



PACIFIC CITIZEN



Reclaiming Our Narrative: Presenting *Foundations and Futures* Asian American and Pacific Islander Multimedia Textbook



FOUNDATIONS and FUTURES



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CELEBRATING
97
Years

JACL LAUDS REJECTION OF ATTEMPT TO CIRCUMVENT 14TH AMENDMENT

Supreme Court's 6-3 decision affirms birthright citizenship.

By P.C. Staff

The Japanese American Citizens League issued a statement June 30 concurring with the Supreme Court's 6-3 rejection of the executive order that attempted to override the Constitution's 14th Amendment, which ensures all persons born in the United States and "subject to the jurisdiction thereof . . ." aka, U.S. soil, have U.S. citizenship.

In its statement, the JACL said it " . . . celebrates the Supreme Court's decision in the case of *Trump v. Barbara* (see tinyurl.com/4s6cc7mm), which reaffirms the fundamental constitutional principle that every child born in the United States has a claim to citizenship, regardless of their parent's immigration status."

On Jan. 20, 2025, President Donald Trump issued Executive Order 14160, "Protecting the Meaning and Value of American Citizenship" (see tinyurl.com/ec3e658r), which attempted to override the 14th Amendment and bypass the lawful procedures by which the Constitution may be changed.

The JACL noted that even during World War II, when the federal government had forcibly removed and incarcerated U.S. citizens and legal resident aliens of Japanese descent, "birthright citizenship remained a critical safeguard. The Fourteenth Amendment protected the citizenship of children born in the United States, including children born to Issei parents who were classified by the government as 'enemy aliens . . .'"

"Children born on American soil are American citizens, regardless of their parents' immigration status. The Japanese American community knows firsthand how delicate and precious citizenship rights are in this country. Not so long ago, our own community had their allegiances and citizenship questioned while they were incarcerated, with some even pressured into renouncing their citizenship. This is a decision absolutely worth celebrating, but it does not mean we can rest assured that this right will be protected indefinitely," said JACL Daniel K. Inouye Fellow Matthew Marumoto to the *Pacific Citizen*. "One justice reached the same result

as the majority but rejected their constitutional arguments. This one opinion, concurring only with the judgment, leaves the door open for Congress to enact future limits through legislation, something elected leaders have already called for. This door should never have remained open, and JACL will not stay silent if anyone tries to walk through."

Said John Nakahata, counsel of record for Professor Eric L. Muller of the University of North Carolina Law School and noted scholar of the Japanese American experience during World War II, who filed the amicus brief in the *Trump v. Barbara* case, to the P.C.: "Without birthright citizenship, there would have been no Japanese American citizenry — no 442 or MIS. The Court reaffirmed a fundamental constitutional pillar that makes our country strong."

The brief highlighted that "even at the height of WWII, children born in U.S. detention centers to Japanese 'enemy aliens,' renunciants and Japanese Peruvians were U.S. citizens. Larry Oda (JACL national president), whose parents were classified as enemy

aliens, was one of the people we highlighted. But the Japanese Peruvians provided the strongest example, as they were brought to the U.S. against their will and classified as undocumented aliens.

"One of the interesting things raised in some of the other briefs was that there were efforts before and during WWII to strip citizenship from the Nisei on the grounds that their parents were not eligible to be U.S. citizens," Nakahata continued. "Those failed because of the 14th Amendment's birthright citizenship clause."

The 14th Amendment's granting of birthright citizenship, which was added to the Constitution in 1868 during the post-Civil War era of Reconstruction, was affirmed in the landmark 1898 Supreme Court case *United States v. Wong Kim Ark* (see tinyurl.com/yd6cxx5w).

To read the JACL's entire statement, visit tinyurl.com/f49u7aj3.

Related story: *Expert Re-Visits Immigration, Pacific Citizen, Dec. 19, 2025, tinyurl.com/5h3h3ker.*



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LETTER to the EDITOR

Dear Editor,

It is time for change. As president of the South Bay chapter and an

active member of the JACL within the Pacific Southwest District Council, I believe it is time for our organization to refocus on its core mission: advocacy.

As the oldest — though no longer the largest — Asian American civil and human rights organization in the United States, we have a

responsibility to honor the legacy of the Issei and Nisei by preparing the next generation to understand, defend and exercise their constitutional rights.

Recent events have shown that these rights cannot be taken for granted. At this JACL Convention, I hope we will rise to the challenge by renewing

our commitment to the advocacy that has defined our organization and ensuring that future generations are ready to protect the freedoms entrusted to them.

Sincerely,

Kent Kawai,
President, South Bay JACL

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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

JACL MEMBERS

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

'REIGNITING OUR PURPOSE AND MISSION'

By Lilly Simmering,
JACL Executive Director

This year's JACL National Convention will take place at the Paris Las Vegas Hotel from July 28- Aug. 2. Our theme, **"Reigniting Our Purpose and Mission,"** was intentionally chosen to focus our attention on defining JACL's future as it approaches its

second century.

It is a timely question for a community that has been part of the American story for even longer, breaking barriers not only for Japanese Americans but also for other AAPI and marginalized communities.

This past weekend, I traveled to JACL headquarters in San Francisco and stopped to read the plaque rec-

ognizing those who helped build the headquarters building. I was struck by how many Japanese American names were on it. The plaque represented not only the determination of those who built JACL but also how far the Japanese American community has come. It also raised an important question: What comes next? What is next for the Japanese American community, and what is next for JACL?

JACL has operated without a strategic plan since 2019. While opinions differ on how that has affected the organization, as its new executive director, I believe everything happens for a reason, and there is a reason this moment has arrived now.

Civil rights have changed. In the 1960s, people fought for a dream, as Martin Luther King Jr. envisioned, of a society where equality existed. Today, we are fighting to preserve that progress and make it more complete.

There has never been a more important time for JACL to define the strategic goals, priorities and direction that will guide the organization through its next 100 years, and that work begins at this National Convention.

Times are different now. Politicians are no longer the only influencers shaping public opinion. Social media

spreads information instantly, often creating narratives before those at the center of them have the opportunity to respond.

In this new era of public policy and public opinion, who will JACL be? That question can only be answered by defining our purpose and mission before others define them for us.

So, please allow me to take this opportunity to invite all of you to the

National Convention and be part of this discussion. Only by listening to a variety of viewpoints and engaging in knowledge-sharing can we build an organization that is poised to be great once again.

Lilly Simmering is executive director of the JACL. She is based in the organization's Los Angeles office.



Include the JACL in your Legacy Plan

Legacy planning is the process of preparing how your will distributes your property and assets after your death.

Like estate planning, legacy planning focuses on the thoughtful transfer of wealth and assets.

