

Pacific Citizen

Newsstand: 25¢

\$1.50 postpaid (U.S., Can.) / \$2.30 (Japan Aft)

#2859 / Vol. 128, No. 1 ISSN: 0030-8579

National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)

Jan. 1-21, 1999

Perspective on the past year

BY HERBERT YAMANISHI
JACL National Director

The year 1998 was one of the most eventful, if not momentous, year of the last half century.



•Both Martin Luther King Jr. and Bobby Kennedy were assassinated;

•The Tet offensive against American forces took the Vietnam War into all sectors of the country and became a defining moment for the shift in public attitude;

•A few months later, the infamous My Lai massacre by American troops took place in central Vietnam, underscoring America's frustration with the war;

•The Yippies, led by Abbie Hoffman, Jerry Rubin and Paul Krassner, became the center of attention at the riot-torn Democratic National Convention in Chicago;

•President Lyndon Johnson announced he will not seek another term as president and Richard Nixon was nominated by the Republican Party to become their presidential candidate;

•The women's liberation movement got its focus as demonstrations were held against the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City; •Herb Yamanishi and Barbara Lynn Yates were married.

Thirty years later, the events of the past year seem almost anticlimactic in comparison to the defining issues of 1968:

•The stock market reached an all time high but there remains substantial uncertainty about the effects of Asian economies on America's economy;

•Palestine and Israel achieve a historic accord through the efforts of President Clinton but recent bombings and shootings appear to have negated the effort;

•While America has switched into cruise control economically and as a world leader, its president is brought up for impeachment.

Many of the major issues of the past year affecting JACL and Asian Americans have held out the promise of becoming defining moments. The accusations and

Plaintiffs in redress lawsuits vow to appeal

A decision made in a class action lawsuit filed by the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations and a separate individual suit filed by Japanese Latin American former internee Joe Suzuki will be appealed.

Last month, Federal Judge Charles A. Legge dismissed both cases which challenged the United States government's diversion of approximately \$200 million from a fund established by Congress to pay reparations to persons of Japanese descent wrongfully imprisoned during World War II.

Under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which also set up an education and research fund, the government was directed to invest in a government-backed program earning interest at an annual rate of at least five percent. The government, however, began investing the funds only last year.

At a hearing on Dec. 22,

Legge, without addressing the government's failure to invest, dismissed NCCR's case asserting a number of reasons for denial.

The NCCR lawsuit alleged that because the government failed to invest the monies, hundreds of eligible claimants will not receive reparations and that \$45 million to sponsor research and education will not be distributed due to lack of funds.

In addition, NCCR charged that because the full educational monies were never distributed, it was awarded only a portion of grant monies for which it applied. The judge, however, felt that the organization did not have a legal right to the money. But he added that he would consider an amended complaint charging loss of the right to compete for grant money.

In Suzuki's case, the judge stated that until the Mochizuki settlement is finalized, Suzuki

does not have the right to enforce the government's legal obligation. The Mochizuki settlement was given provisional approval in June of 1998 but the final approval will be decided after a fairness hearing on Jan. 7 in Washington D.C.

Legge also stated that because the act had terminated on Aug. 10, 1998, he was powerless to order the government to replace the monies. Nevertheless, he granted leave to the plaintiffs to file an amended complaint and file the suit again.

Chris Prince with McCutchen, Doyle, Brown and Emerson who is representing NCCR, said, "I'm very disappointed and feel the court's ruling was in error. We will definitely press on. This is just the beginning."

"We believe the law provides standing for our plaintiffs," said attorney Robin Toma who is rep-

resenting Suzuki. "Japanese Latin Americans agreed to a settlement which provided for \$5,000 to be paid from the fund for as long as the money lasts. The funds will run out because the U.S. Treasury breached its fiduciary duty. The government's illegal action cannot be assumed to be part of the settlement agreement."

Richard Katsuda, president of NCCR said, "If the court is unable or unwilling to enforce the will of Congress, then we must call upon our legislators to correct this grave mistake. Clearly the lost monies should be returned to the Civil Liberties Act Fund. It is only right."

Art Shibayama, a JLA former internee who attended the San Francisco court hearing, had this to say: "It's just not right that the government can get away with violating the law."

Rep. Matsui Plans to Lead

Social Security Reform



Sacramento Congressman Robert Matsui (D-CA) informed members of Congress that when the 106th Congress convenes this month, he intends to seek the Ranking Democrat position on the Social Security Subcommittee.

The decision will place Matsui among a handful of key players in efforts to restructure the Social Security program in the coming months.

In a brief letter to his Congressional Colleagues, Matsui wrote, "The 106th Congress promises to be an exciting and intense time for debate and possible change in our country's most important income security program. I look forward to working with you as we endeavor to determine the best future for the Social Security system and in turn the working families of our

country." Matsui was one of 12 Democratic members of the House of Representatives to participate in the White House Conference on Social Security held in December.

"There is a strong commitment to protecting our Social Security system from financial difficulties we see in the program's future. The challenge will be to find a way to preserve the program's solvency when Baby Boomers start to retire in 10 years without compromising the program's integrity," Matsui said.

Matsui has been a member of the House Ways and Means Committee since 1980 and is the only remaining Democrat who served on the Social Security Subcommittee in 1983, the last time the program faced major revisions.

As the third highest ranking Democrat on the full Ways and Means Committee, he will have first choice of Subcommittee assignments after Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA), who has already indicated he will continue to serve as Ranking Democrat on the Health Subcommittee.

At the last November election, Matsui beat out Republican candidate Robert Dinsmore. This had been Dinsmore's fourth unsuccessful attempt against the 10-term incumbent.

Internee born after cutoff date files claim against U.S.

Jane Natsue Yano, 51, a former camp internee born after the June 30, 1946 cut off date under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, filed a claim against the United States government in December.

The California resident, born at the Crystal City Justice Department Internment Camp during World War II, is seeking \$3.5 million in damages under the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA). Under this act, U.S. citizens are granted the right to make claims against the government for un-

lawful acts. If the claims are denied, claimants can proceed to sue the government in a court of law.

Paul Mills, Yano's lawyer, noted that procedural limitations forced Yano to turn to international law. Yano's case is based on U.S. participation in international agreements, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which outlaw arbitrary imprisonment.

Mills also pointed out that camp survivor babies, such as

worked closely with California's fruit and vegetable, livestock, dairy, poultry, organic and cotton industries, developing innovative programs to assist farmers and consumers.

He was appointed by Clinton in 1997 to head the agency's Foreign Agricultural Service, where he oversees a worldwide agency of nearly 1,000 employees. Harvard educated with a law and business degree from UCLA, Hatamiya, 39, is an expert in international trade negotiations.

"I am honored that Governor Davis has asked me to join his team to help further develop the economic structure of California," said Hatamiya. "I look forward to carrying out his agenda of strengthening trade with Mexico and our Pacific Rim trading partners, and building a bridge between business constituencies and government."

Hatamiya's appointment follows Mike Yamaki's appointment as special assistant to the governor.

Davis also recently announced Ron Wong as Chief Deputy Appointments Secretary and Tal Finney as Senior Assistant to the Governor and Director of Policy. Previously, Finney served as General Counsel and Deputy Controller for Kathleen Connell, while Wong served on Davis' general election campaign as Deputy Political Director.

Yano, may grow up with ailments such as ulcers or high blood pressure. He cited a study by Ina Satsuki, a psychotherapist who researched the psychological injuries caused to infants born in prison camps. Satsuki was also born in a U.S. camp.

Crystal City, located in Texas, was one of four Justice Department camps. At its peak, it interned about 4,000 people, including Japanese Americans, Japanese Latin Americans, German and Italians.

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ANNIVERSARY

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PKG 78
SACK 74
50166-12/01/99
BAY MICROFILM
1115 E ARQUES AVE
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Publisher: Japanese American Citizens League (founded 1929) 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115, tel: 415/921-5225 fax: 415/931-4671
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NEWS/AD DEADLINE: FRIDAY BEFORE DATE OF ISSUE.
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© 1998 (ISSN: 0030-8579) PACIFIC CITIZEN is published semi-monthly except online in December. OFFICE HOURS — Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Pacific Time.
Annual subscription rates: JACL MEMBERS: \$12 of the national dues provide one year on a one-per-household basis. NON-MEMBERS: 1 year—\$30, 2 years—\$55, 3 years—\$80, payable in advance. Additional postage per year — Foreign periodical rate \$22; First Class for U.S., Canada, Mexico: \$30; Airmail to Japan/Europe: \$60. (Subject to change without notice.) Periodical postage paid at Monterey Park, Calif., and at additional mailing offices.
Permission: No part of this publication may be reproduced without express permission of the publisher. Copying for other than personal or internal reference use without the express permission of P.C. is prohibited. MICROFILM (35mm) of annual issues is available from Bay Microfilm, Inc., 1115 E. Arques Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086.

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JACL MEMBERS

Change of Address

If you have moved, please send information to:

National JACL
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.



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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

Name:

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JACL Calendar

Eastern

DISTRICT COUNCIL
Sat. Jan. 9—District Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m. coffee & rolls, 12:30 p.m. lunch, afternoon workshop: Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, 6601 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, Md. RSVP: Lily Okura, 301/530-0945.
WASHINGTON, D.C.
Sat. Jan. 30—53rd Annual Installation Dinner, 7 p.m.; Abrams & Chaffee Room, 442nd Veterans. Info: For Myer, Va. RSVP by Jan. 25. Info: Lily Okura, 301/530-0945. NOTE—Mathew Finucane AFL-CIO civil rights dept. Rear Admiral Melvin H. Chagnon, speaker.

Midwest

CINCINNATI
Sun. Jan. 24—Cincinnati-Dayton joint Installation Dinner, 4 p.m. reception, 5 p.m. dinner; Thomas's Restaurant & Banquet Center, Citizens Federal 442nd Veterans. Info: Steve Yano, 216/348-3059.
DAYTON
Sun. Jan. 24—Joint Installation Dinner: see notice at Cincinnati.
WISCONSIN
Sat. Jan. 24—Annual Inaugural Dinner, 3 p.m. reception, 5 p.m. dinner; Porterhouse Restaurant, 800 W. Layton Ave., Milwaukee. RSVP by Jan. 15: April Coral, 414/482-9427.

CLEVELAND

Sat. Mar. 13—2nd Annual National Day of Remembrance Luncheon, 1-5 p.m.; Wildlife Presbyterian Church, 29955 Ridge Rd., Wildlife. Info: Steve Yano, 216/348-3059.

DAYTON

Sun. Jan. 24—Joint Installation Dinner: see notice at Cincinnati.

WISCONSIN

Sat. Jan. 24—Annual Inaugural Dinner, 3 p.m. reception, 5 p.m. dinner; Porterhouse Restaurant, 800 W. Layton Ave., Milwaukee. RSVP by Jan. 15: April Coral, 414/482-9427.

NC-WN-Pacific

NATIONAL BOARD
Fri.-Sun., Feb. 12-14—National Board Meeting, San Francisco.
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Sun. Feb. 7—District Council Meeting, tentative location French Camp.
CONTRA COSTA
Sun. Feb. 7—19th Annual JASEB Crab

Feed; see Community Calendar for details.

FLORIDA

Sat. Jan. 23—Installation Dinner: 3-5 p.m. multiracial documentary and discussion; 6 p.m. cocktails; 6:30 p.m. dinner: Japanese United Methodist Church, 6929 Franklin Blvd. RSVP by Jan. 15. Info: Program-Sue Hida, 429-2579, dinner-Rick Uno, 424-3330.

GILROY

Fri. Jan. 22—Joint Installation/Keiro Kai Dinner with San Benito County & Watsonville; see Watsonville notice.
LODI
Fri. Jan. 15—Joint Installation Dinner: see Stockton notice.

RENO

Sun. Jan. 24—Installation Potluck, noon; Knights of Pythias Hall, 980 Nevada St. by the UNR campus. NOTE—Award-winning presentation on internment camps by student John Myers; presentation of a U.S. flag by WWII veteran James Iman; "Color of Honor" documentary to be shown. Guests of honor: Reno chapter's 442nd veterans.
SAN BENITO
Fri. Jan. 22—Joint Installation/Keiro Kai Dinner with Gilroy & Watsonville; see Watsonville notice.
S.F. BAY AREA NIKKEI SINGLES
Fri.-Sun., Sept. 3-5—8th National JACL Singles Convention; Radisson Miyako Hotel, San Francisco. Info: Georgeann Maeda, 415/753-3340; Gale Kondo, 415/337-9981. Golf, bowling, workshops, mixer, banquet, dance, brunch, side trips. Co-sponsored by Greater Los Angeles Singles chapter.

SAN MATEO

Sat. Jan. 30—1999 Installation Dinner, 6-9 p.m.; Crowne Plaza Hotel, 600 Airport Blvd. RSVP by Jan. 20: JACL Community Center, 650/343-2793, Ted Yamagishi, 650/401-3240.
STOCKTON
Fri. Jan. 15—1999 joint Installation Dinner with Lodi chapter, 6 p.m., Elkhorn Country Club. NOTE—Roger Minami, National JA Memorial Foundation, keynote speaker; completed oral history books to be shown.

COMMUNITY Calendar

The East Coast

WASHINGTON
Through Jan. 15—Exhibit, "Artists for Health," Fleming-Morgan Access Center, Whitman-Walker Clinic, 1432 U St. NW.

The 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.
CHICAGO
Sat. Jan. 16—Tohkon Judo Academy Kagami Biraki, JA Service Committee Bldg., 4427 N. Clark St., Chicago. Info: 773/275-7212.

The Rockies

ALBUQUERQUE
Thu. Jan. 21—International Trade Conference: "Building Opportunities with Latin America & the Pacific Rim." Info: Asian Technology Center, 505/842-9020.

The Northwest

PORTLAND, OREGON
Through Jan. 21—Exhibit, "One Thousand and One Cranes," Fridays & Saturdays 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Sundays noon-3:30 p.m.; Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 117 NW 2nd Ave. Info: 503/224-1458.

Northern Cal

OAKLAND
Sun. Feb. 7—19th Annual JASEB Crab Feed, 4-7 p.m.; Albany Veterans Memorial Hall, 1325 Portland Ave. @ Ramona. Tickets: Esther Takeuchi, 510/223-2258. NOTE—Takeout available.

SAN FRANCISCO

Wed. Jan. 13—Exhibit Opening: "Jade," over 200 works dating from the Neolithic period to the 20th century; Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Golden Gate Park. Info: 415/779-8800.
Sat. Jan. 16—Intergenerational Oshogatsu Workshop, 1-4 p.m., JA Cultural & Community Center, 1840 Sutter St. Info: 415/567-5505.
Through Jan. 17—Exhibit, "Hiroshige: Great Japanese Prints from the James A. Michener Collection," Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Golden Gate Park. Info: 415/568-8928.

Sun. Feb. 7—Bay Area Nikkei Widowed Group meeting, noon-4 p.m.; 558 16th Ave. Info: Tets Hara, 415/522-4568, Kay Yamamoto, 510/424-3971. NOTE—Men and women welcome.
Sat. Feb. 20—National JA Historical Society Day of Remembrance ceremony honoring the Coram Nobis Legal Team, 6 p.m.; Radisson Miyako Hotel, 1625 Post St. Info: NIAHS, 415/921-5007.

SAN JOSE

Tue. Jan. 26—Japanese American Chamber of Commerce panel presentation: "The Asia Crisis and How it Effects Everyone," 6:30-8:30 p.m.; U.S. Department of Commerce Techmart, 5201 Great America Pkwy., Santa Clara. Info: JACCC, 408/288-5222.

