



# Pacific Citizen

National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

Issue discussed  
by NCWNP—p. 3

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2 Coral Circle, Suite 204, Monterey Park, CA 91755

(213) 725-0083

May 13-19, 1994

## Deadlines for '94 JACL convention

June 1, 1994

### RESOLUTIONS/ CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS & BY-LAWS:

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 constitutional/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:

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

Proposed biennial budget to be distributed to district councils and chapters from national headquarters.

Chapter dues, fees and assessments due to national headquarters, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA, 94115.

June 15, 1994

National Council meeting agenda distributed to chapter delegates.

Resolutions, constitution and bylaw amendments distributed to chapter delegates.

Aug. 4, 1994

Resolutions/Constitution and Bylaw Amendments: Emergency resolutions and amendments due to Resolution and Amendments chairperson at convention site.

## Candidates to be announced

Next week, Pacific Citizen will announce candidates for JACL elected offices.

In a later edition, PC will provide candidates with the opportunity to talk about their platforms and answer a number of key questions addressed to them by members.

If you have a question you would like candidates to answer, write to Ken Yokota, co-chairperson, JACL Nominations Committee, c/o P.O. Box 11785, Fresno, CA 93778; information: 209/233-0591.

## Congressman attacks redress education fund

Congressman Harold Rogers (R-Ky.) attacked the Clinton Administration's \$5 million appropriations request for the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund during a May 4 hearing of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, State and Justice. Rogers is the ranking Republican member of the subcommittee. While discussing the Department of Justice's fiscal year 1995 appropriations bill, Rogers said, "\$5 million for the Civil Liberties Act of 1988... What is that all about? I thought we paid them off?" He added, "If we stipulate that we won't lock them up again, can't we give the money to the FBI?"

Deputy Attorney General Jamie Gorelick

defended the \$5 million request, saying, "The appropriation is necessary to live up to the commitment made as part of the Civil Liberties Act... We need to understand what led us to do something like that so it won't happen again."

In testimony at recent hearing of the Subcommittee, Congressman Robert Matsui (D-Calif.) said, "The Redress Education Fund will provide the means necessary to educate us about the infringement of the civil rights of Americans during World War II. Like the Holocaust Memorial, the efforts made possible by the Redress Education Fund will help safeguard the rights of future generations from violations of

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## San Diego-area Nikkei teacher dismissed over 'Zoot Suit' movie plan

Before Reiko Obata can show Latino movie to students, school board places her on paid leave

By GWEN MURANAKA  
Assistant editor

Teacher Reiko Obata isn't in the classroom. Since April 26 she has been on paid leave from her position at Santana High School in Santee, Calif., a suburb of San Diego, after a clash with administration officials over Obata's request to show the film "Zoot Suit" to her 11th grade students.

An American literature teacher, Obata wanted to

use the "Zoot Suit," a musical written by Luis Valdez depicting an infamous trial in Los Angeles during the '40s in which Mexican Americans were prosecuted, to educate her students about racism.

"In their journal writings some students express things in writing—it could be just the influence of parents and friends. I tried to educate them," said Obata, speaking to Pacific Citizen.

Obata said that at Santana High School, which is predominantly white, there isn't a lot of understanding about minorities. She said she has heard slurs such as "Jap," "gook" and "chop-chop" and that one student said to her, "No offense, but I don't like Jap cars." In addition, one student had written in his journal that he didn't want to live near Mexicans or gangs.

"Some students have claimed to be members of the Skinheads," said Obata, noting that Lakeside, a town close to Santee is reportedly one of the regional headquarters of the Ku Klux Klan.

Santana High School Principal Terrie Pennock in a memo to Obata rejected "Zoot Suit," which is rated R, because of its language and excessive violence, reported the Los Angeles Times. The principal suggested the film "West Side Story," as a depiction of "gang life and barroom living." The Times reported that the day after the memo was circulated, Obata was sent home with pay for the rest of the semester.

Obata said, while there is some violence and bad language in the film, she said the violence is mostly "implied" and the foul language only occurs in two instances. Prior to screening the film, Obata, had received signed parental consent forms. In the instruction manual section on utilization of instructional materials dated June 24, 1993, it states that when showing an R-rated movie a teacher must give parents written notification and the opportunity to exclude their child from the viewing. After the rejection, students circulated a petition and received 200 signatures to allow the classes to see the movie.

"All of the parents support me. They all signed permission slips and now they're upset because their say so means nothing," said Obata.

Carl Wong, Grossman Union High School District assistant superintendent

## School board sets hearing

The Grossmont Union High School District governing board was scheduled to have a meeting May 12. Prior to this, Obata planned to have a press conference in which she and her supporters will discuss her dismissal.

Pacific Citizen will report on the board meeting and press conference in subsequent issues.

## JACL, APA groups urge Kennedy move Wards Cove legislation onto Senate floor

Representatives from a number of Asian Pacific American groups on May 9 urged Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) to pass the Justice for Wards Cove Workers Act, S. 10377, out of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee which he chairs, to the full Senate for a vote.

The groups included the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), Japanese American Citizens League, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium and the Organization of Chinese

Americans.

The legislation would repeal a special interest exemption obtained by the Wards Cove Packing Co. that statutorily denied coverage of the Civil Rights Act of 1991 to an employment discrimination case brought against the cannery company by more than 2,000 Asian Pacific American and Alaska Native workers. The workers allege that the company maintained an environment that resulted in racially segregated working and living conditions.

Kennedy, who is one of the original

co-sponsors of the Justice for Wards Cove Workers Act, had indicated earlier that he was waiting until the Supreme Court decided two cases that presented the issue of whether the Civil Rights Act of 1991 should be applied to cases that were pending before the act became law.

Recently issuing its decision, the court said that while Congress had not meant to provide for retroactive application of every feature of the 1991 act, it left open the possibility that provisions could be applied in some cases.

