Congress requests extradition of killers

Taiwan official sentenced in Liu murder

Washington—A request that Taiwan send anyone implicated in the murder of Chinese American journalist Henry Liu to the U.S. for trial was passed in the House of Representatives by a 393-2 vote April 17. The Taiwan government rejected the non-binding resolution, as it has done with other such requests.

Rep. Robert Matsui (D-Calif.) said that the overwhelming margin of support in the House "left no question that Congress is unhappy with the lack of progress" in efforts to extradite two gang members who confessed to killing Liu and military intelligence officials who allegedly ordered the killing to punished Liu for his writings, which were critical of Taiwan's government. Matsui called the House vote "a signal that we will not stand for any stone walling in this case, and that we want those responsible for the killing to be brought to justice. The murder of Henry Liu was an act of terrorism and it is reprehensible that more has not been done." 

The five men implicated in the murder have been tried, convicted and sentenced in Taiwan, but the question of whether the murder was sanctioned by the Taiwan government has not been answered to the satisfaction of Liu's supporters in the U.S.

The resolution also called for the conclusion of an extradition agreement between the U.S. and Taiwan, which have not had such a treaty since diplomatic ties were broken off in 1979.

"Asians don't value life," U.S. senator says

"If I were president of the United States, I would not let them go. It is not their tradition. They are a people who value life, and that is why they have a different perspective on things. They don't value life the way we do," Senator Paul Tsongas (D-Mass.) said at a press conference yesterday.

Wong's remarks appeared in the Washington Post on April 13 as part of a series on the Vietnam War. The Post noted that the article, written by a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was photographed for a campaign ad appearing a pilot's union in the cockpit of a military plane that he received a medical deferment during the war for a slight malformation of the right arm.

On April 17, Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.) sent a letter to Tsongas a letter of protest which read as follows: "I am writing to express my anger at your highly offensive and racist statement..." 

"Please consider what you have said with that remark. You have said that you believe that an entire race of people does not value understand life the way other human beings do. With your statement you imply that an entire race face special conditions in which they live their lives.

"As an American of Asian ancestry, I am personally offended by your remark. "Perhaps you are trying to give the American people a new explanation for our defeat in Vietnam—"that our servicepeople had to fight against inhuman and bizarre Asian forces. Such a blanket statement is no substitute for a thoughtful analysis of our involvement in the war. "The Vietnam War was tragic and complex and there are many differing views and opinions about our country's role. Statements such as yours do not address the issues involved, are clearly inflammatory, and only continue to create an atmosphere of hatred and misunderstanding about Asia and its people."

"I find it outrageous that you, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, would have such a distorted and racist view of the world. I urge you to withdraw the statement and apologize to those whom you have offended."
Nebraska Nikkei in city council race

OMAHA, Nebr. — Former city councilman Richard Takechi, a Republican, has been endorsed by former congressman John Cavanaugh (D), Congressman Hal Daub (R-2nd) while Findlay, a Democrat, has been endorsed by former congressman John Cavanaugh (D), who represented the same district. Former Douglas County Republican chairman Chuck Siga said, "Richard’s friends in the Republican Party will rally behind him." State Democratic chair Thomas Menaghan and Douglas County Democratic chair Herb Millard have vowed to support Findlay.

"That area is supporting my position of, ‘Let’s be responsive to the people,’” Takechi said. "The feeling I’m getting is that she wasn’t going out into the district that much.” As an example, he cited Findlay’s council vote supporting the One Pacific Place development project, which many area residents opposed. In the eight precincts nearest One Pacific Place, 669 voted for Takechi and 241 voted for Findlay.

Domestic violence project started

LOS ANGELES—Asian/Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California has launched a domestic violence project for Asian/Pacific women who have experienced domestic violence. The center’s domestic violence project committee includes volunteer Asian/Pacific attorneys and law students, as well as center staff. For further information call (213) 746-6029.

Descendants of Yamato colony to return to site of former Florida settlement

DELRAY BEACH, Fla.—One could call it a ghost town, but 43 years after its demise, the spirit of Yamato, Florida, will come alive again as survivors and descendants of the defunct agricultural community reunite.

On May 4, some 35 members of Yamato families, as well as dozens of old-timers who knew them, their parents, and grandparents, will come to Morikami Park, west of Delray Beach, for the dedication of four wooden pavilions to the issei, which many area residents call a ghost town, but 43 in 1981, in the May 14 general election.

As an example, he cited Findlay's council vote supporting the One Pacific Place development project, which many area residents opposed. In the eight precincts nearest One Pacific Place, 669 voted for Takechi and 241 voted for Findlay.

The shelters are being named after five of the last remaining families of Yamato, which was established in the summer of 1906 by Jo Sakai and some fifteen settlers from Japan. The five families, continued to farm land between Delray Beach and Boca Raton into the 1920s and 30s. Plaques will identify each shelter and provide biographical notes on the issei who settled Yamato and chose to raise families there. Briefly, they are:

Jo and Sada Sakai, pioneers of Yamato, Florida.

Jo and Sada Sakai, married in 1906. Five daughters were born in Yamato.

Sada returned to Japan with the children in 1924 following her husband's death.

Tamemasu and Etsu Kamiya. They married in 1909. Kamiya remained in the area for a time following his wife's death in 1936, then joined the family of his eldest daughter in California shortly before the outbreak of World War II.

Jiro and Naka Yamawaki. Married in 1915, they raised one son, born in Yamato. The family moved to Miami in 1925.

Hideo and Umeko Kobayashi, married in 1920. Four children were born in Yamato. The family was evicted in 1942 to make way for the construction of an Army Air Corps training facility.

Susumu and Saye Kobayashi, married in 1922. One daughter was born in Yamato before the family moved to Illinois in 1925.

Yamato family members are coming from California, Michigan, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Japan to share memories with each other and with those still living in Florida.

The land where Morikami Park now rests was donated to Palm Beach County by George Sukeji Morikami, an original Yamato family, in 1981. The park, which opened in 1982, is one of the few facilities that have the bilingual staff or culturally sensitive programs to provide legal assistance to Asian/Pacific women who have been battered, especially those who are poor and non-English speaking.

