

# **Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium (JACSC) Education Conference**

Echoes of Resilience: Imagining the  
Possible in Preserving Japanese  
American Heritage

October 4 – 6, 2024

Japanese American National Museum  
100 N. Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012



# Friday, October 4, 2024

Available on Zoom from 12 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Zoom link [here](#).

Meeting ID: 898 7057 5667

Passcode: 481927

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*Optional preconference programming:*

## 9 a.m.–11:15 a.m. | Ireichō stamping appointments

Reserve an appointment time at [janm.org/JACSC2024](http://janm.org/JACSC2024)

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*Optional preconference programming:*

## 10 a.m.–11 a.m. | Tour of JANM's Collection

Behind-the-scenes tour of JANM's Collection with Kristen Hayashi, Ph.D., Director of Collections Management and Access. **Space is limited to ten participants and can be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis by emailing Erin Aoyama at [eaoyama@janm.org](mailto:eaoyama@janm.org).**

If there is more interest than available space, we may arrange for two thirty-minute tours during this hour.

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## 12 p.m.–1 p.m. | Lunch and Registration

Location: Aratani Central Hall (JANM)

● Joint with Tsuru for Solidarity Kintsugi

**Registration** will begin at 11 a.m. in Aratani Central Hall. Lunch will be provided.

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## 1 p.m.–1:30 p.m. | Welcome and Introductions

Location: Aratani Central Hall (JANM)

[ZOOM LINK](#)

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## 1:30 p.m.–2:15 p.m. | Update from the National Park Service

Location: Aratani Central Hall (JANM)

### [ZOOM LINK](#)

Meeting ID: 898 7057 5667

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Speaker: Tom Leatherman, *Superintendent, Pearl Harbor National Memorial*

Hear from the National Park Service about upcoming grant opportunities through the Japanese American Confinement Sites grants and the Japanese American Confinement Education grants.

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## 2:15 p.m.–2:45 p.m. | BREAK

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## 2:30 p.m.–3:45 p.m. | Not Leaving Anyone Out: The Irei Project and Compiling the Names of the Incarcerated

Location: Aratani Central Hall (JANM)

### [ZOOM LINK](#)

Meeting ID: 898 7057 5667

Passcode: 481927

### ● Joint Session with Tsuru for Solidarity Kintsugi

Speakers:

Duncan Ryuken Williams, *Professor of Religion and East Asian Languages and Cultures and the Director of the USC Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture*

Susan Kamei, *Managing Director, USC Spatial Sciences Institute*

Jenn Utley, *Director of Family History Research, Ancestry*

Karen Kano, *Ireichō Project Specialist, Japanese American National Museum*

The Irei Project is an effort to create a monument and comprehensive and accurate listing of all persons of Japanese ancestry incarcerated in the World War II confinement sites. It encompasses the Ireichō Sacred Book of Names; the Ireizo, a website providing more about the person behind the name, and the Ireihi, sculptural installations that will symbolically represent those names.

Speakers will discuss the process of compiling and amending the names, the research on those who were never incarcerated at sites other than the ten large US concentration camps, the use of Ancestry resources such as draft cards, census records, marriage and naturalization records; and the impact of the Ireichō for survivors

and descendants who have visited the Japanese American National Museum during the book's exhibition.

Hosted by JACSC, Tsuru for Solidarity, JANM, and the Irei Project  
Co-sponsored by USC Ito Center and Ancestry.com

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3:45 p.m.–4 p.m. | BREAK

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4 p.m.–5:15 p.m. | Storytelling from the Field: Old Leupp Boarding School and Leupp Isolation Center

Location: Aratani Central Hall (JANM)

[ZOOM LINK](#)

Meeting ID: 898 7057 5667

Passcode: 481927

Moderator: Amanda Wixon, *Associate Curator of Native History and Culture at The Autry Museum and Doctoral Candidate in Native American History at UC Riverside*

Speakers:

Koji Lau-Ozawa, *Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow, UCLA*

Davina Two Bears, *Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow, Arizona State University*

Jun Sunseri, *Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of California Berkeley*

Dr. Two Bears, Dr. Lau-Ozawa, and Dr. Sunseri will present their work on Old Leupp Boarding School and Leupp Isolation Center. In addition to the histories of the site, this session will focus on efforts to engage community support for their project and their fieldwork experiences from June 2024. A conversation, moderated by Amanda Wixon, will follow presentations from the presenters. This roundtable conversation will be an opportunity to think together about ethical community engagement, storytelling, and preservation, especially with and alongside Native communities whose histories and presents are closely tied to these sites.

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5:15 p.m.–5:25 p.m. | BREAK / Walk to Democracy Center

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5:25 p.m.–6:30 p.m. | Strategy Session: Affinity Groups

Location: Democracy Lab (Democracy Center)

In this interactive session, JACSC conference participants will brainstorm together what kinds of affinity group gatherings can be useful going forward to support capacity building, ethical community collaboration, and forward-thinking work.

