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Photo By Martie Quan

WARRIOR WOMEN—The Asian Pacific Women's Network honored four women for their contributions to the development of Asian and Pacific Women at their Seventh Annual Woman Warrior Awards dinner held Feb. 19 at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles. Pictured above, left to right: Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga, June Kuramoto, Marguerite Archie-Hudson, mistress of ceremonies Joanne Ishimine and Beulah Quo.

Asian Pacific Women's Network

Four Honored With 'Women Warrior' Awards

By Laurie Mochidome

LOS ANGELES — Researcher Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga and musician June Kuramoto were two of the "warriors" honored by the Asian Pacific Women's Network (APWN) during its seventh annual Woman Warrior Awards dinner held Feb. 19 at the Biltmore Hotel.

Inspired by writer Maxine Hong-Kingston's retelling of the legend of the original woman warrior, Fa Mu Lan, in her book, *The Women Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*, the APWN award recognizes women and men whose contributions to their communities lead to the advancement of all individuals.

Upon acceptance of her award for community service, Herzig-Yoshinaga said: "My dictionary defines 'warrior' as a man who engaged in or experienced warfare. As you can see, I don't fit this description. But I did find a synonym that is more applicable and that is 'fighter'."

Fighting Adversity

"Like many women of my generation," she said, "I have fought adversity on many fronts, as a member of an ethnic minority, as a female discriminated against in schools and in jobs because of gender and race, as a prisoner for three years incarcerated by this country, by my own government, based solely on my ethnic ancestry, and raising three children as a single parent in a stress-filled concrete jungle city called New York."

"As a fighter," Herzig-Yoshinaga continued, "I did my best to overcome these obstacles. It was well past my half century mark before I was able to make some contributions to this community—especially through my research for the National Council for Japanese American Redress that culminated in a class action lawsuit for government wrongdoing against Americans of Japanese ancestry during WW2. I hope that my endeavors and accomplishments reflect the feminist spirit that guides the Asian Pacific Women's Network."

Herzig-Yoshinaga, a former internee of the Manzanar camp, is responsible for finding a document which proves that the U.S. govern-

ment interned those of Japanese ancestry during WW2 on the basis of their race.

Initially looking through the U.S. government's archives on the exclusion program to trace her own family's history, Herzig-Yoshinaga eventually discovered a report that was drafted under the direction of Gen. John DeWitt, the program's commanding officer. The report, which the War Department had ordered destroyed, stated that the exclusion order was necessary because Japanese Americans could not be physically differentiated from Japanese nationals. Later, it was re-written by Assistant Secretary of War John J. McCloy under the rationale that the exclusion program was needed because of the military threat posed by Japanese Americans and legal resident aliens.

Until Herzig-Yoshinaga's discovery, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the legality of the order. Now, however, proof of the program's racist nature has re-opened cases filed against the government and led to the filing of a class action lawsuit by the National Council for Japanese American Redress.

Herzig-Yoshinaga, whose commitment to social justice is also evident by her involvement in Asian Americans for Action during the '60s and her recent arrest for protesting against the apartheid government of South Africa, thanked APWN for its own commitment to advancing the role of the Asian Pacific community.

"The past decade has seen significant development and sense of community," she said, "which is influenced by organizations like the APWN. Through unity from activities, such as APWN scholarship and leadership programs, I see great potential for our own empowerment."

Artistic Contribution

Also honored for her contributions to the Japanese American community was June Kuramoto, koto player for the jazz fusion group "Hiroshima."

Kuramoto, whose instrumentals many would say characterize the band's sound, began playing the Japanese classical instrument at the age of six. Throughout her youth, she

performed for community events and eventually turned to jazz. Since Kuramoto's involvement in "Hiroshima," the first Japanese American jazz band has sold over 300,000 record albums and toured throughout the country.

Crediting her family and other band members with her success as a musician, Kuramoto paused in a heartfelt moment to acknowledge who she called the "woman warrior" in her life.

"I would like to dedicate and give this award to the person who is the unsung heroine, the true woman warrior, to my mother who just passed away this month," said Kuramoto. "Mama was my strength and my back bone. She was a true pioneer and she was the connector of the East and West for me."

Other 'warriors'

Other "warriors" recognized by the APWN included educator Margaret Archie-Hudson and actress Beulah Quo.

Archie-Hudson serves as the associate director of the Academic Advancement Program at UCLA, which is designed to help minority students obtain their degrees. Before holding this position, she chaired minority education programs for Occidental College in Los Angeles and the California State University system.

Quo, a character actress, is a founding member of the East/West Players, the first Asian American theater company in the U.S. She currently serves as vice president of the United Way's Region Five Board of Directors and is a member of the board of directors for both El Nido Social Services and the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia.

Also recognized during the evening were APWN scholarship recipients Joyce Sanghi Jun, Hong-Hea Kheav, Nancy Lee and Mu Dan Ping.

Forming a Common Vision

Explaining the significance of the awards ceremony, Marion Fay, chair of the scholarship committee, referred to the goals of APWN. The nonprofit organization was formed in 1980 with the observance that

Continued on page 3

California State Treasurer

Legislature Splits in Confirmation Vote, Lungren Nomination Still Uncertain

SACRAMENTO — U.S. Representative Daniel E. Lungren of California is a man with a choice. The choices are running again for his House seat or letting the California Supreme Court decide how to interpret the California Constitution to determine if he is or is not the new state treasurer. The dilemma is because of the result of the confirmation vote by the California State Legislature.

On Feb. 25, the California Senate vote 21 to 19 to reject the confirmation of Lungren, while the Assembly voted 43 to 32 confirming him. It is not completely clear whether or not it takes both Houses of the California Legislature to confirm a nominee for a state post. California Gov. Deukmejian, who appointed Lungren for the treasurer post, believes that since both Houses did not vote him down, Lungren was confirmed as treasurer. However, opponents to Lungren's nomination believe that the California Constitution stipulates that either House may veto the nomination.

Complicating the matter is whether or not Lungren would rather let the court decide his future or run again for the U.S. House of Representatives, which has a March 11 filing deadline. If sworn in as treasurer, Lungren must vacate his House seat. Although there were tentative plans to swear in Lungren on March 2, it did not occur.

Should Lungren decide to go for the state post, it is possible that he could lose in court, thus becoming neither treasurer nor U.S. congressman. If he decides to forego the treasurer spot to keep his current job, he will face the usual risks in the bid for U.S. representative.

Rep. Lungren served as chairman for the Commission on Wartime Internment and Relocation of Civilians which examined the circumstances of the evacuation and relocation of Japanese Americans and Japanese legal resident aliens from the West Coast during WW2. Lungren voted against individual monetary compensation which would be provided by H.R. 442, which resulted from the findings of the commission. H.R. 442 was approved by the U.S. House of Repre-



Rep. Dan Lungren

sentatives in September of 1987.

Lungren's confirmation was initially viewed by many as a "shoe-in." However, because of questions about his voting record on civil rights issues, questions originally raised by the Asian American community, Lungren's confirmation has become one of California's most heated legislative controversies in years.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Matsui Joins Platform Committee

WASHINGTON — Democratic National Chairman Paul G. Kirk, Jr. has announced that Rep. Robert Matsui (D-Calif.) has been selected to be a permanent member of the 1988 National Democratic Convention Platform Committee. Matsui is one of 25 party and elected officials who were chosen by the national party to serve on the committee. Chaired by Michigan governor Jim Blanchard, the committee is charged with drafting and recommending the party's platform. Its 161 additional members will be selected at the state level. (California will elect 14 members to serve.)

ACJ Opens Office

DETROIT — American Citizens for Justice (ACJ), a Detroit-based Asian American organization, recently opened an office, the Asian Center for Justice, under Director David Fukuzawa. The office represents a new phase for ACJ, which was instrumental in bringing the killers of Vincent Chin to trial. The office will continue the spirit of ACJ's early work by monitoring anti-Asian violence and sentiment. Other objectives include human rights advocacy, and education leadership development.

Ishimine, Machado to MC AAPAA Awards

LOS ANGELES — Joanne Ishimine and Mario Machado will be co-Masters of Ceremonies at the fourth annual AAPAA Media Awards dinner for March 21 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

Ishimine is a reporter and anchor for KABC-TV Channel 7 Eyewitness News, and Machado is a seven-time Emmy award winner for his national TV series, "Medix" and is a former news anchor.

Celebrity presenters scheduled to appear include Michael Landon, Joan Chen, Victor French, Caesar Romero, Rae Dawn Chong, France Nuyen, Dustin Nguyen, David Soul, John Randolph, Debra Raffin, Richard Roundtree, K.T. Stevens, James Shigeta, Mako, Julie Nickson, Finola Hughes, John Reilly, Rip Taylor, Margaret Avery, Barbar Luna, Rosalind Chiao, Danny Kamekona and Richard Narita.

Arco Offers Aiso Scholarship

LOS ANGELES — A scholarship foundation established by the Japanese American Bar Association of Greater Los Angeles in memory of former State Appeals Court Justice John F. Aiso will receive a \$5,000 grant from Arco, it was announced Feb. 18.

The 78-year-old Aiso died December 29, 1987, from head injuries sustained when a mugger shoved him to the ground during a mid-day robbery attempt on Dec. 13, at an AMPM mini market in Hollywood.

Arco Petroleum Products Company, the marketing and refining division of Arco, has also offered a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the man responsible for Aiso's

death. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has offered a similar \$25,000 reward.

A Los Angeles police department composite drawing compiled from eyewitness descriptions depicts the suspect as a black male, 30 to 35 years-old, transient in appearance, with a moustache and slight goatee, about 5 ft. 8 in. and weighing between 150 and 160 pounds.

Aiso was a co-founder of the Japanese American Bar Association and the first Japanese American judge in the United States. He was also the highest-ranking Nisei in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II, advancing from the rank of army private to lieutenant colonel within three years.



MIS ACHIEVEMENTS DOCUMENTED IN FILM—Loni Ding's new film, *The Color of Honor*, examines the Nisei of the U.S. Military Intelligence Service. Above are MIS men questioning a Japanese soldier. The film will be shown in a benefit premiere March 6 at the Japan America Theatre in Los Angeles at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$50.

Movie Review

'Color of Honor' Looks at the Overlooked

By George Johnston

Filmmaker Loni Ding's latest film, *The Color of Honor*, tells many stories. Most of the stories are told by the people who lived them and lived through them. Most of all, it is the story of the Nisei men of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) and how they served the United States in the Pacific War against Japan as linguists, interpreters, translators and interrogators.

The Color of Honor also tells the story of the most significant and complex event in Japanese American history, the evacuation and detention of immigrants and offspring of immigrants of Japanese ancestry. This 101-minute movie begins with a wider overview of these events, including some background on life before and during the internment.

More for the benefit of those who

Continued on page 3

Wash. State Governor

Remarks Jolt Minorities

SEATTLE — Comments made by Washington state Gov. Booth Gardner at a luncheon meeting of the Governor's Affirmative Action Policy Committee in Olympia on Dec. 15 were considered racist by some and insensitive by others.

At the meeting the governor said that minorities have to be willing to work 10 to 12 hours a day if they want to advance in their jobs. He told of an instance when he was Pierce County executive of a Black employee who was unwilling to work overtime.

The governor said the Black employee told him, "After 5 p.m., my hours are my own." That's why the governor said he didn't promote him.

Following the governor, William Gladden, head of the state Human Rights Commission, spoke and said it wasn't always possible for women to work 10 to 12 hours because of family commitments. Some people interpreted this comment as sexist.

Interviewed later, Gladden said that Gov. Gardner's remarks were not racist and that he disagreed with the governor's comments that em-

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ployees should work 10 to 12 hours a day in order to get ahead. Gladden said he was defending women's dilemma of family obligations that made it impossible for some of them to work extra hours.

Dick Milne, the governor's press secretary, said that some people misinterpreted the governor's remark and that the governor was concerned that there aren't enough minorities in middle and upper management, but it wasn't because they didn't work hard enough.

Most minorities would agree that the governor's minority hiring record appears to be good, and there is a Nikkei on his staff as one of his administrative assistants. Paul Isaki, formerly from the San Francisco Bay Area, is an assistant to the

governor and frequently acts as his spokesperson.

After meeting with the governor, Harold Riach, president to the Asian American Commission, said his group was satisfied with the governor's explanation on the subject.

Riach said he has some Korean clients who work from 10 to 16 hours a day, so he was outraged when he first heard the governor's remark. Now, however, he said the governor explained himself fully and cleared the air.

Nevertheless, some representatives of minority organizations said they wanted to know more about the situation; the Seattle JACL is sending a letter to the governor expressing concern over the matter.

'Three Generations' Premieres in Philly

PHILADELPHIA — *Three Generations* is an evening of film and music by two Japanese American artists who have created works, three generations later, in response to the incarceration of their families in the United States during World War II. Both pieces will receive their world premiere on March 5 at 8:00 p.m. in Hopkinson Hall, at the International House in Philadelphia.

Sumi Tonooka is an accomplished jazz pianist and composer. Presently living in Brooklyn, New York, Sumi was born in the Powelton village section of West Philadelphia. She was the 1986 recipient of the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Creative Arts Scholarship awarded by the JACL National Scholarship Program. Her album, *With an Open Heart*, released earlier this year, includes Philadelphia and New York

musicians Rufus Reid, bassist, and drummer Akira Tani.

Her music reflects those jazz greats she's always admired and by whom her own music has been influenced—artists like Duke Ellington, Thelonius Monk, and McCoy Tyner. In his book *In The Moment: Jazz in the 1980's* (1986), Francis Davis devotes a full chapter to Sumi, introducing her as one of the most notable young jazz artists on the scene today.

Out of the Silence is an original three-movement 'musical tone poem,' or triptych, inspired by Sumi's mother and other Japanese Americans and their experiences during the 1940s. The composition blends traditional Japanese instrumentation—the shakuhachi and koto—poetry, and prose, with jazz and contemporary music.

