



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

Rachel Maddow's  
"Burn Order"  
six-part podcast  
tells an important,  
ever-timely story.

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CELEBRATING  
**97**  
Years



**RACHEL  
MADDOW  
PRESENTS**

**BURN ORDER**

**MS NOW**

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'American Pastime.'**



# SPRING STARTS THE P.C.'S SPRING CAMPAIGN

By Candace Flowers,  
P.C. Editorial Board Member, IDC



With spring upon us, I have enjoyed seeing the many cherry blossom trees that have been in bloom! Recently, there was a segment on NHK spotlighting Hanami, which translates to “flower viewing” and is typically observed in the springtime. This simple custom of having a picnic while appreciating the beauty of nature has remained a tradition for centuries.

In Japan, Hanami is a major festival lasting for a couple of weeks while the flowers are in bloom. At many of the parks and along riverbanks where the trees are plentiful, people come ready to socialize and eat their bento under the beautiful blossoms.

Food vendors come to sell various foods like the popular treat hanami dango. Hanami dango is sweet,

chewy and resembles the colors of springtime! But is the beauty *just* in the sakura blossoms?

When I think about the trees that continue to bloom year after year and the people who flock to view them year after year, I find that there is also beauty in the traditions we keep.

For example, when we observe the Day of Remembrance every February, we are taking part in a tradition to honor and remember those who were interned and the history that we hope will never

be repeated.

We recognize and appreciate the many Japanese Americans who persevered and fought for their rights, as well as the rights of future generations.

Holding on to these traditions is the reason that stories continue to be passed down, monuments and museums have been built and our JACL chapters remain holding activities that inspire our youth to become involved.

This is the beauty that comes from years and seasons of traditions. Through it all, the *Pacific Citizen* newspaper has been a vital part in sharing so many of these stories and events, as well as reporting up-to-date information to keep us informed about our civil rights.

I enjoy reading the articles in the *P.C.* and feel that there is even tradition in having access to the same

paper that my grandparents used to read years ago.

Much like a cherry blossom tree, the *Pacific Citizen* has strong roots that continue to grow and reach Japanese American communities across the nation.

As we look to the future, we are just a few short years away from the *Pacific Citizen's* 100th birthdate! If you would like to contribute to the *P.C.* and help sustain its operations so that it can reach and surpass its milestone, please visit [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org) or fill out the coupon located at the bottom of this page.

Your contribution will help allow this revered national newspaper to continue to provide you with stories and information that are vital to you and those you care about. Let's continue to grow the *P.C.* and our communities together! ■

## New Changes Coming to P.C.

The *Pacific Citizen* newspaper announces several exciting new updates coming soon in order to better serve our readers while embracing an ever-evolving media landscape.

JACL members and *P.C.* subscribers will soon see a redesigned website ([www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)) that will offer a more modern, accessible and engaging digital-first experience highlighting

all stories and *P.C.'s* complete newspaper and photo archives featuring the vast history of the Japanese American experience for nearly 100 years.

In addition, new digital advertising opportunities will be available on the website, creating larger opportunities for businesses and organizations to connect with our readers.

And the *P.C.* has initiated a new subscriber

campaign inviting readers to try the newspaper for free!

However, due to rising U.S. postage rates and increased operational costs, effective May 1, the JACL print surcharge will be \$25, and nonmember subscription rates will be \$65 and a PDF digital subscription will be \$50.

We appreciate your support as we work to bring you the best *P.C.* possible! ■



## W-SC JACL Participates in No Kings Rally

Members of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL chapter attended the “No Kings Rally” on Feb. 28 at the Watsonville City Plaza. Pictured are (from left) Marcia Hashimoto, Amy Newell, Paul Kaneko, Carol Kaneko, Maria Burnett and Victor Kimura.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

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If you've moved, please send new information to: **National JACL**, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115 (415) 921-5225 ext. 26. ALLOW 6 WEEKS FOR ADDRESS CHANGES. TO AVOID INTERRUPTIONS IN DELIVERY, PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR POSTMASTER TO INCLUDE PERIODICALS IN YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS (USPS Form 3575)

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Please contact Ariel Imamoto, JACL Membership Manager, at (415) 921-5225, ext. 111, or email [mbr@jacl.org](mailto:mbr@jacl.org).

## PACIFICCITIZEN 2026 Spring Campaign

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[www.PacificCitizen.org/donations/](http://www.PacificCitizen.org/donations/) I AM ENCLOSING \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Scan in your banking app to send with Zelle or PayPal.

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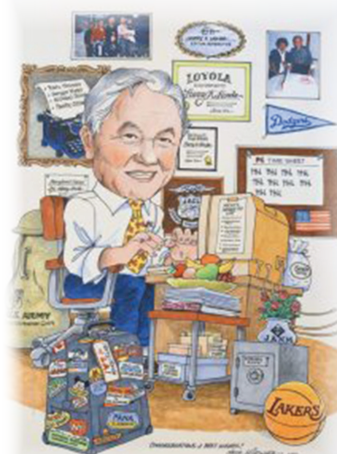
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## HELP THE PACIFIC CITIZEN BY CONTRIBUTING TO THE SPRING CAMPAIGN - Harry Honda Fund

Harry Honda dedicated 61 years to promoting the *Pacific Citizen*, providing thoughtful coverage of JACL chapter activities, national news and events and issues of general interest to Japanese American and Asian American readers. The fund was launched with a generous donation from author and activist Grant Ujifusa, whose intent was to support the *Pacific Citizen* in hiring outside contributing writers. This support helps expand and strengthen coverage from across the country for our national readership.



Editor Emeritus Harry Honda as drawn by Pete Hironaka







## LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

### WANT TO LIVE LONGER???

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

As a Japanese American kid growing up in the 1960s, I spent most of my youth trying to be accepted into the “American” mainstream. My lifestyle and diet has been the American part of me. I was raised on McDonald’s — though satisfying and delicious, a Big Mac and fries can contribute to weight gain, high blood pressure and other health problems. Nobody told me that washing down a cheeseburger and fries with an ice-cold Coke was not healthy. No wonder I had a heart attack at 59 years of age.

Now, as I grow older, I am beginning to realize that the Japanese diet and lifestyle practices (things that my parents tried to pass down to me) would help me live longer. Did you know that Japan has the highest number of people per capita over the age of 100 than anywhere else in the world? Although there may be some

genetics at play, studies show that Japanese diet and lifestyle practices lead to longer life spans.

One thing that makes the Japanese diet so healthy is its focus on seafood. Fish is high in Omega-3 fatty acids and has been proven to help prevent heart disease and cancer. Compared to America, Japan has among the world’s lowest levels of heart disease with fewer of the chronic illnesses like Type 2 diabetes. Because of their high seafood consumption, Japanese have much less cholesterol buildup in their arteries, which is common in the U.S.

Green tea is arguably one of the healthiest beverages, and drinking it is a daily habit in Japan. Green tea is rich in polyphenol antioxidants that reduce inflammation, protect cells from the type of damage that can promote chronic diseases and feed the friendly bacteria in your gut, where the majority of your immune cells and mood-boosting neurochemicals are produced.

Regarding lifestyle practices, people in Japan typically act in a way that improves life. Although I’m no expert in Japanese culture, this *Pacific Citizen* article will point out seven simple Japanese habits that I found online. They are simple and small habits, but they are powerful enough to have a big impact on your life (and mine, too).

The first Japanese habit is to organize your shoes. Removing your shoes upon entering a house is simply part of the Japanese way of life. It isn’t something the host has to ask of their guests either. People in Japan do this voluntarily. When you take off your shoes, you have to put your shoes together, nice and neatly. Seeing shoes organized neatly makes you feel better. Keeping this habit is connected to self-affirmation.

The second Japanese habit is *hara hachi bun me*, which means to “eat until you’re 80 percent full.” This common saying in Japan is a Confucian-inspired dietary proverb meaning “belly 80 percent full.” It instructs people to stop eating when they are no longer hungry, rather than when they are full, to prevent overeating and promote longevity, particularly practiced among Okinawa’s centenarians. Practicing this form of calorie restriction is believed to aid in weight management, reduce

stress on the digestive system and promote longevity.

