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Aug 20-25, 1999

Resolution Seeking Apology and Reparations From Japanese Government For WWII Atrocities to go Before Calif. Assembly

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

The California state Assembly is close to putting together a final revision this week to a nonbinding resolution that asks the Japanese government to apologize and pay reparations for crimes committed during World War II.

California state Assemblyman Mike Honda (D-San Jose), who originally introduced AJR 27, has been working closely with staff members of Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa's and Assemblyman George Nakano's offices.

The resolution is slated to go before the Assembly on Thursday, Aug. 19.

The last revision to AJR 27, which was publicly released last week, recognized that Japan had taken steps to rectify their wartime actions by modifying textbooks and issuing apologies by certain leaders. But Honda felt the Japanese government needed to do more.

"The [Japanese] government, as representative by the entire Parliament has not officially apologized," said Honda. "It's documented that many members of Parliament have walked out or didn't show up when an issue like this was before them. It's true that two prime ministers have apologized, and it was ratified by the cabinet, but it's not the entire Japanese government. To me, that is not a formal, unambiguous and sincere apology by the Japanese government."

The revision also omitted references to the German government, JACL and the Sacramento Jewish Community Relations Council.

"We did that [took references out] to keep the resolution cleaner," said Honda. "Many JACL chapters had gone on

record, and for the purpose of the discussion, I wanted to add more weight by saying that I'm not the only one doing this. But I don't think there's a real need to do that in this resolution."

National JACL has taken a neutral stand on this issue but has allowed each chapter to make their own decisions. The Northern California/Western Nevada/Pacific District Council

sue that occurred five or six decades ago. It was the Japanese military. It was the Japanese government."

Added Honda, "I'm a Japanese American talking about issues that happened overseas by another government. I think anyone who confuses Japanese with Japanese Americans is either very careless or not clear in their thinking. ... This is an issue

I should be very clear on — that this is not a Japan bashing issue. That's not what this is about."

Other critics have argued that this is an international issue and that state government should not be involved. To this, Honda said, "This may be an international



PHOTO: MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Southern California Korean American leaders welcomed Assemblyman Mike Honda at a press conference last week in Los Angeles.

of the JACL approved a resolution in February in support of reparations and an apology to civilian victims of Japanese wartime atrocities.

The Organization of Chinese American (OCA) has stated that they will focus on domestic issues due to bylaw restrictions but recently passed a resolution condemning war crimes in general following an emotional and heated debate at their Dallas national convention.

The hands-off approach by national JACL and OCA is indicative of the volatile nature of the nonbinding resolution which has received divided reaction from the Asian American community. Last Friday, Honda flew down to Los Angeles to meet with board members of the Japanese American National Museum after Executive Director Irene Hirano voiced concerns that the resolution was going to stir up anti-Asian sentiment.

In his defense, Honda said, "I do agree that there are many people today who still can't distinguish between Japanese Americans and those from Japan. This issue is clearly an is-

issue but a lot of people affected are citizens of this country. For example, POWs who were in concentration camps during World War II."

Honda does not believe AJR 27 will affect Japanese corporations doing business in America. "There won't, in my opinion, be a repercussion on Japanese companies in terms of the resolution," said Honda. "I don't think it will hurt their business. I think it will heal wounds that need to be healed."

The same Friday Honda met with JANM officials, he received a different reception from Korean American leaders in Southern California, many of whom have been involved in urging the Japanese government to offer reparations to former Korean "comfort women" enslaved during WWII as sex slaves for Japanese soldiers.

"This resolution is not coming from the Korean American or Chinese American or Filipino American communities which got hurt the most [by the Japanese during World War

See AJR27/ page 8

Santa Fe, New Mexico, City Council Delays Decision on Memorial to Former JA WWII Internees to Hear Concerns of Some Vets

By CAROLINE AOYAGI
Executive Editor

The memories of World War II are still an open wound in Santa Fe, New Mexico, as a planned memorial to Japanese American former internees was delayed by the city council in response to protests by some veterans.

The monument to honor the more than 4,500 Japanese American men who were imprisoned at the Department of Justice camp simply because of their ancestry was first proposed by a group of historians, concerned citizens, and former internees. But some veterans, mostly survivors of the horrendous Bataan Death March of WWII, raised

protest is due to misinformation. The memorial is to remember the JA former WWII internees who were unjustly incarcerated solely because of their ancestry and is not a monument to the Japanese.

"The monument is not to denigrate what the veterans went through, but we need to do what's right," said Tom Chavez, Palace of the Governors, Museum of New Mexico director, and a member of the committee supporting the proposed monument. "Although it was the same war, there is no connection between the Bataan survivors and the former WWII internees. There were no Japanese soldiers in this camp."

Dr. Richard Weaver, a Vietnam veteran and resident of New

"By recognizing the Japanese Americans they are honoring the freedoms that the vets fought for."

—Chris Moore, City Council Member

protests after hearing of the proposed plans.

In response, the city council decided on Aug. 11 to delay the decision on the monument to be located at Santa Fe's Frank S. Ortiz Park to allow time for community dialogue on the issue.

"Who in God's name would honor them?" asked Manuel Armijo of New Mexico, an 87-year-old survivor of the death march who is adamantly against the proposed monument.

"I don't know who would even propose such a thing," added 80-year-old Arthur Smith, a survivor of the death march who believes that any monument to the Japanese in New Mexico is unnecessary. "I think the people from New Mexico shouldn't forget what we went through."

Armijo and Smith were among the 1,800 New Mexicans from the 20th Coast Artillery who along with 70,000 American and Filipino forces surrendered to the Japanese on the Bataan Peninsula in April 1942. The starving and sick soldiers were forced to march 65 miles, many of whom died. Others ended up in POW camps.

But supporters of the monument believe that much of the

Mexico for over two decades, was responsible for forming the committee looking into building the monument at the former campsite. "The camp was a significant part of the history of this city. I thought there should be something honoring the memory of the Japanese Americans interned there," said Weaver who grew up on the West Coast and was familiar with the story of the WWII internment of JAs.

Weaver wants to make sure that the residents of New Mexico understand the purpose of the monument. "My primary concern is to put out the truth about the camp and why [Japanese Americans] were put in the camp," he said. "The camp was composed of Japanese nationals, resident aliens and Japanese American citizens."

The Santa Fe camp was chosen by the DOJ in March of 1942 to house the JA internees, and by the time it closed in April 1946, 4,555 men had passed through. The mostly older men were Issei from the West Coast, Hawaii, and Alaska, and also included renunciants and

See MONUMENT/ page 3

U.S. Government Ordered to Release Names of 12 JLA Former Internees of WWII

Judge Lorin Smith of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims issued an order to the Department of Justice to release information on 12 Japanese Latin Americans who may be eligible for redress for their forced relocation and imprisonment during World War II at the hands of the U.S. Government.

In June of 1996 attorneys for JLA's who were abducted from their homes in Latin America and imprisoned in the United States during WWII reached a settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice in a class action lawsuit (*Mochizuki v. U.S.*). The settlement provides each survivor or eligible heir with

a letter of apology signed by President Clinton and a \$5,000 token reparation. Since the announcement, attorneys for JLA's have sought the release of information on their clients in order to assist in locating eligible claimants.

The names of the 12 former internees which the DOJ released last week are persons who filed claims for redress but whose whereabouts are now unknown. The applicants applied from Tokyo to Toshima-ku and Seitama-ken; Higashi Matsuyama-shi; Okinawa-ken Ginowan-shi; Aichi and Gushikawa-shi; Agaña; Lima and Piura in Peru. If the applicants are deceased, then their spouses and children may be eli-

gible for the redress.

Possible September 30th Deadline

The *Mochizuki* settlement agreement was to be paid from the Civil Liberties Act Fund, an act passed by Congress to apologize and pay compensation to persons of Japanese ancestry imprisoned or relocated by the U.S. Government during WWII. The fund, however, ran out in February of 1999, after only 145 of 731 JLA applicants had been paid.

In May, Congress authorized an additional 4.3 million to pay the remaining reparations. A total

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JACL Calendar

National

NATIONAL BOARD

Fri.-Sun., Oct. 8-10—National Board Meeting, JACL Headquarters, San Francisco.

NATIONAL SINGLES

Fri.-Sun., Sept. 3-5—8th National JACL Singles Convention; Radisson Miyaki 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 Nisei Singles and Greater Los Angeles Singles. Info: Georgeann Majeed, 415/753-3340; Gale Kondo, 415/337-9981; Web site: http://home-stead.com/99 convention.

Eastern

WASHINGTON

Fri., Oct. 22—National Japanese American Memorial groundbreaking. Info: NJAAMF, 202/861-8845; fax 202/861-8848; e-mail: NJAAMF@erols.com; www.njaamf.org.

