



JACL tri-district conference



TAKING IT ALL IN—Ken Yokota, Sharon Kumagai and Joe Takano listen to audience input on latest version of National JACL reorganization report.

Timeline set for reorganization plan

WHERE IT'S BEEN: Discussed at Denver national convention, Aug. 4-8; Amended Sept. 15, 1992; sent out to members; notes to committee, Dec. 31, 1992; conference call, March, 1993. Approval by national board.

WHAT NOW: Final comments, April 2-4 tri-district conference, Costa Mesa, Calif.

WHAT NEXT: Draft final report by Sept. 15, 1993, to be sent back to chapters for final approval.

Revising reorganization

Members go another round on latest draft to change JACL structure

By RICHARD SUENAGA
Editor

COSTA MESA, Calif.—If it makes it, it should be called the re-re-re-re-organization plan for the Japanese American Citizens League.

Once again the plan to reorganize JACL was discussed for retooling and reconsideration at the tri-district conference in Costa Mesa, Calif., April 2-4.

Since its introduction in 1991, the proposal as originally conceived by the Select Committee on Organization Structure has gone through considerable debate and changes at the national convention in Denver in August of

1992, and at district and chapter levels. Input, objections, clarifications and discussions have been ongoing, particularly in Southern California where a group called the Phoenix Team arose with hammers and chisels to chip away at the document.

At the tri-district conference of the Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific, the Pacific Southwest, and the Central California Districts, members of the committee listened to more input.

Handling the discussion were Ken Yokota, ex-CCDC governor, Sharon Kumagai and Joe Takano, newly added members of the committee.

Reviewing the process, Yokota referred to a timeline. The amended report was sent out to districts on Sept. 15, 1992. By Dec. 31, 1992, notes to the committee were offered. In March of 1993 the national board approved that revision.

The tri-district conference in Costa Mesa, then, offered a final round for final comments. With these latest considerations, a draft would be sent back to the chapters for a final approval.

"Today, we want to discuss and give comments," Yokota said to the group at the final Sunday session of the tri-district conference.

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Fully automated program on membership coming

By HARRY K. HONDA
Editor emeritus

JACL headquarters' 1984 bid to automated membership renewals hopefully signals an upturn in overall membership, which has steadily declined over the past decade from 33,000 and stabilizing to the present 24,000. By the end of this June the system, which has been in pilot-test mode over the past biennium with about 17 selected chapters, will be accessible to all 110-plus chapters, announced Clay Harada, staff member in charge of membership. Alan Nishi, national vice-president for membership operations, opened the April 4 session of the tri-district workshop on membership recruitment, which featured



NISHI

See MEMBERSHIP/page 5

L.A. tensions still exist, says conference panel

By GWEN MURANAKA
Assistant editor

Racial tensions and economic decline—the elements that fueled last year's riots in Los Angeles—are still lingering problems a year later. For Asian Pacific Americans, especially the many Korean Americans who lost their businesses, the past year has seen very little in the way of real change or assistance.

"If there is an acquittal (in the Rodney King trial) there will be some violence," said Stewart Kwok, executive director, Asian Pacific American Legal Center, speaking at the recent Costa Mesa, Calif., tri-district conference workshop called "America's Viability and the Decline of Urban Areas." The only thing that seems to have changed is the police response.

Other participants included moderator Ron Wakabayashi, executive director, Los Angeles Human Relations Commission; Annie Cho, project

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Redress, education program get funding

No snips here in Clinton budget

Within the phonebook-sized budget package sent to Congress from the White House April 8 is funding to continue redress payments and to educate the public about the internment.

President Clinton's \$1.51 trillion federal budget proposal for fiscal year 1994 includes \$5 million for the public redress education fund established by the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 in addition to the \$100 million estimated as necessary to complete payment to individual redress recipients.

Congress established the public education fund to sponsor historical research and public educational activities to teach about the evacuation, relocation and internment of Japanese-Americans. Based on current Department of Justice estimates, there may be as much as \$40 to \$45 million authorized under the Civil Liberties Act for the public education fund after all the individual redress payments are made.

"We are pleased that President Clinton has reaffirmed his commitment to the redress program by allocating money to finance

the public education fund," said Dennis Hayashi, JACL national director.

We view this as just a starting point by which the program can get organized and off the ground."

The national director said that Clinton must also make the initial appointments to the nine-member board which is to manage the public education fund.

Karen Narasaki, JACL Washington, D.C. representative, added, "We must now turn our efforts to ensuring that the president's allocation stays intact as the budget package wends its way through the appropriation process in Congress. While \$5 million is a significant start, we will work to see that funding is increased after next year once the program is in full swing."

Fiscal year 1994, which begins October 1, 1993, should mark the final round of individual redress payments. To date, approximately 75,000 individuals have been paid. JACL urges all remaining eligible individuals to complete their paperwork now to ensure payment in October.

U.S. Commission on Civil Rights calls for better enforcement

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is asking the Clinton administration for a greater commitment to civil rights and equal opportunity laws, according to the commission's *Civil Rights Update*.

The commission believes that the existing civil rights and equal opportunity laws are not adequately enforced by the federal government.

The commissioners are in particular concerned about the plight of Haitian refugees and lack of action on the agency's

recommendations for federal fair housing enforcement—which the commissioners believe to be in a crisis situation.

"At every level of government, we hear that resources are not available to enforce the law," said Arthur Fletcher, commission chairman.

Gail Keller, managing editor of the commission newsletter, told *Pacific Citizen* that a letter has been sent to the president for a meeting but that at this point none has been scheduled.



HOKO YAMADA

playing a significant role in American society as their numbers continue to increase... as an economic force and as an integral part of this country's ethnic and cultural diversity."