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## 6:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m. | Reception

Location: Democracy Lab / Boeing Lobby (Democracy Center)

Join colleagues and conference attendees for a reception sponsored by the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation. Drinks and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served.

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## 7:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m. | *Nobuko Miyamoto: A Song in Movement*

Location: Tateuchi Democracy Forum (Democracy Center)

This new sweeping, multi-award winning documentary from JANM's Frank H. Watase Media Arts Center and PBS SoCal follows the life of visionary artist-activist Nobuko Miyamoto and her work that changed Asian America forever. Featuring rare archival footage, *Nobuko Miyamoto: A Song in Movement* tells the story of a changing community through one of its most beloved storytellers as she reflects on decades of groundbreaking cultural work and a life that has bridged coasts, industries, families, and history. The screening will be followed by a talkback with Nobuko Miyamoto and filmmakers Tadashi Nakamura and Quyên Nguyen-Le.

Even if you are registered to attend the JACSC conference, **please also register for a ticket to this community screening.** Tickets are free and can be reserved [here](#).

# Saturday, October 5, 2024

Available on Zoom from 9:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Zoom link [here](#)

Meeting ID: 861 8038 5866

Passcode: 537403

## 8:30 a.m.– 9:30 a.m. | LIGHT BREAKFAST

Location: Aratani Central Hall (JANM)

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## 9:30 a.m.–10:45 a.m. | Healing Approaches Across Communities

Location: Aratani Central Hall (JANM)

### [ZOOM LINK](#)

Meeting ID: 861 8038 5866

Passcode: 537403

#### Moderator:

Erin Aoyama, *NPS Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, High Plains Group and Curatorial Assistant, JANM*

#### Speakers:

Mari Carpenter, *Senior Director of Museum Collections, National Trust for Historic Preservation*  
Annie Danis, *Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Geography, Cal Poly Pomona*

In this session, Mari Carpenter and Dr. Annie Danis will share about their preservation and historical work alongside and beyond the Japanese American community, as well as discuss strategies for ethical, reciprocal, and sustainable community engagement that is justice oriented. The session will begin with presentations from Mari and Annie and culminate with a moderated conversation and audience discussion.

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## 10:45 a.m.–12 p.m. | Multigenerational Approaches to Fundraising

Location: Aratani Central Hall (JANM)

### [ZOOM LINK](#)

Meeting ID: 861 8038 5866

Passcode: 537403

#### Speakers:

Robyn Achilles, *Executive Director, Friends of Minidoka*  
Shirley Ann Higuchi, *Chair of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation*  
John Esaki, *JANM Volunteer and Former Senior Philanthropy Officer*

Learn and discuss practical strategies for using family connections and multigenerational approaches to fundraising to build sustainability for the future. Speakers will address an approach to fundraising that incorporates Japanese American values, ties to history, and confinement sites. They will focus on practical, volunteer-driven strategies to engage and build relationships with the next generation of leaders and supporters, using diverse and values-based communication and outreach.

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## 12 p.m.–12:45 p.m. | Ceremony for Dr. Takashi Hoshizaki

Location: Aratani Central Hall (JANM)

### [ZOOM LINK](#)

Meeting ID: 861 8038 5866

Passcode: 537403

### ● Joint Session with Tsuru for Solidarity Kintsugi

Dr. Takashi Hoshizaki, a Nisei who was incarcerated at Heart Mountain during World War II, has served on the board of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation for 40 years (from the early 1980s to the present).

Consul-General of Japan in Los Angeles, SONE Kenko, will confer the Foreign Minister's Commendations to Dr. Hoshizaki. The Foreign Minister's Commendations are awarded to individuals and groups with outstanding achievements in international fields, in order to acknowledge their contributions to the promotion of friendship between Japan and other countries and areas. The Commendations also aim to promote the understanding and support of the Japanese public for the activities of the recipients.

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## 12:45 p.m.–1:45 p.m. | LUNCH

Location: Aratani Central Hall (JANM)

Lunch will be provided.

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## 2 p.m.–2:45 p.m. | Ireichō Ceremony

Location: Aratani Central Hall (JANM)

### ● Joint Session with Tsuru for Solidarity Kintsugi

In the tradition of the Dai-hannya-e ritual of ceremonially opening and scrolling through the pages of a Japanese Buddhist sutra while chanting portions of the text contained

therein, this ceremony will feature the ritual turning of the pages of the Ireichō on display at JANM. During the ritual, select participants will be invited to read the names of certain pages. Each page will represent a different decade of those incarcerated. The recitation of these representative names signifies the utterance of the entire Ireichō. Invoking incarcerated names protects the Japanese American World War II incarceration from being excised from national memory. Conversely, those who are remembered protect us as exemplars of perseverance in the face of injustice. Using the power of our voices, together we become the monument to this history.

