



# Greater Los Angeles Chapter

## *Japanese American Citizens League*

Newsletter no. 443

August 2022



## 2022 JACL National Convention

**“Strengthening Our Community Through Action”**

**Hybrid in Las Vegas and Online - August 3rd through 7th, 2022**

RAFU SHIMPO July 19, 2022, p.1



From left: Jacob Oei, Isabella Wada, Kenji Horigome.

## GLA JACL Awards Scholarships

The Greater Los Angeles Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League has presented scholarship awards of \$1,000 each to three graduating seniors.

The awardees are:

Kenji Horigome: Downtown Magnet High School, Harvey Mudd College, Claremont; major: astrophysics

Jacob Oei: Edison High School, UC Berkeley; major: psychology

Isabella Wada: South Pasadena High School, American University of Paris for first year, then transferring

to USC; major: marketing

Awardees are of Japanese descent and from single-parent families. The scholarship is named in memory of Hana Uno Shepard, a chapter member who was active in the redress movement of the 1980s.

Co-Presidents Miyako Kadogawa and Mitchell Matsumura presented the awards on June 10 at Columbia Park in Torrance before seven GLA board members and six guests, including four family members of awardees.



## MEET GLA'S 2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS, Columbia Park, Torrance, Sunday, July 10



Standing from left: Board Member Aya Okada, Co-President Mitchell Matsumura, VP-Membership & Programs Louise Sakamoto, Scholarship awardees Isabella Wada, Jacob Oei, Kenji Horigome; Board Member Kanji Sahara  
Seated from left: Co-President Miyako Kadogawa, Junko Ikeda (mother of Kurt Ikeda, 2009 scholarship awardee), Treasurer & Scholarship Chair Layne Sakamoto, VP-Young Adults Group Andrew Gruhn  
Missing from picture: Isabella's father, Jacob's mother and 2 brothers, Joyce Okazaki, Gail Matsumura, Kei Sakita  
Refreshments: Louise – paradise cupcakes, fresh-cut fruits; Miyako – manju; Kei Sakita – onigiri which he made and \$20  
Thank you to Junko, Aya and Gail for their help to set up and clean up.

Dear Fundraiser Donors,

GLA Chapter and Young Adult Group thank all donors to our Scholarship and Chapter Fundraiser. You all are so generous. You are all thoughtful. The Chapter really appreciates you all. The fundraiser event couldn't be held, but you sent in your donations anyway.

GLA Chapter is proud of our three Scholarship Awardees; they are off to bright future school years and careers!!

Of note: Chris Orimoto, 2001 Scholarship Awardee, donated asking his employer to match his gift. Chris lives and works in Tokyo, Nihon.

To raise additional funds to make up the funds needed for Chapter activities, events, programs, and to function, we need another fundraiser. We are thinking about a **rummage/yard sale** in Torrance. . . . Most likely in November.  
Set aside anything you are ready to give away, please?  
Children's clothing and toys may be good items as well.

Thank you all, again.

Very gratefully yours,  
Miyako Kadogawa, Fundraiser Chair

Donations: Total: \$2,825.80 Half goes to Scholarship Fund, half to General Fund

\$380.80

Chris Orimoto &  
Employer (Benevity Fund)

\$250

Miyako Kadogawa

Monty Yamaga

\$200

Yasuko Fordiani

Doug Ikemi

Louise Sakamoto

\$100

Judy Dionzon

Jeff Dohzen

Joyce Inouye

Kei Ishigami

Larry Kawamura

Betty Kobata

Aya Okada

Joyce Okazaki

Naomi Otani

Cathy Shimamoto

\$50 and under

Chester Hashizume

Chizuko Ito

Grace Masuda

Janet Okubo

Mas Oshiro

Shirley Shishido

Barbara Takumi

Mary Yamabe



## Community Groups to Honor Sakura ICF Senior Relocates on July 23

One year ago, approximately 90 residents, mostly Japanese and Japanese American women in their 80s and 90s, were evicted from Pacifica's Sakura Intermediate Care Facility to make way for apartments and a parking lot.

JA community organizations will honor all relocatees and their families with presentations to those at Atherton Homes for their courage, perseverance and survival through the eviction and the trauma of relocation.

