

Focus on Film
A new photo shop is open in Little Tokyo.
— Page 2

122 YEARS OF COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

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japan-at-a-glance



JOINT EXERCISES: The Philippines and Japan conducted a joint maritime exercise June 14 in an area of the South China Sea that the Southeast Asian country insists it has jurisdiction over, amid China's intensifying claims in the waters. The Miguel Malvar, a guided missile frigate from the Philippine Navy, and the Takanami (pictured), a destroyer from Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force, took part in the exercise, which was held west of the town of Masinloc on the Philippines' main island of Luzon. The exercise, called the Maritime Cooperative Activity, is aimed at strengthening international cooperation to achieve a free and open Indo-Pacific, the Philippine military has said.

OLYMPIC ORDER: Japanese Olympic Committee President Yasuhiro Yamashita will receive the Olympic Order from the International Olympic Committee, multiple sources said June 14. The decision was approved during an IOC board meeting this month with the 68-year-old Yamashita, who won the judo open category gold medal at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, to be honored for his contribution to the Olympic movement. Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike and then Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga each received the Olympic Order in 2021 after helping stage the Tokyo Games amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Yamashita suffered a cervical vertebrae injury in October 2023 during his third term as the JOC president and has been away from his duties since.

NO EVENING EDITION: The Sankei Shimbun said June 14 it will end its Saturday evening edition from August to ease the workload of delivery workers. For series carried by its Saturday evening edition, The Sankei Shimbun will publish them in its Saturday morning or weekday editions, leaving the monthly subscription fee unchanged at 4,900 yen (\$34). The publishers of The Asahi Shimbun and Mainichi Shimbun said earlier in the month that they will stop printing the Saturday evening editions of their dailies from August.

in the news

HELP FOR BUSINESSES: Businesses in Downtown that have been impacted by vandalism and looting amid ongoing protests in the area can apply for resources through the city of Los Angeles, Mayor Karen Bass announced June 13. Staff from the offices of Bass, Councilmember Ysabel Jurado and other city departments will host webinars to make resources and information available. The first webinar was scheduled for June 13 in English, Spanish and Korean. Business owners can register for the webinars at www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/8no6FvN0QfOL3S3FcDGO. #/registration. "Our local businesses are the backbone of Downtown L.A., and my office is committed to supporting them through every challenge," said Jurado, who represents the 14th Council District. "I'm happy to partner in hosting this webinar to help impacted businesses access vital resources, while we continue to stand proudly with our immigrant communities and peaceful demonstrators who make Los Angeles vibrant and strong."

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Large, Peaceful 'No Kings' Protests in Torrance, Pasadena

Photo by MIKEY HIRANO CULROSS / Rafu Shimpo

Up to an estimated 5,000 took part in a No Kings Day rally that filled the area around the intersection and Colorado Boulevard and Lake Avenue in Pasadena on June 14. The gathering and march was one of thousands of similar protest demonstrations across the country.

The Torrance "No Kings" protest was held June 14 with large crowds in front of City Hall and along Torrance Boulevard and Maple Avenue.

Speakers included Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance), who said that the purpose of the protest was "to stand up to Donald Trump's abuse of power and militarization of immigration

enforcement."

He later described the event as the "largest peaceful protest in the history of Torrance, with a lot of families, American flags, and no vandalism."

Some signs read, "Immigrants make America great," a response to the recent ICE raids in the Southland.

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Courtesy Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi
Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi addressed the crowd in front of Torrance City Hall.

AAPI Democrats in Congress Condemn Rough Treatment of Sen. Padilla



Sen. Alex Padilla is forcibly removed from the room during a press conference held by Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem.

Sen. Andy Kim (D-N.J.): "Now is not the time to be silent. The video footage of Sen. Alex Padilla being forcibly removed and handcuffed at DHS Secretary Noem's press conference in L.A. is disturbing and unacceptable. What we've seen today continues the dangerous trend of this administration intimidating anyone who stands up and disagrees with them."

Rep. Derek Tran (D-Cypress): "Sen. Alex Padilla was dragged out of Kristi Noem's press conference for simply asking a question. I refuse to allow these actions to become the norm. We need transparency. We need answers, now."

Rep. Dave Min (D-Irvine): "The assault on Sen. Alex Padilla is unacceptable and the perpetrators must be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law. Senator Padilla is a devoted public servant who was doing his job. Nothing warrants this assault. We need immediate answers and accountability."

Rep. Judy Chu (D-Pasadena): "Treating Sen. Alex Padilla this way shows what this is about: crushing dissent. Not even a U.S. senator doing his job is exempt from Trump's wrath and need for control."

Rep. Ted Lieu (D-Los Angeles): "ICE has deported a kid, wrongfully detained citizens, and has now forcibly arrested a U.S. senator because he dared to ask Secretary Noem questions. This is a call to action to hold this administration accountable. Rise

up, peacefully exercise your rights, and make your voices heard."

Rep. Mark Takano (D-Riverside): "The assault of Sen. Padilla is the latest in a series of actions this administration has done to try and silence our dissent. I took to the floor of the House of Representatives to condemn this and urge Californians to keep using their voice."

"Kristi Noem must resign. What happened to Sen. Padilla was not an accident — it was part of a larger pattern of this administration using violence to intimidate. But the Department of Homeland Security is not a Noem's personal goon squad and this kind of authoritarian behavior has no place in America."

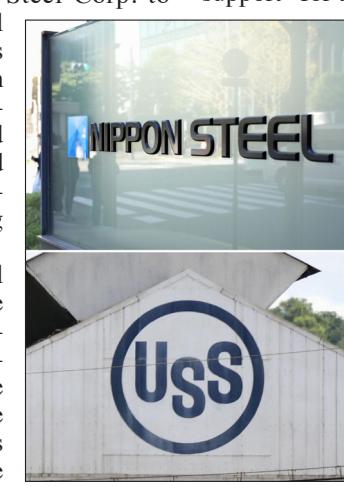
Rep. Doris Matsui (D-Sacramento): "The Trump Administration is out of control. The violent removal of my friend, Sen. Alex Padilla, for simply asking questions of Secretary Noem at a press conference is not just disgraceful — it's an attack on our democracy. The Trump administration must be held accountable. Every day, they weaponize immigration enforcement to target and terrorize communities. In L.A. and across the country, ICE is hiding behind masks and trampling on people's rights."

"From undermining the rule of law to unleashing military force on our streets, the Trump Administration has made chaos a tool for power. Now, they have crossed a new line: Please see Sen. Padilla, page 4

Trump Effectively Approves Nippon Steel's Takeover of U.S. Steel

By TAKUYA KURABE
KYODO NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — President Trump on June 13 effectively approved a deal for Nippon Steel Corp. to acquire U.S. Steel Corp., reversing his staunch opposition to the Japanese company's takeover bid after it committed to investing heavily in the struggling American producer.



In a statement, the two steelmakers said they have entered into a national security agreement with the U.S. government, and thanked Trump for his "bold leadership and strong support" for their merger.

Under the accord, Nippon Steel, which has sought to make U.S. Steel a wholly owned subsidiary, is obliged to newly invest \$11 billion by 2028 for the deal and fulfill commitments concerning "governance, domestic production and trade matters."

Without disclosing the specifics of those commitments, the companies said a "golden share" will be issued to the U.S. government, giving it veto power over major management decisions, such as approving or rejecting board members and slashing production capacity. The share would not involve investment by the

Please see Takeover, page 4

A New Chapter Opens as The Rafu Shimpo Moves to Montebello

Within the next few weeks, the offices of *The Rafu Shimpo* will have a new home. The *Rafu*'s new address will be 1300 W. Beverly Blvd. in Montebello.

The move represents the first time in its 122-year history that the *Rafu Shimpo*'s headquarters will be outside of Little Tokyo or Downtown. Unfortunately, the paper is not immune to the pressures that have been faced by legacy Japanese American businesses trying to survive in Little Tokyo.

