

# Pacific Citizen

Newsstand: 25¢

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

#2862 / Vol. 128, No. 5 ISSN: 0030-8579

National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)

Mar. 5-18, 1999

## Reconciliation coming slowly for draft resisters

BY MARTHA NAKAGAWA  
Assistant Editor

It's an issue that still divides the community.

Fiftysome years ago, 315 draft resisters, most notably the 85 Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee members, challenged the United States government during World War II. They resisted volunteering for the U.S. armed forces until they and their families were released from concentration camps and restored their constitutional rights.

For this, many in the Nikkei

research and months of discussion.

"It was passed without any problems," said Uratsu. "The feeling is that they (resisters) were doing what they thought was right. The MISers took the step we did because we thought that was right. But the ultimate goal for both groups was to fight for justice and freedom. The goal is the same, just the approach is different. With 50 years of hindsight, we can see that very clearly."

He added, "If the resisters or their family or offsprings were

tain Fair Play Committee in recognition that the action taken by the resisters were done in good faith and conscience as loyal citizens of the United States."

According to Uratsu, the Northern California MIS group was inspired to take action after the Hawaii 442nd Club, the largest Nikkei veterans' group, approved a resolution of reconciliation last summer on Aug. 3, 1998. It passed unanimously.

Ernest Uno, the 442nd Club chaplain, noted that many Hawaiian veterans, after learning of the controversial "loyalty



PHOTO: MARTHA NAKAGAWA

Nine members of the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee were honored by the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations at a Day of Remembrance ceremony at the Japanese American National Museum.

community ostracized and vilified the resisters, labeling them as "disloyal Americans." Ironically, some of these same resisters would go on to serve in the Korean War.

While the rift in the community is still visible, some of the very groups whose members once denounced the resisters are slowly extending the olive branch of reconciliation.

Of note was the passage of a resolution on Jan. 28, by the Northern California Military Intelligence Service, considered the largest MIS group on the continental United States, numbering 350 members.

According to Marvin Uratsu, Northern California MIS president, the resolution passed almost unanimously after careful

caused any anxiety because they were ostracized by some of our people, then its high time that this gesture of reconciliation be extended. We need to come together and fight together because that common enemy — racism — is still out there."

The resolution read in part: "Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Military Intelligence Service Association of Northern California belatedly commend each of the resisters and the members of the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee for their civil disobedience in seeking fair play and restoration of their civil rights. Resolved further that the hand of reconciliation and understanding be extended to each of the resisters, their immediate family, and to the Heart Mountain

questionnaire that mainlanders were subjected to, admitted that they had been put in the same situation they would probably not have volunteered for the U.S. army."

"The resisters fought on grounds of constitutional civil rights violation," said Uno. "These people certainly were in their own right. They were not criminals, law breakers, traitors or yellow dogs as they were called. They were bold and extraordinarily courageous. ... Now, if they had done something illegal, I'd have different thoughts about this."

In an effort to lift the burden of ostracism from the remaining resisters, their children and their grandchildren, the Hawaii 442nd Club drew up the resolution, said Uno.

See RESISTERS/ Page 12

## Battle lines being drawn in likely renomination of Bill Lann Lee

BY CAROLINE AOYAGI  
Executive Editor

If you thought the president's impeachment trial was ugly, get ready for the battle that's sure to ensue over Clinton's likely renomination of Bill Lann Lee for the position of assistant attorney general for civil rights.

In mid-February, Clinton made known his intentions to renominate Lee to the position he has held in an acting capacity for the past 14 months. But even before the renomination has been made official, something that is likely to occur later this month, Republicans, led by Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), have already begun to warn Clinton against re-submitting Lee's nomination.

Their arguments against Lee haven't changed since Clinton first attempted to have him confirmed to the nation's top civil rights post in 1997. Conservatives accused Lee of supporting affirmative action policies and stalled his nomination in the Senate. So in December of 1997 Clinton appointed Lee to the position in an acting capacity while Congress was in recess.

"During Lee's tenure, the Justice Department has advocated the same policies that initially led to his failure to be confirmed as assistant attorney general," said Sen. Hatch, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. "The Senate has already considered the nomination of Bill Lann Lee for this position," he added, urging the White House to nominate a "confirmable candidate."

Sen. Hatch points out that since Lee's temporary status has exceeded 14 months, he is in vio-

lation of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act that Clinton signed in October of 1998, something the White House firmly disagrees with.

Hatch's comments coincided with the release of a report on Lee by the Institute for Justice, a conservative legal group in Washington, D.C. They accuse Lee of pushing an affirmative action agenda, writing, "the Civil Rights Division under Lee persists in using its legal arsenal to impose, support and defend racial preferences without regard to the rule of law and to the detriment of all Americans."

But opposition to Lee's nomination is being met with an equal number of vocal supporters. The White House points to Lee's proven track record during the past year and a half as the nation's chief civil rights enforcer, overseeing federal laws on hate crimes, fair housing policies, and the rights of the disabled.

His supporters from the African American, Latino, and Asian American communities describe Lee as a consensus builder, always looking to find a solution to fighting discrimination. They call the criticism aimed at Lee over affirmative action policies misguided, for any and all actions are in step with his boss,



See LEE/ Page 10

## Newest JLA lawsuit seeks full redress

Three Japanese Latin American brothers have joined a growing list of former World War II internees choosing to opt out of the recently reached *Mochizuki et al. vs. the United States* settlement agreement to file separate lawsuits against the government.

Isamu Carlos Shibayama, 68, Kenichi Javier Shibayama, 64, and Takeshi Jorge Shibayama, 61, filed the joint lawsuit on Feb. 18 in San Jose, Calif., District Court, charging the U.S. government with discrimination, violation of U.S. and international laws, and breach of fiduciary duty when they, along with more than 2,000 JLA's, were forcibly kidnapped and interned in American concentration camps during WWII for the purposes of prisoner exchanges with Japan.

The Shibayama brothers are seeking the same compensation awarded to Japanese American former internees under the 1988 Civil Liberties Act, legislation that provided a presidential apology and a redress payment of \$20,000 to the JA internees. JLA's continue to be denied inclusion in the Act because of a provision requiring former internees to have been U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents at the time of their internment.

Although the *Mochizuki* lawsuit filed in 1996 had also sought inclusion in the '88 Act, the settlement agreement reached in January of this year, providing a presidential apology but only a \$5,000 redress payment, left a bittersweet taste for the Shibayama brothers. Thus, they chose to exercise their option to opt out of the settlement to pursue a separate lawsuit.

In addition, the plaintiffs want equitable distribution of the Civil Liberties Fund under the '88 Act, a fund of \$1.65 billion set up to educate the American public about the JA internment experience and to pay the token redress payments. The Shibayamas argue that because JLA's are denied inclusion under the '88 Act, very little of the fund money has been spent on telling the story of the JLA WWII internment experience.

The Shibayamas' lawsuit is similar to the one filed last August by former JLA internee Koshio Henry Shima, 74. His case is now before the Court of Federal Claims in Washington, D.C.

In total, eighteen JLA's, including the Shibayamas, have opted out of the *Mochizuki* settlement agreement thus far. ■

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ANNIVERSARY

**Pacific Citizen to return to a weekly**

Beginning in June, the *Pacific Citizen* will be returning to a weekly publication schedule. The decision was announced at the Feb. 12-14 JACL national board meeting in San Francisco. The P.C. editorial board had passed a similar resolution at its meeting on Jan. 30-31 in Los Angeles.

For over fifty years the P.C. was a weekly publication, but due to financial constraints it was reduced to a semi-monthly three years ago.

Further details will be provided in upcoming issues of the P.C. ■

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: JACL National Headquarters, 1785 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115

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© 1998 (ISSN: 0030-8579) PACIFIC CITIZEN is published semi-monthly except once in December. OFFICE HOURS — Mon-Fri., 9:30 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.  
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## JACL Calendar

### Eastern

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
Fri.-Tue., March 26-30—JACL/OCA Leadership Conference: Double Tree Hotel. Info: Wash. D.C. Representative Bob Spahn, 202/223-1240, dco@jao.org or National Director Herb Yamanishi, 415/921-5225, jad@jao.org.  
Thurs.-Sun., July 4—JACL Tri-District Conference "The Dream Continues: One America in the 21st Century." at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City. SEABROOK  
Sat. March 13—Annual JACL Chow Mein dinner at Woodruff School. Art and flower exhibits, ornaments, artifacts and homemade food. Contact: Seabrook chapter at 609/451-8393

### Midwest

**DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
Fri.-Sun., March 5-7—District Council Meeting, Indianapolis.  
**CLEVELAND**  
Sat. March 13—Day of Remembrance Luncheon, 1-5 p.m.; Wildlife Presbyterian Church, 29555 Ridge Rd., Wickliffe. Info: Steve Yano, 216/348-3059. Program will include multi-media presentation, music, dancing.  
**TWIN CITIES**  
Sat. March 13—Deadline for high school graduates' scholarship applications. Info: Pam Dagobert, 612/557-2946.  
**WISCONSIN**  
Wed. Apr. 26—"Gambling Junkie," sponsored by the San Jui Kai and Wisconsin JACL. Open to members and friends. Info: Eddie Jonokuchi, 414/691-1404

### Mountain Plains

**DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
Fri.-Sat., March 19-20—District Council Meeting, Houston.  
**HOUSTON**  
Sat.-Fri., March 20-26—Houston Caper Invitational Golf Classic. For info: Mas Yamasaki, 281/370-1503.

## COMMUNITY Calendar

### East Coast

**NEW YORK**  
Sat. March 13—Day of Remembrance program/potluck, "A Musical Memoir," 2-5 p.m.; Japanese American Association, 15 W. 44th St. Info: Amy & Don Funabiki, 210/447-4976; Julie Azuma, 212/807-8104; Courtney Goto, 212/353-9146.  
Sat. April 3—Inaugural Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk will benefit the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation. For more info: 301/530-0048, 202/244-2149, 703/938-8185.

### The Midwest

**BRANSON, MO.**  
Mon.-Sun., May 17-23—"Branson '99" tribute to Japanese American veterans. Info: Hy Shishino, 562/926-8159; travel, hotel & tour info: Eiko Yamamoto c/o Chase Travel Service, 800/204-5100.  
**CLEVELAND**  
Sun. April 26—Cultural reception hosted by the African American Museum, 6-10 p.m.

### The Northwest

**TACOMA**  
Mon. March 8—Day of Remembrance Forum, 6:30 p.m.; Tacoma Public Library, 11 St. & Tacoma Ave. South. Info: Library, 253/591-5666, or Lailani Taniguchi, 206/878-0701. Co-sponsored by Puyallup Valley JACL, Temple Beth El, Tacoma Public Library, Tacoma Community College. Program will include the film, "The Last Day, a Dachau Concentration Camp."  
Thurs. March 11—Asian Adult Adoptees of Washington will speak about children adopted from Asia and their impact on American society at the Wing Luke Museum from 6 p.m. Admission is free. For more info: Byron 206/323-5124 ext. 114.

### Northern California

**SACRAMENTO**  
Sat. March 6—Time of Remembrance program, 7 p.m.; Florin Buddhist Hall, 7235 Pritchard Rd., NORTON. The theme will be "Unfinished Business: Continuing the Quest for Justice";

### Intermountain

**SALT LAKE CITY**  
Sat. March 6—National JACL Credit Union annual meeting: 6 p.m. social hour, 6:30 dinner, 7:30 entertainment, 8 p.m. business meeting/elections. Little America Hotel, 500 S. Main St., Salt Lake City. RSVP: 801/355-8040, 800/544-8828.

### Pacific Northwest

**PORTLAND**  
Tue.-Sat., Feb. 21-Apr. 3—"Art from Intermountain Camps" exhibit; features art from JAs during the WWII internment camps. Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 117 NW 2nd Ave., Portland. Hours: Fri. and Sat., 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and Sunday, 12 p.m.-3 p.m. Info: June Arima Schumann, executive director, 503/224-1458.

### NC-WN-Pacific

**DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
Fri.-Sun., April 23-25—Tri-District Conference, Scottsdale, Ariz.; Ramada Inn Hotel Valley Ho-in downtown; \$85 per room, single or double, and \$90 for a mini-suite; only 50 rooms are available.  
**BERKELEY**  
Sat. March 20—"Celebrating the Culmination of Life in our Asian Communities"; co-sponsored by JASEB and PACTS; registration deadline Mar. 10. Info: 510/848-3560.  
**CONTRA COSTA**  
Sun. March 7—Senior Appreciation/ Scholarship Awards luncheon, Maple Hall, San Pablo.

**FLORIN**  
Sat. March 6—Florin Chapter Day of Remembrance program; see Community Calendar for details.  
Sat. March 6—"Unfinished Business," 7 p.m.; Florin YBA Hall, 7235 Pritchard Rd.  
**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

keynote speaker Grace Shimizu, Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project chair. The historical exhibit is open 1-4 p.m., also Sunday 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Info: Christine Uehara, 424-2841.

Sat. March 13—Tsubaki Dance Club annual spring dance, 7:30-11:30 p.m.; Scottish Rite Temple, 6151 "H" St. Tickets, info: George Kashiwagi, 916/363-5941; Tosh Matsumoto, 916/429-8600; Nob Kunita, 916/726-5521; Don Iyeki, 707/448-2563.  
**SAN FRANCISCO**  
Thurs.-Thurs., March 11-18—NAATA's (National Asian American Telecommunications Association) 17th San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival. Info: www.naatanet.org or 415/863-0814.

