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Prop. 209 déjà-vu in Washington

The state of Washington is now one step closer to following in the footsteps of California's Proposition 209, legislation that put an end to affirmative action programs.

Initiative 200 or the Washington State Civil Rights Initiative seeks to prevent the use of race and gender preferences in public contracting, education, and employment and was co-written by Tim Eyman and Rep. Scott Smith. In early January supporters of the initiative managed to gather more than 284,000 signatures. All that had been needed was 180,000 to pass the initiative directly into law or to place it on the November ballot by itself or with an alternative measure.

Currently the initiative is worded much like Calif.'s Prop. 209. The Washington initiative states: "Shall government entities be prohibited from discriminating against or granting preferential treatment to individuals or groups based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin?"

Secretary of State Ralph Munro has until Feb. 11 to verify the authenticity of the signatures before a decision can be made on the future of the initiative.

Governor Gary Locke, the state's first Chinese American governor, and Democrats oppose Initiative 200 with Republicans generally in favor of it. Locke has no veto power when it comes to initiatives but he has already said that he plans to speak out against the measure.

In 1996 California's Prop. 209 was passed by a vote of 54 percent and late last year the Supreme Court decided to let the measure stand. ■

NATIONAL BOARD MEETING:

JACL-LEC project gets the go-ahead

BY CAROLINE AOYAGI

Assistant Editor

SAN FRANCISCO — With a near unanimous vote, the JACL-Legislative Education Committee (LEC) Redress History Project won the support and approval of the national board at their quarterly meeting on Jan. 23-24.

The project, which will tell the story of JACL's role in the decade-long redress campaign, was made an official program and the national board will recommend to the national council that an allocation of \$57,500 from the 1998 budget, to start the project, be approved at the Philadelphia convention in July. The remaining cost of the project, approximately \$203,000, will either be funded by outside sources or from within the 1999-2000 JACL budget, to also be approved by the national council this summer.

To tell the story of how a community fought for and won redress for thousands of Japanese Americans interned during World War II with the signing of the 1988 Civil Liberties Act, oral interviews with key players will be conducted and historical documents will be collected and catalogued. The information will eventually be compiled in a book to be distributed to schools and libraries and a website will also post the material.

Nicole Inouye, national JACL youth representative, was one of

the board members who voted to approve the redress history project. During a point in the meeting when the board was discussing the fiscal impact of the project on the 1998 and 1999-2000 budgets, the 22-year-old gave an emotional explanation of why she feels the project is important to the organization and to the larger JA community. Many board members agreed that it was Inouye's heartfelt testimony that influenced their vote.

"When I was little, I saw my dad working on [redress] issues and I met these people, people like Min Yasui and Grayce Uyehara, who were so intensely impassioned," said Inouye, in an interview with *Pacific Citizen*. "Without their motivation and passion ... the effects wouldn't have been as great. The least we owe them is

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(From left): Karen-Liane Shiba, Rick Uno, Herb Yamanishi, Helen Kawagoe, and David Hayashi attend the January board meeting.

Hate e-mail trial begins, again

As Richard Machado, the 20-year-old, former UC Irvine student who admitted to sending more than 60 threatening hate e-mails to Asian students, sat down for his second trial, he discovered that the charges he would be facing had been reduced from 10 to 2.

On Jan. 26, United States District Judge Alicemarie Stotler ruled that the charges against the naturalized U.S. citizen from El Salvador must reflect the number of times he allegedly sent the e-mail messages and not the number of students he sent the messages to.

In Machado's first trial last November, a jury deadlocked 9 to 3 for acquittal. He had faced a possible 10 years in prison. Machado has not denied sending the e-mails threatening to hunt down and kill Asians, but said that he only did it out of boredom and to get a reaction.

Machado is currently facing two charges of interfering with the federally protected right of students to attend school and faces a maximum of two years in jail. This is the first time an alleged hate crime committed in cyberspace has been tried in federal court. ■

JACL hires John Tateishi as redress consultant

SAN FRANCISCO — With less than seven months to go before the Office of Redress Administration (ORA) closes its doors forever, JACL has hired former National Redress Chair John Tateishi as a consultant in a last big push to get redress for thousands of Japanese Americans still waiting to close this painful period in American history.

The unanimous decision to hire Tateishi was made at a national board meeting on Jan. 23-24 in San Francisco and he was officially brought on board on Feb. 2. The hiring follows a resolution by the national board last August to make redress one of its top priorities. Working closely with the National JACL Redress Strategy Committee, Tateishi's main role will be to coordinate and organize redress efforts across the country.

"Our recommendation was to

notch [our redress efforts] up another level," said Herbert Yamanishi, JACL national director, who presented the proposal to hire a consultant to the national board. "John is probably the most qualified person to do this in such a short period of time."

"With only seven months left before redress sunsets, John brings to the organization his great depth of personal experience with redress issues and knowledge of how congressional process works," said Gary Mayeda, JACL national vice president of planning and development.

Tateishi worked as JACL's National Redress Chair during the early 80s and he played an important role in the eventual passage of the 1988 Civil Liberties Act that brought reparations and an apology

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Matsuda announces bid for 68th Assembly seat

BY CAROLINE AOYAGI

Assistant Editor

Sansei Mike Matsuda has decided to do something few Japanese Americans and Asian Americans have ever done — he's running for public office.

And instead of a local, "get my feet wet first" office for this freshman politician, he's going for California's 68th state assembly seat, the only Democrat in a primary crowded with six Republican running mates.

"I think I have a real good shot to win," said Matsuda confidently at a recent installation luncheon by the JACL Selenoco Chapter, of which he's a board member. "We're going to take a lot of people by surprise."

The 68th assembly seat represents

an area that includes Anaheim, Garden Grove, Stanton, Westminster, and Buena Park. About 50 percent of the population is made up of minorities: 30 percent Latinos and 20 percent Asian, the largest group being Vietnamese American. But of the

registered voters in this area only 25 percent are minorities, Asians accounting for 15 percent and only 10 percent for Latinos, with the remainder being white.

Yet, Matsuda does not believe that Asian Americans are apathetic when it comes to the political process. He believes there hasn't been enough effort to include people of color and the youth, whether it be in running

See MATSUDA/page 10



PHOTO BY MIDORI KAMEI
Mike Matsuda with Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez at the Selenoco installation luncheon on Jan. 17.

Soko Bukai case gets National JACL's support

BY CAROLINE AOYAGI

Assistant Editor

SAN FRANCISCO — For many in the Japanese American community here, the San Francisco YWCA building, located at 1830 Sutter St. in the heart of Japantown, has become a stark reminder of the injustices committed more than half a century ago.

It was in 1912, at a time when the YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) forbade its white members from mingling with non-whites, that a group of Issei women from the various Japantown churches decided to form the very first Japanese YWCA.

By the late 1920s they had raised enough money to purchase the building on Sutter St., but because of a racist California Alien Land Law at the time, they were forbidden from becoming its owners. Thus, the San Francisco YWCA agreed to hold the build-

ing in trust for the JA community.

When World War II broke out, hundreds of thousands of JAs from the West Coast were sent to internment camps and like many JA communities, San Francisco's Japantown ceased to exist. After the war ended, many returned to discover that their homes and possessions had been taken away, including the San Francisco YWCA.

As the JA community began rebuilding their lives, the memory of the trust that had been established with the San Francisco YWCA began to fade with each passing year. By 1996 the trust had all but been forgotten until, because of financial troubles, the YWCA decided to put the Sutter St. building up for sale.

Outraged, the JA community demanded that the building be taken off the market and it soon was. But it was through this attempt to sell the building that

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JACL website: www.jacl.org
PC e-mail: paccit@aol.com

By the Board



A positive outlook for 1998

It seems like just yesterday that we were all in San Jose for the 1996 convention. Sooner than we realize, the next convention in Philadelphia will be upon us.

I was able, along with National Director Herb Yamanishi, National President Helen Kawagoe, and National Administrative Assistant Deirdre Howard, to meet with the convention committee in New Jersey and at the site in Philadelphia. I will report that I came away from that October meeting feeling very good about the ability of the convention committee to pull off a first class event in July.

As I mentioned before, the Philadelphia Chapter is being assisted by the various chapters of the Eastern District Council. A special thanks to the Yeharas, Horikawas, and Ikedas for being gracious hosts to us West Coasters while we visited.

In addition to the convention committee, Kim Nakahara has been working hard with the nominations committee and has already submitted some modifications which will be published in this issue of the P.C., to help ensure a smooth nominations' process. Hank Tanaka has assembled a cross-country awards and recognition committee and they have already begun to meet.

Regional Meetings

I, like many of the other board members were able to go to the regional meetings in Las Vegas, Seattle, and Chicago. As previously reported by Caroline Aoyagi, the JACL "is not a California thing." While I recognize that the strength of the organization is that it is national, one can truly appreciate it when they visit the regional meetings. Whether one is in Cleveland, Seabrook, or Sacramento, the core concerns of the members are the

same. However, it is important to understand the various regional differences and issues. I and the rest of the board have worked hard to appreciate the fact that we are a nationwide organization.

Other general operations issues

The personnel committee continues to meet by phone conference on a somewhat regular basis. Most recently they approved rewritten job descriptions to more closely tailor them to the work that the individuals are doing. In light of the Editor/General Manager vacancy and the recent vacancy of Business Manager (best regards to Kerry Ting in her new endeavors), Yamanishi and Mae Takahashi recently clarified the Editor's position and shifted some of the functions to the Business Manager. And because the P.C. budget goes through National, many of the accounting functions and business related functions go through National, thereby reducing some of the functions of the Business Manager. It was thought that this would improve our efforts to find an Editor as well as a Business Manager.

Although there will be more of this after the fact, there will be a somewhat historical joint meeting between the P.C. Board and the National Board on Feb. 14-15. I believe that this current board as well as the P.C. board understands the fact that we are part of one organization and work together. My kudos to Mae Takahashi for setting up this meeting so we can further understand and appreciate how national and P.C. interact.

It is time to tell our story of redress

During the last national board meeting on Jan. 23-24, the board

By Rick Uno, V.P. of Operations

approved the recommendation of a special committee of the Legislative Education Committee (LEC) History Project. While EDC Governor Tom Kometani, will be writing in greater detail in his article, I would like to mention a few things about this project.

The LEC came to the National Board with a comprehensive proposal to do oral histories, gather relevant documents, and ultimately publish a book regarding the efforts of the JACL members and the national organization in the passage of the 1988 Civil Liberties Act.

I was able to chair the committee consisting of Lori Fujimoto, v.p. of public affairs, Gary Mayeda, v.p. of planning and development, Education Committee member Greg Marutani, Helen Kawagoe, Herb Yamanishi, P.C. Editorial Board Chairperson Mae Takahashi, LEC member Grayce Yehara, and staff members Al Muratsuchi and Bob Sakaniwa. This committee brought forth and articulated the different interest within the organization and ultimately agreed that this project was very important to the JACL and the community.

As we all realize, each week we are losing valuable members of our community who are a part of the redress story. It is very important that we at least take their oral histories. There are those that will be concerned with the fiscal impact of this project. The national council will be asked to approve funding for this project as it is appropriate for a project of this nature. However, while we are always being mindful of fiscal concerns, sometimes the charge of an organization, i.e. civil rights, and the fact that this was the primary accomplishment of this organization throughout its entire history, this project will merit the financial commitment needed. ■

By the Board



Unfinished business

By Tom Kometani
Eastern District Governor

YOGI Berra's First Law, "It ain't over 'til it's over," was never truer as applied to the JACL redress campaign. Many people thought it was over when President Ronald Reagan signed into law HR442, the Civil Liberties Act of 1987. Others thought it was over when they received their \$20,000 checks from the U.S. Government. However, there are still more than 2000 Japanese Americans who have yet to be compensated for past injustices, namely the Japanese Latin American internees, dismissed railroad and mining workers, and the Crystal City internees. The major difficulties for the Office of Redress Administration in determining eligibility lie in the legal interpretation of HR442 and the limited funds remaining.

Since the early 1970s, JACL has been deeply involved in a concerted lobbying effort for congressional remedial legislation for the grave injustice suffered by Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II. With the sunset of the redress legislation payments fast approaching (August 10, 1998), the JACL National Board at its January 23-24 meeting passed two very 'critical' resolutions relating to the unfinished redress struggle.

