



Pacific Citizen

National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

Meaningful
multiculturalism
—page 5

#2740/Vol 118, No. 4 ISSN: 0030-8579 2 Coral Circle, Suite 204, Monterey Park, CA 91755 (213) 725-0063 February 4-10, 1994

Lots to see and do at 1994 convention

By CLAUDIA H. NAKANO
Special to the Pacific Citizen
Besides JACL activities, what's there to do at the Aug. 2-7 the 33rd biennial national JACL convention in Salt Lake City, Utah? The answer is: a lot. In conjunction with attendance at the convention, the Mt. Olympus Chapter, JACL, and the Salt Lake City and Wasatch Front Chapters, suggest you also take the opportunity to see some of the historical sites and unique attractions in the area, including:

- Great Salt Lake has a saline content of 5% (minimum) to 27% (maximum),

nearly 7 times as salty as any ocean. Visitors center, gift shop and marina.

- Historic Temple Square—L.D.S. (Mormon) Church center, featuring daily concerts and tours for visitors.
- Kennecott's Bingham Canyon Copper Mine—Observation deck overlooks spectacular vistas of the world's largest man-made excavation.
- Mountain hiking/picnicking—Five alpine canyons east of Salt Lake provide scenic drives, picnic areas and campgrounds.
- Mormon Tabernacle

See EVENT/page 3

Former JACL national director takes critical stand against PC



SPEAKERS—Ron Wakabayashi, above, speaking at a Jan. 28 PSW event, commented on the PC controversy before introducing JACL National Director Randy Senzaki, at right.

Speaking at PSW reception for JACL National Director Randy Senzaki, Ron Wakabayashi calls PC "an abomination that must be fixed."



By GWEN MURANAKA
PC assistant editor
LOS ANGELES—Ron Wakabayashi, executive director, Los Angeles City Human Relations Committee, speaking at the Jan. 28 Pacific Southwest welcoming reception for Randy Senzaki, JACL national director, had harsh and critical remarks about Pacific Citizen's recent coverage of a speech by Paul Shinkawa saying, "It's an abomination that's got to be fixed."

Wakabayashi, who was JACL national director from 1981-1988, was the emcee at the event and his extended remarks were made before his introduction of Senzaki.

"It's unfair to Randy to be put into this spot," said Wakabayashi, adding that there has been a great deal of "staff-bashing" in PC. Wakabayashi praised the JACL staff for their dedication to JACL and its civil rights agenda.

Wisconsin politician uses racial slur JACL Youth announce 1st Vision Awards

For some the war isn't over. Vietnam veteran and Wisconsin State Sen. David Zien (R-Eau Claire) drew angry protests when he repeatedly used the word "gook" in a 1993 Veterans' Day speech before at Bloomer High School, reported the Milwaukee Journal.

The state senator used the term when he was describing how his Marine unit was

overrun by North Vietnamese soldiers. After the speech, one student, who was later disciplined, used the term and an expletive to describe Asians. A number of teachers walked out during the speech. The JACL, State Sen. Joseph Wineke and a number of teachers have called on Zien to apologize.

Bill Yoshino, JACL midwest regional director, said that to date there has been no apology from Zien.

"Part of the problem is that the media has characterized Zien as kind of a goofball. These incidents need to be taken seriously," said Yoshino.

Zien justified his use of the slur saying, "In the jungles of Vietnam, the enemy were only called 'gooks,' just as the enemy in Europe were called 'Krauts.' I explained the term had no racial connotations for me and was the only word used in Vietnam for the enemy that was killing our friends."

Condemning the use of racial slurs, Yoshino said, "The use of these terms can cause entire groups to feel fearful, unprotected and suspicious of others. Their use has contributed to the rising trend in anti-Asian sentiment and acts of hate violence directed at Asian Americans."

"The JACL calls on you to issue an apology. We have a real concern that the insensitive use of derogatory terms risk the social fabric of communities."

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) National Youth Council has announced that actress Tamlyn Tomita and disabled rights activist Liane Yamamoto of San Francisco have been named recipients of its first biennial Vision Award.

The Vision Award was created to honor young Asian Americans who have made an impact in their field and served as a positive role model for youth and students. Tomita and Yasumoto will be honored at a noon luncheon scheduled during the JACL National Youth Conference, "People Envisioning Tomorrow," on Saturday, Feb. 5, 1994, at the Miyako Hotel in San Francisco.

Tomita, known for her work in films such as "The Karate Kid Part II," "Come See the Parade," and "Joy Luck Club," will be honored for her efforts to increase visibility of Asian American actresses on screen.

Yasumoto, a San Francisco native and University of California, Berkeley graduate, has been successful in increasing wheelchair accessibility, and in San Francisco has led legal battles against local businesses for their failure to meet handicapped codes.

The conference, which will be held February 4-5, 1994, is aimed to develop the leadership skills of Asian Americans by educating them about issues impacting youth today. The conference will explore issues such as Hate Crimes, "Building an Ethnic Studies Program," "Promoting Positive Images of Asian Americans in the Media," "Bridging the Gap," "Asians and AIDS," and "Political Empowerment."

Former Marine Bruce Yamashita, who was "disenrolled" following several incidents of racial discrimination, will give the keynote address on the conference theme, "People Envisioning Tomorrow."

The on-site registration of the conference (including the award luncheon) is \$15 for students, \$25 for non-students. The public is welcome and registrations will be accepted at the door. Information or to pre-registration: Janelle Sasaki at JACL national headquarters at (415) 921-5225 or conference coordinator Kimi Yoshino at (916) 757-1556.

Earthquake relief

Above the epicenter of the Jan. 17 Northridge earthquake, the San Fernando Valley Chapter, JACL, has set up a fund to help earthquake victims.

"We have found that the Asian American community tends to get overlooked in relief efforts. We will be coordinating our efforts with other Asian American service agencies," said Arnold Miyamoto, chapter president.

Send checks to: San Fernando Valley, Chapter, JACL Earthquake Recovery Fund, c/o Rokupri Kubota, treasurer, 7820 Satsuma Ave., Sun Valley, CA, 91352.