"When *The Rafu Shimpo* opened in 1903, times were different. Japanese American individuals and businesses thrived in the Los Angeles area," explained *Rafu* publisher Michael Komai. "However, rent in Little Tokyo has been rising steadily since the 2008 financial crisis, and gentrification has priced out many Japanese American individuals and businesses. This has been so substantial that Little Tokyo was listed as one of America's 11 Most Endangered Historical Places in 2024."

Komai emphasizes that despite the *Rafu*'s change in location, coverage of the Japanese American community will not change. "For three generations, through two world wars, incarceration of Japanese Americans and two global pandemics, the Komai family and our staff have been dedicated to informing and representing the community. That mission will continue unabated," he said.

The operations and publishing schedule will continue uninterrupted, and Komai reiterated his gratitude for the continued support from readers and the greater community.



The *Rafu*'s new home in Montebello.

Wyoming Politician Apologizes for Use of Slur

POWELL, Wyo. — The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation issued the following statement on June 12 in response to the use of a racial slur by a member of the Wyoming House of Representatives.

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The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation is grateful for and accepts the apology from Rep. John Winter (R-Thermopolis) for his reference to the Heart Mountain incarceration site as the "J— camp" during a legislative committee hearing Tuesday.

Rep. John Winter

"The term (J*p camp) that I used just slipped out of my mouth as that is what it has always been referred to in my world as a kid," Winter said to AsAmNews by email. "I knew better, and I am sorry. I didn't mean to upset anyone."

We also thank state Sen. Tim French (R-Powell) and state Rep. Karleen Provenza (D-Laramie) for their supportive comments about the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation and its work to educate the community.

Please see Apology, page 4



Analog Photomart in Honda Plaza offers a variety of film as well as processing. The shop marks a return of film photo services to Little Tokyo.

The Latest Development From Little Tokyo

Analog Photomart is the neighborhood's new home for film photography.

By MIKEY HIRANO CULROSS
RAFU STAFF WRITER

There was a time – unthinkable as it may seem – that photos you'd snap would not instantly appear before your eyes. For the majority of photography's history, there was a period of actual waiting between taking the pictures and seeing how well (or not) they turned out.

I have clear memories of rumbling down to the Fotomat – a tiny kiosk hut usually located in the corner of some shopping center parking lot – to drop off rolls of film. About a week later, you'd return to pick up an envelope of glossy new prints.

There was a bit of magic in that delay; how you remembered the moments you'd captured with your Nikon F, Canon AE-1 or Kodak Instamatic probably didn't match what eventually came out on paper, but the whole process was itself enriching.

That scenario all but disappeared with the advent and proliferation of digital photography, even more so as cameras built into cell phones have made startling advances. It's easier, instantaneous and eliminates the need for vats of toxic chemicals needed for processing film.

But the aesthetic that was always a hallmark of film photography remains a draw for professionals and hobbyists alike. For many, the discovery of the old, imperfect world of non-digital pictures is a new passion.

Little Tokyo now has a hub for this who want to discover – or rediscover – the joys of film, located in Honda Plaza. Analog Photomart is the labor of love of Downtown resident Bryan Hong, who said opening the shop



"It's having the physical record of it, the archival aspect of it. You can just throw the negatives into a closet and they'll be there 30 years later," said Bryan Hong, owner of Analog Photomart. Below, a wall at the shop features the smiling faces of dozens of customers who have discovered the joys of film photography.

came as a kind of vision from above.

"I've never even worked in a retail store, but I basically was born with a camera in my hands. My family always had cameras around, and I always played with them ever since I was little," Hong explained. "And then I was very much like an early adopter of digital cameras, and it was so exciting to be able to see the pictures right away, but those early cameras were horrible."

Hong said the genesis of his business grew out the forced inactivity we

all experienced during the pandemic.

"I was at my parents' house and I found one of our family's old cameras in a closet, and it still had a roll of film in it," he recalled. "I took it to a shop on Los Angeles Street called One Stop film lab to have it developed, but the roll was completely obliterated. It was blank, but I wanted to see if the camera still works, so I bought another roll of film and shot it."

The market for film and processing has been steadily growing, Hong said, and Little Tokyo has been without a provider of film services since the closing of Kimura Photomat in 2010.

"I live in the neighborhood, about a block away from here, and I would have loved it if there was a place I could walk to and buy film and drop it off for developing," Hong said.

More than cameras, Hong focuses primarily on film and processing. He carries mostly 35mm film from a variety of brands – Kodak, Fuji, Ilford and

others – and offers processing. He works with outside labs for developing, but also has a tiny darkroom at the shop.

During our chat, a customer named Kathy stopped by to drop off a couple of rolls for processing – as well as a small bag of gourmet coffee beans as a gift. She said aside from the look and artistry, film offers a degree of anonymity, unlike digital photos that usually contain metadata like time and place.

"The craze right now is content creating and posting online, but I kind of want to still keep my privacy," she said. "You know, anyone can search up my family, my teachers, things like that. And I don't want it to be too exposed, but I want to keep taking pictures."

Kathy is among the dozens of customers new to film photography whose smiling faces adorn a wall in a corner of Analog. Cameras in hand, they posed for quick Polaroid snapshots after becoming devotees of the old medium at the shop.

Hong said his customers have ranged from seasoned professionals to many using film for the first time, adding that a large part of his business is processing the pictures from disposable cameras. Yes, those are still a thing.

"It's the best way to preserve memories, really, and it's actually not hard. It's easy and it's fun."

Furthermore, Hong insists the tactile nature of film is far more practical than constantly wrangling digital files in an ever-evolving technological landscape.

"It's having the physical record of it, the archival aspect of it. You can just throw the negatives into a closet and they'll be there 30 years later."

"With digital files, if you don't really stay on top of migrating all of your data to whatever the new storage medium is, like you are going to lose access to it. With these, you literally just hold it up to the light, and see what's there."

Analog Photomart is located at 416 E. 2nd Street in Little Tokyo. (213) 372-5002.



Drums and Defiance From Marchers in Little Tokyo

56 members of Nikkei Progressives, a group based in Little Tokyo, participated in the June 14 "No Kings" protest in Downtown Los Angeles, marching from Little Tokyo, raising their voices and beating Japanese drums in front of City Hall. The march moved slowly about one mile to Pershing Square. On the same day that a military parade was held in Washington, D.C. to mark the Army's 250th anniversary and President Trump's birthday, protests against the Trump Administration's policies, particularly the ongoing ICE raids in Southern California, were held throughout Los Angeles and Orange counties. The Downtown protest was largely peaceful until police issued a dispersal order at around 3:45 p.m. for all persons located on Alameda Street south of Aliso and north of Temple.

Photo by JUN NAGATA / Rafu Shimpo



Gardena Valley JCI Matsuri Fundraiser Set for June 28

Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute's 2025 Matsuri Fundraiser will take place on Saturday, June 28, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., at Gardena Valley JCI, 1964 W. 162nd St.

The Matsuri Fundraiser has always been a festive time where member organizations and supporters gather to raise funds to support the GVJCI. One of the year's highlights, it is 100% volunteer-run.

This year's event, a celebration of GVJCI's 70+ years in the community, will feature delicious food, fun games, raffle drawings, bingo, a beer garden, indoor and outdoor entertainment, a white elephant sale, a plant sale, craft sale, and martial arts demonstrations.

Here are some ways you can help support the GVJCI Matsuri:

- Pre-sale Matsuri coupons. Coupon books will be distributed through member organizations and will only be sold prior to the Matsuri. You can also visit the GVJCI office. Each book contains 10 \$2 coupons.

- Make an optional additional donation. \$50+ donations will be gifted a special 2025 GVJCI Matsuri Fundraiser T-shirt. Visit the website to donate online.

- Mark your calendar and attend the event.

