is now available for purchase.



Kaori Becker's love and passion for mochi is the inspiration behind her new book "Mochi Magic."

ALL PHOTOS: EXCERPTED FROM MOCHI MAGIC BY KAORI BECKER/ PHOTOGRAPHY BY NORDECK PHOTOGRAPHY/USED WITH PERMISSION FROM STOREY PUBLISHING

"Odango Mochi"



With the promise of a new year just mere weeks away, so, too, is the anticipation of enjoying delicious Japanese food to celebrate *Oshogatsu*: sushi, teriyaki chicken, broiled octopus with miso sauce, shrimp, kuromame (sweet black beans), namasu (daikon and carrot salad) and, of course, good luck Ozoni soup oozing with freshly made mochi.

Ah, mochi! That deliciously sweet, sticky, satisfyingly chewy rice cake that is often enjoyed during New Year's but is gaining increasing popularity as a year-round dessert of choice for its versatility that can be enjoyed either plain, filled with anko (red bean paste), dusted with matcha powder, broiled with bacon, glazed with sweet soy sauce and baked in brownies and donuts — the options are endless.

For Kaori Becker, her lifelong love of mochi inspired her to create "Mochi Magic," a newly released cookbook of all things mochi that people of any culinary skill level can make.

With plenty of time on our hands these days while we're at home, there's no better time than the present to try one of Becker's 50 recipes featured in her book. Mochi for many of us brings memories of our childhood, pounding mochi during the holidays with a mallet at church, forming the steaming-hot mounds in our hands while laughing with family gathered around the kitchen counter, fun discussions on what's the best way to eat it — mochi equals pure love and joy, and that is Becker's primary inspiration.



Daifuku mochi refers to mochi that has sweet fillings. Daifuku literally translates to "great luck" because it is believed to bring good luck to the giver and receiver of this mochi.

"Every step in mochi making — the mixing, the steaming, the pounding and especially the filling process — is an activity that brings out stories, jokes and smiles," wrote Becker in her book. "My job is made of rice, sugar, water and love."

Becker, 32, originally began her career as a high school English teacher, but she always enjoyed cooking while growing up in the San Francisco Bay Area, especially learning Japanese recipes from her mother, Yukiko Zinke.

Zinke, originally from Fukushima, Japan, first taught Becker how to make mochi when she was in graduate school, working toward her English teaching certification in Ohio.

Becker would often call her mother in California to talk about cooking, especially making mochi, as there was something about it that spurred her curiosity to learn more. During her conversations with her mother, Becker also learned that her grandmother in Japan once owned her own ramen shop in Fukushima, specializing in made-from-scratch noodles. Eventually, Becker's calling for cooking was something she could no longer ignore, so she switched gears and started teaching cooking classes.

"A light bulb went on for me that I could teach classes based on my Japanese heritage and what I grew up eating," Becker recalled. "I started with a ramen-making class, and then I started expanding into some other cooking schools in the (Ohio) area teaching Asian cuisine. I really enjoyed doing it, so when we (along with her husband, Alan) moved back to the Bay Area in 2016, I decided I was going to focus on building a cooking-class business and go from there."

Becker created Kaori's Kitchen, and she asked her mother to join her.

Their cooking classes in the Bay Area became a huge success on Verlocal and Airbnb Experiences (both offer classes in a variety of fields taught by local experts), with their schedule often booked teaching at schools, private parties and corporate team-building events.

"I was doing ramen classes there, but mom and I then had the idea of doing a mochi class — I thought it would be very popular because I was looking at classes available in the area, and nobody was teaching that," Becker said. "Most people love mochi, but they don't know how to make it."

Together, Becker and Zinke started teaching mochi classes, beginning the



Kaori Becker and her mother, Yukiko Zinke, together have grown their love for mochi into a full-fledged thriving business.

THE MEANING OF MOCHI

In Kaori Becker's "Mochi Magic" cookbook, mochi is a "form of sticky rice cake made from Japanese short-grain rice called *mochigome* . . . that is naturally sweeter than ordinary table rice."

Becker writes, "Mochi has been held in high regard within Japanese culture for generations, with rice itself being revered as the 'gift of the gods' and considered an omen of good fortune. These little cakes were first enjoyed exclusively by the emperor and nobles, but they were later used as religious offerings to the gods in Shinto rituals. With time, this auspicious delight became an integral part of the Japanese New Year, Girl's Day and Children's Day celebrations, as well as enjoyed in households throughout Japan both for festive occasions and as a treat in everyday life. . . .

"Plain mochi is consumed most often by Japanese people at the start of each new year. Every new year, Japanese families will place *kagami* mochi (a large mochi cake topped with a small mochi cake and a citrus called a *daidai*) on an altar to bring good fortune." ■

session by pounding mochi where participants would use the mallet and pound the rice out as a group. Classes would include lessons on how to make various types of mochi, including daifuku mochi (the most traditional form made with any kind of sweet filling), ozoni soup, matcha daifuku mochi with strawberry and red azuki bean paste, white mochi made in a microwave, mochi donuts and mochi ice cream.

With her cooking classes taking off, Becker established her website *KaorisKitchen.com*. She and her mother also would sell their own homemade mochi at Eon Coffee in Hayward, Calif.

"We'd randomly have a pop-up at Eon Coffee in Hayward, Calif., from time to time selling mochi there, and it was very popular," Becker said. "During that time, I also began doing different experiments with mochi fillings."

Becker discovered that with mochi, it basically was like a blank canvas, and it could be filled with virtually any ingredient. She experimented with cream cheese and mixed it with powdered sugar and matcha; she made white chocolate truffles out of mochi and filled them with black sesame seeds; she incorporated rose water into mochi. Becker also drew upon her personal mochi-eating experiences while visiting family in Japan to incorporate into new recipes with one goal in mind: "Demystify mochi for a lot of people," she said. "My goals . . . are to spread greater awareness of Japanese food culture in the U.S. Many Americans, and even Japanese people, don't know how to make mochi at home. I would love to share more about the many fun and delicious ways mochi can be made and enjoyed."

In spring 2018, Becker realized that there weren't that many mochi books on the market, and those that were available often didn't have many step-by-step photos in them.

Therefore, she decided to work toward self-publishing a mochi book, but the intricacies of what it took to see her dream through to fruition left Becker unsure of the process. So, she reached out to another cookbook author on Instagram, Leslie Jonath ("Feed Your People"), for help.

As luck would have it, Jonath also happened to be a book agent, and she was immediately intrigued and inspired by Becker's idea. Together, they wrote a proposal and pitched it to different publishing houses, among them, Storey Publishing, who picked it up.

Storey approved the project and gave Becker a deadline of November 2019 to come up with 50 recipes. Fortunately for Becker, she already had several from her classes, and she also had help from some of her mother's friends in the Japanese American community and people who had taken her mochi classes in the past who would submit reviews of her recipes and serve as taste testers.

"It was a team effort for sure in coming up with the recipes," Becker said. She also had help from her friend Koka Yamamoto, who is really talented at making cute mochi animals (as seen on the book's cover).



Life became even busier for Becker, as she and her husband decided to move back to Ohio during this time, all while having to finalize the book's recipes.

In February 2020, right before the start of the coronavirus pandemic, Becker flew to San Francisco to meet with Storey's art director, Carolyn Eckert, along with photographer Wendi Nordeck and food stylist Jeffrey Larsen to finalize the book.

"Mochi Magic" was released on Nov. 24 and is available thru Amazon, Barnes and Noble and Workman Publishing.

Becker marvels at the success her love of mochi has brought upon her life.

"Mochi is like opportunity," she said. "There's so many ways you can go with mochi. It has shifted our whole family. . . . I don't have to have a traditional job. There's other ways to use your passion. For me, it's been a really fun journey."

These days, life for Becker and her husband, Alan, and their two small children in Ohio continues to revolve around mochi. In addition to still teaching cooking classes (virtually for now), Becker started "The Mochi Shop" with her friend, Junna Kanazawa, on Instagram, delivering mochi donuts made from scratch to Columbus, Ohio, area Farmer's Markets, with plans to expand to a permanent location next year.

Meanwhile, Zinke also continues to teach cooking classes online in the Bay Area, with Becker's dad helping now, too. She also continues to sell mochi at Eon Coffee for curbside pickup.

For their family, mochi has infinite possibilities.

"Mochi grows on you for sure," Becker said. "Sometimes the texture might be weird if you've never had it before, but there are so many different ways you can make it. I'm sure everyone will find something to enjoy. In life, as with love and mochi, the possibilities are endless!"

"Mochi Magic" is available now for purchase. Visit www.kaoriskitchen.com and www.storey.com/books/mochi-magic for more information. You can also follow Kaori Becker on Instagram @kaoriskitchen.

COCONUT CHI CHI DANGO BY KAORI BECKER

I first enjoyed chi chi dango on a trip to Honolulu with my husband and daughter. Not being from Hawaii, I didn't grow up with this treat, so the concept was foreign to me: mochi pieces without a filling? I was soon won over. The coconut chi chi dango I enjoyed at Fujiya Hawaii was the softest piece of mochi I had ever eaten, and it had a slightly sweet, addictive flavor I continued to crave afterward. Not just for coconut lovers, this is the perfect mochi dish to bring as light dessert bites for any barbeque or get-together. You'll need an 8-inch square baking dish for this recipe.

Ingredients:

Canola oil or cooking spray to grease the baking dish
1-1/2 cups mochiko
2/3 cup sugar
3/4 tsp. baking powder
1 (13.5-ounce) can coconut milk, such as Chaokoh brand
2/3 cup water
3 tbsp. condensed milk
1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
1 cup cornstarch or Japanese potato starch, for dusting

Directions:

1. **Preheat the oven to 350-degrees F. Grease a square 8-inch square baking dish.**
2. **Sift together the mochiko, sugar and baking powder in a large bowl. Add the coconut milk, water, condensed milk and vanilla and stir until completely mixed and uniform in consistency.**
3. **Spread the mixture into the baking dish. It should go 1 inch up the sides of the dish, but no higher than 2 inches, as chi chi dango is supposed to bake as a sheet of mochi.**
4. **Bake for 45 minutes or until the mochi is bubbly and a uniform color. If the middle looks slightly uncooked, bake 5 minutes longer or until the mixture looks uniform in texture.**
5. **Let cool to room temperature. Cut the mochi into strips 1 inch wide and 8 inches long and dust each liberally with cornstarch to prevent from sticking.**
6. **Cut each strip into thirds to yield small mochi rectangles about 2-1/2 inches long. Coat each piece in cornstarch, then shake or brush off the excess. Store in an airtight container at room temperature for up to two days; in hot weather, refrigerate after one day.**

Yield: 25 bite-size squares

CHOCOLATE MOCHI BROWNIES BY KAORI BECKER

Crispy on the outside and ooey-gooey mochi-licious on the inside, these brownies come together quickly and pack a serious chocolate punch! They are a perfect dessert or snack for when you get the nighttime munchies. Special thanks to my friend, Yuki Peterson, and her mother for inspiring this treat. You'll need a 9-by-13-inch baking dish for this recipe.

Ingredients:

Butter or neutral cooking oil for greasing pan
3 cups mochiko
1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1 tbsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
2 large eggs
2 cups packed light brown sugar
2-1/2 cups whole milk
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1/2 cup melted butter
2 tsp. pure vanilla extract
1 cup semisweet chocolate chips

Directions:

1. **Preheat the oven to 350-degrees F. Grease a 9-by-13-inch baking pan.**
2. **Sift together the mochiko, cocoa, baking powder and salt in a large bowl.**
3. **Beat the eggs in another large bowl. Stir in the sugar, milk, oil, butter and vanilla. Mix well. Scrape this mixture into the bowl with the mochiko mixture and whisk until uniform in texture (make sure there are no lumps). Stir in 1/2 cup of the chocolate chips.**
4. **Pour the remaining batter into the prepared pan, then scatter the remaining 1/2 cup chocolate chips on top.**
5. **Bake for 50-60 minutes, until golden brown. Enjoy hot with vanilla ice cream or let cool to room temperature. Cut into squares and store in an airtight container at room temperature for two days or in the freezer for up to one month.**

***For a nondairy alternative, replace cow's milk with a different type of milk and replace the butter with oil.**



Ventura County

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HARADA

Merry Christmas

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Happy New Year

The Kujiraoka's
Scott, Yasuko, Kevin, and Keith

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Joanie Miyashiro-Brennan
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We miss our loving sister, aunt and great aunt!

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Ventura County

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Congratulations to VCJACL's National JACL Scholarship Awardees

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VENTURA COUNTY JACL congratulates the 2020 Scholarship Awardees

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Happy Holidays and Be Safe
Kenny & Gina Kamoto
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Season's Greetings
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FINDING FRANK FUJINO: PART II

Questions surround the 442 Vet, DAV national service officer.

★ ★ ★

By George Toshio Johnston, Senior Editor, Digital and Social Media

(Editor's Note: The following is Part II of "Finding Frank Fujino," Part I of which was published in the Nov. 6-19, 2020, issue of the Pacific Citizen.)

Although Frank Fujino is a 442 vet who until now was mostly forgotten, he appears several times in different Japanese American community publications of yesteryear. He also received coverage in mainstream newspapers and other media.

Before Fujino's story was told in the March 29, 1947, *Pacific Citizen,* his name appears in the Dec. 16, 1944, *P.C.* in a front-page article.

Its headline reads, "Ten Western Nisei Killed on French Front," followed by a subheadline that reads, "34 Others Wounded, Two Missing in Action in Europe."

The article's first two paragraphs read: "Ten American soldiers of Japanese ancestry were killed, 34 others were wounded and two are missing in action in eastern France, according to word received by next of kin in the western United States.

"The following list is unofficial and is compiled by the *Pacific Citizen* from information from next of kin and from relocation centers."

Among those listed as wounded in action, between Hideo Dobashi and Harry Hamada, is the report for Fujino. It reads: "PFC. FRANK T. FUJINO, son of Mrs. Tomo Fujino of 4-11-B, Rohwer, slightly wounded on Nov. 6."

In a report that predates the *P.C.'s* article, the Dec. 6, 1944, the *Rohwer Outpost* camp newspaper also reports that Fujino had been wounded. That snippet reads: "On Nov. 6, Pfc. Frank T. Fujino received slight wounds. His mother, Mrs. Tomo Fujino, lives in 4-11-B."

Fujino is also mentioned in the Dec. 14, 1944, *McGehee Times* newspaper (McGeHee is a town a few miles from the Rohwer WRA Center) in an article with the headline, "21 War Casualties From Rohwer Center Reported in 3 Weeks." His entry in that article reads: "Pvt. Frank T. Fujino, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tojiro Fujino."

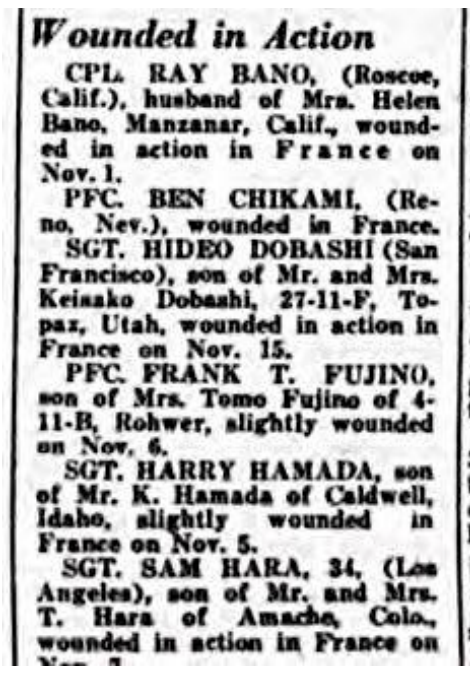
From these three articles, it's apparent that Frank Fujino's parents were not killed in a car accident when he was 8, as reported in the March 29, 1947, *P.C.* article.

Both the *Rohwer Outpost* and *Pacific Citizen* reported that his wounds were "slight." But since Fujino lost his right leg, the reports that his wounds were "slight" seem incongruous.

It's possible that the initial injury reported in both papers was inaccurate. It's also possible that even if the injury report was accurate, unsanitary conditions, as was alluded to in the March 29, 1947, *P.C.* article, caused an infection or infections. (Unclear in the article, however, is when his right leg was amputated: in the field or while hospitalized.)

In Ancestry.com's hospital admission card for Fujino, it indicates under second diagnosis, "Gangrene, not elsewhere classified." If accurate, that would seem to corroborate a severe infection could have led to amputation. In the same section, however, under Third Diagnosis, it reads: "Osteomyelitis (secondary to traumatism) Causative Agent: Artillery Shell, Fragments, Afoot or unspecified" (sic)

Again, if accurate, that would indicate Fujino was hurt by artillery fragments, the severity of which is unclear.



Wounded in Action

CPL. RAY BANO, (Roscoe, Calif.), husband of Mrs. Helen Bano, Manzanar, Calif., wounded in action in France on Nov. 1.

PFC. BEN CHIKAMI, (Reno, Nev.), wounded in France.

SGT. HIDEO DOBASHI (San Francisco), son of Mr. and Mrs. Keisaku Dobashi, 27-11-F, Topaz, Utah, wounded in action in France on Nov. 15.

PFC. FRANK T. FUJINO, son of Mrs. Tomo Fujino of 4-11-B, Rohwer, slightly wounded on Nov. 6.

SGT. HARRY HAMADA, son of Mr. K. Hamada of Caldwell, Idaho, slightly wounded in France on Nov. 5.

SGT. SAM HARA, 34, (Los Angeles), son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Hara of Amache, Colo., wounded in action in France on

Frank Fujino's name appears among those of other wounded 442 vets in the Dec. 16, 1944, *Pacific Citizen.*

Osteomyelitis, incidentally, is an infection of the bone. And, in the same document, under Medical Treatment, it reads: "Fracture, compound, closed, treatment with skeletal traction (includes Kirschner Wire)."

For those who have forgotten their basic first aid, a compound fracture is when a broken bone breaks through the skin, a description that sounds far more serious than "slight."

(To muddy the waters even further, the Ancestry.com document lists an admission date of November 1944 and a discharge date of April 1944, which makes no sense.)

The March 29, 1947, *Pacific Citizen* article reported that Fujino's injury occurred during the Rescue of the Lost Battalion. According to Densho.org and GoForBroke.org, however, that exploit took place between Oct. 25 and Oct. 30 of 1944. In other words, the reported date of Fujino's injury happened after the Rescue of the Lost Battalion.



"Go for Broke!" star Van Johnson chats with Frank Fujino and comedian George Jessel in this photo that originally appeared in the May 21, 1951, Los Angeles Examiner's coverage of the I Am an American day festivities that took place at the Hollywood Bowl.

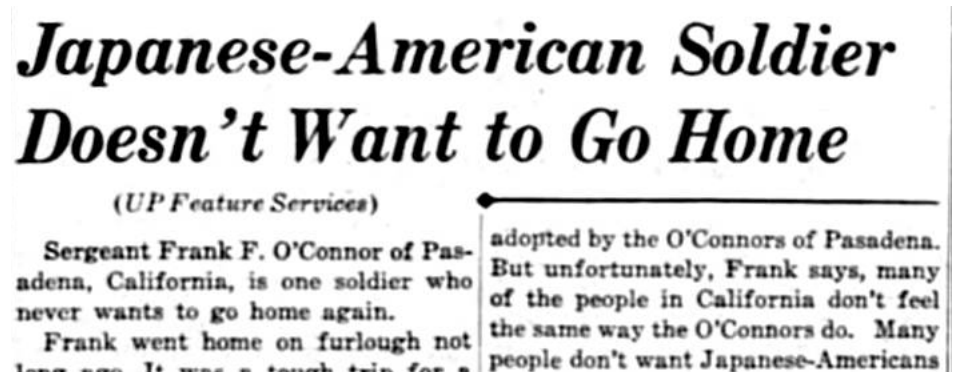
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Also prior to Frank Fujino/Frank Fujino O'Connor's appearance in the March 29, 1947, *P.C.*, he appears on page 1 of the Oct. 30, 1946, *Daily Tar Heel,* the newspaper of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It's a wire story from *UP Feature Services*.

In it, some of what was later related in the March 29, 1947, *Pacific Citizen* appears here: the Frank Fujino O'Connor moniker, both parents no longer living, attending Stanford (no mention of UCLA, though), joining the Army in 1938, being stationed in the Philippines, being "evacuated on the last transport to leave the Philippines," later joining the 442nd and losing his leg in the Rescue of the Lost Battalion. (The article writes " . . . when they took him to the hospital the doctors decided to amputate a leg.")

Missing, however, from the *Daily Tar Heel* article is any mention of surviving the Bataan Death March and escaping from a Japanese prisoner of war transport that gets torpedoed by a submarine. New, however, are the reports of going home on furlough to Pasadena, Calif., to visit his foster parents. While "home," he attempts to get a haircut, only to get "thrown out of 23 barber shops."

The story's last paragraph reads: "Frank tried eleven other barbershops around his home. One threw his crutches out of the shop, and then stood glaring as the one-legged sergeant hobbled out. None of the barbershops seemed to care that Frank was wearing three rows of service ribbons on his uniform. None of them noticed that one of the ribbons



Japanese-American Soldier Doesn't Want to Go Home

(UP Feature Services)

Sergeant Frank F. O'Connor of Pasadena, California, is one soldier who never wants to go home again.

Frank went home on furlough not

adopted by the O'Connors of Pasadena. But unfortunately, Frank says, many of the people in California don't feel the same way the O'Connors do. Many people don't want Japanese-Americans

The *Daily Tar Heel* newspaper published this syndicated story about Frank Fujino, aka Frank Fujino O'Connor, on Oct. 30, 1946. It predates the *P.C.'s* March 29, 1947, article by John Kitasako, also about Frank Fujino.

was the Silver Star."

Some of that same reporting appears in the March 6, 1947, edition of the *Hawaii Star* newspaper. Its headline reads, "Nisei Veteran Help Fight For Democracy; Finds Little Left in California Hometown." It appears to be a rewrite of the same story that appeared in the *Daily Tar Heel,* but its first paragraph contains an undated attribution to a story that appeared in the *Los Angeles Daily News*.

It also turns out that Fujino again appeared in the *P.C*. before the March 29, 1947, article. In the Dec. 8, 1945, *P.C*. is a stand-alone photo with a headline and caption. Its headline reads, "Combat Buddies Meet at JACL Dance." In the photo, credited to Toge Fujihira, are, from left, Frank Fujino, noted 442nd RCT benefactor Earl Finch and fellow amputee Terumi "Terry" Kato, who is talking to a third unidentified 442 vet whose face is obscured.

The Nisei are all in their Army uniforms. On the left arm of the jacket worn by the unidentified soldier is the iconic 442 emblem of a hand holding aloft the torch of liberty.

Standing to the far right is someone who would later go on to become famous for introducing America to Elvis Presley, the Beatles and Topo Gigio, a man who is identified as a "famous Broadway columnist": Ed Sullivan.

Fujino also appears in a photo that was part of the *Los Angeles Examiner's* I Am an American Day coverage from that paper's May 21, 1951, edition. In it, "Go for Broke!" star Van Johnson kneels next to Fujino, in uniform, seated in a folding chair with his crutches in his lap, with comedian George Jessel leaning over Fujino.

Worth noting is that in the photo, Fujino's chevrons show his rank is that of master sergeant. That would indicate that Fujino had been promoted from his rank of private first class as shown in his Enlisted Record and Report of Separation Honorable Discharge document dated April 17, 1947, obtained from the National Personnel Records Center.

The long-defunct magazine *Scene,* which might be described as a *People Magazine* focused on the Nisei population, ran a feature on Fujino in its December 1954 issue.

The article is about the recognition given by the Disabled American Veterans to Fujino for his "exceptional and meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding service" as a DAV national service officer for the Los Angeles area.

This article is interesting because it describes how he was injured as he served in the 442nd.

Fujino's war injuries are considerable. (He becomes literally speechless when he gets a slight cold or passes through a high altitude, result of a throat wound.) In a battle action in France, in Bruyeres, he was declared dead by the burial squad, loaded on a jeep wagon with the other dead. (He was on the bottom.) Chaplain Hiro Higuchi (now of Hawaii) checked him for his "dogtag" (identification plate), noticed Frank was breathing. He was rushed to the hospital and put in an iron lung.

For his fighting that day, a heroic adherence to his mission in spite of his wound, Fujino won the Silver Star, received the award from President Truman.

The article, which contains a photo of Truman meeting Fujino at Walter Reed Army Hospital, is also notable because it details his role in the formation of the Nisei 100 DAV chapter, of which he served as its first commander. (Nisei 100 is now defunct, having been absorbed by another Los Angeles area DAV chapter.) The article also includes a photo of Frank Fujino's wife, Yuriko, and young son, Arnold Terry Fujino, at play in their yard.



In this photo by Toge Fujihira from the *P.C.'s* Dec. 8, 1945, issue, Frank Fujino is on the left, seated at a table with his friend and roommate at Walter Reed, Terumi "Terry" Kato and another unidentified 442 vet at the Hotel Delmonico. Standing are Earl Finch and Ed Sullivan. According to the photo caption, the Nov. 21 event was a New York JACL dance.

The *Scene* article also reports on what Fujino had to do to become a DAV NSO, namely put in "2 years of medical education, 2 years of law and 2 years of Veteran Administration Law."

The same photo of Truman and Fujino also appeared in an article by Henry Mori in the Oct. 25, 1949, *Rafu Shimpo* newspaper. In it, we get a physical description of Fujino as a "solid-built guy who must weigh at least 175 pounds, and you'd immediately think he was a football player coming off the field."

Mori's article continues: "He is the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Tojiro Fujino who hail from Fukuoka, Japan. He has two sisters, and a younger brother." This description stands in contrast to the *P.C*. article that claimed he had been orphaned at 8 because of an automobile accident and was the only surviving family member.

The article also reports that Fujino was "hit three times during the raging fights near Vosges Mountains in October and November of 1944." He is then quoted: "The last one nearly blew me apart," he'll give it to you without a wink."



This undated photo, which appeared in *Scene* magazine and the *Rafu Shimpo,* shows Frank Fujino shaking hands with President Harry Truman while Fujino was hospitalized at Walter Reed.

More description: "No one would ever suspect that Fujino has one glass eye; a tin jaw; one artificial leg; and other physical handicaps."

The reference to Fujino having lost an eye in addition to his leg is one that is sometimes mentioned, sometimes not. More on that later.

Meantime, the long-defunct *Shin Nichibei* newspaper mentions Fujino in several articles during the 1950s and '60s, mostly in relation to the Nisei 100 DAV chapter — visits to the Long Beach Veterans hospital (with members of the USC sorority Sigma Phi Omega or the Girl Scouts), a DAV picnic, the results of an election of officers, etc.

Fujino even makes an appearance in the 1946 book "Boy From Nebraska" by Ralph G. Martin about famed Japanese American turret gunner Ben Kuroki, who flew on 30 bombing missions in Europe and another 24 in Japan. (*See Dec. 14, 2012, Pacific Citizen)*

Frank Fujino — actually Frank Fujino O'Connor — appears on page 202 of Martin's book. The Bataan Death March is mentioned again, but here he tells Kuroki he avoided it.

As Frank opened his clothing locker to look for something, Ben saw his neatly pressed uniform with the Silver Star for killing a lot of Japs on Bataan, his first Purple Heart for wounds in the Pacific, a Purple Heart cluster for losing his leg while pushing forward to rescue the Lost Battalion of the 36th Division in France.

Fujino relays the story of visiting his foster parents in La Cañada and being refused service at ten different barbershops, including one where the barber " . . . picked up my crutch and threw it after me and yelled, 'We don't want any business from Japs.'

In the last paragraph, Fujino strikes a bitter tone.

"So I fought for Democracy and I lost a leg trying to save some white Americans and now I'll be a cripple for the rest of my life. For what, Ben? for what?"

In yet another appearance in the *Pacific Citizen,* Fujino is mentioned in an article by Beatrice W. Griffith (author of the 1948 book "American Me") that appeared in the paper's Dec. 22, 1951, Holiday Issue.

Griffith writes about the obstacles Fujino had to overcome to buy a house in Los Angeles.

One such Nisei hero, who returned from the war (after having spent three years in an Army hospital) came home with an artificial leg, a silver star, and 100 per cent disability incurred from serving with the famed 442nd Regimental Battalion. Despite his honors and injuries, when he came back he was denied the opportunity of buying a home by 15 Los Angeles real estate agents.

Finally, when Frank did find a home, he encountered another rebuff. The title officer of a title and trust company told him bluntly he "wouldn't do business with a damn Jap."

Griffith wrote that Fujino did ultimately prevail, but only after sitting for seven hours in the waiting room



In this publicity photo, Frank Fujino, Humphrey Bogart and Don Seki appear on the set of Columbia Pictures' 1949 motion picture "Tokyo Joe." Fujino has a small speaking part in the movie opposite Bogart in a nightclub scene.

PHOTO: COPYRIGHT © 2020 THE BETTMAN ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES. MAY NOT BE REPRINTED WITHOUT PERMISSION.

of the title company.

Fast-forwarding to the 1960s and '70s, Fujino appears in two letters to the editor of *DAV Magazine*. In the May 1967 issue, a retired WAC (Women's Army Corps) named Esther P. Hart, who was hospitalized at the Long Beach Veterans Hospital, wrote: "Mr. Fujino was instrumental in getting my compensation increased as my disability was established as one hundred percent."

Similarly, in the August 1970 issue of DAV Magazine, William F. Celello wrote to the editor: "I can personally attest to the tremendous work being done by our National Service Officers. My thanks go especially to Frank T. Fujino of the Los Angeles Office who was instrumental in processing a claim on my behalf."

Frank Fujino's media appearances were not limited to the printed page. He also had a very short appearance opposite one of the most iconic and popular movie stars of all time: Humphrey Bogart.

The movie was "Tokyo Joe," a 1949 offering from Columbia Pictures. A publicity photo of Bogart, flanked by Fujino and fellow 442 vet (and amputee) Don Seki, appeared in several mainstream newspaper of the time. This is the same Don Seki who had no recollection of Frank Fujino.

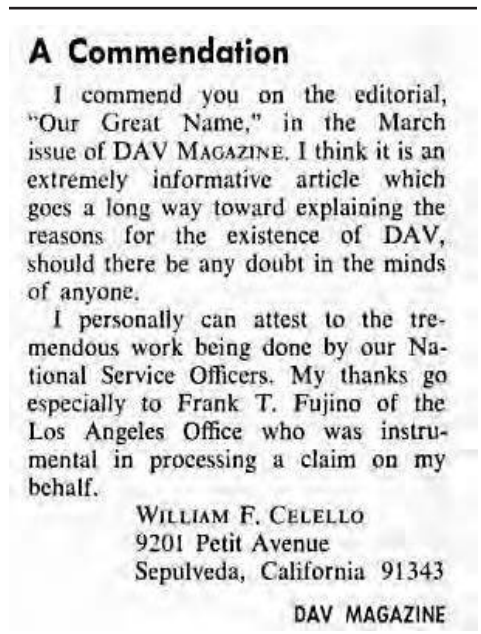
Fujino also makes an appearance in the acknowledgements of Masayo Umezawa Duus' 1987 book "Unlikely Liberators" as one of the many 100th Battalion/442nd RCT vets she interviewed. Nothing from that interview, however, was included in her book.

★★★

Looking back over the many months that I spent compiling information about Frank Toichi Fujino, whether it was paying for copies of documents in analog form (on paper or from microfilm) or searching for the now-digital trail and ephemera of Fujino's life, my thoughts and feelings swung from different extremes.

Initially, I only knew that Fujino was a Nisei who had served in the Army's segregated 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team during WWII. That fact alone was significant to me.

