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National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)

April 16-May 6, 1999

Illinois Police Arrest Man in Suspected Hate Crime Against JA

By Pacific Citizen Staff

An alleged hate crime murder case that occurred last week in Crystal Lake, Ill., is being closely monitored by the Japanese American Citizens League.

Douglas G. Vitaoli, 38, was arrested April 8 on charges of first-degree murder and for committing a hate crime in the fatal shooting death of Naoki Kamijima, according to the *Chicago Tribune*. He is being held in McHenry County Jail on a \$2.5 million bond.

Crystal Lake Police Chief Ron Sheley said a police investigation revealed that Vitaoli, an unemployed resident with no known criminal record, had been intent on killing someone of a certain ethnicity, possibly an Asian.

On the night of April 5, Vitaoli had apparently entered a Crystal Lake general store and asked the two employees what race they were. Vitaoli walked out of that store without incident, but the employees, whose ethnicity police would not reveal, filed a police report after seeing Vitaoli with a handgun.

Vitaoli then walked out of that

general store and entered a second one. There, he allegedly pulled out his gun, shot Kamijima in the face, spun around and walked out without saying a word.

"He was armed with the same firearm he used to kill Naoki at the general store," Sheley told the *Chicago Tribune*. "We believe he had frequented the general store before and knew the owner. We believe because of Naoki's accent, Vitaoli knew Kamijima's ethnicity."

Within hours of the murder, a 25-member police investigation team was pulled together to interview witnesses and examine videotape from the store's surveillance camera. After Vitaoli emerged as their likely suspect, undercover investigators began an around-the-clock stake out of his home.

Vitaoli was arrested in the early morning hours of April 8 after a grocery clerk flagged down a patrol car to report that Vitaoli had stolen a stack of frozen pizzas. The arresting uniformed offi-

cers were unaware that Vitaoli was being surveyed by undercover investigators, who had been planning to arrest him that afternoon.

Vitaoli's neighbors told police the suspect had been exhibiting odd behavior for the past six weeks. Angel Heaver, who lives across the street, said she had complained to police a number of times. She has witnessed Vitaoli

shake his fist whenever she passed through the area.

It is unknown whether Vitaoli is linked to any hate groups.

William Yoshino, JACL's midwest regional director, has contacted both Chief Ron Sheley and Illinois State Attorney Gary Pack on this matter.

Yoshino praised the investigation done by Sheley's department but at the same time urged him

came a suspect in the crime. We strongly urge that you continue with the investigation for the purpose of ensuring that all pertinent evidence is gathered. In addition, we urge that you continue to condemn the nature of this crime in the strongest possible terms to reinforce the message that crimes which are committed against individuals because they are Asian are intolerable."

In a letter addressed to Pack, Yoshino wrote: "We understand that evidence which has been gathered points to racism as a motivating factor. In addition, we are encouraged by reports that you filed a first degree murder charge and a hate crime. We strongly urge an aggressive prosecution by your office because of the circumstances surrounding this crime. As you may be aware, hate crimes directed at Asian Americans are not a new phenomenon even though the public may have little knowledge about this."

Kamijima is survived by his wife, Cindy; a son, Craig; a daughter, Erica; his parents; and two sisters. ■

"... hate crimes directed at Asian Americans are not a new phenomena even though the public may have little knowledge about this."

William Yoshino, JACL midwest regional director

on top of his roof, pounding nails with an imaginary hammer or sitting on his front porch, eating from an imaginary bowl. He has also stuffed leaves into Heaver's mailbox and was once caught by Heaver pouring a glass of water over his front lawn, saying he was baptizing it.

Another neighbor, Nellie Centano, who is part Korean, said Vitaoli would chase her on foot and

to continue with a thorough investigation.

"We commend you and your department for the investigation which gathered evidence pointing to race animus as the motivating factor," Yoshino wrote in a letter dated April 9 and addressed to Sheley. "However, we are mystified by press reports that the alleged killer was not arrested sooner when he first be-

Korean War Vet Seeks Medal of Honor Upgrade for JA Fellow Veteran

BY CAROLINE AOYAGI
Executive Editor

For Korean War veteran Richard Edlebeck, 68, it's all about honoring a friendship, a friendship that was forged close to half a century ago.

Edlebeck, a retired operating engineer from Crivitz, Wisconsin, has devoted the last ten years of his life to a single task: to ensuring that his good friend and fellow Korean War veteran Wataru Nakamura is posthumously awarded a Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest medal awarded by the United States Army.

"I may not live longer in this life, but before I die, I would like to see Nakamura get that Medal of Honor awarded," said Edlebeck. "They call the Korean War the forgotten war, but I've not forgotten, and I've never forgotten Nakamura."

Shortly after the end of the Korean War, Edlebeck learned that Nakamura's name was on a list for possible Medals of Honor, and for years afterwards he had as-

sumed that his good friend had been given the medal. It was not until years later that he discovered Nakamura had been downgraded to a Distinguished

Service Cross (the second highest medal awarded by the Army). And now that he's retired, having raised 11 children, and recovered from health problems he experienced in the early 1980s that resulted in a lost leg, Edlebeck is devoting all his time to making sure that Nakamura is upgraded to a Medal of Honor.

"It's now or never. It's something that's bothered me for a long time," he said. "[Nakamura] earned the Medal of Honor and I have no doubt that he met all the criteria for the Medal of Honor."

Edlebeck is convinced that racism played a large role in Nakamura being downgraded by the awards board. With WWII

See MEDAL OF HONOR/page 5

Senator Hatch to Reassess Bill Lann Lee's Nomination

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) announced last week he will reconsider his opposition to Bill Lann Lee's nomination for assistant attorney general for the civil rights division in the Department of Justice.

The announcement came following an hour-long meeting on April 8 with representatives from 12 organizations, including the JACL. This coalition for the past few months has been urging Hatch, who is chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, to move the confirmation process out of committee and onto the Senate floor to allow the full Senate to

vote on Lee's nomination.

After the April 8 meeting, Hatch released a written statement that read in part: "I must say there have been some decisions he [Lee] has made that have been troubling to me and that are constitutionally suspect. However, several of the participants at today's meeting raised compelling points concerning Mr. Lee's records that I will study in greater detail. In all fairness, I owe that to the Utahns who attended this meeting and to Mr.

Lee."

The meeting was attended by the following coalition members: Julie Beckstead, Utah Independent Living Center; Sherman Helene, Student Minority Law Caucus; Tom Hori, Redcon; Karen Kwan-Smith, Organization of Chinese Americans; Kuang Lee, Chinese Society of Utah; Edward Lewis, NAACP; Rich Mantano, La Raza; Ben McAdams, University of Utah student body president; Jimi Mitsunaga, Utah Minority Bar Association; Carol Stinner, American Association of University Women of Utah; Pete Suazo, Utah state

See LEE/page 12

A WWII Atrocity: Japan's 'Comfort Women'

BY MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

Yoon Shim Kim, 69, is on a mission.

She is on a mission to educate the world about violence perpetrated against women.

Kim speaks from experience. She was one of an estimated 200,000 women and girls forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese military between 1932 and 1945. These women, euphemistically referred to as "comfort women," were Korean, Chinese,

Pilipinas, Japanese, Indonesian and Dutch (the Dutch occupied the Dutch East Indies until the end of World War II, at which time it became known as Indonesia).

Kim, as part of her educational goal, has been speaking in various cities in the United States, and her recent stop included a press conference in Los Angeles' Koreatown. A few days earlier, the petite, soft-spoken woman had brought an entire church congregation to tears, and her appearance before seasoned jour-

in Cholla province in Southeast Korea. At that time, Kim was a 13-year-old girl who had not yet begun to menstruate.

By truck, train and ship, Kim was transported to China where she found herself confined to a

See COMFORT WOMEN/page 6

'Hanako' Sheds Light on 'Comfort Women' Issue

BY SAM CHU LIN AND MARTHA NAKAGAWA

Had more than 200,000 girls and women had the chance to bloom and not been violently deflowered, playwright Chung-mi Kim noted, she would never have had to write "Hanako," a play centering around the "comfort women" issue.

The play, which made its world debut on April 7, will run at Los Angeles' East West Players until April 25.

Kim said she became inspired to write the play after reading "Chung Shin Dee," or the "Women's Patriotic Corp.," which is a compilation in Kore-

See HANAKO/page 6



Chung-mi Kim (right) wrote her play 'Hanako' to educate the public about the experiences of survivors such as Yoon Shim Kim (left).

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70th ANNIVERSARY

1929 1999

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Name: _____
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JACL Calendar

Eastern

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Thurs.-Sun., July 1-4—Bi-District Conference (EDC/MDCC), The Dream Continues: One America in the 21st Century, Roosevelt Hotel, 45th & Madison, New York City, 1515/587, 888/833-3969. Regis. \$85.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Sat. April 24—Sushi Social for New Members, Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, MD, 2-4 p.m.; Info: Laura Nakatani 703/519-9378.
Sun. May 30—51st Annual JACL Memorial Day Service, Arlington National Cemetery.

Sat. Sept. 11—Keiro Kai-Respect for Elders Day, 5 p.m.; Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church.

Midwest

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Thurs.-Sun., July 1-4—Bi-District Conference (IDC/PNWDC/MPDC), Cincinnati.

Sat. May 1 (May 8 rain date)—Yard Sale, 2933 Madison Rd., Oakley, Info: Jacqui Vidourek, 861-4860, Shiro Tanaka, 489-9079.

TWIN CITIES

Sun. May 16—Annual Community Forum, bento lunch.

WISCONSIN

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

Mountain Plains

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Thurs.-Sun., July 15-18—Tri-District Conference (IDC/PNWDC/MPDC), Ogden, Utah.

Intermountain

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Thurs.-Sun., July 15-18—Tri-District Conference (IDC/PNWDC/MPDC), Ogden, Utah.

MOUNT OLYMPUS

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

SNAKE RIVER

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

Pacific Northwest

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Thurs.-Sun., July 15-18—Tri-District Conference (IDC/PNWDC/MPDC), Ogden, Utah.

PORTLAND

Sun. May 2—Greater Portland JA Graduation Banquet. See Community Calendar.

NC-WNPacific

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Fri.-Sun., April 23-25—Tri-District Conference (CCDC/PSW/NCWNP), Ramada Inn Hotel Valley Ho in downtown Scottsdale, Ariz.

Sun. May 2—District Council Meeting, Registration 9-10 a.m.; Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church, 32975 Alvarado-Niles Blvd., Union City, Fremont chapter hosting.

FREMONT

May 16—Graduation/Scholarship Luncheon, 1 p.m.; Sushi Yoshi Restaurant, 39193 Cedar Blvd., Newark. RSVP by May 9; Diane Endo.

RENO

Sun. April 18—Easter Potluck.

Sun. May 16—Children's Day Potluck.

S.F. BAY AREA NIKKEI SINGLES

Sun. May 2—35th 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

Sun. May 2—Family History Workshop at the JACL Kizuka Hall. Info: Mark & Kathy Mitani, 728-3428.

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

Central California

DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

Sat. May 1—3rd Annual CCDC 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.
Sat. May 1—CCDC Golf Tournament;

Fig Garden Golf Course, 7700 N. Van Ness Blvd., Fresno; \$75; tee sponsors desired. Info: Grace Kimoko, 209/394-2456.

Sun. May 16—CCDC Scholarship Luncheon and 2nd Quarter Meeting; Sunnyside Country Club. Info: Grace Kimoko, 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 (see NCWNP); Scottsdale, Ariz.

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.

DOWNTOWN L.A.

Sun. May 2—1999 Women of the Year Luncheon, 12:30 p.m.; New Otani Hotel. RSVP by April 23; Lillian 310/822-3363 or Amy, 323/722-3897. Honoring Ida K. Kunitzugu, Katsune (Kats) Kunitzugu, May Mei Kunitzugu, Tetsuko Suzumoto.

GREATER L.A. SINGLES

Fri.-Sun., Sept. 3-5—8th 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 Ito, 559/486-6815, ccc@pacnet.org or Honi Liska, chair, hlska@uci.edu.

VENICE CULVER

Sat. May 1—Venice Culver JACL Fund-raiser and Roast to Fred Hoshyama, 6 p.m.; JA Community Center, 12448 Braddock 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.

COMMUNITY Calendar

East Coast

COLLEGE PARK, Md.

Sun. May 2—Koto Concert, 2 p.m.; Tawes Fine Arts Bldg., University of Maryland. Info: 301/344-4487.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Thurs. May 20—Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies Annual Dinner, honoring Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, 6 p.m.; JW Marriott Hotel, Washington, D.C., Black tie or traditional dress. RSVP by May 10; Info: 202/547-9100.

Fri.-Sat. May 21-22—Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies Political Education Conference; JW Marriott Hotel. Info: 202/547-9100.

PHILADELPHIA

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

The Midwest

BRANSON, MO.

Mon.-Sun., May 17-23—"Branson '99" tribute to Japanese-American veterans. Info: Hy Shishino, 562/926-8159; travel, hotel & tour info: Eiko Yamamoto c/o Chase Travel Service, 800/304-5100.

CINCINNATI

Sun.-Mon., May 2-3—Piano concert, Jon Nakatani, 3 p.m., Sun., 7:30 p.m. Mon.; Memorial Hall, Elm St., south of Music Hall. Info: Jacqui Vidourek, 513/861-4860.

LINCOLN, NEB.

Sat. April 24—Dedication of Nisei Plaza, 10 a.m.; University of Nebraska—Lincoln, north side of Kimball Hall.

MILWAUKEE

Wed. Apr. 26—"Gambling Junkie" sponsored by the San Sui Kai and

Wisconsin JACL. Open to members and friends. Info: Eddie Jonokuchi, 414/691-1404.

