



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

## ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICA

WITH ROBERT HANDA

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## ON AIR WITH THE JACL

**'Asian Pacific America With Robert Handa' features the 88-year-old civil rights organization on its Aug. 6 show.**

JACL National President Gary Mayeda (left) with Robert Handa, host and producer of "Asian Pacific America," on the set of the popular NBC Bay Area TV show

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**Asian Americans in Early Hollywood**

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**AAPI Media Depictions: Change Comes Slowly**

PHOTO: PATTI HIRAHARA



# JACL CONDEMNS WEEKEND ACT OF TERRORISM AGAINST MINNESOTA MOSQUE

The Japanese American Citizens League, the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the U.S., condemned the Aug. 5 bombing of a Bloomington, Minn., mosque as an act of terrorism and hate against a religious group.

This is a clear affront to the rights of the Muslim community to worship in peace. We are grateful that there were no casualties, but that does not reduce the impact this act of terror has upon the worshipping community.

The Twin Cities JACL chapter has worked previously with the Muslim community in the

Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

"The Twin Cities JACL chapter supports the Muslim community in the face of increasing discrimination and hate. The Twin Cities JACL actively advocates the pursuit of global justice, civil liberties and human rights, hope, compassion and love," said Twin Cities Chapter President Amy Dickerson.

It is particularly poignant that this act of terror took place on the fifth anniversary of the Oak Creek, Wis., massacre of six Sikh worshippers preparing the day's meal.

Like the Aug. 5 bombing, that event could

have been much worse had the timing been different. An hour later, the temple would have been filled with children attending classes.

The JACL stands proudly in support of the Muslim and Sikh communities and for the right of all Americans to worship peacefully and without the fear of attack from terrorism.

We affirm the fundamental American right of worship and freedom of assembly as guaranteed in the Bill of Rights.

*For more information about the Twin Cities chapter, please refer to its website at [www.tcjACL.org](http://www.tcjACL.org).*

## JACL CONDEMNS WEEKEND HATE RALLY IN CHARLOTTESVILLE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Japanese American Citizens League on Aug. 14 denounced the racism, bigotry and violence in Charlottesville, Va., that resulted in three deaths over the weekend.

One of the deceased has been identified as Heather D. Heyer, a Charlottesville resident who was among a crowd of people counterprotesting a white nationalist rally.

Heyer, 32, was killed when a man drove his car into the crowd.; 19 people were also injured. Police identified the driver as James Alex Fields Jr., 20, of Maumee, Ohio. He was arrested after the incident and charged with second-degree murder and three counts of malicious wounding.

The other two who lost their lives as a result of the white nationalist rally were Virginia state troopers H. Jay Cullen, 48, and Berke Bates, who would have turned 41 on Aug. 20. The helicopter the two were aboard to monitor the situation in Charlottesville crashed, killing both troopers.

According to JACL, this is not the first overt act of terrorism against a minority community in 2017, but it was the first to result in deaths.

The JACL said in a statement that the "unbridled white supremacist ideology espoused at the rallies in Charlottesville and Seattle must not be accepted as free expression of opinion, but repudiated as an

incitement to commit hate crimes against minority communities and individuals," adding, "hate speech leads to hate crimes."

The 88-year-old civil rights organization added: "We take this opportunity to call attention to actions less violent in nature, but equally steeped in racist and bigoted ideology and equally devastating in effect upon minority communities. The Trump administration has systematically dismantled the very instruments our government has in place to protect minorities from discrimination."

### PACIFIC CITIZEN SPECIAL ISSUES COMING SOON

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Contact Susan at (213) 620-1767 ext.103

Email: [BusMgr@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:BusMgr@pacificcitizen.org)  
or [PC@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:PC@pacificcitizen.org)

### HOW TO REACH US

Email: [pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)  
Online: [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)  
Tel: (213) 620-1767  
Mail: 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St.,  
Suite 313  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

### STAFF

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Allison Haramoto

**Senior Editor**  
Digital & Social Media  
George Johnston

**Business Manager**  
Susan Yokoyama

**Production Artist**  
Marie Samonte

**Circulation**  
Eva Ting

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**JACL President:** Gary Mayeda  
**Interim Assistant Executive Director:** Stephanie Nitahara  
**P.C. EDITORIAL BOARD**  
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The *Pacific Citizen's* mission is to "educate on the past Japanese American experience and to preserve, promote and help the current and future AAPI communities."

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123 Ellison S. Onizuka St. #313  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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## NIKKEI VOICE

# NHK IS YOUR DIRECT LINE TO JAPANESE NEWS

By Gil Asakawa

The recent 72nd anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima went by quietly on American news (in part because there's just so much news to cover exploding out of our own White House). So, on Aug. 6, I turned to the one place I knew would give the commemoration of the bombing its due coverage: NHK World, Japan's English-language public television network.

NHK World didn't disappoint. The network aired live the annual solemn ceremony at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park that included dignitaries including Kazumi Matsui, the mayor of Hiroshima, and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The speeches were translated into English, and the dolorous seriousness of looking back at the horror of atomic war and looking with hope to a future without war were that much more powerful to be able to watch it live.

Sure, there are other ways to keep up with news from Japan. I have a digital subscription to *JapanTimes.com*, the website of the respected English-language newspaper. An aggregator called *JapanToday.com* compiles news from various sites and is a helpful stop to catch up on the headlines at a glance. The Asahi Shimbun's English-language website (*asahi.com/ajw*) is also good.

But NHK has been the bridge to Japan for a lot of people in the U.S. My mom watches Japanese-language programming



NHK World is Japan's English-language public TV network.

via satellite exclusively, which means she never even tunes in another channel, even though she pays for a full service and the extra to get NHK.

If my mom is home, the TV is on, blasting do-rah-ma (dramas, or soap operas), wacky game shows, talk show, music and comedy variety shows, sumo tournaments and even children's programming. The network also broadcasts news, of course, with its low-key and understated anchors (the game show hosts, on the other hand, seem as if they've just downed a gallon of cold-brew coffee before the cameras have been turned on).

My mom loves the samurai dramas and pastoral nature shows, but she gets puzzled watching the news. I've visited her when the news is on, and she has no idea what many

contemporary words that Japanese use mean. Having come to America in the mid-1960s, she never learned more modern terms like *pasocon* (personal computers) or *poppu musicu* (pop music). Even though I have limited Nihongo ability, I can pick out the "katakana words," as she calls them, and end up telling her what the report is about. Katakana is the alphabet that's used for foreign words.

For years whenever I traveled to other cities, I'd check the hotel TV menu to see if it carried NHK World, the English version of the network my mom watches.

I like the headline news presented every half-hour, though I admittedly get a bit tired after several hours of seeing the same news. But I really love the lineup of feature programming, which tends to focus on cultural and travel and tourism topics.

Earlier this year, NHK World finally came to Denver's cable carrier, Comcast (on channel 262 for Denver-area readers). It's been a pleasure to finally have it available without checking into a hotel. I put it on when I'm tired of politics on the U.S. news networks, and we're caught up on "Game of Thrones."

I still count on the top headlines every half-hour, and I still get tired of seeing the same stories after a while. But other than that, I like to tune in to a variety of programming that introduces me to areas of Japan I haven't visited, plus, NHK World teaches me about the country of my heritage.

>> See NHK on page 12



By Staci Yamashita-Iida, Esq.

## LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

# THE DANGERS OF ONLINE, DIY ESTATE PLANS

Will my Will work? Can I trust my Trust? If you've created your Estate Plan online, these are questions you may want to ask yourself.

Nowadays, legal websites advertise do-it-yourself (DIY) wills and trusts. The appeal is easy to see: You can create your Estate Plan at a fraction of the price in comparison to visiting an experienced attorney. So, what's the downside?

While it is fully plausible that online, DIY Estate Plans result in a trouble-free situation, that's not always the case. If you have used a low-cost website to prepare your Estate Planning documents or are thinking of doing so in the future, I'd caution you to take the following into consideration.

### Issue No. 1: Assets May Not Avoid Probate

For most people, the main purpose of creating a Revocable Living Trust is to ensure that their loved ones receive their assets with ease and without high costs, i.e., by avoiding the probate process. Unfortunately, online trusts do not always accomplish these goals. Below are two real-life stories experienced by our Probate Department.

Ken and Kate created their Living Trust through an online website. The process seemed simple enough: They filled out a questionnaire, the company generated documents for them to sign and they received said documents in the mail. The company stated that Ken and Kate would need to sign

the documents before a notary public in order to be legally binding. Ken and Kate meant to go that weekend, but then life happened: Their son got sick, then they went on vacation and then it was the holidays. Eventually, they forgot that they were ever supposed to get the documents signed. Years later, Ken and Kate passed away. Their son brought in the unexecuted documents, hoping they would suffice to avoid probate. Unfortunately, they did not, and Ken and Kate's son ended up paying thousands of dollars in legal fees in order to receive his parents' assets.

Mary also created her Living Trust through an online website and, unlike Ken and Kate, she was able to get all documents signed and notarized before her death. However, when her son came to see our law firm after Mary had passed, he was shocked to learn that his mother's assets still required probate. While there was a signed Quitclaim Deed that transferred the family home into the name of the trust, Mary had never recorded it with the county. Similarly, all of Mary's bank accounts were not put into the trust, and there was no beneficiary listed. Mary had likely assumed that, by creating the trust, the assets were automatically in it. There were pages and pages of instructions of what Mary was supposed to do tucked away in the back of a binder, but understandably, she likely did not read them. While it did help that Mary had a trust in place, her son was not spared of the time and money it took to undergo the probate process.

The moral of these stories is that if you do choose to create your Estate Planning documents online, make

sure that they get signed and notarized and that your assets are properly funded into your trust. If the company does allow you to speak with an attorney, utilize the opportunity by asking what specifically needs to be done in order to guarantee that probate is avoided.

