



## Greater Los Angeles Chapter Japanese American Citizens League

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Newsletter 453 July 2023

### 2023 JACL National Convention

"Rooted in Community" - Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, CA

July 19 - 23, 2023



### JACL National Convention Welcome Reception at Terasaki Budokan on July 19, 2023



Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi AD66



(L-R) Ryan Yoshikawa, JACL PSW  
Governor; Derek Mio, actor; Mitchell  
Matsumura, GLA Co-President

**GLA's Japanese American Support for African American Reparations resolution was adopted at JAACL National Convention. Ron Wakabayashi created the resolution**



**Ron Wakabayashi, National Director of the Japanese American Citizens League in 1981 and former Regional Director with the U.S. Department of Justice, Community Relations Service**

**JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE  
53rd JAACL National Convention  
National Council Meeting  
Los Angeles, CA  
July 19-23, 2023**

**RESOLUTION FORM**

*(NOTE: The proposed resolution may be typed on a computer/word processor utilizing this format. It need not be typed directly onto this form.) Filing deadline: May 14, 2023*

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE RELATING TO CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY BILL 3121 - A TASK FORCE TO STUDY AND DEVELOP REPARATIONS PROPOSALS FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS, AND OVER CURRENT 30 MUNICIPAL EQUITY AND TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSIONS ALSO EXPLORING REPARATIONS APPROACHES FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS; and**

**WHEREAS**, the Japanese American Citizens League is the oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of the Japanese American Citizens League is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry; and

**WHEREAS**, Japanese Americans suffered widespread institutional injustice before, during, and long after World War II; and

**WHEREAS**, the JAACL National Council has previously endorsed HR 40, federal legislation that also calls for a study and recommendation related to the reparations for African Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 4 million Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United States and its colonies before 1865; and

**WHEREAS**, current federal, state and local initiatives examine the institution of slavery in the United States, including any constitutional or statutory support for the institution of slavery by the Federal and State Governments; study slavery and its subsequent racial and economic discrimination against freed slaves and their descendants; study the impact of those forces on today's living African Americans; and make recommendations on appropriate remedies to redress the harm inflicted on living African Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, the AB 3121 Task Force has produced a 500-page report which captures the contemporary scholarship on the impact of American chattel slavery and guidelines toward the implementation of a process for reparations; and

**GLA at JACL National Convention Sayonara Banquet at JACCC Courtyard**



**L-R bottom: Miyako Kadogawa, Co-President; Kanji Sahara, board member, Louise Sakamoto, VP Membership  
L-R top: Layne Sakamoto, Treasurer; Mitchell Matsumura, Co-President; Andrew Gruhn, VP Young Adults Group**

**Greater LA JACL presented: "Cruisin' J-Town". A Dance Celebration at the 2023 JACL National Convention. Three short films by Mitchell Matsumura were "Holiday Bowl", "Japanese American Legacy on Wheels", and "The Carry On Story"**


**GREATER LA JACL PRESENTS**


**"CRUISIN' J-TOWN"**  
 A Dance Celebration at the  
 2023 JACL National Convention  
 Friday, July 21, 2023  
 7:30 pm-10:30 pm

7:30 pm - Ballroom Dance Lessons  
 8:00 pm - Line Dancing led by Toru Nagao

**LIVE MUSIC AND DJ BY:**  
**EASTERN PERCUSSION**



**JEFF. HELEN. GARY. MARLENE. KENNY**

**NEW LOCATION**  
 Hompa Hongwanji (Nishi Betsuin)  
 815 1st St,  
 Los Angeles, CA 90012

Registered JACL National Convention: Free  
 JACL member: \$15.00 Non-JACL member: \$25.00

For info: [convention@jac1.org](mailto:convention@jac1.org)  
 Register for dance:  
[bit.ly/jac12023-special-events](http://bit.ly/jac12023-special-events)

To keep all participants as safe as possible, we will follow Covid precautions. All JACL Convention attendees are required to be up to date on their COVID-19 vaccine per the CDC's definition of being fully vaccinated effective July 5, 2023. In addition, attendees are required to wear a mask indoors except when eating. Please see our COVID-19 Certification, Acknowledgement, and Liability Waiver for more details.



Sansei Legacy is supporting The Last CA 101 Juried Exhibition at the old historic Redondo Beach Library, Opening Reception is August 25, 2023. Meet in front of this artwork at 6pm. Free admission. 309 Esplanade, Redondo Beach, CA, 90277.



**SANSEI LEGACY**

Steven Toll Okazaki is an American documentary filmmaker known for his raw, cinema vérité-style documentaries that frequently show ordinary people dealing with extraordinary circumstances. He has received a Peabody Award, a Primetime Emmy and has been nominated for four Academy Awards, winning an Oscar for the documentary short subject, Days of Waiting: The Life & Art of Estelle Ishigo. Pilgrimage to Concentration Camp Where Our Parents Were Imprisoned During WWII 2023 40"x60"x1.5" Oil on Canvas Copyright Eileen Oda All Rights Reserved.

## REPORT OF THE 2023 JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION

Co-President Mitchell Matsumura was a member of the organizing committee of the 2023 JACL National Convention. He made several suggestions which were accepted and included in the Convention.

- Two workshops: Japanese American support for African American Reparations with Ron Wakabayashi and Warren Furutani on his memoir "ac.tiv.ist"
- Three short films by Mitchell Matsumura were "Holiday Bowl", "Japanese American Legacy on Wheels", and "The Carry On Story"
- Dance with Asian Persuasion vocal group and Toru Nagao line dancing

Andrew Gruhn, VP – Young Adults Group, was on the resolutions committee of the National Convention organizing committee.

GLA JACL paid the convention fee of \$300 each for Mitchell and Andrew to represent GLA. Co-President Miyako Kadogawa and Layne Sakamoto, also, attended the Convention.

Andrew Gruhn, Barbara Jean Tamura, Fred Endo, Gail Matsumura, Layne Sakamoto, Miyako Kadogawa and Nicole Suganuma were volunteers for convention dance.

Kanji Sahara and Louise Sakamoto attended the Sayonara Banquet only.