

JACSC

2020 EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Connecting, Empowering, & Transforming Our Communities

OCTOBER 16–18, 2020

WWW.JACSC.ORG

Hosted by the Japanese American National Museum

2020 JACSC EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Connecting, Empowering, & Transforming Our Communities

Founded on the idea that we are stronger together than on our own, JACSC aims to bring together practitioners in preservation, education, and advocacy related to the Japanese American experience. We hope this weekend will be a forum for inspiring conversations and educational opportunities with our national community of thought leaders and experts, empowering attendees to stay connected in these challenging times, transform their fields, and be agents for social change.

The Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium (JACSC) is a national network of organizations working to preserve sites and artifacts related to the Japanese American incarceration experience during World War II and dedicated to interpreting this history for the benefit of public education. The Consortium mission is to preserve, protect, and interpret historic sites, artifacts, and experiences, and to elevate the social justice lessons of the Japanese American WWII experience to highlight ways that civil and human rights abuses put the rights of all Americans at risk.

Acknowledgments

Brought to you by the Japanese American
Confinement Sites Consortium



& The Generous Support of the Aratani Foundation



These major stakeholders contribute
resources beyond annual dues towards the
administration of the Consortium:

Friends of Minidoka
Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation
Japanese American National Museum
Japanese American Citizens League
National Japanese American Memorial Foundation

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Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion
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Densho
Historical Museum at Fort Missoula
Puyallup Valley Chapter of JACL
Poston Community Alliance
Tule Lake Committee



Greetings from the JACSC Chair and Manager

*W*elcome and thank you for joining us for the 2020 Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium Education Conference! We are grateful to all of you for convening virtually with us, to our presenters for sharing their insightful contributions, to the Conference Planning Committee and to our Co-Chairs, Noriko Sanefuji of the Smithsonian Museum of American History, and Kristen Hayashi of the Japanese American National Museum. A special word of thanks goes to the Aratani Foundation for their generous support of this program.

In October of 2018, at the third business meeting for the Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium (JACSC), many members expressed a desire for the Consortium to serve as not only a national professional network of like minded individuals working with the confinement sites, but also as a resource hub for member individuals and organizations of all sizes and skill levels to learn from one another, with the aim of advancing our field as a whole. A vision was subsequently shaped for a future JACSC Educational Conference in which the Consortium would serve as a conduit for members convening in focused conversations around topics like curriculum development, congressional relations and advocacy, interpretation, and preservation, many of which are represented in our program this first year. Our hope for this conference and its future iterations is that our members will continue to meet and learn from the expertise and resources that already exist among our ranks. In addition, we hope that interested members of the public will seek this as an opportunity of intensive learning about the field of the preservation and advancement of the Japanese American wartime sites, stories, and experiences.

As reflected in our theme of “Connecting, Empowering, & Transforming Our Communities,” we see tremendous value in our body of organizations working together to serve the public as a community of leaders. We aim for this conference to be a forum for conversations that will reinvigorate us in our individual and collective missions in these challenging times, and also serve as a jumping off place from which we can move forward and advance the field together. Though we gather virtually for this year’s program, we look forward to being in community with old friends and new, whether this is your first interaction with JACSC or you find yourselves among our earliest members. We look forward to the conversations and the work ahead.

Thank you,

Ann Burroughs
Chair

Mia Russell
Manager

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

CO-CHAIRS



Kristen Hayashi

JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

PRESENTER

Kristen Hayashi is director of collections management & access and curator at the Japanese American National Museum. She is a public historian with experience ranging from being part of the curatorial team for *Becoming Los Angeles*, a semi-permanent exhibition at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County to being on the board of directors for the Little Tokyo Historical Society and Asian Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation (APIAHiP).

She holds a Ph.D. in History from the University of California, Riverside and a B.A. in American Studies from Occidental College. Her identity as Yonsei and interest in her family history influenced her academic and professional pursuits. Her dissertation research examined the return and resettlement of Japanese Americans to post-WWII Los Angeles. Additionally, she has written several historic landmark designations, at the local and national levels, for sites that uniquely reflect the Japanese American experience.



Noriko Sanefuji

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Noriko Sanefuji is a Museum Specialist at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History (NMAH). Her areas of focus are Japanese American and Asian Pacific American history and culture. Over the past fifteen years, Sanefuji has worked on the preservation of Asian Pacific American history and culture, organizing public programs and the collection of artifacts. She is the co-curator of "Righting a Wrong:

the Japanese American Experience in World War II" (2017) and its traveling SITES exhibition (2019); "Congressional Gold Medal awarded to the Japanese American Nisei Soldiers of World War II" (2014); *Sweet and Sour: The Americanization of the Chinese Restaurant* (2010); "Creating Hawai'i" (2009); "Barriers to Bridges: Asian American Immigration" (2008); and projects documenting Vietnamese American and Filipino American history. Sanefuji has worked as a curator, researcher, educator program producer and docent coordinator. She has been producing the NMAH's Day of Remembrance program for over ten years.