Photo: TOM MASAMORI



Tom Migaki and Adele Arakawa hosted the Mile-Hi Chapter's annual installation dinner Jan. 22.

Mile-Hi installation

By TOM MASAMORI
Mile-Hi Chapter, JACL

New member Adele Arakawa, a former TV news anchor in Chicago and now working for Denver station KUSA, and

Tom Migaki, chapter president, were hosts to the annual Mile-Hi Chapter, JACL, installation dinner Saturday, Jan. 22.

Guest speaker was Paul M. Shinkawa, former PC Board chairman and

member of the Houston Chapter, JACL.

Text of Shinkawa's speech and photo of new chapter officers are on page 7.

The meeting was attended by 118 members.

Announce your 1994 officers

Pacific Citizen encourages chapters to report their new slate of officers for the coming year. PC's All aboard features a listing of officers and when space permits a photo of the group. Send them to:

Pacific Citizen, All Aboard, 2 Coral Circle, #204, Monterey Park, CA, 91755.

"I wish that there could have been earlier conversations, but it's gotten beyond where it's repairable. Maybe it's time for JACL and PC to get a divorce."

—Ron Wakabayashi

solved, strongly suggesting that PC be separated from JACL.

"I wish that there could have been earlier conversations, but it's gotten beyond where it's repairable. Maybe it's time for JACL and PC to get a divorce—when two parties have gone too far away from each other, there should be a divorce and trying to settle it as cleanly as you can without pulling the kids (the JACL membership) back and forth," said Wakabayashi.

Wakabayashi said part of the problem with PC is that it has the dual role of newspaper and house organ.

"It's crossed too many ways. Half of what's in there says house organ. If I had a choice, I'd rather get Asian Week or Rapa Shimpo, I get more value."

See STAND/page 3

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EXPIRATION NOTICE: If the last four digits on the top line of address label reads 10/30/93, the 60-day grace period ends with the last issue for December, 1993. If JACL membership has been renewed and the paper stops, please notify JACL National Headquarters immediately.



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Calendar

Hawaii Honolulu

Sat. Feb. 19—JACL Honolulu "Day of Remembrance" with "The Life of the Land" play, 8 p.m., the new Kumukahi Theatre, 46 Merchant St. (corner of Merchant and Alakea). Tickets: \$8. Information: P.O. Box 1291, Honolulu, HI 96807; 808/988-3884.

Northeast U.S. Washington, D.C.

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

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

Ohio Dayton

Sat. Feb. 19—JACL charter bus to Indianapolis for "Children of the Detention Camp, 1942-46" exhibit.

Indiana Indianapolis

Fri-Sun. Feb. 18-20—JACL Midwest District spring session, Courtyard, 10290 N. Meridian St.; information: Charles Matsumoto 317/888-8505.

Wisconsin Milwaukee

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

Arizona Phoenix

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

Colorado Denver

Sat. Feb. 12—JACL Mile-Hi/Organization of Chinese American New Year dinner, 6 p.m., Empress Restaurant.

National Board meets Feb. 12-13 in San Francisco

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

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

2825 W. Alameda Ave. Information: Tom Migaki 303/922-9593; Sumi Takano 303/777-1661.

Nevada Las Vegas

Sat. Feb. 12—JACL Las Vegas: Ethnic Fashion Show and Shopping Fundraiser to benefit Cimarron-Memorial and Clark High Schools' Multicultural Committees, 11 a.m., Cimarron-Memorial High School gymnasium. Information: 702/228-3071.

California Sacramento Valley

Sat. Feb. 5—Annual JACL Florn Time of Remembrance, Buddhist Hall, 7215 Pritchard Rd., Sacramento. NOTE: Preparation meetings on 2nd Weds. 7:30 p.m., Al and Mary Tsukamoto home, 9900 Doc Bar Court, Elk Grove, 916/685-6747, exhibit of educational material to remember EO 9066 will be on display two 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 Irtani, c/o Florn JACL, P.O. Box 292634, Sacramento, CA 95829; 916/395-7955.
Sat. Feb. 12—JACL Sacramento benefit crab feed, information: Toko Fuji 916/441-7900, ext. 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 Betty Sakamoto, Kuni Horikawa, Tom Fujimoto, Tsuto Ota, Cheryll Ito, Mike Sawamura, Lori Fujimoto, Mike Iwahiro, Gene Itogawa, Dik Fukushima, Ralph Sugimoto, Richard Sawamura, Sacramento Taiko Doh. Information: Toko Fuji, 916/441-7900, ext. 421-6968.

San Francisco

Fri.-Sat. Feb. 4-5—National JACL Youth Conference, "Envisioning Tomorrow: Bridging the Gap, Promoting positive images of Asians in the Media." Information: Janelle Sacki, JACL HQ 415/921-5225 or Kimi Yoshino 916/757-1556, early registration by Jan. 20, open to general public.
Sun. Feb. 6—NWCNPD district session, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Mayo Inn, 1800 Sutter St., San Francisco.

San Jose

Sun. Feb. 6—San Jose Taiko performance, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., San Jose Museum of Art, 110 S. Market St. 408/294-2787.
Sun. Feb. 13—San Jose Nikkei Singles 17th annual installation luncheon, 11 a.m., Mamot, 2700 Mission College Blvd., Santa Clara; RSVP Feb. 3, Betty Uchida 408/267-1935.

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 Kashiwagi, and Lane Nishikawa.

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 Ground, Salinas. NOTE—Harry "Tar" Shirachi, keynote speaker; reception to follow at Salinas Buddhist Temple.

Los Angeles-Orange

Tue. Feb. 8—Japan-America Society/Japanese Assn./Women in film Technology Council seminar, "Interactive Entertainment: It's All in the Software," 5-7 p.m., Beverly Hilton; RSVP 213/627-6217x15.

Thu. Feb. 10—Japan-America Society luncheon, 11:30-2 p.m., Holiday Inn Torrance Gateway, 19800 Vermont, Torrance; RSVP 213/627-6217x15. NOTE—Shoichi Yamada, speaker, "Japanese Corporate Citizenship: L.A.'s Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Youth."