The Northwest

PORTLAND

Sun. May 2—Greater Portland JA Graduation Banquet honoring high school seniors, 5 p.m.; LeGin Restaurant; speaker, civil rights attorney Peggy Nagae. Tickets \$15. Info: Sharon Takahashi, 503/639-4061.

Through May 8—Exhibit: "Art from Intermountain Canyon: Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 117 NW 2nd Ave.; Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Sun. 12 p.m.-3 p.m. Info: June Arima, 503/224-1458.

Northern California

FRESNO

Sat. May 8—"E" Street Fair.

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, bento, taiko drums, noon-1 p.m. Tickets, info: Dean Suzuki, 820-1454.

SACRAMENTO

Tues.-Thurs. May 18-20—10th Annual Asian-Filipino-Pacific Islander Blood Donor Days: Tuesday & Wednesday 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Thursday 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Sacramento Blood Center, 1625 Stockton Blvd. Appointments, info: 800/995-4420.

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.

Southern California

LOS ANGELES

Fri.-Sun., April 16-18—One Man Show, "The Rice Room: Scenes from a Bar," by

award-winning actor Noel Alumi; 8:30 p.m.; Highways, 1651 18th St. at Olympic, Santa Monica. RSVP: 310/315-1459.

Fri.-Sun., April 16-18—Rohrer Reunion II, Torrance Marriott Hotel, Torrance; come early to pick up registration packet; Friday mixer; Saturday, classes of '43, '44, '45, evening banquet; Sunday, farewell breakfast. Info: Peggy Tsunata, 310/323-6337.

Sat. April 17—Roundtable discussion for "The Heart Mountain Story" exhibit of photos by Life magazine photographers Hansel Meeth and Otto Hagel, 1 p.m.; JANM, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo. Panelists: Bill Hosokawa, Mike Mackley, Grace Schaub. RSVP: 213/625-0414.

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

Sun. April 25—Haru Uta Matsuri, Pasadena Nikkei Seniors annual karaoke showcase, 1 p.m.; Info: 213/722-4846.

Sun.-Thurs., May 16-20—14th Annual Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film and Video Festival. Ticket info: 213/680-3700. Festival opens at the Screen Actors Guild May 13-15, for program info, call Visual Communications 213/680-4462 x 68.

Sat. May 8—Lane Nishikawa's one man show "Mifune and Me," 8 p.m.; Japan America Theatre, 244 S. San Pedro Street, Little Tokyo. Info: 213/626-1725.

SAN DIEGO

Through April 25—U.S. premier performance, Cultivated Lives, award-winning play by Velina Hasu Houston; 8 p.m. Fri. & Sat., 2 p.m. Sun., except Easter; Sweetooth Theatre, 630 F St., ballroom of the Maryland Hotel. Info: 619/544-9079.

Arizona - Nevada

RENO

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

COMMENTARY

The Symbol for an APA Cause

BY BOB SAKANAWA
JACL Wash., D.C., Representative

Pacific Citizen readers by now have noticed that Bill Lann Lee has been a major topic in the last several issues of this newspaper. Many may wonder why the JACL and the P.C. Have spent so much time and effort publicizing one person's bid to become a high-ranking government official. Bill Lee has become the symbol of a struggle, for the Asian Pacific American community and for the broader civil rights community as well, to make sure that this nation upholds the promise contained in its civil rights laws.

The process of confirming Bill Lee has become, in a sense, a battleground for competing ideologies and it is critical that proponents of civil rights, as embodied by the Lee nomination, wage a campaign that is clear and simple in its message. Succinctly put, we need to tell all U.S. senators, be fair to Bill Lee by allowing the full Senate to vote on his nomination and show support for fair, legal and vigorous enforcement of civil rights laws by voting in favor of confirming Mr. Lee.

Nowhere else has this message been more successfully delivered than at Salt Lake City, Utah, home of Senate Judiciary Chairman Orrin Hatch. Last week, thanks to some local contacts of the American Association of University Women, a very diverse and bipartisan coalition of Utahns were able to meet with Sen. Hatch during the Senate recess. In attendance were members of the women's groups, African Americans, the disability rights community, Latino groups, youth, and of course the APA groups.

JACL and OCA played critical roles in this meeting. JACL's own Yas Tokita thanked the senator for being a friend on many civil rights issues, including redress legislation in 1988, and emphasized the need for the senator to be fair with Bill Lee. After the hour-long meeting, a press conference organized by Mr. Tokita gave everybody the chance to reiterate the strong points they had made in the meeting.

Media coverage could not have been better, with the main newspapers in Utah indicating that Sen. Hatch was willing to give the situation with the nominee a second look. While not indicating that his mind had been changed, the senator did open the door a crack, and we will remind him of these words as process moves on. While it was gratifying to see a

diverse coalition formed to support Bill Lee's nomination, APAs should know that there is much at stake specifically for our own community. If you haven't noticed, the APA community has been under a lot of scrutiny in the past three years.

It started out with immigration law reforms in 1996 that have negatively impacted, not only immigrants, but immigrants from the Asian countries specifically. Then, late in 1996 the campaign finance scandal broke and while it seems almost certain that several APAs did violate campaign finance laws, the APAs' community became the poster child for this problem, a problem that goes well beyond one race or ethnicity. Now in the wake of what appears to be security problems at Los Alamos laboratory, the community is bracing itself for more negative stereotyping of the kind heard on the March 28 airing of "meet the Press" when Sen. Shelby made the statement that the Chinese were "very crafty people."

Why are so many negative events happening to the APA community, why are we so easily thought of as foreigner before we are thought of as American? These are difficult questions but one thing is for certain. If elected officials do not hear from us regarding our concerns and issues, it is easy for us to get overlooked. If we let Bill Lann Lee lose the nomination without a fight, it will become easier for the next issue of importance to the APA community to be ignored by elected officials and policy makers.

Bill Lee is important to the civil rights community for what he represents in terms of vigorous enforcement of civil rights laws. But I think he means this and more to the APA community. Bill Lee recently spoke at the JACL/OCA Leadership Conference here in Washington, D.C. When one of the participants asked him what he thought of life in D.C., he indicated that the one thing he was not expecting was to become a symbol in the APA community and beyond. Yet, Bill Lann Lee has become a symbol, and part of that symbol represents the recognition and respect that Asian Pacific Americans deserve for having worked hard to become Americans in this nation. ■

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APA Leaders Meet With Top Officials on Los Alamos Incident, Demand Apology from Senator Shelby

National Asian Pacific American leaders met with Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson on April 8 and White House Chief of Staff John Podesta and Assistant to the President and Director of Public Liaison Mary Beth Cahill on April 9 to discuss the impact of the Los Alamos alleged espionage case on the APA community.

Norman Mineta, chair of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies, supported the thorough investigation into any espionage activity but at the same time called for fairness.

"At these two meetings, we stressed that the Asian Pacific American community does not condone any illegal activities," said Mineta. "We also stressed that we cannot believe that we are once again being questioned about our loyalty to the United States — first the campaign fundraising issue and now the Los Alamos case — and assumed to have ties to our homelands." Too many communities — the Japanese Americans during World War II, the Arab American community during Operation Desert Storm, to name just two instances — have had their loyalties to this nation questioned during these times of national hysteria.

Daphne Kwok, executive director of the Organization of Chinese Americans, voiced similar sentiment. "We have asked Secretary Richardson and the White House to communicate not only to the APA community but the broader community that the incident at Los Alamos is an isolated incident and that nobody should presume that all 10 million APAs have loyalties to another nation," said Kwok.

Following the meeting, Energy Secretary Bill Richardson released a statement, assuring the APA community that the government will not be involved in inciting anti-Asian hysteria.

"I assured them in no uncertain terms that the alleged actions of any one individual are obviously not a reflection on any other American citizen, whatever his or her race, color, creed, ethnic background or nation of origin. That is recognized and understood by this department, this Administration, the laws of this

land, the essential fairness of the American people and our inalienable rights as human beings.

"Americans of Asian descent who work at our labs have made important contributions to America's scientific excellence and national security. Americans of Asian descent help make up the mosaic of the United States, part of the rich and diverse heritage that makes this country great."

As a Hispanic, I have felt the sting of offhand bigotry and thoughtless generalizations. I understand the sensitivity of Asian Pacific Americans to criticism of their patriotism, whether

"... we cannot believe that we are once again being questioned about our loyalty to the United States — first the campaign fundraising issue and now the Los Alamos case — and assumed to have ties to our homelands."

—Norman Mineta
APA Institute for Congressional Studies

overt or implied. Chinese were cruelly excluded from our shores for decades. Thousands of Japanese Americans were herded into detention camps during the Second World War. Throughout, they kept their faith in this country's promise, overcoming a prejudice that should now be consigned to our past, not to be forgotten but never to be revived."

Henry Tang, chairman of the Committee 100, voiced optimism about the meetings but felt further measures needed to be taken. "We hope that today, the White House has established a new awareness about how the APA community has been affected. Hopefully, an Asian American perspective has been added to the dialogue. Many promises to help were made although much further action is needed," said Tang.

Saying the Los Alamos case brings a "new cloud over the APA community," Nancy Choy, executive director of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, voiced concern over the Cox Committee report.

"We are very concerned about the politicization and the fallout on the APA community from the Cox Committee report, the 10 plus Congressional committees looking into technology transfer,

and other events and stories that focus unnecessarily on race and ethnicity," said Choy.

Jim Sook Lee, executive director of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance AFL-CIO, noted the far reaching impact the allegations have had. "The chilling atmosphere that now pervades the national research labs is spreading out to the high tech industries and the defense contracting industries, as well, which is deeply troubling to us," said Lee.

Robert Sakanawa, JACL Washington D.C. Representative, was concerned that this case might give the green light for law enforcement agencies to begin focusing strictly on Asian American scientists.

"In the civil rights community, we are all too familiar with the problems associated with profiling, which is the illegal practice used by some in law enforcement to find probable cause that a crime has been committed based solely on race or ethnicity," said Sakanawa. "We do not want the next form of profiling to be 'practicing advanced science while Asian' and that is what we are trying to prevent from happening."

Meanwhile, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) called for a public apology from U.S. Senator Richard Shelby for a March 28 comment on NBC Meet the Press where, in discussing the Los Alamos case, he referred to the Chinese as "very crafty people."

In a letter addressed to Shelby, NAPABA noted that the senator's remarks "served to inflame fears reminiscent of the 'yellow peril' that preceded the incarceration of 110,000 Japanese Americans during World War II," and urged him "to be cognizant of the impact of these types of remarks as they affect the entire Asian Pacific American community."

The organization is demanding that Shelby issue an apology and refrain from future remarks stereotyping APAs. ■

Body Found Along Potomac Confirmed to be Joyce Chiang

A body found along the Potomac River on April 1 has been confirmed to be that of Immigration and Naturalization attorney Joyce Chiang, 28, who had been missing since Jan. 9, according to the Washington Post.

The FBI, after conducting DNA tests, positively identified the body as that of Chiang's but was unable to determine the cause of death. The body decomposed body revealed no obvious wounds or bruises. DNA testing was conducted after dental records failed to confirm Chiang's identity, but investigators had long suspected that the body was Chiang's based on the height and weight and the clothing found on the body.

Investigators contacted Chiang's family with the grim news on April 12.

Chiang, had been missing since Jan. 9, after having seen a movie and been dropped off by a friend at 8:30 p.m. near a Star-

bucks coffee shop in Dupont Circle, Washington, D.C.

Chiang's green suede jacket was found, along with her keys and Safeway and Blockbuster Video cards, on Jan. 21 at the Anacostia Naval Station.

Earlier, Chiang's government identification card had been found on Jan. 10 by a couple walking in Anacostia Park, just north of the naval station.

The body was recovered about eight miles downshore from where Chiang's personal items were found. Two searches of the river had been conducted, one of which turned up the body of a man, but nothing on Chiang was found previously.

The TV program "America's Most Wanted" recently featured her case, offering \$40,000 for information on her whereabouts.

Since her disappearance, vigils were held both in Washington, D.C., and in Los Angeles by Chiang's family and friends. ■

Redress Delegates Seek Justice in Washington, D.C.

Community representatives are convening in Washington, D.C., on April 19, 20, 21 and 22 to urge President Clinton, Congress, and the Department of Justice to complete the mandate of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

One key issue of the 20-member group is to secure reparations for 79 Japanese American former internees and 586 Japanese Latin American former internees who have not received redress because funds were depleted.

Although 82,219 former internees have received the \$20,000 reparations and presidential apology, funds were exhausted before all payments could be made. The National Coalition for Redress/Reparations filed a lawsuit, NCRP v. The U.S., charging the government with failure to invest the reparations fund in an interest-bearing account during the 1980s as mandated in the CIA.

"Had the Treasury Department done what it was supposed to do, we estimate that there could be almost \$200 million in interest accrued. There would have been sufficient funds for all former internees and at least \$50 million available for the education fund as Congress had intended. Only \$5 million was expended on the educational com-

pensation of redress," stated Richard Katsuda, president of NCRP.

Although the Office of Redress Administration (ORA) closed on Feb. 5, efforts are being made to secure additional funding to pay remaining redress cases. The delegation has requested a meeting with the DOJ to discuss the status of this effort.

The group will also discuss the implementation of the Mochizuki v. U.S. settlement on behalf of JLA former internees. By the end of March, 145 JLA former internees received the president's apology letter and \$5,000 reparations. However, hundreds of JLA's did not receive the redress due to the depletion of funds and late filing. Questions as to the insufficient or confusing notification sent to potential recipients will be raised.

In addition, some railroad worker and mining family members do not understand why they were denied redress. Representatives will seek clarification from the DOJ.

