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July 23-29, 1999

IDC/MPDC/PNWDC Tri-District Conference

Keeping the Story of Topaz Alive

By CAROLINE AOYAGI
Executive Editor

DELTA, Utah—Alice Hirai Thompson turns 60 this year and for her, she says, these are the happiest times in her life.

She tells her story from a place called Topaz, a rocky desert landscape prone to dust storms and unforgivable extremes in temper-

being unable to comfort her dying grandmother because she and her family were in camp.

Her stories of Topaz come alive as she walks among the remaining remnants of the campsite, including cement blocks marking where the bathroom stalls once stood, the hundreds of broken dishes scattered along the site, and the endless amount of nails



PHOTO: MARTHA NAKAGAWA

Alice Hirai Thompson visits the site of the former WWII Topaz concentration camp during the IDC/MPDC/PNWDC tri-district conference in Ogden, Utah.

ature. It is the place of a former World War II American concentration camp; a place that she and her family once called home for almost two years.

Standing alongside a plot of parched land where her family's barrack, Barrack 12, once stood, Hirai Thompson explains how her life has finally come full circle, largely because of her coming to terms with her internment experience.

"Today, I'm the happiest I've ever been," she said, philosophizing about life. "People are good and I have a lot of love. You can't live with anger."

Hirai Thompson was just three and a half years old when she, her parents, and younger brother were incarcerated at the Topaz concentration camp along with thousands of other Japanese Americans.

Her memories of camp are the faded, puzzle-like qualities of a child, which include watching "Snow White" for the first time and having her tonsils removed. She also remembers her brother suffering from malnutrition because of an allergy to milk and of

that cover the desert grounds.

Today, Hirai Thompson, a nurse and mother of three adult children, often makes the three and a half hour drive from her home in Ogden, Utah, to the site of the former Topaz camp. Her most recent trip was part of the PNW/IDC/MPDC Tri-District conference held on July 16-18 in Ogden.

She finds the visits "cathartic," she said, in addition to the many hours she spends telling her internment story. "It connects me to the past. My past makes me who I am today. This is my life."

Still, Hirai Thompson feels an overwhelming sense of "sadness" every time she makes a visit to the camp, she said. "It seems like a dream, but this really happened. Can you imagine if this happened to us now?"

Like many JAs, it has taken Hirai Thompson a number of years to come to terms with her internment experience. As a youth, she was always rebelling against her elders, she said, and after her release from camp, for a

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The Debate on the Resisters of Conscience Continues

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

OGDEN, Utah—The debate continues.

At the JACL tri-district conference held from July 15-17 at the Comfort Suites Hotel in Ogden, Utah, the single most talked about issue was the resisters of conscience, a topic of discussion that sometimes elicited emotional responses from the older members.

Currently, each district must vote on whether to accept or reject the national JACL resolution of reconciliation with the resisters of conscience. As of Utah's tri-district conference, five of eight districts support the resolution.

Supporters of the resolution include: Pacific Northwest District Council (PNWDC), Intermountain District Council (IDC), Midwest District Council (MDC), Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District Council (NCWNPD), and Pacific Southwest District Council (PSWDC).

Two districts which have tabled the resolution include the Eastern District Council (EDC) and the Mountain Plains District Council (MPDC).

The Central California District Council (CCDC) has not voted on the issue yet.

At Utah's tri-district, IDC voted to accept the resolution unanimously; PNWDC voted initially to introduce two separate resolutions at the general tri-district meeting while accepting the current resolution "in spirit; and MPDC voted to reject the resolution completely in favor of one they plan to draw

up in the near future.

The two PNWDC resolutions, introduced to delegates on the second day, failed to pass after receiving eight votes in favor, eight opposed and four in abstention. PNWDC had drawn up the two separate resolutions in an effort to quell the resisters versus veterans argument, and created one

As for MPDC, Cory-Jeanne Murakami-Houck, MPDC district governor, said their district plans to draw up a resolution that will have "broader" wording to address the constitutional rights issue.

Herb Okamoto, an MPDC member from Denver, said their district rejected the current resolution because it "missed the mark."

"The question is whether these people were good Americans for appealing their constitutional rights," said Okamoto. "I don't think any of these resolutions addresses that issue. That's why in our discussion we voted to table the resolution, and we're in the process of trying to write a new resolution to address this particular issue."

"We want to get away from the zero-base thinking that's been going on that if you didn't go into the service you were disloyal."

If the MPDC resolution is accepted by the national board at the next scheduled national board meeting in October, the entire voting process, depending upon the wording of the resolution, may begin again.

As it stands today, the future of the current NCWNPD-sponsored resolution looks grim. The resolution is worded in such a way that it must have unanimous approval by all eight districts.

But whether or not the resolution passes, JACL National Director Herb Yamanishi noted that the resister issue "will not go away." He pointed to books and movie projects slated to

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Definition of Terms

Conscientious Objectors (CO)

During World War II, several Nisei men became conscientious objectors, refusing to comply with the draft due to religious beliefs. The most well-known is Gordon Hirabayashi, who was jailed at McNeil Island along with the resisters of conscience.

Between 1941 and 1947, about 6,000 American men from all ethnic backgrounds were jailed for various forms of non-compliance with the draft law. Another 22,000 COs chose to serve in non-combat roles in the military. To date, the number of Nisei COs is uncertain.

No, No, No

The term, "no, no, no," refers to

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resolution that apologized to the resisters "for not recognizing the Japanese American resisters of conscience for their principled stand," while the second resolution "formally recognizes the significant sacrifices, courage and valor of the Nisei veterans; apologizes for failing to previously do so."

'Rabbit in the Moon' Producers Dialogue with JACL

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

OGDEN, Utah—Perhaps no other documentary in recent years has received more attention within the Japanese American community and the public in general than "Rabbit in the Moon."

In particular, it has captured the attention of the JACL since this is one of the first documentaries to shed light on JACL wartime activities, and the movie takes the civil rights organization to task for quietly accepting evacuation during World War II, urging incarcerated internees to volunteer for the service and opposing the resisters of conscience who were demanding the restoration of their constitutional rights.

It was no surprise then that a workshop devoted to "Rabbit in

the Moon," at the Utah tri-district conference should attract widespread interest. Guest speakers at the workshop included co-producers of the film, Emiko and Chizuko Omori. This was the first time the Omori sis-

as older JACL members tended to defend JACL, and questioned the lack of a JACL voice in the movie, while younger members praised the Omori sisters for educating them about another aspect of the camps.

Judge Raymond Uno pointed out that the government had at their disposal local law enforcement agencies and the military to quell opponents, and a small minority like the Japanese American community would have been in deep trouble had they opposed the government's decision to evacuate.

Uno felt that the decision to evacuate had already been made by the government and that the JACL had helped to "facilitate" rather than "instigate" the orders.

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PHOTO: MARTHA NAKAGAWA

'Rabbit in the Moon' co-producer Emiko Omori (middle) speaks at a JACL workshop held during the IDC/MPDC/PNWDC tri-district conference in Ogden, Utah. Listening are Chizuko Omori, an interviewee and co-producer of the film, and WWII veteran Hiro Shiozaki.

ters had officially appeared before a JACL group.

Despite one outburst from an older JACL member, the hour-long question and answer session that followed the showing of the movie ran smoothly. Generational differences became obvious

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JACL Calendar

National

Fri.-Sun., Sept. 3-5—8th. National JACL Singles Convention; Radisson Miyako Hotel, San Francisco; Registration \$150 before July 15, \$180 after. Golf, bowling, workshops, mixer, banquet, dance, brunch, trips. Co-sponsored by San Francisco Bay Area Nikkei Singles and Greater Los Angeles Singles. Info: Georgeann Maeda, 415/753-3340; Gale Kondo, 415/337-9981; website: http://home.earthlink.net/~jpacit convention.