Midwest

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Fri.-Sun., Sept. 24-26—District Council Meeting: Quality Inn, Plymouth, Michigan; Friday Night Mixer, 7-10 p.m.

CLEVELAND

Sun., Sept. 12—1999 Community Picnic; see Community Calendar. Info: Bill Sadatoki.

TWIN CITIES

Sun., Aug. 29—Annual JACL Summer Picnic, 12 noon-6 p.m.; Lake Cornelia Park Pavilion, Edina; salads, side dishes, desserts needed. RSVP by Aug. 25.

COMMUNITY Calendar

East Coast

ATLANTA

Sat., Aug. 27—Exhibit Openings, "America's Concentration Camps: Remembering the Japanese American Experience," and "Witness: Our Brothers' Keepers"; The William Brennan Jewish Heritage Museum, 1440 Spring St. NW; both exhibits developed by the Japanese American National Museum. Info: hours 404/873-1661.

The Midwest

CHICAGO

Sun., Aug. 29—5th annual Asian American community picnic, Bunker Hill Forest Preserve, Grove #7; softball, volleyball, 2-person get races, private, Chicago Mounted Police and Canine Corp. demos; bring bento; hamburgers & hot dogs provided. Info: JACL, 773/728-7170.

CLEVELAND

Sun., Sept. 12—1999 Community Picnic, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Brushwood Shelter, Furnace Run Park, Summit County Metropolitan Parks. Info: John Ochi, 440/442-6211.

INDIANAPOLIS

Fri.-Sun., Sept. 17-19—Indianapolis Golf Caper; housing at Hampton Inn. Info: Chuck Matsumoto, 317/888-8505.

ST. LOUIS

Sat.-Mon., Sept. 4-6—23rd Annual Japanese Festival; Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd.; featuring Zendo Taijō of Los Angeles, dancers from Suwa, Japan, cooking demos, kimono fashion show, shibori dyeing, Rakai pottery demo, children's activities & crafts, candlelight walks, marketplace, food, etc. Info: 314/577-9400 or 800/642-8842.

Intermountain

SALT LAKE CITY

Sat., Aug. 28—Peace Garden Festival, 10 a.m.-2:45 p.m.; Jordan park, 900 West 1000 South; borsai, origami, sausages, cold drinks. Info: Donna Jewel, 801/262-0740, Irene Wisenberg, 801/486-6180.

Pacific Northwest

SEATTLE

Through April 2000—Exhibit, "A Different Battle: Stories of Asian Pacific American Veterans"; Wing Luke Asian Museum, 407 Seventh Ave. S. Info: 206/623-5124.

Northern California

PACIFIC GROVE

Thurs.-Sun., Sept. 9-12—1999 Yuki

Carolyn Sandberg, 612/417-0887

Sun., Sept. 12—Headwaters Fund Walk for Justice, 1 p.m. Sign-up, donation, info: Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, 612/925-2429.

Sun., Sept. 12—Akimatsuri; Nordanale Community College.

Mountain Plains

NEW MEXICO

Sun., Sept. 26—Akimatsuri Potluck; setup 10 a.m., festivities 12 noon-5 p.m.; Courtyard of the Japanese Kitchen, 6521 Americas Pkwy N.E.; dances, kendo, judo, karate, taiko, dōrō, ikebana, silent auction, raffle, arts & crafts, more. Info: Tuffy, 296-2392, Patty Fitzwater, 292-6319.

NC-WN-Pacific

BERKELEY

Sat., Aug. 21—Berkeley JACL Yard Sale Fund Raiser, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; 2165 Ashby Ave. @ Fulton. Info: Val Yasukochi, 510/272-7016.

SAN FRANCISCO

Sat., Sept. 18—Workday at the National AIDS Memorial Grove, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., east end of Golden Gate Park; sponsored by San Francisco chapter JACL. Info: John Handa, 415/282-2803.

Sun., Oct. 10—Golf tournament fund raiser; Skywest Golf Course, Hayward; sponsors and donors needed. Info: Vince Asai, 650/349-3590.

WEST VALLEY

Sat., Aug. 21—Danuma Festival in San Jose; proceeds to West Valley chapter, Senior Club and the Next Generation; see Community Calendar for details.

Central California

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Sun., Aug. 29 (date change)—District Council quarterly meeting; Merced College.

Sun., Sept. 12—Shinzen Run, Fresno; to benefit Woodward Park's Shinzen Gardens and the Central Calif. Nisei Foundation. Sponsors wanted; call Bobbi Hanada, 559/434-1662; registration forms: Patricia Tsai Tom, 559/486-6815.

Pacific Southwest

DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

Sat., Sept. 18—PSW District Awards Dinner; Torrance; public is welcome — see Community Calendar. RSVP: 213/626-4471.

LAS VEGAS

Sat., Aug. 21—Singles lunch, 12 noon; Makino Tōdai Restaurant, 3965 S. Decatur #5; bowling to follow. Info: Rhea Fujimoto, 702/254-8060.

Fri., Sept. 11 or 17—Fund-raising for PBS Channel 10, 8 p.m. Volunteers needed; call Lillian, 702/734-0508.

WEST LOS ANGELES

Sun., Sept. 12—Aki Matsuri; see Community Calendar. Info: Jean Ushijima, 310/390-6914. ■

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

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.

Week Japanese Beer Garden Fund-raiser, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, 244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo. Info: 213/687-7193 ext. 352.

Through 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 Web site at www.janet.org.

Sun., Aug. 22—Film screening, "Children of the Camps," and discussion with producer Dr. Satsuki Iida, 3:45 p.m.; Japan America Theatre, 244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo. RSVP: 213/628-3700.

Through Aug. 22—Exhibit, "The Heart Mountain Story," photos by Hansel Mieth and Otto Hagel; Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo. Info: 213/625-0414, 800/461-5266.

Sat., Aug. 28—Reading and book signing, "Storied Lives: Japanese American Students and World War II" by Gary Y. Okihiro, Ph.D., 1 p.m.; Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo. RSVP: 213/625-0414.

Sun., Sept. 12—Aki Matsuri; 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Venice Japanese Community Center, 12448 Braddock Dr., West LA; designer clothing, jewelry, hand-made stationery, cookbooks, food, books for adults & children, etc. Info: Jean Ushijima, 310/290-6914.

Sat., Sept. 18—PSW District Awards Dinner; 6 p.m. silent auction, 7 p.m. dinner; Norman Y. Mineta, speaker, Channel 7's David Ono, M.C.; Torrance Marriott Hotel, 3635 Fashion Way, Torrance. Tickets \$85; RSVP: 213/626-4471.

Arizona - Nevada

GLENDALE

Tues., Aug. 24—Program, "Cherry Blossoms and Barbed Wire, Historical Sketches of the Japanese in Arizona," 2 p.m.; Glendale Adult Center, 7121 N. 57th Ave.; entertainment, origami, hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. RSVP: 623/930-2196. ■

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, DC 20035-6260.

AALDEF Updates Community on Syracuse, N.Y., Denny's Discrimination Lawsuit

By TRACY UBA
Writer/Reporter

The seven Asian American and Caucasian college students who say they were denied service at a Denny's restaurant in Syracuse, New York, and then beaten by a group of white assailants on April 11, 1997, continue to seek justice in a civil rights lawsuit brought against the company.

The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), who are representing the students along with international law firm Kaye, Scholer, Fierman, Hays & Handler, recently held a public forum on Aug. 11, at an NAACP office in New York to update the community on the status of the *Lizardo, et al. v. Denny's, Inc., et al.* case.

The students filed the lawsuit last August against Denny's, Inc., franchise owner NDI Foods, Inc., the County of Onondaga and the two deputy sheriffs who, they claim, failed to mediate their complaints of racial discrimination and did nothing to effectively stop another group of patrons from later physically assaulting four of the students in the restaurant's parking lot.

Japanese-native Yoshika Kusada, 24, was one of those students who claims to have been beaten and kicked. She was quoted in the *Philippine Reporter* as saying, "I'm still emotionally affected two years after the incident, it's shocking. I won't be able to forget that, we want to pursue the case to the end."

Denny's, meanwhile, has made a motion for summary judgment to have the lawsuit dismissed. A

federal judge is scheduled to hear arguments from both sides on Sept. 24.

"The summary judgment is one more hurdle that we have to get through," said AALDEF staff attorney Li On Yang, who remains guarded about which way the judge's critical decision will go. "It's the last hurdle before the case goes to trial."

Denny's public relations spokesperson Karen Randall said, "We are all outraged by the assault on the students which occurred outside the Syracuse restaurant. However, there was no discrimination by Denny's."

Randall added only that, "We believe the motion speaks for itself."