As someone of Japanese ancestry, the meaning, the lessons, the significance, the import, the legacy and the gravitas of the service of Japanese Americans, whether in the 442nd across the Atlantic or the Military Intelligence Service across the Pacific, for subsequent generations of Japanese Americans in particular but also other Asian American groups and anyone and everyone else who is an American and calls this land home, is direct and tremendous.



A Commendation

I commend you on the editorial, "Our Great Name," in the March issue of DAV MAGAZINE. I think it is an extremely informative article which goes a long way toward explaining the reasons for the existence of DAV, should there be any doubt in the minds of anyone.

I personally can attest to the tremendous work being done by our National Service Officers. My thanks go especially to Frank T. Fujino of the Los Angeles Office who was instrumental in processing a claim on my behalf.

WILLIAM F. CELELLO
9201 Petit Avenue
Sepulveda, California 91343

DAV MAGAZINE

This Letter to the Editor from another veteran praising DAV National Service Officer Frank Fujino for his help appeared in the August 1970 issue of *DAV Magazine.*

Serving and sacrificing as they did, that group of men made life for everyone who followed — and not just Japanese Americans — easier, better, freer, more equitable and more respectable.

The serendipity of having bought the home once owned by this particular 442 vet and also working for the newspaper that ran articles about him, including one in particular that indeed read "like a dime thriller" makes one wonder if the definition of coincidence as being something random needs to be amended.

Last fall, when I saw the *Los Angeles Herald's* photos from the 1951 I Am an American Day and learned that Frank Fujino had lost his right leg during WWII, I was stunned. I had not known the extent of his injuries.

When I read John Kitasako's 1947 article about Frank Fujino, I was flabbergasted. What is described in that article, what he went through, what he experienced was almost unimaginable.

Upon reading that 1947 *P.C.* article, I was excited that such an amazing story about a 442 vet had been overlooked and forgotten. I wondered why no one had already uncovered his story? Why had no one heard of him?

Almost to a person, however, no one I had spoken to about Frank Fujino had ever heard of him or knew him. Why was that? When I spoke with Densho's always-helpful Brian Niiya about him, he noted that because Frank Fujino died in 1983, it was a few years before younger generations began organized efforts to interview aging 442 vets and collect oral histories while they were still alive with memories intact.

The late Chester Tanaka's book, "Go for Broke: A Pictorial History of the Japanese-American 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442d Regimental Combat Team," was published in 1982. The late filmmaker Loni Ding's two independent documentaries on Nisei military service — "Nisei Soldier: Standard Bearer for an Exiled People" and "The Color of Honor" — didn't come out until 1984 and 1989, respectively.

When Fujino died, the Japanese American National Museum and the Go for Broke National Education Center were not even embryos. Perhaps that answered why few people now knew of Frank Fujino.

There is also the age factor. Were he living now, Frank Fujino would be 102. As noted, fellow 442 vets Lawson Sakai and Don Seki, who both died last summer, were 96. They presumably might have known him or known of him. But that six-year differential, plus the fact that Fujino had joined the 442 as a "replacement" in 1944, might explain why they had no recollection of him, not to mention the failing memory that can come with age.

Seki, as noted, had no recollection of Frank Fujino. This despite my sending the photo with him, Frank Fujino and Humphrey Bogart to his daughter, Tracey Matsuyama, who in turn showed it to her father. Nada.

Over the years since Frank Fujino died, there have been dozens of books and several documentaries produced about Nisei veterans, including one by me. In the bigger picture, it's like a mini-industry, telling the stories of all things WWII — and rightfully so, since it was the pivot point in modern history that still defines why the world is as it is, three-quarters of a century after WWII ended.

Surely, even with all the nonfictional and fictional books, movies and TV shows that have been made over the intervening decades, Frank Fujino's story deserved to be revisited and retold. That Frank Fujino could have done what was described but also have been seemingly forgotten within the Japanese American community needed to, it seemed to me, be set right.

Over time and with further investigation, however, doubts began to form. Could all of what was described in Kitasako's article really have been true? Not knowing anything about Frank Fujino's personality, it's impossible to know: Was he a fabulist? Was this a case of what would now be known as stolen valor?

The *Stars and Stripes* newspaper defines stolen valor as " . . . the phenomenon of people falsely claiming military awards or badges they did not earn, service they did not perform, Prisoner of War experiences that never happened, and other tales of military derring-do that exist only in their minds.

"Some phonies, with zero military experience, create their stories from whole cloth.

"Others, having served an honorable but peaceful stint in the military, choose to embellish their records and 'spice up' an otherwise unremarkable career."

★★★

There was one person who I thought might be able to clear up some of the questions I had about Frank Fujino: his daughter, the only living member of his immediate family.

I had never, however, met her. We'd never even spoken on the phone. The real estate transaction was done via her agent and mine.

After she sold the house to me, I gratefully mailed her a thank you gift, a wooden teapot I had purchased in Hakone, Japan. That was it.

Before contacting her for this story, I wanted to find out as much as I could about her father. If she was the key to learning more about him, I not only wanted to make sure I knew everything I could about him, I also needed to be careful so as not to spook her, as this seemed like a potentially sensitive subject. Why should she trust me or my motives? She didn't know me, other than as the person who bought her parents' house.

It was more difficult than I thought it would be. Although I had her phone number and address, when I called, she would hang up on me. My voice messages, text messages and letters went unanswered.

Finally, she called me after I mailed her yet another letter. I got the feeling she just wanted me to stop bothering her. She agreed to meet with me one time, just to get it over with.

So, we met one afternoon last summer after her workday ended. With the Covid-19 safety protocols in mind, we sat down to chat at an outdoor restaurant not far from her place of work, masks in place.

Although she answered my questions without hesitation, her answers were, at first, very short. Still, they provided some insight. For instance, she grew up not in Culver City, like I had presumed, but in L.A.'s Mar Vista area. The house she grew up in was on Gilmore Avenue.

My research later found that Frank and Yuriko Fujino bought the Culver City house in May of 1975, the year she graduated from high school. She didn't spend much time in the Culver City house.

As for how her parents met, she only knew that it was after the war.



Terumi "Terry" Kato of Hawaii and Frank Fujino of California, both 442 vets and amputees, became friends while recuperating at the Walter Reed Army Hospital.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE NISEI VETERANS COMMITTEE, SEATTLE, WASH.

She said her mother, Yuriko Taketa, had been incarcerated at the Gila River camp in Arizona during WWII and worked there as a nutritionist.

It turned out that she had a fraught relationship with her father. While she allowed that when she was young, she was "his buttercup," their relationship became strained during adolescence.

Although she was very close to her mother, who died on Feb. 12, 2013, she said her father was "harder to get along with."

"When I was growing up, I was the rebel child. I was the rebel, OK?" she said. "My dad kicked me out when I was 18."

The reason: her boyfriend. He was older than she and Chinese. "They were very prejudiced," she said. "He was a good fellow. Kind of like a Jesus fanatic, but other than that, he was a nice person."

Before she was "kicked out" of the house, she recalled getting into a car accident at 17-1/2 when she was learning to drive with a learner's permit, with her father in the car.

"I smashed up my mom's car. He's the one who told me to go through the light, and I ran into a cement truck," she laughed. "I can laugh now because it was so long ago, but I never really drove after because my dad blamed it all on me.

"There was a rough side to my father," she continued. Her late brother, Arnold, she said, was "always afraid of my dad."

She also, however, has some fond memories of her dad from her younger years, including shooting hoops and him, with just one leg, teaching her to ride a bike. "It was really difficult," she said.

She remembered how he had more than one prosthetic leg, all of them very heavy and made of wood. She remembered that his last wooden leg had a hydraulic knee, which helped him walk better.

In his later years, though, Frank Fujino used a wheelchair to get around.

As for reports of her father having a lost an eye, she said this was not true.

Before her dad died, she heard from Arnold that their father, who was hospitalized and on his death bed, wanted to see her.

"When I had last seen him, he weighed over 200 pounds," she said. "When I saw him, when I tried to reconcile with him, he was down to 120." According to Frank Fujino's death certificate, the cause of death was septic shock as a consequence of stage IV lymphoma.

Despite getting a better idea from his daughter of who Frank Fujino was, there were so many questions still remaining. But since she was somewhat uncooperative, I had to boil them down to what I thought were most essential.

I reached out over the phone. Again, when I called, I was hung up on. Finally, I texted first, then called. She answered, and I received answers to the two short questions I had. One, did she know whether her father had been adopted? Two, did she know whether he had ever been stationed in the Philippines?

To both questions, she said no.

I had many more questions, of course. But I've come to the conclusion that finding some answers 38 years after his death may be impossible.

★★★

Finding Frank Fujino did not go in the direction I had initially thought it might when I learned of John Kitasako's *Pacific Citizen* story. That 1947 article contained elements that were true. Frank Fujino had served in the 442nd. He had lost a limb as a result of injuries sustained in combat.

But some of the rest of what is in that article? Well, let's just be charitable and say some things don't add up.

If Frank Toichi Fujino embellished and fabricated some of his experiences, determining today his reasons for doing that would be purely speculative. If he did make up some stuff, his reasons for doing so are lost to history. To me, his having lost a leg meant that he certainly didn't need to gild the lily of his experiences.

But if he was a fabulist, I still cannot judge him too harshly — and to anyone who would do so, I'd have to say first walk a mile with his crutches. The trauma of losing a leg and then the traumas of undergoing several operations, not to mention overcoming the obstacles of rehabilitation and making peace with living the rest of his life with such a major handicap could scramble anyone's thoughts.

In spite of the circumstances Frank Fujino found himself in, he dedicated the rest of his life to helping his fellow wounded veterans as a national service officer for the Disabled American Veterans. That's not nothing.

Good or ill, true or false, it can safely be said that Frank Toichi Fujino is forgotten no more.

★★★

In the Sept. 1, 1980, edition of the *Los Angeles Times,* Charles Hillinger wrote about the first reunion between the men of 2nd Battalion, 141st Infantry of the 36th Division, aka the Lost Battalion, and the men of 442nd Regimental Combat Team. It took place in Dallas, Texas.

The article quoted Jack L. Scott, president of the 36th Division Assn., who said, "You are our heroes. To be with you men again is the most powerful experience I have ever had."

Sen. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii was the event's principal speaker. Several other Nisei are quoted in the article. Shim Hiraoka of Fresno, Calif. Hoppy Kaneshina of Gardena. Calif. Monte Fujita of Los Angeles. Hideo Takahashi of Ontario, Ore. Shiro (Kash) Kashino of Seattle. Victor Izui of Evanston, Ill. James Okimoto of Kaneohe, Hawaii. Henry Nakada of Homer, Alaska.



The marker for Frank Toichi Fujino. He is buried next to his wife, Yuriko Fujino, at the Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Los Angeles.

PHOTO: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON

There was one other man quoted.

"I paid a high price — my leg — to get the Texans out from behind the enemy lines," said Frank Fujino, 62, of Culver City, Calif., who came to the reunion in a wheelchair. "I have no regrets," he added.

Fujino died on Aug. 16, 1983.

Funding to research this article came from a George and Sakaye Aratani CARE Award, which is sponsored by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. The author would like to thank the following entities and individuals for their help with this article: the Los Angeles Public Library, the University of Hawaii Library, the USC Digital Library, the UCLA Library, the Japanese American National Museum, the National Personnel Records Center, Getty Images, Google, Kanji Sahara, Seiki Oshiro, Brian Niiya, Peter Duus, Lane Hirabayashi, Satsuki Ina, Rev. George Matsubayashi, Mary Uyematsu Kao, John Kao, Eric Saul, Frank Toichi Fujino and his daughter.

Clothing for All Generations

For Alec Nakashima and his company, Akashi-Kama, he's grateful to be surviving as a business in 2020 and ready to continue to tell the Japanese American story through his designs in 2021.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ALEC NAKASHIMA/AKASHI-KAMA



The Kinto x Akashi-Kama Tumbler is an exclusive collaboration with the Japanese company, KINTO.



Akashi-Kama's newest offering is the Gosei Cardigan, a unisex design that draws inspiration from Yukata silhouettes and vintage coat lengths.

By Allison Haramoto, Executive Editor

As small businesses across the U.S. struggle to stay afloat in the midst of the current pandemic and economic downturn, Alec Nakashima is extremely grateful that his clothing company, Akashi-Kama, has been able to adapt to this "moment in time" and survive — giving him the opportunity to help his community and look toward 2021 with the anticipation of better days ahead.

Nakashima launched Akashi-Kama online in May 2019, offering designs that blend the beauty of the Japanese aesthetic with an American influence. Each piece, designed by Nakashima and featuring fabrics sourced from Japan, is inspired by Nakashima's own Japanese and American heritage.

"I had this desire to create something that blended that concept and design — a fusion of these two distinct worlds, but I couldn't find anything that I was picturing in my mind, so I decided to design my own," Nakashima, 29, told the *Pacific Citizen* in 2019 *(see July 26-Aug. 15, 2019, issue)*.

Flash-forward to 2020, and Akashi-Kama has certainly weathered a turbulent past few months, something Nakashima could never have foreseen happening.

"We had such an exciting start when we chatted last, and then it quickly shifted in 2020 for businesses where we were thrown into a survive-type thing," Nakashima said. "There are very few businesses that are killing it right now, so, honestly, to be surviving and maintaining — we'll take it."

One major hurdle to overcome: With Covid-19 hitting Asia first before landing stateside, Akashi-Kama, which sources its fabrics in Japan, had to deal with major manufacturing delays.

"First the slowdown [in Japan] was taking double the time it would take us to source fabric, and then once it got here, all of a sudden our factory in Oakland (Calif.) was operating at 25-50 percent capacity [because of the pandemic restrictions]. . . . It set us back in production," Nakashima said. "But prioritizing safety was key."

Despite all of the production delays, Nakashima is incredibly proud that Akashi-Kama was able work around the challenges to continue to produce its signature piece, the Noragi Jacket, as well as launch its newest design in October: the Gosei Cardigan *(www.akashi-kama.com/products/gosei-cardigan-black)*.

Paying tribute to his heritage, the Gosei Cardigan "instantly connects you to the community," Nakashima said. "The Gosei Cardigan is an homage to the progression of generations. Fifth generation is when you get such a blending of cultures, something new entirely. This is what this is supposed to be. It's cool to make that a part of a specific garment, weave it into our branding, that we have so much respect for our generations. . . . As the generations continue (Gosei, Rokusei, etc.), we want to keep the style and aesthetic inspired by tradition. . . . Keeping that subtle Japanese culture and the story with you and of generations who went before is a big thing in our community."

The Gosei Cardigan utilizes a French terry fabric from Japan, knitted in Wakayama, but it has a modern American heavyweight feel to it and is designed in a longer three-quarter-length silhouette with Akashi-Kama's signature aglet and design details — perfect for the cooler months.

"The cut and sew development work that went into that, as well as the inspiration behind the name, are really special to us. . . . The Gosei Cardigan represents a big offering for us because it's another original Japanese American style, something that we made specifically for and inspired by our community," Nakashima said.

That community spirit and helping those in his community is what also saw Nakashima through the hardships of 2020.

He acknowledges that Akashi-Kama is thriving today because of its strong online presence.

However, Nakashima knows that he's very fortunate to be in the position that he is in and that other businesses in the Japanese American community near him are not as fortunate.

"Around April, May, we did a small T-shirt capsule to help raise money for stores in San Jose's Japantown . . . because there are a lot of stores that don't have the online expertise as part of their business (stores were forced to close by the city due to Covid-19 restrictions)," Nakashima explained. "All of the proceeds went toward helping San Jose Japantown. . . . We treasure Japantown and Little Tokyo and those kind of community pillars."

Nakashima has also developed new business plans and partnerships as he adapts to today's ever-changing reality.

He recently did a collaboration with Go For Broke in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo, designing T-shirts and sweatshirts for its "Evening of Aloha" gala, as well as formed a partnership with KINTO, a Japanese lifestyle product company that is starting to emerge in the U.S.

Together, the two companies have produced the Kinto x Akashi-Kama Tumbler *(www.akashi-kama.com/shop)*, a double-walled stainless-steel travel tumbler.

"We worked on designing this together," Nakashima said. "It was cool for me to work with a company from Japan that is emerging in the U.S. We're a Japanese American-founded company, and so there's a lot of alignment there. . . . When it comes to these partnerships, it's very intentionally and carefully selected. It has to fit. It's quality above everything."

Nakashima is also excited for additional partnerships for 2021. But for now, he's using this time to concentrate on preparing Akashi-Kama to be ready to proceed forward at 100 percent when the pandemic finally comes to an end, as well as guide his company in the meantime until it does.

Nakashima is busy working on production, sourcing more fabric and taking a close look at his business model. Word of mouth has also been a plus, as *GQ* magazine placed the Noragi Jacket on its "Best New Menswear" list in July.

"There have been times where [I've had to think] what's the next six months to a year really going to look like? Do we need to change the model? We're trying to figure out the best way to figure it out since people are really not going out anymore, so our products need to revolve with that," Nakashima said. "What's comfortable, what looks OK on a Zoom call — the in-between.

"The overall hope is that we're coming to the end of it and preparing for when things go back to normal," he reflected. "Any business needs to do the work now so that when that time does come, we're able to seize the opportunity. We don't want to miss it when that opportunity does come."

And Akashi-Kama will be ready, for Nakashima has a true passion for what he does.

"Natural excitement and passion is a huge drive for me," he said. "I really love it, and that's a big part of it. It's something that really excites me. . . . Clothing is timeless. . . . We'll find a way no matter what."

To shop Akashi-Kama and for more information, visit https://www.akashi-kama.com or visit Instagram @akashi_kama.





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THE MUNEMITSU LEGACY

The Japanese American family behind *Mendez v. Westminster:* California's first successful desegregation case

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF JANICE MUNEMITSU AND CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY





Seima Munemitsu with crates of strawberries from his family farm prewar



Gathered to pound mochi for New Year's are *(from left)* a Munemitsu family friend and farm employee; Akiko; Seima's stepbrother, Sam Munemitsu; Seima *(with hand on mochi)*; Saylo holding Kazuko; and Tad Munemitsu *(with mochi mallet).*

Tad *(left)* and Seima with their strawberry harvest

By Annie Tang,
Special Contributor

Many Orange County, Calif., schoolchildren know the name "Mendez." After all, the iconic name is front and center of the landmark civil rights case that desegregated several of the county's public schools in 1947, preceding the 1954 *Brown v. Board* case on a national level.

The Mendez family, one of five Latino families that challenged several school districts in the county on their practice of Mexican-only schools, had their name immortalized in history. But the Mendezes would not have been able to lead the legal charge if it was not for another family of color, the Munemitsus, the Japanese American farming family behind the story of *Mendez v. Westminster.*

The Munemitsu Family Comes to America

The first Munemitsu to arrive in the United States in the early 1900s eventually made his way to the South Bay of Los Angeles County, working as a hired laborer on a strawberry farm. These were the same farming skills he would later impart on two more generations of Munemitsu men and women.

The Japanese were common fixtures of rural life in Southern California, but they suffered through the indignities of barriers to citizenship and homeownership due to local and federal xenophobic legislation.

By 1931, the Munemitsu clan eventually migrated from the South Bay area to rural Orange County, Calif., where they acquired a farm in the next year. This generation was now led by patriarch Seima Munemitsu and his wife, Masako Morioka Munemitsu, with their boys, Seiko and Saylo, and twin girls, Kazuko and Akiko, in tow, as well as a few other extended members of their growing brood.

Seiko, or "Tad," as he was affectionately known by loved ones, legally owned the farm as an American-born citizen on behalf of his parents, a privilege Seima and Masako were not able to enjoy themselves.

This was the case with many first-generation Japanese who immigrated to America and were not able to own land in their name, due to the Alien Land Law of 1913. Many opted to purchase property in the names of their children in order to keep land in the family, just as the Munemitsus did.

Owning a 40-acre farm, the clan would be known as one of the longtime strawberry growers in Orange County.

The Dec. 7, 1941, Imperial Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor would implode the foundations of the Munemitsu family and other Japanese Americans living on the West Coast. With Franklin Delano Roosevelt's 1942 anti-Japanese Executive Order 9066, ordering the incarceration of about 120,000 ethnic Japanese living in regions near the Pacific Ocean, the Munemitsus would be separated and interned.

Seima, known as an influential leader in the Japanese community, was arrested first in 1942 and sent to incarceration camps administered by the Department of Justice in New Mexico and then Colorado.

These DOJ camps were known to hold community leaders, political dissidents and religious leaders. They were also purposely cordoned off from their families and other relocation centers, so that their presence would not incite rebellion among the population.

Days after Seima was arrested, the rest of the family — Masako, Tad, Saylo, Kazuko and Akiko — were sent to the Poston War Relocation Center in Poston, Ariz. Tad and Saylo were young adults, while the twins were only in grade school.

With siblings who were underaged or attending school, and his mother and grandmother unable to work, as the oldest, Tad took on the responsibility to work outside the camps to earn income for his family.

He took on employment in Colorado, with permission from his Indefinite Leave Clearance, a document that could only be obtained after signing a loyalty questionnaire. Many of those incarcerated had to make the same difficult decisions time and time again in the American concentration camps: attest to their American loyalty, to their country that incarcerated them — or proudly deny allegiance, but make the lives of themselves or their families more difficult.



The Munemitsu family. Pictured are *(front row, from left)* Namio (Seima's stepmother), Kazuko, Akiko, Masako and *(back row, from left)* Tad, Saylo and Seima.

During this time, Tad was still able to retain his family's 40-acre farm in Westminster, thanks to their ability to lease it while they were away. Tad was one of the lucky few Japanese Americans who were able to continue owning their land holdings from afar while incarcerated. From 1944-46, in just those three short years, the lives of two clans — the Mendezes and the Munemitsus — would experience nation-changing events that would influence the narrative of U.S. history.

The Mendez Family Moves to Westminster

In 1944, Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez, successful cantina owners, moved with their children from Santa Ana, Calif., to Westminster. Renting out the home they owned in Santa Ana, they wanted to try their hand at farming and leased land from the Munemitsu family, who they met through a mutual friend.

Felicitas, born in Puerto Rico, and her husband, Gonzalo, born in Mexico, were no strangers to racial discrimination themselves. Although Puerto Rican, Felicitas was essentially seen as "Mexican" by California racial standards, and her children with Gonzalo would also be seen as such.

When Gonzalo's sister, on behalf of Gonzalo and Felicitas, tried to enroll her niece and nephews — Sylvia, Gonzalo Jr. and Jerome — into the whites-only 17th Street Elementary School in Westminster, she was indignant to find out that they would not be admitted.

Instead, only her own lighter-skinned children, with her European married surname, would be allowed enrollment. This racial exclusion would set off a civil rights battle against the school district led by the Mendez family.

When the Westminster School District Board refused to integrate Mexican American students as a whole into its whites-only schools, Gonzalo and Felicitas led community efforts to make change in the whole county. They did all this while continuing to cultivate the land they were living on.

Gonzalo began working with four other Mexican American families — the Estradas, Gomezes, Palominos and Ramirezes — to challenge the segregation policies. Together, the parents of these clans acted as plaintiffs and filed a lawsuit in federal court against multiple public school districts in Orange County.

Known formally as *Mendez, et al v. Westminster School District of Orange County, et al,* this federal lawsuit was argued in the U.S. District Court in Los Angeles in February 1946, where Judge Paul J. McCormick ruled in favor of the five families, stating, "A paramount requisite in the American system of public education is social equality. It must be open to all children by unified school association regardless of lineage."

The school district did not see it that way and appealed the case, taking it all the way to the Ninth Federal Circuit Court of Appeals based out of San Francisco. There, too, the decision was upheld in April 1947, that the 14th Amendment was violated and students of Mexican descent were denied equal protection. Thus, Mexican-only schools were abolished in the Orange County school districts.

Where does the Munemitsu family play into this story? If it was not for the farming lease between Tad and Gonzalo, the case would not have existed. In 1944 and '45, both men signed two one-year leases, which would allow the Mendez family to continue living on Munemitsu land and continue harvesting their asparagus.

If the Munemitsus had not been forced to leave their home, the Mendezes would not have been able to lease the farm, have their children unfairly rejected from enrollment at the local school and not have lead the legal charge for the civil rights of their community's Mexican students.

Because of the injustices first inflicted on one family of color, injustices inflicted on another family, and multitudes of others, were able to be righted.

The Munemitsu Family Returns

With the August 1945 U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the death knell of World War II would sound, and so would the bell toll for the lives of hundreds of thousands of Japanese nationals.

›› See **LEGACY** on page 42

Stockton

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May, Rod, Heidi & Family

Happy Holidays
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cheers!
To a happy, healthy holiday season
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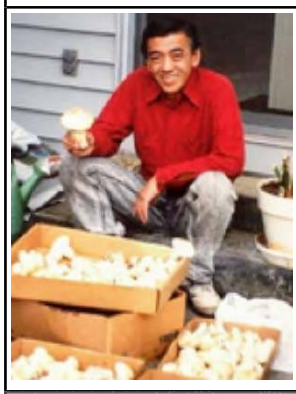
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The Japanese American Museum of Oregon (formerly Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center) was unveiled on September 14. There will be a complete exhibit redesign with a grand opening on February 19, 2021. Stay tuned!





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Thank you for your acts of kindness and caring
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From One Moment in Time to Our Next



By David Inoue,
JACL Executive Director

2020 has been one for the ages. February seemed pretty normal with JACL chapters across the country holding annual Day of Remembrance events. Before the end of the next week, a 25-year-old Black man by the name of Ahmaud Arbery would be lying dead in the street after being hunted and shot by his neighbors while out jogging in Georgia. Our own Kakehashi trip to Japan would be significantly affected by the nascent Covid-19 pandemic. Less than a month later, Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old Black woman, would be shot dead in her own apartment by the Louisville police.

As the social and economic pain continued to grow due to the coronavirus, the nation exploded with the brutal killing of George Floyd under the knee of Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin. Thousands took to the streets to protest systemic injustice laid bare in the deaths of Arbery, Taylor, Floyd and many others. Others marched in protest of the public health measures to stem the spread of Covid-19, which had wreaked havoc on every person's lives and the economic stability of the world.

As we moved into the second half of the year, this all culminated in the most contentious presidential election in any of our lifetimes, one that remains to be fully settled as millions refuse to accept the results. This has truly been a moment in time beyond description or expectation.

And yet, it is not unique. How far back does one want to go? The 2016 shooting of Philando Castile? The 2014 deaths of Tamir Rice, Akai Gurley and Eric Garner? Or more recently, just a few days ago, Casey Goodson. Unfortunately, the senseless killing of Black men and women has been with us and continues despite the moral outrage on display so powerfully this year.

Covid-19 has been an extraordinary event, but it has laid bare the incredible ordinariness of societal disparities that we have come to accept as normal. We have too long accepted the fundamental racial and socioeconomic disparities in education, job opportunities, wage rates, access to capital and, of course, treatment by the justice system.

Covid-19 has also unveiled the depths to which anti-Asian hatred can manifest itself. Approximately 3,000 incidents were reported through the self-reporting systems managed by several different APIA organizations.

All of this was openly promoted by President Donald Trump, who did more than anyone to sow division and continues to do so even after decisively losing last month's election.

So, this is where we find ourselves as we come to the end of the year. Just over 81 million votes for Joe Biden and a little over 74 million votes for Trump, with many of those 74 million still believing the election was fraudulent at the suggestion of their candidate.

It is this deep division that is poisoning our country, and while it may be incited on the most part by our president, the response from the opposition can be just as toxic.

For the past four-plus years, "Build the Wall" has become the rallying cry for President Trump's supporters. Just as effective in rousing his own crowds, the phrase became an anathema for those of us who opposed the wall as symbolic of the policies of the administration including the Muslim ban, child separation, family detention, closed borders, denaturalization and deportations. Our failure to achieve meaningful immigration reform brought us to the extreme policies of the Trump administration.

On the other hand, this summer's protests for Black Lives Matter brought another rallying cry to "Defund the Police." All of the anger over the lack of accountability and vigilantism of the police was focused into and through this simple phrase.

Just as powerful as this phrase was for the thousands of protestors to rally around this summer, it had a similarly powerful impact on those who struggle to understand that Black Lives Matter is not mutually exclusive to All Lives Matter or even Blue Lives Matter. When comprehensive justice reform is boiled down to Defund the Police, all that some people hear is that the police are to be eliminated.

It's not a surprise that the Twitter Presidency has led to us condensing our thoughts into under 280 characters. The media does not help much, as it is more concerned with whose ideas are winning public opinion, rather than actually analyzing those ideas.

Politicians are more concerned with getting retweeted than having legitimate debate, or more importantly, compromise. When each side entrenches around three-word slogans for their policy statements, compromise becomes impossible. The extremist idealism on both sides demands all or nothing, resulting in the latter.

President-Elect Biden ran on the idea that the collegial Senate he once served in could return, that relationships between Democrats and Republicans might once again allow landmark legislation like the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts.

These past examples might pave the way for modern comprehensive immigration and justice reform legislation. Much has been made about what groups made up the margin for this election, but one group that was clearly a swing vote were Republicans who did cross the aisle to vote for Biden, especially those who voted for Trump in 2016.

For JACL, our legacy is one of seeking that bipartisan, or even better, nonpartisan agreement on civil rights. Our story of what happened during World War II is embraced by conservatives and liberals alike as one of the most egregious violations of the Constitution.

The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 that provided redress for Japanese Americans was championed by leaders from both sides of the aisle and was signed by Ronald Reagan, an icon in the Republican Party. Years later, the Japanese American Confinement Sites program legislation was led by Bill Thomas, one of the most conservative members of Congress at the time.

It seems that once again, at this moment in time, we must mobilize as a community to ensure the legacy of Japanese American history is preserved for future generations to learn.

A new bipartisan bill, the Japanese American Confinement Education Act, will provide continued funding for the JACS program, in addition to creating a new museum-based education program.

We must further leverage the bipartisan support that exists for our priorities such as the JACE Act, to extend to other areas of importance. We must change the dynamics of this moment in time to one where we can bring divergent perspectives together to find areas of agreement to make progress toward recognizing the value of every individual in this country and paving the way for all to succeed.

This moment that we have all been living and surviving through for the past year has the potential to change, and we must be part of that change.

We can hopefully move on to a new moment in time that we can celebrate and be proud of as "one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

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NCWNP

2021

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THE NY/SC: Overcoming Adversities, Embracing the Future

JACL's National Youth/Student Council consists of students and young professional leaders representing their peers on the district and national levels of the JACL. Together, it supports and empowers young leaders to create positive changes in their schools, workplaces and communities. They are the voices making a difference for our today and our tomorrow.

The year 2020 has been a confluence of crises — in terms of climate, public health, systemic racism and economic crash. How have your experiences and reflections of 2020 shaped your perspectives on advocacy or the JA community? What are your hopes for 2021?



When COVID Cancels Your Youth Retreat, Take Time to Decide If a Hot Dog Is a Sandwich: The Importance of Community in Overwhelming Times

By Mieko Kuramoto, JACL National Youth Representative

If there were ever a year to teach us about the importance of community, it would be this one. Isolating at home has taken a toll on all of us in one way or another, but for the NY/SC, it was unexpected: We discovered ways to connect in new ways and expanded the possibilities of what the NY/SC could be — as a community, advocacy group and hub for young Japanese and Asian Americans.

Like every organization, our NY/SC community has undergone change in the past year. In the beginning of the COVID shutdown, it was not too much of a shift for the NY/SC. Because our members are from all over the country, we were used to having our biweekly meetings over the phone or on videochat.

As the months flew by, though, we saw the dramatic change in our work: Summits that we had planned in-person were canceled, others were moved online. As campuses closed and JACL chapters stopped meeting in person, many of our traditional avenues for work were no longer there.

