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Nov. 6-19, 1998

Army ponders Medal of Honor upgrades for 104 AA WWII veterans

BY CAROLINE AOYAGI
Executive Editor

Veterans Day this year is going to be a bit sweeter for 104 Asian American World War II veterans.

Currently, a review panel is looking over a Pentagon-prepared list of 47 Japanese Americans, 55 Filipino Americans, one

can concentration camps. Still, approximately 60,000 AAs and Pacific Islanders fought in the war.

Of the more than 300 Medals of Honor awarded to soldiers of WWII, only one has ever been awarded to an AA and only after congressional intervention. In 1946 Private 1st Class Sadao

the 100th and 442nd had lost 650 men while close to 9,000 had been wounded. Members of the MIS were often mistaken for the enemy and shot dead.

To this day the 442nd/100th is the most highly decorated unit of its size in the history of the U.S. Army. And for their heroics, the soldiers in the 100th and the



The 442nd Regimental Combat team in Europe during World War II.

Chinese American, and one Korean American candidate for Congressional Medal of Honor upgrades, the highest medal awarded by the United States Army.

All of these men, about a third who have already passed away, were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (the Army's second highest medal) for their bravery and heroism during WWII. The JA nominees are comprised of members of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat team, the 100th Infantry Battalion, and the Military Intelligence Service. Included among that list is Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii).

Over the years, since the end of WWII, there has been a hanging suspicion that racism played a role in the awarding of medals to AA soldiers. The anti-Asian atmosphere at that time was palpable, demonstrated in the forced incarceration of 120,000 JAs from the West Coast into Ameri-

Munemori of Los Angeles was awarded the medal posthumously after a member of the Senate proposed his nomination. To be awarded the Medal of Honor a soldier must have demonstrated a life-risking act of conspicuous "bravery or self-sacrifice" displaying "gallantry and intrepidity... above and beyond the call of duty." In January of 1997 a similar review panel for African American WWII soldiers awarded seven Medals of Honor.

Yet the record of these AA soldiers is impressive. It's no secret that many of the assignments given to the 442nd and 100th were considered near-suicide missions. During the famous three-day battle of the "Lost Battalion" more than 800 soldiers from the 442nd were either killed or wounded while trying to save the 221 men of the 36th Division from Texas. At the end of WWII,

442nd were awarded, in addition to the DSCs, 9,000 Purple Hearts and eight Presidential Citations. Now, they are looking to add some more Medals of Honor to the list.

"In my own mind, the 100th/442nd deserve more

See MEDAL OF HONOR/page 7

Lungren's redress comment angers JA community

BY MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

Redress wasn't expected to become a California issue.

It became an issue when Republican gubernatorial hopeful Dan Lungren went public a month before elections about his role in the redress movement.

Comments from the former member of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) touched off a political powder keg in what is still a deeply emotional issue within the Japanese American community.

Nikkei supporters came out in defense of Lungren through columns published in various ethnic publications while opponents blasted Lungren at a press conference and circulated newsletters.

At the crux of the controversy was the question: what role and significance had Lungren actually played in the redress movement?

Lungren's office could not be reached for comment by press time.

Louis K. Ito, president of Japanese American Republicans (JAR), contacted Lungren's office after several JAR members voiced concerns about hearing anti-Lungren remarks.

"At a dinner function, comments were made about Lungren that seemed to infer that he was against redress until the very end," said Ito. "That's something different from what we had heard from Lungren's office before. So I checked this out with Lungren's office to get their side of the story."

Pacific Citizen's "Voter Guide" (Oct. 16-Nov. 5), Lungren's response to his redress involvement appeared as follows: "Were it not for my efforts on Japanese internment, the apology, redress and education fund would never have become a reality. Unfortunately, my record has been blatantly distorted by some political adversaries on this issue."

"A truthful understanding of my efforts show that I co-sponsored the bill and was a key member lobbying other members to support the bill that created the Japanese Internment Commission, served as vice chairman of the commission — the only member of Congress to serve; led efforts to establish a \$50 million education fund on the subject; and while initially opposed to the single issue of individual reparations, voted for the final legislation signed into law that included a formal apology by the U.S. Government, the education fund and individual reparations."

Ito, a former Jerome and Gila camp internee, then composed a three-page letter defending Lungren, which read in part: "In his first congressional term, Lungren co-sponsored H.R. 5499 that created a commission to investigate the internment of 120,000 Japanese-Americans during WWII because he was concerned that many Americans were unaware of this unjust nation's history. When H.R. 5499 reached the House floor, Lungren convinced many of his colleagues to

See LUNGREN/page 12

U.S. Commission finds APA discrimination in fundraising scandal

BY MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

Dr. Suzanne Ahn is a physician and neurologist from Dallas, Texas. She grew up in Arkansas and East Texas and has family in Texas and California. For the past 15 years, she and her family have been giving campaign donations reaching six figures to both the Democratic and Republican parties.

Two years ago, she heard rumors of an investigation being conducted by the Democratic National Committee (DNC) regarding Asian American donors. When Ahn contacted DNC attorneys, she was surprised to discover that not only were the rumors true, but that they, in fact, had a file on her.

The DNC then faxed Ahn a list of questions. Among them included: Are you an American citizen? How long have you been an American? What is your social security number? What was your reported income on your income tax (return) last year? Can you afford to make these donations? Can we do a credit check on you to verify that you can afford to make these contributions?

Ahn was told that failure to answer the questions would get her listed as "uncooperative" and that her name would be released to the press. She complied.

Later, she received phone calls from the FBI. Her reaction: "Let me tell you, getting a call from the FBI is extremely intimidating. It's worse than getting a call from the IRS. And I think that I'm sitting here thinking, being cooperative and answering all his questions, thinking, 'My God, I've got an FBI file now and all because I had given money and my family had given money to politicians who have turned out to be fair weather friends and ungrateful hypocrites.'"

Ahn's problems didn't stop there. Next, she was hounded by the mainstream media. "The press has been relentless. I've received calls from a number of people, including the *New York Times* because my name was released by the DNC to the press as being a donor in the past," Ahn testified.

Ahn's testimony was one of 11 included in a published findings by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights released last week. The 52-page findings, titled "Briefing

on Civil Rights Implications in the Treatment of Asian Pacific Americans During the Campaign Finance Controversy," is comprised of a summary report from a Dec. 5, 1997, commission briefing, background information and a transcript of the briefing.

The 11 panelists who testified included: Daphne Kwok, executive director of the Organization of Chinese Americans; Susan Au Allen, president of the U.S. Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce; Joseph E. Sadler, general counsel for the DNC; Michael Woo, former Los Angeles City Councilman; L. Ling-chi Wang, head of the Asian American Studies Program at UC Berkeley and founder of Asian Americans for Campaign Finance Reform; Frank Wu, associate professor at Howard University's School of Law; Helen Zia, contributing editor of *Ms. Magazine*; Virginia Mansfield-Richardson, associate professor of communications at Pennsylvania State University; William Woo, former editor of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and current visiting professor at Stanford University.

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Change of Address

If you have moved, please send information to:

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1765 Sutter St.
San Francisco, CA 94115

Allow 6 weeks for address changes.

To avoid interruptions in receiving your P.C., please notify your postmaster to include periodicals in your change of address (USPS Form 3575)

Holiday Issue kits have been mailed

Deadline for submitting ads for the Holiday Issue is November 25. Please mail your chapter ads promptly so that your chapter is well represented. If you have any questions please call Brian Tanaka at 800/966-6157.



P.C. SAVE
Support & Assist Volunteer Effort

Here's my contribution to support the needs of the P.C. and its efforts to return to a weekly publication! (Please send your tax deductible donations to: P.C. SAVE, 7 Cupania Circle, Monterey Park, CA 91755.)

☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ More

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JACL Calendar

Intermountain

SALT LAKE CITY
Sat. Nov. 21—Tanoshimi no yoru, 5-9 p.m., Westside Senior Center, 868 W. 900 S. Dinner at 6, Bingo at 7. Info, tickets, Terry Nagata, 801/355-8040. Advance discount.

Midwest

BRANSON, MO.
Mon.-Sun., May 17-23—"Branson '99" tribute to Japanese American veterans. Info: Hy Shishino, 562/ 926-8151; travel, hotel & tour info: Eiko Yamamoto c/o Chase Travel Service, 800/304-5100.

CLEVELAND
Fri. Nov. 13—Alternative Medicine Seminar, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Cleveland Health Museum; presented by Drs. Yoshitaka Ohno and Harold Remmick, Ohno Institute of Water & Health.

ST. LOUIS
Sun. Dec. 13—Christmas Party, 4-8 p.m., Kirkwood Middle School.

Pacific Northwest

PUYALLUP VALLEY
Sat. Nov. 14—University Students Club Distinguished Alumnus Award, 7:30 p.m., Kawabe House, 221 18th S., Seattle. Info: Elsie Taniguchi,

206/824-2402. Scholarship awards and tribute to Aki Kurose.

NC-WN-Pacific

CONTRA COSTA
Sun. Dec. 13—Chapter Board Appreciation/Installation Luncheon, 12:30-3 p.m., Silver Dragon Restaurant, 835 Webster St., Oakland; Superior Court Judge Joni Hiramoto, guest speaker. Info: Jim Oshima, 510/234-8437.

RENO
Sun. Nov. 22—Mochitsuki Potluck. **SAN BENITO & WATSONVILLE**
Fri. Jan. 22—Joint Installation/Keiro Kai Dinner, San Juan Oaks Golf Lodge.

SAN FRANCISCO
Through Nov. 7—Linus Pauling Exhibit, co-sponsored by the chapter; Herbst International Exhibition Hall, Main Post in the Presidio. Info, times, tours: 415/255-4687.

S.F. BAY AREA NISEI SINGLES
1999, Fri.-Sun., Sept. 3-5—8th Annual National JACL Singles Convention, Radisson Miyako Hotel, San Francisco. Info: SJBANS, Marge Fletcher, 510/657-5445; Jean Shibata, 408/723-6222. Golf, bowling, workshops, mixer, banquet, dance, brunch, side trips. Co-sponsored by Greater Los Angeles Singles Chapter.

SONOMA COUNTY
Sat. Nov. 12—Sushi Nite, 6 p.m., Enmanji Memorial Hall. RSVP by Nov. 16: Jim Murakami, 707/824-8665.

Fri. Jan. 22—Installation/Keiro Kai

Dinner with San Benito Chapter, San Juan Oaks Golf Lodge.

Central California

FRESNO
Sat. Nov. 14—CCDC Health Fair and Installation Banquet, Doubletree Hotel, Downtown Fresno. Info: Patricia Tsai Tom, 209/486-8815.

Pacific Southwest

GREATER L.A. SINGLES
Fri. Nov. 13—Chapter meeting, 8 p.m., Gardena Valley YWCA, 1341 W. Gardena Blvd., Gardena. Info: E. Plak, D.C.: "Getting the Most Out of Your Life." Info: Louise Sakamoto, 310/327-3169.

1999, Fri.-Sun., Sept. 3-5—Eight National Singles Convention; see S.F. Bay Area Singles.

RIVERSIDE
Wed. Nov. 18—Preview Benefit Shopping Day fund-raiser, 9 a.m.-10 p.m., Robinsons-May at the Inland Center Mall, San Bernardino. Tickets from Michiko Yoshimura. ■

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

The East Coast

NEW YORK
Sat. Nov. 21—Program, "Wartime Incarceration and the Life Course of Nisei Families," 1-3 p.m., Ellis Island Immigration Museum 3rd Floor Conference Room. Info: 212/952-0774. Note—Exhibit runs through Jan. 5. Admission is free.

The Midwest

ST. LOUIS
Sun. Nov. 15—Discussion Panel: "Being Japanese American During World War II," 1-3 p.m., Maryville University Library Board Room, 13550 Conway Rd.

Northern Cal

SACRAMENTO
Through Nov. 13—Special exhibit, Japanese Archival Collection, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., CSU Sacramento. Info: CSUS Library JAAC, 916/278-6144. Collection includes more than 70 Florin JACL oral histories, photos, documents, etc.

SAN FRANCISCO
Tue. Nov. 10—Asian American Theater Company classes begin in improvisation, acting, voice, playwriting; 1840 Sutter St., Suite 207. Schedules, fees, info: 415/440-5545.

Sun. Nov. 15—Screening & Reception fund-raiser: *Han Chee* by Jean Cheng, 6 p.m., Delancey Street Screening Room, 600 Embarcadero. A personal documentary about Taiwanese history, identity, culture & nationhood. RSVP: 415/695-0528.

Through Jan. 17—Exhibit, "Hokusai and Hiroshige: Great Japanese Prints from the James A. Michener Collection," Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Golden Gate Park. Info: 415/668-8928. Note—Hokusai prints thru Nov. 15; Hiroshige prints from Nov. 21.

Sat. Nov. 21—Japanese American National Library fund-raiser at exhibit, 1:30-4 p.m., Nihonmachi Terrace, Hinode Tower, 1615 Sutter St.; featuring manga art of Issai Henry Kiyama,

cartoons by Nisei Jack Matsuoka, comic book art of Sansei Stan Saki. To support the library. Info/tickets: Karl Matsushita, 415/567-5006.

Southern Cal

LOS ANGELES
Sat. Nov. 7—Panel Discussion & Book Party, Nanka Nikkei Voices: *Resettlement Years 1945-1955*, 1-3 p.m., JANM, 369 E. 1st St., Little Tokyo. Panelists: Wakako Yamauchi, Tim Asamen, Eddy Kurishima, Cherry Okimoto, John J. Saito. RSVP: 213/625-0414.

Sat. Nov. 7—Annual "Fall Frolic" dance, East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, 1203 W. Puente Ave., West Covina. Info: Toshi to, 626/810-1509.

Nov. 12-15: *Stories from a Nail Salon* (by Cup O' Noodles), 8:30 p.m., Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St., Santa Monica. Tickets: 213/660-8587. Note—7th Annual Asian Pacific American Performance & Visual Arts Series continues Thursdays-Sundays through Nov. 29.

