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Friday, October 4, 1985

## AGE IN THE 1930S: the Japanese Immigrant Press



Photo by Sachi Yamamoto

Members of Pacific Asian American Women Writers West who gave a reading of 1930s Nisei works Sept. 14 were (front row, from left) Momoko Iko, Emma Gee, Wakako Yamauchi, (back row, from left) Shuko Akune, Sue Embrey, Joyce Nako and Sharon Maeda. (Story on page 6.)

## News in Brief

### Newspaper publisher released but still faces charges

TAIPEI—Lee Ya-ping, who has been charged with publishing communist propaganda in International Daily News, a Chinese-language newspaper based in Monterey Park, Calif., was released Sept. 26 pending arraignment, according to the L.A. Times. The Taiwan government has accused her of "attempting to disseminate defeatism among overseas Chinese communities" by promoting reunification between Taiwan and the mainland. "She is conditionally free," said Anthony Yuen, editor of Lee's paper. "Our main goal is for her to be unconditionally free and come back to the United States."

Rep. Robert Matsui (D-Calif.) is among the members of Congress who have protested the incident, which he called "an affront to the United States Constitution and the American people. They seem to believe that they can impose their martial law on whomever they wish, whenever they wish, even if it means... drawing an iron curtain around free speech in the United States." He added that the Lee case could be related to the 1984 murder of journalist Henry Liu, a Taiwan critic, in Daly City, Calif.

### Progress seen in drive to raise Hong Kong visa quota

WASHINGTON—In letters sent to every member of the House on Sept. 13, Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.) cited support from Asst. Secretary of State Joan Clark as an important step toward Reagan Administration support for HR 1482, a bill that would raise the Hong Kong immigration quota from 600 to 5,000 per year. Clark testified Sept. 9 before the House Judiciary subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees and International Law that "We strongly support an increase... [and] believe that the increase should be 5,000." Mineta credited the efforts of Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) and Rep. Sala Burton (D-Calif.) on the bill's behalf.

### Suspects arrested in connection with Liu killing

WASHINGTON—U.S. officials said Sept. 25 that Brazilian authorities have arrested Tung Kuei-sen of Taiwan, a suspect in the 1984 murder of Chinese American journalist Henry Liu of Daly City, Calif., Associated Press reports. If extradited, Tung will be the only member of the three-man hit team to be tried in the U.S.; Chen Chi-li, head of the Taiwan-based United Bamboo gang, and gang member Wu Tun were convicted of murder earlier this year in Taiwan and an intelligence official, who allegedly plotted the murder to silence Liu's criticisms of the Taiwan government, was also found guilty.

In a crackdown on 12 United Bamboo members in California, New York, Texas, and Nevada, made public by federal and police authorities Sept. 16, at least one gang member, Chang An-lo of Monterey Park, Calif., was charged with conspiracy in the Liu murder.

## NCJAR suit debated at hearing

WASHINGTON — Attorneys for National Council for Japanese American Redress (NCJAR) and the U.S. government presented their respective arguments before the District of Columbia Court of Appeals during a Sept. 24 hearing.

NCJAR is appealing the dismissal of its class action suit against the government on behalf of JAs interned during WW2. U.S. District Judge Louis Oberdorfer ruled in May 1984 that the plaintiffs waited too long to file their suit.

The statute of limitations normally

expires six years after the injury occurs; a suit cannot be brought after that time without a compelling reason.

Benjamin Zelenko, attorney for NCJAR, challenged the basis for the dismissal, charging that the government has concealed pertinent information until recently. He cited the time and expertise required by archival researchers Aiko Herzig and Peter Irons to find declassified wartime documents to be used in the suit.

Zelenko also argued against the basis of the internment itself, cit-

ing 1942 reports from the Office of Naval Intelligence and the Federal Communications Commission which showed "the plaintiffs posed no threat to national security." The government "persists in claiming there was military necessity," he said.

Dept. of Justice attorney Jeffrey Axelrad disputed both claims. He maintained that the plaintiffs could have filed a suit much earlier but simply neglected to find the necessary documents until it was too late, and that the government is taking no position on whether there was military necessity. The

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## Governor signs two JA-related bills

SACRAMENTO — Gov. George Deukmejian announced Sept. 24 that he has signed two bills involving Japanese Americans, one providing funding for a JA museum and the other revoking a WW2 law used against JAs.

SB 1452, authored by State Sen. Art Torres (D-S. Pasadena), appropriates \$750,000 from the Special Account for Capital Outlay to the Dept. of Parks and Recreation for allocation to the City of Los Angeles for the Japanese Ameri-

can National Museum in Little Tokyo.

"Japanese Americans have made significant contributions to the social, cultural and economic diversity of our state, as well as this nation," said Deukmejian. "This national museum will document these achievements and celebrate the heritage of Japanese Americans."

The appropriation is contingent upon the providing of \$1 million in non-state funds by the City of Los

Angeles. The city and the Community Redevelopment Agency have been working with the JA National Museum Foundation to find a suitable site for the museum, which is temporarily located at 941 E. 3rd St. A permanent location is sought at the old Nishi Honganji temple on 1st St. and Central Ave.

The other bill signed by Deukmejian concerns a state government code that was used to fire more than 300 employees of Japanese descent during WW2. AB 198, authored by Assemblyman Phillip Isenberg (D-Sacramento), re-

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## Fiscal woes dominate board meeting

by Robert Shimabukuro

SAN FRANCISCO—At a stormy meeting at National Headquarters Sept. 20-22, the National JA Board cut \$105,700 from its 1986 budget, approved the transfer of \$75,000 to the LEC (contingent upon availability of funds), and called for a moratorium on Japan's LDP-sponsored trips by JA Board officials until May, 1986.

Perception—how the membership perceives board policy and how contributors to redress perceive the leadership—became a key issue of concern. Board members were concerned about how the following facts would be perceived:

—\$90,000 of chapter redress pledges have not been received to date;

—The JA Board redress program is approximately \$100,000 in debt to the endowment fund;

—According to tax consultant Ward Pynn, JA Board, a 501(c)(3) organization, could, under a 501(h) election, spend up to \$230,000 for lobbying efforts; he even suggested that there was no need for a 501(c)(4) organization (LEC).

