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April 2-15, 1999

Los Alamos Firing Draws Concern of AA Community

BY MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

Like many Americans, the recent firing of Dr. Wen Ho Lee from the Los Alamos National Laboratory for alleged espionage activity has Asian Americans concerned about national security, but the AA community, still reeling from the campaign finance scandal, has a second issue to grapple with: how will this affect AAs?

On March 8, Lee was fired from his position at the Los Alamos National Laboratory following a 10-year investigation by the FBI. He is suspected of passing nuclear secrets to China, but has yet to be arrested or charged of any crime.

Attendees at the 37th Chinese American Engineers and Scientists Association of Southern California's (CESASC) convention and awards ceremony on March 27 voiced concern over how Lee's situation was being handled, particularly by the American mainstream press.

Dr. Yu-Chong Tai, associate professor and director of the California Institute of Technology's micromachining lab, noted that all the people he has talked to so far share his same opinion, which is: "We think the [media] reports are blown out of proportion. We

still have heard no evidence, and we feel Dr. Lee should fight back. He's been put into a bad situation because of the media, and this can mislead a lot of people to think that Dr. Lee is guilty. I think he should stand up and fight for justice.... He got fired without evidence. This is ridiculous."

In an effort to head off any rise in anti-Asian sentiment, David Wu, U.S. Congressman from Oregon, said he plans to bring this issue up at the next Asian Pacific American Caucus meeting.

"I think it's very important that there is no implication of group guilt," said Wu. "I'm going to try to get the Asian Pacific American Caucus together ... and we'll try to get out a joint statement about this. It's very important that the people you see here [at the CESASC dinner], who have made great contributions to America, not be viewed as guilty by ethnicity. But having said that, I also think that any prosecution should be vigorously pursued."

Like Wu, Dr. Munson Kwok, CESASC president and national secretary for the Chinese Ameri-

can Citizens Alliance (CACA), has taken proactive measures to prevent outbursts of anti-Asian hysteria.

"We're not talking about whether Dr. Lee is guilty or innocent," said Kwok. "We're concerned about how this will affect the entire group. A number of Asian American leaders are very concerned.... It seems that the media is looking for a spy story in

and LM Pei. The national JACL also supported this letter.

The letter was signed by Henry Tang, chairman of the Committee of 100; Herbert Yamanishi, national director of the JACL; Peter Suzuki, president of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association; George Ong, president of the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA); and Nancy Gee, president of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance.

In the letter, the community leaders noted that while they "support a vigorous, thorough

and fair investigation and prosecution of any national security breaches at Los Alamos or elsewhere," they also cautioned against the "violation of the civil rights of Asian Americans."

John Young, executive director of the Committee of 100, said they felt compelled to respond to this latest development because "we do not want to see the blame placed or the suspicion cast over all Asian Pacific Americans."

"What we have here is one American born in Taiwan," said Young. Lee is a naturalized American citizen. "But you shouldn't treat all minorities in

this way. That's one reason this generalization is dangerous ... What we're saying is don't do things so hastily."

Yamanishi pointed out that JACL became involved because this was "not just a Chinese American issue" and that all AAs "need to be concerned about the anti-Asian fallout."

Yamanishi pointed to the campaign finance scandal following the 1996 presidential election where donors with Asian surnames were singled out and questioned. He noted that distinctions were not being made and that "they [investigators] were not sorting out those who were really suspect and those run-of-the-mill people who were making contributions."

Ong with OCA, another signatory to the Committee of 100 letter, recently announced that they plan to monitor the local presses and statements made by public officials so that "this does not turn into another excuse for rampant anti-Asian bashing and sentiment." The organization is asking that any pertinent information be forwarded to OCA national headquarters at 202/296-0540.

But Ting Huang, chair of the Chinese Human Rights Advocate, cautioned that media

See LOS ALAMOS/page 10

"I think it's very important that there is no implication of group guilt ..."

— David Wu
U.S. Congressman from Oregon

every corner, and that is not good."

Kwok noted that he has been in close contact with CACA's New Mexico chapter which is currently in dialogue with the ACLU. Carolyn Chan, who heads CACA's New Mexico chapter, was out of town and could not be reached for comment by press time.

Kwok also pointed to CACA's involvement with a letter of concern sent to President Clinton by the Committee of 100, a New York-based Chinese American organization that counts among its members the likes of Yo-Yo Ma

APA Moms Speak Out About Teen Pregnancy, Parenthood and Finding Support Systems

BY TRACY UBA
Writer/Reporter

By the age of 15, Ayako Hagihara, the daughter of Shin Issei parents, found out she was pregnant. And before she was even old enough to legally drive, she was about to realize just what a difficult road lay ahead of her.

As high school students, Hagihara, and her 16-year-old boyfriend at the time, found themselves in a position shared by approximately one million teenagers in the United States each year.

"I was so scared," admitted Hagihara, now 26. "Especially, I think, because I'm from a new immigrant background. I knew that my mom, my parents, were going to hate me."

"For a while, I tried to figure out something on my own, but



Hiromi Ueha in an earlier photo with her son Chandler, now 8 years old.

when you're 15 you don't have a car, you don't have much money, you can't really do much," she said.

When her parents found out, they were so upset that at one point her father tried to send her back to Japan. And when Hagihara's son Derek was born, her mother had a difficult time accepting him.

Her boyfriend's parents helped her out with babysitting and a bit of financial support when they could, but Hagihara's relationship with her own parents remained strained.

Fortunately, she discovered her school district in Alhambra, Calif., which today boasts a high immigrant Asian population, had a program available for teen moms which provided child care, parenting tips, as well as transportation services from home to school. At the time, Hagihara was one of the only Asian Americans in a program mainly comprised of Latinas.

That program, which taught her things about parenthood that she wouldn't have known otherwise, "helped her to graduate

See TEEN MOMS/page 12

Pearl Harbor Reenactment Still Planned, JACL Requests Cancellation

By Pacific Citizen Staff
and Associated Press

Fireworks may soon look more like bombs if the Kentucky Derby Festival goes ahead with a "commemorative" reenactment of the 1941 Pearl Harbor incident, scheduled to take place on April 17.

As part of its Thunder Over Louisville celebration and air show, the 15-minute reenactment of a bombing which originally touched off the United States' entrance into World War II has sparked a controversy between organizers of the event and civil rights, religious and state economic-development groups which worry about the anti-Japanese sentiment it could provoke.

The segment called, "Tora! Tora! Tora!" is to be part of a six-hour air show and fireworks display which annually attracts more than a half million people to the Ohio River shoreline.

The Kentucky Derby Festival organizers said in a statement that the show offers "very sensitive treatment" and "is designed as a living history lesson to memorialize the American and Japanese soldiers who gave their lives for their countries."

But many aren't convinced of the harmlessness of such a reenactment.

The JACL recently issued a news release in which National President Helen Kawagoe expressed her concern. "We are not pleased that there is an effort to deliberately resurrect and recreate the divisive forces that led to the imprisonment of 120,000 men, women and children of Japanese heritage."

National Director Herb Ya-

manishi added that the air show glorifies war and said, "We do not need to reinforce violence in society."

"What kind of message does this send to our young people?" he asked. "It certainly puts anyone who looks Japanese in a vulnerable position."

The JACL has sent letters to the Mayor of Louisville, Jerry Abramson, as well as the president/CEO of the Kentucky Derby Festival, Michael Berry, and asked them to "cancel the air show reenactment of the bombing of Pearl Harbor" on grounds that it "could create negative messages that would adversely affect Japanese Americans and Asian Americans."

Charles Hutchins, the tour leader and manager of the "Tora! Tora!" production, was quoted in Louisville's *The Courier-Journal* as saying that the narration "honors men on all sides of the war. It shows the great suffering on all sides. In no way does the script have anything to do with Japan-bashing," he reassured.

Still, the Japan/America Society of Kentucky echoed the JACL's concern that the reenactment may unintentionally stir up bitter emotions, while the Council of the Presbytery of Louisville urged the festival to stage shows that "enhance peace and joy, rather than conjure up war and hatred."

In addition, the state Economic Development Cabinet is worried that the reenactment of the bombing could threaten current relations with international Japanese businesses and industries which contribute to the prosperity of Kentucky's economy.

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NEWS/AD DEADLINE: FRIDAY BEFORE DATE OF ISSUE.

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Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____ Chapter: _____

JACL Calendar

Eastern

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Sat. April 10—District Council Meeting, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Medford Leas, NJ, on Route 70. 1 p.m. discussion, "Implications of the Changing Asian American Demographics: Its Impact on JACL." Info: Steve, 212/353-9146.

NEW YORK

Wed. April 7—Reception for new and prospective members, 6:30-9 p.m. Info: Yoko Sato, 914/766-8623.

Sun. April 11—Essex County Cherry Blossom Festival, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Branch Brook Park, Belleville, NJ. Info: Lillian Kimura, chair, 973/680-1441.

Thurs.-Sun. July 1-4—Tri-District Conference (MPDC/MDC/EDC), "The Dream Continues: One America in the 21st Century," Roosevelt Hotel, New York City.

PHILADELPHIA

Sat. April 10—Philadelphia chapter installation/graduate recognition dinner; HK Golden Pheasant restaurant, Chinatown; speaker, Professor Frank H. Wu. RSVP by April 5: Paul Uyehara, 215/276-0964.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Sun. May 30—51st Annual JACL Memorial Day Service, Arlington National Cemetery.

Midwest

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Thurs.-Sun. July 1-4—Tri-District Conference (MPDC/MDC/EDC), "The Dream Continues: One America in the 21st Century," Roosevelt Hotel, New York City.

TWIN CITIES

Sun. April 16—Annual Community Forum, benton lunch.

WISCONSIN

Sun. May 23—JACL Recognition Dinner, 2 p.m.; Christ United Methodist Church.

Mountain Plains

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Thurs.-Sun. July 1-4—Tri-District Conference (MPDC/MDC/EDC), "The Dream Continues: One America in the 21st Century," Roosevelt Hotel, New York City.

Intermountain

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Fri.-Sun. July 16-18—Bi-District Conference (PNW/IDC), Ogden, Utah.

MOUNT OLYMPUS

Sat. April 24—Chapter 70th Anniversary Fund-A-Rama; Cottonwood

COMMUNITY Calendar

East Coast

BELLEVILLE, N.J.

Sun. April 11—Essex County Cherry Blossom Festival, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Branch Brook Park, Belleville, NJ. Info: Lillian Kimura, chair, 973/680-1441.

PHILADELPHIA

Sat. April 17—Japanese America Society of Greater Philadelphia Cherry Blossom Festival Gala, 6:30 p.m.; Glendinning Rock Garden, Fairmount Park. Black tie or traditional Japanese dress. Info: Hikari Kato, 215/575-2200 x 259.

SAN MATEO

Wed. May 19—San Francisco Symphony open rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., coffee & donuts, 9 a.m. Tickets \$20. Info: JACL Community Center, 343-2793.

SAN FRANCISCO

Sun. April 11—Nikkei Widowed Group meeting, 12 noon, 558 16th St. Info: Tetsu Ihara, 415/421-4568, Kay Yamamoto, 510/444-3911. Men also welcome.

Through June 1—Exhibit: "Inside Out: New Chinese Art: Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Golden Gate Park. Info: 415/379-8801.

Ongoing—Exhibits "Jade," over 2000 works dating from the Neolithic period to the 20th century; Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Golden Gate Park. Info: 415/379-8800.

Southern California

LOS ANGELES

Thurs. April 8—Mini X-Change "Night on the Los Angeles River: San Jose. Info: X-Change, 7:30 p.m.; Great Western Forum, 3900 W. Manchester

High School

SLAKE RIVER

Fri. May 7—Annual Graduation Banquet; Four Rivers Cultural Center.

Pacific Northwest

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Fri.-Sun. July 16-18—Bi-District Conference (PNW/IDC), Salt Lake City.

NC-WN-Pacific

DISTRICT COUNCIL
Sat. April 10—NCWNP Board Meeting; National Headquarters, San Francisco.

Fri.-Sun. April 23-25—Tri-District Conference (CCDC/PSW/NCWNP); Ramada Inn Hotel Valley Ho in downtown Scottsdale, Ariz.; \$85 per room, single or double, and \$90 for a mini-suite; only 50 rooms are available.

Sat. May 1—3rd Annual CDC benefit golf tournament; Fig Garden Golf course, 7700 N. Van Ness Blvd., Fresno, phone 559/439-2928. NOTE: tee sponsors desired, cost \$75; info: Stan Hirahara, 559/638-6014.

Sun. May 16—CCDC Scholarship Luncheon and 2nd Quarter Meeting; Sunnyside Country Club, Fresno.

RENO

Thurs. July 1—Deadline for Reno chapter scholarship applications. Info: Sheldon Isha, scholarship chair, 747-3886.

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, trips. Co-sponsored by Greater Los Angeles Singles chapter.

SAN MATEO

Sun. April 25—Sakura Matsuri Senior Appreciation Brunch; Radisson Miyako Hotel, San Francisco. RSVP: JACL Community Center, 343-2793.

TRI-VALLEY

Sun. April 18—Annual Tri-Valley chapter teriyaki chicken dinner. See Community Calendar for details.

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/Anne Kosakura, 800/858-2882.

Central California

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Fri.-Sun. April 23-25—Tri-District Conference (CCDC/PSW/NCWNP), Scottsdale, Ariz.; (see NCWNP).