Although it has been two years since the alleged Syracuse incident occurred, Denny's has been accused of racial discrimination by customers on numerous occasions since March of 1996, when three black students said they were thrown out of a restaurant in Cortland, New York, after one of them complained about hair in her food.

Continuing complaints from Asian Americans, African Americans and Hispanics around the country about Denny's alleged discrimination against minority customers exacerbated the restaurant's already growing notoriety, eventually forcing the company to launch a campaign which included requisite non-discrimination training for all of its employees as well as a \$2 million

advertisement blitz attempting to promote its commitment to racial diversity.

It has been questioned, however, whether Denny's has actually ensured that its employees undergo the non-discrimination training. And some argue that its public relations campaign is really an effort to "buy" the goodwill of education,

said On Yang. "It's based on our independent research," in which 34 depositions were taken, yielding both oral testimony and documented evidence which, she said, corroborated much of the information found by the monitor.

"Why this case is still going on despite the Civil Rights Monitor is that Denny's is unwilling to accept liability," On Yang added. "The parent company does not want to accept responsibility. But it is the parent company which has direct control of the non-discrimination training that its employees get. They can't just say it's the franchise's fault."

She also stressed certain facts about the case that "the public needs to know." She claimed, for instance, that although the manager who oversaw the Syracuse restaurant at the time of the alleged 1997 incident is no longer working there, he was allowed to open eight different franchises in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The New York chapter JACL recently became involved in the Syracuse Denny's issue because of its particular interest in certain

advocacy issues, including immigration, affirmative action and particularly hate crimes, said chapter president Steve Nagata.

"We are very interested in the results [of the summary judgment]," he said. "And we are very much in support of AALDEF and the Syracuse students."

"There's a repeated history that Denny's, the company as well as the franchise, has had endemic problems and issues with other ethnic groups," he said.

Fortunately, other ethnic and AA groups have taken an interest in showing their support. Many attended the AALDEF public forum, and others plan on making an appearance at the hearing next month, Nagata said.

"Our clients are very grateful for the support of the community," said On Yang, adding, "They know they are up against a lot of odds."

Christopher Warnock, the man whom two of the students had identified in a photo line-up and whom the district attorney believes attacked the AA, was never prosecuted in a separate incident, however, he has been charged with first degree manslaughter after kicking a man in the head while he was on the ground in a club parking lot.

"There's a repeated history that Denny's, the company as well as the franchise, has had endemic problems and issues with other ethnic groups."

—Steve Nagata

JACL N.Y. chapter president

nic minority communities.

In August 1997, a Civil Rights Monitor was selected by the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate the Syracuse incident and to recommend the appropriate disciplinary action to be taken against the employees involved. It was at that time that the monitor reported some of those employees hadn't received their non-discrimination training.

"Our case is based on one-and-a-half-years of our own investiga-

and hate-related violence in the United States.

"While [the suspect] claims to have acted alone, this was not a random act of racial violence. He is an active neo-Nazi and member of white supremacist groups that advocate killing non-whites."

FILCRA also joins the larger civil rights community in commending the Jewish community and the Lieto family for remaining strong in the face of the hatred directed at them.

Rachel C. Estanzar, co-chair of FILCRA, said that they will be working very closely with the APALC to make sure that the grieving family of Joseph Lieto receives the support that they need at this very difficult time. She urges the public to help the family by donating to the Joseph Lieto Fund established at the Monterey Branch of Washington Mutual at 459 S. Adriatic Blvd., Monterey Park, CA 91754.

The National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA), an umbrella civil rights advocacy group composed of APA organizations, including JACL, condemns the actions of the white supremacist, saying in a press statement "Furrow believed Lieto deserved to die because he was not white and because he was a government employee."

Jim Sook Lee, NCAPA secretary, said, "The actions of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), said, 'Mr. Lieto died as a result of the hatred espoused by white supremacist groups, and the victims that survived have to go through unnecessary pain and suffering.'"

Karen Narasaki, executive director of the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium (Consortium), said, "Every person must get involved to teach tolerance of diversity at all levels of education. Our communities must educate ourselves about the sources of hatred in our midst, and work in coalition with the larger civil rights community to strengthen protections against the acts of hate groups."

"My heart goes out to those families of the injured and especially to the Lieto Family for their loss," states JACL National President Helen Kawagoe. "In this day and age these acts of violence are just deplorable. As we continue to build coalitions with other ethnic organizations let us work together to make the world safe for the future of our children."

According to Beth Au, JACL regional director in Los Angeles, "Hate crimes are not limited to one

ethnic community. When one community is affected, we all feel like victims to the crime. We shouldn't have to live in fear of wondering, 'When will it (those senseless killings) end?'"

With hate crimes in the country on the rise, it has become more evident that there must exist federal legislation to prosecute people who perpetrate those crimes against innocent people of color.

As a civil and human rights advocacy organization, the JACL will be working diligently in Washington, D.C., to see the passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1999. "We must do whatever it takes to see the passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1999. Every legislator in the country should know that such crimes cannot and should not be tolerated," said Kawagoe.

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1999, which would increase monitoring of hate groups and strengthen state and federal efforts to prosecute hate crimes, is presently before Congress.

The Act passed the Senate but is currently stalled in the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee. The Act would help states combat hate crimes, analyze data collected to assess states' performance in prosecuting hate crimes, and allow federal prosecution of hate crimes committed across multiple state lines.

Eight states — including Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, New Mexico, South Carolina and Wyoming — still have not enacted hate crime statutes. In California, however, under the state's hate crime law, local prosecutors charged that Furrow intentionally murdered and attempted to murder his victims because of their race or nationality and because of actual or perceived religion or ancestry.

On Aug. 16, California's Attorney General Bill Lockyer released statewide hate crime statistics for 1998 and announced the formation of a Civil Rights Commission on Hate Crimes. The commission will advise the attorney general on methods to improve hate crime prevention; tolerance and appreciation for diversity; law enforcement training; monitoring and suppression of organized, extremist hate groups; victims' services; and the strength and efficacy of state criminal and civil rights laws aimed at preventing and punishing perpetrators of hate crimes. Civil Rights crusader Fred Korematsu has been named honorary chair of the commission.

Vets Protest JA Monument

(Continued from page 1)

Japanese Latin Americans, largely from Peru. For the duration of the war these men were separated from their families and loved ones.

The mostly Issei internees had been labeled enemy aliens but ironically, it was the discriminatory laws that existed at the time that prevented them from becoming naturalized citizens. Even so, the Nisei, citizens of the United States, were also being confined in concentration camps throughout the country.

In total, more than 110,000 JAs from the West Coast were forcibly removed from their homes and businesses and shipped off to concentration camps throughout the country.

The monument committee has selected an area overlooking the former WWII DOJ camp, to establish a memorial for the former internees. The monument will include a diagram of the former camp and a haiku poem in both English and Japanese. The committee has set up an archive at the Palace of the Governors and is currently collecting materials. In addition, a Web site will be established dedicated to the memory of the camp. The monument committee is actively raising funds for the memorial and is not seeking any funds from the city.

Sue Embrey of Los Angeles is a member of the Manzanar Committee and was pivotal in establishing the former American concentration camp at Manzanar as a National Historical Landmark.

The process was arduous, she said, and she understands the difficulties in trying to get the monument in New Mexico built. Like the current concerns with the New Mexico monument, Embrey says that there were a lot of protests from vets and local residents who felt that the Manzanar site was honoring the Japanese. "They still don't understand," she said. "They tend to compare us as Japanese Japanese and not Japanese American. But we were American citizens and we had

nothing to do with Pearl Harbor."

The residents of Santa Fe must remember that "this is a commemoration of a sight that is part of New Mexico's history," said Embrey. "It's to commemorate a historical fact. It's not to blame anyone."

City Council Member Chris Moore, along with Councilor Patti Bushee and Mayor Larry Delgado co-sponsored the original resolution to build the monument and plans to continue supporting the memorial. "There's still a lot of pain over what (the veterans) went through. But most people understand that (the Japanese Americans) were interned for no other reason other than their ancestry and they should be memorialized," said Moore. "By recognizing the Japanese Americans they are honoring the freedoms that the vets fought for."

Mayor Delgado acknowledged that the monument is a "part of the history of our community." By delaying the decision on the memorial, he wants to bring the various groups in the community together to discuss the proposal in hope that some type of common ground can be developed.

Councilor Moore is hopeful that the monument will go forward. "A lot of New Mexicans lost a lot of people [at the Betan death march]. But that is no excuse not to recognize that some American citizens were stripped of their rights, rights that belong to all Americans," he said.

"Santa Fe is a good, tolerant community," said Chavez, and he is confident that the memorial will be built.