Asian Pacific scholars and community leaders have written on a side of Asian Pacific America that is largely unknown, suggesting that policy makers must come to grips with the problem or risk having several generations of Asian Pacific locked out of the mainstream. The problem already exists with

See POLICY/page 2

Public policy must reflect growing Asian American population, experts say

With fewer numbers, Nikkei must speak loudly, clearly, says professor

Neil Gotanda, visiting professor of law at UCLA, speaking on the same public policy paper at the West Los Angeles Chapter, JACL, meeting March 8, noted the Japanese American voice "will be coming from fewer numbers and, if we are to be heard, the message must have importance and have something to contribute" to the nation as a whole and to the state of California.

Implications of the Asian population growth by 2020 also means a dramatic

shift in the make-up as some increases will be more than 600% over the number of Japanese, he pointed out.

Gotanda of the Western University School of Law faculty at Fullerton also urged an understanding of the differences between the early immigrants from Japan and recent immigrants from other Asian countries, and to impart the experiences gained to other Asian Pacific Americans.

—HARRY K. HONDA

Weighing the growth of the Asian Pacific American population tripling in the next three decades, the Asian Pacific American Public Policy Institute (APA-PPI) has examined in depth the implications and called for a comprehensive look ("new paradigms") in public policy to acknowledge the multicultural and diverse population group.

The Census Bureau has confirmed and projected the Asian Pacific American group to reach about 20.2 million by the year 2020. From 1970 to 1990, this population doubled each decade from 1.5 million in 1970 to 3.7 million in 1980 to 7.13 million in 1990.

"Simply stated, Asian Pacific Americans have become an important consideration because of their increasing size," noted Los Angeles-based LEAP president and executive director J.D. Hokoyama. "And they are

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Calendar

Washington, D.C.

Sunday, May 2—Washington, D.C. Chapter, JACL will be selling sushi at the Asian Pacific American Heritage Festival, Freedom Plaza, Washington D.C. Volunteers needed. Information: Lily Okura, 301/530-0945.

Pennsylvania Philadelphia

Friday, Apr. 23—Asian Americans United's 2nd annual banquet, Test Hang Chun Seafood Restaurant, 911-913 Race Street (Chinatown), 6 p.m. Cost: \$35, members; \$30, non-members. Information: AAU, 215/ 625-1538, 801 Arch St., Philadelphia, PA 19107.

Minneapolis Chicago

Fri.-Sun., Apr. 23-25—Chicago Chapter, JACL is hosting the spring Midwest district council meeting, Downtown Marriott, 540 N. Michigan Ave. Highlights include a chapter roundtable on membership, programming and fundraising and a reception Friday night. Registration: \$25. Information: Bill Yoshino, 312/728-7170.

POLICY

(Continued from page 1)

a large percentage of this group facing poverty, joblessness, under-employment, and lack access to needed social services.

Policy issues to the year 2020

Figured as a call to action for 1993, the LEAP/APA-PPI and UCLA Asian American Studies Center report is generally targeted to legislators, policy makers, foundation directors, corporate executives, community leaders and journalists.

At the Los Angeles roundtable Feb. 23 where the report was presented, project chief Dr. Don Nakaniishi, director, UCLA Asian American Studies Center, noted that the report makes several broad policy recommendations. He hoped specific proposals gleaned from the data would be used by respective groups for their own agenda.

Here are some of the highlights of the "State of Asian Pacific America" policy issues:

Population projections

Dr. Paul M. Ong of the UCLA Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning has projected in his report on population and immigration that:

(1) The Asian American population will increase from 7.3 million in 1990 to an estimated 20.2 million by the year 2020, comprised of nearly 30 major groups including—

1990 Census Distribution

1,645,472—Chinese (23%)
1,406,720—Filipino (19%)
(Number not listed) Southeast Asian (Vietnamese, Cambodian, Hmong, Laotian, Thai) (15%)
847,562—Japanese (12%)
(Number not listed) South Asian

See POLICY/page 7

Michigan Detroit

Sunday, May 2—Detroit Chapter, JACL, spring meeting, Oceania Restaurant, 24845 Ryan, Warren, mon. Den sum lunch and chapter photographic collection viewing. Cost: \$10, members; \$15, non-members. Information: Mary Kamid, 313/522-7917.

Washington Seattle

Fri.-Sun., Apr. 23-25—The 18th annual Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival, Seattle Center, Fri.-Sat., 9 a.m.—Sun., 10 a.m. Admission: free. Music, dance, martial arts and food. Information: 206/626-4140.

California San Francisco area

Sunday, Apr. 25—Kimochi's annual Spring meeting, Golden Gate Park, Polo Grounds parking lot, 9:30 a.m. 2 mile walk, refreshments afterwards and t-shirt. Cost: \$15. Information: Kimochi, 1840 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115.

Saturday, May 1—National Japanese American Historical Society's "American at Heart," 50th anniversary tribute to the 100/44/2nd, Schwartz Theater, Letterman Hospital, Presidio of San Francisco, 1 p.m. Actor Lane Nishikawa to perform. Free. Information: 415/431-5067.

Monday-Wednesday, May 3-5—San Mateo JACL Community Center's trip to Yosemite National Park. Cost: \$295, per person, includes 2 nights 3 days at Yosemite Lodge, lunches and tours.

Reunions

Army CIC Veterans—May 5-9, (WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Desert Storm) 10th National Reunion—Wyndham Paradise Valley Resort, Scottsdale, Ariz., Contact: Rod Huffine, P.O. Box 5214, Sun City West, AZ 85375, (602) 584-1353.

