



# Pacific Citizen

National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

Unhappy about  
a JACL fund  
—p. 6

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April 22-28, 1994



CHU



FUKAI



KAWAOGOE

## L.A.-area Asians score hits, misses in elections

By HARRY K. HONDA  
Editor emeritus

MONTEREY PARK—Even though this city is touted as the only mainland U.S. city with an Asian majority at 56%, incumbent councilman Sam Kiang, 44, one of three Chinese Americans running for three open seats, finished fourth in the three-seat race April 12.

Councilwoman Judy Chu, 40, who has two years remaining in her term in office, is to serve her second round as mayor, starting April 23. She previously held that office in 1990-91. Mayors here are selected in the city council.

Had candidates Mitchell Ling or Peter Chan, who finished at the bottom two places with around 2,000 votes (11%), and incumbent Kiang been elected, they would have created the mainland's first Asian-majority city council, if not the nation.

Former teacher Francisco Alonso, who ran unsuccessfully in 1992, joins successful incumbents Fred Balderrama and immediate past mayor Marie T. Purvis to maintain a Latino-white political power in a community of 61,000 that has been changing demographically since the '80s.

Elsewhere in Los Angeles county, Carson city clerk Helen Kawaogoe and Gardena city councilman Mas Fukai were winners for their sixth consecutive election races. Both started in 1974. Helen amassed 7,375 votes (72%) in a two-way race. Mas polled 4,028 (38%) in the three-way bid.

Carson's mayor Mike Mitoma, previously appointed by the council, won the city's first direct election race for mayor over challenger James Peoples. The tally was 5,453 (48%) (52% - 46.7%). In Arcadia, newcomer Sheng H. Chang led a 11-candidate race for three city council seats with 3,762 votes, and its first minority member. In the Cerritos city council race for three seats, Korean American Charles J. Kim finished fifth. In San Marino, Allan K. Yung and Alex Tse were third and fourth, respectively, in the four-way city council race for two seats.

### JACL board meeting in S.F. scheduled

The next meeting of the JACL National Board will be held Saturday, May 21, and Sunday, May 22, in San Francisco. The meeting runs from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and from 9 a.m. to noon Sunday. Information: 415/921-5225.

## California councilwoman recalled for racist remarks

San Jose Councilwoman Kathy Cole, 47, of District 8 in southeastern section of the city for 15 months, was recalled by voters in the April 12 local elections for her racist remarks made at an African American leadership conference in May, the *Nichols Times* in San Francisco reported. The vote was 59.2% in favor of recall. Cole, an African American, had commented gays and Asian

Americans received special treatment at City Hall.

In reference to Asian Americans, she pulled up the corner of her eyes to make them slanted. She also reportedly stated Latinos sought political power "like little pit bulls."

Superior Court Judge Landoris Cordell was the first to publicly speak out, reprimanding Cole at the conference and handed over

videotapes of the incident to the media. The city council unanimously voted to condemn Cole's action. She apologized, but the residents were too upset to forget.

Of the 80,000 in District 8, known as Evergreen, about one-third are Asian Americans, one-quarter Latinos.

Cole is the first councilwoman ousted from office in San Jose's history.

## Reminder: JACL deadlines for the '94 convention

### ■ NOMINATIONS: MAY 1, 1994

For JACL members interested in running for national JACL office, official nomination forms must be completed and postmarked by May 1, 1994.

### ■ RESOLUTIONS/ CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS & BY-LAWS: JUNE 1, 1994

Resolutions and Constitutional Amendments/ Bylaws to be considered by National Council at the Salt Lake City National Convention, must be postmarked on June 1, 1994.

For an optional, non-binding review by the Resolutions/Amendment Committee, chapters

may wish to forward proposed resolutions and constitution/bylaws changes to the Resolutions Committee for review by May 1, 1994. The Committee will respond back to the Chapter with comments prior to the June 1st deadline.

### ■ CREDENTIALS: JUNE 1, 1994

Official delegate forms and proxy forms are due to the Credentials Committee, c/o JACL Headquarters by this date.

### ■ AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS: MAY 1, 1994

Nomination forms for the JACLer of the Biennium, Japanese American of the Biennium, Edison Uno Civil Rights and George Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Award are due at JACL headquarters by this date.

Convention information and/or advance registration forms for the 33rd Biennial National Convention, contact JACL National Headquarters at (415) 921-5225.

## College honors slain Japanese students Marymount College establishes endowment fund in their name

Marymount College in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. will honor the memory of Japanese students Takuma Ito and Go Matsura, who were shot and killed in a carjacking, with a film and lecture endowment fund, reported the *Rafu Shimpo*.

Ito and Matsura were both studying filmmaking at Marymount College when the incident occurred. They had both come to America hoping to become filmmakers. The goal of the fund is to raise \$30,000. Angi Ma Wong, coordinator of the fund, reported that the fund has already raised \$4,000-\$5,000.

After speaking with the family, the college decided the film lecture series will focus on American movies.

"The community has opened up its hearts, and we feel that this endowment would give the opportunity for some positive action in tribute to these fine young men," said Thomas McFadden, president, Marymount College.

In addition to the endowment fund, the college is planning to plant two trees in memory of the students and at commencement ceremonies, make Ito and Matsura honorary graduates of the college.

