



Photo: JEM LEW

PANELISTS—Participants at the recent Asian Pacific Leadership conference in Los Angeles were, from left, bottom row, Norman Mineta, Judy Chu and Tony Lam. In top row, from left, are Nao Takasugi, Peter Fajardo and Jay Kim.

Asian Americans still lack clout, says panel

By GWEN MURANAKA
Assistant editor

LOS ANGELES—Underlying the accolades and civilities at the roundtable discussion, Asian Pacific American Leadership and Perspectives in American Politics Feb. 11 was a tone of frustration at the lack of true influence of Asian Pacific Americans in mainstream politics.

"We've got to raise the discussion where people are not going to ignore our problems any longer," said Angela Oh, president of the Korean American Bar Association and spokeswoman for the Korean American community during the L.A. riots.

Noting the tension in L.A. over the upcoming Rodney King and Reginald Denney trials, Oh said, "This thing called racism and bigotry has to be dealt with. The Korean American community is not going to continue to be pushed and pushed and pushed while their brethren are being killed."

Participants in the panel discussion

See PANEL page 2



KIM

'Nannygate' victimizing immigrants, Asians say

Immigrant rights groups now contend the real victims are not the two high-profile women on President Clinton's list for attorney general but the millions of immigrants whose right to work has suddenly become suspect, according to a Feb. 10 Knight-Ridder Newspapers report.

"It's creating a wave of uncertainty," said Yvonne Lee, executive director of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance in San Francisco, in co-signing a letter with La Raza, the Washington, D.C.-based Latino civil rights group.

The letter was addressed to the president in wake of the nomination of Zoe Baird as attorney general, followed by consideration of Kimba Wood. The events, the authors say, have generated damaging "misinformation" and increased discrimination against those seen as "foreigners."

"Life just got tougher for Latinos and Asians," immigration policy analyst Cecilia Muñoz for La Raza added. She pointed out mainstream women's rights group have waited too long to realize the debate on child care, tax problems and gender bias may be linked to those of immigrants or people of "wrong skin color and wrong accents."

Bill Hing, director of the San Francisco Immigrant Legal Resource Center, said he has received reports of workers being laid off because of the furor over hiring of illegal aliens. (C)



Photojournalist Vincent T. Tajiri dies at 74

Vincent Takashige Tajiri of Van Nuys, Calif., died Feb. 7 of pulmonary disease. The Long Beach-born 442nd veteran and member of the San Fernando Chapter, JACL, is best known as a photojournalist, including work for *Playboy* magazine from 1956-73. He is survived by his wife Rose and three children, Brian, Kyrin Schleitwiler and Rea. Memorial service is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 28, at the Long Beach Museum of Art.

REMEMBERING VINCE: Editor emeritus Harry Honda recalls Tajiri's life. See *Very Truly Yours*/page 7.

Wrangling in Spokane

After racist remark, comes racial gesture

By GWEN MURANAKA
Assistant editor

Curiouser and curiouser. Instead of redressing an earlier racial slight to Asian Americans, a member of the Washington State Democratic party proceeded to commit another one. Betty Drumheller, state party vice chairwoman, at a meeting of the Spokane County Democratic Party's Affirmative Action Committee Feb. 11 bowed *gassho* style after Spokane Chapter, JACL, member Chris Marr refused to shake hands with her.

Drumheller had at an earlier meeting lectured Marr about engaging in "confrontation politics" stemming from the investigation of the alleged use of the word "chinks" by a party official at a Nov. 9 meeting of the Spokane County Democratic Central Committee.

Marr, characterizing the gesture as demeaning, said, "I can forgive her ignorance. She has never experienced racism, she

doesn't realize what a personal violation bigotry is."

Commenting on Drumheller's bowing, Marr said, "It was a subservient, mocking gesture. Edward Thomas Jr. (chair of the Affirmative Action Committee), who is African American, asked Drumheller what she would have done if he were a white man, and she said, 'I would have given him the middle finger.'"

Later at the same meeting, Drumheller offered an apology to the committee for her actions but not to the Asian Americans

present in the audience.

Speaking to *Pacific Citizen*, Drumheller said she had no comment at this time about her actions. "I am working within the party, within the rules of the party. Chris was not working from that area," said Drumheller.

Denny Yasuhara, chairman of the Spokane Chapter ad hoc committee on this issue, was one of reportedly seven chapter members in attendance at the meeting. Yasuhara said beyond the gesture itself was the fact that she refused to apologize. "She apologized to the committee but wouldn't apologize to the Asian Americans. It was arrogant... I thought to myself, man you put the last nail in your coffin. All she did was dig a hole for herself, not only herself, but the whole Democratic party," said Yasuhara.

"We really need to take them to the mat over this," said Yasuhara. "The real problem with the Spokane area is that it's very conservative."

—Denny Yasuhara

See RACIAL/page 5

Sentencing of Nikkei murderer postponed

The sentencing of Jeremy Brinkley, confessed burglar, rapist and murderer of 87-year-old Chiyoko Kono, has been postponed indefinitely. Originally scheduled for Feb. 19, the sentencing has been delayed because presiding Judge Gene Gomes is unavailable on that date.

The victim's grandson, Dr. Gary Kono of Berkeley, has requested the support of the community in the form of letters to Gomes urging the sentence of "life without possibility of parole." The JACL,

local churches and other organizations have responded with letters urging the judge to consider the rights of the victim's family and the impact that the sentence could have on the community as a whole.