**BERKELEY**  
Sat. March 13—The Japanese Women Alumnae of UC Berkeley will hold their annual luncheon at the Alumni House. Keynote speaker will be Naomi Nakashima MD, '56, medical school, '60. Scholarship recipients will also be honored. Fee is \$25. For info: Michiko Uchida, 1201 Hopkins St., Berkeley, CA 94702.

**SAN PABLO**  
Sat. March 27—Cherry Blossom Festival Scholarship announcement; applications must be postmarked by March 27. Open to graduating high school seniors of Japanese American descent. Info: Yoko Olsgaard, 1830 Bonita Rd., San Pablo, Calif. 94806-4167, or call 415/201-9869.

### Southern California

**IMPERIAL COUNTY**  
Sat. March 13—Imperial Valley Nikkei Reunion, Banquet 6 p.m.; Barbara Worth Convention Center, Holtville. Info: Tim Sarnen, 760/244-2627. Rebus from Los Angeles: Nancy Matsumoto Matsuda, 323/888-9922.  
Sun. March 14—Tri County Golf Tournament, 8 a.m. start; Barbara Worth Country Club, Holtville. For more info: Bruce Sanbonmatsu, 760/356-1659, 760/353-6660.  
**LOS ANGELES**  
Fri. March 5—Pan American Nikkei Association (PANA) will hold a general meeting at the Miyako Inn in Little Tokyo from 6:30. Fee is \$25. For more info: Henry Onodera 323/338-1235.

Sat. March 27—"Oldies Dance VI" at the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese

chapter.  
**WATSONVILLE**  
Wed.-Fri., June 2-11—JACL Senior Center Tours: Grand Canadian Rockies. Info: Shig T. Kizuka, 831/724-0116 (between 6 p.m.-10 p.m.) or call Morris/Jane Kosakura, 800/858-2882.

### Central California

**DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
Sat. March 13 (date change)—District Council Meeting hosted by Fowler chapter.  
Fri. March 26—CCDC scholarship deadline.  
Sat. March 27—CCDC Golf Tournament, Fresno.  
Fri.-Sun., April 23-25—Tri-District Conference, Scottsdale, Ariz.

### Pacific Southwest

**DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
Fri.-Sun., April 23-25—Tri-District Conference (CCDC/PSW/NCWNP), Scottsdale, Ariz.  
**LOS ANGELES**  
Fri. March 5—Pan American Nikkei Assoc.'s dinner; Miyako Inn & Restaurant, Little Tokyo, 6:30 p.m., \$25 per person. Info and reservations: June Hayashi, 323/264-4490.

**ARIZONA**  
Sun. April 18—Scholarship Awards Banquet, 1 p.m.; Ramada Valley Ho Resort, 6850 Main St., Scottsdale. Info: Kathy Inoshita, 602/937-5434.

**ORANGE COUNTY**  
Fri.-Sun., June 25-27—1999 National Youth Student Conference; University of California, Irvine. Info: Patricia Tsai Tom, 559/486-6815, jclco@uci.edu; Hiromi Ueha, chair, uehah@uci.edu.  
**GREATER L.A. SINGLES**  
Fri.-Sun., Sept. 3-5—Eighth National JACL Singles Convention. Info: Georgeann Maeda, 415/753-3340; Gale Kondo, 415/337-9981.

**LAS VEGAS**  
Mon. March 15—Deadline for chapter scholarship applications. Info: Don Frazer, 702/878-2472.

**RIVERSIDE**  
Sat. March 13—New/Old Board Potluck Dinner, 6 p.m.; Inaba residence. Info: 909/682-8116.

**COMMUNITY CENTER** \$10 presale, \$12 at the door. Must be 21 or over. For info and song requests, call Joanie at 626/284-8192, 909/595-6183 or Frank 714/890-1776.

Fri.-Sun., April 16-18—Rohrer Reunion II, Torrance Marriott Hotel, Torrance. Info: So. Calif.—Peggy Tsuneta, 310/323-6337, Frank Yamaguchi, 310/329-2547, Chuckie Watanabe Seki, 213/933-3027, Betty Oka, 714/36-8207, Helen Takata, 626/66-2966. No. Calif.—Nellie Utsumi Naguchi, 415/387-5265, Lillian Uyeda Inouye, 510/235-6042, Asako Hiroto Maeda, 510/322-2275, Yone Kumura Asai, 510/828-2086. NOTE: Golf starting time 9 a.m.; handicaps as of Feb. 1999.

Sat. April 24—30th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage. Info: Sue Embrey, committee chair, 310/662-5102.  
Sat. May 29—40th anniversary of the Asia American Symphony Concerts, James Armstrong Theater at Torrance Cultural Arts Center. Buy one ticket and bring a guest for free. Info: 310/366-7525.  
Sat. June 10—WWII 100th/442nd MIS "Go For Broke" monument unveiling ceremonies/luncheon, Central Ave. bet. 1st & Temple, Little Tokyo. Info: tickets: 310/527-4193.

**SAN DIEGO**  
Sat. March 13—Ocean View United Church of Christ will hold an Aloha/Farewell luncheon for Rev. Tom Fujita and his wife at Tom Ham's Lighthouse Restaurant. For more info: Christine Yoshioka 619/233-3620.

**Correction**  
Assemblyman Honda's bill, AB 236, regarding the sale of live animals in Calif., was introduced, not passed by the state legislature last Dec., as was printed in the P.C. (Feb. 19-Mar. 4). Also, the SF Board of Supervisors has never held hearings regarding an important ban. Rather, the issue came before the Animal Welfare Commission.

**Correction**  
An article titled, "Branson: Tribute or Tribulation?" that appeared in the Feb. 19-Mar. 4 edition of the Pacific Citizen incorrectly stated that the executive director of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation in Washington, D.C., was Cherry Kinoshi. It should be Cherry Tsutsumi.



# Protest over Ho Chi Minh poster continues in Little Saigon

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

WESTMINSTER, Calif.—The sweet-smelling bakeries and pungent fish markets that line the streets are normally a peaceful gathering place for Vietnamese refugees and Vietnamese Americans who make this sunny Southern California city their home.

But in recent weeks, the community known as Little Saigon has attracted riot gear-clad police and demonstrators enraged by a video store owner's display of the Vietnamese communist government flag and a poster of its late leader Ho Chi Minh.

"This communist flag we call the blood flag. This is like the swastika," said Vietnamese American protester Ky Ngo. "What they feel is hurt, anger."

The symbols, protesters say, are as offensive to the 200,000 ethnic Vietnamese who live in Westminster as a swastika and a picture of Adolf Hitler would be to Jews who suffered during the Holocaust. Many who survived atrocities under Ho Chi Minh's regime say this has reopened wounds they have struggled to heal since the fall of South Vietnam in 1975.

The emblems had been hanging on the walls of his video store for months without much trouble, owner Truong Van Tran said.

After someone eventually did knock down his picture of Ho, Tran faced a taunt to anti-communist activists in the area in mid-January. It read, "Here, I dare all of you ... if you all think you are great, then go ahead, come over to clear

me out."

Vietnamese American community members and even some American veterans of the Vietnam War called his bluff with round-the-clock demonstrations, with crowds recently reaching 10,000. Tran himself has been assaulted at least twice, dozens of demonstrators have been cited and several have been arrested.

Some view Tran's plight as a fight for freedom of speech, including the ACLU of Southern California which is providing Tran with free legal representation.

Others believe he is simply a media hood seeking attention.

But protesters see a bigger picture: Tran as a pawn of Vietnamese government officials intent on wreaking havoc among those who fled their homeland. How the community reacts is a test of whether Vietnamese Americans can stand up to their former rulers, they alleged.

"If we lose today, we have no hope for the Vietnamese people," said Thanh Nguyen, a 40-year-old salesman who joined a massive protest outside Tran's store Feb. 20. "This is a very important event."

Ngo urged fellow protesters to be nonviolent, then cried nearby as some of them clashed with police.

At least 12 people were arrested after clashing with police as their vigil lasted late into the night, authorities said. Some protesters praised police, while others challenged officers to stand up to Tran in honor of the Vietnam vets.

Tran has denied having any con-

nect to the Vietnamese government. He told reporters at an ACLU conference Feb. 19 that his family actually fought the communists during the Vietnam War.

Tran said he began displaying the communist emblems after a visit to Vietnam in November, which was his first trip back since 1980. He claimed that Vietnam un-

der communist rule is better than most Vietnamese Americans believe, and he wanted to persuade others in the community to establish better relations with their homeland, he said.

He took down the flag and portrait after a judge ordered him to



PHOTO: JEW LEW

Protestors rally in front of the Little Saigon video store displaying a poster of Ho Chi Minh.

do so but then re-hung them Feb. 20 after the judge reversed her own decision.

Tran's landlord has since ordered him to vacate the property for failure to pay rent and for causing a disturbance. That dispute may have to be settled in court.

The Communist Party newspaper *Nhan Dan* (People) has criti-

cized the United States for what has happened to Tran, saying it is unacceptable that "extremists" had been allowed to attack him.

Meanwhile, the Westminster Police Department and the Orange County Human Relations Commission (OCHRC) have been collaborating with the Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA), an umbrella agency of 19 community-based API organizations, in an effort to gain cultural awareness so that they may better mediate the situation.

Vietnamese American attorney and community mediator with the OCAPICA, Daniel Do-Khanh, has been called in to help with the mediation process.

"As a community-based organization, OCAPICA has been very concerned with the situation in Little Saigon," said longtime resident Do-Khanh in a press statement. "We want to assist in any way to ensure that the Vietnamese community remains intact through this whole ordeal."

The Westminster Police Department has demonstrated its strong desire to keep the protest peaceful without infringing upon anyone's free speech rights by asking OCAPICA and OCHRC to mediate, Do-Khanh continued.

"I, along with OCHRC mediators, have met with the store owner and the protest organizers to gain a firm understanding of their interests and positions," he said. "We will continue working with them to find any possible solution to this conflict, or at the very least, avoid any escalation that could lead to violence."

## Ten year program to compensate JA WWII internees closes its doors

WASHINGTON, D.C.—After paying out more than \$1.6 billion to more than 82,250 persons of Japanese ancestry who were interned during World War II, the Justice Department's Office of Redress Administration has officially closed its doors.

The redress program, which was established by the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, acknowledges, apologizes, and makes restitution for the fundamental injustice of the evacuation, relocation, and internment of Japanese Americans during WWII. The Justice Department's Office of Redress Administration (ORA) was charged with administering the 10 year program which, by operation of law, officially closed on Feb. 5. Final figures were released recently.

"This was a tragic chapter in the history of our nation," said Attorney General Janet Reno. "The U.S. government recognized the injustice of its actions during the war and provided a presidential apology and compensation. It was a time when we took away the liberty of

an entire community of Americans."

"This is a great example of a program that worked," said Bill Lann Lee, acting assistant attorney general for civil rights. "We set out to locate every possible claimant who was interned nearly half a century ago. And through our efforts, we have accounted for almost 99 percent of them. That's a remarkable accomplishment."

Among the 82,219 individuals paid were 189 Japanese Latin American claimants eligible for the full \$20,000 in redress compensation under the Act because they had the required permanent residency status or U.S. citizenship during the defined war period.

In addition, ORA paid \$5,000 to 145 JAs who were deported from their homes in Latin America during WWII and held in internment camps in the U.S. These payments stem from an agreement resolving a 1996 civil suit filed by four JAs. The agreement, which settles the so-called *Mochizuki* case, calls for all qualified class members to re-

ceive a presidential apology letter and \$5,000 in compensation, to the extent that funds were remaining under the act. Final payments and apologies are to be mailed in February and March.

The vast majority of *Mochizuki* claimants have responded so that ORA has successfully resolved almost 600 claims from approximately 710 applications. To the extent that funds were remaining under the act, as required by the settlement, ORA then paid a total of 145 claims to the JLA class.

As previously promised by the administration, ORA is hopeful that additional funding will be obtained through legislation to compensate the remaining eligible JAs and almost 400 qualified claimants will be eligible for payment at that time.

If individuals have questions about their files or payments, contact the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, at P.O. Box 66280, Washington, D.C., 20035-6280 or call 202/219-6900 or (TDD) 202/219-4710. ■

## Settlement apparently would outlaw race-based admissions

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO—San Francisco schools' and the NAACP agreed recently to abandon race-based school admissions to settle a suit by Chinese American students who were kept out of the schools they wanted to attend by quotas.

The settlement, which gained preliminary approval from a federal judge, would eliminate racial and ethnic ceilings that have been enforced at each San Francisco school for 15 years.

It also would prohibit assigning any of the district's 62,000 students to a school, class or program solely on the basis of race or ethnicity, but would let the district consider diversity, along with economics and geography, in a new assignment plan starting in the fall of 2000.

The ban on racial and ethnic admissions would take effect this fall only for students in kindergarten and the sixth and ninth grade, and for students new to the district. It would cover all students the following year.

The settlement leaves the district's overall desegregation efforts under court supervision through the end of 2002. That means the district should be able to keep \$37 million a year that it now receives from the state for remedial and enrichment classes and other programs to eliminate the effects of segregation, said Anthony Anderson, an associate superintendent.

U.S. District Judge William Orrick praised all sides for bringing the case to a "successful and peaceful solution" and avoiding a potentially divisive trial, which was to have started Tuesday. He gave preliminary approval to the settlement, and scheduled a hearing on final approval for April 20.

The enrollment ceilings, to be repealed this fall, set a limit of 45 percent on enrollment of any racial or ethnic group at a school, and a 40 percent limit at alternative or "magnet" schools.

The latter category includes elite Lowell High, which has an entrance examination and counts Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer and former Gov. Pat Brown among its alumni. The limits are

part of a desegregation program, approved by Orrick in 1983, that ended 1975 discrimination suit by the NAACP.

