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## JACL Makes Contacts

### Japan Govt. Responds to 'Jpn' Effort

Japan's Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone has praised efforts by JACL to promote "Jpn." instead of "Jap." as the abbreviation of "Japan" or "Japanese," but has stopped short of promising direct action to support the campaign.

A resolution designating "Jpn." as an official abbreviation, introduced by Rep. Mike Lowry (D-Wash.) at the urging of Seattle JACL, was passed by Congress in July. Seattle JACL International Relations Committee chair Ken Nakano, in a Dec. 15 letter to Japanese Ambassador Nobuo Matsunaga, asked that Japan's Diet pass a similar resolution, and that the Education Ministry and dictionary publishers be encouraged to use the abbreviation.

Nakano also sent a letter about the campaign to Matsunaga's American counterpart in Tokyo, Mike Mansfield.

#### 'Not Our Language'

In a Jan. 9 reply to Nakano, Nakasone said, "I highly appreciate such a resolution as a demonstration of American conscience rooted in the ideal of democracy. I also wish to pay tribute to your commendable efforts... [which are] undoubtedly an important step toward the elimination of any social discrimination."

But, Nakasone continued, "I have to inform you that it is not in the practice of the Japanese Diet to pass a similar resolution and render judgment upon the propriety of a certain word in the English vocabulary, which is not our national language."

He expressed hope that "this congressional resolution, coupled with your ardent efforts, will sensitize Americans and Japanese alike to this issue."

In his Jan. 16 reply to Nakano, Matsunaga said, "I have requested the Ministry of Foreign Affairs... to promote the recognition in Japan of the JACL's worthy efforts

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**SIGN OF THE TIMES** — The target of protests from local Japanese Americans since it opened in 1984, the J.A.P.S.S. hair salon in West Hollywood, Calif., is now known as J.A.D.S.S. The salon was picketed by members of National Coalition for Redress/Reparations and Marina JACL for several weeks, and the West Hollywood City Council urged a name change in April 1986. In May the owners, whose first initials made up the acronym, agreed to change the name. Two of the owners, Shuji Kida and Peter Nagai, were from Japan.

### 'Hate Crimes': Fight Goes on in Congress, on Streets

#### Bill Seeks More Data on Crimes

WASHINGTON — A bill that would require the Department of Justice to record and publish statistics on crimes motivated by racial, religious and ethnic prejudice has been reintroduced by Rep. Barbara Kennelly (D-Conn.), announced Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.) on Feb. 13.

Currently, the Justice Department's Uniform Crimes Reports record and categorize crimes reported each year, but there is no category for "hate crimes."

"Such crimes of hate leave people shocked and bewildered that something like this can even happen in America," Mineta said. "America likes to believe that it has turned the page of history on

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#### Asians Hurt in Two Incidents

NEW YORK — Two incidents of anti-Asian violence have been reported locally in recent weeks. In one, the accused attackers are students; in the other, they are police officers.

On Jan. 30, three male Chinese American students were beaten with fists and a cane by 10 to 15 white students near New Utrecht High School in the Bayridge area of Brooklyn.

The altercation reportedly began in a coffee shop across the street from the school when one of the white students, 16-year-old Peter Capobianco, told one of the Asian students there to get out of the way. The Asian student replied, "You could say excuse me,

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### Progress Made on House, Senate Bills, LEC Reports

SAN FRANCISCO — LEC executive director Grayce Uyehara and LEC legislative chair Grant Ujifusa reported progress on both the House and Senate redress bills during the Feb. 14 JACL National Board meeting.

Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) has assured Uyehara and Ujifusa that he will move the House bill, H.R. 442, from his subcommittee to the full Judiciary Committee by April. Frank chairs the Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations.

The LEC representatives further quoted Frank as saying, "Though nothing can be regarded as absolutely certain in politics, I am determined to have the bill reported out of the full Judiciary Committee and onto the House floor by summer recess in August." He stressed that supporters of the bill must take advantage of the fact that 1987 marks the bicentennial of the Constitution.

Uyehara and Ujifusa said Frank wants to hold a brief set of hearings in early spring on the payment package, but not on the WW2 internment itself. "Reasonable people agree on the facts and the merits," they quoted Frank as saying, "so I want to focus on the remedies."

"Frank, one of the most talented and effective members of Congress," said Ujifusa, "is in a position to act, and he will. Our community, which has long lived and worked on faith alone, can now expect real institutional movement within Congress."

#### Introduction of Senate Bill

Uyehara told the board that the number of Senate co-sponsors had climbed to 40 due to the efforts of Sen. Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawaii). The Senate bill has not been introduced, she said, because there is a possibility of introducing it with 51 co-sponsors.

The most important new co-sponsor, said Uyehara, is Minority Leader Robert Dole (R-Kan.), a probable presidential candidate.

Continued on next page

### JACL Treasurer Predicts Massive Deficits in '87, '88

by Harry Honda

SAN FRANCISCO — A grim projection of unprecedented deficits was presented by National JACL secretary-treasurer Alan Nishi during the National Board meeting held Feb. 13-15 at the Masao W. Satow Building in Japantown.

Judging by the 1986 budget experience, it appears that 1987 will end with a \$27,012 deficit and 1988 with a much greater \$123,485 deficit, budget papers indicated.

"This is being projected on the basis of a 3 percent drop in membership revenue each year and accompanied, therefore, with a 7 percent cut in operations," Nishi, a banker by profession, declared when the 30-hour agenda called for his report.

"It means we need to boost membership," Nishi stressed. He also warned that there are some built-in losses in the 1987 budget as revised and projected.

"Let's get this message out to the chapters, too," he added.

JACL revenues are broken down into national membership (70 percent), Pacific Citizen (20 percent), and others (10 percent). PC revenue is based on advertising and non-member subscriptions.

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### Hongo Offers a Poet's View of JA Experience

by J.K. Yamamoto

Garrett Hongo describes his upcoming book of poetry, *The River of Heaven*, as "a good mix of incredible romanticism and urban cynicism—just like me."

The Hawaii-born Yonsei writer grew up in Gardena, Calif., and now teaches English at University of Missouri at Columbia. He is the author of *Yellow Light*, co-author (with Lawson Inada and Alan Lau) of *The Buddha Bandits Down Highway 99* and founder of the Seattle-based Asian Exclusion Act (now known as Northwest Asian American Theatre).

He talked about his next book, which he expects to be published in early 1988, while in Los Angeles to do poetry readings last month.

*River* is divided into three parts, the first of which is about Hawaii. "That part of the book has to do with prewar Japanese American history," says Hongo. "A history of incredible hardship... the difficult choices they had to make, which is to say survival over loyalty, loyalty even to husbands and wives, loyalty to children."

#### 'Self-Repression' of JAs

The second part deals with the legacy of the wartime relocation, which he considers to be one of "self-repression and censorship... within Japanese America."

"It taught us a good deal of reticence, withholding, stoicism. Ultimately, I think it might operate to strangle the culture," comments Hongo, whose grandfather was

picked up by the FBI and incarcerated during the war.

The third part is about the mix of cultures in Los Angeles. For Hongo, an important part of JA culture is "the way we had to learn how to grow up in L.A. and in Gardena, which is how to get along with Black people and Chicanos and whites, or how not to get along with them. And how we mediated our own home world with the world we ran into at school and out there on the streets."