COMMITTEE



Julie Abo

HEART MOUNTAIN WYOMING FOUNDATION

Julie Abo is the Washington Affairs Director, Office of the Chair, Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation. She is a Sansei/Yonsei who was born and raised in Bremerton, Washington and has a B.A. in English and an M.A. in Teaching. She has been an English teacher and English Language Learners advocate in Washington, California, Illinois, Nebraska and abroad in Geneva, Switzerland and Aomori, Japan in various settings for over 25 years. She has also co-founded a Mexican ballet folklorico dance

group and been a member of Kyoko Taiko ensemble. Abo values building strong community connections in the family, classroom, neighborhood and city to enrich everyone's quality of life. Her mother's family was incarcerated at Minidoka and her father's family was at Tule Lake; she has a newfound commitment to this evolving history. She lives in Maryland.



Shirley Ann Higuchi

HEART MOUNTAIN WYOMING FOUNDATION;
NATIONAL JAPANESE AMERICAN MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

PRESENTER

Shirley Ann Higuchi, JD, Chair of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, is the daughter of former incarcerated, Dr. William I. Higuchi and the late Setsuko Saito Higuchi. Her American-born parents were children when they were incarcerated at Heart Mountain during World War II. Her activism in the Japanese American community was inspired by her mother's deathbed admission that she was donating tens of thousands of dollars to build something at Heart Mountain. In addition to her work with Heart Mountain, Shirley serves on the board of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation and is head of legal and regulatory affairs for the American Psychological Association. She was elected president of the District of Columbia Bar in 2003. In 2014, Shirley was appointed to the Federal Law Enforcement Nominating Commission. Higuchi's book, *Setsuko's Secret: Heart Mountain and the Legacy of the Japanese American Incarceration*, is now available. Follow her on Twitter: @HiguchiJD & <http://setsukossecret.com/>



Dakota Russell

HEART MOUNTAIN WYOMING FOUNDATION

PRESENTER

Dakota Russell is Executive Director of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation. Previously, Russell spent fifteen years with Missouri State Parks and Historic Sites, where his work in interpretation and cultural resource management took him everywhere from Native American village sites to frontier homesteads to Civil War battlefields. Russell believes that history benefits from a plurality of voices, and throughout his career has worked to ensure that diverse viewpoints and the stories of marginalized groups are better represented on the cultural landscape.



Mia Russell

JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT SITES CONSORTIUM; FRIENDS OF MINIDOKA

Mia Russell is Executive Director of the Friends of Minidoka, the Idaho-based nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the Minidoka Japanese American incarceration site. Russell is also the Manager of the Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium, a nationwide coalition of preservation, education, and advocacy organizations working to elevate the history and social justice lessons of the WWII experience of Japanese Americans. Russell earned a B.A. in the humanities from Soka University of America and an M.A. in Applied Historical Research from Boise State University. For her graduate thesis, she developed Minidoka NHS, a walking tour mobile app for Minidoka National Historic Site. She is a co-author of Minidoka National Historic Site (Images of America). Mia serves as Vice Chair of the board of the Boise Valley Japanese American Citizens League and is passionate about the preservation of the WWII Japanese American confinement sites and collaborative community organizing.



Hanako Wakatsuki

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Hanako Wakatsuki is the Chief of Interpretation and Education at the Minidoka National Historic Site. She has approximately 12 years of experience in the museum and public history field. In the past she has worked for the Idaho State Historical Society, Tule Lake National Monument, and the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum. She also served a one-year detail with the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders as the Region 9 Advisor, leading collaborative outreach programs in Southern California, Nevada, Arizona, and Hawai`i. She is currently serving as WHIAAPI's Region 10 Lead, overseeing Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Alaska. Hanako received her B.A. in History and B.S. in Political Science from Boise State University, and her M.A. in Museum Studies from Johns Hopkins University. She is passionate about visitor services, making cultural institutions accessible to the community, and bridging the gap between academia and the public.



Amy Watanabe

NATIONAL JAPANESE AMERICAN MEMORIAL FOUNDATION; KIZUNA

PRESENTER

Amy Watanabe is the Associate Producer for Mineta Legacy Project and Account Director at Nakatomi & Associates, a communications firm based in Los Angeles. She also served as the Associate Producer for the film, "Norman Mineta and His Legacy: An American Story." Her previous experience focused on civil rights, advocacy work and developing the political pipeline and leadership for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders both locally and nationally. She serves as the Board Chair for Kizuna, Vice Chair of National Japanese American Memorial Foundation and leadership roles for Venice-West LA JACL Chapter and the USJC Emerging Leaders Program. She received her bachelor's degree in Communication Studies and minor in Asian American Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles.



Matthew Weisbly

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

PRESENTER

Matthew Weisbly is the current Daniel K. Inouye Policy Fellow for the Japanese American Citizens League in Washington, D.C. He is a graduate of the University of Southern California with a degree in Japanese and Japanese American history, and a double minor in East Asian Languages and Cultures, and cinematic arts. His senior honors thesis explored demographic data and oral histories of Nisei soldiers with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. At USC, he was formerly the President of his school's Nikkei Student Union, Vice-President of the Mixed Race Student Community, and was part of the collegiate taiko group, Kazan Taiko. All while working part-time for the Asian Pacific American Student Services office on campus. A long time JACL member, he also served as the Youth Representative for the Arizona Chapter and as the inaugural Ted T. Namba fellow for the PSW district.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

All times listed are in PDT. Registrants will receive a schedule with session links.

