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Earthquake
update—p. 4

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January 28-February 3, 1994

ORA okays redress for 164 Hawaii evacuees

Reversing an earlier decision, the Office of Redress Administration (ORA) said Jan. 21 that 164 Japanese Americans evacuated from parts of Hawaii are now eligible to receive redress payments. The ORA determined that these individuals had been evacuated solely on the basis of their ethnicity. Those affected include evacuees from three areas in Oahu—21 from McGrew Camp, 136 from Puuloa and seven from Thompson. ORA said it would be sending out letters to individuals within the next two weeks and that they should be receiving \$20,000 redress payments in about two months.

At the same time, the ORA decided that 91 evacuees from Iwilei, Oahu were not eligible because they uncovered evacuation orders in Iwilei for "all persons," not just Japanese Americans. There are other cases in Hawaii still pending including 100 persons who were evacuated from Waiua, Oahu and 300 other cases. ORA said it expects to make eligibility determinations within the next month.

The Honolulu Chapter, JACL, played a role in convincing ORA to review its initial decisions on the Hawaii evacuees. The chapter also helped find supporting evidence for evacuee claims and assisted in finding legal counsel.

"By sharing this research with the Honolulu JACL we hope to fill in some of the missing pieces and create a complete picture of what happened during the evacuation of this area," said James P. Turner, assistant attorney general of the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division.

Bill Kaneko said the chapter provided legal counsel and helped consolidate claims. Lawyers from the firm Ashford and Wriston did the legal work.

"It is interesting because these are people who were not interned. They were evacuated, kicked out of their homes. Previous to this, no one thought that they would be eligible for redress. It is bitter-sweet," said Kaneko.

Twenty children born to instructors at the U.S. Navy Japanese Language School in Boulder, Colorado during World War II were also deemed ineligible for redress.

"While we had been hopeful of

reversals in all of these cases, we appreciate the additional effort that ORA expended in re-examining the Hawaiian cases," said Kaneko, national JACL vice president. "JACL will work closely with ORA to resolve the Waiua claims and plans to assist Iwilei claimants in analyzing the possibility of appealing their cases."

Randy Senzaki, JACL national director, said, "JACL is pleased that ORA was willing to reconsider its initial decisions in the Hawaiian cases, and that it has decided to grant redress to the Puuloa claimants. We view this decision as an important victory, due largely to the unwavering commitment of time, resources

Pending cases

Other unique redress cases pending final eligibility determinations include:

- Children who relocated to Japan with their parents during World War II. These cases are under separate review within the Department of Justice.

- Peruvians and other Japanese of Latin American ancestry who were interned in the United States but did not have permanent resident alien status retroactive to the internment period. This matter is undergoing further investigation to determine if the Immigration and Naturalization Service can assist in adjusting the status of these individuals.

- Individuals in Glendale, Arizona, just outside of the prohibited zone, and claim deprivation of liberty. This matter is still under consideration.

and leadership of the Honolulu JACL. However, we are deeply disappointed over ORA's decision to reject the Iwilei and the Boulder claims."

Speaking to *Pacific Citizen*, Allison Hikida, president, Honolulu Chapter, JACL, said that the chapter is planning a meeting with the Iwilei evacuees to discuss their options Jan. 29, Japanese Community Center of Hawaii, 2454 S. Beretania St., Honolulu, 10 a.m.

"We are going to talk to them and tell them we truly believe an injustice occurred. The fact that the government denied them redress does not diminish that at all," said Hikida.

A message to members: Reclaim JACL

Former Pacific Citizen board chair Paul M. Shinkawa addresses Mile-Hi Chapter and urges members to take control of the organization and its directions...

Staff report

Somehow, the Japanese American Citizens League has slipped through the collective fingers of its members. Somehow, a once-effective organization that knew its purpose developed and focused on clear objectives, and listened to its voices within, lost its way.

And JACL members must now loosen the tightened grip of its leadership and take back their organization.

That was the message guest speaker Paul M. Shinkawa sent to the Mile-Hi Chapter, JACL, at its Saturday, Jan. 22, installation dinner in Denver.

The former *Pacific Citizen* chairman did not speak in direct response to the PO conflict with some members of the JACL national staff and national board which culminated and culminated in his dismissal Sept. 26 at the national board meeting in San Francisco. Rather, he spoke in broader terms and perspectives of an organization that had at one time achieved the will and solidarity to gain Redress but has since then lapsed into a kind of coma wrought by decision-making at the top and only at the top.

"... We must remember and

return to the very roots of this organization," Shinkawa said, addressing 112 Mile-Hi Chapter members. "We must recall why we were created and the methods which were employed to bring those results about. JACL is,

by law, by principle, by inception and by all that is right, a membership organization. It exists to serve its members, and its members serve themselves by acting collectively to carry out JACL's work. We as members must take responsibility for our organization... We, and that means each of you, must act to take back your organization and to become a part of



PAUL M. SHINKAWA
Mile-Hi Chapter guest speaker

each and every decision and each and every action. We can no longer afford to shake our heads and walk away from a situation with which we disagree. We each have a duty to ourselves and each other to speak out when we feel that a wrong has been committed. To ask questions when we fail to receive answers. To insist on answers when none are forthcoming."

Shinkawa, an attorney with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and a JACL member for 20 years, began his speech by tracing the history of JACL's development, how, through the unsettling times

come. When I joined JACL 20 years ago we had a membership of 32,000. Among an even larger Japanese American population today we number a few more than 19,000 members. Despite that we have increased the size of our hired staff and we have increased their pay until we spend almost \$700,000 each year in payroll costs alone.

"Our collective focus has changed, or as some have said, it no longer exists. Once we fought discrimination, promoted acceptance into majority society, fought for the rights of immigrants and sought justice through Redress. We agreed on those goals. Now we are interested in Pan-Asian issues, or any issue in which an Asian American is involved. We have taken on issues of the rights of homosexuals and we have taken on the cause of gun control. Now only segments of our much smaller membership support all of these initiatives.

"Our current leadership is promoting an organizational restructuring that will require leaders to invest cash into JACL in order to hold office, opening our offices to the highest bidder rather than the most talented or most deeply committed. In short, we are tilting at every windmill that turns our way while our support in our own

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'We must remember and return to the very roots of this organization.'

—PAUL M. SHINKAWA

after World War II, the organization demonstrated its worth to the world by achieving recompense for property loss as well as citizenship rights for the Issei generation—and better yet—how JACL showed its courage and even daring in attempting and achieving Redress some 30 years later.

"Yet, here we are in 1994. Look now at what we have be-

In the running: three Asian Americans vie for office

John L. Bingham

John Lee Bingham, who is half Korean, is running for Illinois State Representative in the 34th district—the first Asian American to seek a seat in the Illinois State Legislature. The district has the highest concentration of Asian Americans in the state, with a large number of Korean, Filipino, Southeast Asian and Japanese Americans.

"This election isn't about elect-

ing an Asian American. It's about showing the whole Chicago community that we have something to contribute as citizens," said Bingham.

Bingham, a Democrat, was an aide to Carol Moseley Braun prior to her election to the U.S. Senate. He is a board member of the Korean American Citizens Coalition and is a political columnist for the *Chicago Chosun Daily*. Bingham is running against first term in-



JOHN L. BINGHAM



JUDY CHU

cumbent Nancy Kaszak.

Information: 4628 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago III. 60625; 312/989-9393.

Judy Chu

Monterey Park City Councilwoman Judy Chu recently announced her candidacy

for the California State Assembly, 49th District. A psychology professor at East Los Angeles College, Dr. Chu has been a councilwoman for six years, during which she also served as mayor of Monterey Park. Monterey Park is an area with a high concentration of Asian Americans.

Joining her recently at a campaign kickoff were John Van de Kamp, California state attorney

See RUNNING/page 7

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Calendar

Northeast U.S. Washington, D.C.