For example, a motion by vice-president Rose Ochi for JA Board to ask the endowment committee to

restructure the loan repayment schedule drew the most heated debate. PSW Gov. Harry Kajiha voiced strong objections, saying that the board would give the community the perception that it had no intention of repaying the loan.

Others disagreed, saying that by cutting the budget, the board had demonstrated fiscal responsibility, and if the endowment committee had strong reservations a simple no would end the matter. In a very close vote, with president Frank Sato casting the deciding vote, the motion passed.

The matter of personnel cuts brought the matter of "perception" to the forefront again. With personnel cuts having been decided in executive session, other cuts were discussed Sunday morning in open session. As board members discussed keeping various other allocations, executive director Ron Wakabayashi pointed out that with \$63,700 already cut from personnel, and only \$26,000 being cut from other budget items, the perception was created that there was an unfair burden being placed on staff to bear the brunt of the cuts.

In response to PC Board Chair

Clifford Uyeda's comment that being paid to do a job and then being asked to take a pay cut is different from asking volunteers to work with a smaller budget, since volunteers are already contributing time, Wakabayashi said, "Let's standardize. Let's say that for staff, you limit us to 40 hours/week. The rest of it is volunteer and we'll [match volunteers] hour for hour after that."

Following this heated discussion, the board refused to cut the program budget, and the governors agreed to a \$15,000 cut in district allocations, with the distribution of those cuts being decided among the governors.

The final result was a \$42,000 cut in general operations and \$63,700 in personnel. It was later learned that the personnel cuts meant the "defunding" of two positions in the Washington office (with one being picked up by LEC), a wage freeze for staff, and an "adjustment" in the salaries of the two redress positions at National Headquarters.

Again, the matter of "perception" was brought into play, as one board member complained, "How is this going to look when we say that redress is our number one priority and the biggest cut is in the redress staff?"

Continued on page 6



Tom Ohgi (left) and Wally Shishido

## Community Affairs

LOS ANGELES—A Redress Conference scheduled for Oct. 5, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at Venice Japanese Community Center, 12448 Braddock Dr., features Dr. Peter Irons of Committee to Reverse the Japanese American Wartime Cases; Bert Nakano of National Coalition for Redress/Reparations; Min Yasui of Legislative Education Committee, JACL; and Joyce Okinaka, National Council for Japanese American Redress. Attorney Frank Chuman will moderate. The film "Subversion?" a KQED-TV documentary about Bay Area JAs interned during WW2, will be shown. The conference begins with presentation of colors by 442nd veterans. Fee: \$10, which includes bento lunch. Info: 626-4471.

"Cultural Barriers of Asian Immigrant Women" will be held Nov. 2, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., JACCC 2nd floor, 244 S. San Pedro St. Speakers: JACL program director Lia Shigemura on mail-order brides; attorney Eileen Kurahashi on the Fumiko Kimura case; KTLA-TV producer/moderator Sumi Haru; Miya Iwataki, aide to Rep. Mervyn Dymally and a participant in the UN conference on women in Nairobi; and Bok Lim Kim, an expert on Asian brides of American GIs. Registration: \$5 general, \$3 students/seniors. Sponsored by Asian/Pacific Women's Network and Pacific Southwest District JACL's Women's Concerns Committee. Info: Carol Saito, (213) 626-4471. (program postponed from September.)

"Chikamatsu's Forest," a play by Ed Sakamoto, opens Oct. 20, 2 p.m., at East West Players, 4424 Santa Monica Blvd. It will be performed Oct. 21, 26 & 28 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 27 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$6 each. Info: (213) 660-0366.

SAN JOSE—The annual Keiro-kai (senior appreciation) luncheon will be held Oct. 26, 2-4 p.m., at San Jose Bud-

dhist Church Betsuin Hall. Yu Ai Kai and West Valley JACL Senior Club co-sponsor with support from other community groups. Anyone knowing of a senior over 75 who has not received an invitation by Oct. 10 should contact Yu Ai Kai, (408) 294-2595. Tickets are \$8, which includes bento. Info: Yu Ai Kai or West Valley JACL Clubhouse, 253-0458.

MONTEREY PARK, Calif.—"Fashions for All Seasons" and "Boutique" will be presented by Maryknoll Ladies Guild on Oct. 20 at Lincoln Plaza Hotel. Proceeds will go to support the Maryknoll School and the Japanese Retirement Home. Door prizes will be given. Info: Catherine Uyeda, (213) 262-9853.

### FOR THE RECORD

The Oct. 12 "Celebration of the Arts" at Sage Methodist Church in Monterey Park, listed in the Sept. 13 PC, has been postponed until further notice.

## Discrimination suit plaintiff promoted

by J.K. Yamamoto

LOS ANGELES—A new development in the case of Wally Shishido and Tom Ohgi, employees of the Environmental Management Division of L.A. County's Health Services Dept. who have charged the county with discrimination, was announced at a Sept. 19 fundraiser held on their behalf.

Kent Wong of Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) told the gathering of supporters at Japanese American Cultural and Community Center Plaza that Shishido, who has been eligible for promotion for over 10 years, has been promoted to the position of chief sanitarian.

Shishido and Ohgi, who have worked for the Health Services Dept. for 28 and 26 years respectively, claim that they have been repeatedly passed over while non-Asians with less seniority have been promoted (see June 28 PC). As a result, the Joint Employment Discrimination Project of APALC and Asian Pacific Legal Defense and Education Fund (APLDEF) has been planning a class action complaint against the county.

Despite Shishido's promotion, said Wong, "we want to pursue forward with the administrative complaint on behalf of Tom and some of the other Asian sanitarians... Just because they've made this one gesture, we're not going to just all go home and forget about it."

"It's important that we keep the pressure on, that we be able to identify groups of Asian employees that are having the same problem... and to continue to let the county know that the Asian community is organized, that we are concerned, that we are willing to take any steps necessary to eradicate the problem of discrimination."

