

December 2, 2025
See This Weekend

MISSION STATEMENT: Promote full utilization of the capabilities of the Enterprise's employees and champion the betterment of the company and community. Promote interest in Asian Pacific issues and culture and act as a bridge to all groups within our community. (substitute in your Enterprise and company, etc...)

ed. by Douglas Ikemi (dkikemi@gmail.com)

Back issues of the newsletter for all of 2000-2024 are available at [http://www.ikemi.info/APPA/ newsletters](http://www.ikemi.info/APPA/newsletters). if you want to look up some past event. This newsletter was originally published under the auspices of the Hughes Asian Pacific Professional Association (no longer extant). It currently has no affiliation and is available to anyone who is interested in downloading it.

Please send in information on cultural events and news items to dkikemi@pacbell.net.

SUNDAY, JAN 11, 2026

11:00 AM - 4:30 PM

[2026 Oshogatsu Family Festival—Year of the Horse](#)

JACCC Plaza

244 San Pedro Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

<https://www.janm.org/events/2026-01-11/2026-oshogatsu-family-festival-year-horse>

Art Exhibition

Package Craft: From Candy Box to Sculpture

November 22, 2025 - February 18, 2026

Mon-Fri: 12-6pm, Sat: 10am-3pm

Closed on Sundays, Nov. 27-29 and Dec. 25-Jan. 3

Opening Reception RSVP PREFERRED

Fri. November 21, 2025, 7-8:30pm

Artist Talk, Demonstration & Coffee with Japanese Sweets

At the Japan Foundation, Los Angeles

[JFLA 5700 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90036](#)

Admission FREE

<https://www.jflalc.org/event-details.php/315/package-craft-from-candy-box-to-sculpture>

30th Anniversary 'Picture Bride' Screening at Gardena Cinema Set for Dec. 14

Greater Los Angeles Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) Co-Sponsors fundraising tribute to director Kayo Hatta who passed in 2005 for Pacific Citizen.

The Repertory Screenings Forum and Greater Los Angeles JACL are co-sponsoring a special one-time benefit screening of the award-winning 1995 movie "Picture Bride" on Sunday, Dec. 14 at the Gardena Cinema, 14948 Crenshaw Blvd, Gardena.

<https://www.culturalnews.com/?p=46838>

Masters of Carpentry: Melding Forest, Skill and Spirit

Dates

November 20, 2024 – January 22, 2025

Times

Mon-Fri | 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Sat-Sun | 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Location

JAPAN HOUSE Gallery, Level 2

[Masters of Carpentry | Exhibition | JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles](#)

"The Alien Enemies Act of 1798: Understanding 1941 and 2025"

Youtube recording of event I watched online

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srIKBsRnm2s>

[Skip Spring Cleaning—Scrub Nothing With Us!](#)

<https://blog.janm.org/2025/05/13/skip-spring-cleaning-scrub-nothing-with-us/>

(Be)Spoken: Poems from Our Asian American Voices

CAM presents our newest exhibition, *(Be)Spoken: Poems from Our Asian American Voices*, open from May 16, 2025 – January 8, 2026. The exhibition is co-curated by rapper and poet, Jason Chu and features seven spoken word artists: Tanzila "Taz" Ahmed, arianna lady basco, Emdash, Sun Luu, Michelle Myers, STEADY, and Catzie Vilayphonh.

425 N. Los Angeles Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

<https://camla.org/current-exhibits/#bespoken-poems-from-our-asian-american-voices>

KCLS Author Voices: Kiku Hughes [recording]

Saturday, May 17, 2-3:30 pm PT

IN-PERSON or VIRTUAL

Join King County Library System and Densho at the Bellevue Library (or virtually!) for a conversation with Kiku Hughes, author of *Displacement*. Get an insight on the

historical and personal impact that the WWII Japanese American incarceration camps have had, and the intergenerational issues they've left behind.

Watch the recording at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kQ03HD7By8>

I watched the original webinar back in May and I finally got around to reading my digital version of the graphic novel *displacement*. As the author acknowledges, the time travel structure is inspired by Octavia Butler. I thought it is one of the better fictionalized accounts of life in the camps.

Closed for Renovation

JANM's Pavilion is closed for renovation and will reopen in late 2026. While the museum and store are closed, join us for programs and events on our Little Tokyo campus, throughout Southern California, and beyond.

Debut! Yuri Kochiyama Digital Exhibition and Collections Webinar!

UCLA AASC Events

Last month [July 2024], presenters took us on a tour of:

Online exhibit tracing Yuri's journey of politicization & growth to becoming an organizer & social movement activist

New digital collections containing over 4,000 unique images from her collection housed at UCLA

Resources and reflections to learn from Yuri and the life she led

In case you missed it, we are including the links to the full webinar recording, resource list, and live digital exhibit and collections website below. We encourage you to share these with friends, colleagues, and community.

Zoom Webinar Recording

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bsqsWMsSg-4>

Further Reading & Resources

LIVE: Yuri Kochiyama Digital Exhibit and Collections

A UCLA AASC Website

<https://learn.aasc.ucla.edu/kochiyama/>

EXHIBITION

Mineo Mizuno: Homage to Nature

This site-specific work explores the fragility of the Earth's ecosystem, as well as the destruction of the forest and its potential for regeneration. The sculpture celebrates the beauty of wood in its natural state and emphasizes its potential as a reusable and renewable resource.

May 25, 2024–May 25, 2029

<https://huntington.org/exhibition/mineo-mizuno-homage-nature>

Stanford University providing digital collection of Japanese newspaper overseas from late 19th century to 1950s [From Cultural News] <https://hojishinbun.hoover.org/>

Ongoing

Henry Sugimoto's Artistic Evolution

<https://www.janm.org/exhibits/henry-sugimoto/bio> Step into the captivating world of Henry Yuzuru Sugimoto, a Japanese American artist whose journey from Wakayama, Japan, to Hanford, California, and ultimately to the bustling streets of Manhattan,...

Wakaji Matsumoto—An Artist in Two Worlds: Los Angeles and Hiroshima, 1917–1944

This online exhibition also features essays by Karen Matsumoto, Wakaji's granddaughter, and Dennis Reed, the curator of the exhibition

Wakaji Matsumoto | Japanese American National Museum (janm.org)

ONGOING

An American Vocabulary

An American Vocabulary: Words to Action is a collaborative project by visual artist Audrey Chan and rapper jason chu. This set of flash cards portrays figures, events, and practices rooted in...

An American Vocabulary | Japanese American National Museum (janm.org)

EXHIBITION

Stories and Voices from L.A. Chinatown

Explore the history of Los Angeles' Chinatown, the first community in North America to be planned and owned by people of Chinese descent.

Archive Alive: Stories and Voices from L.A. Chinatown (lapl.org)

Previously:

lecture and demonstration

japanese woodblock printing with paul binnie

date & time

tuesday, November 18

LACMA Exhibition Gallery tour: 5PM-6PM (PDT)

JFLA lecture & Demonstration: 7PM-8:30PM (PDT)

admission is free, registration is required

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR LACMA TOUR](#)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR JFLA EVENT](#)

<https://www.jflalc.org/event-details.php/311/japanese-woodblock-printing-with-paul-binnie>

Traveling Exhibition

YOKAI PARADE:

Supernatural Monsters from Japan

September 26 - November 8, 2025

Mon-Fri: 12-6pm, Sat: 10am-3pm

Closed on Sundays and Oct 13

At the Japan Foundation, Los Angeles

(5700 Wilshire Blvd, Ste100, Los Angeles CA 90036)

Admission FREE

[Japan Foundation Los Angeles | YOKAI PARADE: Supernatural Monsters from Japan](#)

JANM ON THE GO PRESENTS *CRUISING J-TOWN* IN PASADENA, CA

Peter and Merle Mullin Gallery

ArtCenter College of Design

1111 South Arroyo Parkway

Pasadena, CA 91105

Wednesday–Sunday: 12 p.m.–5 p.m.

Free admission; [ticket reservations recommended.](#)

July 31 - November 12, 2025

<https://www.janm.org/exhibits/cruising-j-town>

Yamatogaku USA 25th Anniversary

Nov 2, Norris Theatre in Rolling Hills Estates

In the Tune of Art

Koto & Shakuhachi & saxophone

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

7:00-8:30PM

ADMISSION IS FREE, RSVP REQUIRED (CLICK HERE)

[JFLA 5700 Wilshire Blvd., #100 Los Angeles, CA 90036](#)

[Japan Foundation Los Angeles | In the Tune of Art: Koto, Shakuhachi & Saxophone](#)

World of the Terracotta Warriors: New Archaeological Discoveries in Shaanxi in the 21st Century

MAY 24, 2025 - OCTOBER 19, 2025

Tuesday - Sunday

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Bowers Museum

2002 North Main Street

Santa Ana, California 92706

<https://www.bowers.org/index.php/exhibitions/current-exhibitions/world-of-the-terracotta-warriors-new-archaeological-discoveries-in-shaanxi-in-the-21st-century>

Also visit Bowers.org for free virtual highlights.

“NEO-JAPONISM | SAMURAI AND BEYOND: Exploring Tradition Through Technology,” an innovative exhibition in partnership with the Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) that brings Japan’s past vividly to life through cutting-edge technology.

Dates Friday, February 14 – Monday, September 1, 2025

Hours *Closed during the Academy Awards ceremony weekend*

Location Mon – Fri | 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Sat – Sun | 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Fee JAPAN HOUSE Gallery | Level 2
Free

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#label/AP/WhctKLbVcZHFHkSgrFXVvMRTzprHHSsDFwjDsRKWnTWJztQRLIzjxDWsNtNrWkZCVKFTgg>

Obon 2025 Festivals

Summer is approaching and that means Obon time! Here is the current Obon Festival schedule for our Southern District Temples:

June 8	Arizona Buddhist Temple
June 21-22	Sun Valley Buddhist Temple
June 28	West Covina Buddhist Temple
June 28-29	San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
July 5	Senshin Buddhist Temple
July 12	Oxnard Buddhist Temple
July 12-13	LA Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
July 19	Pasadena Buddhist Temple (cancelled) Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara
July 19-20	Orange County Buddhist Church Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
July 26-27	Higashi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Vista Buddhist Temple West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple
August 2	Buddhist Temple of San Diego
August 2-3	Gardena Buddhist Church
August 16	Las Vegas Buddhist Sangha

Plus we have Zenshuji on July 26-27

Sozenji Buddhist Temple on July 13

44th Lotus Festival, Los Angeles

When: July 12-13

Unmasking Anna May Wong Exhibit

The Chinese American Museum invites you to the opening reception of our latest exhibition, *Unmasking Anna May Wong* on Thursday, May 23rd at 6:30 – 9:00 pm. CAM Members can have a special preview at 5:30pm.

Unmasking Anna May Wong will run from May 24, 2024 – Jan 26, 2025.

Now extended, May 24, 2024 - April 27, 2025

<https://camla.org/upcoming-events/>

Cai Guo-Qiang: A Material Odyssey

By Cai Guo-Qiang

September 17, 2024 through June 15, 2025

For several decades, artist Cai Guo-Qiang has used gunpowder and pyrotechnics to create drawings, paintings, and explosion events.

Timed tickets are required for entrance. Sixty-minute time slots offered. Reservations are recommended.

- Limited same-day tickets are offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

- A ticket to A Material Odyssey includes access to all Galleries, the Courtyard, and the Auditorium. USC Pacific Asia Museum

46 North Los Robles Avenue

Pasadena, California 91101

To reserve your ticket, call 626-787-2680 during museum operating hours.