Sat. May 1—CCDC Golf Tournament; Fig Garden Golf Course, 7700 N. Van Ness Blvd., Fresno; \$75; tee sponsors

Northern California

CUPERTINO

Sat.-Sun. April 10-11—Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Memorial Park, Stevens Creek Blvd. across from DeAnza College. Info: Lucille Honig, 408/257-7424, Margaret M. Abe, 650/967-0706.

MOUNTAIN VIEW

April 17-May 2—Play: The Joy Luck Club; Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, Castro & Mercy Sts. Times, tickets: 650/903-6000.

PLEASANTON

Sun. April 18—23rd Annual Tri-Valley JACL teriyaki chicken dinner sale, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; Alameda County Fairgrounds cafeteria, Pleasanton Ave. entrance; karate, bonsai, taiko drums, noon-1 p.m. Tickets, info: Dean Suzuki, 820-1454.

SAN MATEO

Wed. May 19—San Francisco Symphony open rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., coffee & donuts, 9 a.m. Tickets \$20. Info: JACL Community Center, 343-2793.

SAN FRANCISCO

Sun. April 11—Nikkei Widowed Group meeting, 12 noon, 558 16th St. Info: Tetsu Ihara, 415/421-4568, Kay Yamamoto, 510/444-3911. Men also welcome.

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Ongoing—Exhibits "Jade," over 2000 works dating from the Neolithic period to the 20th century; Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Golden Gate Park. Info: 415/379-8800.

Southern California

LOS ANGELES

Thurs. April 8—Mini X-Change "Night on the Los Angeles River: San Jose. Info: X-Change, 7:30 p.m.; Great Western Forum, 3900 W. Manchester

desired. Info: Grace Kimoto, 209/394-2456.

Sun. May 16—CCDC Scholarship Luncheon and 2nd Quarter Meeting; Sunnyside Country Club. Info: Grace Kimoto, 209/394-2456.

LIVINGSTON-MERCED

Sat. April 24—5th Annual Livingston-Merced Charity Golf Tournament, 11 a.m. tee time; Rancho Del Rey, 5250 W. Green Sands Ave. Atwater; \$65 including banquet. Info: Bob Taniguchi, 209/383-5161.

Pacific Southwest

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Fri.-Sun. April 23-25—Tri-District Conference (CCDC/PSW/NCWNP); Scottsdale, Ariz.; (see NCWNP).

ARIZONA

Sun. April 18—Sara Hutchings Clardy Scholarship Awards Banquet and Graduates Luncheon, 1 p.m.; Ramada Valley Ho Resort, 6850 Main St., Scottsdale. Speaker, Dr. Tom Nakayama. RSVP by April 13: info: Kathy Inoshita, 602/937-5434.

GREATER L.A. SINGLES

Fri. April 9—Meeting/program, 8 p.m.; Gardena Valley YWCA, 1341 W. Gardena Blvd.; speaker Naomi Yoshida Rodriguez, Academy Award winning customer for Visa and Virtues, Disneyland, films, theater. Info: Louise Sakamoto, 310/327-3169.

Fri.-Sun. Sept. 3-5—Eighth National JACL Singles Convention. Info: Georgeann Maeda, 415/753-3340; Gale Kondo, 415/337-9981.

ORANGE COUNTY

Fri.-Sun. June 25-27—1999 National Youth Student Conference; University of California, Irvine. Info: Patricia Tsai Tom, 559/486-6815, ccd@joc.edu or Hironi Ueha, chair, hueh@uc.edu.

VENICE CULVER

Sat. May 1—Venice Culver JACL Brunch and Toast to Fred Hoshiyama, 6:30 p.m.; JA Community Center, 12448 Bradlock Dr. La., \$40/person. RSVP by April 20: Sharon Kumagai, 310/719-2364, Sam Shimoguchi, 310/822-6688.

RIVERSIDE

Sun. May 16—Graduation/ Scholarship Potluck Dinner, 5 p.m.; University Club, UCR. ■

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

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

Blvd., Inglewood. RSVP: 213/627-6217 ext. 12.

Fri.-Sat. April 9-10—"Hiroshima," jazz band performs, 8 p.m.; Japan America Theatre, 244 S. San Pedro, Little Tokyo. Info: 213/628-2725, Box Office, 213/680-3700.

Sun. April 11—Ikkeba demonstration, 2-3 p.m.; New Otani Hotel & Garden, 120 S. Los Angeles St., Little Tokyo. Info: 213/263-9295.

Fri.-Sun. April 16-18—Rohrer Reunion II, Torrance Marriott Hotel, Torrance. RSVP ASAP: So. Calif. Peggy Tsunoda, 310/323-6337, Frank Yamamoto, 310/329-2537, Chuckie Watanabe, 310/329-3527, Betty Oka, 714/635-8207, Helen Taketa, 626/968-2966; Na. Calif. Nelli Utsumi, 415/387-5265, Lillian Uyehara, 415/235-6042, Asako Hori-moto Maeda, 510/832-2275, Yone Kurumura Asai, 510/828-2086.

Tues. April 20—Lecture, "The Power of Non-Violence," 7-8:30 p.m., Soka University, 26800 W. Mulholland Hwy. Info: 818/878-3778.

Sat. April 24—30th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage. Info: Sue Embrey, committee chair, 310/662-5102.

Sat. June 10—WWII 100th/442nd MIS "Go For Broke" monument unveiling ceremonies/luncheon, Central Ave. bet. 1st & 2nd. Little Tokyo. Info, tickets: 310/327-4193.

SAN DIEGO

Through April 25—U.S. premier performance, Cultivated Lives, award-winning play by Velina Hsu Houston, 6 p.m. Fri. & Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. except Easter. Sweetooth Theatre, 630 F St., ballroom of the Maryland Hotel. Info: 619/544-9079.

RENO
Mon.-Wed., April 26-28—9th Yr. Postman Camp 3 Reunion; El Dorado Hotel & Casino; info: Wendy Tsutsumi, 408/259-8285. ■

Japanese Latin American Sues U.S. for Wartime Abduction

Koshio Henry Shima, one of the named plaintiffs in *Mochizuki et al. v. United States*, the class action by Japanese Latin Americans abducted from their home countries and interned in the United States during World War II, filed papers on March 2 in the Los Angeles U.S. District Court seeking damages for those violations of his civil rights.

The earlier *Mochizuki* action charged discrimination by U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno in denying redress under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 to JLA internees, while granting it to Japanese American internees. The claims filed focus not on the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (CLA), but on Shima's original abduction and internment.

Shima offered to accept the largely symbolic redress benefits under the CLA, rather than full compensation. Now, because he has been denied even the CLA's symbolic redress, he is demanding full compensation for his abduction at gunpoint from Lima, Peru, as a teenager, for being put to forced labor in the Panama Canal Zone, for his four-year imprisonment in a Texas concentration camp; and for the loss of citizenship in his native Peru, all of

which could total millions of dollars.

The United States' ongoing refusal to admit wrongdoing for its wartime actions against Latin American Japanese is alleged to show a continuing formal policy in support of such acts, rendering the U.S. still liable to suit under the U.S. federal and international law.

The earlier *Mochizuki* case has settled under terms that were supposed to give to the Latin Americans a small fraction of the CLA's redress benefits. However, some of the settling class members have found the U.S. promise of \$5,000 in token redress to be an empty one. Another lawsuit, *NCCR v. United States of America*, has been filed alleging that millions were lost because the money provided by Congress was supposed to be invested but wasn't.

The settlement also gave any JLA former internee the right to "opt out" of the agreement and file a separate lawsuit. Shima dismissed himself from the settling lawsuit and filed his own lawsuit, represented by one of the class action attorneys who handled the *Mochizuki* action, Paul L. Mills. ■

Consortium Applauds Congressional Sponsors of Hate Crimes Bill

WASHINGTON—The National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium and the Organization of Chinese Americans joined Vice President Gore in applauding the congressional sponsors who introduced the Hate Crimes Prevention Act on March 11.

Consortium Executive Director Karen K. Narasaki stated, "This legislation is a very important step in ensuring that no one who commits a hate crime will escape punishment. Congress needs to send a clear message that America will not tolerate these crimes."

Senators Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), and Gordon Smith (R-Ore.) are the lead sponsors in the Senate, and representatives Connie Morella (R-Md.), John Conyers (D-N.Y.), Michael Forbes (R-N.Y.), and minority leader Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.) are the lead sponsors in the House of Representatives.

OCA National President George M. Ong commented, "OCA commends the leadership of Senator Kennedy and Congressman Conyers for introducing a bill that must be passed immediately — the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1999. OCA has advocated for hate crimes legislation since the death of Vincent Chin in 1982. We must toughen and tighten our hate crime laws to deter the crimes and at the same time remove the rigid barriers that enable successful prosecutions of hate crimes as hate crimes."

Narasaki added, "It is gratifying to see the bipartisan support for this legislation. Hopefully, Congress will act quickly to ensure that the federal government can prosecute when local laws are insufficient to ensure protection against these horrendous civil rights violations." ■

Gov. Davis Appoints Hayashi Director for Department of Fair Employment and Housing

Gov. Gray Davis recently announced the appointment of Dennis W. Hayashi as director for the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing. As director, Hayashi will enforce California's civil rights laws in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations and family medical leave rights.

Hayashi, 46, a native of San Francisco, has more than 20 years of experience in enforcing civil rights laws. Since 1993 he has served with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as director for the Office of Human Rights and later as counsel

to the deputy secretary. He also served as JACL national director from 1991 to 1993. From 1979 to 1991 he was an attorney for the Asian Law Caucus, where he specialized in employment and racial discrimination cases.

Hayashi graduated cum laude with a bachelor of arts degree from Occidental College and earned a juris doctor degree from Hastings College of the Law.

Hayashi will receive a salary of \$105,883, reflecting a 5 percent reduction as requested by the governor. This position requires state Senate confirmation. ■

Hamabata Named Director of Learning for Calif. Endowment

The California Endowment recently announced the appointment of Matthews Masayuki Hamabata, Ph.D., as director of learning. Hamabata has consulted and researched extensively in the areas of organizational design, electronic communication and cross-cultural issues. He has written and lectured on a variety of topics including institutional development, cultural competency and diversity in the workplace.

Prior to joining The California Endowment, Hamabata served as co-director of the Organizational Design and Effectiveness pro-

gram at The Fielding Institute. His accomplishments there, along with his co-director, include the development and launch of the world's first master's program focusing on the intersection of electronic communication, organizational design and cross-cultural issues.

Hamabata graduated from Cornell University, earned his master's degree from Harvard University in 1979, and his doctorate in sociology, also from Harvard University, in 1983. Hamabata is a resident of West Hills, Calif. ■

Gov. Davis Endorses National Memorial

Announcing the final stage of plans to build a National Memorial to Patriotism in Washington, D.C., the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation received a boost of support from California's Governor Gray Davis, who spoke at the event held at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles on March 19.

"When I first heard of the idea about constructing this memorial to honor the sacrifices of JAs during World War II, my first response was, 'It's about time,'" said Gov. Davis before a crowd of more than 200 people.

"I strongly support this memorial because it will at long last honor the indomitable spirit of a community who remained steadfast and loyal in the face of a nation gripped by wartime crisis, prejudice, and fear," he continued. "And it will serve as a great

reminder of what we as a nation are capable of in extreme circumstances and what we must never let happen again."

The congressionally approved memorial, scheduled to be unveiled in D.C. sometime next year, will honor the JA WWII veterans and the 120,000 JAs who were interned in concentration camps during the war.

With the goal of raising \$8.6 million by August of this year, the foundation announced that they have thus far raised \$5.7 million.

"We want this memorial to be a people's memorial," said Mel Chigioji, foundation chair. "We want 100 percent participation if we can, whether it's \$5, \$100, or \$10,000, whatever it is. The more people contribute, they can feel like it's their memorial and not a few people who built the memorial. We want this to be a community memorial."



PHOTO: MARTHA NAKAGAWA

(from l-r): Assemblymember Mike Honda, California Gov. Gray Davis and Foundation Chair Mel Chigioji study a model of the National Memorial to Patriotism, scheduled to be unveiled sometime next year.

In addition to giving his support to the Memorial Foundation, Gov. Davis announced the recently passed California Civil Liberties Act, AB 1915, legislation that will provide \$1 million for projects to educate the California public about the JA internment experience.

"[AB 1915] will allow us to spend a million dollars to better educate the people of this state, particularly our young people; about this dark chapter in our history so that the extraordinary loyalty and bravery of these JAs are never forgotten," said Gov. Davis. "I urge all other states to take a page from California's book and honor JAs. This is part of our history that we want to come to terms with and reconcile."

AB 1915 sponsor, Assemblymember Mike Honda (D-San Jose), was also on hand to give an update on the Civil Liberties Act and to support the Memorial Foundation. Echoing the governor, Honda encouraged other states to follow California's lead.

"When the governor of the state of California essentially challenges the other governors of the other states, they need to pay attention," said Honda. "And hopefully both the effort and the challenge will get the attention of the other states to consider implementing and creating a bill like this."

With the creation of the Calif. Civil Liberties Act, all Americans have a chance to learn from the JA experience of WWII, said Honda. "Everybody should think about their own experiences, whether they are JAs, Latinos, Armenians, Italians, or Germans, and by parallel, our experiences, and we are hopeful that it will teach them about themselves. Ours is an American experience and so that mistake will not be made with any other group."

Also in attendance giving their support to the Memorial Foundation and the Civil Liberties Act were Speaker Antonio R. Villaraigosa (45th Assembly District) and Assemblymember George Nakano (53rd Assembly District).