The Asian/Pacific American Legal Center has initiated a project that provides free bilingual legal counseling and referral, multilingual informational brochures on battered women's rights and legal procedures; a multi-service referral guide, including agencies that are equipped to help the Asian/Pacific woman in a culturally appropriate and respectful manner; and community education.

The center’s domestic violence project committee includes volunteer Asian/Pacific attorneys and law students, as well as center staff.
Asian American film festival slated to begin next week in Northwest

SEATTLE—Next week marks the first Seattle Asian American film festival, to be held May 2-5 at the historic Nippon Kan Theatre (638 S. Washington St., in the International District). Sponsored by Kingstree Media, the festival will showcase the best feature-length and short dramatic films made by independent Asian American filmmakers from around the country.

To be featured is "Beacon Hill Boys," a locally produced film about Japanese American life in Seattle during the early 1970s. "Beacon Hill Boys" premiered in Seattle this January to sell-out crowds, and has been selected to open the 8th Annual American International Film Festival in New York City. The festival then tours 15 cities in the U.S. and Canada.

The Seattle film festival also features the return of "Chan Is Missing," the critically acclaimed 1982 film about two San Francisco Chinatown cab drivers searching for the man who has disappeared with their money.

Also returning is "Hitot Hata, Raise the Banner," the first Asian American feature film, produced in 1980, depicting the life story of a Japanese American immigrant.

The local premieres of seven recently completed films will highlight the festival, including the Oscar-nominated shorts "The Silence" and "Sewing Woman." Other films are "Freckled Rice," "The Departure," "'Fool's Dance," "The Only Language She Knows," and "Fei Ten: Goddess in Flight."

Tickets for the film festival are available at Uwajimaya stores, Mich's Short & Small Shop (2122 Third Avenue), Cinema Books (4758 Roosevelt N.E.), and The Chop House (2322 Beacon Ave. So.). Tickets are $5 per show, $4 for senior citizens. Tickets will be sold at the door only as available. Information: 624-6600.

Playwright Yamashita to be honored

LOS ANGELES—Karen Tei Yamashita, the award-winning author, playwright, and poet, will be honored at the third annual Author Recognition Benefit Luncheon given by the Friends of Little Tokyo Public Library Services.

Yamashita, who recently brought her play "Hiroshima Tropical" to East West Players as part of their works-in-progress series, is well known for her many literary works. Her short stories include "The Bath," "Turano," "In Brazil, the Earth is Red," and "Asaka no miya," which won first place in the first James Clavell Asian American Short Story Contest. Her plays include "Omen: An American Kabuki," and "The Miskai Bridge," a series of plays for story theater based on Japanese folktales.

The luncheon takes place on Saturday, May 11, at the Tenren Hanten Restaurant in Weller Court. Also featured will be a special auction of valuable new art collectibles. Cost per person is $10, which includes Yamashita's readings, luncheon, and art auction. For more information, call (213) 731-5568.

Hibakusha medical team coming to U.S.

SAN FRANCISCO—In June, a team of doctors from Japan returns to the United States to conduct medical examinations on American survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings.

This will be the team's fifth visit since 1977 sponsored by the Japanese government. The doctors arrive in San Francisco on June 12 and will conduct examinations in five cities: San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Honolulu, and Vancouver, Canada.

There are an estimated 1,000 survivors (hibakusha) of Japanese or Korean ancestry residing in the United States and Canada. The Committee of Atomic Bomb Survivors (CABS) urges all survivors to register for the examinations.

Travel stipends and accommodations may be available.

All participants can be assured of confidentiality. For more information, write to: CABS, 1019 Shell Gate Place, Alameda, CA 94501.
Those Law-Abiding Japanese

Bill Marutani


The term for Japanese gangsters that most of us have heard the least of is "yakuza." However, the constabulary in Japan refer to these organized crime groups as "boryokudan," meaning "violent bands" or "gangs." The type of yakuza from Los Angeles is at least 2,500 boryokudan with a membership slightly in excess of 30,000. This calculates to an average of 40 members (kobun) in each gang. While this writer is not a card-player (hanafuda), we understand that the hand that one can be dealt is such a card game is "9, 9." In short, yakuza is a "loser."

The LAND OF the Rising Sun, while reportedly having one of the lowest crime rates in modern society, nonetheless is said to have almost 2,500 boryokudan with a total membership slightly in excess of 30,000. This calculates to an average of 40 members (kobun) in each gang. Reportedly, membership and structure are highly formalized with an initiation ceremony into a kai (club), with the initiate pledging eternal fealty to the yakuza boss. There is an underboss (daigash), who "takes the heat" for crimes sought to be ascribed to the yakuza. These gangs have their own strict code of criminal honor—if criminals can have honor—subscribing to such things as (humanity and justice), giri-ninjo (duty and love) and nan-ajo (chivalry).

Within THE GANGS there are groups with specialties, one known as sokaiya engaged in economic crimes, primarily extortions against corporations. The sokaiya acquire corporate "problems" that makes it members to attend stockholder meetings where stock prices are depressed, and if not successful in gaining the goals, not-so-subtle tactics are employed unless management capitulates with a pay-off. The major problem is that the Commerce Act of Japan was revised, making it a crime for any corporate officer to divert any portion of corporate assets to anyone other than stockholders. Sony Corporation reportedly had a stockholder meeting that lasted more than 13 hours because of the activities of the sokaiya. Isuzu Motor Company had a stockholder meeting that ran ten hours. With American corporate interests joining with Japanese enterprises, there is concern that the gangster element may infiltrate such international business conglomerates.

The "TAKE" by these criminal elements is estimated to be some $31.72 billion, translated into U.S. dollars. That's only for the year 1977. In the Pacific basin area, including centers with sizable Japanese American populations, boryokudan elements are being detected by law enforcement agencies. Criminal activities focus upon gambling, narcotics, prostitution and pornography. Reportedly, the boryokudan has made inroads into the control of Japanese tourist trade into the States. It is reported that yakuza elements have been making overtures in Las Vegas and Atlantic City.