Southern Cal

LOS ANGELES
Jan. 10-24—Oshogatsu (New Year's) Exhibition, JACCC Doizaki Gallery, 244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo; shishiki cards created by over 100 people in the public eye. Info: 213/628-2725.

Thu. Jan. 21—Exhibit opening: Edo Japanese Art from the Etsuko & Joe Price collection, noon-8 p.m.; L.A. County Museum of Art, 5905 Wilshire Blvd. Info: 213/857-6000.
Thu. Jan. 21—Movie: My America (Or Honk if You Love Bujido), 12 noon & 7 p.m. Maxwell Theatre, Cal State L.A. Info: Cross Cultural Programming, 323/343-51247.

Jan. 21-Feb. 23—Exhibit: "Ben Sakoguchi: Painted Works," noon-5 p.m.; Luckman Fine Arts Gallery, Cal State L.A. Free. Info: 323/343-6604.

Sat.-Sun., Jan. 23-24—Opening celebration for the new pavilion of the Japanese American National Museum; 1st & Alameda Sts., Little Tokyo. Opening ceremony, 10:30 a.m.; community luncheon, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat., concert, stage performances, workshops/demonstrations; storytelling. Info: 213/625-0414. NOTE—The Heart Mountain Barracks, returned from the Ellis Island Immigration Museum in New York, will be on display as part of the inaugural exhibition.

Sat.-Sun., Jan. 23-24—Bailien Kenkyukai Borsai Show, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., L.A. County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. Info: 626/821-3222.

Wed.-Sun., Jan. 27-31—Kodo Drum

WATSONVILLE

Fri. Jan. 22—Joint Installation/Keiro Kai Dinner with Gilroy & San Benito; 6 p.m.; San Juan Oaks Golf & Country Club near Hollister. Info: Mark Matsunaga, 831/728-3428.

Central California

LIVINGSTON-MERCED
Sat. Jan. 16—Installation Dinner; guest speaker, Lawson Inada.

Pacific Southwest

GREATER L.A. SINGLES
Fri.-Sun., Sept. 3-5—Eighth National JACL Singles Convention; see S.F. Bay Area Nikkei Singles for details.
LAS VEGAS
Sun. Jan. 17—Installation Dinner, 6 p.m.; Cathy House, 5300 Spring Mountain Rd. Info: 702/382-4431.

SEANOCO

Sat. Jan. 16—1999 Installation Luncheon, 11 a.m. social hour, 12 noon luncheon, Buena Park Hotel, 7075 Crescent Ave., Buena Park. NOTE—Venture capitalists/author Guy Kawasaki, keynote speaker.
VENTURA COUNTY
Sun. Feb. 7—1999 Installation Luncheon, Thousand Oaks Inn, 15 W. Thousand Oaks Blvd. NOTE—Keynote speaker: Professor Mitch Maki UCLA Dept. of Social Welfare. ■

NOTE: The photo of the Nov. 1 NCWNP District Council Meeting in Gilroy (Nov. 6-19 P.C., page 5), did not include board member Steve Okamoto.

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.

Sun. 2 p.m.; Royce Hall, UCLA Tickets, info: 310/825-2101.

Sat. Jan. 30—Theater: East West Players' world premiere of Yohen by Philip Gotanda, 8 p.m. (reception 7 p.m.); David Henry Huang Theatre, Ujicon Center for the Arts, 120 N. Judge John Aiso St., Little Tokyo. Info: 818/789-4841. NOTE—Danny Glover & Nobu McCarthy starring; proceeds to benefit the Nisei Week Japanese Festival.

Through Feb. 7—Exhibit "Coming Home: Memories of Japanese American Resettlement," JANM, 369 E. 1st St., Little Tokyo. Info: 213/625-0414.

Fri.-Sun., Apr. 16-18—Rohwer Reunion II, Torrance Marriott Hotel, Torrance, Info: So. Calif.—Peggy Tsuruta, 310/323-6337, Frank Yamaguchi, 310/329-2547, Chuckie Watanabe Saki, 213/935-3027, Betty Oka, 714/636-8207, Helen Takata, 626/968-2966; No. Calif.—Nelli Utsunomiya, 415/387-5265, Lillian Uyeda Inouye, 510/235-6042, Asako Horimoto Maeda, 510/832-2275, Yone Kumura Asai, 510/828-2086. NOTE—Golf starting time 9 a.m.; handicap as of Feb. 1999. ■

CORRECTIONS: In the article "How APAs fared in general elections '98," Nov. 20-Dec. 17 P.C., page 5, Republican Arizona State Representative Susan Gerard was mistakenly identified as a Democrat.

The final vote count for the Santa Maria, Calif., mayoral race was: Don Lahr 6997; Toru Miyoshi 6032; Terry Kilham 674. ■

NOTICE

JACL is now a member of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). When someone representing the CFC asks you for your payroll deduction or donation to the CFC, remember that you can now designate the JACL as a recipient for your contribution. The JACL is the only Asian Pacific American organization in the CFC dedicated to service in the United States.

Contributions to JACL will help assist its chapters and further its mission as a civil and human rights organization.

Asian Americans capturing headlines

Diane Yotsuya Honda, a Bullard High School journalism advisor, was awarded the 1998 Journalism Education Association (JEA) Medal of Merit Award from the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. The award is given to individuals who have promoted scholastic journalism on a national level.

"Winning the Medal of Merit was certainly exciting, but receiving the award at the historic National Press Club added to the thrill," said Honda. "So many very famous people have stood in the place where I received my award. It was a humbling experience."

Honda has been Bullard High School's advisor for the school paper, the *Charger*, for the past four years. She was also a journalism advisor in Los Angeles for 14 years where she served as president for the L.A. Journalism Teachers Association and the North L.A. County Journalism Education Assn. She was among those interviewed after the Hazelwood Supreme Court decision on high school newspaper censorship.

Honda's activities have won her many awards including the

coveted Pacemaker award in 1997. Other honors include a state title for on-the-spot writing in Southern California, the All-Valley awards and All-American rankings. She is one of about 80 advisors nationwide to hold a Master Journalism Educator designation. At the JEA convention, Honda presented a workshop on the 1944 Manzanar Relocation Center's yearbook. In 1997, Honda was awarded a \$25,000

grant from the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund to reproduce the yearbook.

"Yearbooks provide our society with a history of teen life in America," said Honda. "Many think that a yearbook is an art project or a bunch of pictures of the yearbook staff's friends. But it's really a history book. It takes talented individuals who interview, write and take photos to design a good yearbook. I hope my project gives the yearbook genre the respect they deserve."

With JEA, Honda will serve on JEA's board of directors and the newly-formed multicultural commission.



Diane Yotsuya Honda

Craig Fujii was one of nine recipients of the 1998 National Asian Pacific Bar Association's (NAPABA) Trailblazer Award. The award honors those who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to supporting and strengthening the Asian Pacific American community.

As a volunteer advocate for Japanese Americans whose civil rights were violated during World War II, Fujii won 15 out of 16 redress appeals. The victory of these cases set a precedent and reversed a number of other claims.

Fujii is an assistant attorney general in the Civil Rights Division of the Arizona Attorney General's Office. In 1997, he received the Attorney General's Special Recognition Award for his work in hate crime legislation. He currently serves on several hate crime task forces, including the National Association of Attorney General Hate Crimes Task Force.

In addition, Fujii is a commissioner on the Arizona Supreme Court Commission on Minorities in the Judiciary.

He is also a member of the Arizona chapter of the JACL, the ASU Asian Community Advisory Group, ASU Student Life Advisory Committee, Phoenix Police Department's Asian Community Advisory Committee, FBI Citizen's Academy, Chinese American

Citizens Alliance and past president and board member of the Arizona Asian American Bar Association.

NAPABA is a non-profit, non-partisan professional organization which represents the interests of more than 10,000 Asian Pacific American lawyers through 40 APA bar association affiliates.

Melvin Okamoto became the first Asian American judge to serve the Denver County Court system in Colorado when Mayor Wellington E. Webb appointed him to the post in December.

"I am pleased that Melvin has agreed to serve as judge in the Denver County Court," said Webb. "His experience and skill as well as his reputation for being a fair and thorough magistrate are critical criteria for the Denver County Court."

Prior to his appointment, Okamoto was a magistrate in the Denver juvenile court, a position he has held for the past 17 years.

"As a magistrate with 17 years of service, as a third generation Asian American and as a native of Cheyenne, Wyoming, I am honored with this opportunity to serve as a judge with the Denver County Court," said Okamoto.

Okamoto received his juris

doctorate degree from the University of Wyoming in 1975 and was admitted to the Colorado Bar in 1976. From 1976 to 1981 he served as deputy district attorney in the 19th district (Weld County).

Okamoto's professional affiliations include the Colorado Bar Association, the Colorado Asian American Bar Association and the State Bar Association of California. He is also co-chair of the Denver Juvenile Court-Denver Department of Social Services Liaison Committee.

In addition, Okamoto is co-chair of the Minoru Yasui Scholarship Committee, past president of the Asian Education Advisory Council to the Denver Public Schools and a member of the Mile-Hi chapter of the JACL.

Okamoto is the son of the late Joseph Okamoto and Evelyn Kirmura Okamoto. His mother was editor of the *Pacific Citizen*, then a monthly publication, just before the outbreak of war in 1941.

County court judges in Denver have jurisdiction in civil cases and in small claim cases. They also handle misdemeanor trials.

Denver county court judges are appointed to two-year terms by the mayor. Thereafter, they must be elected to serve a four-year term. ■

National Japanese American Memorial Foundation asks public to review KIA list

Sometime early this year, the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation will publish a list of more than 800 Japanese Americans killed in action (KIA) during World War II.

The public is asked to review the list and confirm its accuracy. Any corrections or additions should be directed to the foundation's new address (Please see box below.)

The list was prepared by NJAMF board member Major General James H. Mukoyama, Jr. (retired) of Chicago.

The names were compiled from several resources including the 442nd Archives and Learning Center in Honolulu, the Americans of Japanese Ancestry Memorial Alliance Registry of WWII KIAs in Los Angeles and the official War Department World War II Honor Lists of the dead and missing.

In order to be considered for inclusion in the official list to be engraved on the wall of the National Japanese American Memorial, the following two

criteria were used:

(a) individuals had to be Americans of Japanese ancestry or Americans of other ancestry serving in Japanese American segregated units, specifically the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team or the Military Intelligence Service.

(b) individuals had to have died while serving during World War II.

When complete, the list will provide the names which will be inscribed on the memorial, scheduled to be constructed in the year 2000.

The NJAMF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created in 1992 with the passage of legislation (PL 102-502) for the purpose of constructing a monument in Washington, D.C. for Japanese Americans.

The memorial will honor the patriotism and courage of Japanese American veterans of

World War II in addition to the more than 120,000 individuals of Japanese ancestry who were interned in camps for the duration of the war.

The memorial also honors the nation for admitting an error and redressing its citizens. Unlike other memorials of this nature, the land for this monument was granted to the foundation by Congress.

However, an estimated \$6.8 million must be raised for construction by August 1999.

Countless individuals for more than a decade have worked diligently on the memorial project. After its conception, the memorial had to receive the approval of several jurisdictional authorities, including the National Parks Service and the Fine Arts Commission.

Once the memorial is constructed, the NJAMF will dissolve and the memorial will be maintained by the Federal Park Service which also cares for the other monuments throughout the nation. ■

NAPALC's audit finds decrease in violence against Asian Americans

The National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium released its fifth annual Audit of Anti-Asian Violence, titled "Continuing the Campaign Against Hate," which showed data for 1997, the most recent figures available.

According to the report, there were 481 reported anti-Asian incidents in 1997, a 10 percent decrease in anti-Asian incidents reported from 1996. However, the latest audit data does not include information from Massachusetts, which had the third highest total incidents in the country from 1994 to 1996.

Despite an overall national decrease, California and New Jersey had a significant increase in 1997 reported incidents. These numbers are also higher than the incidents reported from 1993 to 1995. This overall trend in anti-Asian violence over the last five years is contrary to the national drop in crime. The Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) in 1997 reported a four percent decrease in serious crime, the sixth consecutive annual decrease.

Trend analysis for specific types of crimes was not possible this year due to the large increase in reported incidents classified as "unknown." Cases are categorized under "unknown" when specific information about the crime is not reported. In 1996, a little more than one out of three crimes were reported as "unknown." For 1997, 70 percent of the total incidents were classified as "unknown." Despite the "unknowns," the data demonstrates that Asian Pacific Americans continue to suffer the most racial violence at their residences, including a 25 percent increase in reported incidents at housing projects.

Data collection continued to

be difficult because 11 states do not collect hate crime statistics, and much of the information gathered by law enforcement officials do not detail information such as the race of the perpetrator and victim or the location and nature of the crime.

Karen Narasaki, the consortium's executive director, said, "Though we are pleased that there was a drop in total reported incidents in 1997, we are concerned about the increases in New Jersey and California. Furthermore, even with the decrease, there were too many incidents of anti-Asian violence. We need tougher hate crime laws, and law enforcement officials need to collect more accurate data."

The audit was prepared by the consortium and its affiliates, the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York, the Asian Law Caucus in San Francisco and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center in Los Angeles. ■

NJAMF Has Two New Addresses

NEW WEBSITE: You can now visit the foundation at its website, www.njamf.org, designed to enhance communication and provide updates on the national campaign.

Designed by Bob Wilson, the website includes background information on the foundation, the memorial's design, a historical overview of the Nikkei experience, remembrance of those who gave their lives for their country, resource links and how to contribute to the campaign.

NEW OFFICE: In an effort to control costs, NJAMF took advantage of a real estate opportunity which will result in lower overhead costs. The new office will be located at DuPont Circle, allowing the foundation to maintain its proximity to downtown Washington, D.C. The new address is:

NJAMF
1920 N Street, NW, Suite 660
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 861-8845
Fax: (202) 861-8848
e-mail: NJAMF@erols.com
website: www.njamf.org

Utah considers English only

The Salt Lake City chapter of the JACL is concerned about an upcoming legislation that would designate English as the official language of Utah.

The bill would require all government agencies to conduct their business only in English. The bill, however, allows some exceptions for law enforcement, the court system, tourism, health and education.

For more information on this issue, contact Sherrie Hayashi at 801/582-2407. ■

Moving Forward



HELEN KAWAGOE
National JACL President



Season's Greetings to all! Six months have passed since the memorable and historic 35th biennial JACL convention held in Philadelphia. It was a celebration of redress as well as a celebration for the organization.

The convention committee, headed by Herb Horikawa and ably assisted by Grace and Hiroshi Uyehara along with other volunteers, provided the delegates with all the trappings to enjoy a productive time, both business and pleasure. This will be a challenge to the Monterey chapter, which is diligently planning an equally exciting convention to be held in the summer of the year 2000.

First, I want to thank the delegates for the opportunity to serve the JACL for another biennium. JACL has moved forward because the elected national officers, governors, appointees and staff moved in the same direction. What an exciting time it is for me to witness young people joining JACL and bringing their fresh ideas, enthusiasm and energy to the organization.

My grandniece, Christine Sato, past co-president of South Bay JACL, wrote in the chapter's newsletter, "Reflecting back ... it is because of JACL that I have gained many friends that I will cherish for life (I also met my fiancée). It is because of JACL that I have learned to care about issues that affect me as an Asian American. It is because of my experience in JACL, I realized my love for working in the community, and [which,] in turn, has led me to a career in a Japanese American nonprofit agency."

A young delegate, Beth Au, aide to U.S. Senator Reid of Nevada, wrote to me expressing her exciting experiences in attending her first JACL convention and plans to become more involved. Yes, these statements are a confirmation that JACL is alive and well!