Contributions may be sent to: Marymount College, Attn: Jane Brenneith, College Relations Office, 30800 Palos Verdes Drive

East, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90274.

Information: 310/377-5501.

## Japanese again shocked by latest shootings in U.S.

The recent attacks and murders of Japanese students have made citizens of that country envision streets of violence in America, and the recent murders of two students in San Pedro, Calif., have only worsened the feelings of horror and tragedy.

The *Washington Post* recently reported that this new tragedy has sent after-shocks into the country, with issues of warnings against travel in America. Japanese citizens are learning new slang terms from America such as "freeze" and "carjacking." Takuma Ito and Go Matsura, both 19, died shortly after they were shot during a carjacking.

"This new tragedy shows us once again just what kind of place America has become," the Japanese NHK-TV network was quoted as saying.

Raymond Oscar Butler, 18, who is accused of committing the murders pleaded, not guilty Apr. 12 to two counts of first degree murder. Because Butler has been accused of slaying the students with a gun during the commission of a robbery, he faces a possible death penalty if found guilty.

Alberto V. Raygoza, 20, pleaded not guilty to charges of receiving stolen property and accessory to the murder after the fact. A preliminary hearing is scheduled May 25.

## Japanese student shot in Denver

A Japanese student in Denver, Colo., is listed in fair condition after being shot April 15 outside his apartment in an apparent carjacking, reported the *Rafu Shimpo*.

Kouichi Takemoto, 26, was shot in the left shoulder by two masked men who also took his 1987 Toyota Supra. The suspects are still at large.

Denver police have not released a description of the suspects, however the *Kyodo News Service* reported that the two men appeared to be wearing gang-style clothing. "We hope some other witnesses come forward and fill in some of the gaps," said Detective David Metzler.

**MORE ON MURDERS**—Bill Hosokawa recounts the recent attacks on Japanese students—page 5

Takemoto is a student at National College where he is studying travel and tourism. Eiichi Suski, Japanese consul, visited with Takemoto and said that he is satisfied that the Japanese student was not attacked because of his nationality.

"It's unfortunate. But this is not because he is a foreigner," said Suski, speaking to the *Rocky Mountain News*.

## Dayton seeks marrow donor

The Dayton Chapter, JACL, is seeking a bone marrow donor for eight-month-old Paul Ungericht, who has been diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. The family has been advised that the baby has only a 20 percent chance of survival without a transplant.

The baby, who is half Japanese and half Caucasian, will most likely need a bone marrow match from a person of similar ancestry. According to Don Hayashi of the Dayton Chapter, few people with this background are registered with the international bone marrow bank. The Dayton area blood center is providing free tests for a possible match but a national search is also necessary, he said.

Information: Sharon Kuntz, Community Blood Center, 513/461-3450. A person under the age of 18 years of age can participate with parental consent.



## Sen Nishiyama: He's 1st to sign up for convention

The 1994 National JACL Convention has received its first registrant from one of JACL's most outstanding members. After a mailing of preliminary registration forms to chapter presidents, Sen Nishiyama of the Japan Chapter has become the first registrant of the National Convention to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, from August 3-8, 1994.

Sen's roots go back to Salt Lake City where he was born as William Sen Nishiyama at Judge Mercy Hospital. His father, Hajime Nishiyama, had come to the United States to study in 1890. Finding the West exciting, he decided to stay. He moved to Salt Lake City before Utah became a state. He went back to Japan to marry and returned with his bride, Saku Nishiyama, to Salt Lake City. Their first son died in infancy. Sen was the second son and their only living child.

From age 2½ to 4, Sen went with his mother to Japan to visit relatives and friends. From age 5 to 8, he lived in Fallon, Nev., where he started elementary school. At about age 9 Sen returned with his family to Salt Lake City where he continued elementary school, then attended West Junior High School and graduated from East High School.

In 1928 Sen enrolled at the University of Utah, majoring in electrical engineering. He received a B.S. degree in electrical engineering in 1932, graduating with high honors. From Autumn 1932 to Spring 1934, Sen was a teaching assistant in the Department of Electrical Engineering while enrolled in a graduate course in the Department of Physics at the University of Utah. He received an M.S. degree in 1934 and was a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Tau Beta Pi.

In March of 1934 Sen's father died. His mother returned to Japan to take the ashes. Since no jobs were available in electrical engineering or electronics, Sen decided to accompany his mother to Japan. He was still hopeful of

securing a job in the United States, but depression and racial limitations closed opportunities. Sen became amazed with the culture and art in Japan and impressed by the kind treatment he received there.

Over the years Sen has held responsible positions of leadership in the areas of technical communication in the Japanese government as well as the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Information Service, American Embassy, and for Sony Corporation. He has done extensive work as an interpreter/translator, public affairs consultant, senior advisor, International Affairs Executive, and Special Consultant. He has authored several books and numerous articles.

One of Sen's most outstanding accomplishments was that he developed during 1945 to 1952 an ability to interpret between Japanese and English both consecutively and simultaneously. Because of this ability and his familiarity with science and technology, Sen was requested by NHK (the nationwide public broadcasting system in Japan) to interpret into Japanese simultaneously the voice communication between the astronauts and the Flight Control Center during the live telecasts of the Apollo flights to the moon. He performed this task on flights of Apollo 7 through 17. Because of this exposure, Sen became highly sought after for lectures, articles, and appearances on television.

