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See p.6-7

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Monterey Park, California

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Feb. 7-Feb. 20, 1997

Asian Americans at the Clinton Gala Inaugural



It was a clear and frigid inaugural day at the U.S. Capitol steps [above] Monday, Jan. 20, when President Clinton and Vice President Gore were sworn again into their respective offices before an estimated 200,000 well-wishers.

On Saturday night, Jan. 18, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Institute hosted its first-ever inaugural party at the Capitol Hilton honoring the election of Washington State Governor Gary

Locke [upper right], who accepts a plaque commemorating his keynote address from Norman Mineta, longtime San Jose congressman.

Rep. Jay Kim (R-Calif.), the first Korean American in Congress [lower right] and a CAPACI member and Mineta catch up on the affairs of Asian American politics.

Entertaining [lower left] were prima ballerina of Ballet Theater International Cory-Jeanne Murakami-Houck of Los Alamos, N.M., and her partner Armando Luna, principal dancer of Atlanta Ballet. Cory-Jeanne, incidentally, is JACL Mountain Plains vice governor. ■



CJEM LEW PHOTOS



San Francisco school board seeks WWII evacuee high school graduates

The San Francisco Unified School District will honor an estimated number of 200 WWII-era Nisei high school students who were evacuated, thus denied commencement honors with their classes, in May, 1997. The San Francisco Board of Education will be awarding them a SFUSD high school diploma.

To apologize to these students, a resolution, "Redress in the SFUSD: Honoring Japanese American Students," authored by school board commissioner Leland Y. Yee, Ph.D., was passed Nov. 11. It directs Superintendent Bill Rojas to carry out the search to identify the students (including maiden name), ascertain the year of graduation (1942, 1943, 1944, 1945), name of the high school where the student would have graduated, present address and phone number, if deceased, next of kin, and whether or not the student will attend the commencement if scheduled in May, 1997.

Assisting the superintendent to identify students directly affected

by Executive Order 9066 is Yoshito Steve Hirabayashi, principal, John O'Connell Technical Alternative High School, 1920-41st Ave., San Francisco CA 94102 (fax 415/759-2729) and San Francisco JACL, c/o 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco CA 94115.

Three students recalled those grim times with *San Francisco Chronicle* reporter Steve Rubenstein.

Graphic designer Hatsuro Aizawa was a month away from graduation at Lowell High School in 1942. While a diploma was mailed to him because someone at the board decided he was close enough to graduation, he missed out in the cap and gown ceremony. While a high school graduation would be, he said, "ridiculous" for a 71-year-old man, he would go for it.

Retired civil engineer Masaru Kawaguchi was a 16-year-old junior at Washington High when he and his family were sent to the stables at Tanforan Assembly Center. He said he bears no ill

will, and that "it's never too late to say you're sorry. Even 54 years late is not too late."

Howard Mizuhara said Evacuation was "one of those things that happens." What hurt was that his teachers and principal said nothing, not even goodbye. "The people who should have spoken up, didn't. Nobody said anything," he added.

The idea to award the diplomas belongs to Allen White of Glide Methodist Church who was helping plan the 60th anniversary celebration of Washington High School. He was shocked to read a Herb Caen column on the Evacuation and students being banished into internment camps. White called on school board member Yee, who wrote the resolution to present the overdue diplomas.

San Francisco schools are not the first to award overdue diplomas. Los Angeles High School did so a few years ago as have others in Central California, Stanford University and the University of California at Berkeley. ■

Welfare reform anxieties hit elderly Issei

By AL MURATSUCHI
JACL Pacific Southwest
Regional Director

Many anxious elderly Issei have been calling JACL's Los Angeles office in recent weeks to get assistance in applying for U.S. citizenship. The callers are legal immigrants, but not U.S. citizens. They are worried about losing critical government assistance for the poor like Medi-Cal health insurance, income assistance, and food stamps.

A clear sign of prevailing anti-immigrant sentiments in Washington and this nation was the passage of the federal welfare reform bill last August 1996. Non-citizens were cut from welfare assistance like Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and food stamps, and severely restricted from other programs. Immigrants, comprising about 5 percent of all welfare recipients, will bear an estimated 44 percent of the cuts.

In response to the overwhelming demand, the JACL Pacific Southwest District is working with the Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC), a nonprofit social service organization, to organize citizenship workshops. The workshops will be designed to help primarily Japanese-speaking legal residents apply for U.S. citizenship.

After JACL and LTSC announced a workshop on February 8, 1997, the two offices have been getting a high volume of calls inquiring about U.S. citizenship. Workshop enrollment reached its capacity of 50 participants soon after the workshop was announced, and the waiting list for future workshops has grown in a week to over 70.

According to Alice Ishigame of

LTSC, some Issei broke down in tears when they learned that they cannot enroll in the next citizenship workshop. The elderly Issei in particular are very fearful of losing their livelihood, in the form of SSI checks and food stamps. Many of them have lived in the U.S. for decades, but never felt compelled to give up their citizenship of birth to become an American.

But the cold reality of welfare reform is prompting many Issei to naturalize. Noncitizens will begin receiving notices in the next few weeks that their public assistance may be cut off. The elderly, disabled, and others may be cut off from their limited income assistance and health care as early as August of this year.

The need for JACL leadership is pressing. As California Governor Pete Wilson declared, "Welfare reform is the biggest challenge facing the state this year." And that challenge is staring in the eyes of the most vulnerable members of the Japanese American community.

About seven out of every 100 persons of Japanese ancestry in America lived in poverty in 1989, according to the most recent Census figures. Many of these people living in poverty are elderly.

"JACL needs volunteer leadership and support to help the elderly Issei. JACL chapters are needed to sponsor future citizenship workshops. Volunteers are needed to help out at these workshops. Financial support is also requested for the workshops and other public education activities.

To support JACL's citizenship campaign, call (213) 626-4471 or write to JACL, 244 San Pedro Street, Suite 507, Los Angeles, CA, 90012. ■



Honorable Judge Lance Ili poses with *Pacific Citizen's* new assistant editor, Caroline Aoyagi. See story page 3

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Assistant Editor: Caroline Aoyagi

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Pacific Citizen

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Thanks to the generosity
of PC cartoonist, Pete
Hironaka of Dayton
JACL, the first 100 who
contribute \$100 or more
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Citizen will receive a
signed full-colored
lithographed poster,
"Issei". It measures
21x28 inches.

JACL calendar

ATTENTION: All calendar items—JACL and Community—will be contained on this one page as far as possible. TIME-VALUE is the chief consideration.

Eastern

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Sat. April 5—EDC Quarterly Session, 10 a.m., Sheraton Society Hill Hotel, 2nd and Walnut Sts.; Host: Philadelphia JACL, info: Grace Uyehara, 609/654-3685.

PHILADELPHIA

Sat. April 5—50th anniversary Installation: 6 p.m., Happy hour & exhibit, 7 p.m. dinner, Sheraton Society Hill Hotel, 2nd and Walnut Sts., info: G. Uyehara 609/654-3685. 1996: July 1-5—35th biennial Nat'l JACL Convention, Sheraton Society Hill, Philadelphia.

Midwest

DISTRICT COUNCIL (Date/site change)

Fri.-Sun., March 14-16—Spring MDC session, Sheraton Plaza Hotel, St. Louis; info: Irma Yokota, 314/921-7933.

TWIN CITIES

Sat. March 1—Entry deadline for Cleveland JA directory, contact for forms: Charlotte Furukawa, 2720 Bramblewood Dr., Broadview Hts., OH 44147. NOTE—Fall publication.

ST. LOUIS

Fri.-Sun., March 14-16—Host: Spring MDC session, Sheraton Plaza Hotel, St. Louis; info: Irma Yokota, 314/921-7933.

CHICAGO

Sat. April 5—Chapter's 50th Anniversary celebration. Info: Lynn Yamanaka, 403 Totem Rd., St. Paul, MN 55119, 612/735-6124. NOTE—Docutent (rather than photocopy) old photos for exhibit.

Mountain Plains

HOUSTON

Sat. March 15-21—Houston Capex XII golf tournament/first annual 72-hole medal play, George Sakaguchi Memorial, TPC Golf Course (home of the PGA Shell Houston Open), info: Mas Yamashita, 16402 Farnell Court, Spring, TX 77379, 713/370-1503. NOTE: Open to all JACLers; dates for Capex mini-tournaments: June, Battle Creek, Mich.; Dr. Gerry Shimura, chair; October, Albuquerque, Randy Shibata, chair.

MILWAUKEE

Sat. Feb. 15—Chinese New Year party with OCA, 6 p.m., cash bar, 7 dinner, Palace Restaurant, 6265 E. Evans Ave., Denver. \$35 per person; info: Tom Migaki, 303/986-3267.

Central California

TRI-DISTRICT/CDC

Fri.-Sun., March 19-21—District PSW/C/NCWNP Conference in Las Vegas.

Community calendar

Eastern

Feb. 12-18, Feb. 16—"Day of Remembrance" program, 2-4 p.m., Jay A. Miller, Illinois ACLU executive director, speaker; Feb. 20—Panel: "Role of Japanese Americans in WWII"; 5-7 p.m., Robert Nakamura video "Looking Like the Enemy," participants Tom Kaihara (65th Engineers/100th), Sam Yoshihara (442nd), Hiro Mayeda (MIS/OS), Allen Meyer (ATIS), moderator, March 2—"Reconciliation of Japanese Americans in Chicago," 1:30-3:30 p.m., Dr. Setsuko Nishi, speaker. All events at the Harold Washington Library.

