



# Pacific Citizen

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U.S./Japan  
to be topic at  
convention—p. 5

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June 3-9, 1994

## JACL National Board Meeting, May 21-22, 1994

### Lim Report: PSW seeks discussion

Board unanimously passes  
Mizobe's motion to air report  
at Salt Lake convention

By GWEN MURANAKA  
Assistant editor

The National Board voted unanimously May 22 to conduct a plenary session at the national convention in Salt Lake City in which the Lim Report would be open for review and discussion.

Ruth Mizobe, governor, Pacific Southwest District, who presented the motion, said she did so in order to educate the membership and dispel rumors that there was a cover-up of the report. Commissioned by the 1989-90 JACL Presidential Select Committee, the Lim Report, authored by Deborah Lim, was a study of JACL's activities during the pre-evacuation and internment period.

"The intent is to educate the membership and show that we are not trying to cover up something," said Mizobe. "Until we do that our organization will continue to be criticized."

The PSW governor noted that in a letter to the *Rafu Shimpo*, James Omura said that he couldn't forgive JACL for its treatment of him during the war.

"Paul Ito sent a letter to PC on this issue. He said the organization has not taken a position (see the article dated April 12 in

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### Grant criteria for Legacy Fund re-evaluated

SAN FRANCISCO—Speaking before the May 21-22, JACL National Board meeting, Gracey Uyebara, chairwoman of the JACL Legacy Fund Campaign Committee, reported on the group's May 11 teleconference.

Here are the major points of discussion:

**Grants selection criteria:** Eligibility requirements were discussed in light of achieving a fairer distribution of money for projects.

The committee talked about developing a reward factor or an additional bonus for applicant chapters which have carried an active and successful fund-raising campaign for the Legacy Fund.

Some suggested that extra points be added for each level of goal achieved or that a percentage of goal achieved be recommended as a primary criteria.

Hank Tanaka commented that the

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### Torch passes

Bruce Yamashita and Fred Korematsu pose together at the May 20 reception in San Francisco held in Yamashita's honor. Korematsu, who challenged the constitutionality of the Evacuation in the case *Korematsu vs. the U.S.*, said of Yamashita, "He reminds me of me when I was young." The event was sponsored by JACL and the Levi Strauss Asian Pacific Islander Employee Association. Yamashita told the gathering that he would be filing with the Naval Discharge Review Board challenging the Marines' admission process.



Photo: GWEN MURANAKA

### Health care reform set on convention agenda

Health care reform remains a major JACL priority. Toaru Ishiyama, chair of the JACL health care reform task force, said, presenting the committee report May 21 before the National Board. The National Board accepted the committee report and instructed them to continue working on health care issues and education through to the convention.

Instructed to review the various proposals on health care reform, the committee

came up with recommendations which were printed in an earlier edition of *Pacific Citizen* (PC, April 15-21, 1994 issue.)

The committee did not recommend any one proposal currently being discussed. Ishiyama listed the following as priorities for JACL until convention:

- Make health care reform a major priority program.
- Recommend reform principals derived

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### For 100th/442nd, they had their D-Day, too

Nikkei soldiers achieved  
their victories prior to  
June 6, D-Day invasion

By HARRY K. HONDA  
Editor emeritus

Under the supreme command of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, some 176,000 Allied troops landed on Omaha Beach, Utah Beach and other Normandy shores on June 6, 1944 — now remembered as the "D-Day" of World War II, cracking open the Nazi military grip of continental Europe facing Britain.

While many mark this 50th anniversary of D-Day, the country should also remember that the 442nd Regimental Combat Team had landed four days earlier in Naples, in sight of Mt. Vesuvius, and headed for Anzio, where German airplanes landed the ammunition dumps. "It was the first time that the 442d came under



fire. It looked like a Fourth-of-July spectacle, only someone could get hurt," writes Chester Tanaka in his pictorial history, *Go For Broke*.

Already, the battle-wise men of

the 100th Infantry Battalion, led by Col. Farrant L. Turner, had been in combat since Sept. 2, 1943, at Oran in North Africa and a few weeks later at Salerno to be with

See D-Day/page 5

### Three more convicted in killing of Vietnamese

William Madalone, 23, Terry Jamerson, 22, and Christopher Anderson, 20, were convicted May 24 by a Broward County, Fla., jury of the second-degree murder of Luyen Phan Nguyen.