Ohgi outlined the situation in the Environmental Management Division. "There are about 300 employees... about 15% of that is Asian Americans... In the last six years there have been 18 promotions, and during that time only one Asian employee has been appointed. That Asian has replaced the Asian who retired."

"Asians are hired and qualified to be promoted to the level of technical staff, [but] they have been prevented from further advancement because of the current promotional practice. It is based on a subjective rating system, not a merit system."

Ohgi and Shishido explained that 50% of an employee's rating is based on his records and 50% is based on an interview. "They can select anyone they please, even if you get within range of being selected," said Shishido. "Not a single Asian was given 100 promotability."

"Let's not assume that if we work hard, do our job and don't complain, we'll be recognized," said Ohgi. "We need to protest... We need a class action suit to have institutional changes made... so that Asian employees in the future will be given a fair shake."

"About the only way we can change it is to get the county's attention," added Shishido. "At this point I think we've gotten their attention to a certain extent."

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## AA candidates lose in Seattle elections

SEATTLE — Bob Santos and Cheryl Chow, the two Asian Americans seeking the Democratic nomination for Position 5 on the King County Council, both lost to candidate Ron Sims in the September 17 primary.

Sims received 5,472 votes to Chow's 4,634 and Santos' 3,726. The three, along with Willie Campbell and Robert Stowers, were competing for the position being vacated by three-term veteran Ruby Chow, who did not seek reelection. The district extends from Capitol Hill to Renton.

All three top vote-getters had a record of addressing Asian

American concerns. Santos was executive director of International District Improvement Assn. for 14 years and served on the State Commission on Asian American Affairs, Human Rights Commission, Demonstration Project for Asian Americans and White House Conference on the Elderly. He helped found International District Health Clinic, Denise Louie Child Care Center, and Chinatown-International District Preservation and Development Authority.

Cheryl Chow, who is Ruby Chow's daughter, organized clubs and activities for Asian Pacific students while a teacher and school administrator.

As a legislative aide to state senator George Fleming, Sims was involved in passage of measures providing: a resolution to Congress supporting redress legislation; payments to JA state employees fired during WW2; funding for Wing Luke Museum and Asian American Theater; and bilingual education, mental health and state contract programs affecting the Asian American community.

Sims, who faces Republican nominee Michael Ross in November, lists as future projects passage of legislation providing payments to Nisei clerks fired by the Seattle School District during WW2; requiring business contracts with the state to comply with state affirmative action requirements; and funding "international education in public schools."

—from reports by  
International Examiner

## Mirikitani to be saluted for literary works

SAN FRANCISCO — Poet Janice Mirikitani is one of six Bay Area women writers to be honored at the "Women of Words" luncheon at California Culinary Academy, 625 Post St., Oct. 17, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., sponsored by the Women's Foundation.

Mirikitani, program director at Glide Memorial Church, has had poems published in several anthologies featuring Asian American writers. Along with the other honorees, she will read selections

from her works.

"Each of the honorees," said Marya Grambs, co-director of the Women's Foundation, "represents excellence in literature, has written a substantial body of work and is a pioneer who represents the diversity in our community and our lives."

The other honorees are: Alice Adams, who publishes fiction in the New Yorker; Alice Walker, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award for *The*

*Color Purple*; Judy Grahn, winner of the American Poetry Review's award for Poem of the Year; Tillie Olsen, whose first novel won an O. Henry Award; and Josephine Miles, who wrote poetry from 1935 to her death in May 1985.

The Women's Foundation funds non-profit organizations that serve low-income women in Northern California, including programs in the arts, social services, health and education.

Tickets, which are tax deductible, are available from the Women's Foundation, 3543 18th St., S.F. 94110; (415) 431-1290.

## DEUKMEJIAN

Continued from Front Page

peals Section 19573, enacted in 1942, which made dual citizenship a basis for dismissal during wartime.

At a hearing on the bill in March, former state employees George Muraki and Shiz Ueda testified about their experiences, and Isenberg pointed out that the law was aimed solely at Japanese Americans, quoting wartime attorney general Earl Warren as saying the law would be unconstitutional if applied to German or Italian Americans.

"It is long overdue that we remove this shameful legacy of mistrust and misunderstanding that was, in effect, a tool for discrimination and mistreatment," Deukmejian said after signing the bill into law.

## PBS to broadcast 'Unfinished Business'

"Unfinished Business," Steven Okazaki's documentary on the wartime Supreme Court cases of Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu and Minoru Yasui, will be broadcast on PBS as follows:

**Los Angeles:** Tuesday, Oct. 8, 10 p.m., on KCET, Channel 28.

**San Francisco:** Tuesday, Oct. 8, 10 p.m., on KQED, Channel 9, and Saturday, Oct. 12, 10 p.m., on KQEC, Channel 32.

**Portland:** Sunday, Oct. 13, 1 p.m., on KOAP, Channel 10.

**Seattle:** Wednesday, Oct. 9, 10:30 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 12, 1 p.m., on KCTS, Channel 9.

**Boston:** Friday, Oct. 18, 11 p.m., on WGBH, Channel 2.

**New York:** Tuesday, Oct. 8, 11 p.m., on WNET, Channel 13.

**Washington, D.C.:** Monday, Oct. 21, 10 p.m., on WETA, Channel 26.

For other cities, check local listings.

