



Pacific Citizen

National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

PSW takes stand
on L.A. amendments
—page 3

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(213) 626-6936

Friday, May 29, 1992

Koreans, black gangs resolve to rebuild together

LOS ANGELES—Korean American storeowners and African American gang members announced May 25 plans to work together to develop ventures in African American communities, including hiring gang members at Korean-owned stores.

Members of the Korean American Grocers Association (KAGRO) met with gang leaders from both the Bloods and the Crips in a 2 1/2-hour closed door session.

Ideas for new ventures to rebuild South Central and other communities included:

- Selection of at least four gang members—two Bloods and two Crips—to work in managerial positions in Korean-owned businesses.

- Gang members would consider starting "Guardian Angel" style watches to guard neighborhood stores in Koreatown and South Central.

- A Korean-owned bank in South Los Angeles where it would be easier for residents to obtain loans.

- A joint agreement to foster cultural exchanges between Korean Americans and African Americans. This would include the marketing of T-shirts that would promote greater understanding.

Speaking to the Los Angeles Times, Yang Kim, president of KAGRO, said, "I have hope in this idea." (C)



TOGETHERNESS—Jesse Jackson joins hands with Jerry Yu, left, and Debby Gee.



POSING—Jackson pauses for photo with Debby Gee.

A sermon for unity

School kids get lesson in cultures

By GWEN MURANAKA
Assistant editor

LOS ANGELES—Teaching rather than scolding, Warren Furutani, board president of the Los Angeles Unified School District, recently brought neri and manju to a sixth grade class that sent anti-Japanese pictures to Supervisor



FURUTANI

Gloria Molina during the height of the Metro Green Line controversy.

In a follow to a story that ran in PC in February, students of 66th Street Elementary School in South Central Los Angeles, found themselves in the middle of controversy after they sent pictures and letters urging Supervi-

See KIDS/page 4

How riots affected Los Angeles schools

Talking briefly about the L.A. riots and their affect on the schools, Furutani said, "On the first day back, Monday, we stopped doing business as usual, focusing instead on discussing what took place."

"We have crisis teams and human relations teams working on finding sources of friction in the schools. We're also working with outside groups focusing on multicultural work," said Furutani.

See SCHOOL/page 4

Jesse Jackson preaches togetherness message to Asian American groups

By GWEN MURANAKA
Assistant editor

LOS ANGELES—"Run, Jesse run. Run, Jesse run," exhorted a crowd of 600 after a rousing speech by Rev. Jesse Jackson May 19 at Little Tokyo's Japan America Theater. Sounding like a presidential candidate, Jackson called for empowerment of minorities through unity in the aftermath of the L.A. riots as he lashed out at the police, big business and the politics of the Reagan/Bush era.

Focusing on and channeling the anger and dread that surfaced following the Rodney King verdict, Jackson said, "Koreans were hurt and should not have been. Hispanics were hurt and should not have been. Blacks

See JACKSON/page 6

Mistrial called in police shooting of Samoans

COMPTON, Calif.—A mistrial was called May 18 in the trial of Compton, Calif., police officer Alfred Skiles, accused of involuntary manslaughter in the killing of two Samoan brothers during a domestic dispute call.

Superior Court Judge John Reid called the mistrial after the jury deadlocked 9-3 in favor of acquittal of Skiles. Skiles is accused of killing Pouvi Tualualelei, 34, and Itali Tualualelei, 22, after answering a call from Pouvi Tualualelei's wife reporting that she was being beaten by her husband. In the ensuing violence, Pouvi Tualualelei was shot 11 times, including eight times in the back, and Itali Tualualelei was shot eight times, five times in the back.

The police officer testified that he had been attacked just prior to the shootings. (C)

Nagoya helps L.A. to rebuild

Nagoya, Japan, sister city to Los Angeles, has donated \$22,313.13 (three million yen) to help rebuild Los Angeles from the destruction of the recent riots.

Mayor Tom Bradley met with Nagoya officials May 8 to accept the contribution that will be earmarked for the Rebuild L.A. non-profit organization headed by Peter Ueberroth and created by the mayor. The check was accompanied by a letter from Takeyoshi Nishio, Nagoya mayor.

