



Historic Opening Night

Nakase's Valkyries play inaugural game.

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122 YEARS OF COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

THE RAFU SHIMPO

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羅府新報

金
FRIDAY

日本語欄

コンテンツ

トップニュース
(米国・日本・国際)
コミュニティー
スポーツ

金曜
産経新聞

japan-at-a-glance



INAUGURAL MASS: Pope Leo XIV waves to the crowd from the popemobile in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on May 18, prior to his inaugural Mass later in the day. World figures, including U.S. Vice President JD Vance, attended. "It is the hour of love," the 267th pontiff said during the service, calling to build a Catholic Church that "opens its arms to the world." The first American in the role, Pope Leo XIV was elected on May 8 to succeed the late Pope Francis. The Japanese government sent former Prime Minister Taro Aso, a Catholic and top advisor to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, to the event to help "deepen friendly and cooperative ties" with the Vatican. The pope visited Nagasaki in 2008, when he was known as Robert Prevost, to attend the beatification of 188 Japanese martyrs by Pope Benedict XVI, according to Catholics in the southwestern Japan city. Father Futoshi Matsuo of Shirogama Catholic Church, one of the local Catholics who met him then, said, "He was a person who listened warmly to what others had to say, rather than speak himself."

HIROSHIMA VISIT: Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako will visit Hiroshima next month, to honor the war dead ahead of the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, marking their first trip to the atomic-bombed city since his accession in 2019, the Imperial Household Agency said May 19. After arriving from Tokyo's Haneda airport on June 19, the imperial couple will offer flowers and a silent prayer at a cenotaph for atomic bomb victims in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, before viewing an exhibition on building remnants and hearing testimonies from survivors at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, the agency said. The following day, they will meet with residents of a nursing home for atomic bomb survivors and observe the reconstruction progress from a landslide in August 2014.

NO NOTICE: The U.S. Navy said one of its officers has been indicted on murder and other charges in connection with the death of his American wife, whose body was found at a hotel in Fukuoka, southwestern Japan, in October. The indictment was filed on May 7, but Fukuoka police have yet to receive official notification from U.S. authorities, according to a Japanese investigative source. The case underscores how the bilateral Status of Forces Agreement limits Japan's jurisdiction over crimes involving U.S. military personnel. Under the pact, the U.S. has primary jurisdiction over offenses involving its service members, civilian employees and their dependents. While unofficial notices are sometimes given to Japanese authorities, the details of such communication remain unclear.

in the news

BIDEN DIAGNOSIS: Former President Joe Biden was diagnosed with an "aggressive form" of prostate cancer, according to a statement from his personal office May 18, and it has spread to his bones. Biden, 82, and his family are "reviewing treatment options with his physicians," the statement said. Rep. Mark Takano (D-Riverside) commented, "My heart is with President Biden and his family, and I am praying for his recovery. May he have many more years of joy and happiness with his loved ones."

INSIDE TODAY'S RAFU

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City of Torrance Unveils New WWII Camp Wall Design

The World War II Camp Wall (WWIICW) was on the April 22 Torrance City Council meeting agenda.

Torrance Community Services and General Services presented a schematic design for the monument at Columbia Park. They sought inclusion of the project in the 2025 State Legislative Advocacy Priority Project and sought approval for the extension of the existing grant from the state, and for funding to allow for staff to proceed with construction documents.

The current grant that was secured by Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, in the amount of \$5 million, to educate the public on mass incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II comes due on March 1, 2026. City staff stated that in order to ensure accuracy in the name verification, additional time and funding are needed.

They requested an additional \$4.99 million from the state as part of an upcoming delegation trip to Sacramento and also requested that the existing grant be extended to December 2026.

Tina Chee of the architectural firm Chee Salette made a presentation of the new project design. She stated that historical imagery was explored and other monuments were researched in coming up with the new design, which consists of black granite with the walls displayed along rows of a timeline, and surrounded by trees to create a tranquil space.

The path leads up to a hilltop from which you can reminisce on what

you've seen.

Discussion was opened up to the public. Brett Smith of the WWIICW nonprofit mentioned that inclusion of all ethnicities of those that were incarcerated during World War II was the vision of the founder of the project, the late Kanji Sahara. He mentioned that the names of those that are not of Japanese ancestry might be added at a future date.

Alvin Takamori, also from the nonprofit, stated that this is not

many times, and included in Sahara's vision was the idea that "never again" should not be limited to one group of people.

John La Rock of Torrance Community Services explained that the State Legislature's language funds the monument to list the names of those of Japanese descent. Oda stated that the original grant called for the names of Japanese Americans and therefore would not have included the names of Issei.

The wall project is sourcing the more than 125,000 names from Dr. Duncan Ryuken Williams via his Ireichō project. The names of Germans and Italians are not included in that project at this time because they have not all been properly researched and verified.

Danny Saltaño from the City Manager's Office confirmed that the city can

always add more names should they be shown to be accurate.

Councilmember Sharon Kalani asked whether there would be another increase in cost due to upcoming tariffs. Chee responded that the granite is being sourced from within the U.S.

The possibility of other sources raising additional funds was brought up. The possibility of the city guaranteeing the funding for this project from the 2025-26 city budget was discussed.

Mayor George Chen stated that if needed, the project needs to add more space so that it will allow for growth. He emphasized the importance of proceeding with Phase 1.

The motion to include funding in the city's 2025-26 budget, to approve the new site design, to include the project in the 2025 state legislative advocacy priority projects, bringing the total cost for the monument to \$9.99 million, and to approve the grant extension and funding request passed unanimously.



J.K. YAMAMOTO / Rafu Shimpo

WWII Camp Wall board members at the April 22 Torrance City Council meeting (from left): Eric Hamada, Nancy Hayata, Brett Smith and Alvin Takamori.

just a static monument for those of Japanese ancestry, but that it is an important educational model for those of all ages and races.

He requested that the nonprofit be allowed a more active role in creating accurate historical content for the informational panels.

Community activists Kay Oda and Jenny Chomori also spoke to the inclusion of the names of Germans and Italians. Chomori stated, "We need to make sure that history is presented correctly. All names of those incarcerated should be included. People of all colors fought for redress."

Councilmember Asam Sheikh mentioned that he met with Sahara

always add more names should they be shown to be accurate.

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Rendering of the completed World War II Camp Wall at Columbia Park in Torrance.

LAist Senior Editor Kiriyama Let Go Due to Budget Cuts

By J.K. YAMAMOTO

RAFU STAFF WRITER

George Kiriyama, senior editor at LAist (formerly KPCC) in Pasadena, announced May 16 that he has been laid off.

"It is with great sadness that I am announcing my departure from the management team at LAist ...

Last week, LAist cut its staff by 5% because of ongoing budget strain and potential loss in federal funding," he posted on Facebook on May 16. "I was one of those let go."

Public radio and television stations across the country are facing the loss of federal funding under the Trump Administration.