According to [www.trafalgar.com](http://www.trafalgar.com), smaller portions and slower eating are also secrets of the long lifespan of the Japanese. At mealtimes, food is served on smaller plates, making the whole eating process a lot slower, which aids digestion. It encourages eating slowly and mindfully, giving the brain time (usually 20 minutes) to receive signals from the stomach that it is satisfied before becoming overly stuffed. The practice is not about strict deprivation but about developing awareness of cues of satisfaction. In essence, it’s a form of mindful eating, and it makes it possible to eat enough to meet your body’s needs without overdoing it.

The third Japanese habit is to say, “Itadakimasu,” a way of saying thank you and giving respect and appreciation to everyone involved in the preparation of your meal — from the cook who prepared it to the farmer who grew the produce to the actual pig, wheat and mushrooms. While it’s often translated before meals as something similar to the French, “Bon appétit!” *itadakimasu* is actually the polite and humble form of the verb “to receive” so, in a literal sense, it means, “I humbly receive.”

The fourth Japanese habit is to improve your posture. As an ancient

Japanese way of thinking, correcting the posture of the body could also correct the way you think. Appearance is important in the Japanese lifestyle. Your appearance sends a strong message to others without you ever saying a word. The message many of us are sending by slouching and wearing our gym clothes everywhere is that we are indifferent and don’t care.

The fifth Japanese habit is to maintain strong social circles. Staying socially connected is built into Japanese culture, and it’s a reason why Japanese people enjoy better physical and emotional well-being into old age. If you’re feeling isolated or lonely, seek out ways to connect with friends, family and your community. Carve out time to see one another in person, talk on the phone (or over Zoom) or make new friends by joining Facebook groups or other online communities of people with similar interests. Church groups are another way to connect with your community, combat loneliness and enjoy better health and well-being.

The sixth Japanese habit is *Shinrin-yoku*. Stress is a part of everyday life. But too much stress can take a toll on your mind and body. Feeling stressed for long periods of time can lead to depression, increased anxiety and even physical symptoms

## JAMP Makes Transition Into New Chapter

The nonprofit will now function as an all-volunteer organization.

**SANTA CRUZ, CALIF.** — Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages, a nonprofit dedicated to education, remembrance and community building around Japanese American history, announced April 15 that it will transition to an all-volunteer organizational model, effective May 1. As part of this change, Executive Director Kimiko Marr and Nicole Tanner will conclude their paid staff roles with the organization.

The transition marks the end of an era for an organization with roots stretching back to 2016, when Marr and Co-Founder Marissa Fujimoto began recording oral histories at pilgrimages to Japanese American incarceration sites.

What started as a grassroots documentation effort grew, over nearly a decade, into a nationally recognized virtual community connecting Japanese Americans across generations and geographies — formally incorporating as a nonprofit in 2023. Tanner’s

contributions were instrumental in shaping JAMP’s operations throughout that journey.

“The high quality and wide range of work that JAMP does is a direct result of the knowledge and passion that Kimiko and Nicole have put into this organization,” said Ian Martyn, secretary of the JAMP board of directors. “They have built an incredible foundation upon which we continue this important work. JAMP has led me — and so many others — to places of discovery about Japanese American identity and family history that would not have been possible without their dedication.”

The move to an all-volunteer model comes after sustained efforts to secure ongoing funding fell short.

“Traditional sources of support for JAMP’s work, like grants, have not come through as we had hoped,” said Amanda Roper, JAMP treasurer. “This is a transition we make with a heavy



Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages

heart — but also with deep gratitude for everything Kimiko and Nicole have built.”

JAMP will continue its mission through a dedicated volunteer board and community of supporters, sustaining its programming, educational resources and commemorative events. The organization remains committed to bridging generations and keeping Japanese American history, culture and community vibrant and accessible.

To learn more about JAMP or to get involved as a volunteer, visit [www.jampilgrimages.org](http://www.jampilgrimages.org) or follow JAMP on social media.

# YOUTH BENEFITS

### KAKEHASHI PROGRAM

JACL's 8-day cross-cultural exchange international leadership trip to Japan in partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE) & funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).

### JACL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS

Financial aid supporting students' higher education—open to incoming college freshman, undergraduate, graduate, and law students.

WASHINGTON D.C.

### LEADERSHIP SUMMITS

Travel to Washington D.C. for JACL/OCA's 4-day program for young professionals to connect and learn from public officers and policymakers.

### FIND YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER

Discover JACL chapters near you at [jacl.org/find-your-chapter](http://jacl.org/find-your-chapter)



# HONORING A LEGACY OF COURAGE

Portland marks the 10th anniversary of Minoru Yasui Day.

By Kurt Ikeda,  
Director of Programs and  
Engagement for Go For Broke  
National Education Center

When I received the invitation to perform poetry at the 10th anniversary of Minoru Yasui Day at the Oregon Historical Society in downtown Portland on March 28, I sat with it for a moment.

Portland is a city I carry with me. About six years ago, I served as education manager at the Japanese American Museum of Oregon, and that experience continues to inform the community member I am today.

I owe deep gratitude to Hanako Wakatsuki-Chong and Elissa Dingus for their leadership in expanding our community partnerships at JAMO. Portland's Japanese American community raised me up in ways I'm still discovering.

Standing in the very city where Min Yasui deliberately walked into the streets on March 28, 1942, to defy an unjust military curfew, as someone who has spent years interpreting the legacy of incarceration, first as a park ranger at Minidoka National Historic Site and now as director of programs and engagement at Go For Broke National Education Center — I felt the weight of the moment.

## Minoru Yasui Day

*Pacific Citizen* readers know Yasui's story. The Hood River native who became the first Japanese American member of the Oregon Bar. The man who challenged Executive

Order 9066 and paid for it with solitary confinement and incarceration at Minidoka. The lifelong civil rights champion who became the first and only Oregonian to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015. In 2016, the Oregon Legislature unanimously designated March 28 as Minoru Yasui Day in perpetuity. This year marked the 10th anniversary of the observance, and it landed alongside the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

The timing was not lost on anyone in the room. Being back in Portland also meant feeling the absence of those no longer with us. Notably, my heart goes to Holly Yasui, Min's daughter, who taught me with her fiery passion for preserving her father's legacy.

I carried the memory of community members like artist Valerie Ohtani and Minidoka survivor George Nakata, people whose lives embodied the spirit of service and resilience that Min championed. Their legacies were very much alive in that room.

## 'Contested Narratives'

The program, co-hosted by the Minoru Yasui Legacy Project, JAMO and OHS, centered on a keynote and panel titled "Contested Narratives: History, Politics & Community Action."

Southern Oregon University Professor Cherstin M. Lyon delivered

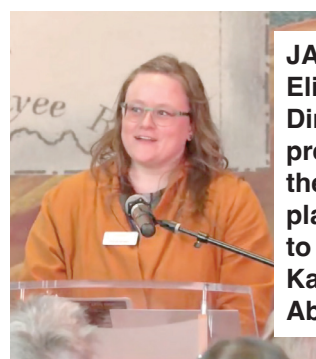


Kurt Ikeda presents his poetry during the Minoru Yasui Day event.

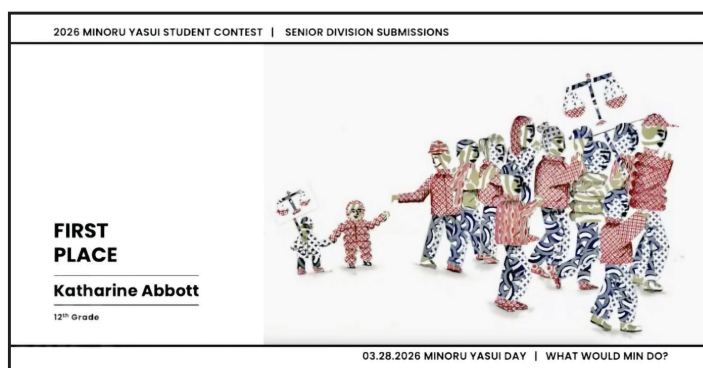
the keynote before moderating a panel with Eliza E. Canty-Jones, Kevin Hatfield, Erica Naito-Campbell and Frank So.

The conversation was urgent, examining how federal policies continue to determine which American stories survive and which are quietly removed. For our community, the discussion was personal.

Winners of the annual Minoru Yasui Student Art Contest were also recognized, and following the program, attendees joined Yasui family members in OHS's exhibition "The Yasui Family: An American Story."



