

#2867 / Vol. 126, No. 9 ISSN: 0030-8579

cation of the Japanese American Citizens League

## **Resolution ACR 32** Gives Impetus to Soko Bukai Lawsuit

## BY CAROLINE AOYAGI

The message from the Japansee American community to the San Francisco YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) has been loud and clear for clos to three years now: give back the YWCA building to its rightful owners — the JA community. And now the state of California is echoing that same message. With a unanimous vote in the

With a unanimous vote in the Assembly and the Senate, the California legislature on April 29 passed ACR 32, a resolution spearheaded by Assemblymem-ber Mike Honda (D-San Jose) in response to the San Francisco YWCA situation. ACR 32 calls on the state of California to repeal any vestiges of the racist Alien Land Law, enacted in 1913 and repealed in 1956, and to enforce trusts brokered under that any

The resolution, also cosponsored by Assemblymembers Car-ole Migden and Kevin Shelley and Senator John Burton, states in part, That the Legislature of the State of California declares that it shall be the policy of the state to eradicate any vestiges of the racism of the California Alien Land Law and to take steps to ensure the enforcement of chari-table trusts created in response to that law."

For over a year now the Soko Buksi, a group of Japanese See SOKO BUKAV page 10

## **JA Community Mourns Death of** Historian and Activist Michi Weglyn

BY SACHI SEKO Special to the Pacific Citizen

Into the darkness, she has gone, taken by death. I would grieve and understand if she had lived her allotted three score years and 10. But she was only 17 and that is too oung to die

My friend and I, ignoring the incur-sions of sickness and age, were per-petually 17, someplace in our hearts. Good are few friends and hard to come by. When one dies, there is never a re empty space. It is remembering them that we give them eternal life. Michi Nishiura Weglyn's great ad-

adventure in life came to an end on Sunday, April 25, in New York City.

Long before her terminal illness I said I would not write her eulo I said I would not write her culo-gy. There are others more, de-serving and better qualified for that task. They are the activity, academics and achievers who will know the right words and proper phrasing. Michi and I had a friendship

that lasted for over 55 years, stretching from adolescence into widowhood and old age. It all be-

gan at Gila River, perhaps a most unlikely place and yet the most appropriate place. Gila was the enduring bond be-

tween us, two distinctly different women with conflicting likes and dislikes. But on the values that mattered most, we were in per-

Walter Weglyn and Michi Nishiura Weglyn in a 1992 photo.

fect accord. Further, we were friends in the truest sense of mu-tual affection and esteem. So it is as one of her oldest friends that I

as one of her oldest friends that 1 am writing this piece. Yesterday morning, after com-pleting the first draft, I thought I must run this through Michi, au-tomatically reaching for the phone. And then caught myself, remembering she is dead. It is an old habit we had, of processing

material through each other. I had to laugh at my absurdity and knew if she were here, she would laugh even louder and longer. Neither her smile nor the sound of her laughter ever changed. That was part of being 17. I think at that age, your departure is careed character is carved.

You are either a giver or taker for life. Perhaps that is why high school sweethearts and high school reunions and high school friends re main so cherished. Michi was a giver from the first candy bar we shared at Gila. She and Walter were philan-thropists. There were also many pri-vate contributions that never ap-peared on donor lists. But I think the essence of Michi's charitable

1992 photo. heart is knowing that when she could least afford that when she could least afford it, she empired her purse to help people she barely knew. Her simple seplanation: "They were ware off." Her modesty, and it was not contrived, was her most endear-ing characteristic. Given her place as an ion in the Jananese

place as an icon in the Japanese American community and as a respected historian/writer in the See WEGLYN page 12

#### General Shinseki Nominated for U.S. Army Chief of Staff

# By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

Four-star general Eric K. Shin Four-star general Ent. A com-sela was recently nominated by President Clinton to be the Unit-ed States Army chief of staff, the highest position a Japanese American has held in the Army's history. A decorated 33-year Army vet-eran and current vice chief of

staff since No-

vember, Shinse-ki was consid-ered a front-runner for the top position by military insiders who said that he insiders



and highly qualified. It now falls to the Senate to ratify the deci

The appointment comes at a time when Asian Pacific Americans are assuming higher posi-tions of power in government than ever before.

Bob Sakaniwa, JACL's Wash-Bob Sakaniwa, JACL's Wash-ington, D.C., representative, ex-pressed his earnest support of this appointment. The great for Japanese Americans and Asian Americans in general to see Gen. Shinseki being nominated for the chief of staff because he becomes one more role model for Asian Americans to strive, to aim for Americans to strive, to aim for the position he's reached.

"I mean, this is one of the most American of American positions, one that Gen. McCarthur and

See SHINSEKI/page 10

# New Millenium Focus of PSW/NCWNP/CCDC Tri-District

## BY MARTHA NAKAGAWA

In keeping with the theme, Moving into the New Millenni-"Moving into the New Millenni-um," an inter-generational panel of JACL members discussed the diversity within the JACL family, and later, through audience par-ticipation, drew up a number of recommendations that attendees falt would keep JACL vital and relevant to the Nikkei communi-ty well into the 21st century. The discussion was part of the

ty well into the 21st century. The discussion was part of the tri-district conference, which was held from April 23-25 at the Ra-mada Valley. Ho Resort in Scotts-dale, Ariz. More than 100 people attended the event, and partici-pating districts included the

s to: JACL N ncisco, CA 5

Northern California/Western Nevada/Pacific District Council. Central California District Coun cil, and the host of the event, the

cu, and the nost of the event, the Pacific Southwest District Council. Panelists included (in alpha-betical order): Joan Aoki, Yonsei volunteer dietician at Sakura Kai West Contra Costa County Japanese Senior Citizens Center and Contra Costa JACL chapter and Contra Costa JACL chapter president; Grant Bungo, a Yonsei business major at CSU Fresno and CCDC youth representative; Bobbi Hanada, Sansei elementary school principal and Presno JACL chapter president; Harry Honda, editor emeritus of the Pacific Citizen; Erin Inouye, Yonsei student at UCI who is involved

with the university's Tomo no Kai Japanese cultural club and Jo-Japanese cultural club and Jo-daiko taiko group; Ken Kamei, a Sansei who works at Asian Americans for Community Involvement in Santa Clara County, and Izumi Taniguchi, former Gila River and Crystal City internee, sor o MIS veteran, retired profes economics and Fresno JACL chapter member.

See TRI-DISTRICT/page 4

## P.C. Launches National Fundraising **Campaign for Weekly**

With the Pacific Citizen newspaper scheduled to return to a weekly publication at the beginning of June, JACL is currently launching a national fundraising campaign for the war 2000 Par 2000

There are currently enough monies in the P.C. SAVE fund to carry the weekly through the end of 1999. With the national budget already set, an addi-tional \$40,000 will need to be

tional \$40,000 will need to be raised to carry the weekly through the year.2000. Through the generous dona-tions of the PSW District Board and other individual donors, \$7,000 has already been raised towards the \$40,000 goal. P.C. readers will begin re-ceiving campaign letters at the end of May. For information, contact national JACL at 4156221-5525 or P.C. at \$600' 966-6157.

## 'Loud and Proud': MAVIN Gives Voice to the Mixed Race Experience

#### BY TRACY UBA

Call Matthew Kelley "young" and he's likely to laugh and sigh at the same time. He's heard it before

fore. But this 20-year-old Hapa of Ko-rean and Caucasian descent isn't concerned with his age. He's got something bigger in mind, the de-but of MAVIN, a new youth-ori-ented magazine dedicated to the experisences of multiracial people. With its glossy, technicolor lay-outs and fashion-forward imagery, the Seattle-based MAVIN is, as founding editor and publisher Kel-

founding editor and publisher Kel-ley says, "very much part of the In-ternet generation."



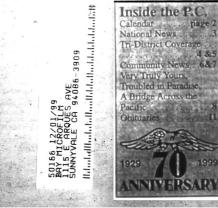
That may be an intimidating prospect to some, but to a growing number of others the infant mag is more than just another pretty - it represents the voice face diverse community that aren't al-ways fully acknowledged. The first issue of the quarterly

publication premiered in January and features an assorted cross-section of articles, including a look at South Africa's prohibition of mixed marriage acts, an interview with the founder of the Organizaof MultiEthnic Students, a view of the third Pan-Colle nts a preview of the third Pan-Colle-giate Conference on the Mixed Race Experience as well as the requisite reviews of art, music and requisite r

In the age of electron-ic mail, there's also plenty of pulp commentary and poetry by contribut tarv ing writers, who hail from all over the United States, regarding issues of mixed race identity who hail of mixed race identity and community. Perfect, since one of MAVIN's goals, said Kelley, is to showcase up-and-com-ing talent who're hoping to said their fast in the to get their foot in the

"The response we've otten from readers so we've far really spoke to the fact that this is needed and long overdue," said Kelley. "Poople are very passionate about it."

With only one issue out so far, MAVIN's pro-



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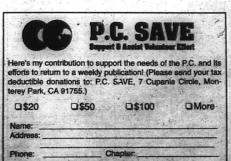
## JACL MEMBERS Change of Address

If you have moved, please send information to:

National JACL 1765 Sutter St.

San Francisco, CA 94115 Allow 6 weeks for address changes.

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



### JACL Calendar National

NATIONAL BOARD Fri-Sun, May 14-16—National Board Meeting, San Francisco.

#### Fastern

DISTRICT COUNCIL DISTRICT COUNCIL Thurs.-Sun., Tuffy-14-Bi-District Conference (EDC/MDC), 'The Dream Continues: One America in the 21st Century,' Roosevel, Hotel, 45th & Madison, New York CTN, \$155/night, 888/833.3969. Regis, \$45. WASHINGTON, D.C. Sun. May 30-S18 Annual /ACL, Memorial Day Service, 10 a.m.; Arlington National Cemetery Colum-barium, Cen. Eric Shinséki, speaker;

barium, Gen. Eric Shinseki, speaker, dim sum at China Garden, Gannett Building, Va.

#### Midwest

DISTRICT COUNCIL Thurs.-Sun., July1-4-Bi-District C ference, New York City (see EDC). Ri-District Con-TWIN CITIES

Sun. May 16-Annual Community Forum, bento lunch. WISCONSIN

Sun. May 23—JACL Recognition Dinner, 2 p.m.; Christ United Metho-dist Church, Milwaukee.

#### Mountain Plains

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

#### Intermountain

DISTRICT COUNCIL DISTRICT COUNCIL Thurs-Sun, July 15-18—Tri-District Conference (IDC/PNWDC/MPDC); Workshops, JAYS events, bus trip to Wendover, golf, obon festival; Og-den I this den, Utah

SALT LAKE & MT. OLYMPUS Sat. May 8—Scholarship Awards Banquet, 6 p.m.; Pagoda Restaurant, 27 'E' St., Salt Lake City;. Info: Alice Kasai, 359-2902

### Pacific Northwest

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

#### NC-WN-Pacific

**BERKELEY** 

Sat. May 15—Scholarship Awards Dinner, 4-7 p.m.; King Yen Restaurant, 2995 College Ave., 510/845-1286. Info: Kelly Shintani, 510/845-6347, or



Wed. May 13-National Broadcast Premier, "Beyond Barbed Wire." 10 Premier, "Beyond Barbed Wire," 10 p.m.; PBS. Check local TV listings. for

## East Coast

NEW YORK CITY NEW YORK CIT Wed. May 13—Asian American Federation gala and dinner, "1999 Thou to Excellence in Philanthropy"; The Mater's Edge. \$500: Black Tie; The Water's Edge. \$500; Black Tie; MC, Michael Kim of ESPN; Info: Lori Kitazono, 212/344-5878 x14. WASHINGTON, D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C. Thurs, May 20—Asian Pacific Ameri-can Institute for Congressional Studies Annual Dinner, honoring Sen, Daniel K. Inouye, 6 pm.; J.W. Mariott Hötel, Vashington, D.C., Black tie or tradi-tional dress. *RSVP by May 10*; Info. 202547-9100. Fri.-Sat. May 21-22—Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies Political Education Confer-ence; J.W. Marriott Hotel, Info. 202/ 547-9100.

#### The Midwest

BRANSON, MO. Mon.-Sun., May 17-23—"Branson '99" tribute to Japanese American vet-erans: Info: Hy Shishino, 562/926-8159; travel, hotel & tour info: Eiko ramamoto c/o Chase Travel Service, 300/304-5100.

#### Intermountain

IDAHO FALLS IDAHO FALIS Sat. May 15—Concert, Tri-Cities Tailoo Group, 11:30 am, & 2 p.m. Ogden Tailo, 7:30 p.m. at Sato's grand opening OGOEN, UTAH Tust-Wed, May 18-19—Hate Crime in Summit, "RKIPPing Hate Crime in Unah," Septimin Theater, Eccles Center. Info: Sherne Hayathi, 243-4180

lorthern California

Renee Tanaka, 925/932-7947. CONTRA COSTA Sat. May 22—Richmond/El Cerrito-Shimada sister city parade, a.m. FLORIN

Sat. May 22-Manju making demon-Sat. May 22—manual p.m.; Belle stration, 2:30-4:30 p.m.; Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 S. Land Park Dr. Sacramento. RSVP: Joanne Iritani,

Sat. June 5—New Members Welcome & Scholarship Awards Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.:-Lurit Restaurant, 2422. Thirteenth St. RSVP by June 1: Karen Kurasaki.

FREMONT Sat. May 15-Union Bank of Cali-fornia Bowlathon. Info: Gail Tomita, 510/65 7-4498

510/65/-4498. Sun. May 16—Graduation/Scholar-ship Luncheon, 1 p.m.; Sushi Yoshi Restaurant, 39193 Cedar Blvd., Restaurant, 39193 Cedar Blvd., Newak, RSVP by May 9: Diane Endo. RENO

Sun. May 16 Children's Day Pot-

#### SACRAMENTO

SACRAMENTO Thurs. May 27—Sacramento Chapter Scholarship Awards Dinner; Double-tree Hotel. RSVP: 916/447-0231. S.F. BAY AREA NIKKEI SINGLES

sr. BAT AKCA MINACI SINGLES Fri-Sun, Sept. 3-5—8th National ACL Singles Convention; Radisson Miyako Hotel, San Francisco; Regis-fration \$150 before, July 15, \$180 after. Info: Georgeann Maedo, 415/753-3340; Gale Kondo, 415/337-9881. Cold bouvling workshons; 9981. Golf, bowling, workshops, mixer, banquet, dance, brunch, trips. Co-sponsored by Greater Los Angeles Singles chapter.

Sat. May 29—Stockton JACL Annual Picnic, Micke Grove.

WATSONVILLE

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

District COUNCIL Sun. May 16—CCDC Scholarship Luncheon and 2nd Quarter Meeting. 12 nooti; Sunnyside Country Club, Freisno, Info: Grace Kimoto, 209/394-2456. FRESNO

RESNO Sun. May 23—Fresno JACL com-munity picnic honoring graduates, noon-4 p.m.; Woodward Park Mt. View Site.; JACL will supply steaks/ hotdogs, socias. Info: Bobbi Hanada, 434-1662.

#### Pacific Southwest

DISTRICT COUNCIL Sun. May 23-District Council Meet-

#### PALO ALTO

PALO ALTO Sat, May 8—Documentary film show-ing and discussion with former in-ternees, "Camps- of Shame: The Japanese-American Internment Ex-perience," 1-3 p.m.; Cubberly Theater, 4000 Middlefield Rd. Info 650/938-0550 or mid-lineared interaction of the second based of the second second second second second based of the second 9550, e-mail: Image@imagesite.org. SACRAMENTO

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

Through May 23—Play. The Butch-er's Burden, Thurs. Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 7 p.m.; SOMAR Cultural Center, 934 Brannan St. Featuring Tarihyn Tomita. RSVP, Inio: 115/440-5545. SAN JOSE Through 4

SAN JOSE Through May 23—Play, "Sisters Ma-tsumoto, Tues-Fri. 8 p.m., Sat. 3 & 8 p.m., Sun. 2 & 7 p.m.; San Jose Repertory Theatre, Pasce de San Antonio, San Jose. Tickets, info: 408/291-2255, Supported by the Crivil Liberties Public Education Fund. Liberties Publ SAN MATEO

Wed. May 19—San Francisco Sym-phony open rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., cofphony open rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., cof-tee & donuts, 9 a.m. Tickets (\$20), info: JACL Community Center, 343-2793.