## Anti-immigrant amendment defeated in close House vote, says JACL

On May 4, the House Ways and Means Committee voted 20 to 16 against an amendment offered by Rep. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.) that would have denied Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits to non-U.S. citizens, including legal permanent residents, with exceptions for certain refugees and some permanent residents over the age of 75. The SSI program provides assistance to impoverished blind, elderly and disabled Americans.

On less than 12 hours notice, the Organization of Chinese Americans

(OCA), Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), and Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) joined other Asian American, Hispanic, religious and labor organizations in alerting the affected communities and local governments about the amendment.

In a letter to Committee Chairperson Daniel Rostenkowski, Office of Management and Budget Director Leon Panetta said the administration strongly opposed the amendment and stated, "Put simply, a 'citizens only' eligibility policy is inconsistent with

this nation's history and traditions. However, he also noted that the administration would take up the issue in the context of welfare reform with a "proposal to tighten the rules under which aliens qualify for assistance."

Reps. Sander Levin (D-Mich.), Mike Kopetski (D-Ore.), Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) and Robert Matsui (D-Calif.) spoke out against the amendment. Matsui said, "These are people we have invited to our country. To deny benefits to legal immigrants who are in need simply because they are not

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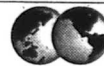
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## Pacific Citizen

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## Calendar

### East Coast U.S. Washington, D.C.

Wed. Fri. May 18-20—Natl. Conference of Asian Pacific American Public Policy Institute, Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill. Information: Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP) 213/485-1422.

### Midwest Detroit

Sun. May 15—JACL Detroit general dinner meeting, 4-7 p.m., Cherry Blossom Restaurant, 4358 S. Oak St., Nov. (west of Twelve Oaks Mall). RSVP May 9, Tosh Shimura 810/556-3089, Mary Kamada 313/522-7917

### Milwaukee

Sun. May 15—JACL Wisconsin recognition dinner, 4 p.m. cash bar, 5 p.m. program, 6 p.m. dinner, King & I, 7225 N. 76th St., Milwaukee. RSVP by May 16, April Grant 414/421-6620, Sheri Fujihira 414/423-1408. NOTE—Video: "A Personal Matter" Gordon Hirabayashi vs. the U.S.

### Mpls.-St. Paul

Sat. May 28—May 28-June 4—America Japan Week 154. Exhibits, activities, workshops, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., (May 30-June 4) Minneapolis Convention Center, info: Kathleen Holten, 612/661-4755. OTHER EVENTS: May 28, 7 p.m., Opening ceremony, State Theater, MN, 28-240 p.m., Opening celebration, Mpls. Institute of Arts, May 30, Music, kite-flying, Lake Harriet Bandshell, May 31-June 2, Concerts, 5-7 p.m. Pioneer Plaza, 7-10 p.m., State Theater, June 3, Martial arts, 7-10 p.m., Target Center, June 4, Downtown parade, 1-3 p.m., Minneapolis, Closing ceremony, 3-6 p.m., Target Center.

### Nevada Reno

Sun.-Mon. May 20-23—3rd annual Asian Pacific Festival of the Arts, Japanese Cultural Center, 1000 E. 1st St., Reno. NOTE—In addition to food booths, arts & crafts, the San Jose Taiko drummers, Polynesian Cultural Center performance from Hawaii, the Dragon Dance, dance from Victorian Ave., will be students of the Washoe County School District constructing the Great Wall of Nevada. Info: John Asanaga's Nugget 702/356-3300, 800/843-2427.

### Las Vegas

Sun. May 22—International Food Festival, Convention Center, South Hall, Desert Inn Rd., between Paradise and Swensen.

### Arizona Phoenix

Sat. May 14—Arizona Asian American Ass'n's 6th annual convention, Ritz Carleton Hotel, Phoenix. NOTE—Rep. Norman Mineta, key note speaker.

### Pacific Northwest Seattle

Sat. May 14—Pan Asian Cultural Day events, 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Seattle Public Library, 3rd floor, 1000 4th Ave., 206/386-4636; Tsunami Talk, 11 a.m., Downtown Seattle Public Library, and 2 p.m., Green Lake Library, 7364 E. Green Lake Rd. NE, info: 206/654-7547. Indonesian puppet mask show, 2 p.m., Magnolia Library, 2601-34th Ave. W, info: 206/386-4225. Morning Star Korean dance, 2 p.m., Queen Anne Library, 400 W. Garfield St., info: 206/386-4227. Dances of the Silk Road, 1 p.m., Downtown Seattle Public Library, 1000 4th Ave., 3rd floor.

Sat.-Sun. May 14-15—Tennessee American Life and Culture, 10-5 p.m., Seattle Public Library, 206/386-4636. Classical Chinese Music concert, 7:30 p.m. Sat., 3 p.m. Sun., Museum of History and Industry, Tickets 206/762-6899.

Mon.-Fri. May 16-20—University of Washington Asian Week, student programs, speakers, panelists, exhibits, food fair on Friday. UW Husky Union Bldg., info: Eric Chang 206/685-1908.

Tue. May 17—Environmental Health/Justice concerns, 6-8:30 p.m., Bush Arts Center, 409 Maynard Ave. S., info: Tiesing Dangson 206/545-0418. NOTE—Sponsored by Asian Pacific Women's Caucus. Indonesian puppet mask show, 4 p.m., High Point Library, info: 206/654-7454.

Wed. May 18—Voices of Newcomers, noon-1 p.m.; Poet Fatima Lim-Wilson and her Shoreline Community College students read original haiku and poetry, 7-9 p.m., Downtown Seattle Public Library, 3rd floor, 1000 4th Ave.

206/386-4636.

Thu. May 19—Attorney panel: Immigration/Civil Rights, 7-8:30 p.m., Downtown Seattle Public Library, 3rd floor, 1000 4th Ave., 206/386-4636.

