Although We are Apart, We are a Community at Heart
Black Lives Matter

In May 1942, Japantown was left vacant following the forced removal of the community due to EO 9066. This provided an ideal housing opportunity for the newly arriving Black population from the South recruited to work in the naval shipyards. They joined the handful of Black families already living in the neighborhood, whose history dates back to the Gold Rush era. Most famously, was Mary Ellen Pleasant (1814-1904) who lived on the corner of Bush and Octavia. She was one of the first Black woman to become a multi-millionaire and used her money to help fund the Underground Railroad. However, it was the Great Migration of the 1940s that the Black community grew in San Francisco by over 800%, with most of them settling in the Bay View Hunter’s Point, the Western Addition and Japantown.

Upon the Japanese Americans’ return to San Francisco following WWII, it found a Black community living in what used to be Japantown. At first, it was an awkward and uncomfortable situation. However, our communities learned to coexist and developed a symbiotic relationship, much because both were marginalized and starting over following the end of the war. Black businesses had established in Japantown and all along Fillmore Street. Both communities lived side by side, sharing housing, community facilities, nightlife and religious institutions. In 1947, the Buchanan YMCA/YWCA established an inter racial youth program to serve African American and Japanese American children and teens. An interdenominational religious council was formed in 1948 “to foster communication and better relationships” among the Japanese American and African American religious leaders.

In the 1960-70s, the destruction and redevelopment of Japantown and the Western Addition further united the two communities. In 1967, the Western Addition Community Organization (WACO) was founded by religious and community leaders who worked together to become one of the most effective organizations challenging the Redevelopment Agency. Several Nisei worked with the African American community in developing the organization. My father, Wayne Osaki, was one of the representatives of Christ United Presbyterian Church. He served on the first program committee, along with other Nisei who were part of the steering committee. Nisei leaders at the Buchanan YMCA, Fred Hoshiyama (post-war) and Yori Wada during the 1960-80s along with Ms. Toshi Koba who, from 1945, worked for 32 years at the Booker T. Washington Community Center helped bridge and build mutual respect between the communities. They worked to improve the lives of Black and Japanese American youth and were revered by leaders and youth in the African American community.

Many Sansei became involved with the redevelopment issues of Japantown and the Western Addition. In the 1960-70s, they joined Black students to fight for ethnic studies programs and the ethnic pride movement. Sansei shared with Black activists the idea of self-determination for their community and started non-profit organizations. Working together for the same goals helped to support the symbiotic relationship between the two communities. Jeff Mori, Executive Director of the Japanese American Community Youth Council, continued to foster relationships. Through his encouragement, in the early 1980s, I worked at the Buchanan YMCA when Yori was still the Executive Director. Although the youth I worked with were 90% Black, I always felt welcomed and considered myself part of the broader Western Addition community.

Japantown is one of the few ethnic communities in the city to have shared a neighborhood and history with the Black community. Today, many people in the community, especially young people in neither community, don’t know of our collective history. Yonsei don’t have the same opportunities to interact or become involved with the Black community, in large part because the Black population in San Francisco fell by over 200% since the 1970s, making up only 4% of the population today. Hopefully, the Black Lives Matter movement will rebuild the relationship and change the narrative encouraging greater interaction and understanding between our communities.

Paul Osaki
Executive Director

MISSION

The Center is a non-profit organization which strives to meet the evolving needs of the Japanese American community by offering programs, affordable services and administrative support and facilities for other local organizations. The Center also provides educational, cultural and recreational programs that meet and address the interests and concerns of the community. Our goals remain rooted in preserving the Japanese American cultural and historical heritage as well as fostering the foundation for future generations of Japanese Americans.
A Shout-Out to our Essential Workers!

We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to the healthcare workers, first responders, and all essential workers who are risking their health and providing safety, services, necessary goods, and, in some cases, life-saving care during this unprecedented time. The Center would like to thank you for making exceptional contributions and working on the frontlines. We appreciate all that you are doing to hold our community and our world together during this time.

One of our members, Kiyomi Takeda, is currently working on the frontlines and shared her experience of working through the pandemic. Thank you for your service and care, Kiyomi!

KIYOMI TAKEDA
Occupational Therapist III, Inpatient Acute Rehab, California Pacific Medical Center, Davies Campus

Q: What has been your biggest challenge?
A: We have been very fortunate to have few COVID-19 cases at our campus, however, the adjustment, preparation and anticipation is unlike anything I have experienced before. The greatest challenge I have had has been to maintain the safety of my family by minimizing the potential risk that I put them in by coming home from work. We knew that COVID-19 is extremely contagious so from the very beginning, my husband, Ken, and I discussed what measures I would take to ensure that any potential germs would be minimized as much as possible. I change twice before coming home from work, leave all of my belongings in the garage, shower immediately and wear a mask at home 24/7. We have been sleeping in separate rooms and no longer share food. What I miss the most is being able to kiss my daughter Himari.

Q: What inspires you?
A: While this time can be dark and depressing, the community efforts to rally and support each other as well as the workers on the frontline are inspiring. Through social media and technology, we are fortunate to be able to connect with others and I feel as though for every negative thing that is posted there are one or two positive stories that highlight human kindness. These stories of people helping others and sharing resources allows me to be hopeful that after all of this is done, we as a community will grow stronger together.

Q: What is your message to the public?
A: I would encourage everyone to continue to stay safe at home, however, to not hesitate to reach out and ask for help if you are in need. Whether for essential items or companionship, I fear that there are people who are at high risk of isolation. We all rely on our routines to feel productive and when our routines are abruptly stopped it’s difficult to find purpose or a direction. I know that everyone is impacted by the experience differently and I know that for some this is much harder. Please ask for help because your community is here for you. Also, do not fear the hospitals. If you need to seek medical help, do so immediately! The hospitals have gotten everything figured out and are ready to serve you.

Doctors, nurses, hospital and medical administration, delivery workers, elder care workers, public and private transportation and truck drivers, teachers, farmers, mail carriers, warehouse and factory workers, civil service employees, maintenance workers, bank workers, utility workers, pharmacy workers, essential restaurant and grocery workers, EMT, firefighters and support staff, first responders, military personnel, journalists, police and public safety officers and personnel, paramedics, and all others making exceptional contributions.
Although We are Apart,
We are a Community at Heart

None of us at the Center have ever personally faced a deadly virus. We read about Ebola, SARS, Avian Influenza and Mers-CoV in the news, but it did not have the immediate and direct impact of what we have been experiencing over the past few months.

COVID-19 is very real. We knew that we had to take leadership and utilize all measures to not spread the virus, particularly to our senior members who regularly attend classes and events at the Center. Simply put, we needed to make sure we protected and supported everyone who views the Center as their second home.

Brainstorming about a plan to help our Center Family was initially challenging since everything needed to be done virtually and some of us are not as technologically savvy as others. But miracles do happen. All staff members including the four legged ones were all on board to make sure that we used our best efforts to continue a sense of ‘community’ even though we may be physically apart.

Some were delegated with social media postings while others created activities that could be sent to homes and be completed with a chance to win gifts and participate in a raffle.

Everyone was willing to help: board members made individual calls to members to make sure that they were okay and offered to provide services if needed; staff checked the telephone messages and their emails daily to make sure that they responded as soon as possible to calls for help; and other volunteers joined in to do ANYTHING, including making word games, crossword puzzles and handmade masks. It was beautiful to be a part of the positive energy where everyone put their own fears and problems aside for others.

