

Prop. 227, An Asian American perspective

BY MIKA TANNER

Special to the Pacific Citizen

Imagine that you're a ten-year-old Japanese boy who has just moved to the United States and it's your first day of school. In your classroom you are surrounded by students of all different ages who speak a variety of languages: Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, and Cantonese. The American teacher instructs the class in English and only English. You don't know what the teacher is saying or what she wants and there is no one else who speaks Japanese that can help you.

For one year you will learn

English in this environment, at which time you will be transferred into a regular sixth-grade class where you will be expected to read sixth-grade textbooks. You will not have taken any math for that year but will be expected to understand and complete your sixth-grade math homework assignments. This will be your introduction to America and the California public school system.

According to Lori Fujimoto, JACL Vice President of Public Affairs, this is exactly the situation that children of all ethnic origins will be confronted with if ballot measure Proposition 227 passes

at the polls this June. "Asian Pacific Americans need to take a hard look at this initiative and get a true understanding of the impact it will have on our communities," stated Fujimoto.

Prop. 227, spearheaded by Silicon Valley millionaire Ron Unz, is an initiative that seeks to eliminate all existing bilingual education programs in California. Proponents of the initiative claim that the state's bilingual education programs have failed to teach English adequately to the 1.4 million schoolchildren — roughly one-fourth of the state's student population — who are classified

as limited English proficient.

Currently, Asian Americans make up 12 percent of this 1.4 million figure. According to the Asian American Legal Center, at least 43 percent of Asian American K-12 students are categorized as limited English proficient, making them the largest number of children needing English language instruction after those whose native language is Spanish.

Given these figures, it is apparent that the AA community will be drastically affected if the Unz initiative is drafted into law later this year. The community re-

mains divided on this issue however, say many AA advocacy and educational organizations, largely because many APAs do not understand the specifics of the initiative nor the impact it will have on their own children.

The measure, dubbed "English for the Children" by the Unz campaign, proposes to replace existing bilingual education programs with a one-year "Sheltered English Immersion" program. This program will group children together based on their level of English proficiency, allowing students

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"Ties that Bind" conference brings together national Japanese American community

BY CAROLINE AOYAGI

Assistant Editor

LOS ANGELES—Trying to define the Japanese American community today isn't easy, that's for sure.

In the past, there always seemed to be some common experience helping to unify the community. The Issei pioneers shared a bond as newly arrived immigrants; the American-born Nisei suffered through the indignities of the World War II concentration camps; many of the Sansei took on the charge to finally win redress.

These experiences will always play an integral role in the JA community as they are passed down to successive generations, but it is clear they are no longer the only defining moments for JAs today.

As the JA community prepares to enter the 21st century the challenge is to find new shared expe-

periences among the increasingly diverse makeup of its members, including postwar immigrants, multiracial individuals, and Hawaiian Japanese. What is clear is that some redefining

"Ties That Bind" conference in Los Angeles on April 3-5. Bringing together members of the national JA community, from Chicago and New York to San Francisco and Denver, the historic three-day conference was sponsored by various groups including UCLA Asian American Studies, Asian American Drug Abuse Program (AADAP), Hapa Issues Forum (HIF), Japanese American Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Inc. (LEAP), and JACL.

"[The JA community] is at a crossroads," said Bill Watanabe, Executive Director of Little Tokyo Service Center and "Ties That Bind" conference chair. "It's important that we do something to shape our future."

"It's good timing to have this conference. There's a need," said

See TIES THAT BIND/page 3



Participants at the "Ties That Bind" conference in Los Angeles from April 3-5 gather on the final day to discuss plans for the future of the Japanese American community.

needs to take place.

Taking the first step in that direction were the more than 400 individuals and 70 sponsoring organizations that took part in the

San Francisco State seeks 19 students interned during WWII

SAN FRANCISCO—In an effort to bring long overdue recognition to its Japanese American students whose lives were shattered by the internment of World War II, San Francisco State University is asking those former students to return to campus for the university's commencement in May.

At the request of SFSU's President Robert A. Corrigan, university officials have started a sweeping search for 19 students who were forced to leave the university in 1942 as a result of Executive Order 9066, which allowed the federal government to forcibly remove JAs on the West Coast from their homes.

"I think it is very important for us as a university community to recognize a terrible wrong and bring a sense of closure — both for ourselves, and for these former students — to a shameful act in our nation's history," said Corrigan. "We want to honor these students who for no other reason

than their ancestry were denied a college education at the time."

The students and their families were removed from their Bay Area homes and temporarily forced to live in horse stalls at Tanforan Race Track in San Bruno before being sent to permanent camps in states such as Utah or Arizona. The 19 were among the 120,000 JAs kept in internment camps until 1946.

SFSU's Director of University Development, Carole Hayashino, who is coordinating the university's efforts, said it is unclear whether the students later returned to SFSU or continued their college education elsewhere. But several of the students have already been located. Dr. John Kikuchi finished his studies at Drew University and later graduated from Stanford Medical School and now lives in the East Bay. Another former student,

See SAN FRANCISCO/page 10

Judge delays ruling on Japanese Latin American Redress case

Department of Justice makes request, highest level officials to consider settlement

Chief Judge Loren Smith of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in Washington D.C. was expected to rule on *Mochizuki vs. the United States* on April 13 but government attorneys have asked for a week's delay in the ruling. Settlement discussion on the Japanese Latin American redress case stalled last month when the Department of Justice failed to come up with an offer. Settlement is now being considered "at the highest levels" of the Department of Justice they said. Judge Smith, who has repeatedly urged a settlement of the

case agreed to the delay, and set the new date for ruling on April 22.

The group of Japanese Latin American former internees of World War II, who filed the class action lawsuit against the U.S. government back in August of 1996, did so as a last resort to receive redress for war crimes committed against them by the U.S. government. The former internees say their lives were destroyed when the U.S. government abducted over 2,200 persons of Japanese ancestry from their homes in Latin America and imprisoned them in U.S. concentration camps.

The internees, some 800 plus of whom were exchanged for U.S. civilians held by or trapped in war zones controlled by Japan, are demanding that the government provide redress through an act of Congress known as the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which sunsets in August of this year. The Act provides apology and compensation to persons of Japanese ancestry who suffered imprisonment and relocation, loss of liberty, livelihood and property at the hands of the U.S. Government. Citing a "failure of political leadership, wartime hysteria and racism" as the cause of civil rights violations against Japanese Americans, the act apologizes on behalf of the nation, and provides a token compensation of \$20,000 per person. The Department of Justice has denied Japan-

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Go For Broke groundbreaking



PHOTO GJEM LEW

Various dignitaries and WWII veterans take part in the groundbreaking for the Go For Broke Monument in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo on April 5. The monument commemorates the heroics of the 100th, 442nd, MIS, 399th, and other veterans of WWII. The nonprofit 100th/442nd/MIS WWII Memorial Foundation is building the monument as an enduring reminder that civil liberties belong to all Americans of all races and ethnic backgrounds.

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

JACL Calendar

Eastern

NATIONAL
 July 1-5—35th biennial Nat'l JACL Convention, Sheraton Society Hill, Philadelphia. Registration deadline: May 7. JACL Convention again rates \$99 sgl/dbl. o.c. (TT Silverton 825/25-3535, same rate applicable three days prior and three days after convention. Hotel & sales tax extra.

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Sun. Apr. 26—Preliminary oratorical competition, Philadelphia. Info: Barb Teraji, 410/740-9956. NOTE—Winner awarded trip to National Convention for finals.

Wed. July 1—National Board meeting, Philadelphia.

WASHINGTON D.C.
Tue.-Wed. May 5-6—Ballet performance, *Winter War*, 7:30 p.m., Eisenhower Theatre, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets at special JACL group rate for May 6 performance, reception after: Barbara Teraji, 410/740-9956. NOTE—Choreographer, Mariko, p.m. ballerina Jeanne Murakami-Hosok, score by Maurice Jarre.

Midwest

CINCINNATI
Sat. May 2—Spring Yard Sale/Bake Sale, 2933 Madison Rd. (Oakley); Info: Jacqui Vodourek, 513/861-0460, Shiro Tanaka, 513/488-0956. NOTE—To benefit the NIA Memorial in Washington, D.C.

CLEVELAND

Sun. June 7—Scholarship luncheon, 1

p.m., Shinano's Restaurant, 5222 Wilson Mills Rd.; RSVP by May 3. Info: Joyce Theus, 440/582-5443.

ST. LOUIS

Sat. Apr. 25—Potluck Dinner, 4:30 p.m., Kirkwood Middle School, 1187 Manchester Rd. Info: Irma Yokota, 314/921-7933

Intermountain

MOUNT OLYMPUS

Sat. Apr. 25—Annual Fund-A-Rama, 6 p.m., Cottonwood High School cafeteria, 5715 S. 1300 E. Info: Reid Tateoka, 801/278-7294.

POCATELLO-BLACKFOOT

Sun. Apr. 19—Lunch Meeting & Boys Day Workshop 1 p.m., Cathay Cafe Drum Room. Info: Micki Kawakami, 206/234-1654.

Pacific Northwest

ALASKA

Fri. May 2—Annual Meeting & Potluck, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Alaska Alaska Cultural Center, 48th Ave. Anchorage. Info: Sally Adams, 907/462-7531.

PUYALLUP VALLEY

Sat. Jun. 6—Installation and scholarship banquet, location TBA.

NC-WN-Pacific

NATIONAL BOARD

Wed. July 1—National Board meeting, Portland.

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Sun. May 3—District Council Meeting, Lodi.

BERKELEY

Sat. May 9—Berkeley JACL Scholarship Luncheon, North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hesper Ave. Info: Ron Tanaka, 510/932-7947, Mike Kamimoto, 415/387-0857.

Sat.-Sun., Apr. 25-26—Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Memorial Park across from De Anza College. Info: Margaret Abe, 415/779-7871. NOTE—Sponsored by Cupertino-Tonyoka Sister City.

SACRAMENTO

(R) Sat. May 2—Sacramento High School Class of '33 (and earlier) reunion luncheon, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Radisson Hotel, 500 Leona. RSVP: 916/922-2020, fax 916/649-9467.

(R) Sat.-Sun., Apr. 16-17—Tule Lake Reunion IV, Doubletree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way. Info: May Fong, fax 916/498-1467. NOTE—Music, presentations, video, discussion panel, sightseeing, Reno trip, luncheon, night, Sayonara dinner.

SAN FRANCISCO

Wed. Apr. 22—Japan Society of Northern California luncheon program, "Japan's Financial Crisis: Reform or Stagnation?" noon, ANA Hotel, 50 3rd St. RSVP: 415/494-3833, e-mail jscnc@sanjapan.org.

Sat. Apr. 25—U.S.-Japan Taiko Festival, 7:30 p.m., AMC Kabuki 8 Theatre, Post & Fillmore Sts. Info: 415/928-2456.

Tue. & Wed., Apr. 28-29—Preview performances, *The Chickadee Chikanam*, by Frank Chin, 8 p.m., SOMAR Cultural Center, 924 Brannan St. Info & tickets: 415/440-5545, e-mail aac@vnet.ibm.com.

NOTE—Opens 4/30, closes 5/10.
NOTE—Apr. 30—Opening, Theatre of Yugen's performance series, "New Tsunami Fusion Fest," 8 p.m., Yugen's Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa St. Info, schedules/locations: 415/978-2700 or 415/621-7797. NOTE—Series runs through 5/10.

Sun. May 3—Nikkei Widowed Group meeting, noon-4:30 p.m., 558 16th Ave. Info: Elsie Uyeda-Chung, 415/221-0268, Tetsu Ihara, 415/221-4568. Kay Wamamoto, 510/444-3911. NOTE—Men also welcome.

SAN JOSE

Thu. Apr. 23—Yu-Ai Kai day trip to the Railroad Museum & Governor's Mansion in Sacramento, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. RSVP: 408/294-2505.

Sun.-Mon., Apr. 26-27—Yu-Ai Kai Reno Trip, leave Sun. 7:30 a.m., return Mon. 9:30 p.m. Info: Tracy Tsutsumi, 408/294-2505.

Sun. May 3—Yu-Ai Kai Nihonmachi 3-mile fun run & 16.2-mile walk, 8 a.m. regis., 9 a.m. start, Yu-Ai Kai Community Center, 4th & Jackson Sts., Japantown. Info: 408/294-2505, fax 408/294-0343.

NOTE—Health Fair, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Nikkei Matsuri, 10 a.m., Farmer's Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

R) Sat. May 3—Topaz Mini reunions: *Classes of '43 & '44*—Lunch at Cathay Restaurant, 1st St., San Jose. Contact: Frances Morioka, 778-26th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94121, 415/668-3303.

Class of '45—Lunch at Yu Ai Kai Senior Center 4th St. Near Jackson, Japantown. Contact: Isao Baba, 1335 Coniston Ct., San Jose, CA 95118, 408/2654-1764.

LODI

Sun. May 3—16th Minoru Yasui Oratorical Competition district finals. Info: Dennis Morioka, 209/333-0740.

RENO

Sat. May 9—Reno Chapter's 50th Anniversary Celebration. Info: Cynthia Lu, 702/827-6385.

SAN FRANCISCO

Thu. June 25—Opening reception for Smithsonian traveling exhibit, "A More Perfect Union," San Francisco Main Library.

SAN JOSE

Sat. Apr. 25—San Jose JACL Scholarship Award Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Wesley Methodist Church Social Hall, Info: Sharon Uyeda, 408/295-1250.

SAN MATEO

Wed. Apr. 22—(time change) "Shield 65 for JACL Members" meeting, 1:15-2:45 p.m., San Mateo JACL Center, 415 S. Claremont St. Info: 650/343-2793. NOTE—Non-members also welcome; light refreshments.

Sat. May 9—"The Human Race 1998" 5K & 10K benefit run, Coyote Point Info: Toshi or Bob, 650/343-2793.

TEH VALLEY

Sun. Apr. 26—22nd Annual Tri-Valley JACL Teriyaki Chicken Dinner, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Alameda County Fairgrounds Cafeteria, Pleasanton Ave. Entrance. Tickets, info: Nadine Lai, 520/462-3585, Dean Suzuki, 510/820-1454.