The JACL national council at the 1996 National Convention has mandated the national board to make redress payment issues high priorities. Unfortunately, national JACL has not been able to effectively advocate for the remaining groups, primarily because of the tremendous workload on the staff and board members involved in a wide range of organizational survival issues. In 1997, JACL's financial situation had been stabilized thanks to drastic belt tightening which had left staff extremely short handed. The board therefore voted to hire a redress consultant as a staff person to focus on redress for the last seven months before sunset. The one-time expenditure will ensure that JACL will concentrate its lobbying efforts on what is doable in the remaining few months. JACL will work closely with Campaign for Justice for Japanese Latin Americans and other organizations in this final drive for justice. We owe it to all those who have suffered.

YOGIS SECOND LAW, "Even when it's over, it ain't over," applies to the JACL-Legislative Education Committee (LEC) History Project which the board accepted with a projected budget of \$57,437 for the project's initial phase. The goal is to write the JACL-LEC story of how redress

became a reality from its conception in 1970 through the final payments in 1998. The initial phase involves the hiring of a professional researcher, to conduct and transcribe oral interviews of key redress workers throughout the network of JACL chapters, and to collect and catalogue historical documents. The final phase will be the hiring of a recognized author to write a documentary book telling the story behind the Civil Liberties Act of 1987 and the distribution of the book to libraries, schools and other educational institutions.

Of immediate urgency is to interview key workers as soon as possible, because most of them are 60-90 years old. We must capture their stories before memories and lives fade. We mourn the loss in January of a tireless redress worker, Mary Tsukamoto. Time is of the essence. Chapters with ongoing oral history projects will be asked to conduct interviews of local redress workers. The format and set of standard questions will be provided by JACL-LEC.

THE NATIONAL FINANCE and Budget Committees are working out funding sources for these two redress projects. Funds will come from one or a combination of the following sources: (1) 1997 budget surplus, (2) capital gains of our investment accounts, and (3) community and JACL fund-raising. These expenditures impact the 1998 budget, which was approved by the national council at the 1996 convention. The national board will be making recommendations to the national council at the Philadelphia 1998 JACL convention for approval of revisions in the 1998 budget.

In order to underscore its commitment to the JACL-LEC History Project, the Eastern District Council has pledged \$1000 to initiate a fund-raising effort to help start the project and challenge other districts, organizations and individuals to make similar financial commitments.

The story of JACL-LEC's quest for redress is invaluable as a model of how a small organization, against impossible odds, successfully mobilized support across the nation to impact congressional legislation, which would ultimately protect individual liberties and preserve the integrity of the U.S. constitution. The Japanese American experience needs to be told to each new generation as a reminder of how fragile individual liberties can be when the constitution is ignored.

Yogi's Third Law should be "IT'S NEVER OVER!" ■

By the Board

First Impressions

BEING a District Governor has its perks. I attended the National JACL Board Meeting in San Francisco on November 15-16. The temperature was 65 degrees while the Midwest had a very bad period of snow and ice. My clock was on EST so I found myself getting up early Saturday morning. I decided to take a walk in the misty rain before breakfast. I went up a hill, then another hill and at the third hill, which was all of three blocks, I found myself huffing and puffing. Thank goodness it was downhill going back. Before I could begin to get acclimated to PST, it was time to return to COLD reality and get into my car which was frozen at the Cincinnati airport parking lot.

The meetings were long, everyone seemed to be very knowledgeable. The one very big thing about attending the national board meeting was gaining a great appreciation for the staff at national. Herbert Yamanishi, national director, has a huge responsibility. Donna Okubo, membership administrator, has a daunting task working on the computer system. Computers can be wonderful but someone has to program and enter the data into the computer before it can function efficiently and accurately. Everyone is trying to upgrade and streamline operations so everything will run smoothly. The Pacific Citizen is short-staffed and without an editor.

As your district governor, I need to listen and learn a lot about the operations of the JACL organization. Two districts have rookie governors; the other districts have

very helpful but my insecurity prevailed.

There were so many issues. It would be impossible to cover them all. Full coverage is in the Nov. 21-Dec. 18 issue of the Pacific Citizen. Here are the highlights.

FUNDING

Salaries and a few of the operational needs will be covered. However, the remainder of the funding will be through program budgeting. Programs will be submitted to the board for approval with needs and expenses written into the program. This change in the funding method will make us think in terms of types of programs that we need to develop. We are geographically at a disadvantage and will need to establish terrific communications among the chapters in the Tri-District. Programs will be the way for us to focus on ways to preserve and promote our district office and increase allocation dollars. We have done well with the Legacy Fund as a district but it was the pride and constitution of each chapter to meet its goal.

What can we do as a district? One area where we can start is to help develop chapters south of the Ohio River. Leadership development is the key to keeping chapters afloat. It is so easy to let someone else take on the responsibility and not worry. We need to look at ourselves and ask, "Do I want or need the JACL?" Many must want the JACL since membership, renewals and overall membership did rise. Many of us are getting older and the younger members must take a role in this organization. Fortunately, we have some young people on the National

By Marie Matsunami,
MDC Governor

Board such as David Hayashi from the Twin Cities who is national treasurer.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

Bill Lann Lee has been selected by President Clinton to assume the position of Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. He has been with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Inc. as a civil rights lawyer. He may not believe in quotas but has stood for affirmative action. With the controversy following the passage of California's Proposition 209, Bill Lann Lee has been the football with those who could bring about his confirmation but are afraid to "run with the ball."

Contact the following Senators on the Judiciary Committee and express disappointment that they have not (yet) supported Lee and that they have not allowed a full Senate vote on the matter: Abraham (R-MD), Ashcroft (R-MO), DeWine (R-OH), Grassley (R-IA), Hatch (R-UT), Kyl (R-AZ), Sessions (R-AL), Thompson (R-TN), and Thurmond (R-SC). Write to Senate Judiciary Committee, SD224 Dirksen Senate Bldg, Washington, D.C. 20510-6275.

We have time to flood the mailboxes for both candidates before Congress reconvenes after the holidays. The State of Ohio is starting its own initiative to do away with affirmative action and the State of Washington has their Initiative 200 ready for the next election. If all of these go the same direction that California's Proposition 209 did, we might see it spread to the Federal level. Food for thought. ■



SANTA MARIA VALLEY JACL's Kaz Oye begins her third year as chapter president. Here she is being recognized by Santa Maria Mayor Abel Maldonado (second from left) with a certificate. National JACL President Helen Kawagoe who was guest speaker, and City Councilman Toru Miyoshi witness the presentation. This was at Santa Maria chapter's 65th annual installation held last November. ■

Congresswoman Sanchez encourages AA political participation at Selanoco installation

ANAHEIM, Calif.—Freshman Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (46th District, Calif.) was right at home at JACL Selanoco Chapter's 32nd annual installation luncheon at the Anaheim Marriott Hotel on Jan. 17.

"I really feel like I'm among family today," she said, as she gave the keynote speech to more than 100 attendees at the event, most of whom live in her district of Orange County, Calif., and many whom she knows on a first-name basis.

And the feeling was mutual. "One thing I immediately noticed was, she listened," said Ken Inouye, Selanoco Chapter president and member of the Orange County Human Rights Commission, who has worked closely with Sanchez since her election a little over a year ago. "She got your respect," he said, "because she wanted to serve."

Since winning her seat in Congress, Sanchez has had an opportunity to work on issues that are close to her heart, including education and decreasing crime but, she admitted, the chance to work on human and civil rights issues has been the most rewarding. "It's probably one of the most exciting things I've been able to participate in as a public official," she said. "Human rights is an issue all of us need to worry about."

That's why when Representative Patsy Mink (D-Hawaii) approached Sanchez to add her name to a letter to show support for the thousands of Japanese Latin Americans interned during World War II who have yet to receive redress from the United States government, she immediately signed it. "These issues are all important to us," she said.

A vital compo. nt of civil and human rights is political partici-

pation, said Sanchez, who encouraged the AA community to become more active in the process. "Politicians here in Orange County must change, because groups are becoming more active to understanding that they will be a part of the political process and your community...makes an impact," she said. "You MUST make an impact. This is the true struggle in the fight for civil and human rights."

Sanchez can empathize with the general public's distaste for politicians and politics. She knows first hand the uglier side of politics, she said, referring briefly to the controversy she's had to

changing and it looks more like this face and your face."

In an interview with *Pacific Citizen*, Sanchez acknowledged that in order for real change in political participation to take place, there's "a mind change that needs to occur. Not to look to the government to solve our problems, but as an OPPORTUNITY to solve our problems."

There also needs to be a change in attitude towards politics as a profession, she said. "As our community becomes more professional, we must see public service as a place to be involved...a motivation that public service is a good calling."

But the importance of voting is evident, she said. "It's to protect our civil rights."

1998 Selanoco JACL officers: Ken Inouye, president; Frank Kawase, vice president; Karen-Liane Shiba, recording secretary; Margaret Iba, corresponding secretary; Hiromi Ueha, historian; Evelyn Hanki, membership; Kurtis Nakagawa, insurance; Hiroshi Kamei, 1000 Club; Jun Fukushima, legacy fund; Frank Kawase, B.J. Watanabe, newsletter; Clarence Nishizu, Kurtis Nakagawa, P.C. reps; Hiroshi Kamei, scholarship/awards; Ron Osajima, Todd Hasegawa, programs; B.J. Watanabe, Chibi-nogakko; Devon Nakajo, Tomo-no-lai; Jun Fukushima, treasurer; Brian Ikeda, CSU Fullerton; Ken Inouye, PSW Delegate.

Board of Directors: Mary Ann Foo, Richard Hanki, Nancy Hasse, Dr. Shozo Iba, Charles Iba, Nicole Inouye, Aileen Ishigame-Tao, Kiyoshi Ito, Eric Kawaguchi, Joan Kawase, Mike Kawamoto, Pat Kawamoto, Denise Kim, Jon Kojaku, Henry Kumada, Michael Matsuda, Kirk Nakamura, Aileen Osato, Edwin Shiba, Xuan Vu, June Yamada, Betty Yamashiro, and Dorothy Wing. ■



Gary Mayeda, JACL national vice president of planning and development, and Nicole Inouye of the Selanoco Chapter make special presentations to Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez at the Selanoco installation on Jan. 17. Also pictured is Selanoco Chapter president Ken Inouye (far right).

deal with surrounding her slim election victory over former veteran congressman Robert Dornan. It became a big deal, she said, "but I just wanted to change things. Somehow it got blown up out of proportion."

But she also believes that the majority of her colleagues truly want to make a difference. "In Congress there are still the great heroes of our time," said Sanchez. "Many of them have done what is right and continue to do what is right. They're there because they have taken the time to care. They thought they could change the face of America."

And the face of America is changing, she said, noting that among her colleagues there are approximately 50 women and 20 Latinos. "The face of America is

Soko Bukai lawyers will have a chance to look at various YWCA documents.

At a meeting in San Francisco on Jan. 23-24 the national JACL passed a unanimous resolution in support of the Soko Bukai lawsuit, asking that the YWCA building be transferred back to the Soko Bukai, that the national YWCA bring the case to an amicable ending, and that JACL's more than 115 chapters support the Soko Bukai Legal Defense Fund. The case has the support of a number of JA organizations in San Francisco, including Kimochi and the Japanese American Community and Cultural Center.

"[This case] very much goes to the continuance of racial division and racial issues in our country," said Karen Kai, one of the Soko Bukai attorneys and a board member of Nihonmachi Little Friends. "The building should go back to the JA community and be an asset to us. This is too precious a part of our JA history."

"This isn't just a building," said Robert Rusk, lead attorney for the Soko Bukai. "It's a building built for the JA community and it was used by the community until the internment. These people were trusted to hold the building."

Both Rusk and Kai are disappointed with the national YWCA's failure to take on a larger role in the San Francisco situation. "I think they should be accountable," said Rusk. "This building is local but it falls under national issues."

"This is a national issue for the YWCA," said Kai, "because it falls

directly under their mandate to 'empower women and eliminate racism,' the organization's national mission statement.

Mary Louise Lopez, director of association network services for YWCA of the U.S.A. in New York, said she cannot comment on the position national YWCA has taken regarding the San Francisco location but she noted that each YWCA is incorporated separately.

She admitted that she has only received a few updates on the San Francisco YWCA matter and is just "slightly familiar with the situation." But, she added, "to the extent that we can, we want to help the association resolve the situation amicably."

The San Francisco YWCA has been advised by their lawyers not to comment on the Soko Bukai case but Carol Newkirk, executive director of the San Francisco YWCA, had this statement for the *Pacific Citizen* during a brief phone interview. "We believe that the suit has no merit but we're not commenting at this time."

