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Resolution ACR 32 Gives Impetus to Soko Bukai Lawsuit

BY CAROLINE AOYAGI
Executive Editor

The message from the Japanese American community to the San Francisco YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) has been loud and clear for close 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 Assembly and the Senate, the California legislature on April 29 passed ACR 32, a resolution spearheaded by Assemblymember 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 ACR 32 calls on the state of California to repeal any vestiges of the racist Alien Land Law, enacted in 1913 and repealed in 1956, and to enforce any trusts brokered under that law.

The resolution, also cosponsored by Assemblymembers Carole 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 charitable trusts created in response to that law."

For over a year now the Soko Bukai, a group of Japanese See SOKO BUKAI/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 young to die.

My friend and I, ignoring the incursions of sickness and age, were perpetually 17, someplace in our hearts. Good friends are few and hard to come by. When one dies, there is never a replacement, only an empty space. It is by remembering them that we give them eternal life.

Michi Nishiura Weglyn's great 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 eulogy. There are others more deserving and better qualified for that task. They are the activists, 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 between us, two distinctly different women with conflicting likes and dislikes. But on the values that mattered most, we were in per-

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 character is carved. You are either a giver or taker for life. Perhaps that is why high school sweethearts and high school friends remain so cherished.

Michi was a giver from the first candy bar we shared at Gila. She and Walter were philanthropists. There were also many private contributions that never appeared on donor lists. But I think the essence of Michi's charitable heart is knowing

that when she could least afford it, she emptied her purse to help people she barely knew. Her simple explanation: "They were worse off."

Her modesty, and it was not contrived, was her most endearing characteristic. Given her place as an icon in the Japanese American community and as a respected historian/writer in the See WEGLYN/page 12



Walter Weglyn and Michi Nishiura Weglyn in a 1992 photo.

fect accord. Further, we were friends in the truest sense of mutual affection and esteem. So it is as one of her oldest friends that I am writing this piece.

Yesterday morning, after completing the first draft, I thought I must run this through Michi, automatically reaching for the phone. And then caught myself, remembering she is dead. It is an old habit we had, of processing

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

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

Four-star general Eric K. Shinseki was recently nominated by President Clinton to be the United States Army chief of staff, the highest position a Japanese American has held in the Army's history.

A decorated 33-year Army veteran and current vice chief of staff since November, Shinseki was considered a front-runner for the top position by military insiders who said that he is well-respected and highly qualified. It now falls to the Senate to ratify the decision.

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

Bob Sakaniwa, JACL's Washington, D.C., representative, expressed his earnest support of this appointment. "It's 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 the position he's reached."

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



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New Millennium Focus of PSW/NCWNP/CCDC Tri-District

BY MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

In keeping with the theme, "Moving into the New Millennium," an inter-generational panel of JACL members discussed the diversity within the JACL family, and later, through audience participation, drew up a number of recommendations that attendees felt would keep JACL vital and relevant to the Nikkei community well into the 21st century.

The discussion was part of the tri-district conference, which was held from April 23-25 at the Ramada Valley Ho Resort in Scottsdale, Ariz. More than 100 people attended the event, and participating districts included the

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

Panelists included (in alphabetical order): Joan Aoki, Yonsei volunteer dietician at Sakura Kai, West Contra Costa County Japanese Senior Citizens Center and Contra Costa JACL chapter president; Grant Bungo, a Yonsei business major at CSU Fresno and CCDC youth representative; Bobbi Hanada, Saneisi elementary school principal and Fresno 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 Jodoiko talko group; Ken Kamei, a Saneisi who works at Asian Americans for Community Involvement in Santa Clara County; and Izumi Taniguchi, former Gila River and Crystal City internee, MIS veteran, retired professor of economics and Fresno JACL chapter member.

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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 year 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 additional \$40,000 will need to be raised to carry the weekly through the year 2000.

Through the generous donations 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 receiving campaign letters at the end of May. For information, contact national JACL at 415/921-5525 or P.C. at 800/966-6157.

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

BY TRACY UBA
Writer/Reporter

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

But this 20-year-old Hapa of Korean and Caucasian descent isn't concerned with his age. He's got something bigger in mind, the debut of MAVIN, a new youth-oriented magazine dedicated to the experiences of multiracial people.

With its glossy, technicolor layouts and fashion-forward imagery, the Seattle-based MAVIN is, as founding editor and publisher Kelley says, "very much part of the Internet 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 face — it represents the voices of a diverse community that aren't always 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 Organization of MultiEthnic Students, a preview of the third Pan-Collegiate Conference on the Mixed Race Experience as well as the requisite reviews of art, music and literature.

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

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

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

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Tri-District Plenary Focuses on JACL Future, Member Participation

(Continued from page 1)

The session was organized by Douglas Urata, a Sasei trainer with LEAP and Riverside JACL member. The reason Urata decided to devote the second half of the session to small group discussions was because "the problems I see with a lot of conferences 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 commitments."

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 intermarriage and post-World War II immigration.

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 Japanese surnames and encouraged the organization to take advantage of its non-Nikkei networking opportunities. He stressed the importance of networking, using the example of the redress movement and saying redress could never have been won without support from the non-Nikkei community. On another note, Taniguchi was aware of the criticism lobbed against JACL and said "if someone doesn't like the organization, they should come in and help make changes, and we, in turn, should be open to change."