Midwest

CHICAGO
Fri., July 30—Golf Tournament & Fund Raiser; tee times begin at 9 a.m.; Pinecrest, Algonquin Rd., Huntley, \$65 includes car, lunch, beverages on the course. Everyone welcomed. Info: 773/728-7170 or Roy Iwata, 847/825-3029.

CINCINNATI
Sun., Aug. 15—Annual Potluck Dinner; 1:30 p.m. board meeting, 4 p.m. silent auction, 5 p.m. dinner; Hyde Park Bethlehem United Methodist Church, Madison Rd. & Hyde Park Ave.; speaker, mushroom grower Matt Madison.

WISCONSIN
Sun., Aug. 8—Annual JACL picnic, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., 12:30 lunch; St. Francis

COMMUNITY Calendar

East Coast

WASHINGTON, D.C.
Through Nov. 30—Exhibit, "From Benito to Mixed Plates: Americans of Japanese Ancestry in Multicultural Hawaii"; Smithsonian Institution's Arts and Industries Bldg., 900 Jefferson Dr. S.W. Info: 202/357-2700.

The Midwest

CHICAGO
Fri.-Sun., Aug. 20-22—"Ginza Holiday," Japanese cultural festival; Midwest Buddhist Temple, 435 W. Menomonee; featuring Waza Crafts-people of Japan, Taiko, Japanese dancing, aikido, judo, karate, kendo, eschikan, Ito. Info: 312/943-7801.

INDIANAPOLIS
Fri.-Sun., Sept. 17-19—Indianapolis Golf Camp; housing at Hampton Inn. RSVP by August 1. Info, reservations: Chuck Matsumoto, 317/888-8505.

The Northwest

OLYMPIA
Fri., Aug. 6—Obon Odori practice; 7-9 p.m., 222 N. Columbia St.
Sat., Aug. 7—Obon Odori; 5 p.m., Water Street at Capitol Lake. Info: Bob Nakamura, 360/413-9873, e-mail: sgmlshib@bellsouthlink.net.

PORTLAND, OR
Sun., Aug. 1—Annual Japanese Central Society golf tournament; Colwood National Golf Course, 7313 NE Columbia Blvd. Entry fee by July 19. Info: Taka Mizote, 503/234-3936, or Henry Ueno, 503/253-3001, 503/872-8445.

Sat., Aug. 7—Obonfest '99, taiko, dancing, food, exhibits, demonstrations and children's activities; 2-9 p.m., Oregon Buddhist Temple, 3720 SE 34th Ave. & Powell; Obon dancing starts at 7 p.m. Free. Info: 503/234-9456 or 503/254-9536.

Sun., Aug. 15—Ninth Annual Nikkei Community Picnic, noon-6 p.m.; Oaks Amusement Park, east end of the Sellwood Bridge Southbound area B; look for Nikkei Community Picnic banner; BBQ, games, raffle prizes, rides. Info: Marci Ozawa, Portland JACL, 503/977-7781.

Through Aug. 29—Exhibit, "Oregon Nikkei Women: A Proud Legacy," Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Sun., noon-3 p.m. Free. Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 117 NW 2nd Ave. Info: June Arima Schumann, 503/224-1458.

SEATTLE
Through April 2000—Exhibit, "A Different Battle: Stories of Asian Pacific American Veterans"; Wing Luke Asian Museum, 407 Seventh Ave. S. Info: 206/323-5124.

Northern California

EAST BAY
Sat., July 24—NIHAS lecture, video presentation, book signing, "Achieving the Impossible Dream: How Japanese Americans Obtained Redress," with

Memorial Park, St. Francis; baseball, volleyball, cards before lunch, games after lunch; RSVP by August 7: Nancy Jonokuchi, 414/672-5544, Eddie Jonokuchi, 414/691-1404, Renee Muralami, 414/228-0171.

Pacific Northwest

OLYMPIA
Fri.-Sat., Aug. 6-7—Obon Odori; see Community Calendar.
Sun., Aug. 15—Ninth Annual Nikkei Community Picnic, noon-6 p.m.; RSVP by August 10 to Connie Masuko, 503/423-3291. See Community Calendar.

NC-WN Pacific

DISTRICT COUNCIL
Sun., Aug. 1—District Council Meeting; hosted by Eden JACL.

SAN MATEO
Sat., Aug. 7—Community potluck dinner & raffle, 5-8 p.m.; San Mateo Senior Center, 2645 Alameda de las Palmas. Games, entertainment, flowers, music. Info: 343-2793.

SEQUOIA
Sat., Aug. 21—"A Day with the (San Jose) Giants"; BBQ dinner at 3 p.m., game at 5 p.m.; San Jose Municipal Stadium; San Jose Giants vs. Lancaster Jethawks, Lenn Sakata coaching the Giants. RSVP by Aug. 1: Mike Kalu (Sequoia JACL) 408/985-2747, or Alan Mikuni (Fremont JACL), 510/791-8628.

WATSONVILLE
Sun., Aug. 8—Annual JACL commu-

authors Mitchell Maki, Harry H.L. Kitano and S. Megan Bertoldo, and presentation by Grace Shimizu; 1:00 p.m., The Oakland Museum, 1000 Oak St. at 10th St. Free. Info: 415/431-5007.

Wed., July 28—East Bay Nikkei Singles tour of the Winchester Mystery House, lunch and social. Info: Richard Sekiguchi, 510/237-0218.

SACRAMENTO
Fri., Aug. 6—Thirteenth August Women's Peace Event, "Peace Begins at Home" panel discussion; 6-8:30 p.m., at The Grand, 1215 "J" St. Info: 916/441-0764.

Through Aug. 8—World War II video discussion series and exhibit of handmade decorative items made by JAs interned in detention camps; Central Library, 828 "T" Street. Info: 916/264-2770.

SAN FRANCISCO
Sat., July 24—Lecture and Book Signing, "Achieving the Impossible Dream: How Japanese Americans Achieved Redress"; See East Bay.

Wed., July 28—Film showing, "The Port of Last Resort," 6:30 p.m.; Park Theatre; documentary of Shanghai's European districts in the '30s and '40s. Info: tickets: 415/552-3378, program code PORT028.

Fri.-Thurs., July 23-29—Film collection, "Young & Dangerous: Asian American Cinema on the Edge"; landmark's Lumiere Theatre, 1572 California Ave. Info: 415/552-0810.

Sat., Sept. 25—The Japanese American National Library's 30th anniversary celebration, "Legacy for the Future"; 7 p.m., Radisson Miyako Hotel, 1625 Post St.; Calif. Assemblymember Mike Honda, keynote speaker. Tickets \$50. Info: Karl Matsumoto, 415/567-5006.

Southern California

LOS ANGELES
Sat., July 24—Lectures, book signing, "Trust Into the Mainstream: American Assimilation Policies," 1 p.m.; Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo. Info: 213/625-1770.

Sat., July 24—Maryknoll Japanese Catholic Center "High Stakes Bingo"; 6 p.m., 222 S. Hewitt St.; only 200 tickets sold at \$100 for grand prizes, dinner and one card for seven-plyme \$100-250 pots; silent auction; dinner only \$25; info: MJCC 213/626-2279.

Sat., July 24—UCLA APPEX Premier Performances by master artists from China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam; 8 p.m., California Plaza Watercourt, downtown Los Angeles. Free. Info: Sue Fan, 310/206-1335.

Sun., July 25—Nisei Week Baby Show; 8 a.m., Japan America Theater, 244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo; walk-in registration on July 25, \$50. Info, applications: 213/687-7193 ext. 349.

Sun., July 25—Workshop, "Discovering Your Family Tree," 2-3:30 p.m.; Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo. Info:

nity picnic; BBQ lunch, races, prizes, raffle, bingo, Taiko; 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Aptos Village Park, 100 Aptos Creek Rd.

