



Having a Ball
Taking the court for Nikkei Games Basketball.
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122 YEARS OF COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

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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

産経新聞

japan-at-a-glance



STAR LOSER: Haru Urara (pictured in 2004), a thoroughbred that captured the hearts of race fans and a wider public in the 2000s for a remarkable losing streak spanning all 113 of her appearances, died Sept. 9. She was 29. Haru Urara was spending her retirement at a ranch in Onjuku, a seaside town in Chiba Prefecture, the nonprofit Retired Horse Association said on its website, adding that the cause of death was colic. From her debut in 1998 to her final outing in 2004, the horse never won a race. Her track record at Kochi Racecourse drew popular interest, with fans and the public viewing her affectionately as the country's "star loser." Her popularity also helped revive the financial prospects of the racetrack in Kochi, a city on the western Japan island of Shikoku.

ISHIBA'S DEPARTURE: President Trump said Sept. 8 he was surprised to learn that Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba has decided to step down less than a year after taking office. "I was surprised, because I knew him, I liked him, and he's just now stepping down," Trump told reporters as he traveled back to the Washington area from watching the U.S. Open men's singles final. "I found him to be a very nice man, actually. We dealt very well together." Asked by a reporter whether he plans to visit Japan this fall along with South Korea, which will host this year's summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, Trump said, "We'll see." A U.S. State Department spokesperson, meanwhile, told Kyodo News that regardless of Ishiba's decision, "We look forward to continuing our work with the government of Japan."

in the news

JOURNALISTS' RIGHTS: In another challenge to the Trump Administration's sweeping immigration raids in Southern California, a federal district court judge in Los Angeles issued a preliminary injunction Sept. 11 blocking the Department of Homeland Security from attacking, threatening and interfering with journalists, legal observers and protesters. In a 45-page opinion, Judge Hernán Vera of the Central District Court of California determined that "the record includes detailed and credible declarations from nearly 50 journalists, legal observers, and protesters," which showed DHS retaliation against people for protesting against and reporting on the violent immigration raids in Southern California. "Under the guise of protecting the public, federal agents have endangered large numbers of peaceful protesters, legal observers, and journalists" as well as the public that relies on them to hold their government accountable, Vera's ruling states. "The First Amendment demands better." This preliminary injunction applies to the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura.

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An Unexpected Journey: From Psychologist to Academic Administrator

By MARY ANN TAKEMOTO

This week's *Rafu* includes our special education issue. This is one of the essays submitted by local education leaders.

To be honest, it was never my intention to become an academic administrator. Growing up in Gardena as a first-generation college student, I had not considered the full range of career opportunities that would be open to me. I planned to follow in the footsteps of my older siblings and study biology in college.

I was fortunate to receive a scholarship to attend a liberal arts women's college, Barnard College, at Columbia University in New York City. It was a transformational experience and I developed a passion for the study of psychology. I had a part-time job in the Psychology Department and did research with one of the faculty members, furthering my interest in the field.

Upon graduation, I chose to pursue a Ph.D. program in clinical psychology at Indiana University. I thought that a career in clinical psychology would allow me to do a variety of things, such as do clinical work in a hospital or school, teach at a university, or do private practice – all things I have been able to do.

Having lived in diverse environments all my life, it was quite a shock living in rural southern Indiana. I was the first Japanese American to go through the clinical psychology program at Indiana, one of the oldest psychology graduate programs in the country. There were only a few students of color in the program, and fewer in the city of Bloomington, which contributed to feelings of isolation and marginalization.

I was shocked that there were no women faculty in the clinical psychology program, especially

after attending a women's college. I was fortunate to meet a retiring faculty member at Indiana, Dr. Harry Yamaguchi, who introduced me to a professional organization called the Asian American Psychological Association.



Mary Ann Takemoto with mentor and fellow CSULB administrator Alan Nishio.

I had never met an Asian American psychologist before, so it was amazing to me to meet a small but growing number of Asian American psychologists from across the country. Many of these relationships have continued over the years and played an important role in my professional development.

When I look back on my career, I am reminded of the importance of connection – finding a professional community and having good mentors. I know that I would not have been successful without them.

My first "real" job was as a staff psychologist at the UC Irvine Counseling Center. When I arrived on campus in the late '80s, UCI was still considered a young campus (only 23 years old) with 15,000 students. The student population has more than doubled since that time. Being a smaller campus, it seemed easier to get to know people and work collaboratively across departments. The campus community was diverse and

a welcome place to call home.

I served as chair of the Asian Faculty and Staff Association and advisor to the Asian/Pacific Student Association. In the early '90s, I attended my first APAHE (Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education) conference and became connected with a larger network of AAPI staff and faculty. This organization served as another important professional organization for me and I would serve as a board member later in my career.

I assumed different administrative roles in the Counseling Center at UCI and was fortunate to meet Dr. Joseph White, a prominent senior African American psychologist, who provided mentorship and guidance to me as a young professional. He included me on different projects and opportunities and I became part of Dr. White's "freedom train" of diverse young psychologists.

During that time, I taught one or two courses per year at UCI, where AAPI students comprised about 30% of the population. There were few courses on AAPI-related topics, and a course I taught on Asian American psychology regularly had over 200 students. It coincided with a growing development of multicultural psychology within the field.

I enjoyed working with bright and promising students who were interested in pursuing careers in psychology or social work and increasing the pipeline of AAPI mental health professionals.

Students were frustrated by the lack of an Asian American studies program at UCI. It was through student activism and protest on campus, as well as the support of the local AAPI community, that campus administrators listened and made a commitment to a future Asian American studies program. It began as an interdisciplinary program in 1991 and the Asian American Studies

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The Little Tokyo Community Impact Fund has bought a building located at 323 E. First St.

Little Tokyo Community Impact Fund Acquires First Street North Property

How do you fight gentrification?

This was the question a small group of Little Tokyo activists asked themselves about seven years ago as they met in a suite at the Teramachi Condominiums. The group came together out of concern that a number of small businesses, some legacy businesses, were being priced out of the neighborhood.

After scratching their heads and contemplating various scenarios such as land trusts and co-ops, the group came up with something akin to a "community-controlled real estate investment trust" that could attract investors and seek to purchase Little Tokyo commercial properties with the added benefit of keeping rents under control.

Such an entity had never existed before, but the thinking among the group members was "If you own it, you can control it," and to do something to fight gentrification was better than doing nothing.

Thus, the Little Tokyo Community Impact Fund (LTCIF) was started with the formation of a board of directors to launch the effort.

According to Bill Watanabe, one of the original group members and now the board president, "We knew normal community folks, meaning not the uber-wealthy types, would like to participate in such a venture and become 'owners of Little Tokyo property' and also would have an interest to invest to help preserve the historic ethnic neighborhood, so we designed the LTCIF to have two levels of investment — one at the \$1,000 level and a second at the \$10,000 level.

"We did a lot of informational and outreach gatherings and we were getting investors to buy into the concept — but then COVID 19 came and put the kibosh on in-person outreach meetings. But nevertheless, we did manage to raise just under \$1 million — not enough to buy a property outright but enough to be in the game."

Glenn Sanada, another LTCIF board member, stated, "A property came up for sale right on First Street in the historic core of Little Tokyo, and we approached a local foundation to help us buy the property and keep it out of the hands of some outside investor who didn't care about Little Tokyo and only cared about making money."

The foundation board saw the importance of keeping this valuable historic property under community control and supported our request, which allowed us to buy the building. When we closed escrow on Aug. 18, the LTCIF board members were very excited and elated after these many years of trying to own a piece of Little Tokyo."

The property, located at 323 E. First St., has three small business tenants and also office spaces on the second floor.

According to board member Dr. Dean Toji, "We are planning a community public celebration sometime in November to let people know what we are up to, and to encourage more investors to support the work of LTCIF."

For more information on the organization, go to: <https://littletokycif.com/>

JA Community Welcomes New Consul General

RAFU STAFF REPORT

A community welcome reception for Kosei Murota, the new consul general of Japan in Los Angeles, was held on Sept. 8 at the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center's Toshizo Watanabe Culinary Cultural Center.

