



**Carrie Furuya Morita**  
2021 Community Spirit Award

Carrie Furuya Morita is a Sansei, born and raised in San Diego. She is a retired LAUSD elementary teacher, where she taught for 36 years, primarily in the Eagle Rock area.

In the late 1960s, Carrie helped develop the first Asian American Studies class at California State University, Long Beach which led to the creation of the Asian American Studies Department. She was honored at the CSULB Asian American Studies (AAS) Reunion in September 2015 along with Evelyn Yoshimura (LTSC and past CSA recipient) and Dan Kuramoto of Hiroshima.

Her father's family was incarcerated at Poston/Camp 1 and her mother's family at Gila River/Canal Camp. Carrie works with individuals in the Phoenix area and helps coordinate family members from Southern California who are descendants of those incarcerated at Gila River to annually clean the monument that was built to honor the members of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team who were killed in action (KIA) during WWII.

Carrie continues to be active in the community. She was on the original Board to build the Little Tokyo Recreation Center in 1999 now named The Terasaki Budokan and is a member of Nikkei Progressives, Los Angeles Day of Remembrance Planning Committee, Tsuru For Solidarity (coordinates the collection of origami cranes) and Okaeri. Carrie has coordinated many receptions in Little Tokyo including at JACCC and JANM. Before the pandemic, she was teaching classes for older adults at the Far East Lounge in Little Tokyo and is anxiously waiting to return.

Carrie is married to Walter Morita (former JACCC staff member) and has two sons, Ty and Greg, daughter-in-law, Radeyah and grandson, Kazuo Saadique.