In this WRITER'S comparatively sheltered world, we know next to nothing about the workings of the yakuza. However, it is reported in Japan that it is not unknown for politicians and yakuza elements to have an open relationship, such as at a funeral for an oyabun. For most Westerners, and those with a Western mind (which includes this writer), it is said that one may well associate quite intimately but unknowingly with yakuza elements.

WELL, SO MUCH for law and order.

Got any heroes? According to a U.S. News and World Report, my generation (18-24) in the 1970s didn't have any heroes. Well, all right, I'm stretching it a bit — I was 25 in 1970, but that's a year or two.

The report went on to say that things are different now. The people 18-24 years old are coming, and emulate are — are you ready for this? — Clint Eastwood and Eddie Murphy. Now what does that say about our young adults?

The list is one of glamour, fame and wealth. Men chose Eastwood, Murphy, Ronald Reagan, Steven Spielberg, Julians Ewing, Joe Montana, Doug Flutie, Harrison Ford, and Lee Iacocca, with — how's this for bizarre? — Pope John Paul II and Michael Jackson tied for 10th.

Women chose Jane Fonda, Sally Field, Eastwood, Mother Teresa, Murphy, Nancy Reagan, Pope John Paul II, Geraldine Ferraro, Reagan and Meryl Streep.

Overall, the order of the top five: Eastwood, Murphy, Reagan (Ronald), Fonda, with Sally Field and Spielberg tied for 5th. Think about that. All six spots occupied by his/her people. The near four were the Pope, Mother Teresa, Michael Jackson and Tina Turner.

But with a show-biz president what can we expect? People are impressed with glamour. With wealth. They don't want to hear about what's wrong, just what's nice, what doesn't jog our consciences. We're in the '80s again.

Heroes Reflect Value System

ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER

Bob Shimabukuro

Eisenhower mentality. But never fear. The '80s followed the '70s. Right now, more people are falling under the poverty line. I look forward to the JACL helping and see these folks running around with their cardboard looking for a place to sleep. Every equality — neither better nor worse than the other — the road, they line up to sleep on the sidewalks on 5th, 6th, 7th St. I wonder who their heroes are.

Mario Savio is back on the campus at Berkeley where a new round of sit-ins takes place. Columbia University students are emulating their 1960s ancestors also. All for distribution of school funds in South Africa. It used to be free speech. Now it's school investments. The young seem to understand the connection between wealth and power and status quo. Is this the generation of Eastwood and Murphy?

I was in the seventh grade (or eighth, I can't remember, it's been a long time) when my teach­ er asked who my heroes were. My dad, who influenced my thinking a lot, was what you might call "progressive," and that's probably a euphemism.

"Sun Yat Sen (the Chinese revolu­tionary)," Harry Boulous [who was defending the ILWU and the Hawai'i Seven from HUD] and Patsy Takemoto Mink [who at that time was defending crew members of the Sagon help create pacific boat cruising the nuclear test areas in the Pacific]. I offered critically. I agreed with my dad. These were utterly good guys.

My teacher didn't agree, needless to say. I'll never forget the look on her face. Or the reaction of the rest of the class. Until I went to college the only heroes I'd admit to after that were good guys: Jack Robinson, Ray Campanella, and Don Drysdale. Sandy Koufax was not a hero. He was a god, somebody you worshipped. His fastball and curveball was evidence enough that he was divine.

In college, I said, "Che." After all, he was an asthmatic revolutionary. Talk about identification. Got a pretty good response in college.

Later, at a JACL wine-tasting gathering of "youngsters" who were being recruited, I offered the same answer to the hero question. The reply? "Che? Che? Who?" I knew I was in different company. Shades of 7th grade.

How about you? How any heroes? Asian American ones? Write, let us know. I'll write about one who qualifies next week.

U.S.-Japan Relations: What Can We Do?

by Floyd Shimomura

What specifically can we do to help U.S.-Japan relations in our own communities?

Certainly there are many possibilities. However, I would begin by encouraging Japanese companies and individuals to be good rights laws in their own hiring and promotions; to create jobs and not unemployment for our American workers; and to support the civic and cultural life of the communities in which they do business.

In other words, we should encourage the Japanese to create "goodwill" and not "backlash."

On the other hand, we should encourage our fellow Americans to be fair "hosts" to the Japanese companies and individuals that come to the U.S. to treat them with equality and not worse than anyone else; to judge them on their individual merit and not condemn all because of the conduct of a few; and to welcome them into the civic and social life of the communities in which they reside.

In other words, let's treat them as average, good people. We should encourage "good-will" and not "bad-will."

In this way, I believe we can begin to make a positive contribution to our relations in our own community and minimize the possibility of backlash and ill-feelings.

Remember to double-space all submitted articles and letters to the editor.

ISSN: 0030-8579
weekly Pigskin Preview

As I was saying before running out of space last week, American football was introduced to Japan in the 1900s by a gentleman named Nishi who arrived there to study in Japanese colleges. In 1934 Nisei at Meiji and Waseda organized 12 teams which played to a 0-0 tie.

In the fall of that same year a Nisei college all-star team played the Yokohama Community Athletic Club. Since the Club was mostly overweight Europeans it knew nothing about rugby but not much about American football, it’s understandable that the Nisei won 26-0. By 1942 there were six teams intercollegiate league.

In the last few years American college teams have visited Japan, but against each other in the absence of suitable opponents. But, I learned recently, there was a Nisei game back in 1936 played on Sunday, Dec. 27, at Gilmore Stadium in Los Angeles.

George Kondo of San Francisco passed along the information and linked me a four-page souvenir program which was more than proof. The game was between the “Japanese All-Star Squad” and the “Southern California All-Star Squad.” Unfortunately the program doesn’t explain who the athletes were.

The people who put through the program together employed the frustrating loose custom of simply using initials instead of first names. Thus the starters on the Japanese team are listed as M. Shimoda, M. Yamaoka, T. Harada, Y. Yamaoka, K. Nakamura, S. Yauasa and Hanag. The Americans had truth color, J. Miyajima, W. Blaisdell, H. Sargent, E. Dempsey, B. Low and L. Bach. The one recognizable name is Dunn. I’m not sure if memory doesn’t betray me, he was a track coach at USC.

