



# Pacific Citizen

National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

Treasured  
memories  
—page 4

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Friday, July 17, July 24, 1992



**MEMORIES**—This 1945 photo of the Harano family in front of Topaz barracks is part of the museum collection of the scheduled Western Treasure Valley Cultural Center. Story on page 4.

## Sonoma chapter works to establish civil rights agency

Special to the Pacific Citizen

To combat the rising tide of race-motivated incidents and in anticipation of the 50th anniversary commemoration of Pearl Harbor, the Sonoma County Chapter, JACL, has been successful in the development of a human rights commission and an educational curriculum guide in the area.

Beginning late last year, the chapter mounted a series of activities in the county. These included a hate crimes workshop, spearheading a drive for a county human relations commission, and co-sponsoring and publishing a curriculum guide on Japanese Americans.

The chapter's community-wide anti-Asian hate crimes workshop, held last September, focused on preventive measures and solutions and identified a network of county resources. Representatives from several minority groups attended but several non-Asians also were present, as well as members of law enforcement agencies, the media, and Dennis Hayashi, the soon-to-be-appointed national director of JACL at the time.

Noting that a human relations commission had not been established in the county, supervisors attending the workshop said that such an agency might be valuable in dealing with human rights violations. They added, however, that budgetary constraints might prohibit the county from establishing one at that time.

Nonetheless, the chapter sponsored a drive for start-up funds to create an agency. Board member Mei Nakano, who presided over the workshop, mobilized a coalition representing diverse groups in the county: African Americans, Chinese Americans, Filipino Americans, Japanese Americans, Jewish Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, gay and lesbian groups, and other human rights activists. After months of meetings, the coalition emerged with strategies and a strong vision of how the commission should be defined.

In a public meeting last month, delegates from the coalition presented a mission statement before the County Board of Supervisors and argued for the establishment of a human rights commission. The board unanimously approved.

"We were surprised, but I guess we shouldn't have been," said Nakano. "We had done a lot of ground work, and the list of members of our coalition, representing all those groups, sent a strong message. Also, the presentation happened shortly after the Rodney King fiasco, which might have helped."

The formal launching of the commission will take place sometime this fall, after details concerning budgetary and structural matters have been worked out between coalition members and the Office of the County Administrator.

"These were significant events for our JACL," said Carol

See SONOMA/page 9

## JACL news

### Convention updates



**FAMOUS READER**—Olympic champion Kristi Yamaguchi, reading a copy of *Pacific Citizen*, is one of the JACL biennium award winners. Story: 3

## Yamaguchi, Moriguchi win JACL biennium awards

Olympic figure skating champion Kristi Yamaguchi, whose exploits on ice have thrilled audiences and made her an international celebrity, and Tomio Moriguchi, a distinguished and successful businessman who is equally known for his civic and community work in the Pacific Northwest, have been chosen to receive JACL's biennium award.

The award, to be presented at the biennial convention in Denver, Colo., recognizes and honors those Americans of Japanese ancestry whose outstanding achievements in different fields of endeavor have received regional, national or international recognition and whose contributions have added to the sum of human knowledge and/or enhanced the quality of life in our society.

"As in years past, we had a number of very distinguished nominees

See AWARDS/page 3



**INVOLVED**—Seattle businessman Tomio Moriguchi's work in the local community as well as in JACL has earned him the top JACL award.

### Inouye is keynote speaker

U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) will be keynote speaker at the *Sayonara Banquet*, 7 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 8, at the Sheraton Tech Hotel, Denver, Colo.

The banquet closes the 32nd biennial JACL convention. At 6 p.m., Reps. Robert Matsui and Norman Mineta will host a reception. Both will be in attendance at the banquet, along with Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-Colo.).

### 1000 Club to co-host reception

The 1000 Club will host a joint convention reception and dance with the Nikkei Singles of Denver, according to 1000 Club Chairman Frank Sakamoto. The event is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 4, at the Sheraton Tech Hotel, site of the convention. See RECEPTION/page 2

## Legislation

### Redress is still stalled

By KAREN K. NARASAKI

Washington, D.C. Representative

The Civil Liberties Act Amendments of 1992, S. 2553/H.R. 4551, continue to stall in Congress due to the continued intransigence by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that the additional \$320 million being sought not be accorded the same treatment under the Budget Enforcement Act as the original funds. The White House has begun to send responses to our letter writing campaign. The response states that OMB

See REDRESS/page 9

## New at national

### JACL bulletin

The first issue of a monthly bulletin detailing current activities and projects of national JACL has been sent to all chapter presidents to facilitate information between headquarters and membership, according to Joy Morimoto, public information officer.

"Communication has been a long-standing problem within the organization. One means of trying to better keep our members informed is to have a monthly newsletter which explains some of the current legislation we are addressing, as well as issues of import to the organization," Morimoto said.

## First intern

### Joseph Horiye wins Masooka award



Joseph M. Horiye, a 1990-1991 president of the Associated Students at San Diego State University, was named the first Mike M. Masooka

See MASAOKA/page 3

## Convention calls

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



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## Calendar

### Canada Vancouver

Fri.-Sun, Oct. 9-11—The National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) sponsors HomeComing '92, a conference for Japanese Canadians. Hotel Vancouver. Registration fee: \$145. Information: NAJC, 404 Webb Place, Winnipeg, MB R3B 3J4; 204/943-2910.