Central California

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Sun. May 17—Scholarship Luncheon, Quarterly Meeting & District Elections, Location TBA.

SAT. June 6

Pre-convention Rally.

FRESNO

Sun. May 31—Fresno Chapter 75th

Anniversary celebration: film showing, *Beyond Barbed Wire*, 3 p.m., Tower Theatre, followed by banquet, 5:30 p.m. Diana's Court. Info: Bobbi Hanada, 209/434-1662. NOTE—Professor Mitchell Maki, UCLA School of Welfare, speaker.

Pacific Southwest

YOUNG ADULT/STUDENT COUNCIL

Thu. Apr. 23—Speaker Series, 7 p.m., USC; speaker: Delora Ching, executive director for Chinatown Service Center, and Diane Jiye-Matarezo, Asian American Drug Abuse Program at USC. Info: Kent Kawai, 760/744-7720x186, e-mail mkawai@pacbell.net.

Thu. Apr. 30—Speaker Series, 7 p.m., CSU Fullerton; speaker: Mike Matsuda, State Assembly candidate. Info: Kent Kawai, 760/744-7720x186, e-mail mkawai@pacbell.net.

ARIZONA

Sat. Apr. 25—Scholarship Awards Banquet, noon, Bell Eaters Restaurant, 300 W. Camelback, Phoenix. RSVP by Apr. 21. Info: Peggy Matsuihira 602/934-3340, Marilyn Inoshita-Tang, 602/861-2638.

RIVERSIDE

Sun. May 17—Scholarship Awards Potluck Dinner, 5 p.m., University Club,

DEADLINE FOR CALENDAR
 is the Friday before date of issue, on a space-available basis.

Please provide the time and place of the event, and name and phone number (including area code) of a contact person.

COMMUNITY Calendar

(R) Reunions

East Coast

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Wed.-Thu., Apr. 22-23—Asian Film Festival (four films), M.I.T., 292 Main St. MIT E 38-600. Info, times & titles: Deborah Ulrich, 617/258-8048, fax 617/258-8048.

NEW YORK

Through 1999—Japanese American National Museum's exhibit, "America's Concentration Camps: Remembering the Japanese American Experience," Ellis Island Immigration Museum, New York City. Info: JANM (Los Angeles) 213/265-0414, (New York) 212/363-5801.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Sat.-Sun., Apr. 25-26—Association of Asian American Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy conference, Washington Hilton. Info: aaipao@aol.com, 212/260-3999, FAX 212/260-4546.

Tue.-Wed. May 6-7—Ballet Performance, *Winter War*, 7:30 p.m., Eisenhower Theatre, Kennedy Center. Info: Mariko, 505/672-9808; e-mail stardner@attail.com.

Thu.-Sat., May 7-9—Legislative Conference, Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS), Washington Hilton Hotel, 1919 Connecticut Ave. NW. Info: APAICS 202/547-9100; e-mail capaci@sonline.com. NOTE—Gala Dinner 5:00, 10:00, RSVP by 4/24.

The Midwest

CHICAGO

Fri. May 1—Columbia College Asian Arts & Media Center kickoff dinner, Chicago Cultural Center, Gar Hall & Theater. Info: Oliver Ramsey, 773/244-3316. NOTE—In conjunction with Chicago's Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month; featuring recording & visual artist Yoko Ono; emcee actress/playwright Lauren Tom.

Intermountain

SALT LAKE CITY

Coming April 30—Smithsonian Institution's "A More Perfect Union," Downtown Salt Lake Library. Info: Terry Nagata, 801/355-8040, Yax Tokita, 801/487-4567.

POCATELLO, IDAHO

Fri. Apr. 24—Pocatello Sister City Annual Auction, 6:30 p.m., Greek Orthodox Church, North 5th St. Info: tickets: Micki Kawakami, 206/234-1654. NOTE—Bargains, silent & live auctions, Chapter potato bar.

The Northwest

PORTLAND, ORE.

Fri.-Sat., Apr. 27-28—Ikebana International program: Fri. 10 a.m. demonstration, luncheon, entertainment; Sat. 9:30-11:30 a.m. workshop, Downtown Portland Athletic Club. Ticket/info: Harue Ninomiya, 503/289-9607.

PULLMAN, WASH.

Through Fri. Apr. 24—APA Awareness Activities at Washington State University. For schedules, locations, tickets: 509/335-1986. NOTE—Films, poetry readings, banquet.

SEATTLE

Fri. May 1—Exhibit Opening, "P.I. (Made in America): Filipino American Artists in the Pacific Northwest," Wing Luke Asian Museum, 400-7th Ave. S. Info: 206/623-5124.

Northern Cal

CUPERTINO

Sam Nakaso, 8633 American Oak Dr., San Jose, CA 95135, 408/270-8924.
Faculty—Lunch at New River, 34 E. Rosemary off 1st St. White: Koji Kawakuchi, 8192 Grant Dr., Hightower Beach, CA 92046. **Jr. High Classes**—Locate TBA. Write: Mary Hiramoto, 2588 Oak Rd. #138, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

SAN MATEO

Wed. Apr. 22—"Shield 65 for JACL Members" meeting, 1:15-2:45 p.m., San Mateo JACL Center, 415 S. Claremont St. Info: 650/343-2793. NOTE—Non-members also welcome; light refreshments.

Wed. Apr. 29 (date change)—"Medicare Update" & "Changes in Social Security," 1 p.m., San Mateo JACL Community Center, 415 S. Claremont St. Info: 415/343-2793.

Sun. Apr. 26—Sakura Matsuri Cherry Blossom Festival Senior Appreciation brunch, 10 a.m., Miyako Hotel. Info & bus reservations: 650/343-2793. NOTE—Jean & Roy Fujita to be honored.

Sat. May 9—Midnight Banquet, White Oak Dance Project, 8 p.m., Zellerbach Hall, U.C. Berkeley. Tickets (bus included): Taz Takahashi, 650/343-2793. NOTE—Informational meeting 5/7 at 1 p.m.

Sat. May 9—"The Human Race 1998" 5K & 10K fund-raiser race, Coyote Point. Info: Toshi or Bob, 650/343-2793.

Wed. May 20 (date change)—Medicare Updates, 1 p.m., San Mateo JACL Community Center, 415 S. Claremont St. Info: 650/343-2793.

Sat. May 2—Nisei Ski Club evolution golf event, Santa Clara Golf and Tennis Club. Info: Joe Fong, 408/365-7942, e-mail, jfeng@vnet.ibm.com.

SANTA CLARA

Wed. Apr. 22—Calligraphy workshop: 6:30-9 p.m., Louden Nelson Center, Info: 408/475-2115.

Sun.-Thu., Apr. 26-30—Pacific Rim Film Festival, 148 Pacheco Ave. Info, times & tickets: Cori Houston, coordinator 408/457-2398, fax 408/476-2845.

STOCKTON

Sat. Apr. 25—Workshop, "Teaching ABO Internment of Japanese Americans," 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Stockton Unified School District Office, St. Mark's Plaza. Regis. Info: Lucy Hamai, 510/559-6680, Roger Tom, 510/953-3171, Aeko Fesleyon, 510/948-0966. NOTE—Experienced teachers to present strategies, materials; panel discussion to include Fred Korematsu, Mas Ishihara, Bernice Endow, Jim Kurata.

Southern Cal

LOS ANGELES

Fri. Apr. 24—Book reading/signing, *The Way of Zen*, by Ron Byrte, Beate Strota Gordon, 7-8:30 p.m., Pacific Asia Museum, 46 N. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena; free. Info: 626/449-2742x20.

Fri.-Sat., Apr. 24-25—Jazz concert, Hiroshima, 8 p.m., Japan America Theatre, JACC, 244 S. San Pedro St. #505. Info: 213/668-2725. NOTE—Fusion of toki & keto with smooth jazz plus rhythm & blues.

Sat. Apr. 25 (date correction)—29th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage. Info in 213/662-5102: Overnight camp-out in Independence: Jenni, 310/301-4915; Ayako, 310/202-6212. NOTE—5 hours north of Los Angeles.

Sat. Apr. 25—Poetry reading *Nights of Fire, Nights of Rain*, by Amy Uyematsu, 2-4 p.m., JANM, 369 E. 1st St., Little Tokyo. Info: 213/625-0414.

Sun. Apr. 26—Pasadena Nikkei Seniors annual concert, "Hara Uta Matsuri," 2 p.m., Japan America Theatre, 244 S. San Pedro St. Suite 505, Little Tokyo. Tickets: 213/680-3700.

Mon. Apr. 27—U.S.-Japan Friendship Ambassadors Cup golf tournament, 9 a.m. tee-off, Friendly Hills Country Club, 8500 S. Villaverde Dr., Whittier. Info: 213/628-2725.

Wed. Apr. 29—Lecture, "Seven Lessons of Humanity Through Stories and Poetry," 7-8:30 p.m., Soka University Campus, 26800 W. Mulholland Hwy., Culver City, CA 90230. Info: 310/378-0780. NOTE—Award-winning poet and WWII internee Lawson Inada, speaker.

Through May 3—Musical, *Pacific Overtures*, East West Players David Henry Hwang Theatre, 120 N. Judge John Aiso St., Little Tokyo. Tickets: 800/233-3123.

SANTA BARBARA

Through Apr. 30—Exhibit, "Finding Family Stories," Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, 2559 Puesta del Sol Rd. Info: 805/682-4711, fax 805/569-3170

Arizona-Nevada

LAS VEGAS

Breaking the Silence, Breaking New Ground

BY TERESA MAEBORI

PHILADELPHIA—"Is this the workshop on the Japanese internment?" inquired one of the 120 teachers in attendance at the *Breaking the Silence* workshop on March 7 at the University of Pennsylvania.

"No. It's about the Japanese American internment," answered Debbie Wei, the director of the Philadelphia Public Schools Asian American Curriculum Support Office.

We knew then that our work was cut out for us. Debbie was the dynamic organizing force for the workshop which was cosponsored by the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, the Philadelphia Education Fund, the Office of Curriculum Support-School District of Philadelphia, the JACL Philadelphia Chapter, Asian Americans United, the American Friends Service Committee, and the Asian American Studies Department of the University of Pennsylvania. This was a truly collaborative community project.

Much to our surprise and delight, after Debbie publicized the workshop to all the schools in the Philadelphia public system, more than 150 inquiries came in. When we gathered on March 7 there was a wide variety among the 120 teachers from the third to twelfth grades. Some knew about the internment and were teaching about it. Others knew nothing. In fact one participant wrote, "Japanese concentration camps really surprise me. I was born, raised, and educated in California. I've never been exposed to this information until today."

The day was brought into sharp focus with the keynote address by Philadelphia filmmaker Lise Yasui. She spoke about the human lives that inhabit history. The JA internment was an event in history, but it was a much more profound and devastating event that echoed in the lives of generations of JAs who still bear the scars of the incarceration.

Lise used her award-winning documentary *Family Gathering* to show the personal toll it took on one family. We traveled with her on her journey to uncover the

particular attention paid to the re-entry many JAs faced when the war concluded.

Ed Nakawatase, American Friends Service Committee, and the Philadelphia JACL offered a look at the resistance and opposition to the internment. This workshop explored the nature of the opposition and resistance inside and outside the camps. This was a unique and stimulating workshop.

For high school teachers, three workshops were listed. Two offerings were for literature. Karen

and curriculum issues.

In the afternoon an important session on *The Constitution and the Internment* was led by Larry Frankel, Executive Director of the Philadelphia American Civil Liberties Union. He outlined the cases that were decided by the U.S. Supreme Court regarding the constitutionality of the detention and internment of JAs during WWII. He also discussed the positive role played by the ACLU of Northern California and the failure of the national ACLU to recognize the internment as a violation of civil liberties.

For middle school and high school teachers, two

Indo-Chinese communities, Glen presented activities designed to foster understanding among middle school students that individual perceptions and experiences of the same historical event can vary widely across society.

For the elementary teachers, Teresa Maebori, Philadelphia JACL, guided teachers through a lesson using the book *The Bracelet* by Yoshiko Uchida, as a vehicle to understand the evacuation and internment from a child's point of view. Many of the teachers were thrilled to have a lesson they could use immediately to help their students understand the human rights violations of the internment.

When the day concluded, there was an overwhelming response from teachers who were grateful for this rich and thoughtful workshop. Those of us who helped plan the day felt invigorated by the discussions, the questions, the enthusiasm, and the interest teachers expressed in learning about the internment. One teacher wrote, "I really feel now that the teaching of Japanese American Internment is an event which is a tool to bring all students together in a push for civil rights for all."

Breaking the Silence, breaking new ground was our purpose, and it did not fall on deaf ears. Armed with lesson plans, books, videos, posters, resources and ideas, teachers across the city of Philadelphia will be teaching about this violation of civil liberty. What better place than in the city of brotherly and sisterly love. ■

"Japanese concentration camps really surprise me. I was born, raised, and educated in California. I've never been exposed to this information until today."

Su, a postdoctoral fellow in Asian/Pacific American Studies at New York University, gave an overview of Asian American literature and discussed practical strategies for incorporating Asian American literature into the classrooms. Mark Chiang, University of Pennsylvania Assistant Professor of English and Asian American Studies, presented a workshop titled, *Reading the Literature of the Internment: Context and Controversies*. He provided an introduction to some of the literature written by JAs on the internment experience and discussed classroom strategies

workshops gave practical methods of presenting historical information to students. Ellen Somekawa, Asian Americans United, headed a workshop titled, *The Internment and Critical Thinking: Interactive Activities for High School Students*. Ellen demonstrated models of interactive activities such as: forced choice, consensus building, forming caucuses, and generating research questions.

Glen Muschio, producer/director at New Liberty Productions, gave a workshop on collecting family oral histories. From his work in the Cambodian and

Redefining the JA community at "Ties That Bind"

(Continued from page 1)

Warren Furutani, President of the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council and a member of the conference's steering committee. "We need to do some redefining. The challenge for us is our future."

With various panel discussions, small group sessions and workshops, participants were able to discuss issues of identity, diversity, and community. But although many may have come looking for answers, it was obvious that solutions for redefining the JA community would not take place during a three-day period. Instead, "Ties That Bind" gave members of the community an opportunity to raise questions, take a look at the issues, and network among the various organizations.