Prior to this crisis, many of us were too busy to remember what it really takes to keep our community strong — to pitch in without hesitation and help in any way possible.

We have heard back from many of the seniors that they appreciate being remembered and our offers to help. Sheltering in place is very lonely and can cause feelings of frustration and sadness. We wanted our Center Family to know that they were not alone through this difficult time. That is what a community is all about.

All of us will walk away from this experience a little wiser and a little more grateful for the things we often take for granted. May we look back on this episode to remember all of the sacrifices made for others and the value of working together.

Although We are Apart,
We are a Community at Heart
Reaching Out to our Most Vulnerable

The most vulnerable population of the COVID-19 pandemic in our community have been the elderly. Many became isolated and confused on how the shelter in place mandate would affect their lives. Most had very little time to prepare for it. Out of concern, our board members and staff have tried to reach out to as many of our senior members and program participants as possible to see what we could do to help. In some cases, we have gone grocery shopping, picked up personal items and even weeded yards. Here are some of the experiences of board and staff members’ phone calls.

**Allen Okamoto, Board Member**

ALL OF THE FOLKS I called have been friends of mine for many years and I am glad for the opportunity to have had conversations with all of them.

Our Nisei generation is taking the pandemic and their forced orders to stay at home in stride. I never heard any complaints, just wishes and prayers for a vaccine to help everyone around the world.

---

**Jennifer Hamamoto, staff**

I MISS HEARING the laughter and conversations of our program participants. When I call them to see how they are, many answer that they really look forward to coming back. I look forward to that too!

---

**Donna Kimura, Board Member**

CALLING THE SENIORS is a great idea. They put things in great perspective as they are looking out for all of us. Many seniors tell me to keep healthy and lecture me about staying at home-that was the purpose of our call to them but this proves that we still have many things we can learn from our “elders.”

---

**Hillary Nakano, Board Member**

ONE OF THE CALLS I made was to a man who knew my grandpa Fukami (my mom’s dad). They were sent to the same camp at Topaz and their families lived next to each other in the barracks. I was able to hear about grandpa in a way that no one has ever told me about, including grandpa himself! Mr. Furuta could even recall the names of grandpa’s siblings! What a great treat to learn about my family history in such an unexpected way.

---

**Marjorie Fletcher, staff**

WHEN THIS WHOLE THING [shelter in place order] started, my family in Utah said that they would come pick me up to stay with them. I told them this is home. The Center staff is keeping me busy with all kinds of things including making masks and repairing the masks that Diane gives me to finish. They also bring me whatever I want to eat!

---

**Myron Okada, Board President**

THE CENTER’S OHANA [family] is fantastic. We have been able to create a network where all of us feel that there is someone looking after each one of us. I know that we can get through this by joining together.

---

**Robert Sakai, Board Member**

THE NISEI GENERATION sacrificed many things for us to have a better life with many opportunities and choices to pursue. To be able to do something as simple as a phone call in this world of uncertainty is the least we can do to thank them.
A Special Thank you to our Creative Volunteers!

We wanted to share some of the things that our wonderful, talented and brilliant volunteers have created for us to send out to our senior members and program participants during the shelter in place orders. A very special hug and thanks to:

**DONNA KOTAKE**  
Sewing leader extraordinaire who gave us the patterns and patiently taught us how to make the masks!

**SHARON UMENE**  
Our faithful graphics and technical go-to who makes all of our mailings legible!

**MARCIA KAWABATA AND TERESA ONO**  
Fellow mask makers who both purchased new sewing machines to get the job done!

**MARJORIE FLETCHER**  
Stayed up until 4 a.m. on some nights to finish a batch of masks and then happily agreed to make more!

**NANCY SATODA**  
Our game maker. Simply amazing how she was able to create the crossword puzzles and word games. The New York Times needs to hire her!
Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic

How hard medical and service employees worked through this period of uncertainty, even risking their own lives.

Humbly receiving food from neighbors you never really had a chance to talk to.

Learning how to properly wash your hands so that you can prevent viruses from spreading in the future.

Exchanging a smile with the community around you.

Having friends and community looking out for you and going out of their way to make sure you are really OK.

Being creative with the things you have in the house such as making meals with canned and frozen foods; re-purposing old clothes to make masks for yourself and others; being careful about your resources.

Remembering that there are other ways of communicating besides texting and posting on Instagram or Facebook such as using your smart phone to make real phone calls and actually handwriting a note to friends and relatives you have not heard from in a while.

That we live in an inter-connected world.

That things happening in one part of the globe affect us all and that we all have to care.

Remembering the motto of mottainai — not wasting.

Having good health and making sure you maintain a strong mind and body.

Learning to slow down and take a walk now and then to appreciate the environment around you.

Fun and Games:

Word Search

created by Nancy Satoda

JCCNC ©

sakura
matsuri
pink
parade
float
queen
kimono
odori
taiko
daruma
akita
pagoda
takoyaki
inari
udon
taiyaki
bento
musubi
ocha

answers on page 21
Fun and Games:
Japanese American Crossword Puzzle

created by Nancy Satoda

answers on page 21

DOWN

1. Japanese discount store in U.S. where most items are $1.50
2. Japanese word for "octopus"
3. Board game played with black and white "stones" placed on a grid
4. The Last ________, 2003 movie starring Tom Cruise as an American military officer training Japan's army
5. Japanese rice cake made with glutinous rice flour
6. Largest beer producer in Japan
9. Akira Kurosawa's epic 1985 film adaptation of King Lear
11. SF Giant who hit walk-off homerun to send Giants to the 2014 World Series
14. Japanese all-time hits leader in professional baseball who played for the Seattle Mariners and is known by his first name
16. This Japanese city was San Francisco's sister city for 60 years, until 2018
19. Japanese word for "chopsticks"
20. Married to John Lennon (first name)
21. a.k.a. stands for: also known ___
22. Japanese actor in The Last Samurai, Memoirs of a Geisha and on Broadway in The King and I: Ken __________
24. Name of Paul Osaki's dog or Japanese word for "flower"
25. Japanese word for a small, household Buddhist shrine
26. Japanese military rulers from about 1185-1868, incl Tokugawa Ieyasu; also title of a novel by James Clavell
29. Japanese martial art that uses wooden or bamboo swords and protective "armor"
31. Japanese rice balls often wrapped in nori and stuffed with protein or vegetables
33. Type of Japanese massage based on accupressure techniques
38. Japanese word for "squid"
39. Japanese basketball player for the Washington Wizards who attended Gonzaga Univ: _____ Hachimura; also rhymes wih "gooey"
41. na, ____, nu, ne, no
THE CENTER NEWS センター ニュース

Dear Senior Members of the JCCCNC,

I hope you are safe and healthy. Sheltering in place is difficult for everyone.

My name is Bryce Yonemura. My parents are Pam and Craig. They have been members of the Center for many years. Here are a few fun facts about myself. I am 13-years-old, and I was adopted from Sendai, Japan. My older brother, Dru, was adopted from Osaka. I attend Taylor Middle School in Millbrae, and my interests include drawing, basketball (I have played for the SF Associates since kindergarten) and K-pop (my favorite band is BTS). I have drawn my favorite anime character for you, Hatsune Miku. She is talented, cheerful and energetic and these are qualities I admire. Please enjoy the picture. Please stay healthy and I hope to meet you someday.