Delegates include Fred Korematsu, Presidential Medal of Honor recipient, and Katherine Korematsu from San Francisco; Aiko and Jack Herzog, redress activists and archivists from Virginia; Nob Fukuda, redress ac-

tivist from San Francisco; Chizu and Ernest Iiyama, NCRP, from Contra Costa; Kyle Kajihira, American Friends Service Committee, from Honolulu; Henry Miyatake, Seattle redress activist; Judy Niizawa, San Jose redress activist; Natsu Saito, Professor, School of Law, University of Georgia; Fumi Shimada, railroad/miner worker family advocate from Sacramento; Grace Shimizu, JLA family advocate from Oakland; Julie Small, co-chair of the Campaign for Justice in Los Angeles; Rudy Tokiwa, Ni-netsu veteran from San Jose; and Rev. Michael Yasutake of the National Council of Churches of Christ, USA, from Chicago (organizations listed for identification purposes only).

"We are still concerned about former internees who may never get the apology and reparations. We still need the community's support for these final cases. Everyone who suffered through that horrendous time deserves redress. It's up to us to try to get it," concluded Katsuda.

Donations to support the Campaign for Justice P.O. Box 214, Gardena, CA 90248. For further information, call Kay Ochi at 213/413-6537. ■

Tri-District Conference Set for April 23-25

BY DAVID KAWAMOTO
PSWD Governor

The PSW, NCWNP, CCDC Tri-District Conference will be from Friday, April 23, through Sunday, April 25, in Scottsdale, Ariz. PSW has decided to extend the sunset prices indefinitely. So, the conference will be \$85 for the regular package and \$60 for youth/students. In addition to the sessions and workshops, this cost includes the Saturday luncheon, continental breakfast on Saturday and the breakfast buffet on Sunday. The youth/student rate includes the cost of the Saturday night bowling.

Allman

There will be a full agenda of fun and informative events at the Tri-District. The conference will kick off with a golf outing at the Pavilion Lakes course in Scottsdale. This course is an affordable \$39, which includes cart. Friday evening there will be a welcome mixer, a great chance to renew old acquaintances and make new JACL friends.

The Saturday morning session will be a group discussion/workshop looking into the cross-generational makeup of JACL and our communi-

ty. The Saturday luncheon will feature as the keynote speaker the governor of the Gila Indian Nation. In the afternoon, there will be two groups of three workshops to choose from. The first group will have a workshop on civil rights, featuring prominent Arizona civil rights figures Craig Fujii, assistant attorney general, Civil Rights Division, and Joel Breslin, regional director of the Anti-Defamation League, with Arizona chapter president Joe Allman as facilitator. Another will feature the work CCDC is doing in education and oral histories. The third will be on planned giving.

The second session will include the workshop hosted by the student/youth on affirmative action with Christine Iijima-Hall, senior associate dean of instruction at Glendale, Ariz., Community College. The PSW workshop will feature Ron Wong of Gov. Gray Davis' office, who will discuss political empowerment. The final workshop will be NCWNP's on the Draft Resisters.

The workshops will conclude at 4:15 p.m., allowing time for the at-

tendees to have dinner on their own. There are numerous fine dining establishments within close proximity to the conference hotel; JACLers should enjoy the fine Southwest cuisine or find anything else to their liking. At 7 p.m. there will be a bowling event, featuring the challenge match between teams representing their respective district councils.

The Sunday morning question-and-answer session with the JACL national board has become the most popular event at the Tri-District. It looks like all of the national board will be present to answer the always tough inquiries from the membership.

On Sunday afternoon, a bus trip to the Gila River Relocation Center has been arranged. The bus will leave the hotel at about noon and return at 5 p.m. It has also been arranged that on the return trip from Gila River the bus will drop participants off at the airport for their return flights. The cost of the bus trip should be about \$10.

The Arizona chapter encourages everyone to come early and stay late, to enjoy sunny Scottsdale. The weather should be sunny, with temperatures in the 80s. See you there!

Registration forms may be obtained from any of the JACL regional offices in California: Los Angeles 213/626-4471; San Francisco 415/921-5225; and Fresno 209/486-6815.

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 America - A Cross Generational Discussion"
Luncheon: Keynote Speaker
Workshop Session I
- Civil Rights
- Education
Membership/Planned Giving
Workshop Session II
- Affirmative Action
- Political Empowerment
- Draft Resisters
Booster Event: Bowling

12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.
1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

3:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

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

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

First-ever Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk Attracts 500 Participants

BY SEIKO N. WAKABAYASHI

WASHINGTON—One of the legendary traditions in Washington, D.C., is the annual National Cherry Blossom Festival held in early spring each year to coincide with the splendor of the blossoming Yoshino cherry trees which were a gift from the government of Japan to our nation's capital. This joyous and festive event is recognized throughout America, and indeed worldwide as well, attracting millions of visitors each year.

Amidst this spectacular setting on the mall in the shadows of the U.S. Capitol dome and Washington Monument, the Greater Capital Area group of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation sponsored its successful first annual Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk.

The recently-elected Washington, D.C., mayor issued a proclamation designating April 3, 1999, as Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk Day and encouraged citizens of the District of Columbia to support and embrace the spirit of the event. The Walk was truly notable in that it captured the imagination and enthusiastic support of a broad spectrum of the American public including those of all ages, ethnic

racess and social status, who made generous financial contributions and eagerly participated in the event. Over 500 "walkers" of all ages happily participated in the 1/2-mile course under cloudy but comfortably cool "cherry blossom" skies.

The formal program was launched with the resonant booming of the Nen Daiko drummers followed by posting of the colors by Boy Scouts of America and inspirational messages by speakers such as Admiral Mel Chioigi, Norman



Community representatives take part in the official ribbon cutting ceremony for the first annual Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk in Washington, D.C.

Mineta, U.S. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton of the District of Columbia and a personal representative of Mayor Tony Williams. Terri Oigita, a prominent Washington, D.C., television personality was the mistress of ceremonies for the program.

Much of the credit for this unique event goes to the younger volunteers under the leadership of David Yao, who devoted countless hours in organizing, coordinating and providing logistical support to ensure the event's success. Others who were prominently involved were Laura Nakatani, Ken Redden, Kent Kariya and Ann Yumura, in addition to a host of other active members of the Freedom Walk committee.

A check for \$5,000 was presented by Stockton chapter president Dr. John Fuji to Cressey Nakagawa of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation at the recent Stockton/Lodi installation dinner.

Stockton Chapter gives \$5,000 check to NJAMF



A check for \$5,000 was presented by Stockton chapter president Dr. John Fuji to Cressey Nakagawa of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation at the recent Stockton/Lodi installation dinner.

Sadao Munemori American Legion Post Fills In for Defunct Commodore Perry Post

Members of the historic Commodore Perry Post 525 of the American Legion, founded in 1935 as the first all-Japanese American post by World War II Nikkei veterans in Los Angeles and recently disbanded, are invited to transfer to the post-World War II Sadao Munemori Post 321. It was announced this past week by post commander Carl Miyagishima, a Vietnam-era veteran.

Perry Post's first commander was Hawaii-born Karl K. Iwanaga. When WWII was declared, Post 525's charter was revoked and then reactivated in 1950. Hawaii-born WWI veteran Hitoshi Fukui, who had served with the Pine Tree (91st Infantry) Division in France and Belgium, was the postwar commander. He was also post commander in 1941. When Fukui died in 1958, only two original WWI members remained in the post, Hawaii-born Wasaji Tanaka, 73, and Japan-born Nisuke Mitsumori, 73.

Post 321 came into being in 1956 after permission was given by Mrs. Nawa Munemori and family to use the name of the first Japanese American to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, posthumously in 1946. Tim Shimazu was the charter commander. With no assets or money in the bank, longtime post commander Martin Deasey was about to turn in its charter after 37 years with the thought to merge with Post 1000. (Deasey passed away last November.)

Thanks to Joan Matsukuma, co-

worker Sheila Fitzgerald of the American Legion department headquarters staff at San Francisco, and Joanne Evans, department vice commander representing women, who presented the plight of the post in the main story, "Saving Private Munemori," in the *California Legionnaire* last September, the post bearing the name of a 100th Infantry hero was rejuvenated — "thanks to concerned Legionnaires," they later recognized.

Matsukuma had read in *Rafu Shimpo* columnist George Yoshinaga's article (Feb. 28, 1998) that a freeway interchange for Interstates 105 and 405 was named in honor of Munemori, and she became aware the post named in his honor was in danger of vanishing. Appraised, assistant Miyagishima of Highland Park Post 206 — wanting to keep Sadao Munemori's name alive — transferred to Post 321 and assumed the role of post commander.

The Munemori Medal of Honor citation, in part, reads:

"On 5 April 1945, he fought with great gallantry and intrepidity near Sorvezzia, Italy. When his unit was pinned down by grazing fire from the enemy's strong mountain defense and command of the squad devolved on him with the wounding of its regular leader, he made frontal, one-man attacks through direct fire and knocked out two machine guns with grenades. Withdrawing under murderous fire and showers of grenades from other enemy emplacements, he had nearly

reached a shell crater occupied by two of his men when an unexploded grenade bounced on his helmet and rolled toward his helpless comrades. He arose into the withering fire, dived for the missile, and smothered its blast with his body. By his swift, supremely heroic act of self-sacrifice, he saved two of his men at the cost of own life and did much to clear the path for his company's victorious advance."

The Munemori Post, as of mid-March, was thriving with 80 members comprised of 23 new, 24 transfers, 24 renewals and 9 paid-up-for-life members, a recent report revealed. Tabulation also shows 39 served in WWII, 32 in Korea, 7 in Vietnam and 2 in the Gulf War.

A recruiting table is scheduled at the upcoming Rohrer relocation camp reunion April 16-17 at the Torrance Marriott. The post will participate at the Nisei Veterans Coordinating Council Memorial Day ceremonies at Evergreen Cemetery.

For information: write or call Miyagishima, 4499 Via Mariel Unit 202A, Los Angeles, CA 90042, 213/623-3654, day, 323/256-8451 home. The post meets regularly at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of every month at Patriotic Hall, 1816 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles. As support to save the post, the William Russell Bedford Post 293 in Cleverdale (Sonoma County) has pledged a \$10 "reward" for every new member signed into Post 321 until Dec. 31, 1999.

Editorial on Internment Upsets Nikkei Community, Contra Costa JACL

A guest commentary piece printed in the March 16 edition of the *Contra Costa Times*, claiming that the World War II internment of Japanese Americans by the United States government was justified, recently caused a stir among some Nikkei and Asian Americans in Northern California and particularly the Contra Costa JACL chapter.

Writing in response to a previously-run guest editorial on internment ("Learning from our past," Feb. 19), William J. Hopwood, a retired U.S. Naval officer and WWII veteran who lives in Miami, objected to the editorial's President Franklin D. Roosevelt's issuance of Executive Order 9066, arguing that the evacuation and "reloca-

tion" (not internment, he insists) were both necessary and justifiable courses of action.

Hopwood alleges, "Two-thirds of the adults within that community at the time were enemy alien Japanese nationals" who were involved in "espionage and plans for sabotage." He provides no substantiated evidence, however.

He goes on to state that no constitutional abuses on the part of the government had occurred, even though, as Contra Costa JACL member Don Delolito points out in a letter to the editor, "The Supreme Court found in the *coram nobis* cases of Fred Korematsu, Min Yasui and Gordon Hirabayashi that the U.S. government violated the constitutional rights of its citizens and

legal residents."

In his letter, Delolito calls Hopwood "a victim of wartime propaganda and the anti-Asian bias prevalent in those days" and says that his "facts" are those used by certain 1942 publications and the War Department under Gen. John L. Dewitt, who said that every Japanese alien and non-alien should be rounded off the map.

Several others wrote in to the *Times* to dispute Hopwood's editorial on almost every point, providing historical support to back up their claims.

Hopwood is apparently a well-known disinformation who contributes articles about the internment to newspapers frequently, said Delolito.

Korean War Vet on Mission to Get Medal of Honor Upgrade for Fellow Veteran

(Continued from page 1)

fresh in the minds of members of the panel, Edlebeck believes that hatred of the Japanese affected his friend's nomination for a Medal of Honor. "I've always said it was plain discrimination," he said.

It was in 1951 during the early days of the Korean War that Edlebeck, a white kid from northern Wisconsin, first met Nakamura, a Nisei from Los Angeles. They were paired off for weeks of machine gun training and they fast developed a special friendship.

Over late night card games Nakamura shared with Edlebeck his experience of growing up in L.A. and attending Thomas Jefferson High School. He told him about the World War II American concentration camps and how he and his parents and six siblings had been interned in the Rohrer camp in Arkansas. And he told him how he signed up from the camp to serve in the 442nd Central Postal Directory, a unit that would go on to become the most highly decorated unit of its size in the history of the U.S. Army. For Edlebeck, it was the first time he had heard of the camps or the 442nd.

"What strikes me and is the most touching," said Edlebeck, "is that if I was in his shoes, if the government did to me what they did to his family, then to go off and fight in World War II and be recalled later for the Korean War and lay down his life to make the ultimate sacrifice, any normal

person would have second thoughts."

Soon after the two friends finished their gun training, they were sent off to Chechon, Korea, where they were assigned to different units of the 2nd Division; Edlebeck to the 23rd Infantry Regiment and Nakamura to the 38th Infantry Regiment. Both would end up fighting in the May Massacre of May 18, 1951, one of the bloodiest battles of the Korean War, and where Nakamura would ultimately give up his life.