Please contact Steve Okamoto for more information on how you can help support the good work of the JACL.
sokamoto@jacl.org or (415) 921-5225 ext. 140



JACL Executive Director Lilly Simmering (left) with chapter and board members from the NCWNP District at JACL National Headquarters in San Francisco

PHOTO: TOMO HIRAI



JACL's 2026
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"The blood that has soaked the sands of a beach is all of one color. America stands unique in the world; the only country not founded on race, but on a way and an ideal." - 1945 Ronald Reagan

The United States is a nation built by immigrants who were guided by hope. For generations, people crossed oceans in search of opportunity, leaving behind everything familiar to pursue a better life. That journey has never been easy—our Issei ancestors knew this well. Arriving nearly a century after America's founding, they came with faith in the American Dream and the promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Despite relentless efforts to exclude, disenfranchise, and push them out, the Issei held fast to their belief in America and inspired the Nisei to do the same.

The JACL was created by the Nisei to demonstrate that Americans come from every ethnicity, belief, and culture. Although the 14th Amendment guaranteed their citizenship, our community knows too well that rights on paper are not always rights in practice. Racism, economic greed, and political failure led to the forced removal and incarceration of over 125,000 people of Japanese ancestry, stripping them of the very rights that were supposed to protect them.

Even as America grows more diverse, the threat of racial injustice and bigotry persists. Today, many communities face renewed or newly emboldened attacks, echoing the same rhetoric and fears that once targeted

Japanese Americans. During WWII, JACL accepted the unjust conditions imposed on our community when Japanese Americans had their citizenship revoked. In the 84 years since, we have continued to reckon with that history while standing firmly for the protection of birthright citizenship. We refuse to allow anyone in this country to be denied their constitutional rights again. This commitment is why JACL invests in policy fellows who educate national partners, monitor harmful proposals, and advocate for legislation that upholds justice and equality for all.

Over the last 250 years, America has transformed in countless ways. What keeps the American Dream alive is our Constitution and the enduring human drive for a better life. As our nation continues to evolve—and as JACL approaches its centennial—we are committed to evolving with it. We strive to preserve America's history, uplift its ideals, and ensure that the mistakes of the past are never repeated.

Help us protect the American Dream and defend the rights of all who call this country home. Please consider making a donation today and help us reach our summer fundraising goal of \$30,000.

Sincerely,
Ariel Imamoto
JACL Membership Manager

*Campaign ends September 7, 2026

Please send checks to
Attn: JACL Summer Appeal
PO Box 45397
San Francisco, CA 94115-0397

Upcoming JACL National Convention Highlights

There is still time to register for the annual confab in Las Vegas.

With JACL's National Convention in Las Vegas only a few short weeks away, following are highlights that conventiongoers can expect during the confab from July 29-Aug. 2 at the Paris Las Vegas Hotel & Casino.

Screening of 'Photographic Justice: The Corky Lee Story' (July 30)

Join JACL for a special screening of "Photographic Justice: The Corky Lee Story." Using his camera as a powerful tool for social change, Chinese American photographer Corky Lee documented Asian American life and challenged historical erasure through his work. His images inspired generations and helped shape a more inclusive narrative of American history.

This documentary explores the triumphs and struggles of the man behind the lens, celebrating his legacy as both an artist and activist.

Following the screening, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a Q & A discussion with director Jennifer Takai and executive producer George Hirose.

Breakfast With New JACL Executive Director Lilly Simmering (July 31)

Join JACL for an intimate breakfast conversation with new Executive Director Lilly Simmering. This special gathering offers members a unique opportunity to connect directly with Simmering, learn more about her vision for the organization and discuss the future of JACL.

Over breakfast, participants will engage in meaningful dialogue about the opportunities and challenges facing our community,

the priorities that will shape JACL's next chapter and how members can help advance the organization's mission. Whether you are a longtime member, community leader or new supporter, this is an opportunity to share ideas, ask questions and help shape the path forward.

Join fellow JACL members for a morning of conversation, collaboration and community as the organization welcomes Simmering and explores the future of JACL together.

Plenary and Workshop Highlights (July 31)

JACL's July 31 morning programming kicks off with the convention's first plenary, "Preserving Incarceration Sites — Fifty Years of Healing (1976-2026)." Join speakers Katie Masano Hill, Naomi Kawamura, Dan Sakura and Ana Tanaka as they explore the history of the Japanese American community's fight to preserve former incarceration sites and the ongoing battles still being faced.

Later in the day, join speakers Jon Osaki and Lily Anne Tamai for "Fighting For Our Stories: Educating the Next Generation." This workshop will include a screening of the award-winning documentary "Making Waves: The Rise of Asian America" and a postscreening discussion on the threats to ethnic studies and the role of JACL.

Convention attendees can also check out "CAUSE the Vote: Building Creative Voter Engagement." JACL's partners James Choi,



Milton Liu, Alisi Tulua and Nancy Yap will highlight CAUSE's Together We Vote Festival in 2024 and 2025, where vote centers were transformed into spaces of celebration filled with art, music and multigenerational stories.

These are just the beginning! JACL is excited to bring another afternoon plenary and 10 total workshops for its members during scheduled Friday programming opportunities.

Don't forget, the organization will also hold a welcome mixer, National Council sessions, documentary screening, National Board voting and more throughout convention!

For the full convention schedule, visit jacl.org/2026-national-convention.

KINOKUNIYA TURNS PAGE WITH RELAUNCH

The beloved bookstore celebrates a new, much larger store in Little Tokyo.

By P.C. Staff

A week after its "soft opening" and nearly a year after closing its second-floor location in Little Tokyo's Weller Court on July 21, 2025, Kinokuniya Book Stores of America held a grand opening reception on July 1 to mark the opening of its new giant-size Los Angeles flagship location.

Held at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, the reception celebrated the bookstore's reopening just blocks away on the first floor of the Kajima Building, located at the corner of E. First and S. San Pedro Streets.

Facilitated by Keiko Kadota, the reception featured speeches from Kinokuniya Chairman Masashi Takai and Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles Kosei Murota, as well as Yoshinobu Noma, president and CEO of Japanese publisher Kodansha, which on July 2 opened its Kodansha House pop-up store to coincide with Anime Expo and is set to run through July 12 at 701 E.

To mark Kinokuniya's grand opening, pictured (from left) are Yoshinobu Noma, Masashi Takai and Kosei Murota taking part in a traditional sake barrel opening ceremony.

PHOTO: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON



Third Street (visit kodanshahouse.com/los-angeles/).

The Kinokuniya relaunch opened with a spirited performance by Los Angeles-based Taiko Project and a *kagami biriki* ceremony featuring the three speakers, all of whom donned *happi* coats to mark the occasion by "opening" a sake barrel with mallets, followed by a sake toast using *masu* (wooden sake cups) branded with the Kinokuniya logo. (*Kagami biriki* is a Japanese ritual performed to celebrate new beginnings and wish for future prosperity.)

Speaking in Japanese, with English translation by Young Ashworth, Takai said, "Within metropolitan Los Angeles, Little Tokyo is a neighbor-

hood where people gather in large numbers, and the atmosphere is particularly vibrant. Japanese manga, anime, music, food and culture continues to captivate people across the generations and national borders.

"The role that Little Tokyo plays will only grow more significant in the future," Takai continued. "As a member of this community, Kinokuniya Bookstore is committed to contributing to the continued development of Los Angeles and Little Tokyo."