Central California

DISTRICT COUNCIL
Sat., Aug. 28—District Council quarterly meeting; proposed location, Merced College.

Pacific Southwest

DISTRICT COUNCIL
Sun., Aug. 29—District Council Meeting, Santa Maria.

ARIZONA
Fri.-Sun., Aug. 13-15—Nisei Week Festival group tour of the Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles. Info: Kathy Inoshita, 937-5434, Joe Allman, 942-2632. ■

DEADLINE for Calendar is the Friday before date of issue, on a space-available basis.
Please provide the time and place of the event, name and phone number (including area code) of a contact person.

HOLIDAY ISSUE AD KITS READY

Holiday issue advertising kits are currently being prepared. Each chapter should call Brian Tanaka at 800/966-6157 with the name and address of their Holiday issue advertising coordinator. Thank you.

213/625-1770.
Sun., July 25—Japan America Society Meet the Author series, "Ryoma: Life of a Renaissance Samurai" by Romulus Hillsborough; 2-4 p.m., Pacific Asia Museum, 46 N. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena. RSVP by July 23: 213/627-6214 ext. 17.

Thurs., July 29—UCLA APPEX Premier Performances by master artists from China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam; 7:30 p.m., UCLA Dance Building's Theater 200. Free admission, \$5 parking. RSVP: 310/206-1335.

Sat., July 31—Lecture/demonstration, "North American Taiko-Making," 9:45-11:45 a.m.; Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo. Info: 213/625-1770.

Sat., July 31—Workshop, "Taiko Drumming for Families," 2:45-4:45 p.m.; Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo. Info: 213/625-1770.

Fri.-Sun., July 30, 31, Aug. 1, 6, 7—Buddh dance performance, part three of The Cinema Trilogy: "A Glorious Day for an Unknown Woman," 8 p.m., Espace DBD, 2847 S. Robertson Blvd. Tickets: 310/839-0661.

Fri. & Sat., July 30, 31, Aug. 6, 7—One-man show, "The Rice Room: Scenes From a Bar" with Noel Almit, director Deborah Nishimura; 8:30 p.m., Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St., Santa Monica; RSVP: 310/315-1459.

Fri., Aug. 13—Aikimatsuri golf tournament; 1 p.m. shotgun start, California Country Club, 1509 S. Workman Mill Rd., Whittier. Info: Dr. Roy Takemura, 909/594-3600.

Sat., Aug. 14—Sun., Aug. 22—Nisei Week Japanese Festival, "Bridging Tradition with Diversity"; San Pedro St. between Second and Third, Little Tokyo. For information and to volunteer call 213/687-7193; for calendar of events visit Nisei Week website at <http://www.members.aol.com/nisei-week/niseiweek.htm>.

SAN DIEGO
Sun., July 25—Koto concert; 1 p.m., Don Powell Theater, San Diego State University; featuring guest artists from Japan. Info: Masazumi Mizuno, 619/465-7590.

ORANGE COUNTY
Sat., July 24—Orange County Sansei Singles, "Summer Fun Nite" dinner/dance; 6:30 p.m.-1 a.m., Chen's Restaurant, 15501 S. Vermont Ave., Gardena; casual attire. RSVP by July 17: 626/568-1202. ■

Redress Payment Information

Individuals can call 202/219-6900 and leave a message; or write to: Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, P.O. Box 66260, Washington, D.C. 20035-6260.

Nikkei Help Celebrate Roosevelt High's 75th Anniversary

By **MARTHA NAKAGAWA**
Assistant Editor

Theodore Roosevelt High School in East Los Angeles recently celebrated its 75th anniversary, an event that also marked the significant role the Nikkei community has played in the school's history.

At one time — when the East Los Angeles/Boyle Heights area had a vibrant Nikkei community before and right after World War II — Japanese Americans comprised more than a quarter of Roosevelt High School's student population. This meant Nikkei numbered about 750 out of the average total student population of 3,000. Today, the school, whose student population hovers near 4,000, is considered the largest high school in the United States.

Yoshio Hirata, Class of 1950, who hadn't visited the school since graduating, noticed several changes on campus. "You know, there was no building here," said the Montebello, Calif., resident, pointing to the front of the school. "Fickett Street used to run right through here, and there were several Japanese stores on the corner. My understanding is all this came during the 1970s."

Another difference the Nikkei alumnae noticed was the demographic shift. Those who attended Roosevelt in the 1930s, '40s and '50s pointed out that the school consisted of students of Jewish, Russian, Armenian, Japanese, African and Latino descent. Today, the majority of students are Latino.

Although racial diversity sometimes means racial tension, none of the Nikkei "Rough Riders" interviewed for this article could remember racial tension. "It was the greatest place as far as discrimination was concerned," said George Maruki, who had been student body vice president in 1941. "At the

time, there was no prejudice. It was like a League of Nations."

Maruki remembers then-Roosevelt High School Principal Maurice G. Blair calling the entire student cabinet to the principal's office after the United States declared war on Japan, and giving his condolences to the Nikkei cabinet members.

"He had me in tears in his office," recalled Maruki, who described Roosevelt as an oasis for tolerance. For the 1941-42 academic year, the Roosevelt student body had elected Maruki as student body president as well as senior class president. Maruki was unable to fulfill either of those duties, since he was behind barbed wire at the Manzanar Relocation Center. But Roosevelt didn't forget him. He received his high school diploma in the mail.

"Going to camp tore my heart out," said Maruki, a once-aspiring politician who was active in public speaking classes. "Everything went down the drain from there." But in deference to Maruki, Roosevelt lists him as a co-president in 1942 with Morris Glass, who had run against him. Maruki's sister, Rosie Maruki

Kakuchi, also praised Principal Blair. She recalled that Blair immediately set the tone for tolerance at the onset of WWII when he called a student-wide assembly and announced that he wanted the Nikkei students to attend classes as long as possible.

"That felt so good to hear," said



PHOTO: MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Todd and Fumi Uemoto Nakamura at Roosevelt's anniversary. Fumi was a Winter 1938 graduate and Todd attended El Monte High School.

Kakuchi. "We didn't feel discriminated and we could feel at home. That was important because at that time it was very, very scary. But everyone at Roosevelt was very kind and compassionate. It was the best place to be because of the student body and teachers."

Had WWII not started, Archie Miyatake would have graduated from Roosevelt in 1944. The high school made up for that by holding a special graduation ceremony for former internees in 1994, and Miyatake, the eldest son of famed photographer Toyo Miyatake, described the event as very moving. "I was really choked up," said Miyatake. "For them to remember us like that was very touching. We were really honored."

Until recently, Miyatake had been the only one of his siblings who hadn't received a high school diploma from Roosevelt. The younger Miyatakes — Bob, Richard and Minnie — all graduated from Roosevelt after the family returned to the Boyle Heights area following the end of the war.

Miyatake, on the other hand, spent his high school years in the Manzanar Relocation Center, where he attended the camp high school. It was a far cry from Roosevelt. He noted that when classes first began, the students were sitting on the floor with no desks or books. He credited Janet Goldberg, the camp high school teacher, for trying to run classes as close to "normal" as possible. Activities ranged from a prom (held at the Manzanar auditorium) to senior ditch day (the students went to the nearby creek).

It was also Goldberg who proposed a school yearbook, which was recently reproduced through a grant from the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund. Most of the photographs in the annual were shot and developed by Miyatake's father, who became Manzanar's unofficial photographer. Although cameras were banned in the camps, Miyatake's father, as the legend goes, smuggled in a camera lens, had a fellow internee build a camera box using available wood and, while documenting camp life on his own, later received tacit approval from the War Relocation Center.