Sat.-Fri., Nov. 14-20—Retrospective on works of cinematographer Christopher Doyle: UCLA's James Bridges Theater, Sunset Blvd. near Hilgard Ave. Schedule, info: 323/208-FILM.

Nov. 14-29—Display: 1998-99 Japanese Calligraphy in America competition; Doizaki Gallery, JACCC, Sun. Nov. 15—*Shichi-go san* children's festival, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., New Otani Hotel & Garden, 120 S. Los Angeles St. Info: 213/629-1200.

Thu. Nov. 19—Cold Tofu Improv: "A Cold Tofu Thanksgiving," 7:30-8:30 p.m., JANM, 369 E. 1st St., Little Tokyo. RSVP: 213/625-0414.

Sat. Nov. 21—Oral history workshop for beginners, 9 a.m.-noon, JANM, 369 E. 1st St., Little Tokyo. RSVP by Nov. 13: 213/625-0414. Led by Dr. Art Hansen and Cindy Togami of the Oral History Program at Cal State Fullerton.

Thu. Nov. 19—Nakano Music Fair, 1-4 p.m., JACCC, 244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo. RSVP: 213/617-1750. Presented by Yamabiko Kai.

Through Nov. 30—Exhibit: "Army of Ghosts 4696," by Steven Yao-Chee Wong; Highways Gallery, 1651-18th St., Santa Monica. Info: 310/453-1755.

Sat. Dec. 5—Panel Discussion, "Shifting the Focus: Researching the Resettlement Experience," 10:30 a.m.-noon, JANM, 369 E. 1st St., Little Tokyo; Dr. Lane Hirabayashi; co-curators James Gatewood & Darcie Iki; Dr. Art Hansen, moderator. Note—Exhibit "Coming Home: Memories of Japanese American Resettlement" continues through Feb. 7, 1999. Info: 213/625-0414.

Fri.-Sun., Apr. 16-18—Rohrer Reunion II, Torrance Marriott Hotel, Torrance. RSVP by Nov. 15. Info: So. Calif.—Peggy Tsunata, 310/323-6337, Frank Yamaguchi, 310/329-2547, Betty Oka, 714/636-8207, Helen Takata, 626/968-2966; Mas Kodakura, 310/323-7989, Sam Mitsu, 310/532-9730; No. Calif.—Nelli Utsumi Noguchi, 415/387-5265, Lillian Uyeda Inouye, 510/235-6042, Asako Homimoto Maeda, 510/832-2275, Yome Kumura Asai, 510/828-2086. ■

CORRECTION:

In the Voter Guide in the Oct. 16-Nov. 5 P.C., Republican Arizona State Representative Barry Wong was mistakenly identified as a Democrat. ■

HOLIDAY ISSUE NOTICE

The deadline for all Holiday Issue advertisement submissions is Wed., Nov. 25.

Due to the hectic Holiday Issue schedule, the *Pacific Citizen* office will be closed on Wed., Dec. 16.

The office will also be closed on Christmas and New Year's Day but will remain open half-days on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Regular office hours will resume Monday, Jan. 4, 1999.

Small kid time



Gwen Muranaka

Asian American Public Officials on the Move

Paul Igasaki, who has been serving as acting chair of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission since January, was reappointed through Senate confirmation to his position as vice chair for the agency last month.

Igasaki became the first Asian American to serve as EEOC vice chair in 1997. When former chairman Gilbert Casellas returned to a private law that made it impossible to develop cases that send a message that job discrimination, w practice last year, Igasaki stepped in as acting chair, becoming not only the first Asian American to chair the EEOC but the first Asian American to head an independent agency in the Clinton administration.

As vice chair, Igasaki recommended the reforms that have enabled the EEOC to reverse the growth of its enormous backlog of discrimination charges. He is credited with instituting the Priority Charge Handling program and a National Enforcement Plan, both of which have increased the agency's effectiveness in pursuing strong discrimination cases and dismissing weaker ones more quickly.

"We needed to clear the decks of charges that made it impossible to develop cases that send a message that job discrimination, whether based on race, color, gender, nationality, religion, age or disability will not be tolerated by this administration," said Igasaki. "We have brought stronger cases and are providing more redress for victims of employment discrimination than at any previous time."

Igasaki has also recommended stronger local commitments by EEOC field offices to produce results against discrimination and more national strategic coordination of law enforcement efforts.

Under Igasaki's prodding, a

policy was reinstituted where beleaguered field offices are given priority in filling jobs. Igasaki's approach has been to focus on the field offices, considered the front line positions in combatting discrimination.

Most significant, however, has been Igasaki's success in getting the agency the largest funding increase since the 1970s. The former JACL Washington, D.C. rep-

what we have accomplished and for our willingness to be realistic about our limitations. Now we must demonstrate that the investment in our law enforcement efforts is money well spent. I look forward to working with Ida Castro to build a revitalized EEOC."

On the same day as Igasaki's appointment, Harold Koh was also confirmed as assistant secretary of the Bureau of Democracy,

magazine as one of America's 45 leading public sector lawyers under the age of 45.

The Harvard and Oxford University educated professor is currently the professor of international law and director of the Orville H. Schell, Jr., Center for International Human Rights at Yale Law School.

In a separate move, U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer decried the

President Clinton for this position in July 1997, and he has already served 10 months as acting attorney general for civil rights.

Prior to his nomination, Lee served as an attorney with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. His supporters include Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan, former U.S. Senator Hiram Fong and the National District Attorneys Association.

Meanwhile, Doris Matsui, deputy director of the public liaison office, announced her resignation from the post she held since 1993. She will be joining the Washington law firm of Collier, Shannon, Rill & Scott as senior advisor and director of government relations and public policy.

Local News

Warren Furutani was recently appointed to direct the California State Speaker of the Assembly's Asian Pacific American Affairs office. This position was newly created by Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa to address the issues and concerns of the Asian Pacific American community.

Furutani has been active in local politics and community service for the past 30 years. Prior to his appointment, he was president and CEO of the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON), a policy organization comprised of 50 community service groups.

He was also executive director of the Asian Pacific Community Fund, a charitable fundraising group that helped raise money for 23 of the A3PCON member organizations.

From 1987 to 1994, Furutani served to terms on the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education, becoming the first Asian Pacific American ever elected to that position. In 1992, he became the board's president and managed a \$4 billion budget for the district. ■



Paul Igasaki



Bill Lann Lee



Doris Matsui



Warren Furutani

representative made appearances at House oversight and Senate confirmation hearings, and his face to face meetings with elected officials helped to dispel long held misunderstandings of the EEOC.

Historically, the agency has had troubled relationships on Capitol Hill. But the agency's recent progress in backlog reduction caught the attention of senators and house representatives, particularly those of Oversight Committee Chair Harris Fawell and Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, and the EEOC saw a recent budgetary increase of 15 percent or \$37 million, bringing the agency's funding level to a total of \$279 million.

"I am pleased with our team's ability to turn around a strained relationship with the Congressional leadership," said Igasaki. "While significant concerns remain, we have won respect for

Human Rights and Labor.

With his confirmation, Koh will serve as an advisor to the secretary of state on policy implementation relevant to democracy, human rights and labor.

The New Haven, Conn. Resident brings with him a proven track record of supporting these issues.

He has been on the forefront of fighting for political asylum rights for Haitian refugees, saying that his own parents were political refugees from Korea in 1948.

He has also written extensively on human rights, constitutional law and international relations and business transactions.

In 1997, he was chosen Outstanding Lawyer of the Year by the Asian American Bar Association of New York for human rights work and has been recognized by the *American Lawyer*

Senate's failure to act on the nomination of **Bill Lann Lee** to be assistant attorney general for civil rights at the U.S. Department of Justice.

"Bill Lann Lee believes passionately in equal justice for all Americans," said Boxer. "He brings outstanding legal, educational and personal qualifications to this position. Unfortunately, his nomination has become a victim of Republican leadership with a narrow political agenda."

"Perversely, a few senators were able to hold up Mr. Lee's nomination to lead the civil rights division because oddly enough, he believes strongly in civil rights."

"It is outrageous that the Senate Republican leaders would not even allow the debate on his nomination to take place. This is not only a disservice to Mr. Lee, but a disservice to the whole country."

Lee was first nominated by

Labor Department official discourages rush to judgement in Sumitomo Bank of California's discrimination findings

BY MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

Although initial findings by the U.S. Labor Department revealed that the former Sumitomo Bank of California discriminated against African Americans and Latinos in its pay and promotion practices, a federal official cautioned against making final conclusions.

"It's still an open case," said Helene Haase, regional director of the Labor Department's Office of Federal Contract Compliance (OFCC).

Haase predicted that a final resolution could come within 60 to 90 days, at which time one of three things could occur — Sumitomo could bring additional evidence to refute the findings; Sumitomo could agree to settle the issue; or the Labor Department could proceed with legal action.

The findings come more than one and a half years after the Greenlining Institute, a San Francisco-based advocacy coalition, had filed the "glass ceiling" class action discrimination lawsuit with OFCC on Dec. 23, 1996.

Greenlining is comprised of 33 multiethnic organizations. Among them are the Black Business Association, the California Coalition of Hispanic Organizations, the California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Council of Asian American Business Association, Hermandad Mexicana Nacional and National

Federation of Filipino American Association.

The reason the investigation had taken so long was because Greenlining's suit involved a state-wide investigation and encompassed a wide range of allegations, said Haase.

Robert Gnaizda, Greenlining's policy director and general counsel, met last month with OFCC officials in Washington, D.C., in what he termed as an "excellent" follow-up session.

According to Gnaizda, OFCC officials agreed to reexamine their statistical methodology, which will entail removing Japanese and Japanese Americans from the Asian American category. This could result in "more serious charges related to pay and promotion and overall hiring practices," said Gnaizda.

Gnaizda estimated that this class action suit could cost Sumitomo anywhere in the range of \$3-10 million in back pay and compensation to more than 200 former or current employees.

How these findings will be handled is yet to be seen in light of the fact that Sumitomo Bank of California, formerly a subsidiary of Osaka, Japan-based Sumitomo Ltd., was purchased by Utah-based Zion Bancorporation on Oct. 1. Sumitomo Bank of California's 47 branches recently merged with another Zion entity, Grossmont Bank, to become California Bank & Trust Co.

Herbert Yamanishi, JACL na-

tional director, said he was not aware of the details of the lawsuit but said, "Hopefully, the new entity will be able to correct these matters if their [the Labor Department's] findings are correct."

But Gnaizda added that "Zion has no better record than Sumitomo." When asked whether Greenlining plans to file charges against Zion, Gnaizda said, "Could be."

Prior to filing the lawsuit, Greenlining had filed a complaint with the FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.) in October 1996, charging Sumitomo with redlining against certain minority communities in California. When Sumitomo applied for a merger application, "Greenlining lodged another protest with the FDIC, according to Frank Gresock, FDIC spokesperson."

Gresock said they then held a meeting two months ago with Greenlining and Grossmont. "We made several recommendations in CRA [Community Reinvestment Act of 1977] improvements which Grossmont adopted and the merger was approved September 19," said Gresock.

Under CRA, financial institutions are required to serve all segments of the community where the bank has existing branches. The FDIC examines the institution periodically to ensure that the CRA requirements are being met.

Robert Sarver, CEO and chairman of California Bank & Trust,

did not return phone calls to the *Pacific Citizen*.

Greenlining's allegations of discriminatory practices by Sumitomo go back almost a decade. In 1991, Sumitomo came under fire for making only two home loans out of 180 to African Americans. This led to a 1993 "good faith 10-year" CRA goal where Sumitomo promised to allocate more than \$500 million of its assets to low-income neighborhoods in California over a 10 year period.

Greenlining at the time praised Sumitomo's move, but the group later claimed that Sumitomo failed to hold up their end of the bargain.

In 1996, two months before filing the class action lawsuit, Greenlining organized protest rallies in Los Angeles and San Francisco after Toshio Morikawa, chairman of Osaka-based Sumitomo Ltd., refused to meet with the group.

Following this, several Japanese and Japanese American organizations, including the JACL, stepped into the fray, fearing that Greenlining's vocal tactics against Sumitomo were triggering anti-Asian violence. In mid-December, one Sumitomo branch office had received a telephone bomb threat with the caller saying, "Stop discriminating — go back to Japan or I will put a bomb in your bank."

As a result, the Japan Pacific Resource Network (JPRN), an Oakland-based public policy or-

ganization that had also been involved in trying to settle the Mitsubishi sexual harassment lawsuit, brokered an informal December meeting with Greenlining and several Nikkei leaders. The meeting, however, was strained, and Greenlining forged ahead with their "glass ceiling" lawsuit.

The 1997 year opened with a letter to the Greenlining Institute signed by several Nikkei leaders and spearheaded by attorney Donald Tamaki of Tamaki, Lew & Minami, requesting that Greenlining "exercise some restraints while Sumitomo's records are being examined."

During this time, Sumitomo participated in several community meetings that resulted in the unveiling of the "1997 Community Outreach" in March 1997. The program, which targeted non-Asians, called for doubling loans to low-income and inner city home and business owners; expanding the Community Advisory Board from five to 10 members, aiming for more diversity; and announcing a joint venture with Founders National Bank, an African American-owned bank based in South Central Los Angeles.

At that time, Sumitomo Bank of California was worth close to \$5 billion. Today, with the merger with Grossmont Bank, the newly-named California Bank & Trust has assets of \$6 billion and is the fifth largest commercial bank in the state. ■



Double Minorities: The forgotten Asian Americans

BY MIKA TANNER

Writer/Reporter

For many people, the term Hapa brings to mind individuals of mixed Asian and Caucasian ancestry, the products of Asian-white interracial marriages that are becoming increasingly accepted by mainstream American society. This image, however, does not reflect a complete picture of the Hapa — or mixed-race Asian American — experience, which also includes individuals whose Asian American ancestry is paired with an African American, Latino, and/or American Indian heritage. In an effort to promote a more inclusive notion of the mixed-race Asian American identity, Hapa Issues Forum addressed the issues and experiences of these "double minority" Hapas at their first annual Southern California conference held at California State University, Northridge, on Oct. 17.