The inspiration for one of the poems came from Hongo's junior high school days. "I used to belong to a boys' glee club," he recalls. "There was this Black guy who taught me... gospel singing. He would teach us the parts and

we would sing them to warm up before class. Of course, the teacher caught us doing that one day and stopped it, but I learned a lot. It was a rich life that way."

#### 'Too Local'

Having lived in different parts of the country, Hongo is intolerant of regional as well as ethnic prejudices. "I have a running argument with some friends of mine from Hawaii who are writers and poets. They always talk about 'local culture'.... It doesn't mean anything to me. I think to some extent you can become too regional, too local.... There has to be some kind of effort to make a connection with other kinds of people, not just simply to reinforce one's

Continued on back page



Garrett Hongo



## LEC UPDATE

Continued from front page

Another new co-sponsor is Steven Symms (R-Idaho), considered one of the most conservative senators. Uyebara credited JACL Inter-mountain District Gov. Hid Hasegawa with persuading Symms.

Also supporting the bill are Sens. Bennett Johnston (D-La.) and Jim Sasser (D-Tenn.).

"We are beginning to see and feel genuine momentum, so we must redouble our efforts," said Uyebara, who urged JACLers to write letters of thanks to the co-sponsors. She also recommended constituent meetings with representatives and senators during the next district work period, Apr. 11-20.

Uyebara placed special emphasis on contacting members of Frank's subcommittee in the House and of the Governmental Affairs Committee in the Senate.

If the redress campaign succeeds this year, she said, "Americans of Japanese descent will be able to join in the celebration of the bi-centennial of the Constitution. Our efforts will bring to reality the ideals of the Constitution and insure that they will remain in place for all Americans."

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## 'Break the Silence'

## Violence in Bay Area Schools to Be Discussed

SAN FRANCISCO — "Violence in the Schools," the first in a series of educational programs on anti-Asian violence, will be held Feb. 24, 7 p.m., at JACL National Headquarters, 1765 Sutter St.

Sponsored by the Break the Silence Coalition, the program will focus on student, parent and school district response to the increase of violence on school campuses, the role of the criminal justice system in the issue, and what the community can do to reduce campus attacks.

Speakers will be Gary Yee, assistant vice principal at Franklin Elementary Year-Around School in Oakland; Keith Choy, director of Chinatown Youth Services; and David Kakishiba, director of Berkeley Asian Youth Center.

Future presentations are still in the planning stage. For more information, call Rachel Shigekane at (415) 982-0801.

The coalition publishes a newsletter as well as the proceedings from a conference on anti-Asian violence held last May in Berkeley. For more information on the group, call Chinese for Affirmative Action, (415) 982-0801, or Asian Law Caucus, (415) 835-1474.

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## N.Y. INCIDENTS

Continued from front page

and I'll be happy to move," and a shoving match ensued. The Asian students soon left the restaurant to avoid trouble.

But as they left, they were followed by a group of white students, who began to throw snowballs and shout such epithets as, "You f—ing Chinese, get out of this neighborhood."

Wai Min Wong, 17, was struck on the head and neck with a cane wielded by Capobianco. Wai Fung Chan, 19, and Wing Chung Ng, 17, were assaulted by the mob, suffering numerous minor injuries.

The injured students ran into the 79th Street stop on the B line and alerted the token operator, who called the transit police and an ambulance for Wong. Transit Authority officer Vincent Valerio searched the area with Chan and Ng and managed to locate Capobianco, who was charged the next day with discrimination,

assault, and criminal possession of a weapon.

A joint investigation between the 62nd Precinct and the NYPD Bias Investigation Unit was initiated. A second suspect, Ricardo Otero, 16, was arrested Feb. 9; a third suspect, whose name was withheld because of his age, has also been arrested.

## Police Brutality Alleged

A March 26 hearing has been set for four Chinese Americans accused of assault, resisting arrest, and theft of services; they, in turn, have charged the arresting officers with misconduct.

The incident took place on Jan. 2, when Hung Wong Wong of Chinatown was told by Mike Santiago, an employee of Manhattan Cable Company, that illegally connected wires had been found leading to Wong's apartment. Wong, who said he did not

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The 1986 reel is available at a \$32 pre-publication price if ordered before March 31, 1987. Cost after that date will be \$42.

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## JACL BOARD

Continued from Front Page

Revised budget projections are as follows:

	1986a	1987r	1988r
National			
Membership	\$784,718	775,288	752,029
Other	133,000	104,000	104,000
Pacific Citizen	228,837	220,000	220,000
Revenue	\$1,146,555	1,099,288	1,076,029
Expenses	1,124,697	1,126,300	1,199,514
Excess/Deficit	21,858	-27,012	-123,485

1986a: Tentative year-end totals before adjustments.

1987r/1988r: Revised budget projections, based on a 3% dip in membership revenue (not including SRS revenue) with a 7% cut in operational expenses.

National JACL budgets are prepared on a two-year basis for adoption by chapter delegates at national conventions. Revisions are made by the National Board. The 1986 budget was prepared in the spring of 1984, adopted at the Honolulu convention that summer and revised in March 1985.

Total revenue for the organization was \$1,146,555 in 1986, when \$1,187,000 was expected. The dip was attributed to the decrease in membership; the 1986 count of 25,363 represented a 4 percent loss from the 1985 total of 26,240.

The Finance Committee, comprised of the national president, national treasurer and national director, initiates recommendations for budget revisions during the biennium. Cuts were instituted this past year to keep in balance. A budget of \$1,186,500 was authorized and \$1,124,697 was expended.

As foreboding as the financial projections appear, the numbers are tentative and a clearer picture should be available by mid-April, according to one source.

## Other Matters

Of concern to the chapters is the matter of insurance, currently \$48,000 and expiring Aug. 1. Board members suggested wider participation and sharing of direct costs by JACL's components—chapters, district councils, committees, and the PC.

The 1987 Chapter Presidents' Handbook is now being distributed, vice president of general operations Yosh Nakashima reported. The handbook should be regarded as a JACL "bible" and be passed along to succeeding chapter presidents, he said. Greg Marutani of San Francisco JACL was instrumental in production of the book.

In preparation for the 1988 national convention being hosted by Seattle JACL on the University of Washington campus, Pacific Northwest regional director Tim Otani presented a draft of the schedule put together by convention committee co-chairs Tomio Moriguchi and Ben Nakagawa. The program will be geared for both first-time attendees and veteran conventioners, Otani said. A National JACL golf tournament is also being promoted as a major attraction.

Chapters were called on to assist in promoting "Jpn." as the appropriate abbreviation for "Japan" or "Japanese," especially by contacting local Japanese consulates and urging them to use "Jpn" (see story on page 1).

In other actions taken by the National Board:

— Scholarships will now be managed by the Endowment Fund Committee;

— Automated membership renewal will start in 1988, subject to National Council approval;

— A professional management firm, Kidder Peabody, will manage the 1000 Club Life Trust when the principal exceeds \$250,000;

— Another SRS/membership recruitment mailout to 100,000 Japanese American families is authorized;

— Board members will meet in Washington, D.C. this fall to thank members of Congress for supporting redress.