### Washington Olympia

Through Sept. 2—Kenjiro Nomura, "An Artist's View of the Japanese American Internment." Washington State Capitol

### Pacific Citizen

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Museum. Information: June McKivror, Nomura, project director, 206/587-2925.

### Seattle

Sunday, July 26—Seattle JACL and 1000 Club's annual golf tournament, Allamore Golf Course, Tacoma, noon. Entry fee: \$35. Information: Bob Mizukami, 206/922-6135 or Reiko Tsubota, 206/287-8978.

### Auburn

Saturday, July 25—White River Buddhist Temple Bon Odori Festival, 3625 Auburn Way North, 5 pm-10 pm. Information: 206/833-1442.



### In fashion

Choreographer Leslie Kawai Daniels, one-time Nisei Week princess and the 1980 Tournament of Roses queen, returns for a second year for the July 26 Nisei Week fashion show luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at the Sheraton Grande Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. The 1992 queen candidates will be introduced.

### Oregon Portland

Saturday, Aug. 1—Oregon Buddhist Church's Obon fest. Saturday, Aug. 23—Nikkei Community Picnic, Oaks Park.

### Nevada Las Vegas

Saturday, Aug. 8—The Las Vegas Buddhist Sangha's 4th annual Obon Festival, 2222 W. Mesquite, Las Vegas, noon. Bento: \$6. Information: 702/362-3742.

## California

### San Francisco Area

Wednesday, July 22—San Mateo Chapter, JACL, trip to San Francisco's Chinatown. Information: 415/343-2793.

Sunday, July 26—Contra Costa Chapter, JACL, Kanajo Fashion Show, El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Mosser Lane, 1:30 pm. Admission: free. Information: Natsuko Irie 510/237-8730.

Sunday, July 26—Author David Mura will read and sign copies of his book "Turning Japanese: Memoirs of a Sansel," Black Oak Books, Berkeley, 7 pm.

### San Jose area

Saturday, July 25—West Valley Chapter's Awareness Night, 6 p.m. Speaker: Dr. Judith Rosenheim speaking on Jewish presence in Middle East. Information: Dr. Ray Uchiyama 408/667-0255 or Aiko Nakamura 408/378-8867.

### Los Angeles area

Sunday, July 19—The Americans of Japanese Ancestry War Memorial Coalition's (AJAWMC) Inaugural Unification Dinner, Steven's Steak House in the City of Commerce, 5:30 p.m. Tickets: \$25 per person. Information and tickets: Ken Yamaki 213/292-3071 (eves.) or Mas Dobashi 213/269-3047 (eves.).

## RECEPTION

(Continued from page 1)

vention. The 1000 Club reception and dance is a longstanding tradition at JACL conventions. The reception will be an opportunity for 1000 Club members and all JACLers to renew acquaintances at the beginning of the convention and to join in the spirit of friendship and support that the 1000 Club has provided to the JACL. It will be a fine opportunity for 1000 Clubbers and JACL conventioners to meet with members of the singles group. Tickets to the reception may be purchased at the registration table any time before the event on Tuesday evening.

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## JACL Biennium Awards

## Kristi Yamaguchi—everyone's All-American

She is a role model, an Olympic champion, a celebrity, and a heroine to many Americans, young and old. But perhaps the most fitting description of Kristi Yamaguchi is simply this: "all-American."

A Yonsei from Fremont, Calif., Yamaguchi began her illustrious skating career at the age of 7. Earlier this year in Albertville, France, she became the first American woman since Dorothy Hamill in 1976 to win the gold medal in women's figure skating. Following up her gold medal performance, Yamaguchi successfully defended her world title in March.

In recognition of her outstanding accomplishments and the impact she has had upon both the sports world and society in general, Yamaguchi is one of two recipients of this year's Japanese American of the Biennium award, the highest public award of the National JACL. Although she will be unable to attend the JACL National Convention next month in Denver, her family will be on hand to accept the award on her behalf.

Speaking on the impact of Yamaguchi's accomplishments, Frank Sato, chairman of the Japanese American of the Biennium Award Committee, said, "Kristi's perseverance and determination, coupled with the grace and dignity with which she competes and carries herself, has made her an important role model for American youth. She has brought a great sense of pride to this country and to the Japanese American community in particular."

The reason for Yamaguchi's absence from the convention is simple. She is one of four athletes who will attend the Summer Olympics in Barcelona as part of

President Bush's official delegation. They are Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mary Lou Retton, and basketball player Greg Anthony.

In a recent interview at her Fremont home, Yamaguchi discussed the JACL award and the events of the past few months.

Yamaguchi said she was truly surprised at being named Japanese American of the Biennium, especially upon learning that she is the first athlete and youngest recipient of the award. "It is such a prestigious award... there are so many Japanese Americans doing great things... It is an honor. I have had so much support and encouragement from everyone in the Japanese American community and I want to thank them. She gives credit to the community for helping her get to where she is today."

Since the World Championships in March, Yamaguchi has taken a respite from training and has only recently resumed practice sessions. She has been busy on the road touring and performing in shows, and having fun in the process. She has also managed to squeeze in time for a much-needed vacation, the first one in years; she explained. In addition to visits to the White House, which included meeting Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Yamaguchi has appeared twice on the "Arsenio Hall Show," and most recently played a little basketball with Magic Johnson and Larry Bird.

"The Olympics has been the best part of my life so far, because it has always been my dream to just be there," said Yamaguchi, as she discussed the aftermath and implications of winning an Olympic gold medal. "It was beyond my

dreams to do as well as I did and come home with the gold medal."