JAMO's Elissa Dingus presents the first place award to student Katharine Abbott.



like body aches. But getting out of the city and into nature, i.e., "forest bathing" or "absorbing the forest atmosphere," is linked with lower blood pressure, lower concentrations of cortisol (the stress hormone) and an increase in parasympathetic nervous system activity, which are all indicative of feeling more calm (source: [www.healthy.kaiserpermanente.org/what-is-forest-bathing](http://www.healthy.kaiserpermanente.org/what-is-forest-bathing)). No forest nearby? No problem! Any natural setting will do.

In conclusion, the seventh Japanese habit is *kaizen*. It is a compound of

two Japanese words that together translate as "good change" or "improvement." *Kaizen* has come to mean "continuous improvement" through its association with lean methodology and principles. You can use it to all of the seven Japanese habits discussed above.

*Kaizen* is a philosophy of continual improvement through small, incremental changes and is more effective than large, drastic changes. While it won't change your life overnight, it can set significant change into motion — bit by bit.

So, organize your shoes tonight!

*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. 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.*

"Contested Narratives: History, Politics & Community Action" featured moderator Cherstin M. Lyon (far right) and panelists (from left) Erica Naito-Campbell, Frank So, Kevin Hatfield and Eliza E. Canty-Jones.



Attorney Peggy Nagae, who represented Min Yasui, speaks.

The second piece, titled, "Cross Examination — State of our Nation vs. Yasui," was written in the style of a crossword puzzle's prompts. Attendees got to see the crossword fill itself on the screen as I recited the poem.

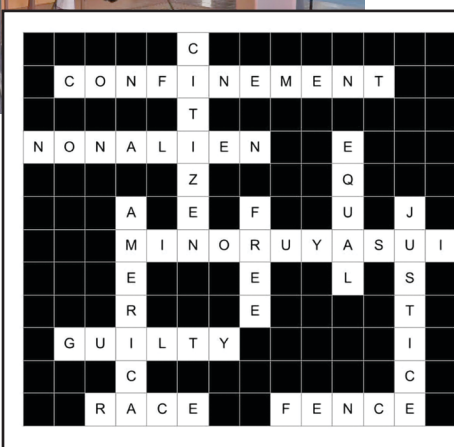
## A Survivor's Reflection

I'll leave you with the words of Minidoka survivor Joni Kimoto, who attended the event.

"Uncle Min, I called him that, when he came to visit my parents in Chicago in '46-'47. As a kid, I didn't realize his impact on me as a woman who would follow his immense courage, bravery, moral conviction and champion of democratic ideals of justice for the Japanese Americans!"

What would Min Yasui do? I think he'd tell us the answer has always been the same: Show up, speak up and never stop.

*The link to view the event by the Minoru Yasui Legacy Project is available at <https://www.youtube.com/live/WwY8LzrUwfl>.*



Kurt Ikeda's poem "Cross Examination — State of Our Nation vs. Yasui" is written in the style of a crossword puzzle's prompts.

## Poetry and Reflections

I was honored to close the program with two original poems. My writing for this performance borrowed a poetry style from Portland poet Ken Yoshikawa, whom I had the privilege of sharing the stage with years earlier in a production depicting Portland's historic Japantown, written and directed by renowned artist Chisao Hata.

The first piece was written in real-time during the hourlong panel discussion and borrows many phrases by the panelists themselves.

**Jerome Rohwer Pilgrimage**  
Join us May 20-23, 2026  
Little Rock, AR  
Registration closes April 30



We'll visit the Jerome & Rohwer Concentration Camp sites. Programs from historical to current times will be featured, with interactive opportunities amongst Pilgrims. See the summary program linked below.

**We look forward to seeing you in Little Rock.**

**Pilgrimage information and Registration**  
<https://tinyurl.com/JRP-Registration>

**Relate, Reflect, Renew**  
**Communication, Learning, Healing**



**Program Summary**  
<https://tinyurl.com/JRP-Program>

**Support the**  
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**2026 Jerome Rohwer Pilgrimage**  
<https://tinyurl.com/JRCfundraising>





# BOB MATSUMOTO'S PENULTIMATE PROJECT

The renowned creative director, teacher and ad man promotes a cap and T-shirt combo in advance of his next project, a documentary about his mentor.

By George Toshio Johnston,  
P.C. Senior Editor

More than nearly anyone, Bob Matsumoto is aware that the time he has left to complete his next project is limited.

A sign of that shortened runway: In September 2025, his alma mater, Pasadena's ArtCenter College of Design, honored Matsumoto with its 2023 Outstanding Service Award at its 2025 alumni reunion, yet another accolade to add to his trophy room. It's the kind of award, however, that doesn't go to spring chickens.

That may be why he needs to put the word out about his second-to-last project, one with a Japanese American theme. It's a project that has echoes of "Remembrance," one of his earlier art projects that combined the barbed wire associated with World War II-era War Relocation Authority camps for Japanese Americans like Manzanar, where his family and he were incarcerated when he was boy, with the patriotic red, white and blue colors of the American flag.

"I just want to let you know this is

it for me," Matsumoto said in reference to his second-to-last project and the final one he plans to do with a Japanese American angle.

But before Matsumoto devotes his complete focus on a film project, he also wants to make sure his penultimate project gets the attention it deserves. That project: the JA (or Japanese American) ball cap and T-shirt.

So, as he approaches 90, the renowned, much-honored creative director, ad man, filmmaker and teacher knows that if he wants to complete the documentary about the man whose unexpected, unasked for help decades ago would point Matsumoto's career trajectory into the thermosphere, he will need to focus his limited time and energy toward that task — but not before making sure as many people as possible know about that cap and shirt, which can be found for sale at the gift shops of the California Museum in Sacramento, Calif., and the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles.

Both articles of clothing incorporate a similar patriotic theme found in

"Remembrance," in which he used an all-American red, white and blue color scheme, applied to barbed wire superimposed on a black background, inspired by the barbed wire that surrounded Manzanar, where he lived as a 4-year-old boy.

The black ball cap and black T-shirt simply have the sans serif embroidered letters "JA." But it's the treatment of those letters — an all-white "J" embedded with a red circle like what is on the *hinomaru* flag of his ancestors and a tricolored, red, white and blue "A" of his home nation — that make a unique, Japanese American statement. (That the red dot in the A is, coincidentally, also part of ArtCenter's logo is an inside nod to another aspect unique to Matsumoto.)

That cap and shirt combo may not be for everyone — but for its intended audience, those two stylized letters on the cap and T-shirt send a particular message of acknowledgement of a unique American identity. Not quite like a "Kiss Me, I'm Irish!" T-shirt — but sort of.

As for Matsumoto's final project, the documentary holds particular significance for him, just as the cap and T-shirt do. Early in his adulthood, after a stint in the Navy, he found a job where he could use his artistic gifts — at a Sacramento, Calif., TV station.

In his oft-told tale, Matsumoto

credits KCRA's co-owner, Bob Kelly, for serendipitously offering, more than six decades ago, to cover the cost of an education at Pasadena's ArtCenter — as long as he promised to repay to the last penny the cost of tuition (*see the Aug. 6, 2021, Pacific Citizen, [tinyurl.com/msffnxc](https://www.pacificcitizen.com/story/news/local/2021/08/06/bob-matsumoto-ja-cap-t-shirt/7844444002)*).

It was a godfather-like offer he couldn't refuse — minus, of course, the horse head in the bed. That, plus Kelly's demand that Matsumoto also promise to always help others whenever possible, would be one of the then-young artist's defining life moments and the prelude to a fulfilling career.

Now, in 2026, Matsumoto's wants to shift his creative powers and focus to his Bob Kelly documentary. The obstacles, however, are many. Kelly's widow is in Sacramento, and that's where the necessary photos that need to be scanned for the project are. Matsumoto, however, is in Burbank, Calif. He's also elderly. And, he no longer can drive.

But Matsumoto is still sharp mentally and resourceful. He can work the phone. He can send and receive emails. He can interact with his many friends who want to help him. He can hire the required talent to remotely record the audio and video.