The individual sections of the piece are called "Issei," "Nisei," and "Sansei," Japanese for first, second and third generations. The first section, *Family Gathering*, written and directed by Lise Yasui, is a 30-minute film inspired by the experiences and reflections of Lise's grandparents in the 1940s. The musical score was composed and performed by Sumi Tonooka. Yasui, who also was born in Pennsylvania, is a niece of the late Minoru Yasui and has done a short documentary on the Yasui case.

Both of these projects are original full scale works, dealing with the impact of the internment of Japanese Americans. It is a historic event both in jazz and film, not to be missed.

Admission for the evening's performance is \$12 and \$10 for students, International House members, and senior citizens. Please call (215) 387-5125, ext. 2219 for more information.

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Japanese Farmers' Winter of Discontent

By Shigeru Kimura
Mainichi Shimbun

Farmers on Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido, already hunkered down against the bitter Siberian cold, are bracing for a gust of trade liberalization from Washington that threatens to destroy family agriculture.

Last year, the United States filed a complaint with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) that Japan's import restrictions on 12 agricultural products blocked free trade. In early December, a GATT panel found Japan guilty on 10 items.

The Japanese government has indicated it will expedite liberalization of eight items but is still balking at concessions on powdered and condensed milk, and on starch, both mainstays of Hokkaido's agriculture. Although a final GATT decision has been deferred until February, most observers believe that Japan will eventually have to lift import quotas on all 10 items.

The dairy and potato farmers of Hokkaido fear free trade will ruin them. The Hokkaido Union of Agricultural Cooperatives estimates that liberalizing all 12 items on the Reagan administration's original wish list would throw 43 percent of Hokkaido's 720,000 farmers and agribusiness employees out of work.

Last November, embattled Hokkaido farmers burned caricatures of Ronald Reagan, speared straw effigies of the president with American flags, and destroyed U.S.-made farm machinery. Their anger was directed at Washington, but they should have saved some of their ire for the Japanese government whose policies have failed to make agriculture more competitive against imports. If the final GATT ruling goes against them, farmers will suffer for this lack of foresight.

Hokkaido dairy farmers have ample cause for worry. They produce almost 36 percent of the nation's milk products. But the prefectural government estimates that low-cost imports would drive 82 percent of the island's powdered and condensed milk off the market, leaving only pasteurized milk.

In 1982, the central government proudly launched the so-called New Dairy Farming Village, a settlement created in the plain stretching from Nemuro to Kushiro in eastern Hokkaido. This experiment in large-scale dairy farming would revolutionize the industry, the authorities promised.

The project got off to a good start. Each farm has 110 to 150 acres of pasture, and most households have

already exceeded the original minimum of 70 dairy cows and 30 calves. The community also boasts automatic feeders and other state-of-the-art farm machinery. To pay for this equipment, farmers accumulated debts averaging \$615,400 (at ¥130 to the dollar). Annual loan repayments per family range from \$46,000 to \$69,000.

Hokkaido potatoes are used to make 66 percent of Japan's starch. According to prefectural authorities, 56 percent of the island's output would be undercut by imports if starch were liberalized. In 1987, the national government paid starch producers almost \$1,000 a ton. But American cornstarch costs around two-thirds that amount, and European Community starch is even cheaper. Starch from Thailand is only a fourth the price of the domestic product.

The Tokachi region of central Hokkaido is a major potato-growing area. About 70% of the farmers in Urahoro, for example, raise potatoes, and the town has a large starch factory.

Hiroshi Baba, head of the Urahoro agricultural cooperative, explains that potatoes are rotated with

wheat, beans, and beets. "If the bottom falls out of the market for potatoes, the quality and quantity of all the other crops are bound to suffer. And if agriculture goes under, the town's entire economy will collapse."

Consumers are also concerned about the ramifications of the expected GATT ruling. "We worry about the agricultural chemicals used abroad," says Mieko Ito, a consumer advocate from Bibai city. She voices another widespread anxiety.

"We can't depend on other countries for our food supply. How do we know they'll always come through with what we need? We still remember the consumer panic—hoarding, high prices, shortages—during the 1973 oil crisis. A food embargo would cause havoc."

"People are more concerned about safe food than low prices," says Junko Yamamoto of Sapporo, a vice-president of the Hokkaido Consumers' Association.

Nearly everyone in Hokkaido, farmers and consumers alike, fears liberalization and awaits GATT's decision with trepidation. To paraphrase Shakespeare, 1988 is the winter of their discontent.

—The Asia Foundation's Translation Service Center.

WOMEN WARRIORS

Continued from page 1

Asian and Pacific women lack a voice in the public arena.

Said Fay: "The concept of the Asian Pacific woman in this country is a relatively new one... and in a sense each woman warrior, each scholarship recipient, contributes to the work of this group and sews the thread in the rich fabric that we're weaving to form a common vision of strength, legitimacy and effectiveness that we achieve in our unique ways."

Among the 450 who attended the

event, emceed by KABC-TV Anchorwoman Joanne Ishimine, were Los Angeles City Councilman Mike Woo, Carson City Councilman Mike Mitoma, State Sen. Diane Watson, actor George Takei, Rita Walters, president of the Los Angeles School District and Warren Furutani, member of the Los Angeles School District.

Past recipients of APWN's Woman Warrior Award include Philippine President Corazon Aquino, artist Yoko Ono, actress Jane Fonda, Mayor Tom Bradley and author Maxine Hong-Kingston.

COLOR OF HONOR

Continued from page 2

may not know much about them, the movie also spends time on the most celebrated of Japanese Americans, those of the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team. As the movie progresses, though, the focus is mostly upon the lesser known but no less important MIS veterans. The story of how the United States recruited Japanese Americans for the MIS after putting many of its "potentially dangerous" Japanese and Japanese Americans into camps is a compelling one.

Nisei Cooperation

America was in a bind. In order to learn Japanese intelligence data, the U.S. had no choice but to ask those it imprisoned to provide a service that, realistically, only Japanese Americans could provide. The amazing thing is, to their credit, that the Nisei did the job and did the job well. Despite advantages over non-Japanese Americans in *Nihongo*, the Nisei MIS men still had to endure a grueling mental trial of studying and learning the Japanese language under the pressure of war.

Furthermore, MIS men had to deal with institutional discrimination policies. For instance, the late John Aiso, who was in charge of the Japanese language schooling, had to temporarily become a civilian in order to be in a command position. *The Color of Honor* tells us that trust by other Americans was hard won for the Nisei MIS men. The upside is that respect and admiration were earned.

Draft Resisters

The smaller story of this film is also one that is significant but lesser known. It is the story of the Nisei who refused to serve the U.S. because they felt that the internment violated their constitutional rights. Though they were eventually able to prove their cases, many went to prison and had to deal with the stigma of cowardice or disloyalty.

PICHTR to Receive Another Grant from Japan This Year

WASHINGTON — Sen. Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawaii) announced Jan. 12 that Hawaii's Pacific International Center for High Technology Research (PICHTR) will receive another \$1 million grant from the Japanese government this year.

Japan's ambassador to the U.S., Nobuo Matsunaga, telephoned Sen. Matsunaga to inform him of the contribution, which was discussed in Washington, D.C. during the visit of new Japanese Prime Minister Noburo Takeshita.

The PICHTR, first conceived by Matsunaga and established by cooperation of the State legislature and former Governor George Ariyoshi,

conducts and sponsors research in selected fields of high technology development and seeks to foster international cooperation through joint research with Pacific Basin countries.

"Word that Prime Minister Takeshita has approved continued support for PICHTR is very significant," said Matsunaga. "This means Japan will very likely contribute to PICHTR for several more years—ensuring Hawaii's development as the focal point of high technology and energy research in the Pacific."

Japan's contribution reaffirms a 1986 agreement reached at Matsunaga's suggestion between Presi-

dent Reagan and former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone in Tokyo to undertake joint ventures in high technology research and development in the Pacific region, the Hawaii senator said.

Japan's first \$1 million contribution was presented to Governor John Waihee by Japanese Consul General Tadayuki Nonoyama last May in a State Capitol ceremony attended by Matsunaga, PICHTR Chairman John Bellinger, PICHTR President Dr. Paul Yuen, Hawaii Natural Energy Institute Director Dr. Patrick Takahashi and others.



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ON NOVEMBER 28 of last year, Korean Air Lines Flight No. 858, while on the leg of its flight from Bagdad to Seoul, disappeared somewhere near the Thai-Burmese border. The death toll: 115. There were two passengers who survived; they survived because they had deplaned before the plane continued its flight. These two—a 70-year-old gent and a young woman represented to be his daughter—were confronted in Bahrain to be questioned. While awaiting questioning, the two asked permission to smoke. Granted permission, they bit into a vial of deadly poison hidden in the cigarette: the old gent expired, the young lady somehow survived. Just about that point, the news disappeared from the pages here in the United States.

Not so in Japan.

HAVING RECENTLY TAKEN a subscription to *The Japan Times*, I've been scanning its pages to learn what news is being reported across the Pacific and how it is rated. And the dastardly incident of K.A.L. 858 continues to remain as copy. You see, the two passengers were traveling on forged Japanese passports. The 25-year-old young lady, "Kim Hyon Hui," and her "father" companion are reported to be North Korean agents who had planted a bomb on the plane. The diabolical purpose was to disrupt the Olympic Games scheduled to be held in

K.A.L. 858

EAST WIND

Bill Marutani



South Korea this summer. In fact, those fanatic North Korean agents set off that bomb in Rangoon in 1983 which killed a number of South Korean officials.

Madness. Absolute madness.

ACCORDING TO REPORTS in the *Times*, Ms. Kim is contrite, wishing to die a hundred deaths. Japanese governmental officials proceeded to South Korea to interview this female agent about how she acquired a forged Japanese passport and how she managed to "pass" as a Japanese national. As for the latter, it appears that the agent was trained in North Korea by a Japanese woman in language, etiquette and general behavior. And yet another bizarre twist to the story is that this Japanese woman herself had been kidnapped by North Korean agents as she was strolling along a beach in Japan. In fact, apparently there have been several unexplained disappearances of women strolling the beaches, and in

light of Ms. Kim's revelations, the Japanese constabulary has revived its investigations by renewing interviews among villagers near the beaches.

PRIME MINISTER TAKESHITA condemned the bombing of K.A.L. Flight 858 and the Japanese Government intends to impose some sanctions against North Korea. Japan does not have diplomatic relations with North Korea, so the customary sanctions of withdrawing diplomatic representatives or, more severely, severing diplomatic relations, are not available. Therefore, reportedly the sanctions will include more stringent immigration checks on North Korean travelers. Annually, about 160 North Korean ships call on Japanese seaports, and prior lax immigration checks will be tightened.

I DON'T KNOW that North Koreans look any different from South Koreans; for that matter, I don't know that any given Korean looks any different than a Nikkei, and vice versa. Since I'm told that I look like a Korean (however, it is that a "Korean" is supposed to look like), the next time I go through customs at Narita, it may be that this time I won't breeze through.

That bombing in the skies of the Thai-Burmese border may have wider repercussions that one anticipated.

JOHN AISO: 1909 - 1987

Army Intelligence Relied on Nisei

By Shigeya Kihara

In June 1942, the Military Intelligence Division reassessed the Japanese military intelligence training situation. It transferred the San Francisco school to Camp Savage, Minn., placed MISLS under its direct jurisdiction and expanded the operation. It laid down the objectives and general policies.

The Army provided logistic, personnel and administrative support, but the doctrine, development and execution of Japanese military intelligence training remained with John Aiso, now Director of Training.

One attempt was made to bring in outside expertise. In 1943, a certain Professor Leon Henderson of Columbia University, who had authored a well-regarded book on Japanese literary grammar, was brought in to lecture and to advise on training matters. He immediately picked up the sobriquet, *Hen Chan* or "Queer Bird" and was a total disaster as a member of the faculty and staff. That ended further efforts along this line.

Aiso's Standards and Strengths

With the objective of doing everything in his power to train his men so that the tragic war could be brought to an end even a day sooner, by personal example, by strength of character, effort and dedication, Aiso set standards and the pace. He drew the best out of his Kibei and Nisei staff and continued the training program as an in house Japanese American MIS effort.

In the total absence of trained and experienced Japanese language instructors, Aiso went to the Japanese American community and the relocation camps for leads.

Kibei with high school and university educations in Japan were sought. Waseda and Meiji men predominated. Vernacular newspaper reporters and Japan America trading company employees who had lost their jobs with the outbreak of war were a good source. Salesmen, engineers, businessmen, nursery operators, university students, even Communist-sympathizers and gamblers were interviewed, hired and trained. They came from Manzanar, Tule, Minidoka, Poston and other relocation centers and from all corners of the United States.

Top students from each graduating class were kept on for a year or so as enlisted instructors. 100th Battalion transferees from Camp McCoy, especially Hawaii Chugakko men were superb.

Aiso developed a staff of over 150 supervisors, course developers and instructors, the largest and best ever Japanese language faculty in the United

Part 2 of Two Parts (Part 1: Feb. 5, PC)

States.

All Varieties of Students

Student problems come with the turf of school principals and presidents and in this instance, Director of Training John Aiso.

The students who reported to MISLS were far from homogeneous and brought with them a never-ending variety of administrative and pedagogical problems. They were American-born and Japan-educated Kibei and American-born and U.S.-educated Nisei; city slickers and country farm boys; college grads and kids just out of high school; Buddhaheads or pig heads from Hawaii and Kotonks or hard heads from the Mainland; and eventually discontents from Camp Holabird, Md., who were diverted to MISLS when the European war ended.

There were Caucasians, university ROTC officers with a semester or two of Japanese; BJ's or born-in-Japan *hakujins*; Gripsholm exchange ship repatriate missionaries and businessmen; 800 OCS / Officer Candidate Students from the Univ. of Michigan preparatory school; a class of Marine Corps Officer graduates of the Navy Japanese School at the Univ. of Colorado.

And there was a class of Canadian Japanese military intelligence specialists. There were classes of Chinese American and Korean American GI's; classes of Nisei and Caucasian WAC's.