The final decision on the memorial will be made by the city council members at their Aug. 25 meeting where the issue is scheduled to be revisited. Of the nine members, including the mayor, a majority vote of five will be needed to carry the resolution through.

Associated Press contributed to this story.

The Asian Pacific American community joined the Jewish and other minority communities to decry the rising tide of hate, as another APA felt victim to a hate shooting.

"Hate crimes affect everyone, not just the victims, their family, or their community. We should join together with communities across the nation, of all backgrounds, to deplore and bring an end to these kinds of attacks," stated Stewart Kwok, executive director of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC).

Kwok spoke at a press conference with members of Jewish, Asian American and the civil rights groups held in Los Angeles on Aug. 13.

On Aug. 10, Buford O. Furrow, Jr., scouted for an area to shoot Jewish people before settling on the North Valley Jewish Community Center in suburban Los Angeles, where he wounded five people, then shot and killed Joseph Lieto, a Filipino American postal worker making his rounds in nearby Chatsworth.

According to news media reports, Furrow, who turned himself in to the FBI in Las Vegas, confessed to investigators that he shot Lieto, 39, because he thought Lieto was Hispanic or Asian, making him "a good target of opportunity." Executive Director of the Filipino American Service Group, Inc., Susan Maquindang stated "Hate crimes destroy our communities. We really need to sit down together, all of our countries leaders, to work on this critical issue for the future of our children."

The Leadership Development in Interethnic Relations (LDIR) said in a statement that the murder of Lieto is a wake-up call to everyone, especially Filipino Americans, that hate crimes are on the rise and that the Filipino American community needs to continue to join together with other communities that are actively involved in fighting hate crimes, racism, prejudice, and other acts of violence. The LDIR is a collaborative with Central American Resource Center, APALC, Martin Luther King Dispute Resolution Center, and Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

According to the Filipino Civil Rights Advocates (FILCRA), "The senseless act of racial terrorism that resulted in the murder of Joseph Lieto and the wounding of women and children at the Jewish Community Center... warns of the resurgence of white supremacy and the proliferation of hate groups

Sansei Artist, Nina Akamu, Brings Leonardo Da Vinci's 'Il Cavallo' to Life

By BILL HOSOKAWA
Special to the Pacific Citizen

Nina Akamu, the Sansei artist commissioned to create the 14-foot-tall centerpiece for the National Japanese American memorial in Washington, D.C., is an internationally acclaimed sculptor.

After a preview last June of her bronze statue of a ferry horse as tall as a two-story building, Akamu received extensive attention in such publications as the *New York Times*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Sculpture Review*, and from publications around the world.

Akamu was chosen over many other sculptors to bring to fruition an art project, now called "Il Cavallo," begun in Italy by the great Leonardo da Vinci about the time of Columbus. On Sept. 10, 500 years after Leonardo's original clay model was destroyed by invading French soldiers, Akamu's statue is to be unveiled as the centerpiece of a \$6.5 million art and cultural center being established in Milan. Akamu is scheduled to deliver a paper on Leonardo.

Critics emphasize that Akamu's horse, cast in bronze by the Talix foundry in Beacon, N.Y., about 50 miles up the Hudson River from New York City, is not a copy of Leonardo's horse. Leonardo left only a few rough sketches and no one knows what the original model looked like. But as the *Philadelphia Inquirer* observed, the statue

is Akamu's "modern interpretation of a horse that would be consistent with Leonardo's creative impulses."

"Akamu decided," the *Inquirer* continued, "that ideally her horse would express the ambiguities and contrasts she identified in his art. It would be simultaneously calm and forceful, masculine and feminine. Although static, it would suggest explosive kinetic potential."

More about the horse later.

The statue Akamu is to create for the Japanese American memorial, while still not in final form, basically depicts cranes struggling to free themselves from barbed wire with their unencumbered wings extended high above their heads.

She has made three different clay versions of this statue for review by the federal Fine Arts Commission. One version depicts three adult birds and one chick. The commission has yet to make its choice known.

"The Japanese crane," Akamu explains, "speaks specifically to Japanese Americans but its message is not simply ethnic. It is a symbol understood universally. The crane is a metaphor of 11 auspiciousness, happiness and good fortune. The bird in flight is an archetype of freedom and transcendence — both spiritually and politically. These symbols are transposed in the monument to represent the Japanese American experience of liberty, courage, perseverance and the regaining of freedom."

Who is Nina Akamu? At age 44, she is a statuesque — no pun

intended woman with long black hair, a nice smile and an easy, relaxed manner.

"I'm Sansei," she explains. "Three-fourths Japanese and one-fourth Chinese. My father, Ah-Kui Akamu, who is retired in Dover, Delaware, after 28 years in the Air Force, is half Japanese and half Chinese. My mother, Tomiko Kokubo, is a Nisei."

Nina was born at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma where her father was stationed. In childhood, she moved with her parents back to Honolulu but the family has lived in various parts of the world including Japan and the Philippines.

Although she was born long after World War II, she is sensitive to the JA experience which will be commemorated in the memorial in the nation's capital.

As a child, she and her father would go fishing in Pearl Harbor where the rusting remains of ships destroyed in the Japanese attack loomed silently over their little boat.

She is aware of Pearl Harbor for another reason. Her grandfather, Hisahiko Kokubo, who had lived on Kauai for more than 40 years after immigrating from Kumamoto, Japan, was prominent enough to be among the first Japanese to be jailed by federal agents after the outbreak of war in 1941. Separated from his wife and seven young children, Kokubo was interned on Sand Island near Honolulu Harbor. Three months later he died of a heart attack, the first JA to die in internment.

"The death of my grandfather," says Nina, "stripped of his civil liberties, is a powerful metaphor for the fragility of human freedoms. He endured but rarely talked about the challenges he faced in America because of his race, and the way he faced his problems personified courage, tenacity and nobility. He will be an inspiration as I create the sculpture for the Japanese American Memorial."

Akamu studied at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, and in Florence and Pietrasanta, Italy. Her work has been exhibited in, and won awards at, exhibits in such places as New York, Baltimore, Washington,



Cleveland, Philadelphia, Santa Fe and San Antonio. In 1979 she became the youngest artist to be accepted into the National Sculpture Society since its inception in 1893. In 1986 she became the youngest member to be advanced to "fellow" status by the society.

But getting back to the horse. In the late 1480s, shortly before another Italian named Christopher Columbus set out on his epic voyage, Leonardo was commissioned to create a monumental statue to honor the Duke of Sforza. For years Leonardo worked on a giant clay model of a great war horse, planning to cast the statue in one piece with 70 tons of bronze. But war broke out with France and the bronze was diverted to manufacture cannons.

The French won the war and their troops destroyed the clay model by using it for target practice. Nothing remained of the project except a few sketchy drawings, and Leonardo went on to other projects until his death in 1519.

Fast-forward now to 1978. Charles C. Dent, an airline pilot and amateur sculptor from Allentown, Pa., became interested in Leonardo's unfinished project. He came up with the idea of sculpting Leonardo's horse and presenting it to the citizens of Milan as a gift from Americans. The project would be financed by a privately funded foundation — he gave it a million dollars to get it started — to be called Leonardo da Vinci's Horse, Inc. Before Dent died in 1994 he completed an eight-foot plaster model of the Leonardo horse and a 24-foot clay version. But after his death the trustees of his foundation agreed that Dent's creation was "seriously flawed," largely because he was unfamiliar with animal anatomy. That was when Nina Akamu was given the commission.

She spent two years researching Leonardo's work and studying animal anatomy. Not any horse would do. It would have to be a spirited, heavily muscled charger. In time she sculpted an eight-foot clay model. From it was created a 24-foot plaster mold which was used by the Talix foundry for the 15-ton bronze casting.

Early this summer the statue was unveiled before an admiring crowd of 35,000. Later the statue was cut into seven section — head, body, tail and four legs — and flown to Milan where welders have reassembled it for the unveiling on Sept. 10.

On her return, Akamu will begin to refine her statue of the cranes for the Japanese American National Memorial whose dedication is scheduled for Oct. 21, 2000.

Where did she get the idea of using pained cranes as a symbol of the JA experience to be commemorated in the memorial?

"Out of my head," she says. "As I see it, the tips of the wings, burished to look like flame, will rise above the wall of the memorial and would be visible from the street."

The clay model, from which the sculpture will be cast, is scheduled to be completed within the year. Meanwhile, the Japanese American National Memorial Foundation, organized for the sole purpose of building the memorial, is continuing its fund drive. Cherry Tsutsumida, the executive director, says more than \$7 million — enough money to get federal approval for the groundbreaking this Oct. 2 — is in the bank, but more donations are needed to complete the project.

