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Adopted as part of time taken off for a part of their parents' lives. Adopted as part of time taken off for a part of their parents' lives. Adopted as part of time taken off for a part of their parents' lives.

## Growing Up Adopted AAs Offer Personal Perspectives

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

BY TRACY UBA  
Writer/Reporter

When she was a young girl, Jean Mine Yang of Wilmette, Ill., remembers passing by anonymous Japanese women in the grocery store, each time gazing at them and thinking to herself, "Does she look like me? Do I look like her?"

As the adopted child of a loving Nisei couple, Jean, who is Hapa, born to a Japanese American mother from Hawaii and a European American father, doesn't help but feel a natural though increasingly overwhelming sense of curiosity as she was growing up.

"There were times when I wondered what it would be like to look like somebody else," she reflects. It wasn't about not appreciating what my parents did for me, the 37-year-old registered nurse said, "It was about wanting to know who I am and where I came from."

Like many adoptees making the transition from childhood into adulthood, Jean often wondered about her birth history and envisioned different scenarios as to who her birth family might be, something Maria Turnmeyer, 33, of Van Nuys, Calif., could definitely relate to.

"I had my fantasy," she recalled, during her early teenage years. "Whenever we had parents and I got into fights, I'd think, my real mother would never treat me this way, she would never do this to me."

"I idealized my birth mother," even though I'd never met her, said Maria, who was born in Japan and spent her early formative years in an orphanage housing about 50 children in the city of Seitama.

Unlike Jean, who was adopted by her parents as a newborn, Maria was originally adopted at age three by an interracial couple living in the United States — a Japanese mother and a Caucasian father who had earlier met and married in Japan while he served in the U.S. Air Force.

But her coming to live with them in the United States was postponed when they unexpectedly conceived a biological son. After his birth, her mother began to have second doubts about whether she

wanted to go through with the adoption. But her father felt bad that they had already started the process, so they went ahead with it and Maria, who was 7 years old by that time, flew with him to a new and unfamiliar home in Denver.

There, they lived in a predominantly white community, where Maria faced difficulties particular to a child who has been uprooted from a different country at a relatively late age. One of those difficulties included a severe language barrier. She spoke only Japanese, which first of all, she said, prevented her from expressing herself to her father.

Because they were one of very few Asian American families, there were occasions in school when kids teased her either for her ethnicity or for being adopted, which particularly upset her younger brother. They'd call me "Jap" or they'd say "Your sister is adopted," she recalled, and my brother would get into fights over it.

Not unlike Maria, Jean grew up in a Midwestern community that was predominantly Jewish and white. However, most people in her community were accepting of her ethnicity and did not make fun of her being adopted. Still, she said, she was painfully aware that she looked different than others.

My parents were very supportive, said Jean, who chose not to use their names, and yet, when it came to not knowing her birth history, she felt "a hole" in her life. "As I was growing up, I did feel that there was a part of me that was missing," she said. That, in turn, stirred in her "a strong need" to find her birth mother.

Back in the early 1980s, Jean's parents were childless and had been contacted by a relative who knew of a woman seeking to give up her child for adoption. Although they had not considered it before, they gave the idea some thought and soon pursued it, eventually being chosen by the birth mother from among several different couples. A JACL attorney mediated the private, closed adoption.

By the age of 20, Jean began looking for her birth mother Dorothy, with whom she had had no contact since the day she was delivered.

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## KOREMATSU, RESISTERS CASES:

### Similar Battles, Different Reactions

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA  
Assistant Editor

Consider the two cases: both fought on constitutional grounds in a court of law back in the 1940s, but the court of public opinion today is decidedly split.

Fred Toyosaburo Korematsu, 80, and the legal team that cleared his name received a hero's reception as more than 400 people gathered at UCLA on Sunday, Oct. 3, to recognize the donation of the *Korematsu vs. U.S.* coram nobis litigation collection to UCLA's Asian American Studies Center.

In attendance were Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee (HMFPC) members, who, like Korematsu, challenged the U.S. government on constitutional grounds, but whose very name, even today, seems to stir up deep-rooted anger among certain circles in the Nikkei community.

In speaking with the *Pacific Citizen*, Korematsu noted the similarities between his case and the resisters', but unlike them, he was never overtly harassed by wartime JACL leaders. While optimistic about the current JACL, saying, "The JACL die hard and stubborn ones are fading away so I'm positive," he also made no secret that he did not agree with wartime JACL policy.

"They turned their backs on me and kept things quiet," said Korematsu. John Tateishi, national JACL executive director, didn't deny that wartime JACL was unsupportive of the dissenters, but noted it was not only JACL but the entire Nikkei community that ostracized them.

"It was the Japanese American community that turned their backs on Fred and others who really were, in some ways, seen as black sheeps of the community, people who didn't go by the rules that everyone else did," said Tateishi. "I think, in that sense, it's really unfair to target the JACL as the culprit that did this. It's the whole community that did this."

That wartime JACL was unsupportive of Korematsu's case is evidenced in documents uncovered by the Deborah Lim Report, but to JACL's credit, it filed an amicus brief (friends of the court) on behalf of Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi and Minoru Yasui, according to Dale Minami, Korematsu's lead attorney in the coram nobis case.

JACL eventually did file an amicus brief in the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of Fred, Gordon and Min, so they did support them but much later in the litigation," said Minami. This shift in JACL policy is noted in a March 4, 1943, document titled Bulletin #7, which stated that "while this may seem to be a reversal of our policy ... by testing the constitutionality of these orders, we are not now hampering the war effort of our government but rather determining for once and for all the

basic rights of military groups under our Federal Constitution."

But wartime JACL leaders never filed an amicus brief in support of the resisters. In fact, documents indicate that JACL leaders actively opposed the resisters' stand.

Korematsu felt the friction between the resisters and JACL developed because "JACL's stand was not to disagree with the military, but the resisters resisted the draft because their parents and children were put into concentration camps and said they would join the military only if the government would change the rules that Japanese Americans are Americans and therefore should have their rights restored as citizens."

Tateishi felt the animosity that developed against the resisters was unfortunate because



PHOTO: MARTHA NAKAGAWA  
Dale Minami, former lead counsel in the coram nobis case, left, with former client Fred Korematsu.

with the question of who should be considered eligible for redress, he said "my argument and my position always has been that everybody should be included because as a basic constitutional issue, the government took away all of our rights, whether they were people who went to camp willingly, those who went into the Army, those who resisted, those who were 'no-no's, those who were expatriates — to me, it's all part of the same thing, and it's unfortunate that the anger runs so deep on this issue."