Sen Nishiyama is married to the former Shinobu Tomita, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Mitsuru Tomita. Sen and Shinobu are the parents of one daughter. They make their home in Tokyo.

Sen has received many awards and recognition throughout his life. He has been and continues to be a strong supporter of JACL, being at the forefront as a contributor. The 1994 National JACL Convention Committee is happy to welcome Sen Nishiyama as the first registrant and one of the most distinguished participants.

## Canadians examine gender sensitivity

By MIKE HOSHIKO

Special to the Pacific Citizen

TORONTO, Ont.—The National Association of Japanese Canadians introduced for self-examination the subject of attitudes towards homosexuals, women's rights and gender roles at a weekend (Mar. 26-27) conference here on "gender sensitivity."

The conference conclusion was that it was time the Nisei and Sansei who still hold notions about homosexuals being deviant must discard the notion that being heterosexual is the norm.

The conference also identified as goals: that Canadian Nikkei gays and lesbians who are silent must be helped to break the silence, that education must begin to deal with myths and misconceptions, and that concrete steps be developed at local and national levels.

The NAJC had speakers, both gay and lesbian, relate their personal feelings, then break up into mini-groups so that those attending could speak and present their views. All the comments and attitudes were listed by facilitators and the summaries presented at the final session.

The Law Society of British Columbia, in 1992, defined "gender

bias" is comprised of four components:

(1) Attitudes or behavior which reflect stereotypes about the roles and true nature of men and women;

(2) The perceived relative worth of men and women;

(3) Myths and misconceptions about realities experienced by men and women during their lives and;

(4) A distinction, whether intentional or not, which has the effect of imposing burdens, obligations or disadvantages on one group over another.

"As a result of this systemic form of discrimination, one group usually bears a disproportionate and unfair burden."

To examine the definition, speakers told of women who immigrated to Canada as picture brides and traced their lives as workers, child bearers, mothers and wives. Also featured was a video by a Sansei filmmaker on family conflict between a Nisei father and daughter, and a reading of the play, *M. Butterfly*, the true story of a French consular official who had a love relationship with a Chinese homosexual for 20 years whom he thought was a female.

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## All aboard



Gathered for a photo were the new officers for the Wisconsin Chapter JACL, at a recent dinner meeting. From left are David Hayashi, Midwest District governor, David Suyama, president; Margaret Igowski, secretary; Carole Shiraga, treasurer; Sherri Fujihira, programs; Nancy Jonokuchi, membership; and Jim Miyazaki, vice president.

## Suyama heads Wisconsin slate

Hisashi Miyazaki, senior trade advisor for JETRO, an organization that promotes foreign trade among Wisconsin, the U.S. and Japan, was the featured speaker at the Wisconsin Chapter JACL, inaugural dinner Feb. 6. Miyazaki shared his personal thoughts and reactions to trade relationships between the U.S. and Japan based on his long career and background. "The Japanese Americans have achieved remarkable political and economical progress in the United States," Miyazaki said. He added that he sees an "emergence of a true global world economy" where we must promote a common global bond—not just winners and losers.

Midwest District Gov. David Hayashi installed the new chapter board (see photo above), and reviewed the goals of the MDC: 100% retention of membership; a 10% increase in membership; increased visibility in the community; and networking. He also presented the outgoing governor, Al Hide, with a gift of appreciation for his leadership over the past two years.

JACL Midwest regional director Bill Yoshino fielded questions from the Wisconsin membership at the end of the program. He explained such issues as the Pacific Citizen controversy, how JACL determines causes to support and financial problems facing the organization.

## Philadelphia Chapter installs officers, recognizes graduates



ABOVE—New officers for the Philadelphia Chapter, JACL, are, from left, board members Paul Ueyehara, Roger Nogaki, Dean A. Kujib, Craig Ikeda and Naomi Higuchi; Hiroshi Ueyehara, treasurer; Jane Sanbuchi Guerin, secretary; and William Y. Kishi, president. BELOW—Recent graduates were recognized, from left, Keith Yamatani (chapter scholarship award), Kristen Overhold, Naoki Moriuchi, Michiko Hunt; Lai Har Cheung; and Hatsumi Harada, representing Jaison Harada. Emily A. Nishi was not present.



## CALENDAR

(Continued from page 2)

**Sat. Sun. April 30-May 1—Little Tokyo Spring Festival.** Asian Pacific Arts and Crafts Fair, Children's Day Plaza Fair, film and exhibits, 10-4 at JACCC, 244 S. San Pedro St.; Community Celebrations, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., JANM, E. 1st and Central, Little Tokyo. **NOTE—**Sat. events include multi-cultural dances and musicians at JANM; Sunday Chik-K run, check-in 7:30 a.m., JACCC; JANM special creating the world's longest sushi roll at noon; Kodomo-no-Hi at Japanese Village Plaza

**April 30-May 29—JACCC's Photo exhibit:** "Japanese American Heritage." Gallery, 213/629-2725. **NOTE—**Featuring young adult competition pieces; works submitted for sale (price must be low for insurance purposes).