Another "Ties That Bind" attendee Ken Kamei said JACL's role in the changing community had been brought up last year, and in sharing about that discussion, Kamei recommended that JACL build stronger coalitions and assist in fighting for the civil rights of other Asian

Americans such as the Filipino American veterans who are currently struggling to win benefit rights from the United States government. Alluding to JACL's involvement in winning redress, 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 family. She admitted knowing almost nothing about JACL's activities 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 internship 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."

Erin Inouye, who grew up watching her father Ken Inouye work hard to keep the Selanoco chapter active, felt that JACL does make an attempt to reach out to the youth. But she suggested JACL find a stronger impetus to "inspire" the youth because 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 existence 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 chapter which has a number of 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."

Harry Honda gave a historical perspective of the community, saying "history helps define communities." He noted the shared Nikkei history of incarceration during WWII and the redress movement. But like others, Honda pointed to the evolution of the community, most visible in the changing "face" of Japantowns 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."

The following are recommendations formulated during the small group discussion session.

- Hold regular activities: Suggestions included cooking classes which 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 have a good youth advisor.

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



Myako Kadogawa jots down recommendations on how to improve JACL from conference attendees during the small discussion session.

directors, develop youth programs on a district level.

- Promote community projects: 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, concerts, 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 member.

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

- Education: Have classes teaching the JACL history so people could appreciate the organization'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.

- Have a visible JACL 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 centers: Important to have a structure where people can socialize such as playing bingo, ballroom dancing lessons or basketball 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 how they are in the process of getting a community center built through the help of local residents who went to city hall to testify in support of the project. This involved everyone from students to older residents.

- Scholarships: Support students and encourage them to become JACL members.

- Create peer/mentor advisor programs.

- Career fairs: Through this, local chapters can outreach to local high schools and colleges.

- Sponsor sports events.

- Fundraising events: Suggestions included car washes to even selling JACL beanie babies.

- Hold leadership training classes.

- Voter registration drives or precinct help: Good way to introduce people to the electoral system and connect with local city 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 River Indian Community, wholeheartedly 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 World War II. Her first contact 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 people had lived there and why they had come," said Thomas, who added that the United States government had never asked the tribal council for permission to build a concentration

camp on the reservation.

Thomas learned more about the Gila River Relocation Center through her elders who had been recruited to work 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 be long gone, Thomas said there are still living reminders from those days. "The Japanese Americans brought plant cuttings from California and made



Pictured from left to right: Joe Allman, Arizona JACL chapter president; Helen Kawagoe, national JACL president; Mary V. Thomas, Gila River Indian Community governor; and Herbert Yamaniishi, national JACL executive director.

them grow in the desert," said Thomas. "Once the cuttings got big enough or matured, they gave some to the tribal members so this plant is now seen in different 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 beautiful."

Thomas said she treasured such contributions and made a promise "to make sure the future generations keep remembering what happened at Gila River because you have a home there." ■



Arizona JACL Chapter President Joe Allman discusses Gila River Butte Camp with members. (Pictured from left to right): Karen-Liene Shiba, Kathy Ishimoto, Gary Mayeda, Linda Harz, Micki Honda and Lucy Kishiue.

Interested in visiting Gila River?

If you are interested in seeing the Gila River Relocation Center, please contact the Gila River Indian Community, 1000 N. 10th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85006. Phone: (602) 944-1111. Fax: (602) 944-1112. Website: www.gila-tribe.com

It is charged to people who have no connection to the camp. Please contact the Gila River Indian Community, 1000 N. 10th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85006. Phone: (602) 944-1111. Fax: (602) 944-1112. Website: www.gila-tribe.com

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 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 educated 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 educator 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 priority.

3) The investigator must determine whether the motivation is connected to bias.

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

Authorities involved in hate 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 violated. Breshin said this is sometimes "the saving grace if local courts cannot provide the kind of sentencing needed."

Both Breshin and Fujii encouraged working with local schools and legislatures as proactive measures in hate crime prevention.

1) Citing the Columbine High School massacre, Breshin pointed out the need to work with educators and law enforcement officials in recognizing warning signs (i.e., in the Columbine case, swastikas and web sites with hateful messages).

Fujii added that while he 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 a never hearing of the "Trenchcoat Mafia" while students admitted to harassing this group all the time.

But audience member Denni Uejima, a school teacher, raised the issue that educators sometimes are punished by their supervisors for reporting a hate crime and bringing negative publicity to the school.

To this, Fujii and Breshin encouraged educators to continue documenting the hate crime, getting community support and "making a lot of noise."

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

2) Another point was getting the legislature involved. Having elected 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 because 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 organized a panel on the World War II resisters with guest speakers Mits Koshiyama, former Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee member; Marvin Uratsu, president of the Military Intelligence Association of Northern California; and Dr. Franklin Ng, professor and coordinator of California State University, Fresno's Asian American Studies program.

Koshiyama, who thanked JACL for the invitation, said he was encouraged by this gesture. "When I resisted the draft in Heart Mountain, JACL leaders called me disloyal," said Koshiyama. "This really hurt me because I was a loyal member of the JACL 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 registered for the draft. But upon arriving at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, he was handed his 4-C enemy alien classification.

In 1944, the United States government, realizing the difficulties in recruiting Nisei soldiers, revoked the 4-C status. But by then, Koshiyama had had enough.

"When the government decided to draft the young men into a segregated army combat unit, I refused to go for my physical examination without first having my constitutional rights returned," said Koshiyama.