Like Tateishi, Minami viewed the battle of the coram nobis defendants and the Heart Mountain resisters as similar. "All of these men took a position on a principle," said Minami. "...The resisters based their refusal to serve on the

#### Brief History of the Korematsu Coram Nobis Case

In March 1942, after evacuation orders were implemented for people of Japanese ancestry, Korematsu underwent plastic surgery in an effort to disguise his Asian features. He had hoped to blend in with other Caucasians, marry his then fiancée Ida Boitano and live peacefully away from the West Coast. Korematsu was arrested on March 30, 1942, in San Leandro, Calif., where he gave police a false registration card with the name "Clyde Sarah" and told them he was of Spanish-Hawaiian origin. His story fell apart after the altered draft card was proven to be fake.

While jailed at the San Francisco county jail, Korematsu was visited by Earnest Besig, then attorney for the Northern California American Civil Liberties Union. Besig assigned Wayne Collins to the case.

Korematsu's case was heard on August 31, 1942, before Judge Martin I. Welsh, who was a member of the vehemently anti-Japanese Native Sons of the Golden West. After disregarding Collins' 69 charges of governmental violations, Welsh

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he viewed both battles as similar. "I think what happened to the resisters, in some ways, is similar to what Korematsu did in resisting the government order and defying what the government mandated for us to do as a community," said Tateishi. "Basically, the resisters said, 'Give us our constitutional rights, and we'll willingly go into service.' The government wasn't willing to accept that."

Tateishi added that when he chaired the national JACL redress committee and was faced

same or similar principles advanced by Gordon and Min. The constitution was violated by the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans. But their justification was based on their particular circumstances of having been drafted to fight in a war while their families were imprisoned, so they argued the constitution was like a contract, an idea advanced by John Locke, I believe, in Great Britain — that the government has obligations to its

See KOREMATSU/page 4

## Mineta Considering Return to Congress

Former California State Assemblyman Norman Mineta confirmed that he is considering returning to the congressional seat he held for over 21 years, according to a column by Mark Simon in the Oct. 7 issue of the *San Francisco Chronicle*.



People have been calling and asking if I would consider doing it. Mineta told the *Chronicle* he is thinking about

it because there's been much interest exhibited by people about it. Four years ago Mineta left the South Bay congressional seat he had held since 1974 to become vice president at Lockheed Martin. A special election was held soon after his departure which was eventually won by Republican Tim Campbell.

Political insiders say that Campbell is now considering giving up his congressional seat to run for the Senate against incumbent Dianne Feinstein in the 2000 election.

Asks to Campbell say that he will announce his decision in a few weeks.

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## JACL Calendar

### 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.

Sat., Oct. 23—Smithsonian guided tour, "From Bento to Mixed Plate." 10 a.m.; Smithsonian Arts & Industries Bldg., Independence Ave.; children's treasure hunt; origami demonstration, mixed plate lunch after tour. RSVP: Laura Nakatani, 703/519-9378.

### Midwest

#### DETROIT

Mon., Nov. 1—Trip to the Holocaust Museum in West Bloomfield, Mich., 10 a.m.; lunch to follow.

### Intermountain

#### SALT LAKE CITY

Sat., Oct. 23—Tanoshimi! No Yoru "Fun Night."

### Pacific Northwest

#### 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

Sun., Nov. 7—District Council Meeting. Sacramento; two special programs: Hate Crimes Workshop with members of the FBI and Sacramento Police Dept., and introduction of Gov. Davis' Asian American appointees.

#### FLORIN

Sat., Oct. 23—Annual Scholarship Fund-raising Spaghetti Dinner/Bingo Nite.

#### PLACER COUNTY

Sun., Oct. 17—Chapter-sponsored Ikebana display; see Community Calendar.

#### WEST VALLEY

Sun., Oct. 24—Next Generation luncheon and fashion show, to benefit Senior Center programs and Washington, D.C., memorial; see Community Calendar.

### Central California

#### DISTRICT COUNCIL

Sat., Nov. 13—50th Annual Installation Banquet, "Honoring Our Roots"; Congressman Robert Matsui, keynote speaker; chapter and district histories in words and pictures; special chapter and district awards. RSVP: info: Patricia Torn, 559/486-6815.

### Pacific Southwest

## 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 Brewster Jewish Heritage Museum, 1440 Spring St. NW; both exhibits developed by the Japanese American National Museum. Info: 404/873-1661.

#### 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.

### The Midwest

#### CLEVELAND

Sat.-Sun., Oct. 23-24—Cleveland Buddhist Temple annual food bazaar, Sat. 1-7 p.m., Sun. noon-6 p.m.; Eucled. Info: Hazel Asamoto, 216/921-2976.

Tues., Oct. 26—Music recital, "Music of 20th Century Japan"; Cleveland State University. free. Info: Hazel Asamoto, 216/921-2976.

#### MINNEAPOLIS

Through Oct. 31—Performance, "The Tale of the Daring Crane," by Theater Mu. Thurs.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sundays 2 p.m.; Intermedia Arts, 2822 Lyndale Ave. South. Tickets, info: 612/871-4444.

### 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, Sasei/tonsei poster contest, photo exhibits, taiko, entertainment, karaoke. Info: Bonnie Shiras, 435/257-2139 or Frank Nishiguchi, 435/458-3737.

### Pacific Northwest

#### PORTLAND

Through Jan. 15, 2000—Exhibit, "Determined to Succeed—Oregon's Issei," Fridays & Saturdays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Sundays, noon-3 p.m.; Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 117 NW 2nd Ave. Info: 503/224-1458.

#### SEATTLE

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

### Northern California

#### EAST BAY

Sat., Oct. 16—East Bay Nikkei Singles ringer-led nature stroll in Muir Woods, 10:45 a.m.; lunch afterwards. Info: Richard Seisiguchi, 510/237-0218.

#### NEWCASTLE

Sun., Oct. 17—"The Last Ikebana Demonstration of the 20th Century" 1-3 p.m.; Matsuda Landscape & Bonsai Nursery, 4888 Virginian Rd.

Yakaike (outdoor), chabana (ceremonial tea), mini Ikebana, secret finale, raffle. Info: Hiroshi Matsuda, 926/645-1820.

#### SACRAMENTO

Sat., Oct. 23—Jan Ken Po Cultural Association textile art demonstration, with Keiki Fujita, 12 noon-5 p.m. display & sales, 6:30 p.m. lecture; 923 20th St. RSVP: info: 395-2589 or 446-9844.

Wed., Oct. 27—"Unity '99," Asian Bar Association scholarship and community service awards; dinner, 6 p.m. no-host bar, 7 p.m. dinner; Radisson Hotel, Hwy 160 & Canterbury Rd.; keynote speaker Carl Douglas, Esq.; RSVP by Oct. 22; Ruth Ashley, 498-1854; Deborah Cooke, 497-0350; Jesse Rivera, 922-1200.

#### SAN JOSE

Sat., Oct. 16—Film screening and panel discussion, "Children of the Camps," with the film's director and associate producer, 2-4 p.m.; Wesley United Methodist Church, 566 N. 5th St. Free. Info: Shirley Okumura, 408/554-4641, or the Children of the Camps Documentary and Educational Project, 415/705-0885.