Excelsior High/Norwalk — July 16-17—Norwalk residents and Excelsior High students reunion, Buena Park Hotel, 7675 Crescent Ave. (adjacent to Knott's Berry Farm), Fri. - golf tournament, 9 a.m., Royal Vista (entries with George Yamasaki, 213/723-5533), SAT - luncheon 11:30-4 p.m. (call Lillian Nawa 310/921-7666; Stella Kishi 310/477-7205); for overnight rooms, call Pumi Saito (714/7158).

Minidoka Hunt High Alumni '43 & '44—July 23-25, Seattle Doubletree Suite with a Friday buffet reception, Puget Sound cruise on Sunday and the Saturday dinner dance, \$100 per person, includes photo-memory album. Individual event tickets are also available. Registration forms: Kimiye Kusunose, 11329-82nd Ave S, Seattle, WA 98178, (206) 772-4876.

MIS Honolulu Reunion of Sempai Gumi—July 7-10, Pagoda Hotel and Terrace, 1525 Rycroft St., Honolulu, HI 96814, nationwide reservation by June 7: (808) 367-6060. Almost 300 registrations received as of Feb. 7. Payment for package was due Feb. 13. Two-day (July 8: West Loch; July 9: Navy-Marine) golf tournament; Aloha banquet (\$20, teshouse party (\$25), reunion banquet (\$22), registration (\$15) and

Information and reservations: San Mateo JACL, 415/343-2793.

Fresno area

Sunday, April 25—Sanger Chapter, JACL, is holding its annual picnic at Avocado Lake, 11 a.m. Cost: \$5, per family, registration; plus \$2.50 per person for BBQ steak lunch. Information: Kichi Tange, 209/875-3124.

Los Angeles area

Through Saturday, Apr. 24—"50-500" Committee's 2nd annual spiritual prayer and unity run, Little Tokyo to Manzanar, sunrise Apr. 17. Starting at Maryknoll Catholic Church, 20015. Hewitt St., Little Tokyo and finishing at Manzanar, each runner will run half mile intervals. Information: 213/295-0687 or 213/581-2357.

Saturday, Apr. 24—Vietnamese Refugee Aid Committee's charity dinner, Furuta Seafood Restaurant, 13826-13828 Brookhurst St., Garden Grove, 7 p.m. Cost: \$40. Information: Phuong Ly, 310/42-0758 or Chao, 310/208-2204.

Sat.-Sun., Apr. 24-25—Torrance Sister City Association's "Bunka-Sai," Japanese cultural festival, Torrance Recreation Center, Torrance Cultural Arts Center, Torine Plaza and meeting hall, 11 a.m. Free. Information: 310/618-2930.

Sunday, Apr. 25—Marina Chapter, JACL, hosts a Sunday brunch, Warehouse Restaurant, 4499 Admiralty Way, Marina Del Rey. Information and RSVP: Alice, 310/324-0582.

Sunday, Apr. 25—West Los Angeles Chapter, JACL presents Health Fair Expo, Japanese Institute of Sawtelle, 2110 Cordis Ave., West L.A., 11 a.m. Exhibitors include: Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches, Information: Johnny Gushkin, 310/396-6986.

choice of tours (\$15 and \$20). Reimburse to MIS 50th Reunion, P.O. Box 3021, Honolulu, HI 96802.

MIS Washington, DC Reunion — Oct. 21-23, Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, Va.; THU - golf tournament, sightseeing, evening buffet mixer; FRI - morning ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, Congressional luncheon, reception at the Japanese Embassy; SAT - boat cruise with lunch, grand banquet. Information: Japanese American Veterans Association, P.O. Box 391, Vienna, VA 22183.

Poston III Christian Church — May 15-16, Calvary Presbyterian Church, 1239 S. Monroe, Stockton, Calif., SAT - 5 p.m. regis., 6:30 banquet, Rev. Lloyd Wake/Spencer, SUN - 9 a.m. worship, Information: Ozzie Lloyd, 630 Daisy Ave., Lodi, CA 95240, (209) 368-7469.

'Return to Topaz '83' Pilgrimage — May 29-30: SAT - regis., exhibit, dinner, Marriott Hotel, Salt Lake City (800/345-4754, mention Topaz for rooms, \$69 p/m up to 4); SUN - bus caravan to campsite, lunch & dinner at Delta, return to hotel. Information: Pumi Hayashi, 1629 Jayne St., Berkeley, CA 94703, (510) 524-1048. Registration package: \$74 by May 1.

Welcome Booklet—A limited supply of Poston I Reunion welcome booklets (\$15) are available if picked up by calling Nancy Matsuda (213) 723-3847 or 722-5121 for pick-up locations, Or send \$18 to Poston I Reunion Committee, c/o 1323 Masser Pl., Montebello, CA 90640.

Small kid time

Gwen Murakami



JACL tri-district conference workshop



PANEL—Discussing the subject of out-marriage at tri-district conference were, from left, Tony Osumi, Kathleen Agbayani, Susan Takahashi-Nadler, and Dennis Kim.

Asian Americans talk about pressures of outmarriage

By HARRY K. HONDA
Editor emeritus

COSTA MESA, Calif.—Asian Americans/JACLers present at the tri-district conference workshops at the Westin South Coast Plaza Hotel April 3 faced a panel who provided a forum for discussion on the subject of Japanese Americans dating and marrying outside the Nikkei community.

The session, "Meeting the Challenge of Intercultural Relationships," began with Dr. Diane Fujino of the UCLA department of psychology who laid down the foundations of intermarriage by presenting two tables provided by UCLA professor Harry Kitano—the first showing percentages of Japanese American outmarriages, based upon Los Angeles County seals between 1924 and 1972 (which also appears in his book, "Japanese Americans: The Evolution of a Subculture," p. 106) and the other the percentages of ethnic outmarriages of Japanese, Chinese and other Asian couples based upon a 1989 study of the Los Angeles County marriage license records.