Please be happy,

Bryce Yonemura

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42 Japanese word for “red snapper” sushi
43 Colorful, ornamental variety of carp often found in outdoor ponds
44 The ___ Grand Shrine (or ____ Jingu) is the most sacred Shinto shrine in Japan and is rebuilt every 20 years
46 Japanese word for “dog”
49 Japanese word for “sweet bean paste” often used in desserts
50 Japanese word for “good”

ACROSS
2 Traditional Japanese gate usually found at the entrance of a Shinto shrine
4 Popular wrestling sport in Japan which features very large men
7 Japanese word for “fool” or “idiot”
8 Actor who portrayed “Mr. Miyagi” in The Karate Kid
10 First name of 1992 Olympic gold medalist in Women’s Figure Skating
12 Born Goro Suzuki, this actor portrayed “Det Nick Yemana” on Barney Miller
13 Acclaimed sculptor, furniture designer and landscape architect: Isamu ______
15 This pitcher AND designated hitter for the LA Angels is nicknamed “Sho-Time:” ______ Ohtani
17 Japanese word for the number “one”
18 A Star ___ Born, starring Barbra Streisand or Lady Gaga
19 California’s US Senator from 1977-83 and President of SF State from 1968-73: S.I. __________
23 Alliterative nickname of siblings Alex and Maia Shibutani, bronze medalists in Ice Dancing at the 2018 Winter Olympics
27 Former #1 ranked tennis player with 2 Grand Slam titles. Her mother is Japanese and father is Haitian: Naomi ______
28 First Asian and non-white basketball player in the NBA: _____ Misaka; also Cambodia’s temple Angkor ______
29 ka, __ , ku ke ko
30 Japanese food made with fermented soy beans and characterized by a slimy, stringy texture and pungent smell
31 Winner of 8 US Olympic Short Track Speed Skating medals known for his “soul patch:” Apolo Anton ______
32 Japan’s Prime Minister and President Trump’s good friend
33 __ , shi, su, se, so
34 Japanese word for the number “two”
35 Oldest form of Japanese theater performed for the higher classes and characterized by masks and music
36 Type of persimmon
37 Large breed of dog originating in northern Japan; Hachiko is this breed
40 Japanese word for “grandmother”
42 He portrayed Mr. Sulu on the original Star Trek TV series
45 Japanese word for “second generation” children born in a new country to Japanese-born immigrants
47 Name of Japan’s current era that began in 2019 when Emperor Naruhito ascended the throne
48 Japanese word for “mountain vegetables”
51 Large Japanese casual wear retailer originally called Unique Clothing Warehouse
The Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation responds to the economic recovery of Japantown

The Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation (Takahashi Foundation) has partnered with the Center to provide support in aiding Japantown businesses and nonprofit organizations to overcome the financial hardship caused by the COVID-19 crisis and the Shelter in Place mandate.

To meet the community’s urgent economic recovery needs, the Takahashi Foundation has responded with a generous grant of $600,000 to allow the Center to initiate and implement two specific programs to support retail businesses, restaurants and nonprofit organizations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. (More information about our programs on page 12). The Center is extremely grateful to Masako Takahashi, President of the Takahashi Foundation, for her concern and wanting to take immediate action to assist with the revitalization of Japantown.

The Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation responds to the economic recovery of Japantown

The Takahashi family has deep roots in the community. Seventy-five years ago, Henri and Tomoye Takahashi opened a dry goods store near the corner of Post and Buchanan Street, currently where Union Bank is now located. The store sold many essential goods Japanese Americans needed to start their lives upon returning to Japantown following WW II. One of the most critical services the store offered in the post-war era was to mail “free of charge” relief packages from Japanese Americans to relatives living in Japan (imonbukuro). According to Care International Japan, records indicate that from 1948-55, over $2.9 million in goods, including food, clothing, tools and dry goods, allowed over 10 million people to start their road to economic liberty. The Takahashi store was the main conduit in San Francisco to participate in this successful program.

Helping others has become a tradition of the Takahashi family. Their hugely successful retail stores across the country and international wholesale business, widely known as “Takahashi’s,” helped support the livelihood of many local folk artists living in small towns and villages still recovering in post-war Japan. In 1986, they established the Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation to support nonprofit organizations promoting the Japanese and Japanese American cultural heritage.

“The Japantown community has been significant to our family. I know that my parents would want to do something to support the community they participated and took great pride in—Japantown. I look forward to the programs the Center establishes to help make Japantown a strong and vibrant pillar in our City. The economic loss to businesses and nonprofit organizations continues to mount as the COVID-19 pandemic impacts our daily lives. I hope everyone will consider supporting our community’s institutions and businesses that make Japantown a special place,” said Masako. This stimulus contribution from the Takahashi Foundation to our community is significant in many ways.

First, it will allow the Center to infuse immediate financial support to the businesses that have been forced to close their doors for several months. At the same time, it will benefit the nonprofit community and support essential workers and first responders in our surrounding community.

Second, it shows the leadership of a family foundation carrying on its support for the community, which made it a successful business. The Takahashi family and its foundation have been generous not only in their financial support but also with their personal time and resources to make the Center a venue that not only houses and promotes the Japanese culture, arts and traditions but allows us to share that knowledge with individuals of all ages through cultural tours and youth exchange programs to Japan.

Third, and most important, their support gives all of us promise for the future, for us to know that the Takahashi Foundation is here to support the community through the good and the bad provides hope in these challenging months ahead.
The Center's Community Support Efforts

The Center was required to close its doors to the public in late March due to the COVID-19 pandemic and shelter in place orders imposed by the City, but more importantly, we closed out of concern for the health and safety of the many members and program participants who walk through our doors every day of the week.

Orders went into effect, causing them to lose many months of income. Federal initiatives have helped some of them with personnel costs and rent, but few have been able to keep a cash reserve on hand once they are allowed to reopen.

The Center has therefore initiated GAMBARO. Working with the Japantown Merchants Association (JMA), the Center will purchase a large monetary value of gift certificates from businesses that meet the criteria established and donate the gift certificates to community nonprofit organizations for their fundraising purposes. Recipients of these certificates will also include service professionals who risked their personal health to support our community such as hospital workers, fire and police departments and maintenance workers who have been deemed essential.

We feel that each and every project that we have initiated during this time of uncertainty and instability will bring a benefit at both the micro and macro level of our community, and we will continue our efforts to make sure that we work as hard as possible to once again positively restart our lives!

Please stay tuned as we write about these projects in our next issue of the Center’s newsletter.

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that did not mean that we stopped working. In fact, we cranked up the speed to plan activities and streams of communication to keep our members engaged, participating in activities and informed about the Center and the status of Japantown. Since March, weekly mailings and regular phone calls are made to our senior members and program participants to touch base with them so that they know that there is a place they can depend on when a need arises or simply to have a chat.

At the community level, the Center has also been heavily involved in working with other organizations to participate in the Heart of Japantown initiative, an inclusive effort to mobilize support for all of Japantown.

Specifically, and with the generous support and encouragement of The Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation, two targeted projects have been created to assist with the restart and reopening of businesses and nonprofit organizations in SF Japantown.

**Picnic at the Plaza**

Beginning on July 18 until September 27, the Peace Plaza will turn into a friendly outside dining experience each weekend from 11:30 a.m.–8 p.m.