"It's important that people come together. That people realize they're not alone," said Dr. Rebecca King, a Hapa, who took part in the panel discussion, "Who are JAs?"

Joining her were Rev. Paul Nagano, a Nisei, Dr. Charles Igawa, a Shin-Issei, and Lisa Sugino, a Yonsei.

In 1998, the question of who are JAs? "is much more difficult to answer," said King. With the rise in the number of multiracial people in the community, the definition of what it means to be JA today is changing. But "Instead of seeing multiracial people as the end of the JA community," she said, "I see it as an opportunity to broaden the definition of JAs."

But even with the increased diversity among JAs today there are still inherent values running through the community that form those ties that bind, said members of the "JA Values" panel discussion that included Dr. Curtis Rooks, Tazuko Shibusawa, Rev. Mas Kodani, and Tom

Kamei.

When the Issei immigrated to the United States during the Meiji period, they brought with them the values of loyalty, obligation, reciprocity, perseverance and belonging to a group that are still strong in the JA community today, said Rooks. "Culture is a tricky thing. But under culture are the values that hold it together."

During the smaller group discussions, participants were able to share their views and concerns with other members of the community in a more intimate setting. By sharing experiences it was hoped that they would get a better sense of what it means to be JA.

For Sansei Jeff Dohzen, 47, attending a JA community event was something he hadn't done since his high school days playing in JA basketball leagues. But after reading several notices about the conference in the local JA paper, his curiosity got the better of him.

"I thought, I haven't done anything [in the JA community] and I wanted to see what it was like," said Dohzen. By attending the event he had hoped to get a "sense of my identity" and a "validation of my identity," he said.

Although this may be his first JA event in a long time, he's not sure if there'll be a second. "I don't know," said Dohzen. "It's pretty unlikely, but it's kind of like therapy. You know it's worth doing."

Jay Williams, 28, was born in Japan to a European American father and a Japanese mother and currently lives in L.A. He found out about the conference through his work at APAIT, the Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team, and volunteered to be a facilitator.

JA youth was high. Throughout the three-day conference, JA youth were often asked to define their current and future roles in the community. Although the prevailing view of JA youth today may be of apathy, the young people attending the event made it clear they care about the community and their concerns are the same as other JAs today.

"We are here at this conference. We're represented. We want to be included," said Mary Kay Tsuji, a 19-year-old UCLA student who took part in the workshop "JA Youth: Worthless? Clueless? Do we suck?" "We may be young, but we're showing up... that shows we are involved," she said. "We proved that we are worthy of taking on the torch." Other workshops at "Ties That Bind" covered a variety of issues including JA leadership, elders and aging, the role of JA churches and temples, homosexuality, JA vernaculars, and Hapa issues.

"We have these stereotypes and it's up to us to change them," said Tsuji. She knows firsthand how easy it is for apathy to grow among youth, especially when trying to balance hectic school schedules with community work. "But if you care, you'll make the effort," she said. "This conference inspires you to become involved."

The youth are now interested in possibly holding a conference along the lines of the "Ties That Bind" conference, announced Kei

Nagao, a 19-year-old UCLA student who coordinated the youth workshop. Challenging the participants, she called on volunteers to help the youth organize and finance the event. "Overall I thought it was a good starting point," said Nagao. "But if we don't do something with the information that was assembled, it's useless."

"There's been a lot of support for the youth at the conference, she said, but there's still a tendency to want to separate them, in order to understand them better. "But instead of putting us aside to get a youth perspective, include us. Our voice should be heard," said Nagao. "The important things is to treat us as equals."

Participants took part in preparing concluding statements on the last day of the conference. One idea that had been raised and discussed was the possibility of forming a national JA federation that would encompass all JA groups, including schools, churches, museums, and organizations such as JACL and the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations (NCR). Other ideas that were presented included the formation of a summer leadership institution and the need to organize regional forums and conferences. The need to mentor and empower youth, and preserving cultural identity, were also highlighted.

Organizers of the "Ties That Bind" conference acknowledged that certain members of the JA community were not represented at the event; those whose voices are never heard for they are not involved in JA issues and never attend community events.

Taking this into consideration, the conference's steering committee and various volunteers plan



Participants at the "Ties That Bind" conference in Los Angeles take turns sharing their experiences as Japanese Americans during the small group discussions.

"I wanted to hear stories about my people," said Williams. "I wanted to get a sense of belonging, of affirmation, and a sense of family."

"We tend to focus on differences," he said. "But somehow we need to focus on similarities."

To the satisfaction of the organizers of the event, the turnout of

Convention Trips and tours

Early Bird Golf Tournament—Tues., June 30, depart 10:00 a.m., return 10:00 p.m. (see Seabrook/Wheaton Village Tour). Centerton Country Club, South Jersey. Jim Taniguchi host. Includes green fee, chart, lunch snack, hors d'oeuvres, awards banquet and prizes: \$100 before May 7, \$125 after.

Seabrook/Wheaton Village Tour—Tues., June 30, depart 10:00 a.m., return 10:00 p.m. (This bus will go in conjunction with the golf tournament.)

While your mate golfs, visit the Seabrook Buddhist Temple, Jōshin En Meditation Garden, Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center, observe skilled craftsman at the historic T.C. Wheaton Glass Factory, visit the Museum of American Glass, ride an 1863 half-scale train thru the countryside, more. (Rejoin golfers for awards banquet): \$60

The Land of the Pennsylvania Dutch—Wed., July 1, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Go back in time to the 1850s before electricity and automobiles. See the Amish carriages and dress, architecture and one-room schoolhouses, homes and farms as in the days of yore. Eat a healthy "plain people" family-style lunch. Travel through the picturesque plateaus of the Appalachians. Patience is required when the bus has to follow a horse and buggy: \$60

Bucks County: Nakashima, Michener and Mercer Museums—Thurs., July 3, 9:00 a.m. -

5:00 p.m.

Enjoy a personalized tour of the work, concepts and collection of JACL Japanese American of the Year, George Nakashima, by his children, Mira and Kevin. Peruse the museum built by Pennsylvania novelist James Michener and his Japanese American wife, Mari. See tools and artifacts of daily 18th and 19th century living housed in the dusty castle-like edifice, with creepy stairwells and fascinating alcoves, of the Mercer self-touring American Museum, a haven for history buffs and museum curators: \$50.

Spirit of Philadelphia Cruise on the Delaware—Friday, July 3, 6:30-10 p.m.

Board five blocks from the Sheraton Society Hill Hotel. A great view of the Philadelphia skyline, dinner, dance, and a spectacular fireworks display (weather permitting): \$50.

Special JACL Trolley Tour—\$40:

Tuesday, June 30, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (lunch and admission)

Wednesday, July 1, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (lunch and admission)

Thursday, July 2, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. (late lunch and admission)

Philadelphia Trolley Works Tours—Every half hour from the Sheraton: \$14 one day, \$20 for two days. Schedule will be available upon request.

Flash—passes through Historic Philadelphia, Center City, up to the Franklin Institute: \$3 per day.

JACL Atlantic City Casino

Buses—Thursday, Friday, July 2-3, 5 p.m.-midnight: \$20.

Discount coupons and rebates will be offered, but you must find for yourself for food. Atlantic City's boardwalk and beach are like a carnival. By Las Vegas standards, table betting is expensive; must begin with a \$15 minimum bet. Slots begin at a quarter.

Public tours for Atlantic City are available; costs vary. Schedules will be available upon request.

Self-exploring in Independence Historic National Park—There are many free tours and activities within five blocks of the hotel. Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, the Mint, tea in Elfreth's Alley, Betsy Ross's home, Carpenter Hall, historic sites, great restaurants, quaint shopping, and street activities. Each year on the 4th of July a renowned personality comes to speak on the open lawn behind Independence Hall. Don't trip on the cobblestones! Wear comfortable walking shoes.

Prices for full day trips include necessary meals and admission charges. Departures are from the Sheraton Society Hill Hotel. Respond by JUNE 1.

Note: We can also arrange special tours of Valley Forge Park, Hershey, the beach, Gettysburg. We can also get group discounts for the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Franklin Institute, etc. Groups are usually \$10 and more.

A Nikkei gift to the Nation

The Washington DC monument

BY BOB SATO

NJAMF PNW Committee Chair

SEATTLE—The Pacific Northwest Committee of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation gratefully acknowledges \$454,800 donated or pledged as of April 13. The Pacific NW goal is \$600,000.

"Why do we ask you to participate in this monument? Besides fulfilling a unique opportunity to tell our story from the heart of our Nation's capital, what will it really do?" one may ask. It will help to educate the greater American public about a little-known part of U.S. history and teach present and future generations to more fully appreciate the ideals the Constitution says this nation stands for.

These ideals were the beacon that helped Japanese Americans to persevere through the dark chapter of our nation's history. These were the ideals, we said, that were worth fighting for, even while our families were unjustly imprisoned, and these were the ideals that finally shone through when the nation admitted it had made a mistake and made amends.

The monument will record for all time that Japanese Americans, and by inference all Asian Americans, are an integral part of American society. This is a fantastic change from the atmosphere of 1942 when Japanese Americans of an average age of 16 or 17 had no political voice and were viewed as "non-Americans." This story and its lesson in U.S. history must be told!

I strongly support this monument because its basic purpose is to educate. In fact, \$1 million dollars of the \$8.6 million national fund-raising goal will be set aside for future educational programs. Looking deeper, my motivation to construct this monument comes from a sense of obligation to honor our Issei pioneer parents, our Nikkei families, and my fellow war veterans, especially those who paid the supreme sacrifice.

In May 1942, my Dad was typical: As we cleaned and swept the barn the day before leaving the farm to report to Camp Harmony Assembly Center, Puyallup [Wash.], Dad said to my older brother John and me, "I don't know what will happen to us but remember, this is your country, act accordingly." In hindsight he was saying: I've done the best I could for you. I know you have the

strength of character to meet whatever lay before us. This message I'm sure was repeated a thousand times over in thousands of other Nikkei homes. By and large, the Issei taught us well, and we and our country have greatly benefited.

During November 1944 and May 1945, Dad and Mom couldn't write letters in English — Dad wrote to me in *katakana* when I was in France and Italy (Co. C, 100th Bn.). I managed to read the *katakana* and, using his letters as sort of a dictionary, I was glad to be able to answer.

Mom didn't write; instead she sent packages of home-canned turkey inside a bag of rice to let me know her thoughts and prayers. Our squad cooked these gifts in our steel helmets. Oh how we feasted!

Looking back, I more fully appreciate the many fearful days and nights our parents and families must have endured as the casualty reports reached home, especially when the frequency of our letters home was so inhibited by language. Remember, all those who were proficient in Japanese were serving in the MIS — as my brother John did.

To family members who remained home and all my fellow veterans, especially those whose voices now lay silent, you recall how we all in our own way hoped and worked for a better America. All has not been and is not perfect now, but most of our wishes for that better America have been achieved.

So this monument says to America, "We've come through the bad times and we've shared in the battles to make our country better. We leave this lesson from history for future generations to learn of the legacy we leave and to ponder their stewardship of this our country."

All can join in this truly unique opportunity to build this monument in Washington, D.C.

Checks may be made out to the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) and sent to The Pacific NW Committee, NJAMF, P.O. Box 4815, Seattle, WA 98104.

For more information, write to P.O. Box 4815 or call June Hirose, PNW director, 206/622-7722, Tosh Okamoto, 206/323-6522, or Bob Sato, 425/742-0784.

Booster Registration: Make checks payable to '98 JACL Convention

Return to:
Reiko Gaspar
540 S. Melville Street
Philadelphia PA 19142
215/386-0580

Name: _____ Address: _____
Phone(day) _____ (evening) _____

No.	Trip Name	Date	No. of Persons	Total
1.	Seabrook/Wheaton	Tu 6/30	\$60 x _____	\$ _____
2.	Pennsylvania Dutch	Wed 7/1	\$60 x _____	\$ _____
3.	Bucks County	Fri 7/3	\$50 x _____	\$ _____
4.	Spirit of Philadelphia	Fri 7/3	\$50 x _____	\$ _____
5.	JACL Trolley Tour	Tu 6/30	\$40 x _____	\$ _____
6.	JACL Trolley Tour	Wed 7/1	\$40 x _____	\$ _____
7.	JACL Trolley Tour	Thu 7/2	\$40 x _____	\$ _____
8.	Atlantic City Casino Trip	Thu 7/2	\$20 x _____	\$ _____
9.	Atlantic City Casino Trip	Fri 7/3	\$20 x _____	\$ _____
Total				\$ _____



Registration Card

1998 JACL National Convention

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Please indicate your choice of either the Regular Convention Package, Youth Convention Package, Individual Events and/or Special Events by marking the appropriate options. Amounts listed are per person.

Register before May 7, 1998 and take advantage of reduced registration fees and discounts on individual convention events! See the schedule of convention events and organized activities. Additional information on other activities and sightseeing tours will be available during the convention at the Registration & Information booth.

PACKAGE REGISTRATION

The Regular Convention Package fee admits registered badge holders to all Business Sessions, Workshops and the Oratorical Competition. Other events in the Regular Convention Package include the Welcome Mixer, Balch Institute Reception/Exhibits, Awards Luncheon and Sayonara Banquet.

The Youth Convention Package fee includes the Regular Convention Package items as well as the Youth Luncheon.

INDIVIDUAL EVENT REGISTRATION

Daily registration will be available for those interested in attending only specific convention events.

A registration fee of \$20 will be required for admission to exhibits, business sessions or workshops on a per-day basis.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Written cancellation requests received by May 21, 1998 will be refunded 100%. Cancellations received after that date will be denied and any residual amount will become a charitable contribution to JACL. There will be no partial refunds if a registrant does not attend all functions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL:

Herb Horikawa 610.525.6620
Bunji Ikeda 610.265.5898
Grayce Uyehara 609.953.3685

Name _____ (Last) _____ (First) _____ (M.I.)
Address _____
City _____
State & Zip Code _____
Phone Day _____
Evening _____

Chapter _____
Category ☐ Voting delegate ☐ National Board/Staff
☐ Alternate ☐ 1000 Club
☐ Booster ☐ Masaka Fellow
☐ Youth (age 12-25) - Age: _____
☐ Other (please specify): _____

Register early and save money!