Sat. Feb. 26-March 2-JACL Organization of Chinese Americans Leadership Conference (JACL candidates limited to EOJC)

Sun. Feb. 27-Day of Remembrance, 8 a.m., Arlington Hyatt Hotel, Rosslyn, Va. Leslie Hatanaka, speaker. "On the History of Redress." [He is author of "Fighting a Wrong," on the redress movement.]

Ohio Dayton

Sat. Feb. 19-JACL charter bus to Indianapolis for "Children of the Detention Camp." 1942-45 exhibit.

Indianapolis Indianapolis

Fri-Sat. Feb. 18-20-JACL Midwest District Spring session, Courtyard, 10290 N. Meridian St. Information: Charles Matsumoto 317/888-8505.

Through Feb. 19-April 16-Photo exhibit, "Children of the Detention Camps, 1942-45." Children's Museum, 3000 N. Meridian St. NOTE-Opening ceremonies, 4 p.m. Feb. 19; Dr. Donna Nagata, University of Michigan, speaker. Information: Charles Matsumoto 317/888-8505.

Illinois Chicago

Sat. Jan. 29-Asian American Coalition's 11th annual Lunar New Year celebration, 5:30 p.m. cocktail, 7 dinner; Holiday Inn OHare, 5440 N. River Rd., Rosemead, Ill. RSVP 312/523-7764 or 624-1242. NOTE-Maryland Assembly Delegate David Yamamoto, guest speaker. US Sen. Paul Simon, special presentation. Filipino American community hosts this year. Calvin Marsh of Chicago Asian American Bar Association and Buddhist Temple of Chicago, the Japanese American community honoree.

Wisconsin Milwaukee

Sun. Feb. 6-JACL inaugural party (details to be announced).

Missouri St. Louis

Sat. Jan. 29-JACL St. Louis installation dinner, (details to be announced). NOTE-Rep. Jim Talent, (R-2nd Dist., Mo.), guest speaker; member of the House committee on Armed Services and Small Business; previously, state representative since 1984; Minority Leader in the State House of Representatives (99-93). Information: Sherry Pratt 314/938-3702.

Colorado Denver

Sat. Feb. 12-JACL Mile-Hi Organization of Chinese American New Year dinner, 6 p.m., Empress Restaurant, 2825 W. Alameda Ave. Information: Tom Migaki 303/622-9593, Sumi Talamo 303/777-1861.

Utah Salt Lake City

Sat. March 12-National JACL Credit Union annual meeting, Little America Hotel. Information: 801/555-8040, 800/544-8828.

Arizona Phoenix

Sat. Feb. 6-JACL Arizona general meeting, JACL Hall.

Sat.-Sun. Feb. 26-27-10th annual

National Board meets Feb. 12-13 in San Francisco

The next JACL National Board meeting is scheduled for Sat.-Sun., Feb. 12-13, at JACL National Headquarters, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco.

Pacific Citizen will be reporting on the meeting. Information: 415/921-5225.

Matsuri, Heritage Square, 6th & Monroe, Phoenix, booth information Helen Tamita, 602/944-2050.

California Sacramento Valley

Sat. Feb. 5-Annual JACL Florin Time of Remembrance, Buddhist Hall, 7215 Pritchard Rd., Sacramento. NOTE-Preparation meetings on 2nd Weds, 7:30 p.m. Al and Mary Tsukamoto home, 9132 Doc Bar Court, Elk Grove, 916/685-6747, exhibit of educational material to remember EO 9068 will be on display 2 weeks prior at Elk Grove School District board meeting room. Educator's morning workshop, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Buddhist Hall, information Ruth Seo 916/443-7746, Joanne Itani, c/o Florin JACL, PO Box 292634, Sacramento, CA 95829, 916/395-7955.

Sat. Feb. 12-JACL Sacramento benefit cabaret, information: Toko Fuji 916/447-7900, evs 421-6968. NOTE-All you can eat Dungeness crab, pasta a la Takehara, garlic toast, salad, appetizer, wine, dessert; airplane throwing contest.

Wed. Feb. 16-Sacramento Kings' "Japanese American Night" at Arco Arena vs. Philadelphia 76ers. Tickets: JACL members \$67 Sakamoto, Kuni Hornaka, Tom Fujimoto, Tsuto Ota, Chewy Ito, Mike Sawamura, Lori Fujimoto, Mike Iwahiro, Gene Ito, Dick Fukushima, Ralph Sugimoto, Richard Sawamura, Sacramento Taiko Dan. Information: Toko Fuji 916/441-7900, evs 421-6968.

Fri. Feb. 25-JACL Sacramento "Day of Remembrance" with potluck after, Japanese United Methodist Church, 6929 Franklin Blvd. NOTE-Dr. Clifford Uyeda, San Francisco, guest speaker; seniors over age 80 will be honored. Information: Toko Fuji 916/441-7900, evs 421-6968.

San Francisco

Fri.-Sat. Feb. 4-5-National JACL Youth Conference, "Envisioning Tomorrow," reception, Fri. 6-10 p.m., conference, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Miyako Hotel, San Francisco; NOTE-Bruce Yamashita, morning speaker, workshops on Political empowerment, Building an Ethnic Studies program, Asian-Pacific Islanders and AIDS awareness, Anti-Asian violence, Bridging the gap, Promoting positive images of Asians in the Media, Information: Janelle Sasaki, JACL Ho 415/921-5225 or Kim Yoshino 916/757-1556, early registration by Jan. 20, open to public.

Peninsula

Tue. Feb. 1-Scholarship deadline: JACL San Mateo, 415 S. Claremont St., San Mateo, CA 94401-3323. Applications available at area high schools, community colleges, S.M. Buddhist Temple, Sturge Presbyterian and S.M. Community Center. Information: George Ito 415/757-9699 (h), 415/358-8685 (w).

Sat. Feb. 26-JACL Sequoia Spaghetti and Crab Feed, 5-8 p.m., Palo Alto Buddhist Temple gym, 2751 Louis Rd.,

Palo Alto. Tickets from any board member. Information: F with Dr. Alexander 415/404-4021 (day), 415/856-9582 (res), Don Miyamoto 408/738-4334.

San Jose

Sat. Jan. 29-JACL San Jose installation dinner, 6 p.m. cocktail hour, 7 p.m. dinner, Lou's Village, San Jose. Information: 408/295-1250. NOTE-Dr. Tokio Ishikawa, longtime JACL member, retired physician and community leader will be honored. [Carl Fujita, '94 pres.]

Sun. Feb. 6-San Jose Taiko performance, 6 a.m.-3 p.m., San Jose Museum of Art, 110 S. Market St., 408/294-2787.

Sat. Feb. 13-San Jose Nikkei Singles installation luncheon, Santa Clara Marriott, RSVP Feb. 3, Betty Ohara 408/257-1935.

Thu. Feb. 17-Panel discussion, "Legacies of Internment," with Dr. Alexander Yamato, 6 p.m. San Jose Museum of Art, 110 S. Market St., 408/294-2787. NOTE-On the panel: author Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, Hiroshi Kashwara and Lane Nishikawa.

Stockton

Fri. Feb. 25-San Joaquin Nisei Farmers League 18th annual banquet, 6 p.m., Waterford Gun and Social Club, Stockton. Information: Terry Paolotti 209/4654-1754. NOTE-US Rep. Richard W. Pombo (R-Calif. 11th Dist.), speaker.

Salinas-Monterey

Sun. Feb. 13-JACL Coordinating Council of Gilroy, Monterey Peninsula, Salinas Valley, San Benito County and Watsonville program, "Day of Remembrance," 1:30 p.m., California Rodeo Grounds, Salinas. NOTE-Dr. Shiroshi, keynote speaker; reception to follow at Salinas Buddhist Temple.

Los Angeles-Orange

Thu-Sun. Jan. 27-30-Nobuko Miyamoto in "A Grain of Sand," 8 p.m., 2 p.m. Sunday, East West Players, 4424 Santa Monica Blvd., Box office 213/660-0366 between 2-6 p.m.

Sat. Jan. 29-Japanese American Historical Society of So. Calif. installation dinner, 6 p.m., Empress Pavilion, L.A. Chinatown. NOTE-L.A. City Councilwoman Jackie Goldberg, speaker.