WED. March 19-25th annual National Association for Ethnic Studies conference, "Ethnicity: Retrospectives and Prospectives," Radisson Hotel La Crosse, info: UW-La Crosse 608/785-6500. NOTE—Keynote speaker, Dr. Ronald Takaki, UC, Berkeley.

Wed. March 19-25th annual National Association for Ethnic Studies conference, "Ethnicity: Retrospectives and Prospectives," Radisson Hotel La Crosse, info: UW-La Crosse 608/785-6500. NOTE—Keynote speaker, Dr. Ronald Takaki, UC, Berkeley.

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Intermountain

NATIONAL JACL

Fri.-Sun., Oct. 10-13—Fiftieth anniversary 1000 Club celebration, Cactus Pete's, Jackpot, Nev.; info: Hid Hasegawa, Idaho Falls 208/529-1525. NOTE—Co-hosts: Intermountain District Council; Friday night mixer, Saturday golf, banquet, Sunday getaway breakfast. Airport shuttle-bus service from Salt Lake City or Boise to Jackpot to be coordinated.

Pacific Northwest

DISTRICT COUNCIL 1997

July 18-19—Bi-District PNW/IDC Conference at Seattle.

ALASKA

May-June—Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit, "A More Perfect Union," Anchorage, (Details TBA)

NCAL-WN-Pacific

FLORIDA

Sat. Feb. 15—JACL benefit dance, 7:30-11 p.m., Scottish Rite Temple, 6151 H St., Sacramento; info: Bill Kashiwagi 916/635-2815

SACRAMENTO

Sat. Feb. 8—Crab feed evening, Sacramento Buddhist Hall; info: JACL Office 447-0231, Toko Fujii 421-0328. Donation—All you can eat for \$25, youth under 10 for \$10, under 5 free. NOTE—Additional airplane travel contest with 14 trophies in as many categories to be given to winners. Proceeds for annual chapter scholarships.

Sat. Feb. 22—Day of Remembrance 1997, 6 p.m. potluck supper, 7 p.m. program, Japanese United Methodist church, 5929 Franklin Blvd., RSVP, 916/447-0231, Shig Shimizu 421-0543, Tom Fujimoto 427-6730. Sat. Oct. 4—Oct. 422-8749, Gary shota 381-2081, Toko Fujii 421-0328, 421-6988 eve. NOTE—Nisei veterans who served in WWII, 100th-442nd-MIS, to be honored, specially minted personalized medalion of appreciation to be awarded to each veteran attending.

SEQUOIA

Sat. Feb. 22—Crab & spaghetti feed, 4:30 p.m., Palo Alto Buddhist Hall; info: Mike Kaku 408/985-2747.

Central California

TRI-DISTRICT/CDC

Fri.-Sun., March 19-21—District PSW/C/NCWNP Conference in Las Vegas.

Pacific Southwest

NATIONAL JACL

Thu.-Sun., March 20-23—National JACL board and staff meeting, JACCC 2nd floor conference room, 244 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles; info: Nat'l HQ 415/921-5225. NOTE—Thu.: Staff retreat, Fri.: 9 a.m. Committee, 5-5 p.m. Board; Sat.: 9-5; Board; Sun.: 10 a.m.-noon. Fri.-Sun., June 20-22 (tentative)—Nat'l JACL Youth Conference, UC Irvine (venue under consideration). Nat'l HQ 415/921-5225. NOTE—Warren Furutani, keynote speaker.

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Sat. Feb. 8—Arizona JACL hosts: PSWDC quarterly session, Phoenix Inn, 2310 E. Highland; info: JACL Office 213/626-4471.

ARIZONA

Sat. Feb. 8—Hosts: PSWDC quarterly session, Phoenix Inn, 2310 E. Highland; info: Dr. Richard Matsuih 602/934-3340. Sat. March 2—Arizona JACL Credit Union annual dinner, 5 p.m., JACL Hall; info: 931-1985 (Mon-Thurs 7-9 p.m.)

Sun. April 27—Scholarship awards banquet, 1 p.m., Embassy Suites, Phoenix Biltmore, 2630 E. Camelback Rd.; info: Kathy Inoshita, 602/937-5434. NOTE—Applications deadline: March 1, 1997, attn: Kathy Inoshita, 5332 W. Golden Ln., Glendale, AZ 85302.

1998: Jan. 5-6—1998—Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibit: "A More Perfect Union," Phoenix Public Library.

VENTURA COUNTY

Sun. Feb. 9—Installation luncheon, 12:15 p.m., Spanish Hills Country Club, 999 Camarillo Ave., Camarillo; info: Chuck Kuniyoshi 805/388-5000. NOTE—Helen Kawagoe, speaker.

National Scholarships

Important: JACL membership is required to be considered for a JACL scholarship. Membership must be held by the applicant or the applicant's parents only, extended list do not qualify. Applicant must also be planning to be or is enrolled in a college, trade/business school, etc., in the fall of 1997. Inquire about Student Membership. For details, applicants should write (enclose a self-addressed stamped 32c) (No. 10 envelope), to National JACL Headquarters for an information sheet. General deadlines with postmarks no later than the particular date cited are: (1) March 1, 1997: Entering Freshman (high school grads) applications to a JACL Chapter scholarship committee; (2) April 1, 1997: All other applications with supporting documents. Awards are to be announced July 1, 1997. ■

Carlton St., Berkeley, CA 94702; 510/845-6878. NOTE—Harry Honda, spkr.

LAS VEGAS-GILA RIVER

Fri.-Sun., June 6-8—Fun reunion, 6 p.m. Friday reception, Sat. golf tournament and banquet; info: Ben Tonosaka, Chico, Mass. 2161 W. 182nd St. #101, Torrance, CA 90505.

LAS VEGAS—HEART MOUNTAIN

Fri.-Sun., Sept. 26-28—Reunion VI, Plaza Hotel; info packet for former internees who have never attend a previous Reunion: Bacon Sakatani, 210 N. Shady Lane, West Covina, CA 91790, 818/338-8310.

NOTE—Highlights: golf, bowling, slot tournaments.

LAUGHLIN—POSTON III

Mon-Wed., April 7-9—Poston Camp 3 Reunion VIII: NOTE—To be on mailing list, write Poston 3 Reunion VIII, 26807 S. Rolling Vista Dr., Loma, CA 90717. On Saturday, April 5, 1-3 p.m., exhibit "Dear Miss Breed: Letters from Camp" panel, Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. 1st St., Los Angeles, 213/625-0414. [Miss Breed was the San Diego librarian who corresponded with many Nisei at Poston.]

Northern Cal

SACRAMENTO

Sat. March 8—Teubak Dance Club's 14th

See COMMUNITY/page 12

CORRECTION

Page 1 Headline: Panelists discussing hapa issues (as pictured) are not members of the Berkeley-based "Hapa Issues Forum."

Small kid time



Gwen Muranaka



Agenda

Judge Lance Ito thanks JACL for hard work and accomplishments

Record turnout of 230 attend fete

By CAROLINE AOYAGI
Assistant editor

The lobby of the Airtel Hotel Plaza in Van Nuys is abuzz with excited chatter, expectant looks, and cameras ready to click. Could Tom Cruise be making an appearance? Maybe Pamela Lee Anderson? No, this group of eager Japanese Americans is waiting for the Honorable Judge Lance Ito.

Maybe you've heard of him. You know, the O.J. thing. Since that famous criminal trial, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Lance Ito has become the best known Asian American in the United States and he was the guest speaker at the San Fernando Valley Chapter's 55th Installation Dinner on Jan. 25.

Almost 230 people made the trek in the rain to hear Judge Ito speak. Wendy Tokuda, NBC-4 news anchor, was the evening's mistress of ceremonies. Though she's always willing to help out JACL, Tokuda admits, "I never pass up the chance to meet the most famous Asian American on the planet." National JACL President Helen Kawagoe had rushed over from the SELANOCO installation to address the San Fernando Valley group.

"I don't normally speak at many events these days," admitted Judge Ito. "I frankly hate dinner speaking. It's hard to do and it's difficult to relax." But when it comes to JACL, he said, he decided to make an exception. It didn't hurt that outgoing chapter president Karl Nobuyuki had been after the judge for the past two

years to speak at a chapter event.

But the overwhelming reason he decided to make a rare public appearance, Ito said, was out of a sense of gratitude and obligation. He wants to thank the JACL for its effort and its work in helping the Japanese American community.

Ito spoke about the "growing tolerance of intolerance" in the United States today. With passage of Proposition 187, a bill that curtails government services to illegal aliens, and Proposition 209, an anti-affirmative action bill, Ito believes ethnics are the main targets of this disturbing trend.

There's an anti-Asian sentiment in the U.S. and, in particular, an anti-Japanese sentiment, said Ito. Recent media coverage of illegal campaign donations by foreigners to the Democratic National Committee unfairly targets Asians and fails to differentiate between foreign Asians and Asian Americans. Ito said he's disheartened that no one has stood up to say, "this trend is wrong."

But along with the negative there is the positive. A Japanese American, Wallace Tashima, was recently appointed to the Federal Appellate Court by President Bill Clinton. And although Ito received a great deal of negative publicity for his role in the O.J. Simpson trial, he believes the experience was a "good thing." The trial gave the public an opportunity to see Japanese American judges, said Ito. Hiroshi Fujisaki is currently residing over the Simpson civil trial in Santa Monica, Calif. "It's no longer unusual to see a Japanese American in law and in positions of importance," the judge added.