The return of constitutional rights was at the crux of the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee's argument. But the Wyoming court refused to allow evidence into the trial that evacuation and incarceration was a violation of civil rights. For this, a total of 86 Heart Mountain men (63 initially and 22 others later) would be tried and sentenced to federal prison. Koshiyama was sentenced to three years.

Along with the FPC, the late Rocky Shimp, editor James Omura, who supported the restoration of constitutional rights, was tried and found innocent.

"Were we wrong to ask the government why we were expected to fight for and protect democracy overseas while our family and friends were locked up in concentration camps and denied the very rights we were supposed to defend? All we asked was the return of our constitutional rights before entering the army. I believe we were not asking for too much," said Koshiyama.

Ironically, in a similar case, 28 Tule Lake resisters appeared before Northern California federal

Judge Louis A. Goodman and were found innocent. Years later, Koshiyama said FPC members 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 being 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 those who attempt to confuse the issue by hurling accusations against FPC members without proof. He pointed to one recent incident where a critic accused the resisters of being 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 merit and are used to confuse the real issues. Let us not make accusations without proof."

Koshiyama also thanked those who have recently extended the hand of reconciliation, including JACL's PSW district, the Hawaii 442nd Club and the Northern California 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 enemy of racism."

Uratsu, for his part, commended the principled stance taken by these men, men he referred to as "resisters of conscience" rather than draft resisters.

"They paid, in my opinion, a very high price for their courageous stance. ... Personally, I have nothing but admiration for the position taken by the 63 Heart Mountain men. But by this statement, I do not intend, in any way, to minimize the contributions made by the 100th, 442nd and MIS," said Uratsu.

Uratsu likened the different positions taken around the draft issue to that of Hokusai's 36 views of Mt. Fuji, a collection of paintings of the same mountain.

"Hokusai painted 36 works of Mt. Fuji but there was only one Mt. Fuji," said Uratsu. "Likewise, whatever action we took in response to the draft, our ultimate goal was one and the same—that was to fight for freedom and justice and racism."

Uratsu also emphasized the need for reconciliation. He brought up the example of the late Richard Sakakida, 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 tormenters during the U.S. occupation 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 forgive. Sakakida found it within him to forgive.

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

"I 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 during World War II could come together and mutually forgive one another in the spirit of reconciliation 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 commendation for the 63 resisters of conscience," 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 passed a commendation. The JACL needs to do the same."

Mike Kaku pointed out that the Sequoia JACL chapter recognized the need for an apology and had included those words in their resolution of reconciliation in honor of the resisters.

The Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District, to which the Sequoia chapters belong, is currently considering a similar resolution, but there is still debate about whether to include an apology in the document. Elissa Kamimoto, who organized the panel, felt strongly that an apology needed to be included.

"To come to forgiveness, we need to come to an apology," said Kamimoto.

Gary Mayeda, national JACL board member, said he was "definitely in support of anything that the national board can do to help heal the wounds."

Isumi Taniguchi, a JACLer from Central California, felt "we should not give the Sansei and Yonsei the baggage of the Nisei" and urged JACL to take swift action.

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

Affirmative Action

Christine Iijima-Hall, senior associate dean of instruction at Glendale Community College in Arizona, led this workshop.

Iijima-Hall briefly talked about the history of racism in America that led to the creation of affirmative action programs. Although opponents criticize it as a quota system, Iijima-Hall said America's history of discrimination explains the need for affirmative action and added that this was one way the federal government could take a proactive stance against racism.

According to her, it was Executive Order 11246, in 1965, that created affirmative action. This law 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 action entailed businesses hiring unqualified people of color and blaming them for failing to measure up, said Iijima-Hall. In recent years, the model minority myth has also led educators to advocate the elimination of the program for Asian American students. As a result, resistance and negative views have led people to believe that affirmative action lowers standards and allows unqualified minorities to hold top positions, said Iijima-Hall.

But Iijima-Hall said the reality, according to research, is that affirmative 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 tenure positions, a mere one percent hold university administrative posts, few are faculty in the non-science fields and even fewer APA women are in teaching positions. For this very reason, Iijima-Hall felt there was a continued need to support affirmative action programs.

Education Workshop

Isumi Taniguchi, professor emeritus of economics at California State University, Fresno, presented a workshop on how to initiate an oral history project.

Taniguchi started the San Joaquin Valley Japanese American History Project after realizing the 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 advantage of JACL's extensive network and approached OCIC for potential support. Support from local chapters has been strong that the Livingston-Merced chapter has offered to conduct their own oral histories, said Taniguchi.

To date, Taniguchi, who started the project in November, has seen completed interviews. He plans to donate the finished project to Dr. Franklin Ng, head of CSU Fresno's Asian American Studies Program.

"I hope by having the tapes available, authors and researchers will write about Japanese American history," said Taniguchi. "The public school system is almost void 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, shared about the teacher training workshops sponsored through the 100th/442nd/MIS Veterans Memorial Foundation. He said although funds are available, the organizing aspect of the workshops rests with the local JACL chapters. Carol Kawamoto, chair of the national education committee, emphasized the importance that local chapters played in gathering panelists for the teacher training workshops.

Anyone interested in starting an oral history project or wanting to assist Taniguchi should call him at 209/439-8769 or e-mail at izzy-bart@ocic.com.



