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Sept. 17-23 1999

## Tateishi Named Interim National JACL Director

SAN FRANCISCO — The JACL National Board announced on Sept. 8 that it appointed John Tateishi as the interim national JACL director.

Tateishi will administer the organization on a temporary basis and assist in the recruitment for a national director.

"We are excited that John is joining our team for the short term," said Helen Kawagoe, national JACL president. "He brings strong leadership and many, many experiences to help us prepare JACL for the new millennium."

Tateishi, at the age of three, was evacuated to the Manzanar Relocation Center with his family during World War II. After the family's release from camp, Tateishi returned to California to complete his education.

Tateishi served as national chair for the JACL redress campaign from 1978 to 1986. In this role, he developed legislative strategies and conducted research for the redress movement.

Since 1987, he has been chief executive officer of a management consulting and public affairs firm in San Francisco.

"My memories of Manzanar have always inspired me to ensure that there are civil liberties for all communities," said Tateishi. "I look forward to working with the 112 JACL chapters and 25,000 members to launch JACL's new era as we enter the 21st century. I want to be an active part of the JACL initiative that ensures this country does not forget its history as we enter the new millennium."



John Tateishi

## Manzanar Asks Public's Help in Fundraising, Creating Camp Cards

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA  
Assistant Editor

Topics covered at an Aug. 27 Manzanar National Historic Site Advisory Commission meeting at the Japanese American National Museum included an urgent need to raise \$150,000 by the end of the year, a recommendation for a guard tower site and updates on Manzanar activities.

Commissioners in attendance were Rose Ochi, chair; Bill Michael, vice chair; Sue Kunitomi Embrey; Gann Matsuda; Vernon Miller; Mas Okui; Dennis Otsuji; and Richard Stewart.

National Park Service (NPS) staff present were Ross Hopkins, superintendent; and Kari Coughlin, park ranger.

The purpose of the commission, established in 1992, is to advise the Secretary of the Interior on the development, management and interpretation of the Manzanar National Historic Site.

### Guard Tower

After a brief discussion, the advisory commission approved a motion to recommend that the site for a guard tower reconstruction be at site #8. The motion was raised by Mas Okui, seconded by Dan Miller with one abstention by Richard Stewart.

In total, eight guard tower

sites were up for consideration. The NPS has been able to verify all eight areas to be sites where guard towers once stood through archaeological digs. Site 8 sits closest to Highway 95, and it was this guard tower that was made famous by the Ansel Adams photograph shot in the 1940s.

Stewart, who leads tours of the Manzanar site, had urged the commission to consider either site 6 or 7, saying these towers which sit on the southwest perimeter fit better into the walking tour route. Site 6 sits near the camouflage factory and where the shooting occurred during the Dec. 5, 1942 Manzanar uprising; site 7 is in the administration area. Stewart added that a guard tower at site 6 or 7 would get people into the actual camp ground, lessening congestion near site 8. He also felt site 6 and 7 afforded better opportunity to introduce visitors to life in the Owens Valley before the camp was built (i.e., the history of the Shoshone and Paiute tribes and the Caucasian pioneers).

But Manzanar National Historic Site superintendent Ross Hopkins noted that with their limited staffing it would be harder to protect a guard tower from vandalism if it were constructed at secluded spots such as site 6 or

See MANZANAR/page 5

## From Infertility to Domestic Adoption: One Couple's Journey

By TRACY UBA  
Writer/Reporter

(This is the first in a four-part series exploring Asian American families and adoption.)

Jan and Ed Koda had always wanted to start a family. It's a journey that began for them in 1989 almost immediately after they had married. But, certainly, they could have never predicted where the many twists and turns of that journey were to eventually lead them — to the hopeful yet sometimes precarious world of domestic adoption.

Today, at ages 48 and 42 respectively, Jan and Ed are preparing to celebrate their tenth anniversary come this Sept. 24, the gravity of which may weigh bittersweet by the fact that their earnest pursuit to become parents, spanning now nearly a decade, still remains unfinished.

The Kodas, who live in Encino, Calif., were like any of the nearly two million married couples in the United States today: they were battling infertility.

Jan, who was already in her late 30s when she began to consider having children, suspected that her chances of conceiving biologically were slim. Still, she and Ed were optimistic, and they immediately consulted with a fertility specialist.

What ensued was a grueling slew of artificial inseminations, egg (ovum) donations, in vitro procedures and egg donations in combination with in vitro.

In the last year alone, Jan, who is a professional music producer, has undergone five egg donation procedures and altogether has had artificial insemination done 21 times. The in vitro, she said, involved a series of painful steps, including drugs, daily shots and the removal of her eggs through her belly button.

"It was invasive," she recalled. "Not to say anything about the fact that the fertility drugs are very hard on your emotional [state]. It's like the worst PMS you've ever had, a double dose."

"If I had known how difficult it would be, I would have been much more aggressive about having children earlier," she now reflects.

The Kodas estimated that they spent around \$50,000 on fertility treatments altogether, none of which were successful. Jan said she did become pregnant once, perhaps twice during that time, but suffered a miscarriage.

For Ed, a third-generation Japanese American and a custom furniture builder by trade, the frustration has been equally trying. "I felt that through [medical] assistance, we would have a biological child. But after the fertility procedures didn't work," he said, "I got pretty upset, like any hope of having a genetic child was over."

Yet, the painful trials of infertility may have just been the tip of the iceberg in their ongoing quest. The Kodas were about to begin a new phase which held perhaps their last, best hope of having a child.

The National Adoption Information Clearinghouse reported that there are approximately 120,000 adoptions of children in the United States annually, a number which has remained fairly constant throughout the 1990s. However, there is no available data breaking down by ethnicity the percent of Asian Americans who adopt domestically each year.

The Kodas had considered domestic adoption

at one time, even attended pre-adoptive parent orientation meetings to find out more information on the subject, but had never felt fully prepared to take that step until the failure of the fertility treatments left them with few if any other options.

It is just within the past year that the couple began seriously considering the matter. At the outset, Jan poured much of her energy into research, spending up to four hours a day for several months on the computer surfing the web for information.

Deciding that they preferred to have an American-born Asian or Hapa baby, they signed on with a state adoption agency and paid \$1,400-\$1,500 plus miscellaneous fees to have a home study conducted, a standard pre-adoption procedure which involves interviews with a social worker, fingerprinting and an extensive background check meant to verify personal, marital, family, financial and medical information.

Public adoption agencies can have long waiting lists, however, especially when a child of a certain ethnicity is requested, so in early May, they hired a well-known attorney in Los Angeles to aid them in their search. But that attorney, to whom the Kodas said they paid a lot of money, never contacted them with any leads.

"It's very exhausting on your finances," admitted Ed. "It's all based on what the market will bear, and when you have people who are desperate to have children, they'll do whatever it takes."

In one particular situation, the Kodas received a phone call from a young woman who was willing to give up her half-Japanese baby boy. It seemed to be one of the only potentially promising prospects they'd had, until they learned that the mother was asking for \$12,000 up front and wanted no contact with the adoptive parents. The couple thought it sounded a bit fishy, and in the end passed up the offer, a decision that they said they still have mixed feelings about.

They later learned that the boy was adopted out to someone else, and Jan has felt remorseful at times for letting him go, but she also remains adamant. "I don't want our child to wonder how to get in touch with his [birth] parents. One of the reasons we passed that situation up is that I wanted some availability, so that he doesn't have to wonder where he came from or what his background is."

Heartbreaking as it was, the experience acquainted them with the marginal underbelly of adoption, where there exists unenforceable contracts like "seize at risk," in which a birth mother can request money from adoptive parents to support her through the pregnancy, but because it is not a legally binding contract, the adoptive parents are not necessarily guaranteed that they will get the child after it's born.

These types of agreements are often overseen by unregulated facilitators who can contract privately between two parties at a pretty hefty cost, Jan said, whose fees can range anywhere from \$2,900 to \$10,000.

"It's really a business about money," she continued. "Kids are sold to the highest bidder. And people don't realize what a treacherous world it can be."

No doubt, as the Kodas have endured firsthand, domestic adoption can be a lengthy, costly and tenuous process. Horror stories

can be everywhere. "It's really a business about money," she continued. "Kids are sold to the highest bidder. And people don't realize what a treacherous world it can be."

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Jan and Ed Koda

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## JACL Calendar

### National

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

### Eastern

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

### Midwest

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

### TWIN CITIES

Sun., Sept. 26—JACL Golf Tournament, 1st tee times at noon: Francis A. Gross Golf Course, Minneapolis. Info: Ben Ezaki, 612/472-1985.

### Mountain Plains

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

## COMMUNITY Calendar

### East Coast

ATLANTA  
Through Nov. 5—Exhibits, "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.

DELRAY BEACH, FLA.  
Through Sept. 26—Exhibit, "Cultural Tales: The Art of Japanese Handmade Dolls by Group Kazuo"; The Monikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, 4000 Monikami Park Rd. Info: 561/495-0233, <www.monikami.org>.

Tues., Oct. 12—Exhibit opening, "Reckoning Tokyo time: A Look at Japanese Clocks, Calendars and Chronology"; The Monikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, 4000 Monikami Park Rd. Info: 561/495-0233, <www.monikami.org>.

WASHINGTON, D.C.  
Through Nov. 30—Exhibit, "From Bento to Mixed Plate: Americans of Japanese Ancestry in Multicultural Hawaii"; Smithsonian Institution, Arts & Industry Bldg.; developed by the Japanese American National Museum. Info: 800/461-5266.