Murota has been with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan since 1994 and this is his second assignment in the U.S., following his time at the Embassy of Japan in Washington, D.C. He arrived in Los Angeles with his wife Toako and their son Yuki, just in time for the second weekend of Nisei Week.

Sponsors of the reception included JACCC, Japan America Society of Southern California,

Japan Business Association of Southern California, Japanese American National Museum, Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Southern California, Keiro, Little Tokyo Business Association, Little Tokyo Community Council, Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai, and Orange County Japanese American Association.

"Japan is not an economic giant anymore," Murota noted in his speech. "According to Price Waterhouse Coopers' survey, Japan, currently fourth in the world GDP ranking, will be eighth in 2050, surpassed by Brazil, India, Russia and Mexico."

"And Japanese companies are not as mighty as in the 1980s and 1990s. The current Japanese company laws are very strict. All

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JUN NAGATA / Rafu Shimpo
Consul General Kosei Murota (right) joins JCCSC President Haruo Takehana and other community leaders in a toast.

VSEDC Awarded \$20M Metro Pilot Investment Fund to Support South L.A., Crenshaw, Little Tokyo



VSEDC hopes to fill in the second eye of the Daruma with the Little Tokyo community.

VSEDC President and CEO Quentin Strode added, "Today, I am proud to celebrate 45 years of VSEDC and honor Marva's legacy by expanding access to capital, technical assistance, and sustainable growth for our communities. With the support of Metro's Pilot Investment Fund, we're not just investing in businesses, we're investing in the future of South L.A., the Crenshaw Corridor, and Little Tokyo, ensuring that these communities continue to thrive with resilience, equity, and purpose."

VSEDC has deployed over \$28.3 million in loans since 2020 in these target areas and will continue its impact by partnering with a Minority Depository Institution to deliver the program.

As a symbolic next step, VSEDC will deepen its partnerships with Little Tokyo community organizations with hopes of one day filling in the second eye of the Daruma doll together, signifying shared success and a fulfilled vision for community-driven growth.

For more information, visit www.vsedc.org.

VSEDC has a deep-rooted history with the Japanese and Japanese American communities. In 2000, Fuji Bank & Trust supported the organization's acquisition of the Vermont Slauson Shopping Center, marking a significant partnership that included a ceremonial Daruma doll eye-coloring by Fuji Bank President Kenichiro Tanaka and VSEDC founder Marva Smith Battle-Bey.

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Nikkei Games Basketball Returns to Form

By ERIKA JAMES

The 30th annual Nikkei Games: Games for the Generations is in the history books for 2025, but the participation and competition have proven that the games are on their way to becoming the greatest Nikkei sports festival in our country.

Held July through August, the Nikkei Coordinating Council and all of the sponsoring organizations invite a community of generations to celebrate sports, culture, and the Japanese American heritage together. Over multiple weekends across Orange and Los Angeles counties, people of all ages show up to compete and honor the traditions and athletics of the Japanese American community.

Most of the events were held at the Cal State Long Beach Pyramid, including the basketball tournament, which notably this year, brought back the opening ceremony for the first time in 13 years.

Historically, the basketball tournament began with just 300 participants, but has grown substantially – from 175 teams in 2000 to nearly 1,600 participants across 97 divisions in 2025. Truly a game for the generations, families and friends gathered to witness this opening ceremony, which was last held in 2012.

Emceed by Fox 11 anchor and co-host of "Good Day L.A." Sandra Endo, the opening ceremony kicked off with a performance by Kibou Taiko, a local and beloved drumming group. Lauren Kinkade, a past Nisei Week Queen and backup singer for Gladys Knight and Jessica Simpson, sang the national anthem.

Then, all eyes were on the ceremony

as Endo walked the audience through the recognitions and excitement of the Nikkei Games basketball tournament.

The Parade of Athletes returned with the opening ceremonies, including 300 participants representing 17 different organizations. The representation was energetic as the young athletes took the court and stage to honor their communities and teams.

Jun Endo, a professional women's soccer player for Angel City Football Club, was the guest speaker, and she spoke before members of the 2024 Nisei Week Court (Princess Caitlyn Sasaki and Princess Anita Komatsu), the 2025 Miss Orange County Japanese American (Casey Kuramoto), and so many sponsors, players, families, and friends.

Endo talked about her dreams as a child and shared the challenges she had to overcome to pursue those dreams.

Endo had the gymnasium's bleachers in an excited uproar, children jumping and squealing, as she raffled off and threw prizes – Ryoko Rain and Bucketsquad gear, Labubus, and Airpods. "Let the games begin!" she said.

With a return to a two-day format after two years, the basketball tournament was thriving and under way. Sweat, tears, victories, and losses – generations competed for the gold and the Ryoko Rain awards. Players ranging from 5 to 67 years old filled the Pyramid, continuing the tradition of generations before them and leaving a legacy to follow.

21 hours of game time.
776 games.
8 games every 12 minutes.
One reason: games for the generations.



Kalia Toshima looks for a teammate in high school co-ed division action, during the 2025 Nikkei Games Basketball tournament, held Aug. 2-3 inside the Pyramid at Cal State Long Beach. Below, Morrison Nishihira of Shish Keobobs draws the foul from Jackson Lee of South Bay Rizz.

Bronze: Showtime
Adam Lum,
Dash Rushatakkamovit,
Elijah Vasquez, Javin Webb
Consolation: Hadouken
Alyus Santos, Jacob Chang,
Abel Yi, Skyler Fushimi

4TH GRADE BOYS
BRONZE UPPER

Gold: Showtime Crocodiles
Liam Lagrimas, Owen Wang,
Truman D'Costa, Manolo Aquino
Silver: Legendary Dragons
Devin Ishihara, Lincoln Carl,
William Miyamoto,
Phoenix Meyer, Landon Tanaka

Bronze: Hadouken
Cayden Cacayan, Adam Nguyen,
Rocco De Mesa, Marley Sithichai
Consolation: Green Ninjas
Jacob Sun, Apollo Plaskow,
Andru Atanante

4TH GRADE BOYS
BRONZE LOWER

Gold: Falcons
Jackson Di Fiore, Carson Cheung,
Lucas Chew, Noah Valdez
Silver: Swish
Dylan Lam, Jalen Waki,
Aiden Lam

Bronze: Flame Hoopers
Benjamin Vo, Nathaniel Lim,
Evan Tanaka

Consolation: Sharks
Dylan Wakashige, Alex Wada,
Bryce Park, Logan Hall

5TH GRADE BOYS GOLD

Gold: Dawgz
Matthew Wong, Ethan Jew,
Andrew Cheung
Silver: Young Assassins
Mason Nguyen, Kekoa Powell,
Jordan Suga, Westin Tran

Consolation: Crushers
Aiden Kamiyama, Derek Lam,
Grayson Nozawa

5TH GRADE BOYS BRONZE

Gold: Tsunami
Jake Fujii, Rylan Rajalingam,
Regen Heber

Gold: Hot Shotz Red
Benjamin Suh, Dean Vedder,
Nathan Roldan

Bronze: Tuff Dawgs
Jaxon Yue, Breyden Matsui,
Parker Nozawa

5TH GRADE BOYS SILVER

Gold: Wolfpack Blue
Landon Hatae, Jackson Uyesugi,
Caesar Dong, Julian Kang,
Jacob Kiyomiya

Silver: Mamba Mentality
Rome Takenaka, Andrew Rho,
Jace Guevara

Bronze: Triple Threat
Matthew Diep, Connor Tu,
Hunter Tu

Consolation: Ninjas
Ren Lin, Zac Choi, Miles Lo

4TH GRADE BOYS GOLD

Gold: Wolfpack (Black)
Carter Buted, Caleb Shin,
Maddox Siaden,
EJ Ocampo

Silver: Raptors
Aki Eberly, Sean Wong,
Spencer Wang Fukushima,
Darren Bracamontes

