



Tip-Off Time
Basketball season under way at area high schools. — Page 3

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701 E. THIRD ST., SUITE 130, LOS ANGELES, CA 90013-1789
(213) 629-2231 • FAX (213) 687-0737

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japan-at-a-glance



ISHIMAKI MEMORIAL: Candles are lit on Nov. 16 at Ishinomaki Minamihama Tsunami Recovery Memorial Park in Ishinomaki, northeastern Japan, as the country readies to mark 5,000 days since the Great East Japan Earthquake the following day.



DEATH OF A PRINCESS: Princess Yuriko (pictured), the oldest member of the Japanese imperial family and great-aunt of Emperor Naruhito, died of natural causes at a Tokyo hospital on Nov. 15, the Imperial Household Agency said. She was 101. After her death, there are 16 members left in the imperial family, which has been dwindling under the 1947 Imperial House Law that requires female members to leave upon marriage to a commoner. The agency said the main funeral ceremony, the "Renso-no-gi" rite, will be held from on Nov. 26 at the imperial family's Toshimagaoka Cemetery in Tokyo's Bunkyo Ward. A member of Japan's former nobility, she married Prince Mikasa, the youngest brother of Emperor Hirohito, posthumously known as Emperor Showa, in 1941 at age 18, after graduating from the Gakushuin Women's Academy. Her husband died of heart failure in 2016 at age 100.

in the news

HOLLYWOOD FIRE: A fire in an automotive parts store in Hollywood that burned through neighboring businesses was knocked down Saturday. Just before 4:30 p.m., the Los Angeles Fire Department stated that crews were working to assess heavy smoke emanating from an AutoZone automotive store in an L-shaped, one-story strip mall at 1306 N. Highland Ave., north of Fountain Avenue. At 5 p.m., an update by the LAFD noted road closures on Highland between Delongpre and Lexington avenues due to fire crews battling the heavy fire. Some 124 firefighters were assigned to knock down the flames that were structurally damaging the store, one of three businesses in the mall, LAFD spokesman Brian Humphrey said. In an operation of over two hours, the fire was completely extinguished and the adjoining two stores, a Fat Sal's Deli and Sushi Ajito, also sustained heavy damage. It was unclear if the businesses were closed as a result of the fire, and no injuries were reported.

INSIDE TODAY'S RAFU

- Arts & Entertainment..... 2
- Sports 3
- Columnists 4
- Obituaries 4
- Religion..... 5
- Calendar of Events 5
- Classifieds / Legal Notice..6

BBC World Service Announces New Audio Drama, 'Purple Heart Warriors'

Six-part broadcast tells the story of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

The BBC World Service has announced the launch of "Purple Heart Warriors," a six-part drama inspired by real events by Oscar-nominated screenwriter Iris Yamashita.

The series transports audiences to the fields of World War II alongside the brave young Japanese American soldiers of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team as they battle to liberate France from Nazi occupation.

Narrated by Emmy-nominated and BAFTA-winning actor Will Sharpe ("The White Lotus"), "Purple Heart Warriors" follows the story of Ken Morioka, played by Akie Kotabe. Ken is transported back in time from Little Tokyo in 2024's Los Angeles to the 1940s, and finds himself trapped in his grandfather's body as he enrolls in combat training.

The story takes listeners across the globe from Downtown Los Angeles to Hattiesburg, Miss., then across Europe, culminating in the Vosges Mountains of France. The series weaves historical narrative with contemporary reflections on identity, sacrifice, and belonging.

The cast also includes



The cast of "Purple Heart Warriors" includes (from left) Aaron Ikeda, Tamlyn Tomita and Clyde Kusatsu.

Tamlyn Tomita, Clyde Kusatsu, Derek Mio, Kurt Kanazawa, Aaron Ikeda, Raiko Gohara and Conrad Lihilihi.

The 442nd Regimental Combat Team was a segregated unit composed mostly of Nisei. Despite some soldiers' families being labeled enemy aliens and facing incarceration in armed camps, the men of the 442nd were known for their bravery, earning over 4,000

Purple Hearts, 21 Medals of Honor, seven Presidential Unit Citations, and numerous other accolades.

Yamashita, an Academy Award nominee for "Letters from Iwo Jima," directed by Clint Eastwood and starring Ken Watanabe, says: "I am so excited to be able to tell the story of the 'Purple Heart Warriors,' acknowledging the heroic and sacrifices made by Japanese American soldiers who volunteered to fight for the U.S. in Italy and France while their family members were being incarcerated in prison camps. I wanted

Please see BBC, page 6

Cool Japan Center Opens Its Doors in Irvine

IRVINE — The highly anticipated Cool Japan Center officially opened its doors on Nov. 4 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by Irvine Mayor Farrah Khan.

This cultural hub, dedicated to celebrating and sharing Japan's rich cultural heritage, is poised to become a vibrant destination for art, anime, manga, fashion, technology, cuisine, and more.

In advance of the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the Cool Japan Center hosted a pre-opening event on Nov. 2, featuring an award ceremony that recognized individuals and organizations for their contributions to promoting Japanese culture and strengthening U.S.-Japan relations.

The governor of Yamanashi Prefecture, Kotaro Nagasaki, was the guest of honor at the ceremony, which was co-hosted by Dr. Hiroshi Tasaka, former advisor to Prime Minister Naoto Kan and current chancellor of The Akademeia 21st Century, a group of 17 colleges that provide art to the center; and Dr. Anthony Al-Jamie, director of the Cool Japan Center and editor-in-chief



Shamisen performance by Ken Matsuturu.

of Tokyo Journal.

Guests experienced authentic Japanese culture, including a traditional rickshaw with drivers from Asakusa, Tokyo; a shamisen musical performance; having their names written in kanji (Chinese characters) by shodo (Japanese calligraphy) experts; and sampling Yamanashi wines

and sake, as well as pastries courtesy of Yoku Moku.

The Cool Japan Center, a collaborative effort between Akademeia Creative and Yamanashi Prefecture, is the first U.S.-based gallery in the Akademeia Creative network of 13 galleries. The center will showcase

Please see Cool Japan, page 6

Iino Re-elected to LACCD Board of Trustees

Tatiana Yokoyama-Bui wins ABC USD race.

RAFU STAFF REPORT

Kelsey Iino was re-elected to Seat 7 on the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees on Nov. 5, with 1,127,901 votes (79.6%) as of Nov. 15.

Her opponent, writer, researcher and instructor Robert Payne, received

289,020 votes (20.4%).

Iino, a graduate of El Camino College, USC and UCLA and a counselor and instructor at ECC, was appointed to the LACCD board in 2022 and was elected to the board later that year, defeating two challengers. Her current term ends on Dec. 13. She is a member of the district's Facilities and Master Planning Committee and the Basic Needs Ad Hoc Committee, and has served on the Budget Com-

mittee, African American/Black Ad Hoc Committee, Gender Equity Ad Hoc Committee, and Athletic Ad Hoc Committee.

She has also served on the boards of Little Tokyo Service Center, El Camino College Foundation, and Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka Memorial Committee.

This year, Iino ran on a slate with fellow incumbents David Vela (Seat 3), Nichelle Henderson (Seat 5) and Andra Hoffman (Seat 1), all of whom were re-elected.

In a statement the day after the election, Iino said: "In 2017, after Trump started his first presidency, he nominated Betsy DeVos to secretary of education. Already scared about what doom the next four years would bring, in that moment, I decided to figure out how to become a community college trustee to help fight back."

"It took me over five years to build viability, thicker skin, political capital, and the heart to do the work. I was appointed in April of 2022, elected November of 2022, and now re-elected! I do not take this role lightly and I am incredibly honored to serve. It's my small way to roll up my sleeves, fight for what I believe in, and hopefully be the change I

Please see Election Results, page 6



From left: Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees incumbents Nichelle Henderson, David Vela, Andra Hoffman and Kelsey Iino.

Search Continues for Hawaii Woman Who Disappeared from LAX

CITY NEWS SERVICE

A search was continuing Monday for a 31-year-old woman who disappeared after landing at Los Angeles International Airport, where she had missed her connecting flight.

According to her family, Hannah Kobayashi was traveling to New York City to visit family when she disappeared. She landed at LAX on Nov. 8, but after missing her connecting flight, she apparently traveled to The Grove shopping center, where she attended a Nov. 10 Nike event — from which she

posted a photo to her Instagram page.

Her family says Kobayashi went back to LAX on Nov. 11, but apparently did not board a flight. It was on that day that the family says they started to receive strange text messages from her.

"Hannah's last message to us was alarming — she mentioned feeling scared, and that someone might be trying to steal her money and identity," according to the family. "She hasn't been heard from since, and we are gravely concerned for her safety."

An LAPD spokeswoman told City News Service the agency did receive a missing person report about Kobayashi, and it is still an active case. No other details were provided.

Family members most recently stated that they had obtained surveillance footage that captured Kobayashi in the area of the Downtown Metro train station near Crypto.com Arena, although it was unclear exactly when that footage was taken. The family indicated that based on the footage, "it is evident that Hannah does not appear to be in good condition and she is not alone."

Kobayashi's aunt, Larie Pidgeon, told USA Today on Nov. 17 the messages the family received from her were uncharacteristic, including "weird things, calling us 'babe,' things that weren't quite the normal way that she speaks."

Relatives have traveled to Los Angeles to search for her, focusing their efforts on the airport area. They have also established a GoFundMe page to help raise funds for the search. Go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/4fmxej-support-the-search-for-hannah-kobayashi>



Hannah Kobayashi

Tran Widens Margin Over Steel in CD45

CITY NEWS SERVICE

Democratic challenger Derek Tran held a 314-vote lead over Republican Rep. Michelle Steel on Nov. 20 after adding 212 votes to his lead in the latest count of previously unprocessed ballots in the 45th Congressional District race.

Tran led 155,090-154,776 or 50.05% to 49.94%, according to the Secretary of State's Office.

The

consumer rights attorney and co-owner of a pharmacy with his wife Michelle trails in the Orange County portion of the district, 140,007-136,120 or 50.7%-49.3%,

but leads in the Los Angeles County portion — Artesia, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens and a portion of Lakewood — 18,970-14,769 or 56.23%-43.77%.

Tran had led by 102 votes entering the resumption of counting on Nov. 19. He took his first lead over the two-term incumbent on Nov. 16, moving ahead by 36 votes after trailing by 11,363 on Nov. 6, the day after the election.

Only previously unprocessed ballots in Orange County were counted Nov. 16. No ballots were counted Nov. 17.

Tran trailed by 7,590 votes Nov. 8; 6,901 on Nov. 9; 6,128 on Nov. 10, when only ballots from the Los Angeles County portion of the dis-

trict were counted; 3,908 on Nov. 11; 2,227 on Nov. 12; 349 on Nov. 13; 236 on Nov. 14; and 58 on Nov. 15.

It is not known how many ballots remain to be counted in the race.

"California's elections are a testament to the strength of our democracy. Every legally cast ballot must be counted, and our campaign is encouraged by the results we've seen so far," Tran's campaign manager, Gowri Buddiga, said in a statement.

"Voters in Orange and Los Angeles County deserve to have their voices heard, and we are confident that as the remaining vote-by-mail, provisional, and conditional ballots are tallied, Derek Tran will emerge victorious."

"Democracy requires a commitment to making sure every lawful vote is counted, and it is critical that elections officials are able to continue their work without interruption so every voter's voice is heard. Derek Tran is honored to be part of this process and remains optimistic that he will have the privilege of representing the people of California's 45th District in Congress. We would like to thank the election and county workers who continue to do their essential work in the face of lies, hostility, and bomb threats."

There was no immediate response to a message left with the Steel campaign seeking comment.



Derek Tran



Michelle Steel

Celebration of Giant Robot's 30th Anniversary

Greater Los Angeles JACL, co-hosting with Sansei Legacy, will present "Giant Robot: Asian American Pop Culture" online on Sunday, Nov. 24, from 1 to 2 p.m.

The book launch for "Giant Robot: Thirty Years of Defining Asian American Pop Culture" will feature Giant Robot founder Eric Nakamura and a virtual screening of two short films, "L.A. Times Today: A Showcase of Asian and Asian American-Centered Art in Little Tokyo" (5:45 minutes) and "Eric Nakamura: L.A. at Play" (3:44 minutes), a feature by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

In 1994, Nakamura launched a zine called Giant Robot — a

photocopied, hand-stapled fan-boy's collection of anime, kung fu movies, Japanese punk bands and skateboarding. Thirty years later, what started as a personal hobby has become a showcase of pop culture centering on Asian and Asian American artists.

An art exhibition celebrating the world of Giant Robot is currently on view at the Japanese American National Museum until Jan. 5, 2025.

After the films there will be a presentation by Nakamura on "Giant Robot: Asian American Pop Culture," followed by Q&A. Mitchell Matsumura will serve as moderator.

To RSVP and receive a Zoom link, email greaterlajacl@gmail.com.