Ito also addressed the need for young talent in JACL and com-



© JEM LEW PHOTO

Outgoing San Fernando Valley JACL chapter president Karl Nobuyuki (left) and his wife welcome incoming president Akemi Kayieng Knight, standing with her husband.

mented on the lack of young people at the installation dinner. Most Sansei have made a smooth transition into the mainstream and it has "caused them to forget the struggles of the Issei and Nisei," said Ito, himself a Sansei.

It's a problem newly installed president, Akemi Kayieng Knight, is well aware of. Though the chapter has an impressive 470 members, most are Nisei in their 60s and 70s. "We're an aging, greying group," says Knight. "A grandpa/grandma shop. We're slowly dying because we're losing members." "We have to attract young people."

And one of the young people recruited by the chapter is Knight

herself. In her 40s, she says she's the youngest member on the board and freely admits she was "drafted" by elder members to become chapter president.

The San Fernando Valley Chapter is still unsure of how to get young people interested in JACL, explains Knight, but recently they've established a special relationship with the Southern California Nikkei Students Association.

This youth group was formed two years ago by five undergraduate students at the University of Southern California and currently has more than 40 members. Kristy Chan, the group's cultural director, who is half-Japanese, explains

that the youth group approached the San Fernando Valley chapter seeking their support. Since then, youth members regularly attend various chapter events and board meetings. "By working with the JACL we're trying to bridge the gap between the older and younger generations," says Chan.

Knight and members of the San Fernando Valley chapter are doing all they can to eliminate that gap. A new destination "is out there waiting for us in the 21st century," said Knight during her installation speech. "As your new incoming president that's where I'd like to take you."

1997 SFV Chapter Board of Directors:
Akemi Kayieng Knight, pres.; Gert Shiraki, programs; Sam Uyehara, treas.; Sora Kondo, sec. sec.; Mimi Kishida, corr. sec.; Mary Horima, historian; Harry Nakada and Doreen Kawamoto, co-ord. council reps. Committee Chairpersons — May Arakawa, cheer; Kyo Tomomatsu, circulation; Marion Shigekuni, membership/insurance; Phil Shigekuni, legislation; Karl Nobuyuki, newsletter; Ron Yoshida, nominations & elections; Nancy Gohata, publicity; Sumi Yamaguchi and Nancy Oda, scholarship; Pat Kubota and Sachie Doi, PC Holiday Issue; Harry Nakada recognitions; Sam Uyehara, carnival; Board Members — Alice Morita, Harriet Nishizaka, Sandra Nobuyuki, Naomi Suenaka, Alan Takahashi, Tak Yamamoto.

Ex-JACL director eyes Justice Dept. post

SAN FRANCISCO—National JACL this past week (Jan. 30) urged President Clinton to appoint Dennis W. Hayashi to be an assistant U.S. attorney general. Hayashi served as National JACL director in the early '90s. A former civil rights lawyer with Asian Law Caucus, he was appointed in May, 1993, to head the civil rights section with the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington.

Back in action



PHOTO BY MIYAKO

SANTA MARIA VALLEY, an outlying Pacific Southwest District chapter "activity-dormant" for 15 years, was revived in mid-1996 in time to send delegates to the National JACL Convention in San Jose. PC editor Harry Honda spoke at the re-organization meeting in March and PSW regional director Al Muratsuchi addressed the installation luncheon in July at Central

City Brouler. Pictured (from left) are:

Front—Dr. Ken Oye, Irene Fujinami, Kaz Oye (president), Suzie Toyohara, Lily Furukawa, Jack Morishima and Jan Staples; back—Keldo Shimizu, Toru Miyoshi (Santa Maria city councilman), Corrine Araki Kawaguchi (hiding behind Toyohara), Dawn Kamiya, Pete Uyehara.

Publisher's Note

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• If you received the Jan. 10-23, 1997 issue but not the Holiday Issue, please call your local Postmaster first about this problem. Our records show 20,714 copies of the Holiday Issue were received by the Postal Service and mailed out Dec. 18, 1996—that includes both JACL-member and non-member subscribers, indicating

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The Japanese American Citizens League seeks a person to be Editor and General Manager of the *Pacific Citizen*. The person chosen will be in charge of overseeing and supervising the semi-monthly newspaper with a circulation of over 20,000 and a staff of four to eight people, depending on the season.

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Agenda (continued from p.3)

South Bay JACL thriving as young adult members take on leadership roles

Young and old working together to build chapter membership

By CAROLINE AOYAGI
Assistant editor

A lack of young talent worries most JACL chapters these days, but it's something the South Bay Chapter of Los Angeles, Calif., doesn't have to think about. Here, young people eagerly take on leadership roles and their Young Adults Group boasts a membership of close to 80.

Both young and old attended the South Bay Chapter's installation luncheon held in Ports O'Call Village, San Pedro, on Jan. 15. The Mayor of Torrance, Hon. Dee Hardison, and National JACL President Helen Kawagoe spoke at the event. Of the 54 people in attendance, about one-fifth were "young people" in their early to late twenties. Most are not only JACL members, they also hold positions on committees and boards.

Christine Ige and Christine Sato are the newly installed co-presidents of the South Bay Chapter. They're both 27 years old. Ige and Sato were members of the Young Adults Group which Sato founded

over three years ago. Elder chapter members had approached the two about taking on the role of chapter co-presidents and they accepted.

Ige likes the idea of being a co-president. "Neither of us wanted to take on the full responsibility," she says. This way, they can share the responsibility of leading the chapter and have each other to lean on when things get hectic.

Ige and Sato want other chapters to encourage greater youth participation in JACL. "We want other chapters to create their own Young People's Group," says Sato. "But, they have to find their own niche."

One reason the South Bay Chapter's youth group has been so successful, explains Sato, is because there is a large number of young Japanese Americans living in the area. The South Bay area covers Gardena, Palos Verdes, and Torrance. According to the United Way of Greater Los Angeles' Asian Pacific Factfinder there are more than 30,000 Japanese Americans living in this region.

Ige and Sato say they've received a great deal of support from older members who continue to offer their time and words of advice. Outgoing president Midori Kamei says she has confidence in the pair. "We're facing a turning point in our chapter," she says. "The younger ones are taking over the leadership of this chapter."

Attorney Tom Shigekuni founded the South Bay Chapter in 1973 and has been a member ever since. He was the Gardena Valley chapter president in 1972. Shigekuni says he's impressed

with the enthusiasm and participation of the chapter's young people. "This chapter should be a model for all future chapters," he says. "They've made the transition. They're active, their mem-

bership is growing — you don't see that in other chapters."

National President Kawagoe shares Shigekuni's excitement, but she's doubly proud, for new co-president Christine Sato is also her great-niece.

"This is what thrills me," she says. "Seeing young people realize what they can bring to JACL, their vitality. They're going to bring JACL forward." ■

'This chapter should be a model for all future chapters.'

Tom Shigekuni, 1972 Gardena Valley Chapter President



CAROLINE AOYAGI PHOTO

Outgoing South Bay Chapter president Midori Kamei stands in between Christine Ige and Christine Sato, co-presidents.

1997 South Bay JACL Board of Directors:

Christine Ige and Christine Sato, co-pres.; Ernest Tsujimoto, 1st v.p. (acting); Midori Kamei, 2nd v.p.; Monica Nakamine, 3rd v.p.; Christine Sato, 4th v.p. (acting); Lily Nakata, sec.; Jeff Sakurai, treas.; George Ogawa, deleg.; Board Members — Alan Dash, Scott Fujita, Ted Hasegawa, Ike Haruhimura, John Hayashi, Celine Iwano, Betty Kozasa, Matthew Masuda, Edwin Mitoma, Joh Sekiguchi, Yoshiaki Tamura, Diane Tanaka.

Successive deaths of Bill Yoshino's parents mourned

CHICAGO—Death of the parents of former National JACL director and currently Midwest Regional Director Bill Yoshino, Matrice, 90, and Misako, 82, a month apart, was mourned by the Japanese American community here this past month. His mother passed away on New Year's eve, Dec. 31, and then his father a month later on Feb. 2. It was announced the *koden*—memorials for the Mr. and Mrs. Yoshino may be made to the Chicago JACL, 5415 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60640. (A message of his voice-mail says he is returning his desk on Monday.) ■

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Total donations received between Jan. 1, 1996 and Jan. 24, 1997: \$5,320.00

Selanoco chapter returns Ken Inouye as chair

By HARRY K. HONDA
Editor emeritus

DOWNEY, Calif.—Southeast Los Angeles-North Orange County JACL has returned Ken Inouye back into the chapter president's chair—as if to fulfill a second half of the 1991-92 biennium that he had somehow escaped. The installation luncheon Jan. 25 at Sam's of Tokyo Restaurant attracted 130 on a rainy day.

In 1983, Inouye, chapter president for two years, was succeeded by four who served two terms: Frank Kawase, Frances Hachiya, Ruth Mizobe and when Inouye was elected in 1991, Edwin Shiba broke the string in 1992 with a chapter first of three terms. Denise Kim, outgoing 1995-96 president, revived the two-term spirit. Last October, Nordstrom recognized Inouye among the county's community leaders of the year. Installed by National President Helen Kawagoe, the 1997 board members are:

Ken Inouye, pres.; Ray Hasse, Pat Kawamoto, Frank Kawase, v.p.s.; Jun Fukushima, treas. legacy fund; Margaret

Iba, corr. sec.; Karen-Liane Shiba, rec. sec.; Evelyn Hanki, membership; Hiromi Ueha, historian; Hiroshi Kamei, 1000 Club; scholarship-awards; Kurtis Nakagawa, insurance; B.J. Watanabe, Kawase, newsletter; Clarence Nishizu, Nakagawa, P.G. reps.; Ron Osajima, Todd Hasegawa, programs; Watanabe, Chibi-no-Gakko; Daryn Nabeta, Tomono-kai;

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Guest speaker Dr. Sammy Lee, who had garnered two gold medals in the Olympic platform diving competition for the U.S., at the London (1948) and Helsinki (1952) Games, related the racial discrimination he faced in the summer of 1955 in wanting to buy a tract home on Lee Lane in Garden Grove. The realtor refused to sell because of his Asian ancestry.

