



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 91 YEARS

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Alan Nishio to Be  
Keynote Speaker at 51st  
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California Assembly OKs  
Apology to Japanese  
Americans.

## L.A. DOR

Solemnity Reigns as  
This Year's Theme  
Resonates With More  
Urgency Than Usual.

COVER ARTWORK:  
COURTESY OF JANM

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 2020  
**DEMOCRACY IN CRISIS**  
**1 9 4 2 & 2 0 2 0**  
JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

# JACL'S MISSION BINDS US TOGETHER



By David Inoue, JACL Executive Director

Last month, Japanese Finance and Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso, known for frequently putting his foot in his mouth, stated that Japan was the only country that benefits from over 2,000 years of history under a single monarch and single ethnic group. Critics quickly pointed out the presence of Japan's indigenous people, the Ainu, and that there are many Japanese of mixed ethnicity as well, particularly on the World Cup rugby team, which he was praising the success of in his broader remarks.

The topic of ethnic purity comes up often, even in our Japanese Ameri-

can community. JACL members have called, complaining that our current and one of our past presidents are Chinese.

I must admit that I take some satisfaction in informing these callers that I, too, am half-Chinese, and, in fact, my mother's Chinese family name is Moy, the same surname as our current president, Jeffrey Moy.

The subject especially reared its head a few months ago in two successive articles in the *Rafu Shimpo* regarding MLB Washington Nationals catcher Kurt Suzuki's visit to the White House, where he wore a MAGA hat.

In a response to the first article critical of Suzuki, another Japanese American questioned whether the first author was legitimately Japanese American because he didn't look the part.

In the year 2020, I find it hard to believe we are still at this point. In fact, we are over 50 years removed from the *Loving v. Virginia* case, which finally stuck down anti-miscegenation laws.

In that case, JACL not only sub-

mitted an amicus brief, but also was granted the opportunity to participate in oral arguments. Among the arguments made by JACL lawyer Bill Marutani was that the very concept of racial purity was a false premise and should not be preserved in statute.

This was the position of the JACL then, and it remains our position today.

Identity is a challenging concept, one that especially confronted many Japanese Americans after World War II. It was our Japanese identity that resulted in our incarceration. Japanese tradition is that the nail that sticks up, gets pounded down. As a result, for many, the best response after the war was to fit in, lose our Japanese ways and be as "American" as possible.

Today, we participate in the Kakehashi program, which supports college students and young adults with a trip to Japan to potentially connect with their Japanese ancestry. And among the most popular events at JACL chapters and other Japanese American community groups are the cultural gatherings such as Obon or

Mochitsuki.

I certainly do not want to discount the importance of cultural events, and they are important to JACL's identity as a Japanese American organization. But what is key to JACL's identity is the collective experience as a Japanese American community with racism before, during and after WWII incarceration.

Our story does not begin and end with the incarceration experience, but that is the unfortunate low point in a long history and continuing experience with racism in this country. It is the incarceration story that gives power to our advocacy for civil rights as when we say what happened to Japanese Americans should never again happen to another group, whether it be today's Muslim Ban or immigrant families incarcerated at our border.

I hope what is clear is that for JACL, the concept of promoting a Japanese or Japanese American purity test would be antithetical to who we are. The foundation of JACL is a civil rights organization and that mission is what binds us together as a community.

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# A MOTHER'S TAKE A FATHER'S LOVE STORY

By Marsha Aizumi

February is Valentine's month, and I like to write about love. This month, my article is a different kind of love: the love of a father for his children after a journey that included alcoholism and divorce.

Here are his words . . .

*I started drinking in high school. I had friends that did, and I drank with them. Lots of gory stories. After I graduated, I worked for a while, went into the service, got married, got out of the service, started a work career and had kids. My drinking got worse, and as it did, so did my marriage. Got divorced. Remarried, and things were OK for a while until one day, my second wife told me she didn't want to spend the rest of her life married to a drunk. Went to AA, got sober, lived happily ever after . . . Well, sort of . . . I don't drink any more, but I still have to live with the results.*

*Alcohol was my psychological crutch, my problem solver, my good friend. Since in reality, alcohol is none of those things, when I finally emerged out of that boozy darkness, I was older but still pretty immature and irresponsible. I reviewed my "bad" list. It was scary huge. There were so many failures, but my most regrettable mistakes were those I made as a father.*

*In the beginning, I was feeling sorry for myself, until I remembered the confusion and fear I caused my kids. The realization of that was shaming. It started with that. I have had to confront the bad things I have done. Being in denial is no longer an option.*

*I have had to learn how to show my heart. How we communicate our love to our children is different for all of us. Some ways are quite expressive. Some ways are subtle. For the alcoholic so well practiced in hiding and denial, this can be difficult. There's the fear that after telling my children that I love them . . . they will not answer in kind. This didn't deter me.*

*I've acknowledged my mistakes and described my failures. I didn't want my children to feel they were to blame, and I am fine with any criticism they have of me.*

*My love for my children is not predicated on whether or not they love me back. Their reluctance is a way they have learned to protect themselves.*

*I've learned much by listening to my kids. Once in a while, the revelations are pretty uncomfortable, especially when it relates to my past bad behaviors. Therapy sessions with my children have revealed some things I am not proud of. But I had to listen. Silencing them would only give more life to unspoken sadness and fear. Defending my behavior would only tell my children that their feelings did not matter . . . that they did not matter. Their expressions of anger may help to relieve a little of the pain they hold inside. It can be a new freedom for both of us.*

*I am grateful for the wisdom my children have taught me. It has become the difference between moving through an experience instead of slipping around on the periphery of it. When it happens in the moment, there's a spark of energy that raises my spirit and kindles warmth in my heart. When it doesn't, it just means that there is a little more work left for me to do.*

\*\*\*



PHOTO: MARSHA AIZUMI

As I was in the middle of writing this month's column, I came upon a book recently published by Daniel J. Siegel, M.D., and Tina Payne Bryson, Ph.D. It is called "The Power of Showing Up." I think this father is trying to show up for his children. Like me, he may not be perfect and is still finding his way, but he is doing the best he can and wants to do better.

I applaud any parent who continues to show up for their children and works on repairing their relationship no matter what past mistakes they have made. I wouldn't have the relationship with my children that I have if I didn't say I was sorry and if I didn't continue to show up, even though I feared I might be rejected for past missteps I made.

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By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

# LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE THE WISDOM OF KOBE BRYANT

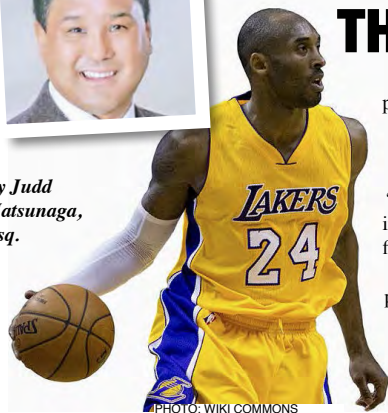


PHOTO: WIKI COMMONS

Kobe Bryant was on the minds and in the hearts of those gathered for the 92nd annual Academy Awards on Feb. 9. Bryant was included in the Academy's "In Memoriam" video montage, dedicated to those in Hollywood who passed away in the last year. Bryant won an Oscar in 2018 for Best Animated Short Film for "Dear Basketball," becoming the first pro athlete to win an Academy Award.

Bryant was also admired for his wide-ranging business success, which made him one of the wealthiest athletes on the planet. Bryant died with a net worth of about \$600 million, thanks in no small part to being the second-highest-paid NBA player of all time (Source: Forbes, Jan. 28, 2020). He also had more than 20 endorsement deals, including Nike, McDonald's, Coca-Cola, Mercedes-Benz and Hublot.

But this article isn't about Kobe's accom-

plishments, on or off the court — it's about a letter he wrote and posted for the *Players' Tribune* titled: "Letter to My Younger Self." The letter detailed his advice to his "17-year-old self" and other young players in the league, when it comes to providing financial security for family members.

Bryant's letter, written in the second person, contains life lessons he learned from his own mistakes with his own family. His biggest advice was to "invest" instead of just giving to relatives:

*"But the day will come when you realize that as much as you believed you were doing the right thing, you were actually holding them back. You will come to understand that you were taking care of them because it made YOU feel good, it made YOU happy to see them smiling and without a care in the world — and that was extremely selfish of you.*

*While you were feeling satisfied with yourself, you were slowly eating away at their own dreams and ambitions. You were adding material things to their lives but subtracting the most precious gifts of all: independence and growth.*

*I'm writing you now so that you can begin this process immediately, and so that you don't have to deal with the hurt and struggle of weaning them off of the addiction that you facilitated. That addiction only leads to anger, resentment and jealousy from everybody involved, including yourself."*

You might be wondering, "Say Judd, what does that have to do with my family? I don't have \$600 million." True. That's not my point. My point is that many Japanese American parents are "holding back" their child from their own "dreams and ambitions." As Kobe shared, "You were adding material things to their lives, but subtracting the most precious gifts of all: independence and growth."

