Governor praises efforts of Nikki organizations

by J.K. Yamamoto

LOS ANGELES—Four community organizations honored—and were honored by—Gov. George Deukmejian during an Apr. 11 reception at the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (JACCC).

The work of JACCC, Japanese Retirement Home, Japanese Chamber of Commerce of So. Calif., Japanese American National Museum (JANM) “represent a commitment to service that truly sets an example for all the citizens of this state,” Deukmejian said as he presented resolutions to representatives of the groups.

On hand for the presentations were JACCC board president Tosh Terauchi, Retirement Home board chair Fred Wada, Chamber of Commerce senior vice president Henry Onodera, and JANM board chair Bruce Kaji.

“The 280,000 Japanese Americans who are living in California,” said Deukmejian, “have a very long and a very proud history of accomplishments and contributions to their fellow citizens. Here in the Cultural and Community Center, we see many examples of the broad spectrum of Japanese American talents ranging from the arts to community activities.”

Referring to legislation he signed last year to provide $575,000 in funding for the museum, he continued, “This museum will teach us further about the experiences of individuals of Japanese ancestry and how Japanese Americans have helped to make California the world economic and cultural powerhouse that we are today.”

He called the JACs he has appointed to courts, councils and commissions since 1992 “superbly qualified” people who “are doing a first-class job of bringing services and leadership to the people of our state.”

The governor was introduced by two of the program’s organizers, Ruth Watanabe and Kei Higashi. Deukmejian and the other guests also viewed a JANM photographic exhibit on Nikki’s history and an Ikebana display by Nakira Ikuyo-kai in JACCC’s Doizaki Gallery.


Fundraiser for Hsieh set in D.C.

WASHINGTON—A fundraiser for San Francisco Board of Supervisors candidate Tom Hsieh is planned for May 14 at Wah Luck House in Chinatown.

“The fundraiser was organized on the East Coast because of our concern for Asian Americans getting into politics,” said William “Mo” Marumoto, one of the co-chairs of the Washington, D.C., area committee backing Hsieh’s candidacy. “Well-qualified individuals like Tom Hsieh deserve our bipartisan support.”

In addition to Marumoto, co-chairs of the event are Anna Chenault, Stanley Lee, and Susan Au Allen. Honorary chairs are California Secretary of State Marc Fong Eu, Hawaii Senator Daniel Inouye, Delaware Lt. Gov. S.B. Woo, Court of Claims Judge Shiro Kazuiwa, Becky Hsieh, Jun Morii, Irene Natividad, Charles Manatt, Fred Martin, John Pan, Lawrence Simon, and Wilbur Woo.


Photo by Abe Ferrer/Visual Communications to and prevent racially motivated attacks.


Philippine Pan Asian fest planned

PHILADELPHIA—“Asian Americans—Getting to Know Us” is the theme of the 1986 Pan Asian Festival to be held May 5-10. The festival, sponsored by the Pan Asian American Assn. of Greater Philadelphia, began with the proclamation of Asian American Heritage Week by Mayor Wilson Goode at a City Hall ceremony on Apr. 18.

“Visible Citizens,” a video on Japanese Americans, will be shown at Annenberg Theater on Apr. 25 at 7:30 p.m. by a discussion with Kenji Takahashi and JACL-LEC executive director Grayce Uyehara.

Judge William Marutani will be keynote speaker at a May 6 teach-in conducted by the Philadelphia School District at the Museum of Art. Philadelphia JACL will conduct one of the sessions following the introductory remarks. A teacher and their 5th grade student from each public school will participate; each teacher will be given a take-home resource packet.

A series of films will be shown Continued on Next Page

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Bay Area conference to examine ways to deal with rise in anti-Asian violence

BERKELEY, Calif.—The growth and nature of anti-Asian violence, along with possible solutions to the problem, will be examined at a conference held by the Bay Area Coalition on Anti-Asian Violence on May 10.

"Break the Silence: A Conference on Anti-Asian Violence" takes place 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at 110 Boalt Hall, UC Berkeley. Cost is $25 general, $8 for students.

Speakers include Ron Wakabayashi, JACL national director; Allen Seid, Asian American Law Caucus director; Bill Hing, Stanford Law School professor; Amado Cabezas and Chong Chung, UCB Asian American studies professors; Henry Der, Chinese for Affirmative Action director; Allen Seid, Asian Americans for Community Involvement director; and Wilma Chan of Chinese Progressive Assn.