When the news got out, virtually all of the county helped to find him and his 7-month pregnant wife, Rosalind, a home. By November, the family was in their

new home in Anaheim and were welcomed with a community reception. Dr. Lee, an ear, nose and throat specialist, had graduated from USC medical school in 1947, served 12 years in the Army Medical Corps including 16 months in Korea before retiring to open practice in nearby Santa Ana.

Dr. Lee, 76, expressing his philosophy, told the Nisei, Saneai and "four-sei" (his hastily coined word for "Yonsei," fourth generation) that "we still have that challenge of fighting race discrimination and closed by thanking God for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team or "there would not have been a Selanoco JACL today."

The program opened with the UC Irvine taiko group, recently retired Los Cerritos Judicial District Court Judge Richard Hanki as emcee, the Rev. Carl Omaye of Anaheim Japanese Free Methodist Church and Rev. Keith Inouye (no relation to Ken), North Gardena United Methodist Church delivered the opening and closing prayers respectively. ■



© JEM LEW PHOTO

SELANOCO JACL installation luncheon principals pose in front of the chapter banner: Ken Inouye, 1997 president; Dr. Sammy Lee, keynote speaker; and Helen Kawagoe, national president, installing officer.

'Pre-442nd' Ft. Sam Houston Nisei veterans ready for '97

Special to the Pacific Citizen

LAS VEGAS, Nev.—Five years ago, the Nisei GIs stationed at Fort Sam Houston in the heart of San Antonio, Texas, celebrated their 50th anniversary at the Army post, for it was in early 1942 that some 200 Japanese Americans in uniform were "relocated" from the West Coast to "Fort Sam."

Since then, the reunions have become annual gatherings, the '96 attendees promptly agreeing to meet here again in '97. The dates are Monday through Wednesday, April 21-23. The stories they tell

have a different twist that may not be well-known.

There were 12 Nisei who volunteered in 1943 during the months of September and October for research experiments in medicine conducted by the Chemical Warfare Service, and who were commended by Special Order 152, dated 15 June 1944, Office of the Chief, CWS, Washington, D.C., for service "beyond the call of duty by subjecting themselves to pain, discomfort and possible permanent injury for the advancement of research in protection for our armed forces."

Several years ago, a request for retroactive award of the Army Bronze Star Medal was submitted to the Department of the Army Personnel Center at St. Louis, Mo. But it was recently denied because of the lateness in the submission of the recommendation, according to Casey Kasuyama, Fort Sam Houston/442nd veteran.

Besides support from interested parties, interest by Sen. Daniel Akaka may have revived the appeal, Johnnie Sato of Los Angeles reported at the April '96 reunion, saying that he was contacted and questioned at length by an Army official. Sam Itaya of Stockton and Mits Morita of Gardena both indicated they had received no word.

Casey Kasuyama of Los Angeles, who chaired the '96 reunion, related that there were some 200 Nisei GIs stationed prewar in San Luis Obispo with the 40th Infantry Division, and at Ft. Lewis, Wash., with the 41st Infantry Division. Both were National Guard troops, augmented by pre-WWII enlistees and draftees.

When the Sixth Army commander ordered an estimated 3,000 U.S. soldiers of Japanese ancestry to posts in the Midwest after Pearl Harbor, the company-size group being transferred to Fort Sam Houston encountered confusion upon arrival, until the Army reception center commander quickly came to their rescue, as Kasuyama recalled.

"These men are American sol-

diers and assigned to my command!" he said. "We were still in formation. The double gates then opened and we marched to the post's War Department Personnel Center. Col. Telesphor Gottschalk told the officers and non-commissioned officers, also in formation, that we Nisei were Americans and were to be treated as such. He would not tolerate any sort of discrimination."

(Ken Uchida, in that formation waiting to march in, recalled to the *Pacific Citizen* several years ago that Col. Gottschalk, a American of German ancestry in the U.S. Army during WWI, told him later he knew what the Nisei must have encountered because of Pearl Harbor.)

The Nisei were all assigned to essential jobs at WDPC: at Headquarters, motor pool, supply issue, records section. "We were also treated well by subsequent commanders and staff," Kasuyama continued. "So, we Nisei returned [that recognition] by putting out maximum effort, which resulted in 'superior ratings' from the Inspector General for the center during the five years the Nisei were stationed at Fort Sam Houston."

These were also the so-called "pre-442nd" days, for when the call in 1943 came for cadre many were transferred to Camp Shelby for assignment with the 442nd Infantry or 522nd Field Artillery. Many also volunteered for the MIS

at Camp Savage or Fort Snelling.

At the Fifth Army Quadrangle corridor at Fort Sam Houston are portraits of 12 soldiers selected for their service and dedication who have been associated with the post's rich history dating from 1845. One of them is M/Sgt. Ken Uchida, longtime Ogden JACLer who made the military his career.

Jim Tazoi, Garland, Utah, spoke of his experiences during the rescue of the Lost Battalion, some moments tear-provoking and others hilarious, as he reminisced at the '96 reunion. The Utah Nisei had enlisted in March 1941, reporting at Camp San Luis Obispo, was transferred to Fort Sam Houston, then placed on reserve until the 442nd was activated. With Co. K, Tazoi was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Purple Heart, French Croix de Guerre and many other campaign and theater ribbons.

A plaque was awarded to Dr. Earl Mizote, Chicago, for his service with the speakers' bureau of the Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois.

Bill Yamadera, Monterey Park, is co-chairing with Nora Hataye, Berkeley, the '97 reunion, April 21-22 at Las Vegas.

Prewar San Antonio resident Rae Jingu Naritomo, Monterey Park, and Sam Itaya, Stockton, co-emceed the '96 reunion welcome. Sixty Nisei vets, family and friends attended. ■



DUKE OGAWA PHOTO

General Chairman Casey Kasuyama and wife Yoshie of Los Angeles, are awarded appreciation plaque and a quartz clock.

Mile-Hi Chapter honors Kimiko Side for years of volunteer work

By TOM MASAMORI

Denver TV anchor, Adele Arakawa, acted as mistress of ceremonies for the January 18th installation dinner-dance which was attended by 130 JACLers and friends.

Featured speaker was ADL regional director, Saul Rosenthal who reported on recent activities of that organization and the need for constant vigilance against racial and ethnic discrimination.

The presentation of Kimiko Side, with the Kansha no Hi (day of appreciation) award, sponsored by the Mile-Hi Chapter, was a long

overdue recognition for her years of volunteer efforts on behalf of the Japanese American community of Denver. Mrs. Side is currently serving as chairperson of the Denver Takayama Sister Committee and has been actively involved with the student exchange program between the two cities. She arranged for the joint concert with the Denver Municipal band and the Takayama wind orchestra. Since her retirement Mrs. Side has been teaching Japanese arts and crafts at both the Denver Buddhist Temple and the Simpson UMC. Aside from the time she devotes to the community she contributes

generously to all the organizations with which she is involved.

Newly elected president, Dr. Frank Sakamoto, is well known to all JACL members of long standing as, "Mr. 1,000 Club," and has been a very active member of the Mile-Hi Chapter since his recent move from Chicago. He thanked outgoing president, Tom Migaki, for his leadership for the past 3 years and promised to continue the involvement in the community and work toward increasing the membership in the chapter but to also help in the National JACL efforts in that direction.



KEVIN KUTSUMA PHOTO

Celebrating presentation of Kansha no Hi award are her children, Deborah Side Lang, Kimiko Side (honoree), and Daniel Side.

The NEXT MILLENNIUM

Looking for the 'staunchest' JACler

Comment and story by HENRY MORI

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it—George Santayana

In the blossoming years of the 1930s when the first batch of the growing second generation Japanese Americans were finished university or college and prepared for a career, there appeared problems not seen in the "white society."

It was racial discrimination, much in bloom.

The less fortunate ones, floundering for work, sank into their first job: the wholesale market or the retail fruit stand.

For persons of Japanese descent then, the sting of racial discrimination against them was more than today's sophisticated term, the "glass ceiling."

Most of the Nisei graduates, although high in scholastic standings, initially worked in Issei-owned fruit stands. Were paid low wages and were not reaping the benefits of a good education. If one were lucky enough he might squeeze into a more prominent occupation.

When JACL was formed on the West Coast in the late 1920s, there was a sort of "standing joke" about it.

One diehard organizer who almost "worked, ate, and slept JACL," whenever the mention of the League was made, would tell this to the then-120 lost souls, that "combating discrimination" was the goal of the organization. Frankly, that dream was yet to be realized.

The JACL, born to combat social ills and prejudice, today has failed.



But it may have minimized the overrunning of prejudice. There used to be an ever-running joke: that one has to really be a staunch supporter to maintain the national organization. So one has to be a staunchest (no such word in the dictionary) member. We now call discrimination a "glass ceiling." And we continue to look for the "staunchest" JACler.

We old-timers who have but a few years left on this misguided world wait Year 2000 noting that things won't change that much. We will still have the "staunchest" members doing their best for a better society.