Sat. Feb. 5-San Fernando Valley Chapter, JACL installation dinner, Ariel Hotel, 7277 Vanowen Ave., Van Nuys, 6:30 p.m. Speaker: Harvey Hamamoto. Information: 818/908-8042.

Sat. Feb. 12-Orange County Senses Singles St. Valen line's Day dance, 8 p.m.-1 a.m., Skyline Country Club, 4800 Wardlow Rd., Long Beach. Information: 310/868-5523.

Sat. Feb. 19-Pasadena Nikkei Seniors benefit, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Pasadena Cultural Institute, 595 Lincoln Ave. NOTE-Light lunch and Kanajo Spring festival show. Information: Ida Nakayama 213/681-8667, June Nakahiro 818/788-2249.

Southern California

Sat. Jan. 29-JACL Riverside installation dinner, 6 p.m., UC Riverside's University Club. NOTE-PC editor emeritus Harry K. Honda, guest speaker. Information: Dr. Ken Ogata.

Through Feb. 6-Calligraphy Exhibit, San Diego Japanese Friendship Garden; information: Kaneko Bishop 619/583-8979. NOTE-Works of the late San'u Aoyama and others; Itabana displays of various masters and Chanoyu performances by Sosen Bishop and her students of Omote Senke School, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sat.-Sun. through January.

Sun. Feb. 6-JACL Ventura County installation luncheon, 1 p.m., Lobster Trap Restaurant, Channel Islands Harbor, Oxnard. NOTE-Assemblyman Nao Takasugi, speaker.

Small kid time





IN-SIGHT

LILLIAN C. KIMURA

Surviving the cold, the quake

For weeks now, it's been shovel, salt, chip, shiver, freeze, shovel, freeze, slip/slide, in the East and Midwest. The treacherous roads sent us to mass transportation only to find that trains can't run because of frozen signals or tracks. We have been having our coldest winter in years. Having lived in Chicago, the "Windy City," for most of my adult life, I used to say New York doesn't get half as cold. Famous last words! But compared to what happened in Southern California on Monday, Jan. 17 and since, we have nothing to complain about although it's been life-threatening for some here, the need for the requests to conserve electricity.

I was listening to the *Today Show* when Bryant Gumbel an-

nounced the earthquake at 7:35 a.m. our time. From then on the network devoted its air time to keep us abreast of the disaster. We were advised not to place calls there to keep the phone lines clear for emergencies. The inability to contact family and friends is anxiety-producing. Finally, at the end of the day, my sister who lives in Monterey Park, called to say they were okay. The next few days, I was able to call the PSW and PC offices to learn that everyone was okay there too.

But with so many of our members living in the Pacific Southwest, some are bound to be affected. We just hope that no lives were lost and damage has been minimal. I know that is probably too much to hope for but please

know we are thinking about you all.

One wonders how much more Southern Californians can bear. Within the past year, there have been storms, floods, mudslides, fires and the riots. Now the earthquake. And through it all the bad economic situation—recession and rampant unemployment. These are times that try our souls. But Americans are resilient people and adversity seems to bring out the best in them. We will endure and survive. That's thirty for now. ☺

Kimura is the JACL National President. Her *IN-SIGHT* column appears regularly in *Pacific Citizen*.

Contra Costa installs '94 officers

Staff report

PINOLE, Calif.—James Oshima, who continues as Contra Costa JACL president, was installed with his 1994 board at the annual dinner here Hunan Villa. The chapter has been electing presidents consistently to two-year terms since 1970. But Dan Uyesugi served a three-year stint in 1974-76.

Guest speaker Harry K. Honda, *Pacific Citizen* editor emeritus, told of the year-long "freedom of speech" controversy which began in 1969-70 in the PC Letterbox over title of Bill Hosokawa's *Nisei: the Quiet American* and the standards by which letters were published. He recalled that when letters did not appear, some had alleged "censorship." He touched on the development of censorship since the ancient Greece and Rome, on the freedom of speech and the corollary and penetrating "freedom to read" as censorship assumed the form of post-publication control of distribution.

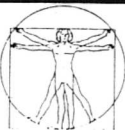
Recognition awards for service to community and chapter were presented to: (a) Chizu Iiyama for her continued appointment as commissioner and past chair of the El Cerrito city human relations commission and pushing for more minority judges in the county; (b) Robert Momono, 24-year veteran, and senior Contra Costa County probation deputy, for his work with Asian youth gangs and with parents of children who run afoul of the law; (c) Shigeki Sugiyama for his service on the Richmond police commission ('89-'92) and the Contra Costa County grand jury ('90-'91), and

work on local veteran projects; and (d) U.S. Rep. George Miller (D, Calif. 7th Dist.) for outstanding service in support and defense of the rights of minority and disadvantaged citizens as well as strong advocacy of preserving the environment and natural resources.

The President's Award went to Toyoko Toppata, who concluded three years as chapter recording secretary in "a most professional manner."

Former national JACL presi-

dent Shigeki Sugiyama was emcee and former national vice president Ben Takeshita was the installing officer. Rev. Seishin Yamashita of Berkeley gave the dinner inspiration and benediction. Natsuko Irei and Yoshio Tokiwa co-chaired the dinner and program. State Assemblyman Bob Campbell, past Richmond city councilman David McDiarmid, past chapter presidents Dr. Yoshiye Togasaki, Marvin Uratsu and Jerry Irei were among the 80 attending.

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Chicago to mark
Day of Remembrance

CHICAGO—The Chicago Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) and the Japanese American Service Committee (JASC) will commemorate the 52nd Day of Remembrance, Saturday, Feb. 12, 7:00 P.M. at Heiwa Terrace, 980 W. Lawrence. The Day of Remembrance marks the anniversary of 110,000 Japanese Americans forcefully moved from their homes and businesses into concentration camps (actually observed Feb. 19).

The program this year will include the showing of a one-hour film, *A Family Gathering*, by Sansei filmmaker Lise Yasui. The film traces the

Yasuis their experience settling in this country before World War II, through incarceration at the outbreak of World War II and into the post-war years as they rebuilt their lives. Family interviews, home movies photos, personal letters and archival materials form an unconventional and deeply personal look at three generations of one Japanese American family.

The film will be followed by a panel discussion on the consequences of the internment policy on a victim's family, exploring the issues of family survival, and the need to understand one's own connections with the past.

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JACL announces
new D.C. intern

Christine M. Yokoyama, a member of the SELANOCO Chapter, JACL, is currently serving as a legal intern in the Washington, D.C., national office. She will provide assistance to Karen Narasaki, the JACL Washington, D.C. representative, in analyzing and effecting legislative policy in areas such as civil rights, education, immigration and bias crimes.

The intern is a second-year law student at the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law. She intends to use her legal education to become more involved in the preservation of civil rights. In 1988, the SELANOCO Chapter presented Yokoyama with a scholarship to attend the Presidential Classroom Program in Washington, D.C.

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Earthquake disaster centers open

President Bill Clinton, Pete Wilson, and FEMA director James Lee Witt announced that 11 Disaster Application Centers (DACs) were scheduled to open, according to the Pacific Southwest District Office of JACL. The centers will offer local, state and federal assistance to Los Angeles, Orange and Ventura County residents who have suffered earthquake losses.

Frank Kishton, federal coordinating officer, and Richard Andrews, state coordinating officer, are urging anyone who has suffered losses to visit one of the application centers, or to call the toll-free registration number at 1/800/462-9029. Those with hearing or speech impairments may call the toll-free TDD number, 1/800/462-7585.