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Jerry Yoshitomi, executive director of Japanese American Community Center in Los Angeles, shows Gov. George Deukmejian a diagram of the Japanese American National Museum during a tour of Doizaki Gallery in Little Tokyo. At left is JACCC chairman Frank Kuwahara.

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News in Brief

Guilty verdict reached in anti-Asian attack case

BOSTON—Robert Lee Stevens, on trial for repeated harassment of Cambodian refugees in their Revere home, was found guilty as charged on Apr. 13. He faces seven to ten years in state prison for a felony civil rights charge, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, assault with a dangerous weapon, and misdemeanor charges.

The attacks were carried out in June 1985 by Stevens, one other adult, and five juveniles. Civil orders were filed against all seven, but only Stevens stood trial.

Arguments on Yasui appeal to be heard May 5

PORTLAND—A hearing to determine whether an appeal filed by the lawyers representing Min Yasui in his conviction collateral cases was filed within the necessary time restraints is set for May 5, 2 p.m., at the Federal Courthouse, 621 S.W. Main.

In January 1984, Judge Robert Belloni agreed to vacate Yasui’s conviction, but refused to rule on whether the government had waived its appeal rights. After Yasui appealed the decision in March 1984, the government argued that the appeal was filed 26 days after the 10-day deadline for criminal appeals.

Belloni will determine whether Yasui’s case qualifies for a 30-day extension given in some criminal cases. Attorney Peggy Nagae said that we will proceed with the appeal thanks to Yasui’s convictions.

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**New Cars**

Yasui to speak at ‘Freedom, Liberty’ conference May 9

DENVER—Gov. Richard Lamm has convened an Advisory Committee for the Commemoration of the Statue of Liberty with a colloquium on "The Meaning of Freedom and Liberty in Contemporary America" to be held May 9 from 8:30 a.m. at Mountain Bell, 1006 17th St.

Panelists speaking on the theme "Whither or Whether the Melting Pot—A Challenge to Freedom and Liberty" will be Minoru Yasui, former head of the Denver Commission on Community Relations, U.S. District Court Judge John Kane, and District Attorney Norman Early.

Harvard University sociologist Nathan Glazer will moderate.


There is no charge for this all-day session, but RSVPs should be made to the University of Colorado Graduate School of Public Affairs, (303) 506-2825.

DETOIT—At the third rededication dinner of American Citizens for Justice on April 12, Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.) urged ACJ members to continue their fight against racial discrimination and racial violence.

Mineta praised the work of ACJ, which was formed after the 1982 killing of Vincent Chin.

Because of pressure from ACJ, Mineta, and other Asian Americans across the country, the Dept. of Justice entered the case and brought civil rights violation charges against Chin's two assailants, Ronald Ebers and Michael Nitz. Ebers was found guilty on one count in 1984.

Although fighting to end discrimination can be discouraging, said Mineta, "that's why we must work together as a group so that we may support and cover each other. But while individual energy may run low, we must not allow our group efforts to lag."

"Public life and political activity are constant, never-ending struggles. Success depends not only on being right, but being persistent; not only on being articulate, but constantly advocating our goals and educating the general public."

"We must educate those who know little or nothing about our problems. It is absolutely impossible to convince someone about the justice of a cure without first teaching a person about the outrageous injustices of racial violence and all that follows in its wake."

**PAN ASIAN**

Continued from Front Page

at the Balch Institute with a different day assigned to each ethnic group. On May 7, JACL will show "Issei, Nisei, Sansei," "Days of Passage," and "Nisei Soldier." The program begins at 7 p.m. and will be followed by a special discount at $2.99 nightly or $10 for the entire series.

The festival will conclude with a banquet at the Imperial Inn in Chinatown on May 10, 7 p.m. Tickets are $25.

Participating groups include Chinese Benevolent Assn., Korean Assn., Filipino Executive Council, Cambodian Assn. of Greater Philadelphia, Burmese-American Friendship Assn., and Assn. of Indians in America. The first Pan Asian Festival was held in 1981.

Info: P.O. Box 1236, Philadelphia, PA 19105; (215) 238-2488.