NJAMF's office is at 1920 N Street NW, Suite 660, Washington, D.C. 20036. All donations are tax-deductible. ■



(From left): Peter Okada, Nina Akamu, Dennis Otsuji, Kelly Kuwayama, Dr. Harry Abe, and Grant Ujifusa.

Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches Receives Funding to Help Launch Culturally Sensitive Patient Support Program

The California Endowment, the state's largest health foundation announced a \$208,544 grant to the Southern California-based Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches (A3M). Funds from the endowment will be used by A3M to launch their Culturally Sensitive Patient Support System (CSPSS).

The CSPSS, a two-year pilot program, will serve Asians and Pacific Islanders (API) in need of bone marrow transplants, who are often linguistically isolated and feel culturally stigmatized. The need for culturally sensitive support is critical for patients threatened by fatal diseases and faced with an unfamiliar and fragmented medical system.

"We are delighted that The California Endowment has chosen to help underserved Asian and Pacific Islander communities in Southern California by funding the Culturally Sensitive Patient Support System program," said Sharon Sugiyama, project director of A3M.

"The California Endowment is dedicated to addressing the health needs of underserved communities in California," added Jai Lee Wong, senior program officer for the endowment. "Multicultural health issues are often overlooked, and the endowment is dedicated to making strides in this area by funding organizations such as Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches and its

Culturally Sensitive Patient Support System."

The program will provide a range of services such as cultural/language case management, patient counseling, support groups, peer mentoring, and a national support network for the many APIs outside of Southern California who have contacted A3M. These services are designed to assist patients in negotiating, understanding and fully utilizing the health care system. The CSPSS program is the result of the growing demand on A3M staff to provide culturally sensitive support to patients seeking transplants.

While A3M targets the six largest API communities in Southern California (Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, South Asian and Vietnamese), the CSPSS program will create support systems specifically in the Korean and Vietnamese communities. These communities were prioritized by A3M because they exhibit the highest levels of need for culturally sensitive support systems. The endowment hopes its initial financial commitment will also help to leverage funding from other sources to establish the program in the Chinese, Japanese, Filipino and South Asian communities of Southern California.

A3M was founded in 1991 to increase the disproportionately low number of APIs in the na-

tional bone marrow registry. A3M is funded by the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) to recruit and educate the API population about marrow donation.

Bone marrow tissue matches are more likely to be found in two people of the same ethnic group. This makes a multi-ethnic database imperative to eliminating disparities in marrow matches. A3M is the largest agency in the nation working to increase and diversify the national donor database by targeting API populations. In 1990, there were 5,800 Asian Americans in the national registry. Today there are 190,000 API donors in the national registry; one out of every five has been registered by A3M.

The California Endowment was established in May 1996 as a private foundation. The endowment has offices in Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo and Carlsbad.

The endowment's mission is to expand access to affordable, quality health care for California's underserved individuals and communities, and to promote fundamental improvements in the health status of all Californians. The California Endowment makes grants to organizations and institutions that directly benefit the health and well-being of all Californians. ■

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NAATA to Showcase AA Programming on PBS This Fall

The National Asian American Telecommunications Association (NAATA), will present an hour of Asian American programming on PBS stations this fall. Two films, "Visas and Virtue" and "I am Viet Hung: Vietnamese Hero," will be showcased in the third installment of the new PBS series Independent Lens, which begins airing in August 1999 (check local listings for exact date and time). NAATA is a leader in supporting and distributing Asian Pacific American media productions to the American public.

Academy Award-winner "Visas and Virtue," directed by Chris Tashima and produced by Chris Donahue, pays tribute to Japanese Consul General Chiune Sugihara who saved 6,000 Jews from the Holocaust and risked his own career by issuing life-saving transit visas in defiance of his government's direct orders.

"Visas and Virtue" is a dramatic interpretation of a chapter in Chiune "Sempo" Sugihara's life. Sugihara served as Japanese vice-consul to Lithuania in 1940, and is credited with saving the

second largest number of Jews from the Holocaust. With the help of his wife, Sugihara worked 16 hours a day for three weeks to issue over 2,000 visas which ultimately saved 6,000 lives. Add the children and grandchildren of the survivors to the total and it is estimated that over 40,000 people owe their lives to the Sugiharas.

"I am Viet Hung: Vietnamese Hero," directed by Diep N. Bui, is a graceful documentary portrait of Viet Hung, a once-prominent Vietnamese opera singer who, in his old age, must now witness his art's demise as well as his own fall from fame.

Hung, who evacuated Saigon in 1975 at the end of the war, came to California with no papers or money. He made his living by performing his art where he could, in local clubs or at weddings and festivals. But interest in the traditional arts among the Vietnamese in the United States began dying out and engagements for Hung to perform are



PHOTO: HIRO NARITA
Chris Tashima as Chiune Sugihara continues to sign visas as he bids farewell, along with Susan Fukuda as his wife Yukiko.

National Park Service Conducting Study on Racial Desegregation in U.S. Public Education System

The National Park Service is conducting a National Historic Landmarks Theme Study on racial desegregation in the United States public education system. One of the sites under review is the Florin East School in Sacramento County, Calif.

The National Park Service is looking for any information about the Florin East School and other potential resources, including the development of Japanese language schools in the United States. They are also interested in the historic effects of educational segregation and desegregation on the Asian American Community.

The study, prepared by the National Historic Landmarks Survey, will identify up to five new National Historic Landmarks. Other properties that have significance to the desegregation struggle will be identified and suggested for possible designation on the National Register of Historic Places. The study culminates in October 2000, with the presentation of the theme study to Congress by the Secretary of the Interior.

The purpose of the study is to identify sites and structures that best represent and commemorate key events or decisions in the public education desegregation movement. Examples of property types are courthouses, schools, colleges, meeting places for individuals and organizations, and homes of desegregation leaders.

The study's historic context will describe the factors which lead to racially segregated public schools and colleges, the struggle to have segregation declared unconstitutional, and the results of the Supreme Court's 1954 desegregation edict. Federal court decisions will serve as a major method of framing the structure of the historic context, in decisions that range from the 1849 case *Roberts v. City of Boston*, which established the legality of "separate but equal" schools, to the 1974 ruling in *Lau v. Nichols*.

If you have any information, please contact the study's principal investigator, Susan Salvatore by phone at 202/343-4246 or e-mail at Susan_Salvatore@nps.gov.

PAAAC National Conference to be Held Sept. 2-4 in Seattle

The Social Security Administration's Pacific Asian American Advisory Council (PAAAC) will hold its national conference Sept. 2-4 in Seattle. The theme of the conference is "Reflections of the Past, Visions for the Future."

Speakers at the conference will include actor George Takei, Washington Gov. Gary Locke, Acting U.S. Assistant Attorney General Bill Lann Lee, Daphne Kwok, chair, National Council of Asian Pacific Americans and the Organization of Chinese Americans, J.D. Hokoyama, president, Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, and Fong "Jonathan" Her, executive director, Hmong National Development, Inc.

PAAAC is composed of Social Security management and employees who are dedicated to ensuring the Asian Pacific community the best possible service from Social Security. It was officially chartered in 1977 to serve as an advisor to the Commissioner of Social Security.

The council seeks ways to ensure that the APA community is well informed of its rights under the Social Security Act and the programs administered by Social Security, and ensure that these services are provided in the appropriate language when needed.

PAAAC also works in partnership with the Social Security Agency in pursuit of hiring, promotion and recruitment of APA employees. It strongly supports

community outreach projects and is actively involved in coalition building activities with other AP organizations.

PAAAC sponsors regional and national conferences, bringing together Social Security employees and executives, members of the public, and representatives of national and local community-based organizations to share ideas, issues and concerns, and formulate plans to address the challenges of the future.

The PAAAC National Conference provides a forum for SSA employees, members of the public and representatives of outside organizations from around the country to join together, reflect upon the past, celebrate achievements and formulate plans to address the challenges of the future. The objectives of this year's conference include:

- Discuss and formulate plans to address issues affecting APA employees and customers.
- Reflect on experience of individuals or groups who have demonstrated courage and commitment in advancing the interests of Asian and Pacific Islanders.
- Develop the leadership, professional skills and knowledge of APA employees through workshops and seminars.
- Present speakers who can relate in an inspiring and thought-provoking manner their experiences in promoting the concerns

dance Film Festival.

Also airing with Independent Lens program is "Silencio" by Michael Arago. This short film, set in 1950s San Francisco, focuses on the experience of a young Filipino American trying to adjust to his predominantly Caucasian workplace. ■

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Nakajo Wins Kay Okamoto Volunteer Award

Ben K. Nakajo became the eleventh recipient of the Kay Okamoto Volunteer Award presented at the Hamilton Senior Center anniversary luncheon. On hand for the award's luncheon was Barbara Marumoto, daughter of Kay Okamoto, Takeo, her father, and brothers Steve and Allan.