Enjoying the Music of the Night

By GWEN MURANAKA

For one night only, *The Phantom* was in the house. Davis Gaines, who has performed the lead role in “*The Phantom of the Opera*” more than 2,000 times on Broadway and in Los Angeles and San Francisco, sang at an intimate gathering on Oct. 17 at the California Club in Downtown L.A.

Gaines sang Broadway standards including “Impossible Dream” from “*Man of La Mancha*,” “Ol’ Man River” from “*Showboat*,” and “It Only Takes a Moment” from “*Hello Dolly*.”

“To become a knight errant and sally forth into the world to right wrongs,” Gaines dramatically intoned as he introduced songs from “*Man of La Mancha*.” He received an Ovation Award in 2012 for his portrayal of Don Quixote.

The finale was devoted to “*Phantom of the Opera*.” The musical written by Andrew Lloyd Webber premiered on Broadway in 1988 and was the longest-running show in Broadway history.

Before becoming *The Phantom* on the L.A. stage, he performed the role of Raoul on Broadway and he shared that he was there when the curtain finally fell in April 2023. For the gathering at the California Club, he performed the musical’s most iconic songs, “All I Ask of You” and “Music of the Night.”

“I was fortunate enough to go back to New York and see the final performance. It was bittersweet,” Gaines said.

He performed at the invitation of Darlene Kuba, who has been a close friend for years. The concert was attended by many members of the Little Tokyo and Japanese American communities. Among them was Irene Matsubara, a long-time chief of staff to the late Councilmember Gilbert Lindsay. She was thrilled at the chance to once again hear Gaines.

“It was fantastic. I went so many times to see him in ‘Phantom’ from way back,” she said, noting that she has seen the charismatic performer at venues in L.A. and the Bay Area.

He will be performing at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts on March 15, 2025 for an evening of Broadway hits.

After the show, Gaines recalled performing when Bill Fujitoka retired in 2014 as the chief executive officer for Los Angeles County.

Kuba said, “There were 1,400 people at his retirement. When Davis got up and sang, you could hear a pin drop.”

“Well I think tonight was even better!” Gaines said in response.



Photos by GWEN MURANAKA except where noted

Davis Gaines, who has performed as the lead in “*Phantom of the Opera*” more than 2,000 times on Broadway and in Los Angeles and San Francisco, takes the stage at the California Club in Downtown Los Angeles.



Seated, from left: Linda Honda, Joyce Chinn, Peter Lai, Delia Snyder. Standing: Sally Mori, Margaret Narumi, Darlene Kuba, Kitty Sankey, Jan Perry, Yuko Kaifu. Below, seated: Vicki Ariyasu, Kari Nakama, Sharon Miyamoto Ota, Larry Pittman. Back: Judge Jerry Yang, Helen Yang, Bruce Saito, Darlene Kuba, Alec Saito, Wendy Shiba.



DARLENE KUBA

Gaines is joined by Irene Matsubara, who has seen him perform in “*Phantom*” more than a dozen times.

Ukrainian Sumo Wrestler Aonishiki Fights for His ‘Japanese Family’

KYODO NEWS

FUKUOKA.—Making his debut in the second-tier juryo division at the ongoing Kyushu Grand Sumo Tournament, promising Ukrainian wrestler Aonishiki says he will fight on behalf of his “Japanese family” who helped him after he fled the war in his home country.

The 20-year-old, whose real name is Danylo Yavhushyn, left Ukraine following the Russian invasion in February 2022 and first took refuge in Germany before heading to Japan, where he had made connections through his involvement in sumo.

While competing at the 2019 world junior sumo championships in Sakai, western Japan, he had befriended older wrestler Arata Yamanaka and maintained contact with him via social media.

Yamanaka would field frequent questions about sumo from the future Aonishiki and resolved to help the youngster make his way in the sport.

“I wanted to support him as much as I could to achieve his dream of becoming a sumo wrestler,” Yamanaka said.

In March 2022, Yamanaka received an unexpected request. “Can I evacuate to Japan?” A month later the then 18-year-old refugee arrived with his suitcase.

He lived and ate at Yamanaka’s family home in Kobe and trained hard at the Kansai University sumo club captained by his new Japanese “older brother.”

“I only met him once in person and he welcomed me, even though I couldn’t speak a word of Japanese,” Aonishiki said. “I was surprised when he said OK. If it were the other way around, I would have refused.”

Aonishiki made his competitive debut at last year’s Autumn Grand Sumo Tournament and has risen quickly to reach juryo after just seven meets. In a show of gratitude to Yamanaka, who now coaches the Kansai University sumo club, he bears the full ring name Aonishiki Arata.

“Now I feel like we’re fighting together,” the 25-year-old Yamanaka said.

Aonishiki is the second Ukrainian wrestler to earn promotion to juryo following Shishi, who is stepping up to the elite makuuchi division for the first time at the Kyushu meet.

“Thanks to Arata, I was able to come to Japan and meet so many people,” Aonishiki said. “If I hadn’t met him, I wouldn’t be who I am today.”



Arata Yamanaka/Kyodo

Ukrainian wrestler Aonishiki (left) poses alongside Arata Yamanaka in Sakai in 2022.

Karate Champion Sakura Kokumai to Appear at ESGVJCC Event Dec. 7

The East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center will partner with Fanded Inc. to present an afternoon with Sakura Kokumai on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 12 to 2 p.m.

Kokumai made history as the only woman to represent the U.S. in karate at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and recently made waves again by winning back-to-back golds in kata at the Pan American Games. As she continues to chase her Olympic dreams, she’s passionate about inspiring more girls and women to take up karate, and ad-



Sakura Kokumai

vocating for the sport’s return to the 2028 L.A. Olympics.

Kokumai will take part in a panel discussion, Q&A and a karate demonstration and clinic in the ESGVJCC Gym from 12 to 1 p.m. From 1 to 2 p.m., the event will move to the Social Hall for refreshments, mingling, photos, and a chance to chat with Kokumai.

ESGVJCC is located at 1203 W. Puente Ave., West Covina.

RSVP by Dec. 1 to tinyurl.com/SakuraEventRSVP. For information, email hello@fanded.com.



Saluting Vets in the IE

Rep. Mark Takano (D-Riverside) served as this year’s grand marshal in the 16th annual “A Salute to Veterans” Parade and Expo held in Downtown Riverside on Nov. 9. “I had a great time connecting with the community as we all gathered to honor the brave men and women who fought for our protection and freedom,” he said. “As the current ranking member of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, I remain committed to ensuring those who bravely served are never forgotten and receive the benefits and care they deserve.”



Janm
JAPANESE AMERICAN
NATIONAL MUSEUM

FINAL WEEKS!
ENDS
JANUARY 5

COMMON GROUND: THE HEART OF COMMUNITY



JANM’s core exhibition, *Common Ground: The Heart of Community* highlights over 140 years of Japanese American history. The center of the Museum for the last twenty-six years, it will be reimagined during JANM’s upcoming renovation. We invite you to visit and share your stories during *Common Ground*’s final weeks.

Special Event:

HONORING COMMON GROUND
Saturday, November 23, 2024 | 12–4 p.m.

Music, tours, and more. Share your memories of *Common Ground*.

Japanese American National Museum
100 N. Central Ave, Los Angeles 90012

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BASEBALL

Awards for Ohtani, HOF Ballot Debut for Ichiro, MLB Likely in Fireballer Sasaki's Future

KYODO NEWS / RAFU STAFF REPORTS

Shohei Ohtani won his second straight Hank Aaron Award on Nov. 14 in recognition of his stellar first season with the Dodgers in which he led the National League in home runs and RBIs.

The Japanese superstar was announced as the NL's winner of the award, given to the league's best offensive performer, shortly after being named to the All-MLB First Team as designated hitter.

He also claimed his fourth consecutive Edgar Martinez Outstanding Designated Hitter Award, winning in a unanimous vote by a panel including beat writers and broadcasters.

In his first year in the NL, Ohtani hit 54 home runs to lead his league for the second straight season and led in RBIs for the first time with 130.

Aaron Judge received the American League's Hank Aaron Award, won last year by Ohtani as a member of the Angels, while the New York Yankees outfielder also earned All-MLB First Team selection.

Ohtani is the first player to have won the Hank Aaron Award, selected by a panel of Hall of Famers and a fan vote, in both leagues. He did not attend the awards ceremony in Las Vegas after recently having left shoulder surgery, but gave his acceptance speech in a video message.

"It's an honor to receive an award named after the legendary Hank Aaron," Ohtani said. "My deep appreciation goes out to all the fans and Hall of Famers who voted for me. Your support means everything to me."

The All-MLB teams were chosen through a process in which 50 percent of the vote came from fans and the rest from a panel of experts.

Dodger outfielders Mookie Betts and Teoscar Hernandez earned All-MLB First Team and Second Team selections, respectively.

Ohtani earlier in the week picked up his third Silver Slugger Award, as the NL's best offensive player at designated hitter, tying Ichiro Suzuki for the most wins by a Japanese player.

He narrowly missed out on the Triple Crown with a .310 batting average, .004 back of the league leader.

Suzuki won the Silver Slugger in the outfield in 2001, 2007 and 2009 during his first stint with the Seattle Mariners.

Betts and Hernandez also won individual Silver Slugger Awards, and the Dodgers were named as the team award winner, with NL bests in various offensive categories, including doubles (291), homers (233), extra-base hits (550) and slugging percentage (.446).

The 30-year-old Ohtani is the favorite to win the NL MVP Award to be announced on Nov. 21.

First-year Chicago Cubs lefty Shota Imanaga was named to the second team, and surprised the award ceremony by singing along with a band performing the team's theme song, "Go Cubs Go."

Imanaga, who had recited part of the song's lyrics at his introductory press conference in January, further endeared himself to Cubs fans by going 15-3 with a 2.91 ERA and 174 strikeouts in 29 starts.

The National Baseball Hall of Fame on Monday unveiled its 2025 ballot featuring 14 newly eligible candidates, including Ichiro, widely considered a shoo-in for the honor in his first vote.

The 51-year-old will need to be named on at least 75 percent of the ballots cast by selected baseball journalists to win induction into the



MIKEY HIRANO CULROSS / Rafu Shimpo
Shohei Ohtani bats in a July game at Dodger Stadium.

Hall of Fame. Given his groundbreaking career and success in the majors over 18-plus seasons, there has been speculation Suzuki could be the second-ever unanimous pick, after former Yankees closer Mariano Rivera.

Suzuki, the first position player from Japan to sign with a major league club, won both the Rookie of the Year and American League MVP awards in his debut season with the Mariners in 2001. A 10-time All-Star and 10-time Gold Glove winner, he racked up 3,089 hits and 509 stolen bases, playing mostly for the Mariners but also for the Yankees and Miami Marlins before retiring in March 2019.

Hall of Fame candidates must have played in MLB for at least 10 years, and become eligible for consideration five years after retirement. Those who fail to reach the 75 percent threshold can appear on successive ballots for up to 10 years, as long as they receive at least five percent of the vote.

The voting will take place by the end of the year, with the results slated for announcement on Jan. 21.

Star pitcher Roki Sasaki thanked the Lotte Marines and their fans Sunday in his first public appearance since the club announced it will post him for a move to Major League Baseball this offseason.

Many MLB clubs are expected to woo the 23-year-old right-hander, who was Lotte's first-round pick in the 2019 draft and has a 29-15 career record with a 2.10 ERA over four seasons with the Marines.

Speaking at a fan event at Lotte's home ground, Zozo Marine Stadium in Chiba, near Tokyo, Sasaki vowed to "do my best in the United States."

"All of the warm encouragement and tough love I've received will give me strength," he said.

Lotte manager Masato Yoshii, who pitched in MLB, introduced Sasaki at the event and urged Marines fans to continue supporting him.