- Invite your family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

Note: The Matsuri is cashless this year. Presale coupons (PSC), credit and debit cards, and scrip accepted. You can purchase food, plants and items with your credit card, debit card, scrip or PSC.

GVJCI is located at 1964 W. 162nd St. in Gardena. For more information, call (310) 324-6611, email info@jci-gardena.org, or visit jci-gardena.org.

Food and Game Booths: Community organizations and classes housed at GVJCI run all of the booths, including games such as bingo and the ever-popular Pitch 'Til U Win, or cooking/selling tasty food like chicken teriyaki, hot dogs, chili dogs, Spam Musubi, GVJCI's famous shaved ice and Okinawa andagi, and more.

Performances: Arrive early, get some food, grab a seat and be ready to be entertained by programs such as taiko, hula, Japanese traditional dance, singing, and line dancing. See what these performers learn throughout the year, and maybe you'll be encouraged to join them at their weekly classes and

perform next year.

Martial Arts Demonstrations: Ever wonder what these various martial arts disciplines entail? GVJCI's martial arts classes will be featured: naganata (pole weapon with single blade), Gardena Judo Club, Gardena Kendo, and Kyudo Renmei (Japanese archery). This is the perfect time to catch a glimpse and see if one is for you and/or your family.

Outdoor Plant Sale: One of the most popular booths, supporting nurseries and community plant enthusiasts who donate beautiful plants from their businesses and backyards. Nursery experts volunteer their time at the booth to answer questions about growing and maintaining plants.

Holding Station: Are your hands full of food items, white elephant treasures, and crafts ... and you want to purchase a drink? Well, worry no more. Take all of your belongings to the holding station, where volunteers will keep a watchful eye on your items. Now you can roam the Matsuri "hands-free," then drive your car by the loading zone and pick up your goodies.

Bingo: Try your luck at bingo. Games begin at 4 p.m. with chances to win cash and prizes.

Beer Garden: From opening to closing, take a break and come to the Beer Garden. Grab a beer, relax, and catch up with friends.

The Bridge: GVJCI Heritage Center: Visit the Japanese Cultural Heritage Library and educational Tokonoma Display. Do you want to inquire about the Japanese Language School? Pay a visit and receive the information you need to enroll in the upcoming fall session. Learn about Community Emergency Response Team and visit the Tomo No Kai Art display. See the ikebana class' display and purchase beautiful handmade crafts from Tomo No Kai and Community Crafts.

Raffles: The bonus hourly raffle ticket adds value to each PSC. Return your completed raffle tickets to the GVJCI office before June 28 or by 12 p.m. on June 28 at the Matsuri's raffle booth for your chance to win prizes. You can also purchase special tickets for the Mega Matsuri Raffle. Visit the website for the Mega Matsuri Raffle prizes. The drawing will be held on Saturday, near closing.



J.K. YAMAMOTO / Rafu Shimpo

Ondo and More at LBJCC Summer Festival

The Long Beach Japanese Cultural Center, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, will hold its annual Summer Festival on Saturday, June 28, from 3 to 9:30 p.m.

Enjoy a day of food, demonstrations and dancing. The schedule is as follows: Ikebana demonstration at 4 p.m.; Judo demonstration at 4:30 p.m.; Karate demonstration at 5 p.m.; Kendo demonstration at 5:30 p.m.; Ondo at 6:30 p.m.; Taiko performance at 8:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited to wear yukata or happi coats and participate in the ondo. The last dance practices will be held on Saturday, June 21, from 6 to 7 p.m. and Wednesday, June 25, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

LBJCC is located at 1766 Seabright Ave. in Long Beach. For more information, call (562) 754-8226 or visit lbjcc.org.

'No Kings'

Continued from page 1

Another sign read, "Immigrants pay taxes. Billionaires don't."

One Torrance resident, Kerry Cabana, carried signs that said, "Save democracy," "Shame on you, Republicans" and "Remember 1942," a reference to the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Passing motorists honked in approval and some passengers also displayed signs.

Protest organizers emphasized nonviolence and there were no reports of arrests, disruptions or injuries, according to South Bay Responders.

"Crowd size was estimated to be in the hundreds, possibly nearing the low thousands, though exact numbers remain unconfirmed," South Bay Responders said.

In Pasadena, thousands packed the sidewalks along Colorado Boulevard near Lake Avenue, in a boisterous but controlled scene reminiscent of crowds gathered for the annual Tournament of Roses Parade.

Waving to passing cars and hold-

ing signs with slogans such as "Ice Out of 'Dena," "No One Is Illegal on Stolen Land" and "We the People Are Pissed," the crowd swelled to between 4,000 and 5,000, prompting Pasadena police to close a few blocks of Colorado to vehicle traffic.

Rep. Judy Chu (D-Pasadena) was among those attending the demonstration, calling the turnout "incredible" and proof that the American public rejects the policies of the Trump Administration and wants him out of office.

Chu posted on social media that she was pleased to see "thousands of people all across my district come out in support of all the No Kings rallies! It's inspiring to see this movement grow and bring so many voices together to protect our democracy."

Chu represents the 28th Congressional District, which includes Alhambra, Altadena, Monterey Park, Arcadia, Glendale, Rosemead, San Gabriel, Claremont, Temple City, La Cañada Flintridge, South Pasadena, San Marino, Sierra Madre, and Altadena.

— Mikey Hirano Culross and J.K. Yamamoto



Manhole covers celebrating 12 Japanese players currently in Major League Baseball are seen at Tomotetsu Kogyo Co. Ltd., the ironworks company in Hiroshima that manufactured the covers. Below, the covers featuring the Dodgers' Shohei Ohtani and Lars Nootbaar of the St. Louis Cardinals.

Artistic Manhole Covers Across Japan Celebrate MLB Stars

By MIKEY HIRANO CULROSS
RAFU SPORTS EDITOR

Major League Baseball on Monday launched a unique and colorful celebration of 12 Japanese players currently on MLB teams.

In locations across the country, artistic manhole covers are being installed.

The installations began June 16 with three of the covers being unveiled in the hometowns of each player: Shohei Ohtani (Oshu City, Iwate Prefecture), Yusei Kikuchi (Morioka City, Iwate Prefecture) and Roki Sasaki (Rikuzentakata City, Iwate Prefecture).

"Right now, Japanese players are

doing things even American players haven't accomplished. We've entered an era where the impossible is finally possible," said Kazuteru Tomohiro, CEO of Tomotetsu Kogyo Co. Ltd., the ironworks company in Hiroshima that manufactured the covers.

Each commemorative cover is designed by a different artist and depicts the player along with references to their home, their journey to the majors or their ties to local history. For example, the cover to appear in Tokyo's Arakawa Ward celebrating the Chicago Cubs' Seiya Suzuki illustrates his famous batting training using an iron pipe and golf balls.

The covers begin with a wooden mold that is hand-carved and then pressed into volcanic sand. Molten iron at a temperature of more than 2,700 degrees Fahrenheit is then poured into the impression. The cooled works of art are then painstakingly painted by hand.

Manhole covers in Japan have long shown a flair for the artistic, with designs tied to local history popping up as a feature of urban streets decades ago. In recent years, covers have themselves become a main tourist attraction, depicting anime characters,

film stars or local celebrities.

Though he was born and raised in El Segundo, St. Louis Cardinals outfielder Lars Nootbaar is included in the tribute, after becoming a national star in Japan while playing for that nation in the 2023 World Baseball Classic. His manhole cover is set to be installed June 23 in Higashimatsuyama City, Saitama Prefecture, the hometown of his mother, Kumi Enokida Nootbaar.

The installations are set to be completed by June 29, and those visiting in person will have access to online content that can be viewed by scanning QR codes at each site.

MLB has also announced a collaborative social media sweepstakes



with Japan Airlines, with a grand prize for five winners to embark on a trip to MLB games to cheer on their favorite Japanese star. Entries are made by visitors to the covers sharing their personal experiences on social media.