The first table shows a gradual increase of Japanese outmarriage

in Los Angeles county from 2% in 1924-33; 12% in 1948; 23% in 1959; to 49% in 1972. The second table (below) shows a comparison of marrying in and out of ethnic groups.

Fujino also found that some Asian men on campus were "extremely angry" over Asian women outmarrying. As cultural heritage is difficult to retain and pass on, panelist Masayo Isono of the Western Region Asian Pacific Agency and a private practice social worker believed it was dependent upon how "we were raised." In the free discussion on interracial marriages after each panelist presented their remarks, Isono said Japanese Americans "are all affected today by outmarriages." Dennis Kim, a Korean American who works in the Justice Department employee, said his parents were strict about the choice of a bride, but that his fiancée (a non-Korean) was his "personal choice and not his parents'."

Confessing she had more identity problems over her married name, Susan Takahashi-Nadler, a Sansui with a Jewish husband, said the problems came "from my

side." She now includes her family name to quiet any misunderstanding about her ancestry.

The inter-religious pressures were recounted by two UCLA students: Kathleen Agbayani, raised by Roman Catholic Filipino parents in San Diego, and Tony Osumi, whose parents were of the baby-boomer generation, his father being of Japanese ancestry and his mother of the Jewish faith. His maternal grandmother stressed his Jewish heritage, Osumi noted, while growing up.

Dr. Mary Ann Takemoto, UC Irvine Counseling Center, served as moderator. The workshop sought to explore the reasons for the trends and challenges involved. "A lot of personal stories were related by the panelists," she noted, "to help understand the issues." One audience member observed more boxes will have to be included on the next Census form for inter-ethnic and multi-racial individuals. Bebe Toehiko Reschke of Los Angeles asked whether there were any statistics on the "preservation of marriages" among the mixed vs. the non-mixed. No one knew.

Asian American Relationships—1989

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
Chinese				
Female	39	61	12.8	26.0
Male	27	73	16.5	10.9
Japanese				
Female	54	45	06.8	48
Male	46	54	14.0	32.0
Asians				
Female	36	61.2	07.6	28
Male	24	74.4	09.2	14.0

Table shows: (a) outmarriages as compared to (b) intra-ethnic marriages. Columns (c), inter-ethnic marriages, and (d), interracial marriage, are breakdowns of column (a).

Conferences, meetings set

▼ The Chicago Chapter, JACL, hosts spring Midwest District Council meeting, April 23-25, downtown Marriott, 540 North Michigan Ave., Chicago. Events: chapter roundtable on membership, programming, and fund-raising. Reception: Friday evening, April 23. Registration: \$25. Contact Bill Yoshino, Midwest regional director, 312/728-7170.

▼ The Mountain Plains District Council meeting, April 31-May 1, at the Rivercenter Marriott Hotel, San Antonio, Texas.

▼ The JACL tri-district conference for the Mountain Plains, Eastern and Midwest Districts will be held Aug. 18-22, at the Cleveland Sheraton Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio.

Theme for the event is "The Real World of Asian Americans." Topics include "Asian American Retirees," "Young Adults," "Women in the Workplace," "Multicultural Education," "Membership Development," and "Training of New Leaders."

Participating will be Lillian Kimura, JACL national president, Dennis Hayashi, national director, Rene Natividad, president, Natividad & Associates, and several members of the national JACL board.

Registration: \$90.
Information: Hank Tanaka, 2192 Grandview Ave., Cleveland Heights, Ohio, 44106; 216/220-2491.

▼ "Strength in Diversity: The Evolving Asian American Presence," Tri-state leadership conference, sponsored by the Asian American Federation of New York (AAFNY), 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday, May 26, New York Hilton and Towers Sutton Complex, 1335 Avenue of the Americas at 53rd St., New York City. Participants include Lillian Kimura, JACL national president, and Setsuko Matsunaga Nishi, AAFNY president and JACL member.

Registration: \$40. Information: 212/725-3840.

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JACL tri-district workshop



PANELISTS—Participating in a discussion of Asian Americans in politics were, from left, Joe Allman, Arizona Chapter, JACL; Lillian Morizono, Las Vegas Chapter, JACL; Jill Nishi, Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley public policy aide; John Chiang, U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) aide; and Dennis Hayashi, JACL national director.

Panel gives tips on getting involved in political process

By RICHARD SUENAGA

Editor
In the picture-perfect photograph of American politics, more Asian faces would be seen. But it isn't so.

Even with a new president and administration calling for that photo to be taken, not enough Asian Americans are showing up for the shooting session.

They're just not in the game. It's in politics, mostly. But it applies at all levels—getting involved as individuals or groups—including Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) chapters.

Discussing that subject was a panel of individuals who have experience in the political process. They were asked to share their experiences with members attending the April 2-4 JACL tri-district conference in Costa Mesa, Calif.

The workshop session, titled "Asian and Pacific Islander Faces in American Politics," featured Joe Allman, president of the Arizona Chapter, JACL; Lillian Morizono of the Las Vegas Chapter, JACL; Jill Nishi, public policy aide to Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley; John Chiang, aide to Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.); Dennis Hayashi, JACL national director; and Ron Wong, field representative for the American Civil Liberties Union and panel moderator.

Wong led off by stating what has now become nearly painfully obvious: that the number of Asian Americans in politics is very low. With a 10 percent population in California, Asian Americans are pitifully under-represented, he said.

"How do we get more Asian Americans in politics?" Wong asked the panel.

Allman, citing his chapter's work in the Thai murders near Phoenix over the past year, said that members must work with key people in politics, education and on the local level. "Volunteer to do political work and get known by people," he said.