Daniel Gerard, lawyer for three Chinese American students and their parents who filed the suit in 1994, said the settlement "in many ways (is) better than what we could have achieved through litigation," since it gives the parents a role in working with the school district and overseeing compliance.

"We think this gives control of the district back to the population of San Francisco," he said.

"This is definitely worth the fight," said Charlene Loen, whose 14-year-old son, plaintiff Patrick Wong, was denied admission to Lowell High in 1994 because the school then required higher test scores from Chinese Americans than other ethnic groups.

That policy has been changed, but the 1983 court order still has the effect of curbing Lowell's Chinese American enrollment, the largest of any group.

Wong, 18, now attends the University of California, Irvine. The other two plaintiffs were denied admission to neighborhood elementary schools because Chinese American enrollment already exceeded 45 percent.

The settlement comes at a time of increasing judicial hostility to race-based admissions. Last November, a federal appeals court struck down race as an admissions factor at the prestigious Boston Latin School, a ruling the school board decided not to appeal.

Orrick had refused to dismantle the San Francisco admissions system without a trial, ruling that some lingering effects of discrimination might justify a race-based program.

But in a pretrial order, Orrick said San Francisco and the NAACP were unlikely to meet the standard set by a federal appeals court in the case: proving that the current system was needed to remedy continuing discrimination.

The settlement will not end desegregation efforts, insisted NAACP lawyer Peter Cohn. He said the agreement would "continue to protect the educational rights of all children." ■

## Civil Liberties program selects project director, seats advisory board

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Diane M. Matsuda has been selected as the program director of the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program.

The education program was created last year by legislation introduced by Assemblyman Mike Honda (D-San Jose). The purpose of the program is to create educational material about the evacuation, relocation, and internment of American citizens of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

The program will be administered by the California State Library under the guidance of the state librarian, Dr. Kevin Starr.

Matsuda is a native of San Francisco. She previously administered a statewide program to send high school students to Japan and has lived there for five years, where she was the coordinator of the Osaka International House Foundation. She holds a Juris Doctor degree from Hastings College of Law in San Francisco

and worked for the Nihonmachi Legal Outreach in that city.

The 13 members of the advisory committee are: Jerry Enomoto, U.S. Marshall and former director of the State Department of Connections; Rabbi Gary Greenbaum, western regional director of the American Jewish Committee; Linda Griego, former deputy mayor of Los Angeles and president of Rebuild L.A.; Patrick Hayashi, associate to the president of the University of California; Carole Hayashino, director of development at California State University, San Francisco; Gene Itogawa, California Office of Historic Preservation; Mark Lorell, researcher at the RAND Corporation; Mitchell Maki, professor at UCLA's School of Public Policy; Haig Mardikian, owner of Mardikian Enterprises and a former commissioner of the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency; Gregory Rodriguez, associate editor of the *Pacific News Service* and

author of *The Emerging Latino Middle Class*; Dale Shimasaki, CEO, Strategic Education Services; George Takai, editor, author and member of the U.S.-Japan Friendship Commission; Ernest Weiner, chair of the American Jewish Committee.

Questions or inquiries should be directed to the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program, c/o California Research Bureau, 900 N. Street, #300, Sacramento, Calif. 94237-0001, 916/653-9404.

Grant applications are now available to any individual, organization, university or unit of government interested in creating a project to serve the purpose of the new program.

Please write or call for a grant application: CCLPER, 900 N. Street, #300, Sacramento, CA 94237-0001, 916/653-9404, Fax 916/654-5329, [dmatsuda@cclper.org](mailto:dmatsuda@cclper.org), [www.cclper.org](http://www.cclper.org).

## Calif. Assemblymembers Nakano, Honda introduce Day of Remembrance resolution

California's two Japanese American state legislators—Assemblyman Mike Honda (D-San Jose) and Assemblymember George Nakano (D-Torrance)—introduced a resolution declaring Feb. 19 as Day of Remembrance.

Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 15 commemorated the chronology of events surrounding the internment of JAs and resident aliens during World War II, beginning with President Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066 and culminating in the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

"We want the American public to realize the value of their civil rights," said Honda. "Other com-

munities must look at their own American experiences and understand that we all have a common interest in protecting those democratic ideals as Americans."

There was a special ceremony on Feb. 19, in the state Assembly gallery where veterans of the 100th Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team were honored.

Nakano paid special tribute to these men, praising "their unyielding belief in the greatness of our country by volunteering to fight despite the fact that their parents were locked behind barbed wire."

Nakano added, "It is only in a country as great as America that

we can talk about our past mistakes, learn from them and work toward the future so that this will never again happen to any group of people."

Both Honda and Nakano are former camp internees.

Assembly Speaker Antonio Villarreal, a joint author of the measure, underscored the affects of internment and the significance of ACR 15.

"Although these actions were directed at Japanese Americans, the impact reaches far beyond that singular community," said Villarreal. "There are so many important lessons we all must draw from this dark chapter in American history." ■

## Day of Remembrance in Southern California



PHOTO: MARTHA NAKAGAWA

The Japanese American National Museum and National Coalition for Redress/Reparations hosted a two-day Day of Remembrance in Los Angeles. The first day focused on the *coram nobis* letter. Pictured above are (l-r) Program Chair Glen Kitayama, Peter Irons, Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu and the late Minoru Yasui represented by his sister, Yuka Fujikura.

## California funded program seeks volunteers to preserve 100th/442nd/MIS veterans legacy

GARDENA, Calif.—Hanashi Voice of the Nisei Soldier Oral History Program, comprised of Sansei and Yonsei volunteers, is now seeking new volunteers to assist in a variety of production areas. Founded in June 1998, the Hanashi program, under the umbrella organization of the 100th/442nd/MIS WWII Memorial Foundation, is currently undertaking a two-year project to videotape 100 interviews of veterans of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service.

"Our time with the veterans is limited and this is why it is critical that their rich experiences be documented now, to ensure that their life stories are preserved for future generations," said Christine Sato, co-chair of the Hanashi Oral History Program and executive director of the 100th/442nd/MIS WWII Memorial Foundation. "The pro-

gram is building a comprehensive collection of videotaped interviews to educate all generations of the heroes and hardships the veterans and their families endured."

The Hanashi Oral History program documents veteran stories in nine regions throughout the United States that will create a comprehensive video archive of pre-military, military and post-military experience. This collection will be used to create educational materials and resources, including traveling visual exhibits, kiosks, documentaries and reference materials for K-12 teachers.

For more information about Hanashi Voice of the Nisei Soldier Oral History Program, contact Christine Sato at the 100th/442nd/MIS WWII Memorial Foundation, e-mail: GoFor-Breath@worldnet.att.net or call 310/715-3142. ■

## Two new Day of Remembrance videotapes

SAN FRANCISCO—The national Day of Remembrance is being commemorated this year with the release of two first-time-ever videotapes.

The behind the scene stories of three cases that made American history is told in "FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE: The Coram Nobis Cases." This videotape traces the cases of Minoru Yasui, Gordon Hirabayashi, and Fred Korematsu from the time they defied military orders that culminated in the incarceration of 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry during World War II, through their convictions, which were upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. In the 1980s, new research found the U.S. government suppressed, altered and destroyed crucial evidence in their original cases, and the three men were able to re-open their cases using a rarely called upon legal procedure called writ of error *coram nobis*. With the determination of young, predominantly Sansei legal teams, these courageous men fought for justice and ultimately won.

A panel discussion, held at the

Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., follows. For the first time ever, the principals and their attorneys discuss the cases on the same panel: Hirabayashi and Korematsu; Rodney Kawakami, Hirabayashi's lead counsel; Dale Minami, Korematsu's lead counsel; and Peggy Nagae, the lead counsel for Minoru Yasui, who died in 1968. The moderator is Karen Narasaki, the executive director of the National Asian Pacific Legal Consortium. The tape runs for one hour and 45 minutes.

"DAY OF REMEMBRANCE: The First National Ceremony" is a moving and emotional account of the first national Day of Remembrance ceremony held in Washington, D.C., last year. Hosted by actors George Takei and Tamlyn Tomita, it commemorates February 19, the day President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, as a day marking a civil liberties lesson for all Americans.

It includes a dramatic candle-lighting ceremony symbolizing the internment camps where people of Japanese ancestry spent the war years. Participants include former

Congressman Norman Y. Mineta; Joan Bernstein, who chaired the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians; poet Mitsuye Yamada; Fred Korematsu; Gordon Hirabayashi; and Congressman Robert T. Matsui of California. The tape is 90 minutes long.

The tapes were produced and directed by Gayle K. Yamada and Dianne Fukami of Media Bridges, Inc., a non-profit company, and was funded in part by the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund.

Proceeds will benefit Due Justice, an interactive multimedia documentary project tracing the history of the internment camps, the redress movement, and the impact redress has had on American civil liberties.

Each tape is available from Media Bridges, Inc., for \$29.95 plus tax, shipping, and handling, or for the set of two, \$49.95 plus tax, shipping, and handling.

For information, contact Media Bridges, Inc., at P.O. Box 2464, El Macero, Calif. 95618-1064. Call 530/297-0880, Fax 530/297-0881, or e-mail: gky@earthlink.net. ■

## Gila River Indian community permits

Permits to visit the former Japanese American Gila River Relocation Center sites of Canal Camp #1 and Butte Camp #2, located within the Gila River Indian Community lands in Pinal County, Ariz. can be obtained by contacting Elaine Nohah, land use ordinance officer, Dept. of Land & Water Resources, Gila River Indian Community, P.O. Box E, Sacaton, Ariz. 85247, 520/562-3301, Fax: 520/562-4008. Calls should be made to Nohah before applying. You will need to have proof of your intent.

Permit and entry fees are normally waived for persons who were interned in the camp during World War II, July 1942 to November 1945. Consideration is also given to the immediate family of those who were interned at Gila River. Non-internees and commercial applicants may be required to pay a \$100 administrative fee plus \$100 permit fee, and commercial applicants may be required to pay \$1,000 per day for filming. Visitors without bona fide business at the location are discouraged from entry into these posted areas.

There are cattle and horses in the area of the former Canal Camp #1 site. There are various citrus groves in the area of the former Butte Camp #2 site. These lands are Indian reservations, and thus, without a permit, you will be trespassing.

The Gila River Arts and Crafts Center museum has a

Japanese American Gila River Relocation Center exhibit with photographs, diagrams and maps of the area. The Gila River Heritage Park is adjacent to the center and has a memorial board telling of the internment during WWII. No permit is required for the Arts & Crafts Center or Heritage Park. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. everyday except for national holidays.

No permit is required for visiting the monument at the Poston camp site on the Colorado Indian Tribal Lands, south of Parker, Ariz.

For more information, call or write, 3234 W. Mercer Lane, Phoenix, Ariz. 85029-4204, Tel./Fax: 602/942-2832, c/o JACL Arizona chapter. ■

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## Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund seeks congressional fellow candidates

The Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund is currently seeking applicants for its eighth Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Fellow Program for the 1999-2000 term. "The successful candidate will serve his or her fellowship in the office of a U.S. Senator or member of the U.S. House of Representatives," said Dr. H. Tom Tamaki, chairman of the fund. "This marks the eighth call for candidates in this successful program."

The fellowship of three and one half months includes a stipend of \$7,500 provided by the fund. The term will open for September through December of 1999 or February through May of 2000. The choice of fall or

spring term will be arranged with the congressional office and the awardee. The deadline for applications is May 1, 1999.

Candidates must be American citizens, who are in at least their third year of college or in graduate or professional programs. Preference will be given to those having demonstrated commitment to Asian American issues, particularly affecting the Japanese American community. Communication skills, both written and oral, are important.

The Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund honors the late Masaoka for a lifetime of outstanding public service promoting justice, civil rights and human dignity. The major goal of

the fund, which will continue in perpetuity, is to encourage public service, granting awards to educate or train recipients for leadership in public service.

A recent awardee Andrew Daisuke Stewart concluded his service with Rep. Robert T. Matsui in December, 1998. Another selectee Christine Aya Nagao began her term with Rep. Patsy T. Mink on February 1, 1999.

Interested candidates should contact national JACL headquarters, 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, Calif. 94115 for application forms. They may also call 415/921-5225, FAX: 415/931-4671, or e-mail: JACL@JACL.org for information and applications. ■



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## National Board Meeting Motions Feb. 13-14

Motion: To accept the budget report as is. Made by: Lillian Kimura. Seconded by: Marie Matsunami. Carried.

Motion: To amend the food allotment per day to \$25. Made by: Floyd Mori. Seconded by: Coe Jeanne Morakami-Houck. Carried.

Motion: To support efforts to establish an Asian Pacific American Caucus and a National Diversity Task Force by the National School Board Association. Made by: Elaine Akagi. Seconded by: Murakami-Houck. Carried.

Motion: To charge the education committee, staff and Monterey Peninsula convention committee to review the feasibility of a self-supporting National Education Conference, in conjunction with the 2000 National Convention. Made by: Mori. Seconded by: Larry Grant. Carried.

Motion: To adopt the education committee's program for action. Made by: Murakami-Houck. Seconded by: Grant. Carried.

Motion: To implement the Pacific Citizen Editorial Board's recommendation to return to a weekly for a six month period from June to November 1999. Made by: Gary Mayeda. Seconded by: Murakami-Houck. Carried.

Motion: To accept the PC report. Made by: Kimura. Seconded by: Grant. Carried.

Motion: Discussion on whether to have the 2002 convention in

Las Vegas or Honolulu. Made by: Mori. Seconded by: Murakami-Houck. Tabled.

