



Greater Los Angeles Chapter

Japanese American Citizens League

Newsletter no. 446

November 2022

VIRTUAL MEETING/PROGRAM

Sunday, November 6, 2022

1:00 pm

Program: 1:00 pm

**From “American Horror Story” to “Avatar: The Last Airbender”:
Michael Goi’s Journey as an Asian American in Hollywood**

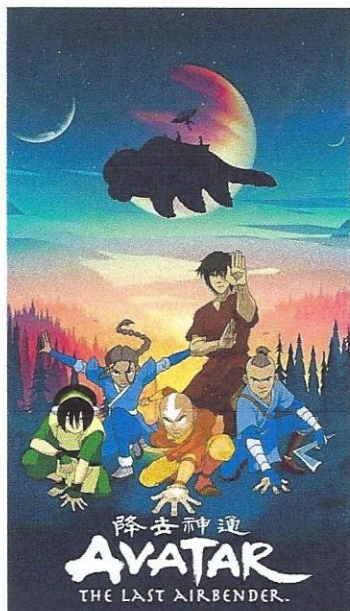
2:00 pm or after the end of the program: Business Meeting & Elections



Michael Goi

Spend an hour with director/cinematographer/producer Michael Goi as he discusses his rise in the motion picture and television industries, his activities to increase diversity in front and behind the camera, and how his Japanese American parents' experiences in the 1940s affected his career path.

For a Zoom link to the program,
email Louise Sakamoto at greaterlajacl@gmail.com



Avatar: The Last Airbender is an American adventure fantasy television series. It is a live-action adaptation of the animated television series of the same name. Production was from Nov 2021 – June 2022. The film is presently in post-production. Cast members include Daniel Dae Kim, Tamlyn Tomita and George Takei.

Following are nominations for the GLA JACL Executive Board.

Elections will be held at the November 6th meeting.

Questions regarding nominations, text Louise (310) 634-9032 or email LSakamoto@sbcglobal.net

2023 GLA JACL EXECUTIVE BOARD

CABINET OFFICERS

Co-Presidents	Miyako Kadogawa, Mitchell Matsumura
Past President	Janet Okubo
Vice President, Legislation	(vacant while there are 2 co-presidents)
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

2nd Year

Susan DeGracia
Kanji Sahara
Kei Sakita

1st Year

Joyce Inouye
Ayako Okada
Joyce Okazaki
Mas Oshiro

2022 HANA UNO SHEPARD SCHOLARSHIP AND CHAPTER FUNDRAISER

Late donor: Kanji Sahara \$500

Fundraiser total to date: \$3,395.80

Lil Tokyo Reporter and *A Rebel's Outcry*

On October 9, 2022 in a GLA JACL virtual program, the 30-minute short film *Lil Tokyo Reporter* was shown. Directed by Jeffrey Gee Chin and with actor Chis Tashima as Sei Fujii, the film celebrates its 10th anniversary.

From the Little Tokyo Historical Society website where the DVD is available for purchase:

Lil Tokyo Reporter is a 30-minute narrative short set in 1930's Los Angeles and was developed Summer 2009 and completed in Fall 2012. The project was supported by donations from the Asian American community, grants, and volunteered talent. The film was inspired by the True Story of Civil Rights Leader Sei Fujii, a man who protected the livelihood of the Japanese American people from 1903-1954. Thus far the film team received JACL's Pacific Citizen Award for Extraordinary APAs in the Entertainment Field and \$38,000 in grants (California Civil Liberties Public Education Program, UCLA's Aratani & Terasaki Foundations, and Union Bank). The film is also a production of Visual Communications and the Little Tokyo Historical Society. The film has won over 16 awards in film festivals across the United States.

Miyako Kadogawa tells the climax of the film: The climax was the assassination attempt on Sei Fujii who started *Kashu Mainichi* and, through the newspaper, did criticize the Japanese gambling casino/bar which stole from players and demanded "protection money" from the merchants of Little Tokyo. The ending shows him being discharged/walking out of the Japanese Hospital which Sei Fujii worked many years, even having to go to the Supreme Court, to help it to be built by Japanese pioneers (buy the property in the first place).

(The recording of the program has the trailer of the film and not the 30-minute film. Recording is on the GLA JACL website (www.glajacl.org) under Programs.)



Jeffrey Gee Chin

Chris Tashima

George Shaw

Following the film, there was discussion of *Lil Tokyo Reporter* and introduction of the book *A Rebel's Outcry*. In the nearly 30 minutes discussion were Jeffrey Gee Chin, Chris Tashima and George Shaw shown in screen shots.