Hours of operation are Thursday, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., and thereafter, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., daily, until further notice. The addresses of the DACs are to the right:

Service centers open

- Servicing Northridge/Granada Hills: Winnetka Recreation Center, 8401 Winnetka Ave., Northridge, CA, 91306.
- Servicing Reseda/Tarzana: Balboa Recreation Center, 17015 Burbank Blvd., Tarzana, CA, 91316.
- Servicing Sylmar/San Fernando: Sylmar Recreation Center, 12109 Borden Ave., Sylmar, CA, 91342.
- Servicing Sherman Oaks/Van Nuys: Van Nuys Recreation Center 14301 Vanowen Ave., Van Nuys, CA, 91405.
- Servicing Hollywood/Fairfax: Hollywood Recreation Center, 1122 Cole Ave., Hollywood, CA, 90038.
- Servicing Panorama City /

- Sunland: Stonehurst Recreation Center, 9901 Dronfield Ave., Los Angeles, CA, 91352.
- Servicing Crenshaw: Department of Water & Power, 4030 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, 90008.
- Servicing Santa Monica: Retail Space, 1431-33 2nd St., Santa Monica, CA, 90401.
- Servicing Santa Clarita/Saugus: Canyon Country Park, 17615 Soledad Canyon Rd., Santa Clarita, CA, 91351.
- Servicing Simi Valley: Sycamore Drive Community Center, 1692 Sycamore Drive, Simi Valley, CA, 93065.
- Servicing Fillmore: St. Francis Catholic Church Community Hall, 1058 Ventura St., Fillmore, CA, 93016.

QUAKE COLUMNS: JACL PSW regional director Jimmy Tokeshi and columnist Karl Nobuyuki relive the tragic moments—page 6.

Quake brings San Fernando JACLers together

Staff report

While aftershocks continue, members of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, JACL, are beginning to put their lives back together. San Fernando Valley is the location of the epicenter of the 6.6 earthquake which struck Los Angeles Jan. 17.

Arnold Miyamoto, president, said that the chapter in conjunc-

tion with the West Valley United Methodist Church recently held small get-togethers at different people's homes.

"The goal was three-fold. We wanted to act as a community network to find out how everyone is doing in the community. We also wanted to hand out disaster assistance information and most importantly, try to bring life back to normal," said Miyamoto.

The chapter president said that he has spoken with a number of chapter members and everyone seems to be all right. He said his concern is that members who do need help may be reluctant to speak out.

"As far as I know right now, no one's house was completely destroyed. But there were a handful that have had major damage," said Miyamoto.

All aboard

All aboard is a listing of new 1994 board members of various organizations. Send us your list and an infocus photo and PC will run them as soon as possible.

SALT LAKE

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2nd vice president: Joanne Hirase
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AAU Rep: Stephanie Sato
Issei Center Rep: Taka Kida
Youth Rep: Libby Oda
IDC Governor: Jeff Itami
1994 Convention Rep: Jeff Nakashima
Coordinator: Alice Kasal

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Treasurer: Mae Kakiuchi
Civil Rights/Redress: Miriam Hatamiya
Education: Tosh Sano
Grants: Frank Hatamiya
Health: Commissioner: George Nakao
Historian/Corresponding Sec.: Terry Itano
Legacy Fund: Fred Okimoto
Membership/1000 Club: Georgia Fujii
Newsletter: Marianne Kyono
Recognitions: George Inouye
Scholarship: Kandace Chinn
District Delegates: Fred Okimoto and Fusako Yokotobi Staib

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Joyce Aoki
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Livingston Health Clinic: Floy Yagi
Activity Directors: Blaine Yagi and Bob Taniguchi
Immediate past president: Grace Kimoto
Official Delegate: Steve Teranishi
Area Directors: Smokey Kimura, Cressley, Fred Kishi, Livingston, and Yo Kunioyoshi, Merced.

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Phone (____) _____ [Work] [Home]

Send to: Frances Morioka, Administrator

JACL-Blue Shield of California Group Health Trust
1255 Post Street, Suite 805, San Francisco, CA 94109

Whereabouts

• Of Hatsuonbu Kagimoto, Turlock, Calif.: Marion Wilcox Corp., 1651 N. 400 East, North Ogden, UT 84404, 801/782-6203, is seeking a member/relative of his family regarding "unclaimed assets which they may have a right to—not related in anyway with any type of compensation from the U.S. gov-

ernment. He was married to Taka Tomoko, their address was A-4-22, Turlock, Calif.

• Of Suzy Kaneshige: She and her family left Guadalupe, Calif., in 1942, BEFORE Evacuation. Please call your old neighbor, Dr. Frank F. Sakamoto, Chicago: 312/561-2222 (work), 708/724-7861 (home).

• Of Pvt George Okamoto: His 1941 prewar buddies at Fort Mason, San Francisco, are anxious to contact him for a possible reunion April 26-28, 1994, at Laughlin, Nev. Stanley Wojdyla, 4316 S. Wood St., Chicago IL 60609, 312/927-8760, wants to arrange for his transportation and lodging.

Opinions



From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

Keeping the Evacuation within memory

For many of us who have lived through the World War II period, the results of a Roper survey last spring on the Holocaust are astonishing. Among other things the survey, which surfaced again with the recent release of the movie *Schindler's List*, found:

- 22% of American adults think it is possible that the Nazi program to exterminate Jews never happened, that the whole nightmarish story might have been made up.
- More than half of American high school students don't know the meaning of the word Holocaust.
- 38% of Americans in the 18 to 29 age bracket have no idea that Auschwitz, Dachau and Treblinka were the names of Nazi extermination camps.
- 14% of American high school students cannot identify the leader of the Third Reich.
- Only 35% of American adults know that some 6 million Jews were killed in the Holocaust.

If there is such widespread ignorance about this ghastly chapter in contemporary history, what can we expect Americans to know about the Evacuation, a comparatively infinitesimal blip in the graph-lines of injustice?

That's a question likely to become increasingly significant as time passes. While I think it is safe to say that most of us don't spend time brooding about the Evacuation, for many it was the most memorable happening of their lives. The memory of its injustice, despite a nation's policy, continues to dominate the goals and activities of organizations like JACL, a stance that is justified by the determination that nothing like it shall ever happen again.

But, in view of the brevity of human memory and reluctance to dwell on the unpleasant, for how long can it be made the focal point of the community?

It is not inconceivable that there will come a time when the name of Pearl Harbor will draw blank stares from young Americans. Today the memory is kept alive by the

survivors of both the event and the era with the support of the media and the political leadership. But time passes. Today we seldom give thought to the sacrifices of those who went to Europe in 1917-18 in the futile mission to make the world safe for democracy, nor do we remember the Maine. We have a hard time recalling the reasons for the Gulf War, much less Vietnam, Korea and the bloody little skirmishes in between such as the Kent State massacre and the Democratic convention head and window-bashing in Chicago.

If the horror and scale of the Holocaust has left such little impression on the consciousness of succeeding generations, our efforts to perpetuate the memory of the Evacuation may be like whistling into the wind. Still, would it be a betrayal of our commitment to justice if we didn't continue to try? ☐

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



D.C. notes

KAREN NARASAKI

Immigrants still targets of scapegoating

Ironically, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the end to the Chinese Exclusion Act, the weak economy and recent media attention to the problems of Chinese immigrant smuggling and World Trade Towers bombing by alleged Muslim extremists, have created a climate of near hysteria over U.S. immigration policies. Immigrants, both legal and illegal, have again become the favorite scapegoat for our nation's problems.

This poisonous rhetoric has moved into the legislative forum and threatens to overwhelm rational discourse and thoughtful efforts in finding reasoned and constructive solutions to our present economic problems. Unfortunately, immigrant-bashing, like Japan-bashing, appeals to those who are seeking easy answers and quick fixes. Those who seek to lay the blame on "foreigners" rather than to face up to our own shortcomings.

None of this is to say that there aren't real problems that result from illegal immigration that must be addressed. People should not be allowed to abuse the immigration system or enter this country illegally. It is not fair to Americans who have already had to make tough choices in setting our immigration policy and it is not fair

to those immigrants who sit on waiting lists for years because they are playing by the rules.

The problem with the current discussion is that many of our political leaders are pandering to our darkest fears, seeking to capitalize on them at election time. Polling data and rhetoric used by public officials indicate a disturbing underlying racial bias in the debate. Some of the more xenophobic public officials are even calling for a halt of all legal immigration. This despite the fact that the immigration rate is 35% lower than it was at the turn of the century and the fact that the Department of Labor has issued reports indicating that U.S. workers have not been adversely affected by immigration and other studies show that immigrants pay more revenue into the federal treasury than they take out.