In a show of support for the Soko Bukai case, the San Francisco Chapter of JACL recently donated \$1,500 to their Legal Defense Fund. Greg Marutani, San Francisco Chapter president, said he's disheartened that a benevolent, Christian organization is showing such disregard for the JA community. "This is more than just a right or wrong legal issue," he said. "The Issei greatly made sacrifices. Just because it's 70 years later, it doesn't mean that the initial intent [of the trust] should be disregarded." ■

DAY OF Remembrance EVENTS

Bill Lann Lee keynoter for Salt Lake City Day of Remembrance

Bill Lann Lee, the Chinese American Civil Rights attorney who received a temporary appointment by President Clinton last December to head the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, will be the keynote speaker for the Day of Remembrance Program in Salt Lake City, Utah, Feb. 19.

Utah's Senator Orrin Hatch had strongly opposed Lee's confirmation to the position, and the president was forced to make the appointment during Congress' recess session. Last November, Hatch's Judiciary Committee had deadlocked on Lee's nomination with a vote of 9 to 9.

The three Utah JACL Chapters (Mt. Olympus, Salt Lake, and Wasatch Front North) will be presenting the Day of Remembrance

program to commemorate the 46th anniversary of the date in which President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 ordering 110,000 people of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast into World War II concentration camps.

The event will be held at Cottonwood High School Auditorium, located close to the intersection of 5600 South and 1300 East. Admission is free, with parking in the north parking lot.

Activities will include a performance by the Ogden Taiko Drummers, a proclamation by Governor Mike Leavitt, and a presentation by the Topaz Museum. The auditorium holds up to 3,000 so those interested are encouraged to bring family and friends. ■

Day of Remembrance events set for Washington area

Various events for the Day of Remembrance in the Washington area have been scheduled. A DOR ceremony sponsored by the JACL Seattle Chapter and the Wing Luke Museum and co-sponsored by the Puallup Valley and Lake Washington Chapters will be held on Feb. 19 at 10:00 a.m. at the Puallup Fair Grounds/ Camp Harmony.

The various guests include former World War II internees and Puallup School District 6th grade students. The speakers will be Mona Locke, Pierce County Executive Doug Southerland, Nisei Veteran Bob Mizukami, Puallup Superintendent Dick Sovde, and Principal Mike Shioji.

Those attending this event should enter through the Gold Gate and the ceremony will take place in the Expo Hall. For more information call Sharon Sobie, 253/639-1682.

During the evening of Feb. 19 a community forum, "Can Internment of Americans Happen Again?" will take place at

the Tacoma Public Library-Main Branch, 1102 Tacoma Ave. S., at 6:30 p.m.

The forum will be moderated by Elsie Yotsuue Taniguchi, Puallup Valley JACL president. Presentations will be made by Caroline Gallacci, Tacoma Historical Society president; Dr. John Kanda, past JACL president and former internee; Robert Maguine, retired NAACP officer; Major General John McElroy, Commander of Military Officer of World Wars; Miyo Uchiyama, former internee; and Nancy Vineberg, executive director, American Jewish Congress.

Author of *Furusato - The History of Tacoma-Pierce County Japanese*, Dr. Ronald E. Magden will be signing his book.

This event is sponsored by the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, the Puallup Valley Chapter, Tacoma Japanese Community Service, Tacoma Community College, Tacoma Historical Society and Tacoma Public Library. ■

Monterey Peninsula to host Day of Remembrance

The JACL Monterey Peninsula Chapter will host the tri-county commemoration of the incarceration of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II, the Day of Remembrance, on Feb. 22.

The event will be held near the site of the Salinas Assembly Center, at Sherwood Park, at 940 North Main Street in Salinas. It will begin at the Memory Garden and commemorative monument erected next to the Salinas Rodeo Grounds horse stables. These stables housed the internees.

The commemoration will continue inside the Salinas Community Center with a presentation by chapter historian, Gordy Miyamoto, and a display of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Internment Project instructional aids. Miyamoto will talk about his research of some declassified documents showing government knowledge of the planned attack on Pearl Harbor and the subsequent suppression of the information. Participating in the observance with the Monterey Peninsula Chapter will be the Salinas Valley, Watsonville, Gilroy, and San Benito Chapters. This is a yearly event in which each of the

five chapters takes its turn in hosting.

The 1998 commemoration is significant in the fact that the Redress Bill expires in August. There are still some issues that need to be resolved, such as redress for the Peruvian Japanese who were incarcerated in the U.S. and the railroad and mine workers who lost their jobs because of their ancestry.

For more information contact Larry Oda, chapter president, at 408/758-7107 during the days and 408/375-3314 in the evenings. ■

Assistant Editor assumes PC editorial command

Assistant editor Caroline Aoyagi has accepted responsibility for editing the *Pacific Citizen* while the search is underway for an executive editor, it was announced by PC Editorial Board chair Mae Takahashi.

While an office manager-administrative assistant is also being sought, Editor emeritus Harry Honda will continue in the management areas with Brian Tanaka, production manager who is on double-duty maintaining the ledger and accounts. ■

SOKO BUKAI

(Continued from page 1)

documents were discovered from the 1920s, YWCA board minutes, that confirmed the existence of a trust with the JA community. In response, the San Francisco YWCA immediately denied the existence of any trust claiming the board minutes were not official for they hadn't been initialized properly.

To try to settle the matter, discussions between the JA community and the YWCA were held for six months, without any progress. At one point the JA community offered to purchase the building for \$12 million but their offer was rejected. And in an unfriendly gesture, the YWCA put its tenants, including the Nihonmachi Little Friends Preschool Program, the only JA tenant, on a month-to-month lease and moved their main administrative offices into the building.

So now the matter is going to court. Last September a lawsuit was filed by the Soko Bukai (the San Francisco Japanese Christian Churches Federation), a group of churches that the original Issei women belonged to and that is still strong within the JA community today. The lawsuit seeks to remove the YWCA as trustee of the Sutter St. building and to transfer its ownership to the church group.

Last November, Judge Laurence Kay dismissed a motion by the San Francisco YWCA to dismiss the case, permitting the lawsuit to go to trial. A court date has yet to be set. Currently, they're conducting a discovery phase during which time the

Community NEWS

An update from the ORA

BY DEDE GREENE

The Office of Redress Administration (ORA) has officially started its close-down process. With less than seven months until August 10, 1996, work is currently underway to resolve remaining claims and outstanding issues.

January deadline. ORA is asking new claimants to file claims no later than the end of January. Staff will guarantee that all claims received before the end of the month will receive a complete review and eligibility determination. ORA will review any claims received after this deadline on a first come, first served basis as time allows.

Responses to Requests for Additional Information. Beginning in February, a deadline will also accompany all requests for additional information. Claimants must respond promptly to correspondence and additional documentation requests from ORA because deadlines will be adhered to in order to provide all remaining claimants with a fair review. If a response within the provided deadline is not received, ORA will not be able to guarantee a final determination on the case.

Railroad Update. The Appellate Section of the Civil Rights Division reversed a decision regarding certain individuals who were held under house arrest due to Federal Government action. As a result, ORA has found similarly situated claimants eligible for redress.

Research and Interviews in Hawaii. ORA Attorney Emlei Kuboyama met with claimants and community leaders on Oahu and Maui to discuss claims in the Puunene and Haiku areas. Ms. Kuboyama conducted several claimant interviews, visited the areas where the claimants resided, and researched historical records at Hawaii facilities. ORA continues to review these issues and hopes to arrive at an eligibility decision soon.

ORA Statistics:	
Number of cases paid:	81,278
Unknown historical records:	2,299
Total ineligible:	1,887

Ineligibility Review. The ineligibility review project is progressing. Staff completed a review of all ineligible cases on file currently with ORA. Several cases were found eligible for redress due to new standards and Appellate reversals. ORA will contact claimants directly if they are found eligible or if more information is needed to complete the review on a case-by-case basis.

Helpline Calls. ORA reminds claimants to call the Helpline to request status updates on their claims. ORA staff will return all calls in a timely manner. You may call the Helpline and leave a message 24 hours a day. The toll-free number is 1-888-219-6900.

Thank you for your support and patience as we begin the close-down phase of the redress program. Please be assured that the ORA staff continues to work diligently to resolve all claims before the sunset date. The ORA values its relationship with the community. We welcome any feedback or suggestions. ■

Panel discussion on Peruvian Japanese to take place March 10

A panel discussion titled, "Peruvian Japanese: Immigration, Community, Politics, Redress" will take place March 10 from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the College of Business Administration, Rm. 140A, California State University, Long Beach.

Topics will include an overview of Japanese immigration to Peru and anti-Japanese movements in the 1930s and during World War II; development and experience of the Japanese Peruvian community; in comparison with the Japanese American community; Peruvian Japanese participation in Peruvian politics; and the status of the Japanese Latin American class action for redress.

The panelists will include Dr. John Tsuchida, Professor and chair of the Asian and Asian American Studies Department at Cal State Long Beach; Luis Yamakawa, a Peruvian Nisei; and Alicia Nishimoto, a Peruvian of Japanese descent who was interned at the Crystal City internment camp during WWII.

The event is sponsored by the Nikkei International Association, in cooperation with the Asian and AA Studies and Chicano and Latino Studies Departments of Cal State Long Beach.

For information call John Kobayashi, 310/676-894. ■

De Saisset museum slates Heart Mountain stories

SANTA CLARA, Calif.—Three more programs follow in conjunction with the "The Heart Mountain Story: Photographs by Hansel Mieth and Otto Hagel of WWII Internment of Japanese Americans" at the De Saisset Museum, Santa Clara University. Bill Hosokawa of Denver was scheduled Feb. 4 to open the series of events on campus.

Peter Irons, constitutional scholar at UC San Diego, will speak Thursday, Feb. 19, at Daly Science 207, lecturing on the significance of EO 9066.

Steve Fugita, Ph.D., SCU psychology department chair, will describe their "Densho Project: a Multimedia Digital Archive" on

Tuesday, March 3, 7 p.m., at the museum.

Historian Mike Mackey, a native of Powell, Wyo., speaks of what it was like growing up near the Heart Mountain "relocation center" on Tuesday, Mar. 10, 7 p.m., at the museum.

Museum is located at 500 El Camino Real on the SCU campus, open Tuesday through Sundays 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; admission to museum and events is free. Info: 408/554-4528. ■

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Around the NATION

Matt Fong announces bid for U.S. Senate

California state Treasurer Matt Fong officially announced his bid for the United States Senate on Jan. 28, the first Republican to do so.

Democratic incumbent Barbara Boxer is expected to announce her decision to run for reelection next month. Other Republicans expected to announce their bid for the seat in the next few weeks are businessman Darrell Issa and Rep. Frank Riggs.

Concentrating on a theme of "breaking down barriers," Fong believes that the economic good times California is currently enjoying can be even better. He is calling for an expansion of school voucher programs that will allow parents to use public monies to send their kids to private schools; he wants to see an end to "good behavior" sentence reductions for some violent criminals; and he plans to push for changes to the current federal tax code.

Fong is the son of Democratic Senator of State March Fong Eu. This is his third race for statewide office in eight years; the last time was in 1994 when he was elected state treasurer. ■

Bill Lann Lee appointment legal or illegal?

The Congressional Research Service stated in a memo in early January that President Clinton's appointment of Bill Lann Lee as acting assistant attorney general for civil rights late last year violates the Vacancies Act, a law dealing with job vacancies requiring Senate approval.

According to the act, only one 120-day period can be served by a person serving in an "acting" capacity. Yet, according to the congressional agency, even this does not apply to Lee, for former acting assistant attorney general Isabelle Pinzler exhausted the allocated time by serving 181 days prior to Lee's appointment.

Thus, the memo goes on to suggest that Lee's nomination should be resubmitted to Congress for confirmation while leaving the civil rights position open for the interim period. At press time, Lee's nomination had yet to be put forward.

The Justice Department has maintained that they neither ignored nor broke any laws. According to the department, the Vacancies Act does not apply because the attorney general in her capacity is allowed to fill in such positions for an unspecified period of time.

The Vacancies Act of 1868 was amended a few years back to emphasize the Senate's prerogative of confirming presidential nominees. ■

UH-Hilo honors 'Scrub' Tanaka

HILO—In mid-December, Hiroshi "Scrub" Tanaka, 82, received a University of Hawaii Board of Regents Medal of Distinction as a community advocate for higher education and economic development on the Big Island.

Onetime Hamakua baseball star and a WWII MIS translator, he supported the transition of UH-Hilo from a two-year to four-year status in the 1960s, knowing a better education was a key for a strong foundation to strengthen the state. A retired insurance executive, he takes pride in his daughter, Diane Matsuoaka, who is school principal on Oahu. —AB

Kao killing will not be pursued, announces DOJ

United States Attorney Michael Yamaguchi announced Jan. 28 that he will not pursue federal criminal civil rights charges against Rohnert Park, Calif. police officer Jack Shields in the shooting of Kuan Chung Kao in Rohnert Park on April 29, 1997.