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**Detroit group urged to continue**

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Garden dedicated to Issei pioneers

INDIO, Calif.—In a solemn ceremony on Apr. 5, Japan’s Memorial Garden at Coachella Valley Museum & Cultural Center was dedicated to the Japanese pioneers who came to the desert early in this century to farm and make their homes.

Officiating at the ceremony was Rev. Alfred Tsuyuki, head minister of Konko Church in Los Angeles. Master of ceremonies was Indian Wells city planner Paul Kaneko, who was president of Coachella Valley JACL the year the garden was conceived, planned and built. Representatives were Charles Shibata and Kiyo Kitagawa representing Harry Arita. Also present were Mayor Darwin Oakley of Indio and Arthur LaLonde of Coachella Valley Historical Society and Coachella Valley Museum & Cultural Center.

Rev. Alfred Tsuyuki of Konko Church conducts ceremony at garden dedicated to Japanese immigrants in Coachella Valley. Next to him is Paul Kaneko, master of ceremonies and former JACL chapter president.

The garden was financed by proceeds from a garden party hosted by Coachella Valley JACL in April 1985. The chapter also received numerous donations of funds, services and items for the garden.

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GATHERING TOGETHER WITH younger folks and listening to their thoughts can be refreshing. The other day, I had lunch with a Sansei who had been working with a service-oriented organization, a fellow for whom I've always had a great deal of respect. During the course of the lunch, I learned that in the mid-60s he had been a civil rights activist in the South. No, none of this self-righteous “I’m-right-and-you’re-all-wrong” stuff. Notwithstanding his firm beliefs and goals, he tempered his views with much understanding of human nature and its foibles. I think we call it “maturity.”

DURING THE COURSE of the lunch, he made some observations about the hearings of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. He was amazed (as was I) by the thoroughness of the testimony of the victims, their earnest statements presented in an unvarnished, stark manner.

Our Sansei lunch companion opined that by such testimony, the AJAs “returned to the community the implication (as I understood it) being that prior to that time they had remained apart from the community.” I’ve been pondering on that observation, and I think he’s right.

SUCH OPENNESS OF having one’s soul provided, he observed, the essential impetus to do something about it; it was a necessary pre-step to cause the AJA community to come to the extent they had not done before; it helped to dispel inadequate reservations that are somehow characteristic of the culture of AJA’s.

More gems of observations for me:

OH, I SUPPOSE there (inevitably) are some folks “out there” who don’t get it if not outright deny, the plus aspects of those hearings. My hunch would be, however, that such folks did not attend and sit through some of the hearings. Had they done so, my further hunch is that they would have held a different view.

Listening, a human heart could come to any other conclusion. But, at the same time, I can also understand how some may have been moved to reject—for it can be quite painful to recognize the raw harshness of what one was hearing to be the truth.

OVER CUPS OF tea we both mused over the institution of actions: the various coram nobis cases of Hirabayashi, Korematsu and Yasui; the valiant and dogged lawsuit by the NCJAR (National Council for Japanese American Redress); and, of course, the campaign for legislative redress. We both concluded that these various actions were complementary, supportive of one another, in many ways. They were, and are, differing means to attaining a common good, realization of our dignity, and the dignity of the memory of those who have passed on.

And also for those who are to arrive on the scene. For the future.

THE TIME PASSED much more quickly than I realized. Others in the restaurant, who had arrived after us, had departed. There’s something to be said about returning, or rejoining the community. Where we can, again, feel the vibrancy of the past.

I hope we stay there. And never leave.

Smithsonian Exhibit & PSW’s LEC Dinner

Usually the importance of news articles reflected by their prominence in terms of placement and the amount of space allotted for a piece of news. Certainly all contributors of the letter to the editor of a newsletter or paper is given equal weight. The number of lines or space allocated to a particular article.

Upon reading the JACL Headquarters Bulletin, I was struck by the number and length of the articles pertaining to the Smithsonian exhibit. All are enthusiastic and encouraging support of the exhibit, requesting articlings for possible inclusion in the exhibit—about which the writer states, “in all I have no quarrel with that, for it will probably be an excellent opportunity to tell the story about internment and redress.