In June, it became clear that JACL's National Convention would not be in person, and shortly after, we made the decision to hold our Fall Retreat online as well.

In the midst of it all, myself and other members started to experience cycles of burnout, Zoom exhaustion and feel the effects of isolation.

There came several points when we felt like we were running out of steam — we were burned out on webinars, overwhelmed by the number of crises that there were to address, and every day, the news cycles seemed to alternate between the rise of COVID, racial injustice, the climate crisis and economic collapse.

In the midst of exhaustion, though, the important moment for us came when we stepped back for a moment from the pressures to produce and publish. We started to take more time to look inward as a community and talk to one another.

As much as we needed to address what was going on in the world, we realized also that each of our members is also personally making sacrifices, experiencing significant changes and trying to make it through an extraordinarily difficult year themselves. Finding that place of support in one another was critical for the Council this year.

Out of that realization came some of our best moments.

Our retreat, for example, took intentional breaks to do silly things — we warmed up with Radio Taiso, made musubi together virtually and each took three minutes to give a PowerPoint presentation to the group on any topic we wanted (topics included: mushroom propagation, how to structure the perfect date, an explicated list of reasons that people don't put back their shopping carts and an in-depth dive into the debate over whether a hot dog is a sandwich. I don't remember the conclusion, but I remember that it was extraordinarily well-researched).

We've taken more time to focus on communications work, and each week, we try to build in a little bit of check-in time to our calls.

In the coming year, we're hoping to center work around the community model, including hosting discussions and events over dinner, conversation-style.

This year has seen some incredible youth activism: Young people are taking to the streets to demand justice; they are checking in on their neighbors and delivering food; they are reminding us to pay attention, be compassionate and be politically active.

But it's also true that there are times when doing advocacy work can feel like chipping away at a huge boulder with a tiny chisel. In those moments, it's important to take the time to nurture the people in your community.

Take time to check in with each other, build in time to bond, socialize and laugh, and be forgiving with one another.

At the end of the day, we're there because we want to do the social justice work, but the most effective organizations are built on strong networks of trust and support. A good leader is someone who not only understands this, but also emphasizes it.

This year, I am grateful to the community I have in the NY/SC. I'm particularly thankful for my talented co-chair, Justin Kawaguchi, who has brought an infusion of energy, passion and new ideas, but also to every single one of the other nine NY/SC members. They keep me smiling every week, and their diverse talents, niche interests and boundless new ideas are what make our community thrive.

I can't wait to see what we'll do next.



Opportunities to Connect Occur Sometimes When You Least Expect It

By Justin Kawaguchi, NY/SC Youth Chair

For lack of better words, 2020 has been messy. From navigating a virtual learning environment in my senior year at the University of Southern California to supporting Little Tokyo advocacy campaigns via coordinated Zoom calls even though I was a mere three miles away, the past nine months have been rife with a mixture of challenges and learning opportunities.

I would be remiss to fail to acknowledge the accomplishments and achievements of the "quarantime" as well: I was elected JACL National Youth Chair, had the opportunity to interview George Takei in collaboration with the Japanese American National Museum and Okaeri and successfully completed my first semester of graduate school (all online!).

If there's one thing that I've learned from being cooped up in my apartment, connecting with friends and loved ones on video chat rather than in-person, it is that opportunities to connect occur sometimes when you least expect it.

Although several in-person events were canceled due to the pandemic — from our NY/SC fall retreat to the Okaeri 2020 Gathering — I am grateful to have been surrounded by talented leaders who are willing to lean into the uncertainty of this moment and create innovative solutions to still drive our organizations forward.

The NY/SC successfully held its first virtual retreat, complete with an incredible guest speaker, onigiri-making workshop and gift boxes filled with Japanese snacks and our new NY/SC merch.

I am optimistic that the new year will be a time for communities to recenter, buckle down on what they believe in and find new ways to move forward.

Change is inevitable, and I am proud to be a voice that is driving the conversation forward. Happy 2021 everyone, and I wish you all a healthy, happy new year!

SEIA WATANABE, PSW Youth Representative



When everything seemed to be worsening, and the world came crashing down on me, what remained was community and my passion to connect more with the Japanese American community.

This year, I was able to see the JA community come together for each other and truly see how the work we do continues to strengthen and uplift community members even through the most bleakest moments.

Personally, my involvement in the community gave me hope during a dark time. I was able to experience first hand how the Japanese American community continues to evolve, adapt and strives to be better every single day.

MARIKO ROOKS, EDC Youth Rep Representative



This year has been a year of monumental change. Much of the changes in my world have been bleak, but I have really cherished the unexpected joys, both big and small, as a result.

Transitioning away from in-person meetings, for example, has really allowed me to re-engage with the California-based Japanese American community where I was raised and think about new and innovative ways to connect with the youth members of the Eastern District Council.

I've also met so many new extraordinary individuals and organizations via virtual organizing efforts, and it's amazing that I've developed new friendships without ever meeting people in person.

As a Black Japanese person, I've been particularly heartened by how much progress against anti-Blackness I've seen both within the Nikkei community and outside of it; people are having conversations that I never expected would happen.

Having more time to think and reflect has allowed me to regain some of the introspection and creativity that so often get lost when we're overbooked and busy. I hope I can channel that into the New Year, along with continued gratitude for the people and relationships around me. Going into 2021, I hope for more healing, more learning and more action toward justice.

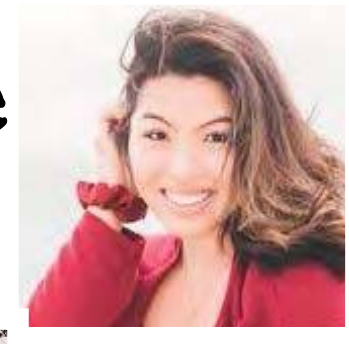
BRIAN HELEKER, IDC Youth Representative



With a pandemic and a presidential race, 2020 has been a time of high tensions and division. That said, I have seen people coming together and supporting causes in impressive numbers and with incredible passion. With the coming year, I am hopeful that this will not die out, but instead, we will ride the momentum to create a year of significant progress.

I am also optimistic that the coming years will be a time of great healing for our nation where we grow in our understanding of each other and move forward with a greater unity than we have displayed in recent history.

JENNA AOKI, CCDC Youth Representative



This past year has been a whirlwind of different emotions. Due to Covid-19, many momentous milestones were either postponed, went by uncelebrated or were celebrated in unconventional ways. At the time, it was disappointing and saddening to get used to the "new norm" of social distancing and distance learning.

However, my family was a constant reminder of how fortunate I am. Family has always been a huge part of my life, and the pandemic put into perspective the small daily interactions that I often took for granted. Looking toward the new year, I am hopeful and optimistic that we all will take steps toward creating a more understanding, loving and accepting society.

KENDAL TAKESHITA, MDC Youth Representative



I'm really looking forward to a break from school and time to rest from all of the stress and chaos that's occurred. I know that this year has certainly not been ideal for those who had plans for study away programs, internships, jobs, etc., but I want to reach out to anyone who may feel isolated: You are NOT alone!

Things that have kept me motivated are exercising, eating right and keeping in touch with family, friends and teachers/mentors.

SHEERA TAMURA, PNW Youth Representative



It's been a unique year to say the least. With the Covid-19 pandemic taking a toll on several businesses, families and individuals, I think it's fair to say that 2020 has been a hell of a year.

For the vast majority of the year, I was very fortunate to have been home with my family in Hawaii. However, during that time, I had moments where I found myself struggling to upkeep my mental health. Somedays, I'd feel sad, and on other days, I'd find myself feeling extremely lonely to the extent that it left me feeling like I was riding an emotional rollercoaster. But, despite all of the negativity, this phase allowed me to reflect upon the importance of mental health from an Asian American perspective.

Growing up, I was always told that Japanese Americans faced so much adversity throughout history. From surviving World War II to being forced to live inside American concentration camps, my mother always told me that we must be strong for not only ourselves, but also for our culture.

It was at this moment where I realized that I shouldn't be ashamed of my feelings and emotions. As a Gen Z Japanese American, I am learning to prioritize myself and my mental health so I can inspire other Asian Americans to not feel ashamed of their struggles. Quarantining during this COVID-19 pandemic has made me realize that Japanese Americans will always persevere through the toughest of times. We are strong and resilient.

CLAIRE INOUYE, At-Large Member



With the social distancing that has impacted our ability to interact personally and freely, I've been focusing on cultivating a community of connection using social media and the many online options available at our literal fingertips.

One value that has been instilled, and is now more relevant than ever, is to be "flexible and gracious." While the curtailment of activities has been difficult, we now can increase our awareness of alternative means of building connections in order to maintain relationships critical to personal progression. It is more imperative than ever that we reach out with inclusivity to negate the isolation predominant in our society during this difficult year. ■

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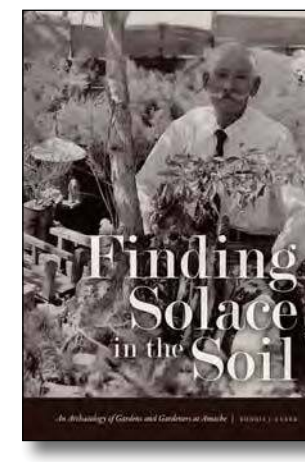
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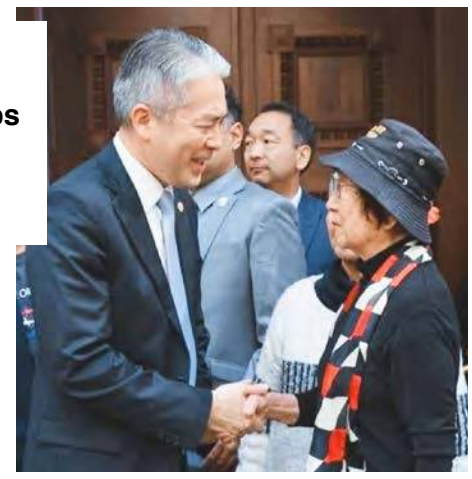
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Santa Barbara



Year in Review

To say 2020 has been one heck of a wild ride is a *major* understatement. Having weathered more twists and turns, ups and downs than any other year in recent memory, 2020 comes to a close with much hope, which is something all of us can use now more than ever. We take a look back at the events that rocked our world, challenged our beliefs, educated our lives and left us all wishful of a better 2021.



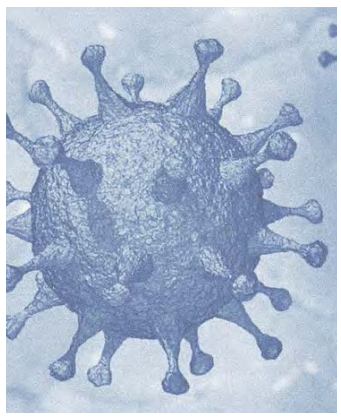
California Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) greets Kiyo Sato, 96, a USAF Nurse Corps veteran, at the Capitol on Feb. 20, the day the Assembly made an official apology.

01.

Calif Assembly OKs Apology to Japanese Americans

A day after California Gov. Gavin Newsom declared Feb. 19 to be "A Day of Remembrance: Japanese American Evacuation," the California Assembly made official an apology on behalf of the state for its historic role in discriminating against residents of Japanese ancestry before World War II. The vote was unanimous, 72-0.

HR 77, which was introduced by Assemblymember Albert Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) on Jan. 28, saw to it that the state legislature's lower house apologized for California's historic role in unfairly discriminating against California's Japanese Americans and legal resident aliens of Japanese ancestry who were, along with Japanese Americans from other Pacific Coast states, unjustly forced to move from their homes, farms and businesses to 10 War Relocation Authority Centers and other detention camps as a result of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066 on Feb. 19, 1942.



02.

Coronavirus Places the Nation on Lockdown

In March, evidence of Covid-19's undeniable presence in the U.S. and its devastating ability to spread rapidly and infect persons of all ages caused a shutdown that spread across the nation, forcing the closure of virtually everything except business operations deemed "essential." Hospitals and staff became overwhelmed and filled to capacity as the disease quickly spread, with a majority of Americans instructed to stay at home.

George Washington University's Dr. Leana Wen painted a grim picture of what America would soon face: "We are seeing this rapid escalation around the world. At this point, I believe things will get much worse before they get better. And we have no idea what the trajectory will look like now that there is person-to-person transmission around the world."

03.

JACL Joins Congress in Condemning Anti-Asian Sentiment Related to Covid-19

At the beginning of April, JACL issued a statement applauding the introduction by Senators Kamala Harris, Tammy Duckworth and Mazie Hirono of the Senate resolution that condemned all forms of anti-Asian sentiment related to Covid-19.

"The companion to Rep. Grace Meng's House Resolution 908 is much needed with the increasing discrimination and violence toward Asian Americans and minorities as the threat from Covid-19 similarly increases," the statement read.

In its first week of operation from March 19-25, the website Stop AAPI Hate *(www.asianpacificpolicyandplanningcouncil.org)* collected 673 reports of anti-Asian discrimination.

The statement concluded, "We thank our local leaders who have taken concrete action through the introduction of these resolutions calling for action."

04.

Trump Signs $484 Billion Coronavirus Measure to Aid Employers and Hospitals

President Donald Trump signed a $484 billion bill on April 24 to aid employers and hospitals under stress from the coronavirus pandemic. At the time, the virus had already claimed more than 50,000 American lives.

The bill, HR 266, was initiated by the federal government to help keep afloat business that have had to close or dramatically alter their operations as states tried to slow the spread of the virus. The measure passed Congress almost unanimously on April 23. Anchoring the bill was the Trump administration's $250 billion request to replenish a fund to help small- and medium-size business with payroll, rent and other expenses, along with $100 billion for hospitals and a nationwide testing program.



President Donald J. Trump displays his signature after signing HR 266, the "Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act" on April 24 in the Oval Office of the White House.

PHOTO: OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO/ SHEALAH CRAIGHEAD

05.

The Death of George Floyd at the Hands of Police Sets Off a Rallying Cry Across America

"I Can't Breathe," words spoken by George Floyd as his airway became constricted by police in Minneapolis, Minn., on May 25, eventually causing his death, sparked a wave of protest marches across America, all calling for the end to racial injustices and police brutality.

Protests erupted in cities large and small throughout the U.S., all united in their cause: "Black Lives Matter." Floyd's death came on the heels of the deaths of Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, Nina Pop, Breonna Taylor, Sean Reed and Charleena Lyles — all black lives lost to systemic racism in the U.S.

Peaceful protests soon erupted into mass violence, with countless businesses and landmarks destroyed by mobs of looters, adding even more stress and hardship to the already-stricken economy.



Americans gathered across the nation to protest against systemic racism. Pictured are protesters who gathered in Washington, D.C., to make their voices heard.

PHOTO: JACL NATIONAL



(From left) **Actor Michael B. Jordan, Lacy Lew Nguyen Wright, actor/founder of BLD PWR Kendrick Sampson and actor Nev Schulman at a protest in Beverly Hills on June 6**

PHOTO: TOMMY OLIVER

Dr. Anthea Hartig, director of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, receives a string of cranes folded by Japanese American descendants of former Heart Mountain incarcerees from JACL Executive Director David Inoue.

PHOTO: JULIE ABO



06.

Tsuru for Solidarity Rallies Activists Across the Country

As protests across the nation continued as part of the "Black Lives Matter" movement, a coalition of activists led by the group Tsuru for Solidarity" held a combination of virtual and in-person activities as part of "Tsuru Rising" on June 6 and 7 to support the Black community and highlight social justice issues.

Panel discussions and healing circles were highlighted during the two-day event, and Tsuru activists joined with members of the Black community to hang cranes and speak out against other examples of structural racism.

In Washington, D.C., JACL members along with Executive Director David Inoue marched downtown to the newly named Black Lives Matter Plaza. Said Inoue, "Where is the law and order when we see Black men killed by those sworn to protect the law and to protect and serve us?"

07.

JACL Joins With Tsuru for Solidarity to Shut Down the Berks Family Residential Center

As Tsuru for Solidarity continued its work to make its members present at detention sites such as the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas, and Fort Sill in Oklahoma to peacefully protest the wrongful detention of immigrant families, its members also made their presence known at the Berks Family Residential Center in Pennsylvania on July 17.

In partnership with Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees, Haitian Bridge Alliance and Families for Freedom, as well as JACL chapters from Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., and the Shut Down Berks Coalition, Tsuru for Solidarity organized a two-hour socially distanced protest outside the Berks facility.

Protesters chanted and shouted messages of hope and resistance in Creole, as a majority of those imprisoned at Berks are almost exclusively Black immigrant families from Haiti.

In conjunction with continued direct action, Tsuru for Solidarity launched an online campaign targeting the governors of Texas and Pennsylvania called #FreeMyFriends.



Ellen Somekawa and Eric Joselyn, carrying their artistic and symbolic signs, were among those who protested outside the Berks Family Detention Center to oppose the incarceration of Haitian immigrant families.

PHOTO: HIRO NISHIKAWA

08.

IACHR Verdict a Win for Latin American Nikkei



Art Shibayama in his U.S. Army uniform. Sadly, he passed away in 2018 and did not live to see his years-long court battle result in victory.

The organization of American States' Inter-American Commission on Human Rights published its verdict in the years-long saga of *Shibayama, et al. v. United States* on Aug. 4.

The IACHR's verdict determined that the U.S. government is liable for redressing World War II-era human rights violations perpetrated upon three Peruvian-born brothers — Tak Shibayama, Ken Shibayama and Isamu Carlos "Art" Shibayama — of Japanese ancestry and, by extension, other similar victims.

Sadly, Art Shibayama passed away in 2018 and did not live to see this important legal victory.

If and when the U.S. might act to provide some sort of redress is unknown because the verdict was not from a federal court but from the IACHR, which cannot order the U.S. government to act.

More than 2,264 Japanese Latin Americans were kidnapped from their homes from 13 Latin American countries during WWII by the U.S. government to be used in hostage exchanges between the U.S. and Japan. In addition, there were also more than 4,000 Germans and more than 200 Italians from Latin America who were also among those brought to the U.S. at that time.

09.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki at 75: A Solemn Reminder and Reflection

On Aug. 6, 1945, the U.S. dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima, Japan, killing close to 140,000 people, only to follow that attack three days later when it dropped a second bomb on Nagasaki, killing another 70,000. The events marked the end of World War II when Japan surrendered on Aug. 15.

In the 75 years since, memorials remembering those whose lives were lost and the devastating impacts of the blast on generations following have continued to mark a solemn reminder of the violence of war.

JACL chapters across the nation paid tribute to the somber anniversary across the nation. In Watsonville, Calif., the W-SC JACL held a socially distanced ceremony at the Watsonville Buddhist temple on Aug. 5.

"As we observe the 75th anniversary of the nuclear bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, let us rededicate ourselves to peace in our homes, in our communities and in our nation and world. Let us bow our heads in gratitude to those who have gone before us and who reveal to us the truth of life," said Rev. Hosei Shinseki.

Former JACL National President Larry Oda *(left)* rings the bell at the Watsonville Buddhist Church on Aug. 5 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima in 1945. Looking on is Bill Wurtenberg, minister's assistant at WBT and W-SC JACL member.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF W-SC JACL





President-Elect Joe Biden and Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris were declared the winners on Nov. 7 in the most contentious presidential race in U.S. history.

10.

Democrat Joe Biden Defeats President Donald Trump; Kamala Harris Makes History as First Female Vice President

Democrat Joe Biden defeated President Donald Trump to become the 46th president of the U.S. on Nov. 7. Biden crossed the winning threshold of 270 Electoral College votes with a win in Pennsylvania after more than three days of uncertainty as election officials processed votes. At press time, President Trump has yet to concede; Biden, meanwhile, celebrated his 78th birthday on Nov. 20. When he is inaugurated in January, he will become the oldest president ever to enter office.

And Kamala Harris made history as the first Black woman to become vice president and the first person of South Asian descent elected to serve as second-in-command; she also becomes the highest-ranking woman to ever serve in government. "Dream with ambition, lead with conviction," she said. ■

Pocatello-Blackfoot



Seasons Greetings!

from the IDC

Pocatello-Blackfoot Chapter

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Seabrook

On behalf of the Seabrook JACL, we extend our sincere best wishes & holiday greetings to the Pacific Citizen and fellow JACL members.

Seabrook JACL

May 2020 be a year filled with peace and prosperity Happy New Year.

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The New Mexico Chapter wishes everyone a healthy, happy and safe holiday season!!

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Happy Holidays from the Florin - Sacramento Valley Chapter

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members of the

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Sonoma County



Happy Holidays
and
Stay Safe
for a
Healthy and Joyful
New Year
from
The Japanese-American Citizens League
Sonoma County Chapter



Wisconsin JACL's Cheryl Lund *(left)* and her mother Lucy Miyazaki with tsuru for Jacob

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE LUND FAMILY



Cranes containing messages for Jacob Blake that were sent to Wisconsin JACL for delivery

PHOTO: NANCY UKAI

125,000 ORIGAMI CRANES SOAR ABOVE COVID

A global pandemic did not slow down Tsuru for Solidarity's mission to provide support with communities being targeted by racism and state violence.

By Nancy Ukai,
Tsuru for Solidarity Co-Chair and
P.C. Editorial Board Member

The plan was to carry 125,000 hand-folded paper origami cranes — one for each person of Japanese ancestry who was incarcerated during World War II — to Washington, D.C., in June 2020 and hang them on the White House fence to protest the caging of children and the separation of their immigrant families.

Nikkei from the U.S., Canada and Mexico were planning to join Tsuru for Solidarity, the organizer of the "National Pilgrimage to Close the Camps," for the organization's three-day mass protest.

Nisei who had been children prisoners in American concentration camps during WWII, such as Christine and Stan Umeda and Marielle Tsukamoto of JACL's Florin chapter, would lead the march against the repetition of history.

But the coronavirus pandemic paused the plan — but not the outrage.

The D.C. protest was postponed, and the event's organizers, who included JACL members Satsuki Ina and Josh Kaizuka of the Florin chapter, Mike Ishii and Carl Takei of New York, Lisa Doi of Chicago, Stan Shikuma of Seattle, Rob Buscher of Philadelphia, JACL Executive Director David Inoue and NY/SC's Mieko Kuramoto and Caitlin Takeda of New England, pivoted with their respective committees to plan a virtual program for national streaming.

That event, "Tsuru Rising!" was streamed June 5-7 with speakers who made the legal and moral case against the detention, deportation and abuse of asylum seekers and in solidarity with the millions worldwide who were protesting against anti-Black racism and the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, which had occurred less than two weeks before.

Vigils and protests in cities stretching across the U.S., including Seattle and Tacoma, Wash.; Tanforan, Calif.; Los Angeles; Chicago; Washington, D.C.; Berks and Philadelphia, Penn.; and N.Y. were live-streamed.

In addition, "Healing Circles for Change," a project developed and led by Tsuru for Solidarity Co-Chair Dr. Satsuki Ina, enabled dozens of small-group conversations in online break-out rooms after each action.

Tsuru for Solidarity also hosted a four-part community conversation series from August-October that brought together more than 1,000 participants in panels that covered topics on Japanese American history, multiracial identity, the Black-Nikkei experience and Japanese American anti-Blackness.

Meanwhile, the number of folded cranes has risen to more than 250,000, according to San Francisco's Geri Handa, tsuru counter-in-chief. Nisei to Gosei continue to fold cranes, she said, along with allies in North America and Japan. The new goal is to fold 400,000 more, which represents the number of immigrants who are detained each year in the U.S.

For the past three months, Tsuru for Solidarity has engaged in a planning process for 2021. In August and September, a Tsuru for Solidarity listening tour was held, complete with surveys, interviews and focus groups to get input on the focus and future of the organization.

And since October, Tsuru has led small group discussions to set priorities and actions for 2021.

"We are excited to wrap this up and dig in next year, in early 2021," said Tsuru Co-Chair Lisa Doi. "Please stay tuned for what's next!" ■



(Left) A protest sign inspired by Japanese karuta at the DOR protest in Tacoma

PHOTO: GLENN NELSON

(Top, middle) Mary Ann Furuichi of the JACL Contra Costa chapter with Bill Sato with folded cranes ready to send to Wisconsin

PHOTO: NANCY UKAI



Geri Handa of the JACL SF chapter holds a crane to send to Jacob Blake.

PHOTO: NANCY UKAI

Some of the 400 who gathered at the Tacoma protest for a rally organized by Tsuru for Solidarity, Densho and La Resistencia.

PHOTO: STAN SHIKUMA

TSURU POEM

The following poem was read at the Day of Remembrance protest by Tsuru for Solidarity and Densho participants at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Wash., on Feb. 23. More than 400 people were in attendance to show their support for detained immigrant families.

We are the crane people
fragile wings torn. bruised.
resilient.
Born from righteous indignation
If you, too, seek courage to stand in solidarity
Coming empty handed as we do, with only your resolve
Then join us
From every corner of the community
prayers inscribed on their wings
Folded by hands that remember
the sting of desert sand and wind
holding memories of gaman
Of horse stalls, guard towers, stockades, hardened resolve, silent tears
We are the Tsuru
Knowing rightly to fold with love and care
Tsuru fly from Hiroshima,
To Minidoka,
To Puyallup, to Honouliuli, to Manzanar, Heart Mountain,
Rohwer, Topaz, Poston, Jerome,
Gila River, Tule Lake, Amache
And now to Dilley,
Laredo, Fort Sill, Arlington, Yuba, Tacoma
Tsuru
Heal yourself
In our time of our greatest need
Fly with resolve
Again and again.
And to all who have come here today,
sister, brother, neighbor, survivor, descendant, stranger, friend:
We are Tsuru for Solidarity

— Mike Ishii,
JACL New York Chapter and Tsuru for Solidarity Co-Chair

TSURU FOR SOLIDARITY TIMELINE

It was one busy year for Tsuru advocates and allies.

By Lisa Doi,
JACL Chicago Chapter Member and Tsuru for Solidarity Co-Chair

Jan. 12 MARYSVILLE, CALIF. — In the spirit of *Oshogatsu*, we stood at the Yuba County Jail to demand its closure. Florin JACL members and others have continued to prioritize its closing.

Feb. 23 TACOMA, WASH. — Tsuru for Solidarity along with La Resistencia, Densho and Seattle JACL coordinated a Day of Remembrance action at the Northwest Detention Center, which was attended by more than 400 people. Seattle JACL and others have continued to prioritize the closing of the detention center.

March — Tsuru for Solidarity launched the "Contagion in the Camps" campaign to highlight the experiences with communicable illness during World War II and demand the end to detention.

April 5 — Tsuru for Solidarity hosted its first national, virtual fold-in. We brought together dozens of people from across the country to fold tsuru together.

June 6-7 — Our "Virtual Protest to Close the Camps" brought together thousands of viewers from across the country. We had dozens of amazing speakers, performers, elders and educators who shared their gifts with us. We also coordinated actions in Washington, D.C.; New York; Berks, Penn.; Chicago; Los Angeles; San Bruno, Calif.; and Tacoma, Wash.

July 3, 2020, SANTA ANITA, CALIF. — "In Plain Sight," a project conceived by Cassils and rafa esparza, collaborated with 80 artists, including Karen L. Ishizuka representing Tsuru for Solidarity, in a series of coordinated art demonstrations. That same day, "No More Camps" was written in the sky over the former assembly center. In the same action, artists worked with La Resistencia to fly kites over the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Wash.

July 17, BERKS, PENN. — Tsuru for Solidarity joined the Shut Down Berks Coalition, JACL Philadelphia and others for a day of action at the Berks Family Residential Center to demand that the center be shut down and ICE stop detaining families. We returned to protest at the home of Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf on Aug. 1.

July-October — Tsuru for Solidarity hosted a four-part "Community Conversation" series that brought together more than 1,000 participants in panels that covered Japanese American history, multiracial identity, the Black-Nikkei experience and Japanese American anti-Blackness.

Aug. 16, CHICAGO — We joined Cassandra Greer-Lee and Nikkei Uprising for an Obon protest at the Cook County Jail to demand the defunding of the jail. With members of JACL Chicago, the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society and the Japanese American Service Committee, we have continued to take action at the Cook County Jail.

September — San Francisco Bay Area Tsuru for Solidarity folded 2,000 cranes to send to Jacob Blake, who was shot in the back seven times by police in Kenosha, Wis. The WI JACL chapter, led by Ron Kuramoto, offered to deliver the cranes, which were stored by member Cheryl Lund in Milwaukee.

October-Present — In the last quarter of the year, we have continued to support actions at the Berks Family Detention Center, Northwest Detention Center and Cook County Jail. We currently want to uplift the work of the Shut Down Berks Coalition and Haitian Bridge Alliance on #28Children, an effort for an emergency stay on deportations for 28 children in Pennsylvania and Texas. ■



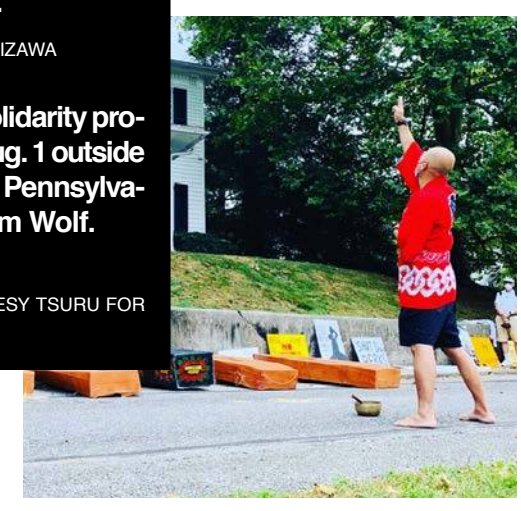
In August, Tsuru for Solidarity joined with Cassandra Greer-Lee *(pictured)* to demand the defunding of Chicago's Cook County Jail.

PHOTO: TY YAMAMOTO



On July 3, "No More Camps" was written in the sky over the former assembly center Santa Anita Racetrack in Arcadia, Calif.

PHOTO: ZEN SEKIZAWA



Tsuru for Solidarity protested on Aug. 1 outside the home of Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf.

PHOTO: COURTESY TSURU FOR SOLIDARITY

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SUPERIOR COURT BUILDING RENAMED AFTER JUDGE STEPHEN K. TAMURA

PHOTOS: JACK DU/FACEBOOK



The West Justice Center honors Orange County's first Asian American lawyer.



The Stephen K. Tamura Justice Center has been renamed to honor the late judge's trailblazing lifetime achievements.



The Stephen K. Tamura Justice Center has been renamed to honor the late judge's trailblazing lifetime achievements.

Present at the dedication ceremony were committee members *(from left)* the Hon. Kirk Nakamura, presiding judge of the Superior Court, County of Orange; Susan Kawaichi, daughter of Justice Tamura; Ellyn Iwata and Kurtis Nakagawa. Committee members not pictured: Norio Uyematsu, Dr. Arthur A. Hansen, Dr. Kristine Dennehy, Randy Tamura and Mary Urashima.

WESTMINSTER, CALIF. — Orange County Superior Court's West Justice Center has been renamed after Judge Stephen K. Tamura, the first Asian American Superior Court judge in the county's history.

In a ceremony that was live-streamed on Nov. 6, the County of Orange paid tribute to Tamura, who, during his distinguished legal career, was the first Asian American lawyer in Orange County, the county's first Asian American to preside and serve on the County Council, the first Asian American Superior Court judge and presiding judge in Orange County and the first Asian American justice on an appellate court in the continental U.S.

The Hon. Kirk Nakamura, presiding judge of the Superior Court, County of Orange, spearheaded a committee's efforts to rename the building, along with Susan Kawaichi, Justice Tamura's daughter. Other members included Dr. Kristine Dennehy, a professor at California State University, Fullerton; Dr. Arthur A. Hansen, professor emeritus at CSUF; Ellyn Iwata; Kurtis Nakagawa; Randy Tamura; Mary Urashima; and Norio Uyematsu.