Kinokuniya's history in the United States began in 1969 when it opened its first store in San Francisco. Eight years later in 1977, it launched its Los Angeles store in Little Tokyo. ■

JACL Expresses Disappointment with SCOTUS Rulings

Pair of 6-3 decisions allows White House to block asylum seekers, let DHS revoke TPS.

By P.C. Staff

Invoking "The New Colossus" poem, the Japanese American Citizens League issued a statement June 25 expressing its disappointment with a pair of related, ideologically bifurcated Supreme Court decisions favoring White House policy on immigration.

The decisions — both with a 6-3 breakdown — were in the cases of *Mullin v. Doe* and *Mullin v. Al Otro Lado*.

In the former the high court removed from courts the authority to prevent the Department of Homeland Security from ending temporary protected status for some 350,000 Haitians, 6,000 Syrians and other groups now living in the United States.

In the latter, the Supreme Court affirmed the White House's assertion that migrants may be blocked from entering United States territory, thus preventing them from being able to apply for asylum.

The two-paragraph statement from JACL reads as follows:

The words engraved on the Statue of Liberty state, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore." Today's Supreme Court decisions have contradicted this engraved promise, an iconic and eternal symbol of the American people that has come to define our kindness and acceptance of others. Instead, it has created conditions around acceptance and allowed outright denial to those seeking safety and refuge.

JACL is disappointed in the Supreme Court's rulings in both the *Mullin v. Doe* and *Mullin v. Al Otro Lado* cases. Our organization was founded on protecting civil rights and respect for each other's cultures, traditions, and values. We believe that it's these differences, these struggles, that make America great. Despite these rulings, our own struggles have shown that the American people will persevere, demonstrating that we are a welcoming country and will stand by what is carved onto the great statue of Lady Liberty. ■



INTRODUCING JACL NATIONAL BOARD CANDIDATES

Elections are set to take place Aug. 1 at the organization's annual National Convention.

The Nominations Committee reports the following candidates for National Office: Sheldon Arakaki, president; Ronald K. Ikejiri, president; Floyd Mori, vp for public affairs; and Simon Kutz, national youth/student representative.

The above individuals are the only current candidates for national office. Other potential candidates are asked to review the Nominations Committee rules as campaigning is not allowed until one's application is accepted by the committee.

No candidates have filed for the offices of national youth/student chair, secretary/treasurer, vp for one thousand club, membership and services, vp for planning and development or vp of general operations.

Other individuals interested in running for national office can view the forms on the JACL 2026 Convention website (<https://jacl.org/2026-national-convention>) to view the procedure for running from the floor of the convention. Individuals are encouraged to contact Eric Langowski at elangowski@jacl.org prior to the convention.

As of June 23, one application has been received for the purposes of running from the floor for the national youth/student chair position, but this application cannot be accepted until the convention begins.

Following are candidate statements:

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT

Sheldon Arakaki

One of the biggest challenges JACL must address to move forward is its comfort culture of "we've always done this . . ." This mindset shows up in longstanding structures and practices: four national vice presidents, a youth organization now known post-merger as the National Youth/Student Council, a printed newspaper, district representatives on committees, National Council at convention and a regional director role among others. Because of relying on what has always been, we often struggle to let go and consider

new approaches and structures.

A renewed purpose and a vision-inspired strategic plan should drive the



governance and programming with time-bound measurable outcomes and deliverables that this entire organization is accountable for from the D.C. Leadership Summit alum and the chapter social club chair to national board members.

We are on the financial precipice for the third time in my twenty-some odd years in JACL, and as a glass half-full person, I see this as an opportunity for JACL to grudgingly move out from its comfort zone.

As a recently retired Yonsei born in Seattle, raised in majority minority Hawaii, who chose to pursue post-secondary education in Denver and St. Louis and joined a fraternity to experience the "mainland," I believe I have the mindset to drive change in JACL.

Ronald K. Ikejiri

MEMBERSHIP

The JACL cannot credibly represent the voices and concerns of the Japanese American community at the table of public policy making with 7,000 members. Outreach for new members is mandatory for survival. There are 1.6 million Americans of Japanese ancestry.

MANAGEMENT

The budget is approximately \$2.4 plus million per year.

I recognize that the board is a volunteer board, but the reality in today's nonprofit organizations is that it takes members and funding to sustain goals.

Propose that the BOARD be responsible to recruit 100 new members per year and personally raise \$100,000 a year.

GOVERNANCE

The composition of the board is unchanged for 97 years.

-Currently, 15 board members to oversee eight paid staff?

-What is wrong with this picture?

-Streamlined governance models should be considered by the delegates.

THE PACIFIC CITIZEN



Only one common glue keeps the JACL together: the *PACIFIC CITIZEN*. In both print and digital formats, the *P.C.* represents the most informative benefit for the membership, and the principal communication tool with public policy makers. No *P.C.* — No JACL.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

AI Agents (AGENTICS) pull staff from ministerial tasks and allow staff to use their creativity to enrich the membership experience. Operations, membership, human resource and development of member programs can be achieved through AI.

REVENUE SHARING

As the Washington representative of the JACL in the 1970s and '80s, the Eastern, Midwest, Intermountain, Central District Councils carried more than 80 percent of the geographical responsibility to advocate the public policy-making decision-makers.

JACL's membership is heavily weighted toward the Western Coastal states, and there is a perception the JACL represents the "liberal left

coast," from a Washington, D.C., perspective.

This perception must change. To become a viable national voice, the JACL must allocate program funds nationwide so that a more balanced consideration of viewpoints may be achieved.

CANDIDATE FOR VP FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Floyd Mori

Recent events and challenges of the JACL at the broad National Board decision-making level has caused me to run as national vp for public affairs. I am concerned that without the experienced public policy-making capabilities of the JACL at the national and regional levels, our message of advocacy for constitutional and everyday rights are being eroded.

I wish to restore our presence and



voice at the public policy-making board rooms and governance centers nationally.

CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL YOUTH/STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Simon Kutz

My name is Simon Kutz, and I am a current student at Princeton University, originally from Decorah, Iowa, and I am running for the position of national youth/student representative.

Growing up far outside of a large Japanese American community, JACL attracted me because it was my way of finding community. But I have watched a lot of my peers

from regions with much larger Japanese American communities drift away from it, simply because they didn't feel like it was speaking to them anymore.

The issue I keep coming back to is



the disconnection between JACL and younger Japanese Americans. And I don't think more youth programming is the answer on its own. What I hear from peers is that they want to see JACL take clear positions on things that feel urgent to them — anti-Asian violence, immigration and what solidarity actually looks like in practice. When an organization stays vague on things that can feel obvious, young people are less likely to be passionate in supporting that organization.

Furthermore, building real relationships with other youth organizations, including Asian and Nikkei student organizations at college campuses, will soften the disconnect by introducing JACL as a collaborative organization with intentions to build mutually beneficial relationships rather than just intentions to recruit new members.