### Issue No. 2: Mistakes Can Have Disastrous Consequences

Mistakes happen; we are only human. Unfortunately, in the case of DIY Estate Planning, those mistakes can result in expensive, unintended results.

Take Ted, for example. He created an online Living Trust with the intention of leaving his assets to his two children. His daughter was disabled and received SSI, so he wanted her to receive the family home. That way, she would always have a place to live. Ted also wanted to be fair to his son, so he wanted the money in the savings account to go to him. Both the home and the savings account had the same approximate value. Unfortunately, because Ted simply stated he wanted his assets to be split equally between his children and did not indicate that the home and the account were to go to each child specifically, problems arose. Both children received 50 percent of the home and 50 percent of the bank account. Ted's daughter ended up losing her benefits and, because her brother forced the sale of the home, she ended up losing a place to live as well.

Now not all situations are that dramatic. But even a simple error can have consequences that are just as devastating.

>> See PLANS on page 12



# SUS ITO WORLD WAR II PHOTO EXHIBIT SET TO OPEN

Dr. Susumu "Sus" Ito in France, 1944

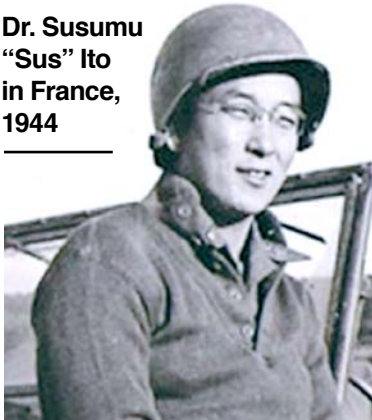


PHOTO: JANM

The Fullerton Arboretum in Fullerton, Calif., is hosting a new exhibit featuring Dr. Susumu "Sus" Ito's World War II images at the Orange County Agricultural and Nikkei Heritage Museum from Sept. 10-Oct. 29.

In addition, on Sept. 17 from 1-3 p.m., Lily Anne Y. Welty Tamai will give a keynote talk for the opening reception of this exhibit. Tamai interviewed Ito before his death in 2015 at the age of 96. She went on to publish an article about him and this exhibit in the *Southern California Quarterly*, a Historical Society of Southern California journal.

Ito's World War II photographs document his tour of duty through Europe as a member of the celebrated all-Japanese American 442nd Regimental Combat Team's 522nd Field Artillery Battalion.

While Ito participated in the res-

cue of the Lost Battalion and the liberation of a subcamp of Dachau, his photographs, taken with a prohibited camera, capture the humble daily lives of young Japanese American soldiers serving in the segregated unit.

Many of the photos show his fellow soldiers posing next to their jeeps, walking in the snow, swimming in a river, playing chess and even visiting tourist destinations while on leave.

Ito went to great depths to preserve the negatives, carrying his photos nearly 5,000 miles across Europe and having his film developed at villages along the way. Unseen for decades, these images provide a fresh and personal look into the soldiers' lives.

In the years following the war, Ito studied biology with the help of the G.I. Bill and later received his PhD in biology and embryology. He joined the faculty of Harvard Medical School in 1960 and eventually served as the James Stillman Professor of Comparative Anatomy Emeritus from 1991 until his death.

No tickets or reservations are needed for the Sept. 17 presentation, but seating is limited. The exhibition is open Sundays, Wednesdays and Saturdays from Noon-4 p.m.

For more information, call (657) 278-4010 or visit [http://fullertonarboretum.org/museum\\_nikkei\\_current.php](http://fullertonarboretum.org/museum_nikkei_current.php).

## U.S. VETERAN RETURNS JAPANESE SOLDIER'S FLAG

HIGASHISHIRAKAWA, JAPAN — Tatsuya Yasue buried his face into the flag and smelled it. Then, he held the 93-year-old hands that brought this treasure home and kissed them.

Marvin Strombo, who had taken the calligraphy-covered Japanese flag from a dead soldier at WWII island battlefield 73 years ago, returned it Aug. 15 to the family of Sadao Yasue. They had never gotten his body or — until that moment — anything else of his.

Yasue and Tatsuya's sister, Sayoko Furuta, 93, wept silently as Tatsuya placed the flag on her lap.

"I was so happy that I returned the flag," Strombo said. "I can see how much the flag meant to her. That almost made me cry . . .

It meant everything in the world to her."

The flag's white background is filled with signatures of 180 friends and neighbors from the mountain village of Higashishirakawa, wishing Yasue's safe return. The signatures helped Strombo find its rightful owners.

The return of the flag brings closure, the 89-year-old farmer and younger brother of Sadao Yasue said at his 400-year-old house.

"It's like the war has finally ended, and my brother can come out of limbo," he said.

Tatsuya Yasue last saw his brother in 1943. A year later, his family received word of his death.

— Associated Press

## San Fernando Valley JACL Announces 2017 Scholarship Winners

PHOTO: COURTESY OF SAN FERNANDO VALLEY JACL

The San Fernando Valley chapter of the JACL is pleased to honor five talented college and college-bound students with scholarships to support their academic and social justice organizing pursuits.

Seira Narita, who is headed to the University of California, Davis, in the fall, received the Dr. Sanbo and Mrs.

Kay Sakaguchi Graduating High School Scholarship. Olivia Mazzucato (University of California, Los Angeles), Kara Tanaka (Santa Clara University) and Nova Weng (University of California, Los Angeles) received the Dr. Sanbo and Mrs. Kay Sakaguchi Undergraduate Scholarships, while Dean Caudill (University of California, Berkeley) received a chapter undergraduate scholarship.

The chapter recognized the breadth and depth of each student's scholastic achievements and level of



Pictured (from left) are this year's San Fernando Valley chapter scholarship recipients Seira Narita, Kara Tanaka and Olivia Mazzucato. (Not pictured are Dean Caudill and Nova Weng.)

engagement with their school and larger community. Each recipient is also well-versed in contemporary issues facing Asian Americans such as media representation, LG-BTQ rights and immigration politics. They are currently (or aspiring) journalists, artists, musicians, veterinarians and policymakers.

The Dr. Sanbo and Mrs. Kay Saka-

guchi Scholarships are funded by a longtime chapter supporter and named for pillars of the San Fernando Valley Japanese American community. The scholarship committee specifically awards students with interests in civil rights and community service.

For more information about the scholarships, visit the chapter's website (<http://sfvjacel.weebly.com/scholarships-and-internships.html>).

— Jean-Paul deGuzman

## AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

### 2017 TOUR SCHEDULE

- Eastern Canada Holiday Tour (Carol Hida) WAIT LIST . . . . . Sep 6-14**  
Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Toronto, Niagara Falls.
- Classical Japan Autumn Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) WAIT LIST . . . . Oct 5-16**  
Tokyo, Mt. Fuji, Yamanashi, Shizuoka, Nagoya, Gifu, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
- Japan Autumn Countryside Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). . . . . Oct 19-29**  
Tokyo, Sado Island, Kanazawa, Amanohashidate, Tottori, Matsue, Tamatsukuri Onsen, Hiroshima.
- New Orleans & Deep South Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida). . . . . Nov 5-12**  
New Orleans, Natchez, Lafayette.
- So. America Patagonia-Easter Island Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). . . Nov 7-22**  
Buenos Aires, Ushuaia, Calafate(Perito Moreno Glacier), Paine National Park(Grey Glacier), Punta Arenas, Santiago, Easter Island.

### 2018 TOUR SCHEDULE

- Hokkaido Snow Festivals Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). . . . . Feb 3-12**  
Lake Akan, Abashiri, Sounkyo, Sapporo, Otaru, Noboribetsu, Lake Toya.
- Danube River Holiday Cruise (Carol Hida) . . . . . Apr 23-May 4**  
Prague, Vilshofen, Passau, Linz, Weissenkirchen, Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest. With AMA Waterways.
- Heritage of America Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida) . . . . . Apr 27-May 6**  
New York City, Philadelphia, Gettysburg, Shenandoah Valley, Charlottesville, Williamsburg, Yorktown, Washington DC.
- Cape Cod Islands of New England Tour (Carol Hida & Elaine Ishida) . . Jun 1-8**  
Providence, Newport, Boston, Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, Hyannis, Nantucket.
- Grandparents-Grandchildren Japan Tour (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Jun 17-26**  
Tokyo, Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
- Hokkaido Summer Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) . . . . . July**
- Classical Japan Autumn Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). . . . . Oct**
- New England Autumn Holiday Tour (Carol Hida). . . . . Oct 12-19**
- Costa Rica Holiday Tour (Carol Hida). . . . . Nov 7-15**
- Okinawa Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Nov**

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312 E. 1st Street, Suite 330 \* Los Angeles, CA 90012

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(CST #200326-10) Ernest or Carol Hida

Elaine Ishida (Tel: 714-269-4534)



PHOTO: PATTI HIRAHARA



Sonoma County JACL Co-President Mark Hayashi explains his chapter's activities to host Robert Handa.

PHOTO: JOACHIM CUSTODIO



PHOTO: JOACHIM CUSTODIO

The JACL is well-represented. Pictured (from left) are Sonoma County JACL member and "Asian Pacific America" Coordinating Producer Lance Lew, upcoming new Sonoma County JACL member and "Whispering Light" performer Kevin Village-Stone (Iwamura), JACL National President Gary Mayeda, "Asian Pacific America" host Robert Handa, Berkeley JACL's Nancy Ukai, Sonoma County JACL Co-President Mark Hayashi, P.C. contributor and Greater Los Angeles JACL's Patti Hirahara and "Whispering Light's" Lindy Day.

## ON AIR WITH THE JACL

'Asian Pacific America With Robert Handa' devotes its Aug. 6 show to the 88-year-old civil rights organization.

By P.C. Staff

**A** sian Pacific America With Robert Handa" first aired on KNTV-NBC Bay Area in September 2014 and is currently the only Asian cultural affairs show on network television in the greater San Francisco Bay Area.