Anderson and Jamerson could each face between seven and 22 years in prison. Madalone, who has prior convictions, may face a life term without parole because of Florida's "habitual offender" statute. Sentencing is scheduled for June 28.

Seven men in all have been charged with the Aug. 15, 1992, killing, according to the *Miami Herald*. Bradley Mills had already been convicted in December of 1992 and is serving a 50-year sentence.

Three other defendants, Derek Kozma, Chris Madalone and Michale Barychko are scheduled for trial June 22. Nguyen was chased, beaten and kicked to death by a mob of

young men outside a Coral Springs, Fla., apartment building after being called "chink," "Vietcong" and "sayonara" at a nearby party, according to a press release by the National Asian American Pacific Legal Consortium (NAPALC).

According to the *Herald*, defense attorney Herb Cohen intends to appeal the convictions. The newspaper also quoted an alternate juror who said that she did not agree with the jury's decisions.

The case has been followed by a number of Asian American organizations. In addition to the NAPALC, the Organization of Chinese Americans, the National Network Against Anti-Asian Violence and the Japanese American Citizens League have been present at trial proceedings.

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## LIM

(Continued from page 1)

the Rafu.) These never appeared in PC," said Mizobe.

Lillian Kimura, JACL national president and a member of the committee, said the report was made for the committee and never intended as a public report, but that it has been available upon request from National Headquarters. At the 1990 San Diego convention, the select committee presented its own report and the national council passed a resolution recognizing the sacrifices of the Japanese American draft resisters.

Kimura criticized the work on the Lim report, saying, "Her problem was that a lot of it came from secondary sources and hearsay. She said it was the truth," said Kimura.

Tosru Ishiyama, a member of the Presidential Select Committee, concurred with Kimura's assessment.

"It was based not on secondary but tertiary data. We wanted more primary data in the report—get to people who were directly involved, not quote them by quoting someone else," said Ishiyama.

On the issue of the Heart Mountain draft resisters, Ishiyama believed that they acted honorably.

"It clearly indicated that the draft resisters, the group at Heart Mountain, had in effect behaved

in my terms rather nobly. They said if the government released the internees they would be willing to serve. They were not opposed to serving in the armed forces," said Ishiyama.

Trieste Murakawa, vice president, planning and development, supported the idea of a plenary session at the convention, noting that the issue had caused a lot of division within the Japanese American community in Los Angeles.

"I've gotten calls as president of the ACLU from JACL members asking me to intercede. I support a plenary session to educate the membership," said Murakawa.

On the report itself, Murakawa said, "It is very subjective. She makes conclusions throughout. The Fairplay Committee needs to speak for themselves as well as JACL members involved at the time. This goes beyond JACL, in Los Angeles, the Nikkei community is very divided. I feel very torn."

Ron Ohata, chair, PC board, said the national board needs to more clearly define the issues.

"Whichever way the board is going to go, we have to define the issues. There are two issues, one, the role of the Fair Play Committee, but a lot is focused on what was done to Mr. Omura. There need to be clearly defined parameters. If we don't limit it, or set parameters, it's not going to be any different than where we are now."

## LEGACY

(Continued from page 1)

Grants Program was developed to implement the organization's Program for Action, to give the chapters an opportunity to actively participate and assist in the national program. It was not, he said, intended as a reward for fund-raising participation in the Legacy Fund.

Other discussions, Uyebara said, involved questions about the elimination of the program altogether.

The committee proposed a list of additions which was approved unanimously with the exception of the eligibility factor, which Tanaka opposed.

Here are the discussed additions to the one-year grant selection:

—To participate in the Legacy Fund Grants Program a chapter must have achieved either 20% of its campaign goal or have raised greater than \$50,000. The percentage of fund-raising goal achieved will be the ultimate deciding factor between competing proposals that are equivalent.

—Promotional and or written material in conjunction with a Legacy Fund supported project should include the line, "Supported by the JACL Legacy Fund."

—Upored portions of the grant is to be returned to the principal

of the Legacy Fund.

—Costs of administering the Legacy Fund Grants Program shall be paid from the Legacy Fund earnings allocated for the annual grants program.

The committee also proposed additional information to grant program applicants:

—Descriptions of projects funded in prior years.

—Clear statement of goals of the Legacy Fund Grants Program.