<https://pacificasiamuseum.usc.edu/exhibitions/cai-guo-qiang-a-material-odyssey/>

June 28 GVJCI Matsuri Fundraiser is a South Bay tradition enjoyed by many generations of local residents. As the GVJCI's largest annual fundraiser, we invite you, your family, friends, and neighbors to enjoy this fun family weekend. Everyone is welcome!

<https://www.jci-gardena.org/matsuri-2025.html>

Okinawan dance group Tamagusuku Ryu Kansen Atae no Kai (formerly Kansenkai) presents its 40th Anniversary performance, Kansen nu Michi Tirashi (Lighting the Path for Future Generations) on Saturday, June 28, 2025, from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the James Armstrong Theatre in Torrance.

<https://www.culturalnews.com/?p=43602>

JAPAN HOUSE presents “Paper Lanterns: 80 Years After Hiroshima – A Tribute to Peace” screening and discussion with filmmakers June 21

This year marks the 80th year since the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, a moment in history that continues to echo through generations.

In solemn remembrance of this anniversary, JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles will present a screening of director Barry Frechette's documentary, *Paper Lanterns*, on June 21, 2025 at 2:00 p.m, at JAPAN HOUSE Salon, Level 5 of Ovation Hollywood. Admission free.

Register Here: <https://japanhousela.swoogo>.

[Extracted from Cultural News]

Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Heritage



LA County Library

<https://lacountylibrary.org> › *asian-american-native-haw...*

Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month recognizes and celebrates the culture, contributions, and heritage of Asian Americans

Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month recognizes and celebrates the culture, contributions, and heritage of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans. President Jimmy Carter signed a joint resolution declaring May 4-10, 1979 as the first Asian Pacific Heritage Week. In 1990, President George H. W. Bush signed an extension changing Asian Pacific Heritage Week to a month-long observance. In 2024, President Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr changed the name to Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

<https://lacountylibrary.org/asian-american-native-hawaiian-pacific-islander-heritage-month/>

May is Asian / Pacific American Heritage Month

<https://asianpacificheritage.gov/>

[surprised this website is still up]

SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON RACE

Friday, March 28

8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. PDT

FREE

The Democracy Center is honored to host the Smithsonian's National Conversation on Race. Building on last year's discussions at the intersection of race at issues of wealth, health, and the arts, this year's dialogue examines the urgent contemporary forces shaping these issues. With a focus on youth empowerment and the role of creative practice in fostering equitable recovery from natural disasters, this gathering will illuminate pathways toward systemic change.

The Daniel K. Inouye National Center for the Preservation of Democracy

Democracy Center

100 North Central Avenue

Los Angeles, CA, 90012

For tickets:

<https://www.janm.org/democracy/events/2025-03-28/smithsonians-national-conversation-race>

Golden Dragon Parade now scheduled for March 22, 1-4 PM

<https://www.lachinechamber.org/events-1/2025/2/8/126th-annual-golden-dragon-parade>

Traveling Exhibition

Built Environment:

An Alternative Guide to Japan

-

Dates:

January 26 - February 28, 2025

Hours:

Mon-Fri: 9:00pm-6:00pm, Sun: 12:00pm-6:00pm

Closed on Saturdays

Opening Reception:

5:00-6:30pm Friday, January 24, 2025

RSVP(preferred)

Location:

SCI-Arc Kappe Library Gallery

(960 East 3rd Street Los Angeles, CA 90013)

Admission: FREE

<https://www.jflalc.org/event-details.php/242/built-environment-an-alternative-guide-to-japan>

South Coast Botanic Garden Lunar New Year Festival throughout February weekends

<https://southcoastbotanicgarden.org/>

JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles is proud to present the U.S. debut of the touring exhibition "Masters of Carpentry: Melding Forest, Skill and Spirit" in partnership with the Takenaka Carpentry Tools Museum in Kobe, showcasing the rich traditions of Japanese daiku (master carpenters)

Dates

Wed. November 20, 2024 – Wed. January 22, 2025

Hours

Closed: Thur. November 28 & Wed.

December 25

Location

Mon – Fri | 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Fee

Sat – Sun | 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM JAPAN HOUSE Gallery | Level 2

Free

<https://www.japanhousela.com/exhibitions/masters-carpentry-melding-forest-skill-spirit-woodworking-daiku-takenaka-dougukan/>

Oct 19, 2024 - Jan 05, 2025

Contested Histories: Preserving and Sharing a Community Collection

October 19, 2024 - January 05, 2025

Japanese American National Museum

100 North Central Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90012

<https://www.janm.org/exhibits/contested-histories-community>

Note that many events are being cancelled or rescheduled due to the wildfires and threat of more wildfires due to predicted increased wind events this week. For example, I received an email stating:

“Due to the wildfires resulting in a significant impact on air quality and the strain on local resources, we have made the decision to postpone all of the Los Angeles Firecracker Run/Walk, Bike, Kiddie & Dog events that were originally scheduled for February 1 & 2, 2025.”

Many museums and gardens are closed, especially in the Pasadena and Arcadia areas. The last I checked the South Coast Botanic Garden is open.

This is a major tragedy for the Los Angeles area and I hope it doesn't spread to OC and Ventura.

Note that the Huntington Library and Gardens are closed through Friday, and I would not plan on visiting during the weekend. I think there was supposed to be a Japanese New Year celebration on Sunday.

Giant Robot Biennale 5

Japanese American National Museum 100 North Central Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90012

<https://www.janm.org/exhibits/grb5>

Emergence: Art from Life

Oct 8, 2024-Dec 15, 2024

George J. Doizaki Gallery, Tea Room

Tuesday-Sunday 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

George J. Doizaki Gallery, Tea Room

244 S. San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Free

Emergence: Art from Life is singular among PST ART exhibitions for its presentation of living biological artworks and projects created in collaboration with a global cohort of synthetic biologists and medical researchers. Visitors will encounter human bones grown from synthetic mother-of-pearl; objects dyed with bioengineered indigo pigment; and living, microscopic human tear glands that cry. These works invite us to consider what it means to be human now: our aspirations, follies, entanglements, and impacts on symbiotic life forms, each other, and the planet.

<https://jaccc.org/events/emergence-art-from-life/>

8th Annual Cultural Ikebana Exhibition

Jan 4, 2025-Jan 5, 2025

Celebrate the start of 2025 with the breathtaking art of Japanese flower arranging...

Time

12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Where

George J. Doizaki Gallery

244 S. San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Price

Free

<https://jaccc.org/events/8th-annual-cultural-ikebana-exhibition/>

Sunday, Jan 05, 2025

11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

2025 Oshogatsu Family Festival—Year of the Snake

Join us at the Japanese American National Museum as we welcome the Year of the Snake with cultural performances, crafts, and activities for families and kids of all ages!

Japanese American National Museum 100 North Central Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Buy tickets at:

<https://www.janm.org/events/2025-01-05/2025-oshogatsu-family-festival-year-snake>

42nd Annual Kotohajime: Hatsu-Ho 初穂 (First Crop)

When Wed, Jan 1, 2025 1:00 pm

Time 1:00 pm

Where jaccc.org

Price Free

Ring in the New Year with a vibrant celebration of Japanese tradition and culture at JACCC's 42nd Annual *Kotohajime: Hatsu-Ho* 初穂 (First Crop). Premiering January 1, 2024, at 1 pm (PST), this virtual event is free to stream on JACCC.org.

<https://jaccc.org/events/42nd-annual-kotohajime/>

“Oshogatsu in Little Tokyo” Japanese culture programs to take place on Jan. 1, 2025
2025 Oshogatsu in Little Tokyo Japanese culture programs will take place on Wednesday, January 1, 2025 at Weller Court and Japanese Village Plaza. 2025 New Year’s Cerebration is presented by the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Southern California and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Event is open to the public and admission free.

<https://www.culturalnews.com/>

This Weekend and more:

SATURDAY, DEC 06, 2025

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

[Stages of Our Stories: 60 Years of Asian American Theater at East West Players](#)

Mark six decades of artistic excellence and community impact with East West Players (EWP) and JANM at this commemorative event.

Japanese American National Museum

Democracy Center

100 North Central Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Tickets at

<https://www.janm.org/events/2025-12-06/stages-our-stories-60-years-asian-american-theater-east-west-players>

Previously:

Film Screening

Screening and discussion with director Ming Lai, MOONEYES USA President Chico Kodama, and “Cruising J-Town” curator Oliver Wang

\$5 General, Free for Youth (under 18), JANM Members

Tuesday, Dec 02, 2025

7:00 PM - 9:30 PM PST

Japanese American National Museum

Democracy Center

100 North Central Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90012

<https://www.janm.org/events/2025-12-02/screening-craft-speed-documentary-about-mooneyes>

Enjoy Thanksgiving!

Tulips in Harmony

Season Opening Concert

Sunday, November 23 | 4:00 PM

We are delighted to invite you to our Season Opening Concert, presented by Tulips in Harmony, a nonprofit organization founded after the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake to promote community welfare and cultural exchange through music and the arts.

This year’s concert brings together four completely different genres of music on one stage — a rare opportunity to enjoy a wide spectrum of artistic expression in a single evening.

Highlights

“The Nutcracker” Collaboration

A special performance featuring a Ballet Company, taught in Japanese, dancing to live music by talented local musicians.

String Quartet Performance

Enjoy both beloved classical favorites and new original works performed by a skilled string quartet.

Young Musical Prodigies: Landon & Aaron

Representing the Yamaha Music School of South Bay Torrance, these two remarkable 13-year-old composers and pianists will amaze you.

- Landon: Two-time world champion in the Yamaha Junior Original Concert global program (2022 & 2023).

- Aaron: Set to perform on a Korea tour next year.

Both are bright examples of the next generation of outstanding local musicians.

Traditional Japanese Dance & Music

A performance by new members of the Matsutoyo-kai, featuring traditional Japanese dance, singing, and shamisen.

Experience the charm of Japanese music from around the same era as The Nutcracker—a cultural bridge between East and West.

The Salvation Army Torrance

4223 Emerald St, Torrance, CA 90503

\$28.52 General Admission Tickets at

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/blooming-concert-tickets-1802363039369?aff=oddtcreator&utm_experiment=test_share_listing&sg=0e45f5b8e9df888ba732128d9f30455ebb82ec9fdb7153e504168f1f0e8eb4a92cf85caf5d31a39f5a8f3d45d36b939eaa6df9588aa12e50fe37971fa5bdc9ac9e6d8bff84c74ad229cb6c6ee7

Kenny Endo: 50 Years of Taiko

Sat, Nov 22, 2025

7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Doors: 7:00 pm | Show: 7:30 pm

Aratani Theatre

244 S. San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Price

Regular: \$35.00-55.00 (+ \$3.50-5.50 fee)

Group options available. See below for details.

Buy tickets

<https://jaccc.org/events/kenny-endo-50-years-of-taiko/>

Threads of Identity: Telling Filipinx American Stories through Fashion

Saturday, November 22, 2025 6:00pm to 10:00pm PST

USC Pacific Asia Museum [View map](#) Free Event

46 N Los Robles Av

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/threads-of-identity-telling-filipinx-american-stories-through-fashion-registration-1752502595439>

Program Schedule:

6 p.m.: Conversation

7:30 p.m.: Fashion Show

8 p.m.: Refreshments and Music

https://calendar.usc.edu/event/threads-of-identity-telling-filipinx-american-stories-through-fashion-5280?utm_campaign=widget&utm_medium=widget&utm_source=Event+Calendar

Nov 21

Opening Reception: Package Craft – From Candy Box to Sculpture (11-21-2025)

This exhibition features “Package Craft,” a playful art form that transforms a single empty box into 3D figures — from heroes and animals to even Buddhist statues. Each work follows strict rules: only one box, almost zero waste, and every printed word must stay readable. You’ll also get to see the original box layouts and fun character animations.