All of these groups constituted their own can of worms, which Aiso had to manage to fit somewhere in the constantly evolving mosaic of military intelligence training.

AFTER Pearl Harbor, local commanders in Pacific Coast training camps had discharged Nisei or ordered them to posts in the interior. Many who were qualified were sent to Camp Savage, where the second class started training in June 1942. In the same month, further induction of Nisei into military service was halted by Selective Service, who changed their draft classification from 1A / "fit for combat" to 4C / "enemy alien".

The right hand of the Army, Military Intelligence Division believed in the loyalty of Nisei and desperately needed them for military intelligence. The left hand of the Army, including General John DeWitt, Weckerling's own boss, regarded Japs as Japs and caused the evacuation of Japanese Americans into relocation camps. Despite the muddled and confusing situation, the Military Intelligence Division sent recruiting teams into the ten relocation centers for

volunteer students and instructors.

MIS Recruitment

In December 1942, Col. Joseph Dickey and civilian instructor Aki Oshida were sent to Camp McCoy, Wis., where the 100th Battalion from Hawaii was training and came back with a 100 of the best language men to ever come to MIS.

In June 1943, Col. Kai Rasmussen, civilian instructors Tetsu Imagawa and Shig Kihara were sent to Camp Shelby, Miss., where the 442nd Regimental Combat Team was training and came back with 250 more students.

In September 1943, Sgt. Edwin Kawahara and Cpls. Kenji Goto, Benjamin Tashiro, Masaji Marumoto and Randolph Ideue were sent to scour the four main Hawaiian Islands and came back with 350 volunteers.

In January 1944, the draft for Nisei was reinstituted by the Selective Service as a result of the courageous action of the 100th in Italy and the outstanding service of MIS men in the Pacific, which assured a steady flow of students to MIS.

With rapid growth of the training program, decentralization of control became necessary.

Aiso was no longer able to maintain his personal contact with all his instructors and students. More and more, Aiso came to conduct a lonely vigil over his expanded training operation and ever-increasing administrative load. It was inevitable that he become a lightning rod for all MIS problems.

Pressure for More

The Military Intelligence Division increased its levies for more intelligence operators from Colonel Rasmussen who, in turn, pressured Aiso for more graduates. The faculty protested that the teaching load was too heavy. The students being GI's bitched as soldiers have done since time immemorial. They bitched about the tough training schedule, their unsympathetic instructors, compulsory evening study sessions, classroom and barracks inspections, Friday retreat formations, the four hour Saturday morning examinations, week end passes, the humidity and heat of summer and the cold of winter.

In some student barracks and in some corners of faculty rooms, Aiso was hated and reviled as a toady and hatchet man for Colonel Rasmussen.

But this is a price that all leaders in difficult times pay. But Aiso never lost his cool, his dignity and control. He administered his program efficiently, graduating class after class as the war dragged on.

By the end of the war in September 1945, Aiso had turned out 6,000 specialists in military intelligence.

Continued on Page 10

EDITORIAL OF THE PACIFIC CITIZEN:

San Diego's House of Japan

DEDICATION rendered in capital letters was evident at the 25th annual luncheon meeting of the House of Japan in San Diego held last Sunday at Harbor Island, where the panorama burst with sailboats, the fleet when it's docked by North Island, the still-growing downtown skyline, the graceful arch of the San Diego-Coronado bridge and birds of the sea. Paul Hoshi, who chaired the affair, has been the House of Japan's president since it was established in 1963 as a volunteer organization with help of members from the Buddhist and Christian churches, JACL, Gardeners' Association and cultural groups. Its roster now boasts some 45 clubs, kenjinkais and schools of Japanese arts, craft, dance, tea ceremony and martial arts.

The House of Japan was started through efforts of the late Saburo Muraoka of Chula Vista and Will Hippen Jr., honorary Japanese consul general at San Diego, who just passed away Feb. 20 at his home. A son of Oklahoma, Hippen, 69, was a merchant marine, earned his degree in foreign service at Georgetown University in Washington, and served with the State Department in occupied Japan until 1951, when he came to San Diego to enter the aircraft and insurance business. He was a founder of the San Diego-Yokohama Sister City in 1958.

The authentic teahouse in Balboa Park, which serves as the House of Japan, was obtained from sister city Yokohama in 1961. Tea and refreshments are served along with demonstration and displays of various Japanese arts and craft on Sunday afternoon. The teahouse sets behind the organ pavilion within the cluster of tiled-roofed cottages occupied by members of the House of Pacific Relations, Inc., now representing 27 nations.

The annual meetings also introduce the House of Japan queen. The 1988 queen, Kay Kusano, 19, will be assisted by her sister, Princess Naomi, 17. Their parents, Katsuyuki and Toshiko Kusano, were also introduced by Tom Yanagihara, House of Japan vice president who relishes his annual search for a personable lass to keep Sansei interest alive in the House of Japan.

Earning the House of Japan's plaudits and recognition was Donald H. Estes, professor of history at San Diego City College, for his contributions to promoting the welfare of the Japanese in San Diego. His slide presentations of San Diego Japanese history was a highlight of the luncheon.

Of interest nationally, one of these days soon, the entire community of San Diego will be on hand to dedicate an 11½-acre Japanese garden landscaped with a lake, teahouses, walkways and bridge in the lush, green gulch around and below the organ pavilion. Today, you can see the black gate decorated with the imperial chrysanthemum and Tokugawa's crest in make-believe gold to the proposed garden, an architect's rendering and some commemorative rocks of San Diego-Yokohama Sister City friendships. The House of Japan has nurtured the community hopes for restoring the Japanese imprint in Balboa Park in grand style. As a matter of fact, an Estes slide shows a magnificent temple, the Formosa Tea Pavilion, which was an attraction of the 1915 Exposition there.

JACL Legal Counsel's Idea

By Gene Takamine

As it presently exists as an office, the legal counsel of the JACL officially serves at the behest of the national president and sits on the national board.

The role of legal counsel is a combination of house counsel, corporate counsel, tax counsel, parliamentary, constitutional law lawyer and advocate. In order to meet the needs of expanded demands on this office, I have tried to assemble a team of attorneys that could bring differing talent to this task and by involving them in present problems lay the ground work for these people to someday be themselves future legal counsel for the organization.

I thought this would be the answer for the organization's legal needs. Upon reflection, however, I feel that this being a good answer is not the answer. For the organization to try and meet legal demands wholly by the volunteer free will time of attorneys is to go too far in its duty to the membership. With a budget in excess of a million dollars a year, JACL needs to evaluate what cluck it is getting for its buck.

I am specifically reminded in two instances, when assistance was sought from the national board for

assistance in two separate civil rights lawsuits. For the most part in both cases, the board was in a position to be sympathetic and morally supportive but when it came to laying down legal support both in work requested and money, it just was not there. The parties were given verbal assurances and support but beyond that no real legal support.

I feel that with the many requests to review and sign on *amicus curiae* briefs, the need to review legislation, to review Constitutional law issues and to bring legal expertise to civil rights cases the JACL needs to hire and maintain a permanent legal counsel.

We are a civil rights organization. This implies specifically that we would be involved in civil rights issues. These issues all end up in court. The only way to review the records and make a significant contribution in the pursuit of these rights is to have an attorney whose job it is to stay on top of the cases and build an information base in briefs, letters, and experience to respond to a need for legal services.

Permanent legal counsel would provide also a consistent approach to our tax and corporate law needs that are more or less reinvented

Continued on next page

1988 GIRLS' DAY DISPLAY collected by a Washington, D.C. JACLeR.



All but a Handful Accepted Mike's Recommendation

Without intending to revive a matter best laid to rest, I must ask whether you noticed something curious in the late and lamentable flap over *They Call Me Moses Masaoka*, the autobiography of Mike Masaoka.

While the book covered his lifetime of intense activity and accomplishments, virtually all of the criticism was focused on the decisions Masaoka advocated during a few weeks in 1942-46 years ago. That was a time of confusion, fear, high emotion, paranoia, partial paralysis and irrationality induced by Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. Masaoka surveyed the scene and decided that bloodshed was the alternative to accepting the government's argument of evacuation as a matter of military necessity. Of course there was no military necessity, but civilians were in no position to dispute army brass at the time. Accepting at face value the government's promise of better treatment after the emergency, Masaoka urged cooperation.

Some of those who disagree with that position today, decades after the fact, would make it appear Masaoka invented E.O. 9066, the evacua-

FROM THE
FRYING
PANBill
Hosokawa

tion order. In reality he made no decisions. His role as an employee of JACL was to make a recommendation, which was to cooperate. It was endorsed at an emergency meeting of JACL representatives, and accepted by all but a handful of the 115,000 individuals affected. If today a segment of the community psyche demands an indictment, let everyone be blamed. We need not single out a scapegoat.

Critics of the autobiography find it convenient to overlook Masaoka's pivotal role in the sweeping social and legal gains after the war. Mike Mansfield, who as senator watched Masaoka in action, says: "When I was serving in the U.S. Congress, we prided ourselves on always 'speaking to the issues.' Mike spoke to the issues then and continues even today: racism in property ownership and immigration/naturalization reg-

ulations, denial of due process of the law, arbitrary suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, discrimination in all its forms." That is a formidable and laudable agenda.

After Masaoka left JACL employment to seek a greater measure of security for himself and his family, he had an important part in the revival of Japan's economy. In view of the staggering U.S. trade deficit, there may be reason to wonder if he weren't too successful. On the other hand, contemplate the burden we would be facing today if postwar Japan had turned out to be an economic basket case like the Philippines.

I do not want to believe that Nikkei consciousness is so extremely circumscribed that we brood in perpetuity over the outrage committed on us in 1942. Yet the preoccupation is so intense among some that they seem unaware of the uplifting things that have come to pass since that sad time, and oblivious to the knotty problems that we face today. There is an important difference between vowing never to forget, and letting the past dominate our lives. The book should be read and Masaoka's life evaluated with this in mind.

Samurai Comic the Latest Japanese Import

It was less than a year ago when Chicago's First Publishing began publishing one of the latest and most successful imports from Japan. *Chanbara* fans may already be familiar with it through movie adaptations like *Shogun Assassin*. Years before it reached these shores, it was a monstrous hit in its native country. I'm talking about what is arguably the best comic book (or "graphic novel" for the high-brow) produced anywhere in the world... *Lone Wolf and Cub*.

In some ways, it's a story some may find parallels with... a man is wrongly accused of disloyalty and treason by those who are jealous of him. He knows he is right, yet those whom he unfailingly served turn against him. With his wife murdered, his life disrupted, his reputation discredited and dishonored, Itto Ogami is on the run, "wandering through the provinces of feudal

Japan with his infant son Daigoro by his side, seeking vengeance for the murder of his wife and family."

Lone Wolf and Cub or *Kozure Okami* as it is known in Japan, is classic Japanese samurai storytelling. This serialized, English-language *manga* (basically translated for this article, "comic book") tells the story of Itto Ogami, the latest in his family's long line of loyal service to the Shogun as the official *kaishakunin* or executioner. One day he is "framed" for plotting to overthrow the Shogun by a rival family.

Rather than surrender and face death, Ogami becomes an outlaw, a renegade and a vagabond, running from the Yagyu clan and the Shogun's men. In an creative plot device so outlandish that it actually works, Ogami transports his son Daigoro across the countryside in a perambulator that has been described as being more like James Bond's Astin-

IRO IRO

George
Johnston

Martin than your everyday baby carriage.

How Daigoro ended up accompanying his father is genius. Old enough only to crawl, Daigoro is given the choice of crawling towards one of two objects, a colorful ball and an unsheathed *katana* driven into the *tatami*. The ball means joining his mother; the sword, joining his father on the assassin's road. True to his family calling, he chooses the sword.

It is through the presence of Daigoro that *Lone Wolf and Cub* is able

Continued on page 6

THE PACIFIC CITIZEN BOOKSHELF:

Masaoka Book Offers a Selective History

■ **They Call Me Moses Masaoka.** Mike Masaoka with Bill Hosokawa. William Morrow & Co., New York, 383 pp, \$18.95 hard.

By William Hohri

"Moses" Masaoka stumbles from his opening use of the story of God's barring the entry of Moses into the Promised Land by making this singular prohibition against Moses into a general one against a group. The Children of Israel entered the Promised Land. Moses, because he sinned against God, did not. Nor was Moses the prophet Masaoka says he was. Nor was he the speechmaker or public relations expert that Masaoka became. Moses was a liberator and a lawgiver. He was slow and hesitating in his speech, so he convinced God into using his brother Aaron as his mouthpiece. He used, of course, extreme confrontational tactics, scaring the living daylights out of the Pharaoh, by turning water into blood, summoning up invasions of frogs, maggots, flies, and locusts, and finally killing the first-borns throughout the land. He did not urge his people to co-operate with the Pharaoh. The rest of this book fails in its attempt to project Mike Masaoka and the Japanese American Citizens League into "An American Saga," but it does provide insights into one aspect of the Japanese-American character particularly as embodied in the Nisei.

Among the principles Masaoka affirms are these:

1. "The greatest good for the greatest number over the longest period of time." (p. 157);
2. "Do not judge long-past decisions by contemporary values." (p. 100);
3. "My disagreement with Yasui [over his challenge of the curfew order] was less over policy than timing. I had been convinced the challenge must come later." (p. 100);
4. "Co-operation [with mass exclusion and detention] would be our contribution to the war effort and proof of the Americanism of the Japanese American." (p. 156);
5. "Japanese Americans, and other minorities, today would not be enjoying unrestricted citizenship rights without the Nisei record of unswerving loyalty" (p. 179); and
6. "If identical circumstances [to 1942] should arise tomorrow—and I pray that they never arise—chances are that I would urge the same acceptance of patriotic duty." (p. 158)

This account of his life illuminates these by example. He describes his childhood and early years in Utah, his role with the JACL during the critical wartime years, the exploits of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the legislative victories supported by the JACL, and his encounters with prestige and power to validate them. In this last capacity, he may follow after Moses. Like Moses, who had the chutzpah to negotiate with the Almighty and to share in numerous conversations with the Nameless One, Masaoka drops name after name of senator, congressman, judge, ambassador, general, admiral, capitalist, attorney, and others. Perhaps, like Moses, he wants to be not merely credible but compelling. But I think his excesses in self-promotion may prevent all but the glib from being compelled; most will ponder this account as revelation into the contradictions in the Nisei character.