—Requirement of a final project report that includes promotional materials, photographs and a financial summary, the deadline for which will be three months following the completion of the project.

## Deferred giving:

—The committee considered a draft of a deferred/planned giving brochure prepared by Steve Okamoto. Editing suggestions were made.

—It was decided that the Legacy Fund Campaign Committee should be mentioned somewhere to identify the impetus of the program.

—Questions were raised about how such a program will impact national staff and whether currently there is sufficient personnel to enact this program. According to Randy Senzaki, JACL national director, determination of these factors would be under review following board approval of

implementing the program.

**Budget:** The committee agreed that subsequent conference call expenses incurred by the grants selection committee should be included in the grant program's annual allocation, which would include the proposed additions to the selection criteria.

It was also agreed that printing costs for the deferred/planned giving brochure should be included as the program is intended to be adapted as part of the Legacy Fund Campaign. A motion to adopt a budget of \$65,000 was unanimously passed.

**Constitution revisions:** Cherry Kinoshita, member of the JACL Constitutional Revision Committee, reported on discussions that were relevant to the Legacy Fund. Specifically, she pointed out the approval process for emergency utilization of the principal and questioned whether at present there is any protection for the Legacy Fund corpus. Kinoshita noted that the organization has seven endowment funds in total.

Discussion then focused on the correct language to use in revision. One suggestion was that emergency utilization of the principal of funds over \$1 million would be determined by two-thirds of fund management/campaign/management committee and

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Monday June 7	Lawdale City Hall 14717 Burn Avenue, Lawndale	7 p.m.	Monday June 13	Burbank Hilton 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank	7 p.m.
Wednesday June 8	Canoga Park Community Center 7248 Owensmouth Av., Canoga Park	7 p.m.	Monday June 13	Long Beach City Hall 333 W. Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach	7 p.m.
Wednesday June 8	Whittier City Hall 33230 Fern Street, Whittier	7 p.m.	Tuesday June 14	Alhambra Court 700 S. Alhambra Street, Alhambra	7 p.m.

If you cannot attend a meeting, you may send your comments or questions in a letter to:

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## LEGACY

(Continued from page 3)

three-quarters of chapters in good standing. No conclusions were drawn.

**Golf tournament:** Committee member Bill Mukai, Chicago Chapter, reported that he is still in the process of collecting information from prospective golf courses to determine the cost and feasibility involved. Kimura mentioned that the golf tournament at the Salt Lake City convention will benefit the Legacy Fund.

**Donor wall:** Donna Choo, JACL Legacy Fund staff coordinator, reported that Cressey Nakagawa had met with Hata Aizawa and Nohi Nakamura regarding the creation of a donor wall. According to Nakagawa, when a proposal is developed he will forward such information to the committee members for consideration.

In her report, Uyehara said that Tanaka has been strongly advocating that the vacant position of director of fund development be filled to pursue a professionally conducted fund-raising effort.

The committee chair also reported on the recent Legacy Fund Chapter survey conducted during March and April of this year. The committee, Uyehara said, gleaned useful information from responses submitted by 33 chapters. The information will be used for the conclusion of the campaign as well as for future fund-raising.

Uyehara emphasized that a successful fund-raising campaign is based on a feasibility study before the effort begins. Active board participation is paramount, she said.

## HEALTH

(Continued from page 1)

from the "Ethical Foundations of Health Reform" contained in the Clinton legislative proposal and recommendations of the Asian American Health Forum and the Association of Asian Pacific Com-

munity Health Organizations. Talk specifically about health services to be provided under health care reform.

● Membership education—through articles in PC and letters to the membership. Ishiyama also said he would like to see a workshop at convention devoted to the topic.

● Join other minority coalitions, such as the Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum. Karen Narasaki, Washington, D.C., representative, said that JACL is currently working with the forum and that JACL has provided office space in the D.C. office for forum staff to work.

● Work seriously on post-legislation activities.

The committee was also asked to look at the potential impact of health care reform on JACL-Blue Shield members. While not making any specific recommendations about retaining members, Ishiyama said that health care reform could affect JACL membership numbers.

Ishiyama said, "If the Clinton plan goes through with regional alliances, programs like JACL Blue Shield will become obsolete. What will happen to an organization like JACL depends on legislation passed."