### Intermountain

OGDEN, UTAH  
Sat., Oct. 23—Box Elder County Japanese American Reunion; 9 a.m. registration; Marriott Hotel, 247 24th St.; breakfast buffet, raffles, door prizes, silent auction, Sane/Onsei poster contest, photo exhibits, taiko, entertainment, karaoke. Info: Bonnie Shires, 435/257-2139 or Frank Nishiguchi, 435/458-3737.

### Pacific Northwest

PORTLAND  
Sun., Sept. 26—Fujinami-Ichi Fall performance, 1-3 p.m.; World Trade Center Auditorium. Info: Barbara Uyesugi, 503/282-2094.  
Sun., Oct. 3—Oregon Buddhist Temple Annual Sukiyaki Dinner, noon-4 p.m.; 3720 SE 34th Ave. and Powell Blvd.; sukiyaki, chow mein, snack bar, bake sale, produce stand, gift shop, bōnsai, ikebana displays. Info: 503/234-9456, 503/254-9536.

BELLEVUE, WASH.  
Sat.-Sun., Oct. 2-3—Family Fun at Factoria Mall, south Bellevue, all day; Japan-related exhibits, stage performances, craft demos, information on Japanese products & services, book reading/signing, "Ryoma: Life of a Remains-ore Samurai" with author Romulus Hillsborough. Free. Info: 425/861-9109, <http://www.ENMA.org>.  
REDMOND, WASH.  
Wed., Sept. 29—Panel discussion, "The Strangeness of Beauty" with

## Pacific Northwest

LAKE WASHINGTON  
Wed., Sept. 29—Lake Washington chapter-sponsored event in Eastside Nihon Matsuri — see Community Calendar.  
Sat.-Sun., Oct. 2-3—Family Fun at Factoria Mall, 3rd event in Eastside Nihon Matsuri — see Community Calendar.

### NC-WN-Pacific

DISTRICT COUNCIL  
Sat., Oct. 2—District Council Meeting: Alan Teruya's residence.  
Sun., Nov. 7—District Council Meeting: Sacramento; special programs: Hate Crimes Workshop and introduction of Gov. Davis' Asian American appointees.

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.

SAN MATEO  
Sat., Oct. 2—San Mateo JACL and OCA benefit dance; see Community Calendar.  
Sun., Oct. 10—San Mateo JACL Golf Tournament, 1st tee-off 9:45 a.m.; Skywest Golf Course, 1401 Cliff Chapter, Hayward; Entry due by Sept. 25. To benefit Scholarship Fund; sponsors and donors needed. Info: Vince Asai, 650/349-3590.

### Central California

author Lydia Minatoya, 7 p.m.; Borders Books, Redmond Town Center. Free. Info: 425/861-9109, <http://www.ENMA.org>.

SEATTLE  
Sun., Sept. 26—Silga Goryu School of Ikebana annual floral and bōnsai exhibit, noon-5 p.m.; St. Peter's Episcopal church, 1610 S. King St. tea will be served. Free. Info: Nobuko Ohgi, 206/232-8736, Mary Shigaya, 206/271-0875.  
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

SACRAMENTO  
Sat., Sept. 19—Jan Ken Po Gaido Asian Arts and Crafts Fair fund-raiser, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Ellis Lodge, 6446 Riverside Blvd. Info: Calvin Hara, 916/421-3490.

SAN MATEO  
Sun., Sept. 26—Monthly matinee movie, award-winning "Farewell My Concubine," 1:30 p.m.; San Mateo JACL Community Center, 415 S. Claremont St. Info: 650/343-2793.  
Sat., Oct. 2—"Shall We Dance Again?" 8 p.m.; Rensford Recreation Center, 2720 Alameda De Las Pulgas; dance lessons, refreshments, raffle, dance contest. RSVP by Sept. 25: 650/342-7087 or Steve, 650/574-2641 or Wade, 650/341-6036.

### Southern California

LOS ANGELES  
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.

Sun., Sept. 19—14th Annual Teriyaki Bingo, MC Maryknoll Karate Club; 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Maryknoll Catholic Center, 222 S. Hewitt St.; Bongo 1-6 p.m.; members' activities, raffle. Info: James Uyeda, 213/489-6873.  
Thurs., Sept. 23—Performance and discussion, 7-9 p.m.; featuring Foundation Funkollective; Great Leap, Inc.; hereafter theatre co.; National Japanese American Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo. RSVP: 213/625-0414.  
Sat., Sept. 25—Reading and book-signing, "Why She Left Us" with author Rahna Reiko Rizzuto. National Japanese American Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo. RSVP: 213/625-0414.

Sat., Sept. 25—Alternative Rock performance, "Visiting Violet" with lead singer songwriter Lee Takasugi, 10:30 p.m.; The Gig in West Los Angeles, 11637 W. Pico Blvd. RSVP: 323/953-9363.

Tues.-Sat., Sept. 28-Oct. 2—1999 Chinese Film Festival. Zanuck Theatre at Twentieth Century Fox; Saturday matinee at Garfield Theater in

## FRESNO

Sun., Sept. 19 (date correction)—Shinzen Run, Fresno; to benefit Woodward Park's Shinzen Gardens and the Central Calif. Nikkei Foundation. Sponsors wanted; call Bobbi Hanada, 559/434-1662; registration forms: Patricia Tsai Tom, 559/486-6815.

## Pacific Southwest

DISTRICT COUNCIL  
Sat., Sept. 18—PSW District Awards Dinner; Torrance; public is welcome — see Community Calendar. Tickets \$85; RSVP: 213/626-4471.

SAN DIEGO  
Sun., Oct. 3—Film showing, "Visas and Virtue," sponsored by San Diego chapter — see community calendar.

**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.

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Alhambra; showing six films which have never been seen in the United States. Free. Schedules: 888/906-FILM. Thurs., Sept. 30—UCLA Film and Television Archive animation series; sneak preview, "Princess Mononoke (Mononoke hime)"; also, "Grave of the Fireflies," 7 p.m.; James Bridges Theater. Info: 310/206-FILM, <www.cinema.ucla.edu>.

Sat., Oct. 2—Ak Matsuri, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, 1203 W. Puente Ave., West Covina; "Moon Bounce" children's games, food, martial arts, demons, taiko, raffle, door prizes, etc. Info: 626/960-2566.

Sat., Oct. 3—Exhibit Opening, "The Y2K Selections" by Yoshiko N. Nakamura; Mountain View Memorial Gallery, 2300 N. Marengo Ave., Altadena; reception 2-4 p.m. Info: exhibit hours: Alice Bell, 626/794-7133 ext. 272.

Sat., Oct. 9—Japanese American Historical Society Annual Community Heritage Awards Dinner; Torrance Marriott, Torrance. Honoring Harry Nakada, Brian Kito, Scott Nagatani, Francis Nakano. RSVP: Iku Kinyama, 310/324-2875.

SAN DIEGO  
Sun., Oct. 3—Film showing, "Visas and Virtue," 2 p.m.; Japanese American Community Senior Housing Project, 1260 3rd Ave., Chula Vista. Free. Info: 619/230-0314.

ORANGE COUNTY  
Wed., Sept. 29—Japan America Society Leadership Series, "The Future of Suzuki in America" with Ryo Suzuki; noon-1:30 p.m.; Westin South Coast Plaza, 686 Anton Blvd., Costa Mesa. RSVP by Sept. 27: 213/627-6217 ext. 17.

VENTURA COUNTY  
Sun., Oct. 3—"Celebrating Our Heritage," 2-5 p.m.; Camarillo Community Center.

## Arizona - Nevada

PLACER  
Sat.-Sun., Sept. 25-26—Placer Buddhist Church annual food bazaar, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Info: Laura Iinuma, Hwakali president, 775/324-1116.

RENO  
Thurs.-Sat., Sept. 23-25—Great Basin Book Festival; Mas Masumoto, and author of "Epiphany for a Peach" and "Harvest of Rain: Roots in American Soil" to speak at Harrah's on Sept. 24. Info: Nevada Humanities Committee, 775/784-6587.

## Redress Payment Information

Individuals can call 202/219-6800 and leave a message; or write to: Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, P.O. Box 66280, Washington, DC 20035-6280.

## Women, Minority Unions Announce Joint Agenda

On Labor Day, the AFL-CIO constituency groups representing women and minority union members announced a joint agenda for the year 2000 focusing on six areas of mutual concern: promoting union organizing and the freedom of workers to choose a union, encouraging women and minorities to participate in the political process, fighting discrimination, defending immigrant rights, building Union Cities and protecting retirement security.

The six constituency groups are the Coalition of Labor Union Women, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), the A. Philip Randolph Institute, the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement and Pride at Work.

Guy Fujimura, APALA president, voiced APALA's commitment to the joint agenda. "We will work together with unions to find positive ways to fight conservative wedge issues, whether it is unfair attacks on immigrants or the assault on affirmative action," he said.

"The union movement represents and empowers millions of women and people of color, and we are committed to ensuring that women, minorities and all workers have the freedom to join a union without fear of employer intimidation," said Gloria Johnson, president of the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

Bill Lucy, president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, added, "We want to ensure that workers have a voice in the work place and a voice in the political process. This can be best achieved by working with our coalition partners and community allies to define a common agenda, craft strong messages and obtain a seat at the table to

represent our interests. We will help workers organize, and mobilize workers and the community to register and vote in the year 2000."

Henry Gonzalez, president of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, noted that they are committed to defending the rights of all workers, particularly "recent immigrants whose rights and safety net benefits are under attack."

Norman Hill, president of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, pointed out that they intend to become actively involved in Union Cities. "We feel that we can do this best by involving our chapters in Union Cities, the AFL-CIO program to build strong communities, strong unions and good jobs throughout the country," said Hill.