"Early Bird" postmark deadline: May 7, 1998.

Early Bird
Before 5/7/98 After 5/7/98
PACKAGE (Includes Individual Events listed below)
☐ Regular Convention* \$175 \$210
☐ Youth Convention \$85 \$100
☐ Balch Institute Reception & Exhibits**
☐ Sayonara Banquet**

*Does not include the Youth Luncheon (see below).
**Included, but please mark if you will attend.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS (Included in Package):
☐ All Meetings \$40 \$45
☐ One Day of Meetings \$20 \$25
Circle day(s) of attendance: Tu We Th Fr Sa Su
☐ Welcome Mixer \$25 \$30
☐ Awards Luncheon \$40 \$50
☐ Workshops \$20 \$25
(Please fill out the Workshop Registration Form which will be sent to you upon receipt of this Convention Registration Card.)
☐ Sayonara Banquet \$65 \$75
☐ Youth Luncheon \$30 \$35
(Included in Youth Package only; others are welcome to attend by registering and paying for lunch.)

SPECIAL EVENTS (Not included in Package)

☐ Golf Tournament \$100 \$125
(Includes lunch, dinner & bus.)
Handicap _____
☐ Golf and Dinner only \$65 \$110
(Includes lunch & dinner; but no transportation.)
Handicap _____
☐ Golf Awards Dinner only \$30 \$35
☐ Wheaton/Seabrook Trip \$60 \$70
(Includes lunch, dinner & bus.)
☐ Philadelphia Homecoming / Reunion Luncheon \$30 \$40
☐ Youth Day Conference "ID4-Philadelphia" \$20 \$25

TRIPS & TOURS

(Please complete the Trips & Tours Registration Form which will be sent to you upon receipt of this Convention Registration Card.)

SUMMARY OF FEES

Convention Package \$ _____
Individual Events \$ _____
Special Events \$ _____
CONVENTION TOTAL \$ _____

Make check payable to: **Philadelphia JACL '98**

Send check & this form to: Mrs. Milko Horikawa
'98 JACL Convention
716 Old Lancaster Road
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

Note: No registration will be processed without accompanying payment in full. This form is for conference registration only and NOT for hotel reservations. The hotel reservation is separate and should be made directly with the Sheraton Society Hill Hotel, Philadelphia, PA. If you are registering for more than one person, please make additional copies of this form.

For office use only:
Date rec'd _____ Check # _____ Amt _____ Initials _____

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

We have reserved a block of rooms for the convention. Reserve early to ensure a space and the rates below. Call the Sheraton Society Hill directly at 800.325.3535 or 215.238.6000 to make your reservations. Mention that you are part of the JACL National Convention. Convention room rates are:

Single/Double Occupancy \$99*
Triple Occupancy \$119*
Quadruple Occupancy \$139*

*Reservations must be made before June 3, 1998 to receive these rates.

SHERATON SOCIETY HILL HOTEL, PHILADELPHIA

One Dock Street
Philadelphia PA 19106
215.238.6000 or
800.325.3535

AIR TRAVEL

United Airlines and USAirways are the official airlines of the JACL. You and your travel agent can book your reservation and receive at least an additional 5% discount off any published airfare. Make your reservations at least 60 days in advance and receive another 5% discount. When you make the reservation, refer to the airline's respective meeting ID number below to receive the discounts.

United Airlines Tel. 800.521.4041 ID# 569 IN
USAirways Tel. 800.872.8401 ID# 21130498

RENTAL CARS

At the same time you make your airline reservations with United Airlines, reserve a car with either Alamo or Avis rental cars and receive a 10% discount.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation from the airport to the hotel include: shuttle to the Sheraton Society Hill from the Philadelphia International Airport, train from the airport to 12th & Market Streets, and taxi at a flat fee. Detailed information will be sent with your registration packet.

Community NEWS

Applications for National Fellowships II and CLPEF Repositories Available

Applications for National Fellowships II and CLPEF National Repositories are now available at the East Coast Office of the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund.

The CLPEF is announcing a National Fellowships II program. The National Fellowship II awards will be for \$10,000. Awards will be made on a competitive basis. To be eligible, applicants must be enrolled in a graduate level educational program.

"One of the best ways to promote the legacy of the CLPEF is to ensure that our human capital is infused with the lessons learned from the incarceration," says board member Don Nakanishi. "The knowledge they can bring from their research can be used to further the research in this important field of study and to encourage the development of future generations of scholars," continues Nakanishi, who is also the director of the Asian Ameri-

can Studies Center at UCLA. The postmark deadline for submission for the National Fellowship II program is May 1, 1998.

The CLPEF National Repositories will be issued as a contract to institutions or entities interested in and capable of housing completed CLPEF projects. Contracts will be awarded on a competitive basis. "One of the legacies of the CLPEF is to make sure that the completed projects are available to the public," says board member Peggy Nagae of Eugene, Ore.

The postmark deadline for the CLPEF National Repositories is June 1, 1998.

Applications for both the National Fellowships II and the CLPEF National Repositories may be obtained by contacting the CLPEF East Coast Office at 1730 K St. NW, suite 410, Washington, DC 20006, phone 202/653-2912, or e-mail: clpef@worldnet.att.net. ■

State Assembly candidate Mike Matsuda receives teacher of the year award

Orangeview Junior High School teacher and candidate for the 68th state assembly Mike Matsuda was presented 1998 Teacher of the Year Award by the Anaheim Chapter of Veterans of Foreign Wars in a ceremony on March 14 at the VFW Hall. Matsuda was among several awardees from the community who have devoted much of their lives to community service.

As a teacher of reading and conflict management, Matsuda has been a strong proponent of programs that connect youth to neighborhoods and communities. Through tutoring elementary students, conducting cleanups, or visiting senior centers, his students have many opportunities to learn about local issues.

In his acceptance speech, Matsuda said that he is proud to accept the award on behalf of Anaheim Union High School District teachers and reminded the audience that "although children represent only 22 percent of our population they represent 100 percent of our future. It is important that we continue to invest in them and provide them with meaningful opportunities."

Matsuda was also Orangeview's 1997 Teacher of the Year, a Parent/Teacher/Student Association Human Service Award recipient, an Orange County Human Relations award, and was honored for advising Orange County's PAL Program of the Year in 1996. ■

Pacific Citizen opens summer internship

LOS ANGELES—The Pacific Citizen newspaper, the official publication of the Japanese American Citizens League, is currently looking for a part-time summer intern for its Monterey Park, Calif., office.

The intern will work approximately three days a week, including some weekends. The various duties include reporting, research, rewriting of press releases, and production duties. Knowledge of the Asian American community and the JACL is a plus.

High school or college students currently majoring in English or Journalism preferred, but not a requirement. Applicants should also have a California driver's license.

Please send a resume and a sample of writing to the Pacific Citizen, 7 Cupena Circle, Monterey Park, CA 91755, fax: 213/725-0064, e-mail: PacCit@aol.com, attention: Caroline Aoyagi. The deadline for applications is May 15. ■

Manzanar campout

In conjunction with the 29th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, the Manzanar Committee is organizing a special two-night Manzanar Pilgrimage weekend campout from Friday night, April 24, through Sunday morning, April 26, at the Lower Gray Meadows Campground, located 6 miles west of Independence.

The separate Saturday night program will include BBQ dinner and intergenerational group discussions on camp experience and its significance. Former Manzanar internees will be participating in the group discussions.

People of all ages are welcome. Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Campout fee (to cover cost of the campsite and food) is \$20 general public, \$15 students and youth under 18. Participants are asked to bring tents, sleeping bags, other camping gear and warm clothing. RV space is also available. Space is limited.

Prepaid reservations are required. For more information, call Jenni Kuida at 310/301-4915 or Ayako Hagihara at 213/669-6442, or e-mail ahagihara@comcast.com.

For more information on the day's program, please contact Jenni, Ayako, or Sue Embrey at 213/662-5102. The pilgrimage is free and open to the public. ■

Tule Lake Reunion update

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Tule Lake Reunion VI will be held here May 16-17 at the Doubletree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way.

Toko Fujii of the Tule Lake Reunion VI Committee has arranged for three interesting presentations on Saturday, May 16, at 2:00 p.m.

- George Yoshida's "Bands of the Camps" and "Japanese American Music makers";

- A documentary video, *Children of the Camps* by Dr. Satsuki Ina; and

- Dr. Gwen Jensen from the University of Colorado, reporting on the health of Nisei who were incarcerated during World War II, as compared to those who did not suffer the trauma of incarceration.

On Sunday afternoon, May 17, a discussion panel composed of a number of prominent civic leaders will report on the passage and implementation of the Civil Rights Act of 1988, Redress and Reparations Bill. The panel will chart the conception of redress, the deliberations and hardships involved in the legislative process, and the ultimate passage of this historic legislation.

Saturday and Sunday afternoon presentations are open to the general public, free of charge.

eral public, free of charge.

The Saturday Night Mixer will feature George Yoshida's 17-piece band, along with singers Ayako Hosokawa and Riki Matsufuji. The band will be performing music from the 30s and 40s.

The Sayonara Dinner is scheduled for May 17 at 7:00 p.m. Several members of the discussion panel will be honored for their contributions to the successful effort to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1988. The honorees include Congressman Robert Matsui, Jerry Enomoto, Priscilla Ouchida, Grayce Uyehara, John Tateishi, Dr. Clifford Uyeda, and former Congressman Norman Mineta of San Jose.

Registration chair Joe Kataoka reports a brisk early response to date. Lists for the Reno trip, the Sacramento City sightseeing and shopping tour and the Tule Lake Pilgrimage tour (July 2-5) are filling up, but registrations for Reunion VI and for individual events, as well as the golf tournament, are still being accepted. Please call Joe Kataoka 916/442-2433 or Toko Fujii 916/421-6068. ■

Forum on 'lasting effects of camps' on Nikkei set for 'last' Topaz reunion

SAN JOSE—At the forthcoming Topaz Reunion — touted as the "last" Topaz Reunion — to be held over the Memorial Day weekend, May 29-31, at Doubletree Hotel, a special forum, "Lasting Effects of Internment," during World War II in Topaz, Canada, Mexico and Peru will be featured May 29, it was announced last week by reunion chair Chuck Kubokawa.

Among the panelists will be John Tateishi (who recently rejoined the JACL staff to help in the closing phase of the Redress campaign), Enrique Shibayama from Mexico City, Peruvian-born Arturo Shibayama, now a retired San Jose gas station owner, and Frank Kamiya from Vancouver, B.C. Harry K. Honda, P.C. editor emeritus, prefaces the presentation with an overview of Issei immigration.

Sansei TV documentarian Diane Fukami of San Mateo is the

Saturday banquet speaker, followed by dancing to George Yoshida's combo. Other social events include a Friday night buffet, combo music, line dancing, and Sunday Sayonara brunch — a reunion program which, Kubokawa said, has been in planning for the past year.

Expected to draw 900 former camp residents and friends, the reunion features a show of camp paintings by former Topaz internees Miné Okubo, Chiura Obata and Takahiko Mikami, record and genealogy search instructions, an optional walking tour of San Jose Japantown, taiko, videos on camp life, information booths, vendors and mini-reunions of Topaz high school graduates and classmates.

For information and registration, write to: Tomi Gyotoku, 826-38th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94121; hotel reservations (ask for Topaz Reunion rates): 800/222-8733. ■

Smithsonian exhibit at Salt Lake City

The Salt Lake City Public Library is hosting the national traveling exhibit, "A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans and the United States Constitution" from April 30 through June 11.

The Library is one of only 20 in the U.S. chosen to host the traveling exhibition, which was developed by the American Library Association and the National Museum of American History of the Smithsonian Institution and funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, a federal agency.

An opening reception will take place on May 2 at the Main Library. The evening will feature the Ogden Buddhist Taiko Drummers, koto music, a keynote speech by

chair of the Topaz Museum Board Jane Beckwith, and a special presentation of *Breaking the Silence*, a Nikkei Nojima Louis production.

Yas Tokita will be host for a series of videos being shown on three successive Tuesdays starting May 5. The Salt Lake Library has bought a number of videos about the Japanese American experience, and these will be available for borrowing after the video series.

All of the events are free. Besides the Utah JACL chapters, sponsors include the Salt Lake City Library, Topaz Museum, State Office of Asian Affairs, the University of Utah Office of Ethnic Studies and the JACL Legacy Grant Program. ■

"Return and Remembrance"

SAN FRANCISCO—The National Park Service (NPS) and the National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) will co-sponsor a special program, "Return and Remembrance," with remarks from Rep. Robert Matsui and author Jean Wakatsuki Houston, on May 16 at 1 p.m. at Presidio Hangar 640, it was announced by NJAHS president Thomas T. Sakamoto and retired Superior Court Judge Tak' Takes, committee chair.

The theme coincides with the 10th anniversary of the 1988 Civil Liberties Act and the 56th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, against the backdrop of the graduation in 1942 of the first class of Nisei from the Military Intelligence Language Service School.

Special medallions will be presented to Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu and relatives of Minoru Yasui, whose names appear in the law books for having contested the wartime curfew and remained in the defense zone. A public reception follows at the NPS Visitor's Center. ■

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Breaking the Silence Prop. 227, The Unz Initiative

Oregon audience learns about the past

BY ROBERT H. KONO

OREGON—*Breaking the Silence*, a play written and produced by Nikki Nojima Louis, brought the multiethnic audience to their feet in a standing ovation after a recent impactful presentation at the University of Oregon. The six-member cast from Seattle performed to a packed house on March 1 in Eugene, and to an audience of 200 at Oregon State University in Corvallis.

his case.

Louis researched and met with Japanese Nisei for six months. In May 1985 at the opening of *Breaking the Silence*, the 500-seat auditorium at the University of Washington was filled to capacity. When the play closed with the words, "And yet, we are not broken!" the audience rose to its feet with applause and tears. Gordon Hirabayashi gave the curtain speech. Proceeds from tickets and

(Continued from page 1)

of different ages and cultural backgrounds to be taught in a single classroom. The teacher would be required to teach this diverse group of students only in English. According to the initiative, if he or she attempts to assist or comfort a child by speaking even a few words in their native language, he or she could be open to a lawsuit.