Nakajo was honored for his long-time volunteer work with the Cherry Blossom Festival, serving as chairperson of the Queen's Pageant, grand parade, and general chair of the event over the past 30 years. He is on the boards of Kimochi, Inc., where he has served as the chairman of the board, and the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California. Nakajo also supports a variety of other organizations including the Asian Pacific Islander Wellness Center.

The selection of Nakajo as the recipient of the award was one that all of the members of the



From left to right: Steve Okamoto, Barbara Marumoto, Takeo Okamoto, Ben Nakajo, and Allen Okamoto.

review committee supported because of how his volunteer work benefits those served by the projects and programs.

The Kay Okamoto Volunteer Award was established by the Okamoto family in conjunction

with the San Francisco chapter of the JACL.

In addition to the crystal award, Nakajo was presented with a check for \$1,000 that will go towards Kimochi, Inc.'s Sansei Live program. ■

Three Degrees of Separation

By Naomi Hirahara

Baishakunin, Incorporated

One of my writer friends and I joked about starting our own business together. It would be called *Baishakunin*, Incorporated, and, yes, we would be modern-day matchmakers, finding single men and women potential suitors within the Japanese American world. But we decided that it would be doomed for failure.

"If people found out that we were behind it, they would be afraid that they would land up in some book," my friend said, laughing. And most likely, they would.

Yet I still contend that there's a place for the *baishakunin*, the middle man or woman who negotiates marriages, popular in old Japan and the early days of the Issei. Most of the time, *baishakunin* fulfilled merely a perfunctory role, but some truly relished their duties. *Baishakunin* usually held some sort of leadership role, either formally or informally, within the community.

In recent years, most community leaders have opted not to interfere with other people's love life. It can get messy, after all. There's already too many close connections; everyone is related to everyone else. One bad match, and they wouldn't hear the end of it.

The Sansei generation has all but rejected the necessity of a *baishakunin*. We found our mates naturally at school, at the work place. But as some of us have remained single at an older age, others have become single again, due to divorce or a spouse's death. Singlehood can prove to be very satisfying, or even liberating. But not suited for all people.

To find that "one" is not easy. Single groups abound, but many shy away from the label "single." About seven years ago, my girlfriends and I organized a singles party, complete with rub-on tattoos, good music and clever ice breakers. Needless to say, it was a complete flop.

When I edited the *Rafu Shimpo*, a JA daily newspaper, we would occasionally receive this

inquiry: "Why don't you publish personals?" After all, free entertainment weeklies were making a mint off of personal ads. But we were afraid of what could result: men seeking Lotus Flowers, an idealized version of an Asian woman — instead of the real thing, a solid woman who probably doesn't cook or clean all that well, and is so busy that she barely has time to clip her toenails.

I've since learned that there are unofficial *baishakunin* who arrange blind dates for their friends, but usually there's more misses than hits. To be a good *baishakunin* requires, first of all, an ability to sustain a good relationship with a loved one, and second, discernment. Too many times a self-described matchmaker merely sees two single people, and whom, tries to snap them together like pieces of a Lego set. It doesn't matter that one is a vegetarian and the other, a fast food junkie, or that one is a member of the Peace and Freedom Party and the other, the National Rifle Association.

Most of all, a *baishakunin* needs tact. That means not interfering, definitely, no teasing or gossiping.

I don't think I have what it takes.

But we do need more *baishakunin* out there. I'm convinced of it. There's too many decent men and women out there who are looking for a serious relationship. Of course, there can be other issues involved why a good mate cannot be found. But it may also be because it's so hard to meet anybody beyond our small circle of friends and acquaintances.

So, I offer this challenge to happy couples across the nation. Look around, and think hard. Are there two singles out there who might make a good match? Arrange a meeting, and the rest is up to them. ■

Naomi Hirahara is a writer based in Pasadena, Calif. Her e-mail address is NHirahara@aol.com.

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Program Director-Education

Under the general direction of the National Director, operates and manages the JACL Education Programs and projects out of the San Francisco office, performing a wide variety of duties to ensure the development and quality performance of the JACL's national education programs and goals. Travel and work on weekends and evenings required. College graduate with a major in education policy, or general education preferred. Should have one to five years of progressively more responsible work experience in developing programs and policies in human services civil rights or education. Must be experienced in the use of computer technology and e-mail.

Position is full-time. Not restricted to internal candidates. Excellent fringe benefit package provided. Salary commensurate with experience: \$28,800-\$44,000 depending on qualifications. Send resume and cover letter to: JACL, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115 or fax to 415/931-4671. E-mailed applications/resumes not accepted. Program funded in part through the 100th/442nd MIS WWII Memorial Foundation. Deadline for applications: until filled.

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. Performs a wide variety of duties to ensure the maintenance and development of JACL's membership. Some travel and work on weekends and evenings required. College graduate with one to three years of progressively more responsible work experience in developing membership and membership services preferred. Must be experienced in the use of computer database technology and e-mail.

Position is full-time. Excellent fringe benefit package provided. Competitive salary commensurate with experience. Send resume and cover letter to: JACL, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115 or fax to 415/931-4671. E-mailed applications/resumes not accepted.

U.S. Gov't Ordered to Release Names of JLA's

(Continued from page 1)

of 568 JLA former internees, mostly residing in Japan, are currently awaiting payment. The money is expected to become available early September but must be spent by September 30th. Attorneys for JLA's are concerned that should funding for the remaining eligible claims under the *Mochizuki* settlement agreement become available in September, any claim which is not completed by September 30th could lose out on the \$5,000 redress payment and the letter of apology. Applicants or their heirs should contact both the U.S. DOJ

and attorneys for JLA's immediately:

The following is a list of contact information:

1. Department of Justice: (To talk to a person, leave a message at 202/219-6900)
Department of Justice, Attention: Latin American Claims, c/o the Department of Labor Building, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N-1519, Washington, D.C., 20001, USA

2. Attorneys for Mochizuki v. United States:
Robin S. Toma, Attention: Class

Counsel in Mochizuki, c/o ACLU Attention: Marian Selvaggio, 1616 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026, Fax: 310/441-5595

For More Information:
In Japan contact:
Mitsunori Oyama in Kawasaki: 044 955-7216

In U.S.A. Contact:
Japanese: Ayako Hagihara 213/473-1697

In Peru contact:
Thomas Hayashi in Lima 14-274-126
English/Spanish: Robin Toma 213/974-7640 ■

Japanese Latin American Former Internees Missing Persons Who Applied for Redress

(Per Department of Justice, these are the last known addresses.)

Name	Born	Last known address:	City	Zip	Country
1. Abe, Kimi	1914	Calle Abancas 1073	Lima		Peru
2. Botetano, Obdulio	1925	H Lote No 29 El Etapa URB	Ignacio Merino		Pura, Peru
3. Isono, Shika	1920	2203 Ishibashi Higashi Matsuyama-shi	Saitama Ken	355	Japan
4. Isono, Tadayoshi	1902	2203 Ishibashi Higashi Matsuyama-shi	Saitama Ken	355	Japan
5. Isono, Mitsuo	1941	2203 Ishibashi Higashi Matsuyama-shi	Saitama Ken	355	Japan
6. Isono, Noburo	1943	1603 Ishibashi Higashi Matsuyama-shi Tel: 049/322-3645	Saitama Ken	355-0072	Japan
7. Kanashiro, Hanukichi	1895	Juan Bujano 141 Sta. Catalina	Lima	13	Peru
8. Nakashima, Hiroshi	1927	4-37-12 502 Iteboku Honcho, Toshima Ku	Tokyo	170	Japan
9. Oshiro, Koji	1911	277 Aza Agasa	Gushikawa-shi	94-2223	Okinawa
10. Shimabukuro, Hisashi	1901	4-203, 280-2	Ginowan-shi, Aichi	901-2206	Okinawa
11. Sato, Kinzo	1905	Jr Petetuar Apt. 2111	Lima		Peru
12. Tsuchiya, Harue	1910	Miraguro 450	Lima		Peru

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Letters to the Editor

442nd Veteran Feels JACL Apology is Appropriate

It is sad to see that decisions made by Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II have come down to a conflict between Nisei veterans and the draft resisters of conscience.

It is sad because both groups were motivated by their common objective of regaining their constitutional rights, which were illegally taken away.

Like many Nisei veterans, I was convinced that the most expeditious, albeit hazardous, way to regain our rights and to overcome racial prejudice was through exemplary military service during wartime.

The draft resisters, on the other hand, chose to use their response to the draft as their vehicle for calling attention to the injustice of their forced exile and incarceration. Avoidance of military service per se was never their intent.