Brinkley committed the crimes in 1990, when he was 16 years old. One month before he brutally raped and killed Chiyoko Kono, he burglarized and raped a 67-year-old woman. Fingerprints at the scenes of the crimes matched Brinkley's. The victims lived in

different senior citizens complexes in Selma, Calif., and both sets of crimes took place in the victims' homes.

The concern in the community is that, because of his age at the time of the crimes, Brinkley will be sentenced as a juvenile. This could result in a sentence that would allow parole within eight years. Letters may be sent to Judge Gene Gomes, Department 13, Fresno Superior Court, Fresno County Courthouse, 1100 Van Ness Ave., Fresno, CA, 93721. (C)



Photo: TOM MASAMORI

Mile-Hi installation

Pat Saiki, former congresswoman from Hawaii and head of the Small Business Administration under President Bush, was the principal speaker at the recent installation dinner of the Mile-Hi Chapter, JACL. The new chapter reflects a growing youth movement. From left, standing, are Bob Horiuchi, legislation and redress; Barry Kita, secretary; Leonard Nobuta, treasurer; Sumi Takano, hospitality; Stuart Hirdi, vice president; and Andy Hamano, scholarship. From left, seated, are Kyoto Futa, singles; Saiki; Tom Migaki, president; Ruth Yamauchi, membership; and Tanya Shiflett, youth. Not pictured is Linda Hamada, legal advisor. In her final appearance as SBA administrator, Saiki told the audience that she was interested in helping Japanese Americans and other Asian Americans get more involved in politics, especially after seeing the restrictions imposed on those who lost their businesses in the Los Angeles riots.

—Tom Masamori

MORE CHAPTER INSTALLATIONS: See All Aboard/page 4

No. 2,698

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Calendar

Massachusetts Cambridge

Thurs.-Sat., Feb. 25-27—Dance Umbrella presents dance/theatre artist Yukie Shiroma and June Watanabe in Company, Emerson Majestic Theatre. Tickets: \$18, \$14, and \$10. Ticketpro, 617/492-7578.

Wisconsin La Crosse

Thurs.-Sat., March 25-27—University of Wisconsin-La Crosse sponsors the conference, "Asian Americans: probing the past, living the present, shaping the future." Registration and information: Penny Tiedt, Continuing Education and Extension, 227 Main Hall, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, La Crosse, WI 54601; 608/785-6503.

Illinois Chicago

Fri.-Sun., Sept. 3-5—Sixth National JACL Singles Convention, Chicago Marriott Hotel, 540 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

Oregon Portland

Sunday, Feb. 28—Epworth United Methodist Church's 100th anniversary banquet. Red Lion Lloyd Center, 530 p.m. Public invited. Information: Rev. Gary Oba, 503/232-5253.

Ontario

Saturday, March 6—Snake River Chapter, JACL, is hosting Casino Night, Rusty's in Ontario, 7 p.m. Games, prizes and food. Tickets: \$20. Information: Mike Iseri, 503/889-8691 or any board member.

Washington Seattle

Saturday, March 6—Blaine Memorial

United Methodist Church's annual sukiyaki dinner, 3001-24th Ave. S., 4 p.m. Tickets: \$6.50, adults; \$4.50, children. Information: 206/723-1536.

Sunday, March 7—First Hill Lions pancake breakfast, Kawabe Memorial House, 221 18th Ave. S., 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost: \$5, \$3, seniors. Benefits Kawabe House and Keiro Nursing Home. Information: Ted, 206/324-0862.

Monday, March 8—Tomo No Kai meeting, Keiro Nursing Home, 1601 E. Yesler Way, 7 p.m. Speaker: Greta Hoshibata. Nikkei Concern's Kame Project. Widows and widowers invited. Information: Kim, 206/324-0862.

Saturday, March 13—Nisei Vets' installation dinner/dance, Rainier Golf and Country Club, 1856 S. 112th St., 6 p.m. Dinner: prime rib or salmon. Cost: \$27.50. Mail checks and dinner choice to: Ben Sugawara, 8223 S. 123rd, Seattle 98178. Information: Ben, 206/772-4261.

Saturday, March 13—Monthly Nikkei community dance, Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S. King St., 8 p.m. BYOB, live band. Cost: \$3. Information: 206/772-1160.

California Sacramento

Thursday, Feb. 28—Florin Buddhist Church Dharma School's 10th annual crab feed. Florin Y.S.A. Hall, 7235 Pritchard Rd., 5 p.m. Cost: \$22. Dinner and dance. Information: 916/363-1831.

Saturday, March 6—Florin Chapter, JACL's 11th annual Time of Remembrance, Florin Buddhist Hall, 7235 Pritchard Rd., 7 p.m. Theme: Valor and sacrifice in defense of freedom. Speaker: Col. Tom Sakamoto (ret). Cost: \$8, adults; \$2, students; children under 12, free. Information: 916/685-6747.

San Jose

Thursday, Feb. 25—Yu-Ai Kai's trip to Anheuser Busch in Fairfield, leaving from Yu-Ai Kai office, 555 N. 5th St., 8:30 a.m. Cost: \$26 (\$23, Yu-Ai Kai seniors). Information: 408/294-2505.

Peninsula

Saturday, Feb. 27—Sequoia Chapter JACL's annual crab and spaghetti fundraiser, Palo Alto Buddhist Temple, 415/948-6575. JACL officers to be installed.

Saturday, March 13—The Northern California Japanese American Senior Centers' annual Shinenkai, Mountain View Buddhist Temple, 10 a.m. Crafts sale, luncheon and entertainment. Information: Yu-Ai Kai, 408/294-2505.