The late wartime president Saburo Kido used to give me many good pointers on the League's aims. The one-time publisher of the *Sainichi Bei* on Second Street in Lil' Tokyo was a JACL leader. The retired attorney spent his last years in San Francisco. He died on April 4, 1977.

Human nature being what it is, we will always have some sort of discrimination, prejudice or unfair treatment of the minorities wherever you go or live. You cannot legislate equality.

You can even see them practiced in your own community. You even saw them during the relocation camp days.

But life goes on, God with us. ■

Henry Mori spent all of his newspaper time since the 1930s at the Rafu Shimpō, interrupted by internment at Poston I where he worked on the camp newspaper. He returned to Los Angeles after the war to help restart the Rafu Shimpō as English Section editor.

Japanese garden rises again

To you the students, the teachers, the planners the faculty, the givers

Love and respect are the cement that holds us together

Let us join hands and walk into the future

Tomorrow is ours

Alfred Aue Bablot

— June 15, 1996

IN A WARM, mid-morning ceremony conducted by the Rev. Dr. Alfred Y. Tsuyuki, head minister of Konkō Church of Los Angeles, a combined group of Rough Rider students and Nisei-Sansei alumni dedicated a new Japanese garden on campus at Roosevelt High School on Oct. 12, 1996.

The all-day program, attended by some 225 persons, began with continental breakfast in the school cafeteria followed with ceremonies in the auditorium, where school principal Henry Ronquillo said: "This new garden is dedicated to those students who built the original garden in 1933-34 as well as to those Japanese Americans who were in America's concentration camps during World War II and to all those Roosevelt graduates who served along with those who died fighting in that war."

"For many, the garden will give them closure for what happened so many years ago."

"The efforts and goodwill of all nationalities and color in true tradition are unveiled today in the much awaited dedication."

Jun Yamamoto and Bruce T. Kaji, who co-chaired the alumni portion of the project, extended

greetings, marking the event "as a lasting tribute to Americans of Japanese ancestry." Both served in the U.S. military — Jun in the 442nd in Europe, Bruce in the Pacific with MIS.

Col. M. Bud Weber, active alumnus who spearheaded and contributed much effort in nearly four years of planning and leadership, drew applause when he introduced Lenore Cordell, class of '23, who had donated \$50 with her best wishes to her Alma Mater.

It was Yoshio Kaku, a 1933 graduate, one of the original creators of the first garden who found it gone when he returned to East Los Angeles in 1949. He had spent his war years at Manzanar relocation center.

Retired landscape architect Yosh Kuroiwa, who created the present garden, said he did not try to "re-erect" the old but worked on the plot half its previous size. He was assisted by Sansei Ken Nagao and Ko Endo.

Other responsible leaders who led the "dream come true" project to reality were Jeff Avila, former RHHS biology tutor, and an instructor in Japanese. His students, in their true fashion, won the delight of the audience in rendering a Japanese program, which included an ondo dance.

A tour of the entire Roosevelt High campus was conducted by student leaders in the afternoon.

The Taiko Drummers, under direction of the Rev. Tom Kurai, and koto entertainment by Toshiko Matsuzawa and Kimiko Yoshihara gave color to the occasion, which welled much memories. ■

JACL Annual Giving Campaign: 1996 Contributions

JACL fund drive needs support

By HERBERT YAMANISHI
National Director

Have you made your contribution to the Annual Giving Campaign? We need your support to put the 1996-97 Campaign over its goal of \$100,000. To date \$74,820 has been raised. We now depend on the Annual Giving as an integral part of the budget. Like the membership dues and other revenue items, the budget passed by the National Council now includes Annual Giving: If the Annual Giving goal is not met, the JACL budget could once again be out-of-balance.

Annual Giving helps to sustain the overall programming of the National JACL.

The 1994/95 campaign raised over \$100,000 and the 1995/96 campaign raised \$71,424. They have been a critical component in the elimination of deficits for the JACL. Gracey Ueyehara has set a goal of \$100,000 for the current 1997 campaign.

A number of new initiatives have been discussed, including expanded distribution of the JACL Curriculum and Resource Guide, hate crime programming, leadership development, youth outreach, research development, cultural activities, etc. If the goal is achieved, JACL can begin to develop new programs in these areas.

The pace of Annual Giving for the 1996/97 Campaign started out faster than the 1995/96 Campaign, however, the contributions have slowed dramatically for the past two weeks. If we are to go over the top, we need you to give now!

Thank you to the following contributors whose donations we have received through January 16, 1997. Is your name on the list?

17 major donors

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1996 Annual Giving

November 22, 1996 - January 15, 1997

District	Contribution
CCDC	\$3,275.00
EDC	\$7,035.00
IDC	\$2,225.00
MDC	\$7,095.00
MPDC	\$2,500.00
NCWNPDC	\$28,555.00
PNWDC	\$7,740.00
PSWDC	\$14,725.00
Total	\$73,150.00

1996 Contributors

Ted T. Hasegawa, Mas & Marcia Hashimoto, Ruth Hata, Tom Hatanaka, Alice Hattori, Shigeo & Sumie Hayashi, Minoru Hayashi, Shizue Hayashi, Kazuhiko Hayashi, John K. Hayashi, Mikio Hayashi, Terri Higa, George & Janice Higashi, E. Hino, Shizu Hirabayashi, George M. Hiraga, West Hiral, Rainee Gaye Hira, Bob M. Hirata, Tori & Miyo Hirano, Bob M. Hirata, Toshiyuki Hirata, Mitsui Hironaka, David & Yo Hironaka, Mitsui Hironaka, Momoru Hirose, Gregory M. & Phyllis C. Hira, Masase Hira, Takashi Honbo, Andrew Hongo, Tom T. & Sallie S. Hoshikawa, Joseph Hori, Mary Hyodo, Mitsuo Ichikawa, Tad Ichikawa, Edith Ichij, Tetsuo Iida, Theodore N. Iida, Frank Iiyama, Shiro Ikegami, Kinji Imada, Karen E. Imai, Randy H. Imai, Takao Imura, Sachiko Inokuma, Harry Inoue, Hideo Inoue, Kiyoko Inoue, Sueko Inoue, Yoko Inoue, H. Ann Inoue, Jerry & Natsuko Inoue, Ken & Lesley Iritani, Sachii Ishida, Tadashi & Carolyn Ishihara, Shizuko Ishihara, Masayuki & Kimiko Ishihara, Lonnishia Ishihara, Edward K. Ishii, Mary T. Ishii, Roy & Gayle Ishii, George Ishikawa, Woodrow Ishikawa, Kazuo Ishizawa, Jack A. shio, Newton Ishura, Sakae Ishizu, Steven S. Iseno, Sadao & Irene Itamura, Hatsuomi Iitani, Shizuo Iitani, Frank Y. Itaya, Ayako W. Iwami, Tadashi Iwakasi, Joe Iwata, Jane S. K. Iwata Associates, Nami Iwataki,

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Opinion



From the Frying Pan

By BILL HOSOKAWA

A postscript for 'something weird'

Something weird happened in this space in the last previous issue (Jan. 24-Feb. 6) of *Pacific Citizen*.

The column I had written for the week vanished. Poof. Just like that. And in its place there appeared a column that had been published last year in the Nov. 1-14 issue.

The column published in January and the November columns were identical, word for word, except the titles. The first said "Is the Nisei generation out of touch?" The second said "Glass ceilings" and how rough it was." The column was about Nisei complaining about glass ceilings blocking the climb to professional success, and Kent Nagano, a Sansei Bay Area musician who is recognized in Europe and the United States as an extraordinarily gifted conductor and who acknowledges no glass ceiling.

I don't kid myself that the column was so interesting or important that it deserved double exposure. Why was it published twice?

Frankly it was a goof and editor Harry Honda hastens to apologize. The text was

stored away in the computer's unremitting memory, and somehow it popped up again long after it was laid to rest.

That sort of mishap occurs from time to time. Worse things have happened on this newspaper, like the time that the second half of a column was printed above the first half. That made it less intelligible than usual. The column with back-end first made just enough sense to cause the reader to wonder whatinhell the old guy was writing about. Well, that's what happens when a newspaper is working with a manpower-short staff.

More disturbing is that the glass ceiling column appears to have made so little impression the first time around that no one on the staff noticed the repetition.

But there is more about this particular column which is substantially more interesting.

On the morning of Friday, Jan. 10, a JACL 1000 Club member named Arthur Ken Donoghue, who lives in Letterkenny, County Donegal, Ireland, picked up a copy of his newspaper, *The Irish Times*. In it was a lengthy feature-story about an emi-

nent American conductor named Kent Nagano who was coming to Ireland to conduct the Irish Chamber Orchestra. Nagano was described simply as a gifted American, not as a Japanese American. Donoghue read the item with moderate interest, then tossed out the newspaper.

That evening, when he came home, Donoghue discovered the Nov. 1-14 *Pacific Citizen* had been delivered by the mailman. "Zowie!" Donoghue exclaimed in a letter to me, "I read about Kent Nagano again, in your column." He recovered a copy of the Irish Times story and sent it along. I have written to ask him how come someone with an Irish name living in Ireland is a member of a U.S. organization called the Japanese American Citizens League. I hope I will hear from him soon.

Meanwhile, I am wondering what if anything will result from that column's resurrection. ■

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

Very truly yours

By HARRY K. HONDA

'Thank You' Time

The spirit of Christmas lingers here at the P.C., with-unexpected donations from dear friends of Ye Editor.