Kao, a Chinese American engineer, had just come back from celebrating a new job when police officers arrived at his house early in the morning, after Kao's neighbors had complained of an intoxicated man making a disturbance. When Kao approached Shields swinging a long pole, the officer shot him, fearing that he was some kind of martial arts expert. Kao died shortly after.

"Under the applicable statute we would have to prove that Officer Shields used unreasonable force on Mr. Kao, and, additionally, that Officer Shields intended to use unreasonable force on Mr. Kao," said Yamaguchi. "We did not believe that the evidence supported these

elements under the 'beyond a reasonable doubt' standard which is applicable here." The U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division in Washington, D.C. had come to the same conclusion after conducting an independent review.

The Coalition for Justice for the Kao Family expressed their disappointment after hearing the decision. "We are disappointed and yet it's a decision we have expected for a while," said John Burris, lead counsel for the family. "This criminal decision will have no bearing on our determination to seek justice in the civil arena."

"We vow to continue to work on a campaign to bring justice to the Kao family in the coming new year," said Isabel Huie of Chinese for Affirmative Action. Upcoming events include the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights hearings on February 20 in nearby Santa Rosa and a weeklong tribute to Mr. Kao in late April to commemorate the one-year anniversary of his killing. ■

GOP leaders discuss tighter restrictions for voters at winter meeting

In a closed-door session during the recent Republican National Committee (RNC) winter meeting in Palm Springs, Calif., Republican Party leaders discussed a 17-page memorandum prepared by RNC's legal counsel on ways to more closely scrutinize voters' eligibility, reported the Los Angeles Times.

Some of the proposals put forward in the "ballot integrity" plan include placing poll watchers at specific precincts on election day, ways to tighten federal laws on voter registration, and requiring proper photo identification before a ballot can be cast. The report also suggested ways in which a person could report any suspected cases of voter fraud.

GOP leaders stress that they in no way are trying to limit or prevent those persons eligible from voting, and state party officials have yet to decide whether they will support the measures.

Democratic Party officials, responding to the memorandum, say they will fight any such measure put forward by the Republican Party.

"Voting is a right that every American should enjoy without fear of intimidation or retaliation," said Democratic National Committee (DNC) Chair Steve Grossman, in a released statement. "Our founding fathers would abhor Republican attempts to intimidate voters, especially in an age when voter turnout is so low to begin with."

Currently in California, election officials are prohibited from requesting identification or proof of citizenship whether it be in registering to vote or casting a ballot. Also, only the local registrar staff and appointed precinct board members are allowed to challenge a voter at the polls, and their challenge must be based on personal knowledge. But even then, a challenged voter can cast a ballot if he swears under oath that he meets the voter requirements.

Last year Republicans discussed a number of bills that included similar proposals to tighten scrutiny of voters. GOP leaders are currently aiming to present a comprehensive bill on the issue by the end of March. ■

Author-attorney Yamate to be honored at Asian Lunar New Year celebration

CHICAGO—The Japanese American Council will host the 15th annual Asian Lunar New Year Celebration on Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Chicago Hilton & Towers, 720 S. Michigan Ave. The Year of the Tiger program begins with a political forum-reception at 5, dinner and entertainment featuring the Hiroshima band at 6:30.

The annual Japanese American Community Service Award goes to Sandra Yamate, a native Chicagoan, a magna cum laude graduate in history and cum laude in political science from the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign, who received her law degree from Harvard Law School.

In practice for almost 10 years, Yamate is a founding member

and past president of the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Chicago Area; the first central region governor for the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association; executive director with and advisor for the Managing & Hiring Partners of 37 of Chicago's 50 largest law firms on their hiring, retention and promotion to partnership of minority lawyers, and develops programs to assist and support the careers of minority lawyers.

Yamate has worked within the Japanese American community, and is currently president of the Japanese American Service Committee (JASC), and formerly a member of the board of the Chicago JACL Chapter and the JASC Housing Corp. (Heiwa Terrace). ■

Nominations deadline set for April 1

BY BILL YOSHINO

Midwest District Regional Director

The JACL Nominations Committee announced that nominations opened on February 1, 1998, for eight national JACL offices for the 1998-2000 biennium. The offices include President, Vice President for General Operations, Vice President for Public Affairs, Vice President for Planning and Development, Vice President for 1000 Club and Membership Services, Secretary/Treasurer, National Youth/Student Council Chair, and National Youth/Student Council Representative.

Nominations Committee co-chair Kim Nakahara stated, "The committee will work actively to identify a minimum of two qualified candidates for each office. We encourage people to run on the basis of experience, leadership, a qualified background, and a knowledge of the JACL."

The deadline for filing nomination forms is April 1, 1998. Nomination forms, which are being distributed to chapter presidents, should be returned to JACL Headquarters, 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115.

The Nominations Committee co-chairs are Kim Nakahara and Aaron Owada. The district representatives on the committee are Dale Ikeda, Kent Kawai, Jonathan Matsui, Barbara Teraji, Floyd Mori, Neal Taniguchi and April Goral.

1998 NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS GUIDELINES

The following nominations and elections guidelines for National JACL candidates have been developed by the 1998 Nominations Committee and were submitted to the JACL National Board for approval at its meeting on January 24-25, 1998.

1. Composition of the Nominations Committee:

tions Committee: (JACL Constitution & Bylaws, Article VIII, Sec. 1). The Committee shall consist of a Chairperson appointed by the National President, one member of the National Youth/Student Council, and one representative from each of the District Councils to be appointed by the President upon recommendation of the respective District Councils.

2. Responsibilities:

a) Each committee member must be present at the National Convention and not a candidate for a national office or a voting delegate. If the representative is unable to attend the meeting of the Nominations Committee the Governor of the particular district council, or the National Youth/Student Council Chairperson, may recommend a substitute to be appointed by the President. The Nominations Committee Chairperson shall be the presiding officer of the Committee. (JACL Constitution and Bylaws, Article VIII, Sec. 1(a).)

b) Members of the Nominations Committee must remain neutral; campaigning for a candidate will result in removal from the Committee.

c) The Nominations Committee shall receive nominations for national office 90 days prior to the National Convention, April 1, 1998. The Nominations Committee will publish the names of all candidates to each District Council and Chapter. (JACL Constitution and Bylaws, Article VIII, Sec. 1(d) and (e).)

d) The Nominations Committee will meet prior to the first business meeting of the National Convention to prepare the slate of candidates for National Offices for presentation to the National Council. In making up the slate for presentation, the Nominations Committee may name a candidate for an office other than that for which submitted, provided consent for such a change is obtained. (JACL Constitution and Bylaws, Article VIII, Sec. 1(d) and (e).)

e) Following its meeting, the Nominations Committee will meet with the candidates and their campaign chairpersons to explain the campaign guidelines, nominations and elections process.

3. Campaign Guidelines for

Candidates:

a) Endorsements:

i) Advance commitments may be sought by a candidate realizing that it is the official delegate's right to decide whether or not to give an advance commitment. Also, the official delegate has the right to change his/her prior endorsement based on information received at the convention.

ii) No individual's name may be used as an endorsement without his/her explicit permission.

iii) The use of titles, i.e., Past National President, National Vice President, District Governor, Chapter President, etc., may not be used by an individual or candidate in an endorsement.

4. Pacific Citizen

a) All present officers and committee chairs should refrain from articles in the *Pacific Citizen* which endorse or support a specific candidate.

b) The *Pacific Citizen* should not run free ads or articles for candidates. Pre-convention coverage of candidates in the *Pacific Citizen* will be limited to those individuals who file by the April 1, 1998, deadline, and the Nominations Committee will be responsible for the issuance of press releases, candidates' platform statements and articles on candidates for national office. Candidates' paid ads should be within the bounds of the total spending limit. Exceptions to be made with the permission of the Nominations Committee.

5. Nominations and Elections at National Convention:

a) Candidates for National Office must be available to attend the National Convention. This includes participation in the nominations process at the first National Council business session and candidates' forum.

b) Any candidate for youth/student office must meet the youth/student criteria specified in the bylaws and must be a youth/student member in good standing.

c) All candidates must complete an official nominations filing form and be verified by the Nominations Committee.

d) Filing for National Office opens on February 1, 1998, and will close on April 1, 1998, (90 days prior to con-

vention). After that date, additional nominees will not be considered by the Nominations Committee until the National Council convenes and additional nominations may be taken from the council floor. Such nominations from the floor shall include the background information of the nominee as required on the official nomination form and shall be subject to the requirements of endorsement by the majority of the Chapters of the candidates' District Councils. (JACL Constitution and Bylaws, Article VIII, Sec. 1(c).)

e) Nomination forms for candidates from the floor may be signed by the president or delegate of a chapter which has been determined by the credentials committee to be in good standing. Proxy holders may not sign nomination forms for candidates from the floor.

f) A total of 5 minutes will be allotted to each candidate for their nomination, seconding and acceptance speeches.

g) The election will be held on Saturday, July 4, 1998, 6:00 a.m. — 8:00 a.m.

h) A candidate must receive a majority vote to be elected. If there are more than three candidates for an office with no majority, the top two vote-getters will be placed in a run-off election. If there is a tie on the run-off, a vote will continue to be taken until there is a winner.

6. Candidates' Forum:

a) The Nominations Committee is responsible for the Candidates' Forum. The Committee will develop a set of questions to ask each candidate.

7. Voting Procedures:

a) Delegates will report to the voting room at a time and date designated by the Nominations Committee.

b) Each delegate will be verified as an official delegate by the Nominations Committee. The Credentials Committee shall provide the Nominations Committee with a complete list

of voting delegates and authorized proxies by midnight, Friday, July 3, 1998.

c) Upon reporting to the voting room, the Chapter delegate will be verified by a member of the Nominations Committee. In the case where a Chapter has more than one delegate and/or alternates it will be the Chapter's responsibility to coordinate the representatives casting the Chapter's vote. The Nominations Committee will assume that, once verified as a delegate or alternate, the first two Chapter representatives reporting to the Voting Room are the Chapter's designated voters.

d) Each Chapter and Youth/Student Representative shall receive two ballots. Each ballot shall be counted as a vote.

e) Only voting delegates and members of the Nominations Committee shall be allowed in the Voting Room.

f) Campaigning and campaign literature in the Voting Room will not be allowed.

g) The ballots will list the names of the candidates in alphabetical order for each National Office.

h) After voting, the delegates will return their ballot in a sealed envelope to a member of the Nominations Committee.

i) Following the voting process, the Nominations Committee will remain in the Voting Room to tally the ballots. Only members of the Nominations Committee will be allowed in the Voting Room.

j) The Nominations Chairperson will announce the elected officers at the last business session of the national convention, July 4, 1998. The results of the election will be posted after the announcement.

k) In the case of a run-off, the Nominations Committee will prepare a new set of ballots and re-open the Voting Room in order for delegates to vote in the run-off. ■

JACL awards to be presented at Philadelphia convention

In recognition of outstanding services during the past biennium, several JACL awards will be presented to the recipients at the coming JACL National Convention in Philadelphia this July.

Applications and nominating guidelines for the various awards will be sent to every chapter president. The postmark deadline for completed forms is April 1, 1998.

The JACLer of the Biennium Award "recognizes a JACL member who has done the most for the strength and growth of the national organization during the biennium." The work shall be consistent with JACL's Program for Action. This most prestigious award will be presented at the Awards Luncheon.

Every chapter may submit as many candidates as they wish. Districts are limited to three candidates. National JACL elected officers, the Governors/Caucus chair and the Chair of the National Youth Council are not eligible.

In 1956, the first JACLer of the Biennium Award was presented jointly to Abe Hagihara and Jerry Enomoto. Since then, the award has been presented to the following JACLers for their singular service contribution:

1958 Sue Joe (Mrs) and Kumeo Yoshinari; 1960 Joe Kadowaki; 1962 Frank Oda; 1964 Father Clement; 1966 William Marutani; 1968

Takeshi Kubota; 1970 Roy Nishikawa; 1972 Helen Kawagoe; 1974 James K. Tsujimura; 1976 Clifford Uyeda; 1978 Edward M. Yamamoto; 1980 John M. Tateishi; 1982 Min Yasui; 1984 Cherry Kinoshita and Jim Shimomura; 1986 Mary Tsukamoto; 1988 Henry Tanaka; 1990 Art Morimitsu; 1992 Bruce Yamashita; 1994 Not Awarded; 1996 Tom T. Masamori and Mae Takahashi.