**Fri. May 6—Little Tokyo Spring Festival.** Story-telling by Sandra Mizumoto Posey, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Public Little Tokyo Branch, 600 E. 3rd St., 213/612-0525, 625-0414.

### San Diego

**Sun. April 24—Urasenke School's 15th Anniversary tea ceremony** ceremony and lecture, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Pen Pacific Hotel, 400 W. Broadway; information 619/272-5425.

**Sun. May 1—JACL San Diego scholar-ship dinner, 5:30 p.m., Tom Han's Light-house Restaurant; information:** JACL Office, 619/230-0314. **NOTE—**Joe Horiye, speaker.

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## Opinions



## From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

## Death toll on the streets of America

First it was Yoshihiro Hattori, age 16, a Japanese student attending high school in Baton Rouge, La. In 1992 he approached a residence looking for the Halloween party to which he had been invited. It wasn't the right place. Hattori was shot to death by the homeowner who said he was in fear of attack.

The next victim was Masakazu Kuriyama, 25, slain by unknown assailants as he left a BART railway station in Concord, Calif., in August of 1993. Robbery was suspected although money was found in his wallet.

The toll of young Japanese killed recently in the United States doubled in March when Takuma Ito and Go Matsura, both 19, were shot to death in a supermarket parking lot in San Pedro, Calif. Their car was stolen and the crime was described as a random carjacking in which race was not a factor.

And still the toll rises. The latest victim is Kouichi Takemoto, 26, shot through the shoulder in another apparent carjacking, this time in Denver. As this is written police have no clues as to the assailants but they say they are convinced that as in the

San Pedro case, race was not involved.

In view of the frequency of carjackings, random violence and drive-by shootings that have become part of the American way of life, it is not unreasonable to accept police assurances that the Japanese were not targeted because of race.

Yet there is a curious aspect to all this violence. All five of the victims were young Japanese males in the United States as students. They, with the exception of Takemoto, had been here relatively briefly. (Takemoto had lived in the States six years.) Matsura was born in the U.S. but had moved to Japan with his family as a first-grader. Thus none of the victims was a Japanese American with several generations of history here. But in appearance at least, they were virtually identical to tens of thousands of young American males of Japanese descent who are the products of U.S. society.

What caused them to be singled out for assault? Even assuming they were victims of random attacks, was there something in their behavior pattern, something in the way they were brought up in a country where the streets are safe, that made them

more vulnerable to the kind of violence that has become rampant in this country? If there is, it hasn't been identified. At this point it seems to be a tragic coincidence that so many young Japanese visitors were at the wrong place at the wrong time.

But at least some people seem to think that Japanese visitors can learn to cope with the grimmer realities of urban America. According to one report Keiji Oda, identified as a member of the New York City Guardian Angels group, the tough volunteer peace-keepers, have offered his organization's help in conducting "self defense and street smarts" training sessions for Japanese visitors to New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Chicago.

Meanwhile, if you are a young Japanese American male, you'd be wise to have your defensive radar turned on. If street predators are striking at random, your U.S. citizenship won't be much protection. ☐

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

## Letters

## Mizobe, Murakawa off base in 'same sex' issue

It doesn't take genius to see it is WRONG for JACL spokespersons to publicly support measures which dues-paying members may strongly oppose.

Sharon Ishii Jodyan, MPDC governor, hit the nail on the head when she said the JACL should not take positions on same sex marriages because it "doesn't affect a majority of members" (PC, April 1-7).

In contrast, Ruth Mizobe, PSWDC governor, is proud that her district board moved "beyond moral debate" in voting to support the controversial issue. (PC, April 8-14) Evidently ethics is not a consideration.

Trisha Murakawa, PSWDC board member and Southern California Board of Directors president of the ACLU, wants gay men, lesbians and their "significant others" to have the same marital benefits, granted to normal married couples to protect them and their children. Do most JACL members share her unconventional position?

The suppression of the press and secret meetings by members of the JACL National Board makes one wonder. What do they have to hide? If our leaders are unresponsive to the wishes of our grass roots, how long can the JACL maintain its viability as a democratic representative of the Japanese American community?

Mas Odori

Renton, Wash.

## Thanks for story on Topaz Museum, says reader

Thank you very much for including the article about the Topaz Museum in your March 4-10, 1994 edition.

Work is progressing on the museum as we move toward our goal.

The committee hopes to have the recreation hall in place, on a secure foundation, by this summer for the JACL Convention in Salt Lake City in August.

Then the formal restoration of the building will return it to its 1943 condition.

Once that phase is completed we will move toward completing an additional building which will house the apartments, artifacts and educational material for the Topaz Museum.

We want the story to be remembered by those who lived so near to the event and by those whose lives were changed. No one in our democracy can afford to forget.

Jane Beckwith

Topaz Museum Committee

## Voices

By TERESA MAEBORI

## High marks for JACL education program

"It's long overdue!" This is the cry we on the Education Committee have heard from the membership about the publication of the curriculum and resource guide, THE JAPANESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: A LESSON IN AMERICAN HISTORY.

There is excitement from JACLers about having a tool with which to educate our fellow citizens about our unique story and our contributions to this country. Positive responses to the guide have warranted a second printing. Now it's time to map out an overall strategy to get teachers to use this guide in the classrooms across America.

