



Greater Los Angeles Chapter
Japanese American Citizens League
Newsletter 465 November 2024



Greater Los Angeles JACL cohosts with Sansei Legacy presents:

Giant Robot: Asian American Pop Culture

Sunday, November 24, 2024, 1pm-2pm

Meet Eric Nakamura / Virtual film screening / Book launch on Zoom

Free program

Moderator: Mitchell Matsumura

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88475588703?pwd=3Ko9pYk4IxnuzwUWMuom924UDV6nqO.1>

Meeting ID: 884 7558 8703

Passcode: 315853

“LA Times Today: A showcase of Asian and Asian-American-centered art in Little Tokyo” (5:45 min). In 1994, Eric Nakamura launched a zine called “Giant Robot” – a photocopied, hand-stapled fan boy’s collection of anime, kung fu movies, Japanese punk bands and skateboarding.

Thirty years later, what started as a personal hobby has become a showcase of pop culture centering on Asian and Asian-American artists. An art exhibition celebrating the world of Giant Robot is currently on view at the Japanese American National Museum until January 5, 2025.

“Eric Nakamura LA at Play” (3:44 min) short feature by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

After the films there will be a presentation by creator Eric Nakamura of “Giant Robot: Asian American Pop Culture” followed by Q&A.

Greater Los Angeles JACL / Young Adults Group hosted a lunch for the Southern California Intercollegiate Nikkei Council

20 Nikkei Student Union presidents and representatives attended on October 12, 2024. Event was held at the home of former GLA president Miyako Kadogawa. Andrew Gruhn GLA Vice President Young Adults Group spoke about the importance of the JACL. Hawaiian lunch from Rutt's Cafe was served. Topped the event with Paradise cake from King's Hawaiian. It was a monumental event with hopes of bearing fruit for decades to come.



Southern California Intercollegiate Nikkei Council



Paradise cake from King's Hawaiian



Hosts Miyako Kadogawa and Andrew Gruhn



NSU members enjoying the spread

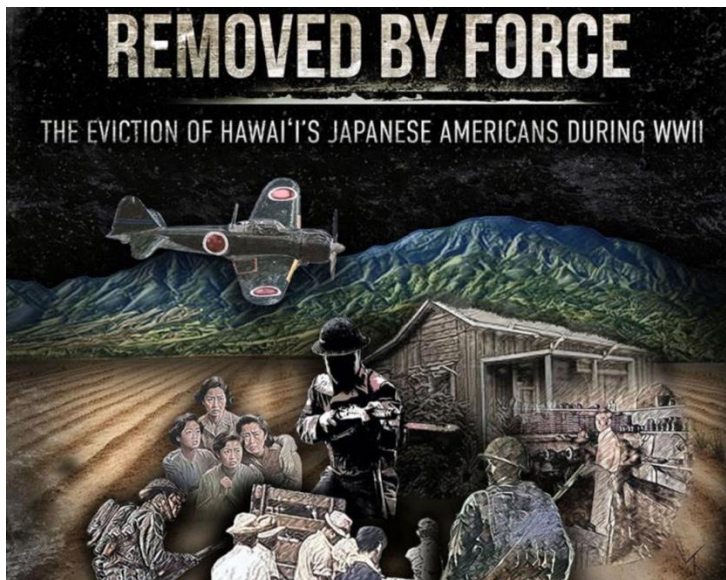
Greater Los Angeles JACL cosponsor with Faith UMC's Social Action Committee presented: "Removed by Force"

October 20, 2024

Faith United Methodist Church, Torrance CA

Following the screening of the documentary, a panel discussion with co-producers of the documentary William Kaneko and Ryan Kawamoto. Ryan Kawamoto is, also, director of the film. Carole Hayashino was a primary figure in the film and was producer of the documentaries "Voices Behind Barbed Wire" (2018) and "The Untold Story: Internment of Japanese Americans in Hawaii" (2012).

Immediately following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on December 7, 1941, about 1,500 Americans of Japanese ancestry were evicted from their homes by the U.S. government throughout the Territory of Hawaii. They were not incarcerated or sent to detention facilities. Nearly 40 years later the Japanese American Citizens League helped them seek justice.