It's doable, in other words. For Matsumoto, just like getting into ArtCenter turned out to be a goal that

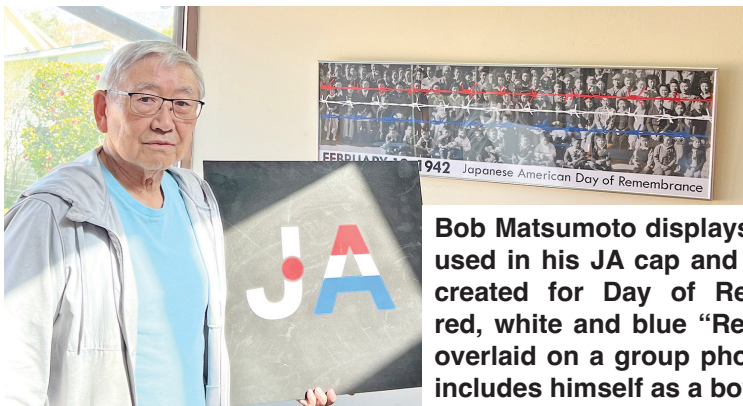


Pictured is a screengrab from the [janmstore.com](https://www.janmstore.com) website of Bob Matsumoto's embroidered JA T-shirt and cap, both available for sale.

wasn't as unrealistic as it might have seemed to be, so is this project.

As he noted in the video used in the ArtCenter Awards 2025, "You've often heard the saying, 'The luck of the Irish.' I've had the luck of being Japanese American."

To view the video featuring Bob Matsumoto's reflections upon receiving the 2023 Outstanding Service Award shown at ArtCenter's 2025 alumni reunion, visit [tinyurl.com/25jy2vf4](https://www.tinyurl.com/25jy2vf4). The JA cap and T-shirt sell for \$40 and \$34, respectively, not including shipping and other costs, and may be purchased online from the JANM Store at [tinyurl.com/4t9ah6ev](https://www.tinyurl.com/4t9ah6ev) and [tinyurl.com/mvfkytfe](https://www.tinyurl.com/mvfkytfe).



Bob Matsumoto displays the logo he designed that was used in his JA cap and T-shirt. Behind him is a poster created for Day of Remembrance incorporating his red, white and blue "Remembrance" barbed-wire motif overlaid on a group photo of Manzanar's Block 30 that includes himself as a boy.

PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON

## Laughter is the Best Medicine

### BRING JOY TO MENTAL HEALTH

Join us for two nights of unforgettable and fun events that boost well-being, reduce stress, and bring people together!

Free events with refreshments.

Feature local Asian comedians & talents.

**MAY 16**

Saturday • 1:30 - 4:30 PM

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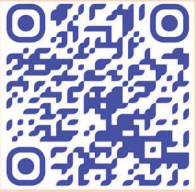
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# PODCASTS RECOUNT WWII JA INCARCERATION

MS Now's 'Burn Order,' 'History for the Reckoning' Revisit a Timely Tale.

By George Toshio Johnston,  
P.C. Senior Editor

Can that which is created to educate also entertain and do so without diluting, whitewashing, bowdlerizing it?

That is an essential question teachers, historians, authors, journalists, screenwriters, movie directors and others with a story to tell must grapple with when they go about writing books and scripts, reporting news stories, directing movies and the like because even if you may have the most amazing, important, uplifting or inspirational hunk of knowledge to share, if it is unengaging and unentertaining and you have no audience, then what was the point of doing the work?

The word "edutainment" was coined for this approach, and while it might seem like it has the potential to diminish or mock a subject (think "Drunk History"), when it works, it can be quite effective.

Consider "Rachel Maddow Presents: Burn Order" (see related story, April 3, 2026, *Pacific Citizen*, [tinyurl.com/4f848vje](https://www.pacificcitizen.com/4f848vje)). Released late last year, the six-part podcast managed to tell an important, ever-timely story in an engaging, compelling and, yes, entertaining manner.

With its Dec. 1, 2025, launch, the series — produced by cable news outlet MS Now with many, if not most, of the same behind-the-scenes folks who, back when it was MS-



**Pictured (from left) are Rachel Maddow, Satsuki Ina, Frank Abe and Lorraine Bannai onstage at the Orpheum Theatre on Dec. 14.**

PHOTOS: MSNOW AND MONTY BRINTON

NBC, worked on the podcasts "Bag Man," "Prequel" (both also books) and "Ultra" — conveys to a mass audience a history well-known (and experienced directly and indirectly) by many *Pacific Citizen* readers and JACL members: the forced removal from the West Coast and subsequent mass incarceration of thousands of people of Japanese heritage — U.S. citizens and legal residents then-ineligible for naturalization alike — thanks to something that became ubiquitous over the past year and several months, an executive order.

It is a saga that, important as it is to America's historical record, has been given comparatively little attention over the decades by mainstream news outlets and entertainment companies. "Burn Order" takes a huge step toward rectifying that situation, and the timing could not be more

apropos to the status quo.



That story, of course, is the "race prejudice, war hysteria and failure of political leadership," thanks to an executive order, that led to the abrogation of constitutional and civil rights of an unpopular minority group during World War II.

That story is of the government and military cooperating to degrade and punish a group of people held in low-esteem by the biased, the fanatical and the powerful.

If the preceding sounds like an old song that is today echoing off purple mountain majesties where instead freedom should be ringing, well, that's the point of "Burn Order" — that what has happened since January 2025 from sea to shining sea is not a new tune but a mashup, a remix for the masses that failed to learn from

the mistakes of the past.

The six sprawling episodes of the eminently listenable "Burn Order" are "Safecracker," "The Jitters," "One Drop," "Like an Ordinary American," "Sheep and Goats" and "A Reckoning."

Co-written mostly and co-executive produced by Maddow and Michael Yarvitz, "Burn Order" uses several techniques to tell the overarching story. With Maddow as narrator, the installments can sometimes seem akin to a compelling police or legal procedural, as well as a twisty whodunit.



With its high-quality production values, "Burn Order" integrates with Maddow's narration subtle background music, the spoken word via audio clips (many culled from the oral histories compiled by Densho) of people, some long-deceased, whose names are a part of the remarkable experiences of those Japanese Americans and others who had key roles in the story, not the least of whom is the late Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga (see Aug. 3, 2018, *Pacific Citizen*, [tinyurl.com/yk8wr7hk](https://www.pacificcitizen.com/yk8wr7hk)).

The name of the podcast is, in fact, derived from the "smoking gun" artifact that Herzig-Yoshinaga uncovered decades ago as a private citizen who spent an inordinate amount of her own time researching what the National Archives held with regard to the Japanese American incarceration.

In what could be described as a fluke, serendipity, dumb luck or even

**The Orpheum Theatre's marquee on Dec. 14**

PHOTO: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON

divine providence, she happened to notice something at the Archives during a search one day that had been mislabeled: the only surviving copy of the original "Final Report on Japanese Evacuation From the West Coast."

As "Burn Order" relates, it was not supposed to exist. What Herzig-Yoshinaga found was not the revised version of the report, which attributed the mass incarceration to military necessity.

This original version, the contents of which were so damning that all 10 copies had been ordered incinerated, essentially admitted that the basis for the removal and incarceration of ethnic Japanese had nothing to do with ginned up but possibly plausible "military necessity" and everything to do with racism.



Herzig-Yoshinaga's story is just one of the many threads woven into the story told in "Burn Order." The story of Colorado Gov. Ralph Carr is part of the mix, as well as that of Naval Intelligence officer Ken Ringle, who knew firsthand that Japanese Americans were not the disloyal, duplicitous and dangerous bogeymen that some politicians, pundits and newspapers portrayed them as.

Other threads: The four Supreme Court cases of Mitsue Endo, Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu and Minoru Yasui that challenged different aspects of the evacuation order. Included are the voices of some of the attorneys who in the 1980s revisited three of those failed cases via an arcane legal gambit suggested by legal historian Peter Irons: writ



**MS Now's Rachel Maddow (far left) interacts with (from left) Rep. Mark Takano, Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo and Amy Oba of Nikkei Progressives during the second panel of the "Burn Order" live event held at the Orpheum Theatre in Los Angeles.**



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of error coram nobis. Iron's voice is also part of the story.

Every good story needs a good antagonist, of course. In "Burn Order," those roles go to the Western Defense Command's Gen. John DeWitt and his incarceration architect, Col. Karl Bendetsen.