Sat. May 21—Readings by local author Ken Motokazu, 1 p.m., Southwest Library, 9010 35th Ave. SW, info: 206/386-4184. Panel: Readings for "International Examiner," 7:30-9:30 p.m., Elliott Bay Book Co., 101 S. Main, 86 downtown, 206/624-3025. Tsunami Talk, 2 p.m., Columbia Library, 4721 Rainier Ave. S., info: 206/386-1806. Puppet mask show, 11 a.m., Ballard Library, 5711 24th Ave. NW, info: 206/684-4089. Morning Star Korean Dance, 2 p.m., Southwest Library, 9010 35th Ave. SW, info: 684-7455.

Wed. May 25—Community Voice Awards dinner, 5:30 p.m.-9 p.m., Four Seas Restaurant, 714 S. King St., info: 206/244-3925. NOTE—Celebrating the 20th anniversary of "International Examiner" Dances of the Silk Road, 7 p.m., West Seattle Library, 2306 42nd Ave. SW, info: 206/684-7444.

### California Peninsula

Sat. May 21—25th anniversary JACP (Japanese American Curriculum Project) dinner, 6:30 p.m., Lake Merced Golf & Country Club, Daily City. RSVP: JACP, 415/343-9408. NOTE—Florence Hong, honoree, Charlie Chin, emcee.

Wed. May 25—Stanford Medical Center's first lecture: Race and Ethnicity's impact on patient care, noon-1 p.m., Stanford Medical Center, 4th floor, 1010 Loma Rd., info: 650/725-0403. NOTE—Bring your lunch.

### San Francisco

Fri. June 3—San Francisco Chapter, JACL golf tournament, Sonoma Golf Club, Sonoma. Sat. May 21—Yale U. Kei go's impact on the art, prizes, dinner and door prizes. Information: John Hayashi, 415/663-9468 or Sheryl Ishizaki, 415/751-3411. Proceeds go to SF JACL scholarship fund.

### San Jose

Sun. May 15—Photo exhibit/program: Japanese Americans during WWII and the Jewish Holocaust, 1 p.m., video "From Hawaii to the Holocaust," Buddhist Betsuin Annex, 650 N. 5th St., San Jose, info: Ken Ikegaki 408/445-0109, Tokuji Tokura or Judy Nizawa 445-0109, Hummel's Harts, 358-3033. NOTE—Co-sponsored by Japanese American Resource Center and Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater San Jose.

Sat. May 21—Yale U. Kei go's impact on the art, prizes, dinner and door prizes. Information: John Hayashi, 415/663-9468 or Sheryl Ishizaki, 415/751-3411. Proceeds go to SF JACL scholarship fund.

### Salinas-Monterey

Sat. May 14—Nisei VWF Post 164 Installation, JACL Hall, NOTE: John Baker succeeds Ken Keialalo.

Sun. May 15—Bando Mitsuhiko classical Japanese dance program, 2 p.m., Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple.

### Stockton

Sat. May 28—Stockton Chapter, JACL community picnic, Mead Grove Park, Lodi, 10 a.m. Festivities include: horseshoe competition, and a race for boys and girls, babies and adults. Admission: \$4 per car, \$2 senior, senior information: Dick Faye 916/478-5589 or George Baba, 916/478-8917.

### Ventura County

Sat. May 21—Fujimatsu, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Ox Road Buddhist Church, 2500 H St., Oxnard, info: 805/483-5948. NOTE—Tea ceremony, 1 p.m.; Kanuma dance, 1:45; Okinawa dance, 2:30; bonshi, 3:30; Karaoke 5 p.m.

### Los Angeles-Orange

Closing May 30—"Strength & Diversity: Japanese American Women" exhibit, Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum, Los Angeles. Fri. May 13—JACL Grt LA Singles talk: Dr. Drew Francis on "Chinese Herbs," 4 p.m., Japanese Cultural Institute, 16215 S. Gramercy Pl., Gardena, info: Miyako Kadogawa 310/839-1194.

Sat. May 14—St. Mary's Church carnival: bazaar, 9:15 S. Mariposa Ave., LA, 213/387-1334.

Sat. May 14—CORDMIS Zebra Platoon reunion, 7 p.m., Marnett Hotel, Torrance. Information: Koji Kawaguchi, 818/272-6127, Huntington Beach, CA 92646.

Sat. May 14—10th Anniversary of Japanese Garden and Yugen Doro, 3:30-6 p.m., Tien'an Water Reclamation Plant, 6100 Woodley Ave., Van Nuys. NOTE—RSVP May 6, 9 p.m., 213/989-8166.

Sat.-Sun. May 14-15—JANM Family Weekend's "Videos for Children," 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 213/989-8166.

Origami workshop, 1-3 p.m., 368 E. 1st St., LA, info: 213/625-0414.

Sun. May 15—Nikkei Widowed Group speaker, "My One and Only," 1:30 p.m., San Gabriel Civic Auditorium, 320 S. Mission Dr., S.G. 4.

Mon.-Sat. May 16-21—Asian Pacific Heritage Week, Occidental College, Mon. May 16, Talk by author Wendy Lee-Yone, 7 p.m., Morrison Lounge; Tue. May 17, Ju-Jitsu, Tai Chi, 5:30 p.m., Freeman Union; Panel: "Asian Americans and the Law," 7 p.m., Alumni Auditorium; Wed. May 18, Cultural Night exhibit, 5:30 p.m., Freeman Union; Panel: "Asian Americans and the Media," 7 p.m., Johnson Doro, Theater performance by "Here and Now," 8 p.m., Theatre Hall; Sat. May 21, Film: "The Wedding Banquet," 8 p.m., Alumni Auditorium. All events free, open to the public, 1600 Campus Rd., LA, info: 213/259-2677.