This nativist sentiment is turning up in all forms of legislation, including education, health care, crime, social security and welfare reform. Some would pit citizens against immigrants. For example, several proposals pit citizens against even permanent residents and other legal immigrants by eliminating government assistance (social security, medicare, welfare) to anyone not a citizen.

These kinds of efforts by our political leaders only serve to legitimize anti-Asian violence and further fuel the tensions between racial communities. One of the most egregious provisions in the Senate version of the crime bill is the "Roth Amendment," which would require state and local government employees to turn suspected undocumented immigrants into the INS. While this may sound rational on its face to some, its effect would be to create an atmosphere of distrust between immigrant communities and the very people who need community cooperation to educate our children, enforce laws and guard the public health. It raises the specter of the McCarthy hunt for Communists, only this time the persecuted will be anyone who looks or sounds "foreign."

Asian Americans know all too well from experience that we are one of the communities who would bear the brunt of this suspicious atmosphere. Do we want to live in a society that tolerates a law that would turn American against American based on the color of one's skin or the existence of an accent? That would exacerbate existing communication problems between teachers and parents, between police and victims.

See NARASAKI/page 6

Letters

Looking at new twists on U.S.-Japan relations

The current social and political environment in Japan is experiencing a great transformation called deflation of the bubble economy by some and recession by others and the "quantum culture phenomena" by some others.

In view of the upcoming summit between President Clinton and Prime Minister Hosokawa, you readers might be interested in the developing scenario that could lead up to a successful or a new twist in the bilateral relations (not good).

The current "chaos" of the Japanese political situation should be viewed with historical perspective and philosophical interest, as well as geo-political consequences.

Your readers might find James Fallows' article, "How the World Works" (*The Atlantic Monthly*, December, 1993, issue) and "Japan's Capitalism: Creative Defeat and Beyond," by Shigeto Tsuru (Cambridge University) a source of background information.

Whether history repeats itself or whether history is an indicator of things to come, readers might consider the geo-cultural and socioeconomic in relation with the paradigm shift theory of Thomas Khun.

Finally, PC readers might be enlightened about Japanese and Western philosophy by reading about Kuamotto's *Tokutomi Shoho* (He is a journalist who endeavored to embrace Western philosophy during the 1880s and during the Meiji Restoration). Also worth reading is the *Hosokawa Daimyo* that realizes that Japan must embrace Western ideas in order for Japan to become equals with the industrialized nations.

P.S. The term "chaos" used herein refers to the laws of nature and humanity.

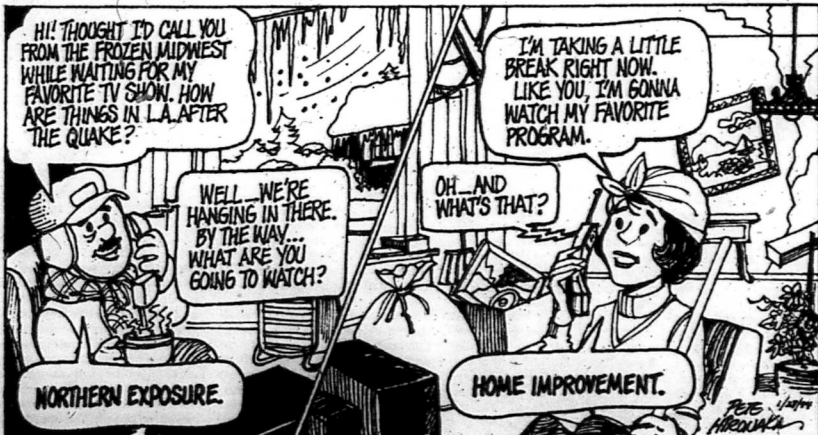
Dick Yamashita
Tokyo

California health program is a good role model

Being actively associated with the life and health insurance industry over 34 years in marketing, sales, and administration, I have seen vast changes in the health care system.

The health care industry in California continues to go through its own transformation. What already is happening here is as profound as anything proposed by President Clinton. It is especially true in Sacramento, one of the most progressive health care markets in the nation. Locally, many of the models and ideas in the Clinton health care plan were already "alive and kicking" before Clinton was elected, but his

See LETTERS/page 7



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Pacific Citizen 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 daytime telephone number. Because of limited space we may condense letters that are accepted for publication. We do not publish from letters, copies or letters written to other publications. Fax letters to 213/725-0064 or mail to Letters to the Editor, Pacific Citizen, 2 Coral Circle, Suite 204, Monterey Park, CA, 91755.

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Come-on sense

By KARL NOBUYUKI

After the quake: memos from the epicenter

Most of us face some form of threat from a natural disaster. There are tornadoes, floods, droughts and extreme cold. In California we "live on the fault line." On Jan. 17, 1994, many of us felt the full thrust of what that meant.

Many of us in L.A. have lived through a good number of earthquakes. Our brothers and sisters in San Francisco know exactly what we're talking about, and the video footage I got from the Loma Prieta earthquake was stunning, that is until this last one... the Northridge Quake.

Sandy and I live in North Hills, which borders to the south of Northridge in the San Fernando Valley, Calif. We were just about one-half mile from the heart of the epicenter. I like rock 'n' roll, but this is not the type that I put in my library.

For the Fire Department, my job was to document (on video) the disaster. It wasn't hard I only had to shoot my home and the destruction that occurred in my neighborhood. Beyond that, I responded to the collapse of the apartment complex and the parking structure in the Northridge Mall. County Fire Department rescue units were dispatched to perform their famous "urban search and rescue" (USAR).

The parking structure at the mall looked liked it was bombed. In my interview with members of the rescue team, there was a moment of sudden fear, as they were conducting their rescue and the 5.1 aftershock hit... Team members recalled that they froze in their tracks; here they were, crawling under 200 tons of concrete that they had

shored, only to hear and feel the earthquake again. The mall as a whole was in shambles. Immediately after the parking structure rescue, the same unit was called to respond to the collapse of the Northridge apartment complex.

This three-story complex was only two stories when I arrived at the scene. I knew the exact location without aid from dispatch because "Momma" (my mother-in-law) lived there about 10 years ago, and my step-brother-in-law (Goka) who operates a nursery and floral business is just a half block away. The lower structure collapsed and the full weight of the upper two pancaked downward. The rescue effort was awesome. Hallways were on top of bedrooms, dining rooms were lying on top of bedrooms, and because the quake hit in the early morning hours, most people were expected to be in their sleeping quarters. Every conceivable area that would host an occupant was explored. This meant that the USAR team had to examine and cut down into the suspected area. As of this day there were 16 deaths. Reportedly, most of the victims were crushed on their beds.

The complex was literally like a Swiss cheese after the search and rescue effort. I could only record a few glimpses of the removal of the 16th victim. It was just too much for me. And, I will never forget the odor of the "room." There is something about the scent of death... I remember feeling so proud of being associated with the Fire Department and the men and women who continued their search for sur-

vivors and victims. The search dogs were remarkable; helping the USAR team move into the general area for rescue and recovery, but all hats off to the rescuers who wouldn't quit.

As I recorded the devastation of the quake, I couldn't help but worry about those *Nikkei* businesses whose businesses were destroyed, and there were quite a few. All the years of struggle and sacrifice were crushed in just a few seconds...

On the home front, we are doing okay. We really appreciate the phone calls and offers of assistance. What we hate are the aftershocks; they just keep on coming.

Sandy and I can't really distinguish between the calls we receive between those about this column or the earthquake, and we really didn't care. The calls have helped us put things in perspective. You see, when we wake up, we just begin cleaning, and we don't stop until the body quits. Every member of our families called and so many friends; each offering to help. The distinction between family and friends became a blur. So, THANK YOU, each and everyone, we love you dearly.