"During times of crisis, it is reassuring to hear from old friends," Bradley said. "Nagoya and Los Angeles have been sister cities since 1959. We have offered support to each other during trying times. I was deeply touched that the people of Nagoya would give us this generous gift of three million yen..." the mayor added.

The city has received some 6,000 inquiries and offers for assistance. (C)

See TAKES/page 4

Sign up

Deadline for advance registration for the 32nd JACL biennial convention, Aug. 3-8, Denver, Colo., is June 25.

All registration and convention materials have been mailed to chapter presidents. After June 25, convention attendees must register on site.

Other deadlines:

- June 25: Youth/student delegate hotel reservation forms are due to the Mile-Hi Chapter.

- July 2: Adult delegate hotel reservation forms due to the Sheraton Denver Tech Center. (C)



Class of the field

Athletes were honored at the 14th annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Month dinner May 20 in Los Angeles. Singled out for achievements were, from left, Scott Fuji, tae kwando; Bill Wong, keynote speaker; Khoa Nguyen, table tennis; Wei Wang, table tennis; Rick Noji, track and field (high jump); Diana Gee, table tennis; Jimmy Kim, tae kwando; Kristi Yamaguchi, Olympic gold medal winner in figure skating; Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley; Natasha Kuchicki, figure skating; Eric Sato, volleyball; Gary Sato, accepting for Liane Sato, volleyball; and Glenn Fujimoto, special Olympics, aquatics. Event proceeds will be donated to the Los Angeles Hate Violence Response Alliance group that responds to hate crimes.



9 weeks until the Convention

JACL Solid as the Rockies - August 3-8, 1992 - Mile-Hi Chapter - Denver, CO

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He's back . . .

Story and photo: GWEN MURAKA

LOS ANGELES—"Godzilla Invades Little Tokyo" may sound like a B-movie, but it's actually the latest exhibit at the Doizaki Gallery showing through June 17 at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC) in Little Tokyo.

It's an exhibition of toy robots, weird monsters and campy superheroes from Japan. Godzilla is joined by toy representations of Astroboy, Ultraman and the Transformers in a fun collection of Japanese pop culture. "It's amazing

how much popular culture from Japan has influenced kids in America," said Maria Kwong of the JACCC gallery department. She says bringing together an

exhibit of plastic lizards and aliens was a tough job. "There were no written descriptions of characters," said Kwong who had to go to comic book conventions to find out much of the information. Contributors to the exhibit include: Billy Shire of the Wacko Toy Collection, Mark Tsuji of Bandai Toys, and the Northern California based Kimono

My House. Some pieces in the exhibit may be purchased.

Playing alongside the exhibits are videos of some of the old Japanese television shows and movies and the walls are painted with large murals of the Japanese superheroes.

Which are the most popular characters among museum goers? Kwong said that children are more familiar with the Transformers, while adults identify with the '50s superhero Astroboy, the robot boy created by Osamu Tezuka. But Godzilla is a favorite among everyone. "He's really held up to the test of time," said Kwong.

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I'M AT THE DOIZAKI GALLERY, JAPANESE AMERICAN CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY CENTER, 244 S. SAN PEDRO ST., L.A. COST: \$2 ADULTS; CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER FREE THROUGH JUNE 14. GALLERY HOURS: TUE-FRI, NOON-5 P.M.; SAT., SUN., 11 A.M.-4 P.M.; CLOSED MON.



Calender

Minnesota Minneapolis

Sunday, June 14—Twin Cities' JACL annual Sukiyaqi Dinner at the Union Congregational Church, 3700 Alabama Ave. South, in St. Louis Park, Minn. Dinners served from noon to 6 p.m. Cost: \$8 adults, \$4 children. Part of proceeds will go to JACL scholarship fund. Information: Jay Yamashiro 619/698-4926.

Washington Seattle

Friday-Sunday, July 24-26—Pewar Green Lake Japanese Americans are planning "Homecoming '92" with Dr. Roland S. Kumasaka as reunion chairman. Registration: Shiz Nakawatase, 13044 27th Ave. NE, Seattle WA, 98125. Reunion committee is requesting any old photos for possible inclusion in souvenir booklet.