May 17—May 28—4th annual L.A. Asian Pacific Film & Video Festival, at UCLA. Melnitz Theater, Laemmle's Sheraton Grande, LACE at Hollywood Moguls, Pacific Asian Museum and the Japan America Theatre. Info: 310/206-FILM, 312/206-4452. Tue. May 17—Henry Koster Film: "Flower Drum Song," 7 p.m., Japan America Theatre, 213/680-4462. NOTE—Opening night Festival celebration in tribute to the late Gay Lee, co-founder of East West Players and Association of Asian Pacific American Artists, coproduced by Visual Communications, UCLA Film & TV Archives. Thu. May 19—Opening night L.A. Premiere: "The Wooden Man's Bridge" (Taiwan), 7:30 p.m., Melnitz; Fri. May 20—L.A. premiere: "The Days" (China), "The Only Day" (Indonesia), 7 p.m., "Being Battered" (China), 9 p.m., Laemmle's, Sat. May 21—"White Lotus" (South Korea), 7 p.m., Melnitz; "Yoko Ono in Fluxus" (The No. 4 Bottoms) (U.S.), "The Museum of Modern Art," 12th, Film shorts, 2 p.m., Canadian Theatre, 7 p.m., "The Days" (China), 9 p.m., Laemmle's, 7 p.m., "The Days" (China), 9 p.m., Laemmle's, 7 p.m., "The Days" (China), 9 p.m., Laemmle's.

Wed. May 18—Japan America Society (JAS) business symposium: "Dominating the Dialogue: How Government/Industry Relations shape trade negotiations," 3:30-5:30 p.m., Hyatt Regency, 711 S. Hope St., Los Angeles, info: 213/627-6217.

Thu. May 19—JAS business symposium: "Dominating the Dialogue: How Government/Industry Relations shape trade negotiations," 3:30-5:30 p.m., Holiday Inn-Huntington Beach, 7667 Center Dr., H.B., info: 213/627-6217.

Fri. May 20—Contemporary crafts market, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, information: 213/933-1447. NOTE—Four Asian American artists included: Taseko Kobayashi, Hiroshi Ogawa, Suzy Ogawa and Yoshiko Inman.

Sat. May 21—Panel related to JANM exhibit "Architecture: East-West," 2 p.m., JANM, 368 E. 1st St., LA, info: 213/625-0414.

Sat. May 21—Torrance Armed Forces exhibit, 11:30 a.m., Torrance Bldg., NOTE—Nisei WWII veterans will ride vintage vehicles.

Sun. May 22—Screening discussion of Academy Award director Steven Ozawa's "Survivors," 2 p.m., JANM, 368 E. 1st St., LA. RSVP required 213/625-0414. Part of National Memorial Project.

### Riverside

Sun. May 15—JACL Riverside scholarship potluck dinner, 5 p.m., UCR University Club. NOTE: Honoring eight high school graduates.

### San Diego

Sat. May 14—Ocean View United Church of Christ fashion show, 12:15-5 p.m., 8541 Ocean View Blvd., S.D., information: Carol Kawamoto 619/287-7583. NOTE—Kanojo USA's Spring collection.

Sat. May 14—Japan America Society's children's program, 2 and 5 p.m., Vista Buddist Temple Talko drums, 2:15-4 p.m., Origami workshop, Museum of Photographic Arts, Balboa Park, info: 619/229-5262.

Sun. May 15—Teyama Kori Ensemble performance for children, 1-3 p.m., Japanese Friendship Garden, Balboa Park, info: 619/232-2760.

Sat. Sun. May 21-22—Sageitsu Isobashi School demonstration, 10 a.m., Japanese Friendship Garden, Balboa Park, info: 619/232-2760.

## Small kid time



## Gwen Muranaka





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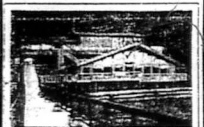
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## National Board meeting, May 21-22

### Agenda

**Morning session/Saturday, May 21**  
Call to order—Lillian Kimura, JACL national president  
Roll call—Jon Kaji, national secretary/treasurer  
Approval of minutes, National Board meeting, Feb. 12-13, 1994  
Financial report: Revised 1994 budget—Kaji

President's report—Kimura  
• Ad Hoc Committee on Health Reform  
• Ad Hoc Committee: PC task force  
• Organization restructuring report

VP/General Operations—Neal Taniguchi  
• Report of Personnel Committee  
• 1994 National Convention (Report to be made Sunday morning—Reid Tateoka)  
• 1996 National Convention

VP/Membership—Alan Nishi  
• Membership Report  
• Life Membership Trust

Pacific Citizen—Ron Ohata, chair, PC board

### Executive Session

### Afternoon session/May 21

VP/Public Affairs—Bill Kaneko  
• Yamashita update  
• Spokane JACL update  
• Same sex marriage resolution  
• Education committee update

VP/Planning and Development—Trisha Murakawa  
• Chapter president handbook  
• Legacy Grant  
• Action item: Acceptance of gifts  
• Action item: Conflict of interest  
• Action item: Creation of bid process for membership Benefits/Revenue-generating programs

Executive Director's report—Randy Senzaki  
Program for Action 1994-96—Kimura

### Morning session/Sunday, May 22

1994-96 Proposed Budget—Kaji  
Constitution/By-law review committee—Mike Sawamura/  
Reid Tateoka  
1994 National Convention report—Reid Tateoka  
Legacy Fund—Grayce Uyehara  
National Youth Council—Kim Nakahara  
Governor's Caucus—Sharon Ishii-Jordan  
PSW Action Items—Ruth Mizobe  
• Confirmation of George Kodama, PSW PC board representative  
• Release of Lim Report at 1994 Convention

Next meeting of the National Board

Adjournment

## Volunteer award available

Applications for the Kay Okamoto Volunteer Award are now available, announced the San Francisco Chapter, JACL. This will be the chapter's sixth year, honoring outstanding volunteerism which serves the Japanese American community in the Bay Area," said Les Hata, chapter president. Eligible candidates are individuals who volunteer for an organization serving Japanese or Japanese Americans. The winner will receive \$1,000 and the announcement will be made in July. The award was established in honor of Kay Okamoto who served as volunteer coordinator at the senior center since its inception more than 30 years ago. "Working with Mrs. Okamoto at the Hamilton Senior Center for over 20 years, I learned a lot about the value of volunteering," said Greg Marutani. Deadline: June 10. Applications: Greg Marutani, 415/641-1697.