The requirement that an oppressed group earn the respect of the oppressor has a familiar ring to me. While enrolled at the University of Chicago, I was counseled by a well-meaning white man to excel. I was relieved to get Cs, delighted with Bs, and unfamiliar with As. Oppression, I have since learned, resides in the oppressor. One works at alleviating oppression at its source by applying fact and logic to theories, changing laws, instituting court challenges, and rejecting the oppressor's terms of acceptance and formulating and presenting one's own demands for equity and justice. "The greatest good for the greatest number" is a principle any majority would live to inflict on minorities. Co-operation with a racially motivated and massive violation of a minority's constitutional rights must never be called Americanism. I can think of nothing more anti-American than co-operating with the flagrant abuse of power of our government.

As a means of avoiding this kind of analysis, Masaoka would have us suspend judgement of his wartime decisions with current values. Aside from the plain question of how one is to escape from using current values, many of the values we hold today were held in the past. The draft resisters from the detention camp at Heart Mountain, Wyoming, based their protest on the U.S. Constitution. They were not opposed to Selective Service. They simply demanded the restoration of their constitutional rights before they would accept their duty in the military. In 1942, as if anticipating these resisters, Elmer Davis, head of the Office of War Information, wrote in his letter to President Roosevelt proposing an all-volunteer military unit of Nisei:

It would hardly be fair to evacuate people and then impose normal draft procedures, but voluntary enlistment would help a lot.

The values of the resisters were those of their contemporaries and our nation's founders.

Masaoka is an intelligent person, who is married to the past. Were he free to think, and were an adversary to argue for the poor timing of Yasui, Hirabayashi, and Korematsu, I am sure he would be quick to rebut with the obvious point that one cannot challenge an order except when it is in place. One cannot challenge a curfew order until the order has been made and before it is rescinded. The same for exclusion. There has never been any question in the courts that these challenges were timely. So the timing was correct. Without these challenges, there would be no contemporary challenge to the wartime decisions of the Supreme Court, no opportunity to have these decisions reconsidered.

This account does provide insight into one man who has had a marked effect on the lives of Japanese-Americans. It provides reasons why many Nisei feel that deference rather than assertiveness is the way to succeed in American society. Certainly any dominant group prefers deference to assertiveness from its subordinates. But the reader of *Moses* must be wary of certain terms that are used. "Justice," for example, takes a strange twist when Masaoka devises JUSTIS as the acronym for lobby of Japanese textile interests (Japan United States Textile Information Service). Throughout the book, one sees Masaoka as both the quintessential Nisei and the anti-Nisei. His principle of unquestioning loyalty to government is part of the Nisei heritage. So is the accommodationist stance with the white majority. But his self-promotion is anti-Nisei. One wonders if it is not a crutch for some psychic disability. One senses that Masaoka knows all the right words, but is reluctant to be ordinary and human. He seems bent on distancing himself from his Nisei peers with his incessant name-dropping.

Unfortunately, Masaoka also writes history by describing his version of events.

Continued on page 6

LEGAL COUNSEL

Continued from previous page

every time a new legal counsel comes on board.

To meet the present and future legal needs of the JACL, it must be understood that if non-attorneys continue to oversee the legal problems of this organization, we will continue to be bumped around with our legal picture appearing more like a mine field than a new legal counsel must enter at his peril.

I can understand that at one time

the idea of a full-time legal counsel would have been beyond the reach of JACL. However, at the present time, a full-time civil rights lawyer based specifically in Washington, D.C. would bring this organization into the reality of how civil rights organizations get things done. In suggesting this I can only say that this is not what I see as a good idea, I see this as a must. We cannot afford to leave our ability to respond to civil rights issues with a letter of support and a vote on the board.

Washington, D.C. is where the action is in civil rights. Both Nisei and Sansei alike and future Yonsei need

to support a harmonious and consistent presence to bring a pressure on legislators and jurists that are in Washington, D.C.

I see that the LEC board and operation form an excellent model for the operation of the JACL in the present and future. With less than twenty five percent of the JACL budget, the LEC maintains a Washington, D.C. presence, carries on lobbying, does fund-raising, has organized a grassroots organization and maintains a very good mix of both Nisei and Sansei who work quite harmoniously on redress and a variety of civil rights issues.

For the present, the idea of a legal team meeting the needs of the JACL has worked very well. To enumerate the number of issues and situations that the present legal counsel and the subcounsel have participated in would double this article and they are very well documented in other reports.

I want to thank at this time the subcounsel who has done an outstanding job in the advice to me and the organization. When I was otherwise involved in personnel issues, review of appeals, review of all board documents, overseeing all

legal matters, and advising both the president and the national board on their many separate matters, subcounsel dealt specifically in the areas of personnel manual revision, insurance issues review, and induction of subcounsel to the Supreme Court of the United States. I want to specifically thank Bill Marutani, Peggy Liggett, Susan Kamei Leung, Tom Hara, Paul Shinkawa, and Cressey Nakagawa. I specifically commend Peggy Liggett and Cressey Nakagawa for hours above and beyond the call of duty. Anyone of these individual attorneys would serve as a fine legal counsel.

SELECTIVE HISTORY

Continued from page 5

and his history is flawed. One error leads to another. He fails to acknowledge the informant role of leaders of the JACL in providing the FBI with names of persons whom these leaders felt had suspect loyalty. He states, "We were never informers in the sense that we ran to the FBI with information in hopes of currying favor." What he fails to state is what they did when confronted by the FBI for concrete demonstrations of their loyalty by providing names of suspicious persons. When so confronted, leaders of the JACL did name names. He then implies that the Manzanar uprising was caused by the decision of the JACL to support the reinstitution of Selective Service. The uprising was caused by an attack on a person suspected of informant activity and by the unrestrained use of deadly force by the military police.

He diminishes the heroic and historic role of the draft resisters by arguing that their resistance had no effect on subsequent legislation, as though the modest legislation victories he supported were of more enduring significance than the willingness of these men to go to prison to preserve their constitutional rights. It was their imprisonment for constitutional principle, not the loyalty of the JACL and Masaoka to their government, that anticipated the imprisonments of the 1960s that led the way to sweeping victories in civil rights for blacks and other minorities. Loyalty to the Constitution, not government, undergirds our freedom. Archibald Cox, in *The Court and the Constitution*, writes: "The roots of constitutionalism lie in the hearts of the people."

Masaoka's account of the repeal of Title II and the redress movement is simply inept. He omits mention of key players and organizations in both events. The key players in the repeal were Raymond Okamura and Edison Uno. Key organizations were the Asian American Political Alliance, the National Committee to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee, and the National Ad Hoc Committee for Repeal of the Emergency Detention Act. The redress movement has involved many persons and groups besides the national JACL. In the 1970s, the Seattle Evacuation Re-

dress Committee of the Seattle Chapter of the JACL researched and formulated the demand for redress and pressed the national JACL to adopt redress as its program. The National Council for Japanese American Redress was formed in 1979 in opposition to the JACL's decision to switch from seeking redress legislation to establishing a congressional study commission. NCJAR subsequently went on to initiate a class action lawsuit on behalf of the entire class of Japanese-American victims. The case has been in the Supreme Court, is now in the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, and will probably return to the Supreme Court. The National Coalition for Redress/Reparations was formed in 1980 and has played a significant role in raising the issues and lobbying for legislative redress. I am at a loss to understand why he omits mention of Congressman Mike Lowry's vigorous support of redress legislation and names only five of the nine members of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians.

Much of what Masaoka has to say are no more than one man's opinion, interesting to him perhaps but hardly authoritative, despite his unrelenting name-dropping. For good and for ill, the contributions that Masaoka has made through his life are substantial. But I get the sense that he is a man whose ideas are frozen in time. When our Constitution was being threatened, he made the decision to submerge the threat with an appeal to patriotism. Given the failure of most liberal and civil rights groups to see the threat and the enormous hostility towards Japanese as a perceived racial group, that decision is understandable. He now claims, even with the benefit of hindsight, that were history to repeat itself, he would still make the same decision. And that is saddening.

William Hohri heads the Chicago-based National Council for Japanese American Redress.



Kitagawa

► **Keith M. Kitagawa** of Irvine, Calif., has received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, Class of 1992. Kitagawa, a senior at University High School, is an honor student with a G.P.A. of 4.03 and a member of the A.S.B. Cabinet. His parents, Harry and Carol, are members of



Kaji

the JACL SELANOCO Chapter. ► **Tim Tadashi Itatani**, 33, is the first Yonsei to be selected as general chairman for the 48th annual Nisei Week Festival to take place Aug. 6-14 in Los Angeles.

► **Jonathan T. Kaji**, business, church and civic leader, has recently announced his candidacy for



Itatani

treasurer of the City of Gardena. The real estate consultant is president of Japanese American Minority Enterprise, Inc., a member of the board of directors of Project Restore and a board member of the Los Angeles Baptist City Mission Society. He is also a 3-term president of the JACL Gardena Chapter.

SAMURAI

Continued from page 5

to grab readers. Suddenly, Ogami is not just a "killer on the run," but a father, a man who loves and protects his family.

Throughout the comic series, the storytelling of Kazuo Koike is masterful and cinematic, far deeper and more profound than any comic book you may ever read. The dialogue is kept to a minimum, allowing the reader to savor the illustrations of Goseki Kojima. He employs brushwork, pen and ink, and ink washes to convey just about any mood and effect desired. Some pages have as many as 8 panels, while sometimes one complete illustration covers two pages.

Check out, for instance, page 59 of issue seven. That one page, with a few strokes and a creative point-of-

view, conveys the essence of Japanese melancholy. However, be forewarned—preconceived notions based on American comic books may set you up for a shock. *Lone Wolf and Cub*, since it is a samurai drama, is also one of the most graphically violent comic books you may ever see (the Japanese don't have a "Comic Book Code" like we have here). Since it is in black and white, your imagination makes the story even more powerful. You might not want to buy this for your children or grandchildren.

Since it's original inception back in the 1970s, *Lone Wolf and Cub* was only known to but a few Americans—those comic book fans who

not only had access to Japanese comic books, but those who could read *Nihongo*. Now, thanks to First Publications, Americans can enjoy a comic book that can be read by adults without embarrassment. It's that good.

Those of here at the Pacific Citizen would like to take this opportunity to wish the best of luck to our former advertising/business manager, Rick Momii. He just left L.A. for the San Francisco area to be with his lady love.

In addition his daily chores, Rick handled the difficult task of Holiday Issue advertising. We miss ya already, buddy.

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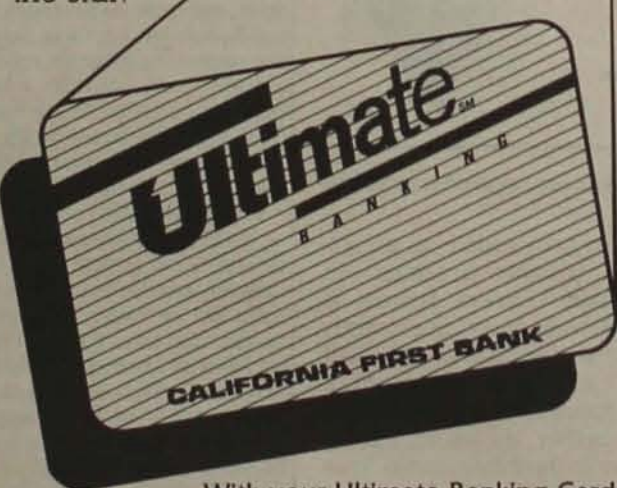
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Mirror, Mirror, on the Wall...

By Mei Nakano

Every year, right after grey winter gives way to dazzling spring, comes the Cherry Blossom Festival in San Francisco. This year, however, this major cultural event comes with a significant difference: festival co-chairs Steve Nakajo and Yukio Murakami announced that the Queen Pageant would be eliminated in favor of a co-educational contest for two scholarships. Whoa. You can imagine how this announcement rattled the community. The vernacular newspapers picked up on the resulting brouhaha, the tabloid *Asian Week*, for instance, devoting over two pages banner-headlined: "The Queen Is Dead?"

The lines have long been drawn on the debate over beauty contests. On the one side you have the defenders of this "American institution" who will tell you that it's a tradition that shouldn't be tampered with; that there is nothing wrong in awarding feminine beauty; that the contestants are not judged on physical attributes alone, but must possess talent, be intelligent and poised; that the queen enjoys many benefits from winning, including that of broadening her horizons; and that the community benefits from the contests as a means of solidifying togetherness.

Physical Image Still Most Important

Oh, give us a break! say those on the other side. Admit it: no matter what the other virtues of the queen, the single most important factor of the contests is the physical image. A woman has to be born with the "right" physical components, put together right, to be a contestant in the first place. No matter how smart, how self-possessed, how great a pianist she is, a woman will not get a foot in the door of the contest unless she has the other. Aren't there some screwed up values here? You should also admit that the winner is most apt to be one who most resembles Miss America—slim, tall, round-eyed and light-skinned, a look not exactly inherent in most Japanese American women. And about benefits—most of these go to the winner, not to the community. But the ultimate lunacy: pitting face against face, body against body in a race to determine the ultimate beauty, as if beauty can be defined, quantified and given its just due. It's a bizarre carry-over of the western Snow White myth in which The Evil Queen relies on a mirror to satisfy her neurotic need to know "who is the fairest of us all."