Word from Herb

By Herbert Yamanishi
National Director

"Rabbit in the Moon" and JACL

A recently released documentary movie called "Rabbit in the Moon" (reviewed in the *Pacific Citizen*, March 5-18) resurrects provocative issues about the role the JACL played during the wartime years and its commitment to protecting the constitutional and civil rights of Japanese Americans. The movie received the Sundance Film Festival award for cinematography and will be released for national viewing by the Public Broadcasting 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 loyalty questionnaire, and who renounced their citizenship while incarcerated 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 suppress those who spoke out against the incarceration or resisted being drafted. Emiko Omori, producer/cinematographer of the movie, however, has explained in subsequent 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 another side of the JA incarceration experience, it will probably make most JACLers uneasy if not defensive. Testimonials follow one after another about how JACL failed to support those who challenged government actions and 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 repression and that the JACL was instrumental in that repression.

Whether or not JACL as an orga-

nization (or just a few of its leaders) was directly involved in supporting the incarceration may seem irrelevant 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 organization (not just certain leaders) was somehow complicit in the consequences 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 today should take responsibility for the JACL of the past and issue an acknowledgment of contrition or apology to those who dissented. The matter was taken up at the 1990 biennial convention but was never resolved to the satisfaction of the dissenters or to many within the JACL. Another effort to resolve the matter will be brought to the national board of directors at their next meeting in May in the form of a resolution from the Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific 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 hate 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 be released in the not too distant future.

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

who feel aggrieved. Was the problem simply a lack of moral support for what people believed was true, or is there a belief or proof of something far greater? If a level of responsibility is acknowledged, then is JACL responsible or liable for actual damages and therefore compensation to the degree pain and suffering may have occurred?

As a membership organization JACL is faced with the potential loss of members and general disaffection 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 apology enough? Shouldn't there be educational efforts to inform members 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 research and put together an education program?

Like any family, the first step towards resolving such issues should be to bring all parties together and talk it out. The JACL should take the lead in initiating a series of dialogues with the objective of first trying to understand; understand the level of fear, the courage, the pain and quiet suffering that was experienced 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 mesmerizing children's story. For the JACL it is one more challenge. ■

Masaoka Fellowship Fund Makes Last Call

The Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund is making its last call for applicants for its eighth Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Fellow Program for the 1999-2000 term. "The successful candidate will serve his or her fellowship in the office of a U.S. senator or member of the U.S. House of Representatives," said Dr. H. Tom Tamaki, chairman of the fund. "This marks the eighth call for candidates in this successful 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 February through May of 2000. The choice of fall or spring term will be arranged with the congressional office and the awardee. The deadline for applications has been extended to June 1, 1999.

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

The most recent fellow, Christina Aya Nagao of Santa Monica, Calif., is currently serving in the office of Rep. Patay T. Mink of Hawaii.

The Mike-M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund honors the late Mike M. Masaoka for a lifetime of outstanding public service promoting justice, civil rights and human dignity. The major goal of the fund, which will continue in perpetuity, is to encourage public service, granting awards to educate or train recipients for leadership in public service.

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

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 internment within a broader Japanese American experience.

The JACL National Education Committee recently reported that teacher training workshops are being planned for the Central California 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 educational activities included guest lectures by WWII JA vets and other Nisei at various high schools, colleges and service clubs. Among the first to speak about their experiences were Izumi Taniguchi, Mike Iwatsubo, Frank Nishio, Mae Morita, James Kubota, Fred Hirasawa, Tom Shimasaki and Kikuo Taira.

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

vivors Memorial Highway. In addition, several Assemblymembers pushed to name other sections of Highway 99 after the 100th Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the MIS.

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 action, which were then displayed at Woodward High School and at several community events.

More recently, in 1997, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Nisei Post 8985 of Sacramento, received a grant from the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund to produce a lot of posters and a slide presentation titled, "Educating Future Generations About the Internment of Americans of Japanese Ancestry."

A team of speakers, including "Shim" Y.R. Hiroaka, Dick Kishue, Lily Katayama, Ben Nagatani and Izumi Taniguchi, has been assembled to prepare for future requests from schools to make guest presentations. ■

Torrance Chapter Offers Annual Scholarship

The Torrance JACL, realizing the importance of a higher education, 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 JACL member. In addition, the applicant must be a graduating high school senior with the intention of entering college during the 1999-2000 academic year.

Applications must be mailed to the Torrance JACL and be postmarked by June 1, 1999. To request an application or if you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Nakano at 310/326-3125, or e-mail at torrance@acl.org. ■

1999 JACL National Youth/Student Conference Coming in June

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."

Subjects to be covered in conference workshops will include Affirmative 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 in their community, as well as apply those skills to our everyday lives," say the members of the National Youth/Student Council, the organizers

of the conference.

A feature at every National Youth/Student Conference is honoring individuals for the Vision Award, which honors Asian Americans who have made an impact in their field and served as a positive role model for youth and students. Past recipients include actress Tamlyn Tomita, Judge Lance Ito, Hapa Issues Forum, Congressman Norman Mineta and music artists Hiroshima.

Cost of the conference, including two nights' stay, meals and conference 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 registration forms, contact Hiroshi Ueha, 714/824-7414, e-mail huehs@uci.edu, or Patricia Tsai Tom, 877/814-1397, e-mail jaclcro@aol.com. ■

1999 JACL National Youth/Student Conference Schedule

Friday, June 25	5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Registration
	8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Activities / Dessert
Saturday, June 26	8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Registration / Breakfast
	9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Opening Keynote
	10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Workshop Session I
	12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
	1:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Workshop Session II
	3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Workshop Session III
	6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.	Vision Award Dinner
	8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.	Hip Hop Night / Spoken Word Contest with prizes
Sunday, June 27	8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast / Registration
	9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Closing Keynote by Assemblyman Mike Honda
	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Performances



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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.