But only nine lines for PSW’s JACL Fund raiser involving all four Nikkei members of Congress in the five-month period leading up to the event, and none in the Sansei issue just two weeks before? And each being a simple announcement, briefly stating the meeting/place with no enthusiastic encouragement or support, even in the face of lagging attendance in the final week? If redress is the top JACL priority, and if funding is critical to that success, this is an odd way to demonstrate its importance.
Six Who Were Rescued

FROM THE FRYING PAN:

Bill Hosokawa

Go back with me 44 years, to April 1942. The Evacuation is under way. Japanese American communities on the West Coast are in turmoil. Businesses are being closed or sold for a pittance. Not least of the troubled are Nisei college students, so close to their goals of graduation and careers, yet so far away.

A young University of Washington professor named Bob O'Brien comes to the rescue of six of them.

He gets a special permit for them to leave the evacuation zone—remember, the Army made it illegal for them to leave, and sent them to the U. of Idaho, in Moscow, where they had been assured a welcome.

But in Moscow they found the welcome had vanished. Ben Uyeno and Chihito Kikuchi found shelter on a farm, Jim Mizuki spent several nights in a shed in a hayfield. Yurie Tashima and Maxine Honda, fearing violence, sought protection in the Moscow city jail. Marilin Mizuki was outside of town and missed the evacuation.

O'Brien hurriedly drove to Moscow, picked up the six and took them to Washington State at Pullman, where the welcome was only slightly chilly. That summer, as other opportunities developed, the six scattered.

(Developed may not be the correct word. Kikuchi, working on his doctorate in physics, has, in his files a letter from an assistant dean at the University of Michi­gan saying he would not be considered for admission unless he could produce "a very definite statement from someone in the school from which you have recently graduated or from which you expect to graduate, stating that you are not of Japanese ancestry.")

Soon afterward O'Brien took leave from the University of Washington to become director of the student relocation program for the American Friends Service Committee. Through his efforts, hundreds of Nisei from the WRA camps were placed in universities and colleges throughout the Midwest and East, many in elite schools to which they could only aspire in prewar years.

Thanks to this education, scores of Nisei became outstanding doctors, lawyers, scientists, teachers and business executives. Those who launched the student relocation program wanted to make sure that the potential of Japanese American talent was not wasted by the Evacuation. It wasn't.

A few weeks ago Kikuchi (since 1982 professor emeritus of nu­clear engineering at Michigan) and his wife, Grace, returned to the Seattle area. Brien and his wife Helen in Los Angeles, where they live in retirement. Yurie Tashima, along with other friends, joined them one night. They recalled their trip to Idaho, their rescue by O'Brien and the hurried retreat to Mos­cow. Kikuchi had been in touch with Jim Mizuki, successful in his own right, and Ben Uyeno, an M.D. in Seattle. Marilin Mizuki was in Sunnyside, Wash. But no one knew what happened to Maxine Honda.

If anyone knows, please write to me. I'll relay the information to Kikuchi.

They talked about what the O'Briens had done for them and so many other Nisei at a time when others turned away. And it seemed that something ought to be done to recognize Bob and Helen, like maybe an award at the next JACL convention as an expression of appreciation from an entire generation of Nisei students. Maybe, if the Seattle Six planted the seed of an idea, others would pick up on it and the over­all recognition would be extended.

O'Brien listened attentively, but he had no way of responding. Two strokes had taken away his power of speech. But obviously, quite obviously, he was pleased that at least some of his students remembered.

(Kikuchi's address is 1050 Wall St., SD, Ann Arbor, MI 48105)

A Great Deal to Discuss

MUSUBI

by Ron Wakabayashi

The occurrence of the JACL National Convention on a biennial basis is a factor in the signifi­cance of the meeting. Decisions and actions made by the National Council will direct the priorities and activities of the nation's oldest and largest organization of Americans of Japanese ancestry. The upcoming biennium has several elements that add enormously to the significance of the meeting.

The 100th Congress will convene, the body which has a good likelihood of deliberating and voting on the JACL efforts of the last decade to bring the redress movement to a successful conclusion.

This biennium will also mark a very special American celebration, the Bicentennial of the Constitution, the founding instrument of American democracy. The story of Japanese American con­tribution will convey a very special message in the Smithsonian Institution during the biennium with the opening of a five-year exhibition.

The growth of Asian American communities has reached a trig­ger point, presenting great opportunities and great dangers. There is clearly a rise in anti­Asian sentiment. The transfusion of international trade-rela­ted disputes has an effect on how we are perceived. The 7% increase in the Asian American community nationwide has had backlash and tension tied to it.