WII veteran George Fujimori, Winter Class of 1940, was well known for his athletic abilities. "Probably the only reason that kept me in school was sports," he laughingly recalled. "It was a lot of fun."

Fujimori held a school long jump record (24'3") for more than three decades before Willie Davis, another Roosevelt alumnae and former Dodger baseball player, came along and broke it.

Fujimori also played on the school's varsity football team as a quarterback. He noted that it was not unusual for Nikkei to be on the

varsity or B football teams but added that the average lineemen were the 200 lb. Russians, Chinese and Jews.

"There was a lot of Japanese on the football team," said Fujimori. "There were about six or seven of us on the varsity team, and I think half the B-team were Buddhists."

In fact, Maruki, who once played on the B-team and varsity track, recalled that when he played, at one point the entire B-team was all Nikkei.

Another athlete was Jack "Jake" Kakuchi, Summer Class of 1938. He played on both the varsity football and baseball teams. Kakuchi would later receive a two-year football scholarship from San Jose State University, and with the encouragement of the late Clyde Johnson, head coach at East Los Angeles College, he'd go on to be a football coach at Citrus Junior College.

"Of all the schools I've gone to, Roosevelt was the most important to race," said Kakuchi. "I really enjoyed Roosevelt High. There was no racial problem."

The first Nisei to make it onto the varsity football team after WWII was John Saito. Saito played end, and his first game was in 1945. He noted that before the war his older brother had played on the varsity football team "so my dream was always to play football at Roosevelt."

In returning to Roosevelt, Saito said he did not encounter any animosity. For him it was more of reacquainting himself with his former friends. Saito believes Roosevelt and the East Los Angeles area in general faced very little discrimination because the population was mainly people of color who understood what it meant to be discriminated against.

"East Los Angeles was a very comfortable place," said Saito. "And Roosevelt High was made up of minorities. There were Mexicans, Jews, Russians, Japanese. I

came the dominant group by the 1960s."

"When I was there from 1964 to 1967, approximately 80 percent of the student population was Mexican American, 10 percent Japanese American and 10 percent African American," said Don Nakaniishi, head of the Asian American Studies program at UCLA.

Like others before him, the 1967 student body president noted that he did not encounter any racial tension at Roosevelt. It was here that Nakaniishi learned the importance of being inclusive and remembers that his campaign speech for student body president — brought up these points long before the phrase "melting pot" had been coined.

"My experiences at Roosevelt taught me a very, very valuable lesson about working with people. ... When I was at Roosevelt, many of my very close friends were Mexican Americans and so later, when I went to Yale, I got involved with ethnic student activists, and the very first student organization I helped found was MECHCA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan). I also got involved with recruitment of Mexican American students and the development of Chicano Studies. Six months later, I helped start the Asian American Student Association," said Nakaniishi.

In 1996, a group of predominately Latino students from Will Adams' Japanese class initiated the resurrection of a Japanese garden, similar to the one that had been created at Roosevelt in 1932-33 but that had been destroyed by a handful of students during the WWII anti-Japanese hysteria.

Bruce Kaji, class of 1944, remembers the Japanese garden very well since he used to live across from the school. Kaji, like Miyatake and Kakuchi, received his high school diploma from Roosevelt at a special graduation ceremony five decades later.

"We were all very, very touched because they still remembered the

"It was the greatest place as far as discrimination was concerned ... At the time, there was no prejudice. It was like a League of Nations."

—George Maruki

Student body vice president, 1941

think one day, we had a school field day where people dressed up in their native dress and I think there were about 46 nationalities represented."

Nikkei football players were still commonplace at Roosevelt in the 1960s, according to *Rafu Shimpo* Associate Editor Takeshi Nakayama. Nakayama, Class of 1955, has first-hand knowledge of this since he also played on the B team.

"But I mostly sat on the bench," said Nakayama. "I joined because a lot of my friends were on the team."

Like other alumni, Nakayama said the student body was "pretty harmonious." He even remembered an incident where Latino students helped Nikkei students defend their turf at a time when Nikkei youths were waging a gang warfare between the Westside and Eastside.

He noted that a group of "West-side Buddhists" had come on campus (during lunch) to beat up on some guy and a whole bunch of Roosevelt Buddhists and Mexicans went after them. Asked what he did during this incident, Nakayama matter-of-factly stated: "I was eating my lunch. I didn't want to interrupt that."

The interconnection between the Nikkei and Latino communities in the East Los Angeles region goes back before WWII, but with demographic shifts, the Latino population be-

came the dominant group by the 1960s.

When Kaji heard that Roosevelt's Japanese Club students were interested in reconstructing the garden, he was "very touched." "You don't see interracial appreciation by high school students very often," said Kaji. "It's quite a thing for high school students to show this kind of interest in a different racial group."

For this very reason, Kaji threw his support behind the students and solicited alumni for monetary contributions to recreate the garden. Instructor Jeff Avila and alumni Kaji, Jun Yamamoto (Class of 1941) and Melvin "Buddy" Webber (Class of 1945) formed the core of the Youth Task Force, which spearheaded the garden project.

Paul Bessai, Summer Class of 1938 and the first Nikkei to be elected to the California state assembly, was also active in this endeavor. Bessai had been president of the Japanese Club from 1936-1937, and he remembers that one of the responsibilities of the club was maintaining the garden.

The new garden, dedicated by Rev. Alfred Tsuyuki, another Roosevelt alumnae, was designed by retired landscape architect Yosh Kurokiya and is being maintained by landscape contractors Ken Nagao and Ko Endo, who are teaching the Japanese Club students how to keep up the garden. ■

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Visiting the Topaz Concentration Camp

(Continued from page 1)

long time she was embarrassed to be JA.

Now as a senior citizen she finally understands why her elders made their decisions and added, "I'm so proud to be Japanese American, and proud that my kids are so into the Japanese American culture."

Today, besides a cement plaque marking the site of the former Topaz concentration camp, no buildings exist to hint at the existence of the former WWII site.

Working to keep the memories of the Topaz camp alive is Delta high school teacher Jane Beckwith.

Along with other volunteers, she is trying to raise funds for a permanent Topaz Museum. Currently, artifacts and memorabilia from the camp are being housed at the Great Basin Museum in Delta.

Already, Beckwith has managed to raise \$20,000 to rebuild a recreation hall that once existed at the Topaz site. It sits behind the Great Basin Museum as it awaits a more permanent site.

Beckwith first became interested in the Topaz site after assigning a project to her journalism class that asked them to research the history of the camp. Seeing her students so excited about learning the history of the JA internees, she decided to commit herself to ensuring the story of Topaz was left as a permanent legacy.

"When you get that kind of response you should listen," she said.

But the project hasn't been easy. Not only has she spent countless hours on her efforts, she has suffered the scorn of members of the Delta community who do not want the story of Topaz to be told.

"Sometimes I don't know why I'm

doing this. It's hard work," she said. "But it must be done. It must be talked about. It's not just the Japanese American community that doesn't talk, the Caucasians also don't talk."

George Henrie, a former journalism student in Beckwith's class and currently a fellow high school teacher at Delta helping to preserve the story of Topaz, grew up in an area called Southernland just six miles from the former concentration camp. Growing up he had heard of Topaz but did not know the stories of the JAs interned there. "In little old Delta you're not exposed to a lot out here," he said.

Like Beckwith, he has encour-

Minidoka to be Part of Idaho Farm and Ranch Museum

The proposed Idaho Farm and Ranch Museum, located 20 miles from the former Minidoka Relocation Center site, will include two former barracks buildings from the camp as part of their exhibit.

Spearheading the effort has been JACLers Ralph B. Peters, former mayor of Jerome County (where Minidoka was located) and Maya Hata Lemmon.

Thanks to Peters' efforts, one barracks has already been moved onto the museum site, according to Lemmon.