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



ARIZONA JACL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES—(From left) Nancy Moriuchi, Austin Nakamura, Darcy Mizokami, Kimberlie Fukumoto and Brian Teraji; (not present, Karen Yamamoto).

Canyon High School, winner of the Dr. Herb Jensen Award; Kimberlie Fukumoto, Sinagua High School; Darcy Mizokami, Mountain Ridge High School; Austin Nakamura, Apollo High School; Brian Teraji, Greenway High School; and Karil Yamamoto, Page High School, who was un-

able to attend.

The scholarship committee is comprised of Marilyn Inoshita Tang, chairperson; Kathy Inoshita, secretary; and members Peggy Matsushita, Nancie Haranaka Tsubota, Seiko Kimura and Michele Namba. ■

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-Ariz.).

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 has 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 1998. 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 biennial 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." ■



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 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 part of history really happened."

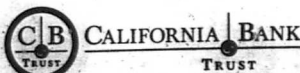
As a member of the Senate, Boxer has the opportunity to request that the Appropriations Committee support funding for a limited number of projects in California. She requested that funding for the Manzanar National Historic Site be included in the FY2000 Interior appropriations

bill. The U.S. Department of the Interior administers the National Parks Service, which oversees the Manzanar National Historic Site. ■



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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 educa-

tional events, to recruit college student, young adult, and Hapa members.

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

A stipend is available. The deadline to apply is June 1, 1999.

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 cover 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 213/626-4471 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 their families. Japanese and Japanese American railroad and mining workers were discharged from their jobs in 1942 shortly after the signing of Executive Order 10666 by President Roosevelt.

Those workers and their families are anxious to tell their stories, and Russell, now on a doctoral dissertation and a possible book project, is on a five-state journey to gather accounts of 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 Nevada, recovered 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. ■

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Troubled in Paradise



Like most of Japanese Americans, I was saddened to hear of the passing of author and activist Michi Weglyn. Best known as the author of the influential book "Years of Infamy," Weglyn was also a tireless advocate for redress for all 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 husband 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 anything about her considerable influence on me.

Somewhere along the way, I mentioned 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. Dutifully sending a thank you note, she sent a lengthy reply, thanking us for the note and expressing surprise 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. Unfilingly 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 almost out of proportion with achievements, considerable though they may be.

Like Rosa Parks, whom her friend Philip Tajitsu Nash has compared her to, Weglyn has come to symbolize a movement she played a role in starting. Also like Parks, I suspect she partly came to symbolize the movement because she was a woman of seemingly ordinary background, with whom many could identify with. Not a professional scholar, indeed, not even a college 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" life, she has managed to traverse the often ideological 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 critic 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 segments of the community.

Her legacy will always be the book. Though formidable as scholarship, the real value of "Years of

Infamy" lies not in its recounting of the internment, but in the fact that it was written by an angry Nisei. It must have been a liberating experience 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 attachment many Nisei feel towards the book and the author.

As a Saneisi, my reaction to the book was different. One well-known Saneisi scholar panned the book in an academic journal review shortly after its publication. (He later apologized to Weglyn for the review.) While I didn't dislike the book, it didn't have the same impact, since I read it years after its publication, after the CWRIC hearings had exposed the range of Nikkei reaction to the internment. And knowing angry Saneisi 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 revolutionary work, whose impact was a catalyst for the redress movement. As such, she is and will always be a fitting symbol for that movement. ■

Brian Niya is a member of the Honolulu JACL chapter.

Very Truly Yours



By Harry K. Honda

Now, Our Missions for May

Founders of national JACL posed for a Moriayama Studio cameraman outside a building (now the home of "Hokubei Mainichi" on Post St., San Francisco) during its meeting April 5 and 6, 1929, for a picture, which appears in Bill Hosokawa's "JACL in Quest of 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 delegates, 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 of 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 council sessions were held... Now, we are trying to identify them all. So far we have identified 61 (43 percent) 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 — known as "National JACL Sponsors" — who raised their voices against the mass denial by the U.S. government of civil rights to Japanese-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 become JACL sponsors.

Four of them (Nobel Prize author Pearl Buck, Maryknoll's Superior General Bishop James E. Walsh, AGLU founder Roger Baldwin, and John Thomas of the American Baptist Home Missions) 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 and have reached the 58 percent level — another 32 to go! Thanks to Paul Shinkawa in Austin, Texas, we've extracted information he found on the Internet at www.tsha.utexas.edu on Dr. Homer P. Raimey, who was merely identified as "president, University of Texas at Austin," when P.C. broke the story on JACL sponsors Feb. 12, 1944.

Speaking of Texas, Seito Saibara, the Issei Rice King at Webster, Texas, spent nearly 15 years establishing Japanese rice farms in Brazil's Amazon River basin. (His Japanese boyfellow son Kiyooki has since taken over care of the Webster farm.)

He and his wife settled in Pindamonhagaba (about 85 miles northeast of São Paulo). Incidentally, Japanese-grown rice is credited for making rice a Brazilian 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.

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 Antonio, 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" internment camp with over 500 more buildings, a hospital, schools, warehouses, etc.

The camp population peaked at 3,325 in May 1945, with German, Japanese, Spanish, Italian and English languages being spoken. A 1990 clipping relates how rankled German families at Seagoville and Crystal City were to read JA internees qualified for \$20,000 redress.