Sachi Seko's \$1,000 check has been mentioned already in Helen Kawagoe's column, *Bottom Line*, in the first issue this year.

Then the happy news from Headquarters that P.C. and the National Youth Student Council each received \$2,500 from Mrs. Michi Masunaga, San Jose, in memory of her husband George (P.C. 1-24/2-6/97).

Helen Kawagoe endorsed her \$100 honorarium to P.C. after addressing the South Bay JACL installation last month. We deem it's her testament of support for a "weekly P.C. format."

This past year, 41 readers have contributed to the PC SAVE campaign. The \$100+ donors were sent the beautiful lithographed poster, "Issei," by Pete Hironaka of Dayton.

Still unforgotten is a \$3,000 contribution from Sally and Steve Nakashima of West Valley JACL toward purchase of PC's first in-house phototypesetter, a \$13,000 Lincomip-2 nearly 20 years ago. Their hope that P.C. would eventually publish a JACL Membership Directory is still a worthwhile endeavor.

Saying "thanks," of course, is due the host of readers who faithfully send us clippings of interest to our P.C. family.

Since the Peru hostage crisis began, our one-time P.C. Board member George Wakiji of Washington, D.C. JACL has been feeding us pieces from the two D.C. metros plus the *New York Times* and *USA TODAY*, outlining the briefs we note in the local press. Etsu Masaoka continues the practice of her late husband, Mike, with marginal notes. And William "Mo" Marumoto never misses a Nikei name in the journals and publications he peruses daily.

Ed Suguro covers the two Seattle dailies and the *Vancouver (B.C.) Sun*. His careful notations add interesting background and depth. From San Diego is reader Naomi Kashiwabara who trims in a timely manner. See it; send it. His latest (1-19-97) featured a photo of Lillian and Richard Yano of Hawaii, parents of Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Yano, who posthumously earned the Medal of Honor for valor in Vietnam. The Yanos attended the Navy ceremony naming its strategic sealift ship for their son, USS Rodney Yano.

Mas Imon, former P.C. Holiday Issue helper and now retired in Las Vegas, keeps an eye for Japanese names in his hometown papers and obituaries. Also scanning the local obituary columns for us are Ada Honda of Spokane JACL, Snake River Valley JACL, Mike Iseri, Bill Hosokawa in Denver and "Wild" Bill Matsumoto of Sacramento JACL. But the bulk of items appear in the Japanese vernaculars in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, Denver and Seattle.

JACL chapter newsletters are also checked, but often the information lacks the details—age, date of death, place of birth and names of the surviving family.

On other choice news items, we're adding the sender's name at the bottom: "Contributed by —" as our silent expression of thanks. We hope to see more of them hereon.

As of this issue, our veteran correspondent-contributor Allan Beekman, Honolulu, is back with us. ■



East wind

By BILL MARUTANI

A strike against leukemia

THE SUBJECT for this week's column was prompted by an item which appeared in Nov. 15-Dec. 19 issue of this newspaper. The article on page 7 referred to the Los Angeles-based A3M (Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches) which is marking its fifth anniversary of its founding. Accompanying the article was a photograph of Dr. Takeo Suzuki, a volunteer, and Yuko Yamaguchi, a recruiting specialist with A3M. [For information: 213/473-1660.] As you know, bone marrow transplant is the miraculous procedure by which lives of leukemia sufferers might be saved. Crucial to the success of the procedure are timeliness of the transplant and physiologic matching between the donor and the recipient. Dr. Suzuki's late son, Nick, could not be saved because a bone marrow match was not found. This was long before A3M had been formed.

Leukemia can erupt unexpectedly anytime, anywhere, against anyone.

THIS PAST NOVEMBER our California daughter, who resides in Sherman Oaks with her husband and their three children, tearfully broke the numbing news that their daughter Brenna — our eleven-year-old

granddaughter — was diagnosed as having leukemia. She is undergoing the first phase of treatment of doses of chemotherapy with some of its physical consequences. An ensuing phase will include finding a bone marrow match so that a life-saving transplant might be effected. Of course, as with any grandparent, there is nothing I wouldn't do or give to help rescue Brenna from this ordeal. But beyond a lot of prayers, I'm totally frustrated as to what I could possibly do.

IN TIMES of crisis, one looks back searching for some "explanation," some answers to the inevitable question "Why?" This past summer, as in other past summers, Brenna, along with her kid sister and brother, and their parents, came East to spend time with relatives. Brenna, having joined a softball team back home on which she was the pitcher, brought along her baseball mitt to practice her pitching skills. With her baseball cap on backwards, she would wind up and fire the ball to her dad, the catcher. Of course, in Grandpop's eyes, she can do no wrong, but I honestly was impressed. She was good.

So how come, I asked myself, should this

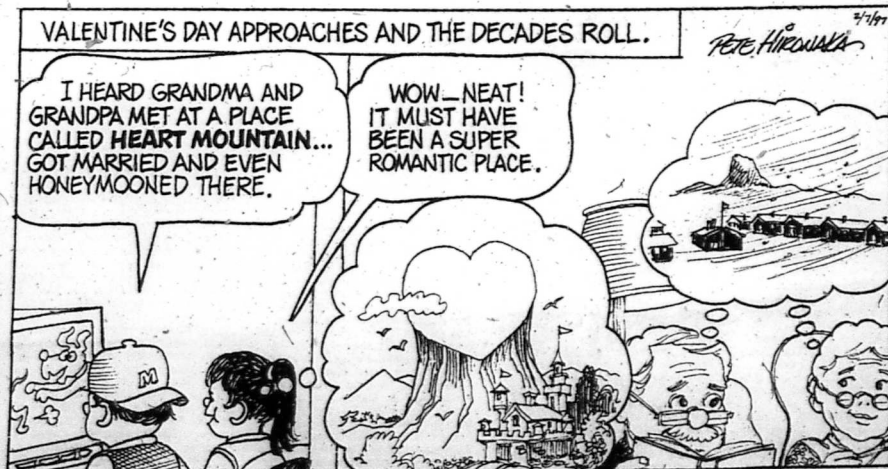
robust youngster be invaded by leukemia?

WITH HER SISTER, Casey the two of them cobbled together an impromptu play be performance, and we were summoned to the front lawn where the presentation was to be made. We sat ourselves on the grass, as were their parents, and were treated to a — I think it was three — acts, each short — play. With singing, twirling parasols and all, I was more than impressed. "I was touched."

As, perhaps, only a grandparent can be.

AND SO NOW, some four months later, Brenna is engulfed in a battle against leukemia. We've begun the critical search for the matching bone marrow essential to her recovery. And although ahead there will be hills to climb and some streams to cross, I'm looking forward to that time when Brenna will rejoin her softball team, whipping strikes across the batter's plate. I'll be there, rooting. ■

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



Policies

Pacific Citizen

Editorials, columns and cartoons

The opinions, views and statements in the editorials, columns and cartoons appearing in *Pacific Citizen* are those of the authors and as such do not necessarily represent the Japanese American Citizens League. *Pacific Citizen* editorials, columns, and cartoons of staff will be clearly labeled as such. *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 750 words. Send them to: Editorial Opinion, *Pacific Citizen*, 7 Cupania Circle, 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 firm letters, copies or letters written to other publications. Fax letters to 213/725-0054 or mail to letters to the Editor, *Pacific Citizen*, 7 Cupania Circle, Monterey Park, CA, 91755.

Letters

Another look at 'Reconciliation'

While I agree with the spirit of Stanley Kanazaki's suggestion for a resolution of "Reconciliation before the Next Millennium," (PC 1-24/2-6) by JACL towards members of the Fair Play Committee and others, I believe he continues the confusion between the loyalty oath and draft resistance and overlooks the need for contrition.

1. The U.S. Army did not direct the WRA to apply the loyalty questions numbered 27 and 28. The Army administered these questions as part of its effort, in early 1943, to recruit volunteers from the camps. Subsequently, the WRA incorporated the Army's questionnaire into the WRA's Leave Clearance form.

2. In November 1942, the JACL at its all-camp conference, decided to seek the restoration of Selective Service for Japanese Americans; it opposed voluntary enlistment. The JACL reversed itself two months later when the government proposed an all-volunteer and segregated combat unit.

3. Following the Army's recruitment effort, the WRA embarked upon a program of determining civic, not military, loyalty based upon Question 28 (swear unqualified allegiance to U.S.A.) and the segregation to the camp at Tule Lake of those not answering positively to this question. Question 27 (serve on combat duty wherever ordered) did not determine loyalty. This took place mainly in 1943.

4. In early 1944, Selective Service was reinstated for J-As who were interned and in "free America." Draft resistance fol-

lowed. The draft resisters in Heart Mountain had not been segregated. Their resistance was independent of the loyalty question. Indeed, it was independent of Selective Service as such. The Heart Mountain resisters were not opposed to military service; they were opposed to the military conscription of unjustly interned citizens. In essence, they were risking imprisonment in order to challenge the constitutionality of their detention in the Courts.

5. The term "No-No Boy" has different meanings and should not be used. It is taken from John Okada's novel (Tuttle: 1957) of the same name. In the novel, "no-no" designates the social ostracism suffered by a draft resister who returns to his home in Seattle. It makes no reference to the loyalty oath. The term is often used to designate those who failed to answer yes to Question 28 and were segregated to Tule Lake. Its "No-No" suggests two questions applied when only one did, and its "Boy" fails to include the many females who were segregated. When "No-No Boy" is applied to draft resisters, it continues to carry with it this sense of disloyalty and segregation. Why not call draft resisters "draft resisters"?