JACL was founded by young people who took real risks for their community. I think the way to honor that is not to preserve the organization exactly as it is, but to have the same willingness to change that they had to fight.

JACL National Board elections voting will take place on Aug. 1 during the National Convention.



Thank You for Your JACL Membership!

We're grateful to have some of the most engaged and committed members around! Because of your loyal support, we have more premium membership upgrades and generous additional gifts than ever. We're also appreciative for those who renew year after year (some for 50 years or more!) and for our increase in new members. Your dedication is essential to our ongoing mission for social justice, education, and community!

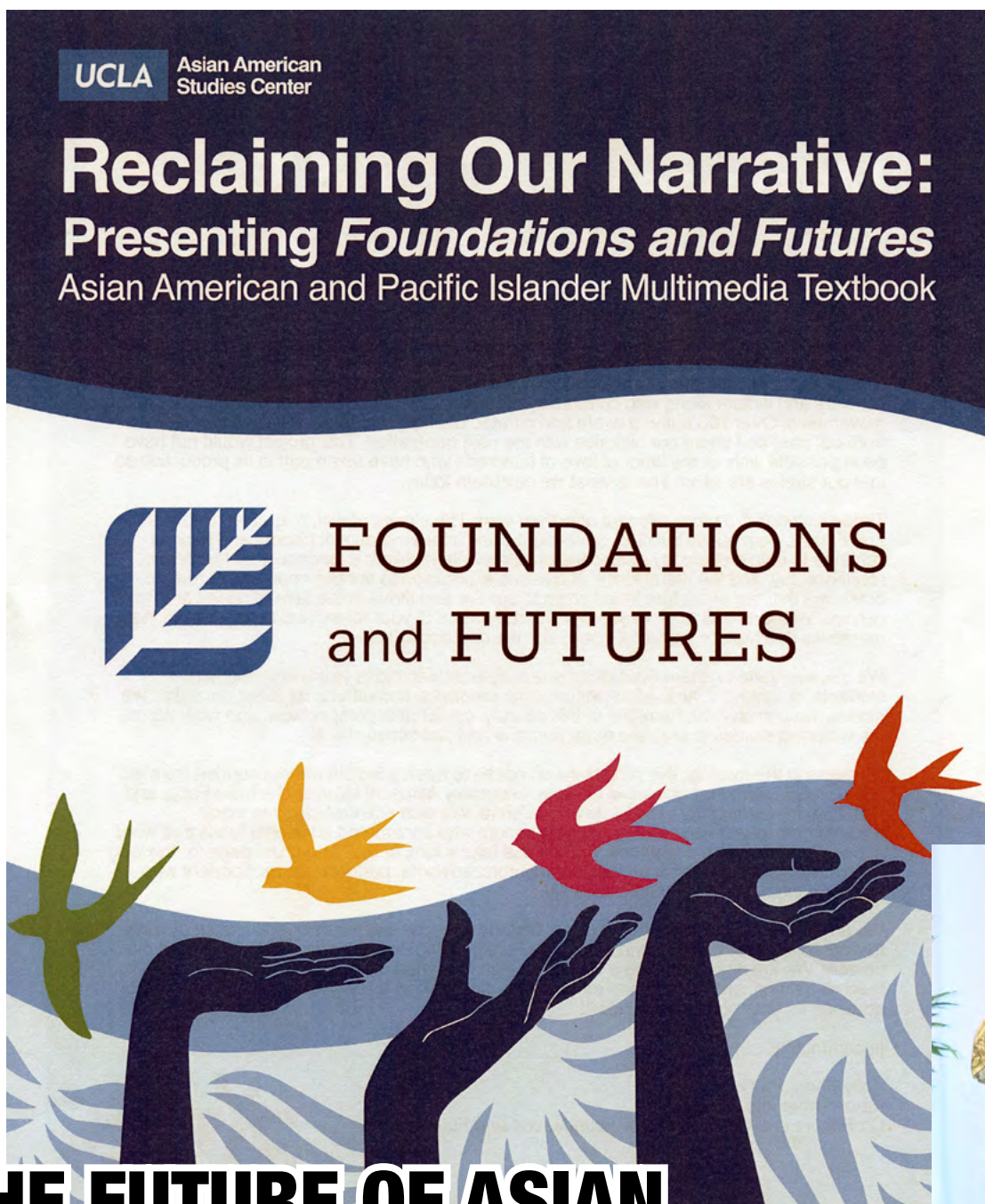
Thank you! - JACL Membership Department



Not a member? Join us today!

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or contact us at mbr@jacl.org



THE FUTURE OF ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES ARRIVES

The multimedia textbook 'Foundations and Futures' brings college-level curricula to all.

By George Toshio Johnston,
P.C. Senior Editor

'There is nothing new in the world except the history you do not know.'

— President Harry S. Truman

Since the inception of Asian American Studies at the university level in the 1960s, the field has grown steadily, overcoming various roadblocks, setbacks and obstacles along the way.

But Asian American Studies shares a trait with most other fields of study: the printed-on-paper textbook, something that hasn't changed all that much over the decades. In other words, a textbook printed in the 19th century might not be all that different — with the exception of color and the inclusion of photographs — from a textbook printed in the 21st century.

Someday, however, May 9, 2026, may be seen as akin to the day in the 19th century when a golden spike was used to symbolically and physically link at Promontory Summit, Utah, the transcontinental railroad.

That is because on that Saturday, one day short of what

happened 157 years earlier, Asian American Studies became linked with modern communications technologies to launch at the UCLA Luskin Conference Center the Asian American and Pacific Islander multimedia textbook: "Foundations and Futures."

But unlike that day on May 10, 1869, when the Chinese laborers who worked on the west-to-east leg of the railroad project were excluded from that celebration and photograph — something an Asian American studies major would surely

Journalist and activist Helen Zia was part of the panel titled "The Power of Story: We Are Legacy Bearers."



Al Muratsuchi (left) and Mike Fong flank Dr. Karen Umemoto (second from left) and Dr. Kelly Fong as the "Foundations and Futures" co-editors and co-directors show off the certificate of recognition they received from the California assemblymembers. PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON

learn about — Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders were present in large numbers to welcome the groundbreaking initiative.

"Today, we launch the inaugural edition of the most-comprehensive single collection of Asian American and Pacific Islander histories and experiences ever published," said Dr.

Kelly Fong, "Foundations and Futures" co-editor and co-director with regard to the \$12 million project, six years in the making with 105 authors, numerous curriculum developers and 200 staff, consultants, interns and volunteers who were needed to manifest that "pipe dream to bring Asian American studies into every home."

To "Foundations and Futures" co-editor and co-director Dr. Karen Umemoto, who is also the director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, that dream was encapsulated in a word: "democratization."

"Much of our histories . . . remain inaccessible behind paywalls of scholarly journals and in the stacks of university libraries," said Umemoto. "In Asian American Studies, classes largely remain just at the university level, with a sliver of instruction in K-12 classes.

And the current movement against DEI and in the form of book bans and lawsuits have silenced many teachers and educators in school districts across the country.