Citing the importance of retaining the Blue Shield members, Larry Ishimoto, governor, Central California District, recommended that JACL support a health care reform proposal that would allow for choice of health carrier.

"The reason the group was created was to make recommendations on how to maintain members in Blue Shield. We need to tell members which way to inform their legislators. To me, Blue Shield would be willing to help fund ads through the PC," said Ishimoto.

Ishiyama responded, "I would feel more comfortable if the issue is not Blue Cross-Blue Shield, but choice (of provider)."

Other issues discussed:

● Bill Kaneko, vice president, public affairs, asked the committee to address the issue of coverage or abortion. Narasaki pointed out that the national council in 1992 took a pro-choice position, so supporting pro-choice issues in health care reform is consistent.

● Trisha Murakawa, vice president, planning and development, asked that JACL endorse universal access without any preconditions such as age, sex or medicine.

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# U.S.-Japan workshop planned for Salt Lake convention

## Discussion to focus on how Nikkei affected

By **ALAN DASH**  
Member, PSW USJR Committee

How U.S.-Japan relations affect Japanese Americans is the focus of the U.S.-Japan relations workshop Aug. 5 at the JACL national convention in Salt Lake City.

Unfortunately, each time there is a worsening in the relationship between Japan and America, the

Japanese American population suffers from an increase in hate crimes, deleterious remarks, and a variety of undeserved indignities.

This workshop will emphasize these aspects of the problems. It is essential that the Nikkei community understands that U.S.-Japan relations are not just the province of the politicians, but that every Japanese American is affected in some way by the fallout.

Panelists will present several views of the present situation followed by a question and answer session. Panelists include: moderator Steven C. Clemons, execu-

tive director, Japan Policy Research Institute; Glen Fukushima, vice president, American Chamber of Commerce in Japan; Jonathan Kaji, director, California Office of Trade and Investment (in Tokyo); Sheridan Tatsuno, president, Dreamscape Productions and Nancy Yoshihara, *Los Angeles Times*.

The workshop is being arranged by the PSWD U.S.-Japan relations committee. A similar forum was successfully presented by this committee last October at the Nakaoka Community Center in Gardena, Calif.

## Panelist profile: Sheridan Tatsuno

Tatsuno is president of Dreamscape Productions of Agatos, Calif., an interactive media research consulting, and production company that develops high quality multimedia and multicultural programs for corporations, schools, homes, public performances and broadcasters. He is a graduate of Yale, in political science, and holds a master's degree in planning and public policy from the Harvard

Kennedy School of Government. He is author of the *Technopolis Strategy* (Prentice-Hall, 1986) and *Created in Japan* (Harper-Collins, 1990). He is the publisher of the *Pacific Rim Media* newsletter which focuses on Asia Pacific news media markets, and writes for *New Technology Week*. Tatsuno is a part-time researcher at Stanford University's U.S.-Japan Technology Management Center.



Photo: GRANT J. HIRABAYASHI

## Field of dreams

The Key Kobayashi Baseball Field, named in honor of the late longtime member of the Washington, D.C., Chapter JACL, was dedicated May 7 in Falls Church, Va. Posing in front of the sign are Kyoko Kobayashi, widow of the honoree, and her son Forrest. Welcome remarks were made by the Hon. Katherine K. Hanley, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Also attending were the Hon. Thomas M. Davis, III, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; Joanne Malone, Providence District, Fairfax County Park Authority; Phil Ishio, Japanese American Veterans Association of Washington, D.C.; K. Patrick Okura, Washington, D.C., Chapter, JACL; Raymond Farley, Kiwanis Club of Falls Church; and Turner Kobayashi, son of Key Kobayashi. About 100 friends and relatives attended the dedication honoring the man who was an international figure in Little League baseball.

## D-DAY

(Continued from page 1)

the 34th "Red Bull" Infantry Division, the first U.S. division to enter combat.

In the writings of Gen. George C. Marshall, there is a passage that says, "Eisenhower's staff declined them (the 100th)." In Italy, Gen. Mark Clark, who was instructed by Marshall to report immediately the outcome of their first battle, said, "They performed magnificently on the field of battle. I've never seen such soldiers. Send me all you've got!"