In April 2019, Nakamura first set forth the idea of submitting an application to rename the Superior Court's West Justice Center in honor of Tamura. On April 8 of this year, the Judicial Council of California issued its order approving the renaming request.

"It was a real privilege to submit the application to name the West Justice Center in honor of the late judge," said Nakamura in a statement at the time. "He was a man of many 'firsts,' and I am very proud to have followed his footsteps to the Bench."

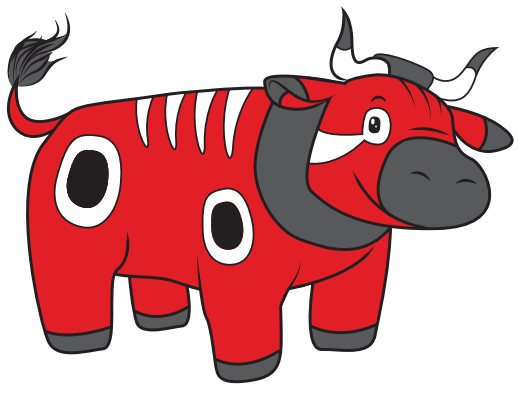
When Nakamura was elected in 2017, he became the second Japanese American judge to hold this position, Tamura being the first. Nakamura then made it a point to learn about many of the remarkable accomplishments and contributions of his predecessor.

Highlights include:

- Judge Tamura grew up in Orange County and attended Huntington Beach High School.
- He received a BA degree from Pomona College and an LLB degree from Boalt Law School, University of California, Berkeley.
- Tamura was a founding board member of the Orange County JACL chapter in 1935, which held its first meeting in the Wintersburg Japanese Church.
- Admitted to the California Bar in 1937, Tamura began his law practice in Santa Ana, Calif.
- Mere months before the onset of World War II, Tamura married Kay Kazuko Nozawa; a year later, the couple was detained in Arizona's Poston Relocation Center, where he provided legal services while incarcerated. They were later transferred to the Amache Relocation Center in Colorado.
- In 1945, he was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.
- Tamura was appointed in 1961 by California Gov. Edmund "Pat" Brown to the Orange County Superior Court, the first Japanese American to hold this position. He was elevated to the Court of Appeals, Fourth District, Division Two in 1966.
- In 1972, Tamura was named the recipient of the Orange County Bar Assn.'s Franklin G. West Award, the "highest honor presented to outstanding attorneys and judges whose lifetime achievements have advanced justice and the law."
- Between 1979 and 1981, Tamura filled an appointment to the State Judicial Council. He also served as a justice pro tem on the California Supreme Court.
- In 1981, he co-chaired with Henry Kanegae a committee to oversee the Orange County Japanese American Council's stated commitment to "promoting an understanding and appreciation of Japanese American culture and heritage on the contributions of Japanese Americans to the history and development of Orange County." Upon his death the following year, the council's history committee determined that, to commemorate Judge Tamura's history and legacy, the series of oral histories it was compiling with longtime residents of the county's Japanese American community be designated as the Honorable Stephen K. Tamura Orange County Japanese American Oral History Project.

Nearly four decades following his death in 1982, Tamura will forever be remembered having lived a life that reflected his love of family, commitment to his community and dedication to public service. In a statement to Spectrum News 1, Nakamura said, "When you see the accomplishments of Stephen K. Tamura, you see the accomplishments of a trailblazer who basically showed the way in the legal profession as to how Asians could ultimately succeed."

— Susan Kawaichi, Dr. Arthur A. Hansen, Dr. Kristine Dennehy contributed to this article.



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Wish everybody the very best this Holiday Season!
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Berkeley



The Berkeley JACL looks forward to a brighter year ahead and remains grateful for the resilience of our Japanese American community.

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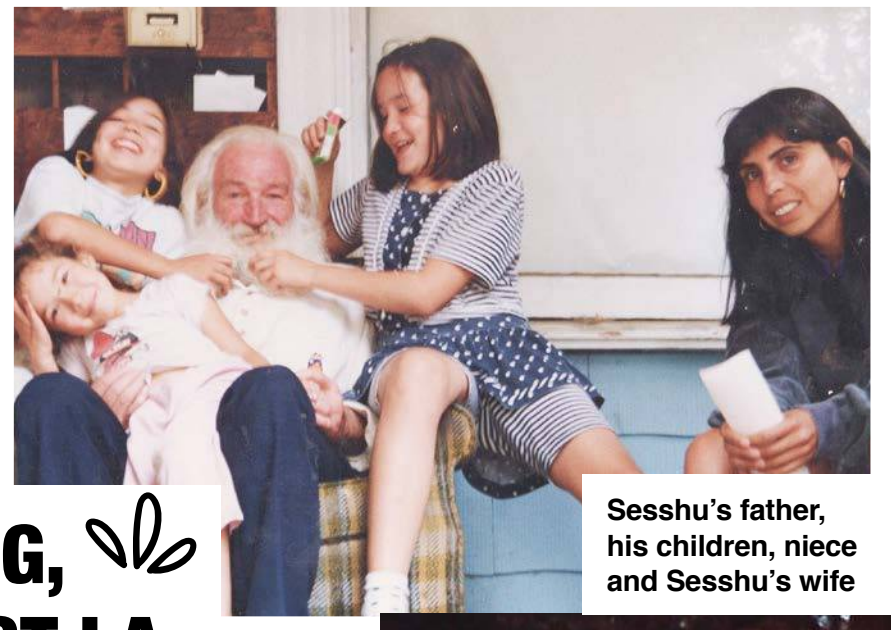
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PHOTOS: COURTESY OF SESSHU FOSTER



Sesshu and his daughter at Placita Olvera in Los Angeles

PHOTO: LINDSAY BOLLING



Sesshu's father, his children, niece and Sesshu's wife

FOSTER-ING THE LOVE OF WRITING, EDUCATION AND ACTIVISM IN EAST LA

Author/educator/activist Sesshu Foster has dedicated his life to enriching and expanding the lives of those in his community.

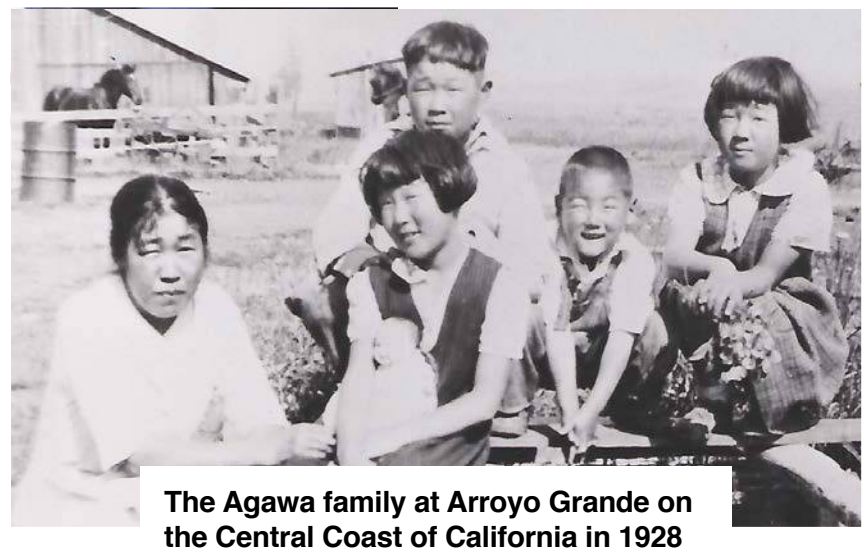
By Athena Asklipiadis, Contributor



Sesshu, along with his wife and daughter, demonstrating against child separation



Sesshu's maternal grandmother with his siblings and cousin



The Agawa family at Arroyo Grande on the Central Coast of California in 1928

When thinking about East LA, what first comes to mind? Is it a gritty, rough neighborhood scene? A tasty taco stand? Or, do you smirk thinking about the comedy of Cheech & Chong? Literature, poetry and the arts are not likely a first thought when thinking about that part of Los Angeles thanks to the media and Hollywood, but for years, author/educator/activist Sesshu Foster has blessed the literary world with a rare look at the area through the eyes of a Hapa Japanese American.

Growing up in East Los Angeles during the height of the Chicano movement, Foster naturally gravitated toward writing about his hometown, the various cultures there and the impact of gentrification through the narratives of everyday residents. And to complement Foster's artistic endeavors is his commitment to local youth and community issues.

Before Foster even considered a career in the arts or education, his parents had built the foundation of a truly multicultural and creative home. Foster is the eldest of seven children born in Santa Barbara, Calif., to a Japanese American mother and Caucasian father.

His parents were both former art students, and because his father followed Zen Buddhism, they had a Zen wedding in the hills of Santa Barbara. His father spent his GI Bill to study not only art but also spent his time following 1950's white cross-cultural thinkers such as Alan Watts and Gary Snyder, as well as the Zen lectures by D. T. Suzuki.

Unlike his father, Foster's mother and his Japanese American side of the family were less connected to Buddhism, as most of them followed Christianity. His mother was also from a large family, as she was one of 10 children born in California with humble and tragic beginnings. Sadly, in the 1930s prior to World War II, three of Foster's mother's siblings died from Tuberculosis.

"The JA side of my family was from the Central Coast from Arroyo Grande. . . . They were farm workers who were barely getting by, as far as I could tell. . . . When the war hit, they lost whatever little they did have," Foster recalled.

Foster's mother and family braved living in the horse stalls at Tanforan Racetrack before being transferred and incarcerated during World War II at the Poston War Relocation Center in Arizona.

At the conclusion of WWII, Foster said his family had the help of the Methodist Church to get back on their feet. Like many Japanese churches and temples at the time, they housed the formcer incarcerees. Some of Foster's family lived temporarily in a fellowship house for $30 per month, which was a three-story dormlike facility that had communal showers and bathrooms, as well as hot meals. Following his family's stay there, they later moved to the City Terrace neighborhood of East LA.

Decades after his extended family had been settled for some time in East LA, Foster, his mother and his siblings joined his maternal family there. They moved from Santa Barbara to City Terrace following Foster's parents' divorce when he was just 8 years old. He shared that his family lived on one hill, and his uncle's family and kids lived on another.

One of Foster's most well-known works, "City Terrace Field Manual," is a collection of poetic vignettes that tells the stories of various characters from his eastside Los Angeles neighborhood of City Terrace. At the time he grew up there, during the 1960s and '70s, the community was a majority Japanese and Mexican with a sprinkle of Chinese and Jewish inhabitants.

Foster grew up mostly in a JA-cultured home. It revolved around family and church activities. His family attended Union Church (the current location of East West Players and the David Henry Hwang Theater) in Little Tokyo. His childhood was filled with memories of church picnics and basketball. But, he explained that was mostly his peripheral experience.

Attending Wilson High School and having friends from the multiracial City Terrace area exposed Foster to a great deal of Latino culture as well. His interest in becoming a creative stemmed from being brought up by parents who were always interested in writing and avid readers. His family valued arts and culture, and his father was very fond of poetry as well.

Foster remembers many childhood trips to the City Terrace Public Library with his mother, carrying stacks of books home with him to read. This love of reading flourished and as a teen, he often spent time quietly writing, drawing and reading.

"Throughout high school. that's what I did in class when I was bored. . . . Instead of paying attention to geometry, I would draw or write in my own notebooks," he recalled.

His teacher combated his habit by taking his pens away; later, Foster said, his teacher took the whole notebook and made him sit at the front of the class so that he could focus on his math lessons. However, this punishment did not stop his love for the arts — it likely just fueled it.

In addition to Foster's admiration for creative writing and art, he was also interested in pursuing a career in education. Following the footsteps of his mother, who was a sixth-grade teacher in East LA, he and four of his six siblings would go on to also become educators like her.

Foster first applied for a teaching job with the Los Angeles Unified School District, but made it a point to express that he wanted to teach in his hometown area.

"I told them that I only wanted to teach in East LA because that's where I'm from," he said. "I felt like I wanted to give back to my community . . . and I had ideas on how literature and composition could fit the needs of the students there."



Sesshu and artist Arturo Ernesto Romo, collaborator on the forthcoming book "ELADATL, a History of the East Los Angeles Dirigible Air Transport Lines" (City Lights Books, 2021)

"ELADATL" will be released in April 2021 by City Lights.





Sesshu with his mother and paternal uncle



Sesshu at the George Verdin 50th Chicano Moratorium

With Foster's expression of that desire, he was shot down rather than embraced during the interview, as the administration personnel told him that they could not accommodate his wishes and that he would only be placed in schools of their choosing. Foster left being told he would not be a good fit and was basically turned away.

Sitting on a nearby bench outside of the interview location, a random man approached him. He asked if Foster was there looking for a teaching job. As fate would have it, the man asking turned out to be the principal of Hollenbeck Middle School, a school in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of East LA.

After a conversation with him, Foster was quickly offered a teaching job on the spot, and he would then remain on the faculty there for the next seven years.

During his time at Hollenbeck, Foster's teaching career expanded into roles as a department chair, union chair and chair of the gifted program with the school. He later took an offer from writer and Loyola Marymount University literature professor Ruben Martinez to be a liaison for a new afterschool writing program.

This was a busy time for Foster as a writer, teacher and as a chair in multiple areas; he also was a new father. He recalls juggling his full-time work with book writing and shuffling his kids to and from soccer practice. But despite all the obligations and packed schedule, Foster helped the new afterschool poetry club thrive and expand.

"I saw that poetry could change kids' lives," Foster said. His largely fixed, local-bound students in Boyle Heights grew up not having the means to do much outside of their neighborhood. Most of the students' parents were limited by not having the money or time to take their kids places or expose them to the arts. But soon, the poetry club Foster and Martinez started got the students invitations for public poetry readings on KPFK radio, at the local mariachi festival and even caught the eye of Spanish-language newspaper *La Opinion*, who interviewed them.

Through the years, many kids who participated in the program ended up receiving scholarships for summer performance programs at California State University, Los Angeles, and CalArts. Some even landed summer internships at the University of California, Los Angeles. With Foster's dedication and leadership, the program both opened up doors and also gave the children confidence as individuals. They learned to write and perform their poetry, which gave them the valuable experience of public speaking at a young age.

Foster taught at Hollenbeck Middle School from 1985-92 before taking a break to earn his MFA in degree in fiction writing at the University of Iowa. After completing his degree, Foster returned to teaching, this time at Francisco Bravo Medical Magnet High School in Lincoln Heights. He remained on the east side, teaching there until his retirement this year.

Having had a teaching career that spanned more than 30 years, Foster has seen a huge change in the accessibility to diverse stories. When he first began teaching, Foster recalls there was little to no Asian or Chicano literature in classrooms.

Most diversity in writing in the 1980s and prior to that came from African American writers from the East Coast. There was "no cultural representation in literature that was directly related to students in East LA," stated Foster. This disparity propelled him into action.

"As a teacher, that was part of my intention . . . to directly relate to students." And relate to them he did. Foster's careers in teaching and writing both reflect that direct intention to create change by increasing diversity in storytelling.

Foster credits female writers such as Maxine Hong Kingston and Sandra Cisneros for paving the way for creatives like him.

"These women writers of the late '70s and early '80s really broke open representation across the board for all of us on the West Coast in an unexpected way," he explained.

He went on to say it never seemed possible growing up until he saw it happen with them. But the writers that most inspired him were those who "went against the grain and chose smaller publishers," he said.

Among his favorites were the beat writers from City Lights, cross-cultural writers such as Alan Ginsberg, Gary Snyder and Kenneth Rexroth, as well as local names such as Luis J. Rodriguez, Wanda Coleman from South Central Los Angeles and Charles Bukowski from Hollywood.

Foster also enjoyed LA writers who were able to represent their communities. He liked the idea that many of these writers showed what could be done locally without needing to be published by the large New York publishing houses. They paved their own road without needing the big publishers in tow to find success. Foster purposefully followed that route, printing with publishers like Kaya Press and, most recently, City Lights.

Now retired from teaching, Foster has not slowed down one bit. Foster, who has a wife and three adult daughters, spends his time now writing novels and giving collegiate talks. His most recent speaking engagement was during the pandemic, where he spoke to grad students and professors from the University of Texas at San Antonio virtually via Zoom.

Foster also uses his voice as an activist, most recently protesting for immigrant rights and against the conduct at the ICE detention centers. This was inspired by both his experience with his local community as well as events in his own family.

Foster's exposure to the Chicano movement "articulated ways to be politically active" artistically. Seeing murals donning City Terrace walls from groups like Asco, a Chicano artist collective, taught him that the arts could be a means to voice community concerns in a very public way.

In Foster's latest works, he does something different than just documenting the eastside — his novels recently are more "fantastic." However, though they are a bit fantasy in style, there are "no swords and no princesses or dragons," he joked.

His use of fantasy in his recent novels is his way to "try to engage imagination in ways journalism and documentation does not."

Foster's forthcoming novel, "ELADATL: A History of the East Los Angeles Dirigible Air Transport Lines," experimentally creates a plot that is both fictional and factual, as well as incorporates photography and art to illustrate it.

Purposefully vague, Foster sought to tell the story of researchers investigating the history of a company that found its home in East LA and its impact on the community.

"It bears on gentrification in the sense that there are always these economic forces being brought to bear on vulnerable people on the Eastside in particular, and then those people are often displaced," said Foster.

Preying on marginalized communities is an unfortunate trend his work highlights. Foster mentioned that many people might remember or know of the Battle of the Chavez Ravine in the 1950s when Dodger Stadium was built and the controversy surrounding that acquisition. Or equally as upsetting is the history of how and where most LA freeways were created — by plowing through entire East LA neighborhoods. These tragic events are something that has impacted the culture of the area and the lives of those who have lived and currently live there.

Something new to his latest book is Foster's collaboration with local Lincoln Heights artist Arturo Romo. In "ELADATL," Romo doctors historical photos to create mysterious illustrations that help the reader imagine the tale as a plausible history.

The nondescript timeline and facts of the story allow readers to envision that these themes and happenings are a part of a cycle that not only exist in the past but also are currently plaguing our communities now.

For Foster, it is important that we know about and share the stories of "displacement, erasure, denial of community and denial of historical experience," he said. He stated that these unfortunate events are "unspoken yet continuous."

Thanks to creatives like Foster, we all can imagine local histories a bit clearer and hear the voices of the unheard. Foster continues to inspire us with his amazing passion for creativity and his heartfelt dedication to his community of East Los Angeles. So now, when someone mentions East LA, we hope you might now think of poetry, literature and art first.

Sesshu Foster's latest novel, "ELADATL: A History of the East Los Angeles Dirigible Air Transport Lines," will be released in April 2021 by City Lights. Visit http://www.citylights.com for more information.

New Book Revisits Bygone

Sansei Dance Music Scene

Harry Manaka's 'Chronicles of a Sansei Rocker' hits rewind.

By George Toshio Johnston,
Senior Editor, Digital & Social Media

PHOTOS : COURTESY OF HARRY MANAKA



Somethin' Else consisted of *(clockwise from top left)* Hammond B3 player Harry Manaka, drummer Nick Urrutia, vocalist Royce Jones, guitarist David Jingu and bassist Bob Flores.

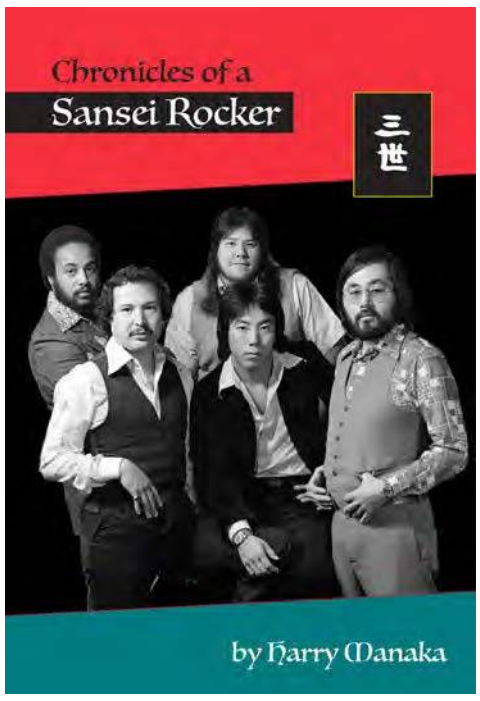
'Get back,
Get back,
Get back,
Get back to where you once belonged'

If you do not recognize those lyrics from the Beatles' "Get Back," then you're probably neither a Baby Boomer nor a Beatles fan.

But if, upon reading those words, that song started playing in your mental jukebox and you were a young Japanese American who grew up in and around Los Angeles during the 1960s and '70s, then you are likely in the target demo for a new self-published book documenting the "Sansei dance party circuit."

Even if you don't fit that profile, "Chronicles of a Sansei Rocker," written by Monterey, Calif.-born and Long Beach, Calif.-raised Harry Manaka, is a window into the time when it seemed like every neighborhood from coast to coast had its own resident rock bands that tried to attract the opposite sex and maybe make a few bucks playing gigs as they tried to emulate the pop music of the British Invasion, American rock 'n' roll acts and, of course, Motown.

In a sense, "Chronicles" is Manaka's



"Chronicles of a Sansei Rocker" is Harry Manaka's book on the Sansei dance band era of the 1960s and '70s and his part in it as a member of Somethin' Else. Manaka is on the right.

way to "get back" to the time and place where he once belonged, when his band, Somethin' Else, was among the many music acts not just in Los Angeles in general but within the area's Japanese American and Asian American cohort.

Now 73 and 11 years into retirement following 30 years of government service, Manaka was inspired to preserve his recollections of that time for this children and grandchildren — and, as has turned out, hundreds of others who learned of his book through word of mouth and social media. Turning those memories into a book got an unexpected boost from the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown.

"As horrible as it's been, it has kind of been an opportunity, disguised as a tragedy," Manaka said, referring to how the "safer-at-home" health protocols were the fillip needed to get him started on turning those reminiscences into words and then, with photos, into a book. "I thought, 'If not now, when?' and started jotting down some thoughts and memories from my younger days."

While Manaka was the one driven to turn those thoughts into a book, he did, to paraphrase (and again refer to) the Beatles, "get a little help from his friends": Mary Uyematsu Gao, who produced the "Chronicles" cover for Manaka and whose own book "Rockin' the Boat" *(see Pacific Citizen, Oct. 9, 2020)* photographically documented the same era, albeit with a different focus; Candice Ota, who designed and copy-edited "Chronicles"; "Buddhahead Trilogy" author Nick Nagatani for his guidance on self-publishing a book; and author Jamie Ford ("Hotel at the Corner of Bitter and Sweet") for his advice.

Manaka said his real inspiration for writing "Chronicles," however, came from his late uncle, Royal Louis "Louie" Manaka, a Nisei who during World War II served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and died in December 2019.

It was at Louie Manaka's celebration of life, which drew more than 500 people, that Harry Manaka related a story told to him by his uncle. While on leave and in uniform, he went to visit his family while they were incarcerated at Arizona's Poston War Relocation Authority Center.

"On the way there, he stopped in Parker, Ariz., to get a haircut," Manaka said. "He was told, 'We don't cut Jap hair here.'" Painful as it was, that was not an experience unique to Manaka's uncle. But the incident did spark something in Harry, who thought to himself, "I sure would like to write some sort of tribute to Uncle Louie."

"That's how it started out. Then I thought, 'I don't know anything about that. But I do know about playing in bands and all that,'" he laughed.

Manaka credited Uncle Louie — and the Nisei in general — for that inspiration.

"The Sansei, we stand tall because we stand on the shoulders of the Nisei," Manaka said of the sacrifices made by that generation.

Reelin' in the Years

The eldest among the three sons and one daughter of the late Harry Manaka and Hanako (Nishida) Manaka (who is still thriving at 96), the younger Harry Manaka (referred to as "Junior" by his first piano teacher, Sue Joe Okabe) recalls beginning formal lessons around the third grade.

"I enjoyed playing, not necessarily for the music that was being taught to me. I used to like to try to bang out some of the rock 'n' roll tunes on the piano, even though I wasn't being taught that sort of music. I was being taught classical music," Manaka said.

That attraction to pop, rock and soul music would lead to him a clash (which he relates in "Chronicles") with Okabe, who, Manaka said, was "pretty renowned in the Japanese American community." (Okabe died in 2002.)

Although Okabe sang jazz in addition to teaching piano, she wanted Manaka to stick with classical music. She told him he had the talent and skills to become a classical pianist — but the rock bug had bitten Junior, who one could say now had the rockin' pneumonia and the boogie woogie flu.

"My mother, from across the street, would sometimes hear us yelling at each other, at the top of our lungs," Manaka laughed. "Finally, one day she says, 'Junior, you and I have come to a parting of the ways,' and she sent me off to study under this piano teacher named Juan Donaldo Hernandez. He was a very famous classical pianist. But I continued to rebel."

Like so many in his age range, Junior wanted to play rock. And he would as a keyboard player, first playing a Farfisa Combo Compact organ and later, as he relates in the book, his instrument of choice: the larger and heavier Hammond B3 organ.

Within a few years, Manaka would become a player in more than one of the many bands that served the Sansei dance party scene — and as much as "Chronicles of a Sansei Rocker" is a memoir of his days, it is also his recollections of the local L.A. bands (and venues) that influenced him, from Hispanic bands of the early 1960s to the bands comprised of Sansei and other Asian Americans that formed soon after.

Strike Up the Bands

In that regard, Manaka's book may be the only one to list the names and members of groups such as Thee Chozen Few, Thee Essences (lots of bands using "Thee," he notes) the Prophets, Carry On, Free Flight, Brown Rice, Long Time Comin', Beaudry Express, the New Trend, Winfield Summit, Flashback, Small Fry and Fresh Air, but also some that only get name checks. (Benjo Blues Band, anyone?)

"Honestly, I do not know enough about these groups to be able to relate any background," Manaka writes in the book. (Maybe "Chronicles" will inspire someone from one of those other bands to commit their recollections to the printed page.)

And, while Manaka clearly stated that the recollections are his, he did try to reach out to those he was able to, to corroborate — or not — some of those thoughts or get another perspective.

Were there rivalries between his band, Somethin' Else, and the others?

"I always felt that there wasn't a rivalry. My phrase used to always be 'the rising tide lifts all boats.' I thought we all made each other better," Manaka said. "But in talking to people, they said some of the other band members were kind of jealous of our group because we always got to play last.

"We were always, I think, vying to be the featured band and talking to several of them (members of other bands), I thought, 'Did that create any animosity?' Most of them said it didn't create any animosity toward me," he continued. "It was just that they wanted the chance to play in the featured spot sometimes. I guess I didn't realize that at the time."

In his defense, Manaka noted that he didn't pick who got to play last, but that it was the people who hired the different acts who made those decisions.

But no book about bands of this era with Sansei members would be complete with mentioning Hiroshima, which merits its own chapter.

Hiroshima landed a recording contract with the Arista label and crossed over to multiethnic jazz fusion fans

and found success that continues to this day. Casual Hiroshima fans will no doubt find Manaka's recollections of that band's early days and its leader, Dan Kuramoto, of interest — perhaps serving as an inspiration for someone to write a book just about that band.

Can't Forget the Motor City

While some of the aforementioned bands no doubt tried making original music, it was the live covers of the era's hits that drew the Sansei audiences — and they wanted to hear soul and R&B, especially Motown. For Manaka, that was fine because he loved that music, as did his Sansei peers. But why?

"My theory is that a lot of Japanese Americans went to school with a diverse set of friends. I went to Long Beach Poly, and it was the only integrated high school in Long Beach," said Manaka, noting that the city's other high schools had no minority students. "I grew up with Black kids and Hispanic kids. I feel fortunate that that was the case because I was exposed to different kinds of music.

"I know that people who went to places like Dorsey and Washington and L.A. High School all grew up with Black kids, too," he continued. "I'm not saying that that in and of itself created harmony or didn't cause prejudice or anything because obviously it did. But at least it gave us exposure to other ethnic groups and for me, other music, and that's how I came to like the Motown music."

Manaka says he loved Smokey Robinson, the Temptations and the Four Tops — but due to his love of the sound of the Hammond B3, he grew to admire the Rascals, aka the Young Rascals, because of Felix Cavaliere and his B3 playing.

For Manaka, the Hammond B3 was the instrument for him. "It wasn't a toy. It was definitely for serious musicians. I had to have that sound," he said. To get that sound, he had to come up with $2,500, which at the time was a small fortune. But it was for a good reason.

"Our band was noted for playing all the Rascals music, exactly as they played it. That was intentional," Manaka said. To do that, he said he and his bandmates slowed the records down so they could re-create the sounds and the harmonies note for note. "We wouldn't do a new song until we had the intricacies of that particular song down pat."

Somethin' Else All Right

In addition to Manaka on keyboards, the most memorable version of that band, Somethin' Else, comprised of bassist Bobby Flores, drummer Nick Urrutia, vocalist Royce "The Voice" Jones and on lead guitar, David Jingu.

In Jones, the band had a versatile singer whose ability to sing anything in any key meant they didn't need to rearrange the hits to fit his range.

"He could do anything," Manaka said. "He was a unique talent. I could see that from the moment I met him."

In Jingu, they had a talent who was, as far as Manaka is concerned, the "premier lead guitarist of our era." For Manaka, Jingu was also a dear friend and future business partner.

A newly married Manaka and Jingu would not only play together in a band, in 1974, they became owners of a venue that allowed them to also have a steady gig, a place known as the Baby Lion, a bar and grill owned by Shoko and Dave Kanada near the USC campus with a diverse clientele that included Internal Revenue Service employees who were regulars.

Manaka relates how that came about after the demise of another band, Long Time Comin', which had a successful but exhausting stint as the featured act in a Japanese nightclub in Tokyo.



Flanked by Royce Jones and Harry Manaka is David Jingu, who was killed at the Baby Lion trying to break up a fight.

With Manaka and Jingu playing together in a new incarnation of Somethin' Else, they had a regular gig as the Baby Lion's house band — and it became the go-to place for live music. When the Kanadas decided to sell and after the new prospective owners changed their minds, Jingu and Manaka stepped up and became the new owners — and it would be an education in how to run a business in the "real world" — again, with a little help from friends and Harry's wife, Chris, who became adept at mixing drinks, despite being a teetotaler.

The Music Stops

Sadly, tragically, that era of Manaka's life was actually a coda for his musical career and time operating a nightclub. Chris and Harry were getting burned out being in the restaurant and bar business. They reached an agreement with Jingu, who agreed to buy out their interest in the Baby Lion so that they could transition out of that business. "I think my parents thought, 'Well, he's going to grow out of it and get a real job one of these days,'" he said.

That was accelerated unexpectedly by an incident that happened on Dec. 16, 1978.

On that date, Jingu was murdered.

It happened as he attempted to break up an altercation between one of the Baby Lion's regular customers and a young man who was armed with a .357 magnum. Manaka was not there that night and still wonders if it would have turned out differently had he been there.

"I've beaten myself up over the years over that whole thing," Manaka said. Maybe Manaka would have been killed that night. Or, maybe, since Manaka was known for being a diplomat and a peacemaker, he might have defused the incident. No one will ever know.

For Manaka, though, it was the day the music died. To say Jingu's devastating end took the wind out of Manaka's musical sails would be an understatement.

"I thought I would never play again," he said. "How can I play if David will never be able to play again?"

The Baby Lion would, however, impart one gift that would alter the course of Manaka's life. Thanks to that large IRS clientele, he learned of employment opportunities there. "I fell into the IRS very serendipitously," Manaka said. It truly was time for somethin' else.

Manaka applied for and landed a job with the IRS, and he worked there for 30 years. He went from being a music man to, alluding to the Beatles yet again, becoming the "Taxman." The economics degree from UCLA didn't hurt.