Elaborating on the significance of the common agenda, Nancy Wohlforth, co-chair of Pride at Work, said, "We want everyone to know that in the labor movement all workers—regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, religion or sexual orientation—are united in their pursuit of social and economic justice, and this common agenda is a reflection of that unity."

The AFL-CIO applauded the constituency groups for their joint agenda. AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson, who served on the President's Advisory Board on Race, said, "The AFL-CIO has long supported the constituency groups as a way of supporting diversity, inclusion and multiracial unity in the union movement. The agenda announced today again shows how important the groups are to building the union movement, and we will work with the groups in making their joint agenda a reality." ■

## APAs Need to be Counted in Census 2000

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Make sure the Bureau knows you exist. In mid-March, the U.S. Census Bureau will begin the task of counting all the nation's residents to determine the fate of billions of dollars in federal money and the shape of the electoral boundaries across the country. This will all have a significant impact on Asian Pacific American (APA) communities.

"Having accurate numbers is key to communities getting their fair share of money for schools, roads, hospitals and health care," said Karen Narasaki, executive director of the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium (NAPALC).

More than \$180 billion of federal, state and local money will be distributed to programs and projects based on what the census results show.

Equal representation has been a struggle for APAs and other communities of color who have been historically undercounted by the decennial census, according to NAPALC. As a result, federal spending using population-based formulas for schools, crime prevention, health care and transportation has been misdirected, and the needs of these communities were left out or ignored.

Among the reasons why people of color tend to be undercounted are: language barriers, a general misunderstanding of the importance of census participation, and distrust or suspicion of government—which leads to the fear that the census may be used by immigration officials to deport or incarcerate them or disqualify them for social welfare programs.

The Census Bureau admitted that the 1990 Census was the highest recorded undercount of racial and ethnic minorities since it started conducting post-census evaluations in 1940. It missed 2.3 percent of the APA population.

In the political arena, 435 congressional seats across the nation must be distributed. Vir-

tually all states rely on the census numbers for redistricting, or the redrawing of political districts within the states. From that process, seats of power are gained or lost.

"Redistricting has a tremendous impact on any community. It essentially determines empowerment, representation," said Madhulika Khandelwal, who specializes in South Asian American issues at the University of Massachusetts.

The Census Bureau will mail out approximately 94 million questionnaires to American households and dispatch thousands of workers to deliver an additional 22 million by hand to make sure that no one is left out.

### How Japanese American Fared in the 1990 Census

Today, the nation's Japanese population is more than 847,000 strong, the third largest ethnic group within the Asian Pacific American category, according to the 1990 Census.

Immigration status, age distribution and varying levels of income, educational attainment and linguistic isolation contribute to the needs and challenges faced by the nation's Japanese population.

American-born citizens make up the bulk of the U.S. Japanese population at 67.6 percent. Of the rest, 24.1 percent are not citizens and 8.3 percent are naturalized. The country's Japanese population is fairly young, with the majority of the community between the ages of 18 and 62, making up 69 percent. Only 12.5 percent are 65 or older, and children and youth 0 to 17 years old comprise 18.5 percent.

The household income profile of the nation's Japanese population shows that 5.6 percent bring home less than \$5,000; 10 percent make between \$5,000 and \$14,999; 25.5 percent reported an income of \$15,000 to \$34,999; 40.1 percent make between \$35,000 and \$74,999; and 18.8 percent earn \$75,000 or higher.

However, Japanese households tend to have more income earners contributing to the sum. In fact, 15.3 percent of Japanese families have three or more workers, whereas the national proportion is 13 percent. Additionally, Japanese tend to live in metropolitan areas, where a high cost of living forces employers to pay higher wages compared to many other parts of the country. Also Japanese enjoy a lower poverty rate at 7 percent than the total population at 13 percent, and slightly less than non-Hispanic whites, which is 8 percent.

According to 1990 census data, 1.4 percent of the Japanese population had less than a fifth grade education; 87.5 percent were high school graduates or higher; 61.5 percent had some college or higher and 34.5 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher.

Despite the community's relatively high level of educational attainment, 14.8 percent of those aged five and older are linguistically isolated and 25.2 percent reported "not speaking" English very well on the last census.

Without adequate English skills, participating in the country's political process becomes difficult, but with the help of the census data and the Voting Rights Act, a certain numerical threshold of linguistic minority speakers are provided with bilingual voting materials such as translated election ballots and initiatives. Without census data, it would be difficult, if not impossible to know where Japanese voting materials should be provided.

Currently, materials are concentrated in California where the highest concentration of Japanese reside, approximately 312,000, according to the 1990 census.

For more information on receiving multilingual information on the Census, contact Pang Yang at 202/296-2300 or email <pyang@napalc.org>. ■

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

### Atlanta Becoming Port of Immigrant Smuggling

ATLANTA—Seven people charged with transporting, smuggling and concealing illegal immigrants were expected in court Sept. 1, after authorities discovered 132 Chinese nationals hidden in a secret compartment aboard a cargo ship docked in Savannah last month.

In a federal affidavit, the ship's captain claimed he was instructed to take his ship to the South China Sea to pick up spare parts but was met by three men armed with knives and clubs who boarded his vessel and threatened him and his crew if they didn't smuggle the people to the United States.

Human smuggling has mushroomed this past decade, earning Asian crime syndicates an estimated \$4 billion a year.

Peter Kwong, director of Asian American Studies at New York's Hunter College, said that Georgia's capital may be developing into a destination for Asians being smuggled to America, where underground employment agencies within the large Chinese com-

munity provide Asian businesses with a pool of cheap workers who won't complain about poor conditions.

A separate case accused 13 people of smuggling Asian girls and women to Atlanta and DeKalb County to work as prostitutes.

Many of the immigrants do not know what they are getting themselves into, said Lam Wong, president of the Georgia chapter of the National Association of Chinese Americans.

For years, New York was the preferred city for smuggled immigrants, who typically spent years after their arrival working in conditions similar to indentured servitude to pay off their smuggling fees.

### FBI Searches Home of White Supremacist's Parents

CHICAGO—An attorney for the parents of 21-year-old white supremacist Benjamin Smith said a search by FBI agents of their suburban Chicago home had nothing to do with their son's two-state killing spree through Illinois and Indiana in July, which targeted Asian Americans,

African Americans and Jews.

Edward Ruff, who represents Beverly and Kenneth Smith, said in a statement that the search stemmed from an alleged computer hacking incident involving the late killer's 14-year-old brother.

Agents removed the teenager's computer during the search, Ruff said in the statement. To the Smiths' knowledge, he said, agents found no evidence of any other "illegal or improper activity."

Smith's parents recently issued a statement disavowing their son's extremist views, saying they "deeply regret all the suffering that he caused."

Smith was a member of the World Church of the Creator, a central Illinois extremist group. The head of the group, Matt Hale, was questioned by FBI agents following the deadly shootings. The investigation is still ongoing.

Hale, meanwhile, has been denied a law license because of his racist views and is currently asking the Illinois Supreme Court to reverse that decision.

Job Web Sites for Minorities, Women  
ST. PAUL—Four new web

sites have been introduced for minorities and women seeking jobs under a partnership between Advantage International and Hire-Power.com.

Each of the sites has a powerful job search engine with thousands of local and national job listings. The sites are all free and confidential to job seekers:

<http://www.AfricanCareers.com>  
<http://www.AsianCareers.com>  
<http://www.HispanicCareers.com>  
<http://www.CareerWoman.com>

"Companies have long known that to be truly successful in today's changing marketplace they must have a workforce that is a mirror image of the customers that they serve," said Rick Aguilar, incoming chairman of the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce.

"Hire-Power and its family of diversity career sites help companies achieve this goal while at the same time help people of color and women find meaningful employment," he said.

### Six AAs Suspected in Abduction, Gang Rape of Student

BOULDER, Colo.—A 20-year-old University of Colorado

student was allegedly abducted on Canyon Boulevard by six Asian males early Aug. 29, and gang raped for two hours before she was released on a dark road, police said.

The victim said that she then walked about 30 minutes until she found a residence from where she was able to call police.

From there, she was taken to a Boulder hospital, treated and released.

"A blue minivan with tinted windows blocked her path and one of the men pulled her into the van," said police spokeswoman Jennifer Bryk. "She was driven west into the foothills of Boulder, and each one of the men assaulted her. She said she was threatened but did not see a weapon."

Police now have a composite sketch of one suspect who was described as 6 feet tall, 250 pounds and about 20 years old, with dark hair spiked with gel.

Another suspect was described as 5 foot 4 inches tall, 120 pounds, about 16 years old and wearing a light baseball cap, the third suspect, 6 feet tall, 175 pounds, 20 years old, with long, wavy hair; and the fourth suspect, 5 feet 8 inches tall, 190 pounds and about 18 years old.

Descriptions of the two other alleged suspects were not available. ■

## Las Vegas Basketball Tournament a JA Jackpot

By STEVEN TANAMACHI  
Special to the Pacific Citizen

LAS VEGAS—Overtime victories and winning jackpots. Second half blowouts and losing hands. Old rivals and new friends. These were among the topics of conversation this weekend at the 7th Annual Las Vegas Invitational basketball tournament.

176 teams and close to 2000 players, most of whom were Japanese American, congregated in gyms and casinos alike around the city.

Abuse Program and Keiro Services.

Each committee member chose a program to donate the money to. Hoops for Friends also awards scholarships to entering college freshmen. This year's recipients were Shaun Deimonji (UC Berkeley), Alison Oshinomi (UCLA) and Gregory Saeki (UC San Diego).

A majority of the weekend's players were beyond college age, but could still run with the youngsters. It was the third year at the tournament for Suzie Sakuma (age

homecoming could visit the Hawaiian restaurants in the California Hotel.