Lt. Young O. Kim, the lone Korean American in the 100th/442nd, remembers being ordered to hold back his spearheading unit, which was unplugging obstructions, so that American tanks of the First Armored Division could roll in glory into Rome—the same time Allied troops were preparing to cross the English Channel. The Japanese Americans were denied this gesture of being the first to enter Rome. But the men did board trucks and rolled through the city on June 5 in the middle of the night when it was difficult to recognize them. Some thought they were "Chinese."

Battle maps in books covering the exploits of the 100th/442nd show arrows skirting Rome altogether.

On June 15, 1944, at the seacoast town of Civitavecchia, northwest of Rome, the 100th caught up with the 442nd, which had landed in Italy earlier in the month.

As D-Day veterans of the Normandy invasion revisit Europe with their families in marking the 50th anniversary of this momentous military operation, many 100th/442nd veterans will observe this fall their 50th anniversary of Oct. 30, 1944, when the Texas Lost Battalion was rescued at a great cost of casualties and lives. One of the survivors is JACL National Director Randy Senzaki's uncle, Sgt. Takashi Senzaki of Co. I.

The 50th anniversary for Sept. 2, 1945, the day Japan formally surrendered on the deck of the USS Missouri, looms as a climactic celebration. Nisei veterans of Military Intelligence Service are scheduling a celebration.

## UCLA lecture explores issues affecting elderly

One-fifth of all Japanese Americans are age 65 or older. This figure exceeds that of all other Americans, and is expected to continue to rise rapidly in the coming decades. How will the aging population cope with retirement, maintaining one's health and staying active and productive? These and other issues will be explored in a special lecture, "Is there life after retirement?" on Sunday, July 12, from 2 p.m. in the James E. West Alumni Center on the UCLA campus.

Co-sponsored by the UCLA Nikkei Bruin Committee and the UCLA Center on Aging, the speakers include: James E. Birren, Ph.D., associate director, UCLA Center on Aging; Sally E. James, executive director, Career Encounters; and Helen Dennis, author of *Retirement Planning: Corporate Perspectives for the 1990s*.

Admission: free. On-campus parking: \$5.00. Information and reservations: Ann Turnock, 310/206-0634.



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So the next time you think about a cigarette, think about your kids. Give up smoking now. And give a healthier environment to the ones you love the most.

## Opinions



## From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

## Good stories made better

**T**ooru Joe Kanazawa likes to say that it took him 83 years to have his first book published. The book was a semi-autobiographical novel called *Sushi and Sourdough* based in part on his boyhood in Alaska. It was published in 1989 when he was 83 years old.

With that kind of track record, it was not surprising that a few weeks ago, at age 87, Kanazawa should climb into his station wagon in New York City and set out for Las Vegas, Nev., with his wife Mae and daughter Joy. Kanazawa says his reflexes are no longer sharp enough so he leaves the driving to others. But he had a mission, which was to deliver his second book, *Close Support*, the story of Cannon Company of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, to his buddies holding a reunion. Since this book is based on his service with the 442nd in World War II, he figures it has taken him 50 years to write it.

Obviously a late-bloomer, Kanazawa goes back a long way. He was graduated from the University of Washington in 1931 with a degree in journalism. That would be 63 years ago this spring. Tooru was the guy carrying the editorial load at Jimmie

Sakamoto's weekly *Japanese American Courier* when I went to work part-time there as a raw cub in 1933.

A kid fresh out of high school, my only journalistic experience had been as sports editor of the school paper. For a long time my pay at the *Courier* was lunch at Mrs. Yagi's Rose Cafe where her specialty, *tendon*—bowl of rice with a couple of tempura shrimp on top for 25 cents. Tooru was paid more, but not much. That's all the *Courier* could afford.

Tooru had to make a living. He moved on after a while, but not before he underscored a lesson I was learning in college: Almost any piece of writing can be improved by editing. He demonstrated it often by putting a pencil to my efforts.

What is editing? Norman Podhoretz said it very well in a 1965 magazine article.

The obligation of an editor, he said, "is to improve an essentially well-written piece or to turn a clumsily written one into, at the very least, a readable and literate article, and, at the very most, a beautifully shaped and effective essay which remains true to the author's intention, which realizes that intention more fully than he himself was

able to do. He cares about the English language; he cares about clarity of thought and of grace of expression."

Tooru dropped in on his way west and left a copy of *Close Support*. It is a moving account of the ordeal of Cannon Company's five officers and 115 enlisted men who lived, and, in the case of six, were killed in WWII. It is the story of how, in the process of war, the men developed an indissoluble brotherhood.

