



Greater Los Angeles Chapter  
*Japanese American Citizens League*

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Newsletter no. 444

September 2022

**Tonga: Cultural Traditions and Where Tonga Is Today Post-Volcanic Eruption,  
Earthquake and Tsunami**

Speakers: Minister Ainise Isama'u and her mother Rev. Amelia Sivi Finau

Sunday, September 18, 1:00 pm

In-Person Program. Mask Required.

All are welcome to the 10:30 am worship service at which Minister Isama'u and Rev. Finau are co-preaching the sermon.

Faith United Methodist Church  
2115 W. 182<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Torrance, CA 90504

Faith's Social Action Committee and the Greater L.A. JACL are cosponsors of the program.

Information: Louise at [greaterlajacl@gmail.com](mailto:greaterlajacl@gmail.com)

There will be no business meeting.



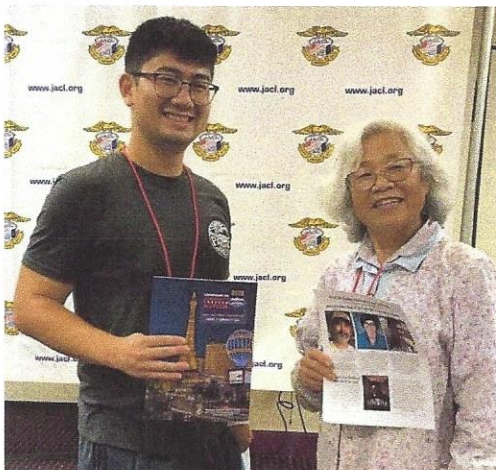
## 2022 JACL National Convention Hybrid in Las Vegas at Bally's and Online August 3 – 7, 2022

The 2022 JACL National Convention was held in Bally's hotel in Las Vegas from 08/03/2022 to 08/07/2022. Three major issues that were discussed this year. The first of which amended the JACL's Constitution to mandate the National Board and the staff to develop a Strategic Plan. This plan, after adoption by the National Council, will guide the actions of the Board. The second, which was the most contentious, amended the Legacy Fund Management Policy to be more conservative in regards to the percentage of the account's value that can be withdrawn each year. This amendment was passed in light of the recent downturn in the financial markets and is to be implemented immediately. Finally, the National Council decided to support the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) into the US Constitution, given that in 2020, Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the ERA. This being the case, the JACL supports Congressional action to ratify the ERA as this amendment has the requisite support of two-thirds of both chambers and was ratified by three fourths of the states.

There were also multiple workshops covering a variety of topics, including but not limited to Situational Awareness Training, Legacy Planning, Preserving the History of Your JACL Chapter, and Mental Health in the AAPI Community. A highlight of the convention was the screening of Lil Tokyo Reporter, a narrative short film about the civil rights leader, Sei Fujii. This was followed by a panel with the director, Jeffery Chin, and two stars of the film, Keiko Agena and Chris Tashima. The panel was moderated by Pacific Southwest District Governor Ryan Yoshikawa.

I would like to thank all of the members of the Greater Los Angeles Chapter for allowing me to represent you at the 2022 JACL National Convention. I developed great connections with the youth of other chapters and I hope to strengthen the GLA YAG using my newfound experience. I'd also like to thank Co-President Miyako Kadogawa for attending with me and helping me to document the entire convention.

*report by Andrew Gruhn, Vice President, Young Adults Group*



Andrew Gruhn and Miyako Kadogawa were GLA's delegates to the convention. GLA sponsored Andrew. As in previous conventions, Miyako paid her own way. Miyako is holding the flyer of the screening of "Lil Tokyo Reporter" and Andrew is holding the convention booklet.



Installation of officers at the convention.  
Larry Oda is JACL President.

## **Congratulations Erica Harris!**



Erica Harris

Erica Harris was selected as a recipient of the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship by the 2022 JACL National Scholarship Committee. The undergraduate award is \$5,000.

Erica moved from Georgia and attended Long Beach City College in 2018. In 2020 she joined GLA JACL and became active and was soon elected Corresponding Secretary. Erica, Andrew Gruhn, and Mylee Sumoge presented a virtual GLA program "Standing Out As Hapa" Erica now attends the University of California, San Diego. She remains a GLA member and Corresponding Secretary.

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## **Congratulations Kenji Horigome!**



Kenji Horigome

As reported in RAFU SHIMPO 8/9/22 issue, Kenji Horigome was one of six high school graduates to receive a scholarship from the Japanese American Treaty Centennial Scholarship Fund. The fund was founded by the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Southern California in 1960 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the first Japanese official delegation to the U.S. in 1860.

Kenji is GLA's one of three 2022 scholarship recipients. Kenji is attending Harvey Mudd College majoring in mathematics and physics.

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## **Congratulations Maile Yanguas!**

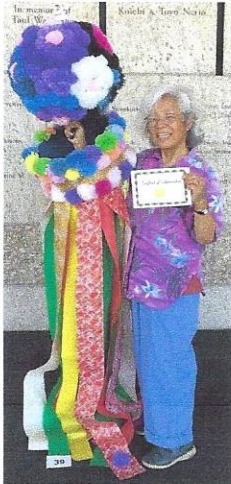


Maile Yanguas in 2016

Maile Tabata Yanguas was GLA's one of three scholarship recipients in 2016. Maile is on the 2022 Nisei Week Court and was selected Miss Tomodachi. Maile represented the Japanese Restaurant Association of America.