Noting that it was also important to simply enjoy the Olympic experience, Yamaguchi said, "I wanted to make my first experience at the Olympics an enjoyable one. I wanted to have fun and interact with some of the athletes, yet still know that when it came down to skating, that was the important thing, and to concentrate on that."

The publicity resulting from the Olympic games has touched other members of her family, she laughed. She related a humorous story of how her grandmother, who has appeared several times on TV, was recognized at a McDonald's restaurant. "Someone came up to her and said, 'Grandma!' and asked for her autograph. She was excited!"

From a close-knit family, Yamaguchi speaks fondly of her late grandfather. "He was probably one of my biggest fans," she said. "He was very supportive and went to a lot of my competitions," even accompanying her to Japan when she entered an NHK competition. During World War II, while Yamaguchi's grandmother lived in an internment camp, her grandfather served in the U.S. Army. "I looked up to him a lot because he loved America. It was his home." Whatever he might have felt about the war and wartime experience were things he never expressed to his grandchildren. "It just made us realize how lucky we are today and everything we have," said Yamaguchi.

Asked whether in her career she has ever been made to feel uncomfortable about being a Japanese American, Yamaguchi said

See KRISTI/page 9

## AWARDS

(Continued from page 1)

for this award," said Frank Sato, chair of the awards committee.

Born and raised in the Puget Sound area of Washington, Moriguchi graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in mechanical engineering. He worked briefly for Boeing before entering his family's business. Today, he is president and CEO of Uwajimaya, Inc., which began as a mom-and-pop store to become a \$30 million a year retail and wholesale enterprise.

Actively involved in the Japanese American and greater Seattle community, Moriguchi was instrumental in developing the Keiro Nursing Home project, a \$7 million nursing home facility in Seattle. He is also credited with spearheading the revitalization of Seattle's International District, which in the 1960s encompassed a Chinatown, a Nihonmachi, and was home to many Filipinos. Moriguchi brought together diverse groups to form the International District Improvement Association, which in turn fostered creation of the International District Health Clinic, Asian Counseling and Referral Service, Chinese Information and Services Center, and the Denise Louise Child Care Center.

Active in JACL, Moriguchi served as president of the Seattle Chapter and was a member of the national JACL board, serving as national treasurer from 1974-1976.

Some of his current activities include serving as a member of the board of directors of Seafirst Corporation, Seattle First National Bank (the first Nikkei to serve), Washington Energy Company

(parent company of Washington Natural Gas Co.), Seattle Foundation, Pacific Science Center, and the Seattle Chamber of Commerce. Moriguchi presently serves on the Washington State Advisory Council on International Trade and Development and the advisory board of the International Trade Institute of North Seattle Community College.

## MASAOKA

(Continued from page 1)

Congressional Intern to serve 15 weeks in Washington, D.C., in the office of U.S. Congressman Norman Y. Mineta. Etsu Mineta Masaoka, widow of Mike-M. Masaoka, will make the presen-

tation at the awards dinner Aug. 6 during the JACL National Convention in Denver, Colo.

Horiye, a fourth-year student, is working toward a degree in business administration and finance, and looks ahead to international commerce as well as the Horiye, a fourth-year student, is majoring in business administration and finance. He is also interested in international commerce and political scene. Among his affiliations are: board member of San Diego Chapter, JACL; member of the Japan America Society of Southern California; delegate to the National Annual Student Lobbying Conference in Washington, D.C.; and recipient of Outstanding Contribution to Student Government award.

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**PLANTING TIME**—Farmer (top photo) prepares soil for onions for a seed crop on the Sumida farm on the Oregon Slope, north of Ontario, Ore., 1952.

**G.I. HERO**—Pvt. John Harano (right), 1944, enlisted in the Army (442 RCT) from the Topaz Relocation Center, KIA Oct. 29, 1944, Vosges Mountains France.

PHOTOS FRANK T. HARANO



## Treasured memories

The Western Treasure Valley Cultural Center will capture Japanese American life in eastern Oregon and southwestern Idaho.

By **RANDY HARANO**  
IDC District Governor

The Western Treasure Valley lies in eastern Oregon and southwestern Idaho, in dry prairie country where cattle raising has been the dominant lifestyle for more than a century. With the arid climate, farming was a hit or miss proposition until the large water impoundment projects of the 1930s. Damming the precious water gave farmers foreknowledge of how much water would be available for their crops during the long, dry summer. Among the first farmers to utilize this resource were a handful of Issei immigrants. Their experience and expertise helped develop the row crop farms that have become the backbone of the region.

During World War II, as thousands of Japanese Americans on the West Coast were sent to internment camps, Western Treasure Valley geared up for war. The local agricultural industry responded with increased production for the war effort despite a shortage in the labor supply. The area in and around Ontario, Ore., was in the designated "free zone," where relocated Japanese Americans were allowed to live and work instead of going to an internment camp. On May 21, 1942, a group of 15 evacuees left the Portland Army Assembly Center for seasonal agricultural work in the Western Treasure Valley under civilian restriction order of the Western Defense Command. So well did this pilot program succeed that subsequently 10,000 evacuees would venture out from the barbed wire compounds to help produce the earth's bounty. In the Western Treasure Valley the number grew to more than 2,000 that came to work the fields.