Kiriyama, who previously served as managing editor at KTVU in Oakland, KTNV in Las Vegas, NBC Bay

Huang (AAPI communities), Jacob Margolis (climate/environment/science) and Erin Stone (climate/environment).

"I was asked to take the lead on creating LAist coverage plans for the 2024 elections, 2024 Climate Solutions Week, 2024 Earth Day and last year's total solar eclipse," Kiriyama

'AirTalk' host Larry Mantle and retired 'All Things Considered' host Nick Roman about the Dodgers opening their season in Japan."

"I really enjoyed working with Josie Huang on AAPI communities stories," Kiriyama added. "She did many stories on the Japanese American community during my time at LAist, including Suehiro Cafe shutting down its Little Tokyo location in late 2023."

"I was honored to work with such an amazing group of dedicated journalists who served our diverse communities with professionalism, empathy and respect. All of their stories have made Southern California a better place to live, work and play."

In a farewell note to his staff, Kiriyama said, "Thank you. Two simple words. Two meaningful words.

Words from my heart to all of you. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of this team. To be part of something special."

"Because that's what all of you

Please see Kiriyama, page 4



George Kiriyama

said. "Three weeks after the wildfires in 2025, I was asked to take point on recovery/rebuild coverage plans for LAist."

The highlight of his time as senior editor: "Chatting live with longtime

Hannah Kobayashi Breaks Silence After Going 'Missing'

By MIKEY HIRANO CULROSS
RAFU STAFF WRITER

Some six months after her apparent disappearance sparked a nervous and unexpectedly tragic search across Los Angeles, Hannah Kobayashi has resurfaced to comment on the matter.

"I just want to come on here and take the time to say how grateful I am for everyone, every single person, who dedicated time and energy into looking for me," the 30-year-old from Hawaii said in a video she posted to social media on Monday.

"It means the world to me," she added.

Family, friends and scores of volunteers launched a frantic search in Southern California and across the nation last November after Kobayashi failed to make her connecting flight to New York after arriving at Los Angeles International Airport from Maui.

The efforts to find her took a heartbreak turn on Nov. 24, when the woman's father, Ryan Kobayashi, was found dead of an apparent suicide near LAX.

The LAPD received reports of a body in the 6100 block of Century Boulevard about 4 a.m. The L.A. County Medical Examiner's Office later identified the person as the 58-year-old, who had traveled to L.A.



Hannah Kobayashi

to join the search for his daughter.

It was reported that Ryan Kobayashi jumped from a parking structure to his death.

The family confirmed his suicide in a statement, saying, "This loss has compounded the family's suffering immeasurably."

Hannah Kobayashi appeared to indirectly address the death of her father in her video message, delivering her comments in a halting, almost whispering voice.

Please see Kobayashi, page 4

Professor Returns to Teaching After Attack, Gains Support of Community Organizations

By J.K. YAMAMOTO

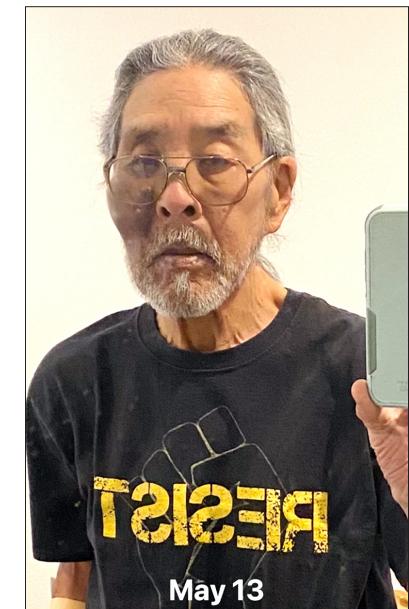
RAFU STAFF WRITER

Aki Maehara, the victim of an apparent hate-motivated attack, is still recovering but was planning this week to speak at a public event and has resumed teaching history at East Los Angeles College.

Meanwhile, a Go Fund Me page established on his behalf raised more than \$77,000 as of May 19.

Glorya Cabrera, a friend of Maehara who organized the fundraising campaign, posted this week, "I am truly in awe of Prof. Aki Maehara, whose warrior spirit inspires him as he continues to speak out on the viciousness of the hate crime that attempted to unalive him on April 29, 2025. A suspected yt (white) supremacist drove his car into a 71-year-old Japanese American college prof on his electric bike.

"So far, he met with two officers (yt) who took the initial report and did not report information about the suspect, that included threats made against Prof. Maehara and other suspects. We are waiting for the preliminary report. It's priority to keep pressure on this investigation."



Aki Maehara on the day he returned to teaching last week.

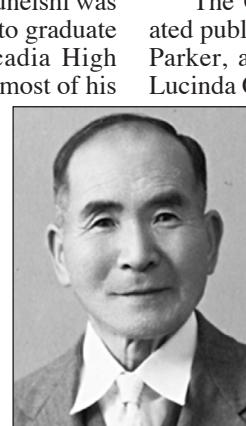
Groundbreaking for Satoru Tsuneishi Park in Monrovia

A groundbreaking for Satoru Tsuneishi Park, located at 1111 Encino Ave. in Monrovia, will be held on Tuesday, June 3, at 10 a.m.

Jonathan Tsuneishi, grandson of Satoru Tsuneishi (1888-1987), posted on Facebook: "Satoru Tsuneishi was the first Asian American to graduate from the Monrovia-Arcadia High School. He would spend most of his life in the San Gabriel Valley and in the 1930s would build a home and raise a family. During the Depression, he lost his chicken farm but was able to make a living selling fruit and vegetables from a roadside fruit stand on Route 66.

"Then World War II broke out and an executive order incarcerated Japanese Americans, sending them to internment camps scattered usually in the most remote parts of the United States. My grandfather and his family were sent to Heart Mountain in Wyoming. And while my grandfather and grandmother were incarcerated, four of his sons served in the U.S. armed services and two of his daughters worked as translators.

"My brother Mark shared that the contributions made by early Japanese Americans help shape our communities and that it was important to create



Satoru Tsuneishi

felt it important to share the story of Japanese Americans who lived in Monrovia and that their experience of being interned in WWII should not be forgotten.

"My brother Mark shared that the contributions made by early Japanese Americans help shape our communities and that it was important to create

Please see Tsuneishi Park, page 4

Valkyries Make WNBA History, but Not Without Controversy

By MIKEY HIRANO CULROSS
RAFU SPORTS EDITOR

The Golden State Valkyries made their WNBA debut on May 16, an occasion marked by a sellout crowd, a series of league firsts and even a lingering controversy.

More than 18,000 packed the Chase Center in San Francisco to see the league's newest team play their first game. It is said to be the highest attendance ever for a WNBA home opener.

Asked to describe the environment, Valkyries head coach Natalie Nakase had a single-word response at the ready: loud.

"That's exactly what I wanted," Nakase said during a postgame press conference. "If I could have dreamed of an environment – the roars, the screams, the shouts... that crowd, they're going to support us regardless. To have that kind of support, it's surreal."