As many restaurants will be required to reduce the number of tables and chairs in their own facilities, this alternative seating arrangement, known as Picnic at the Plaza, will allow guests to enjoy their meal in an outdoor setting.

Staff will be available to seat people at tables that will be sanitized before and after each guest arrives so that individuals are assured a safe and pleasant Japantown experience.

**GAMBARO (Let’s Work Together)**

Many of the local businesses in Japantown were forced to shut down immediately after the Shelter in Place
Japanese American Community Census
Through the Years

For over two decades, the Center has anticipated, recognized and began to plan for changes in our Japanese American (JA) community. The demographics, interests and engagement of the JA population in San Francisco and Northern California has had to adapt and evolve since our ancestors began immigrating to the United States in the 1860s. When the Center staff began planning for activities and programs for 2020, we reviewed data from past censuses and reports, and believed it was necessary that we implement our own Center Census this year. In doing so, it was important that we accomplish three goals: 1) become more effective and efficient (utilizing updated/current contact data); 2) collect aggregate demographic statistics to apply for grants and corporate funding; and 3) strategically plan for the Center’s long term sustainability based on your preferences and interests. To learn more, see page 16. You can complete the enclosed survey or respond online at bit.ly/CenterCensus.

Looking at census trends and identifying the reasons and events that have shaped our community — discriminatory immigration laws, mass incarceration, high interracial marriage rates — has allowed us to better predict what our community may look like in the future. The following pages on the Japanese American Community Census share some interesting thoughts about the JA population, trends and how generations differ or may have been affected by experiences.

Six Decades of Restricted Immigration to America

Today, there is great concern about the Trump administration restricting immigration to the United States (U.S.). For almost six decades, Japanese immigration to America was restricted or completely halted due to racism and discrimination. The major difference for the Japanese American (JA) community is this span continued through twelve Presidents and World War II (WWII), until the signing of the Peace Treaty in 1951. These historical immigration restrictions have impacted our census data more than any other immigrant group to the U.S.

In 1870, there were approximately 63,000 Chinese in America. In 1882, the Chinese Exclusion Act curtailed Chinese laborers from immigrating but not merchants, students and other businesspeople.
From the start of Japanese immigration in the 1880s and for a ten-year period to 1890, there was approximately 2,000 Japanese living in America. However, by 1910, Japanese outnumbered Chinese in the United States despite the signing of the Gentlemen’s Agreement in 1907, between the U.S. and Japan. This agreement halted immigration to America, except for the wives and brides of Japanese laborers.

From 1924, Japanese immigration to America was banned for 27 years, through WWII, until the signing of the Peace Treaty with Japan in 1951. Significant Japanese immigration did not occur again until the 1965 Immigration Act, which ended all restrictions against immigration from Japan. It should be noted that during this time period, other ethnic groups were also affected by many of these racist immigration laws. No other ethnic group has had its immigration status restricted or halted for nearly 60 years.

Despite these limitations, the 1970 census shows the JA population as the largest Asian ethnic group in the U.S. Almost 355,000 more than the next largest, Chinese Americans, at 431,586. Some historians believe, if not for six decades of restricted immigration, that the JA population in 1970 of 588,324 could be as high as 700,000-800,000, almost doubling the Chinese population.

Due to the immigration patterns and restrictions of Japanese to America, as well as WWII, JAs developed well defined and very distinct generational groups by decades. The Issei were born from the late 1880s through 1924; most Nisei were born prior to WWII between the early 1910s to 1940s; the Sansei generation were born from 1940s to 1970s; the great-grandchildren of the Issei, the Yonsei generation, was born from 1970s to 2010; and the great-great grandchildren of the first generation was born from 2010 to 2030 (approximate years).

**1970 Japanese Population**

- 588,324 in the U.S.
- 213,277 in CA
- Median Age: 31.3
- 149,943 are 18+ (70%)
- 15,081 are 65+

DATA DISCLAIMER: Please note that most resources we used included a disclaimer of data accuracy. Many of them gather from other sources/surveys and project numbers which may contain differences due to errors in enumeration, and even question design, due to interpretation and/or willingness to provide correct answers, as well as how accurately they are coded or classified.
The State of Japanese Americans

The 2010 census showed that Japanese Americans (JAs) have the highest aging population in America, the lowest birth rates, the lowest immigration of any Asian ethnic group per capita and the highest rate of interracial-ethnic marriages. Some historians have noted these statistics and have predicted the disappearance of the Japanese American community.

In 1993, 8,000 of the 12,000 Yonsei children born had one Japanese parent. Clearly indicating that most younger generations of JAs were of multiracial, multiethnic and multicultural decent. Today, there are Gosei (fifth generation) who are one-quarter of Japanese ancestry. Future generations will have more non-Japanese surnames, making it more difficult, than it is today, to identify and distinguish our JA community. Eventually, some of our community will have blue eyes and blonde hair with the last name Smith or Suzuki. Regardless of the last names or appearance of subsequent generations, they are the future of the community and the legacy of Japanese Americans in the United States.

The State of Japanese Americans by the Numbers

Percentage of Interracial Asian Population by Number of Groups and Races: 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>One detailed Asian group and another race</th>
<th>Multiple detailed Asian groups and another race</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian Indian</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>18.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filipino</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>28.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>28.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>12.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9% non-Japanese Asian

36% Japanese

55% non-Asian

JA intermarriage percent of Japanese Americans who married someone...
The Japanese American Community in San Francisco

Although immigration was halted for several decades, immigration resumed after the war and population numbers of Japanese in San Francisco increased. Shin-Nikkei (new Japanese American) is the term sometimes used for the Japanese individuals, and their family, who immigrated after WWII. Interestingly, in the past two decades, reports show about 50% of those who are Japanese alone (as their race) speak primarily Japanese at home. Reports also show that foreign-born are staying longer in the U.S. (10+ years) and making the U.S. home for their Shin-Nisei children.

Japanese Population in San Francisco

Japanese American Race Comparison in San Francisco

2018 Language Spoken at Home

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>5,574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speak English ‘very well’</td>
<td>2,758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speak English less than ‘very well’</td>
<td>2,816</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2018 Born in Japan: 4,961
We need your help! Just as the 2020 U.S. Census is important for local, regional and state funding and representation, our 2020 Center Census is vital to our sustainability and improved efficiency. By completing and returning the enclosed Center Census or filling it out online (bit.ly/centercensus), you are helping us “count” our constituents. Whether you are a member, donor, program participant or in any way affiliated with the Center, the information you provide will allow us to better serve you and the changing needs of our community.

Brandon Quan
2020 Census Education and Outreach Coordinator, Japantown Task Force and Operations Manager, Japantown Community Benefit District

Historically, Japantown (J-town) has faced challenges in being counted in the decennial U.S. census with its hard to count populations, which include non-English speakers, immigrants, seniors, low income or those with a lack of access to resources like technology or the internet.

Brandon’s role as the Census Education and Outreach Coordinator is to engage, inform and educate the J-town community on the 2020 census. He reaches out to the community through the organizations and facilities people live, work and participate in, like churches, residential homes, service facilities, schools and child-care facilities.

Prior to the shelter-in-place, he held meetings to provide flyers, posters and other information; hosted a census table at various events to provide handouts, answer questions and promote the census; and created announcements in community publications.

