



**Greater Los Angeles Chapter  
Japanese American Citizens League  
Newsletter 461 May 2024**

**Greater Los Angeles JACL invites you to:**

**May Flowers Art Exhibition  
Opening Night**

**Friday May 10th, 5pm-8pm  
40 + artists. Light refreshments. Free admission.  
[galleryofhermosa.com](http://galleryofhermosa.com)**



**Ask for Mitchell Matsumura or Eileen Oda Leaf when you arrive.**

**Location:  
138 Pier Avenue  
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254**

**Hosted by: Eileen Oda Leaf  
Gallery by: Kimie Joe**

**Information and RSVP Email: [greaterlajacl@gmail.com](mailto:greaterlajacl@gmail.com)**



Greater Los Angeles JACL  
presents:



# "Let's Dance"

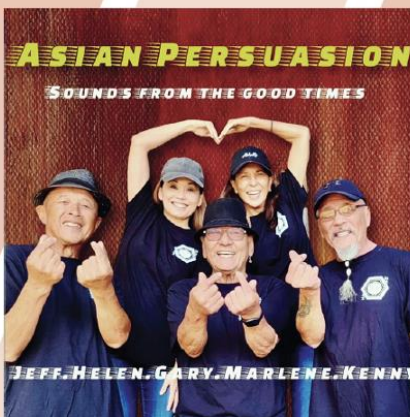
## Scholarship and Chapter Fundraiser Mini-Dinner/Dance

Saturday, July 27, 2024 ▪ 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute ▪ 1964 W. 162nd St, Gardena, CA 90247

Line dancing led by: Toru Nagao

Live music and DJ by:



**\$35.00 Dinner/Dance RSVP by July 20, 2024 / \$45.00 at Door**

**\$25.00 Dance Only RSVP by July 20, 2024 / \$35.00 at Door**

\$35.00 Dinner/Dance x \_\_\_\_\_ Number in your party = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total

Table of 8 – \$280.00 (Advance only)

Name of guests (Please print)

\$25.00 Dance Only x \_\_\_\_\_ Number in your party = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total

Table of 8 – \$200.00 (Advance only)

Name of guests (Please print)

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |

**Make checks payable to: Greater LA JACL**

Mail checks with order form to:

Greater LA JACL  
834 W. 148th Place  
Gardena, CA 90247-2726

For info and RSVP: [greaterlajacl@gmail.com](mailto:greaterlajacl@gmail.com)

I cannot attend, but would like to make a donation.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Hana Uno Shepard Memorial Scholarship

GLA annually awards the Hana Uno Shepard Memorial Scholarship. Applicants must be a graduating high school senior with a high achievement record, from a single-parent family, of Japanese descent, and a resident of Los Angeles or Orange County. The scholarship may be applied to any college, university, community college, fine arts, or vocational school. GLA provides the scholarship recipient with 4 years of JACL student membership.

**In February, the application process may be started. The deadline to submit the application is May 31<sup>st</sup>.**

The GLA application is available in 3 ways:

- The high school counseling office may have the GLA forms.
- The application is available as a [Google form](#).
- The application is available as a [printable document](#).

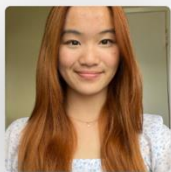
Applicants have 3 options for submitting their applications:

- Application may be filled out manually and emailed to [greaterlajacl@gmail.com](mailto:greaterlajacl@gmail.com).
- Application may be completed online through the Google form.
- Request snail mail address from [greaterlajacl@gmail.com](mailto:greaterlajacl@gmail.com).

For application questions and additional information: [greaterlajacl@gmail.com](mailto:greaterlajacl@gmail.com)

National JACL provides a variety of scholarships. See [scholarships](#).

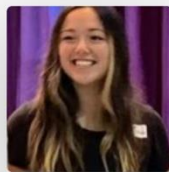
## 2023 Scholarship Recipients



Caitlyn Chailitlerd



Kristi Ikemoto



Taylor Jo-Gibson



Mia Hennequin



Winston Clark



Satoru Eto



Jade Shimamoto



Shieru Wada

**Registration is now open for the 2024 JACL National Convention!**

**Join us in historic Philadelphia this summer, July 10-14, as we celebrate our community and build on our convention theme:  
“Looking into the Future Together!”**

**For information: <https://jacl.org/2024-jacl-national-convention>**





## GLA JACL AWARDED ARATANI GRANT

Greater Los Angeles JACL was awarded the George and Sakaye Aratani Community Advancement Research Endowment (Aratani C.A.R.E.) 2024. We are excited to partner with UCLA students and the greater Intercollegiate Nikkei Council (INC) on its annual propose an event project, Nikkei Professionals, that aims to promote and advance Japanese American communities by fostering connections between JA college students and working professionals.