#### **Central California** FRESNO

Sat. May 8—4th Annual "E" Street Fair, 10a.m.-5 p.m.; On "E" St. between Kem and Inyo; food, traditional dances, taiko, mantial arts demos, etc. nio: JACL, 486-6815.

# Southern California

CAISON Sat. May 15—Bilingual & Multi-cultural Education Conference. "The Newcomes in a New Millenium," & a.m.-5 p.m.; La Corte Hall, CSU Dominguez Hills, 1000 E. Victoria S. Organizes: Dr. Steven Lee, Dr. Gay Generation, Dr. by Yee-Salamoto. Dr. Steven Lee, Dr. Ga Dr. Ivy Yee-Sakamot nch included with reg

ing, 8:30; Torrance Airport-Zamperin

#### GREATER LA. SINGLES

Fri. May 14 Meeting/program, "Dat-ing Strategies," 8 p.m.; Gardena Valle, WCA, 1341 W. Gardena Blvd speaker Wonne Beck; Smart Works Geminance Info minars Info: Louise Sakamor 310/327-3169

310/327-3169 Sat, June S.-CIAS-Hana Uno Shep, ard Memorial Scholarship Fundrawe Dance, 7 pni; Keri-Nakaoka Cenne-1700 W. 162nd St., Gardena Ina, Louise Sakamoto, 310/327-316 J. Fri. Sun., Sept. 35–8th. National ACL Singles Convention. Info: Cense-ann Maedo, 415/753-3340; Gale Konn-att/5372-981.

415/337-9981

#### ORANGE COUNTY

ORANCE COUNTY Fri-Sun, June 25-27—1999 National Youth Student Conference; University of California, Irvine. Info: Patricia Tsu Tom, 559/486-6815, ccd@jacl.org Hiromi Ueha, chair, huueha@uci.edu RIVERSIDE

Sun. May 16—Graduation/ Scholar ship Potluck Dinner, 5 p.m.; Un -Graduation/ Scholar versity Club, UCR. TORRANCE

TORRANCE Sat. May 8—3rd Annual Scholar ship Bowling Tournament fundrais er, 2 p.m. (1:30 p.m., checkan Bowl-O-Drome, Torrance, Inte Stephanie Nakano, 310/326-3125 VENTURA COUNTY

## Sat. May 8-Japanese Ce

Clean-Up. Sat-Sun, May 15-16—Strawberr Festival; JACL to man the beyong concession. Info: Ruby Symme 499-4070 or Marcia Miyasaka,494

## 1999 National Legacy Fund Grant Applications

National Legacy Fund Grant ap-plications are now available for the year 1999. Members are eligible to apply for graints of up to \$3,000 for projects relating to civil rights, lead ership development and/or the preservation of Japanese American history and culture. Applications must be sent to PNW District Office postmarked no later than Friday. May 21, 1999. Announcement of grant recipients will take place to-wards the end of June. For more information or to request an applica-tion, contact PNW district Office. 671 S. Jackson St., #206, Seattle. WA 98104, at 206/623-5088, fax 206/623-0526, or e-mail: jackpnwrd @msn.com. Application forms will also be available on the JACL na-tional website, http://www.jacl.org.

## tration. Info: 310/143-3997 LOS ANGELES

LUS ANGELES 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 213/628-2725.

213/628-2725. Thurs. May 13—"Radiant Colors: Close and Affectionate Encounters." with Jude Narita, Denise Uyehaa Paula Weston Solano; 7 p.m., free, first come first served; State Playhouse at Cal. State LAV, Info: Cross Cultural Centers, 323/243-5247. Centers, 323(343-5247. Sun-Thurz, May 13-20—14th An-nual Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film and Video Festival. May 13-15 at the Screen 'Actors Guild, May 16-20 at Japan America Theatre. For program info. call. Visual Communications. 213/680-4462 x 68; ticket info: 213/

213/680-4462 x 68; ticket into: 213 680-3700. Sat.Sun. May 15-16—16th Annual Children's Day celebration. 10 a.m. 4 p.m.; Basketball toumament, Chibi-K kids fun run; ACCC, 244 S. San Pedro S., Little Tokyo, Info: Chils Aihara. 213/628-2725 x115. Mon. May 24—10wn Hall Luncheon with Bill Lann Lee, acting assistant at-torney general for Civil Rights. Department of Justice, 12 noor, Los Angeles Marriot Downtown, 333 S. Figueroa St. RSVP by May 21: 213/628-81141, fax: 213/489-3327 ORANGE COUNTY Thur. May 13—Suburban Optimis Club Youth Recognition Night homor-ing graduating high school seniors of Japanese ancestry: 6 p.m. Registration.

ng gradualing night School seriols of Japanese ancestry; 6 p.m. Registration, 7 p.m. dinner; keynote speaker, Judge Lance Ito; Buena Park, Hotel & Convention Center, 7675 Crescent Ave. Info: Dr. Garry Wada, 714/827-9780, or Bobby Iwashita, 714/827-3360

PHOENIX Sun-Mon., May 16-17-U.S.-Japan Forum on Women's Issues; Crowne Plaza Hotel, H7 & Peota Ave. Info Global Interactions, 602/906-8886.

Arizona - Nevada

680-3700.

3360

## COMMENTARY Campaigning for JLAs

#### BY CHIZU IIYAMA

We just spent a week in Wash ington, D.C., dashing up and down streets, through underground passages connecting the House of Representatives to Senate offices and out to the Department of Justice (DOD)

tice (DOJ). What were we doing? We were part of the Campaign for Justice's lobbying effort to get redress for the 2,264 Japanese Latin Ameri-cans who had been forcibly deported from their homelands and in-carcerated into U.S. concentration camps during World War II. These JLAs were held to be

used as prisoner of war exchanges between the United States and Japan. In one case, 500 JLAs were t to Japan.

After the war, many were de ported to Japan when their home-lands in South America refused to re-admit them. Those who remained in the U.S. were branded as "illegal aliens.

Years later, the U.S. govern-ment shifted the JLA's entrance date to June 1952, thus allowing then to Joine 1952, this and wing them to apply for permanent legal residency status. But the JLAs were denied redress on the grounds that they were "illegal aliens."

In the Mochizuki lawsuit settle ment in 1998 .II As were only allowed to apply for a \$5,000 redr check and a letter of apology. make matters worse, the Civil Liberties Fund was depleted and only 145 claims could be paid out. There are still 550 outstanding claims

As a Nisei who had been active in the redress campaign and had received a letter of apology and the \$20,000 reparation check, I was very concerned when I learned ut the fate of the JLAs

We had 10 years to find all the ment was helpful in ferreting out the names and addresses of forrinternees. But JLAs were giv en six weeks, which turned into three, to find potential recipients three, to find potential recipients, now scattered throughout the world, many of whom were in Japan. Campaign for Justice mem-bers also received little coopera-tion from DOJ in locating or giving out information of former JLA in-

So we were on a mission to ak to members of Congress and

Speak to members of Congress and to DOJ staff. As an educator, I was very in-terested in the issue of the educa-tion fund aspect of the Civil Liber-ties Act of 1988. I had attended the San Francisco conference where recipients of funding from the Civ-il Liberties Public Education Fund had shared about a variety of wonderful projects. Grants given by CLPEF totaled \$5 million, but I wondered what had happened to the \$45 million more we were told ould be set aside for education. I understand that the National

Coalition for Redress and Repara Coantion for heartess and reparts tions (NCRR) instituted a lawsuit charging that DOJ failed to invest the funds appropriated by Con-gress as mandated by the Civil Liberties Act. If this had been done, they estimated, there v vould have been more than ample funds to pay for a \$50 million public education fund and payments of \$20,000 each to every JLA who had been so grievously mistreated. We therefore asked Congress to look into this matter, but Washlook into this matter, but Wash-ington was busy preparing for the 50th anniversary of NATO, and the talk was about the Kosovo cri-sis and the shocking news of the student slaughter at Columbine High School in Colorado. The delegation was led by Julie

The delegation was led by Julie Small and Grace Shimizu. We met with members of the Appropriations and House Judiciary com-mittees as well as elected officials representing our districts, both

representing our districts, both Democrats and Republicans. To work on the case under Mochizuki, we visited DOJ. We had an audience with Acting As-sistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Bill Lann Lee and his staff. We were meat with premerks such We were met with remarks such as, "It's the law" or "We're under litigation and can't answer that."

I don't know how our more seasoned lobbyists analyzed the situation. Julie spoke eloquently about individuals who could not meet the deadline (many of whom missed it by a few days), but it emed to fall on deaf ears

Sectiment to fail on gleaf ears. Our delegation included Kyle Kajihiro, Rev. Michael Yasutake, John Amerson, Natsu Saito, Hi-roshi Dodohara, Nob Fukuda, Art Toshi Dodonara, Noo Fukuda, Art Hirahara, Naomi Quinones, Fumi Shimada, Judy Niizawa, Rudy Tokiwa, Ernie Iiyama and myself. Our youthful delegates, Art Hi-

rahara and Naomi Quinones, gave stirring performances at a pro-gram held under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution. There, we met with Dr. Franklin Odo, Aiko and Jack Herzig, Pat

Okura, and many others. I marvelled at the terrific knowledge and stamina of both our leaders. It was a fascinating experience to lobby for redress for JLAs. Were we effective? I don't know.

JLAs Were we effective? I don't know. This gave us an opportunity to educate Congress about the terri-ble injustices done to JLAs. Most of them knew very little about this situation. They were generally sympathetic, some shocked and most told us the organize others to the total solution. push for a solution. Some felt that a separate bill for the education fund would not be difficult to pass.

Many of us had worked on the Many of us had worked on the intense campaign for the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 and felt justly proud of the pas-sage of the bill, against all odds. But we need to realize that re-dress is not over. We need to support the JLAs to obtain equality and justice, and to get the full funding for the education fund.

National By Pocific Citizen Staff and Associated Press country, according to the U.S. I.

BOSTON-The state is saching out with a new anti-mestic violence poster camning to Asian and Asian American votices who have been been as a set of the s onign to Asia

no neep is key to those trying to becape in about we statistic. Mountain Plains Internet of the Nise Plaza at the University of Net-braiski, which took plaze April 2325, drew short 200 people, which is the University of Net-braiski, which took plaze April 2325, drew short 200 people, which and the schools at the method war II. Thise most schools at the fine which denied or placed res do not war in the statistic of the school war II. Thise most schools at the fine which denied or placed res do not schools at the fine which denied or placed res do not schools at the fine which denied or placed res do not schools at the fine which denied or placed res do not schools at the fine which denied or placed res do not schools at the fine which denied or placed res do not schools at the fine which denied or placed res do not schools at the fine which denied or placed res do not schools at the fine which denied or placed res do not schools at the fine which denied or placed res do not schools at the fine do not school at th

Pacific Northwest

Pacific Northwest SEATTLE-Five years ago, 787 American families adopted Chinese children, By 1996, the nimber had swelled to 4,200. In Waahington state, more in fants are adopted from mail-land China than from any other

WASHINGTON-On April 14,

Immigrants Introduced

Bill to Restore Benefits to Legal

e of the overflo linese adoptions average 12,000 and eight months in rocess, often much faster an nore convenient than America

Statist days

Washington ranks eachth in the nation in Chinese adoptions, trailing California, New York, Illi-nois, Pennsylvania and three oth-er states

Northern California SAN FRANCISCO—News-rooms are still overwhelmingly white and male, despite efforts in recent years to attract minority journalists, a study by the Ameritormalists, a starty by the Ameri-con Societ of Newspaper Editors (ASNE) reported. The percentage of Asian Ameri-can Indian newsroom employees rese cally slightly from 11.46 in 1997 to 11.56 in 1998. The survey also contrad female yournalists, finding they represent about 37 percent of news staffs. Catalan Camia, national pre-rient of the Asian American Jour-malist Association from another

Ident of the Asian American Jour natisfs Association, fortind another ratisfic troubling — that rolly 9 percent of newerrown supervisors reminerities. These are the po-sitions of real decision-making." Comins and In improve diversity within the severation of inflatives, including the creation of a national talent bank listing minority students holding for internships or their first-jots.

SAN FRANCISCO After 16 SARY TRANSISSO After 16 years, a mossbased enrollment program argumaly intended to in-crease driversity in San Francis-cose public and magnet schools has been ruled inconstitutional by a judge. The decision comes after a 1994 lawant which was filed on behalf of a Chinese American school

of a Chinese American student or a Chinese American schemi who was denied admission de-spite a higher entrance exam score than several non-Chinese students who were admitted. Many blacks and Hispanics Many blacks and Hispanics whose enrollment numbers have dwindled as a result protested the new agreement which abolishes the limit of 45 percent of any South

outhern California LOS ANGELES-An dopment in the case ser-old Kami Kejima aver found in remeans were found in the An-geles National Forest in April 1997, found that Japanese bus-nessmas Richtin Kokes vash in fact hall been paying the rent for the Little Tokyo nightshub bottom

for the Little losyo man hostess. Investigators found Kobsynahi, 42, a real estat ecutive at the Shriva In ment Corp., who committee cide sometime after Kop

cide aconstitutes after Kurunti-disappearance, was her lover and hait been paying her sent at her Beverty Hills apartment. Kojima was a nightchild hoet-ess in Little Tokyo and had been hving in the United States on a student visa. Her parents only recently reported her missing previous attempts to file a mis-ing persons report were. ing persons report were

Hawall

Hawail PEAR HARBOR Hawan-More than 57 years after the Japanese attack on Pearl Har-bor the grandbauchter of Gen Hidels Toy, who erdered the strike, rescently paid the re-spects to American yelserins at the USS Armon Memoral. Yuko Toy bowed iser head be-fore the memoral will which has the LIVF servoemen who died abound the battleship on Dec. 7, 1911 More than 90 Dec. 7, 1913 More than 90 Dec. 7, 1913 More than 90 Nuls some enbraced Toyle visit, others found it painful. 7 putpose is here, suid Stanley gava, a Will US, veren. 7 heat think it's her place to be PEARL HARBOR, Hawai

don't think it's her place to be here

Tojo has planned visits to Ar-lington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C., Los Angeles and Seattle and is fundraising to build a memorial for those killed in the battle of Pelehu, a small Micronesian island near Palat.

Calling All Interns!!

Wanted: part-time summer intern for the Pacific Citizen.

Reward: working with an enthusiastic staff; oh yeah, and a modest stipend. The Pacific Citizen newspa

per, the national publication of the Japanese American Citi-zens League is currently looking for someone to work at its Monterey Park, Calif. office, ap-proximately three days a week,

including some weekends. Various duties include reportvarious duties include report-ing, researching, rewriting of press releases and production duties. Knowledge of the Asian American community and the JACL a plus.

College or grad students cur-rently majoring in English or Journalism preferred, but not required. Applicants should also have a California driver's license.