All Hell Broke Loose

The recounting of this debate is hardly exaggerated. At no time was this more evident than when the Women's Concerns Committee of NCWNP/JACL put forth a resolution at a Tri-District meeting in 1985 to "strongly urge all chapters within the Tri-District area from sponsoring candidates for beauty contests" considering, among other things, that such contests contained discriminatory rules (such as requiring contestants to have at least one parent who was 100% Japanese) in blatant violation of JACL's goals of civil rights and fairness.

All hell broke loose. Though we had directed the resolution at JACL chapters, it hit the fan and every JA vernacular newspaper in the area as well as two pages in the *Hawaii Herald* carried the debate; it even resonated as far as a major radio station (CBS) in Seattle, which interviewed us. In spite of all that commotion, we were forced to table the resolution for lack of votes. Even so, we felt we had "done good" for we had at least put the sacred cow on the table to be disemboweled.

The pageant and all that it means tells us a lot about our oddities, our innocence and our mind-set. Ask any civil rights organization like the NAACP or B'nai Brith if they ever

submit candidates for beauty contests, and they will ha ha in your face. Why then, is JACL, a civil rights organization, involved in beauty contests?

JACL's involvement in this activity, I am told, began in pre-WW 2 Los Angeles when, in an effort to boost business in Lil Tokyo, local merchants (many of them JACLers) hatched up the idea of a queen contest for the annual Nisei Week Festival. Queen candidates were nominated; chits were issued for purchases from these merchants which could then be exchanged for votes for the queen. This produced the rather loony result of the richest or most influential "beauty" becoming the queen. The contests also produced some pathetic side effects. At least one candidate that I know of was sent by her parents to Japan—at some considerable financial sacrifice—to get her eyes "doubled" to compete in the contests, and I know of more than one household in which sacks of rice became stacked to the ceiling in order to pile up voting chits.

I remember as a pubescent teenager gazing at the glossy photos of these models of beauty displayed in store windows, trying to mine the mysteries of what it was that constituted beauty. In a sense, these women, whom I knew absolutely nothing more about than that they were regarded as beautiful and that they were thus esteemed by the community, became my role models. Never mind that they might have possessed intelligence, or talent, or wit. Never mind that they were being exploited by commercial interests. All I was interested in, literally, was their face value.

You get the point. In my innocence, I was surely being conditioned to the notion that looks was important, perhaps more so than any other feature a woman might possess. I have had to struggle to rid myself of that shallow notion and, quite frankly, have not even now completely succeeded. I am still prone to knuckle under the assumption that looking good makes me feel good about myself. And it doesn't help that the world around me constantly reinforces that assumption.

If the JACL began its involvement with beauty contests in order to help stimulate local business, it does not now have the same motive. Now, it would seem, beauty contests "are tradition," they "bring the community together," and "bring benefits both to the queen and the community." You have to call these to question.

Not All Traditions Are Positive

First, not all so-called traditions are positive. Take, for example, the tradition of slavery, or long-standing roles assigned to women and men. All human conditions bear careful examination and if they do nothing to enhance lives, they should be nipped in the bud before they ever become traditions. Breaking tradition comes hard to the Japanese—by tradition, if you will. All the more credit to the chairpersons of the Cherry Blossom Festival for their courage.

As for the claim that contests bring the community together: "bringing the community together" means bringing people together in a common interest, like working on an elder citizen's project, say, in which people work together for the good of the whole. It's a collective effort which results in a long-term cementing of relationships. Beauty contests, by their very self-serving nature, hardly fit that description.

Finally, while it's true that beauty contests do bring short term benefits and glory to the winner, those rewards are mostly material, the glory short-lived. "Beauty," says Dr. Robin Lakoff, a professor at U.C. Berkeley, "is sometimes the only

Continued on page 8

JA Women Today: The Personal/the Political

By Peggy Saika

When I was first asked to write this article, my first response was, "Are you sure I'm the right person?" Now this is not out of extreme humbleness or my being "nihonjin." Rather it is out of my deep belief that each one of us as Japanese American women, as Asian women, has experiences to share, stories to tell, lessons to teach each other.

As I began to conceptualize my remarks, I thought what should I emphasize. Should I write about my bi-cultural marriage? My work with the Asian Law Caucus? My involvement with women's groups? My political perspective? The struggles of trying to balance work, family, community activism?

Time Tempers Idealism

That's when I realized that the personal and the political are so intertwined that I cannot separate them.

When I first started working in the community in 1970 in Sacramento developing programs for the elderly—the Issei, I was young, idealistic, a crusader—I wanted to change the world. I'm still idealistic, but time has tempered idealism with realism. I still want to change the world, but I now realize what a long term process this really involves.

Looking back, in 1970 there were few if any social services for our communities, no health clinics, no Asian Law Caucus, no Women's Concerns Committee of the JACL. It was the massive social movements of the '60s and '70s which were actually grounded in the Black Civil Rights movement that sparked our national consciousness, gave birth to large-scale organizing in ethnic communities and began to develop an understanding of the contributions of women.

We created an entire infrastructure within minority communities in order to provide services and programs that were relevant to our folk. The term "Asian-American" was coined for the purpose of identity and empowerment. Sure, we all know we're Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Pacific-Islander, Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodian, but as Bill Hing, one of the attorneys we work with, has said, "We need a common identity—one that recognizes our commonalities and respects our differences." Why do we need to do this? Because this has been and continues to be a direct response to the racism that exists in this society.

Racism Alive and Well

It is important to realize that the racism which put us into concentration camps during WW2 is alive and well today. The decade of the 80s has marked the re-emergence of



Peggy Saika

anti-Asian violence and the overall rise of anti-Asian sentiment. The fatal stabbing of a Vietnamese high school student in Davis, the brutal murder of Vincent Chin in Detroit and the subway killing of an Asian woman in New York City are all vivid reminders of the history of violence against Asians stretching back to the 19th century.

Beyond the blatant physical violence, there has been the more subtle attacks such as the "English Only" movement and renewed negative stereotyping of Asian culture by the media and the Hollywood film industry.

I'm sure all of you who support redress/reparations have felt and heard all the racist, negative comments opposing such a move by Congress.

Acknowledging the Struggling

We may want to believe that we are the model minority, that we are all as Asian Americans, educated, affluent, middle America. There is no denying that we should be proud of our accomplishments but, at the same time, we should also acknowledge the large sector of our community which is still struggling.

Three out of five Asians in America today are immigrants and the Asian American population has more than tripled since 1970. In 1970 there were more American-born than foreign-born Chinese in the U.S. In 1985, over 65% are immigrants; over 80% of the Koreans, 67% of the Filipinos, 70% of Asian Indians, and 28% of the Japanese are immigrants. Many of these immigrants face the same problems that faced our Issei when they first came to this country.

So while I read in the papers how well we are doing, I also go into one of the buildings where the Asian Law Caucus is representing tenants living in sub-standard conditions. I see 25 units, 1 common kitchen, families of four to five or more crowded into one room, a little girl about 7 years old carrying a plastic

bucket of dishes up two flights of stairs so she can wash them. *This is the Asian community I see.*

The same conditions exist for Asian women. While some of us have become lawyers, doctors and other professionals, the vast majority of us work in clerical, service and light industry related jobs. We comprise 40-50 percent of the total Asian workforce. We sew and wash clothes, clean hotels and houses, wait on tables, type letters, take care of the children, the elderly, the ill.

Over 55 percent of the Asian Law Caucus clients are women, most of whom are in their late 40s to early 70s. The majority are immigrant, monolingual and work in the garment and restaurant industries. They are mostly secondary wage earners, generally non-unionized and sometimes face the threat of deportation. They are easy prey for abuse and exploitation by employers. *This is the Asian community I see.*

What does all of this mean? I think it means that we may think that we're very removed from all of these issues, but Vincent Chin was killed by two unemployed auto workers who thought he was Japanese and blamed him for problems in the auto industry. It does not matter whether you are a recent Cambodian refugee or a third generation Sansei attorney, you will still be asked where you were born and how you learned to speak English so well. For Asian women, even if we wiped out violence against Asians in general, there would still exist violence against Asian women because we are victims of both domestic violence and racist violence.

For Asian women of my generation, it is important to realize that our consciousness was raised in response to the racism in our society. Unlike women in the broader or "white" women's movement who became involved in response to sexism or gender inequalities, it has been a very different experience for women of color. We have been involved with community issues. We've fought for services and programs, built organizations and most importantly, struggled to empower our communities.

And in this process we have had the opportunity to develop and empower ourselves. And to ultimately understand how it is the combination of racism, sexism, and economic status that work against us.

I know this all seems so sobering, so serious, but it's also an exciting, challenging period when we can learn from our past experiences, utilize our contacts, build coalitions, put our skills to the best use and

Continued on page 12

Women and the Courts

By Peggy Liggett

The women of America have looked to the courts as well as to legislative bodies to seek recognition that they are entitled to equal protection and dignity under the law.

The last twenty years have seen significant improvement in the status of women as they have begun to take their place in formerly male exclusive professional and social enterprises.

State and federal civil rights laws have been passed prohibiting sex discrimination and educational institutions that receive federal or state funds.

The Fair Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, and later extensions, specifically prohibits sex discrimination in employment including major industries, corporations and universities. Women are guaranteed equal treatment in hiring, promotional and pay opportunities.

Major lawsuits have been successful in recovering millions of dollars by women in instances where they have been denied raises or promotions or hiring where no objective basis for such unequal treatment was shown.

In 1986, sexual harassment on the job was recognized by the United States Supreme Court as a sex discriminatory act in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.

January 1987 was a significant time for women, when the United States Supreme Court upheld the California law that requires an employer to grant a pregnant employee up to four months pregnancy leave enabling her to retain her seniority and related employment status.

There are currently pending over one hundred cases which assess the status of women in this country before state and federal courts.

Those who use the court system know that there will be triumphs as well as failures in issues presented



Peggy Liggett

before the courts. But, the work goes on because it is there to be done. By the year 2000 we look to a world where considerable progress has been made and the world will be a more humane place where people can expect equal protection and dignity as a basic right.

Caring for the Caregiver

By Lucy Kishaba

Recently I overheard a conversation between two fathers lamenting the teen years of their children. In the course of the discussion a question was raised, "What about the other end of the spectrum—the 70 and 80-year-olds?" One of the fathers expressed concern regarding his father who was recently hospitalized for an unknown diagnosis. The other deplored his mother's changes in behavior: "She is downright mean to my brother with whom she lives!"

More and more will the concerns and issues of the elderly become prevalent as the older population increases. Today 12 percent of the population is described as over 65, and it will continue to grow as improvements are made in modern medicine, and in the delivery of health care. Contrary to popular belief, many elderly family members are cared for by their immediate or extended families. At an intergenerational conference on aging held in Sonoma County a few years ago, many of the Sansei said, "I don't want to see my parents in a nursing home." But do we as children of elderly parents realize the enormous implications of such a statement?

As it often happens in life, unexpected circumstances make us unprepared for occurrences such as taking on the role of a caregiver. I might add here that Eleanor Polansky, in her book *Women's Issues and Social Practice*, states that it is usually the woman in the family who assumes this role. Financial obligations, career concerns, the "empty nest" syndrome, menopause, retirement and even failing are among the areas of concern in our own lives. Despite the situation we may find ourselves in, we do cherish our independence and self-reliance, certainly no more than our parents who have arrived at the threshold in their lives where they must give up this privilege due to failing health or deteriorating mental faculties.

Is it possible to be prepared as a caregiver? Obviously, it goes without saying that preparation must begin long before the need arises. It is said that the skills of care giving is a learned art. Your own positive self-image and a healthy life style can go a long way in dealing with the problems of caregiving. Additionally, a general knowledge of the aging process is very helpful. Often we are in a hurry and forget that the response time of the elderly is not as quick as we would like. Don't approach her with, "What color dress will you wear today?" while impatiently tapping a foot. Instead say, "In a few minutes you must decide what color dress you will wear today," and go about your business to return a few minutes later.

We need to sift out myths such as "all old people are senile" or "they

are all stubborn and set in their ways." Become familiar with the changes that occur emotionally and psychologically as well as physically. How can we help the parent who has lost a spouse, his health and/or familiarity of his environment? An understanding of the losses suffered can be helpful in our approach to helping the elderly in coping. Maintain an open, two-way communication. Understandably, one with Alzheimer's Disease or another who has sustained the loss of speech would have difficulty doing so, but it's important to continue communicating by speaking, touching or using other forms of communication. Be interested in what elderly individual have to say and respond appropriately. If time does not permit conversation now, then by all means return later.

Recognize the fact that the caregiver is also in need of emotional support. Anger, guilt, frustrations, one's own vulnerability to aging, and anxiety will occur. Be aware that the recipient can be manipulative, that problems will arise. Be realistic, not

a martyr. One can't do it all. Accept help, especially if it's sincerely offered. Seek and obtain help from other members of the family. I know of one family whose father has a church member look in on him in the mornings and then sends him off to the adult day center. Each evening he has supper at one of the children's homes. Fortunately he has seven children: each one taking a day of the week, thereby dividing the responsibility equitably. There are numerous resources available in the community from a few hours to all day to respite care when the caregiver can take some R and R (rest and rehabilitation). Set time schedules for when care will be given and also set time aside for yourself and adhere to it as closely as possible. Seek support groups to establish or to develop a network. Believe that you are doing the best you can and do not allow others to send you on a guilt trip.

Finally, caregiving can be a joyful experience, especially when approached with a positive attitude. True, it is not a bed of roses, but there will be moments of laughter, memories recalled, and most of all, love.

The Changing Nikkei Family

By Alice Nakahata

Becoming parents has never been an easy task, but for today's Sansei and Yonsei entering the family scene, there are questions that arise and decisions to be made that may be very different from those that confronted their Issei or Nisei parents. If any generality can be made, it is that there is no typical Nikkei family.

One central issue is that of the working mother. *Can we afford not to have me work? Should I stay home full-time with the baby like my Mom did? Should I go back to work when my accumulated sick leave runs out? Will I still have my job if I take a leave for four months? If I choose to drop out of the work force temporarily, what happens to the career that I worked so hard to advance? If I choose to stay home for at least a year because I want to be with my baby, can I be content with that role? I know I have to work, but who can I trust to take care of my baby? Will my paycheck balance the high cost of quality childcare? Will my partner be willing to take on more of the household tasks and parenting duties when I go back to work?* These are but a few of the questions confronting our young parents.