The half-hour show devoted its entire running time on Aug. 6 to highlighting various aspects of the Japanese American Citizens League, the nation's oldest Asian American civil and human rights organization, which is headquartered in San Francisco.

Founded in 1929, the JACL monitors and responds to issues that enhance or threaten the civil and human rights of all Americans, as well as implements strategies to effect positive social change, particularly in the Asian Pacific American community.

Host Robert Handa felt that in featuring the JACL, he hoped "people will not only understand the historical role that the JACL plays in helping the community, but also see its relevance to our world today. These lessons seem particularly valuable as other ethnic communities face similar issues and threats now."

With the JACL working to promote cultural, educational and social values, as well as preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community, National JACL President Gary Mayeda led off the show by talking about the organization and his family roots.

Mayeda and Handa found that they shared something in common, learning that their

families were both incarcerated at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Wyoming during World War II.

"Surviving the experience of our families being incarcerated taught succeeding generations to overcome societal adversities. Giving back to the greater APIA community in our own ways became another common trait we both shared," Mayeda said.

The second segment of the show focused on the workings of a local JACL chapter, the Sonoma County JACL, which was founded in 1934. In July, the chapter received a JACL Legacy Fund grant at the organization's National Convention in Washington, D.C., for its *Kami Shibai* educational project, which serves as a resource guide on Japanese culture.

The Sonoma County JACL is an active organization, counting among its many successful programs a Taiko and Japanese Culture workshop, essay contest and Oral History Group and Speakers Bureau.

Mark Hayashi, co-president of the Sonoma County JACL, was a guest on "Asian Pacific America," and he talked about his chapter's Oral History Group and Speakers Bureau, which reaches 2,000-3,000 people a year. Volunteers from the chapter educate teachers and classrooms on their personal incarceration experiences during WWII so that people will learn that such personal injustices must never happen again. (For further information on the Sonoma County JACL, please check the chapter's website at <http://www.sonomacjocl.org/>.)

PHOTO: PATTI HIRAHARA



"Whispering Light" performers Kevin Village-Stone (Iwamura) and guitarist Lindy Day with host Robert Handa. The duo performed their song "Spirit's Dance" on the show.

And with 2017 being the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, which authorized the forced removal of 120,000 people of Japanese and Japanese American descent to American concentration camps during WWII, the JACL supported the February opening of the Smithsonian

PHOTO: PATTI HIRAHARA



JACL's Gary Mayeda

National Museum of American History's new exhibition "Righting a Wrong — Japanese Americans and World War II." JACL also collaborated with the Smithsonian to host a private reception and viewing of the exhibit as part of this year's National Convention.

The show's third-segment guests Nancy Ukai, a Berkeley JACL chapter board member, and Patti Hirahara, contributor to the *Pacific Citizen* and Greater Los Angeles JACL chapter member, talked about the significance of this exhibition and its importance in educating the public about this dark chapter in U.S. history.

Ukai helped the Berkeley JACL chapter create two events last fall that supported the Smithsonian exhibition by sharing stories of camp artifacts and putting many on display. In seeing how many stories could be told through camp artifacts, she developed a new National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Project entitled "50 Objects/50 Stories of the Japanese American Incarceration." (To learn more about this project, visit <https://www.facebook.com/50objectsNikkei/>.)

Hirahara talked about the significance of seeing the original E.O. 9066 document at the Smithsonian exhibition, which has been extended through Dec. 8, 2018, as well as her continued promotion of the Washington State University Libraries George and Frank C. Hirahara photo collection of Heart Mountain. (For more information on this exhibition, visit <http://americanhistory.si.edu/exhibitions/righting-wrong-japanese-americans-and-world-war-ii>.)



(From left) Pacific Citizen contributor and Greater Los Angeles JACL's Patti Hirahara and "50 Objects/50 Stories of the Japanese American Incarceration" Project Director Nancy Ukai with host Robert Handa

"With the JACL having such a presence in Northern California and being headquartered in San Francisco, this is great exposure to all that may not be aware of the JACL. I hope new millenials join to continue the important work and educational activities for future generations," Hirahara said.

Each "Asian Pacific America" show also usually highlights a performing group at the end of the program. This show highlighted the performance of upcoming new Sonoma County JACL member Kevin Village-Stone (Iwamura) and his award-winning lead guitarist Lindy Day from the performing group "Whispering Light." The duo performed "Spirits Dance" from their "One Tribe" CD, in which both musicians play all of the instruments featured in the album.

Village-Stone is a native of the San Francisco Bay Area and is of Cherokee and Japanese ancestry. He lives in Lake County, Calif., and has been in the music and postproduction industry for decades as a composer, performer, producer and proaudio/recording engineer. (For more information on "Whispering Light," visit [www.whisperinglight.com](http://www.whisperinglight.com).)

"We are glad to promote national organizations such as the JACL that are part of our local community, and we hope to highlight more JACL stories on 'Asian Pacific America' in the future," Handa concluded.

To watch "Asian Pacific America With Robert Handa" featuring the JACL, visit the following NBC Bay Area link: <http://www.nbcbayarea.com/on-air/community/Japanese-American-Citizens-League-Featured-on-Asian-Pacific-America-with-Robert-Handa-439933883.html>.



# THE UNTOLD STORY OF ASIAN AMERICANS IN EARLY HOLLYWOOD

Early Asian American actors persevered to make a name for themselves in a film world dominated by their Caucasian counterparts.

By Rob Buscher,  
Contributor

It would shock many film buffs and casual viewers alike to learn that there was a time in early Hollywood cinema when several Asian Americans were among the top A-list celebrities.

In fact, one of the highest-paid actors in 1910s Hollywood was a Japanese immigrant named Sessue Hayakawa. Hayakawa would go on to become the first (and to this day only) Asian American to own a Hollywood studio, which netted more than \$2 million in profits at the height of its popularity in the late 1910s.

Born in 1889 as Kintaro Hayakawa in Chiba Prefecture, he emigrated to the United States to pursue a degree in political economics at the University of Chicago. After flunking out of school, Hayakawa's plan to return home became waylaid when he caught a theater performance in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo — he fell in love with the stage.

Hayakawa became a regular player at the Japanese Playhouse in Little Tokyo, where he was discovered by Hollywood film producer Thomas H. Ince. Against all odds, Ince agreed to pay him the extraordinary sum of \$500 per week to star in the silent film adaption of a stage play called "The Typhoon" in 1914.

"The Typhoon" starred Hayakawa as a Japanese diplomat to France who, after having an affair with a chorus girl, strangles her to death in a fit of passion. Despite the negative stereotyping of his character,

Hayakawa's brooding good looks made him an undeniable sex symbol amongst white women across America.

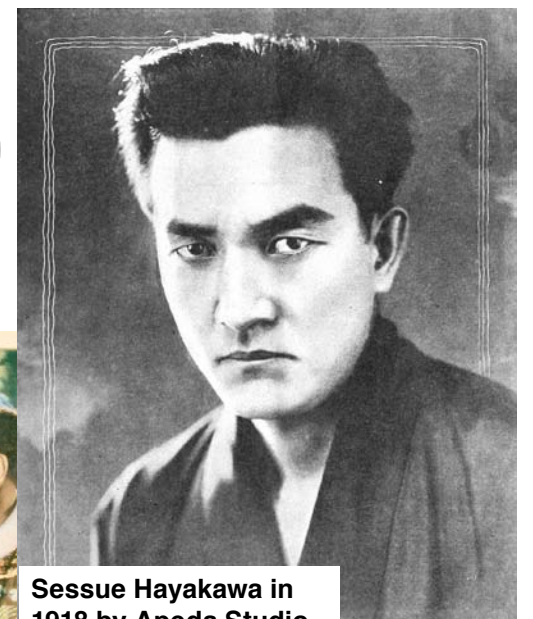
Cast in a similar role the following year by legendary director Cecil B. DeMille, Hayakawa shared the first-ever onscreen interracial kiss with a white woman in the 1915 film "The Cheat." Although the studio took a substantial risk by visually suggesting miscegenation, it still made him the villain by making his character brand his lover with a hot iron after she tries to break off their affair.

Asked about the significance of Hayakawa's sex-symbol status, Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) Executive Director Stephen Gong said, "I think [Hayakawa's] transgressive stardom (white women being his primary — and ardently loyal fan base) served as a cautionary tale for the developing industry and its concomitant censorship-machinery. Rudolf Valentino, in the 1920s, elicited a similar 'forbidden' fan response, and that from a very light-complexioned Italian. I think the industry was quietly but completely determined not to allow Asians or nonwhites to become 'stars.'"

Fed up with the self-proclaimed Orientalist roles that he was being cast in by the major Hollywood studios, Hayakawa decided to go out on his own by founding Haworth



Anna May Wong and Sessue Hayakawa starred together in the 1931 crime drama.



Sessue Hayakawa in 1918 by Apeda Studio



Anna May Wong in an undated early photo

Pictures Corp., where he subsequently released 19 films between the years 1918-22.

Gong elaborated on Hayakawa's tenuous relationship with race in Hollywood.

"I think at the time he was working, all filmmakers were using stereotypes as tools of the trade to get people to watch, and hopefully pay a few cents for the pleasure," he said. "I don't think many people were thinking critically about authentic cultural or ethnic representation before the 1960s or 1970s. That said, Hayakawa was aware of the racism behind his character in 'The Cheat' and was determined therefore to play the hero in his own Haworth and Hayakawa Feature Play films — albeit many of those employed stereotypical depictions of Chinese, Mexicans, Indians and others."

Alas, the rising anti-Japanese sentiment in early 1920s California made Hayakawa unpalatable to Hollywood moguls looking to cash in on their majority white audience. Hayakawa spent the next decade working in Europe, and by the time he returned to Hollywood in the 1930s, his thick Japanese accent pigeonholed him as a character actor in the new talkie era.