Somewhat more interesting are the glasses and platters purchased by Mr. Tal Tokyo supporters. The Miyako Hotel at First and San Pedro, and the Japanese Theater Assn. at 201 N. San Pedro bought the biggest ads. Among other things they are the Urn of shape were they both up for playing football after all that time coopered up in a ship?

Unfortunately, George Rondo didn’t tell me who won that game. Maybe some fan with a long memory can recall. Or some kind person will take the time to look into their archives, or at least pass along to us.

Praise for FC

This letter is an enthusiastic support for your fine newspaper and its excellent coverage.

I recently took a copy of your issue to an adult community meeting. People attending were ages 24 to 70. All were very impressed with the issue; in fact, an older couple has decided to subscribe and receive JACL. You can expect many more new subscribers from our community.

Our group agreed that your articles on community networking to grapple with racism, articles rejoining JACL. You can get from one side of the Pacific ocean to the other was by steamboat, and that the voyage took two weeks. It must have been a staggeringly endeavor to get the team from Yokohama to Los Angeles and back again. And what kind of shape were they in for playing football after all that time coopered up in a ship?

Music Lessons a Powerful Play

by Elizabeth Lu

LOS ANGELES—In “The Music Lessons,” playwright Wakako Yamauchi dares us to bare our feelings. The consequences, as the hardworking widow Chizuko Sakata (Shizuko Hoshi) discovers, can be painful, but taking that risk, going out on a limb, is a part of the production that makes each of us feel unique.

Building on Yamauchi’s succinct but effective script, set in the Imperial Valley during the Depression, director Mako communicates to the audience the vulnerability, the beauty, the magnitude of our capacity for love. Mako skillfully choreographs Chizuko’s transformation from a beleaguered mother of three who hides her emotions behind farmwork and drab, unisexed overalls, to a woman with emotions, feelings, and desires. She proves the occasionally slips in the story, but PSWD needs to continue its impressive work.

The production features a strong performance by Shizuko Hoshi, who portrays with special insight the lonely mother and wife Chizuko. With every long day she labors away in the fields and with every heavy sigh, she epitomizes the self-sacrificing parent that each of us remembers.

In what was the most powerful scene in the play, Chizuko and her daughter (Susan Hanuye Ioka) open a floodgate of emotions as they sit down to dinner for the very first time and talk about what happened during the day. They both feel the way they always felt but dared not express. Ioka, in what was an otherwise unassuming performance, manages to capture all the subtle and emotional characteristics that each of us knows.

The catalyst that sparks the conflict is Kaoru Kawaguchi (Shizuko Hoshi), a Japanese American who was at the Imperial Valley during the Depression. The consequences, as the hardworking widow Chizuko Sakata (Shizuko Hoshi) discovers, can be painful, but taking that risk, going out on a limb, is a part of the production that makes each of us feel unique.

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ACJ

Continued from Page 3

the decision-making levels of government. Griffiths served in the U.S. Congress for 20 years and was the chairperson of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Griffiths announced the appointment of ACJ president Helen Zia to a newly formed state commission on justice in Asian American life. Michigan Dept. of Civil Rights director Ronald Quincy spoke on the growing awareness by state government of the concerns of Asian Americans. The civil rights department currently has no bilingual Asian employees, a situation which exists in all but the largest of the state's service departments, including the bilingual education program.

To remedy the absence of Asian Americans in meaningful positions in state government, ACJ president Zia advocated the formation of a Governor's Advisory Commission on Asian American Affairs. ACJ has been working with the governor's staff, in conjunction with other groups, for over a year to establish such a body to implement the recommendations about Asian American concerns.

ACJ presented its 1985 Justice Award to a number of individuals in the U.S. Dept. of Justice, including William Bradford Reynolds, who heads the civil rights division, Leonard Gilman, local U.S. attorney (posthumously); and Theodore Merritt and Amy Hay, the Vincent Chin trial attorneys. The award was given in recognition of "for their understanding and dedication in upholding the civil rights of Americans of Asian ancestry, by their efforts personally and politically in the Vincent Chin matter."

Entertainment at the event was provided by Jerry Woo, a 17-year-old Filipino award-winning singer-breakdancer who performed several popular recording hits. Chinese ballerina, Huifang Mao, who played the starring role in the movie "White Hair Girl," performed classical and modern Chinese music, and songwriter Charlie Chin flew in from New York to sing pieces from his show, "An ABC from NYC," and his "Ballad to Vincent Chin."

Last year, ACJ organized a courtwatch with the federal civil rights trial of Ronald Ebers and Michael Nitz, which resulted in the conviction of Ebers, who was sentenced to 25 years. Nitz was acquitted of all charges, but now faces a civil suit for his part in the wrongful death of Vincent Chin. Ebers is free on bond, pending appeal; ACJ continues to monitor the case.

But with the completion of the federal trial last June, ACJ's efforts to obtain equal justice for Asian Americans have not lessened. ACJ successfully led two other national campaigns to remove a racially derogatory exhibition at the federally funded Six Flags Auto World in Flint, Michigan, and to eliminate the demeaning "Charlie Chin" character from a local television station. ACJ has also joined with a number of groups to monitor legal efforts in the racial attacks against a Vietnamese man and his family in Grand Ledge, Michigan.

MEDICAL TRANSCRIBER

California Medical Facility, Vacaville, is accepting applications for Medical Transcriber. Starting salary is $1,349. Requirements are: Two years of experience in typing and stenography, at least one year shall have been in medical nature requiring transcription of dictation from a dictating machine. Academic education above the 12th grade is substituted for one year of general experience. Mail applications to: California Medical Facility - Vacaville, P.O. Box 200, Vacaville, Calif. 95688.


Chapter Pulse

Marina

MARINA DEL REY, Calif.—Har­ry Kitano, professor of social wel­fare and sociology, UCLA, is a guest speaker at the chapter's May 2 meeting. Kitano will be presenting new findings on why people seek interpersonal relationships. Information: Harry Taka­hashi, (213) 479-8479.