The schedule of MLB manhole cover installations:

June 16: Shohei Ohtani (Oshu City, Iwate)

June 16: Yusei Kikuchi (Morioka City, Iwate)

June 16: Roki Sasaki (Rikuzentakata City, Iwate)

June 17: Yu Darvish (Habikino City, Osaka)

June 18: Yuki Matsui (Yokohama City, Kanagawa)

June 19: Shota Imanaga (Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka)

June 23: Lars Nootbaar (Higashimatsuyama City, Saitama)

June 24: Seiya Suzuki (Arakawa Ward, Tokyo)

June 25: Yoshinobu Yamamoto (Bizen City, Okayama)

June 26: Masataka Yoshida (Fukui City, Fukui)

June 27: Kodai Senga (Gamagori City, Aichi)

June 29: Tomoyuki Sugano (Sagamihara City, Kanagawa)

The One Pitch Not to Be Missed

Shohei Ohtani makes his long-awaited Dodgers pitching debut, nearly two years after elbow surgery.

By MIKEY HIRANO CULROSS
RAFU SPORTS EDITOR

From the parking lots, to the turnstiles and stairwells, fans were rushing to their seats ahead of the first pitch.

No, it wasn't Opening Day, the World Series or some coveted giveaway, just a regular-season game between the Dodgers and their rivals to the south, the San Diego Padres.

What made the very beginning something to behold was evidenced by empty counters at the concession stands and summed up by a fan in the Field Level seats, who bellowed, "We've been waiting for this for two years!"

Shohei Ohtani, the Dodgers' international unicorn of a baseball star, finally reinstated his status as a two-way player on Monday, taking the mound as the opening pitcher against the Padres.

It was Ohtani's first official appearance on an MLB mound in 663 days.

"I'm grateful for the moment I had today," said Ohtani, after he threw only 28 pitches, giving up two hits and a run in the Dodgers' 6-3 victory. "I'm not quite happy with my results, but we got a win and there's a lot to take away from tonight."

Ohtani hadn't pitched since Aug. 23, 2023, when he was a member of the Angels and it was decided he would need a second Tommy John surgery to repair his pitching elbow. He played all of the 2024 season as a full-time designated hitter, wowing the baseball world with his 54 home runs and 56 stolen bases. He became the first player in MLB history to



The sellout crowd was thrilled to see Ohtani on the mound for the first time in 663 days.

achieve a 50/50 season en route to being named the National League's Most Valuable Player.

"First of all, let me express my gratitude to all the team staff and people who have supported me, to help me be healthy and pitching again," he said in an on-field interview immediately following the game.

Ohtani admitted he was indeed nervous at first. He was hoping to have his fastball top out at 95 miles per hour or so, but at least two pitches sailed in at 100 mph.

"I think the adrenaline came out," said Dodgers manager Dave Roberts, who admitted he was initially awestruck along with the sellout crowd at the once-in-a-lifetime player's return to the mound.

"To see him come in from the [bulpen before the game], and all that stuff happening, I was kind of fanboying for half an inning," he said.

Ohtani's first pitch was a 98-mile-per-hour sinker fouled off by Padres leadoff hitter Fernando Tatís Jr., who later managed a weakly hit single and eventually scored on a sacrifice fly to center, barely beating the throw by centerfielder Andy Pages.

After recording the third out, Ohtani wasted no time switching gears, as he was also in the Dodgers' lineup as their leadoff designated hitter.

"It was surreal, really interesting to see him come straight from the mound to the on-deck circle to get all his [batting gear] on," Roberts said in a post-game press conference.

At the plate, Ohtani went 2-for-4, including a run-scoring double in the third inning that tied the game at 1-1.

The announcement of Ohtani's pitching return came as quite the surprise to all of baseball on Sunday night. His debut as a Dodgers hurler had widely been expected to happen

after the All-Star break in July, but seemed to be moving closer after a couple of productive sessions facing live hitters beginning last month.

Ohtani said he will pay close attention to how his body feels and will expect to pitch in a limited capacity, about once per week, and hopes to go longer with each successive outing.

His reactivation is also a welcome development for a Dodgers' pitching

staff that has been decimated by injuries, including Blake Snell and their crown jewel of off-season signees, Roki Sasaki.

"It was fun to see him out there," said catcher Will Smith, marveling at how many fans crowded the aisles alongside the bullpen to watch Ohtani take his warm-up tosses before the game. "Hopefully, there are a lot more innings to come."

Matsuoka, Huang Elected to Academy Museum Board of Trustees

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures on June 16 announced the election of five members of its Board of Trustees, including Hiro Matsuoka and Cindy Huang.

As the governing body of the Academy Museum, the board leads the museum toward a sustainable future by adopting sound, ethical, and legal governance and financial management policies in addition to securing adequate resources to advance the museum's mission.

"The Board of Trustees and I are thrilled to welcome Tom Dolby, Cindy Huang, Hiro Matsuoka, Jason Reitman, and Teddy Schwarzman to our Board of Trustees," said Academy Museum Director and President Amy Homma. "Their deep commitment to the mission of our museum will further help bring exciting exhibitions, screenings, programs, initiatives, and collections and help us to grow our audiences around the globe."

Board of Trustees members as of July 1 include Dr. Eric Esraillan, Patricia Bellinger Balzer, Jim Giannopoulos, Howard Berger, Arnaud Boetsch, Effie T. Brown (honorary

trustee), Sidonie Seydoux Dumas, Sid Ganis (honorary trustee), Donna Gigliotti, Julia S. Gouw, Ray Halbrit-

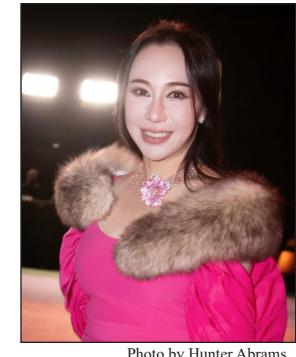


Photo by Hunter Abrams



Toho Co., Ltd.

ter, Tom Hanks, Travis Knight, Bill Kramer, Miyu Lee, Eva Longoria, Ryan Murphy, Katherine L. Oliver, Alejandra Ramirez Magaña, Shira Ruderman, Ted Sarandos, Regina K. Scully, Kimberly Stewart, Janet Yang, and Kevin Yeaman.

"The Academy Museum's mission is made possible by the support of visionary leadership and a diversity of perspectives," said Olivier de Givenchy, chair of the Board of Trustees. "I'm thrilled to welcome our new trustees who embody these values and will help guide the museum's



Darren Criss and Helen J. Shen star in "Maybe Happy Ending."

AAPIs Win Big at Tony Awards

NEW YORK — It was a big night for AAPI artists at the 78th Tony Awards ceremony, held June 9 at Radio City Music Hall.

"Maybe Happy Ending," a South Korean musical with lyrics written by Hue Park, music composed by Will Aronson, and book written by Park and Aronson, received 10 nominations and won six Tonys:

Best Musical. Also nominated were "Buena Vista Social Club," "Dead Outlaw," "Death Becomes Her," and "Operation Mincemeat."

Best Book of a Musical for Park and Aronson.

Also nominated were "Buena Vista Social Club," "Dead Outlaw," "Death Becomes Her," and "Operation Mincemeat."

Best Original Score (Music and/or Lyrics) Written for the Theatre for Park and Aronson.

Also nominated were "Dead Outlaw," "Death Becomes

Her," "Operation Mincemeat," and "Real Women Have Curves."

Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role in a Musical for Darren Criss.

Also nominated were Andrew Durand for "Dead Outlaw," Tom Francis for "Sunset Blvd.," Jonathan Groff for "Just in Time," James Monroe Iglehart for "A Wonderful World: The Louis Armstrong Musical," and Jeremy Jordan for "Floyd Collins."