Hayakawa's return to Hollywood coincided with the rise of another Asian American star — Anna May Wong, who coincidentally had a starring role in Hayakawa's 1931 sound debut "Daughter of the Dragon."

The American-born daughter of Chinatown laundry owners, Wong holds a special place in film history as the first Asian American actress to become a major Hollywood sensation.

"Anna May was fascinated by film from a very early age . . . She played hooky from school to watch movies and sometimes snuck into shoots on the streets of Chinatown. From those humble beginnings, she

rose to prominence against great odds and paved the way for the current generation of Asian film actors to make their mark," said filmmaker Peilin Kuo, who is an authority on Wong.

The majority of films featuring Wong were released after the Motion Picture Production Code went into effect in 1930. Better known as the Hay's Code after President Will H. Hays of the Motion Picture Association of America, this agreement amongst executives from each major Hollywood studio outlined what should and should not be permitted onscreen. With anti-miscegenation laws active in California until 1948, this prevented Wong from taking on roles that involved romance with a white male lead.

"During her Hollywood career, [Wong] suffered from the frequent stereotyping of Asian women as 'China dolls' or 'Dragon ladies.' Despite her prodigious talent and screen presence, she was usually relegated to playing secondary roles to white actresses," Kuo said. "The closest she came to a lead Asian role in a major studio film was in 'The Good Earth' (1937), but she lost the role to Luise Rainer, a white actress in yellowface, who won an Oscar for the role."

By the 1930s, romantic Asian male leads were virtually nonexistent, and when the script called for one, Hollywood frequently cast white men in yellowface. Even in these



Hayakawa's handsome looks landed him a role in the 1919 film.



Hayakawa was profiled in the Nov. 18, 1922, edition of *Movie Weekly*.



cases when a white actor was portraying an Asian onscreen, interracial relations were forbidden, thus preventing Wong from landing these roles.

A rare exception is the 1937 thriller "Daughter of Shanghai," in which Wong starred opposite of Korean American actor Philip Ahn as the daughter of a wealthy Chinese merchant who goes undercover as a nightclub dancer to try and expose the illegal human-trafficking operation that led to her father's death.

Despite the potential for onscreen romance with Ahn, the couple barely holds hands, let alone kisses, before she agrees to marry him in the closing scene, suggesting perhaps that even onscreen romance between two Asians was deemed inappropriate by Hollywood tastemakers.

Reflecting on her own relationship to Wong's work, Kuo said, "As an Asian woman myself, I related to her struggle as a person caught between East and West. Even though she was born in a different time, I was so inspired by her strength, her will to fight, her persistence to fulfill her dream. Although Anna May was the biggest Asian American movie star during her career, that career was limited by prejudice and the star system. Nowadays, she is often held up as an object lesson of a major talent whose career was thwarted by discrimination in Hollywood. In a real sense, her career hovers over today's conversation about the underrepresentation of women and Asians in major Hollywood films."



Sabu starred as Mowgli in the 1942 film adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book."



A 13-year-old Sabu starred in the 1937 film "Elephant Boy."

Another familiar Asian face in 1930s-'40s cinema was Sabu Dastagir, known by audiences simply as Sabu. An Indian national, Sabu began his career in cinema at the young age of 13, when he was cast in the titular role of Robert Flaherty's 1937 film "Elephant Boy."

Based on an adaptation of the Rudyard Kipling novel "Toomai of the Elephants," the film would set the tone for most of Sabu's career as a comical sidekick whose image would become inextricably linked with the orientalist fantasy embodied in Kipling's work.

"In the following years while living in England, the adolescent boy starred in glorifications of the British Crown, appeared in fantasies inspired by Arabian Nights' Oris



Sabu in an undated photo



Sabu in the 1940 film

picture also shot in Hollywood and starred Sabu as Mowgli in the original 1942 live-action adaptation of Kipling's "The Jungle Book."

Sabu's best-known roles in American cinema were perhaps his most problematic, in which he starred after signing a three-film contract with Universal Pictures. Part of a larger trend of wartime escapism in Hollywood, Universal mar-



Sabu (kneeling, center) is pictured with his fellow pilots of the 13th Army Air Force during World War II.

and was featured in Rudyard Kipling adaptations that sensationalized Sabu as a 'real' jungle boy in the press," said performance studies scholar Jyoti Argadé. "Often playing a 'sidekick' to the white hero, he appeared as an affable savage child or an effete prince who was powerless before British colonial authority. Many a time he portrayed what could be termed 'Orientalist stereotypes.'"

Sabu earned his first shot at Hollywood when the outbreak of WWII forced London Films to relocate production to California while shooting 1940's "The Thief of Bagdad," a remake of an earlier 1924 film that coincidentally starred Wong in a minor role.

In this film, Sabu played one of his more valiant roles, albeit race-bending as an Arab, beginning the story as a humble street beggar who, after vanquishing a genie and completing a series of trials, becomes the Prince of Thieves. Achieving success with "The Thief of Bagdad,"

London Films' follow-up picture also shot in Hollywood and starred Sabu as Mowgli in the original 1942 live-action adaptation of Kipling's "The Jungle Book."

Sabu's best-known roles in American cinema were perhaps his most problematic, in which he starred after signing a three-film contract with Universal Pictures. Part of a larger trend of wartime escapism in Hollywood, Universal mar-

keted these titles as "exotic films" known for their far-flung locales, action-packed plots and scantily-clad women.

Together with Jon Hall and Maria Montez, Sabu starred in 1942's "Arabian Nights," 1943's "White Savage" and 1944's "Cobra Woman." Sabu adopted a subservient comic relief role in each film and race-bends as either Arab or Pacific Islander; meanwhile, his counterparts were highlighted as the romantic leads. Although Montez as a Dominican and Hall, who was half-Tahitian, were of different races, they were allowed to star onscreen as lovers, perhaps because neither was technically white.

While there are no documented remarks from Sabu showing criticism of his relegation to subordinate roles, his choice to enlist in the U.S. Military and subsequent naturalization as a U.S. Citizen suggests that he was actively seeking to elevate his position in American society.

From 1943-45, Sabu flew more than 30 missions as a ball-gunner in the 13th Army Air Force's famous Lone Ranger bomber group and became one of Hollywood's most-decorated war heroes.

Unfortunately, upon returning to Hollywood, Sabu's attempts to regain his wartime stardom were unsuccessful.

"When Sabu returned from the war, the caliber of his roles began to dwindle," said Argadé. "He no longer headlined as the lead. Once Hollywood studios began to replace the 1930s genre of 'exotic' adventures with movies more inclined toward post-WWII social realism, Sabu's career as an 'exotic' in fantasy films diminished."

While circumstances differ between Hayakawa, Wong and Sabu, each of their careers came to a premature end. Had they been given the opportunities of their white counterparts, one wonders if film studies might remember Hayakawa alongside Charlie Chaplin and Douglas Fairbanks or consider Wong as a true contemporary to Joan Crawford and Ginger Rogers.

>> See HOLLYWOOD on page 12



# AAPI MEDIA DEPICTIONS: CHANGE COMES SLOWLY

By P.C. Staff

PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON

In 1919's "Broken Blossoms or the Yellow Man and the Girl," the man who played the Chinese character was a Caucasian actor employing prosthetic makeup, a practice later known as yellowface.

Anna May Wong, a Los Angeles-born Chinese American actress who started her career in silent movies, was denied the chance to play the lead role of a Chinese woman in the China-set "The Good Earth" in 1937. That part went to white actress Luise Rainer, in yellowface. She won the best actress Oscar.

Fortunately, nearly a century after those early cinematic efforts, practices like yellowface became a thing of the past. Or did it?

In 2015, Japan-based Sony Pictures Entertainment's Columbia Pictures released "Aloha," in which Emma Stone played a woman of mixed Asian, Pacific Islander and white ancestry. In 2016, Disney's Marvel Studios division produced "Dr. Strange," and a few months later in 2017, Paramount Pictures released "Ghost in the Shell," a movie adaptation that deviated from source material by, respectively, changing an elderly Tibetan man into a younger white woman (Tilda Swinton) and a female Japanese character into, yet again, a white woman (Scarlett Johansson).

It was in this milieu that a workshop titled "AAPI's Portrayal in the Media & Arts" was held on July 8 at the JACL National Convention in Washington, D.C. The informal panel was moderated by Rob Buscher, Philadelphia JACL chapter board member and director at the Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival.

On the panel to address those and other issues were playwright Rick Shiomi, choreographer Makoto Hirano and journalist Kathryn Tolbert. Buscher noted that each one had a slightly different trajectory and perspective as Nikkei people — for Hirano as a Shin Issei, for Tolbert as a person of mixed Japanese ancestry and for Shiomi as a Japanese Canadian.

For Hirano, a Philadelphia-based dance, theater and spoken-word artist — and former Marine — his outlook was influenced by being born in Japan, having Japanese parents



(From left) Rick Shiomi, Makoto Hirano and Kathryn Tolbert talk about AAPI's portrayals in the media during their workshop presentation at the JACL National Convention.

and speaking Japanese as his first language, but also by growing up in Chicago.

He said that looking back on his early years as an artist, it's much clearer now than at the time why he took the direction he did.

"I think I had to figure out how much of my identity was going to be placed in being Japanese or Japanese American because that was the obvious place to come from," Hirano said. "I felt very Japanese, but not Japanese American. I had to consider all these things early in my career, and it was kind of a weird, uphill battle."

Ultimately, Hirano realized that everything he created was, by default, going to be Asian American or Japanese American.

Tolbert, the deputy editor of the *Washington Post's* Talent Network for freelance journalists, has spent most of her nearly 40 years as a professional journalist with mainstream newspapers.

She described her native Japanese mother who married a white U.S. serviceman after World War II as a "tiger mom" who wanted to be a writer or a journalist, and she pushed her first-born daughter in that direction.