This is the purpose of the JACL Education Committee's seminar to be held on Saturday, May 28, 1994 in San Francisco at the Miyako Hotel. At this seminar, we want to attract a core group of JACLers interested in disseminating this excellent guide and working with educators to insure that the Japanese American internment is

taught so that the lessons of discrimination and injustice are learned and not repeated.

The seminar will include training sessions on:

- teaching with the guide at the elementary and secondary level: a hands-on experience.
- marketing strategies to promote the guide and getting the guide adopted in school districts.
- the availability and use of supplementary and resource materials.
- organizing an education conference/seminar at the local level.

In addition to the stimulating workshops, the seminar will feature with thought-provoking speakers such as Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, author of "Farewell to Manzanar," and Mary Teukamoto, educator. Most importantly there will be opportunities to share ideas and network with JACLers

from across the country who are interested and dedicated to this topic.

The JACL Education Committee is ready to take the next step to implement the guide in the classroom. However, we need your help to build a network of committed and interested people. From this core of people we want to create a team which will effectively get these lessons into the schools. We invite you to join us in this nationwide effort to educate others on the Japanese American experience.

The seminar, "Teaching the Japanese American Experience," is limited to 50 participants. For more information, contact your JACL Education Committee Coordinator, District Governor, Chapter President, or National Headquarters (415) 921-5225.

Maebori is the governor of Eastern District, Council, JACL and the JACL Education Committee Chairperson.



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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 form 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

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 welcomed.

In this Viewpoint, Dr. Roy Nishikawa of the Wilshire Chapter, JACL, and a former national president, and Karl Nobuyuki, president of the San Fernando Chapter, JACL, and a former national director, take issue with a JACL national document titled "For the Record" which was sent out by national headquarters in response to a number of complaints and concerns about how the organization was being conducted. Initially, the document was printed on plain paper, without a logo—and no ascribed authorship. Later, it was reprinted on JACL stationery but with still no indication of exactly who was responding.

The document was disseminated widely in the Pacific Southwest District by Ruth Mizobe, PSW governor, who also spoke to chapters and members regarding National JACL's answers to these growing concerns. At least two members of the PSW District disagree with the "For the Record" (at right) document. Herein below are reactions from Nishikawa and Nobuyuki.

## 'For the Record'

**Q. Is it true that the National Endowment Fund Committee has not met in 7 years as mandated by the JACL Constitution and By Laws?**

**A.** The JACL National Endowment Fund Committee convened a tele-conference call in January 1993. Telephone conference calls are an acceptable and cost-effective alternative to face-to-face meetings. It is recognized in the JACL Constitution and By Laws as a means to conduct special or regular meetings of the National Board.

Between meetings, National Endowment Fund Committee members are kept informed on the status of the endowment fund through regular quarterly reports.

**Q. Why was \$200,000 transferred from the Endowment Fund to the National Fund?**

**A.** Since its creation, the earnings from the National Endowment Fund have supported the national operations of the JACL. Each year, the cash resulting from the Endowment Fund earnings are transferred to the national operations.

In 1988, 1989 and 1990, however, the cash was not transferred. In 1991, our accountants at

Wilson, McCall and Daoro recommended that, for the sake of accuracy and clarity, the cash due from the Endowment Fund be transferred to the appropriate account, the Reserve Fund. The transfer was done for accounting purposes only and had no effect on the earnings or fund balances of the National Endowment Fund or national operations.

**Q. Was the \$200,000 withdrawn from the corpus of the National Endowment Fund?**  
**A.** No. The \$200,000 was investment earnings and not part of the National Endowment Fund balance.

**Q. How about the interest? The JACL lost when the transfer occurred? It was reported that the interest dropped from 8% to 4%.**

**A.** There was no loss of the interest resulting from the transfer. The \$200,000 was being held in a money market account in the Endowment Fund. The \$200,000 was simply credited from the National Endowment money market account to an identical account in the JACL Reserve Fund without a day's loss of interest.

**Q. Is it true that the Endowment Fund balance decreased from \$700,000 in March 1993 to \$454,900 by October, 1993?**

**A.** The Endowment Fund balance has never

totalled \$700,000. In the December 1992 financial statement, the National Endowment Fund totalled \$454,983.00. In December 1993, the fund balance was \$482,171.00. The increase was due to investment gains resulting from a well-managed portfolio.

**Q. How are membership numbers determined if members are renewed on anniversary dates?**

**A.** Membership numbers are based on the actual revenue received during a calendar year. National Headquarters maintains the membership database which is used to put together the membership renewal reports on a quarterly basis. Each record in the database has a date paid field containing the month, day and year of payment. This field is used to calculate the membership renewals for a given period. All membership numbers from the membership database are verified against the actual membership revenue received. Anniversary dates are used to generate renewal notices only.

