

May 13, 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.

May is Asian / Pacific American Heritage Month

<https://asianpacificheritage.gov/>

[surprised this website is still up]

[Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Heritage](#)



[LA County Library](#)

[https://lacountylibrary.org › asian-american-native-haw...](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/>

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/>

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

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>

Yamatogaku USA 25th Anniversary

Nov 2, Norris Theatre in Rolling Hills Estates

“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/WhctKLbVcZHFHkSgrFXVvMRTzprHHSsDFwjDsRKWnTWJztQRLIzjxDWsNtNrWkZCVKFTqq>

Closed for Renovations

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/>

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/>

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>
MAR 02 – JAN 05, 2025

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)

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/>

Previously:

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.lachinesechamber.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(preffered)

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).

<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:

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/>

AAPI 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/gardenal/](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/gardenal/WhctKLbfFmTNnZHsbbkPzcQpnCVTMHvDmhVLpRfKIWSRHJpDDBTVPQTCGKFPwNKgImQIQPQ?projector=1)

[WhctKLbfFmTNnZHsbbkPzcQpnCVTMHvDmhVLpRfKIWSRHJpDDBTVPQTCGKFPwNKgImQIQPQ?projector=1](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/gardenal/WhctKLbfFmTNnZHsbbkPzcQpnCVTMHvDmhVLpRfKIWSRHJpDDBTVPQTCGKFPwNKgImQIQPQ?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]

Previously:

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 (), 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/?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==

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 Hompa 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

:

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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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>

Previously:

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

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 Japaneses 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 2n& 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 teachers 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://fullertonarboretum.org/museum_nikkei.php)

www.golittletokyo.com

Articles from the LA Times and other sources:

[How a funding pause and renewed controversies could tank California's ethnic studies mandate](#)

A high school ethnic studies requirement was to take effect in the fall, but a lack of funding — and antisemitism allegations — appear likely to derail it.

By Howard BlumeStaff Writer

May 13, 2025 1:35 PM PT

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-05-13/california-ethnic-studies-mandate-controversy>

[Asian American professor who teaches history of racism attacked in possible hate crime](#)

A Japanese American professor was struck by a vehicle and called a racial slur while on his bike last month in Montebello, an incident that police are investigating as a possible hate crime.

By Caroline Petrow-Cohen
and Hannah Fry

May 13, 2025 12:41 PM PT

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-05-13/asian-american-professor-attacked-possible-hate-crime>

Grappling with identity: An AAPI Heritage Month reading list

From Michelle Zauner to R.F. Kuang, we look at books written by and about Asian identity before checking in with Filipina-owned Bel Canto Books in Long Beach.

By Aaron Reiss

May 10, 2025 8 AM PT

<https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/books/newsletter/2025-05-10/book-club-asian-identity-aapi-month-authors>

Federal lawsuit alleges UCLA medical school uses a race-based admissions process

By [Brittney Mejia](#)

Staff WriterFollow

May 8, 2025 5:53 PM PT

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-05-08/federal-lawsuit-alleges-ucla-medical-school-uses-racial-preferences-admissions>

L.A.'s Terminal Island buildings listed among America's 11 most endangered historic places

By Jessica GeltStaff Writer

May 7, 2025 5 AM PT

<https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/story/2025-05-07/terminal-islands-tuna-street-buildings-placed-on-2025-list-of-americas-11-most-endangered-historic-places>

'Awake in the Floating City' finds hope — and artistry — in a submerged San Francisco
San Francisco has been submerged by incessant rain in Susanna Kwan's 'Awake in the Floating City,' and Bo has lost her sense of purpose until she cares for a woman very much her elder.

In her debut novel, Susanna Kwan imagines a San Francisco submerged under water due to incessant rain and an artist who struggles to find her purpose amid disaster and loss.

(Adrian Lo)

By Lorraine Berry

May 9, 2025 Updated 1:44 PM PT

<https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/books/story/2025-05-09/awake-in-the-floating-city-book-review-susanna-kwan>

[In Ocean Vuong's melancholy 'Emperor of Gladness,' happiness is elusive and the American Dream out of reach](#)

Ocean Vuong, a Vietnamese refugee who grew up in Connecticut, set his latest novel in the state, penning a poetic tale about refugees barely keeping their heads above water.

By Leigh Haber

May 12, 2025 3 AM PT

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<https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/books/story/2025-05-12/emperor-of-gladness-book-review-ocean-vuong>

Website Focusing on 'Assembly Centers' to Be Launched

6/07

<https://rafu.com/2025/05/website-focusing-on-assembly-centers-to-be-launched/>