Sad to say, but I cannot count on both my fingers and toes how many Japanese American families I have personally sat down with where the parent is the center of the child's life. That child has no job of their own, no friends of their own, no life of their own. The parent, I am sure, honestly believes he/she is doing the right thing.

But I often wonder, what's going to happen to that 50-year-old child (sometimes it's 60) when the parent dies? As the parent, don't you??? If Kobe were here, he would say, ". . . and that was extremely selfish of you." Psychologists call it "enabling." This enabling may come in the form of paying rent or monthly bills for an adult child without a job.

Finances lead to family arguments, both between parent and child and also between siblings. When money begins to disappear from shared bank accounts or parents can no longer afford to provide essential items for their children, a heated discussion is lurking just around the corner. It's hard for siblings not to feel hurt when all of the family's finances begin to go toward enabling one child's lifestyle.

Bryant suggested using wealth, success and influence to put those loved ones in the best position "to realize their own dreams and find their true purpose." Bryant then referenced his parents after saying the next time he talks to himself, he might "touch on the challenges of mixing blood with business." He cautions keeping his parents as parents and not managers. He says to figure out the "right budget for your parents."

In conclusion, if you have a child who you may have "selfishly" held back from his/her own independence and growth, take Kobe's advice and think about using your wealth to put those loved ones in the best position "to realize their own dreams and find their true purpose." For example, perhaps you can set up a trust so that they will always have a "roof over their heads."

If you are fortunate to have more than one child, try to create an estate plan that won't cause bitterness and resentment among siblings. After all, siblings might be the only family that child may have after you are gone. Finally, even though you don't want to think about death, it is crucial to find a good, experienced attorney and start the estate planning process.

*Judd Matsunaga is the founding attorney of Elder Law Services of California, a law firm that specializes in Medi-Cal Planning, Estate Planning and Probate. He can be contacted at (310) 348-2995 or judd@elder-lawcalifornia.com. The opinions expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Pacific Citizen or constitute legal or tax advice and should not be treated as such.*

# ALAN NISHIO TO BE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT 51ST ANNUAL MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE

The longtime community activist received the Manzanar Committee's Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award in 2017 for his civil rights contributions.

**LOS ANGELES** — The Manzanar Committee announced on Feb. 15 that longtime community activist and mentor Alan Nishio will be the keynote speaker for the 51st Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, sponsored by the Manzanar Committee, which is scheduled for April 25 at the Manzanar National Historic Site, located in California's Owens Valley.

Manzanar was the first of the American concentration camps in which more than 120,000 Japanese Americans and their immigrant parents were unjustly incarcerated during World War II.

Each year, more than 1,000 people from all walks of life attend the Manzanar Pilgrimage, including students, teachers, community members, clergy and former incarcerated. Planning is underway for the daytime event, as well as the annual Manzanar at Dusk program, which follows each pilgrimage that same evening.

Cultural performances will begin at 11:30 a.m., while the main portion of the pilgrimage will start at Noon.

Nishio, 74, was born on Aug. 9, 1945, at the Manzanar concentration camp. His activism and leadership work go back to the days of the Free Speech Movement in the late 1960s at the University of California, Berkeley, where he helped form the Asian American Political Alliance.

In the 1970s, Nishio worked with the Japanese American Citizens League and the Japanese American Community Services — Asian Involvement (JACS-AI), which provided "Serve the People" programs in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

That work eventually led Nishio, and fellow activists, to form the Little Tokyo People's Rights Organization, which fought to protect longtime residents and small businesses during the late 1970s redevelopment of Little Tokyo, when large Japanese corporations and local politicians attempted to gobble up a large portion of Little Tokyo without regard to the interests and needs of the community.

A pivotal figure in the successful fight for



PHOTO: MARK KIRCHNER/MANZANAR COMMITTEE

**Alan Nishio (second from left), the recipient of the Manzanar Committee's 2017 Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award, is pictured with Manzanar Committee Co-Chairs Bruce Embrey (left) and Jenny Chomori (right), along with Traci Ishigo of Vigilant Love, one of the emcees of the 48th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, which was held on April 29, 2017, at the Manzanar National Historic Site.**

redress and reparations, Nishio helped found the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCRP; now known as Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress), serving as its Southern California co-chair from 1980-90.

Nishio has also played an important role with the Little Tokyo Service Center since its earliest years, having served on its board since 1984.

In addition, he has worked in higher education, helping found the UCLA Asian American Studies Center in 1969, serving as its director for more than two years. In 1972, he became an administrator at California State University, Long Beach, where he retired in 2007 as associate vp of student services.

Nishio, who received the Manzanar Committee's Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award in 2017, has also worked directly with Japanese American college students, helping nurture their growth as future community leaders, work that continues today.

"Alan's impact on a wide range of issues, from the redress movement, as one of the principal founders of NCRP, to Asian American

Studies, and the fight for affordable housing and to preserve Little Tokyo, is indelible," said Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embrey. "Even though he has received numerous awards and wide recognition, his impact on issues, organizations and as a role model for young activists is remarkable.

"The redress movement was a perfect blend of community organizing and legislative lobbying," Embrey continued. "The broader Civil Rights Movement was both inspiring and instructive, and Alan always worked to build bridges to, and relationships with, other communities. His perspective and keen understanding of how we, a relatively small community, managed to win redress nearly 32 years ago is particularly relevant today. The expanded Muslim Ban, the constant assault on our democratic institutions and the rise of right-wing vigilantes threatens everyone's rights. Alan's life experience equips him to help us all understand what's going on, as well as what we must do to defend and expand our civil rights.

"Although he has always said that the

fight for social justice is a marathon, Alan's activism and fighting spirit have always had the intensity and determination of a sprinter. Alan is uniquely qualified to speak at this year's pilgrimage, given the political turmoil rocking our country. We are very proud and honored to have him as our keynote speaker," Embrey concluded.

Pilgrimage participants are advised to bring their own lunch, drinks and snacks, as there are no facilities to purchase food at the Manzanar National Historic Site. Water will be provided at the site, but participants are asked to bring a refillable water bottle that can be filled at refilling stations on site.

Those who wish to participate in the traditional flower offering during the interfaith service are advised to bring their own flowers.

The Manzanar at Dusk Program, which is co-sponsored by the Nikkei Student Unions at California State University, Riverside; California State University, Long Beach; California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; the University of California, Los Angeles; the University of California, Fullerton; and the University of California, San Diego will follow a couple of hours after the Manzanar Pilgrimage at 5 p.m. at Lone Pine High School.

Further details about the pilgrimage and the Manzanar at Dusk program will be announced at later date.

Bus transportation to the pilgrimage will be available from Los Angeles' Little Tokyo. Reservations for the Little Tokyo bus will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. The nonrefundable donation is \$50 per seat. Complimentary seats are available to those who were incarcerated at any of the former American concentration camps or other confinement sites during WWII.

Bento lunches are also available for those traveling on the bus for \$15 each.

Anyone wishing to attend the Manzanar at Dusk program that evening should make other transportation arrangements.

For more information or to reserve a seat on the Little Tokyo Bus, visit <https://manzanarcommittee.org/51st-bus> or call (323) 662-5102.

Both the Manzanar Pilgrimage and the Manzanar at Dusk programs are free and open to the public.

**For more information, visit the Manzanar Committee website (<https://manzanarcommittee.org>), email [51stpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org](mailto:51stpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org) or call (323) 662-5102.**

## ALL CAMPS REUNION SET FOR MAY

The event will be held at the Quiet Cannon in Montebello, Calif.

The newly formed All Camps Reunion Committee is proud to announce that the All Camps Reunion, a luncheon for former incarcerated of the World War II American concentration camps and their descendants, will be held on May 2 at the Quiet Cannon Country Club in Montebello, Calif.

With the passing of so many incarcerated and one camp no longer able to attract a large enough crowd, former incarcerated and descendants of various camps got together to have an All Camps Reunion in this area for the first time.