Following the war, many of the former internees found it difficult to return to their former homes where feelings of hate and animosity prevailed. Some chose to relocate in the Western Treasure Valley on the recommendation of friends and family, others simply because they had nowhere else to go. Elmo Smith, then mayor of Ontario and subsequently governor of Oregon, was instrumental in making the Japanese American newcomers welcome and actively sought housing and jobs for those in need. As a result, the area's Japanese American population grew to more than 5,000 and has become an intrinsic part of the community.

From the beginning Japanese culture has been shared with the community. Early on the Nisei organized the Ore-Ida Judo Club which is now one of the most popular organizations for children and adults in the Western Treasure Valley. The annual Obon festival brings the entire community

together in a celebration of Japanese culture. But, more importantly, the people live and work together for the betterment of the community. It is here where Japanese Americans want to show how their culture has enriched the community and to show how people working together can bring about positive results for everyone.

These stories will become the hub for educational experiences made available through the Western Treasure Valley Cultural Center museum. The interpretive museum will tell story of the Issei pioneers and their contribution to the agriculture of the region as well as tell the internment story and the heroics of Nisei vets during World War II.

A multi-purpose facility located on the campus of Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario, Oregon, WTVCC will combine comfort, beauty and versatility. The civic center and "Community Gathering Place" will provide meeting and banquet rooms for small groups as well as large gatherings. The performing arts auditorium will feature a multi-faceted stage with state of the art electrics and acoustical design. Built by the community—for the community—WTVCC will serve the cultural, social and educational needs of the eastern Oregon and southwestern Idaho area.

## Photos wanted for Treasure Valley exhibit

The Western Treasure Valley Cultural Center is seeking historical photographs that depict the Japanese American experience in the Pacific Northwest. Of particular interest are photographs of Japanese American farms and families from 1935 to 1960 and photographs of the relocation and internment experience. WTVCC is dedicated to telling the story of Japanese American life in the Pacific Northwest through provocative museum exhibits and educational programs. Let us add copies of your photographs to the study collection that will be available to scholars and historians interested in the Japanese American experience. Send your photographs to WTVCC, PO Box 980, Ontario, OR 97114. Your original photograph and a copy print will be returned to you and a copy negative safely stored in our museum archives.

## Small kid time

Gwen Muranaka



## Agenda



### Florin's forgotten pioneers

Sixteen Issei pioneers and their children, buried in the early 1900s at the Elder Creek Cemetery in Florin, had been forgotten until a new community-funded memorial was dedicated to them on Memorial Day. Standing (from left) are the Rev. Mark Nakagawa and Sam Kashiwagi, both of Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church; Andy Noguchi, Florin Chapter, JACL, project sponsor; Shiro Tahara, Florin Buddhist Church; Shig Okimura, memorial project chair; and the Rev. Newton Ishiura, Florin Buddhist Church. This part of the Japanese section of the cemetery had been neglected for decades.

### Washington, D.C.: Continuing the Arlington tradition

ARLINGTON, Va.—The gravesite of Col. Saigo Okazaki, a WWII, Korean and Vietnam campaign veteran, was the locale of the annual Washington, D.C. JACL Memorial Day observances at the Arlington National Cemetery last May 24. Maj. Gen. James Mukoyama of Chicago was guest speaker. Col. Phil Ishio, MIS (ret.) laid the wreath at the gravesite while Mukoyama laid the JACL wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in ceremonies following the lunch at the Fort Myers Officers Club.

Key Kobayashi, chapter president, noted attendees visited the gravesites of 37 Nisei and Sansei soldiers interred at Arlington as well as Col. Virgil Miller of the 442nd Central Postal Directory, author of 'Yankee Samurai' and OSS member Kay K. Sugahara at the columbarium.

### Watsonville: Nikkei class of '42 finally get diplomas

By MAS HASHIMOTO  
Special to the Pacific Citizen  
WATSONVILLE, Calif.—Fifty

years ago on Friday, June 12, 1942, the 119 seniors of Watsonville High School were graduated in their blue and white cap and gowns (class colors) with the graduates in a "V for Victory" formation. Conspicuously absent from the ceremony were 47 Japanese American students, most of them removed to the Salinas Assembly Center as ordered by Executive Order 9066.

A week later (June 18, 1942), a small graduation ceremony was held for 30 Nisei students. Principal T. S. MacQuiddy and Louise Worthington, dean of girls, managed to gain entrance to the assembly center at the Salinas Fair grounds to present the diplomas and honors won by the students but they were not garbed with cap and gowns. Interestingly, as part of the program, the "Star Spangled Banner" and "God Bless America" were sung.

Seven Nisei never received public recognition. Four never received their diplomas as the mail never caught up with them.

This year, Watsonville High is celebrating its centennial. Along with the commemoration, the Centennial Class of 1992, the high school faculty and administration, with cooperation from the Pajaro

See WATSONVILLE page 9

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## Opinions



From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

## Found: a 49-star flag for 'the Fourth'

On the morning of July 4th I ventured into the basement in search of a corrugated cardboard box about two inches tall, four inches wide and four feet long. Eventually I found it, right where I had stored it.

The box contains a cotton American flag and an aluminum staff which comes in two pieces that fit together like a fishing rod. I bought the flag many years ago to display on national holidays. I still like to do that.

I've forgotten how long ago the flag came to our house, but there are several clues. One is the receipt, still taped to the box. It says in fading ink that the flag had cost me \$2.50. Today the flag would cost maybe five times that much.

The receipt also indicates I had paid 7 cents sales tax. Near as I can figure, 7 cents tax on a purchase of \$2.50 would be about 3%. The sales tax hereabouts today is around 7%. So I was correct in recalling that the flag had been bought some time back.