Livingston

Sat.-Sun., April 3-4—Katharine Stegner Odum, English-Social Studies teacher at the Amache internment camp, will be honored by friends and former students. Those interested in joining the reunion, please call or write to: Mae Taniguchi Kajika 209/634-5078; P.O. Box 97, Ballito, CA, 95303. Deadline: March 19.

Los Angeles

Thursday, Feb. 25—Japan America Society's "Friendship through Food," a social dinner, Shogun Restaurant, 25521 Muirlands Blvd., Mission Viejo, 6 p.m. Cost: \$15, JASSC members only. Information: 714/850-4335.

Thursday, Feb. 25—San Gabriel Nikkei Singles Group and the Sabers Basketball organization sponsor Kanajo USA's pre-Spring collection fashion fundraiser, East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, 11:10 a.m. Free. Information: Toshio Ito, 906/651-9676 or Joyce Miyabe, 818/912-3337.

Saturday, Feb. 27—Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California's New Year dinner, Holiday Inn, Torrance Gateway, 6 p.m. Tickets: \$22, chicken; \$32, prime rib. Keynote speaker: Tamiyo Tomita. Information and tickets: Iku Kiriya, 310/326-0608 or Sue Embrey, 213/662-5102.

Sunday, Feb. 28—Japanese American National Museum shows, "How to display your Girl's Day dolls," 369 E. First St., Los Angeles, 1 p.m. Speaker: Nancy Araki, co-author of "Matsuri: Festival-Japanese American celebrations and activities." Free with admission. Information: 213/625-0414.

San Diego

Sunday, Apr. 4—San Diego Chapter, JACL, and the Union of Pan Asian Communities (UPAC) host Steven Okazaki presenting his films, "Days of Waiting" and "Troubled Paradise," Lewis Junior High School Auditorium, 5170 Greenbrier Ave., San Diego, 2 p.m. Admission: \$10, \$7, students. Information: UPAC, 619/232-6454.

Installations

Detroit—Saturday, March 20, Hotel Baronne, 27790 Novi Rd., 5 p.m. Japanese banquet. Speaker: Ken Kashiwazawa, bureau chief, ABC news. Dinner: 10-piece bento box dinner. Cost: \$22, JACL members; \$25, non-members. Lodging: \$69 per night, reduced rate. Information: Mary Kamidai, 313/522-7917; Ernie Otani, 313/947-0106; or Toshi Shimoura, 313/356-3089.

Philadelphia—Saturday, March 27, Coastline Restaurant in Cherry Hill. Graduates will also be recognized.

Santa Barbara—Sunday, March 14, Montecito Country Club, 5 p.m.

Sequoia—Saturday, Feb. 27, Palo Alto Buddhist Temple, 5 p.m. Coincides with crab and spaghetti feed fundraiser. Information: Don Miyamoto, 408/738-4334 or Tats Hori, 415/948-6575.

PANEL

(Continued from page 1) cussion included, Rep. Norman Mineta, Rep. Jay Kim, Nao Takasugi, California state assemblyman; Peter Fajardo, mayor pro-tem, city of Carson; Judy Chu, city councilwoman, Monterey Park; and Tony Lam, city councilman, Westminster City. Karen Narasaki, Washington D.C. JACL representative served as moderator for the event sponsored by JACL, Korean American Coalition, Organization of Chinese Americans, Search to Involve Filipino Americans, United Cambodian Community, United Thai Council and Vietnamese Community of Orange County. The gathering was funded by a grant by Anheuser Busch Companies.

Democrat Mineta and Republican Kim traded some partisan

See PANEL/page 7



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Internees have right to know wartime records

By IKE HATCHIMONJI

During 1992, we observed the 50th Anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, which set in motion the internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II. And on the 51st anniversary of the event, former internees should know that the Freedom of Information Act provides them the right to know what records were kept on them while they were under the War Relocation Authority (WRA) jurisdiction. Individual personal case file records for WRA internees are available from the National Archives and Records Administration.

What most internees are likely to find includes:

Individuals Records: Date of entry/departure from the camp; family number, camp address; occupation; alien registration number; languages; employment; and other data.

• WRA Application for Leave Clearance: Names of parents and relatives; references; foreign investments and Questions 27 and 28 regarding willingness to serve in the U.S. military and the Oath of Allegiance to the U.S.

• Basic Family Face Sheet: List of family members; dates of birth, religion; names/addresses of relatives.

• Dispensary, hospital and dental records.

• School records including grades and certain papers.

• Employment including job titles and pay records.

• Leave records and authorizations.

• Property records.

• Official correspondence written and received.

To obtain these records for yourself or family members, living or deceased, write to:

Switland Reference Branch (NNRR)

National Archives and Records Administration

Washington, D.C. 20409

Attn: Mr. Greg Bradsher

To request copies of Individual Internee Case Files, the following information should be in the letter of the requester:

1) Name of requester or name of person making request for someone else (relative or deceased family member).

2) Date of birth (or approximate year of birth) of requester or relative.

3) Name of head of family while in camp.

4) Name of War Relocation Authority camp(s) in which individual was confined.

5) Address of requester.

When the request for records comes from someone other than the former internee, the former internee will be required to sign a statement authorizing this request. It could simply state, "I hereby give permission to requester to request an electrostatic copy of my War Relocation Authority case file." Then you sign it. When the former internee is deceased or incapable of signing such a statement, the requester must furnish a statement giving the reason why the statement could not be signed.

After the request is processed, the requester will be given a price for the copies by NNRR which is dependent upon the size of the individual file. The processing should take from two to three weeks and each copied page costs 25 cents. To have the copies made, pay the proper amount and return it to the Reference Branch (NNRR).