The application deadline for PC's "Harry Honda Summer Internship Program" is Tues-day, June 15, 1999. If interested, please send a resume and a writing sample to the Pacific Critzen, 7 Cupania Circle, Montercy Park, CA 91755, fax: 323/725-0064, 91755, fax: 323/725-0064, email: PacCitteeal.com, atten-tion: Caroline Aoyagi.■

## Suspect Indicted in Murder of JA Man

A suspect in the fatal shooting of a Japanese Américan man in Crystal Lake, Ill., was indicted by an Illinois grand jury in late April. Douglas E. Vitaioli, 39, was in-dicted on two counts of first degree murder and one count of a hate crime in the April 5 murder of crime in the April 5 murder of Naoki Kamijima, announced McHenry County State Attorney Gary Pack and Crystal Lake Chief di Police Ron Sheley. The murder charges carry a

The murder charges carry a sentence of 20 to 60 years, and the hate crime is a felony punishable by up to three years in prison. The Office of the State Attorney hasn't ruled on whether to seek the death

ruled on whether to seek the usual penalty yet. The State Attorney's Office and Crystal Lake officers praised the community for their assistance in this case. They noted that investi-gators were first directed to the suspect through the help of Joseph

and Chris Szostek, managers S&H Products, who had been v en vis-Such Products, who had been vis-ited by the suspect only minutes before Kamijima's murder. The suspect's behavior prompted the Szosteks to record his license plate

suspects benavior prompted the Szoreteks to record his license plate number and contact police. Another resident, Robert H. Johnson, gave police information leading to the recovery of the sys-pect's weapon. Johnson directed officers to the river where he had seen the suspect throw an object. Both the State Attorney's Office and Crystal Lake police depart-ment have promised to vigorously pursue the case, saying in a writ-ten press release that they are "deeply saddened by the loss of Naoki Kamijima and deplore the prejudice that is alleged to be the motive in his murder." Bill Yoshino, JACL's Mid-West representative, is closely monitor-ing the area for the same set of the same set.

representative, is closely moni-

WASHINGTON-On April 14, Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NX) and Rep. Sander M. Levin (D-Mich.) introduced the Fairness for Legal Immigrants Act of 1939, which seeks to re-store basic government benefits for certain categories of legal im-migrants who remain ineligible as a result of the 1996 welfare law. The 1996 Welfare Reform Law stripped legal immigrants of their right to access basic safety net rograms such as Medicaid, food stamps, and supplemental Securi-ty Income (SSI). In 1997 and 1998, Congress passed two bills that partially re-passed two bills that partially re-passed two bills that perfulse the United States before Aug. 22, 1996, the date the welfare law was enacted. However, certain le-gal immigrants who were living in the United States before the Aug. 23, 1996, cutoff date still have not had their benefits restored. For example, elderly immi-grants who were living in the United States before Aug. 22, 1996, the does they access to SSI unless they can prove they also have a disability. Parents of U.S. citizen or legal immigrants of U.S. citizen or legal immigrants of

children who were living in the United States before Aug. 22, 1996, remain ineligible for food 1950, remain meinsbie for food stamps. Although all of the chil-dren in these families had their food stamps restored last year, their parent's continuing ineligi-bility reduces the total household statements on the statement of the statement. allotment, putting their children's diet at risk. In addition, most legal immi

In addition, most legal infini-grants who came after Aug. 22, 1996, remain completely unpro-tected. If a person who immigrat-ed after this date was involved in a car accident that left him in critical condition and unable to work

ical condition and unable to work, he and his family would be left without access to basic health care or government assistance. Sen, Moynihan said, "It is in our interest to see that these im-migrant families have healthy children, cnough to eat, and sup-port if they become disabled. And it is not merely wise, it is just." The Fairness for Legal Immi-grants Act of 1999 would allow states the option to provide Med-icaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to le-

Insurance Program (CHIP) to le-gal immigrant children and preg-nant women regardless of when they entered the U.S.

# Tri-District Plenary Focuses on JACL Future, Member Participation

#### (Continued from page 1)

The session was organized by Douglas Urata, a Sansei trainer with LEAP and Riverside JACL member. The reason Urata de-cided to devote the second half of the session to small group dis-cussions was because "the problems I see with a lot of confer-ences is that you get a lot of output but no one is committed to doing anything so I hope with this, we can get some commit-ments."

The panel discussion made reference to the "Ties That Bind" conference which was held in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo last April. At "Ties That Bind," more than 400 attendees grappled with how to be more inclusive in light of the changing community needs brought on by intermar-riage and post-World War II im-

migration. Taniguchi, who had attended "Ties That Bind," felt such events were indicative of the community's attempt to be more accepting. For this reason, he felt JACL should not limit its membership to individuals with membership to individuals with Japanese surnames and encour-aged the organization to take advantage of its non-Nikkei net-working opportunities. He stressed the importance of net-working, using the example of the redress movement and say-ing redress could never have been won without surnor from en won without support from the non-Nikkei community. On another note, Taniguchi was aware of the criticism lobbied against JACL and said "if someone doesn't like the organization, they should come in and help make changes, and we, in turn, make changes, and we, in turn, should be open to change." Another "Ties That Bind" at-tendee Ken Kamei said JACL's

role in the changing community had been brought up last year, and in sharing about that dis cussion, Kamei recommended that JACL build stronger coali-tions and assist in fighting for the civil rights of other Asian Americans such as the Pilipino American veterans who are cur-rently struggling to win benefit rights from the United States government. Alluding to JACL's involvement in winning redress, Kamei said, "JACL members

Kamei said, JACL members can pass on their expertise to others and play a key role." Bobbi Hanada brought up similar points, and added that although she is now president of the Fresno chapter, she is a relative newcomer to the JACL fam-ily. She admitted knowing al-most nothing about JACL's acmost nothing about JACLS ac-tivities when she first joined five years ago and said for JACL to outreach to individuals such as herself, it "really needs to let people know what we're doing."

Grant Bungo said he became involved with JACL after being accepted into a CCDC intern-ship program. Before this, Bungo said he knew of the JACL since his father was a member, but equated its activities to local picnics. "... (Which is why my biggest task is getting the youth involved," said Bungo, now a youth representative. "Because to tell you the truth if I hadn't gotten the internship through the CCDC office, I never would have been a JACL member." the internship through

Erin Inouye, who grew up ratching her father Ken Inouye watch work hard to keep the Selanoco chapter active, felt that JACL does make an attempt to reach out to the youth. But she sug-gested JACL find a stronger impetus to "inspire" the youth be cause many can be apathetic "Give them a reason to join," she said. "We need to pay attention to what the issues of the younger generation are, what's affecting them rather than pushing the agenda of the older community."

Another Yonsei, Joan Aoki joined the JACL while working in Japan. It was there that Aoki discovered her "Americanness" and came to appreciate the exis-tence of a Japanese American culture. Now back in America, Aoki took it a step further and came to embrace the larger AA community. She felt JACL in general, like her Contra Costa pter which has a number of Nikkei members, needed to non-Nikkei members, needed to do the same. "I believe there is an Asian American culture," Aoki said. "We're part of a larger group and we need to interact with others." non

ith others." Harry Honda gave a historical erspective of the community, perspe saying "history helps define com-munities." He noted the shared Nikkei history of incarceration during WWII and the redress movement. But like others, Hon-da pointed to the evolution of the community, most visible in the changing "face" of Japantowns changing everywhere as more non-Japanese businesses open shop in areas historically populated by Nikkei. He also brought up decreasing census figures among the Japanese and the upcoming multi-racial generation which led him to wonder aloud "Whether the past 50 years will shape the Japanese American community is for us to see and ponder

he following are recom-mendations formulated during the small group discussion session.

•Hold regular activities: Sug-gestions included cooking classwhich would involve the local businesses as well as pull in new members. The important point was that any activity be held on a regular basis. Producing a JACL cookbook was also suggested.

·Create opportunities to socialize: examples included dances, picnics, movies, outings to beaches/lake and community service projects

Empower the youth: give them an opportunity to progress within the chapter system and

 Internships: connect with lo-cal high schools, offer high school credits, expand existing internships, hire district youth



Miyako Kadogawa jots down recommendations on how to improve es during the small discussion session. JACI from conference attende

directors, develop youth pro-grams on a district level.

·Promote community pro jects: encourage family-oriented activities. Focus is to get kids involved which in turn will pull in parent.

 Support community events: This gets JACL's name out in the public. Suggestions included sponsoring sports events, con-certs, Day of Remembrance.

Sponsor taiko groups: A good tool in attracting new members. A prerequisite for joining the Arizona chapter taiko group is to become a JACL memb

·Personal touch: Attendees felt personal phone calls or offers to drive people to events was important in keeping members ac-

•Education: Have classes teaching the JACL history so people could appreciate the orga-nization's contributions and understand what JACL stands for

 Create websites: There is a grant program available that could fund various chapter websites. Information has been sent out to the chapters.

visible JACL •Have a spokesperson.

•Newsletters: An important aspect of outreach. Some recommended leaving newsletters at restaurants and businesses, and also publishing in Japanese

·Build coalitions and connect with broader issues

·Create/support community Create/support community centers: Important to have a structure where people can so-cialize such as playing bingo, ballroom dancing lessons or bas-ketball leagues. If there are no local Nikkei community centers, chapters could support non-APA centers as part of their outreach.
 San Jose chapter shared about San Jose chapter shared about how they are in the process of getting a community center built through the help of local dents who went to city hall to testify in support of the project. This involved everyone from students to older residents. •Scholarships: Support stu-

dents and encourage them to be-come JACL members.

·Create peer/mentor advisor

•Career fairs: Through this, local chapters can outreach to local high schools and colleges Sponsor sports events

•Fundraising events: Sugges-tions included car washes to even selling JACL beanie ba-

bies •Hold leadership training

•Voter registration drives or precinct help: Good way to intro-duce people to the electoral sysconnect with local city tem and halls

## **Conference Attendees Visit Butte, Canal Camps at Gila River Relocation Center**

An excursion to the Gila River Relocation Center, located 45 miles southeast of Phoenix, in Pinal County, was part of the tri-district conference.

The Gila River Relocation Center is kept clean by a group of volunteers, including Arizona JACL chapter president Joe Allman, who drive over to the site to clean off graffiti and pick up trash once a month.

Mary V. Thomas, the first woman governor of the Gila Riv-er Indian Community, whole-heartedly welcomed conference attendees. She said there are three or four former camp hous

ing units still being used by tribal members.

Thomas, herself, never met the Gila River internees during rld War II. Her first conta W with the Gila River Relocation Center was about 10 years after the internees had left. She remembers walking up a butte and seeing remnants of ponds and cement slabs.

"I wondered what sort of peo-The wondered what sort of peo-ple had lived there and why they had come," said Thomas, who added that the United States government had never asked the tribal council for perion to build a concentration mis

camp on the reservation. Thomas learned more about the Gila River Relocation Cen-ter through her elders who had recruited to w ork there and through some of the youths who had played baseball with the internees. In fact, Thomas said she is working to get the original homeplate used during camp baseball games into the Gila River museum.

And while the internees may And while the internees may be long gone, Thomas said there are still living reminders from those days. "The Japanese Americans brought plant cut-tings from California and made

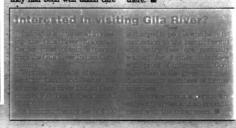


Pictured from left to right; Joe Aliman, vizona JACL chapter presiden Helen Kawagoe, national JACL president; Mary V. Thomas, Gila Rive Indian Community governor, and Herbert Yamanishi, national JACL, sident: executive directo

them grow in the desert," said Thomas. "Once the cuttings got Thomas. 'Once the cuttings got big enough or matured, they gave some to the triblal members so this plant is now seen in dif-ferent parts of the reservations. ... I don't know what it's called but it's a flowering bush. When I was up on the butte, I could see they had been well taken care

of, pruned. They were so beauti-ful."

Thomas said she treasured such contributions and made a promise 'to make sure the fu-ture generations keep remem-bering what happened at Gila River because you have a home there."





JACL Chapter President Joe Aliman discusses Gila River Butte Camp with members. (Pictured from ahtt: Karen-Liene Shiba, Kathy Ishimoto, Gary Mayeda, Linda Hara, Micki Honda and Lucy Kishiue.

A Summary of the Tri-District Workshops

#### **Civil Rights Workshop**

The civil rights session was led by Joel Breshin, regional director of the Anti Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL), and Craig Fujii, assistant attorney general in the assistant attorney general in the civil rights division of the Arizona

Attorney General's Office. According to Breshin, one of ADL's successful projects has been in lobbying for hate crimes laws throughout the country. To date, 46 states have some form of hate crime laws said Breshin

How a hate crime law works: 1) A crime has to be committed (i.e., defacing property, an assault, etc.). But even before this can be reported, Fujii pointed out that the general public needed to be educat-ed on what a hate crime is. He gave the example of a school official who wiped away a swastika written on school property because the educa-tor was unaware that swastika vandalism is a felony in Arizona

2) Authorities must investigate the crime. Breshin noted this could be problematic if the local officers do not consider hate crimes a prior

3) The investigation must deter-mine whether the motivation is monnected to hias

Without these three elements, Breshin said, prosecutors cannot file a hate crime charge.

Authorities involved in hate crimes investigations include:

crimes investigations include: 1) Law enforcement officials are charged with what, how and who perpetrated the crime. The strength of a case will hinge on the investigating officer.

2) The justice system involving local, state and federal courts. Federal officials become involved if federal civil rights laws have been vi-olated. Breshin said this is some-times "the saving grace if local courts cannot provide the kind of sentencing needed."

Both Breshin and Fuiii encour both Breshin and Fujii encour-aged working with local schools and legislatures as proactive measures in hate crime prevention. 1) Citing the Columbine High School massacre, Breshin pointed

1) Citing the Columbine High School massacre, Breshin pointed out the need to work with educators and law enforcement officials in rec-ognizing warning signs (i.e., in the Columbine case, swastikas and web sites with hateful messages). Fujii added that while be was not criticizing educators, he felt a greater need for them to take hate crimes seriously. Fujii was struck by comments from Columbine's principal who reported never hear-ing of the Trenchcoat Mafia while students admitted to harassing this students admitted to harassing this students admitted to harassing this

group all the time. But audience m But audience member Denni Ue-jima, a school teacher, raised the is-sue that educators sometimes are punished by their supervisors for reporting a hate crime and bringing

reporting a nate of the school. To this, Fujii and Breshin encour-aged educators to continue documenting the hate crime, getting community support and "making a lot of noise.

e community can be a very powerful force once they decide become involved," said Breshin.

2) Another point was getting the gislature involved. Having elected 2) Another point was generated officials pass hate crime laws is important because "it sends a message that we don't want this kind of situation in our state," said Breshin.
3) Breshin also stressed the importance of organizations such as JACL where victims can go for help if they are reluctant to report the crime to the police.
"Organizations are often in the middle between the individual and the police," said Breshin. "Organizations are very very important become that were hand the police."

the police," said Breann. Organi-zations are very, very important be-cause they are the ones that can help the police, and help the victims through the process and give them the support they need to go through a prosecution of a hate crime."



(From left) Former Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee members Takashi Hoshizaki and Mits Koshiyama are commended by Marvin Uratsu, president of the Military Intelligence Service of Northern California.

## **Revisiting the Heart Mountain Resisters of Conscience Issue**

In a rare move, the JACL or-anized a panel on the World ganized a panel on the World War II resisters with guest speakers Mits Koshiyama, for-mer Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee member; Marvin Uratsu, president of the Military Intelligence Association of North-ern California; and Dr. Franklin Ng, professor and coordinator of California State University, Fresno's Asian American Studi s progra

Koshiyama, who thanked JACL for the invitation, said he was encouraged by this g sta

was encouraged by this gesture. "When I resisted the draft in Heart Mountain, JACL leaders called me disloyal," said Koshiya-ma. "This really hurt me because I was a loyal member of the JACL at the time. For me to ap-near heart today, them that is to ap-near heart today.

ACL at the time. For me to appear, here today shows that JACL has changed." Koshiyama never intended to resist the draft. When he turned 18 at the Santa Anita Assembly Center, Koshiyama dutifully reg istered for th draft. But upon istered for the draft. But upon ar-riving at the Heart Mountain Re-location Center, he was handed his 4-C enemy alien classificatio

In 1944, the United States go emment, realizing the difficul-ties in recruiting Nisei soldiers, revoked the 4-C status. But by then, Koshiyama had had

enough. "When the government decid-"When the government decid-ed to draft the young men into a segregated army combat unit, I refused to go for my physical ex-amination without first having my constitutional rights re-turned," said Koshiyama. The return of constitutional rights was at the crux of the Heart Mountain Fair Play Com-mittee's argument. But the Wyoming court refused to allow evidence into the trial that evac-uation and incremention was a

evidence into the trial that evac-uation and incarceration was a violation of civil rights. For this, a total of 85 Heart Mountain men (657 initially and 22 others later) would be tried and sentenced to federal pricon. Koshiyama was senteneed to three years. Along with the FPC, the late Rocky Shimpo editor James Omura, who supported the restoration of constitutional rights, was tried and found inno-cent.