The flag in the box was somewhat

wrinkled but the white was white and the red and blue portions bright and radiant. It is still a good flag. On a whim I spread it out on my lap and counted the stars. There were only 49, no matter which way I counted.

The 13 stripes, red and white alternately, symbolize the original 13 states. And the stars represent the states now united into a nation. For a long time there had been only 48 of them. Then Alaska became a state in January of 1959 and the 49th star was added on July 4 of that year. Hawaii attained statehood in August of 1959 and got its star on July 4, 1960. So it seems my flag was purchased either in 1959 or early 1960. A third of a century ago.

Well, who counts the stars on a flag flapping in the breeze? No one. Does it matter that I should be flying an outdated flag?

No, so far as I can tell. Yet it seems sad, and perhaps insulting to my Hawaiian friends, that the lovely state of Hawaii is not represented in the United States flag that flutters in the Colorado breeze outside

my home. But there is something even more troubling.

Some years ago many homes in our area, maybe half of them, flew the Stars and Stripes on national holidays. Displaying the flag was a gesture of pride, a symbol of patriotism.

This year on the Fourth of July only about a quarter or maybe one of five showed the flag. What does this mean? I am not sure. Perhaps we are more sophisticated or more cynical about a government that has trouble making things work, or disillusioned about the state of the nation, disinclined to respect traditional values. Perhaps the Supreme Court set the tone for the country when it ruled that burning the flag is an acceptable way to exercise freedom of speech. Assault the symbol of the nation as a way of preserving its principles?

No wonder we're confused. But there is no confusion about the beauty of flags flying on a holiday, even though they may be a star or two short of history. I must remember to get an updated one. ☐



East Wind

BILL MARUTANI

## 'Gravitas'

A BOOK REVIEW appearing in an April issue of the *Washington Post* arrived in the mail. The title of the book was "The Chairman" and it was about Mr. John J. McCloy, among other things a Wall Street lawyer, former U.S. High Commissioner in Germany who had entered government in 1940 as special assistant to Secretary of War Henry Stimson. Having met and spoken to the gentleman a decade or so in Washington, D.C., I read the book review with some personal interest; Mr. McCloy had passed away about three years ago. The book title's use of the term "chairman" is undoubtedly apt in this instance: Mr. McCloy was chairman, among other things, of the Chase Bank, Ford Foundation, and Council on Foreign Relations.

THE KEY INGREDIENT to all this success? "Gravitas," a Roman word meaning "a core, a weight of judgment and honest appraisal." According to Mr. McCloy (as the reviewer quotes from the book): "[T]he one who possessed it had the respect and regard of his countrymen, whether he was in the [Roman] forum or on the farm...." One

assumes that the speaker was not excluding himself from that special category of gifted, godlike giants. Whether he did or not, that Mr. McCloy achieved and accomplished a great deal during his lifetime cannot be gainsaid.

Some of them, in my opinion, not so commendable.

AN ACHIEVEMENT unworthy of a public servant, particularly a lawyer who has been trained to uphold the Constitution and the laws of the land, was Mr. McCloy's key involvement leading to the rounding up and incarceration of some 115,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry and their Issei parents, solely based upon the repugnant criterion of race. In the Battle of Midway 50 years ago—June 4-5, 1942—our Navy decisively crushed the backbone of the Japanese Imperial Navy, including any capability it might have had to invade our Pacific Coast. Yet, the AJAs (Americans of Japanese ancestry) and their parents were moved about and kept confined behind barbed-wire fences.

MR. MCCLOY APPEARED before the

Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) at the Washington, D.C. hearings in 1981. When he heard the word "incarcerated" as applied to the AJAs and their Issei parents, his *gravitas* impelled him to angrily object to the use of the term. (In the biography which is the subject of the book review, he is reported to have written in 1942: "I wonder if anyone realizes the skill, speed and humanity with which the evacuation of the Japanese has been handled by the Army on the West Coast?") After all, one of the elements of *gravitas* is "honest appraisal."

THE COMPASS BEARING by which Mr. McCloy viewed Americans of Japanese ancestry and by which he was moved, is exposed in a revealing comment he is reported to have made after the CWRIC hearings. After reportedly characterizing the hearings as a "disgrace" he is quoted as condemning the redress effort as follows: "Money, money, money. Why don't they dun the Japanese government? We

See EAST WIND/page 9

## Letters

Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. Please sign your letter but make sure we are able to read your name. Include mailing address and telephone number. You may fax letters to 213/626-8213 or mail them to Letters to the Editor, Pacific Citizen, 701 E. 3rd St., Ste. 201, Los Angeles, CA, 90013.

## RIP: Kanemitsu

I was sorry to read (May 22 P.C.) Matsumi Kanemitsu passed away. Before he enlisted into the army, Matsumi and I worked together for about two years in McGill, Nev., on the track gang for Kennecott Copper of Nevada. Being an artist, he drew many pictures of the fellow workers and acquaintances. We knew then Matsumi had great talent.

Hideo Iwamoto

Salt Lake City, Utah

## Time for sincere apology by JACL, he says

Regarding the *Japan Times* Weekly International Edition (June 8-14) article headlined "Japanese-American backs reparations, Time for Tokyo to face up to its past and deal with it," Cressey Nakagawa, national president of the Japanese American Citizens League, addressed members of the Diet and [reportedly] said that Japan should face up to its past (Nanking massacre, Korean "comfort women," etc.) and deal with it.