For more information, contact the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation at 1920 N Street, NW, Suite 660, Washington, D.C., 20036, 202/861-8845, fax: 202/861-8848, e-mail: NJAMF@erols.com. ■

Quo and Mori receive 'Woman of the Year' Awards

SACRAMENTO—Two Asian American women were honored as "Woman of the Year" by California legislators in a ceremony at the state Capitol on March 15. Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa honored actress Beulah Quo, and San Francisco community activist Sandra Akiko Ousey Mori was chosen by Assemblyman Kevin Shelley. The special commemorative was held to recognize exemplary California women from each assembly district in the state.

"Beulah Quo is an inspirational leader with a long history of accomplishments," said Villaraigosa. "I am pleased to pay tribute to such a dedicated and talented woman."

Quo is an Emmy-nominated actress with hundreds of stage and screen credits. She is a co-founder of Los Angeles' East West Players, the oldest Asian Pacific American theater company in the United States. As a civic activist, Quo has produced numerous public affairs programs on issues impacting Asian Pacific Americans. She has championed civil rights and economic justice through her artistic and political work. Her

son is Stewart Kwoh, executive director of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California.

"Beulah is a rare combination of compassionate and capable, making her an extraordinary role model for young people," said Villaraigosa. "She gives selflessly to her family, her community and her city. Beulah Quo has made a real difference in our lives."

Mori was born in Tule Lake internment camp during World War II and grew up in Sacramento. She is co-founder and board member of Kimochi, a senior service organization in Japantown. She was appointed in 1995 by then-Gov. Pete Wilson to the White House Conference on Aging, and was appointed a member of the U.S.-Japan Joint Commission on Aging by U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalek.

Mori is currently the executive secretary to the San Francisco Health Commission and a board member of the In-Home Supportive Services Consortium, and was recently named by Mayor Willie Brown to the San Francisco Long-Term

Health Task Force. She also heads the Japantown Planning, Preservation and Development Task Force.

"Sandy Mori is an exceptional person and an excellent role model for Women," said Shelley. "Her work in the service of others is unparalleled, and it is a great honor to nominate her as Woman of the Year."

The tributes coincided with the finale performance at East West Players of "Carry the Tiger to the Mountain," a dramatic play about the 1982 Vincent Chin murder where Chin was bludgeoned to death with a baseball bat by two men who mistook him for being Japanese. Quo portrayed Chin's mother, Lily.

The ceremony was the centerpiece of a day-long celebration that included a morning reception hosted by Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante, and an afternoon tribute to California First Lady Sharon Davis, "Woman of the Year" from the 42nd Assembly District.

"Woman of the Year" events were coordinated by Assemblywoman Susan Davis (D-San Diego), chair of the Women's Legislative Caucus. ■

Bill Lann Lee Confirmation Must Remain on JACL's Front Burner

BY YAS TOKITA

President Clinton re-nominated Bill Lann Lee for the position of assistant attorney general for the civil rights division in the Department of Justice on Friday, March 5. But the battle lines already were drawn in mid-February when Senator Orrin Hatch of the Judiciary Committee fired the first shot, and warned the president not to renominate Lee to the position he has held for 14 months. In a standoff in December 1997, the president appointed Lee to the position of acting assistant attorney general when the Senate Judiciary Committee deadlocked 9-9.

Both JACL and the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) in Utah have mobilized to work on Hatch in hopes of persuading him to allow the entire Senate to vote on Lee's confirmation. The word from Washington D.C. is that if allowed to go to the floor of

the Senate, Lee would be confirmed. The Senate is hardly in the mood for another divisive, partisan fight after having gone through the "winger of impeachment."



Yas Tokita

In Utah, a press conference was held in Salt Lake City, three hours after the president renominated Lee. Both JACL and OCA have

met with the editorial boards of two major newspapers, and the Salt Lake Tribune has indicated support of Lee. In addition, a coalition is being formed, newspapers ads are being planned, op-ed pieces being written, press conferences being planned, letter writing and petition campaigns getting underway and meetings

are being planned to organize and give direction to the strategy of educating Utahns and lobbying Hatch.

JACLers in all states need to urge their senators to lobby members of the Judiciary Committee. We especially need JACLers in MDC to lobby Senators DeWine (R-Ohio) and Abraham (R-Michigan), who are moderates on the Judiciary Committee. Bob Sakaniwa, JACL Washington D.C. Representative, is the orchestrator of this activity.

The renomination has gone into "hibernation" for a period of time until the Judiciary Committee decides on a course of action on the confirmation hearings. Until then, the JACL has to continue to keep the heat on this issue on high and on the front burner. ■

Yas Tokita is a member of the Salt Lake City chapter of the JACL.

'Go for Broke' Monument Starts to Take Shape

Construction for the anticipated 100th/442nd/MIS WWII Memorial Foundation's "Go For Broke" monument is currently underway. The monument, which is the first in the mainland United States to remember the heroic efforts of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service (MIS), 522nd Artillery and 232nd/1399 Engineering, will be unveiled in a commemorative ceremony on June 5.

The concrete foundation, which is an 80-foot square area, was donated by the city of Los Angeles, was recently formed and laid. The pillars, kiosks and monument walls have also started to be constructed. The 40-foot in diameter, nine-foot-high granite monument, which will be located on Central Avenue near Temple Street (north of the Gelfin/Museum of Contemporary Art), is concurrently being pre-

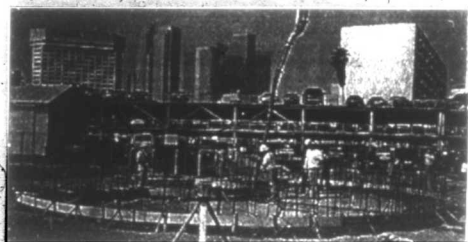


PHOTO COURTESY OF FOUNDATION

The 'Go for Broke' monument started construction on March 1999.

pared to accommodate the 16,000 names of the 100th, 442nd, MIS veterans. A tree lined pedestrian walkway from the monument to city hall is an integral part of a new Los Angeles Civic Center.

Along with each veteran's name, eight donor pillars, four on each side of the monument will also be engraved. The donor pillars will list the names and companies of the monument's major sponsors under seven categories: Founder, Gold Circle, Silver Circle, Patron, Sponsor, Associate and Supporter.

Leading the construction team is Bruce Kato, of Kato Construction Management and project/construction manager of the monument site. "We've been working diligently to meet the city's stringent requirements while maintaining deadlines and

the monument's design." Kato added, "Although it has been a stressful project, I feel that it's important that we carry on the veterans' legacy. This monument allows us to do that and I am proud to be a part of history in the making." Kato is a Sansei, who like many other Japanese Americans, was unaware of the heroics of the WWII JA veterans.

For more information on the 100th/442nd/MIS WWII Memorial Foundation and the "Go For Broke" monument's June 5 unveiling ceremony, please call 310/327-4193.

The 100th/442nd/MIS WWII Memorial Foundation, which is located in Gardena, Calif., is a 501 (C)(3) nonprofit organization. You can also e-mail the foundation at GoForBroke@worldnet.att.net or fax at 310/715-3140. ■

Americans of Japanese Ancestry WWII Memorial Alliance Sets Dedication Date

The Americans of Japanese Ancestry WWII Memorial Alliance Special Fund Raising Project Chair Jim Yamashita reported that fund raising efforts from former camp internees to honor the men who gave their lives during WWII was highly successful.

Recent solicitation letters, along with prior donations, are reaching the \$25,000 goal set by the Alliance for former Poston internees. This amount represents a collective donation of \$1,000 each from the 25 soldiers who either volunteered from Poston or their family was listed as being interned there.

This now places the total funds to over \$300,000. Final plans for the memorial, being prepared for approval by the JACCC, reveal a modification to the current Veterans Memorial Court on the west side of the JACCC building. The addition of the memorial honoring those who died in WWII will complete the memorial court presently occupied by the Japanese American Vietnam and Korean War memorial walls.

The official dedication date for the AJAWWIMA KIA Memorial has been set for the "Day of Remembrance" event on Saturday, Feb. 19, 2000, but Alliance President Roy Machida said the actual memorial construction is expected to be completed in advance.

"It is our hope and future plan to join with the Vietnam and Korean War veterans in their annual memorial services held each Memorial Day at the Veterans Memorial Court. We can then join them and together honor those who gave their lives in all of America's wars and conflicts at the one service," stated Machida.

All WWII veterans, friends and persons interested in participating in the efforts of the WWII Memorial Alliance may attend the meetings held every Saturday morning beginning at 10 a.m. at the JACCC, 244 So. San Pedro St., Los Angeles.

Additional information regarding the AJAWWIMA may be obtained by calling Jim J. Yamashita at 562/691-0383. ■

Zions Bancorporation Donates to Topaz Museum

Zions Bancorporation, the holding company that acquired The Sumitomo Bank of California in San Francisco last year and reorganized its California holdings under the California Bank and Trust name, announced recently that it has donated \$7,500 — the largest single donation received to-date — to the Topaz Museum project.

Established in 1989 as a nonprofit organization, the Topaz Museum's mission is to preserve the history of the Topaz Internment Camp near Delta, Utah.

In the early 1940s, during World War II, more than 110,000 Japanese Americans were forced from their West Coast homes to 10 inland internment camps where they remained under guard and suspicion until the war's end.

One such internment camp was constructed near Delta, Utah. Named after a nearby mountain, Topaz opened in September of 1942. Ultimately, over 8,000 JAs, mostly from the San Francisco area, would reside within the camp, constituting Utah's fifth most populous city at the time. Topaz closed in October of 1945.

Through fund raising, the Topaz Museum has purchased over 400 acres of the original campsite for preservation. It has also restored part of an original barracks that is on exhibit at the Great Basin Museum in Delta, Utah. Through a Civil Liberties Public Education Fund government grant, the Topaz Museum also reprinted Leonard Arring-

ton's book "The Price of Prejudice" which was one of the first scholarly reports of the internment experience at Topaz. Copies of the book have been distributed to every school and public library in Utah and the San Francisco area. "Currently, the museum board is working on designing the exhibits that will be housed within the facility. Upon completion of the exhibit design, work will begin on the museum design.

"As a basic educational facility, the museum is of great importance," said Jane Beckwith president of the Topaz Museum Board. "It is also important that we erect a facility as a monument to the courage and perseverance of thousands of Japanese Americans who suffered through this crisis."

"We are grateful to Zions Bancorporation for its significant contribution to this effort," she continued. "This contribution is an indication of Zions' dedication to the history of the Japanese as well as Utahns. It is nice that Zions believes in us."

Harris H. Simmons, president and chief executive officer of Zions Bancorporation, stated that the contribution to the Topaz Museum is a reflection of Zions' commitment to the communities and the people the bank serves.

"We hope that our donation will demonstrate to others our belief in the importance of this project and encourage others to contribute to the museum that will stand as a tribute to a people who demonstrated great patience, dignity and loyalty through this difficult ordeal," said Simmons. ■

Blue Shield health plans for California JACL members

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



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Legacy Fund Grant Applications Available

Legacy Fund grant applications will be available after April 9 from the JACL, Pacific Northwest District Office, 611 S. Jackson St., #206 Seattle, WA 98104.

Grant committee members are Gary Maeda, chair; Henry Tanaka, Midwest district; Elise Yamaguchi, PNW district; Delia Ieda, Fresno-Central California district; Malcolm Mori, Mountain Plains district; Rick Naguchi, PSW district; Tab Goo, Intermountain district; Ursula Matsuda, Eastern district; and John Hayashi, NGSW district.

Grants of up to \$3,000 are available to JACL chapters, district councils and the national youth student council for projects relating to the JACL program for action. Proposals are not restricted to new projects and grants may be awarded to projects extending beyond 1999. Applications must be received no later than May 21, 1999. All grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call the PNW district office at 206/222-5088. ■

Schedule for the Upcoming Tri-District Conference in Scottsdale, Ariz. Released

Friday, April 23

12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m. - ?

Booster Event: Golf Outing
Registration
Welcome Mixer

Saturday, April 24

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Continental Breakfast
Registration
Welcome
Plenary Session:

"Japanese American — A Cross

Generational Discussion"

Lunch: Keynote Speaker

Workshop Session I

- Civil Rights

- Education

- Membership/Planned Giving

Workshop Session II

- Affirmative Action

- Political Empowerment

- Draft Resisters

Booster Event: Bowling

Sunday, April 25

7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Breakfast Buffet

Plenary Session:

National Board Forum

Closing Remarks

Booster Event: Bus trip to

Gila River Relocation Center

The early registration period ends April 9. Further information about the conference can be obtained from the PSW District Office, 213/626-4471.

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Mountain Plains Realigns Cabinet Lineup, to Join IDC-PNW Conference July 16-18

BY HARRY K. HONDA
Editor Emeritus

HOUSTON—Covering twelve states from Canada to Mexico and from the Rockies to the Plains, JACL's largest geographic Mountain Plains District Council of six chapters — Omaha, Fort Lupton, Mile Hi, Arkansas Valley, New Mexico (formerly Albuquerque) and Houston — amended its bylaws at the March 20 meeting, replacing four area representatives from its cabinet for one vice governor and one youth/student. The district meeting was held at the Clarion Inn on March 19-20.

Incoming officers are Cory-Jeanne Murakami-Houch, district governor; Mas Yamasaki (Houston), vice governor; Emile Kutsuma (Mile-Hi), secretary; Tom Migaki (Mile-Hi), treasurer; and a youth/student to be selected. The four area representatives this past biennium were Yamasaki (Texas), Dr. Jim Taguchi (Colorado), Reiko Parker (Nebraska) and Joe Andow (New Mexico).