A recent *Time* magazine article cited the following national statistics: More than 60 percent of mothers with children under 14 work; about half of American women return to work before their child's first birthday; seven out of ten working mothers do so for economic reasons.

Part of American Scene

Nikkei women are very much a part of this American scene. Their own experiences of family and growing up may determine

what decisions are made about work. Some may remember Mom as full-time homemaker. Others may have had working mothers but usually when the children were older, or when there were other family members available to care for them, or the nature of the work allowed the children to be present at the work place. (How many of us played under the watchful eye of our working mothers in restaurants or stores or in the fields?)

Currently, some of our young women are choosing to stay home while their children are very young, consciously deciding to live more frugally in exchange for the knowledge that they are a vital part of their child's formative years, and they are willing to put their careers on hold to do so. Others return to work very soon after having their babies because that second paycheck is vital to their way of life or because their careers are an essential part of who they are and a source of personal satisfaction. How easily the decision to resume work is made depends on the availability of good child-care.

Finding Adequate Child Care

Finding safe, affordable care for children in a nurturing environment can be an ongoing dilemma. In prior generations, there may have been aunts and grandparents who happily filled that need. Because families today tend to more scattered and because grandparents may be vigorous enough to still be working or enjoying the freedom of retirement, young families are needing to find care out of the home and family circle. Quality varies among family day care providers and professional child-care centers, and there is a lack of adequate ones

A Nikkei Looks at the Japanese Women's Movement

By Chizu Iiyama

While in Japan, I asked my niece if she could introduce me to some women active in the feminist movement. Kimiko is a wonderful mother of two teen-age children, wife of an engineer, an officer in her PTA, and works part-time in the junior high school. "Fujin undo desu ka?" she asked, looking puzzled. "I don't think we have any in our area." (Sagata is a suburb of Hiroshima.) And although she and my relatives asked around in Hiroshima, they could not come up with a name or an organization.

There is no broad women's movement in Japan that compares, for example, to N.O.W. (National Organization of Women) in the U.S., nor is there a strong consensus about the effects of feminism in their lives. Again, this is in contrast to a recent Gallup poll in the U.S. that seven out of ten American women feel they have benefitted from the women's movement; with a high of 92% of the professional

women, and 78% of the working women replying favorably.

Before WW2, Japanese women had very few rights. Feudal customs still prevailed in patriarchal family systems, where males acted as heads of families, and women had status only as mothers. Feminist movements such as the Western Women's Temperance League sprang up in the Meiji era in the late 1880s primarily to combat alcoholism, eliminate prostitution, and to agitate for women suffrage.

With the occupation of Japan by the U.S. after WW2, and the adoption of the new constitution in 1947 which gave women equal rights, there was a flurry of feminist activities. In the first postwar election in 1949, thirty-nine women were elected to the National Diet.

In recent years, political careers for women received a shot in the arm with the election of Takako Doi, an attractive, pinball-playing woman, as head of the Socialist Party, the first female leader of a major political party. A charismatic, articulate and intelligent woman, she has received national and international media coverage. She is currently serving her seventh term as a member of the House of Representatives; immediately after her election as chairperson of the Socialist Party in September 1986, party support increased by 4%.

In the latest prefectural assembly elections, 52 female candidates were successful, as compared to 30 in the previous campaigns.

In a very revealing interview in the *Japan-Asian Quarterly Review* (Fall, 1986) Akiko Yanagiya spoke about her election to the Municipal Assembly of Fujiasawa.

She supports projects for the aged, the handicapped, and the protection of the environment. In her desire to demystify politics and to encourage citizen participation she dresses informally, often in jeans and t-shirts, and holds meetings with her constituents.

She added, "I recognize no prestige, no authority. Being an assembly member is merely a job."

I attended a meeting of the local chapter of the League of Women Voters at Shizuko Buto's charming home. Buto, tall and gracious, teacher of Noh dances, and coun-

Continued on page 10

MIRROR

Continued from page 7

means by which women reach power and influence, but we don't take seriously those women who possess it—and they cannot take themselves seriously either, especially with the knowledge that their power is surely disappearing even as it is contemplated in the mirror."

As I understand it, last year, four of the six queen candidates for the Nisei Week contest in Los Angeles were submitted by JACL chapters. We have to ask it again: Why is JACL, a civil rights organization, involved in this activity?

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The Joy of Business

By Mae Takahashi

When I was asked to write an article for the Pacific Citizen to celebrate International Women's Day, it forced me to reflect on the years I've been in business. I never thought being in business was something unique I engaged in as a woman, but rather something I've enjoyed through the years. This article is not written to view my career from the standpoint of success, but rather from the joy of achievement and also as shared experiences in the world of business.

The Preparation Phase

As I reflected on my years as a professional in business, it dawned on me that I have gone through certain phases to get to where I am now. The first was the preparation phase. Of course, my parents were very influential during this period. I was born on a farm in Clovis, Calif., the youngest of eight children. My parents valued the work ethic, service to their community, living by the teachings of their religious faith, and providing the necessities for their children to prepare them for the world. Education being the key to that goal, they sacrificed and worked against great odds to achieve that for us. My parents made it possible for me to attend U.C. Berkeley for my undergraduate studies and to complete my education at U.C. Medical Center, San Francisco, Pharmacy School, where I graduated with a Bachelor of Science and Doctorate degrees in pharmacy.

I was a very competitive child. Being from a large family makes you competitive by nature. The best thing my parents gave me were my five sisters and two brothers. They have been my support system. They gave me the confidence to be what I am today.

I believe it was during the preparation phase that I developed my self-worth and the genesis of my attitude. Some very clear messages came to me during this phase. The internment experience especially affected my parents and my fourth oldest sister and oldest brother emotionally, economically and socially. Their determination and endurance to overcome the complete disruption of their lives and to re-establish their lives in a hostile environment took courage and risk. The knowledge of their struggle and how they endured hardship and humiliation sent a message to me of strength and spirit. The ability to sacrifice and to endure and take risks are qualities that are basic to succeed in any endeavor.

Working on the farm was not a "real job." It was a duty I automatically inherited by being a member

of the family. The hard and tedious farm work instilled in me the discipline that later guided me through school and that has helped me as a businesswoman.

First Real Job

My first real job was in a local hospital in Fresno, Calif. I was very fortunate to interview with the medical director of the hospital who created a position for me as a student intern in the hospital pharmacy. Another person who played an active part in my life during this phase was Dr. Masao Yamamoto, a very close family friend who was my mentor.

I believe it was during this phase where the most contributions were made to my attitude and character as a person. I shared my parents' values and I learned to appreciate the richness of my heritage. I feel that it gave it also gave me the competitive edge in business.

Pharmacy Business

Two months before I completed my doctoral studies, I was offered an opportunity by Dr. Yamamoto to venture into a pharmacy business. I accepted without hesitation and a month after I graduated I was in business, finding myself instantly in the learning, leadership and risk phases all at once. In my doctoral program I pursued the clinical practice of pharmacy instead of the community or retail practice of pharmacy. So, there I was in a community practice in business. I can't recall if at that time I really knew the difference between a debit and a credit. Fortunately, the business was a specialized prescription pharmacy in a medical center which required minimal business skills. I learned quickly that it was survival time. The rent, salaries, taxes, etc., had to be paid. So I became a fast learner.

The first nine years in business was a time of patience, endurance and sacrifice. But it was also a period of excitement. It was energizing to be able to create and control the direction of the business according to my standards and goals. The feeling of ownership during this period was very important to me. It was a period to test my potential. It was also a period of learning and fine tuning my leadership skills to manage the business and make decisions for innovative programs.

During this phase I was able to develop the essential tools and apply them to the challenges in the business. I realized my potential was manifesting itself more and more. This process is the main joy of being in business. One of the things I remember creating was a



Mae Takahashi

drug information service in the pharmacy for a pediatric group.

After working nine years in my business, I felt the urgency to expand and move into a second risk phase. Coincidentally, a pharmacist friend who was retiring and who owned a full line pharmacy/gift shop business a few blocks from mine offered to sell me his business. I formed a partnership with Joyce Rosetta and purchased Manor Drugs, relocating my practice to the larger facility. Joyce's creativity and artistic abilities brought a balance to my new business.

Another Business

Shortly after the purchase of the new business, I acquired a substantial account servicing a skilled nursing facility, and I negotiated with the administrator to contract my consultant pharmacist services. The business started to prosper and we decided to plan and construct another pharmacy/gift shop in four years. The planning was enjoyable and challenging. Following the direc-

tion of the city's rapid growth, I decided the new place would be located north and found a site at the fringe of the city. Today, it is practically the geographical center of the city. Thus, it was a good decision in terms of a market area.

The challenge to manage two businesses was overwhelming, but stimulating. The real challenge for me with the expansion was to sharpen my skills to manage and lead a large number of employees. I found this responsibility was consuming a lot of my time. I was managing employees to manage my businesses and I realized I was caught in a situation where I spent all my time setting policies and it was taking away from my time to be creative and innovative.

Prospering

In spite of my feelings, the businesses continued to prosper and I continued to go with the flow. During this period, I was still spending time as a consultant pharmacist at the skilled nursing facility and had become good friends with the administrator. He was expanding his business to a five-story facility to accommodate 400 patients. He engaged my services to design the med rooms and to develop a drug distribution system for the new facility. This task was very rewarding because it allowed me to be creative and innovative and to actually see my plans and programs implemented. And eventually I became one of the partners in that venture.

Financial Rewards Phase

About three years later, I was moving on to the financial rewards phase. During this time, I went through a mid-life crisis in my career and started considering other alternatives. About the same time, I was offered a consultant pharmacist position at a nearby rural hospital, which I decided to take. As it turned out, I signed a contract with the hospital to be its consultant pharmacist and also to have

my own pharmacy provide the prescriptions and pharmaceuticals to the hospital. To successfully fulfill this position and also to enjoy the opportunity to test my potential in the area of clinical pharmacy, I knew I had to scale down my businesses. This led to the decision to sell one of the pharmacies. I was back to one business and I was on my way to a new challenge. During this transition, I learned that small is beautiful. I began to have more time for getting involved in community service activities.

Comfort Phase

The last nine years I have been at the comfort phase of my career. The comfort phase is the luxury to take on risks without the worry of finances. During this phase, I was able to create a balance within myself and between all aspects of my life. I started to feel I had reached the apex of this joy of business and of achievement. I am not sure what the next phase will be, but I'm looking forward to more experiences by taking advantage of the opportunities and challenges the world never fails to offer. I want to stay challenged.

To conclude this article, I am compelled to address the issue of the status of women in business. It is naive to accept that businesswomen do not have some unique disadvantages. But I am encouraged to see some positive changes in the attitude toward women in business and that the atmosphere for women in business is improving. This is happening because in this world the human spirit cannot be contained indefinitely.

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MOVEMENT

Continued from page 8

selor in private practice is one of the women who grew up under the American occupation of Japan. Inspired by Fusae Ichikawa, famous feminist and suffragette prior to WW2, Buto has been with the league since its inception in 1945. It was modeled after the American League of Women Voters, and focuses primarily in disseminating information about current issues and the legislative process; the league has led drives to revise election laws and reform local campaign practices.

Most of the women present were "old timers," elderly, soft-spoken, dressed conservatively, gentle in manner, and very knowledgeable about domestic and international affairs. They were discussing very critically the role of the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party in domestic spying of groups opposed to the growing militarism in Japan.

"We cannot allow a drift back to the authoritarianism of the past," asserted one of the members. There was much animated talk around this issue with some of the women drawing on their past experience before and during WW2. There are 20 active members in this chapter; there are over 5,000 members in 57 chapters nationally.

Hiroshima Delta Group

I heard about the Hiroshima Delta group from a friend in Tokyo and thus was invited to their gathering. Yumi Watanabe, attractive and articulate, was addressing a crowd of 130 women. She told about how she was a totally apolitical housewife, wrapped up in her role as housewife and mother of nine children until October 1985 when her town's council approved a plan to place a nuclear waste/recycling plant in her community in Aomori.

At the suggestion of a friend, she called a protest meeting. One hundred and fifty women responded. They decided to petition the council, and if results were not forthcoming, to enter the mayoralty race.

"Winter came early," she recalled, "and we canvassed homes and left leaflets explaining the health hazards the plant would expose, especially to our children." She

added wryly, "We walked with icicles hanging from our heads, and with noses as red as cherries..." She spoke about the initial resistance by some residents to political action by women, but who were won over by the women's persistence and sincerity.

"This nuclear recycling plant would provide work and funds for the townspeople and some people are weak in the face of money. But we, as women, weigh money against the lives of our children, and we know that children come first," she commented thoughtfully.

They did not elect their mayor, but as of now, they are still debating about the nuclear waste disposal plant in Aomori.

Watanabe is representative of a number of Japanese women who become active because of local issues, generally revolving around their concern for children, peace, and the environment. For example, women in the city of Zushi, a conservative upper middle class community, organized protests against the proposed construction of military housing on a national nature preserve of beautiful green hills to accommodate American families from Yokosuka Naval base. The community voted five times to express their opposition to the project, in the process electing their own mayor.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Law, which went into effect in 1986, has not worked well, except at the time of recruiting and in terms of retirement. There are vast inequalities; women's wages are 52 percent of male workers' wages; few companies hire women for positions which are considered "career tracks." About 65 percent of the women in Japan's labor force are married women.

From the Nikkei woman's viewpoint, there are many areas in Japanese life which need to be addressed in terms of equal rights for women. However, one needs to understand the historical and cultural basis of the Japanese family, women's roles, and especially the perspectives and desires of the Japanese women. The small but growing women's movement, the emergence of outstanding women in Japan's political, economic, and cultural life, the inexorable changes in daily life, and the capacity of the

Japanese people for change will assure full equality for the Japanese women, Japanese style in the not so distant future.