Plans for the barracks include restoring them to their original state and converting them into interpretive centers. Peters, however, added that before restoration plans can begin they are asking for assistance from former Minidoka internees to provide information about barracks conditions during World War II.

The two barracks will be a small part of the 344 acre Idaho Farm and Ranch Museum, but they were included because Peters felt they provided a more accurate history of Idaho.

Fiftysome years ago, however,

Peters, a native of Jerome County, had no idea why the camps were being built.

"I hadn't the faintest idea to tell you the truth," said Peters, who had joined the U.S. Airforce during WWII, participated in the bombing of northern Japan and lost a brother in the South Pacific theater.

"If anyone has a reason not to be involved in this, it probably may be me," said Peters. "But I'm not that kind of guy."

As a World War II veteran, Peters said he felt a connection to the Nikkei veterans and felt that it was important to honor them with this exhibit.

Lemmon, a former Gila River internee, became involved in this project through Peters.

"I wasn't at Minidoka, but I think my family story is typical of a lot of Japanese in camp," said Lemmon. "And it's important that the story be told. There's a lot of people in the area who aren't familiar with this, and as the older generation dies out, it's important to put up projects like this for educational purposes."

The museum will be located at the intersection of two heavily traveled highways — U.S. Hwy 93 and Interstate 84.

"The barracks aren't on the actual camp," said Lemmon. "But because it will be part of the Idaho Farm and Ranch Museum, which is at the crossroads of two major highways, I think a lot more people will be exposed to it. A lot more people will have an opportunity to see the displays and become familiar with what happened."

Among the other major visiting centers or exhibits at the museum will include an early American and Indian village; a replica of Main Street from bygone years; a running train that encircles the property; a library; three museum buildings; a nature trail; and a farming and irrigation techniques display.

Former internees who can donate artifacts or provide information on the barracks restoration project, or those wanting to donate should contact Maya Hata Lemmon at (208) 735-0836 or Ralph Peters at (208) 324-4683. ■

DEFINITIONS

(Continued from page 1)

men and women who either refused to answer or answered "no, no" to questions 27 and 28 of the so-called "loyalty questionnaire." Many became "no, noes" out of frustration and the tramping of their human rights by the United States government, but the government branded "no, noes" as "disloyals." These people were rounded up and shipped off to the Tule Lake Relocation Center after the government converted it into a segregation center in 1943.

A novel entitled, "No No Boy," by John Okada details how the Nikkei community ostracized "no, noes" due to the government-initiated "disloyal" label that haunted these people long after the end of war.

Renunciants

On July 1, 1944, Congress passed Public Law 405, the Renunciation Law which allowed an American to renounce his/her United States citizenship on American soil in time of war. The law was passed solely with Tule Lake internees in mind. Attorney General Francis Biddle believed that once the "disloyal" Tule Lake internees renounced

their citizenship, they would be subject to deportation.

In December 1944, unpopular administrative decisions and increased pressures by radical pro-Japan sectors in Tule Lake goaded many internees to renounce their American citizenship. The Department of Justice received over 6,000 citizenship renunciation applications. Of the 5,589 applications approved, all but 128 were from Tule Lake.

But as renunciation hearings got underway, many internees, realizing how they had mistakenly been influenced to renounce their citizenship, sought ways to undo their action. As a result, the Tule Lake Defense Committee was formed, and the committee hired Wayne M. Collins to represent them.

Despite opposition from DOJ, the national ACLU office and JACL, Collins persisted and was able to restore citizenship rights on an individual appeals basis. Collins personally appealed the cases of 5,409 individuals who asked to have their citizenship restored. Of those, 4,978 requests were granted.

Resisters of Conscience

Resisters of Conscience refused to serve in the United States Army until their constitutional rights were restored and their families released from

U.S. concentration camps. On the so-called "loyalty questionnaire," most answered "yes, yes" and qualified their "yes" answers, or answered "no, yes." Although many people mistakenly refer to the resisters as "no, noes," the two groups are not synonymous.

(Resources used for this list include: "Directory of Civilian Public Service," Brian Niiya's "Japanese American History" and Michi Weglyn's "Years of Infamy.") ■

RESISTERS

(Continued from page 1)

come out in the near future in connection to the resisters.

"Maybe the ultimate solution is to embrace the issue and develop a program around this because it is of interest to the American public," said Yamanishi. "This is a fascinating aspect of what has happened to what is viewed as a model community that took on the whole matter of persecution and incarceration, and turned it around into a kind of a positive way and used a different strategy than what an average American probably would have done in the same circumstance. Maybe that's the ultimate solution. I don't know that the issue is going to go away with the passage of the resolution." ■

RABBIT

(Continued from page 1)

In a similar vein, Helen Kawagoe, national JACL president, questioned the implications that JACL was an all-powerful organization that it was able to institute evacuation.

"Can we as JACL, tell the government what to do?" asked Kawagoe. "I think the decision (to evacuate) was already made."

Hiro Shiosaki, a JACL member since the 1940s, noted that times were different back then. "They [Japanese Americans] were told they could cooperate or they could be chased out, period," said Shiosaki. "I think these are some of the things that probably should have been told [in the movie]."

Yas Tokita, former IDC governor, found the movie both educational and offensive. While he thanked the Omori sisters for shedding new light on Tule Lake, he also thought the movie was "unfair to JACL" and should have included "someone from JACL like Bill Hosokawa."

But Haruko Moriyasu, an instructor at the University of Utah, felt the lack of JACL representation did not take away from the impact of the movie.

"I think the film, even though it may not have satisfied you in terms of having representation, has accomplished a purpose by starting dialogue," said Moriyasu. "People are talking about it, and I think that's where the val-

tered people from Delta who still believe that the JA internees "had it good." "There have been some extreme reactions [to the Topaz site]," said Henrie. "They feel like it impacted them negatively. They never thought of the people who lived in the camp."

Still, like Hirai Thompson, Beckwith and Henrie aren't about to stop telling the story of Topaz and the internees that once lived there. "It's important for children to start talking about it," said Beckwith. "And I will tell the story one child at a time for a long time." ■

ues comes in. Sometimes having something that may be one-sided has tremendous value because it gives people an opportunity to dialogue, and that's one of the things we don't do enough of."

John Tanigawa, who became a JACL member four years ago, voiced similar sentiment, saying he saw nothing offensive in the documentary and was "really glad to hear the other side."

"I've always asked in conversation with JACL members, 'I'd like to hear the other side,' because I think that's part of the healing process," said Tanigawa. "I think this movie brought to us how valuable it is for us to hear what the other side felt."

Emiko Omori noted that when she first started the project, she had no intentions of focusing on the JACL and emphasized that it was "not an indictment against the JACL."

"But JACL kept coming up over and over again," said Omori. "They talked about how they were silenced for 50 years, so we thought they needed a platform to tell the other side of the story."

Omori, however, emphasized that the blame for the Nikkei community's divide rested with the United States government which had propelled the then young and inexperienced JACL members to fill the leadership vacuum that was left after the government had rounded up and imprisoned community leaders. ■

JACL Honors Long-time Members



Standing (l-r): Raymond Uno, Hiro Shiosaki, Sei Tokuda, Gerald Nisogi accepting for George Sugihara, Helen Kawagoe, Sadao Nagata, Hideshiro "Hid" Hasegawa and Frank Sakamoto. Seated (l-r): Yukus Inouye, Alice Kasai, Tomio Yamada, Ruth Hashimoto and Shake Ushio. Not pictured: Clarence Nishizu and Sud Morishita.

'Sacto Valley Historical Book' to be Published in 2000

By TOKO FUJII
Special to the Pacific Citizen

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—The steering committee for Sacramento JACL's "Sacramento Valley Historical Book" has announced that the book will be finished and published sometime in the middle of the year 2000.