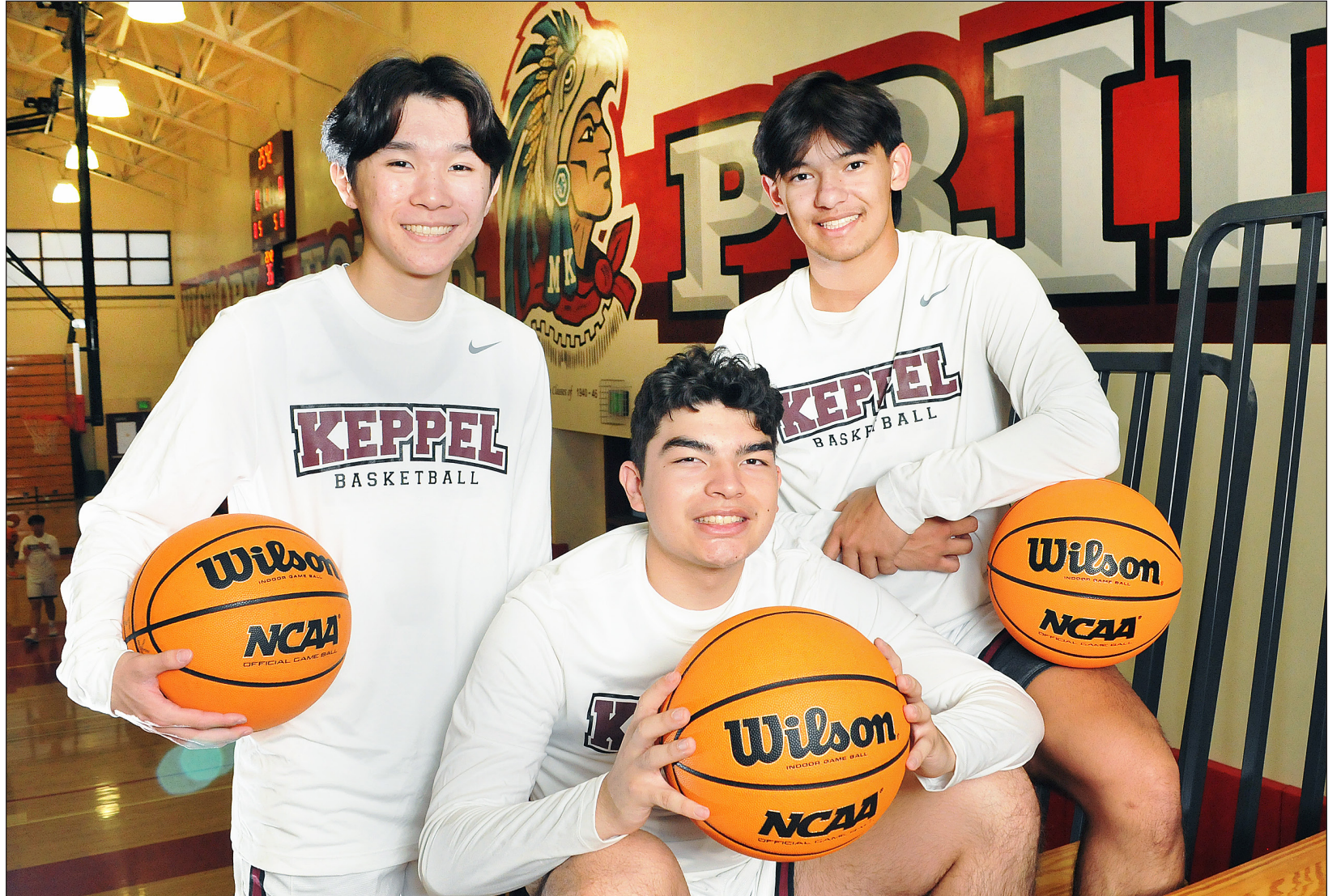
"We have a player who will leave the Marines and challenge himself to reach new heights," Yoshii said. "I would like to give him a warm send-off."

Renowned as Japan's hardest-throwing pitcher, the talented but injury-prone Sasaki threw a perfect game in April 2022 against the Orix Buffaloes.

Reflecting on his time in Chiba, Sasaki said there had been ups and downs but he was grateful for the support he received.

"There were times when things didn't go well because of injuries and other reasons, but I was able to get through them thanks to the support of the manager, coaches, teammates, staff, and many other people," he said.

Fans loudly applauded Sasaki and voiced their encouragement, with some shouting, "Ganbare" meaning "do your best" in Japanese.



From left, Josh Kinoshita, Jake Manell and Jimmy Osorio are part of a Keppel squad that looks to repeat last year's unbeaten record in the Almont League. The Aztecs got off to a solid start on Tuesday with a 57-43 victory over visiting Mesrobian.

Aztecs Ready to Roll

From youth leagues to the prep spotlight, the boys of Mark Keppel are the team to beat in the Almont League.

By MIKEY HIRANO CULROSS
RAFU SPORTS EDITOR

"This is kind of surreal, thinking about this as the beginning of my last year," said Jimmy Osorio. The senior at Mark Keppel mused about his final high school year after his Aztecs got the 2024-25 basketball season off to a winning start on Tuesday.

"Basketball has meant a lot in my life - from a way to exercise to making new friends, and now they're like family to me."

Osorio is part of a cadre of Keppel players who grew up playing ball in youth leagues like CYC. He's in his final year with the Pasadena Bruins and also played for the L.A. Hawks.

While not playing, he's still active with CYC, lending his skills as a referee and scorekeeper.

For good measure, he played soccer for most of his early youth,

and despite being the smallest player on the field, was his team's regular goalkeeper.

Osorio is in the weight room most mornings at 5 a.m. The resulting muscular build is a key reason he started as the Aztecs' center - at a not-so-towering 5'10" - on Tuesday.

Other current Keppel players with CYC experience include senior guard Josh Kinoshita, juniors Jake Manell and Brody Velasquez and sophomore Jake Amimoto-Ha.

"When I first joined this team, it was pretty clear that the leadership was strong, and that inspired me to really give my best," Kinoshita said. "Maybe I didn't realize it at the time, but all these lessons we're learning - leadership, discipline, teamwork - translate to other aspects of life."

Velasquez said his role this season will be to learn as much as possible, and to be ready to step into the leadership role through next season. Head coach Hung Duong made a particular point during Tuesday's 57-43 win over Mesrobian to shout ongoing instructions to Velasquez while he was on the court.

"I had some struggles last year,

but this year, Coach has been telling me to take it slow and not get ahead of myself," he explained. "It's been a lot of work, but it's still fun."

Manell said the biggest change he's seen in himself over the last year is confidence.

"I'm a lot more comfortable now when they call on me," he explained. "I want to be the main option when the team needs it."

Keppel ran the table last year, finishing 10-0 in the Almont League.

They faced off against Temple City on Thursday, and open a tournament Monday versus Hoover of Glendale. Their first league match is set for Jan. 13 when they host Montebello.

Osorio's mother, Kay, was beaming among other parents in the stands as the new season got under way.

"We've all put in so much effort and work since they were little," she said. "When Senior Night comes, it's going to be almost as special as the high school graduation."



Above, Jake Amimoto-Ha sets the offense in Tuesday's season-opening win. "There's a lot of experience to gain here, learning not just basketball, but life skills," the sophomore said.

Left photo: in the middle of the scrum, Osorio muscles his way to protecting the ball from opposing defenders.

At right, junior shooting guard Brody Velasquez warms up before the game.

Photos by MIKEY HIRANO CULROSS
Rafu Shimpo



Roki Sasaki of the Lotte Marines pitches against the Hiroshima Carp at Mazda Stadium in Hiroshima on June 8.

JAVA Honors Vets in Washington, D.C. Ceremony on Veterans Day

WASHINGTON.—The Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) and the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation honored Japanese American veterans and those lost during World War II in the nation's capital on Veterans Day (Nov. 11).

With members of the U.S. military and the local Asian American community, the group heard 93-year-old Japanese American Korean War veteran Norio Uyematsu, from Anaheim, as keynote speaker.

JAVA President Howard High said, "We cannot forget the courage, resilience, and sacrifices of our soldiers in this 'Forgotten War.' I am very thankful to Norio for his enduring efforts in representing these Japanese American veterans who fought and served in the Korean War."

"Four representatives from the Embassy of Japan, led by Minister and Head of Chancery Masaru Sato, attended our event, demonstrating strong support for our efforts and building on the steadfast friendship and relationship between the U.S. and Japan." JAVA Vice President Danielle Ngo served as emcee.

Highlights of the event will be shared in JAVA's upcoming newsletter.

At right: JAVA President Howard High (left) and Korean War veteran Norio Uyematsu.



PHOTOGRAPH BY PATRICK HIRANAKA



IT PAYS TO KNOW *By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.*

Learn to Give Thanks

As a Japanese American and life-long Dodger fan, I couldn't have been happier that Shohei Ohtani and Yoshinobu Yamamoto helped the Dodgers win the 2024 World Series championship. After signing a record-shattering \$700 million, 10-year contract, Ohtani receives an annual cash payment of \$2 million and will take deferred annual payments of \$68 million starting in 2035.

I wanted to find something on Shohei for this Thanksgiving article, but since I don't read or speak Japanese, it's been very difficult. The best I found was that his father, Toru Ohtani, worked, trained and coached him to constantly get better. I did find, however, a very famous actor who makes comparable income, i.e., \$2 million a month, that has quite a bit to say about giving thanks.

Denzel Washington, actor, producer, director, has been regarded as one of the best actors of his generation. His mother, Lennis "Lynne," was a beauty parlor owner and operator born in Georgia and partly raised in Harlem. His father, Denzel Hayes Washington Sr., was an ordained Pentecostal minister who was also an employee of the New York City Water Department and worked at a local S. Klein department store.

Washington is a member of the West Angeles Church of God in Christ, located in Los Angeles. According to Wikipedia, he has considered becoming a preacher. He stated in 1999, "A part of me still says, 'Maybe, Denzel, you're supposed to preach. Maybe you're still compromising.' I've had an opportunity to play great men and, through their words, to preach. I take what talent I've been given seriously, and I want to use it for good."

Now, if you're finding it difficult to find things to be grateful for this Thanksgiving, Denzel Washington has some valuable advice. He has posted several motivational (inspirational) speeches online. The following are bits and pieces of the one titled "The Power of Gratitude." (www.youtube.com/watch?v=desktop&v=WflazhScLYk)

Every day, life gives us reasons to be thankful. I'm grateful to see another day. No, things aren't perfect. I don't have everything I want. But I'm thankful to still be here. Each new day is another chance to live, to contribute and to make a difference. Becoming a human is a rare gift and I am one. I have many good things going for me. And for that, I am grateful.

You are alive against incredible odds. You get to breathe air, watch sunsets and gaze at the night sky. Every morning, I find 10 things to be grateful for before my feet hit the ground. If I'm feeling stressed, I go over my gratitude list because gratitude reduces stress throughout the day. Happiness comes from being grateful.

Too often we focus on what we don't have instead of appreciating what we do. But we miss them because we're too busy focusing on what we don't have, or what didn't go the way we wanted. We get caught up in comparing our lives to others, and chasing after things that we think will make us happy, and in dwelling on the problems that seem to pile up.

If you live in a state of worry or frustration, your life becomes worry and frustration. Stop letting the challenges define your existence. Once you see life through the lens of gratitude and opportunity, it becomes enjoyable. You get to decide — whether you'll dwell on problems or see opportunities and be grateful. The moment you shift your focus from what's lacking to what you already have the entire atmosphere of your life begins to change.

Gratitude is one of the most powerful forces that can shift your entire perspective on life. When you choose to embrace gratitude, you are making

a decision to see the world through a different lens. Gratitude, i.e., that simple act of acknowledging the good in your life, can change everything. It doesn't remove the difficulties, but it transforms the way you deal with them. It helps you focus not on what's wrong but on what's right.

When you allow yourself to focus on even the smallest glimmer of hope or joy, e.g., something as simple as a breath, a memory, or a loved one, you suddenly find the strength to keep going. Gratitude doesn't erase the pain, but it makes it bearable because it shifts your perspective. It pulls your focus away from the defeat and redirects it toward the things that are still standing, still steady, still worth fighting for.

When you practice gratitude you aren't giving in to defeat. You're choosing to stand tall in the midst of chaos. You're choosing to believe that there's more to your story than the current chapter of struggle. Gratitude cultivates resilience because it reminds you of the good even when you're surrounded by bad. It gives you a reason to keep moving forward when every instinct is telling you to



stop. Gratitude cultivates resilience because it refuses to let the difficulties of life define you. It reminds you that there's always something to be thankful for, something to fight for, something to hold on to. It's a mindset that says, yes, this is hard but I'm still here. Yes, I've been knocked down, but I will rise again. In that mindset you find the strength to keep going, to keep pushing, and to keep fighting.

In the face of adversity, gratitude changes the conversation in your mind. Instead of "Why me?" it becomes "What am I still grateful for?" It may start small like a flicker of light in the darkness, but with each acknowledgment of the good in your life it grows stronger. That flicker becomes a flame. And before you know it becomes a fire that fuels your determination to keep pushing, to keep striving, to rise again and again no matter how many times you fall.

The power of gratitude is that it doesn't ask you to deny the struggle. It simply asks you to see beyond it. Life will throw curveballs and there will be times when you feel like everything is falling apart. But in those moments, gratitude becomes your anchor. It doesn't mean you ignore the struggles. But you begin to see them differently. You start to realize that even in the darkest moments there is always something to be thankful for — ALWAYS.

Gratitude is not just a fleeting feeling — it's a mindset, a way of being. It forces you to stop dwelling on the negative. That shift is not just a small adjustment, it's a profound change in how you approach every situation every day. It shifts your attention from the setbacks to the opportunities that come disguised within them.

When you practice gratitude consistently, it starts to shape the way your mind works. Your brain becomes wired to look for good in every situation. It becomes second nature to focus on the positive instead of dwelling on the negative. And trust me, once you start looking for the good, you'll find it everywhere. The world is full of small, beautiful moments that often go unnoticed because we're too distracted by what we think is going wrong.