It is in the grass roots campaigns that women have begun to realize their strengths. There are many small organizations, focusing on issues specific to their neighborhoods which network and meet together periodically to discuss common problems. Others have concentrated on conditions and wages of working women, on health and abortion, human rights, sexism in education and the media. Often they are on the cutting edge of the conscience of the Japanese people. Their natural allies are women from minority groups (and there are some in Japan)—the Ainu, Korean, and Burakumin. They use protest forms such as meetings, sit-ins, marches, demonstrations, petition campaigns as well as running their own candidates.

International Flavor

There is an international flavor to the women's movement in Japan. The United Nations' Womens Conferences in 1970 and 1980, the U.N. Decade for Women starting in 1975 gave a strong impetus to the feminists in Japan. Women organized associations such as the International Women's Year Action Group which attracted broad support. They worked on issues for the protection of women workers, the passage of the Equal Employment Opportunity Law, revision of the Nationality Act which enabled children to acquire Japanese nationality if either the mother or the father was a Japanese citizen (until then, only the father's Japanese citizenship was acknowledged), increase in inheritance share for women, attacking sexism in advertising and television, etc.

I dropped in to see Ms. Haruhi Tono, director of the Asian Women's Association in Tokyo. She sat behind a disheveled desk, piled high with mimeographed leaflets, petitions, and news releases. Women were walking in and out of the office, telephones were constantly ringing, a meeting was in progress in the next room—it was a beehive of activity.

Ms. Tono, a petite, intense young woman spoke about her agency. It was organized ten years ago and in-

cludes women from Japan, Thailand, Korea, and the Philippines. For the past few years, they have strongly opposed the sexual exploitation of Thai, Korean, and especially Filipino women by Japanese promoters who supply night clubs and bars with hostesses, strippers, and prostitutes.

... sex tours have decreased although exploitation continues.

Several years ago, the Asian Women's Association joined other women's groups to protest the practice of sex tours for Japanese men to other Asian countries. As a result of ensuing publicity, the sex tours have decreased, although other forms of exploitation continue.

Ms. Tono comes with a background of student activism in the '60s and '70s. There is a sizeable number of young women who were introduced to issues of the world community (including agitation against the Viet Nam War) on the college campuses and who are now active in the women's movement.

One such person is Ms. Michiko Sugiyama, a bright, sensitive, and thoughtful editor of a feminist newspaper for the Women's Democratic Club. With a circulation of 20,000, Ms. Sugiyama's paper serves to disseminate information about women's concerns and report on the status and struggles by women. Ms. Sugiyama attended San Francisco State University's Women's Studies classes in 1979.

Sexism in Japan is very strong. When the U.N. sponsored International Conference of Women in Copenhagen in 1980 adopted a stand opposing discrimination against women everywhere in the world, the Japanese government, under the Liberal Democratic Party, at first refused to sign it, but yielded under the pressure of the press and women's groups.

But change is inevitable. First of all, there is a growing number of women students in higher education. In 1987 the percentage of women starting to study in colleges and universities was 35.1 percent of the female population in the ap-

propriate age group. Among these women 60 percent entered junior colleges and 40 percent four year colleges and universities.

Some universities have established Women's Studies classes; in 1984 there were 92 institutions, or some 9 percent of Japanese colleges and universities offering a total of 144 women's studies courses. Seventy percent of all of these classes, and 91% of comprehensive courses were started after 1979.

Also, there are some young women in the period of life after graduation from college and before marriage who work in temporary jobs and spend their money traveling abroad. Their exposure to the family lifestyles of other countries—especially the U.S. and Western Europe—changes their expectations about women's roles and marriages.

Japanese television occasionally reflects the real problems of women in this society. The media primarily reinforces the image of women as pretty, helpless, passive, and compliant, especially in the samurai dramas; and women are often treated as sex objects. However, there are times when TV dramas will depict the impact of working women on family relationships, or the effect of women's political activities on the people in a community.

Because of the needs of Japanese businesses and industries for workers, many women are entering the labor market. There is a widespread availability of appliances and services to ease housekeeping chores so that women can balance work and family responsibilities; Japanese families also find they need more than one paycheck to meet their needs for a middle-class lifestyle.

Working women will probably be the strongest force for change. Nearly 50 percent of the jobs in the service industry and about 35 percent of jobs in the manufacturing industry are filled by women. According to the Labor Ministry, about 15.84 million women held full time jobs in 1986; that 22.7 percent were part timers. Of the 5 million part time workers (part time is less than 35 hours a week) more than 70% were women. Part-time workers are largely ignored in the legislation that protects worker welfare.

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National: 10-East West Development Corp**, 29-Kimiko F Inatomi.
LIFE
Albert M Koga (Chi), Richard Y Komura (ELA), George Umemura (Hoo), Jean Umemura (Hoo).
CENTURY CLUB*
5-Harry Onishi (Chi), 10-Robert T Yoshioka (Dia), 16-Henry J Ishida (NSD), 10-Akito Masaki (Sac).
CORPORATE CLUB**
10-Sumitomo Bank of Calif (SF), 10-East West Development Corp (Nat).
Summary (Since Nov 30, 1987)
Active (previous total) 141
Total this report: # 4 30
Current total 171
Jan 18-22, 1988 (30)
Berkeley: Life-Daniel Date, Life-Kathleen Date.
Chicago: 19-Charles Murakami.
Detroit: 35-Minoru Takagaki.
Florin: 1-Masako Asahara, 1-Percy Fukushima, 1-Aki Hisatomi, 1-Tom Nakagawa, 1-Bill Tsukamoto, 1-Richard Uno, 1-Ida Zorow.
Fremont: 18-Walter Kitajima.
Gilroy: Life-Henry Kado.
Hoosier: 16-Mary Sato.
Houston: 1-Toshio Matsumoto, 1-Harvey Onishi.
Marina: 7-Kiichi Namba.
Monterey Peninsula: 26-Akio Sugimoto.
Pasadena: 19-Minoru Takagaki.
Philadelphia: 18-Albert Ikeda, 4-Rodger Nogaki.
Sacramento: Life-Masao Fujikawa, 32-Dean Itano.
San Diego: 33-Shigeru Hara, Life-Mitsuo Tomita.
San Gabriel: 17-Paul Sagawa.
San Jose: 2-Charles Mikami.

Sonoma County: 26-James Murakami*.
Venice-Culver: 1-Melvin Shimizu.
Wasatch Front North: 30-Toyoe Kato.

LIFE

S Daniel Date (Ber), Kathleen S Date (Ber), John R Kado (Gil), Masao Fujikawa (Sac), Dr Mitsuo Tomita (SD).

CENTURY CLUB*

James Murakami (Son).

Summary (Since Nov 30, 1987)

Active (previous total) 171
Total this report: # 5 43
Current total 214

Jan 25-29, 1988 (43)

Boise Valley: 25-Michio Takasugi.
Clovis: 14-Roy Uyesaka.
Contra Costa: 25-James Kimoto.
Delano: 34-James Nagatani.
East Los Angeles: 4-Robert Takasugi.
Fresno: 8-Edward Ku Iwakawa.
Marysville: 12-Mark Iwanaga, 7-Ben Kawada, 4-Helen Manji, 12-Masao Sagara, 5-Ron Yoshimura.
Monterey: 34-Hoshito Miyamoto.
Oakland: 23-Shizuo Tanaka.
Pacific-Long Beach: 17-Kazuko Matsumoto.
Parlier: 18-Noboru Doi.
Pasadena: 32-Chiyeo Kishi.
Riverside: 10-James Amao.
Sacramento: 2-Craig Makishima, 16-Yoji Nukaya, 32-Noboru Shirai, 26-Tomoye Tsukamoto, 33-Frank Yoshimura.
San Benito: 31-Sam Shiotaka.
San Francisco: 13-SF Japan American Travel Bureau, 11-Kiyoshi Yukawa, 24-Teruko Yukawa.
San Gabriel Valley: 6-Yasokazu Nomura.
San Jose: 3-Tad Tomita.
San Mateo: 13-Jane Oto, 25-Mary Sutow, 19-Mitch Wakasa.
Santa Barbara: 39-Tom Hirashima.
Seattle: 26-Robert Matsumura.
Snake River: 24-Shigeru Hironaka.
Sonoma County: 11-Hitoshi Kobayashi 14-David Murakami*.
Venice Culver: 18-Chiye Harada, 4-Ruby Malkin.
Washington DC: 15-Wm Mo Marumoto*, 2-Mays Nakashima, 2-Edward Sawada.
West Los Angeles: Life-Masamune Kojima.
National Associate: 8-James Omai.
LIFE
Masumune Kojima (WLA).

CENTURY CLUB*

10-David Murakami (Son), 14-William H Marumoto (WDC).

AISO

Continued from Page 4

Now the curriculum had to be changed to civil affairs to prepare students for occupation duty in Japan. It was done.

In January 1946, Aiso was given a direct commission as Major and assigned to Gen. Charles Willoughby and his Civil Information Section, G2, SCAP (Supreme Command Allied Powers), as legal assistant to purge the Japanese Government of militarism.

Discharged in 1947

Aiso retired from the Army in 1947 and reentered the practice of law in Los Angeles. In 1953 he was appointed as judge to the Municipal Court of Los Angeles and a year later to the Superior Court of Los Angeles County.

In 1967 he was appointed to the Appellate Court of the State of California. He also served as Justice pro tem of the Supreme Court in 1972.

Thus did John Aiso carry out the responsibilities that he had accepted at the Presidio of San Francisco in October 1941, little knowing how far and where his mission would take him and his fellow Japanese Americans.

His 6,000 graduates in military intelligence served in every theater and campaign in the Pacific and Asia. General Willoughby, MacArthur's G2, stated that the MIS men shortened the war by two years and saved a million casualties.

In Retrospect

Aiso's first graduates passed the acid tests of loyalty and intelligence worth in Alaska and Guadalcanal in 1942, which led directly to the formation of the 442nd RCT in February 1943, whose exploits in Italy and France stirred the imagination of Americans and contributed

greatly to the acceptance of Nisei as full-fledged American citizens in the post-war era.

His wartime MIS men went on to participate in MacArthur's enlightened occupation of Japan, the rebuilding of the country as a democratic ally of the United States and laying the foundation for the economic revival of Japan.

John Aiso was the key Nisei figure from before Pearl Harbor and throughout WW2, who paved the way to changing the status of Nisei in America from one of prejudice and exclusion to one of trust, dignity and acceptance.

In the process, he brought life and meaning to the democratic principles enunciated in the United States Constitution, when President Roosevelt and the Congress failed to protect the rights of Japanese American citizens in 1942.

John Aiso was a great WW2 Nisei.

The Editor's Notes were inserted to round out the Kihara tribute.

'88 Chapter Board Elections

DAYTON

Kazuo K Kimura, pres; Daryl Sakada, 1st vp; Ayako Watanabe, 2nd vp; Eugene Crothers, 3rd vp members; Sue Sugimoto, rec sec; Robert Shello, treas; May Kimura, memb ch; Yae Sato, rec ch; Daryl Sakada, prograss ch; Lea Nakaguchi, schlrsh ch; Frank Titus, redress ch; Kazuo Kimura, otc del; Kazuko Radtke, hist; Kazuo Kimura, PC rep/newsr ed.

FREMONT

Ted T Inouye, pres; June Hashimoto, 1st vp; Alan Mikuni, 2nd vp; Aileen Tsujimoto, 3rd vp; Kay Tsuyama, rec sec; Mary Kasama, corr sec; Yutaka Handa, treas; June Hashimoto, memb ch; Frank Kasama, 1000 Cl ch; Ted Inouye, rec ch; Penine Bowles, Christine Tanzawa, prograss-coch; Gail Tomita, schlr ch; Moss Kishiyama, redr ch; Jim Yamaguchi, ins comm; Moss Kishiyama, otc del; Kay Iwata, youth adv; Phil Iwata, youth ch; Herb Izuno, or union ch; Wendy Kawakami, hist; June Hashimoto PC rep; Gail Tomita, news.

Community Calendar

IRVINE

■ The University of California, Irvine presents Japanese Cultural Night, March 4, 6-8 pm, in the Fine Arts Village. Free. Info: 714 856-7215.

LOS ANGELES AREA

■ Present—March 27—"The Scenic Art of Setsu Asakura," contemporary Japanese Stage Design, Doizaki Gallery, Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, 244 S. San Pedro St. Noon-5 pm daily, closed Mon. Weekends, 11 am-4 pm.

■ Present—March 6—East West Players presents *Mother Tongue*, 4424 Santa Monica Blvd. Fri. & Sat.—8 pm; Sun.—7:30 pm. Tickets: \$12. Info: 213 660-0366.

■ Present—April 3—"Paris in Japan: The Japanese Encounter with European Painting," UCLA's Wight Gallery (lower level), Tues., 11 am-8 pm; Wed.-Fri., 11 am-5 pm; Sat. & Sun. 1-5 pm; closed Mon. Free. Parking: \$3. Sponsors: Washington University Gallery of Art, St. Louis and the Japan Foundation. Info: 213 825-9345.

■ Present—March 24—Japanese films with English subtitles will screen at the University of Southern California. The free screening begins at 7 pm in rm. 108 of the George Lucas Instructional Building on the University Park campus. March 10—*Tora-san Goes Religious*; March 17—*Where Spring Comes Late*; March 24—*Home Village*. Screenings sponsored by the Japan Foundation, the USC Division of Drama and the USC School of Cinema-Television. Info: 213 743-6071.

■ March 11-13 and March 17-20—East West Players presents a return limited engagement of Edward Sakamoto's *Stew Rice*. All shows begin at 8 pm except Sunday performances, which begin at 7:30 pm. Info: 213 660-0366.

■ March 6—Hina Doll Festival and demonstration of kimono dressing, 1 pm, New Otani Hotel, 120 S. Los Angeles St., Japanese roof garden. Free. Info: 213 937-0708.