At the opening, enjoy a talk and live demo by Kazuma Takahashi from Japan, plus Japanese sweets, sake, and freshly brewed coffee. Admission is free — RSVP recommended!

Art Exhibition

Package Craft: From Candy Box to Sculpture

November 22, 2025 - February 18, 2026

Mon-Fri: 12-6pm, Sat: 10am-3pm

Closed on Sundays, Nov. 27-29 and Dec. 25-Jan. 3

<https://www.jflalc.org/event-details.php/315/package-craft-from-candy-box-to-sculpture>

ONLINE Lecture

Onigiri: A Cultural Encounter

by Dr. Gavin H. Whitelaw

7-8:15PM Thursday, November 13

Webinar

Admission FREE, RSVP REQUIRED

LINK TO JOIN

(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89546257722?pwd=bhGLNTEaiGYdAu3OCCFqsWaBOybmaK.1>)

We are excited to team up with TABLE FOR TWO USA (TFT) once again to support their 11th annual Onigiri Action campaign, an autumn social good initiative that connects the simple act of taking a photo with helping to feed schoolchildren in need. Every photo of an onigiri (Japanese rice ball) posted to the campaign website or on social media with #OnigiriAction between October 7 and November 15, 2025, helps provide five school meals to children in need around the world.

As part of this initiative, we are pleased to invite you to an online lecture by Dr. Gavin H. Whitelaw, sociocultural anthropologist and Executive Director of Harvard’s Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies. Drawing on his research and firsthand experiences in Japan, Dr. Whitelaw will discuss how the onigiri—a staple of Japanese convenience stores (konbini)—reflects the country’s evolving social and cultural landscape. His talk will also examine the

globalization of Japanese cuisine, as well as the challenges and tensions embodied in Japan's most iconic fast food.

<https://www.jflalc.org/event-details.php/313/onigiri-a-cultural-encounter>

Book launch event

Meher McArthur: A Japanese Art Journey

Thursday, November 6, 2025

7:00-8:30PM

ADMISSION IS FREE, RSVP REQUESTED (CLICK HERE)

JFLA 5700 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90036

[Japan Foundation Los Angeles](#) | [Meher McArthur: A Japanese Art Journey](#)

SUNDAY, NOV 02, 2025

2:00 PM - 4:30 PM

[FYC Screening for "Third Act" and "We Were the Scenery"](#)

For Your Consideration screening of *Third Act* and *We Were the Scenery*

Bring your friends and family to the For Your Consideration screening of *Third Act*, an official selection of the 2025 Sundance Film Festival, and the short film, *We Were the Scenery*. *Variety* calls *Third Act* "a realistic portrait of America" and "a story of perseverance and how some people make their life's work stand for more than just a personal accomplishment."

Japanese American National Museum

Democracy Center

100 North Central Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90012

<https://www.janm.org/events/2025-11-02/fyc-screening-third-act-and-we-were-scenery>

Greater Los Angeles JACL presents

"Japanese American Actors"

Sunday, November 2, 2025 - 1pm-2pm

Free virtual program on zoom

Peter Shinkoda - Nobu in *Daredevil* and Lt. Col. Ito in *Prisoner of War*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKFL8CMoCVk>

William Christopher Ford - Dennis De Guzman in *Karate Kid III* and *Cobra Kai Season 6*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJ7E87vmlpc>

Brian Takahashi - *Cobra Kai* "Young Mr. Miyagi"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=avgAWhF0Tw4>

After the actor presentations there will be Q&A

Moderator: Mitchell Matsumura

Join Zoom Meeting:

For info:

greaterlajacl@gmail.com

The Commemoration of the 1871 Chinese Massacre

Join us on Friday, October 24, at 7:00 p.m. PDT, as the Chinese American Museum commemorates the **Los Angeles Chinese Massacre of 1871**. Participate either in person or online as we gather to remember those whose lives were lost.

Pre-registration is required for both in-person and virtual attendees. Register today at camla.org/1871commemoration.

Upcoming Events – Chinese American Museum, Los Angeles

Saturday, Oct 25, 2025

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Fish Truck Family Reunion

\$5 General, Free for Youth (under 18), JANM Members

[Fish Truck Family Reunion | Japanese American National Museum](#)

Saturday, Oct 18, 2025

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Angel Island's Hidden History: WWII Detention of "Enemy Aliens"

Tickets at

[Angel Island's Hidden History: WWII Detention of "Enemy Aliens" | Japanese American National Museum](#)

OC JAPAN FAIR 2025

October 17-19, 2025

DATE & TIME

10/17 (FRI) 4:00PM-10:00PM

10/18 (SAT) 12:00PM-10:00PM

10/19 (SUN) 11:00AM-7:00PM

OC FAIR & EVENT CENTER

88 Fair Dr, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

General ADMISSION

\$14 (until Aug.31) / \$17 (Sep.1-Oct.16)

\$20 (After Oct. 17th, 12:00am)

Children 6 and under & over 65 are FREE

Admission to the OC Japan Fair also includes admission to Freedom LA.

No Pet Allowed (Service Dog Only)

[OC JAPAN FAIR](#)

Long Beach Obon

When: Currently Scheduled for Saturday, August 23, 2025

Time: 3:00pm - 9:00pm

Admission: FREE!

Parking: Available anywhere on the street or at the Post Office at 1690 W. 23rd Street Long Beach, 90810 (One block south of the church).

Elderly/Disabled drop off: Orange cones in front of the church will mark a space on the street for elderly or disabled people to be dropped off.

- Obon/Hatsubon/Manto-e Service 3:00 - 4:30pm
- LBBC Explained ongoing in the Hondo
- Game Booths Open 4:30 - 8:30pm
- Umeboshi Ensemble performance 4:30 - 5:00pm
- Yukata/Kimono Dressing 101 5:00 - 5:30pm
- Long Beach Kokoro Taiko performance 5:30 - 6:00pm
- Ondo Dancing First Half 6:30 - 7:30pm
- Break
- Ondo Dancing First Half 7:45 - 8:45pm
- Opportunity Drawing 8:45pm
- Closing Service 9:00pm

<https://www.longbeachbuddhistchurch.com/obon-festival>

Senshin Buddhist Temple in Los Angeles Hosts Gagaku Retreat Aug 23 & 24

Senshin Buddhist Temple in Los Angeles invites the public to [a special Gagaku Retreat](#)—a day of music, learning, and community with participants from Seattle Betsuin and Berkeley Buddhist Temple on the weekend of August 23 & 24.

Gagaku Retreat on Saturday August 23, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

This retreat is sponsored by the BCA Music Committee

Ojo Raisan Chanting Session on Saturday August 23 at 5:00 pm

This session is sponsored by the Southern District Buddhist Education Committee (BEC)

1311 W 37th St, Los Angeles, CA 90007

<https://senshintemple.org/gagaku-retreat-2025/>

An event about the "I Am An American: The Nisei Soldier Experience" is set for

Friday, August 22, 2025, at El Camino College.

This **South Bay community event** is hosted by the **National Veterans Network** and will feature a reception and program. Speakers will include **General Eric K. Shinseki**, 34th Army Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, and **Christine Sato-Yamazaki**, Executive Director of the National Veterans Network.

For more on the "I Am An American: The Nisei Soldier Experience"

<https://nvnvets.org>

Previously:

“Japanese American Legacy on Wheels”

Produced by Sansei Legacy

Directed by Mitchell Matsumura

ANNUAL GVJCI CAR SHOW

Saturday, August 16, 2025

ENTRY FEE: \$10 TILL AUGUST 15TH

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$15

Special screening with Q&A with Director 1pm-2pm Main Hall

Continuous viewing 10am-3pm Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall (no sound)

Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute (GVJCI)

1964 W. 162nd Street

Gardena, CA 90247

Japanese American Legacy on Wheels is dedicated to the passion and history of those that started it all. They helped drive the American muscle car era and the Japanese import tuner era to what it is today.

Nisei Week Plaza Festival

The family-friendly event features food, games, booths, and live entertainment at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC) plaza!

Date/Time: August 16 & 17, 11 am-4 pm

- Saturday, August 16 – Live entertainment
- Sunday, August 17 – The Nisei Week Taiko Gathering

Location: JACCC plaza

For questions, email festival@niseiweek.org.

<https://niseiweek.org/events/plaza-festival/>

Ondo Public Street Dancing & Closing Ceremony

The public is invited to Nisei Week’s finale, the Japanese tradition of dancing in the street with live entertainment, to close out the festival on August 17, beginning at 4 p.m.

Street Closures: 1st Street between San Pedro St. and Central Ave., beginning at 11:30 AM.

<https://niseiweek.org/events/ondo-closing-ceremony/>

Nisei Week Grand Parade

Date/Time: Sunday, August 10, 4-7 pm

Location: Starts on Central Ave., heads west down 2nd St., north on San Pedro St., and east on 1st St.

Map: Check out the [Festival map](#) for the parade route and closures.

For questions, email parade@niseiweek.org.
<https://niseiweek.org/events/grand-parade/>

Gardena OBON 2025

SATURDAY AUGUST 2, SUNDAY AUGUST 3

3 p.m. - 9 p.m.

"WITH GRATITUDE FOR THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE"

1517 166th St, Gardena, CA 90247, USA

<https://www.gardenabuddhistchurch.org/obon-25>

TAIKOPROJECT Rhythmic Relations – 25th Anniversary Concert

July 19 @ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm PDT

\$35

Walt Disney Concert Hall, The Music Center

TAIKOPROJECT will celebrate its 25th Anniversary with a special concert at the iconic Walt Disney Concert Hall in downtown Los Angeles on Saturday, July 19, 2025. The evening will feature performances by Grammy Award-winning rock band Quetzal and acclaimed shamisen and koto artist Sumie Kaneko, joining TAIKOPROJECT for a dynamic and memorable event. Tickets go on sale May 10, 2025.

More information is available at www.TAIKOPROJECT.com or by calling (213) 268-4011.

<https://taikoventures.com/event/taikoproject-rhythmic-relations-25th-anniversary-concert/>

Orange County Buddhist Church Obon

Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Obon

THURSDAY, JUL 10, 2025

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

[RESCHEDULED—Book Launch: “It Rhymes with Takei” with George Takei](#)

Japanese American National Museum

Democracy Center

100 North Central Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90012

\$5 General, Free for Youth (under 18), JANM Members

For tickets:

<https://www.janm.org/events/2025-07-10/rescheduled-book-launch-it-rhymes-takei-george-takei>

2025 Sozenji Obon Festival: Live Taiko Performance, Bon Odori Dancing at Sozenji Buddhist Temple
Sunday July 13

Event Time

1:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Schedule

1:00 pm: Obon & Manto-e Service

2:00 pm: Booths & Bingo Open

3:30 pm: Entertainment

4:30 pm: Bon Odori

6:30 pm: Raffle Drawing

6:45 pm: Closing Ceremony

Sozenji Buddhist Temple, 3020 W. Beverly Blvd, Montebello CA 90640. Contact: (626) 484-5184

2025 Nishi Hongwanji Obon Festival (New Update: Sunday Only)

12 noon - 6:00 p.m.

Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, 815 First Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Obon Festival at Senshin Buddhist Temple

Saturday, July 5 · 4:30 – 5:30pm

Obon Festival at Senshin Buddhist Temple, 1311 W 37th St, Los Angeles. Hatsubon service at 4:30 pm; Bon Odori at 7 pm; Omairi in Hondo, Sento Shogon (1,000 oil lamps) at 9 pm; Horaku, Kinnara Taiko at 9:30pm.

<https://senshintemple.org>

THURSDAY, JUN 26, 2025

7:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Film Screening—Dealing with Dad

For more info on the film and trailer, go to: dealingwithdadfilm.com

General: \$5, Free for JANM Members

Japanese American National Museum

Democracy Center

100 North Central Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90012

<https://www.janm.org/events/2025-06-26/film-screening-dealing-dad>

East West Players Presents "PATSY" Performance

PATSY tells the story of the first woman of color in Congress, Patsy Mink, through the lens of Kailani, an 18-year-old senior and star athlete at Maui High School anxiously waiting to find out if she's been accepted into her dream school.

June 25, 2025

5:30pm Refreshments

6:00pm Performance

Westwood Branch Library

1236 Glendon Ave.

Los Angeles, CA 90024

Free event, no RSVP required

Presented by East West Players, The George and Sakaye Aratani CARE Award, and Asian American Studies Center

[Preserving Our Histories and the Freedom to Tell Our Stories](#)

We invite you to an exclusive author event and preview of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center's Foundations and Futures: Asian American and Pacific Islander Multimedia Textbook. Join us as journalist, author, and Emmy-award-winning filmmaker Julie Ha reflects on retelling a monumental story, exploring the importance of preserving historical narratives across communities, and unveils, for the first time, her textbook chapter, "Free Chol Soo Lee: How a Lone Death Row Inmate Sparked a Movement." This is the second in a series of Foundations and Futures' chapter preview events.

Featuring a welcome by actor and director Randall Park, program with Julie Ha, followed by a courtyard reception.

June 28, 2025, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

UCLA School of Law, Room 1347

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/>

Presented by UCLA Asian American Studies Center | Foundations & Futures: Asian American and Pacific Islander Multimedia Textbook.

June 28 West Covina Buddhist Temple Obon

3-9PM

[West Covina Buddhist Temple & East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center](#)

1203 West Puente Avenue

West Covina, CA 91790

[Visit Location Website](#)

info@esgvjcc.org

June 28-29 San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Obon

Saturday, June 28th from 4:30 p.m. – 10 p.m. and Sunday, June 29th from 4:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center, 12953 Branford Street,
Pacoima, CA 91331

Parking is available on the surrounding streets. Pets are not allowed due to health regulations.

<https://www.sfvhbt.org/obon-festival/>

JUNE 21-22 — Summer Natsu Matsuri Festival at Venice Japanese Community Center, 12448 Braddock Dr, Los Angeles. Sat 12-9 pm; Sun 11 am-8 pm. Featuring food, games, martial arts demonstrations, cultural exhibits, taiko, ondo dancing, music by Elemental Funk. Free; no pets. Info: www.vjcc.com

JUNE 21-22 — Obon Festival at Valley Japanese Community Center, 8850 Lankershim Blvd, Sun Valley. Sat, 4-9 pm, kendo demo at 5 pm, ondo at 7 pm; Sun, 4-8 pm, judo demo at 5:30 pm, ondo at 6:30 pm. Food, games, taiko, tea ceremony both days. Bon Odori practices May 30, June 3, 6, 10, 13 at 6:30 pm. Info: (818) 825-9583. valleyjcc@yahoo.com

Azuma Kotobuki Kai dance recital

The recital will be held on Sunday, June 23, at 2:30 p.m. (doors open at 2 p.m.) at the Thousand Oaks High School Performing Arts Center, 2323 N. Moorpark Rd., Thousand Oaks. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for youth (3-17) and seniors (62+), free for children 2 and under. Advance purchase is recommended.

For more information, call (808) 651-2061 or email kikusue.azuma@gmail.com.

From Rafu Shimpō

<https://rafu.com/2024/06/students-of-azuma-kotobuki-kai-to-give-recital-in-thousand-oaks/>

Irei no Hi: Remembering the Battle of Okinawa (Free Screening of Short Documentaries) – HYBRID

Film & Other Media

In Person / Virtual

Okinawa Association of America (OAA)

16500 S. Western Ave. (Yamauchi Bldg.) [Gardena, California, United States of America](#)

[June 22, 2025, 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.](#)

Registration required: tinyurl.com/oaa-irei-25, (310) 532-1929

<https://discovernikkei.org/en/events/2025/06/22/7125/>

Hong Kong to Hollywood: The World of Nancy Kwan

June 17 6:30PM Pico House, 424 N. Main St., LA 90012

RSVP www.camla.org/nancykwan

<https://camla.org/upcoming-events/>

JUNE 7-8 —Cultural Festival and Ondo at Southeast Japanese School and Community Center, 14615 Gridley Rd, Norwalk. Sat, 3-9 pm; Sun, 2-8 pm. Cultural performances and demonstrations, including happyfunsmile on Sun, 4-5 pm, games, bingo, food, Ikebana displays and more. Free ondo lessons Mon and Thur, May 29, June 2 and 5, 7:30-8:30 pm. Raffle drawing Sun, 7:30 pm. Info: (562) 863-5996, sejssc.org

Gardena street fair

Saturday, June 7

11AM-2PM

Gardena Blvd between Berendo and Vermont.

<https://allevents.in/gardena/bring-it-on-the-blvd-downtown-street-fair/200028054686944>

Japanese Architects Talk Series 5: Suki Microcosm of Tastes

This talk series is organized around five concepts unique to Japan. Renowned Japanese architects and scholars will speak about their ideas on architecture and their works.

The fifth session, with lecturers Reijiro Izumi (Tea master and researcher) & Kunio Kirisako (Architectural historian), moderated by Hitoshi Abe (Professor of architecture), addresses the concept of (SUKI). SUKI refers to the refined atmosphere of the tea ceremony as it is expressed in the nuanced relationship of its art, architecture, and appreciation of beauty.

Admission is free, registration is required.

The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles

5700 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90036

Jun 11, 2025 07:00pm PT - Jun 11, 2025 08:30pm PT

https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/nw5av8b/lp/003ccec4-e773-4449-a00f-f4e918d17608?source_id=6ed91019-1af9-4049-9e5a-a28f602d4172&source_type=em&c=yMTHha94wY3m41o57gOp-tCkZjvr6AxHw1Xs_lfVvX7ElwGXvzXtA==

Noteworthy Actors to Narrate Winning Short Stories of Imagine Little Tokyo 2025 Contest June 7

The Little Tokyo Historical Society in partnership with the Japanese American National Museum's Discover Nikkei project presents annual Imagine Little Tokyo short story contest at the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) in Little Tokyo on Saturday, June 7.

Four notable actors will participate in the upcoming awards celebration of the 12th annual Imagine Little Tokyo short story contest. The hybrid event will be held on Saturday, June 7, at 3 p.m. at the Tateuchi Democracy Forum at the JANM's Democracy Center, 100 N. Central Ave., Los Angeles.

To register, please go here to the events calendar on www.janm.org (<https://www.>) Registrants for the virtual program will receive a dedicated Zoom link

[Extracted from Cultural News]

Makoto Taiko 2025 Concert: *Hishō*

Sat, May 31, 2025 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Doors: 6:30 pm | Show: 7:00 pm

Aratani Theatre

244 S. San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

\$22.00-45.00 (+\$2.20-4.50 fee)

<https://jaccc.org/events/makoto-taiko-2025-concert-hisho/>

Breaking Barriers: The Legacy of March Fong Eu

CAM invites you for an evening dedicated to the extraordinary life and legacy of March Fong Eu (1922-2017) on Thursday, May 29th at 6:30 PM.

Online and in person. Register at

camla.org/marchfongeu

Memorial Day Weekend!

Don Hata, Historian, Artist Poet and Author to speak in recognition of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

May 17, 1:30PM

Don Hata will talk about the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. Hata, is a retired emeritus professor of history at California State University, where he taught US History, Asian History and Asian American History. He is a native of Los Angeles. At the age of three years old, he and his family was imprisoned in Gila River AZ.

May is Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month and it provides an opportunity to learn about the history and contributions of Asian American communities including the Japanese American concentration camps of WWII. Understand more about this important topic from someone who experienced it firsthand. Don's poems and watercolor paintings and memories reflect the harsh realities he faced in the concentration camps.

Redondo Beach Main Library

303 N. Pacific Coast Highway

Redondo Beach, CA 90277

Conference Room - Floor 2

[see program flyer here](#)

Let's sing and dance! Okinawan concert at Armstrong Theatre in Torrance on Sunday, May 18 at 2PM

On Sunday, May 18, 2025, 2:00 p.m., the Okinawa Association of America (OAA) will bring the sights, sounds, and spirit of the Ryūkyū Islands to the James R. Armstrong Theatre in Torrance, CA.

Ticket request: (310) 532-1929, tinyurl.com/utayabira25. \$30 general admission (doors open at 1:30).

[from Cultural News]

“(Be)Spoken” Opening Reception

CAM is hosting the opening reception of our newest exhibition, (Be)Spoken: Poems from Our Asian American Voices, on May 15, 2025, from 6 pm to 9 pm.

<https://camla.org/>

AAPJ Joy: Narratives, Storytelling, and History

Saturday, May 17, 2025

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Central Library

Celebrate the diversity of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities in Los Angeles at AAPI Joy, a free festival for all ages. Explore the City's rich AAPI heritage and join us in forging a shared future of acceptance, cooperation and inspiration with the greater Los Angeles community.

<https://lapl.org/aapi-joy>

AAPI HERITAGE MONTH: Short Films Screening & Panel Discussion

SAT, MAY 17, 2-4PM

GVJCI Main Hall

Registration required

[https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/gardena/](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/gardena/WhctKLbfFmTNnZHsbbkPzcQpnCVTMHvDmhVLpRfKIWSRHJpDDBTVPQTCGKFPwNKglmQIQPQ?projector=1)

[WhctKLbfFmTNnZHsbbkPzcQpnCVTMHvDmhVLpRfKIWSRHJpDDBTVPQTCGKFPwNKglmQIQPQ?projector=1](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/gardena/WhctKLbfFmTNnZHsbbkPzcQpnCVTMHvDmhVLpRfKIWSRHJpDDBTVPQTCGKFPwNKglmQIQPQ?projector=1)

Join us in celebrating AAPI month with JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles as we screen "Pompo: The Cinéphile" in our Center Courtyard.

Check-in starting at 5:00pm at the Ovation Hollywood table with your Eventbrite RSVP for kimchi popcorn and black sesame cookies from Wolfgang Puck Catering. Enter to win raffle prizes and surprises!

Stop by JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles before the film for complimentary green tea and explore their current exhibition: NEO-JAPONISM | SAMURAI AND BEYOND. Free Wifi and Library Access, too!

The film will start at 7:00pm and has a 1 hour and 34 minute run time. It will be screened in the original Japanese with English subtitles.