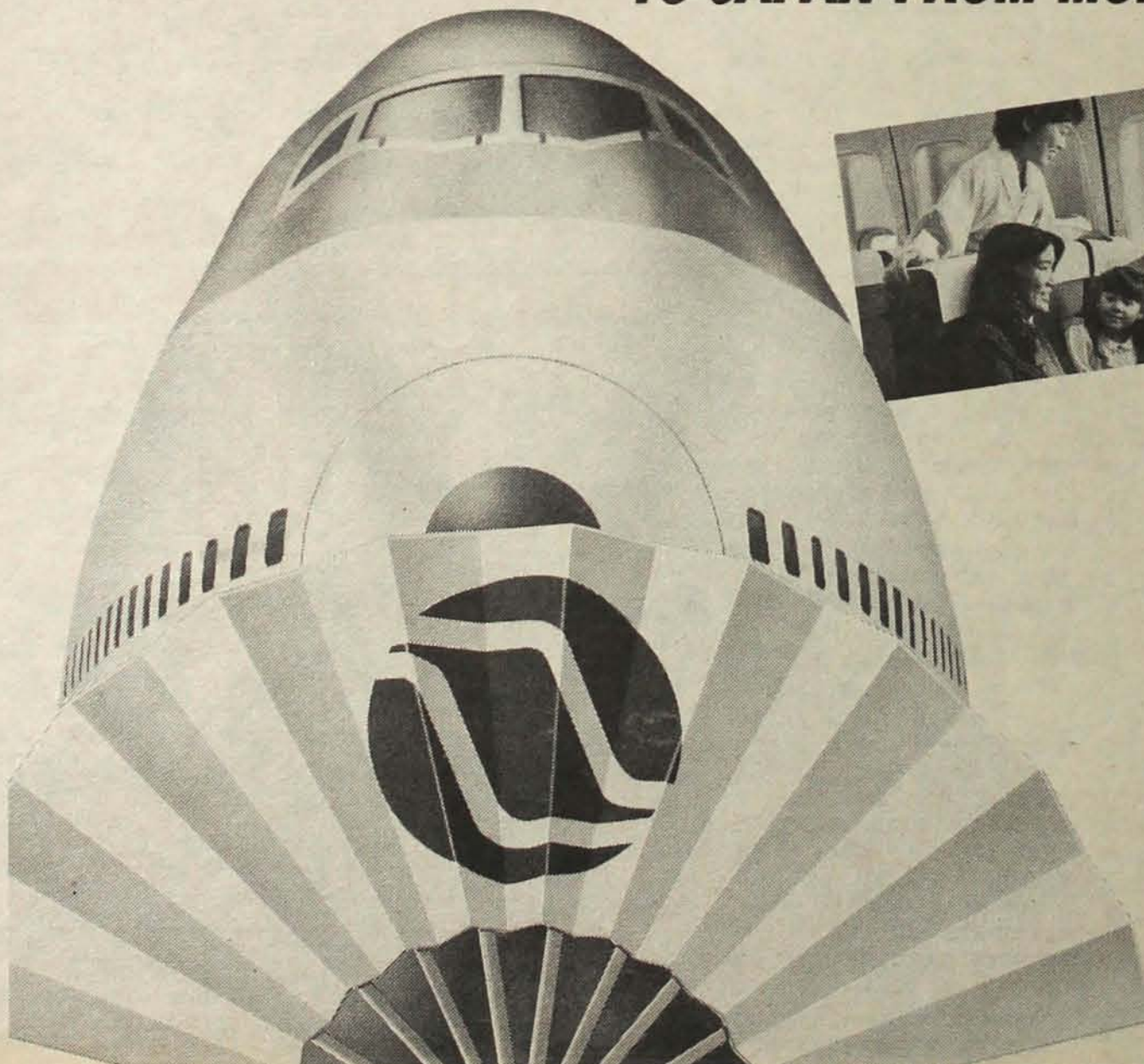
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# Triangle of Hate

EAST WIND

Bill Marutani



just completed a 225-page work on Japanese Peruvians entitled *Pawns in a Triangle of Hate: The Peruvian Japanese and the United States* (University of Washington Press). Dr. Gardiner summarized some of his findings.

We summarize the summary, placing quotation marks when referring directly to Dr. Gardiner's words.

FROM TWELVE COUNTRIES in Latin America, the U.S. Government "kidnapped thousands of people" and placed them in "concentration camps" in Texas. After going through some 46 boxes of government documents, plus "thousands of pages of the diplomatic and FBI records concerning the 1,800 Japanese Peruvians who were seized and shipped to this country," there could not be found any "charge [or "evidence"] of wrongdoing" against these people.

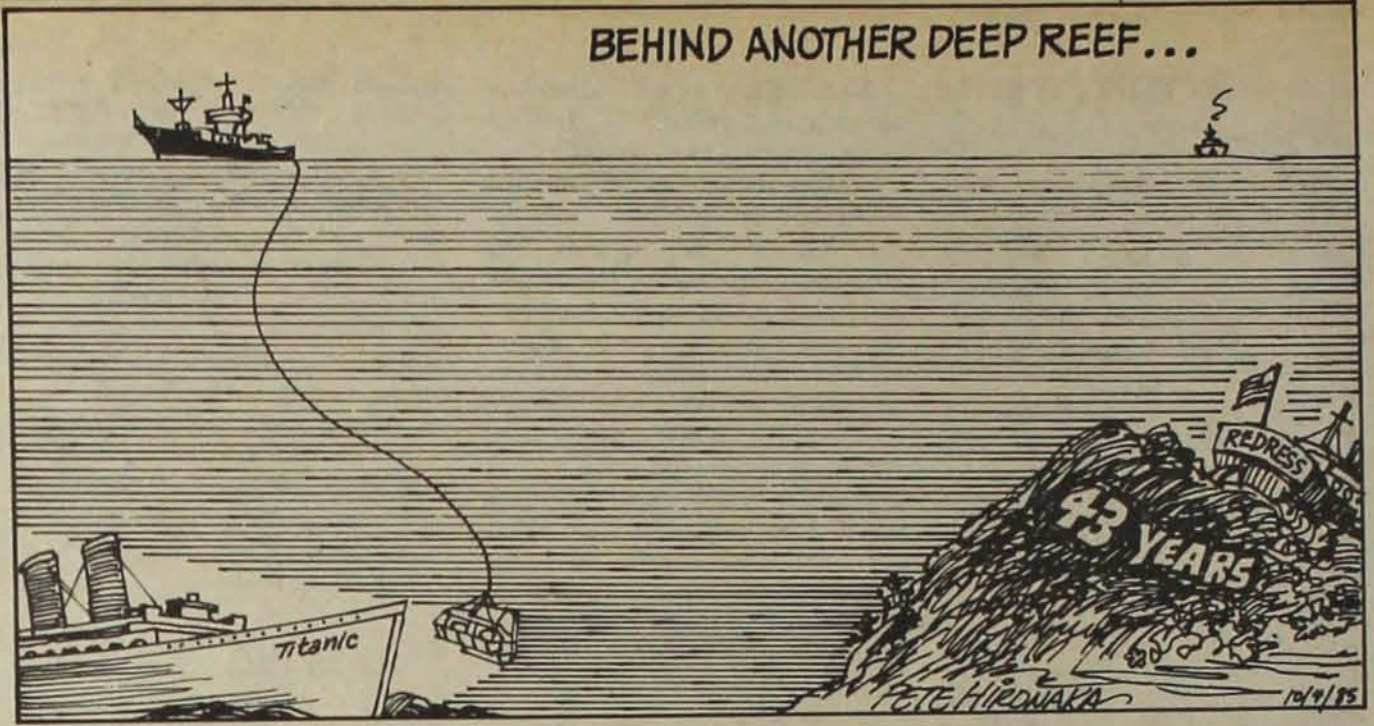
From other sources, I also learned of the utter indifference and cold contempt some agencies held for these hapless victims.