One episode even includes (spoiler alert!) audio of Bendetsen himself, recorded in the early 1980s, a few years before he died in 1989. And, without saying it explicitly, the podcast lets the listener make the connection that the roles played by those two then are being reprised now by a different devious duo that has applied not-dissimilar tactics to immigrants of this era.

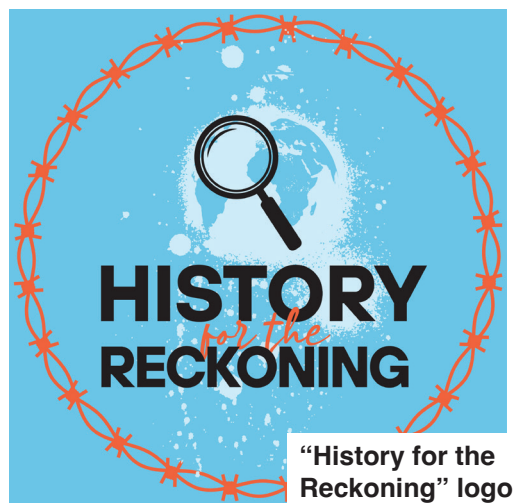
Other prominent voices that appear in the podcast belong to Norman Mineta (*see May 3, 2022, Pacific Citizen*, [tinyurl.com/y7j7kuy](https://tinyurl.com/y7j7kuy)); his son, David Mineta; Kenneth Ringle (son of Ken Ringle); Hirabayashi, Korematsu and Yasui; Justice Department lawyer Edward Ennis; former Justice Department official Chuck Rosenberg; Carr; journalist-turned-historian Frank Abe ([tinyurl.com/2vyey82s](https://tinyurl.com/2vyey82s)); Tsuru for Solidarity doyen Dr. Satsuki Ina ([tinyurl.com/474v45hw](https://tinyurl.com/474v45hw)); attorney Lorraine Bannai ([tinyurl.com/34cj39rh](https://tinyurl.com/34cj39rh)); and others. (One name that comes up only once in the six episodes: Japanese American Citizens League.)



The saying "great minds think alike" might explain why MS Now was not alone in its reasoning to explore something from the previous century that the U.S. is grappling with today.

The inaugural season of another multi-episode podcast, "History for the Reckoning," has also decided to examine the Japanese American incarceration experience of WWII. It's a worthy companion piece to that other podcast.

Its creator and host, Utah-based Spencer Ford, told *Pacific Citizen* that "History for the Reckoning" is "about diving into uncomfortable



The podcast's host and producer, Spencer Ford

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF SPENCER FORD



Spencer Ford with his wife, Kaushay, and their daughter

history" so that society learns to "not repeat the wrongs of the past" that are "resonating today." The Japanese American incarceration saga certainly checks that box for Season 1.

Released just weeks ago on Feb. 19, Episode 0 (the first installment) features a conversation with actor George Takei. Interviewed in subsequent episodes that have been released every two weeks are Susan Kamei (*see Sept. 10, 2021, Pacific Citizen*, [tinyurl.com/yur6mnkt](https://tinyurl.com/yur6mnkt)), Chizu Omori, Emily Inouye Huey and Claudia Katayanagi. Upcoming episodes, meantime, include many of the same people who appeared in "Burn Order."

"Everyone has been incredibly gracious with their time," Ford said. Although he had no familial ties to the incarceration, as a self-described history buff with a strong sense of social justice, his initial research focused on the leader of the Fair Play Committee of the Heart Mountain War Relocation Authority Center, Frank Emi.

"From researching his story, you learn all about the JACL, and you learn about all the people who are involved in many other organizations, just incredible things," Ford said. "And from then, it just kind of started an obsession with me."

To feed Ford's obsession, Japanese American friends in Salt Lake City suggested that he attend one of the camp pilgrimages. As he dug deeper, he realized that there was the makings of the first season of his podcast.

Fortunately, because he had a background in theater and music, as in producing and recording bands in a studio, he also had the necessary technical skills to turn the idea into a show.

Add to that funds and grants from the Mount Olympus JACL chapter, the Takahashi Family Foundation, the Japanese American Community Foundation and the like, and "History for the Reckoning" began.

In Season 1, it will be adding episodes through most of

the remaining months of the year. Topics addressed in episodes so far: prewar life for Japanese Americans, from Pearl Harbor to the camps, life in camp and the Department of Justice camps; future episodes will address the draft resistance, the legal justification for the incarceration, the Supreme Courts cases and the later coram nobis cases, the redress movement, intergenerational trauma and more.

To listen, there are several options, including visiting the website [historyforthereckoning.com](https://historyforthereckoning.com); the Substack link [historyforthereckoning.substack.com/](https://historyforthereckoning.substack.com/); using the following link ([tinyurl.com/2wt738ww](https://tinyurl.com/2wt738ww)) for Apple Podcasts; and searching on YouTube or in the podcast app of a personal smartphone or tablet.



After the release of the last episode of "Burn Order," Maddow and the MS Now team held a live event last Dec. 14 at the Orpheum Theatre in downtown Los Angeles and it aired Dec. 29.

With Maddow as host/moderator, it was a 90-minute culmination of the podcast that featured her onstage with three of the people whose voices were integral to the six episodes: Abe, Bannai and Ina. Joining Maddow in the evening's second section were Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo, Rep. Mark Takano (D-Calif.) and Amy Oba of Nikkei Progressives. (It can be auditioned on YouTube at [tinyurl.com/522kdw43](https://tinyurl.com/522kdw43).)

Despite the gravity of the subject matter conveyed in the series, the mood at the Orpheum was celebratory, and it had cause to be so. "Burn Order" had presented to a wide audience an important, truthful examination of events that was not only perfect for the podcast medium, but it also was a story that was perfect for the present and, realistically, one that had not received the treatment and resources that a professional, mainstream news outlet could bring.

That said, a cursory internet search will yield criticism of "Burn Order." Even with six episodes, it is not comprehensive. Some might see it as an oversimplification of a far more complex story. The editorial

choices and dramatic devices made on how to frame and tell the story, just as it is with any such endeavor, are certainly open to debate.

But, as was noted, "Burn Order" can be classified as edutainment and judged from that perspective, its strengths surely outweigh its weaknesses. For those to whom the Japanese American WWII incarceration story is new, "Burn Order" can be seen as an introduction to further investigation of other extant studies, research and books, and that is noteworthy when taking into account that there are still people in this country who consider themselves educated and knowledgeable, yet have never heard much of about what happened in this country to people who are still alive.

With the podcast medium now a Golden Globe category, it remains to be seen what, if any, accolades "Burn Order" might be nominated for later this year when awards season begins. (At the very least, it deserves some sort of recognition from that organization that received but one mention in six episodes when it holds its national convention this summer in Las Vegas.)

Also worth considering: After "Ultra," another MS Now podcast (back

when it was still MSNBC) ended its run, filmmaker Steven Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment optioned it to possibly become a feature film. Might that be in the future of "Burn Order," too?

If not, that is OK. "Burn Order" is a perfectly fine standalone work in a medium of its own, the podcast. In a time when the nation has demonstrably slid backward from hard-won advances, maybe, just maybe, the timely arrival of it and "History for the Reckoning" will serve as a caution and reminder that sometimes, the past isn't as far away as it seems.

Odd as it is, perhaps one of the rare upsides of the trauma of the Japanese American experience of decades ago is that, as conveyed by something like "Burn Order, it can serve as an immune-system response to the stirring of an ever-present bug buried deeply in the fundament of this nation, lying in wait like a cicada for the right time to emerge yet again.

**"Rachel Maddow Presents: Burn Order" and "History for the Reckoning" can be heard by searching the podcast app on smartphones and tablets. To view an interview by Karen Korematsu of Michael Yarvitz, visit [tinyurl.com/Sejxbube](https://tinyurl.com/Sejxbube).**





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Please contact Steve Okamoto for more information on how you can help support the good work of the JACL.  
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## 'AMERICAN PASTIME'

Film screening connects baseball, history and resilience in St. Louis.

By Sherry Leidl,  
JACL St. Louis Chapter

The St. Louis chapter of the JACL co-sponsored a movie screening of "American Pastime" and a discussion with the movie's associate producer, Kerry Yo Nakagawa, at the St. Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum on March 29 in Creve Coeur, Mo.