HIF has provided a voice and a sense of community for mixed-race Asian Americans since its inception in 1992. The conference, featuring such artists and writers as Amy Hill, Kip Fulbeck, Velina Hasu Houston, and Aimee Liu, strove to examine the diversity of experiences within the mixed-race Asian American community. This included the experiences of double minority Hapas, who have often been overlooked in discussions of multiracial issues and identity.

Jeff Yoshimi, a founding member of HIF and a key organizer of the conference, felt that the issues of double minority Hapas are more important to address, saying, "It's always been assumed that the Hapa identity is one that is part

white, and that just isn't true, especially in Southern California where there are large African American and Latino communities. HIF wants to address the issues facing all of its members and to really acknowledge the wide range of experiences among multiracial Asian Americans."

At a workshop focusing on double minority Hapas, it was clear that the issues facing these multiracial Asian Americans can be very different from those confronted by their Asian-white counterparts. The reason for this, according to Curtiss Takeda Rooks, a panelist at the workshop and a Hapa of Japanese and African American descent, is their place within the American racial hierarchy that places whites and blacks at opposite ends of the social spectrum.

"Asian Americans are not immune from the white Eurocentric paradigm, and there is often the sense that marrying 'white' is acceptable while marrying a black or Latino person is not."

Rooks also acknowledged a long history of racism within Asian culture, as well, where class distinctions are often made based on the lightness of a person's skin. Consequently, double minority Hapas often experience more resistance from the Asian American community and have more difficulty asserting their Asian culture and heritage than someone who is racially Asian or white.

Rhonda Carter, a freshman at Claremont McKenna College who is of Korean and African American ancestry, agrees, expressing that she is usually more readily accepted by African Americans than by Ko-

reans. She attributes this to the fact that racism is culturally acceptable within the Korean community, saying, "My Korean relatives love me, but I'm seen as an 'exception' to the rule. The fact that racism is inherent in the culture doesn't justify it, but I'm learning to deal with it."

Carter says that her older sister, on the other hand, has rejected the Korean community as a result of her experiences, and now chooses to identify solely with her African American heritage. Carter, however, has not followed her sister's path.

"I think by shutting out the Korean community, I'm only perpetuating their racism. But if I had to choose between one or the other, I guess I would identify myself as black because I always get the sense among Koreans that I'm only half Korean, whereas in the black community I'm seen as simply black, not just half black."

Carter was encouraged by the discussions at the conference, where it was affirmed that not only should she not have to choose between her two cultural legacies, but that she actually has access to a third multiracial community and identity as well.

Eric Akira Tate, who proudly asserts that he is "100 percent black, 100 percent Japanese and 100 percent Hapa," agrees with Carter that many aspects of Asian culture and society are racist. Tate, who spent part of his childhood in Japan, recounts, "In Japan, being non-Japanese is one thing, but being black is another. You can't get any further down on the pole than that."

However, Tate also recognizes problems for mixed race individuals in the African American community as well. "Usually, if you're part black, even if it's just a small part, the black community will embrace you, no problem. But the minute you say you're something else besides black, there's an issue. Then

people recognize a more inclusive definition of the term Hapa, one that doesn't just focus on people who are of Caucasian descent."

Chung sees HIF as creating a unique space for multiracial people of all ethnicities and races and hopes that other double minority Hapas will become



(From left)—Curtiss Takeda Rooks, Rhonda Carter and Kook Kim Dean at the Hapa Issue Forum Southern California conference.

there's this feeling that you're trying to disclaim your blackness or that you're ashamed of it. My attitude is that I'm not going to let other people tell me who I am or what I should be."

It is to promote this attitude that HIF was originally conceived and founded. However, according to board member Sheila Chung, who is of Korean and Argentinean ancestry, the group was not always as inclusive as it is today.

"The group started out being focused on Hapas who were half Japanese and half white. Then, as it grew, it became a pan-Asian group, where Hapas of other Asian ancestries began to join. Now, we're working to have

involved with the organization. She believes it is their leadership and participation that will ensure a more accurate representation of the multiracial Asian American experience."

Velina Hasu Houston, who is of Japanese, African American, and American Indian descent, agrees that HIF and the multiracial Asian American community needs to be vigilant, saying, "Our challenge as an emerging community is to be cohesive and to create a place for ourselves in the American landscape. But before that happens we need to address our own diversity — if we don't, the battle is lost before it has even begun."

APA women's leadership conference shows changing face of power and ethics

BY TRACY UBA

Writer/Reporter

Hugs replaced handshakes at the 1998 second annual national summit conference sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Women's Leadership Institute (APAWLI), where the focus was less on climbing the corporate ladder than on tapping into the collaborative leadership style of APA women.

"[Women have] a different concept of sharing power," said Adrienne Pon, the chair of APAWL's board of trustees. "We definitely have a more consensus-building style that is more inclusive. I think particularly APA women collaborate much more than is traditionally found in any other sector — corporate, private, public, nonprofit."

The weekend-long conference, which lasted from Oct. 9-11 at the Omni Los Angeles Hotel and Center, hosted nearly 200 APA women from around the country, including attorneys, councilwomen, nationally renowned writers, artists, company presidents and CEOs, and entrepreneurs. All were invited to listen to peer speakers and to participate in panel discussions and small group lecture sessions.

Since its first conference last year in Washington, D.C., APAWL is already making strides towards getting more APA women involved. Attendance increased by over 75 people this year and organizers expect the number to stay on the rise.

APAWLI board member and

city of Seattle councilwoman, Martha Choe, believes that "the 21st century is ushering in a new generation of APA women," already well-established in their fields, and this conference reflects how they're helping to change both the face of traditional power and the role of women in positions of leadership.

"We hope that the women

and mentorship system so that they learn to affect hands-on social, political and personal change in their businesses, communities and homes."

Each year, a select group of women are chosen to participate in APAWL's signature fellowship program, which includes three one-week training sessions. The program culminates with a project, to be craft-

planning similar leadership training sessions at local levels.

Twelve regionally and professionally diverse fellows were selected for the 1998 leadership training program. They are Patricia W. Chang, Soo-Young Chin, Deborah Fu-Yen Ching, Penny Fukui, Mamta Suhrud Gupta, Dona L. Hanaik, Ding-Wen Hsu, Linda Tomiye Jofuku, Eugene Daisy Liu, Pacyinz Lyfoung, Shruthi Reddy and Lorelei Villarosa.

These women have already undergone the three workshops in which team training and coalition building were taught. In those three separate weeks, the fellows shared, planned and developed their leadership impact projects, which are to be carried out in the next year.

APAWLI's conference served as a fitting forum for these women and others who have demonstrated a strong interest in both self-development and community involvement.

On the one hand, "the purpose [of the summit] is to provide a safe space for us to explore and get to know ourselves better," said Martha Lee, APAWL's president and CEO. "Before you can lead anyone else, you must know yourself."

On the other hand, if self-empowerment and spiritual fulfillment are goals to be strived for, then equally stressed at the conference were notions of collaboration and interactivity.

The "sharing-power" ethics of women were put to practice throughout the weekend as participants not only attended sessions such as "Discover the

Leader in You," "21st Century Leadership," "Diversity of Thinking Styles" and "The Power of the Media," but engaged with the speaker and amongst themselves in a dialogue of ideas, opinions and experiences.

Angela Oh, civil rights attorney and member of President Clinton's race relations committee, provided the keynote address the first evening, in which she shared her thoughts about the concept of "sisterhood." Attendees at each dinner table were then given plastic toys out of which they built a miniature town together.

On the second night, Puanani Burgess, executive director of the Waianae Coast Community Alternative Development Corporation, gave her keynote address, "Talk Story: The Power of Storytelling as a Tool for Change," after which listeners were encouraged to practice telling their stories to peers at their tables.

These types of cooperative activities and exercises were key learning tools and illustrated APAWL's attempt to redefine the "conference" into something that is at once instructive and fun.

Listening to a lecture has only so much effect, said APAWLI board member Kay Iwata. "It is only when we get more interactive that we really get people actively involved."

For more information about APAWLI, call 303/399-8899 or write to 1921 Ivy St. Denver, Colo. 80220. ■



(From left)—Board members Martha Choe and Kay Iwata are all smiles at the 1998 APAWLI summit conference.

here find some [merit] in exploring their value systems, their ethics as leaders, and feel confident that they don't have to compromise their principles to be compassionate, effective leaders," Pon added.

In its fledgling four-year history, the national nonprofit organization has made it its specific aim to develop and enhance the leadership skills of APA women through a support

ed and implemented by each participant, intended to benefit the lives of at least 25 people.

"[This program] is very grassroots," said Choe. "We want the ripple effects of APAWLI to be felt back home."

Past projects by fellows include bringing art education into a low-income community, providing scholarships and quick aid to ACLA and API high school students in need and

Arizona JACL recognizes four community leaders

More than 131 people attended an Oct. 11 awards dinner sponsored by the Arizona JACL at the China Doll Restaurant in Phoenix.

The evening opened with a welcoming address from chapter co-president Joe Allman, followed by the pledge of allegiance led by chapter secretary Eugene Nomura.

The invocation was given by the Rev. Sid Ogino, and benediction by the Rev. Lee Rosenthal. Judge Brian Ishikawa hosted the program.

The four honorees that evening included: Henry Tokumatsu Take-mori, an organizer of the Chojukai and reporter who has written for the *Hokubei Mainichi*, *Rafu Shimpo*, and the now-defunct *Denshu Mainichi*; William "Bill" Kajikawa, sports coach at Arizona State University and 1942 JACL Chapter president; Tom Tsutomo

Ikeda, farmer, real estate broker, Rotarian, contact for baseball teams from Japan for spring training in Arizona and 1943-1945 Arizona Chapter president; and John Hirohata, photographer and Arizona JACL Chapter president from 1940-1941.

Each recipient received a plaque in appreciation for his dedicated service to the Japanese American community, and dinner co-chairs Hotsy Miyauchi and Helen Y. Tanita presented a slide show of the honorees' lives.

Guest speaker for the evening was National JACL President Helen Kawagoe, who shared her experiences of the events leading up to her election as city clerk of Carson, Calif., including her experiences of spending World War II locked up at the Gila River Relocation Center, Butte Camp #2. ■

Hosokawa inducted into AASFE Features Hall of Fame

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—The 350-member American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors, at its annual convention, inducted Bill Hosokawa of Denver into its AASFE Features Hall of Fame. Hosokawa, formerly of the *Denver Post*, was the organization's president in 1956.

The Hall of Fame recognizes newspaper editors who have "supported feature sections and improved newspaper content."

AASFE founded its Hall of Fame in 1997 during its 50th anniversary convention in Washington, D.C. At that time, Robert Hosokawa of Orlando, former director of the Penney-University



of Missouri program and former Sunday editor of the *Minneapolis Tribune* was among 10 inducted.

This year AASFE awarded fellowships to four minority women. Among them were Betty Kwong, editor in charge of content in the feature section of the *Los Angeles Daily News*, and Vera Chan who covers East Bay life at the *Contra Costa Times* in Walnut Creek, Calif. ■

Utah Minority Bar Association honors three JACLers

On Oct. 8 in Salt Lake City, the Utah Minority Bar Association (U.M.B.A.) honored three Utah JACLers at the Sixth Annual U.M.B.A. Awards and Recognition Banquet. Jimi Mitsunaga, Mas Yano and the Honorable Raymond S. Uno were presented awards for their service to their profession and community. All three have been active in the JACL.

For his extensive contribution to the legal community and the community at large, Mitsunaga was awarded the Lifetime Service Award. Mitsunaga has served on many legal boards and committees, specializing in the protection of defendants' rights. He organized the Salt Lake Legal Defender's Office in 1965 and served as its director from 1965 to 1968. He has continuously served the community since then. Currently, he is a member of the Utah State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on



Raymond Uno

Civil Rights. Mitsunaga has also been active in organizing minority groups in Utah. He organized the Utah Asian Association and was its first president from 1976 to 1979.

For his contributions to the legal profession in Utah, Yano was awarded the Trailblazer Award. Admitted to the Utah Bar in 1949, Yano was one of the first Japanese Americans to actively practice law in Utah. He set the standard for other minority lawyers to follow. Initially he practiced general law, but soon became engaged in corporate law. Yano represented numerous corporations engaged in property development (particularly condominiums, planned unit develop-

ments and shopping centers.)

For his service to the Utah Minority Law Association, Uno was presented the 1998 U.M.B.A. Honoree Award. Judge Uno is a co-founder and was the first president of U.M.B.A. Currently a senior judge in the Third District Court, Judge Uno previously served as a judge in the Fifth District Circuit and Salt Lake City Courts. Judge Uno has served on many community, state, and national boards, commissions and committees. Recently, he chaired the Utah Japanese American Centennial Project.

All three honorees have given long service to the JACL. All are past presidents of the Salt Lake Chapter. In addition, Mitsunaga has been co-chair of the National JACL Convention Committee and a recipient of the Nisei of the Biennium award. Yano is a past governor of the Intermountain District Council. Judge Uno is a past national JACL president. ■

NCWNP District elects new board



Elections were held at the NCWNP District Council Meeting in Gilroy, Calif., on Nov. 1. The new board includes: (from left) Edwin Endow, Secretary Joan Aoki, Past-Governor Alan Nishi, Treasurer Fred Okimoto, P.C. Representative Claire Omura, Governor John Hayashi, and Vice-Governor Alan Teruya. Missing from the photo are board members Emily Murase, Youth Representative Suzanne Sasaki and Tom Shigemasa.

Landmark book sees fifth printing

The story of Japanese American women had long been absent from the pages of American history until the landmark book *Japanese American Women: Three Generations 1880-1990* by Mei Nakano made its debut in 1990. Co-publishers Mina Press Publishers and the National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) have just announced the fifth printing of the book.