Wed., Oct. 20—Yu-Ai Kai annual flu shot clinic, 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m.; Yu-Ai Kai Senior Center, 588 N. Fourth St. Info: Joyce Nakamura Phillips, 408/294-2505.

Sun., Oct. 24—Next Generation benefit luncheon at 12 noon and fashion show, "Extreme Fashions," at 1 p.m.; Doubletree Hotel; M.C. Kent Nino-miya, Channel 7; door prizes; raffle; RSVP: Yuki Tachibana, 408/260-0515 or Todd Yoshida, 408/251-1949.

### Southern California

#### LOS ANGELES

Sat., Oct. 16—Film showing and discussion, "Old Man River," featuring Cynthia Gates Fujikawa, 1 p.m.; Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo. RSVP: 213/625-0414.

Sat., Oct. 16—Oldies Dance VII, "It's Just Like Heaven," 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, 1203 W. Puente Ave., West Covina. Info, song requests: Joanne, 626/284-8192; Roy, 309/595-6183; Frank, 714/890-1776.

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

Through October 17—Award-winning play, "Texas" by Judy Soo Hoo, Thurs.-Sat. at 8 p.m., Sun. at 1 p.m.; The Secret Rose Theatre, 11246 Magnolia Blvd., North Hollywood. Info, tickets: 323/993-7245.

Wed., Oct. 20—Pre-screening & reception, "Love, Ltd.," an Asian American family deals with homosexuality; 7:30 and 9 p.m.; Directors Guild of America, Theatre 3, 7920 Sunset Blvd.; RSVP: 323/248-6160.

Thurs., Oct. 21—2nd—Free play readings, 8 p.m. West Taper Forum; hosted by the Japanese American National Museum as part of the New World Festival. Info: JANM, 213/625-0414.

Through Oct. 21—Documentary film,

### DISTRICT COUNCIL

Sat., Oct. 30—District Council Quarterly Meeting, Las Vegas. Info: PSW office, 213/626-4471.

#### LAS VEGAS

Fri.-Sun., Dec. 10-12—Las Vegas Crap Shoot Golf Caper. Info: Kaz Mayeda, 9708 Craighead Ln., Las Vegas, NV 89117, phone 702/256-0314.

#### RIVERSIDE

Sun., Oct. 24—Chapter-sponsored dance program; see Community Calendar.

#### SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

Fri., Dec. 31—"Celebrate the Millennium"; 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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"Old Man River," by Cynthia Gates Fujikawa about her father, actor Jerry Fujikawa; State Theatre, Pasadena. Screening times vary; call the theatre for schedule, tickets: 626/792-3540.

Fri.-Sat., Oct. 22-23—Documentary film, "Old Man River," by Cynthia Gates Fujikawa about her father, actor Jerry Fujikawa; Warner Grand Theatre, San Pedro. Screening times vary; call the theatre for schedule, tickets: 310/548-7672.

Sat., Oct. 23—Little Tokyo Community Health Fair, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., the Union Church, 401 E. Third St.; free screening services; flu shots for seniors and at-risk persons; info: Bill Watanabe, Little Tokyo Service Center, 213/473-1602.

Sat., Oct. 30—Seminar, "Alzheimer's and Dementia Concerns in the Japanese American Community," 1-3 p.m.; Ken Nakakoka Community Center, 1700 W. 162nd St., Gardena; translation will be provided. Info: Karen Chomori Uyekawa, 213/894-3235.

Fri.-Sat., Nov. 12-13—National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) annual convention; Bonaventure Hotel, info: 213/437-4060.

#### SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

Fri., Dec. 31—Save the date! "Celebrate the Millennium," 6 p.m.; East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, 1203 W. Puente Ave., West Covina; dinner, dancing, entertainment, open bar, etc.; to benefit high school scholarship fund; Non-dancers also welcome. RSVP: Barbara, 626/810-1509.

#### RIVERSIDE

Sun., Oct. 24—Performance, Mihoko Powers and her dance group; Riverside Municipal Museum at the Multicultural Council's Family Village Festival.

Sat., Nov. 6—Program, "Sports and the Media in the Japanese American Community," 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; the Forum, Santa Maria campus of Allan Hancock College. No charge. Pre-registration: 922-6966 ext. 3209.

### Arizona - Nevada

#### TUCSON

Sun., Nov. 7—Dedication of the Gordon Hirabayashi Recreation site, 10 a.m.; Old Prison Camp, Catalina Hwy. Parking at camp site not yet developed, but buses leave Ramada Inn Foothills, 6044 E. Tanque Verde Rd., at 9 a.m., return by 2 p.m. RSVP for bus and ceremony by Oct. 19; Mary Farrell, 520/670-4564, Pete Taylor, 520/670-4518. Make hotel reservations ASAP.

## Redress Payment Information

Individuals can call 202/219-6800 and leave a message; or write to: CMI Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, P.O. Box 66260, Washington, DC 20035-6260.



## New Group Will Address Domestic Violence in APA Community

SAN FRANCISCO—A new institute being launched this fall will address domestic violence in the Asian Pacific American community. The Asian Institute on Domestic Violence was created in Chicago at an August meeting where more than 80 experts on domestic violence gathered.

"The Asian Institute on Domestic Violence is an exciting and badly needed new initiative dedicated to finding ways to stop abuse and aid victims of family violence in Asian American and Asian immigrant communities," said Debbie Lee, associate director of the Family Violence Prevention Fund.

Leaders selected a 10-member steering committee and formed working committees that will address intervention; research; public education/prevention; and policy/funding.

Sujata Warrior, director of the Health Care Bureau for the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, said, "Our goal with the new Asian Institute on Domestic Violence is to ensure that policy makers, funders, service providers and others do all that they can to ensure that Asian women in this country can live free of family violence and can find culturally appropriate services if they do face abuse."

More information is available from Judith Chen at 206/467-9976 or Sujata Warrior at 212/613-4398.

## Documentary on Chinese American Veterans to Premier at the Smithsonian

WASHINGTON—Little is known about the contributions of the more than 20,000 Chinese American men and women who served on all fronts in every major wartime occupation during World War II.

Less known is the fact that WWII was a historic turning point for the Chinese in America, which is what prompted filmmaker and military historian Montgomery Hom to produce the documentary, "We Served With Pride: The Chinese American Experience in World War II."

After five long years and hours of interviews, the documentary will premiere on Oct. 26 at the Smithsonian Institution's Baird Auditorium of the National Museum of Natural History.

"We Served With Pride" is a one-hour documentary that provides a firsthand look into the lives of 26 Chinese American veterans who participated in major battles overseas, as well as Chinese American civilians who worked on the home front in service organizations and defense work.