In the early morning hours of the May Massacre, communications had been cut off between Nakamura's platoon and the company command post, so he volunteered to leave the safety of his bunker to repair the lines. It wasn't long before he ran into the Chinese and North Koreans. Launching a one-man assault, Nakamura took out a machine gun and its crew, and took out two other enemy positions with grenades before running out of ammunition and retreating. Briefing his platoon leader of the situation, he gathered more ammunition and headed back. Nakamura would take out two more enemy positions before being killed by a grenade. He was 29 years old at the time.

"I admire him for what he did. I had no doubt that Nakamura would do what he did that day," said Edlebeck. "Nakamura was more than a hero in Korea, he was a martyr."

With the help of his nephew Keith Doman, Edlebeck has man-

aged to gather a great deal of information in support of Nakamura's case, using the federal Freedom of Information Act, Army archives, and the Internet. Edlebeck has also gotten the support of his congressman, freshman Rep. Mark Green (R-Green Bay), and he's managed to make some headway. Currently, with Green's help, Nakamura's case is before the Army Decorations Board for their review, and a decision in Nakamura's case is pending.

"I'm trying to build a fire under these people in Washington, D.C.," said Edlebeck. "If you let these guys in Washington, D.C., know that people know about Nakamura, they'll get moving. If people are kept in the dark nothing's going to happen."

Currently, 104 Asian Pacific American WWII veterans are being considered for Medal of Honor upgrades under legislation introduced by Sen. Akaka (D-Hawaii), the National Defense Authorization Act of 1996, Sec. 524. This legislation, which calls on the U.S. Army to look into possibly upgrading DSCs given to APA WWII soldiers, does not include APA Korean War vets and thus does not help Nakamura's case.

Paul Cardus, press secretary for Sen. Akaka's office, informed Pacific Citizen that the reviews for the WWII veterans have now been completed and the decisions on the upgrades should be announced shortly. He also added that because the legislation introduced by Sen. Akaka has now been completed, Nakamura's

case would require new legislation.

Recently, through his exhaustive research, Edlebeck was able to get in contact with Nakamura's surviving siblings in Los Angeles after sending off an information packet about his friend to the Japanese American National Museum. It was by a stroke of luck that Nakamura's sister, Mutsuko Nakamura, 70, happened to be working as a volunteer there. The two immediately got in contact with each other.

"I was naturally surprised and shocked. I didn't know about this gentleman at all," said Mutsuko. "He's trying awfully hard and I'm quite amazed at what he's doing. He's put long hours into this."

Not only were the siblings shocked to hear from Edlebeck, the information package he had sent them included information they had not been aware of, including government documents showing that their brother had been nominated for a Medal of Honor. The family had never been notified by the government that their brother had been up for the award. In fact, it was through a fellow 442nd and Korean War vet, the man who actually nominated Nakamura for the award, that they first heard about the Medal of Honor recommendation.

"It sounds like something out of fiction," said Mutsuko. "The whole family is amazed. It doesn't sound real. We're more of a low-key family." She added, although having her brother hon-

ored with a Medal of Honor "would be a happy thing, we're not pushing for it. A lot of other people are deserving, also." The Nakamura siblings recently extended an invitation to Edlebeck to come and visit L.A.

"I can easily understand how my uncle is so dedicated to looking into this matter," said Doman, 41, an ex-marine. He had heard his uncle tell stories about Nakamura and the Korean War, but it wasn't until after he started his research that he understood the intensity of the combats. "It's a compelling story. Someone who had been basically imprisoned and went to fight in two wars and died is incredible."

Bob Wada, president of the Japanese American Korean War Veterans group, is familiar with Nakamura's heroic story and is happy that Edlebeck is working so hard on his case. "We're elated he's doing this," he said. "From way back in World War II there's been talk about medals being downgraded. It's not surprising to hear that AJs were downgraded in the Korean War." He added, "The group is happy that someone is carrying the ball."

Wada, like other veterans of the Korean War, was disappointed to find out that Korean War vets would not be included in the Medal of Honor upgrades legislation, for many of them are just as deserving. "Personally I believe that anybody who gave their life should get a Medal of Honor," he said. "[Nakamura] gave more than his life. I feel he deserves the Medal of Honor." ■

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"Remember When Show" Honors Veterans and JA Experience



Jeff Nakashima, Mt. Olympus JACL chapter president, presents to Mike and Sheri Radford of "Mike Radford's Remember When Show" in Branson, Mo., several photos of the Japanese American experience during World War II as a token of appreciation for his daily tributes to the American veterans and the JA community. The photos are permanently displayed in the "Hall of Heroes" outside the Remember When Theater, which is inside the IMAX complex in Branson.

Bus Chartered for Pilgrimage to Manzanar

A 47-passenger bus has been chartered by the Manzanar Committee to transport interested Los Angeles residents to the 30th annual pilgrimage to Manzanar on Saturday, April 24, the committee announced this week.

Manzanar is a national historic site, under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. It was the site of a World War II internment camp where 10,000 persons of Japanese ancestry were interned for the duration of the war. In all, close to 120,000 JAs were interned during WWII. Manzanar is located 200 miles north of Los Angeles on Highway 395 between the towns of Lone Pine and Independence.

The Manzanar Committee has arranged for the bus to depart from in front of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, located at 244 S.

San Pedro St. in Los Angeles. The bus will depart at 7 a.m. and all passengers are requested to be at the departure point by 6:45 a.m.

The committee requests a pre-paid, non-refundable fee of \$15 for each reservation to cover part of the cost of the bus.

Participants need to bring their own lunch, drinks and snacks for the four-hour trip. They should also wear comfortable walking shoes, sunglasses and a hat. Also, bring sun block lotion and wear clothing in layers so they may be taken off when the weather turns warm.

Parking for drivers is available across the street from the cultural center. The bus will return to the departure point around 7 p.m.

For further information, call 323-662-5102. ■

San Francisco Bay Area Nikkei Singles Installation Dinner

At their annual installation dinner held on January 30 at the Fort Mason Officers Club, the San Francisco/Bay Area Nikkei Singles of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California announced Drue Kataoka, a junior at Stanford University and a member of the Sequoia chapter of the JACL, as the recipient of their 1999 scholarship. The emcee for the evening was Georgeann Maeo.

Singles from Sacramento, East Bay, and San Jose were in attendance for the evening. After a social hour and dinner, Gale Kondo installed the following officers: Fumi Nihei, president; Ken Kawamura and Nancy Mochida, co-vice presidents; Flo Dobashi, corresponding secretary; Kay Kyono, recording secretary; Marjorie Fletcher, treasurer; Dave Abe, historian; and Lois Onyeno, publicity chair.

Following the installation service, Bill Sakai, chair of the SF/BA Nikkei Singles scholarship committee, introduced Kataoka, the daughter of Barbara Kataoka, as this year's winner. Kataoka is an A-plus student at Stanford University, a flutist in the Stanford Jazz Club band, and an accomplished surfer.

The SF/BA Nikkei Singles of the JCCNC was organized in 1985 for the purpose of providing social, educational and cultural events and activities for singles, widowed, divorced and never married. For information, contact Fumi Nihei, president, at 510/525-3762. ■



Drue Kataoka

Atrocities of the Military Sex Slave System

(Continued from page 1)

space in a tent. There, Kim, too young to understand what was occurring, was ordered by a soldier to undress. What followed were three days of continuous rapes that left the little girl incapacitated. She was unable to walk or move. The rapes continued for the next two years.

Like other "comfort women," the soldiers did not address Kim by her real name. She was simply known as #21. This was not an uncommon practice. Women were referred to either by a number or given a Japanese name.

A year into her captivity, Kim escaped during a downpour but was caught when she sought refuge at a house occupied by Japanese soldiers. Kim's punishment for attempting to run away entailed being strung upside down, having pins stuck into her body, water poured into her nose, and beatings that left her feet broken and her spine cracked. Blows to her head have left her hearing permanently impaired.

Infants born from these rapes were given less consideration. Kim recalled instances where babies were put into paper bags and buried alive. In one case, she remembers going to a river with a group of women to wash the soldiers' clothes and seeing fingers sticking out of the sand. When they dug up the area, they found the body of another "comfort woman" who had been pregnant.

The only thing that kept Kim alive through this ordeal was the hope of seeing her family again. Kim was able to achieve this wish in 1945 when she made a second escape attempt and succeeded.

But Kim's ordeal didn't stop with the end of World War II. When Kim was reunited with her family, she did not tell them what had happened to her. Instead, she told them she had done menial labor for the Japanese such as washing clothes.

But Kim's past would continue to haunt her. When Kim married for the first time, her husband could not understand why she did not want to have sex or could not bear children. Kim finally divulged the truth to her mother, who then told Kim it might have been better for her daughter to have died rather than to live with such a past.

A doctor's examination also found that the continuous rapes had deformed Kim's womb and left her sterile. In an effort to remedy this, Kim underwent abdominal surgery but to no avail. Her first husband left her.

When Kim married a second time, she was able to conceive and gave birth to a girl. By all accounts, the baby girl seemed healthy except, even at three

months old, the baby could not hold her head up. The worried mother saw a doctor who broke the news to her: the baby was infected with venereal disease. Kim, who had contracted gonorrhea and syphilis from the rapes, had not been cured and had passed the virus onto her baby.

After hearing the diagnosis, Kim never returned home to her second husband, and since then, has been rearing her deaf and mute daughter single-handedly.

Kim's story is not unusual.

A study by the Jungshinda Research Group, which interviewed 39 Korean survivors, found that girls as young as 12 were abducted and forced into sexual slavery. All were either given Japanese names or referred to as numbers, and experienced violent beatings at the hands of the soldiers. After their release, the majority of the survivors married but bore no children. Researchers believe that 90 percent of the estimated 200,000 "comfort women" were Koreans.

A separate study by the Taiwanese Comfort Women Investigation Committee and Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation interviewed 56 survivors. The study found the ages of the women when they were kidnapped ranged from 14 to 30, with most under 25.

Women reserved for higher ranking officers serviced one to three men a day, but the majority were forced to have sex with 30 to 40 men a day. One survivor recalled having 60 men in a three-hour period.

With the end of World War II, the women were abandoned, killed or forced to commit suicide along with the Japanese soldiers.

Kim's trip, while in America, was underwritten by several organizations. Among them was the Washington Coalition for Comfort Women (WCCW). Dongwoo Lee Hahn, WCCW president, noted the powerful impact Kim's testimony had on the East Coast audience. "Her speech was so powerful and touched so many lives that I've never seen so many males cry," Hahn said.

The organization has also pulled together a photo exhibit which was displayed in our nation's capital and is currently in Philadelphia. "We want to raise awareness among the American people and make a public appeal. This is the only way to pressure the Japanese government to apologize and to take legal redress action," said Hahn, who added that they would like to bring the exhibit to the West Coast but are unable to without a corporate sponsor.

In Southern California, Kim

was hosted by the *Christian Herald*, a Korean media outlet.

"Mrs. Kim has had an unbelievable life," said Catherine Kim, a *Christian Herald* staff writer. "We want to ensure that something like this never happens again."

Samuel Lee, *Christian Herald* editor and president of the Korean Institute for Human Rights, noted that with the survivors getting older, it was particularly important to get their stories heard. Both strongly felt the Japanese government should issue a formal apology and reparations.

"Part of the apology needs to in-

clude compensation," said Kim. "These women are suffering from psychological and physical problems and need financial support."

Lee concurred. "The Japanese government needs to apologize and accept that what they did during the war was wrong. I think this is the first step. Then, they should support these women financially for the rest of their lives."

Kim, the survivor, couldn't be happier if this became reality. "I believe if the Japanese government apologizes for what they did in the past, provides financial compensation and organizes a committee to punish the wrongdoers, then I think the former 'comfort women' will be able to regain some measure of pride."

—Yoon Shim Kim
Former "Comfort Woman"

In 1995, on the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, then Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama issued a general apology to all war victims. The Japanese consul general's office in Los Angeles provided a copy of Murayama's apology. It read: "During a certain period in the not too distant past, Japan, following a mistaken national policy, advanced along the road to war, only to ensnare the Japanese people in a fateful crisis, and through its colonial rule and aggression, caused tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many countries, particularly to those of Asian nations. In the hope that no such mistake be made in the future, I regard, in a spirit of humility, these irrefutable facts of history, and express here once again my feelings of deep remorse and state my heartfelt apology. Allow me also to express my feelings of profound mourning for all the victims, both at home and abroad, of that history."

The consul general's office also noted Japan published in August 1993 a study on the "comfort women" issue. At that time, then Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono had issued an apology to the comfort women.

Regarding redress, the consul general's office reiterated the Japanese government's stance: "...on the issue of reparation and settlement of claims for damage and suffering caused during the war, including the issue of 'comfort women,' Japan has sincerely fulfilled its obligations in accordance with the San Francisco Peace Treaty, bilateral treaties, and other relevant international agreements, and therefore, the issues have been legally settled between Japan and the parties to the above

mentioned agreements."

The consul general's office also pointed to the government's help in establishing the Asian Women's Fund (AWF), a private fund financed by individuals and corporations to pay redress to former "comfort women."

In December 1996, six Korean survivors traveled to Washington, D.C., to testify before U.S. Justice Department officials. Since then, the DOJ placed 16 Japanese on a "watch list" of suspected war criminals barred from entering the country. Four were banned for committing sexual war crimes.

On July 25, 1997, U.S. Congressman William O. Lipinski (D-IL) introduced legislation, urging Japan to make a formal apology and to pay reparations to the "comfort women," survivors of the "Rape of Nanjing," people of Guam, and U.S. prisoners of war.

In January 1998, AWF created a stir when it was uncovered that it had been covertly approaching survivors. Changdaehyop, the Korean Council for Comfort Women, strongly denounced this tactic. In response, the Taiwan government passed legislation to partially subsidize Taiwanese survivors in 1997. The following year, in February 1998, the Korean government passed a similar law which subsidizes 152 officially identified Korean survivors.