**Q. Is it true that membership has declined from 32,000 to fewer than 19,000 members?**

**A.** In the past ten years, the membership of the JACL has not dropped below 23,818. A nine-

See RECORD/page 7

## The Endowment Fund

### What's going on here? All's not well in JACL

By DR. ROY M. NISHIKAWA

By KARL K. NOBUYUKI

Not being listed on the agenda, I was mildly surprised when PSW District Gov. Ruth Mizobe called upon me for some comments on the Endowment Fund at the PSWDC quarterly meeting on

Later, I saw it for the first time. "For the Record" on plain paper. No JACL identification. No author. I felt blindsided because prior awareness of the paper would have made a difference in my presentation.

I got up again and said to the delegates, I stand by what I wrote about the Endowment Fund in the Pacific Citizen (Nov. 26, 1993) and if I made a mistake I would

Later, Mizobe graciously apologized to me for not alerting me to "For the Record." On her own initiative she had duplicated what she had picked up at the Feb. 12-13 National Board meeting. (Editor's note: "For the Record" was not enclosed in the packet of information the PC had received.)

On March 8, I received another copy of "For the Record." This copy was on official JACL stationery but still lacked the name

The official version was widely distributed: chapter presidents, past national JACL presidents, National Board and staff, the Pacific Citizen and Grayce Uyeiara,

If you don't have the background (Nov. 26, 1993 article in the PC), "For the Record" sounds plausible. I feel that I must respond to correct any possible misperceptions from this paper. To me it suggests an attempt to defuse a critical problem, reminding me of the initial information coming out of National when Paul Shinkawa was fired. Quite a contrast to the more complete version provided in the PC (Oct. 1-7, 1993, issue).

I strongly urge readers to review the Nov. 26 article which charges the National Board with three constitutional violations. This article has an extensive and detailed account of the Endowment Fund. Compare

My responses and comments on the questions (in bold) raised by "For the Record"

**1. The National Endowment Fund Committee has not, emphasize not, had a face-to-face meeting in seven years.** The last meeting was in 1986. It is absurd to believe that a one hour teleconference can be an adequate substitute. The JACL by-laws specify a yearly meeting. Had a



meeting been held with the national director, national president and national treasurer present, a lot of the omissions and errors could have been cleared up. Remedial actions such as requiring the chair of the committee to hold

regular meetings, requiring him to share information and decision making with the rest of the committee, determining the corpus of the fund, limiting contribution to National etc., could have been addressed. The treasurer and president have the power to enforce these requirements if they wanted to. A face-to-face meeting of all of the key people was a far more logical choice. Alas, this did not happen.

**2. Careful reading of the JACL by-laws says all or part of the earnings may be used for National operations.** National has chosen to grab all of the earnings. Moreover, "For the Record" states the transfer was into the Reserve Fund. This is puzzling to me since the quarterly reports consistently refer the \$200,000 transfer as being made into the National or operating fund.

This prompts me to ask:

**A.** How much is in the Reserve Fund?  
**B.** How much is in the operating fund?  
**C.** Is the interest from the Reserve Fund credited to the Endowment Fund or used for operations?

**3. I have never suggested that the funds were transferred from the corpus.** When no face-to-face meetings are held, the Endowment Fund Committee has not opportunity to define the corpus. Arnold Miyamoto's article on endowments (PC, March 4, 1994) is correct. The corpus must be redefined periodically. This is a function of the Endowment Fund Committee and should not be left to the JACL business manager, national treasurer and national president.

In the last 15 years, the Endowment Fund provided about \$515,000 to National JACL. Today's balance in the Endowment Fund is about the same as 15 years ago. The fund balance in 1979 was \$425,551.20. In 1993—\$426,308.70. These figures were provided by Business Manager Patti

If you recall my earlier remarks, I suggested that the matters regarding the \$250,000 shift of the Endowment Fund (hereafter referred to as "Fund") could be given a more sophisticated term than what I initially proposed. Well, according to the National officers, it was called a "typo."

Indeed, the national officers have finally begun to respond to the membership's questions. After nearly 18 months, the last National Board finally decided to explain the circumstance surrounding the \$250,000 transfer of funds from the Endowment Fund to National HQ's general operations. Recently, in an unsigned report sent to chapter presidents, National sent comments entitled "For the Record," one of the items addressed is the Endowment Fund's transfers.

Admittedly, if one were privy to the National Board meetings, one would think all was well. However, over time one learns that with this national board, what you see, is not what you get. The Endowment Fund matter is a case in point.

For purposes of not re-hashing all the comments of the past, two reports are important to note. The first is the report of the national treasurer and the second, the "Paganini Report" prepared by staff.

During the last National Board meeting, Treasurer Jon Kaji reported that the claimed \$700,000 balance in the Endowment Fund (1st Quarter, '93) was in error and was a "...typo..." Apart from the fact that it took more than a year to come to this conclusion, one also notes that it was actually "years in the making" for this response. Proof is in the details of the "Paganini Report."

During the February meeting of the National Board, a financial summary of the Fund was prepared by JACL Staff regarding the distribution of money from the Endowment Fund. The report was prepared by Ms. Paganini of HQ staff. The report was given to Shig Wakamatsu. This was in response to the criticism of Endowment Fund by lifetime member Dr. Roy Nishikawa. This report summarized the disbursement of the interest earnings of the fund over the years.

This report (which I refer to as the Paganini Report) provided a spreadsheet type format of the Fund and a corresponding line or disbursements to National. It did not provide an analytical summary. Using this report, "For the Record," JACL's



auditors requested a resolve to the actual balance of the Fund. Further, "For the Record," the \$200,000 was from "interest earnings" and not the corpus of the Fund.