"I was one of the fortunate people to be able to compete and rise to what they call the senior executive service," Manaka said. As such, he and Chris (and their family to be) would move about to different regions, including Washington, D.C., St. Louis and Honolulu. While in St. Louis in 1994, he became the assistant director.

"It was the first time they had had any minority in the position of being the executive or of having power over them," he said. "I was like a novelty back there."

For Gerald Ishibashi, who wrote the foreword for "Chronicles of a Sansei Rocker" and was himself in a band (Stonebridge) and continues to work in music as a concert promoter, the significance of his best friend's book is that it transmits a cumulative experience for the Sansei.

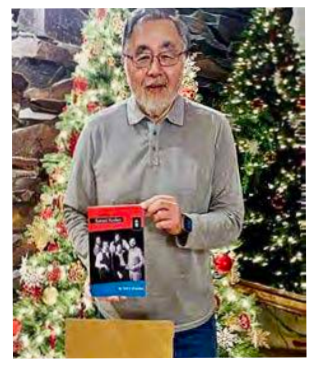
"Every generation has its moment," Ishibashi said. "For the Nisei, it was camp. It was there come-together moment." Good or not, camp, was the experience common touchpoint for the Nisei.

"For the Sansei, especially in L.A., the common experience was those entertainment events, whatever the venue was. Some of them were in sororities, some of them were in fraternities, some went to UCLA, some went to USC, some played softball, some played basketball, some were bowlers. But the one common experience that Sansei in the L.A. basin had was going to those events."

Indeed. Manaka said the first pressing of the book was 750 copies and that every day more orders come in, just from people who "heard it through the grapevine" that he had written this book — and every night he's packaging more to take to the post office. Now he's thinking about ordering more books to meet the demand.

If only there were recordings of Somethin' Else to sell, too. Other than a jingle that was recorded for radio, Manaka knows of no recordings of which he is a part. It was a different time. No one had digital field recorders or iPhones to capture video and sound. Today's tastes have changed. Now, not every neighborhood has its own band, since venues have disappeared since live bands have been supplanted by DJs, pop radio by digital playback and streaming.

It's all just memories now — and those memories are kicking in hard, now that so many Sansei have reached retirement age. Manaka shared some excerpts of emails he's received since the book came out.



In time for Christmas is Manaka's document of the Sansei dance party circuit and his role in that scene in his self-published "Chronicles of a Sansei Rocker."

- *I received your package, unwrapped your book, cried when I saw the cover and sat down to read*
- *I did not put your book down until I finished. I loved your book, Harry. It reads like you just sat down to tell me your story.*
- *I'm kind of speechless and overwhelmed right now. Those of us who grew up in that era will love your book! I did. …I've never read a book from cover to cover in one sitting until now.*
- *Loved the book Harry. So much detail! Sad re: David though. I never knew the whole story. What a tragedy. I'm going to read it again this weekend just in case I missed anything.*

From his home in Sammamish, Wash., Manaka is thoughtful, knowing he's touched a nerve with his peers.

"The Japanese American community has been so good to me. I would like to, if I am so presumptuous to think that there are going to be proceeds from everything I'm doing, donate it back to either a nonprofit or a charity that is in line or suitable with what I'm planning."

The Beatles had another Baby Boomer classic: "When I'm 64." Manaka is nearly a decade past that mark, and for him, age brings perspective.

"To me, this is the best time of my life," he reflected. "I'm having more fun now, especially that I'm reconnecting with so many people from my younger days."



Although his days as a working musician are long past, Harry Manaka still plays the piano when the mood strikes.

Will Manaka and some of these bands make a comeback? Could a reunion for some of these bands be in the works? Will they get back to where they once belonged?

Said Manaka: "We've started to create this new circle of people that I knew back in the day, and they are so enthusiastic about keeping it up. I would love to keep it up."

"Chronicles of a Sansei Rocker" is for sale at SanseiRocker.com at $20 per copy, which includes shipping within the U.S.

HEART MOUNTAIN WYOMING FOUNDATION **ANNOUNCES MINETA SIMPSON INSTITUTE**

The new center will be built in honor of the two lifelong friends to memorialize their years of dedicated political service.

PHOTOS: JULIE ABO



Sec. Norman Mineta recalls when then-President George W. Bush looked at him during a high-level meeting after 9/11 and said that the U.S. wouldn't do to Middle Easterners what happened to Norm.



Panelists share a moment before the "Setsuko's Secret: Friendships Forged in Times of Trial" event, which was hosted by JACL National and held virtually on Dec. 5. Pictured top row *(from left)* are Sec. Norman Mineta, Julie Abo, Sen. Alan Simpson, *(middle row, from left)* JACL Norman Y. Mineta Fellow Cheyenne Cheng, moderator David Ono, *(bottom row, from left)* JACL's David Inoue, Minister Ken Mukai and HMWF's Shirley Ann Higuchi.

By Ray Locker, Contributor

Inspired by the example set by Sec. Norman Mineta and Sen. Alan Simpson, the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation has announced it will build a new center in their honor at its site near Cody, Wyo.

Shirley Ann Higuchi, the foundation's board chair, announced the plan in an online forum on Dec. 5 that was held by the Japanese American Citizens League.

"We're hoping to inspire the community by the work we've done at Heart Mountain" and the examples set by Mineta and Simpson, Higuchi said.

Mineta and Simpson joined Higuchi in the event to discuss her new book, "Setsuko's Secret: Heart Mountain and Legacy of the Japanese American Incarceration."

The two men met as Boy Scouts in 1943 during a jamboree behind the barbed-wire fencing at the Japanese American camp in Heart Mountain, where Mineta was incarcerated as a child with his family. They stayed in touch with each other over the years and reunited when both were elected to Congress in the 1970s.

Higuchi's parents – Setsuko and William Higuchi – met in seventh grade in the camp school.

"Setsuko's Secret" is Higuchi's account of discovering her mother's deep attachment to Heart Mountain and the history of the Japanese American experience, particularly the wartime incarceration.

"This is a beautiful book, and it's a beautiful story," Simpson said about "Setsuko's Secret." "But it's important that we remember it didn't start today. It started 79 years ago."

Lifetimes of Cooperation

Higuchi said the foundation wants to memorialize the work done by Simpson and Mineta during their political careers. Both men have exemplified the principle that people can disagree without being disagreeable and still help solve many problems facing the country.

When completed, the Mineta Simpson Institute will host events to help bridge political differences and educate people about the Japanese American incarceration and its relevance today. The institute will also generate online programming, books, videos and audio podcasts as well as develop educational exchanges that will spread its message to national and international audiences.

"We don't see as much collaboration across the aisle for our country," Higuchi said.

Mineta and Simpson spoke about their collaboration in Congress to pass the 1988 Civil Liberties Act that apologized for the Japanese American incarceration and paid each surviving incarceree $20,000.

Simpson said he had to tell his fellow Republicans that what happened to Japanese Americans during World War II was the result of racism. The United States was at war with Germany and Italy, but Germans and Italians weren't treated the same way as were the Japanese Americans, two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens.

Mineta said he was struck in 1942 by the reference to Japanese Americans as "nonaliens." "I'm not a nonalien, I'm a citizen," he said. "To this day, I cherish the word *citizen* because our own government wouldn't call . . . us citizens."

After serving 20 years as a Democrat from California in the U.S. House of Representatives, Mineta returned to government to serve in the cabinets of Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, a Democrat and a Republican, respectively.

He was Transportation Secretary on Sept. 11, 2001, when Islamic terrorists hijacked and crashed four airliners in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.

After the 9/11 attacks, Mineta was with Bush when the president resisted steps to crack down on Muslims in the United States. Bush said he wouldn't do to Muslims what happened to Mineta and other Japanese Americans during WWII."

You could have knocked me off my Cabinet chair with a feather when the president said that," Mineta said.

Childhood History

Mineta and Simpson appear throughout "Setsuko's Secret." Mineta grew up in San Jose, Calif., where Higuchi's father and grandparents lived before and after the war.

Simpson lived in Cody, Wyo., just 14 miles down the road from Heart Mountain. When he first saw the camp with barbed wire, guard towers and machine guns pointed inside, Simpson concluded that the people imprisoned there must be trouble.

He soon learned otherwise.

Simpson's father, Milward Simpson, was a frequent visitor to the camp. Higuchi wrote about a meeting Milward Simpson had at Heart Mountain with the Japanese American veterans of World War I, who were imprisoned there.

Much of the book focuses on the effects of the incarceration on the young people who were imprisoned at Heart Mountain and the nine other camps run by the War Relocation Authority. Many incarcerees glossed over that part of their lives, which masked the deeper multigenerational trauma created by their imprisonment.

It was at the 2005 dedication of a walking tour in her mother's name at Heart Mountain that Higuchi first met Mineta and Simpson, who both added endorsements on the cover of "Setsuko's Secret."

The Dec. 5 event was moderated by David Ono, an Emmy Award-winning journalist and evening anchor for TV news station ABC7 in Los Angeles.

Ono praised Mineta and Simpson and called the book a deeply researched exploration of a dark chapter in American history.

"If you think you know a lot about this chapter, read the book — it will teach you so much more," Ono said.

The event, which attracted viewers from around the country, was sponsored by the JACL, the Japanese American National Museum, U.S.-Japan Council, Tsuru for Solidarity, National Coalition for Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts and the Bar Association of the District of Columbia. ■

» **LEGACY** continued from page **17**

Ironically, the incalculable loss and destruction felt by those in Japan would free those of shared ancestry across the Pacific: The Munemitsus, now joined by Seima, who was reunited with his family in 1944, left the Poston War Relocation Center in September 1945. Tad, working in Colorado, would be reunited with his family after they left Poston.

In the month prior, in August, Tad had signed a lease granting Gonzalo another year to work the farm. With the Munemitsus returning soon, and the Mendezes living in the main house, a curious arrangement was agreed upon. According to the August 1945 lease, Tad requested the following:

"Buildings on the ranch are to be used as dwellings by the lessor [Tad Munemitsu] for the dwelling of his family or any person he designates" without cost or charge of rent. Also, lessee [Gonzalo Mendez] agrees to "furnish the lessor and his family with such work as is available on and around the farm herein leased and to pay the minimum of prevailing wages to each person so employed."

In the last year the Mendez family lived on and worked this land in Westminster, so, too, did the Munemitsus in the first year of their return home. In fact, as the document relates, the Munemitsus worked for Gonzalo until the summer of 1946, likely living in the buildings their own former farmhands lived in. They may not have been living in their house, but they were *home*, and away from the Army barracks they were forced to inhabit for the past few years.

The Legacies of Two Families

The ruling of *Mendez v. Westminster* did not end segregation in public schools in all of California, nor in the country, but it contributed to its end.

Future U.S. Associate Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, then a lawyer representing the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, cited the *Mendez* case as precedent in the landmark 1954 Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board*, which deemed racial segregation unconstitutional across the U.S.

Sylvia Mendez, one of the three Mendez children denied entry into her local Westminster school, to this day carries on her parents' legacy in her advocacy of education for all children and in her retelling of her family's story. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, presented by President Barack Obama, in 2011.

Janice Munemitsu, daughter of Tad Munemitsu, also helps carry on the *Mendez v. Westminster* legacy. She and Sylvia are currently involved in the Mendez Historic Freedom Trail and Monument in Westminster. In collaboration with the Orange County Department of Education and the City of Westminster, this project will highlight the fight for justice for all people of color.

Annie Tang is the coordinator of Special Collections and Archives at the Frank Mt. Pleasant Library of Special Collections and Archives at the Leatherby Libraries of Chapman University. She manages the Munemitsu-Sasaki Family Collection. Special thanks goes out to Janice Munemitsu and former Special Collections and Archives Intern Kathy Morgan, who provided the research regarding the family papers.

San Fernando Valley

Thank you to ALL the first responders and front line workers who continue to work to keep us safe and healthy. We appreciate your dedication and resilience.
~Ikuyo Sakaguchi

Happy Holidays!
~Kiyo, Hailey, Connor Fukumoto and Kase Clark

Because of the Covid-19 Pandemic we miss many of the activities and programs put forth by our dedicated Chapter JACL Board. Our condolences to the families who lost loved ones during this crisis. We wish everyone good health and safe passage through the pandemic.
~Bob & Akiko Moriguchi

Wishing everyone a holiday season filled with peace and good health.
~Linda Tanaka

Reflecting on the current events, we at Buon Gusto are grateful and honored to have hosted your family and friends. We miss your family and wish that everyone within your circle is healthy. Let's take care of our friends and loved one. We look forward to making more memories together at Buon Gusto. Warm regards.
~Emma and the Gang, Buon Gusto Ristorante, Mission Hills

Merry Christmas and best wishes for a happy and healthy Shogatsu!
~ Jason Tani, JT Engineering Associates

Congratulations to Miles Gong, Master of Science Degree, Cal State University, Long Beach. In memory of chapter member, Bob Kobata, who passed away in August of this year.
~Phil and Marion Shigekuni

In Loving Memory of Doreen Kawamoto, Mark Nakamura and Katie Tanijiri.
~The Negoro Family

Wishing you all joy and laughter this Holiday Season!
~Patty Takayama

As our nation grapples with the scourge of the Coronavirus and reckons with deep legacies of inequality, I salute all people who have worked tirelessly to change our society for the better.
~Dr. Jean-Paul deGuzman

Thanking those who are volunteering their time and services during this pandemic and expressing our appreciation for those who are reaching out to help and support others.
~San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

San Fernando Chapter

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San Fernando Valley JACL
Civil Rights • Justice

Skateboard, Surf and Roller Skate into a healthy 2021. Happy Holidays!!
~Valley Skate & Surf

Healthy wishes to all in 2021.
~The Okita Family

We, the staff, employees, and residents of the Nikkei Senior Gardens assisted living facility (NSG) mourn the passing of Dr. Robert Yonemoto on 23 September. Dr. Bob, as he was known to all of us, was a renowned surgeon at the City of Hope hospital. He leaves his wife Tomi of 67 years, three daughters and son, and six grandchildren. He was a regular attendee of the Sunday Nikkei Residents Fellowship worship service at NSG, and enjoyed leading hymns on the harmonica when he was able. Dr. Bob planned and facilitated many programs for the NSG residents. He will be sorely missed. RIP.
~ Tom Ige

Best wishes for a Healthy, Hopeful, Healing 2021!
~Tom Doi & Marcia Mahony

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy New Year! May we find peace and hope in the coming days.
~Hiro and Joyce Nagata

We now know we can be hopeful in 2021!
~Nancy & Yas Gohata

The Aizumi Family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to the frontline medical workers and essential services staff who have courageously continued to show up to do their jobs during these difficult months. Your dedication, kindness, and care have been bright lights of hope in this dark time.
~Tad, Marsha, Stefen, Aiden and Mary Aizumi

The Nikkei Senior Gardens in Pacoima, CA is a wonderful residential facility for seniors. During the pandemic they were proactive early on and have continued to be extremely diligent in keeping the residents safe, happy and entertained. The entire staff is caring, attentive and truly shows their love and respect for the elderly. Thank you NSG!
~ Naomi Suenaka

Our good thoughts and hopes are for our community and world for a healthier and safer situation. Thank you for all the health care workers, 1st Responders and other leaders that are taking such risks and responsibilities. Prayers for those struggling with the disease, depression, and adjusting to this way of life. We are all in this together so please let's work together to improve and get along for everyone's future and benefit.
~ Susan Okumoto DeGracia

Everyone - Enjoy the holidays and have a safe 2021!!
~Richard Fujimoto

Appreciation to Jon Yamaoka, RN BSN Clinical Coordinator at the Ellison John Hospital. In Memory of Rosanne Oda Ching who passed away August 2020. Congratulations to graduate Akemi K. Arzouman, D.M.D., M.S. from the University of Pennsylvania, Periodontics and Dental Implants.
~Al and Mitzi Kushida

Health & Happiness
~Kay and Nancy Oda and Family

Goodbye 2020 and good riddance :)
~Tyson Tanaka, FantasyFootballers.org

We wish the SFV JACL FAMILY a safe and active 2021!
~ The Katsu-Ya Family in Studio City, Northridge, Woodland Hills, and the Izaka-ya by Katsu-ya in Manhattan Beach, West Hollywood, Little Izaka-ya in Sherman Oaks, Kiwami in Studio City and Quick by Katsu-ya in Studio City

Looking forward to dancing in 2021
~Ballroom Dance Class

Thank you to all of the essential workers in health care, schools, food service, and government for your service during this pandemic. We hope the crisis abates soon; until then, you have our gratitude for your selfless work. And our hearts and tears go out to those who have suffered or lost a loved one due to COVID. While it is harder to show our support, we share your pain. May 2021 bring good health, peace, and joy to all.
~Darren, Kristine, Nathan and Abigail Kameya

THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BOARD wishes to thank our donors who made this holiday page possible. We are so grateful to our supporters, members and friends. When it is safe for all, we hope to gather again to share our stories, experiences and laughter. Stay safe and healthy. Happy Holidays!

A Special Thank you to the following 2019 Advertisers and Donors for your support

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SFV Japanese Credit Union • SFV Japanese Language Institute • SFV Meiji Sr. Citizens Club • SFV Taiko
SGV API PFLAG • Sunrise Japanese Foursquare Church • Tuna Canyon Detention Station • Valley Japanese Community Center

Covid-19 and 2020

Nakano, Townsend and Dorio: Following Up on the 'Year of Living Dangerously'

By George Toshio Johnston, Senior Editor, Digital & Social Media

(Editor's Note: In the May 8-21, 2020, issue, the Pacific Citizen *published three articles related to the novel coronavirus.*

One was on Yosh Nakano, a professional poker player who has become an evangelist for the benefits of enhancing the body's natural production of master antioxidant and immune-system booster glutathione, via Cellgevity and MaxOne, proprietary nutritional supplements developed by Dr. Herbert Nagasawa (see tinyurl.com/ycsm5ow5).

Another was on Chuck Townsend of Layton, Utah, who developed Covid-19 and spent several days in March hospitalized in an intensive care unit, on a ventilator (see tinyurl.com/yxwz4xm4).

The other article was about the challenges facing Dr. Gene Uzawa Dorio, a geriatric medicine specialist in Los Angeles County's Santa Clarita Valley, who has a clientele of elderly patients — the group most at-risk of dying of Covid-19 (see tinyurl.com/y2gdrfgv).

The following article is an update about where the United States is at now under the pandemic — and the status quo for Nakano, Townsend and Dorio.)

The Dec. 8 news release from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health was grim. The 2020 tally of confirmed Covid-19 deaths had reached 8,000. And, amid the latest surge of SARS-CoV-2 infections, 3,113 people were in area hospitals as they battled the novel coronavirus.

Statewide, according to the Dec. 9 *Los Angeles Times,* California had 1,421,783 confirmed cases and 20,273 deaths caused by the virus.

Nationwide, according to the Dec. 9 *Washington Post,* the count for coronavirus deaths was 287,000, with approximately 15,286,000 reported cases. The figures for November counted more than 1,500 Covid-19 deaths per day. In December, a new record was set: more than 3,000 Covid-19-related deaths in a single day.

To describe the effects of the virus on America's people, economy, education system, health-care system and quotidian way of life, the word disaster is highly apropos — and grossly inadequate. It has affected everyone directly or indirectly, whether it was a hospital stay or death in the family, a lost job and/or home or, for the more fortunate, the inconvenience caused by the cancellation of myriad events planned months in advance.

Although there were some who contracted the virus and were asymptomatic, for those who contracted it and fell ill, some required hospitalization — and for some in that group, that meant being placed for several days in quarantined intensive care units while undergoing the unpleasant experience of being hooked up to machines that forced air into damaged lungs.

Some of those patients lived and recovered, thanks in part to doctors and nurses who learned from the early days of the outbreak the best methods of treatment, whether it was administering the steroid dexamethasone to aid in recovery or placing patients on their bellies instead of on their backs.

Nevertheless, many, too many, died. Some of those people had underlying conditions, like diabetes, that hurt their chances for survival. Some were overweight, another strike against them. More men died than women. The majority with "negative outcomes" were elderly.

Then there were the "long haulers": those who fell ill and recovered, only to continue to have almost inexplicable long-term aftereffects, such as extreme fatigue, brain fog, fevers, the loss of sense of smell and taste, a lingering cough, joint pain and body aches.

Whether the long haulers grappling with those conditions weeks and months after beating Covid-19 only to deal with those sometimes-debilitating conditions will someday recover fully is unknown, as is why they suffer so.

Also concerning was — is? — the spike in incidents of anti-Asian violence. The dearth of leadership in the federal government's executive branch to speak out forcefully against such anti-social behavior was just one of many "failures of political leadership" (Where have we heard that phrase before?), including urging effective preventative measures such as physical distancing and mask-wearing, concealing and downplaying the highly contagious nature of the airborne bug or setting examples by curtailing large gatherings.

The pandemic has been like the draught that exposed beneath a lake a ghost town of crumbled social and physical infrastructure and political fissures once hidden by placid waters, cognitive dissonance, irrational defiance and magical thinking.

Now, in late 2020, the United States is facing a surge of cases, especially in parts of the country that did not experience the early wave of the virus' spread. Experts say holiday gatherings and cold weather that drives people indoors will exacerbate an already dire status quo.

There are also, however, hopeful signs. Vaccines developed amazingly quickly from Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca with success rates of more than 90 percent have been or will be approved, with another vaccine on the way from Johnson & Johnson that supposedly does not require extreme cold or multiple inoculations.

If these vaccines actually work as hoped, a year from today might see the worst of the pandemic as being months in the past, though with a years-long recovery necessary. That means a Herculean national effort to distribute vaccines to millions over the coming months. Short-term, the mantras of "mask up" and "hunker in your bunker" are still the order of the day.

It's also an opportunity to re-evaluate and reset the "business as usual" mentality, address and repair those fissures and rotting structures — and prepare for the next pandemic.

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As a professional poker player, Yosh Nakano has had to become adept at calculating the probabilities of winning and losing at cards.

He has applied that mindset to his own health. How? By increasing the odds of staying well by bolstering his immune system. You could even say Nakano has literally bet his life on it.

After the *Pacific Citizen's* May 8 article on Nakano and his mission to evangelize the benefits of increasing the body's production of GSH (glutathione) via proprietary dietary supplements, he himself became infected with the novel coronavirus — and he lived to tell the tale.



Yosh Nakano, who has for more than 10 years been an advocate of boosting one's immune system via glutathione enhancement with the dietary supplement Cellgevity, had his beliefs put to the test this past spring when he fell ill with COVID-19.

PHOTO: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON

Back in late May, Nakano believes he contracted the virus by playing in what he called the private home circuit. "Poker games never really shut down," he said, even as restaurants, bars, gyms and nail and hair salons were forced to close or change their business models.

"I'm a diabetic, and 50 percent of all Covid-19 deaths are diabetics," according to Nakano. He's also in his mid-60s and is a male. "But I knew I had Cellgevity on my side."

Cellgevity, along with MaxOne, are dietary supplements that increase the body's ability to naturally produce GSH, which is known as endogenous production. The two products contain RiboCeine, a proprietary molecule developed by Dr. Herbert Nagasawa.

As noted in May, "Nagasawa's research determined that ribose — a simple sugar — combined with cysteine worked the best at helping the body produce GSH." He patented the molecule, which he dubbed RiboCeine, which is " . . . uniquely able to deliver cysteine into the body's cells, which then allow the effective production of GSH."

Nakano recalls that it was on Tuesday, May 26, that he began to feel flu-like symptoms: muscle aches and chills. "So, I was thinking, 'Boy, I wonder if this is Covid-19,'" Nakano said. It was the first time he said he had felt ill in the more than 10 years since he began taking Cellgevity on a regular basis. "I just spent the night in bed and woke up the next day fine."

Nevertheless, he realized that he got tired easily, which told him something was wrong. He was tested on the following Thursday — and on Sunday, May 31, he got the results back: positive for Covid-19.

With that result, Nakano decided to self-quarantine for nine more days. During that time, he slept a lot, watched TV, worked on his website — but other than a decreased appetite, he didn't have much in the way of severe symptoms, though food tasted saltier than normal. "The doctors said that was a very unusual symptom," he said.

He was retested and the result came back positive again. "Then I got two calls. First, I got a follow-up from the L.A. County Health Dept. She gave me a number, and I talked to a doctor there, and the doctor said the virus will stay in your system, sometimes for weeks, but you're no longer contagious," Nakano said. "You're getting a positive result because the dead virus can stay in your system.

"Thirty minutes later," he continued, "I got another call, this time from a doctor directly from the L.A. County Health Dept., and he told me the same thing."

That wasn't the only good news for Nakano. With the rapid spread of the virus, he says his side business selling Cellgevity and MaxOne via his website, MagicalGSH.com, has increased significantly. More good news: He got an antibody test and was given the results. "I do have the antibodies," he said.

"Even if your antibodies should dissipate, you still have these Memory B cells in your immune system that will recognize the virus for decades and immediately produce antibodies."

For Nakano, another side benefit is the relief of the stress from worrying about contracting the coronavirus. As for any of the symptoms experienced by the long haulers, he said he is free of any of that, too.

Asked why there has been no news coverage — with the exception of what appeared in the *Pacific Citizen* — regarding the beneficial effects of boosting one's immune system through GSH enhancement, Nakano says the primary problem is that as dietary supplements, Cellgevity and MaxOne do not require FDA approval. For a physician, who has been trained to prescribe drugs

that have been tested and approved, a product like Cellgevity isn't on the radar screen.

One exception Nakano cited is Dr. Douglas Harrington, who is a specialist in pathology and hematology and a proponent of glutathione enhancement. Nakano also cites a PubMed article that appeared in May shortly after his encounter with the coronavirus.

That study, titled "Endogenous Deficiency of Glutathione as the Most Likely Cause of Serious Manifestations and Death in Covid-19 Patients," can be found at at tinyurl.com/y5ulwmqg. For Nakano, who knows he is not a doctor and that FDA compliance limits what he can say about the products he sells, he simply says that Cellgevity and MaxOne are the best products available for endogenous glutathione enhancement, which is vital for enhancing one's immune system — and that it's up to each person to do his or her own research and arrive at his or her own conclusions.

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For Chuck Townsend, the travel aspect of his job as a senior solutions architect for telecommunications systems integrator Tyto Athene is not just back to normal — it's better than it ever was.

Since recovering from Covid-19, which put him into an ICU for almost two weeks in March, not only has his stamina and appetite returned, Townsend says the travel schedule that put him on airplanes nearly every other week has also returned, but with one major difference: airports and airliners have far fewer people. It's not good for air carriers — but for frequent flyers like Townsend, not only is air travel much nicer, but he also has even been upgraded to first class several times.



Chuck Townsend, left, with daughter, Katie, wife, Lori, son, Michael, and his girlfriend, Grace Page. Townsend battled Covid-19 in March, spending nearly two weeks in an ICU. He has since recovered, but has lindering neuropathy in his left hand.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF LORI AND CHARLES TOWNSEND

As for sanitary conditions aboard the jets, Townsend said, "They're spraying the cabins between flights and disinfecting all of the surfaces," noting that the ventilation systems have HEPA filters so that the air quality is " . . . in theory, better than in the airport and in general." Mask-wearing, meantime, is mandatory.

Utah has, however, experienced an uptick in Covid-19 cases since "the pioneer days" of the outbreak that put Townsend into the hospital. His wife, Lori Townsend, said local hospitals have not, fortunately, been overwhelmed like in some parts of the nation. As a nurse, she knows firsthand the real issue: "The issue we're having is not enough ICU nurses," she said.

"The other issue is that once you have a Covid patient in the hospital, it's kind of an automatic three- to four-week stay. They're not in and out. The reason we get short on nurses is that it's not a short stay when there's a Covid patient."

Add to that the fact that even though Lori is a registered nurse, being an ICU nurse takes additional training — and "you can't just grow ICU nurses on a tree," she said. Furthermore, some Covid patients, she noted, need to be put on ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation) machines to oxygenate their blood, and a nurse needs to be certified to operate one. Those machines are also in demand by heart patients.

As for Chuck and Covid-19, which at one point had Lori thinking he was going to die, his recovery has been remarkable — and he hasn't suffered any severe aftereffects that have debilitated some long haulers.

"I still have neuropathy in one and a quarter fingers," Townsend said of his left hand. "My pinkie feels swollen all the time and tingly. It's much harder to use my left hand because it's hard to squeeze my hand tight without it hurting. But it's better than the last time we talked, when I had four fingers — two on my right hand, two on my left hand. I think my right hand is totally recovered, and my left hand is nearly 50 percent better."

He isn't even sure if the neuropathy is Covid-related, since his arms had to be strapped down while he was hospitalized so he wouldn't unconsciously remove his breathing tube — which he strained his body to attempt. "I do remember fighting that ventilator quite a bit," Townsend said.

As for lifestyle changes since recovering, Townsend walks more and takes vitamins C, D and zinc supplements. He has heard from friends with friends who had Covid-19 and are now long haulers. "They were very athletic and young, and they're just falling apart, apparently, in general. I guess I am lucky compared with what I'm hearing from a couple people," he said.



Dr. Gene Uzawa Dorio practices what he preaches by wearing a mask when out in public.

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In the intervening months since he spoke to the *Pacific Citizen*, there have been a few changes for Dr. Gene Uzawa Dorio and his medical practice treating elderly patients in the Santa Clarita Valley.

For example, five of his patients actually contracted the novel coronavirus. Fortunately, all recovered, and only one required hospitalization — and her hospital stay did not involve getting treated in an ICU. "They all have flourished, and they're all alive right now," said Dorio.

From his vantage point, activity within his practice has slowed down, and Dorio is not the only physician in that regard. He says people in general are not visiting doctors for fear of contracting the virus while seated in the waiting room — or even from the physician.

"I do advise them that I have COVID patients, and I have to be careful. Of course, they have to [be careful] also," said Dorio.

One of his concerns: bedridden patients who are not getting visited by anyone.

"No one is going out to see them, other than myself during house calls," said Dorio. "So, I stay in touch with them the best I can."

The reimbursements are not much, he says, and for Medi-Cal patients, there is no reimbursement. "But that's OK. I just call them up and make sure they're doing OK and talk to the family or them. That's my duty," he said.

To help him keep tabs on his patients, Dorio has tried to make sure they have their own blood pressure cuffs and pulse oximeters, so they can check their own readings to share with him.

Something that hasn't changed: wearing the personal protective gear when seeing patients, as well as his mother, Violet, who just celebrated her 99th birthday. An early birthday present came when the Los Angeles Dodgers won the World Series. She was elated when that happened.

"She's doing great," he said. No longer limited to only seeing her via FaceTime, Dorio and one of his brothers, who lives nearby, visit often. For Dorio, he just makes sure that his visits coincide with days when he doesn't see any patients in person.



Gene Dorio's mother, Violet gets regular visits from her son, Gene, and his brother and fellow physician, who both take safety precautions when visiting her.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF GENE DORIO

Over the past six months or so, Dorio says the medical profession has learned how to deal with patients who get COVID-19. In addition to delaying the use of a ventilator until there is no choice, another treatment is "proning" patients (placing them on their bellies). Administering dexamethasone, he says is another treatment, as is using monoclonal antibodies, which he says was given to President Donald Trump and Housing and Urban Development Sec. Ben Carson.

Some of his fellow physicians also speculate that they received convalescent plasma, which contain antibodies for Covid-19. "It's a learning curve," Dorio said. "Less people are dying, but we think that may be an age factor. We don't know."

Asked if there is an answer why he thinks the nation overall is experiencing this third surge in the infection rate — despite everyone presumably having gotten the message to physically distance, avoid social gatherings and wear masks in public, Dorio said, "I think history will give us an answer.