"So, 'Foundations and Futures' is, in many ways, an intervention," she continued. "It represents the democratization of knowledge to make little-known Asian American and Pacific Islander histories visible and accessible."

Umemoto underscored the importance of the multimedia textbook's launch by twice invoking a quote by George Orwell from his novel "1984": "The past was erased, the erasure was forgotten, the lie became the truth."

A visit to the site — foundationsandfutures.org — immediately demonstrates why, as a multimedia textbook, "Foundations and Futures" is so groundbreaking, especially when compared to a traditional textbook.

To wit: Anyone, anywhere in the world, with a broadband connection may access the site's content, whether the interface is a computer, a tablet or a smartphone. Next is the inclusion of not only photographs but also audio and video. A viewer can also change the point size, font and use Google Translate to change the language. And if a correction or addition is needed? No need to wait until the next print run of a traditional textbook.

Reinforcing how a multimedia textbook offers more than a traditional printed textbook, journalist and documentary filmmaker ("Free Chol Soo Lee") Julie Ha (see March 22, 2022,

Pacific Citizen, tinyurl.com/ms7wbpsc), who authored the chapter titled “Free Choh Soo Lee: How a Lone Immigrant on Death Row Sparked a Movement,” wrote in a Facebook post: “The chapter actually features some clips from the documentary, as well as compelling images from the Free Choh Soo Lee movement, quotes from activists and lines from Choh Soo Lee’s poetry, which he penned while in prison.”

The kicker: Unlike a traditional college textbook, which can literally cost more than a hundred dollars, the cost to utilize “Foundations and Futures” is zero, as long as one has the requisite internet-capable device.

But with a \$12 million price tag, that doesn’t mean making it was without cost. Far from it.

“We were writing grants chapter by chapter. At the very beginning, it would have taken us 50 years to finish it,” Umemoto noted. Thanks, however, to some Asian American politicians, financial help was available.

“The California API Legislative Caucus championed a \$10 million allocation to the Asian American Studies Center to create a multimedia textbook so that when ethnic studies graduation requirements in California public schools would go into effect, teachers and professors would have easy access to our stories,” said Umemoto.

Umemoto credited Assemblymembers Al Muratsuchi, Mike Fong and Phil Ting for making that happen. “We wouldn’t be here without them,” she told the audience.

Muratsuchi and Fong were then welcomed to the stage and would present to Kelly Fong and Karen Umemoto a certificate of recognition. “It was my privilege to be able to work with Assemblymember Fong and Assemblymember Phil Ting, who was the budget chair at the time, and the Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus to deliver this \$10 million for this very important project,” Muratsuchi said. Waxing personal, he added, “Asian American Studies gave me a sense of identity. It gave me a sense of purpose. And it’s

what really triggered my student activism, which eventually led to my political activism.”

Added Mike Fong: “These are challenging times that we’re in right now, with the federal administration targeting so many diversity initiatives. Today is a day to celebrate our history, to celebrate our narrative and to reclaim that narrative and to share that narrative going forward.”

Umemoto and Kelly Fong would later point out, however, that they were still raising funds to ensure completion of “Foundations and Futures” and implored those in the audience to fill out a donation form. They also touted a crowdfunding campaign, which ended June 30 but is still accepting donations ([see tinyurl.com/nhdhaazt](https://tinyurl.com/nhdhaazt)).

One of the highlights to the program was the keynote address by Dr. Maya Soetoro, faculty specialist in the College of Social Sciences at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and UH’s liaison to the Obama Foundation. She was introduced by Institute of American Cultures Vice Provost David Yoo.

Another was a panel discussion titled “The Power of Story: We are Legacy Bearers,” moderated by Thuy Vo Dang and featuring Akemi Kochiyama-Ladson, Helen Zia and Theodore S. Gonzalves. That was followed by a Storytelling Pair-and-Share featuring Virginia Nguyen, who served as a curriculum writer of the textbook’s Vietnamese American chapter.

Providing video messages were actor Randall Park, Reps. Judy Chu (D-Calif.) and Ted W. Lieu (D-Calif.) Serving as the event’s masters of ceremony were Arlene Inouye and Christian-Joseph Macahilig. Providing entertainment were a cappella group Naya Zamaana, Kyodo Taiko at UCLA and Tasi of One Man Band.

As for whether “Foundations and Futures” achieves all of its stated objectives, as well as reaching its remaining fundraising goals, Kelly Fong expressed hope that at the



Keynote speaker Dr. Maya Soetoro



Virginia Nguyen speaks during the Storytelling Pair-and-Share part of the program.

very least, it “activates discussion, heightens curiosity and prompts all of us to engage in the world around us, to be better informed by our past and to be more equipped to shape our futures.”



Akemi Kochiyama-Ladson and Theodore S. Gonzalves during the “Power of Story: We Are Legacy Bearers” panel discussion



Dr. Karen Umemoto (left) and Dr. Kelly Fong share the stage at the “Foundations and Futures” multimedia textbook launch.

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

2026 TOUR SCHEDULE.

CHRISTMAS MARKET CANADA HOLIDAY TOUR (Carol Hida). Dec 1-7
Vancouver City Tour, Grouse Mountain Skyride, Shipyards Christmas Market, Ferry to Victoria Island, Butchart Gardens, High Tea at Fairmont Empress Hotel, Victoria Christmas Market & Fair, Van Dusen Festival of Lights.

2027 TOUR SCHEDULE (Preview)

FANTASTIC FLORIDA & KEYS HOLIDAY TOUR (Carol Hida). Mar 11-18
Miami, Ft Lauderdale, Everglades National Park, Homestead, Key West, Marathon Key, Hemingway Home.

JAPAN SPRING COUNTRYSIDE TOUR (Ernest Hida). Apr 4-15
Tokyo, Niigata, Sado Island, Kanazawa, Amanohashidate, Tottori, Kyoto.

JAPAN HOLIDAY CRUISE **Rescheduled to 2028** Apr 8–25
Tokyo, Yokohama, Amaezaki, Osaka, Kochi, Fukuoka, Sokcho(S.Korea), Kanazawa, Sakata, Aomori, Otaru, Hakodate, Yokohama. Holland America Cruise.

NATIONAL PARKS & CANYONS HOLIDAY TOUR (Carol Hida). Apr 25-30
Las Vegas, Hoover Dam, Mob Museum, Grand Canyon West & Skywalk, Mesquite, Bryce Canyon, St. George, Zion National Park.

TULIP FESTIVAL & GREAT LAKES HOLIDAY TOUR (Carol Hida). May 6-14
Chicago, Grand Rapids, Holland Tulip Festival, Mackinac Island, Green Bay, Milwaukee.

KOREA HOLIDAY TOUR (Ernest Hida). May 11-24
Seoul, Bullet Train to Busan, Jeju Island, Jeonju, Nami Island, DMZ, few K-Drama sites.

GRANDPARENTS-GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR (Ernest Hida). Jun 20-30
Tokyo, Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto. Craftmaking hands-on experience.