Nakagawa, an author, historian and founder of the Nisei Baseball Research Project, told stories about Nisei baseball players, his family and how the movie has impacted viewers for nearly three decades.

"American Pastime," set in the 1940s, is a fictional film that portrays Japanese Americans as they were removed, assembled, relocated and forced to create new lives in the Topaz camp, behind barbed wire and armed guards.

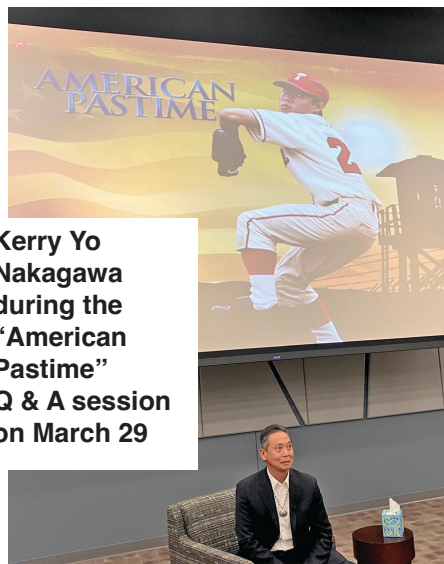
The film was inspired by the real-life efforts of Kenichi Zenimura in creating a baseball league during the forced incarceration of people of Japanese ancestry during World War

II. The film touches on one man volunteering and returning from war as part of the 442nd/Regimental Combat Team/100th Infantry Battalion, with their "Go for Broke" motto becoming an integral part of the movie's climax.

In addition to showing baseball as a central theme of resilience, the movie presents themes of racism, love, coping, dignity and loyalty. For love of the game, men in the camp form a baseball team that ultimately competes against the local Caucasian team for a high-stakes prize.

"I could just see my parents going through all that. The movie brought it all close to home. To think your parents had to go through all that — it just breaks your heart," said Anne Mitori, a JACL member who was incarcerated with her family at Tule Lake, of her reaction following the film's screening. "I suspect young men enlisted to get out of that desolation."

Kerry Yo Nakagawa during the "American Pastime" Q & A session on March 29



Said Ed Shimamoto, who was born in the Rohwer, Ark., incarceration camp: "I was very moved by the way they showed new character actors along with some old documentary videos. The racist scenes added a more graphic and personal effect, more impact than the documentary haircut story I had read about. It reinforced what [my father] said about not wanting to go back to California after camp because they weren't treated very well. Indeed, the organization the Native Sons of the Golden West was as bad as the Ku Klux Klan with their violence and support of anti-Asian legislative efforts."



Kerry Yo Nakagawa (left) with St. Louis Chapter President Wendy Roll and Treasurer Steve Mitori

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF JACL ST. LOUIS CHAPTER

Nakagawa's family was incarcerated at Fresno, Calif., and then Jerome, Ark. In a Q & A-style discussion following the screening, Nakagawa said Asians and Negroes played in separate leagues but were talented enough to play Major League Baseball in the 1920s and '30s.

His uncle, Johnny Nakagawa, was the "Shohei Ohtani" of his time as a left-handed pitcher, homerun hitter and center fielder. Kerry Nakagawa brought photo prints of Japanese American all-star players Johnny Nakagawa, Harvey Iwata, Fred Yoshikawa and Zenimura with Lou Gehrig and Babe Ruth at a 1927

exhibition game at the Fresno Athletic Club.

"The St. Louis organizers did a great job making this, as well as other events, as part of the three-months-long 'Resilience' art exhibit," said St. Louis Chapter JACL member Masao Nishi. "The partnership with the Holocaust Museum broadened the audience for the exhibit, and this wonderful movie was both educational and enjoyable. I'm very impressed with the event and its contribution to the community."

The "American Pastime" event was the last in a series of events centered around the traveling art exhibit "Resilience: A Sansei Sense of Legacy." The St. Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum hosted the exhibit in partnership with the St. Louis Chapter JACL with support from the JA Community Foundation, the JACL Legacy Fund and the Regional Arts Commission of St. Louis. Ann and Alan Spector sponsored the "American Pastime" event.

The events were three years in the making for Mike Kimzey and Robin Hattori, who saw the exhibit in several cities before scouting for a location in St. Louis. Kimzey, along with Wendy Roll, board president, and Steve Mitori, vp of finance, worked with the Holocaust Museum's education, events and logistics

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teams on the exhibit planning and implementation. Hattori obtained multiple grants to fund the exhibit project while the entire board planned related events in coordination with museum staff.

Events related to the “Resilience” exhibit included a Jan. 15 opening reception and a day dedicated to local JACL members and their friends.

The chapter also held a Feb. 22 Day of Remembrance presentation at the Holocaust Museum. The event included a presentation by Washington University Assistant Professor Kelley Van Dyck Murphy and students who created art projects based on their class research, as well as a trip to Manzanar.

The Day of Remembrance also featured a presentation and Q & A with author Tracey Slater, author of the book “Together in Manzanar.” The book is the true story about a Japanese Jewish family that fought to stay together during relocation. Hattori served as a moderator of the discussion.

*For more information about the Nisei Baseball Research Project, visit [niseibaseball.com](http://niseibaseball.com).*

*For upcoming events, visit the JACL St. Louis chapter’s website at [stlouisjacl.org](http://stlouisjacl.org).*

## Arnold Maeda Manzanar Pilgrimage Grant Award Winners Announced

The 2026 recipients are Dan Bui Kubota and Dianne Chevez Hernandez.

**VENICE, CALIF.** — The Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument Committee and the Manzanar Committee congratulate the 2026 recipients of the 6th Annual Arnold Maeda Manzanar Pilgrimage Grant: Dan Bui Kubota of Stanford University and Dianne Chevez Hernandez of East Los Angeles College.

Kubota and Hernandez will each receive \$1,000 to cover the costs of participating in the upcoming 57th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, set to take place April 24-26 at the Manzanar National Historic Site in Independence, Calif., as well as helping the Manzanar Committee plan and organize the event.

Kubota is studying mechanical engineering at Stanford and plans to minor in earth systems. She hopes to combine her passion for design with her interest in environmental service policy.

“While Japanese Americans are not being explicitly targeted now

as they were during incarceration, other groups are,” said Kubota. “How can our community come together and stand in solidarity with undocumented people, given our history of discrimination by the U.S. government?”

She is looking forward to attending the upcoming Manzanar Pilgrimage for the first time.

“I hope to embody Maeda’s legacy of activism long after the pilgrimage has passed,” said Kubota.

Hernandez is planning on becoming a psychological science major at East Los Angeles College and hopes to do research in forensic psychology.

“Participating in the Manzanar Pilgrimage would be an eye-opening experience that would help me embrace my own culture, honor the past, reflect on the present . . . while trying to contribute to a better future for those around me,” said Hernandez. “Life might feel heavy at times,



**Dan Bui Kubota (left) and Dianne Chevez Hernandez**

but it is to make us more resilient. Bad times do not last forever, and we must keep going to see them get better. Everyone [has the capacity] to shine, thrive and make change in their own lives and in the lives of others.”

The Arnold Maeda Manzanar Pilgrimage Grant encourages college students to research the activism and legacy of Maeda. In April 1942, the U.S. government forcibly removed a then-15-year-old Maeda and his parents from their home in Santa Monica, Calif. They then reported to the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards with only what they could carry due to the issuance of Executive Order 9066.

Years later in 2010, Maeda became a charter member of the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument Committee, determined to build a reminder of what had happened at that corner and to warn others that such an unconstitutional injustice should never again be perpetrated by the government “against any group, solely on the basis of ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, race or religion” (from the VJAMM text).