Turnovers in particular spoiled the debut, however, as Golden State fell to the visiting L.A. Sparks, 82-67.

"It's hard to win a game that way," said Nakase. "I have to give them a little grace, with the kind of environment we had," she added, referencing

the large crowd and the fact that for several of her players, it was a new experience to start and have heavy playing time.

"We'll clean it up, take a look at it, but I know there's a lot of room for improvement," she said. "Their effort was there and I'm never going to get upset with that."

Nakase also admitted to having a bit of an emotional moment when she spotted Doc Rivers, who had mentored her as an assistant when he was the head coach of the L.A. Clippers.

"Obviously I was a little choked up. He doesn't live out here, so for him to fly here to support me, that warmed my heart for sure," she said.

The Valkyries' debut was not without controversy, however, as a painful decision was made in the days before they took the court.

After selecting University of Connecticut guard Kaitlyn Chen in the WNBA draft on April 15, Golden State left her off the roster in its final round of preseason cuts.

For many fans, it was a stunning move, as Chen was fresh off a NCAA national championship with UConn and was poised to be the first Taiwanese player in the WNBA, playing for Nakase, the league's first Asian American head coach.

Reaction was swift from players and supporters from across the country.

Phoenix Mercury forward and WNBA All-Star Satou Sabally called the optics of the decision "tough."

"Even though she got the exposure she deserved, the question is whether the team truly invested in her future," Sabally said in a social media post.

Much of the criticism of the move stemmed from how aggressively the league promoted Chen during the preseason, fervently marketing her jersey for sale. Chen's gear is said to have been one of the top sellers, with orders outpacing even that of WNBA stars like Sabrina Ionescu.

The notion that the league took advantage of Chen's marketability without regard for her future development or inclusion has not sat well with many fans.

Chen made her mark on history by playing in an official preseason game on May 6, regarded by many supporters as an important milestone for Asian American representation in pro sports.

Fans took to social media after the cut was announced, voicing overwhelming support for Chen, who stands a solid chance of landing with another team.

"The bay loves you. So proud. The Valkyries failed in this," one fan wrote.



Golden State Valkyries head coach Natalie Nakase speaks to reporters after her team's inaugural WBNA game on May 16 in San Francisco.

Yamamoto Takes No-hitter to 7th in Dodgers' Walk-off Win

Yoshinobu Yamamoto took his no-hit bid to the seventh inning but did not get a decision Tuesday in the Dodgers' 4-3 walk-off win in 10 innings against the Arizona Diamondbacks.

A commanding Yamamoto tossed five 1-2-3 innings before Ketel Marte, who drew a walk in the fourth, singled to open the seventh to end the right-hander's bid at Dodger Stadium.

A wild pitch and a two-out walk put runners on the corners, but Yamamoto got out of the jam with his ninth and last strikeout of the game against Pavin Smith, preserving his team's 1-0 lead.

Gabriel Moreno tied the game for the D-backs with a solo shot with one out in the ninth, however, and they then led 3-1 in the 10th thanks to Corbin Carroll's two-run home run.

But the Dodgers rallied for three runs in the home half when Shohei Ohtani drew an intentional walk, stole second and scored the winning run on Max Muncy's sacrifice fly, ending their four-game losing skid.

"I rolled my sleeves up each inning and put in a proper effort," Yamamoto, who remains 5-3 for the season, said after his 110-pitch outing. "I feel really happy to have contributed to the win."

Seiya Suzuki hit his 12th homer while going 3-for-5 as the Chicago Cubs clobbered the Miami Marlins 14-1, with the outfielder now in joint Major League Baseball lead with 43 RBIs, alongside the New York Yankees' Aaron Judge, after plating four in the game.

Suzuki had an infield single in the third before slugging a two-run shot to center off Lake Bachar to wrap up



Yoshinobu Yamamoto reacts after ending the top of the sixth inning with a strikeout on Tuesday. Yamamoto took a no-hitter into the seventh inning and allowed only one hit in his start.

the Cubs' eight-run sixth with a 9-1 lead. He also had a two-run double in the five-run ninth.

"I was determined to swing aggressively," Suzuki said of his home run. "It felt great to ride the momentum my teammates built. I usually

remember something about pitchers I've faced before, even if it's just once, and that includes relievers."

On Monday, Ohtani hit his MLB-leading 17th home run of the season in the Dodgers' 9-5 loss to Arizona.

—Kyodo News reports

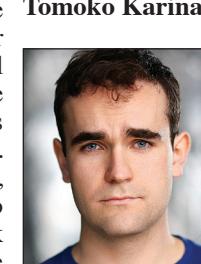
ON STAGE

Ensemble Tenshi Kicks Off 2025 Season June 8 with Kohei Tsuka's 'Prostitute Investigator'

Ensemble Tenshi, a production company that previously produced the award-winning epic period play "Shizuka 静" (Broadway World Regional Award, Los Angeles) and "Castles in the Crimson Flame," delivers "Prostitute Investigator" by legendary Japanese playwright Kohei Tsuka at The Broadwater Second Stage in Hollywood beginning June 8.

Female chief detective Denbei Kimura at the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department is notorious for her fearlessness. She will do anything to get justice served even if it means losing the love of her life. Denbei's loyal subordinate, Sadayuki Toda, has yet to find the courage to go back to his home in a small village to confide to his parents that he is gay.

Denbei and Toda are assigned to solve the murder case committed by Kintaro Oyama, who killed his childhood girlfriend, Aiko Yamaguchi, from a distant southern island called Goto. Just before the murder, the pride of Goto Islands, Daizen Lee, took his own life.



Detective Tomekichi Kumada is transferred to Denbei's investigation room. The two were lovers in the past. Kumada is desperately trying to protect the mystery of the murder. Behind the murder lies the secret of the small Islands. Denbei is determined to make Oyama a "first-class criminal" whatever it takes.

Tomoko Karina ("Captain America," "Cobra Kai") will play the dynamic role of Denbei. She also directs the play with L.A. theatre favorite Carla Valentine ("Lady Bird," "S.W.A.T.") and Dan Pousson as artistic supervisors. They have adapted this popular Japanese play to cater to English-speaking audiences.

The cast also includes Christian Lowery, Thomas McKean, and Quinn Vu.

Showtimes: Sunday, June 8, at 5 p.m.; Saturday, June 14, at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday, June 21, at 5 p.m. The Broadwater Second Stage is located at 6320 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles. Tickets are \$25. Purchase at www.hollywoodfringe.org/project/ensemble-tenshi

ects/12122.

For more information, email info@ensembletenshi.org or visit <https://ensembletenshi.org/>.

About the Playwright

Kohei Tsuka (1948-2010), a Korean Japanese playwright, theater director, novelist and screenwriter, was one of Japan's most influential theater figures and has had a major impact on modern theatre since the 1970s. His plays have gained overwhelming popularity, sparking a "Tsuka boom."