"And, that history will tell us that the leadership of this country degraded the institution of medicine and science. By doing that, it allowed some to be disbelievers, that there was no problem. . . . Some were saying it was a hoax," he continued. "I, of course, refute that. It is not a hoax. Some said that after the election, it would all disappear. Of course, it is now even worse. Leadership played a role."

Come Jan. 20, however, there will be a change of leadership — and Dorio is confident that that, plus the advancement of medical science, gives hope for the future.

"I think you'll probably have to do a follow up in six months or eight months again with us to see where are we at this point in our thought processes because I think it's going to have changed in some way. It's kind of the light at the end of the tunnel now. We were unsure in the very early part of this year, but now we can sense, with the vaccines, a turning of that corner," Dorio said. ■

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USPS ANNOUNCES GO FOR BROKE STAMP FOR 2021

Recognizing the heroic contributions of Japanese American Soldiers of World War II, the stamp is finally approved for national distribution.

The United States Postal Service revealed several new stamps for 2021 on Nov. 17, among them, a Go For Broke stamp that recognizes the vital contributions of Japanese American soldiers, some 33,000 altogether, who served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

The Go For Broke stamp, printed in the intaglio method, depicts a photo of U.S. Army Private First Class Shiroku "Whitey" Yamamoto of Ninole, Hawaii, an image the USPS sourced from the Hawaii Nisei Project's archives. The picture of Yamamoto, who was a member of the 100th/442nd RCT, Antitank Company, was taken in Touet de l'Escarene in Southern France.

Its release culminates more than 15 years of grassroots efforts led by the Stamp Our Story campaign to honor the U.S. Nisei soldiers who went above and beyond to serve their country.

The Stamp Our Story Campaign's founders, Fusa Takahashi, Aiko O. King and Chiz Ohira, were first featured in the *Pacific Citizen* in 2016 (see Jan. 22-Feb. 4, 2016, issue). Takahashi and the late Ohira are widows of Nisei veterans and King is a longtime member of the JACL Ventura chapter.

"Many people don't know the Nisei soldiers' story. The government took away their rights and imprisoned them behind barbed-wire fences, yet without hesitation, they stepped up to serve their country and became one of the most-decorated units in history," Takahashi said in 2016.

The trio started the Nisei World War II Stamp Campaign in 2005 with the help of many JACL members. It began with signed petitions and grew into a nationwide effort; six state resolutions of support were passed in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Illinois, Oregon and Washington, along with assistance by the Japanese American Veterans Assn. Letters of support also came from Congress and from numerous national organizations including JACL and the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

The campaign issued the following statement on its website: "We are forever grateful to all of you who helped over the years, including lawmakers, past and present. We are proud to highlight that this campaign united Republicans and Democrats. Over the years, many organizations have contributed to this effort. We would like to highlight the prominent support from JAVA and JACL at the local and national levels. After the stamp is issued next year, we will continue to work toward educating the public about the American story behind the stamp."

In an email to the *P.C.* from JAVA President Gerald Yamada, he said, "Although I am grateful for the recognition, I feel that I have an obligation to point out a major omission in the USPS' description of the 'Go For Broke' stamp. The description states that the 'Go For Broke' motto represents 'all Japanese American units formed during World War II.' This description would appear to exclude the Japanese American soldiers who served in the Pacific since members of the Military Intelligence Service were not assigned to 'all Japanese American units formed during World War II.' I believe that all Japanese Americans, men and women, who served embraced the 'Go For Broke' spirit. This spirit is part of the Japanese heritage that was instilled in Japanese Americans by the Issei. For this reason . . . I have written to the Postmaster General asking him to revise the USPS description to give equal recognition to all Japanese Americans who served in Europe and the Pacific during WWII. Whether or not the USPS description is revised, all Japanese American soldiers who served during WWII deserve to share in the honor."

The Go For Broke stamp image was created by USPS Art Director Antonio Alcalá, who used the intaglio method, a handmade process of printmaking that has been utilized since the 1600s.

Said the Stamp Our Story campaign on its website, "We send our heartfelt gratitude to U.S. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy and the U.S. Postal Service. This commemorative stamp is the culmination of over 15 years of efforts by the Stamp Our Story campaign founders and the many people who supported the effort. We sincerely appreciate all of you who helped. We are forever grateful."

A release date for the Go For Broke stamp has not yet been set. Other stamps set to be released in 2021 include a stamp commemorating Missouri statehood and one honoring Chien-Shiung Wu, one of the most influential American nuclear physicists of the 20th century. ■



Stamp Our Story led a years-long grassroots effort to honor the Nisei soldiers who fought during WWII.

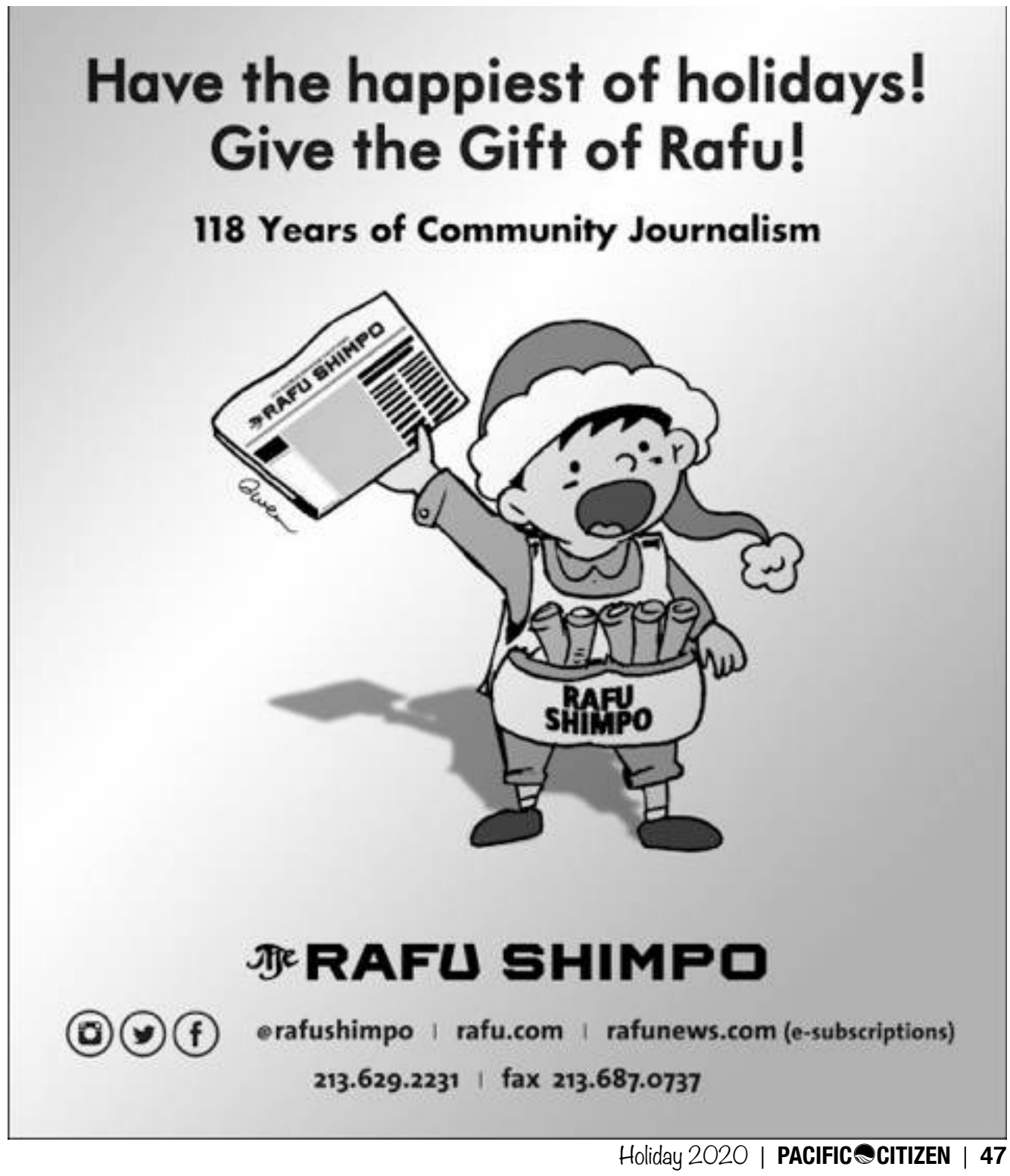
PHOTO: COURTESY OF STAMP OUR STORY

The USPS announced on Nov. 17 that it will release a Go for Broke stamp in 2021.

PHOTO: USPS







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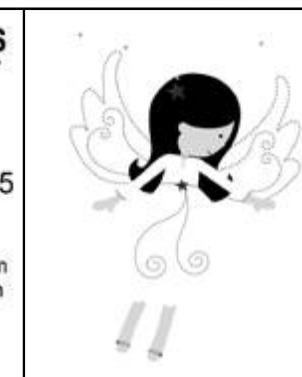
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PHOTOS: GIL ASAKAWA



Fushimi Inari Shrine's torii gates at night



A storefront at Yanaka Ginza in Tokyo



A guard cat for the shrine at Yanaka Ginza

NIKKEI VOICE



Fushimi Inari Shrine in Kyoto



Restaurant serving — surprise — crab in Osaka

A MOMENT IN TIME:

Thinking About Visiting Japan

By Gil Asakawa

During the last week of October, there was a lot on my mind, including Covid-19 and the ongoing pandemic, and, of course, the November U.S. elections. But I also found myself at a moment in time, looking back one year that week to a family trip to Japan and looking forward to next year with the hopes that we'll be able to return.

Longtime readers know I was born in Japan and moved to the U.S. when I was a kid. You also know that I always advocate for Americans — and especially Japanese Americans — to travel to Japan. I'm pretty familiar with the country, and I've traveled to most of Japan from Hokkaido, the northernmost island, to Okinawa, at the southern end. Yet, whenever I go back to Japan, I find new parts of myself to connect with that enrich my sense of identity.

I think back and marvel that my wife, her folks, her brother and his partner and I were in Japan probably while Covid was beginning its terrible, tragic trek around the globe. Given the grim reality of the virus and how it has affected day-to-day life worldwide, it seems almost dreamlike now to think back on the trip.

We flew from Denver International Airport to Narita Airport outside Tokyo on a direct United flight, a Boeing 787 Dreamliner that flies high and fast. The direct flight makes it much easier to go between Colorado and Japan without bouncing around the West Coast and waiting for a connecting flight.

From Narita, we took an express train from the airport to Nippori Station and checked into our hotel just a couple of blocks away. The station is on the Japan Rail (JR) Yamanote Line, a loop of stops that can take you to most of the places in Tokyo that you might want to visit. And because it's a loop, it's OK if you miss a stop because déjà vu — the train will eventually come back.

All of us paid for a seven-day JR pass, which gave us full access to any JR trains, though not the subways and some other privately owned train lines. We could also use it to ride the famous Shinkansen, or Bullet Trains, with a wave of the pass (though getting the free tickets in advance is recommended). Nippori is at the northern part of the Yamanote loop, with the more famous Ueno and Tokyo Stations down to the east and Shibuya and Shinjuku down to the left on the loop.

I'd never explored around Nippori before, but chose it because of the easy access from Narita and a nearby neighborhood called Yanaka Ginza, which is nothing like Tokyo's famous, high-class Ginza shopping district.

Yanaka Ginza is a quiet, narrow shopping street of a few blocks that feels like it hasn't changed since the post-war 1950s, during the Showa Era under Emperor Hirohito. The shops and street food are plentiful and inexpensive, and there's a distinct cat theme to the district. Cats adorn signs, cat statues look down on passersby from atop shop roofs and cats (real ones) seemingly guard the Buddhist temple near the end of the street.

From our hotel, it was an easy ride on the Yamanote train to get to our various destinations. Most notable was a walk through the Asakusa district, where a huge gate with an enormous hanging lamp welcomes visitors into a long shopping arcade that leads to Sensoji, the oldest Buddhist temple in Tokyo. Asakusa and the surrounding neighborhoods feature a heavenly trove of street food.

We met family members who traveled from Kumamoto in southern Japan for a fantastic traditional multicourse dinner. We made the must-see treks to spots like Harajuku, the youth shopping street, and Shibuya, the busiest crosswalk in the world where the famous statue of Hachiko the dog awaits his owner, who died at work in prewar Japan. The famous statue is now a popular selfie and meeting location.

Rain impacted some of our itinerary (no bus trip to Mount Fuji, no boat ride to the new gigantic fish market). We also ran out of time to do some of what we'd planned, before we took the Shinkansen to Kyoto.

If Tokyo is the buzzing brain of Japan, Kyoto is the soulful heart of the country with its many ancient (and intact) temples and shrines. It's gotten harder to feel spiritual with the crowds of tourists jammed into most of the famous spots, but you can still feel the city's cultural anchor.

We stayed away from some of the most-crowded tourist traps, but we ran into plenty of people at the Arashiyama Bamboo Forest. An evening train ride to the Fushimi Inari Shrine with its 1,000 torii gates (no, we didn't walk up the mountainside through all of them) was cool because with the nearby shops closing, the tourists melted away. The torii gates and shrine buildings were lit and peaceful to walk amongst. We also squeezed in side trips to busy Osaka and Nara, a place where deer share space with tourists at the revered shrines and temples. We had great food everywhere, of course.

At 10 days, the trip felt too quick. Immediately upon our return, I longed to go back to Japan. Next time, I wanted to choose places I hadn't visited before, or places that the standard tourist journeys overlooked.

As it happens, amidst the constraints of the pandemic this summer, I was voted to become the chair of the Denver Takayama Sister City Committee (DTSCC). Takayama is Denver's second-oldest sister city — the oldest is Brest, France, and we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Denver-Takayama relationship in July.

One of the main activities of the DTSCC is exchange trips between Colorado and Takayama — both Americans traveling there and Japanese coming here, and both student and adult trips. The student trips typically have homestays, and we provide scholarships for Denver-area students to go. The adult trips are well-planned group tours with the option for folks to add extra days on their own.

We recently held a successful online event for "Bunka No Hi," or Culture Day, and instead of having people in Denver talk about Takayama or Japanese culture, we held it in the evening here (morning in Japan) and had a virtual walking tour of Takayama's historic Old Town district with a tour guide, and then we had a cooking demonstration of local Takayama cuisine.

People loved it, and for me, it whetted not just my appetite for the Hida Beef of Gifu Prefecture, but also the chance to visit Takayama — and other places in Japan that I have spent a lot of time in. Maybe next November . . . .

That's my moment in time — thinking about a year ago and assessing the reality of right now, but looking forward to the future, one filled with hope.

Gil Asakawa is former chair of the Pacific Citizen Editorial Board and author of "Being Japanese American" (Second Edition, Stone Bridge Press, 2015). He blogs at www.nikkeiview.com.



Crowds of tourists at Arashiyama Bamboo Forest in Kyoto



Students and curious deer at Nara Buddhist temple



A view of Mount Fuji from the Shinkansen from Tokyo to Kyoto

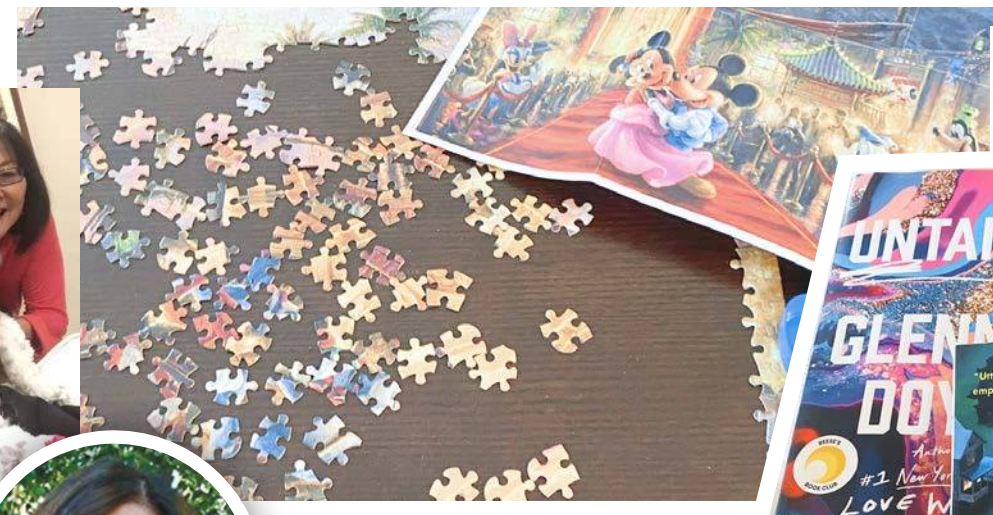

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A Mother's Take

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The Aizumi family, including Mochi and Kuma, in 2018



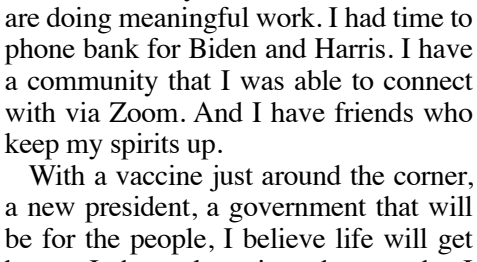
Puzzles kept my brain active as we stayed at home this year.



Connecting during Covid-19 with Aiden and Mary



Three of my favorite books in 2020



Aiden relaxing after a Subaru Zoom webinar

ZOOMING IN

By Marsha Aizumi

This year has brought so many moments to think about: the coronavirus, the election, the protests and not being able to hug those I love. How do you distill the concept of "one moment in time" with a year of moments? I sat in front of my computer looking at a blank piece of paper on my screen, which matched the blankness in my mind.

In this emptiness, I began to replay the year. I saw what changes I have made in the way I think and the things I do. As funny as it seems, being aware of how much toilet paper and paper towels I use has become a conscious decision.

I no longer buy cases of bottled water — I use our tap water most of the time. I appreciate the clean, fresh air, since where I live, we were faced with smoke and ash from the summer wildfires that lasted for days. The fires prevented me from taking long walks, since the air quality was so toxic.

I realized that having to shelter in place focused my attention on cooking meals for my husband and son, reading more books, working on puzzles and taking more naps to nourish my body. My life seemed to slow, and I was able to see more of what I had.

As far as my advocacy, Aiden and I continued to share our story, but now we do so virtually on Zoom. The last four events we have done, we can't see the audience — we can only look into the camera's green light on our computers and share our hearts.

What I know now is that even though we can't see anyone, they can feel us . . . our pain, our joy and our love. Many cried with me when I talked about my shame, sadness and fear. Many felt the years that Aiden suffered alone and tried to find his self-worth, when the world said he was not good enough.

But most of all, what I noticed is that when Aiden says, "Mom," or I speak his name, you can almost touch the love between us. Seeing our children soar just as they are and having them feel our love when we speak their name is one of the most beautiful moments of being a parent.

And speaking of Zoom . . . being part of a virtual platform has also made it possible for us to move closer to people like never before.

This year for the first time, I attended a wedding that was livestreamed. When I logged onto my computer, I wondered how much I would connect with the bride, groom and their families. But when you zoom into people, you can see their faces and the emotion that often you cannot pick up when you are sitting in the church pew or large reception hall so far away.

I was able to see the groom's eyes drop down in sadness and remembrance when the minister talked about his father, who had already passed away. I also saw the sparkle and warmth of love in the groom's eyes as he connected with his mom in the traditional mother and son dance. And I saw the happiness, hope and love of a bride and groom as they spoke their vows. I was not there in person, but I felt every moment as if I was standing right next to them.

I also Zoomed with a new friend that I met recently through my advocacy. His name is Drew Griffin, and he is dying of cancer. Talking to someone who is faced with the end of his life is not a comfortable conversation to have. But somehow, with Drew, you feel at ease.

He talked about returning from a week in Hawaii and how he is writing a book about his last 10 years, many of them faced with cancer. He told me about things he was grateful for and how he wants to spend his remaining time on Earth with people he loves.

I fell in love with Drew, and I told him so. He loved me back. And if he is afraid of dying, I didn't feel it because all I felt from him was the joy that he had another day of life and how that day was not going to be spent with regrets or sadness.

I wish I lived this year like Drew. Some days I did, but then there were other days when fearful thoughts brought an icy feeling running deep within. Could I keep my family safe from a disease that seemed to touch every aspect of our lives?

I lived in fear and often anger because of a president and other leaders who seemed to have lost their morality and humanity. I lived in sadness for all of our marginalized communities who continued to fight for equality, dignity and just to be safe.

I lived in sadness for all the beautiful souls who died from Covid-19. Often fighting off the darkness to find a place of light was exhausting. And not every day was I successful. . . .

But I have been lucky. I have a roof over my head. I have food, a husband who is kind and children who look out for us. I have my Mochi, who needed to be walked, so I went outside most days for fresh air. I have a television to entertain me. I have money to buy books to read. I have the ability to donate to causes that are doing meaningful work. I had time to phone bank for Biden and Harris. I have a community that I was able to connect with via Zoom. And I have friends who keep my spirits up.

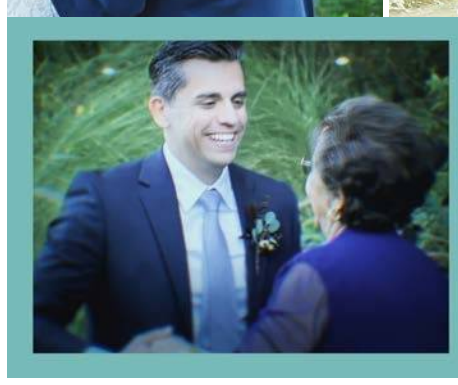
With a vaccine just around the corner, a new president, a government that will be for the people, I believe life will get better. It has taken time, but maybe I needed the time to think about how I am going to do better for my family, my friends, my community and my planet.

So, I realize 2020 has been an entire "moment in time" for me to be grateful and move in closer to what is important. I hope this holiday season you move in closer to those you love and find ways to tell them how important they are to you, even if you can't do it in person.

I hope you move in closer to issues you care about and do something about them. I hope you move closer to yourself and see how beautiful your life is and how beautiful you are. There IS beauty all around us . . . we just have to open our eyes to see it.



A bride and groom begin their new life as we looked on during their livestreamed wedding.



A mother and son virtual wedding dance





Drew in Hawaii *(left)* and with his mom and nephews

Marsha Aizumi is an advocate in the LGBT community and author if the book "Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance."

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REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

2020: A DEFINING TIME

By Ron Mori



No matter our age, none of us will forget this year, as we have all adapted to our new normal. Some of us have even thrived and been able to take pause and reflect on what's important to us. Our new normal is adapting in the face of a global pandemic, with the optimism of several positive vaccines as I write this article. Will we ever go back to normal, or will our new normal be a hybrid of in-person and virtual gatherings? Only time will tell, but there have been positives that have come out this year.

According to the United States Census Bureau, 99.9 percent of Asian households were counted in the 2020 Census. I like to think that this is the start of a movement of civic participation by more Asian American and Pacific Islanders at the local, state and federal level.

Another positive sign is that more AAPIs were elected to public office during recent elections, which is an encouraging statistic along with the active census participation and AAPI participation in our 2020 elections.

According to APIA Vote, there was a 310 percent increase in early AAPI votes cast across the country. If we want our voices heard and to be counted, these are all encouraging signs in the midst of a global pandemic.

This year would have been Bruce Lee's 80th birthday, and he struggled to find success in Hollywood in the 1960s and early '70s. Just saying Bruce Lee makes me think of his groundbreaking role as an actor, director and international superstar who led many people to think of Asians in a different way forever.

In some ways, Bruce Lee opened the American movie theater doors to movies from Asia like "Parasite." A ground-breaking movie thriller from Korea, it was the first Asian film to win the Oscar for Best Picture earlier this year.

It seems so long ago, before our world and country was hit with COVID-19, not by a global parasite, but a global pandemic that is impacting all of us for the second and, for some, a third time. Many of us know front-line responders who are unsung heroes that aren't portrayed as superheroes on the big screen.

AAPIs from all backgrounds and ages have been leading the fight against the pandemic across the country. AARP took great pride in recognizing AAPI front-line heroes this year in a special Facebook campaign that is still so true today. On behalf of AARP, we thank every one of you as you quietly go about your business of protecting and caring for all of us across the country. Visit their stories at *https://bit.ly/AAPIHeroes*.

As we look forward to 2021, I am thankful that we could have several effective vaccines that will be available to all of us and that slowly and cautiously, we could soon go back to our lives of being connected to other people and our communities.

However, there will still be many people that will need our assistance, connection and friendship, especially when many of us have been away from our loved ones. To stay on top of the latest COVID-19 news, get connected to a volunteer and learn about local resources, check out *https://aarpcommunityconnections.org*.

Ron Mori is a member of the Washington, D.C., JACL chapter and manager of community, states and national affairs — multicultural leadership for AARP.



AARP recognized front-line heroes this year in a special Facebook campaign.

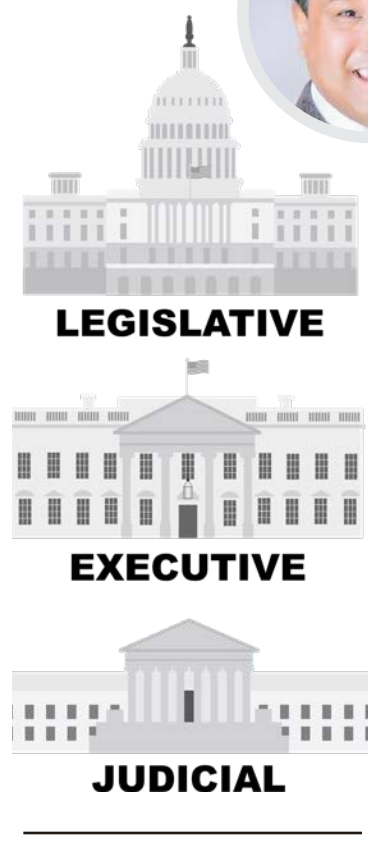
PHOTO: COURTESY OF AARP

LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

THE ELECTION IS OVER — NOW WHAT???

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.





Do you remember learning about our government from your old high school civics class? The Constitution of the United States divides the federal government into three branches to make sure no individual or group will have too much power: Legislative, Executive and Judicial.

In just the past few weeks, we have seen all three branches of our government in action. In late September, President Donald Trump nominated Judge Amy Coney Barrett to become the 115th associate justice on the United States Supreme Court. Next, Democrat Joe Biden won the presidential election that was held on Nov. 3. And finally, a Georgia Senate runoff on Jan. 5 will determine whether the Democrats will control both houses of Congress. "Say what?" The Legislative Branch consists of the House of Representatives and the Senate, which together form the United States Congress. A bill must pass both houses of Congress before it goes to the president for consideration.

The House of Representatives is made up of 435 elected members. The Senate is composed of 100 Senators. The vice president of the U.S. serves as president of the Senate and casts the decisive vote in the event of a tie in the Senate.

That means that even if President-Elect Biden is inaugurated as the 46th president of the United States on Jan. 20, 2021, he might not be able to implement his tax plan.

Why? Although the Democrats currently own a majority in the House of Representatives, the Senate remains unresolved.

So, for the Democrats to effectively change tax policy, they will need both Georgia seats to ensure Biden's tax plans can become reality.

That is why "year-end" planning for Americans will be more challenging than ever in 2020, as we are forced to make year-end financial decisions based on events that will not happen until 2021. If the Republicans retain control of the Senate, i.e., win one or both of the two runoffs, legislative gridlock will likely prevail for another two years.

Estate and gift planning may be less a 2020 year-end priority given the reduced risk of a reduction in the unified credit or an increase in estate and gift tax rates in 2021. However, the increased estate tax lifetime exemption that sunsets in five years presents an extraordinary opportunity to effectively transfer wealth tax free.

The current $11.58 million lifetime gift and estate tax exemption is scheduled to sunset on Dec. 31, 2025. Given this reduction is almost certain to occur, a wealth-transfer plan should be developed now, so that you can permanently take advantage of this higher exemption amount.

Should Democrats win both Senate seats, they would be able to act unilaterally for the first time since 2010, setting the stage for major tax increases on businesses and high-income, high-net worth households. Should this occur and increases are enacted retroactive to Jan. 1, 2021, numerous income acceleration and estate planning gifting strategies should be deployed before year's end.

A recent article posted on *www.cnbc.com* (Oct. 14) stated that "rich kids could get hundreds of billions from their parents if Biden wins." The "ultrawealthy" are taking steps now to create trusts and prepare large transfers so they can drop the money before 2020 ends if they have to.

The savings could be substantial. For example, a couple leaving $20 million to their kids would currently pay no estate tax, since up to $23.2 million is exempt. Biden's tax plan would cut that limit to $7 million and increase the current estate tax rate from 40 percent to 45 percent. If Biden gets his tax plan, the same couple would pay $5.9 million in taxes on a $20 million gift.

Combined with the possibility that the estate tax exemption could be cut in half or more, another significant Biden proposed change is with regard to the "basis step-up" at death. For generations, a hallmark of our estate tax system is that everybody gets a stepped-up basis on death.

Currently, a future capital gains tax upon disposition of an inherited asset is based on its value at the time it is inherited, rather than the time of purchase — referred to as the "basis step-up." This allows families to avoid paying capital gains on appreciated assets that are passed down or given at death.

The Biden plan is unclear as to how this would be implemented, but there are two options. The first is to tax unrealized gains of the decedent. Heirs would get hit at the transfer, regardless of whether they sell the asset. The decedent's estate would pay the tax at death, and presumably the heirs would take the assets at a basis stepped-up to fair market value. Alternatively, the heirs would receive carryover basis at death and would pay capital gains tax on the sale of the asset based on the value at the time of the original investment. Either option would lead to a significantly higher income tax liability for appreciated assets. Regardless of the option chosen, taxpayers should seriously consider a wealth-transfer plan prior to year's end.

Legislation is always unpredictable, and so are the effective dates that new legislation takes effect. So, wealthy families are speeding up their plans to pass down real estate and other assets to their kids before the end of the year in case new law takes effect retroactively from Jan. 1, 2021. Some have called this election a "Rich Kid Windfall." Of course, the "kids" may not receive the money for years, since irrevocable trusts can be structured to delay any payouts. So, if you have an estate worth in excess of several million dollars, try to see a qualified estate planning attorney and CPA as soon as possible — it could be worth several million in savings!!!

Judd Matsunaga is the founding attorney of Elder Law Services of California, a law firm that specializes in Medi-Cal Planning, Estate Planning and Probate. He can be contacted at (310) 348-2995 or judd@elderlawcalifornia.com. The opinions expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Pacific Citizen or constitute legal or tax advice and should not be treated as such.