Gay McDougall, a human rights lawyer who serves on an independent body of United Nations experts, presented a report in Geneva on Aug. 14, 1998, that concluded that Japan has an obligation to seek out and prosecute people who had participated in the mass rapes, and must, under international law, provide compensation to the survivors. Although the study acknowledged Japan's public apologies, it also noted the government continues to deny legal liability and that the AWF does not satisfy the legal responsibility of the Japanese government.

In December 2000, the Korean Council for Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan, formed in 1990, will be organizing the Women's International War Crimes Tribunal on Japanese Military Sexual Slavery, scheduled to take place in Tokyo.

(Samuel Lee and Catherine Kim assisted in interpreting. Background provided, in part, by the Washington Coalition for Comfort Women, Korean Council for Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan and by the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions.)

upon, especially since the Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II."

Another JA actress, Marilyn Tokuda, who plays the Korean grandmother, said she was shocked when she first heard about the concept of military sex slaves during WWII.

"First of all, when I heard it, I thought it couldn't be true," said Tokuda. "I was in a state of shock. As a human being, this is infuriating. As an actress, this is our contribution. Hopefully, people will come out and see this play because it is a very important story."

The play's title is also symbolic of the former military sex slaves' past. On the surface, the title, "Hanako," refers to a character's name, but on another level, it points to the theme of a young girl's bloom and deflowerment. (In Japanese, "hana" means "flower" and "ko" translates to "child"). Even the set prop, with its single red peony amidst a basketful of white ones, makes subtle reference to this.

"I chose that name because girls as young as 12 were being abduct-

ed," said Kim. "Most of these girls were virgins who were tricked and forced to be military sex slaves. The married women were often left behind so families frantically married their daughters off to anybody, even old or poor men. But the families didn't worry about younger girls because they didn't think they would be taken away."

Tim Dang, East West Players artistic director, hopes staging the play will create dialogue within the community.

"We hope with East West Players doing this play on stage in English that it will reach out to a broader community that can learn about the experiences of the comfort women," said Dang.

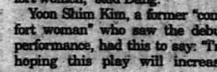
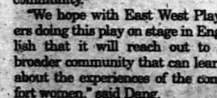
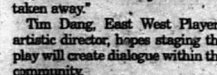
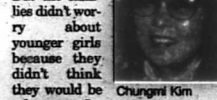
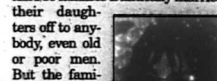
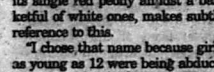
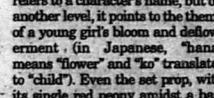
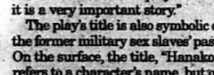
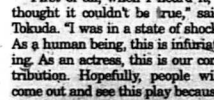
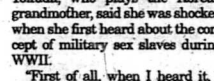
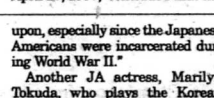
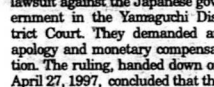
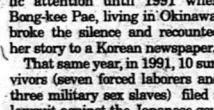
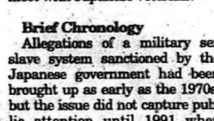
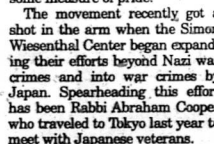
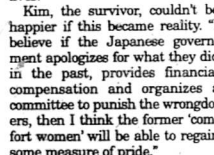
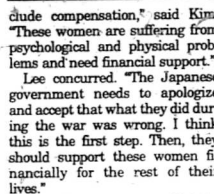
Yoon Shim Kim, a former "comfort woman" who saw the debut performance, had this to say: "I'm hoping this play will increase

awareness of what had happened in the past. I hope the younger generation will learn from this past so people will not have to be victimized again in the future."

The Japanese consul general, who had been invited to the world premiere, was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict, according to a consul general spokesperson.

Kim hopes the Japanese consul general will be able to view the play before it closes. "I wrote the play to tell the truth and to set the historical record straight," said Kim. "I'm not angry at present-day Japanese or the Japanese government, but at the Imperial forces that let this happen. This is not strictly Korean versus Japanese. That's not the issue. This is about human injustice and fighting against it."

Shows are Thurs-Sat, 8 p.m. (except Thurs, April 15, will be at 7 p.m.). There will also be Sat. and Sun. matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased through Telecharge 800/233-3123. For groups and subscriptions, call 213/625-7000, Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Hanako Brings 'Comfort Women' Issue to the Stage

(Continued from page 1)

of testimonies from former military sex slaves. She has been working on the play, off and on, for the past four years.

The play, however, is not set in war torn Asia. Perhaps in an effort to show just how far reaching an impact World War II had on the military sex slave survivors, Kim places her Jina (Christina Ma), the Americanized younger generation, becomes involved in a protest outside the United Nations building to condemn Japan's war crimes. At the rally, Jina meets two former "comfort women" (June Angela and Dian Kobayashi) and invites them to come to meet her grandmother (Marilyn Tokuda), who spends most of her day mourning her dead brother. The grandmother, however, is not receptive to the two guests, and what follows is a clash of opinions with (without dis-

ing too much away) a surprising revelation.

Kim isn't worried that the main characters are played by Japanese Americans and that there are no Korean Americans in the cast.

"In a way, it's more meaningful to have the Korean characters played by Japanese Americans and Chinese Americans," said Kim. "It creates unity in this society we live in."

Actress Dian Kobayashi, who portrays former military sex slave Soong Park, said she didn't think twice about accepting this role. "I think a lot of people have been wondering if this is going to cause a division in the community between the Koreans and the Japanese Americans," said Kobayashi. "It will not create a division. On the contrary, it should create a unity between the two groups. Being a Japanese American, I know how your human rights are infringed



Chingmi Kim



Photo by Bob Neroni

Retirement doesn't have to mean isolation

In fact, relationships with family members and friends can continue in the older years.

Proof. Suze, 98, and Sumi Kobayashi, 75, are a mother and daughter pair living their retirement years together at Medford Leas, a multi-service retirement community in New Jersey.

More proof. It was a lifelong Japanese American friend, Takashi Moriuchi, who guided Suze and Sumi to their new home, which complements their personal, social, and physical needs. That friend lives there too.

It matters to all of them where they live. Their new home is one of many Quaker-sponsored retirement programs affiliated with Friends Services for the Aging (FSA).

For Sumi, the Quaker connection was important. It was a Quaker organization that helped her leave a World War II relocation camp and attend college at Drew University. So, the involvement of Quakers left an impression upon Sumi that has lasted into retirement years.

Quaker retirement programs are situated in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland, as well as in California, Oregon, and elsewhere in the country. The programs are diverse and include independent residential living, assisted living, boarding home, home care, adult day care, mental health, and even hospice.

Residents are from diverse backgrounds and can feel free to be themselves in settings that are socially, spiritually, and intellectually stimulating.

If you are approaching retirement, or are caring for an older adult and have questions about retirement programs, contact: Friends Services for the Aging.

We have a long history of providing services to seniors. Today, our programs offer an array of housing and home-based options. We know that everyone's needs, lifestyles, and financial means are different. So, we have a diversity of services and places to live that accommodate people's preferences and differences.

Contact us for more information about Quaker-sponsored programs on the east and west coasts.

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'Tale of Genji' Comes to America

BY MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

In a tribute to the 1,000th-year anniversary of the "Tale of Genji," composer Isao Tomita, by utilizing cutting-edge technology, will bring this ancient tome alive.

The concert, scheduled to make its only United States appearance on May 11, will take place at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium in Southern California.

The "Tale of Genji," considered by scholars to be the oldest true novel, is a sweeping tale of love and passion set in the ancient imperial court of Japan. Written by Murasaki Shikibu, a lady-in-waiting in 11th century Japan, the three-part book revolves mainly around the romantic liaisons of "Hikaru Genji," or the "Shining Prince Genji." But for Tomita, it was the various women represented in the book that captured his interest.

"The book shows so many dif-

ferences, so when the time came, the music just flowed. It just came out," said Tomita, who took only six months to come up with the "Tale of Genji" score.

Audience reaction to the "Tale of Genji" world premiere at NHK Hall in Tokyo on Nov. 22, 1996, had been so positive that the show's producers decided to arrange a performance in the United States and the United Kingdom. But due to cost factors, the concerts will be limited to areas with corporate sponsors.

"The orchestra costs a lot of money so it's an expensive venture," said Tomita. "But if I could, I'd like to perform this in other areas."

For his Los Angeles appearance, Tomita will be working with the Pasadena Symphony, a different orchestra than the one he utilized in Japan. As of press date, Tomita had not rehearsed with the Pasadena Symphony, and his one minor apprehension



PHOTO: MARTHA NAKAGAWA

Composer Isao Tomita stands in front of a "Tale of Genji" screen on display at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's Japanese Pavilion.

ferent kinds of women, trying to make the best of their lives during the Heian period, an era where Japan enjoyed relative peace," said Tomita. "It is that essence that I've tried to capture ... I think contemporary women can relate to this even today."

In the past, Tomita, considered a leader in the keyboard revolution, has directed music from a transparent pyramid suspended over the Danube River, hung speakers from flying helicopters and passing boats, and synchronized sound to fireworks.

Although the "Tale of Genji" concert won't have any of these dramatics, it will include an 88-piece orchestra, accompanied by traditional Japanese instruments such as the *biwa*, *sho* and *koto*. In the background, a colossal high-definition cube system, courtesy of Pioneer Electronics, will project digital images created exclusively for the concert by filmmaker Mitsuru Shimizu.

While the book itself spans more than 1,000 pages, Tomita's concert will be, limited to one hour and eight minutes.

"The length of the concert shouldn't matter," Tomita said. "What I'm striving for is for the music to capture the spirit of the book. Music is not restricted by words or sentences, so it's the entire atmosphere that I've tried to put into these pieces."

The idea to present a concert such as the "Tale of Genji" had been percolating in Tomita's mind for more than three decades: The seed had first been planted in 1963 when Tomita was hired to compose music for a year-long Japanese historical television series.

Since that time, Tomita has gone on to create music for five more historical TV series, and along the way, had acquired extensive experience synthesizing Eastern and Western instruments.

"I've been thinking about doing something like this for years and

was how the Western-trained musicians might react to the sound of Japanese instruments."

"In Japan, the musicians know about *gagaku* and *sho* and other instruments used in the (imperial) palace, but musicians here probably don't know about them," said Tomita. "I hope the musicians here will understand these musical sounds and how these instruments will have to intermingle with Western instruments."

The Los Angeles concert will include a guest appearance by Jakuchō Setouchi, a Zen nun and national literary figure in Japan who recently completed a best-selling translation of the "Tale of Genji" from archaic to the modern Japanese language.

"The 'Tale of Genji' has been read by people for a thousand years and will continue to be cherished by readers for a thousand more because it has a magnetic and irresistible charm," Setouchi said in a written statement. "Seen as the most highly recognized cultural heritage of Japan, this is a novel that raises issues that are as relevant today as then."

Kazunori Yamamoto, president of Pioneer North America and the concert's sponsor, noted, "We are proud to present an event of this caliber and historic significance. As we rapidly approach the new millennium, we were intrigued by the combination of the legacy of history and culture with the ever-expanding tools of the modern age."

Michie Sahara assisted in interpreting.

The only American appearance of the "Tale of Genji" musical will take place on Tuesday, May 11, from 7:30 p.m., at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, 300 E. Green St. For tickets call Ticketmaster, 213/365-3500 or the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, 626/793-2122. The European premiere is set to take place in London on June 22.



East Wind

Red, Delicious

By Bill Marutani

I'VE BEEN BAFFLED trying to assess the conduct of a cashier at a supermarket in our neighborhood.

Newly opened, the market trains its staff to be friendly to customers, which is just fine with me; I have no quarrel with that. But there's this one blonde, somewhat plumpish cashier who mans the express checkout counter.

One day my express purchase included a package of sushi. Scanning the package, she commented that the sushi was good. As she handed me my bag of purchases she put both arms to her side, bowed and intoned, "Arigato gozai mashita."

It caught me completely off guard. She was, I suppose, seeking to be friendly. Was it a racist mimicry? I've been mulling the incident.

PERHAPS, I WONDERED to myself, I'm being overly sensitive. "Relax. Life isn't perfect."

Let me share a couple of other minor experiences. Trout season being just around the corner, I stopped by the licensing desk at City Hall to get a fishing license. In addition to name, address, age, occupation, the black clerk-typist asked if I was a citizen. I responded "Yes."

As I sat there waiting for her to complete the processing, I was struck by the last question, and I

was moved to ask her: "Miss, do you ask white folks the 'citizen' question?"

Matter-of-factly, without missing a beat on her typing, she replied "No."

"Well," I responded, "from now on ask everybody the same question you asked me."

Of course, I have no idea whether she followed my admonition. But I hope she "got the message."

THE OTHER EPISODE seemed innocuous enough. The scene: during my tenure as a trial judge, among my court staff was "Jim," the "chief drier" in my courtroom.

Jim had been with me for a number of years, a courteous gentleman who efficiently supervised courtroom operations. During breaks in a trial, while relaxing in the robing room, Jim and I would chat about things in general.

Each fall he looked forward to my bringing in boxes of my home-grown red Delicious apples (no pesticides), which he distributed to court staff personnel in other courtrooms.

One day while we were relaxing during trial break, Jim mentioned that he and his wife were scheduled to travel to Japan. I commented, "You'll both love Japan. It's vibrant, clean, safe, no graffiti."

Jim then asked, "Judge, how's

the weather in your country this time of year?"

By way of response, I got up from my chair, walked over to the window, moved the venetian blinds, peered out, and announced "Slightly overcast, but fair."