The above sounds okay doesn't it? But wait a minute...

When one researches why the Fund accrued the \$200,000, one will learn that past president Cressy Nakagawa wanted to build up the fund. Consequently the normal disbursements passed on to National were withheld so the Fund could be increased. For a period of three years the interest earnings were retained by the Fund. It is my experience, that in most instances when interest earnings are retained with the corpus that they in turn, become the corpus. This is because in an active account like the Fund, risks must be taken for purposes of growth. This is to ensure that the Fund maintains its purchasing power against inflation (the Fund was initiated in the 1950's in the aftermath of JACL's evacuation claims legislation). In addition, not all the investments of the Fund work out. Some fail. So, there must be some degree of "revenue float" to provide the committee members with working capital.

Anyhow, for three years the Fund withheld its disbursement to National's operational expenses. Apparently, other revenue was sufficient. In 1991, \$200,000 was drawn against the "interest earnings" of the Fund and given to National. Subsequently in 1992, \$50,000 was transferred over. So much for building the corpus... The result was to shrink the corpus of the Fund down to the 1988-89 level, approximately \$454,000. That appears to be (roughly) where the \$700,000 figure comes from (add the \$250,000 to the \$454,000).

If this happened back in 1991-92, why did it take so long to report it? Why didn't the figure reported during the 1st quarter of 1993 reflect it? Why did the Fund's committee decide to abandon the corpus building effort and shift the earnings to "disbursements to National's?" More so, could it be that because the committee did not meet that someone else recommended the actions?

See NOBUYUKI/page 7

See NISHIKAWA/page 7



## RECORD

(Continued from page 6)

year summary of the JACL membership is provided below:

1985-26,237; 1986-26,484; 1987-26,544; 1988-25,726; 1989-24,457; 1990-25,267; 1991-23,818; 1992-25,401; 1993-24,490.

Q. Does the PC receive \$12 per member or \$12 per household?  
A. The PC is allocated \$12 per subscribing member. Over the last ten months, we have sent a average of 19,279 subscribing member records to the PC. Based upon this figure, the PC would be entitled to an annual allocation of \$231,348.

Q. How is the membership information transferred to the Pacific Citizen?

A. All membership records, inquiries and address corrections are now handled at National Headquarters. The Pacific Citizen is sent a listing of subscribing members on a monthly basis by way of computer diskette. The information is sent to a computer programmer identified by the Pacific Citizen. The programmer converts the information and merges it with the subscriber information provided by the PC. The result of the merge is a set of mailing labels for PC distribution for the next four weeks.

This process replaced the labor intensive and duplicative process once used by the Pacific Citizen and the National Headquarters. In the past, the PC was responsible for maintaining a list of 25,000 members and 3,000 to 4,000 subscribers. National Headquarters previously sent all renewal information to the PC by way of hard copy. The PC handled all updating, inquiries, address corrections and record keeping. This method warranted a full time circulation manager at the Pacific Citizen. The new process, implemented during late 1992, eliminated the need for a full time circulation manager at the PC.

In addition to eliminating the duplication of efforts, the centralized membership program has allowed Chapters to focus upon recruitment and has enabled National JACL to respond to membership inquiries in a more effective and efficient manner.

Q. It's been reported that JACL

has lost its focus and is now taking on issues such as freedom of choice, gays and lesbians and gun control. What's going on?

A. The decision to support freedom of choice and gays/lesbians were made by the National Council.

\* Freedom of choice is an organizational mandate, voted on and approved by the membership at the 1992 Convention in Denver (Resolution 15).

Titled "Family Choice," the resolution stated, "Whereas, access to information is the cornerstone to freedom of choice and; Whereas, according to results from a national survey, women of color, in general, believe that all women should have a right to choose whether or not to bear a child; and Whereas, in the same survey Asian and Native American women were least likely to have access to information on family planning and birth control; and Whereas, approximately six million American women become pregnant each year, more than half unintentionally; and Whereas, all women should have freedom of choice in bearing a child regardless of one's economic status; and Whereas, recent court decisions have undermined the intent of Roe vs. Wade and may lead to the overturning of that momentous decision affecting all families; Now, therefore be it resolved: that the JACL affirms and supports the civil rights of all women to choose and determine the course of their lives."

That JACL should concern itself with gay and lesbian issues is mandated by the Preamble of JACL's Constitution and Bylaws.

Resolution 2, adopted by the National Council at the 1988 Convention in Seattle, amended our Preamble to read: "We, members of the Japanese American Citizens League, in order to foster American democracy, promote active participation in civic and national life, and secure justice and equal opportunities for Americans of Japanese ancestry, as well as for all people regardless of race, creed and religion, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, or disability, do establish this Constitution for the Japanese American Citizens League of the United States of America."

million dollars. Until 1986 the Endowment Fund Committee was quasi-independent.

If National continues to milk the "cash cow" they will eventually "kill the goose that lays the golden egg." Corny, but true in the long run.