As it turned out, Tolbert's Japanese ancestry helped in her quest to become a foreign correspondent when, early in her

career, Japan's then-roaring economy was a hot topic. She landed jobs with the *Associated Press*, the *Boston Globe* as foreign editor and at the *International Herald Tribune* as deputy Asia editor.

Still, Tolbert said she never considered herself a minority.

"For me, the fight was really for women's positions," she said. "It was less about being part-Japanese than being a woman."

For the last few years, however, as Tolbert worked on a documentary titled "Fall Seven Times, Get Up Eight: The Japanese War Brides," she seemed to reassess her identity.

"I started to explore what it meant to be American and, I guess, Japanese American, though I never thought of myself as Japanese American," she said.

For Shiomi, writing plays for the Asian American theater world was key for his professional development.

"It wasn't until I really learned my own history about the Japanese Canadians and the Japanese Americans that I really found my voice as a writer," he said, "and then going down to San Francisco [where] I was able to get involved in the Asian American Theater Co. there and write my first play called 'Yellow Fever.'"

As for why Asian Americans and Asians have been misrepresented since the earliest days of Hollywood, Shiomi — whose résumé includes co-founding Theater Mu, receiving a 2015 McKnight Distinguished Artist award and serving as the co-artistic director of the new Full Circle Theater Co. in St. Paul, Minn. — referred to his experience in Asian American theater and asserted that for the past 200 years in the U.S., "the premise of existence is that you're white, you're of European American culture."

"So, if you were an Asian American, you were an anomaly, you were always the other, you were always the one they didn't know what to do with," said Shiomi. "Within that system, there will always be a handful of [nonwhite] artists who are just brilliant enough to break through, and one of the people I would say is an example of that is David Hwang."

Shiomi noted that Asian American movie actors face a similar situation, but that theater actors at least have the Asian American theater world to get the opportunity to hone their craft and gain legitimacy.

When an audience member asked how long it might take for acceptance by American audiences for actors of Asian descent on stage and screen, Hirano said, "The way that America looks right now, if it continued on this path, it will never change."

Citing how demographic changes are trending right now, Shiomi said he disagreed with Hirano's assessment, saying that it would happen — but that it would take 50 years "if we're lucky."

Shiomi also cited a different trend that has emerged in recent years that bodes well for the improvement of the status quo, namely young Asian Americans — who have gained fans on YouTube, i.e., American comedian-actor Ryan Higa, who supposedly has more than 4.8 million followers under his username "nigahiga."

"There's this whole online, Internet world that's happened in the last 20 years. What's interesting about that is Asian Americans are doing extraordinarily well in that medium," Shiomi said. "That's because it's a medium that doesn't have a producer who's going to say who's going to have an appeal. It just says, 'You put your video up on YouTube, and we'll see how many people look at it.'"

"If 200,000 people are looking at an Asian American person in their bedroom talking to the camera, something's going on, something that the people who are running the [entertainment] industry don't understand," he concluded.

As the panel wound down, Buscher urged those in the audience to support Asian Americans in the arts and with regard to movies by and/or starring Asian Americans.

"Do your best to try and go see that movie in theaters, and if you can, go on opening weekend," Buscher said, "because that's a surefire way to send a message to the theater, to the company distributing the film and even to the filmmakers themselves that this is something people care about."



Pictured (from left) are Makoto Hirano, Kathryn Tolbert, Rob Buscher and Rick Shiomi.



# PUYALLUP VALLEY CHAPTER SET TO HOST 'CAMP HARMONY'

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF PUYALLUP VALLEY JACL

The 75th remembrance program of the Puyallup Assembly Center begins on Sept. 2 at the Washington State Fair.

In September 1942, the final incarcerated left the Puyallup Fairgrounds in Puyallup, Wash. The popular fair had been taken over by the U.S. military in April 1942 and turned into a makeshift community of forcibly removed people of Japanese ancestry following the signing of Executive Order 9066 in February 1942.

The center's first residents were Japanese Alaskans, who arrived by bus following travel aboard a ship that stopped at various Alaskan ports along the way.

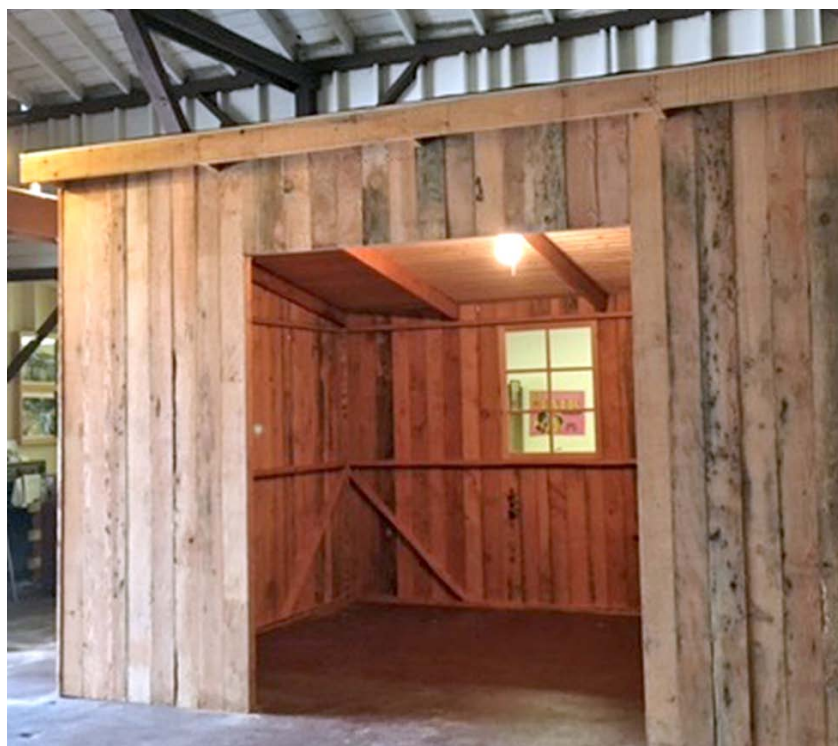
In all, more than 7,600 men, women and children from Alaska, Seattle, Fife and small rural areas of Pierce County called the Puyallup Assembly Center their temporary home before they were transferred to the War Relocation Authority camps at Minidoka, Idaho; Tule Lake, Calif., and Heart Mountain, Wyo., for the duration of World War II.

Also known as "Camp Harmony," the center's barracks were designed to allow 50 square feet of space per person, along with one small window, an electrical socket and wood stove.

Now 75 years later, the Puyallup Valley JACL is hosting the 75th remembrance of the Puyallup Assembly Center on the Washington State Fairgrounds, formerly the Puyallup Fair, where it all began.

In cooperation with the fair's staff and board, the program will begin Sept. 2 on the Coca-Cola Stage at 10 a.m. Lori Matsukawa of KING 5 News will serve as mistress of ceremonies and Densho Executive Director Tom Ikeda, whose grandparents were among those incarcerated at the Puyallup Assembly Center, will give the keynote address.

This event is intended to honor all living survivors of the Puyallup Assembly Center along with recognition given to anyone who was incarcerated in any detention facility.



A 3/4-scale barrack room and full-scale horse stall. Both will be shown in their finished states during the remembrance ceremony. The barrack will have three to four cots, potbelly stove and assorted clothing. The horse stall will have two cots, suitcases and clothing. The Puyallup Assembly Center exhibit will run throughout the duration of the Washington State Fair.

Taiko drummers will then lead a procession to the George Tsutakawa sculpture "Harmony," where a new plaque will be dedicated and unveiled by the Tsutakawa family. At the same location, banners of names will be displayed with all 7,600 names and family numbers of those incarcerated at the fairgrounds.

While this remembrance event is for one day, the museum exhibit, which will house interactive exhibits and displays, will be open for the duration of the fair season, which runs from Sept. 1-24.

Replicas of a family barrack room and a horse stall furnished with period items will demonstrate to fairgoers the crowded and primitive living conditions endured by families incarcerated at the Puyallup Assembly Center.

In addition, the video "The Silent Fair," which features interviews with 12 former residents who were aged 4-18 at the time, will be played continuously inside the exhibit.

And in an effort to teach and educate the general public, there will be interactive, hands-on activities for children and adults,

as well as photographs and themed displays.

All are encouraged to attend, especially Japanese American survivors and their families from all assembly centers, camps and detention facilities.

For more information about this event and project, visit the Puyallup Valley JACL website ([www.puyallupvalleyjacl.org](http://www.puyallupvalleyjacl.org)). For complimentary tickets visit [www.TheFair.org/pac](http://www.TheFair.org/pac).

## SEATTLE JACL SET TO HOLD LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

The Seattle Chapter of the JACL is holding a seminar on leadership development for emerging leaders, early career professionals, students and other young adults on Sept. 30 at Keiro Northwest.

Titled "Gaining Influence — Developing Leaders for Equity and Justice in Private, Public and Nonprofit Sectors," the daylong seminar will allow participants to meet influential Asian American leaders in the private, public and nonprofit sectors, as well as learn how their professional success is intertwined

with their championing of equity and social justice.

Hyeok Kim, deputy mayor of the City of Seattle, will give the keynote address.

The seminar was planned and is supported by the Seattle JACL Presidents Youth Leadership Fund, with final support provided by the Robert Chinn Foundation.

Admission for the seminar is free, but registration is required.

For more information, visit <https://jaclleadershipsept30.eventbrite.com>.

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National JACL Credit Union



A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## NCWNP

**Second Annual Osaka Matsuri**  
San Francisco, CA  
Sept. 23

**San Francisco Japantown**  
Price: Free

This year, the city is celebrating its 60th anniversary of the sister city relationship between San Francisco and Osaka, Japan. Japantown will host a variety of booths to commemorate the occasion.