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### 3 p.m.–6 p.m. | FandangObon

Location: Norman Y. Mineta Democracy Plaza

Great Leap's FandangObon convenes into one circle to include participatory music and dance traditions of Fandango of Vera Cruz, Mexico rooted in African, Mexican, and indigenous music; Japanese Buddhist Obon circle dances in remembrance of ancestors; and West African dance and drums of Nigeria and New Guinea. Quetzal Flores of the Grammy Award-winning band, QUETZAL, has helped spread Fandango throughout the US. Great Leap's Nobuko Miyamoto has composed contemporary Obon pieces danced by over 10,000 people yearly at Obon Festivals in Southern California. Nigerian Talking Drum Ensemble and Le Ballet Dembaya take West African dance into schools and communities throughout Los Angeles.

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### 6 p.m.–7 p.m. | DINNER

Dinner on your own in Little Tokyo.

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### 7 p.m.–8:15 p.m. | Black Reparations Plenary

Location: Tateuchi Democracy Forum (Democracy Center)

● Joint Session with Tsuru for Solidarity Kintsugi

Moderator:

Lisa Doi, *Co Chair, Tsuru for Solidarity and Curatorial Project Manager, JANM*

Speakers:

Dr. Cheryl Grills, *President's Professor and Full Professor in the Department of Psychological Science, Loyola Marymount University*

Dr. Marcus Anthony Hunter, *Scott Waugh Endowed Chair in the Social Sciences Division, Professor of Sociology and African American Studies at UCLA.*



On August 10, 1988, President Regan signed the Civil Liberties Act into law. This legislation included an apology for Japanese Americans, individual monetary payments for living survivors, and a civil liberties education fund. It was an important win after decades of community organizing in the Japanese American community, but it did not mark the end of the repair work for the community. Not only did people have to come to terms with the personal and collective meaning of these reparations, but some groups, like Japanese Latin Americans, were excluded. As we reflect on the legacy of the redress movement, many Japanese Americans today see it as a call to support the Black led reparations movement. A centuries long effort, Black reparations would not only redress the historic violence of chattel slavery, but also the harms of Jim Crow, and the ongoing harms of anti-Black racism. This evening's plenary will feature Dr. Cheryl Grills and Dr. Marcus Anthony Hunter. They will share their research on the impact of racism and their important work to fight for reparations.

# Sunday, October 6, 2024

Available on Zoom from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

[Zoom link here.](#)

Meeting ID: 824 7427 6804

Passcode: 823903

## 8:30 a.m.–9 a.m. | LIGHT BREAKFAST

Location: Boeing Lobby (Democracy Center)

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## 9a.m.–10:30 a.m. | Excavating: The Process of Storytelling

Location: Tateuchi Democracy Forum (Democracy Center)

[Zoom link](#)

Meeting ID: 824 7427 6804

Passcode: 823903

Moderator:

Sharon Yamato, *Filmmaker*

Speakers:

Hiroshi Shimizu, *Tule Lake Pilgrimage Committee Chair*

Frank Abe, *Author*

Kyoko Oda, *Author*

**Excavating: The Process of Storytelling** begins with a film screening of the documentary, *One Fighting Irishman*, followed by a panel discussion focusing on the ways in which activists are delving into camp history for their many untold and at times misrepresented stories.

Filmmaker Sharon Yamato will moderate a panel consisting of the following activists: Tule Lake Pilgrimage Committee chairman Hiroshi Shimizu, *Tule Lake Stockade Diary* publisher Kyoko Oda, and *We Hereby Refuse* lead author and *The Literature of Japanese American Incarceration* coeditor Frank Abe. They will talk about their own personal methodologies and processes to preserve Japanese American history through their extensive ongoing work.

Cosponsored by UCLA Asian American Studies Center and the Aratani C.A.R.E Award

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## 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. | The Future of the Wakasa Stone: A Public Discussion

Location: Tateuchi Democracy Forum (Democracy Center)

[Zoom link](#)

Meeting ID: 824 7427 6804

Passcode: 823903

Moderator: Ann Burroughs, *President and CEO, JANM*

This discussion will be an opportunity for the JACSC community to provide input and perspective on the future of the Wakasa Memorial Stone, a monument to commemorate the death of James Hatsuaki Wakasa in 1943, regarding a permanent location and display.

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## 12 p.m.–1 p.m. | Closing Reflections

Location: Tateuchi Democracy Forum (Democracy Center)

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## 1 p.m. | Adjournment

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## 1 p.m.–4 p.m. | *Ireichō stamping appointments available*

Reserve an appointment at [janm.org/JACSC2024](http://janm.org/JACSC2024)