Wakabayashi Advises Election Year Caution as He Is Named 'Historymaker'

By ELLEN ENDO
RAFU SHIMPO

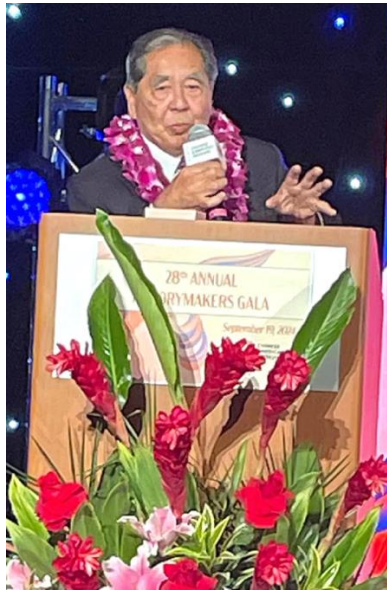


From left: Chinese American Museum board president Dr. Gay Yuen, board member Evans Lam, Ron Wakabayashi, and museum executive director Michael Truong.

A human rights advocate who throughout his life and career has investigated many of America's most high-profile hate incidents has a warning: Racism increases during national election years.

Retired U.S. Department of Justice regional director Ron Wakabayashi made the comment as he accepted the Ron S.W. Lew Visionary Award during the Chinese American Museum's 28th annual Historymakers Awards Gala at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites in Downtown Los Angeles. Wakabayashi, who has spent most of his professional career advocating for human rights, was one of six Historymakers recognized by the museum at the Sept. 19 event.

Wakabayashi Advises Election Year Caution as He Is Named 'Historymaker' (Cont'd)



Wakabayashi's election-year caution is supported by statistics from the FBI and DOJ, among other publicly sourced data. A 2023 report by the Leadership Conference Education Fund, a national civil rights group, shows data going back to 2008 revealing increases in hate crimes against racial groups around general elections in 2012, 2016, and 2020.

A Little Tokyo merchant, who opted not to be identified, states, "There's going to be protests after this (presidential) election no matter who wins. We just have to get through it."

As Wakabayashi accepted his Historymaker designation, he said he based his cautionary comment on his decades-long experience in the human rights field. Prior to his 20-year career with the DOJ, he served as executive director of the Los County Human Relations Commission and was head of the L.A. City Human Relations Commission prior to that.

He was also the national director of the Japanese American Citizens League, serving during the campaign for redress, culminating in the passage of legislation signed by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 and the federal apology and redress payments for the wartime incarceration of Japanese Americans.

He currently works with the Divided Communities Project (DCP) at Ohio State University's Moritz School of Law, examining community conflict, truth and reconciliation commissions, and hate crimes.

Others named as 2024 Historymakers are: Domee Shi, Academy Award-winning animated film writer-director; Dominic Choi, interim chief of the LAPD; Jeannie Wong, China-town community leader; Koo and Patricia Yuen of the Yuen Foundation, philanthropists; and the L.A. County Asian American Employees Association.

Former Assemblymember Mike Eng received a special award from the Friends of the Chinese American Museum during the gala, and museum board member Joe Quan accepted the President's Award.

Following are nominations for the GLA JAACL Executive Board.
Elections will be held in December.

Questions regarding nominations, email President Mitchell Matsumura at greaterlajacl@gmail.com
or email Louise at LSakamoto@sbcglobal.net

2025 GLA JAACL EXECUTIVE BOARD

CABINET OFFICERS

President	Mitchell Matsumura
Past Presidents	Miyako Kadogawa, Co-President Janet Okubo
Vice President, Legislation	open
Vice President, Programs & Membership	Louise Sakamoto
Vice President, Young Adults Group	Andrew Gruhn
Treasurer	Layne Sakamoto
Recording Secretary	open

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1st Year

Matthew Clingerman (Scholarship Chair)
Joyce Okazaki
Kanji Sahara

2nd Year

Miyako Kadogawa
Lisa Akiyama Robinson
Barbara Jean Tamura
Mary Yasui Yamabe

**Board of Directors may have maximum of 20 directors. Would anyone like to serve as a board member?
Contact President Mitchell Matsumura**