Morizono said that the Las Vegas Chapter has a small Japanese American community, "but we make ourselves felt. We didn't know anything about politics, but Min Yasui spoke to us and inspired us." That started the chapter to influence Nevada senators and congressmen to vote for redress, she said.

Nishi, who has been an L.A. mayor's aide for two years, urged members to gain access to politicians through their staff people.

Chiang talked about building a committee framework to become a part of the political process.

Hayashi advised the audience to become more committed, "interested and sophisticated in the political arena."

Turning to the voting issue, Wong pointed out that only 30

percent of registered Asian Americans voted in the last California election.

"Why don't Asian Americans vote?" he asked the panel.

Allman said he believed that too many of them feel they don't count or could make a difference. "We've got to get them interested in issues," he said.

Morizono said that her chapter gets involved in political fund-raising. "It's getting (Asian Americans) interested. To be interested, you get involved in fund-raising. When you work hard for a candidate, you feel inspired to vote."

She added that her chapter created a program to not only register voters but to provide transportation to polling places.

Nishi answered the question by pointing to the fact that most people are concerned with their basic personal needs and that the focus and a corresponding lack of information leads to apathy.

Chiang agreed and added that cultural factors often play a part. With Asian Americans, their particular voting behavior in their prior countries may be a factor.

Hayashi suggested to the audience that voting response can be triggered by a "crisis mode," citing the Los Angeles riots. "Getting people to act at elections is our challenge," he said.

Wong then turned the conversation to the building of local coalitions.

Allman advised that coalitions require a great deal of networking, not just within the Japanese American community, but with other groups such as Jewish and black organizations. "You work together for a common effort," he said.

Morizono said that in the redress effort, her chapter was successful because they learned how to conduct letter-writing campaigns, make contacts and deal with key political figures. "We got to know them so well we'd say 'hi' to them on the streets," she said.

Nishi suggested that organizing at the community level is best as a beginning. Working into larger, broader networks will eventually develop, she said.

In closing the session, Wong asked each panelist to offer a key point in helping Asian Americans get into the political process.

Allman answered: "Get active. Know your congressmen, state legislators."

Morizono agreed and added that a chapter's "newsletter is an important weapon."

Nishi talked about personal commitment from the neighborhood to the national level. "Take time to participate, to make a difference," she said.

Chiang followed up: "Each person can make a profound difference. It is incumbent upon you to do so. Volunteer in any way you can... Influence carries far."

Hayashi said simply: "The squeaky wheel gets the oil. Get involved."



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A new generation



At the youth workshop April 3 at the tri-district conference in Costa Mesa, Calif., JACL youth spoke to non-JACL high school and college students about the purpose of JACL and ways to empower Japanese Americans on their campuses. From left are Koji Uesugi, UC Davis; Kim Nakahara, JACL national youth chair; Kerry Kaneichi, JACL youth representative; and Traci Ando, OGDG youth representative.

TENSIONS

(Continued from page 1)

manager, Rebuild L.A., and Yasmin Tong, project manager, A Community of Friends.

Kwoh said the APALC is currently filing lawsuits against offshore insurance companies who have failed to settle claims with Korean American merchants. The executive director also said that Korean American merchants lost more than \$400 million during the riots and many have not been able to restart their businesses.

"The leadership has not really come to the forefront as strongly as it should have. We need results, accountability. We need someone to say I'm going to bring this number of businesses back and be accountable for the results," said Kwoh.

Tong said there were a number of factors contributing to last year's riots. There were a number of structural issues that set the stage for what happened—the complete erosion of the manufacturing economy to a service

economy, as well as demographic changes. South Central (Los Angeles) used to be predominantly black, now there are large numbers of Latinos as well as Southeast Asian people and Koreans. People who remain in South Central L.A. see their environment changing and they don't have control over those changes," said Tong.

Cho said that political leadership and the media have misrepresented and ignored the problems of Asian Americans. "It's painful for me as a Korean American that the only representative in the city council we have is Mike Woo and in the state legislature in Nao Taksugi."

"We have to work on getting Asian Pacific Americans appointed to office. We're known for attending fund-raisers, we're not known for getting votes," said Cho.

Cho said that in the Korean American community this past year has seen "broken families, broken infrastructure and broken dreams."

As for creating solutions, the panelists admitted that coalition

building among groups has been difficult.

"It's not going to be easy," said Tong. "Each ethnic group has to identify their needs. Once that's solid we can organize at a broader level. Unfortunately this has to occur simultaneously."

"I'm a proponent of area-by-area, issue-by-issue coalition building," said Kwoh.

Speaking about the work of Asian Pacific Americans for a New Los Angeles (APANLA), Kwoh said they are working on putting together a "grassroots economic development summit."

"We as Asian Pacific Americans have to come up with our own ideas on an urban redevelopment program—we want to be in there from the start."

While she admitted that coalition building is important, Cho said just as important is building bridges within one's own community.

"It's important for each community to strengthen its ties within and spend just as much energy developing our own ties," said Cho.

MEMBERSHIP

(Continued from page 1)

three parts:

■ A review by Nishi of the JACL mission statement, outline of the 1993-94 Program for Action, and eliciting from the participants reasons why people join. He pointed to the JACL information booth, which was set up in the hotel gallery, loaded with photographs of Nikkei history, chapter membership brochures and flyers. "Of course, the material is geared for potential new members," Nishi said. The point of computerizing membership record-keeping was "to eliminate the drudgery membership committees traditionally endure—cranking out renewal material and being unable to invite new people to join." Nishi confessed he had joined JACL for leadership training and to develop his skills.

■ Kimberly Tachiki, currently PSW representative on the Pacific Citizen board of directors, discussed the next campaign step which chapters need to follow to boost membership. Committees should know how to market and sell JACL, which requires its campaigners knowing JACL's mission and background.