Here are some quotes made by the Nakagawa:

"Other nations have, in effect, met their responsibility by facing up to their past and dealing with it." ... But here you have a major economic power that still persists in denying these things occurred ... With Japan as rich as it is, why don't the Japanese do the right thing?"

Cressey Nakagawa is a hypocrite! He has no business asking anyone to apologize when he and the JACL can't even apologize for their shameful treatment of the courageous Heart Mountain draft resisters, the No-No Boys, and anyone else who dared to speak or act against the some of the ridiculous policies of the JACL. To me, Cressey Nakagawa and the JACL's inability to apologize is just plain sad. A simple, sincere apology would go a long way to get more Japanese Americans behind the JACL.

Dick Obayashi

Los Angeles

## WWII Nisei veterans monument appeal

This appeal to the mayor and city council of Los Angeles is shared to open the way as planned the erection of the Nisei WWII veterans monument to preserve in this historical structure a most instructive chapter in the annals of American history.

The Nisei WWII veterans were aware of the fact that soon after Dec. 7, 1941, they were classified in the draft system as "enemy aliens" (4-C). However, they volunteered, went to war and fought valiantly in "Go for Broke" fashion. Thousands of them were maimed or killed. Under the most adverse circumstances, they established a brilliant war record that no other group in WWII could match.

The mentality of those Japanese Americans fiercely opposing the erection of the 100th/442nd MIS monument echoes the deep-rooted conviction of three main groups: (1) Those who threw rocks at the Nisei veterans volunteering from behind the barbed wire of concentration camps, (2) those who wished to refrain from fighting against the country of their parents, but would have enlisted for service in the Korean War, or (3) those who resisted the draft because their basic constitutional rights were totally violated. The opposition by these groups should not be supported by the Mayor or the City Council.

James Oda

WWII veteran not connected with the 100th/442nd MIS Monument Committee Northridge, Calif.

Editor's note: For the past 15 years, Mr. Oda and his wife Dr. Mary have been continuing their Eugene Oda Memorial Scholarships, now consisting of four \$1,000 awards through the San Fernando Valley JACL and one \$500 award through Riverside JACL.

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## Guest editorial

## The role of the JACL president

Earlier this year, JACL President Cressey Nakagawa was invited to Japan to speak before the U.S.-Japan Parliamentarians League, many members of which belong to the Japanese Diet. In addition to his speech, Nakagawa was also interviewed by the *Japan Times*, the text of which appears below. Some members of the Japan Chapter, JACL, expressed serious concerns and doubts about Nakagawa's role in speaking before that group and the comments he made in the article. Was he speaking as president of JACL? If so, were his comments discussed and approved at the national level? Why didn't he communicate and meet with the local Japan Chapter to discuss the speech and article? And why did he make comments on such sensitive issues as "comfort women"?

Since this situation has become a topic of controversy, *Pacific Citizen* has provided editorial space for Nakagawa to answer these and other questions in detail. We will offer similar opportunity to interested readers to respond to these comments.

Wednesday, May 27, 1992, article reprinted with permission of the *Japan Times*...

## Japanese-American backs Asia reparations

By Joy M. Tadaki  
Japan Times staff writer

Japan should not "bury its head like an ostrich" but instead clean up its past and recognize the need for reparations, particularly to other Asian nations, said a visiting leader of a Japanese American organization.

Cressey Nakagawa, national president of the Japanese American Citizens League, visited Tokyo last week to address the U.S.-Japan Parliamentarians League, consisting of about 400 Diet members.

In an interview, Nakagawa said Japan must disclose its records on and address such issues as the Nanjing Massacre; the "comfort women" case, in which women were forced to serve in brothels in Japanese-occupied parts of Asia; and the emotional debate surrounding the Pearl Harbor attack.

Other nations have, in effect, met their responsibility by recognizing their past and dealing with it, Nakagawa said, citing World War II redress by the United States, Canada, and even the former Soviet Union and West Germany.

"But here you have a major economic power in the world that still persists to deny that these things occurred," he said, "and only until (Japan is) forced to do it, does (it) finally concede."

### Do the right thing

The argument is being made that "with Japan as rich as it is, why don't (the Japanese) do the right thing?" Nakagawa said.

But he recognized that even if Japan officially apologizes, as Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa did to South Korea in January, lack of coverage in the U.S. would fail to "clear the air."

"Part of the problem in the American mind," Nakagawa said, "is that there is the impression embedded there that Japanese are racist, Japanese are different and ought to be treated differently and therefore are always viewed as being 'foreign'."

Nakagawa said he fears such a U.S. perception may manifest itself in a form of Japan-bashing, justifying statements such as "Japan is a racist country, so why should we (Americans) be worried about exhibiting a little bit of racism?"

But he also attributed the current bilateral friction to disparities in the economic situation, saying such perceptions will linger despite impressions of a recovering U.S. economy and a declining Japanese one.

Race-related crimes against the Japanese American community have been rising, Nakagawa said, although Asian American hesitation to report problems has led to an inaccurate reflection of their extent.

He attributed the root of such crimes to a combination of envy, Japan-bashing, stereotyping, and residual hatred that has lingered from World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Although such hate crimes appear to have subsided, "if you think that Japan-bashing has gone away and won't (return) again, the answer is no," it will," Nakagawa said.

The U.S. will continue to see more "less than complimentary" books and articles depicting Japan's economic might, which serve to "concretize" misperceptions, he added.