This volume is expected to be approximately 400 pages, with about

California State University at Sacramento's Library Archives, the committee is expected to work with pioneers in the outlying areas for more historical data and photos depicting life in the late 1800s and the first half of the 1900s.

Members of the book committee will be contacting old-timers and community leaders of the Greater Sacramento Valley to gather information.



Kiyoaki Arakawa, v.p. and manager, Union Bank of California Sacramento downtown office, presents the first installment check of \$5,000 to Toko Fujii, chair of the historical book committee.

40 percent devoted to photos. Surrounding communities such as Vacaville, Marysville, Placer County, Florin and Lodi will be included.

Although a wealth of materials and information are already available to the committee in the form of oral history projects, published histories of some of the nearby communities, and archival materials from

Those who may have historically significant documents, photos or family histories are asked to submit them to the Sacramento JACL office at 2124 10th St., Sacramento, CA 95818, phone 916/447-0231.

The steering committee members are: Toko Fujii, chair; Ralph Sugimoto, Wayne Maeda, Gene Itagawa, Tom Fujimoto, Sally Taketa, Kuni Hirakawa, Kanji Nishijima and Shig Shimizu.

Thus far, the major underwriters of the project are Union Bank of California and East Lawn, Inc., contributing \$10,000 and \$5,000 respectively. Those who may be interested are asked to contact Toko Fujii at 1202 Monte Vista Way, Sacramento, CA 95831. ■

Three Degrees of Separation

By Naomi Hirahara

Rediscovering the Chanto Principle

was reprinted recently in "Nikkei Donburi," a book published by the Japanese American Cultural Center in Los Angeles.

When referring to the philosophies of the Issei in the United States, Japanese Americans use such terms as *gaman* (perseverance) and *enryo* (reserve).

I'd like to offer another one — *chanto*.

Chanto is one of these Japanese colloquialisms that doesn't have an exact English equivalent. Literally, it means "in good order," "thoroughly," and "properly," but in practice, it covers much more.

Anybody raised by a Japanese-influenced parent or grandparent has heard the phrase "chanto shinasai," or "be chanto." It can be said in reference to an upturned shirt collar, talking too loud, moving the lawn, shoving dollar bills into an already overstuffed pocket, arriving at an appointment late, chewing gum at a funeral, or paying bills late.

I, myself, am a *chanto* rebel. My natural inclination is toward the intangibles — feelings, principles, spirituality — and not the tangible. Rules, they're meant to be broken. Ask me my thoughts about any controversy and I'll comply, but ask me about where I left my coffee cup that morning, and I'll probably be stumped.

It's nothing to do with my upbringing — my *shin* Issei mother is the master of *chanto*. But ever since childhood, I was always losing my sweater or laughing too loud. Definitely a *chanto* mother's nightmare.

But the older I get and the more I observe the Japanese American community, I see the value of *chanto*. A yes means yes, and no means no. If you say you will do it, you will do it. It's very simple, but so rare in this fast paced society of empty promises: "Let's get together sometime." "I'll have it ready by the end of the day." "I'll take care of it." "The check is in the mail."

We've all said and heard these things, but have we always followed through? Have we thought, "Well, it really doesn't matter, tomorrow is a new day?"

When we plan some sort of event, do we settle for the hap-hazard, do we just think everything will somehow miraculously come together without having our bases covered? Do we cut corners? Do we commit ourselves to a project or group without having any intention to hold up our responsibility?

Admittedly, today's society is so high-pressured, we can literally drive ourselves crazy about being anal retentive and detail oriented. And to demonstrate ritual without heart is worthless.

But there is something to be said about being *chanto* in this day and age. With the Issei and Nisei populations fading away, this is one principle that needs to go on. ■

Naomi Hirahara is the former English editor of *The Rafu Shimpo*, where "Importance of Chanto" was originally published. A writer, she makes her home in Pasadena, California. She can be reached at Nhira-hara@aol.com.



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Letters to the Editor

Re: Resisters of Conscience

It is really quite refreshing to find in the July 16-22 issue of the P.C., a house organ, Martha Nakagawa's analysis of JACL's role during World War II and Jim Yamasaki's reflections on his life and camp experiences.

JACL, after all, was organized as a civil rights organization, and section 2 of Article II of its constitution states "... It shall strive to secure and uphold full civil rights and equal justice under the law..."

There isn't nothing in here about going into internment to prove our loyalty, nor once in, volunteering out of internment to prove our loyalty.

As an older Nisei who grew up in the great Depression, remembering signs in Monterey where I grew up saying "White Trade Only," I can understand why on Feb. 16, 1944, a special telegram was sent from Los Angeles from Japanese American organizations to then Attorney General Francis Biddle stating "We have cooperated with all federal agencies in apprehending subversives and have actually become informants for the F.B.I." The telegram asked Biddle to safeguard our citizenship.

The signers of this telegram were: Los Angeles City and County citizens of Japanese ancestry, Perry Post American Legion Southern California, Christian Church Federation, Los Angeles, Los Angeles Citizens League, Japanese YMBA & YWBA Flower Market Association, Junior Produce Club, Japanese LWCA, Southern District Citizens League, 104 N. Los Angeles Street, Los Angeles, California.

It is now 54 years since the end of WWII. When I attended Michi Weglyn's commencement speech to the graduating class at Cal Poly Pomona in 1994, there were eleven resisters of conscience in attendance who were there because Michi meant so much to them. Today, of that eleven, there are only six still living. An apology from JACL as a civil rights organization has been long overdue, but I do not believe that it will be forthcoming from JACL's national board this October.

Paul Tometski
Sunland, Calif.

Response To "Rabbit In The Moon"

The PBX-POV presentation of Emiko Omori's "Rabbit in the Moon" purports to be a documentary dealing with the loyalty question of Japanese American internees during World War II. Five decades later, it portrays the JACL as the villain and Nisei draft resisters as heroes through wartime reminiscences by several Nisei.

No documentary evidence was presented to back up the claim that JACL had a policy to attack and demean the draft resisters for their principled stand. Regrettably, Ms. Omori chose not to include interviews of 442nd volunteers/draftees and JACL leaders of that era to give balance to the piece.

No mention was made of the National Council Resolution 13 which was unanimously passed at the 1990 JACL national convention in San Diego: "That the

JACL recognize that those Japanese American draft resisters of World War II, who declared their loyalty to their country, but who were also dedicated to the principle of defending their civil rights, were willing to make significant sacrifices to uphold their beliefs of patriotism in a different form from those who sacrificed their lives on the battlefields; and that they, too, deserve a place of honor and respect in the history of Americans of Japanese ancestry."

As an 8-year-old in Tule Lake, I experienced some of the animosities which the infamous "loyalty questionnaire" caused among my relatives. I remember the turmoil and conflict I felt as our families argued about loyalties. My parents answered yes-yes so our family was moved to Heart Mountain. My mother's brothers and sister and their families remained in Tule Lake and were eventually expropriated to Japan.

"Rabbit in the Moon" acutely illustrates how an unjust government action can cause citizens to turn against one another. In this case, the U.S. government must be cast as the villain — not JACL.

Evidently, resentments and hatreds are still deeply harbored by some JAs toward one another over the loyalty question. "Rabbit in the Moon" will only make it more difficult for reconciliation between factions.

Tom Konradi
Former national board member
Snohomish, Wash.

This documentary entitled above, produced by Emiko Omori, is a worthy contribution to be added to our Japanese American experience, especially in regards to the "No-No boys." However, some harsh comments come out against the JACL and its leaders of that time. While those feelings among some are very accurate, those who resent the JACL even to this day should consider the following:

The JACL was formed in the '20s by college age men and women, many who were active in church, YM and YWCA, Boy Scouts and other community endeavors. They felt by encouraging good citizenship and community involvement they could promote the gradual entry of the JAs into the American mainstream. What a worthy cause! Yet, they were a minority as the majority of Isei and Nisei were struggling just to keep afloat during those Depression years.