As the luncheon speaker, District Governor Cory-Jeanne Murakami-Houch had a personal side to relate about "Los Alamos," which made international headlines earlier in the week when a Chinese American scientist at the national laboratory was dismissed for allegedly passing nuclear



'HOUSTON CAPER XIV' starter Mas Yamasaki welcomes JACL golfers to a week-long shoot at Mountain Plains convention delegates relax at a Texas BBQ restaurant after their March 20 session hosted by Houston chapter. Seated to his right is Emile Kutsuma, past MPDC governor.

clear warhead secrets to China.

Afternoon workshops featured presentations by Daniel Watanabe, Ph.D., on the "Japanese Pioneers of Houston," and by Betty Waki, educator at Sharpstown High School, on "Interpersonal Relationships."

Mountain Plains JACL, meeting next July 16-18 at Salt Lake City, has transformed the scheduled bi-district Intermountain and Pacific Northwest conference, into a "tri-district" attraction, thus rendering the July 1-4 Eastern-Midwest Dis-

trict conference at Roosevelt Hotel, New York City, back to its original format. Two years ago, Mountain Plains hosted the EDC-MDC-MPDC Tri-District Conference at Albuquerque.

At the Houston Caper XIV welcome dinner, the district council awarded the JACL sapphire pin to Randy Shibata (New Mexico) for meaningful service at the chapter and district/national levels the past ten years. Three more awards are to be announced.

Thirty Teachers Attend Twin Cities JACL Workshop

BY CHERYL HIRATA-DULAS

The Twin Cities (TC) chapter sponsored an all-day workshop on February 11 titled, "The Japanese American Experience and World War II." Thirty elementary, middle and high school teachers from St. Paul and Minneapolis Public School (MPS) Districts attended.

The TC education committee is furthering the mission of the national education committee, which held a workshop in Minneapolis last year as part of the NISEI project, funded by the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund. Using a similar format and materials provided by the national education committee, the TC education committee is continuing to reach local educators with the "teach the teachers" concept.

A welcome and ice-breaker survival activity was conducted by TC Education Chair Sally Sudo, followed by a detailed historical background on World War II, the internment and the redress processes taught by Tom Ohno, a retired teacher and internee. A U.S. government film titled, "Japanese Relocation," was shown to illustrate the propaganda and misinformation that was being dispersed at that time.

Internees Esther Suzuki, Ohno, Mary Yoshida, and 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team veteran Tom Oye, shared personal experiences in a panel moderated by Jer-

lyn Ezaki. After a bento lunch, sessions on lesson plans were conducted by Sylvia Farrelle for elementary teachers and by Sandy Rubenstein, K-12 social studies curriculum specialist for MPS, for upper grades. Gloria Kumagai presented additional resources and information, and a sampling of materials was available for review.

Seventh grade St. Paul social studies teacher Dan Sager was like a majority of attendees, who had a "very basic knowledge" of the JA internment prior to the workshop. Concurring with several other participants, Sager commented that the "live panel was invaluable" and made the content more meaningful

for him. He also found the material in the JACL curriculum and resource guide to be useful.

The workshop was supported by funding from the National JACL Legacy Fund and American Express Financial Advisors East-West Exchange Employee Network. Education committee members Sudo, Ezaki, Farrelle, Kumagai, David K. Hayashi, and Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, are planning another workshop targeting teachers in suburban school districts. The committee has also set up a speaker's bureau, and has books, videos, photographs and other resource materials available for loan. For more information, contact Sally Sudo at 612/835-7374.



From left: Panelists Esther Suzuki, Tom Ohno, Mary Yoshida, Tom Oye, and moderator Jerilyn Ezaki during a panel discussion about World War II experiences.

San Francisco Chapter Hosts Teacher Training Workshop

The second teacher training workshop, organized by the JACL through a special grant from the 100th/442nd MHS Veterans Memorial Foundation, was held in San Francisco in late January.

Full support for the workshop was offered by Pete Hammer, high school curriculum specialist of the San Francisco Unified School District, when approached by San Francisco chapter president Greg Marutani. Hammer eagerly distributed the specially designed brochure describing "An American Story," made arrangements for the workshop facility, and included an article in the weekly newsletter which is distributed to each instructor in the district.

The resource kit materials provided through the grant — dealing with the World War II relocation of Japanese Americans, the service of the 100th/442nd MHS, and redress — were on display along with a 10-panel exhibit produced by the Sacramento chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

After an introduction and brief overview of the program, Soru Kitashima shared her first moments upon arriving at Tanforan Assembly Center, particularly her dismay at

the conditions of her "new home" — a horse stall that had been whitewashed, retaining the stench of manure; stuffing socks with hay for their mattresses; her first meal of overcooked food, the train ride to Topaz and the horrific dust storms.

Kitashima was followed by Mas Kawaguchi, who spoke of the conditions in the camp at Topaz, Utah, mentioning the boredom that they needed to overcome, and how they organized activities and managed to survive the camp life.

Libia Yamamoto, a Japanese Peruvian brought to the United States after her father had been taken from her family, spoke about efforts to gain an apology and payment from the United States for the Japanese Latin Americans brought to the United States during WWII, similar to that received by JAs through the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

Wendy Hanamura showed a clip from her video, "Honor Bound — A Personal Story." She explained why she made the film, and told of her struggles to convince her father to let her make it. She pointed out how modest the veterans were and how they demonstrated their loyalty and patriotism. Nisei veterans

Howard Hanamura, Wally Nunotani, Paul Ohtaki, and Mas Ishikawa were introduced to the teachers after the showing. The program was then opened for questions.

After lunch, veteran Nunotani presented a slide show developed by the VFW post, providing the narrative and allowing for comments from the other panelists. A discussion followed about the efforts to gain passage of the Civil Liberties Act, its impact, not only for the JAs who were interned or affected by Executive Order 9066, but how it demonstrated the strength of the U.S. Constitution and the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights.

Marutani expressed his thanks to Dr. Sandra Handler of The City College of San Francisco for extending education funds to defray the workshop costs, and for providing substitute teachers for the attendees, allowing the workshop to be scheduled during a weekday. Hammer said he is very interested in hosting another workshop next fall, and according to Marutani, the San Francisco chapter is already looking at putting together another workshop at that time.

Keiko Ibi Gets 'Personal' With the Academy Awards

BY MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

Keiko Ibi may be the last of her kind.

Ibi, 31, received an Oscar on March 21 in the documentary short subject category for her film titled, "The Personals: Improvisations on Romance in the Golden Years."

But if the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the organization that sponsors the Academy Awards, has their way, this may have been the last year that the Oscars has a documentary short subject category. They are thinking about doing away with it next year.

Ibi hopes the Academy will reconsider. "The recognition, just from being nominated (in this category), opens doors for filmmakers, especially beginning filmmakers," said Ibi. "It really lends to the nurturing process of the next generation. I think a lot of great directors came out of this ... and this category has been there for 65 years so I hope they will change their minds."

Ibi said she had thought about voicing her concerns during her acceptance speech but decided against it, thinking that it may sound "imposing or pretentious." In addition, Ibi was restricted by time and needed to thank her supporters first and foremost. What resulted was a touching thank you speech that even Oscar host Whoopi Goldberg noted at the end of the show.

Never dreaming she might win, Ibi said her speech was impromptu. "When my name was called, I

knew I had to go up on stage so I focused on that," she said, speaking in Japanese. "While I was walking up, all these thoughts about what I should say were going through my mind, but once I got up there, I was so overwhelmed that the tears started pouring out and I said whatever came to mind first."

Ibi's Academy Award-winning film, "The Personals," started out as a summer project in 1996. The movie follows the lives of an elderly Jewish theater group on and off stage, revealing the joys and sorrows of growing old. When Seth Glassman, director of the Manhattan-based senior citizens troupe, first introduced Ibi to them, she was so impressed by the seniors' energy and humor that by the end of their first meeting Ibi already had a movie formulated in her mind.

Two years after that chance meeting, Ibi had taped about 12 to 13 interviews and had over 70 hours of raw footage. This was then edited down to 79 minutes and pitched to HBO, which showed interest in the film but requested that it be further cut down to under 40 minutes. Ibi agreed to re-edit the film on the condition that HBO provide her with an editor. HBO complied, and Ibi and the editor spent another summer re-cutting the film to 37 minutes.

The most challenging aspect of this \$50,000 project, according to Ibi, was the editing. "This was my first documentary so I wanted to have enough material," said Ibi. "Well, I ended up with 70 hours of footage, and to cut it down to under 40 minutes was a challenge."

In the end, nine interviewees remained in the film. One of them, however, passed away four weeks before witnessing Ibi's Oscar win. The film is scheduled to be shown on HBO this June.

In recounting her Oscar night, Ibi said immediately after receiving the award she phoned her mother, Kazuo, who was watching

with the likes of James Coburn, Emily Watson and Ian McKellen. The early morning hours saw Ibi sitting in the CBS studios taking "Good Morning America."

Ibi's mother didn't see her daughter return to their hotel room until 4:30 the following morning. Ever the doting parent, the mother said upon Ibi's return she prepared

In recalling the first time her daughter phoned her in Japan, about her nomination, the mother said she remembers putting the phone down and then rephoning her daughter to make sure she heard correctly. Now that her daughter has won an Oscar, the mother is worried about whether her daughter can continue turning out the same caliber of work.

Ibi, for her part, hasn't had time to be worried. She has been working non-stop doing interviews, in addition to planning her next project, which will focus on cheerleaders. Ibi was inspired to explore this field after watching the National Cheerleaders Championships last year.

"I thought the competition was interesting, kind of fanatical but also athletic, so I wanted to explore girlhood and growing up in the United States, especially in the South from a cheerleaders angle," said Ibi. "Hopefully it will capture something truthful about being a teen girl in America."

Ibi is no stranger to the limelight. At the age of 19, the Tokyo native entered Japan's national beauty pageant and clinched the "Miss Japan Grand Prix" title in 1987. This sparked Ibi's interest in acting, and for almost a year, Ibi immersed herself in acting, dance and voice lessons. After landing a spot on a musical, however, Ibi decided she wanted to work behind the camera, rather than in front of it.

Thus began Ibi's exploration into filmmaking. She noted that, she chose to enroll in a movie school in the United States because, unlike Japan, movie students in America can work towards various degrees such as a master's or a doctorate, further legitimizing one's skill.

For Ibi, mapping out her future was the easy part; convincing her mother was another story. Initially, Ibi's mother was opposed to having her only child go off to a foreign country by herself. It took Ibi a year to change her mother's mind. But once her mother understood how serious Ibi was, she wholeheartedly supported Ibi.

Ibi came to the United States in 1991 and first attended Syracuse College. In 1993, she transferred to New York University's film school, where she worked on several student films, music videos and feature film productions. It was also at NYU that she met her husband-to-be Greg Pak, 30, an award-winning filmmaker in his own right. The couple married last year on Nov. 21.

Pak, who is of Korean and German descent, is perhaps best known for his work "Fighting Grandpa," which won the Student Academy Awards last June.

In referring to his wife's newfound fame, Pak said, "I am so happy for her. She deserves it so much." According to Pak, who worked on "The Personals" as the cinematographer, he was convinced his wife had a good shot at winning after watching audience reaction.

"I had a really good feeling about it and I was almost sure she was going to get picked," said Pak. "It was partly from listening to the audience as they were laughing and getting a sense of what the audience was responding to during the show."

But with both wife and husband working as filmmakers, the question arises — is there competition between the two? Pak laughingly admitted that when he and Ibi had submitted their works for Oscar consideration and when only Ibi's work was chosen, he wished "I was there too," but added, "I can't complain too much. We've really had parallel successes. She got the Academy, I got the Student Academy. Hers will be shown on HBO; mine, on Cinemax. It's just been an amazing year for both of us."

Pak added that "also on a purely selfish level, with Keiko getting this award, all these producers I've ever talked to are now calling me up."

Incidentally, Ibi wore a custom-made purple silk and satin dress made by David Tuttle to the Academy Awards. ■



Keiko Ibi clinched an Oscar for "The Personals," while her husband Greg Pak won a Student Academy for "Fighting Grandpa."

PHOTO: MARTHA NAKAGAWA

the ceremony on television from a room at the Century Plaza Hotel. Following this phone conversation, Ibi was approached by NHK-TV for a brief interview, and then it was off to some of Hollywood's hottest post-Oscar parties, including those hosted by *Vanity Fair* and *Miramax*. There, she brushed elbows

a nice hot bath for her daughter.

The mother, who had flown in from Tokyo, said in Japanese that she had the opportunity to attend the Academy Awards but felt uncomfortable attending the gala ceremony and parties, and chose instead to watch the festivities from her hotel room.



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For a complete list of all sites check: www.nbc4la.com or www.acrossla.org

Visual Communications Seeks Entrants for Film Workshop

Visual Communications (VC), the nation's oldest Asian Pacific American media arts center, is organizing the third Asian American Independent Feature Workshop (AAIFW) and is soliciting feature proposals from AA filmmakers and producers.

The workshop, set for May 15 and 16, will be presented as part of the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film & Video Festival, which presents its 14th edition May 13-20 at the Directors Guild of America and the Japan American Theatre.

The AAIFW provides a rare opportunity for a select group of 50 APA producers or filmmakers to meet with film distributors, established producers and related industry professionals to help bring new projects toward realization. The workshop will consist of presentations, panel discussions and roundtables on topics such as pitching feature projects, working with studios, independent film financing, self-distribution and marketing. Panelists and participants will be announced at the end of April.

This year, the workshop will focus on successful strategies for pitching and securing production opportunities, among other topics. Past workshop panelists have included representatives from Columbia Pictures, Miramax Films, New Line Cinema, Trimark Pictures, Rysher Entertainment, Celestial Pictures and I Can Make It Myself Productions just to name a few.