6. Finally, I disagree with replacing apology or contrition with reconciliation. The draft resisters were verbally attacked by the leadership of the JACL in the March and April 1944 issues of the *Pacific Citizen*. Saburo Kido called their action "sedition." Bill Hosokawa described the resisters as "periodical patriots, individuals who ... demand their rights as

citizens only when they are confronted with the task of fulfilling the responsibilities of that citizenship." And Larry Tajiri wrote, referring to the resisters, "By their action these young men, and those who prompted their action, have injured the cause of loyal Japanese everywhere."

These are serious charges. Is it seditious to seek the restoration of one's constitutional rights? I hope not. Was the resisters' use of the Courts to challenge the constitutionality of their detention irresponsible? Hardly. What was irresponsible was the failure by the JACL and others, including the American Civil Liberties Union, to raise a Court challenge to our mass exclusion and detention. And what was the cause of loyal Japanese Americans everywhere? Was it to be puppy dog loyal — unqualified allegiance — no matter what? Was it to oppose the constitutional test cases of Minoru Yasui, Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu, and Mitsuye Endo, as Mike Masaoka did? Was it to try to break of the spirits of resisters as they awaited trial in jail, as Minoru Yasui and Joe Grant Masaoka did? It was the JACL who injured our cause. An act of contrition is in order. But I wouldn't bet on it. Peace.

William Hohri
Lomita, Calif.

In researching PC's archives on Point 2, delegates from the various WRA centers attending the 1942 National JACL Convention at Salt Lake City reported it was unfair that Nisei had to volunteer to enter the military service at the time, that Nisei were classified as "4-C enemy aliens" by Selective Service draft boards and racial discriminatory. It was the War Department which proposed a "voluntary" Japanese American combat team as the first step to eliminate the 4-C classification and open up military service. JACL convention went along and also accepted the War Department's argument for an all-Japanese American unit that would draw more attention to its accomplishments than scattering the 20,000 men or so being scattered among the millions of servicemen.

Regarding Point 5, Merriam-Webster's Dictionary, 10th Edition 1993, denotes its use as circa 1942, and meaning "something unacceptable or forbidden."

As to statements in Point 6, it is well to restate that Saburo Kido secured his San Francisco colleague Jim Purcell to handle the Mitsuye Endo case, the most instrumental in the Army dropping its exclusionary order and the government internment camps could not detain any further loyal American citizens. — Editor's Note

Instead of 'A' magazine

JACL National has mailed a free copy of "A" magazine (Dec. 96/Jan. 97) to all members, asking them to subscribe for \$15, of which \$4 would go to JACL.

What a waste of \$11 to earn \$4 for JACL! In my opinion, this is not worth much to most members of a Japanese American human and civil rights organization devoted mainly to community-centered civic activities.

It attempts to cover other areas of more general interest to Asians but very few items about Japanese Americans. But I am still not happy with this "deal."

Why not offer products more useful and relevant to our membership — books, videos, music produced by our own authors, et al, that we might be willing to buy at full price for our use or as gifts with some proceeds to be returned to JACL? This would also help the producers with publicity.

Arthur Gonai
Seattle

rolling riceballed identities

rolling down ancient mt. fuji
in eastern sun's golden glow.

descending samurais
journey for u.s. soil touchdown
packing culturally ingrained
football sushi sacks
that spill out grains
along the way.

transplanted seedlings that sprout land toilers
hoeing silver swords
fertilizing barren dust
that breed multi-gustatory crops.

but early twilight reveals
a yellow signal warning glare
as jealousies of envious white-eyed stares
portend ominous green tea leaves
serving evacuation papers
in sanctionous white house ceremonies.

simmering racist envy boiling out
steamy pacific waters
forcing innocents to sip
barbed-wire tea
while encamped in desolate
no fair lands.

at war's end, 200% patriots
parading former enemy faces
steadily roll out
concentrated encampments
down american streets.

their riceballed identities scar scattering,
fanning out like fallen ginkgo leaves
across a hostile land.

uprooted buddhaheads still hearing
arhythmically beating taiko drums.

their head pounding, heart throbbing feelings
buried deep within
like acrid umboshi
cached in obachan's riceballs.

but amber stones roll on
to deeply spirited tunes
as preserved-nikkei perseverance
steadily etches out
romanized inscriptions
that archive fertile transplanted journeys.

today's black headed yellows blossoming
in diverse red, white blues.
belated western kimonoed redress
terminally draping 442nd coffins and
honoring 120,000 stalwart life soldiers.

enlisted victors in u.s., "us" survival.
sticky anchored here
like windpipe caught ozoni omochi
on new year's morn.

finally digesting the harvest
of fruited fuji's apples
atop mammoth mountain
in western sun's rising glow.

careful to conserve cultural grains
of rolling riceballed identities.

vigilant.
never to be snowballed again.

— gael muramoto, torrance, calif.

A postwar child, Gael Muramoto's poem is driven from her parent's stories of WWII hysteria and prejudice and enriched with the pride of her Nikkei heritage. —Editor.

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Books

Wartime thoughts
of a strandeeDear Miye, Letters Home from
Japan 1939-46

by Mary Kimoto Tomita
Stanford University Press (1995), \$45

By Rev. S. Michael Yasutake
(Excerpt)

Dear Miye, Letters Home from Japan, 1939-46, is a fascinating book of historical documents not available elsewhere. It is a collection of personal letters written before, during and after World War II by a Nisei, Mary Kimoto (Tomita, her married name acquired much later) in her early 20s living in Japan.

Books of wartime experience at such personal level is rare... (Her) impressions, observations and interpretations of events interwoven with expressions of personal life and relationships experienced by one young Nisei woman from California during her involuntary stay in Japan are unique. As she writes of loneliness and longing for her friends (in particular for Miye, her best friend from early girlhood) and family, Mary conveys how national and international events deeply affect one person's life such as her.

In "The Postwar Letters, 1945-46," Mary has some biting comments of how U.S. policy and repatriation practices treated the Nisei in Japan as Japanese aliens and not as U.S. citizens while there was no question about white Americans stranded in Japan as being fully "American." Her letter comments are also critical of how many of the Nisei GIs looked down upon the Nisei stranded in Japan as "disloyal."... Mary's letters, selected from hundreds for *Dear Miye*, point to the universal truth of a human longing for a full life of peace and normal human relationship in the face of human-made tragedy of war. The letters add to the literature of hope that motivates us to reflect on the past so that we may never cease to work for a world of justice and peace, if only for such a precious human being as Mary Kimoto (unique as she is revealed in her letters) and Miye Yamasaki and millions of others like them. —*The New Canadian* ■

Father Mike Yasutake, active Chicago JACler of Evanston, Illinois, was honored last November on the 46th anniversary of his ordination as an Episcopal priest.

He is executive director of IPOC—Interfaith Prisoners of Conscience Project, 2120 Lincoln St., Evanston, IL 60201, sponsored by the National Council of the Churches of Christ, USA.

The-Chiune
Sugihara saga

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Illustrations by Andrea Fong
Edu-Comm. Plus, 1349 Gable Way, Sacramento, CA 95831 (1996) \$12, 7.75% sales tax, \$1.50 s/h

Geared for children between the ages of 8 and 14, *Puppe's Story* vividly relates the now well-told account of Chiune Sugihara's rescue of 6,000 Jewish refugees during the Holocaust as remembered by his son Hiroki, and life then age 5. His father, the Japanese diplomat at Kaunas, Lithuania, in 1939-40, risked his life and career to help the desperate refugees.

Filled with graphic photographs and glimpses of his father as a loving parent rather than a career diplomat, Hiroki now devotes his time traveling about the United States and Canada telling this story that has been often called the "Japanese Schindler." He also translated his mother's book, *Visas for Life*, from Japanese and published it in November, 1995.

Puppe is a German expression meaning little doll. It was the language Hiroki and his brothers had used after the war when they returned to Japan. —HKH ■

A different
Japanese folktale

Jojofu

by Michael P. Waite
Illustrated by Yoriko Ito
Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books,
Wm. Morrow & Co.,
1350 Avenue of the Americas,
New York, NY 10019 (1996) \$16

A heartwarming story of Jojofu, a white hunting dog, who saves her master Takumi time and time again in hills and forests, Yoriko Ito's illustrations brilliantly dramatize this ancient folktale taken from the Ima Mukashi (Ages Ago) scrolls by Michael Waite. Obviously geared for children with some 30 huge pages, the eerie scenes of Jojofu attacking a giant snake slithering in the tree under moonlight might frighten the preschooler.

The author, whose wife Janine is Japanese American, is written over 20 books for children, built Muppets, taught art and made films. The artist was raised in Japan and works as a fine artist and designer in San Francisco. This is her second book and more are likely to come. —HKH ■

Film on Chiune Sugihara
in final production phase

By CAROLINE AOYAGI
Assistant Editor

The creators of *Visas and Virtue*, a film about a Japanese hero of World War II, have reached the post-production phase but need more funds before their work can hit the big screens.

The hero of this 24-minute film is Chiune Sugihara, a Japanese diplomat who saved the lives of thousands of Jews while he was stationed in Lithuania in 1939-40. Defying his government's orders, Sugihara spent countless hours writing visas for Jews, allowing them safe passage out of the reaches of Hitler and his armies.

"I wanted to spread something about a real hero who just happens to be Japa-

nese," says Sansei Chris Tashima, writer and director of the film. Sugihara's story is important, he explains, because it happened at a time when the Japanese were reputed to be inhumane.