Was Saburo Kido and his cohorts too quick and too cooperative with our Justice Department immediately after Pearl Harbor? Possibly so, but you have to consider the hysteria, shock and hatred unleashed on us by the press, radio and bigots — many who were our governmental (USA) leaders. How were these young JACLers to know the proposed evacuation of JAs was pre-planned by the Justice Department way back in 1936.

In the "No-No boys" were so principled on upholding our constitutional rights, why didn't they go to jail immediately like Min Yasui and Gordon Hirabayashi? What would happen to the parents who were classified "enemy aliens" after December 7, 1941? How many

of you would have been physically tortured, maimed and even killed by mob violence. The American Civil Liberties Union at that time had absolutely no clout especially during that time. Talk is very cheap because their protest (ACLU) was pretty feeble.

When I was a youngster of 14 in Gila River, I wondered, how stupid could our government bureaucrats be in placing question #27 and #28 together when all the other questions were fairly innocuous. It occurs to me now that the Justice Department instructed the WRA to place it in this manner. Why? I think they wanted more JA hostages, as the Latin Japanese hostages were not suitable for military Japan! This time the "No-No boys" and their parents were pulled a sucker's punch! All of us were fooled at that time!

While time to heal and reconcile seems to be most constructive, for there is still plenty of anti-Asian bigotry in our country, how many of you are willing to fight these new "battles" or do most of you want to go for a free ride again?

John Y. Kiyasu, Ph.D.
Garden City, N.Y.

Reader Requests Less Hate Crime Coverage

I have enjoyed your weekly for several years over at my mother-in-law's house. My wife is Japanese and my two kids are Hapa. I have always enjoyed the articles on the history and accomplishments of the Japanese American people.

More recently, I have noticed that your weekly publication has focused more on hate crimes and racial issues. In my opinion, it's okay to keep the public informed on these critical issues, but I find it alarming that your staff is allowed to publish "publications" after publication, page after page on these types of articles. I think you should re-focus your publication back to the articles on accomplishments and history.

In addition, I miss Mike Tanner's editorials. Has there been a change in the staff?

Thank you for your time.

J. R. Murphy
Via e-mail

Editor's note: Mike Tanner is currently taking a break from her column *Mixed Messages* as she pursues a graduate degree in Asian American Studies.

Pacific Citizen

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© "Short expressions" on public issues, usually one or two paragraphs, should be submitted by e-mail and deadline phone number. Because of space limitations, letters are subject to abridgement. Although we are unable to print all the letters we receive, we appreciate the interest and views of those who take the time to send us their comments.

Margret Hasegawa, Idaho Fall JACL's First Woman Prexy

Margret Summers Hasegawa, 68, Idaho Falls JACL's first woman president in 1968, died April 5 at Columbia Eastern Idaho regional medical center, Idaho Falls.

Funeral services were held April 10 at the Idaho Falls Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints with Bishop Mark Arenaz officiating.

Born and educated in Ririe, Idaho, she graduated from a beauty college in Idaho Falls and married Hideo "Hid" Hasegawa of Ontario, Ore., in December, 1964, their marriage solemnized at the Los Angeles LDS Temple July 13, 1968.

A homemaker, she also operated beauty shops in Ririe and Idaho Falls and later worked in sales and customer service for Bon Marche department store. An active member with the LDS Relief Society, Young Women's program and ward bulletin editor, she was also a registered parliamentarian in California and with the JACL Intermountain District Council.

Surviving are husband "Hid," Idaho Falls JACL president (72-73) and longtime IDC governor during the 1980s, daughter Holly (Reidburg), two brothers, two sisters and two grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, seven brothers and a sister. ■

Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Furukawa, Jack Y., 76, Denver, survived by wife Frances; son Gerald, daughter Charmaine Palmer and husband Michael; 1 gc, 4 brothers.

Hanami, Thomas Mitsuo, 77, Monterey Park, survived by wife Reiko; sons Steven, Wayne, Dale and wife Sally; brothers Hugo and wife Sadako, Dick Sese and wife Marge; sister Yuriko Sugita (Japan); brother-in-law Jimmie Tsuchiyama and wife Olivia; sister-in-law Chieko Hanami.

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

Hisayasu, Frank, 55, Spokane, Wash., June 24; Seattle-born; survived by wife Chieko; sons Thomas, Leroy; brothers Howard, Jack; sisters Fumi Shio, Margaret Eto, Betty Yoshida; 3 gc, 2 ggc.

Honda, Hanano, 94, Los Angeles, July 8; Kumamoto-ken-born; survived by son Hisao Howard and wife Yuriko; 2 gc, 4 ggc.

Jonokuchi, Gordon Yoshiobu, 76, Gardens, July 6; Whittier-born; survived by son Arthur and wife Vivian (Connecticut); daughter Atsuko Au and husband Eric (Hawaii); 5 gc; brother James Noriyuki and wife Aiko; sisters Mary Ann Etsuko Okamura and husband Masayuki (Japan), Frances Toshiko Terada and husband Tadaki; brothers-in-law Kay Yamaguchi and wife Hana, Min Minoru Yamaguchi and wife Sue (both Seattle); sisters-in-law Taeko Yamaguchi (Japan), Lois Yamaguchi (Chicago).

Kajiura, Thomas Shuichi, 78, Northglenn, Colo.; survived by wife Betty; son Tom and wife Teresa; daughters Phyllis, Janet; 2 gc; brothers Johnnie, George; sister Shizue Yamaguchi.

Morimoto, Minoru, 87, Lodi, July 4; Auburn-born; survived by wife Masako; son Keizo; daughters Kazuo Shintaku and husband Katsuki, Ann Knie, Frances Hiseko, Grace Hideo.

Nakao, George H., 78, Phillips Ranch, July 3; Los Angeles-born; survived by wife Lilian; son Danny and wife Patti; daughter Leslie Edman and husband John; 1 gc.

Nishida, Mamoru, 90, Los Angeles, July 11; Kumamoto-ken-born; survived by son Vene and wife Minako; daughters Joan Kishida, Shirley Budo and husband Bobby; 4 gc.

Nitahara, Robert, 72, Chicago, June 29; Los Angeles-born; survived by wife Fay; son Bobby; daughters Karen, Cynthia, Cheryl; 1 gc; brother Jim; sisters Lily Nakawata, Mary Munemura and husband James; predeceased by daughter Cathy.

Ochiyo, Hisano, 101, Garden Grove, July 9; Hiroshima-ken-born; survived by son John N. and wife Teruko (Orange County); daughters Mary M. Hata and husband Don (San Luis Obispo), Midori Kanbara (Orange County); Lily M., Betty S. Russell; 2 gc.


Oishi, Sadako Jane, 81, Phoenix, July 9; survived by son Robert; daughter Debi Inamine; 3 gc; brother Rex Teutsushima; sisters Yasuko Yamamoto, Peggy Shimamoto, Kayo Yee, Cherry Teutsushima.

Sumida, Miya, 90, South San Gabriel, July 10; Hiroshima-ken-born; survived by sons Willie and wife Clara, Tatsuo and wife Yoko; daughter-in-law Sadako; 6 gc, 9 ggc.

Yagi, Sadaoyoshi, 87, Sacramento, July 2; Courland-born; survived by wife Yukiko; brothers Tom and wife Shirley, Joe and wife Berry, George and wife Alice Chieko, Frank and wife Lily; sister-in-law Helen; sisters Sadako Hamatake, Ruby Ikeda and husband John, Nancy Yamada and husband Bill Masakazu, Hanako Otsuji and husband Kiichiro, Elizabeth Chiruko Okamida and husband George, Ellen Yamada and husband Isamu, Mary Murakami and husband Dave.