Also written into the initiative, students, after a period of English-only instruction not to exceed 180 days, will be expected to have mastered English well enough to enable them to be transferred back into mainstream classrooms. Opponents of Prop. 227 argue that 180 days, or one school year, is an insufficient amount of time to expect students to learn a language fluently, citing research statistics that indicate it takes three to four years for someone to become fluent enough in English to participate fully in an English-taught curriculum.

Critics also claim Unz's "one size fits all" approach will actually prevent children from learning English. "Educational studies have shown that education needs to be culturally sensitive," said Victoria Tessier, who teaches elementary school in Southern California. "How can you stick a 7-year-old from France in a classroom with an eleven-year-old from Cambodia who has experienced all kinds of horrors in her native country and expect to teach them in exactly the same way? It doesn't make sense." Tessier also believes that it makes no sense to have children of different ages in one classroom.

"That is why we have different grades even for children who all speak English — to reflect their different levels of cognitive skills and abilities."

Many educators are also concerned that the initiative, which they argue is untested and untried, is designed so that students, during their one year in the English Immersion program, will not be taught other subjects like

math and science. They see this as a severe threat to students' performance once they are transferred into mainstream classes. They also worry that because these limited English proficient students will be behind in these other subjects and yet placed back within the mainstream classrooms, it will compromise the quality of public school education as a whole.

Expressing concern that this kind of situation will prevent English-speaking children like his own from receiving an adequate education that will prepare them for an academic or professional career, former UC Regent Ralph Carmona stated that the initiative is not just about preserving the right to an education for immigrant children, but preserving that right for all children.

Although the initiative permits parents to go through a waiver process if they do not want their children to participate in the English-only instruction, critics believe that the process will be a nightmare to implement and does not provide any guidelines or standards for approving or denying waiver applications. To apply for a waiver, the child must meet one of three defined exceptions: 1) the child is already fluent in English, or 2) the child is over 10 years of age, or 3) the child has "special physical, emotional, psychological, or educational needs." The initiative does not specify how these special needs will be evaluated or assessed. Also under the initiative, children under ten will not be given the choice of an alternative form of English instruction.

Currently, state law gives parents the right to request bilingual or English-only instruction regardless of the student's age or grade level. Under Unz's proposal, students would have to go through a complicated procedure requiring that the request be granted by the teacher, the school principal, and the local superintendent before the child would be permitted to receive an alternative form of instruction.

Carmona believes that for parents who do not understand English themselves, a waiver will be next to impossible to obtain. "Can you imagine, non-English speaking parents will have to understand and fill out all the paperwork, go to all the interviews, and, because this process does not carry over, they will have to repeat it every year with every child. Five kids, five waivers, every year."

According to Fujimoto, bilingual education has been dismissed by many APAs to be primarily a Latino issue that has little or no effect on the AA community. She is also disturbed by how Unz has been framing the debate to the AA community, intimating that their children do not receive as much attention under the current system as do Latino students.

"Latino children have the highest percentage enrolled in bilingual education programs, that's true. But that is because they have the highest number of limited English proficient students compared to other groups," she said. "What I object to is how Ron Unz is twisting this statistic to instill fear into Asian American parents that their children are being ignored by the system. He is making this into a racial debate."

Some AAs feel, however, that many in their community support the Unz Initiative not only because they do not understand it, but because they feel that they themselves have succeeded without the benefit of bilingual education programs. Michelle Cheng, Program Assistant at the Asian American Legal Center, addressed this belief, stating, "I commend the past generation of immigrants who came to this country and succeeded, but usually it was not without the help of some form of bilingual education. They may not have benefited from a formal bilingual program, but many attended Chinese school or Japanese school, which probably made the transition to

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From left: Masaye Nakagawa, Byron Au Yong, Melissa Szeto, Nikki Nojima Louis (author and director) and Herb Tsuchiya.

The play is a dramatized story of the century-long Japanese American experience in the United States. It is a lesson in American history and spans the time of the Japanese emigration to Hawaii and the mainland, the mass incarceration of 120,000 JAs in concentration camps, and the redress movement that culminated in the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. It tells the story of this experience through music, poignant readings, humorous skits, Taiko drum, slides and song.

In the words of playwright Louis: "Using the techniques of Reader's Theater, oral history, poetry and music, *Breaking the Silence* creates for the onlooker an intimate portrait of human beings. That the subjects of the play are JAs who immigrated and were caught in the web of history is the specific story we have to tell. But the larger story is one of journey and transformation — it is a particularly American story, and a universally accessible one. Our goal is to educate our audiences on the particulars of the historical setting in which we have been placed, but our American story is part of a larger tapestry — one which includes the issues of tolerance, accountability and human decency."

The play was originally conceived and produced in 1985. Louis had been deeply moved by a talk presented to a Seattle audience by Gordon Hirabayashi, along with an enthusiastic cluster of young Asian American lawyers who were willing to work pro bono on the re-opening of his coram no-

donations exceeded \$10,000 — all going to benefit the Hirabayashi defense.

Now, more than ten years later, *Breaking the Silence* continues to tour colleges, schools and communities to educate and enlighten people on JA history.

Through the coordinating efforts of Bettie Sing Luke, Eugene 4J Schools Multicultural/Equity Office, the play was successfully presented in four public performances and seven school assemblies. Luke initiated the forming of an educational and funding partnership between the 4J School District, Lane Community College, Oregon State University and the University of Oregon.

Support from the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund (CLPEF) allowed these Oregon educators the opportunity to engage the performers for a five-day artists' residency. In addition, partial funding by the Eugene Education Fund and other community groups helped the educational partnership provide curriculum materials and inservice training, available to any teacher, college student or community person connected with the partnership.

Three inservice training sessions helped inform instructors on historical context and preparing students for the assemblies and full performances. One hundred twenty-five copies of the JACL resource guide, *A Lesson in American History: The Japanese American Experience*, were purchased and distributed among the part-

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"Ties That Bind" Conference

(Continued from page 3)

to use the summary list-of ideas and concluding statements to develop a workable vision statement for the JA community that will be distributed at a later date.

"These reports are just words and have to be translated into action," reminded Watanabe. The "Ties That Bind" conference happened because people got together and wanted it to happen, he said. But "we need people willing to take the next step with us." Tentatively, various groups in the Northern California area have agreed to hold a follow-up conference to "Ties That Bind."

"A lot of people had a lot of issues to share. They were looking for answers," said Christopher Hirano, Director of Community Development for the Japanese Cultural & Community Center (JCCC) of Northern California.

"But more importantly, the questions were asked."

We knew that the people coming to the conference would know the issues. What we gave them was an opportunity to speak, said Paul Osaki, executive director of JCCC of Northern Calif. and a member of the conference's executive committee. "The conference produced some tangible results and a lot of movement in the discussions," he said. "That despite of everything, we could work together and become friends."

"It's been an absolute pleasure being able to bring the community together ... it's like bringing the family together," said Furutani.

"Now everyone knows what the real work is," he said. "The real work is where do we go from here." ■



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Play educates Oregon audience

(Continued from page 6)

ner colleges and every public school in the Eugene 4J school system.

Breaking the Silence has been on tour the past year, including the University of Washington, Oberlin College in Ohio, Northwest Asian American Theater, Portland, Ore., and in schools, colleges, churches and libraries throughout Washington state. The National Council for Social Studies featured the play in November 1997 at their annual conference.

Lois has written many other notable plays about women and their struggles in today's world. Her most recent, *Keepers of the Dream*, opened to rave reviews at the Group Theater in Seattle on March 7. *Keepers* is about African American women leaders and was inspired by Brian Lanker's famous book, *I Dream A World*. Lanker is a professional photographer living in Eugene.

The March 1 event of *Breaking the Silence* in Eugene included an evening program with a community potluck and a Candlelight Remembrance ceremony. Speakers included Peggy Nagae, Re-

dress Legal Team and CLPEF Board, and Reverend Gary Oba, Superintendent, United Methodist of Southern Oregon. The ceremony brought forth heartfelt responses from former Nisei internees, Sansei and Yonsei descendants of survivors, friends and associates.

"According to Bettie Luke, *Breaking the Silence* was especially timely to bring to Eugene. 'This year is the formal nationalizing of Day of Remembrance — February 19, 1942, when President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 authorizing the concentration camps. So it is fitting to showcase this educational presentation in honor of the courageous people who endured and survived that internment experience.'"

In spite of the heavy performance schedule in Eugene and Corvallis, the Seattle cast members left Eugene satisfied. And we in the community were grateful for their contributions to a greater understanding of the JA experience as part of American history. In all, our experience together was a powerful lesson in why we need to continue breaking the silence. ■



From the Frying Pan

By Bill Hosokawa

Instructing instructors

A FEW weeks ago the advisory board to the President's Initiative on Race came to Denver and conducted a series of hearings on racial problems. Although the hearings received extensive press coverage, it is hard to tell what was accomplished. The most sensational part of the proceedings was a loud and disruptive performance by an Indian group which was protesting the absence of an Indian on the advisory board. (It was the same group, incidentally, that forced cancellation of Denver's annual Columbus Day parade.)

After the shouting subsided it became known that the Colorado legislature is considering a proposal to make the teaching of Indian history and culture an integral part of school curriculums. The idea is to make it a year-round effort rather than a Thanksgiving season side-show.

Efforts of this kind are well-intentioned, but there are many pitfalls. For example: I spent a number of evenings recently judging several hundred state-wide junior high school essays entered in a contest whose theme was "Freedom Lost." These were among more than 3,000 essays submitted by high school and junior high school students. The contest was pegged on a comparison between Japanese American imprisonment in World War II and the tragic story of Anne Frank and the Jewish holocaust.

The best of the essays were excellent. They recognized the commensality of hate, oppression and discrimination in the two historic events and understood the difference between simple confinement and a campaign to exterminate a people.

Yet, among most, there was no real understanding of the malevolent forces that brought about the outrage. Many of the students focused on the fact that Japanese Americans were housed in horse stalls while the Jews were locked in crowded buildings. I was distressed to discover that so many of the pupils were impressed that Jews were starved before being sent to die in gas chambers while the Japanese were fed unpalatable food like sheep brains and shot only if they tried to escape.

Many of the authors did not seem to understand that the "Japanese" held behind barbed wire were American citizens being locked up by their own government without due process of the law. I don't think

I saw a single mention of the Bill of Rights, and the tragedy of letting its safeguards be violated with scant protest.

Some seemed to believe the Japanese American incarceration was an unfortunate but logical consequence of the attack on Pearl Harbor and that Japanese espionage was a likely possibility. They had no understanding of the long history of anti-Orientalism on the West Coast.

It is difficult to blame the kids for ignorance and misperceptions. They know only what they read or are told by their teachers. If the teachers know the facts and understand the historic forces that led to both the Holocaust and the Evacuation, which may or may not be likely, in many cases they have not done an adequate job of sharing it with their students.

There is much that needs to be done to teach the people who teach our kids about the Evacuation. Otherwise that tragic history will continue to be as relevant to reality as the story of Pilgrims and Indians sharing turkey at Thanksgiving. ■

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

Japanese Latin American Redress case

(Continued from page 1)

ese Latin American internees the redress because they were not U.S. citizens or permanent legal residents at the time of their imprisonment, (one of the eligibility requirements). Former internees are outraged by the denial.

"How could we be U.S. citizens at the time, when it was the U.S. government which forced us, to come here and imprisoned us?" asks Carmen Mochizuki, of Montebello, Calif., now herself a U.S. citizen. She and four other named plaintiffs filed suit against the government to challenge the exclusion.

The government, while not disputing that the U.S. State, Justice, War and Navy Departments and the Executive Branch violated the human and civil rights of the former internees, is trying to dismiss the case.

Judge Smith was first scheduled to issue a ruling in February 1998, but U.S. Government attorneys asked the court to postpone a ruling so they could consider settlement. When discussions stalled, Judge Smith issued an order for ruling set for April 13 while still urging the parties to settle. Referring to the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, Judge Smith wrote, "The compensation system adopted by the United States was

an action of deep moral significance. It reaffirmed that this is a moral nation and recognizes that when we act in an immoral way we must apologize and make restitution to the extent possible ... this (settlement) would do great credit to the moral integrity of our nation."

Advocates for Japanese Latin Americans hope that a reasonable settlement will be reached but will also continue their efforts to convince President Clinton to use his executive powers to resolve the matter.

"Japanese Latin American internees were imprisoned in the same camps as Japanese Americans," said Julie Smith, co-chair of Campaign for Justice, a coalition of civil and human rights groups advocating for Japanese Latin American redress. "They suffered the same violations of their civil and human rights; the U.S. government perpetuated these crimes against them for the same reasons. Now they want the same justice. President Clinton and Janet Reno have the power to resolve this injustice. I hope they act soon because these people have waited long enough."

Failing settlement, or a joint request for a further stay, the court will issue its opinion on the case April 22. ■



East Wind

By Bill Marutani

Something for nothing

cluding a couple of timeworn schemes which nonetheless seem to attract those blinded by hopes of making it big. One is the so-called "Ponzi" inverted pyramid which involves recruiting investors who in return recruit other investors, each recruiting level profiting from monies paid in by the next lower level of recruits. This cannot go on interminably and obviously, someone ends up holding the bag, an empty bag. The other old scam is the "pigeon drop" involving a "found purse" stuffed with greenbacks. The potential victim just happens to be nearby; a "passerby" (partner of the "finder" of the bag) joins in; now the question is what to do with this treasure if no one claims it. Answer: divide the find three ways. The victim is induced to put up "good faith" money, and as "assurance" the about-to-be fleeced can hold onto the (stuffed) purse until the three meet again at a designated place on a specified date. Of course, nobody (other than the trusting victim) shows on the specified date, and when the now-worried victim looks into the purse (s/he finds nothing but newspaper cut into the size of paper currency. The "pigeon drop" is such an odiferous fraud that I cannot compre-

hend how people fall for it. But every year the newspapers report of yet another victim.