At the age of 25, he was the youngest person ever to win the Kishida Kunio Drama Award (for "Atami Murder Case"). He was also a Naoki Literary Prize laureate and winner of Japan Academy Award for best screenplay (for "Fall Guy") and the Yomiuri Literature Prize (for the play "Hiryuden '90: Autumn of Slaughter").

With his poisonously aggressive dialogues and passionate, fast-paced style, he uncovered the emotions swirling within people in weaker positions. Even now, more than a decade after his death, Tsuka's works are performed every year all over Japan, attracting many actors and audiences.

EVENTS

Sushi & Sake for Wildfire Relief Set for June 9 at Japan House Los Angeles

The Japanese Restaurant Association of America presents a charity event, "Sushi & Sake for Wildfire Relief," on Monday, June 9, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Japan House Los Angeles, 5801 Hollywood Blvd.

This special evening will bring together leading Japanese restaurants, food manufacturers, and importers from across Southern California to support victims of the January wildfires in the Los Angeles area. It is a celebration of culinary community and compassion.

Attendees will enjoy authentic Japanese food and premium sake in a warm, communal atmosphere – all while contributing to meaningful local recovery efforts.

Hosted by JRA, with the support of JETRO Los Angeles, Japan House Los Angeles, and the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, this event highlights the generosity and unity of the Japanese food industry in Los Angeles.

The event will feature:

- All-you-can-eat sushi and giant sashimi boat with fresh, beautifully crafted seafood

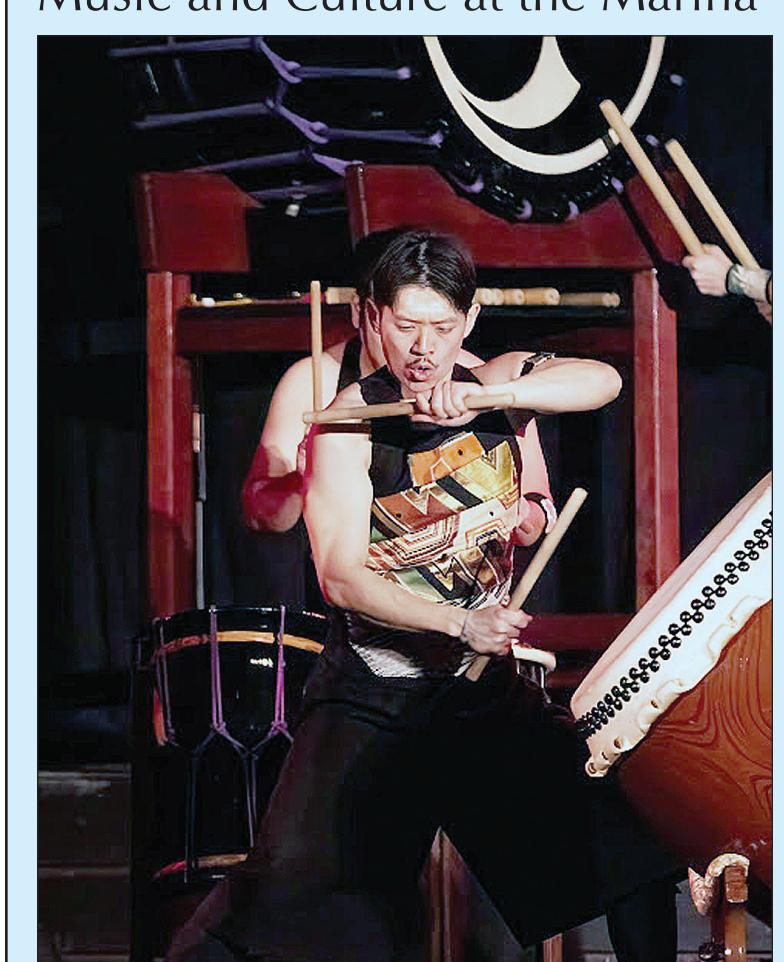
- Premium sake tasting – a curated selection of fine Japanese sake

- Japanese food booths and souvenirs – Enjoy signature dishes from popular local Japanese restaurants.

Plus, take home a special gift to remember the experience.

Capacity is limited to 100 guests. Tickets are \$100 per person and are available at: www.eventbrite.com.

Music and Culture at the Marina



The Marina Culture Jam, a celebration of Marina Del Rey's 60th anniversary, will be held on Saturday, May 31, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way in Marina Del Rey. TaikoProject is scheduled to perform from 11 to 11:45 a.m. The event will also feature Inca (Peruvian ensemble), free giveaways, photo booth, cultural art activities, kids' craft corner, lawn games, food trucks, resource fair and historic harbor tours. Free admission. Info: (424) 526-7900, events@bh.lacounty.gov

2025

MARINA CULTURE JAM

SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2025

11 AM - 4 PM

BURTON CHACE PARK
13650 MINDANAO WAY
MARINA DEL REY, CA 90292

Join us for a special Marina Culture Jam event to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Marina del Rey!

EVENT SCHEDULE:

- 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM TAIKOPROJECT PERFORMANCE
- 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM RESOURCE FAIR
- 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM DRUM SESSION #1
- 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM DJ
- 1:00 PM - 1:45 PM DRUM SESSION #2
- 3:00 PM - 3:45 PM INCA, THE PERUVIAN ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE

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— Saturday, April 12, 2025 —

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*as of 4/11/2025

Photos (top to bottom): Ann Burroughs presents Toshizo Watanabe with JANM's Lifetime Achievement Award; The Nisei Week queen and court with George and Brad Takei; Nobuko Miyamoto, recipient of JANM's Lifetime Achievement Award; Tad Nakamura presents Judi Oyama with JANM's Award of Excellence; Yosh Nakamura with David Ono and Tamlyn Tomita; Judith Hill, singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist

100 N. Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012 | 213.625.0414
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NATIONAL MUSEUM

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THE RAFU SHIMPO

Pub# 454-140

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1. HIGH IMPACT GAMES

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number: AI #00N

REGISTERED OWNERS:

1. ATSUKO KUBOTA

828 S LAKE ST

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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 06/04/2004. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct.

Signed:

ATSUKO KUBOTA, OWNER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on APRIL 17, 2025.

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 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: 5/2/25, 5/9/25, 5/16/25, 5/23/25.

Kiryama

Continued from page 1

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5/23/25

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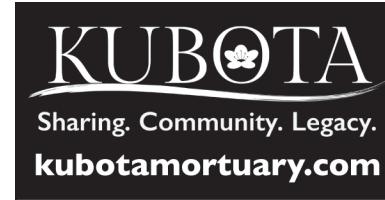


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Kobayashi

Continued from page 1

"Every day is such a gift, after such loss and pain and suffering," she said. "We should all learn to be kind to one another."

According to her family, Kobayashi was traveling to New York to visit family when she landed at LAX last Nov. 8, but did not board her connecting flight, and she apparently spent the night at LAX.