Yet there is also humor. We have a clock that we've kept for sentimental reasons that never worked... now it is keeping time as though it always had. Sandra says that our carpet which we put in last year is now "sparkle carpeting," due to the broken glass scattered throughout the house. And of course, the neighbors. Since most of the cinder block walls are down, we cannot ignore our neighbors and we talk with each

other more than before. My phone in the patio that quit working, just perked up and "does its thing."

Finally, and on a personal note, my mother-in-law, Chiyoko Goka, was with us during the quake. Mom is 75 years old and in the aftermath of the quake, she acted as though she was 25. I never saw anyone work as hard and as quickly as Mom. While it was very difficult to decide where to begin the clean-up effort, she just "kept on truckin'." What a woman. Also, Pat and Alan Donato (Sandy's sister and brother-in-law) came to our rescue to give us a hot bath and meal, since our electricity was out. That was uplifting... That was "family" and we loved it...

Come-On Sense: Yes, there is a Come-On Sense angle to this disaster, and it is: "that we don't appreciate a good thing until we lose it." For those who do not belong to the League, they are missing an invaluable opportunity, effort and association. Thank God for the opportunity to be a member, and that the earthquake occurred early at 4:31 a.m. rather than during the L.A. rush hour.

Again, "THANK YOU ALL."

Nobuyuki, a former JACL national director, is a member of the San Fernando Valley Chapter and Greater Los Angeles Singles Chapter. His column appears regularly in the Pacific Citizen.



Voices

By JIMMY TOKESHI

To endure in a region of disasters

When the earth shook at 4:31 a.m. Monday morning (Jan. 17), I thought the proclamations of the big 8.0 earthquake by the Cal Tech seismologists were finally being fulfilled. The intense rush of the enveloping groundnoise with the lateral static of twisting walls, breaking glass, flexing ceilings and floors, slapping furniture and shifting appliances was severe. What followed was the dark silence of a power outage and the distant beacons of car alarms. The urgency to check for injuries and to get dressed as well as to find a flashlight and radio were immediate. The secondary importance of finding the tools to check for any leaking natural gas and broken water pipes followed.

Once outside with our neighbors, the weight of the night's darkness was felt which allowed for the skies above Los Angeles to be filled with the stars only visible from the suburbs. Emergency sirens soon followed with their repeated passage by the streets of my neighborhood in the easternmost portion of the San Fernando Valley. For the next few powerless hours, the expressions by the battery operated radio announcers were to provide moral support, emergency advice and to field calls from two-way ham radio operators to assess the damage around the region. One by one the news directors and field reporters began calling the radio stations with the reports

of the enormity of the disaster.

As the listeners began calling the radio stations, the announcers began timing the aftershocks, trying to identify the epicenter of the earthquake with the location of the radio station and the location of the callers. Oddly enough, the radio stations had guessed the central San Fernando Valley area as the epicenter before the seismologists at Cal Tech officially named the Oakridge/Fry fault or more commonly, the Northridge earthquake in the San Fernando Valley. After the initial speculation by the news reporters on the size of the quake, we soon learned that a 6.6 earthquake had struck with a number of aftershocks reaching above 5.0. When daylight came, we learned that some of the Los Angeles area freeways buckled and that buildings had cracked and fallen with numerous fires. The death toll reached 51 by the third day after the quake, with conservative estimates on the financial toll at over \$30 billion, only to exceed Hurricane Andrew in 1992 as the costliest natural disaster in this nation's history.

In speaking with the San Fernando Valley Chapter JACL president, many members of the chapter have yet to receive water, power and gas at their homes. He stated that relief efforts were being discussed with some of the religious institutions in the disaster area and the San

Fernando Valley Japanese Community Center for those who needed help with the basic necessities. The San Fernando Valley Legal Services and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) are currently in the process of assessing assistance needs for the disaster victims and the Office of the Governor has provided the JACL with a listing of Federal Emergency Management Agency - Disaster Application Centers (See stories page 4).

The relief efforts that followed the Los Angeles riots in 1992 taught us some valuable lessons in terms of problems with access to bi-language assistance for Asian Pacific Islanders and the necessary documentation which will facilitate the help to the disaster victims. Should members or persons in the disaster impacted areas need assistance, referrals are being made from the JACL-PSW regional office at (213) 626-4471.

A thanks to the National JACL leadership and the JACL-Northern California district for contacting this district with their expressions of concern and offers of support. With regard to the JACL-Pacific Southwest regional office in downtown Los Angeles, we sustained only minor damage with chipped plaster and paint, a toppled water cooler, fallen files and books. The halls in the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, where the office is

located, sustained some minor damage also with the acoustic tiles and the frames that hold them having fallen from the ceiling.

The devastating and tragic trials that have visited Los Angeles in the last three years have been remarkably to say the least, and have unfortunately promoted much fear, and scorn from people around the nation. However, this latest tragedy has shown me that the diverse people of Los Angeles are some of the best and toughest in this nation. We have been visited by floods, fires, drought, earthquakes, inter-ethnic conflicts, violence and the worst civil disturbance this century in this nation, yet we endured the disasters created by both nature and humanity. While, Los Angeles may represent the worst of society to many, as a lifetime native, this region holds a kind of hope that is resilient to the worst that nature and humanity can offer outside of war.

Here at the JACL, we offer our condolences to those who have lost life and property. We hope that the membership and the people in the disaster impacted areas will stay strong during this difficult and latest tragedy.

Tokeshi is the regional director for the JACL Pacific Southwest District.

NARASAKI

(Continued from page 5)

ized communities? No wonder this amendment is opposed by teachers, law enforcement, health officials and others whose ability to perform their missions would be severely compromised by it.

President Clinton's proposed "Expedited Exclusion and Alien Smuggling Enhanced Penalties Act of 1993" is fraught with many problems. The anti-smuggling provisions are appropriate and much needed and some streamlining of

the asylum process is a good idea. However, putting the decision solely in the hands of INS agents is a ridiculous notion. Their track record is appalling. According to the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, the immigration courts were almost nine times more likely to grant asylum than the INS and more than 75% of asylum denials by immigration judges (a step above the INS agent level) were overturned on appeal. This combined with a proposed prohibition on class action suits would mean that the INS would not be held to any standard. Add

the fact that asylum claimants generally don't speak English, will not be able to obtain legal assistance and may not be able to immediately provide evidence or easily articulate their genuine fears of persecution and you have a formula that guarantees that many bona fide refugees will be sent back to face imprisonment, torture or death. As Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) has noted, this problem is particularly poignant for women refugees whose persecution may have involved rape and other sexual torture and who may not be ready to discuss

this persecution with an INS official immediately upon arrival.

JACL has a long history of fighting anti-immigration and anti-naturalization legislation. The first measure worked on by JACL in the 1930s involved the repeal of the Cable Act which stripped American women of citizenship if they married aliens ineligible to citizenship. JACL also fought federal legislation that prohibited Japanese immigrants from becoming naturalized citizens and state legislation that barred Japanese immigrants from owning property, and has played a significant role

in efforts to remove discriminatory limitations on immigration from Asian countries.

It is with this history in mind that the JACL National Board has adopted resolutions opposing attempts to undermine established due process rights under national and international law for undocumented immigrants, discriminatory application of existing immigration laws, efforts to reduce legal immigration, and attempts to eliminate or restrict the right to citizenship for children born in the United States. The Board also

See NARASAKI/page 8

RECLAIM

(Continued from page 1)

community diminishes, our financial resources are depleted, and the once common concerns of our own members to fight the basics of racial discrimination are ignored. We appear to be taking a league of citizens and turning it into a private club for the politically correct.

This internal state of affairs has allowed JACL leadership to exercise power heedless of its membership, Shinkawa said. To return JACL to its members, Shinkawa suggested five measures:

● **Return control of the organization to its members:** "We should do that by creating a member's bill of rights within our Constitution and Bylaws to guarantee the rights of members to the basics of JACL membership. That means that we should have the right to a responsive staff, responsible leaders, financial accountability and the free press that the founders of JACL guaranteed to us. These principles should be inviolate and the basis for judging the performance of anyone who claims leadership position."