As he gave me the book Tooru said in his self-deprecating way: "I wish there had been time for someone to edit this before it was published. Some of the writing is pretty rough."

Tooru was right. As Podhoretz said, an editor can help a writer say more eloquently, more clearly, what he wants to say. I felt a pang of disappointment that I had been unable to return the favors Tooru had done for me so many years ago.

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

## Letters

## JA group helped many achieve education goals

I read with great interest the three letters from the Nisei who were helped by the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council (NJASRC). The three, Judy Austin Rantala, Miyuki Takeuchi and Toshiko Baba Yone, each spoke about how grateful they were for the assistance received "in going from camp to college."

In all, close to 4,000 young Nisei were helped to leave camp and given the opportunity to continue (or begin) their college educations because of the NJASRC. This was accomplished through the enormous, combined efforts of the American Friends Service Committee, heads of colleges and universities, the YMCAs and YWCAs, churches and countless individuals who comprised the NJASRC, and who believed in the ultimate fairness and justice of the system.

It was an arduous undertaking that required maneuvering through a bureaucratic maze difficult enough for college-bound students, but with the added burden of FBI clearance, obtaining sponsors for housing, and getting not only the colleges, but the towns to "accept" the Japanese American students.

My parents were two students who were also helped. My father had already graduated from UC, Berkeley, and my mother was still at Cal when they were sent to Tanforan and then Topaz. My father received clearance to go to the University of Texas (Austin), and my mother to Boston University.

My parents are not the type of people who forget things done to them or for them. In 1980, they got together with a group of New England Nisei who were also helped by the NJASRC and formed the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund—a scholarship fund. They named it "Commemorative Fund to honor the work of the original National Japanese American Student Relocation Council."

The fund has enabled them to pay tribute to all those who helped them in their time of need, and who gave them hope for the future. It gave hope to others today who are in a similar situation; and it looks beyond the borders of the Japanese American community to the broader community of Asians in America. I make this last point because the fund awards scholarships to young, college-bound Southeast Asians. The board of directors chooses a city or area nationally with a large concentration of Southeast Asians, then recruits a local committee to organize the awarding of the scholarships. The 1993 scholarship awards ceremony was held in Stockton.

By continuing the legacy of "lending a helping hand," the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund is concrete proof that the NJASRC's hard work and effort over 50 years ago was successful in keeping alive the hopes and dreams for a better future for all Americans.

*Jeann Hibino*  
Lexington, Me.

## 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 views of the Japanese American Citizens League. *Pacific Citizen* editorials, columns, and cartoons of staff will be clearly labeled as such. *Pacific Citizen* welcomes for consideration editorials and columns from members of the Japanese American Citizens League, the Japanese American community at large, and beyond. They should be no longer than approximately 500 words. Send them to: Editorial Opinion, *Pacific Citizen*, 2 Coral Circle, Suite 204, Monterey Park, CA, 91755.

## Letters

*Pacific Citizen* welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be brief, are subject to editing and those unpublished can be neither acknowledged nor returned. Please sign your letter but make sure we are able to read your name. Include mailing address and daytime telephone number. Because of limited space we may condense letters that are accepted for publication. We do not publish forum letters, copies or letters written to other publications. Fax letters to 213/725-0064 or mail to Letters to the Editor, *Pacific Citizen*, 2 Coral Circle, Suite 204, Monterey Park, CA, 91755.

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## East Wind

BILL MARUTANI

## Family names

**J**APANESE FAMILY NAMES (*myōji*) are not difficult to pronounce once a few general rules are understood. My secretary (Caucasian) picked up the formula and it wasn't long before she could spell *myōji*'s just by listening. The first and principal rule is that each syllable incorporates a vowel or a vowel sound. Thus a newscaster need not have butchered pronunciation of ex-Prime Minister's Hosokawa's name had he deciphered the syllables as "Mori-hi-ro-Ho-so-ka-wa," enunciated without pause between the syllables. If a name starts with a vowel, such as "Inouye," the opening vowel is itself a syllable, as in "I-no-u-ye," and not "Any-way." There are some names that start with two vowels, such as "Ueno" (pronounced "U-e-no"). Some anglicizing along with some corruption is bound to creep in. For example, "Honda" is pronounced like the Japanese word for "book" (*hon*) plus "dah," and not "Hahn-day." Corruption widely taints other Japanese phrases, such as the craft of miniaturization of trees being referred to as "ban-zai"—a Japanese term meaning "hooray" usually repeated three times, as we do in shouting "Hip-hip hooray!"