The JACL generally conducted themselves credibly, in my opinion. They did not shy away from making difficult decisions based

on what they believed to be in the best interests of Americans of Japanese ancestry and moved forward on that basis.

Nevertheless, I believe that most fair-minded people today, including veterans, can agree with hindsight that the JACL erred in not recognizing the action of the draft resisters as a legitimate form of protest. This oversight led to their incorrectly labeling the draft resisters as "traitors" and "draft dodgers" and caused them years of pain and humiliation in the post-WWII period.

Recent accounts of JACL district meetings indicate a concern that an apology to the draft resisters would be regarded as an insult to veterans.

Speaking as one veteran of the 442nd Infantry Regiment, I want to assure members of the JACL that I would not consider an apology by the JACL for this error to be an insult. ■

Katsumi Hkido
Campbell, Calif.

EDITORIAL

From the Back of the Bus

By YOSH KUROMIYA

Many, out of fear or out of habit, went straight to the back of the bus. Others, fewer in number, had the audacity to sit at the front of the bus. Like Rosa Parks (but two decades before her time), they too were too tired to do otherwise.

They were too tired of the racist humiliations vented on their families for too many years; too tired of the endless, blatant violations of their civil rights by insensitive government agencies shielded by the myth of national security; too tired of the betrayal by their government and by their own kind who claimed to be their leaders but refused to convey their many grievances to the proper authorities.

Yes, there was a fear of white backlash. Yes, they did look suspiciously like the enemy; and yes, there may have been a need to assure white America there was no sinister plot to aid an enemy invasion. Yet, they were American citizens. Were they not entitled to the rights, privileges and protection, as well as the obligation of that citizenship?

This act of civil disobedience drew broad public attention and, unlike Rosa Parks, it was omitted from the history books in subsequent years.

Perhaps, it was regarded by some as an ethnic aberration and was too shameful for public display.

Indeed, the gallantry and heroism of the fighting men would more dramatically enhance their ethnic image in the eyes of the Great White Father. Also, glorifying the feats of the fallen heroes might ease the guilt of those who promoted the formation of a "suicide battalion" to "prove their loyal-

ty." Never mind the injustice, never mind the sacrifice, the pain and the sorrow. They can always build larger, more glorious monuments. A little rough on the checkbook perhaps, but so good for the soul.

Today, white America readily sees the parallel between the American Revolution, the very foundation of this country, and the defiance of the resisters of conscience.

However, this parallel still seems to elude much of Japanese America. Even in the wake of redress, wherein the government acknowledged culpability in the violation of the civil rights of Japanese Americans and recanted previous claims of "military necessity," many in the Japanese American community still seem confused as to what the real issues were and adamantly insist that "good publicity was more important than good government."

The incriminating revelations in the Deborah Lim Report, long suppressed by the JACL, confirms what many suspected during those harrowing years — the direct complicity of JACL representatives in the formation and execution of unjust, if not unconstitutional, policies by government agencies against people of Japanese ancestry.

The legacy of subservience, acquiescence and blind obedience, born of the trauma of those tragic years, seems to have fossilized into wild unsubstantiated accusations and speculations directed at the resisters of conscience. Over half a century has passed and still the insane rantings continue — from the back of the bus. ■

Yoshito "Yosh" Kuromiya was a member of the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee.

Can JACL Resisters Reach Understanding?

I don't know if an apology, via the proposed resolution to the "resisters" by the JACL, is the answer. But today, as in the 1940s, strong opinions are running rampant. Must we continue swinging the doubled-edged opinion sword cutting each other to pieces, to further divide and prevent healing?

One's right to express an opinion is not questioned. But, can we now sit in judgement to say that the decisions, made by the resisters and/or the JACL leadership, were right or were wrong?

The Block 39 (Tulelake) meeting, that was called to discuss how questions 27 and 28 should be answered was dominated by an overwhelming group favoring "no no" answers. When a person rose to voice an opinion that was not in accord with the dominant group, he was hotly shouted down. When an 18-year-old youngster jumped up in defense of that person to let him have his say, the group turned on the youngster with threats of physical violence. At that point, the mother of the youngster interceded with tears in her eyes, apologized for her son's brashness, and pleaded for understanding and compassion.

From that moment tempers subsided and the meeting calmly continued. As impossible as it appeared to reconcile the strong differences at that meeting, consensus was reached that each person should make his or her own decision on how the questions were to be answered and to respect the decision, whatever the reason.

Can the JACL and the resisters also put the matter of apology to rest with the same understanding and compassion?

JACL needs to unite, not divide. The resolution, if one is necessary, should focus on the sole issue that simply states that the JACL understands and respects the decisions that were made by the resisters. Reasons are not important!

For others that believe the resolution should also include those who served in the military, let there be a separate resolution.

Tom Okubo
Sacramento, Calif.

Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Agemura, Saki, 90, Chicago, July 22; Makurazaki, Kagoshima-born; survived by sons Richard and wife Lucille, Arthur; daughter Alice Maruyama and husband Mas; 7 gc., 5 gc.; predeceased by husband Masami.

Fukutomi, Kaoru, 95, Cerritos, Aug. 9; Hawaii-born; survived by son Bob and wife Sadame; daughters Dorothy Watanuki, Susie Kariyama and husband Takeshi; 8 gc., 4 gc.; sisters Shiraz Sakamoto, Harue Hamasaki, Shizuko Nabara and husband Susumu.

Furutani, Kimio, 81, Lodi, July 22; survived by wife Yoshiko; son Gene and wife Kimberly; daughter Jeannette Streepy and husband Scott; 1 gc.

Kajiura, Kimio Kay, 86, Gardena, July 21; Kauai-born; survived by many nieces, nephews and relatives in Hawaii.

Kobayashi, Elaine Midori, 51, Gardena, Aug. 6; Chicago-born; survived by husband Kenji Harry; brother Don Terakawa, John Terakawa and wife Janis; sisters Nancy Nishihira and husband Ralph, Judy Johnston and husband Tom; mother Hazel Terakawa; sister-in-law June Fujimoto and husband Don; brother-in-law Bruce; father-in-law George and wife Misao.

Kobayashi, Shuzo Frank, 83, Anaheim, Aug. 5; Los Angeles-born; survived by wife Kikuyu, sons Victor, Norman; daughter Cathy Kaihara and husband David; 3 gc.; sister Mino "Mary" Takahashi and husband Frank.

Konishi, Toshimitsu (Pat), 75

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

66, Berkeley, Aug. 2; Tule Lake-born, U.S. Army veteran; survived by father Toshiro, wife Christina Coe; brother Mitsuki; sisters Amy Hayashida and husband Sady, Gloria Nakamatsu and husband Glendale.

Kuwahara, Nobue, 77, Penryn, Aug. 2; Newcastle-born; survived by son Masato and wife Jerry; 2 gc., 1 gc.; brother Nobuyuki Sugioke and wife Hisako; sisters Tamiko Hata, Fumie Kanbayashi and husband Manzo; sister-in-law Tsuyako Nomura.

Makihara, Shigeko, 71, Richmond, July 23; survived by husband Yonosuke; brothers Shiochi Fujita and wife Kinuo, Umoe Fujita and wife Sayoko, Matsuo Fujita and wife Michiko; sisters Masako Kazahaya and husband Kiichi, Sumiko Natsuhara and husband Frank; brother-in-law Wataru and wife Kiyomi, two brothers-in-law and two sisters-in-law in Japan.

Masuda, Iseo, 77, Los Angeles, Aug. 10; Washington state-born; survived by wife Nobue; son Yoshi; daughter Toyoko Yokota and husband Masao; 1 gc.; brothers-in-law Takao Matsuki, Michio Matsuki and wife Yoko, Takeo and wife Michie; sister-in-law Fuzuki Matsui (Japan).

Morey, George, 86, Los Angeles, July 22; Los Angeles-born; survived by sons Donn, John and wife Joyce (Foster City), Jim and wife Claire, Jack and wife Janet; 2 gc.; brother Arthur and wife Kay (Michigan); sisters Shizue Yoshina (Los Gatos), Kiyo Kaneko (Aptos), Rose One and husband Roy.

Moriguchi, Tom N. 78, Minnetonka, Minn., Aug. 2; WWII MIS veteran, served in CBI theater; survived by wife Tayeko; daughters Janice Buchanan and husband Kurt, Judy; 2 gc., sisters May Tanaka, Mary Tsuchiya.

Nakazawa, Warren Mamoru, 77, Los Angeles, Aug. 7; Los Angeles-born; survived by son Glenn and wife Marie (Los Gatos);

daughter Christine (Orange County); brother Albert Osamu and wife Alice M.; sister-in-law Florence Michiko.