Still, the food was only one of the many attractions — there was, of course, the plentiful card tables, slot machines and drinks.

Morita, who enjoys the craps table almost as much as the basketball court, explained why the tournament is held in Vegas when there isn't a large JA population in the area.

"This is the only place where you could get all the people to get out to," he explained. "Basketball is not a high priority."

And so it seemed Friday night as the hours rolled by. Basketball players expended their energy in the casino rather than saving it for the morning game.

For the past six years, there were games on Sunday, but not this year. The committee decided that most people would rather have Saturday night and Sunday morning open.

The scores of Sunday's games were too low, Morita joked, so they had to adjust the schedule.

Adjusting the schedule of games is just one of the evolutions the event has gone through over the years.

Having problems with insurance, the Las Vegas tournament went on a two year hiatus before Morita took over seven years ago. The tournament has been growing since.

In the first annual Invitational, there were 88 teams and the numbers have since doubled. It now has a wait list of over 30 teams.

The tournament attracted people from all over the West Coast, with the bulk from California and a small representation from Utah. Other players travelled from as far as Seattle and Hawaii.

As Saturday night rolled around and the games finished up, it became apparent that the Invitational was less about basketball and more about socializing. Asking some of the Yonsei at the bar what the best part of the tournament was, they all responded it was seeing friends.

Some people made game-winning shots at the gym over the weekend. Others shot craps in the casino. Some took shots at the bar. What made the weekend special was the opportunity for everyone to shoot the breeze with each other. ■



PHOTO: STEVEN TANAMACHI

A player from Need 4 Speed looks to score on the Team NBN defense in the Men's A Platinum division. Basketball was just one of the many attractions this weekend at the Las Vegas Invitational tournament.

Countless others joined the crowd, making the event as much a reunion of friends as it was a tournament of players.

Gerald Morita was the boss of the Vegas phenomenon and has headed the tournament committee for the past seven years. Along with the help of a dozen others, the crew found gyms, arranged lodging for players and got sponsors among countless other tasks. Despite all the work, he can't stay away.

"Every year I tell myself I'm going to quit, but I don't," Morita said. "When it's over and I see the people having fun, it's worth it."

The value of the tournament extends beyond the joy of the players and coordinators. All the proceeds go to the non-profit corporation Hoops For Friends, Inc., which donates the money to such organizations as the Little Tokyo Service Center, Asian American Drug

undisclosed), who has been playing ball for 19 years.

"I try to play competitively but the end results don't always reflect that," Sakuma admitted. The best things about the weekend, she said, wasn't the competition, but the opportunity to see old (no pun intended) friends.

The trip to Las Vegas was not just for basketball jocks, but for people who wanted a vacation amongst friends.

Remi Nakamoto, who has played in Japanese league tournaments since elementary school, was a spectator this weekend.

"I miss the friendly competition," she reminisced. "I miss my dad yelling at me for not playing up to par. I miss my mom's spam musubi, special chicken and macaroni salad after the game."

But even in the middle of the desert, those who wanted some

## Multi-Generations Attend 8th Nat'l JACL Singles Convention

The eighth National JACL Singles Convention, held over the Labor Day weekend in San Francisco's Japantown, attracted a number of Nisei, Sansei and Yonsei singles from all over the area.

This year's event, hosted by the San Francisco/Bay Area Nikkei Singles, was co-chaired by Georgeann Masdo and Gayle Kondo. The East Bay Nikkei Singles, San Jose Nikkei Singles and the Sacramento to Nikkei Singles also helped in the event.

The Friday night ice breaker, chaired by Marjorie Fletcher, provided a great opportunity for attendees to mingle. The event, held at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCNC), was jumpstarted by a performance by Gen Tuko, headed by Melody Takata.

A line dancing gathering, led by DJ Bill Ang and dance instructor Gill Chun, kept the people dancing into the wee hours, long after the event was supposed to close.

A sumptuous meal was provided by volunteers who made sushi, salads, fresh fruits, dessert and many other delicacies.

Helen Kawagoe, national JACL president, offered an inspirational speech on where JACL is today and where it is headed in the coming future. She was followed by keynote speaker Paul Otsuki, executive director of JCCNC, who shared about being single and spoke frankly about sex.

The Saturday workshops covered a wide range of topics such as

sake making and tasting, how to enjoy a good relationship, a quick Japan travel guide and tips; Hapa issues; acupuncture and nutrition; mon, or family crest; abianse; the importance of your wardrobe and color coordination; and a fashion show by Ruth Mun.

The weekend culminated in the gala dinner, which was held at the Radisson Miyako Hotel and chaired by Nancy Mochida. The evening started out with Richard Hampton, a Kenny Rogers look-alike, going from table to table and serenading the guests.



National JACL President Helen Kawagoe calls on the Singles to join JACL and its program for action at the gala dinner dance at the Radisson Miyako Hotel, Sept. 4. From left: Helen Kawagoe, Kenny Rogers look-alike and sound-alike entertainer, Richard Hampton, convention co-chairs: Gayle Kondo and Georgeann Masdo.

Attendees were then entertained by the music of Eric Tugami and Stephanie Sa of the "Karaoke Kids," and "Island Waves" a five-piece band. The musicians played an eclectic mix of everything ranging from ballroom dancing to disco.

The weekend came to a close with a Sunday brunch. Since many participants wondered where the next singles event will be, Janet Okubo, president of the Greater L.A. Singles Chapter, said they are considering having one in Southern California so stay tuned! ■

## NJAMF Soliciting Honor Guard Nominations

The National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) is soliciting nominations to form an Honor Guard, which will participate at the groundbreaking ceremony at the site of the proposed National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, in Washington, D.C., on Friday, Oct. 22.

The U.S. Military District of Washington (MDW) has arranged for the 3rd U.S. Infantry (the Old Guard) Color Guard to present and retire the 3rd Infantry Color Guard, and plans to form an Honor Guard consisting of selected, but not be limited to, veterans and their families as follows:

- Nikkei veterans of WWII
- Nikkei female veterans of WWII
- Surviving Gold/Blue Star Mothers of WWII veterans

Interested veterans who wish

to be considered and are planning to attend the ceremony should submit a brief resume indicating:

- Name/address/telephone
- Dates of Service
- Theater of Operations (Europe/Pacific/Continental US)
- Service Unit (Organization in which he/she served)
- Military decorations

Closing date for nominations is Oct. 1. The formal roster of the Honor Guard will be determined by the selection board of the NJAMF Groundbreaking Committee.

Nominations/applications should be submitted to: Henry S. Wakabayashi, Ground Breaking Committee, National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, 7020 Sulky Lane, Rockville, MD 20852

For more information, call Wakabayashi, 301/891-7390. ■

### ■ 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.

### ■ JOB REOPENING

#### 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 two 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: \$28,860-\$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 MMS WWII Memorial Foundation. Deadline for applications: until filled.

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## MANZANAR

(Continued from page 1)

7. He added that a guard tower at site 8 would have a more visual impact as motorists drove down Highway 395.

Hopkins has also been meeting with local residents to see whether usable remnants of a guard tower still exist. He has been able to confirm that one had been sawed up and another, in Kern County, had been modified to look like what he described as a "cedar shake silo," with cedar siding and the top altered to look like a silo or missile.

In addition, Hopkins has been examining existing barracks but said most have been "so altered that it was not worthy of consideration." However, a barracks at the Bishop airport has the potential to be rehabilitated to its original state, said Hopkins.

Bill Michael raised a motion to draft a letter to the NPS director, stating that the commission supports the reconstruction of the watch tower, barracks and other facilities to further the history of the site. It was seconded by Stewart and passed unanimously.

Other programs the NPS hopes to offer at Manzanar are tours on the history of the American Indians, the Owens Valley water wars, the Caucasian pioneers, and native plant and wildlife.

### Budget

Ross Hopkins noted that Manzanar was allocated a \$484,000 budget, starting fiscal year Oct. 1, 2000, but believes it will take more funds to run the park adequately.

"Until we get about \$600,000 or \$650,000, we will simply not have a park that functions the way you would expect to have one function," said Hopkins.

He said Sens. Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer and Rep. Robert Matsui have put in requests for more funding.

One of the areas affected by the budget shortfall will be staffing, said Hopkins. Currently, the park employs himself and Coughlin. A third employee, a maintenance manager, recently took an early retirement and Hopkins has been overseeing those responsibilities in addition to his other duties.

In the near future, Hopkins hopes to hire an administrative officer, another park ranger and a

maintenance mechanic. With additional funds, he said he could hire one or two seasonal park rangers and maintenance workers during peak tourist months.

### Park Maintenance

To date, Hopkins said the 4.5-mile park boundary has been marked off, but portions of the fencing are being continuously damaged by local elk.

A structural report on the auditorium was recently published and is available to the public. Hopkins credited Archie Miyatake as an "unsung hero" for providing them with old photographs to assist in rehabilitating the auditorium.

A 3.6-mile interim tour road has been cleared. A portion of this road near Block 5 had to be excavated.



PHOTO: MARTHA NAKAGAWA  
Masaki Koike of Whittier holds up his winning design in the Manzanar logo contest.

lated, since 2.5 feet of it was buried under dirt.

NPS staff are in the process of printing signs and building berms to prevent wandering motorists from becoming stranded in the soft dirt. A recent tow cost came to \$235, said Hopkins. They also hope to put up "No Hunting" and "No Wood Cutting" signs, in addition to interpretive signs.

Heating and cooling units have been installed in the auditorium, which is being used as the NPS office. They are also working on getting potable water and a sewage system installed.