**Info: Visit** <https://www.facebook.com/osakamatsurif/>.

**2017 Silicon Valley Fall Festival**  
Cupertino, CA

Sept. 9; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Cupertino Memorial Park  
21255 Stevens Creek Blvd.  
Price: Free

The City of Cupertino is proud to host this year's event, which coincides with the Moon Festival. Celebrated in Asia for more than 1,000 years, the Moon Festival marks a time to reflect upon the bounty of the summer harvest, the fullness of the moon and the myth of the Moon Goddess. It is among the most popular holidays in Asia. There will be plenty for the whole family to enjoy here, as this festival will offer music, dance, a robotics competition, and an Earth Zone.

**Info: Visit** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-silicon-valley-fall-festival-a-fun-filled-family-event-celebration-tickets-36837152916?aff=es2>.

**JAMSJ 30th Anniversary Celebration**

San Jose, CA  
Sept. 24; Noon

**Hayes Mansion**  
200 Edenvale Ave.

Price: \$125; register by Sept. 8

Come celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Japanese American Museum of San Jose. The luncheon will feature master of ceremonies Mike Inouye from NBC Bay Area, as well as include a performance by San Jose Taiko, silent auction and tribute to Ayako Hosokawa.

**Info: Call JAMSJ at (408) 294-3138 or email** [info@jamsj.org](mailto:info@jamsj.org).

**'A Salute to Mike' a Champion for All People**  
San Jose, CA

Oct. 21, 6-9 p.m.

**Holiday Inn — San Jose**  
1350 N. First St.

Price: Individual \$140, San Jose JACL Member \$125

The JACL San Jose chapter, founded on the premise of civil liberties for all, invites guests to join its members in celebrating Mike Honda's leadership in championing these goals over his many decades of public service. Reservation forms will be available in September.

**Info: Visit** [www.sanjosejacl.org](http://www.sanjosejacl.org).

**Kimochi Silver Bells Arts & Crafts**

**and Food Faire**  
San Francisco, CA  
Dec. 16; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
The Event Center at  
St. Mary's Cathedral  
1111 Gough St.

Don't miss this one-stop shopping event for all your holiday gifting needs! This popular event will feature unique homemade and crafted items perfect for everyone on your gift list. A complimentary shuttle service will be available to/from Japantown, and all proceeds will benefit Kimochi.

## PSW

**'Matsuri' the Festival**  
Los Angeles, CA  
Aug. 31; 5-9 p.m.  
The Japan Foundation Los Angeles  
5700 Wilshire Blvd.

Suite 100  
Price: Free

Enjoy live music, food and drinks, plus kimono dressing, photo sessions and more in this main event of "Japan Week on the Miracle Mile & Beyond," which celebrates JFLA's reopening.

**Info: Visit** [www.jflalc.org](http://www.jflalc.org).

**Sus Ito's World War II Images**  
Fullerton, CA  
Sept. 10-Oct. 29  
Fullerton Arboretum  
1900 Associated Road  
Price: Free but \$5 donation is suggested.

This exhibit will feature Ito's tour of duty through Europe as a member of the celebrated 442nd Regimental Combat Team's 522nd Field Artillery Battalion. The featured images were taken with a prohibited camera and capture the humble daily lives of young Japanese American soldiers serving in the segregated unit. The arboretum is open Sundays, Wednesdays and Saturdays from Noon-4 p.m.

**Info: Visit** [http://fullertonarboretum.org/museum\\_nikkei\\_current.php](http://fullertonarboretum.org/museum_nikkei_current.php) or call (657) 278-4010.

**Afternoon of Peace: The Hiroshima & Nagasaki Experience**

Los Angeles, CA  
Sept. 16; 2 p.m.

**Aratani Theatre**  
244 S. San Pedro St.  
Price: \$20 (Balcony); \$30 (Orchestra)

This program honors and remembers the victims and Hibakusha (survivors) of the Aug. 6 and 9, 1945, atomic bombings and their impact on all human, animal and plant life. Artists featured include the Ken Dance Company, Nori Tani Jazz Ensemble, images by Richard Fukuhara and members of the American Society of Hiroshima and Nagasaki A-Bomb Survivors.

**Info: Visit** [jacc.org](http://jacc.org).

**Yayoi Kusama: 'Infinity Mirrors'**  
Los Angeles, CA  
Oct. 21-Jan. 1, 2018

The Broad Contemporary Art Museum

221 S. Grand Ave.

Price: \$25 (advance tickets); \$30 (standby tickets); children 12 and under free

This exhibit will explore the celebrated Japanese artist's immersive Infinity Mirror Rooms — the artist's most iconic kaleidoscopic environments — alongside large-scale installations and key paintings, sculptures and works on paper. Tickets go on sale beginning Sept. 1. Don't miss your chance to view this rare exhibit of Kusama's greatest works.

**Info: Visit** [thebroad.org/art/special-exhibitions/yayoi-kusama-infinity-mirrors](http://thebroad.org/art/special-exhibitions/yayoi-kusama-infinity-mirrors).

## PNW

**'Gaining Influence — Developing Leaders for Equity and Justice in Private, Public and Nonprofit Sectors' Seminar**  
Seattle, WA  
Sept. 30; all day  
Keiro Northwest  
1601 E. Yesler Way  
Price: Free; registration is required.

This daylong seminar, presented by the Seattle Chapter of the JACL and supported by the Seattle JACL Presidents Youth Leadership Fund, with financial assistance by the Robert Chinn Foundation, will offer emerging leaders, early career professionals, students and other young adults the opportunity to meet some of the most influential Asian American leaders in the private, public and nonprofit sectors, as well as learn how their professional success is intertwined with their championing of equity and social justice.

**Info: Visit** <https://jaclleadershipsept30.eventbrite.com>.

**American Obon: Dancing in Joy and Remembrance**  
Portland, OR  
Thru Oct. 15

**Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center**  
121 N.W. Second Ave.

Price: \$5 (General Admission); \$3 (Seniors/Students); Free for Friends of Oregon Nikkei Endowment

Rev. Yoshio Iwanaga, who introduced the tradition of Obon to numerous Nikkei communities along the West Coast in the 1930s, will be celebrated in this exhibit that traces the development of Bon Odori in North America through archival photographs, audio and rare video footage on loan from the Iwanaga family, dance scholar Linda Akiyama and the Buddhist Churches of America. In addition, the obon tradition in Portland will be highlighted with photographs from the Oregon Nikkei Endowment's Frank C. Hirahara Collection.

**Info: Visit** [www.oregonnikkei.org](http://www.oregonnikkei.org).

## IDC

**Mile High JACL Movie Night**  
Aurora, CO

Sept. 9; 4-9 p.m.

**Asian Pacific Development Center**  
Event Room  
1537 Alton St.

Price: Free; donations are welcome for the scholarship fund.

The Mile High JACL invites you to a double feature movie night featuring two films about Japan: the 1957 film "Sayonara," starring Marlon Brandon and Miyoshi Umeki and the 2014 film "Uzumasa Limelight," directed by Ken Ochiai, which was the opening night movie of the Colorado Dragon Film Festival in 2016. Come enjoy the films, eat some food and meet members from the chapter. Donations received will benefit the chapter's scholarship fund.

**Info: Visit** [milehighjacl.org](http://milehighjacl.org).

## MDC

**Grateful Crane Ensemble's 'The Camp Dance: The Music & the Memories'**  
Dearborn, MI

Sept. 8; 8 p.m.

**Arab American National Museum**  
13624 Michigan Ave.

Price: \$15

In this musical revue, the Grateful Crane will go back to the high school dance days of young Japanese Americans held behind barbed-wire fences in internment camps during World War II. Prior to the performance, a free town hall event titled "Executive Orders: Japanese Internment & the Muslim Ban" will be held featuring leaders from the Japanese, Arab and Muslim American communities.

**Info: Visit** [arabamericanmuseum.org](http://arabamericanmuseum.org).

**Twin Cities Golf Tournament**  
Bloomington, MN

Sept. 9; 1:30-4 p.m.

**Hyland Golf Course**  
10100 Normandie Blvd.

Price: \$20 (Members); \$25 (Nonmembers)

Come support this fundraiser and enjoy a day out on the golf course!

**Info: Contact Zen Matsuda at** [info@zenchiropacticinc.com](mailto:info@zenchiropacticinc.com).

**Chrysanthemum Banquet**  
Bloomington, MN

Nov. 11; 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Methodist Hylands United**  
Methodist Church  
9920 Normandie Blvd.

This event will feature a luncheon, silent auction and guest speaker John Matsunaga, a Minneapolis-based visual artist/photographer, educator and activist. His work in the visual arts explores Asian American and Japanese American history, identity and experience, with an emphasis on the wartime incarceration of Japanese Americans. He is currently a member of the education committee of the Twin Cities chapter.

**Info: Visit** [tcjacl.org](http://tcjacl.org).

## EDC

**Second Annual PAAFF Asian Chef Experience**

Philadelphia, PA

Sept. 14; 6-9 p.m.

**UArts Hamilton Hall**

320 S. Broad St.

Price: \$75

Presented by the Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival, this special chef tasting event will feature 12 of the city's most prominent Asian American and Pacific Islander chefs preparing tasting-sized portions of their best dishes. This year's theme is "Asian Night Market!" Each ticket includes samplings with complimentary beer and wine.

**Info: Visit** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2nd-annual-paaff-asian-chef-experience-tickets-36114367044?aff=es2>.

**The Art of the Dumpling With Fresh Zen**

Boston, MA

Sept. 28; 6-8 p.m.

**The Boston Public Market**

100 Hanover St.

Price: \$48 (Trustees member); \$60 (Nonmember)

Ruby Chan of Fresh Zen Foods will show participants how to create a variety of dumpling recipes, from preparing the homemade dough to shaping and filling the dumplings. The evening's menu includes chicken and scallion dumplings, vegetarian dumplings and pork and shiitake dumplings.

**Info: Visit** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-art-of-the-dumpling-with-fresh-zen-tickets-35349396998?aff=es2>.

**FDR Library's Images of Internment Exhibition**

Hyde Park, NY

Thru Dec. 31

**FDR Presidential Library & Museum**

4079 Albany Post Road

Price: Regular hours and admission apply.