SINCE THESE FOLKS had been summarily rounded up and placed on ships and planes, and directly incarcerated into camps in a foreign (U.S.) land, they were—so to speak—"undocumented" entrants. So, when the war ended,

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, I had occasion to speak at a local college. In the course of the dissertation, reference was made to the uprooting and incarceration of Japanese Americans and their parents in these United States. One of the instructors made reference to Peruvians of Japanese ancestry who had been rounded up and forcibly sent to the United States. It turns out that this instructor had been born and raised in Peru.

So I began to search among my source materials. Then I remembered.

AT THE CHICAGO hearings (September 22, 23, 1981) of the CWRIC (Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians), C. Harvey Gardiner, Ph.D., a scholarly writer on Latin America and Japan, testified. Among his many writings, he had



and they sought to return to their home country, Peru, many were unable to do so because its hostile *presidente*, who had been more than willing to cooperate with the U.S. government to expel them, was unwilling to receive them back. According to Dr. Gardiner, Wayne M. Collins and the American Civil Liberties Union aided many of these stranded Japanese Peruvians. (I never had the privilege of meeting, or the honor of knowing, Wayne M. Collins; but from all that I've read and heard about him, there ought to be a special tribute of thanks to him from

the National JACL—regardless of the past.)

BUT NOT ALL were able to return to Peru. As to them, we understand that the Immigration & Naturalization Service took the position that they were "illegal immigrants" since they had entered the U.S. without the benefit of passports and a visa! Sounds like nonsensical gibberish from some character from *Alice in Wonderland*.

It's enough to make a grown man cry.

WE REPORTED BACK to our

"Peruvian" instructor who had informed us that many in Peru refused to believe such a thing had ever occurred. The materials I provided are to be used to set the record straight with some folks back in Peru. The Peruvian instructor concluded with a jab at an "English Only" proponent "whose primary goal is to destroy the Spanish language and help disenfranchise millions of Hispanics in the U.S." With exasperation the instructor's letter closed: "Some people never learn!"

Sad, but true.

# Breaking Stereotypes

ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER

Bob Shimabukuro



and patronizing contacts with white America were treated with humor, compassion and understanding rare in American performances about Asians.

Today, 5 years later, the Asian American, as a protagonist subject to "real" emotions, as a human being with families, needs, desires of his/her own, is still a rarity. Great Leap (GL), along with other AA performing arts organizations, continue to provide relief, but like other AA artists, their appeal has been limited; the establishment media has dominated the scene, either ignoring AAs or flooding the public with their own portrayals of Asians, portrayals which have been degrading, insulting and, in many cases, damaging.

AA artists, struggling for a place in the larger American society, have had little success in convincing other Asians of the importance of the role played by

artists in humanizing and educating the general public. As a result, AA artists often find themselves with a limited and limiting audience, unable to grow and speak for a community which desperately needs its artists and poets.

GL artistic director Miyamoto, recognizing the importance of a community-based performing arts company, has continued to create a distinctly AA aesthetic, utilizing some of the best AA talent available.

Director/choreographer Jose De Vega, best known to "oldtimers" as Chino in "West Side Story," is one of those talented professionals working with GL. As Miyamoto said recently about De Vega's move to GL, "It gave young Asians a chance to work with a top-flight Asian professional. That opportunity is rare for most Americans."

In the past few years, GL has offered numerous AA artists the opportunity to perform, including Benny Yee, Deborah Nishimura, "Atomic" Nancy, Peter Kwang, Kenichi Kusumi, Louise Kawabata, Susan Inouye, Marilyn Tokuda and John Lone.

Southern Californians can experience GL at its first benefit performance/reception at the Japan America Theater, Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m.

Guest hosts for the program include television star Ted Lange, Los Angeles city councilman Mike Woo, businesswoman Lilly Lee and Robert Wise, president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Tickets for the performance are available from GL board members or by calling (213) 936-0189.

Northern Californians will have an opportunity to see Miya-

moto and dancer/choreographer Louise Kawabata at Sansei Live, a benefit for Kimochi, Inc., at the Gift Center Pavilion's atrium on Brannan St., San Francisco, Oct. 19. For ticket information, call (415) 922-9972.

Check these events out. On those nights, opportunities for

seeing Asians in other performances will probably be limited to "Year of the Dragon," "Volunteers," "Rambo—Part II," and "American Ninja." It should not be very difficult to make a choice.

For \$35, you will be purchasing an evening of enjoyment and investing in the future of Asian American performance art.

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## Visitors to the 'Hub'

Back before jet airliners were invented, many prop-driven airplanes didn't have the range to fly non-stop across the continent from New York to San Francisco, or Los Angeles to Washington. So the airlines scheduled intermediate stops, like Chicago or Denver, for many of their trans-continental flights so the planes could be refueled with gasoline and fresh meals, and passengers could get out and stretch their cramped legs.

That necessity created an interesting spinoff. Friends flying across the country found themselves at Denver's airport with a half hour or 45 minutes to kill, and nothing to do after they'd bought a copy of the local paper and a package of gum. They solved their dilemma by phoning me, sometimes at the office and sometimes at home, to say howdy and exchange the news about friends.

In a sense, Denver became something like a stagecoach stop where travelers brought intelligence from distant points and picked up information to carry on.