San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO — The chap­ter voted unanimously to sponsor a track team in the 1985 Junior Olympias. President Cress­sey Nakagawa said that, "Since the San Francisco Chapter origin­ated the Junior Olympias 33 years ago, it was felt that the chapter should be involved again."

Anyone interested in joining the team may pick up applications at the Paper Tree in Japanotom, or call David Nokai­yama, JACL headquarters, (415) 292-3225.

San Jose

HAYWARD, Calif.—The 33rd annual JACL Junior Olympias will be held June 2 at Chabot College. By virtue of its second con­secutive team victory last year, San Jose JACL again acts as the host organization.

The divisions from 10 years old and under the masters divisions for adults are open to participate in a long list of track and field events. Over 350 entrants from all over Northern California participated. Information: Tom Osbidi, (408) 257-5000; Robert Setoguchi, (408) 247-1494.

Venice-Culver

LOS ANGELES — The highly ac­claimed documentary "Un­finished Business" by Steven Okazaki will be shown with the film strip "Gaman" on Friday, May 3, 7:30 p.m. at the Venice Japanese Community Center, 2446 Bradbrook Dr. Admission is free.

Ventura County

OXNARD, Calif.—A cooking demonstration of three Japanese dishes is offered on Sunday, April 24, 2:30 p.m. at Oxnard High School. Information: Anna Asa­oka (805) 484-861, Marcia Miyasaka 409-2117.

South Bay

TORRANCE, Calif.—An au­tonomous booth is the offering of the chapter at the 12th Bunka-sai, Japanese cultural festival sponsored by the Torrance Sister City Assn., April 27-28, at Torrance Recreation Center, Torrance Blvd. and Madrona. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday. Free admission to exhibits and demonstrations of bonsai, karate, calli­graphy, dance, sumi painting, and other activities.

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PO Box 9798, Gardena, CA 90247
Let's Samba!
by George Kondo

As of now, approximately 100 persons have registered for the Pan American Nikkei Conference III being held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, July 23-28. Many have attended the conference in Mexico City and/or Lima, Peru, with fond memories of a very enjoyable time, especially visits with the host families.

These experienced travelers are from throughout the States and are especially visits with the host families.

Also included in this tour will be attendance at the "La Scala" Cabaret with its show-stopping Samba Revue, cocktail and dinner included. This tour will be from July 23-August 3.

Those who were unable to attend the 1983 conference are extending their travels to include Lima, with visits to Cuzco and Machu Picchu, which are must places to see in South America. Others are taking individualized tours which the operator can arrange.

Varig Brazilian Airlines will be the principal carrier from gateways New York, Miami and Los Angeles, as well as for air travel while in South America. In addition, those flying Varig will receive an invitation from Amsterdam Sauer of Brazil, gem dealer, for cocktails and a jewelry fashion show in the Bandeirantes Room, Sao Paulo Hilton, at 6 p.m., July 24, the day of arrival in Sao Paulo.

All persons attending the 1985 Pan American Nikkei Conference must preregister by sending the registration fee of $100 to Pan American Nikkei Assn. (North America), 1785 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115. After June 1, registration fee will increase to $125. Additional information on the conference can be obtained by reading the article by Charles Kukokawa, secretary/treasurer for PANA, in the April 5 edition of the Pacific Citizen, page 6.

JACL scholarships
UC alumni to expand programs

SAN FRANCISCO—California Japanese Alumni Association (CJAA) board of trustees at a meeting held in San Francisco on March 24, proposed the following resolutions:

1. To increase the number of scholarship recipients and/or to increase the amounts of the awards for 1985 by adding $5,000 to the fund allocated for scholarships in the national JACL scholarship program. This result will be in a total of $25,000 available for distribution. The eligibility requirements remain the same: Any student enrolled in undergraduate or graduate studies at any of the University of California campuses will qualify.

2. To expand its programs to cover social activities and membership recruitment. The present membership of CJAA, approximating 500, are principally graduates of the University of California system.

3. To amend the name of CJAA to reflect more clearly the composition of its members; i.e., Americans of Japanese ancestry. In the past, the present name has been misinterpreted.

During the past few years CJAA has contributed $10,000 to the national JACL scholarship program, $10,000 to UC Berkeley Alumni Assn.'s 50th Anniversary Scholarship Endowment Fund for the benefit of the Japanese American scholars, $5,000 to Harvard Kingman Memorial Fund, $1,500 to the UC Berkeley Asian American Studies Library, $5,000 to UC Berkeley Alumni Assn. Scholarship Fund, and $5,000 to national JACL redress campaign.

To become a member of this organization alumni of the University of California system may send one-time membership dues of $5 and/or contributions to: CJAA, 1500 Sutter St., #306 San Francisco, CA 94115.
Shinju: A Cultural or a Criminal Act?

With this issue, Katie Hayashi joins the PC as a freelance reporter. A native of Japan, she will be writing about Japanese newcomers to the U.S.

This commentary concerns the case of Fumiko Kimura, a Japanese woman who attempted suicide inSanta Monica, Calif., by walking into the ocean holding her son and daughter. Both children died, but Kimura survived and has been charged with murder (see story on page 11). A suicide in which one takes the life of two others as well as one’s own is called shinju.

The following is an expanded version of an article previously printed in the Santa Monica Consair and the Los Angeles Times. — Ed.

by Katie Kaori Hayashi

Five and a half years ago, I came to the United States with my husband and my one-year-old son because my husband wanted to continue his studies in this country. I am almost the same age as Fumiko Kimura. When I found out about her, I empathized with her, although my American friends sympathized with the two children. I was surprised that Americans didn’t understand the Japanese custom of shinju.

In my English as a Second Language class at Santa Monica College, the instructor used a Los Angeles Times article about Kimura as discussion material. I was also surprised that people of other ethnic groups didn’t understand shinju. But some of my classmates agreed that American courts should consider their cultural background because her act was caused by Japanese custom and her despair.

Kimura’s shinju is a crime by American standards, but in Japan it is an accepted cultural act. Shinju is treated like involuntary manslaughter in Japan. The Japanese don’t find malice in the act of shinju survivors. Survivors of parent-child suicide are ceremonially prosecuted and brought into court. They are usually given a short sentence in prison, but their sentences are suspended, and most of them are immediately placed on probation. If they commit no crime while on probation, they are released without serving time in prison.