## FUND

(Continued from page 1)

their civil rights. Without enlightenment, the precedent of internment, in the words of Supreme Court Justice Jackson, "lies about like a loaded weapon ready for the hand of any authority that can bring forward a plausible claim to an urgent need."

Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) National Director Randy Senzaki commended the Department of Justice for its strong support of the Education Fund and applauded the testimony of Congressman Matsui. Senzaki noted, "Congressman Matsui's testimony is critically im-

portant in countering Congressman Rogers' continued opposition to the Public Education Fund."

JACL Washington Representative Karen Narasaki added, "We understand that Representative Alan Mollohan (D-W.Va.) may become the new subcommittee chair. We are urging constituents to write to him as well as the other subcommittee members, Neil Smith (D-Iowa), Bob Carr (D-Mich.), David Skaggs (D-Colo.), Jim Moran (D-Va.) and David Price (D-NC) to support the president's \$5 million budget request. Congressman Mineta (D-Calif.) has contacted each of them, but they also need to hear from more constituents."

## Personally speaking

### Politics and elections

Former UC Davis professor of veterinary medicine, Dr. Jerry Kaneko, 68, is bidding for one of two seats on the Davis city council in the June 6 election. Active with the Davis Democratic Club and Yolo Democratic Central Committee, he has been a city planning commissioner since December 1992. The French Camp native was interned during WWII, then entered Michigan State ('45), served two years in the Army, transferred from MSU to UC Davis ('50), graduated in chemistry ('52), veterinarian school ('56) and remained on staff as a post-doctoral fellow, received his Ph.D., taught and eventually chaired the department for 17 years. He retired in June, 1993. As professor emeritus, Kaneko is preparing his fifth edition to a book on clinical biochemistry and lectures around the world.

Charles Kim, an aide to Los Angeles City Councilman Nate Holden in 1987, is making a second bid for a seat on the Cerritos city council. A founding member who has resigned as president from the Korean American Coalition, he pointed to a study that found Cerritos is the "most ethnically diverse" city in the nation, beating out immigrant enclaves like Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York. The census shows Cerritos' population is 30% Asian.



HELEN KAWAGOE

Carson (Calif.) City Clerk Helen S. Kawagoe, who was re-elected in the April 12 local primaries by a near 4-1 margin, was recognized earlier at the March 22 session of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for her 20 years of "meritorious service, commitment and dedication to public service" by board chair Yvonne Brathwaite Burke. Helen is held in high regard by her peers, who elected her to serve as president of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, was one of four Americans to receive a Japanese decoration last year and active with the Gardena Valley JACL and the Japanese Cultural Institute. She was the first Mainland Nisei woman to be elected to public office in 1974.

In the same city, Mayor Michael I. Mitoma, 50, won over James Peoples, a retired economist, 5,453 (52.6%) to 4,853 (46.7%). This was the first time that Carson voters were electing a mayor directly. The *Los Angeles Times* reported the campaign was bitter as "each accused the other of playing racial politics." Banking executive Mitoma is also chairman of the JACL National Endowment Fund.

The same day, Gardena city councilman Mas Fukai commanded 4,028 votes in a three-way race for two seats to be re-elected to his sixth term. In the mid-'70s, he served as mayor in Gardena and well-known as deputy and chief deputy with Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, both retiring together from county government two years ago.

### Media

Hawaii native Gordon Tokumatsu joined KNBC-TV (Los Angeles) as a general assignment reporter in March, being recruited from KCRA-TV (Sacramento) where he had been report-

ing for three years. He also hosted an Asian public affairs program, "Perceptions," at KCRA-TV and provided the sole live coverage for all satellite news networks of Hurricane Iniki in 1992. He began his news-writing career at KNXradio (Los Angeles), into television in the fall of 1988 at KESQ-TV (Palm Springs), and reporting from April 1990 at KLAS-TV (Las Vegas).

### Sports

Cappy T. Harada, who was in charge of arranging the 1949 goodwill baseball tour in Japan of the San Francisco Seals, was the lone Hall of Fame honoree last month in the Santa Maria Valley Sports Hall of Fame. He was an MIS officer at the time and received permission of his commanding officer, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, to raise both the U.S. and Japanese flags at the opening ceremonies. Lt. Harada recalled it was the first time, since the end of hostilities that the both flags and the national anthems were a part of the ceremony. Retired in Santa Maria, he starred in football, basketball and baseball at Santa Maria High in the late 1930s.

### Honors and awards

Yuji Ichioka, author of "The Issei" (1988), of UCLA Asian American Studies Center, has applied for a two-year grant to the National Archives to survey and collect Korean American historical materials, the monthly *Korea Times* reported. Meanwhile, CSU Fullerton graduate student Hyung-ju Ahn, received a National Heroes Medal for Korean Independence on behalf of his late grandfather, the Rev. An Ch'ang-ho (1878-1938), who lived in Hawaii, China, Europe, Mexico and Cuba, wherever Koreans could be assembled for the cause of Korea. A square in his name was dedicated Feb. 3 in front of the Korean United Presbyterian Church, 1374 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles.

Longtime JACLer John Y. Yoshino of Kensington, Md., was honored by the National Association of Professional Asian American Women at their national training conference in Bethesda in mid-April "for outstanding contribution to the cultural life of community and further demonstrated your level of excellence and deep devotion to the whole complex problem of desegregation and selfless efforts to increase employment opportunities of minority groups."