We are urging all former internees and their families to request copies of these records. Understandably, some will be reluctant, since it initially brings back unpleasant memories. But the amount of information that can come from such requests is surprising and it helps to answer the questions of future generations who wonder, "What was it like in camp?" Often, descendants of former internees learn new information about their relatives and even those who lived through the experience find the information revives old memories and helps to fill in blanks.

See INTERNEES/page 7

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ON the Agenda

By TAIHEI SHIMIN

SAN MATEO didn't just have an installation they had an event. Besides having State Sen. Quentin Kopp installing officers, including new President George Ikuta, the program featured the video, "A Personal Matter: Gordon Hirabayashi vs. the United States" ... On hand was Greg Marutani of the neighboring S.F. Chapter who talked about its educational value to all chapters ... Putting all this together were Karyl Matsumoto, Mary Jo Kubota, April Smith, Eileen Ikuta and Virginia Tanakatsubo ... While we're in the peninsula area, SEQUOIA is gearing up for its big annual Crab and Spaghetti Fest Saturday,

Feb. 27, at the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple gym ... Insiders tell us that this is not only a good feed but a good fund-raising cause ... Look for the installation of new officers President Mike Kaku and company ... Everyone's installing these days ... Up in SEATTLE, past President Joy St. Germain recently said goodbye and thanks as outgoing president and welcomed Kip Tokuda as the new chapter leader. Seattle is one of the most active and progressive chapters in the organization. Coming in March will be a promising series of workshops ranging from tax and financial planning, to media stereotyping, to interra-

See AGENDA/page 7

Personally speaking

Asian Law Caucus honors law firm

The Asian Law Caucus (ALC) of San Francisco will honor on March 6 the law firm of Minami, Lew, Tamaki & Lee for its ongoing work with the organization and on behalf of the Asian Pacific American community.

The law firm has been associated with the organization from its beginning, according to Paul Iwasaki, ALC executive director. Dale Minami was among the group of law students and

lawyers that began the organization and was the first staff attorney.

Partners Garrick Lew and Michael Lee also were among early ALC organizers. Don Tamaki was its executive director.

"They co-counsel on hate

crimes cases, volunteer at our immigration clinic, donate equipment, make large contributions and provide leadership for fund-raising projects," Iwasaki said. "They are a model for the proposition that working in the community's interest is not inconsistent with successful private lawyering."

The honor is a part of the Asian Law Caucus' 21st anniversary celebration. The event will be held at the Grand Hyatt on Union Square, San Francisco.

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mond
Secretary (corresponding): Kelly
See ABOARD/page 8

Ventura County Chapter installation

Hayashi: Let's 'redouble our efforts'

By HARRY HONDA
Editor emeritus

OXNARD, Calif. — "JACL
needs to redouble our efforts in
the race problem and keep push-
ing in the Asian American coalition
movement, voting, and national
politics." These points summa-
rized, in a briskly-paced 12-
minute speech, National Director
Dennis Hayashi's talk at the
Ventura County JACL installation
dinner Saturday (Feb. 3) at the
"Lobster Trap Restaurant. About
100 were present, including
JACLers from Santa Barbara
and San Fernando Valley.

Dr. Tsujio Kato, re-elected chap-
ter president, and his cabinet were
installed by Hayashi. Former na-
tional JACL president Harry
Kajihara introduced the main
speaker. Kato is an at-large can-
didate for the Oxnard city council
election March 2. Assemblyman



Photo: HARRY HONDA

A PAUSE AT the Ventura County JACL installation dinner finds (from
left) Sumi and Dr. Tsujio Kato and main speaker Dennis Hayashi, National
JACL director. Kato was re-elected chapter president.

Nao Takasugi also spoke of his
first days in office.

Special recognition was made
to Setsuko Umeda of Carriage

Square Florists for annually con-
tributing floral pieces at the chap-
ter installations since 1981. Chuck
Kuniyoshi was emcee. ☐

In the arts



Speaking up

Readings by Amerasian and Asian American women artists were performed Feb. 6 in Santa Monica, Calif.
The event, sponsored by the Amerasian League and the Southern California American Nikkei Chapter
(SCAN), JACL, was called "Matters of Color," an evening of reading focusing on Asian Pacific American
feminist experience through poetry, prose, drama, humor and song. Featured were, from left, bottom row,
Thelma Seto, reading "What Editing, Writing, and Sex Have in Common" and "The Boat Named 'Manifest
Destiny'"; Michele Benzaamin Masuda, reading "Taming of the Sword"; Mari Sunada, reading with Jude
Narita, "Black Dress"; and Velina Hasu Houston, reading "A Thief in Santa Monica," "Fists and Tears," and
"Green Tea Girl in Orange Pekoe Country." In center is Gail Uyehara, SCAN. In top row, from left, are
Narita, Linda Hara, SCAN; Sandra Mizumoto Posey, reading "Dropping Daddy"; Terry Takeda and Phyllis
Murakawa, SCAN; Sue Kunitomi Embrey, co-founder of the group; and Reiko Sakata, SCAN.

Small kid time

Gwen Muranaka



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Legacy Fund

A JACL for another generation

By GRAYCE UYEHARA
Chairwoman, Legacy Fund

"Kodomo No Tame Ni"—For the sake of the children—"was the theme of the San Jose, JACL, Chapter's jubilant commemoration Feb. 6.

The highlight of the event was the keynote address by Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii). I had the good fortune to accompany Lillian Kimura, national president, to the gala celebration that attracted more than 600 people.

Because Inouye articulated a strong message that JACL should remain vital and strong, I expressed my appreciation for how he manages to press forward with ideas that support the organization.