Utah

Salt Lake City

Saturday, October 10—Davis High School Alumni and Friends Reunion, Little America Hotel & Towers, 500 S. Main St., Salt Lake City. Cost: \$30 per person. Information: George Hirabayashi, 3042 S. 1000 W., Syracuse, UT, 84075, 801/773-2285. Hotel reservations: 800/453-9450.

California San Jose

Tuesday, June 9—Yu Ai-Kai hosts a day trip to the Orchid Ranch in Livermore. Group leaves Yu Ai-Kai, 565 N 5th St., at 9 a.m. Cost: \$22, \$19 for Yu Ai-Kai senior members. Information: 408/294-2505.

San Francisco area

Sunday, June 7—40th Annual JACL Junior Olympics track and field meet at Chabot College in Hayward. Age groups from 8 yrs and under thru 40 yrs and older, plus special toddler fun runs. Information: Tom Wong 510/352-5035 or Tom Oshidari 408/257-5609.

Sunday, June 7—Nisei Widowed Group's monthly meeting, at the home of Masa Sato, 2-4 p.m. New members welcome. Information: Elsie Uyeda-Chung (S.F.) 415/221-0268, or Yuri Moriwaki (E.B.) 510/482-3280.

Sacramento area

Saturday, June 6—Off Broadway

Dance Club's Summer Ballroom Dance at the Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd., 8 p.m. Tickets: \$10 including refreshments. Information: Bill Kashiwagi 916/635-2815 or Eileen Otsuji 916/427-2690.

Los Angeles area

Sunday, June 7—Japanese American Cultural and Community Center's 9th Annual Children's Day Arts and Crafts Fair, 244 S. San Pedro St., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Games, crafts, and demonstrations for the kids; and handmade craft booths for the adults. Information: 213/628-2725.

Sunday, June 7—San Fernando JACL and SFVJACC Scholarship program at Nikkei Village, Laurel Canyon Blvd., Pacoima, 2 p.m. Speaker: Tammy Tomita. Information: SFVJACC 818/899-1899.

Sunday, June 7—Marina JACL, West LA, SCAN, APAN and Venice Culver JACL chapters will be hosting a wine tasting party at Place Sazaby, Beverly Hills, noon-4 p.m. Cost: \$15. Information: Isaac 213/653-4700 x247 day, 818/225-8634 night.

Sunday, June 7—Concert-Folk Rhythm; Rainbow Drum Concert, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Japan American Theater, 244 S. San Pedro St., 213/628-2725.

Saturday-Sunday, June 13-14—Sacramento Nichiren Buddhist Church's annual summer food bazaar, 5191 24th St., Sat. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Food, games, raffle and Hawaiian entertainment. Information: Reverend Igarashi 916/443-3245.

Saturday, October 3—5th annual reunion for former San Benito County residents, Kim Sing Restaurant, 15449 S. Western Ave., Gardena, noon to 6 p.m. Cost: \$20 per person. Dress: casual. RSVP: by July 15. Mail check to: Edward Masumoto, 428 E. Double St., Carson Ca. 90745 310/835-4454.

Convention calls

JACL 32nd Biennial National Convention, "JACL: Solid as the Rockies," Aug. 3-8, Denver, Colo. General or registration information: Ruth Yamachi, 303 237-9747, any time; Emilee Ito, 303 421-1302 (after 6 p.m.)

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**PSW takes position
on L.A. amendments**

The Pacific Southwest District Council of the Japanese American Citizens League has announced its positions on two Los Angeles charter amendments.

The district supports for Charter Amendment F and opposes Charter Amendment G, both slated for the June 2 ballot in Los Angeles.

Charter Amendment F
Charter Amendment F is a police reform measure allowing for greater citizen oversight of the police department, the strengthening of the function and authority of the board of police commissioners, and the selection, removal and tenure of the chief of police while limiting the tenure to two consecutive five year terms.

This amendment is largely in response to the beating of Rodney King by L.A. police officers and subsequent calls for reform. Carol Kawamoto, PSW governor, said, "We must work toward police reform as recommended in the Christopher Commission Report and fully support Charter Amendment F."