This special exhibit provides a visual record of the forced removal of Japanese Americans during World War II and displays more than 200 photographs by WRA photographers Dorothea Lange, Clem Albers, Francis Stewart and Hikaru Iwasaki from the National Archives. The exhibition also features photographs taken by Ansel Adams at Manzanar and a selection of photos from the WSU George and Frank C. Hirahara photo collection of Heart Mountain.

**Info: Visit** <https://fdrlibrary.org/exhibitions> or call (800) FDR-VISIT.

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(213) 620-1767



# IN MEMORIAM

**Ajioka, George, 90**, Torrance, CA, Aug. 4; he is survived by his wife, Masako; children, George (Cynthia) and Susan Ajioka-Yamashiro; gc: 1.

**Akiyama, Vermell Harriet, 91**, Portland, OR, July 22; she was predeceased by her husbands, Kenji Akiyama and Cole Miller, and her granddaughter, Erica L. Akiyama; she is survived by her sons, Robert (Linda) and Steven; a brother; gc: 2; ggc: 3.

**Ashizawa, Yuki, 93**, Los Gatos, CA, June 12; she was predeceased by her husband, Mas; she is survived by her children, Carol Yuki (Tom), Karen Shined, Sue Shibata (Tim), Mark Ashizawa, Phil (Eunice) Ashizawa and Brenda (Al) Katekaru; gc: 4; ggc: 4.

**Blankshain, Gloria Kazuko, 80**, Torrance, CA, July 23; she is survived by her son, Donald Blankshain; brothers, Mike (Grace) and Ike (Ruth) Hatchimonji; she is also survived by many cousins, nieces and nephews.

**Endo, Teruko, 96**, Los Angeles, CA, July 6; she is survived by her son, Richard (Debi); gc: 1.

**Eshima, Dennis, 64**, Tempe, AZ, Aug. 7; he was predeceased by his daughter, Caitlin Eshima; he is survived by his wife, Kathryn Michael-Eshima; sons, Jarrett, Erik and Grayson Eshima; his step-children, Alexander Michael, Jennabel and Anna Leeza Pichnarcik; mother, Shigeeko Eshima; siblings, Duane and Carole; and a niece.

**Fukuhara, Thelma Tsuruko, 91**, Torrance, CA, May 11; she was predeceased by her husband, Bill; she is survived by their children, William (Susie) Fukuhara and Cheryl (Eddie) Imatomi; 5 siblings; gc: 2.

**Fukumoto, Shirley Doris, 68**, Las Vegas, NV, July 13; she is survived by her husband, Larry Fukumoto; children, Darin, Beth and Lisa Kimoto; mother, Martha Suzuki; brothers, Kenneth (Lawana) and Vernon (Cathy) Suzuki.

**Fukushima, Toshiko, 89**, Los Angeles, CA, July 29; she was predeceased by her husband, Jun; she is survived by her children, Dan (Susan), Mae (Ken) Kusumoto, Roy (Jennie), Jay and Ken (Grace); sister, Sumiko Taguchi; brother-in-law, Takeshi (Teiko) Fukushima; sister-in-law, Eiko Fukushima; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 9; ggc: 9.

**Hayase, Hannah Hanako, 92**, Los Angeles, CA, July 16; she is survived by her children, Patrick (Nena) and Audrey (Rudy) Hayase; siblings, George Kato, Yuki Carbaugh and Masato "Harry" Shinozaki; she is also survived by

many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1.

**Hayashida, Sadako, 96**, Blanca, CO, Aug. 3; she is survived by her daughter, Marilyn Hikiji; sister, Haru Yutaka; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5; ggc: 7.

**Iida, Hiroko Ichinose, 95**, Richmond, CA, July 22; she was predeceased by her husband, Ted; she is survived by their children, Carey (Verna Uchida), Ellie (Tom Mishima), Douglas and Allan (Melissa); sister-in-law, Grace Tasaka; gc: 4.

**Ishii, Karen Kimi, 60**, Buena Park, CA, July 6; she is survived by her husband, Alan; their children, Marissa (KC) Yamashita, Kyle (April Tharachai), Akemi and Cody; brothers, Chuck and David Higashi; sister-in-law, Donna Ishii; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

**Kamada, Masaru, 85**, Los Angeles, CA, June 13; he is survived by his wife, Martha; children, David and Jo Ann (Ray) Shinozaki; gc: 2.

**Kamimura, Fumiko Nakamura, 98**, Gardena, CA, Aug. 6; she was predeceased by her husband, Denji; she is survived by her son, Kazuo Nakamura; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Karasawa, Fumi, 92**, Fullerton, CA, July 19; she is survived by her children, Stephen Kesato (Karen), Robert Gerald (Nelia) and Alison Kim Freud; brother, Kazu Hayase; gc: 4.

**Kobayashi, Emiko, 95**, Los Angeles, CA, July 31; she is survived by her children, Marie Kobayashi Ball, Mike (Johanna) and Jerry (Cristy); sister, Haruye Masukawa; gc: 5; ggc: 3.

**Koyamatsu, Eugene Shigeto, 85**, Encinitas, CA, July 10; he is survived by his wife, Miyo; children, Kirk (June), Kyle (Linda), Kristi (Brian) and Kelly (Shane); gc: 9.

**Kumamoto, Midori May, 89**, San Pedro, CA, July 28; she was predeceased by her husband, Akio; she is survived by her sons, Karl, Kris (Jimin) and Darrell Kumamoto; she is also survived by a niece, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5.

**Marquette, Susan 'Wakako,' 'Sue' L., 83**, Sacramento, CA, Aug. 6; she was predeceased by her husband, Arthur; she is survived by her daughters, Sandra and Susan; she is also survived by her sisters, nieces and nephews.

**Masuda, Etsuko, 75**, Torrance, CA, Aug. 6; she is survived by her sons, Shintaro, Sotaro (Hitomi) and Kentaro (Junko) Masuda;

sister, Michiko Inoue; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5.

**Matsukawa, Elsie Mitsume, 93**, Honolulu, HI, July 25; she was predeceased by her husband, Peter Matsukawa, and daughter, Deb Matsukawa-Cullen; she is survived by her children, Wayne and Alan (Christine); son-in-law, Mike Cullen; a brother and sisters; gc: 3.

**Matsuo, Masako 'Betty,' 92**, Portland, OR, July 30; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the WRA Center near Rohwer, AK, and decades later testified during the CRWIC hearings; she was predeceased by her husband, George Matsuo; sisters, Jane Yamasaki and Lillian Kiyota; she is survived by her children, Mikki (Kaz) Seo, Phyllis Fujii and John (Carrie) Matsuo; sister, Mary Burnett; gc: 5; ggc: 8.

**Mitsutomi, Takashi 'Mits,' 93**, Los Angeles, CA, July 12; he is survived by his wife, Hazel; stepchildren, Tracy Mayo (Michael), James Toda (Michelle) and Victoria Toda (Mel); gc: 5; ggc: 2.

**Murata-Uyeno, Mary, 96**, San Jose, CA, July 8; she was predeceased by her husbands, Koji Murata and Teiso Uyeno; she is survived by her sons, Ernest (Marilyn) and Stephen (Denise); gc: 4; ggc: 6.

**Nakahara, Jun, 79**, La Palma, CA, July 15; he is survived by his wife, Karen Kyoko; children, Bryon Minoru Nakahara, Lynne Mayumi (Gary) Umeno, Marc Mitsuru and Todd Mitsuo Nakahara; gc: 2.

**Nakamura, Sakae, 94**, San Diego, CA, July 28; she is survived by her children, Chieko Tanaka, Kenichi Nakamura, Mari Koudi, Amy Smith and Yuki Nakanishi.

**Okamoto, Mitsuo, 91**, Chandler, AZ, Aug. 4; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Manzanar WRA Center in CA, and he was drafted into the Army; he was predeceased by his wife, Helen Nakatsu; he is survived by his sisters, Shinako (Masaru) Take-da, Shizue (Mike) David, Yaeko (Minoru) Hirata, Hitomi Archetto; brothers, Seika (Inge) Okamoto and Takeshi (Karen) Okamoto; sister-in-law, Sachiko Okamoto.

**Oki, Shig, 87**, Chicago, IL, Aug. 5; he is survived by his wife, Fuku; daughters, Dariece and Monica; sisters, Mitzi (Bob) Ogi and Hannah Nojima; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 1.

**Ozaki, Kikue, 86**, Pacific Grove, CA, July 29; she is survived by her husband, George; children, Loreen, Sharon Yumi and Loren; siblings, Lena Higa and Michael Sekido; gc: 1.

**Sakado, Raleigh Toshiichi, 79**, Honolulu, HI, July 15; he is survived by his wife, Mabel; sisters, Mildred Hirokawa and Elsie (Hajime) Fujita; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

**Sato, A. Stanley, 90**, Sacramento, CA; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Tule Lake and Topaz WRA Centers; he is survived by his wife, Edith; brother, Art Sato; sister-in-law, Tomiye Sato; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

**Sugihara, Takashi, 96**, Tustin, CA, July 5; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Heart Mountain WRA Center in WY, from which he later voluntarily served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and was awarded the Bronze Star; he was predeceased by his son, Michael, and his siblings, Paul and Masako; he is survived by his wife, Sumiko; daughter, Corinne (Bruce); sisters, Kazuko and Hideko; he is also survived by nieces and nephews; gc: 1.

**Sumida, Eiko, 96**, Palo Alto, CA, July 23; she is survived by her husband, Masao, and their 4 children.

**Tagawa, Charlie, 81**, Cupertino, CA, July 30; he was predeceased by his wife, Masako; he is survived by their sons, Nori and Leon (Heather); gc: 3.

**Takami, Mary S., 94**, Los Angeles, CA, July 24; she was predeceased by her husband, Tennin Takami; she is survived by her brother, Robert Fujioka (Mary), nephew, Mark (Laura) and by many other relatives.