Tue. Feb. 10—JACC art exhibit opening: Muratsukaya-Relsons, Koji Takai and Jayme Odgers, Doizaki Gallery, JACCC, 244 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles; information: 213/628-2725.
Sat. Feb. 12—Japanese American National Museum (JANM) annual meeting, 11:30-6 p.m., New Otani Hotel, 120 S. Los Angeles; information: 213/625-0414. NOTE—Luncheon includes presentation of Phase II report and Miki Tanimura Outstanding Volunteer Award.
Sat. Feb. 12—"Blue Jay in the Desert" storytelling/book party, 2 p.m., JANM, 369 E. 1st St., Los Angeles. NOTE—Presenting new children's book introducing the WWII internment story by author Marlene Shigekawa and illustrator Isao Kikuchi.

Southern California

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

Poetic stories of internment scheduled for San Jose, Calif.

"Broken Promises, Broken Dreams," a bilingual production of *tanka* written by Japanese Americans while in internment camps during World War II, will be performed Feb. 26 in San Jose, Calif.
The poetic stories have been

adapted for production by Catherine Motoyama, assistant professor of ESL and speech of the College of San Mateo. It presented by the Performance Studies Division of the Western States Communication Association.

Voices from within

WHAT: "Broken Promises, Broken Dreams," a production featuring the poetic genre of *tanka*.

SCRIPTOR AND DIRECTOR: Catherine Motokoto Motoyama, assistant professor of speech and ESL, College of San Mateo.

CAST: Catherine T. Motoyama, Warren Shelby, Akiko Soda, Michelle Miyuki Wada.

WHEN: Saturday, Feb. 26, 3:40 p.m.

WHERE: Club Regent Room, San Jose Fairmont Hotel, 170 S. Market St., San Jose, Calif.

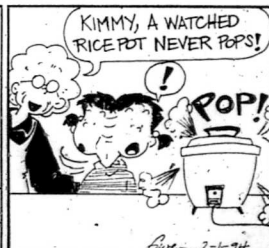
COST: Free.

INFORMATION: Catherine Motoyama, 415/574-6676.

Small kid time



Gwen Muranaka



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STAND

(Continued from page 1)
Wakabayashi.

In his remarks, Senzaki likened JACL to a large family and said that there are many regional differences.

"A lot of issues we feel are important may be different from one region to another. The staff is a focus, a locus for issues so that we all can bring issues together and talk and meet the needs of individuals and chapters," said Senzaki.

The national director said one of the reasons there is conflict within JACL is because the organization is changing.

"We are in transition. A lot of issues that have surfaced recently are not to be looked at as a failure," said Senzaki.

He said one of the key issues for JACL is to bring more young and middle-aged people into the organization and that JACL must focus on "reassessing, reaffirming and renewing" the organization. "No matter your perspective on issues, I was raised to respect other people. As much as my mother, my mentor, taught me patience, respect and forgiveness. As we move out and network. We will not forget that we are Japanese Americans and make a strong organization for our children and children's children."

The PSW district scheduled to a Feb. 5 meeting in Los Angeles to discuss PC and the recommendations of a district committee formed to look into the publication.

EVENT

(Continued from page 1)

Choir—Famous 300 voice choir offer public concerts in the Tabernacle on Historic Temple Square Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings.

- Summer activities at Park City, Deer Valley and Snowbird.
- State Capitol—Ornate state-house and museum is set atop Capitol Hill allowing a panoramic view of the valley.
- Pioneer Trail State Park—Main attractions include "This is the Place" monument and a recreated early pioneer town.

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Masaoka Fellowship Fund seeks intern applicants

The Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund is currently seeking applicants for its third Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Intern Program for the 1994-1995 term.

"The successful candidate will serve his or her internship in the office of an Asian Pacific American U.S. senator or member of the U.S. House of Representatives," said Dr. H. Tom Tamaki of Norristown, Pa., chairman of the fund.

The internship of approximately three and one-half months includes a stipend of \$5,000 funded by the Fund.

The term will be open for September through December of 1994

or February through May of 1995. The choice of fall or spring term will be arranged by the member of Congress and the awardee. The deadline for applications is May 1, 1994.

Candidates must be American citizens, who are in at least their third year of college or in graduate or professional programs.

Preference is given to those who have demonstrated commitment to Asian American issues, particularly those affecting the Japanese American community. Communication skills, both writing and speaking, are important.

The Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund honors the late Mike

M. Masaoka for a lifetime of outstanding public service promoting justice, civil rights and human dignity.

The major goal of the fund, which will continue in perpetuity, is to encourage public service, granting awards to educate or train recipients for leadership in public service.

Joe Horiye, 24, of San Diego was the first Masaoka fellow. He served his internship with Rep. Norman Y. Mineta of California.

Dean Hojo Matsubayashi, 23, of Culver City, Calif., is the second selectee and will begin his internship with Sen. Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii beginning in mid-

January 1994.

The third selectee will serve in the office of Rep. Robert T. Matsui of California.

How to apply

Information, applications: national JACL headquarters, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA., 94115; or call 415/921-5225; or fax: 415/931-4671.

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Personally speaking

Business

Mitsubishi Electric America Group (of nine companies), Cypress, Calif., has named **Takashi Kiuchi** as chairman. He will maintain his role as chairman/CEO of its main subsidiary, Mitsubishi Electronics America.

Union Bank of California named **Akifumi Tamagawa**, 39, vice president in the Office of the President, San Francisco. A Tokyo University graduate in law, he was most recently assisting with the Bank of Tokyo's capital markets division in Tokyo.

Courtroom

After lawyers in Colorado decided to hold their annual state bar association convention at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, some dissident minority groups are defecting because the city was the birthplace of Amendment 2, the anti-gay amendment. **Faye Mateukage** of the Asian American Bar Association, said members can't in good conscience attend because of that city's heavy backing for Amendment 2 and the state's English-only law. "We don't want to indirectly support the city by our presence at the convention," she said. The three-year-old Asian law student group (APALSA) at the University of Washington began its new year in July with elections. **Benes Aldana**, president, and stepping up its focus on the Seattle area Asian community. Speaking to local middle school students about the importance of college and about the legal profession are priorities for 1993-94.