Then came the jetliners, capable of spanning the nation in a single bound. Denver was bypassed and my calls from old friends tapered off.

Now there has been another

### FROM THE FRYING PAN:

Bill Hosokawa



transportation development. The airlines adopted the idea of a "hub". Planes from various parts of the East and Far West home in on Denver, all managing to arrive within a few minutes of each other. The passengers leap out and scramble aboard other planes which will take them to their destinations. But sometimes they miss connections. You know what's happened. The telephone is ringing again.

Thus it was something of a surprise the other day when a male voice describing himself as Mas Shiozaki called to say he was driving through, and would I have a few minutes for him to drop by. I groped for a face to attach to the name. Let's see, there was Mike Shiozaki the Idaho sheriff, and George Shiozawa, the Idaho county commissioner, and Ron Shiozaki the former Northwesterner now in Southern California whom we'd seen in Brazil. But who was Mas?

Mas Shiozaki and his wife Emi Jane showed up in due time and he turned out to be Ron's brother. Not only that, but he said he was a long and faithful reader of this column, which he proceeded to demonstrate by citing letter and verse on a lot of stuff written long ago. He even remembered a misfortune I had with a can of eel some decades back, an experience I had written about but which is too psychologically painful to repeat here now, and in condolence Mas brought me two cans he picked up in San Francisco.

Of course such faithful readers are treasures, but beyond that, Mas turned out to be a lively conversationalist and we had a very pleasant couple of hours before he had to move along. A retired carpenter, Mas is one of a growing number of Nisei who are old enough and comfortable enough to be able to take off on a leisurely trip when so moved. He and Emi had been in Hawaii for the Vets reunion and were on the last leg of a vacation that would take two months before they reached home in Mt. Prospect, Ill.

Emi reminded me that her brother, George Matsumoto, had been a shipmate aboard the President Cleveland in October of 1941 when we were racing back home from gathering warclouds in Shanghai. I recalled George as a tall skinny kid. Emi said George is an architect in San Francisco and no longer skinny. Time flies.

## Chapter Pulse

### South Bay

TORRANCE, Calif.—South Bay JACL presents "Nearsighted No More," with Dr. Wendell Wong, director of California Center for Eye Surgery and past chapter president, Tue., Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m., Marriott Hotel, 3635 Fashion Way. Wong will discuss radial keratotomy, an out-patient surgical procedure which may correct myopia and astigmatism. Seating is limited. For reservations and information, call Martha, 316-3377.

### Cincinnati

CINCINNATI—Board member Eisho Nakano was featured in an article in the Sycamore Messenger/News publicizing classes in Japanese culture sponsored by the chapter. Nakano will teach a series of classes in *katazome*, a paste-resist method in dyeing fabric and paper. Tokyo-born Nakano attended the Women's College of Fine Art in Tokyo and majored in fashion design. From 1972-1980 she taught in Kobe and moved to Cincinnati in 1981.

Other classes offered by the chapter include: calligraphy, cooking, ikebana, tako (kite painting), sashiko (one-stitch embroidery technique), origami and tea ceremonies. Info: Eisha Nakano, 984-4542.

### San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO — Sake and sushi at the Steinhart Aquarium will be served Nov. 8 as the chapter hosts an evening to discuss some of the social issues and concerns of the JA and Asian American communities, 6-10 p.m. Television personalities Jan Yanehiro and Wendy Tokuda will be present. For reservations, a \$10 check should be sent to: JACL—San Francisco Chapter, P.O. Box 22425, San Francisco, CA 94122, no later than Oct. 31.

### Fresno A.L.L.

FRESNO, Calif.—CCDC Governor Peggy Liggett was honored at the 2nd annual "Women Making History" luncheon, Sept. 7. Liggett was honored for her contributions to the community. She has worked for the county as a trainer, and as a liaison between county and community groups. She is also chair of the Judicial Evaluation Committee (5th Judicial District) of the Calif. Women Lawyers.

### San Jose

SAN JOSE—The San Jose chapter will sponsor one student in the 1986 Presidential Classroom for Young Americans in Washington, D.C., March 8-16.

During the week, U.S. government policy-makers share their expertise with the students in 15 seminars. Students also meet with representatives of the news media, the diplomatic community, public interest groups, business and labor.

Interested students should contact their counselor for applications or call (408) 292-2914. Deadline for applications is Dec. 15.

## Vets' Reunion

by Frank Sakamoto

At the recent 39th reunion of the 34th Infantry (The Red Bull) Division Assn., held in Dubuque, Iowa, September 6-8, Dubuque Mayor Jim E. Brady presented the key to the city to Dr. Victor Izui, who accepted on behalf of the members of the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

In return, Dr. Izui gave Mayor Brady the *Go For Broke* book. He also presented the book to Mayor Varisita Hinton of Foreman, Arkansas, whose husband is a member of the 34th Division.

Thanks to the efforts of Ed Kelley, a past national president of the association (who incidentally is a past commander of Nisei Post 1183, American Legion, Chicago), a television newscast was arranged with the local CBS station. Mits Kodama, Dick Nomura and I explained the dilemma during WW2 where Nisei were fighting for our country while our families were detained in relocation centers.

Judging by the shocked reaction of many, we Japanese Americans still have our work cut out for us in enlightening the citizenry.

The next reunion will be in Omaha, Nebraska, September 5-7, 1986.

### Women's Concerns

## A 'Rousing' Success

Close to 200 women convened at Laney College in Oakland, Calif., Sept. 21 to participate in a conference entitled "Japanese American Women in Transition: Time to Change and Grow."

Sponsored by JACL's No. Calif.-W. Nevada-Pacific District Women's Concerns Committee, the conference drew attendees from Seattle and Los Angeles as well as contingents from the Sacramento, San Mateo, Stockton and Silicon Valley areas. The majority came from the greater Bay Area.

Members of JACL and of Buddhist and Christian churches were well represented, as were unaffiliated women. Although no official tally was made, Nisei women appeared to be in the majority.