Motion: To defer the decision of the 2002 convention site. Made by: Kimura. Seconded by: John Hayashi. Gary Mayeda, opposed, Karen-Lane Shibe abstained.

Motion: To form a special committee and make recommendations to the national board regarding John Hayashi's suggestion to protect unrestricted capital gains. Made by: Hayashi. Seconded by: Grant. Carried.

Motion: To accept suggestion #2 on the Assistant to get a thorough legal analysis of whether capital gains from the Legacy Fund should be treated as principal and to follow the legal conclusion. Made by: Hayashi. Seconded by: Grant. Carried.

Motion: To accept the recommendations of the budget committee. Made by: Kimura. Seconded by: Murakami-Houck. Carried.

Motion: To allow PSW to hire a youth director as outlined in draft and to reopen the four positions—youth director, administrative assistant to the executive director, receptionist for the Washington DC office, and membership coordinator. Made by: Craig Osaki. Seconded by: Kimura. Carried.

Motion: To defer the enforcement policy issue. Made by: Kimura. Seconded by: Hayashi. Carried.

## Teacher training on Nikkei experience held in Northern Calif.

A teacher training workshop on the Japanese American experience was held earlier this year in Capitola, Calif. It was sponsored by the national JACL, Watsonville chapter of the JACL, 100th/442nd/MIS World War II Memorial Foundation, the Japanese American National Museum, the Sacramento Nisei VFW Post 8895, the Pajaro Valley Unified School District and the Santa Cruz County Office of Education.

The all-day workshop attracted 56 English and social studies teachers from the Monterey Bay area. They ranged from elementary to high school instructors.

Coordinating the event was Dr. Lisa Hirai Tsuchitani, national JACL director of education; Greg Marutani, national JACL education committee senior member; and Mas Hashimoto, retired Watsonville High School social studies teacher and former Poston camp II internee.

Guest speakers included Sandy Lydon, an instructor at Cabrillo College and a member of the Watsonville JACL, who detailed the causes that led to the passage of numerous discriminatory laws aimed against Japanese and other Asian Americans. He also pointed out the contributions that Japanese immigrants had made to California's agricultural industry and the devastating effect evacuation had on the Monterey Bay's economy. He is currently conducting research with individuals who opposed internment and supported the return of JAs to the Monterey Bay area.

Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston shared how she came to co-author the book, *Farewell to Manzanar*, with her husband James Houston. Houston, who became emotional at times, admitted that her camp experience still

haunts her to this day. She also spoke on the contributions of the Military Intelligence Service men.

Retired United States Army Colonel Thomas Sakamoto recounted his military career which began shortly after the Kibei Nisei graduated from a high school in Japan and returned to America. A month before the bombing of Pearl Harbor in November 1941, Sakamoto was drafted into the U.S. Army and trained at the military intelligence language school at the Presidio in San Francisco. By the end of WWII, Sakamoto was a 2nd Lieutenant and witnessed Japan's surrender on the USS Missouri ("Mighty Mo") on Sept. 2, 1945.

Sakamoto went on to serve in the Korean and Vietnam wars. At one point, he was the chief of Military Security, Division G-2, Sixth Army Headquarters at the Presidio in San Francisco. Had Sakamoto held that position in 1942, he would have been charged with instituting Executive Order 9066.

Jim Tanaka and Kiyo Sato-Viacrisis co-presented a slide show, which illustrated the Nikkei experience from immigration, evacuation to resettlement. Tanaka, a 442nd Regimental Combat Team veteran, also talked about how he was shunned by his high school classmates after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and therefore was willing to enter the assembly center and camp. He also explained how the controversial "loyalty" questionnaire tore families apart.

Libia Yamamoto, a Japanese Peruvian, opened by speaking in her native language, Spanish. Yamamoto, a member of the Peruvian Oral History Project, outlined the journey her family took from Japan to Peru and finally to Crystal City, Texas. She described how Japanese Latin Americans had been rounded

up to be used as part of a U.S.-Japan hostage exchange program during World War II.

Although Yamamoto's family was not sent back to Japan, they remained imprisoned at Crystal City for nearly two years after the end of the war. When released, however, the family found themselves in a no-win situation. The family could not return to Peru or Japan without the necessary papers nor could they remain in America where the very government that had abducted them had declared them to be "illegal" aliens. Fortunately, the family was able to remain in the United States after a relative in Berkeley sponsored them. Yamamoto closed with an appeal for the community to support Campaign for Justice, the organization working on the Japanese Latin American redress issue.

Dolas Koga, a retired elementary school teacher, explained how the *Kokoro no Gakko*, a Japanese cultural summer school for fifth and sixth graders studied the life of camp internees. She shared how students interviewed former internees, wrote papers and even made a model camp room.

Lloyd Kajikawa with the Japanese American National Museum, and Carol Kawamoto and Marutani both with the JACL demonstrated the importance of teaching the camp experience to students and introduced the JACL Curriculum and Resource Guide.

The workshop was made possible by the dedicated efforts of the following people: Dr. Nancy Giberson; Jennifer Hammond; Mas and Marcia Hashimoto; Carmel Kamigawachi; Shig and Ruby Kizuki; Rev. and Mrs. Koga; Mrs. Yoshino Matano; Mark Mitani; Dr. Masako Miura; Joanne and Willie Yahiro; Stuart Yamamoto; Iwao Yamashita; and Jane Yoshida.

## Mayor Webb dedicates Minoru Yasui Plaza

DENVER, Colo.—On March 1, Mayor Wellington Webb dedicated the building at 303 W. Colfax Avenue as the Minoru Yasui Plaza. Included in the dedication was the unveiling of a bust of Yasui by Denver sculptor, Tsuyako Kaneko. Engraved on the bust are the words written in 1990 by Bill Hosokawa about the life of Yasui:

Minoru Yasui, an American of uncommon courage and principle, born in Hood River, Oregon, October 19, 1916, died, Denver, Colorado, November 12, 1986. So fervently did Minoru Yasui believe in the rights guaranteed by the constitution that, during World War II, he endured nine months of solitary confinement to test the government's authority to discriminate against Americans of Japanese ancestry on the basis of race. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled against him, but Yasui ultimately was vindicated when the 100th Congress and President Ronald Reagan apologized to Japanese Americans for the injustice of suspended freedoms. As director of Denver's Commission on Community Relations, Yasui dedicated his life to advancing the rights of his fellow man regardless of color or creed. This monument is dedicated to the memory of an uncommon American who served his nation with extraordinary principle and commitment to its highest principles.



Minoru Yasui

Yasui served as executive director of the Denver Commission on Community Relations from 1967-1983. Prior to 1967, he was an attorney with 25 years of active practice in Oregon and Colorado. Yasui was a founding member of the Urban League of Denver in 1946, assisted in the founding of the Latin American Research and Service Agency in 1965 and he initiated, organized and developed Denver Native Americans United in

1968. In 1981, Yasui served as national chairman of the JACL Redress Committee and in 1984, received the highest honor awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice to a private citizen — The Public Service Certificate.

## Santa Maria Valley chapter installation, donation to NJAMF

New officers for the Santa Maria Valley chapter were elected for 1999 and installed on Nov. 7. They include: Kazuo Oye, president; Jerry Namba, Esq., first vice president; Roger Minami, second vice president; Peter Henmi, treasurer; Suzie Toyohara, recording secretary; Irene Fujimani, corresponding secretary; Shig Yamaguchi, publicity/historian; Jerry Sakamoto, newsletter editor & scholarship chair; Jack Morishima, insurance commissioner; Toru Miyoshi, Peter Uehara and Kaz Fujinami, board members.

In addition, from September to November 1998, the Santa Maria Valley chapter raised \$3,500 through chapter members, their families and friends, and donated the sum to the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation in Washington, D.C.



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# Q & A with *Rabbit in the Moon* filmmaker Emiko Omori

BY TRACY UBA

Written/Reporter

At only one-and-a-half years old, Emiko Omori was forced into the Poston Relocation Center in Arizona by the United States government during World War II, along with her Issei and Kibei parents and her siblings.

Her older sister Chizuko was 12 at the time, and it was later through her testimony and that of other internees that Omori was able to piece together, over the course of seven years, a stunningly subtle feature documentary about government manipulation, inter-camp conflict and the recovery of loss that is as much historically illuminative as it is intimately personal.

Narrated by Omori and co-produced with Chizuko, *Rabbit in the Moon* features compelling interviews with Frank Emi, Aiko Yoshinaga-Herzig, Hiroshi Kashiwagi, Harry Ueno, James Hirabayashi, Hisaye Yamamoto, Shosuke Sasaki, Ernest Besig, Mits Koshiyama, Frank Miyamoto, James Omura and Chizuko Omori, all of whom provide a context for the dissent which erupted among internees as a result of being unjustly incarcerated and forced into oversimplified categorizations of "loyal" and "disloyal."

Premiering at this year's Sundance Film Festival, *Rabbit in the Moon* took home best cinematography honors as did another documentary on which Omori served as cinematographer, *Regret to Inform*, directed by Barbara Sonneborn about women in modern-day Vietnam. *Regret to Inform* has also been nominated for Best Feature Documentary at the upcoming 1993 Academy Awards.

*Rabbit* was funded primarily by the National Asian American Telecommunications Association and by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, with grants from Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, National Endowment for the Arts and the Humanities Councils of California, Arizona, Wyoming and Oregon.

Special credit goes to her cinematographer Witt Monts and to Karen Ishizuka and Robert Nakamura for *Moving Memories and Something Strong Within*, works which inspired her own project.

**Pacific Citizen:** What first prompted you to pursue the concept for *Rabbit in the Moon*?

**Emiko Omori:** My sister Chizu was the impetus for me. She was very heavily involved in redress, and during the time of the class action suits mounted by NCJAR (National Council for Japanese American Redress), she had been doing a lot of research.

I'd just finished the narrative piece *Hot Summer Winds* and it aired in 1991 for American Playhouse. Meanwhile, she would be telling me about these discoveries she'd been making particularly around the government loyalty questionnaire. It was amazing because we didn't know much about it. We thought we knew about it with things like No-No, but a lot of what we discovered was wrong or based on misinformation. For instance, the questionnaire was a lot more insidious than we had originally thought.

So I went, "Oh, we have to make a documentary about this," which resulted in this long journey that took over seven years to complete. That's not to say we worked steadily on it the whole time, you know I was freelancing at the time too. If I boil it down to the actual time it took, it

would've been maybe three years.

**P.C.:** Were there any advantages to having spent that much time on it?

**E.O.:** Because of that long span of time, you know *Hot Summer Winds* had taken me six years. I have always felt that the projects were better for that, for having that time to think about things, to learn more. In the case of *Rabbit*, certain technologies became available and that included non-linear editing. That became affordable for us at the lower end of the filmmaking spectrum. I feel that's really one of the things that helped to shape it.

**P.C.:** Was there a lot of experimentation that went into making the film?

**E.O.:** Oh yes. My first vision was to make something 12 hours long like *Showa*. I feel that our experience as Asian Americans and the history of immigration in this country deserves a rather in-depth look. I wanted to start with the discovery of America and how the "discoverers" dealt with the people already here. I mean, we weren't the first to be put in these sort of enclaves of oppression.

**P.C.:** What were some of the particular challenges?

**E.O.:** By the time [the idea of a film] came about, again, my sister, who had been working closely with the redress movement, had actually met a lot of people who were now speaking out. She was really touched by them, and we knew some of the resisters were speaking out a little more openly. We did have some people who didn't want to be in [the film]. We had one person who agreed, did every interview, and then decided she didn't want to be in it.

It's still a very sensitive area. I hope it turns out to be a good thing for the people in it, but you don't realize what happens when you become a public person and you put your story out there.

The difficulty for me as a filmmaker was to get beyond the stuff that the interviewees had already talked about. I was curious as a woman, well, what did you do when you got pregnant, where did you get your sanitary napkins? I asked things like that, of course, they didn't all make it into the film. I just tried to imagine myself in that position and going, "God, that would be just yucky!"

Another difficulty was the blending of the personal and the factual. We needed a certain amount of factual information to put things into context. That took a lot of weaving, how to put the more factual things into a personal context, like how it affected our family or how it affected an individual.



PHOTO: MARTHA NAKAGAWA

(l-r): Co-producer Chizuko Omori, interviewee Aiko Yoshinaga-Herzig and director Emiko Omori recently attended the Los Angeles screening of *Rabbit in the Moon*.

## Quick takes

- A native of Southern California, Emiko Omori is a graduate of San Francisco State University and currently teaches film editing at San Francisco City College in addition to freelancing as a cinematographer.
- In addition to *Rabbit in the Moon*, her film credits include *Hot Summer Winds* (originally based on two short stories by Hisaye Yamamoto), *Tattoo City* and *The Departure*.
- Among other filmmakers Omori has worked with are Renee Tajima-Pena, Wayne Wang, Pat Ferrero, Felicia Lowe, Chris Marker, John Marshall and Lourdes Torillo.
- Her first-ever film was entitled *Poi*, which, contrary to the obvious insinuation, was not about marijuana but about a cooking pot. She does, however, admit to being a hippie in the 1960s and going through a "druggie" phase.
- An avid traveler, her work has taken her to Vietnam, Guam, Mexico, Africa and Latin America. One of her favorite places was Antarctica, especially for its bleak beauty and for the penguins.
- Her next project, which is still largely under wraps, sends her to Bosnia.

*Rabbit in the Moon* is scheduled to be screened from March 11-18 at this year's 17th San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival sponsored by NAATA. For more information, call 415/863-0614.



A young Emiko Omori and her mother at the Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, circa 1945.