They recently brought back two concrete tree replicas that had been at Manzanar. The replicas were recovered from the yard of a former Department of Water and Power employee living in the city of Independence who had carted them off from the camp site after its closure. The pillars are solid concrete, reinforced with steel. It took NPS six people, two backhoes, one dump truck and one trailer to

haul them back to Manzanar.

Hopkins said the pillars have the initials of the Manzanar military police carved into them and are well preserved. Had they been left at the camp site for the past 50 years, Hopkins felt they would have been vandalized and broken.

The Block 34 garden has been excavated, and Hopkins described it as "spectacular." He hopes NPS archaeologist Jeff Burton will be able to excavate gardens at Block 9 and 6 and another east of Block 34, next spring. They also plan to clear Merritt Park and the Children's Village.

Burton finished a report on an overview of all 10 relocation camps, which he had personally visited. Copies of the report will be available to the public.

The hazardous materials survey is nearly completed, and it is hoped that state approval will be received in the next few months.

The first draft of an interim tour guide brochure is completed.

About 2,600 Coastal Redwood fence posts to place around the camp have recently been ordered, at close to \$50,000. Part of the funds allocated to hiring a contractor was used to purchase the posts because the contract bid had come in 23 below the expected bid, said Hopkins. They hope to begin putting in the fence posts next spring.

Hopkins noted the posts had originally been placed into the ground by a process called "wet tamp," which ensures a strong fence but is very labor intensive. Hoping to recreate the process, Hopkins said he has a contractor in mind.

Trees that pose potential fire hazards are being removed, and they hope to plant new trees to recreate camp life.

An archivist is going through records in an effort to preserve Manzanar-related documents.

Park Ranger Coughlin is also working on publishing a newsletter, recruiting new volunteers, conducting oral histories, leading tours, meeting with local tribal members, buying research material for the library and setting up a VIP program.

The next commission meeting will be on Nov. 6 at Tucson, Ariz., where commissioners will also attend the Nov. 7 dedication for the Gordon Hirabayashi Recreation Site. ■

against hate crimes.

A few years ago, I asked a colleague who works for the Anti-Defamation League what the difference was between the work of ADL and two other Jewish organizations which I won't mention here. He said, "Imagine, that a swastika is scrawled on a temple wall. One of the other organizations would research it, the other would file a lawsuit and the ADL would get rid of it." He was oversimplifying the functions of the groups but he was making the point that when an act of defamation or a hate crime occurs, the ADL aggressively pursues the incident to apprehend the perpetrator and remind the public that bigotry will not be tolerated.

One of the purposes of JACL is to protect the welfare of our community. We do it by confronting bigotry and discrimination. We do it, through proactive programs that will educate the public about the experience of Japanese Americans. JACL must make choices about the issues in which we should be involved. One way to determine this is to be involved in issues where we can assume leadership and where we can make a real difference. Hate crimes and anti-Asian sentiment must be one of these choices. If we are true to our purpose and if the term "Jap" is scrawled on a wall, our membership should expect that we will get rid of it. ■

Bill Yoshino was named to the Illinois governor's Commission on Discrimination & Hate Crimes.

## How You Can Help Manzanar

### Millennium Grant

The Manzanar Advisory Commission is asking the public's help in raising \$150,000 before the end of December.

This pressing deadline is due to the stipulations included in a special millennium grant to "Save America's Treasures" that was recently awarded to Manzanar.

Through this federally funded program, Manzanar qualified for a \$150,000 grant but will lose the funding unless a matching amount of \$150,000 is not raised by the community by the end of December, said commission member Dennis Otsuji.

"It's all or nothing," he said.

This special millennium grant was a program in which Manzanar competed with a number of projects across the nation. Advisory Chairperson Rose Ochi credited the efforts of John Reynolds, Western regional director of the National Park Service, for getting Manzanar qualified.

The money will be used to purchase such items as the barbed wire fence to encircle the camp perimeter and to cover contractor costs to install fence posts and other amenities to restore Manzanar to its World War II state, and Ochi. She added that the funds will not be used for maintenance.

Currently, the commission, with the help of John McClenahan, National Park Service director of development for the Pacific West Region, is compiling a list of potential donors and foundations to target.

The advisory commission, set to dissolve in March 2000, is also in the process of setting up a foundation with a broad-based board of directors.

To donate or for information, contact McClenahan at 252 Fairway Lane, Ojai, CA 93023, tel. 805/640-9457 or e-mail jmcclenahan@nps.gov.

### Camp Card Program

Kari Coughlin, Manzanar park ranger, is seeking participation from former Manzanar internees to be a part of the identification camp card program, which was developed as an educational program for visiting school tours.

The card program consists of giving each student an ID card which has the name of a former internee, the internee's age when in camp, a photo from around that era, what happened to the internee during World War II, memories of camp, the impact the experience had on the person, and advice to the young person holding the card.

"Students can compare the reactions people had to this event, their experiences, and can get a far better idea of how complex this situation was and how it affected people," said Coughlin.

Coughlin currently has eight sets of 26 ID cards and is seeking more participation from internees who were between the ages of six and college age when they were incarcerated. She added that family members can send in information on deceased internees, adding that she has a card on the late Ralph Lenz, an American of Mexican and Irish descent who voluntarily entered Manzanar out of loyalty to his Nikko friends.

Coughlin will be attending the Manzanar High School reunion in Las Vegas from Oct. 26-27 and encouraged people to stop by her table.

"This is a legacy that they can leave for people in the future," said Coughlin.

The program is supported in part by the California Public Education Fund.

To contact Coughlin, write to Manzanar National Historic Site, P.O. Box 426, Independence, CA 93326, tel. 760/878-2932; fax 760/878-2949.

## Special Veterans Cruise Set for March 19-26

Veterans, family members and their friends are all invited to take part in a special 100th/442nd/MIS cruise from March 19-26.

This cruise, endorsed by the 100th/442nd/MIS Memorial Foundation, will sail on the ship, *Elation*, departing from the Port of Los Angeles to Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan and Cabo San Lucas.

Barbara Fairchild and Roy Morris will give private performances for the group.

The special all-inclusive cruise rates have been established on a first-come, first-served basis. This includes

cruise fare; port charges; federal tax; shore excursion in each port including tip, gratuities to waiters, bus boy, cabin steward; donation to the foundation; private shows, and additional features. For those flying in from other cities, special add-on airfares are available. For more information, call Phyllis Anasetti of Chase Travel at 800/304 5100 or 818/246-1661. ■

## EDITORIAL

### Responding to Hatred

By BILL YOSHINO

JACL Midwest Regional Director

The past months have sadly illustrated JACL's longstanding concern about anti-Asian sentiment and hate crimes where Asian Americans are the victims. It is even more troubling that during the past year, the nature of these crimes is becoming more extreme, with fatal outcomes.

In April, Naoki Kamijima, a Japanese immigrant, was shot and killed while tending his general store in Crystal Lake, Ill. In July, Benjamin Smith, a white supremacist and member of the so-called World Church of the Creator (WOOTC), killed Won Joon Yoon, a Korean student, while he stood in front of his church in Bloomington, Ind. In August, Joseph Ito, a Filipino American postal worker, was killed by an individual who earlier had wounded four children and two adults at a Jewish community center in Southern California.

Several weeks ago, Frances Tjio, a Cincinnati JACL member, called to say the WOOTC left anti-Semitic and racist literature in neighborhood driveways in Anderson, Ohio. Earlier this year, the same literature was strewn in driveways in four Chicago-area suburbs.

Benjamin Smith once said, "To want to live in a world where blacks have power over whites,

where Jews are in control, I think that's a sickness and I'd like to eradicate that sickness. In some ways, it's inevitable — racial holy war." That's a clear indication of the purpose and aim of this group. That's why constant vigilance and action on hate crimes is necessary.

All communities, especially the AA community, need to act firmly in the face of these escalating incidents of hatred. We can't just leave it to others to voice an abhorrence toward bigotry. There must be a common voice from all groups to isolate the bigots so that everyone will understand that their behavior will not be tolerated.

When a hate crime occurs we need to respond immediately. In recent hate crime incidents, the media have often paid less attention to the AA victims or to the concerns of the AA community. The way we can remedy this is to fully engage ourselves when incidents occur.

We must reach out to the media. We must find ways to assist the victims by referring them to victim assistance programs or to agencies or individuals who are equipped to handle their needs. We must interact with law enforcement to ensure that these crimes are thoroughly investigated so that the perpetrators are caught and proper charges are lodged. And, we must work with our coalition partners as a way to strengthen our voice

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KEI YOSHIDA, Researcher/Instructor NINA YOSHIDA, Translator

## Three Degrees of Separation

By Naomi Hirahara

The Last Days of  
Daikon Ashi

When my uncle in Tokyo spotted me in Narita Airport about 15 years ago, he almost sighed a breath of relief. "Oh, you are like the old model," he said, picking up my carry-on baggage.

I was 21 years old, and too busy absorbing the rush of businessmen and tourists to register what he said. Later his words were interpreted by my aunt. Although they had seen me when I was 14, they feared that somehow the American air would kick in during my adolescence, transforming me into a bosomy, long-legged Wonder Woman seductress. But I was like Japan's "old model" female: short, round-faced and freckled, with a healthy pair of daikon ashi (white-radish legs), usually seen half-submerged in rice paddies. And, well, the bosom, I won't even get into that.

Most Japanese Americans 30 or older understand the term, daikon ashi. Go to any Japanese grocery store and you can't miss daikon. Filed like logs, perhaps next to hairy balls of *sato imo* (yams), these are not the cute bunched-of red-knobbed radishes found in the local grocery store. No, we are talking about a thick, usually dirt-covered root. Wash it off, peel the skin, and there you have my calves.