A second award, the **George Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Award**, is to promote better citizenship. First prize is \$800 and second prize is \$400. Funds for the awards are raised and administered by the Venice-Culver chapter.

The George Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Award was first presented in 1970 to the Contra Costa chapter and the Fresno and West Los Angeles chapters. Past winners were:

1972 Seattle, Contra Costa and Puyallup; 1974 West Valley, Salt Lake City and Seattle; 1976 Salt Lake City; 1978 Seattle, Sacramento, St. Louis and San Mateo; 1980 Spokane, Contra Costa, West Valley and Detroit; 1982 San Mateo; 1984 Seattle; 1988 Seattle and New York City; 1990 Seattle and San Francisco; 1992 Honolulu and San Jose; 1994 Honolulu; 1996 Florida.

In 1986, National JACL established the **Edison Uno**

Civil Rights Award. This award recognizes outstanding advocacy work with other national civil rights organizations. Each JACL district may submit one candidate from any geographical area. The award was first won by Walt and Mary Woodward. Other recipients of the award were:

1988 Henry Der and James Purcell; 1990 Ralph Neas; 1992 Hon. George Miller, U.S. House of Representatives, and Hon. Rosalie Gould, Mayor, McGehee, Ark.; 1994 Hon. Patrick Johnson, California State Senate, and Glenda Joe; 1996 not awarded.

Individual award recipients will be provided free air travel to the Awards Luncheon at the 1998 National Convention in Philadelphia and one night's accommodation.

National JACL established these awards to show its appreciation for the extraordinary and exemplary service provided during the biennium to further the work of JACL.

Members of the Award/Recognition Committee are: Hid Hasegawa (IDC); Joanne Kumagai (MDC); Travis Nishi (CCDC); Esther Ono (EDC); John Saito (PSWDC); Harvey Watanabe (PNWDC); Hank Tanaka, Chair; and Eunice Kaneko, Staff. Members from the NCWNPD and MPDC are in the process of being recruited. ■

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TATEISHI

(Continued from page 1)

to thousands of JAs.

"It was important that JACL approve and adopt the measure because JACL may be the only organization on a national level that has the resources to bring to this campaign its much needed last minute approach," said Mayeda.

To date, more than 80,000 JAs who suffered through the internment camps of World War II have received redress as a result of the 1988 Act. But there are still thousands of JAs who have yet to get their reparations and an apology from the United States government.

Two such groups are the Japanese Latin Americans kidnapped from their homes in South America and forced into American internment camps in exchange for U.S. prisoners, and the railroad and mining workers unfairly fired from their jobs at the outset of WWII simply because of their ancestry.

More than 145 former railroad and mining workers and their families have applied for redress so far but all of their applications have been denied by the ORA. Their requests have been rejected, according to the ORA, because a document clearly showing that the U.S. government ordered the firings of the workers has yet to be found. Although research efforts by JACL and other organizations and individuals have been meticulously conducted, this "smoking gun" document remains elusive.

The Japanese Latin Americans seem to have made more headway in their fight for redress. More than a year ago, with the help of Campaign for Justice, a class action lawsuit was filed, seeking to include JAs in the 1988 Civil Liberties Act. A hearing date is scheduled for Feb. 13 at the Federal Court of Claims in Washington D.C. but the

government has already filed a motion to dismiss the claim.

With frequent trips to Washington D.C. to lobby members of Congress and continued efforts to educate the public about the JAs' quest for redress, their main goal is to convince Clinton to support their lawsuit. A number of politicians, including Representatives Robert Matsui and Patsy Mink, have already signed a letter asking Clinton to support the JAs. The Campaign for Justice's next trip to D.C. will be on Feb. 11-19 and a Day of Lobbying will be held on Feb. 12.

So far, a technicality in the 1988 Civil Liberties Act has hindered the Japanese Latin Americans' efforts to receive redress. According to the ORA, you must have been a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident at the time of the internment and, having been kidnapped from their home countries, JAs were not.

"I think this is a really valuable contribution that JACL is making," said Campaign for Justice's Grace Shimizu of JACL's decision to hire Tateishi as a consultant in their redress efforts. "The timing is right at such a critical point and it may make the difference."

Although many politicians have expressed sympathy towards the JAs, said Shimizu, so far tangible efforts to help them receive redress have yet to be made. "When we talk to government officials they say they're sympathetic, but that their hands are tied," she said. "But they have to develop the political will to make this happen. We need the words and sentiments translated into action."

Shimizu's father, Susumu, is one of the oldest surviving JLA former internees at age 91, and it's for him and the thousands like him that she cannot stop fighting for redress. It is her wish that they finally see redress during their lifetime. "There's a glimmer of hope that we may actually win this," she said. ■

Summary of Jan. 23-24 Nat'l Board meeting motions

1. To adopt the agenda as amended

Made by: Tom Kometsani, Seconded: Elaine Akagi; Vote: unanimous

2. Harvard Redress Case Study

Motion: To recognize George Aratani and Minabi Kurasaki's contribution towards the reproduction of the Harvard Case Study.

Made by: Kometsani, Seconded: David Kawamoto; Vote: unanimous

3. Youth

Motion: To accept the youth council report.

Made by: Akagi, Seconded: Rick Uno; Vote: unanimous

4. Legal counsel

Motion: To accept the legal counsel report.

Made by: Uno, Seconded: Lori Fujimoto; Vote: unanimous

5. Redress strategy

Motion: To go forward with the proposal as written.

Made by: David Hayashi, Seconded: Kawamoto; Vote: unanimous

6. APA Coalition

Motion: To join the National Coalition of Asian Pacific American Organizations and to pay the membership fee of \$500.

Made by: Fujimoto, Seconded: Hayashi; Vote: unanimous

7. Washington State Initiative

Motion: JACL will write a letter to Governor Gary Locke of Washington commending his stance on affirmative action and asking for his continued support.

Made by: Akagi, Seconded: Kometsani; Vote: unanimous

8. Resolution to support change in immigration and minimum wage policies of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)

Motion: To adopt the resolution as amended and propose action items for the next board meeting.

Made by: Fujimoto, Seconded: Uno; Vote: unanimous

9. UN English-only initiative

Motion: To receive the report.

Made by: Hayashi, Seconded: Fujimoto; Vote: unanimous

10. Staff priorities

Motion: That the National Board adopt the program and organizational priorities, and the Pacific Citizen Issues, for 1998 as submitted and discussed and further, to empower the national director to revise these priorities within the parameters of the program for action and adopted resolutions, and focus staff time and office resources accordingly.

Made by: Gary Mayeda, Seconded: Fujimoto; Vote: Grace Kimoto, Kometsani, and Hayashi abstaining

11. JACL's 70th anniversary

Motion: To form a committee to study a 70th anniversary celebration.

Made by: Kometsani, Seconded: Kawamoto; Vote: unanimous

12. Year-end financials

Motion: To accept the year-end 1997 actuals.

Made by: Hayashi, Seconded: Larry Grant; Vote: unanimous

13. Health Insurance Committee

Motion: To accept the ad-hoc committee to study Health Insurance benefits.

Made by: Karen-Liane Shiba, Seconded: Uno; Vote: unanimous

14. Proposed changes to the reserve fund

Motion: To receive the reserve fund policy and to authorize the finance committee to draft the actual amendments to the bylaws to be presented at the convention.

Made by: Hayashi, Seconded: Nishi; Vote: unanimous

15. Budget committee

Motion: That the executive committee serve as the official 1999-2000 budget committee.

Made by: Hayashi, Seconded: Emilee Kutsuma; Vote: unanimous

16. National Board / Staff Retreat

Motion: For the National Board and staff to meet as soon as possible after the Biennial Convention for a Board/Staff retreat.

Made by: Kometsani, Seconded: Kutsuma; Vote: unanimous

17. Proposal of the Governors' Caucus to set up a Washington D.C. Internship Program in honor of Grayce and Hiroshi Uyebara.

Motion: Now therefore be it resolved that the National Board institute a ten-week summer internship program in the JACL Washington D.C. office in honor of Grayce and Hiroshi Uyebara by providing an annual stipend up to \$3,000.

Be it further resolved, that the Grayce and Hiroshi Washington D.C. Internship Program be announced at the 1998 Biennial Convention in Philadelphia in a special ceremony recognizing their important contributions to National JACL.

Made by: Kometsani, Seconded: Kutsuma; Vote: unanimous

18. Sumitomo VISA Affinity Card

Motion: To accept the new Sumitomo VISA Affinity Card new rates pending legal counsel review.

Made by: Uno, Seconded: Kometsani; Vote: unanimous

19. Merchant credit card

Motion: To receive the merchant credit card report and to refer the Sumitomo contract to legal counsel for review and empower the national director to sign the contract if so approved or recommended by legal

counsel.

Made by: Shiba, Seconded: Uno; Vote: unanimous

20. Pacific Citizen report

Motion: To receive the Pacific Citizen report submitted by Mae Takahashi.

Made by: Uno, Seconded: Kometsani; Vote: Larry Grant abstaining

21. Nominations guidelines

Motion: To accept the recommendations of the Nominations Committee with amendments.

Made by: Uno, Seconded: Shiba; Vote: Mayeda, Kimoto against

22. Convention 2000 bid by Monterey Peninsula Chapter

Motion: To accept the bid contingent upon renegotiation of room rates.

Made by: Hayashi, Seconded: Kutsuma; Vote: unanimous

23. Koden Policy

Motion: To accept the policy of JACL contributing koden in memory of a deceased friend, volunteer, staff person or parents of staff with the deletion of the duplication for the National Board.

Made by: Uno, Seconded: Kimoto; Vote: unanimous

24. LEC redress history project

Motion: Therefore, let it be resolved that the National Board approve the JACL-LEC redress history project as a program, and that the National Board recommend that the National Council allocate up to \$57,500 in the 1998 budget to implement the immediate work of the oral history phase, and collection and cataloging of historical documents.

That the final phase of the project will cost approximately \$203,000 and while outside funding sources will be sought, the National Council will be asked to approve the necessary funding within the 1999-2000 budget.

Made by: Uno, Seconded: Shiba; Vote: Alan Nishi against

25. YWCA Soko Bukai

Motion: Therefore be it resolved that the JACL will support transferring the property to the Soko Bukai in order to fulfill the trust.

That the JACL will petition the National YWCA to assist in the resolution of the lawsuit in favor of the Soko Bukai; and that the JACL will encourage its chapters to support the Soko Bukai Legal Defense Fund.

Made by: Fujimoto, Seconded: Akagi; Vote: unanimous

26. Promotion and endorsement policy

Motion: That the National Board approve promotion of non JACL issues, products, or activities, pending review of legal counsel.

Made by: Mayeda, Seconded: Kutsuma; Vote: unanimous

Blue Shield health plans for California JACL members

Blue Shield of California offers group health care coverage to JACL members age 18 and over who reside in California. Choose from three plans: AccessSM HMOSM, Blue Shield PPO and Shield 65. Each has a wide range of benefits, including vision care, worldwide emergency coverage, dental care, prescription drug benefits and more. For more information about these plans, call the JACL Group Health Trust Administrator today at 1-800-400-6633.

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

I understand JACL membership is required to obtain this coverage.

Mail to: JACL
Group Health Trust
1255 Post Street, Suite 805
San Francisco, CA 94109

Blue Shield of California
an independent member
of the Blue Shield Association

JACL-LEC redress history project

(Continued from page 1)

to show our appreciation." She added, "A lot of that is what has influenced me and motivated me to get involved in the organization."

Grace Uyebara, past JACL-LEC Executive Director, agreed that it was Inouye's honest statements in favor of the redress project that helped to sway the vote. "Her passion about the redress victory made the difference to get the national board's support to document the redress saga."

But with so many of the key players from the campaign passing away, there's a real urgency to get the redress history project started, said Uyebara. "At this late stage we have already lost some major stories to learn about what drove leaders of redress, such as Senator Spark Matsunaga and Minoru Yasui, to fight with such focus and ferocity for redress," she said. "There are many others who are no longer with us. Each reading of the Pacific Citizen obituary list informs us that the redress campaign coordinators and supporters are a fast disappearing group."

Alan Nishi, NCWNP Governor, believes that the JACL-LEC Re-

dress History Project is important but his concerns over the possible negative fiscal impact on the organization's bottom line influenced him to vote against it, the only board member to do so.

"I think this is a good program and an important program," said Nishi. But, "there needs to be a little more accountability, fiscal responsibility, on the part of the board. The part that's not being addressed is the impact on the fiscal budget," said the former national treasurer.