The average American does not understand the details of economic friction and technical trade disputes plaguing the bilateral relationship, Nakagawa said.

"What relates and has an impact on him is whether or not there are jobs lost, whether or not there is a recession created and whether or not cutbacks are expected," he said.

### Sensitivity fostered

Although the league does not have a long-term plan of action, it focuses on promoting sensitivity and dispelling misperceptions in the political arena.

Nakagawa said he particularly hopes to counter radio hate talk, a "breeding ground" for misinformation, through forums like TV talk shows.

"We will continue to be actively involved where we think race has become an issue in relation to Japan-bashing," Nakagawa said, adding that the league will promote prejudice-reduction programs and "go after anything that smacks of racism."

His presentation to Diet members last week focused on minority problems in the U.S., particularly as spotlighted by the recent Los Angeles riots after then-governor's verdict on police officers involved in the Rodney King beating.

The situation should be seen as an indicator of inner-city poverty, frustration, resentment and envy and should be placed in a larger context to avoid being dismissed as merely a race riot, he said.

## Response to Alleged Controversy

By CRESSEY NAKAGAWA  
JACL national president

I welcome this opportunity to respond to the concerns expressed by some members of the Japan Chapter which became the foundation for an article in the *Pacific Citizen* of June 19, 1992 entitled: "Controversy hits JACL President's Japan trip." The so-called "controversy" arises out of an interview which I gave to the *Japan Times* while I was in Tokyo for a speaking engagement. That interview with the alleged controversial remarks by me appeared in the May 27, 1992 edition of the *Japan Times*.

What was so controversial? According to some Japan Chapter members, the headline of the *Japan Times* article, "Japanese American backs Asia reparations" was controversial. In addition, the fact that the interview disclosed my personal views was somehow controversial because I stated that "I recognize the need for (Asian) reparations, particularly to other Asian nations." And that "Japan must disclose its records on and address such issues as the Nanjing Massacre; the 'comfort women' case, in which women were forced to serve in military brothels in Japanese occupied parts of Asia;..."

The additional charges are that these alleged controversial remarks "are likely to engender needless antagonism," said one Japan Chapter member; and that such controversial statements "are a 'cavalier' manner towards U.S.-Japan relations, according to another member. Why? Apparently, because the *Japan Times* article failed to specifically state that these views expressed by me in the interview were personal and "unofficial" as distinguished from being "official" position statements by the National JACL.

In other words, so long as my remarks were clearly indicated to be personal and not "official" JACL statements, the controversial nature of my statements disappears. My personal views therefore cannot "engender needless antagonism" nor represent a "cavalier" manner towards U.S.-Japan relations.

As I clearly stated in the *Pacific Citizen* article of June 19th, my comments in Japan were my personal views. However, because the *Japan Times* article did not make this point clear, I take this opportunity to share with our JACL members the facts as to my speaking engagement in Japan before members of the Diet, the interview with the *Japan Times*, the existing organizational policies which clearly support my personal views expressed in Japan and the merits of my views on Asian reparations as I expressed them in Japan.

### U.S.-Japan Parliamentarians League

Earlier this year I received an invitation from Senator Ichiji Ishii, a member of the House of Councillors, to speak to his Diet colleagues about minority problems in the United States. I had met the Senator on past occasions in the United States and in Japan. Because of our previous discussions about civil rights and minority concerns in America, he invited me to speak privately to his Diet colleagues on my next trip to Japan. Shortly before my scheduled departure for Japan on May 15th, the Los Angeles riots occurred. Senator Ishii requested that I modify my remarks to describe the racial problems in the United States and to express my views on the implications of the Los Angeles riots.

My host assured me that a frank assessment and discussion about the subject matter was desirable, especially any implications that could affect the U.S.-Japan relationship. Thus, in speaking to the U.S.-Japan Parliamentarians League, I reviewed the Los Angeles riots from the African American, Hispanic and Asian American perspectives, especially the Korean American concerns. I praised Japanese companies in the Los Angeles area for providing financial aid even though such companies had a right to get paid back for the damage done by the rioters. I also praised the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission to rescind a contract with a Japanese company to build a rail car system. I further praised Japanese politicians for not issuing statements about America's problems being caused by ethnic diversity.

With respect to the implications of the Los Angeles riots on U.S.-Japan relations, I made three observations:

The first implication was that if America begins to accelerate its efforts to truly address the problems of the inner city and the economic underclass issues, Americans will turn over more inward with a mood to turn isolationist in an effort to rebuild our economic and social infrastructure. Such an American mood favoring isolationism will increase the pressure on Japan to solve the U.S.-Japan trade imbalance problem as well as for Japan to assume greater financial responsibility for its maintenance of military security in the Pacific areas. This can only exacerbate tensions between the U.S. and Japan; tensions that we have experienced over the past 30 years.

The second implication was that if the Los Angeles riots evidence the anger of Americans who are poor, there are other Americans who are equally frustrated and angry about the lack of political leadership in America to deal with America's economic and social problems. Thus, the stage has been set for the emergence of an independent presidential candidate, Ross Perot, who has promised to get tough with Japan. Trade protectionism looms ever larger as the political debates over U.S. policy towards Japan and trade issues get heated.