5TH GRADE BOYS SILVER

Gold: Triple Threat
Joshua Duenas, Langston Luong

6TH GRADE BOYS GOLD

Gold: Bucket Squad
Taiyo Karst, Christian Chang

Silver: Mambas
Aiden Pruchyanimit,
Aiden Aguilar

Bronze: Remixers
Haruto Nakasone, Jared McIntosh

6TH GRADE BOYS SILVER

Gold: Bucket Squad
Taiyo Karst, Christian Chang

Silver: Mambas
Aiden Pruchyanimit,
Aiden Aguilar

Bronze: Remixer
Haruto Nakasone, Jared McIntosh

6TH GRADE BOYS GOLD

Gold: Bucket Squad
Taiyo Karst, Christian Chang

Silver: Mambas
Aiden Pruchyanimit,
Aiden Aguilar

Bronze: Remixer
Haruto Nakasone, Jared McIntosh

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Gold: Bucket Squad
Taiyo Karst, Christian Chang

Silver: Mambas
Aiden Pruchyanimit,
Aiden Aguilar

Bronze: Remixer
Haruto Nakasone, Jared McIntosh

6TH GRADE BOYS GOLD

Gold: Tigers RebBoyz
Evan Hung, Yuki O'Donnell,
Jude Mekdara, Cameron Bond

Silver: Bulldogs
Christopher Kang, Jayden Tado,
Brayden Lim

Bronze: AZN All-Stars
Collin Ryono, Collin Tom,
Jayden Kim, Kellan Kim

Consolation: WLA Warriors
Kaleo Yang, Grayson Bounlom,
Holden Hitchcock, Parker Moon

7TH GRADE BOYS GOLD

Gold: Frogacados
Kai Fukuda, Nathan Saito,
Eric Au, Devin Yonamine

Silver: Orange Chicken Nuggies
Matthew Yamada, Kree Frieson,
Josh Purewal, Tan Truong,
Brody Wen

Bronze: SSB Yellow
Owen Chan, Jordan Lew,
Koa De Leon

Consolation: Tiger Bros
Jaxx Mekdara, Kory Seo, Tyler Su

7TH GRADE BOYS SILVER

Gold: Ball Stars
Jacob Ko, Miles Kou,
Dylan Reyes, Ayaan Shah

Silver: Blazers
Kevin Tse, Ryan Kajohn,
Jordan Herbst, Jairus Lazaro

Bronze: Bruins
Noah Phan, Andrew Chen,
Kasen Roussel, Tyrona Allen

Consolation: Scorpions
Jalen Enomoto, Kihei Tran,
Tyler Nguyen, Nathan Ju

HS BOYS GOLD LOWER

Gold: Ball Stars
Jacob Ko, Miles Kou,
Dylan Reyes, Ayaan Shah

Silver: Blazers
Kevin Tse, Ryan Kajohn,
Jordan Herbst, Jairus Lazaro

Bronze: Bruins
Noah Phan, Andrew Chen,
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Jacob Ko, Miles Kou,
Dylan Reyes, Ayaan Shah

Silver: Blazers
Kevin Tse, Ryan Kajohn,
Jordan Herbst, Jairus Lazaro

Bronze: Bruins
Noah Phan, Andrew Chen,<br



Angel City FC star forward Jun Endo helped kick off the tournament with some words of encouragement.

Consolation: Bad Queenz
Kaia Kim, Laylah Pelagio, Jordyn Hung, Avery Chen

2ND GRADE GIRLS BRONZE
Gold: Tomodachi
Maddie Eguchi, Charleigh Ito, Emmie Magdalena, Ava Turner

Silver: Lady Ironmen Labubus
River James, Tatum Kato, Mila Sasada, Elaina Villabrille
Bronze: Wasabis
Charlotte Luong, Adelaide Ho, Hannah Ng, Miwa Morikawa-Tran

Consolation: Queenz of the Court
Emily Sepulveda, Kaia DeWoskin, Kiyo Yuki Tsuyuki, Charlotte Van Hor

3RD GRADE GIRLS GOLD
Gold: Lady Ironmen
Alba James, Kaleigh McClurg, Tori Koch, Evie Yek, Brook Helmage
Silver: Bball Junkies
Kira Inouye, Skylar Abesamis, Kristen Tanaka

Bronze: Hoop Stars
Ayumi Sario, Akemi Shah, Colbie Dyo, Allison Chen
Consolation: Thundercats Blue
Riley Cercena, Sophie Choi, Emmeline San

3RD GRADE GIRLS SILVER
Gold: Ball Just Lied
Pierce Sanford, Mikahah Sanders, Keila Shigeno, Jojo Kim
Silver: Lady Ironmen
Evie Crumly, Adeline Mey, Kira Imoto, Emma Choy, Adriana Duenas

Bronze: Sapphire Stars Blue
Emmy Chung, Gianna Manalo, Julianna Tanaka
Consolation: Mochi Ballers
Maya Waki, Tessa Bao, Trinity Yeh, Charlotte Jin, Audrey Wong

3RD GRADE GIRLS BRONZE UPPER
Gold: Monarchs
Faith Lee, Hope Lee, Madison Choe, Kira Lan
Silver: Squish Squad
Kaylee Tanaka, Mia Ishihara, Sierra Shimizu, Scarlett Chen

Bronze: Squishmallows
Quinn Berg, Kaitlyn Wong, Aubrey Fajardo
Consolation: VFW Galaxy Girls
Amelia Chang, Penny Chen, Sophie Sung, Madeline Yang

3RD GRADE GIRLS BRONZE LOWER
Gold: Sapphire Stars White
Emily Christian, Josephine Tse, Julia Huang, Zoey Luu
Silver: Thundercats White
Joelle Convi, Crystal Chao, Katelyn Looi, Izabela Ablao

Bronze: Stars
Lyla On, Emma Tang, Cassidy Chung, Melody Pan
Consolation: Shooting Ivy
Mayumi Gentry, Nora Yamana, Ellie Dote, Kaitlyn Shigekuni

4TH GRADE GIRLS GOLD UPPER
Gold: Iron Wolves
Brooklyn Lee, Mikki Karst, Avery Kim
Silver: Honey Badgers
Inara Cordero, Jacqueline Minikes, Lara Nakashima, Olivia Valencia

Bronze: Shiba
Riley Pan, Sadie Hosokawa, Nyssa Tran, Phynyx Booth
Consolation: Daggerwings 2
Kalea Baricuatro, Robyn Vuong, Jayde Espanol

4TH GRADE GIRLS SILVER
Gold: Little Lady Ironmen
Dakota Todacheene, Aria Koloa, Joyce Nghi
Silver: Jets Huskies
Kelsey Yang, Ciera Ha, Charlotte Cheng, Evangeline Hale

Bronze: Shiba
Emerson Luk, Cassidy Wyoyoung, Vera Yosi, Isla Mey
Consolation: Team Dynamite
Keily Nakano, Tori Kuroyanagi, Victoria Lai, Charlotte Ho

4TH GRADE GIRLS SILVER LOWER
Gold: Blue Dolphins
Rylee Gohata, Haley Matsumoto, Riley Trinh
Silver: Chill Girls
Elan Pham, Claire Huynh, Jillian Wang, Millicent Tang, Leighton Huynh

Bronze: Daggerwings 1
Alivia Su, Crimson Lambert, London Balandra, Kammy Kubota
Consolation: Ironmen RUMinators
Phoenix Tuazon, Olivia Lam, Emery Sana, Joslyn Wang

4TH GRADE GIRLS BRONZE
Gold: White Dolphins
Alinea Joe, Camille Chua, Calissa Cheng, Evelyn Kwon



This year's tournament marked the return of Opening Ceremonies and the parade of athletes before the start of the two-day competition.