And, according to Edison Uno (P.C. 31/067), Crystal City was the last internment camp to shut down, in "late" 1947 though the camp monument dedicated in 1985 shows "1943-1946"... Now, to find exactly what "late" means here for our Japanese community history series in process. I found it: Nov. 1, 1947 — thanks to Shinkawa's search of "Handbook 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 relatives 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 Washington state)
- Hiromi Oyama (from Los Angeles, died in Tokyo)
- Kaye Sakamoto (wife in Tokyo)
- Ruyichi Shinoda (from Fresno, died in Sacramento)
- Tom Tanimoto (Kumamoto)
- Paul Tekawa.

Now, check this out! A strenuous Irish American objection to the Latino use of "Anglo" was made by a college Spanish instructor 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 Cortez is to Motezuma." 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 any foreign-born or blond.

Nicknames or no — we anticipate PANAs' next convention July 26-31 in Santiago, Chile, where the term, "Nikkei," enjoys general use. ■

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

Warrior Woman

By Brian Niya

A Bridge Across the Pacific

By Emily Murase

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



Since 1996, a heated controversy has been brewing in San Francisco's Japantown and 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, adhered to a policy of racial segregation, and barred Chinese, Japanese, and African American girls from its residential buildings.

In response, JA Christian churches, known collectively as the *Soko Bukai*, organized a Japanese YWCA with its own board of directors, composed of Issei women, in 1912. The Japanese YWCA established a "Character-Building Department" and published a magazine, "Joshi Seinen" (Young Women). Despite this, the issue of having a residential building to serve Japanese women remained.

The primary obstacle for procuring a building was the California Alien Land Law that prohibited non-citizens from purchasing land. To overcome this, the SF YWCA agreed to purchase a building "in trust for the exclusive use of the Japanese YWCA" with monies that the Issei women of the Japanese YWCA raised for this purpose (and in the midst of the Great Depression, no less). This is documented in minutes of the SF YWCA Board of Directors meeting, dated Feb. 4, 1921.

Although the SF YWCA held title to the site at 1830 Sutter Street in the heart of Japantown, subsequent board minutes state that decisions regarding the use or sale of the building were to be made in consultation 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 million, and moved to evict two regular tenants, on April 26, California State Assemblyman Mike Honda spear-

headed the unanimous passage (73-0) of Assembly Concurrent Resolution 32 in which the legislature declared 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 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 (28-0).

This could not have been possible without the dedication of the volunteer legal team that includes, among others, Karen Kai, Bob Rusky, and attorneys from the firm of Minami Law and Tamaki, including 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, 426-33rd Ave., San Francisco, CA 94121, or circulate a petition among friends and family members. Call the Pine United Methodist Church at 415/387-1800 for a petition form.

In the final paragraph of the Assembly resolution, the legislature paid tribute to "the contributions, tenacity, and vision of the Issei women pioneers of California." The importance of this statement cannot be overemphasized. This issue is not merely about a parcel of land, but about protecting and honoring the legacy of our Issei mothers and grandmothers who overcame the challenges of the racist Alien Land Law to lay the foundation for servicing the needs of girls and young women in our community for generations to come. ■

During the next few months, Emily 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 emurase@stanford.edu.

A landmark victory occurred this week. On April 26, California State Assemblyman Mike Honda spear-

MAVIN: Celebrating Diversity

(Continued from page 1)

jected circulation was estimated at an impressive 50,000, including international subscriptions. It is available at newsstands and bookstores 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 money the first issue of MAVIN was funded primarily through donations, subscription sales and advertising sales.

"We're an emerging market, so I think advertisers will realize that this is a potentially lucrative thing," he points out, adding that the magazine is actively turning to more mainstream clothing and auto companies for ad support.

Two years ago, the Seattle native went to Connecticut to attend Wesleyan University as an undergraduate. It was there, meeting other students like himself — young, ambitious and mixed — that Kelley 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 age 13 he showed glimpses of what was to come, publishing two catalogs for a small retail-courtesy and landscape company that he ran, called the "Rolling Bay Company." At a prime time for Asian Americans, who are, more than ever, creating a distinctive niche in the print world with publications such as *A Magazine*, *Yolk* and *Giant Robot*, Kelley took a year-long leave from school to launch MAVIN, joining that growing arsenal which is helping to diversify both mainstream 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. "However, from what I've seen on the East Coast, the black/white multicultural community is more common," which is why, he said, the focus 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 concept is crucial: to give voice to people of all multiethnic and multicultural backgrounds. At the same time, trying to reflect such a vast 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 belonging among other people of mixed race descent.

Hopefully, Kelley added, this will strike some resonance with traditionally recognized minority groups, in coming to terms with members of their community that are multiracial.

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 American 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 multiracial society of Cuba, a profile of interracial couples, an interview with Hapa actor and comedienne Amy Hill, comprehensive coverage of the third Pan Collegiate Conference 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 fashion designer who attended Sarah Lawrence College and is currently MAVIN's creative and managing 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
Assistant Editor

On the final day of the tri-district conference, the JACL national board held an open forum and updated members on latest developments. All board members were present except for Nicole Inouye, national youth representative, who had another commitment.

President Helen Kawagoe shared about the positive feedback the organization has received 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, she said. All funds used for the JANM opening came from outside donations.