He responded that he had read my recent article in the *Pacific Citizen*.

At that event, Inouye talked about the role of JACL. "For the past year or so, there have been many who have suggested that the time for JACL has come to an end," he said. "Redress is part of history. What used to be the driving force for JACL is no longer there. I'd like to suggest that *kodomo no tame ni* the JACL should remain vital and strong... It should serve as the repository and the institutional memory of Japanese Americans."

This comes from one of our foremost leaders who knows where we have been and what we are still facing in our nation.

Inouye recalled his personal family story and his wartime experience which included his visit to the Rohwer camp while training with the 442nd Central Postal Directory at Camp Shelby. (I must remember to tell him next time that I was in a group of young women who visited Camp Shelby from Rohwer.) He states that the idea of passing on the painful history of the Issei and Nisei is of continued importance to JACL.

He continued: "Racism is flourishing. We try our best to eradicate racism from this land of ours

... we who have been victims and, at times, villains. All of us have our stories of the pain of racism. Our children should know the same. *Kodomo no tame ni*—to make certain that the JACL continue."

The senator's message was powerful to me. It was an affirmation of the ongoing need to answer the question, "Why do we need JACL today?" By getting the text of his speech and publishing it whole in the *Pacific Citizen*, I had this notion that the often repeated question would be answered once and for all.

There were other indications that JACL may be getting more support from the membership and from others in the community. Wayne Tanda, dinner chairman, announced at the closing ceremony that the San Jose Chapter would be making a commemorative contribution to the JACL Legacy Fund. He said that though it seems uncertain that there will be anything left from the proceeds of the dinner, the chapter will still come through with a contribution as planned.

I also had an opportunity to reminisce about growing-up in Stockton with the three Inouye brothers, Tomoo and Tak and San Jose and Isami who was visiting from Virginia. Tak said Sen. Inouye's message in support of JACL was so strong, he was reminded to send in his contribution to the Legacy Fund. Will others at the event who have yet to contribute to the Legacy Fund, also respond now? I will now be beholden even more to the senator who was one of about a dozen individuals in Washington who were my pillar of strength.

When Inouye spoke of his grandfather, who started his journey to Hawaii in the 1890s and of the family's struggles, it brought to

mind another story of an Issei pioneer who died last Nov. 13 with a firm belief in the legacy of JACL.

Kikuno Yamanaka is listed in the Feb. 12 *Pacific Citizen* obituaries. She is among eight Issei who had passed their 90th year at the time of their death. This generation of Issei who came to America as early pioneers are just about gone from our midst. We will soon discover that one of our greatest cultural tragedy is the failure to gather sufficient firsthand oral history of their lives.

This nagging realization made me curious about Mrs. Yamanaka who died at 95 years leaving \$10,000 each to two organizations which meant most to her after what seems to have been a difficult life. I communicated with her son, Sam Yamanaka, who is a member of the Gilroy Chapter.

Mrs. Yamanaka, born in Mieken, Japan, on Feb. 10, 1897, came to the United States in 1917 to become the wife of Tayemon Yamanaka. Her first experience was to work as a housekeeper in Berkeley. After the birth of the first child, the couple decided to move to the country and started as farm workers around San Jose and Fremont.

Their next step was to share-crop tomato farming in the Fremont area. After moving a few times and with the arrival of more children, they took an opportunity to buy a 10-acre farm in the early thirties. Deciding that the nomadic life of sharecropping was hard on the children's education, they took on the struggle to put together the finances to buy the land while attempting to maintain the family's survival. With hard work, they managed.

In 1942, the family evacuated to the Tanforan Assembly Center followed by relocation to Topaz, Utah, for the remainder of the war. The family was able to return to the family farm in Fremont. The father had rented the ranch to a person he knew and trusted, but they never received any payments.

See LEGACY/page 7



UYEHARA

Kodomo no tame ni—to make certain that the JACL continue."

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Opinions



From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

Jimmie's words still ring true

A few months ago, at the suggestion of old-time JACLer Tak Kubota, the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* published a 50-year-old letter at the top of its opinion pages "as a matter of historical interest."

The letter was written by James Y. Sakamoto, then interned in the Minidoka WRA camp in Idaho. Sakamoto had been editor of the weekly *Japanese American Courier* in Seattle before the Evacuation, the second elected national president of JACL, and a frequently quoted spokesman for the Nisei community. The letter was addressed to President Roosevelt.

Specifically, the letter asked Roosevelt to oppose a bill passed by the House of Representatives which was designed to deprive Japanese Americans of their citizenship and intern them for the duration. But more than that, the letter was an eloquent profession of loyalty and protest against the injustice of the Evacuation.

Sakamoto said the bill would deprive 80,000 to 85,000 Japanese Americans of their birthright of American citizenship, striking "at the very core of our democratic institutions and at the immortal concept of human equality." Having made that point, the letter went on to say:

"The great evil of this measure is not its direct attempt to deprive us of our American heritage. It is the dangerous principle of race distinction that may someday divide race against race and class against class. The future of America and her way of life are the concern of all of us...."

"While we are a minority of minorities, we are no less American in spirit and loyalty than all others and the largest majority. It is heart-rending enough to be isolated from active participation in the American war effort, let alone being evacuated and shorn of our priceless heritage, ours by the grace of God and birth in this nation...."

"This is our land; no friend or foe can force us to disown no more than we can alter the fundamental truth of our birth on this soil...."