Bronze: Book Monsters
Erin Yeh, Isabela Yee, Caroline Osato
Consolation: Fireballs
Mackenzie Chung, Natalie Park, Kailey Park, Lily Zane

6TH GRADE GIRLS BRONZE

Gold: Slay Girls
Kayana Pham, Kora Chang, Melanie Kha, Portia Ho, Paige Okita

Silver: Brawler Ballers
Addison Mora, Dylan Perry, Lauren Moncrief, Mila Kuroyanagi

Bronze: Four Peas in a Pod
Jamie Takamatsu, Kendall Wang, Victoria Albances, Sophie No

Consolation: Mighty Dragons
Jocelyn Baricuatro, Alia Hastings, Mya Barnum

7TH GRADE GIRLS GOLD

Gold: Tsunami
Lea Valenzuela, Gabriella Manalo, Savannah Santos, Rinoa Albayalde

Silver: Clava KKB
Kate Pyo, Belle Oroczo, Kalewa Do

Bronze: Fantastic 4
Grayson Gonzales, Josie Cordova, Malaya Cruz, Annabeth Gomez

Consolation: Aura
Annie Lacorte, Abigail Lee, Savannah Gallon, Ami Chen

7TH GRADE GIRLS BRONZE UPPER

Gold: Keahi Ballerz
Kourtney Duong, Avarie Chan, Miranda Casas, Kaia So, Madison Guzman

Silver: Black Swans
Remy Suwan, Aryanna Castro, Elizabeth Miyamoto, Kate Dignadice

Bronze: HK Hoopers
Maddy Mackawa, Juliet Huynh, Kelli Wallace, Avery Cheung

Consolation: Pandas
Russell Butsumyo, Steven Masai, Evan Huckabee, Steven Wanger

8TH GRADE GIRLS GOLD

Gold: TiraMochis
Alexandria Lee, Elizabeth Lee, Skylar Hsu, Isabella Trinidad, Tegan Luu

Silver: Royal Stars
Olivia Lee, Kacy Chuong, Allie Sakatani, Rachel Liu

Bronze: Swish
Reeva Inada, Keir Seo, Halle S., Kennedy Seiler

Consolation: Labubu Legends
Charlotte Lin, Addie Huynh, Olivia Solomon, Olivia Kim

5TH GRADE GIRLS BRONZE UPPER

Gold: Boba Ballers
Adeline Yang, Alexandra Wong, Makena Inouye-Sakuda, Zoe Yoshioka

Silver: Splash
Annalei Gusner, Avalie Takimoto, Eleanor Tokubo, Maddison Dao

Bronze: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Ellie Mackawa, Ellerie Shigeno, Keala Kawashima, Kiara Kawashima

5TH GRADE GIRLS GOLD

Gold: OC Imprints
Chyler Nakano, Trystan Chan, Annabeth Gomez, Ashlyn Phan

Silver: Shooting Stars I
Kate Abrantes, Kayla Hsu, Kate Kuroyanagi, Elie Sepulveda

Bronze: TLC
Connie Chang, Ellie Chang, Amelia Lee, Zoey Trinh

Consolation: Shooting Stars II
Ricky Leong, Krystopher Russell, Austin idk, Glenn Fujihiro

8TH GRADE GIRLS SILVER

Gold: HA-EL-NO
Ellie Christian, Norah Lin, Harper Lu

Silver: Labubu Ballers
Carley Owyoung, Kaylee Farjado, Kaitlyn Lan, Quincy Ledbetter

Bronze: Cash
Lily Miyamoto, Pricilla Martinez, Penelope Solinap, Tynuhua Allen

Consolation: Sparks Blue
Cynthia Abrantes, Megan Lee, Madelyn Yabut, Selene Uesugi

8TH GRADE GIRLS BRONZE

Gold: Mebonds
Tobias Reyes, Caleb Brown, Austin idk, Glenn Fujihiro

Silver: OC Imprints Pacers
Cory Kubo, Chris Potrykas, Phu Nguyen, Erik Peterson

Bronze: OC Imprints Flambooy
Dustin Liou, Glo Rosales, Jeloni Franklin, Mike Noguchi

Consolation: OC Imprints Knicks
Ricky Leong, Krystopher Russell, Austin idk, Glenn Fujihiro

5TH GRADE GIRLS SILVER

Gold: Shish
Chyler Nakano, Trystan Chan, Annabeth Gomez, Ashlyn Phan

Silver: Oei Boys
Jayden Oei, Jacob Oei, Tyler Amelotte, Jackson Oei

Bronze: Hot n Spicy
Jarett Kageyama, Ryan Soga, Jason Grice, Owen Hong

Consolation: Dave's Chickens
Drew Yamatsuka, Josh Eguchi, Drew Mitsuchi, Kai Bradley

MENS GOLD LOWER

Gold: OC Imprints Thunder
Bryce Kubo, Matt Russell, Scott Arima, Casey Kubo, Alan Po

Silver: OC Imprints Pacers
Cory Kubo, Chris Potrykas, Phu Nguyen, Erik Peterson

Bronze: OC Imprints Flambooy
Dustin Liou, Glo Rosales, Jeloni Franklin, Mike Noguchi

Consolation: OC Imprints Knicks
Ricky Leong, Krystopher Russell, Austin idk, Glenn Fujihiro

5TH GRADE GIRLS GOLD

Gold: Beach Boys
Matthew Mayemura, Jimmy Hyun, Michael Truong, Kobe Kiener

Silver: Oei Boys
Jayden Oei, Jacob Oei, Tyler Amelotte, Jackson Oei

Bronze: Blossom BallerZ
Keira Tran, Penelope Liu, Kacey Hara, Alayna Bui

Consolation: Shooting Stars
Sydney Lyon, Sydney Lee, Alyssa Miki, Madison Noguchi

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2025184482

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

1. NOTARU & CO.
3568 MILITARY AVE.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90034-6104
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number: AI #ON

REGISTERED OWNERS:

1. TAIHEI TAKAHASHI
3568 MILITARY AVE.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90034-6104

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 N/A. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct.

Signed:

TAIHEI TAKAHASHI, OWNER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on SEPT. 4, 2025.

Published: 9/19/25, 9/26/25, 10/25, 10/10/25.

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RFP NO. SP641-26

PUBLIC RELATIONS SUPPORT

SCRRRA is seeking proposals for Public Relations Support. Proposals may be downloaded at SCRRRA's website at <http://www.metrolinktrains.com/contracts>. Proposals are due 10/24/2025.

For further information contact: Tammi Phillips, Sr. Contract and Compliance Administrator, at PhillipsT@scrra.net.

9/19/25

CNS-3964951#

RAFU SHIMPO

LEGAL NOTICE

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY

RFP No. EP246-26

Specialized Maintenance-of-Way Equipment

SCRRRA is seeking bids for Specialized Maintenance-of-Way Equipment. Solicitation documents may be obtained at <https://metrolinktrains.com/doing-business>. Bids are due at 2:00 P.M. (PT) on 10/29/25.

The contract to be awarded will be funded in part by grants under the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration.

For further information, contact Dorothy Cantero, Sr. Contract Administrator, at (213) 452-0302 or DorothyD@scrra.net.

9/19/25

CNS-3961905#

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of AAPI top academic leadership. We have not advanced as much as other ethnic groups, and need to have a better understanding of the barriers that persist for AAPI leadership.

Shortly after I got to the CSU, I was fortunate to participate in a program known as LEAP Advance. For the past 28 years, this unique program sponsored by LEAP (Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics) and APAHE aims to increase the number of AAPI educators in top leadership positions.

Dr. Audrey Yamagata-Noji and Henry Gee have worked tirelessly to bring together a faculty of experienced educators, including college presidents and other executives, for the program. Through experiential learning and connection to role models and mentors, this outstanding program has helped prepare the next generation of AAPI leaders in higher education. I have continued to return to LEAP Advance as a faculty member and mentor.

I feel extremely grateful to have had a fulfilling career in higher education in both the UC and CSU systems. When I look back, I am reminded of the importance of connections – finding a supportive community, having mentors and being part of professional organizations. These would be important and helpful throughout my career.

There are many pathways to top leadership positions in higher education, and I hope that younger AAPI professionals will consider a career in this arena. After 32 years in higher education, I decided to retire in 2021. Alan Nishio encouraged me to join the board of LTSC (Little Tokyo Service Center), an organization that he served diligently since its early years. I was happy to do so and continue to be impressed with the incredible work that LTSC does. I have connected with Changing Tides, one of their programs that focuses on mental health.

Mentors have stressed the importance of "giving back" to the community and to the profession. I recently completed my term on the board of APAHE, but continue to be involved with other community organizations. There is still much work to be done, but I am encouraged by the next generation of AAPI leaders who are coming up behind me and will make a significant impact on the field of higher education.