**P.C.:** How did you decide to approach the obviously complex issue of the government loyalty questionnaire?

**E.O.:** [My interest] began with the questionnaire. By this time, the internees were already upset, paranoid, had answered many questionnaires. The government did not think about us, about our emotions, and I think it created an accelerated process of assimilation. The rift between Issei and Nisei, that would have happened eventually. There would have been some power struggles as the old guard was giving up power to the younger group, but it would have happened later in a much more organic way. But, here, it was

**P.C.:** *Rabbit* brings up another compelling issue, which is the role of the JACL in the camps. What was the portrait that you feel you were trying to paint?

**E.O.:** Clearly, this is a film from a particular point of view. And I think that there has been a lot of tension around this point that's not been articulated in our community. I think that these things need to be aired before they can be put behind us.

Jimmie Omura (who passed away in 1994) is a man to me who had put on a very brave front, but he had been ostracized from the community, and it was particularly JACLers who kept him out of jobs. I remember he told me this story about belong-

ing to a bowling league, and at one point they just said please don't come back. He lived outside of the JA community all those years after the war, and when I asked him one question, "Has it been hard on you?" he sort of broke down. I felt for the first time how he had missed a family, how he had been so lonely for all those years. Even though he had anger and he carried that anger, in the end he says we have to come back together.

I can tell you an interesting thing, when we were interviewing these people who were kind of resistant, JACL came up. I never asked them about it. I hope that the overall impression that comes across, personally from having heard these stories and done a lot of reading, is that some members of the JACL were opportunists and complicit as in any organization or any group of people.

I'm sure everyone thought they were doing the right thing. Are we perfect human beings? No. But all this humanized it for me.

**P.C.:** In what ways were you trying to dispel the "model minority" myth?

**E.O.:** When the "model minority" myth came up which, I believe, in the 1950s, [JAs] were perceived as model minorities, that we were quiet, we didn't complain. Politically, I'm from the 60s, I certainly didn't believe that. That was bullshit. But I realized I had been carrying around something. I did behave in a quiet kind of way, I sort of fit the stereotype.

My political consciousness came up around the Vietnam War being around mainly non-Asian people and them going, "This is a racist war against Asians." And I'm going, "Wow, that's kind of right." I was being reminded about WWII and finally getting angry.

Because of [the severity of] the Holocaust, for instance, I think [JAs] began saying to themselves, "how can I complain about emotional scars, at least I still have my life." That was internalized by many [former internees]. I'm hoping that this film will help unlock people's internal straitjackets. It gave me a much greater appreciation for what my parents went through.

**P.C.:** How did the experience of working in Vietnam for *Regret to Inform* compare to the experience of *Rabbit*?

**E.O.:** What I learned is that people sometimes experience the same thing differently. *Regret to Inform* was about women, and I would say a lot of films about internment are through the eyes of men and not so much through the eyes of women. You get into these big political issues and you don't get down to the specific, nit-picky gritty human stuff.

When Aiko [Yoshinaga-Herzig] talks about trying to make love on a straw mattress that squeaked, everybody gets a clearer picture of what lack of privacy meant. I mean, what a great story! This is what I wanted to use to reach people who hadn't had the experience.

**P.C.:** What do you think younger generations of JAs or AAs who never actually experienced life in the camps can take away from this film?

**E.O.:** Well, I hope it goes beyond race, to show that these kinds of abuses happen to people that are powerless. I hope that people see that when the government wants, it can just put the constitution aside in the name of something else and we can't let that happen. ■



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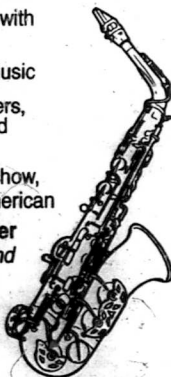
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## Troubled in paradise



By Brian Niilya

## Keeping score

One of the things that is very difficult about living in Hawaii versus anywhere on the mainland is the ethnic mixture of local, political officials. It is revealing that Asian, American newspapers—including this one—keep careful track of Asian American-Japanese American officials. It's still a relatively rare thing. In Hawaii of course, no one really bothers to keep score, since there are so many, whereas on the mainland, it is notable if an AA is involved in a political race. In Hawaii, it would be notable if there was no AA involved in a given race.

So in keeping with the mainland norm, I'm devoting this column to a mainland political official whose many of you might not know about. His name is George Kiriya and he is one of seven elected members of the Los Angeles school board which governs the second largest school district in the country. He holds the seat representing the broad and diverse district stretching from Watts through Gardena all the way south to San Pedro. He was first elected in 1995 and is the second Japanese American on the board; his predecessor in the same district was Warren Furutani, who held the seat from 1987 to 1995. (You've probably heard of Warren, a former JACL national staff member, among many other things.)

The first thing one notices about George is how unlike the typical politician he is. Friendly, but not in an annoying way, he is forthright and straightforward in his speech. He has that typical cornball Nisei sense of humor and a lot of that peculiar Nisei humility and work

ethic as well. If he is unlike the typical politician, he is very much like the typical Nisei.

What is perhaps atypical of him is that at age 67, when most Nisei are pondering retirement, George is gearing up for the daunting challenge of governing the Los Angeles Unified School District. The problems of the district have been well documented and are not dissimilar to those faced by large city school districts around the country. As a career educator with years of experience in the trenches, as opposed to the type of political climber who uses a school board position as a stepping stone, George would seem to be as well equipped as anyone to deal with these problems.

Indeed, in his first term, he has seen district wide class-size reductions, a rise in test scores, a decrease in drop-outs, an increase in the number of advanced placement classes being offered and an improvement in rates of attendance. He carried the motions for both Character Education and for having music teachers at every school. And he has visited every school in his district, something that no other board member, past or present, can say.

Despite his accomplishments and character, he faces a difficult reelection challenge. Multimillionaire Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan has targeted three members of the school board and is funding their opponents to the tune of \$1 million. Riordan apparently wants to exert greater control on the school board than he currently has. George is one of those targeted.

In recent weeks, local newspaper articles have appeared questioning

Kiriya's effectiveness. A recent *Daily Breeze* article paints a picture of him as being too quiet and not forceful enough to deal with the problems of the district. Aside from reiterating stereotypes of JAs, the piece doesn't question the ideas that one must be loud to be effective. As many Nisei have learned, getting along with people and working to build coalitions while being outwardly "quiet" can be a more effective strategy in dealing with contentious situations.

I suspect that as wore gets out about Riordan's overt push to buy influence over the school board, there will be a backlash. Supporters of the targeted incumbents will be galvanized, and many who would not otherwise be interested in the race will be angered by the infusion of money which overshadows the actual qualifications or strategies of the candidates on issues relevant to the schools. That's what I hope, anyway. I hope that Kiriya will be able to withstand the sure to come barrage of negative campaign ads financed by Riordan's money.

While laid up with an illness on my current visit to L.A., I got up to answer the doorbell at my mother-in-law's house in Gardena. I was surprised to see George standing at the door, clipboard in hand, canvassing door-to-door. Despite all that has happened, he was upbeat, his usual friendly self. We chatted for a few minutes about the job at hand and how badly he wanted the chance to finish what he had started. I hope voters see fit to give him that chance. ■

Brian Niilya is a member of the Honolulu chapter.

## Very Truly Yours



By Harry K. Honda

## Another look: JACLs record on Evacuation

FIFTY-SEVEN YEARS ago this coming week, March 8-9-10, 1942, Saburo Kido, then national JACL president, hastily called a national emergency council session at San Francisco to examine the problems raised by promulgation of President Roosevelt's Executive Order 8066. Attending were delegates from 66 chapters, five by proxy and one being absent.

It's not been done before in the P.C. nor in any book on the subject, but here are the names of 165 persons from the minutes of that 1942 national JACL emergency council to present some faces, as it were, which may be but a memory or forgotten. The approval in the name of JACL was unanimous.

After delegates pondered the options, the roll call followed on whether or not "to cooperate constructively (meaning JACL was not giving up its right to protest)." There was no call to coerce other Japanese Americans to follow the momentous decision. Delegates, or the first two named, represent the chapters; others are members present. (I list District Chair, at Past National President.)

ALABAMA—Oky Kono, John Yoshino; AMERICAN LOYALTY LEAGUE OF FRESNO—Dr. Kikuo Taira, Fred Hirasawa, Ernest Takahashi, Dr. Tom T. Yatabe; ARIZONA—Mrs. Bill (Margaret) Kajikawa, Ryuko Oyama; BAY DISTRICT (Santa Monica)—Henry Fukushima; BERKELEY—Yoshiaki Moriaki, Kimio Obata, James Nishimura, Earl Tanbara, Dr. Henry Takahashi; BIG HORN MOUNTAIN (Montana)—Prox: Mike Masakoa; BRAWLEY—Shig Imamura; CONTRA COSTA—George Kanagaki, Hideo Aji, Henry Terazawa; DELANO—Ben Yabuno, George Nagatani; DELTA (Walnut Grove)—Sadayoshi "Jeff" Yagi, Harry Iida; EDEN TOWN—Fukashi Nakagawa, Mitsuru Nakashima, Kenji Fujii, Yuri Domoto; EL CENTRO—Yutaka Nakashima; FLORIN—Hugh Kiino, Sam Okamoto, Harold Ouchida, Yoshio Kiino, Bob Umeda; FORT LUPTON—Prox: Mike Masakoa; GARDENA VALLEY—James S. Yoshinobu, Kiyoko (Ken) Nakaka, George Yoshinobu; GILROY—Kenichi Tachiki, Jack Izu; IDAHO FALLS—Mitsugu Kasai, Yukio Inouye, "Sud" Morishita; KINGS COUNTY—Kiyoshi Nobusada; LODI—Sam Funamura, Fred M. Ouye, Noboru Matsumoto; LOMPOC—Takao Nakamura, George Nishimura, Hiroshi Endo; LONG BEACH—James H. Hashimoto, Frank Ishii, Frank Abe, Los Angeles—Marion Yoshida, Kiyoshi Okura, Masao W. Satoh, Frank Ono, Shigemi Aratani, Dr. Tep Ishikawa, Ken Matsumoto; FRED TAYLOR M.D.—COLUMBIA—Mark Sato, Kumeo Yoshinari; MONTEREY PENINSULA—Kaz Oku, Fusako Kodani, Teruo Esaki; MOUNTAIN VIEW—Henry Mitani, Charles Ilogue, Hideo Furukawa; NORTH PLAKA—Mitsuru Nakashima; OAKLAND—Kelly K. Yamada, Kay Hirota, Tad Hirota, Fred Nomura; OGDEN—Shigeki "Shake" Uehiro; ORANGE COUNTY—Henry Kanagaki, Frank Misurawa; PASADENA—Nobu T. Kawai, Shuichi Ogura, Richard Esaki, Tetsu Nakamura, George Zenze—James Kozuki, Harris Tanaka, Akira Chiamori; PLACER COUNTY—Tom M. Yagura, Louis Oki; POCAHONSETT—Paul Okamoto; PORTLAND—Masaru Wakasugi, Dr. Newton Uyesugi; PYRAMOUNT VALLEY—Saburo Sasaki, Tetsu Nakamura, George Zenze; REEFLEY—George Kitahara, George Ikuta, C. Chiamori; SACRAMENTO—George Takahashi, George Muramoto, Mieko Inbe, Walter T. Tsukamoto; SALINAS VALLEY—Henry Tania, Dr. Harry Kise; SAN LAKE—Dr. Jiro Kuruma; SAN BENITO—Richard Nishimoto, Henry Onoto, George Nishita, James Sugioka; SAN DIEGO—George Ohashi, Moto Asakawa, Sam Fujita; SAN FERNANDO—Tom Imai, George Endow, Tokuro Sato; SAN FRANCISCO—David Tatsuono, Dr. George Baba, Yasuo Abiko, Dr. Carl Hirota, Sim Tugasaki; SAN GABRIEL VALLEY—Henry Kiriya; SAN JOSE—Shig Masunaga, Daniel Izu, Philip Matsubara; SAN LUIS OBISPO—Kari H. Tani, James Nakamura; SAN MATEO—H. Kariya, T. Sakamoto, S. Yamaguchi; SAN PEDRO DISTRICT—Kiyohiko Higashi, Dr. Yoshie Nakaji;

SANTA BARBARA—Tom Hirasahima, SANTA MARIA VALLEY—Ed M. Yusa, Harry Miyake, Ken Utsunomiya, Mas Oji; SEATTLE PROGRESSIVE CITIZENS' LEAGUE—Jimie Y. Sakamoto, #Lefty Sasaki; SONOMA COUNTY—Henry H. Shimizu, William Hiura, Dr. George Hiura, Tak Koga; STANISLAUS—MERCE—Jack Noda, Tetsuo "Buddy" Iwata, Miko Fujimoto, Sam Kuwahara, Albert Morimoto, George Morofuji; STOCKTON—Ted Ohashi, A.N. Kawasaki, George "Pop" Suzuki; TACOMA—Ted Nakamura, Y. Murai; TULARE COUNTY—Dale Okazaki, #Tom Shimasaki; VALLEY CIVIC LEAGUE (White River Valley)—Prox: Jimmie Sakamoto, VENICE—Fumi Utaki, John Aono, George Inagaki; VENTURA COUNTY—Abneri, WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP (Fremont)—Vernon Ichisaka, Yoshimi Kawaguchi, James Hirabayashi; WATSONVILLE—Mrs. F. H. Ito, WEST LOS ANGELES—Joe Masakoa, Joe C. Masakoa, Harold H. Kimura, YAKIMA VALLEY—Prox: Hito Okada, YELLOWSTONE—William T. Watanabe, YOSOLANO—Harry Aoyagi, Bill Yukawa, Zenji Tsuji, George Daiki Yabu, Yuba County—Bert Butte (Yuba)—Noboru Honda; NO. CALIF. DISTRICT—Nobumitsu Takahashi.

