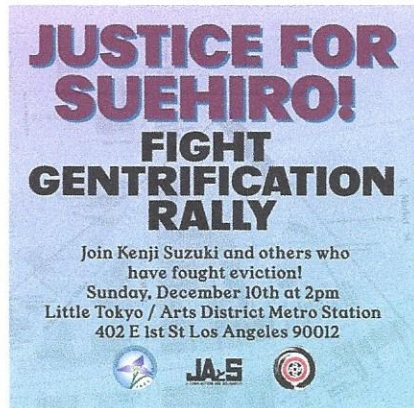




Greater Los Angeles Chapter
Japanese American Citizens League
Newsletter 457 December 2023



**Join us for a rally calling for Justice for Suehiro!
and Fight Gentrification
On December 10th at 2pm**

Little Tokyo community members will assemble at the Little Tokyo / Arts District Metro Station (402 E 1st St, Los Angeles 90012) for a rally and march to Suehiro Cafe on 1st St.

Let's tell the landlord that Suehiro Cafe has a right to stay in Little Tokyo, and we denounce the eviction. Let's support Suehiro Cafe by raising awareness in our community and giving notice to local gentrifiers about Little Tokyo's commitment to battling gentrification.

Speakers will include Kenji Suzuki of Suehiro Cafe, Nancy Uyemura with Stand With 800 Traction Avenue and Nancy Sekizawa of Atomic Cafe. As well as other community members who have fought or are currently fighting eviction and gentrification. Maceo Hernandez, the "Demon Drummer from ELA" will perform.

**J-Town Action と Solidarity
Save Our Seniors Network
Greater Los Angeles JACL**

RAFU SHIMPO DEC 2, 2023

RALLY SEEKING 'JUSTICE FOR SUEHIRO' SET FOR DEC 10



Suehiro owner Kenji Suzuki.

Earlier this year, the Little Tokyo community learned that Suehiro Cafe, a beloved, long-time Japanese American restaurant, was being evicted from Historic First Street North by landlord Tony Sperl. This shock turned to outrage for many who discovered that Sperl had recently filed paperwork to establish a marijuana dispensary and expressed a desire to make Little Tokyo resemble Melrose Avenue.

In response, a coalition of Little Tokyo community organizations is holding a rally calling for "Justice for Suehiro and Fight Gentrification" on Sunday, Dec. 10, at 2 p.m. at the Little Tokyo/Arts District Metro Station on First and Alameda. This rally will feature several speakers who have fought or are currently fighting against gentrification in Little Tokyo and the broader Downtown and East Los Angeles communities.

The rally will culminate in a march to Suehiro's historic location on First Street North and a statement by Suehiro owner Kenji Suzuki. Nancy Sekizawa, formerly of Atomic Café, and Nancy Uyemura of Stand With 800 Traction Ave. will speak. Maceo Hernandez, the "Demon Drummer from East L.A.," will perform.

"The imminent eviction of Suehiro Café is only the latest injustice in Little Tokyo's long-standing battle against the gentrification and displacement of our community, dating back to our mass imprisonment during World War II," event organizers said. "Our coalition is prepared to wage a long-term battle against gentrification. The promise of increased foot traffic from the new Little Tokyo/Arts District Metro Station motivated Tony Sperl to evict Suehiro or a more trendy enterprise, and we believe other landlords are likely to follow suit with more evictions and rent hikes.

"Incoming developments such as the Continuum Partners Cold Storage project at Fourth Street and Alameda threaten to fundamentally reshape the character of Little Tokyo. Our coalition will assist any Little Tokyo community member fighting displacement.

"We demand Tony Sperl to stop the eviction of Suehiro Cafe. We demand all landlords in Little Tokyo to cease displacing our community members and to respect the will of our community before allowing new businesses into Little Tokyo. We reject any attempt to transform Little Tokyo into another Melrose Avenue."

The coalition consists of J-Town Action と Solidarity, Save Our Seniors Network and Greater L.A. JACL.



HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR
2024
YEAR OF THE DRAGON

SAVE THE DATE

**GLA JA CL NEW YEAR'S LUNCHEON
& INSTALLATION OF 2024 GLA EXECUTIVE BOARD**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024 AT 12:30PM

Lunch and Installation are open to members and your guests

Chair: Mitchell Matsumura

RSVP by Jan 15, 2024 Louise Sakamoto:
greaterlajacl@gmail.com



15926 S. Western Avenue
Gardena, CA 90247
310.515.2250

2024 GLA JA CL EXECUTIVE BOARD

CABINET OFFICERS

President	Mitchell Matsumura
Past Presidents	Miyako Kadogawa, Co-President Janet Okubo
Vice President, Legislation	open
Vice President, Programs & Membership	Louise Sakamoto
Vice President, Young Adults Group	Andrew Gruhn
Treasurer	Layne Sakamoto
Recording Secretary	open

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2nd Year

Joyce Inouye
Joyce Okazaki
Kanji Sahara

1st Year

Miyako Kadogawa
Lisa Akiyama Robinson (new to board)
Barbara Jean Tamura (new to board)
Mary Yasui Yamabe (new to board)

Miyako Kadogawa asked to be a board member instead of co-president.

Erica Harris resigned as Recording Secretary. She is attending U.C. San Diego.

Layne Sakamoto was also Scholarship Chair. Layne resigned as Scholarship Chair.

Scholarship Chair is a board position. A board member may volunteer to be Scholarship Chair.

Vice President, Legislation was left open when there were two co-presidents.

Kanji Sahara formerly held the position.

Board of Directors may have maximum of 12 directors. Would anyone like to be a board member?

Would anyone like to be scholarship chair?

The GLA Executive Board was elected in November by Zoom.

Installation of officers and board members will be held at Ladybug in Gardena on Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 12:30 pm.

Yasui-Yamabe Honored with Outstanding Volunteer Award

11/30/2023



Mary Yasui-Yamabe (center) was recognized last month with the 2023 J. Alvin George Outstanding Volunteer Award by Diana Dykstra, president/CEO of California and Nevada Credit Union Leagues and board chair of World Council of Credit Unions, and Scott Arkills, chairman of Nevada Credit Union League.

Mary Yasui-Yamabe recently received the 2023 J. Alvin George Outstanding Volunteer Award.

The award recognizes the significant contributions by people who serve credit unions in volunteer capacities.

Yasui-Yamabe is the current chair of Kinecta's Board Nominating Committee. She is immediate past board chair and has served as chair on many other board committees. She has been a credit union volunteer since 1994.

She is a strong voice of the credit union industry, and throughout her life Yasui-Yamabe has advocated for her colleagues, friends, family and acquaintances to join the credit union. She participates as a member of Kinecta, attends employee events and engages within the community to support being a valued citizen and furthering the credit union credo of people helping people.

Yasui-Yamabe is the founding president of the Hughes Asian Pacific Professional Association and has served as the foundation chair of the Diversity Council reporting to the CEO of Hughes Aircraft Company. In 2001, she received the LEAP (Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics) award for her outstanding leadership.

Legislative and political advocacy are the root of her efforts as a board member to ensure credit unions maintain their ability to serve people of modest means. As Kinecta's reach has grown, Yasui-Yamabe has met with state and federal legislators to share how potential laws impact credit union members.

An important part of her life is raising funds and volunteering for organizations that support the community, including:

- Japanese American National Museum
- Venice Japanese Community Center
- CMN Hospitals
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice
- City of Gardena Senior Citizens Bureau
- Go For Broke National Education Center
- Grateful Crane Ensemble
- Little Tokyo Service Center Community Development Corporation
- Mychal's Learning Place
- Orange Coast Optimist Club of Garden Grove
- Polish Association of Credit Unions
- World Council of Credit Unions Global Women's Leadership Network



Mary Yasui-Yamabe

Yasui-Yamabe is honored to receive this award and hopes to inspire others to stand up and help others. Headquartered in Ontario, the California and Nevada Credit Union Leagues exist to help credit unions change people's lives by supporting their operations, guidance, strategy and philosophy. The trade association helps local credit unions in California serve nearly 13.4 million members and those in Nevada serve more than 390,000 members.