"The workshop aims to nurture and develop emerging Asian Pacific American filmmakers," said Abraham Ferrer, VC exhibitions director. "With the breakout releases of high-profile feature-length films made by Asian Pacific Americans, the workshop will

insure that this unprecedented creative output will continue."

Eligible participants are producers or filmmakers with a producing role who have a current project in development, post-production or completion for which he/she is seeking financing and/or acquisition. Projects must be by or about APAs. Only one representative from each project may attend. Producers or filmmakers with extensive experience who do not have a current project may also be eligible.

There is no entry fee for the workshop, but selected participants will need to pay a fee of \$100, which covers various administrative and workshop costs, including a program booklet detailing panelist contacts and participants' project notes and meals. Friends of VC members (with current I.D.) will receive 25 percent off the fee. A limited number of need-based scholarships are available; please call for details.

Also included in the workshop fee is admission to a special "Afternoon with the Filmmaker," co-sponsored with the DGA. Interested participants should apply by sending a cover letter, a one-page single-spaced project synopsis, one-page single-spaced biographies of key personnel and a labeled diskette containing a synopsis and biographies (preferably on Mac MS Word) to:

AAIFW c/o Visual Communications, 120 Judge John Aiso Street, Basement Level, Los Angeles, CA 90012; or call 213/680-4462, Ext. 68 or fax 213/687-4848. Entry materials are due April 12; notifications will be made by April 19. E-mail requests for guidelines can be sent to: viscom@apanet.org. ■

'Children of the Camps' to air on PBS in May

The documentary "Children of the Camps" is slated to air on PBS stations across the country via PBS Plus sometime in May, during Asian Pacific American Heritage month.

To ensure that the program is broadcast in your community, the Children of the Camps Documentary and Educational Project is requesting that people call their local PBS station to express their interest and desire to see the documentary aired.

"Children of the Camps" is a powerful documentary which shares the experiences, cultural and familial issues, and the long internalized anger, grief and shame felt by six Japanese Americans who were only children when interned in concentration camps during World War II.

This moving, hour-long program is the result of a three-year project by Dr. Satsuki Ina, a university professor and family therapist who has been conducting three-day workshops for more than 10 years for other former fellow child internees.

This particular type of workshop was developed by Ina so that former internees might be able to articulate and share their childhood experiences, to be heard and validated by one another and to ultimately come to a better understanding of how this early trauma manifests itself in their adult lives.

With the expertise of a group of community-conscious filmmakers, Ina was able to capture on video the participants of one of these workshops sharing their stories and experiences in order to help initiate a healing for other JAs and the community at large, after more than 50 years of virtual silence.

The filmmakers include director, editor and Emmy award-winner Stephen Holsapple; director of photography and Emmy award-winner Emery Clay, associate producer; Kimberly Ina; creative/administrative producer Audrey Kasho-Wells; and financial manager Howard Fujimoto.

The workshop participants who took part in the onscreen workshop are Howard Ikemoto, Marion Kanemoto, Bessie Masuda, Ruth Okimoto, Richard Tatsuo Nagaoka and Toru Saito.

This project was funded by The California Endowment and The California Endowment's Communities First Program.

The California Endowment's mission is to expand access to affordable quality health care for underserved individuals and communities and to promote fundamental improvements in the health status of all Californians.

With the funding received from The California Endowment, the Children of the Camps Documentary and Educational Project will be able to conduct community education workshops as well as training workshops free of charge to organizations, health profes-

sionals and educational institutions within the state of California.

Supplemental funding by corporate and individual donors will be used to conduct these workshops for interested organizations and institutions nationwide.

"Children of the Camps" celebrated its live world premiere in Sacramento on Feb. 7. More than 800 people attended the gala event. Award-winning author and poet Lawson Inada served as emcee.

Others community leaders who spoke at the gathering included Assemblymember Mike Honda from the 23rd District; Sen. Deborah Ortiz from the 6th District; Ann Valenti, district director on behalf of Congressman Robert Matsui; Helen Kawagoe, president of the national JACL; Herb Yamanishi, executive director of the national JACL; and David Hosley, general manager of PBS affiliate KVIE in Sacramento.

KVIE was the first station to air "Children of the Camps" on the Day of Remembrance, Feb. 19. The broadcast was viewed by approximately 30,000 people. ■

How to Purchase 'Children of the Camps'

Video copies of "Children of the Camps" are available for order and purchase from the National Asian American Telecommunications Association (NAATA) at 415/552-9550.

Through NAATA, the producers of the Children of the Camps Documentary and Educational Project also plan to distribute the documentary and supplemental learning materials and teaching guides to colleges and universities nationwide to be used in counseling, ethnic studies and psychology departments.

For more information, contact the Children of the Camps Documentary and Educational Project at 415/705-0885, or by e-mail at kimina@children-of-the-camps.org. ■

Los Angeles ca / Michele & Tom Grinn



DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES is currently undergoing a cultural renaissance, including the opening of the Japanese American National Museum's landmark expansion Pavilion. Six downtown hotels, all within walking distance of cultural outlets, now provide top-line accommodations at special rates and include great benefits to those visiting the Museum from out-of-town. Avoid the hassles of fighting traffic by staying close to the Museum and take advantage of these special offers before they expire. Indulge yourself with a great L.A. Experience! Make your reservations today at one of these exclusive downtown Los Angeles hotels. Call a participating hotel or your travel agent and receive:

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The Miyako is the closest neighboring hotel to the Japanese American National Museum. Package price of \$125 includes full American or Japanese breakfast, discount dinner coupon and complimentary spa admission. (213) 617-2000

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The New Otani is located just steps away from the Japanese American National Museum and other downtown venues. Package price of \$135 per night includes upgraded luxury room and complimentary full buffet breakfast for two at Azalea Restaurant. (213) 629-1200

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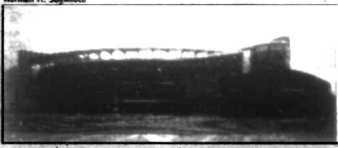
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Troubled in Paradise

By Brian Niliya

Forever Saboteurs

If there's anywhere where it's uncomfortable to be an Asian, it's the Arizona Memorial. Tourists from around the world convene here to see the site of the "day of infamy" and pay tribute to the 1,100 plus men entombed in the wreckage of the U.S.S. Arizona. As you stroll through the museum and hear the horrors inflicted by the devious, treacherous, sneaky, etc., Japanese enemy, it's hard not to feel everyone looking at you, hard not to want to wear an "I am American" sign around your neck.

The reason we're here is to attend a special screening of a 23-minute video at the memorial. This video provides background on the Dec. 7, 1941, incident, and the chain of events that led to the memorial. Members of the Honolulu chapter and community leaders came after a Nisei woman who had seen the video contacted the JACL about concerns she had with it.

It is a slickly produced piece with stunning archival footage. For the most part, it is a reasonably balanced treatment and overview of a complex story. If its job is to make you want to see the memorial or to understand the memorial better, it is largely successful.

There is only one mention of local Japanese Americans in this video. It is in the context of making the point that General Walter Short seemed to be more concerned about the threat of "5th Column" activity on the part of JAs

than with the threat of an actual attack by the Japanese military. This is an important point which, among other things, speaks to the dangers of erroneous assumptions based on racist premises.

The problem is in the images which occupy the narration about Short's concerns. First, there is a series of shots of young Nisei, presumably around Honolulu, going about their daily lives. Then comes a scene of an older, presumably Issei, with a cane knife in hand, pausing from his work to look up from a bluff over what is presumably an American warship passing by. The combination of this image with the narration about Short's fears leaves the impression that (a) his fears were well founded and (b) such spying and sabotage by JAs did take place. And that is the last mention of JAs in the video.

The woman who contacted us was hurt by this and quite emotional. Having seen the video, I can see why she felt that way. If the video had said nothing about JAs, that would have been disappointing, but not a problem. But for it to mention JAs in the context in which it does and to say nothing further is a problem. Frankly, it is irresponsible. Based on the discussion which followed the screening, everyone in the room seemed to feel the same about the video. All felt the implication of JA spying was there, and many objected to it. As a Honolulu chapter board member said, "the explosives I had in my head [after viewing the

video] should not be put to writing."

The problem would seem to be easy to fix. One could do it either by addition or subtraction. One could add 10 seconds of narration either right after the Short anecdote or elsewhere, something to the effect that despite Short's suspicions, it turned out that no JAs were ever found to have committed spying, sabotage or other such activity before or during the war. Or one could snip the offending footage and replace it with a picture of Short.

Though nice enough to set up the screening for us, National Park Service officials who run the Arizona Memorial have refused to consider making changes to the video, citing cost factors. While there may be other ways to address the problem — handouts with more background or a display on JAs in the museum, for instance — the addition or subtraction of a few seconds of footage would seem to be the best thing. But as of now, that's apparently not going to happen.

It's a shame that this memorial to the men who died on Pearl Harbor day — and to all those killed in World War II — should continue to promote this erroneous impression about local JAs. I suspect our chapter will be working to change this in the near future. I hope you will join our efforts. ■

Brian Niliya is a member of the Honolulu JACL chapter.



A Bridge Across the Pacific

By Emily Murase

Lie Detectors That Lie and Other 'Non-Evidence'

When I last checked, our justice system rested on the principle that you are innocent until proven guilty. This does not appear to be the case for Wen Ho Lee, the scientist at the Los Alamos National Laboratory who is accused of divulging nuclear secrets to the Chinese government.

What crimes did Lee commit? The allegation arises from: 1) two visits to China, 2) failed lie detector tests, and 3) his hiring of a Chinese post-doctoral student as a research assistant. Let's examine these pieces of "evidence."

Lee traveled to China twice, both times with authorization from his workplace. In 1986, he presented a lecture at a symposium on hydromechanics held in Beijing. He traveled there again in 1998 where he, along with 200 other scholars from around the world, participated in a physics conference co-sponsored by Drexel University in Philadelphia, the U.S. National Science Foundation, and China's Applied Physics and Computation Mathematics Institute. Is it so surprising that a scientist participate in international meetings?

According to news reports, Lee stated that during the 1998 trip he was approached by Chinese intelligence agents, but refused to cooperate. However, he did not report this to his supervisors at that time, as required by Department of Energy regulations.

Instead, the FBI learned of the contact in interviews with Lee conducted on March 5 of this year. It was on the basis of violating this agency regulation that he was terminated from his job on March 8. Lee has not been charged with any crime.

As part of earlier FBI interviews held in December 1998, Lee passed a lie detector or polygraph test. However, he failed a second test conducted in February, causing officials to label him "deceptive."

Can lie detector tests lie? In my experience, the answer is "yes." Before moving back to California to pursue graduate study, I spent three years working on trade issues in Washington, D.C., for the federal government, including a stint at the National Security Council.

As is required for many federal government positions involving classified information, I underwent an FBI background check and a series of polygraph tests as part of my job application process.

I say "series" of polygraph tests because I kept "failing" the question of whether I had ever experimented with illegal substances (i.e., drugs). Anyone who knows me will tell you that I was too "goody-goody" to experiment with drugs.

Each time I "failed" the test, the examiner would try to extract the "truth" from me. "Come on," he would say, "you can admit it. Even the president said he smoked (but didn't inhale) marijuana. Everyone has experimented at one time or another."

The examiner emphasized that there would be no negative repercussions from admitting the "truth." But it was clear that my job prospects would be adversely affected by the fact that the polygraph test showed I was being "deceptive" each time I stated that I never had anything to do with drugs.

I was under such intense pressure that I even considered admitting to something I never did. In the end, based on my back-

ground check and other supporting materials, I was eventually offered the job despite the false positive readings on my polygraph test.

My experience tells me that lie detector tests are unreliable and that we must refrain from condemning people for failing to pass this flawed instrument. You can even find websites that offer to sell you proven methods for passing any polygraph tests.

Lee is under renewed suspicion because of news reports that he hired a Chinese student as a research assistant. The student was a post-doctoral researcher from the University of Pittsburgh who worked with Lee for four months, from May to September in 1997.

The Los Alamos National Laboratory director at the time was Siegfried Hecker. In an opinion piece in *The Washington Post*, Hecker emphasized the importance he placed on international cooperation and exchange during his tenure as director. Citing "hundreds" of exchange visits, he explained that he and his staff worked closely with the Russians as well as the Chinese on such issues as non-proliferation and nuclear materials control.

Concerning the hosting of foreign nationals at the lab, Hecker stated: "Today, almost half of the graduate students in science and engineering at American universities are foreign nationals. We host many graduate students and postdoctoral appointees here to keep our research efforts at the cutting edge." Given this context, are we justified in attributing the motivation behind Lee's hiring a Chinese research assistant to espionage?

Finally, most news reports have failed to mention two key facts. First, Wen Ho Lee is a naturalized U.S. citizen who was born in Taiwan. Anyone with the most rudimentary knowledge of Taiwan will know that China is its largest security threat. What incentive would Lee have to pass China nuclear secrets?

Second, there is no indication that Lee received any payment for the secrets he allegedly passed to the Chinese. Normally, in building a case, investigators rely on unusual financial activity of the suspect, such as the purchase of a new and expensive car or home, presumably arising from the selling of sensitive information. News reports state that no such activity has been found in the Lee case.

The 59-year old Lee was planning to retire at the end of this year. Instead of concluding a distinguished career as a nuclear scientist with pride and dignity, Wen Ho Lee is the subject of a cruel character assassination based on "non-evidence" and unsubstantiated charges.