I had suffered with back pain for the longest time. When I tried Pain NoMore, I felt the skin cold at first but after a while I could tell the pain was leaving my back. H. Sato(LA)

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Above, a discussion on Obon by Elaine Fukumoto was followed by a public dance. At left, former drift racing driver Nadine Sachiko Hsu leads storytime, reading from her new children's book. Right: Donning her Hello Kitty hat from a previous JANM exhibition, Jamie Hendricks shows the array of prizes available to young visitors to the festival.

Photos by J.K. YAMAMOTO and MIKEY HIRANO CULROSS



And they're off: an enthusiastic crowd watches intently as a Hot Wheels race gets under way, hosted by Old Japanese Car Meet. At left, the day featured a delightful selection of kids' crafts.



Welcome

Continued from page 1

activities ... are under severe scrutiny at annual stakeholders' meetings. So board members in Tokyo tend to be very strict about donating money to nonprofit activities, and Los Angeles is no exception ...

"As for Japanese Americans, the Sansei generation, who acted as a dynamo for community-building in the last decades, are, I'm sorry to say, aging ...

"All in all, long-term world economic trends and long-term demographic dynamics are totally against us. What should we do? ... We should look at the bright side."

Murota showed a photo of an event held on Sept. 5 in Torrance by the L.A. Next Generation Japanese American Leaders Initiative and the JBA Next Generation Forum.

"The good thing is it was held a volunteer basis, not imposed by the seniors," he said. "Some of our staff was present ... This was spontaneous. Spontaneity is the key word. No community-building will be success-

ful unless it is spontaneous ...

"Many people in the Japanese American community have told me the Yonsei generation is the most important ... What should we do, the older generation? My suggestion is just foot the bill for now. There might be spontaneous community-building among the younger generations, which could lead to human-to-human networks, and which could lead to business networks."

"This is a long-term investment. There could be a big benefit."

Paraphrasing John Lennon, he added, "I'm a dreamer, but I hope I'm not the only one."

Murota introduced another new arrival, Deputy Consul Naoko Kamitani, with whom he shares the same birth date.

"Since I arrived here, I've already participated in many, many events ... of the Japanese American community, the kenjinkai, the Japanese traditional culture ... providing me with many opportunities to enhance my understanding of this community," Kamitani said. "I really look forward to working with all of you."



JUN NAGATA / Rafa Shimpo

Front row, from left: Haruo Takehana, president, JCCSC; Consul General Kosei Murota; Russel Tsuda, chair, JACCC; Tom Iino, founding chair, U.S.-Japan Council. Back row, from left: Christopher Patay, president, Japan America Society of Southern California; Kristin Fukushima, chair, Little Tokyo Community Council; Kihei Ohtani, president, Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai; Deputy Consul Naoko Kamitani; Beverly Ito, president, Keiro; David Ikegami, president, Little Tokyo Business Association.

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OAA Awards 9 High School Seniors for 2024-25

On July 20, the Okinawa Association of America, Inc. (OAA) hosted their annual picnic at Whittier Narrows Group Picnic Area in South El Monte.

The day was filled with games, live performances, raffle drawings, the only Okinawa Bon Odori in Southern California, and an awards ceremony for the organization's high school scholarship recipients.

A tradition dating back to the 1950s, the OAA recognizes and rewards graduating high school seniors of Okinawan descent in Southern California. OAA family membership is required to apply and the selection process is based on the students' academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities, and community contributions; transcript; letters of recommendation; financial need; and essays (including the prompt, "What does being Okinawan mean to you"). Special consideration is given for community hours at the OAA.

2024's recipients were Cristiana Arakaki Grosdidier (Shoan and Shizuko Yamauchi Scholarship), Isla Walker (Joe and Yoko Higashi Scholarship), Luke Ablaza (Masayuki and Tamako Kishimoto Scholarship), and Kekoa Kakihi (Richard Itomura Memorial Scholarship).

2025's recipients are Katelyn Watanuki (Yamauchi Scholarship), Makayla Moromisato (Higashi Scholarship), Kiyomi Wohlschlegel (Charles M. and Yoshiko Kamiya Scholarship), Paloma Velasquez (Richard Itomura Scholarship), Mia Rees (Masayuki and Tamako Kishimoto Scholarship), and James Osorio (OAA Scholarship).

Every year at the picnic, the OAA president reads short biographies of each student and the Yamauchi Scholarship recipient gives a short speech and thank-you on behalf of all recipients. At the 2024 picnic, OAA Executive Director Yuko Yamauchi introduced the inaugural Itomura Memorial Scholarship and invited spouse Kathy Itomura and nine family members on stage.

With increases in tuition fees and other expenses, not to mention the hardships experienced during the peak years of the pandemic, the OAA hopes that these scholarship awards will assist each student in their journeys toward success — *Uyurukubi unnuki yabira* (Congratulations) and *chibariyō* (Do your best)!

OAA is an award-winning 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is dedicated to preserving, promoting, and perpetuating Okinawan culture in the greater Los Angeles area. Formed by first-generation immigrants (issei) over a century



2025 scholarship recipients: Mother of Paloma Velasquez, Kiyomi Wohlschlegel, Makayla Moromisato, Katelyn Watanuki, James Osorio, Mia Rees.



2024 scholarship recipients: Luke Ablaza, Cristiana Arakaki Grosdidier, Kekoa Kakihi, Isla Walker.



The Itomura family at the 2024 picnic.

ago, OAA has grown into a multi-generational organization that hosts numerous events throughout the

year, including cultural presentations, performances, and senior-focused activities.



Kealani Kitaura and Chizu Omori in a scene from "Kintsukuroi."



Ryan Takemiya and Kealoha Nakamura in a scene from "Kintsukuroi."

'Kintsukuroi' to Be Screened in Three SoCal Cities

The Pacific Southwest District JACL Board announces four screenings of Ikebi Films' "Kintsukuroi" in Southern California.

The director, Kerwin Berk, and several members of the cast and crew will attend each of the screenings and field questions about the film or their personal experiences as Japanese Americans.

The schedule is as follows:

Saturday, Sept. 27, at 12 p.m. at San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center, 12953 Branford St., Pacoima

Tickets: <https://events.humanitix.com/kintsukuroi-screening-san-fernando-valley>

Sept. 27 at 7 p.m. at Milagro Cinema, 13917 Pioneer Blvd., Norwalk.

Tickets: <https://events.humanitix.com/kintsukuroi-screening-norwalk>

Sunday, Sept. 28, at 12 and 3 p.m. at George Nakano Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Dr., Torrance

Tickets: <https://events.humanitix.com/kintsukuroi-screening-torrance>

"Kintsukuroi" is the Japanese art of repairing poverty using *urushi* lacquer and gold," explained Berk. "Yet, it is also something more. *Kintsukuroi* shows us that something

shattered can be restored and made stronger and more beautiful.

"I think the term is an apt metaphor for the Japanese American community during World War II. Homes and farms lost, businesses destroyed, lives broken. More than 120,000 people were unjustly imprisoned in concentration camps in the deserts and mountains.

"Despite this, there is beauty and strength found in their struggle. Families who continue on with grace and dignity in the hope of a better tomorrow for their children and their children's children.

"Although our film is a fictionalized account, we hope you see a little of your father or your grandmother or your aunt in this story as we try to honor the legacy of those 120,000."

The cast includes Ryan Takeuchi, Kealani Kitaura, Ken Takeda, Ron Munekawa, Kiyomi Koide, Kealoha Nakamura, Sarah Lee, Timothy Hsu, David Kiyoshi, Keiko Shimosato Carreiro and Chizu Omori.

as a sanctuary for difficult truths.

"We cannot allow the voices of our veterans to be silenced," Maki stated. "Every dollar raised supports not just our programming, but the fundamental right to remember and learn from our past."

Tickets and donations: goforbroke.org/eveningofaloha/

For more information, email development@goforbroke.org or call (310) 328-0907.

2025 Evening of Aloha Gala major sponsors include: Ruby Sponsor — U.S. Bank; Emerald Sponsors — MUFG Bank, Bill & Christy Seki and Dennis & Lorraine Kimura, Rick & Patee Shinto and family, Sugimoto Family Foundation; Platinum Sponsors — Central Pacific Bank, King's Hawaiian Bakery & Restaurant, Nikki Kodama & family, Yoshio C. Nakamura family, The Pacific Bridge Companies, Joyce Yamane & Stephen Waite in memory of Kazuo & Mary Yamane; Gold Sponsors — Seki, Nishimura & Watase PLC, Scott & Susan Takahashi.