NOT UNLIKE others of you, I get unsolicited commercial telephone calls. Somehow invariably these come when I'm in the midst of having dinner or watching some playoffs on TV. I pick up the phone and when the caller stumbles pronouncing my name, it's a giveaway; it's one of those unsolicited sales pitches. As the caller starts to give his/her sales pitch — even as my meal is getting cold — I cut in: "If you're trying to sell me something, I'm not interested." Undaunted, the caller assures me that "It won't cost you anything." I simply respond that "I'm not interested in freebies," whereupon the call usually concludes.

THE TELEPHONE CALLS that I particularly abhor as a gross intrusion upon my privacy and peace of mind are those recorded electronic sales pitches. The last one I fielded opened with "Hi! I hope I haven't called at an inconvenient moment." (click.) ■

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

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UNITED

Prop. 227

(Continued from page 6)

English and an American life easier.

Silvina Rubinstein, Executive Director of the California Association of Bilingual Education, asserts, "This is by no means a racial issue. It should be everybody's concern that somebody who is not a parent, who has no understanding of education, and has never visited a bilingual program, is making a decision that will affect not only the 1.4 million English learning students, but all the 5.5 million school children in California. I certainly do not want someone like that to make decisions that will affect the education of my own children."

Rubinstein believes that the key to effective bilingual education programs is additional funding and a change in priorities within the California school system. "Currently, only 30 percent of all students who would benefit from bilingual education have access to these programs because of funding issues and a lack of qualified bilingual instructors."

"Furthermore," she says, "The school system needs to shift their priorities by recognizing that bilingualism is an asset in today's world." On both sides of the debate, people seem to agree that knowledge of English is one of the keys to a successful professional career, and that the sooner children learn English, the more opportunities they will have. Opponents of Prop. 227 plan to use the time be-

tween now and June to educate the public on this initiative so that they make the best possible choice at the polls. According to Rubinstein, it is an easy decision. "I feel that if people understood this initiative, there is no way that they could support it." ■

Friday before date of issue

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MIXED MESSAGES

By Mika Tanner

Happy Hapas - A "How To" handbook

LAST week, at the very thought-provoking "Ties that Bind" conference in Los Angeles, I attended the workshop dealing with — big surprise! — Hapa issues. Although I needed to go as a member of Hapa Issues Forum, the group coordinating the workshop, I was also very interested to hear and see what other members of the JA community had to say about the often controversial subject of interracial marriages and children.

The workshop group was comprised of college-age Hapas, graduate student Hapas, young professional Hapas, a Hapa in his 60s, and a number of Nisei who were monoracial but had or were hopefully expecting Hapa grandchildren.

During the session, themes of identity, acceptance and self-esteem were touched upon and articulated. For some of the Hapas attending the workshop, this was the first open discussion they had ever had regarding these issues. As with any group, there were many perspectives and opinions — some felt tinged of bitterness at having felt excluded from the community; others grew up feeling accepted and completely JA. Some Hapas were tired of having to answer the question "What are you?" while some felt that this question was a sign that the person asking it was trying to make a genuine connection with them.

The Nisei who attended the workshop were not interested so much in sharing their own stories but in learning what they could do. "How do I make sure my Hapa grandchild grows up with good self-esteem?" they asked. "How do I make sure they are interested in

JA culture and community?" Some mighty big questions here.

I'm not sure that we answered them at the workshop. In fact, I don't know that we can answer them at all. Obviously, the Hapas at the conference were all there because we consider ourselves to be a part of the JA community. And just as certainly, we were all raised differently so there is no one right way to ensure that your kids and grandkids claim a JA identity. Even if your kid is monoracial Japanese, there is no way to guarantee that he or she becomes part of the JA community and does not become a "banana" — yellow on the outside, white on the inside.

I believe, too, that it's important to realize that being mixed is not something inherently tragic that will haunt your children throughout their lives and make them miserable. As with every child, love, communication, and understanding are the keys to raising a happy, productive person. Being mixed is usually only an issue if others think it's an issue. Or, if the kid happens to be going through puberty, when, as a parent of a teenage boy told me, everything is an issue. Yeah, we agreed. There wasn't enough money in the world to make us go through the hells of adolescence over again.

Thinking about it though, it's clear that the family is the best place to start building a positive JA image. Raise them to be JA, but let them know that the other side(s) of their heritage is/are important, too. Never let it be about choosing. Do not make them feel that they have to prove their JAness, because who needs that? Besides, as the conference was trying to address, who can really say what

true JAness really is? If they feel different and out of place at the family potlucks, understand that this is natural. Their JA experience is bound to be a little different from that of their Gosei cousins and friends.

One thing I have heard other Hapas say is how comforting it was to meet other Hapas for the first time. Never knowing myself while I was young, I'm sure it must be a relief to see someone who looks like you. Being different can be difficult sometimes, no matter how often parents and grandparents emphasize that this difference is wonderful and special — sometimes kids just want to look like everyone else. Instead of being disappointed at the child's reluctance to fully embrace his or her "specialness," it might be beneficial to seek out other families with Hapa children whom they can get to know.

Everyone at the conference discussed JA identity for three straight days. It is something that most of us will continue to ponder for most of our lives. It is clear, however, that JAness is not something easily grasped and defined, or a state of being that you come into if you follow all the right steps and mix all the right ingredients. It is not something you can put on like a jacket, nor is it something that you can shrug off when you feel like it. So how to be JA, how to make sure your kids, Hapa or otherwise, will feel JA is not something any of us could even pretend to have the answer to. And yet, it is clear to me that part of the answer does lie in raising the questions in the first place. ■

Mika Tanner is a board member of Hapa Issues Forum.



Voice of a Sansei

By Akemi Kayleng

Information Management

WE TALK a lot about shifting gears in this post-Redress era. We are becoming a diverse community. New chapters have sprung up, addressing issues which would have been inconceivable back in the '50s. We have Hapas and divorced people and open gays and lesbians, and younger JAs with little if any feeling about the internment.

So, what should our new operational methods and goals be?

I don't have any absolute magic formula. I don't think one exists. However, I do have some suggestions.

I see certain factors which apply to all of us, regardless of where we are in our increasingly diffused and fragmented community.

The first thing is, we are no longer a very homogeneous group. We have assimilated in different ways. We are mixtures of old J-Town and mainstream America. But the precise formula of the mixture varies from person to person.

Another thing is, we are living in an increasingly uncertain world. Back in the old days we never questioned that going to college and being a top student was good. We felt that open frankness on personal matters was bad. Nowadays, many of us are becoming far less certain about these absolutes.

And finally, there is that matter of

transience. We are living in a rapidly changing world, and things which are so real today will be dim memories only a few years from now.

I think a vague sense of distance between individuals, uncertainty as to what's really real, and an uncomfortable feeling that shifting walls will never completely stabilize, are feelings running through many of us.

So, Where does all that leave us? JACL will continue to provide a leadership framework, to help guide our community. But increasingly, each private individual must learn to assimilate vast volumes of changing information, information which isn't always well defined, and in that information learn to see the structures which are right for him or her. This information management will increasingly become a private and personal skill, as we are less able to depend on a group to define realities for us.

The most successful Japanese Americans of the 21st century will be highly independent information managers, synthesizing their own realities from all that data, no longer dependent on some JA community to do their thinking for them. Such Nikkei will be true individualists, in the most classic of mainstream ways. ■

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Very Truly Yours

By Harry K. Honda

Keeping track of 'my' congressman in Washington

AS AN eight-year resident in California's 41st Congressional District (which encompasses Chino, Chino Hills, Diamond Bar, Montclair, Ontario, Pomona, Rowland Heights, Upland, Walnut, Anaheim Hills, Brea, Placentia and Yorba Linda — an area where the Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties come together), I am in the midst of a still-growing Asian population of 572,000, by the 1990 Census, in Rep. Jay Kim's bailiwick. ("Partial" Congressman Kim has been in the news almost weekly in our neighborhood press since December 1995, after Hyundai Motors was fined \$600,000 upon being charged with donating \$4,500 in illegal contributions to his first campaign in 1992; Korean Airlines was fined \$250,000 for making two \$2,000 contributions. I cite these two fines only for "impression purposes." Three Korean companies also pleaded guilty in 1996, and foreign nationals associated with the campaign have also been in the news.

The 1998 *Almanac of American Politics*, co-authored by Michael Barone and Grant Ujifusa, refers (as it does for all congressional districts) to the Census for a summary description of "the People." The 41st district is 1 percent rural, 6 percent over age 65, 52 percent white, 6 percent black, 10 percent Asian, 32 percent Hispanic origin; 65 percent married couple families; 38 percent married couples with children, 55 percent college educated; \$44,607 median household income; \$16,002 per capita income; \$666 median

gross rent; \$202,700 median house value.

The final paragraph from the *Almanac* adds that "Kim has pledged to serve only three terms and so presumably will not run in 1998; if he does, he could have competition."

WELL, last Sept. 4, the papers said Congressman Kim vowed to run, despite pleading guilty a month earlier in federal court to charges of accepting nearly \$150,000 in illegal campaign contributions. Depending on what paper you read, that amount might have been higher (like \$230,000) though the three editorials calling for him to resign carefully couched Kim's actions as "misdemeanors," "flouting the law" or "sends the wrong message about the role of money in campaigns" — but did not mention any amount. The court documents later revealed \$145,000 was involved — said to be "the biggest" ever by a member of Congress.

As for competition in the forthcoming June 2 primaries, Kim faces three Republicans: a state assemblyman, an Orange County deputy district attorney and a Walnut School Board member.

And what hasn't been mentioned in the wife stories is that the primaries in California are now an open contest thanks to Proposition 198, passed by the voters last year. The proposition provides voters, irrespective of political party (and there are at least eight in California: Democrat, Republican, Libertarian, Peace & Freedom, Green, Natural Law, American Independent, Reform) may choose in the

primary whom they think is the best candidate.

Among local political pundits (college professors, party leaders and editorialists), because the 41st Congressional District is 60 percent Republican with one Democrat uncontested on the primary ballot, the possibility exists the incumbent Kim may attract Democratic votes. The scenario has it that the Democrats would vote for Kim and then the lone Democrat (a city councilwoman at Diamond Bar, where Kim got his political spurs as councilman in 1990 and then as mayor two years later) would be campaigning this fall against what some perceive as the "weakest" candidate because of his campaign-finance sentence.

Professor, in government Jack Pitney, at Claremont-McKenna College, says in such a tight race, which is expected in the June primaries, "raiding" does happen and could make a difference. And if the turnout is poor, 100 to 200 votes can shift the outcome, he believes.

But a campus colleague, Professor Alfred Balitzer, doesn't think it will happen. He cites a January '98 count — 110,349 registered Republicans and 94,319 Democrats in the 41st District. "Republicans vote by registration. If the democrats run a campaign to get Kim elected in the primary, he will be elected [in November] period."

We anticipate a flurry of political pieces in our little mailbox in the coming weeks. What an interesting primary for us in the 41st Congressional District. ■

AMERICANS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY WWII MEMORIAL ALLIANCE RECOGNIZES

100TH/442ND/MIS WWII MEMORIAL FOUNDATION MONUMENT

In keeping with the tradition of Americans of Japanese Ancestry and as a public service to the community, the AJAWWIMA announces their recognition of the 100th/442nd/MIS WWII Memorial Foundation's Memorial Monument to help resolve the prolonged memorial controversy and to help reunite the Americans of Japanese ancestry veterans of the United States of America.

THE AJAWWIMA CONGRATULATES THE 100TH/442ND/MIS WWII MEMORIAL FOUNDATION UPON THEIR ANNOUNCED GROUND BREAKING CELEBRATION ON APRIL 5, 1998.

However, the concept of commingling the names of those killed in action with the entire list of surviving members along with civilian instructions remains questionable.

It is the desire of the AJAWWIMA to convey to the Japanese American community that we do not consider the two monuments to be in competition with one another, but we feel both have their own purpose and goal.

The AJAWWIMA offers its assistance to the Memorial Foundation to help correct their published list which omitted many names of those killed or missing in action.

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Book Review Amazing: *Memoirs of a Geisha*

BY MEI NAKANO

To tell the truth, I probably would not have read Arthur Golden's novel *Memoirs of a Geisha* (Knopf, N.Y. 1998, \$20.00) had I not been asked to comment on it over the air. But I felt challenged when the host of an hour-long program said she thought it an "amazing book," adding, "I'm anxious to hear what you and Lisa Nakamura [a Yonsei professor of English Literature at Sonoma State University] might have to say about it."

I had ignored the book in spite of its provoking title and its place on the best-seller list because the word *geisha* caused vaguely unpleasant feelings to float up, feelings that went something like: "Here we go again. Another book about the 'weaker' sex being exploited by the stronger and a white man exploiting exoticism." For the purpose of analysis, I was forced to examine these emotions.

I do confess that I usually pick up a novel about Japanese folk by a white author with some misgivings — not from narrow-mindedness, I promise you, but because I've often found the Japanese characters in these novels wanting, one-dimensional. However admirable the author's intent, he/she sometimes presents these characters with stock characteristics like unrelenting moral rectitude and stoicism (Guterson's *Snow Falling on Cedars*) or, at the other end, downright meanness and depravity (Crichton's *Rising Sun*). Stick figures with no center.

So, if ever there were a case for misgivings, *Geisha* is it. Here we have a white male daring to tell the life story of a geisha. And in her voice. What a surprise, then, to see that Golden pulls it off — in a bravura performance that will knock your socks off.

Using the device of a memoir, the author sets the story in the years between the 1930s through post World War II, an apt time slot, since most of the feudal practices in Japan, like the system of primogeniture and male dominance, were still firmly in place. Geishahood was in its prime during this period.

The narrator, Chiyo (later called Sayuri), begins her story when she was aged nine, at which age she and her older sister are sold to a kind of broker in human trade by her father. Ultimately, she lands in an *okiya* (geisha house) because of her beauty, never to see her par-

ents again. But she is fortunate compared to her homely and mal-adroit sister, who is peddled to a house of prostitution. All the same, Chiyo is subjected to unmerciful privation, cruelty and betrayal as she undergoes the arduous period of apprenticeship into geishahood. At eighteen, she becomes Sayuri, a strikingly beautiful geisha, graceful and clever as well. She is schooled in the thought that "We don't become geisha so our lives will be satisfying ... [but] because we have no other choice."