Says Rosalyn Tonai, executive director of NJAHS: "Mei Nakano presented the story of three generations of Japanese American women for the first time, revealing their strengths, their diversity, even their shortcomings. She pointed to the critical role they played in the story of the Japanese in the U.S., surviving and thriving under unforgiving odds."

"Largely because this story moves with anecdotal as well as documented historical evidence, it has amazingly wide appeal. In fact, we weren't quite prepared for its popularity, but tried to reprint before each run sold out. This time, however, there has been a slight gap between printings, and we're having to announce that the book is once again available."

The book was written originally to accompany the NJAHS-produced exhibit *Strength and Diversity: Japanese American*

Women: 1880-1990. The exhibit toured with remarkable success throughout the country under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution, updated to 1995.

Apart from exhibit sales, Nakano says she is surprised at the range of readers the book has drawn, including libraries and colleges. She tells of an instance of being approached by a young blond man in a local furniture store, who asked if she was Nisei. Startled, she gave a tentative "ye-es..." but added that she was a bit surprised that he knew that term. He explained that he had been reading a book called "Three Generations of Japanese American Women — or something like that," and was testing himself with the term. When she told him she had written that book, he grinned, and gave her a knowing "Yeah, right." As it happened, the man had been teaching English for the armed services in Japan and had read about the book in *Stars and Stripes* and, because of an interest in a Japanese American woman, had bought the book.

The book, incidentally, has been translated and published in Japan.

Because it has been out of stock for a short period, customers will no doubt have to ask the bookstore to special-order the book, a simple matter via

the computer. Or, it can be ordered direct from: Mina Press, P.O. Box 854, Sebastopol, CA 94115 (415/921-5007). The price is \$14.95 plus tax and handling.

Wash. Women honored by Who's Who

Elsie Taniguchi and Michi Osaka were inducted into the 1998 editions of different *Who's Who* publications. Taniguchi was inducted into *International Who's Who of Professionals* and Osaka was inducted into *Who's Who in America*.

Taniguchi received her bachelor's degree in business and elementary education from the University of Washington. She is the president of the Puyallup Valley Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League and is a travel agent and cruise consultant for Landmark Travel Service in Kent, Wash.

Osaka is a professional artist and printmaker who uses woodcutting, serigraphy, etching, lithography and calligraphy. She donates her original art and bonsai to organizations such as the Red Cross, the Puyallup Valley Chapter of the JACL Scholarship Fund, the Tacoma Buddhist Temple Educational Fund, the Foss High School Football Fund and many others. ■

Blue Shield health plans for California JACL members

Blue Shield of California offers group health care coverage to current JACL members age 18 and over who reside in California. Plans may include a wide range of benefits, including vision care, worldwide emergency coverage, dental care, prescription drug benefits and more. For more information about these plans, call the JACL Health Benefits Trust today at 1-800-400-6633.



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NAPALC challenges Clinton to make arts and media "look like America"

As President Clinton prepares his report to the nation on his special Race Initiative, the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium (Consortium) issues this challenge to the president: Call on the leaders of the arts and media to create works that "look like America" and reflect the full humanity of the nation's citizenry. The Consortium challenges the president to convene a national summit of leaders from the arts and media.

President Clinton proudly declares that his administration "looks like America," but what appears on the TV sets in America's living rooms and the nation's stages and screens look nothing like the true face of America. Today, the nation is more than 27 percent African American, Hispanic, Asian American, and Native American — and the percentage is steadily increasing.

Yet Hollywood continues to produce shows that look more like Mayberry RFD than "U.S.A. 1998." In this new TV season, such programs as *LA Doctors* feature no Asian characters, though Asian-Americans comprise more than 25 percent of health professionals and 11 percent of Angelenos; the show *Suddenly Susan* is set in San Francisco, where one out of every three people is

Chinese American, but Hollywood's version of the Bay Area is devoid of a single, realistic Asian character.

"The president can still go beyond the Race Initiative to capture the hearts of Americans who are not inclined to attend a town meeting on race — if he can lead the media to create shows that look more like America," said Karen Narasaki, executive director of the Consortium, which is calling on the president to convene a summit of leaders in the arts and media and to challenge them in his upcoming report on the Race Initiative. The Consortium's annual audit of hate crimes against Asian Americans cites media invisibility and stereotyping of Asians as contributing factors.

As an example to the president and his initiative, the Consortium awarded its American Courage Award this year to playwright Anna Devereaux Smith on Oct. 30 at the National Press Club.

"We believe there is symbolic importance in an Asian American civil rights group recognizing the work of an African American artist," said Narasaki. "Ms. Smith had the courage and heart to portray the true emotions and thoughts of diverse people in con-

flikt in her show, *Twilight: Los Angeles*, including Korean American storekeepers. In doing so, she showed them to be human beings, not stereotypes. If President Clinton can persuade even a few of Hollywood's leaders to do the same, his report on the Race Initiative could have a huge positive impact."

The National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium is one of the nation's leading voices on Asian Pacific American civil rights concerns. A nonprofit, nonpartisan organization in Washington, D.C., its mission is to advance the causes of Asian Pacific American communities through litigation, advocacy, public education, and public policy development.

The Consortium seeks to promote racial harmony and combat anti-Asian violence; support and improve affirmative action policies; achieve fairness in immigration and naturalization policies; protect the voting rights of Asian Pacific Americans; guard against discrimination based on national origin and language ability; encourage census and data collection policies which create a full and accurate accounting of Asian Pacific populations; and build networks of communication and action. ■

Boxer secures funding for two Asian American historic sites

U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), with help from her Asian American colleagues, successfully won funding last month for two historic sites relevant to Asian Americans. Both funding requests were included in the Interior Appropriations Bill, which passed as part of the larger Omnibus bill.

One portion dealt with much-needed funds for the Manzanar National Historic Site in Inyo County, Calif. The \$273,000 in new funding will come from the National Park Service budget and be used for general operations at the Manzanar National Historic Site.

In the last congressional session, Boxer and Rep. Robert Matsui (D-Sacramento) teamed up to pass legislation that transferred federal land and completed the

process of creating the Manzanar Historic Site in recognition of the Japanese Americans who were interned during World War II.

"The Manzanar National Historic Site

stands as a symbol of a terrible injustice committed against thousands of Americans," said Boxer. "I am committed to ensuring that the federal government maintains this important site so that succeeding generations may know of, and learn from, this tragic chapter in our nation's history."

In addition, Boxer was able to garner \$100,000 to go towards

the study of the creation of a museum and visitors center at Angel Island, a former West Coast immigration detention center where many Asians first entered the United States.

"Angel Island was the Ellis Island of the West Coast," said Boxer. "This project will expand and deepen our understanding of the history of Asian immigration to our country."

Boxer worked closely with Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii) to include the Angel Island provision in the Interior Appropriations Bill.

Akaka noted, "Senator Boxer understands the importance of Angel Island to the lives of so many Asian Pacific Americans. We could not have secured this funding without her strong support." ■



Asian Pacific American leader joins AFL-CIO Civil Rights Department

WASHINGTON—The AFL-CIO announced on Oct. 23 that Mathew Finucane, executive director of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), has appointed deputy director of the AFL-CIO's Civil and Human Rights Department.

Finucane has been the executive director of the APALA, the first national organization of Asian Pacific American union members, since its creation in 1992. In that position, he has been a forceful advocate for the Asian Pacific American community on such issues as the exploitation of immigrant workers, Asian American political empowerment, ethnic stereotyping, safety net benefits for immigrants and the enforcement of civil rights laws. Last year, he played a major role in the creation of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, a new national coalition of

Asian American groups, including the JACL, where he serves as a national officer.

"Mr. Finucane has been a real leader in the coalition of Asian Pacific American groups that are working for justice and equality, and we know he will advance the fight for our community and all minorities from his new position at the AFL-CIO," said Daphne Kwok, executive director of the Organization of Chinese Americans. "Matt has advanced the visibility of Asian Pacific Americans in the labor movement, in the civil rights movement, and in national policy debates, and we applaud the AFL-CIO for adding his voice to their team," added Guy Fujimura, APALA President.

"We believe that Mr. Finucane will bring a new dimension to our efforts to advance the civil rights of our 13 million mem-

bers and their families," said AFL-CIO president John Sweeney. "He and his colleagues at APALA have worked tirelessly to build bridges between labor and the Asian Pacific American community, to assist immigrant workers through unions, and to promote multiracial unity. The American labor movement believes strongly in that work and vision."

Finucane serves on the Executive Committee of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, and on the Civil Rights Committee of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. He is also a member of the JACL Washington, D.C., Chapter. He is a graduate of Carleton College and Georgetown University Law School. Prior to joining APALA, he served for eight years as a union safety and health director. ■

■ JOB REOPENING

Regional Director

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) has reopened the search for a Regional Director for the Pacific Southwest District who is energetic, organized, and highly motivated to "make a difference."

Under the general direction of the National Director, the Regional Director carries out JACL's Program for Action and other policies; conducts advocacy, community relations, and fund-raising activities; serves as a JACL spokesperson at the regional level; works with JACL members to develop programs and events; and monitors local, state, and national affairs affecting Asian Americans.

The Regional Director manages the Pacific Southwest District office in Los Angeles, supervising one staff person and periodic student interns. This semi-autonomous position is responsive to the Pacific Southwest District Council and board to ensure that JACL members in the district are adequately served. Lifting, travel, and work after regular hours and on weekends will be required.

A four-year college degree, excellent writing and public speaking abilities, and transportation are required.

Hiring range: \$31,433-\$37,335, depending on experience. Excellent fringe benefit package includes health and retirement benefits. Send cover letter, resume, and writing samples to: Herbert Yamashita, JACL, 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115; fax, 415/931-4671; e-mail, jad@jacld.org.

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47 JA WWII vets up for Medal of Honor upgrades

(Continued from page 1)

Medals of Honor," said Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii), who wrote the bill for the medal review. "The fact that the 100th/442nd saw such fierce and heavy combat yet received only one Medal of Honor award, and then only posthumously and due to congressional intervention, raises questions about the fairness of the award process at the time."

But, he added, "Whether or not any of the DSC awardees identified receive the Medal of Honor, the stories documented will astonish and humble all who read them and underscore our faith in a nation that produces such heroes."

Among those heroes is Colonel Young Kim of Gardena, Calif., the single Korean American to serve on the 442nd. It was for a "suicide intelligence gathering mission" in Anzio that he was awarded the DSC. On another mission Kim was seriously wounded when he helped wipe out two machine gun nests, capturing 58 German soldiers.

A veteran of both WWII and the Korean War, Kim has, in addition to the DSC, a number of awards including two Silver Stars, one Bronze Star, two Legion of Merits, and three Purple Hearts.

"I've always felt before the notice [of the Medal of Honor review] that the number of Medals of Honor was very disproportionate to the number of declarations we've been awarded," he said. "I've always felt that the ratio of DSCs to Medals of Honor was absurd."

Kim believes that racism was a large factor in the disproportionate medal awardings for the AA vets. "The majority of fault was on the [Caucasian] side," he said. "They felt Asians were inferior. They felt they couldn't be good soldiers. That prejudice existed

throughout the Army." After entering the army, Kim, although a proficient rifleman, was sent to train and work as a mechanic and had to wait one and a half years before he was allowed to enter infantry school.

But, he acknowledges, other factors in addition to racism also played a role: "You can't blame it all on the Caucasians," he said, pointing to the tendency of JAs, more so than Chinese Americans and Korean Americans, to shy

away from self-glorification. JA soldiers would often reject any submissions of declarations on their behalf, and without declarations medals could not be awarded. "It was considered part of the job," he said.



Colonel Kim (right) speaks with 442nd vet Henry Ikemoto at the 100th/442nd MIS Memorial Foundation office in Gardena, Calif. A drawing of the Foundation's planned monument can be seen in the background.

Still, Kim thinks the review is a good idea. He believes that increasing the number of Medals of Honor for AA vets will help to legitimize their accomplishments in the eyes of the general American public. "I am delighted that they're doing this. It rectifies a wrong that should have been rectified a long time ago."

But whether or not he will be on the final list of Medal of Honor awardees is not a concern for him. "Personally it didn't excite me. All my energies are going toward building the [100th/442nd/MIS Memorial Foundation] monument," he said, of which he is the chairman. The monument is scheduled to be unveiled in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo on June 5, 1999. "The monument, if we do it right, is for the

future."

For other veterans, the belated honor of being considered for a Medal of Honor is not one they necessarily welcome. For 78-year-old 100th Battalion veteran Irving Akahoshi of Laguna, Calif., his reaction upon hearing the news was, "What the hell? Why after all these years?" Akahoshi won his DSC on a special volunteer assignment where he captured and interrogated German soldiers and ascertained the strength and makeup of the Germans.

And after all these years, Akahoshi can no longer get excited about the prospect of winning a Medal of Honor. "I'm not holding my breath. You get tired of waiting. After a while you say, it's not worth it."

Eighty-year-old Jesse Hirata of Wahiawa, Hawaii, a veteran of the 100th, echoes Akahoshi's sentiment. "I'm not interested," he said, after hearing that his name was on the review list. "It's too late." But although he sounds more than miffed, Hirata said, "I'm not bitter. I didn't go there for glory. I went there for a job. That's it, nothing's changed."

Hirata was a private in the 100th searching for snipers on June 5, 1944, at Genzano, Italy, when, after attempting to fire at an enemy position, his rifle jammed. Refusing to give up, he grabbed a German shovel and charged at the Germans. In the end, three German soldiers armed with a loaded pistol, two rifles, a P-38 pistol and a box of hand grenades surrendered. For his courage he was bestowed the DSC.

But both Akahoshi and Hirata acknowledge that the Medal of Honor review will bring much-deserved publicity to the accomplishments of the 100th, 442nd, and MIS. "I'm pleased that the MIS is getting more publicity that they haven't been able to get up till now," said Akahoshi. MISers were forbidden to discuss their duties during the war and for a number of years afterwards. "The MIS deserves what they're getting now."