When you allow yourself to slow down to truly observe you start to

see the blessings in your life, you notice the warmth of the sun on your skin during a walk, the way the wind feels against your face, or the joy that comes from hearing a child laugh. These moments may seem insignificant at first glance, but they are what makes life rich and meaningful. That's what gratitude does for you.

Gratitude asks you to pause, to step back and recognize that right now in this moment there is something to appreciate. It might be small, it might seem insignificant, but it's there. You woke up this morning with breath in your lungs. That is a reason to be grateful. Not everyone gets that gift. Not everyone gets to see another sunrise, to feel the fresh air feel their lungs, to be alive for another day.

That's what gratitude does. It gives you a reason to stay in the fight when all logic tells you to throw in the towel. It reminds you that even in the darkest moments there's still light. Gratitude transforms your energy. When you focus on what you're thankful for, your energy shifts from defeat to determination. It's like flipping a switch. You start to recognize that while you may not be able to control everything that happens to you, you can control how you respond to it.

You can choose to see the good even in the midst of the bad. And in that choice resilience is built. Gratitude fuels your resilience by reminding you that life, no matter how tough it gets, is still worth fighting for. You become unshakable. Not because life has stopped throwing punches, but because you've learned how to roll with them, how to get back up each time stronger than before.

And here's the best part — when you live being grateful you attract more of the things you're grateful for. You create a positive cycle of abundance, joy, and fulfillment that grows stronger with each passing day. That's the power of gratitude. It doesn't just keep you moving forward, it gives you a reason to move forward. It grounds you in the present while keeping your eyes fixed on the future.

In conclusion, here's what Denzel Washington had to say at a graduation ceremony speech that I found on Facebook (www.facebook.com/watch/?v=261060219114632):

"Learn to give thanks. Give thanks for who you are, what you have and what is to come. Be grateful to God for the life you have and how far you have come. Say 'thank you' for, your life, family, grace, mercy, understanding, wisdom, love, health, peace. And say 'thank you' in advance for what is already yours. Proclaim breakthroughs into your life through gratitude."

"Live a daily life of gratitude. It opens more ways for you. The Bible says in Philippians 4:6, 'Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.' God listens to a grateful heart."

"I pray that you put your slippers away under your bed tonight. So that when you wake up in the morning you must get on your knees to reach for them. And while you're down there, say thank you for grace, thank you for mercy, thank you for understanding, thank you for wisdom, thank you for parents, thank you for love, thank you for kindness, thank you for humility, thank you for peace, thank you for prosperity."

"Say thank you in advance for what's already yours. It's how I live my life. That's one of the reasons why I am who I am today. Say thank you in advance for what is already yours."

Judd Matsunaga, Esq., is the founding partner of the Law Offices of Matsunaga & Associates, specializing in estate/Medi-Cal planning, probate, personal injury and real estate law. With offices in Torrance, Hollywood, Sherman Oaks, Pasadena and Fountain Valley, he can be reached at (800) 411-0546. Opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of The Rafu Shimpo.



THROUGH THE FIRE *By Mary Uyematsu Kao*

Thanksgiving 2024

As the world keeps turning, heads are spinning from the recent election results. Trump's clean sweep acknowledges the Democratic Party's deep deficiencies. So on this last Thanksgiving before Trump takes office, what can we be thankful for?

I can only speak for myself, but for the sake of the Japanese American community, we ought to be thankful for whistle-blowers who have stopped the destruction of our community institutions.

Today the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (JACCC) stands seemingly unscathed from their near death just 12 years ago. We should be giving thanks to Marlene Murakami Lee for blowing the whistle on Greg Willis, the CEO who was instituting many alarming "changes" and layoffs in 2012. It was discovered that he was an international criminal who profited from closing down failing corporations in Mexico, Canada, and France.

Two years after Willis "walked," Keiro was put on the auction block in 2014, under the same overlapping leadership on the boards of the JACCC and Keiro.

Marlene was never given the proper recognition as the whistle-blower. While the dust was still settling from the Greg Willis disaster, the JACCC board tried to lay off Marlene. A community petition put a stop to this. But come the pandemic, Marlene was terminated in July of 2020.

Without any public thanks for almost 38 years of service and the longest-serving employee of the JACCC, Marlene received a pittance for her severance. Marlene's many connections with community people were not valued because they were not the "big bucks" that the JACCC board caters to. This is the sad plight of a whistle-blower. Not only should the JACCC be thankful to Marlene, they should honor and support her in her retirement.

While we were taught in grade school that Thanksgiving was the beginning of a friendship between the Mayflower Pilgrims and Native Americans, there has been a long history of Native American people's disappearance from the American stage. On Oct. 25 at the Gila River Indian Community, President Biden offered an apology to Native Americans for the U.S. government's role in imprisoning tens of thousands of children in government-funded boarding schools.

This historic apology took place near where thousands of JAs were incarcerated in the Gila concentration camp. The timing was unmistakable for hustling votes in the Arizona swing state just days before Election Day.

Deb Haaland stood at Biden's side, to her credit for making this apology possible. A Biden appointee, Haaland is the first Native American ever appointed as a Cabinet member — secretary of the interior. Haaland led the department's investigation that found evidence of close to a thousand children's remains, buried at these schools. Activists and researchers say "tens of thousands were never heard from again." (Reuters, 5/11/2022)

Between 1869 and 1969, hundreds of thousands of Native American children were taken from their homes and

families. The government's Indian boarding school policy stated: "Kill the Indian, Save the Man." By 1926, nearly 83% of Indian school-age children were in boarding schools. (boardingschoolhealing.org)

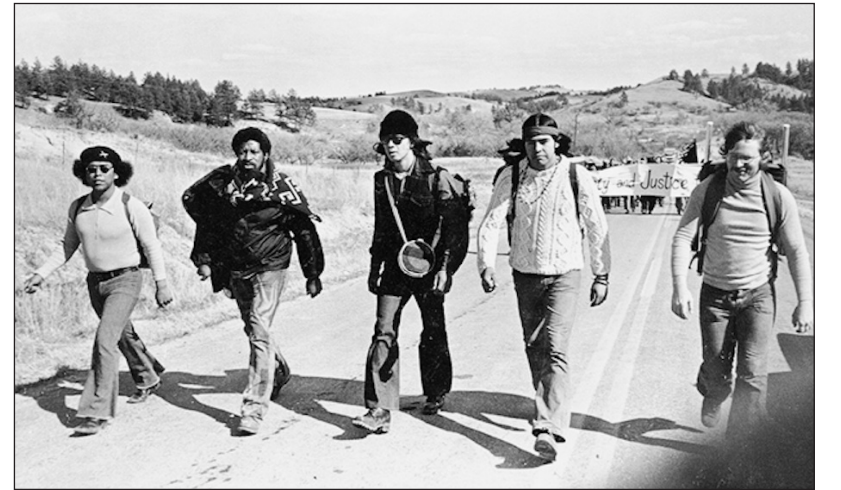
Biden was barely into his apology when a protester interrupted him: "How can you apologize for a genocide while committing a genocide in Palestine? Free Palestine! Free Palestine!" (democracynow.org, 10/28/24)

The day before the apology, the NDN Collective acknowledged that it was the first U.S. government admission to its role in "the generations of harm caused by abusive and deadly mandatory residential schools" cutting off generations of children from their language, culture, family, and community. "Apologies must include meaningful action to repair the harm done — otherwise, they are just manipulative tools giving the semblance

a roadblock with 75 armed BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs), FBI agents, and white vigilantes. "They almost outnumbered the marchers, who were unarmed and on a non-violent march." (Asians for Solidarity with Wounded Knee, *Gidra*, June 1973)

The occupation ended on May 8, 1973, after Frank Clearwater and Lawrence "Buddy" Lamont had been killed. The U.S. government employed 300-500 U.S. marshals, FBI, BIA police and National Guard, 50 armored personnel carriers, M-16s, military helicopters, grenade launchers, and more. (*Gidra*, June 1973)

In the following three years, the corrupt tribal chair Wilson had his private militia murder over 60 tribal and AIM members at the Pine Ridge Reservation, under watch of the FBI. AIM leader Peltier was asked by Pine Ridge's traditional people to help protect them from Wilson's violence. Peltier was framed for the murder of two FBI agents in 1975 with false



Anonymous photographer/Asians for Solidarity with Wounded Knee

The support march for the occupation of Wounded Knee in 1973. "According to the traditional medicine men of the Oglala Sioux, it fulfills the prophecy that when the four races get together, they will purify the land" (press release for march). This iconic photo shows representatives of the four races leading the march, with Tatsuo Hirano representing "Asians for Solidarity with Wounded Knee."

of care to distract from continued wrongdoing." (ndncollective.org)

The NDN Collective called for several reparations for the damage that's been done, but the most expedient and easily realizable reparations is for Biden to grant clemency to Leonard Peltier, a boarding school survivor, and a political prisoner for over 50 years.

Nick Tilsen, head of NDN Collective, added: "If the Democrats want the Indian people's vote, they must stand with us in deep solidarity with the Palestinian people for freedom and for justice and for liberation ... and we call for a ceasefire." (Interview on "Democracy Now," 10/28/2024)

Over 50 years ago, Asians for Solidarity with Wounded Knee embarked on a 100-mile march with other people of color and progressive forces, in support of the occupation of Wounded Knee in 1973.

The occupation was a 71-day armed standoff between federal military forces and Oglala Lakota tribal members and the American Indian Movement (AIM). In protest against corrupt tribal chairman Richard A. Wilson and broken treaties made by the U.S. government, the occupation was inspirational and symbolic to Native Americans nationally because of the 1890 U.S. military massacre of 300 Lakota people at Wounded Knee.

The support march started on Easter Sunday, April 22. By April 25, the march ended when they were met with

evidence coerced from FBI victims.

Peltier was denied clemency from Presidents Clinton and Obama, while those who have supported clemency included Nelson Mandela, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Mother Theresa, Tenzin Gyatso (the 14th Dalai Lama), Pope Francis, Amnesty International, Committee of Concerned Scientists — just to name a few. Peltier is now 80 years old.

Thanksgiving has many different meanings for all of our differences, but is there something to be thankful for by the majority who suffer under the war — and profit-mongering rule of the 0.1%?

For *Rafu* readers, we can all thank Gwen Muranaka for all her years of tremendous editorship. The *Rafu Shimpo* team got through many rough times under her leadership. And as a second Trump presidency forebodes rougher times ahead, I give thanks to the undying spirit of resistance ...

Mary Uyematsu Kao was the publications coordinator for the UCLA Asian American Studies Center for 30 years. She received her MA from UCLA Asian American Studies in 2007. She published a photo/journal book, "Rockin' the Boat: Flashbacks of the 1970s Asian Movement," in 2020. She can be reached for comments, questions, and/or criticisms at uyematsu72@gmail.com. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Rafu Shimpo.

OBITUARIES

Taeko Haneda

Taeko Haneda, 82, born in Japan and a longtime resident of Montebello, Calif., passed away peacefully on October 30, 2024.

She is survived by daughter, Hiroko Ann Haneda; granddaughters, Kristen and Kaci Kobayashi and Aimi Woo.

Honoring her request, a private funeral service will be held on a later day.

www.fukuimortuary.com
(213) 626-0441

Tokiko Bobbie Tokunaga

TOKUNAGA, Tokiko Bobbie (88) passed away October 18, 2024. Born October 13, 1936, in Gar-

dena, California. Graduate of Long Beach Polytechnic High School and longtime resident of Bellflower, California.

Beloved wife of Frank Tokunaga; mother of William (Denise) Tokunaga and Mark (Todd) Tokunaga; grandmother of Bryan (Robyn) Tokunaga; and great-grandmother of

Bryan Michael Tokunaga.

Memorial and Celebration of Life services were held November 21, 2024, at Green Hills Memorial Park, 27501 South Western Ave., Rancho Palos Verdes, with Rodney Tanaka presiding. Fukui Mortuary directors. www.fukuimortuary.com
(213) 626-0441

Yoko Sato Loi



Mrs. Yoko Sato Loi passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on November 11, 2024.

She is survived by her son, Alex Loi; daughter, Christine Loi; brothers, Motochiro (Dodieu Huyen) Sato and Katsumi Sato of Japan; nephews, Mitsunori and Akira Sato and relatives.

Family funeral services were on November 15, 2024, at Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. www.fukuimortuary.com (213) 626-0441

Nobuko Motozaki

Nobuko was born in 1939, to Wasaburo and Yoneyo Enomoto in Wakayama, Japan. In 1961 she married Robert Motozaki and moved to the U.S. and worked at the family business, Thornton Nursery, in Fremont, Calif. In 1973, the couple moved to Reno, Nevada. In 2014, Robert passed away. In 2022, Nobuko moved to Campbell, Calif. She eventually passed in October. Nobuko was 85 years old.

Nobuko is predeceased by her husband, Robert; son, Cary; and brother, Toshio Enomoto. She is survived by her son, Andy (Eileen); grandchildren, Sarah and Alex; and five sisters, Sawako Miyata, Kayoko Enomoto, Katsuko Fukushima, Chikako Ujita, and Motoko Nakayama.