She traveled the next day to The Grove shopping center and returned to LAX that night, according to the family. She was spotted back at The Grove on Nov. 10 and likely returned to LAX again.

She was seen around 5 p.m. on Nov. 11 speaking to a ticketing agent at LAX, but she did not board a flight, according to the family, instead boarding an eastbound Metro C Line train at the Century/Aviation Station the night of Nov. 11, then transferring to a northbound A Line train at the Rosa Parks Station, accompanied by an "unknown individual."

The family says she was spotted early the next morning, Nov. 12, at the Union Station bus terminal in Downtown Los Angeles.

The family said earlier the last communications they received from Kobayashi were in strange text messages, including one in which she said she was feeling scared, and that someone might be trying to steal her

money and identity.

On Dec. 2, the LAPD announced that

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

What Is Poverty Level???

In America, the strongest and richest nation in the world, you'd think that everyone would have sufficient resources to pay for food and medicine, be able to keep a roof over their heads, and meet their other basic needs. You would think that everyone, regardless of their race, color, age, or national origin, deserves quality health care.

However, the sad truth is that 45% of Americans over 65 have trouble meeting their basic needs — that's nearly half of older adults. (Source: www.justiceinaging.org)

Since its inception in 1935, Social Security payments have been instrumental in providing economic security for older adults in the U.S. Additionally, Medicare, which provides health insurance to 66 million people age 65 or older, offers financial protection by helping to cover the cost of medical care, while Medicaid (California's Medi-Cal) provides additional benefits and cost-sharing assistance to many Medicare beneficiaries with low incomes.

Social Security is called a "cornerstone" of the U.S. social safety net, providing a crucial source of income for millions of Americans. Unfortunately, the "safety net" is full of holes. Over 1 in 10 (10.2%) adults ages 65 and older were living in poverty in 2022, i.e., household income below \$14,040 in 2022. In 2025, the poverty level for a single individual is \$15,650 annually. For a family of two, it's \$21,150. (Source: www.kff.org, Kaiser Family Foundation, May 21, 2024)

The average Social Security benefit is around \$1,900 per month, but millions of retired workers and their spouses receive much less than that. Because of lower wages earned during working years, the poverty rate was higher among people ages 80 and older, women, and people of color. For example, based on the official poverty measure, the share of older Black (17.3%), Hispanic (17.4%) and American Indian or Alaska Native (17.4%) adults with incomes below poverty was more than double the share of older white adults (7.7%).

In 2025, the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Social Security benefits was only 2.5%, despite rising prices just about everywhere. This means that Social Security benefits, including Supplemental Security Income (SSI), will increase by 2.5% starting with payments made in January 2025. This increase translates to an average monthly increase of about \$50 for retirement benefits, according to an AARP article.

But COLA adjustments are completely out of touch with the "real world." The real cost food, gas, health-



care, living expenses, etc. are increasing by far more than COLA's 2.5% increase in 2025. Furthermore, because Part B premiums (up 5.9%) are commonly deducted from Social Security checks, that discrepancy can lead to beneficiaries seeing smaller monthly checks even after cost-of-living increases. If you're a senior living on Social Security, you might also be "feeling the pinch."

To make things worse, California is facing a \$12 billion budget deficit. On May 14, Gov. Gavin Newsom outlined his nearly \$322 billion state spending plan for the upcoming fiscal year. Newsom wants to help close the deficit by freezing enrollment in state-funded health care programs for the disabled, poor, and elderly, targeting primarily Medi-Cal and In-Home Support Services. A final budget must be signed by June.

The governor proposes the reinstatement of the Medi-Cal asset limit for disabled adults and seniors of \$2,000 for an individual or \$3,000 for a couple, a restriction that effectively demands extreme poverty in order to continue receiving critical health care.

These policies, if enacted, will slash hundreds of billions in Medicaid funding and undermine Medicare and the Affordable Care Act (ACA). As a result, at least 13.7 million people, including older adults, could have their health and long-term care coverage stripped away.

On a positive note, there are still many steps in the process before this bill becomes law. For those who can see the "writing on the wall," NOW is the time to get a Medi-Cal card!!! Why?

Under the existing law, it's fairly easy to qualify for Medi-Cal since they removed the Asset Test on Jan. 1, 2024. You can keep your home and savings and still get a Medi-Cal card before they make it almost impossible to "grandfathered" in.

Say, Judd, just how likely is it that the law is changed denying Medi-Cal benefits to seniors and disabled adults?" Very likely. With the coming "tsunami" of baby boomers reaching nursing home age (average: 81 years old) in the coming years, the government can't afford to keep paying for long-term care. So they plan to shift the financial burden of long-term care off the "public sector" and place the cost on the "private sector." In the not too distant future, workers will be forced to purchase long-term care insurance.

California lawmakers and government think tanks have a plan to eliminate the cost of long-term care insurance. For example, based on the official poverty measure, the share of older Black (17.3%), Hispanic (17.4%) and American Indian or Alaska Native (17.4%) adults with incomes below poverty was more than double the share of older white adults (7.7%).

Medi-Cal. "If that's so," you might ask, "why did California's Medi-Cal eliminate the Asset Test on Jan. 1 of 2024? Why are millionaires allowed to get Medi-Cal benefits? It makes no sense." Here's my explanation — soon and very soon, they'll announce that Medi-Cal is out of money to pay for long-term care.

They'll blame it on the millionaires who took advantage of the "no asset test" law and took benefits that they didn't really need. Without Medi-Cal (Medicaid), Americans will be forced to buy long-term care insurance. And if you don't buy LTC insurance privately on your own, you'll get state-sponsored insurance. And just like Social Security, the premiums will be deducted from your paycheck.

Here's my point — "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade." If you're retired and living off Social Security, qualify for a Medi-Cal card NOW. Even if you're still healthy and independent, all seniors should consider getting a Medi-Cal card while they're still available. It's like having long-term care insurance without having to pay the expensive premiums. And, you don't need to pass a physical exam.

Under current California law, you may qualify for Medi-Cal even if you have a million dollars in the bank and own your home (still exempt), even if you don't need help or assistance at this time. You don't lose your Medicare by qualifying for Medi-Cal, i.e., you keep the same doctors and become "Medi-Medi."

Furthermore, no more "out-of-pocket" doctor co-pays, or prescription medication costs. If the government eliminates Medi-Cal benefits in the future, there's a good chance you'll be getting a Medi-Cal card!!! Why?

If you have a loved one currently in a nursing home and privately paying \$10,000 or more per month — STOP! Get Medi-Cal to pay the high cost of long-term care. But in order for Medi-Cal to pay, you have to be in a licensed Medi-Cal facility, e.g., Kei-Ai (the old Keiro), Hollenbeck, Atherton, etc. are all licensed Medi-Cal facilities.

However, Medi-Cal will not pay for retirement homes, board and care, or assisted living (unless they accept the Assisted Living Waiver (ALW) program).