Their untold stories, interwoven with period re-creations, original news footage and rare photos, brings to the screen a visually moving portrait of the Chinese American veteran experience.

"During World War II, as in all our nation's wars, American

men and women of Chinese descent served our nation with honor and distinction. I am pleased that the movie, 'We Served With Pride,' retells the story of their valor, loyalty, and contribution to victory, so that an older generation may remember and a younger generation may learn," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Togo D. West Jr.

The Organization of Chinese Americans has been working with Hom as the documentary's production and cultural advisor.

"We are fully committed to partnering with Montgomery on his vision to bring before the general public the story of Chinese American vets in World War II," said George M. Ong, OCA national president. "Chinese Americans have long been ignored for their role and contributions to great moments in American history. This historic and time-relevant national project is but an extension and continuation of OCA's mission to share and preserve the legacy and history of the Chinese in the United States."

"As the nation enters a new millennium, it is unfortunate Chinese Americans are still assumed to be foreigners after having been here for more than 200 years," said OCA executive director Daphne Kwok. "The question of where our loyalty lies plagued us during the campaign finance controversies, and most

recently with the espionage allegations in our nuclear labs. 'We Served With Pride' shows that Chinese Americans proved their loyalty to their country with the ultimate act of military service and their lives. Hopefully, after people view this documentary, there will be no more doubt that the loyalty of Chinese Americans lies with America."

The premiere is being co-hosted by the OCA and the Smithsonian Institution's Asian Pacific American Studies Program.

"Working with the OCA to produce this event is a privilege and a pleasure," said Dr. Franklin Olin, the Smithsonian's curator to the project. "This history is definitely deserving a place in our collective heritage."

The premiere will be the launching point for the Chinese American Veterans Project, which will begin with a screening tour of the documentary to major cities and college campuses across the country.

The project will also encompass a traveling exhibit, a pictorial book on WWII Chinese American veterans and a permanent exhibit/library of information, materials and memorabilia belonging to Chinese American veterans.

The collection will eventually be expanded to include Chinese American veterans who participated in all U.S. wars during the 20th century.

## Bill Lann Lee: Racial Profiling Must End

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

The acting head of the U.S. Justice Department's civil rights division called on a conference of lawyers on Oct. 8, to help eradicate racial stereotyping by police departments and to support affirmative action in law school admissions.

Bill Lann Lee decried the breakdown of trust between police and minority communities and traced much of it to the practice of racial profiling.

"We have a situation in this country with a black attorney telling his son who goes out at night not to be afraid of the gangbangers but to be afraid of the police. ... There's a drying-up of trust," said Lee.

Lee said the civil rights division is taking action in many states to obtain consent decrees from police departments willing to eliminate racial profiling from their methods of operation.

He cited New Jersey, where the state attorney general's office has acknowledged that state police use racial profiles in decisions to stop motorists for questioning. Currently, he said, a consent decree is being worked out.

Lee said the use of race to identify motorists is not only wrong but "it's not efficient law enforcement."

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

## Congressman Receives Anti-Immigrant Hate Mail

PROVIDENCE, R.I.—A recent letter from a Woodcock, Minn. to U.S. Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy carried the tone of a racist caricature. "We don't want immigrants to have any benefits," the man wrote. "We have 300 jobs. We want you to go. We don't want you here any more."

Kennedy (D-R.I.) says the comments are indicative of a growing intolerance in the state. Some constituents, he said, have asked why he is "always helping these people" instead of whites. One state legislator, whom Kennedy would not name, suggested the congressman focus on people from Northern Ireland, since that's where his ancestors are from. Another letter from a Providence man wrote, "Immigration is going to lead to the death of this great nation. Recent immigrants refuse to learn the language or abide by laws and ways."

A recent surge in racist remarks coincides with Kennedy's public effort to help Liberian refugees in Rhode Island and East Timorese in Indonesia. Although politicians routinely receive such responses, Kennedy said he chose to make the remarks public to stress that Rhode Island does have racial tensions. "Rhode Island is not any more tolerant than any other place in the country," he told *The Providence Journal*. "The irony is, we're a state of immigrants."

The letters and calls have been getting worse over the past year and come from all over the country, said Kennedy's chief of staff Anthony Marcella. He believes the increase comes from Kennedy's outspokenness on issues like immigration, independence for the people of East Timor and the possible repatriation of more than 10,000 Liberian refugees in the United States.

## National

Meanwhile, Joan B. Quick, chairwoman of the state Republican Party, contends that Kennedy was using the mail and calls to win sympathy and to present himself as "the savior of the majority population."

## Schools Ban Pokemon Cards

DETROIT, Mich.—Pokemon trading cards may be the latest craze among school children, but they are driving some school officials crazy.

Ongoing frequent fights over trading cards and schools across southern New Hampshire are banning the cards, which originated three years ago as a Nintendo Game Boy game in Japan. "They are joining principals in New York, New Jersey, Washington, D.C. and elsewhere who have banned or restricted the merchandise. The cards are part of a game in which players, or 'trainers,' collect 150 species of imaginary 'pocket monsters.' Trainers are supposed to 'capture' the Pokemon, train them for battle, trade them with others and be their friends."

## Car of Missing Vietnamese Teen Found

VANCLAVE, Miss.—The car that belonged to Dong Nguyen, 18, of Ocean Springs, was found submerged in the Pascagoula River, but there is still no sign of the teen, who was last seen by his family on Sept. 6. Police Chief Mike Essel, whose department has been investigating since Nguyen's parents reported him missing Sept. 8, said the case is being treated as a missing person.

The car was spotted Oct. 3 by boaters who saw a tip of the spoiler from the trunk sticking out of the water 25 feet from a steep boat-launch ramp. Authorities don't know how long the vehicle had been submerged. A police boat towed the car along the river banks and the surrounding woods for miles up and down

the river but found nothing. "That car had been there for quite a while," Jackson County Sheriff Pete Pope said. "If there was a body, we'd have found it. And if there had been a body out there the car's long gone."

## Exhibit Recognizes Hmong Vets of Vietnam War

MADISON, Wis.—Twenty-five years after they served as U.S. soldiers in the fight against the Viet Cong, Hmong veterans are finally being recognized as American veterans in a new exhibit that runs through Oct. 29 at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum on the Capitol Square. The show, "Hmong in America: Heritage from Secret War," was organized by the Chippewa Valley Museum and the Hmong Mutual Assistance Association in Eau Claire.

It is the first exhibit in the nation to recognize the Hmong role in the Vietnam War, as well as the first time an American veterans organization has taken a step toward official recognition, said Wisconsin Veterans Museum Director Richard Zeitlin. Of the 24,000 Hmong in Danang, more than 94 percent of the men 60 and older were recruited by the CIA to do the fight against Communist forces in Southeast Asia during the war.