Criss, a Filipino American, is the first AAPI to win in this category.

Criss, who rose to fame starring on the TV series "Glee," won Emmy and Golden Globe Awards for his leading role in "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story."

"The real hero ... for this remarkable journey is my wife, Mia, who took a massive swing on allowing me to do this," Criss said in his acceptance speech. "To allow this crazy upheaval in our life, to make this logically possible, and for bearing the brunt of raising two tiny friends under three, so that I could raise a singing robot at the Belasco Theatre eight times a week."

He gave a shout-out to his co-star Helen J. Shen for making a "Broadway debut for the books."

Best Direction of a Musical for Michael Arden. Also nominated were Saheem Ali for "Buena Vista Social Club," David Cromer for "Dead Out-

Nicole Scherzinger



Scherzinger is the former lead vocalist of The Pussycat Dolls.

In her acceptance speech, Scherzinger said, "I just have to thank God for carrying me every step of the way. I give you all the glory."

She also thanked the Tony Awards "for making this little Hawaiian-Ukrainian-Filipino girl's dream come true" and her mother, who "gave everything up for me."



Francis Jue

Francis Jue won Best Performance by an Actor in a Featured Role in a Play for David Henry Hwang's "Yellow Face." Also nominated were Glenn Davis for "Purpose," Gabriel Ebert for "John Proctor Is the Villain," Bob Odenkirk for "Glengarry Glen Ross," and Conrad Ricamora for "Oh, Mary!"

Jue, who received a standing ovation, said, "I am only here because of the encouragement and inspiration of generations of wonderful, deserving Asian artists who came before me and never got the opportunity I had."

He said he was wearing a tuxedo purchased in 1976 by the late actor Alvin Ing for the opening of "Pacific Overtures" on Broadway. "When he gave it to me, he told me he wanted me to wear it when I accepted my Tony Award."

Daniel Dae Kim was nominated for Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role in a Play for "Yellow Face." The Tony went to Cole Escoda for "Oh, Mary!" Also nominated were George Clooney for "Good Night, and Good Luck," Jon Michael Hall for "Purpose," Harry Lennix for "Purpose," and Louis McCartney for "Stranger Things: The First Shadow."

"Yellow Face," a comedy about an Asian American playwright who mistakenly hires a white actor for an Asian role, was also nominated for Best Revival of a Play. The Tony went to "Eureka Day." Also nominated were "Thornton Wilder's Our Town" and "Romeo + Juliet."

Marco Puglia won Best Orchestration for "Buena Vista Social Club." Also nominated were Aronson for "Maybe Happy Ending," Bruce Coughlin for "Floyd Collins," Andrew Resnick and Michael Thurber for "Just in Time," David Cullen and Andrew Lloyd Webber for "Sunset Blvd."

continued growth and impact."

Hiro Matsuoka is president and CEO of Toho Co., Ltd., Japan's leading entertainment company since 1932. Since its founding, Toho has produced some of the world's most iconic cinema, including the Godzilla

series and Akira Kurosawa's "Seven Samurai."

Matsuoka began his media career at International Creative Management in Los Angeles as an agent trainee and has since spent his career bridging Hollywood and the Japanese film and television industry.

At Toho, he has led the exponential growth of the company's international business, including "Godzilla Minus One" (2023), which became the

third-highest-grossing non-English-language film in the U.S. and won the 2024 Academy Award for Best Visual Effects, and (in partnership with Legendary Pictures) "Godzilla: King of the Monsters" (2019) and "Pokémon: Detective Pikachu" (2019), each grossing more than \$350 million at the global box office.

Toho operates production and distribution of its anime entertainment through Toho Animation (including the renowned "My Hero Academia" and "Jujutsu Kaisen").

Toho operates production and distribution of its anime entertainment through Toho Animation (including the renowned "My Hero Academia" and "Jujutsu Kaisen").

Please see Academy, page 5

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

Your Home and Medi-Cal Recovery

Strange times? You bet — ICE raids, National Guard, curfews, demonstrations, protests, and Trump tariffs. Could it get any worse??? Unfortunately, yes.

According to *The L.A. Times* (May 30, 2025), Gov. Gavin Newsom's recent revised budget proposal includes reconstituting the "asset test" for Medi-Cal benefits. These proposed changes are terrible news, especially for an aging Japanese American community that depends on Medi-Cal to pay for long-term care.

Since the elimination of the "asset test" on Jan. 1, 2024, there's been a surge in Medi-Cal enrollment because a millionaire could then qualify. Medi-Cal funding cost the state \$17.1 billion in the 2014-15 fiscal year, when you had to "spend down" assets to qualify.

But after a 2024 law removing the asset test, Medi-Cal funding rose dramatically to \$37.6 billion. Newsom claims the growing costs are due to the larger-than-anticipated enrollment increase. Furthermore, as the Baby Boomers reach nursing home age, costs are expected to continue rising.

Newsom's critics argue that the proposed cuts will harm the health and well-being of low-income, disabled, and elderly individuals. The reconstituting of the asset test would require millions of Californians who rely on Medi-Cal and In-Home Supportive Services to prove their assets total less than \$2,000 (or \$3,000 for couples).

The budget proposal is still under consideration, with ongoing discussions and potential adjustments as it progresses through the legislative process.

In the meantime, some seniors are taking advantage of the current Medi-Cal laws with no asset test. They are getting their Medi-Cal cards now under the current rules. There's really no disadvantage — you keep your Medicare and you keep the same doctors.

Then, if they change the law at some later date, there's a chance that people already on Medi-Cal could get "grandfathered in." In other words, there would be an exemption created for existing individuals who will not be subject to the new rules. It is very unlikely that nursing home residents would be kicked out on the street; there would be too much public outcry.

You might ask, "Can they do that? Can they change the law without a public vote?" In a word — YES (they have done it before). Then, you might further ask, "If they can change the Medi-Cal eligibility rules (which they have but now want to reinstate), can they also change the law regarding Medi-Cal recovery?" Absolutely.

In fact, "the writing is on the wall," i.e., demand is up, long-term care costs are skyrocketing, and the state is running a budget deficit. I've actually been expecting a change in the recovery laws ever since they changed in 2017.

Many people are often confused about Medi-Cal and their rights to avoid Medi-Cal recovery. The state cannot recover for basic health services such as doctor's visits, prescription drug costs or managed care reimbursements, unless the services are related to nursing home care. They are particularly concerned that if they end up in a nursing home, the state will "take" their homes after they die. So let's back up to review the current law.

California state laws say that if a senior over 55 goes into a skilled nursing home paid for by Medi-Cal, the state may try to be reimbursed for services provided after their death. To be clear, the State of California does not actually "take" away anyone's home per se. Your home can, however, be subject to an estate claim after your death.

Recovery does not happen during your lifetime, only after death. If your home is still in your name when you die, and if it is subject to probate under California law, it is part of your "estate" and the state may make a claim against it for the amount of the Medi-Cal benefits paid or the value of the estate, whichever is less.

For those beneficiaries who die on or after Jan. 1, 2017, the definition of "estate" from which the state can recover is severely limited. The state can only recover for the amount of benefits paid for the decedent, or the value of any of the decedent's property received by a recipient by distribution, whichever is less. If you leave your estate in a will, for example, this would be by "distribution" and your estate could be subject to recovery.



your money and property) is with a revocable living trust, although the current law can be changed.

Here's my point: (1) California is running out of money; (2) The governor plans on reducing Medi-Cal costs by reconstituting the "asset test"; (3) It's also likely that California can change Medi-Cal recovery laws in the not too distant future.

So what do you do? What can you do? For some *Rafu Shimpo* homeowners who want to protect their homes from state recovery in the event they end up in a nursing home at some point in their lives, I actually have a possible solution.