Inseparable Bond

The Japanese don’t see shinju as an isolated crime. The Japanese are sympathetic towards shinju survivors because the survivors are regarded as the persons who have struggled against harsh realities and have finally engulfed by them. For the Japanese, Kimura isn’t a merciless criminal, but she is a Japane­ese woman who was bound to the traditional Japanese concept and loved her children deeply. Her shinju is caused by the inseparable bond between mother and child.

From the time a Japanese child is born, his or her parents see themselves as father and mother, no longer as just a man and a woman. They are expected to behave as a father and mother in society. Japanese parents, especially mothers, view their children as part of themselves. Japanese mothers protect, dominate and devote themselves to their children. They would willingly sacrifice themselves for their children. They give up pleasure until their children become adults. Mothers take their children wherever they go. If a mother leaves her child with a baby-sitter to go to a movie or party, she is considered to have abandoned an irresponsible mother.

Deep Devotion

Because of their deep devotion to their children, they believe that they are better protectors than anyone else. A Japanese mother and child are joined by a strong bond. A Japanese proverb says that what a child receives from his or her mother is higher than a mountain and deeper than an ocean.

When a Japanese mother commits suicide, she feels obliged to take her children with her. She believes that her children will suffer without her protection and care.

Shinju survivors would be relegated to the ranks of "hinin," the lowest rank in the social caste, and also deprived of human rights, regardless of their previous status. But the law didn’t prevent lovers from committing shinju. Writers at that time beautified it, and people relished the stories. After that time, shinju became a part of Japanese culture. Shinju stories between lovers are still played in kabuki, bunraku and movies.

Shinju occurs every day in Japan. Seven years ago my friend and her mother committed shinju, but the incident did not appear in the media because the Japanese media didn’t consider it news. The extensive media attention given to the Kimura case was a surprise to me. Later I learned that a socially accepted deed in one culture is a cruel crime in another.

Suicide is regarded as a sin in Christian belief, but for the Japa­nese it is a way to save a person from a living hell. In 1983, 25,202 Japanese committed suicide.

The cherry blossom analogy may help the Japanese to understand the Japanese propensity for shinju. The most beloved flower in Japan is the cherry blossom. As the prime of spring, the cherry blossom brightens up Japanese towns by its pink flowering. But the blossoms fall in one day by strong winds or violent rain. Unlike other flowers, it doesn’t possess the melancholy, wistful qualities that people’s eyes. Because of its ephemeral and glamorous life, people like it and say, “I want to live like the cherry blossom.” The Japanese choose to die if they know only humiliation awaits them.

For example, during World War II, Japanese soldiers were taught that it was a shame to be captured by the enemy. When they were surrounded by the en­emy force, they often killed each other because they did not want to surrender themselves to humiliation. The Japanese prefer com­mitting suicide to floundering miserably.

Divorce Still a Stigma

For Fumiko Kimura, who survived shinju in Santa Monica Beach, it was her second mar­riage. Divorce is still a stigma in Japan. She didn’t want to shame subject herself to more humili­ation, nor did she want to bicker with her husband and her husband’s mistress.

For Japanese women, mar­riage is a life goal. Women aren’t fully accepted in the work force. They are discriminated against in employment, promotions and sal­ary raises. Women feel obliged to quit their jobs when they get mar­ried or give birth to a baby. Most women with a college education quit their jobs in three years after being hired and live as mothers. Women joke that marriage is the worst day of their lives. For the Japanese, if marriage is threatened or falls apart, a Japanese woman becomes psychologically unstable.

I feel empathy for Kimura. Her crime by American standards is forced upon her by despair and Japanese custom. I feel sorry for Kimura because she is going to be punished by the American law. We newcomers gladly abide the American law, but culture is ingrained in people’s mind. We try hard to assimilate to Ameri­can culture, but to deny our ori­ginal culture means to deny our self-esteem and identity. I hope that Americans can consider her cultural background and interpret their law, accordingly.

Career Opportunities in Japan

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The Naval Investigative Service is seeking applicants for its Japan Area offices. Applicants must be U.S. citizens who can read, write, and speak the Japanese language. Applicants must meet basic qualifications set forth in OPM Handbook N-118.

All authorized relocation costs will be paid by the Naval Investigative Service.

Interviews will be held on May 2 (Thu.), May 3 (Fri.), and May 4 (Sat.), 1985, at the New Otani Hotel, 120 South Angeles Street, Los Angeles, California. For further information and to schedule an interview appointment, contact Mary Brandenburg, (213) 547-6124, 547-6125.

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Manzanar desert may bloom again

MANZANAR, Calif. — Members of the Manzanar Committee met with Duane Bierman, the northern district engineer, Los Angeles Aqueduct Division, for a walking tour of the former WW2 internment camp on March 28. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss an Enhancement Mitigation Project, one of 17 projects mandated in the pending Inyo-Los Angeles 5-year water agreement recently approved in San Bernardino Superior Court.

Joining the tour were Greg James, water director for Inyo County, and Shou Sotomura, curator of the Manzanar project at the Eastern California Museum of Independence, and other staff from both water departments.

The tour was to familiarize agency officials with the gardens and other remains in the one-mile square area where more than 20 gardens have been identified by members of the Manzanar Committee.

"Manzanar must not become a desert," according to a water agreement, "Manzanar Committee spokespersons emphasized. "It would be nice to see Manzanar green again with debris cleaned up. However, we do not wish for this project to take precedence over other projects which would benefit Inyo County residents," stated Sue Kunitomi Embrey, committee chairperson.

Persons attending the pilgrimage are reminded to wear comfortable walking shoes, clothing for both warm and windy weather and to take flowers for the cemetery, as well as food and drinks.

For additional information, contact: Los Angeles, (213) 625-0100; in San Francisco, (415) 576-1814.

Credit union enjoys year of growth

CHICAGO—Dudley Yatabe was re-elected to a third consecutive term and ten years in the aggregate as president of the Chicago JACL Federal Credit Union at the first meeting of the newly elected board of directors held on April 11.