The parallels between the Lee case and the cloud under which Americans of Japanese ancestry were incarcerated during World War II are undeniable. Can we afford to stand by and watch a hysteria based on racial assumptions victimize innocent people? This is not just a matter concerning Chinese Americans, but Asian Americans, and ultimately, all Americans. I urge JACLers to work with other AA and interested groups to protest the handling of the Wen Ho Lee case. ■

Emily Murase is pursuing a Ph.D. in communication at Stanford University. She can be reached at emurase@stanford.edu.



Very Truly Yours

By Harry Honda

'Keeping the Home Fire Burning'

THESE WORDS SPELL out the wonderful theme that reunion chair Tim Asamen used to publicize the 1999 Imperial Valley Nikkei Reunion, found in a letter from Patrick Sano, a retired El Centro Nisei now in Apple Valley who couldn't attend. These "five words" should be registered to identify future Imperial Valley Nikkei reunions. It certainly stokes the nostalgia wrapping the stories of Issei-Nisei experiences of Japan-towns no longer around.

Door prizes for the night (pardon me for introducing an important subject this way) included a Ziplock bag of local produce. "Nobody goes home without some of our prized commodities from the Valley," Tim said. Five years ago, at the opening of the Japanese American Gallery that he developed at Pioneer Museum, there was a pickup truck laden with freshly picked vegetables from Nisei farms. Not this time! But Issei farmers, as the gallery exhibited, pioneered in melons and vegetables in the Brawley area from around 1904. By the 1930s, the Issei, showing their skills with lettuce, tomato, cucumber, squash and asparagus, had created the "Winter Garden of the World."

Japanese farms made Calipatria the Winter Pea Capital of the World. And Calipatria should ring a bell to longtime JACLers who responded in the 1950s to the late Harry Monita's plea to raise the tallest flagpole in the world so that the Stars & Stripes would be flying at sea-level. "Calipatria" was 154 feet below sea-level.

As state agricultural regulations demanded more, combined with water problems, Valley growers have moved from Imperial Valley

south to Yuma, Ariz., or to Mexicali Valley across the border to stay in business. The Asamens are still in Westmorland (without the second "e"), now growing Sudan grass for export as animal feed in Japan, and other grains. We understood the Asamen Farm was the last Nikkei operation there to grow and ship vegetables.

What was interesting were pictures of Issei pioneers in cotton — an Imperial Valley product that was a "free state" source during the Civil War and boomed again during World War I because its quality was superior to some grown in the American South. One of them was Cedrick Shimo's father — both of whom I knew as Boyle Heights people prewar. Cedrick, now retired as a Honda International trade executive, said the Honda automotive carriers would be filled with beef cattle, agriculture and Sudan grass for their return voyage.

I ALMOST MISSED Phil Beckett (see 8-21-98 P.C.) and Benny Andres. An English teacher in Calexico, Phil has been gathering information about the late Tomoya Kawakita, the 35th civilian then on record in the United States charged with treason and convicted. What piqued the project was that the prewar Kawakita home in Calexico had been acquired by Beckett's wife's parents.

Another figure in the Beckett project, whom I met, was Meiji Fujizawa, also from Calexico, who knew Kawakita, stranded in Japan by the war, and who also worked at the same Oyama FW camp near Oxnard. There's where the similarities cease. Meiji, at the risk of his life, became a "friend of the prison,

ers," came back around 1954, settled in Los Angeles and became a leader in the So. Calif. Japanese Gardeners' Federation — one of the three co-sponsors (with PSJW and the Church Federation) of Little Tokyo Towers. Through the Internet, American PWs who had returned to the North Texas community and had located Meiji, invited and honored him. The clipping with this story failed to indicate where Meiji was living. The reunion did it for me.

Andres, history instructor at Imperial Valley College, is working on a doctoral dissertation covering prewar race relations from four perspectives: Mexican, South Asian Indian, Filipino and Japanese. There were clashes with the whites, enough to warrant a serious study today. The sacrifices and contributions of each ethnic group, as exhibited at the Pioneer Museum (619/352-1165), certainly need to be seen.

IN PLANNING the fifth anniversary, Tim had set a goal of 150 visitors. But his goal was doubled with 300 reservations. For some it was their first return to the Valley since 1942, when all were trucked to Pooton. Many came from Northern California, a few from Washington state, Utah, Texas, Illinois, Pennsylvania (hoping some read about it in our Feb. 19 issue) — and one from Lahaina, Maui, who won a commemorative coin for having traveled the farthest. Coins also were handed to the oldest and the youngest attendees. We hope this sheds an idea of how successful the occasion was and that we don't have to wait another five years to "keeping the home fire burning." ■

Pearl Harbor Reenactment Still a Go

(Continued from page 1)

Meanwhile, the Kentucky Veterans of Foreign Wars have come out in support of the event as have other mainly white veterans groups, while several Japanese American veterans groups in Hawaii have not yet been made fully aware of the controversy.

Louisville's 12-member board of aldermen recently signed a letter to festival president Berry which stated that the Pearl Harbor reenactment "hardly represents what the Kentucky Derby Festival stands for."

"There are children and women and men that live with bombs and destruction as a daily matter of life," said alderwoman Tina Ward-Pugh, "and for us to re-enact it to thunderous applause, it just seems very insensitive to me."

Though the entire board agreed that the 15-minute reenactment should be cut, and only considered the option of pulling the festival's permit as a "last resort," festival organizers took that as a threat.

Festival spokeswoman Stacey Yates responded that if they are forced to take out the 15-minute segment, they will make a decision on whether to cancel the

event altogether.

Asked why the festival was taking such an approach, Yates said, "The aldermen have escalated it by threatening the event permit."

"We really hoped that everyone would accept the event as a whole," added Erin Dullaghan, another festival spokesperson.

Steve Magre, the president of the aldermen, said that it is "unfortunate" that the festival committee responded with its ultimatum when the aldermen were only asking it to eliminate 15 minutes of a six-hour air show.

"Either say yes or say no, but to say this somehow would create jeopardy for the whole Thunder Over Louisville is ludicrous," Magre said.

"[This] celebration does not need a reenactment of the bombing of Pearl Harbor to teach history," concluded Midwest JACL Regional Director Bill Yoshino, who has been vigilant in asking organizers to reconsider their decision to include the segment.

He added, "Presenting the history of World War II is best served not by glorifying its violence but by teaching the larger lessons about America's commitment to peace and freedom." ■

Survivors Invited to Participate in Video History of Colorado's Japanese American Internment Camp

Denver-based documentary filmmakers Irene Rawlings and David Foxhoven, with the sponsorship of the JACL Mile-Hi chapter, is seeking survivors for oral histories and archival home movies, photographs, diaries, letters and other artifacts of Camp Amache.

During World War II, more than 120,000 Japanese Americans from the West Coast were rounded up, forced to sell their possessions and sent to internment camps. Two-thirds of those rounded up were American citizens.

The 10,000-acre Camp Amache site, near Granada in southeast Colorado, held 7,500 citizens from August, 1942 to October, 1945.

The JACL and the filmmakers have received a grant from the Colorado Endowment for the Humanities to create an educational video chronicling life at this "war

relocation camp," one of ten internment camps located in rural areas throughout the United States.

Ironically, life within the camps was a mirror image of life on the outside — marriages, births, boy scouts, high school proms, Saturday afternoon football games (including a famous game against Colorado governor-to-be Roy Komer's Rye High School team), church socials, and funerals for JA boys killed in action as soldiers while their families were imprisoned.

The Amache Project is soliciting the public's help in publicizing the documentary to locate Camp Amache survivors to interview, and who have artifacts that may still be in their family's possession that can be photographed for the documentary.

For more information, contact David Foxhoven, 303/458-1045. ■



Letters to the Editor

Re: 'Rabbit in the Moon'

Emiko Omori's "Rabbit in the Moon" commentary at the international Asian American Film Festival in San Francisco and Berkeley recently was well received by a racially mixed audience. For many of us Nisei who underwent similar experiences during the 1942 evacuation and internment of Japanese Americans, however, it was a bit drawn out, repetitious and inadequate in several respects.

Omori's objective was to inform the general American public of this tragic occurrence and how it adversely affected the evacuees, especially those who protested the injustice and paid the price of additional suffering — even got prison sentences. In making the film, however, she tended to be one-sided and unfair to many wartime Nisei leaders and to the legion of sympathetic white Americans nationwide who alleviated this injustice by securing housing, education and employment for JAs.

Yes, we must be critical of the American political and military leadership who engineered the evacuation. Yet we need to put all this in perspective. Our country, the United States, was involved in a deadly struggle with fascist Japan. The Nisei, with whom the American leadership had little contact, constituted but a relatively unknown and tiny proportion of the country's population. Regrettably, America had treated the Japanese immigrants and their families shabbily in the pre-WWII years and failed to build trustful relationships.

The JACL's role in cooperating with the government in the evacuation process was criticized. I certainly did myself, expressing that view to then-JACL president George Inagaki when I saw him in New York in May, 1942. I had toyed with the idea of challenging the evacuation orders but decided to accept the help of my Caucasian associates to relocate back East before actual internment. The rationale of the JACL leadership then was that evacuation was inevitable and that JAs would be treated better if they cooperated. At the same time, it was vital that the JACL challenge the constitutionality of this massive violation of due process of law.

The charges made in the film that the JACL had sold out the Nisei, however, is patently unfair. It was likewise inappropriate not to condemn the physical beatings inflicted on JACL loyalists Saburo Kido and Fred Tashima by angry Manzanar evacuees, while at the same time panicking camp officials and guards for brutality to the Manzanar protesters.

There were other actions for which the JACL was at fault, such as its stance on the loyalty oaths and the imprisonment of the "No No" internees, but I believe the JACL in later years voided its condemnation. I myself answered those same questions on a conditional basis when questionnaires were sent out to those who had re-

settled. And it was not until several years after the war that I was able to come to terms with and support the JACL, which since has grown to become a worthy community organization promoting civil rights and the Nisei's general welfare.

"Rabbit in the Moon" is a provocative account of the evacuation and internment, emotionally told by about six articulate former internees — hardly typical Nisei, I would say. It is helpful in presenting some important viewpoints that round out our overall judgment of that traumatic experience.

George Yasukochi
Berkeley, Calif.

Re: 'Dim Sum'

I'm writing this letter in response to Bill Hosokawa's "Dim Sum" column from the Mar. 19-Apr. 1 edition of the *Pacific Citizen*.

In reflecting on the significance of the large number of Chinese baby girls who are adopted by American couples each year, Hosokawa flirts with some of the same racial stereotypes that justified the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Despite being raised in the United States by American parents, Hosokawa suggests that these girls will have a natural "...interest in and concern about things Chinese." He then ponders the political consequences of having such a large population of Americans whose loyalties might lie with their ancestral homeland: "What will this quiet development — the influx of many cute and innocent little Chinese girls into American homes and families mean to the United States and the not distant future of relations between the United States and China?"

Hosokawa's article smacks of the same racist logic that generated the wartime hysteria against the Issei and Nisei. JAs were put into concentration camps because other Americans believed that despite being born in the U.S., JAs would remain loyal to Imperial Japan. "Once a Jap, always a Jap" is a familiar slogan of the era. That Hosokawa doesn't seem to make this connection in his discussion of Chinese Americans is troubling.

As all JAs know, the Nisei were more concerned with their future in the U.S. as Americans than with a distant country with which they had had little or no contact. Despite the racism that they encountered, America was their home and they identified more closely with their non-Japanese peers than they did with people from Japan. Why should it be any different for the adopted Chinese girls?

Lenore Kajikawa
Los Angeles, Calif.

attitude toward the Chinese. When he refers to "the influx of many cute and innocent little Chinese girls into American homes and families," it sounded like he thought this was a sinister omen.

In the same edition of the paper were articles referring to the internment of the Japanese. We can all agree that that was very unjust and unwarranted and was based on racism against the Japanese people. But to lament the racism against the Japanese people while printing articles with racist overtones against the Chinese people seems incongruent and hypocritical.

Karen Fujikawa
Fair Oaks, Calif.

Branson Tribute

Come on! What purpose does it serve to denigrate one Branson tribute over another? (Feb. 19-Mar. 4 issue). Frankly, we don't need such petty divisiveness, we don't need two pages of it, and we certainly don't need it during "Day of Remembrance."

Instead of belittling one's intentions over another's, we should be pleased that there are multiple opportunities to bring our Japanese American community together in Branson to honor our valiant veterans.

Moreover, I am shocked over the questioning of the proposed contribution to the national and/or West Coast memorials; are we suddenly not willing to accept memorial donations?

Finally, the comparison of prices premised on West Coast residency reminds me to remind you that there are quite a few of us out here in the East and Midwest. See you in Branson — by whatever means.

Valerie Neo Yoshimura
Watertown, Mass.

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The columns are the personal opinion of the writers.

* "Views" reflect the diverse, 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.

AAs React to Los Alamos Firing

(Continued from page 1)

watchdogs had to be twice as alert due to coverage by such publications as *Newsweek* and *Times* which describe Chinese Americans as working in various sensitive areas but stop short of saying these Chinese Americans are spying for China.

"It's not said but it's implied," said Huang.

Federal investigation into Lee first came to public attention through a Saturday, March 6, *New York Times* article. By Monday, March 8, U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Bill Richardson announced the "dismissal of a University of California contract employee at the Department of Energy's Los Alamos National Laboratory."

Both the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the University of California, which runs the Los Alamos National Laboratory for DOE, deny leaking Lee's name to the mainstream press and identifying him.