HOKKAIDO SUMMER HOLIDAY TOUR (Ernest Hida). July 11-23
Furano Asahikawa, Wakkanai, Rishiri Island, Sapporo, Noboribetsu, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Tokyo.

DANUBE RIVER CRUISE (Carol Hida). Aug 22-Sep 4
Budapest, Bratislava, Vienna, Weissenkirchen, Linz, Passau, Vilshofen, Prague. AmaWaterways Cruise Line.

JAPAN AUTUMN COUNTRYSIDE TOUR (Ernest Hida). Oct 14-27
Kyushu, Shikoku.

OKINAWA HOLIDAY TOUR (Ernest Hida). Nov 12-22
Okinawa, Ishigaki Island, Iriomote Island, Taketomi Island.

For more information and reservations, please contact:

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL
312 E. 1st Street, Suite 240 * Los Angeles, CA 90012
Tel: (213)625-2232 * Email: americanholiday@att.net
Ernest or Carol Hida

TOPAZ MUSEUM ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Meg Hutchins assumes the position from Jane Beckwith, who was honored recently with the 2026 AASLH Award of Excellence.



Meg Hutchins

PHOTO: WWW.MEGHUTCHINS.COM

DELTA, UTAH — The Topaz Museum board of directors has named Meg Hutchins as its new executive director. Hutchins begins her new duties this month.

Hutchins brings more than a decade of museum leadership experience and most recently served with the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs. Throughout her career, she has worked to strengthen museum operations, support collections stewardship and expand community engagement.

"I am honored to join the Topaz Museum and help advance its important mission," said Hutchins. "I look forward to working with survivors, descendants, supporters and community partners to preserve and share the vital history of Topaz for future generations."

The search for an executive director began in 2024 when founding director Jane Beckwith

announced her desire to retire. "It's been a long process. No one can replace Jane. But in hiring Meg, we have found someone who has dealt with museum work on the state level and who also has experience in running a small museum. We are delighted to have Meg join us," said Dianne Fukami, co-chair of the Topaz Museum board.

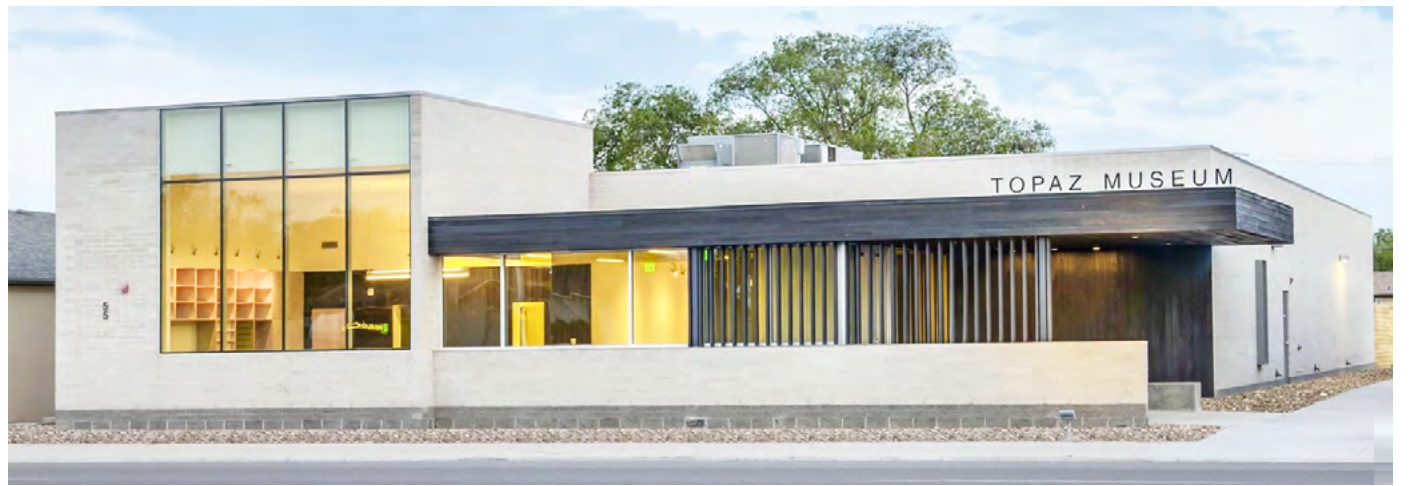
Added Chris Hirano, co-chair of the board: "Meg brings extensive experience connecting history to the issues that shape our nation today, and her leadership comes at an exciting moment for the museum. As we continue to preserve and share the lessons of the Topaz incarceration experience, Meg will help expand our reach and relevance by engaging broader conversations and strengthening the museum's role as a national voice in preventing the repetition of past mistakes."

In addition, Beckwith was named recently as the recipient of the 2026 Award of Excellence for Individual Lifetime Achievement from the American Association for State and Local History.

AASLH, a national nonprofit organization, provides leadership and resources to help the history community thrive and make the past more meaningful for all people.

Beckwith has volunteered for more than four decades to educate people about the World War II story of the Topaz concentration camp. During this time, she led the effort to open, build and sustain the 8,000-square-foot Topaz Museum in 2017 and purchase the Topaz site.

She will receive her award at the annual AASLH conference, being held jointly with the National Council on Public History, on Sept. 18 in Providence, R.I. ■



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JAPANESE AMERICAN
NATIONAL MUSEUM

OUTSIDE IN
THEATRE

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 and mixers.
Info: Visit www.jacl.org/2026-national-convention.

Ireicho Tour to Former Confinement Sites & Other Places

National Stops:

Oct. 10-11: St. Paul, MN

Info: Visit <https://www.janm.org/exhibits/ireicho/venues>.

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.

San Jose Obon

San Jose, CA

July 11, Noon-10 p.m.; July 12,
Noon-9 p.m.San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin
640 N. Fifth St.**Price: Free**

This family event, one of the largest Obon gatherings, honors family, community and is a time of reflection and gratitude. Come enjoy delicious food, dancing, cultural exhibits and crafts for all.

Info: Visit sjbetsuin.org.

'America's Last Concentration Camp: Crystal City'

Emeryville, CA

Thru July 22

J-Sei Gallery

1285 66th St.

Price: Free

This traveling exhibit, presented by the Crystal City Pilgrimage Committee, features interpretive panels depicting stories of the families who were incarcerated at Crystal City during WWII.

This exhibit is open during gallery hours, Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 2-5 p.m. or by appointment.

Info: Visit j-sei.org.

Summer Sake Fundraiser 2026

San Jose, CA

Aug. 15; 4-6 p.m.

Japanese American Museum of
San Jose

535 N. Fifth St.

Price: Tickets \$135 Early Bird

Now in its sixth year, this event celebrates the historical significance of sake and will feature a local winery and brewery as well as shochu in addition to culinary offerings while raising money for museum operations.

Info: Visit <http://jamsj.org>.

'House Meeting(s): Opening the Door for Redress in San Jose' Exhibit

San Jose, CA

Thru September

JAMSJ

535 N. Fifth St.

Price: Museum Admission

This exhibit brings together multiple stories from a San Jose perspective to focus on the people and efforts that supported the redress movement across the community.