Serving on the 1985 board are: Roy Teshima, vice president; Sama Shimizu, secretary; Arie Oda, treasurer; and Sumiko Ono, assistant treasurer. Credit Committee: Chairman Roy Teshima. Richard Hikawa, Thomas Masuda, John Tani, Dudley Yatabe, Supervisor Committee: Chairman Rich Yamada. Education Committee: Chairman Jack Nakagawa,

r.oye, Aki Matsushita, Janet Suzuki, Tak Tomiyama, and Carol Yoshino.

Pursuant to the bylaws, two new directors will be appointed by the board to serve on the supervisory committee. A replacement will likewise be appointed for John Tani, who has accepted a position with Kimberly-Clark Corp. at its headquarters in Wisconsin.

The 38th annual meeting of shareholders was convened at Como Inn on March 29, at which Dudley Yatabe reported that the past year was another year of growth, surpassing records of the previous year. Historical highs were evident in loans outstanding of $864,400, shares on deposit of $663,370, total assets of $766,175, and the dollar value of loans made during the year of $542,362. Although gross income of $83,381 was not a record, it was second only to that of the previous year.

At Dec. 31, 1984, the loan/share ratio was 10.84% and the percentage of delinquent loans was 2.74%. An all-time high was also attained in the declaration of an 8% dividend per annum.

Among the significant events of 1984 were, once again, the preplanning of a #1 rating by the federal examiner, the purchase of a computer for the automation of all records and accounts, and reaching the $750,000 mark in assets.

Ms. Kunitomi, on the board of directors held on April 19, 1985, in the greater Los Angeles area will discover a familiar face in one or more of the pages. 24 pages of text, selected bibliography, pictures of Little Tokyo's past. Anyone who has lived in Little Tokyo or who has friends who grew up in the greater Los Angeles area will find the book a useful companion to Pacific Citizen's LITTLE TOKYO LIFE series.

Storm Lake, Iowa

Chiyu Tomihoro of Chicago knows the country around Storm Lake, Iowa, in the northern part of Iowa, about 120 miles north of Des Moines. It is a pretty, bucolic, rural and agricultural part of Iowa—and no doubt beautiful during the spring, summer and fall. But, during winter, it is bone-chillingly cold! We were in Storm Lake lecturing at the small Buena Vista College during January.

We were struck by the sense of isolation and provincialism of that community, at least during the bitter cold of winter. Most of the 900 students at Buena Vista are local, and after graduation, we are told, most stay within a hundred mile radius of their home towns.

We were trying to bring the message of redress to this part of Iowa. We emphasized that what happened to Japanese Americans could well happen to German Americans, or Russian Americans—or to anyone who might be willfully and maliciously linked with a perceived enemy. That seemed like a familiar possibility to most of the students, because they were secure on their farms and homes that had been in their families for several generations—and despite the fact that many were of German ancestry.

We noted, too, that the members of Congress from Iowa were relatively moderate. Rep. Kerley Bedell from northern Iowa, who became a multi-millionaire in the manufacture of fishing equipment, is rated as an open-minded representative. We know that his local office sent a representative to hear me speak at the college in Storm Lake.


The two Iowa Senators are influential. Sen. Charles Grassley has already held hearings on redress, as chairman of the Senate sub-committee on Administrative Practices and Policy of the Judiciary Committee. Sen. Grassley is a businessman, and relatively but not unreasonably, the other Iowa senator is newly elected Sen. Tom Harkins of Ames. Sen. Harkins is known as a civil rights advocate and was a liberal member of the House until his elevation to the U.S. Senate.

We know of Dr. Neil E. Nakade, a professor at Iowa State University in Ames. However, we do not have contacts with other Nikkei, or friends in the State of Iowa. We believe that the Iowa delegation can be of great help to us in redress, if only we could reach them.

Would a Pacific Citizen reader give us names, addresses and telephone numbers of friends or relatives in the State of Iowa?
Going like 60 in 10K run

SAN JOSE, Calif.—California is a long way from Texas, but that won’t stop 69-year-old Texasan Paul Katsuro from participating in San Jose’s Japan Day 10K Banner Run on May 10th.

Katsuro started running almost 13 years ago, starting at one mile and since working his way into 26-mile marathons. One wall of his dining room is decorated with awards from a variety of athletic events, as well as 1st through 3rd place marathon trophies. Many of these awards are obtained with in the last five years, proof that retirement doesn’t necessarily mean inactivity.

Yuki Aki, a non-profit community service for seniors, is hosting the run to raise funds for an Adult Day Head/Life Care facility. The center will offer medical, nutritional, exercise, and recreational facilities for seniors who may otherwise be institutionalized because of functional impairments or who are socially isolated.

Paul Katsuro

The run is a 10K certified and sanctioned course through North San Jose to a finish in Japantown. In addition, the run includes a one-mile “fun walk/run,” awards and prizes. It is being held in conjunction with the annual Nekid Matsuri. For more information, call (408) 294-2321.

10-Year Membership Awards

Year of Membership Awarded
1982
20 years: Mrs. Janet H. Iwamoto
1983
21 years: Mrs. Yoneo Kato
1984
22 years: Mrs. Joseph Lloyd
1985
23 years: Mrs. Paul Katsuro

Saturday, April 26, 1985

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The Man Who Saved Democracy in Missouri

When Y. Fred Fujikawa made a sighting stop in Missouri late in 1948, little did he know that he would meet someone who had changed his life 40 years earlier.

Fujikawa, a 1948 graduate of Creighton University School of Medicine, had a practice in Los Angeles when war broke out between the U.S. and Japan. He was interned in Jerome, Arkansas, where he was paid $19 a month to treat fellow internees.

He applied for an opening at the Missouri State Sanitarium in Mount Vernon and was accepted as a chest surgeon in November 1943. Fujikawa’s employment at the hospital created a stir in the state legislature, where Rep. A.J. Gray (R-Atchison County) declared, “This doctor may be skillful, but by the eternal gods a Jew is a Jew. We’ve been too lenient with the Japs. We can’t trust Jews in America.”