| Time | Session |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Friday, October 16th | |
| 3:00 – 4:30 pm | JACSC Community Healing: Revealing Our Secrets |
| Saturday, October 17th | |
| 10:00 – 11:30 am | JACSC Stakeholder Business Meeting |
| 11:45 am – 12:45 pm | Opening Remarks and Legislation Updates |
| 1:00 – 2:30 pm | Adapting to the New Normal: Creating Engaging Online Programs |
| 3:00 – 4:30 pm | Allies in Action: Anti-racism as Japanese Americans |
| 4:30 pm | ADJOURN |
| Sunday, October 18th | |
| 11:00 am – 12:30 pm | New Resources and Training Models in Education |
| 1:00 – 1:45 pm | Preserving Places That Matter: Historic Preservation in Many Forms |
| 2:00 – 2:45 pm | Engaging NextGen Nikkei Leaders |
| 3:00 – 4:30 pm | Looking Forward: The Future of Oral Histories |
| 4:45 – 5:45 pm | Closing Remarks and Reflections |
| 5:45 pm | ADJOURN |

PROGRAM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16TH

3:00–4:30 PDT JACSC Community Healing: Revealing Our Secrets

Shirley Ann Higuchi (Chair, Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation); Dr. Satsuki Ina (Co-Chair, Tsuru for Solidarity); Mary (Tanaka) Abo (former incarcerated, Minidoka); Prentiss Uchida, (former incarcerated, Heart Mountain); Erin Aoyama (PhD candidate in American Studies, Brown University); Lisa Doi (president, JACL Chicago and facilitator, Kansha Project); Rob Buscher (president, JACL Philadelphia)

Join us for this special public livestream in advance of the educational conference! Shirley Ann Higuchi, JD, author of the newly released *Setsuko's Secret: Heart Mountain and the Japanese American Incarceration* will have a heartfelt conversation with Dr. Satsuki Ina, psychotherapist and Tule Lake incarcerated. Ina is also currently a co-chair for Tsuru for Solidarity and creator of Healing Circles for Change. They will examine parts of Higuchi's book that address the impact of multigenerational trauma on her life and in the Japanese American community. They will also explore its relevance to today's social justice issues. In addition will be a discussion panel with two former incarcerated, Mary Tanaka Abo and Prentiss Uchida, and Erin Aoyama, Lisa Doi, and Rob Buscher who will broaden the discussion with their perspectives. To conclude audience Q and A is strongly encouraged.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH

10:00–11:30 PDT JACSC Stakeholder Business Meeting

Annual meeting for JACSC Stakeholders, including a report on federal funding initiatives, a program review, discussion on sustainability, and review of the charter.

11:45–12:45 PDT Opening Remarks and Legislation Updates

Ann Burroughs (Chair, Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium; President and CEO, Japanese American National Museum); Kenichiro Mukai (Minister, Head of Chancery, Embassy of Japan in the United States of America); Secretary Norman Y. Mineta (Chairman, Board of Trustees, Japanese American National Museum); Dr. Anthea M. Hartig (Elizabeth MacMillan Director, National Museum of American History); David Inoue (Executive Director, Japanese American Citizens League) Floyd Mori (Former CEO, APAICS and JACL; Current board, National Japanese American Memorial Foundation)

All conference attendees are invited to join for opening remarks from Ann Burroughs, Minister Kenichiro Mukai, Secretary Norman Y. Mineta, and Dr. Anthea M. Hartig. Then, join David Inoue and Floyd Mori for an update on Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant appropriations as well as resources for members to advocate for the long-term protection of the JACS program.

1:00–2:30 PDT Adapting to the New Normal: Creating Engaging Online Programs

Dakota Russell (Executive Director, Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation); Clement Hanami (VP of Exhibitions and Art Director, Japanese American National Museum); Chrissy Gregg (Assistant Director of Distance Learning, National WWII Museum); Sojin Kim (Curator, Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage)

In the time of COVID, many of the things we once did in person have gone online. That includes museum programs. However, keeping things interesting in this new format can be challenging. Join four museum professionals who have embraced online programming to learn how we keep our offerings creative and fresh.

3:00–4:30 PDT Allies in Action: Anti-racism as Japanese Americans

Mike Ishii (Co-Chair, Tsuru for Solidarity); Vinicius Taguchi (Executive Board Member, Twin Cities JACL); Susan Hayase (Co-founder, San Jose Nikkei Resisters); traci ishigo (Steering Committee Leader, Vigilant Love); Emily Akpan (Organizer/Communications Committee, Tsuru for Solidarity); Co-Chair, NY Day of Remembrance

Join us for this dialogue among community leaders who are leading conversations on anti-racism in the Japanese American community across the country. Speakers will share their experiences and insights and provide resources and roads forward so you can begin to take action as anti-racist allies in your organizations. Q&A to follow.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18TH

11:00–12:30 PDT New Resources and Training Models in Education

Rylan Sekiguchi (Curriculum Designer, Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education); Amy Watanabe (Associate Producer, Mineta Legacy Project); Grace Morizawa (Education Coordinator, National Japanese American Historical Society); Stan Pesick, Ph.D. (Curriculum Consultant, National Japanese American Historical Society); Genesis Ranel (VISTA Museum Educator, HMWF)

Educators nationwide have quickly pivoted towards creatively delivering lessons in virtual classrooms while calls for education informed by social justice and ethnic studies are on the rise. JACSC member organizations have stepped up to provide digital resources that meet both needs. Three education groups will come together to reflect on the power of the past to build a more just future. Includes a look at the new “What Does it Mean to be an American?” curriculum from the Mineta Legacy Project and Stanford Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education, a conversation and model session with the National Japanese American Historical Society about their virtual teacher workshops, and updates from the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation on their new digital field trip offerings.