Charter Amendment G

The Los Angeles City council identified the loss of jobs as the most serious problem facing the

city. "However, the 'Local Preference and Domestic Content Requirement' for all city purchases as delineated in this amendment, is a misguided solution to the problem," stated Trisha Murakawa, chair of the PSW JA CL Civil Rights Caucus. "Charter Amendment G neglects to define the 'domestic content' requirement, thus leaving open the opportunity for arbitrary and discriminatory interpretations. The implications of this are clearly serious and far-reaching for all Asian and Pacific Islander communities."

PSW also stated that it believes that the economic crisis facing our country has, in large part, been blamed specifically on Japan, which has correspondingly triggered an increase in anti-Asian violence and the rise of "Buy American" hype.

PSW urges elected officials to create a legitimate program for economic development that will recharge our economy, while also creating and retaining jobs for the people of Los Angeles, rather than accepting unknown consequences of "domestic content" requirements and the simplistic propaganda of "Buy American" campaigns. (P)

**Richard Murakami named
Nisei Week grand marshal**

LOS ANGELES—Richard M. Murakami, California's assistant commissioner of corporations in the Department of Corporations, was recently announced as the Grand



MURAKAMI

Marshal for the 1992 Nisei Week Japanese Festival, according to Steve Okayama, 1992 general chairman.

Nisei Week, held in Little Tokyo, will begin Saturday, August 1st and run through Sunday, Aug. 9. The Nisei Week Parade is scheduled to begin at 3 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 2 in Little Tokyo.

Murakami, as assistant commissioner, is responsible for administration of state laws on escrow, credit unions and bill payers. Beyond his work with the state, Murakami is president of the National Association of State Credit Union Supervisors and was twice president of the Uptown Los Angeles Optimist Club and is associated with the Nagoya Sister City Affiliation. He also was a member of the Nisei Week board of directors from 1977 to 1988. (P)

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Short takes

(Continued from page 1)

Chapter sponsors children's school

GARDEN GROVE, Calif.—The Selanoco chapter of the JACL is sponsoring Chibi no Gakko, a special two-week session to teach Nikkei children about their cultural heritage.

Running July 20-30, organizer B.J. Watanabe said Chibi no Gakko is about, "Bringing Japanese American children together and giving them the opportunity to learn about their heritage and develop their JA identity is our main goal."

Registration: \$75 per child for the two week session which runs Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon, July 20-30. Location: Wintersburg Presbyterian Church, 13711 Fairview, Garden Grove. Information and applications: B.J. Watanabe 714/779-4140.

Enrollment is limited, with JACL members' children and grandchildren receiving first priority.

'Comfort women' stories in Japan army

TOKYO—Nine Japanese and South Korean citizen groups opened a hotline in January to gather stories from Imperial Japanese Army veterans on their experiences with "comfort women" during World War II. Most of the women came from Korea and were forced to work in military brothels in China, Japan, New Guinea, Indonesia and the Philippines, according to the group which set up the hotline.

And after Prime Minister Miyazawa's February visit to South Korea, the Japanese government expressed its willingness to compensate Korean women who were mobilized for forced prostitution.

Historian seeks

Santa Fe internees

LOS LUNAS, N.M.—Richard Melzer, Ph.D., assistant professor of history at the University of New Mexico-Valencia Campus, 280 La Entrada, Los Lunas, NM 87031, is researching the WWII Japanese American internment camp in Santa Fe, N.M., and hopes any former internees willing to be interviewed about their experiences will contact him.

Melzer indicated he has completed his research at the National Archives and interviewed the camp commander.

'94 Convention committee selected

SALT LAKE CITY — Floyd Mori will serve as chairman of the 1994 JACL National Convention with Tom Shimizu as assistant and Shake Ushio as advisor, all Mount Olympus JACLers. The National JACL Board has decided upon the Salt Lake City Marriott Hotel as the site. The dates in August, 1994, have not been confirmed.

Mori, currently national JACL vice president on public affairs and one-time California state assemblyman, is engaged in U.S.-Japan trade.

Monterey history project announced

MONTEREY, Calif.—A composite history of the Japanese on Monterey Peninsula has been announced as a chapter project by Dr. David Yamada as coordinator.