**IN THESE PARTS**, more particularly

down in Washington, D.C., way, there's a Nikkei whose family name is "Chigiogi," first name "Melvin." When I first came across the name, I must confess that it threw me. Aside from such a distinctive family name, the owner of that family name happens to hold a flag rank of rear admiral in the U.S. Navy, no less—which is quite a distinction. Back in White River Valley (Washington) there was a family by name of "Hichihayakuda." (Now, don't let the pronunciation throw you; remember, one syllable at a time.) That's 13 letters. And I used to feel loaded down with eight. I envied classmates with *myōji*'s such as "Doi" or "Ito." "Jun Ito" would have been just great. Think how much time it would save in a just a lifetime.

**A READER** sent me a clipping from the *Rafu Shimpo* listing the top 10 most common *myōji*'s. Perhaps yours may be in the top 10. Starting with the most common name, they are: Sato, Suzuki, Takahashi, Tanaka, Watanabe, Ito, Nakamura, Kobayashi, Yamamoto, and Kato. Names which I thought would be in the top 10, were: Doi, Endo, Honda, Murakami, Taketa—just to name a few. I'm sure you have your own candidates to the list of

probables. I don't know whether anything could be read into being among the top most common *myōji*'s. One, of course, is that these particular families were prolific, or when the time came to select a family moniker, certain names were then popular for whatever reason at that particular point in history.

**I DON'T KNOW** what the top 10 list looks like in other Asian communities in the U.S. I've run across a lot of "Kims" and "Parks." The other day as I was looking up a name under "L" in the Philadelphia telephone directory, I came across a whole column of "Lam's." My amateur view is that other Asian cultures, unlike the Japanese, economized or were at least frugal in the length of family names. Having said that, some linguist in Oriental languages may come forth with data proving how wrong this conclusion is. But then, such be it, my source of authority is only the Bell Telephone phone book.

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





## Sidebar

By MEI NAKANO

# A walk through history

On one side of the river are the towns of Locke, Hood and Walnut Grove; on the other side of the river are the mansions of the haales. The townfolk crossed the old bridge every daybreak to work the fields of the haales for two bits a load.

—From Jeffrey Adachi  
Maniwaia Boy, The Life and  
Times of a Walnut Grove Boy

Japanese Americans of the Northern California stripe have long been intrigued by the story of the "ghost towns" of Walnut Grove and Locke. The latter has the distinction of being the only village in the U.S., financed, built and lived in exclusively by the Chinese. Hundreds of people visit the area annually.

Now, thanks to the National Japanese American Historical Society of San Francisco, I, along with more than a hundred others, had a go at exploring—with some wonderment—the remnants of those historic towns that once flourished in Sacramento Delta. NJAHS—which, incidentally, should be roundly lauded for the myriad worthwhile programs they sponsor—wisely provided speakers, real live persons who had dug in the dirt, raised families and maybe raised hell in Walnut Grove and Locke. I came away greatly stirred by this history.

To read about events in history is one thing, but to be there, right there on the spot where it hap-

pened is quite another. There you are, inside the self-same gambling hall in which a Chinese gambler found himself more than a century ago. Right down to the green, felt-topped tables (built tall so that a gambler would have to stand, not sit, to provide more space), the creaking, wood plank floors, the small "Lottory Room," "Money Room," "Caretaker's Room" and the "Emergency Exit" (for guess what?), the gambling joint stands as it was. The by way of contrast, you find yourself seated in a hard chair in the Buddhist Church. The wooden structure with its stunning gilded altar was built when most Nisei were still toddling around in diapers. It feels inexplicably awesome.

The story of Walnut Grove/Locke goes way back to the 1870s, when thousands of Chinese, who had worked on railroads and in the gold mines, came to Walnut Grove to hire on as farm hands. Gradually, many became successful tenant farmers, specializing in potatoes and pears, the latter being a major crop to this day. To serve the needs of this rough-hewn, mostly male, population, businesses like bar-restaurants, rooming houses, gambling halls, and houses of prostitution, even opium dens, flourished.