Yoshikawa, Rev. Dennis, Kyoto, June 16; former Minister of the Gardens Buddhist Church, Resident Minister of Chogonji temple (Kyoto); survived by wife Rev. Yoko Kanda-Yoshikawa, father Sam; mother Sally; brother Ken and wife Tami.

Yoshizawa, Mable Hatsuko, 84, Los Angeles; Ft. Lupton, Colo.-born; survived by husband Frank Minoru Yoshizaki; sister Grace Ikari and husband Ted; sisters-in-law Ruth Hayashida, Sadako Hayashida, Fumi Yoshizaki, Alice Yoshizaki, Helen Terazawa, Vera Aoki, Dorothy Shibayama, Sue Wong. ■

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World War II Memorial Foundation Sponsors Teachers Workshop in Sonoma County

By MEI NAKANO

On the heels of a successful Day of Remembrance program, the Sonoma County JACL, in collaboration with the county's Human Rights Commission and Office of Education, presented a well-attended teacher-training workshop on June 17.

Funded by a grant from the 100th/442nd MIS World War II Memorial Foundation, the workshop was chaired by Marie Sugiyama. "The day-long session," she said, "was designed to provide in-depth information about the history of the Japanese in America to teachers and to suggest ways of integrating that material into their lesson plans."

Greg Marutani (San Francisco), Lloyd Kajikawa (Los Angeles), and Izumi Taniguchi (Fresno) comprised the facilitating team for the workshop. The well-seasoned, knowledgeable trio set up a framework for the history, using warm-up exercises, videos and anecdotes and served as resource persons throughout the day.

Panel members from the Sonoma County chapter provided a gamut of experiences of Japanese Americans.

George Hamainoto, a native of Sebastopol, recalled the thriving Japanese community of Sonoma County before the war which included a Japanese grocery store, two boarding houses, a Nippon Hall which served as the center of the community social life and the graceful, enduring Enmanji Temple. Japanese families owned poultry businesses and apple orchards and worked in hop fields and on vegetable farms.

Hamamoto told of how, as a 16-year-old, he was suddenly thrust into the role of head of the family when his father, an owner of a grocery store, was whisked away by the FBI shortly after Pearl Harbor. He spoke movingly of the pride he felt when his father told him of how



(From left): Panelists Sam Miyano, Shiro Nakano, Barbara Senkir, Mei Nakano, Chair Marie Sugiyama, panelist George Hamamoto.

he had challenged a judge who had asked him a loaded question regarding his loyalty. The judge apologized.

Mei Nakano told of the difficulties of being a newlywed and later a new mother in the Amache camp. And how, with the blind audacity of youth, she packed two bags and outmigrated with her infant son to Minnesota where her husband was stationed. There, she served as a domestic servant for a family of five before relocating to Chicago when her husband was sent overseas.

She moved back to the West Coast in 1946, having been exiled for four years. "Racism has high human and material costs," she said. "We desperately need to find ways of understanding one another better—through our history, through personal contact, through education—so that we gain respect for, and honor, our differences."

Panelist Barbara Senkir, fresh out of college from Trenton, New Jersey, taught social studies, English and journalism to 7th, 8th, and 9th graders for a year in a Poston camp, where materials and equipment were spare. Teachers in camp included some who had come out of retirement, some fresh out of college, conscientious objectors and many Quakers.

Like many others who taught in the camps, Senkir gave high

praise to her former students for their diligence under trying circumstances and lauded the parents who had raised their children to value education.

Among her strong memories was alighting from the train at Parker, Ariz. And being confronted with a storefront sign reading "JAPS KEEP OUT." Then, faced with the driver of the Army truck who had come to take her to the camp, she realized that she had never seen a Japanese person before.

Shin Nakano, a new father, was drafted out of camp into the Military Intelligence Service. He recapped the history of the Nisei in service, of their bravery and sacrifice, and recounted his experiences in the occupation forces in the Philippines and Japan, interrogating and interpreting. He said that the MIS as a group were deprived of many forms of recognition because they were detached as individuals to different areas of operation and were generally sworn to secrecy even after the war.

"I complied to the draft," he said, "to prove that I was a good citizen." But later, he thought about the irony of being drafted out of camp to fight and die for a country that had put him there.

Sam Miyano served his stint on the other front, the European theater. Just as he had finished his basic training, he received a telegram stating that his mother was ill. But when he returned to camp on emergency leave, he found that she had already died. Two weeks later, when he returned to his base, he found that his company had shipped out. Later, he learned that three of his buddies in that company had died in combat. Miyano, whose duty extended into the occupation, said he could not forget the sad sight of hungry children

scrounging for food in the aftermath of war.

Following the panel discussion, the teachers broke into three groups to exchange information about how they had been teaching Japanese American history in their classes. And armed with the JACL Curriculum guide which had been given to each, they brainstormed ways of implementing what they had absorbed. Said one teacher, "I thought I was pretty well-informed about this subject, but I see now that I had a lot to learn."

Japanese American National Museum Opens New Exhibition July 27



PHOTO: NORMAN H. SUGIMOTO, JANU

Curator Kristine Kim next to 'Snow,' oil on canvas by Hisako Hibi, 1944.

"A Process of Reflection: Paintings by Hisako Hibi," a new exhibition organized by the Japanese American National Museum devoted to the art and life of Iseai woman artist Hisako Hibi (1907-1991), opens July 27 in the museum's new pavilion.

The exhibition will feature paintings never before exhibited in Los Angeles and includes many of Hibi's oil-on-canvas paintings made while she was incarcerated at Tanforan Assembly Center and the Topaz concentration camp in Utah during World War II. Also shown are se-

lections of her paintings made before and after the war.

Exhibit curator Kristine Kim says of Hibi, "... what makes her truly remarkable is her enduring artistic vision. For 60 years she used painting as a vehicle to express her feelings, opinions and experiences, resulting in a body of work that is both historical in scope and personal in execution."

In 1985, Hibi was honored as Artist of the Year by the San Francisco Arts Commission for her lifelong contribution to the San Francisco art scene. She was also a member of the influential Asian American Women Artists Association.

For further information, call 213/625-0414 or 800/461-5266.

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.

Must have experience with the political process either at a state or federal level. College graduates with a law degree or a Masters degree in political science, community organization, public policy, or related area. Professional experience in public affairs preferred. Should have one to five years of progressively more responsible work experience in developing programs and policies that address civil and human rights issues and concerns. Must be familiar with Asian Pacific American issues and concerns. Should have excellent analytical, speaking and writing skills. Must be experienced in the use of computer technology and email. Written essay required.

A full-time position. Internal applicants - none. Excellent fringe benefit package provided. Competitive salary commensurate with experience. Send resume and cover letter to: JACL, 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115 or fax to 415/931-4671. Emailed applications/resumes not accepted. Deadline for applications - until filled.

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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. Graduate of a four-year accredited college or university in behavioral or social science or related field and three to five years of progressively more responsible work experience in developing youth programs and policies preferred. Must be experienced in the use of computer technology and email. Fund-raising experience a plus.

Excellent fringe benefit package provided. Competitive salary commensurate with experience. Send resume and cover letter to: JACL, 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115 or fax to 415/931-4671. Emailed applications/resumes not accepted. Applications will be taken until position is filled.

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The Sonoma County Japanese American Citizen's League is looking for a Senior Program Coordinator to provide and administer a program of activities for the 50 to 70 members of the Japanese American community in Sonoma County, initially approximated at half time for one year. Based upon participation levels and acceptance of the senior and intergenerational community, this could become a long term, full-time position. For more information contact Jim Murakami 707/824-9685 or Judith Whitman 707/763-3011 or submit resume to P.O. Box 1915, Santa Rosa, CA 95402. The deadline is Sept. 15.