The 1998 budget was already approved and passed by the national council during the 1996 convention, said Nishi. If \$57,500 is now allocated to start the initial phase of the redress project, JACL will have a deficit 1998 budget. There's also the added concern, he said, that even though JACL has a surplus budget right now, with the national board's recent decision to hire a redress consultant and the possibility that currently open staff positions will be filled, that surplus could quickly disappear.

These are some of the considerations that should have been looked at more closely before a de-

cision to approve the LEC Redress History Project was passed, said Nishi. "From past experience, we've had surplus budgets before and they disappear really quick."

There is no doubt that a number of JA organizations contributed to the successful redress campaign, said Gary Mayeda, national vice president of planning and development. Groups such as the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations (NCRR) and the National Council for Japanese American Redress (NCJAR), and many others who have already told their redress stories. Now it's time to tell JACL's story, said Mayeda.

"JACL needs to get its story out there," he said. "It's important for JACL to tell how they were involved in redress... to have a balanced representation from many of the different JA organizations."

But the ultimate decision will be made by the national council when they come together this July, said Mayeda. "It's a membership based organization and it's important for the national council to vote, and take ownership of important JACL programs." ■



From the Frying Pan

Three of a Kind: Tsutakawa, Yamazaki, Nakashima

By Bill Hosokawa

"IN a world where talent, generosity and indomitable spirit do not always count for much, George Tsutakawa's life and career are a graceful reminder that sometimes they do."

That is how Robin Updike, art critic of the *Seattle Times*, began her obituary of one of the Nisei world's most distinguished artists. A Seattle-born Kibei, Tsutakawa was you probably know by now, died last year at age 87.

He was famed for his bronze fountains — 18 in Seattle and some 60 around the world — which combined the beauty of form (often massive) with the pleasure of the sight and sounds of cascading water. But he also won acclaim for his delicate brush paintings of shrimp and lobsters and other forms of sea life. For all his fame, he never forgot his humble beginnings as the fourth child of a family that operated a small food market. At age 7 he was sent to Japan to live with his grandmother and he did not return to his native land until he was 17.

For some miraculous reason Seattle produced three Nisei artists of enormous talents who,

born in humble circumstances to immigrant families, overcame the harsh aspects of prewar Japanese American life and brought beauty to the world. Now they are all gone.

The first to go was Minoru Yamazaki, architect. His Issei father supported his family as a railroad station redcap. Minoru worked summers in Alaska salmon canneries and unpacking cases of chinaware from Japan to help finance his education.

Unable to find work in Seattle, he moved to New York before the war. Perhaps the most eye-catching of the buildings he designed are the soaring twin towers of the World Trade Center which distinguish the Lower Manhattan skyline, but more delicate and beautiful buildings he designed are to be found in various parts of the world. Yamazaki, unfortunately, died in his prime as an architect.

Next was George Nakashima, an artist whose medium was the exotic woods that he shaped into furniture which graced the homes of those who treasured and could afford the beauty of fine craftsmanship. Nakashima's father was a newspaper editor, which tells you that the family was not

well-to-do. George spent some of the summers of his youth as a railroad section hand. After earning a fine arts degree he went to France as a student, designed and built a monastery in India, and was just getting started as a furniture craftsman in Seattle when war came. He re-established his shop in New Hope, Pa., assembled a staff that shared his love of beauty and dedication to craftsmanship, and the rest is artistic history.

How did it happen that three Nisei from Seattle, with a relatively small Nisei population, went on to achieve world class stature in professions that brought beauty to the lives of millions of Americans?

I don't know. Was it the plentiful rainfall? Certainly it was not the social environment which was little different from that elsewhere on the Pacific Coast. Perhaps if the reason were known, we would understand the meaning and the essence of the American dream.

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



East Wind

By Bill Marutani

Ohn-Gae-Shi

A MONG CON- CEPTS

passed along by Issei forbears to their Nisei progeny is one known as "ohn-gae-shi." It's written with two *hanji's* (Chinese characters): "ohn" (kindness, goodness, favor, blessing) and "gae" (return, "payment back, requital") — plus the *hiragana* (cursive Japanese kana) "shi." The concept is steeped in a sense of moral obligation; thus, passage of time, such as legally established defense of "statute of limitations," does not operate to dissolve the obligation.

A CLASSIC EXAMPLE that comes to mind is that of George "Callahan" Inagaki, a past two-term JACL National President and the founder of the JACL 1000 Club. Along with some 115,000 other Nisei residing in the Pacific Coast states, in 1942 the Inagaki family was herded into barbed-wire camps. After military intelligence service in the Pacific, George returned to his home state of California to pick up whatever shattered pieces that remained, seeking to reestablish his life. In the course of so doing, George paid off debts which had been incurred before the war, not by him but rather by his now-deceased father. There was no legal obligation on son George to pay off such debts; further, the statute of limitations would have barred any legal claim that otherwise may have existed.

But George paid them off, as a matter of honor. That's ohn-gae-shi.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE of this moral precept at work is the continuing project of the NSRC Fund (National Student Relocation Commemorative Fund) which, without fanfare, for the past 15 years has been awarding cash scholarships to Southeast Asian refugee high

school graduates. Over the years, the NSRC Fund has awarded \$127,000 to some 207 Southeast Asian students, the most recent award ceremonies having been held last year in San Diego at which time 15 Southeast Asian students were awarded \$1,000 each. The guest speaker at that occasion was San Diego Municipal Court Judge Lillian Lim.

THE IMPETUS for NSRC Fund's ohn-gae-shi was and is the moral and material support extended from 1942 to Nikkei college students by concerned groups, led by the American Friends Service Committee. Some 4,300 Nisei college students were thereby able to replace barbed-wire confinement with academic challenges of campus life. Looking beyond the Nikkei community, the Fund's unselfish reaches out to a segment of our Asian community not otherwise addressed. Thus the San Diego awards included three Cambodians, three Hmong, two Lao and seven Vietnamese students. The criteria for selection involve an essay, need, work experience and community service. These "bread cast upon the waters" surely have promoted, and will continue to promote, inter-community sense of brotherhood and oneness. Thereby some of the spirit that initially gave rise to the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council, from which so many Nisei benefitted, is being remembered and perpetuated.

The charitable operations of the NSRC Fund are staffed by volunteers operating out of modest quarters at 19 Scenic Drive, Portland, Connecticut 08480.

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



Very Truly Yours

Teaching Tolerance with a Nikkei angle

By Harry K. Honda

ROOSEVELT High School's "Garden of Honor" in Los Angeles' Boyle Heights in a feature story by Maria Fleming and longtime Philadelphia JACLer Teresa Maebori's "Overtures of Friendship" is up front in the Ideas Exchange section of the Spring '98 magazine, *Teaching Tolerance*, a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center. The full-color 66-page publication came in the mail several weeks ago and, no doubt, was received by many other JACL families who contribute to the Montgomery, Ala.-based organization.

In a cover letter, SPLC executive committee chair Morris Deen announced over 600,000 teachers in all parts of America had received this issue free because of support like ours.

What caught our attention (and to tell our readers) was seeing Teresa's name first and then learning of a program she had instituted. "Fourteen years ago, I watched with outrage as a class at our school performed a skit mimicking people with cerebral palsy and mental retardation. There we were, a Quaker school priding ourselves on teaching and living the Friends principle of unreserved respect for all individuals, yet our children were mocking those who were different."

Since then, Teresa continues, the 3rd and 4th graders at Friends School collaborate with the HMS School for Children with Cerebral Palsy in West Philadelphia on a musical performance. To prepare her kids, parents who are doctors and therapists are enlisted to speak about the condition. Each January, she gets together with an HMS teacher to pair the youngsters and arrange their first meeting for the combined performance staged at both schools in May.

During subsequent rehearsals her children communicate with HMS children who can't speak, through eye contact and touch. "Before long, apprehension is replaced by enthusiasm." It didn't take long

for her children to discover that.

"That first year we presented an original play, 'On the Other Side of the Fence.' Music therapist Andrea Green, who wrote the musical, also directed the production. In the play, animals from two farms are separated by a fence. They persuade the farmers to take the fence down and, in the process of working together, the farmers become friends.

"Each child had a part: singing, tapping an instrument, dancing in a wheelchair. Some of the HMS children used gestures and facial expressions to convey the songs' messages; others used headsticks to press buttons on their touch-talk computers. Throughout the years we have performed five other musicals focusing on friendship and differences.

"We plan to continue this collaboration, which has taught both groups of children what they have in common is more than how they differ (the italics are ours)."

I never expected such a heart-warming story in the mail about a longtime JACLer. It was also a timely reminder that her chapter is hosting the National JACL convention, July 1-5, at the Sheraton Society Hill Hotel, in downtown Philadelphia. ITS 20 WEEKS AWAY! Reservations can be made via ITT-Sheraton Worldwide (U.S.), 800-325-3535.

THE history and lessons imparted in Maria Fleming's descriptive piece about a "Garden of Honor," the Japanese garden planted two years ago by Latino students at Roosevelt High School, blossom throughout with sketches and haiku with a Spanish translation by 11th graders.

Students "stumbled upon" the disturbing fact (that Japanese Americans at RHS 50 years earlier) never got the chance to graduate because they were interned in prison camps during World War II while studying their school history for a school

project. In the course of interviews with alumni and through pages of the yearbooks of 1941-42, the students found their school once boasted a lovely Japanese garden, which had cherry trees and Japanese pine. "It was a typical Japanese garden with a waterfall, a pond and a bridge," recalled Jun Yamamoto, class of '41. During the war years the garden was destroyed. "No one knows exactly how or when, but it happened," Principal Henry Ronquillo said. The original site is now occupied by an auto shop.

Ronquillo, himself an alumnus of Roosevelt High, remembered as "a deeply emotional event" the reunion when graduates who missed their graduation because of internment in the "relocation centers" returned in May 1995 to receive their diplomas after 50 years. It was that celebration which swelled a group of students to build the garden in 1996. Bruce Kaji ('44) and Yamamoto launched a fund-raising effort that garnered \$30,000 needed to restore the garden, now a smaller 600 sq. ft. oasis. It was dedicated in October 1996.

Retired landscape architect Yosh Kuroki, assisted by Ken Nagao and Ko Endo, contractors and suppliers, donated services and materials. Cherry trees, azaleas, Japanese black pine and a ginkgo tree, a small bridge over a dry pond of granite pebbles and a meandering pathway and several benches draw students to take snapshots with friends. Some teachers use the garden to bring students there to write haiku.

Ronquillo hopes the garden dispels some of the negative stereotypes of East L.A. Fleming adds: "The project has already sown seeds of understanding among students and enabled empathy to take root." That was the intent of Nisei "Rough Riders" in the mid-Thirties when the first Japanese garden was dedicated. Today, Mexican American roots have enlivened the garden. ■



Voice of a Sansei

By Akemi Kayleng

A place for the Nisei

I'LL never feel right about the way I handled (perhaps I should say, mishandled) my technical career. There were some gaping holes, areas of non-achievement there were never filled. Take computer systems engineering, for example. I'm nothing more, than a straight applications programmer. For those of you non-technical folks, that's like saying, I'm very clever at driving my car, but if it breaks down, I can't fix it. I don't feel good about that. I regard it as one of my personal failures.

My problem was, there were just too many other things that had to be done. And Steve is so good at that stuff, he was always able to handle that aspect of our home computer for me. Were he not a computer engineer, I would've been forced to grow into that area. But things didn't go that way.

"Don't feel bad about that," Steve says. "With the time which was freed by not having to do systems engineering, you did lots of other stuff."

Now I'm growing into new worlds of business and finance and legal matters. Even at this earliest inception stage, I can see my ultimate limitations. No matter how wise I may someday be about the law and accounting, the bottom line is, I'll never be an attorney or CPA. Just as with computer engineering, there are some worlds I will never grow into. My resources are limited. I will never have the infinite time and talent and emotional stamina to master my new world as completely as I'd like to. I'll never be

happy about that, and I want the people in my new world to accept these limitations as well as Steve accepts my total ignorance of systems engineering.

We are entering a new era as Japanese Americans of the rapidly approaching 21st century. Possibilities which would have been inconceivable years ago are now wide open.

And as we enter this new world, I'm picking up uneasy feelings among some Nisei. These folks aren't young anymore, and no longer have boundless energy for unlimited growth. They will never be the full citizens of the 21st century, which their Hapa Yonsei grandchildren will be. Some Nisei fear this post-Rodney era, wondering how their failure to change completely will be regarded.

I don't know about other postwar generation leaders and can speak only for myself. I can accept the limited changes in the Nisei, the way Steve accepts my limited computer skills. The way I hope people I have yet to meet in my new world will accept my limited financial and legal expertise.