Chapel of the Chimes Hayward (510) 471-3363

Ichiro Yoshimoto

September 22, 1935 - November 6, 2024

Yoshimoto, Ichiro "David" passed away peacefully in West Los Angeles. Born in Los Angeles to Seikichi and Sugie Yoshimoto, Ichiro spent his first seven years on Terminal Island, a Japanese fishing village in the Los Angeles Port. Following his internment at the Manzanar Relocation Center during WWII, Ichiro and his family settled in Boyle Heights where he attended Hollenbeck Junior High School. He later graduated from Manual Arts High School, Class of '54.

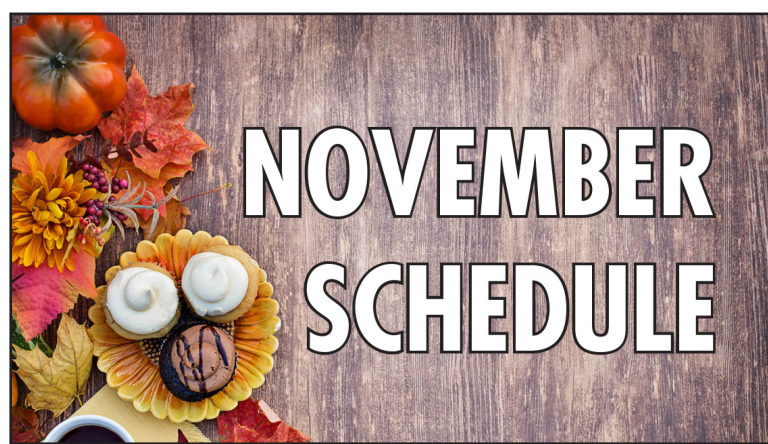
A U.S. Army veteran, Ichiro worked various jobs in Los Angeles using his AA degree skills, and retired from the County of Los Angeles. Ichiro was all about having a good time and made sure everyone laughed at family/friend gatherings, especially when playing card games.

He will be missed by his friends and family. Pursuant to Ichiro's wishes, there will be no services and his ashes will be scattered at sea. The family requests no koden.

Ichiro Yoshimoto

RELIGION

RAFU Event Calendar



Gardena Buddhist Church 1517 W. 166th St, Gardena 90247, 310-327-9400. Gardenabuddhistchurch.org.

Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple 505 E. 3rd St, L.A. 90013, 213-626-4200. hbbt-la.org. Bishop Noriaki Ito.

Jodoshu North America Buddhist Missions P.O. Box 11068, Torrance, CA 90510, 213-346-9666.

Koyasan Buddhist Temple 342 E. 1st St, L.A. 90012, 213-624-1267. www.koyasanbetsuin.org.

Las Vegas Buddhist Sangha 4110 N Martin Luther King Blvd, North Las Vegas, NV 89032, 702-483-9754. LVBS.org. Led by Bishop Rev. Marvin Harada and minister's assistants. Please join us every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 10 am.

L.A. Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple 815 E. 1st St, L.A. 90012, 213-680-9130. nishihongwanji-la.org. Rimban William Briones. Services are back in-person. We do recommend that masks be worn while indoors.

Long Beach Buddhist Church 2360 Santa Fe Ave, Long Beach 90810, 562-426-4014. Nov 24 (Sun), 10 am—Monthly Shitsumi memorial services.

Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church 144 S. Greenwood Ave, Montebello 90640, 323-721-5568. montebellocc.org, facebook.com/mpccucc. Please join us for online worship Sunday mornings at 10 am at "mpccucc" on Facebook Live or YouTube. For information about live online youth/young adult Bible study, please send a

message to BJ Reyes at summerexkids@yahoo.com. 神は今も話しかけている。

Orange County Buddhist Church 909 S. Dale Ave, Anaheim 92804, 714-827-9590. Ocbuddhist.org. Nov 23 (Sat), 7 pm—Zoom BEC Japanese class (Rev. Dr. Mutsumi Wondra). Nov 24 (Sun), 8:30 am—Mindfulness service (in-person); 10 am—Sunday service (hybrid); 11 am—Adult discussion and Dharma School (in-person). Nov 26 (Tue); Office closed. Nov 28 (Thu), 29 (Fri): Office closed in observance of Thanksgiving. Dec 1 (Sun): No services in observance of Thanksgiving. Dec 3 (Tue): Office closed. Dec 4 (Wed), 7 pm—Zoom mindfulness service. Dec 5 (Thu), 9 am—Tai chi class (in-person). Dec 7 (Sat), 4:30 pm—Shotsuki Hoyo monthly memorial service (in-person). Dec 8 (Sun), 8:30 am—Mindfulness service (in-person); 10 am—Sunday service (hybrid); 11 am—Adult discussion and Dharma School (in-person).

Pasadena Buddhist Temple 1993 Glen Ave, Pasadena 91103, 626-798-4781. Pasadenabuddhisttemple.org. Resident minister: Rev. Jundo Gregory Gibbs. Nov 22 (Thu), 1 pm—Tai chi as exercise, senior-friendly, start anytime (40 min). Nov 24 (Sun), 10 am—Buddhist service, Dharma message in English, "Why Be Grateful?" (40 min); 11 am—Buddhist Women's Association meeting. Nov 26 (Tue), 11 am—Discussion class, join anytime, "What Must We Defend?" (40 min); 1 pm—Tai chi chuan, Yang style, Cheng-man Ching lineage (40 min); 6 pm—Meditation/Sutra chanting/vocal Nembutsu (45 min); 7 pm—Buddhist study class, "Promises Are Real" (40 min).

Senshin Buddhist Temple 1311

W. 37th St, L.A. 90007, 323-731-4617. senshintemple@gmail.com, senshintemple.org.

SNI Church (Seicho-No-Ie) South Bay Center 14527 S. Vermont Ave, Gardena 90247.

SNI Church (Seicho-No-Ie) Orange Center 2225 E. Lincoln Ave, Anaheim, 92806, 714-776-5759.

Union Church of L.A. 401 E. Third St, L.A. 90013, 213-629-3876. www.unionchurchla.org. Email: English@unionchurchla.org, Nichigo@unionchurchla.org. Weekly worship is held at 11 am in-person and on Zoom.

Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple 12371 Braddock Dr. Culver City, 90230. 310-391-4351. vbht.org. We are open for in-person Sunday and Tuesday morning services at 9:30 am. On Nov 24 at 9:30 am, we will hold our Tsuki Tsuito Hoyo monthly memorial service, remembering those who passed away during the month of November over the years. Please check our website, vbht.org, for more information.

W. Covina Buddhist Temple 1203 W. Puente Ave, W. Covina 91790, 626-689-1040. livingdharma.org. Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi. On Sunday, Nov 24, Sunday service will be held at 10 am both in-person and online. Dharma message will be delivered by Rev. Miyoshi. Please contact the temple (wbtt.livingdharma@gmail.com) to receive a meeting ID and passcode to join the service online.

W.L.A. Buddhist Temple 2003 Corinth Ave, L.A. 90025, 310-477-7274. Rev. Koho Takata and Rev. Koe Umezu. Nov 24 (Sun), 10 am—Service.

Wintersburg Presbyterian Church 2000 N. Fairview St, Santa Ana 92706, 714-740-9400. wintersburg.org.

Zenshuji Soto Mission 123 S. Hewitt St, L.A. 90012, 213-624-8658. Check for details and schedule changes: www.zenshuji.org. Zen Aerobics for Seniors and their family and friends on Sundays, 1 pm offered online Zoom and in-person when conditions are deemed safe. Call to confirm the schedule and check the website for additional classes.

South Bay Japanese Episcopal Church 408 S. Broadway, Redondo Beach, 90277, 323-616-4208.

Sozenji Buddhist Temple 3020 W. Beverly Blvd, Montebello 90640, 323-724-6866.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church 1432 Engracia Ave, Torrance, 90501, 310-328-3781.

St. Francis Xavier Chapel Japanese Catholic Center (Maryknoll) 222 S. Hewitt St, L.A. 90012, 213-626-2279.

St. John's Episcopal Cathedral 514 West Adams Blvd, Los Angeles, 90017, 213-747-6285.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church 961 S. Mariposa Ave, L.A. 90006, 213-387-1334.

Sukyo Mahikari Centers for Spiritual Development 860 E. Mariposa St, Altadena, 91001, 626-529-4160, 23151 Camino Altosano, Rancho Santa Margarita, 949-459-1409 and 3525 Lomita Blvd., Torrance, 310-987-3082.

Sunrise Foursquare Church 5853 Laurel Canyon Blvd, Valley Village 91607, 818-782-8738.

Sunrise Van Nuys Church 14705 Wyandotte St, Van Nuys 91405, 818-782-8738.

Tenrikyo Mission HQ in America 2727 E. First St, L.A. 90033, 323-261-3379.

Torrance First Lutheran Church 2900 Carson St, Torrance 90503, 310-320-9920.

Venice Free Methodist 4871 Centinela Ave, L.A. 90066, 310-822-8094.

W. Covina Christian Church 1100 E. Cameron Ave, W. Covina 91790, 626-917-0743.

Westlight Community Church 2650 Federal Avenue, L.A., 90064.

W.L.A. Holiness Church 1710 S. Butler Ave, L.A. 90025, 310-473-2138 (E), 310-473-2130 (J).

W.L.A. United Methodist Church 1913 Purdue Ave, L.A. 90025, 310-479-1379.

Have The Rafu Shimpo Delivered! Call 213-629-2231

We welcome submissions to our Events Calendar. Email information to ryamamoto@rafu.com.

NOV 24 and 26 — 30th anniversary screening of Isao Takahata's "Pom Poko" at selected theaters. Nov 24 (dubbed), 3 and 7 pm; Nov 26 (subtitled), 7 pm. Theater locations and tickets: www.fathom-events.com/events/pom-poko-30th-anniversary-studio-ghibli-fest-2024/

NOV 25 — Home Fire Safety and Emergency Preparedness, 11:15 am-12:15 pm at Venice Japanese Community Center, 12448 Braddock Dr, Los Angeles. Speakers: Capt Manny Zepeda of Fire Station 62 and his team. Light refreshments served. Funded by Keiro Grants Program. Free but sign-ups required. Info: Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, (310) 391-4351, vbhtlive@gmail.com; Gayle Hiram of VJCC, (310) 890-1732

NOV 25 and 27 — Isao Takahata's "The Tale of the Princess Kaguya" at selected theaters. Nov 25 (dubbed), 7 pm; Nov 27 (subtitled), 7 pm. Theater locations and tickets: www.fathomevents.com/events/the-tale-of-the-princess-kaguya-studio-ghibli-fest-2024/

NOV 29-DEC 1 — Wood carving demonstrations at Japan House Los Angeles, 6801 Hollywood Blvd, Hollywood. *Danjiri* wood carving. Nov 29-Dec 1, 11 am-5 pm. Free. Wooden tag carving, Nov 30, 1-2:30 pm. Fee: \$50. Led by Akihiko Maeda, a woodcarving master from Osaka Prefecture. Registration: <https://bit.ly/3UOLfm5>. Info: (800) 516-0565, japanhousela.com

NOV 30 — Hana Holiday Craft Show, 9 am-2 pm at Ken Miller Recreation Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd, Torrance. Support local artists and small businesses, shop for handmade and other unique gifts, including apparel, home goods and accessories. Free admission and parking. Info: hanacraftshow@gmail.com, hanacraftshow.com

Through NOV 30 and DEC 1-5 — Nihon Buyo Kai presents its virtual autumn fundraiser (donate what you are able) by posting classical Japanese dances performed at its 2023 "Afternoon of Japanese Dance." Part 1, available for viewing through Nov 30, features "Nagare" (Azuma Ryu), "Kurokami" (Bando Ryu) and "Katsuo Uri" (Bando Ryu). Part 2, available for viewing Dec 1-15, features "Urahima" (Sanjo Ryu), "Hourai," "Onnatayu" and "Wakatake" (all Wakayagi Ryu). Info: www.nihonbuyokai.org

DEC 1 — Last day to stamp Ireichō at Japanese American National Museum, 100 N Central Ave, Little Tokyo. Hours: Tue, Wed, Fri-Sun, 11 am-5 pm; last entry at 4 pm. Thur: 12-8 pm, last entry at 7 pm. Closed Monday, Thanksgiving. Ireichō contains a comprehensive listing of over 125,000 persons of Japanese ancestry who were incarcerated in US Army, Department of Justice, Wartime Civil Control Administration, and War Relocation Authority camps. Ireichō lists those names online at ireicho.com. Visitors can search for a person by name, birth year, or camp. Stamping of Ireichō requires a reservation. Each group may stamp up to six names per reservation. You don't have to be a former incarcerated, relative, or descendant of a former incarcerated to stamp the book. Info/RSVP: www.jann.org/exhibits/ireicho