Every once in a while, a parent wants their home to be kept "in the family" after they die, as opposed to selling the family home and dividing up the money. So, this "solution" is not intended to work for every homeowner, perhaps I in 5.

Here's a simplified example: Husband dies, survived by his wife and daughter. Daughter lives with Mom with the home in a trust. Mom and daughter (especially daughter) are concerned that if Mom ends up in a nursing home, the state could recover against the house, forcing daughter to sell.

You say, "The house is in a trust — therefore no recovery." True, under the current law. But, we are assuming that the state has (or will soon) change the law, and trusts won't protect the home from recovery (i.e., pre-2017 laws). Basically,

we would use the same strategy to protect homes from recovery as we did prior to the new 2017 law. That strategy is to gift the home to the child(ren) while you're still alive so there's nothing left in your estate upon your death, i.e., no recovery.

You say, "If I gift my house to my daughter, can she sell my house?" YES. That's why I said this will work 20% (1 in 5) of the time. If you don't absolutely trust your daughter, don't do it.

Let's say it's your son. I often hear this: "I trust my son, but it's my daughter-in-law that I'm worried about." First, you're making a gift to your son, a married man as his sole and separate property." Second, your son or daughter will gift back to you a "Lifetime Right to Occupy" agreement so they can't sell it during your lifetime.

You might further say, "My CPA said not to transfer my home while I am alive because it will blow the step-up in basis and there would be a huge capital gains tax." True. First, the idea is for the child to never sell the home in his or her lifetime, i.e., no sale, no capital gain tax.

Again, that's why I said this will work 20% (1 in 5) of the time. If the child has no plans to sell the home, you can pretty much guarantee that there will be no Medi-Cal recovery against the child's home when you die.

Finally, you might ask, "What about property taxes?" It used to be that under Prop 13, any transfer from parent to child was exempt from property tax reassessment. Then came Prop 19. After Feb. 16, 2021, transfers of a family home between parents and their children are now subject to reassessment unless the property continues as the family home of the transferee. The transferee must live in the home as their primary residence within one

year of transfer.

[Sidebar: If you have an apartment building that you want to pass to your children without property reassessment, there are Prop 19 loopholes that involve LLCs.]

Under Prop 19, a parent must transfer his or her "primary residence" to a child who lives in or moves in as "primary residence" within one year of the transfer. Again, that's why I said this will work 20% (1 in 5) of the time. But if that's the case, here's an opportunity to guarantee avoiding recovery. My legal advice is to transfer title of the house to the child now while we still have Prop 19. That could save upwards of \$10,000 each and every year in property taxes should they ever change Prop 19.

"What do you mean change Prop 19?" you might ask. Prop 19 is a California proposition. So is Prop 13. Other states don't have a Prop 13 because it's a California proposition. In other states, every time there is a

reassessed to market rates. California is heading that way soon.

Younger politicians are always looking for new ways to raise revenue, and they're looking at property tax. Many, if not most, of the Prop 13 supporters are dead or in nursing homes (passed in 1978). Prop 13 is no longer an "untouchable subject" of California politics.

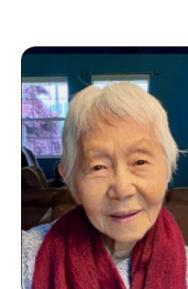
In conclusion, legislators write, debate, and pass new laws every year. *The L.A. Times* (May 30, 2025) reports that Gov. Newsom wants to help balance the budget by bringing back the asset test for Medi-Cal, drastically reducing the cost to the state. Some aging *Rafu Shimpo* readers may want to get their Medi-Cal cards now and become "Medi-Medi" before the law is changed, bringing back the "asset test."

And after watching the Medi-Cal laws change back and forth over the last 30 years, it is possible (likely) that Medi-Cal can also bring back the laws regarding Medi-Cal recovery, i.e., your revocable living trust won't protect it (pre-2017 laws). Also, they can change Prop 19, no longer allowing reassessment exclusions for parent-child transfers that are the primary residence of both parent and child.

Therefore, some members of the *Rafu Shimpo* community might want to consider transferring title of their home to their child now. If you end up in a nursing home, the state cannot make recovery against your child's home. If the child lives in the home with you, the property tax is not reassessed. And if the child doesn't plan on selling the home in his or her lifetime, it doesn't matter if there's no forgiveness of gain, or step-up in basis upon your death.

But don't do anything without first consulting your attorney.

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.



Hana Manaka

Mrs. Hana Manaka, 100, El Centro, Calif.-born Nisei, resident of Sequim, Washington, passed away peacefully on June 10, 2025. She is predeceased by her husband, Harry Manaka, Sr. She is survived by her loving family: sons, Harry (Christine) Manaka, Steven (Pattie) Manaka, Bruce (Patty) Manaka; daughter, Julie (Jeffrey) Lee; sister, Hiro (Louie) Manaka; 9 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 100 S. Blake Ave., Sequim, Washington 98382, on Saturday, June 28, 2025, starting at 2 p.m.

Robert Akira Nakamura

Robert Akira Nakamura died peacefully at his home in Culver City on June 11, 2025 surrounded by his family. He was 88 years old. Bob is survived by his wife of 46 years, Karen L. Ishizuka; daughter Thai Binh Etsuko Checel; son Tadashi Nakamura; brother Norman Nakamura; grandchildren Mina Loy Akira Checel, Gus Ishizuka Checel, Paulo (Prince) Akira Sangalang Nakamura, Malaya Tomiko Sangalang Nakamura; daughters-in-law Heather Wielgos and Cindy Sangalang, and many friends. Public memorial to be announced at a later date.

www.kubotamortuary.com (213) 749-1449

Robert Akira Nakamura

**RETIREMENT TIPS** By Akemi Kondo Dalvi, CPA/PFS, CFP

Diplomas to Dollars: Helping Grads Roadmap Their Financial Future

Congratulations to all the recent

graduates, and to the family members who helped them get there! It is estimated that approximately 4 million people will graduate from college this year.

Starting their post-college career may be the first time many new graduates begin to earn a substantial salary. For the families of new graduates, the next chapter of education on financial independence may just be beginning!

Many have said it is harder than ever for young people to move out on their own, buy a house, start a family, pay off education loans, or save for retirement. All of the above is true! It's never been harder, but with a little guidance, new graduates can set a good foundation for a solid financial future.

Generation Z (Gen Z), or those born between 1996-2012, make up the majority of recent college graduates. According to research, Gen Z makes up one of the most well-educated generations to date. They grew up with technology, thrive in flexible environments, and are skeptical of financial institutions like Wall Street. Gen Z is anticipated to live longer in retirement than their parents, but are predicted to have less financial safety-nets such as Social Security. Therefore, it is more important than ever that this new group of graduates address their financial planning needs early.

Families can help the next generation become financially independent with a few financial tips:

1. Set Quantifiable, Achievable Goals

Consider bucketing goals into short-term (1-3 years), intermediate-

term (5-8 years), and long-term (10+ years) categories.

Perhaps short-term goals are to establish an emergency fund equal to three months of living expenses in case you have an unexpected car repair or sudden change in employment income.

Intermediate-term goals may be to save \$1,000 per month for the next five years for a first home or wedding.

A long-term goal may be to save for retirement by enrolling in an employer-sponsored retirement plan and allocate 10% (or more) of your paycheck automatically to your 401k or Roth 401k. You won't know it's missing if you save from the beginning.

2. Build a Budget

Gen Z-ers can download an app to track monthly income and expenses. Analyze if your budget makes sense, and make adjustments where appropriate. Studies have shown many Americans pay for subscriptions they don't use!

Next, set a budget. A common guide is 50/30/20 – 50% for needs (groceries, rent, gas), 30% for wants (entertainment, the fun stuff), and 20% for savings/debt.

3. Dig Out of Debt

In 2024, student loan debt in America aggregated to approximately \$1.77 trillion, a sum surpassed only by home mortgage debt. You may consider helping a new graduate pay down debt by matching their student loan repayments. Doing so could encourage good financial habits and help them build positive credit history.