If you have an elderly parent still at home, you might say, "Mom doesn't want to go to a nursing home." I don't blame her. But chances are, as she grows older, she's depending on her adult children to help her more and more, e.g., drive to the doctor, pay the bills, etc. More often than not, the adult care-giving child is helping mom out UNPAID.

Why not get money from In-Home-Supportive-Services (IHSS) so that Mom can continue to live in her own home?

IHSS is a county program designed to allow you to live safely in your own home and avoid the need for out-of-home care, i.e., nursing homes. Services almost always need to be provided in your own home, or the home of a relative. Here's the good part — you can elect to have them pay a family member, e.g., your daughter, for helping you live at home.

That's right! IHSS will pay adult children to help Mom with housework, meal preparation, and personal care, etc.

To be eligible for IHSS, a person must be enrolled in Medi-Cal. Since the current law makes it easy to qualify for Medi-Cal, the trick now is getting the most money from IHSS.

IHSS will not pay for 24/7 home care. It's designed to help pay for part-time home care. IHSS will send a county social worker out to the house to determine the applicant's "level of ability and dependence upon verbal or physical assistance by another."

The assessment will evaluate the applicant's physical, cognitive, and emotional impairments and determine if the applicant has a functional limitation that can be supported by an IHSS-covered service. The more categories you need help with, the more money you get.

In other words, if Mom proudly sticks out her chest and says, "I don't need any help," you won't get any money. So, if there ever was a time to "monku, monku, monku," this is it.

Remember, there's a limit on how much IHSS will pay. So even if Mom is bed-bound and can't do anything, IHSS puts a cap on benefits paid. The maximum number of hours is 283 per month. They will pay the city or county's minimum wage, approximately \$17 per hour. If you get maximum hours in Los Angeles, for example, that's \$4,811 per month!!! That's "nothing to sneeze at."

Here's the good part — you get to pick the "care provider." You can elect to have IHSS pay a home care agency, or a family member, e.g., your daughter. That's right! IHSS will pay your adult child to help you live at home, e.g., domestic services such as housework, personal care services such as bathing, ambulation around the house, etc.

Perhaps the biggest obstacle to seniors qualifying for IHSS is income. Income and income from assets, such as income from property, will continue to be counted. IHSS is generally not available to seniors making more than \$1,677 per month, or couples making more than \$2,269 per month.

If you are slightly over this amount, \$200-\$500 per month, there are ways to lower your income by purchasing a supplemental dental plan or vision plan in order to qualify for IHSS.

Please keep in mind that the current law eliminating Medi-Cal's Asset Test will not affect Medi-Cal's estate recovery rules. Federal law requires Medi-Cal agencies to recoup payments for certain Medi-Cal benefits, long-term care, and home and community-based services for some Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Those recovery rules will continue to apply. Under the old law, the only way to avoid recovery is to have nothing left in your estate at the time of death.

But they've changed the law regarding Estate Recovery. As of 2017, California limits estate recovery to those estates that are subject to probate under California law. This is great news! Now you have DOUBLE the advantages for making your Revocable Living Trust: (1) Avoiding the legal nightmare called probate; and (2) Protecting your home from a Medi-Cal estate recovery claim.

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 Rau Shimpo.

Hirono, Meng Introduce Resolution Recognizing May as AANHPI Heritage Month

WASHINGTON, DC — Today, U.S. Senator Mazie K. Hirono (D-HI) and U.S. Representative Grace Meng (D-NY), Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), introduced a bicameral, bipartisan resolution to mark May 2025 as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month. The resolution recognizes the significant contributions that Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities have made to this country.

"During Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, we celebrate the diversity and historic contributions of our communities, while also recognizing the challenges we have overcome," said Senator Hirono. "At a time when diversity is under attack and immigrant communities are being targeted across the country, I'm proud to join Chair Meng in introducing this resolution and reaffirming our commitment in this fight to build a more inclusive and equitable future for all."

"Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have made invaluable contributions to our country and continue to play a vital role in shaping America for the better," said Rep. Meng, Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. "In the face of recent efforts to erase our community's achievements, Senator Hirono and I remain steadfast in our support for the AANHPI community and will continue to champion our stories of triumph, sacrifice, and resilience that are integral to the story of America."

In the Senate, this resolution is cosponsored by Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Andy Kim (D-NJ), Susan Collins (R-ME), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Michael Bennet

(D-CO), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Chris Coons (D-DE), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), Dick Durbin (D-IL), John Fetterman (D-PA), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Tim Kaine (D-VA), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Ed Markey (D-MA), Patty Murray (D-WA), Alex Padilla (D-CA), Jack Reed (D-RI), Jacky Rosen (D-NV), Brian Schatz (D-HI), Adam Schiff (D-CA), Tina Smith (D-MN), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Mark Warner (D-VA), Raphael Warnock (D-GA), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), and Ron Wyden (D-OR).

In the House, this resolution is cosponsored by Representatives Yassmin Ansari (D-AZ), Nanette Barragán (D-CA), Ami Bera (D-CA), Salud Carbajal (D-CA), Ed Case (D-HI), Judy Chu (D-CA), Debbie Dingell (D-MI), Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX), Valerie Foushee (D-NC), Robert Garcia (D-CA), Dan Goldman (D-NY), Jimmy Gomez (D-CA), Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ), Al Green (D-TX), Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D-CA), Ro Khanna (D-CA), Kimberly King-Hinds (R-CNMI), Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), Susie Lee (D-NV), Ted Lieu (D-CA), April McClain Delaney (D-MD), Rob Menendez (D-NJ), Dave Min (D-CA), Kevin Mullin (D-CA), Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), Linda Sánchez (D-CA), Bobby Scott (D-VA), Lateefah Simon (D-CA), Marilyn Strickland (D-WA), Suhas Subramanyam (D-VA), Tom Suozzi (D-NY), Mark Takano (D-CA), Shri Thanedar (D-MI), Mike Thompson (D-CA), Jill Tokuda (D-HI), Paul Tonko (D-NY), Norma Torres (D-CA), Derek Tran (D-CA), Juan Vargas (D-CA), Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), and Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ).

Inaugural 'Stop the Hate Day of Action' Convenes More Than 200 Community Leaders

SACRAMENTO — On May 13, more than 200 community leaders from across the state convened at the capital for the first-ever "Stop the Hate Day of Action" to educate policymakers on the increasing rates of hate incidents in California and the need for continued resources and support.

Leaders from Stop the Hate, a multiracial network of 180 nonprofit organizations committed to serving survivors of hate, participated in the Day of Action. They represented organizations serving Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI), African American and Black, Latino, Indigenous, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ communities throughout California.

Community leaders met with representatives from more than 100 legislative offices to shed light on how Californians are ending hate and to promote the essential role of their organizations in building healthy and safe communities.