Amidst the shelter in place (SIP), with all in-person events cancelled, Brandon writes essays and updates on the importance of completing the census to disseminate to organizations and their members. He is also posting on the JTF Instagram and Facebook pages. He also participates in Zoom meetings and is planning to hold online chats with people who have questions or concerns about the census. Plans are still in development, so stay connected via social media channels (@jtf.sf). Although current outreach has been severely limited, Brandon continues to do what he can to assist Japantown in completing the 2020 census.

Brandon is the grandson of Iwao Shimizu, pioneer and editor, Hokubei Mainichi, and grew up in Japantown — going to Morning Star School, Cathedral Intermediate, Sacred Heart Prep., Buddhist Church of San Francisco (Taisho, Falcons, YBA), Japantown Bowl and his grandparents’ home on Bush/Fillmore.
Is the Japanese American Community Shrinking?

In 2009, reports were claiming that the Japanese American (JA) population was decreasing in the United States. Down from 847,562 in 1990 census to 796,700 in 2009. These numbers showed for the first time in history that a major immigrant group was declining rather than growing. This would appear to be the case if you simply looked at those who checked Japanese in their census reporting. However, in 2000, for the first time, the census allowed individuals to check multiple race categories rather than forcing respondents to have to choose only one. This would appear to be a case if you simply looked at those who checked Japanese in their census reporting. However, in 2000, for the first time, the census allowed individuals to check multiple race categories rather than forcing respondents to have to choose only one. This was most significant for the JA community because of the high percentage of interracial marriages amongst the Sansei generation which in turn created a significant number of mixed-race or "hapa" children.

For example, in past census reporting, if you were half Japanese and half Chinese or half Japanese and part Hispanic and Italian, you were forced to choose only one ethnicity. This systematically lowered or skewed the JA population numbers. In 2000, census respondents could choose multiple boxes of race and naturally our population numbers went up and not down. Instead of our community declining by 50,862 Japanese living in the United States, our population numbers skyrocketed to 1,148,932.

In the San Francisco metropolitan area, single-race data for JAs numbered 35,000 in 2000 and 34,000 in 2009, a decrease of four percent. When we compare the multiple-race numbers, Japanese Americans made up 49,000 in 2000 and 65,000 in 2009. In other words, there were 31,000 "hapa" or multiracial compared to single-race JAs in 2009. Our 2020 census numbers will clearly show that the majority of Japanese Americans are multi-ethnic. What will be interesting though, is by how much.
A Look at Generations

Approximately every 30 years, a new generation is born. What defines a generation? Much of the confusion with labeling is age. Generational cohorts are defined loosely by the year of birth, not their current age. The reason is simple, generations get older in groups and regardless of their age, you will always belong to the generation you were born into, similar to the Nikkei generations that are based on immigration — Issei, the first generation of Japanese immigrants, Nisei, their American born children and second generation, and so on.

A generation’s values, beliefs and opinions are commonly based on outside influences like historic events, influential people, innovations, public attitude and where they are in their life cycle. For example, some characteristics of Generation X, children of Baby Boomers, are flexible, independent and problem solvers, due to them being “latchkey” kids who had to look after themselves because both parents entered the workforce. No official commission or group decides what each generation is called and when it starts and ends. Instead, different names and birth year cutoffs are proposed, and through a somewhat haphazard process, a consensus slowly develops in the media and popular parlance. Because generations are often shaped by specific events, their labels and spans sometimes differ from one country to another. These generalizations are used broadly for the purposes of marketing, forecasting trends and improving communication. As Gen Z begins to overtake the Millennials as the largest group in the U.S., how does your generation match up?

DEFINING MOMENTS: Chinese Exclusion Act, World War I, Great Depression

PROMINENT PEOPLE: Sessue Hayakawa, Keisaburo Koda (Rice King), Toyo Miyatake, Ernest Hemmingway

For the Japanese American (JA) community, the Lost Generation includes the initial wave of Issei, first generation, pioneers that arrived in the United States. Their hard work, quiet temperament and endurance allowed them to make important contributions in farming, fishing, lumber and mining, however they faced significant challenges like language, customs and discriminatory legislation. The Lost Generation persevered through many difficult conditions to make a home in the U.S.

DEFINING MOMENTS: Gentlemen’s Agreement, Immigration Act (1924), Great Depression, World War II (WWII), bombing of Pearl Harbor, mass incarceration of JAs

PROMINENT PEOPLE: Ruth Asawa, Daniel K. Inouye, Yuri Kochiyama, Fred Korematsu, Wat Misaka, Walt Disney, John F. Kennedy, Frank Sinatra, Elizabeth Taylor

The Greatest Generation includes the last large group of Issei male to arrive before the 1907 Gentlemen’s Agreement, halting the emigration of male laborers which started the arrival of “picture brides.” Amid harsh discrimination and obstructive laws, they established over 3,500 businesses, churches and organizations spanning over 40 communities in California before WWII. During the war, many lost their homes, businesses and farms, along with their sense of achievement, making their time locked behind barbed wire even more difficult. Despite everything they lost, the Greatest Generation was able to rebuild their lives and communities.
DEFINING MOMENTS: Great Depression, World War II and incarceration, Cold War, Redevelopment, Korean War

PROMINENT PEOPLE: Tommy Kono, Mako (Makoto Iwamatsu), Norman Mineta, Patsy Mink, Pat Morita, Yoko Ono, Pat Suzuki, George Takei, Martin Luther King, Jr., Marilyn Monroe

For the JA Silent Generation, WWII and the incarceration brought arduous challenges as well as great triumphs. While being American, and often having different views of Japan than their Issei parents, they left the stability of their homes and thriving communities to be unjustly incarcerated. The post-war years saw the recognition of the distinguished military service and emergence of this generation to step in and become leaders as they resettled and reestablished their JA communities.

DEFINING MOMENTS: Vietnam War, civil rights movement, moon landing, assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr., Woodstock, Watergate, Redress/Reparations

PROMINENT PEOPLE: Philip Kan Gotanda, Dale Minami, Ellison Onizuka, Eric Shinseki, Princess Diana, John Lennon, Barack Obama

After the end of WWII, birth rates across the world spiked and the explosion of new infants became known as the baby boom. Nisei parents prioritized assimilation and education for their Sansei children putting less emphasis, for some, on culture; although Sansei were involved in community activities like church, sports (bowling, basketball, baseball, fishing) and large events, like picnics. Younger Sansei were coming of age during civil rights and were agents of social change, speaking out about injustices and fighting for Redress. In San Francisco, while buildings were being taken during Redevelopment (late 60s-early 70s), Nisei and Sansei leaders established community service agencies.