"Were we wrong to ask the gov Were we wrong to ask the gov-ernment why we were expected to fight for and protect democra-cy overseas while our family and friends were locked up in concen-tration camps and denied the very rights we were suppose to defend? All we asked was the re-base we were not asking for too much," said Koshiyama. Tranically, in a similar case, 28 Tule Lake resisters appeared be-fore Northern California federal

Judge Louis A. Goodman and were found innocent. Years later, Koshiyama said FPC members visited Goodman and asked him visited Goodman and asked him how he came to his ruling, to which Goodman replied that "he was Jewish and knew what it felt like to be kicked around."

After serving their sentence and eing released from camp, many FPC members went on to serve in the Korean War, said Koshiyama "They went because they were now a free people," he said. Koshiyama cautioned against

ose who attempt to confuse the sue by hurling accusations rainst FPC members without th issue against against FPC members without proof. He pointed to one recent in-cident where a critic accused the resisters of being pro-Japan.

resisters of Deing pro-Japan. "That came as a surprise to me," said Koshiyama. "I have never heard a resister say he was pro-Japan, so I asked this man for proof and he refused to give any. Such accusations are without mer-it and are used to confine the real it and are used to confuse the real issues. Let us not make accusa-tions without proof."

uons without proof." Koshiyama also thanked those who have recontly extended the hand of reconciliation, including JACL's PSW district, the Hawaii 442nd Club and the Northern Cal-ifornia MIS ifornia MIS.

When the Northern California MIS commendation was read in Stockton, I felt a heavy burden taken off my back," said Koshiyama. "No truer words were spoken when Marvin Uratsu, president of the Northern California MIS, said that we should all get together and fight our common enemy, the en

my of racism." Uratsu, for his part, commended the principled stance taken by these men, men he referred to as sisters of conscious" rather than draft resis

draft resisters. They paid, in my opinion, a very high price for their coura-geous stance.... Personally, I have nothing but admiration for the ponorming but admiration for the po-sition taken by the 63 Heart Mountain men. But by this state-ment, I do not intend, in any way, to minimize the contributions imade by the 100th, 442nd and MIS," said Uratsu.

Uratsu likened the different po sitions taken around the draft is sue to that of Hokusai's 36 views of Mt. Fuii, a collection of paintings of

Mt. Foji, a collection of paintings of the same mountain. "Hokusai painted 36 works of Mt. Fuji but there was only one whatever action we took in re-sponse to the draft, our ultimate goal was one draft, our ultimate goal was one and the same — that was to fight for freedom and justice and moment

was to fight for necessary and racism." " Uratsu also emphasized the need for reconciliation. He brought up the example of the late Richard Sakalida, a former special agent for the U.S. military who had been captured and brutally tortured by

Japanese forces in Manila. Sakakida survived his ordeal and was able to confront his tor-menters during the U.S. occupa-tion of Japan. With the roles now reversed, Sakakida had a choice: he could treat these Japanese soldiers in the same manner they had treated him or he could for give. Sakakida found it within him to forgive.

"There is something about for-giving," said Uratsu. "Forgiving not only brings peace to the one being forgiven but an even greater peace to the an even doing the forgiving. Richard Sakakida felt that magical peace which is beyond human under-standing when he forgave his tormenters.

T submit to you, if Richard Sakakida could forgive those who tortured him and found peace, wouldn't it be wonderful if those who had taken different courses who had taken different courses during World War II could come together and mutually forgive one another in the spirit of recon-ciliation to find that magical peace together." To come to this point, however,

Uratsu said the community had to first go through a "healing process

"One of the healing processes in concrete terms is to draft up a n concrete terms is to drait up a commendation for the 63 re-sisters of conscious," said Uratsu. "We, the Military Intelligence Service of Northern California, have done just that. We've taken the cue from the 442nd Club in Hawaii and resead a commendation Hawaii and passed a commenda-tion. The JACL needs to do the

same." Mike Kaku pointed out that the Sequoia JACL chapter recog-nized the need for an apology and had included those words in their resolution of reconciliation in honor of the resisters. The Northern California-West-

ern Nevada-Pacific District, to which the Sequoia chapters be-longs, is currently considering a similar resolution but there is still debate about whether is similar resolution but there is still debate about whether to in-clude an apology in the docu-ment. Elisa Kamimoto, who or-ganized the panel, felt strongly that an apology needed to be included.

To "To come to forgiveness, we eed to come to an apology," said Kamimata

Gary Mayeda, national JACL boari member, said he was "defi-nitely in support of anything that the national board can drive help heal the wounds." Izumi Taniguchi, a JACLer from Central California, felt "we should not give the Sansei and Yonesi the baggage of the Nisei" and urged JACL to take swift ac-tion.

Uratsu agreed. "Let's do this before the end of this year."

#### Affirmative Action

Christine Iijima-Hall, senior as-sociate dean of instruction at Glea-dale Community College in Ariz, led this workshop. Iijima-Hall briefly talked about-

luma-Hall briefly takked about the history of racism in America that led to the creation of affirma-tive action programs. Although op-ponents criticize it as a quota sys-tem, lijima-Hall said America's his-tory of discrimination explains the such fine action action action action. d for affirmative action and need for animative action and added that this was one way the federal government could take a proactive stance against racism. According to her, it was Execu-tive Order 11246, in 1965, that cre-

ated affirmative action. This law prohibited discrimination in the

prohibited discrimination in the workplace, required businesses to draw up goals and timetables and penalized them for non-compliance if they received federal money. Backlash against affirmative ac-tion entailed businesses hiring un-qualified people of color and blam-ing them for failing to measure up, said lijima-Hall. In recent years, the model minority myth has also led educators to advocate the elimi-nation of the properim for Asian nation of the program for Asian American students. As a result, resistance and negative views have led people to believe that affirma-tive action lowers standards and al-lows unqualified minorities to hold

top positions, said lijima-Hall. But lijima-Hall said the reality, according to research, is that affir-mative action has helped minorities get their foot in the door but has not helped them move up the ladder. She pointed out that although only 48 percent of white males receive college educations, they make more money and hold down 80 percent of the nation's jobs. In the academic world, she said, few APAs have world, she said, iew AFAS have tenure positions, a mere one per-cent hold university administrative posts, few are faculty in the non-sci-ence fields and even fewer AFA women are in teaching positions. For this very reason, fijima-Hall felt there was a continued need to support affirmative action progran

#### Education Workshop

Izumi Taniguchi, professor emer-itus of economics at California State University, Fresno, presented a workshop on how to initiate an oral vorkshop on h

history project. Taniguchi started the San Joaquin Valley Japanese American Joaquin Valley Japanese American History Project after realizing the lack of documentaion on San lack of documentation on San Joaquin Valley Nikkei. He received funding through the JACL Legacy Fund, which he used to purchase equipment. Taniguchi also took ad-vantage of JACL's extensive net-work and approached COLC for po-tential interviewees. Support from local chapters has been so strong that the Livingston-Meresd chapter hese offered to conduct their own

that the Livingston-Merced chapter has offered to conduct their own oral histories, said Taniguchi. To date, Taniguchi, who started the project in Novemley, has seven completed interviews. He plans to donite the finished project to Dr. Franklin Ng, head of CSU Freenos Asian American Studies Propring

Franklin'Ng, head of CSU Fresno's Asian American Studies Program. "I hoge by having the tapes avail-able, authors and researchers will write about Japanese American history," said Taniguchi. "The public school system is almost wold of any Asian American experience. It's all Euro-centric so I hope the tapes can be used in educating students." Greg Marutani, JACL's national education committee member,

education committee member, shared about the teacher training educa snared about the teacher training workshops sponsored through by the 100th/42nd/MIS Veterans Memorial Foundation. He said al-though funds are available, the or-ganizing aspect of the workshops rests with the local JACL chapters. Carol Kawamoto, chair of the na-tional education committee, em-phasized the importance that local chapters played in guthering pan-elists for the teacher training work-shops.

elists as the sec-shops. Anyone interested in starting an oral history project or wanting to assist Taniguchi should call him at 209/439-8769 or o-mail at inzy-barb@sol.com. ■

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#### Word from Herb



"Rabbit in the Moon" and JACL

nization (or just a few of its leaders) was directly involved in supporting the incarceration may seem irrele-vant today. For many years JACL has been on record as an advocate for constitutional, civil and human rights for all of those who reside within the boundaries of the United States. Nevertheless, there remains the belief that JACL as an organi-zation (not just certain leaders) was

ders) was

zation (not just cortain leaders) was somehow complicit in the conse-quences of incarceration and in the loss of citizenship or liberties of those who dissented: Those who get the opportunity to view the 87-minute movie will have to draw their own conclusions. Some believe that the JACL of to-day should take responsibility for the JACL of the past and issue an acknowledgiment of contrition or apology to these who dissented. The matter was taken un at the 1990 bi-

ennial convention but was never re-solved to the satisfaction of the dis-

senters or to many within the JACL. Another effort to resolve the

matter will be brought to the na-tional board of directors at their

next meeting in May in the form of a resolution from the Northern Cal-

District. The pain and emotional wounds from World War II continue to linger in the JA community. The festering wounds distract all of us from being able to focus on current needs and issues like the rise in heter gringe comject Action Pacific

hete crimes against Asian Pacific Americans. Starting July 6, the world will know of our internal strife. Other movies dealing with these same issues are expected to

these same issues are expected to be released in the not too distant fu-

The question now is whether any kind of statement of apology would clear the air. If JACL is to assume

responsibility, what is the level of responsibility? If an apology simply acknowledges the events and does

not take responsibility for them, it may not be enough to satisfy those

was taken up at the 1990 bi

Nevada-Pacific

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ifornia-Western District

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A ricently released documen-tary movie called "Rabbit in Pacific Chitesen, March 5-18) resur-rects provocative issues about the vartime years and its commitment to protecting the constitutional autimation civil rights of Japanese Americans. The movie received the Sundance Film Festival award for cinemator-Film Festival award for cinematog-raphy and will be released for na-tional viewing by the Public Broad-casting Service (PBS) July 6. It will be up to local public broadcasting stations to decide if and when the movie is to be shown.

The film interviews a number of people who resisted the draft, those who dissented from signing the loy-alty questionnaire, and who re-nounced their citizenship while incarcerated in one of the ten U.S. carcerated in one of the ten U.S. concentration camps. Almost all of the dissenters point to the JACL as undermining their cause and even suggest that JACL tried to sup-press thase who spoke out against the incarceration or resisted being drafted. Emiko Omori, pro-ducer/cinematographer of the mo-vie, however, has explained in sub-sequent interviews that JACL is sequent interviews that JACL is not the "bad guy" and that the U.S. government used people within the community to manipulate the situation

While the movie producers may have simply intended to show an-other side of the JA incarceration experience, it will probably make most JACLers uneasy if not defen-sive. Testimonials follow one after another about how JACL failed to another about how JACL tailed to support those who challenged gov-ernment actions or resisted the draft. It leaves a strong impression that dissent was more common than what the public may have been led to believe. In spite of what Omori may have intended, the movie portrays a strong sense of re-pression and that the JACL was instrumental in that repression. Whether or not JACL as an orga-

National Director

who feel aggrieved. Was the prob-lem simply a lack of moral support for what people believed was true, or is there a belief or proof of some-thing far greater? If a level of re-sponsibility is acknowledged, then is JACI responsible or liable for ac-tual damages and therefore com-tual damages the dermse min and pensation to the degree pain and

By Herbert Yamanishi

suffering may have occurred? As a membership organization JACL is faced with the potential JACL is faced with the potential loss of members and general disaf-fection resulting from the fallout of "Rabbit in the Moon." For the younger generation, this may be particularly true. If this is a real possibility, what can JACL do to maintain the trust of its current and future members? Should JACL extend an apology and if so, to whom should it be extended? Is an whom should it be extended? Is an apology enough? Shouldn't there be educational efforts to inform mem-bers and others about the role JACL played during the wartime era and what it does today? Where do we get the funding to do the re-search and put together an educa-tion program? Like any family, the first step to-mede involving rub invest should

e any family, the first step to Lake any lamity, the first step to-wards resolving such issues should be to bring all parties together and talk it out. The JACL should take the lead initiating a series of dia-logues with the objective of first try-ing to understand; understand the lead of fact the source that the level of fear, the courage, the pain and quiet suffering that was experiand quiet suffering that was exper-enced by all parties. Through the series of dialogues maybe we can come to a more genuine resolution. Without talking with each other there can only be regret. "Rabbit in the Moon" sounds like a mesmeriz-ing children's story. For the JACL it is mon more challence." is one more challenge.

#### Masaoka Fellowship Fund Makes Last Call

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

call for canonaves in the summary and enriching program." The fellowship of three and one half months includes a stipend of \$7,500 provided by the fund. The term will be for either September through December of 1999 or Febthrough December of 1999 or Feb-ruary through May of 2000. The choice of fall or spring term will be arranged with the congressional of-fice and the awardee. The deadline for applications has been extended e 1, 1999.

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

tant. - The most recent fellow, Christina Aya Nagao of Santa Monica, Calif, is currently serving in the office of Rep. Patry T. Mink of Hawaii. The Mike-M. Massoka Fellow-ship Fund homes the late Mike M. Massoka for a lifetime of outstand-ing rubb asymtos promotion insti-

Masaoka for a lifetime of outstand-ing public service promoting justice, civil rights and human dignity. The major goal of the fund, which will continue in perpetuity, is to encour-age public service, granting awards to educate or train recipients for leadership in public service. Interested candidates should contact mational JACL headquar-ters, 1765 Sutter SL, San Francisco, CA 94115, for application forms. They may also call 415%21-5228, fax: 415%01-4671, or e-mail: JACLISIACL.org for information and applications.

## **CCDC Continues to Educate** Public on WWII JA Experience

World War II may be over, but its

legacy is not. In the ongoing effort to preserve and learn from that legacy, those in the Central California District area have been educating the American public about the history of the in-ternment within a broader Japan-

ese American experience. The JACL National Education Committee recently reported that teacher training workshops are be-ing planned for the Central Californis area, which will complement the educational activities that have already taken place at schools in Fresno, Visalia, Tulare, Bakersfield and Cantua Creek. Since the 1970s, those education

al activities included guest lectures by WWII JA vets and other Nisei at various high schools, colleges and service clubs. Among the first to servoe clubs. Among the lifst w speak about their experiences were Izumi Taniguchi, Mike Iwatsubo, Frank Nishio, Mae Morita, James Kubota, Fred Hirasuna, Tom Shimasaki and Kikuo Taira

In 1993, a proposal to name a segment of State Highway 99 re-sulted in the Pearl Harbor Sur-

vivors Memorial Highway. In addi-tion, several Assemblymember-pushed to name other sections of Highway 99 after the 100th Battai-ion, the 442nd Regimental Comhat Team and the MIS.

PACIFIC CITIZEN, MAY 7-20, 1999

To help further educate student. To help further educate students and the public at large, money made through fundraising, led by Frank Nishio, went to the creation of seven photographic panels of the 100th, 442nd and MIS in actor. which were then displayed at Red wood High School and at several

community events. More recently, in 1997, the Vet-erans of Foreign Wars, Nisei Post 5 of Sacramento, received at from the Civil Liberties Pur-8985 of Secremento grant from the Civil Liberties Pul-lic Education Fund to produce a kat of posters and a slide presentation titled, "Educating Future Genera-tions About the Internment of

Americans of Japanese Ancestry A team of speakers, including "Shim" V.R. Hiraoka, Dick Kishue Lily Katayama, Ben Nagatan and Izumi Taniguchi, has been assembled to prepare for future request-from schools to make guest presen tations

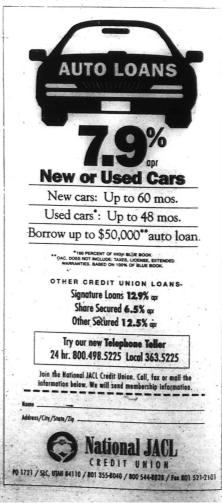
## Torrance Chapter Offers Annual Scholarship

The Torrance JACL, realizing the importance of a higher educa tion, is offering its third annual scholarship. This year, the chapter will be awarding two \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors who have made significant contributions to the community as well as displayed a strong academic record and involvement in extracurricular activities.