Of importance to all relocatees, Save Our Seniors Network (SOSN) began direct talks with the Office of the California Attorney General, Rob Bonta, and specifically with Special Assistant Attorney General James Toma, in early 2022 and requested that office to address specific issues as outlined below.

SOSN thanks Attorney General Bonta and Special Assistant Attorney General Toma for working with Pacifica Companies to restore a level of culturally sensitive facility care to the displaced former Sakura ICF residents, allow all former Sakura ICF residents currently participating in the Assisted Living Waiver (ALW) Program to remain at the Sakura Gardens Assisted Living and Memory Care Facility for their lifetimes, being charged no more than what Medi-Cal and SSI provides; and invite all other former Sakura ICF residents

to apply to the ALW Program to join familiar Sakura Gardens neighbors and former ICF residents on the 325 Boyle Ave. campus.

All relocatees will be entertained by Robie and Steve La on taiko and Japanese vocal performances by Rumi Chamberlain, Yoshie Sato and Noriko MacIntosh. All will be presented with beautiful handmade lap blankets. Sakura Family Council member and SOSN member Kensaku Nakayama stated, "The period of relocation of the Sakura ICF residents during the summer of 2021 as the facility was shutting down was a time filled with uncertainty for all displaced residents. Seniors who had considered the Sakura ICF facility as home were forced to accept new, unfamiliar environments, often with no Japanese language staff and culturally sensitive activities, many suffering from transfer trauma."

"The July 23 event will be held to recognize the displaced seniors for their courage and perseverance."

Sponsoring organizations: Save Our Seniors Network, Sakura Family Council, Greater Los Angeles JACL.

Date and time: Saturday, July 23, 9:45 to 11:30 a.m.

Location: Atherton Skilled Nursing Facility Patio, 214 S. Atlantic Blvd., Alhambra, CA 91801.

Info: <https://saveourseniors.net/work>

At Co-President Mitchell Matsumura's recommendation, GLA approved \$100 donation to SOS.

### Sign on to letter to DA Gascón in support of the Roque family regarding Nicholas Weber's July 11 arraignment

Read full letter here: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ib0vu4ubCnbq9QcQ-l2f458-Bz67lZD4aI\\_CZIMEgOY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ib0vu4ubCnbq9QcQ-l2f458-Bz67lZD4aI_CZIMEgOY/edit?usp=sharing)

Nicholas Weber is set to be arraigned on July 11, 2022 on the charges of battery and a hate crime in connection with the attack on the Roque family. Sign your organization onto the above letter to Los Angeles District Attorney Gascón urging him to fight to ensure that Nicholas Weber stays in custody and for there to be a full investigation and prosecution of this case.

*At Mitchell Matsumura's request, GLA approved signing the letter.*

HOME ABOUT YOUNG ADULTS GROUP PROGRAMS SCHOLARSHIP MEMBERSHIP CONTACT US

**Greater Los Angeles Chapter**  
Japanese American Citizens League

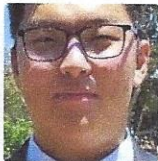
MEET GLA'S 2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

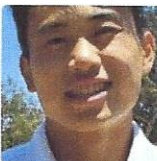
Scholarship recipients: Kenji Horigome, Jacob Oei, Isabella Wada When: Sunday, July 10, 2022. 1:00 p.m....


## Scholarship page

Click on recipients' pictures and see their autobiographies.

2022 Scholarship Recipients

  
Kenji Horigome

  
Jacob Oei

  
Isabella Wada

## Programs page have recordings attached, when available.

**My Life in a Concentration Camp, Manzanar** [Read More](#)  
When: Sunday, June 12, 2022 @ 1:00 p.m. Place: Virtual Program Speaker: Joyce Okazaki Business...

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**GLA JACL Heart Mountain Short Films** [Read More](#)  
When: Sunday, May 22, 2022 @ 1:00 p.m. Free Virtual Program Moderator: Jeff MacIntyre Program:...