DEFINING MOMENTS: MTV, AIDS epidemic, Challenger disaster, fall of the Berlin Wall, dot-com boom, 9/11, Obama election, Iraq/Afghanistan wars

PROMINENT PEOPLE: Steve Aoki, Jake Shimabukuro, James Shinoda, Kristi Yamaguchi, Jennifer Lopez, Elon Musk, Quentin Tarantino

Gen-Xers are often referred to as latchkey kids, who grew up in the late 70s, as divorce rates rose and both parents entered the workforce. This group connected with friends using pagers, watched MTV and saw the development of personal computers. The JA community became more racially diverse as there was an increase of Hapa (part-Japanese) in this group, due to the increase in interracial marriages in the late 60s. JA basketball also bloomed during this generation’s youth. Today, as parents, they are making a more conscious effort of introducing their children to Japanese culture and community.
A Look at Generations  continued from page 19

1980 - 1996

**PROMINENT PEOPLE:** Mirai Nagasu, Apolo Anton Ohno, Alex and Maia Shibutani, Ashton Kutcher, Serena Williams, Mark Zuckerberg

**DEFINING MOMENTS:** 9/11, Obama election, Iraq/Afghanistan wars, Terrorism, The Great Recession, Columbine, tech explosion — internet and social media, Y2K, student debt

Millennials grew up during the new millennium, which brought the tech explosion, countless wars and polarized politics. Millennials are known to be tech-savvy, self-expressive and driven, along with also being less religious and less likely to have served in the military. Millennials’ achievement-oriented outlook often has them seeking growth and development in the workplace, and they are likely to move from one job to the next. While driven in the workplace, they also seek out a work and social life balance. In the JA community, millennials are often interested in culture, personal history, the role they play in community and activism work.

**DEFINING MOMENTS:** Great Recession, ongoing Wars, access to technology, mass shootings

**PROMINENT PEOPLE:** Naomi Osaka, Romeo Beckman, Elle Fanning, Malala Yousafzai

Generation Z are digital natives; they grew up in a world that had popularized personal technology and technology within their homes. Many grew up playing with their parents’ smart phone or tablet and received their own device around the age of 10. Living in a hyper-connected world, these youth are accustomed to the inundation of media. They have used social media for much of their lives — most cannot remember a time when social media didn’t exist — and are sometimes known as the iGen, the term “i” representing the type of mobile technology (iPhone, iPod, iTunes), plus the fact that this technology is “individualized” in the way it is used. Social media often impacts popularity, happiness and self-esteem with Gen Z far more than any group before them. In JA communities, they are the children of Gen X and are often willing to return to culture and celebrate their multicultural Asian identities because of the high prevalence of multicultural identities in this generation.

42% of Millennials will leave their current job after two years

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1997 - current

**Generation Gosei**

Entrepreneurial, global, progressive, composed.
Ways to Give:
Looking for Ways to Help the Center? Here are Some Ideas!

SIGN UP TO BE A MEMBER
Join our family (officially) today! Your membership provides support to the Center to create and maintain programs that carry out our mission and ensure future generations learn about our community, culture and heritage. To sign up or to learn more, check out our website at bit.ly/becomeacentermember.

DONATE ITEMS TO OUR ANNUAL AUCTIONS
We are currently collecting items for our Fall and Winter auctions. Our wish list includes: airline miles, autographed sports memorabilia, musical tickets, tickets for hotel-night stays for two, electronics, restaurant and retail gift certificates, ski lift tickets, wine, alcohol and local golf course passes. If you have items or services that you would like to donate to the auction, please contact Stephanie Doi at (415) 567-5505 or email sdoi@jcccnc.org.

SPRING CLEAN TO FIND HIDDEN TREASURES
Back by popular demand, our Hidden Treasures Sale will once again feature Japanese or Japanese American made items. If you are cleaning your home, help give some of your possessions a second home and revitalized life through our Hidden Treasures Sale this coming winter. For more information or to donate items, please contact development@jcccnc.org.

SUPPORT OUR ANNUAL SUPPORT DRIVE
The revenue raised through our Support Drive helps us run our day-to-day operations and provides affordable programs. This year, your donation will ensure the Center exists for future generations. Donations can be made online at jcccnc.org or through the mail.

DOUBLE YOUR DONATION THROUGH YOUR EMPLOYER
Did you know that many corporations offer a match, sometimes even a double match, on their employees’ donations to nonprofit organizations? Work place giving programs make it fast and easy to give a gift, as donations can be automatically deducted from your paycheck. Consult your human resources department to find out more on how you can support the Center through your work place giving program.

If you have any questions about “Ways to Give” please contact development@jcccnc.org or call (415) 567-5505.

Fun and Games Answers

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D O R I T G S U M O A
B A K A M M O R I T A O S I K R I S T I A C M C A
S O O S N N O G U C H I H O S H O H E I R I C H I
T A S T A H H A Y A K A W A S H I B S I B S
O A O S A K A A U R R H S K W A T K I N A T T O O
O H N O A B E S S A G G N I N N O H F U Y U U
R A K I T A D I N N G R K B O B A C H A N
I I T A K E I T N I S E I
R E I W A O S A N S A I N
I I E U N I Q L O U
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I A T I K A T A I O I
O R D AR U M A N R N
S I A U T A H C O P A
M Y K N A R E D D D L O
U A T A I K O N U Y F
S Q U D Y E O T N E B
U U P O A O N O M I K
B E N G K I K B A N E
I E R A I E D A R A P
K N I P R U S T A M

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taiko
sakura
sakoyaki
parade
pagoda
queen
matsuri
inari
kimono
odori
pink
musubi
akita
ocha
udon
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Summer 2020
The 1940 Census Was Used to Incarcerate Japanese Americans during World War II

In 1942, when our community was unjustly rounded up and imprisoned in concentration camps during World War II, another unlawful operation quietly occurred behind the scenes to aid in our community’s imprisonment. Historian Margo J. Anderson of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and statistician William Seltzer of Fordham University in New York presented evidence in two papers published in 2000 and 2007 that data from census officials was used by government officials to target and identify Japanese Americans in the 1940s.

The 2000 study by Anderson and Seltzer uncovered that the Census Bureau provided officials with the neighborhoods in which Japanese Americans were living in California, Arizona, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho and Arkansas. Kenneth Prewitt, director of the U.S. Census Bureau in 2000, issued a public apology following the release of the 2000 study, and wrote, "The historical record is clear that senior Census Bureau staff proactively cooperated with the internment, and that census tabulations were directly implicated in the denial of civil rights to citizens of the United States who happened also to be of Japanese ancestry."

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. John DeWitt, a fierce advocate and a leader in the removal of Japanese Americans from the West Coast, wrote in a 1943 report for the War Department that "The most important single source of information prior to the evacuation was the 1940 Census of Population." The block-level information provided to the officials also suggested, but did not conclude, that microdata was provided for surveillance of Japanese Americans. Anderson and Seltzer pressed for more information to find out just how much information was provided by the bureau.

In Anderson and Seltzer's 2007 study, they uncovered government records that confirmed the U.S. Census Bureau provided the U.S. Secret Service with the names and addresses of Japanese-Americans from the 1940 Census. Such data was requested in a memo from the secretary of the treasury to the secretary of commerce, the official responsible for overseeing the Census Bureau. Starting in March 1942, the Second War Powers Act, an act that suspended the confidentiality protections for census data, legally allowed the chief clerk at the time to release census data to other agencies. In 1947, the census data confidentiality protections were reinstated.
On August 4, 1943, Henry Morgenthau made the “legal,” but ethically questionable, request for the names and addresses of all individuals of Japanese ancestry living in Washington. This was prompted by an incident occurring almost a year and a half earlier of a Japanese American man traveling from Los Angeles to Manzanar concentration camp allegedly saying “we ought to have enough guts to kill Roosevelt.”

The incident prompted a Secret Service investigation of the threat against President Franklin D. Roosevelt and, subsequently, Morgenthau to request the data to aid in the investigation. The data of 79 individuals in Washington was provided within seven days—a feat the researchers noted was questionably fast for that of a government bureaucracy at the time. Seltzer and Anderson pressed for more information to learn more about what seemed like a “well-established path” to providing personal information of this nature.