From left: Matthew Clingerman (scholarship chair), Keimi Santiago, Zoe Wong, Ruby Shimamoto, Kelly Jernigan, Hina Usuda, Mitchell Matsumura (GLA JACL president).

Introducing This Year's GLA JACL Scholarship Recipients

The Greater Los Angeles JACL held "All That Jazz," a scholarship and chapter fundraiser luncheon, on July 19 at Torrance Airport's Zamperini Field.

The guest speaker was Kurt Ikeda, Go For Broke National Education Center's director of programs and engagement. Live music was provided by Ruri Matthews, a gifted saxophonist.

The scholarship was established in 1992 as a memorial to chapter member Hana Uno Shepard, who

passed away in 1987. She was active in the campaign to obtain redress and an apology for Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during World War II.

This year's scholarship recipients:

Hina Usuda is a recent graduate of South High School in Torrance. She will be attending CSU Long Beach as a pre-business marketing major. Her interests include reading, scrapbooking, and editing.

Keimi Santiago graduated from North Torrance High school but grew up in Gardena. She is committed to CSU Fullerton and majoring in business finance. Her interests include playing and watching basketball, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.

excited to continue pursuing both her academic and athletic goals in college.

Kelly Jernigan attended and graduated from Foothill High School of Santa Ana. She is committed to UC Santa Barbara for earth sciences and plans to major in geology. She loves to draw, make jewelry, and spend time with her friends and family.

Taiji Yamada of South High School will be majoring in chemical engineering on the pre-medical pathway at UC San Diego. He has worked as a tutor for all four years and has competed in multiple ski racing events over the past two years. He has a strong interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and hopes to pursue a career in the medical field.

Ruby Shimamoto is a recent graduate from South Pasadena High School. She is going to CSU Long Beach as a pre-business marketing major. Her interests include reading, journaling, scrapbooking, and editing.

Zoe Wong is from South Pasadena. In her free time, she likes listening to music and printmaking. She graduated from South Pasadena High School and will be attending CSU San Diego in August. She will be majoring in hospitality and tourism with a focus on events and meetings.

Keimi Santiago graduated from North Torrance High school but grew up in Gardena. She is committed to CSU Fullerton and majoring in business finance. Her interests include playing and watching basketball, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.

knew many who ended up that way or worse.

"Today I'm sharing a story from Bao, who is not as lucky as my brother, but could have very well been my brother, who is one of the many Southeast Asians who are being unjustly detained and deported right now based on decades-old criminal records."

Shakeel Syed, executive director of South Asian Network, said, "Today ... unfortunately, people who are legitimate, legal citizens in this country are being picked up in broad daylight by the mafia of ICE and being thrown out of this country. We will not tolerate this ... We'll continue to fight until every human being, every person, regardless if an immigrant or not, regardless a citizen or not, we'll stand with them today and every day."

Romeo Hebron, executive director of Filipino Migrant Center, said that his organization is working with caregivers who are undocumented. "These are caregivers who are afraid to go to work, who are afraid to take the bus to work. And they are the ones who are taking care of our elders in our community. We are the nurses, we are the caregivers, the CNAs in the hospitals ... We are the people in the service industries serving and preparing our food. We are all of the workers who are coming together to make the city and this world go round. And so for us, that's why it's very important for us to be able to stand with each other, to take action together."

Other speakers at the rally shared stories about terrified AAPI community members facing deportation and separation from their children. Richer San of Cambodia Town, Inc. told the audience about frightened Cambodian families living in and around Long Beach.

"Don't give up," he told attendees.

Tina Pham, communications manager for AAPI Equity Alliance, spoke as the daughter of immigrants who escaped from war-torn Vietnam. "My eldest brother, along with many other Southeast Asian boys at the time ... sought community elsewhere with local gangs. Over the years, I witnessed my brother houseless, abandoned by my family and struggling with addiction and escaping gang life. He was luckily never incarcerated, but he

BIDDERS WANTED

SPECIFICATION NO. 2815

BERTHS 49-51 OUTER HARBOR CRUISE TERMINAL DEVELOPMENT

Water and Sewer Line and Related Structures Construction, Power and Communication Line and Related Structures Construction, Other Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction, Poured Concrete Foundation and Structure Contractors, Structural Steel and Pre-cast Concrete Contractors, Electrical Contractors and Other Wiring Installation Contractors, Site Preparation Contractors, All Other Specialty Trade Contractors, Landscaping Services

ENGR. EST: \$53,800,000 to \$59,500,000

PRE-BID DATE:

September 23, 2025, 9:00AM

BID DATE: October 23, 2025, 2:45 P.M.

NON-REFUNDABLE FEE: \$0.00

Class A California Contractor's License required at time of award.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES HARBOR DEPARTMENT

(310) 732-3522

FAX: (310) 831-5389

Nikkei Children's Book Festival Saturday at JANM

The Nikkei Children's Book Festival will be held on Saturday, Sept. 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Japanese American National Museum's Democracy Center, 100 N. Central Ave. in Little Tokyo.

Dokusho no aki means "fall is for reading," expressing the sentiment that the cozy and short days of autumn are the best time to pick up a book. Jump into the reading season with JANM's Nikkei Children's Book Festival and celebrate the breadth and diversity of children's literature across the Japanese American community.

The festival will be full of author storytimes for kids, Q&As for adults, activities for all ages, and a special pop-up bookstore from the JANM Store.

Admission: \$10 general, free for youth (under 18) and JANM members.

This program is generously supported by the Port of Long Beach.

Schedule

10:15-11 a.m.: Know Our History

George Takei and a special recording with Sharon Fujimoto-Johnson. Book-signing to follow readings and discussion.

"My Lost Freedom" looks back at Takei's own memories of incarceration in the Rohwer, Ark. and Tule Lake, Calif. concentration camps during World War II to help today's children understand what it feels like to be treated as an enemy by your own country and the lengths parents go to keep their families safe.

Fujimoto-Johnson's "Shell Song" is a moving picture book about Japanese American incarceration in Hawaii during World War II and a tribute to the importance of finding and collecting pieces of hope in the darkest of times.

11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.: Tell Our Family Stories

Readings with Katie Yamasaki, J.P. Takahashi, Lisa Aihara, and Chris Aihara. Book-signing to follow readings and discussion.

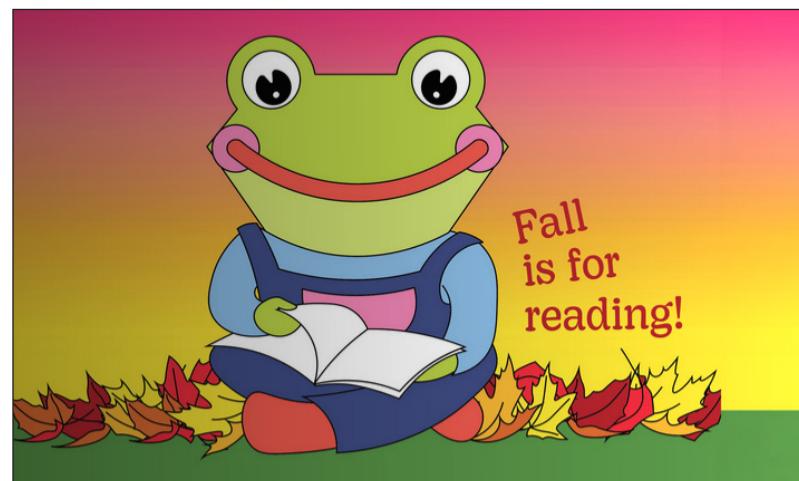
Yamasaki's "Mural Island" introduces young readers to Kenji, an artist who discovers a place to express themselves and the joy of an art community.

Takahashi's "Waiting for Hanami" celebrates the merging of cultural traditions that perfectly reflects cousins Sai and Avi's Japanese American and African American extended family.