The "Stop the Hate Day of Action" was organized by AAPI Equity Alliance, Asian Health Services, Catalyst of San Diego and Imperial Counties, Orange County Asian Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA) and The Center at Sierra Health Foundation in conjunction with a convening attended by more than 300 individuals the day prior.

"Our places of gathering are no longer safe and are under threat," said Khudeeja Alam, executive director of the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs (CAPAA) in her opening remarks. "Our elders are scared to walk alone. Our youth are asking if they belong. We're here to remind lawmakers that hate is not over, but we're also

"Today is such a critical day for visibility at the capital," said Fong. "Hate is not going away. With the rhetoric that's out there now, Stop the Hate is more critical than ever in uplifting our communities and protecting our democracy. We must continue to invest in programs that serve all Californians, regardless of their race, religion, sexuality, or abilities."

The Stop the Hate program is the first of its kind, addressing hate and protecting California's communities. In its first year, Stop the Hate reached more than 3 million Californians through prevention and intervention services. The program is made possible by the Asian Pacific Islander (API) Equity Budget, a historic investment of \$165.5 million passed by the California State Legislature in 2021. Learn more at: <https://stoptheteca.org/our-story>

Koichi Ono

Koichi Ono, 93, a Hawaii-born resident of Monterey Park, passed away on April 27, 2025, after battling cancer. He is survived by son, Daryl Ono; daughter, Cathie (Gary) Tani; grandson, Andrew Tani; and many nieces and nephews in California and Hawaii. He is predeceased by his wife, Hisako Ono; grandchildren, Christopher and Kelli Tani; his parents and all his siblings, and many friends and relatives.

A private family burial service will be held at Green Hills on June 27, 2025.

In lieu of flowers or koden, donations can be made to Kelli Tani Foundation at kellitani.com or sent to Kelli Tani Foundation, 24325 Crenshaw Blvd. #221, Torrance, CA 90505.

www.fukuimortuary.com (213) 626-0441

Pamela Mary Hamashita

Pamela Mary Hamashita, 73-year-old, Los Angeles, Calif.-born Sansei, passed away peacefully on March 20, 2025. Per Pam's request, no services will be held.

She is survived by her loving husband, Randy; sons, Brent Hamashita of Goleta, Calif. and Corey Hamashita; sister, Barbra Ikejiri; also survived by other relatives.

www.kubotamortuary.com (213) 749-1449

Andrea "Andie" Kimura

A funeral service for Andrea "Andie" Kimura, 37-year-old, Los Angeles, Calif.-born Sansei who passed away on May 4, 2025 in Santa Monica, Calif., will be held on May 31, 2025, 11 a.m. at L.A. Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, 815 E. 1st St., Los Angeles.

She is survived by her husband, Jimmy Chhun; parents, Dennis and Lorraine Kimura; sister, Allie Kimura; uncles, Bill (Christy) Seki and Ronald (Lisa) Kimura; aunts, Susan (Peter) Hom, Janis (Henry) Banuelos and Mickey Kumamoto; also survived by many cousins and other relatives.

www.kubotamortuary.com (213) 749-1449

Stella Otsuka

A funeral service for Stella Otsuka, 101-year-old, Sacramento, Calif.-born Nisei who passed away on May 9, 2025, will be held on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at Orange County Buddhist Church, 909 S. Dale Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804.

Stella is predeceased by her husband, Joe Otsuka and son, Donnie. She is survived by her loving son, Jimmy (Diane) Otsuka; daughter-in-law, Rosa Otsuka; seven grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren; also survived by many relatives.

www.kubotamortuary.com (213) 749-1449

Stella Otsuka

Masami George Ozamoto

A private funeral service for Masami George Ozamoto (101), who passed away on February 18, 2025, in Los Angeles, was held on Saturday, April 5, 2025, at WLA Buddhist Temple.

He is predeceased by his wife, Mary Ozamoto; and granddaughter, Michelle Ozamoto; and survived by his son, Rodney (Linda) Ozamoto; grandchildren, Michael, Bryan and Elyse (Lawrence Hsiung) Ozamoto; three great-grandchildren; also survived by many nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

RELIGION

RAFU Event Calendar



Gardena Buddhist Church 1517 W. 166th St, Gardena 90247, 310-327-9400. Gardenabuddhistchurch.org. May 25 (Sun), 9 am—Memorial Day service, Pacific Crest Cemetery, Redondo Beach; 11 am—Memorial Day service, Green Hills Cemetery, RPV; office closed. May 26 (Mon), 9 am-12 noon—Nokotsudo open; office closed.

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.

Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church 144 S. Greenwood Ave. Montebello CA 90640, (323)721-5568 Montebellouc.org Join us for in-person and online worship service at 10 am Sunday mornings or YouTube.com/mpccucc. Contact mpcc@montebellouc.org for details.

Orange County Buddhist Church 909 S. Dale Ave, Anaheim 92804,

714-827-9590. Ocbuddhist.org. May 24 (Sat), 7 pm—Zoom BEC Japanese class (Rev Dr. Mutsumi Wondra). May 25 (Sun): No mindfulness service or Sunday service; no adult discussion or Dharma School. May 26 (Mon), 9 am—Memorial Day services at cemeteries (see website for list of cemeteries and times in the Korin); 9:40 am—Memorial Day service at OCBC. May 27 (Tue): Office closed. May 28 (Wed), 7 pm—Zoom mindfulness service. May 29 (Thu), 9 am—Tai chi class (in-person). June 1 (Sun), 8:30 am—Mindfulness service (in-person); 10 am—Sunday service (hybrid); 11 am—Adult discussion and Dharma School (in-person); 9 am-2 pm—Blood drive. June 2 (Mon), 10:30 am—In-person BEC Japanese class (Rev Dr. Mutsumi Wondra). June 3 (Tue): Office closed. June 4 (Wed), 7 pm—Zoom mindfulness service. June 5 (Thu), 9 am—Tai chi class (in-person); June 7 (Sat), 4:30 pm—Shotsoku Hoyo monthly memorial service (in-person). June 8 (Sun), 8:30 am—Mindfulness service (in-person); 10 am—Sunday service (hybrid); 11 am—Adult discussion and Dharma School (in-person); 12 pm—Stomach Health Project.

Pasadena Buddhist Temple 1993 Glen Ave, Pasadena 91103, 626-798-4781. Pasadenabuddhisttemple.org. Resident minister: Rev. Jundo Gregory Gibbs. Grounds of the temple closed through the end of May.

Senshin Buddhist Temple 1311 W. 37th St, L.A. 90007, 323-731-4617. senshitemple@gmail.com, senshitemple.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. vhbt.org. We are open for in-person Sunday and Tuesday morning services at 9:30 am, except for Tuesday, May 27. Services are also conducted by Zoom as well. Special services include the following: On Memorial Day weekend, there will be a variety of services, including gravesite visitations at Woodlawn, Evergreen, Green Hills, and Inglewood cemeteries, as well as a memorial service at our temple Nokotsudo. In addition, we will participate in the Japanese American Veterans Joint Memorial Service on Saturday, May 24, at the JACCC and the Bay Cities Japanese Community Joint Memorial Day Service at Woodlawn Cemetery on Monday, May 26. Please check our website, vhbt.org, for more information.