For Hirata, he's planning to honor his fellow comrades if he's awarded the Medal of Honor. "I don't put that thing up. But I can't turn it down because of the rest of the boys. I can't ignore the feelings of the boys." He continued, "The whole 100th deserves the DSC."

The process of gathering and researching the stories of the various AA vets was assigned to Dr. James McNaughton and his five-member research team at the Defense Language Institute of Monterey, Calif., almost two years ago.

After poring over the one hundred-plus files, McNaughton is convinced that Medals of Honor will be awarded. "I feel very strongly that some will be upgraded," he said. "If that ain't the Medal of Honor, I don't know what is."

Although the entire list of AA WWII candidates has not been released to the public, McNaughton confirmed the names of some of the veterans. In addition to Sen. Inouye, Colonel Kim, Akahoshi, and Hirata, there is Henry Arao of Watsonville, Richard Fujiwara, George T. Sakato, Matsuichi Yogi, and the late Hoichi Kubo, the only MISer on the review list.

Although McNaughton did not see any evidence of racism in the awards process during his research, he acknowledged that the ratio of DSCs to Medals of Honor for AA vets was skewed. "In the minds of many vets, [the AA soldiers] did not receive the due recognition at that level." He added, "It's a shame that it's taken so long. To have to wait more than fifty years loses a lot of its impact I think."

The final decision on the Medals of Honor will likely not take place until next spring. After the current list passes through the secretary of the Army and the secretary of defense, the final decision will be made by President Clinton.

Throughout the history of the U.S. military few Medals of Honor have been given out. Today, there is only one active Medal of Honor recipient. "The Medal of Honor is damn rare," said McNaughton. "So if you see it or hear it, there should be no question in your mind that they deserved it." ■

legal activity. However, they felt that the alleged illegal activity committed by one or a few has been applied with a broad stroke in the entire community. That was the central complaint, so we did not talk about specific individuals."

Where is the mainstream media now?

Two years ago when the campaign fundraising controversy first went public in 1996, the story made headlines in the major mainstream media outlets. Today, many of these same media outlets were absent from a press conference last week when the commission released their report. Most in attendance were those from the ethnic press.

This lack of interest from the mainstream media is significant in light of the fact that part of the commission's report cites that "previously identified problems with the media's coverage of Asian Pacific Americans intensified as stories about the campaign controversy grew."

These "previously identified problems," according to the commission's report, included the mainstream media's tendency to "perpetuate stereotypes by failing to distinguish between Asians, who are citizens of other countries and Asian Americans, who are citizens or intending (to become) citizens of the U.S."

In addition, the commission report indicated that mainstream media lacked balance by failing to cover stories depicting Asian Americans as part of mainstream American society and tended to associate them with stories on immigration. This heightened the perception that Asian Americans are foreigners, according to the report. ■

Excluded from the briefing report were also references to individual Asian Americans targeted for investigation (other than for background information).

The focus was that the community felt overwhelmingly targeted," said Lee. "During this whole controversy, they felt there was a double standard applied to Asian Americans. Whether these individuals who were mentioned were guilty or not, that was not the central issue, although the folks concerned do not condone il-

Report confirms APA discrimination

(Continued from page 1)

sity; Joann Lee, director of journalism at Queen's College; and Ahn.

The commission's one-day briefing came in response to a 28-page petition submitted on Sept. 11, 1997, by 18 Asian Pacific American organizations including the JACL, contending that the Asian Pacific community had been scapegoated in the fundraising controversy.

"I must say that as a nation which is becoming increasingly ethnically diverse, we cannot afford to allow a group, any group, to be excluded by the political process," said Cruz Reynoso, the commission's vice chairperson. "The right and obligation to vote and to participate in the political life of our country is a precious civil right which the United States Commission on Civil Rights will seek to protect."

Yvonne Lee, commission member, noted that the testimonies from the panelists revealed frustration directed towards both the Democratic and Republican parties.

"I think the anger and frustration is for both parties," said Lee. "This is not a partisan attack. There was a great deal of frustration."

Reynoso added that "while the Democratic National Committee had been particularly active, statements from Republican leaders in congress were of the same nature, implying all too often that Asian Americans are somehow citizens of China or

Japan or some other Asian country."

Although the report documents various incidents and experiences, it does not forward any suggestions on how to remedy the problems. According to Reynoso, recommendations are only given during full-scale hearings while briefings only entail reporting on what is said before them.

The reason the commission held a one-day briefing rather than a national hearing process was due to time constraints, said Reynoso. Normally, the commission votes on topics for hearings two years in advance.

"It takes us a long time to prepare for the hearings," said Reynoso. "We felt there was a sense of urgency to the petition that we had received, and the most effective way was to have a briefing where the interested parties are invited to come and give their testimonies."

After hearing concerns from members of the ethnic press, however, Reynoso promised to urge the commission to issue a statement of recommendations.

On an individual basis, Reynoso had these recommendations: that congress include in their own rules of internal conduct a clause prohibiting any negative language or stereotyping of any ethnic group; more hiring of Asian Americans on the congressional staff; and more sensitivity on the part of mainstream media.

At the same time, Reynoso admitted that the commission does

not have the power to enforce their recommendations. "The commission doesn't have enforcement power," he said. "Yet the commission has been very important in times past in bringing these issues to the attention of



U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Commissioners Cruz Reynoso and Yvonne Lee share their findings from the campaign finance scandal.

those who are concerned."

But Reynoso was optimistic that the report, which now becomes a public document, will aid in sensitizing the general public.

"We need in this country and in any society to have norms as to what's acceptable and what's not...We are in the process of helping to establish that norm," said Reynoso. "This is part of the process to try to change those norms in an affirmative way. It's not easy. You've got to keep at it, but this is one of those important steps, I think."



Very Truly Yours

By Harry K. Honda

Previews and people on parade — only in LA.

Preview 1—Layout of the Japanese American National Museum's \$45-million Pavilion drew eager and curious scrutiny three Saturdays ago as the Museum staff said over 2,000 members had walked all over the two-floor spread bare of fuss and furniture. It was a self-guided tour that led to the central hall where conversation, cookies and beverage awaited them.

Preview 2—The upcoming main Pavilion exhibit, *Common Ground, the Heart of the Community*, showcases the Museum's collection for a "sweeping look" at Nikkei history. Among the artifacts selected by curator Dr. Glen Kitayama will be the manual typewriter used by Larry Tajiri during his decade as P.C. editor and two decades more by Yours Truly.

Preview 3—An original of our first weekly issue (Vol. 15, No. 1 dated Thursday, June 4, 1942) will be seen. It's a gift from the late Arkansas Valley JACLer George Ushiyama. While the banner headlines the surprise Army evacuation order of Military Area 2, more ominous was the anti-Nisei venom injected by the Native Sons of the Golden West upon some 5,000 Nisei registered voters in San Francisco and Alameda counties. The NSGW asked the federal court to order the registrar of voters to remove them from the rolls.

JACL president Saburo Kido reacted immediately: "Any attack on the civil rights of Japanese Americans which are not vital to national defense (such as Evacuation) will

be resisted in the courts." The so-called *Regan vs. King* case (the defendant was Registrar of Voters Cameron King of San Francisco; plaintiff John T. Regan was grand secretary of the NSGW) was dismissed two months later by Federal Judge St. Sure in San Francisco on the basis of the 14th Amendment — "All persons born or naturalized in the United States ... are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside." The U.S. Supreme Court also agreed, dismissing the case; while Oregon Senator Rufus Holman proposed a constitutional amendment to deprive Nisei with dual citizenship of their U.S. citizenship.

(Fifty years later, the San Francisco Registrar of Voter was in the news as names of seven candidates for the board of supervisors were not translated for thousands of Chinese-speaking voters. She [Naomi Nishioka] placed the blame on the candidates, having received no response on whether or not to print their name in Chinese.)

ABOUT CONVERSATIONS over cookies, unexpected out-of-state Nisei veterans (among them longtime Puvalley Valley JACLers Dr. John Kanda and wife Grace from Sumner, Wash.) and from Hawaii came, ostensibly to witness a groundbreaking of the 100-442 MIS Memorial Foundation monument a short distance away the same day. Because of construction problems, that has been postponed to June 5, 1999.

Preview 4—Our afternoon began at New Otani Hotel for a brief

chat with Rinjiro Sodei, professor of (U.S.) politics and history at Hosei University, Tokyo, here to speak about his 193-page book, *Were We the Enemy? American survivors of Hiroshima* (1998), the English translation by Westview Press of his original *Watakushitachi wa teki datta no ka?* (1995). His tightly-written history of Japanese immigration to the United States sprints across 125 years toward illuminating the issue of the thousands of Americans who were killed or maimed with physical and psychological scars from the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Sodei asks: "Why are American victims still counted among the enemy half a century after Hiroshima and Nagasaki?" ... The very existence of the American hibakusha has yet to be acknowledged by the U.S. Government." He adds this haunting line: "One democratic right that was still extended to the Nisei was, as Michi Weglyn put, 'the right to be shot at.'" (*Years of Infamy*, 136.)

THAT EVENING, we were among the 400 jamming the eighth annual Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California's community heritage awards dinner at Torrance to honor Kitty Sankey, Kathy Nishimoto Masaka and Wakako Yamauchi ... **P.S.:** At the welcome supper hosted by PANA-USA for home-bound Hideyo Noguchi School students in Peru from a Japan visit, we learned the next PANA convention in Santiago, Chile, is set for the fourth week in July 1999. Details are forthcoming. ■



Troubled in paradise

By Brian Niiya

Visiting Gila

Though I've never made a special trip to visit one of the former sites of War Relocation Authority concentration camps, I have managed to see a number of these sites when traveling in the vicinity of one of them. On a recent trip to Phoenix, I got a chance to visit the site of the former Gila River "Relocation Center."

Located only around 35 minutes from Phoenix, the former camp is on the land of the Gila River Indian Community. As with other former camp sites I've visited, there are many remnants of the Japanese American history of the area to be seen there if you know where to look. Fortunately, I was accompanied by my colleague Rick Noguchi, a knowledgeable guide who could point out the highlights.

A native of my old hometown of Culver City, Calif., Rick had spent eight years in Arizona and came to know the Japanese American community there very well in coordinating the "Transforming Barbed Wire" project there. He also got to know the Gila River site well, through frequent visits during his time there.

The Gila River camp was divided into two sub-camps, Canal and Butte, separated by a few miles. We visited the Canal camp first, so named because a canal ran adjacent to it.

As we entered from the back, you could see the remains of barracks and other camp buildings stretching off into the distance. Opposite that was a dirt mound barrier that marked the limits of the camp.

Looking more closely, you could see many concrete-lined indentations in the ground with decorative rocks strategically placed here and there. Of course these were the remains of fish ponds many of the former residents built to live up the drab surroundings and make them feel a little more like home. You could make out the remains of washrooms and bathrooms by the channels where the plumbing used to be.

Driving around to the front of Canal Camp, there is a small stone monument with a plaque outlining the history of the camp and the World War II veterans who came from it. In front of it are the remains of more barracks foundations and other buildings.

Rick showed us the dump area where much of what was left when the camps closed was disposed of. In that area, you can still see shards of dishes, cups,

and other ceramic material, as well as an occasional vintage bottle and other items from the time.

From there, we drove up the road past fields of olives, cotton, and oranges to the site of the former Butte Camp. In contrast to the flat land which characterizes the Canal Camp, the Butte Camp is dominated by buttes which rise up from the desert floor. Agricultural land surrounds the former camp site, but ends abruptly where the camp once began, as if in its memory.

Rick showed us the strange grave of a former internee's dog, a stone memorial hidden amidst an orange grove. The Pima Indians of the Gila River Indian Community have preserved the grave and planted their trees around it. Rick also pointed out the side of Zenimura Field, the famed baseball diamond now the site of an olive tree grove.

We drove up a hill towards the Butte Camp monument, a white structure put by up the internees. In front of it is a stone monument with a plaque similar to the one marking the Canal Camp. According to Arizona Chapter co-president Joe Allman, he and other chapter members make frequent trips to the monument to clean up the trash and anti-Japanese graffiti that are regularly deposited there.

The Gila River Indian Community is very much aware of the camps and incorporates part of that story into its own museum/cultural center. They also have been generous in granting access to Japanese Americans who want to revisit the site of the camp. It's not hard to see the commonalities between us and them, and it's clear they see them too.

Near the perimeter of the camp, you can still find some remnants of the barbed wire which once surrounded it. It serves as a not-so-subtle reminder of what once occupied this land.

For me, trips to places like Gila to see that barbed wire and other remains of the camp provide tangible physical evidence of what took place here in a way that books, oral history, and other sources cannot.

Over fifty years later, these desolate places still hold a special power for Japanese Americans even if most of us weren't there ourselves. I suspect they will always have that power as long as we identify as being Japanese American. ■

Brian Niiya is a member of the Honolulu Chapter of the JACL.



A Bridge Across the Pacific

By Emily Murase

Spotlight on the Japan Chapter

I have a confession. I did not join the JACL until 1990. The reason was that I was one of those Sansei who questioned the role of the JACL in the Japanese American incarceration during World War II. Although I was a grateful recipient of JACL scholarships in college, I remained skeptical of the group.

It wasn't until I went to work in Tokyo that I discovered the true value of the JACL. The first JACL Japan Chapter event I attended was a talk by Glen Fukushima who, after serving as deputy assistant U.S. Trade representative for Japan and China, had joined AT&T Japan, where I had just been hired.

Glen spoke about the challenges of representing the U.S. government in trade talks with Japan. He entertained the audience with anecdotes about the advantages and disadvantages of being Japanese American and serving in that high profile position. He received many nods of recognition from the audience, reflecting the many commonalities in the experiences of Japanese Americans in Japan.