An added plus is that our former Pacific Southwest Regional Director, Al Muratsuchi, who is now a deputy district attorney for Los Angeles County, will assume the presidency of the South Bay JACL. I congratulate Al's commitment to JACL.

In this biennium, I proposed to focus on attracting new revenue sources to enhance our current programs and develop new programs. JACL recently hired Lisa Hirai Tsuchitani to be our Director of Education. Lisa was a former JACL scholarship recipient and board member of the Berkeley chapter. She is currently part-time until the first of the year. In the meantime, Lisa is working towards completing her dissertation on the history of JA women activists in California public schools at the University of California at Berkeley. With the assistance of intern Jackie Kuwada and Mas Hashimoto of the Watsonville chapter, she will organize the first "An American Story" Teacher Training Workshop, to be held at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education on January 15.

Another proposition was to engage in dialogue with other ethnic groups regarding multicultural issues and values and to build coalitions with other constituent groups in order to provide a collective voice on issues of civil rights.

Norman Mineta reminds all of us "that the struggle for acceptance and understanding of Asian Pacific Americans is not over." We can be forever mindful of these words by putting our efforts towards raising the funds to build the monument in our nation's capitol as a lasting legacy to the world. This commitment was declared at the 34th biennial JACL convention held in San Jose in 1996 when the delegates adopted Resolution No. 5 wherein it is "resolved by the National Council of the Japanese American Citizens League that it endorses and fully supports the national memorial project in Washington, D.C., with its leadership in raising and directing financial contributions to the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation; and be it further resolved that the National Council of the Japanese American Citizens League urge their respective chapters to network with the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation to conduct education and contribution campaigns to support the

construction of the Japanese American Patriotism Memorial."

I want to thank the many chapters, members and friends who have already generously contributed to this fundraising effort. Former national president Denny Yasuhara will spearhead JACL's efforts in this project and will be contacting all chapters in the very near future. Let's all get behind this and make it a reality.

My good friend "Horse" Yoshinaga wrote in the *Rafu Shimpo* many moons ago that if every redress recipient contributed \$80 a piece, this monument would be built. We want thousands of people to be involved in this project with their donations of \$5, \$10, \$25 or more to be a part of this historic monument. Please make your check payable to NJAMF and send it to: NJAMF, 1726 M Street, NW, Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20036-4505. If you wish to pay by credit card, please call executive director Cherry Tsutsumida at 202/861-8845. Thank you!

In closing, I want to thank Pete Hironaka for the "Mulan" cartoon he created to recognize my second term in office. I laughed, I cried and I thoroughly appreciated it because I had seen the movie. Now, I will have to live up to the cartoon and its message and that will be a heavy order.

Along with that, I want to draw your attention to Morjorie Newlin, 78 years young, who can lift 100 pounds and is an award winning bodybuilder, starting in her late sixties. Ms. Newlin stated, "I still think that as long as I live, there's something else I can do." Her words mean "that no matter how old you are, that as long as you have breath, you have life. And as long as you have life, there's hope." I believe in her philosophy and wish to emulate her energy and spirit, but I can forget about becoming a champion bodybuilder.

As I am recognized as the "Mother of City Hall" in the city of Carson, I am equally proud to be the "Mom" of the JACL. I look forward to another rewarding biennium with your support. My prayers and blessings are with those who lost their loved ones and with all of you throughout 1999. Let's make it a good one! ■

The Yonsei inheritance



BY CARL TAKEI

Over the past 70 years, through internment and the redress movement, the pressures facing the Nisei and Sansei generations have determined the course of the JACL. Over the next 70 years, the Yonsei will surely add our own contribution to this direction. But what is this contribution? What aspects of the Yonsei experience should define JACL's future path?

For our summer vacations, my family never went to Disney World. My family never went to Great America. Instead, we drove out to see these dusty, desolate places with names like Jerome, Rohwer, Tule Lake and Manzanar. We'd look for the weatherworn foundations of old barracks and get excited about seeing a rusty old pipe sticking out of the ground. I remember us driving to Manzanar, trying to read a plaque made halfway illegible by local vandals, searching interminably for a grave marker that I never saw, the car getting stuck in the sandy trails. It seemed so bizarre: I thought my parents were absolutely insane.

When school started in the fall, I'd come into my class, and everyone would talk about what they did over summer vacation. Some kids went to the beach or visited exotic places. But when my turn came, I'd look around the room, fidget a bit, and say, "Uh ... my family visited internment camps."

Yet, as embarrassed as I was back then, I'm glad that my parents took me on these trips. Because the internment experience really goes to the core of what it means to be Japanese American.

As a minority group, we are unique. There is no other ethnic group whose history shows, so graphically, both the fragility



and the resilience of our constitution and our rights. I really got a sense for this when I visited the Smithsonian exhibit on the internment in Washington, D.C. One of the first parts of the exhibit talked about how the Constitution is only a set of principles, a guide for the government. It takes the active effort of citizens and legislators to maintain and defend those principles.

In 1942, these principles failed miserably, because not enough people were willing to stand up and defend them. Only the American Civil Liberties Union — one group! — argued that the internment orders were unconstitutional. In 1988, the success of the Redress movement came — not because of national remorse — but because of the committed work of the JACL and other Japanese American organizations. They successfully fought to redeem the principles that were violated in 1942.

Those of us who were unable to participate in the redress movement — whether because of age or other factors — owe a great debt to those who did. Without redress, our nation's guiding principles would never have been redeemed. We, as JAs, would never have been redeemed. Our identity would have remained a legacy of unrighted wrongs, of the pain and shame of internment, of the unrecognized bravery and patriotism of the 442nd. But thanks to those who achieved redress, JAs now have a twin legacy: of violation and redemption, of destruction and renewal.

My generation, the Yonsei generation, is the first to grow up with this legacy. It comes as both an honor and a responsibility. An honor, because of the distinction it brings. A responsibility, because of the unfinished tasks that come with inheriting this legacy.

Part of the responsibility we bear is to spread the story of internment and redress. This is already going incredibly well. The last time I visited Manzanar, I was surprised to see tourists stopping, workers marking paths for a paved road to the grave marker, the old auditorium being renovated.

It was such a contrast from my first childhood visit, when the plaque was pocked by deep bullet holes, when the roads were empty and sandy, when the auditorium was a tractor shed.

But the second part of our responsibility has not made as much progress. Too many ethnic groups — whether Vietnamese or Latino, Korean or black — are victimized by the same prejudice and racism that led to our internment. In a recent issue of the *Pacific Citizen*, I was disgusted to read about the so-called Coalition for Immigration Reform. This group — the same one that wrote the anti-immigrant Proposition 187 — put up billboards all around California's borders, urging people to halt the "immigrant invasion." This worries me. Whether the message is "Mexicans keep out" or "Japs keep out," the hatred behind it is the same, and we must fight against it. For the Yonsei generation, it is our duty, our obligation, to reach out to these other groups; to join them in their fight; to offer them the outside support that we didn't have. This, I hope, is what the next 70 years hold for the JACL.

デザイン・広告・商品撮影・
カタログ制作を40年の実績と経験
基に企画から完成までお手伝いします。

Happy New Year!

SANTA BARBARA JACL
Santa Barbara, CA 931—except as noted.

GLASER, Marvin & Joyce	831 Atza Dr (05)
GOTO, Hiro	30 Winchester Canyon Rd. #45, Goleta 93117
HIDE, Mike & Mary	7622 Padova Dr, Goleta 93117
HIRASHIMA, Tom	6195 Verdura Ave, Goleta 93117
HONDA, Bill & Lucille	4905 Rhoads Ave (11)
KANETOMO, Tad & Grace	6027 Jacaranda Way, #E, Carpinteria 93013
KURODA, Ken & Susan	3736 Brenner Dr (05)
MUNENO, Ted & Naomi	1122 E De La Guerra St (03)
MUNENO, Tomiye	1122 E De La Guerra St (03)
OHASHI, Bernice	3736 Brenner Dr (05)
SHINODA, Paul & Alice	302 Piedmont Road (02)
SUZUKI, John & Fumi	205 S Canada St (03)
TOKUMARU, Dennis & Tomi	720 Alto Drive (10)
UYESAKA, Hideo & Jane	4815 La Gama Way (11)
UYESAKA, Reiko	1236 E De La Guerra St (03)



A foundation for the FUTURE



BY BOB SAKANIWA
JACL Washington D.C.
Representative

Here in 1999, we find ourselves on the threshold of a new millennium with limitless possibilities for the future, so long as the Y2K bug is under control I suppose. But before we begin looking towards the new century we must take stock of the past and current year, as they form the foundation for our entry into the third millennium.

Unfortunately for the governance of this nation, 1998 began with the allegations of the torrid interactions between the president of the United States and an intern. I express no opinion on the underlying matter of the president's conduct and effort to conceal his behavior, nor do I hazard a guess as to the appropriate constitutional responses, if any, to the president's actions. I do say "unfortunately" because of the deleterious effect the investigation into the president's conduct has had and will continue to have on the way in which this nation is being governed at the federal level.

There is no doubt that within the area of civil rights there are plenty of issues to work on, ranging from immigrant rights, anti-hate crime legislation, census 2000 and affirmative action, to name a few. Yet with the vote by the House to impeach the president and thereby putting him on trial in the Senate, there will inevitably be a great disruption in the legislative activities of Congress.

Not all events in 1998 were sidetracked by the investigation of the president. Bill Lann Lee has been able to work effectively through the year in his capacity as acting assistant attorney general for civil rights. Paul Igarashi was finally confirmed for a second term as vice chair of the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission this past October. November brought a mixed bag of results on issues important to many Asian Pacific Americans (APAs). There was disappointment for many in the civil rights community regarding the passage of the anti-affirmative action initiative I-200 in Washington State and the anti-same sex marriage measure in Hawaii. One very positive result from the '98 elections was the addition of a

new Asian American member of Congress, David Wu from Oregon's 1st District.

If the specter of the president being on trial in the Senate isn't enough to disrupt or at least slow down legislative activity, certainly the narrow gap between Republicans and Democrats in the House and Senate will have an effect on the process during the 106th Congress. However, unlike a trial of a president, a narrow majority in Congress can have a positive effect on the legislative process. Members of Congress will be forced to work together and find common ground to get any particular bill moving. This means negotiation, and to some extent compromising, on certain provisions in any given bill so that the overall bill may reach the floor for a vote.

Of the many legislative issues that are expected to arise during this session of Congress that will be of interest to the APA community, I would like to highlight two issues in particular, the matters related to the upcoming census in the year 2000 and hate crimes prevention legislation.

The next decennial census will be of critical importance to the APA community. In the past, undercounting of urban minorities, rural populations, children and seniors has given us an inaccurate picture of the racial and ethnic make-up of this nation. Furthermore, this important data is used 1) to reapportion congressional seats 2) to fund formulas that allocate billions of dollars in federal funding and 3) in certain civil rights laws that rely on the data to trigger certain protections afforded to minority communities. The public and private sectors also rely heavily on census data for any number of uses from policy development to business marketing.

To ensure that the census is as accurate as possible, the census bureau would like to use a scientific method called statistical sampling to avoid missing certain hard-to-count populations, such as those that have been traditionally undercounted, i.e., urban minorities, rural populations, children and seniors. Unfortunately there is a political

dispute over the constitutionality of using statistical sampling. This dispute has been brought all the way to the Supreme Court where the legal arguments have been heard and a decision is pending.

JACL sponsored an *amicus* brief in which we argued for the use of statistical sampling in order to get the most accurate census possible. At some point during the first quarter of 1999, the Supreme Court should announce its decision on the legality of using statistical sampling. Regardless of which way the court rules on the use of statistical sampling, continued legislative wrangling is sure to ensue and it will be critical for JACL to be there advocating for the most accurate census possible.

Another important legislative effort for JACL will be in the area of hate crime prevention legislation. Last year saw the introduction of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1998 in both the House and Senate. Early in this new year the bill will be re-introduced and civil rights groups, including JACL, will make an all out effort to see that this measure is passed.

The bill is needed to expand the current anti-hate crime law. The current law requires the victim to have been involved in a federally protected activity when the alleged hate crime took place. Moreover, the law does not allow for federal prosecutors to intervene when the victim's serious bodily injury or death was based on sexual orientation, gender, or disability bias.

By reducing the jurisdictional barrier and expanding the categories covered by the law, the hate crimes prevention act will send an important message to the people of this nation that such conduct will not be tolerated in this society.

While both the census and hate crimes prevention will be important efforts in the federal advocacy arena, they certainly will not be the only pressing issues that we will face. But as we make progress towards the new millennium, hopefully, the federal government's legislative process won't be shut down by a trial in the Senate. ■

JACL?



- ☐ loyalty league
- ☐ civil rights organization
- ☐ peace group



BY FLOYD SHIMOMURA
Past National JACL President

I had the honor of serving as JACL's national president from 1982 to 1984 during the redress campaign. This experience has left me with a profound respect for JACL, its proud history, as well as great hope for its future. As my way of recognizing JACL's approaching 70th birthday, I would like to share a few thoughts and a brief poem.

My main point is simple. JACL has succeeded over the past 70 years because each generation of Japanese Americans has adapted JACL's basic principles to address the dominant problems of its day. JACL's future rests on whether or not the JAs currently under age 30, who I will loosely refer to as the Yonsei generation, will see in the JACL a vehicle they will want to use in the 21st century.

Let's look forward by starting at the beginning. In 1930 at our first national convention in Seattle, the young Nisei delegates named our national organization the "Japanese American Citizens League." From surviving convention records and testimonials, including those from a 1929 planning meeting, it is clear that the name was selected with great care and after much debate.

The idea of a "loyalty league" was rejected in favor of a "citizenship league." American citizenship was a central concern. It became both a requirement of JACL membership as well as the subject of the convention's first proposal to Congress. In fact, some wanted to delete the word "Japanese" from the organization's name because it implied split loyalty. Others wanted a hyphen if it was kept to emphasize that "Japanese" was merely an adjective. In the end, the delegates chose to retain the word "Japanese" without hyphen before "American."

As badly as the young Nisei wanted to be accepted as full Americans, they were unwilling

to deny their Japanese heritage in the process. It is my view that JACL's future may lie in developing this international aspect of its legacy.

During the 1930s, '40s and '50s, the Nisei used JACL primarily as a "loyalty league" to show their devotion to America during times of war despite discrimination and wartime incarceration. During this period, JACL emphasized the "duty" aspect of citizenship. A good citizen obeyed the law, participated in politics, voted, volunteered for military service and supported the war effort.

However, it was fortunate that JACL's founding delegates had the vision not to limit itself to being a "loyalty league." Thirty years later, the broader concept of "citizenship" would permit JACL to evolve into a civil rights organization.

During the '60s, '70s, '80s and '90s, JACL was reconceived by Nisei/Sansei as a civil rights organization during times of racial unrest, and JACL led the fight for redress. During this period, the "rights" aspect of citizenship was emphasized. Thus, within the dual aspects of citizenship, JACL united duty and right, like yin and yang, in dynamic balance. From an organizational perspective, JACL brought together our community: Mike and Min, evacuation and redress, Nisei vet and Sansei protestor, past and present. It was quite an accomplishment!

As we approach the year 2000, the question becomes whether JACL has exhausted its reason for existing without redress? I think not. As we have seen, JACL existed before World War II incarceration, and its principles are much broader and deeper than that one historical episode. In fact, I think JACL is

capable of another transformation as significant as its evolution from a loyalty league to a civil rights organization in the 1960s.