To qualify for the scholarship, either the applicant's parent(s) or guardian(s) OR the applicant

needs to be a Torrance JACI member. In addition, the appli cant must be a graduating high school senior with the intention of entering college during the

or entering coulege during the 1999-2000 academic year. Applications must be mailed to the Torrance JACL and be post marked by June 1, 1999. To request an application or if you have any questions, please con-tact Stephanie Nakano at 310/326-3125, or e-mail at tor-rance@jacl.org.



#### 1999 JACL National Youth/Student **Conference Coming in June**

ture

The 1999 JACL National Youth/Student Conference will be held June 25-27 at the University of California, Irvine. The theme of the conference, "Hey You Guys ... Take a Closer Look," has been designed to "grab people's attention and encourage them to stop and take a look at their lives and the world around them."

them " Subjects to be covered in confer-ence workshops will include Affir-mative Action, Cooking, Hate Crimes, Mentoring, College Prep., Family Histories, Asian American Movement, Hapa/Identity, and Gender Issues. "As a leadership conference, we are breaking leadership down to the basic skills that are necessary to be an effective and educated leader

an effective and educated le in their community, as well as apply those skills to our everyday lives," say the members of the National Youth/Student Council, the organiz-

ers or the conterence. A feature at every National Youth/Student Conference is honor-ing individuals for the Vision Award, which honors Asian Ameri-cans who have made an impact in their field and served as a positive role model, for youth and students. Past moviments inplue, actores Past recipients include actress Tamlyn Tomita, Judge Lance Ito, Hapa Issues Forum, Congressman Norman Minieta and music artists Hiroshima

Cost of the conference, including two nights' stay, meals and confer-ence fees, is \$75 before May 22, \$100 after; for meals, conference fees and parking only, \$20 before May 22, \$30 after.

For more information and regis-tration forms, contact Hiromi Ueha, 714/824-7414, e-mail huueha@ uci.edu, or Patricia Tsai Tom, 877/814-1387, e-mail jackcro@aol.com. ■

# 1999 JACL National Youth/Student Conference Schedule Registration Activities / Dessert

Hip H

Friday, June 25 5:00. p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 26 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. 1:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. 8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m

Sunday, June 27 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

egistration / Breakfa Opening Keynote Workshop Session I Workshop Session II Workshop Session III Award Dinner op Night / Spo test with prize m Word

ng Keynote by emblyman Mike Honda

# ers of the conference

## JACL Arizona Chapter Scholarship Awards Luncheon

The Arizona chapter's 38th annual Sara Hutchings Clardy Scholarship awards luncheon was held on April 18 at the Ramada Valley Ho Resort in Scottsdale. There were 162 JACL members, families and friends in attendance.

Master of ceremonies was J.C. Kobashi. The pledge of allegiance was led by Michael Tang and the invocation was given by Rev. Sid Ogino of the Phoenix Japanese Free Methodist Church. Kobashi introduced all of the elementary, high school and college graduates.

Individual and college graduates. The three scholarship judges, were Karianne Carroll, retired teacher in the Glendale Elementary School district; Dr. Montye Fuse, assistant professor, Department of English at Arizona State University; and Dr. Gary Cruze, executive director, Leadership Center Community Church of Joy. Scholarship awards induding checks for \$700 were awarded to

checks for \$700 were awarded to the following high school graduates: Nancy Moriuchi, North



PHOTO: JOE ALMAN ARIZONA JACL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES—(From left) Nancy Motiuchi, Austin Nakamura, Darcy Mizokami, Kimberlie Fukumoto and Brian Teraji; (not present, Karen Yamamolo).

Canyon High School, winner of able to attend.

the Dr. Herb Jensen Award, Kimberite Fukumoto, Sinagua High School; Darey Mizokami, Mountain Ridge High School; Austin Nakamura, Apollo High School; Austin Nakamura, Apollo High School; Austin School; and Karil Yamamoto, School; and Karil Yamamoto, -Yage High School, who was um-

## Boxer Pushes for Over \$600,000 for Manzanar National Historic Site

WASHINGTON-U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) announced on April 27 that she has requested \$636,525 in the federal budget for the Manzanar National Historic Site. The funding would be used to provide the staff and resources necessary to offer basic visitor services.

Funding for the Manzanar National Historic Site is crucial to opening this site where Americans of Japanese ancestry were interned during World War II," said Boxer. "Through its power to educate, the Manzanar National Historic Site will be an important step toward preventing such injustice ever again."

Boxer has supported the creation of and funding for the Manzanar National Historic Site. In 1996, she authored legislation that was signed into law to transfer the land that completed the site. For several years, she has included the site in her annual request to the Senate Appropriations Committee and then worked to secure federal funding.

"To preserve the Manzanar To preserve the Manzanar National Historic Site for people to see and remember will help prevent mistakes like the internment of Japanese Americans from ever happening again, said Diane Honda, who is the author of the 1998 reproduction of the Manzanar High School yearbook called "Our World." "Actually visiting the site gives people a very emotional feeling that this next of history really hancened."

part of history really happened." As a member of the Senate, Boær has the opportunity to request that the Appropriations Committee support funding for a limited number of projects in California. She requested that funding for the Manzanar National Historic Site be included in the FY2000 Interior appropriations bill. The U.S. Department of the Interior administers the National Parks Service, which oversees the Manzanar National Historic Site. ■





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## CALIFORNIA BANK TRUST

## Beth Au New Pacific Southwest Regional Director

The newest employee of the national JACL is Beth Amity Au, regional director for the Pacific Southwest District office in Los Angeles. Au comes to the JACL from Las Vegas, where she was employed as regional representative for U.S. Senator Harry Reid (D-Artz.).

As Reid's primary liaison for the Asian American community for two years, she helped establish better communications between APAs and the senator. She also became familiar with issues concerning the senior community, including Social Security, and Medicare.

Au's educational background includes a master's degree in Asian American Studies from UCLA and a bachelor's degree from the University of California, San Diego. She'las also studied Japanese at Middlebury College in Vermont.

Prior to working for the senator, she was a teacher of English in Japan and an elementary school teacher in Las Vegas.

Au is a Yonsei, her father is Chinese American and her mother is half Japanese American, half Chinese American; both parents are from Hawaii.

Au has been a member of the Las Vegas chapter since 1995. She served as the recording secretary for the chapter and their newsletter editor in 1996. She also helped found the Las Vegas chapter of the

Organization of Chinese Americans.

She says she took the regional director's position because she wanted to work more



closely with APA issues. And, she added, when she met JACL's national president, Helen Kawagoe, at the biennium convention in Philadelphia last July she was inspired to become more involved in JACL.

As PSW regional director, Au intends to focus towards the goal of getting name recognition for JACL, to "get JACL's name out there."

She believes JACL's primary role is advocacy. Although redress and education remain important issues for the organization, she expects to focus increasingly on advocacy issues.

Au says she "hopes to fulfill the mission of the JACL and help bring the organization to the forefront nationally."

## Pacific Southwest District Office Offers Internships

The JACL is offering full-time internship opportunities in the Los Angeles District office. Located in the heart of Little Tokyo, JACL's Los Angeles office provides opportunities to become active in a wide range of issues facing the Japanese American and Asian Pacific American communities.

Interns will work on various projects depending on their individual experience and the needs of the office. Proposed projects include:

 Develop and maintain JACL website: also work with local JA community organizations to develop and maintain a community website.

 JACL young adults and Hapa recruitment: develop membership outreach programs, including social, cultural, and educational events, to recruit college student, young adult, and Hapa members. •Pacific Southwest District,

 Pacific Southwest District, JACL Archival Project: work with staff to archive and organize historical documents for future preservation.

preservation. A stipend is available. The deadline to apply is June 1, 1999. Applicant must be a college

Applicant must be a college graduate or currently enrolled in a graduate or undergraduate program. To apply, send a cover letter, resume and two references. Specify in your ower letter why you would like to work with the JACL and why you should be selected as an intern. Send your application to: Beth Au, PSW Regional Director, 244 S. San Pedro St. #507 Los Angeles, CA 90012. Call 213626-4471 if you have any questions.■

## Utah Chapters Making Preparations for Researcher Andy Russell's Visit

There is a certain excitement in the air in Utah about the impending visit of researcher Andy Russell. The three Utah chapters are doing the planning for his visit. The visit will be from May 15-May 31, and Russell's visit will be to gather data and conduct interviews of the railroad and mining workers and Japanese American railroad and mining workers were discharged from their jobs in 1942 shortly after the signing of Executive Order 1066 by President Roosevelt.

Those workers and their families are anxious to tell their stories, and Russelly now on a doc; toral dissertation and a possible book project, is on a five-state journey to gather accounts of their saga.

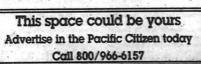
their saga. Very little is known about the history of Japanese and JAs who lived and worked in the western railroad and mining towns. College student Russell, while researching this topic in Ngwada, recoverad some key documents that helped railroad and mining families get redress if they had been affected by mass firings that happened during the war.

Russell has decided to write his doctoral thesis on the history of Japanese and JA railroad and mining groups from 1920-1945, and he needs assistance.

Russell will be in Utah during the latter part of May to talk to people and do archival research. The Mt. Olympus, Salt Lake and Wasatch Front North JACL chapters are pulling together to assist this effort by planning meetings where he can meet people from this group and talk about his research.

The dates and locations for these meetings will soon be announced. But now is the time to start thinking about sharing memories and to start digging for old historical records that will help Russell capture this history.

For additional information, contact Nancy Sakahara at 801/487-4025.■



**Troubled in Paradise** 

By Brian Niiya

By Harry K. Honda

## Warrior Woman

ike most of Japanese Ameri-ca, I was saddened to hear of the passing of author and ac-tivist Michi Weglyn. Best known as the author of the influential book "Years of Infamy," Weglyn was also ss advocate for redress for all tirel

Japanese Americans. Unlike others who paid tribute to her, I didn't know her well, so I don't have a lot of personal anecdotes. Okay, maybe I have a couple. When I first met her and hus-

band Walter about a decade ago in New York, I had just started to write articles in the vernacular press. Upon meeting this legendary author, she complemented me on my articles before I could say any-thing about her considerable influence on me.

Somewhere along the way, I men tioned I was recently married. A few days later, my wife and I received a parcel from her, containing a beautiful vase as a wedding present. Du-tifully sending a thank you note, she sent a lengthy reply, thanking us for the note and expressing sur-prise that we had gone through the trouble for such a "little trinket." We still have the vase and think of

her when we use it. From what others have said, this encounter is not unusual. Unfailingly gracious, generous, warm, and deferential, she was in some ways the quintessential Nisei woman. She was also dogged, steadfast, and persuasive, as she would have to have been to do what

she did Perhaps such personal qualities are part of the reason behind her unique status in our community. For one thing, she has attained an almost legendary status, one al-most out of proportion with achievements, considerable though they

may be. Like Rosa Parks, whom her friend Philip Tajitsu Nash has com-pared her to, Weglyn has come to be available to the second secon symbolize a movement she played a role in starting. Also like Parks, I suspect she partly came to symbol suspect she party came to sympol-ize the movement because she was a woman of seemingly ordinary background, with whom many could identify with. Not a profes-sional scholar, indeed, not even a

sional scholar, indeed, not even a collège graduate, she was the most unlikely person to produce a work such as "Years of Infamy." She is also unique in that throughout her post-Infamy<sup>°</sup> life, she has managed to traverse the of-ten ideological divides which run undeblogical divides which run through our community. Take a look at her friends. Redress advocates, yes, but redress advocates from across the political spectrum. A friend of draft resisters and a crit ic of wartime JACL, she was nonetheless honored by JACL and highly regarded by its leaders. I can't think of anyone else who is regarded as highly as she by all seg-

garaed as nighty as she by an seg-ments of the community. Her legacy will always be the book. Though formidable as schol-arship, the real value of "Years of

A Bridge Across the Pacific

Infamy" lies not in its recounting of the interment, but in the fact that it was written by an angry Nisei. It must have been a liberating experi-ence for others to read it for the first time, since no Nisei before her had written about the internment with anything approaching anger. I think that explains the fierce at-tachment many b tachment many Nis ei feel towards the book and the author.

As a Sansei, my reaction to the book was different. One well-known Sansei scholar panned the book in an academic journal review shortly after its publication. (He later apol ogized to Weglyn for the review.) While I didn't dislike the book, it while I thank distinct the book, it didn't have the same impact, since I read it years after its publication, after the CWRIC hearings had ex-posed the range of Nikkei reaction to the internment. And knowing an-Sansei activists at the time gry gry Sanse activists at the time made the anger of the book seem less novel. Other works which have appeared since "Years of Infamy" have added to our internment knowledge and some have superseded it in certain ways.

Yet all this is to miss the point about evaluating Weglyn and "Years of Infamy." For at the time it appeared, it was truly a revolution ary work, whose impact was a cata-lyst for the redress movement. As such, she is and will always be a fitting symbol for that move nent 🔳

Brian Niiva is a member of the Honolulu JACL chapter.

By Emily Murase

## Protecting the Legacy of our Issei Women: the JA Community vs. the San Francisco YWCA

ince 1996, a heated controver-S sy has been brewing in San Francisco's Japantown be-tween the Nikkei community and San Francisco YWCA (Young

San Francisco YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) over the Japanese YWCA building. At the turn of the century, the SF YWCA, like others at that time, ad-hered to a policy of racial segrega-tion, and barred Chinese, Japanese, and African American residential buildings. residential buildings.

and African American girls from its residential buildings. In 'response, JA Christian churches, Inown collectively as the Sdo Bukai, organized a Japanise YWCA with its own board of direc-tors, composed of Issei women, in 1912. The Japanese YWCA estab-lished a 'Character-Building Pe-partment' and published a maga-zine, 'Joshi Seinen'' Young Women). Despite this, the issue of having a residential building to serve Japanese women remained. The primary obstacle for procur-ing a building was the California Alien Liaw that prohibited non-citizens from purchasing land. In overrome this, the SF YWCA agroed to purchase a building 'in trust for the exclusive use of the Japanese ;WCA' with monies that Issei women of the Japanese YWCA raised for this purpose (and in the midst of the Great Depression, no less!). This is documented in min-tres of the SF YWCA Board of Di-rectors meeting, data CHe 5, 4, 1921. Although the SF YWCA Board of Di-rectors meeting, data CHe 5, 4, 1921.

the heart of Japantown, subse-quent board minutes state that de-

quent board minutes state that de-cisions regarding the use or sale of it the building were to be made in con-sultation with the Japanese YWCA board members or their successors. When, in the face of cash flow problems, the SF YWCA decided unilaterally to put the property up for sale in April 1996 for \$1.65 mil-lion, and moved to evict two popular programs, namely the Nihotanachi

ittle Friends Preschool and the

Little Friends Preschool and the Harrison Out-of-School program, Soko Bukai and the larger JA com-munity were rightly outraged. Since then, the SF YWCA has consistently denied the existence of the trust. A six-month mediation between JA leaders and SF YWCA, begun in March 1997, failed, forcing the Soko Bukai to file a lawsuit in San Francisco Superior Court in Sentember 1997. September 1997.