OVER 200 members are in a photo with names taken in front of Kinnon Bldg. About half of them, I remember meeting in my 50-plus years in JACL (since 1946).

The minutes cover the key meeting of government officials responsible for evacuation and the special JACL delegation: Saburo Kido, Mike Masakoa, Fred Tayama, Masao W. Satow, Thomas Yego, Mamoru Wakasugi, past national presidents Jimmie Sakamoto (Seattle) and Dr. Tom Yatabe (Fresno). Incidentally, Mam is the lone survivor from this group today.

The government people were Army Col. W. F. McGill (Provost Marshal General), Thomas C. Clark (Dept. of Justice alien coordinator, later a Supreme Court justice), Richard Neustadt (Federal Security Agency) and their support staff.

The first option posed by the Army was voluntary evacuation. Possible sites were discussed but deemed impractical. JACL feared any mass movement might result in a reign of terror.

The second option was also impossible: if the Japanese community openly opposed the Army plan, troops could resort to bayonet or point the rifle, families with considerable property would be at extreme risk; plus Japan's propagandists would have a field day.

The third option was to cooperate with the government, as Mike recounted in his *Final Report* of 1944 from Camp Shelby before going overseas to Europe. He saw that it would be "our contribution to the war effort," he wrote. With Issei parents in their twilight years and heartless work of the loss of their lifetime's work, their children recognized it was time to be with their parents. While enemy aliens, the parents accepted evacuation as a matter of course (and paraphrasing Mike): "The Nisei, now were obliged to repay their parents for all their sacrifices and felt duty-bound to share the adversity and cruel adventure that awaited them."

It's been held: The government was determined to evacuate us whether we liked it or not. Nothing in the E.C. Archives verifies this except the *Final Report*, May 20, 1942—Col. Benedict explains before Commonwealth Club, San Francisco, his role in the Evacuation plans; there were two plans: one with able cooperation of the evacuees, or the emergency move to evacuate the entire Japanese population within 24 hours. ■

## A Bridge Across the Pacific



By Emily Murase

## Healing old wounds

Under the leadership of our new District Governor John Hayashi and through the coordinating efforts of our dedicated Regional Director Patty Wada, a panel on the Nisei draft resisters gave a moving presentation at the Northern California/Western Nevada/Pacific District Council meeting on Feb. 7 in Stockton.

The theme of the three-member panel was the need for mutual understanding and reconciliation within the community.

Mits Koshiyama, a draft resister and member of the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee, provided a personal account of the difficulties the draft resisters faced from within and without the community. The Fair Play Committee demanded a restoration of constitutional rights before obeying draft orders. Koshiyama spent several years at McNeil Island, a federal penitentiary in Washington state, for his civil disobedience.

His remarks made me question what I would have answered in response to the infamous loyalty questionnaire, had I too been ripped from my home and, in some cases, my family, as well as my community, in order to be incarcerated in a desert prison, wrongly judged as a criminal without a trial.

Question 2: "Will you serve in the armed forces of the United States?"

Question 28: "Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the United States and forever allegiance to the Emperor of Japan?"

Anyone trained in social sciences will tell you that double-barreled questions are imprecise and unfair. The second panelist, Wayne Maeda, professor of ethnic studies at California State University, Sacramento, pointed to the omission of draft resisters in most historical texts related to the Japanese American experience. The *Long World*

War II. He shared with the audience an overview of the draft resistance movement that included over 300 Nisei.

I was surprised to learn that the punishment for resisting the draft depended heavily on which camp was concerned. According to Maeda, the judge in the case against draft resisters from the Lake dismissed the charges altogether, giving the fundamental hypocrisy of the federal government in attempting to draft the internees. At Poston, draft resisters were only subject to a small fine.

Meanwhile, draft resisters from Amache and Heart Mountain were convicted and shipped off to federal prisons in Tucson, Ariz., McNeil Island, Wash., and Leavenworth, Kan.

Can you imagine what it would be like to serve in a federal prison? While President Truman pardoned the draft resisters in 1947, it must have been very awkward for these draft resisters, for example, to explain to potential employers why they had to serve time in Leavenworth with the nation's most hardened criminals. Clearly, draft resisters suffered enormously because of their stand on principle not only during the war but long afterwards.

The final panelist, Marvin Uratsu, president of the Military Intelligence Service Association of Northern California (MISNA-CAL), urged mutual understanding between Japanese American veterans groups and the draft resisters.

"We were all fighting for the same thing, freedom and justice, in the long run," said Uratsu.

Earlier, Barry Sakai, long-time JACLer and member of MISNA-CAL, presented the draft resisters with a historic commendation that included the following statement: "The Military Intelligence Service Association of Northern California

belatedly commend each of the resisters and the members of the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee for their civil disobedience in seeking fair play and restoration of their civil rights."

"Be it resolved that the hand of reconciliation and understanding be extended to each of the resisters, their immediate families, and to the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee in recognition that the action taken by the resisters were done in good faith and conscience as loyal citizens of the United States."

Uratsu argued that just like the "Thirty-six Views of Mt. Fuji," a series of woodblock prints by pre-eminent Japanese artist Hokusai, there are many ways to view the same action, particularly in wartime. He concluded with a call for healing the wounds of a conflict that is now over 50 years old.

It is no secret that the JACL condemned the draft resisters for their disobedience during the war. As an attempt to overcome the divisiveness and bitterness that has resulted, Andy Noguchi, civil rights chair of the Florin chapter, introduced a resolution sponsored by the Florin, Sequoia and Golden Gate chapters that calls on the national JACL to recognize the draft resisters, issue an apology and honor them at a public ceremony.

Isn't it time we healed this old wound? The opportunity will arise when the resolution is presented for a vote at the next district council meeting scheduled for May 2 in Fremont.

Columnist Emily Murase would like to thank Kenji Tugawa, English editor of the *Nichi Bei Times*, for his thorough coverage of the district council meeting. Factual material appearing in this column is based on Tugawa's Feb. 10 article in the *Nichi Bei Times*. ■



# Financial resolutions

This is the first in a series of columns that will help to inform our readers on financial issues. Future articles will feature information on long-term investing, saving for college, charitable giving, and retirement planning.

BY YALE KOFMAN

According to a recent news report, the following four resolutions are most popular among Americans: lose weight, stop smoking, exercise more often, and improve one's financial situation.

One similarity among these resolutions is that generally they cannot be achieved immediately. Another is that these are not specific goals.

Perhaps the most important concept in financial planning is understanding the process itself. And, this process begins with clearly identifying needs and goals. In fact, we would have a better chance of keeping our resolutions regarding financial matters if we applied the financial planning process to our own situation. Whether we are individuals, companies, or not-for-profit institutions, effective financial planning usually follows the same pattern.

**Step 1: Identify needs and goals**  
**Step 2: Analyze current financial situation, wills, trusts, retirement plan documents, etc.**

**Step 3: Develop and present customized solutions**

**Step 4: Implement the strategy**  
**Step 5: Review goals and performance regularly.** Go to step 1 and repeat.

**Identifying needs and goals**  
Regardless of your resolutions, success is more likely achieved when the goals are attainable and measurable. Here are some simple steps that will make it easier to meet your goals:

- Make most goals attainable and realistic. Do not expect to double your money in six months by investing solely in Internet stocks. Not keeping your resolution after only a few months does not build confidence. Rather, start with a goal that would provide a sense of accomplishment. Perhaps paying off your credit card bills might be a more appropriate, attainable, and realistic goal.

- Make measurable goals. It is important to be able to determine your progress. Instead of simply saving money for retirement, commit to a specific amount for a specific time. For example, let's say your goal is to start saving \$5,000 each year for retirement. On

a monthly basis, review how much you have put into your 401(k), IRA, or other investment accounts. Then, track the performance of those accounts every month or quarter to see the results.

- Have some stretch goals. It is important to have some goals or resolutions that present a significant challenge

in order to stay motivated and improve your chances of achieving financial success. Perhaps a professional, two years out of college, wants to buy a house in five years. Estimate an affordable mortgage amount and determine the likely down payment. Then commit to investing/saving a certain amount each month so that you would have enough for the down payment in five years (assuming an average annualized return of 8 percent).

- Put your resolutions in writing. Putting your goals in writing provides you with a gentle reminder of your promises and enables you to better evaluate your progress.

Individual goals will vary, but here are a few resolutions that most of us could make:

- Review wills, trusts, and other such documents for suitability

- Review current life insurance and investment strategies to ensure they are still appropriate

- Check your estimated social security benefits (via Internet at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov))

- Make a budget (by analyzing all expenses (don't forget ATM withdrawals!) and all sources of income
- Determine how much you will donate to your favorite charities

Remember to set specific time frames for achieving your resolutions. And finally, don't forget to reward yourself when you meet your goals: Treat yourself to a nice dinner or a round of golf when you have made a substantial accomplishment. ■

Yale Kofman is assistant vice president of Client Relations of Investment Management Services at California Bank & Trust (formerly Sumitomo Bank of California). For comments or questions, send an email to [KofmanY@Calb.com](mailto:KofmanY@Calb.com) or call 800/962-9494. For more information on donating to JACL programs, call Donna Okubo at 415/921-5225.

Yale Kofman



## Letters to the Editor

### Mills College and Asian American studies

The controversy visited upon Mills College over its denial of tenure for Professor Masao Suzuki and its elimination of Asian American studies has sparked broad attention. At this private and insulated women's college in Oakland, a line has been drawn by the administration despite support from other Mills College students, alumnae and faculty. Asian American studies scholars and the Association for Asian American Studies have viewed this action with alarm. Members of the Alameda Board of Supervisors have also joined the fray, as have Bobby Seale and David Hilliard, Aggie Chavez and Walter Riley. Another line has been drawn in opposition to the Mills administration.

During the late '60s and early '70s, Mills College sought to extend its reach to increase minority into its student ranks. At that time many AA women students at this private college actively sought to bridge greater social consciousness and diversity into the Mills College environment. Several of them joined with the anti-war movement and the fight for ethnic studies at San Francisco State College and at UC Berkeley. Others became leaders and organizers in the AA movement, a social and activist movement which has brought forward many community and political leaders who continue to play critical roles in AA communities in the Bay Area and beyond.

After some struggle, an ethnic studies department had been added to Mills. For an exclusive, historically white sanctuary, Mills College was bringing diversity and tolerance onto its private preserve. This was quite progressive and made the appropriate statement in a city that had a majority oppressed nationality/people of color population.

However, reflecting the right wing shift taking place in the state of California, and in the country overall, the oppressed nationality/people of color student population at Mills has drastically decreased. Latina enrollment is down 50 percent, and AAs decreased by 23 percent. AA studies has been eliminated from the curriculum. Not only has Professor Suzuki been denied tenure and fired, but his case has encapsulated the struggle to defend ethnic studies, diversity and students of color.

As two New Yorkers with roots in Oakland, and as two veterans of the social movements of the '60s and '70s — most especially the AA political movement, we view the attacks at Mills as part of a larger offensive against op-

pressed nationality/students of color in higher education that must be stopped in its tracks. The fact that Mills is a private women's college does not relieve it of its social responsibility, and it obviously is not immune to the right wing trends attempting to establish its agenda in higher education.

Mills College's attacks on ethnic studies, people of color enrollment, and its termination of Professor Suzuki must be reversed. Reversing correct verdicts of the '60s and '70s goes against the will of the people.

Yori Kockiyama  
Steven M. Yip  
via e-mail

### Re: Ho Chi Minh protest

The recent incident regarding the display of Ho Chi Minh's portrait and communist flag at an electronics store in Westminster's Little Saigon has been covered in the mainstream national media as one involving freedom of speech. We do not argue with one's first amendment rights. We do find it ironic though that freedom of speech, religion, labor rights, concern for environmental issues and civil rights in general do not exist in Vietnam. It is troublesome that Ho Chi Minh and the communist flag are portrayed somewhat sympathetically in contrast to the images of screaming, chanting demonstrators.

There is, however, a deeper issue here and that is how we have come to terms with the war and how we view the Vietnamese people. In the American psyche, the Vietnam War conjures up many negative images and subconscious guilt. Not only did we lose, but also as many believe, we were wrong from the beginning. And because we were wrong therefore, the communists must have been right. This is a dangerous and illogical path for Americans to follow. Indeed, according to groups like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, the communist regime in Vietnam has proven to be as morally corrupt and oppressive as China — yet in our effort to reconcile our guilt we are nearing full trade relations with Vietnam. Regrettably, the "we" generally does not include the very people with whom we fought alongside — the South Vietnamese, many of whom are now American citizens.

There is no doubt that most mainstream Americans empathize with Jewish Americans when Neo-Nazis display swastikas and understand the response by African Americans and others when the KKK attempts to demonstrate. The media generally does not portray civil and hi-

man rights groups that demonstrate against Neo-Nazis as extreme and divisive. It does not because most Americans understand and acknowledge the histories of Jews and African Americans. Unfortunately, the story of Vietnamese Americans has not been told — it is not even a footnote in most American history textbooks. Like all APAs, Vietnamese are struggling to have their stories heard and affirmed as American ones.

Thus, in order to comprehend why the picture of Ho Chi Minh would trigger such deep emotions, we must have acquired a knowledge base that enables us to empathize with the thousands of Vietnamese refugees who were tortured, imprisoned and persecuted after the war, who lost close relatives and friends when they escaped by boat and who still today suffer deep emotional scars. This lack of a more empathetic response by the mainstream media underscores the need for supporting school curriculum and a cultural center/museum dedicated to the history and story of Vietnamese Americans.