Awards

The YWCA of Sonoma County

and the Sixth Assembly District have honored **Mel Nakano** as "Women of the Year" at separate occasions. She was named for the Assembly award by a committee composed of women active in Marin and Sonoma counties. The YWCA recognized the Sonoma County JACLER and P.C. columnist for her work in advancing social and racial justice. She also organized the coalition to establish a county human rights commission and has been serving as acting chair.

Marsha Tadano Long, deputy supervisor in administrative services with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources at Olympia received the Governor's Distinguished Management Leadership Award for her long-term record with the Department of Licensing.

Youth in the News

Brooke Horiuchi, daughter of Los Angeles dentist Harvard Horiuchi, attended the Girl Scout Wider Opportunity travel project and "Operation Enterprise" this past summer at the Edith Macy Girl Scout Center, Briarcliff Manor, N.Y.

Appointments

Among the 18-member U.S.-Japan Commission on Aging appointed by Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala are **Dennis Hayashi**, director, HHS Dept. Office of Civil Rights; and **Sandra Ouye Mori**, executive secretary of the City and County of San Francisco Health Commission.

Names in the news

Caesar Uyesaka was honored

Jan. 29 with the dedication of the University of California, Santa Barbara's baseball facility in his name. Uyesaka was president of the minor league Santa Barbara Dodgers in the 1960s. The Santa Barbara Chapter JACLER member was also acknowledged in the local *News-Press*. The article pointed out that Uyesaka was "known for slipping extra spending money into the pockets of his players."

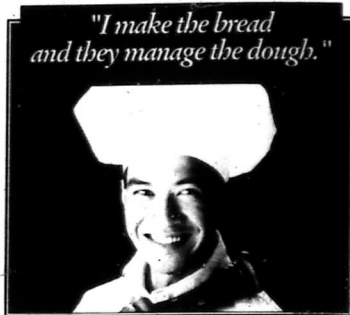
Fifty years ago, **Jimmy Urata** and **Helen Kawamoto** were San Diegans who, because of World War II, were evacuated to Santa Anita and to Poston. A recent *San Diego Union Tribune* unfolded their saga. This story of Poston and his wartime experiences is what this active Riverside JACLER has been telling at schools and service clubs. When San Diego High School class of 1943 celebrated its 50th anniversary, Helen was among the Very Excused Absences, a list comprise of those who were already in the armed forces and the Nisei who were interned.

The Los Angeles county board of supervisors recently appointed **Alan T. Sasaki** as county auditor-controller, succeeding **Daniel Igemoto**, who retired in early 1993—an unusual happening coupling two Japanese Americans in this major position involving coordination and maintenance of central records for all county financial transactions, performing audits and investigations, computation of property tax rates and maintaining fiscal control over tax collection and apportionment. Sasaki was a Certified Information Systems Auditor and served with the county since May, 1986.

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Opinions



From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

Healthy eating—the good, the bad

It's been said that when Nisei meet each other for the first time, sooner or later they ask: "By the way, what camp were you in?" Since being locked up in an American concentration camp was an almost universal experience for Japanese Americans, it is understandable that the question should be raised.

Now that Nisei as a generation are well into their sunset years, another routine question has taken on added significance. When you inquire about a Nisei's friend's health, it's more genuine concern than a routine courtesy. For proof, please note the space given to obituaries each week in this newspaper.

I suppose it would be fair to say Nisei as a group didn't pay much attention to balanced nutrition in their early years. They grew up during the Depression. For many what they ate was less a matter of choice than what was available or affordable. That didn't include much red meat, which is frowned on these days. In any event, their diet was not typically American. It was more likely to be a combination of American and Japanese, a menu that has continued through their lifetimes.

Thus I was interested in a booklet titled *Hints from Horizon for Healthy Living*, published by an organization called Nikkei Horizons of Seattle. It provides information about healthy eating in general, but with some eye-opening data about the nutritional value of some Japanese foods. Pauline Shioeaki is the consulting dietitian, and Margaret Yanagimachi, who sent me the booklet, coordinated the project.

Many persons with heart or kidney problems are on low-sodium diets which, in practice, means low-salt. One teaspoon of salt, the booklet reports, contains 2,300 milligrams of sodium. But 3.5 ounces of umeboshi (pickled plums) contains 6,600 milligrams of sodium, 3.5 ounces of dried wakame (seaweed) 6,100 milligrams of sodium; 3.5 ounces of kelp 3,100 milligrams of sodium; 3.5 ounces of takuan (pickled giant radish) 2,800 milligrams of sodium, 3.6 ounces of hijiki (a dried seaweed; my dictionary says "spindle-shaped bladder leaf") 1,500 milligrams.

I do not know why 3.5 ounces is considered a portion. One of these days I hope to find out why this is so, and how one calculates 3.5 ounces without a scale.

By contrast to the above, shrimp and crab (who can afford them?) pack very little sodium but a lot of another no-no, cholesterol. Tofu has almost no sodium or cholesterol and tastes like it unless you douse it with soy sauce, which has a lot of sodium.

When I was a youngster my mother not infrequently would serve *okara* which is the fibrous leftovers from soybeans used in making *tofu* and looks and tastes like coarse sawdust. The *Horizon* booklet notes that while brain these days is considered the best and least expensive food to add fiber to the diet, *okara* is better. So I guess Mom knew what she was doing when she tried to save money by filling us up with a *tofu* by-product.

Okara, which can be dried at home (the booklet tells you how) and kept indefinitely, also is reported to be excellent in baked goods and can be used in place of bread or cracker crumbs.

Once again East meets West. Bon appetite. ☺

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

Letters

Thanks for story on how JAs got educational help

When World War II broke out in 1941, one of the fallout was that thousands of Nisei students' college careers were disrupted as they were placed in the 10 relocation centers. In Philadelphia, the American Friends' Service Committee quickly responded and organized the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council which successfully enrolled almost 3,500 Nisei students from camps into colleges, universities and trade schools throughout the midwestern, eastern and southern states.