In addition to the aspects of duty and right which is implied in citizenship, JACL has also carried an international dimension implied in the words, "Japanese" and "American." However, throughout its first 70 years, JACL's tilt has, for good reason, been almost exclusively towards the "American" aspect of dichotomy.

During JACL's early "loyalty league" period, Japan, literally, was the enemy. One of JACL's primary tasks was to let the public know that we were American citizens, not Japanese. During the civil rights era, when we were pursuing redress, it was again critical to emphasize to Congress that we were seeking redress for American citizens, not foreigners. Now, redress has been secured. Japan has not been an enemy for 55 years. We have paid our dues and asserted first class citizenship. Maybe now, JACL is ready to begin thinking more internationally.

Now, I am entering the realm of speculation, not prediction. My guess is that JACL's future lies in whether or not the Yonsei choose to pursue JACL's little developed international dimension and stretch the concept of "citizenship" to reflect a more international perspective as suggested in our newspaper's title, "Pacific Citizen."

As I indicated, the Yonsei are today largely under 30 years of age. While many Nisei still recall Japan as a nation of emperor worshipping militarists, the Yonsei are likely to see Japan as a free and democratic country. While many Sansei think of Japan as a nation of corporate business predators, Yonsei are likely to see Japan as a technologically advanced country with a

peace provision banning war.

Moreover, as we move into the 21st century, the problems of the environment and how to keep mankind's technology from destroying our fragile ecosystem will loom larger and larger. These issues will require global solutions. For example, with the end of the cold war, the continued need for nuclear weapons will become more of a question. Is the risk still necessary?

Historically, JACL has never felt it appropriate to address the issue of Hiroshima. It has been viewed as an important moral question but a little beyond JACL's scope. However, the evolution of a more international outlook may change this perspective. Maybe someday our Yonsei may decide to tackle the issue which Nisei and Sansei alike have been reluctant to confront. I close with this brief poem which both looks back and forward. Peace. ■

"A seed from a Japanese
American heart"

America for us lay awaiting;
We wanted so bad to be a part.
Barbed wire, indignities we suffered.
We fought and bled for a start.

But belonging was not satisfying.
The question of youth must be soothed.
Our past, it needed redressing;
We asked, America moved!

Yet, Hiroshima's horror only deepens.
I am told it's my grandmother's ken.
Truman acted to save the living;
Still, I weep again and again.

Does history possess meaning?
Can a wrong lead to a right?
America, a quilt that takes mending.
It looks to its people for sight.



A year in the role of the youth



HIROMI UEHA
National Youth Council Chair



NICOLE INOUE
National Youth Representative

“We’ve come a long way, baby.” Not just for us as national JACL youth/student chair and national youth/student representative, but also for the Japanese American community. These are exciting times and we have been fortunate to be able to reap the benefits from the struggles of the past generations. We have seen the formation of Asian American Studies departments all across the country, the planning of JA monuments and memorials such as the one being built in Washington, D.C., and for us, the increased importance by youth and students of their heritage, culture and their surroundings.

There has been a long struggle with the establishment of Asian American studies and other ethnic studies departments. But today, there has been a noticeable increase in schools that offer classes in Asian American studies and others trying to establish Asian American studies majors and minors. As students and as a community, we need to show the universities that we are interested in knowing about identity, culture, and history. Universities can only respond to students when they voice their opinions and concerns. If we do not, we can lose what others in the community have worked so hard to get during the great Asian American studies movement.

Another struggle our community has continued to fight for is the remembrance of the internment experience and redress. Although it is far from being over, members of the JA community have decided to educate the general population about this experience with various monuments and memorials. This is the time when we must commit our time and money to the projects, so we can recognize our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents

for their struggles and strife.

The National Japanese American Memorial Foundation is planning to erect a memorial in Washington, D.C., “The National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism” to commemorate the JA experience during World War II. Reliable sources say that the location of this monument is prime and will be seen on the many tours of the city. But the foundation will need to raise \$8.6 million to construct the monument by August of 1999. Every member of this community should rally around this project, or projects like it. This is our chance to share our experiences with everyone and make sure injustices such as the internment are not repeated in the future.

This past year has been especially exciting for us. The national youth/student council (NY/SC) is encouraged by the increase in involvement by high school and college students. Back in September, the NY/SC held a retreat to plan out the new biennium in Los Angeles during the weekend of the JACL Pacific Southwest District’s Annual Fundraising Dinner. We had asked the various district governors to send their district youth/student representatives. For those districts that did not have an appointed representative, we had asked that they try to find an interested individual. At one point we had representation from all eight districts plus more. In the end, the retreat brought together representatives from six districts. Two of the students who participated in the retreat were in high school. For us, it was refreshing to see high school students wanting to get involved and talk about issues such as identity.

Although JACL has peaked their interest now, the key is to continue to engage young

people and to give them the opportunities that JACL has to offer. Otherwise, JACL loses them. It is amazing how much youth and students have to offer. There are things about JACL that impressed them and made them want to join, but there were also other things they wanted JACL to do in order for more students like themselves to get involved. If JACL does not seize these opportunities to mentor and show young people the many contributions made by JACL and how JACL can develop them into the leaders of tomorrow, the organization will have no one to continue their legacy. Young people want to get involved in JACL because they have something to offer the organization.

Next year, there are some upcoming events that high school and college students can participate in to learn more about JACL. From April 23-25, 1999 in Scottsdale, Ariz., PSWDC, CCDC, and NCWNPDC will be hosting their Tri-district Conference. The youth/student representatives from these three districts are working hard to attract young people to this event. Tentatively scheduled is a bowling tournament and workshops addressing issues such as hate crimes. And in the future look for more information in the *Pacific Citizen* on NY/SC’s national conference titled, “HEY YOU GUYS!! Take a Closer Look.” It is tentatively scheduled for June 25-27, 1999, in a place still to be determined.

We encourage each reader to make a commitment to one if not to all of these worthwhile causes. There is a certain sense of urgency and we need to show our support and take a stand. We cannot let others assume we are uninterested or that they can define us and tell our stories. Thanks for a great year and we look forward to having another. See you all soon! ■

The next 70 years



HANK TANAKA
Past National JACL President



JACL will be needed. In fact, JACL will be one of the leading organizations that advocates for the civil rights of Asian Americans. And, JACL will retain its identity as a Japanese American organization.

Why? The need for such an organization will prevail. Discrimination against Japanese and other AAs will persist. The JACL membership will embrace the Hapas and Shin Nikkei to help sustain and continue to develop JA arts and culture.

Continued rapid growth of the AA population in the United States will prompt the need for greater sensitivity and awareness of their special interests and concerns. JACL will continue to help meet these needs.

The growing participation of AAs in civic affairs and political issues will be more commonplace. And our country will experience major influences by the contribution of AAs in corporate, business, education and scientific enterprises.

I have confidence that national JACL and its chapters will mount a major organizational development and education program. New chapters will be

established in states where JAs are taking notice of issues that affect the quality of lives of their family members.

Some skeptics say this won't happen. JACL will cease to be civil rights focused. JACL will become a local social organization, focusing on helping its selected members access housing, health, employment and educational resources. It may no longer be a national organization. Some of its membership will be absorbed by other AA organizations that support civil rights issues. JACL will have lost its identity as a JA organization.

As a Nisei, I experienced the turbulent years of incarceration and its aftermath. I worked with JACL to help rectify wrongful legislative acts by our government. As an internee who settled in a midwestern environment, I experienced personal prejudices and called upon JACL for help. My children were born and grew up in that environment. We have benefitted from the friends and organizations who supported us. We made it. For those who follow, we can help them become participating members of a multicultural community.

JACL has access to a very

skilled, resourceful and visionary leadership. That leadership will be challenged to develop a highly visible and positive program that will address the special needs of Japanese and AAs in their respective states.

JAs no longer feel like they have to prove themselves. They have arrived. They are taking leadership roles in their respective communities in such areas as education, health sciences, businesses, law and public policies. They are joining forces with other AAs of like skills and concerns.

I am confident that the national JACL and its chapters will effectively advocate the interests and needs of its membership in various states where chapters are located. A continuing presence will be maintained in key state capitols, such as California, Washington, Illinois, New York, New Jersey and Oregon.

The task of JACL's current leadership is to gather its skilled, resourceful and visionary leaders and to begin the job of developing a highly visible and positive program. These leaders will set the groundwork for JACL's future in the next millennium. ■



LILLIAN KIMURA
Past national JACL president



JACL at 70

The "grand old lady" is 70! And for all those years, JACL has sought to secure and protect the rights of Japanese Americans — some years more vigorously than others. We can and should be proud of our achievements.

What about the next 70 years? Will there be a need for JACL? The editors of the *Pacific Citizen* have posed these and other interesting questions. Coincidentally, as I pondered these questions, I received a copy of the report sent to President Clinton from the Advisory Board for the President's Initiative (on Race). In perusing the document, the only conclusion one can draw is that race still controls behavior and thought, and as long as all Americans do not have equal opportunities, there will continue to be a need for ethnic-specific organizations like JACL.

In creating the Initiative,

President Clinton stated, "... the unfinished business of our time, (is) to lift the burden of race and redeem the promise of America." The report states that "the greatest challenge facing Americans is to accept and take pride in defining ourselves as a multiracial democracy." So if the goal is one America in the 21st century, whoever will comprise our membership in the future, we as Americans of Japanese ancestry have a role to play in helping to build a "united and just" society. And what better way to do this than to be involved in JACL, an established group with a strong network of grassroots folks.

Although we are, and may continue to be, the smallest of the Asian populations, the majority of us are American born. As newcomers struggle with the challenges of establishing themselves as

Americans, we as a group have "been there, done that." Our challenge is to live up to our purpose as articulated in our constitution.

In addition to protecting rights, we are committed to preserving the culture, participating in the development of understanding between all social and ethnic groups, and promoting activities designed to further members to be "Better Americans in a Greater America."

In the coming years, we should strive to be more inclusive and shed the perceptions of being "elitist." We need young people to join in droves. We need to increase our efforts in developing leadership. We should begin the dialogue with other peoples/groups because it is only with understanding that we can begin accepting.

Happy Birthday to all! ■

JACL: THE 21ST CENTURY



BY PATRICK OKURA
Past National JACL President



As an older Nisei (88 in 1999), we need to look forward to the next century and become aware of what is happening in our country. We need to view the broader horizon on the national screen and concentrate on the positive gains we have made in our country.

After 40 years of hard work and learning how the political game is played, we were able to place on the books the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, providing individual restitution and an apology from the president of the United States for the loss of our civil rights and detention in concentration camps, American style, during World War II.

We have made substantial gains in the political arena with the first Asian American governor elected on the mainland, as well as other political candidates being elected to state and local governments and public commissions. If we are to make future gains, we need to pull together and bring all our ethnic minorities into a coalition to continue this trend and hope by the next century we double the number of Asian Pacific Americans and other minorities elected.

We need to not only see the bigger picture, but how we as Americans fit into the national picture and into the life of our country. As we look ahead to the 21st century, we still have many problems and issues that call for our attention.

Life is much richer, and much progress has been made. However, some of the basic and fundamental problems of access and opportunities are still with us today. It has taken on different names and shapes, and our younger generations (Sansei and Yonsei) need to use their talents, ingenuity and know-how to tackle and overcome them.

As our numbers grow with new groups of Asian Pacific Americans and with the demographics shifts and diversity in our population, we face new barriers. The issue of immigration, affirmative action, glass ceilings, unprecedented rise in hate crimes — all call for new ways, ideas and leadership to tackle these issues.

We need a generation of youths with their vitality, their abilities, their self-reliance, their unselfish community minds, men and women who are willing to take risks to carry on the fight, if we are to make any headway in the coming century. If we are to meet these challenges, we need, and I would be bold enough to suggest, a "New American Paradigm," a new way of thinking and looking at our values.

We have read and seen the success of many of our leaders of different ethnic backgrounds. If we are to respect our various component communities and be able to avoid balkanization, we will need to formulate the intellectual and moral grounds of these communities in ways that draw on the cultural traditions and noble ideals in all our citizens, black, brown, yellow and white. And when we do, we are likely to find that the key principle from the traditions of racial minorities are more often in agreement with the ideals affirmed but not always practiced by the majority.

There must be shared values. While some Americans feel threatened by the notion of a new paradigm of national community, even the most conservative among us can take heart in knowing that this new paradigm is based on shared values.

When we look beyond the neat boxes that divide us into "we" and "they" groups,

we find that most Americans tend to share a common vision. This is the ideal — the widely accepted notion that all men and women are created equal with the inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Of course those rights have not always applied to everyone, and even today, there are men and women who still restrict the principles of America to their own kind. We, of Japanese ancestry, are reminded of our incarceration during World War II. When do these shared ideals no longer provide the common ground needed for coherence and community?

One answer may be that we have treated them as if they belonged exclusively to the descendants of Europe and have showed little respect and appreciation for the traditions that honor liberty and freedom in other parts of the world.

America continues to see itself as Greco Roman in its policy and Judeo Christian in its theology. The point of this new paradigm I am suggesting is that we find common ground in recognizing the values of those who are of Asian, Hispanic, African and Native American origin. Each of these traditions contain something of universal value, and to confine ourselves to affirming and acknowledging the importance of only one is to deny access to the fullness of a rich national culture.

Both a national identity and traditional culture appear possible if we are willing to move away from the observation that with the notion of a received tradition (European), there is fixed tradition.

If we can accept the existence of shared values across the wide spectrum of our diversity, we can move to the next step of practicing them in a complex multicultural society. We need universal compassion. ■

Membership starts at the chapter level



KAREN-LIANE SHIBA
V.P. for Membership



A happy and prosperous New Year to all! This past year has been so full of rewards and I am looking forward to sharing a wonderful 1999 with you. A big THANK YOU to each of you, the JACL membership, for all that you have put into your chapters! It is the individuals that make the chapter and the chapters that make up the JACL organization.

A membership vision for 1999

The future of JACL lies in the membership. JACL must become an inclusive group that not only welcomes whole families, children, people of multiethnic backgrounds and new immigrants, but also seeks them out. We must not only recruit "young" members but also take the time and make the investment of educating them and giving them the opportunities to take leadership positions in our chapters, our communities and our nation. These youth are the potential leaders of the future and these young adults are the emerging leaders.

Some membership programs that the JACL needs to continue developing for its members include programs to provide support for the elderly, to provide quality health care for members, and to provide more benefits for the youth/student membership. This biennium I will work towards these and other goals.

The work ahead

At the July national convention in

Philadelphia, the national council passed Emergency Resolution #1 (ER-1) which provides a \$10 "rebate" to the chapter for each new paid member (excluding the youth/student membership category) during the period of January 1, 1999, to December 31, 1999. The intention of ER-1 (introduced by the Stockton chapter) was to provide an additional incentive to the chapters that actively recruit new members. The \$10 rebate per new membership will go to the chapter and it is the chapter that will determine how it wants to use the money! However, ER-1 is a double-edged sword — there are a few major catches.

Catch #1: As written and passed, the 1999-2000 national budget and ER-1 were approved without a program budget to provide advertising and supporting materials to the chapters for this major membership drive program. Without a national program budget to run this year long membership drive, it is now a program that MUST BE ORGANIZED, RUN AND FINANCED AT THE INDIVIDUAL CHAPTER LEVEL. Also, as the national biennial budget (incorporating ER-1) was approved, JACL must now recruit 2000 new members in 1999 in order to fiscally break even for this one membership program. Two thousand new members within a 12-month period is something that JACL has neither attempted nor done in its recorded history, and it is going to be a major undertaking that EVERYONE in EACH CHAPTER must participate in if we are going

to be successful!