Handouts, all of which headquarters has for the asking by chapters, are important. These can be modified to produce a local version, such as the folded brochures at the information booth that come with a calendar of local programs and activities. The Las Vegas chapter uses its monthly newsletter effectively for this purpose, explained Lillian Morizono.

Don't be afraid to ask "why" a new member joins or what especially was the attractive about joining, Tachiki continued. Maybe that reason may turn out to be a good lead in rounding up other new members," she added. About

the chapter membership committee, Tachiki noted from her APANCA chapter methods that each campaigner is properly prepared and the work divided. They have a simple set of questions, but most important is to "ask them to come in," or "I need your help (for some particular chapter community project)." The committee must also have a retention plan in place, Tachiki concluded.

■ Harada's step-by-step operation of keeping track of membership renewals at headquarters involved sending out a renewal packet 30 days before expiration with a second reminder following

(if needed) 45 days later.

Each chapter membership chair can anticipate five different kind of reports: (1) Membership renewal report for the quarter (showing who was sent a renewal packet); (2) Quarterly update (also coded to show membership category, address change, if new member, etc.); (3) Chapter roster (reflecting dues remitted to National and apportioned to the chapter); (4) Periodic transaction report similar to Report No. 1 with totals of dues received for National and chapter; (5) Annual table of JACL chapter dues structure.

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Opinions



From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

Diverging views

This essay might be titled "The Maturity of a Minority," or alternatively, "The Dilemma of Diversity." It has to do with Japanese Americans and their chief organization, JACL.

JACL was founded more than 60 years ago to meet the needs of a small U.S. ethnic minority. Two commonalities brought them together: ethnicity, and the barriers they faced because of that ethnicity in their efforts to gain what was due them as Americans.

Ethnicity molded the JACL into a dedicated, tightly-knit organization. The Evacuation of WWII was a devastating setback, but JACL emerged stronger and smarter. Its achievements in the decades A.E.—after Evacuation—were nothing short of astounding.

With the years the organization and its members matured. Rather than being limited by their ethnicity, individual members became diverse in their outlook, interests, activities and concerns. Some, mainly the older members, are quite conservative and traditional. Some, mainly younger members, are of a more liberal persuasion. And because membership is national, there are regional influences on outlooks. JACL phi-

losophy is no longer monolithic, which leads inevitably to distress among some members when the national organization takes specific stands.

Item: Although Pacific Citizen enjoys editorial independence, its tilted story on President Clinton's proposal to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military gave the impression of JACL support for that position. Much of the story was based on views from Martin Kazu Hiraga, identified as a homosexual activist. A national JACL officer also was quoted at length in favor of the proposal. The national director said for publication he is not taking a position at this time, but in a later issue he said he recommended lifting the ban.

More than a month after the first story Pacific Citizen gave comparable space to Lt. Col. Thomas Mukai, a Japanese American who commands an Army battalion who stated his reasons for supporting the ban. By then the matter of JACL taking a stand had become a major issue at a national board meeting. A unanimous decision was made to support an end to the ban.

Item: Shiro Tanaka, past president of the Cincinnati chapter, has objected strongly to the way JACL through its national direc-

tor handled the censure of Marge Schott, owner of the Cincinnati Reds baseball team, for racist remarks. Tanaka's point is that the Cincinnati chapter was not consulted by the national organization which led to loss of an opportunity to educate, rather than confront, Schott and her many supporters in an area where chapter members live and work.

Item: Last November Colorado voters passed Amendment 2 which bans legislation specifically protecting gays. Many voted for the measure, not out of bigotry, but on the grounds that gays already are protected by anti-discrimination measures and there is no need for laws just for them. Denver's JACL chapter is supporting the repeal of Amendment 2, but not a few JACLers voted for it.

These are only three examples of diverse points of view among a once strongly homogeneous group. Today, it is unlikely that fundamental beliefs about family and morality held by many Japanese Americans of the Mormon faith in the Inter mountain West coincide with views supported by those in some California communities. In the not distant past the position taken by Japanese

See HOSOKAWA/page 7

Letters

Pacific Citizen encourages and welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be brief, are subject to editing and those unpublished can be neither acknowledged nor returned. Please sign your letter but make sure we are able to read your name. Include mailing address and telephone number. Fax letters to 213/626-8213 or mail to Letters to the Editor, Pacific Citizen, 701 E. 3rd St., Ste. 201, Los Angeles, CA, 90013.

Gila River Monument proposal exciting

We have read with interest the article about a proposed monument at the Gila River camps (March 12 P.C.). We were born at Gila River and as part of a review of our family history, one of us (Toshio) has begun to obtain some documents from the National Archives. We also have some thoughts about making (Gila River) more accessible to those who wish to visit the camps.

From photos, we note there existed an Honor Roll memorial, which was constructed of concrete, stone, and apparently the same wood siding as the barracks. The wood is now gone and the memorial a remnant of the past. However, there is a road up to the memorial, a space for people to gather and view the memorial and the camp below. It is a prominent location.

It is only a suggestion, but we felt it would be in keeping with the place to redesign, renovate and update this existing memorial. In place of what was once wood, perhaps, can be in granite or finished concrete. The existing concrete can be refinished or refaced, or perhaps should be left worn and rough to remind us of the past. The names can be placed on the side of the memorial facing the camps, and perhaps something said to symbolize all who have been unjustly served by the camps. In terms of making Gila River more accessible, we envision a package of information containing a layout of the camps, buildings identified as to use and further enhanced by old photos. At the camp itself, each street should be identified; each building site marked. Thus, each family could find the location and/or remnants of the barracks and other sites relevant to their personal history. We suggest this operation be run by the Indian community, its members sell the information package and perhaps serve as paid guides. Another thought is that money be found to construct a barrack, which may also be used as a small photo/artifact museum. Readers who have ideas about updating the old memorial, of mapping out on paper and on the ground of the campsite, of constructing a barrack/museum or designing a memorial are encouraged to respond to the Arizona Chapter, JACL, (Joe Almar, 8234 W. Mercer Lane, Phoenix, AZ, 85029).