September 1997. San Francisco Supervisors Mabel Teng and Michael Yaki have shown considerable support on this issue. After the lawsuit was filed, Teng in-troduced a resolution urging the

The table in wash was incl. Fails in troduced a resolution urging the city attorney to submit an annicus brief in support of the Soko Bukai and has lobbied tirelessly among her elected colleagues to support the JA community's position. Yaki challenged the SF YWCA di-rectly about allegations that Febru-ary's Day of Remembrance repre-sented a 'misuse of public funds' designed 'merely as an attempt to garmer publicity for [the] lawsuit," according to a letter from YWCA Executive Director Carol Newkirk to the Board of Supervisors. A San Francisco Examiner edito-rial in October 1997 argued that the YWCA trustese "after considering

rial in October 1997 argued that the YWCA trustees "after considering the effect of this dispute on future fund raising, should graciously re-turn the property title to the churches that built it 65 years ago and continue to serve the Western Addition, including Japantown." Another editorial titled "Why we-need to .Fight for the Japantown. YWCA," by Kenji Taguna, English editor of the Nichi Bei Times, insists the lawauit is about "restoring the

editor of the Nichi Bei Times, insiste the lawauit is about "restoring the dignity and legacy of our lasse pio-neers, whose mouse and west ... were the cornerstone in the estab-lishment of the them-Japantown YWCA." Alandimark victory occurred this week. On April 26, California State Assemblyman Mike Honda spear-

headed the unanimous passage (73-0) of Assembly Concurrent Resolu-tion 32 in which the legislature de-clared that state policy shall be to 1) "eradicate any vestiges of the racism of the California Alien Land Law," and 2) "take steps to ensure the enforcement of charitable trusts the enfi cae emorement of chartable trusts created in response to that law in direct response to the Japanese YWCA issue in San Francisco. On April 29, the state Senate also passed the resolution unanimously (92.0) (28-0).

(28-0). This could not have been possible without the dedication of the volun-teer legal team that includes, among others, Karen Kai, Bob

among others, Karen Kai, Boo Rusky, and attorneys from the firm of Minami Lew and Tamaki, includ-ing principal Don Tamaki. What can you do to help? You can send a financial contribution with a check payable to the Soko Bukai to the Pine United Methodist Church, no one of the Socie Socie

check payable to the Solto Butar to the Pine United Méthodist Church, 426-33rd Ave., San Francjsco, CA 94121, or circulate a petition among friende and family members. Call the Pine United Méthodist Church at 415/387-1800 for a petition form. In the final paragraph of the As-sembly resolution, the legislature-paid tribute to "the contributions, temacity, and vision of the Issei women pioneers of California." The importance of this statement can-not be överemphasized. This issue is not merely about a parcel of land, but about protecting and honoring the legacy of our issei mothers and grandmothers who overame the challenges of the racist Alien Land Law to lay the foundation ffr ser-vicing the needs of girls and young women in our community for gener-ations to come. ■ tions to come.

During the next few months, Émi-ly will be taking time off to adjust to the demands of motherhood. Her column will return in the fall. In the meantime, she can be reached at emurass@stanford.edu.

ounders of national JACL Posed for a Moriyama Stu-dio cameraman outside a building (now the home of Hokubei Mainichi on Post St., San Francisco) during its meet-ing April 5 and 6, 1929, for a pic-ture, which appears in Bill Hosokawa's "JACL in Quest of

Very Truly Yours

Justice" on page 109. Names of the 27 individuals appear on the same photo in our 1955 Holiday Issue, when national JACL was celebrating the 25th anniversary of its first national convention held in Seattle in 1930.

Two months ago, this column featured a "roster" of 165 dele-gates, representing 66 chapters, and national JACL officers for the historic meeting March 8-10, 1942, regarding JACL's wartime agenda and the Evacuation. Thanks to Sud Morishita

Idaho Falls, who loaned us his copy of a Hanasono Studio photograph taken in front of Kinmon Bldg., 2031 Bush St., where the special emergency national coun-cil sessions were held ... Now, we are trying to identify them all. So far we have identify them an. So far we have identified 61 (43 per-cent) of the 141 people pictured, which means 24 delegates from the "roster" are not identified. Our quest for identifications (and allowing for tentative "looks like" guesses) is going to friends we feel might help. Another archival adventure

we've undertaken for JACL's 70th anniversary stems from a bevy of names on the backside of a national JACL letterhead used in 1944-46. Listed are 76 prominent Americans — kriown as "National JACL Sponsors" who raised their voices against the mass denial by the U.S. government of civil rights to Japan-ese Americans. Their support befriending Nisei came when it was most needed ... Now, we seek their year of birth/death and enough personal history that may explain their being asked to Four of them (Nobel Prize au-

Four of them (Nobel Prize au-thor Pearl Buck, Maryknoll's Su-perior General Bishop James E. Walsh, ACLU founder Roger Baldwin, and John Thomas of the American Baptist Home Mis-sions) were solicited to sign an appeal that raised sufficient funds to launch a national JACL PR program, especially in the East and Midwest, where JAs were literally unknown. We checked library references

were literally unknown. We checked library references and have reached the 58 percent level — another 32 to go! Thankis to Paul Shinkawa in Austin, Texas, we've extracted in-formation he found on the Inter-net at ununtshautensedu on Dr. Homer P. Raimey, who was merely identified as 'president, University of Texas at Austin,' When F.C. broke the story on 'SACL sponsors Feb. 12, 1944.

Seibara, the Issei Rice King at Webster, Texas, spent nearly 15 years establishing Japanese rice farms in Brazil's Amazon River basin. (His Japan-born yobiyose son Kiyoaki has since taken over care of the Web-ster farm.)-

er farm.) He and his wife settled in Pin damonhagaba (about 85 miles northeast of São Paulo). Inciden

northeast of São Paulo). Inciden-tally, Japanese-grown rice is credited for making rice a Brazil-ian staple today. The majority of the World War-II internment camps in Texas were built for Axis nationals from Latin America, the East Coast,

and for men from enemy alien camps in New Mexico and Louisiana that were closed. Seagoville, near Dallas, was built in 1941 by the Bureau of Prisons as a minimum-security women's reformatory that housed married couples without children.

Now, Our

Missions for May

In 1942 about 50 Nihongo (Japanese language) women teachers from California lived in the plywood huts while Germans and Italians had the solid, brick quarters. Kenedy, near San Anto-nio, an abandoned Civilian Conservation Corps site, housed the Axis men. After October 1944, the Army took over Kenedy for disabled German POWs.

The largest was Crystal City in South Texas, originally for migrant farm workers, which the Justice Department converted in late 1942 as a "family" intern-

late 1942 as a 'family' intern-ment camp with owar. 500 more buildings, a hospital, schools, warehouses/etc The camp population peaked at 3,396 in May 1945, with Ger-may Japanese, Spanish, Italian and English languages being spo-ken. A 1990 clipping relates how rankled German families at Seagoville and Crystal City were Seagoville and Crystal City were to read JA internees qualified for \$20,000 redress.

And, according to Edison Uno (P.C., 3/10/67), Crystal City was the last internment camp to shut down, in "late" 1947 though the camp monument dedicated in 1985 shows "1943-1946" Now. 1900 snows '1943-1946''... Now, to find exactly what "late" means here for our Japanese communi-ty, history series in process. I found it: Nov, 1, 1947—thanks to Shinkawa's search of 'Handbook of Texas Online."

of Texas Online." Now, for an "update." Prof. David Swift, Jr. (808/958-8722) is finishing his book, "MIS Origins," about the 40 Nisei graduates of the first MISLS class at the Presidio of San Francisco

He has interviewed 16 of the 18 surviving Nisei veterans, transcribing the tapes himself, and seeks help of friends or rela-tives of the last seven on his list:

James Fujimura, sociology doctoral student

- •Kazuo Kozaki, at Chicago in the '70s.
- Paul Kuyama (from San Diego?), •Jake Ohashi (from Wash-
- ington state).

•Hiromi Oyama (from Los Angeles, died in Tokyo),

•Kaye Sakamoto (wife in Tokyo), • Ryuichi Shinoda (from

Fresno, died in Sacramento). •Tom Tanimoto (Kumamoto) ·Paul Tekawa

Now, check this out! A strenu-ous Irish American objection to the Latino use of "Angle" was made by a college Spanish in-structor in Washington, D.C., "when the term refers to all white English speakers as do reporters of all stripes ... We take offense at 'being equated with Anglos Anglo is to Celtic what Corter is to Moctezuma." Raised in Lima, Peru, she doesn't mind being called Gringa by her Peruvian friends. "At least in Lima, Gringa is a term of affection ... given to Now, check this out! A strenu is a term of affection ... given to any foreign-born or blond. Nicknames or no — we antici-

Nicknames or no — we antici-pate PANA's next convention July 26-31 in Santiago, Chile, where the term, "Nikkei," enjoys neral use.

Harry Honda has been with the Pacific Citizen since 1952 and is currently editor emeritus.



PACIFIC CITIZEN, MAY 7-20, 1999

## **MAVIN:** Celebrating Diversity

#### (Continued from page 1)

jected circulation was estimated at jected circulation was estimated at an impressive 50,000, including in-ternational subscriptions. It is available at newsstands and book-stores in Seattle, Portland, Vancouver, B.C., Minneapolis, New York and Los Angeles. But Kelley says that word of mouth has also been an important factor in getting the magazine noticed. As for financing, Kelley says that

aside from his own the first issue money the first issue of MAVIN was funded of MAVIIV was runded primarily through do-nations, subscription sales and advertising

"We're an emerging market, so I think ad-vertisers will realize that this is a poten-tially lucrative thing," he points out, adding that the magazine is actively turning to mainstream more

clothing and auto companies for ad

Support. Two years ago, the Seattle native leyan University as an undergrad-uate. It was there, meeting other students like himself — young, am-bitious and mixed — that Kelley came to realize that a niche needed

came to realize that a niche needed to, and could be, filled. As a freshman, he got a good start by serving as the editor of Wesleyan's student of color literary magazine, the "Ankh." But even at magazine, the Ankin. But even at age 13 he showed gimpeses of what was to come, publishing two cata-logs for a small retail-nursery and landscape company that he ran, called the "Rolling Bay Company." At a prime time for Asian Amer-

icans, who are, more than ever, cre icans, who are, more than ever, de-ating a distinctive niche in the print world with publications such as A. Magazine, Yolk and Giant Ro-bot, Kelley took a year-long leave from school to launch MAYIN, join-

from school to launch MAVIX, join-ing that growing arsenal which is helping to diversify both main-stream and pop culture media. Growing up in Seattle, like L.A., with large Hapa and mixed Asian communities, it would be natural to focus just on that," he said. "How-ever, from what Tve seen on the East Coast, the black/white mul-tiracial community is more com-mon," which is why, he said, the fo-cus of the magazine was purposely us of the magazine was purposely broader.

"There are so many cross-cultural ties between people, we thought, where would you draw the line?" Kelley said. "And not just racial and ethnic but geographic." No doubt its pan-demographic oncept is crucial: to give voice to eople of all multiethnic and multi-ultural backgrounds. At the same peop

time, trying to reflect such a vast diversity can be difficult. diversity can be difficult. Inevitably, as Kelley admits, someone will be left out. The larger emphasis is simply on building an atmosphere of coalition and belong-

ing mong other people of mixe Kellev

Hopefully, Kelley added, this will strike some resonance with traditionally recog radiationally recog-nized minority groups, in coming to terms with members of their community

He points out that Japanese Americans, for instance, have one of the highest outmarriage rates among AAs. "People need to

understand that organizations like Hapa Issues Forum are there to help preserve the Japanese Ameri-

help preserve the Japanese Ameri-can community, not to replace it." He is careful to point out, though, that MAVIN is not trying to be "the manifesto for the mixed race experience... I just] hope that this makes people feel included within a larger community so that they say, I can relate to that experience too

For now, Kelley is getting set to release MAVIN's sophomore effort on May 28. That issue is scheduled to include another wide array of features: a glimpse into the mul-tiracial society of Cuba, a profile of interracial couples, an interview with Hapa actor and comedienne Amy Hill comprehensive coverage of the third Pan Collegiate Confer-ence on the Mixed Race Experience which took place in Connecticut in February and more on music, books, interracial websites and

school organizations. With much of the groundwork laid in this past year, Kelley is also ready to return to the collegiate world in the fall as his 23-year-old sister Joanna, a New York-based sister Joanna, a New York-based fashion designer who attended Sarah Lawrence College and is cur-rently MAVIN's creative and man-aging editor, will take over much of the editorship duties.

For more information, call 206/652-9760, email: mavin@ aa.net, or check out their website: www.mavin.net

More From Tri-District: National Board Update

BY MARTHA NAKAGAWA

On the final day of the tri-dis-rict conference, the JACL nationrict conf al board held an open forum and updated members on latest devel-opments. All board members were present except for Nicole Inouye, national youth representative,

national youth representative, who had another commitment. President Helen Kawagoe shared about the positive feed-back the organization has re-ceived for JACL's support in the Japanese American National Museum's Pavilion opening earlier this year. Many organizations felt JACL's involvement indicated its commitment to the community, e said. All funds used for the JANM opening came from outside donations. But for JACL to remain com-

munity-oriented, Kawagoe urged members to support the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation in Washington, D.C. She pointed out that this memorial was a great opportunity to tell the world about the Nikkei experience.

She also urged chapters to find creative ways to increase mem-bership. She noted that back in the 1960s, the Gardena chapter had 113 members. By the 1970s, those numbers had jumped to close to 2,400. But the memberjumped to increase hadn't come easily, Kawagoe. She shared how ship said she and her late hushand used to go door to door, sometimes shelling peas or watering plants go for potential members.

"We can raise membership," said Kawagoe. "What we need to do is for each of us to go back to our community."

Other announcements included news that Carol Kawamoto was now chair of the national education program, the need to orga-nize a celebration for JACL's 70th nize a celebration for JACLS four anniversary this year, a call for candidates to run for national of-fice, and Kawagoe's praise of the three districts — PSW, NCWNP and CCDC — in what she re-ferred to as the 'heart of the orgaation

Executive Director Herbert Yamanishi emphasized the impor-tance of each chapter and indicated that this was a "time of change for JACL." Today, JACL runs 35 programs in the three main cate gories of advocacy, education and cultural development.

Highlights of some of JACL's ctivities included:

1) Pushing for legislation to ap-propriate funds for redress to Japanese Latin Americans and railroad and mine workers.

2) Lobbying to have Senator Or-rin Hatch (R-Utah), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, reconsider his stance on Bill Lann Lee's nomination to the position of assistant attorney general for civ-il rights. Yamanishi commended Tokita in Utah for his hard

work 3) In California, Patty Wada

hes been instrumental in having has been instrumental in having the state assembly recognize the Nikkei ownership of the SF YWCA building in Japantown. 4) Supporting Senate Bill 164

which gives tax exemptions for medical benefits. This affects recent recipients of redress. 5) Has a \$200,000 contract to

organize a teacher training program in California 6) Maintaining the scholarship

program which is the largest Asian American scholarship program in the United States.

7) Urging chapters to apply for the Legacy Fund grant which can further educate the community about the JA experience.

 Sending correspondence con demning the re-enactment of the bombing of Pearl Harbor during the Kentucky Derby. "As you can see JACL is a mul-

ti-faceted organization," said Ya manishi. "There are many components, and there is no longer one big issue.

Vice President of General Oper vice President of General Oper-ations Floyd Mori, whose biggest responsibility includes personnel matters, noted that the organization currently has "five open posi-tions on staff so the engine is sput-tering a little." According to him, the personnel committee is exam ining restructuring ideas in an effort to meet the new needs of the organization. A report is expected

Another area Mori oversees i the national convention. He said committee members are busy preparing for the year 2000 con-vention in Monterey, Calif., and that a site for the 2002 convention not been determined yet.

Lori Fujimoto, vice president of public affairs, shared that JACL has been partnering with various national organizations to work on issues such as the Bill Lann Lee appointment and taking proactive measures to prevent anti-Asian hysteria as a result of the espiage allegations at the Los Alamos science lah.