Tashima plays Sugihara in *Visas and Virtue*, which is based on a play of the same name. He was motivated to bring the WWII hero's story to the film screen because he "wanted to create an image of a positive Asian male in the media. I wanted to tell the story of Sugihara, which most people still don't know about. I just wanted to make a good film."

Tim Toyama wrote the play that *Visas and Virtue* is based on and is also the executive producer of the film. This Sansei

first heard of Sugihara's story on National Public Radio in 1994. "I was just astonished by it," says Toyama. "By the story itself, and because I had never heard of it." He immediately decided that it would make an interesting play.

He began researching Sugihara's story but could find only about a dozen articles in English on him. Luckily, the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles was displaying a photo exhibit that told of Sugihara's story; he did most of his research at the museum. His play ran from October 1995 to January 1996 and was a huge success.

Approximately 200 people worked on the film of *Visas and Virtue*, and all were volunteers. "I tried to get as many Asian Americans in the head creative positions," says Tashima, who asked his Asian American



GAYANNE FIETINGHOFF PHOTO

Director Chris Tashima (left) works with cinematographer Hiro Narita on set of *Visas and Virtue*.

friends and those already working in the industry for their help.

The Japanese American community has supported the film from the beginning, say both Tashima and Toyama. So far they've managed to raise \$25,000 but need a total of \$60,000 to \$75,000 to complete it. If you would like to make a donation, please write Cedar Grove Productions, P.O. Box 29772, Los Angeles, CA 90029-0772, 213/668-1018.

Hiroki Sugihara, son of Chiune Sugihara, will speak in the Los Angeles area on Feb. 24 and 26. On Mon., Feb. 24, 8 p.m., he will be at the Sephardic Temple Tifereth Israel, 10500 Wilshire Blvd. and on Wed., Feb. 26, 8 p.m., at Conejo Jewish Academy, 30345 Canwood St. Admission is being charged. ■

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first heard of Sugihara's story on National Public Radio in 1994. "I was just astonished by it," says Toyama. "By the story itself, and because I had never heard of it." He immediately decided that it would make an interesting play.

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ELMER OGAWA PHOTO

MEMORABLE TETE-A-TETE—Pat Suzuki (then 23) and Mike Masaoka (then 44) exchange small talk at the headtable during the 1959 EDC-MDC convention over the Labor Day holidays in New York City.

Singer Pat Suzuki back on stage

SAN FRANCISCO—Star Pat Suzuki of the original Broadway production of "Flower Drum Song" returns to the footlights of Alcazar Theater for one night on Saturday, March 8 for the Nihonmachi Legal Outreach benefit. It's

her first Bay Area appearance in nearly 30 years.

Her San Francisco show will include her memorable rendition of "I Enjoy Being a Girl," and lyrics from Rodgers and Hammerstein's 1958 hit, "Flower Drum Song."

Forticket information: NLO, 415/567-6255. Premium seating and a post-concert reception is available only through NLO at \$100 per. Regular seating at \$30 can be charged through the City Box Office 415/392-4400. ■

ctor NINA YOSHIDA, Translator

COMMUNITY

(Continued from page 2)

annual spring party, 7:30-11:30 p.m. Scottish Rite Masonic Hall, 6151 H St. Tickets from Steve Egli 916/427-2757, Doug Fong 391-7536, Tom Tokuhisa 966-1723. Don't yell! 707/488-2563.

FRANCISCO

Thu. Feb. 13—Japan Society of No. Calif. luncheon, 11:45 a.m., Federal Reserve Bank dining room, 101 Market St. RSVP 415/966-4383. NOTE—Dr. Kenichi Ohmura (Mr. Strategy), speaker.

Wed. Feb. 19—Japan Society of No. Calif. Roundtable breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Sheraton Palace, 2 Montgomery St. RSVP 415/966-4383. NOTE—Briefing on Japan and Beyond: New Opportunities in Asia's Retail Markets.

Sat. March 8—Pat Suzuki Returns, 7:30 p.m., Alcazar Theater, info: Nihonmachi egi Outreach, 415/567-6255.

Sun. March 9—Nisei Widowed Group, 2-4 p.m., info: Elsie Uyeda chung 415/221-0268, Kay Yamamoto 510/444-3911.

Sat. March 8—Pat Suzuki Returns benefit concert, 7:30 p.m., Alcazar Theater, info: Nihonmachi Legal Outreach, 415/567-6255.

Ending March 23—"Four Centuries of Fashion: Classical kimono from the Kyoto National Museum," 9:30 a.m.-5, Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park, 8th Ave. & J.F. Kennedy Dr., info: 415/379-8801.

SAN JOSE

Fri. March 7—Yu-ai Kai JCSS "Dream the Future" Community Recognition dinner, Fairmont Hotel, info: 408/294-2505. NOTE—Honorees include Mayor Susan Hammer, Assemblyman Mike Honda, Norman Mineta, Yosh Uchida; Jan Yanahiro and Don Sanchez (Ch. 7 News), emcees.

Through March 13—Yui-ai Kai JCSS Watercolor Painting classes, 10-11:30 a.m., info: 408/294-2505.

Fri.-Sat., March 21-28—San Jose Talkie concert, 2 and 8 p.m., Louis B. Mayer Theater, Santa Clara University, Franklin and Lafayette Sts., Santa Clara; box office: 408/392-4400, info: NLO 415/567-6255.

Southern Cal

LOS ANGELES

Ending March 9—East West Players: Edward Sakamoto's "The Taste of Kona Coffee," Fri-Sat 8 p.m., Sat-Sun 2 p.m. EWP Theater, 4424 Santa Monica Blvd., 213/660-0366.

Sat. March 9—40th anniversary judo tournament, Mt. San Antonio College, info: Sensei Aki Yokoyama 818/331-9714 or 920-2566 for registration forms at West Covina Judo Dojo, 1203 E. Puente Ave., West Covina.

Thu.-June 19-June 29—UCLA Film - TV Archives' Pan-Asian Cinema Festival, "Electric Shadows," details TBA, Bing Theatre, L.A. County Museum of Art, co-sponsors Visual Communication, LACMA.

TORRANCE-POSTON I

Fri.-Sun., Oct. 24-26—55th Year reunion, Torrance Marriott Hotel, info: Shiz Tanaka-Fujimoto 714/540-4968, Mary Kinoshita-Higashi 310/832-6303, Nancy Matsumoto Matsuda 213/888-992. NOTE—Because many have moved in the past five years, the committee is unable to contact all former residents. Contact committee to update the mailing list.

ORANGE COUNTY

Sat. March 1—So-Philly fashion show, 9:30 a.m., boutique, 11 luncheon, Anaheim Hilton and Towers Hotel, info: Gayle Sato 714/827-0676. NOTE—Designers include Kaneko, Yasuko, Hiroshi, Nana-Mi, Sheebus, JAI Children's clothes; entertainment by Phyllis Chang, Julie Nickson and Rob Fukuzaki commentators; Lorene Miyake coordinator. Proceeds to Keiro Retirement Home, Koreisha Chusoku, JANM and others.

Sat. March 29—55th annual Western Young Buddhist League conference, Anaheim Sheraton and Orange County Buddhist church, info: Craig Kawamoto 818/465-2321, Annette Miyamoto 310/575-7026. NOTE—Geared to young adults 17-25 from U.S., Hawaii and Canada.

SAN DIEGO

Ending April 13—Photo exhibit: "Whispered Silences: Japanese American Detention Camps 50 Years Later," photographs by Joan Myers, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Museum of Photographic Arts, Balboa Park; info: 619/238-7559. NOTE—Members' reception, Feb. 15, 5:30 p.m. with JAHSSD, San Diego Historical Society and MoPA.

Through Aug. 10—Exhibit: "The 100 Years Road: Japan to San Diego, a Japanese-American journey," Museum of San Diego's History, Balboa Park. NOTE—Co-sponsors: Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego. NOTE—Feb. 27, 7 p.m.—Gallery talk by Richard Barnes; March 5, 7 p.m.—Joan Myers lecture at Thornton Theater.

March 15, 1 p.m.—Panel discussion at Thornton Theater with Don Estes, moderator; April 6, 1 p.m., at Thornton Theater lecture by Prof. Peter Irons, UCSD Dept. of Political Science, of Justice at War: the story of Japanese American Internment Cases.

Arizona

PHOENIX

Coming in 1998: Smithsonian's "A More Perfect Union" traveling exhibit, Jan. 5-Feb. 19. Local committee information, info: Amy Williams, Phoenix Public Library, 1221 N. Central Ave., Phoenix 85004, 602/262-7939. NOTE—Interactive videodisc program featuring first-hand accounts from five internees scheduled for exhibit; Artifacts, craft material, documents pertaining to internment, wartime military service for exhibit welcome.

Alaska

1997: May June—Smithsonian's "A More Perfect Union" traveling exhibit, Lousace Library, Anchorage.

AAJA journalist heads NAJA group

MINNEAPOLIS—Loren Omoto, an Asian American journalist with Minnesota Public Radio for 13 years, heads the Native American Journalist Association (NAJA) as its first non-Indian administrator, as executive director as of Sept. 23. He has resigned as Minnesota chapter president of the Asian American Journalists Association to avoid any possible conflict of interest.

NAJA serves American Indian, Alaska Native and Canadian aboriginal journalists. Omoto succeeds Ruth Denny who resigned last February. While at MPR, he worked his way up to news director, overseeing a staff of 60 people and managing annual budgets of more than \$3 million, increased his audience by 50% in a four-year period and has won national awards in programming and format.

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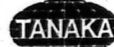
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