In congratulating Maile, Maile replied, "Currently I work as a Talent Sourcer at a technology company called eduMe (essentially I work the recruitment process for our Los Angeles office)"

## Congratulations Miyako Kadogawa



Miyako Kadogawa

Miyako Kadogawa won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in the Innovation category of the 2022 Los Angeles Tanabata Festival. Little Tokyo community leaders judged the kazari for 3 categories, each for 3 places. Theme was Fusion.

Kazari were on display in the Japanese American National Museum during Nisei Week.

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



Lauryn Murata

### Update by Lauryn Murata, 2020 scholarship recipient

My sophomore year and summer was hectic, but definitely memorable. It was a challenge to find the balance between school and social life, but I'd like to believe I got the hang of it. I made a lot of friends and accomplished some goals of mine. Some being as small as visiting famous landmarks in SF to getting officially declared and accepted into the Kinesiology program and declaring a concentration (Exercise and movement sciences).

Nikkei Student Union, the student organization I am Cultural Coordinator for also did really well. We recruited about 20 active members and more joining this year. The presentation of the JACL speaker, Haruka Roudebush, was enlightening and brought us even close to our Japantown community. We even volunteered for Haruka on events such as Mochitsuki and the upcoming Tabemasho. This year I am once again Cultural Coordinator and hope to bring awareness to JA history, stories, issues, etc.



Mylee Sumoge

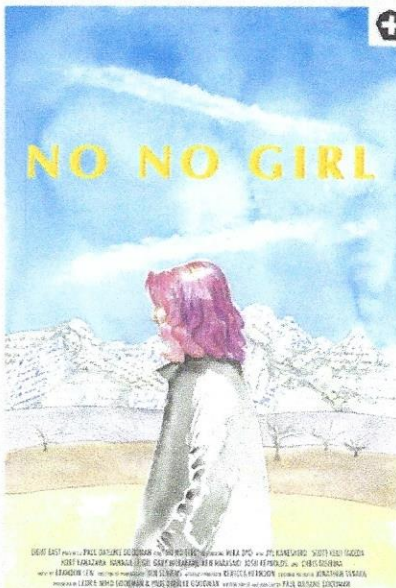
### Update by Mylee Sumoge, 2020 scholarship recipient

Hi, my name is Mylee Sumoge and I will be going into my junior year at UC Santa Barbara. I'm currently double majoring in History and Film & Media Studies. I'm also helping to lead a Christian club on campus called Alpha Omega. I look forward to working on student film projects and being able to see my friends again. Some of my favorite hobbies to do out there are going to the beach and thrift shopping at Downtown Santa Barbara.



**Save Our Seniors Event at Atherton Skilled Nursing Facility in Alhambra, July 23, 2022**

Community groups honored Sakura ICF relocatees at Atherton Home in Alhambra. Sponsoring organizations Save Our Seniors Network, Sakura Family Council, Greater Los Angeles JACL, JACL Pacific Southwest District. GLA was a co-sponsor with \$100 donation. There were 170 attendees.



**COMING SOON OPENS IN 16 DAYS, SEPTEMBER 9** [GET TICKETS](#)

**NO NO GIRL**

In the middle of the night, before they are to be sent to a Japanese internment camp, one family buries a secret in their backyard garden. Eighty years later, a clue is discovered and what begins as a mystery soon turns criminal as a family of different minds try to come together to discover the truth of their past.

*No No Girl* is a story told from the generations of Japanese Americans who suffer to this day from the incarceration of their ancestors during WW2. In the wake of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, hundreds of thousands of Japanese Americans were, by executive action, evicted from their homes and sent to barracks in isolated camps scattered across the United States. Many families, including the fictional one portrayed in *No No Girl*, didn't want to depart with their treasured possessions- so they buried them. After the war, many of these families would return to their homes to find them ransacked, destroyed, vandalized with racism and hate and sometimes even outright stolen. They would have to start again, and move on. *No No Girl* explores three generations of Japanese Americans who discover the existence of family heirlooms in a home that is no longer theirs. What it brings is more complicated than joy or relief because their place in history is complicated. In this film we explore identity and family; nationality and pride. And watching our characters ask themselves: if it's yours, is it really stealing?

Genre: Drama  
Runtime: 120

Language: English

Director: Paul Daisuke Goodman  
Producer: Paul Daisuke Goodman, Laurie Miho Goodman  
Writer(s): Paul Daisuke Goodman  
Cast: Mika Dyo, Chris Tashima, Jyl Kaneshiro, Scott Keiji Takeda, Kurt Kanazawa, Ken Narasaki, Gary Murakami, Hannah Leigh, Josh Reynolds

*Opening at*

Glendale on Sep 9th



*Spread the word about this film!*

Laemmle Theater, 207 N. Maryland Ave., Glendale, CA 91206, 310-478-3836

Film opens Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> for one week only. Three showings per day.

Reserve tickets after September 6th at: <https://www.laemmle.com/film/no-no-girl>