<https://www.ovationhollywood.com/events/anime-movie-night-pompo-the-cinphile>

[Also streaming on Amzon Prime if you can't make it to this screening]

May 10 - May 11, 2025

Hirokazu Kore-eda: An American Cinematheque Retrospective

Series | *STILL WALKING, ASURA, AFTER LIFE, SHOPLIFTERS, NOBODY KNOWS, LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON*

Co-presented by JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles

Locations

Aero Theatre

1328 Montana Ave

Santa Monica, CA 90403

Egyptian Theatre

6712 Hollywood Blvd

Los Angeles, CA 90028

<https://www.americancinematheque.com/series/hirokazu-kore-eda-an-american-cinematheque-retrospective/>

Saturday, May 10, 2025

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

[Temporary Detention: A New Multimedia Project About “Assembly Centers”](#)

Japanese American National Museum

100 North Central Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Commemorate Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month with the launch of the new multimedia project, [Temporary Detention: A Guide to the Forced “Assembly Centers.”](#) The website provides a past-and-present look at the fifteen temporary detention centers and the Owens Valley “Reception Center” operated by the US Army’s Western Civil Control Administration during World War II. Euphemistically called “Assembly Centers” these hastily-built detention centers imprisoned approximately 92,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry as the ten concentration camps were being built.

Tickets at:

<https://www.janm.org/events/2025-05-10/temporary-detention-new-multimedia-project-about-assembly-centers>

Arigato Bazaar

May 3 @ 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

🌸 Join us at our Arigato Bazaar for a day of food, fun, and fundraising! 🎵🌟 Immerse yourself in delicious eats, vibrant music, and unique finds at our country store. Don't miss out on the silent auction and a chance to bring home beautiful plants! 🌿💖

[#ArigatoBazaar](#) [#FundraiserFun](#) [#CommunityLove](#)

Centenary United Methodist Church

300 S. Central Avenue

Los Angeles, 90013

<https://centenary-dtla.org/event/arigato-bazaar/>

Kodomo no Hi

Sat, May 4, 2024 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

May 5th marks a special occasion in Japan known as Kodomo no Hi (子供の日), or Children’s Day, which is celebrated throughout the country. JACCC embraces this holiday by presenting an exciting celebration that weaves together Japanese and Japanese American traditions into a fun-filled day for children of all ages.

Immerse yourself in Japanese flavors, games, performances, and traditions, and make this an unforgettable experience for you and your family.

Isamu Noguchi Plaza

244 S. San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

[https://jaccc.org/events/kodomo-no-hi-childrens-day-celebration-2024/?](https://jaccc.org/events/kodomo-no-hi-childrens-day-celebration-2024/?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=22243349947&gbraid=0AAAAA-Gfe0TpO5T-6d1kjEKcHFOH8oYR8&gclid=Cj0KCQjw8cHABhC-ARIsAJnY12z9xTI7St_YQj-VTC1wQnN11x3PeO-IKvpZaZmem2VgMG_V2fzE-wlaAp4PEALw_wcB#food-bev)

[gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=22243349947&gbraid=0AAAAA-Gfe0TpO5T-6d1kjEKcHFOH8oYR8&gclid=Cj0KCQjw8cHABhC-ARIsAJnY12z9xTI7St_YQj-VTC1wQnN11x3PeO-IKvpZaZmem2VgMG_V2fzE-wlaAp4PEALw_wcB#food-bev](https://jaccc.org/events/kodomo-no-hi-childrens-day-celebration-2024/?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=22243349947&gbraid=0AAAAA-Gfe0TpO5T-6d1kjEKcHFOH8oYR8&gclid=Cj0KCQjw8cHABhC-ARIsAJnY12z9xTI7St_YQj-VTC1wQnN11x3PeO-IKvpZaZmem2VgMG_V2fzE-wlaAp4PEALw_wcB#food-bev)

Three Views of Manzanar: Ansel Adams, Dorothea Lange and Toyo Miyatake

Season 4 Episode 2

Despite the trauma of their incarceration during World War II, Japanese Americans built new lives while detained at concentration camps like Manzanar. They played baseball, planted gardens and made the honor roll. Three renowned photographers captured these scenes: outsiders Dorothea Lange and Ansel Adams and incarcerated Tōyō Miyatake who boldly smuggled in a camera lens to document life from within the camp. All three trained their lenses on small yet profound moments of dignity and domesticity, documenting resilience in the face of civil injustice. This episode compares and contrasts their approaches and the politics encoded in their work. It also follows the work of Paul Kitagaki, Jr., an award-winning photographer, who is trying to capture the images and voices of those incarcerated decades after that fateful moment in time.

Airdates

Saturday May 3, 9:30 PM PDT on PBS SoCal Plus

Sunday May 4, 7:30 PM PDT on PBS SoCal Encore

Tuesday May 6, 1:30 AM PDT on PBS SoCal Encore

Tuesday May 6, 7:30 AM PDT on PBS SoCal Encore

Tuesday May 6, 1:30 PM PDT on PBS SoCal Encore

<https://www.pbssocal.org/shows/lost-la/episodes/three-views-of-manzanar-ansel-adams-dorothea-lange-and-toyo-miyatake#:~:text=Three%20Views%20of%20Manzanar%3A%20Ansel%20Adams%2C%20Dorothea%20Lange%20and%20Toyo%20Miyatake&text=Despite%20the%20trauma%20of%20their,and%20made%20the%20honor%20roll.>

Or stream on Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=araQR50tVjI>

Introduction to Zen Meditation on Sat, April 26, 1:00 – 2:30 PM at Zenshuji Temple in Little Tokyo

Join us for an introductory class on Zen meditation designed for beginners and open to people of all faiths.

The class will cover the basic principles of Zen and Zazen meditation, including walking meditation. There will be tea time after the class.

The class is led by Rev. Dōshin Diana Johnson, a Zen priest in the Soto Zen tradition. After over 30 years as a social worker and public servant, she changed careers and earned a Master of Divinity in Buddhist Chaplaincy from the University of the West. For further information about Zenshuji Temple, visit our website at www.zenshuji.org [from Cultural News]

Send Your Love

April 27, 2025

3:30 PM

We continue to create musical experiences through the Charity Events. Spring's annual event is especially featuring Japanese culture and Kids due to the spirit of dedication to Japan's 3.11 tsunami.

<https://www.tulipsinharmony.org/>

LA Times Festival of Books

April 26-27, 2025 | USC Campus

<https://events.latimes.com/festivalofbooks/>

A Cultural Gathering

Sun, Apr 27

Workman & Temple Family Homestead Museum

Celebrating the Communities of Greater Los Angeles Past and Present

Time & Location

Apr 27, 2025, 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Workman & Temple Family Homestead Museum, 15415 Don Julian Rd, City of Industry, CA 91745

About the event

Join us for an afternoon of performances by local groups, explore the museum's historic houses and grounds, and participate in a community mosaic art project. Bring a picnic or purchase refreshments from the Kona Ice Truck.

*Performance schedule

12:15 p.m.: San Gabriel Valley Chinese Cultural Association-Lion and Dragon Dancers

1:00 p.m.: San Gabriel Valley Trick Ropers

1:45 p.m.: Kishin Daiko- Japanese Taiko Drumming

2:30 p.m.: Aztec Dancers

<https://www.homesteadmuseum.org/event-details/a-cultural-gathering-2>

2025 CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

esgvjcc.org - East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center

WHEN

Saturday, April 26, 2025

2pm – 7pm

WHERE

Plaza West Covina

112 Plaza Dr

West Covina, CA 91790

DETAILS

The ESGVJCC is excited to partner once again with Plaza West Covina and the City of West Covina to present the 2025 Cherry Blossom Festival! This annual festival marks the beginning of spring; the newly emerging blossoms represent hope, beauty, and new life.

The festival will take place outside in the mall's main parking lot by the 10 Freeway!

Find us by Lazy Dog Restaurant and Red Robin.

<https://www.esgvjcc.org/2025-cherry-blossom-festival/>

Spring Fest 2025

The Chinese American Museum and El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument celebrate the Year of the Snake with our annual Spring Festival on Saturday, April 26th from 12 – 5 pm. Kick off Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) month with an exciting day of multicultural performances and family friendly activities!

The event is FREE to the public and no registration is required.

425 N. Los Angeles Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

<https://camla.org/upcoming-events/>

ONLINE Japanese Architects Talk Series 3: HAI/KYO: Destruction and Rebirth of Japanese Architecture (April 16, 2025)

Lecturers: Ken Tadashi Oshima (Professor of Architecture at the University of Washington, Seattle)

Alicia Volk (Professor of Japanese Art at the University of Maryland)

Moderator: Hitoshi Abe (Professor of Architecture and Urban Design at UCLA)

Apr 16

ONLINE Japanese Architects Talk Series3: Hai/kyo: Destruction and Rebirth of Japanese Architecture

07:00pm PT - Apr 16, 2025 08:30pm PT

Register at

https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/n3nuja7/lp/15b2b86e-b302-4a5b-ba49-9de7b9ccb001?source_id=82d309f1-f2c5-44a5-b434-

[3041254db642&source_type=em&c=31cfq7CgPfxsbggJdYzY8qKa5nZrTL9xZUMxtP3FFPi-liqGB6Fzlg==](https://www.littletokyola.org/delicious)

Saturday, April 19

Join us for the 10th annual Delicious Little Tokyo in collaboration with Sustainable Little Tokyo's Earth Day Celebration!

Performance at JANM Pavilion

Enjoy live entertainment, free activities, and community booths in celebration of Earth Day from 12 to 4 p.m. at the Japanese American National Museum Pavilion (100 N Central Avenue). Free and open to the public.

12:30 pm: Hirokazu Kosaka | LA Kyudo Kai

1:00 pm: J-Town Taiko Club

1:30 pm: Chester Ikei

2:00 pm: Kuniharu Yoshida

3:00 pm: Nikiko Masumoto

<https://littletokyola.org/delicious>

[The End of Internationalism? From Revolutionary Collaboration to Independent Statebuilding in Iran, Turkey, and the Soviet Republics, 1914-22](#)

[Program on Central Asia Lecture](#)

Kayhan Nejad (University of Oklahoma) examines the Jangalis' continuing attempts at internationalism, asking how they understood Iran's role within a broader revolutionary landscape and why their coalition-building efforts ultimately failed. Choon Hwee Koh (UCLA) will chair the talk.

Monday, April 21, 2025

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM (Pacific Time)

Bunche Hall, Rm 10383

<https://www.international.ucla.edu/apc/centralasia/>

Cherry Blossom Festival

The Cherry Blossom Committee and the City of Monterey Park are delighted to present the 25th Annual Cherry Blossom Festival on April 12-13, 2025 at Barnes Park, located at 350 S. McPherrin Ave. Entry to the festival is Free.

<https://www.montereypark.ca.gov/673/Cherry-Blossom-Festival>

Bunka-Sai Japanese Cultural Festival Coming to Torrance on April 5 & 6

The cultural festival will be from 11 am to 5 pm on April 5-6, Saturday and Sunday, and will be located at the Torrance Cultural Arts complex at the corner of Madrona Avenue and Torrance Blvd.

3341 Torrance Blvd, Torrance 90503

<https://www.torrancesistercity.org/bunkasai.html>

OC Japan fair 2025

April 4-6, 2025

4/4 (FRI) 4:00PM-10:00PM

4/5 (SAT) 12:00PM-10:00PM

4/6 (SUN) 11:00AM-7:00PM

PARKING FEE \$12

Gate 1 (follow signage upon arrival for Gates and Parking directions as Gate 1 may change)

OC FAIR & EVENT CENTER

88 Fair Dr, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

General ADMISSION

\$12 (until Feb 28) / \$15 (March 1- April 3)

\$18 (After April 4th, 12:00am)

Children 6 and under & over 65 are FREE

Admission to the OC Japan Fair also includes admission to Freedom LA.

No Pet Allowed (Service Dog Only)

<https://www.oc-japanfair.com/#info>

Film Screening and Q&A: "Snow in Midsummer"

Snow in Midsummer is set in Kuala Lumpur at two different periods of time: first on May 13, 1969, and then, on May 13, 2018; it revolves around Ah Eng, a young woman, and her mother who lose contact with the father and brother of the first amid political riots, in the first part, and, in a second chapter, the remembrance of this moment 49 years later.

Friday, April 4, 2025

6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

James Bridges Theater (Melnitz Hall, Rm 1409)



Apr 08

Opening Reception for "PATH TO THE PERFECT CUP: Coffee Culture in Japan"

There are various ways to brew coffee. Perhaps the most popular brewing tool is the dripper, and the best-known examples are produced by companies in Japan. But why, if Japan is traditionally associated with tea, is this the case? It can be argued that Japan's tea culture is the foundation upon which Japanese coffee culture flourished to its current form.

This exhibition, organized in collaboration with Kurasu, explores the effects that coffee has

had on Japan and, simultaneously, the extraordinary contributions that Japan has made to the global coffee community.

The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles

5700 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90036

[View on map](#)

08:30pm

Register at

https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/k4n6xvf/lp/87b53319-e98e-460c-a187-6f5e7e87cb4e?source_id=dac1110c-b03b-4a52-907d-5df61db4d945&source_type=em&c=AqYxroN6shLJjeUauezaC48bUXJg_KX1CxEee4hKuVZq-IWbVw2BXA

The 2025 Cherry Blossom Festival - Sunday, March 30, 2025, from 11 AM to 4 PM at Columbia Park.

Join us and experience great performances, unique crafts, and amazing food!
FREE parking and shuttle service at 20420 Madrona Ave., Torrance, CA.

[DOWNLOAD EVENT FLYER](#)

<https://www.torranceca.gov/services/cultural-services-division-arts-and-classes/cherry-blossom-cultural-festival>

[Not Your China Doll: The Wild and Shimmering Life of Anna May Wong](#)

Sat, Mar 29

Join author Katie Gee Salisbury for a presentation and book signing of her debut book "Not Your China Doll", celebrating Anna May Wong, the first Asian American movie star.

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

The Homestead Museum, 15415 Don Julian Rd, City of Industry, CA 91745, USA

RSVP at

<https://www.homesteadmuseum.org/event-details/not-your-china-doll-the-wild-and-shimmering-life-of-anna-may-wong>

March 22

126th Annual Golden Dragon Parade

1-4 PM

North Broadway in Chinatown

<https://www.instagram.com/chinesechamberla/p/DFqj6JaSgyE/?hl=en>

March 2025 | Cherry Blossom Festival

Shoseian Cherry Blossom Festival

March 16th, 2025

10:00am – 3:00pm

Entrance to the Festival is FREE.

Tea Ceremonies require advanced reservations. Tickets are \$25.00 each.

FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES:

10:00 – 11:00 Japanese Dance & Koto Music by Tendo Ryu & Kotoeda Group

11:00 – 11:30 African Drumming by The Peace Players & Gerald Rivers

11:30 – 12:00 Katori Shinto Ryu – Old School Martial Arts by Kitano-sensei

12:00 - 12:10 Remarks by Consul General Sone of Japan

12:15 – 1:00 Sumo by Sumo Dan

1:00 – 1:30 Indian Clubs and Stick Fighting by the Kailukuan School

1:30 – 2:00 Kimono Show by Nadeshiko-kai

2:00 – 2:30 Live Music & Village Dancing by Team Kawachi Ondo

2:30 – 3:00 J-Pop/Rock Music by Allie Takehana “The Kewpiez”

TEA CEREMONIES:

10:00am - 10:45am

12:00pm - 12:45pm

1:30pm - 2:15pm

*all seatings are by reservation only.

ADDITIONAL EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS

Japanese Music by DJ “Yui Sensational”

Japanese Calligraphy – Shodo Table

Ink Brush Painting by Nan Rae Studios

Virgil’s Healing Hut

San Fernando Japanese Language Institute

“Friends of Shoseian” Booth featuring Japanese Onigiri, Mochi & snacks

Bonsai Display by Kaz Nakanishi

Katori Shinto Ryu Information Booth

Kimono Culture Booth by Nadeshiko Kai

Tokyo Style Food Truck

<https://www.glendaleteahouse.org/events/march-2025-cherry-blossom-festival>

Hinamatsuri (Girl's Day) Doll Display

When

Sat, Mar 1, 2025 - Sun, Mar 16, 2025

Tuesdays - Sundays • 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Where

George J. Doizaki Gallery/Tea Room

244 S. San Pedro St., 1st Floor Lobby, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Price

Free

<https://jaccc.org/events/hinamatsuri-girls-day-doll-display/>

Taiwan, China, and the Global South: Between Ideological Axes and Convergences in Africa
Taiwan in the World Lecture Series

Thursday, March 6, 2025

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (Pacific Time)

Online

Register at

<https://www.international.ucla.edu/apc/event/17077>

Firecracker 10K now scheduled for March 8-9

<https://firecracker10k.org/>

Saturday, Mar 08, 2025

Films of Remembrance

Films of Remembrance is the premier showcase of films commemorating the forced incarceration of Japanese Americans in American concentration camps during World War II, presented by the Nichi Bei Foundation. JANM is excited to be hosting some of the screenings on March 8.

Please visit the [Films of Remembrance website](#) for film descriptions, to purchase an All-Day Pass or individual screening tickets, and to view screening schedules for the other venues in San Francisco (February 22), San Jose (February 23), and Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute (March 9).

<https://www.janm.org/events/2025-03-08/films-remembrance>

The Camp: An Opera in Two Acts

Sat, Feb 22, 2025 - Sun, Mar 2, 2025

Sat, Feb 22, 2025 & Sat, Mar 1, 2025 | 7:30 pm

Sun, Feb 23, 2025 & Sun, Mar 2, 2025 | 2:30 pm

Aratani Theatre

244 S. San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Price

\$20.00-85.00 (+ \$2.00-8.50 fee)

<https://jaccc.org/events/the-camp-an-opera-in-two-acts/>

Saturday, Mar 01, 2025

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Special Screening: "The Dragon Painter" featuring Sessue Hayakawa

Join the Little Tokyo Historical Society and the Japanese American National Museum for a special screening of the 1919 silent film, *The Dragon Painter*, with live music composed and performed by **Goh Nakamura**. The program will include remarks by **Dr. Daisuke Miyao**, a professor of Japanese films at the University of California San Diego.

Free

Japanese American National Museum

100 North Central Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Tickets at

<https://www.janm.org/events/2025-03-01/special-screening-dragon-painter-featuring-sessue-hayakawa>

Exploring Taiwan with Miss Chizuru: The Fictional Craft of Taiwan Travelogue

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM (Pacific Time)

Kaplan Hall, Rm A51

Register at

<https://www.international.ucla.edu/apc/event/16986>

[Don't think I can make it so I bought the book, available on Kindle as well as print]

Attend in Person

Open to the Public and Free with Reservation

Scholarly Lectures

Breaking Curfew: Everyday Japanese American Resistance during World War II

Wed., Feb. 19 | 7:30–8:30 p.m.

Professor Anna Pegler-Gordon uses previously overlooked FBI case files to explore the extensive everyday resistance of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Education and Visitor Center, Rothenberg Hall

https://huntington.org/event/breaking-curfew-everyday-japanese-american-resistance-during-world-war-ii?utm_source=The+Huntington&utm_campaign=90e67a3b4d-this-week-at-the-huntington-2025-02-18&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-acbb05ca10-229794662&goal=0_f3661894cf-90e67a3b4d-229794662&mc_cid=90e67a3b4d&mc_eid=85fe1fd7c1

In the Tune of Art: 15-String Bass & Trumpet

Why not music inspired by art while surrounded by art? In this new series, "In the Tune of Art," we select music that matches the theme and artwork of the current exhibition and invite you to enjoy the melody in that environment. For the second session, we will be presenting an innovative 15-string electric bass to accompany the exhibition "ETHEREAL: Interpretations of the Ryūgūjō Myth". LA-based musician Kai Kurosawa will play his invention. He will also collaborate with trumpet player Dan Rosenboom. Admission is free, registration is required.

The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles

5700 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90036

Feb 20, 2025 07:00pm PT - Feb 20, 2025 08:30pm PT

<https://www.jflalc.org/event-details.php/248/in-the-tune-of-art-15-string-bass>

Asian American Expo

Schedule:

February 15 - 16, 2025 from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Location:

Expo Hall 4

Parking:

Gates 9 & 17

\$20.00 General Parking (Debit/Credit Card only)

Directions:

CLICK HERE for the directions.

For tickets:

<https://fairplex.com/event/asian-american-expo-2/>

Lunar New Year: Celebrating the Year of the Snake

Saturday, February 15; 9am-2pm.

At the LA Arboretum

<https://arboretum.org/events/lunar-new-year-celebrating-the-year-of-the-snake-2025/2025-02-15>

2ND & PCH Lunar New Year Celebration

Saturday, February 15· starting at 1:00pm

6400 Pacific Coast Hwy, Long Beach, CA 90803, USA

<https://2ndandpch.com/portfolio/lunar-new-year-celebration-2/>

Los Angeles Day of Remembrance

A Legacy of Courage: Nikkei Women Persevering Through Incarceration and Beyond

Saturday, February 15· 2:00 – 4:00pm

Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple 815 East First St., 90012

Free but tickets needed at

<https://www.janm.org/events/2025-02-15/2025-los-angeles-day-remembrance>

a

~~Alhambra Lunar New Year~~ Saturday, February 8· 9:00am – 5:00pm

Main St. in Alhambra

<https://www.alhambralunarnewyear.com/>

n

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Discover Nikkei Fest, **SHARING INTERNATIONAL NIKKEI FAMILY STORIES**

Saturday, February 8· 3:30 – 4:30pm registration required

More Nikkei festival events requiring tickets, some with fees.

<https://discovernikkei.org/en/events/2025/02/08/6992/>

Lunar New Year at Pacific Asia Museum

Scheduled for Feb. 1

[https://calendar.usc.edu/event/lunar-new-yearpam?
utm_campaign=widget&utm_medium=widget&utm_source=Event+Calendar](https://calendar.usc.edu/event/lunar-new-yearpam?utm_campaign=widget&utm_medium=widget&utm_source=Event+Calendar)

Upcoming In February at the UCLA Asia Pacific Center:

[Subjects and Sojourners: A New History of Indochinese in France](#)

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM (Pacific Time)

Webinar

register at

<https://www.international.ucla.edu/apc/event/16996>

Tet Parade

Saturday, February 1 · 8:30 – 11:00am

Bolsa Avenue & Magnolia Street

Bolsa Ave & Magnolia St, Westminster, CA 92683, USA

TIME: Opening Ceremony begins at 8:30 AM; parade begins at 9:30 AM

LOCATION: Parade begins at the intersection of Bolsa Avenue and Magnolia Street, and heads eastbound on Bolsa Avenue. The Parade will turn right on Bushard Street and head southbound, ending at Bishop Place.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance for this event is over 15,000 with attendees ranging from seniors to young children and their families. However, viewership across multiple streaming sites and channels is over 250,000 internationally.

PRESENTED BY: The City of Westminster

COST: Admission is FREE to the public

Lunar New Year

Saturday, February 1 · 11:00am – 8:00pm

Court Street Square Park, Downtown San Bernardino

<https://sbcity.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=350>

UVSA Tét Festival

Jan 31-Feb 2

Garden Grove Park

9301 Westminster Blvd., Garden Grove, CA 92844.

Purchase tickets at:

<https://tetfestival.org/>

Jan. 25, 26 — 13th Annual Riverside Lunar Festival. It's the Year of the Snake so join this cultural festival, including lion dances, acrobatic feats, musical entertainment from diverse Asian cultures with K-Pop and folk songs and more, for free. Activities also include a car show, artisan market and carnival rides. On Mission Inn Avenue downtown, between Lime and Orange streets. Hours: 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Jan. 25; 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Jan. 26. Admission free. calfestival.com

JapanCraft21 to hold live Zoom Presentation of “Traditional Icons of Japanese Culture” on Friday, Jan. 24 at 5PM, Pacific Standard Time

Announcing a live ZOOM presentation by JapanCraft21, Steve Beimel: Traditional Icons of Japanese Culture

Japan is rich in time-honored cultural icons, each with a story that opens doors to a greater understanding of the culture, seen in fine craftsmanship from wood, stone, ceramics, urushi lacquer, metal, paper, textiles, and bamboo.

Though historically and culturally significant, these ubiquitous icons are either entirely unknown to Westerners or considered mere forms of trivia. Who was the “Laughing Buddha,” the standing raccoon dog wearing a hat, the red-faced man with the long nose, the pure young girl of the Noh theater mask, the fierce-looking face appearing on temple rooves? Join us for a fascinating look at Japan through 40 of its most commonly seen icons.

Free-of-charge

☐ North America West Coast: Friday, January 24, 5 pm

☐ North America East Coast: Friday, January 24, 8 pm

☐ Japan: Saturday, January 25, 10:00 am

Register here: <https://forms.gle/>

[from Cultural News]

<https://www.jflalc.org/event-details.php/242/built-environment-an-alternative-guide-to-japan>

Once again:

Good Time to stay home if you can and avoid the bad air quality as required. Stay safe and watch out for curfews and evacuation orders.

Do something virtual if you can get on the internet.

We have had a brief respite in some areas for the time being but the situation may quickly change.

Another postponed event:

“Due to concerns regarding the ongoing wildfires and unpredictable weather conditions affecting Los Angeles, the screening of The Toll of the Sea, originally scheduled for January 16th at 6:00 pm, is postponed. This decision was made with the safety and well-being of our attendees, staff, and the community as our highest priority.

We are currently working to reschedule the event and we will announce the new date as soon as possible. Please check your email or visit camla.org/upcoming-events for event-related updates. If you have any immediate questions, feel free to contact us at info@camla.org.

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we navigate this challenging situation. Our thoughts are with those impacted by the wildfires, and we encourage everyone to stay safe and informed during this time.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to hosting Unmasking: The Toll of the Sea on a later date.

The Monterey Park Lunar New Year Festival was scheduled for this weekend:

<https://www.montereypark.ca.gov/669/Lunar-New-Year-Festival>

but check to see if it is going to be rescheduled.

Likewise the Rancho Cucamonga Lunar Festival is also scheduled for this weekend:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-annual-2025-rancho-cucamonga-lunar-festival-jan-18-19-tickets-912889616417>

Join the Chinese American Museum on Thursday, January 16th at 6:00 pm at the historic Pico House (424 N. Main St., Los Angeles, CA 90012) for a special, colorized screening of *The Toll of the Sea* (1922). The film, directed by Chester M. Franklin and produced by Technicolor Motion Picture Corporation, features Anna May Wong at just 17 years old in her first leading role. Despite being a silent film, Wong's emotive and expressive nature has led many to consider *The Toll of the Sea* as her breakout role in the film industry.

Featured alongside the film screening will be an exclusive commentary and a post-screening discussion courtesy of Anna Wong, niece of Hollywood star Anna May Wong, and Katie Gee Salisbury, author of *Not Your China Doll*.

RSVP today at camla.org/thetoll to join us in watching Anna May Wong shine in her first leading role and explore her life and enduring legacy through insightful conversations with experts on the iconic figure. “

<https://camla.org/upcoming-events/>

Dec 06, 2024 - Jan 05, 2025

[Mario Gershom Reyes: OBRAS DE LUZ \(Works of Light\)](#)

As a photojournalist with The Rafu Shimpo (Los Angeles's Japanese American newspaper since 1903), Mario Reyes has documented the milestones, the tragedies, and the victories of the Japanese American... Japanese American National Museum

100 North Central Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90012

<https://www.janm.org/exhibits/mario-reyes>

Team Kawachi Ondo to Perform at New Year's Event in Little Tokyo

<https://www.culturalnews.com/?p=42995>

Jan 1, 2025: 26th Annual Japanese New Year's Oshogatsu Festival Event - Little Tokyo, Japantown (2 Locations: Jan 1, 2025)

Festival Event Time

10:50 am - 4:10 pm

2 Locations for Little Tokyo New Years Events (Los Angeles)

1) Little Tokyo Weller Court: 10:50 am - 3:40 pm

2) Japanese Village Plaza, Little Tokyo: 12:30 am - 4:10 pm

<https://www.japanese-city.com/calendar/events/index.php?eID=34933>

Weller Court (Downtown LA, Little Tokyo)

123 Astronaut E S Onizuka St.

Los Angeles, CA 90012

<https://www.japanese-city.com/calendar/events/index.php?eID=34933>

“MUSIC STATION SUPER LIVE 2023” and “Solitary Gourmet New Year’s Eve Special” will be aired for New Year’s Special

Free Japanese broadcast on KXLA Channel 44.1 on Dec. 29 and Dec. 31 Japan Hollywood Network (www.jhollywoodnet.com) which provides over-the-air television across the Los Angeles and Orange County area on channel 44.1 (KXLA) will air “Solitary Gourmet: New Year’s Eve Special” with English subtitles on December 29 at 6:30 pm for free.

<https://www.culturalnews.com/>

New Documentary Film: "Back to Our Land"

UCLA Asia Pacific Center

The documentary film "Back to Our Land" takes the audience on an emotional journey with a group from the Tayal village of Sqoyaw as they seek to rediscover their ancestral homeland, Srasit.

Watch on Youtube

<https://www.international.ucla.edu/apc/article/278338>

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Where I went the past weeks and may have heard of at the last minute (and before, since webinars are often still available online):

Read in Time online that Rachel Maddow is tackling the Japanese American internment and its relevance to current events.

https://time.com/7337638/rachel-maddow-podcast-burn-order-trump/?utm_source=beehiiv&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter-the-brief&bhlid=1dd9052a20d8c1b3c04aa095c74388c3daca221d

Read a NY Times article on Japanese Americans responding to ICE raids

https://www.nytimes.com/2025/11/30/us/japanese-internment-camp-trump-immigration.html?campaign_id=49&emc=edit_ca_20251201&instance_id=167298&nl=california-today®i_id=32081040&segment_id=211621&user_id=3cfad16c6b7b6c1218a1256d0d681065

Previously:

Went to Tulips in Harmony. Performances of Western and Japanese music and dance. Was actually pretty good.

Watched the online webinar on onigiri listed above

Went to see the Yokai exhibit at the Japan Foundation. The exhibit just closed.

Photos:

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/Yokai2025/index.html>

On Zoom watched the

Greater Los Angeles JACL presents

“Japanese American Actors”

On Zoom watched the commemoration of the Chinatown Massacre of 1871 at CAMLA

Having some walking problems due to knee problems so at least drove my car up to the local No Kings protest in Westchester and waved at the protestors. Compared to the previous one I attended, the crowd was much more lively and intense and the age spread was wider. Some very interesting signs. Followed the guidance not to take any pictures.

Visited the Minneapolis Institute of Art which has a significant Asian art collection. My photos at

[*Minneapolis Institute of Art*](#)

Also Asian Art collection at Amarillo:

[*Amarillo Museum of Art*](#)

I made it to the Gardena Valley JCI Car Show on Saturday.

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/GardenaCarShow2025/index.html>

The following day I caught the tail end of the JACCC Plaza Festival and then the Nisei Week Closing Ceremonies and street ondo.

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/Ondo2025/index.html>

Sunday I went to the Nisei Week Parade:

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/NiseiWeekParade2025/index.html>

and before that I went up to the Cruising J-Town exhibit:

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/CruisingJTown2025/index.html>

Made it to the Gardena Obon

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/GardenaObon2025/index.html>

Attended:

Zenshuji Obon, photos at:

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/Zenshuji2025/index.html>

Higashi Obon

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/Higashi2025/index.html>

Orange County Obon

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/OCBCObon2025/index.html>

I went to the Terra Cotta Warriors exhibit at the Bowers Museum:

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/Bowers2025/index.html>

I made it to the Yamagata Maiko performance in Little Tokyo

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/Maiko2025/index.html>

Had big plans to go to the Sozenji Obon and the Lotus Festival but wasn't feeling well plus bad planning kept me home. Did finish reading:

[The Hunt for Tokyo Rose](#)

by [Russell Warren Howe](#)

We have come full circle and a lot of the injustices Iva Toguri suffered are being repeated.

I attended the Senshin Obon. I wanted to get home before it got too late so I missed the taiko performance this year. My photos at:

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/Senshin2025/index.html>

I made it to the Gardena Valley JCI festival in time to catch the koto but missed the taiko. My photos at:

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/GardenaJCIMatsuri2025/index.html>

From there I made it to the LB Japanese Community Center festival.

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/LBFestival2025/index.html>

The next day I drove all the way into the San Fernando Valley for their obon:

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/SFVObon2025/index.html>

I attended the Sun Valley Obon on Saturday. Stayed for the first part of the ondo and taiko performance. My Photos at:

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/SunValley2025/index.html>

I made a quick visit to the Venice Japanese Community Center Natsu Matsuri to grab some food (udon and kalbi) and check out their cultural exhibits. They have some talented people!

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/VJCC2025/index.html>

A little over 2/3 of the way through The Hunt for Tokyo Rose by Russell Warren Howe. Kind of appropriate for what is happening these days.

On Zoom watched the Irei no Hi. The guest speaker couldn't make it so they screened 2 very moving films, one animated. Also tuned into the following church service which screened interviews with survivors. With all the wars going, reminders of the consequences for those caught in between.

I watched:

[The Promise and Peril of Being Chinese in America: A Conversation with Michael Luo and Lisa See](#)

Why did the Chinese come to America? What dreams were they pursuing? Why did their initial welcome turn into horrific violence? Why does this history matter today?

Hear Lisa See and Michael Luo address these and other vital questions in the 1871 Memorial Project's virtual discussion of Luo's book, "Strangers in the Land: Exclusion, Belonging, and the Epic Story of the Chinese in America."

Relevant to what is happening today. Learned the current protests are occurring at the site of the 1871 mass lynching.

<https://chcp.org/event-6199129>

Attended the Norwalk festival described above. My photos at:
<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/Norwalk2025/index.html>

I went to the Lennox Library to see a 40 minute performance of Patsy by the East West Players:

"Patsy," a play about Patsy Takemoto Mink, the first woman of color in Congress, written by Alison Minami, directed by John Miyazaki, 4-5 pm at Lennox Library, 4359 Lennox Blvd, Lennox. Cast: Chloe Madrigal, Pauline Yasuda, Evelyn Wu-Coffey, William Bremer, Andrew Brown, Stephen Hacı. Info:

<https://www.eastwestplayers.org/patsy-tour>

The audience was mainly young children, but I found it fascinating and I highly recommend it if it comes your way.

Attended the

2025 60th Anniversary Matsutoyo Kai Japanese Folk Music & Dance Recital

The Japanese folk music group, Matsutoyo Kai, is presenting a music and dance program at the Ken Nakaoka Community Center on Sunday, June 1, 2025, from 12:00 pm. The event will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the group and will present a student recital with Japanese dancing, and feature a special guest minbu dance artist from Japan, Madame Kahou Satokaze, Headmaster of Satokaze Kai.

Stayed the whole 2 ½ hours and enjoyed all of it.

Went to the LA County Fair.

This ties in with the Assembly Center presentation I went to the a weekend ago or so (see below). From Wikipedia:

The Temporary Detention Camp for Japanese Americans / Pomona Assembly Center is one of the places Japanese Americans were held during [World War II](#). The Pomona Assembly Center was designated a [California Historic Landmark](#) (No. 934.04) on May 13, 1980. The Pomona Assembly Center is located in what is now called the [Fairplex](#) in [Pomona, California](#) in [Los Angeles County](#). The Pomona Assembly Center was called Los Angeles County Fairgrounds in 1942.

For more information check out the Densho entry at

<https://densho.org/catalyst/photo-essay-fairground-detention-facilities/>

Includes photos.

This marker doesn't show up on google maps, but did find:

[The plaque is situated at a drop-off area north of the intersection of Canyon Way and West McKinley Avenue.](#)

[Longitude and latitude:](#)

34°04'52.8"N 117°45'59.2"W

Or 34.081322, -117.766456

Finally found it on Google Maps. Will have to look for it next time I go, but it isn't in an area where I normally visit.

Listened to a webinar with Kiku Hughes at the King County Library:

[Author Voices: Kiku Hughes](#)

She wrote the graphic novel "Displacement" (available as hardcopy or ebook) about time traveling to the Japanese American community before and during WWII. Need to read it.

Attended the Okinawan performances at the Armstrong Theatre in Torrance.

I did go out to attend the

[Temporary Detention: A New Multimedia Project About "Assembly Centers"](#)

Japanese American National Museum

and the ikebana exhibit at the JACCC Dozaki gallery

my photos at:

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/NihonMachi2025/index.html>

I didn't get out but online I caught up with the Japan Foundation, Los Angeles webinar on Kami:

JAPAN AND KAMI 1: Kami Worship in Early Japan. You can now access it at any time on YouTube!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQpFeXS_0Sg

You can sign up for the next Kami webinar on the Japan Foundation website. Highly recommended.

Also watched Three Views of Manzanar on Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=araQR50tVjI>

Wish they had given a little more time to Ansel Adams, but it was only a half hour.

Caught a couple of hours at the West Covina Cherry Blossom Festival. Some of the performers were absent, perhaps due to the threat of inclement weather. My photos at:

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/WCCherryBlossom2025/index.html>

Nevertheless, there were plenty of attendees.

Visited the first half of Delicious Little Tokyo. My photos at:

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/DeliciousLittleTokyo2025/index.html>

Signed up for the the showing of Manzanar Diverted at the Natural History Museum. Couldn't make it since I wasn't feeling well, so instead I spent \$6.99 and watched it online at Vimeo. Also found commentary with the filmmaker on Youtube from previous showings. Worthwhile tale of water rights in the Owens Valley, including the massacre of Native Americans and a California version of the Trail of Tears. After that White ranchers and farmers lost the water to the LA water projects. The the Japanese Americans were plunked down in the middle of the Owens Valley and LA was forced to divert some water to Manzanar, allowing a short green revival. Worthwhile watching.

While going to and returning from Mammoth, I stopped at Manzanar National Historic Site.

Luckily it was open on the return leg. Check out my photos at:

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/Manzanar2025/index.html>

Look for a photo with the hours open. Good progress with the Merritt Garden and the fruit tree orchards.

Also visited the Lancaster Cemetery memorial to the deceased Japanese of the Antelope Valley. The memorial was desecrated by super patriots during WWII, but was restored by school children in 2008.

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/Lancaster2025/index.html>

On Sunday attended the Monterey Park Cherry Blossom Festival, which has really expanded.

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/MPKCherryBlossom2025/index.html>

I made it to the Bunka_Sai Festival in Torrance on Saturday. Very good entertainment.

My photos at:

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/BunkaSai2025/index.html>

I was at the Homestead Museum for the author's talks on the book, "Not Your China Doll" about the life of Anna May Wong. Good complement to the Anna May Wong exhibit at CAMLA since it give some more background information.

<https://www.notyourchinadoll.com/>

I made it to the Torrance Cherry Blossom Cultural Festival. The stage was moved to give the audience more room and the audience eventually turned up in spite of not very promising showers in the morning. A large assembly of food trucks provided a lot of options and there seemed to be more vendors than previously. For that matter it was one of the biggest turnouts I've seen for this festival. Entertainment was better organized and it kept my attention throughout the day. My photos at:

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/TorranceCherryBlossom2025/index.html>

I viewed the re-scheduled Golden Dragon Parade in LA Chinatown. My photos at:

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/GoldenDragon2025/index.html>

I made It to the morning performances at the Shoseian Japanese Tea House Cherry Blossom Festival. Some of my photos are at:

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/Shoseian2025/index.html>

I went to the Descanso Gardens to see a presentation on its connection to the Tuna Canyon detention centers. The camellia collection was purchased at sub-market prices from the Japanese American owned Star Nursery, one of whose owners was being held at Tuna Canyon at the same time. Previously, Descanso had claimed that it had paid market price.

Some photos at:

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/TunaCanyon2025/index.html>

Made it to the JANM to see Sessue Hayakawa in the Dragon Painter, plus a panel discussion.

Some photos from the presentation:

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/Hayakawa2025/index.html>

Attended the Huntington Library lecture on Japanese Americans who violated the curfew before they were evacuated.

Visited the Huntington Gardens. Met a docent in the Chinese Garden who explained the relationship of Japanese Bonsai to Chinese Penjing which is more comprehensive and the predecessor. She also explained how the Huntington collection was donated by an aficionado. Fascinating. Lucky since it wasn't her normal day to volunteer.

My photos of the visit at:

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/Huntington2025/index.html>

Made it to the 2nd PCH Lunar New Year Festival in Long Beach. My photos at:

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/LBLunar2025/index.html>

Also went to the co-located Asian American Expo and Anime Impulse.

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/AsianExpo2025/index.html>

Visited the

Alhambra Lunar New Year Festival. Got there in early afternoon but caught some good entertainment. Photos at:

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/AlhambraLunar2025/index.html>

Also managed to listen to the

Discover Nikkei Fest, [SHARING INTERNATIONAL NIKKEI FAMILY STORIES](#)

webinar panel discussion while sitting in the Alhambra Library (and walking back to my car)

Also attended one of the Lunar New Year performances at the South Coast Botanic Garden. The ticketed performance was only wushu. There was a pop-up performance by the high school students that had a more general program, but I only caught the tail end of that since I didn't see it on the website.

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/SCBGLunar2025/index.html>

I made it to the Tet Festival in Garden Grove on Saturday but missed the parade, which was too early in the morning for me. Big event. Didn't stay for the evening events since I am a senior citizen. Photos at:

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/Tet2025/index.html>

On Sunday heard about the Arcadia Lunar New Year fundraiser for teaches who lost their homes in Altadena. Fun event with entertainment stages and vendors, even wine and beer.

<http://ikemi.info/Graphics2025/ArcadiaLunar2025/index.html>

Caught the tail end of the Japancraft21 webinar

<https://www.japancraft21.com/>

More successfully, finished reading

Japanese Agent in Tibet

by Hisao Kiumura

You can still find used copies on Amazon for \$47+.

Japanese version of Seven Years in Tibet.

In fact, Dr. Kimura did run into Heinrich Harrer.

Highly recommended.

Watched the panel discussion of the Chinese Exclusion Act documentary on the American Experience. Next, have to watch the actual documentary.

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/chinese-exclusion-act/>

My internet was out this past week so I had trouble virtually checking out the world. Did drive out to the Citadel Outlets on Friday to get to the top of their parking structure to get a 360 of the Basin. Looked very nasty towards Pasadena. Altadena is just beyond. Really bad smoke up there, as one might expect.

The Citadel looked like it was putting up decorations for Lunar New Year.

According to their website:

<https://www.citadeloutlets.com/event/Lunar-New-Year-Celebration/2145579234/>

they were planning on a celebration Feb 1-2. We will have to see if that is rescheduled.

When I was there ash was falling and some stores were closed.

Visited the Go For Broke Center and got a guided tour. Learned a few new things.

Checked out the outdoor Shogatsu event at the JANM but didn't go in since it looked too crowded for me.

Did attend the Shogatsu festivities at Weller Court today, including the ones noted above

Watched the webinar:

From Past Prejudice to Present Policy: The Impact of Land Ownership Exclusion Laws on Diverse

Communities presented by the Committee of 100

Watch the webinar replay and sign up for January events

Recording for [The Impact of Land Ownership Exclusion Laws on Diverse Communities](#) webinar is now available.

Resources:

LACMA calendar: <http://www.lacma.org/events/Calendar.aspx>

UCLA Asia Institute calendar:

<http://www.international.ucla.edu/asia/events/index.asp?action=monthview>

Japanese American National Museum

<http://www.janm.org/events/>

CAMLA

<http://camla.org/events/calendar.htm>

Historic Trails, Modern Tales New sites were added to our historic trails. Visit trails.camla.org for a self-guided tour of Chinatown. Use your mobile device along the path and explore the histories of the community.

Korean Cultural Center

<http://www.kccla.org/>

Japanese American Community Cultural Center

<http://jaccc.org/>

USC Pacifica Asia Museum

<https://pacificasiamuseum.usc.edu/>

UCLA Asia Pacific Institute

<https://www.international.ucla.edu/asia/>

Cultural News

<http://www.culturalnews.com/>

Los Angeles Public Library

<http://www.lapl.org/events/>

Orange County Agricultural and Nikkei Heritage Museum

[http://fullertonarboretum.org/](http://fullertonarboretum.org/museum_nikkei.php)

[museum_nikkei.php](http://www.golittletokyo.com)

www.golittletokyo.com

Articles from the LA Times, Daily Breeze and other sources:

Culver City Film Festival to Screen Marlene Shigekawa's 'The Blue Jay'

11/30/2025

"The Blue Jay" (2023) will be screened on Friday, Dec. 5, at 4 p.m. at the Culver Theater, 9500 Culver Blvd. in Culver City, as part of the Culver City Film Festival.

<https://rafu.com/2025/11/culver-city-film-festival-to-screen-marlene-shigekawas-the-blue-jay/>

'Tam Tran' Tours Southland

11/28/2025

<https://rafu.com/2025/11/tam-tran-tours-southland/>

L.A. County supervisors vote to ban ICE agents from wearing masks

By [Rebecca Ellis](#)

Staff WriterFollow

Dec. 2, 2025 1 PM PT

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-12-02/los-angeles-county-proposal-law-enforcement-mask-ban>

Attacks on ICE up 1,000%? Trump administration claim not backed up by court records

By James Queally and Brittney Mejia

Graphics by

[Vanessa Martínez](#)

Dec. 1, 2025 3 AM PT

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-12-01/dhs-1000-percent-increase-attacks-on-ice-agents-times-analysis>

Despite court wins, immigrants stay detained as ICE seeks to deport them

By Andrea Castillo

Staff WriterFollow

Dec. 1, 2025 3 AM PT

<https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2025-12-01/despite-court-wins-immigrants-stay-detained-as-ice-seeks-to-deport-them>

How an ICE hospital incident sparked alarm about the patient rights of immigrants

By Claudia Boyd-Barrett

KFF Health News

Nov. 28, 2025 3 AM PT

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-11-28/socal-hospital-highlights-patient-rights-amid-immigration-crackdown>