W. Covina Buddhist Temple 1203 W. Puente Ave, W. Covina 91790, 626-689-1040. livingdharma.org. On Sunday, May 25, Sunday service will be held at 10 am both in-person and online. Dharma message will be delivered by Rev. Miyoshi. Discussion will follow. Please contact the temple (webt.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 Umezumi. May 25 (Sun), 10 am—Memorial Day service; 11 am—Sunday matinee. May 26 (Mon), 9 am—Memorial Day service at Woodlawn Cemetery; office closed. May 28 (Wed), 7 pm—Jodo Shinshu class. May 31 (Sat), 11 am—Jodo Shinshu class. June 1 (Sun), 10 am—Dharma service, Dharma Kids program; 11 am—Dharma reflection session.

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.

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 2800 E. 4th St, L.A. 90033, 323-2886.

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.

Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ 2550 Fairfield St, San Diego, 92110, 619-276-4881.

Resplendent Light Community Church 3200 Ocean Park Blvd, Santa Monica, 90405, 310-450-0459.

Rise OC 3198-B Airport Loop Dr, Costa Mesa 92626, 714-641-1944.

Rissho Kosei-kai Buddhist Church of L.A. 2701 E. 1st St, L.A. 90033, 323-269-4741.

Sage Granada Park United

288-1212.

Methodist Church 1850 W. Hellman Ave, Alhambra 91803, 626-284-3229.

San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple 9450 Remick Ave, Pacoima 91331, 818-899-4030.

South Bay Adventist Church 401 S. Prospect Ave, Redondo Beach, 90277, 323-214-3123.

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 Altozano, 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

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

MAY 24-JUNE 25 — Free ondo dance practice at Long Beach Japanese Cultural Center, 1766 Seabright Ave, Long Beach. Wed (May 28; June 4, 11, 19, 25), 7:30-8:30 pm; Sat (May 24, 31; June 7, 14, 21), 6-7 pm. No previous experience needed. Dances will be performed at the Summer Festival on June 28. Info: longbeachondo@gmail.com

MAY 25 — Memorial Day service, 2 pm at Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute, 1964 W 162nd St, Gardena. Sponsored by 4th District VFW Post 1961.

MAY 25 — Taiko drumming with Togen Daiko, 2-3 pm at Marvin E. Smith Community Room, Grant R. Brimhall Library, 1401 E Janss Rd, Thousand Oaks. Presented by Ventura County JACL. Info: venturacountyjac@gmail.com, vcjac.org

MAY 26 — Memorial Day Service, 9 am at Woodlawn Cemetery, 14th St and Pico Blvd, Santa Monica. 66th anniversary commemoration on LA's west side at the Ireito (memorial tower) to honor Issei pioneers and Nisei soldiers who died in WWII and the Korean War.

MAY 26 — Memorial Day Service, 3 pm at Westminster Cemetery, 14801 Beach Blvd, Westminster Sponsored by Kazuo Masuda VFW Post 3670.

MAY 28 — "Patsy," a play about Patsy Takemoto Mink, the first woman of color in Congress, written by Alison Minami, directed by John Miyazaki, 4-5 pm at Lennox Library, 4359 Lennox Blvd, Lennox. Cast: Chloe Madrigal, Pauline Yasuda, Evelyn Wu-Coffey, William Bremer, Andrew Brown, Stephen Haci. Info: www.eastwestplayers.org/patsy-tour

MAY 31 — Bazaar sponsored by Koreisha Senior Care & Advocacy and Seinan Senior Citizens' Club, 11 am-4 pm at Seinan Senior Center, 3116 Jefferson Blvd, Los Angeles. Seinan Karaoke Club will participate. Free parking available at the center. Proceeds will support adult day care. Info on co-sponsorship and donating merchandise: Junko Ashida, (626) 632-2560; Kenji Irie, (213) 200-2391; Teruko Watanabe, (310) 753-6220; Rachel Koza, (323) 770-6481 (leave a message)

MAY 31 — Japanology Fair, 11 am-4:30 pm at Valley Japanese Community Center, 8850 Lankershim Blvd, Sun Valley. Vintage kimono, yukata, hoary, accessories, handmade jewelry, handcrafts, ceramics, calligraphy art, handmade sashimi, clothing, bags, other Japanese items. Info: japanologyfair.com

MAY 31 — Community Voices: AAPI Film Festival, 1-3 pm at Peninsula Center Library, 701 Silver Spur Rd, Rolling Hills Estates. A curated collection of short films directed by senior and amateur AAPI filmmakers. During a Q&A session, the directors will discuss their creative processes. Joint program with VC Archives and their Digital Histories program. Info: <https://pvld.libnet.info/event/13538592>

MAY 31 — Okinawa Association of America's Nuchaashii Potluck Gathering (last Saturdays of the month), connecting and fostering community through food and culture, 4-6 pm at OAA Center's Yamauchi Bldg, 16500 S Western Ave, Gardena. Parking lot behind the buildings off 165th Place. Break bread with community members, learn/practice self-intros in Uchinaaguchi (Okinawan language). RSVP: tinyurl.com/oaanuchaashii, (310) 532-1929. Free admission with 1 potluck dinner dish. To maintain connections made during the pandemic lockdown, gatherings are hybrid every other month (potluck at 4 pm and online via Zoom starting at 4:30 pm Pacific).

MAY 31 — ESL (Ethnic Super Laughs) Comedy, 8 pm at The Crowd, 2525 Michigan Ave, Santa Monica. Hosted by Kazu Kusanno and Miyo Yamauchi. AAPI Heritage Month special: all-Asian lineup. \$20. Info: (424) 322-8017, <https://crowcomedy.com>

MAY 31 — Makoto Taiko 2025 Concert, "Hishō," 7-9:30 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm) at Aratani Theatre, 244 S San Pedro St, Little Tokyo. Learn the Okinawan tradition of bokashi composting. \$15 + \$1.50 fee, including a DIY bokashi bag and refreshment. Supplies and bokashi kit: \$35. Info/tickets: <https://jacc.org/events/makoto-taiko-2025-concert-hisho/>

JUNE 8 — Yu Ooka Group, 5:30 pm (doors open at 5 pm) at 3355 Asian Grill, 1955 Torrance Blvd, Torrance. With Yu Ooka (guitar), Charito (vocals), Land Richards (drums), Tateng Katindig (keyboards), JV Collier (bass). \$25. Reservations recommended. Tickets: (310) 806-1131

JUNE 8, 14, 21 — "Prostitute Investigator," a murder mystery by acclaimed playwright Kohei Tsuksa, directed by and starring Tomoko Karina, with Christian Lowery, Thomas McKean, Quinn Vu. Tickets \$25. Info:

