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PSWD Celebrates JACL's 70th Anniversary at Annual Awards Dinner

By STEVEN TANAMACHI
Special to the Pacific Citizen

TORRANCE, Calif.—This year marks the 70th anniversary of JACL, and the Pacific Southwest District honored the league's history as well as seven of its members on Sep. 18. Close to 400 people gathered at the Torrance Marriott for the third annual PSWD awards dinner.

As the crowd mingled in the lobby, among the throng of people was former U.S. Congressman Norm Mineta, a self-proclaimed "community busy-body" and the night's keynote speaker.

Though his work in Congress is over, Mineta still stays busy "with

Frances Kitagawa was honored posthumously for her many contributions and warm heart. She was a charter member of the Venice Club chapter in 1939. Graduating from UCLA with an education degree, she went on to become one of the first JA teachers in the L.A. Unified School District. Even after graduating from college, she always left her door open for younger sisters of her sorority, Chi Alpha Delta.

The first thing George Takei did when he received his check for redress was donate it to the Japanese American National Museum, where he now serves on its board. He is also heavily involved with East West Players and the Japan-



This year's PSWD awardees sit in front of various JACL dignitaries, staff and the evening's presenters. Front row (l-r): Frances Kitagawa's daughter, George and Toy Kanagai, George Takei's mother, Judge Robert Takasugi and Dr. James Yamazaki. Not pictured: Mabel Yoshizaki's nephew who accepted the award on her behalf.

issues that can help the Asian Pacific American community and the Japanese American community," he said. "I've worked closely with JACL."

Among the hard workers of the night was Linda Hara, the dinner committee chair. In a written statement, she said, "As we gather this evening, we will not just be honoring those individuals in our community who have made a difference, but we are gathering to ensure that our history will not be forgotten."

The PSWD acknowledged seven individuals for their work in the community. Each was given a standing ovation.

Two individuals who have been making history with their community involvement are George and Toy Kanagai. They are zealously involved with the West Los Angeles JACL chapter. George served as president for four terms and Toy for three. They have led functions such as the West L.A. Health Fair for 20 years, Community Service Award luncheons, JACL Steak Bakes, and Civic Mall Asian Festivals.

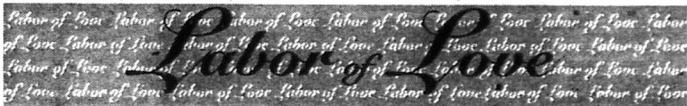
United States Friendship Commission. As Mr. Sulu of Star Trek and other roles, he has been a highly visible Asian American role model. His mother accepted the award on his behalf.

Judge Robert Takasugi has performed extensive legal analysis of the U.S. Supreme Court on the exclusion cases. Many current JA attorneys and judges have clerked with the judge, and he is a founder of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association and the California Asian Pacific Bar Association. Despite his many accomplishments, Takasugi remained humble.

"If a human being has no concern for his or her community, what kind of person is he or she?" he said. Regarding his collaborative work with others, he continued "I think we learn with the passage of time, people seek common goals."

Before beginning his practice in pediatrics, Dr. James Yamazaki

See PSWD/page 8



Asian Americans Adopting Through China

By TRACY URA
Writer/Reporter

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

Waiting for Guangdong. That's what Mark and Grace Tanaka of Chicago, and Roger and Celia Tower of Las Vegas, are doing six thousand miles away from the southern Chinese province, a place where they hope someday soon their waiting will end and a new generation will begin.

It may be less than a year from now that the two couples are allowed to travel to Guangdong's capitol city of Guangzhou, where parents-to-be are united for the first time with children — most of them girls abandoned just after birth — who've been placed in orphanages and who are yet unaware of the new life paths which lay just ahead.

The Tanakas and the Towers are just two in a rapidly growing legion of Americans, and more than ever Asian Americans, who are not only choosing to adopt but are choosing to adopt internationally, particularly from China, in the second swell of cross-cultural adoption since the Korean War.

According to the U.S. Department of State, the number of children adopted into the United States from China in 1997 totaled 3,597. In 1998, that number jumped to 4,206. This year, those figures are expected to increase to between 5,000 and 6,000. Although there are no official nationwide statistics on the number of AAs adopting Chinese-born children, the numbers seem to be growing.

Eight years ago, the Tanakas began their struggle with infert-

ity, a familiar one to many who later turn to adoption. They underwent multiple procedures, including pills, artificial insemination and three cycles of in vitro fertilization (IVF), in an attempt to conceive a biological child.

"To me, going through the IVF was extremely taxing. I had to give [my wife] Grace shots multiple times a day," said

Mark, 40, a program (systems) analyst, who had always envisioned having both biological and adopted kids.

The procedures were unsuccessful, however, and their insurance which had covered much of the cost of their fertility treatments up to that point was no longer covering the costs, said Grace, 39, an optometrist.

It was five years ago, while the Tanakas were doing mission work in Honduras, that they learned about the plight of children in different countries who were in need of fit families. That was when they first began to seriously look into adoption as an alternative, searching through the Internet and mailing out for information.

The different Asian countries that Mark and Grace originally considered ran the gamut — the Philippines, Cambodia, Vietnam,



Celia and Roger Tower

Thailand as well as China — all had children waiting for the appropriate family to adopt them.

"There was a lot of choice," Grace said. "We felt bad that we had to choose."

Like the Tanakas, the Towers, both 36, had started fertility treatments about four years ago when they found out that Celia, who is of Japanese, Chinese and Hawaiian descent, was pregnant with twins. But their elation was soon dealt a crushing blow when she miscarried, ironically enough, on Mother's Day.

"I was really depressed after I lost my babies," Celia said, recalling that sense of helplessness. "It was more of a blow to me that I miscarried than the fact that I was infertile ... I felt like, what are we going to do now?"

To make things worse, doctors

See ADOPTION/page 5

Q & A With Calif. State Assembly Candidate Hayashino

By STEVEN TANAMACHI
Special to the Pacific Citizen

TORRANCE, Calif.—Democrat Carole Hayashino spends a lot of time crossing the Golden Gate Bridge. When she is not at work at her alma mater, San Francisco State University, she is on the other side of the bridge in Marin, preparing for her campaign for the State Legislature.

If elected in March of 2000, Hayashino will be the first Japanese American woman to serve as a California state legislator. Among her endorsers are Congressman Robert Matsui, former Congressman Norman Mineta and Assemblymembers Mike Honda and George Nakano.

The P.C. had a chance to sit down and talk with Hayashino at the JACL Pacific Southwest District awards dinner on Sept. 18.

P.C. How long have you been doing work in the community? Hayashino: I've been involved in the Asian Pacific American community for almost thirty years

now. When I was in high school, I was always involved in the community. At this point in my life, serving in the California State Assembly would be just another step, another opportunity for me to continue public service."

P.C. What inspired you most to fight for civil rights?

H: "What made me care is my father ... In 1941

he was admitted to the College of the Pacific, but because of World War II, he was sent to rural Arkansas. I grew up hearing about his experiences and the camp experience and also knowing that my father never had a chance for a college education, although he was a very smart man ... When I was a child growing up, he worked every day of his life so his children — and there were six of us — could go to college. He died before the redress bill was passed, but he was always

supportive of my work in redress. He has the single most impact on my life ... Before he died, he said "don't let being Japanese American, don't let being a woman limit your opportunities. If you want something you go for it." So I grew up with that — I could do anything or I could at least try. He really taught me to know no limits."

P.C. What was the springboard activity for your current political activity?

H: "Warren Furutani said something that really struck me, and that is, when Asian Pacific Americans are considering running for office they need to consider the right time, the right place and whether they're the right candidate, the right person ... It's a good time for me, it's a good time with Assemblymember Mike Honda, Assemblymember George Nakano, it's a very good time for Asian Pacific Americans to run for state office. For me it's the right place (Marin County and Southern

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

Midwest

TWIN CITIES
Sat., Oct. 16—Generations Pot-Luck Dinner: Union Congregational Church, 3700 Alabama Ave. S.; St. Louis Park, food, games and fun. Info: Kathy Ohama Koch, 612/884-1560.

Pacific Northwest

LAKE WASHINGTON
Wed., Sept. 29—Lake Washington

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

NEW YORK CITY
Tues.-Sat., Oct. 5-9—1999 Chinese Film Festival. Lila Acheson Wallace Auditorium, Oct. 5, 8, 9; Tinker Auditorium at the French Institute Alliance Francaise, Oct. 6, 7; showing six films which have never been seen in the United States. Free. Info: 888/906-FILM

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, Samsen/Nonse poster contest, photo exhibits, taiko, entertainment, karaoke. Info: Bonnie Shires, 435/257-2139 or Frank Nishiguchi, 435/458-3737.

Pacific Northwest

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

SEATTLE
Sat., Oct. 2—Blaine Memorial Annual Methodist Church annual bazaar, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; 3001-24th Ave. S.; BBQ salmon, teriyaki chicken, udon, manju, sushi, home-baked

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.

SEATTLE
Sat., Jan. 29, 2000—Save the date! Seattle JACL installation dinner; speaker, Martha Choe; M.C. Lori Matsukawa; Doubletree Suites, Tukwila, tickets available in December.

NC-WN-Pacific

DISTRICT COUNCIL
Sat., Oct. 2—Executive Board 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 MATEO
Sun., Oct. 10—San Mateo JACL Golf Tournament, 1st tee-off 9:45 a.m.; Skywest Golf Course, 1401 Golf Course; Hayward; Entry due by Sept. 25. To benefit Scholarship Fund; sponsors and donors needed. Info: Vince

Paul, 650/349-3590.

Pacific Southwest

SAN DIEGO
Sun., Oct. 3—Film showing, "Visa and Virtue," sponsored by San Diego chapter; see community calendar.
VENTURA COUNTY
Sun., Oct. 3—Annual Japanese Cultural Festival; 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.

HOLIDAY ISSUE AD KITS ON THEIR WAY
Holiday issue advertising kits are being mailed. Thank you to those of you who called to let us know where the kits should be sent. As a reminder, please call 800/966-6157 when you receive them. Thank you.

pies, children's games, crafts, ikebana displays. Info: 206/723-1536
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

EAST BAY
Wed., Oct. 6—East Bay Nikkei Singles field trip: nature walk in Muir Woods, lunch and dinner. Info: Richard Kiguchi, 510/237-0218.

FREMONT
Sat-Sun, Sept. 25-26—Reno Trip: meet at SACBC, 8 a.m. Return trip includes a stop at the Placer Buddhist Church Annual Inaazoe for bento dinner. Info: Ted Inouye, 510/797-3025

SAN FRANCISCO
Sun., Sept. 26—"Redress Legacies and Directions, a Cultural and Educational Gathering," program 3-5 p.m.; potluck 5-7 p.m.; JCCNC Ise Memorial Hall, 1840 Sutter St.; panel discussion with Art Shibayama, plain tie, Shibayama vs. U.S.; music by Melody Takata and Shoko Matsumoto. Info: Julie Hata, 415/221-2608
Fri-Sun, Oct. 1-3—Film & video festival, "Shades of Power: Alliance-building with Film and Video," Victoria Theater, 2961 16th St. Schedules, info: Kalli or Paula, 415/701-9502

Thurs., Oct. 7—Film Screening and Q&A session: "Old Man River," with writer/director Cynthia Gates Fuji-kawa; Kabuki 8 Cinemas, 1881 Post St. Tickets, info: National Japanese American Historical Society, 415/921-5007.

SAN MATEO
Sun., Sept. 26—Monthly matinee movie, award-winning "Farewell My Concubine," 1:30 p.m.; San Mateo JACL Community Center, 415 E. Claremont St. Info: 650/343-2793.

Southern California

LOS ANGELES
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 Alhambra; showing six films which have never been seen in the United States. Free. Schedules: 888/906-FILM.

Wed., Sept. 29—An Open Discussion With Mr. Takatoshi Kato, former vice minister for international affairs at Japan's Ministry of Finance, 6-8:30 p.m.; Hotel Inter-Continental, 251 S. Olive St. RSVP by Sept. 27: Japan America Society, 213/627-6217 ext. 17.

Thurs., Sept. 30-Oct. 10—UCLA Film and Television Archive animation series; James Bridges Theater. Info: schedules, 310/206-FILM, <www.cinema.ucla.edu>.

Sat., Oct. 2—Aki Matsuri, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, 803 W. Puente Ave., West Covina; "Akoon Bounce," children's games, food, martial arts demos, taiko, raffle, door prizes, etc. Info: 626/960-2566.

Sat., Oct. 2—Art Auction & Dinner-Dance, "Festival of the Autumn Moon"; Grand Ballroom of the Ritz Carlton Huntington Hotel, Pasadena; black tie; to benefit the Pacific Asia Museum. To request an invitation: 626/449-2742 ext. 12.

Sun., Oct. 3—Exhibit Opening, "The Y2K Selected Works" by Yoshio Nakamura, Mountain View Memorial Gallery, 2300 N. Marengo Ave., Altadena; reception 2-4 p.m. Info: exhibit hours: Alice Bell, 626/794-771 ext. 272.

Sun., Oct. 10—Artist's Talk, "An American Diary: Paintings by Roger Shimomura" based upon the wartime diaries of his grandmother, Toko Shimomura. National Japanese American Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo. RSVP: 213/625-0414.

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

Through October 17—East West Players perform "Leilani's Hibiscus" by Jon Shimoto; Union Center for the Arts, Little Tokyo. Info: 213/625-7000

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

Sat., Oct. 9—Video documentary, showing and discussion, "Children of the Camps," 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; San Diego Buddhist Temple, 2929 Market St.; program free; bento lunch \$15
RSVP for lunch by Oct. 4; Jeanne Elyea, 714/690-1151, Ben Segawa, 714/482-1736, Yukio Kawaroto, 714/286-8203, Masato Asakawa, 714/453-2739.

ORANGE COUNTY
Sun., Sept. 26—Japanese Cultural Fair 2-5 p.m.; Woodbridge Village Shopping Center, 4650 Barranca Pkwy., Irvine; taiko, folk music, martial arts. Japanese choir concert, raffles, prizes. More. Info: Yamaha Music Center, 949/559-5440.

Wed., Sept. 29—Japan America Society Leadership Series, "The Future of Suzuki in America" with Ryosaku 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," Japanese cultural festival, 2-5 p.m.; Camarillo Community Center, 1605 E. Burnley St.; East-West Players Drama group, Iogen Daiko drum group, Japanese dance, karate, children's activities and storytelling, tea ceremony, Ikebana exhibits, bonsai, sumi-e brush painting, kite, food tasting, etc. Info: 805/655-5559. ■

Redress Payment Information

Individuals can call 202/219-6900 and leave a message; or write to: Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, P.O. Box 66200, Washington, DC 20035-6260.

Takei Receives NAPALC Award

The National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium (NAPALC) presented the 1999 American Courage Award to actor George Takei at a ceremony at the National Press Club on Thursday, Sept. 16.

Takei, who is best known as Mr. Sulu on the "Star Trek" TV series, was recognized for his leadership role in the Asian Pacific American community. He joined NAPALC in calling for the major TV networks to better represent the face of America.

"Television is not merely entertainment," said Takei. "What we see on our television screens has a great impact on our lives. The absence of accurate stories and images of Asian Pacific-Americans influences how we are viewed and how we view ourselves. Perhaps if the portrayals of Japanese Americans by the media before 1941 were more accurate and the contributions and loyalty of people of Japanese ancestry to this nation, the internment of my family and myself during World War II may not have happened."

Karen Narasaki, NAPALC executive director, voiced similar sentiment. "The lack of diversity on television's airwaves is an important civil rights issue," said Narasaki. "When the major networks do not fully include minorities in prime time shows, they preserve a 1950s image of an America that existed when racial segregation was the law of the land. When minority actors are not given the full range of roles, but limited to stereotypical depictions, it perpetuates racial discrimination."

A 1998 survey of children aged 10 to 17 by Children Now found more than 80 percent of children of every race believed the media was important in instilling in

children that people of all races "was important." The Children Now study also found only 16 percent of APA children reported seeing APAs very often on television, and when they do, 25 percent reported seeing them portrayed in a mostly negative way.

"Everywhere you look Asian Pacific Americans are an integral part of America," said Takei. "Asian Pacific Americans are not just teachers, doctors, scientists and shop owners. We are construction workers, athletes, farmers, entertainers and writers. It is time that what we see on television reflect what we see when we step out of our living rooms."

Narasaki compared the state of network TV during the 1990s to today. "When I was growing up, George Takei as Mr. Sulu was one of the few television role models we had," she said. "Thirty years ago, the 'Star Trek' cast was multiracial and multiethnic. But this season, Fox is taking a step backwards by presenting a future where apparently all minorities have been eliminated in a show called 'Harsh Realm.'"

The consortium is part of a coalition working together to reverse the lack of diversity on TV programming. The coalition includes the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Council of La Raza and American Indians in Film.

The American Courage Award was established in 1997 to recognize an American individual or organization who has fought in advance America towards the country's highest ideals. The consortium is a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the legal and civil rights of APAs through litigation, advocacy, public education and public policy. ■

Fight for TV Diversity Rages on With Boycott

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Turn off your TV — or at least switch the channel. That is what many Asian Pacific American organizations are urging the public to do in protest of the lack of a diverse television lineup for the fall.

Media Action Network for Asian Americans (MANAA), Asian American Coalition for Total Inclusion (ACTIONS), East West Players, and the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium are among the organizations supporting a Sept. 12-26 boycott of ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC.

These four television networks have been under fire since unveiling their plans for new programs on the upcoming season. Of 26 new shows, not one had a leading non-white character.

"It's a two-way street," Guy Aoki of MANAA said to the networks. "If you don't include us in your programs, we won't include you in our lives."

Aoki voiced his message at a press conference on Sept. 14 at the David Henry Hwang Theater in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo along with Tim Dang of East West Players, actor George Takei and Sumi Haru who is the vice president of the Screen Actors Guild.

"The networks are presenting a version of America that is a bald-faced lie," Takei said. "I call it a white-fantasy lie. Network executives, unwittingly, are reinforcing a dangerous fantasy —

the fantasy that America is a white nation."

To combat this fantasy, East West Players offered free admission to their season-opening production of "Leilani's Hibiscus" on Sept. 16 and 17.

Other alternatives, Aoki added, can be found at video

Emmy nomination for her role as "Aly McBeal."

In a related event, Karen Narasaki, representing NAPALC, expressed the gravity of the issue at a press conference on Sept. 10.

Narasaki used shows such as "Frasier" (based in New York) and "L.A. Doctors" as examples of television shows which feature no APA actors despite being set in cities with high APA populations.

The boycott, she said, will show that those fighting for more representation "want lasting change, not just window dressing, on this season's television sets" and that they will "ensure that network executives take their own responsibilities more seriously."

According to the Screen Actors Guild Casting Data Reports, in 1998 only 1.9 percent of all television roles went to APAs. Only four (all women) APAs were cast in supporting roles out of 1,353 available positions.

"We stand proudly in solidarity with African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans and all other people who believe that television, as a public entity, has a duty to all its citizens," Dang of East West Players said at the Little Tokyo press conference. "And it's our duty to force television to wake up to that responsibility, and maybe make some better TV in the process." ■



From left: Guy Aoki, Sumi Haru, George Takei and Tim Dang.

PHOTO: STEVE TAKAMURA

rental stores. He released a list of motion pictures that feature realistic APA characters and themes: "The Last Emperor," "The Joy Luck Club" and "Rumble in the Bronx" are among the recommended films.

"By pursuing these types of alternatives, we intend to demonstrate to the networks that people value reality and diversity," Aoki said. "We want networks to understand that including people of color in their casts is not a creative imposition — it's a creative opportunity."

To illustrate the point, Aoki pointed out that "Martial Law" starring Sammo Hung, Arsenio Hall and Kelly Hu regularly beat its competition on Saturday nights, and that Lucy Liu got an

House Bans Campaign Contributions from Legal Immigrants

WASHINGTON—On Sept. 15, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a campaign finance reform package sponsored by Reps. Shays (R-Conn.) and Meehan (D-Mass.). As part of this package the House also approved by a vote of 242 to 181 an amendment sponsored by Reps. Bereuter (R-Neb.) and Wicker (R-Miss.), that would ban legal permanent residents from making campaign contributions to elections.

Civil rights advocates in the Asian Pacific American community expressed their disappointment that the House voted in favor of this prohibition, and voiced opposition to campaign finance reform legislation containing such a ban. Advocates say the prohibition is sure to create a chilling effect on political participation by legal immigrants and citizens of Asian descent.

"The prohibition infringes upon the fundamental constitutional rights of legal permanent residents," noted Deepa Iyer, staff at

torney, at the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium. "It strips from legal residents — who pay taxes and fight in our armed forces — the right to engage in protected political speech by supporting candidates of their choice."

It appears that advocacy on the part of the APA community has had an impact on representatives. Last year, a similar amendment banning campaign contributions by legal permanent residents was introduced during the debate over campaign finance reform in the House. This year, more members voted against the amendment than did last year.

Nancy Choy, executive director of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, remarked, "Congress has unfairly attacked the rights of legal immigrants in the guise of reforming our system of financing election. This prohibition has absolutely no relevance to any of the problems connected to campaign finance."

Guides to Combat Hate Crimes Being Sent to Policymakers

In light of hate-motivated shooting spree rocking local communities across the nation, two manuals describing how to combat hate crimes will be sent to more than a million policymakers across the country.

The Southern Poverty Law Center is sending "Ten Ways to Fight Hate" and "Responding to Hate at School" to governors, state attorney generals, members of Congress, mayors, police chiefs and school principals.

The first copies of the booklets were distributed at a Sept. 17, national race-relations symposium in Washington, D.C.

The booklet is based on the FBI's hate crime statistics for 1997, the most recent data available. In 1997, there were more than 8,000 hate crimes registered

with the FBI, and these incidents ranged from harassment, assaults, vandalism, property crimes to murder.

Both guides advise the public on how to combat hate-motivated violence. Highlighted points include taking action, uniting with others, supporting the victim, creating alternatives to hate, speaking out against hate, lobbying political leaders and teaching children to be tolerant.

In addition, the booklets offer examples of how various communities responded to hate-motivated incidents and proactively united to prevent repeats of such crimes. A case in point is the Fourth of July hate-motivated shooting rampage of Benjamin Smith, which resulted in two peo-

ple killed and nine others wounded. After word spread that Smith was a follower of an East Peoria, Ill.-based extremist group called the World Church of the Creator, the mayor of the city, Charles Dobbelaire, contacted the Southern Poverty Law Center for help.

After receiving a copy of the law center's booklet and speaking with the researcher of the guide, Dobbelaire publicly denounced Matt Hale, the founder of the church, at a rally; held a prayer vigil outside Hale's home; formed a 15-member human relations commission; and is requiring city workers to go through diversity sensitivity training courses.

The public can access the manuals at the law center's Web site at <www.splcenter.org>. ■

Organizations including the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Council for La Raza joined APA organizations in opposing the amendment.

Daphne Kwok, executive director of the Organization of Chinese Americans, stated, "We commend the leadership of Representatives Patsy Mink (D-Hawaii), Robert Underwood (D-Guam), John D'Amico (R-Md.), John Dingell (D-Mich.), Janice Schakowsky (D-Ill.) and Frank Pallone (D-N.J.), who vigorously opposed the amendment during floor debate."

Debasish Mishra, executive director of the India Abroad Center for Political Awareness, noted, "We hope that the Senate will not consider a similar prohibition as it takes up campaign finance reform in the coming weeks."

The Senate version of the campaign finance reform bill, sponsored by Sens. McCain (R-Ariz.) and Feingold (D-Wis.) will be introduced shortly. ■

Report Questions Role of Spying in Chinese Nuclear Development

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — A congressional report on Chinese spying went beyond available evidence in asserting that stolen secrets were the main reason for China's success in building small, powerful nuclear weapons.

The report by a select congressional committee was released in May and caused a political furor, raising fears that China had obtained some of the most sensitive American nuclear secrets, *The New York Times* reported on Sept. 14.

While debate continues about the role of spying in Chinese nuclear development, the *Times* said most experts now agree the federal investigation of the espionage focused too soon on the Los Alamos National Laboratory and one of its workers, Wen Ho Lee.

The Taiwan-born Lee, who was fired this year by the New Mexico lab for security violations, including not reporting foreign contacts, has denied spying and has not been charged with any crime.

The *Times* report raised the question of whether China's successful detonation of a miniaturized nuclear bomb on Sept. 25, 1992, was due more to spying or to the expertise of Chinese scientists.

One scientist quoted by the *Times*, Richard L. Garwin, a physicist and adviser to the government, said "there is no reason to believe that China could have built a perfectly adequate warhead" for modern missiles "from nuclear technology that it developed itself."

The *Times* report focuses on an internal Chinese document, obtained by the CIA in 1995, which includes a detailed description of

the United States' most advanced miniature warhead, the W-88.

The report noted that critics of the federal investigation into Chinese spying charge that the description of the W-88 in the document was not by itself sufficient to build such a miniaturized warhead.

It quoted an Energy Department official who headed a Los Alamos inquiry into Chinese espionage, Notra Trulock, as saying he agreed with that assessment.

Trulock, however, also noted that the information was secret and anyone who had it must also have gotten other secrets about the warhead's design.

On the issue of whether the federal investigation focused too quickly on the Los Alamos lab, the *Times* article said no evidence has arisen to directly link it as the source of a leak to China.

Robert S. Vrooman, a former director of counterintelligence at Los Alamos, was quoted by the paper as saying that one secret document about the W-88 warhead was sent to 548 mailing addresses throughout the federal government.

The *Times* report said some federal officials believe data in the Chinese document obtained by the CIA may have come from secret manuals on military bases.

The *Times* article also said unidentified analysts have concluded that espionage helped China develop miniature warheads, but added that no hard link exists like the Soviet Union's theft of the U.S. design of the first atom bomb in the 1940s. It quoted an official as saying there is no "smoking gun." ■

Fred Korematsu to Reunite With Legal Team That Cleared His Name

Fred T. Korematsu, a San Leandro, Calif., man who was convicted in 1942 for refusing to report to a concentration camp, and the legal team that cleared his name more than 40 years later, will reunite Oct. 8, on the UCLA campus at a special reception honoring their historic struggle for justice.

The reunion will recognize the donation of the Fred T. Korematsu v. United States Coram Nobis Litigation Collection to the UCLA Asian American Studies Center and the Charles E. Young Research Library Department of Special Collections.

The event is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. at the James West Alumni Center, next to Pauley Pavilion, and is open to the public. Parking is available in Parking 6 for \$5. To RSVP, call 310.266.3535.

"We are tremendously honored that Fred Korematsu and his family as well as the members of his brilliant legal team have selected our center and the UCLA Library to permanently house their extraordinary collection," said professor Don Nakamishi, director of the Asian American Studies Center. "I have always been in awe of the immense courage that Mr. Korematsu showed in challenging the constitutionality of the decision to forcibly remove and imprison 120,000 Japanese Americans. I also have been incredibly impressed with the first-rate historical research, outstanding lawyering, and unflinching commitment to freedom and social justice of the coram nobis team in gaining vindication for

Mr. Korematsu after four decades. This collection is priceless."

"It is a great honor that UCLA has been chosen to house this exceptional archive, which forms a unique record of a critical episode in American history," said University Librarian Gloria Werner. "The remarkable materials in this collection complement our holdings in the Japanese American Research Project Collection, which includes extensive documentation of the World War II internment camps, and will be accessible not only to UCLA faculty and students but also to scholars and interested individuals from across the country and around the world."

Scheduled speakers are UCLA professors Jerry Kang and Mitchell Maki. Kang is part of a group of law professors from across the nation who have put together a textbook and curriculum program to integrate the constitutional and public policy lessons and ramifications of the wartime experience and the redress movement into the curriculum of American law schools and public policy programs.

Maki is the co-author, along with UCLA Professor Emeritus Harry H.L. Kitano and former social welfare doctoral student S. Megan Berthold, of a new work on the postwar JA redress movement, titled "Achieving the Impossible Dream: How Japanese Americans Obtained Redress" (1999, University of Illinois Press).

Co-sponsors of the event include the Asian Pacific American Bar As-

sociation; Asian Pacific American Women Lawyers Alliance; Asian Pacific Legal Center of Southern California; Japanese American Bar Association; Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California; Japanese American National Museum; Manzanar Committee; National Coalition for Redress and Reparations; JACL Pacific Southwest District; UCLA Asian American Studies Graduate Students Association; UCLA Asian Pacific Alumni Association; UCLA Asian Pacific Coalition; the UCLA Asian Pacific Islander Law Students Association, and the UCLA Nikkei Student Union.

Conviction and Exoneration

In 1942, Korematsu was arrested and convicted for refusing to leave San Leandro and report to a concentration camp. In 1944, in the landmark case of *Korematsu v. United States*, the U.S. Supreme Court, upheld the constitutionality of the decision to remove imprisoned JAs during World War II.

In 1983, based on documents uncovered in the National Archives and other repositories by professor Peter Irons and researcher Aiko Yoshinaga-Herzig, a petition for writ of coram nobis was filed in San Francisco by a team of mainly AA attorneys. The petition alleged that government prosecutors suppressed, altered, and destroyed material evidence during its prosecution of Korematsu during the war. Two companion cases were filed on behalf of Gordon Hirabayashi in Seattle and Minoru Yasui in Portland.

Ultimately, the coram nobis petitions were granted, which cleared the men's criminal records, helped bring public scrutiny to the events surrounding the WWII removal

and imprisonment of 120,000 JAs, and undermined the continued precedential value of the Supreme Court decision, long criticized as civil liberties disasters.

In 1998, President Bill Clinton awarded Korematsu, now 80, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

The Korematsu coram nobis litigation team consisted of several renowned civil rights attorneys: Dale Minami, Lorraine Banni, Don Tamaki, Karen Kai, Eric Yamamoto, Robert Rusky, Dennis Leigh-Ann Miyasato, Dennis Hayashi, and Edward Chen, along with researchers Yoshinaga-Herzig and Jack Herzig.

"The lessons of the Korematsu, Hirabayashi and Yasui cases are manifold. They are dramatic reminders to all of us of the fragility of our civil rights; indeed, even the United States Supreme Court failed to protect us in 1943 and 1944," said Minami, the lead attorney. "These cases are also a testament to the courage of these three men who stood up and challenged the government orders during World War II, individuals who made a difference by taking a stand."

House Litigation Documents

In May 1999, members of the Korematsu litigation team, along with the Fred and Kathryn Korematsu family, selected the Asian

American Studies Center and the Young Research Library Department of Special Collections to permanently house, preserve and make accessible the collection of more than 20 boxes of personal litigation files, pleading, legal research memoranda, internal correspondence and relevant government documents pertaining to this historic case.

"The collection will become part of UCLA's Japanese American Research Project Collection, the largest archive on JAs in the world. The task of sorting and cataloging the collection was funded in large part by the California Civil Liberties Public Education Project of the California State Library.

Attorney Banni, of Seattle, was a member of the litigation team who helped catalog the collection along with Marjorie Lee, the librarian of the Asian American Studies Center, and Elaine Kuo, a UCLA doctoral student in education from Oakland.

The Korematsu collection will be made accessible to interested individuals for review at the Department of Special Collections of the Young Research Library on the UCLA campus. The finding aid, or registry, of the Korematsu collection will be available on-line at <www.socnet.ucla.edu/saic> as well as at <www.cdlib.org>



Fred Korematsu

HAYASHINO

(Continued from page 1)

Marin County) ... It's a district that has a social consciousness, it's a district that has supported affirmative action and was against 187. It is very committed to preserving the environment and cares very deeply about public education and children and youth. Those are the issues that I care about and that I've worked on. So if I look at the question of right time, the right place and whether I'm the right person I'd say yes, this is it, this is a good time for someone like me to run out of Marin."

P.C. What kind of relationship do you have with the JA community?

H: "I feel a tremendous obligation to the JA community and responsibility to the JA community. I spent 15 years working for the national JACL board and it was a great experience and a great opportunity for me. Because of that experience I have wonderful relationships with people and Japanese Americans throughout California and the nation. One of the most valuable lessons I learned ... is the importance of coalition building and how important it is for us to build linkages with other organizations, other communities, and other good people who share our values and beliefs."

P.C. What issue are you most passionate about?

H: "I currently work at San Francisco State University as Director of Development, and I teach a class in the College of Ethnic Studies, so I'm most knowledgeable and involved about issues in education and issues in higher education. I'd like to work to expand opportunities in higher education ... I think it's disconcerting when we're investing more money in building state prisons than in investing in a new UC campus."

P.C. Have you received support from other JA politicians?

H: "I have received tremendous amount of support from both assemblymember Mike Honda and George Nakano. I keep in touch with both of them frequently. They've been wonderful mentors

and advisors."

P.C. Have you received a good deal of support from other ethnic minority groups?

H: "Yes, the district is seven percent Latino, three percent Asian American, and three percent African American, which means I must pull together a very broad, diverse coalition of supporters and that is coming together. I am getting wonderful support from leaders in the Jewish community, from the African American and Latino communities."

P.C. What is the most exciting part of the race?

H: "I announced my candidacy in July of '99, and the local political pundits said I would shake up this race because I'm in a crowded field — I'm the only person of color in this crowd of eight. I believe this candidacy has shaken up this race, and people are watching it closely because they have never had a person of color run for the State Assembly out of Marin. It is creating a dialogue that has never occurred before and that's what makes it very exciting."

P.C. Does the Asian American community need more politicians?

H: "What I'm seeing is that the Asian American community wants to get involved with politics and get active. I think people are very active and feel a civic responsibility. APAs, no matter where they live, they want to see an Asian American serving in the state legislature."

P.C. What's the reward of your candidacy?

H: "I've had a great opportunity to break stereotypical images people have of Japanese Americans and Asian American women ... I've been able to meet some great people in my Assembly district. It's encouraging for me to find out that my values and my beliefs are not that different from my district, that I could really be who I am and succeed in my race. I hope that my candidacy does represent an effort to move California and the State Legislature to be more inclusive and for all Asian Americans to know we have a place in California politics." ■

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Asian Americans Pursue Intercountry Adoption Through China

(Continued from page 1)

urged the Towers to stop fertility treatments after Colin suffered a back injury from a car accident.

At the airport one day, both her question and prayers were answered when she picked up a news article in 1994 about a woman who had adopted a child from China.

"The Towers experienced nothing short of an epiphany. When China opened its doors, it was like a great ball of sunshine from heaven, like, okay, now we know what we'll do next," said Celia.

"We weren't too sure [about intercountry adoption] until we read this article about this woman who'd done it," added Roger, who is Caucasian. "But the more we looked into it, the better it looked."

China first opened its doors to intercountry adoption in the early 1990s, when approximately five families on the East Coast, particularly in New York, adopted children from China.

"It quickly has become one of the largest international adoption programs," said Susan Soon-Keum Cox, vice president of public policy and external affairs at Holt International Children's Services in Eugene, Ore., the oldest and largest intercountry adoption agency in the world.

"Partly, it's because China is so open to single-parent adoption, which is quite unusual," she said. "Also, children get here quite quickly, the adjustment is easier, and the fact that you have to be at least 35 works for a lot of older parents... It is a program that accommodates both the children and the parents."

Cox also attributes the boom in adoption from China to "the explosion of activity on the Internet,"

when the original five families in New York started a support network called Families With Children From China and began telling their stories over the Web and advocating for those children still in need of suitable homes.

Since 1979, China had been advocating a single-child limit for both urban and rural families, when overpopulation began to affect the economy. In 1986, the government officially implemented a one-child population control policy, which was largely enforced through a combination of propaganda, social pressure and in some cases even physical coercion.

The policy proved especially difficult for rural families where contraceptive resources were less available. Today, most of the children that have been abandoned and placed into orphanages come out of rural areas of China. Approximately 95 percent of them are girls, while the other 5 percent are children with special needs.

The overabundance of abandoned baby girls can largely be attributed to prevailing cultural mores which typically dictate the value of boys over girls, often so that they will carry on the family name.

Holt International first began facilitating intercountry adoptions in the 1950s in response to the needs of orphaned children in Korea just after the war.

Cox herself was one of those children, having been adopted by an American couple in 1956, during the first year of intercountry adoption in Korea. After many years and not until she was in her 30s was she eventually reunited with her birth family in Korea. But her personal experience, she said, is vastly different from this second wave of AA children who will have

the opportunity to grow up with many support resources.

Today, Holt works with countries as diverse as Ecuador, Guatemala, Hong Kong, India, Korea, the Philippines, Romania, Thailand, Vietnam, the United States and China.

"One of the things we've learned is that intercountry adoption provides an opportunity for a child to be fulfilled in a family," said Cox. "Of course, there are unique challenges to being parented by someone of a different race."

"And it's something [parents] need to be aware of because it's an ongoing issue even into adulthood," she continued.

Today, Cox said, "I see myself as a global citizen, not just as a U.S. citizen. But that is something that has evolved for me over time."

The Tanakas and the Towers have both been working with Holt to complete phase one of the intercountry adoption process, which involves assembling their paperwork, getting it processed by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and having it certified for authenticity before it is sent to the China Center of Adoption Affairs (CCAA) in Beijing.

On average, the "paper chase" as Celia calls it, takes from 9 to 18 months to complete from the time one submits a formal application. The cost to complete pre-adoption procedures generally runs anywhere from \$7,000 to \$14,000.

Although it can be a time-consuming process, it is also very necessary, as Holt and other adoption agencies stress the importance of working cooperatively with and respecting the laws of other countries.

For the Towers, it took an exceptionally long time because they had originally completed all of their paperwork only to have it sent uncertified. They were forced to repeat the process again, which required additional time and money. They also require twins, which will likely require even more time for them to be matched up.

"With 20/20 hindsight," Celia said, "I would have done this process over again. Now I know when you should push your social worker and how to keep track of

your paperwork."

Lamented Roger, "We wish this whole process were over with and we were already in China getting our daughter."

It is a common feeling for those who have now entered into phase two: the waiting period.

Mark and Grace, having recently sent all of their paperwork to the U.S. Consulate in China last week, are just beginning to experience that same anticipation. "As I get closer to the end of the tunnel," said Mark, "my desire to have a child grows."

"One factor that first swayed us towards international adoption," he said, "was that it wasn't open adoption. The parents couldn't come back a couple of years later and take the child away. It was sort of a safe way to go."

That same fear influenced Celia and Roger to forego domestic adoption in favor of intercountry adoption from China, where the likelihood of birth parents taking their children back is virtually none.

"We wholeheartedly agree that [our child] should know who her biological parents are," said Celia, but she admits their identities will probably never be revealed because of China's laws. "If the Chinese government ever finds the birth parents, they will be thrown in prison for child abandonment."

Unlike open adoptions in which birth and adoptive parents know each other's identity, intercountry adoption often precludes that relationship, something that an adoptive child may have to negotiate as he or she grows older.

It helps to know that both sides of our families have been supportive, said Grace, who, when they first began the adoption process, felt uncomfortable with the fact that their private lives became somewhat public domain.

"Having all those social workers know about your life is strange," she admitted. "And everybody knows about it because you have to get things like recommendations from co-workers, employers. Everyone is affected, friends, family."

While Mark, who is a Sansei, said, "I had no problem sharing information about what we were doing." Grace's initial uncomfortableness may have stemmed from her more traditional background. Both

her parents were born in Japan and as a Kibei Nisei herself, she was a bit more wary about divulging personal information. It resulted in "a little struggle," Mark recalled, chuckling, which they soon overcame.

Thankfully, the Towers said that their families were also open to and supportive of them adopting. To tell you the truth, said Roger, "we didn't know how [our families] would react, but we have received nothing negative."

Celia's mother had been adopted, not from another country but from within her own family by her aunt. Historically, inter-family adoption has been a much more common cultural practice among Asians, and in some cases AAs, than adopting outside the birth family.

In one sense, this waiting period for pre-adoptive parents is their very own extended gestation term. It gives them time to question things such as how they will raise their child and allows them to think about how they can parent culturally and sensitively, as any parent of an AA child might ponder.

For the Tanakas, that question has been partially figured out, but won't be put into action for a while. Both couples anticipate meeting their children in China for the first time within a year.

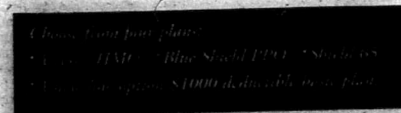
"We want to keep as much Chinese American in our child as possible — with a little splash of Japanese American," Mark said. Though she may not know her birth parents, he continued, "we want our child to know where she came from, to know that she's special, that she has another culture that we don't have."

If you would like more information about Holt International Children's Services regarding intercountry adoption, look up their Webpage at www.holtintl.org or write to P.O. Box 2896 (1195 City View), Eugene, OR 97402, USA. Their main office can be reached at 541/687-2202 or by email: inf@holtintl.org.

Next week's story will focus on families that have completed the process of either domestic or intercountry adoption and are now facing issues of parenting their children.

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Stranger Than Fiction

By Christina Shigemura

California Dreamin'

(This is the first column by Christina Shigemura who joins P.C. as a regular columnist.)

I had the strangest dream last night.

See, in this dream I was standing at the corner of Second and Central Streets in Little Tokyo, and I was facing an Office Depot with a curving roof. The architect informed a group of sightseers that the wave-like roof was reminiscent of a Hiroshige wood block, a gesture to the Japanese American community. I stood there, puzzled. What kind of gesture, I wondered. Wasn't a community gymnasium supposed to be built there?

I looked more closely at the Office Depot. How strange! For some reason, the entire building was made of cheese. Like a monument to a giant rat, I thought, and began to giggle uncontrollably. As I gasped for air between giggles, I was filled with nausea swept over me. Oops! Time to get out of here. The fumes from the cheese must be making me sick, I realized.

The stench of the cheese was starting to make me feel dizzy, so I stumbled away from Office Depot and somehow found a toilet. Oddly enough, this toilet looked remarkably like a very large hotel, but I didn't have time to ponder the whys or wherefores. I simply leaned my head over the rim of the toilet and hoped I wouldn't hurl.

I leaned there for what seemed like an eternity as angry black dots danced a crazy conga line across my vision and voices swirled around my ears. Slowly I began to make sense of what I was seeing and hearing.

As my vision cleared, I could see that the basin of the toilet was like a miniature Roman coliseum. Jerry Springer stood in the center of the coliseum, and he was giving some final words of wisdom as security guards tried to separate a mob of South Park kids who were shouting "your mamma"-type comments at each other. At last the South Park kids quieted down, and Jerry finished his speech. The scent of cheese lingered in the air as the director shouted, "That's a wrap," and the cameras rolled away.

Jerry left with the cameras, but the South Park kids lingered to admire an enormous statue of an assault rifle, sculpted from millions of wads of grape bubble gum. In the background, the

voice of a spokesperson from the National Rifle Association droned on, claiming that the incident at Columbine High School never would have happened if every teacher had carried a concealed weapon.

Suddenly, there was a loud, flushing noise, and the toilet bowl/coliseum was emptied. I wasn't sure what would happen next in this crazy dream, but I didn't have to wait long to find out.

After the toilet bowl had refilled with water, the cast of "Les Miserables" appeared in striped swimsuits and began to sing sad songs about the plight of Jean Valjean. As they sang the haunting tune, they swam in a water ballet, like some kind of demented Esther Williams movie. The actors finished their song and swam away just before Pete Wilson's throne rose above the water in the center of the coliseum.

Pete, who was dressed exactly like the Red Queen in "Alice in Wonderland" and who smelled like moldy cheese, pounded his gavel and yelled for everyone to "Shuuut uuup!"

"We are here today," Pete announced pompously, "for the trial and sentencing of this boy, who was caught shoplifting a pack of chewing gum." Pete paused and looked at the small, Asian boy in front of him. "I find you guilty," Pete told the boy.

"But he hasn't had a fair trial," the boy's lawyer protested.

"Regardless. Off with his head! Three strikes and you're out," Pete shouted with an evil cackle.

"I strenuously object, Your Highness. Beheading constitutes cruel and unusual punishment, and the defendant is just a child. Anyway, this isn't my client's third strike; he has never been convicted of anything before," the lawyer reasoned.

The little boy began to cry. "I want my mommy," he wailed. The bailiff stepped forward to handcuff the little boy, who continued to sob as Pete laughed maniacally. The laughter and crying grew louder and louder, until I noticed that it had a familiar, ringing quality. Then I awoke to the sound of my alarm clock.

I really do have the strangest dreams sometimes. ■

Christina Shigemura is a Hapa Yonsei who wants to protect the children and throw out the cheese.

COMMENTARY

Chin's Anti-JACL Stance Clouds Issues

By BARRY SAIKI

Why is Mr. Chin allowed three full columns of our valuable P.C. space to answer none of the simple questions I asked? Moreover, his passages merely regurgitated past anti-JACL material. Regurgitation is the proper terminology since very little of what he wrote was personal — it was second-hand and hearsay, as dangerous as second-hand smoke.

In perusing his "AIIIEEEEE!" (I had borrowed it from one of his fans), I wondered why it was acclaimed and by whom. His claim to fame among Asian readers is an anthology of Asian authors. It is hardly on par with Louis Adam's "From Many Lands," nor with some of the best books on Nisei or about the Japanese Americans written by both Nikkei and white writers, who can be as perceptive as Nisei.

When he labels Bill Hosokawa as an apologist and ignores his "Nisei: The Quiet Americans" it raises doubts about his credibility. His persistent attacks on JACL's past wartime leadership is paranoid in nature, just like a meek-minded engineer hellbent on taking the right of way on a narrow-gauged railway, bypassing danger signals and warnings of mud slides.

Granted, Frank was an innocent at during World War II, still untouched by the idiosyncrasies he has picked up over the decades, while I was a senior at UC Berkeley.

While he bypassed my questions, let me dwell on some of his remarks.

1. I went to the Tolan hearings in San Francisco on Feb. 21, 1942, (not knowing of the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Roosevelt on Feb. 19) with several other students. It was perfunctory as we listened aghast to the parade

of anti-Japanese witnesses, who drowned out the few who dared to oppose. This was my unforgettable personal experience and not what Dr. Chen, reportedly said. These hearings proved how bigoted the Bay Area leaders, including some prominent Italians, were in preserving their own interests.

2. I don't know if Frank has a rotten personality. If he does, he can be salvaged by trying to get rid of it. It would be beneficial to all concerned. As often purported, JACL did not take over the leadership without consensus or overall approval. As the only seemingly viable network of JA organizations, JACL was backed into that role. The other alternatives were leaders of basketball, fencing and judo leagues or women's activities. The federal agencies had arrested all key business and financial leaders in the Nikkei communities. The FBI sweeps were complete as they took anyone who was a leader or had key roles in known Japanese associations. They were all Japanese nationals since none of them were eligible for citizenship. JACL was thrust into that unenviable breach. That's why I do not blame the leadership for mistakes they may have made. Who could say that they could have done better during those days?

3. JACL is blamed for the induction of Nisei into the Armed Forces. "Tommyrot!" There were 5,000 Nisei in the Army before Pearl Harbor. There were two National Guard battalions in Hawaii composed of mostly Nisei. Our U.S. Army interviewed several thousand Nisei and Kibei in 1941 to select students for the Japanese language school at the Presidio of San Francisco. The first class of 60 began in November 1941, a full month before Pearl Harbor.

After the war began, about half

of the Nisei were released from the Army for indeterminate reasons and the others were sent to service units in the interior. This was the same status as the black troops. This status quo would have classified the Nisei as second-class soldiers and as second-class citizens in the postwar. Combat duty was the logical alternative. What would have been my decision or the decisions of any Nisei soldiers?

4. The JACL allowed Nisei civil rights to be abrogated. It was Executive Order 9066 which stripped us of our civil rights and placed us under military orders. Where was this outflow of constitutional supporters to fight for our cause? The public had been brainwashed by two decades of Hearst and McClatchy papers. There were no lines of constitutional lawyers volunteering to fight for the Nikkei. The lawyers did not come out of the woodwork until public opinions became more manageable.

Frank, while your rhetoric makes interesting copy, try to keep away from unsupported statements of dissidents, who like many dissenters, are victims of their own misfortunes. Some dug their trenches on the home fronts, while the 442nd, MIS and 15,000 others dug theirs in the combat zones or rear areas.

Frank should also show respect for Chiang Kai-Shek, who gained for the Chinese Americans the right for naturalization in 1943, becoming the first Asian to do so before the passage of the 1952 Walter-McCarren Act. It took a Chinese nationalist to open the way rather than a Chinese American. ■

Barry Saiki is a founder of the Japan JACL chapter and member of the Stockton JACL chapter.

Nice Guy Saiki Needs to Lighten Up

By BEN GOSHI

This is addressing Mr. Barry Saiki's "Letter to the Editor" in Pacific Citizen's 8/27-9/2 issue. He begins by praising himself for his NJAMF P.C. letter, and then bemoans that his second letter did not make it to print. Eoo, hoo. He also makes it sound like it was only he and the JACL that made the drive so successful.

He then changes the subject to trash the wonderful P.C. staff, insensitively calling them "lotsam" and "debris," and leaves it up to the readers to identify the individual(s). Not very nice, Barry.

But the worst part is his attack on Mr. Frank Chin, which is somewhat "Chinesephobic." He begins with some humor about Mr. Chin "sticking out his chin." Now, if Barry added another "chin," ooh, that would be really

hitting below the belt.

He challenges poor Frank with what he says are "few questions," which total nine. Well, it seems Barry has a tendency to exaggerate, among other things. But as for the questions, relax, Frank — being a jailhouse lawyer, let me answer them for you, pro bono, of course.

Question 1 asks if Frank had relatives or friends who wore "I am Chinese" buttons after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Answer: Who knows? Maybe he wasn't even born then. On the other hand, if the Japanese Americans wore them, maybe, just maybe, we may have confused our oppressors and not have made the long march into camps.

Question 2 asks if Frank knew there were three JAs killed in Stockton, Calif., in 1942.

Answer: Hey, Barry, do you know how the term, "a Chinaman's chance," originated?

Question 3 asks why the Chinese and Filipino communities didn't defend the civil rights of Nisei in 1942. Answer: Why didn't everyone else? Don't pick on us Asians, Barry.

Question 4 deals with the lynching of blacks in the South and the possible lynch mood on the West Coast.

Answer: If there was a choice of this possibility and the long march to the camps, which fate would you have taken, Barry?

Question 5 concerns Asian "ghettos," and asks why Asians weren't protesting.

Answer: Now, I really don't understand by what he means by all this and what to protest about. All I remember was how nice it was to live among one's own people, secure, sharing cultural knowledge, and knowing and helping each other. Maybe Barry never lived with us. Be-

sides he should've defined "ghetto" to start with.

Question 6 asks why the Chinese didn't lead in the fight for Nisei civil rights after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Answer: Hey, Barry, did you protest the 1937 "Rape of Nanjing," the 1945 "Rape of Manila," and the comfort women situation? What about their human rights?

Question 7 includes facts and figures from Barry in connection to Nisei in uniform and resisters.

Answer: This sounds like an anticipated answer rather than a question, but let me answer this question/answer. I'm sure the Chinese Americans had just as many or even more in uniform. As to war dissenters and "No Nos," as Barry describes them, it's very unlikely that they had any.

Question 8 deals with how General Shinskei became U.S. Army chief of staff.

Answer: He rose to this position through soldiering, hard work against all odds, not being a loud-mouth, tolerant of others, understanding, etc. And by the way, Barry, do you think he attained the position because he was not Chinese?

Hey, Barry, lighten up. Give us a break.

You accuse Frank of creating bad race relations, away from "achieving universal human and civil rights." What a pompous ass. What about the content of your letter? Is that how you get these ideals achieved?

Hey, Barry, don't look for the "rabbit in the moon" as you dismount from your high horse, for if you do, you may step on some more horse manure.

Otherwise you seem to be some kind of a nice guy. Believe me. ■

Ben Goshi is an attorney from New York City.



Letters to the Editor

Weglyn Strove Towards Reconciliation

This is in reference to Sus Satow's editorial, (P.C. 9/10-9/16), "Nisei Draft Resisters of Conscience," in which he expresses his opposition to a JACL apology. In his piece, he writes, "The late Michi Nishiura Weglyn's book, 'Year(s) of Infamy: Untold Story of America's Concentration Camps,' reveals there existed within the highest level of our government a notion to deport all Japanese to Japan after the end of the war. What an impetuous our refusal to serve (in the armed forces) would have made to this deportation notion."

The reference is correct. However, Mr. Satow, inadvertently, I am certain, neglects to inform us that during the last two decades of her life, Michi Weglyn expended her considerable intellect and moral integrity toward seeking a reconciliation between the resisters of conscience and the JACL. In February 1998, in Los Angeles, during one of her rare last public appearances she received The Fighting Spirit Award during the Day of Remembrance celebration. At that time, she was also recognized by the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee for her enormous contributions toward trying to set the record straight. No sword, and she received many, affected her so deeply.

As a longtime confidant of Michi Weglyn, I think she would want me to confirm her unconditional devotion to the resisters and the principles they represented. I know she would.

Sachi Soko
Salt Lake City

Positive, Negative Responses to Resisters

We live in a complex, rapidly changing world — filled with good and evil. How does one cope with evil which causes so many wanton deaths? Good and evil have been locked in a struggle since the beginning of civilization.

We acknowledge evil's powerful presence but we do not succumb to it. We know that life must go on. We make positive response.

Death is the ultimate experience but it is not always evil. Having attended scores of funerals and memorials, I learned that death can be more than sadness and mourning. It can be a celebration of the good works, deeds and character of those who passed on before us. Memories of them are a precious legacy. So it is possible to make positive response to death.

Opposing death is life. This too can, *must*, be faced with positive responses.

After the 1942 enforced evacuation I learned there are only three things that can affect our lives. ONLY THREE: heredity, environment and response.

1. OUR HEREDITY: Since I could not change my genes, I accepted my heredity and became proud of it. (This was not always so. As a teenager full of frustration, hurt and anger because of prejudice and exclusion, I wanted to become white. How young, foolish and dumb!

2. OUR ENVIRONMENT: For most of us, our environment has been full of adversities — especially in our youth. Today most Americans of Japanese ancestry that I know have adjusted and responded positively, and have become stronger and better persons. Bitterness seems rare among my contemporaries.

3. OUR RESPONSES: This is the most important factor because *only you have the power to choose* your responses and you must also live with the consequences of your choice.

A. POSITIVE RESPONSES: love, honesty, compassion courage, persistence, integrity, balance, faith, sacrifice, forgiveness, vision, etc.

B. NEGATIVE RESPONSES: resentment, hate, self-centeredness, victimization syndrome, lying, cheating, deceit, indifference, arrogance, vengeance, malice, cruelty, etc.

Positive and negative responses are the essence of living. They are applicable to everyone, and responses are based upon experience. Are there practical applications for choosing positive over negative responses?

Let's try it on one of JACL's current problems: The Draft Resisters. My sense is that most people would like to see closure to this problem.

Perhaps these steps can bring about closure:

1. All three groups (JACL, veterans and resisters) select panels to represent them.

2. The panels should be limited in size (perhaps three to each group).

3. The panels meet together, they agree on rules of conduct, procedures and voting. They must be willing to *listen* to each other.

4. The panels are charged with the responsibility of coming up with a mutually agreed-upon joint statement, signed by all the panelists, and the statement will be released to the public.

If the panels can make mostly positive responses there will be

closure. If the panels are mostly negative (hard to imagine) the problem will be prolonged.

Yes, it is easy to make this suggestion. Implementation will be more difficult.

My hope is that the current leaders of these three groups will be able to put aside their differences (not all that great) and engage in a civil dialogue.

This would be a good beginning-towards closure.

Dr. Roy Nishikawa
Los Angeles

Chin Not Appropriate for the Pacific Citizen

I received the Sept. 17-23 issue of the *Pacific Citizen*. I was horrified to see that this week's editorial was written by Frank Chin. His name is not on the masthead, nor was I aware that he had joined the editorial staff. It's hard to believe that his opinions represent the editorial stance of the P.C.

His invective certainly does not merit three columns of space in an eight page publication. I sincerely hope that this never happens again.

Whatever the merit of Chin's opinions might be, his ad hominem attack literary style is not appropriate to the editorial page of the P.C. Moreover, supporters of the draft resisters deserve a more credible spokesperson than Chin. I would encourage him to use his talents as playwright and author to express his views. ■

Joranne H. Kagawa
Oakland, Calif.

Editors Note:

As with all editorials, Frank Chin's views do not necessarily reflect the views of the JACL or *Pacific Citizen*. Also, Frank Chin is not a member of the P.C. staff.

Thank You Herb Yamanishi

I want to express my deep appreciation to Herbert Yamanishi for his wise counsel and untiring support for JACL.

As a national executive director, he instilled many facets to our organization and kept me informed as a JACLer.

I really got to know Mr. Yamanishi in Jackpot, Nev. when we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the JACL 1000 Club. Good luck in your many future endeavors. ■

Dr. Frank J. Sahawneh
Englewood, Colo.

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* Except for the National Director's Report, news and the views expressed by columnists do not necessarily reflect JACL policy. The columns are the personal opinion of the writers.

* "Voices" 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.

Secilia.

Izumi, Yoko, 61, Van Nuys, Sept. 15; Los Angeles-born; survived by husband Yoshio; son John; daughter Anne Kawashima; 3 gcs.; 2 brothers, 3 sisters.

Kamioka, Kay Kameno, 99, Los Angeles, Aug. 28; Nanihau, Hawaii-born; survived by many nephews, nieces and other relatives.

Kinooshita, John Satoshi, 77, Phoenix, Sept. 11; Alameda-born; Arizona JACL member; survived by wife Eiko; daughters Carol, Joyce; sisters Yuri Takata, Alyce Nakagawa; 3 gcs.

Kobayashi, Tetsuya, 81, Valley Springs, Sept. 11; long-time Westwood resident; native of Westwoodland; survived by son Gordon (Valley Springs); brother Eddie (San Diego); predeceased by wife Fumiko.

Matsuoto, Yotzu, 94, Gardena, Sept. 7; Honolulu-born; survived by daughter Margaret Y. Katsumata; daughters-in-law Eiko, Sally; 14 gcs., 15 gcs.

Matsunaga, Mary Yano, 97, Los Angeles, Sept. 11; Osaka-born; survived by sons Ben, Tom (Trunee) and wife Eiko, Koichi and wife Michiyo; daughter Martha Teramoto and husband Motee; 14 gcs., 18 gcs., 1 gcs.; brother Fred Yaetsugu Sugura.

Mori, Akinozu Allan, 84, Valencia, Sept. 8; Phoenix-born; survived by son Norman and wife Jeanne; daughters Sherry Miyata and husband Clyde, Cindy Tatsunami and husband Glenn; 8 gcs.; brother Bill; sisters Margie Hirata, Helen Akutagawa and husband Thunmy, Grace Watanabe and husband Mas, Marjorie Tanaka and husband Eddie; sister-in-law Dorothy Watanabe.

Omori, Dr. John T., 74, Los Angeles, Sept. 13; Imperial Valley-born.

Sugimoto, Kessao, 78, Chino, Sept. 11; San Diego-born; survived by wife Aiko.

Suyehiro, Yomeko, 88, Livermore, Sept. 8; survived by son Tokihiko and wife Etsuko; 1 gcs.; sister Mituko Kawajiri and husband Sakaye. ■

Mas Hironaka: 'Mr. San Diego JACL,' 81

A San Diego native who acquired the reputation of "Mr. San Diego JACL," Masaaki Hironaka, 81, died of complications arising from pneumonia on Sept. 10. A JACLer since 1946, when he returned to San Diego from WWII camps (Poston and Amache) and the military, he was reinstated to the Post Office where he served until retirement in 1975, (he was supervisor at the Santa Anita Assembly Center post office in '42), and worked for the Bank of Tokyo of California (now Union Bank of California) until his second retirement nine years later.

During these years, Mas served as PSWDC governor (1961-64), secretary to the National Board (1964-66), chapter president for 12 years (1967, 1976-85 and 1990), and then managed the San Diego JACL office as executive secretary. He served the JACL Sapphire and Silver Pins and was a 1000 Club Life member, who was recognized at the 1000 Club's 40th anniversary party at Jackpot, Nev., as a founder-trustee of its Life Trust Fund.

The San Diego Japanese Coordinating Council of some 30 organizations had tendered a testimonial for him in 1987 in gratitude for his community leadership and service. The PSWDC accorded him the JACL Award at its gala 1998 honors dinner at the Terrace Marriott. Last Saturday,

PSWDC Governor Dave Kawamoto of San Diego was to call for a moment of silent prayer in his memory at the district's 1999 honors affair held at the same hotel. (Hironaka was among the honorary dinner committee members.

"Since his automobile accident in November, he has had to face one adversity after another in his struggle to return to service," Pastor William Eilers of the Ocean View United Church of Christ remarked at the family memorial service held earlier the same day. "Mas that I knew was a proud and stubborn man, one who insisted on doing it his way. But, oh so many things got done, because of this man."

Surviving are his daughter, Wendy (William) Thornton, three children, three sisters Teruyo Okabe (Japan), Truneko (Oecil) Koyama (Chicago), and Sumako (Ko) Tushima. ■

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PSWD DINNER

(Continued from page 1)

served in the U.S. Army, 108th Infantry Division, as the battalion surgeon with the 590th Field Artillery Battalion. He also worked with the United States Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission of the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council as the physician in charge of the Nagasaki Clinic and Laboratory. His research led to the creation of a course at his alma mater, UCLA, where he is a clinical professor in the School of Medicine.

"I couldn't help but not forget about it," he said of the effects of the atomic radiation he saw while in Japan, which led to his research in the subject.

Mable Yoshizaki's nephew used to joke with his aunt that she worked harder after her retirement. Yoshizaki was a founding member of the San Luis Valley chapter and was heavily involved with the East Los Angeles chapter. She worked closely with the Nisei Week Festival's Queen's committee, Little Tokyo Towers, Montebello Women's Club, California Asian Pacific Health Coalition and AARP. She was previously awarded the Japanese American Community Service Award by the Little Tokyo Service Center. Yoshizaki unfortunately passed on before the awards dinner, but knew she was to be recognized.

Among Norm Mineta's creden-

tials are his vehement fight for the passage of H.R. 442, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which brought about an official apology and redress to JAs for injustices suffered during WWII.

Mineta also founded the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and served as its first chair. In 1992, he became the first Asian American to chair a committee of the U.S. House of Representatives as chair of the House Committee on Public Works. Mineta flew in from Washington, D.C., for the dinner.

In her introduction of the keynote speaker, National President Helen Kawagoe joked of the work she did — and the dirtwork she will have to do — in arranging for him to fly to Los Angeles. She had left a message with Mineta's secretary saying "I'll scrub his toilet if he comes." She showed off her bucket, brush and cleaner at the podium.

After paying tribute to the award recipients, Mineta spoke of the struggle to attain justice for the interned Japanese and JAs during WWII. He talked about the success of the community's campaign as well as the memory of hearing Iseai and Nisei testify about their camp experiences.

"The closure of the camps might have closed a chapter in the lives of Japanese Americans," Mineta said in his speech. He went on to say "what also closed that chapter was the specter and legacy of shame still on our shoulders. The Civil

Liberties Act of 1988 enabled us to open that book and write an additional chapter. That chapter was one of open reflection rather than shame. Everyone in this room helped write that chapter."

Mineta announced that the camp experience should not be forgotten or treated as ancient history, but be kept alive as real, personal experiences so it would not happen to any group again. The National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in Washington, D.C., he said, could help do this.

"We commemorate our strong leaders in our system of government," he said about the memorial.

"We commemorate those men and women who served in the Armed Services in World War II. We commemorate the sacrifices of those of Japanese ancestry — citizen and permanent resident alike — who contributed to the strength of this great country. And we commemorate those who were unjustly and forcefully evacuated from their homes."

The proceeds of the event will go to the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation and to projects aimed at increasing youth involvement with JACL and the greater APA community.

The district expects to raise close to \$30,000, according to PSWD Governor David Kawamoto.

Mineta praised this type of effort. He concluded by saying, "Because of your work and the work of the Iseai, future generations will appreciate all that you have done."

Nicole Akemi Inouye and David M. Namura Named Latest Mike M. Masataka Fellowship Congressional Fellows

Washington—Nicole Akemi Inouye, 23, of Huntington Beach, Calif., and David M. Namura, 24, of Arvada, Colo., have been named recipients of the eighth, Mike M. Masataka Fellowship Fund Congressional Fellow awards for the 1999-2000 term.

"Nicole will serve her fellowship in the office of Rep. Patsy T. Mink (D-Hawaii) and David will serve his fellowship in the office of Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii)," said Dr. Tom Tamaki, chair of the fund.

Dr. Tamaki said the fellows will begin their fellowships next spring. "We are very pleased with the two outstanding fellows who have been chosen to serve in the nation's capital," he added.

Inouye and Namura will serve fellowships of approximately three and one-half months in Washington, D.C. Each will receive a stipend of \$7,500. The fellowship honors the late Mike M. Masataka for a lifetime of outstanding public service promoting justice and civil rights. The major goal of the Masataka Fellowship is to encourage public service.

Inouye received her B.A. Degree in social ecology and minored in Asian American studies at the Uni-

versity of California, Irvine. She has been active in JACL, serving as the national youth representative. Inouye has also been active with various organizations such as the Salanoco JACL, Los Angeles Buddhist Coordinating Council, Asian Pacific Students Association and the Tomo no Kai. She was named Miss Orange County Japanese American and was a member of the Nisei Week Festival court.

Mr. Namura is a graduate of the University of Colorado, Denver with a B.A. Degree in political science. He has been active with the Simpson United Methodist church, Denver; United Methodist Asian American Youth Summer Camp; and the Japanese American Community Graduation banquet.

He served as a legislative aide to Rep. Ron Tupa, Colorado State Legislature, and was a student government legislator at the University of Colorado, Denver. In addition, Namura participated in two internships for the city and county of Denver, one in the mayor's office and the other with the District Attorney's office.



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Via Carnival Cruise Lines *Elation*, the newest and largest ship to sail to the Mexican Riviera. She is majestic, luxurious and a true destination unto herself. This is a fund raising project for the 100/442/MIS W.W. II Memorial Foundation, endorsed and approved by both the 100/442 and MIS.

Our all inclusive price includes Port Charges and Federal Taxes, most ship-board gratuities and shore excursions in Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan and Cabo San Lucas. Barbara Fairchild and Roy Morris will sail and put on a private performance for us. Ship sails round trip Los Angeles to Los Angeles (San Pedro). Inside Cabins from \$1060 p.p. and outside cabins from \$1180 p.p.

For information and reservations call:
(818) 246-1662 or (800) 304-5100
 CST #101689-10
 Air add-on's are available. Phyllis Anesetti - Coordinator

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