## Details of Rape by Six AA Suspects Revealed in Court

BOULDER, Colo.—The suspects in the abduction and rape of a University of Colorado student developed plans for the attack because they wanted to have sex with a white woman, according to testimony at a preliminary court hearing for counts John Wang, 18, and Chue Wang, 16, two of six men suspected in the June 23 attack in the Boulder foothills.

Three other suspects, Scotty Lee, 22, of Lafayette; Johnny Lee, 17, of Decatur; and Steve Wang, 19, of Westminster, remain in jail in Westminster when they

were arrested. Extradition proceedings to return them to Denver have started.

An inmate in that jail, Marvin Freeman, said "the plan" to attack the victim was hatched during a party on the evening of Aug. 25, said Detective Ron Gonsky. Scotty Lee, who described himself as the leader of the Asian group, told Freeman that the gang members wanted to find a white woman for suspect Kaibee Yang, 20, of Westminster, to have sex with, and Gonsky Yang later killed himself in Westminster when he was confronted by police at a hotel.

Boulder Detective Jane Harner said the suspects abducted the 20-year-old victim from a street and took her to two different parks. Over the next three hours, she was threatened with death and forced to perform sexual acts with all six suspects.

Kao Wang and Chue Wang, both of Westminster, face life in prison if convicted of the first-degree sexual assault and second-degree kidnapping charges they face.

## Canadian Monument for Issei Pioneers Unveiled

VICTORIA, B.C.—A memorial monument erected "In Honour and Memory of Pioneers from Japan" was unveiled recently at Ross Bay Cemetery.

About one hundred gathered for the dedication and took part in the traditional obon service to remember the dead. The unveiling was conducted by acting mayor or councillor Ben Holland, and by Dr. TK Shoyama.

The black granite monument was designed by Frank Miki and the Japanese calligraphy done by Keiko Fujimura Akira.

## Sheriff's Dept. Settles Hmong Lawsuit

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—The Yuba County Sheriff's Department settled a lawsuit filed by a local Hmong family Oct. 15 in U.S. District Court. The

new policies on late crimes, home searches and dealing with recent immigrants.

Yang Her of Lands and his family had sought \$250,000, saying deputies violated their constitutional rights by searching their home without consent, detaining the family illegally and taking children out of local school without parental consent.

The deputies were investigating a report that Her's 3-year-old child shot a neighbor in the leg with a BB gun.

Policies imposed as part of the settlement impose new guidelines on searches and seizures, aim to improve hate-crime investigations and spell out how children should be treated by deputies. The department will provide search consent forms in Hmong, Spanish and Punjabi.

## Retailers Reach Settlement Over Salpan Sweatshops

LOS ANGELES—Five clothing retailers including Ralph Lauren, Donna Karan International, Phillip Van Heusen, Brylind L.P. and The Dress Barn Inc. agreed to settle a class-action lawsuit on Oct. 5, over poor working conditions at sweatshops in the U.S. territory of Salpan.

The companies join four other retailers, Nordstrom, Inc., J.C. Crew Group Inc., Cutsie & Buck Inc. and Gymboree Corp., that settled in June, agreeing to pay for independent monitoring of Salpan's garment industry in an effort to comply with American labor laws and international human rights treaties.

Litigation is still pending against factories in Salpan. Several other U.S. companies, including The Gap, Tommy Hilfinger and Wal-Mart, Meyerhoff, a lawyer, plaintiffs. The settlement for retailers is expected to ensure the independent monitoring program to pressure money to these U.S. public companies to improve working conditions in Salpan.

## KOREMATSU

(Continued from page 1)

people and the people have obligations to the government. When the government abrogates its obligations, the people cannot be forced to serve the government. When the U.S.A. breached its obligation to honor the constitutional rights of Japanese Americans, the resisters believed they had no duty to serve in the Armed forces. 'Let our people go,' they said, 'And we will fight to the death to protect the U.S.A.' So although the situations were different, the basic justification of all these men were the same: you have violated our constitutional and human rights which require us to resist those orders."

Because they fought on constitutional grounds, HMFPFC member Takashi Hoshizaki, who served in the Korean War, was puzzled by the ongoing animosity leveled at the resisters.

"I can't fathom this animosity," said Hoshizaki. "These people say I did the wrong thing because we jeopardized the acceptance of the Japanese Americans into American society, but if you look at it from another aspect, why did we have to be accepted by the rest of the U.S. if it was our legal right to have the same privileges as other Americans? To say we jeopardized the Japanese American position is saying we're second-class citizens and therefore we have to bow low to the others."

Hoshizaki said the majority of HMFPFC members came from rural backgrounds of humble means and did not have the funds to mount a legal challenge early in the evacuation. It was only when the draft issue came up that an opportunity opened.

"For most of us, we did not have the monetary or legal resources to protect the evacuation and internment so when they started drafting us, we challenged it because we felt it was incorrect," said Hoshizaki.

HMFPFC member Yosh Kurokiya wondered aloud whether their case could be reopened. "There might be a chance based on extenuating circumstances," Kurokiya guessed. "The Selective Service law states that a person cannot serve if he is incarcerated in jail, an insane asylum or detention center. At the time we challenged the draft law, we were already incarcerated in camp but it hadn't been clarified whether the camps constituted a prison of sorts."

But Minami does not believe the Heart Mountain resisters' case can be successfully reopened.

"The cases probably cannot be reopened because the Heart Mountain resisters were pardoned after conviction and on appeal. Their convictions were not overturned but they suffered no more punishment so there does not appear to be a legal vehicle to reopen their case," said Minami, adding that while Hirabayashi, on his second case, was tried for violating the Selective Service Act and ended up at the McNeil Island federal penitentiary along with several Heart Mountain resisters, Hirabayashi never appealed the second case.

"Gordon had two cases — the first was the conviction for curfew and exclusion violations which went to the Supreme Court," said Minami. "The second was the Selective Service Act violation which he never appealed as far as I know. Even though the violations of the Selective Service Act were similar, the Heart Mountain resisters received a pardon. I did a lot of research of these cases at the behest of Frank Chin in the early '80s."

As to why there is still so much anger directed against the resisters, particularly from certain JACLers, Minami had this to say: "I believe many JACLers feel defensive about having gone

into the camps. The early Sansei activists had faulted them for meekly obeying governmental orders without really understanding the pressures and forces brought to bear on the Nisei. Most of the activists now understand the Nisei had little choice — they were a leaderless community whose average age was about 19 years old and the might of the U.S. military was aligned against them.

"I think most people do not blame the Nisei for going into the camps, although certain leaders seemed to have abetted the U.S. government into putting them there. That is an issue with those specific leaders, not most of the JACL leadership or the multitudes who did go into camps."