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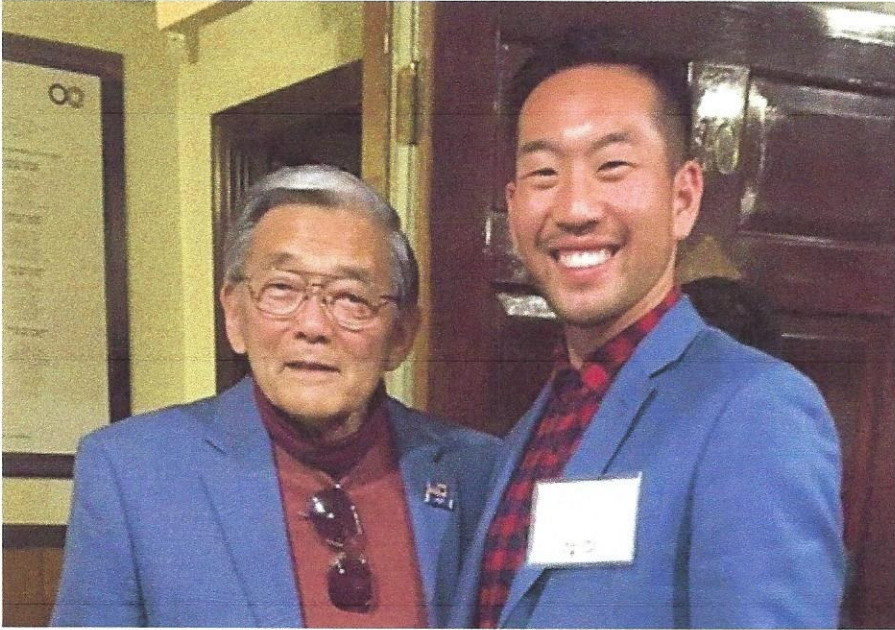
**Look to the Sky: America's Concentration Camps (Part 2)** [Read More](#)  
When: Sunday, April 10, 2022 @ 1:00 p.m. Speaker: John Tonai Program: Virtual Program: "Look to..."

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**Furusato: The Lost Village of Terminal Island** [Read More](#)  
When: Sunday, March 13, 2022 @ 2:00 p.m. Moderator: Mitchell Matsumura. GLA JACL Co-President Program: The...



**Kurt Ikeda** (Director of Interpretation and Education at Minidoka National Historic Site)



Secretary Mineta and Kurt Ikeda unintentionally matching at the JACL/OCA Leadership Summit (2016) Credit: Kurt Ikeda

### *Seat at the Table*

February 27, 2016 - 6:25pm

The tap of your cane signaled your arrival.

Washington, D.C.

On time - 5 mins early.

You wore a blue blazer over a red turtle neck sweater with aviator sunglasses hanging on the collar.

A refashioned baseball bat in one hand, you welcome us with the other.

Leaning your right arm on your storied cane. You lead off with a story. Your story.

"Everyone has two arms to climb the ladder of success."

You lift us up with your left.

Then the story about the cabinet meeting. The seat you had at the table.

Representation avoids repetition.

But history often rhymes. "Don't shy away from who you are. Bring everything to the table."

So we pull up a chair to share across the table you have set. Decorated by stories of crossing aisles with fellow countrymen.

Our country is a tapestry. "A tapestry, when it's woven together, makes for a stronger hold."

You wore a blue blazer over a red sweater. Leaning on a cane built out of "E pluribus unum."

(Kurt Ikeda, 2009 GLA scholarship recipient. GLA member)



# L.A. Tanabata Festival Restarts For 2022

The story of the Los Angeles Tanabata Festival has involved so many people and organizations volunteering their time, their creativity, and energy — yet it all started with one man over 13 years ago.

Yoshihito Yonezawa was born in Sendai, the capital city of Miyagi Prefecture. He grew up experiencing the community and wonder shared by the largest Tanabata festival in the country. As an Issei in Los Angeles and active within the JA community, he dreamed of bringing the same joy and community spirit to Los Angeles.

The first Tanabata Festival can be traced back to 16th-century Japan, at the start of the Edo Period. It is a celebration held on the seventh day of the seventh month and brings the legend of the Princess and the Cowherd to vibrant possibilities and colorful life in the form of seven decorations:

*Tanzaku* 短冊 (paper strips of handwritten wishes)

*Orizuru* 折り鶴 (paper cranes to symbolize long and healthy lives)

*Kinchaku* 金銭 (purses to symbolize wealth and good business)

*Toami* 投網 (nets made of paper to catch not only large hauls of fish but also good fortune)

*Kamigoromo* 紙衣 (paper kimono to display a wish for improved sewing and artistic skills)

*Kuzukago* くずかご (ornamental paper trash bags to celebrate cleanliness and frugality)

And perhaps most famously, *fukinagashi* 吹き流し (long streamers of paper hanging down from a frame to symbolize the art of weaving) that are usually hung underneath a circular ball or box frame.