She also noted that with the leadership of Bob Sakaniwa, JACL's Washington, D.C., representative, they are working getting the hate crime prevention ed in congress. Fujimoto p added that chapters can support this law by contacting their rep sentatives.

Garnering redress money to the remaining Japanese Latin Americans was another issue being d on by those in Washingworke ton, D.C., said Fujimoto.

In California, Fujimoto said JACL is expanding its Asian Pacific American network and pointed to key appointments made by Governor Gray Davis.

Closer to home, Eujimoto said the national board was working on a five-year strategic plan for the future of the organization. "We really want to focus on a clear policy direction and provide better methods of maximizing remethods of maximizing. re-sources," she said, who thanked

every chapter, calling them a vital part of the organization Vice President of Pla

nning and Development Gary Mayeda, as chair of the scholarship and Legacy Fund grant programs, urged chapters to take advantage of naal JACI's resources tion

He also encouraged memb me to become involved in voter registra-tion and shared about a California bill currently being debated that deals with ways to implement family-oriented programs to increase voter registration. Mayeda added that the teacher

training handbook is continuously being updated and pointed to the successful collaboration between the JACL, the Japanese Ameri-can National Museum and the 100th/442nd/MIS veterans associin implementing teacher ntion training workshops. Karen-Liane Shiba, vice presi-

dent of membership, said despite a few glitches, the conversion of the membership database to a new software went "very well." She also added that the current membership numbers coincided with projected goals. On the other hand, the

On the other hand, the fundraising target was better than expected, said Shiba. The goal had been to raise \$50,000 and last year's total came to \$65,000. Shiba thanked all who donated, saying the funds go to underwrite national JACL programs

She added that although the planned giving program was still in the early stages, there are al-ready three commitments.

They are also discussing a col-laboration with NAATA (National Asian American Telecommunication Association) to see whether JACL chapters could utilize NAA-TA's video library for chapter events, said Shiba.

Hiromi Ueha, national youth council chair, thanked chapters for their continued support of the youths and talked about how she, Nicole Inouye and the youth council have been holding goal plan-ning meetings. Many voiced sim-ple needs such as instituting a entor system, said Ueha.

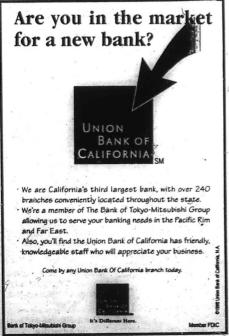
Currently, they are busy working on the youth conference, scheduled to take place at the University of California, Irvine, in June. A youth conference h years earlier had attracted more than 125 students from across the United States and they hope to have more this year, said Ueha. Another area they are working

on is trying to get a full-time na tional youth director hired.

David Hayashi, secretary/treasurer, gave a general report on surer, gave a general report on how they were working on areas, that "needed improvement in terms of how we operate" and "how we handle funds." He also added that the invest-

ment and audit committees were looking for qualified committee members and asked attendees to memh call him for suggestions.







#### **President Nominates Shinseki** ACR 32 in Support of Soko Bukai Passes Calif. Legislature

#### (Continued from page 1)

Christian churches representing the JA community, has been fighting the San Francisco YWCA in the courts, trying to force the return of the YWCA building located at 1830 Sutter St. to the community. But to understand the controversy sur-rounding the YWCA building located in the heart of San Francis-co's Japantown, one must trace the story back to the early 1900s.

The history of the building goes back to a time when the YWCA, back to a time when the YWCA, like most organizations, had racist segregation laws prevent-ing its white members from min-gling with non-whites. In re-sponse, the Issei women of the Soko Bukai formed their own Japanese YWCA in 1912 to serve the women and girls in the JA community. By the early 20s the Issei women had raised enough money to purchase their own building but because of racist Alien Land Laws they were unable to own the building outright. Thus, the San Francisco YWCA agreed to purchase the current building in trust for the Japanese YWCA

By the early 1940s, Executive Order 9066 was being enforced and close to 120,000 JAs from the West Coast were being herded off to various concentration camps throughout the country. By the time World War II ended, much of what the JAs left behind no longer existed; the Japantown had been destroyed and with it, the memories of the YWCA trust.

Years would go by without any recollection of the trust agreement, but when the San Francis-co YWCA attempted to sell the historic Japantown building in 1996 due to financial difficulties, the existence of the trust was revealed. Outraged, the JA commu-nity demanded that the San Francisco YWCA take the build ing off the market, and they did. For many months afterwards the JA community was in discussions with the San Francisco YWCA trying to come to an amicable resolution, and even offered to pur-chase the building for \$1.25 million. But their offer was denied and in September of 1997 the Soko Bukai filed the current lawagainst the San Francisco suit ag

So far three appeals by the San Francisco YWCA to have the lawsuit dismissed have been denied and the parties are currently in the discovery phase. A trial is pending. Although the YWCA's own board minutes from the 1920s and 1930s clearly show the existence of a trust with the JA

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"While I support the YWCA as a civic organization, it is impor-tant to recognize the realities of the era under which these agreements were made — if the laws at that time did not discriminate, no trustee would have been need-ed — the property would be owned by the community outsaid Assemblymember right, Honda in a prepared statement. Though it is painful to remem-H ber the extreme level of discrimination faced by minorities 50 years ago, we cannot close our eyes to these injustices. Healing can only take place when we embrace and correct these egregious stakes of the past."

In an interview with the Pacific Citizen Honda explained that he felt a need to sponsor ACR 32 not only to help move along the Soko Bukai lawsuit, but to begin a public discussion of the issue and to educate members of the legislature. "The building is important to the community be cause it is useful to the communi cause it is useral to the communi-ty. It's why [the Issei women] built it in the first place and it's why they still need it." He added, because the Califor-

nia legislature enacted the Alien Land law in 1913, he felt it was "appropriate for the Assembly and the Senate to take this posiand th tion. We're eradicating the ves-tiges of old laws we had passed ssed cause of racism and greed. be

Maintaining their rightful ownership of the building, Linda Hills, president of the San Fran-cisco YWCA's board of directors, responded to the passage of ACR 32 in a written statement, saying, "The Assembly Resolution [ACR 32] was passed without even one legislator ever talking to the YWCA. Sadly, this narrowminded, one-sided legislation re-peats precisely the kind of injus-tice that created the Alien Land Law in 1913 and the abuses of trusts that followed

San Francisco YWCA Execu-Los Angeles Japanese Casualty Insurance Assn.

COMPLETE INSURANCE

PROTECTION

tive Director Carol Newkirk added, "We hope that, instead of ing inaccurate resolutions, our elected officials will step in to help resolve this ugly dispute in a way that benefits the entire community. The YWCA took the building off the market when the building off the market when the dispute arcse, and has continued to look for ways to resolve the matter. It is time to truly heal, not to open wounds falsely." But lawyers for the Soko Bukai adamantly refute YWCA's con-tinued cleims to the building and

tinued claims to the building and are elated with the passage of ACR 32. "The state now recogsage of nizes that the [trust] was of necessity and that it should be enforced and recognized," said Don Tamaki, one of the attorneys for the Soko Bukai.

"It's ethically and morally im-portant for the YWCA to keep their promises," he added. "The board of the 1990s has lost their way, their moral compass. For them to claim this property is tantamount to claiming the fruits of the Alien Land Law

Karen Kai, also a lawyer for the Soko Bukai, feels the importance of the current lawsuit and ACR 32 is that it honors the Issei women who founded and built the historic YWCA building. Part of the resolution states, "That the Legislature pays tribute to the contributions, tenacity, and vi-sion of the Issei women pioneers of the State of California ...

This building was created by the first women in our community in hopes of building a community that would last businesses and schools but to serve the needs of women and kids," said Kai. "At a time when women had no strength political-ly and JA women had no say they said they would do it. They had-to be strong, determined women. She added, "It would be so

wonderful to resolve this issue for wonderful wressive this issue to the community and move for-ward. To fulfill the legacy the Is-sei women created."

Individual, couple,

· Depression, self-

esteem, anxiety

transitions.

stress, interperso relationships, life

family psychotherapy.

Most insurance a icare and Blue S



Gen. Marshall have held," Sakaniwa continued. "It has a long, rich history and it goes to show that Asian Americans are very much part of the American fabric."

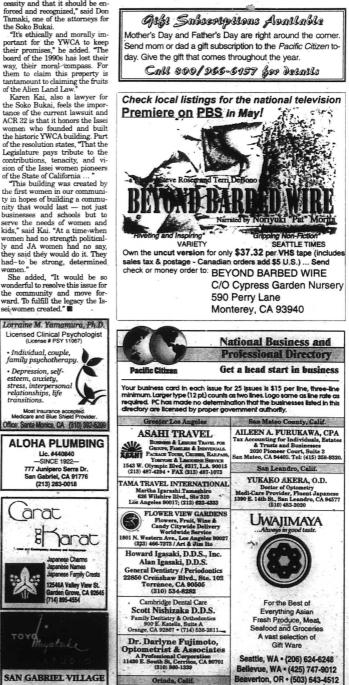
Born in Kauai to Issei parents, Shinseki, 56, attended West Point and later Duke University where he earned a master's de gree in English. In addition to two combat

tours in Vietnam where he was seriously injured, he served 10 years in Europe, two of which he spent as the top Army general,

and also commanded NATO-led peacekeeping forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Among the various awards that Gen. Shinseki has received throughout his distinguished military career are the Purple Heart, Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Achieve-ment Medal and Parachutist

Ment Medal and Faradituse Badge. Pending the Senate's ap-proval, Shinseki will be taking over the post after current chief of staff General Dennis Reimer retires in June.



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#### DIRECTOR - PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In the general direction of the National Director, operates and manages the Washington, D.C. office and performs a wide variety of duties to ensure the ment and maintenance of the JACL's programs and goals at the federal IACI's Wash

Development and variable test the test of the product program and guess at the meta-level. There appeal and with the policial process either at a state or federal level. "Not the organization public policy or related area. Provised and the policy of the

## JOB OPENING DIRECTOR - YOUTH STUDENT AFFAIRS

Under the general direction of the National Director, performs a wide variety of duties bensum the development and maintenance of the JACL's youth and student programs and goels. Travel and work on weekends and evenings required. Graduate of a four-year accredited college or university in betworking to social so-ance or instand field and three to five years of progressively more responsible work experience in developing youth programs and policies preferend. Must be experi-anced in the use of computer technology and email. Fund-naising experience a plus. Excellent thinge benefit package provided. Competitive salary commensuate with experience. Send resume and cover letter to: JACL, 1765 Sutter Street, San randosc, CA 94115 or tax to 415631-4671. Emailed applications/resumes not accepted. Applications will be taken until position is filed.

#### JOB REOPENING

#### Program Coordinator - Membership

Under the general supervision of the Program Director for Membership/Fund Development, ther/Membership Coordinator will be responsible for developing and inaintaining members and member services on a national scale. Performs a wide variably of duffes to ensure the maintenance and development of JACLs member-ship. Some trayel and work on weekends and evenings required. College graduate with one to three years of progressively more responsible work experience in devel-oping membership and membership services preferred. Must be experienced in the use of computer database tochnology and e-mail. Prostition is full-time. Excellent thinge benefit package provided. Competitive salary commensure with experience. Send resume and cover letter to: JACL, 1765 Sutter St, "San Francisco, CA 94115 or fax to 415/931-4671. E-mailed applications'

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## Obituaries

#### All the towns are in Call orrila except as noted

son Craig; brothers Sam "Blackie" and wife Haru, and Shiro and wife

Sets; sisters Amy Hamada, and Sumi Uyeda and husband Chuck.

Matsumura, Kelly, 92, Sange March 14; Sanger farmer and JA-CLer, survived by wife Yukiye; sons Keith, Karl; daughter Mae; 3 gc.

Matsushima, George Hiroshi, 75, Platteville, April 19, Lafayette-

born potato farmer, Army veteran and JACLer, survived by wife Lil-

lian Yuriko: sons Ron. Larry (Platteville); daughters Carol Chernak (Washington), Debbie Hansen

(Windsor); 8 gc.; brothers John (Fort Collins), Les (Indiana), sisters

Sachiko Katayama (Lakewood) Margie Miyoshi (Washington)

Miura, Mary Jane Shigeko, 63, Torrance March 21; Los Angeles-horn' survived by hushand Ken daughters Lisa, Karen; brother Dr

Paul Fukuda and wife Francis: sis-

Fault Fukuda and while Francis, sis-ters Dorothy Hamai and husband James, Irene Lee and husband Cur-tis, Shirley Puleston and husband Carlos; sister-in-law Yoshiko Suzu-

brother Shigeru (Las Vegas).

Nishina, Tadao "Todd", 73, Los Angeles, March 24; Sanger-born Ni-

Angeles, March 24, Sanger conn ru-sei; survived by wife Fusae; daugh-ter Gail Sharp and husband Merle; 2gc.; brothers Ray Masami and wife Kimi (Fowler), Frank Nobuo and

wife Yayeko; sister Ayano Ideta and husband Takeshi: brothers-in-law Ichiro and wife Marcia, Hideo Kiku-

moto and wife Jeanette; sisters-in-law Sadano Abe and husband Masaru (Reedley), Michiko Tanaka and husband Hank (Oxnard), Et-

suko Nakano and husband Nick, Ya-suko Nakahara (Garden Grove),

Noda, Chika, 98, Fresno, March

26; Kumamoto-born former resident of Selma; survived by sons Masaru

(Watsonville), Kenji (Fresno); daugh

ters Haruko Yamamoto, Yo Misaki (both Selma), Sally Osaki (San Fran-

Nogawa, Mary Kikue, 86, Los Angeles, March 18; Stockton-born; survived by son Richard M, and wife

isco); 15 gc., 19 ggc., 1 gggc.

Shigeko Hirai

ki and hushand Joseph. Murata, Takeshi, 69, Las Ve-gas, March 14; Las Vegas-born WWII veteran; survived by wife Marianne; son James (Concord);

Hansen

Fukumaki, Dale Masayuki, 68, Los Angeles, Jan. 24; Guada-lupe-born longtime volunteer for the mentally retarded; survived by wife Toni; children Rick, Darrel, wife Toni; children ruc. Terri, Robyn, Dana; 4 gc.

Hanada, Masato "Mas," 86, Henderson, Nev., March 12; for-merly of Cutler; Tulare County JA-CLa survived by son Steve and wife Bobbi.

Imamoto, Alice, 88, San Fran cisco, Feb 12; survived by daughter Joan Ishimaru and husband Stone; 5 gc, 6 ggc.; daughter-in-law Chow Chow Imamoto; Predeceased by son Arthur.

Iwasaki, K. Edward, 51, Saratoga, April 16; survived by brothers Nozomu and Akira Nor-man; sister June Kinyon; prede-ceased by parents Shigeki John and Tsuruk

Iwata, Kikuye, 92, Dana Point, March 21; Yamaguchi-born; sur-vived by sons Norio and wife Tomi, Hides, Shigeru and wife Iom, Akiyoshi and wife Jane, Yutaka and wife Pat; 6 gc., 1ggc.; sister Toyoko Uchiyama (Japan).

Kajioka, Kazuko, 75, Los Angeles, March 22; survived by sisters Kiyoko, Yasuoko Agnes Birnbaum.

Kamikawa, Rev. Dr. Aigi, 81, Vancouver, Wash., April 12; Seattleborn longtime Christian missionary in Japan; survived by wife Kiyo; daughter Ruth Moss (Logan Utah; daugnter Ruth Moss (Logan Otan; sons Stephen (Fremont), Eugene (Reno, Nev.); 5 gc.; sisters Kiyo Sakahara, Hana Kato (both Seat-tle), Ann Lui (Oakland), Lily Oshiro (Honolulu): brothers Paul (Milwaukee), Joseph (Renton, Wash.).

Koyano, James Hakobu, 93, San Jose, March 20; survived by son Bill Noboru and wife Shirley; gc. and ggc.