Committee members consist of Meri Asano,



**Pictured (from left) are All Camps Reunion Committee members Bacon Sakatani, Meri Asano, Hal Keimi, Barbara Keimi, Keiichi Ikeda, George Iseri, Colleen Hayashi, David Fujioka and Marvin Inouye.**

Tina Asano, June Aochi Berk, David Fujioka, Colleen Ishibashi Hayashi, Keiichi Ikeda, Marvin Inouye, George Iseri, Richard Iseri, Barbara Keimi, Hal Keimi, Teeny Kunitomi Miyano, Masako Koga Murakami, Bacon Sakatani, Sachi Tsurudome Sasaki and Min Tonai.

Registration forms have been sent out to known camp incarcerated and descendants from recent camp reunions. If you have not received the registration form and wish to have more information, please email Bacon Sakatani at [baconsakat@aol.com](mailto:baconsakat@aol.com) or call (626) 338-8310; email Colleen Ishibashi Hayashi at [allcampreunionpgr@gmail.com](mailto:allcampreunionpgr@gmail.com) or call (714) 393-3219; or for registration forms, call or write to Meri Asano at (626) 359-8826/P.O. Box 1643, Monrovia, CA 91017.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ROB BUSCHER



The 10 tsuru on the string represent the 10 American concentration camps where Japanese Americans and people of Japanese ancestry were forcibly held during WWII.



GACAPAA at the Democratic National Convention



Rob Buscher is sworn in for his second term in 2017.



Rob Buscher (pictured back row, second from left) with fellow GACAPAA commissioners during API Heritage Month at the governor's residence



APA Heritage celebration at Franklin Square in Philadelphia

# REFLECTIONS ON FOUR YEARS OF SERVICE

Nearing the end of his term as a commissioner on the Advisory Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, Buscher speaks to Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf about key issues facing the AAPI community.

By Rob Buscher

For the past four years, I have had the incredible privilege of serving as a commissioner on Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf's Advisory Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs.

The commission's primary function is to advise the governor on policies, procedures, legislation and regulations that affect AAPI communities while also acting as a liaison from the governor's office to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's AAPI population. Commissioners serve on a voluntary basis and come from a wide array of professions and ethnic communities represented within the Pennsylvania AAPI diaspora.

I was asked at the end of 2015 to join the commission because of the advocacy work I was doing with the AAPI artist community through my role with the Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival. I was then tasked with establishing a subcommittee that would continue to focus on this area.

To that end, we established the Pennsylvania AAPI Arts Collective. Representing the interests of Asian American and Pacific Islander artists, musicians, theater artists, filmmakers, arts administrators, arts educators and all other creatives who make their living through the arts, the arts collective advocates for increased opportunities for artists and seeks to implement programs facilitating better collaboration, resource sharing and capacity building on behalf of all AAPI creatives.

During my four years with the commission, we were given access to top leadership in state agencies with whom we conducted regular

legislative visits to advise on a variety of policy areas related to our respective communities.

Our Government That Works committee implemented nearly two-dozen town hall listening sessions with communities around Pennsylvania. Topics ranged from census participation to ending the prison-to-deportation pipeline. The Jobs That Pay committee helped to organize a series of international trade missions to the Philippines to build interest in local investment.

The biggest achievement by our Schools That Teach committee was to establish a state-wide network of community-based heritage language schools called AAPLES (AAPI Language Education Schools) that provides resource sharing and collective bargaining with the Department of Education for state funding. We also created an age-appropriate reading list for K-12 public schools that are interested in incorporating more Asian American Studies in the classroom and advocated for more public universities to add Ethnic Studies curriculum.

Our commission also decided to create a Civil Rights Task Force that created language-specific resources educating limited-English proficient communities on hate crimes, bullying and combating opioid addiction.

By cultivating meaningful relationships between government agencies and Muslim American communities, Ramadan events are now held throughout the Commonwealth as part of the ongoing effort to combat Islamophobia.

In the Arts Collective, we were able to establish a regular series of AAPI artist convenings in Philadelphia that happens quarterly and includes open-format networking, a performance, pitch sessions and presentations by

GACAPAA at the Asian Food Business Expo



other arts partner organizations.

We also helped mentor the fledgling Philadelphia Asian Performing Artists (PAPA) as they became the premier affinity group for Asian American theater artists in Southeast Pennsylvania.

Together with JACL Philadelphia and PAPA, the collective successfully advocated for the removal of yellow-face makeup from Opera Philadelphia's 2016 production of "Turandot."

The collective also helped organize an ongoing series of events at the Barnes Foundation highlighting the region's diverse artist community called the "Artist Bash," one of which took place during the 2018 JACL National Convention.

Most importantly, we established a close-working relationship with the entity that administers all state-funded grant opportunities for artists, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and have ensured that our communities are being equitably represented in their funding portfolio.

We also recommended for Lao American spoken word artist Catzie Vilayphonh to join PCA's voting body, as well as successfully advocated for Japanese American woodworker Mira Nakashima to win the Lifetime Achievement Award in the Arts that Gov. Wolf presented to her in 2018.

Amazingly, all of these goals were accomplished by an entirely volunteer group that was otherwise unfunded beyond our single staff person. The issues we were successful in advancing were accomplished by leveraging partnerships with other organizations and the sheer tenacity of the commissioners who gave their nights and weekends to accomplish these goals.

Overall, I look back at my time on the commission with tremendous fondness. My fellow commissioners became like an extended family, and we were able to do a lot of good for the AAPI communities in Pennsylvania.

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PHOTOS: GEORGE JOHNSTON

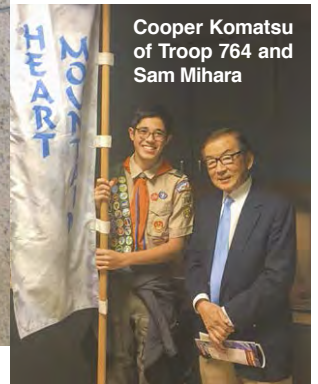


JANM President and CEO Ann Burroughs welcomes the audience to the 2020 Day of Remembrance.

Maiya Kuida-Osumi and Tony Osumi serve as masters of ceremony at the 2020 Day of Remembrance, held on Feb. 15, at JANM.



Sara Aiko Omura and her father, Glenn Suravech.



Cooper Komatsu of Troop 764 and Sam Mihara

PHOTO: KEIICHI ONO

## SOLEMNITY REIGNS DURING DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AT JANM

The Hirono video removal adds drama to 'Democracy in Crisis' theme.

By P.C. Staff

Day of Remembrance 2020 was everything its organizers could have hoped for: a beautiful winter day in Los Angeles, a standing-room only crowd in the main hall of Little Tokyo's Japanese American National Museum and a restive political climate in which the theme — "Democracy in Crisis: 1942-2020" — resonated with more urgency than usual.

The Feb. 15 event began on a solemn note, provided by Manzanar-born musician George Abe, who blew into a conch shell to open the proceedings.

It was followed by 12-year-old Sara Aiko Omura's reading of her award-winning poem "Has Anything Really Changed?" accompanied by her father, Glenn Suravech, on acoustic guitar.

Omura was followed by another daughter-duo, Maiya Kuida-Osumi, 15, and Tony Osumi, who served as co-masters of ceremony for the event. Osumi then introduced JANM President and CEO Ann Burroughs.

"I'm so grateful to all of you for coming. It's always such an honor and privilege at JANM to have you in our house at any time," Burroughs said. "It's a particular privilege to have you with us today."

Burroughs then went on to thank the planning committee for the months it spent putting the DOR event together.

But as Burroughs reached the end of the welcome message she read from former U.S.

Congressman, Transportation Department Secretary and JANM Board of Trustees Chairman Norman Mineta, who was attending a concurrent DOR event in San Jose, a last-minute change to the program was revealed, namely the elimination of a video message from Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii).

Quoting Mineta, Burroughs said, "JANM was founded on the principal that what happened to us during World War II must never be repeated and that no other group should be similarly targeted. Like all of us in this room, JANM has a heavy obligation to protect this legacy. We are keenly aware of how easily divisiveness and discrimination create barriers and pit citizen against citizen.

"We are therefore deeply committed to encouraging dialogue and the inclusion of all voices and opinions, regardless of partisan position or political affiliation," Burroughs continued. "JANM therefore requested that changes be made to the program to allow for all to feel welcomed here and for all participating organizations similarly to feel welcome. In this spirit, one of the changes you will note is that the video presentation by Sen. Mazie Hirono will be moved online, and we'd like you to view on the websites of several of the organizations represented here."