1:00–1:45 PDT Preserving Places That Matter: Historic Preservation in Many Forms

Kristen Hayashi, Ph.D. (Director of Collections Management & Access and Curator, Japanese American National Museum); Michelle Magalong, Ph.D. (President, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation); Elaine Jackson-Retondo, Ph.D. (Preservation Partnerships & History Program Manager, National Park Service)

Several sites that relate to the Japanese American WWII incarceration experience have been named to the National Register of Historic Places or as National Historic Landmarks, including Manzanar in Independence, California and the Harada House in Riverside, California. Why might we consider obtaining a landmark designation to preserve the history of the sites that we steward? Are there other applications of historic preservation beyond landmark designations? This session will feature expert practitioners and advocates as they delve into the multiple facets of historic preservation and heritage conservation.

2:00–2:45 PDT Engaging NextGen Nikkei Leaders

Justin Kawaguchi (Chair, JACL National Youth Student Council); Yoko Fedorenko (Member, Minidoka Pilgrimage Planning Committee); Matthew Weisbly (Daniel K. Inouye Fellow, JACL); Mieko Kuramoto (Representative, JACL National Youth Student Council)

Be inspired as you hear from young leaders who are organizing and engaging next generation leaders and youth in their organizations. Speakers will share their experiences and their insights to provide possible ways and best practices to create inclusive programming for all generations. Q&A to follow.

3:00–4:30 PDT Looking Forward: The Future of Oral Histories

Kristen Hayashi, Ph.D. (Director of Collections Management & Access and Curator, Japanese American National Museum); Cole Kawana (Founder, Japanese American Stories); Amelia Lin (Co-Founder & CEO, Saga); Diana Tsuchida (Creator, Tessaku)

As individuals with living memory of the WWII incarceration reach the twilight of their years, there is great urgency not only to document their experience, but also to make these oral histories accessible to new audiences. Innovations to the ways in which we capture, experience, and share stories are making these firsthand accounts of the past more relevant and engaging. As innovators in the field, each of the panelists will share how their ideas are making strides to capture and bring these important stories to new audiences.

4:45–5:45 PDT Closing Remarks and Reflections

Several JACSC stakeholders will share short organization and site updates as well as calls to action. All conference attendees are invited to gather together for a reflective discussion about the weekend's key takeaways.

NEW DIGITAL RESOURCES CREATED FOR THE JACSC CONFERENCE

As a special initiative of the 2020 JACSC Education Conference, three new digital guides on accessing archival collections pertaining to the WWII Japanese American experience are now available on our website. We hope these guides will help you navigate these tremendous resources to support your work moving forward. Access them at www.jacsc.org/resources

Introduction to WWII Material on Japanese Americans at the National Archives

Prepared by Russell Endo, retired professor of Sociology and Asian American Studies, University of Colorado

Navigating the California State University Japanese American Digitization Project

Prepared by Greg Williams, Director, Archives & Special Collections, California State University Dominguez Hills; and Yoko Okunishi, Digital Archivist, California State University Dominguez Hills

Navigating Calisphere and the Online Archive of California (OAC)

Prepared by Christine Kim, OAC/Calisphere Service & Outreach Manager, California Digital Library

PRESENTERS



Mary Abo

FORMER INCARCEREE, MINIDOKA

Mary (Tanaka) Abo was born in Juneau, Alaska, 1940. Her parents operated the City Cafe, a community gathering place for the miners. After Executive Order 9066, her father along with all the Issei men in Alaska, were picked up by the FBI, separated from their families and sent to the DOJ Camp in Santa Fe, New Mexico. After two years they were reunited at Minidoka incarceration camp in Idaho. Abo eventually graduated from the University of Washington and taught in the Bremerton School District where she emphasized cultural and racial inclusion in the curriculum, classroom and extra-curricular activities. After retirement, she and her sister (Alice Hikido) joined the Juneau community to honor Alaskan Japanese and First Nations people imprisoned during WWII by establishing The Empty Chair Memorial. She has attended pilgrimages with her family to Tule Lake, Minidoka and Heart Mountain as well as co-facilitating Tsuru for Solidarity's Healing Circles.



Emily Akpan

ORGANIZER, TSURU FOR SOLIDARITY; CO-CHAIR, NY DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Emily Akpan is a Yon-sei of mixed heritage who is proud to be both Black and Japanese American. She is one of the chairs for NY Day of Remembrance, a NYC-based organizer for Tsuru for Solidarity, and plays an active role on the Tsuru for Solidarity's communications committee. Emily is also in the process of building a Black-Nikkei coalition with other Black-Nikkei activists for those who identify as Black and Japanese to find each other, tell our stories and build community & power. Emily lives in Brooklyn, NY where she was born and raised; and has immense love for Brooklyn and her second-home in Seattle where her Japanese American family lives. She earned a bachelor of science degree from Cornell University where she double majored in Communications and Development Sociology. She currently works at a healthcare advocacy non-profit doing communications and grant writing.



Erin Aoyama

PHD CANDIDATE IN AMERICAN STUDIES, BROWN UNIVERSITY

Erin Aoyama is a doctoral student in the Asian American Studies department at Brown University in Providence, RI. Her research is in the fields of Asian American studies, public humanities, and 20th century American history, looking especially at questions of memory, memorialization, movements, and studies of violence, race empire, and the narrativization of American history. Aoyama holds a master's degree in Public Humanities also from Brown University and much of her work thus far has revolved around public-facing educational work connected to the histories of Japanese American incarceration. Aoyama is currently teaching a course at Brown University titled, "Japanese American Incarceration: Past & Present Encounters with the Racial State." She was recently a Programs & Research Fellow at Minidoka National Historic Site and worked on the Tadaima! A Community Virtual Pilgrimage program with the Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages. A yonsei, Aoyama's family was incarcerated at Heart Mountain during World War II.



Rob Buscher

PRESIDENT, JACL PHILADELPHIA

Rob Buscher, is a film and media specialist, educator, arts administrator, and published author who has worked in non-profit arts organizations for over a decade. As a person of multi-racial Japanese American heritage who is deeply involved in his community, Rob also has an expertise in cultural sensitivity training, community organizing, and advocacy issues related to the Asian American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) community.

Rob lectures part-time at UPenn Asian American Studies Program, serves as Board Chair at Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival, and President of the Philadelphia Chapter of JACL. Rob also serves on the JACL National Board where he chairs the editorial board of Pacific Citizen, the organization's national newspaper.



Lisa Doi

PRESIDENT, JACL CHICAGO AND FACILITATOR, KANSHA PROJECT

Lisa Doi is the president of JACL Chicago, where her work has focused on youth leadership and community building. She participated in JACL Chicago's Kansha Project in 2012 and facilitated the program in 2016 and 2018. Lisa is also a co-chair of Tsuru for Solidarity, a national network of Japanese Americans organized against immigrant detention and state violence. Lisa completed MA research on Japanese American

resettlement to Chicago and just started a PhD program where her research interests are around imagination and archives. The Kansha Project is a JACL Chicago program founded in 2011 that connects self-identified Japanese Americans, ages 18-25, from the Midwest to their identity, history and community. Through workshops with local experts and community activists, historical tours, and group reflections, participants work to interpret and promote the stories, lessons, and the legacy of the Japanese American confinement site experience.



Russell Endo

RETIRED PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

Russell Endo is a retired professor of sociology and Asian American studies at the University of Colorado. He is the primary researcher for the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition. Russ is currently investigating the World War II arrests and imprisonment of enemy aliens in Southern California. During the war, members of his family were incarcerated at Tuna Canyon, Jerome, Rohwer, and Manzanar. Russ has been teaching and doing research in Asian American studies since 1970, and he helped

create Asian American studies programs at the University of Washington and the University of Colorado.



Yoko Fedorenko

MEMBER, MINIDOKA PILGRIMAGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Yoko Morishita Fedorenko is a Yonsei and recent graduate of the University of Washington where she earned a degree in Law, Societies and Justice with a double minor in English and Diversity. She was the founding President of the Nikkei Student Union at UW and is a member of the Minidoka Pilgrimage Planning Committee.

Yoko's passion for racial and social justice is deeply rooted in her family's experience during WWII and she derives endless inspiration from the strength and courage of the generations of Nikkei on whose shoulders we all stand.



Chrissy Gregg

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF DISTANCE LEARNING, NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM

Chrissy Gregg is the Assistant Director of Distance Learning at The National WWII Museum in New Orleans. She has been with the Museum since 2011 and oversees the variety of distance learning initiatives for both K-12 and lifelong learning audiences, reaching tens of thousands of participants a year. This includes the Museum's Telly and Suncoast Emmy award-winning Electronic Field Trip series, which are highly-produced webcasts featuring student reporters exploring important World War II sites and stories.



Clement Hanami

VP OF EXHIBITIONS AND ART DIRECTOR, JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

Mr. Hanami is currently the Vice President of Exhibitions and Art Director at the Japanese American National Museum and primarily responsible for the design, installation, fabrication and maintenance of the Museum's major exhibits. He co-managed the collaborative Arts partnership project Finding Family Stories and co-designed the exhibit Common Ground: The Heart of Community with ADOBE LA. He also served as Program Director for the National Center for the Preservation of Democracy. His most recent projects include curating the exhibitions Instructions to All Persons: Reflections on Executive Order 9066 and Transpacific Borderlands: The Art of Japanese Diaspora in Lima, Los Angeles, Mexico City, and São Paulo. He taught New Genres at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts for 20 years. He was a Cultural Affairs Commissioner for the City of Culver City from 2004 to 2010. He received a Getty Visual Arts Fellowship in 2000 and a COLA Artist Award in 2007 given by the Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles.



Susan Hayase

CO-FOUNDER, SAN JOSE NIKKEI RESISTERS

Susan Hayase is a sansei and community activist in the San Jose Japantown community. Her parents were incarcerated at Gila River and Amache. She was part of the grassroots movement for redress, working in the Nihonmachi Outreach Committee, National Coalition for Redress/Reparation, and Tule Lake Committee. Susan was a performing member of San Jose Taiko from 1980 to 1990, and was appointed to the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund board in 1995 by President Clinton. Susan has worked on projects for the Japanese American Museum of San Jose and is a co-director of the Hidden Histories of San Jose Japantown augmented reality community art project. She is a founder of San Jose Nikkei Resisters, a grassroots multi-generational community organization whose mission is to unite and mobilize the Japanese American community to oppose attacks on immigrants and asylum seekers and to stand up for Black Lives Matter. Susan is a retired software engineer and lives in San Jose with her husband and two adult children.



Kurt Ikeda

EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Kurt is an Educational Specialist for the Southern Idaho National Parks: Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, and Minidoka National Historic Site. As a 2nd generation Japanese American, Kurt's work is rooted in the WWII incarceration story of his grandfather, illuminated by his experience at the Japanese American Museum of Oregon, and inspired by his service as a High School English teacher through Teach for America. Kurt received his B.A. from University of California, Los Angeles and M.A. in Urban Education: Educational Policy and Administration from Loyola Marymount University.



Dr. Satsuki Ina

CO-CHAIR, TSURU FOR SOLIDARITY

Dr. Satsuki Ina was born in the Tule Lake, California Segregation Center, a maximum security concentration camp for Japanese Americans during WWII. She has a private psychotherapy practice in the San Francisco Bay Area specializing in the treatment of community trauma. A community activist, writer, and filmmaker, she has produced two award-winning documentary films about the WWII Japanese American incarceration: Children of the Camps and From a Silk Cocoon. History, how it informed her work and part of the movement. Currently, she is a co-founder for Tsuru for Solidarity, a nonviolent, direct action project of Japanese American social justice advocates who works to build solidarity with other communities that have experienced forced removal, detention, deportation and separation of families; coordinate intergenerational, cross-community healing circles addressing the trauma of their shared histories. Her new focus is on Healing Circles for Change. Read more about their project at: <https://tsuruforsolidarity.org/>



traci ishigo

STEERING COMMITTEE LEADER, VIGILANT LOVE

traci ishigo is a Nikkei, Buddhist, queer nonbinary community organizer, trauma informed yoga & meditation teacher, and politicized therapist (MSW), prioritizing trauma informed care for people of color & queer and trans communities.



Mike Ishii

CO-CHAIR, TSURU FOR SOLIDARITY

Michael Ishii is a yonsei, native of Seattle, and lives in NYC. He studied music at the Oberlin Conservatory and the Juilliard School, and East Asian medicine at Pacific College. He has divided his attention between the performing arts, community organizing, and East Asian medicine. He is the former Clinical Faculty Chair for the University of Bridgeport Acupuncture Institute, a Ph.D. candidate at Liaoning University of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Shenyang, China, and Clinical Director of Stonewell Acupuncture in NYC. He has co-chaired NYC Day of Remembrance for over 25 years, is a founder and co-chair of Tsuru for Solidarity, a founding member and co-chair of the New York Japanese American Oral History Project, former President of the JACL, NY Chapter, and serves on the Board for the Hudson Valley Park of Study and Reflection. Michael co-wrote *Testimony*, a play about the 1981 Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilian Hearings for Japanese American survivors of WWII incarceration camps. His spoken word pieces explore themes of healing, resistance and transformation of violence and intergenerational trauma.



Elaine Jackson-Retondo, Ph.D.

PRESERVATION PARTNERSHIPS & HISTORY PROGRAM MANAGER, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Elaine Jackson-Retondo is the Preservation Partnerships and History Programs Manager in the National Park Service Pacific West Regional Office. She has worked in the National Park Service since 2002. Dr. Jackson-Retondo's current and past work has included the National Park Service's American Latino Heritage Initiative, Asian American Pacific Islander Initiative, Japanese American confinement during World War II, Cesar Chavez and the Farmworker Movement, the National Park Service's Mission 66 Program, and 19th century carceral institutional landscapes.



Justin Kawaguchi

CHAIR, JACL NATIONAL YOUTH STUDENT COUNCIL

Justin Kawaguchi is a senior at the University of Southern California pursuing a combined degree in Global Health and a Master of Health Administration. Born in Pasadena, California and raised in Thousand Oaks, he maintained engagement with his Japanese American roots through involvement at the Senshin Buddhist Temple and founded his high school's Japanese Culture Club. At USC, he continues involvement with the AAPI community through Directorship in the USC Asian Pacific American Student Assembly, Nikkei Student Union (NSU), and volunteering at the Japanese American National Museum. He currently Co-Chairs the Outreach Committee for Okaeri: A Nikkei LGBTQ Community, the first organization of its kind in the United States. He also serves as the National Youth Chair of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) where he formerly held the role of the Pacific Southwest District Youth Representative. Through a combination of community and professional efforts, he works to connect individuals across the nation through strategic communication work and youth programming.



Cole Kawana

FOUNDER, JAPANESE AMERICAN STORIES

Cole Kawana is the founder of Japanese American Stories (JAS). He is a gosei Japanese American from Los Angeles. Cole graduated this year from the Viterbi school of engineering at USC with a degree in mechanical engineering. Cole previously founded another nonprofit called the Clean Water Ambassadors Foundation (CWAF). CWAF has delivered water filters in 25 countries and provided potentially 200,000 people with clean drinking water for a decade. Cole has had a lifelong interest in recording oral histories. He recorded his first in the sixth grade of his great uncle Arthur Ichiro Murakami, a Japanese American survivor of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima. This video was archived in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and put on display at the Japanese American National Museum. He has filmed documentaries coinciding with the twentieth anniversary of the genocide perpetrated against Tutsi in Rwanda, and the fortieth anniversary of the Cambodian genocide. Cole is an avid surfer, hydrofoiler, kite surfer, skier, and rock climber.



Christine Kim

OAC/CALISPHERE SERVICE & OUTREACH MANAGER, CALIFORNIA DIGITAL LIBRARY

Christine Kim is the OAC/Calisphere Service & Outreach Manager at the California Digital Library. In this role, Christine supports the Online Archive of California (OAC) and Calisphere -- two services that provide broad, open public access to digital collections contributed by libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural heritage organizations throughout California.



Sojin Kim

CURATOR, SMITHSONIAN CENTER FOR FOLKLIFE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Sojin Kim is a curator at the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, a research and education department that collaborates with communities in the U.S. and around the world on cultural heritage policy and cultural sustainability issues. She works on projects focusing on migration, music, and public history—with particular attention to the production of collective memory through performance, archives/collections, and the use of public space. Sojin holds a Ph.D. in folklore and mythology from UCLA. She previously worked as a curator at the Japanese American National Museum and the Natural History Museum of LA County and as a coordinator for the LA Central Library's Shades of LA project. She serves on the board of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation (APIAHiP).



Mieko Kuramoto

REPRESENTATIVE, JACL NATIONAL YOUTH STUDENT COUNCIL

Born in Los Angeles and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Mieko Kuramoto graduated from Smith College with a B.A. in Spanish and American Studies. She focused in Asian American studies and political advocacy in the Asian American Pacific Islander community, including doing research on Census outreach in Asian American communities and founding a campus organization for AAPI political activism. Mieko's found her passion for advocacy through the JACL, where she has served on the National Youth/Student Council and as the National Youth Representative on the JACL National Board. In that role, Mieko has designed programming on topics ranging as widely as Asian American identity, feminism, immigration detention, and intra-community conversations about race. Mieko serves as chair of the Tsuru for Solidarity youth committee, Tsuru Next Generation, and is currently beginning as a Congressional Fellow with the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies in the Office of Congressman Mark Takano (D-CA).



Amelia Lin

CO-FOUNDER & CEO, SAGA

Amelia Lin is the CEO and co-founder of Saga, an app that helps families save the life stories of loved ones on audio. Saga has been featured in publications including Forbes and CNET, and won the 2020 Innovator Award from End Well and the AARP. As the daughter of two Chinese immigrants, Amelia started Saga to save her own parents' stories. Prior to founding Saga, she worked at a range of Silicon Valley technology companies including Udacity and Optimizely. She holds an undergraduate degree in physics and an MBA from Harvard University, and lives in Mountain View.



Michelle Magalong, Ph.D.

PRESIDENT, ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICANS IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Michelle Magalong is a Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow in Historic Preservation at the School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation at the University of Maryland. She earned her MA and PhD in Urban Planning at University of California, Los Angeles and BA in Ethnic Studies and Urban Studies & Planning at University of California, San Diego. Her research explores issues of social justice and equity, community engagement, and historic preservation in historically underrepresented communities. Her research is drawn from her practitioner work as President of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation (APIAHiP), and in serving in advisory roles for governmental agencies and nonprofit groups including the National Park Service, California Office of Historic Preservation, City of Los Angeles, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

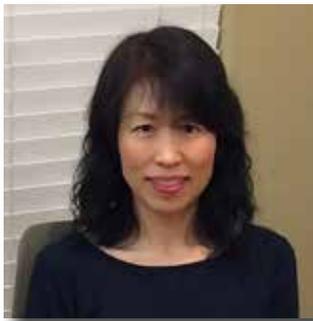


Grace Morizawa, Ph.D.

EDUCATION COORDINATOR, NATIONAL JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dr. Grace Morizawa is the Education Coordinator for the National Japanese American Historical Society. Previously she was an elementary school teacher in Oakland and principal of Lake Elementary School in San Pablo, CA. Morizawa is a Sansei, third generation Japanese American. Her parents were incarcerated in Heart Mountain. Grace is a teacher consultant with the Bay Area Writing Project. She has a BA in

English from Pacific University, an MA in Creative Writing from San Francisco State, and a doctorate from the Leadership in Education and Equity Program at University of California, Berkeley.

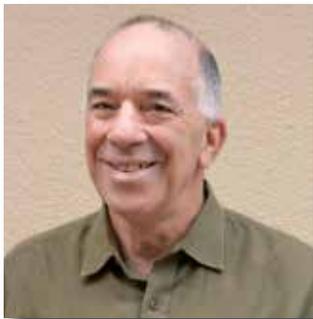


Yoko Okunishi

DIGITAL ARCHIVIST, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY DOMINGUEZ HILLS

Yoko Okunishi has been Digital Archivist for the Japanese American Digitization Project (CSUJAD) at the Gerth Archives and Special Collections at the California State University, Dominguez Hills since 2016. She has developed and managed CSUJAD digital collections, working with the partner institutions and creating from the in-house collections. Her previous professional experiences include a reference librarian at Japanese American National Museum and a cataloger at Southern California

University and University of California, Los Angeles. She earned her master's degrees in Linguistics and Library Information Science from University of Hawai'i-Manoa and earned the Society of American Archivists' Digital Archivist Specialist certificate.



Stan Pesick, Ph.D.

CURRICULUM CONSULTANT, NATIONAL JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dr. Stan Pesick taught 11th grade United States history in the Oakland Unified School District for eighteen years. From 2008-2012 he coordinated the Oakland Unified History/Social Studies Department. Stan has worked with the Bay Area Writing Project as a teacher consultant since 1989. He has worked as a curriculum consultant to the National Japanese American Historical Society since 2014. Stan is currently working with the National Writing Project, University of California, Berkeley, to develop

materials and methods focused on helping students write more effectively for political and civic purposes. Stan has a Ph.D. from Stanford University.



Genesis Ranel

VISTA MUSEUM EDUCATOR, HEART MOUNTAIN WYOMING FOUNDATION

Genesis Ranel is the new Americorps VISTA Museum Educator at Heart Mountain Interpretive Center. Americorps VISTA members commit to a year of service in sponsor communities, working to address issues of poverty. Genesis will be working to expand Heart Mountain's educational offerings and eliminate financial barriers so that all schools and students can have access to the Foundation's programs. Among other projects, she will be creating a new "digital field trip" package to assist schools that will not be able to travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Genesis formerly worked as a Teaching Fellow at the Mississippi Museum of Art in Jackson and as a Curatorial Intern at the Mississippi Arts & Entertainment Experience in Meridian. She is a recent graduate of Millsaps College where she obtained a bachelor's degree in History and completed an Honors Thesis in History.



Rylan Sekiguchi

MANAGER OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN, STANFORD PROGRAM ON INTERNATIONAL AND CROSS-CULTURAL EDUCATION

Rylan Sekiguchi is Manager of Curriculum and Instructional Design at the Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE), where he has developed teaching materials for K-12 and community college classrooms since 2005. His publications include a dozen curriculum units, two documentary films, and several online resources. The Association for Asian Studies has twice recognized him with the Franklin Buchanan Prize (2010 and 2015)—an award given annually to an outstanding curriculum publication on Asia for any grade level. He is a graduate of Stanford University.



Vinicius Taguchi

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER, TWIN CITIES JACL

Vini Taguchi is a shin-sansei with respect to when his grandfather moved from Sapporo, Japan to Brazil, but he is a shin-issei with respect to when he and his parents immigrated to North Carolina in 1996. Vini now serves on the executive board of the JACL Twin Cities chapter in Minneapolis, Minnesota and recently organized and facilitated a series of virtual workshops challenging anti-Blackness in Japanese American communities. Vini is a PhD candidate in civil engineering at the University of Minnesota where he studies green infrastructure and stormwater management. Vini is dedicated to ensuring that environmentally-friendly cities are also socially sustainable by partnering with community organizations to prevent green gentrification.



Diana Tsuchida

CREATOR, TESSAKU

Diana Emiko Tsuchida is a Los Angeles-based independent historian and the creator of Tessaku — an oral history collection, journal series and podcast dedicated to preserving first person testimonies from the Japanese American incarceration during WWII. Tessaku was launched in 2016 as a family preservation project intended to capture camp memories from Diana's father who was incarcerated as a child in Santa Anita, Topaz and Tule Lake. Her Kibei-Nisei grandfather was a vocal resistor of the incarceration and was separately detained in the Citizen Isolation Center in Leupp, Arizona and the Department of Justice camp in Crystal City, Texas. Diana received her BA in Feminist Studies from UC Santa Cruz and her MA in Ethnic Studies from San Francisco State University. Tessaku has been featured on NPR's Code Switch podcast, NBC's Asian Pacific America, Smithsonian Magazine, and in a TEDxPeacePlaza talk. You can read the oral history collection at tessaku.com.



Prentiss Uchida

FORMER INCARCEREE, HEART MOUNTAIN

Prentiss Susumu Uchida was one year old when he and his family were sent to the Walerga Assembly Center as a result of Executive Order 9066. Months later, in 1942, the family was sent to Tule Lake Relocation Center and then the family was transferred to Heart Mountain Relocation Center in 1943. After the war, the family returned to Cupertino, California. Prentiss grew up on the farm and then they moved to San Jose. Uchida earned a BA in Mathematics from San Jose State University and worked for the Lockheed Missile and Space Company. He was also founder and CEO of Vector General, CEO of the Inner Game, and CEO of Secom General (automotive component manufacturers). Finally, he was a founder and director of Instar Infomatiqué (a medical software company) and Kahootz. Prentiss is currently a volunteer mentor and teacher for SCORE. He has three grown children and four grandchildren.



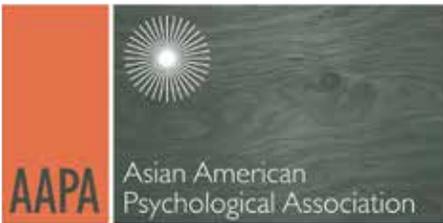
Greg Williams

DIRECTOR, ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY DOMINGUEZ HILLS

Greg Williams has been Director, Archives & Special Collections, California State University Dominguez Hills since 2004. He has been an archivist for 39 years. Previously he was Curator of Photographs at the San Diego Historical Society and before that he worked at the New Jersey Historical Society, Rutgers University and elsewhere. He has degrees from the University of Oregon and Michigan State University. He has written funded grants from NHPRC, NEH, LSTA, the National Park Service, the Mellon Foundation, the California State Library; curated several exhibitions; and published several collection guides, collection related articles and served as photo editor for three coffee table books. He is the author of California State University Dominguez Hills, a photo history and co-author of the chapter: "The Importance of Collecting, Accessing, and Contextualizing Japanese-American Historical Materials: A California State University Collaborative" published in 2020 in Archives and Special Collections as Sites of Contestation published by Library Juice Press.

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