It was a tremendous effort on the part of this Quaker group, and I, as one of the beneficiaries of that program, am eternally grateful and indebted to the hard working and committed members of the NJASRC and also to the hundred of schools that cooperated and participated in the project. I'm sure the other relocated Nisei students share this feeling of gratitude.

It was so refreshing to read in the Jan. 7-20, 1994 edition of the *Pacific Citizen* an article written by Judy Austin Rantala, who was a junior at the University of New Hampshire when she learned of the Quaker program. She describes with touching pathos her involvement on campus to get a Japanese American student, or two, into the University of New Hampshire. The numerous hurdles that needed to be cleared were seemingly insurmountable, but to her credit, she personally spearheaded the action that finally resulted in two Japanese American students being enrolled the following year at the University of New Hampshire.

As a former staffer with NJASRC, I can readily perceive this kind of preparatory work being repeated at that time in hundreds of other schools of higher education which received Nisei relocatees. I am thankful that Judy Austin Rantala came forward with memories of her experience; otherwise, I would have continued to be unaware of the "legwork" done by friends like Judy Austin Rantala and others who enabled us Nisei students in those seemingly bleak and hopeless years to continue and complete an college education. A resounding "thank you" to Judy Austin Rantala and others like her — we are equally indebted to them.

Nao Takasugi

Assemblyman, California Legislature

Don't dismiss those who fight 'Jap Road' situation

I'm very disappointed that there are Japanese Americans such as Scott Yamazaki

See LETTERS/page 6

Sidebar

MEI NAKANO

Multiculturalism: Beyond sushi and enchiladas

It was only a matter of time before "multiculturalism" or its twin term "cultural diversity" would be referred to as a buzzword. I heard it the other day from an admittedly conservative talk show host, who, when he said it, clearly meant to trash the whole idea. That roused a bunch of folks out there to call in and register their complaints, ranging from the use of multicultural curricula in our schools to the notion that multiculturalism would lead to the "Balkanization of our society."

These voices have become increasingly loud and strident lately—on the air, in homes, in the work places and universities. They come from Americans who fear the encroachment of multiculturalism on what they see as the rock solid foundation on which America was built.

What's exactly to fear? I think it's the "ism" in the word that's the problem. Most Americans accept, and even like, the notion of a multicultural society on the surface. Sushi and enchiladas, after all, bring variety to a boring meat and potatoes diet. But add "ism" to the term, transforming it into a doctrine, as it were, of embracing the validity of the values which different cultures bring to the table, and there's trouble in River City.

Mainstream Americans fear the notion of multiculturalism, I think, in the sincere belief that every society needs a universally accepted set of values. It's the stuff on which U.S. prosperity and freedom were built, they say. Accordingly, "new" or "different" cultures should be pressured to conform to those values—or obliterated. We've seen in our history how this was played out: the callous slaughter of the Native Americans; Africans dehumanized; the Chinese "heaven" and the "unassimilable" Japanese cultures finally barred from entering the country. A more recent example of culture-trashing is the "English Only" campaign, aimed largely at the "new" Latino population.

But what Americans seem to ignore is that the hard-set, eternal, "American values" of their minds is really a myth. Shifts in cultural values have always occurred in our society, the earthshaking cultural revolution of the sixties and seventies being a prime example. It changed the landscape to such an extent that our society would never be what it was before.

A couple of months ago, as a member of the newly-established Human Rights Com-

mission in our County, I was asked to speak about human rights issues at a local Rotary Club luncheon. This organization, it seems to me, epitomizes middle America, with its mostly white, mostly male, make-up. I spoke at this event about multiculturalism because human rights issues largely involve matters of race and culture. When I had finished, a man rose and said: "I do appreciate your coming here and giving us this information, but personally, I don't like to hear the terms 'Japanese American,' 'African American,' 'Chinese American.' We're all Americans, aren't we? Why can't we just refer to ourselves as 'plain American'?"

Uh-oh, I said to myself. Here it is again. Shortly before, I had been involved in a cultural awareness workshop in which a woman had expressed the same thing in a different way. "Why are we always talking about differences between us?" she asked.

See SIDEBAR/page 8

Nakano, Nisei author of "Japanese American Women: Three Generations," is presently working on a book about her father. Her column appears monthly in the Pacific Citizen.

THE BIG ONE



Pacific Citizen Policies

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The opinions, views and statements in the editorials, columns and cartoons appearing in *Pacific Citizen* are those of the authors and as such do not necessarily represent the Japanese American Citizens League. *Pacific Citizen* editorials, columns, and cartoons of staff will be clearly labeled as such.

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Letters

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 forum 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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Viewpoint

What was, can be again—it's up to you

Viewpoint is a Pacific Citizen forum for in-depth analyses of key issues affecting the JACL or the Japanese American community in general. Opposing views are welcome.

The following is Paul M. Shinkawa's speech to the Mile-Hi Chapter, JACL, Saturday, Jan. 22, in Denver, Colo. It is presented here to members and readers in its entirety to provide understanding of the depth and breadth of the issues and problems facing the organization today.

By PAUL M. SHINKAWA



country by the Nisei and thereby prove to the majority population that Americans of Japanese ancestry were worthy to be their equals in all things.

As a representative group of minority Americans we were also a minority within

ourselves. The larger body of Japanese-Americans held mixed feelings about us and while many silently supported us, many also felt that we only represented the aspirations and goals of the educated and affluent. For example, in 1942 when the Evacuation was beginning, there were more than 120,000 Japanese-Americans in the Western Defense Command's jurisdiction. Fewer than 20,000 were JACL members.

As an already organized group comprised of citizens, the Evacuation gave JACL an extraordinary opportunity to demonstrate its worth. And we did. Yet, we did not convince as many of our people as we might have and divisions within our community as a result of the Evacuation became more pronounced, so that during the war years JACL membership dropped to a low of 1,700.

After the war, and partly as a result of our greater assimilation within the major-

ity culture, and partly as a result of the rise of singularly talented leaders, JACL played crucial roles in obtaining for the evacuees in 1948 a small token measure of recompense for their property losses and in obtaining the right of our Issei generation in 1952 to become citizens. In doing so, we demonstrated the worth of two very important principles. We demonstrated that working within the existing social and political fabric of America could result in greater benefits to us than by withdrawing into our own sub-culture, and we demonstrated that America was capable of feeling remorse and redressing its wrongs against us.

In 1978, we began the most ambitious endeavor that JACL had ever undertaken. Japanese-Americans have faced greater risks, the decision to go to Evacuation camps in a climate of war hysteria and overt racism in a time when genocidal fever gripped half the world, created the closest opportunity for outright extinction that we have ever faced. But for JACL, the redress effort was the greatest risk we ever undertook.

The reason for that is that with Redress, we placed our entire reputation and standing in our own community on the line. We gambled our respect and every political and social favor we were owed or could call upon to try to obtain the only sincere apology that America understands as a reality. Had the unthinkable happened, had we failed, Japanese-Americans today would be

just another non-European group of immigrant descendants, slowly but inexorably assimilating into America.

With Redress, JACL drew its inside straight in 1988. Without success, I thought that no one could ever challenge the value of JACL to our community nor could we ever fail to take our place among the pre-eminent citizens of the Republic by championing truth, justice and the rule of law.

Yet, here we are in 1994. Look now at what we have become. When I joined JACL twenty 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, 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 supports all of these initiatives.

See YOU page 7



All aboard

NEW OFFICERS—The Mile-Hi Chapter, JACL, installed its 1994 officers at its Jan. 22 meeting. From left, standing, are Richard Hamai, treasurer; James Hada, Singles; Barry Kita, secretary; Charles Brook, programs, PR; Stuart Hirai, vice president; and Andy Hamano, scholarship (local). From left, seated,

are Tom Masamori, Redress/Legacy Fund; Sumi Takano, membership/hospitality; Tom Migaki, president; Adele Arakawa, program emcee; Paul M. Shinkawa, guest speaker; and Tanya Shifflet, youth. Not shown are Caroline Tu Farley, programs, PR, and Linda Hamada, legal advisor. More All aboard on p. 7.

Photo: LE MASAMORI

Voices . . . from Chicago

Nelson Kitsuse, Sam Ozaki, Chiye Tomihira, Joy Yamasaki, and The Rev. S. Michael Yasutake
Chicago Chapter, JACL

We support Pacific Citizen

The Pacific Citizen Board and staff have been under attack by the JACL president, National Board and the JACL national staff in recent months. We write this in support of the Pacific Citizen's, what seems to us, straightforward reporting of some of the more significant internal struggles going on within the JACL leadership, about which the general membership has the right to know.

The criticism of Pacific Citizen (PC) by the JACL Board and a number of national staff members became heated when the PC published as front page news opposing views of whether the Rising Sun movie was racist or not in October, 1993. Then, there was PC's reporting of the Houston Chapter's criticizing the national JACL leadership's lack of prompt support of the Houston Chapter's

fight against Jap Road street sign in Fannett, Texas. This was another point of heated criticism.

In our view, Pacific Citizen should be commended, not attacked, for its presenting of frank reports and interpretations of debates taking place at the JACL leadership level. To suppress news of disagreement among members is unhealthy to any organization. We need reporting of differing perspectives among JACL members, Japanese Americans and Asian American communities. Resolutions can come about only as conflicting views are acknowledged and dealt with. The PC staff has been reporting conflicts within the JACL leadership particularly in the last few months and we are grateful for that. In such a context had PC presented "laundered" reports for the sake of presenting a "united front" in the leadership,

that would have made dull reading. It would have been reporting untruth as well.

We do not agree that PC should be mostly a house organ. Routine organizational news are welcome, but we want the PC to be free to report debates and disagreements within the JACL membership. Paul M. Shinkawa is to be commended when he stood by the JACL constitution and by-laws which apparently protect PC staff from undue pressure from others not to publish certain newsworthy items.

It is our view that in his support of the PC staff's right to publish what they consider important, Mr. Shinkawa was "fired" as head of the PC Board.

We need Mr. Shinkawa's sense of freedom of the press and respect for the public's right to know.

Letters

(Continued from page 5)

and Mas Odo who are in essence denigrating and dismissing the efforts of Betty Waki and Sandra Nakata in the Jap Road incident apparently, in part, because it is occurring in an obscure, little town. Principle and not geography should be the governing factor. Perhaps they should be reminded that the JACL is regarded by Japanese-Americans, members and non-members alike, as the national organization representing, espousing, and defending the interests of all Japanese-Americans. This is its raison d'être. It is because of this belief that my wife and I have contributed to the Legacy Fund. If the JACL dilutes its efforts by becoming partners with other civil rights organizations, it will just be a pimple on the hindmost part of the horse's anatomy and become wholly unnecessary in the long run. That the nation JACL should virtually ignore the Jap Road incident is therefore difficult to comprehend.

If it doesn't get involved with something like this, I see no need for its existence. What do you think the reactions of the NAACP or B'nai B'rith or the Jewish Anti-Defamation League would be to a Nigger Road or a Kike Road in "honor" on some past black or Jew?

I grew up in a community where we were the only Japanese family. While I never was subjected to any racially-motivated incident because of my ancestry, I KNEW that the word Jap was derogatory. This word was never used in my presence. I remember writing to the Chicago Tribune when I was about 15 about its using the word "Jap" in an article. Since then I have written many publications, television and radio stations whenever I saw or heard the offending word. I decided that perhaps my single letter to the offender was probably being ignored and so I wrote a few letters to the JACL and/or PC alerting them to such incidents as I felt that a word from a national organization such as the JACL would have a greater impact. I never knew if any action was taken but if the Jap Road episode is an indication of their zeal, then I have serious doubts that anything was

accomplished by my writing. What a letdown that is.

I have nothing but admiration for Betty Waki and Sandra Nakata for their fight to obliterate Jap Road as a street name. Some of their courage and tenacity ought to infect the national JACL.

I did not see the movie *Rising Sun* as the subject matter did not interest me. My only comment is that as a young boy I used to see movies of Fu Man Chu and other movies where Chinese were depicted as hatchet men or as other sinister characters and I recall being afraid to venture in Chicago's Chinatown for that reason and the fact that Japanese were giving the Chinese a hard time in Manchukuo. I didn't want to get axed. I never occurred to me that I could "pass" as a Chinese. Such is the influence of movies on young minds.

Shigeo Yuge
Los Angeles, Calif.

The importance of fighting 'Jap Road'

Houston Chapter, JACL, President Betty Waki's call to act against the naming of "Jap Road" in Fannett, Texas, in her perceptive article of Nov. 19-25, 1993, issue of the Pacific Citizen is one that all of us would do well to heed. There are couple of important points that she makes that tend to divert people of good will from acting to confront such act of racism.

One is that the white people meant well. They claim to be honoring the Issei as pioneer immigrants in their community. The fact that the whites in that community generally are not aware of "Jap" as derogatory and that they resent what they consider "outside interference" (that would include Japanese Americans and others who have instant recognition of the term as racist) only points to the pervasiveness of racism in our society. The existing resistance to changing the street name "Jap" to the use of actual Issei names "Mayumi Road and

See LETTERS/page 7

All aboard

All aboard is a listing of new 1994 board members of various organizations. Send us your list and an inset photo and we'll run them as soon as possible.

Honolulu

President: Alicyn Hikida
 Vice president of administration: Jinny Shinsato
 Vice president of programs: Gary Tasaka
 Vice president of public affairs: Charin Tomomitsu
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Las Vegas

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 Historian: Chiyko Goto
 Refreshment: Norma Wagener
 Community activities: Lillian Morizono
 Social activities: Tom Hanagami
 Newsletter/ads: Hana and Fred Fukumoto
 Roster/labels: Hana Fukumoto
 Board of directors: Bob Matsuda, Vernon Hearn, Betty Atkins, Fred Fukumoto, Yoshie Finch, Setsu Fukuno, Jane Miyamoto and George Peck.

YOU

(Continued from page 6)

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. While this is an acceptable way to build a board of directors for a symphony society, it is simply another sign that we have lost our way from our original purposes. In short, we are tilting at every windmill that turns our way while our support in our own 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.

How has this happened? How could an organization, with the collective leadership skills and dedication of purpose which is only a few years ago the Super Bowl civil rights legislation, start to collapse like a deflating pigskin? The answers are complex, but I think that they are knowable and they are answers which you and I must face.

Volunteer organizations such as JACL exist throughout our society. In fact, volunteer organizations do more than is valuable in America than simply accomplish volunteer tasks. One of the greatest single benefits of volunteer organizations is that they inculcate, they teach, the very basics of participatory democracy to the people who participate. The parent teacher organization, the congressional church, the Boy Scout Troop Board, the Chapter Banquet Committee, each one has a role to play in developing and teaching the democratic process. Totalitarian states have no such institutions. In countries where the yoke of oppression has so recently been thrown off, there have been generations of people who have never participated in collective decision-making. Americans have. We practice participatory democracy at virtually every level of our society and tolerate totalitarianism at virtually none. As such, organizations like JACL are the very foundation of our political and social system.

The manner in which we govern ourselves, the extent to which we participate in decision making, and the respect we show for our own rules, are the beneficial lessons of democracy we pass on to the next generation. To do so, we must continue to be responsible for passing those lessons on. We must ensure that our own very special institution, JACL, remains true to its purpose, its founders, and its processes.

I am afraid that in our singularity to win Redress, in our zeal to succeed, we inadvertently taught some of the wrong lessons to our next generation of leaders. It's not entirely our fault. This society which our parents and grandparents tried so hard to get us assimilated into, has also contributed to the problem. Our own lessons in many ways have only

reinforced those attitudes. We tried to demonstrate to our youth that by working the political process, exercising all of our legislative skills, calling upon every favor and sense of guilt we could draw upon in the American political psyche and by squeezing every dollar we could find into Redress, that we could accomplish the impossible. The lesson which they learned was that raw power is better to have and better to exercise than the hard work and tediousness of the democratic process. They have learned expediency over principle and they have learned that the end justifies the means. We have inadvertently taught the next generation of leaders how to acquire power without teaching them the responsibilities which flow with that power.

Now, what should we do? My own feeling is that we must reformulate and return to the very roots of this organization. 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. That means that we must get away from the notion that JACL is a group of leaders and a group of followers. We must stop distinguishing ourselves between service providers and service recipients. We, and that means each of you, must act to take back your organization and to become a part of 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.

We are an organization of members. The dues-paying individuals and working individuals are truly the members which comprise JACL. The builders are the members. The sustainers are the members. The officers do not own it, the National Board does not own it. The District Council do not own it. You do. As your property you should exercise the responsibility to make sure that JACL reflects your beliefs, your values and your principles, because if you do not, it will become someone else's organization.

Since I have challenged you to question, you are probably all about to ask me, "how?" How can we return JACL to its members? How can we preserve JACL as a valued institution within our community? What are the nuts and bolts solutions? In broad terms this is what I believe. We must, collectively and from the broadest base of membership possible, reassess what we, as members want from JACL. We must focus on determining what we as Japanese Americans have in common and not how we are different from each other. And using this knowl-

edge, we must focus our endeavors on the issues upon which we can collectively agree, to try to turn JACL into a community of common interests rather than of differences.

In greater detail, let me tell you what I think we must do.

First, we must return control of this 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 a leadership position.

Second, 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.

See YOU/page 8

LETTERS

(Continued from page 6)

Kishi Lane" point out the importance of continuing the struggle for change.