CRESSEY NAKAGAWA

Past national JACL president Cressey H. Nakagawa of San Francisco was to be honored with the Distinguished Service Award from the Institute of International Education at its 75th anniversary celebration in San Francisco on April 27. The IIE promotes cultural exchange and international educational projects. Cressey, a Stanford graduate with his J.D. from Hastings, has been practicing law for over 25 years, focusing on natural resources.

The Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance honored Assemblyman Tom Umberg (D-Garden Grove, Calif.) as its Public Official of the Year "for his responsiveness, accessibility, and assistance to the Asian Pacific community." This is his second

term in office. Previously, the Marine Corps veteran was an assistant U.S. attorney.

### Education

Ed Kanemasu, research leader in Crop and Soil Sciences and director of the Center for Sustainable Agroecosystems Studies, was named regents' professor for the University of Georgia. On the faculty since 1989, the Hood River-born scientist is into crop production forecasting, genetic selection of drought-resistant plant species, irrigation scheduling through use of data from satellites, aircraft and ground-based sensors. His work on micrometeorology and remote sensing is recognized worldwide. His parents, George and Tomi Kanemasu live in Denver. He and his wife, Karen, are members of the newest JACL chapter, Georgia.

Sandra Tanamachi Nakata, 1984 graduate of San Benito (Tex.) High School, and currently teaching at Blanchette Elementary School and selected the 1993 Teacher of the Year, was named to the Commission on Standards for the Teaching Profession. A graduate of University of Northern Colorado ('68), she is married to Dr. Bruce T. Nakata, senior research chemist for DuPont Co. Her son Tim is a '87 graduate of Harlingen High and a graduate of the Univ. of Texas at Austin.

### Business

Stephen P. Sakai was appointed vice president and category leader, USA Consumer Towel Business, by the Scott Paper Co., based in Philadelphia. A graduate of the University of Washington, he has an MBA from the University of Puget Sound.

Two American Speed Printing Centers proprietors, George and Aileen Ikuta, of Foster City, were recognized by the franchisers with the 1993 pursuit of excellence award. The San Mateo JACLers started their business in 1988 and have been involved in a variety of community endeavors, including the Family YMCA, local Rotary Club and Foster City chamber of commerce.

Toru Nishijima, a director at Hotel San Remo, the only Las Vegas casino owned by a Japanese entrepreneur, is trying to make gamblers of the tourists from Japan, through a program of free lessons in Nihongo. He recently told the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. The average tourist doesn't spend a lot of money gambling because most games of chance are illegal in Japan. Travel agent Miki Wakaya in Las Vegas added that five years ago, it would cost around \$2,500 for a seven-eight day group tour from Japan. Now, they buy individual tours at \$1,000 for travel and accommodations. Tour operator Kunio Yahiro, who targets Japanese tourist and business, reported his business is down 30-40% since the Persian Gulf war. In the meantime, Las Vegas has been advertising in Japan, according to Nishijima, that cost \$10 million (\$100,000) in the *Asahi Shimbun*. The local gaming industry is pushing hard to attract tourists from the Far East, despite Japan's faltering economy.

### Government

Ron Wakabayashi of the Los Angeles city human relations commission has been hired by the Los Angeles County Commission of Human Relations as its executive director, effective May 9, succeeding Eugene S. Mornell. Wakabayashi has been director of the city human relations commission since 1990 after having served as National JACL director in the '80s. The city is planning to create a Community Services Department, consolidating the human relations commission, the commission on the status of women, the department of aging, the department of social services and portions of the community development department.

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## Opinions



## From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

## The JA legacy—far and wide

Until the Great Exodus of 1942 not many Japanese Americans had moved away from the West Coast where the vast majority had been born. Only scattered handfuls of them lived in states like Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska. They were the offspring of hardy Issei whose occupations—mainly railroad maintenance workers, farmers, miners, steel mill laborers—had taken them inland. Nor must we forget small farming colonies of Japanese immigrants in places like Texas and Florida.

Back then, Chicago was a distant metropolis where, according to Carl Sandburg, they killed hogs, and New York was a glittering, wonderland. But for the most part the country east of the Sierras and of course the Rockies was unknown land.

Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066 changed all that. The entire Japanese American population of California and the western halves of Washington and Oregon were—the polite word is *evacuated*—inland into areas they'd never before seen.

When war ended, many decided the homes and jobs they had acquired in interior America under WRA's relocation program were more appealing than the prospect

of returning to states that had kicked them out.

The extent of that dispersal was dramatized for me the other day by a now-and-then newsletter titled *Courier Legacy* published by a committee (Harry Honda, Ed Teitakawa, Norio Wakamatsu) in Spokane, Wash. The committee's purpose is to raise \$50,000 to establish some kind of memorial, including a scholarship, honoring Jimmie Sakamoto, the one-time professional boxer whose failing eyesight turned him to publishing a newspaper in Seattle for Japanese Americans.

Sakamoto's weekly *Japanese American Courier*, in addition to covering community news, sponsored baseball, basketball and football leagues for Seattle-area Nisei. The leagues attracted hundreds of participants and intense fan support. They gave Nisei, most of whom weren't big enough to make high school teams, an opportunity to play and compete. Equally important, the leagues were a major factor in keeping the youngsters off the streets.

The committee accepts no more than \$100 from each contributor and is nearing the \$50,000 goal. More than half the money came from Seattle and other parts of Washington. The rest was sent in from 28 states

and Japan.

California (45), Illinois (26) and Oregon (14) led the out-of-state donors. But contributions also came from Alaska (1) and Florida (3), Hawaii (4) and New Hampshire (1), Vermont (1) and Massachusetts (1). Other states with more than a single contributor were Maryland, Idaho, Colorado, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Minnesota and Ohio.

What these figures mean is this: You could visit 60 percent of the states that make up the union and find in each someone who was affected enough by Sakamoto and his *Courier* and its athletic leagues to be willing, after 55 or 60 years, to contribute toward memorializing the man and what he did for them. Amazing.