The third implication arises out of the fact that the immigrant Korean community in Los Angeles discovered that they must find and exercise their "political voice" in America so that their concerns and problems will be addressed. I pointed out that as more Asian immigrants come to the United States, they bring with them the historic concerns of their people and the memories of the interaction of their country of origin with Japan. Naturally, those Koreans, Chinese and other Asians who are disturbed about Japan's military past, its colonialism and its military history, and actions in Asia will voice their concerns about Japan in America in a very visible way. This is happening today in America if you follow the news. If the historic revelations about Asian women being enslaved as "comfort women" by the Japanese military during World War II is not quickly resolved in the context of Asian reparations or otherwise, a prolonged debate in the United States over these human rights concerns raised by the Asian American community and the failure or unwillingness of Japan to deal with them can negatively impact the image of Japan

and the perception about the Japanese people by average Americans. I therefore urged that Japan resolve these issues quickly.

### Interview with Japan Times

In the interview with the *Japan Times* I outlined to the reporter the substance of my remarks on racial problems in the United States. The interview was not an excerpt of the text of my actual remarks. In responding to specific questions posed by the reporter on my personal views as to the issue of "comfort women," I explained the background on the issue as I have studied the matter. The issue of Asian reparations was only a part of a larger discussion about the Los Angeles riots, anti-Asian sentiment and other issues. As I shall explain hereinafter, my personal conclusion and views that Asian reparations are needed are not controversial as they have been made to appear.

### Asian Reparations, Comfort Women

Reparations represents postwar payments to a victorious nation by a defeated nation for economic losses, damages to property and other claims. In the case of Japan, a series of treaties after World War II settled all such wartime claims against Japan except for North Korea. Japan is now in the diplomatic processes of attempting to normalize its relations with North Korea. The reality is that Japan understands that some reparations for wartime claims will be needed to conclude an agreement with North Korea. The only question is how much and when, given the fact that the principal issue of concern in the pending negotiations involves the nuclear threat posed by North Korea.

Thus, my view that Asian reparations is needed is hardly controversial. Even though South Korea and China have recently attempted to reopen negotiations for additional reparations for Japan's past colonialism, the position of Japan has been that the 1965 treaty with South Korea and the 1972 Peace and Friendship Agreement with the People's Republic of China concluded all such negotiations. My remarks supporting Asian reparations did not address the new issue of reparations for the victims of the war.

My concern about Asian reparations or compensation was directed towards the "comfort women" issue as a human rights matter. In December, 1991, a Japanese historian and researcher, Yoshiaki Yoshimi, uncovered documents in the Self Defense Agency's library in Tokyo which revealed, for the first time, that the Japanese government was directly involved in the establishment of "comfort stations," for its military during World War II. This was an organized prostitution system for the Imperial Army of Japan. Earlier allegations of government involvement in the establishment of such "comfort stations" were heatedly denied. Euphemistically called "comfort women," the Japanese government had taken the position that such women were recruited by private entrepreneurs, not the government. Forced to face contrary evidence in January, 1992, the Japanese government extended an apology to the South Korean government and promised to conduct a thorough investigation into the facts.

Between January and May, 1992, old soldiers stepped forward to disclose that primary school girls of Korea, China and Taiwan were forcibly abducted and used as "comfort women." The estimated numbers of women thus abducted or "recruited" ranged from 100,000 to 200,000. In addition, lawsuits for compensation on behalf of the Korean women were filed in the U.S. District Court in Los Angeles.

The *Yomiuri Shimbun* of May 16, 1992 finally editorially pressured the Japanese government to humbly respond to the "comfort women" issue. This leading newspaper with the largest circulation in Japan correctly pointed out that Japan must not rest upon a legal argument that the 1965 treaty with South Korea resolved wartime claims, including the claims of "comfort women." The editorial urges the Japanese government to drop "legalisms" and consider other steps to resolve this issue. Here is a quote from that article:

"But the government and also all the people of Japan must realize that a merely official or legal disposal of the reality of this heartbreaking history would cause truly big problems."

It seems natural to maintain the position that the issue has already been legally resolved. But based on the results of its investigations, Japan should consider what other steps can be necessary to express our apologies and feelings of remorse to the victims."

Another editorial voice of concern and support for the resolution of the reparations or compensation issue for South Korean women, victims appeared in the International Edition of the *Japan Times* (Jan. 27-Feb. 2, 1992). In commenting Prime Minister Miyazawa for his apology to the South Korean government for the "immoral and inhuman wartime conduct against Korean females," the editorial stated:

"Mr. Miyazawa did the right thing. But settlement of this issue will require much more than a simple expression of apology. Anything short of a satisfactory and satisfactory compensation to the Korean women forced to suffer so will further open up rather than heal the historical wounds. Mr. Miyazawa promised Mr. Roh and the South Koreans that his government will do its best to look into this past Japanese misdeed and to take the necessary measures. Japan now must fulfill the prime minister's promise to the letter." (emphasis added)

Any controversy in Japan over the "comfort women" issue has been caused by the Japanese government.

In the first place, Japan has deliberately avoided educating young Japanese about the country's wartime history. As a result, the response by the Japanese media and the reaction by the average Japanese has been that of viewing the "comfort women" issue as one of scandalous government conduct, curiosity and dismay as to what information had not previously been disclosed rather than acts of public outrage and civil disobedience as to what the court could rule on the legal question as to whether such "comfort women" claims are barred by the waiver of all other wartime claims set forth in the 1965 treaty with Korea.

I have read most, if not all, of the treaties executed by Japan to other Asian countries after World War II and those which normalized relations with old Asian countries. It is clear that the settlement on such wartime claims was either reached by way of payment of reparations or waived by certain countries. In the case of South Korea, Asian countries.













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