RENO

■ May 13-15—The 5th Poston III Camp Reunion, at Bally's Hotel. All Poston III Camp internees and their friends welcome. Info: Poston III Fifth Reunion Committee, 440 S. Winchester Blvd., San Jose, CA 95128-2590.

■ June 8-12—National AJA Veterans Reunion, "the biggest ever," Bally's Hotel. Preregistration and room reservation deadline: May 8. MIS, Canadian, Nikkei Korean and Vietnam War vets invited. Appearances by Sen. Daniel Inouye, Sen. Spark Matsunaga, Rep. Norman Mineta and former Nevada Gov. Mike O'Callaghan. Registration and other info: Wilson Makabe, 4165 Hackamore Dr., Reno, NV 89509 or 702 747-1302.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

■ March 6—Pacific Asian American Women Bay Area Coalition's 2nd Annual Membership Party, 2-5 pm, 152 20th Ave. Entertainment by comedienne Sachiko Nakamura. Info: 415 668-3473 or Leslie Owyang, 415 752-6997.

■ Sept. 16-18—All Topaz Reunion. For further details, contact Fumi Hayashi, 1629 Jaynes St., Berkeley, CA 94703.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

■ The 15th Annual Las Vegas Night, 7:30 pm, March 12, East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center,

1203 W. Puente Ave., West Covina. Info: Marvel Miyata, 818 337-9123 or Bruce and Sumiye Arnheim, 213 679-1559.

■ The San Gabriel Valley Singles Champagne Brunch, 1 pm, March 20, U.S. Amada Show Plaza, 7025 Firestone Blvd., Buena Park. RSVP requested. Info: 818 285-8895 or 714 861-9676.

SEATTLE

■ July 29 & 30—The Minidoka Relocation Camp Hunt High School classes of '43 and '44 reunion. Info: Frank Muramatsu, 20005 3rd Ave., S.W.,

Seattle, WA 98166 or 206 878-4513.

STOCKTON

■ The San Joaquin Nikkei Widowed and Divorced Group monthly meeting, 2 pm, March 13, Stockton Buddhist Church, 2820 Shimizu Dr. Carole Hayashino Kagawa will show slides and speak on the Japanese American exhibit of the Smithsonian.

Publicity items for The Calendar must be typewritten (double-spaced) or legibly hand-printed and mailed at least THREE WEEKS IN ADVANCE. Please specify a day or night phone contact for further information.

Auditions for 'Tea' Still Open

PORTLAND — The IFCC Theatre has announced open auditions for the play *Tea*, by Velina Hasu Houston, which will be performed in Portland April 22 through May 22.

Tea will be the final production of the IFCC 1987-88 Theatre Season. *Tea* was originally produced by the Asian American Theater Company in San Francisco and is the third play in a trilogy by Velina Hasu Houston that focuses upon the experiences of Japanese war brides.

In this comedy-drama set in Kansas, five stories unfold, each revealing the individuality of their personal lives, marriages and experiences in America. Married to a Puerto Rican, a Mexican American, a Black American, a Japanese American and a Caucasian (Texan), these women's characters distinctly

counter the cultural stereotypes of Japanese women, while facing racism in their own families.

Five actresses are needed for the IFCC production of *Tea*. Auditions will be held between now and March 12th. Please call the IFCC Theatre, (503) 243-7930, for more specific information on dates and times, and to schedule an audition appointment.

Rehearsals for *Tea* will begin in mid-March, and the play is scheduled to open on Friday April 22nd. It will run on Friday and Saturday at 8 pm, and Sunday at 2 pm through May 22nd. The IFCC Theatre is located at 5340 N. Interstate Avenue in Portland, Oregon. All acting positions will be paid, and the IFCC is an equal opportunity employer.

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CALL FOR ART/ARTISTS. Japan Americas Artists Cooperative is now in the process of finding and selecting Japanese American artists. JAA COOPERATIVE will assist artists in preparing limited edition runs of their work and promote, publicize this showcase and sell their works. We are assembling the first of a series of Limited Edition Catalogues, a nation-wide offering of Nikkei art to the public. The works to be included will be of the highest caliber but not necessarily all professional. We allow for the possibility of discovering works by gifted children and amateurs, works of great vitality and originality. Some works may be that of artists who are deceased if the heirs will make the art known to us. Deadline for the first catalogue is May 30, 1988, and the second catalogue-3 months later.

We will be conducting a extensive campaign to publicize our artists, promote, exhibit, their works and reputations. All artists/owners who feel they qualify and wish to be considered are invited to write for info leading up to a free evaluation of their work. Japan Americas Artists' COOPERATIVE will include all phases of art media. For free info and submission instructions, write to:

Japan Americas Artists' Cooperative, c/o Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, 244 So. San Pedro St., Suite 411, Los Angeles, CA 90012; Yukio Iwamasa, Director

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JACL PULSE

CHICAGO

• "Celebrate Year of the Dragon" cocktail party benefit, held by Minasama-No, March 23, 6-9 pm, Charlie Chang's Restaurant, 158 E. Ontario. Tickets: \$25/person (tax deductible). Info: 312 907-2185.

IDAHO FALLS

• Idaho Falls JACL two-day reunion, July 30 & 31, 1988. Open to persons residing or who resided in the vicinity of Idaho Falls, regardless of the length of residency and includes persons who relocated to the area during the evacuation period. Info: Todd Ogawa, 1526 Westland Ave., Idaho Falls, ID, 83402; Sud Morishita, 1131 Bannock, Idaho Falls, ID 83402; or Martha Sakaguchi, 1059 Redwood, Idaho Falls, ID 83401.

GREATER L.A. SINGLES

• Monthly meeting, March 11, 7 pm, Founders Savings & Loan, Gramercy Pl. and Redondo Beach Blvd, Gardena. Features special guest David Masumoto, author of *Country Voices*. Info: 213 477-6997 or 213 663-7648.

• Wildflower Walk, March 20. Meet at 8:45 am at the Federal Building, West L.A. for carpooling, or meet at 9:30 am at Charmlee County Park. Info: Jerry Hinaga, 213 269-2219 or Louise Sakamoto, 213 327-3169.

PHILADELPHIA

• 1988 Installation Dinner, March 26, at Carrera's Hall in Gloucester City, New Jersey. Social Hour—6:30 pm. Dinner—7:30 pm. Keynote Speaker: JACL-LEC Executive Director Grayce Uyehara. Reservations and other info: Sim Endo, 215 844-7317.

SAN MATEO

• 1988 Scholarship Program—the chapter will award freshman scholarships to deserving students from the local area, with top applications to be forwarded to National JACL HQ. Applications: Local San Mateo County high schools and community colleges as well as from the JACL Community Center, 415 South Claremont in San Mateo. Deadline: April 1. Info: 415 343-2793.

SCAN

• Game Night, Venice Community Center, March 5, 12448 Braddock Dr., Los Angeles. Potluck Dinner: 6 pm. Games: 7 pm. Barbecue will be provided. SCAN challenges all interested JACL chapters to team picnary, trivial pursuit, etc. Info: Arthur, 213 616-4915 or Laraine, 213 826-4262.

VENICE-CULVER

• "The Complete Financial Management Workshop," a two session workshop on financial planning at the Venice Japanese Community Center, 12448 Braddock Dr., Los Angeles, 7:15 pm, March 15 and 17. Conducting the workshops will be Richard Nakawata, certified financial planner. Guest Speaker & Topic: Ann Sakiyama, estate planning. Free. Info: Gregg Wood, 213 397-7760 or Financial Network Investment Corporation, 213 945-7787.

VENTURA

• Ventura County JACL Singles Bowling/Breakfast Outing, 9 am, March 6, Wagon Wheel Bowl, 2801 Wagon Wheel Rd., Oxnard. All JACL members, family and friends are invited, too. Info: Stan Mukai, 805 388-2974. L.A.

WEST VALLEY

• Annual Potluck Dinner to welcome all new members, 6 pm, March 19, at the Clubhouse. Members are asked to bring a dish to share and their own table service. Dessert will be furnished. After dinner Mr. Sukeo Oji will talk about Nikkei Retirement Housing Project. Info: Bill Kumagai, 408 258-6363 or Jim Sakamoto, 408 252-5972.

Items publicizing JACL events should be typewritten (double-spaced) or legibly hand-printed and mailed at least THREE WEEKS IN ADVANCE to the P.C. office. Please include contact phone numbers, addresses, etc.

By Barry Saiki

Tokyo

As one ages, there is a precipitous increase in the number of saddening events, as friends and colleagues finish their final chapters of life.

The aggrievement is most intensely felt, especially, when one lives in a closed community, like small towns or rural areas, since one's world is that much smaller. The larger the circle, the less may be the impact, with the sorrows reflecting the extent of association, or the sensibilities of the individuals.

When one has lived overseas for many years, with ties being mostly retained by kinship, memories, correspondence or haphazard meetings, and with the obituaries being noted some time after the fact, amidst the hurly-burly of daily activities, the feelings may be somewhat less poignant, but still not detached.

Yet, it is dependent on the deepness of connection that one has had with the persons, such as early episodes and the warm relationships that had taken place long ago and are still vividly remembered and cherished as important facets of one's own development.

Some of us still believe that sentimentality is a virtue, a spiritual value that keeps us conscious of personal ties and of treasured intimacies. And these perceptions have in some form contributed to our current wellbeing in ways that

cannot be measured, but can only be felt—a feeling of loss, a transitional memory that remains alive in one's mind.

One of my elder sisters passed away recently, painfully wracked in her last year by rheumatism. Min Yasui, who gave one of his last speeches in Tokyo as dinner guest of the Japan Chapter, was another regrettable casualty. The taps have been played for many military retirees, who shared important roles in the occupation of Japan: John Aiso, Paul Sakai, Makoto Okumura, Ernie Hirai, Jim Buto and Yosh Hotta. A number of our founding chapter members in Tokyo are now gone: Hiroshi Miura, K.K. Sakamoto, Mike Ozaki, Mike Miyagishima, Shigeo Miyashiro, Akira Hirai and Larry Matsuo.

What is insignificant is significant when it touches a personal part of one's life. What is minor becomes major when strong, sincere or reflective incidents are involved. With each obituary, there is a reaction of varying intensities, along with remorse. Every new "obit" brings back the others who have gone over the Great Divide. Thus, memorial days become not a custom or a habit but fond remembrances of the youthful past.

While the circle of old friends diminish, new relationships help to fill the void and to bring a fresh sense of participation. Most of the Japan Chapter's 15 board members are now Sansei or Yonsei. They bring a new outlook and form their own sets of kinship and comradeship, to be built on and to be remembered in the future. Such is the passage of life.

WOMEN TODAY

Continued from page 7

ultimately put to the test how we can all work for a more just, a more equitable society.

Struggle Must Go On

As Asian women and men, we must struggle and build coalitions to counter aspects of Asian hatred and work towards fuller equality for all Asians in America. As Asian women and men, we must challenge each other to build more equitable relationships between us. As Japanese American women, we must support the broader women's movement because in the end the true progress of Asian women can only be measured in the collective progress of all women.

Juggling Act

To sum it up: *I have become a fantastic juggler.* I plan 20 things in my day, pick up the kids, run home, throw together dinner, Art comes home and I run to a meeting. I am deeply appreciative of the support of my sister and other family members, friends, and most of all, my partner in life—Art.

We have chosen to both be involved in working for social change and that has meant support, understanding and common goals are built into our relationship.

Becoming a parent has intensified my feelings about changing the world. I do want a better world for our children. But if things aren't better I feel confident that they in turn will become productive, socially responsible members of this society.

PSWD Joins APAVP to Help Get out the Vote in L.A.

LOS ANGELES — The Pacific Southwest District of the JACL has joined with several Asian Pacific American organizations in a coalition to get out the vote. The coalition is the Asian Pacific American Voter's Project (APAVP). The coalition is non-partisan and the main objective of the project is to increase the number of Asian Pacific American voters in the Los Angeles area.

In addition to the PSWD, the coalition consists of the San Gabriel Valley Democratic Club, the Korean American Coalition, Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, the Chinese American Citizen's Alliance and the Asian Pacific

Women's Network

The challenge of the coalition is to increase Asian Pacific American voter participation and to find the issues and concerns to help shape a bloc of voters to come into being. The Asian Pacific American voter can become a vital influence on local, state and national issues.

Mary Chu is the project coordinator. The Pacific Southwest District of the JACL is represented by Terry Takeda. Working with the coalition to meet the challenge is the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project. This project is a voting rights group that has registered more than a million voters in the Southwest region of the United States.

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17 Days, Many Meals. Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, & Leningrad, Russia. (ALMOST SOLD OUT.)

SEP 21 - HONG KONG, OKINAWA, KYUSHU & SHIKOKU \$2,650
14 Days, Most Meals. Hong Kong, Tokyo, Okinawa, Ibusuki, Nagasaki & Beppu, Kyushu, Ashizuri, Kochi & Takamatsu, Shikoku.

OCT 4 - HOKKAIDO & TOHOKU \$2,595
13 Days, Most Meals. Sapporo, Lake Akan, Lake District, Asahikawa, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Aomori, Akita, Sendai & Tokyo. (Hong Kong option \$395.)

OCT 18 - FALL JAPAN ODYSSEY/Fall Foliage Tour \$2,395
13 Days, Most Meals. Tokyo, Nikko, Matsumoto, Takayama, Kyoto, Inland Sea, Shodo Island, Hiroshima, Tsuwano, Nagasaki, Ibusuki, Kumamoto & Fukuoka. (Hong Kong option \$375.)

NOV 4 - NISEI VETS SUPER TOUR - ORIENT \$1,895
16 Days, Most Meals. Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur & Pangkor, Malaysia; Bangkok & Cha-Am, Thailand & Singapore. (FEW SPACES REMAIN.)

All tours include, flights, transfers, portorage, hotels, most meals, sightseeing, tips and taxes and touring transportation.

Prices subject to change due to currency fluctuation.

KOKUSAI INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

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