Did anyone anticipate this kind of dispersal resulting from the Great Exodus? Since other Pacific Coast communities lost a substantial number of bright young Japanese Americans, let me ask another question. What might they have contributed to their home towns if they hadn't been driven away? ☐

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

## Letters

## Leadership attendees support JACL Washington D.C. rep

This letter is in support of Karen Narasaki's accomplishments as our D.C. representative. As recent participants in the 1994 Leadership Conference, we were able to observe first-hand the difficulties involved in representing JACL in Washington, D.C., and the excellent job Karen is doing.

Legislative issues often arise very quickly and it takes a competent, organized individual to be able to respond with a prompt and direct approach. This may include lobbying various congressional members, distributing information, garnering grassroots support, and writing press releases, articles or letters. We have learned that this process requires efficiency, diplomacy and credibility on the part of the D.C. representative. To be able to attain such credibility requires dedication. Karen presents to our government an informed and assertive image of Asian Americans. She has obtained an impressive network of connections and works effectively with other groups. She has efficiently informed our organizations of these issues.

We hope that members see past any generalized statements that question her ability or direction. Such statements undermine our integrity and the accomplishments JACL has attained as a result of Karen's work. We have found no evidence that she has overstepped her boundaries nor misrepresented JACL's National Program for Action. We encourage members to join us in acknowledging the great work that Karen has done for JACL and thank her for her willingness to lend her expertise.

Carol Kawase

Fort Bragg, Calif.

Leah Hamachi

Danville, Calif.

Craig Minami

Epcino, Calif.

Gary Mayeda

Los Angeles

## 'Same-sex' issue not part of JACL goals, says reader

The Japanese American Citizens League Program for Action, 1993-1994 Biennial, mission statement lists the purpose of the JACL as "Protect the rights of Japanese Americans as its primary and continuing concern. It shall also strive to secure and uphold civil and human rights for all people." "Preserve the culture and values of Japanese Americans in a multi-cultural society." "Participate in the development of

See LETTERS/page 7



## East Wind

BILL MARUTANI

## Baku-chi

**D**URING OUR YOUTH, few of us were aware of any organized gambling within the Issei community. At least, not in the farming community of White River Valley in the State of Washington. I don't doubt that "the fellows" got together every so often for a session of chance, perhaps in the back room of some Issei's shop, and that the host received an *orei* (thank you) from the flow of funds. But I'm merely speculating, for never did I see any of the paraphernalia. I did, however, see a large sheet of paper with squares; inside the squares were *kanji* characters; and in about a week or so, some of the blocks were marked by a brush. It even had a name: *hakappi*. It didn't take much to figure that the marks represented a hit, as in a lottery. As a *ko-zoh*, I used to wonder why the law enforcement authorities couldn't figure out what was going on.

Even then, I suspected they knew but didn't take action because some favorable courtesies had been extended to them.

SINCE THEN much water has flowed

over the dam. Today, there are numerous states which have lotteries and a few places—Nevada, Atlantic City, N.J. plus Indian reservations, plus shortly, New Orleans—have all-out gambling, including black-jack, poker, dice, slot machines, roulette, fan-tan, and what-have-you. There's the so-called "river boat" gambling in Iowa and a few other spots. In Philadelphia, the gaming interests have snapped up river front properties, paying as much as a million per acre—in anticipation that the legislature will enact laws to permit gambling on boats. I understand that some airline is looking into the permissibility of offering games-of-chance while the aircraft is aloft.

**I DON'T KNOW** how you feel about all this, but I'm unconvinced that expanding operations for games of chance will enrich our society or encourage productive work. Oh, don't get me wrong: I've been part of a group that gathered once a month at another's home and played poker. And, yes, I've dabbled in the slots, killing time attending meetings in Reno. In fact, I've even

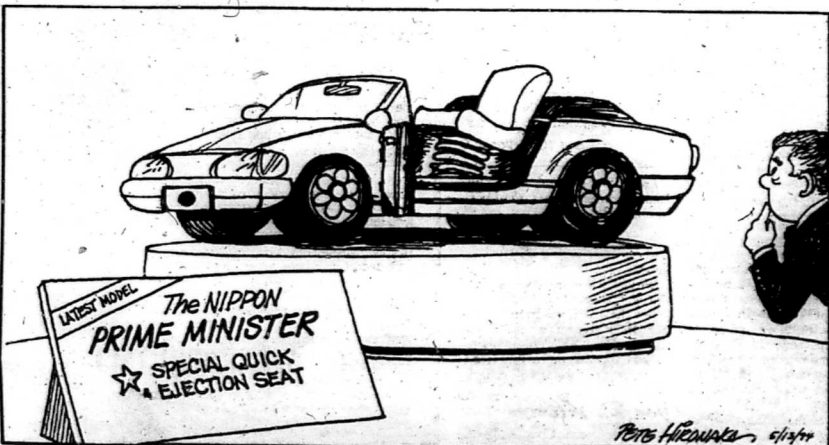
hit a couple of jack-pots, once when casually putting some loose change into a dime slot while strolling through a hotel lobby. On that occasion Vicki came to the rescue by opening up her pocketbook to catch the spillover of dimes.

**OUT HERE**, the mania for gambling is such that there's even talk of excavating some ground in a defunct race-track, fill the excavation with water, put a "boat" into the water, and run a "river boat" gambling operation! Those behind these gambling operations seek to lure us by promises of jobs, physical betterment of the surrounding area, a painless revenue source for the state government, etc.

**I LOOKED UP** the *kanji* for "baku-chi"

See MARUTANI/page 8

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



## 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's editorials, columns, and cartoons of staff will be clearly labeled as such.

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## DC notes

By KAREN NARASAKI

## Beyond JA issues

In Washington, D.C., it is difficult not to be overcome by cynicism and frustration at the often self-serving nature of politics. The challenges we face sometimes seem overwhelming.