More details of the meeting will appear in next week's PC.

## At UCSD

## Student Union Holding Calif. Conference

SAN DIEGO — "Living in America: Land of Opportunity?" is the theme of Asian Pacific Student Union's annual statewide conference, to be held Feb. 28 at UC San Diego.

Keynote speakers include Lily Chen, former mayor of Monterey Park and the nation's first Chinese American woman mayor, and Samoa Koria, a Samoan community activist from San Diego.

Among workshop topics are the immigrant experience, educational rights, Asian and Pacific Islander culture and identity, and political empowerment on campus and in the community.

APSU is a network of more than 35 student organizations. About 400 people from throughout California are expected to attend.

The \$12 registration fee includes meals, cultural night, and dance. Info: Los Angeles area—Jerry, (213) 370-6856, or Amy, (213) 727-9876; San Diego—(619) 534-2048; Northern California—(415) 853-1538 or (408) 251-7538.

## For the Record

San Gabriel Valley Singles is not a JACL chapter as described in "1987 Chapter Officers" (Feb. 6 PC). We apologize for the error.

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## Publications Acknowledge Omission of Asian Pacifics

WASHINGTON — Both the New York Times and the Congressional Quarterly have taken steps to correct their omission of Asian Pacific Americans from a breakdown of the 100th Congress by racial groups.

In its Jan. 5 issue, the Times, using information from the Congressional Quarterly, reported that the House is 5 percent Black and 3 percent Hispanic but made no mention of the four members and two non-voting delegates who are of Asian/Pacific Island ancestry. In describing the Senate as 100 percent white, the roster overlooked the two Japanese American senators from Hawaii.

Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.) wrote to the Times and the Quarterly to point out the error.

"The damage from this omission is compounded by the Congressional Quarterly's reputation as a publication of record,"

he wrote in his letter to the Quarterly. "I am concerned that this error be accepted through repetition, and that today's readers and tomorrow's researchers incorrectly believe that the 100th Congress did not include any Americans of Asian ancestry."

The Times ran a correction on Jan. 28. On Feb. 9, Mineta's office received a letter of apology from Neil Skene, executive director of the Quarterly.

"While it is no excuse, our oversight is a product of the many years in which these groups were insufficiently recognized," Skene wrote. "We carelessly repeated the same demographic categories we have used for many years."

"We apologize to you and to others of Asian or Native American ancestry."

Skene agreed to print a clarification in the next issue of the Quarterly.



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# JACL's Future Function

by Paul Shinkawa

A common perception (or misperception) today is that civil rights activists have accomplished everything that they are capable of accomplishing. South Africa is the BIG topic and apartheid is portrayed as putting even the worst of Southern segregationists to shame as weak sentimentalists. The popular news event which recently brought American bigotry to light again was the courageous march through Forsyth County, Georgia.

Forsyth County, however, is portrayed as an anachronism that is not typical of the South as it is today, and it is certainly not portrayed as being typical of mainstream American attitudes (whatever those are).

If Forsyth County is a throwback to an earlier, less enlightened age, it is not entirely alone. Less than a two-hour drive from my home are several Texas counties with old and notorious reputations for racial intolerance.

One of them, Comanche County, is well known among Black people in Texas as being all white and intent on maintaining its status quo. Various stories I have heard relate that sometime after the turn of the century, the white residents of this county systematically terrorized the Black residents by burning them out of their homes and, where possible or convenient, lynching them.

Today, Blacks from around the state go well out of their way to avoid travelling through Comanche County. Needless to say, this is not something Texas schoolchildren learn from their textbooks about their history.

In some respects, it appears that our country hasn't changed very much since the great civil rights movement of the '60s, but that may be attributable to people not changing very much over the past few decades as well.

While Christmas shopping last year, I happened upon a GI Joe doll known as "Savage." The doll was wearing khaki fatigues, Middle Eastern head garb, and had exaggerated Semitic facial features. The packaging for the doll described "Savage" as "traitorous, devious, murderous and dangerous." Sound familiar? It appears that we may have lost some progress since 1941.

What does this have to do with membership? Well, one of the principal membership issues I run up against is the feeling that JACL has accomplished almost everything that an activist organization can reasonably expect to accomplish.

A common topic when JACL members get together to discuss the future of the organization is the existence of any future at all after redress. It is almost a well accepted attitude within JACL that redress will complete our work and we will have no function once it has been completed.

This is not quite right. JACL may indeed die after redress, but if it does, it won't be because we no longer serve a useful function to Nikkei. JACL and other organizations like us serve as a necessary and vital part of society as long as people retain the mental attitudes that encourage racial intolerance and bigotry.

In the overall panoply of civil rights organizations, we represent only a small portion of concerned Americans, but we are still perceived to be the principal, or at least most visible, representative of Nikkei in America. As long as we retain this recognition as a civil rights organization, we have an obligation to fulfill the expectations of Nikkei as their representative.

This means at the very least that we should be planning to be around for a while, regardless of where redress leads us.

## N.Y. INCIDENTS

Continued from Page 2

watch cable TV, told Santiago he was free to cut the wires.

According to Wong, he was concerned about the dangling wires that remained and asked Santiago to clear them away. Santiago refused and instead called the police, telling them that Wong had not only illegally used the service, but had also threatened him with a knife.

When officers Steven Rinchev and Patricia Sweeney came to the apartment, the door was answered by Kim Woo, a sister of Wong's wife Feekyin who was visiting at the time. Woo demanded to see identification or a warrant. The officers refused to comply, she said.

According to the Wongs, the officers broke down the door and grabbed Mr. Wong in a chokehold, shoving his face into the wall and

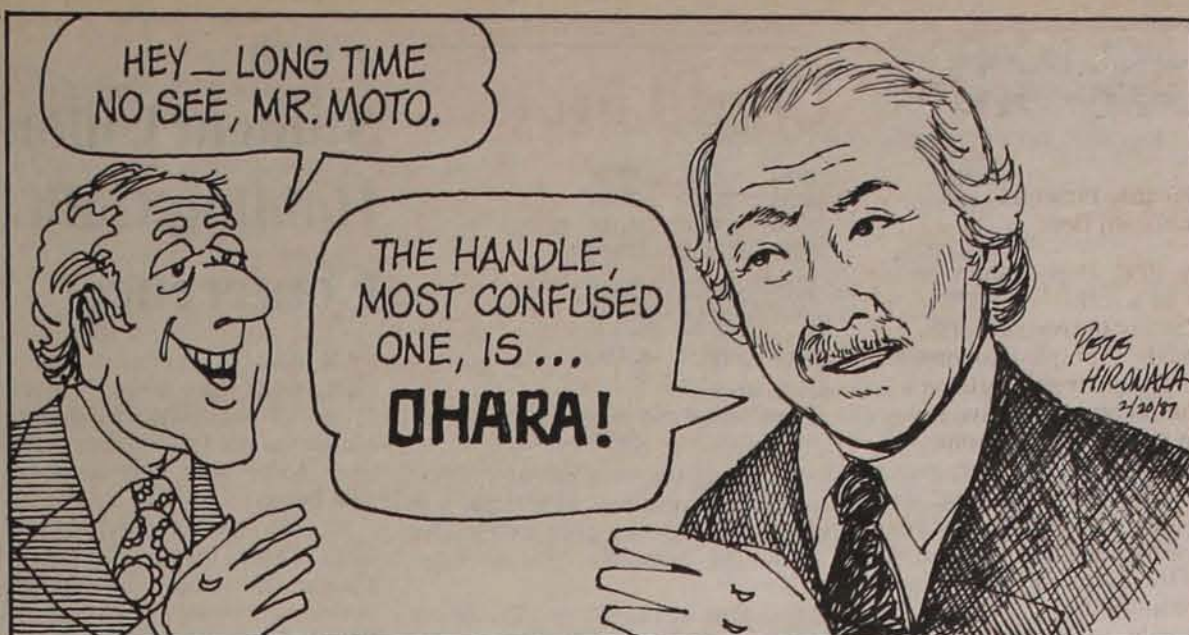
handcuffing him; Mrs. Wong, who was seven weeks pregnant, protested and was shoved against a door, then struck with handcuffs; Woo was also grabbed and handcuffed after protesting.