Despite the applause that followed Burroughs, for some in the audience and planning committee who reacted later on social media, the announcement that Hirono's message was excised from the program played like a sour note compared with the music earlier in



Scouts and camp representatives line up to honor Japanese Americans incarcerated at government-run incarceration centers during WWII.

the program.

The event nevertheless continued, with Osumi's next introduction of DOR Planning Committee Co-Chair Glen Kitayama, who noted how the Day of Remembrance was created to never forget President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066, which he signed on Feb. 19, 1942.

While EO 9066 led to the "forced removal of Japanese Americans from the West Coast into concentration camps," Kitayama added, "Not one Japanese American was indicted, let alone convicted, of any act of espionage [or] sabotage during WWII."

Alluding to this DOR's theme, Kitayama said, "Today, we stand at a critical juncture. For the past three years, our government has criminalized immigrants, separated children from their families and imprisoned families

simply because they were seeking asylum at the border."

Kitayama also alluded to the "Muslim Ban" that was attempted during the early days of the Trump administration and called for Americans of all backgrounds to unite to create a blueprint for social justice to counter such discriminatory actions that parallel the Japanese American experience during WWII.

Kuida-Osumi then introduced the procession of living former incarcerated representing the War Relocation Authority centers and other incarceration camps operated by the Department of Justice and other government branches.

As Abe played the *shakuhachi*, each representative was escorted by a banner-bearing member of Girl Scout Troop 12135 of the Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, Boy

### Statement by Sec. Norman Y. Mineta, Chair, JANM Board of Trustees, Regarding the Day of Remembrance Program

Following is the transcript of the JANM news release issued after the DOR event on Feb. 15.

At the Day of Remembrance commemoration on Saturday, Feb. 15, JANM made the decision to move a video message by Sen. Mazie Hirono online rather than screen it during the event. We have the utmost respect for Sen. Hirono and her courageous commitment to democracy and civil rights. In recognition of this, JANM conferred upon her our Award of Excellence at our annual dinner in 2018.

JANM was founded on the principal that what happened to

Japanese Americans during World War II must never be repeated and that no other group should be similarly targeted. We are keenly aware of how easily divisiveness and discrimination create barriers and pit citizen against citizen.

We are therefore deeply committed to encouraging dialogue and the inclusion of all voices and opinions, regardless of partisan position or political affiliation. We are also committed to protecting civil rights, especially those that defend against discrimination and

prejudice.

However, as a nonprofit museum, we cannot take a partisan position, and we believe that we can be most effective when we do not. We were also made aware that the inclusion of the video might have resulted in one of our sister organizations that participated in the organizing committee having to withdraw, which was not an outcome that we wanted to see.

In this spirit, we requested that changes be made to the program to allow all to feel welcomed.

We also specifically informed attendees that the video would be made available on line on the websites of other organizing committee members.

Another key factor in our decision was that in the uncertainty of the current political climate, we cannot ignore the reality that the museum runs the risk of placing our nonprofit status and our ability to operate in jeopardy if we are considered partisan.

Moreover, JANM has been a leading advocate for the reautho-

rization of federal funding for the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program which has provided over \$29 million to support countless Japanese American organizations in their efforts to preserve our history, our historic sites and artifacts.

By taking an overtly partisan position, we compromise our ability to play a leadership role in this effort but more importantly the funding on which many organizations rely to preserve our history. ■



PHOTOS: GEORGE JOHNSTON

Emcee Tony Osumi, in the orange shirt, presides over the procession of camp representatives.

Kanji Sahara represents the Rohwer WRA Center.



George Abe plays the conch shell.



A Boy Scout escorts Ben Furuta, who was incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center during WWII.

Satsuki Ina speaks at the 2020 Day of Remembrance in Los Angeles.

Scout Troop 242 of the Christ Lutheran Church, Boy Scout Troop 764 of the Venice Japanese Community Center or Boy Scout Troop 361 and Girl Scout Troop 1521 of the Evergreen Baptist Church of Los Angeles.

Kuida-Osumi and Osumi alternated announcing each representative and the number of people incarcerated at their camp. In order of appearance, they were:

- Min Tonai, Amache, Colo. (WRA)
- George Sugimoto, Gila River, Ariz. (WRA)
- Sam Mihara, Heart Mountain, Wyo. (WRA)
- Richard Murakami, Jerome, Ark. (WRA)
- Marge Kohatsu, Manzanar, Calif. (WRA)
- Norma Jean Yamashita, Minidoka, Idaho (WRA)
- Ben Furuta, Poston, Ariz. (WRA)
- Kanji Sahara, Rohwer, Ark. (WRA)

- Esther Taira, Topaz, Utah (WRA)
- Bill Nishimura, Tule Lake, Calif. (WRA)
- Chieko Kamisato, Crystal City, Texas (DOJ)

They then named the many other camps operated by the Justice Department, as well as the citizen isolation centers that held 5,500 detainees. Don Seki, who was scheduled to represent the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team, was absent.

Next on the program was an in memoriam segment, led by Kay Ochi and Richard Katsuda of Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress and the DOR Committee, which was accompanied by

Abe's *shakuhachi* to honor Japanese American community leaders who died in the past many months.

Those recognized were Jeff Adachi, Paul Bannai, Harry Kajihara, Hiroshi Kashiwagi, Greg Marutani, Dean Matsubayashi, Wat Misaka, Rev. Paul Nagano, Lucille Nakahara, Esther Takei Nishio, Dr. Bo Sakaguchi and Hank Umemoto.

It was at this point where the event deviated from the printed program and skipped to a speech by intergenerational trauma expert and Tsuru for Solidarity Co-Chair Satsuki Ina because of the elimination of Sen. Hirono's video message.

During Ina's presentation, she spoke of how using cross-community healing circles — sitting in a circle and sharing stories — organized by Tsuru for Solidarity with asylum seekers detained by immigration authorities at the southern border led to greater understanding, healing and compassion

for all involved.

Referring to the importance of Days of Remembrance events, Ina said, "To remember is an act of dissidence. . . . Days of Remembrance is an act of dissidence that we must continue every year, every day, every week."

Ina noted that from June 5-7, Tsuru for Solidarity will convene in Washington, D.C., for its Pilgrimage to Close the Camps (details can be found online at [tsuruforsolidarity.org/pilgrimage/](http://tsuruforsolidarity.org/pilgrimage/)), which includes plans to conduct 50 healing circles.

While the JANM board of trustees decided to remove Sen. Hirono's video message from the program, the video, as noted, could be viewed online or at the different group tables set up at the event. (*Editor's Note: Hirono's video can be downloaded at [tinyurl.com/qnj3qxd](http://tinyurl.com/qnj3qxd).)*)

In a news release from JANM following the event, Mineta explained the reasons why the decision was made to exclude the video.

In part, it read: "... as a nonprofit museum, we cannot take a partisan position, and we believe that we can be most effective when we do not. We were also made aware that the inclusion of the video might have resulted in one of our sister organizations that participated in the organizing committee having to withdraw."

The release also said, "Another key factor in our decision was that in the uncertainty of the current political climate, we cannot ignore the reality that the museum runs the risk of placing our nonprofit status and our ability to operate in jeopardy if we are considered partisan."

Kitayama, in an email, wrote that the removal of the video "... was done over the objections of the vast majority of the Day of Remembrance planning committee, of which JANM is one of the representatives. Thankfully, Sen. Hirono's message has received new life online, and everyone can now judge for themselves if Sen. Hirono's remarks were 'too partisan.'"

In a Facebook post, Osumi later questioned the decision to cut Hirono's video, writing: "Totally unacceptable and very troubling, especially in light of what's going on in this country and this year's DOR theme. . . . JANM owes the community an apology AND needs to reorganize its board to create more local and broader community representation."

Darell Kunitomi, however, who attended the DOR event at JANM, had a different reaction to the decision to remove the video from the program.

"All I'll say is that they are not single citizens but an organization that tries to serve all, like it or not," he said. "I pulled out their five points, and they make sense to me. I understand their predicament; I don't think it lessens their importance or stature in the community."

"I personally want to hear everything in the news of today and in our shared history as JAs, including the stuff I don't like," Kunitomi continued. "But I am a single citizen. A museum for all JAs has to make decisions with things that may prove controversial. In other words, they sometimes have to play it safe. And then there's the funding thing."

"We should remember that JANM went through some very lean times," Kunitomi concluded. "Budget and operating in today's America is a clear and present concern." ■

### JACL SF/LA Day of Remembrance Remarks

Following is the transcript of Sen. Mazie Hirono's video message, which was omitted from JANM's DOR event.