Isao Oishi
Baltimore, Md.

Too much power at national level, he says

I could not agree more with Denny Yashuhara's column under "Voices" in the March 19 edition. I have been wondering what it was about the JACL that is different. Denny's column hit the nail squarely on the head. It is probably the fault of the general membership, the local chapters, and the districts for granting the authority to the national office. That does not change the fact power is being centralized at the national level to the detriment of the local membership. I am as much at fault as anyone. After one term on the local board of directors, I retired from active membership and supported the organization at an arm's length. But I have supported the goals and ideals of the JACL.

Now I find the organization slowly moving away from goals and ideals I support and the national organization seems to care less. It almost seems that private agendas are being pursued at the expense of organizational goals. Perhaps the national office would be wise to review recent history where a now defunct super power was run through a system of management where power was concentrated at the top and all authority and decisions flowed down through a system called democratic centralism. Need I add the system failed?

Gerald T. Horiuchi
Fresno, Calif.

East Wind

BILL MARUTANI

Triple titles

Depending upon who was making the reference, they were known by three different names or labels. The Italians referred to them as "the little iron men." The German soldiers, who had faced them in battle, called them "the terrible Turks." And the French, many of whom had been liberated by them, referred to them as "the gentlemen soldiers." The first two appellations describe these fighting men's conduct as warriors in battle, and quite aptly so: they were soldiers of the famed all-AJA 442nd Central Postal Directory Team which recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of its formation back in 1943. The golden anniversary proceedings took place last month in Honolulu where the bright, clear skies greeted some 3,000 veterans and registrants.

Vaunted as their deeds were in the battle fields, it is that third title—"gentlemen soldiers"—that is telling, that reveals the proud cultural upbringing of these AJAs. While soldiers, be they occupiers or liberators, often engage in conduct that is offensive to the local populace, these AJA men

conducted themselves in such manner as to earn the title "gentlemen."

In a newspaper appeared an article about one AJA veteran a now-retired optometrist by name of "Shimamura" as I recall who, as a member of the 442nd, had come across a French family consisting of a mother and two young daughters, ages 9 and 12 or so. The father had abandoned them. It was winter and the two young girls had no coat. Shimamura was shipped back to the United States to receive treatment for his battle wounds, and though short on funds, he bought two overcoats and sent them to France for these two girls. By way of expressing their thanks there was sent to Shimamura a photograph of the two youngsters proudly wearing their spanking new coats. And the news article also carried a recent photograph of one of them, now a matronly lady in her early 60's, who had come to the 50th anniversary celebration in Hawaii—all expenses paid courtesy of Shimamura.

A poignant story of another gentleman soldier.

French officialdom was very much present from the French town of Bruyeres and the village of Biffontaine, both of which had been liberated by the 442nd. The French citizens have erected a monument in tribute to the valor of the 442nd. Those who have seen the video film "Yankee Samurai" have seen the monument. When I first heard about this monument, it struck me that some French folks carry the same cultural values that our Issei parents sought to hand down to us. I don't know the French term for this value, but our Issei called it "giri," a "moral obligation." Something that endures, and not even almost half a century of time can erase it; indeed, the passage of time lends sharper perspectives.

Nor do I know the Hawaiian equivalent for giri, but Hawaii Governor John Waihe'e referred to it when he publicly declared that but for the sacrifices of the 442nd the statehood for Hawaii would either have been flatly denied or interminably delayed; that the commitments of the 442nd benefitted all, not only AJAs but also other

See EAST WIND/page 7



ILLUSTRATION OF HOUSE "LEADERSHIP" AND COMPASSIONATE CONGRESSMAN.

POIGNANT PHOTO IN TIME MAGAZINE OF VULTURE AND STARVING SUDANESE CHILD.

PETE HORIUCHI 4/14/93



(REF: TOM HALL, D-OHIO, LONG-TIME SUPPORTER OF JACL CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES HAS GONE ON A WATER-ONLY FAST IN PROTEST.)

FYI

STORYTELLING TIME—An oral history project to gather and record the personal stories of the Japanese American students at UC, Berkeley, class of 1942, is being sponsored by university's Asian American Studies Department and the Japanese American students at the university whose lives were disrupted during World War II.

The oral history interviews and written accounts will eventually be made available for scholarly and public education purposes.

The class of 1942 was honored with a graduation ceremony

Sept. 16, 1992. Videotapes of the convocation ceremony and panel discussion featuring Chizu Iiyama, Dr. Harvey Imano, Gene Kono and Barry Seki may be bought through the National Japanese American Historical Society, 1855 Polson St., San Francisco, CA 94103; 415/431-5007.

Information, oral history project, Lisa Hirai, 510/237-5436; Prof. Jere Takahashi, 520/643-5497.

NEW LOCATION—Asian Pacific Family Center in San Gabriel Valley has moved to 9353 Selby Blvd., Rosemead, working with

the chronically and severely mentally ill. Treatment is never denied because of an inability to pay, its parent agency, Pasadena Clinics, explained. New phone number is 618/287-3988.

NEW NAME—The National Pacific/Asian Resource Center on Aging officially changed its name to the National Asian Pacific Center on Aging March 1. The organization is located at Melbourne Tower, 1511 Third Ave., Suite 914, Seattle, WA, 98101. Information: Jessica Pin, 206/624-1221.