I should mention here that, after the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1869, jobs became scarce, and many white settlers who had stayed in Cali-

fornia after the Gold Rush, bitterly resented the Chinese for taking jobs they felt were rightfully theirs. Anti-Chinese violence occurred frequently in California. To give some idea of the intensity, fifteen Chinese were hanged, six shot, in Los Angeles in 1871. The U.S. halted Chinese immigration in 1882 with the Chinese Exclusion Act, not to be repealed until 1943.

In this context, it's pretty much predictable that the Chinese community, and later, the Japanese community, in Walnut Grove would be segregated from the whites. Even when their children came of school age, they were sent to segregated schools. And except for governance (there was very little) and municipal services, the Asian population more or less provided for themselves.

Japanese laborers came to the Delta area hard on the heels of the Chinese, the first in the late 1880s. As they, in turn, became successful tenant farmers (you will recall that Asians were barred from buying land), they hired Japanese workers. Brides arrived beginning around 1908, and the Japanese began to establish what would be a thriving, self-sufficient Japantown right along side Chinatown in Walnut Grove. What distinguished this community from J-town ghettos in urban settings was that it served the burgeoning farm community, not

See SIDEBAR/page 8

## PC's summer schedule

The Pacific Citizen's bi-weekly summer issue will be dated as follows: July 15-July 28 and July 29-August 11.

We will resume regular weekly issues effective from the Aug. 12-18 issue. Final weekly issue prior to the summer schedule is the July 8-14 issue. Deadlines for advertising

and editorials are the Friday before publication.

Here is the complete summer schedule: Date of issue (Advertising/editorial deadline): July 1-7 (June 24); July 8-14 (July 1); July 15-28 (July 8); July 29-Aug. 11 (July 22); Aug. 12-18 (Aug. 5); Aug. 19-25 (Aug. 12); Aug. 26-Sept. 1 (Aug. 19).

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## SIDEBAR

(Continued from page 7)

unlike a town in the Old West. One could imagine "cowboys" (farmers) from the ranches going into town for a night of drinking, gambling and women, wives shopping for a week's supply of groceries in one of the many Japanese food markets that proliferated. But many Japanese settled in the town itself. And when the Chi-

nese section of the town burned down in 1915 and a whole town left to establish themselves upriver, the Japanese likely felt a sense of ownership about Walnut Grove that inhabitants of urban J-Towns did not feel. At one point, the Japanese population in Walnut Grove swelled to 1,500.

Walking through the narrow streets of the town, I imagined the Issei living contented, if physically hard, lives here. You could almost hear the animated Japanese being spoken on the streets, in one of the nine Japanese-owned grocery stores, nine boarding houses, two bath houses, two tofu houses or at the performance theater, not to mention in the gambling joints and bar-restaurants.

That must have contributed greatly to their sense of identity and wholeness. Organizations including a Japanese Association, a Buddhist Church, a Methodist Church and a Women's Club formed the nexus of a satisfying social and spiritual life as well.

But what about the prejudice and discrimination? The isolation? "No worse than any place else," said 80-year-old Toshio Sakai who grew up in Walnut Grove and still lives there. "We accepted it. That's how it was." Then he adds with a grin and tongue-in-cheek "We never had problems until the Sansei grew up and started trouble."

But Sakai's daughter, a Sansei, who was born and raised there and now lives elsewhere, remembers Walnut Grove with deep affection. "It was a special place," she says, "Safe and comfortable. I remember the close friends, the candy store, the annual picnics, the activities at the Buddhist Church. And," she adds with a laugh, "even though I'm only five feet tall, I wasn't short!" Insular, she said, provided safety,

which, in turn, provided freedom within the boundaries.

Despite living this insular life, both generations of Sakai's eventually flowed easily into the mainstream in a different era, the elder taking a leadership role in the now-mixed township, the younger moving out to the city, as most Sansei did.

Today, scarcely a hundred Japanese Americans live in and around the Walnut Grove area, mostly Nisei who have retired. But every Fourth of July, former residents and their extended families gather for a festive reunion. That's strong testimony to the enduring sense of community forged there some eighty years ago.

But what about Locke? That story, born of the ashes of Walnut Grove's Chinatown, is perhaps even more interesting than that of Walnut Grove.

Stay tuned.

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

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