Holly Woo, another visiting sister of Mrs. Wong, said that an Asian was among the officers who had gathered in the hallway, but that when she ran to him, his only response was to grab her arm and say, "Arrest her too."

The four claim they were never told why they were being arrested until they arrived at the police station.

According to Capt. John Regan of the 5th Precinct, the two officers were also injured. Rinchev and Sweeney were unavailable for comment. The Wongs and their attorney are seeking the suspension of the officers.

—from reports by New York Nichibei



## Finale for the Fryer

### FROM THE FRYING PAN

Bill Hosokawa



In my untutored view, the history of Japanese Americans can be divided into three segments.

The first is the era of immigration. It begins shortly before the turn of the century. Although Japanese immigrants began to arrive in the 1890s, substantial numbers didn't reach these shores until after 1900. For convenience, let's pick 1900 as the starting point.

Most of them weren't immigrants in the true sense because they intended to return home after accumulating a nestegg. Many did go back. But of those who remained, the longer they stayed, the deeper their roots sank into American soil.

This era ended in 1924 with the passage of immigration laws that excluded all Asians. The era lasted roughly 25 years.

The second period was that of consolidation. The Issei were establishing families and businesses. Fewer of them were simple laborers or migrant workers. Somehow they survived the Great Depression. Their Nisei children approached maturity. The future was beginning to look less precarious when Japanese militarists launched their China adventure.

This era ended with a crash on Dec. 7, 1941. It had lasted approximately 15 years.

We are now in the third era, and I am not sure what to call it. We saw the crushing upheaval and travail of the Evacuation, the courageous recovery from that outrageous experience, economic progress, social acceptance, political recognition. It is an era marked by sweeping change, including the removal of racial discrimination from immigration and naturalization laws through efforts of the Japanese Americans themselves. Perhaps we should call it the Nisei era; although the Nisei generation is fading from the scene, it was involved through most of it.

From 1942 to the present is 45 years. Be aware that it is a span of time longer than the first two eras combined.

It was my privilege to comment on the events and issues and people of that era from its very beginning in a column provided by this newspaper. The column was started on a card table in a rude cubicle within the barbed wire fence of a prison called an assembly center.

It was titled "From the Frying Pan" because I had escaped from the fire of war in Asia to the frying pan of a concentration camp in my own country. It went on to record the anger and joy, the fun and frustrations, the triumphs and failures, the doubts and aspirations, of a special kind of people going through a truly unique experience.

How many weekly columns were written over 45 years? I'm not sure. Ten years ago some of them were published in a book called *Thirty-Five Years in the Frying Pan* and people were kind enough to say they enjoyed re-reading the more memorable ones.

A few weeks ago I received a letter from this newspaper's editor, Lynn Sakamoto. She said some changes had been made in *Pacific Citizen*, and that was obvious. She was hired to make changes. The newspaper is brighter, more attractive, and, I think, more interesting. It's a better paper.

She also said, apologetically, that lack of space would make it necessary to drop my column from time to time and asked my understanding. I understand the problem. As a newspaperman, I've wrestled all my professional life with editorial judgments about what's really important and what's marginal stuff that can be left out when there's not enough space. Those are not easy judgments to make.

Then it struck me that 45 years is an awfully long time, particularly when it is the dominant era in the history of a people, and perhaps if my stuff had become marginal it was time to hang 'em up and make space for others.

As I write this, it still seems like a good idea. So this will be the last Frying Pan column except, maybe, for a few very special occasions.

Thanks, and so long. It was great visiting with you.

## Sooner or Later...

### EAST WIND

Bill Marutani



I WAS READING a communication from Karl K. Nobuyuki, president of the Greater Los Angeles Singles Chapter of JACL. From across the table, Frau Vicki slowly announced: "Sooner or later, everyone will be single."

When I asked her what she meant by such a sphinx-like pronouncement, her reply was, "It's right there in the letter you're reading." Sure enough. (She has a disconcerting habit of reading whatever I happen to be then reading, often the day's newspaper, and from her angled vantage point making some comment on an item on the page, whereupon I'm thrown off the track trying to locate what it was that she was reading.)

I looked at her, for it had not occurred to me that I could be single again, voluntarily or involuntarily.

BUT, LIFE BEING what it is—uncertain—it can happen to any one of us: death, divorce or decision to remain single. But other than a passing comment to the frau, I'd never given thought to the possibility of *yamome* status.

The passing comment was that I hope to last long enough so that she doesn't end up alone. Something about *kawaiso*, which may be somewhat of a presumptuous conclusion for me to formulate. Vicki just gives me a wry smile. (Those wry ones are the toughest ones to fathom.)

IT IS HIGHLY speculative to try to contemplate the impact of being single again, whether by death or divorce. In either instance, there undoubtedly is a deep emotional trauma, and in the case of death, a long-lasting grief that time may soften but never quite remove.

My contemplation of what it would be like is a very superficial one: I think of the frau's absences, ranging from a week up to over a month when she's off on one of her overseas sojourns. Starting from the moment I return home from the airport, I can't find the can opener, or just about anything else.

But if the separation were permanent, whether by death or divorce, there undoubtedly would be something more than a can opener missing or unable to be located. I imagine one would have to make many adjustments in one's life: diet, daily schedule, lifestyle, and so on. (Just the thought of missing fresh, home-made *tsukemono* is disturbing to me.)

THE SINGLES COMMITTEE of JACL will be holding its national convention in September, its third such gathering. Perhaps you, as I, haven't given much thought as to what issues particularly impact upon singles. I'd find

Continued on page 5



**pacific citizen**

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# Could Matsui Win the '88 Senate Race?

by Ricardo Pimentel  
Sacramento Bee

In 1986, Rep. Robert Matsui was on a roll.

A sweeping revision of the U.S. tax code prompted reporters to ambush him regularly to pick tax minutiae and legislative nuance from his detail-rich brain.

Business and public groups sought out the influential Ways and Means Committee member, and were delighted when he won 29 of the 32 tax-code exemptions he requested.

Finally, in November, Sacramentans gave their favorite son an overwhelming vote of confidence. They re-elected him to a fifth term with 76 percent of the vote—the highest percentage of any congressman in California, and the fifth-highest for any House candidate in the nation.

Matsui, by any measure, is on the brink of a long, effective and fulfilling career in the House. But Matsui is teetering between fulfillment and indecision. It is now one year from 1988, when Republican Sen. Pete Wilson becomes fair game to all Democrats aspiring to replace him.

Matsui is one of them, and anyone mindful that a relatively obscure congressman from the Silicon Valley almost unseated incumbent Alan Cranston in No-

vember is taking Matsui seriously.

Without giving any hints, Matsui says he must decide by June or July. In the interim, he is making all the right moves. He has money in the bank—albeit far short of what he will need in a multi-million-dollar Senate race—and is looking for more. He is asking around about the credibility of a Matsui candidacy, and his name is appearing regularly on "the list"—those considered viable Democratic challengers to Wilson.

## Possible Candidates

Joining Matsui on that roster are Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy, San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein, Secretary of State March Fong Eu and Democratic Reps. Mel Levine of Santa Monica and George Miller of Martinez. Only Eu has announced her candidacy.

Everyone acknowledges Wilson is no sitting duck. And Matsui, like any other House member, carries an immense amount of baggage as a challenger. Rep. Dan Lungren (R-Long Beach) speaks from experience.

"The difficulties arise in the primary rather than the general election," said Lungren, who bailed out early in the Republican Senate primary last year. "A member of Congress is just one of 45 people in Congress [from California], each representing

about 2 percent of the state's population. As a result, you start out with low name identification."

The only way to overcome this obstacle is television. And there is only one way to get on television: money.

"That's the sole reason I got out.... people just wouldn't write those checks," Lungren said.

Matsui, however, is in a better position to mount a serious challenge than either Lungren or another Republican primary contender, former Rep. Bobbi Fiedler of Northridge. Lungren said he only had about \$100,000 in the bank at the beginning of his quest, Fiedler about \$300,000.

Matsui has about \$400,000, according to his most recent campaign filings, and made a national plea last fall for aid from Asian Americans, ostensibly for his campaign, that continues to produce income.

By some estimates, Matsui will need \$2.3 million by December if he is to be taken seriously as a challenger. Ordinarily, the Asian American community might be worth more than \$1 million if it backed Matsui. However, chances for that support are complicated by the potential candidacy of Eu, whose entry could also erode Matsui's traditional strong showing among women.

There is also a question of party

loyalty. A 1984 sampling of Los Angeles residents found that Korean and Chinese Americans vote mostly Republican and that Japanese Americans vote Democratic, but not heavily so. Bruce Cain, one of the authors of the study, cautions that the study was done in a Reagan landslide year.

Ray Wolfinger, a political analyst at UC Berkeley, said he suspects that Asian American unity in elections is largely a myth, but that the fund-raising abilities of Japanese Americans should not be downplayed.

## Other Sources of Support

Even if there is no cohesive Asian American backing for Matsui, he has his position on the Ways and Means Committee to back him up. Members of this tax-writing, business-oriented committee are ardently wooed by political action committees eager to contribute to incumbents' campaigns.

Such groups gave Matsui about \$283,000 in 1985 and 1986, years in which he wasn't running or had an easy race. Those figures could easily skyrocket in a primary against state officials, who have no experience in raising money from national organizations.

Those same officials, however, would have the "home court" advantage in a primary. "You're at a geographic disadvantage,"

said Lungren. "Back in Washington you have five and a half hours of travel time, with a three-hour time difference. You have to leave the day before." Any representative running in a primary will inevitably miss votes in Washington, giving opponents an opening to criticize his or her absenteeism.

Charles Manatt, former chair of the Democratic National Committee, nonetheless believes Matsui would be a credible Senate candidate. "He'd be a very serious candidate. He'll have 10 years of sitting on an important committee and a lot of attention nationally. Bobby Matsui has a viable fund-raising base."

Others point to Matsui's television presence as a big plus, noting that his careful manner, soft-spoken ways and grasp of complex issues give a distinct impression of sincerity and competence.

If Matsui runs, however, he risks unemployment. He will have to give up his House seat to run for the Senate. McCarthy and Eu will only be midway through their terms if they run in 1988, and Feinstein will already be out of office.

Colleagues say the risk of losing his House seat preys most on Matsui's mind. "Bob Matsui never does anything unless it's a sure thing," said one.

Reprinted by permission.

## 'JPN'

Continued from Front Page

...I have also requested the ministry to promote, with all possible means, the actual implementation of the above abbreviation in Japan."

## Party Leaders

The campaign to change the abbreviation of "Japanese" also involved contacts with leaders of Japan's political parties.

Calvin Kuniyuki, president of Japan JACL, and Barry Saiki, the chapter's charter president, personally delivered a message to the International Bureau of Nakasone's Liberal Democratic Party in December. The visit was arranged by Kiyoshi Nishikawa, former Seattle consul general, and Hiroyasu Tsuchiya, former director of the Tokyo office of Meiji Mura Museum.

That same month, National JACL sent letters to Nakasone of the LDP, Takako Doi of the Socialist Party, Yoshikatsu Takeire of the Komeito, and Saburo Tsukamoto of the Democratic Socialist Party.

The letters stressed the importance of making the Japanese people "aware of the derogatory usage of the term 'Jap' and how it denigrates all who are of Japanese ancestry" and said passage of a resolution on "Jpn" by the Diet "will be one small step contributing to the understanding

that is essential for world peace."

The letters were signed by Nakano, national president Harry Kajihara, national vice president of public affairs Cherry Kinoshita, Seattle Chapter president Bob Sato, and chapter vice president David Hoekendorf.

"While the possibilities of a similar resolution being introduced in the Japanese Diet remain questionable," commented Saiki, "the efforts can be considered productive in creating a wider awareness among the Japanese political and government circles of the need to promote the usage of 'Jpn' as the proper abbreviation."

## CRIME BILL

Continued from Front Page

church burnings and lynch mobs.

"However, there is a perception that 'hate crimes' are on the rise. We cannot identify and fight such trends without an identification system such as that created by this law."

The bill was passed by the House during the last session of Congress but died in the Senate.

During a House hearing on the bill in March 1985, Reagan Administration officials said compiling "hate crimes" statistics would be too difficult and suggested that newspaper clippings be collected to obtain such data.

## EAST WIND

Continued from page 4

most intriguing to learn precisely what concerns are being addressed.

As one who knows next to nothing about the subject, I—along with some others—may think that a purpose may be a dating or marriage forum. And, frankly, not only think there's nothing whatsoever wrong with that but, indeed, I think that's downright great. What a fine place to find a social companion or marriage mate! However, I suspect that the committee's concerns are cerebral as much as anything else.

AS FOR ME, I'd like to learn more about the committee, its concerns, programs and goals. I'm sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the chair of the committee with a request to send me a copy of the committee's report.

If you, too, would like to learn more—whether you're single or, like I am, very much married—the name and address of the chair are: Meriko Mori, National Singles Committee JACL, 1927 Federal Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90025.