I did not intend causing any embarrassment to Jim, but then neither did I wish to have my citizenship changed.

THESE ARE OTHER concepts relating to racism that I've been mulling over.

The following are a few samples. If the racist lacks the power to translate his/her racism into action, should I care, or care enough to devote my limited energy to neutralize him/her?

Why must it fall on me to clear the scene of racism which I neither created nor nurtured?

So long as racism does not intrude upon my lifelines — my occupation or business, my family, where I choose to live, to list a few — why should I care?

Yep, these are some questions that, in desperation, I've asked myself.

I haven't come up with the answers. ■

After leaving the bench, Bill Marutani resumed practicing law in Philadelphia. His column appears regularly in the Pacific Citizen.



Mixed Messages

By Mika Tanner

I Wanted to be Yum Yum

I am amazed at how many images of Asian Americans are out there for kids to identify with today. Some we can recognize as positive: Jackie Chan, Michelle Kwan, Kristi Yamaguchi, etc. Then there are the media representations that are confusing at best and offensive at worst: Fu Manchu, Charlie Chan, the Chinese guy in the movie, "Sixteen Candles," everyone in the movie, "Rising Sun," etc.

Thinking about these contradictions, I wonder how AA kids make sense of it all. Do they know when something is offensive? Do they know what images are based on reality and what are built on an American history of stereotyping and anti-Asian sentiment? My guess is, despite parents' best efforts, probably not.

But then, I thought, kids have an amazing ability to interpret things in ways that are meaningful to them.

Let me share something that until recently I was embarrassed to admit. When I was about 10 years old, my dream was to play the part of Yum Yum in my own staged version of Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta, "The Mikado."

"The Mikado," which premiered in London in 1885, is a comic opera that depicts a Victorian-Anglicized view of ancient Japan. Basically, it's a boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy gets girl kind of story. Nanki-Poo, a wandering minstrel, who, in fact, is the Mikado's son, falls in love with the beautiful Yum Yum, who is engaged to her guardian, Ko-Ko. Through a series of hu-

morous and twisting plots, Nanki-Poo and Yum Yum marry and live happily ever after.

Although considered to be Gilbert and Sullivan's most successful work, the Orientalist images of Japan and ridiculous caricatures have offended people so much that the production has been banned on numerous occasions.

I first learned of "The Mikado" from my father, who was a big Gilbert and Sullivan fan. He had records of all their operettas and a hardbound edition of Gilbert's poems and plays. His enthusiasm was infectious, and I soon became a fan. Obviously, I was starving for anything on stage that featured Asians, and "The Mikado" was "devoted" to themes and players that supposedly were from Japan.

It was also a production that featured only Japanese characters — unlike the TV mini-series "Shogun," starring Richard Chamberlain, where it was painfully obvious who were the good guys (white people) and who were the bad guys (everyone else except for Lady Mariko because she was a babe and Anjin-san's love interest).

Then, too, was the fact that my name, Mika, was contained in the title. Having looked all my life for my name on those souvenir license plates at Disneyland, this was a big deal.

My best friend, Katy Huang, and I decided to stage our own production of "The Mikado." I remember the two of us memorizing the more dramatic scenes with an unabandoned enthusiasm.

Because it was my idea, I

played the beautiful Yum Yum. Katy was Nanki-Poo, and the rest of the roles we shared between us.

I'm not sure we understood half of the clever dialogue and humor that had made "The Mikado" so popular, but it didn't matter. It was enough that we were the stars instead of the sidekick or that we didn't have to take the leap of imagination that was necessary when we were playing "Charlie's Angels."

That same year, a San Francisco theater group featured "The Mikado." My dad took me to see it, and I was so excited, sitting in the audience and taking it all in: the characters in yellow face, the crazy kimono, the gongs, the bowing and all that. I was thrilled to see the real thing on stage, with the costumes, orchestra and the elaborate sets. I was laughing at the dialogue and comedic situations as much as the next person. But somewhere, in the back of my mind, I remember thinking they had not got it quite right. This was not the Japan I knew! People there didn't look like that or talk like that and gongs were Chinese, not Japanese, for goodness sakes. But those thoughts came in brief flashes, and I left the theater that night feeling that the experience had been entirely good.

The world never did see our brilliant stage debut — I think we got tired of the whole thing. But for a while, "The Mikado" was our musical in a way that, well, "Annie" or the "Sound of Music" could never be.

As I grew older, I moved onto other interests and had forgot-



From the Frying Pan

Echoes of Internment in Kosovo

By Bill Hosokawa

HAVE YOU BEEN thinking, as I have, about the horrible mess in Kosovo?

Then you must have — should have — thought about the meaning and implications of the term "ethnic cleansing." It is used to describe the savage Yugoslav government campaign to drive a particular ethnic group, the Kosovars, out of their native province of Kosovo, leaving behind villages, homes, jobs, land and friends of other ethnic origins.

And you might have recalled another ethnic cleansing campaign. It took place in 1942. In the United States. It wasn't called ethnic cleansing then. It was the Evacuation. But in hindsight, there are chilling similarities.

I quote from one of the posters which were tacked up in the spring of 1942 by the United States Army, under authority of a presidential executive order, in public places up and down the West Coast:

"Pursuant to the provisions of Civilian Exclusion Order No. 46, this Headquarters, dated May 6, 1942, all persons of Japanese ancestry, both alien and non-alien, shall be evacuated from the above area by 12 o'clock noon, P.W.T., Tuesday, May 12, 1942 ... No Japanese person living in the above area will be permitted to change residence after 12 o'clock noon P.W.T., Wednesday, May 6, 1942, without obtaining special permission."

Isn't that ethnic cleansing? The poster went on to list the items — extra clothing, bedding and other personal effects — evacuees "must carry" with them to the assembly point. Further, the notice said, "The size and number of packages is limited to that which can be carried by the individual or family group." Leave

everything behind but memories, the Army was ordering.

Fast forward to the present. See the news pictures of long lines of Kosovars struggling over the hills with babies in arms, carrying pathetic bundles of personal effects wrapped in blankets. And haunted eyes in hungry faces searching for food and a dry place to sleep.

The "cleansing" of ethnic Japanese from the West Coast proceeded smoothly, without violence, not because of the Army's benevolence but because the victims cooperated.

But what if they hadn't? The government had contingency plans for ethnic cleansing. Col. Karl Bendetsen revealed them, not without pride, in a speech before the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco on May 23, 1942. The evacuation was proceeding without incident, Bendetsen said. But if there were trouble, Bendetsen added confidently, the Army was prepared to apprehend and move out all "Japanese" in 24 hours.

He didn't elaborate — perhaps it was a military secret — but that would have been a daunting task. Rounding up 115,000 men, women and children in 24 hours on the basis of ethnicity and locking them up. Imagine the confusion, the hysteria, the anger, the fear and certainly the violence.

It did not happen, largely because of the good sense of most of those involved. But it could have.

Our ethnic cleansing saw minorities being sent into exile in buses and railroad cars. Its greatest violence was to democracy. ■

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

ten about it until college when it was to be performed on campus. Many students protested it, claiming "The Mikado" to be racist.

What I remember most, however, was the sudden realization that something I had identified with was considered insulting. Should I have known better? I must have been pretty dense to be so unaware. I felt like a traitor, a yellow "Uncle Tom."

It could be argued that "The Mikado" was not intended to be an insult to Japan but merely a caricature. I don't buy these arguments, but it could even be said that the characters and references in "The Mikado" are very British, or that the work was actually a satire on Victorian England.

As a kid, I'd spent hours of enjoyment learning lines and songs that now my college classmates believed to be wholly offensive.

But thinking back on it, I realize that "The Mikado" played a positive role in my childhood. By making it our own, Katy and I turned it into something that confirmed our identity and pride as AA kids. Sure, it would have been better to have that pride inspired by something that featured more realistic portrayals of Asians by Asians, but given what we had to work with, we managed quite nicely.

I'm sure other AA kids made something positive out of other debatable material like "Flower Drum Song," for instance. But I can see kids — and adults for that matter — being blind to the controversy and enjoying it for the songs, dancing and the mem-

orable AA characters. There was also the Chinese American actress Anna Mae Wong, who, though relegated to playing dragon lady roles, was seen as a role model in her community. Today, young AAs identify with Asian icons such as Ultraman, Bruce Lee, Astro Boy and Speed Racer, though it could be argued that they also reinforce stereotypes of Asians and AA culture.

My point is that kids often have the ability to make something positive out of what is not necessarily intended to be. "The Mikado" might not have been ideal for me to identify with — some of you may even feel it had done some permanent psychological damage (those of you who know me, especially). I believe, though, that Katy and I created something for ourselves that rose above that in some way. Of course, it's a fine line between what is harmful and helpful to a child's psyche. As adults, that's something to be aware of. There's no question that racist and demeaning portrayals of Asians are wrong and that they serve to feed the fire of ignorance and hate. But maybe in some cases, things can be reclaimed and interpreted on different levels and have a variety of meanings that are not exclusively wrong or harmful. There are layers to everything, and sometimes going beyond the surface is the most self-affirming thing that we can do. ■

Mika Tanner is currently a graduate student at UCLA's Asian American Studies program and a board member of Hope Issues Forum. She can be reached at mtanner@ucla.edu.

Voices

Railroad/Mine Researcher Needs Help

BY ANDY RUSSELL

In February of 1997 the federal government announced a long overdue change in policy. It acknowledged that the government was partly responsible for the mass firing of Japanese Americans who had worked for the major western railroads and mines during World War II. Since this announcement, over 300 victims of the mass firings have received redress payments and a presidential letter of apology under the 1988 Civil Liberties Act, as most readers already know.

It gave me great pleasure to know that documents I had found while researching Japanese wartime experiences in Nevada helped to bring about this policy change (along with much additional evidence submitted by survivors and other researchers and activists). Aiding this redress movement also convinced me to do more research and write my doctoral dissertation on the Nikkei railroad and mine populations of the Interior West (1920-1945). Last year the Civil Liberties-Public Education Fund (CLPEF) awarded me a fellowship that is helping me complete this research.

This spring I will be traveling through the states of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho to gather oral history interviews, archival documents, and

other material (like copies of family papers and photographs) I need to write my dissertation, which will eventually become a book. I'm

especially interested in talking with Issei and Nisei who remember what life was like for railroad and mine workers and families—

before, during, and immediately after the war. I also hope to locate and interview some Italian American industrial workers of the period to compare their experiences.

My tentative research-trip schedule is as follows: May 1-6, Colorado; May 7-14, southern Wyoming; May 15-31, Salt Lake City, Ogden, and Price, Utah; June 1-15, Montana, Idaho, northern Wyoming.

Even if there are problems with this schedule, I hope that anyone living in these or other areas who can assist my research will contact me as soon as possible. My telephone number is 505/255-6811; my address is 3408-D Indian School Rd., NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106, and my e-mail is ANDY.RUSSELL@asu.edu.

I am already deeply indebted to the JA community for aiding my research thus far, and I want to thank everyone in advance for any additional help they can give as I explore this little-known history. ■



NAPALC Releases 'Report Card' on the 105th Congress

WASHINGTON—The National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium has just released a compilation of voting records of senators and representatives in the 105th Congress on issues of particular importance to Asian Pacific Americans. This is the first such APA report card on congressional members.

The report card was based on a total of 14 House votes and five Senate votes. These votes concerned the passage of legislation involving affirmative action, immigration, language rights, voting rights, and welfare reform issues. The report card also included the Senate vote confirming Susan Oki Mollway, the first Asian Pacific American woman to hold a federal

district court seat.

The consortium's executive director, Karen K. Narasaki, said, "It is very important that the public knows how their elected congressional officials voted on critical civil rights issues. With the consortium's report card, APAs can compare what their elected officials are saying to how they are actually voting."

Narasaki added, "We hope this will help APAs understand the importance of engaging in our democratic process. As it is now, Asian Pacific Americans do not have enough access to information or the political process."

For copies of the report, contact Ronda Coleman at 202/296-2300 or RColeman@napalc.org. ■

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HAUNTING HEADLINES



Letters to the Editor

Re: 'Branson: Tribute or Tribulation?'

When Martha Nakagawa, *Pacific Citizen* assistant editor, called, she didn't inform me that she was interviewing me for a news article in the *P.C.*, so some of my answers to her queries may not have been as specific as they would have been "on the record." I request a correction to some of the misinformation in your article.

Early in May 1998, Kiyo Yamate, a member of the board for the Japanese American Veterans Monument in Los Angeles, sent the brochure for the Branson tour sponsored by Chase Travel to me to tell to our Northern California E Company veterans and friends.

When our NORCAL committee looked it over, they couldn't believe the quoted price. They asked me to get a comparison from a reliable travel agency, because some of them had been to Branson recently and had paid much less than what Chase Travel was advertising. Chase's original price was \$1,195 per person, double occupancy, land only.

On May 8, 1998, I mailed the comparison to Kiyo Yamate and asked him to request a price similar to what A V Travel offered, approximately \$400 per person less than Chase Travel, including air from the West Coast into Springfield, Mo. The price was not designed to undercut the price of the Chase Travel tour. It is the everyday price for Branson tours that A V Travel has been selling to hundreds of clients for many years.

At the conclusion of the 55th 100th/442nd/MIS/Eng anniversary reunion in Honolulu on July 6, 1998, I presented A V Travel's program to the members of E Company at the farewell banquet. These people strongly endorsed the A V Travel Branson trip, and we are successfully selling this tour.

Donations will come from Mr. Ed Nelson, owner of A V Travel, not from the money paid by the participants. Mr. Nelson has always had high respect for and been a friend to the Japanese American community, in particular the veterans of the 100th and 442nd. He has made other contributions to JA veterans on past tours arranged by A V Travel.