“There is no doubt that the Census Bureau was intimately involved in the planning for the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans.”

In one such account from a civilian official, Tom C. Clark, he recalled a Census Bureau official showing him files with the exact number of Japanese Americans living in each city block. Separate duplicate sets of punch cards were created for all Japanese in the United States following the outbreak of war and were used in the tabulations that “when analyzed, became the basis for the general evacuation and relocation plan,” a fact admitted to in a report created by the War Department.

Starting in late 1939, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and military intelligence agencies pushed for more lax census confidentiality rules, with the intention of accessing individual’s data for their usage. This push was countered by the Census Bureau Director William Lane Austin. When Austin was forced to retire in 1940, the new acting director J.C. Capt replaced and repealed stricter rules for confidentiality provisions. His efforts to remove such rules helped give agencies access to the information on Japanese Americans.

For many decades, census officials denied any role in the round up of the Japanese American community during World War II, though many in our community, according to former commerce secretary Norman Mineta, had suspected the Bureau and its officials of having played some role. Census Bureau officials maintained and justified that the Second War Powers Act gave officials the legal capacity to fulfill such disclosures during the war but made clear that this act was repealed following the end of the war and that legislation passed in the 1950’s and 1970’s strengthened legal protections for personal data being shared with anyone, including federal agencies and law enforcement.

Even with these legal protections, the issue of sharing information from census data persists to this day. In the years following the September 11, 2001 attacks, the Census Bureau provided publicly available information about the neighborhoods made up of predominantly Arab Americans to the Department of Homeland Security. That information alone, coupled with the push to add the question of whether or not individuals are U.S. citizens on the 2020 Census, has recirculated the story of how our community was forcefully removed from our homes with the help of Census data.

After much debate and a U.S. Supreme Court decision, the question of citizenship has been taken off the 2020 Census. Subsequently, the Census Bureau will not have specific citizenship information about individuals residing in the U.S. nor a means to target that specific population. They will not have a weapon to commit yet another violation of constitutional rights, like the one committed against our community in the 1940s.

scientificamerican.com/article/confirmed-the-us-census/
We Miss You!

The Programs Department misses all of the smiling faces that we are used to seeing on a daily basis. We hope that everyone is safe and healthy, and we are thinking about you every day! We are going to get through this together! Once the Center is allowed to reopen our doors, we will be rolling out programs slowly. We are keeping in mind everyone’s well-being and safety. We hope to see you soon!

Messages from our Program Instructors

“I am so grateful for my students enthusiasm and support during this trying time. Internet ukulele is wonderful, but not a substitute for being together and joining our voices and instruments in harmony, as one. I am looking forward to the day when we can be back at the Center together!”

—Don Sadler, ukulele

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“We were supposed to exhibit our dolls for the Cherry Blossom Festival at the Center in April and we miss the feeling of excitement the festival gives us. After the shelter in place order was announced, I felt the urge to make a doll related to this situation. I made a doll named “Pray” or “祈り” and Rochelle Lum made a doll named “Hope.” Praying and hoping this world pandemic will slow down and we can go back to our normal lives as soon as possible.”

—Yurie Nakamura, washi ningyo

“Shelter in place ...shelter in place...shelter in place... yawn ...shelter in place ...Thank you Center. Miss you all, be safe.”

—Rochelle Lum, washi ningyo

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—Rochelle Lum, washi ningyo

“’I’d like to send my best to my fellow mah jongg participants and hope that they are all safe and well. I’m looking forward to seeing everyone. We will have to have a party!’”

—Yone Higashigawa, mah jongg

“It seems like forever since I walked into the gym to teach my line dance classes. I miss my students so much. I view them as family rather than students. This will be my eleventh year teaching these classes. I have been in contact with some of my students and they tell me how much they miss the class. Please stay healthy and we will be together soon.”

—Al Kitashima, line dancing

“For the past ten years I’ve been teaching the Senior Asian American Writing classes at the Center. Several of the participants have been with the class since its inception 20 years ago and are veteran writers who have been published in several anthologies relating to the Japanese Internment experience. We are currently assembling an anthology of short story memoirs and poems titled, A View from Our Window, that we hope to launch this year if there are no delays due to the COVID-19 crisis. The spirit of the seniors are inspiring as they continue to write and persevere in self-isolation without the joyful interaction of our weekly meetings.”

—Genevieve Lim, Asian American senior writing

“I miss seeing my class members face to face every Monday. My class members are over 70 years old, but are very active ladies. They are stuck in their houses and it will be very difficult for them to keep healthy and a positive mind in the pandemic. I am trying to call and talk to them on my phone, but it’s not the same as meeting them in my class. Giving massages and hugs became a luxury of the past. I still have hope to meet and exercise together soon!”

—Kaeko Inori, senior chair aerobics

“I really miss my students and the Center. I can’t wait to come back to teach. I would like to teach as soon as the Center is open if the students are willing to come back.”

—Chizuko Nakamura, ikebana
The Center’s “Your Family, Your History”
Genealogy Webinar Series with Genealogist Linda Harms Okazaki

The Center has launched a new webinar series on Nikkei genealogy and family history, titled “Your Family, Your History,” led by genealogist Linda Harms Okazaki and supported by The Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation.

The biweekly series kicked off with a free introductory session on Wednesday, May 13, continuing every other week for enrolled participants through August 5. While the initial course registration was limited to 30 participants, the Center is making recordings of all sessions available to stream online at a reduced price following the conclusion of the initial series on Wednesday, August 5. The class filled up in a matter of days. You can pre-register for the online access package, priced at $15 for Center members, $25 for general public at: http://bit.ly/yourfamilyyourhistoryonlineaccess.

The webinar series is designed to provide participants a start-to-finish guide to uncovering family histories and preserving these discoveries to pass on to relatives and younger generations. As Linda Harms Okazaki explains, “Family history brings a voice to those who are no longer with us. I think my clients have found answers to questions they didn’t know to ask. They have a better understanding of the joys and sorrow of their ancestors and they have a better understanding of how historical events impacted the generations of family members who came before them.” The webinar series will walk participants through the process of conducting personal genealogical research, including how to obtain documents from government sources, including immigration records, WWII incarceration camp records, as well as recovering family koseki registry documents from municipal government offices in Japan. Over the course of eight sessions, participants will also receive assignments to guide them through their own individual research, followed by sessions on writing and recording family histories, culminating in a final written history to share with family members.

In establishing the new genealogy program, the Center reached out to one of the most active researchers working in Japanese American family genealogy, Linda Harms Okazaki, to provide her expertise. Linda has been researching her husband’s ancestry since 2012, documenting his family in the internment camps and in Japan. “My husband was born and raised in Japan to a Nisei dad and Nihonjin mother. His story is so interesting. Not only do I want my kids to know their history, I want other Japanese Americans to understand their own histories,” explains Linda. A charter member of the Nikkei Genealogical Society, and a consultant for Ancestry.com’s Progenealogists, she is also a featured columnist for the Nichi Bei Weekly. Her column, Finding Your Nikkei Roots, is published bimonthly. Her guide to Finding Your Japanese Roots was updated in 2020 and is available in hard copy. Ms. Okazaki is the author of numerous articles, including the recent National Genealogical Society magazine article “Paper Sons and Picture Brides,” which was co-authored by Grant Din. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Genealogical Speaker’s Guild, and the Daughters of the American Revolution. Linda currently serves as the past president of the California Genealogical Society, as a board member of the Nichi Bei Foundation, and a family history consultant for Densho. Linda is a fourth-generation Californian whose genealogical work covers other areas of research, including upstate New York, England, Australia, and the use of DNA in genealogy.