As with all JACL programs, this has a financial impact on the national organization. If 2000 new members are not recruited, there will be a serious income deficit unless more money comes in from other areas to make up the difference. The financial impact does not just impact upon the national program dollar income, but it also affects staff time. National Membership Administrator, Donna Okubo, was budgeted for only 33 hours of her time for the entire year to do the data entry/tracking of the ER-1 program. That works out to a little over 30 minutes per week for the twelve months of the program, so she won't have time to devote to helping individuals and chapters with the rebate program other than processing the rebates. With this knowledge, each of the district governors have pledged to coordinate the efforts in their districts and I will provide what support I can, but the bulk of the work MUST be accomplished at the chapter level.

With such an ambitious Program for Action and a strong group of national programs set for this biennium, we all have to continue working hard — to keep digging a little deeper to support the goals and programs of the JACL. It's not too late to contribute to the 1998 Annual Giving Campaign!

If we all work together, JACL will not only survive long into the next millennium, JACL will THRIVE! ■

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE



BY JERRY ENOMOTO
Past national JACL president



It is a sobering thought to realize that the past 70 years of JACL encompasses most of my life. Although I will not be privileged to be a part of the

next 70 years of JACL's existence, I appreciate the invitation to share some thoughts in this anniversary edition of the *P.C.*

As a longtime JACLer, and a lifetime 1000 Clubber, I have been gratified to see the organization mature over the years. From an understandably narrow perspective focused on protecting the rights of Americans of Japanese ancestry, JACL has grown into an organization that is active in the mainstream civil rights movement.

During the years (1966-70), I was privileged to serve as national president. I felt it crucial that we broaden our perspective to understand and be involved in the struggle for justice and equality facing all people of color.

Some of us also felt it essential that we work to reach out to our young people and bring them "into the fold." During our struggle to reach the youth, we had to look at hard questions like: Why was the JACL not attracting the younger generation? Was the organization only a social institution? If I join, what's in it for me?

Many years later, some of these same questions still surface. However, JACL's resume now reflects a much greater depth of accomplishment. "Beyond Redress" might be a good title for what I'm talking about. I believe that JACL is now on the front line of the many social issues that confront us. Incidents of concern to all minorities, be they racial or gender based, are picked up and

responded to.

We are not afraid to tackle issues that we would never have touched in the "old days," because we are willing to "rock the boat" when necessary. We have come to appreciate the fact that Asian Pacific Americans would not be where we are today if it were not for the struggles of our African American brothers and sisters in the arena of civil rights.

I am gratified that we are directing priority attention toward making sure that our experiences and contributions in American society are accurately discussed and included in the textbooks and classrooms of our educational system.

As I look back to the past, I am proud to have been a part of the growth of JACL. The many milestones in its history have been recorded and will be added to as time goes on. It cannot be disputed that this volunteer-driven organization has been the one institution that has defined Americans of Japanese ancestry and our place in America.

Pride in the JACL is not a matter of arrogance, but is based upon the reality that many of those milestones of progress in our history were made possible by the only national organization of Japanese Americans in the United States.

Whether the JACL will be around for another 70 years will depend entirely on its ability to make differences. As generations change, for example through the increase of intermarriages, problems and issues change and the organization's ability to adjust and remain relevant will determine whether it can retain its members. We should note that

the JACL's existence today is testimony to the fact that the younger generations have bought in — the Nisei are not immortal and there are fewer of us every day.

JACL is first and foremost a civil rights organization. As long as racism continues to plague American society, JACL's future agenda must focus on that issue. In states like California, where we will no longer be a minority, at least demographically, the JACL can be a force for facilitating the networking so necessary to bringing all parts of the Asian Pacific American community together. However, having the numbers is not enough, if we don't have the political know-how and muscle to make a difference.

It is election day, 1998, as I write this. The election days in the next millennium must show a greater number of Asian Pacific American candidates. Why? Because in order to create a better society, greater political involvement is essential, and JACL must be a player in that arena.

We have had outstanding international and national leadership from a president who has also clearly demonstrated his commitment to an America free of bigotry. He has been willing to face the problem of race in this country squarely, and helped begin an open discourse which his predecessors wouldn't touch.

The JACL must assume the responsibility of doing what it can to assure that the positive momentum generated by this president is not lost.

Finally, whether JACL lives on for another 70 years is not as important as the ultimate accomplishment of its historic motto — "For Better Americans in a Greater America." ■



RAYMOND S. UNO
Past National JACL President

Challenges in life

As a city court judge, a state circuit court judge, a state district court judge, and now a senior state district judge, I have been on the bench for over 22 years. During these years, I have had the opportunity to observe the dramatic changes that have taken place in our society, mainly as an observer.

Because of the oppressive restrictions placed on judges by the Code of Judicial Ethics, I have had to refrain from publicly participating in many activities which I felt a deep personal need to participate in. Unless a bench or bar function is involved, the Judicial Conduct Commission can make life publicly and privately very miserable for judges. Thus, within very narrow parameters, judges are prohibited from engaging in most public and private activities. Recently, a carefully crafted opinion from the Judicial Ethics Committee reminded me of this when I requested an opinion regarding serving on a quasi-judicial State Labor Commission Board.

Prior to assuming the bench, I often wondered why judges were not more active in areas where they have great expertise, and now, more than ever before, I have been enlightened. As the vice president and next year the president of the Senior Judges Association of the State of Utah, I will have a little heavier burden to carry in that respect. The possibility of the conflict of interest or the perception of conflict of interest is extremely great, both of which must be assiduously avoided by judges. Thus, watching by the sideline the action that is taking place during this period of great changes is painful, but professionally unavoidable.

One of the great challenges in life is doing what other people say cannot be done. Whether it is in

private business or in public service, achieving success is generally directly proportionate to the hard work and sacrifices that are made. As most of us know, success is measured in different ways. The impact we make maybe the changing of minds, the refocusing of goals, the planting of seeds or the saving of natural resources. Independently, our impact may not be great, but collectively, our influence can be decisive. Accordingly, for me, politics has been one of life's great challenges.

As a political scientist, I have had and still continue to have great interest in our political system. Back in 1968 I very reluctantly ran for the state Senate against a very formidable Republican in a Republican "Silk Stocking District." No one, not even the Democrats who put me up as a sacrificial lamb, thought I had a chance. When I went to sleep on election eve, I was winning but woke up the next morning to find out I had lost by a mere 150 votes out of 20,000 plus votes. Although a loss, it was a great moral victory for me and my supporters as well as the entire Democratic Party.

My second foray was in 1984 when I ran against an incumbent Republican judge in a nonpartisan district court race. Being an insignificant Asian American in a state where all minorities constituted less than ten percent and Asians less than one percent of the population; being a Democrat in a Republican state; being a liberal in perhaps one of the most conservative states in the country; being non-Mormon in a state where 70 percent plus of the population is Mormon, running against an incumbent Republican judge was considered suicide. The incumbent had the support of the leaders of the Utah State Bar Association, the Salt Lake County Bar Association, the Republican

and Democratic party leaders; and incumbent judges are rarely challenged and, if challenged, even more rarely, if ever, lose. Against all odds, I did manage to win this race, even though, contemporaneously as a presiding judge of lower court, I was prohibited from personally campaigning or soliciting funds on my own behalf.

So I have felt the painful agony of defeat and the joyful ecstasy of victory.

Thus, I am pleased to see so many minorities running for public office, particularly AAs. Even though they have not all been successful, they have made the commitment. Having tried and failed is no sin and much better than never having tried at all. The agony and ecstasy of participation makes us all more mature and better citizens. Although AAs constitute a very small minority in this country, we have the chance to exert much political influence in many different ways. If we do not participate, we lose by default and cannot complain about how lousy politics and politicians are.

As David Broder, syndicated columnist for the *Washington Post Writers Group*, quotes the former U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton, "Politics and politicians may be unpopular, but they're also indispensable. . . . Representative democracy, for all its faults, enables us to live together peacefully and productively. It works through a process of deliberation, negotiation and compromise—in a word, the process of politics. At its best, representative democracy gives us a system where all of us have a voice in the process and a stake in the product." However, "when healthy skepticism about government turns to cynicism, it becomes the great enemy of democracy."

Thus, in whatever we do, whether we win or lose, the important thing is we participate and

not become cynical. Having grace in winning is easy, but having grace in losing takes maturity. To make our democracy work, it is incumbent on all of us, winners and losers, to work together to make the end product the best that we can.

And so it is with JACL. After having been involved with JACL for over forty years in many different capacities, I am impressed with the coming aboard of the many new and some old faces. It has always been my fervent wish that JACL could be an organizational training ground for anyone who may become involved with it, young or old, male or female, farmer or city dweller, regardless of occupation or economic status. For those who have been active in other areas, they will bring their experience into JACL, and for those who are just starting to get involved, they will become skilled organizational workers within the framework of JACL and enrich their community with the skills they learn from their participation.

Hopefully, for the many who have been engaged in JACL activities, either as staff or volunteer, whether their experience has been positive or negative, they have enriched their lives personally in trying to promote the civil, social and related goals of JACL and the Nikkei community.

Although JACL has had numerous major convulsions, it has managed to survive. I hope everyone looks to the future and builds on its positive and negative experiences. We should not be looking at one episode, one program, or personality, good or bad, but the viability of the organization as a whole. As an eternal optimist, I like what I see and it forebodes well for JACL and the total Nikkei community.

Challenges in life? Is JACL ready for it? ■

Beyond Year 2000

The year 2000 and beyond will bring great changes: social, economic, technological, scientific, political and demographic.

How we adapt and respond will determine how we survive.

If JACL survives, it will remain a civil and human rights organization. This has been and will continue to be its heart and soul.

Because the Japanese American community remains the main source of its membership, JACL's survival may very well depend on the survival of the Japanese American community.

Look at our community. Some "Japan Towns" are struggling to survive. The same struggle faces our vernacular press, our churches, our veterans' groups, our restaurants and small businesses, and even our memorials and museums.

Each has its own agenda and all look for support from the JA community.

Can any of these groups say with certainty where they will be in, say, two or three decades?

Demographic changes, it seems to me, will affect all minority groups and even the white majority. One has only to look at the last November elections.

Back to JACL's future. In the next two or three decades, only a few Nisei will be left. The Sansei, Yonsei and a few Gosei have inherited the JACL. They will be looking for new members.

But the demographics are such

that the character, culture, experience and institutional history which formed the strong bonding in the past has now been partially lost.

Even so, there are many talented, well educated and smart Sansei and Yonsei in every district throughout the United States. This wide dispersal, ironically, could be viewed as one of the positives of wartime relocation.

Perhaps these new leaders will find a way to keep JACL viable. Coalitions may be formed but coalitions are tenuous and fragile.

Finances and staffing supported by a large number of volunteers are needed for any group to survive. This will be the key issue in the year 2010 and beyond.

Will there be enough volunteers?

If not, perhaps the way to go for JACL is to become a "watchdog" group with paid staff at headquarters in Washington, D.C. Regional offices would be maintained by volunteers. They could be reimbursed for expenses. We may not like this arrangement but such a restructuring would at least keep the JACL viable as a national organization, and it is feasible considering JACL's current resources.

When I was a boy I thought that my Issei parents were too old fashioned, too ignorant of the customs of American society and way too strict.

I rebelled against them

because they were different. How foolish and shortsighted!

Now that they are gone, I remember the tolerance and patience and forgiving nature of my almost saint-like mother and the sacrificing character of my father, who put the welfare of his children and his community before his own.

What do I want to pass on to succeeding generations? Our culture, our traditions, our history and most of all our values.

In JACL, the baton has been passed. Only time will tell how the Sansei, Yonsei and Gosei will rise to the challenges facing them.

Despite our generational and in some cases ethnic differences, we have one thing which we share and cannot ignore — our roots — which help to define us and give us our identity.

In conclusion, I would be remiss if I did not commend the past president Denny Yasuhara and current president Helen Kawagoe. It was their leadership which contributed so much to JACL's current stability. Our current National Board and staff are excellent. My concern is not for the year 2000 but for the year 2010 and 2020 and 2030.

As JACL members, all of us need to think and plan ahead beyond the year 2000. We should start right now. ■

ROY M. NISHIKAWA
Past National JACL President



YAMANISHI

(Continued from page 1)

innuendos of Asian American involvement in illegal campaign finance energized much of the community to turnout at election time. While the numbers of voters did increase and may have had an impact on California Senatorial candidate Matt Fong's primary election, there is no evidence that the AA vote made a significant difference in the final results of any election or ballot initiative. Not until AAs (including Japanese Americans) register and turn out to vote in greater numbers — especially when there are closely contested issues and elections — will AAs become a political force in America.

The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 came to an official close on Aug. 10, 1998, and with it the supposed close of redress. Still remaining, however, are the unanswered questions about redress for Japanese Latin Americans. While a settlement agreement was reached to pay up to \$5,000 for each Japanese Latin American imprisoned in the United States during World War II, funding to complete the settlement is still being sought. In addition, two other lawsuits have been filed to raise the payment amount to \$20,000 and to increase funding for education.

Even for JAs, the end of redress payments marks only the beginning of a greater challenge to achieve parity in America for all Americans of Japanese ancestry. The redress payments and apology have provided a level of reconciliation with America, but the larger issue of achieving parity in the media, in American education and corporate and public leadership have yet to be fully addressed or even articulated.

For JACL, the past year has also been anticlimactic. The turmoil that preceded my coming to JACL has generally subsided and the process towards long-term fiscal stability is being addressed. However, the underlying causes of fiscal instability and agreement about the longer-term mission of JACL still remain a work in progress. As of this year-end writing, membership revenues are on target with projections, but other revenues are on a decline, particularly donations and unsolicited contributions. As the community begins to institutionalize its charitable causes, the need for funding, and thus pressure for individual donations, will naturally increase.

The JACL last year began a more organized process of educating the public about the lessons and consequences of the incarceration of American citizens and legal aliens during World War II. With funding from the Civil Liberties Public

Education Fund, JACL was able to conduct 10 teacher training workshops for eight chapters in eight different states. While funding to continue the workshops outside of California has ended, JACL is working under contract with the 100th/442nd MIS Memorial Foundation to conduct workshops in California over the next two years.

Coupled with the workshops, JACL has received funding from the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund to begin the process of developing repositories of educational materials. Eventually, the materials will be made accessible to the general public through JACL's website and possibly other technical processes such as CDs. Eventually, we hope to make accessible JACL archival materials, starting with those at the Pacific Citizen that Harry Honda has been working on.

During the past year we have made a few new forays into more in-depth civil rights issues with limited success. JACL invested more than \$25,000 towards fighting the anti-affirmative action initiative in Washington state. While the measure won by a wide margin, the AA community, particularly in the Seattle region, came together and voted in substantial numbers, laying the groundwork for greater joint efforts in the future. The opportunity also opened the possibility for future

dialogue and improved relations with other civil rights groups including the NAACP.

Staff changes have also been a part of the JACL landscape. Probably the most visible change has been at the P.C. where a permanent editor was found in Caroline Aoyagi after a search of almost two years. That has been followed by the filling of all vacant positions at P.C. And while some stability with staff turnover has been achieved, two key positions — PSW regional director and administrative assistant to the national director — were vacated early in the year and are only now being filled.

In the next year, new positions will be added to consolidate and direct JACL's education programs including the scholarship program. Similarly, the JACL will be reinstituting a youth director. The Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District will also be moving out of JACL national headquarters, making it possible to separate out a position for membership management from the dual fundraising and membership functions that Donna Okubo has been operating under.

