



Greater Los Angeles Chapter

Japanese American Citizens League

Newsletter no. 437

February 2022

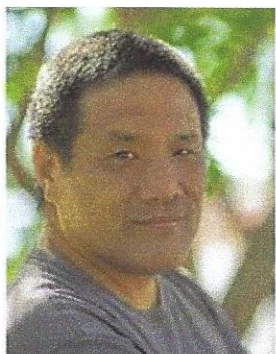
VIRTUAL MEETING/PROGRAM

Sunday, February 13, 2022

1:00 pm

Program: 1:00 pm Look to the Sky: America's Concentration Camps
Speaker: John Tonai

2:00 pm Business Meeting & Installation of Executive Board



John Tonai

For a Zoom link to the
program and information,
email Louise

“Look to the Sky: America’s Concentration Camps” is a documentary photography project by John Tonai depicting the contemporary physical conditions of the 10 WWII War Relocation Authority camps. The initial project took place from 1990-1992. Since that time, Tonai has revisited most of the sites and recorded the changes that have taken place. John Tonai will talk of the photos in the exhibit.

The exhibit has been shown in various forms at different venues, including the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles.

The title “Look to the Sky” comes from Tonai being inspired by the contrast between the mostly dead and ruined areas on the ground and the beautiful sunsets and clouds in the sky. This became the inspiration for capturing the camps in a way that emphasized both the horrors and beauty of the camps.

John Tonai recently retired as an Associate Professor of Photography at University of Northern Colorado. He currently works at the Japanese American National Museum as a Production Coordinator and Collections Photographer.



Ryan Yoshikawa

Ryan Yoshikawa, new Governor of the JACL Pacific Southwest District, will conduct the installation of the GLA executive board.

REPORT OF JANUARY PROGRAM

GONE by Robert Shoji
Visual Communications



"GONE" covers various locations in Little Tokyo, now and in the bygone era. There is emotion-evoking music, as well as sadness-evoking music throughout the film. You can see many old, nostalgic and historic photos from before and during the WWII's forced illegal evacuation of Japanese and Japanese - Americans. There are images of construction activities current, recent, and historic.

There are no words in this short film called "GONE".

What does the music and all of the photos and videos say without words? Little Tokyo's huge, historic area near the Los Angeles Civic Center is getting smaller. It's being replaced by large office buildings like Parker Center (former headquarters for the Los Angeles Police Department); which by the way, has been demolished. Big business chains have replaced small Little Tokyo shops. There are only few shops left from decades ago and only a handful from a century ago. The scenery is sadly looking different.

We are forced to face reality: Little Tokyo as we remember it could someday be GONE. It's sad, but true.

Here's a link to "GONE" from the Visual Communications Vimeo page:

<https://vimeo.com/344039029>

report by M Kadogawa

PUTTING THEM WHERE THEY COULD DO NO HARM by Steve Nagano

Former Mayor of L.A. Fletcher Bowron said such totally racist statements against Japanese Americans. There is a Square named after him adjacent to Little Tokyo.

Let us campaign to get that name taken out.

Steve Nagano's short film quoted many of the totally racist statements:

1. "Japanese can never be Americans in the true sense."
2. "We are worried about the problem of divided loyalty on the part of many American-born Japanese."
3. "They are a race apart. The accident of birth should not make Japanese born on American soil of parents, who are alien in legal effect and at heart, citizens of the United States."
4. "I advocate the securing of land by the federal government in locations removed at least several hundred miles from the coast... where they may be put to work."
5. "When the war is over, it is hoped that we will not have again a large concentration of the Japanese population in Los Angeles. By that time, some legal methods may be worked out to deprive the native-born Japanese of (their) citizenship."

Steve Nagano is working hard on campaign to get everyone to sign onto the Petition to get the racist Fletcher Bowron's name taken out of the square near Little Tokyo.

Sign the petition here: [sign.moveon.org](https://sign.moveon.org/petitions/japs-should-stay-out-fletcher-bowron-los-angeles-mayor-1943)
petitions/japs-should-stay-out-fletcher-bowron-los-angeles-mayor-1943

report by M Kadogawa

Please read article in PACIFIC CITIZEN: Oct. 22-Nov.4, 2021 page 6:

SAYONARA, FLETCHER BOWRON SQUARE?

The following GLA JACL Executive Board was elected at the GLA virtual business meeting January 9. Installation of the Board will be held at the virtual business meeting February 13, 2 pm.