The enthusiastic response to the conference far exceeded the expectations of the sponsoring committee. In spite of last-minute changes—adding workshops in both the morning and afternoon sessions and changing group meeting sites—all the workshops were oversubscribed, a fact that

did not escape the notice of the conferees, who noted this unfortunate condition in their evaluations.

Overall, however, the evaluations gave a rousing endorsement to the efforts of the Women's Concerns Committee. Comments like "Bravo! Let's have another!" and "Thanks, it was very beneficial and I enjoyed the day immensely" predominated. Most felt that the workshop periods, as well as the conference itself, were too short.

Kicking off the session, conference co-chair Mei Nakano noted that not the least of the reasons for organizing a gathering such as this for Asian American women was that "we realize that racism and sexism are still alive and well out there."

"We know that racism is alive when we see that Asians are assaulted and killed simply because they are Asians. We know that sexism is alive when we see that ERA and comparable worth legislation are still having a tough go and that the concerns, the needs, of women are still regarded as relatively trivial."

Women need to get together, she added, to sort out their personal lives and to find their strength by honing their talents as well as galvanizing their well known practices of supporting and nurturing.

These points underscored the various workshops, which at the same time emphasized the salutary effects of change and growth.

The workshops, some of which were repeated, grappled with the subjects of: "Leadership Styles," headed by Kathy Reyes and Sandy Lam, "Parent-Child Relationships," with Chizu Iiyama, "Challenge of Change," led by Lucy Kishaba, "Women in Business and Politics," moderated by Mei Nakano, and "Communications," presented by Jean White-nack.

Presenters participating in the workshops included Alice Nakahata, Cathy Inamasu, Shirley Shimoto, Nikki Bridges, Yuri Moriwaki, Asami Oyama, Sandy Mori, Linda Ito, Pat Orr, Marcia Toyohara and Susan Nakamura.

Helen Yoshida led the entire group in a short series of revitalizing "easy exercises," which many women commented on as "exactly the right thing at the right time."

Highlighting the event were the luncheon speaker, Jan Yanehiro of KPIX-TV, and the presentation of a special award to Dr. Yoshiye Togasaki.

Yanehiro paid tribute to the strength and resilience of Japanese American women, citing her own mother, who "should have been a president of something or other" with her character and drive.

Her parents were from the working class, she explained, and were very disappointed when she

did not go into a teaching career. Nonetheless, they supported her in whatever she attempted to do, a fact for which she today remains deeply grateful.

Yanehiro also reviewed some statistics on the number of hours the average woman watches television, statistics which many conferees found alarming.

In singling out Togasaki as the recipient of an award, the Women's Concerns Committee had determined that she fit exactly their criteria for an awardee—one who had devoted herself to public service and to the larger cause of bettering the conditions of humankind, and one who was not necessarily in the public eye.

In her introduction, Chizu Iiyama remarked on Togasaki's longstanding and vocal support of the civil rights of all people and her lifelong commitment to the cause of public health and the prevention of illnesses.

"She is a great and humble woman, a role model for us all," Iiyama declared after citing the enormous difficulties Togasaki encountered on her way to becoming a doctor in an era hostile to career women and Asians. A standing ovation was accorded Togasaki as she rose to accept the honor.

Winding up the conference, conference co-chair Lucy Kishaba noted that much of what had been accomplished during the session involved risk-taking, an important component in maintaining healthy, productive lives. "The man, the woman who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing—is nothing," she quoted from a poem, ending the conference on an appropriately challenging note.

—NCWNP Women's Concerns Committee

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## Writers recall Nisei literature of 1930s

by J.K. Yamamoto

The first literary endeavors of the Nisei, which date back more than 50 years, were recalled by some who were there and brought to life in dramatic readings Sept. 14 at the "Coming of Age in the Thirties" conference held in Los Angeles.

Devoted primarily to the Japanese American press and its role in the growing social and political awareness of the Nisei (see Sept. 27 PC), the conference also covered the fiction and poetry carried in the vernaculars.

A panel discussion was chaired by retired physician Yasuo Sasaki, who founded the Nisei literary magazine Reimei in 1931 in Salt Lake City and later edited the English section of Shin Sekai.

James Omura, publisher of the Nisei-oriented Current Life (1940-42), called Reimei "a pioneer venture. There's no doubt that it did a great deal in the advancement of creative writing among Japanese Americans." But because the magazine "was not well marketed," he said, relatively few people saw it.

Writer Hisaye Yamamoto added that "a magazine like Reimei was ahead of its time. I don't think there was that much of an audience. I enjoy reading it now in xeroxed form, and I'm hoping they get together an anthology of all the writings that we missed out on."

Mary Korenaga Sutow, one of the contributors to Reimei, told of how she began writing "Like the rest of the Nisei at that time, I was a frustrated young girl out in the country—no association, cut off from the American society... trying to find an outlet for the useful energy. I found it in the newspapers."

Sutow said she was encour-



Photo by Sachi Yamamoto

Panelists on prewar Nisei writing included (from left) Mary Korenaga Sutow, Hisaye Yamamoto and Yasuo Sasaki. Not pictured: Mollie Oyama Mittwer, Joe Oyama and James Omura.

aged to write by Sasaki and by another Nisei journalist and writer, Welly Shibata, who "was making a trip all through the West Coast, intermountain regions and so on... He spoke of Nisei writing throughout the West Coast. That also stimulated me and got me to write a little more."

Omura recalled offering, in 1934, a cash award "out of my own pocket" for the best literary submission to his newspaper. "Larry Tajiri [of the Kashu Mainichi] started offering a cash award... by the standards of that time, the amount of cash that he offered was more than generous, which inspired other publications to meet the challenge."

A number of prewar editors were credited with encouraging Nisei writers, including Tajiri of the Kashu, George Nakamoto and Louise Suski of the Rafu Shimpō, and James Sakamoto of the Japanese American Courier.

Joe Oyama, a contributor to Kashu, Rafu, Nichibei, and Shin Sekai as well as co-editor of the English section of Sangyo Nippo, quoted Tajiri as saying, in a 1940

edition of Pacific Citizen, that people like tuna fishermen, truck drivers, cannery workers, small farmers, longshoremen and plantation workers are "the prototypes of the United States Japanese. This is the world the Nisei writer should present to America."