Last month, I attended the swearing-in ceremonies for the new assistant attorney general for civil rights, Deval Patrick. In a profound, yet very personal address, Patrick outlined his vision. He said, "Our mission is to restore the great moral imperative that civil rights is finally all about." He described America as a nation of conflicting values and realities concerning discrimination. He noted that the country's faith in the creed of "equality, opportunity and fair play" has "enabled us to accomplish feats of extraordinary achievement and uplift. And yet in the same instant we see the racism and unfairness around us."

As an African American who rose from poverty to become a respected attorney and civil rights advocate, he stated, "I have a personal stake in the business of civil rights. (To) understand civil rights, you must understand how it feels. How it feels to be hounded by the uncertainty and fear about whether you will be fairly treated. How it feels to be trapped in someone else's stereotype, to have people look right through you."

Patrick's words capture not only the challenges that we as a nation face, but the challenges that JACL as an organization faces. We must work to restore the moral imper-

ative of civil rights. We cannot afford to turn away from civil rights battles, no matter how unpopular they may be. It would not only be self-serving, but in the end would be self-defeating. I cannot help but believe that the interment might not have happened had not so many otherwise good-hearted people turned their backs on the Japanese American community because it was not "their" problem or that we would never have won the battle for redress had not good people took it on as one of "their" causes.

The first purpose stated in the JACL Constitution is to, "Protect the rights of Japanese Americans as its primary and continuing concern. It shall also strive to secure and uphold civil and human rights for all people." I am troubled by the statements I have read in the *Pacific Citizen* over the past year calling for a retreat to issues that are of concern only to Americans of Japanese descent. In a time where all of the world's community have become increasingly interconnected, I wonder what that means.

Have these individuals forgotten that JACL's mission, according to our Constitution, is to "foster American Democracy, promote active participation in civil and nation 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."

It takes courage and commitment to take on gay and lesbian civil rights issues and other controversial causes. Those chapters and individuals who have been willing to stand up for principle should be applauded for their courage, not personally attacked by those who do not share their vision. JACL must work harder to keep these debates about policy and not about individuals—about respectful disagreement and not personal abuse.

At its most basic level, civil rights is about protecting the rights of even the most unpopular among us; of making sure that each of us are judged by the content of our characters and not by someone else's stereotypes or fears.

At San Jose JACL's installation dinner, San Jose Police Chief Lou Cobarruviz commented JACL for its leadership, saying, "Because you are dedicated to uphold and secure the human rights of all people, JACL was one of the groups which led the way during the Middle East war to make sure that Palestinians and people of Middle Eastern origin were not unfairly interviewed without probable cause by federal enforcement agencies."

As we work through the myriad of complex issues that face us today, let us remember the precepts of our Constitution and our notions of civility.

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



## By the board

By KERRY KANEICHI

## National Youth Council is not unconstitutional

Normally, I don't read the *Pacific Citizen*, but one of my instructors informed (me) of an "opinion" article I should look at. To my surprise it was titled, "JACL youth program is unconstitutional," in the April 29-May 5 edition. As an inquiring youth, I decided to read and began to wonder how the *Pacific Citizen* could print such trash. I know, I know... Mr. Karl K. Nobuyuki, former JACL national director, dual membership in PSW, blah, blah, blah...

I really think Mr. Nobuyuki is taking his knowledge of the National JACL Constitution for granted, or didn't get his edition off from National Headquarters. Let me recap on a few points which Mr. Nobuyuki decided to discuss. He did very well defining youth membership, "under the age of 18 or equivalent of a high school senior," and also ARTICLE XIX, JACL YOUTH PROGRAM, Section One, "The JACL Youth Program shall encompass all JACL youth-related activities and programs."

Just let me add a few more definitions.

In the Bylaws, Article 1 Membership Section 4, "Student membership: (a) Student Members shall be persons who are eligible for membership in this organization and are currently enrolled in Trade School, Business College, College, University or other institution of higher learning at either the undergraduate or graduate level."

Under the Constitution, Article X, Section 1, "Elected Positions: (c) The elective officers shall be active members of the organization and shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age..."

Under the Constitution, Article VIII, Section 2, "Adoption of a Youth Program for Action: The National Youth Council shall consider and adopt a Youth Program for Action designed to maintain and vitalize a national JACL youth program and to achieve the aim and purposes of the national organization."

According to the Constitution, Youth members are not eligible to

run for National office. In this regard, the youngest (and only) members eligible to run for National Youth Council Chair or National Youth Representative are student members. The National Youth Council counts as 99% of this vote in the election process, and feels comfortable with their officers.

The example he gave the membership is also alarming. It is stated that I am over 30 years old. Let me give Mr. Nobuyuki a hint. I was barely 20 when elected in Denver. Let's see, if a term lasts for 2 years... then 20 plus 2 is... Well, I think you can figure that out.

(Editor's note: Nobuyuki was referring to his district's youth representative, Gary Mayeda, who is over 30 years old.)

If you look at the National Youth Council, Program for Action, for

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Kaneichi is the National Youth Council representative to the JACL National Board.

## LETTERS

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understanding between all social and ethnic groups. "Promote, sponsor and encourage programs, projects, and activities designed to further and to encourage members to perform faithfully their duties and obligations to the United States of America. The organization and its members

shall uphold the Constitution and the laws of the United States."

Goals and objectives therein listed in Goal II: Create Programs to Address the Needs of JACL Membership, "Objective C: Sponsor programs related to changes in family patterns i.e. death, divorce, out-marriages, etc. Recommended Action—NONE"

Why are we meddling in Same-sex marriage? Guys in the mili-

tary?

We have a mandate from the National Council of the JACL to follow the JACL Program for Action which gives us a solid direction for obtainable objectives to benefit the Japanese American Community as well as all Americans.

Joe R. Allman

President, Arizona Chapter, JACL

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