On fund handling, one of my big concerns is that the Legacy Fund and the 1000 Club Trust do not, to my knowledge, have trustees to monitor and provide oversight on how earnings are to be spent. The JACL needs a board of trustees to monitor and provide oversight to all of its endowment-type funds—preferably with complete independence from the National Board and accountable to the membership and the public.

The Legacy Fund investment objectives and guidelines, adopted by the National Board at their September, 1993, meeting, has a glaring weakness—no provisions for reporting to the membership.

The Endowment Fund Committee is a graphic example of how its original quasi-independence was lost because of the neglect of certain leaders who want to retain control, who function under the credo, "We own the JACL."

But some members of the Endowment Fund Committee are fighting back!

4. How about the interest the JACL lost when the transfer occurred? It was reported that the interest dropped from 8% to 4%. For the sake of the organization, I hope that this is true. I made the 8%-9% remark at the tri-district meeting April 4, 1993. Although key figures like Kaji, Kimura and then National Director Dennis Hayashi were present, they did not correct me.

JACL has taken no position on gun control.

Q. Is it true that National JACL employees have "job security contracts" with the organization?  
A. National JACL staff do not have "job security contracts." It is possible that those who believe this are confused and have misinterpreted the binding arbitration agreements given to all staff as being "job security contracts."

The binding arbitration agreements were distributed to all JACL employees, both at National and at Pacific Citizen. These agreements are meant to assist the organization in the resolution of employee grievances, should and when they arise. They encompass nothing more, and in no manner, shape or form do they constitute a "job security contract."

The issuing of these binding arbitration agreements came at the recommendation of JACL's National Legal Counsel. With the approval of the JACL Personnel Committee, the agreement was drawn up by the National Legal Counsel and distributed to all staff, both at Headquarters and Pacific Citizen.

Q. Does the National JACL staff work only a 35 hour work week?

A. The national JACL staff work 40 hours a week. In addition, the national staff participates at various JACL and community events as well as meetings regularly. These events and meetings on most occasions occur after normal business hours in the evening and on weekends. It is not unusual to find national staff attending district council meetings, chapter installations, meeting with other community organizations, as well as volunteering for community service projects and educational conferences. Further, the national staff is salaried and does not receive overtime pay.

The reason for this misunderstanding is that the JACL personnel manual, when first adopted by the national board on March 20, 1993, represented that an employee would be considered full time if they had worked 35 hours a week or more. By the following national board meeting, the JACL personnel manual had been changed to reflect that an employee must work 40 hours a week to be considered full time.

Their sources of information are better than mine. Also, correction of my example could have taken place on many subsequent occasions. If there are no contrary responses, one concludes that his assumptions are correct. This again raises questions A, B, and C under item 2.

And although a second teleconference was held on Feb. 10—two days before the Feb. 12-13 National Board meeting, no mention of this was made in the teleconference. Then the plain paper distribution of "For the Record" at the PSWDC meeting Feb. 27 and the receiving of the official copy on March 8 makes me wonder. I would like to see some documentation. I confess that I am puzzled by some National Board and staff action. I hear a large chorus from JACLers who say, "Join the club."

5. Is it true that the Endowment Fund balance decreased from \$700,000 in March, 1989, to \$454,983 by October, 1993? The \$700,000 figure was obtained from the National Board minutes of the meeting held in Washington, D.C., March 21-23. These minutes were not corrected at the Sept. 25-26, 1993 National Board meeting. The minutes were finally corrected at the Feb. 12-13 meeting. According to the PC Feb. 18 issue, Kaji is quoted as saying the \$700,000 figure was a typo. "For the Record" shows the figure to be \$454,983. Some typo.

In conclusion, I must emphasize that when I speak of National, I completely absolve the new National Director Randy Senzaki. Randy came on board after the PC and Endowment Fund controversies. It took cour-

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## NOBUYUKI

(Continued from page 6)

Again, I am not accountant, but it seems to me that the purchasing power of the Fund was effectively enhanced up until December of 1991. Why change it? Was there a pressing financial need that warranted such an action. Was this the most cost-effective approach?

Now, I don't think anyone is questioning whether the action was legal or not. But it doesn't take a CPA to ask whether the action was warranted or ethical. The Fund must have the ability to hedge against inflation and remain competitive.

The problems may be rooted in the inability of the committee members to meet. No, I don't mean a telephone conference by a few. Rather, I am suggesting a bona fide committee meeting (in the flesh) of the members. Otherwise, why serve? As National's annual budget approaches \$1 million, it seems to me, that the benefit of reaping maximum financial dividends, warrants a committee meeting as a normal operating expense.

The membership deserves prompt, skillful and cost-effective service from national officers, appointees and staff. The performance patterns over the last biennium are characterized as delayed, inaccurate and expensive. This has to change...

## NISHIKAWA

(Continued from page 6)

Paganini. Originally the Endowment Fund Committee goal was one

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## NISHIKAWA

(Continued from page 7)

age to take on a tough job during very tough times. I promise my cooperation as he tries to make JACL a better, more open and a more unified organization.

Expanding on staff responsibility, I believe the National Board must define duties, define parameters under which staff can operate, provide guidance and instruction. If they fail, then staff may act on their own, creating unnecessary problems.

Both the staff and National Board must operate under the constitution and always, *always* place membership concerns first. Personal agendas should not cloud independent judgment.

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