Many changes and new initiatives have been made in the past year. The ground work for the future of JACL is being set, and by the next biennium, the fruits of all our labor will begin to be realized.

A vision for the JACL National Education Program

BY LISA S. HIRAI
TSUCHITANI
Director of Education



My introduction to the JACL occurred during my junior year in high school. Upon the urging of my mentor, the late Ms. Helen Mineta, I applied to the San Jose JACL chapter for a scholarship to attend college. Her encouragement and the generosity of the scholarship committee would enable me to pursue both a B.A. in Asian and Asian American Studies and a Ph.D. in education at the University of California at Berkeley, where I developed research and teaching interests in Japanese American and Asian Pacific Islander history and literature, United States race relations, oral history methodology and curriculum development.

Until then I had questioned whether the JACL could ever play an important role in my life. As the granddaughter of a dissident at the Tule Lake detention center and the daughter of Issei and Kibei parents, I did not feel I had a place in the organization. I derived my sense of community and history instead from attending the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin *Nihongo Gakko* every Saturday morning. There in the midst of Nihonmachi, lessons in Japanese language and culture would become lessons in the importance of affirming and preserving the history of my family and community in America.

I was further challenged to reconsider my opinions about the JACL when I was asked to become a member of the board of directors for the Berkeley chapter. Although initially hesitant to accept this responsibility, I am now thankful for the insights I have gained from working with such activists within the JACL, as well as those within such nonprofit organizations as the African/Asian American Roundtable, Asian Improv Arts, the Asian Pacific Environmental Network, the Friends of *Hibakusha*, the Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project, the National Japanese

American Historical Society and the Sansei Legacy Project. Their work has inspired me to accept the responsibilities of this newly created position of director of education within the JACL.

One of my first objectives for developing a JACL National Education Program shall be to encourage efforts to further document the diverse history of persons of Japanese ancestry in America. Although significant numbers of publications have been dedicated to recording the immigration and incarceration experiences of our community, the voices of women, the working class, the Kibei and the Shin Issei, for example, still remain underrepresented. The ethnic and racial, political, regional and sexual diversity of our community also has yet to be adequately addressed in the existing literature. Through the sponsorship of workshops on oral history methodology, the creation of multimedia curricula and the development of a web site which includes updated listings of resource materials about our experiences, I would like to increase community involvement in the researching and recording of our history in this country.

As director of education, I would like to create more opportunities for dialogue amongst and between members of the organization and the JA community at large as well. Through nationally, regionally and locally sponsored forums and panels on such topics as the role of the JACL during World War II, I would like to work towards developing solutions for coming to terms with the controversial history that JACL has had within the community. Given the increasing tensions between generations of leaders over the current and future objectives of the organization and its ability to respond to the needs and interests of an increasingly diverse community, I hope that the process of conceptualizing, organizing and imple-

menting such programs can serve as a means for institutionalizing more intergenerational dialogue and collaboration concerning the future of the organization and the community in general.

"My vision for a JACL National Education Program also encompasses projects that are Asian Pacific Islander and multiracial in focus. I would like this program to pursue an agenda which not only locates the experiences of the JA community within a historical context of anti-Asian sentiment in this country but also works to ensure that the needs of APIs and people of color in general are adequately addressed in institutions of education. This agenda would include supporting efforts to institutionalize Asian American and Ethnic Studies courses and programs at the elementary through university levels. This work also would include efforts to ensure the presence and retention of more students and faculty of color in educational institutions, particularly in fields of study and geographical regions in which they have been historically underrepresented.

As I begin this journey as director of education for the JACL, I am grateful for the guidance and support of my mentors such as Helen Kawagoe and others whose pioneering efforts have enabled me to even dream of the possibilities of attending college. Their efforts have taught me that institutional change is possible, although painfully slow at times. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities of this position and welcome your insights on how to remain vigilant, innovative and expedient in our efforts to sustain the Program for Action of this organization: "to preserve the cultural heritage of Japanese Americans," "to develop future leaders for social and political change" and "to protect civil and human rights for all Americans." ■

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Very Truly Yours

BY HARRY E. HONDA



Retrospect: the 1998 romp

CONTINUING what was begun two years ago by this column in the special New Year's edition, here's another potpourri of one-liners by noted personalities in our Nikkei world.

#2836 / Jan. 2-22—"Revenues are healthy! Membership is up and growing! Three cheers for JACL!" **Helen Kawagoe**. These are summations from the first lines of the president's column looking over the prior 17 months when JACL grass roots rose to the occasion.

#2837 / Jan. 23-Feb. 5—"Talking to whites about race is one of the most difficult things to do. If you don't know where you come from, you can't go anywhere." **Warren Furutani**, who was appointed by Calif. Assembly Speaker, Antonio Villaraigosa, as director of the speaker's Asian Pacific American Affairs Office. The dialogue to discuss ways to improve race relations criss-crossed across the nation in wake of President Clinton's Initiative on Race. Final report, "Forging a New Future," fell short of expectations. "It was a great start and the work needs to continue," said attorney and panelist **Angela Oh** (PC 10-2-98).

#2838 / Feb. 6-19—**Mae Takahashi**, PC board chair, announced **Caroline Aoyagi** as executive editor of the *Pacific Citizen* during the national JACL convention, Philadelphia. PC 7-17-98

#2839 / Feb. 21-March 5—At a Feb. meeting in Honolulu, **Sen. Daniel Inouye** remarked he did not join long-time colleagues **Alan Simpson**, **Bill Bradley** and **Nancy Kassebaum**, who chose not to seek re-election because "it isn't fun." "I've never looked upon work as being fun. I've looked upon it [being U.S. Senator] as a challenge.... Life without challenge for me is when I will leave." **Sen. Inouye** was re-elected in November to his seventh term.

#2840 / March 6-19—**Bill Lann Lee**, acting assistant attorney general for civil rights, congratulated **Fumiko Shimada**, daughter of a dismissed railroad worker, for her pursuit of justice, and announced that former railroad and mine workers and their families are now eligible for redress. "We have taken this decision because the weight of the evidence suggests that the federal government played a role in the firing of these workers" [in 1942].

#2841 / March 20-April 2—"The U.S. government must remedy the war crimes it committed against these innocent civilians and provide full redress to all Japanese." **Latina American internees** **Grace Shimizu**, daughter of a former Peruvian internee. The case of **JLAs** was made with the *Commission of Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians* in 1981. Lamentably, plaintiffs in *Mochizuki v. the U.S.* [1996], seeking \$20,000 in redress, was settled almost hurriedly with Office of Redress Administration on June 12 for apology and \$5,000. (PC 6-19-98).

#2842 / April 3-16—Motion Picture Academy Award (Oscar) for "best live action short" goes to *Visas and Virtue*, story of **Chiune Sugihara** who, with help of his wife, issued transit visas to thousands of Polish refugees escaping the Nazi Holocaust in 1940.

#2843 / April 17-30—Some 400 individuals and 70 sponsoring organizations participate in "Ties that Bind" Conference April 3-5 in L.A. as the Nikkei community prepares to enter the 21st century. Turnout of JA youth was high and satisfying. "We wanted to be inducted," UCLA student **Mary Tsuji**, 19, declared.

#2844 / May 1-14—"The town of JACL tries to accommodate all these varied interests. But because the town's resources are spread thin to cover these diverse interests, the town doesn't produce much that is noteworthy," **Albert Muratsuchi**, upon his retirement as PSW regional director. Hence, the axiom: *The wheel that squeaks the most gets the grease*—even in JACL town.

#2845 / May 15-June 4—Ex-student who sent hate e-mail to AAs sentenced. UC Irvine case (**Richard J. Machado**) ends as the first conviction of its kind. Some believed it was a "bad joke"; others were angered and disturbed.

#2846 / June 5-18—FBI sharpshooter **Lon Horiuchi**, charged with manslaughter by the State of Idaho during the 1992 Ruby Ridge siege, cleared by Federal Judge **Edward Lodge**, May 14. While the Justice Department investigation concluded Horiuchi was carrying out his duties, the county prosecutor had chosen to file state charges of involuntary manslaughter.

#2847 / June 19-July 2—Voters

approve **Calif. Prop. 227**, an initiative to end bilingual education in public schools, by 61 percent majority in June 2 elections. Students with limited English, after one-year of immersion classes, are to be placed into mainstream classes.

#2848 / July 3-16—Honolulu attorney **Susan Oki Malloway**, confirmed June 22 by U.S. Senate as U.S. District judge for Hawaii (nominated in 1995), sits as the first APA woman on the federal bench. To Clip and Save—"Internet 101" by **Emily Murae**.

#2849 / July 17-Aug. 6—A 17-story building extension to Denver City Hall is named the **Minoru Yasui Plaza** by city council on Sept. 28. "I do not know that any large public building in a city of Denver's size has been named for a Japanese American," **Bill Hosokawa**.

#2850 / Aug. 7-30—**HEADLINE Hapas Issues Forum & JACL**, working together towards 21st century. "Past national director **Randy Senzaki** opened JACL's door to Hapas generally and to HIF in particular." JACL board member **Greg Mayeda**, Philadelphia, July 1. That's a headline that shall not be forgotten.

#2851 / Aug. 21-Sept. 3—Political battle over **Year 2000 Census** has begun; urban undercount of minorities at issue over "how" to count—Actual enumeration vs. statistical sampling. A week later (Aug. 24), the federal court unanimously ruled against use of scientific sampling. JACL files amicus brief as appeal heads for the Supreme Court. (PC 10-16-98.)

#2852 / Sept. 4-17—Buddhist Church of San Francisco celebrates its centennial. The *Japanese Gospel Society* (Methodist), founded in 1877 in S.F., is recorded as the first Japanese group in the U.S.

#2853 / Sept. 18-Oct. 1—Justice Department ceremoniously makes (Aug. 10) of 1988 Civil Liberties Act (which apologized and made amends for the 1942 evacuation) in Washington, D.C. "Our parents suffered the most. But they took it on the chin." **Sox Kitashima**.

#2854 / Oct. 2-15—U.S. Commerce report shows APJs had highest median income (\$45,249 household) in 1997. **Current Population Survey**, Washington, DC. To compare median incomes: white counterparts \$38,972; Hispanic origin \$26,628; African Americans \$25,050.

#2855 / Oct. 16-Nov. 5—Frustrated and offended JLAAs with only \$5,000 and apology from U.S. government—far less than \$20,000 awarded former JA internees, sue individually for full redress in U.S. Court of Claims. **Henry Shima** seeks \$10 million; **Joe Suzuki** and **NCRR** file "Campaign for Justice" class action suit.

#2856 / Nov. 6-19—U.S. Commission

on Civil Rights finds that Democratic National Committee unfairly scrutinized APAs in fundraising scandal. "Getting a call from the FBI [on identity] is extremely intimidating." **Dr. Suzanne Ahn**, Dallas physician, who had been giving campaign donations reaching six figures to both parties.

#2857 / Nov. 20-Dec. 17—Analyses of Nov. 3 general elections (**Matt Fong** vs. **Sen. Barbara Boxer**) suggest exit polls of APAs in Calif. are an "untapped voting pool." The exit polls were conducted in 50 precincts with high AA voter registration in L.A./Orange counties, while in Northern Calif., 500 Chinese Americans were interviewed.

#2858 / Dec. 18-Dec. 31—Contributors to the 1998 Holiday Issue theme, "Japanese American Food Culture," offered some tasty pieces of writing as well as food for thought. For me, it was the first Holiday Issue since 1952 free of direct effort in its production, save for my piece on "pakka".

AS A CONSEQUENCE, Very Truly Yours was free to join a local Sat. veterans luncheon (Dec. 5) honoring **Col. Young Oak Kim** (ret.), with **Sen. Dan Inouye** and Medal of Honor winner **Hershey Miyamura**, and happily with **Dr. Art Gorai**, **Jim Tazoi**, and **Sus Satow**. Then to a Friday dinner (Dec. 11) to help incumbent **L.A. Board of Education** member **George "Lorge" Kiriya** kick off his re-election campaign, plus congratulating the newly sworn-in (on Dec. 7) state Assemblyman **George Nakano** of Torrance; also, **Gardena** city clerk **May Doi**, who is seeking a seat on the city council come April.

A 1999 highlight will be the 10th **COPANI** (PANA Convention) July 28-31 in Santiago, Chile, attended by Nikkei from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and the USA. Nikkei from Australia were especially welcomed at the last two conventions; **Dominican Republic** Nikkei may be the first group from the Caribbeans this coming convention.

The purposes of PANA have fairly stabilized: (1) promote Nikkei student exchange programs, (2) collect and exchange information on Nikkei cultural and socio-economic data from each PANA-member country and (3) establish a network of international cooperation.

It is our sense now that English is not like "a second language" at PANA because of the growing attendance of **Sansei** generation **Latin American** Nikkei with a comfortable command of *ingles* and vice-versa—bilingually-aware **Sansei** from U.S. and Canada in *español*. ■

Troubled in Paradise

BY BRIAN NIYA

History Lessons

Recently, local poet **Wing Tek Lum** approached the Honolulu chapter about an appearance by author **Iris Chang** in support of her book, *The Rape of Nanking*. The book is one of the first in English to detail the atrocities committed by the Japanese Army during its invasion of China in 1937-38. Lum had hoped to have a dialogue with the JACL and others in Hawaii about the issues raised by *Chang's* book.

Chang's appearance at the University of Hawaii filled the central ballroom and had people standing at the back and spilling out the doors. She graphically described the acts perpetrated on the people of Nanking and noted that more Chinese civilians were killed there than Japanese civilians by the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. She talked about torture, beheading contests, medical experiments, mass rapes of women, and babies impaled on bayonets.

She also talked about Japanese attitudes towards these and other atrocities committed by Japanese soldiers

throughout Asia. Essentially, Japan has more or less chosen to officially bury this history. No apology has ever been issued, no reparations have been paid, no national reckoning has occurred, in marked contrast to Germany, Japanese textbooks don't talk about it.

She attributes this silence, what she called the "second Rape of Nanking," to politics, the cold war and economic factors. She argued that both the People's Republic of China and Taiwan sought recognition by Japan after the war. As a result, neither pushed for reparations for war crimes. She also suggested that the United States didn't aggressively prosecute Japanese war criminals in part because they valued Japan as an ally against the Soviet Union.

Chang concluded by calling on Japan to do the following:

- issue a formal apology,
- grant reparations to victims throughout Asia and
- change the textbooks so that an

honest reckoning of the military's actions during World War II are included. She also called for both Japan and the United States to throw open the archives containing documents pertaining to these events.

If you're wondering what all this has to do with Japanese Americans, so did I. My initial reaction to this issue and to **Chang's** calls to action were that: while worthy of support in general, it didn't seem to be something that the JACL should take up, given that it mostly involves demands being made on Japan. Additionally, I have tended to shy away from being too critical of Japan on any issue, in part because I didn't want to be allied with the Japan bashers who inevitably come out of the woodwork when stuff like this is raised. But in thinking about the issue further, I have decided it does have to do with us.

As more contemporary research points out, much of the JA community supported Japan's actions in China in the '30s. **Issei** raised money for the war effort, sent care packages to Japanese soldiers in China and worked to convince other Americans of Japan's positive role in Asia. Though most Nisei were too young to care about such things, a core of older Nisei—some of whom were among the founders of this organization—also served as apologists for Japan's actions in China. Feeling that the prevailing portrayal of the Asian situation was biased

towards the Chinese, Nisei writing for such papers as the *Japanese American Courier* and the *Rafu Shimpo* parroted the line of the so-called Greater East Asia.

The Co-Prosperity Sphere argued that Japan was acting in the best interests of the various countries it came to control. Some continued to make these arguments into the late 1930s and 1940s, after the Rape of Nanking had occurred.