On Saturday February 10, 2024, INC hosted its annual event where members of our organization were able to develop professionals skills and network with the amazing professionals who attended. GLA members Miyako Kadogawa and Layne Sakamoto represented our organization and worked our table to educate the students about the purpose and goals of the JACL. Event was held at the Japanese American National Museum.

GLA JACL co-sponsored the Nikkei Professionals event this year. The entire Aratani C.A.R.E. grant was donated to the Intercollegiate Nikkei Council (INC).



**Layne Sakamoto talking with students at GLA table.**



**Layne and Miyako at event.**



**Students at Japanese American National Museum.**

# Ron Wakabayashi to Receive Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award at 55th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage

Ron Wakabayashi, former regional director, U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service, has been named as the 2024 recipient of the Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award.

The award, named after the late chair of the Manzanar Committee who was one of the founders of the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage and was the driving force behind the creation of the Manzanar National Historic Site, will be presented at the 55th annual Manzanar Pilgrimage on Saturday, April 27, at the Manzanar National Historic Site.

Wakabayashi, who was one of the pioneers who participated in the first organized Manzanar Pilgrimage in 1969, was born in Reno, Nevada during the war years and had family members incarcerated at Rohwer (Arkansas) and Topaz (Utah).

After his family returned to Los Angeles in 1947, Wakabayashi attended California State University, Los Angeles before becoming the national youth director for the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) in the late 1960s. He was a founder and director of the Asian American Drug Abuse Program (AADAP), then went on to become the JACL national director during the redress campaign.

Wakabayashi later became the executive director of the Los Angeles City Human Relations Commission



Courtesy U.S. Department of Justice  
Community Relations Service, Western Region

## Ron Wakabayashi

and the director of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations. He served in this position starting in 1999, and provided conflict resolution services related to race, color or national origin until he retired in 2020.

"We are honored to recognize Ron for all his outstanding contributions to our community, and for defending the civil rights of all Americans," said Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embrey.

The afternoon program begins at 11:30 a.m. with a performance by UCLA Kyodo Taiko, the first collegiate taiko group in North America, and will conclude with the traditional

interfaith service and ondo dancing. The main portion of the program begins at 12 p.m.

Pilgrimage participants are advised to bring their own lunch, drinks and snacks as there are no facilities to purchase food at the Manzanar National Historic Site (restaurants and fast food outlets are located in Lone Pine and Independence). Water will be provided at the pilgrimage.

Due to circumstances beyond the committee's control, the large tent covering the main seating area will not be available. Participants are advised to wear hats, use sunscreen, bring umbrellas and pop-up tents, as well as folding chairs.

The 2024 Manzanar At Dusk program will follow the afternoon pilgrimage program at 5 p.m. at Lone Pine High School gymnasium, located in Lone Pine, approximately eight miles south of the Manzanar National Historic Site.

Now in its 26th year, Manzanar At Dusk is co-sponsored by the Nikkei Student Unions at California Polytechnic University, Pomona, CSU Fullerton, CSU Long Beach, UCLA, and UC San Diego.

Both the Manzanar Pilgrimage and the Manzanar At Dusk program are free and open to the public. For more information, call (323) 662-5102 or email [info@manzanarcommittee.org](mailto:info@manzanarcommittee.org).



## **"The Carry On Story" was featured at 40th Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival**

Mitchell Matsumura's film "The Carry On Story" was featured at 40th Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival on Sunday May 5 at 1pm. Aratani Theater in Little Tokyo. 244 San Pedro St, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Mitchell is current president of the Greater Los Angeles JACL.

Carry On was a garage band in Los Angeles during the Asian American dance era 1965-1985. The era was a right of passage and undoubtedly the best times of our lives. Carry On was the most popular band of the era. They performed at hundreds of dances held at dance halls and ballrooms. This is their story.



Welcome to the 40th edition of the VC FILM FEST (also known as the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival). As the Festival continues its Renewal practices, we dedicate this Festival to Steve Tatsukawa (1949-1984), founding Executive Director and beloved community activist. We remember his impact, his humor, and positive influence he had on those around him. Through stories and shared memories, we ensure that his legacy resonates with future generations.

VC Film Fest honors our beloved elder cultural workers, linking them to present and emerging artists who continue to empower our communities and challenge perspectives.