"The U.S. Department of Energy has not named anyone," said Bill Wicker, a DOE spokesperson. "All the names you read about are speculation in the press."

"We are very protective of our personnel rights," said Peter Nolan, deputy director of public relations for the University of California.

Both also declined to comment on whether Lee's investigation deterred Chang-Lin Tien, former chancellor at the University of California at Berkeley, from receiving an appointment at DOE. Tien, who is currently traveling, could not be reached for comment.

Nolan did, however, concede that there have been other espionage cases involving non-Asian scientists. Why the other cases have not received similar coverage is unknown.

Comments from Cory-Joanne Murakami-Houck, JACL's Mountain Plains district council representative who also lives in Los Alamos, paralleled Nolan's, saying available public information indicates that espionage activity is not limited to China.

"Other than the Chinese, the Russians and the Dutch are also known for industrial espionage," said Murakami-Houck. "This may be a little known fact but Japan is also known for it too."

In recent years, China's involvement in the United States has come under intense scrutiny with political leaders and mainstream media outlets raising national security concerns in connection to this economically rising country.

The firing of Lee is the latest in a round of mainstream media articles focusing on China.

Among the recent headline grabbers has been Operation Dragon Fire, an undercover sting where federal agents arrested seven alleged smugglers in May 1996 for attempting to illegally bring in 2,000 AK-47s into the United States through a port in San Francisco.

About the same time, political donors with Asian surnames came under investigation after concerns were raised that possible illegal contributions were being funneled to American politicians from various Asian countries, including China.

In Southern California, the Long Beach Harbor Commission in 1997 canceled a lease for a proposed terminal for China Ocean Shipping Co. (COSCO), at the closed Long Beach naval shipyard station. The original lease, which had been signed in November 1996, allowed COSCO to use the closed naval station as an expansion facility. Critics opposed this move, saying COSCO's expansion would increase Chinese weapons smuggling, intelligence collection, and access to other ports in the United States and the Panama Canal. COSCO

is owned by the Chinese government's Ministry of Communication.

Charles Woo, chair of CAUSE (Chinese Americans United for Self-Empowerment) and CEO of Megatons, considers the claims against COSCO as "totally ridiculous," saying COSCO has been operating out of the Port of Long Beach since 1981, and feels the latest Lee flap will make it that much more difficult for AAs to be accepted into mainstream society.

Woo is also the only AA sitting on the Los Angeles mayor's executive host committee for the Democratic National Convention in the year 2000, and one of his responsibilities will be to help raise funds to finance the event. Woo foresees fundraising within the AA community as a difficult task if AAs continue to fall under suspicion.

"It is getting more difficult to fundraise," said Woo. "This is a setback because now we have less of a tendency to be involved, but the flipside of this is that now, we don't jump every time we're asked to do something."

Woo added that this latest scandal pointed out the importance of AA political involvement.

"There has been misconceptions that there is no need for professionals to be involved. If you're a good [AA] engineer or scientist, that's enough. But without political clout, when something like this breaks, it becomes difficult for top [AA] scientists and engineers because they all come under suspicion," said Woo.

It is this belief that keeps Woo active in politics. "I'm involved because there is no choice. The situation is not good but there is no other choice. Hopefully our children and grandchildren will benefit by our action. People like myself certainly benefitted from previous struggles against discrimination... But this campaign finance controversy and intelli-

gence espionage scandal shows that we have to work harder. It's really a lesson on how much farther Asian Americans need to go."

Sydney Yen, president of the New Mexico Chinese Association based in Albuquerque which is about 92 miles south of Los Alamos, said that the general feeling in the area is that this incident will negatively impact Chinese American scientists and engineers, particularly those working at Los Alamos and the Albuquerque-based Sandia National Laboratories. Yen, however, added that for the most part, the local coverage of the incident has been "fair."

For the time being, the various Asian-connected scandals do not seem to have affected the nomination process of Robert Gee, acting assistant secretary in the fossil energy division of the DOE and one of the few high-ranking AAs within the DOE. He was reappointed to the current position by Clinton and recently received approval from the Senate committee. He is optimistic that he will receive full Senate approval.

While Gee noted that it was up to each individual to determine

whether the mainstream media coverage of the current situation has been fair, he hoped that this latest incident will not deter Asian Americans from becoming active in the political arena.

"I'm always trying to get Asian Pacific Americans interested in government service," said Gee. "I've got friends outside of the city whom I've encouraged to seek appointed positions."

On a positive note, S.B. Woo, founding member of the 80/20 Initiative and former lieutenant governor of Delaware, felt that this latest controversy seems to have pushed AAs into action.

"So many people are wanting to get on our (80/20) list and wanting to get on our service," said Woo. "I think the sensationalistic side of journalism tends to exaggerate things when the press acts in a pack. When it competes with each other, the reports tend to be sensational, and the ethnic group with no political clout can be stepped-on in a big way... and it seems that people are finally realizing that we need to politically organize."

Lee, who has disconnected his phone line, could not be reached for comment.

Study Seeks JAs who Resettled in Santa Monica

Oral histories of Japanese Americans who resettled in Santa Monica, Calif., after World War II are being sought to be included in a graduate student's master's thesis at California State University, Fullerton. The oral histories will also be included in the University's Japanese American Project Oral History Program collection.

To date, graduate student Dana Blakemore has interviewed a total of nine Nisei and Sansei, who had lived in Santa Monica prior to and/or after internment. She would appreciate the help of anyone willing to share their personal experiences or those of their parents in Santa Monica during the years spanning 1945 and 1965.

The interviews will consist of tape recorded sessions that will touch upon the narrator's childhood and camp experiences but primarily focus on their resettlement experiences in Santa Monica. The session will include questions on housing, occupation, social and familial relations, Nikkei associations, religious organizations, schooling, discrimination, etc.

According to Blakemore, she was inspired to pursue the topic through the REGeneration project at the Japanese American National Museum and the recently published book, *Nanka Nikkei Voices*. If you are interested, please contact Blakemore at 310/453-4109 or e-mail her at maredana@gte.net.

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Ben Sanematsu, 77, Teacher of Visually Impaired

Ben Sanematsu, a blind teacher who believed in integrating the visually impaired into mainstream society, passed away on Jan. 11, at the age of 77 in San Jose, Calif.

Born in Riverside, Calif. on June 22, 1921, Sanematsu graduated from the University of California at Berkeley. Soon after, in 1942, he and his family were interned at Poston, Ariz. just as he began to lose his sight to retinitis pigmentosa.

He eventually learned to read and write Braille and helped blind students at Camden, Del Mar and Campbell Union High Schools to realize and maximize their potential in the classroom. He also worked with various teachers to help them better understand the capabilities of the visually impaired.

For many years, Sanematsu worked with Sylvia Cassell, who established the Braille Transcription Project, which recorded and made available Braille books and materials for those in need of

them in Santa Clara County.

The Nisei later penned his autobiography called *Inward Light: An Asian American Journey*, in which he talks about fulfilling his dream of becoming a teacher despite incredible odds against it.

There is a disheartening old term about the 'blind leading the blind.' But sometimes it takes the blind to lead the blind. I have talked to many people having trouble coping with blindness, and they all seemed to benefit from what I had to say if they followed that initial advice — acceptance.

Predeceased by his wife Kimie Yanagawa, Sanematsu is survived by his brother, Henry Sanematsu of Riverside; his sisters, Tefuko Ito of Pasadena, Esther Sanematsu of Riverside and Kazuko Inoue of Colton; and his stepson, Tamio Yanagawa of San Jose. ■



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Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Angevine, Rev. Michael Kimura, 45, Walnut Creek, Feb. 22; Kyoto-born pastor of the Lincoln Ave. Presbyterian Church in Salinas and the Makiki Christian Church in Honolulu; survived by wife Mutsumi Toriyama; daughters: Chiyori and Shinano; son Toshitoku; parents Wendell and Ruth Angevine.

Brown, Frank, Los Angeles, Feb. 20; Boston-born; survived by wife Patty Toyoda; sisters Judith Cedrone and Linda Thrasher (Boston) and Joanna Staikos (Greece); father- and mother-in-law Bob and Mary Toyoda; sister-in-law Ginger Takahashi and husband Tabo, brother-in-law Bob Toyoda and wife Florence.

Edwards, Miyoko, 60, Littleton, Colo.; Kyushu-born; survived by husband Lyda; sons Ricky (LaSalle, Ill.), Garry (Denver); daughter Linda Duffy (Littleton); 4 gc.; brother Tadafumi Deguchi and sisters Tayoko Yoshida, Shiyoko Umino, Kayoko Deguchi (all Japan), Hiroko Caudle (Littleton).

Hall, Olive Tetsuko, RN, 77, Seattle, Feb. 28; Sanger-born Nisei; survived by husband Charles; son Gordon; daughter Ellen; 6 gc.; brothers Jonathan and Benjamin Ogawa; sisters Ruth Tsubota, Cherry Henmi, Ellen Yagi.

Harada, Utako, 58, with her husband William in Prescott, Ariz., Jan. 31; Vista resident; survived by daughters Aissa Chiye Poorman and husband Brett (Bonsall), Lynn Rye Galloway and husband Harry (Oceanside); 2 gc.; brother Yosuke Takano and wife Keiko (Japan); sisters Yasuko Miura and husband Yasunobu, Seiko Kanazawa and husband Kuniaki, Kinuko Shibuta and husband Seiichi, Mariko Takano (all Japan).

Harada, William Kinichi, 64, with his wife Utako in Prescott, Ariz., Jan. 31; Vista resident; survived by daughters; 2 gc.; sisters Katherine Matsunaga and husband Ewao (Alhambra), Betty Adair and husband Roger (South America), Fumiko Gothard (Los Angeles), Tayoko Harada (Branscomb), Sally Sachiko Cook and husband Malcolm (Westchester), Martha Trebbe (Vista), sister-in-law Kay Keiko Harada (Diamond Bar).

Hiroo, James, 50, Seattle, Jan. 29; survived by brother Jeff (Puyallup, Wash.).

Inouye, Takaji Dan, 72, Elk Grove, Dec. 11; Poston interned and postwar Army interpreter in Japan during the U.S. occupation; Florin JACLer; restored photos for Florin Time of Remembrance and Poston II Reunion exhibits; survived by wife Margaret Kimura (Glenview, Ill.), sons Andrew (Stockton), Timothy (Elk Grove); brothers Edward and wife (Encinitas); sisters Helen Tanikawa and husband George (Campbell), Amy Shimada, widow of Min (Sacramento); Mary Goodsell and husband Vince (Olympia, Wash.); brothers James and wife Virginia (San Diego), Sam and wife Jean (Sacramento), Ben and wife Ruby (Elk Grove), David (San Francisco).

Kadota, Dr. Yoshie, 84, Baldwin Park, Feb. 21; San Francisco-born; survived by daughter Ruth Kadota.

Kaino, Masataka, 82, Del Mar, Feb. 21; Los Angeles-born; survived by sons Masami and wife Fusa (Del Mar), Wayne and wife Patsy (Rancho Cucamonga); 3 gc.

Kaminishi, Toshie, 77, Campbell, Feb. 25; survived by husband Satoru; son Wesley and wife Jane; daughter Sanaye Hiraki and husband Mitch; 3 gc.; brother Keiji Futamatsu.

Kawashima, Shizuye, 77, Diamond Bar, Feb. 22; Farber-born; survived by husband Masao; daughter Kathy Yoko Hany; son Fred and wife Irene; stepdaughter Kaoru Sasaki and husband Kazuo; 9 gc.; 1 gr.; brothers Kazuo Ota, and Tom Tetsuo Ota and wife Carol.

Kimoto, Dr. Hayato, 64, Fullerton, Feb. 7; Los Angeles-born pharmacist; survived by wife Yvonne;

son Scott and wife Karen; daughters Kathleen and Amy; sister Alice Ibaraki and husband Albert.

Kubota, Tommy Sada, 73, Seattle, Jan. 30; Leavenworth, Wash.-born WWII 442nd BCT veteran of the Lost Battalion Rescue; survived by wife Hisako; son Harvey and wife Amy; sisters Martha Tanaka and husband Ted, Louise Oda.

Kurose, Umeyo, 93, Mountain View, Feb. 24; Hingham-born; survived by children Kasi, Frank, Grace Yememura, Rose Oda, Betty.

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.

George and Tom; 13 gc.; brother John Imada; sister Ruth Yoshimizu; predeceased by husband Hyoeuke.

Miyao, Kiyo, 64, Carson, Feb. 15; Niigata-born naturalized citizen; survived by sons Yasunobu, Sueobu and wife Nacha; daughters Maruko Nishimoto and husband Harry Morito, Chiyeo Nosco and husband Lawrence, Kimiko Ota and husband Minoru; 9 gc.

Morihiata, Chieko, 83, Lodi, Feb. 6; survived by husband Pat Satoishi; sons Michael and wife Linda, Gary, grandmother.

Nagaoka, Dick Tokuso, 77, Loomis, Feb. 26; Penryn-born; survived by son Rick; sisters Chiyoye Yamada, and Bernice Wakinaka and husband Asa; brothers-in-law Joe Kageta and wife Yasuko, Frank Kageta and wife Florence, and Aster Kondo and wife Sadame.

Nakano, Tatsuo, 67, San Francisco, Feb. 19; Survived by wife Kuniko; son Jeffrey; daughter Mari; brother Shigeo and wife Nobuko; sister Yai Sato and sister-in-law Kimiko (all Japan); mother-in-law Asako Fukuhara; brothers-in-law Tamaru Tobe and wife Mitsue, Kazumi Mizuno and wife Junko, Kazuaki Fukuhara and wife Mineko, and Frank Kurimura and wife Katsue.