Nishi, Rev. Shunji F., 82, Berkeley, May 27; survived by wife Marian; son John; daughters Barbara, Elsie; 3 gc.

Nomura, Shigeko, 92, El Cerrito, services held Aug. 6; survived by sons Shige and wife Mich, Paul and wife Yuki, George and wife Sets, Katsumi and wife Jean; daughter May Arakawa and husband Wally; 12 gc., 10 gc.

Okita, Kiyoshi, 77, Rosemead, Aug. 7; Sacramento-born; survived by wife Sumie; son Ronald Shiochi and wife Ditar; daughter Sharon Sanaye Barragan and husband Gustavo; 6 gc.; brother Masaru and wife Fujimi (Japan); brothers-in-law Takashi Naito and wife Amy (Redding), Shigeo Naito and wife Nana (San Leandro), Mitsuharu Naito and wife Nana (San Francisco), Roger Hiayama (Fresno); sisters-in-law Michiko Ikeda, Setsuko Imura and husband George (both Redding), Amy Naito (San Francisco).

Sakamoto, Sam Osamu, 73, Gardena, Aug. 1; Los Angeles-born; survived by brothers Dr. Tatsuo and wife Mary, Manabu, Dr. Shoji and wife Fujie.

Shinohara, Tokuji "Ray," 75, Puyallup, Wash., July 29; Tacoma, Wash.-born; survived by son Dan Hesselstein (Spokane, Wash.), daughter Lois Getman (Gig Harbor, Wash.); 6 gc., 3 gc.; brother Jay (Novato); sister Suzie Yamada (Spokane, Wash.); predeceased by wife Maygreen Hesselstein.

Shiomoto, Tokumi, 86, Chicago, July 22; Fresno-born; survived by wife Sakae; daughters Dr. Gail, Marion Roth and husband Alex.

Tamura, Kosaku, 60, Gardena, Aug. 8; Los Angeles-born; survived by wife Perpetua "Pat," sons Anthony Kosaku, Izumi Robert, Philip Jan, Bryan Inaki; daughters Kim Arlene, Anette Amor; 2 gc., mother Kiyumi; sisters Sawako Imamoto and husband Howard, Mikako Tamura (Indiana).

Uemura, Shuji Tony, 70, Los Angeles, Aug. 7; Kagoshima-ken-born; survived by wife Masako; son Norman and wife Carolyn; 3 gc.; brother Tatsuro and wife Shizuko (Japan); sisters Ritsuko Yamamoto and husband Tazuo, Yoko Ueykama and husband Shunichiro (Japan).

Uyeta, Toshiko, 95, Foster City, July 25; son Tokio and wife Ei; daughters Tamiko Yamawaki and husband Hiroshi, Aiko, Saeaki Chigami, Yoko Uyeda and husband Don; grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

Yuda, Masa, 90, Buena Park, Aug. 1; Nara-ken-born; survived by daughter Akiko Kitagawa; 2 gc.; brother Takeo Shimomura (Japan). ■

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Whereabouts

A free and open space to share basic, send information to 7 Cupanis Circle, Montes Park, CA 91755; fax: 323/725-0084 or e-mail: pac@ci.net.

AJR 27 Seeks Apology and Reparations from Japanese Government

(Continued from page 1)

III," said Chun Y. Lee, who works for Los Angeles County. "It's coming from the Japanese American community so it has the potential to bring harmony and to unite us. This is one reason the Korean American community is supporting the resolution."

"I am so proud of Mr. Honda," said Han Soon Lee, president of the Korean Business and Professional Women's Association. "He's a Japanese American trying to help the Koreans who were hurt during the war. Many Korean ladies were hurt by the Japanese soldiers. I'm so proud of him that he wants to correct this."

Honda's resolution also received a letter of endorsement signed by 20 individual Nikkei veterans. Among the signatories is Col. Young Oak Kim, a Korean American who heads the 100th/442nd MIS Memorial Foundation.

Kim noted that as veterans of WWII, many of them, including himself, have witnessed or heard firsthand accounts of the atrocities committed by the Japanese as indicated in AJR 27 and felt that it was "time for Japan to acknowledge it."

"We felt in the long run, the sooner Japan admitted them, the

better it would be for Japan," said Kim, who knows survivors of the infamous Bataan Death March in the Philippines.

Kim added that had they had more time to circulate the endorsement letter, they could have received more signatures. The reason the veterans' foundation is not endorsing it is because as a nonprofit, they are forbidden to take a political stand, said Kim.

Support for the resolution was further bolstered last week when Lester Tenney, 79, a former WWII prisoner of war, filed the first lawsuit under a newly enacted California law, SB 1245, which gives California courts the jurisdiction to hear WWII-era slave labor cases and allows WWII POWs to sue private corporations for slave labor. The law extends the statute of limitation to 2010.

The new law was authored by California state Sen. Tom Hayden and Assemblymember Rod Pacheco. Since the bill was written with Holocaust survivors in mind, it had not attracted the level of heated debate associated with Japan, whose national diet has not officially apologized nor paid reparations for wartime atrocities in the same way Germany has done for survivors of the Holocaust.

Tenney, a retired college professor, filed his lawsuit on Aug. 11 in Los Angeles Superior Court

against Mitsui & Co. Ltd. of Japan and New York and Mitsui Co., and is seeking unspecified damages for forced slave labor, assault and infliction of emotional distress.

An American Army staff sergeant during WWII, Tenney, was shipped to the Philippines and captured by the Japanese on April 8, 1942. He survived the Bataan Death March where he witnessed horrifying acts by Japanese soldiers. More than five decades later, Tenney still has nightmares of fellow soldiers being buried alive or beheaded by the Japanese.

After surviving 32 days crammed in a Japanese freighter, Tenney spent the next three-and-a-half years toiling for 12 hours a day at Mitsui's Miike coal mines in Omuta. According to Tenney, cave-ins or injuries were not uncommon since Mitsui was removing more coal than was safe for the laborers.

Since Tenney filed the lawsuit, he said, his phone has been ringing off the hook. "I had no idea the America public was this interested," said Tenney, who has authored a book titled, "My Hitch in Hell," which recounts his war experiences.

Tenney is supportive of Honda's resolution, saying that "what happened to me on the death march was something the Japanese government allowed to happen."

Since then, a second lawsuit by another POW, held captive by the Japanese, was filed in San Francisco.

Asked how the lawsuits will affect the debate over AJR 27, Honda said, "I'll probably bring the issue to a higher level of discussion. Senate Bill 1245 was signed into law a few weeks ago, and it was voted upon by us in the Assembly and Senate. I voted for it, and I think it will lend some credence that there are people out there that believe this resolution is the right thing to do."

Honda hopes the debate over AJR 27 will encourage the federal government to reconsider a similar resolution, H.R. 126, which

died in the U.S. Congress last year.

"I hope it will have some impact on Congress and that Congress will be able to take this resolution and move forward with it," said Honda. "Hopefully, other states and legislative bodies will also take it up."

Others who have endorsed AJR 27 include the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, the San Francisco and Santa Clara County Democratic Central committees and the Jewish American Political Action Committee. ■

Former Sex Slaves to Sue Japanese Government

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TAIPEI, Taiwan—Lawyers for nine Taiwanese women forced to serve as sex slaves to Japanese soldiers during World War II are planning to sue for compensation and an apology, a spokeswoman announced July 11.

Five of the plaintiffs will travel with their lawyers to Tokyo to file a formal complaint demanding an apology and \$82,000 each for their suffering, said lawyer Wang Ching-feng.

The case garnered new attention recently when the revelation that several prominent Taiwanese families were shareholders in a Japanese company that ran the wartime

brothels.

Historians say as many as 200,000 women, mostly Korean but also Filipina, Chinese and Dutch, were forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese during the war.

Until 1992, Japan denied its army was involved in establishing and running the brothels. Yet, the government set up a private foundation to issue apologies and compensation to former "comfort women." Most have refused to accept the payment, arguing that it is official responsibility for its wartime actions.

Japan maintains that all questions of compensation have been settled with the nations involved. ■

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Dec 1 "Branson Xmas-Tour" - 5-Day - 10 Meals - 7 Shows - \$1195 - Shoji Tabuchi, Baldiobob "Mik" Ho, Omomoto, Rockettes, Andy Williams ++
Dec 29 "Millennium Tour Japan + Orient Cruise" - 14 Days - Tokyo New Years, Orient Tour Cruise & return to Japan to Shirahama Hot Springs.

IN 2000 Spring-Japan 2000 @ \$2295, Cherry Blossom, Nishinon Onsen
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Outside-Veranda \$2230 \$578 \$2808 \$1115 FREE \$1115
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