If you have multiple sources of debt, think about paying down the debt with the highest interest rate first to reduce unnecessary expenses.

4. Invest Early

Financial research and the principles of compound interest have shown that early investing in the stock market can provide exponential long-term growth. While it may seem unfathomable to save in the "broke years," foundational practices of contributing to a work retirement account such as a 401k, an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), or an after-tax brokerage account can literally pay dividends in the future.

Consider utilizing a Roth IRA to lock in the most future benefits through tax-free growth and exclusion from Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs). Parents and grandparents may consider gifting stocks to youth that appeal to their interests to encourage savings.

You can also gift appreciated stock to build the graduate's assets and escape capital gains taxes that would have resulted if you sold the stock yourself.

We couldn't be prouder of the accomplishments already achieved by the Class of 2025. Continue to push the boundaries of conventional wisdom, lead with social responsibility, and forge the path ahead through innovation.

As financial planners, we hope to collaborate with you on your path to financial freedom. We will be here to support you and your families wherever life takes you.

The opinions expressed above are solely those of Kondo Wealth Advisors, Inc. (626-449-7783, info@kondowealthadvisors.com), a Registered Investment Advisor in the state of California. Neither Kondo Wealth Advisors, Inc. nor its representatives provide legal, tax or accounting advice.

on global climate research and GPS systems, and resides in Los Angeles.

Tom Dolby is a filmmaker and the founder of Water's End Productions. Jason Reitman is an Academy Award-nominated filmmaker who most recently directed "Saturday Night" (2024). Teddy Schwarzman is the CEO of Black Bear, an award-winning, multi-faceted media company.

Cindy Huang is a highly accomplished banker and entrepreneur with over 20 years of experience at Citibank N.A. and HSBC. She co-founded the multibillion-dollar VC Edgewater Investment Group (EWI), focusing on leading Tech VC like SpaceX, Palantir, and VeeA. As CEO of EC Lending Group, she oversees a billion-dollar private credit capacity and co-founded the FinTech venture Swift Plus, specializing in open banking and cross-border payments.

Currently, she leads Apex Financial Holdings, which aims to expand U.S. banking into the digital banking era. In February 2025, Huang joined the Board of Hyperloop Transportation Technologies Inc. Actively involved in philanthropy, she promotes AAPI empowerment and serves as CEO of the California State Friendship Committee.

She holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in science from National Taiwan University, focusing

The Academy Museum, the largest museum in the world dedicated to global cinema and the arts, sciences, and artists of moviemaking, advances the understanding, celebration, and preservation of cinema through inclusive and accessible exhibitions, screenings, programs, initiatives, and collections. For more information, go to www.academy-museum.org.

Jean Harue Furuya

April 8, 1940 – May 6, 2025



A Celebration of Life service for Jean (Ito) Furuya, 85, will be held on Saturday, June 28, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at South Bay Community Church, 2549 W. 190th Street in Torrance, CA 90504.

Jean was born in Seattle, Wash. and made her way to Los Angeles in the late 40s, graduating from Roosevelt High School. A faithful and loving woman of God, she was active in her church, Girl Scout leader for two troops, a tireless organizer of resources for those in need, and a leader and mentor in the Los Angeles Chapter of the National Association of Productivity and Organizing. She started her own consultancy, The Office Jeanie, coaching businesses and individuals for over 35 years.

Her husband, Monte Furuya; daughters, Yasuko Furuya (Marc Vigo) and Chie (Phil) Chap; grandchildren, Camille and Ethan Chap; and extended family and friends will miss her optimism, generosity and zest for life!

www.fukuimortuary.com

Joyce and Yasuji Aochi

Beloved parents, Joyce Yuriko and Yasuji Yasuhara Aochi passed away after 74½ years of marriage in Los Angeles. Joyce, 95, passed away on December 31, 2024 and Yasuji, 98, followed Joyce in death only a few weeks later on January 13, 2025. They lived completely full and happy lives together.

Joyce and Yasuji were born

RELIGION

JUNE SCHEDULE



Gardena Buddhist Church 1517 W. 166th St, Gardena 90247, 310-327-9400. Gardenabuddhistchurch.org. June 21 (Sat), 7 am—Yard sale, church parking lot. Come find treasures! June 22 (Sun), 9:30 am—Hybrid Sunday service: virtual and in-person. For Zoom link, please register on our website: www.gardenabuddhistchurch.org. To attend in person, please follow all safety protocols.

Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple 505 E. 3rd St, L.A. 90013, 213-626-4200. hhbt-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 Honganji 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 Montebelloucc.org Join us for in-person and online worship service at 10 am Sunday mornings or YouTube.com/mpc-cucc. Contact mpcc@montebelloucc.org for details.

Orange County Buddhist Church 909 S. Dale Ave, Anaheim 92804, 714-827-9590. Ocbuddhist.org. June 22 (Sun), 8:30 am—Mindfulness service (in-person); 10 am—Sunday service (hybrid); 11 am—Adult discussion (in-person); no Dharma School until Sept. 7. June 26 (Thu), 7 pm—Zoom BEC English class (Rev Dr. Mutsumi Wondra). June 28 (Sat), 7 pm—Zoom BEC Japanese class (Rev Dr. Mutsumi Wondra). June 29 (Sun), 8:30 am—Mindfulness service (in-person); 10 am—Sunday service (hybrid); 11 am—Adult discussion. June 30 (Mon), 7 pm—Bon Odori practice. July 1 (Tue): Office closed. July 2 (Wed), 7 pm—Bon Odori practice; 7 pm—Zoom mindfulness service. July 3 (Thu), 9 am—Tai chi class (in-person). July 4 (Fri): Office closed (Independence Day observance). July 5 (Sat), 4:30 pm—Shotsuki Hoyo monthly memorial service (in-person). July 6 (Sun): No services (Independence Day observance).

Pasadena Buddhist Temple 1993 Glen Ave, Pasadena 91103, 626-798-4781. Pasadenabuddhisttemple.org. Resident minister: Rev. Jundo Gregory Gibbs.

Senshin Buddhist Temple 1311 W. 37th St, L.A. 90007, 323-731-4617. senshinktemple@gmail.com, senshinktemple.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 Sunday, June 22. Services are also conducted by Zoom as well. Special services include the following: On Sunday, June 29, we will have our June Tsuki Tsuito Hoyo monthly memorial service, remembering those who have passed away during the month of June over the years. 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, June 22, Sunday service will be held at 10 am both in person and online. Dharma message will be delivered by Rev. Miyoshi. Discussion class will follow. Please contact the temple (webt.livingdharma@gmail.com) to receive a meeting ID and passcode to join the service online. June 24 (Tue), 7-8:30 pm—Bon Odori practice. June 26 (Thu), 7-8:30 pm—Bon Odori practice. We are having Bon Odori practices every Tuesdays and Thursday from 7 to 8:30 pm. June 27 (Fri), 5 pm—Obon set-up. June 28 (Sat), 3-9 pm Obon Festival; 6 pm—Manto-e service; 6:30 pm—Kishin Daiko; 7 pm—Bon Odori. June 29 (Sun), 9 am—Obon clean-up. The WCBT invites everyone to join us at our Obon Festival, Saturday, June 28, from 3 to 9 pm. Manto-e service will be held at 6 pm, followed by Kishin Daiko's taiko performance and Bon Odori. Obon set-up will be on Friday, June 27, from 5 pm, and clean-up will be on Sunday, June 29, at 9 am. There is no Sunday service on June 29.

W.L.A. Buddhist Temple 2003 Corinth Ave, L.A. 90025, 310-477-7274. Rev. Koko Takata and Rev. Koe Umezu. June 21 (Sat), 9 am—1 pm—Yard sale. June 22 (Sun), 10 am—Dharma service; 11 am—Sunday matinee.