"There is a theory in social psychology called 'cognitive dissonance,' which is when the mind must harmonize between two conflicting ideas or rationales. Without being a pop psychologist myself, I do believe some Nisei have to justify to themselves the degradation and humiliation they suffered in camps as an act of 'loyalty.' This then pits them directly against the resisters who did not have any such competing ideas — they knew the internment was wrong and they fought it. Because they were then contemporary antagonists during this very emotional time, to admit the resisters were right or, at least, fought on principles, is, in their minds, to admit those who went into camps because of a misguided sense of loyalty were wrong."

"We, on the coram nobis team, were a generation removed. At the time we began the cases, I think most Nisei, in their hearts, knew the camps were wrong and supported us. We preempted their criticism by the overwhelming evidence we produced and the educational work we performed. And perhaps, most importantly, we won."

Like Minami, Tateishi felt the root of the problem goes back to how one carried out their loyalty to America.

"I think the resisters have a lot of stigma for having willingly defied the government at a time when there was an opportunity to show loyalty in a very different way, to show your Americanness, as it were, in a very different way. I think it was an act of courage to say 'I'll resist the government as a draft resister and willingly go to prison and go to places like Leavenworth. It's difficult to equate that with the kind of courage that men who volunteered for the 442nd and MIS demonstrated. Giving up your life is a major, major decision, and I think that was extraordinary on their part."

"I think now, would I do that? I don't know. It's hard to know, but in 1942, 1943, those were extremely difficult decisions, and I think, as a result of their defying that, that opportunity, the resisters really labeled themselves and were stigmatized as a result of that."

"And it's not just by the veterans, not just by the JACL, but it was by the entire Japanese American community that looked at them and said, 'Well, they were a bunch of yogores' or 'They were a bunch of troublemakers.' They got labeled in all kinds of ways, and I think it was unfortunate. It wasn't their fault as much as it wasn't anyone's fault that any of this happened."

In light of the recent failure to pass a national JACL resolution apologizing to the resisters, Minami was disappointed that JACL could not come out strong in support of the resisters.

"JACL has become one of the major civil rights organizations in the country. It has grown and progressed over the years so it is even more disappointing now that it cannot, as an organization, fully recognize the strong civil rights position advanced by the Heart Mountain resisters," said Minami. "It is appropriate at this time, with the aging of

the Nisei, to lay that part of its past to rest, to look forward with a vision for the future and bring harmony to our communities, which were rent asunder by the devastation of the World War II imprisonment."

Tateishi said he was not surprised by the resolution's outcome. "I never expected the resolution could pass very easily, even if it did pass. I think it's something that's going to have to be debated over and over and over."

He said in 1970, when he chaired the redress campaign, it was CCDC, which, as in the resisters' resolution, played a pivotal role in the outcome.

"It was at the tri-district in Fresno that I had an opportunity to really articulate what the redress effort was all about. It wasn't about digging up a lot of ugly things in our past. It was really about who we were as Americans. When the Central Cal District turned around and voted to support redress, that was the real turning point. I don't know if this [resisters' issue] is something that can be healed as quickly or as easily. I don't say that in '79 there was a real healing process, but I think there was a willingness to talk about the things no one else wanted to talk about. I think that's what this process has to be, to bring up the topic that's an unwilling topic. I think it's in our best interest, as a community, to deal with the resisters issue whether or not people feel it's right or wrong. I think we need that process. As I've said before, we owe it to the Nisei."

To begin healing, Tateishi felt the community needed to air everything out. "I think it's such a deep psychological wound between those who were willing to go into service and those who were unwilling to let the government strip us of any more of our rights, that I don't know if we're ever going to see a total healing, but I think we do have to talk about it. We have to keep raising the issue and keep bumping up against the anger before we can start to heal."

Minami does not see the situation as a rift, per se, because he noted the Heart Mountain resisters have publicly stated their respect for those who willingly went to camp and those who fought in the war based on their notion of loyalty.

"I think it is a specific group of Nisei in the JACL who have refused to reconcile because they believe they cannot accept the justifications of the Heart Mountain resisters without admitting they were wrong. I think this is a terribly wrongheaded approach."

"I believe we must all subscribe to the principle that the resisters, the coram nobis defendants and nearly all of the Nisei and the JACL made the best decisions they could under the circumstances, that all acted on principles which, by hindsight and today's values, may be questioned, but they were principles nevertheless. The bottom line for me is this: The Heart Mountain resisters have nothing to apologize for, but those who cannot accept that they took principled stands during World War II are essentially endorsing the exclusion and detention as constitutionally and morally permissible."

Researcher Aiko Herzog Yoshinaga echoed Minami's point when she said those who refuse to accept the resisters' stand "have never looked beyond a certain level, never looked at the constitutional question."

She felt a great need for education before healing could begin. "Many of the people, I think, that are criticizing the resisters don't really know the whole story," she said. "I notice some of them don't see the difference even between the 'no-no' and resisters. That still has to be clarified. A lot of education needs to happen before healing can take place."

## California Bank and Trust Supports Health Fair

Jerry Ono, manager at the Japan Center branch of California Bank and Trust, presented a check to Greg Marutani, president of the San Francisco JACL chapter, to help underwrite the "Kenko no Hi" health fair held on Oct. 9 at Christ United Presbyterian Church.

"CBT recognizes the importance of this community health fair, and I am very happy we could support such a program that reaches so many individuals," said Ono.

Marutani said CBT's financial support makes it possible to provide important services such as free flu shots. "The funds are even

more significant as screenings like cholesterol would not be available this year because resources from the pharmaceutical company that participated in the past two years have been reduced," said Marutani. "We were also able to include foot screening this year as well as expand the pharmacy consulting table to include alternative and herbal medicine. Both are things that were requested from many who participated in previous health fairs."

For information on future fairs, call the chapter's message center at 415/273-1015. Please leave your name and telephone where you can be reached. ■



Greg Marutani of San Francisco JACL receiving a \$2,000 check from Jerry Ono of California Bank and Trust.

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## Coram Nobis Case Timeline

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went on vacation. Korematsu's case went to trial before Judge Adolphus St. Sure, who found Korematsu guilty and sentenced him to five years' probation.

On Dec. 18, 1944, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed the constitutionality of the mass exclusion of the Nikkei community by upholding Korematsu's conviction for violating the exclusion order.

Almost four decades later, Aiko Herzog Yoshinaga visited the National Archives out of curiosity to look up wartime records on her family and herself. What she discovered angered her to action.

In August 1981, law historian Peter Irons took a two-week vacation from his teaching duties as a professor at the University of Massachusetts and went to Washington, D.C., with plans to begin an FBI research project. When the project fell through, Irons had free time, and by chance, he thumbed through an American law history book where the Korematsu and Gordon Hirabayashi case caught his attention. He then literally ran up the Hill to the Library of Congress to see whether anyone had written about these cases. To his surprise, there was very little written on the entire internment experience.