Its committee met last fall with other community groups to evaluate a tentative table of contents covering the period from the 1900s when the first Issei settled in the region. The Rev. Heihachiro

Takarabe, who has done extensive oral history interviews, shared his expertise.

The project is being supported by the Community Foundation for Monterey Peninsula, which tendered a matching grant of \$3,500 toward the preliminary budget of \$7,650. The grant becomes available upon members and friends contributing a like amount, it was added. The committee plans to publish 500 copies.

SCHOOLS

(Continued from page 1)

All schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District were closed for two days following the onset of the riots. Some community leaders questioned the decision to close schools during the riots, the board president said it was a decision that they "weighed very heavily."

"We are a stabilizing force in every community. So we've been working to bring some normalcy to the communities hard hit," said Furutani.

Furutani mentioned with some

pride that the first day back to school saw very high attendance rates among both faculty and students as both groups work to get past the riots.

"I think people did see that school was a bit of an oasis and a safe zone. It's the best place to be," said Furutani.

KIDS

(Continued from page 1)

For Molina to rescind the Sumitomo contract to build Metro Green Line cars. While the contract was rescinded, the "buy America" fervor that ensued caused concern within the Japanese American community about racial scapegoating. Supervisor Molina spoke to the children about racial tolerance shortly after she received the pictures, but Furutani chose to wait until after the furor had died down and use the time as a chance to educate.

"The focus of my response wasn't concerned about politics, but education. So I went to the school during Asian Pacific Heritage month to teach about sharing a different culture and learning about different people," said Furutani.

"I didn't bring up the issue of

Japan bashing. I brought up Japan as a people and a country." Furutani said the students were curious about the Japanese foods that he brought along with him and he used their curiosity to teach tolerance of other cultures. Noting that the response to nori was "mixed," Furutani said, "When you're confronted with something different, you prejudice it. That's the same thing with people, you prejudice them without getting to meet them."

"With the menu, they thought it was very beautiful, they're very attracted to it. I used it to talk about differences we have. You need to try it and taste it before you judge something. With people, you have to get to know them," said Furutani.

The board president's visit took on greater meaning as Los Ange-

les struggles towards recovery following the riots. The elementary school is situated in the middle of where much of the devastation took place and tensions between different ethnic groups still linger. "Looking at what was originally the genesis of the controversy, the riots really expanded the agenda," said Furutani. He took his time with the kids to talk not only about Japan but about greater cultural awareness of all Asian cultures.

Furutani pointed out to the class, many of whom are Latino, that Cinco de Mayo and the Japanese holiday, Children's Day, were on the same day. "I shared with them what we do during Children's Day, and told them about other Asian celebrations — the focus was that we are all people," said Furutani.



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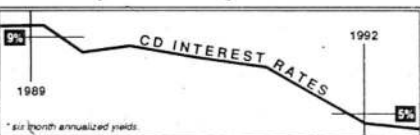
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Opinions



From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

Letters from Camp Shelby finally delivered

Several months ago this column carried the story of Jim Remsen and a letter he found in a box of odds and ends he picked up at an estate sale. The letter was written in 1943 by Cpl. Senji Sugawara serving with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Camp Shelby, Miss. It was addressed to his sister Isayo in Honolulu.

It was a writing-home type of letter with chit-chat about family and maneuvers. Remsen, who himself had been a captain with the Sixth Armored Division in Europe, undertook some research. He found that Senji Sugawara, by then a sergeant, had been killed in France, ironically after surviving the bitter battle to rescue the Lost Battalion. Now, more than ever, Remsen was anxious to return the letter to Senji's family if there was one.

I wrote about Remsen and the letter in hopes that someone could tell us the Sugawaras. Things began to happen.

Yasuo Hirano of Costa Mesa, Calif., wrote to say that Sugawara's first name had been listed as Kenji in reference books but the correct name was Senji.

Dick Hayashi of Stockton said Senji had

served under him when Hayashi was supply officer of the 442nd's Company K. Hayashi suggested that I write to Paul Okamura in Kalaheo, Hawaii, who came from the same island as Sugawara.