No women would revel in having daikon ashi. Older men, flushed with beer, use that term to disparage a woman's body. In California, we second and third generations have picked it up.

Growing up and playing basketball, my girls would tease one another, pointing at our well-endowed calves stuffed like sausages into our tight tube socks. Later, approaching womanhood, we would hope our calves would magically melt away into the more svelte western model à la Barbie. But that day never arrived for some of us.

I don't hear much about daikon ashi these days. Perhaps it's because women's bodies have indeed changed over the past 30 years. I see the willowy teen figures in col-

fee-houses and malls. These gorgeous Asian American women, stylishly clad in black and light lipstick, are thin as coat hangers. I look at them not with envy, but amazement, that their graceful frames are a result of a similar gene pool as mine. And their legs — no one would mistake them for giant white radishes, but maybe fast-food drink straws.

Even the look of Japanese girls, especially in the urban areas like Tokyo, has been updated. Their black-and-white uniforms are loose on their long and lanky bodies. Some people have told me it's because they now exercise more; some have commented on their diets. Who knows how long this will continue as mayonnaise and fast food permeate their daily lives?

All these thoughts about body image and type came to a head when I recently joined a gym in Pasadena. I had a free session with a pert, blond personal trainer. As she used a metal clamp to calculate my body fat and a tape measure for my waist, she then looked down at my legs. "My husband would die for your calves."

"Really," I didn't know if it was a sales pitch or honest admiration.

Her husband, no matter how hard he tried, could not build up his calves, she explained. They remained so thin that socks would fall loose around his ankles.

A peculiar problem, I thought to myself. Responding to her questions about past injuries, it dawned on me that I hadn't ever broken a bone or torn a single ligament, in spite of years of exercising. Somehow, I thought, it all goes back to those trusty daikon ashi, which served millions of peasants well back in Meiji Japan.

Now my pet project is to further develop my muscular calves. Who knows? Like the VW Bug, maybe the "old model" will be in some day. ■

Naomi Hirahara is a writer based in Pasadena.

## EDITORIAL

## JACL's WWII Policies Negated Right to Redress

By FRANK CHIN

Ah, Barry Saiki, and the patented JACL ad hominem attack. He doesn't deny the JACL usurped the WRA All Camp Meeting and turned it into the JACL national convention; doesn't deny the JACL campaigned against Nisei civil rights and convinced the government to draft the Nisei from concentration camps; doesn't say the few JACLers, who spoke up for a restoration of Nisei constitutional rights before reclassifying them eligible for the draft, were shouted down by Mike Masaoka himself; doesn't say the Nisei internment in concentration camps and denial of their constitutional rights posed the question as to whether or not the Nisei were U.S. citizens under the Constitution.

Mr. Saiki would treat the issue with an attack on my personality instead of a knowledgeable defense of the JACL policy of pursuing good publicity instead of good law.

As to my personality, I have to concede Mr. Saiki has a point. I have a rotten personality.

Taking his question about the Chinese defense of Nisei civil rights seriously, I have to assume he's saying the JACL looked to China America for help in the defense of Nisei civil rights.

I find nothing to suggest the JACL or Japanese America, in any organized fashion, looked to the Chinese Americans for leadership. I've heard stories of an individual being helped or hidden by Chinese American families, but these have to be exceptions.

One of the exceptions, though, went to some trouble to make himself exceptional. He gave a statement at the Tolan Committee hearings. The statement made by Chung Kun Cheng, is dated Feb. 28, 1942, and can be found on page 11,606 of the hearing:

"Gentlemen, I am a citizen of the Republic of China. I was born and brought up there. I was formerly assistant professor at the University of Amoy in South China and now I am teaching at the University of Washington. — Judging from what I saw and heard in this Pacific Northwest, the consensus of opinion here seems to favor a wholesale removal of the alien and American-born Japanese. This, so far as I could see, is essentially the result of deep-rooted racial prejudice on the part of the average American who either could not or would not allow himself to be convinced that biologically the Japanese are not much different from himself. And it is this prejudice which has manifested itself in newspaper editorials and over the radio in this part of the country during the past two months. Personally, I think the state of nervousness on the Pacific Coast is unwarranted."

As revolting as my personality is, I've been a U.S. citizen all my life, and all the inalienable rights I was born with are still as inalienable as they ever were.

To lose these rights, I must commit a criminal act. If falsely accused and arrested, I would be thrown in jail, but once there, I would get a lawyer to get me out and restore me to the free exercise of my rotten personality. Only, if I and my rotten personality were guilty of the crime, would I accede to paying my penalty and earning my way to exercising my rotten personality.

The JACL policy of "sacrificing" JA civil rights "for the opportunity to prove Japanese American loyalty in blood on the battlefield" gives credence to the white racist assertion that the Japanese are a moral-

ly inferior race.

Secondly, it introduces the white racist argument that morally inferior races, like the Japanese, unlike any other race, must "earn" their citizenship, that individuals of every other race are born with.

The JACL that had taken leadership of the JAs without any form of consensus or approval, had no right to deal away the "inalienable rights" of the Nisei or the Issei, to glorify volunteering for a segregated unit or accepting the draft as the only way a Nisei could claim his U.S. citizenship rights.

Thirdly, the policy of good publicity over good law foreclosed on redress. The JACL deal promised not to defend the constitutional rights of the JAs in return for the creation of the segregated all-Nisei unit and restoration of the draft.

Japanese America could not mount a credible redress campaign until they organized outside of the JACL and proved JAs, during evacuation and internment, committed acts of civil disobedience, in attempts to redress the constitutional wrongs done to them.

The simple truth is this: the JACL and 442nd are white racist arguments, justifying the camps' bagging all of Japanese America to free the Nisei into the Army. In return, the JACL "sacrificed" the civil rights and constitutional protections that were Nisei birthrights. The JACL and 442nd, leading Japanese America to white acceptance and assimilation, is an argument against redress.

The JACL and 442nd cannot boast of earning — paying a penalty in blood — Nisei civil rights and at the same time demand redress for constitutional wrongs. They specifically traded away that right for personal glory. Nobody else's glory but their own. Mom didn't pick up an M-1 rifle and fight in Italy. Pop didn't get a draft notice. Sis didn't save the Lost Battalion. — None of them proved their loyalty.

The only loyal JAs in the whole world number the 30,000 who served in World War II and the 1,500 or less JACL members, who, if Mr. Hirasuna is correct, were under the impression that the United States became a military dictatorship during wartime.

At the time Mr. Hirasuna and Mr. Saiki were in school, studying the U.S. Constitution, emphasis was made on the fact that the Constitution was written to make it impossible for the military to rule the nation. The military, like the church, was not a branch of government. The military was a servant of the government. The commander-in-chief was an elected civil officer who did not rise to office through the ranks of the military.

George Nakagawa believes that what the JACL calls "wartime hysteria" really existed, that white racists jumped out of closets all over the West Coast and made Japanese America fear for their lives. Mr. Nakagawa is the only Japanese American I know of, other than Mike Masaoka, who feared for his life before and during the war. And Masaoka's fear might have been an act.

James Omura felt that Masaoka genuinely feared whites in the San Francisco area would lynch him. I tend to think it part of his act to sell the evacuation. Like Mr. Hirasuna, Masaoka said to Omura, "Who would want to stay under such conditions?"

"I would," Omura answered. Artist Isamu Noguchi and Larry Tajiri, future editor of the Pacific Citizen, were in the

room at the time.

Omura was not being exceptionally brave. He was not, as Masaoka appeared to be, in fear of his life.

I was the yellow kid in a country tar-paper shanty in the Motherlode, near Placerville, Calif., and one year old when Pearl Harbor got bombed. I was five years old when the war ended in 1945.

I was raised by an old white couple, and when they took me to the mighty town of Placerville to shop at Woolworth's or Safeway, I didn't wear a button. I never wore a button. Even when they took me to visit my parents in Oakland or relatives in Santa Ana, I never wore a button. I saw soldiers in uniform, home from the war, many missing an arm or a leg. Nobody ever messed with me. If wartime hysteria was rampant in America, I think I would have been called "Jap" more often than I was.

I would have expected hysterical white racists to have gathered around the Cheyenne courthouse where the first group of 63 draft resisters from Heart Mountain were being tried in the largest trial in Wyoming history. There were no pickets, no mobs of super-patriots or Gold Star mothers singing, "Remember Pearl Harbor," no rude treatment of the resisters or the leaders out on bail, from the people of Cheyenne.

No lynch mob appeared, no vigilantes stormed the jailhouse in the dead of night, after news of the guilty verdict was on the radio and front page of the Wyoming Eagle.

Before the 63 were moved to federal prison, a friend went store to store, asking for cardboard boxes and ropes to pack the resisters' belongings. If white businessmen of Cheyenne were in the throes of wartime hysteria, would Koze Sakai have felt confident going around asking for rope?

I dare say, even Bill Hosokawa, official apologist for the JACL police state who says the resisters owe JACL an apology for endangering JACL lives through bad publicity, never feared for his life at the hands of patriotic anti-Jap white Americans. But he is right, the mere existence of the resisters destroys all JACL credibility as the leaders of Japanese America.

And what's so great about a JACL apology to the resisters? What can they do with it? Trade it in for a lifetime JACL membership? The apology idea came from inside the JACL, not from the resisters. The idea of the resisters apologizing to the JACL also comes from inside JACL.

It was the resisters and former editor of the Rocky Shimpo, James Omura, who legitimized the campaign for redress in the '70s and '80s, as Japanese America organized to pursue redress, in spite of the JACL.