Aloha, everyone. I'm pleased to welcome you to this year's commemoration of the Day of Remembrance.

It's important that we take time to remember the unjust incarceration of Japanese Americans in World War II.

That hateful and discriminatory policy began 78 years ago with Executive Order 9066.

Under the guise of national security, President Roosevelt signed away the freedom of nearly 120,000 Japanese Americans.

The government forced Japanese Americans out of their homes and into concentration camps in remote parts of the country.

The trauma and shame that Japanese Americans endured during this dark time reverberates to this day.

Donald Trump is once again using Executive Orders to attack immigrants.

One of his first Executive Orders as president was the Muslim Ban. It targeted people from seven Muslim-majority countries to block them from entering the United States.

When the State of Hawaii and others challenged the ban, the Supreme Court let the government hide behind the pretext of national security.

We knew this 5-4 decision would embolden Trump to do more harm.

And indeed, he has. Donald Trump recently added six more countries to the Muslim Ban.

He also used an Executive Order to direct the expansion of expedited removal so he could deport even more immigrants at a faster rate.

And he has used an Executive Order to justify cancelling a humanitarian parole program that reunites aging Filipino World War II veterans with their sons and daughters

and other family members.

His anti-immigrant hatred goes so far as to cancel even this program that impacts an ever diminishing number of Filipino World War II veterans.

Beyond Executive Orders, Donald Trump's all-out assault on immigrants is occurring on multiple fronts. He has used regulations, such as his public charge rule, to keep out immigrants who don't pass his wealth test and English language ability test.

He has used policy announcements, such as the zero tolerance policy, to separate thousands of children and families at the border.

And he has used Twitter to insult and debase immigrants.

These are not normal times.

But today, as we remember the incarceration of Japanese Americans in World War II, it is

also important to remember Fred Korematsu and others who bravely challenged that unjust policy.

Fred Korematsu — at the age of 23 — refused to give in to President Roosevelt's racist Executive Order. He stood up to the fearmongering and took his fight all the way to the Supreme Court.

Sadly, then, as now, the Supreme Court rubberstamped a discriminatory policy under the pretense of national security.

But Fred Korematsu never stopped fighting for justice and civil rights for all Americans.

We must do the same. We must continue to stand up for all immigrants and fight to keep history from repeating itself.

In fact, we must stand together to fight the unjust policies that target minorities that will continue to flow from this amoral president. ■

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ROB BUSCHER

**SERVICE » continued from page 5****GACAPAA joint meeting with African-American and Latino Affairs Commissions****Buscher with Tiffany Chang Lawson at Philadelphia City Hall****GACAPAA supporting the Philadelphia 76'ers****Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf speaks at the new commissioner swearing-in ceremony.****Buscher speaks with Gov. Wolf.****GACAPAA at the White House****GACAPAA members are pictured with Gov. Wolf during their swearing in ceremony.**

Yet, as my cohort neared the end of our four years of service, we became increasingly concerned about whether our issues were actually being heard by the governor. Despite our roles as commissioners, we have never had more than a few minutes at a time with Gov. Wolf, and our interactions have mainly consisted of quick handshakes and photo ops during APA Heritage Month and other key events throughout the year.

I knew going into this work that as an advisory commission, we would not have formal authority to enact any policy, but had at least hoped that we could present our positions directly to the governor on key issues like immigration enforcement, which affects a growing number of AAPIs and their families.

According to AAPI Data, an estimated 1.7 million Asian Americans are undocumented residents of the U.S. Pennsylvania has the 10th-largest AAPI population in the country and in recent years has become a hotspot for ICE deportation of Southeast Asians, many of whom entered the country legally as refugees.

While Gov. Wolf clearly has no say in Federal immigration enforcement, a major issue that falls under his jurisdiction is the Berks Detention Center. Known officially as the "Berks Family Residential Center," this ICE detention facility, located just outside of Reading, Pa., is funded by a federal contract that nets Berks

County about \$6 million annually.

The political reality of our mostly red state of Pennsylvania is that Gov. Wolf, a democrat, could not have been re-elected had he issued an emergency removal order to shut down the facility prior to the 2018 election. However, now that he is safely into his second term, there are fewer ramifications for Gov. Wolf to close Berks, which is why it has been disheartening that he still hasn't done so.

Over the past year, I have been discouraged by the governor's lack of action on this issue, and it became clear that I was not going to have the opportunity to give a formal policy debrief before my term as commissioner expired.

So, as the final weeks of my term came to an end, I decided that I should use my last face-to-face encounter with Gov. Wolf at the new commissioner swearing-in ceremony to encourage him to take decisive action on the Berks Detention Center.

Knowing that I would have about 30 seconds to get my message across, I figured the best way to get his attention was to gift him a small strand of origami cranes that I strung on behalf of the Japanese American community of Pennsylvania.

This seemed particularly fitting coming from the outgoing chair of the Arts Collective, following the incredible example set by the Tsuru for Solidarity campaign that is sweep-

ing our nation.

JACL Philadelphia also staged a vigil outside of the Berks Detention Center in June 2019 where we delivered 3,000 cranes as part of our own Tsuru for Solidarity action, so this was building upon a precedent already set in local Japanese American advocacy efforts.

After Gov. Wolf finished his remarks during the ceremony, I shook his hand and presented him with the tsuru, explaining their symbolic meaning and noting that the 10 cranes on the strand represented each of the concentration camps in which our community was incarcerated during World War II. I then asked on behalf of the JA community of Pennsylvania if he would reconsider his position on the Berks Detention Center.

Gov. Wolf was definitely caught off guard, but I was pleasantly surprised when he responded that his position is that Berks should be shut down. The governor said that ideally, he would like to see it turned into an addiction treatment facility to combat the ongoing opioid crisis in Pennsylvania.

He also stated that while his office had attempted to revoke the business license, because the contract is between the Federal Government and Berks County, it is up to the County Commissioners to close the facility.

The governor cited a previous attempt by his administration to replace the \$6 million annual income that Berks receives from ICE with an investment package that amounted to about \$5.2 million, which the County Commissioners had declined.

Granted, this answer came from a politician in a crowded room of constituents who were mostly immigrant and their descendants, but he seemed genuine in wanting to solve the issue. I ended our interaction by saying that

we hope he will continue working toward a favorable resolution, handed him a Tsuru for Solidarity card and told him to visit the website for more info on our policy positions.

I do not know if our interaction had a larger impact on the governor, or if it is something that he has already forgotten. I do know that my conscience would not allow me to leave my position as commissioner without speaking my piece to him.

I am glad that I was able to serve our communities in the capacity I have these past four years and would serve again if given the opportunity. However, it is necessary for Gov. Wolf's Office to consider the message they are sending to our historically marginalized AAPI community when the entirety of the commission's work is being done at the expense of volunteer labor from a vulnerable class of people, especially if those people feel they are not being listened to.

Since this interaction, JACL Philadelphia has formally joined the Shut Down Berks Coalition, and I have joined the steering committee of Tsuru for Solidarity to help organize additional actions around this issue.

This year is going to be a big year of advocacy for the Japanese American community as we gear up for our June 6 National March on Washington, D.C., to end immigrant detention. Shutting down the Berks Detention Center will definitely be a part of that conversation, and we will hold our elected officials accountable if they fail to take action.

**For more information on the Governor's Advisory Commission on APA Affairs, visit <https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2015-2019-GACAPAA-Term-Report-FINAL.pdf>.**

**JACL » continued from page 2**

The Japanese American component of our name centers around our story, not our culture or ancestry. Anyone can, and should, tell our story because it is a unique one — it's an important American story.

To do that, one need not be full Japanese

ancestry, or even any. It only requires a good heart and understanding of what is right and what is wrong, as well as the conviction to act on that understanding.

We also must confront racism within our own community. The majority of Japanese

Americans now identify as multiracial or multiethnic. When Marutani argued before the Supreme Court in *Loving v. Virginia*, he noted that his own parents would object to him marrying a white woman.

If now for over 50 years, the courts felt Marutani should have the right to do so, and clearly most Japanese Americans have

chosen to marry regardless of their spouse's race or ethnicity, why are there still some in our community that continue to object?

**David Inoue is executive director of the JACL. He is based at the organization's Washington, D.C., office.**



# AUHSD RECOGNIZES PATTI HIRAHARA

Hirahara is acknowledged for her work in preserving the Japanese American Story in the City of Anaheim.