Paradoxically, Sayuri constantly struggles to make her life better, to be freer to make choices. Those struggles and whether or not she succeeds in her quest form the meat of the book.

Golden lived and worked in Japan, knows the language and had been privileged to obtain an extensive interview with a geisha there, all of which richly inform his book. We get abounding detail and finely-wrought characters who interact in ways that are true to their cultural roots. Most impressive are the subtle language and behavior cues the author furnishes regarding gender and status in this rigidly hierarchical society. Take, for example, this passage which Sayuri narrates:

"When we passed a middle-aged or elderly woman, Mameha [Sayuri's mentor] nearly always bowed first; then the woman returned a respectful bow, but not as deep as Mameha's, and afterward looked me up and down before giving me a little nod. I always responded to these nods with the deepest bows I could manage ..."

No doubt about status here.

In sum, with astonishing aplomb, Golden has managed to illuminate the world of the geisha with authenticity, substance and flair. So, when the host of the broadcast asked me "Did you like the book?" I gave an unequivocal "Yes."

Still, there lingered a question about whether I should have enjoyed reading about women who struggle to survive by their wits and beauty, ever subject to the bidding of men.

And then I considered this: that my imagination, my understanding, of something of another world had been enriched, unalterably, by this book. And the geisha, once a stranger, was that no longer. For the author had given me, with great respect, the heart of his captivating narrator. ■



Letters to the Editor

Some still denied redress

It was with great joy and gratitude that we all greeted the news that former railroad and mine workers and their families are finally entitled to redress, as announced by Acting Attorney General for the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, Bill Lann Lee, on February 27 in Los Angeles.

It is therefore alarming to learn that some in the railroad category have already received rejection notices from the ORA, as in the case of Jeanne Konishi of Salt Lake City, whose father Jinzaburo Matsumiya of Tintic Junction, Utah, had worked for over 36 years for the Union Pacific.

No one has volunteered as actively as Konishi in the interior states to contact and to bring together former railroad and mine workers and their families. She even began a mini-newsletter to help in encouraging them to submit their stories to the vernaculars. She coaxed others into joining her in digging into musty regional archives and in conducting research. She flew to Los Angeles to attend an ORA outreach meeting, after which she invited the ORA to hold a similar program in Salt Lake City.

I was thus stunned to learn of ORA's decision to withhold redress in Ms. Konishi's case. Their rationale, I am told, is that she was working in Salt Lake City and not residing at home at the time of her father's dismissal, which had come with an order that the family vacate their company-owned home within three days. When confronted by such a categorical order without prior notice, one can imagine that only such items essential for the survival of a family of six were jammed into boxes and suitcases and strapped to the family car.

An attempt on the part of Ms. Konishi, at the time, to arrange for a leave of absence from her employment, and to return to Tintic Junction, would have been an exercise in futility, for company-owned homes became off-limits practically overnight to persons of Japanese ancestry. Her family was literally cast out into the streets, jobless, practically penniless, as the dismissal came with no severance pay.

While encountering verbal abuse and humiliation at every turn, Mr. Matsumiya scoured nearby towns trying desperately to find for his family a place to live and to find some kind of employment. Eventually the family was reduced to the role of migrant stoop labor, working from dawn to dusk topping sugar beets, picking fruits and vegetables, ever-relocating as they followed the crops. Individual earnings were pooled and used only for life's bare essentials. As an outcast subgroup, distrusted and despised by the majority, medical, psychological and such things as dental care went unattended.

ORA errs in forgetting that Ms. Konishi and her family were excluded from their domicile which

suddenly became designated as a prohibited zone, much as the entire West Coast would become within weeks. Re-entering their homes to rescue what were considered valuable and irreplaceable was denied following the evacuation deadline. Much had to be abandoned. Therefore, railroad workers and their family members suffered not only loss of liberty but of property, as well. Ms. Konishi is entitled to redress.

I would suggest that all who have suffered similar rejections immediately send their ORA notices to Mr. Bill Lann Lee, Acting Assistant Attorney General, at Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, Room 5645, Washington, D.C. 20530

Michi Nishimura Wedlyn
New York City

Age discrimination?

Railroad workers' families granted redress, says ORA. However, certain family members are being denied again because of age; the ORA claims that the older children were out on their own and not dependent upon their parents.

I was totally dependent upon my parents until I found a job just three months before Pearl Harbor. As soon as I found a job, I took care of my sister who had come to the city to enter nursing school. She was denied entrance because she was Japanese. She lived with me until she found a job as a maid in a home so that she would have food and shelter. When my father was fired from his job, she joined the family to help them move.

Many older children in a family were forced to do without as parents would say there are more who are in need also. We did not have the luxury of jobs such as picking fruit or thinning beets during the summer as they simply were not available to us. My mother took in laundry, raised chickens, rabbits and a vegetable garden to help with the growing needs of the family. The oldest children were responsible for the bulk of the work. My youngest sister had the advantage of a college education because the older children were out of the home and it became much easier for my parents to help pay her tuition. The older children did not get that advantage.

ORA is saying that the oldest children of railroad workers are not eligible for redress because they were out on their own. Perhaps some were, but the majority were not.

Enraptured in
Salt Lake City

"The Dollhouses"

I am writing because of my concern regarding a column (*The Dollhouses*) that appeared in the March 6-19 issue of the *Pacific Citizen* under the *Voice of a Sansei* title.

What a shame that this column was ever printed! How did the edi-

tor/acting editor not exercise some judgment and ask for a rewrite? I realize a disclaimer is printed in every issue, but an editorial comment should have been found at the conclusion of the column. I am 100 percent for free speech, but with it also comes responsibility.

Under the banner of the *Pacific Citizen* I see the words "national publication of the Japanese American Citizens League." The disclaimer in every issue did not escape my notice, but the disclaimer was pages away from the article. Could someone pick up this paper, read the article, and generalize that this Sansei view is representative of all Sansei?

I would not expect distasteful advertising or anarchist views to appear on the pages of my national paper, supported by dues monies of its membership. Yet, the generalizations and stereotyping in this column are truly offensive.

We adopted "better Americans for a greater America" as a creed. Let's continue the job of building bridges of respect for all people.

Sharon Takahashi
President, Portland Chapter

Concentration camps

Re: What is a concentration camp? March 20-April 4, 98 issue. I am pleased that our association with the Jewish community was tested to define the use of concentration camp.

The general public's understanding of concentration camp is synonymous with Nazi Germany's death camp; therefore this definition is timely.

I would like to suggest an additional sentence to the definition.

"We had one thing that was uncommon: the tragic Jewish experience occurred under a dictatorship while the illegal incarceration of Japanese Americans happened in our democracy."

Unfortunately, in our multi-national democracy, identifiable ethnic minorities are still vulnerable to racism. This is reason enough to support the JACL.

Toru Miyoshi
Santa Maria, Calif.

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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 their comments.

Beyond Barbed Wire educates Idaho community about the Japanese American WWII experience

BY DANIEL TERAGUCHI

The Pocatello-Blackfoot Chapter communicated the importance of the Day of Remembrance (DOR) through the showing of the film *Beyond Barbed Wire*. The film provided an educational experience for the remembrance of February 19, 1942, through assistance from Idaho State University, who donated their student theater for the showing.

Beyond Barbed Wire is a story by Yukio Sumida. During World War II, Sumida was with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team fighting for America, his country of birth, while his wife Millie was locked in a barbed wire stockade in Arizona. It is a sensitive, non-fiction film that takes an uncompromising look at the how and why of what happened to American citizens of Japanese ancestry during WWII.

The Pocatello/Blackfoot Chapter's Day of Remembrance had four goals:

Goal 1: Educate the community about Japanese American history. This goal was accomplished be-

cause more than 200 people came to the showing of *Beyond Barbed Wire*. Teachers from as far away as Malad (approximately 56 miles) came to the movie and talked with the Japanese community. Many high school students attended the showing for extra credit in their history course.

In addition people have asked to have more information about it, so I have been providing them with pamphlets for ordering the JACL Curriculum Guide as well as making copies of the case study provided in the Jan. 2 issue of the *Pacific Citizen*. In fact, I received a phone call from Meridian (near Boise) from a young girl who was interested in learning about the JA internment camps. I provided facts and figures for her as well as directions on how to get to Hunt, Idaho, and the history museum in Jerome, Idaho.

The impact does not stop there, however. People who could not make the movie have asked me about my experiences as a Japanese American and how the internment camps have impacted my

life. Through learning about the events and emotions surrounding this movie, I could respond to inquiries about WWII. And because of the JACL and this project, this experience has allowed the torch to be passed to me and my generation.

struggles of the JA communities and that civil rights and prejudice is not limited to African Americans.

Goal 4: Spark interest for potential JACL membership.

With the showing of *Beyond Barbed Wire*, we have sparked an

Curriculum Guide. This film, *Beyond Barbed Wire*, has gained support nationally as well as at the local level; I have already had requests from Minnesota, Idaho Falls, and Denver about obtaining the film to educate people in their areas.

I learned a lot about the internment camps by bringing this film here. I was forced to explore and understand the impact of WWII on the JA community as a whole and in Idaho. I am proud to have Japanese heritage as well as being an American. I would like to thank those who provided me this opportunity. Thank you.

Daniel Teraguchi is currently the youth representative for the Intermountain District JACL.



A scene from *Beyond Barbed Wire*: The 442nd moves in to rescue The Lost Battalion. A MAC and AVA film, *Beyond Barbed Wire* is narrated by Noriyuki "Pat" Morita, written and produced by Terri DeBono and directed and edited by Steve Rosen. WWII veteran Yukio Sumida served as one of the film's executive producers.

Goal 2: Appreciate the Japanese and Japanese American culture.

Through the showing of *Beyond Barbed Wire*, people in southeastern Idaho now appreciate the JA culture. People have started to inquire about the culture and the heritage that drives JA success even in the worst possible situations. The local chapter, Pocatello-Blackfoot, has done a wonderful job in supporting the community when an interest in JA culture springs up. Chapter president Micki Kawakami has been instrumental in this.

Goal 3: Inform the general public that civil rights is not just a black and white issue.

The movie *Beyond Barbed Wire* informed many people about the

interest in JACL membership among people in southeastern Idaho. With the case study and curriculum guide brochure, I also provided a JACL membership application. Even if people don't join, they still know the premiere resource for JA issues is the JACL. Ten Curriculum Guides were purchased due to the interest in the internment camp in Idaho — which is, a bridge to gaining more memberships.

The potential impact included membership increase, a tidal wave of information to flood uneducated individuals about Japanese and Japanese Americans, and expansion of public support to allow the JACL more political influence locally and state-wide as well as promoting the JACL

San Francisco State seeks 19 students interned during WWII

(Continued from page 1)

Aiko Nishi Uwate, now lives in Chino Hills.

The University has sought the help of the Office of Redress Administration in the Civil Rights Division of the U. S. Department of Justice to locate the students. "We have also enlisted the help of San Francisco community-based Japanese American organizations such as the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California, the *Nichi Bei Times*, and community leaders such as Tsuyako "Sox" Kishima," said Hayashino, who is active in the Japanese American community in the Bay Area.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of any former San Francisco State University student who was forced to leave the university as a result of the internment should call Joy Morimoto, senior development officer at SFSU, at 415/338-3552. ■

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OBITUARIES

Masakazu Iwata, 80, historian, author

MONTEBELLO, Calif.—Retired Biola University history professor Dr. Masakazu "Mas" Iwata, 80, died March 16. Surviving are wife Doreen, sister Dawn Kashitani and sister-in-law Midori Iwata.

Born in the San Fernando Valley, Iwata was stranded in Japan during WWII while a student of the second class at the Heimushakai, the prewar Japanese Foreign Office school for bilingually-attuned Canadian and American Nisei. He received his bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees from UCLA, and undertook post-doctoral studies at USC's Slav-Asian Studies Center.

His major work was *Okubo Toshimichi: the Bismarck of Japan*, about a Meiji-era politician, published by the University of California Press (1964).

In the 1960s, having written

about the Issei in California agriculture for a farm journal, he was invited by the JACL to write a narrative history of Issei experiences and contributions to U.S. agriculture. He spent his summer months away from teaching and administrative responsibilities at Biola (in La Mirada). He visited Japanese farm settlements throughout the western U.S. and extending into Utah, Colorado and Texas, interviewing the already-aging Issei farm population. His was the last work to be published in 1989 by JACL's Japanese American Research Project, *Planted in Good Soil: a History of Issei in United States Agriculture*.

In his résumé of the book, (a two-volume hard-cover in red cloth, \$89.95, S&H included, Midwest JACL Office, 6415 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60640), Iwata described the Issei farmers as "not simply economic animals [for] they established homes, families, settlements in rural America in which cultural centers, language schools, religious institutions and a plethora of specialized organizations were prominent." —*Harry K. Honda*

Dr. "Mas" Iwata (1990)

Shiro Kashiwa, 85, the first Nisei federal jurist

HONOLULU—Shiro Kashiwa, 85, died on March 13. He was the first Nisei associate justice of the U.S. Court of Claims, appointed by President Nixon in 1972. His career in Washington, D.C., spanned 17 years as a federal civil lawyer and judge. He left the judiciary in 1986, returned to private practice, then moved to Honolulu and retired in 1992.

Born on the Big Island of Hawaii, the son of Bishop Ryuten and Yukiko Kashiwa, he was educated at Leilehua High School and received his law degree from the University of Michigan in 1936. In private practice since 1937, he was Hawaii's first attorney general under Gov. William Quinn from 1959-1962. As assistant attorney general under President Nixon in 1969, he headed the Justice Department's

Natural Resources Division and played a key role in the government's anti-pollution suits.

In 1970, National JACL recognized him as a Japanese American of the Biennium. The JACL citation noted, "No other Nisei has had to defend what is best in America [its public lands], with billions of dollars involved."

Surviving are wife Mildred, son Gregg, daughter Wendy, two grandchildren, sisters Anita Ainge and Judy Kawabata.