But for JACL to remain community-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 membership. 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 membership increase hadn't come easily, said Kawagoe. She shared how she and her late husband used to go door to door, sometimes shelling peas or watering plants 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 organize a celebration for JACL's 70th anniversary this year, a call for candidates to run for national office, and Kawagoe's praise of the three districts — PSW, NCWNP and CCDC — in what she referred to as the "heart of the organization."

Executive Director Herbert Yamashita emphasized the importance of each chapter and indicated that this was a "time of change for JACL." Today, JACL runs 35 programs in the three main categories of advocacy, education and cultural development.

Highlights of some of JACL's activities included:

- 1) Pushing for legislation to appropriate funds for redress to Japanese Latin Americans and railroad and mine workers.
- 2) Lobbying to have Senator Orrin 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 civil rights. Yamashita commended Yas Tokita in Utah for his hard work.
- 3) In California, Patty Wada

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 regional 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.

8) Sending correspondence condemning the re-enactment of the bombing of Pearl Harbor during the Kentucky Derby.

"As you can see JACL is a multi-faceted organization," said Yamashita. "There are many components, and there is no longer one big issue."

Vice President of General Operations Floyd Mori, whose biggest responsibility includes personnel matters, noted that the organization currently has "five open positions on staff so the engine is sputtering a little." According to him, the personnel committee is examining restructuring ideas in an effort to meet the new needs of the organization. A report is expected soon.

Another area Mori oversees is the national convention. He said committee members are busy preparing for the year 2000 convention in Monterey, Calif., and that a site for the 2002 convention had 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 espionage allegations at the Los Alamos science lab.

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

Garnering redress money to the remaining Japanese Latin Americans was another issue being worked on by those in Washington, 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, Fujimoto 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 resources," she said, who thanked

every chapter, calling them a vital part of the organization.

Vice President of Planning and Development Gary Mayeda, as chair of the scholarship and Legacy Fund grant programs, urged chapters to take advantage of national JACL's resources.

He also encouraged members to become involved in voter registration 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 American National Museum and the 100th/442nd/MIS veterans association in implementing teacher training workshops.

Karen-Liane Shiba, vice president 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 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 already three commitments.

They are also discussing a collaboration with NAATA (National Asian American Telecommunication Association) to see whether JACL chapters could utilize NAATA'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 good planning meetings. Many voiced simple needs such as instituting a mentor 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 held two 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 national youth director hired.

David Hayashi, secretary/treasurer, 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 investment and audit committees were looking for qualified committee members and asked attendees to call him for suggestions. ■

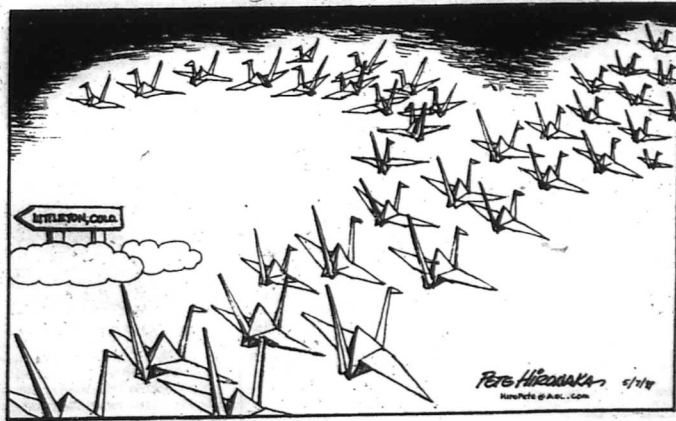
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JOB OPENING

DIRECTOR - PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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

JOB OPENING

DIRECTOR - YOUTH STUDENT AFFAIRS

Under the general direction of the National Director, performs a wide variety of duties to ensure the development and maintenance of the JACL's youth and student programs and goals. Travel and work on weekends and evenings required.

JOB REOPENING

Program Coordinator - Membership

Under the general supervision of the Program Director for Membership/Fund Development, the Membership Coordinator will be responsible for developing and maintaining members and member services on a national scale.

Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

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

Hanada, Masato "Mas," 86, Henderson, Nev., March 12; formerly of Cutler; Tulare County JACLer; survived by son Steve and wife Bobbi.

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

Iwasaki, K. Edward, 51, Saratoga, April 16; survived by brothers Nozomu and Akira Norman; sister June Kinyon; predeceased by parents Shigeki John and Tsuruko.

Iwata, Kikuyo, 92, Dana Point, March 21; Yamaguchi-born, survived by sons Norio and wife Tam, Hideo; Shigeru and wife Fume; Akiyoshi and wife Jane, Yutaka and wife Pat; 6 g, 1gc; sister Toyoko Uchiyama (Japan).

Kajioka, Kazuko, 75, Los Angeles, March 23; survived by sisters Kiyoko, Yasuko, Regis Birnbaum.

Kamikawa, Ane D. Aigi, 81, Vancouver, Wash., April 12; Seattle-born longtime Christian missionary in Japan; survived by wife Kiyoko; daughter Ruth Sam (Logan Utah); sons Stephen (Fremont), Eugene (Reno, Nev.); 5 g; sisters Kyoko Sakahara, Hana Kato (both Seattle), 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; g, and gc.

Kozu, Isami "Sam," Seattle, Feb. 6; Seattle-born WWII MIS veteran, JACL 1000 Club member; survived by wife Ayako; sons Steve and wife Karen, Jim and wife Corby; daughter Kathy Tsutsumoto and husband Guy; 4 gc; brothers Pete and wife Fusa, Shigeru and wife Yuriko.