**ANAHEIM, CALIF.** — The Anaheim Union High School District Board of Trustees recognized Patti Hirahara, a lifelong resident of Anaheim, for her contributions to the Anaheim Union High School District community on Jan. 16 at its monthly board of trustees meeting.

Hirahara, who has been a facilitator of U.S.-Japan relations for 40 years, felt the time was right to focus on the rich and storied history of the Japanese pioneers in her hometown of Anaheim. She wanted to find a way to give back to her own community by preserving the Japanese American legacy as she had helped do with the Smithsonian National Museum of American History's Japanese American Collection and History Endowment.

Hirahara thus created "The Poston Experience," a special educational program held at historic Anaheim High School on Aug. 24, which highlighted the true experiences of Japanese American students from AHS who were sent to the Poston, Ariz., incarceration camp during World War II.

With 800 people in attendance, this was one of the most successful programs produced by the AUHSD and a first to talk about the history of Anaheim's Japanese pioneers in an educational setting with videos created or performed by current students from both the AUHSD and the Anaheim



**The Anaheim Union High School District Board of Trustees recognized Patti Hirahara on Jan. 16. Pictured (from left) are AUHSD Superintendent Michael Matsuda, Trustee Annemarie Randle-Trejo, Trustee Al Jabbar, Trustee Anna Piercy, Hirahara, Trustee Brian O'Neal and Student Ambassador Lara Elkata.**

Elementary School District.

Two videos that were created especially for this program, one from the AUHSD Film Academy students entitled "Remember Us: An Historic Chapter at Anaheim High School" has just been selected for the fourth edition of the International Documentary Film Festival RushDoc, which will be held at the end of this month.

The film is representing the United States in this international competition and talks about the incarceration of AHS's Japanese

American students and their forced evacuation during 1942.

The second video, "Cherry Blossom," was created by AHS Dance Production students with choreography by dance director Oscar Gonzalez. Dedicated in honor of the 120,000 Japanese Americans forcibly incarcerated during WWII, as well as those from the AHS Class of 1942, this moving dance interpretation was selected to be shown at this year's 2020 Films of Remembrance for the category "Art Inspired by the Camps,"



presented by the Nichi Bei Foundation on Feb. 22 in San Francisco and Feb. 23 in San Jose, Calif.

"It is wonderful to see the student's work being honored by the Nichi Bei Foundation as well as being selected to tell the Japanese American incarceration story in an international film competition for more people to be educated about what happened 78 years ago," Patti Hirahara said.

"For 21 years, I have worked to preserve the history of Anaheim's Japanese pioneers, and it had been my dream to have the City of Anaheim become a model for cities around the country to see how one American city can tell our story. Not only is this story focusing on Anaheim's Japanese families but those that attended my alma mater of Anaheim High School before the war, which was founded in 1898. It is amazing to see how everything is coming together, and now, we are discussing on how this can be added to the curriculum in Anaheim schools," Hirahara continued.

» See AUHSD on page 12

# CALIF. ASSEMBLY UNANIMOUSLY OKS APOLOGY TO JAPANESE AMERICANS

State's Gov. Gavin Newsom also proclaims Feb. 19 'Day of Remembrance.'



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

By P.C. Staff

One day after California Gov. Gavin Newsom declared Feb. 19 to be "A Day of Remembrance: Japanese American Evacuation," the California Assembly made official an apology on behalf of the state for its historic role in discriminating against residents of Japanese ancestry before World War II (See *Pacific Citizen*, Feb. 7-20, 2020, issue). The vote was unanimous, 72-0.

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

Centers and other detention camps as a result of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066 on Feb. 19, 1942.

While the federal government apologized for its role in the treatment of Japanese Americans — and issued \$20,000 in token restitution to still-surviving victims — with the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, signed by President Ronald Reagan on Aug. 10, 1988, Muratsuchi was compelled to have California, which is home to the largest population of Japanese Americans in the U.S. mainland, revisit its own past and apologize.

In an interview with National Public Radio, Muratsuchi said, "We like to talk about how as California goes, so goes the nation. Unfortunately, during the years leading up to World War II, California was at the forefront and led the nation in so many ways in fanning the flames of racism and immigrant scapegoating against Japanese Americans. Specific actions that the Legislature took included passing the

Alien Land Law of 1913."

During WWII, California was home to two concentration camps that held Japanese Americans, Manzanar and Tule Lake.

Amy Watanabe of the Mineta Legacy Project was present when HR 77 was approved, and in a Facebook post, she wrote, "It was a privilege to observe this historic moment in our state's Capitol. I was moved by many of the Assemblymembers' remarks that emphasized that HR 77 is not only an apology for our state's mistakes and wrongdoings in the past, but is a reminder to never again let this happen and of the responsibility of the current Legislature to make sure future generations do not need to make an apology for their decisions/policies today."

In related news, the governors of two other states that had camps that also detained Japanese Americans — Idaho and Arkansas — similarly proclaimed Days of Remembrance.

Following is Newsom's proclamation:

» See APOLOGY on page 12

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## NATIONAL

### JACL National Convention Las Vegas, NV June 24-28

Save the date for this year's JACL National Convention in Las Vegas! Follow JACL National on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, [JACL.org](http://JACL.org) and [PacificCitizen.org](http://PacificCitizen.org) for updates and registration information coming soon.

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

## NCWNP

### 'Redress: The Inside Story of the Successful Campaign for Japanese American Reparations' Event and Speaker Panel San Francisco, CA March 7; 3:30-5 p.m. Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California 1840 Sutter St.

Price: Free and open to the public  
Co-sponsored by JACL Northern California Western Nevada Pacific District and San Francisco JACL, this special book event and speaker panel will feature John Tateishi and Dale Minami and focus on Tateishi's new book that chronicles the true story of the JACL's fight for an official government apology and compensation for the imprisonment of more than 100,000 Japanese Americans during WWII. The panel will feature Tateishi, former National Executive Director of the JACL and chair of JACL's Redress Committee and Minami, the attorney who led the *coram nobis* legal team in *Korematsu v. U.S.*

Info: RSVP to [programsevents@jccnc.org](mailto:programsevents@jccnc.org).

### JACL Reno Teriyaki Fundraiser Reno, NV March 8; Noon Reno Senior Center 1155 Ninth St.

Price: \$10 Adults; \$5 Children  
This annual event will raise funds for scholarships and will include lunch, entertainment and a raffle.

### Udon Noodle Making Workshop With Kenji Yokoo San Francisco, CA March 14; 10 a.m.-1 p.m. JCCNC 1840 Sutter St. Price: \$75 for Center Members; \$85 General Public

Chef Kenji Yokoo, the newest cooking instructor at the center, will teach an udon noodle making workshop where participants will learn to make udon noodles from scratch using techniques that have been used for generations. Participants will also learn how

to make udon broth and serve it with various toppings, including vegetarian and vegan options.  
Info: Visit [jccnc.org](http://jccnc.org) for event details and to sign up.

### 2020 Tule Lake Pilgrimage and Registration Newell, CA July 3-6

The Tule Lake Committee announces the dates of the 2020 pilgrimage, July 3-6. Standard registration is \$575 per person; for those on fixed incomes or students and survivors of incarceration, the fee is \$350. The fee is all-inclusive and includes charter bus transportation, lodging, meals and all activities during the four-day pilgrimage. Registration forms will be posted on the Tule Lake Committee's website on Feb. 19.  
Info: Visit [www.tulelake.org](http://www.tulelake.org) or if you would like registration forms mailed via USPS, please contact Hiroshi Shimizu at (415) 317-2686.

## PSW

'Transcendents: Heroes at Borders' Exhibition by Taiji Terasaki  
Los Angeles, CA  
Thru March 29  
JANM  
100 N. Central Ave.  
This contemporary art exhibition honors individuals who advocate and fight for those who face discrimination, prejudice and inequality at borders both real and imagined. Through video projections on mist, photographic weavings and audience participation, visitors will learn about, reflect on and celebrate heroes in Los Angeles, across the nation and within their own lives.  
Info: Visit [www.janm.org/transcendents](http://www.janm.org/transcendents).

### 'Under a Mushroom Cloud: Hiroshima, Nagasaki and the Atomic Bomb' Los Angeles, CA Thru June 7 Japanese American National Museum 100 N. Central Ave.

To commemorate the upcoming 75th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on Aug. 6 and Aug. 9, 1945, this special exhibition will present photographs, explanatory texts, artifacts and contemporary art that will shed light on this painful history as well as provide a safe space for discussion with the hope that such events never happen again.  
Info: Visit [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org).

