



Greater Los Angeles Chapter Japanese American Citizens League

Newsletter 455 September 2023

October 1, 2023

Sunday

In-Person Program

1:00 pm Program: World War II Camp Wall

Speaker: Nancy Hayata

Faith United Methodist Church

2115 W. 182nd Street

Torrance, CA 90504

**Sponsored by Faith's Social Action Committee
Co-sponsored by Greater L.A. chapter of JACL**



Nancy Hayata

A vision of Kanji Sahara, member of Faith United Methodist Church and member of Greater Los Angeles chapter JACL, will finally become a reality. Kanji's dream of many years is to build a memorial of walls listing the names of all incarcerated in the World War II camps. On April 25, the Torrance City Council approved the building of the memorial in Columbia Park in Torrance and to accept the California state funding grant (\$5 million secured by Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi).

Nancy Hayata, president of the WWII Camp Wall Committee, will talk of the design of the Wall and the educational information it will provide in display panels.

Information: Faith UMC (310) 217-7000
or Louise at greaterlajacl@gmail.com



NISEI WEEK HONORS SIX PIONEERS

By GWEN MURAKA
RAFU SENIOR EDITOR



TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Pioneer Spirit honorees (seated, from left): Dr. Kanji Sahara, Kyoko Nancy Oda and Dr. Akiko Agishi; (standing, from left), Nisei Week President David Yamahata, Pioneer Spirit honorees Akira Fujimoto, Ron Dyo and Joan Kawase, and Nisei Week Queen Kaitlyn Emiko Chu on Aug. 16 at the Omni Hotel.

RAFU SHIMPO 8/24/23 p.1



Kanji's family: Seated Richard Sahara and Judy Tang
Behind Richard is wife Lydia, Nathaniel and Evangeline.
Behind Judy is husband Ben, Kristen, Kaitlyn, and Nicole.



GLA members invited to the luncheon by Kanji were Aya Okada, Louise Sakamoto, Miyako Kadogawa, Layne Sakamoto, and Mas Oshiro. Mitchell Matsumura was unable to attend. Kaitlyn Tang was the host at our table.



Kanji and his awards



Kanji and his granddaughters in the Nisei Week Parade.

Greater LA JACL at “No No Girl” screening at Japan Film Festival. Sept 15, 2023
Review by Mitchell Matsumura



From left: Chris Tashima (supporting actor), Mitchell Matsumura, Mika Do (lead actress)

No No Girl has something for everyone. The film told the story of the camps in ways that you might not be aware of. The central plot included a trunk that was left by the grandmother. It was buried. When the FBI picked up innocent Issei right after Pearl Harbor some families burnt photos of their parents pictured at churches, community centers, Japanese schools in fear of retaliation. The inter family dynamics in the film was realistic. Often those in camp would not want to share the experience. To leave it alone. Much like the trunk.

The film was humorous as well. Scott Keiji Takeda played the brother and Kurt Sanchez Kanazawa played the cousin of Mika Dyo “No No Girl”. While they gave her a hard time as families often do. They were loyal to the end in this amazing drama. What makes “No No Girl” different is its multigenerational perspective. A Yonsei fourth generation perspective.

Chris Tashima is a Japanese American actor and director. He is co-founder of the entertainment company Cedar Grove Productions. Tashima directed, co-wrote, and starred in the film “Visas and Virtue” for which he and producer Chris Donahue won the 1998 Academy Award for Live Action Short Film.



Thank You

Dear GLA members,

I am writing this letter to express my sincerest gratitude in choosing me as one of the recipients for the Hana Uno Shepard Memorial Scholarship. From this scholarship, I will be able to focus on my studies a lot more at ease without having to worry too much about how I will pay for my tuition. I am also able to take one step closer to achieving my dream of becoming an user interface designer, and the academic goals I plan on fulfilling at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo for the next 4 years.

I am deeply thankful for the support you have provided me and all the good this community has done for other students who are aiming similar goals and dreams as I. Thank you again for spreading your generosity to me, future generations, and the future of our education.

Sincerely,

Caitlyn Chailitlerd



2023 GLA JACL Scholarship and Chapter Fundraiser Dance

MONETARY DONORS Updated from list in August Newsletter. Donors since August are in bold.

\$500 Louise Sakamoto**

\$400 Chris Orimoto (Benevity Fund Donation)

\$270 Miyako Kadogawa

\$250 Monty Yamaga

\$200 Doug Ikemi

\$100 **Yasuko Fordiani**, Joyce Inouye, Grace Masuda, Mitchell & Gail Matsumura, **Lyn Nishimura**,
Aya Okada, Layne Sakamoto, Ron Wakabayashi

\$ 50 Chester Hashizume, Betty Kobata, Shirley Shishido, Mary Yamabe

\$ 35 Yoshie Sakai*

\$ 25 Barbara Takumi

*Yoshie Sakai wanted to donate though she is not a GLA member and did not attend the dance.

**Louise made the decision to have bento instead of a table of donated food.

Donation is to offset cost of bento.