After the talk, the side conversations went something like this:

"Doesn't it blow the Japanese away when you speak English with an American friend?"

"Yeah, especially in those crowded subway trains. At first, I hated the staring, but now I'm used to it."

"Did you know you were supposed to drink vending machine sodas at the vending machine and not while you're walking?"

"I didn't know that! That's why I keep getting nasty looks when I'm having a soda on the run."

What attracted me to the Japan Chapter was that it promoted the bonds that form among Japanese

Americans working and living in Japan. And the bonds connected such a diversity of Nikkei.

Among chapter members, you could find Nisei who served under General MacArthur in the Occupation Forces, Sansei English teachers on the JET program, and Yonsei journalists writing for the English language dailies. Like Glen Fukushima, all shared a personal as well as a professional interest in Japanese culture and language.

According to President James Minamoto, the present day mission of the chapter is three-fold: "We provide a sense of fellowship for Japanese Americans living in Japan, endeavor to hold events to educate our chapter members on Japanese American issues, and foster positive relations between Japanese Americans and Japanese living in Japan." Currently, the chapter has over 50 members.

The 10 Japan Chapter board members are President James Minamoto, Vice President Keith Kitano, Treasurer Chris Habu, Membership Chair Ted Shigeno, Programs Chair Tsuyoshi Oyabu, Jack Ishio, Gwen Muranaka, Sen Nishiyama, Noriko Tamura and Kevin Furuta who has replaced recently retired Jane Kaihatsu.

Traditions that have continued since I was a member of the chapter include the Hello Cocktails social gathering that attracts "yuppies" (Young Asian Professionals) from all over Tokyo, publication of the *Citizens Abroad* newsletter, and annual summer barbecue and holiday party held at the U.S. Embassy residential compound.

In October, the chapter will host Nisei jazz ethnomusicologist George Yoshida at the prestigious Foreign Correspondents Club near

the Ginza. In November, UCLA Professor Harry Kitano will speak at the International House.

In an innovative initiative, the chapter is poised to launch an international exchange program with young members of the Japanese Diet through which Japan Chapter members can meet and exchange views with public officials in an informal setting.

According to President Minamoto: "We would like to hold this event several times a year as part of an ongoing program. All involved, including the politicians, are very excited about this."

Ted Shigeno, who is also a member of the National JACL U.S.-Japan relations committee (chaired by Edwin Mitoma), remains active on U.S.-Japan issues, and is particularly concerned about the continuing presence of U.S. Forces in Okinawa. Ted and Sen Nishiyama are spearheading fund-raising efforts for the Japanese American Memorial in Washington, D.C.

So, if you have any friends or family headed to Japan, encourage them to get in touch with the Japan Chapter. Amidst the overwhelming crowds and orderly chaos of Tokyo, there will always be someone who can relate to the joys of bottomless cups of coffee at Denny's, The Simpsons and the New York Yankees. Minamoto can be reached via e-mail at james.minamoto@andersonmori.com. ■

Emily Murase served on the Japan Chapter board, including a term as president (1991-1993). Her fondest memory was disco dancing with chapter member Ann Kawai and her college-aged children, at the nightclub Juliana. Emily aspires to do the same with her future children.

Columnists Bill Hosokawa, Bill Marutani, and Mika Tanner will appear in the next issue of the *Pacific Citizen*, Nov. 19-Dec. 17, 1998.



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COMMENTARY

A little known story in WWII history: The Tankers

BY YEJE (GENE) KONO

On June 5, 1999, the dedication of the Go For Broke Monument, sponsored by the 100th/442nd/MIS WWII Memorial Foundation, will take place in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, Calif. This memorial is a fitting tribute

Three months later, I was called to active duty at Fort Sheridan, Ill.

Upon arriving at Fort Sheridan, there were hundreds of Japanese American recruits being inducted as a group to facilitate our basic training at Camp Shelby, Miss. However, before we



A group of the first Nisei inductees about to be trained as tankers at the Armored Training Center, Fort Knox, Ky. The trainees are clad in the traditional tanker fatigues. Yeje (Gene) Kono is pictured at the left position of the third file (c. November 1944).

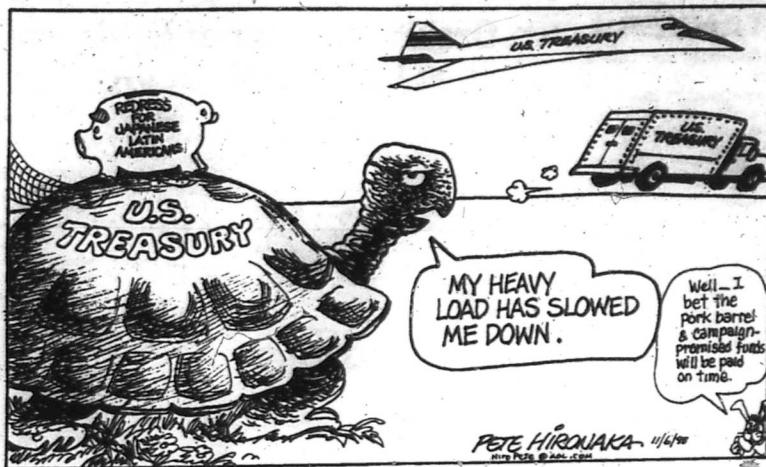
to the many Japanese American veterans who so honorably and valiantly served their country. However, as a little-known point of history, there were Japanese Americans who served in other military units that were not a part of the 100th, 442nd and MIS groups. Just one of those units was the Tankers who, in November 1944, began training at Fort Knox, Kentucky for tank warfare as the first totally integrated unit mandated by the Pentagon. While 50-year-old military records may not recall the Tankers, I remember these events because I was there.

After leaving Jerome concentration camp in December 1942, I worked in a defense plant in Chicago. On Aug. 1, 1944, I was ordered to report for induction and subsequently was placed on the Enlisted Reserve Corps.

shipped out, a smaller group of us were secretly sent by train to the Armored Training Center, Fort Knox, Ky.

When we arrived at Fort Knox, we were met by a 1st Armored Division colonel who was a veteran of the North African campaign and the Allied landing in southern Italy. He told us that the 1st Armored Division fought side-by-side with the Nisei 100th Battalion in Italy, and it was their courage in battle that prompted the Pentagon brass to establish a special Nisei tank battalion that he would lead. We were to be the first Nisei unit to receive tank training. In addition, he advised that while the 100th and 442nd units had been segregated in training, the army brass wanted our new tanker unit to be non-

See TANKERS/page 10



Letters to the Editor

Proposition 5

I read with interest Tracy Uba's article on California's Proposition 5 on the November ballot. While it did a good job of presenting both sides of the measure, I was very disappointed in the limited coverage of the national JACL board to advocate a "yes" vote supporting the measure. The only explanation was that it was done "in the name of civil rights." I wonder how many of the national board have taken the time to actually read up on Prop. 5 or taken the time to consider its results.

I believe in civil rights as much as the next person, but Prop. 5 has nothing to do with civil rights. It deals with giving special privileges to a select group of California U.S. Citizens. The outrages of history aside, whether they be for internment, slavery, oppression or having been guaranteed rights by treaty, no one should be allowed to rule unto themselves within the boundaries of the state, answering to no one but their own rules. Prop. 5 will give special privileges and exemptions to tribal authorities to disregard tax laws, environmental laws and labor laws. It is done under the smoke screen of "Indian sovereignty." That phrase opens the door to a whole separate discussion. It is enough here to say that special allowances should not be made for one, if they are not allowed for all. The national board erred in its position: unfortunately it was done without allowing enough time to undo the damage.

I welcome any responses from members of the national board explaining their decision and ask that the vote on the matter be made a matter of public record listing each voting member by name, position and vote.

Gerald T. Horiuchi
Fresno, Calif.

Queen Contests

Mika Tanner's feature on the queen contests sponsored by various Japanese American organizations (P.C., Aug. 21-Sept. 3, 1998) was a good review of the perennial issue of whether female beauty should be celebrated publicly, and whether representation of "Japanese American" beauty should be limited by racial ancestry.

Most Japanese are members of the putative "yellow" race. Yet members of the "black" and "white" races (and any other color you wish) — and all manner of mixtures — are also counted among the population of bona fide Japanese, legally defined as people who are nationals of Japan. Japanese nationality is a question of citizenship only, and im-

plies no ethnic or language affiliation.

According to the Japanese constitution, all Japanese are equal under the law, regardless of their race. Ditto for Americans under American law.

It is this spirit of de facto and de jure racial diversity, in both Japan and the United States, not part of the "cultural heritage" of Japanese Americans? If not, then maybe it's about time Japanese American communities liberated themselves from the notion of race as a qualification for membership and representation.

As for feminine beauty, indeed it may be in the eyes of the beholder, but the eyes of contest judges and fans, male and female, are essentially looking for beastly attractiveness, and only then for behavioral traits like poise and grace, IQ and EQ, and speaking ability. So why not limit the purpose of such contests to just that — beauty in the eyes of the publicity-minded beast — and stop linking them to the celebration of "cultural heritage" and other communal matters that have little to do with gender, much less its carnal, racial, and cultural variations?

William Wetherall
Abiko, Japan

Asian Invasion

The article published in the Oct. 16-Nov. 5, 1998 issue of the *Pacific Citizen*, "Asian Invasion?," by Mika Tanner brought the question of affirmative action to my attention. As a sophomore in high school, I am starting to think about my college options. I would find it insulting to be accepted into a university, not because of my academic achievements, but because of the lack of on-campus presence of my race.

Suddenly, Asians are no longer the minority. Is this wrong? We deserve to be in the most challenging school based on our level of knowledge. I don't want to be pushed out or pushed into a school because of who I am. It seems wrong that colleges look at who you are rather than what you can do.

I am Chinese, Japanese, and a female, "three strikes against me." I don't want people to look at who I am and give me extra privileges or penalties. Every person deserves the education that they are capable of succeeding at. If you don't get into the college you want based on your own merits, make the best of it. Prove yourself worthy and then try again.

Alissa Wang
Portland, Ore.

Speaking "Japlish"

Just read Bill Marutani's column with interest and amusement, especially about the "MacArthur election." There is among the American community in Tokyo a brand of humor devoted to malapropisms in translation from Japanese into English. Politically incorrect it's called "Japlish," and there is some debate about the use of the word. It does, however, give rise to such things as the sign in a Japanese hotel which states: "All of our water is personally passed by the manager." You get the idea.

On a more prosaic note, it was always my understanding that it was Tokyo-To not Tokyo-Fu. Kyoto-Fu and Osaka-Fu are, of course correct. Hokkaido is also Hokkaido-Ken, as are all the rest. It was also always my understanding that they were "Fu" because they were so ancient, coming into existence circa the Nara period beginning about 712 c.e.

With respect to the words for dictionary: in *jibiki*, the character ji is the one used in Kanji, thus the emphasis is on proper writing. The ji character in *jirin* (which Marutani-san left out), *jisho*, and *jiten* refers to the mouth and lips, thus the emphasis is on proper speech. A distinction without a difference, perhaps.

As a *gaijin*, I do not claim to be fluent in written Japanese, but I have more than a passing familiarity with it. I had a pretty good teacher, my wife of 42 years, Jeanne Hisea, a Shin-Issei war bride, now deceased.

Hugh A. E. Stroble
CAPT, USNR (Ret)
Ph.D. Cand. in Japanese Studies
West Virginia University

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* "Views" 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.

TANKERS

(Continued from page 9)

segregated. Therefore, a small number of Nisei trainees were integrated into each tank training company.

After we completed the 17-week basic armored training in March 1945, the majority of the Nisei tankers were shipped to armored units in Europe. Perhaps some of them saw action before the end of the war with Germany. But others, myself included, remained at Fort Knox to attend Armored Officer Candidate School, with three of us graduating as 2nd lieutenants in July. Japan surrendered the following month and presumably the Pentagon abandoned the idea of an all-Nisei tank battalion. On Oct. 26, 1945, three Nisei armored officers, including myself, were involuntarily transferred to the MIS Language School, Ft. Snelling, Minn. Eventually I was assigned to Central Intelligence Group, Washington, D.C., and was subsequently sent to Japan for occupation duties.

The creation and training of this tanker unit over 50 years ago is, I believe, one of the little-known facts about the Japanese American veteran experience. Undoubtedly, there are many more. With the Go For Broke Monument dedication imminent, I wanted to set the historical record straight. It is also especially important that my Sansei and Yonsei children and grandchildren learn about the other contributions made by Nisei units during World War II. ■

JAHSSC honors "Kitty" Sankey

TORRANCE, Calif.—Out of more than 40 nominees, Kathleen "Kitty" Keiko Sankey was one of three people selected to receive the 1998 Community Heritage Award from the Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California on Oct. 17 at the Torrance Hilton Hotel.

The fifth-grade teacher at Los Angeles Elementary School is currently the president of the Downtown Los Angeles Chapter of the JACL, the oldest chapter in Southern California.

Sankey was recognized along with writer Wakako Yamauchi and Kathy Nishimoto Masaoka, a teacher at Central High School and founding member of the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations. ■

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Ozeki's My Year of Meats wins 1998 Kiriama Book Prize

Ruth L. Ozeki was awarded the third annual Kiriama Pacific Rim Book Prize on Oct. 24 for her first novel, *My Year of Meats*. The winner was announced during a live broadcast of the International Public Radio program, "West Coast Live," at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco. The \$30,000 prize will be shared between Ozeki and her publisher, Viking.

My Year of Meats tells the delightfully offbeat story of two women who meet through the uncanny of circumstances. Jane Tagaki-Little, a Japanese American TV producer, is commissioned to conduct a new cooking series for Japanese television, a series which over-idealizes the American housewife in order to promote beef consumption overseas. Akiko Ueno is an unhappy housewife in Tokyo and a regular viewer of the program. Through the wildly unpredictable series,

their lives converge and both are forced to confront their relationships, their sexual roles, media manipulation and an increasingly hungry consumer culture.