DEC 2 — Holiday Arts & Crafts and Holiday Lunch, 11:15 am-12:30 pm at Venice Japanese Community Center, 12448 Braddock Dr, Los Angeles. RSVP required; no walk-ins. Info: (310) 822-8885, office@vjcc.com

DEC 2 — Rick Braun's Christmas featuring contemporary jazz icon Keiko Matsui, 6:30-8 pm at Spaghettini, 3005 Old Ranch Pkwy, Seal Beach. \$145-\$165 plus \$30 food and beverage minimum per person. Info/tickets: <https://spaghettini.com/event/rick-brauns-christmas-featuring-keiko-matsui-12-2-24/>

Through DEC 3 — "Bluelines," solo exhibition by Rain Szeto, at GR2 Gallery, 2062 Sawtelle Blvd, West LA. Szeto is an artist from San Francisco and a graduate of Art Institute of Chicago. Her works include pop culture elements of music and the chaos of an Asian shop. Hours: Wed-Thur, 12-6 pm; Fri, 12 pm-4 am; Sat, 12-8 pm; Sun, 12-7 pm. Closed Mon-Tue. Info: (424) 246-7626, www.giantrobot.com

DEC 4 — Chat with award-winning author Tomoka Shibasaki, 7 pm (doors open at 6:45 pm) at Japan Foundation Los Angeles, 5700 Wilshire Blvd, Ste 100, Los Angeles. Moderated by Prof Michael Emmerich of UCLA. Shibasaki will sign copies of her book "Spring Garden." Free but registration required. Info: www.jflac.org/event-details.php/235/an-evening-chat-with-author-tomoka-shibasaki

author-tomoka-shibasaki

DEC 4-5 — Babymetal's US tour, 7 pm at House of Blues Anaheim, 400 W Disney Way, Ste 337, Anaheim. Tokyo girl group mixing the cuteness of J-pop and the intensity of heavy metal. Info: (714) 520-2334, www.houseofblues.com/anaheim/concert-events/babymetal.com

DEC 5 — Ondo for Exercise, 7:30 pm at Long Beach Buddhist Church, 2360 Santa Fe Ave, Long Beach. Meets every Thursday except holidays. Venue info: www.longbeachbuddhistchurch.com

DEC 7-11 — Hayao Miyazaki's "My Neighbor Totoro" (1988) at selected theaters. Dec 7 (subtitled), 3 pm; Dec 8 (dubbed), 3 and 7 pm; Dec 9 (subtitled), 7 pm; Dec 10 (dubbed), 7 pm; Dec 11 (subtitled), 7 pm. Theater locations and tickets: www.fathomevents.com/events/my-neighbor-totoro-studio-ghibli-fest-2024/

DEC 8 — Festival and Craft Fair, 10 am-3pm at St Francis Xavier Church/Japanese Catholic Center (Maryknoll), 222 S Hewitt St, Los Angeles. Featuring DT Hoang Karaoke Lounge, food and dessert booths.

Through DEC 8 — East West Players presents Stephen Sondheim's "Pacific Overtures" at David Henry Hwang Theater, 120 Judge John Aiso St, Little Tokyo. Musical about Japan's westernization starting in 1853, when American ships forcibly opened it to the rest of the world. Directed by Tim Dang; music direction by Marc Macalintal; choreography by Yuka Takara; kabuki consulting and choreography by Gankyō Nakamura. Cast: Jon Jon Briones, Gedde Watanabe, Scott Keiji Takeda, Brian Kim McCormick, Adam Kaokept, Kerry K. Carnahan, Ashley En-Fu Matthews, Kavin Panmeechao, Kurt Kanazawa, Sittachai Chaiyachit, Nina Kasuya, Aric Martin, Gemma Pedersen, Kit Dezolt, Norge Yip. Nov 22, 8 pm; Nov 23, 2 and 8 pm; Nov 24, 5 pm; Nov 25, 8 pm; Nov 29, 8 pm; Nov 30, 2 and 8 pm; Dec 1, 5 pm; Dec 5-6, 8 pm; Dec 7, 2 and 8 pm; Dec 8, 5 pm. Info/tickets: eastwestplayers.org/pacific24

DEC 10 — "Kane: The Canon of Japanese Architecture," 7-8:30 pm at Japan Foundation Los Angeles, 5700 Wilshire Blvd, Ste 100, Los Angeles. The notion of *kane* serves as a guiding framework for practicing, norms and measurements are harmonized to create a unique aesthetic order. The speakers — Takaharu Tezuka, Yui Tezuka (Tezuka Architects), and Don Choi, moderated by Hitoshi Abe — will talk about how this modular system affects the way they think and design. Part of "5 Dimensions of Japanese Architecture," featuring renowned Japanese architects and scholars. Free but registration required. Info: www.jflac.org/event-details.php/214/5-dimensions-of-japanese-architecture-2-kane

DEC 13 — Concert reading of holiday musical "One Puka Puka Christmas," 3 pm at Union Church of Los Angeles, 401 E Third St, Little Tokyo. Three Nisei soldiers, two from Hawaii and one from the mainland, don't get along. They are ordered to visit a Japanese American concentration camp to work things out. Book and lyrics by Sachiko and Dom Magwili, music by Dan Taguchi. Featuring Aaron Aoki, Amery Thao, Darica Louie, Donovan Glover, Joshua Bennett, Joy Barlin, Julio Urquidí, Kenzo Lee, Mika Dyo, Steven Ng, SuZen Cho, Tohoru Masamune.

DEC 13 — Jake Shimaburo's "Holidays in Hawaii," 8 pm at Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, 18000 Park Plaza Dr, Cerritos. A musical wonderland featuring his signature favorites along with timeless holiday classics like "We Three Kings," "O Holy Night," "All I Want for Christmas Is You," and "I'll Be Home for Christmas." Shimaburo will also perform selections from his new album, "Grateful." \$104/\$94/\$84/\$64/\$54. Tickets: bit.ly/CCPA-JSH

DEC 14 — Senshin Mochitsuki, 7 am until completion at Senshin Buddhist Temple, 1311 W 37th St, Los Angeles. All ages invited. Dec 11, rice-washing from 7 pm. Dec 15, pick up orders, 8:30-11 am; osoji (temple clean-up), 8 am-12 pm. Info: Junko Yamada, (310) 569-9052, senshinmochitsuki@gmail.com

DEC 14 — Hiro's Bokashi Workshop, 1-3 pm at Zenshuji Soto Mission, 123 S Hewitt St, Los Angeles. Free with RSVP (donations requested). Supplies available for purchase (cash or Venmo only): 1 bokashi bag, \$5; bokashi kit (bucket set, supplies for 1 bokashi bag), \$35. Sliding scale available for low-income individuals. Info/RSVP: <https://jacc.org/events/241214->

hiros-bokashi-workshop/
DEC 14 — "Kendo: The Way of the Sword," 2:30 pm at Katy Geissert Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd, Torrance. Demonstration by Torrance Kendo Club, the only dojo in the US with over 20 active sensei. All ages and families are welcome to attend this free event.

DEC 14 — Mono's 25th Anniversary Orchestra Tour, 8 pm (doors open at 7 pm) at Wilshire Ebell Theatre, 4401 W 8th St, Los Angeles. The Tokyo-based instrumental band (Takaakira "Taka" Goto on guitar, Tamaki on bass and piano, Yoda on guitar, Dahm on drums) will perform music from their 12th album, "Oath." Tickets: www.ellofia.org/events/mono

Through DEC 14 — Wakana Kimura's exhibition "Journey to the West, Alien of Extraordinary Ability," 4-6:30 pm at Patricia Sweetow Gallery, 1700 S Santa Fe Ave, #351, Los Angeles. Gallery hours: Tues-Sat, 11 am-6 pm. Info: (213) 265-7471, patriciasweetowgallery.com. Artist website: www.wakana-kimura.com

Through DEC 14 — "Ganbare! Japanese Athletes on the World Stage," photo exhibition by Mark Edward Harris at Japan Foundation Los Angeles, 5700 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 100, Los Angeles. Hours: Mon-Sat, 12-6 pm; closed Sundays and holidays (Nov 28, 29, 30). Info: www.jflac.org

Through DEC 15 — "Emergence: Art from Life," Tue-Sun, 4-8 pm at George J Doizaki Gallery, Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, 244 S San Pedro St, Little Tokyo. Presentation of living biological artworks and projects created in collaboration with a global cohort of synthetic biologists and medical researchers. Free but RSVP required. Info: <https://jaecc.org/events/emergence-art-from-life/>

DEC 31 — Southeast Japanese School and Community Center's New Year's Eve dinner/dance building improvement fundraiser at SE-JSSC, 14615 Gridley Rd, Norwalk. Doors open at 5:30 pm, dinner served at 6 pm, live music by Elemental Funk 7-10 pm, DJ music 10:30 pm-12 am. Deadline: Dec 10 or until sold out. No walk-ins. Info: Gloria Wada, glow@gmail.com; sejcc.org

Through JAN 11 — Hiroshi Sugimoto: Form Is Emptiness, Emptiness Is Form" at Lissong Gallery, 1037 N Sycamore Ave, Los Angeles. The presentation showcases Sugimoto's investigation of the visible and invisible world through the forms of photography, architecture, sculpture and the written word. At its core is the American debut of "Brush Impression, Heart Sutra" (2023), accompanied by iconic photographs from the artist's "Sea of Buddha" series and a new mathematical model based on Kuen's Surface. Hours: Tue-Sat, 10 am-6 pm; closed Sunday and Monday. Info: (213) 224-7550, www.lissongallery.com

Through JAN 22 — "Masters of Carpentry: Melding Forest, Skill and Spirit" at Japan House Los Angeles, 6801 Hollywood Blvd, Hollywood. This exhibition pays homage to Japanese carpenters, showcasing their tools and techniques with an impressive full-scale teahouse and a recreated hip-and-gable roof from a temple at Yakushi-ji. Hours: Mon-Fri, 11 am-7 pm; Sat-Sun, 11 am-8 pm. Info: [https://bit.ly/3BQS4g5!](https://bit.ly/3BQS4g5)

CONTRIBUTE

We welcome your contributions to: Announcements for the Calendar of Events, Nikkei Newborn, Religion Page, Weddings.

The Rafu Shimpo English Editor
701 E. Third St, Ste 130,
LA, CA 90013-1789
Fax: 213-687-0737
e-mail:
ryamamoto@rafu.com

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To submit information to our religion calendar, please contact Peter Yoon by email at Petery@rafu.com. Submissions are due by noon on Friday, one week in advance of publication.

Anaheim Revive Church (formerly AFMC) 1001 N. Mayflower St, Anaheim 92801, 714-827-0782 anaheimrevive.org

Centenary United Methodist Church 300 S. Central Ave, L.A. 90013, 213-617-9097.

Central Japanese American Community Church of SDA 2113 East Villa St, Pasadena, 91107. 626-304-7800.

Chatsworth West United Methodist Church 10824 Topanga Canyon Blvd, Chatsworth, 91331.

Christ Episcopal Church 408 S. Broadway, Redondo Beach, 90277, 310-540-1722.

Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood 4011 W. Clinton St, L.A. 90004, 323-665-3581.

Church of Perfect Liberty L.A. 1130 W. 223rd St, Torrance, 90502, 310-328-4861.

Crossway Church of San Fernando Valley (formerly San Fernando Valley Holiness) 9610 Haddon Ave, Pacoima 91331. 818-896-1676 (E), 818-899-4115 (J).

Davar Church 1539 E. Howard St, Pasadena 91104, 626-398-2290.

Evergreen Baptist Church of L.A. 1255 San Gabriel Blvd, Rosemead 91770, 626-280-0477.

Evergreen Baptist Church of San Gabriel Valley 323 Workman Mill Rd, La Puente 91746, 626-363-0300.

Faith United Methodist Church 2115 W. 182nd St (at Van Ness), Torrance 90504, 310-217-7000.

First Presbyterian Church 2775 Lincoln Ave, Altadena 91001, 626-791-4271.

Gardena Valley Baptist Church 1630 W. 158th Street, Gardena 90247, 310-323-5683.

Gedatsu Church USA 7850 Hill Dr, S. San Gabriel 91770, 626-288-1212.

Gospel Venture International Church (GVIC) 17811 S. Western Ave, Gardena, 90248, 310-527-

6112.

Grace First Presbyterian Church 3955 N. Studebaker Rd, Long Beach 90808, 562-420-3393.

Hope Chapel Torrance 3521 W. Lomita Blvd, 2nd Floor, Suite 202, Torrance 90505.

Japanese American Christian Chapel 300 Mission Dr, Camarillo 93010, 805-384-9333.

L.A. Holiness Church 3660 S. Gramercy Pl, L.A. 90018, 323-733-5000.

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection 9812 Hamilton Ave, Huntington Beach, 92646.

Lutheran Oriental Church 2654 W. 164th St, Torrance 90504, 310-329-9345.

Mission Valley Free Methodist Church 1201 S. San Gabriel Blvd, San Gabriel 91776, 626-285-6788.