The full eight-session genealogy course includes an additional unit covering Japanese kamon (family crests). Future add-on programs in the Your Family, Your History webinar series will include sessions covering DNA records in Nikkei family histories as well as how to plan a research trip to Japan to recover family records and visit ancestral sites. The Center hopes that this new program will help families in the community embark on a journey of discovery and preservation of their own family histories through working with Linda on Your Family, Your History. In her own words, Linda explains “For my students, it’s very powerful to uncover their personal histories. In terms of the Nikkei community, I want more people to share those unique American stories.”

We will continue to host genealogy programs in the future. If you would like to participate in this programming, please send an email to programs@jcccnc.org.
Remembering our Ancestors during the COVID-19 and Shelter-in-Place Orders

Each year in the month of May, the Center organizes a clean up day at the Japanese Cemetery. This cemetery is located in Colma, CA, and it is the only cemetery in the United States (U.S.) exclusively created for and dedicated to the remains of persons of Japanese ancestry.

When clean up day started ten years ago, there were only a handful of us who visited the cemetery to pay our respects to relatives and good friends resting there. It was a time when the weeds were so high that they were covering the names on the gravestones, and the branches of trees had grown so large that it covered an entire family plot.

As each year passed, more and more volunteers came out to join us so that we now have organized assigned sections to clean and “bathe” our community members. At the last clean up, over 200 people came out to help, with individuals ranging in age from seven to 92.

A short discussion about the history of the cemetery is shared while bento lunches and desserts prepared by volunteers are enjoyed. Those that are gathered are informed that this cemetery is an extension of our community.

There are so many wonderful people laid to rest there that worked tirelessly to create the strong foundation of community we enjoy today.

By taking a brief tour of the cemetery, we are able to learn about the birthplace of many of the Issei who immigrated to the U.S.; learning of the achievements of pioneers in business, education and the promotion of culture; remembering the first visitors from Japan to the U.S. in the late 1800’s; and, most importantly, for those who have family, thanking them for being a part of our lives.

Because of the shelter-in-place orders, we were not be able to sponsor our annual clean up day in 2020, but it does not mean that we cannot spend some time to remember all of those who have come before us who made this world a better and safer place for us today.

In Japanese, the word “mokutou” (黙祷) refers to standing in silence for a few seconds to remember and pray for those who have passed before us. This is something we all can do from our own homes and hope that you will join us in this remembrance.
Community and Memorial Gifts

We would like to extend a special thank you to those who remember the Center when making unsolicited community gifts. We are especially grateful to those who acknowledged the hardship caused by COVID-19. These gifts remind us how important the Center is to many in the community who appreciate the work that we do—whether it is a place for them to socialize with friends, share cultural traditions with their children or grandchildren or a place where they can feel comfortable coming to in the community. We thank you for thinking of us and allowing us to share in remembering or honoring the special people in your life. Gifts received from February 1 – April 30, 2020 are listed below. Annual Support Drive donors will be listed in the fall newsletter.

### In Memory of

**KAZUO ABEY**  
Ms. Nanami Naito, $50

**BRIAN DOAMI**  
Mr. Christopher and Mrs. Linda Wolff, $50

**EMY HYNES**  
Ms. Nanami Naito, $20

**GREG MARUTANI**  
Mrs. Lorraine Suzuki, $100  
Mr. Paul Osaki, $50

**HIROSHI NAKAI**  
Mr. Kenneth Kawabata, $50  
Ms. Nancy K. Nakai and Mr. Dale Spink, $50

**KAZUO “NICK” NAKAI**  
Mr. Kenneth Kawabata, $50

**SATOYO NAKAO**  
Mr. Henry Nakao, $100

**TOMI OSHIRO**  
Mr. Kaz and Mrs. Cindy Nakamoto, $500  
(ASDS)  
Ms. Marilyn Oshiro, $500 (ASDS)

**YAE TONDO**  
Matsuda Family, $200

**HATSU YASUKOCHI**  
Ms. Patricia Wada and Mr. Grant Tomioka, $100  
Ms. Marilyn Oshiro, $100 (ASDS)  
Ms. Dianne Fukami and Mr. Gerry Nakano, $50  
Mr. Kenneth Kawabata, $50  
Mr. Paul Osaki, $50  
Ms. Nanami Naito, $25

### Community Donations

- Anonymous
- Mr. Ivan Avila
- Mrs. Connie Brandon
- Ms. Gail H. Gee
- Mrs. Kristi and Mr. Darren Hiatt, United Way
- JET Alumni Association of Northern California
- Mr. Kenny Kato
- Ms. Sumika Kawamura
- Ms. Elaine Low
- Ms. Cynthia Miyashita
- Ms. Kay K. Onishi
- Ms. Marilyn Oshiro
- Mr. Jonathan and Mrs. Joyce Shindo
- Mr. Keith and Mrs. Pam Uyeda
- Ms. Wendy Wong, MUFG Union Bank
- Ms. Hatsumi Yamamoto
- Ms. May Yamamoto
- Ms. Rachael Y. Yamashiro
- Mr. Jim and Mrs. Lynn Yonashiro

*Correction: We sincerely apologize for incorrectly indicating Mr. Ted Suyeyasu with a deceased asterisk in our spring newsletter.*

### In Honor of

**TAKAKO HUANG’S 100TH BIRTHDAY AND SENIOR ACTIVITIES**  
JCCNC Staff, $100  
Ms. Elizabeth Toll, $100

**CORONAVIRUS RELIEF**  
Mr. Kenneth and Mrs. Yoshiko Ho, $500  
Mr. Kazuo Maruoka, $500  
Ms. Nanami Naito, $150  
Mrs. Nell Noguchi, $100  
Mr. Jerry and Mrs. Eleanor Osumi, $100
THE CENTER'S ANNUAL SPONSORS

The Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation

The Center's Sweepstakes is back with more chances to WIN!

Ticket prices: $25 each
OR
9-pack: $100
3-pack: $50

Grand Prize Drawing: September 19, all orders must be received by September 16
Prizes: Japan Trip (2 roundtrip economy tickets courtesy of Japan Airlines), $1,000 Cash,
$500 in gift cards, $250 in gift cards

Early Bird 1: August 7, all orders must be received by August 4
Drawing for $500 in gift cards in Facebook Live Virtual Raffle

Early Bird 2: August 21, all orders must be received by August 18
Drawing for $500 in gift cards in Facebook Live Virtual Raffle

Early Bird 3: September 4, all orders must be received by September 1
Drawing for $500 in gift cards in Facebook Live Virtual Raffle

All tickets entered into the Early Bird Ticket Raffle are re-entered into all subsequent drawings and the Grand Prize Drawing. Winner need not watch or be present to win. All gift cards will be for Japantown restaurants and retailers.

To make an online payment to reserve your tickets, please visit bit.ly/2020Sweepstakes. Your tickets will be entered once we receive and process your payment and label your tickets. We apologize for any delay in receiving your acknowledgement and tickets due to the Shelter in Place.