The intent is not to point fingers or assign blame. It is to suggest that we JAs, through our actions at the time, share some complicity in the events in China, if to a very small degree. It is to suggest that we owe it to the victims to do our part to help them at least become a part of the recognized history of the period.

Since **Chang's** appearance happened just hours ago as I write this, there has been no organized action around the points she raised yet. The Honolulu chapter has not discussed this issue, though I'm sure well at least have some discussions with Lum and a group he is pulling together. It'll be a start. We JAs suffered our own traumas during the war and successfully attained a measure of redress for them. Clearly, that experience might be beneficial in any effort to seek redress for the victims of the Japanese military. I would also hope our sufferings make us more sensitive to the sufferings of others. Time will tell. ■

Brian Niya is a member of the Honolulu JACL.

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Letters to the Editor

I-200 should be 'scrapped'

As a member of the Asian American community, I am quite concerned about the passage of I-200 in Washington. The I-200 measure, in essence, eliminates affirmative action programs that were meant to assure all people fair and equal opportunities and access to areas once denied to minorities.

There was coverage on television and newspapers before and after the November election regarding the name and content of I-200. Towards the end, there seemed to be a last minute media push that was negative and misrepresentative. It was only after the election that news media commentaries noted that the wording of the measure could have misled the public.

A similar measure was passed in California. Certain actions had negatively taken form towards affirmative action, especially in the areas of awarding work or business contracts and certain employment positions in California, as well as in Washington State.

It may be too early to tell at this point for what may lay ahead for Washington. I perceive that the approach to this measure may surely be taken either lightly to discourage enforcement or foster apathy towards minorities and women.

What's next? Can there be a challenge to the legality of the measure? Or can there be other initiatives or legal avenues that can counterbalance this measure to a point that would give I-200 very little weight? Or can we have something that gives all an equal chance?

I personally would like to see this measure scrapped and/or if it is to be reintroduced, it should enhance programs that were in place prior to the passage of I-200. These new programs should be set in a language that would be understood by all and give everyone equal opportunity based on personal merit.

In conclusion, my personal observation is that it will take several generations and probably not in this century for all to come together as one human race. Until this is recognized and embraced by all, affirmative action programs and laws are still needed to ensure that all minorities and both genders are fairly considered.

In the meantime, people still need to be vigilant, be proactive in bringing about beneficial changes and fight non-violently towards correcting injustices and/or human indignities.

Robert A. Nahanama
 Lacey, WA

All affected by railroad, miners firings deserve redress

Before the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 was passed, the main focus of redress was to get reparations and a governmental apology for those on the west coast who had been forcibly removed from their homes and put into concentration camps during WWII. In the ensuing years, members of advocate organizations such as NCRP and JACL in California have worked tirelessly in their bitter struggle for justice on behalf of others wronged by government action during the war.

On Feb. 27 of last year, Acting Assistant Attorney General Bill Lann Lee made a surprise announcement before a small community meeting in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo that Japanese American railroad and mine workers fired at government urging during the war would be eligible for redress and reparations under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

This news created an urgency to alert eligible surviving fired workers and family members to act quickly before the deadline date of Aug. 10, 1998, when the Office of Redress Administration would close its doors to new applications. Unlike those on the coast who were affected by the mass evacuation, miners and railroad workers were scattered throughout the country.

My father was one of four Japanese nationals who worked at the Union Pacific RR roundhouse in North Platte, Neb. They were abruptly fired without forewarning on Feb. 10, 1942, by orders from the president of UPRR, Mr. William Jeffers, on direction of the FBI. (My husband, a Nisei, also worked briefly there and was also fired.)

There was no company housing for employees so they either owned or rented their homes. We owned our home but still owed mortgage payments to a savings and loans.

All four families were allowed to remain in our homes, thus spared the tragedy of removal to camps. But was our plight any less traumatic? Could anyone accurately claim we were "lucky"? With our livelihoods cut off, who would provide for the immediate needs of food, fuel for heating and cooking and more important, medical emergencies? There was no welfare system, and none of us had relatives we could turn to for help. Our friends in this low income town were all poor and the community itself was barely recovering from the desperate throes of the Depression. It was in this climate of poverty, job scarcity, distrust and hostility that our fathers were forced to go out and look for jobs. After many humiliating rejections, including one from the local board of education that denied him even the simple courtesy of an interview for an advertised janitorial job, my father realized the futility and decided to convert part of the acreage surrounding the house into growing vegetables for sale.

With neither experience nor

proper equipment, this was a desperate gamble involving the whole family, including our mother, 13-year-old sister and 11-year-old brother. My older brother was soon after drafted into the Army.

The long hours and backbreaking work netted small returns. That we managed to survive this unfair ordeal can be attributed to our sheer determination and our good fortune. It was by the grace of God that we all stayed healthy, subsisting on a diet which naturally included much of the vegetables we raised.

Another indignity forced upon us was that we were unable to preserve memories of this period on film because our camera had been confiscated by government orders.

As each of us in the four families wrote our personal accounts of surviving after the firings, assured by Mr. Lee's statements of eligibility, we couldn't believe that as surviving family members we would all be rejected, one by one! Only my husband, as a fired worker (also eligible as a surviving member of a fired worker) received a letter saying his case had been approved.

Now we are aware of other isolated cases of survivors in similar situations who have been approved to receive apologies and compensation. These flagrant discrepancies of discrimination must not be ignored! We are not pawns in a lottery! We should all, with no further questioning, be awarded the apologies and reparations which we rightfully deserve. The chapter on redress must not be closed until all of the cases are settled favorably.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has fought and continues to fight on behalf of all of us who've been rejected, especially to Fumie Shimada, Kay Ochi and Betty Wada. We are deeply indebted for the help and encouragement you have given us total strangers. We all thank you sincerely!

Mary (Kumagai) Okamoto
 Estes Park, CO

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 * "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.

In memoriam, 1998

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Anaki, Masao, 96, Fresno, July 6; Kumamoto-born correspondent for the *Rafu Shimpō* prewar and the *Nichi Bei Times* postwar; Japanese language teacher and radio broadcaster.

Akita, Mary Yone, 100, Los Angeles, April 7.

Beisig, Ernest, 94, San Francisco, Nov. 13; founder and executive director of the ACLU of Northern California; attorney in Korematsu case.

Domen, Hiroshi, 51, Cerritos, Nov. 19 (97); Hiroshima-born U.S. Air Force veteran.



Bill Endow

Endow, William "Bill," 61, Las Vegas, Mar. 29; Hood River, Ore.-born U.S. Army engineer, LAS Vegas JACL president (78, '93).

Fuji, Kenneth Koichi, M.D., 89, Kapa, Kauai, Jan. 25; family physician since prewar, first to administer the Salk anti-polio vaccine in the Territory of Hawaii (57).

Fujii, Shozo, 94, Virginia Beach, Va., Dec. 4 (97); Fukuoka-born instructor in Japanese at the U.S. Navy Language School during WWII, investigator in the Intelligence Department, U.S. Occupation Force in Japan.

Fujikawa, Gyo, 90, New York, Nov. 26; Berkeley-born illustrator and author of 50 books for children, designer of U.S. postage stamps.

Fujimura, Susumu Sam, Fresno, Feb. 11; retired pharmacy owner, 442nd vet, Sierra Nisei VFW post founder, Fresno JACLer.

Fujita, "Ted" Tetsuya, 78, Chicago, Nov. 19; professor of geophysical sciences at the University of Chicago; discovered microbursts.

Fukui, Kenichi, 79, Kyoto, Japan, Jan. 9; winner of the Nobel Prize for chemistry (81), professor at Kyoto University, Nara-born.

Fukuma, Kyo, 109, Los Angeles, Mar. 24; Yamaguchi-born.

Fukushima, Daniel, 77, San Jose, Nov. 23; first Nisei high school basketball coach (50-80), High School Coach of the Year (55), California Coach of the Year (73), National Coach of the Year (73) from the Naimish Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Furuta, Matsuko "Mattie," 89, Los Angeles, Jan. 31; Parlier-born long-time East LA JACLer.

Furuze, George, 84, San Diego, Dan Fukushima Jan. 16; Los Angeles-born WWII veteran.

Hamasato, Kofu, 105, Los Angeles, Dec. 4 (97); Yamaguchi-born.

Hameda, Taiguo, 76, Chalfont, Pa., Mar. 1; Kingsburg-born WWII veteran, pharmaceutical chemist, v.p. Cooper Laboratories, inventor of Quagulate, the first sustained heart medicine.

Handa, Takeo "Taki," 80, Los Angeles, April 17 service; WWII veteran.

Hanley, Col. James M. (ret.), 93, Mountain View, June 20; Mandan, N.D.-born attorney, state attorney general prewar, commanded 442nd RCT 2nd battalion, author of *A Matter of Honor*.

Hibino, Nobuko (Kumekawa), 77, Portland, Conn., Oct. 12; relocated to and left Topaz with the help of the National JA Student

Relocation Council, formed the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund with husband, Yosh, in 1980.

Higashi, Roy Yoshiyuki, 75, Hood River, Ore., Mar. 19; Seattle-born retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, believed to be the first Nisei officer in charge of a military missile base, "evacuated to Pine Lake and Heart Mountain; assembled family records of JAs in the mid-Columbia, Ore., area."

Hirata, Shigeru, 72, Alhambra, Mar. 6; Honolulu, Hawaii-born veteran of Korean Conflict.

Hirooka, Hatsuho, 107, Los Angeles, May 19; Hiroshima-born.

Hirose, Kinu Hirasima, 80, Chevy Chase, Md., Oct. 3; Los Angeles-born, secretary to the U.S. Coast Guard commander, charter member of Washington, D.C. JACL.

Hiyama, Hiroshi "Frank," 83, Sacramento, Feb. 28; Hemdon, Calif.-born Caltrans senior bridge engineer, national expert and negotiator on railroad grade-crossing safety; Tule Lake intern, JACL Sacramento president (62) president of Senator Lyons, designed the educational hall for the Loomis Methodist Church.

Hoka, Shigeno Nishimi, 95, Sacramento, Dec. 7 (97); first Ikeno instructor in Sacramento, president of No. Calif. Ikeno Society (61-76).

Honda, Floyd Yoshio, 91, Fowler, Oct. 23; Fresno ALL-JACL president (34), founded Fowler JACL (47).

Horiuchi, Yoshiko, 105, Los Angeles, Mar. 7; Wakayama-born.

Hosokawa, Alice T., 81, Denver, Oct. 14; Portland-born, wife of P.C. columnist Bill Hosokawa.

Hosume, Moto, 105, Los Angeles, Mar. 19; Yamagata-born.

Iida, Maj. Harry S. (ret.), 77, Salinas, Mar. 20; Walnut Grove-born. MIS linguist officer in the South Pacific and the Korean war, Salinas valley JACL president (72).

Ikeida, Josie K., 89, Wilmington, Del., Jan. 1; Billings, Mont.-born, Seabrook JACL president (57).

Imai, Kyo, 106, Los Angeles, May 18.

Inai, Walter Tatsuo, 75, Arroyo Grande, June 25; San Bernardino-born Gila intern and 442nd RCT veteran.

Inohara, Jiro Joe, 73, West Los Angeles, Oct. 25 (97); Sacramento-born WWI veteran.

Inouye, Dr. Milton Midori, 78, Los Angeles, Dec. 28 (97); Oakland-born, WWII MIS veteran, W. L.A. JACL president (58).

Inouye, Dr. Milton M., 78, West Los Angeles, Dec. 28 (97); Oakland-born WWII-MIS veteran, West LA JACL president (58), Boy Scout Silver Beaver honoree.

Ishida, Sam Isuji, 74, Sacramento, May 20; WWII veteran.

Ishii, Charles, 82, Santa Ana, Oct. 6; Orange County JACL member, 442/522nd veteran and Fountain Valley city councilman.

Ishii, Kazuo, 89, Hawaii, Feb. 3; Hiroshima-born retired president of Central Pacific Bank.

Ishimoto, Paul, 83, Dec. 10 (97), Bethesda, Md.; Hawaii-born Japanese language translator for U.S. government for 36 years, founder of Koyu-Kai community services.

Itabashi, Masao James, 66, Washington, D.C., July 6; Los Angeles-born former Gila River intern; award-winning Harvard-educated architect, designer of University Health Sciences Building for Bethesda, Md., Naval Hospital, Hyatt Regency Hotel in Bethesda, renovation of Daiglen Hall at the

U.S. Naval Academy and the Japanese Embassy's Chancery, among others; member, President Kennedy's Pennsylvania Avenue Commission.

Ito, Ken, 71, Chino, Feb. 21; La Habra-born WWII veteran.

Iwaka, Sam Isamu, 82, Chicago, Nov. 21; Calif.-born Kibei; frustrated by internment at Heart Mountain from pursuing a career in physics, he subsequently worked in security-sensitive engineering positions at private industries and for the U.S. government.

Iwata, Masakazu "Mas," 80, Montebello, March 16; San Fernando Valley-born retired Bala University history professor, stranded in Japan during WWII while a student at the Heimushakai, the prewar Japanese Foreign Office school for Canadian and American Nisei; graduate of UCLA, post-doctorate in Slavic-Asian studies at USC; author of *Okubo Toshimichi: The Bismarck of Japan*, wrote a narrative history of Issei experiences and contributions to U.S. agriculture for JACL.

Kagawa, Kiyoshi D., 77, Long Beach, Feb. 2; WWII veteran.

Kageyama, Tami, 50, Tokyo, Jan. 27; prize-winning novelist in Japan, scenario writer for TV-radio programs, recipient of the Yoshikawa Eiji Rookie Prize in (87) and the Naoki Prize (88).

Kanzaki, Asano, 100, Seattle, June 27; Japan-born.

Kariya, Juettu Ikaho, 81, Montebello, April 17; Pasadena-born WWII veteran.

Kashiwa, Shiro, 85, Honolulu, March 13; 1970 JACL JA of the Biennium; Hawaii-born graduate in law from the University of Michigan in 1936.

Hawaii's first attorney general (59-62), as assistant attorney general in 1969, headed the Justice Department's Natural Resources Division and played a key role in the government's anti pollution suits; worked for 17 years in Washington, D.C., as a federal civil lawyer and judge (appointed first Nisei associate justice of the U.S. Court of Claims in 1972); in private practice 1966-92.

Kashiwagi, Missa, 100, Sacramento, Jan. 10; Wakayama-born.

Kato, Urano, 105, Seattle, Oct. 25 (97); Hiroshima-born.

Kawaguchi, Tom, 81, San Pablo, Oct. 15; 442nd veteran from Topaz WRA center, founded Go For Broke National Japanese American Historical Society (80).

Kawakami, Norito, 85, Honolulu, Nov. 26; retired state judge and former Territorial legislator.

Kawarazaki, Hias, 101, Gardena, Jan. 29; Wakayama-born.

Kikuchi, Yoshi Iwama, 96, Huntington Beach, Jan. 30; widow of pioneer Issei pastor, the Rev. Kenji Kikuchi, served with him postwar at Ocean View United Church of Christ, San Diego.

Kishi, Fujino, 105, Los Angeles, Jan. 20; Fukuoka-born.

Kita, Hachiro, 87, Wheatridge, Colo., March 3; Hiro-born WWII veteran of Camp Savage, New Guinea, Borneo, Philippines, Japan.

Kimura, the Rev. Ren, 79, Granada Hills, Oct. 19.

Kondo, George E., 84, State College, Pa., July 6; founder and trustee of the California Japanese American Alumni Assn., Northern

California-Western Nevada-Pacific JACL regional director (75-90).