New Life Christian Church 1020 W. Kenneth Rd, Glendale 91202, 818-242-8801.

Newport Beach Higashi Honganji 254 Victoria St, Costa Mesa 92627, 949-722-1202.

Nichiren Shu Buddhist Temple 2801 E. 4th St, L.A. 90033, 323-262-7886.

Orange County Christian Church 4872 Bishop St, Cypress 90630, 714-827-2801.

Palos Verdes Baptist Church 28 Moccasin Lane, Rolling Hills Estates 90274, 310-541-1811.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2024229967

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3775 W 176TH STREET, TORRANCE CA 90504. LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number: AI #ON

REGISTERED OWNERS:
1. SARAH YAEKO ROMERO, 3775 W 176TH STREET, TORRANCE CA 90504

This business is being conducted by: an individual. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 06/20/19. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct.

Signed:
SARAH YAEKO ROMERO, OWNER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on NOVEMBER 7, 2024.

NOTICE—In accordance with subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the Office of the County Clerk, except as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity Form. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office. DEAN C. LOGAN, Los Angeles County Clerk.

Published: 11/22/24, 11/29/24, 12/6/24, 12/13/24.

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Cool Japan

Continued from page 1

contemporary and traditional exhibitions, workshops, and events that reflect the diversity and vibrancy of Japan's cultural landscape.

The pre-opening event also recognized individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to fostering stronger U.S.-Japan relations, including:



Cool Japan Center Ambassador's Award recipient Chef Ben Ford (son of actor Harrison Ford) with actress Dru Mouser.

Election Results

Continued from page 1

want to see in this world.

"As our country has decided on the Trump Administration to return, I know I will continue to show up, do my best, and fight for public school education and the communities we serve.

"Thank you to all that encourage me, believe in me, see me, love me, and challenge me, through this stage in my life. I'm learning, growing, and I'm showing up to do the scary things!!! LET'S DO THIS!!!"

LACCD is the largest community college district in the U.S. and consists of nine colleges: East L.A. College, L.A. City College, L.A. Harbor College, L.A. Mission College, L.A. Pierce College, L.A. Southwest College, L.A. Trade Tech College, L.A. Valley College, and West L.A. College.

School District Election

In the race for the Trustee Area 4 seat on the ABC Unified School District Governing Board, Tatiana Yokoyama Bui defeated Anu Gupta, 55.89% to 44.11% or 3,669 to 2,896 as of Nov. 15.

In a social media post on Nov. 13, Bui said, "A huge thank you to everyone who has reached out this past week. Election results are not yet final but I am happy to report I am leading in my race. I look forward to a formal announcement once we have a final tally but I would be remiss not to thank my campaign volunteers any chance I get for supporting me even on the final day."

Yokoyama-Bui



Shodo (Japanese calligraphy) demonstration by Flash.

Nobu Matsuhisa, Chef Ben Ford, IW Group founder Bill Imada

Cool Japan Center Cool Business Award: Crunchyroll, Square Enix, Marukai Corporation, Media Do International, Yoku Moku

International Friendship Award: City of San Diego, City of Gardena

Governor's Award for Community Service: OCO Club

Governor's Award for Arts & Culture: Ikenobo Ikebana Society of Los Angeles

The Cool Japan Center is located at 4199 Campus Dr., Suite A, Irvine, CA 92612. Special events have begun, and the center's gallery will be officially open to the public from Jan. 15, 2025.

For more information, email info@cooljapancenter.org or visit www.cooljapancenter.org.

BBC

Continued from page 1

to convey the reasons they fought and what they were fighting for."

Sharpe says: "It is an honor to be narrating 'Purple Heart Warriors,' which tells the remarkable stories of the Japanese American soldiers that fought in World War II. It's a part of history I am personally interested in and I loved working with the brilliant Iris Yamashita."

Simon Pitts, commissioning editor, BBC World Service, says: "We're thrilled to announce 'Purple Heart Warriors'... The 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team was a segregated unit of remarkable Japanese American young men, whose bravery in combat made them the most deco-

rated unit in U.S. military history for size and duration of service. Their story has not been widely known and it's exciting to be sharing this series



with the world." All six episodes will be available as a boxset on BBC Sounds from Monday, Dec. 9. On other podcast platforms, the first three episodes will be available from Dec. 9, with

the final three episodes released weekly thereafter. The series will air weekly on BBC World Service radio from Wednesday, Dec. 11.

"Purple Heart Warriors" is the latest season in the new Dramas podcast feed. It's the home for original drama and immersive storytelling from the BBC World Service. Previous seasons include "Fukushima."

"Purple Heart Warriors" is directed by Jessica Dromgoole. It is based on an idea by Simon Pitts and produced by Catherine Bailey Productions Limited for the BBC World Service.

Look for the podcast on Apple Podcasts or Spotify or download the BBC Sounds app.

Tri-Caucus Condemns Censorship by National Archives

WASHINGTON — The chairs of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), and Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) issued a statement Nov. 1 in response to reporting by *The Wall Street Journal* about U.S. Archivist Colleen Shogan and her top advisers at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

The reporting describes Shogan and senior NARA officials directing employees to eliminate references to Martin Luther King Jr., Dolores Huerta, the government's displacement of indigenous tribes, and the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II from planned exhibits at the National Archives Museum.

CAPAC Chair Rep. Judy Chu (D-Pasadena), CHC Chair Rep. Nanette Barragán (D-Long Beach) and CBC

Chair Rep. Steven Horsford (D-Nev.) released the following statement:

"With ongoing racist and xenophobic hate against our communities heightened by recent inflammatory rhetoric, it is now more critical than ever to shine a light on the chapters of struggle, oppression, and resistance in our nation's history and on the civil rights leaders who moved us forward.

"We are outraged by NARA's censorship of these watershed moments and activists from its exhibits at the National Archives Museum in order to pre-emptively appease conservative interests. In removing such displays, NARA is, in effect, aligning itself ideologically with the far-right book ban movements nationwide and re-engaging in the same shameful behavior that our federal government leveled against marginalized peoples in centuries past by undermining



Kelsey Iino (left) of the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees with Jessica Calozo, who was elected to represent the 52nd Assembly District, defeating fellow Democrat Franky Carrillo.

A graduate of ABC USD schools, UC Riverside and Western State College of Law, Bui is the mother and aunt of ABC students and a PTA volunteer and officer. She works as a trial attorney and was previously a law clerk for Children's Law Center of Los Angeles and a member of the Cerritos Planning Commission.

Her goals include providing "the best education to our students, along with the extra-curriculars, classes, sports and programs desired by our students and parents" as well as "safe and healthy learning environments that attract students and families."

Her endorsers included current school board members Dr. Olga Rios (Area 6) and H. Ernie Nishii (Area 3), former school board president Celia Spitzer, Cerritos City Councilmember Frank Aurelio Yokoyama (her brother), and former Cerritos Mayor Mark Pulido. SoCal Filipinos congratulated



Kelsey Iino (left) of the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees with Jessica Calozo, who was elected to represent the 52nd Assembly District, defeating fellow Democrat Franky Carrillo.

Bui and other Filipino American candidates who won in Southern California elections, including Jessica Calozo, 52nd Assembly District; Ysabel Jurado, Los Angeles City Council; Todd Gloria, San Diego mayor; Corey Calaycan, Claremont City Council; and Rynn Schumacher, Ventura City Council.

Gupta, an engineer, is also a parent of ABC students. His goals included safety, academic excellence, balancing the budget, and "ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive."

His endorsers included the current Area 4 representative, Brad Beach, who did not seek re-election, and former school board member Dixie Primosh.

ABC USD encompasses Artesia, Cerritos and Hawaiian Gardens, and portions of Lakewood, Long Beach and Norwalk. It is composed of 19 elementary schools, five middle schools, three comprehensive high schools, a college prep 7-12 school, a continuation high school, infant/children centers, extended day care, an online school, and an adult school.

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三笠宮妃百合子さま薨去

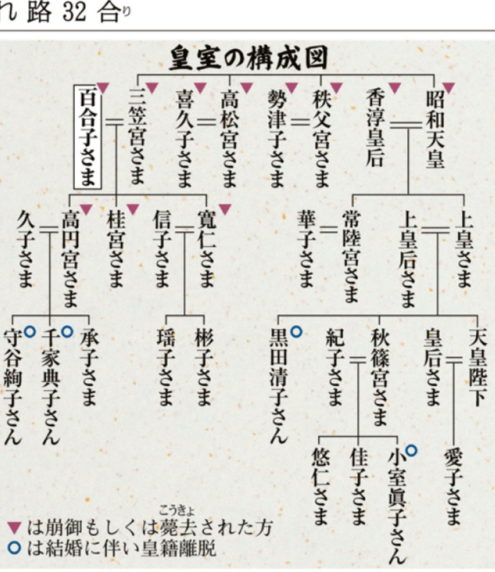
101歳、皇室最高齢



三笠宮妃百合子さま 令和5年5月22日、東京都港区（宮内庁提供）

三笠宮妃百合子さまは、101歳の誕生日を迎え、11月22日午後6時32分、東京都港区の聖路加国際病院で薨去された。

三笠宮妃は、昭和天皇と香淳皇后の御孫、高松宮宣仁親王の御孫として、昭和16年に誕生された。皇室の構成図は以下の通りである。



虚血性心疾患（狭心症）を患い、今年3月に脳梗塞と診断された。19年7月に大腸がんの摘出手術を受けた。

下、薨去された方（近衛忠房夫人、容子さま、二宮室夫人）の3男2女を出産された。しかし、平成14年に高円宮さま、24年に寛仁さま、26年に桂宮さまを相次いでお誕生された。

三笠宮さまとともに歩まれ

三笠宮妃百合子さまが15日早朝に薨去され、入院先の聖路加国際病院（東京都中央区）には皇族方が駆け付けられた。病院やお住まいのある東京・元赤坂の赤坂御用地では、市民らから「安らかに」と悼む声が上がった。

病院前では雨が降る中、報道陣が集まった。関係車両が出入りし、警察官が周辺の警備に当たった。

後に赤坂御用地に戻られた。赤坂御用地近くに在住の男性会社員（54）は、三笠宮さまと100歳で薨去されたことに触れ、「ご夫妻をまつて長寿でお幸せだったのではないかと、安らかにお休みになってほしい」と話した。

戸・北野の異人館街にベルシヤの秘宝を集めた「ベルシヤ館」をオープンさせた。三笠宮さまと交流があった。

百合子さま 薨去

関西でも悼む声



赤坂御用地を散策する三笠宮さまと三笠宮妃百合子さま（平成27年11月16日）（宮内庁提供）

三笠宮妃百合子さまが薨去された15日、関西でも交流のあった人たちが...

朝晩は冷えるようになった。今年、冬の訪れを実感するようになった。21日、暦の上では冬が始まった。

三笠宮妃百合子さまの遺体を運ぶ車は、赤坂御用地に入る車列。15日午前9時45分、東京都港区（三尾都都憲）

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365 活に突然、襲いかかってくる自然災害。その脅威に備えていこう。

小規模な高級ホテルが注目を集めている。新築の高級ホテルとして注目を集めている。スモールラグジュアリーホテルと呼ばれる、特別な滞在や体験を求める層に対して個性の強いホテルが注目を集めている。

大阪・専門学校生制作「長所生かせる」 警察官の魅力 アニメでPR 職業警察



アニメ制作に携わった山形駿雅さん

警察官は自分の長所を生かせる仕事。少子化などで若手人材の獲得競争が激化する中、大阪府警は専門学校「HAL大阪」の学生とタッグを組み、警察官募集のアニメ動画を制作、公開した。

動物園の3歳のオス「チヨ」を来年1月2月をめぐりにステーションに移す。隣接したケージで飼育し、カメラで観察するなどして繁殖行動が確認できれば同居させる。ステ...