Bud Smyser, contributing editor of the Honolulu Star-Bulletin could find nothing in the newspaper library so he sent the inquiry on to Grace Okamura, executive secretary of the 442nd Veterans Club in Honolulu. Hayashi also had suggested this source.

Eventually she wrote back. Isayo Sugawara was deceased but Senji's younger brother, Yoshito, was living in Waimea, Hawaii. We were getting closer.

Yoshito Sugawara's response to my inquiry arrived the other day. Yes, he said, he was Senji's brother. As a matter of fact, Yoshito had served with the 100th Battalion and had gone overseas a year before Senji did. He said so far as he knew, Senji's letter to his sister Isayo had never been delivered and he wondered whether Isayo had subsequent contact with Senji prior to his death 11 months after the letter was mailed.

Yoshito's letter told a little about the

family. There were seven Sugawara siblings. Isayo was the eldest, followed by Senji. There are only two of them left, Yoshito who was the youngest and is now 73, and a sister living in Honolulu. But there were some nephews and nieces, including Alan Sugawara who is a professor at Oregon State University, and obviously they would be pleased to be in touch with a relative, no matter how remotely.

Remsen had another surprise for the Sugawaras. Digging deeper into the box, he had uncovered two more letters to Isayo. One was a neatly typed letter from Senji dated Aug. 15, 1943. Among other things it said Yoshito—"the baby of the family and he's going to the actual front...I'm proud of him and the rest of the outfit,"—had left Shelby with the 100th for shipment overseas.

The other was a letter that Yoshito himself had written to his sister. A few days ago I put the three letters in their original envelopes inside another envelope and mailed it to Yoshito Sugawara in Waimea. This time, I hope they reach their destination. The letters will bring pain, I'm sure, but bittersweet memories, too. ☐

JACKSON

(Continued from page 1)

were hurt and should not have been. There's enough pain to go around. We've got to pick up the pieces and turn pain into power."

"This wasn't about black and Korean. It goes deeper than that. Mr. Denney was white. The Broadway Savings and Loan was black. Rage does not have eyes really. As we seek to build and heal, let's reach out to each other. Let's go another way."

At times during Jackson's speech, many in the audience chanted and cheered with a fervor similar to a church revival meeting. Joining Jackson onstage was a diverse group of community leaders including: Jerry Yu, executive director, Korean American Coalition, who introduced Jackson; Evelyn Yoshimura, Unity L.A.; Tosh Terasawa, president of the JACCC board of directors and longtime Jackson supporter radio personality Casey Kaseem.

Jackson, promoting the ideals of his Rainbow Coalition, said, "Our being ignorant of each other and afraid of each other and violent toward each other is learned behavior. We've got to unlearn those wicked lessons. While some others have prospered from the gulfs and the cliffs, we must build the bridges because we know better and because it's right."

While much of the focus of the address was on the aftermath of the Rodney King verdict, Jackson showed obvious outrage at the recent mistrial in the shooting deaths of two Samoan brothers in Compton by a police officer. "Today a jury said it was 'hung' as two Samoans were shot to death 19 times in their yard. Noting that he met the mother of the two Samoan brothers who were killed, Jackson said about the recent mistrial, "That jury being hung was as absurd as the King jury hanging him. It's still about hanging, it's about injustice and it's still unfair."

The reverend strongly criticized the police calling brutality a "disease." He had particularly strong words for Los Angeles Police Chief Daryl Gates, blaming Gates for the slow response at Florence and Normandie which may have contributed to the beating of truck driver Reginald Denney. Jackson received an ovation when he said, "L.A. and America deserve more than Daryl Gates. He must go quickly. Quickly."

Speaking specifically to Japanese-Americans, Jackson talked about the internment camps and the importance of remembering what happened. "Stripped of pride and property while neighbors came and looked at their work. Concentration camps built with U.S. tax dollars. All of that happened while the most decorated unit in World War II was the Nisei fighting unit."

Jackson, admitting that he did not hear about the internment in all his years of schooling, said, "As we glorify the skating skills of Kristi Yamaguchi, her mother was born in one of those concentration camps. America must not be allowed to forget and you must not let them."