Irons then went to the Na-

tional Archives for WRA records but was promptly told the very documents he wanted were being used by another researcher. Disappointed but not dissuaded, Irons located the researcher who turned out to be Herzog Yoshinaga. The two, with Herzog Yoshinaga's husband Jack Herzog, a former Army counterintelligence officer, spent countless hours at the archives to uncover an enormous amount of documents proving the government suppressed, altered and/or destroyed relevant evidence from the Supreme Court.

In particular, Irons and Herzog Yoshinaga found documents indicating that Asst. Secretary of War John McCloy had ordered all 10 original issues of Gen. John L. DeWitt's "Final Report on Japanese Evacuation from the West Coast" be burned and destroyed. Related documents such as letters, memos, receipts, drafts, galley proofs were also destroyed. McCloy had ordered them destroyed because the report contradicted prior arguments made by the Justice Department to the Court of Appeals.

In 1982, Herzog Yoshinaga stumbled upon one of DeWitt's original "Final Report." Margin notes appearing in the document convinced them this was an original DeWitt report.

Meanwhile, Irons also filed a Freedom of Information Act

and pestered the Department of Justice to locate the lawsuits originally filed by Korematsu, Hirabayashi, Minoru Yasui and Mistuyasu Endo. Irons' persistence paid off, and the files were located in Maryland where they had been misfiled with the Commerce Department for more than 40 years.

When Irons testified before the Commission on War Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) in December 1981, it was William Marutani, a judge and only the Nikkei CWRIC commissioner, who suggested to Irons that he file a coram nobis suit, an obscure procedure used to reopen cases where a fundamental error had occurred.

Coram nobis, which in Latin means "an error before us," can only be used for individuals who have been convicted and served their sentences. A high burden of proof is needed, and the procedure can only be used to raise errors of fact that had been knowingly suppressed from the judge and defense lawyers by prosecutors.

Irons was convinced the evidence they uncovered was strong enough to reopen the Korematsu, Hirabayashi and Yasui cases. He located all three defendants, who agreed to revisit their cases.

Irons, sensitive to the enormous impact these cases would have on the Nikkei community, actively sought out Nikkei attorneys despite the fact that numerous non-Nikkei attorneys were making offers to work on the case.

The core of the Korematsu coram nobis team consisted of Irons, Dale Minami, Dennis Hayashi, Lorraine Bannai, Karen Kai, Don Tamaki, Mike Wong, Russell Matsumoto and Bob Rusky.

The group agreed to name Minami as "lead counsel" for the Korematsu case. A modest Minami said the title was in name only and that decisions were made collectively.

For the Yasui case, Peggy Nagae in Portland was contacted; and for the Hirabayashi case, Kathryn Bannai, Lorraine's sister in Seattle, was recruited.

The legal team strategized to file coram nobis petitions in the three cities where the men had been convicted, and then file a motion to consolidate the cases in San Francisco.

Later, Leigh-Ann Miyasato, Ed Chen and Eric Yamamoto were asked to join the team. Yamamoto, who had just been offered a partnership in his law firm in Hawaii, took a six-month sabbatical to work on the case.

All the members worked pro bono. Many held other full-time jobs, and worked on the cases after hours and during the weekends for more than

five years.

As case work progressed, the team soon faced mounting expenses such as researchers' fees, travel and hotels, long-distance phone calls, photocopying and many other administrative costs.

Minami said they decided against making a public plea for fear that once word got out, documents might start disappearing. Instead, the group sent out letters to personal friends, which, in essence said, "We can't tell you what we're working on but it's really important. Can you help us out?" Their friends came through with thousands of dollars.

But the legal teams' attempts to keep the case under wraps was thwarted when Arthur Goldberg, a former supreme court justice and CWRIC commissioner, got wind of their case. Goldberg wrote a letter criticizing the teams' efforts, and this letter was published in the *Pacific Citizen*.

Undaunted, the team pressed forward. A few weeks before the Korematsu papers were to be filed in court, Don Tamaki started a full-scale public relations campaign to raise funds and to garner public support through media coverage. This was no small feat since Tamaki first had to convince mainstream journalists that the internment camps really happened in America and of the importance of the coram nobis cases.

On Jan. 19, 1983, Korematsu's case was filed in San Francisco court, and was assigned to Judge Marilyn Hall Patel, who had a reputation for liberal views.

After filing the case, the team held a press conference at the San Francisco Press Club. Tamaki's hard work paid off as more than 100 journalists packed the room.

The attorney handling the case on behalf of the government was Victor Stone. In June, he approached the team with an offer to give Korematsu a presidential pardon.

By accepting a pardon, according to Minami, an individual admits to committing a crime, and the pardon absolves the individual of any further punishment.

Minami said they informed Korematsu of the government's offer, wondering how their client would react. The team was encouraged when Korematsu rejected the offer. The government then countered with an offer to "pardon for innocence."

"We asked him [Stone], 'what's that?'" recalled Minami. "He said, 'Well, we just made it up, and it means we'll pardon him and he'll be considered innocent.'"

The team once again told Korematsu of the government's

offer. "This was right in the middle of the hot and heavy litigation," said Minami. "This was before any finding of fact, no military necessity argument or any reference to racism that impelled the government to put the Japanese Americans in camp."

"And I remember the moment clearly. We were in Kathryn's [Korematsu's wife] and Fred's living room. They looked at us, and Fred said, 'Pardon us? We should be pardoning the government.'"

"We went back out there and said, 'Yeah, that's what we wanted to hear.' And that's when the team was energized. That's one small example of where we got our inspiration from. It was not only from our parents and grandparents, not only from constitutional law, but from the gentle strength of this man who we've come to love and admire."

On Nov. 10, 1983, Patel handed down her ruling. Realizing the national interest in this case, Patel moved the proceedings to the ceremonial courtroom, which held up to 300 people. The room was packed.

In a dramatic move, Patel vacated Korematsu's original conviction, stated the government needed to rectify a "profound and publicly acknowledged injustice," and walked out of the courtroom.

Following a moment of silence, the court erupted in cheers and tears. Elderly Nisei, many of whom had never stepped into a courtroom, came up to the team to thank them.

Because a motion to consolidate the three coram nobis cases in San Francisco was denied, the Yasui and Hirabayashi cases continued for a few more years.

Earlier this year, President Clinton awarded Korematsu the Medal of Freedom.

Most recently, Korematsu was named an honorary chair of a newly formed California Civil Rights Commission on Hate Crimes, which was spearheaded by California Attorney General Bill Lockyer. In describing Lockyer, Korematsu said, "What a big difference from the attorney general in 1941."

On Oct. 3, Korematsu and the coram nobis legal team donated 36 boxes of litigation papers to the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. ■

(Resources used: National Japanese American Historical Society's Vol. XI, Number 2, Spring 1999 of the *Nikkei Heritage* magazine; Brian Niiya's "Japanese American History: An A-to-Z Reference from 1868 to the Present"; and personal notes from the 1997 UCLA redress conference titled, "Voices of Japanese American Redress."