Ozeki's novel was chosen out of six finalists, which were selected from 239 books submitted to the five-judge panel. Among the finalists were *Galapagos: Islands Born of Fire* by Tui De Roy, *Under the Red Flag* by Ha Jin, *Cambodia: Report from a Stricken Land* by Henry Kamm, *The Electrical Field* by Kerri Sakamoto and *Golden Arches East: McDonald's in East Asia* by James L. Watson.

Previous winners are Patrick Smith's *Japan: a Reinterpretation* (1997) and Alan Brown's *Audrey Hepburn's Neck* (1996).

All eligible entries for this year's prize, including works of fiction and non-fiction, were published between Nov. 1, 1997, and Oct. 31, 1998.

The book prize was co-sponsored by the Kiriama-Pacific Rim Foundation and the University of San Francisco Center for the Pacific Rim. For more information, call USF Center for the Pacific Rim at 415/422-5984. ■



Ozeki

Films, videos sought for AA film festival

The 1999 Chicago Asian American Film Showcase, presented by Fortune4 and the Film Center of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, is seeking features, shorts, documentaries, and experimental works on film and video, by and/or about Asian Americans. The deadline for entries is Dec. 31, 1998 with the festival scheduled for April 1999.

Send VHS videotape (with maker, title, and contact info clearly marked on the tape and box), bioproduct information, \$10 entry fee (payable to Fortune4), to Fortune4, 3314 N. Lake Shore Dr., #6D, Chicago, IL 60657, 773/871-1977, info@fortune4.com. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope for tape return. For application forms, access www.fortune4.com.

The showcase enters its fourth year as the preeminent Asian American arts event in the Midwest. Recent highlights include the Midwest premieres of Eric

Koyanagi's *Hundred Percent*, Timothy Chey's *Fakin Da Funk*, Chris Chan Lee's *Yellow*, Justin Lin and Quentin Lee's *Shopping for Fangs*, Rea Tajiri's *Strawberry Fields*, Eric Nakamura and Michael Idemoto's *Sunset*, Lee-Lin-Tajiri-Nakamura-Idemoto's *Obits*, Jon Moritsugu's *Explosion*, and many others, with personal appearances and workshops by several directors and actors.

The showcase also includes Asian American art exhibits, rock concerts, and literary readings. It has been covered by the *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Chicago Reader*, *A magazine*, *AsianWeek*, and other media.

In addition to the showcases Fortune4's accomplishments include the historic *Ear of the Dragon* compilation CD and CD releases by Aden and the KG.

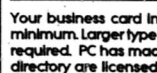
For more information about Fortune4 and past showcases, visit their site at www.fortune4.com. ■



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Former PSWD regional director wins 1998 John Anson Ford award

Albert Y. Muratsuchi, former JACL Pacific Southwest District regional director, was one of the nine recipients of the 1998 John Anson Ford award, an honor given by the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Rights on Oct. 15 at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in downtown Los Angeles.

Muratsuchi was recognized for his outreach and coalition building efforts within the Asian Pacific American community, fostering cross-ethnic collaborations such as a joint domestic violence project with the African American community, and fighting to retain affirmative action.

He is currently a deputy district attorney with the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office.



Muratsuchi

Honored along with Muratsuchi were cable television broadcaster William J. Rosendahl; performer and director Victoria Ann Lewis; writer

Norine Dresser; the Antelope Valley Human Relations Task Force; the Community Newspaper Council of the Annenberg School of Communications, the University of Southern California; the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA); North High School in Torrance; and the Bank of America. ■

Controversial writer Yamanaka wins \$75,000 Lannan Foundation award

HONOLULU—Controversial writer Lois-Anne Yamanaka again made headline news when she received \$75,000 from the Lannan Foundation.

She was one of 11 recipients recognized by this competitive award where candidates are selected by a group of anonymous writers, literary scholars, publishers and editors.



Yamanaka

To date, this is the largest

monetary award granted to Yamanaka, the author of *Blus Hanging*, *Wild Meat* and the *Bully Burgers* and *Saturday Night at the Pahala Theatre*.

Yamanaka's recognition by the Lannan Foundation follows on the heels of a recent move by the University of Hawaii's Association of Asian American Studies to rescind a book award from her. The decision was made after Yamanaka's portrayal of a Filipino American in her third book, *Blus Hanging*, sparked heated debate.

Her next novel, *Heads by Harry*, which focuses on taxidermy as an art form, is scheduled for release this fall. ■

Coming next month: The Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue

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Alice T. Hosokawa, wife of P.C. columnist, 81

DENVER—Alice T. Hosokawa, wife of P.C. columnist Bill Hosokawa, died Oct. 14, after a long illness. Mrs. Hosokawa was born in Portland, Ore., in 1917 and attended public schools there. She and Hosokawa were married in 1938 and soon afterward left for Singapore where her husband was employed by the *Singapore Herald*. The Hosokawas were evacuated



Hosokawa (1993)

to Heart Mountain, Wyo., and relocated to Des Moines, Iowa, in 1943. They have been residents of Denver since 1946.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Hosokawa is survived by sons Dr. Michael Hosokawa, Columbia, Mo., and Peter Hosokawa, Denver; daughters Susan Boatright, Denver, and Christie Harveson, Greensboro, N.C.; brother Kenneth, Las Vegas; and eight grandchildren.

The family has suggested condolence gifts be made to the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, 1726 M Street, Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20036. ■

Tom Kawaguchi, 81, 442 veteran, NJAHS founder

Tom Kawaguchi, active JACL member and leader in the Japanese American community for many years passed away on Oct. 15 in San Pablo, Calif., at age 81.

Born in Tacoma, Wash., Kawaguchi moved with his Issei parents and five siblings to San Francisco in 1927. He attended San Francisco State University and the University of Hawaii and graduated from the Army Finance School and Military Assistance Institute in Washington, D.C.

Despite his incarceration at the Topaz Relocation Center in Utah, he volunteered for the U.S. Army and joined the famed Japanese American 442/100 combat unit, fighting in three major campaigns and receiving several commendations. After the war ended in Europe he volunteered to fight in the Pacific, then served in both occupied Germany and Japan. Commissioned as a finance officer, he served in Vietnam as a military advisor and controller and retired from the Army as a major in 1964.

His extensive volunteerism included work with the JACL and Boy Scout Troop 12, and establishing a Vietnamese refugee program in Contra Costa County.

In 1980, Kawaguchi founded the "Go For Broke" National Japanese American Historical Society to preserve the history of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the 100th Infantry Battalion and the Military Intelligence Service. It evolved into the National Japanese American Historical Society, and he served on its board from its inception.

He is survived by his wife Sadako Kitano; daughters Lesley Ann Kawaguchi and Joanne Wong; two granddaughters; and sisters Toshi Okazaki, Yoshi Takiguchi, Kumeko Midzuno and Hiro Kato. ■

Kinu Hirashima Hirose, 80, Washington, D.C., JACler

CHEVY CHASE, Md.—Kinu Hirashima Hirose, charter member of the Washington D.C. Chapter of the JACL, died at age 80 on Oct. 3. She was born in Los Angeles and spent part of her childhood in nearby Long Beach, helping to operate one of the family-owned produce markets.

Hirose met her future husband, Jack, while interned in Manzanar. When Jack left the camp, he arranged for her and his mother's release so they could join him in Washington, D.C.,

where he and Kinu were wed.

She served as a secretary to the U.S. Coast Guard Commander when Jack was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1945. She worked full time for the government while caring for her mother-in-law and her son, fully supported her husband's endeavors, yet still found time to participate in many JACL-sponsored activities.

She is survived by her husband Jack; son Glen and his wife Jane; and two granddaughters. ■

Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

San, Takeo, 78, Gardena, Oct. 8, Hawaii-born; survived by wife Matsui; daughter Margie; sister Chikako and husband Isamu; brother-in-law Uchihiro Takahashi and wife Kuniko; sisters-in-law Chiu Hatsumi, Kinuyo Adachi and Misao Iwasawa and husband Ryohei; and many other relatives.

Fujishige, Hiroshi, 76, Anaheim, Sept. 23, Los Angeles-born; survived by wife Reiko; son Jack; daughters Jane and Nancy; sister Kimi Tanaka and husband Kenji; sister-in-law Carolyn Toshiko; brother-in-law Jack Musseman; and many other relatives.

Furuta, Paul Takeo, 96, San Francisco, Sept. 25, Nagano-born; survived by wife Dorothy Hisayo; daughter Agnes Akiko Suzuki; son Stanley Shigeru and wife Terry; 7 g.; 9 g.

Hanamura, Martha Masa, 84, Alameda, Oct. 15; survived by brothers Tasuo and wife Yoshiko, John and wife Violet, and Haruo and wife Mary; and many other relatives and friends.

Harada, Masako, 87, Vista, Oct. 4, Oakland-born; survived by son William Kinichi and wife Utako; daughters Katherine Matsunaga and husband Ewao, Bette Ayako Adair and husband Roger (Uruguay), Fumiko Gotard, Tayoko Harada, Sachiko Cook and husband Malcolm and Martha Trebbe; 6 g.; 4 g.

Hashioka, Takako, 74, Riverside, Ill., Oct. 19; San Francisco-born; survived by husband Roy Matsuo; daughter Christine Matsuye; son Stephen Masati; brother Kiyoshi; sister Michiko; 1 g.

Hata, Noriyo, 84, Gardena, Oct. 1, Saga-born; survived by husband Thomas Yoshio; and other relatives.

Hayashibara, George Masanori, 77, Wilmington, Oct. 13; survived by wife Jane; sons Wayne and wife Shirlene, Eugene and wife Phyllis, Ed and his wife Nancy, and George and wife Kit; daughters Pauline and Corene Robinson and husband Don; 14 g.; and many other relatives.

Hosokawa, Alice T., 81, Denver, Colo., Oct. 14; survived by husband Bill; sons Michael and Peter; daughters Susan Boatright and Christie Harveson; brother Kenneth; and 8 g.

Ishii, Charles, 82, Santa Ana, Oct. 6; survived by wife Kuniko; sons James and wife Nanci and Roger, brother Joe and wife Helen; sisters Nellie Koga and Rose Osaki and husband Kenneth; 2 g.; and many other relatives.

Itami, Fujiye Mukumoto, Salt Lake City, Utah, Oct. 19.

Kagiwada, Helen Kinue, 88, Los Angeles, Oct. 7, Alameda-born; survived by sons Kenneth Shu and Reynold Shigen; daughter Jeanne Scharf and husband Robert; sister Chiko Koyama and husband Ben; sisters-in-law Reiko Imura and Sachiko; 4 g.; 3 g.

Kariya, Masashi, 78, Pauma Valley, Oct. 3, Buena Park-born; survived by wife Kayoko; daughters Darcy, Nora and Laurie; son Mark; sisters Taeko Masuda and Miyue Ioki and husband Susumu; brothers Yoneo and wife Mary and Hiromi and wife Kate; mother-in-law Hatsuoka Takechi; and many nieces and nephews.

Kawashima, Itau "Stan", 75, Los Angeles, Nisei veteran of the 442nd RCT, F company; survived by wife Marie "Toni"; daughter Meriko Mai; sisters Toyoko Sakaguchi and husband Roy, Michi Iwai and husband George and Mae; and many other relatives.

Kimura, Rev. Ren, 79, San Fernando Valley, Oct. 9, interned at Rohwer, Arkansas during WWII, pastor emeritus; survived by wife May; daughters Susan Yoshiko Takiguchi and husband Bob, and Grace Keiko Cheng and husband Joe; and son Paul Kenichi.

Kiyohara, Chiyeiko, 94, Los Angeles, Oct. 4, Hiroshima-born; survived by sons Takeshi and wife Aiko, Isao, Akira and wife Ruby; and Ronnie; daughter Mary Yamaga and husband Lucky; 9 g.; 5 g.; and many other relatives.

Marubayashi, Frank F., 99, San Mateo, June 6; survived by daughters Mary Haraguchi, Edith and Alice; 4 g.; 19 g.

Maruyama, Adam Atsumi, 70, Gardena, Oct. 9, Hawaii-born; survived by daughters Darlye S. Nekoba and husband Michael, and Kim Chun and husband Jerold; son Dean A. and wife Rumi Fujimura; sisters Clara Shoda; Mildred Fukumoto and Grace; brother Henry T.; 7 g.; 2 g.

Mayeda, Yasuo Henry, 71, Torrance, Santa Maria-born Nisei veteran of the Korean conflict; survived by wife Grace

Masako; son Cary and wife Linda; daughters Nanette and Marica Odom and her husband Don; brother Roy and his wife Eileen; sisters Haruko Iwasaki and Hiroko Murakami and her husband Hideo (Hawaii); 2 g.; and many other relatives.

Mori, Roy Toshio, Cleveland, Sept. 10; survived by wife Mary (Morikawa), daughters Chrystine Macho and her husband Terry, and Shelley Placky; son Dale and his wife Jo; 6 g.

Morimoto, Hiromichi, 83, Los Angeles, Oct. 14, Kumamoto-born; survived by wife Yoneko; sons Dr. Allen Masashi and Bob Kikuo; daughters Carol Reiko Nakamura, Lilian Yuriko Osajima, and Jane Chyo Murakami; 4 g.; and many other relatives.

Mukai, Yemiko, 59, Gardena, Sept. 22, Hawthorne-born; survived by daughters Denise Tanaka and husband Nolan, Kristine; mother Mario Ito; brothers Satoshi Ito and wife Carolyn, Henry Ito and wife Ariene, Sam Ito and wife Stacy; 2 g.; and many other relatives.

Nakagaki, Kiyoko, 86, Los Angeles, Oct. 2, Seattle-born; survived by son Kazu Fujita and wife Teruko; daughter Miyoko Arata and her husband Tom; sister Tazuko Marumoto; 4 g.; 1 g.

Nakamura, Hiroko, 80, Long Beach, Sept. 25, Santa Monica-born; survived by son Junji and his wife Vicki; and grandsons Toshi, Akira and Jiro.