Yamamoto, who began submitting works at age 14, was one of the writers published in the Kashu. "It was in the Japanese American press that I found out I was a Nisei, and that gave me a sense of belonging to a larger community... I started writing, and they would print anything I wrote, so I continued." Her works also appeared in Omura's Current Life.

Among her peers, she singled out the late Toshio Mori and John Okada as the best Nisei writers. Sasaki agreed, but added that Yamamoto herself "turns out to be the outstanding story writer of the present day."

Also on the panel was Mollie Oyama Mittwer, who contributed essays and short stories to Kashu, Rafu, Nichibei, Shin Sekai, and the Courier.

The panel was followed by a

## JACL BOARD

Continued from Front Page

The answer to this question, according to others, lay in the organization of priorities. The majority of board members felt that within the constraints of limited funds, more emphasis should be placed on "educating" members of Congress, rather than the general public. As a result, the priority should be more with the LEC lobbying effort and less with media events and redress education.

In addition, board members thought that cooperation between LEC and JACL was essential in order to get the redress bills passed, and that the personnel cuts should be viewed more as change of emphasis rather than of commitment.

In other matters the board approved:

—An end-of-the-year chapter rebate offer. For any new

reading by Pacific Asian American Women Writers West of Nisei works written during or about the '30s. The readings, introduced by Emma Gee, were performed by Shuko Akune, Sue Embrey, Momoko Iko, Sharon Maeda, Joyce Nako and Wakako Yamachi.

Among the works were three short stories: Carl Kondo's "Black Bugs," about a withdrawn young boy who regards bugs as his friends; Jim Yamada's "Gaudemus Igitur," about a Nisei college student who is embarrassed when his Issei father comes to Berkeley to visit; and Hisaye Yamamoto's "Seventeen Syllables," about a Nisei girl whose mother is preoccupied with writing haiku.

Also showcased was the poetry of "Napoleon" (Yamamoto's pseudonym), Chiye Mori, Helen Aoki, Yasuo Sasaki, Mollie Oyama, Iwao Kawakami, and Mary Korenaga.

member signed up by a chapter between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, 1985, that chapter will receive a \$10 rebate.

—Workshops for the 1986 convention on the following topics: U.S.—Japan Relations; Nisei Aging and Retirement; Perspectives of the Ideal Nisei Male and Female; Redress; Anti-Asian Violence/Coalition Building; Advocacy and Political Involvement for Women; Recruitment and Leadership.

The board also heard Mary Nishimoto and Sam Okimoto discuss the Washington, D.C. Leadership Program; both urged the board to continue and expand the program to include more districts.

It was also announced that the SRS program approved at the February board meeting was set to roll in October.

In LEC news, Grayce Uyehara was named as the interim legislative executive director for the LEC. Grant Ujifusa presented the LEC strategy paper, and the board accepted a prioritized spending procedure.

A report on the LEC meeting, along with Ujifusa's strategy paper and an interview with Uyehara, will be in next week's PC.

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**NCJAR**  
Continued from Front Page

court, he said, has no jurisdiction in the case.

Each side had 30 minutes in which to present arguments and answer questions from the panel of judges, which consisted of Chief Judge Howard Markey and circuit judges J. Skelly Wright and Ruth Ginsburg.

Those in attendance included William Hohri and Jack and Aiko Herzig of NCJAR; Ellen Carson and Mike Rauh of the law firm Candis, Cohen, Rauh and Zelenko, which is representing NCJAR; Joe Rauh, JACL-LEC board member; and G. Tim Gojio, JACL Washington representative.

Hohri told Pacific Citizen that, based on the questions asked by the judges, he has "reason to be maybe just a little bit optimistic" about the decision, which is expected early next year.

If the appeals panel upholds the lower court's decision, said Hohri, NCJAR would have little recourse

but to try to appeal to the Supreme Court. If the lower court's decision is overturned, the government can appeal. Or the case could be referred back to the lower court for an evidentiary hearing similar to the one in Gordon Hirabayashi's *coram nobis* case.

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**Balch exhibit ends successful run**

PHILADELPHIA—After being on display through the summer, the "Japanese American Experience" exhibit at the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies closed Sept. 12. The number of visitors exceeded 8,500, making the exhibit the most successful since the founding of Balch in 1971.

The Balch Institute and Philadelphia JACL, who jointly organized the exhibit, noted that about 80% of the visitors were non-JAs, an unusually high number for an ethnically oriented exhibit. The vast majority came from Dela-

ware Valley, but some came from as far away as California.

Conference organizers were also pleased with the coverage given by local newspapers and

the more widespread publicity provided by a feature in the Los Angeles Times and a segment on National Public Radio's "Morning Edition."

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The policy of the Commission governing the development and the application form may be obtained from the office of the Commission at the address given below.  
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**Deaths**

Harley Kusumoto, pioneer Nisei bowler and one of the founders of Holiday Bowl in Los Angeles, died Sept. 20 of a heart attack in Amagasaki, Hyogo-ken, Japan. He is survived by s Michael and Alan, d Teri, 2 grandchildren and sis Amy Hashimoto.

Bishop Horyu Ito, 74, retired Rinban of Higashi Honganji Temple in Los Angeles, died Sept. 26 at St. Vincent Medical Ctr. Born in Hirokawa-machi, Yame-gun, Fukuoka-ken, he was head minister of the temple 1952-83, helping establish a Boy Scout troop, language school, Dharma school, baseball team, and Obon carnival. He is survived by s Yoshiaki, Noriaki and

Shin, d Hiroko and Motoko, and 7 grandchildren.

Sanaye Ikeda, 81, chairman of the board of Hoku-bei Mainichi, died July 11. He was former president or board chair of San Mateo Japanese Language School, San Francisco Fukuoka Kenjinkai, Chu-Hokka Nik-keijin linkai, Japanese Benevolent Society of California, and Japan Studies Scholarship Foundation Committee. He is survived by w Shizue, d Hiroko Matsueda and Yoko Hamai, grandchildren, b Hiroshi and Minoru, sis Shizuko Shigematsu and Yoshiko Kawamura.

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