Sakamoto was committed to uncompromising, uncomplicated Americanism. He was a spell-binding orator, in Japanese as well as in English. In his writing he was inclined to be a bit flamboyant and verbose which is understandable since, without sight, he did not have the advantage of being able to edit his material word by word, a tedious process essential to good writing.

I had not known of this letter until Kubota

sent me a copy. Apparently, few others knew of it. Reading and re-reading it now, I believe its eloquence earns it a place alongside Mike Masaoka's widely circulated Japanese American creed as a profession of Americanism. I hope it will win such recognition.

There is one not unrelated footnote. I had understood that early in the war some congressmen were talking about stripping Japanese Americans of their citizenship, but was unaware that the House had passed such a measure. (After the U.S. had done its best to alienate Japanese Americans, Congress passed in the summer of 1944, and Roosevelt signed, a law enabling persons to renounce their citizenship in time of war by filing a written declaration. Not many did, and the vast majority of those who signed were allowed to change their minds after the war.)

Would someone with access to the records look up details of the law Sakamoto referred to and tell us what happened? ☐

Hosokawa is the former editorial page editor of the *Denver Post*. His column appears weekly in the *Pacific Citizen*.



East Wind

BILL MARUTANI

Aftermath

CHECKING BACK, I determined that February 19, 1942 fell on a Thursday. On the previous Friday, February 14, 1942, Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt, Commander of the Western Defense Command headquartered at the Presidio, San Francisco, issued his infamous and—as we were to discover decades later—"doctored" "Final Report: Japanese Evacuation from the West Coast: 1942." To justify uprooting an entire race of Americans and their resident parents, he engaged in diabolical contortions: first, compelled to acknowledge that his intended targets had not engaged in any acts of disloyalty, he then perverted that fact by concluding—"The very fact that no sabotage has taken place to date is disturbing and confirming indication that such action will be taken."

Each time I read that vicious dribble, I cannot comprehend how its inherent inconsistency was given currency. One would think that at least one of the nine justices of the Supreme Court would detect the unmistakable stench emanating from this "Final Report," which provided the crux for the government's case.

BUT NOTWITHSTANDING, on June

21, 1943, the Supreme Court solemnly handed down its decisions in *Hirabayashi* and *Yasui*, upholding the convictions of these two men who had demonstrated their beliefs that they were entitled to the protections of the U.S. Constitution. In upholding the criminal convictions of the two, there was not a single dissenting voice. Not even by Murphy, Rutledge or Douglas.

Incidentally, a lawyer with an unlikely address—Poston, Arizona—appeared on the briefs for both *Hirabayashi* and *Yasui*. The lawyer's name: Saburo Kido.

I'VE OFTEN WONDERED about Mitsuye Endo. Upon being rounded up from Sacramento and incarcerated, ultimately ending up in Tule Lake, Ms. Endo did the one thing that the government officials dreaded: she filed for a writ of *habeas corpus* seeking her release from camp. A *habeas corpus* hearing, by its nature seeking immediate relief from some arbitrary act, requires expeditious disposition; otherwise, a protracted delay destroys the very essence of the writ. The adage "Justice delayed is justice denied" applies with particular impact when this writ is involved. So what happened with Ms. Endo's quest

for relief?

MS. ENDO'S SUIT was filed in the Federal Court for Northern California in July 1943, denying Ms. Endo relief. By the following month she had filed her appeal to the 9th Circuit Court, which handed down its decision on December 18, 1944, finally upholding Ms. Endo's contention, thereby in effect declaring the camps unconstitutional. In the meantime Ms. Endo spent some two and one-half years of illegal confinement.

IT'S INTERESTING to note the "coincidence" of events. Anticipated decisions of a court are not to be released or leaked out in advance of public announcement. This rule applies, of course, no less to the Supreme Court of the United States. The day before the *Endo* decision was handed down, General DeWitt, displaying amazing perspicacity, issued Proclamation #21, rescinding his exclusion orders.

That was on December 17, 1944. ☐

After leaving the bench, Marutani resumed practicing law in Philadelphia. He writes regularly for the *Pacific Citizen*.



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, Calif. 90013.

Hates PC story on gays

I find irresponsible journalism to be inexcusable. My reference is to printing editorial opinion on the front page of the PC in the February 5, 1993, issue. Devoting two thirds of the front page to a pro-gays in the military opinion under the heading of Issues is biased and unfair journalism. You did not even have the decency to print an opposing opinion. I have an opposing opinion but am sure neither you nor the national office is interested in it. It appears that both have already been taken over by an ultra liberal mentality of the kind that led the Democratic party to disorganization and ruin in the '60s and '70s. My most sincere wish is that the same mentality does not lead the JACL into the wilderness the Democratic party stumbled around in for the 12 years of the Reagan and Bush presidencies.

For those who would question my motivation, let me point out that I was born in a war relocation camp, I have suffered the insult of racial epithets, and yes, I proudly served in the United States armed forces.

That has nothing to do with responsible exercise of editorial privilege. The only person able to express JACL policy in the PC are the national president or national director. However, to devote front page coverage with pictures and captions along with inflammatory rhetoric under the byline of an assistant editor is irresponsible. It deceptively and falsely conveys the unstated idea that this represents national policy.

A disclaimer by the national director buried on page 4 does not take away from the misconception created. It is, quite simply, deliberate deception. I'm sure you will once again print your standard disclaimer saying you only printed freely stated opinions under the banner of "Issues" and deny having any intent to state national opinion. Shame on the editorial staff of the PC, the readership deserves better.

I challenge the PC staff to give this letter equal, meaning front page, coverage to this opinion. I further challenge like minded individuals who resent the abuse of editorial power regardless of their political opinion to join with me in expressing their outrage over the abuse. It should be our newspaper and reflect objective news coverage, not the bully pulpit of a fringe element.