● **The JACL agenda:** "We should spend at least the next biennium assessing the focus and direction of JACL from coast-to-coast and from generation-to-generation. A commission composed of JACL members, particularly past presidents and chapter representatives should be empowered to assess the entire breadth of JACL and report directly to the members on the means and directions of JACL. While this assessment is ongoing we should freeze our growing expenditures, stop taking on new programs and operate JACL within its membership revenue base. The waste of resources, talent, and money must stop."

● **Achieving some measure of unanimity and consensus among JACL members and Japanese Americans who are not members:** "We cannot continue to foster elitist and exclusionist imagery without constricting our own ability to achieve. We cannot continue to become an ever smaller minority within a minority and still claim to be representatives of Japanese Americans. Consensus-building is a much over-used term in these days of Total Quality Management and Quality Circles. Yet, it is one of the oldest techniques of leadership ever employed in JACL."

● **Review and assess our current financial structure and strength in light of modern**

Members comment on Shinkawa speech

Here are reactions to Paul M. Shinkawa's speech from a few Mile-Hi chapter members: **Tom Masamori**

"The speech went over extremely well. We gained back some people who were faltering in their participation in JACL because of it."

"Paul is so highly regarded by the chapter anyway. He holds himself well—he never bad-mouthed anybody. He talked about how JACL must be membership-oriented."

"He gave an insight on the national staff, on the inefficiencies of staff. Overall, the picture was very refreshing."

"Paul is very low-key, he doesn't let what happened at San Francisco rile him. He stands up for principle. I admire that, I don't think you see that much these days."

Emilie Ito Kutsuma

"The speech was received very well. Most of the (Mile Hi Chapter) members agree that JACL needs to go down to the membership level. The concern is how are we going to achieve it. There are lots of problems. The question is: can it be fixed and how soon can it be fixed?"

"Something has to be done about the bickering and fighting. We need to pay more attention to chapters."

Kutsuma also said that Pan-Asian issues are not as important to the Mile Hi Chapter

**EMILIE ITO KUTSUMA**

and that the main issues the chapter is working on are discrimination, redress and education.

Tom Migaki

"Paul gave a lot of insight on his perspective of JACL. It was a mixed crowd, some weren't aware of the controversy. It was very eye-opening. The crowd really enjoyed Paul's presentation because he's so close to JACL, he's a chapter member, and when he talks something is wrong he's compelled to say so."

Chapter President Migaki said that the chapter was dealt with non-JACL issues like estate planning and social security.

"We are looking at other ways to serve our members. We have to have a variety of events," said Migaki.

management principles for non-profit organizations: "JACL cannot go into the next century and still perpetuate the practices of having a board that does not get to approve its own executive director's compensation, of having investment standards for its trust funds which allow greater risks than are commonly acceptable among most non-profit organizations, of spending the income from our trust funds to such an extent that the value of our assets are depleted by time and inflation with no real growth, of allowing financial transactions to take place which are required to have member oversight, but in reality have none and of exposing our considerable trust assets to unmanaged liability risks. I call here for a total management, performance, and service audit of National JACL operations and

structure."

● **Decision-making must be made in consultation with members and chapters:** "Chapters have done it internally since JACL was founded and it was an honored tradition at the national headquarters as well. The miracles of modern electronic communication belie the old excuses that it is not timely nor economical to consult on a nationwide basis. We cannot continue to practice oligarchical decision-making while merely talking in democratic language."

In closing, Shinkawa challenged the JACL members to get involved and speak up. Members must remember and return to the organization's roots, he said.

"To borrow an ancient Chinese proverb, 'a journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.' Who will take that first step?"

don't have credibility without money, but you can't get money until you establish credibility. It's a chicken-and-egg situation," said Uppuluri.

LETTERS

(Continued from page 5)

push for reform has dramatically accelerated the pace of change.

What sets Sacramento and most of California apart is the region's firm embrace of Managed Care, the Cost Containment System delivered by HMO and Preferred Provider organizations. California, already a largely HMO and Managed Care state, way in advance of the rest of the United States, is ready to implement Clinton's proposal without unnecessary difficulties.

Another key factor in Sacramento is the powerful influence of State Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) which provides health coverage to nearly 900,000 State and Municipal government employees and their dependents. PERS is about the closest thing in the nation to a functioning regional health alliance,

which would negotiate the terms of health insurance for entire regions of people. Such an alliance is considered a cornerstone of the Clinton plan.

Statewide consolidation has been especially visible among the HMOs. The regional health alliance that would be set up under Clinton's plan would contract with a limited number of HMOs and Health Care Providers in each market: The Health Insurance Plan of California, a new statewide health insurance purchasing pool to help obtain coverage for small businesses priced out of the markets, with estimated 40% lower premium in some cases. What was promised by the California assembly bill #1672 is being delivered.

The reform has helped tens of thousands of small businesses to afford health insurance for the first time. This is similar to President Clinton's Managed Competition Plan to provide universal coverage via regional health care purchasing cooperatives.

Individuals unable to obtain coverage because of health problems

See LETTERS/page 8

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RUNNING

(Continued from page 1)

Among her endorsers are Fred Balderama, Monterey Park councilman; Dora Padilla, Alhambra School board member and Michael Woo, former Los Angeles city councilman.

Ram Uppuluri

Ram Uppuluri, 32, recently announced his candidacy for Congress in Tennessee's third district. Uppuluri, whose mother is Japanese American and father is Indian, is an attorney specializing in energy and environmental issues. He served as legislative aide for former Sen. Al Gore, Jr. and U.S. Rep. Jim Cooper (D-TN).

The Knoxville News-Sentinel reported that the cost to a campaign in Tennessee's 3rd district will be very high, projecting that the winner will have to spend up to \$1.2 million. Uppuluri, a Democrat, is in a three way primary following the announcement that incumbent Rep. Marilyn Lloyd would not seek re-election.

"The difficulty in politics is you

Obituaries

Mary Oyama Mitterer dies

A Pacific Citizen columnist in the 1950s, Mary Oyama Mitterer recently died at 86. She was a JACL booster and fighter for Japanese Americans all her life through her writings and activities prewar in Sacramento and Denver, and postwar in East Los Angeles. Her *Liberty* magazine (Aug. 13, 1943) piece, "My Only Crime is My Face," was one of the first nationally circulated articles directed to breakdown misconceptions on the part of Caucasians concerning the Japanese in the

country. She remarked in her year-end 1955 "Smoglite" P.C. column: "The more one works for and with JACL, the more one realizes its true value and worth, its worthy aims and purposes, its accomplishments in advancing the welfare of the Nisei. 2-The better one understands the organization, the more one really realizes that most of the criticism against JACL is not valid. 3-The more experience one has working with and for JACL, the better able one becomes to answer any and all criticism."



MARY OYAMA MITTERER
At work in 1944

"Molly," as she was often called, had finished National Methodist Girls Training School in San Francisco where her community organizational skills were honed in social work in Spokane and Los Angeles. In an interview with Henry Mori for a PC Holiday Issue feature, she chuckled on how she was introduced to her husband-to-be, radio press operator Fred Mitterer, by *Koshu Mainichi* English section editor Larry Tajiri and staff writer Edith Kodama. Molly soon became Kashi Mainichi's literary page editor. They were married in 1936.

She passed away Jan. 13 in Hermosa Beach, where she spent her latter years, survived by her sons Richard, Edward (San Francisco), daughter Vicki Littman (Hermosa Beach), 9 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren; brothers Joe (Berkeley), George C. (San Francisco), and sister Yuriko Sasaki (El Sobrante).

Born in Petaluma, Calif., of Fukushima parents who were Methodist Church leaders, her grandfather, who worked on the sugar plantations in the 1890s, brought her father over in the early 1900s to Hawaii. In 1905, he was married to Miyo Ohki in Vancouver, B.C. The Oyama family settled in the Yamato Colony, Livingston, in 1909, moved to Petaluma, then to the Suisun-Fairfield Valley and to Sacramento in 1922, where her father turned to manufacturing and selling cosmetics for Issei women up and down the coast and finally at Los Angeles in 1932 until Evacuation.