Remember: include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

## 1000 Club Roll

(Year of Membership Shown)  
\* Century; \*\* Corporate; L Life;  
M Memorial; C/L Century Life

Summary (Since Jan 1, 1987)  
Active (previous total) ..... 207  
Total this report: # 2 ..... 55  
Current total ..... 262

Jan 26-30, 1987 (55)  
Berkeley: 4-Dr Tommy T Hayashi, 20-Teruo Tay Nobori.  
Chicago: 15-Takeo Itano, 18-Al K Nakamoto, 31-Kay Sunahara.  
Downtown L.A.: 3-Grace A Shiba.  
Eden Township: 14-Donald L Hayashi.  
Lodi: 4-Fred M Nakamura\*.  
Marin: 6-Mo Nobuchi.  
Oakland: 22-Shizuo Tanaka.  
Reedley: 1-Ronald H Nishinaka.  
Sacramento: 33-Dr Akio Hayashi, 1-Dr Craig S Makishima, 31-Arthur Miyai, 31-Noboru Shirai, 25-Tomoye Tsukamoto.  
San Benito: 30-E Sam Shiotaka.  
San Francisco: 9-Isao Kawamoto.  
San Jose: 20-Dr Tom T Doi, 6-Mary Ewing, 6-George Kajiro Hanada, 20-George Hinoiki, 30-Dr Thomas A Hiura, 21-Dr Tak Inouye, 3-Takeshi Inouye, 30-Harry Ishigaki, 20-Robert J Ishimatsu, 20-Dr Tadashi Kadanaga, 1-Hiro Kurotori, 20-Ray M Matsumoto, 1-Charles Mikami, 18-Helen Mineta, 30-Tom J Mitsuyoshi, 2-Carl Mune, 19-Dr Saylo Munemitsu, 27-Peter Nakahara, 29-Dr Robert S Okamoto, 8-Teiji Okuda, 22-Akira Aki Sasaki, 1-Judy Sueda, 20-George Takagi, 6-Richard K Tanaka, 4-Wayne Kazuo Tanda, 1-Frank Togami, 5-Kazuko Tokoshima, 1-Tak William Tsukuda, 7-Kazuo Utsunomiya.  
San Mateo: 18-Dr Mitch M Wakasa.  
Seattle: 25-Robert H Matsuura.  
Sonoma County: 10-Hitoshi F Kobayashi, 13-David Murakami\*.  
Stockton: 20-Dr Kengo Terashita, 10-Yutaka Watanabe\*.  
West Valley: 18-Hon Judge Taketsugu Takei.  
PSW District: 9-East West Development Corp.\*\*.

## CENTURY CLUB\*

4-Fred M Nakamura (Lodi), 9-David Murakami (Son), 7-Yutaka Watanabe (Sto).  
CORPORATE\*\*  
9s-East West Development Corporation (Nat).

Summary (Since Jan 1, 1987)  
Active (previous total) ..... 262  
Total this report: # 5 ..... 115  
Current total ..... 377

Feb 2-6, 1987 (115)  
Alameda: 18-Yasuo Yamashita.  
Berkeley: 21-Akira Nakamura\*.  
Boise Valley: 28-Tony Miyasako.  
Chicago: 16-Robert Bunya, 7-Yoshiko Ozone, 14-Frank K Sakamoto.  
Cleveland: 23-Richard Y Fujita.  
Clovis: 13-Kiyomi K Takahashi.  
Contra Costa: 16-Tosh Adachi, Life-Yoshiro Tokiwa.  
Delano: 33-Dr James K Nagatani.  
Detroit: 14-Stanley Hirozawa, 15-Hime Iwakawa, 19-Mary Kamidori, 30-Arthur A Ma-

tsumura, 2-David A Maxon, 33-Sue Omori, 17-Dr Masamichi Suzuki, 31-Tes T Tada.

DTLA: 35-Hon Judge John F Aiso.  
East Los Angeles: 14-Dr Ronald H Akashi, 3-Robert Takasugi.

Eden Township: 22-S Tom Hatakeda\*.  
Fremont: 15-Shizuo Harada, 5-Y. Keiko Okubo.

French Camp: 12-Hito Murata.  
Gardena Valley: 19-Tak Kawagoe\*, 15-Dr Ernest Terao, 29-Dr Masashi Uriu.

Golden Gate: 28-Dr Clifford I Uyeda\*.  
Grecham Troutdale: 24-Masayuki Fujimoto.

Hollywood: 4-Shunji Asari, 17-Arthur M Emi.  
Idaho Falls: 36-Charley Hirai, 29-Sam S. Sakaguchi.

Japan: 3-Fred Nakagawa, 3-Thomas Sakamoto.  
Livingston Merced: 24-Yo Kuniyoshi.

Lodi: 13-Keiji Fujinaka.  
Marina: 5-Tsutako Curo.  
Marysville: 6-Ben T Kawada, 4-Ron Yoshimura.

Mile Hi: 18-Toshio Ando, 23-Dr Ben Miyahara.

Milwaukee: 7-Helen Inai, 9-Andrew J Mayeshiba, 24-Nami Shio.

Monterey: 33-Hoshito Oyster Miyamoto.  
Mount Olympus: 18-Kenneth Nodzu.

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New York: 7-Matsuko Akiya, 28-S. John Iwatsu.

North San Diego: 33-Henry J. Ishida\*, 16-Yoshiko Ishida.

Pacific: 16-Kazuko Matsumoto.  
Pan Asian: 31-Chiyeko Kishi, 3-Gary M Kondo.

Parlier: 17-Noboru J Doi.  
Pasadena: 29-Mary K Hatate.

Philadelphia: 17-Albert B Ikeda, 14-Hisaye N Takashima.

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San Mateo: 9-Robert Shoda.  
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Snake River: 24-Harry S Fukiage, 23-Shigeru Hironaka, 33-Rosie Iseri.  
Stockton: 26-Dr Kenneth Fujii, 10-Bill K Shima.

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Wasatch Front North: Life-George Sugihara.

Washington DC: 6-Hideki Hamamoto, 27-Akiko Iwata, 32-Etsu Masaoka, 40-Mike M Masaoka.

## LIFE

Yoshiro Tokiwa (CNC), George Sugihara (WFN).

## CENTURY CLUB\*

7-Akira Nakamura (Ber), 7-S Tom Hatakeda (Ede), 13-Tak Kawagoe (Gar), 14-Dr Clifford I Uyeda (ZSF), 9-H Jim Fukumoto (Nat), 15-Henry J Ishida (NSD), 7-Dr Frank Y Tanaka (Set), 10-Tom Tsubota (Set).

## Redress Pledges

Actual amounts acknowledged by JACL Headquarters for the period ending:

#34: YEAR-END, 1986  
1986 Total to Date: \$ 92,331.52  
Prev. Gross Total: 343,442.06  
This Report: (13) 8,399.00  
Grand Total: \$349,981.56

Cleveland JACL \$500 (4th yr pledge); Dayton JACL \$505 (4th yr pledge); Lodi JACL \$609.50 (4th yr pledge); Portland JACL \$800 (4th yr pledge); Houston JACL \$170 (4th yr pledge); Olympia JACL \$210 (4th yr pledge); Milwaukee JACL \$515 (4th yr pledge); Stockton JACL \$100 (4th yr pledge); St. Louis JACL \$555 (86 pledges); Gresham-Troutdale JACL \$660 (Year 4); New York JACL \$995 (Year 4); Philadelphia JACL \$845 (Year 4); Berkeley JACL \$75 (Balance of 4th year).