Gerald T. Horiuchi
Fresno, Calif.

Editor's note: Letters are printed on the opinion page in *Pacific Citizen* and most newspapers—and not on page 1. Horiuchi or others are welcome to offer a response for editorial consideration. Where it appears depends on the nature and content of the writing.

Likes Hosokawa's column...

In a recent column Bill Hosokawa (PC, Jan. 29, 1993) mentioned that a reader did not like Bill's articles about his children and grandchildren. I hope that Mr. Hosokawa will continue writing about his family. My wife and I both enjoy his columns, including those about his family because they are warm, interesting and reflective of many Nisei and their families in operation.

Tad Masaoka
San Mateo, Calif.

Doesn't like Hosokawa's column

Unlike "JACLer," I will sign my name to this letter, but like him/her, I believe that family anecdotes do not belong in a newspaper column. Rather, I believe a column should serve to educate, inform or entertain the reader. As "JACLer" suggests, many of us have had either the same or similar experiences as (Hosokawa's) family and while they are very meaningful and entertaining to the family involved and their friends, unless these experiences are extraordinary, I doubt that hearing about

Very truly yours

By HARRY K. HONDA

RIP: Vincent Takashige Tajiri
1918-1993

I Knew Him as 'Taya'

I knew him as "Taya" (which I had assumed was his Japanese name until the obituary notice appeared last week). His first sports column was signed Taya Tajiri.

He was in the process of writing a biography on "neesan (son #1)" Larry and was collecting anecdotes and memorabilia. He often said: "It's my way of getting to know him better." The working title was "The Vagaries of a Spectator: A Personal Overview of Larry Tajiri." Larry's personal column was called "Vagaries" from prewar years in the Nisei press and his daily column postwar as entertainment editor at the *Denver Post* was "Spectator."

When Larry ('38 L.A. Polytechnic High grad) was growing up as a teenager, Larry ('32 L.A. Poly grad) was often away from home, writing sports and editing the English sections at the *Kashu Mainichi* in Li' Tokyo and at *Nichi Bei* in Li' Osaka (as San Francisco was dubbed by Nisei editors in the 1930s). When the war broke, Larry was working in New York City.

Maybe, one of the Sansei generation Tajiris will complete the task of writing *The Tajiri Years*. As Togo Tanaka said of Vince the other day, "He fought racism wherever it reared its head, especially in the print media."

Vince also worked on the prewar English sections of the Japanese vernaculars, including a stint at the San Francisco *Nichibei* when the plant was hit by a disastrous fire and Vince had to scramble down some pipes from his third-floor room above the newspaper office. When Vince was drafted in early 1941, I took his place at the *Nichibei*.

The night of Pearl Harbor, Vince had finished with his company (18th Engineers at Camp Bonneville) on the firing range at Vancouver Barracks across the river from Portland and was then on guard at Portland air base. He served overseas with the 442nd, came back as a staff sergeant, got active with the Chicago Nisei Post and the Disabled American Veterans and studied photography under the Issei great, Harry Shigeta. Bill Hosokawa was "greatly surprised to learn Vince had gone into photography. He, like his brother Larry, was a talented writer and I'm sure Vince would have become a great one," in a comment made this way. "All of us envied Vince his job [as picture editor] with *Playboy* magazine."

Since moving back to Southern California, Vince published his first book, a Rudolph Valentino biography for Bantam in 1977 (one of the best written of any Hollywood great, according to people in this business), was editorial director for four books for T.W. Crowell on contemporary photography, and produced two exhibits (evidence of one is in Little Tokyo—the super-size photographs of National Park scenes—which face the elevators and decorate the walls within the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center).

Eight years ago he purchased a PC, personal computer, to work on stories. "I didn't know how free and voluminous the words would flow," he beamed in trying to urge me to do likewise. I got one three years ago.

One of his prize stories, "The Bird Pines," that involved a true incident of racism the Nisei on the West Coast had encountered in the '30s, won the \$1,000 James Clavell Award in 1986 and lastly, *Through Innocent Eyes*, the artful reprint of writings and sketches by Poston school children of 1942-43, is a classic. Taya, we haven't heard the last about you, yet.

RACIAL

(Continued from page 7)

vative. It's getting to the point where we need to involve some of the younger people." The Spokane Chapter board unanimously approved supporting Marr on this issue and is now working to increase awareness of the problem throughout the district and JACL chapters nationwide.

Marr said that the latest incident has brought to light the severity and breadth of the problem of bigotry within the local Democratic party. "It's good because it expands the issue. It makes you ask, what does it say about the whole party?"

Clarence Moriawaki, deputy communications director for Washington state Gov. Mike Lowry, said that while the governor is "extremely concerned" and has written a letter to Charles Rolland, chair of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee, urging that he investigate the problem, there is little that the governor can do.

"I don't know how it is in California, but the Democratic party organization (in Washington) is a private party organization. This is an internal party situation. In Washington, the governor is not head of the party," Moriawaki told *Pacific Citizen*.

Speaking for himself Moriawaki, who is a member of the Seattle

Chapter, said of the developments, "It's very discouraging. I just glanced at the calendar, just had to remind myself that this is 1993."

In the letter to Rolland, Lowry urged that the chair, "take whatever action you deem necessary to rectify the situation."

Lowry, who became governor Jan. 13, is known as a liberal and when he was congressman for the seventh district sponsored redress legislation.

Marr said it is time for elected officials such as Lowry to stand up and rectify the situation within the state Democratic party.