There is no doubt, as the ACLU will attest, that freedom of speech is an important foundation of democracy. But equally if not more important to a vibrant democracy is an educated, informed people. For as Thomas Jefferson warned, the greatest threat to democracy is ignorance.

Michael Matsuda,  
Orange County Asian and  
Pacific Islander Community  
Alliance founding board member

Xuyen Dong-Matsuda,  
Little Saigon Radio  
talk show host

Garden Grove, Calif.

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

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

## Voices

## Why we should be politically active in the Bill Lann Lee saga

BY YAS TOKITA

The Republican ultraconservatives are at it again. Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah, the powerful chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee has fired the first shot at the renomination of Bill Lann Lee to the position that he has occupied since Dec. 15, 1997. The president named Lee as the acting assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's civil rights division when the Judiciary Committee deadlocked during confirmation hearings in November and December 1997.

The committee deadlocked largely along party lines except for the defection of Senator Arlen Specter (R-Pennsylvania). Lee, an honors graduate from Yale University and from Columbia Law School, has spent the last 22 years of his professional career working in the civil rights arena. Rarely has such a highly qualified individual been nominated for the number one position in DOJ's civil rights division.

Hatch, the committee chairman, had assured Lee that his confirmation would be smooth sailing when the president nominated him in June 1997. Things began to unravel in November 1997 when the Republican ultraconservatives began a disinformation program that distorted Lee's record and used the Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott and the House Speaker Newt Gingrich to yank Hatch into reversing his position and to oppose the confirmation.

There may have been a racial element to this unfolding drama. Congress had been holding hearings on the campaign funding scandal involving the Democratic National Committee at around the same time. Names like Charlie Trie and John Huang were in the headlines and Chinese bashing was easy because of the cloud hanging over Asians in the United States.



This cartoon by Mark Pett originally ran in the *Deseret News* on Nov. 16, 1997.

What Lee has done since taking the position has been to pursue the law in areas of hate crimes, to make society accessible to Americans with disabilities, to fight housing discrimination, to protect reproductive health care providers and to combat modern-day slavery. He has used the style that brings people together to reconcile problems in an attempt to lower the temperature in dealing with racial issues.

He has operated carefully because of a warning that Sen. Hatch issued at the time of the appointment, "... I will accord him the same respect and deference I have shown other interim department officials. Still, there is no question that Mr. Lee will be among the most congressionally scrutinized bureaucrats in history."

Sen. Lott made it clear that Lee's performance will now become a subject of Republican scrutiny: "Senators will very carefully watch the actions of the justice department regarding racial quotas, preferences and timetables to ensure that the department complies with all laws and federal court decision," he said. Forewarned, Lee has operated within the law (as he has always done) and has worked tirelessly to protect the rights of women, people of color, the oppressed, the disadvantaged and those subject to crimes of hate.

Since the 1980s there has been a certain mean-spiritedness that has entered into American politics. The civil rights movement has been

three steps forward and two back. The rise of the skinheads, the militia movement and the continued stirrings of the KKK are manifestations of this. Slogans have been the instruments of the ultraconservatives and one they have used in this attempt to smear Lee as the label of "Quota King."

The JACL took a strong stand in support of Lee in 1997. In 1999, we will have to do the same as the battle lines are drawn with the renomination to be sent from the White House to the Senate in the near future.

Lee is a second generation Chinese American and holds the highest, most visible position within the government. As such, he is a valuable role model for those Asian Americans who may aspire to high government service. If elements of the Republican party beat up on a superbly qualified nominee whose only fault is "reading from the same page" as his boss, it would have a chilling effect on any person of color with similar aspirations.

If the Judiciary Committee can be persuaded to allow the nomination to go to the floor of the Senate for confirmation, the likelihood that the post-impeachment Senate will approve Lee on a bipartisan vote appears high.

The way the JACL will prevail will be to work again with coalitions — the Organization of Chinese Americans will play a prominent role in this — and a confirmation of Lee will be a win for all in America. ■

## JACL Nat'l Youth/Student Conference scheduled for June 25-27 in Irvine

The 1999 JACL National Youth/Student Conference entitled "Hey You Guys ... Take A Closer Look," will take place on June 25-27 at the University of California, Irvine.

This year's conference theme was chosen to grab people's attention and encourage them to stop and look at their lives and the world around them.

In addition, as a leadership conference, participants will learn the basic skills that are necessary to be an effective and educated leader in the community, as well as learning to apply those skills in everyday life.

More than 100 participants are

expected to attend the national conference that will include a variety of workshops dealing with topics such as affirmative action, the Asian American studies movement, cooking, Hapa/identity/gender issues, hate crimes, job search, mentoring, and oral histories.

The conference package, which includes room and board, is \$75 and discounts will be given to JACL chapters who sponsor students. The fee to attend only the conference is \$20.

For more information, contact: Hiromi Ueha, hueha@uci.edu or Patricia Tsai Tom, 877/814-1397 (toll free), jaclcro@aol.com. ■

## Bill Lann Lee renomination

(Continued from page 1)

President Clinton. A graduate of Yale University and Columbia Law School, Lee, a second generation Chinese American, has made a career of fighting for civil rights. Prior to his position at the Justice Department, he was the Western regional counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

"Lee has served adeptly over the past two years as an acting assistant attorney general for civil rights. He has proven to be fair and thoughtful," said Karen Narasaki, National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium executive director. "His opponents continue to distort his record. We hope that Republican leaders will not let these ultraconservatives continue to drive their agenda."

The AA community, including JACL, are currently launching a letter writing campaign in support of Lee and community leaders are encouraging AAs to speak with their Senators to ensure that their concerns are being heard. AA leaders warn that Lee will be one of the main issues in the next election if the Senate fails to confirm his nomination as

assistant attorney general for civil rights.

"Any failure to confirm Lee this year will be seen as a partisan rejection of the AA community and a partisan attack on civil rights," said Bob Sakaniwa, JACL Washington, D.C., representative. "Is that really the dominant message Republican senators want to send to minorities this year?"

There's no doubt that having Lee in the nation's top civil rights position is a great role model for AAs, said Larry Grant, JACL Invermount District governor, who is organizing the letter writing campaign to Sen. Hatch in Utah. "But the primary thing is that the individual [in this position] needs to be qualified and does the right job. And I think [Lee] has been doing the right job."

"Opposition to Lee was ridiculous before, but the current attack is outrageous," said Daphne Kwok, Organization of Chinese Americans executive director. "These are people who have long been opposed to civil rights and they don't like the fact that Lee has followed the law and done his job. If they don't like civil rights, they need to change the laws. Not attack Lee for enforcing them." ■

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## George Knox Roth, 92, protested JA internment.

George Knox Roth, a man who vocally protested the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II, passed away at the age of 92 on Feb. 17.

Born in Denver, Colorado, Roth and his family moved to Los Angeles in 1921. A graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, with a masters degree in sociology from the University of Southern California, Roth spent his professional and personal life in teaching, politics and public service.

In the early '40s, Roth ran as a reform candidate for the L.A. City Council but lost by a mere 32 votes. It was in 1942 that Roth protested the internment of JA

via public radio and was eventually convicted and fined for contempt of state Senator Jack Tunney's Un-American Activities Committee. In 1977 JACL honored him for his actions during WWII.

In the early '50s, working with J. Frank Burke, Roth was instrumental in the reforming of the L.A. Board of Education. In 1967, he moved to Las Vegas to consult with the Hughes Nevada Operations to halt nuclear testing. In 1971, he retired, subsequently living in San Diego, Claremont, and Azusa.

Roth leaves behind Irma, his wife of 65 years; his children, Dana (Eileen), Mary (John), NewMyer, John (Kathy), and Dian De Sha; eight grandchildren; and five great grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m., March 7, at Pilgrim Tower East, 440 N. Madison Avenue, Pasadena, California. ■



George Knox Roth

## Colonel Thomas Kobayashi, 83, 442nd veteran

Colonel Thomas Kobayashi, former deputy chief of staff for the 6th Army, Presidio of San Francisco, died on Feb. 9.

Born in Phoenix, Ariz., he enlisted in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II. While stationed in Europe, his acts of courage and loyalty were rewarded with two Purple Hearts, a Legion of Honor with six Battle Stars and many other

medals of honor.

When he retired from the Army in 1968, he devoted much of his time to social, spiritual and charity oriented clubs including the Tokyo Masonic Lodge, San Francisco Lodge 120 and the Legion of Honor Provost.

He is survived by his sister Fumiko Penni Ishino; and brothers William and Joseph. All reside in Seattle. ■



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## Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

**Aihara, Yasuo Pachuk, 71**, Monterey, Feb. 14; survived by wife Toshie; sons Russell (Moreno Valley) and Bruce; sister Amy Nakasako and her husband Frank (Fremont); brothers Hiro Sasaki and his wife Grace (Nev.) and Ken Isuzugawa and his wife Betty; 1 g.c.; and many other relatives.

**Cohen, Samuel M., 75**, Pleasant Hill, Jan. 19; president of the Japanese American Cultural Exchange Program, "survived by wife Edythe; daughters Lenore (Sunnyvale) and Wendy (Davis); son Jay (Corona Del Mar); brother Bill (Pa.); 2 g.c.

**Dohi, Frank Kazuo, 77**, Montebello, Feb. 9, Montanaborn; survived by wife Michiko; daughter Amy Robbins and her husband Neil; brother George Keichi and his wife Misao; sister Michiko Kaizoji; 2 g.c.; and many other relatives.

**Fujikawa, Rise, 101**, Los Angeles, Feb. 13, Yamaguchi-born Issei and naturalized U.S. citizen; survived by daughters Sachi and Mickey Matsuda and her husband John; son David K.; 5 g.c., 2 g.g.c.

**Fujioka, Setsu, 87**, Los Angeles, Feb. 12, Seattle-born Nisei; survived by sisters Peggy Kaoru Nakaki, and Miye Kawai (Vista); brother Yoshiro "Babe" (Long Beach); and others.

**Fukuda, Ernest Takuichi, 95**, Gardena, Feb. 12, Hawaii-born Nisei; survived by son Paul and his wife Frances; daughters Dorothy Hamai and her husband Jim, Mary Jane Miura and her husband Ken, Irene Lee and her husband Curtis, and Shirley Puleston and her husband Carlos; 10 g.c., 3 g.g.c.

**Higashi, Susumu, 74**, Los Angeles, Feb. 19; survived by daughter Shirley; brother Sho; sister Yone Yamada; grandson Keyvin Ogawa; son-in-law Steven Ogawa; and other relatives.

**Honkawa, Kazuyuki Bryan, 78**, West Hills, Feb. 14, Montana-born Nisei; survived by wife Miyo; sons Bryan and his wife Gabrielle, and Toni and his wife Yumi; daughters Pat Yagi and her husband Norman, Judy Matsumura and her husband Gene, and Janis and her husband Paul Matsuka; 14 g.c.; and many other relatives.

**Horiuchi, May Kiyoko "Maize", 72**, Salt Lake City, Jan. 28; survived by husband Tsutomu; sons Wayne (Cathy), Randy (Frances), Sherm, Vince (Kim); sisters Lillian, Madge, Marion; and several g.c.

**Kunitake, Saburo, 64**, Carson, services held on Feb. 23, Hawaii-born; survived by wife Kimiyo; son Steve; daughters Sharon Golding, Debbie, and Laurie Garcia; brothers Hiroshi, Ted and Alfred; sister Sally Mabe; 2 g.c.; and many others.

**Nagano, Jimmy Takeo, 85**, Los Angeles, Feb. 15, Kagoshima-born; survived by wife Tomoyo; sons Bob and his wife Sumie, Ben and his wife Naomi, and John and his wife Lori; sister Fumi Yoshida (Japan); 3 g.c.; and other relatives.

**Nagata, Lt. Col. Sadao, 81**, Salt Lake City, Feb. 5, long-time JACL member, member of Idaho's National Guard, tours of duty include Germany, Korea, Vietnam, Japan, and the U.S.; predeceased by parents; brother Joseph F. Niki; sister Lelash Niki; survived by wife Sumiko Ando; children Terrell (Leah), Byron, and Ann Morris (John); Sharon; sisters Jun Niki and Marion Kimura; brother Yo Niki; 9 g.c.

**Nakao, Tom Jr., 47**, Cleveland, Jan. 28, Cent. Wash.-born; president of Cleveland JACL, former national JACL treasurer; survived by wife Ruby; son Nicholas; sister Cindy (Phillip) Gorgone; mother Alice, father Tom Sr.

**Nakata, Seichi Roy, 93**, Japan, Feb. 1, Los Angeles resident for 45 years; survived by wife Shizue (Japan); sons Robert Kiyohiko and Kenji; son-in-law Noboru Yato; brother Joe (Fresno); sisters Mary Owens (La Mirada) and Mikuyo (Japan); sister-in-law Misayo (La Mirada); 6 g.c., 7 g.g.c.

**Nakasakis, Tom Masashi, 77**, Torrance, Feb. 16, Fresno-born Nisei; survived by wife Ryoko, son Glenn; daughter Gayle Mae-

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

hara and her husband Patrick; sister Alice Hatago and her husband George; sister-in-law Florence; 1 g.c.; other relatives.

**Nishida, Itsuo, 78**, Clarksburg, Feb. 9; survived by wife Kazuko; sons David; daughter Shirley; brothers Tugio, Michio, Yoshio, Mutsuo, and Shichio; sister-in-law Kimiye.

**Nomura, James Susumu, 73**, San Lorenzo, Feb. 5, survived by wife Sylvia; son Ron and his wife June; daughter Tami; sister Peggy Omae; brothers Roy and Frank; 2 g.c.