Kozu, Isami "Sam," Seattle, Feb. 6; Seattle-born WWII MIS vet. Si Seattle-born WWII MIS vet-JACL 1000 Club member, ren o, Seattle-toorn wwill alls Ver-eran, JACL 1000 Club member; survived by wife Ayako, sons Steve and wife Karen, Jim and wife Corky, daughter Kathy Tsutsumoto and husband Guy, 4 gc.; brothers Pete and wife Fusa, Shigeru and wife Yuriko.

Kumakura, Harry K., 83, Taco-ma, Wash., Feb. 12; WWII 442nd RCT veteran; survived by wife Mis-aye; brother Haruo Herb (Wisconsin): sister June Momoda and



and the Japanese Latin Americans. By her persistent encouragement, she persuaded national JACL staff to search through the national archives in San Bruno, Calif. Letters found in that search reinforced the evidence that the U.S. government forced private railroad and mining companies to fire American ing companies to hre American employees of Japanese heritage during WWII. Through the vigi-lant efforts of Michi Weglyn and the evidence gathered by many, the U.S. Justice Department was convinced that the railroad and mine workers were eligible for redress. Regrettably, she did for redress. Regrettably, she did not live to see the fruition of her latest efforts, obtaining proper redress for II Ac redress for JI As

She wrote in the preface to her book, 'I hope this uniquely American story will serve as a reminder to all those who cherreminder to all those who cher-ish their liberties ... that they who say it can never happen again are probably wrong." As a member of the JACL, she chal-lenged and cajoled the organiza-tion to do better. Through her passing, we are reminded of the power of vigilance. Michi Weglyn passed away on Sunday, April 25, while JACL members from California, Neva-da and Arizona were meeting in Scottadale to visit the Gila River concentration camp.

concentration camp.

Michael Akira; daughter Ann Hito-mi; brothers Takao and wife Sachiko, Hideo, Mutsuo and wife Midori, Norio and wife Yukie (all of Japan); sister Yuri Hatsukede and

Japan), sister Yun Hatsukade and husband Kiyoo (Japan). Quon, Clifford, March 28, San Francisco; facility manager at the Japanese Cultural and Com-munity Center in San Francisco's Japantown; survived by mother Grace; sons Derek, Garrick, Jesse; daughter Katrina (Washington, D.C.); brother Cary; sisters P Pat. Phyllis.

Sasaki, Mary Shizuko, 89, Marysville, March 25; survived by Marysville, March 22; survived by daughters Hiroko, Kazuko and Eiko, and Chiseko Toriyama; 3 gc.; brothérs Joe Minoru and Frank Fumio and wife Hatsue Nakamu-ra; predeceased by brother George Hideo Nakamura,

Shingu, George, 92, Los Ange-les, Jan. 13; Salinas-born, Mt. Prospect, Ill., resident; survived by wife Michi; daughters Barbara Shingu, Shirley Benos; 2 gc.; brother Frank

Tahara, Roy Kenichi, 74, Tahara; Koy Kenichi, 74, Pomona, March 28; Denver-born Nisei; survived by wife Annie; son Ken; daughters Randi and Wai Chee; 1 gc.; brother George Masayoshi; sister's Sachiye Suzuki, Toshiko Kitano and husband Roy

Tosniko Atano and huseani doy. Tanaka, Tomi Y., 75, Las Ve-gas, March 24; Fresno-born; sur-vived by husband William, sons Michael (Santa Monica) and James (Oberlin, Ohio); 4 gc.; brother Sam Yamashiro and sisters Haru Ogawa and Masa Takii (all of Los Angeles).

Tokumoto, Richard Satoshi, 61, Las Vegas, March 3; Waipahu, Hawaii-born karate instructor, Army reservist; survived by daughter Vina W. Ching; son Der-rick (Hawaii); 5 gc.; brother William (Fresno).

Yamashita, Sono, 83, Berkeley March 24; longtime Richmond resi-dent and Contra Costa JACLer, survived by son Clifford; brothers Hideyo and wife Yoshiko, Tosh Adachi and wife Kimi; sisters Elsie Ogata and husband Dve. and Ruhv Agachi and whe rimi; sisters Edste Ogata and husband Dye, and Ruby Hiramoto and husband John; sis-ter-in-law Bessie Yamada; prede-ceased by husband Toshio.

#### DEATH NOTICE

#### KIYO FUKAYAMA

KIYO FUKAYAMA PORTLAND, Ore.-Kiyo Pukayama, 102, passed away April 17. She was born in Toyama, Japan graduated from Toyama Normal College and soon immi-grated to Seattle, Wash. In 1942, she relocated to Denver, Colo. and lived subsequently in Alexandria, Va. and Kensington Calif Survivors are daugh ters Teru Arima (Portland, Ore.), Aiko Adachi (Sudbury, Mass), Masa Sato (Kensington, Calif.). Among her 7 grand-children and 2 great grandchildren is June Arima Schumann active in JACL.



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survived by wife Mitsuye; son JACL Pays Tribute to Michi Weglyn

She was an author, advocate, historian and costume designer, but to the Japanese American community, Michi Nishiura We lyn became their conscience. Her inquisitive and persistent nature for truth and fairness led her to the writing of a book that became the basis for redressing the Japanese American experi of incarceration during World

bered for her book, "Years of In-famy: The Untold Story of America's Concentration Camps." It reinforced the move ment to obtain redress for JAs and inspired the JACL delegates to its 1976 biennial convention in Salt Lake City to pass the reso-lution that began their redress

In graphic detail, she chal-lenged the U.S. government's reasoning and chronicled the many thwarted efforts to seek justice during the wartime expe-rience. She also provided a portal into the definition and cha orter of JAs today. For her book and her activism, she received JACL's highest commendation, the Japa panese American of the Bi-m Award, at the 1976 conntion

In the past few months, she continued her activism on behalf of railroad and mine workers

Hiroko; 4 gc., 5ggc.; brothers Don, Roland Kamachi and wife Grace. Ohsawa, Kazuo, 68, Laguna Niguel, March 27; Hiroshima-born; husband Shig (Bellevue, Wash.). Maeda, Rui, 73, Roseville; sur-vived by wife Shizu Hamahashi

Michi Weglyn will be remem-

# **Community Mourns the Passing of Michi Weglyn**

#### (Continued from page 1)

larger academic and intellectual circles, she could have engaged in breast-beating. And I would have loathed her. But she never sought center stage, courteously but firmly declining many invita-tions to address select groups. Her real pleasure was in working be-

real pleasure was in working be-hind the scenes, so to speak, en-gaging in research. She was generous in sharing in-formation. Some writers and acad-emics prefer to hoard their material, but she was never that way. One of her silent legacies will be the generous support and encour-agement she gave to younger writ-ers and historians. Her valuable time was spent in making suggestions and corrections, writing ters of recommendations and exing proposals. She paid a y price for this generosity, amining proposals. She paid a heavy price for this generoisity, jeopardizing her delicate health and sacrificing her own work, pos-sibly two more great books. Why did she permit this invasion? Her sense of history was strong, and she thought it vital our written record continue. After all orations are said and long formation, the are said and long forgotten, the written word remains, confirming we were.

Some have wondered why a voman who could have enjoyed woman who could have enjoyed a life of leisure and huxury would torment herself by becoming in-volved in seeking redress for vic-tims of incarceration. Her seminal work, "Years of Infamy," was a vi-tal contribution in our collective case against our government. She proceeded to participate in seek-ing redress for families of railroad ing redress for families of railroad workers and Latin American hostages. To our disgrace, I think her work went largely unacknowi-edged by ordinary people. It would have been nice if a few more indi-viduals could have written a short note of thanks. The small gestures, not the plaques and awards, meant much to her. Her sense of value never wavered. We cannot say the same of ourselves.

The work closest to her heart went unfinished. She envisioned a went unimisted. She envisioned a reconciliation between the re-sisters of conscious during World War II and the national JACL. Again, it was her sense of history Again, it was her sense that cried for correction.

that cried for correction. Her case against the govern-ment was based on moral integri-ty. It was the same in her embirace of the resisters issue. Even as she was dying, her body decaying, her a solution so the issue could be re-solved in this millennium.

Solven in this millennium. Michi thought we wasted too much time, even on matters as re-cent as railroad redress, by being anecdotal. Her intellect instructed a separation of emotions from fact. n everyone else thought re-

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dress was impossible, she believed it obtainable. She was right. Michi truly believed that one day the resisters would be an honored part of our history. I think a most appropriate trib-

ute to the memory of a woman who gave so much to the entire Acommunity, asking nothing of erself, would be the resolution of JAm this issue. This was her unfin-ished work. Now, who will do it?/ We need a knight in shining armor beforé darkness takes us all.

There has been speculation about the length and nature of Mich's illness. It began in the summer of 1998 when she complained of a swelling in her stom-ach. After her father's death from stomach cancer many years ago, she obtained his medical records, intuitively thinking the same dis-

friendship. We agreed to limit our friendship. We agreed to limit our contact, saying everything that needed to be said had already been said. Previously, we talked once a week, sometimes twice or three times. Using the phone was so convenient, we had rarely writ-ten letters to each other for about 20 years. Besides, I wrote lousy letters. For the past four months, I wrote Michi at least once a week. I would not attemnt it for anyone would not attempt it for anyone

When she originally resisted traditional medical intervention, I respected her wishes. We used to josh about how we were going to die. She even prepared an elabo-rate scenario of being clothed in her favorite teal robe, reclining on the sofa, closing her eyes and en-tering eternal sleep to the accom-paniment of classical music. Then in a phone conversation; she said,

## Michi was our bright, shining star. Now that she has fallen, will there ever be another?

se would eventually claim Michi and her late husband, Walter, were advocates of alternative medicine. When the doctors at Sloan Kettering suggested she have exploratory surgery, she declined. One of her fears was the exclined. One of her fears was the ex-cossive use of an esthetic. She was convinced a previous anesthetic overdose had impaired her memo-ry permanently. Rejecting traditional medicine, Michi opted for psychic surgery in the Philippines. Although I had

grave reservations about the pro-cedure, I made no attempt to deter her. She was the most obstinate person I ever knew. Her tenacity served her well in intellectual pur suits, but often worked against her in practical matters. On her ing she had obtained the perfect medical solution, what I called, "a quick fix." return, she was euphoric, believ-

Grateful for this reprieve, she plunged into several projects de manding attention. Her work was never done. "I have so much to do," never done. "I have so much to do," she said. However, her euphoria was short-lived. In early Decem-ber, she complained about uncon-trollable diarrhea. Nutrition es-caped from her body as though through a sieve. Exhausted and uncomfortable because of her swelling stomach, she was house-bound. By Christmas, her deterio-ration accelerated. "I'm dying," she said. "I know," I responded. Maybe others would have found

Maybe others would have found comforting words of hope, even if false or imagined. But that was never the nature of our unique

"Death isn't bad. It's getting there that's hell."

I knew it was time to call Art be-cause her discomfort was becomcause her discomfort was becom-ing overwhelming. Art Sasahara is a special friend, also from Gila. He is a distinguished professor of medicine emeritus of Harvard Medical School and a world ac-claimed cardiologist and re-searcher. I explained Michi's situa-tice and Art ouidelu officed to coll tion, and Art quickly offered to call her. Through his professional per-suasion and personal charm, he was able to eventually convince Michi that she could not delay traditional medical assistance if she wanted relief. Art wanted her to be comfortable as she died.

In the few remaining months, Art was an invaluable source of support and information. He was the intermediary between Michi and her doctors. His impressive credentials facilitated access to credentials facilitated access to health professionals who unani-mously respected and admired him. Michi looked forward to Art's weekly phone calls. Memories of a youthful infatuation, I am sure, contributed to the genuine and childh into the genuine and contributed to the genuine and girlish joy she expressed on hear-ing his voice. And he conscien-tiously kept her advised of his traveling schedule because he is in great demand as a lecturer here and abroad. In a surprising ges-ture, Michi invited Art to visit her. She ordinarily discouraged visi-tors although she courteously re-cived some who anceared uninceived some who appeared unin-vited. On March 28, it gave me in-ordinate pleasure to know my two most brilliant friends enjoyed one last brief encounter.

Michi, with her usual solicitation for me, sent photographs of that reunion. It was typical of her to make this gesture of inclusion. For a woman so proud of her beauty, it was a generous concession; allowing me to see the encroach-ment of death on her face. For more than two months,

for more than two modules, Michi required private nurses around the clock. She wanted to die at home. Her financial re-sources permitted the fulfillment of that wish. But there are some beyond monetary pur-They are priceless. Michi's things beyond monetary pur-chase. They are priceless. Michi's daily support was a gift from her friend, Kimie Ito. At the forfeiture of her private life, Kimie was a things constant companion, who ran the necessary errands, prepared foods Michi craved and was also the telephone contact for many of us. I was embarrassed to make thrice weekly calls so late at night, but Kimie always brushed aside apologies, sensitive to my con-cerns. Michi repeatedly said, "Kimie is a saint. She brightens

"Kimie is a saint. She brightens my room with her radiant smile." I know observing Michi die was most difficult for Kimie, given her sweet and sensitive spinit. For me, even acknowledging from a dis-tance that my friend was slipping away was fraught with anniety add actions for the statement of the statement o and pain. So I can imagine, but can never appreciate precisely, the pervasive sadness and feeling of futility that Kimie experienced watching Michi die, day after day. Cancer is a cruel and invasive dis-ease. For Michi, it was also loath-some and humiliating. But she endured it with courage and dignity. She died at home as she wished. Kimie said, "She looked like a

sleeping beauty." The last time I talked with Michi was April 15, less than two Michi was April 15, less than two weeks before her death. She called me twice that day. She spoke slow-ly but her voice was strong and she tried to intimidate me, just like old times. Except the old times, the good times were going, origing errore going, gone,

I prefer to defer revealing the nature of our last, long conversa-tion. However, I mention it be-cause I realize Michi would want cause I realize Michi would want her friends and acquaintances to know she was perfectly lucid to the end. She never lost her intelli-gence or her quirky sense of huor

In the last few weeks, it was difficult for Michi to read, so either a nurse or Kimie read all the won-derful letters and cards to her. They brought a smile to her face and lifted her spirit. She appreci-ated the flowers and fruits and gifts of food. And also the telesages conveyed through Kimie.

As one of her oldest friends, I consider it a privilege to write on her behalf and thank all of you for your kindness and good wishes that she received with much ap-preciation. I know, too, that she wanted me to pay public tribute to Ms. Kimie Ito of New York City and Dr. Arthur A. Sasahara of Newton, Mass. Wrapping her rich-ly in robes of friendship, they walked beside her to the end of her mortal journey and then let go. Michi was our bright, shining star. Now that she has fallen, will there ever be another? As one of her oldest friends I

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Michi's Timeline

1926-1999

PACIFIC CITIZEN, MAY 7-20, 1999

•1926 Born, in Stockton, Diff, to Tempines and Hasse investes Nushings. The family after moved to Braniswood, near solinas, where the Nishings mily famed tomates, con-aloupes, coumbers and appr-orthogen.

tabupes cleambers and appr-orate - 1949. The Nishuars family was executed to Gill Stree Re-location Center in Arts. In comp. Weylyn, became president of Garis Lesgues and Gari South Weylyn isin samp with a ful ichiarnhyn to Mouth Holpole College in Mastechuseth. Fur her churzinen at Mouth Rivoke and later et Bernard College and Fashion Academy was informat in hits 1940s, the moved to New York Gily. In his 1940s, the movies to sur-Vert City \*1960 Married Walker Way for a chemic and reliance for the Netherlands who had been one of the less Jewah o hidren from his bonetown to survive the Not Holocoust \*1950 Found a job re a co-tune despite for the Kory Theater \*1956 1965 Worked to NBC. Therry Come Show as costume being the survive survive to a survive survive survive to a survive su

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In case by the himage Herri tied with facts used for its movement. That sam the book received the Anis Wolf Award in Race Rels Cycl. Liberties Act was to low bot despite this colored to fight for re-bendl of the senses erions and the rail miss workers Associed on boosts.

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• 1996 University of Washin o Press re-issued "Years of I

25- Michi Nishi

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