"In my opinion, it is important for the governor as an individual Democrat to say 'I think this is wrong.' If you work within and organization, for an organization, and especially if you are someone with power and authority, I think you have a responsibility to come forward," said Marr.

AGENDA

(Continued from page 3)

cial families, to... "You Are What You Eat"—Sure, I'll buy that... PC will publish more on this event later... All right, how about some ink for the **TWIN CITIES**... They had a scheduled Feb. 14 installation meeting in Minneapolis with our President Lillian Kimura as speaker. They have some sharp leaders who are active

in strengthening chapter events. New President David Hayashi is talking about such things as building coalitions with other ethnic organizations, becoming more involved in human and civil rights issues, increasing membership and working with youth...

Got a tip for Tai? Send tidbits to PC at 701 E. 3rd St., Ste. 201, Los Angeles, CA, 90013. Agenda is a roundup of organizational news that appears regularly in *Pacific Citizen*.

PANEL

(Continued from page 2)

barbs over the new administration. "I urge you to look at the whole situation," said Kim. "Did Clinton nominate Asians? No. He said he wanted a 'rainbow coalition,' how come there are no Asians?" Kim further suggested that Clinton is sending America in the wrong direction with tax and spend policies burdening the middle class.

Mineta, responding to Kim's criticisms, said, "We're three weeks into a new administration. I don't think three weeks into the Bush or Reagan administrations it would be any better. Let's look at the record. I for one can say that I did turn down a cabinet position (secretary of transportation)."

Other highlights included: ● Filipino American Fajardo said that Asian Pacific American officials have an obligation to serve not only their local area but the greater Asian Pacific community. "It is a great burden. I have to go out and speak out on issues that maybe don't affect my city, but I have to."

● Takasugi, relating his experience speaking before the '92 Republican National Convention, said, "Fifty years ago, we were behind barbed wire. As I spoke before the Republican National Convention I thought fifty years later how the whole thing has changed and turned around. In those fifty years what have we done to bring this around full circle?" (P)

INTERNEES

(Continued from page 3)

The Freedom of Information Act makes this information accessible. For additional information, contact the writer or the director of Community Outreach at the Japanese American National Museum. Former internees can visit the museum to obtain a one-page computer database printout of records released by the National Archives of their camp records. These records, however, are much less detailed than the Personal Case Files.

The Japanese American National Museum is located at 369 E. First Street, Los Angeles, CA, 90012. Museum hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and Saturday and Sunday; 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday. The museum is closed on Mondays, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Information: 213/625-0414.

Whereabouts

● Seeking whereabouts of Hiroshi Nakamura (pseudonym) of Salinas, Poston, Tule Lake and author of *Treadmill*. Contact Peter Suzuki, UNO, Omaha, NE, 68182.

● Seeking Japanese American woman interned with her family at Heart Mountain, Wyo. In childhood in San Francisco, she was known as Helen Kurasawa. Contact George Clayton, 1233 Loudon Lane, Imperial Beach, CA, 91932.

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LEGACY

(Continued from page 6)

In 1956 when the California State Highway Department bought the Yamanaka farm, the family moved to Gilroy. Mrs. Yamanaka helped with farm chores until her retirement at 65.

Reading the newspapers and Japanese Readers Digest and religious books along with gardening was her greatest enjoyment. She had flowers blooming year-round.

In 1977, the Issei couple celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary and Mr. Yamanaka passed away in 1980. Mrs. Yamanaka lived alone until she was diagnosed with cancer at 94; she died in November, 1992.

The son said that his mother did as much as she could to help the community. Even so, she felt it was not enough. Making a home for the children came first but when she received her redress payment, rather than to find other ways to spend the \$20,000, she decided the JAACL and the San Jose Buddhist Church could best use the money to help others attain a better life as she did.

Mrs. Yamanaka exemplifies "Kodomo No Tame Ni," and "Minna No Tame Ni" ("For everybody's benefit," the other phrase in the San Jose anniversary program.)

Because the Legacy Fund is an endowment, we hope that Mrs.

Yamanaka can now rest in peace knowing that the fund will be there for future generations to promote those programs which will benefit the welfare of our community and protect the civil rights which were denied us with Executive Order 9066.

LETTERS

(Continued from page 6)

them would be of much interest, significance or enlightenment to others. Thank you for listening.

Molly Ozaki
Chicago

Answering Marutani's query

I believe that I can clear up the mystery behind "Yamato" being written with the characters "dai" and "wa." In my varied kanji studies, I happened to come across the answer to your question several years ago.

According to current belief, "Yamato" was the name which the Japanese used for Nippon—an appellation which was in use even before the influx of Chinese characters and culture. Herein lies the source of the whole problem.

At the time, it was a Chinese custom to call their nation by a combination of the character, "da" (Nihongo: "dai"), and the dynasty

name. Hence, during the Tang dynasty, the Chinese called their empire, "Da-Tang," while during the Han dynasty, it was called "Da-Han."

According to Chinese mythology, there was an island to the east of China, which was a land of peace and eternal youth; hence, when the Chinese came into contact with the Japanese, they chose to use the character "hua" (Japanese: "wa"), meaning "Peace," to indicate the newcomers. In accordance with custom, the Chinese came to call Japan, "Da-Hua" (Japanese: "Dai-Wa"). Finally, when the Japanese began to use Chinese to write their own language, they kept the Chinese word for Japan, but applied their own pronunciation, "Yamato," to the word.

I hope that this suffices to "clear the stump" for you.

John M. Dykes
Boston, Mass.

ABOARD

(Continued from page 4)

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