KEIRO SEARCH CONTINUES—Keiro Services is continuing its search for qualified applicants to direct operations of caring for 600 elderly residents. Resumes for the Chief Executive Officer position may be sent to Sumi Shimazaki, Keiro Services, 325 S. Boyle Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90033, (213) 263-5888.

'AMERASIA JOURNAL'—An updated, 1,700-entry bibliography of Asian American material is featured in latest Amerasia Journal (Vol. 18:3). Associate editor Glenn Omatseu said the computerized database list will make researchers to search all entries by author, subject matter and the particular

ethnic group. Single issue is \$7. Information: UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3230 Campbell Hall, Los Angeles, CA, 90024, 310/825-2974.

60TH ANNIVERSARY GRANTS—Little Tokyo Community Development Advisory Committee to the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) is assisting in the development of original works to commemorate the 50-year anniversary of the WWII internment of Japanese Americans. Proposals for Phase I competition, in such categories as musical competition, literature, media, choreography, visual arts and performing arts from individuals or collaborative teams, will be accepted until 4 p.m., April 30. Five grants of \$5,000 will be made. For guidelines, call: CRA-Commemorative Art Grants, 354 S. Spring St., Los Angeles, CA, 90013 213/977-1771.

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN—Responses to questions about nationality in the 1990 Census questionnaire with breakdown of over 200 ethnic categories by state are contained in "Detailed Ancestry Groups for States" (Stock No. 003-024-08614-0). An overview with

previous census data is included. Order from Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15220-7954 (\$7.00, \$6.75 foreign). Credit card orders must be placed by phone 202/783-3238 or 202/513-2250.

L.A.'S BILINGUAL BALLOTS—Those interested in assisting as bilingual volunteers in Japanese at polling sites in the April 20 Los Angeles city primaries may call the city clerk or registrar of voter. To request a bilingual ballot, voters should call 800/994-8683.

LEGAL CLINIC—Asian Pacific American Legal Center began offering free assistance for low income Asian Pacific Americans this month on Mondays, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Gardens Asian Community Service Center, 14112 S. Kingsley Dr. Legal assistance will be limited to family (divorce and domestic violence), immigration (Immigration Fraud Amendment), housing (tenant rights, eviction defense), employment (wrongful termination, wage claims) and government (Social Security) appeals. The Hughes Asian Pacific Professional Association is co-sponsoring the clinic.

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POLICY

(Continued from page 7)

to 2.1 million (2020).

The other side

To counteract the "model minority" myth, the Public Policy Institute emphasizes the poverty rate experience among Asian Americans is twice that of non-Hispanic whites. Fully one-half of the Southeast Asians live in poverty as the report cautions that these communities, many of them refugees, are overlooked and lumped together with the other Asian Americans who are not poor.

Nakanishi pointed out, "As our report makes clear, a range of policy issues is emerging that suggests the need for Asian Pacific Americans to come together around shared interest and concerns."

The institute urges more English language instruction, skills development and job retraining programs for adults in these at-risk communities; alternatives for youth involved with crime and gangs; and culturally appropriate child care, health care and other services for women.

"Much of what Americans know about Asian Pacific is gained through the portrayal of our community by the media," says Diane Yen-Mei, former executive director of the Asian American Journalists Association. "As a result, journalists have a special obligation to report accurately and fairly on a community undergoing dramatic growth and change."

Executive Director Gerald D. Yoshiotomi of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center advocated the preservation of the various ethnic Asian cultures. Public policy needs to be designed to strengthen arts and cultural institutions as a whole.

Support of the communities to preserve their own artistic work is also important, he added.

The future of the arts can be seen in terms of asking these questions:

(1) How many Asian Pacific Americans will be recipients of awards and commissions? How many will be second, third or fourth generation?

(2) From what traditions and training will their art be?

(3) What will be the role of the performing arts institutions, museums, public arts agencies and media centers?

Preservation of Asian Pacific American culture will require promotion of cultural heritage, such as oral history, film, documentary and archival collections.

Language rights

Kathryn Imahara of Asian Pacific American Legal Center reminded that language differences have spawned discrimination against Asians in the U.S. work-

place.

She added: anti-immigrant sentiment has led to denial of access to services, inadequate education and unequal opportunity. "English Only," which rose in the early 1980s, was tied in with this sentiment.

A majority of the immigrant population will continue to speak English as a second language well into the next century. Specific language services are needed in the public and private sectors, hospital and emergency 911 services, in criminal and judicial systems.

Electoral politics

empowerment

Stewart Kwok, APALC director, stressed the need for empowerment of Asian American communities as "we shift our traditional patterns of thinking to treat race relations and empowerment as dynamic complex processes."

Asian representation in the state legislature was nil in the 1980s as the California Asian population was climbing to 10% by 1992.

Redistricting will be vital for full participation by minority groups, citing the 1991 involvement of Asian Americans in key U.S. cities: New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Bill Clinton, under the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which was extended for 15 years, are available in Los Angeles in six languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Japanese and Vietnamese.

Health care

UCLA psychology professor Stanley Sue commented on the need for improved mental health services and greater availability for Asians. The myth is that Asian Americans are relatively well-adjusted and have little need for such services.

High-risk groups include the elderly, women, refugees and immigrants whose status causes anxiety or have problems involving English language. Past studies have shown low usage of services but that does not mean there is a low need for services, it was pointed out.

The health delivery system is fragmented as well. Culturally relevant services and programs should be established, the paper recommended.

APA-PI was organized by LEAP in 1992 to research Asian Pacific policy issues. A 12-page executive summary is available from LEAP, 327 E. 2nd St., #226, Los Angeles, CA 90012-4210; 213/485-1422; or in book format (about 350 pages), \$11 soft, \$16 hard, tax/shipping extra.

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