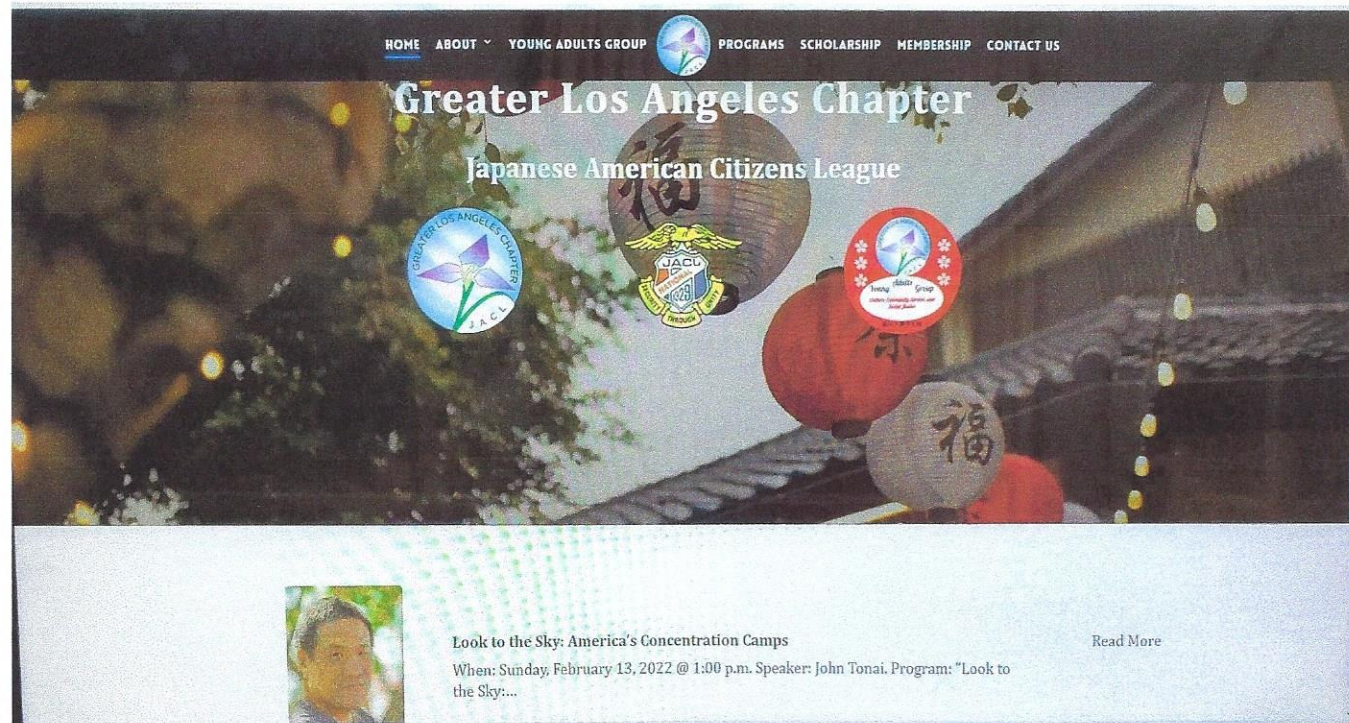
2022 GLA JACL EXECUTIVE BOARD

CABINET OFFICERS

Co-Presidents	M. Kadogawa, Mitchell Matsumura
Past President	Janet Okubo
Vice President, Legislation	(vacant)
Vice President, Programs & Membership	Louise Sakamoto
Vice President, Young Adults Group	Andrew Gruhn
Treasurer & Scholarship Chair	Layne Sakamoto
Recording Secretary	Erica Harris

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1st Year	2nd Year
Susan DeGracia	Joyce Inouye
Kanji Sahara	A. Okada
Kei Sakita	Joyce Okazaki
	Mas Oshiro



This month GLA launched a website. Go to glajacl.org

Designed by Aidan Huynh. Aidan also works with PACIFIC CITIZEN.

The following amendments to the GLA constitution for the Young Adults Group was approved by the Executive Board at the January 9 meeting. Final approval will be at the February 13 meeting with GLA members welcome to attend and vote. GLA members may pre-vote to greaterlajacl@gmail.com

CONSTITUTION of the GREATER LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE (JACL)

Adopted May, 1985, amended August 2011, January 9, 2022

PREAMBLE

In order to foster American democracy, promote active participation in civic and national life, and secure justice and equal opportunities for all Americans, regardless of gender, age, race, creed, color or national origin, including Americans of Japanese ancestry, we establish this constitution of the Greater Los Angeles Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League of the United States of America

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership of the Chapter will be in compliance with the provisions of the National JACL and will include American citizens and legal residents of the United States of America who agree to abide by the Constitution and the By-Laws of this organization. All members are encouraged to attend meetings.

Section 2. Members, in addition to maintaining an active role in regular meetings, may choose to join the Young Adults Group, which is led by the 4th Vice-President, a new position. The establishment of Young Adult Group was adopted by motion of members on April 11, 2021. Young Adult Group members may or may not belong to JACL.

ARTICLE 5 – DUTIES OF CABINET OFFICERS

Section 5. Fourth Vice-President (Leader of Young Adult Group, YAG) may perform any of the following or any additional duties:

- A. Preside over Young Adult Group meetings, programs, and events.
- B. May request volunteers or appoint members to chair any program, activity or event.
- C. Present proposals for YAG programs to Executive Board.
- D. Oversee the development and maintenance of social media platforms for YAG.
- E. Plan for fundraisers to pay for actions, causes, or any event of choice.
- F. Participate with group in all general meetings and events.
- G. Prepare reports for these meetings and for newsletter.
- H. Assist in other activities at request of President.

*** BY-LAWS ***

ARTICLE 1-MEETINGS AND DUES

Section 4. Meetings of Young Adult Group will be scheduled and facilitated by the 4th Vice President. Dues for non-JACL members will be determined by the YAG, payable to Chapter annually and credited to YAG account

ARTICLE 11 – MEMBERS AND CATEGORIES

F. Members of Young Adult Group, formed in April, 2021, may or may not be members of JACL. Non-JACL members pay chapter fee, receive newsletter, but have no voting rights or privileges for certain National JACL activities.

STANDING RULES

Rule 5. The Chapter shall hold fundraisers for scholarship and the general fund.

1. The Young Adult Group may hold fundraisers for their activities.