The draft resisters from all the camps demonstrated that a majority of JAs were not represented by the JACL. And it was Michi Weglyn's "Years of Infamy" that freed JAs from Masaoka's cowardly and white supremacist "Nisei Creed," and the Nisei to ruthlessly paw through public libraries to find the resisters and Omura, as Weglyn had found the FBI report proving the government knew the JAs posed no threat to national security, and so much more. ■

Frank Chin is a pioneer playwright and writer. He is best known for co-editing "AII-IEEEEE!" and "The Big AII-IEEEEE!"

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## Letters to the Editor

### 'Rabbit in Moon' is Disservice to the Nikkei Community

The producers of "Rabbit in the Moon" do a serious disservice to the Nikkei community when it becomes apparent their documentary on draft resisters is a diatribe against JACL.

Today, in the relative security and comfort of our law on civil rights, equal employment, and fair housing, how easy it is to forget the harsh realities of the early 1900s which lead to the internment of Japanese Americans in 1942.

Our government officially sanctioned the darkest views of racists who were motivated by economic greed and justified their actions under cover of war hysteria.

The average age of the Nisei on December 7, 1941, was about 16 or 17. JACL's leaders were in their twenties/early thirties. These young JACL leaders were thrust into a leadership position by government authorities who recognized JACL's networking abilities.

The Issei community leaders had been suddenly imprisoned after Dec. 7, 1941. During late 1941-early 1942, JACL sought to convince government officials that ancestry was not a valid measure of loyalty.

They protested the proposed decision to remove JAs from the West Coast, which unbeknownst to them, had already been made, even prior to the Tolan Committee Hearings of early February 1941!

So with the government decision already made, JACL cooperated to make evacuation as humane as possible. For this, JACL is accused of not having resisted enough. Did any other JA group do more? What did those who now criticize JACL do?

Even as evacuation proceeded, JACL intensified and continued their efforts to convince the government that JAs were loyal Americans.

They sought the right for Japanese Americans to fight for their country in order to dispel suspicion of our loyalty. We had all been classified 4C, enemy alien. For these efforts some JACL leaders were beaten, threatened, and called fools by those who had lost patience and faith in America or who wanted first that their constitutional rights be restored.

The film carefully ignores the stories I've heard of threats, beatings, and harassment not only of some JACL leaders but also of some Issei parents whose sons were already fighting, being wounded, or killed in action. How do you think news of these incidences were received by the men fighting and dying for you?

When we brought home the colors of the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Central Postal Directory in 1946, we in a sense represented the entire JA community. Who then were the heroes President Truman spoke of in 1946 when he said, "you fought to make this republic stand for what the Constitution says it stands for?"

In no small measure, the pardon extended to the draft resisters in 1947 by President Truman was due to the "foolish" efforts of the war veterans of the MIS and 100th/442 RCT.

My Issei father, who like so many other Issei immigrants,

were denied even the opportunity to become a naturalized American citizen, said to my older brother and me on the eve of our confinement in Camp Harmony, Puyallup Fairgrounds, Wash. in May 1942, "I don't know what will happen to us but always remember, no matter what happens, this is your country and you must act accordingly."

Most of the Issei's trusted the ultimate goodness of this country and that we would find our rightful place in America. JACL's stance and our JA communities' stance through the World War II years was, "We are Americans and we will prove it." Were we wrong?

The draft resisters' stance, on constitutional grounds, though admirable in principle, was not consistent with the community stance nor was it a viable option to aid the community at large. We were "hunkered down" and trying to break out of the group suspicion mold the racist press and government policy had thrown us into.

A crisis faced the JA community. Because the JA culture of the time was to conform for the community good, strong words were no doubt expressed, urging the draft resisters to conform. This was especially important considering efforts by the draft resisters to discourage others to also resist.

The film ignores JACL's post-war activities: active support for the passage of the 1952 Walter McCarran Act which among other things provided for Asian immigrants to become naturalized American citizens; active role in repeal of alien land laws; JACL's leadership role in winning passage of the 1988 Redress Bill.

Did those who felt so strongly about their constitutional rights go on to help achieve passage of these important acts of Congress?

In hindsight and in the comfort of our civil rights, job opportunities, equal housing, etc., can anyone fault JACL's stance and leadership in promoting "Americanism" for all JAs?

What did the draft resisters accomplish, and compare it to the fruits won on the bloody military battles along with the agony of veteran families at home and JACL's continued legislative campaigns for our community benefit.

If anything, the draft resisters and renunciations should thank JACL and the veterans for the comforts and civil rights they enjoy today. I do not understand any need to honor them or for JACL to apologize to them for alleged hurts.

Let's all remember, the U.S. government was the chief perpetrator of the crime and has already apologized and paid redress.

We should all accept the spirit of it and apology behind the redress bill, lay down any lingering animosities, and be the most we can be to each other as Americans. ■

**Robert S. Sato**

Former Dist. Gov. PNWD  
Mill Creek, Wash.

### Re: 'Rabbit in the Moon'

For those interested in finding out more about the movie, "Rabbit in the Moon," please check the website: [www.pas.org/pov/racismative/rabbitinthemoon/index.html](http://www.pas.org/pov/racismative/rabbitinthemoon/index.html). There are four sections, with a "talk to the filmmaker" part. Please read the message in each section and then add comments you wish to make. The responses have been astonishingly varied and enlightening. I will answer any questions anyone has.

**Chizu Omoni**  
Seattle

### Writer Misunderstood Constitutional Stand

Martha Nakagawa's Sept. 3-9 article, "CDC Rejects Nat'l JACL's Reconciliation Resolution With Resisters of Conscience," states that I said, "that it was within the United States government's rights to suspend constitutional rights of its citizens during times of war." I believe that I was misquoted or misunderstood. What I believe that I said was that the U.S. government DOES suspend constitutional rights in times of war. It takes that right. This was manifested in the unfavorable decisions of the Supreme Court in the cases of Yasui, Hirabayashi and Korematsu. It was manifested in the evacuation and internment of Japanese American citizens.

Again, I believe I was misquoted or misunderstood. Categorically, I do not believe that the government has the right to suspend the constitutional rights of its citizens at any time, even in times of war. I state that the government has taken that right many times in spite of the Constitution.

**Fred Y. Horasawa**  
Fresno, Calif.

### Letter's Language Offends Readers

I have been reading with much interest the recent articles and letters in the *Pacific Citizen* regarding the "apology" controversy. But I was dismayed to find Fred Oshima's editorial on this subject with his use of provocative and inflammatory language. Phrases such as "bleeding heart ... free-wheeling ... irresponsible ... second guessing ... damn fool ... two-bit ... half-cooked ..." to describe one's opponents insult them but I believe these words belittle the writer more.

In my opinion, Mr. Oshima's presentation would have been more sound and convincing for his point of view without his resorting to these offensive words.

**Aiko Uyehi**  
McKinleyville, Calif.

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• "Notes" reflect the active, public discussion within JACL of a wide range of ideas and issues, though they may not reflect the viewpoint of the editorial board of the *Pacific Citizen*.

• "Short expressions" on public issues, usually one or two paragraphs, should include signature, address and daytime phone number. Because of space limitations, letters are subject to 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.

## Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

**Akashi, Emiko Emmie, 76**, Torrance, Sept. 2; Honolulu-born; survived by son Michael; mother Hisano; brother Kazuyuki and wife Kazuyo; sisters Dorothy, Nobuko Kunitomo and husband Makoto (Hawaii).

**Doihara, Kiharu, 99**, Culver City, Sept. 8; Okuyama-ken-born; survived by daughter Michiko Tamaki; 3 gc.

**Fujii, Natsuyo "Hana," 85**, San Francisco, Aug. 27; Moneta-born; survived by son Paul and wife Joan; daughter Marianne Nakamoto and husband George; 3 gc.; brother (Hiromu Hamada and wife Hiroko; sister Fusayo Kuwahara and husband Tom; predeceased by husband Charles Akimasa; sister Yutako Watanabe.

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

**Hashimoto, Jimmy Mitsuru, 68**, Alameda, Aug. 31; survived by sons Michael and wife Cynthia, Rev. Roderick and wife June, Dr. Carl and wife Sandy; daughter Julie Kane and husband Aaron; 7 gc.

**Inahara, Dr. Hissao "Chub," 67**, Ontario, Ore., Sept. 4; Banks, Ore.-born; survived by wife Kiyoko; daughters Sandra Green (Portland, Ore.), Elaine Fah (Phoenix, Ariz.), Sarah (Seattle); 6 gc.; brothers Tshio (Portland, Ore.), Ken (Seattle), Yoshio (Portland, Ore.) Pete (Ontario, Ore.).

**Kawa, Natsuyo "Natch," 74**, Pasadena, Sept. 8; Los Angeles-born; survived by husband Kenji "Ken"; sons Jon Y., Mark T. and wife Ada; daughter Ellen Imazu and husband Kenneth; 5 gc.; sister Yoshiko Bohn; brother-in-law Taro and wife Tshio.

**Kubota, Jane, Momoyo, 80**, Fresno, Aug. 27; Lindsay-born; survived by daughters Marlene, Masako Edo and husband Albert; 3 gc.; brother Harry Kaku; sisters-in-law Matsuko, Yuriko, Setsuko Kaku.

**Miura, Tsuneo (Tom), 66**; Sacramento, Aug. 21; survived by brother Shoji and wife Chieko.

**Mori, Satoru, 77**, Carson, Aug. 30; Santa Barbara-born, U.S. Army veteran; survived by sons Don (Gardena), Gene (Torrance); daughter Debbie Stassin and husband Kevin (Sugarland, Texas); 2 gc.