I've done good and will continue to do good in spite of my limitations. Similarly, the old Nisei will always be contributing to our community, even though they won't be as modern as the Yonsei.

There will always be a place for the Nisei in the 21st century, just as there are places in this world for those who could never restore a crashed computer system. ■

Akemi is president of the San Fernando Valley chapter.
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Voices-P.C.'s readers speak out

From theory to practice

BY MIKA TANNER

I WANT to respond to Nathan Balderrama's editorial, "Who is out of touch?" that appeared in the Jan. 23 issue of the *Pacific Citizen*. For the most part, I agree with his viewpoint that the JACL and the *Pacific Citizen* tend to view young people as if "we're a different kind of Japanese than you are." By and large, the JACL, the P.C., and most Japanese American community organizations in general have not fully realized that young people, rather than being the "future" of the community, are the community. We are members of the community now, at this moment, not just sometime in the vague and distant future.

Rather than strategizing on how to reach this audience sometime down the road, pondering this question endlessly in conferences, panel discussions, and articles, these organizations need to recognize that the best way to encourage the involvement of young people is to give them the voice and the authority to make change. That is, encourage them to take positions of leadership, make changes, share different perspectives, and push the envelope a little.

The views of young people and some of the issues that they deal with may make some of the old guard uncomfortable at times, but there is no avoiding this. Relinquishing control and passing on the reins may also be difficult. However, this does not mean that the contributions and the perspectives of the old guard will be forgotten or no longer taken into account. Experience should still be valued and respected; it is this experience that will teach and inform us in the years to come.

Another thing that seems to happen quite frequently is that younger people are given an opportunity to voice their opinions, but ultimately, their concerns and viewpoints are ignored for fear of angering the more established, traditional constituency. It is not

fair to solicit the opinions and contributions of JA youth and then, so as not to rock the boat, not take these opinions seriously. It is only natural that the community will have varying and often opposing perspectives; we're all different, after all.

I realize that it's often more complicated than I make it sound; politics are a part of every community. But it must be seen that, although young people may not have the 40 years of experience that many of you do, and may not have the financial support to provide towards various causes and campaigns, we are an important, living, breathing, contributing and ultimately, undeniable part of Japanese America.

Another point that Balderrama brings up is how the JACL tends to concentrate their recruitment efforts on the educated middle class. I can't help but agree with this, as I have rarely seen JA organizations recognize the existence of a JA lower-income working class. I don't want to go so far as saying that the community has bought into the "model minority" myth, but it is, as Balderrama points out, telling that most of the suggestions I have seen for attracting youth into JA organizations have been to coordinate with colleges and universities, or to organize professional "career day" conferences. Unless the JACL and other similar organizations realize that a person's potential to become a contributing member of the community is not limited by education, age, or income, then the future looks pretty dim.

To be fair, I think that the JACL and the larger JA community recognize this on a theoretical level. However, it is a much harder thing to make changes happen. It takes commitment, trust, and a respect for new perspectives, not to mention real and tangible action. I am happy to say that I have seen some of this happening already, but there is still a long way to go. ■

NISEI Project tops Education Committee Agenda

Utilizing a grant from the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, the National JACL Education Committee is moving forward with their NISEI (National Initiative to Secure the Education of Incarceration) project. The project will disseminate the JACL's education guide, *A Lesson in American History: The Japanese American Experience*, to at least five sites outside of the West Coast.

To plan and coordinate the project, and conduct other business, the Education Committee gathered at the JACL National office in San Francisco Jan. 24-25. Present were committee chair Carol Kawamoto (San Diego), PNW Governor Elaine Akagi (Seattle), National JACL Secretary/Treasurer David Hayashi (Twin Cities), Dr. Sharon Ishii-Jordan (Omaha), Teresa Maebori (Philadelphia), Greg Marutani (San Francisco), Dr. Izumi Taniguchi (Fresno), Daniel Teraguchi (Pocatello-Blackfoot), Na-

tional Director Herb Yamashita, JACL intern Jaclyn Kuwada, and Lloyd Kajikawa of the Japanese American National Museum.

The first educational workshop is scheduled for Feb. 8 and will be hosted by the Arizona Chapter at their office in Glendale. Carol Kawamoto and Greg Marutani will facilitate the workshop with support from the chapter. Additional workshops, to be held during the first half of 1998, are still in the planning stages. Proposed sites include Denver, Pocatello, Salt Lake City, Minneapolis, Albuquerque, Chicago, Omaha, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Detroit, and Atlanta.

Jaclyn Kuwada has been instrumental in establishing contact with regional JACL chapters to schedule these workshops. Any chapter (outside of the Pacific Coast states) interested in hosting a workshop should contact Kuwada at National JACL headquarters. ■

Asian students' dreams fade

HONOLULU—As American education is becoming an unaffordable luxury for Asian students, schools across the U.S. face the prospect of losing those caught in the Asian financial crisis. Joon Hong, a University of Hawaii student and a year short of earning a degree in travel industry management, packed his bags in mid-January and was going home to his native Korea on Jan. 18.

The value of South Korea's

monetary unit, *won*, was cut in half and his parents can no longer afford to pay his tuition. His brother and many of their friends were also gone.

Nearly 40,000 South Koreans study in the United States. An additional 113,000 students from Hong Kong, China, Indonesia and Japan, according to the Institute of International Education.

At UH, almost 1,100 of the 1,347 foreign students were from Asia. ■

DID YOU HEAR THE LATEST? THE NETWORK PRE-EMPTED THE "LASSIE" RERUN TO ANNOUNCE A BITCH IN HEAT SNUCK THRU THE FENCE AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

WOOF! SHE AND BUDDY WILL PROBABLY MAKE THE COVERS OF NEWSWEEK AND TIME. MAYBE EVEN NAMED PETS OF THE MONTH IN PENTHOUSE!

I BET LINDA TRIPP'S GOT ALL THE BARKING AND YELLING ON TAPE.

Pete Hirabayashi 2/4/96
shiratsubo@aol.com

Letters to the Editor

WWII monuments, which one?

JACL is well aware of the unpayable debt, or *gimu* obligation that Japanese Americans owe to men of the 100th-442nd Infantry and MIS. It was their outstanding war record that enabled our organization to achieve success after success in crusades for justice for ourselves and our Issei parents.

That is why it seems ungrateful to officially support the National Patriotism monument in Washington, D.C. memorial without mentioning the only one that enshrines the JA soldiers to whom we owe so much—the 100-442 MIS (Go for Broke) monument in Los Angeles. The reason for this prejudicial treatment should be explained for both monuments were endorsed at the 1996 National JACL convention in San Jose. The P.C. should encourage members to express themselves and lay to rest criticism that the P.C. unfairly suppresses opinions that do not agree with the JACL leadership. Because the P.C. is the only JA periodical with national coverage, it is imperative to maintain its independence from censorship and reflect the concerns of our widely scattered communities. That was the major purpose for its founding over six decades ago and it still remains!

Grassroot JAs should be fully informed about these monuments in order to make an intelligent decision.

Mas Odoi
Renton, Wash.

In our opinion, it is now a matter of choice, not one over the other and to show generous support for these and other monuments in tribute to Japanese American contributions during World War II that re-strengthens our ranks for the coming millennium. Perceptions that JACL leadership exerts any kind of "censorship" is a *prima facie* sign of ignorance for the content in the publication is well defined as the "editor's function." (See "The 40-year road for P.C. Editor still bumpy," by Bill Hosokawa, 1997 Holiday Issue, page 25.)—HKH

'Confession is good for the soul'

I always enjoy Bill Hosokawa's column, and his recent examinations of his own perceptions and reactions to "race" are both courageous on his part and enlightening for readers. Were I the "black man" whose qualifications Hosokawa momentarily doubted (Nov. 21-Dec. 18 P.C.) and had he apologized to me, I might have said something like this.

"I appreciate your honesty, but don't be so hard on yourself. The same thoughts go through my mind, and why shouldn't they? After decades of affirmative action, how could anyone think otherwise?"

William Wethored
Abiko (Chiba-ken), Japan

Author's son grateful for judge's kind words

As a Sansei Japanese American, I want to publicly recognize and thank Judge Thomas A. Haven for his letter to my mother, Monica K. Sone regarding her book, *Nisei Daughter*. Judge Haven is the district judge of the Lower Kittitas County District Court in Ellensburg, Washington.

His letter was a deeply moving expression of one person extending himself to another person regarding a very painful period of American history. Judge Haven deserves recognition for his powerful and yet very simple gesture of connecting with my mother.

Both Judge Haven and my mother clearly illustrate that human growth, although difficult at times, is a direct result of individuals willing to learn and stretch themselves.

Human growth is also fostered by Americans like Judge Haven connecting with other Americans like my mother. Such connections represent the great spiritual strength of our American democracy. They are teachers to us all without intending to be teachers to us all.

What is hopeful about America? Judge Thomas A. Haven and Monica K. Sone are what is hopeful about America!

Philip G. Sone
Ph.D., J.D.
Canton, Ohio

Following is the letter Judge Thomas A. Haven wrote to Ms. Sone.

Dear Mrs. Sone:

Several days ago I finished reading *Nisei Daughter*. This letter is to tell you how much I enjoyed your book and to thank you for sharing your insights with the reading public.

Several years ago, my wife Sara and I put together a show of photographs taken by photographers hired by the War Relocation Authority which document the consequences of Executive Order 9066 in California, Oregon and Washington. The show is generally based on the book *Executive Order 9066* by Richard and Maisie Conrat. The show is located in the hallway outside of the courtroom. It will remain in place for as long as I am a judge here in Kittitas County.

During the process of putting together this show, I was able to gain some insight into the events surrounding the internment and the effect Executive Order 9066 upon Japanese Americans. However, while I had heard and read accounts from persons who experienced the effects of Executive Order 9066, your moving book has helped me understand much more about how it felt to be a young Japanese American citizen in Seattle at the time of Executive Order 9066. Thank you for helping me to more fully understand this important time in our history.

I don't know if you ever return to Seattle to visit friends or family, but if you do, I would like very much to meet you. Again, thank you for your wonderful book. While it has been forty-four years since your book was first published, it remains a powerful and important work.

Medal of Freedom undeserved, agrees with Hosokawa

We could not agree more with Bill Hosokawa (Jan. 23 P.C.) about the undeserved honor bestowed on Fred Korematsu. We have always maintained that Korematsu is not in the same class as Min Yasui and Gordon Hirabayashi. Both Yasui and Hirabayashi made public, straightforward attacks on evacuation.

We wonder how Dale Minami, Herb Yamashita and Bob Mateui can give such undeserved credit to a person who tried to avoid evacuation, not for principle, but for purely personal reasons. He changed his name to Clyde Sarah, he claimed to be Spanish-Hawaiian, and he had unsuccessful plastic surgery in an attempt to alter his appearance so that he did not appear to be Japanese. All these actions in the hope that he could remain in the evacuated area. His was not a straightforward attack on evacuation. He wanted to stay with his non-Japanese girlfriend.

You have to read *Justice at War* by Peter Irons to judge Korematsu's true motives. He did not come forward publicly to defy evacuation. He had to be picked up by the FBI.

Korematsu does not deserve the honor bestowed on him by President Clinton. If anyone deserves this type of honor, it should have been Min Yasui or Gordon Hirabayashi. Since Yasui has passed away, Gordon Hirabayashi should have been the first choice.

Fred Y. Hirayama
Fresno, CA

'Against All Odds'

Please thank Mr. Aratani and Mr. Hirabayashi for their sponsoring of the insert. Your decision to include the reprint is greatly appreciated. It is an excellent review of the political process and a tribute to the persistence of the individuals who made the campaign a success.

William Salmon

Pacific Citizen

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* "Voices" reflect the active, public discussion within JACL of a wide range of ideas and issues, requiring clear presentation though they may not reflect the viewpoint of the editorial board of the *Pacific Citizen*.

* "Short expressions" on public issues, usually one or two paragraphs, should include signature, address and daytime phone number. Because of space limitations, letters are subject to abridgment. Although we are unable to print all the letters we receive, we appreciate the interest and views of those who take the time to send us your comments.

Matsuda runs for State Assembly

(Continued from page 1)

for political office or casting a vote at the ballot boxes. What's important, he said, is how you approach these groups about the issues.

"AAs don't vote because they don't see themselves as part of [the political process]," said Matsuda. He hopes that his decision to run for office will encourage other AAs to become more active. "As we increase our representation, people will get more involved," he said. "Just by my announcing, people who wouldn't normally get involved have come out of the woodwork."

Matsuda, a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, in English, with a Master's Degree in government and public administration from the University of Southern California, is married to a Vietnamese American and has no children.