天然記念物ツシマヤマネコ 国の施設で繁殖実施へ ツシマヤマネコは本来の生息環境に近い環境で繁殖させることが期待される。

小規模高級ホテルが注目を集めている。新築の高級ホテルとして注目を集めている。スモールラグジュアリーホテルと呼ばれる、特別な滞在や体験を求める層に対して個性の強いホテルが注目を集めている。

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本館の建築を味わえる宿「そわか」は、山形県に再生した。宿泊代は1支配人は胸を張る。人手泊1室10万4000円程度。不足の昨今、大型ホテルと高額だが、「一人一人では全ての客の要望や好みに応えることは難しく、多様なニーズへの対応強化を狙う。」

ミュージカル「太平洋序曲」再演

26年ぶり、鎖国時代を描いた名作

EWP劇団、小東京で12月8日まで

小東京を拠点に活動するアジア系米国人の劇団「イースト・ウエスト・ブレイブズ(EWP)」が12月1日まで、デイト・ヘンリー・ホワン劇場(20 Judge John Aiso St.)で、ステイブ・ソンドハイム作曲のミュージカル「太平洋序曲」(Pacific Overtures)を上演中だ。

舞台は鎖国時代の日本に、同作は1976年ブロードウェイに於ける初演で「狂言」の物語の進行役「を演じた俳優のマコ(岩松)が目を担うことになり、この役名作。EWPの初代芸術監督だったマコが79年に同作をEWPで初演した後、EWPは



現在上演中の「太平洋序曲」。左から、カビン・パンミン、チャオ、ゲディ・ワタナベ、ジョン・ジョン・プリオネ、ス、キット・デソルト (撮影 テオリンド)

再び9年にデイト・ヘンリー・ホワン劇場のこけら落としで同作を再演し、今回は3度目となる。本公演ではブロードウェイ俳優のジョン・ジョン・プリオネが「狂言」役、ゲディ・ワタナベが「將軍」の母、スコット・ケイジ・タダが「泥棒」役、ブライアン・キム・マコミックが「香山」役、アダム・カオックが「万次郎」役、カオック・デソルトが「ペリー提督」役で出演する。演出はティム・ダンが再度担当し、脚本はジョン・ワイドマン、追加の脚本はヒュー・ウィーラーが手がけている。オーケストラはジョナサン・チュニックが担当した。また、歌舞伎俳優・中村鷹志、および日本舞踊家・坂東七郎ことカーク・カネサカさん、演出家の歌舞伎指導と日本語のシーンの振り付けを担当した。他に、マーク・マカリンタル(音楽監督)、ユカ・タカラ(音楽監督)、ユカ・タカラ(モダンダンス振り付け)、テッサ・ナカガワ(舞台美術)、ナオミ・ヨシダ(衣装デザイン)、そしてオーケストラが脇を固める。

本公演はデイト・ヘンリー・ホワン劇場のこけら落としで、240席の劇場が満席となり、15日に行われた公演では約2,400席の劇場が満席となり、2度目の再演となる。初演から、ダン監督は私を創作プロセスの全てに深く巻き込んでくれた。制作チームが歌舞伎や日本伝統的な音楽を取り入れ、その精神を、この米国のミュージカルに取り入れようとする情熱と意欲には大変感銘を受けた。この公演を通じて、観客が日本演劇の芸術性への新たな理解を深めるとともに、これら



歌舞伎の要素が随所に見られる「太平洋序曲」の舞台稽古で指導するカネサカさん(右) (写真提供=カネサカさん)

日系史常設展が見納め

23日、特別イベント開催

改修工事予定のJANM

小東京の全米日系人博物館(JANM)は、長年におわたって親しまれてきた常設展「きた常設展」(Coming to America)を、23日(土)の閉幕を記念し、特別イベントを開催する。同展は日系米国人の歴史を伝える展示として26年間にわたって

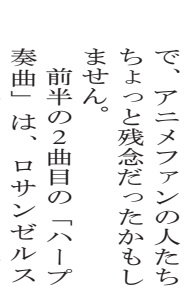
同館の中心的存在だったが、大規模改修工事に伴い、2022年1月5日をもって展示を終了する。23日のイベントは正午から5時まで開催。昔懐かしい音楽の演奏や記念写真撮影コーナー、日本語と英語のボランティアガイドによるツアー、来館者の思い出を記録するアーカイブ・ブースなど、多彩なプログラムを予定する。当日は特別入館料を設定し、1999年の本館開館当初と同じ一般6ドル、シニア5ドル、学生および65歳以上は3ドル、JANM会員および乳幼児(5歳以下)は無料となる。

なおJANMは2025年1月5日(日)のお正月ファミリーフェスティバルの開催をもって、その後の館内改修工事に入るが、工事期間中は「JANMオンザゴー」として各地で出張展示やプログラムを実施する予定。改修後は最新のテクノロジーを活用するだけでなく、人種や民主主義に関する社会議論を踏まえた日系米国人の新たな物語を伝える常設展を再構築し、公開することを目標としている。

今後千秋楽の12月8日まで、木々月曜に複数回上演される特別イベントには、23日(土)午後12時からEWPの歴史や今後について語る「アワー・アウェイステイツ・ヒストリー」、同午後7時15分からソンドハイムの名曲の数々を紹介する「ソンドハイム・ナイト」、そして、24日(日)午後5時の公演で公演後にキャストと制作チームが登壇し観客と交流する「アウェイステイツ・トークバック」がある。なお24日の公演と「アウェイステイツ・トークバック」には手話通訳付き。(長井智子)

音楽の散歩道

小川弘子



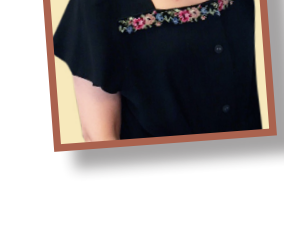
「風の谷のナウシカ」(くにたち)音楽大学で作曲の「展覧会の曲」(展覧会の曲)という最初から最後までクラシック音楽の歴史を、映画音楽など、世界中に熱狂的なファンを持つ作曲家、指揮者、ピアニストの久石譲さん、昨年夏、ハリウッド・ボウルに続き、今月、ウォルト・ディズニースタートホールで、自作品を含むコンサートを行いました。これを書いている時点では、まだ14日の初日が終わったのですが、この後15日と17日も予定されています。

久石さんは中学生の頃に作曲家になろうと決め、国立で、後半はマンダリン・スクワイア

で、アニメファンの人たちはちょっと残念だったかもしれない。前半の2曲目の「ハープ協奏曲」は、ロサンゼルス・フィルハーモニック(LAフィル)、ボルドー国立歌劇場、パリ管弦楽団の本拠地であるフルハーモニー・ド・パリ、シンガポール交響楽団の共同委嘱作品で、この日が世界初演でした。独奏者は2022年にLAフィルの首席ハープ奏者となったエマニュエル・セイソン。22歳でパリ・オペラ座、31歳でニューヨークのメトロポリタン歌劇場の首席ハープ奏者となり、その間に名だたる国際コンクールで優勝したという経歴を持つ、つわものです。

以前から久石さんの映画音楽のファンで、久石さんがハープを作品に取り入れていくことを知っていた久石さん

終演後の久石さんへの拍手と歓声は鳴りやまず、最後は舞臺袖にはけるようコンサートマスターに促さなければならぬほどでした。久石さんとLAフィルの相性は上々で、あまり時間を空けずにこれだけの機会が再度ありそうなきが感じます。次はどんな作品を聴けるのか、今から勝手にワクワクしています。



おがわひろこ
神戸大学教育学部音楽科卒、同大学院修士課程修了。声楽、器楽、合唱、バレエなどのピアノ伴奏者、および合唱指導者。現在、南加日系合唱連盟会長。ミュージック・ペンクラブ・ジャパン会員。

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演歌の根本美希が熱唱 「日本の心を届ける」

本公演会参加は今回が2度目で、32年前と同じアトラニ劇場の舞台を踏んだ。根本は東日本大震災で被災したふるさと福島への募金活動



32年ぶりに親睦演芸会に出演し、10曲を熱唱する根本美希

演芸会の第一部は協賛会から加盟する37のうち13の県人会から芸達者たちが舞台上に上がり、日本民謡や日本舞踊、琉球舞踊、三味線、太鼓、歌謡曲、ロック、フラメンコダンスなど、郷土色豊かでバラエティに富んだ15の演目を披露して大きな拍手を浴びた。第二部では日本から招いた福島県会津若松出身でキングレコード所属の演歌歌手、根本美希が「北垣戸会長はあいつで、米国にいながら日本各地の民謡や踊りを、趣向を凝らした形で見るのができた。」



会場を練り歩き、観客と触れ合う根本

郷土色豊かなショーで魅了 日本文化継承者らに奨学金授与 南加県人会協議会演芸会



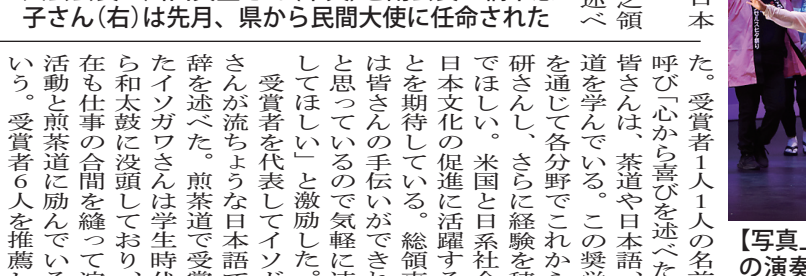
日本文化の継承者と日本語学習者6人に対する奨学金授与式



熊本県人会による民謡の演奏。県の人気のマスコット、くまモンも登場した



鳥取県人会による「鳥取ちゃんしゃん傘踊り」。県人会会長の川口真里さん(中央)と副会長の橋本恵子さん(右)は先月、県から民間大使に任命された



【写真上】LA東京会の出し物で、大和楽USAによる浅草・三社祭の「娘みこし」の演奏。中央が大和櫻笙家元【同下】関西を舞台にした名曲をメドレーで歌い、歌に合わせて踊った関西クラブのパフォーマンス

日本文化の奨励を活動目的の一つに掲げる南加県人会協議会(北垣戸和恵会長)はこのほど、小東京のアトラニ劇場で秋恒例の第42回親睦演芸会(小田和男実行委員長)を開催した。観客約400人が民謡や舞踊など日本芸能文化を中心とした舞台を堪能した。日本文化の継承や日本語学習に対する奨学金を受け取った6人の受賞者は日系社会からの期待を胸に、さらなる精進を誓った。(永田潤 写真も)



福岡県人会の出し物で、松前会による「黒田節」の演奏

この日のために稽古に励んだ出演者の演技を、十分に楽しんでもらいたいと思う」と語った。さらに、県人会協議会が今年創立60周年、そして親睦演芸会が42回目を迎えた伝統

の重みを強調し「日本文化を伝承することはわれわれ県人会協議会の大切なミッションの一つ、多くの方に見てもらえたことをありがたく思う」と述べた。

また、育英奨学金の受賞者について、「ワーのある女性ばかりである。当地にいながら日本文化を大切にする志を持つ2世と3世の6人は、今日まで一生懸命、勉強や芸術・芸術活動に従事してきた。心からおめでとうと言いたい。これからもその心意気を持ち続けてほしい」と前途を祝した。受賞者の家族に向けては、「皆さんのサポートがあつてこそ日本文化に打ち込むことができる」と感謝を示した。

ノさん(日本語)、メリツサ(日本語)、アスカ・ワタナベさん(日本語)、テカ・ワタナベさん(日本語) 日本語と日本語の6人。日本総領事館の山方知之領事(日本語)、テカ・ワタナベさんが来賓を代表し祝辞を述べた。受賞者1人1人の名前を呼び「心から喜びを述べたい。皆さんは、茶道や日本語、武道を学んでいる。この奨学金を通じて各分野で、これからも研さんし、さらに経験を積んでほしい。米国と日系社会で日本文化の促進に活躍することを期待している。総領事館は皆さんの手伝いができればと思っていますので気軽に連絡してほしい」と激励した。

受賞者を代表してインガワさんが流ちょうな日本語で謝辞を述べた。煎茶道で受賞したインガワさんは学生時代から和太鼓に没頭しており、現在も仕事の合間を縫って演奏活動と煎茶道に励んでいるという。受賞者6人を推薦した各団体と県人会協議会に謝意を示して、「今後も日本文化の伝承の貢献に少しでも役に立てるように精進したい」と抱負を語った。

在外選挙の制度と手続について

在留届の提出も忘れずに!

在外選挙登録資格

- 1 満18歳以上
- 2 日本国籍保有者
- 3 海外に3か月以上居住(出国時登録申請者を除く)

同居家族による代理申請もできます。

申請者の上記書類と署名入り在外選挙人名簿登録申請書と申出書*、代理の方の旅券を御用意ください。

*申請書と申出書は領事窓口または総務省のホームページから入手できます。

在外投票のためには在外選挙人証の取得が必要です

必要書類を準備し申請書に記入、大使館、総領事館窓口で登録申請

3か月の居住期間経過後に大使館などから住所確認の連絡を受ける

選挙人証の受取

用意する物

- ・旅券
- ・申請書
- ・居住している事を証明できる書類(在留届を提出済の方は不要です。)

大使館 電話又は葉書

選挙人証 在外選挙人証

※選挙人証は郵送又は窓口での受取が選べます

在外投票は次の3つの方法から選択できます

在外公館投票

直接日本大使館・総領事館・領事事務所等に出向いて投票する方法。

郵便等投票

投票用紙等を事前に請求して、記載の上、登録先の選挙管理委員会へ郵送する方法。

日本国内で投票

一時帰国した方や、帰国直後で転入届を提出して3か月未満の方は、日本国内でも投票できます。

1 平成22年5月に憲法改正国民投票法が施行されました。在外選挙人証をお持ちの方は国民投票にも投票できます。

2 平成30年6月から出国時登録申請が始まりました。国外転出の際に市区町村の窓口で申請できます。

3 令和5年2月に最高裁判所裁判官国民審査法の一部を改正する法律が施行されました。在外選挙人証をお持ちの方は、国民審査にも投票できます。