Jackson said it was time to reinvest in America and cut military spending. He derided the "economic strip mining" of the eighties and blamed big business for sending jobs to foreign countries.

Giving the example of Bush's trip to Japan in January, Jackson, describing the delegation, called them, "Twenty-three white male multimillionaires above 60 took a trip on public transportation to Japan." On Bush's call for "jobs, jobs, jobs," Jackson, lampooning the delegation, said, "We want jobs! We demand goals, targets, time tables and quotas. What? Twenty-three all white male multimillionaires went to Japan demanding from Japan international affirmative action. Bush was embarrassed by the contradiction, he got tripped up on spaghetti."

Jackson, adopting an "us versus them" tone, said minorities have to unite and move beyond current racial tension or they will continue to be subjugated to the cheers of the audience. "Korean Americans don't look back, regroup and move on. African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans, Jewish Americans, Arab Americans, it's time to forgive and redeem and move on."

Co-sponsoring the event were the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations and Unity L.A. Other sponsoring organizations included: JACL, Alliance for Asian Pacific Labor, Asian Pacific American Legal Center, Japanese American Bar Association, Korean American Coalition, Korean American Bar Association and Organization of Chinese Americans. Honorary chairmen were Mayor Tom Bradley, Councilman Michael Woo, and L.A. School Board President Warren Furutani. ☐

East Wind

BILL MARUTANI

In memoriam: Arlington Cemetery

FOR MANY MEMORIAL holidays, the Washington D.C. Chapter, JACL, has sponsored, planned and carried out a solemn ceremony of remembrance at Arlington National Cemetery. Following a brief graveside program, those assembled are delegated to place fresh flowers at graves of nearly 40 Nikkei servicemen whose last resting places are scattered throughout some 15 large sections of the cemetery grounds. Although I write "Nikkei," two are "haoles" as our Hawaiian brethren would affectionately refer to them; one is Colonel Virgil R. Miller, CO of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the other is Navyman Joseph Harrington, author of the book "Yankee Samurai."

D.C. CHAPTER PRESIDENT Key Kobayashi has been assembling names of Nikkei interred, and each year adds new names. From the list of thousands buried at Arlington, it is no easy task to locate and tabulate Nikkei names. Nonetheless, Key has prepared and distilled such a name list, with data as to the section in which each is buried, grave number, with a grid reference to a map on the reverse side. On

the grid map is a circled "X" showing where each grave is located. Each name also lists the rank and notation of military service.

A well organized collation by a well organized person.

I WAS PRIVILEGED to participate in the placement of a graveside bouquet and off I went to section 64, as it turned out, to a far corner of the cemetery grounds. It was the gravesite of Master Sergeant Kaname Matsura, a veteran of WW2, Korea and Vietnam. I noted from the headstone marker that his birthdate was Nov. 9, 1920 and his date of death March 2, 1984. I did not know Sergeant Matsura, where he came from, who his family members were, etc. I took a picture of his gravesite and if a family member should read this, just get in touch with me and it will be my pleasure to send the recent snapshot.

AFTER THIS PHASE of Memorial Day services, a group had lunch at the Ft. Meyers Officers' Club (sponsored by M.I.S. retired Lt. Col. Ben Obata) where the buffet tables were generously loaded with a wide variety of dishes, as much as one wished and as often as one wished. After a

leisurely brunch repast, the group then proceeded to the Tomb of the Unknowns to witness not only the changing of the guards but in particular to witness the laying of the JACL wreath. The visit to this place is always a sobering, emotional experience, no matter how many times one may have observed the ceremony. With bugle "taps" being sounded and the last sad note echoing out toward the Potomac River, well...

THIS MEMORIAL DAY wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns was a particularly impressive and proud one for us, for the Nikkei were represented by uniformed Major General James H. Mukoyama Jr. (USAR), who, along with his charming wife, came from his native Chicago to participate in this solemn ceremony. The General also shared some remarks at the graveside ceremonies earlier that day.

A different individual gravesite of a Nikkei buried is selected each year as the ceremonial site. The spring weather did not disappoint with its sunny countenance. If you can, come join the proceedings next Memorial Day. ☐