He's worked as a diversity trainer for the American Jewish Committee, a contract negotiator at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and was a small business owner. For the past seven years he's worked as a teacher in the Orange County school system and is

currently teaching at Orange view Junior High School.

Matsuda's devotion to and experience in education has greatly influenced his campaign platform. With a theme of "Common Sense Leadership," one of his main focuses will be on improving California's education system.

"As a teacher, I'm concerned about education and how it has eroded," said Matsuda. "I'd like to see a reorienting of education as a top priority."

He recalled how while he was growing up in Orange County, California had one of the best K-12 education systems in the country. Yet recently the state ranked 50th in a national survey that assessed schools and their accessibility to quality books. Unfortunately, he added, today you have better access to books in the prison systems than you do in schools.

In addition to Matsuda's commitment to education, he's determined to take on crime.

Regarding Orange County's rising number of hand guns in recent years, one of his ideas is to implement a policy requiring that all guns be equipped with trigger safety components. He has already received the endorsement of local law enforcement officials and business leaders in both endeavors.

Matsuda, like most Asian American politicians, encourages other AAs to follow in his footsteps and aspire to run for political office.

For him, a strong family and a circle of good friends helped him make that decision, he said. "It's really important to have a support group." Being a good listener is also important, but most of all he had this advice for aspiring politicians: "Be well grounded in your beliefs and really look inward at what you stand for."

So. Cal Nisei vets set for post-memorial fete

LOS ANGELES—Dubbed the 100th/442nd/MIS 1399th Engineers' "post memorial celebration," it will be held in Las Vegas at the California Hotel when room rates are the most appealing. Ben Tagami, active So. Calif. Nisei veteran leader, pointed out.

The celebration is to follow the dedication of the Go For Broke monument scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 17, in Little Tokyo.

For four nights (Sun., Oct. 18 through Thu., Oct. 22), the cost is \$95 per person (food and hotel), plus \$15 per person registration. Main banquet Oct. 21 at the Union Plaza is \$35 per person, the chapter night banquet Oct. 19 and Oct. 20 is \$20 per person. Space should be reserved by June 30 with Tagami (310/327-4193).

Korean War vets install new officers

LOS ANGELES—The Japanese American Korean War Veterans (JAKWV) held its installation party Jan. 31 in Chinatown and installed Robert M. Wada, president. As a commitment to JAKWV, the founding officers for the past two years accepted the challenge for another two years to assure continuity in the organization.

"It is an organization that belongs to everyone," Wada said, "who so generously and loyally supported it." The officers are:

Robert Wada (714/992-5461), pres; Minoru Tonal, v.p.; Victor Muraoka, sec.; Sam Shimoguchi, treas.; Thomas H. Nakagawa CPA, auditor; David M. Miyoshi Esq., legal counsel; Yeiki Oshiro, membership;

Board of Directors—Seiji Aizawa, Its Endo, Toko Fuji, Chester I. Fukai, Jack Fukuda, Ike Hatchimori, William Y. Hirose; Fred Y. Hoshigaya, Toru Isobe; Joseph Kamikawa, Yoshio Kaneshige, Stanley Kanazaki, Mitsugu Kasai, George Koga, William Koseki, Dean Matsuzawa, Hiroshi H. Miyamura, Dorothy E. McDowell, Jack W. McDowell, Eddie I. Moriguchi, Victor Muraoka, Edward M. Nakata, Miyuki Onshita, Howard S. Okada, Paul T. Ono, Yeiki Oshiro, Ken Oye, Thomas Sakamoto, Bacon Sakatani, Sam Sano, Sam Shimoguchi, Roy S. Shiraga, Larry Shishido, George Tabata, Ken Tomei, Minoru Tonal, Ben T. Uyeno, Norio Uymatsu, Robert M. Wada, Katsumi Yagura, Thom Yamamoto, Asa Yonemura.

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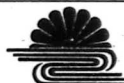
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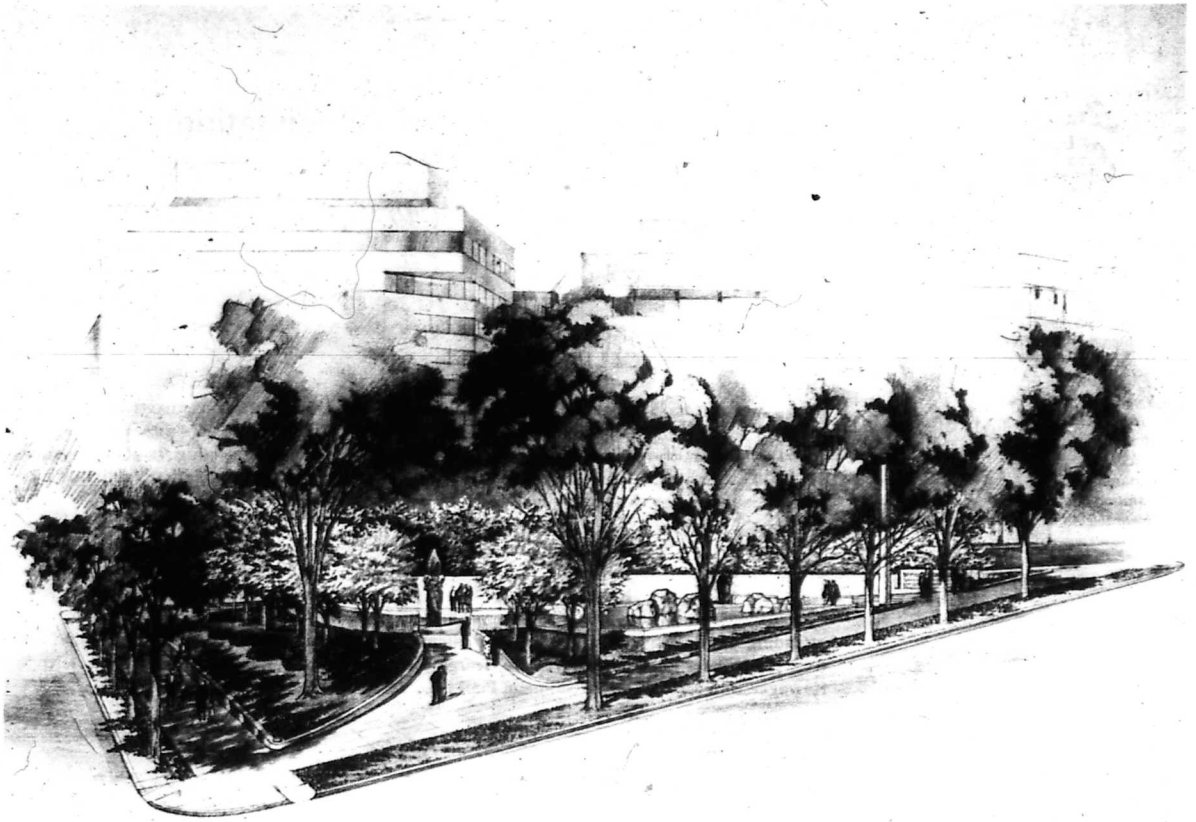
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New information is being added, including a list of chapters, membership-subscription information, curriculum guide, summary information, press releases, discussions of the latest policies and issues, a section for youth, scholarship information, Mike Masaoka Fellowship, etc.

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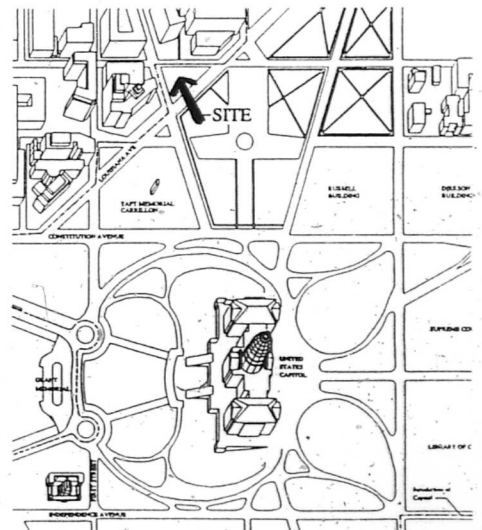
For over five years, a dedicated group of volunteers conceived a plan to build a historic memorial to commemorate the valor of all Japanese American war veterans who served this nation. They called themselves the Go For Broke National Veterans Association Foundation.

However, as they discussed this memorial in the context of the experiences of all Japanese Americans during World War II, and by action of the United States Congress, the purpose of the memorial was extended to conserve a chapter on the loyalty and courage of *all* Japanese Americans in Hawaii and in the continental United States during World War II.

The foundation was renamed the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation to implement this broadened mission and recruited a Board of Directors reflective of the broader community. They named the memorial the National Memorial to Patriotism. The United States Treasury has designated the Foundation as a Section 501(c)(3) public non-profit corporation which could accept contributions eligible for tax exemptions. In February 1997, the Board of Directors elected Melvin Chiogioji, Chairman of the Board.

The Memorial during its preliminary review by the Federal Fine Arts Commission received high marks for its conceptual presentation. An advisory committee, composed of exceptional Nikkei architects, is working with the Foundation as it refines the design.

All Americans and visitors from abroad who come to the Nation's Capital will be enriched by seeing the Japanese American experience in World War II as part of the Nation's history. They will witness how a great Nation recognized its error and was forthright in its apology through the Civil Liberties Act passed by Congress in 1988. All who visit the Capital will be able to see this testament to America's reaffirmation to fairness and democratic principles so that such injustices will not happen again to any other group, regardless of race, religion or national origin.





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NJAMF BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO MEET IN GREATER LOS ANGELES FEBRUARY 27 AND 28 IN TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA

Four times a year, the Board of Directors of the Foundation meet in various parts of the United States to discuss policy issues and to chart the course for the Foundation's activities. Each Director pays her/his own expenses which is approximately \$700 per person per meeting. In addition, many of the Directors utilize their own resources to cover costs related to the Foundation's activities such as mass mail postage, dinner or lunch costs for potential donors.

On February 27 and 28, the Foundation Board will be meeting at the Holiday Inn Harbor Gateway 19800 South Vermont Avenue Torrance, California. On the February 27, the Directors from the Greater Los Angeles Region will be hosting a community reception in honor of the National Memorial to Patriotism. The reception will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 9 p.m. Those interested in attending may do so by calling John Saito, Regional Coordinator at (213) 724-8387. Board Directors from the Greater Los Angeles Area are George T. Aratani, Paul T. Bannai, Bruce T. Kaji, Helen S. Kawagoe, Jun Mori, H. Mike Shimizu, Paul I. Terasaki, and Don S. Tokunaga.

Profile of People Power :

A SPECIAL VOLUNTEER

Bob Sato likes golf. In fact, even the sometimes brisk Bothell, Washington does not discourage him from an early morning swing session. But even golf does not detract from the efforts of the Memorial's most successful Regional volunteer fund raiser. How did he get the job? He, to mix metaphors, simply stepped up to the plate. Armed with his efficient lieutenant June Hirose, this tireless former builder of dams has mounted a Pacific Northwest campaign that is the envy of all other Regions.

To Sato, organization, commitment and follow-through are the important components of his success. He has the doggedness of a husky and is not afraid to ask for help. He fervently believes the Memorial to Patriotism must be built. Lucy, his wife knows he doesn't hesitate to call on his friends and anybody else to either give money or help as volunteers.

Bob is not telling too many people how close he is to meeting the regional goal. The former veteran considers it a campaign secret that can only be revealed at the strategic moment. But our inside information tells us that we can predict an eagle in this Region as we move on to our final course of the Memorial's Campaign.

OUR "LITTLEST ANGEL"

David Dolifka is barely ten years old. He doesn't even have a bank account. But he does have a piggy bank with fifteen dollars which he emptied and sent to the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation. "When grandpa told me what happened to him during World War II, I knew this Memorial needed my help," said David. David's grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sakata of Brighton, Colorado.

IMPORTANT NOTICE OF NEW ADDRESS

Due to the generous response of the public, the activities of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation has outgrown its former home. Our new home is:

1726 M Street, NW, Suite 500,
Washington, D.C. 20026-4505

We shall maintain our old telephone and fax numbers:
(202) 861-8845 and (202) 861-8848.

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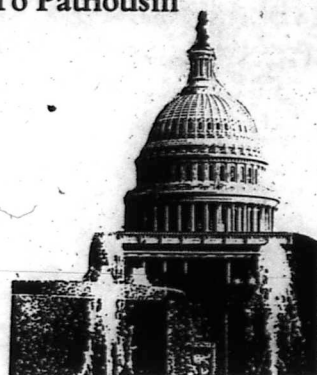
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