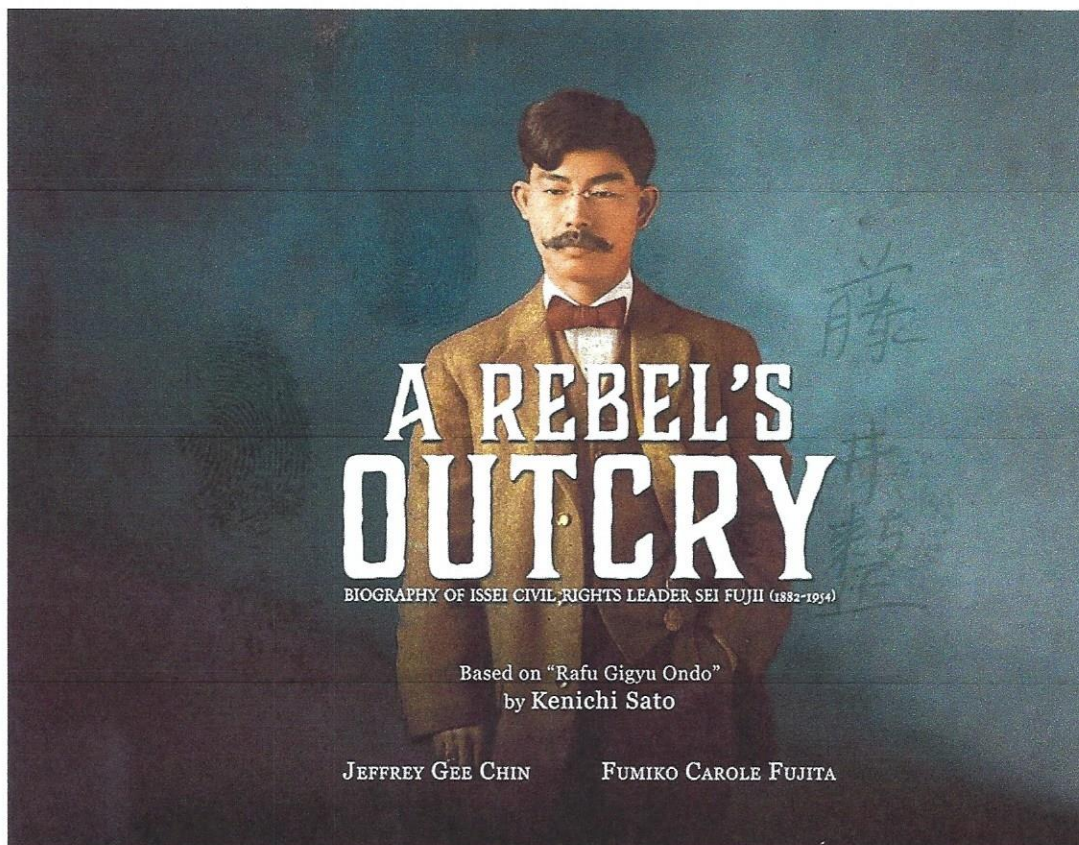
Jeffrey Gee Chin, director and publisher, was the director and scriptwriter of *Lil Tokyo Reporter*, his first film. In the years since, he has worked as director in other films. **Fumiko Carole Fujita**, executive producer of *Lil Tokyo Reporter*, had Zoomed into the program and was introduced. Fujita had researched the history of the Japanese Hospital and of Sei Fujii and felt the need of a film. She met Chin at a Japanese American National Museum function in San Francisco regarding a program on the Japanese Hospital and, as the saying goes, the rest is history. Chin and Fujita collaborated and eventually published the book *A Rebel's Outcry*.

Academy award winner **Chris Tashima** portrayed Sei Fujii in the film. Tashima encouraged support of artists and filmmakers and encouraged the telling stories of Japanese history and of people who made a difference. It is easier to tell stories in this time of digital filmmaking and streaming platforms. Tashima is an actor in the recently released movie *No No Girl*.

George Shaw, composer for film, TV and games, composed the music for *Lil Tokyo Reporter*. Shaw is Taiwanese American of Chinese and Japanese descent. He learned recently that his grandmother is Japanese. Shaw's recent work is composing the music for *Abominable and the Invisible City*, DreamWorks' animated TV series now streaming on Hulu and Peacock.

Honorarium for program was \$500. Donors: GLA JACL \$100, Miyako \$150, Kanji \$150, Louise \$100

report by Louise Sakamoto



A Rebel's Outcry: Biography Issei Civil Rights Leader Sei Fujii (1882-1954)

\$60.00

SHIPPING \$10.00 (For large orders (25 and over), please contact us for bulk shipping rates.)

**** Cost of the book and shipping are considered donations to LTHS ****

Based on *Rafu Gigyū Ono* by Kenichi Sato

A Rebel's Outcry: Biography of Issei Civil Rights Leader Sei Fujii (1882-1954) is an illustrated biography and detailed look into the life of Japanese American civil rights leader Sei Fujii, known for overturning the California Alien Land Law in 1952 and founding the Japanese American newspaper *Kashu Mainichi* (*California Daily News*). His complex history reveals his intriguing journey as an immigrant, a social justice activist, unionizer, and a community leader. Fujii's story exemplifies the multitude of ways Americans have and may continue to fight for our civil rights.

The official biography on Sei Fujii is the source material written by author Kenichi Sato and was commissioned by manager Junko Maruya of the *Kashu Mainichi*. Following the work by Sato, LTHS conducted over ten years of extensive research, including interviews with countless community members, Fujii's family, and visiting his ancestral samurai home in the Takamori Village of Iwakuni, Japan. Publication of this book is sponsored by Union Bank and UCLA Asian American Studies Center and the George and Sakaye Aratani Community Advancement Research Endowment.

Translated by Saeko Higa-Dickinson

Edited by Naomi Hirahara

Original Artwork by Takashi Uchida

Layouts by Amy Inouye

Publishers Jeffrey Gee Chin & Fumiko Carole Fujita