**Otsuka, Wallace "Wally", 56**, Kauai, Feb. 8; survived by wife Pamela; daughter Cherisse; sister Jeanette.

**Saito, Aiko, 95**, Twin Cities, Jan. 20; survived by sons Isamu, Masaharu and his wife Edna; and 6 g.c., 2 g.g.c.

**Shoda, Ken Susumi, 70**, Mission Hills, Feb. 11, Yamaguchi-born Issei; survived by wife Chieko; daughter Jayne; and many other relatives.

**Soga, Yukio, 76**, Alta Denia, Feb. 12, Fowler-born, survived by wife Noriko; son Lloyd; brother Toshio and his wife Kiyoko; sister Hidemi Morioka; and many nieces and nephews.

**Sogioka, Carl Kaoru, 49**, Gig Harbor, Wash., Feb. 8, Covina-born Sansei; survived by wife Janie; parents Beans and Lucy (Chino); stepchildren Jeffrey, Laurie, and Lisa Janson; sister Ruth Morihsita (Fremont), and Helen Casebeer (West Covina); brother Donald (Ventura); 1 g.c.

**Suginuma, George Hirochi, 77**, Gardena, Feb. 13, Sacramento-born Nisei; survived by wife Sachiko; son Allan; daughters Linda and Joy Young and her husband Keith; brother Makoto and his wife Kazuye; sisters Sachiko Watanabe and Eiko; 2 g.c.

**Takahashi, Mae Tsuyuko, 84**, Ontario, Ore., Jan. 11, attended Spokane Business College; predeceased by husband Hats; son Eddie; parents; 2 sisters and a brother; survived by brother Warren Tamura (Idaho); daughters Carolyn and her husband Ernie Quemuel, and Mary Ann (Wash.) and her husband Russell Mureta; and many others.

**Takao, Teru Matsuda, 82**, Ontario, Ore., Feb. 2, Wash.-born, educated in Japan, interned at Tule Lake; predeceased by her husband George and her son Carl; survived by sons Victor, Richard, Alan and Robert; and 6 g.c., 3 g.g.c.

**Takouchi, Kimiko, 69**, Los Angeles, Feb. 8, Stockton-born Nisei; survived by husband Frank S.; sons Ronald and his wife Cathy, and Randall and his wife Jannick; brother George Nakagawa and his wife Mary; sisters Alice Yoshinaga, Iku Shimomura (N.J.), Miyoko Harrington and Jackie Morimoto and her husband Warren.

**Takeuchi, Joseph, 76**, Canyon Country, Feb. 10, Seattle-born Nisei; survived by wife Florence Ahn; sons Vincent, Mark, and Laurence; daughters

Marcia Abe (Japan), Jennifer, and Robin McKnight; brothers Kenji, Goro, Keigo and Mamoru; sister Reiko Uyesaka; and many others relatives.

**Tanaka, Alice Shimano, 95**, Santa Monica, Feb. 13, Hawaii-born; survived by son Eddie Minoru and his wife Marguerite; daughter-in-law Mildred; 6 g.c.

**Toyomura, Dennis, 72**, Hawaii, Feb. 7; architect; survived by wife Aikiko; sons Wayne, Gerald, Lyle; daughter Amy Tsujioke; brother Harry; 3 g.c.

**Ushio, Mitsue, 74**, Los Angeles, Feb. 10, San Francisco-born Nisei; survived by brother Ted Tadasu (San Mateo).

**Yamamoto, George Ken-suke, 73**, Culver City, Feb. 6, Tacoma, Wash.-born; survived by wife Toki; daughters Eva and Pauline; mother Yasu; sister Sumiye Kajikawa and her husband Sadao; brother Ben Tsutomu and his wife Hiroko; and many nieces and nephews.

**Yamamoto, Leslie Haruko, 92**, Salt Lake City, Feb. 4, San Francisco-born; survived by daughter Eleanor (Masuji) Nakamura; brother George (Mary) Suruga; 3 g.c.

**Yamauchi, Yoshiyoshi, 79**, Lodi, Jan. 22, San Jose-born, JACL member; survived by daughter Judy Klimko; son Richard (San Jose); sisters Mutsuey Ikebe, Kasumi Machida, Dollie Nishida (San Jose) and Mari Somekawa (Minn.); brothers George Kawanami and Ernest Kawanami (Los Altos); 2 g.c. ■

### DEATH NOTICE

**TAD T. KITAZUMI**  
CHICAGO—Tad T. Kitazumi, 81, chemist, passed away on Nov. 14. Born in San Francisco and reared in Sacramento, he relocated initially to Indianapolis, and subsequently to Chicago and Waukegan, Ill. after his internment at Tule Lake.

Before his retirement from the Canteen Corp., he was an active Rotarian and past president of the Rotary Club in Waukegan, where he spearheaded many of the major fund-raising events. The depth of his character led him to appreciate a wide variety of activities such as collecting coins and clocks. As a self-taught pianist, his devotion to music was unparalleled. His intellect and wonderful sense of humor will be missed.

He is survived by his son Vincent (Lorrie) Castellano; daughters Anita (Daniel) Brady, Dr. Connie (Dr. Steve) Ely, Lisa Studnicki, and Linda (Brian) Klenke; brother Calvert (Betty); sisters Ardene (Dr. George) Uehara, Patricia (Mas) Kyono, and Lois Yamaguchi, R.N.; 9 g.c., 1 g.g.c.; many nieces and nephews; and dear friend and confidante, June Steele.

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# Reconciliation and the draft resisters

(Continued from page 1)

"Why should their children or their grandchildren carry the burden of wrongdoing placed on them by a community that didn't understand?" said Uno. "No, their children and grandchildren stand as loyal Americans."

Similar gestures may also be forthcoming from several chapters of the JACL, the civil rights organization that supported the United States government's decision to evacuate and intern the Nikkei community during World War II. It was also the JACL that petitioned President Franklin Roosevelt in 1942 to reinstate the draft for Japanese Americans so that the Nikkei community could further prove their loyalty.

The Pacific Southwest District of the JACL has already led the way towards reconciliation. Back in 1985, following a heated and emotional debate, PSW passed a resolution by a margin of 12-6.

While the PSW resolution clearly states that "this recognition stops short of an apology to the Japanese American draft resisters," it also reads in part: "Now, therefore be it resolved, PSW-JACL regrets and apologizes for any past bitterness caused by its failure to recognize this group of patriotic Americans and that by this recognition the PSW-JACL strives to continue to actively promote and nurture the healing process of an issue that has divided our community."

Most recently, a resolution was brought up at a Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific (NCWNP) District JACL meeting. At that time, the district council members voted to amend the resolution and revisit the issue at their next board meeting. A vote is anticipated in May.

But no action is expected from the national JACL any time soon. At issue, according to JACL National Director Herbert Yamanishi, is the question of whether the stance taken by certain JACL members during the war were in fact JACL policies or the actions of a few individuals who took too much liberty on behalf of JACL.

"Whether they were the policies of JACL or of the individual has always been the question," said Yamanishi.

But speaking on a personal level, Yamanishi said he hoped the

JACL and the resisters could one day find reconciliation.

In a separate move, the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, which does not share a controversial history with the resisters as do JACL and the veterans, adopted a resolution on Feb. 19, in support of them.

There are those, however, who still question the actions of the resisters. Dr. Harold Harada, a World War II veteran and JACL member, was among those opposed to the PSW-JACL resolution back in 1985.

"It's not necessary for World War II veterans to apologize for anything," said Harada. "We (veterans) made our choices and we did what we had to do. So be it."

In Northern California, Karl Kinaga, a San Jose JACL member, is concerned about NCWNP-JACL considering the passage of a similar resolution.

"I'm not very happy about the situation," said Kinaga. "I don't think they deserved that he had grown up with several of the men who joined the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee and felt many had become draft resisters other than for fighting for their constitutional rights. According to Kinaga, some of the men's fathers were pro-Japan and directed their sons to violate the draft."

"When the father said, 'Don't go to the draft,' they didn't go," said Kinaga. "Now, what does that have to do with constitutional rights?"

Another point that upsets Kinaga is the potential danger the actions of the resisters put the entire Nikkei community in.

"My attitude is that what the resisters did had absolutely no chance of helping the Japanese people. There was no chance that the U.S. government was going to release people from camp because of what the resisters did. They were, in a sense, tilting at the windmill."

"If you defy the government, the government retaliates and not only against the active people but against the whole group," said Kinaga. "The government could have retaliated against the whole group. That's the risk the resisters took. They not only

risked their own lives, but they risked the welfare of the Japanese people. I don't think they thought about this very deeply."

Fred Hirasuna, a Fresno JACL member, voiced similar sentiment. "Under the circumstances we should have supported the war effort," said Hirasuna. "It wasn't about constitutional rights violation but a look at a long range picture. We had to help no matter what the cost to secure our position in American society after the war."

In a written statement, Hirasuna wrote in part: "Those brave young people like Rudy Tokiwa, who volunteered, or were willingly drafted for military service in spite of the constitutional wrongs committed on them and their families by their own government, showed more real courage and more commitment to the overall cause of Japanese Americans. They did more for the Japanese American cause than any other single group, more than the Heart Mountain group. Because of them and their outstanding military record, we and our kids were able to return after the war to our proper place in American society with heads high and hearts proud."

"We should not forget the other Nikkei — the Issei, Kibei and bilingual Nisei who served the United States in the Military Intelligence in U.S. military Japanese language schools and in advanced Japanese translation units in the war against the Japanese."

"I felt that our true and primary concern should have been for our kids who would have had to return to American society after the war and what they would have had to face. We wanted them to have a fair chance to make their place in American society. I wanted them to be proud of the war record of Japanese Americans. This concern should have been the primary concern of all Nikkei, not arguments about what JACL did or did not do."

As for the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee (FPC) members that the *Pacific Citizen* interviewed, none spoke of harboring bitterness or expecting apologies from those who had ostracized them during and after

## WWII

"Bitter? No," said Ray Motonaga. "But I really don't think they (JACL) had the right policy towards the Japanese Americans. They were too caught up in the hysteria of the time, and when that happens, your best judgment is not there. You see, the first duty for us was to have our rights, our constitutional rights, restored. When we forego that, we are not protecting ourselves or our country."

Frank Emi, one of seven FPC leaders charged with sedition and sentenced to Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary, put it this way: "At the time that we were active, they (JACL) used a lot of derogatory terms against us, but as far as I'm concerned, I don't hold any bitterness towards the JACL or the veterans. I figure each group or person has an idea of what's right."

Regarding an apology from JACL, Emi said, "We've never asked them for an apology. After all, they're not the ones to blame. It's the wartime JACL people. But if this country can apologize for wartime deeds, there's no reason that the present-day JACL leaders can't do the same things."

Yosh Kuromiya, who had a confrontation with two JACLers while awaiting trial in the Cheyenne county jail, said he is saddened by JACL's current stance.

"I have great respect for the JACL because of what they have accomplished," said Kuromiya. "But if they had to do this by sacrificing certain segments of the community to make themselves look good, that's a lousy bargain. But I'm not bitter. I just wish there was a little more understanding."

James Kado regretted that they and the JACL could not see eye to eye but added, "I have no grudges against anybody. We're all *nikonjin*. We should help each other and work together to keep this country great."

The Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee takes its roots back to the United States government's attempt to draft Nikkei men while incarcerating them and their families behind barb wires.

Emi, who was married and had a child at the time, could have quietly waited out the war since the Army was not drafting men with children. But angered by the government's violation of his civil liberties, Emi joined forces with Kiyoshi Okamoto, Paul Nakadate, Isamu Sam Horino, Minoru Tamesa, Tsutomu Ben Wakaye and Guntaro Kubota to form the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee whose premise was "opposition to mili-

tary service without restoration of Nisei civil rights; clarification of those rights, and elimination of racial discrimination within the military."

At one point, the Fair Play Committee expanded beyond Heart Mountain. It was able to do so with the help of James Omura, editor of the Denver *Rocky Shimp*, the only publication that printed FPC's press releases. Omura also wrote several editorial's in support of FPC, in direct contrast to anti-FPC editorials that appeared in the *Pacific Citizen* and the censored Heart Mountain camp newspaper, *The Heart Mountain Sentinel*.

As a result of FPC activities, less than 17 percent of Heart Mountain Nisei men ordered to report for Selective Service physical exams appeared. Alarmed by this, authorities took swift action. Federal agents arrested Omura and the seven FPC leaders who were charged with aiding and abetting the violation of the Selective Service Act. Omura was later found innocent, but the other seven men were sentenced to four years at Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary.

What ensued was also the largest mass trial in Wyoming history when 63 Heart Mountain draft resisters were indicted for violating the Selective Service Act. They would later be joined by 22 others, for a total of 85 draft resisters from Heart Mountain who were sentenced to jail. All would be pardoned in 1947 by President Harry Truman and released from prison. The Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals would also later reverse the sentencing of the seven Fair Play Committee leaders, thus exonerating them.

In retrospect, would the FPC members have taken the same course of action?

"In a heartbeat," said Emi. "What the government did was totally wrong."

"Knowing what I do now, I probably would resist the evacuation," said Kuromiya. "We went along because the guys were pointing rifles at us. But by the time 1944 came around and they had the audacity to try to draft us out of camp, I couldn't see that happening. I had no problems fighting for my country, but at that point, I wondered if this was indeed my country."

Uratsu with the MIS perhaps best summed the situation up when he said, "The resisters, the JACL, the armed service men—all went into this because we were trying to fight for justice and freedom to make a better life here in America. I have nothing but the highest respect for all three groups."

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