Nakazono, Yasuo Stanley, 52, Sept. 30, Anaheim, Colorado-born; survived by wife Joyce (Orange County); daughters Kim McCarthy and her husband Sean, Lisa and Kelly (Orange County); brother Mike; sisters Grace Alf and her husband David (Orange County) and Karen.

Nin, Ichiro, 56, San Rafael, Oct. 8, Kobe-born, member of Oakland Kendo Dojo; survived by wife Nobuko; son Hiyato; mother Mizuho Bucol; and aunt Teruko Date.

This compilation appears on a space-available basis at no cost. Printed obituaries from your newspaper are welcome. "Death Notices," which appear in a timely manner at request of the family or funeral director, are published at the rate of \$15 per column inch. Text is reworded as needed.

Nishimoto, Mikiyo, 78, Mountain View, Oct. 9, San Jose-born; survived by son Bryan and his wife Linda; daughters Audrey Inouye and her husband Melvin and Marilyn Ozawa and her husband Irvin; brother Kunio Shinta and his wife Beulah; sister Pauline Sakae and her husband Roy; 6 g.

Obuchi, Hiroshi, 66, Mountain View, Oct. 10, Fresno-born; survived by wife Richiko; son Richard; daughter Alice Bauer and her husband Paul; brothers Toshio and his wife Shizuka, and Akira; sister-in-law Chieko; 1 g.

Okamura, Mabel Matsuko, 72, Oct. 9, Reedley, San Jose-born, member of Reedley Nikkei Fujinkai and Reedley Nikkei Kai; survived by husband George Choji; sons Dale and wife Charlene, Rodney and wife Linda; sisters Shigeo Hiramoto and husband Shigeo, Florence Nakayama and husband Pete, Maude Sakamoto and husband Masami; brother Kiyoi Sakuragi; 4 g.

Okuda, Kazuo, 65, Rosemead, Oct. 1, native of Los Angeles; survived by wife Rosemary; stepsons Abel and Jose Calderon and his wife Lorena; sister Nancy Haroutunian and husband Aram; brothers Noboru and wife Takako, Jack and wife Sakae; and nieces and nephews.

Oshita, Yoichi, 81, Stockton, Sept. 24; survived by wife May; son Stanley and his Karen; daughters Diane Hotta and husband Gary, Lana Berlesford and husband Michael, Shirley Sakai; brother Saburo; sisters Setsuko Miyamoto and Fumiko Sugihara; 4 g.

Sakamoto, Frank K., 78, Downey, Oct. 17; survived by wife Helen; daughters Donna and Fran; and grandson Russell.

Sawada, Kiyoko, 73, Gardena, Oct. 7, Yokohama-born; survived by husband Akio; sons Danny and wife Yoshimi, Johnny and wife Ruth, David and wife Dale; and many other relatives.

Shimoda, Sumi, 79, Fresno, Sept. 28; survived by son Richard and wife June; sister Michi and husband George, Shizue Kurokawa (Japan); brother Jim Kurata and wife Elsie.

Shimoji, Toshie Nishimura, 63, Los Angeles, Oct. 10, Fukui-born; survived by husband Tenu; daughter Kumi Tanaka (Japan); sister Michi Nishimoto (Japan); stepson Chris and wife Carol (San Francisco); stepdaughter Peggy

(San Francisco); stepgranddaughter Candy (San Francisco); and many other relatives.

Tanaka, Tadaichi Ted, 87, Chatsworth, Oct. 3, Washington-born; survived by sons Edward H. and wife Linda and Brian and wife Sharon; daughters Betty and Helen Nakamura and husband Masao; sisters Hisayo, Nobuko Masai and Kimiko (Japan); 6 g.; 19 g.

Teshima, Chiyoiko, 91, Oct. 4, Maui-born, member of Hawaiiki and the JACL; survived by sons Hubert and wife Jackie, Kenneth and wife Phyllis, Harris and wife Mary; daughters Amy Boch and husband Tony, Naomi Benitez; son-in-law Richard Suesaki; 19 g.; and ggc.

Tomita, Yasuyuki, 72, Torrance, Oct. 4; survived by sons Alan, Ray and wife Cindy; grandsons Steven and Michael.

Uchida, Frank Yasuyuki, 94, Sacramento, Oct. 9, Hawaii-born; survived by wife Fumiko; sons George S. and wife Una, Richard I. and wife Dianne T., Dennis S. and wife Carol J.; daughters Marian K., Jeanette K. Inouye, and Ellen K. g.; ggc.

Uyeda, Shizuko Elsie, 88, Sandy (Utah), Oct. 18, Hawaii-born; predeceased by husband Hisashi; grandson Michael; survived by sons George and wife Chiyo, Roy and wife Carol, and Raymond and wife Yuri; daughter Virginia Fushimi and husband Fred; 11 g.; 13 g.

Uzaki, Tsune, 85, Los Angeles, Oct. 13, Seattle-born; survived by son Tsugiyu Mikasa and wife Tamiko; son Sadahiko William Mikasa and wife Christel (Germany); 4 g.; and many other relatives.

Wong, Ruth Miyoko, 60, Lafayette, Oct. 4, Guadalupe-born; predeceased by husband Jack; survived by sons Patrick and Stuart; sister of Tetsuo, Hideo and Takao Kamon; and many other relatives.

Yamamoto, George Hifumi, 73, Los Angeles, Oct. 6, Salinas-born Nisei; survived by wife Ikuo; sons Ben Hideo (Berkeley) and Walter Takeshi, brothers Junichi (Sacramento) and Henry Hiroto (San Jose); sisters Yoshiko Doi (Sacramento), Haruko Tadomoto (Chicago), Mitsuko Matsura, Yaeiko Tadomaru (Sacramento) and Chiyoiko Hidaka (Japan); 2 g.; and many other relatives.

Yano, Mabel Ume, 85, Montebello, Oct. 10, Gardena-born; survived by son Richard; brother George Masushige and wife Natsuko; sister Mary Nakaj; brother-in-law Komao Motonaga; sister-in-law Marie; granddaughter Christy; and many other relatives.

Yenokida, Minoru, 85, Galt, Sept. 28; survived by wife Michie; sons Gordon and wife Michou, Lloyd and wife Mary, and Brian and wife Sachiko; daughters Janice Ono and her husband Keith and Sue Ann Kashiwagi and husband Kerry; brother Susumu; g.; ggc.

Yoshioka, Masauki, 76, Los Angeles, Sept. 30, Wilmington-born; survived by wife Kyoko; sons Wayne and Roger; daughters Beverly Shintake and her husband Peter and Phyllis; brothers Shigen and his wife Yasuko and Morihiro and his wife Katherine Fumiko; and many other relatives. ■

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LUNGREN

(Continued from page 1)

support the legislation, forging its passage on July 21, 1980.

It further wrote that "Lungren agreed to serve on the Commission after being asked by House Minority Leader Robert Michel [R-Ill.] to be the only representative from the United States Congress. Lungren then accepted the vice-chairmanship of the commission after being nominated by former Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg."

In response to Lungren's vote against monetary compensation, it wrote: "He [Lungren] disagreed with those who suggest that in order for an action to be sincere, money must be attached. He was concerned about establishing a precedent of paying redress to victims of long-past injustices."

It said he was satisfied with Lungren's response but admitted he did not have the time or the resources to investigate claims being made by Lungren opponents. It saw no contradictions in information he received and his own recollection of Lungren during the hearings.

"Some say he [Lungren] was rolling his eyes — I don't remember that kind of detail," said Ito, then-president of the Japanese American Bar Association, one of several organizations that helped prepare former internees to testify before the commission.

Eunice Sato, JAR vice president and former mayor of Long Beach, said Lungren, a former congressman from Long Beach, is being misrepresented.

"It irritates me because I would say the opposition are so biased, so anti-Lungren that even if he did do something good, they'd probably distort it," said Sato. "They're not being objective. It displeases me that people are not fair."

Lungren Detractors

Miya Iwataki, former national legislative chair of the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations (NCCRR), didn't deny that Lungren co-sponsored a bill to create CWRIC or that he became the commission's vice chair.

But Iwataki also pointed out that "not only did Dan Lungren have a high absentee rate during

these hearings, but he went on to become the lone dissenter of the commission's recommendation for monetary restitution to each camp survivor, and he became the leading proponent of an amendment to eliminate individual restitution from the House Bill H.R. 442 — the heart and soul of the legislation."

U.S. Congressman Robert Matsui also refuted claims made by Lungren and his supporters. In a written statement, Matsui said, "Dan Lungren led the opposition to redress payments on the floor of the House of Representatives. He campaigned against the efforts and even went so far as to write letters to his colleagues in opposition to monetary reparations. In short, Dan Lungren did more than any other member of Congress to fight and stall our efforts."

"While in the end Mr. Lungren joined the overwhelming majority of his colleagues to vote for the final passage of this important legislation, he used every opportunity to slow its progression."

George Kiriya, Los Angeles Unified School Board member, referring to Matsui's statement, said, "This is a very important statement from our congressman. He was there."

Dr. Mitchell Maki, with UCLA's School of Public Policy and Social Research and co-author of a soon to be released book on the history of redress, said Lungren's opposition to redress is well documented in the congressional records.

Maki added detail to the Lungren letter mentioned earlier by Matsui. "In that letter, he [Lungren] misrepresented the commission's stance. He purposely stated that the commission challenged the foundation of monetary payments. He took those words out of context, and in this deceptive letter, what he failed to do, what he purposely omitted, was that this commission had

specifically recommended monetary payment.

"His minimization of the importance of the individual reparations shows his insensitivity to the core issue of the redress bill."

Jim Matsuo, former Manzanar internee and founding member of NCCRR, likened Lungren to a "snake oil salesman." Matsuo, who testified at the L.A. commission hearings, said, "For him to try to take credit for redress

gave his reasons, although I may not have agreed, I would have respected his opinions," said Kuwahara. "However, Dan Lungren now claims he was instrumental in passing the redress bill... This is not only a distortion of the facts, but also not accepting responsibility. This is a real concern for me because a governor, as well as all elected officials, are role models."

Who Owns History?

With this controversy, Warren Furutani, director of the Speaker of the Assembly's Asian Pacific American Affairs Office, pointed out the importance of maintaining one's history.

"When you look at history, there's an inherent danger," said Furutani. "That inherent danger is dependent upon who's writing the history. As you can see, Dan Lungren's version of history is completely opposite to what we see."

It is due to this lack of educational material that state Assemblyman Mike Honda sponsored AB 1915, which created the California Civil Liberties Public Education Grant program.

"If there was enough (educational) material, I never would have put the bill out," said Honda, who added that if Lungren was painting himself as a redress leader, it was "misleading."

John Esaki with Visual Communications was one of several people who had captured the Los Angeles commission hearings on tape, allowing researchers a more

unbiased view of the proceedings. Esaki is currently working with NCCRR to release 25 hours of uncut testimonies.

In going over the tapes, Esaki noted that Lungren appears "impatient" with the proceedings because each speaker was going over their allotted time.

"He got into a couple of confirmations trying to limit the presentations," said Esaki. "It was a difficult situation. There were only three days of hearings, and people were expected to sum up their lives in a few minutes. He was constantly prodding them to give summaries while the community was intent on expressing themselves, since they've finally been given an opportunity. All this created a natural adversarial relationship."

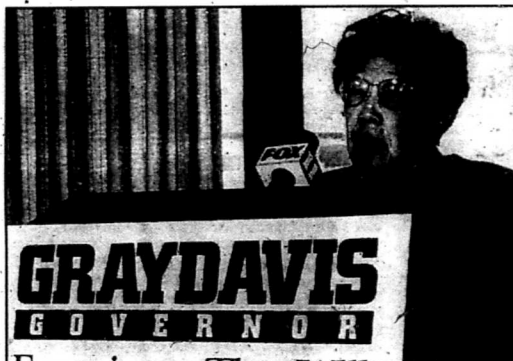
Esaki added that William Marutani, the only Nisei on the commission, "even felt some of that conflict and hostility."

And although Lungren had not been "overtly hostile" during the proceedings, Esaki said, "A lot of things he did outside the commission hearings angered people."

As an example, Esaki pointed out that Lungren had allegedly said Congress would not support monetary compensation. Fearing this as an indication that Lungren had already "prejudged" the situation, one witness took time out of his allotted presentation time to question Lungren on this point, said Esaki.

What compounded the community's resentment was that then-Senator S.I. Hayakawa, who had never been interned, had been given special consideration, said Esaki.

"Hayakawa got to speak for what seemed like an eternity," recalled Esaki. "I guess it was a privilege as a senator. He spoke for an hour or more and none of the commissioners asked him to hurry up... and the people, who were actually in the camp were limited and forced to summarize. So when the panel cut off people, it added to the frustration."



Dan Lungren's comments on redress evoked an emotional response from former Manzanar internee Sue Embrey.

now is a gross distortion of the truth... All of his actions of trying to strip monetary compensation from the redress bill with an amendment, voting against the bill during its crucial vote in the House of Representatives in 1987, tells us what we'll ever need to know about him.

"We won redress not due to Dan Lungren but in spite of Dan Lungren," said Matsuo.

Sue Kunitomi Embrey, former Manzanar internee and chair of the Manzanar Committee, appeared on a local TV station with Lungren during the redress movement. At that taping, Embrey said, "I found out that a lot of the distorted information [Lungren was getting] was coming from a Gardena resident who was a vocal and strong opponent of redress, Lillian Baker."

Gary Kuwahara, Torrance Unified School Board trustee, said he disagreed with Lungren not only on his redress statements but also on education.

"Had Mr. Lungren stated he was against the redress issue and

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31. Japan Fall Foliage	10/25	Ray Ishii	
32. Japan Autumn Festivals	10/14-	Tracy Taguchi	
33. Japan Chichibu Yo-Matsuri & Onsen	11/11-11/29	Toy Kanegai	
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ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE	June 7-14
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GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR	June 26-July 4
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