Downtown LA

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From the Downtown L.A. Chapter





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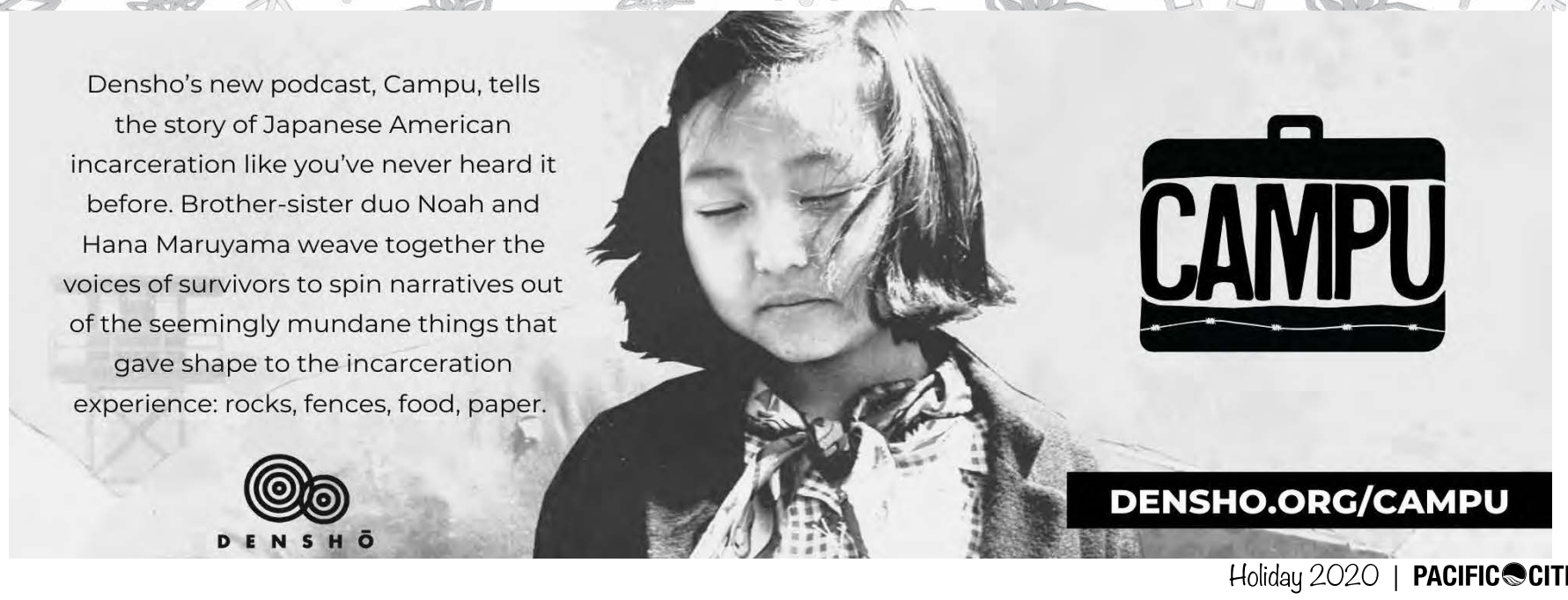
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PHOTOS: COURTESY OF RIA ADACHI



The Bolshoi Ballet Academy in Moscow is one of the oldest and most prestigious schools of ballet in the world. It is the affiliate school of the Bolshoi Ballet.



PHOTO: UNSPLASH.COM



PHOTO: UNSPLASH.COM

A PASSION FOR BALLET

Ria Adachi pursues her dream of becoming a professional dancer at the world-famous Bolshoi Academy in Moscow.

By Rob Buscher, Contributor

Beyond the community setting of the local Bon Odori, dance is not a field that has prominently featured Japanese Americans in the past. However, 18-year-old Ria Adachi is a rare exception, as her passion and talent for classical ballet has led her across the ocean to study at the world-famous Bolshoi Academy in Moscow.



Ria Adachi hopes to pursue a career as a professional ballerina.



Having fun with friends in Russia outside of the Bolshoi Theatre in 2019



Adachi is currently the only Japanese American dancer at the Bolshoi Academy.



Because of Covid-19, Adachi is practicing dance now entirely at home.

Born and raised in Chino Hills, Calif., Adachi is the daughter to a Japanese immigrant mother and Shin-Nisei father, making her a Shin-Sansei. Although there was not much of a Japanese American community where she grew up, Adachi has a close relationship to her Japanese relatives. Her father also made sure to take her to the Gardena Obon and Tanabata festivals so that she would have a knowledge of her culture.

Growing up in the outskirts of Los Angeles, Adachi tried her hand as a child actor before switching to dance.

"When I was about 9 years old, I auditioned for a Target commercial. Unfortunately, I didn't make the cut because they were looking for real ballerinas. I was sad because I wished I was a 'real' ballerina," Adachi remembered.

Shortly after that audition, Adachi's parents enrolled her at the Nouveau Chamber Ballet and Anaheim Ballet. It was Adachi's principal dancer role as the Sugar Plum Fairy in the Nouveau Chamber's 2017 production of the "Nutcracker" that put her on the radar of the Bolshoi and secured Adachi an invitation to participate in its summer intensive program in 2018.



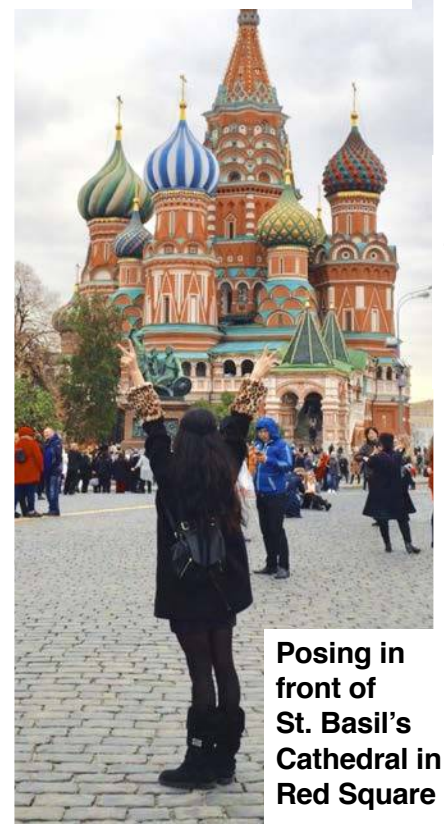
Adachi *(left)* with her friends in Russia at Gorky Park in 2019



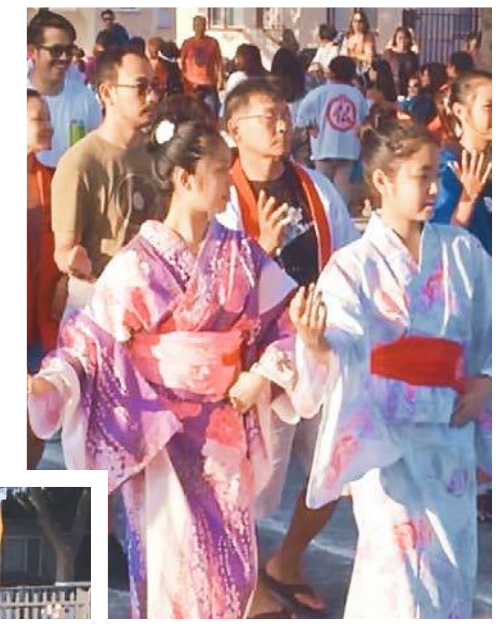
Adachi *(center)* celebrates Thanksgiving 2018, her "American Day," in Russia with friends from all over the world.



Adachi at Moscow's famous Red Square



Posing in front of St. Basil's Cathedral in Red Square





Adachi *(in purple kimono)* performs the traditional Bon Odori dance. These photos of Adachi and her sister, Lina, were taken in 2018, just before she left to pursue her academic year in Russia.

Founded in 1776, the Bolshoi Academy is among the world's oldest ballet companies and is recognized as one of the foremost companies in the world. Among its more than 250-year history, some of the world's premier dancers have emerged from the school, including Olga Lepeshinskaya, Raisa Struchkova, Natalia Bessmertnova and Vladimir Vasiliev and Mikhail Lavronsky.

The Bolshoi Ballet Academy has a long history of artistic collaboration with dance education institutions from around the world, including the U.S. and Japan. Members of its faculty frequently conduct master classes in choreography and dance-related disciplines to further improve dance education outside of Russia.

On Dec. 1, the academy was awarded the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation for its contributions to the promotion of cultural exchange through art between Japan and Russia.

In a statement on its website, the academy said, "The Bolshoi Ballet Academy is proud of its strong artistic connections with Japan. We appreciate the courtesy of the Ministry, as well as the high estimate of our activities."

Adachi explained her unique pathway into the acclaimed and prestigious school.

"You can audition online, but I had a different path. I did a summer intensive with them in 2018 and was there for six weeks. After the intensive ended, I got an invitation to continue on for the full year," Adachi said. "There are people that audition online or come to Russia to try in person, but I didn't have to go through that process. I don't know how many people audition yearly, but there are only a couple in each age group who get in each year. There are probably a hundred new students each year, but that is across all the classes that are separated by age and skill level."

In addition to the competitive audition process to gain entrance into the academy, very few students are allowed to study at the school through the completion of the program.

Adachi explained, "We had an exam at the end of last year to get into the next class. Out of 100 students in my age group, only 12 people were able to pass."

The academy's rigorous six-day-a-week dance instruction includes classes in classical dance, character dance, historical dance, gymnastics, modern dance and acting for dance. The Bolshoi also functions like a secondary boarding school, teaching foundational subjects.

"It is hard because all classes are in Russian, and we have tests at the end of the year determining whether or not we can advance to the next school year," Adachi elaborated.

As an international student, Adachi is currently in her second of four years. Surprisingly, the majority of international students attending the Bolshoi Academy are of Japanese descent.

"I'm one of the few Japanese Americans who have attended the school and the only one in my class," Adachi said. "There was one other student who graduated last year, but I'm the only Japanese American for now. The others are Japanese from Japan."

Thanks to her family's relatively recent immigration history, Adachi has been able to learn some Japanese.

She elaborated, "I speak a little bit, but I've forgotten some of my language. I do speak to the Japanese people and it helps me keep up. It's kind of hard to switch between languages because I'll get Russian, English and Japanese mixed up. But, it's really nice having other Japanese people around."

However, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Bolshoi Academy has closed its in-person instruction, and Adachi is now back in California with her parents. Like so many other educational institutions, the academy is finding ways to continue instruction via Zoom.

"It is pretty hard to figure out a schedule due to people living all over the world," said Adachi. "My fellow classmates that are participating online are from Russia, Japan, Canada, France and the U.S. I have classical dance from 7-10 a.m. and 11 p.m.-1 a.m. I also have some school classes that are at 3 a.m. and 6:45 a.m."

Aside from issues with differing time zones, remote dance instruction presents its own unique challenges.

"Dancing at home is hard. Instead of being in a large studio, using a proper barre and dancing on marley (premier dance flooring, used in professional performance spaces, made from slip-resistant vinyl), I'm dancing in a smaller area, using a chair and dancing on a hard marbled floor to fit the camera radius," said Adachi. Despite the current pandemic, Adachi plans to continue working toward her career as a professional dancer.

"I want to do this until I can't," she said. "I really like dancing, and I hope it takes off. It's hard, especially for girls, since there are a lot of dancers that are amazing. It's really up to you. If you're lucky, you'll have other companies scout you. But most people have to go out and audition at places to get a job yourself. Some companies have open calls, others ask you to send in a résumé and determine whether you can take the company class to audition. After that, they decide whether or not they want you.

"There are a lot of other people doing the same thing," Adachi continued, "and they all want the same jobs. You have to audition at many places. It's like trying to get into university. Sometimes companies have an audition, and they won't accept anybody. It's very competitive."

Adachi hopes to dance professionally at the Bolshoi after completing its program, but she acknowledges how rare of an opportunity that is. If the Bolshoi does not select her, she plans on applying to the San Francisco Ballet and Royal Ballet companies.

Regardless of where she eventually ends up, Adachi has already achieved something that few others can claim: being a student at the world-famous Bolshoi Academy. ■

NOTABLE 2020 Losses of Japanese Americans



LANE RYO HIRABAYASHI

Hirabayashi, who died on Aug. 8 at 67, was a UCLA professor emeritus and the inaugural George and Sakaye Aratani Endowed Chair of the Japanese American Incarceration, Redress and Community.

He was the son of Joanne and James A. Hirabayashi, an anthropologist who was also the first dean at San Francisco State University's School of Ethnic Studies, and the nephew of Gordon Hirabayashi, whose challenge to World War II-era legal machinations targeting U.S. citizens of Japanese ancestry (and legal permanent residents then-barred from becoming U.S. citizens) reached the Supreme Court but lost, only to be revived again in the 1980s as one of three *coram nobis* cases.

Lane Hirabayashi grew up north of San Francisco with his younger sister, Jan. After high school, he earned his undergraduate degree from California State University, Sonoma, and later earned his master's degree and Ph.D from the University of California, Berkeley.

His teaching career included stints at San Francisco State University, the University of Colorado at Boulder and the University of California, Riverside.

In October 2006, following a yearlong search, Hirabayashi was awarded the first George and Sakaye Aratani Chair on the Japanese American Internment, Redress and Community at UCLA's Asian American Studies Department, a position funded by $500,000 from the Aratani Foundation.

Hirabayashi also served as UCLA's Asian American Studies Department chair from 2007-10. After retiring from UCLA in June 2017, he was succeeded in the Aratani chair by Valerie Matsumoto.

Among the works Hirabayashi worked on while ensconced at UCLA are 2008's "Japanese American Resettlement Through the Lens: Hikaru Iwasaki and the WRA's Photographic Section, 1943-1945," for which he won the 2009 Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature; 2013's "A Principled Stand: Gordon Hirabayashi v. the United States"; and 2018's "NCRR: The Grassroots Struggle for Japanese American Redress and Reparations."

When Hirabayashi retired from UCLA, he said: "I am grateful to both the Asian American Studies Center and Department for the opportunity to serve as the Aratani Endowed Chair at UCLA for the past decade. It's been an honor. And I especially thank the Aratani family for their support of my varied AEC initiatives."

Hirabayashi is survived by his wife, Marilyn Alquizola; sister, Jan; and his grandchildren.



IRENE HIRANO INOUYE

Inouye, who died on April 7 at 71, helped guide a campaign in the late 1980s to take Los Angeles' Japanese American National Museum from a notion to a nationally recognized repository for Japanese American history and, in 2008, founded the U.S.-Japan Council and led it to become an international institution designed to "develop and connect diverse leaders to strengthen the U.S.-Japan relationship."

She had just announced in late January plans to retire from the USJC, where she served as president, and help find a CEO to lead it. While that announcement mentioned "personal considerations" among the reasons for her stepping away, the decision was believed to be health-related. Subsequent news reports revealed that she had been diagnosed with leiomyosarcoma, a rare smooth muscle cancer.

A woman of tremendous achievement, vision and leadership, Inouye was also the widow of the late-Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii), who died on Dec. 17, 2012. The second marriage for both took place in 2008, the same year she announced her resignation from JANM after 20 years of service. That same year, she launched the USJC.

Inouye's community and nonprofit activities included serving as chair of the Smithsonian Institution Asian Pacific American Center; trustee, the Washington Center; member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences; member of the advisory board, Center on Philanthropy & Public Policy, Price School of Public Policy, University of Southern California; and chair of the advisory board, Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies, University of California at Los Angeles. She served as former trustee and past chair, Ford Foundation; and former trustee and past chair, Kresge Foundation.

A graduate of the University of Southern California, where she also earned her master's degree, Inouye served as the first president of the Asian Women's Network in Los Angeles and subsequently served as executive director at the T.H.E. Center for Women for 13 years before becoming the president and CEO of JANM and finally as president of the USJC.

She also administered the TOMODACHI Initiative, a public-private partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo and the government of Japan that invests in young Japanese and Americans through educational and cultural exchanges and leadership programs.

Inouye is survived by her mother, Jean Yasutake; daughter, Jennifer Hirano; sisters, Linda (Mike) Hayashi and Patti Yasutake; brother, Steven (Marla) Yasutake; nephew, Wesley Hayashi; niece, Alison Hayashi; stepson, Kenny (Jessica) Inouye; and granddaughter, Maggie Inouye.



KAZUO HORIUCHI

Horiuchi, who died on March 18 at 95, was a veteran of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

He was born in the Burien area south of Seattle and was raised in Yakima Valley. During WWII, as he served in the 442nd, his family was incarcerated at Heart Mountain War Relocation Authority Center in Wyoming. He received two Bronze Stars for his service.

After serving in the Army, he moved to San Francisco and met his future wife, Maudi (Mary) Suzuki, with whom he had two daughters.

Horiuchi was predeceased by his wife. He is survived by his daughters, Diane Holmes (John) and Barbara Horiuchi (Ron); grandchildren, Jackie Waller (Brent), Michael Lulu and Daniel Lulu; sister, Nobuko Matsumoto; he is also survived by nieces and nephews.



HELEN SADAKO KAWAGOE

Kawagoe, who died April 6 at 92, served two terms as JACL's national president (1996-2000) and was also known for her long career as the city clerk of Carson, Calif.

She was first elected to the position in 1974 and held it for 37 years until a stroke in 2011 necessitated her retirement. To honor Kawagoe's decades of commitment and service to the city in Los Angeles County's South Bay, Carson's City Council named its council chamber after her in 2013.

Prior to serving as the JACL's national president, she was a three-term president of the Gardena Valley JACL chapter, governor of the JACL's Pacific Southwest District (1971-72) and was named JACLer of the Biennium (1972). In 2012, the PSWD honored Kawagoe as a JACL Living Legend.

Among Kawagoe's professional affiliations, titles and recognitions: three two-year terms as the elected state director for the City Clerks Department on the League of California Cities board of directors; president of the City Clerks Department of the LCC (1979-80); president of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (1986-87); board of directors of the Municipal Clerks Education Foundation when it launched its first scholarship program; president of the Asian Pacific American Municipal Officials of the National League of Cities (1996); serving as the first city clerk on the Steering Committee of the NLC Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations Committee; serving as the first city clerk to be elected to the NLC board of directors; and as a member of the NLC Advisory Council (2004-11).

Kawagoe was also named the 2010 Citizen of the Year by the North Carson Lions Club, the International Association of Lions Club, District 4-L3 and served as a board member of the NLC's Women in Municipal Government.

She served on the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute's emeritus board of directors; a member of the board of governors for the Japanese American National Museum's President's Circle; secretary and former VP of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation; and served on the board of governors and board of directors of the Go for Broke National Education Center. She also was awarded Japan's Sacred Order of the Precious Crown, Apricot.

Kawagoe was also named the 2010 Citizen of the Year by the North Carson Lions Club, the International Association of Lions Club, District 4-L3 and served as a board member of the NLC's Women in Municipal Government.

Kawagoe was predeceased by her husband, Takeshi, and her second husband, Stanley H. Yanase. She is survived by her sisters, Margaret Koyama and Mary Ann (Sam) Ryono; stepdaughter, Sheryl Miyamoto, other stepchildren, many nieces, nephews and other relatives.



LILLIAN CHIYEKO KIMURA

Kimura, who died April 23 at 91, served as national president of the JACL from 1992-94 and was the first woman to serve in that capacity. In her professional career, Kimura also served as the associate executive director of the YWCA of the USA.

Before her election as JACL national president in August 1992, Kimura also served as chair of the Pacific Citizen for two terms from 1988-90 and 1990-92.

During her administration, the JACL, at the Aug. 3-6, 1994, National Convention in Salt Lake City voted in favor of a resolution to support same-sex marriage, a stance that, while divisive within the JACL, put it decades ahead of most other civil rights organizations — and the Supreme Court, which more than 20 years later voted 5-4 in support of same-sex marriage in 2015.

The Glendale, Calif.-born Kimura was 13 during WWII when her family and she were uprooted and eventually incarcerated at the Manzanar WRA Center in California. Afterward, her family moved to Chicago, where Kimura would attend the University of Illinois, where she earned a bachelor's degree in 1951 and later, a master's degree in social work in 1954.

Kimura's career with the YWCA began in Chicago, and she later moved to New York City to work for the YWCA at the national level. Among her awards and recognitions, Kimura received the YWCA's Racial Justice award and its Ambassador award. In 1993, the government of Japan bestowed upon her a kunshō (medal), the Order of the Precious Crown, Wisteria. She also received the Anti-Defamation League's Ina Kay Award in 2008 and the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund Justice in Action award in 2011.

Kimura was predeceased by her sister, Hiroko (Chester) Katayama; brother, Hikaru (Elsie) Nagao; niece, Laura DiCerbo; and nephew's wife, Harriet DiCerbo. She is survived by her sisters, Florence (George) Sasabuchi and Rose (Louis) DiCerbo, as well as her nephews and nieces including Paul Katayama, Mark (Evelyn) Sasabuchi, Candi (Bob) Glassberg, Patricia Lee (David Mozer), Karen (Lori Oleachea) Nagao, Lou DiCerbo, Margaret (Patrick) Golden, Marina DiCerbo; and beloved friends, Ora Taylor and Martha White, as well as many great-nieces and great-nephews.



VINCENT HICHIRO OKAMOTO

Okamoto, who died on Sept. 27 at 76, was a highly decorated Vietnam War veteran who later became a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge.

An Army Ranger who reached the rank of captain, Okamoto was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, as well as three Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star

and the Silver Star.

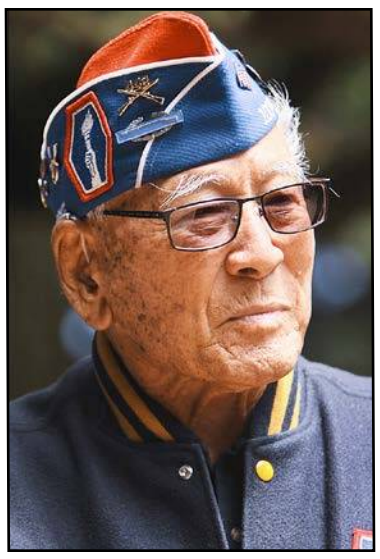
Okamoto was a co-founder of the Japanese American Bar Assn., and he helped establish the Japanese American National War Memorial Court located adjacent to the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Little Tokyo.

An author, he wrote the novel "Wolfhound Samurai," based upon his experiences in the Army, and "Forged in Fire: The Story of Hershey and Joe," about the Korean War experiences of Medal of Honor recipient Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura and his friendship with a fellow soldier, Joe Annello.

Okamoto also appeared in Ken Burns' acclaimed 2017 documentary "The Vietnam War" and the Japanese American National Museum's documentary film "Looking Like the Enemy." He was inducted into the Army's Ranger Hall of Fame in 2007.

After his military service, Okamoto returned to USC, earned a law degree, became an L.A. County deputy district attorney and later a councilman for the city of Gardena. In 2002, California Gov. Gray Davis appointed the former prosecutor to the Los Angeles Superior Court.

Okamoto is survived by his wife, Mitzi, and son, Darby.



LAWSON SAKAI

Sakai, who died on June 16 at 96, was a veteran of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. After Japan's Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, he attempted to enlist in the military but was classified 4-C (enemy alien). His family self-evacuated to Colorado and avoided incarceration at a WRA Center. In 1943, Sakai joined the 442nd (E. Co.) and was wounded during the Rescue of the Lost Battalion in late October-early November 1944. He was awarded a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Sakai and Mineko Hirasaki were married in April 1946, and they operated a travel agency in Gilroy, Calif. Active in 442 veterans' activities, he founded the nonprofit Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans. In 2018, Sakai spoke in favor of a drive that proved unsuccessful to rename a Palo Alto middle school after a fellow 442nd veteran, Fred Yamamoto.

Sakai was predeceased by his wife, Mineko; and sisters, Misako (Perry) Sumida and Mieko Sakai. He is survived by his children, Kenneth (Lynda) Sakai, Joanne Sakai (Dallas Foster), Janet (Noriaki) Ito and Dennis Sakai (Linda Durrin), as well as seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



DON NOBORU SEKI

Seki, who died on July 28 at 96, was a veteran of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

The Honolulu-born youngest son of farmers in Hawaii's Manoa Valley, Seki joined the Army during WWII and attended basic training at Camp Shelby, Miss. A member of L Co., Seki lost his left arm to machine-gun fire after the 442nd's rescue of the Lost Battalion in late 1944 and spent the next two years rehabilitating and getting prosthesis training.

Among Seki's military decorations were the Purple Heart, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign medal, WWII Victory Medal, Bronze Star, Good Conduct, French National Legion of Honor and the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor.

Seki made a cameo appearance in the 2019 indie movie "American."

He is survived by his wife, Sumi Seo Seki; children, Lynnette Takahashi, Lindsey Seki and Tracey Seki; and grandchildren, Tyler Takahashi and Evan Seki Matsuyama.



CEDRICK MASAKI SHIMO

Shimo, who died on April 1 at 100, was a recipient of an Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays kunshō from Japan for his work as an American Honda Motor Co. exec for promoting Japan-U.S. trade. During WWII, he was expelled from the Military Intelligence Service Language School in Minnesota for "raising too much of a fuss" after being denied the opportunity while on furlough to visit his family, who were incarcerated at the Manzanar WRA Center in California.

He was transferred to the 525th Quartermaster Corps, a "labor battalion," which later became the 1800th Engineer General Service Battalion. Shimo would later receive an honorable discharge. In 2009, he was awarded an honorary degree from UCB.

After retirement, Shimo served as a docent at the Japanese American National Museum. He was predeceased by his wives, Mitsuko Uyeno and Mildred Sasaki; he is survived by his son, Roderick; 2 nieces, a nephew, a grandnephew and many other relatives and friends.

In MEMORIAM

Abo, Brandon, 46, Huntington Beach, CA, Sept. 19; he was predeceased by his parents, Luke and Margaret Abo; he is survived by his son, Solomon Walton; sister, Janna (Alan) George; grandmother, Hatsumi Morita; a niece and nephew; he is also survived by many uncles, aunts, cousins and friends.

Ando, George, 83, Los Angeles, CA, June 19; he was predeceased by his brothers, James (Yone) Ando and Charles (Sumiko) Ando; he is survived by his siblings, Kenneth (Joyce) Ando, Florence Umstead, Jane (David) Namimoto and Aiko Tanaka; he is also survived by nephews and nieces.

Akimoto, Yuko, 88, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, Aug. 24.

Akiyama, Tsuneo, 86, Hilo, HI, June 5; he is survived by his wife, Charlotte; sons, Keith (Raenelle) Akiyama and Kevin (Elma) Akiyama; sisters, Patsy (Yasusaburo "Sab") Takushi, Claire (Harold "Pete") Tonai and Shigeko Akiyama; he is also survived by numerous nephews, nieces and cousins; gc: 5.

Arakaki, Haruko, 96, South San Gabriel, CA, July 22; he is survived by his daughters, Georganne Lynch and Kathleen Hendrickson; siblings, Hideo (Kazy) Oshiro and Yo Sakai; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1; ggc: 1.

Asahino, Myrtle Yoshioka, 87, Fountain Valley, CA, Sept. 11; she was predeceased by her husband, Steve, and sister, Misao "Sue" Rivera; she is survived by her children, Steven, Karen (Dan) Selleck, Kathryn (Rich) Tait and Kenny (Catherine); siblings, Isamu (Ruth) Yoshioka, Janet Nagasako and Cherry (Jerry) Kobashigawa; gc: 6.

Asaoka, Marie, 91, San Francisco, CA, April 25.

Baba, Ben, 87, Rancho Cordova, CA; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Granada WRA Center (Camp Amache) in CO; he is survived by his siblings, Pat and Bob Baba; children and children-in-law, Katherine and Thomas Huey; Barry Baba and Denali Beard; gc: 2.

Baba, Roy, 90, Sacramento, CA, July 6; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Granada WRA Center (Camp Amache) in CO; he is survived by his wife, Yasuko; siblings, Bob and Yoshiko; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Chisholm, Dorothy L., 98, Kailua-Kona, HI, May 8; she is survived by her daughter, Paige (Ross) Honda; gc: 3; ggc: 3.

Doi, Ben Hiroshi, 98, Gardena, CA, Sept. 15; he was predeceased by his wife, Clara; he is survived by his children, Dennis (Shirley), Kerry, Warren (Lani-Jayne) and Jasmine (Wayne); gc: 8; ggc: 1.

Doi, Faye Fumiko, 97, Culver City, CA, Sept. 8; she was predeceased by her husband, George; she is survived by her daughter, Jacquelyn Doi; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Doi, Patricia Tomie, 91, Honolulu, HI, April 26; she was predeceased by her husband, Herbert; she is survived by her daughter, Kellie Pearce; gc: 2.

Endo, Adolfo, 72, Santa Monica, CA, Sept. 10; he is survived by his daughter, Rocio Endo; sister, Rosa Endo; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Endo, Goro, 91, Monterey Park, CA, June 12; he is survived by his wife, Yemiko; daughters, Carolyn (Alan) Kobayashi and Cheryl (Robert) Segawa; sister, Kiyoko West; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1.

Frautschi, Mie, 78, Pasadena, CA, June 29; she is survived by her husband, Steven; daughters, Laura Frautschi and Jennifer Frautschi; siblings, Nampei Okamura and Izumi Sawajiri; gc: 4.

Fujimoto, Dwight H., 70, Hilo, HI, June 23; he is survived by his aunt Fujie "Jean" Fujimoto; he is also survived by numerous cousins.

Fujimoto, Samuel Rio, 92, Gardena, CA, June 3; survived by sons Steve (Joyce) and Jon (Victoria); sister Ruth Kobayashi; gc: 7; and many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Fujino, Kikue, 89, Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 27; survived by son, Brian (Carol) Fujino; sisters Miyoko Kaneshiro, Mary Sumiko Suzuki and Alice Toshiko Nakamatsu; survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Fugita, Yoshiko, 100, Los Angeles, CA, June 23; she is survived by her children, Gary Fugita and Lorraine Fugita; gc: 1.

Fujii, Kunio, 93, and Fujii, Mary, 89, Mililani, HI, March 7 and April 8; they were predeceased by their daughter, Velma; they are survived by their children, Aaron (JoAnn), Karl (Cindy) Fujii and Cheryl Shintani; Kunio is survived by his sister, Natsue Nakamoto; Mary is survived by her siblings, Hisao Wakahiro, James Wakahiro, William Wakahiro and Dorothy Tamashiro; gc: 8.

Fujimoto, Craig, 66, Kent, WA, June 26; he is survived by his wife, Wei-Jayne; children, Devin and Dana; brother, Mark Fujimoto; and parents, Katsuji and Helen Fujimoto.

Fukunaga, Kyle 'Narts' 'Fuks' Sachio, 43, Hilo, HI, May 23; survived by daughter, Kyrha Fukunaga-Gonsalves; brother, Kevin (Keiko) Fukunaga; parents Kazumi and Margie Fukunaga; and aunts, uncles and cousins.

Fujiura, Irene, 69, Torrance, CA, May 21; survived by husband, David Haruto Fujiura; childfren Elizabeth Yukari (Casey Christopher) Fujiura-Hall, Matthew Motoki (Kristy Marie) Fujiura and Michael Yuuki (Anna Won) Fee; sister, Noriko (Steve) Lee; gc: 2; nephews and other relatives.



Fujiwara, Pamela Bau Yuc Chang, 63, Honolulu, HI, May 24; survived by husband, Dwight Fujiwara; son, Chris Fujiwara; and brother, John Chang.

Fukushima, Audrey K.Y., 81, Montebello, CA, May 30.

Furumasu, Hisako, 96, Sierra Madre, CA, June 22; she is survived by her children, Jim, Ruby (Ryan Zirkle) and Karen; siblings, Kikuo (Kiyomi) Shintaku, Peter (Beverly) Shintaku and Nancy (Minoru) Shigezane; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews and other relatives.

Furuyama, Randall, 54, Northridge, CA, June 13; he is survived by his siblings, Alice (David) Kuroda, Dennis (Terry) Furuyama, Steve (Diana) Furuyama, Ron (Nancy Kawahara) Furuyama and Gary Furuyama; he is also survived by nephews and nieces.

Kadomatsu, Kazuko, 77, Culver City, CA, May 9; she is survived by her husband, Hiroshi; children, Robert (Kelly) and Amy (Robert Lopez) Kadomatsu; brother, Masami (Nancy Masako) Matsumoto; brothers-in-law, Noboru Matsumoto and Yasushi Udagawa; gc: 3.

Kakiba, Isamu Sam, 95, Los Angeles, CA, May 17; he is survived by his wife, Mitsuyo Michi; daughters, Becky (Ron) Sato, JoAnn Asao, Shirley (Harvey) Wong and Bonnie (Byron) Watanabe; gc: 10; ggc: 11; gggc: 1.