A V Travel has agreed to increase the donation to the 100th/442nd/MIS/WWII Memorial Foundation as suggested by Sumi Seki.

Lawson J. Sakai
E Company, 442nd RCT
Life Member, JACL
Gilroy, Calif.

Dialogue Needs to Continue

If I may, I'd like to add my voice to the discussion of whether it is time to put aside the issue of the internment of Japanese Americans.

For the past month I've been

traveling the country giving readings from my new novel, *The Climate of the Country*, set in Tule Lake segregation camp. At every stop—in high schools, universities, book stores and Nikkei legacy centers—I've been overwhelmed by the intensity of the emotion and the interest in the material that arises in discussions on both coasts of America.

I've looked into audiences to find Nisei, Sansei and Yonsei openly weeping. Elderly Nisei women have timidly asked if I could explain to them the loyalty questionnaires and the problems that their parents and grandparents endured.

There have been candid, vivid discussions between white members of the audience and JAs, in which the Caucasians have said, "We knew this happened, but we had no idea of the complexity and profound ramifications of internment."

And in classrooms throughout the country, children of all races and cultures, children born here and others who arrived as refugees with only "what they could carry," movingly discussed how the questions of the racially based evacuation of JAs pertained to their lives in America in 1999.

As one invested in relating the history of the evacuation, I've learned not to assume knowledge when standing before any audience. The years of silence in this country have done too good a job of obscuring the illuminating details of history. Instead of thinking we've talked enough, we should be encouraging people to ask more questions, even the most obvious, and we should explore them to tell more stories, even the most intimate and seemingly insignificant.

As a Jew, I know that the personal tale of the Holocaust will continue to emerge as long as the survivors live. That's as it should be if we are to ensure such barbarity never happens again. As a person born in Tule Lake Camp, I feel we owe the same level of ongoing scrutiny to the tragic, morally intricate revelations of the evacuation.

Marion Mueller
Author, *The Climate of the Country*

Lt. Col. Sakakida Deserves Medal of Honor

Your Feb. 19-Mar. 4 issue has a disturbing story about Lt. Col. Sakakida. Disturbing because the awarding of the Distinguished Service Medal is too little and much too late. Col. Sakakida deserves the Medal of Honor, plain and simple.

Several years ago, Sen. Akaka of Hawaii pushed through legislation that would direct the Defense Department to review Nisei Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) recipients to see if they actually warranted the Medal of Honor. Many at that time felt that Col.

Sakakida would surely receive this honor. This didn't happen and it shows a continuing disregard for the bravery of the men in the 100th/442nd/MIS.

In reviewing many DSC citations, one finds numerous deeds of heroism and sacrifice comparable or greater to Medal of Honor recipients who were Caucasian. Did racism prevail in these circumstances? Was there favorable publicity in light of what the government was doing to many of their parents? There still seems to be a reluctance to do the right thing. JACL chapters and members can start a campaign to ask individual congressmen and the president to lobby for quick action in this regard. Sen. Inouye of Hawaii received the DSC for an act of valor that outstrips the exploits of the legendary Audie Murphy. Let's all get together and demand that Sen. Inouye receive the Medal of Honor he so justly deserves. Maybe this will open the door for others.

Bruce Haines
East San Gabriel Valley JACL

Re: APA Teen Moms

I'm writing to say thank you for the wonderful article on APA teen moms and the services that support them and their young families.

I'm so excited to see compassionate, front page coverage of this issue, which is often swept under the rug. Teen moms and their children are a particularly vulnerable population deserving of both our resources and our concern. After all, this is part of our next generation.

I also enjoyed reading the interview/article with Emiko Omori and always appreciate Brian Niyaya's and Emily Murase's columns and Mixed Messages. Keep up the good work.

Karen Maeda Altman
Via e-mail

Pacific Citizen

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Except for the National Director's Report, news and the "Views" expressed by columnists do not necessarily reflect JACL policy.

The columns are the personal opinion of the writers.

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

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

Shakespeare's Women of

'Much Ado' Features All-Female, Multiethnic Cast; Juicy Roles for AAs

BY TRACY UBA

Writer/Reporter

HOLLYWOOD—Sure, Gwyneth may have won an Oscar this year for her gender-swapping role in "Shakespeare in Love," but she's got nothing on the ladies of the Los Angeles Women's Shakespeare Company (LAWSC), who've been wearing the corsets—and the trousers—since 1993.

LAWSC's latest production of "Much Ado About Nothing," Shakespeare's comedic tale of parallel love and scheming, showcases the inimitable talents of an all-female ensemble cast, led by co-directors Natsuko

Ohama (who plays the devilishly conniving Don John) and Lisa Wolpe (who plays the deft and debonair Benedick).

But, even more notably, this particular adaptation of "Much Ado" features an ethnic diversity rarely seen in any other mainstream theater company and certainly unseen in traditional Shakespearean productions, where in the Bard's day white men assumed even the female roles.

It is largely thanks to the 25-year stage veteran Ohama, who is a founding member of Shakespeare & Company in Massachusetts and a senior artist with the Pan Asian Repertory, and to L A W S C founder and artistic director Wolpe, for consciously bringing in this diversity, including three Japanese American actors—Amy Hill, Emily Kuroda and Deborah Nishimura—as well as black and Latina actors who occupy several of the lead roles.

"I think this is the first time they've had this many Asians involved in their company, but it's really blended well," said first-time LAWSC member Nishimura, who fine tunes her vocal chords as the

musically-inclined Balthazar. The Northern California native's resume includes over 20 productions with East West Players.

"Asian Americans don't get the opportunity to do nice, big juicy parts in Shakespeare because it is generally thought that we don't have the training," added Hill, who plays the raving and uproariously pompous Constable Dogberry to a T.

"Many of us do have the training to do classical theater, and so that's refreshing to be able to do a part like this," said the Seattle-raised Hill, whose comedic flair as Margaret Cho's Korean grandmother was previously featured on the TV sitcom "All American Girl."

"In some cases, the audience has a little trouble at the beginning because you see a show cast multiculturally that is traditionally all white," Hill noted, but as she and Ohama agree, it isn't long before they acclimate to a situation in which an AA actor plays the brother of an African American actor.

Since LAWSC's first production of "Romeo and Juliet" which debuted in 1993, the nonprofit organization has been actively committed to collaborating with ethnically and culturally mixed groups of female actors, producers, directors, choreographers, designers and educators.

For Wolpe, "Having that diversity of women just makes it richer and more interesting."

For Ohama, who said she doesn't really think of LAWSC as a political theater, "there is [still] a political kind of consciousness within us, the mere fact that it's all women."

It is not surprising then that her goal, as Ohama says, is "to get women of many ages and races, not to put them in little slots where they're playing lex-



PHOTO BY NANCY JO MAZZIE

"Much Ado's" AA brigade (clockwise from top): Amy Hill as Constable Dogberry, Natsuko Ohama as Don John, Deborah Nishimura as Balthazar and Emily Kuroda as Friar Francis.

clusively minor characters], but to try to let the essence of the [characters'] humanness come through," which in part means reflecting a society that is made up of all different people.

The Alberta, Canada, native admits, "I'd always thought Shakespeare was an elitist, Anglo-Saxon, Protestant, removed-from-me-kind of thing... I've seen so many productions lately where the casts have been all white, and I don't really understand that."

And, yet, though LAWSC has provided that much-needed forum for the voices and talents of women to reinterpret the works of such a celebrated writer as Shakespeare, the profession of stage and even TV and film acting doesn't always allow for self-sustenance, many AA actors agree.

Nishimura, for instance, holds a day job to help supplement her

income as does Ohama in teaching and voice coaching.

The cost for the production of "Much Ado" was estimated between \$55,000 and \$60,000, said Wolpe, which is funded through individual donations, box office sales and arts grants.

For all, it is clearly a labor of love.

"Young women come to see us," said Ohama, "They get to see the possibility of people of other races playing these roles. I almost feel embarrassed to say that at times. It's something that has to be consciously be put in there."

LAWSC's production of "Much Ado About Nothing" is playing through April 30, Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sunday matinees at 3 p.m., at the John Anson Ford Amphitheater Complex inside the Ford Theater, 2580 E. Cahuenga Blvd., Hollywood. For tickets of more info, call 310/289-1487. ■



PHOTO BY NANCY JO MAZZIE

The Los Angeles Women's Shakespeare Company presents its all-female production of "Much Ado About Nothing" with co-director Natsuko Ohama as Don John (top), co-director Lisa Wolpe as Benedick (right) and actor/comedienne Kelly Coffield as Beatrice (left).

1999 Nat'l Legacy Fund Grant Applications Available

National Legacy Fund Grant applications are now available from the JACL Pacific Northwest District, 671 S. Jackson St., #206, Seattle, WA 98104. Grants of up to \$3,000 are available to JACL chapters, district councils and national youth/student council for projects relating to the JACL Program for Action, which promotes protecting civil and human rights of all Americans, developing future leaders for social and political change, and preserving the cultural heritage of Japanese Americans.

Past grant recipients have used the money for a variety of purposes, including the following:

- A Feb. 12-13 teacher training workshop, sponsored by the Mile Hi Chapter and Mountain Plains District Council, discussed how Colorado was one of the few states that accepted JA evacuees from the West Coast.

- Twin Cities Chapter sponsored a Feb. 11 workshop at the Bloomington National Armory, to provide lesson plan ideas for teaching about internment, now a required topic in Minneapolis and St. Paul schools.

- San Diego Chapter created a 23-minute video on the experiences of the JA in San Diego County during World War II.

- San Francisco Chapter completed a JA Internment Curriculum, an elementary education project that uses an integrative approach to teaching sensitive topics.

- Seattle Chapter documented the history of the U.S. Army's Lordsburg, N.M., internment camp, where many prominent Nisei were interned.

- San Mateo Chapter updated "1872-1942: A Community Story," a history book on JAs in San Mateo County and San Francisco Peninsula.

- Fresno Chapter documented the San Joaquin Valley JA commu-

nities, including Fresno, Del Rey, Reedley, Dinuba, Lindsay, Hanford, Fowler, Sanger, Madera and Parlier.

- Lake Washington Chapter, with the Bellevue Historical Society and other groups, is creating a traveling exhibit and a compilation of oral histories.

- APAN Chapter co-sponsored a Hapa Conference at California State University, Northridge, with the Southern California Chapter of Hapa Issues Forum and CSUN's Asian American Studies Department. A similar conference, at UC Berkeley, is being sponsored by the San Francisco Chapter.

- Pocatello-Blackfoot and Lake Washington chapters sponsored separate taiko workshops. The Lake Washington project brought together taiko groups from Vancouver, B.C., Washington and Oregon. The Pocatello-Blackfoot Chapter has reported an increase in membership through the workshop.

- Las Vegas Chapter established a scholarship in memory of former Las Vegas JACL President Bill Endow, who passed away in 1998.

Proposals are not restricted to new projects, and grants may be awarded to projects extending beyond 1999. Applications must be sent to the PNW District Office, postmarked no later than May 21. Awardees will be announced at the end of June. Legacy Fund Grant Program Committee members are Gary Mayeda (chair), Henry Tanaka (Midwest District), Elsie Taniguchi (PNW), Debbie Ikeda (Fresno-Central California), Malcolm Mori (Mountain Plains), Rick Naguchi (PSW), Tab Uno (Intermountain District), Teresa Maebori (Eastern) and John Hayashi (NCWNP).

For more information or for an application, contact the PNW Office at 206/623-6088 or e-mail japl@nwmen.com. ■

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George Tani, 83, an honor ophthalmologist

ST. PAUL, Minn.—Dr. George Tadashi Tani, a longtime Minnesota ophthalmologist, clinical professor at the University of Minnesota School of Medicine and recipient of the first Outstanding Alumni Service Award in 1991 from the Vision Foundation, died March 22. He was 83.

Born in Oakland, Calif., a 1939 graduate of the University of California School of Optometry, he was evacuated and served as camp optometrist at Minidoka, Idaho, and joined the Army at Fort Snelling MISLS.

In 1950, he graduated from U.M. medical school.

Tani was president of the Mayo Clinic Ophthalmology Alumni Association, U.M. Medical Alumni, Japan America Society of Minnesota and North Maplewood Lions. He is survived by wife Yoshi, sons Paul and Douglas, daughter Kay, 7 grandchildren, a great grandchild, brother Shinobu (Oakland), sisters Nobuyo Yokomizo (Oakland), Yasu Mitchell (Beville, Texas) and Chieko Sujuku (Japan). ■

Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Endo, Frank Aiji, 91, Los Angeles, Feb. 20; Seattle-born architect, longtime Washington, D.C. area resident and JACLer; survived by son Todd (Arlington, Va.); daughters Cheryl Johnston (Chicago), Marsha Johnson (Waldorf, Md.); 6 gc., 4 ggc.; brother Tuneso Bob (Los Angeles).

Hayama, Tsuyue, 78, Stockton, March 8; Salinas-born; survived by husband Kenichi; son Arthur and wife Barbara; daughter Pat Kawada and husband Gene; 4 gc.; brother Ikeji Shiozuka.

Higashi, Masayuki "Mike", 74, Monterey, March 30; Manzanar internee, gardener for 50 years and JACL member; survived by wife Etoku Esther; sons Craig (Monterey), Curtis (Canoga Park) and Chester (San Jose); daughter Susan Rumberg (Alexandria, Va.); mother Thumae Tsumits (Santa Clara); and 7 gc.

Hirahara, Phoebe Hideko, 75, Madera, March 6; Fresno-born; survived by husband Shigeo; sons Stanley and wife Carol, James and wife Tami, Larry and wife Charlotte, Steven and wife Barbara; 9 gc., 4 ggc.; sister Ann Kawaguchi.