"Grandpa Stogie's Gigantic Goldfish," written by Chris Aihara and illustrated by Lisa Aihara, tells the story of a Nisei grandfather and his gigantic goldfish through his granddaughter's eyes, sharing his cultural values and experiences with her.

1:15-2:30 p.m.: Celebrating Our Community

Readings with Nadine Sachiko Hsu and Benson Shum. Book-signing to follow readings and discussion.



In Hsu's "Sachiko and the Bully," by young Sachiko faces a bully at the racetrack and quickly realizes the importance of the golden rule and friendship, and shows readers how to handle a bully with kindness. It is the second book in the "Sachiko Goes Racing" series.

2:30-3 p.m.: Art and Storytelling

Presentation and activities with Sunny and Judy Seki, and Gwen Muranaka. Book-signing to follow

readings and discussion.

Sunny Seki's "Hokusai's Daughter: A Young Artist in Old Japan" celebrates the power of grit and artistic expression and introduces young readers to a trailblazing figure who, like her famous father, left a lasting impression in the world of art.

"Coloring by Heart: An Activity and Coloring Book Inspired by the Japanese American Culture and Community" by Muranaka and Eric Hayashi encourages readers of all ages to learn different ways to be creative. From coloring to word searches, each activity offers a window into Japanese American culture.

JACL: Court's Rejection of Alien Enemies Act a Cautious Victory

WASHINGTON — The Japanese American Citizens League issued the following statement on Sept. 5.

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JACL welcomes the news that came out late Tuesday night (Sept. 2) that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruled against the Trump Administration's recent use of the Alien Enemies Act (AEA).

We have already spoken about the parallels of this use of the AEA with its historical counterparts, most notably its use to intern thousands of Issei, first-generation Japanese immigrants, in the immediate aftermath of Pearl Harbor. The court's decision is a step in the right direction, but far from perfect.

While the court found that the use of the AEA in this case was unlawful, the current standard for detainees to file legal challenges was not struck down.

Currently, the standard is that detainees must be given a seven-day time period in which to bring any legal challenges to their detention and possible deportation.

Given the limited deadline and the conditions in which they are confined, detainees still do not have time to access the legal resources necessary to challenge their deten-

tion.

As the administration will likely appeal the court's decision, we now cautiously await its appearance before the Supreme Court. We thank our partners who continue to courageously battle the improper and unconstitutional invocation of the AEA in the courts.

We also remain committed to continuing the fight to repeal the AEA in Congress.

As we continue to see attacks on immigrant and POC (people of

color) communities, we must not allow the rule of law to fall to the wayside for the sake of "national security." While the name may have been different, calling it "military necessity" in 1942, it was these same beliefs that allowed for the unlawful internment of thousands of Issei and the subsequent incarceration of 125,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans.

All those suffering injustice now at the hands of ICE, CBP, and other law enforcement agencies must be given the right to due process, which they are afforded under the Constitution.

Stewart Chan

Stewart Chan, age 87, of Monterey Park, California, passed away peacefully on Thursday, August 21, 2025.

He is lovingly remembered by his daughter, Erica (Chan) Takata; and son-in-law, Michael; his brothers, Leland Chan and Raymond Chan; and many nieces and nephews. His warmth, laughter, and gentle strength will be deeply missed and forever cherished.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, September 26, 2025, 9 a.m. at Rose Hills Hua Yuan – Hall of Grace and services will conclude at The Garden of Affection, where Stewart will be laid to rest. A reception will follow at the Gardenview Reception Center, where friends and family will gather to share memories and honor a life beautifully lived.

www.rosehills.com

Stewart Chan

Kimiko Yogi



Kimiko Yogi never sought the spotlight but worked behind the scenes so others could shine. The longtime Gardena resident passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on August 5. She was 91. Born in Los Angeles to Takanori and Tomo Yasuda, she grew up in East Hollywood before being incarcerated at Manzanar. After returning to Los Angeles, she graduated from Belmont High School. In 1955, she married her next-door neighbor, David Yogi, and the couple settled in Gardena. Family members will cherish memories of her generous and devoted care for their well-being. Friends will recall her compassion for a series of family dogs. Neighbors will remember her riding with her husband on the tandem bicycle he built. She loved travel and visited countries throughout Europe and Asia, and all 50 states.

Her husband of 65 years predeceased her. She is survived by children, Linda Ford (fiancé Mitch Ikemoto), Mike (Judi Kitano), and Lori; grandchildren, Katherine, Matthew and Daniel Yogi; brother, Kiyoshi Yasuda (Jeannie); sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law Kazuko and Jimmy Okazaki, Ken and Joy Yogi, Miyoko Yogi; and 18 nieces and nephews. A celebration of life will be held at Gardena Valley Baptist Church on September 27, 11 a.m. (aloha / resort casual).

Kimiko Yogi

Yoneko Matsumoto

A private graveside service for the late Yoneko Matsumoto, 103-year-old, Oakland, California-born, resident of Los Angeles, who passed away on August 19, 2025, was held Thursday, September 18, at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier.

She was predeceased by her husband, Kazuo Matsumoto; grandson, Ricky Requilm; brothers, Masami Tokuda and Susumu (Hisako) Sato; and daughter-in-law, Sharon Matsumoto.

She is survived by her children, Robert Hiro of Carson City, Gary (Cindy) and Will Matsumoto; grandchildren, Robyn (Luis) Valdez and James Matsumoto; great-grandchildren, Angel, Luis, Dominic, and Liliana Valdez, and Briseis and Lyanna Matsumoto; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives in Japan.

www.fukuimortuary.com (213) 626-0441

Yoneko Matsumoto

Kiyome Hirayama

A private funeral service for Kiyome Hirayama, 102-year-old, Fresno, Calif.-born Nisei, who passed away on August 20, 2025 in Los Angeles, was held on Sunday, September 7, 2025, at Senshin Buddhist Temple.

She is predeceased by her husband, Art and son, Glenn; and is survived by her sons, Bruce, Keith (Jane) and Duane (Joy) Hirayama; grandchildren, Myles (Vicki), Derek (Atsuko), Grant (Deanna) Hirayama, and Paige (Jared) Tanimoto; great-grandchildren, Alex, Skyler, Landon, Dylan Hirayama, and Quinn, Reid Tanimoto; sister, Satomi Saneto; sister-in-law, Yukiko Saneto; also survived by many nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

www.kubotamortuary.com (213) 749-1449

Katsuaki Ida

Katsuaki Ida, 81 years old, born on July 13, 1943 in Hokkaido, Japan, a long-term resident of Alhambra, passed away on June 9, 2025.

He was predeceased by his son, John Ida, in 1991.

He was survived by his wife, Cathy; his sons, Dan and Joe Ida.

Private funeral was held at Fukui Mortuary, officiated by Rev. Hibiki Murakami of Nishi Hongwanji, and he was buried at Rose Hills Memorial Park.

www.fukuimortuary.com (213) 626-0441

Katsuaki Ida

Yayeko Nishina

A funeral service for Yayeko Nishina, 97-year-old, Penryn, Calif.-born Nisei who passed away on August 16, 2025 in Los Angeles, will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2025, 10 a.m. at Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, 12371 Braddock Dr., Culver City.

She is survived by her son, David Nishina; siblings, James Kono, Grace Nakao, Yoshiko (Edwin) Yamashiro, and Teruko Burchfield; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

www.kubotamortuary.com (213) 749-1449

Hanayagi Rokumine

October 5, 1931 – August 5, 2025



Hanayagi Rokumine, a classical Japanese dance instructor, also known by the name of Yoko Fukumoto Matsukiyo, 93, a resident of Monterey Park, peacefully passed away with family by her side on August 5, 2025.

She is survived by her loving family: four children, Suzumi (George) Lopez, Irvin (Akiko), David (Michelle), and Michiyo (John) Bailey; eleven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and other family members here and in Japan.

Although her physical presence may no longer grace our lives, her spirit will forever shine brightly in our hearts. May her memory be a blessing. Her absence will be deeply felt, and she will truly be missed.