—Harry K. Honda

Fujii, Katsumi, Oakland, Nov. 26; Berkeley-born, survived by wife Toyoko, sons Roy, Steven, daughter Judy Ishizu, Kathy, 2 gcs., brother Tsugio.

Fukuda, Shizuko, 60, Berkeley, Nov. 11, survived by sisters Aiko Hatake (Hayward), Mary Nita (El Cerrito), Furusho, Alice, 69, Palo Alto, Nov. 20, San Jose-born, survived by her husband Sunao, sons Stanley, Gary, daughter Judy, 4 gcs.

Gyotoku, George C., 65, San Francisco, Nov. 1, survived by wife Tomi, sons Gordon, Mark, daughter Jody Chan, 2 gcs., brother Frank, Himoto, Masao, 70, Walnut Grove, Nov. 8; Isleton-born, survived by sister Natsue Endo (Stockton), brother Takao (Chicago).

Hiral, Mitsuru, 75, Oakland, Nov. 10, survived by sister Harue Minamoto, Hitomi, Eddie, El Cerrito, Nov. 18, survived by sister Emiko Hitomi, Idehara, Kiyoko, 78, Oakland, Oct. 23, Fort-born, survived by son Harry, daughters Miyoko, Clare Kaneshige, Carolyn Gordon, brothers Toshio Hamataka, Hamano Eshaku, Saburo Hamataka, sisters Vi Nobori, Satsuki Okano.

Kemoto, Sumiko, 86, Sacramento, Nov. 4; Yamaguchi-born, survived by 3 sons Edward, Joe, Howard, 5 daughters Annie Nakashima, Michiko Okano, May Tateyama, Jane Gunter, Nancy Hashimoto.

Ishii, Frank K., 78, Fresno, Nov. 10; Fresno-born, survived by wife Lily, sons Jerry, Los, daughter Sherry Shoji, 6 gcs., brothers Chris (New York), Jack, sisters Kyo Abe, Sumi Koda.

Iwamasa, Etse, 92, San Francisco, Oct. 28; Hawaii-born, survived by sons Harold, Satoru, daughters Fumiko Murahashi, Nobuko Kamura, sister Yoshiko Akoyoshi, 17 gcs., 25 great-gcs.

Kaida, Mitsuo, 81, San Jose, Dec. 12; Nebraska-born, survived by wife Etsu, son Ron, daughter Joyce Kubota, 3 gcs., brother Robert, sister Shizue Nakano, Fumyo Edo (both jpn).

Yamashita, Nobu Tamura, 92, Culver City, Nov. 9, Ehime-born, survived by daughter Jane, brothers Jim, Lindy Tamura (both Spokane), sisters-in-law Dorothy Tamura (Kent, Wash.), Violet Tamura (Vale, Ore.).

Yanahara, Tatsuo, 80, Los Angeles, July 8; Ehime-born naturalized citizen, survived by wife Kikuyo, son Dennis, brother Katsuo (jpn), sister Kimiko (jpn), son Mark, Satsuko, 52, Rosemead, Nov. 2, Hiroshima-born, survived by husband Bob, son Jason, parents Hideharu and Kazuo Kaide (jpn), 1 brother and 5 sisters (all jpn).

Yanokawa, Teru, 95, West Los Angeles, Nov. 10, Hiroshima-born, survived by daughters Mary, Helen Terashita, Aiko Kahara.

Yoshida, Nobuo, 63, Torrance, Sept. 14; Waipahu-born, survived by wife Yoshie, son Michael, daughter Susan Manzon, 2 gcs., 2 brothers, two sisters.

Yoshida, "Chuckie" C., 84, Los Angeles, Aug. 2, Los Angeles-born, survived by sons Rodney, (New Jersey), Douglas (Seattle), daughter Lorraine G. (Orange County), sister Kimiko Miyamura.

Yoshida, Gilch, 69, Chicago, Sept. 30, Seattle-born, survived by wife Joy, son Mark, Kenneth, daughter Michelle, sister Ayako Yamada, Sadao Nakagawa, Masako Kato, Susan Nakagi, Betty Kawaguchi.

Yoshida, Harry Y., 67, Los Gatos, Aug. 16 of a stroke, Turlock-born, survived by wife Jeannette, brothers Frank, Roy, John.

Yoshida, Susumu, 84, Gardena, Nov. 29, Sags-born naturalized U.S. citizen, survived by wife Shigeko, sons Hajime, Toshio, Nobuyoshi, Dr. David, daughters Ikuo Yuge, Minoru Oike (New Jersey), Kyoko Hashimoto (Denver), 16 gcs.

Yoshida, Ichiro, Setau, 97, San Gabriel, Sept. 11 (sv), Akita-born, survived by sons Ichiro, Tokuji, daughter Eiko Sakamoto, 13 gcs., 6 great-gcs.

Yoshimoto, Masato, 80, Monterey Park, Nov. 17, Seattle-born, survived by wife Frances, sons Glenn (Los Gatos), Dennis, daughters Joyce, Sato (San Jose), Virginia Yugo, 5 gcs.

Yoshimura, Dan S., Los Angeles, July 28; Miyagi-born naturalized U.S. citizen, survived by wife Kikuo, son Victor, daughter Evelyn Iwasaki, stepson Ben Yamada (Irvine), 5 gcs.

Yoshino, Henry Y., 79, San Francisco, Oct. 17; Alameda-born WWII veteran, survived by brother John (Kensington, Md.), Joe (San Francisco), Paul (Hayward), sisters May Hori (Honolulu), Sue Hayashi (San Francisco), Aiko Yamamoto (Berkeley).

Young, Cheryl Setau, 49, Clovis, Oct. 3; Salt Lake City-born, survived by son Chris, parents Hugo and May Kazato, brother Kirk.

NARASAKI

(Continued from page 6)

adopted a policy to oppose asylum legislation that would bar class action lawsuits, eliminate impartial judicial review of asylum claims, or increase the standard for initial asylum screening. In addition, the Board voted to vigorously oppose attempts to deny U.S. citizenship to children born to illegal immigrants, and that would deny these children education, health care and other social services. Finally, the Board reaf-

firmed JACL's support of fair immigration laws and our commitment to fighting anti-immigrant backlash.

As one of my predecessors, Paul Inagaki, has said, "Japanese Americans must stand up against the rush to scapegoat immigrants for all of our problems. Not so long ago, we stood in their shoes." □

Narasaki is the JACL, Washington, D.C., representative.

LETTERS

(Continued from page 7)

lems can purchase from California Major Risk Medical Insurance Program underwritten by large HMO's and PPO's with competitive rates. For seniors Medicare Supplement, major HMO companies have already been marketing with much success at premiums of \$10 to \$20 per month and with \$5 to \$6 Co-Payment Plan idea.

And most important of all—claim processing under the new California state law "Unfair Claims Settlement Practices Regulation" which became effective on January 1, 1993, has resulted in vast improvement, since strict compliance must be met by producers, insurance and claims agents. President Clinton advocates a rapid pace in claim processing from the health care industry.

So all in all, President Clinton's Health Care Reform should study California's foregoing Health Care Plan as a role model, as it will make it easier for taxpayers.

Bill Kashiwagi
Sacramento, CA

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Death Notice

HARRY MINORU KUWAHARA
Los Angeles, CA - Harry Kuwahara, 79, passed away Sept. 24, 1993.
Hawaii-born, retired from Honolulu Fire Dept., Veteran of WWII, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Company I.
Survived by wife, Edna; father of 4; 6 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; and sisters, Heier (Arthur) Ah Loo & Dorothy Kuwahara.

Death Notice

CHISATO KUMANO
Menlo Park, CA - Chisato Kumano, 95 passed away Friday, Jan. 7.
Hiroshima-born Palo Alto pioneer, she is survived by sons Tadashi (Palo Alto), Katsuya (Japan) & Tom (San Jose) and daughter Chizu Iwahashi (El Cerrito). She was predeceased by her husband Takaji K. and son Masahiko.

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