Info: Visit www.janm.org/OnTheGo.

PSW

13th Annual Imagine Little Tokyo Short Story Contest Celebration

Los Angeles, CA

July 11; 3-5 p.m.

JANM Democracy Center

100 N. Central Ave.

Price: Free; Registration Required to Receive Zoom Link.

This in-person and virtual event will be emceed by Tamlyn Tomita and Christopher Sean in a nod to the ongoing 20th anniversary activities of sponsoring organization Little Tokyo Historical Society. Professional actors will perform readings of the winning stories.

Info: For tickets, visit www.janm.org.

Sake in the Park: The 'Tokubetsu' Edition

Los Angeles, CA

July 24; 7-10 p.m.

Gloria Molina Grand Park DTLA

200 N. Grand Ave.

Price: Tickets \$250 With Code EAR-

LYBIRD by June 30; \$300 After

This curated dinner menu will feature expert sake pairings by Mutual Trading, tray-passed premium sake tastings, lively music and entertainment, raffle and an all-you-can-eat-and-drink experience to benefit the Little Tokyo Service Center.

Info: Visit ltsc.org.

Crafty Cuties Night

San Diego, CA

July 25; 5-8 p.m.

Japanese Friendship Garden and
Museum

2125 Park Blvd.

Price: Upper Garden 5-8 p.m. Discounted Entry \$5; Parking Free After 6 p.m.

A vibrant marketplace awaits filled with vendors offering original artwork, hand-made goods and more. Take part in the "Stationary Swap" and trade stickers, paper goods or journaling supplies. There will also be a Mermaid Shell Frame station to create your own ocean-inspired piece for \$10.

Info: For questions, email jfsgsd@niwa.org.

Yuko Mabuchi Special Engagement

Los Angeles, CA

July 30; 8:30 p.m.

Catalina Jazz Club

6725 Sunset Blvd.

Price: Tickets \$51.85

Acclaimed jazz saxophonist Michael Paulo joins Yuko Mabuchi for this special performance to celebrate the release of her new album "Never Out of Style." Don't miss this memorable evening of contemporary and classic jazz music.

Info: For tickets, visit catalinajazzclub.com.

Natsumatsuri Family Festival

Los Angeles, CA

Aug. 15; 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Terasaki Budokan

249 S. Los Angeles St.

Price: Free

This festival, presented by JANM to celebrate the summer season, will feature cultural performances, crafts and activities for families and kids of all ages.

Info: Visit www.janm.org/OnTheGo.

'Washoku: Nature and Culture in Japanese Cuisine'

Los Angeles, CA

Thru Oct. 18

Japan House Los Angeles

Ovation Hollywood Complex

6801 Hollywood Blvd.

Price: Free

This exhibit invites visitors to explore the rich culinary heritage at the heart of Japan. Presented for the first time

outside of Japan, it offers an in-depth look at the ingredients, evolution and inspirations behind this UNESCO-recognized cultural tradition.

Info: Visit japanhousela.com.

PNW

Fuji to Hood

Portland, OR

July 18; 11 a.m.

831 S.E. Salmon St.

Price: Tickets Available for Purchase

This festival partners 25 breweries and cidermakers from Oregon with 25 from Japan, as well as features Japanese artists and vendors, entertainment, food and cultural performances.

Info: Visit <https://www.merctickets.com> for tickets.

'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.

MDC

Summer Obon Festival

St. Paul, MN

Aug. 16

Como Park

1199 Midway Pkwy.

Price: Free

Save the date for this annual festival will feature booths, food, Japanese dancing, martial arts and taiko demonstrations, as well as a Japanese lantern lighting ceremony at the Conservatory Pond.

Info: Visit tcjacl.org to help volunteer.

IDC

2026 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage

Powell, WY

July 23-25

Heart Mountain Interpretive Center

1539 Road 19

Price: Registration Prices Vary and ends June 30.

This year's event explores "What It Means to Be American: Voices From Heart Mountain" and centers on the voices and experiences of Heart Mountain survivors and descendants. A live performance of "Defining Courage" will also be featured.

Info: Visit heartmountain.org.

EDC

7th Annual Day of Affirmation

Washington, D.C.

July 18; 9 a.m.

National WWII Memorial

1750 Independence Ave. SW

Price: Free

This ceremony commemorates the 80th anniversary of the Day of Affirmation, honoring the historic legacy of President Truman's 1946 address of the service, patriotism and sacrifice of JA veterans. The keynote speech will be given by Clifford Truman Daniel, President Truman's grandson.

Info: Visit <https://java-us.org/>.

Seabrook 81st Obon

Bridgeton, NJ

July 18

Seabrook Buddhist Temple

9 Northville Road

Price: Free

Come celebrate Japanese culture, community and tradition! Enjoy Bon Odori dancing, taiko drumming, delicious food and family-friendly fun. A free souvenir booklet will be given to every attendee.

Info: Visit sbtanj.org.

'Yakyu Baseball: The Transpacific Exchange of the Game' Exhibit

Cooperstown, NY

Ongoing

National Baseball Hall of Fame

25 Main St.

Price: Museum Admission

This exhibit explores baseball between Japan and the U.S. from the Meiji era to today and the transpacific circulation of baseball concepts that have shaped the game today.

Info: Visit www.baseballhall.org.

'Courage and Compassion: Our Shared Story of the Japanese American World War II Experience'

Delray Beach, FL

Thru Aug. 30

Morikami Museum and Japanese

Gardens

4000 Morikami Park Road

Price: Museum Admission

This exhibit brings the Japanese American war sacrifice home to Florida, exploring the historic Yamato colony.

Info: Visit morikami.org.

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News Briefs

Massive Little Tokyo-Adjacent Project OK'd

Despite opposition from some in Little Tokyo (see Feb. 26, 2026, *Pacific Citizen*, tinyurl.com/367pznr7), the Los Angeles City Council has greenlighted plans to transform the privately owned Los Angeles Cold Storage into Fourth & Central, a \$2 billion, 7.6-acre 10 building mixed-use — retail, restaurants and residential units — project that could break ground within two years.

Toyota, Joby Aviation JV to Make Air Taxis

The Japan-based automotive giant and the Santa Cruz, Calif.-based firm in late June made the joint venture announcement that the two companies would manufacture electricity-powered vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft. According to published reports, the air taxi can hold five (four passengers and the pilot) with a top speed of 200 mph.

SCOTUS Upholds Order Fining TV Reporter

The Supreme Court has rejected former Fox News and CBS News telejournalist Catherine Herridge's bid to stay a lower court's order to pay an \$800-a-day fine for refusing to reveal the identity of a confidential federal source in her 2017 reporting on a Chinese American scientist. Yanping Chen was the subject of an FBI counterintelligence inves-

tigation over allegations of having ties to the People's Republic of China's military and space programs. According to the *New York Times*, the FBI ended its investigation into Chen and brought no charges against her.