Kaku, Hisako 'Millie,' 99, Hilo, HI, May 18; she is survived by her sons, Rodney Kaku and Elton (Leanora) Kaku; gc: 4; ggc: 6

Kaneko, Yoshiko, 95, Monterey Park, CA, July 21; she was predeceased by her husband, Hayao, and brothers, Mike and Henry Kawaguchi; she is survived by her children, Ryoji Lloyd (Marie) Kaneko, Grace (John) Yamamoto and Clyde Kaneko; siblings, Kouki Kawaguchi and Taiko Fujinami; sisters-in-law, Mine Kawaguchi and Mitsi Kawaguchi; gc: 5.

Kato, Emi, 100, Gardena, CA, Aug, 15; she was predeceased by her husband, Noboru, and "Tom" andsiblings, Nobuo "Nob," Tomotsu and Shitone "Toni"

TRIBUTE

CHARLOTTE TETSUKA



Sept. 16, 1925–July 5, 2020

After an eventful life of 94 years, well-lived, and well-loved, Charlotte Tetsuka passed away under the most amazing care through Hospice House South with her daughter by her side on July 5, 2020.

From her childhood in Hilo, Hawaii, to her adult life in Spokane and Pasadena, she gave joy and was kind to everyone fortunate to meet her.

In her younger years, she helped to establish her husband's optometry business. She was a room mother and an elementary school PTA President and was awarded the Golden Apple Award for her outstanding contribution to children. She transitioned from school volunteer to school employee working for Spokane Public Schools in the personnel department and as a school attendance liaison at Garry Middle School. Through the years, many of the students she encouraged to attend school still kept in contact with her.

She was the first Japanese woman to serve as president of the Inland Optometric Association Women's Auxiliary. During her time in Pasadena, Los Angeles County honored her with the Senior Award of Excellence for contributions to the Pasadena Senior Center.

Charlotte believed in supporting her community. She was always giving to those in need or offering endless volunteer hours to help others. She was an active member of Highland Park United Methodist Church volunteering for their fundraisers until she entered hospice. With Mom, friends became family. Loved ones often found themselves the recipient of a heartfelt note or gift just because they were in her thoughts.

Husbands, Dr. George Yamamoto and George Tetsuka, and son-in- law Tom Ferris preceded her in death. She is survived by a daughter, Joanne Ferris; sisters, Carol Cantiberos and Eunice Yasukawa; brother, Jimmy Tai; and beloved nieces and nephews. She was a loving grandmother to Christopher Ferris, Anna Ferris (Dan Colwell), and Elizabeth Ferris.

Her natural beauty belied her years. Remembered for her grace and generosity, her legendary scones and spritz cookies, Charlotte will greatly be missed by all who knew her. At her request, there will be no service. Interment will be in Hilo, Hawaii.

In lieu of flowers, Charlotte's family requests donations be made to Hospice of Spokane, PO Box 2215, Spokane, WA 99210, Highland Park Methodist Church, 611 S. Garfield St., Spokane, WA 99202, or to a charity of one's own choice.

Uyeda; she is survived by her sons, Stewart Kato and Bruce Kato; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.Kawata, Esther Maude, 97, Culver City, CA, Feb. 6; she is survived by her children, Christine (Dennis) Yamamoto and Rick Kawata; siblings, Amy Nakano, Helen Izuka and Hoover Ushiyama; gc: 1; ggc: 2.

Kawaharada, Matsuko 'Mitzii,' 95, Honolulu,HI, June 14; she was predeceased by her husband, Makita; she is survived by 3 children, in-laws, nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, as well as great-grandnieces and great-grandnephews



Kimura, Helen, 94, Reedley, CA, June 30; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ; she was predeceased by her husband, Frank Kimura, daughter, Arlene Imoto, siblings, Mary Okubo and James Ito; she is survived by her children Sandra (Dr. Gerald Shinkawa) and Tim (partner Tiina Volmer) Kimura; son-in-law, Jeff Imoto; gc: 3.

Kinimaka, Florence Misao, 91, Honolulu, HI, March 24; she was predeceased by her husband, David Thomas Kinimaka Sr., and daughter, Rebecca Yara; she is survived by her children, Cathy (Mark Miura) Kanehiro, Kinia (Arthur) LaRose, Hartwell, Jerry (Elvira) Kinimaka, David Kinimaka Jr., Matthew Kinimaka and Dickie (Bernie) Kinimaka; gc: 26; ggc: 55; gggc: 13.

Kishaba, George Tamotsu, 85, Maui, HI, Jan. 31; he is survived by his wife, Jane (Hasegawa) Kishaba; sons, Mark and Gregg Kishaba.

Kobatake, Joseph Doyle, 75, Napili, HI, June 14; he served in the Army during the Vietnam War; he is survived by his sons, Dean "Kaleo" (Jaimie) Kobatake, Dwight (Kanela Dean) Kobatake and Dwayne (Mary-Ann) Kobatake; life companion, Firmina Carmen Ribucan; hanai sons, Alfred Ribucan, Sean (Stacy) Ribucan and Derrick (Jocelyn) Ribucan; gc: 12.

Koyama, Mitsuru, 71, Montebello, CA, Feb. 20; he is survived by his son, Takahiro Koyama. Kumakura, Misayo, 101, Los Angeles, CA, June 9; she is survived by her sisters, Yoshiko Hanaoka and Misuko Sugimura; sisters-in-law, Michiko Mori and Kay Mori; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and friends.

Makihara, Fumiko, 99, Pasadena, CA; May 29; she is survived by 4 children; gc: 5; ggc: 5.

Matsumoto, Kenneth, 93, Santa Monica, CA, July 6; he was predeceased by his wife, June; he is survived by his children, Reiko (Michael), George (Kirsten), Kimi and (Jennifer); gc: 10..



Makihara, Fumiko, 99, Pasadena, CA; May 29; she is survived by 4 children; gc: 5; ggc: 5.

Maruya, David, 100, Gardena, CA, Aug. 7; he is survived by his daughter, Patricia; brother, Al; longtime partner, Mary Jo Villegas; he is also survived by nieces and nephews.

Miyoshi, Yuji, 57, Woodland Hills, CA, May 23; he is survived by his wife, Masami Miyoshi; Ayaka (Andrew) Robinson; brother, Kiyotaka Miyoshi; and mother, Fumiyo Miyoshi.

Mori, Dennis, 74, Los Angeles, CA, June 28; he is survived by his wife, Lillian; children, Kevin (Susan) Mori and Michele (Philip) Francisco; sisters, Carolyn (Thomas) Kato and Linda (Martin) Abe; gc: 4.

Morita, Hiroko, 81, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 6; survived by children, Robert (Debbie) Morita and Sachiko (Ray) Pittman; gc: 3; ggc: 1.

Mukai, Henry T., 98, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 13; an Army veteran (442nd RCT), he was predeceased by his siblings, Thomas, Cromwell, George, Abraham and Susan Uchida; he is survived by his wife, Eunice; children, Alan, Richard, Donna and Anita (Gini Seibert) Mukai; sister-in-law, Hatsune Mukai; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nagano, Jack K., 101, Los Angeles, CA, June 1; an Army veteran, he served in the MIS during WWII; he was predeceased by his wife, Louise; he is survived by his children, Thomas, Carol (Robert) Drescher, Christine (Aaron) Glaser and David (Natalie); gc: 4; ggc: 9.

Nakayama, Richard, 70, Gardena, CA, Sept. 1; he is survived by his wife, Stephanie; son, Matthew Nakayama; sister, Susan (Martin) Siaw; mother-in-law, Yuri Ogawa; sisters-in-law, Sharie (Harry) Tom, Stacie (David) Inana and Krissie (Dave) Roberts; brother-in-law, William (Kristine) Sato; 5 nephews, 2 nieces, aunts, uncles, cousins and relatives.

Nakao, Kuniko, 98, Los Angeles, CA, July 15; she was predeceased by her husband, Kunihiro "Pete"; she is survived by her children, Alan Nakao, Karen (Richard) Nanaumi, Connie (Steven) Hirano, Sandi Yamato, Robert (Marjorie) Nakao and Perry Nakao; sister, Aya Mitsui; gc: 10; ggc: 14.

Nishimoto, Stanley, 66, San Gabriel, CA, July 31; he is survived by his wife, Sylvia; children, Jonathan Nishimoto, Jeffrey Nishimoto and Tiffany Nishimoto; siblings, Stephanie Nishimoto, Carolyn Komoto, Cheryl Teragawa and Kelly Nishimoto; mother, Florence Nishimoto; gc: 4.

Nishimoto, Tyler, 21, Lodi, CA, Sept. 4.

Nishisaka, Yuriko, 93, Fountain Valley, CA, Feb. 12; she was predeceased by her husband, Art Nishisaka, son, Randy Nishisaka, daughter, Mary Ann Nishisaka, and brother, Masami Sanada; she is survived by her children, Merrie Nishisaka and Scott (Aileen) Nishisaka; sister-in-law, Haruko Sanada; gc: 4; ggc: 3.

Ochiai, Sachi, 101, Los Angeles, CA, July 25; she was predeceased by her husband, Richard, and daughter, Sheryl; she is survived by her son, Alan; daughter-in-law, Kathy; gc: 2.

Ogawa, Masae 'Maisie,' 93, Honolulu, HI, April 28; she is survived by her husband, Henry; children, Blanche (Allan) Kaneshiro and Curtis Ogawa; siblings, Herbert Kagemoto, Lillian Thompson and Jean Kagemoto; gc: 2, ggc: 1.

Ohata, Robert Osamu, 100, Makawao, HI, June 13; he was predeceased by his wife, Alice, and daughter, Roberta; he is survived by his son, Carl (Sue), grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Okafuji, Teruko, 104, Honolulu, HI, May 22; she was predeceased by her husband, Motoharu; children, Ruth Hampton, William Okafuji, Arthur Okafuji and Gordon Okafuji; a daughter-in-law; siblings, Saburo Takahata, Tadao Takahata and Mitsuko Kimoto; grandsons, Christopher Okafuj and Clante Okafuji; she is survived by her daughters, Carol (Roy) Suda and Marlyn (Dennis) AuHoy; brother-in-law, Mike Takamatsu; sister-in-law, Lucille Takahata; daughter-in-law, Arlene Okafuji; and son-in-law, Jim Hampton; gc: 20; ggc 34; gggc: 10.

Ozawa, George, 95, Santa Monica, CA, July 29; he was predeceased by his wife, Susie Setsuko Ozawa, and daughter, Kathy S. Ozawa; he is survived by his children, Ann Y. Henderson and Dennis K. (Gretchen P.) Ozawa; gc: 7; ggc: 8.

Sakamoto, Jane Kazumi, 89, Los Angeles, Aug. 11; she was predeceased by her brothers, Roy Seigo and Michael Seiji Sakamoto; she is survived by her sisters, Amy Tsubokawa and Hisaye JoAnn Kuroda; she is also survived by many nephews and nieces.

Sanwo, Grace Shizuko, 101, Gardena, CA, June 11; she was predeceased by her husband, Steve Hironori Sanwo, and daughter, Joyce Michiko Sahara; she is survived by her children, Norman Eiji (Kathi) Sanwo and Charlene Naomi (Stanford Takashi) Hirotsu; son-in-law, Robert Fumio Sahara; brother, Sam Isamu (Chieko) Wakai; sister-in-law, Nora Wakai; gc: 5; ggc: 3.

Segimoto, Masaru, 90, Monterey Park, CA, May 29; he is survived by his son, David (June) Segimoto; gc: 2.

Self, Nancie Kumiko, 83, Palm Springs, CA, May 21; she is survived by 3 children; 2 brothers; gc: 6; ggc: 2.

Shido, Roy Nobuhiko, 59, Mission Viejo, CA, April 16; he is survived by his siblings, Akemi Schanze and George Shido; 1 niece, 1 nephew and other relatives and friends

Shigekawa, Nancy Yoshie, 89, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, May 31; she was predeceased by her husband, David, and 7 siblings; she is survived by her daughter, Wendy (Derek) Okada; sisters, Betsy Nakanishi, Barbara Oshiro and Jane Park; gc: 3..

Shimada, Satsuki, 88, Chino Hills, CA, July 15; she is survived by her children, Paula (Gary) Shirasago, Stanley Shimada, Mark Shimada, Linda Shimada (significant other Anthony Coleman), Bradley (Siggy) Shimada and former daughter-in-law, Karen Hanemoto; brother, Yoshio (Lillie) Miyagishima; sister-in-law, Hanako Ando; gc: 5; ggc: 1.

Shimazaki, Jeanne, 80, Cerritos, CA, July 8; she was predeceased by her husband, Jimmy; she is survived by her children, Jon (Linda), Andy, Mark (Kim), Karin (Craig) Matsuda and Joi Shimazaki; brother, Ken (Judi) Kaminishi; gc: 10.

Shimidzu, Ruby, 101, Gardena, CA, Aug. 28; she is survived by her children, Karen (Jim) Campbell, Dennis (Princesa) Shimidzu and Linda (Les) Greene; gc: 4.

Shinmoto, Setsuko 'Dorothy,' 85, Torrance CA, May 14; she was predeceased by her husband, Minoru, son, Craig, and sister, Helen; she is survived by her children, Tracy Ann (Michael) Wilson and teve (Susannah) Shinmoto; siblings, Elaine Hanamoto, Frank Kido (Marge) and Fred Kido (Candice); gc: 2; ggc: 2

Shiota, Eisuke 'Jim,' 78, Sun City, AZ, July 22; he was predeceased by his brother-in-law, Gran Yoshina, and granddaughter, Emily Quan; he is survived by his wife, Joyce; daughters, Debi Merriott and Sandi Quan; sisters, Sets Yoshina and Ruth Shiota; gc: 2.



Shirota, Jonathan Hiroshi, 92, Hacienda Heights, CA July 28; a novelist and playwright ("Lucky Come Hawaii," "Leilani's Hibiscus"); he is survived by his wife, Barbara; stepchildren, Sumiye (Bruce) Arnheim and Craig (Lisa) Yanase; sisters, Kikue Tada, Tomiko Shirota and Sumiko Martin; gc: 3.

Sumi, Noboru, 99, Los Angeles, CA, May 27; he is survived by his children, Fred (Valerie) Sumi, Janet (Charles) Mori and Irene Sumi; sister, Yoko Murakami; gc: 4; ggc: 3.

In MEMORIAM

Sumida, Chiyeko, 99, La Mirada, CA, Aug. 20; she was predeceased by her husband, Minoru; she is survived by her daughters, Alison (Glenn) Yoshihara, Barbie (Akemi) Ouederni and Lynne (Marvin Dale) Ezaki; gc: 6

Taguchi, Atsushi, 89, Gardena, CA, June 11; he is survived by his children, Wayne (Angel) Taguchi and Donna (Glen) Nakahara; brother, Seiichi (Helen) Taguchi; gc: 2; 1 nephew, 1 grandniece and other relatives.

Takahashi, Susan Midori, 80, West Hills, CA, July 28; she was predeceased by her husband, Henry, and sister, June Wunno; she is survived by her children, Lauren, Mark (Kate) and Diane (Jon Goucher); sister, Barbara Klass; gc: 5; nieces, a nephew and other relatives and friends.

Takazaki, Glenn, 70, Torrance, CA, April 2; survived by wife, Kathy; children Jennifer, Amy Dawnell and Dean; sister, Cathrine; gc: 6

Tamae, Seiki, 96, Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 16; he is survived by his wife, Yoko, and son, James Tamae; he is also survived by many other relatives.

Tamura, Sayoko, 73, Alhambra, CA, May 13; she is survived by her husband, Yuzo; children, Betty (Kyle) Yamasaki, Thomas (Wendi) Tamura and Steve (Lisa) Tamura; siblings, Hiroshi (Noriko) Terada, Hayako Miura and Mitsuko (Tsuyoshi) Hamano; sisters-in-law, Masumi Sueda, Norie Shimomae and Takako Tamura; gc: 6.
Tanaka, Kumiko, 80, San Francisco, CA, May 24.

.**Taniguchi, Takeko 100,** Sacramento, CA, June 29; she was predeceased by her husband, Jim, and siblings, Jimma, Sadayo, Tokino and Sumiye; she is survived by her children, Roy (Sue) and Ann; gc: 1

Tamano, Grace Nobuko, 97, Sacramento, CA, April 12; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Granada WRA Center in CO; she was predeceased by her husband, Nobuo Tamano, siblings, William (Miyo) Kitamura and Betty (Noboru) Aoki; she is survived by her son, Gary (Sally) Tamano; gc: 2.

Teramaye, Kiyoko, 96, Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 23; longtime West Los Angeles JACL board member; she is survived by her brother, Takashi Teramaye.

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Teshima, Ethel Shizue, 94, San Pedro, CA, Feb. 11; she was predeceased by her husband, Henry, sons, Joey and Rudy Teshima and her companion, Walter Sakurai; she is survived by 2 brothers and many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Togami, Frances, 98, Campbell, CA, May 27; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Gila River WRA Center in AZ; she is survived by Rose (Frank) Togami and Minoru (Marianne) Togami; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews. 1.

Tomooka, Suyeo, 93, Canoga Park, CA, Aug. 1; survived by children, Eric (Joni Kinoshita) Tomooka and Dana Hartmann; siblings, Tom (Nancy) Tomooka and Takashi (Alice) Tomooka; gc: 2.

Tosa, Tadao, 78, Glendale, CA, Feb. 27; he is survived by his wife, Miyoko; children, Shinji, Eiji, Jyunji John Tosa and Maki (Clark) Michel; gc: 2.

Tsao, Kiyomi, 82, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, Sept. 22; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Heart Mountain WRA Center in WY; she is survived by her husband, John; children, Jennifer (John) Shigekawa and John (Christine) Tsao; siblings, Marlene (Donald) Okada and Dennis (Jacqueline) Hada; gc: 7.
.
Tsumori, Mitsuo, 91, San Francisco, CA, May 1.

Uchida, Yukiko Yamashita, 90, Keaau, HI, May 8; she is survived by her daughter, Grace H. Uchida; daughter-in-law, Trisia Uchida; siblings, Henry Kunio Yamashita, Edward Toshio (Betsy) Yamashita, Herbert F. (Rachel) Yamashita,

Uyeki, Kaoruko, 94, Monterey Park, CA, June 22; she is survived by her daughters, Grace Uyeki and Caroline (Stephen) Nakajima; gc: 3; ggc: 2.
Thelma Tamayo Abe, Sue Shizue (Edwin) Sugimoto and Barbara Emiko (Alvin) Jitchaku; brother-in-law, Tsugio (Dora) Uchida; sister-in-law, Yasuko Ishii; gc: 1; ggc: 2.

Uyematsu, Rose, 85, Anaheim Hills, CA, June 3; she was predeceased by her siblings, Helen Haruko Masaki, Doris Hisako Okamura, June Miyako Wada, Edith Yaeko Yamasaki, Martha Misako Hirai, Jeanne Toyoko Nagao, Sam Susumu Fujikawa, George Jojo Fujikawa, Frank Yoshio Fujikawa and Harry Kiyoto Fujikawa; she is survived by her husband, Norio; sons, Michael (Hope), Ronald and Thomas (Karen); gc: 11; ggc: 2.

Wada, Shirley Shinobu, 87, Cerritos, CA, June 6; she is survived by her children, Robert S. (Shelly) Wada, Glenn R. (Denise) Wada, Garrett S. (Lea) Wada and Sharon L. (Raymond) Maeda; siblings, Hajime Hamaguchi, Doug (Margie) Hamaguchi, Doreen Ishikawa and Reiko (Richard) Truman; gc: 10.

Watanabe, Lin, 58, Kahului, Maui, HI, May 22; she is survived by her parents, Albert and Amy Watanabe; sister, Kay (Ronald) Fukumoto; companion of 35 years, Brian Kasahara; 1 nephew.



Watase, Frank, 97, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 7; Hawaii-born doughnut entrepreneur (Yum Yum and Winchell's Donuts) and Korean War veteran; JANM trustee and governor who funded the Museum's Frank H. Watase Media Arts Center; he was predeceased by his first wife, Dorothy; he is survived by his wife, Janne; children, Steve (Alison) Watase, Suzy (fiancé Tom) Roberts, Lincoln (Sylvia) Watase and Amanda (Blake) O'Dowd; brothers, Mark, Richard and Eddie; gc: 9.

Yamada, Dorothy, 99, Pleasanton, CA, Feb. 1; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA; she was predeceased by herh husband, Yoshio Yamada; siblings, Toriye (Togo) Watanabe, Charles (Dorothy) Yamada, George (Yoshika) Yamada, Mary (Henry) Dowke and Edith (John) Azlant; she is survived by her children, David, Alan (Donna), Howard, Charmaine (Roy) Yamamoto and Janice (Vincent) Yoshimoto; gc: 2; ggc: 2.

Yamada, Joseph, 90, and Yamada, Elizabeth (Kikuchi), 90, La Jolla, CA, May 11 and May 20; during WWII, they met at age 11 when their families were incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ; they are survived by their children, Garrett Yamada, Kent Yamada and Joan Batcheller and their families.

Yamada, Leslie Akemi, 59, Los Angeles, CA, June 18; she is survived by her husband, Alan; parents, Sammy and Hideko Befu; brother, George (Anne Mettee) Befu; sister-in-law, Joanne (Larry) Yamaki; 1 nephew and 1 great-nephew.

Yamasaki, Donald Yoshio, 75, Kahului, HI, May 5; author of "Issei, Nisei, Sansei, Three Generations of Camp Life in Puunene, Maui, Hawaii"; he is survived by his wife, Shirleyan; children, Stephen (Amy) Yamasaki, Scott (Jodi) Yamasaki, Shane (Lani) Yamasaki and Suzanne (Sean) Smith; gc: 6.

Yamane, Doris T., 92, Torrance, CA, Aug. 5.

Yamashita, Harumi, 96, Burbank, CA, Feb. 15; she is survived by her daughters, Linda (Gary) Ogimachi and Diane Yamashita; gc: 2.

Yamashita, Joe Yuzuru, 93, Los Angeles, CA, May 21; he was predeceased by his wife, Shizuye, and siblings, Sakiko (Tommy) Kakimoto and Thomas Masaru Yamashita; he is survived by his children, Joe (Julie) Yamashita, Tad (Iris) Yamashita and Suanne (Chris) Gonwa; daughter-in-law, Kathy Yamashita; sisters, Meiko (Barton) Yoshida and Fujiko Fujisawa; gc: 6; ggc: 2.

Yanagisawa, Hideto, 90, Hilo, HI, Feb. 17; he is survived by his wife, Teruyo "Terry" Yanagisawa; hanai children, Kyle Yanagisawa, Dean Yanagisawa, Erin (David) Sekino-Yanagisawa; siblings, Lawrence "Lefty" "Larry" (Carol) Yanagisawa, Wayne (Katherine) Yanagisawa, Asayo Okimoto, Michiyo (John) Lewis, Tomiyo Nakaoka and Sachiyo Toma; sisters-in-law, Lillian Yanagisawa and Dorothy "Dot" Yanagisawa; he is also survived by many nephews, nieces, grandnephews, grandnieces and hanai grandchildren.

Yasukochi, Hatsuye 'Hatsy,' 80, San Francisco, CA, March 7; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Rohwer WRA Center in AR and the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA; death related to COVID-19; co-proprietor of Yasukochi's Sweet Shop in S.F.'s Japantown; she is survived by her husband, Hisao "Moses" Yasukochi; daughters, Stacey (Michael) Nolan, Wendy (Todd) Prigge and Erin (Craig) Yamamura; sisters, Lois and Kristine, gc: 5.

Yokomizu Grace Midori, 95, Chatsworth, CA, June 14; she is survived by her children, Bryce (Rosie), Jan (Dave) Goka, Denise (Michael) Motoyasu and Rob; sisters, Ellen Suzuki, Ruby Honjio and Jane (Yone) Takehara; gc: 7; ggc: 2.

Yokoyama, Yuriko Lily, 92, Los Angeles, CA, May 17; she was predeceased by her husband, Motokazu; she is survived by her children, Julia (Wayne Imamura) Yokoyama, John (Carrie) Yokoyama and Paul (Yukiko) Yokoyama; sister, Lois Hirotsu; gc: 4; she is also survived by other relatives.

Yoshida, Lincoln Yoichi, 87, Los Angeles, CA, May 24; she is survived by her siblings, Violet Teramoto, Sarah Morimoto and Arthur Yoshida; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Yoshimizu, Jan, 58, Alhambra, CA, Aug. 17; she was predeceased by her parents, Mitsuo and Grace Heyada nèe Takai; she is survived by her husband, Daniel Yoshimizu; daughters, Dana (Dave) Shefferman and Tracy (Andrew Lau) Yoshimizu; sisters, Jill (Dean) Katayama and Ann (Weldon) Nomura; she is also survived by many aunties, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Yoshino, Hanashiro, 95, Honomu, HI, June 19; survived by children, Allan (Duen) Hanashiro, Clyde "Kazu" Hanashiro and Maxine Hanashiro; sisters-in-law, Mabel Nagamine, Hiroko Nagamine, Yasuko Hanashiro; brothers-in-law, Michiwo (Jane) Hanashiro and George Hanashiro; gc: 3; ggc and gggc.

TRIBUTE

JOE A. UCHIDA

Joe Uchida was born in Pasadena, Calif., to Kuniyoshi and Sayo Uchida on June 4, 1926. He died peacefully at his home in South Pasadena on Nov. 13, 2020, at the age of 94.

Joe attended Lincoln Elementary School and McKinley Junior High School in Pasadena. When WWII broke out he was incarcerated with his family at Gila River internment camp and graduated from Gila River High School in 1944. In August 1945, he was drafted into the U.S. Army where he served until 1947. In 1951 he graduated from USC with a bachelor's degree in business.

From 1952 until he retired in 2006, Joe was instrumental in the growth and development of the Bellefontaine Nursery in Pasadena. His ideas, energy and attention to detail made the business flourish. Through his son, Alan and nephew Dale, it is still one of the oldest, successful Japanese American establishments in Pasadena.

Joe was known for his smile, "dad" jokes and his wry sense of humor. He enjoyed watching USC football and for a time had season tickets to USC basketball games.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Agnes (Ashizawa), and his children, Alan, Craig, and Naomi (Foley), 3 grandchildren, Maria, Jennifer and Melinda, 2 great-grandchildren, Cora and Lucy, his brother, Robert (Mae), and numerous nephews and nieces.

In lieu of flowers or koden please consider making a donation in his name to the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) or the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute (PCJI).

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HOW TO STAY CONNECTED



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"For the 45 and older population, about one in three have evidence of loneliness. And we know that for the 65 and older population, 40% and more are impacted by loneliness."

"Even though we may be alone in our own space, that doesn't mean we can't be connected. It is important that we remember that help is not just physical, but it's emotional, it's spiritual. We need to focus on what allows us to flourish…and how can we continue to thrive even if we are just in our own space."

HOW TO FIGHT THE SOCIAL ISOLATION OF CORONAVIRUS

Travel bans and recommendations to avoid nonessential air travel may mean that distant family members may not be able to connect in person while the COVID-19 outbreak is still ongoing.



Here are some things to keep in mind to reduce the threat of social isolation and loneliness as the pandemic continues:

1. Social isolation and loneliness are serious health issues
2. Plan and connect
3. Make a list of organizations that can help
4. Remember pets (their value and their needs)
5. Know who's most at risk for social isolation and loneliness



COVID-19 DEMANDS ATTENTION TO MENTAL HEALTH

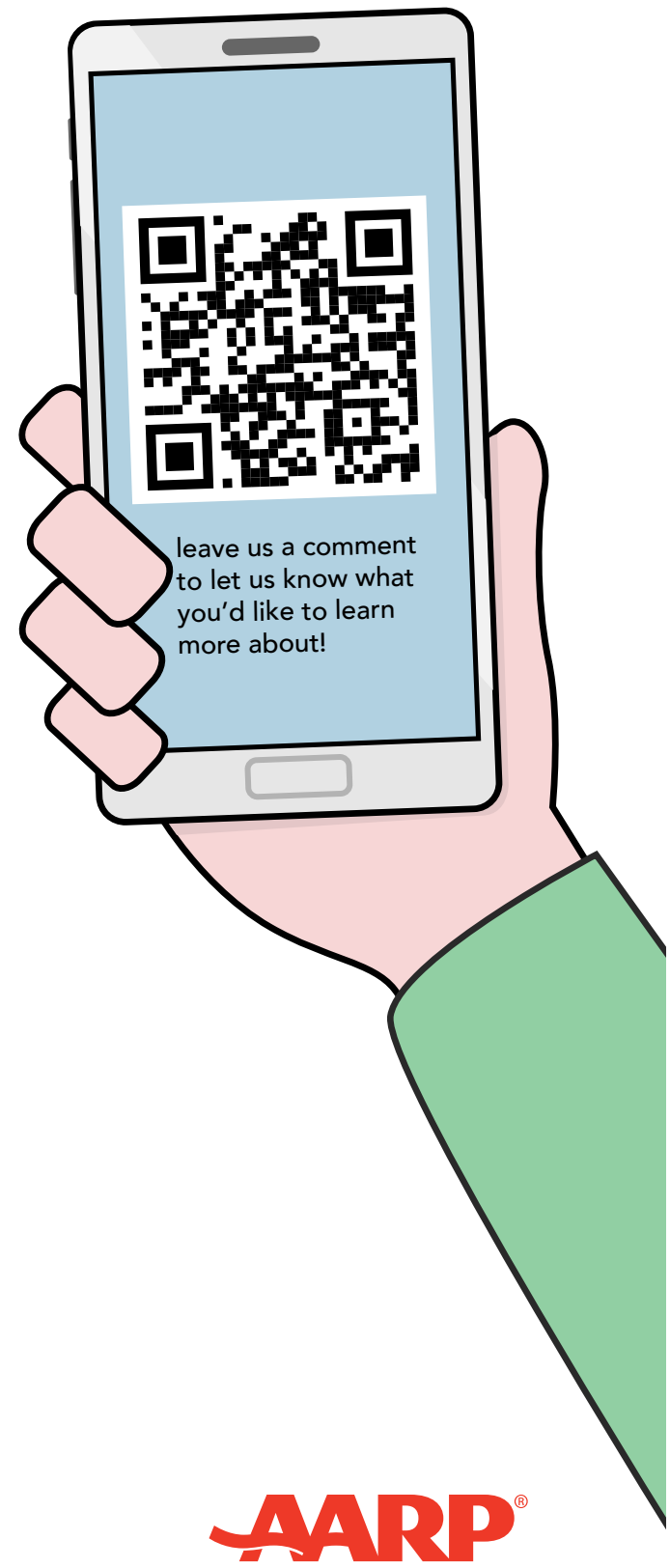
It's completely normal to feel sadness, anxiety, and stress during the COVID-19 pandemic. Common signs of distress include feelings of hopelessness or fear, changes in eating and/or sleeping patterns, difficulty concentrating, and physical symptoms such as headaches and stomach problems.

Taking care of your emotional health during the COVID-19 pandemic will help you plan clearly and protect yourself and your family. Here are some actions that can help ease depressive symptoms during this stressful time:

- Limit news consumption and stick with trusted information
- Connect across distance
- Exercise regularly
- Practice mindfulness and meditation
- Consider telehealth

AARP has been working to promote the health and well-being of older Americans for more than sixty years. During this pandemic, AARP is providing information and resources to help the AAPI community and those caring for them to protect themselves from the virus and prevent it from spreading to others.

For more information and resources about COVID-19, please visit aarp.org/coronavirus or simply scan the QR code below to follow AARP's AAPI Facebook page.



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