Another point made is that there are Japanese Americans who consider, this controversy in that Texas community as a "non-issue." Japanese American Nisei and Sansei have grown up under strong pressure to "assimilate" into the U.S. society. Unfortunately, "assimilation" has too often meant to conform to bigotry of whites against non-whites or those of non-European origins (as we say nowadays). This would partly explain why many minority people, including Japanese Americans, are hesitant to combat racism that manifests itself in various subtle and blatant ways in our U.S. society. Where we are divided with our Japanese Americans friends on this issue, we find ourselves confronting them as well for their accommodation to racist practices without protest.

Combat against racism is often quite unpleasant. Particularly in relatively polite society, it is not easy to raise our voices to protest against injustice, but protest we must, and I sincerely hope that all JACL chapters will join and continue the struggle of the Houston Chapter until the name "Jap" is eliminated. Perhaps in the course of the continuing struggle, the hidden racist nature of "Jap" naming would surface more clearly to the point where the change would come about.

S. Michael Yasutake
 Evanston, Ill.

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YOU

(Continued from page 7)

base. The waste of resources, talent, and money must stop!

Third, we must strive to achieve some measure of unanimity and consensus not only among JACL members, but among 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. The practice is a skill which has been forgotten at the highest levels.

Fourth, we must review and assess our current financial structure and strength in light of modern 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 National Director's salary, of having job

security contracts for its staff which render National Council authority over budgets meaningless, 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, of making promises to members as to how donations are to be spent and then breaking them, 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.

Fifth and finally, decisions of JACL must be made as a result of consultation with the members and the 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 timely nor economical to consult on a nationwide basis. We cannot continue to practice oligarchical

decision-making while merely talking in democratic language. Saying one thing and doing another is the very essence of sending the wrong messages to our leadership and our succeeding generations.

The founders of JACL have left us a proud and admirable legacy. They left for us an organization with a reputation, an esteemed history of accomplishments, and a potential for a bright future. We, as members and Japanese-Americans, should not squander that legacy by practicing self-indulging and self-serving exercises of hubris. It is time for members to speak up and speak out. It is time to vote, with your ballots and your checkbooks if necessary, and it is time to take back your JACL.

One of the many risks in inviting a lawyer to speak is we are much better at asking questions than giving answers. You have seen that tonight. I ask your pardon for closing with an ancient Chinese proverb and one last question: "A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step." Who among you will take that first step?

Shinkawa is a member of the Houston Chapter, JACL.

SIDEBAR

(Continued from page 5)

"Why don't we talk more about the similarities? Wouldn't that bring about more harmony?"

Sounds good, sounds reasonable. But it is the sounds a lot like an order for a menu item called "The Melting Pot" in which all the cultures become subsumed under title. And guess what flavor dominates.

My answer to both the Rotary man and the woman in the workshop went something like this: When the word "American" is mentioned, does an image of someone who looks like me, or, say, Michael Jordan, immediately flash in your head? No? Well, you're no different from the majority of white Americans (and maybe some of us persons of color too) who do not conjure up an image of a person of color when they hear that word. In practical terms, that means we are not always at the same table with white Americans, not sharing the same goodies, unless we have worked doubly hard or have had a heap of good luck.

Of course we have similarities. We are, after all, the same species with the same basic needs, drives and aspirations, and we do share some basic values. But we are different in significant ways. Look at me. My face is different from yours. And based on what that has meant in this society, my experience in the same environment in which you live has been different. Rather than ignore that, I would hope that you and I could look at each other, recognize the differences and learn to appreciate them.

And that's what multiculturalism is about: recognizing and affirming, even celebrating, the value of various cultures and putting to practice a global perspective in our own back yard, so to speak. It is to laud the values that each culture brings to the table. It

is to exchange those cultural values and behavior that are humane and life-giving rather than having the dominant society force-feed us theirs.

I've a feeling that most of us think things are okay as they are. We are, after all, part of Middle America, reasonably comfortable, and our children appear to have a good future. But let me ask you to ponder the following:

1) I can turn on the TV or read the front page of the paper and see a representative number of my people.

2) When I am told about our national heritage or about our "culture" or "civilization," it is assumed that people of my group helped make it what it is.

3) I can be pretty sure that my children are given educational materials in school that support the history and experience of my group.

4) I can retain the cultural values of my group without experiencing any penalty in work or in relationships in my daily life.

My guess is that your answers are likely "no" if you're like me, Japanese American. And I'm hoping that matters to you and that you know we need to do some educating out there. At the very least, we can support the non-profit institutions which are hard at it: JACL, which, among other things, recently issued a fine curriculum guide for schools about Japanese Americans; the Japanese American Curriculum Project (San Mateo) which distributes the most comprehensive list of materials by and about Japanese Americans; the National Japanese American Museum (L.A.) and the National Japanese American Historical Society (S.F.), both of which issue educational materials and sponsor workshops and exhibits to educate the public around issues involving Japanese Americans.

One last word. Multiculturalism is not about separation or isolation. It is not about making superior/inferior value judgments regarding other cultures. It's about being confident in one's own identity, encouraging the affirmation of every culture. The great Mexican writer Carlos Fuentes, said it: "I'm convinced that cultures that live in isolation perish and that only cultures that communicate and give things to one another thrive."

Death Notice

JOSHUA HELFAND
Orange, CT: Joshua Bryan Inouye Helfand, age 22, passed away on January 29, 1994. Beloved son of Dr. Sharon Inouye and Dr. Stephen Helfand of Orange, Connecticut, beloved brother of Benjamin. Survived by loving grandparents, Dr. & Mrs. Mitsuo (Lily Ann) Inouye, Mr. & Mrs. Alan (Rita) Helfand of New York, uncles Jon M. Inouye, Bradley Y. Inouye of New York, Andrew (Gail) Helfand of New York and aunts, Caron Y. (Kurt) Dahlhaus and Stacey (Steve) Glazer of New York. Services were held on January 30, 1994 at Shore's Funeral Home, New Haven, Connecticut. In lieu of flower donations may be made in Joshua's memory to: Connecticut Hospice, Inc. 61 Burden Drive, Branford, CT 06405-4096. Dr. Emanuel - 150 Derby Ave., Orange, CT 06477.

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