*For more information about the Arnold Maeda Manzanar Pilgrimage Grant, visit [www.venicejamm.org](http://www.venicejamm.org) or [Facebook.com/VeniceJAMM](https://www.facebook.com/VeniceJAMM) or [www.manzanarcommittee.org](http://www.manzanarcommittee.org).*

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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## NATIONAL

**JACL National Convention**  
**Las Vegas, NV**  
**July 29-Aug. 2**  
**Paris Las Vegas Hotel & Casino**  
**3655 S. Las Vega Blvd.**  
Join JACL at its 56th National Convention themed “Reigniting Our Purpose and Mission!” where the organization will gather to reinvigorate the spirit of advancing our community forward with renewed action and impact. Events include the Chapter Awards Luncheon, National Council and 2026 National Board Elections, Sayonara Gala, workshops, mixers and much more!  
**Info: Visit [www.jacl.org/2026-national-convention](https://www.jacl.org/2026-national-convention).**

**Ireicho Tour to Former Confinement Sites & Other Places**  
**National Stops:**  
**May 1-2: Topaz, UT**  
**May 10-11: San Francisco, CA**  
**July 4-5: Tule Lake, CA**  
**Info: Visit <https://www.janm.org/exhibits/ireicho/venues>.**

## INTL.

**‘Return to Paueru Gai: 50 Years of Powell Street Festival’ Exhibit**  
**Burnaby, B.C.**  
**Now Open**  
**Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre, Karasawa Gallery**  
**6688 Southoaks Crescent**  
This exhibit, curated by Emiko Morita, celebrates the art and activism of the Japanese Canadian community’s annual festival through photographs, video and installations. It honors early Japanese settlers and the Japanese Canadian community.  
**Info: Visit <https://centre.nikkeiplace.org>.**

## NCWNP

**‘I Am an American’ Exhibit**  
**San Francisco, CA**  
**Thru Aug. 31**  
**MIS Historic Learning Center at the Presidio of San Francisco**  
**220 Halleck St.**  
**Price: \$15; Free for Veterans, Children 12 and Under, NJAHS Members.**  
This new traveling exhibit tells the storied history of the Nisei soldiers who served during WWII and features artifacts, first-hand accounts and evocative images of their bravery and sacrifice.  
**Info: Visit [nvnvets.org/exhibit](https://nvnvets.org/exhibit).**

**Eden Bazaar**  
**San Lorenzo, CA**  
**June 6; Noon-7 p.m.**  
**Eden Township Japanese Community Center**  
**710 Elgin St.**  
**Price: Free**  
The annual Eden Township Bazaar returns featuring delicious BBQ chicken teri bento, curry rice/udon, chicken salad, corn, shave ice, mochi and other popular deserts, plus bingo and many more games for the entire family to enjoy!  
**Info: Visit [edenjapanesecc.org](https://edenjapanesecc.org) for menu and event details.**

**‘House Meeting(s): Opening the Door for Redress in San Jose’**  
**San Jose, CA**  
**Now Open**  
**Japanese American Museum at San Jose**  
**535 N. Fifth St.**  
This exhibit looks at the Japanese American redress movement through everyday places and the eyes of everyday people. House meetings were informal gatherings and this space within the home was essential to the movement where trust could be built before conversations moved beyond the home.  
**Info: Visit [www.jamsj.org](https://www.jamsj.org).**

**2026 Tule Lake Pilgrimage ‘Resistance & Solidarity’**  
**Tulelake, CA**  
**July 3-6**  
**Tule Lake Segregation Center**  
**Price: \$700 All-Inclusive Fee**  
Save the date for the Tule Lake Pilgrimage and reserve your spot now as space is limited. The four-day event includes charter bus transportation, lodging, meals and all activities including tours and a memorial service.  
**Info: Registration now open. Limited spots. Visit <https://www.tulelake.org> for further details.**

## PSW

**42nd Los Angeles Asisan Pacific Film Festival**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**April 29-May 3**  
**Various Participating Movie Theaters Across the L.A. Area**  
**Price: Festival Pass \$150**  
This year’s fest offers film selections in the following sections: Animation, Cinema Musica, Documentary Features, Narrative Features, Pacific Cinewaves, Shorts, Special Presentations and VC Presents.  
**Info: Visit <https://festival.vcmedia.org/2026/>.**

**2026 Arigato Bazaar**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**May 2; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
**Centenary UMC**  
**300 S. Central Ave.**  
**Price: Free**  
This family-friendly event welcomes all to enjoy an afternoon of great food, music and cultural performances, country store, handcrafts, a silent auction, ikebana displays and a grand-prize drawing for \$500 and many other prizes. Free validated parking and shuttle will be offered.  
**Info: Visit <https://centenary-dtla.org> or call (213) 617-9097.**

**Author Talk by Art Nomura**  
**Culver City, CA**  
**May 9; 4-5 p.m.**  
**Culver City Julian Dixon Library**  
**4975 Overland Ave.**  
**Price: Free; Registration Encouraged**  
Born in Manzanar Concentration Camp and a professor emeritus at Loyola Marymount University, Art Nomura will talk about his book “Mizuko: True Spirit,” an American immigrant tale of hardship, assimilation and eventual triumph.  
**Info: To register, Visit [LACounty Library.org/Events](https://www.lacountylibrary.org/Events).**

**Master Series: Tea Whisk by Tango Tanimura**  
**San Diego, CA**  
**May 29; 1-2 p.m.**  
**Japanese Friendship Garden**  
**Inamori Pavilion**  
**2215 Pan American Road E.**  
**Price: JFGM Member \$50; Nonmember \$65**  
This experience includes a special presentation by Tango Tanimura, a 20th-generation artisan of traditional Takayama tea whisks (chasen).Tanimura will share the history, techniques and cultural significance of chasen-making, followed by a live demonstration.  
**Info: Visit <https://www.niwa.org/artisans>.**

**‘Darkness and Humanity: The Complete Akira Kurosawa’**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**Thru May 30**  
**Academy Museum of Motion Pictures**  
**6067 Wilshire Blvd.**  
**Price: Museum Admission**  
Presented entirely on 35mm film, this series of 28 screenings covers the director’s key contributions to the jidai-geki samurai genre, as well as his contemporary gendai-geki dramas.  
**Info: Visit <https://www.academylmuseum.org/>.**

## PNW

**‘Minidoka on Our Minds’ Exhibit**  
**Portland, OR**  
**Thru June 14**  
**Japanese American Museum of Oregon**  
**411 N.W. Flanders St.**  
**Price: Museum Admission**  
This exhibit celebrates 25 years of preservation at the site where many Nikkei from Oregon and Washington were incarcerated during WWII. Artwork by survivors, descendants and Japanese American youth explore the park’s history.  
**Info: Visit <https://jamo.org/minidoka/>.**

**‘The Yasui Family: An American Story’ Exhibit**  
**Portland, OR**  
**Thru Sept. 6**  
**The Oregon Historical Society**  
**1200 S.W. Park Ave.**  
Through photographs, personal journals, documents and objects, this exhibition explores how the Yasui family reflects the complexity of the American story.  
**Info: Visit [ohs.org](https://ohs.org).**

## MDC

**Minnesota Japanese American Veterans Graveside Decorating**  
**Minneapolis, MN**  
**May 16**  
**Fort Snelling National Cemetery**  
**7601 34th Ave. S.**  
The Twin Cities JACL invites all to commemorate the service and sacrifice of Minnesota Japanese American Veterans by decorating gravesites at the cemetery. Volunteers are also needed to decorate gravesites of veterans whose family members are not able to attend.  
**Info: Please RSVP by May 13 to [chiratadulas@tcjacl.org](mailto:chiratadulas@tcjacl.org).**

## CCDC

**Mother’s Day Afternoon Tea in the Historic Kearney Mansion**  
**Fresno, CA**  
**May 9; 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.**  
**Kearney Mansion**  
**7160 W. Kearney Blvd.**  
**Price: \$75**  
This extravagant tea party offers your choice of seating in the Mansion dining room or on the veranda overlooking Kearney Park. Event includes traditional tea service and a tour of the Kearney Mansion Museum and Gallery. Seating is limited. Secure your tickets today.  
**Info: To purchase tickets, visit <https://www.valleyhistory.org/mothers-day-tea-party>.**

## EDC

**JAVA Spring Social**  
**Arlington, VA**  
**April 26; Noon**  
**VFW Post 3150**  
**2116 19th St. N**  
**Price: Free RSVP Required**  
JAVA members, families and friends are invited to enjoy an afternoon of food, drinks, games, activities and door prizes.  
**Info: Visit <https://java-us.org/>.**

**‘Courage and Compassion: Our Shared Story of the Japanese American World War II Experience’**  
**Delray Beach, FL**  
**May 9-Aug. 30**  
**Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens**  
**4000 Morikami Park Road**  
**Price: Museum Admission**  
This exhibit brings the national story of the Japanese American war sacrifice home to Florida, exploring the legacy of the historic Yamato colony and its residents.  
**Info: For more information, visit [morikami.org](https://morikami.org).**