## 1986 DISTRICT BREAKDOWN (Actual: Jan.—Dec. 1986)

NC-WN-Pac ..... 35,045.00  
Pac Southwest ..... 19,875.52  
Midwest ..... 15,090.00  
Central Cal ..... 8,608.50  
Pac Northwest ..... 7,670.00  
Eastern ..... 3,240.00  
Intermountain ..... 1,500.00  
Mtn-Plains ..... 1,032.50  
Year-End Total: \$ 92,331.52

## Letters to the Editor

## 442 Shoulder Patch

A reply to Jack "Happy" Yamaguchi's inquiry concerning the 442 RCT shoulder patch (Letters, Jan. 30): T/Sgt Mich Miyamoto of Watsonville, Calif., designed the "liberty torch" patch. It showed a silver arm and hand holding a torch against a field of blue surrounded by a border of silver and red.

NATIONAL JA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
San Francisco



# Spokane JACL Recognizes 325 Years of Service

by Denny Yasuhara

Eleven outstanding JACLers were honored at the Spokane Chapter installation/awards banquet on Jan. 31.

Their commitment to JACL and the Spokane community spans the entire existence of JACL. The combined total of their years of service exceeds 325 years.

Silver Pins were presented by national president Harry Kajihara and chapter president Ben Furukawa to: Masuo Akiyama, Marcelline Burdett, Harry Honda, Harry Kadoya, Iku Matsumoto, Joe Mukai, Mark Mukai, Tets Nobuku, Roy Soejima, and Kazue Yamamoto. Frank Hisayasu, who had already received the Silver Pin, was honored with the Sapphire Pin.

The last 15 years have brought great progress to the Spokane Chapter and community. Past accomplishments include:

- Construction of JACL's \$1.5 million, 41-unit housing project for the elderly, the Hifumi En, in 1973;

- Implementation of the Asian American Studies Program at



At Spokane Chapter installation dinner: (standing, from left) Mark Mukai, National President Harry Kajihara, Harry Honda, Tets Nobuku, Roy Soejima; (seated, from left) Pacific Northwest District Gov. Denny Yasuhara, Kazue Yamamoto, Frank Hisayasu, Harry Kadoya, Masuo Akiyama.

Washington State University after a lawsuit and lengthy negotiations from 1977 to 1981;

- Construction of JACL's Spokane Interstate Fair food booth, which generates an annual income of \$20,000, in 1980;

- A \$100,000 roof remodeling project for the Hifumi En in 1984.

Each of the recipients participated in one or more of these projects. However, their greatest contribution might be that their leadership has fostered a remarkably close and cooperative group of people that has enabled a rather small 300-family Nikkei com-

munity to accomplish so much.

The newly installed Spokane Chapter officers are:

President — Ben Furukawa; vice president — Suzie Uyeno; secretary — Sumi Okamoto; treasurer — Harry Kadoya; membership chair — Ada Honda

Serving on the board of directors are:

Marjorie Davis, Hiroko Hanes, Doug Heyamoto, Harry Honda, Mayre Johnson, Mike Kondo, Dean Nakagawa, Sharon Saito, Roy Soejima, Mieke Stevens, Rita Takahashi, Kaz Yamamoto, and myself.

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## Chapter Pulse

### MARINA

• Installation dinner dance will take place Feb. 21 from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Hyatt Wilshire Hotel, 3515 Wilshire Blvd. Themed "A Touch of Class," the event will bring together members from the Marina, Orange County, Venice-Culver, Torrance, South Bay, Pasadena, Wilshire-L.A., and Latin America chapters. Info: Neil Natsumeda, (213) 329-8034, or June Saruwatari, (213) 263-3677.

### PHILADELPHIA

• S.B. Woo, lieutenant governor of Delaware, will be the keynote speaker at the chapter's installation dinner March 21 at the Valley Forge Hilton, 251 W. Dekalb Pike. Evening will begin with a 6 p.m. no-host cocktail hour followed by a 7 p.m. dinner. Chapter will honor 1987 graduates as part of its program. Info: Betty Endo, (215) 844-7317.

### SEATTLE

• JACL Theater Night for the comedy "Miss Minidoka, 1943" will take place Feb. 25, 8 p.m., at the Theatre Off Jackson, 409 Seventh Ave. Tickets are \$4 per person with advance reservations. Info: Lisa Chinn, (206) 367-8120.

### WEST VALLEY

• Annual membership Potluck and Bingo Night will take place March 14, 6 p.m., at the chapter's clubhouse, 1545 Teresita Dr., San Jose.

### GREATER L.A. SINGLES

• Installation dinner dance will take place March 7 at the Alondra Country Club, 16400 S. Prairie Ave. For further information and reservations, call Annabelle Lee, (213) 327-0099.

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## Gotanda's Play 'The Wash' to Premiere at S.F. Theater

SAN FRANCISCO — Philip Kan Gotanda's play "The Wash" premieres March 4 at the Eureka Theatre, 2730 16th St. (at Harrison), and runs through March 29.

"The Wash" is a portrait of the older generation's changing role within a Japanese American family. While specific to dilemmas facing the Nisei, the play is also "a powerful, yet subtle statement about American life, and the role of older people within American society," according to director Richard Seyd.

Nobu McCarthy is featured as Masi. McCarthy is director of the Asian American Theatre Arts Project at CSU Los Angeles and co-star of the film "Karate Kid II." Hiroshi Kashiwagi plays Masi's husband; Judy Momii-Hoy and Sharon Omi play the couple's daughters. Also appearing are Wood Moy, Amy Hill, A.M. Lai, Diane Takei, and Mitzie Abe.

Gotanda, a native of San Francisco, is a recipient of the JACL-operated Henry and Chiyo Kuwahara Arts grant and the Joseph Kesselring Playwriting Award. His other plays include "A Song for a Nisei Fisherman" and "The Dream of Kitamura."

Performances are Wednesday through Sunday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 opening night (including reception), \$14 Friday and Saturday, \$12 Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday. Discounts for students, seniors and groups are available. Info: (415) 558-9898.

A campaign to raise \$15,000 in support of the production is under way. On the honorary committee of Friends of "The Wash" are Rep. Norman Mineta of San



Nobu McCarthy

Jose, Supervisor Tom Hsieh, Oakland Councilman Frank Ogawa, attorney Cressey Nakagawa, and JACL national director Ron Wakabayashi. On the advisory committee are:

Hats Aizawa, president, Aizawa Associates; Kare Anderson, owner, Anderson Negotiations/Communications; Ruth Asawa, artist; Noriko Bridges, writer; Carole Hayashino and David Nakayama, National JACL staff members; Yo Hironaka, San Francisco JACL board member; Dr. Jerry Hiura; Duane Kubo, De Anza College; Janice Mirikitani, author and program director, Glide Memorial Church; Jeff Mori, director, Japanese Community Youth Council; Allen Okamoto, owner, T. Okamoto and Co. Real Estate & Insurance; Gloria Rose Ott, owner, Go Associates; Patty Wada, Hokubei Mainichi; Yori Wada, UC regent.

Individuals supporting "The Wash" will receive special benefits. For more information on the committee, call (415) 558-9811.