Shiro Kashiwa (1969)

Roy Higashi, 75, missile base commander

HOOD RIVER, Ore.—Believed to be the first Nisei officer in charge of a military missile base, Roy Yoshiyuki Higashi, 75, died of heart failure March 19. The Seattle-born graduate in 1940 of Highline High School was evacuated to Pinedale Assembly Center, to Tule Lake, and finally to Heart Mountain.

In 1947, he volunteered for and remained in the U.S. Army, retiring in 1970 as a lieutenant colonel. It was in 1958 that he commanded a Nike Hercules Missile Base in San Francisco. He was also acting deputy inspector general of the artillery and was stationed with the U.S. Civil Ad-

ministration in Okinawa (1967-70) as a political relations liaison, receiving a Meritorious Service Medal.

He then worked for 14 years with Safeco Life Insurance at its home office in Seattle, retired and moved to Parkdale, Ore., where he married Tazuye Noji in 1986. He spent years assembling family records of Japanese Americans in the Mid-Columbia area.

The family suggests remembrances in his name be made to the Ray T. Yasui Dialysis Fund, c/o Anderson Funeral Home, 1401 Belmont Rd., Hood River, OR 97031. —*Hood River News*

Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Eshima, Kunio, 76, Denver, Mar. 7; Erie, Colo.-born postal worker, survived by wife Machiko (Takigiku), sons Stan (Arada), Mel (Broomfield), daughters Gaye Greer (Boulder), Lyn Handa (San Jose), 8 gc., 2 gc.

Fujimura, Susumu Sam, Fresno, Feb. 17; retired pharmacy owner, 42nd yr., Sierra Misai VFW post founder, Fresno JACLer, survived by wife Fusayo, sons Calvin, Robert, daughters Sue, Carol Kwok, daughters-in-law Kimiko, Jean, son-in-law Lenni Kwok, gc.

Fukazawa, Helen Akiko, 92, Los Angeles, Mar. 12; service; Bakersfield-born, survived by son Tomihisa, brothers Harry, Walter, Albert, George Tatsuno.

Hata, Catherine Fujimoto, 76, Berkeley, Mar. 8; San Francisco-born, survived by husband Rev. Akira, daughter Dr. Tissa Uchiyama, 1 gc., sister Margaret Ota.

Higa, Shozen, 86, Los Angeles, Mar. 12; Hawaii-born, survived by wife Doris Miso, son Richard, daughter Gail Shishido, 2 gc., brothers Shoken (Hawaii), Larry, sister Joyce Horikawa (Hawaii), sister Miso, 105, Los Angeles, in-law Yoshio Yamashita (Hawaii), mother-in-law Kamado Nakata, brothers-in-law Morimatsu, James Nakata, sisters-in-law Elsie Nakata, Grace Peshkin, Shinae Nakata.

Higashi, Michael, Spokane, Wash., Jan. 20; survived by daughter Trish Pentas, parents Shozo.

Horikiri, Yoshiko, 105, Los Angeles, Mar. 7; Wakayama-born, survived by son Tameyuki, daughters Jean Miyoshi, Masie Kato, Betty Oka, Helen Honjo Shirley Horikiri, gc., ggc.

Hosoume, Chizuru, 75, Sacramento, Mar. 15; survived by husband Buro, daughter Kimi Hosoume, son John, 1 gc., sisters Sakiko Yamada, Chieko Sakai, Mieko Moshima, brothers Tadashi Mitsuo, Yoshio Yamada, Jun Tamarawa, sister-in-law Yoko Chiyono (Hosoume, Meio, 105, Los Angeles, Mar. 19; Yennagata-born, survived by son Buro (Sacramento), daughter Yoko Chiyono (Torrance), 4 gc., 2 gc.

Ishibashi, Kay, 81, Santa Barbara, Mar. 17; Los Angeles-born, survived by wife Kathryn Katsume, daughter Jean Ishibashi, brothers Masachi, George, Akira, sister Yasuko Nagamatsu.

Iwata, Masakazu, Ph.D., Mar. 16; San Fernando Valley-born, survived by wife Doreen, sister Dawn Kashitani, sister-in-law Midori Iwata.

Kajita, Henry Toshinobu, 84, Rosemead, Mar. 8; Seattle-born, survived by wife Ruth Ritsu, daughter Carol Karamura, 3 gc.

Kakuda, George Yoshio, 86, San Clemente, Mar. 10; Garden Grove-born, survived by sons Roy, Dick, daughters Nancy Ota, Terri Bryson, 7 gc., sister Asako Aoyama.

Kido, Charles Yoshio, 83, Thousand Oaks, Mar. 15; Swirk, Colo.-born, survived by wife Frances Fusako, sons Kei, Daniel, daughter Mary Oyemura, sisters Frances Rasmussen (New York), Lucille Chen (Altadena), gc., ggc.

Kishi, Minoru, 94, Los Angeles, Mar. 11; Wakayama-born, survived by son Jim, 9 gc., son-in-law Issei Anami, daughter-in-law Yukiko Kishi.

Kita, Hatch, 87, Denver, Mar. 3; Hawaii-born WWII veteran, survived by wife Kiyoko.

Koga, Shigeo, 69, Glen Ellyn, Ill., Mar. 11; Ogden, Utah-born, survived by wife Mickey (Michiko), sons Gary Bruce, Tepper Mark, daughter Kelli Rei, 3 gc., brothers Toshio, Jake, sister Etsuko Fujimoto.

Miyamoto, James Akira, 77, Torrance, Mar. 12; Fresno-born WWII veteran, survived by wife Chiyoko, sons Dr. Richard, Gordon, daughter Sharon Shibata, 1 gc., brother Lou (Caruthers), sister Elsie Morita (Reedley).

Momii, Sakae, 98, Watsonville, Mar. 17; notice; Fukuoka-born, longtime Southern California resident, survived by sons John (Seattle), Eiji (Watsonville), daughter Dorothy Shiko Nimura (Gardena), 6 gc., 4 ggc., sister Mrs. Horuchi (Hawaii), brother Dr. Yoshida (Chicago).

Mori, Kusa, 95, Salt Lake City, Mar. 9; Kagoshima-born early Issei Utah pioneer, WWII gold-star mother (son Shigen), survived by daughters Miyoko Meg Kityama, (Sandy, Utah), Yukiko

Tawa (St. George), Selma Yagi, Corinne, sons Nobuo (Draper), Tom, (Pleasant, Calif.), Floyd (Sandy), Steve, (San Diego), son-in-law Junior Yagi, daughters-in-law Kazuko, Betty, Irene, Nancy, 24 gc., 24 ggc Yagi, preceded in death by husband Shigenobu.

Nakamura, Jiro, 66, Seattle, Mar. 5; service; survived by wife, son, daughter gc., ggc.

Nakamura, Tom, 87, Sanger, Mar. 8; Fresno-born, Fresno JACL Chapter president (1937), Central Calif. District governor (53-54), survived by sisters Grace Seki, Mary Kashiki, brother Don, predeceased by wife Maybelle.

Nakano, Takeko, 74, Walnut, Mar. 11; Los Angeles-born, survived by sons Richard, Larry, daughters Joyce, Donna, Carolyn Nakano, 5 gc., 1 ggc., sister Haruko Ichien.

Nakashimo, Chiyoko, 79, Monterey Park, Mar. 9; Los Angeles-born, survived by husband Hideo, sons Shunichi, Shoji, daughter Miyako Kanazawa, 5 gc., 1 ggc., brother Masaharu Takahashi, sister Yasuko Fujiwara, brothers-in-law Minoru, Keiji Nakashimo, sisters-in-law Fusako Morimoto, Yoshiko Nakashimo.

Nakatsuka, George Masaki, Pasadena, Mar. 18; Los Angeles-born, survived by wife Hatsuko, son Darryl, daughter Linda Kato, 4 gc., sisters Yoneko Tange (Japan), Mitsue Ando, Amy Koizumi.

Nakauchi, Jane Kaoru, 73, Altadena, Mar. 14; Santa Maria-born, survived by husband Isao Jim, sons Steve, Dennis, Allen, daughters Janet Nakauchi, Terri Mendez, Bonnie Herrera, 14 gc., 2 ggc., sister's Sue Koyama, Ruby Takemoto.

Nomura, Kiyoko Jean, 75, Henderson, Nev., Mar. 8; San Francisco-born, longtime resident of Southern California, survived by sons Eddie, Kenji, Raymond, daughter Karen, 10 gc., 8 ggc., brother Kiichi Tanabe, sister Naoko Matsui.

Oda, Hayaji, 82, Berkeley, Mar. 16; survived by wife Tayeko, son Alan, daughters Dale Haratani, Emily Ushijima, Mimi Kagehiro, gc., brothers Masami, Kanki, sister Haruko.

Okamoto, Rose Harumi, 85, San Jose, Feb. 25; survived by brothers Ray (Los Altos), Hiro Okamoto (Los Angeles).

Omi, Haruue, 77, Fresno, Mar. 15; survived by son Burt, daughters Margie Marker, Mary Ann Omi, 2 gc., brothers Masao, Jimmy Sakoda, sisters Miyo Shimotsukasa, Michiko Ogata.

Ryono, Tetsuya, Gardena, Mar. 22; San Pedro-born, survived by sons Wayne, Hugh, stepson David Hozaki, 1 gc., sisters Mutsuko Ume, Sachine Sumi.

Sagara, Ruth Miyoko, 71, Corona, Mar. 6; Vacaville-born, survived by daughters Rylene Hamamoto, Eileen Kato, son Gerald, 2 gc., brother Masaru Kadawaki.

Sakato, Henry Yutaka, 83, Los Angeles, Mar. 16; survived by wife Fujiko, daughter Yoko Sakato, brothers George, John, James, sister Fumiko Matsumoto, sister-in-law Sumi Sakato.

Samata, Woodrow Shigeo, 62, Tacoma, Wash., Feb. 26; survived by mother, brother, sister.

Sato, Tom "Tomomi", 86, Sacramento, Mar. 18; survived by wife Kimi, daughter Gloria Tsunekawa (Fair Oaks), Janet Sato (Novato), son Art Sato (San Francisco), 3 gc.

Shimokochi, Terry Jessie, 57, Monterey Park, Mar. 9; Portland, Ore.-born, survived by husband Jack, sons David, Jonathan, brothers Paul, Kenneth, Robert Shimokochi, sister Rachel Kobayashi.

Takahashi, Nobu, 80, Oakland, Jan. 14; Berkeley-born 1940 U.C. Berkeley graduate, survived by wife Alice, son Randall, brother Kay and sister-in-law Frances, Sister Sachie and brother-in-

law Thomas Doi, Mako.

Takamura, Yoshito, 90, Los Angeles, March 15; survived by wife Kay Kazue, brother Hiroshi (Japan), brothers-in-law Jimmy Hajime Nakagawa, Frank Minoru Nakagawa, sisters-in-law Reiko Nakamura, Hise Kotoe.

Takasaki, Hetsuo, 92, San Francisco, Feb. 28; survived by sons James Michio, Shigeru Matsuno, daughter Toshiya Handa, 3 gc., 10 gc.

Togami, Frank Toru, 72, San Jose, Mar. 12; Vacaville-born WWII veteran, survived by wife Rose Mitral, sons Eric and Chris (both San Jose), sisters, one brother.

Tsunoda, Kameyo, 96, Culver City, Mar. 20; survived by sons Joe Yuzuru, George, (both of Oxnard), Larry (Seattle), daughter Fusako Hamamoto (Culver City), son-in-law Toru Endow, 11 gc., 9 ggc.

Vogt, Michael, 87, Fresno, Feb. 22; Russian-born German printer, good friend to the Nikkei before, during and after WWII, survived by wife Wilma, predeceased by brothers Fred and Henry.

Yabuno, Robert, 78, Fresno, Feb. 27; Fresno JACLer, one of the first Nikkei optometrists in Fresno, survived by wife Edna, son Robert Glenn, sister Toriye Manabe, 1 gc.

Yamada, Lucy Motoko (Kunil), 101, Riverside, Mar. 9; Okayama-born, survived by son-in-law Steve Shimura Yamamoto, 3 gc., 3 ggc.

Yamamoto, Shigeo, 88, Seattle, Feb. 24; survived by husband Shigeru, brother George Matsuno, sister-in-law Fusako Suwabe.

Yoshida, Elsie Fujiko, 79, Richgrove, Feb. 19; survived by son David Yoshida, daughter Patricia Yotsuya, 2 gc., 1 ggc., brothers Marshall and Earnest Hirose, sisters Martha Kunihara, Ruth Ishizaki, Lucile Kondo.

Yoshida, Harry Minoru, 63, San Jose, Feb. 23; survived by son David Yoshida, daughter Patricia Yotsuya, 2 gc., 1 ggc., brother Russell, sister-in-law Jane.

Yoshimura, Kiyoshi, 84, San Francisco, Mar. 5; survived by wife Yukiko, daughter Jane Yamamoto, 1 gc.

Yoshito, Roy Matsuda, 74, Laguna Niguel, Mar. 3; Menis-born, survived by wife, son, daughter ggc. brothers, sister. Zoriki, Sumi W., 74, Torrance, Mar. 10; Los Angeles-born, survived by husband Tamotsu, son David, daughter Donna, brother Hideo, Kenji Watanabe.

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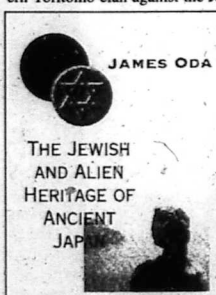
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Pertinent excerpts from James Oda's book

* Ben-Ami Shillony wrote in his book, "The Jews and the Japanese: The Successful Outsiders," published in 1992 in Japan, "The rise of the Samurai class in the twelfth century, according to Norman McLeod, was a reaction to the Ainu and Ainu half-breeds represented by the eastern Yoritomo clan against the Jews represented by the imperial family and the court aristocracy." (page 136).



* Anthropology professor, C. Loring Brace of Michigan University concluded in a 1989 article in the American Journal of Anthropology that the Ainu-related samurai achieved such power that they intermarried with royalty and nobility passing on Ainu blood and their physical features to the upper class. (My book, page 108).

* As early as in 1980, I developed a theory (in a Rafu Shimpo article) that the Japanese version of the Yoritomo Clan is a complete fabri-

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