Kumakura, Harry K., 83, Tacoma, Wash., Feb. 12; WWII 442nd RCT veteran; survived by wife Misaye; brother Haruo Herb (Wisconsin); sister June Momoda and husband Shig (Bellevue, Wash.).

Maeda, Rui, 73, Roseville; survived by wife Shizu Hamahashi;

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, Sanger, March 14; Sanger farmer and JACLer; survived by wife Yukiye; sons Keith, Karl; daughter Mae; 3 g.

Matsushima, George Hiroshi, 75, Plattsville, April 19; Lafayette-born potato farmer, Army veteran and JACLer; survived by wife Lillian Yuriko; sons Ron, Larry (Plattsville); daughters Carol Chernak (Washington), Debbie Hansen (Windsor, g.; brothers John (Fort Collins, La., Indiana), sisters Sachiko Katayama (Lakewood), Marge Miyoshi (Washington).

Miura, Mary Jane Shigeko, 63, Torrance, March 21; Los Angeles-born; survived by husband Ken; daughters Lisa, Karen; brother Dr. Paul Fukuda and wife Francis; sisters Dorothy Hamai and husband James, Irene Lee and husband Curtis, Shirley Puleston and husband Carlos; sister-in-law Yoshiko Suzuki and husband Joseph.

Murata, Takeshi, 69, Las Vegas, March 14; Las Vegas-born WWII veteran; survived by wife Marianne; son James (Concord); brother Shigeru (Las Vegas).

Nishina, Taduo "Tadd," 73, Los Angeles, March 24; Sanger-born; survived by wife Fusa; daughter Gail Sharp and husband Merie; 2gc; brothers Ray Masumi and wife Kimi (Fowler), Frank Nobuo and wife Yayeko; sister Ayano Ideta and husband Takeshi; brothers-in-law Ichiro and wife Marcia, Hideo Kikumoto and wife Jeanette; sisters-in-law Sadane Abe and husband Masaru (Reedley), Michiko Tanaka and husband Hank (Oxnard), Etoko Nakano and husband Nick, Yae Sukio Nakahara (Garden Grove), Shigeko Hirai.

Noda, Chikao, 96, Fresno, March 26; Kumamoto-born former resident of Selma; survived by sons Masaru (Watsonville), Kenji (Fresno); daughters Haruko Yamamoto, Yu Misaki (both Selma), Sally Osaki (San Francisco); 15 g., 19 gc., 1 gggg.

Nogawa, Mary Kikue, 86, Los Angeles, March 18; Stockton-born; survived by son Richard M. and wife Hiroko; 4 g., 6gc; brothers Don, Roland Kamachi and wife Grace.

Ohawa, Kazuo, 68, Laguna Niguel, March 27; Hiroshima-born; survived by wife Mitsuye; son

Michael Akira; daughter Ann Hitomi; brothers Takao and wife Sachiko, Hideo, Mutsuo and wife Midori, Norio and wife Yukie (all of Japan); sister Yuri Hatsudeke and husband Kiyoo (Japan).

Quon, Clifford, March 28, San Francisco; facility manager at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center in San Francisco's Japantown; survived by mother Grace; sons Derek, Garrick, Jesse; daughter Katrina (Washington, D.C.); brother Cary; sisters Paula, Pat, Phyllis.

Sasaki, Mary Shizuko, 89, Marysville, March 25; survived by daughters Hiroko, Kazuko and Eiko, and Chiseko Toriyama; 3 gc.; brothers Joe Minoru and Frank Fumio and wife Hataue Nakamura; predeceased by brother George Hideo Nakamura.

Shingu, George, 92, Los Angeles, Jan. 13; Salinas-born, Mt. Prospect, Ill.; resident; survived by wife Michi; daughters Barbara Shingu, Shirley Benoe; 2 g.; brother Frank.

Tahara, Roy Kenichi, 74, Pomona, March 28; Denver-born; survived by wife Annie; son Ken; daughters Randi and Wai Chae; 1 g.; brother George Masuyoshi; sisters Sachie Suzuki, Teshiko Kitano and husband Roy Tanaka, Tomi Y., 75, Las Vegas, March 24; Fresno-born; survived by husband William, sons Michael (Santa Monica) and James (Oberlin, Ohio); 4 g.; brother Sam Yamashiro and sisters Haru Ogawa and Masa Takii (all of Los Angeles).

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

Yamashita, Sono, 83, Berkeley, March 24; longtime Richmond resident and Contra Costa JACLer; survived by son Clifford; brothers Hideyo and wife Yoshiko, Tosh Adachi and wife Kimi; sisters Elsie Ogata and husband Yoda, and Ruby Hiramoto and husband John; sister-in-law Bessie Yamada; predeceased by husband Teshio.

DEATH NOTICE
KIYO FUKAYAMA
PORTLAND, Ore. - Kiyō Fukayama, 102, passed away April 17. She was born in Toyama, Japan graduated from Toyama Normal College and son immigrated to Seattle, Wash. In 1942, she relocated to Denver, Colo. and lived subsequently in Alexandria, Va. and Kensington, Calif. Survivors are daughters Teru Arima (Portland, Ore.), Aiko Adachi (Sudbury, Mass.), Masa Sato (Kensington, Calif.) Among her 7 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren is June Arima Schumann active in JACL.

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JACL Pays Tribute to Michi Weglyn

She was an author, advocate, historian and costume designer, but to the Japanese American community, Michi Nishiura Weglyn 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 experience of incarceration during World War II.

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 employees of Japanese heritage during WWII.