**Morita, Sano, 100**, Gardena, Aug. 25; Kagoshima-ken-born; survived by daughter Ikuko Honda; 3 gc., 6 gc.

**Moriya, Art, 78**, Denver; survived by son Stanley and wife Eileen; brothers Walt and wife Fumi (Cambridge), Frank and wife Alice (Granada Hills); sister Jean Oka and husband Isao (Los Angeles); predeceased by wife Nancy N.

**Nakamura, Bill T., 85**, Denver, Aug. 8; Los Angeles-born; survived by wife Hisako Yoshimoto; sons Jack, Larry (Snyder, Texas); daughter Irene (Germany); 5 gc., 4 gc.

**Nakamura, Saburo, 73**, Torrance, Sept. 1; Los Angeles-born; survived by wife Alice; brothers Tshio and wife Etsuko, Yukiko and wife Arlene; sister Mutsuko.

**Nakano, Sumie, 86**, Gardena, Sept. 6; Hawaii-born; survived by sons George S. and wife Helen, Tshio and wife Linda, Roy and wife Susan; 1 gc.; daughter Shigeko Yamane and husband William; 10 gc., 1 gc.; brother Nobuo Asada and wife Aloye Hideo (Laguna Niguel); sisters Misa Kubota and husband James (Hawaii), Yuzuko Nakao and husband Masaru (Japan), Hideo Uesugi and husband Noboru (Hawaii); brothers-in-law Juro Kurokawa, Shigeo and wife Nobuko (Japan); sisters-in-law Tomoyo Asada (Japan), Yuriko Asada (Hawaii), Itaru Mukai.

**Nishioka, Ayako, 80**, Los Angeles, Sept. 4; Sanger-born; survived by daughter Vivian Moreno and husband Wally; sister Nancy Nagata and husband Roy; predeceased by husband George Kiuchi.

**Sakae, Harry Kaname, 76**, Los Gatos, Aug. 28; San Juan Bautista-born; survived by wife Karen; son Kent and wife Judy (Cupertino); daughters Carol Hirano and husband Russell (Sacramento); Kim Tho and husband Paul (Watsonville), Shelly Nishioka and husband Kent (Hawaii); brothers Roy and wife Pauline, Henry (both Watsonville); sister-in-law Carolyn (Mountain View); sisters Geri Tachibana and husband Masao (Watsonville), Lily Shibuya and husband Mura (Los Altos Hills), Katie Kawazoe and husband Ken (Washington), Marilynne Haviland and husband John (Cupertino); predeceased by brother Chizu.

**Shimoda, Masaharu, 81**, Santa Barbara, Sept. 8; survived by wife Mariko; sons Michio and wife Carla, Noriyuki and wife Takako; daughters Naomi Lane, Yasuko Cook and husband Bob; 9 gc.; sisters Akiko Miyagawa, Kikuyo Fukushima; brother-in-law Shoji Morihisa and wife Machi.

**Takeoka, Mikio, 80**, Sacramento, Aug. 30; Florin-born; survived by wife Masako; daughter Nancy Oda and husband Tom, Alice Hirata and husband Henry (Stockton); 6 gc., 3 gc.; brothers Tadashi, Kanao, George; sister Hana Sato.

**Tanaka, Marie Shizuko, 74**, Monterey Park, Sept. 4; Seattle-born; survived by husband Leo Shigeo; sons Alan and wife Sandra, Michael and wife Sun-Tok; 2 gc.; brothers Tshio Hisamune and wife Barbara, Charlie Hisamune and wife Joanne, Masaru Hisamune and wife Cathie; brother-in-law Dave and wife Kiyu.

**Wendt, Tokiko, 60**, Denver, Aug. 22; Tokyo-born; survived by husband Foster; daughters Marianne, Julie; stepbrother Norio Hayashi (Japan).

**Yamaguchi, Toyoko, 99**, Sacramento, Aug. 23; Kumamoto, Prefecture-born; survived by daughters Misa Iwasaki and husband Tatsuji, Fumiko Horita and husband Wayne, Pat Okamoto and wife Tetsuo; grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Yamaoka, Clara, 74**, Monterey Park, Aug. 10; Seattle-born; survived by sister Martha; brother Thomas and wife Tarrance.

**Yata, Naka, 96**, Torrance, Aug. 25; Numazu-shi, Shizuoka-ken-born; Hume Mountain internee; survived by son Kaji and wife Yoneko; daughter Chiyoe Oki and husband Masao; 6 gc., 4 gc. ■

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# One Couple's Journey Through the Process of Domestic Adoption

(Continued from page 1)

about slip-ups in paperwork or reneging birth mothers have led many to feel skeptical or downright fearful. But in some ways, it's gotten a bad rap.

Beth Hall, co-director of a national, non-profit, private adoption agency called Pact and mother of adopted children herself, believes that part of its reputation has been built on stereotypes stemming from a few extreme experiences.

"Public perception is that, one, [adoption] is extremely expensive; two, birth parents change their minds or are trying to scam adoptive parents; three, it takes a very, very long time; and four, blood is thicker than water."

Hall stressed that every case is different and that not all of these situations will be true for everyone. She believes that some pre-adoptive parents are scared off by "a media bias [promulgating] all this negative feedback about adoption, which makes it frightening to approach" the system, especially a system constituted upon European-based mores about what makes a good family.

It is often thought that birth parents will always make better parents for their children than adoptive parents. But that isn't what necessarily constitutes the best family for the child, she said.

Pact, based out of San Francisco and Los Angeles, calls itself "An Adoption Alliance," a modest title for an agency unlike virtually any other in the U.S. It is one that specifically tries to lend assistance to children of color waiting to be adopted and to minorities who are seeking to adopt, two populations which are generally subsumed into a system that isn't culturally sensitive.

"There aren't enough agencies that are really trying to say, race matters," Hall said. "Children of color are quite underserved in the world of adoption, and there are a lot of barriers for populations of color that are under a lot of stress, whether it is socio-economic or political."

Although there have always been fewer minorities than Caucasians who pursue adoption in the United States, Pact actively seeks to rectify the limits of the system by embracing those smaller though no less insignificant numbers of pre-adoptive par-

ents in the Asian American, African American, Latino, gay and lesbian and mixed race communities.

Typically, couples and singles who contact Pact seeking to adopt are college-educated, financially stable, over 35, infertile and in good health. Of those that are clients, Pact reported, 40 percent are Caucasian, 20 percent are interracial couples, 15 percent are African American and 5 percent are AA. Pact's figures also show that 70 percent of their clients are married couples, 15 percent are single and 15 percent are gay or lesbian.

Figures did not account for the ethnicities of the interracial couples.

Through educational, mentoring and buddy-to-buddy programs, Pact's mission is to place children of color within adoptive homes and environments which will nurture a connection to their ethnic or cultural heritage.

This can present a problem, however, for parents who are adopting children of a different race, otherwise known as transracial adoption.

"We see a lot of white families that will preferentially look at a child of Asian descent, and it is too often a function of the 'model minority' myth," said Hall. "They think they'll have a beautiful child, a smart child, one that's good at math or musically talented."

"That is not every family, but that is a tendency, the stereotype that an Asian child will be easier to parent. But they have to understand that they are not adopting 'Asian princesses,'" she said.

The other side of the coin is the birth mothers, women of color who realize that they are not in the best position to par-

ent their children and therefore must give them up. Hall acknowledges the difficulty they will likely face in dealing with a system that is inherently biased, especially against those who are foreign-born and/or of a lower income bracket.

"I don't know of any program in this state that is not English-based," she gave as an example. "How are people who know English as a second language going to negotiate that?"

"We often hear [other organizations say], 'we want these families, where are they?' And I'm thinking, 'would you feel invited here if you were a minority?'"

"I know it's not an easy system," said Hall. "That's why it's important to keep calling around until you find someone you can imagine trusting in the most important situation of your life."

The Kodas recently contacted Pact themselves in hopes of renewing their prospects. But, at this point, they remain guarded — and realistic.

"Do we want an Asian [American] child? Absolutely! Do we think we're going to get one? Probably not," Jan said. "I've only seen one Japanese American baby on the Internet in all the nine months I've been searching."

She added that they've considered international adoption as an alternative to domestic but are not quite ready to give up on the chance that there might be an AA child out there for them.

Jan continues to set aside at least an hour a day to search the Internet.

"My stepister thinks I'm obsessed," she said. "But they will never understand the amount of pain of these last ten years ... or what an all-encompassing process this has been."

"A lot of times," Jan mused, "when I get off the phone with

them [certain family members], I have to cry."

Ed's family, meanwhile, has been quietly supportive. With all of the unpredictability though, he is careful not to give them too much news, good or bad, for fear that it will end in another disappointment.

"My mother is very excited, not to be a participant but at the prospect," he said. "But we don't really discuss it much anymore. I'm only going to discuss it with them when something finally happens."

Despite the fact that the process has left them discouraged and emotionally drained, they are nonetheless determined to follow it through to the end, now as seasoned veterans.

And although, their experience does not necessarily typify every experience, there are valuable lessons that they feel they can pass on to others who are thinking about entering into domestic adoption.

"Reach out and affiliate yourself with other couples in a similar position, talk to people at orientations," Ed advised. "Nothing prepares you for this, but we've found that most people have been very generous."

Added Jan, "If you have to be a parent, this is what you will go through."

But, she said, "I've wanted this all my life."

If you would like more information about Pact, "An Adoption Alliance," check out their website at <http://www.pactadoption.org> or email them at [info@pactadoption.org](mailto:info@pactadoption.org). To reach their offices, call 415/221-8957 in San Francisco or 810/836-1223 ext. 343 in Los Angeles.

Next week's story will continue to focus on the pre-adoption process, following families who have considered and are now pursuing international adoption, particularly through China.

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