The famed Sendai *kazari* (decorations) are now available for us to view during our festival that we set in August, to coincide with Nisei Week festivities thanks to the hard work and dedication of Mr. Yonezawa.

Given the incredible work effort and diligence of many volunteers and painstaking meetings to discuss legal issues, city codes and renting spaces to be able to welcome the greater community into the cultural climate of Little Tokyo, the first-ever Los Angeles Tanabata Festival caused eyes to widen and jaws to drop in 2009.

Since then, more and more people

have enjoyed the various workshops that would teach people how to make decorations while humbly asking for donations to keep this group working. Workshops were held at various cherry blossom festivals and JA events and many organizations. We wholeheartedly enjoyed crafting a *kazari* to enter into the competition.

In 2019, LATF held a workshop at Anime Expo downtown and widened its appeal to even more people. The festival that year hung *kazari* outside the MOCA for everyone to view, boasted food booths sponsored by *kenjukai* groups and community organizations and various other booths, and also held a competition for *kazari* in different categories.

But the pandemic brought the festivities to a screeching halt and it's been a road of recovery for its committee, so 2022 will be seeing a new version of the Los Angeles Tanabata Festival that will focus even more on community and sharing those stories with the public.

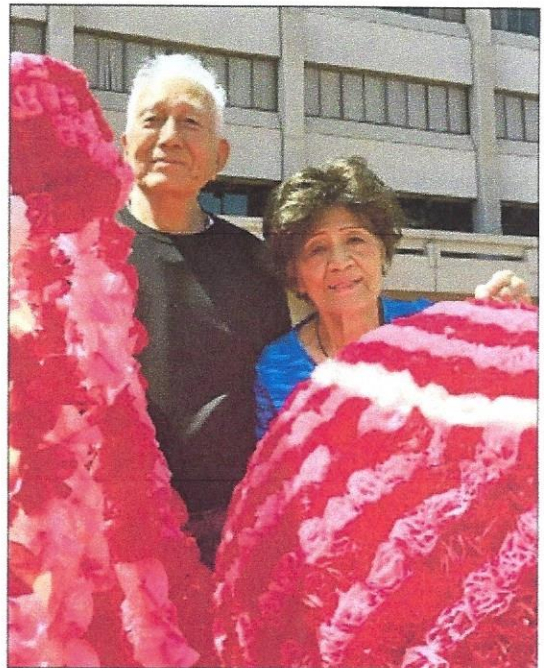
In partnership with the Japanese American National Museum, this year's *kazari* submissions will also be asked about why they are involved with this festival. Every decoration that graces the winds in Little Tokyo has a story to share and we are eager to document it from the people who make them and the organizations that sponsor them.

The LATF Committee is proud to announce the theme for this year's festival is "Fusion" and looks forward to organizing its free events to spread the hope and optimism we have been holding in reserve during these tough few years.

Los Angeles Tanabata workshops are held every Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. until August. We are in Room 405 in the JACCC building. Please call Junko Yonezawa, (323) 721-8523, for special workshops.

Kits are available for purchase. Weekday appointments can be made by contacting Junko Yonezawa at [junyone1a@yahoo.co.jp](mailto:junyone1a@yahoo.co.jp), Miyako Kadogawa at [miyakol@att.net](mailto:miyakol@att.net) or Kiyo Fukumoto at [kiyofukumoto@yahoo.com](mailto:kiyofukumoto@yahoo.com).

Information on current activities and schedules can be found at [facebook.com/TanabataLA](https://facebook.com/TanabataLA) or on Instagram @tanabatafestivallosangeles.



Shawn Nelson

Yoshihito and Junko Yonezawa brought the Tanabata tradition to L.A.

RAFU SHIMPO July 2, 2022, p.2

Miyako Kadogawa is secretary of the L.A. Tanabata Festival Committee