Free Chol Soo Lee Movement Reunion  
Los Angeles, CA  
July 10; 6 p.m.  
Oxford Palace Hotel  
745 S. Oxford Ave.  
The K.W. Lee Center of Leadership is having its 15th annual dinner and

silent auction.  
Info: Email Do Kim at [dokim@kwleecenter.org](mailto:dokim@kwleecenter.org) or call (213) 321-7220.

## PNW

### Nichiren 28th Annual Spring Bazaar Portland, OR March 15; 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Nichiren Buddhist Temple 2025 S.E. Yamhill Price: Lunch \$9-\$10

This year's annual Spring Bazaar will feature delicious lunch options that include a special Nichiren tonkatsu bento, chicken donburi, chow mein or tofu donburi that are all available for preorder and purchase. The event will also include baked goods, crafts and much more. Preorders are due by March 10. All proceeds will benefit the Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple.  
Info: Call (503) 236-8292 for preorder and event details.

'The Journal of Ben Uchida: Citizen 13359' Presented by the Oregon Children's Theater  
Portland, OR  
Feb. 29-March 22  
Winningstad Theater  
1111 S.W. Broadway  
Price: Ticket Prices Vary  
Originally commissioned by the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., this play details a dark chapter in this country's history. This story is about people that is relevant, moving and one that cannot be forgotten. This play is recommended for audience ages 10 and up.  
Info: Visit <https://www.octc.org/journal-of-ben-uchida>.

## CCDC

2020 Cherry Blossom Festival Food & Craft Fair  
Fresno, CA  
March 14; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Fresno Buddhist Dharma Center  
2690 E. Alluvial Ave.  
Price: Free and Open to the Public  
This special day of family fun will feature a wide variety of hand-crafted items and delicious food for purchase such as sushi, Chinese chicken salad, spam musubi, chicken teriyaki, Vietnamese banh mi sandwiches, curry rice and much more. Cultural exhibits will also feature food demonstrations such as sushi and takoyaki demonstrations. There will also be Japanese Obon dancing as well.  
Info: Call (559) 442-4054 or email [info@fresnobuddhisttemple.org](mailto:info@fresnobuddhisttemple.org).

AsianFest 2020  
Fresno, CA  
April 25; 9 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Fresno City College

### 1101 E. University Ave. Price: Free

This Asian American Cultural Festival will feature all-day live entertainment, delicious food, a sake garden, children's craft area, anime alley and car show, martial arts demonstrations and much more! Don't miss this opportunity to have a day of family fun for all.  
Info: Visit <https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=AsianFest+2020,+Fresno&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&ibp=htl;events&rciv=evn&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwivntPL8tvnAhUOnawKHWdTCUIQ5bwDMAB6BAgLEAE#fpstate=tldetail&htidocid=04QulyV22Sl540UJpA8-A%3D%3D&htivrt=events>.

## IDC

### Hina Matsuri Arvada, CO March 7-8; 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Simpson United Methodist Church 6001 Wolff St.

Price: Free  
Celebrating the 52nd anniversary of Hina Matsuri here and the 113th anniversary of the Simpson United Methodist Church, this event will feature family-friendly activities for all ages, including calligraphy, origami, tea ceremony, Bonsai, taiko performances, dancing, martial arts demonstrations, music and delicious food.  
Info: Call (303) 428-7963 or visit <https://www.jascolorado.org/events/current/2020/3/7/hina-matsuri>.

## MDC

'American Sutra's' Duncan Ryuken Williams Presentation and Book Club Meeting  
Minneapolis, MN  
March 5; 3:30-5 p.m.  
University of Minnesota  
Best Buy Theater, Northrop  
84 Church St. S.E.  
Price: Free and open to the public  
Author Williams will be on hand to discuss his book "American Sutra: A Story of Faith and Freedom in the Second World War," which reveals how, even as they were stripped of their homes and imprisoned in camps, Japanese American Buddhists launched one of the most inspiring defenses of religious freedom in our nation's history.  
Info: Visit [www.tcjacl.org](http://www.tcjacl.org) or email [info@tcjacl.org](mailto:info@tcjacl.org).

Festival of Nations 2020  
St. Paul, MN  
May 1-3  
Saint Paul RiverCentre  
175 W. Kellogg Blvd.  
Price: Ticket Prices Vary.

This festival is the oldest and longest-running multicultural festival in the Midwest. Since 1932, it

goal has been to inspire people to discover more about our world and embrace the rich cultural diversity in our community. The Twin Cities JACL chapter will once again be participating in this event. To volunteer, contact the TC chapter. Info: Visit [www.festivalofnations.com](http://www.festivalofnations.com) or [www.tcjacl.org](http://www.tcjacl.org).

## EDC

### Tsuru for Solidarity: National Pilgrimage to Close the Camps Washington, D.C. June 5-7

This three-day event will take place throughout the Capitol Mall and will feature a protest rally and march, as well as a healing circle program and opening ceremony and solidarity reception. Registration is now open. Participants are also encouraged to fold tsuru (cranes) and bring them to the event. The home base hotel for the weekend is the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Va. Information can be found on the pilgrimage website.  
Info: Visit [tsuruforsolidarity.org/pilgrimage](http://tsuruforsolidarity.org/pilgrimage).

### The Kimono in Print: 300 Years of Japanese Kimono Design Worcester, MA March 28-June 28 Worcester Art Museum 55 Salisbury St.

This exhibition is devoted to examining the kimono as a major source of inspiration and experimentation in Japanese print culture from the Edo period (1603) to the Meiji period (1868-1912). The exhibit includes 80 Japanese prints as well as a selection of illustrated books and paintings.  
Info: Visit <https://www.worcesterart.org/exhibitions/kimono-in-print/>.

### Kimono Couture: The Beauty of Chiso Worcester, MA April 25-July 26 Worcester Art Museum 55 Salisbury St.

This is the first exhibition outside of Japan of historic and contemporary kimonos from the collection of Chiso, the distinguished Kyoto-based kimono house founded in 1555. The exhibit will include 13 kimonos from the mid-1600s-2000s. A special video will also document the contemporary creation of a kimono, from start to finish.  
Info: Visit <https://www.worcesterart.org/exhibitions/kimono-couture/>.

## ADVERTISE HERE

Events in the calendar section are listed based on space availability. Place a 'Spotlight' ad with photos of your event for maximum exposure.

FOR MORE INFO:  
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(213) 620-1767

# MEMORIAM

**Takahashi, Hiroki, 105**, San Mateo, CA, Oct. 13; a WWII (MIS) and Korean War veteran, he is survived by his wife, Elsie Yoshiko Takahashi; 3 of 4 daughters; sister, Kazu Okui; gc: 3.

**Takahashi, Valerie, 88**, Gardena, CA, Sept. 21; she is survived by her husband, George; daughters and grandchildren; ggc: 1.



**Tomatani, Tsuneo, 80**, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 7; he is survived by his wife, Katie; son, Kevin; siblings, Hideo (Hatsume) and Keiko (Yosh); he is also survived by relatives and friends.

**Urasaki, Richard Masaaki, 85**, Hilo, HI, Aug. 26.

**Wada, Sumie, 82**, Huntington Beach, CA, Oct. 21; she is survived by her husband, Donald; children, Amy (Steven) Morr, James and Frank (Liz); sister, Ikuko (Jun) Hattori; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

**Wadahara, Larry, 58**, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 2; he is survived by his wife, Naomi Wadahara; sons, Nick (Elisa Lam) and Justin; sisters, Georgette (Roy) Matsuda and Lynn Wadahara; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and other relatives; gc: 2.

**Yamada, Glenn Hisayuki, 73**, Mililani, HI, Sept. 28.

**Yamada, Hiroko Alyce, 97**, San Gabriel, CA, Oct. 17; she is survived by her children, Ted and Cynthia (Ron) Dyo; gc: 2; ggc: 1.

**Yamada, Janet, 84**, Pearl City, HI, Oct. 4.

**Yamada, Keoni Jet, 18**, Las Vegas, CA, Oct. 26.

**Yamada, Samuel His, 84**, Honolulu, HI, Oct. 19.

**Yamaji, Taneyo 'Tiny,' 89**, Mountain View, CA, Oct. 9; she was predeceased by her siblings, Teruko Matsumura, Haruo Yamaji, Tamiyo Matsumura, John Yamaji and Toshio Yamaji; she is survived by her sisters-in-law, Rosie Yamaji and Lois Yamaji; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

**Yamamoto, Amy, 95**, Santa Clara, CA, Oct. 14.

**Yamamoto, Wayne Goonzo, 71**, Pearl City, HI, Sept. 10.

**Yamasaki, Takaye, 95**, San Jose, CA, Sept. 25; during WWII her family and she were incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ; she was predeceased by her husband, Chikara (Masuda), and sons, David and Warren; she is survived by her

children, Karen Chang (Henry), Janet Katen (Ron) and Eric Yamasaki (Sophia); sister, Yoshie Yokoi; gc: 5; ggc: 4.