Konishi, Koji, 75, Centos, Dec. 9 (97); San Diego-born WWII veteran ("A" Battery, 522 Field Artillery Battalion, 442 RCT).

Konomi, Jinnozuke "Gene" 94, Mar. 15; Fukuoka-born writer, University of Southern California graduate in the '20s, conductor of the "Moshi Moshi" columns in the *Pacific Citizen* from 1978;

garden editor of a Japanese gardeners' association publication, contributor in *Nihongo* to the Japanese vernaculars in San Francisco, worked at the *Kashu Mainichi* (1933) and at the *Rafu Shimpō* Japanese section (34-40); served on the staff of the Office of Special Services' psychological warfare unit stationed outside Washington, D.C., during WWII.

Kozasa, Shigeru, 82, Los Angeles, Mar. 9; WWII veteran.

Kubo, Hoichi "Bob," 78, San Jose, Feb. 1; Maui, Hawaii-born WWII MIS veteran, highly decorated Nisei of the Pacific War.

Kuroda, the Rev. Akira James, 83, Los Angeles, Nov. 20 (97); Hawaii-born founder of Japanese Evangelical Missionary Society.

Kurohwa, Teiko, 82, San Francisco, May 1; pioneer national JACL staffer in San Francisco, Salt Lake City and New York, executive secretary to Mike Masaoka at Salt Lake City, *Pacific Citizen* columnist.

Kurose, Akiko, 73, Madrona, Wash., May 24; honored by Presidents Bush and Carter, the United Nations and several governors and Seattle mayors for her dedication to teaching, especially in the area of peace.

Kushida, Tatsuo, 82, Monterey Park, Oct. 12; WRA administrator, JACL Midwest regional director (47-49), Pacific Southwest director (49-57).

Kuwahara, Sayo, 101, Gardena, Dec. 18 (97); Kumamoto-born.

Maioho, Lydia Namahanele-Isokalani Taylor, Nu'uano, Hawaii, May 28; past chair of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Native Hawaiian Historic Preservation Council.

Maris, Milton, 78, San Francisco, Dec. 4; former California state senator who supported JA causes.

Marukita, Ryoko, 102, Sonoma, April 11.

Maruyama, Tom Tamaki, 80, Los Angeles, Jan. 18; Oakland-born WWII veteran.

Masamori, James T., 79, San Leandro, Feb. 4; Stockton-born. L. C. 442nd RCT veteran.

Masuko, Matthew Masayoshi, 77, Portland, Ore., Mar. 20; Portland-born dentist, WWII veteran, Portland Chapter JACL president (1952), PNW district governor.

Matsuda, Yoshio Roy, 74, Laguna Niguel, Mar. 3; Peris-born veteran of Korean Conflict.

Matsuguma, Ship, 71, Torrance, April 12; Inglewood-born, WWII veteran.

Matsuono, Susumu, 95, Denver, Tacoma, Wash.-born, Japan-educated WWII MIS veteran, owner of the Fuji-En, one of the first Japanese restaurants in Denver, president of the Tri-state Buddhist Church.

McDonald, Darlene "Masato" Yoshimoto, 54, Richfield, Utah, Aug. 31; popular vocalist in Hawaii during the '60s.

Mieth, Hansel, 89, Santa Rosa, Feb. 14; documentary photographer, commissioned by Life magazine to take pictures of the Heart Mountain internment camp, which were never published but were exhibited in 1996 for the first time at the de Seisset Museum, Santa Clara University.

Mitsuchi, Yonemi, 94, Monterey Park, Nov. 13 (97); Kochi-born.

Mizutani, Sadako, 93, Walnut Grove, Jan. 30; Hyogo-born.

Momii, Sam, 78, Arvada, Colo., Nov. 6 (97); Platteville, Colo.-born, WWII veteran.

Mori, Henry Kashuku, 81, Los Angeles, Jan. 10; Los Angeles-born journalist, postwar English section editor, *Rafu Shimpō*.

Mori, Kusa, 94, Salt Lake City, Mar. 9; Kagoshima-born Issei Utah pioneer, WWII gold-star mother (son Shigeru).

Morihisa, Henry Goro, 82, Los Angeles, Nov. 7 (97); WWII veteran.

Morimitsu, Arthur T., 86, Chicago, Sept. 1; Sacramento-born WWII MIS veteran in North Burma campaign, and postwar Tokyo war crimes trials, Chicago JA community leader, named outstanding layman at Evangelical Covenant Church; National JACLer of Biennium (90-92) for securing redress support from national American Legion and veterans of Foreign Wars.

Morimitsu, Frank, 111, Chicago, Dec. 9; born in Hiroshima Prefecture; oldest person of Japanese ancestry in the U.S.; interned at Tule Lake.

Mukai, Roy A., 70, Milwaukee, Aug. 30; Puyallup, Washington-born, Milwaukee JACL president (53-54).

Nakamura, Ben, Fresno, Nov. 8 (97); Fresno JACL president (58), Shinzen Garden founder & president.

Nakamura, Tom, 87, Sanger, Mar. 8; Fresno-born, Fresno JACL Chapter president (1937), Central Calif. District governor (53-54).

Nakata, Thomas M., 77, Santa Fe Springs, Feb. 10; Seattle-born WWII veteran.

Nakatani, Roy E., Ph.D., 79, Redmond, Wash., Dec. 15. Seattle-born WWII Army veteran, University of Washington graduate, specialist in fish diseases; managed aquatic biology on the Hanford nuclear reservation and at bomb-test sites in the Pacific (59-66), headed the ecology department of Battelle-NW Pacific Northwest Laboratories (66-70); professor at his alma mater (70-88); associate director of the Fisheries Research Institute.

Namakeawa, Iwao, 84, San Francisco, Dec. 23; Fullerton-born Kibei, *Chunichi* and *Tokyo Shimbun* correspondent, *Nichihei Times* journalist, editorial director, president and chairman.

Nitta, William S., 73, Littleton, Colo., July 2; Durango, Colo.-born WWII veteran.

Nobusada, Kiyoshi "K," 82, Monterey, April 20; Monterey Peninsula JACL president (48).

Ogawa, George, 78, Torrance, Feb. 9; Sumner, Wash.-born Korean War veteran, aerospace engineer, community activist.

Okinega, Chiyu Mary, 103, San Francisco, Aug. 13.

Okubo, Nobu, 101, Selma, Feb. 21; Hiroshima-born.



Jin Konomi



Henry Mori



Art Morimitsu

Omi, Rev. Dr. Frank M., 83, Vacaville, Sept. 18.

Oshita, Ben Chimoto, 81, Salt Lake City, Nov. 24 (97); Grafton-born WWII veteran.

Osumi, Fred M., 80, Moses Lake, Wash., Feb. 11; Yakima-Wash. born, WWII veteran.

Otsuki, David Keith, 38, Denver, June 21; Watsonville-born U.S. Marine veteran.

Oyama, Kajiro, 99, Lemon Grove, June 24; the issei farmer who successfully fought the California alien land law (48).

Ozaki, Harold "Cappy", 82, Honolulu, Sept. 11; respected long-time baseball coach, finance manager of Senior AJA baseball tournament for 60 years, WWII veteran.

Ozaki, Kichiro "Toyonishiki", 78, Fukuko, Japan; Colorado-born first Nisei professional sumoist in prewar Japan.

Ozawa, Osamu, 72, Las Vegas, April 14; Kobe-born grand master of the Traditional Karate International.

Philips, Oscar, 90, Phoenix, April 5; science teacher at Gila River internment camp's Butte High School, (42-44).

Pagano, Mary, 84, Denver, Jan. 18; Penn.-born social sciences teacher at Heart Mountain High School during WWII.

Philips, Oscar, 90, Phoenix, April 5; science teacher at Gila River internment camp's Butte High School, 42-44.

Saito, George Y., 76, Nyssa, Ore., Dec. 10 (97); WWII veteran.

Saito, Mary Irene, 74, Montebello, Feb. 17; Illinois-born, member of VFW Nisei Post 9902.

Sakurai, Sadao, 67, Montebello, April 8; Los Angeles-born WWII veteran.

Sesaki, Frank, 70, Lodi, Dec. 17; former JACL Lodi chapter president.

Sekirak, Emil, 65, Hayward, June 29; longtime JA community friend, WRA administrator at Topaz, postwar education director of Consumers Cooperative in Berkeley.

Shigekuni, Shizuyo, 102, Gardena, May 1; Hiroshima-born.

Shikuma, Hiroshi "Heek", 78, Watsonville, Feb. 17; 442nd Purple Heart veteran, Watsonville JACL president (56).

Shinoda, Minoru, Castro Valley, May 21; Eden Township JACL president (49 '51). JANM board of governors.

Smith, Robert B.W., MD, 73, Bethesda, Md., Jan. 30; Recife, Brazil-born, Washington, D.C., JACL, chief of medicine at Johnson AFB near Tokyo and at Andrews AFB, Washington, D.C.; in private practice from 1971, taught at George Washington University Hospital; medical director at the National Science Foundation (85-89), ornithologist and accomplished painter of birds.

Suzuki, James, 62, Washington, D.C. March 9; Los Angeles-born retired president-CEO for Hadley Memorial Hospital, member of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations.

Suzuki, Shinichi, 99, Matsumoto, Japan, Jan. 26, pioneered in the '50s teaching toddlers as early as 3 years to play musical instruments by ear.

Takahashi, Robert C., 81, Morro Bay, June 28; founder and president of the French Camp JACL (49-50); NCWN district chair (50-51), national JACL 3rd v.p. (52-54), state correctional officer and records manager.

Takahashi, Thomas, 67, Sacramento, April 22; Florin-born Korean War veteran.

Takata, Thomas M., 77, Santa Fe, Springs, Feb. 10; Seattle-born WWII veteran.

Takemori, Akira E., Ph.D., 68, Carlsbad, March 12; Stockton-born, formerly of Edina, Minn.; recipient of Nathan B. Eddy Award for excellence in research; past president of the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics.

Tamura, Hiro, 84, Albuquerque, N.M., Feb. 5; Puyallup Valley, Wash.-born graduate of the Chicago Art Institute, winner of a scholarship to study in France.

Tanabe, Henry Teruo, 72, Rancho Cordova, Jan. 22; member VFW, American Legion.

Taniguchi, Alan, 75, Austin, Texas, Jan. 14; Stockton-born noted architect and educator, received both the AIA-Whitney M. Young Jr. Citation for social activism and the Llewellyn W. Pitts Award for lifetime achievement in architecture (97).

Tanoue, Sumio A., 86, Los Angeles, Jan. 11 service; Hawaii-born, WWII veteran.

Togami, Frank Toru, 72, San Jose, Mar. 12; Vacaville-born WWII veteran.

Tomita, Theodore, 86, Mercer Island, Wash., Jan. 4; founded West Coast Printing with his brother Paul in 1930. The Japanese typesets and equipment in their firm in the International District were stored during WWII. They reopened the shop after the war; it was firebombed in '92 in wake of the Rodney King beating trial in Los Angeles.

Toshiyuki, Sachi, Fresno, Nov. 15 (97); longtime Fresno JACLer, United Japanese Christian Church leader.

Toyoda, Donald, 86, Turlock, April 18; Mt. Eden-born director of California Cannery & Growers.

Toyota, Shizuye, 74, Los Angeles, Jan. 6; former Reverend of Tenrikyo Compton Church.

Tsuboi, Joe J., 72, Lindsay, June 18; Lindsay-born WWII MIS veteran.

Tsudama, Ben, 79, Fresno, Dec. 27 (97); C.P.A., prominent Fresno Buddhist churchman.

Tsujimoto, Katsumi, 82, Hayward, Mar. 21; San Francisco-born WWII veteran.

Tsukamoto, Mary, 82, Sacramento, Jan. 6; San Francisco-born civil rights and community activist, educator, co-author of *We the People*, recipient of "Notable Californian in Asian American History" and Californian Asian Pacific Sesqui-centennial awards; Elk Grove, Calif., elementary school named in her honor.

Tsutsui, Kaoru, 93, Pocomo, Jan. 23; Kochi-born recipient of the Fifth Order of the Rising Sun Award.

Tsutsui, Robert M., 81, Gardena, Feb. 17; Los Angeles-born member American Legion.

Uchiyama, Raymond S., 68, Campbell, Oct. 23; West Valley JACL charter member, president (71, 94).

Umezui, Tsutomu, 79, San Francisco, Nov. 15; Sacramento-born Kibei, postwar journalist, San Francisco *Nichibei Times* president at the time of his death.

Uno, Harry Kenji, 78, Los Angeles, Dec. 8 (97); Aut. Colo-born WW II veteran.

Uyeda, Akimasa Ike, 78, Los Angeles, Mar. 25; San Francisco-born, WWII veteran.

Uyemura, George Joji, 75, Los Angeles, Jan. 20; Cupertino-born WWII veteran.

Vogt, Michael, 87, Fresno, Feb. 22; Russian-born German printer, good friend to the Nikkei before, during and after WWII.

Wada Yoritada "Yori", 80, San Francisco, Nov. 27 (97); Hanford-born WWII-MIS veteran, first Nisei to be appointed to the University of California board of regents (77-'92). Honors graduate in journalism at UC Berkeley in 1940; San Francisco civil service commissioner, member of many civic and social agency boards.

Wakabayashi, Lynn, 42, Tokyo, Dec. 26 (97); Washington, D.C., born koto master and linguist, first foreigner to receive M.A. degree at Tokyo University of Fine Arts and Music, organizer of Yamada-Ryu Koto Ensemble of Tokyo.

Watanabe, Fumika, 100, Gardena, Aug. 12.

Yabuno, Robert, 78, Fresno, Feb. 27; Fresno JACLer, one of the first Nikkei optometrists in Fresno.

Yaki, George, Chicago, Nov. 26 (97); 442 veteran, recipient of Bronze Star.

Yamada, Harry Shigeo, 100, San Mateo, March 31.

Yamada, Harry Shigeo "Jiggs", 99, San Mateo, Mar. 31; Kikumoto-born member of the original San Jose Asahi Baseball Team.

Yamagishi, James, 78, San Mateo, Mar. 8, WWII veteran.

Vogt, Michael, 87, Fresno, Feb. 22; Russian-born German printer, good friend to the Nikkei before, during and after WWII.

Yamano, Shige, 102, Gilroy, Aug. 28; Wakayama-born.

Yamada, Lucy Motoko (Kuni), 101, Riverside, Mar. 9; Okayama-born.

Yamashita, Abbot Kenko, 87, Altadena, Feb. 20; Gifu-born, sixth abbot of Daijryu Temple of Japan, eighth abbot of Zenshuji Soto Mission of Los Angeles, recipient of the Sacred Treasure with Gold and Silver Rays from the Japanese government.

Yamazaki, Fr. John, 83, Santa Monica, Jan. 29; Los Angeles-born pastor of St. Mary's Episcopal Church; Episcopal missionary for the Asian American community; accompanied his parishioners to Gila River relocation center, helped in southern Ohio postwar relocation program.

Yasutaki, Ruth Sonoko (Tahara), 74, Evanston, Ill., Mar. 23; retired Evanston school teacher, member, Chicago JACL board of directors.

Yego, Hike Masayuki, 87, Penryn, Dec. 17 (97); Newcastle-born deputy constable, county marshal, Placer County JACL president ('38, '87-'88); co-founded the Central Gas Co. in Loomis when returning evacuees were denied service.

Yukawa, Yoshiaki, 81, North Hollywood, Dec. 12 (97); Penryn-born WWII veteran. ■

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