**Tamashiro, Martha, 82**, Kaneohe, HI, July 9; she is survived by her husband, James; sons, Michael and Daryle; sister, Bridget Silva; she is also survived by nieces and nephews.

**Takada, Yoshihiro, 72**, Sacramento, CA, Aug. 8; he is survived by his wife, Michiko; daughters, Erika (Kevin Wasbauer) and Sally Bernhardsson (Sibbi); siblings, Seiji (Tomiko) and Yukie Hasegawa (Kunio); gc: 4.

**Takahashi, Kazuko, 93**, Roseville, CA, Aug. 6; she was predeceased by her husband, George, and her sisters, Mieko and Tomiko; she is survived by her children, Melvin (Yuko) and Marsha; gc: 2; ggc: 2.

**Tanouye, Shizuye Grace, 96**, Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 5; she

is survived by her children, Ann Tanouye, Janet Shigei, Susan Marumoto and Craig (Wendy) Tanouye; brother, Masaru (Ruby) Nakahara; sister-in-law, Yasuko Nakahara; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5; ggc: 5.

**Toyama, Donald K., 81**, Sacramento, CA, July 7; he is survived by his children, Brian K. (Hazel) and Cindy M. Nakatsuka; uncle, Kenneth Kamada (Hazel); siblings, Gladys Isa, Kenneth (Julie), Douglas (Harriett) and Isaac (Jane); gc: 2.

**Tsujimoto, Mack, 95**, Sacramento, CA, July 15; he is survived by his daughters, Aileen (Roy) Yonemura, Gail (Jeff) Terrien and Claire (David) Camp; sister, Ann Fujita; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 4; ggc: 2.

**Umemoto, Wayne Shinichi, 76**, Honolulu, HI, July 12; he is survived by his wife, Gladys; children, Travis (Misa), Tyler (Trisha) and Dayna (Justin) Higa; sisters, Edna Tokuke, Michie Tokuke, Kinue Yamaki, Evelyn Tsubakihara, Mona Takeshita and Ellen Kobayashi; gc: 4.

**Uyeoka, Aiko, 97**, Fresno, CA, July 10; during WWII, her parents and she were incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ, where she met her future husband, Tom, on furlough while serving in the Army's 442nd RCT; a JACLer, she was predeceased by her husband, Tom; she is survived by their daughters, Ann (Dennis) Okamura and Alice (Bryan) Halbert; gc: 2.

**Yamada, Edwin Akio, 76**, Sparks, NV, Aug. 6; he is survived by his wife, Nancy; children, Shelley (Blake) Takaha and Kevin (Tracy) Yamada; brothers, Chester, Donald (Jean) and Glenn (Ann); gc: 4.

**Yauchi, Ryo, 63**, Whittier, CA, July 30; he is survived by his wife, Gloria; sons, Kei (Stacey), Brian and Steve; gc: 1.

## 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 \$20/column inch.

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Gerald Fukui  
President



**NHK >> continued from page 3**

There's a smart mix of programs that cover both traditional and contemporary culture, from profiles of artisans who've mastered an ancient art form or craft such as traditional carpentry, to fun insider looks at today's colorful fashion industry or shows about anime or J-pop music.

"J-Melo," which describes itself as the only Japanese music program in English, has a worldwide audience, and each episode spotlights viewers and J-pop fans from other countries.

There are also shows that place traditional culture in modern context, like "Kabuki Kool." Some of the channel's programming features Japanese shows dubbed into English; some have English subtitles; and some (like the newscasts) are entirely in English. In between shows, there are often short bits of content that might introduce viewers to a traditional Japanese dish, or teach a few words in a quick language lesson.

The website is also worth spending time on, especially if your local cable carrier doesn't include NHK World. Most of the shows are archived online, and there are helpful categories of shows such as News, Travel & Culture, Food and Learn Japanese. Like many stations, you can also view NHK

World in real time streaming at the click of a button.

NHK World has introduced me to towns and regions of Japan I wasn't familiar with that I now want to visit. When they air a documentary about a region like Hokkaido or a city like Beppu, I go to Google Maps and find out where that is, so that I might remember to try and get there sometime.

And though I'm not a fanatic and tune in like my mom, NHK World broadcasts highlights during each national sumo tournament. I was surprised to find that I like watching the sport, which I remember from my childhood in Tokyo.

When there's an event like a natural disaster such as typhoons, floods, earthquakes or tsunami, NHK World is my go-to for updated news and information. That's why I knew it would be covering the 72nd anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

Check it out, and I know you'll feel more deeply connected to Japan than before.

*Gil Asakawa is chair of the Editorial Board of the Pacific Citizen and the author of "Being Japanese American" (second edition Stone Bridge Press, 2015). He blogs at [www.nikkeiview.com](http://www.nikkeiview.com).*

**PLANS >> continued from page 3**

Mark ordered a DIY, fill-in-the-blank Last Will and Testament from the Internet. When filling out the beneficiary section, he stated that he wanted to leave "\$100,000" to his niece May, who lived with him and served as his caregiver for the last four years of his life. Mark was very wealthy, so he had probably meant to use a comma instead of a period when writing "\$100,000." However, that simple mistake was a point of contention among the remaining beneficiaries, who claimed that May's gift should've been \$100 as opposed to \$100,000. Thus, a seemingly insignificant typographical error ended up costing Mary \$99,900.

**Issue No. 3: Preparers Are Not Necessarily Lawyers**

One important distinction to note is that these online document services are not law firms. Therefore, they cannot give legal advice. Document preparers have been taught to do a very specific job — fill out generic, "one size fits all" forms based on the information you give them.

While they may be skilled at this particular task, they are still not licensed attorneys. Only attorneys can lawfully provide legal advice.

Think of it this way. Let's say you know someone who works at the front desk of a hospital and has spent the past 10 years listening to doctors consult with their patients. Would you trust this person to prescribe your medication or perform surgery on you?

Now, some websites claim that you can talk to a real live attorney should you have any questions. Companies contract these attorneys for the very reason I mentioned above: Only lawyers can give legal advice. The contracted attorneys are able to guide you through the initial process of setting up your Estate Plan. However, what if

you have a question two weeks from now? Or two months? Or two years? Will the online company still permit you to speak with its attorneys for free?

It is very common for a past client to call me with a quick question. For example, I recently spoke with a woman who created her Revocable Living Trust with our firm 20 years ago. Since then, her daughter has married a man that she does not particularly like, so she wanted to make sure that her son-in-law did not receive any part of her estate. After we discussed her options, I was able to assist the client in making a decision that fit her personal goals. And the advice that was given was free of charge.

**The Bottom Line**

So, what's the bottomline? Will your Will work? Can you trust your Trust? It all depends. The short answer is yes, it's possible. But as you can see above, there are many things that can go wrong.

My mother's favorite phrase is "You get what you pay for in life." With legal documents, especially ones that concern your loved ones, quality shouldn't be sacrificed for a cheap fee. So, even though you may save a few bucks now, ultimately, it is your family that will pay the price if things go wrong.

*Staci Yamashita-Iida, Esq., is an Estate Planning attorney at Elder Law Services of California. She can be contacted at (310) 348-2995. The opinions expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Pacific Citizen or JACL. The information presented does not constitute legal advice and should not be treated as such. Some names and identifying details have been changed to protect the privacy of the individuals referenced in this article.*

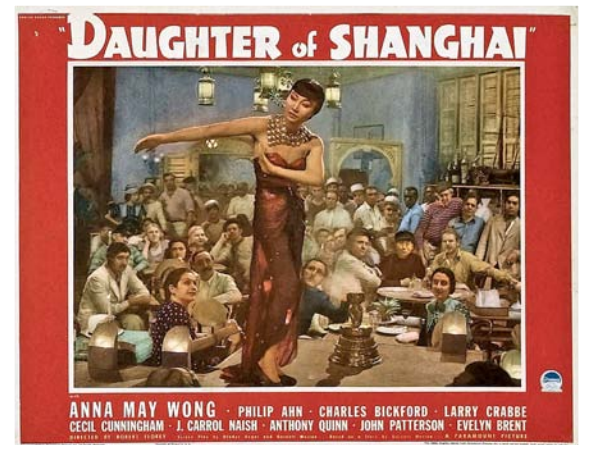
**HOLLYWOOD >> continued from page 7**

Anna May Wong in the 1929 film "Piccadilly"

The very fact that their stories exist counters the perpetual foreigner myth by proving that Asians have lived in and contributed to the culture of the United States long before the Immigration Act of 1965.

Despite personal tragedies in their careers, each of these actors left an important mark as early forerunners to the Asian American movement.

"Given his background and personality, I don't think he was conscious of the need for an Asian American film movement," said Gong on Hayakawa's legacy. "He famously said early on that he was determined to make films in American for Americans. But I think people can take something from his story and his pride and ambition and assert that it was an important and early chapter in Asian American media history."



Wong starred as Lan Ying Lin in the 1937 film.

Unfortunately, prevalent institutional racism in Hollywood has prevented these talents from being remembered as anything but an anomaly in the history of cinema. Likely, there are many others whose names and stories have also been lost to time.

In an effort to counter the narrative of erasure, the Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival (PAAFF) has embarked on a project to resurface and preserve the cultural memories of the Asian American actors who paved the way during the early years of Hollywood.

Sponsored in part by the JACL Legacy Fund, the 2017 PAAFF will feature a retrospective of significant films starring AAPIs throughout the history of early Hollywood cinema, taking place between Nov. 9-19 in Philadelphia.

Screening times and venues will be announced on PAAFF's website later this fall, but the retrospective will feature films starring Ahn, Hayakawa, Sabu and Wong.

*For more information, visit [www.paaff.org](http://www.paaff.org).*



Sessue Hayakawa in the 1918 film.

Hayakawa's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame is located at 1645 Vine St.