**Yonamine, Wynne Chiemi, 64**, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 1; she is survived by her husband, Bruce; children, Dayna (Matthew) Rosso, Erik and Adam; brothers, Michael (Abbie)

and Mitchell (Ryoko) Higashi; she is also survived by many nephews and other relatives.

**Yoneyama, George Ukio, 89**, Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 12; he was predeceased by his wife, Shuko; siblings, Sam and Kay (Mike) Naples; he is survived by his children, Craig Yoneyama and Lynne (David) Corapi; sister-in-law, Mollie Yoneyama; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

**Yoshimizu, Ruth Hisako, 95**, Alhambra, CA, Oct. 12; she was predeceased by her husband, Henry; son, Rodney; she is survived by her children, Kary (Joyce) Yoshimizu, Karen (Wesley) Nobuta, Sharen (Randy) Kanemoto and Daniel (Jan) Yoshimizu; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 9; ggc: 3.

**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.  
**CONTACT:**  
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As a token of our gratitude, the first 100 members to upgrade will receive the gift of this 20" x 20" barbed wire icon art lithographic poster print, signed by artist Bob Matsumoto. Upgraded members are also invited to attend the VIP Reception for the Sayonara Banquet at the JACL National Convention.

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# REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

## NEW REPORT HIGHLIGHTS LINKS BETWEEN ARDIOVASCULAR AND BRAIN HEALTH

By Ron Mori, AARP

I read the latest report from the Global Council on Brain Health with great interest after my New Year's resolution of exercising more each week. The new report from the GCBH confirms that heart and brain health are connected and that taking action to improve your cardiovascular health reduces your risk of cognitive decline and dementia. "The Brain-Heart Connection" summarizes the strongest research on this topic and offers practical lifestyle tips people can take to protect their heart and brain health.

Cardiovascular risk factors, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, smoking and diabetes, are known to be harmful to the brain. The more risk factors a person has, the more likely they are to experience cognitive decline. However, there is strong evidence that reducing or treating these conditions lowers a person's risk of cognitive decline and dementia, even if changes are made in your 70s or 80s.

"The best gift you can give your brain is to take care of your heart," said Sarah Lenz Lock, AARP senior vp for policy and executive director of the GCBH. "The younger you start, the better for a lifetime of healthier brains, but no one should be discouraged or feel it's too late to make a difference. Even simple steps to improve your heart health will benefit your brain, too!"

The GCBH recommends that adults take the following steps to improve their heart health:

- Lead a physically active life.
- Check your blood pressure regularly and work with a health professional to lower it if it is too high.
- If you smoke, quit. If you don't smoke, don't start. Smoking in any form is bad for the heart and the brain.
- Take the time and steps to manage your stress effectively.
- If you have diabetes or prediabetes, consult with a health provider and nutritionist in order to help manage these conditions.

Additional lifestyle tips and recommendations for health providers are included in "The Brain-Heart Connection," along with a discussion of the scientific evidence supporting these conclusions and gaps in current medical knowledge.

"The American Heart Association supports this report and commends AARP for focusing on the heart-brain connection. Despite growing science about this relationship, most people are not aware of it," said Mitchell S. V. Elkind, M.D., MS, FAHA, FAAN, president-elect of the American Heart Assn., immediate past chair of the Advisory Committee of the American Stroke Assn. — a division of the American Heart Assn., and professor of neurology and epidemiology at Columbia University New York. "The association is committed to collaborating across organizations to help people maintain healthy brains and hearts throughout their lives."

Visit the AARP website to download a copy

### BETTER HEART

### BETTER BRAIN

**A heart-healthy lifestyle reduces the risk of cognitive decline**

---

Take steps to improve your brain health

**Stay active & exercise**

Strive for at least 150 minutes of weekly, moderate aerobic activity.

**Manage blood sugar levels**

Diabetes increases the risk of stroke, cognitive decline, and dementia.

**Don't smoke**

If you smoke, quit. If you don't smoke, don't start.

**Sleep well**

Aim for 7 to 8 hours of sleep in a 24-hour period.

**Check your blood pressure & cholesterol**

Work with your doctor to manage blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

**Eat healthy**

Limit salt intake. Avoid excessive alcohol consumption.

The Brain-Heart Connection: GCBH Recommendations to Manage Cardiovascular Risks to Brain Health  
 GlobalCouncilonBrainHealth.org • Contact: GCBH@aarp.org  
 For more brain health tips see [StayingSharp.org](http://StayingSharp.org) • DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26411/psa.00099.002>

Global Council on Brain Health  
 www.gcbh.org

of "The Brain-Heart Connection." Previous reports from the GCBH include exercise, nutrition, sleep and other modifiable lifestyle factors that can help your brain and heart at any age. The full report is available at [www.GlobalCouncilonBrainHealth.org](http://www.GlobalCouncilonBrainHealth.org).

**ABOUT THE GCBH**  
 The GCBH, founded in 2015, is an independent international group of scientists, health professionals, scholars and policy experts working on brain health issues. Convened by AARP with support

from Age UK, the goal of the GCBH is to review current scientific evidence and provide recommendations for people so that they can maintain and improve brain health.

To learn more about the actions consumers can take to help maintain and improve their brain health, visit [www.stayingsharp.org](http://www.stayingsharp.org).

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

### STORY » continued from page 3

As I grow older, judging my past just doesn't seem as important — spending time loving my sons now and in the future is. And like this father, if the spark of energy that comes from our hearts being connected is not present, then I, too, know there is more work to be done.

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

### AUHS » continued from page 9

"Dreams can come true with the help of an entire community, especially with the support shown by the Anaheim Union High School Board of Trustees, AUHS Superintendent Michael Matsuda and the staff and students of the AUHS for giving me this opportunity," Hirahara concluded.

In addition, the AUHS Board of Trustees cited Hirahara for her help in creating the Anaheim Museo Museum exhibition "I Am an American: Japanese Incarceration in a Time of Fear" for the City of Anaheim that was on display from Aug. 24-Nov. 3, 2019.

The exhibit revealed stories of incarceration, survival and success of Anaheim's Japanese Americans, as well as their time

at the Poston War Relocation Center during WWII.

During the exhibit's run, more than 3,000 people came from all over the U.S. to see this unique exhibition, which featured the unknown history of this Anaheim Japanese community.

Due to this successful exhibition, the City of Anaheim will be holding a second Japanese American-inspired exhibition in 2021 at the Museo.

Hirahara is a member of the board of directors of the SELANOCO JACL and was honored last year by the JACL PSW District and SELANOCO JACL for her efforts on this Anaheim endeavor. ■

### APOLOGY » continued from page 9

Issued on February 19, 1942, Executive Order 9066 authorized the forced evacuation and incarceration of thousands of loyal United States citizens because of their Japanese ancestry.

Over two and a half years, the U.S. government removed Japanese Americans from their homes on the West Coast — without a trial or due process — forcing them into concentration camps in unfamiliar lands. Uprooted from their lives and livelihoods, they endured miserable conditions and treatment by military guards.

Despite these experiences, thousands of young Japanese American men enlisted in the U.S. Armed Forces, bravely fighting to defend the nation that was abridging their own freedoms at home. We honor their sacrifice, as well as the resilience that made it possible for thousands of Japanese American families to reclaim and rebuild their lives after the war.

A decision motivated by discrimination and xenophobia, the internment of Japanese Americans was a betrayal of our most sacred values as a nation that

we must never repeat. This stain on our history should remind us to always stand up for our fellow Americans, regardless of their national origin or immigration status, and protect the civil rights and liberties that we hold dear.

On February 19th, I ask that all Californians join me in solemn remembrance of the issuance of Executive Order 9066 on this day in 1942. I similarly ask that all Californians commemorate the rescission of Executive Order 9066 by President Gerald R. Ford on this day in 1976.

NOW THEREFORE I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim February 19, 2020, as "A Day of Remembrance: Japanese American Evacuation."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 19th day of February 2020.

GAVIN NEWSOM,  
 Governor of California