A private Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Yayeko Nishina



Elizabeth "Liz" Hoshizaki

After a valiant three-year effort, Elizabeth "Liz" Hoshizaki (nee Chan) has passed away due to cancer and is now with the Lord and previously deceased parents and brothers. She passed away quietly on July 20, 2025, in Fullerton, Calif.

Her family and long-time close friends, also knew her as "Cheese."

Liz was born on August 3, 1952, in Los Angeles and grew up in Chinatown. She attended Castelar Elementary School and graduated from Belmont High School, then led a storied career as a dental assistant and school librarian. In her retirement, she enjoyed singing with local music groups and cheering on the Lakers and Dodgers.

Liz had a creative spirit and a deep appreciation for all kinds of art. She was a prolific crafter and collector. She sold her own handcrafted goods at boutiques and farmers' markets. She liked to acquire collector's items that reminded her of her childhood. She was a real foodie and loved all things food-related, like watching cooking shows, shopping for food, and sharing what she cooked. Liz will be remembered for all the joy she brought to so many.

Liz is survived by her husband, Russell; son, Cory; sister, Doreen (Ben) Nakayama; nephews, Ken and Kyle Nakayama, Kevin, Daniel, Zachary Chan, and Carlos Garcia. She is also survived by her siblings-in-law and their spouses, Glen (Deborah), Carole, Dale (Robert), Lori, and Julie (Martine); as well as her nieces and nephews, Elena, Alison (Devin), Kyle, Kathryn, Savino, Owen, and Nicolo. Liz is predeceased by her parents, Hoy and Sen Ying Jang Chan; and brothers, Winston and Stanley Chan.

www.fukuimortuary.com (213) 626-0441

Elizabeth Hoshizaki

RELIGION

RAFU Event Calendar



SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

Gardena Buddhist Church 1517 W. 166th St, Gardena 90247, 310-327-9400. Gardenabuddhistchurch.org. Sept 21 (Sun), 9:30 am—Special service: Fall Ohigan hybrid: virtual and in-person, guest speaker: Rev. Cyndi Yasaki (White River Buddhist Temple), service to celebrate the Fall Equinox. The focus of Ohigan (higan = other shore, referring to nirvana or enlightenment) is practicing the Six Paramitas (giving, discipline, patience, endeavor, meditation, wisdom) as a means to reach the “other shore.” 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 Hongwanji Buddhist Temple 815 E. 1st St, L.A. 90012, 213-680-9130. nishihongwanji-la.org, Rimbam 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/mpccue. Contact mpcc@montebelloucc.org for details.

Orange County Buddhist Church 909 S. Dale Ave, Anaheim 92804, 714-827-9590. Ocbsdhist.org. Sept 21 (Sun), 8:30 am—Mindfulness service (in-person); 10 am—Sunday service (hybrid); 11 am—Adult discussion and Dharma School (in-person). Sept 22 (Mon), 7 pm—Zoom BEC English class (Rev Dr. Mutsumi Wondra). Sept 23 (Tue): Office closed. Sept 24 (Wed), 7 pm—Zoom mindfulness service. Sept 25 (Thu), 9 am—Tai chi class (in-person). Sept 27 (Sat), 7 pm—Zoom BEC Japanese class (Rev Dr. Mutsumi Wondra). Sept 28 (Sun), 8:30 am—Mindfulness service (in-person); 10 am—Sunday service (hybrid); 11 am—Adult discussion and Dharma School (in-person). Oct 1 (Wed), 7 pm—Zoom mindfulness service. Oct 2 (Thu), 9 am—Tai chi class (in-person). Oct 4 (Sat), 3:30 pm—Monthly Shōtsuki Hoyo service (in-person).

Pasadena Buddhist Temple 1993 Glen Ave, Pasadena 91103, 626-798-4781. Pasadenabuddhist-temple.org. Resident minister: Rev. Jundo Gregory Gibbs. Sept 21 (Sun), 10 am—Buddhist Fall Ohigan service, open to the public, guest speaker Ministers Assistant Stacy Reardon of the San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, Rev. Gibbs and Ministers Assistants Cathy Mikuni and Allison Yasaaki officiating. Meditation classes will resume in October on Tuesdays at 6 pm. Buddhist study classes resume in October the second and fourth Wednesdays, time to be determined.

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 regular in-person Tuesday morning services at 9:30 am, on Sept 23 and 30. Services are also conducted by Zoom as well. Special services include the following: On Saturday, Sept 20, at 10 am, we will hold our ABA (Adult Buddhist Association) memorial service. This is a time when we remember all of the former ABA members who have passed away. On Sunday, Sept 21, at 10 am, we will hold our Autumn Ohigan Equinox service, followed by Otoki lunch. On Sunday, Sept 28, at 9:30 am, we will have our Tsuki Tsuiko Hoyo monthly memorial service, remembering those who passed away during the month of September over the years. Please check our website, vhbt.org, for more information.

W. Covina Buddhist Temple 1203 W. Puentec Ave, W. Covina 91790, 626-689-1040. livingdharma.org. On Sunday, Sept 21, Autumn Ohigan service will be held from 4:30 pm. The service will be held with both in-person and online. Dharma message will be delivered by Rev. Amy Umezawa from West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple. Please contact the temple (wcbt.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 Umezawa. Sept 20 (Sat), 9 am—Shoshinge service; 10 am—Fall Higan seminar. Sept 21 (Sun), 10 am—Fall Higan service. Sept 27 (Sat), 11 am—Jodo Shinshu class. Sept 28 (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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gardena Valley Baptist Church 1630 W. 158th Street, Gardena 90247,

310-323-5683.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Responsible 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 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 Encrags 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, 90506, 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 1913 Purdue Ave, L.A. 90025, 310-479-1379.

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 (J).

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

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

SEPT 19-21 — “Under the Sea” at Giant Robot Store, 2015 Sawtelle Blvd, West Los Angeles. An underwater-themed art exhibition featuring works by over 50 artists. Hours: Closed Mon, open 12-6 pm all other days. Concurrent with exhibitions at GR2, 2016 Sawtelle Blvd. Info: (310) 478-1819. giantrobot.com

SEPT 19-25 — “Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba Infinity Castle” at selected theaters. Sept 20, 4 pm (dubbed); Sept 21, 4 and 7 pm (dubbed); Sept 22, 7 pm (subtitled); Sept 23, 7 pm (subtitled); Sept 24, 7 pm (dubbed). As was brewing between two kingdoms, the fate of the world may rest on Sophie, a quiet girl working in a hat shop, and Howl, the handsome and mysterious wizard who literally sweeps her off her feet. Theater locations and tickets: www.fathomertainment.com/releases/howls-moving-castle-studio-ghibli-fest-2025

SEPT 19-25 — “Rando Aso” exhibition at Nonaka-Hill, 720 N Highland Ave, Los Angeles. Hours: Tue-Sat, 12-8 pm or by appointment. Aso is a contemporary ceramic artist whose practice bridges ancient Japanese firing techniques with modern aesthetic sensibilities. Info: (323) 450-9409, nonaka-hill.com

SEPT 19-OCT 31 — Sawako Goda and

総裁選5氏出馬へ

地方票獲得
勝敗を左右

高市、小泉氏が軸か



自民党総裁選(10月4日投票)は22日の告示を前に、高市早苗前経済安全保障担当相と小泉進次郎農相、林芳正官房長官、小林鷹之元経済安相の4氏が、週内に出馬会見。茂木敏充前幹事長を含む人は昨年の総裁選に立候補している。混戦が見込まれ、国会議員295票と同数の員党、党友の地方票をどれだけ獲得できるかが勝敗を左右する。昨年勝利した石破茂首相の支持者の動向も鍵を握る。

...

「ボストン破」を聞う報道

各社の世論調査で高市、小泉

両氏が上位を占め、総裁選の

軸になるとの見方もあるが、

情勢はまだ流動的だ。

先陣を切って出馬会見を開いた茂木氏は、衆院の田茂

木派勢力を軸にじままで支持

を広げられるが課題だ。知

名度向上へテレビ出演を精力

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自民党的小林鷹之元経済安

全保障担当相は16日、国会内

で記者会見し、総裁選への立

候補を正式表明した。力強い

経済成長に向けて、若者や現

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な所得税の定率減税を提唱。

国際情勢の不安定化を踏ま

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