**‘Masako Miki: Midnight March’**  
**Boston, MA**  
**Thru May 31**  
**MassArt Art Museum**  
**621 Huntington Ave.**  
**Price: Museum Admission**  
The exhibit is an experiential world populated by semi-abstracted felted wool sculptures set within a galaxy. It references nature, Japanese supernatural beings and Shintoism.  
**Info: Visit <https://maam.massart.edu/exhibitions>.**

**‘The Many Lives of the Nakagin Capsule Tower’ Exhibit**  
**New York, NY**  
**Thru July 12**  
**Museum of Modern Art**  
**11 W. 53rd St.**  
**Price: Museum Admission**  
The exhibit brings together original drawings and models with ephemeral photographs and films to explore how this structure became a hive of creativity.  
**Info: Visit <http://www.moma.org/calendar/exhibitions/5830>.** ■

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## News Briefs

### Kami, Minamitani, Yamauchi Are DTLA JACL, JWSSC's Women of the Year

The Downtown Los Angeles JACL chapter and the Japanese Women's Society of Southern California have announced their choices for 2026 Women of the Year honors: Kay Shizue Kami, Izumi Minamitani and Shigeko Yamauchi. The trio were chosen for their respective "service to the community, their dedication to advancing Japanese culture, their professional excellence and their unwavering strength and courage in the face of adversity." The luncheon event will take place at 12:30 p.m. (check-in @ noon) on May 3 at the Quiet Cannon (rooms Crystal 2-4), 901 N. Via San Clemente in Montebello, Calif. For ticket availability and more information, call Amy Tambara (English/evenings) at (323) 722-3897, Rodney Nakada (English/Japanese/days) at (213) 628-1808 or Toshie Kawaguchi (Japanese) at (323) 434-3899.

### Patsy Ishiyama Among 6 Presidio Trust Board Members Sacked by Trump

Along with fellow Presidio Trust board members Mark W. Buell, Charles M. Collins, Lenore Eccles, Bonnie LePard and Nicola Miner, Ishiyama was terminated April 8, more than a year after President Donald Trump inked an executive order ([see tinyurl.com/muhbwy6m](https://tinyurl.com/muhbwy6m)) targeting "... unnecessary governmental entities and Federal Advisory Committees that should be terminated on grounds that they are unnecessary." In a statement, the Trust said: "We anticipate that we will receive new board members and are awaiting information on the new appointments. We have a long history of wonderful leaders serving the Presidio, and we look forward to welcoming and working with the new members." The executive order also targeted the Inter-American Foundation, the United States African Development Foundation and the United States Institute of Peace. All six Presidio Trust board members had been appointed by President Joe Biden; Ishiyama, along with Collins, were tapped in 2024, and their terms were supposed to last through May 2027. She is vp of Ishiyama Corp., president of the Ishiyama Foundation and vice chair of the board of directors of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The San Francisco landmark is the site where the "I Am an American" exhibition ([tinyurl.com/wuej5ydn](https://tinyurl.com/wuej5ydn)) opened Feb. 20 and is slated to continue through July 31.

### GFBNEC's 'Courage and Compassion' Exhibition to Open May 9 in Florida

Coinciding with Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, an exhibition titled "Courage and Compassion: Our Shared Story of the Japanese American World War II Experience" is slated to open May 9 at the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens in Delray Beach, Fla. Produced by Go For Broke National Education Center, "Courage and Compassion" tells the story of Japanese American service and sacrifice in World War II, with a local tie-in to the legacy of Boca Raton, Fla.'s historic Yamato colony, which was established in the early 1900s. Brothers Jun and Kenjiro Yoshida, who were born at Yamato Village in Boca Raton, both served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, some members of which trained at Florida's Camp Blanding. The Morikami Museum is located at 4000 Morikami Park Road in Delray Beach. "Courage and Compassion" runs through Aug. 30.

### Japanese American National Museum's Announces More Board Members

Joining JANM's board of trustees is entrepreneur Gene Ochi. Tapped for membership to its board of governors are Michigan State University Museum Director Devon Akmon; Capital Group Compliance Director of Client Services Darin Y. Kita; and Los Angeles Community College District Chief Facilities Executive Dr. Leigh T. Sata. "Their expertise in business, entrepreneurship and arts and culture will strengthen JANM's mission, reach and vision," said William T. Fujioka, chair of JANM's board of trustees.

### Muratsuchi Joins Assemblymembers Bid to Limit Smartphones in Schools

Perhaps apropos of his goal to become California's next superintendent of Public Instruction, termed-out Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance), Assembly Education Committee chair, has joined a bipartisan group consisting of Josh Hoover (R-Folsom), Josh Lowenthal (D-Long Beach) and Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland) in introducing Assembly Bill 1644, which aims to impose a "bell-to-bell" limitation on the use of smartphones "... throughout the school day, with appropriate exceptions" for the state's TK-12 students. Muratsuchi, who represents the 66th Assembly District, authored AB 272 in 2019, which "... authorized all school districts and charter schools to restrict student smartphone use during the school day."

— P.C. Staff



# MEMORIAM

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



**Akao, Kentaro, 42**, Irvine, CA, Feb. 3.



**Aoki, Nobuo, 96**, Salt Lake City, UT, Dec. 17, 2025.



**Brovick, Keiko (Ohno), 87**, Chula Vista, CA, March 3.

**Galantini-Ujifusa, Lorraine, 82**, Las Vegas, NV, March 4.

**Hino, Emi Shimoyama, 85**, Northridge, CA, Feb. 12.

**Kawasaki, Thomas, 73**, Chicago, IL, March 6.

**Kyono, Fumi Nagamitsu, 98**, Rochester, MN, Feb. 15.

**Shimizu, Robert, 86**, Lafayette, CA, Dec. 30, 2025.

## TRIBUTE

### YOSHIKO "YO" (YOKOUCHI) SHINODA



**April 4, 1935-April 2, 2026**  
**San Leandro, Calif.**

Yoshiko Lynn Shinoda, "Yo" passed away on April 2, 2026. Born in Glendale, Calif., she graduated from Berkeley High School, attended UC Berkeley and graduated in 1956 from UC San Francisco Medical School with a dental hygiene degree. She married Fred M. Shinoda on June 22, 1957, in Berkeley. In addition to her dental hygienist career, she helped run her dad's Nikko Art Shop on Shattuck Avenue in Berkeley, which she took over as proprietor until closing in 1999. Yo was 7 when her family was evacuated to Santa Anita and then to Amache near Granada, Colo. In 1943, she moved to Boulder, Colo., where her parents taught at the Naval Japanese Language School. She attended the American School in Japan while her mother worked for as a translator for the U.S. Army. Yo was preceded in death by her parents, Grace and Kiyoharu Yokouchi, Uncle Byko Umezawa and cousin Elinor Kajiware. She is survived by her husband of 69 years, Fred M. Shinoda, son Douglas Shinoda, sister Tomiko Madden, and three generations of nieces and nephews.

## TRIBUTE

### ALLAN UYESUGI



**Tustin, Calif.**

Allan Randolph Uyesugi, 79, passed away on March 2, 2026, in Tustin. He was born in Yuba City, Calif., to Masao and Mary Uyesugi.

Allan was a graduate of Santa Ana High School, Chapman College and the Gemological Institute of America. While serving in the Army Reserve, he worked as an instructor at GIA before joining his family's business, AA Jewel Box, where he worked for nearly 50 years.

His service to the community included membership in the Santa Ana Rotary Club, the board of Community Service Programs (now Waymakers), the Orange County Business Bank and the St. Joseph Hospital Foundation.

A devoted Angels fan, passionate golfer, and food enthusiast, Allan shared his zest for life with all who knew him.

He is survived by his mother, Mary Uyesugi; wife, Georgine; sons, Steven (Napua Low) and Matthew (Ginny); and grandson, Ando Uyesugi.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, May 2, 2026, at 1 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, 185 S. Center Street, Orange, CA 92866. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Joseph Hospital Foundation, 1100 W. Stewart Drive, Orange, CA 92828.

## PLACE A TRIBUTE

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

Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$25/column inch.

## CONTACT:

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