No Japanese Wanted

In March 1944, Gray introduced a rider to a bill dealing with the pay of doctors. The amendment required that a doctor who had not been born in the U.S. and had never practiced medicine in Missouri could not be employed there, but its admitted purpose was to “prevent wholesale importation and employment of Japanese in our hospitals.”

Rep. O.K. Armstrong (R-Springfield) strongly opposed the measure. “If we prevent a man from pursuing his honorable profession because his ancestors were Oriental, we would be fanning coals of racial prejudice that might burst into raging flames,” he said.

Punishing the Innocent

“You let us punish the innocent victims of war for the crimes of those who are the enemies of freedom,” Dr. Fujikawa is not responsible for our war with Japan. Let us then deny the implication that while Americans are the super-race... if I were a Japanese, or the son of any other race and could be born in this land of liberty, I would tell you that I am an American citizen.

“Let us lift our voices against any moves towards discrimination because of color or creed. If interracial bigotry and intolerance... lift their reeking banners in other land in this state of this union, let Missouri remain forever a refuge of tolerance.”

Also declaring that Fujikawa was Rep. Elise Langsdorf (D-St. Louis) and IRA Jones, head of the state hospital board. Jones said that although Fujikawa “we would have had to send 150 patients home, and many of them would have died.”

Amendment Defeated

The amendment was later defeated on the grounds that it dealt with employee qualifications and was therefore not germane to a bill on employee salaries. House Speaker Howard Elliott said that the debate over the amendment showed that “as long as this nation can handle a challenge of this type in time of stress, we need have little fear of losing those principles which have made us great.”

An editorial in the Pacific Citizen notes the amendment’s defeat of Fujikawa: “It is such men who keep alive the American documents of freedom.”

Fujikawa was appointed as the hospital, where he became a tuberculous surgeon, until January 1949, when he returned to California. His surgical practice ended in 1975 after four corovinaries and arthritis in his hands. Now living in Seal Beach, Calif., he and his wife Alice have three children, one of whom was born in camp.

The Fujikawa visited in 1948 were by then passing by their Missouri State Sanitarium and stopped to introduce himself. He later became a congressman.

Unexpected Reunion

November 1984, Fred and Alice Fujikawa visited the site of the Battle of Wilson Creek, fought in 1861, in southwest Greene County, Missouri. By chance, Fred found out that朋友圈. An exasperation observed the battlefield. Although he thought that Armstrong had long since died, a park ranger said that he had seen him in the Armstrong the day before. Not long after, the Fujikawas paid a visit to Armstrong and his wife Marjorie.

During the visit, which Fujikawa called “the high point of my trip,” he left a note in the Armstrong’s guest book: “I cannot thank you enough for your kindness and support during those trying days in 1944... you alone stood up for me in the state legislature.”

From reports by Springfield Leader & Press

Little Tokyo cultural center celebrates 5th anniversary

by Harry Honda

LOS ANGELES — Before a happy audience of 50, the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center celebrated its fifth anniversary this past weekend (April 17) with a dinner at the Bonaventure Hotel.

Imbued in the opening remarks of Judge Kathryn Doi Todd, mistress of ceremonies, was the explanation of the enigmatic theme, “Century II: The Center Comes Alive.” Now that Little Tokyo has completed its first century, the JACC is off and running as Japanese Angelinos between their second century, she said.

Japanese Consul General Tai- so Watanabe congratulated JACC’s accomplishments and predicted the centre theatre is destined to play an even more important role in Century II. “We cannot afford to destroy the lines of communication which exist between Japan and the United States,” he emphasized.

SCGF and CFA Cited

JACC board of directors recognized the role of the So. Calif. Gardeners’ Federation (SCGF) and the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles (CRA) in the development of the JACC in particular and in the community in general.

The JACC President’s Award was bestowed upon Mr. and Mrs. Tokio Fukuda for their work in U.S.-Japan cultural affairs, especially through the JACC, its theatre and the Ambassador’s Council.

Restrictive Licensing

The federation was formed in 1966 to “furnish gardeners to impose strict licensing requirements on gardeners as professionals, thus restricting many from enter into servicing this enter. The SCGF, one of the co-sponsors of Little Tokyo Towers with JACL and the Buddhist and Japanese Christian church federations, today has medical insurance, retirement plan, credit union and a program to provide students with art, music and soil improvement.

Seiji Horio, SCGF president, and Bill Kondo, executive director, accepted the award—a scroll inscribed with a Japanese poem by calligrapher Hiroklo Itoha. In addition to the JACC’s annual award for the CRA were James M. Wood, CRA chair, and Ed Hefield, administrator.

Looking Ahead

In concluding remarks, JACC executive director Gerald Yoshitomi spoke of future events, such as the Aug. 7 grand opening of the Grand Kabuki Co. here, dance, music and photo exhibits. The JACC, he said, is committed to nurturing young talent in the arts, promoting Japanese American heritage, sharing in U.S.-Japan activities and welcoming suggestions to enhance the role of the JACC.

Nori koshi Kanai, current Japanese Chamber of Commerce president, and Francis Hashimoto, past Little Tokyo Center president, co-chaired the dinner. Kosuke Isawata and Toshikazu Terashima were honorary co-chair.

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Calendar

- Through May 5
  Los Angeles — The Music Lea©e, 207 W. Wakoba Yama©e, dir. by Malo. East West Players. 4434 Santa Monica Blvd. Th-Sun 8pm; Sun 7pm; 2pm mat. (213) 859-4110.

- Through May 12

- April 28-29
  Eugene: ore — Conf. on Intervention and Nuclear Threat. info: (503) 685-1750.

- Saturday, April 7
  Los Angeles — Reti©ions Transform. Con®-temp works by As Ams artist. Doshiki Gallery. 284 S San Pedro St.

- April 30-May 1

- Saturday, April 13
  Los Angeles — Reti©ions Transform. Con®-temp works by As Ams artist. Doshiki Gallery. 284 S San Pedro St.

- April 30-May 1

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European Vistas 6 Countries Aug 24
17 days - 27 meals - 1st class hotels = $2295.00 (Limited space).
Greek, Norwegian, Spain
June 20, Athens - $1600.00 (Limited space).

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 equality and beauty of the whole city.

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