The JACL experiences a political and economic power in the period immediately ahead. With a 60%-plus rate of out­marriage, this community faces unique transitional issues of identity formation among our young people. With foresight and sensitivity, we have the opportunity to set in motion efforts to promote a positive and nurturing one.

The convention touches on all this and more. Make plans to at­tend.

EDITOR, PACIFIC CITIZEN

A challenging position for the Editor to expand the only national Japanese American newspaper. Person selected must have a good understanding of JACL and the Japanese American community. Editor is responsible for the contents of the newspaper and therefore must have the ability to provide news and articles of interest to all segments of JACL and the Japanese American community. Position requires excellent writing skills, editing, photographic, and graphic layout skills. A degree in journalism, English, or related field and/or equivalent newspaper experience essential.

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APPLICATIONS FOR
Program Director Position

CHICAGO-The Hyatt Regency Chicago will be the site of the National JACL Convention to be held July 20-25.

The hotel offering JACL conventioners exceptionally good rates of $75 for a single or double, $85 for a triple and $95 for a suite. Regency Ceiling, Merchandise Mart, and Buddy's Pizzeria are a few minutes walk from the hotel.

A Look at ’86 Convention Site

THE CONVENTION SITE

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The hotel has been the site of many major conventions.

The hotel is located a half block off Michigan Ave. at 15 E. Wacker Drive, Chicago's famous "Miracle Mile" shopping street and the historic "Loop.

Other than taxi service, the Hyatt Regency Chicago is served by airport bus from O'Hare and midway airpors. The rapid transit system can also be taken.

APPLICATIONS FOR
Program Director Position

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DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES: Under the supervision of the National Director, responsible for staffing assigned National JACL committees and other national programs.

1) Minority Health Affairs, 2) Women's Concerns, 3) Aging and Retirement, 4) Membership Benefits, 5) Resource Development, 6) Program Planning, 7) Budget Administration, 8) The JACL, at various meetings/conferences, 9) Other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS: 1) Four years experience in community based organization, human service provider or other related experience. 2) A degree in Education in Humanities, social sciences or public administration.

3) Ability to communicate well, both in writing and in oral presentations.

4) Ability to work with a diversity of personalities and settings.

5) Knowledge and experience in the history, dynamics, and issues pertaining to the Japanese American community nationally.

REQUIREMENTS: 1) Valid driver's license, 2) Ability to periodically travel, 3) JACL membership at time of hire.

SALARY RANGE: $18,000 - $22,000 (Depending on background and experience)

May 5 Deadline of Applications

APPLICATION: Please send most recent resume with cover letter indicating interest in the position to:

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Marina

MARINA DEL REY, Calif.—Mike Woo, the first Asian American on the Los Angeles City Council, will be guest speaker at the chapter's general meeting May 1, 7 p.m., at Burton Chase Park. Woo will speak about Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP) and Asian Americans in politics. Info: Shirley, 539-4253, or Sharon, 829-8851.

French Camp

FRENCH CAMP, Calif.—The 37th annual community picnic sponsored by French Camp Chapter.

BY THE BOARD

Continued from Page 4

Support of Candidates

In my view, it is improper for staff members to become involved in or comment about National JACL office aspirants or their campaigns in a manner that may influence potential voters prior to or during the election process. Furthermore, public comment praising or commenting on the work of candidates can influence the contributions of others is another means often used to further the candidacy of someone and not others. Encouraging people to run against someone one dislikes or would like to see defeated is another ploy often used.

Upon joining the National Board two years ago, after a critical review of a staff member, I was told that she couldn't be fired even if I had hoped of becoming a national officer, because the national director and executive staff had great influence through their contacts and could "make or break" any national candidate. Since that time, that view has been reinforced by others.

In a recent internal memo to staff, dated April 2, national director comments on this very issue, after receiving a letter raising just such a concern. That's excellent, but it is important to heed his own admonitions if articles in the March and April JACL Headquarters Bulletins and the April, Apr-Jac-In, and other AAPI publications entitled "Catastrophe Insurance" and "Revenue" are examples. If a staff member is to distribute publicity for all national office candidates, one needs to refrain from doing so for some.

Chapter Pulse

Marina

In this issue, "Insurance" and "Revenue" are examples of how to appropriately distribute publicity for all national office candidates.