## Community Calendar

Feb. 21 — March 8

### FRESNO

Feb. 28 6 p.m. Installation dinner of Central California Asian/Pacific Women will take place at China Garden, 1425 Draper, in Kingsburg. Tickets are \$12.50 per person. Info: Debbie Ikeda, (209) 229-6423.

### LOS ANGELES

March 3-7 New citizenship classes sponsored by Gardena Community Adult School and Little Tokyo Service Center begin March 3, 6:30-9:30 p.m. (Tue. and Thur.) for ten sessions and March 7, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (Sat.) for five sessions at 244 S. San Pedro St., Room 410. Topics that appear in the test for U.S. citizenship will be covered in Japanese. To register, call LTSC at (213) 680-3729.

March 2 1 p.m. Downtown Los Angeles Chapter of AARP will host a screening of "Encounter With the Past," a 60-minute movie on the Japanese American experience, at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, 244 S. San Pedro St. Info: Harold Ishibashi, (213) 942-1954.

### SAN JOSE

Feb. 28 8 p.m.-midnight San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, 640 N. 5th St., will hold a benefit dance for Buddhist Churches of America's Campaign for Buddhism. Tickets are \$7.50. Info: Milton Hamasaki, (408) 738-2241; Riuji Hanamoto, (408) 779-2960; Dorothy Ishimatsu, (408) 973-0623.

### MONTEBELLO

March 8 11:30 a.m. Installation banquet of the Nikkei Widowed Group will take place at the Quiet Cannon Restaurant, 901 Via San Clemente. Tickets are \$12.50. Info: Henry, (213) 324-5194, or Yuki, (213) 291-3312.

### SAN FRANCISCO

March 6 8 p.m. Doshisha Women's College Choir of Kyoto, Japan, will be presented in concert at San Francisco State University, Knuth Hall, Creative Arts Building. Info: (415) 937-4478 or (415) 469-1566.

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## Yellow Light

by Garrett Kaoru Hongo

One arm hooked around the frayed strap of a tar-black patent-leather purse, the other cradling something for dinner: fresh bunches of spinach from a J-Town *yaoya*, sides of split Spanish mackerel from Alviso's, maybe a loaf of Langendorf; she steps off the hissing bus at Olympic and Fig, begins the three-block climb up the hill, passing gangs of schoolboys playing war, Japs against Japs, Chicanas chalking sidewalks with the holy double-yoked crosses of hopscotch, and the Korean grocer's wife out for a stroll around this neighborhood of Hawaiian apartments just starting to steam with cooking and the anger of young couples coming home from work, yelling at kids, flicking on TV sets for the Wednesday Night Fights.

If it were May, hydrangeas and jacaranda flowers in the streetside trees would be blooming through the smog of late spring. Wisteria in Masuda's front yard would be shaking out the long tresses of its purple hair. Maybe mosquitos, moths, a few orange butterflies settling on the lattice of monkey flowers tangled in chain-link fences by the trash.

But this is October, and Los Angeles seethes like a billboard under twilight.

From used-car lots and the movie houses uptown, long silver sticks of light probe the sky. From the Miracle Mile, whole freeways away, a brilliant fluorescence breaks out and makes war with the dim squares of yellow kitchen light winking on in all the side streets of the Barrio.

She climbs up the two flights of flagstone stairs to 201-B, the spikes of her high heels clicking like kitchen knives on a cutting board, props the groceries against the door, fishes through memo pads, a compact, empty packs of chewing gum, and finds her keys.

The moon then, cruising from behind a screen of eucalyptus across the street, covers everything, everything in sight, in a heavy light like yellow onions.

Reprinted from *Yellow Light*, © 1982 by Garrett Kaoru Hongo, Wesleyan University Press, Middletown, Conn.

## GARRETT HONGO

Continued from front page

small circle of friends, or the values of a small group of people."

He is also against the practice of arbitrarily "deciding what constitutes Asian American literature," which he says is found in certain segments of the Asian American press. He cites a case in point: he ended up publishing his poem "Yellow Light" in the *New Yorker* because it was rejected by the community paper he first offered it to.

Hongo calls his new book an elegy for his late father, Albert Hongo, "who was a great hero to me because he was a person who refused to hate. Though the anger probably turned inward to himself, I saw him as a hero because he didn't turn anybody away. He rarely showed anger against others. It's a big deal for a guy who went through a lot of changes like he did."

The book's title comes from the Japanese story of the cowherd and the weaver girl who were exiled to opposite ends of the Milky Way because of their forbidden love, and were allowed to meet only one night each year. "To me, it's a myth of the afterlife, a myth of requital, consolation, in some ways redemption," says Hongo.

In addition to teaching poetry,

writing and literature at University of Missouri, he edits poetry for the *Missouri Review* and devotes his spare time to working on his poems.

He says of his calling, "You can't make a lot of money being a poet. Therefore, a lot of greedy people can't become part of the profession.... You do it for the art, you don't do it for any other reason."

Although he has not written any plays since "Nisei Bar and Grill" a decade ago, he adds, "After I finish this next book, I'm gonna go back and write another play. And it'll be really good."

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## 1987 Tour Dates

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Roy Takeda, escort
- 6: Apr 17 - May 2  
Oki Island Kyushu Spring Tour; Steve Yagi, escort
- 7: Mar 29 - Apr 5  
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Bill Sakurai, escort
- 8: May 8 - May 22  
Ura-Nihon Tour  
Toy Kanegai, escort
- 9: May 16 - May 25  
Historic Eastcoast Tour  
Veronica Ohara, escort
- 10: June 7 - Jun 23  
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Steve Yagi, escort
- 11: Jun 11 - Jun 14  
River Rafting & Lake Tahoe  
Phyllis Murakawa, escort
- 12: Jun 5 - Jun 17  
National Parks & Canyons Tour; Bill Sakurai, escort
- 13: Jun 19 - Jul 3  
Japan Summer June Tour  
Roy Takeda, escort
- 14: Jul 3 - 17  
Japan Summer July Tour  
Yuki Sato, escort
- 14a: Jul 4 - 20  
Scandinavian Vistas  
Toy Kanegai, escort
- 15: Jul 5 - Jul 17  
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Veronica Ohara, escort
- 15a: Jul 29 - Aug 6  
Cruise Alaska
- 16: Aug 1 - 14  
Festivals of Japan Tour  
George Kanegai, escort
- 17: Aug 7 - 21  
Japan Summer August Tour  
Mabel Kitsuse, escort
- 18: Sep 6 - 16  
National Parks & Canyon Tour; Toy Kanegai, escort
- 19: Sep 11 - 21  
Canada, Nova Scotia  
Cruise; Niagara  
Yuki Sato, escort
- 20: Sep 14 - Sep 30  
China Tour  
Mabel Kitsuse, escort
- 21: Sep 25 - Oct 9  
Hokkaido/Ura-Nihon Tour  
Veronica Ohara, escort
- 22: Oct 2 - Oct 24  
Omote Nihon Tour  
Yuki Sato, escort
- 23: Oct 2 - Oct 24  
The Exotic Orient Tour  
Bill Sakurai, escort
- 24: Oct 3 - Oct 14  
Fall Foliage Two Nation Tour; Roy Takeda, escort
- 25: Oct 8 - Oct 30  
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