Namba, Minoru, 82, Sacramento, Jan. 1; Perkins-born WWII MIS and Japan Occupation veteran and lifelong JACLer; survived by wife Patricia, daughter Eileen Otsuji and husband Ron; sons Richard and wife Susan, and Mike; 3 gc.; sisters Kimiko Namba, Eleanor Hashimoto and husband Masateru, Yoshino Watanabe and husband Masashi (Okayama), Yuri Yokoi and husband Roy; brother John and wife Nancy.

Nishida, Masako Marsha, 81, Culver City, Feb. 11; survived by daughter Melody Yae; 3 gc.; 1 gr.; brothers Masato Uyeno and wife Matsuko, Masakazu Uyeno and wife Rosie; sister Yone Okanishi; brother-in-law Genzo Nishida and wife Setsuko (Las Vegas); sisters-in-law Hatsuko Gotzenda and Mary Tashima.

Noda, Masao, 94, Gilroy, Feb. 26; survived by son Ray Yamagishi; daughters Judy Yamagishi, Hatsu-mi Kawasaki and husband Tom, Terry Oki; 9 gc.; 9 gr.; sisters Kimiyo and Fusako Imura, Ikuo Kuki (all Japan).

Sakakura, Tama, 100, Ventura, Feb. 22; Mie-born recipient of the order of the Sacred Treasure-Gold and Silver Rays; survived by daughters Suzuko Ito and husband Ken-saku, and Isuzu Sakakura; 6 gc.; 3 gr.; brother Toru Iwama; sister-in-law Hiroko Iwama.

Sako, Steve Sadao, 70, Seattle, Feb. 6; Mineral, Wash.-born WWII veteran; survived by wife Masako; daughter Carolyn Otsaki and husband Carl (Seattle), Diane (Boston), son Dr. Bruce and wife Kathy (Federal Way), Dr. Gordon and wife Marcia; 6 gc.; sister Chieko Iguchi (Seattle); brothers Hiroshi and wife Mitsue (Nampa), Saburo (Seattle).

Sakoda, Sachie, 63, Gardena, Feb. 23; survived by husband Hibido; daughters Joyce Ochai and husband Gerald, Diane Shibusawa and husband Genji; 1 gc.; step-mother Kiyono Shigetomi; step-

brother Harry Shigetomi and wife Candace.

Shintaku, Frank Shozo, 78, San Francisco, Feb. 22; survived by wife Yoneko; sons David and wife Eliza, and Richard and wife Margaret; 3 gc.; sister Suzue Nakagawa (Japan).

Shirozo, Natsuko Ann, 82, Alhambra, Feb. 22; Milton, Wash.-born; survived by son Mason; daughters June Miesko Hayashi and husband Ken, Dorothy Ishida and husband Bill, and Sharon Takabayashi and husband Tak; 5 gc.; sister Haruko Nakaso.

Skowron, Tommy Tomiko Kikuchi, 62, Bellevue, Wash., Feb. 5; Miles City, Mont.-born; survived by husband Joseph; son Brian; sisters and brothers; predeceased by mother and father, Chiyoiko and Kazuo Kikuchi.

Tachibana, Kiyoshi, 70, Gardena, Feb. 20; survived by wife Midori; daughter Janet Kiyoko Ota and husband Bill; mother Kiyoe; brother Yo and wife Elsie; sisters Shig Taketomo and husband Ben, Fumi Kasai and husband Buddy, and Miyo Inouye and husband Ted; brother-in-law Aki Kikugawa; sisters-in-law Yemi Kamiya and husband Yosh, and Yuri Kikugawa and husband Toshi (Japan).

Tsutsui, Yasumasa, 63, San Francisco, Jan. 21; survived by wife Toyoko; sons Makoto Mark and wife Julie, Kenzo Tanaka and wife Yukie; daughter Masami Nancy Hirota and husband James; sister-in-law Mari Okabayashi.

Yabuki, Tyrus Toyoshi, 76, Anchorage, Alaska, Feb. 10; Washington-born JACLer; 30-year employee of Northwest and Japan Airlines; survived by wife Hiroko; son Douglas Akira; daughter Agnes Eri.

Yamada, Bill Masayoshi, 84, Stockton, Feb. 23; Courtland-born Lodi JACL member; survived by wife Marie; sons Dr. Ronald and wife Joyce, Donald and wife Gloria, and David and wife Alice; 2 gc.; brothers Bob Yoshio and wife Clara, Clarence and wife Doris, Richard and wife Alice, Carl, Calvin and Sid; sister Laverne Yamaguchi and husband John.

Yamahata, Dr. Ross E., 75, Torrance, Feb. 23; Marysville-born; survived by sons Kevin, and Scott and wife Joyce; daughter Lisa Handelman and husband Gary; sisters-in-law May Yamahata, and Lily Kazahaya and husband Larry; brother-in-law Bunji Hamasaka. ■

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Teen Moms Talk About Pregnancy and Parenthood

(Continued from page 1)

high school on time with her classmates. "I was really lucky," she recalled.

Twenty-six-year-old Hiromi Ueha, who had her son Chandler at age 17, found herself in the equally awkward and difficult position of having to tell her father and stepmother that she was pregnant, at a time when she had just begun applying to college.

As she had anticipated, her dad was especially upset by the news. "His biggest concern was what I was going to do with the rest of my life. Was I going to still go to college? How was I going to take care of the baby? Was the father going to be involved?"

Though "it took him a while to get over it," said Ueha, a graduate of the University of California at Irvine, "my stepmother [who is a nurse] had been very helpful in trying to explain to him that you need to be supportive, you need to be there for her no matter how much you hate this whole scenario."

When Chandler was born, Ueha's family and her then-boyfriend's family began pitching in and were very helpful. "I was fortunate to have that support system," she said.

But not every teen mom can count herself that lucky. For 19-year-old Nadine Toyoda, who became pregnant at 16, the road towards finding that support system has been longer and in some ways more difficult.

Already four months into her pregnancy, Toyoda, the daughter of an Issei father and a Caucasian mother, had been suffering from morning sickness when her dad finally suspected "something was wrong." Her parents kept questioning her until, reluctantly, she revealed the news.

"My dad was pissed," she said. "When I told him, he gave me dirty looks all the time and didn't tell anyone till August, right before I had the baby."

"My mom's mom said, 'Put it up for adoption.' My dad's side said, 'Get an abortion,' but by then it was too late." Toyoda admits that she had considered abortion at first, but when her doctor confirmed that she was already in her second trimester, she decided against it.

"It was hell all the way up until I had the baby. Even after I had the baby there was a lot of tension."

To make matters worse, the Medi-Cal doctor who oversaw her labor and delivery was a substitute for her regular doctor (he was not on call at the time), and he clearly didn't know what he was doing. Toyoda said she received no anesthesia and no epidural as her con-

tractions came, and the nurses began arguing with him over what to do.

Toyoda ended up getting an episiotomy, and though she had been receiving prenatal care throughout her pregnancy, her baby came out with multiple problems, including severe apnea (stopped breathing) and pneumonia. The infant ended up staying in the neonatal intensive care unit for a week.

"I think it was because I was young, ignorant and also on Medi-Cal that they didn't treat me right," she said. "And I'm so mad at myself now that I didn't say to him, 'I think you mistreated me.' But I did tell my regular doctor, that I didn't like what happened to me, and he apologized."

After she took her daughter Kristy home from the hospital, Toyoda's relationship with her parents continued to deteriorate, as she contemplated whether to continue living there.

"I went back and forth like about three or four times in the last two years," she said. "I don't get along with my dad. I mean, he expects a lot out of me and he doesn't like my baby's dad."

She eventually did move out and took Kristy to live with her 23-year-old father, Toyoda's Chinese Vietnamese boyfriend, Alex.

She receives little financial support from her parents and, though she is still in contact with them, has had to juggle motherhood, school and part-time work almost all on her own.

Toyoda also mentions that she is on welfare, a hardship that plagues many young mothers but one that she is determined to overcome. "That's why I need to get another job, because welfare doesn't cut it," she said. "I get \$493 a month and that's nothing because I have to pay all the bills. It's horrible."

Toyoda, Ueha and Hagiwara are not alone. According to the latest reports from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (May 1996), the birth rate in 1994 for teenagers in the U.S. was almost 108 per 1,000 15 to 19-

year-olds, while the adolescent birth rate in 1996 dropped to 55 per 1,000.

Other statistics estimated that 74 to 85 percent of teen pregnancies were unplanned and 43 percent of pregnant teens will have gotten married before the age of 20. Twenty-five percent of teen births were to girls who had previously given birth; while 46 percent of teen mothers-to-be received no prenatal care during the first trimester.

Yet, the Department of Health,



Nadine Toyoda, 19, poses with her healthy 2 1/2-year-old daughter Kristy, whom she had just after turning 17.

also reported recently that teenage pregnancy in the U.S. hit at a 20-year low in 1995.

When it comes to statistics on Asian and Pacific Islander groups, however, there is little to no data available. And in general, such statistical figures are prone to be inaccurate because of the many cases of pregnancy and abortion that go unreported by the families, noted clinical psychologist Glenn Masuda, who works with many at-risk teens at the multidisciplinary Asian Pacific Family Center in Rosemead, Calif. "Trying to get any information for the API community, whose it's tough," he said. "The only accurate way to [get numbers] is to actually go out and survey the kids themselves. And I don't think anybody's done that yet. No one's been able to get permission, break it down by age and demographics."

Toyoda said that she's seen many cases of Asian girls, several of whom are friends of hers, getting

pregnant and then getting abortions, only to get pregnant again. It is a phenomenon that virtually always goes unreported, she said.

Cristina Solano, the youth clinical and counseling services coordinator for Asian Health Services (AHS) in Oakland, said that another reason why data are likely to be inaccurate is that Asians and AAs are often lumped together as a group.

"There's a huge difference between the teen pregnancy rate, say for example, in the Southeast Asian population or Filipino population as there is in the Chinese or the Korean populations. It gets massed over when you average it out," she said.

"The highest risk groups in our area," said Solano, "[include] the more recent immigrants — Cambodian, Laotian, Southeast Asian."

Masuda added that if, for example, you come from a Southeast Asian refugee population, you may be more susceptible to risk factors stemming from cultural barriers, in terms of home environment, lack of supervision, lack of language capabilities, where the child is the primary English speaker in the home, than you would be as a third- or fourth-generation APA.

Figures for 1995 revealed that 56 percent of pregnant teens come from families that make less than \$12,000 in annual income, which is why AHS specifically tries to target those API populations in the Bay Area that are predominantly low income and uninsured.

The program Solano works under, called TeenSmart, which is funded by the Office of Family Planning and the State Department of Health Services, focuses on health education and family planning outreach to young API adolescents, ages 12-19, one of the most difficult demographic groups to get into contact with.

"A lot of times in API cultures it's not acceptable to talk about sex," said Solano. "And we don't want these kids to make decisions without knowing what the risks are and what options they have."

"The basic strategy," she added, "is to try to reach [the kids] at school and do presentations using whatever Asian student unions there are."

Realizing the cultural barriers which prevent many Asian kids and their families from coming forward, AHS is trying to implement a program which uses trained high school volunteers to teach their peers about HIV/AIDS, domestic violence and tobacco use in addition to teen pregnancy prevention.

Unfortunately, said Masuda, most of the kids in crisis he's seen come to his clinic too late. He recalls one experience in which he had to deliver the news to an Asian mother that her teen daughter was not only sexually active but pregnant. She looked at him and said, "No way. We didn't tell her anything." Denial among parents, especially

Asian parents who may not have the resources to talk to their children themselves, is all too common. "These kids don't have the proper support network of reliable, accessible, approachable adults" to begin with, said Masuda.

Some parents refuse to talk about it out of shame, while others assume their teens are getting information, if not already from their peers, then from their school.

"The problem with school-based information," Masuda said, "is 'they're not really allowed to talk about contraception without pushing the envelope, and sexual mores and values, oh boy, you touch that, you're in deep stuff.'"

By the time the baby is born, the teens are often "excommunicated" from their families, turning in the most dire of cases, back to cycles of dating violence, drugs or gangs, said Masuda.

Although Toyoda has had a rough time in the almost three years since she found out she was pregnant, in many ways she's also managed to prove herself an exception to the rule, avoiding the pitfalls that often entrap teenage mothers.

For three years now, Toyoda has been attending a teen mom support group through the San Gabriel Valley Medical Center, which has allowed her to work out a lot of daily emotional stress.

"[That group] has really helped me," she said, extending special credit to her counselor Kathy Cortez. "Kathy has really given me the support I've needed. She went to my graduation. She helped me get a job ... She's given me numbers, a lot of really good resources."

Toyoda admits, though, that the first time was scary, especially being one of the only AAs in attendance. "First time I went, I wasn't that open at all. But these girls would be opening up, and I would be [saying], 'Yeah, yeah!' And I would start telling them stuff. It's not something to be ashamed of. You find out you have a lot in common."

"It's important overall to teach [AA communities] about safe sex," said Ueha. "Education is so important. Everyone is their own person and they're going to make their decisions, but having that information will hopefully [help] them make better decisions."

For Toyoda, as for Ueha and Hagiwara, it's been about learning — sometimes the hard way. Like many teenagers who decide to keep and raise their babies, they were forced to grow up faster than many of their peers, but the trade-off, they agree, is the maturity that they've gained.

"From then to now," said Toyoda, "I'm so much of a different person." For more information regarding teen pregnancy, prenatal care or adolescent health education, contact your local health clinic. ■

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