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.

Church (GVIC) 17811 S. Western Ave, Gardena, 90248, 310-527-6112.

Grace First Presbyterian 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 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.

San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple 9450 Remick Ave, 90033, 323-269-4741.

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Buddhist Temple 9450 Remick Ave, 90033, 323-269-4741.

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

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

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

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

Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church 1850 W. Hellman Ave, Alhambra 91803, 626-284-3229.

San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple 9450 Remick Ave, 90033, 323-269-4741.

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OBON AND SUMMER FESTIVALS

JUNE 21-22 — Summer Natsu Matsuri Festival at Venice Japanese Community Center, 12448 Braddock Dr, Los Angeles. Sat, 12-9 pm; Sun, 11 am-8 pm. Featuring food, games, martial arts demonstrations, cultural exhibits, taiko, ondo dancing, music by Elemental Funk. Raffle drawing Sun at 7 pm. Free; no pets. Info: www.vjcc.com

JUNE 21-22 — Obon Festival at Valley Japanese Community Center, 8850 Lankershim Blvd, Sun Valley. Sat, 4-9 pm, kendo demo at 5 pm, ondo at 7 pm; Sun, 4-8 pm, judo demo at 5:30 pm, ondo at 6:30 pm. Food, games, taiko, tea ceremony both days. Info: (818) 825-9583. valleyjcc@yahoo.com

JUNE 21-22 — Matsuri Fundraiser, 10 am-7 pm at Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute, 1964 W 162nd St, Gardena. Featuring food, games, bingo, raffle drawings, beer garden, white elephant sale, plant sale, craft sale, indoor/outdoor entertainment, martial arts demonstrations. Info: (310) 324-6611, jci-gardena.org

JUNE 28 — West Covina Buddhist Temple Obon Festival, 3-9 pm at East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, 1203 W Puente Ave, West Covina. Delicious food, exhibits and vendors, games for children. Manto-e service, 6 pm; Kishin Daiko, 6 pm; Bon Odori, 7-9 pm. Bon Odori practice June 24 and 26, 7-8:30 pm. Info: (626) 689-1040, wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com

JUNE 28 — Summer Festival, 3-9 pm at Long Beach Japanese Cultural Center, 1766 Seabright Ave, Long Beach. Ikebana demo at 4 pm; judo demo at 4:30 pm; karate demo at 5 pm; ondo at 6:30 pm; taiko 8:30 pm. Ondo practice Wed, 7:30-8:30 pm and Sat, 6-7 pm. Info: (562) 754-8226, lbjcc.org

JUNE 28-29 — San Fernando Valley Hongwanji

Buddhist Temple Obon Festival at San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center, 12953 Branford St, Pacoima. Sat 4:30-10 pm; Sun 4:30-9 pm. Featuring dance, food, bingo, cultural exhibits and more. Info: (818) 899-4030, sfvb.org/obon-festival

JULY 5 — Obon Festival at Senshin Buddhist Temple, 1311 W 37th St, Los Angeles. Hatsumon service at 4:30 pm; Bon Odori at 7 pm; Omairi in Hondo, Sento Shogon (1,000 oil lamps) at 9 pm; Horaku, Kinnara Taiko at 9:30pm. Dance practices: June 27 at 7 pm; June 29 at 12 pm; July 2 at 7 pm. Info: (323) 731-4617, https://senshimpotempore.org

JULY 12 — Obon Festival at Oxnard Buddhist Temple, 250 S H St, Oxnard. Dance practice June 24, 26, July 1, 8, 10, 7-8:45 pm. Info: (805) 483-5948, www.oxnardbuddhisttemple.org

JULY 13 — Obon Festival at Nishi Hongwanji, 815 E First St, Little Tokyo. Bon Odori practices: June 22, 27, 29; July 1, 6. Sun 11:30 am-1 pm in Kaikan; weeknights 7-8:30 pm in west parking lot. LA Taiko Ichiza is hosting Obon taiko sessions. Info: (213) 680-9130, www.nishihongwanji-la.org

JULY 13 — Obon service and festival, 1-7 pm at Sozenji Buddhist Temple, 3020 W Beverly Blvd, Monrovia. Obon and Manto-e service, 1 pm; food and other booths open, 2 pm; entertainment, 3:30 pm; Bon Odori, 5:15 pm, followed by raffle drawing; closing ceremony 6:30 pm. Info: (323) 724-6866, sozenjibuddhisttemple@gmail.com

JULY 19 — Obon Festival at Pasadena Buddhist Temple, 1993 Glen Ave, Pasadena. Obon dance practice: June 30, July 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 7-8 pm. Info: (626) 798-4781, www.pasadenabuddhisttemple.org

City of Lomita Founder's Day. 12-2 pm at 24300 Narbonne Ave, Lomita. Info: https://lomitacity.com/events/founders-day-2024-347/

JULY 27 — Philip Kan Go-tanda's "Yankee Dawg You Die" at East West Players' David Henry Hwang Theatre, 120 Judge John Aiso St, Little Tokyo. Previews: July 3-5; Opening Night: July 6. Starring Kelvin Han Yee and Daniel J. Kim; directed by Jennifer Chang. Understudies: Grant Chang and Jonathan Cheung. Info/tickets: www.eastwestplayers.org/blog/ydyd-2025-cast-and-creative

JULY 25, 28, 29 — Masayuki Suo's "Shall We Dance?" (1996) at Laemmle Theaters. New restoration of director's cut. June 25, 7 pm and June 28, 10 am at Claremont 5, 450 W 2nd St, Claremont; Town Center 5, 17200 Ventura Blvd, Encino; Monica Film Center, 1332 2nd St, Santa Monica; Newhall, 22500 Lyons Ave, Santa Clarita. June 29, 10 am at Claremont 5, Monica Film Center, Newhall. A successful but unhappy accountant (Koji Yakusho) finds the missing passion in his life when he begins to secretly take ballroom dance lessons. With Tamiyo Kusakari, Naoto Takenaka. Info/tickets: www.laemmle.com

JUNE 26 — Keiro Genki Living Workshop-Golf, 9 am-12 pm at Brookside Golf Course, 1133 Rosemont Ave, Pasadena. Instructor: Wataru "Watt" Tomita. For adults 55+. Session times: 9, 10 or 11 am. Maximum 10 attendees per session. Info/registration: www.keiro.org/what-we-do/events/genki-living-workshop/golf

JUNE 21-AUG 23 — "Considering Summer 2025" at Patricia Sweetow Gallery, 1700 S Santa Fe Ave, Suite 351, Los Angeles. 12 artists, including Wakana Kimura, reframe memory, loss, ceremony, family, history, politics, culture, labor, and the here and now through textiles, ceramics, paint, drawing, metal, beads, repurposed miscellany, and glass. Hours: Closed Sun-Mon; 11 am-6 pm Tue-Sat. Info: (310) 212-1222.

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

JUNE 26 — "Carving Masks, Making Textiles," 7-8:30 pm at Japan Foundation Los Angeles, 5700 Wilshire Blvd, Ste 100, Los Angeles. A meditation on kinship, the maternal, and otherness. Exhibition runs through Aug 7. Hours: Mon-Fri, 12-8 pm; Sat, 10 am-3 pm; closed Sun and holidays (July 4-5). Free admission. Info: www.jflal.org/event-details.php/277/ibuki-kuramochi-solo-exhibition

Through JULY 12 — "Realms of the Dharma: Buddhist Art Across Asia" at LA County Museum of Art, 5905 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles. International survey of Buddhism and Buddhist art, beginning with the religion's origins in India and following its spread through mainland

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8月10日

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九重佑三子、香島優貴、田藤
タ貴のベラン6人、「米国
友の会」に所属するセミプロ
のメンバーは憧れの歌手との
共演に胸を躍らせ、大舞台に
備え練習に励んでいる。

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