EEOC Suit: 99 Ranch Market Discriminates

According to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the nation's largest Asian supermarket chain, based in Buena Park, Calif., discriminates against its employees who are not of Chinese heritage, the *Los Angeles Times* reported. 99 Ranch Market is owned by Tawa Supermarket Inc. and was founded in 1984 by Taiwanese immigrant Roger Chen. There are 66 retail locations in 11 states.

LAPC Honors Fukuzaki With Lifetime Award

At its 68th Southern California Journalism Awards, held June 28 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel, the Los Angeles Press Club recognized several Asian American journalists, with KABC Channel 7 sports anchor Rob Fukuzaki receiving the organization's Joseph M. Quinn Award for Lifetime Achievement. In the Journalists of the Year category, Fukuzaki's colleague David Ono received top honors in the TV category. Other winners and notable mentions: Photojournalist of the Year went to Ringo Chiu; first place in Local Politics/Government Reporting, Schools and Universities, went to Maylin Tu of *AfroLA*; third place in Obituary/In Appreciation, Politics/Business/Arts Personalities, went to

Gwen Muranaka of *Zócalo Public Square*; second place for environmental reporting went to Michelle Ma of Bloomberg News; third place for Commentary went to Calvin Naito of *Beverly Press/Park Labrea News*; and first place for the Tatiana Schlossberg Environmental Cash Award went to Lisa Fung of *Blueprint Magazine*; second place in the category went to Michelle Peng of the *San Francisco Standard*. To view a PDF of the event's program, visit tinyurl.com/yuydnpu5.

Duly Noted: AAJA Elects New Officers

At the recent Asian American Journalists Assn. convention in Minneapolis, Jin Ding was elected the group's national president with 320 votes to 199 for Frank Bi. In the races for vp of civic engagement and vp of finance, those offices were won, respectively, by Marian Chia-Ning Liu and Carl Lam; both ran unopposed. The Television Academy has announced that KABC TV news anchor David Ono is its recipient of the 2026 Los Angeles Area Emmy Governors Award, which is awarded to an individual, company or organization for making an outstanding, innovative and visionary achievement in the arts, sciences or management of television (see Nov. 4, 2022, *Pacific Citizen*, tinyurl.com/ykuwpkd8, and Feb. 20, 2026, *Pacific Citizen*, tinyurl.com/5n6dekz6). Los Angeles City Councilmembers Monica Rodriguez and Eunisses Hernandez honored former executive director of Los Angeles

Conservation Corps Bruce Saito by naming the intersection of Ann and North Spring Streets, near the Corps' HQ, Bruce Saito Square. The *USA Today* named Ikeda's California Country Market, with locations in Auburn, Calif., and Davis, Calif., as its Best Pie Shop. The family owned business has been selling pies for more than five decades. The UCLA Asian American Studies Department announced that Dr. Jean-Paul (JP) Contreras deGuzman is the 2025-26 recipient of the C. Doris and Toshio Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Prize in Asian American Studies at UCLA for "high impact teaching practices and student engagement work that has inspired students to pursue degrees in Asian American Studies." For more than a decade, he has been the instructor for Asian American Studies 10: History of Asian Americans. The department also announced that Professor May Sudhinaraset was awarded the 2025-26 Don T. Nakanishi Award for Outstanding Engaged Scholarship in Asian American Studies at UCLA. In other UCLA Asian American Studies Department news, graduate student Corina Penaia and undergraduate student Samantha Leong were named as the recipients of the 2025-26 Don T. Nakanishi Award for Outstanding Engaged Scholarship in Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies at UCLA. The Nakanishi Award includes a \$2,500 cash prize award for each recipient.

— P.C. Staff

In MEMORIAM

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

Hayashi, Elsie Eruko, 105, Pasadena, CA, June 10.

Ikkanda, Ana Christiana, 85, Los Angeles, CA, June 21.

Kawakami, Randy, 69, Honolulu, HI, Nov. 7, 2025.

Kawasaki, Mary Michele, 67, Jacksonville, NC, Sept. 23, 2025.

Kawasaki, Nancy, 71, Elgin, IL, April 18.

Matsuda, Kyle Minoru, 69, Whittier, CA, June 27.



Mizuki, Miyoko Morimoto, 93, Cerritos, CA, May 9.



Ochi, Somao, 99, San Francisco, CA, Jan. 24.

Moritsugu, Ruiko, 92, Garden City, NY, May 22.

Murakami, Harry Haruyuki, 89, Honolulu, HI, May 13.

Nakamura, George, 96, Waipahu, HI, March 31.

Oda, Takashi, 98, Torrance, CA, May 14.

Ogata, Makoto, 83, Gardena, CA, March 29.

Omoto, Nobuko Sakai, 102, Seattle, WA, March 27.



Rhodes, Sachiko Tanaka, 53, Cambridge, MA, June 20.



Teruya, Edwin, 87, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 21.

Stambul, Richard 'Rick,' 78, Sherman Oaks, CA, Nov. 5, 2025.

Yoshizumi, Robert, 94, Fair Oaks, CA, June 6.

TRIBUTE

TOYOKO NAKAHARA



A native Californian, Toyo grew up in Vacaville and was a longtime resident of San Francisco. She worked alongside her husband in the family pearl restringing and jewelry business for 40 years. A resilient survivor of multiple bouts with cancer, she found great joy and energy seeing her grandchildren thrive into adulthood. She was happiest at family celebrations, reading mystery novels, watching Japanese musical variety shows and enjoying the occasional thrill of ringing slot machines.

Preceded in death by her husband, Yoshito, she will be missed by her daughters, Amy Moon and Judy Rossi and husband, Mitchell, as well as grandchildren, William, Andrew, Kimiko, and many caring nieces and nephews.

Toyoko will be laid to rest alongside Yoshito in a private ceremony. We will miss her laugh and gentle spirit.

PLACE A TRIBUTE

'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$25/column inch.

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Gerald Fukui
President

2026 JAACL NATIONAL CONVENTION LAS VEGAS, NV



CONVENTION REGISTRATION

- General Registration is now extended through July 6!
- Advanced pricing runs July 7-10. Registration officially closes July 10!
- Remember, the Awards Luncheon and Sayonara gala are SEPARATE tickets!

Register
Here!



HOTEL BOOKING

- Book your room at the Paris Las Vegas now until July 6!
- Average nightly rate is \$169
- Rate includes room rate and resort fees!

Book your
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BREAKFAST WITH LILLY

- Join us for an intimate breakfast conversation with Lilly Simmering, our new Executive Director!



PLENARIES & SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- Preserving Incarceration Sites - Fifty Years of Healing (1976-2026)
- Standing Against Xenophobia, Standing with Refugees and Migrants
- Photographic Justice: The Corky Lee Story

WORKSHOPS AT A GLIMPSE

- Fighting For Our Stories: Educating the Next Generation
- Reparations Impossible? Why we should care and how we can be allies for Black Reparations
- CAUSE the Vote: Building Creative Voter Engagement
- And Much More!



Find more info at: jaacl.org/2026-national-convention