Hirahara, Shigeo, 82, Madera, March 18; Fresno-born; survived by sons Stanley and wife Carol, Larry and wife Charlotte, Steven, 9 gc., 4 ggc.; brother Art, sisters Fusae Masukawa, Fumiko Akutagawa, Yoshiko Edlow; predeceased by wife Phoebe.

Hosokawa, Taka Bill, 79, Camarillo, March 25; survived by wife Jean; daughters Janet and Judy and Commander Rud Terashima, USNR, and her husband Hiroshi Terashima, M.D.; 4 gc., 1 ggc. and many other relatives.

Kamine, Moto, 89, Fowler, March 2; survived by wife Saeze; sons Hiroyuki and wife Kumiko, Shigenobu and wife Aiko, Yasushi and wife Debbie; daughters Haruyo Kato, Satomi Hiya and husband Kazuhiko Howard; 12 gc.; sisters Misao Enomoto and Mitsue Wadama; brother-in-law Koichi Okura (Japan).

Kaneko, James Susumu, 75, Sacramento, March 9; Sacramento-born; survived by brothers Sam and wife Jean, John and wife Mae, Yuji and wife Kimi; sisters Nobuko Yamamoto, Tomiko Iser and husband Homer, uncle George; aunt Lila Matsumoto.

Kaneko, May Kazuko, 69, Stockton, March 2; survived by husband Frank; daughter Chie Sandra; sister Jane, Yoneko Asaba (Japan).

Kaneko, Mike M., 40, San Francisco, March 6; survived by parents Kenichi and Yoshiye, brother Hiroyuki; sisters Tayeko Hidalgo and husband Leslie, Amy, fiancée Olivia Anderson.

Kawamoto, Takeo Bruce, 94, Huntington Beach, March 9; Florin-born; survived by son Morris and wife Amy (Lincoln, Ill.); daughters Helen Migaki and husband Sam (Las Vegas), Betty Dunn (Huntington Beach); 7 gc., 4 ggc.; longtime friend and companion Betty Solberg.

Kinoshita, Kiyoshi, 88, San Jose, March 12; Marysville-born; survived by wife Kikuko; son Tamotsu; daughters Chieko Murata, Chizuko Dobashi; 5 gc.

Koyano, Hakubo James, 92, San Jose, March 20; survived by son Bill and wife Shirley; 3 gc., 3 ggc.

Maeda, Shingi, 62, Chicago, March 9; Kohala, Hawaii-born; survived by wife Akiko; sons Robert and Paul; sisters Chidori Yoshimoto and Tazuko Masaki (Hawaii).

Masumoto, Fay Fumiyu, 84, Redley, March 8; Redley-born; survived by sons Dr. Kenneth and wife Glee, Sam; daughters Kathleen Takasaki, Irene Kurokawa and husband Yoshi, Evelyn Asato and husband Harry; 8 gc., 2 ggc.; brothers Hirosaki Matsui and wife Shinako, Tadashi Matsui and wife Takayo; sisters Yaeiko Arisuna (Japan), Chieko Nakai.

Matsuda, Itsuyo Keiko, 72, Lodi, March 8; Hiroshima-born, longtime Sacramento resident; survived by husband Jack Yoshio; children Janet Adair and husband Michael, Michael and wife Kathy, Janice Dubuisson and husband Terry; 7 gc.; sisters Miyoko Fukuyama, Kikuyo Kochi and husband Hiroshi.

Matsu, Frank T., 85, Berkeley, March 10; Los Angeles-born; survived by daughter Yoneko Alice Wakida and husband Roy; 4 gc., 1 ggc.; brothers George and wife Miyo.

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.

(Wash.), Masao and wife Kimiko, Hisato and wife Sumie Matsuo, Isamu and wife Michiko Kamine, Akiyoshi and wife Eiko (all of Japan), sisters Kimiko Kaneko and husband Hiroshi (Berkeley), Fumiko Arai and husband Chikayasu (Japan).

Mitoma, Crashee Jr., 51, Corona, March 27; survived by parents Dr. & Mrs. Crashee Mitoma (Sacramento), brother Dr. Glenn and wife Judy (Alta Loma); sister Dr. Terri Mitoma-Kunihara and husband Dr. Richard; nieces and nephews.

Mukai, Joyce Yaeiko, 55, West Los Angeles, March 25; Manzanar-born, raised in Hiroshima; survived by husband Thukasa; sons Mark and wife Tammi Tamie (Los Angeles), Keineth, Paul; daughter Joy; 1 gc.; sisters Kyoko Kikuno and husband Yoshitsugu, Grace Hisako Takeuchi and husband Takao, Fumiko Hiramine and husband Akira, Yuriko Kazumura McCordie; mother-in-law Ito.

Murata, Tom, 80, Oregon Slope, March 29; Castrolville-born WWII Army veteran, life-long farmer; survived by wife Grace, sons Warren and wife Shirley, Russ and wife Mary Ann (Ontario), daughter Edith Fehling and husband Mike (San Jose); 6 gc., 1 ggc.; brother Ross (San Jose), sister Yoneko Murase (San Francisco).

Nagano, Masako, 71, Los Angeles, March 9; Sawtelle-born; survived by brothers Joe and wife Mitzi, Tawu and wife Zenaida.

Nagatani, Scott S., San Diego, March 27; retired commander, U.S. Navy; survived by wife Sharon; daughter Kate; parents James K. and Betty (San Diego); George and Toyoko Fukuhara (Folsom); sisters Sandra Short and husband Keith, Lindsay and Austin (Poway), Cheryl Leno and husband Allan (Northridge), Cindy Ruder and husband Steve, Jesse and Corey (Roseville); brother Ronald and wife Kris, Morgan (Santa Barbara).

Nakatani, Mitsue, 100, Yuba City, March 12; Wakayama-born, survived by sons Soichi Charles, Yutaka and wife Nancy; daughter Haruko; daughter-in-law Mary; 19 gc., 27 ggc., 1 ggc.

Nishimura, Joe, 74, Los Angeles, March 10; Houston-born-Nisei; survived by wife Miyo; brothers Tom and wife Funko; sister Mitsuko Philip and husband John, Nori, brothers-in-law Mas Yago and wife Ayako, Taka Yago and wife Mary.

Onizuka, Masae, 105, Walnut Creek, March 20; Fukuoka-born; survived by son Glenn and wife Ayako; 8 gc.; daughter-in-law Yuki Onizuka.

Sakano, Fumie, 85, Portland, Ore., March 25; Portland-born koto teacher; survived by daughters Michiyo Robbe (Honolulu), Phyllis McNair (Bellevue, Wash.); 5 gc., 4 ggc.; sister Mary Nakadate and brother Dr. George Yoshio Marumoto (both Portland).

Shiraga, Harumi, 77, Hawthorne, March 13; Bell-born; survived by son Robert (Hawthorne); daughter Beverly Umemoto and husband Donald (Manhattan Beach); 1 gc.; brother Jack K. Furuya (Los Angeles).

Shiratschi, Yumiko, 69, San Francisco, March 15; Yokohama-born; survived by sons Yoshihiro and wife Harumi, Tami and wife Diana; daughter Shigeko Felsburg; brother-in-law Tadashi and wife Emi.

Suzuki, Rev. Dr. Lester, 90, Berkeley, March 1; Hawaii-born pastor emeritus at Berkeley Methodist United Church; survived by wife Seda; daughters Irene Takawa and husband Mariah, Janet Brockmann, Carol Mariah Suzuki; 3 gc., 2 ggc.

Tani, Dr. George Tadashi, 83, Minneapolis, March 22; Oakland-born WWII Army veteran, served in the MIS, established Tani Eye Associates; survived by wife Yoshi; sons Dr. Paul and wife Barbara, Dr. Douglas and wife Linnea; daughter Kay and husband Dr. Thomas Winesgardner; ggc.—brothers Shinobu (Oakland); sisters Nobuyo Yokomizo (Oakland), Yasu Mitchell (Beville, Texas) Chieko Sujuku (Japan).

Tsuchiya, Takazo Tar, 80, Minneapolis, March 26; holder of many patents in food processing, inducted in the Minneapolis Inventors' Hall of Fame and the General Mills Technical Center Hall of Fame; survived by wife Mary; stepdaughters Lani and JoAnn, son Craig and wife Laurie; predeceased by son Colin. ■

DEATH NOTICE

HENRY SHIGERU YAMAGA
LA HABRA, Calif.—Henry Shigeru Yamaga, 82, passed away March 13. He was a Los Angeles born Nisei and resident of La Habra. Funeral services were held March 18, at Higashi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple in Los Angeles, with Rinban Noriaki Ito officiating. The deceased is survived by his wife Dorothy Haruko Yamaga, son Chester (Jean) Yamaga, daughters, Carolyn Yamaga, Christine (Patrick) Yam and Irene (Charles) Marshall, 3 grandsons, brothers George (Marta) Yashiro and Ben (Amy) Yashiro, sisters Chiyoko Yasutaka of Seattle, Wash., Mitae (Fred) Funakoshi of Oceanside; sister-in-law Kay (Ted) Ohashi of Berkeley; also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

DEATH NOTICE

TADASHI GEORGE YOSHIZAKI
MONTEREY PARK, Calif.—Tadashi George Yoshizaki, 83, passed away March 30. Beloved husband of Fumi Yoshizaki; father of Steve and Wayne Yoshizaki, Judy (Shin) Nakawata, and Elaine (Dean) Kumihira; grandfather of Stacy and Ryan Nakawata, Sherrin and David Kumihira, Cyndy, Lori and Scott Yoshizaki; brother of Minoru (Mabel) Yoshizaki, Katsuko Terasawa, Vera Aoki, Dorothy Shibayama, and Sue Wong; also survived by nieces, nephews and relatives. Funeral services were held on Friday, April 2 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Los Angeles.

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Filmmaker Nakamura Appointed to Endowed Chair in JA Studies

Robert Nakamura, a UCLA professor of film and television and one of the country's most influential documentary filmmakers on the Japanese American experience, recently was appointed chairholder of the academic chair in Japanese American Studies at UCLA. The endowed chair is the only one in the United States devoted solely to the field of JA studies.

At UCLA, Nakamura has held joint appointments with the School of Theater, Film and Television and the AA Studies Center since 1978. In 1994, he was appointed associate director of the center, where he is credited with incorporating a media arts and humanities component into the undergraduate and graduate degree programs in AA studies.

Recognized internationally as a pioneer in the alternative community-based media movement which began in the late 1960s, Nakamura has made fiction and nonfiction films for television, the big screen, classrooms and, most recently, museums. He has worked with archival footage dating from the 1920s to the most recent video, digital and multimedia technologies.

Among Nakamura's many notable films are "Manzanar," the first independent documentary film to address the internment of 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II; "Watanabe: Birds of Passage," which tells the story of the early

Japanese who immigrated to the United States; "Hiti Hata: Raise the Banner," the first feature-length motion picture about JAs written, directed and produced by AAs themselves; the award-winning "Something Strong Within," which uses home movies taken by those interned in the camps during WWII; and "Looking Like the Enemy," which looks at the unique challenges faced by American soldiers of Asian descent who fought in WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

"Throughout all these formats and contexts, my focus has been on revealing and reflecting communities and people from within, as they live and see themselves," Nakamura said. "I feel very fortunate to be appointed to the chair because it will allow me to continue documenting the history of Japanese Americans, which is my passion."

As holder of the chair, Nakamura will continue to conduct research on the Japanese experience in America. Although his research has focused primarily on documenting the Issei (first generation), Nakamura will now turn his attention to producing visual life histories of the Nisei.

The year, Nakamura was appointed director of the Media Arts Center at the Japanese American National Museum, where he developed the Photographic and Moving Image Archive. Since the museum's inception, he has worked on all its exhibits, exploring new uses of media presentation for museum settings. Nakamura also is in the process of developing three CC-ROMs on JAs. ■

LEE

(Continued from page 1)

senator; Yas Tokita, JACL; and Jeannette Williams, NAACP.

Yas Tokita, a JACL member and past Intermountain District governor, who has been actively lobbying Hatch, thanked the senator for his past sponsorship of the redress bill and hoped that Hatch shows the same fairness in considering Lee's confirmation process.

"We are aware that Senator Hatch took a lot of heat from the right and from veterans group on that [redress] bill. But demonstrating his compassion and sense of fairness, he remained as a sponsor, and we remember his courage," said Tokita. "... It is our fervent hope that Senator Hatch will, in a spirit of fairness, compassion and tolerance, allow the nomination to proceed to the floor of the Senate from the Senate Judiciary Committee without a recommendation."

Kuren Kwan-Smith, executive

director of the Utah Organization of Chinese Americans, said a full Senate vote for Lee's confirmation would send a message of hope to the younger generation. Kwan-Smith noted how Lee's visit to Salt Lake City last year inspired two sisters, Lupe and Amelia Niumetolu, to pursue a career in civil rights.

"Bill Lann Lee, the first Asian American nominated to the top civil rights position in the United States, is a role model and symbol of achievement for many immigrant populations," said Kwan-Smith. "As a second generation Chinese American, his story represents all that is right about America. It is a story of success — that hard work and dedication to one's ideals do pay off in the end. For many young Americans, Bill Lee represents what can be accomplished and goals yet to be achieved."

Carol Stinner, president of the American Association of University Women, had a simple message: "Give them [the U.S. Senate] a chance to cast a vote. That

is all we are asking."

Lee was first appointed by President Clinton to the acting head of the civil rights division on Dec. 15, 1997, after an unsuccessful Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing to name Lee to the assistant attorney general post. Republican committee members had opposed Lee based, in part, on his support of affirmative action. Lee was renominated to the position last month, and will undergo a second confirmation hearing in the near future. ■

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