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## Three Degrees of Separation

By Naomi Hirahara

## The Power of Haji

Every Japanese American knows *haji*. If you don't know the term in Japanese, you are familiar with the English translation — shame.

It's a loaded word, a word that extends beyond even ourselves individually. It's a word that has the power to blow a hole into our families, not only this generation, but somehow into the past.

Haji sometimes has nothing to do with our own mistakes or failings, but more with other circumstances that seem to affect our reputations or family name. I've heard certain Nisei World War II veterans speak of it, how they felt that they had to fight with extra effort, so not to shame their parents incarcerated in concentration camps.

A Sansei friend told me that during a harrowing car accident, his immediate thoughts were not on the highs and lows of his life, but how his death would be written up in a local JA vernacular. Luckily, he survived. So no permanent damage and no newspaper story.

Haji is ingrained in me as much as anybody. When I was ten years old, I accidentally hurt someone at a local community institution. It was the talk of my world — friends, peers and adults. I remember my parents having a late night discussion about the seriousness of my actions, while I hid underneath my pink desk and cried with shame.

Luckily, my parents aren't the type to run away from problems, and we dutifully went to the injured person's house, bearing apologies and gifts (the game, "You Sunk My Battleship," I recall). Later, all the children at this institution were summoned together and warned not to horseplay. No names were mentioned, but everyone knew — I was the culprit, the one who had caused this excitement. I'll never forget the shame I felt standing there

among all those children.

The wounds eventually healed, yet the haji remained. For years. At least a decade. Close friends to whom I've told this story, tell me, "If that's the worst thing you've ever done, then you're doing pretty good."

But that still doesn't negate the fact that I intensely felt that I had shamed my parents and family. When I now look at old pictures of myself, I think to myself, "My God, I was just a kid."

Haji is not always a bad thing. There are justifiable things to be ashamed about. And if it's legitimate, we can't ignore it. We have to face it, and try to compensate individuals we've wronged the best way we know how.

But haji can also block us from having healthy relationships with other family members, friends, our community. We have all experienced failure and problems. Some family members have committed suicide; others, crimes. Some are addicted to alcohol, drugs or gambling. Many of us have marriages and family relationships that are falling apart.

But that doesn't necessarily mean that we need to hide away under some desk in the corner of our room. Burying our haji won't make it disappear. At some point, we need to forgive others. But most of all, we need to forgive ourselves. ■

Naomi Hirahara is a writer based in Pasadena. She can be reached at [Nhirahara@aol.com](mailto:Nhirahara@aol.com).

## Redress History Project Launched With Different End Products in Sight

By HARRY K. HONDA  
Editor Emeritus

SAN FRANCISCO—Promise of the JACL Redress History Project in several formats loomed Oct. 9, during a full-day brainstorm of veteran JACL-LEC stalwarts and exponents for assuring the fulfillment of the 1999-2000 JACL Program for Action: "A program to capture the history of the Redress effort through interviews with the participants and publish a book based on the research."

While the national JACL budget for the coming 1999-2000 year supports the project for researchers and a project coordinator, the end products envisioned include books, a video for classrooms and TV documentaries, CDs and the Internet.

JACL-LEC co-chair Mae Takahashi (Clovis) said the project will be "self-funded" and recommended it be jump-started with staff and seed money. The JACL budget authorized \$28,684 ending Dec. 31, 1999, and \$219,838 ending April 2000.

The JACL/LEC executive board in 1997 had rejected a \$25,000 grant from the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund. This was after the CLPEF board had turned down JACL's original grant proposal for \$250,000 to document how a small group of Japanese Americans raised \$1 million and worked for more than 10 years to get the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 passed. Jerry Enomoto (Sacramento), JACL-LEC co-chair, expressed that \$25,000 was "not adequate to tell the story," which led to the national board's vote on Aug. 9, 1997, to bring the project in-house and seek other sources of funding.

Initial effort to develop a who's who of those "who were doing what was needed for the bill to move along at a specific point in time," was stressed by Grayce Uyehara (Philadelphia), legislative director in the 1980s when the JACL redress bills were moving through Congress. Many of them were congressional staffers and White House officials whose whereabouts

are unknown today, she added. The name of Ken Duerstien, President Reagan's chief of staff, was but an example. "But we have an obligation to save this kind of history."

Mae Takahashi revealed four interviews have been conducted since the project was formed by the national board at its August 1997 meeting: Harry Kajihara (Ventura), Peggy Liggett (Pismo), Shig Wakamatsu and the late Art Morimitsu (both Chicago), all of whom worked tirelessly raising funds and obtaining wide public support for the redress bills.

A detailed compilation of JACL Redress history, for starters, would be most helpful, it was agreed by the committee. For example, most lists begin with July 18, 1970, when the late Edison Uyo (East Los Angeles) proposed before the JACL national council in Chicago monetary compensation to JA evacuees for wrongful imprisonment and losses. But it was the national JACL convention in 1946 in Denver that called for "a program to prompt Congress to enact legislation appropriating funds to compensate for legitimate claims arising out of losses sustained by the Evacuation," then national secretary Mike Masaka recorded. It was one of the 17 resolutions adopted for presentation to President Truman and other government agencies.

While the national council unanimously adopted the East L.A. JACL motion "in principle, the concept of seeking reparations for the wrongful act of Evacuation and detention" and again at the 1972 national convention in Washington, the project committee also not-

ed the need to secure pre-LEC (1970) and non-LEC voices and experiences, such as the Nisei veterans in particular.

At the 1998 Philadelphia national council meeting, Mitchell Maki (East L.A.) had encouraged JACL to tell "its involvement with redress, not just LEC's role... and help to preserve the legacy of Redress for the coming generation."

At the recent Redress History Committee meeting, Cherry Kinoshita (Seattle) asked, "More importantly, [what is] the purpose of JACL recording this history? As public relations for JACL? A text for the schools, and at what student level? For academic purposes, Asian American studies? For the general public, or just for the JA community or for the non-Asians?"

"The decision will affect to a certain extent the way interviews are documented, the writer to be hired and the documents to be researched."

Kinoshita recalled that an earlier meeting of the committee last year also considered the need for a project coordinator/manager or having a staff person to manage the budget and keep things on schedule.

Ex-officio JRHP committee members are national president Helen Kawagoe (Gardena Valley), John Tateishi (Marin County), and national vice president for research & development Gary Mayeda (APAN).

Karl Matsushita, JANL executive director, mentioned there were freelance researchers who might be contracted to compile onto the computer a working index of material amassed during the 20 years of the JACL-LEC campaign. ■



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# Letters to the Editor

## Re: Draft Resisters

Much has been written on the topic of the resisters of conscience. But let me first recall the atmosphere of the West Coast before Pearl Harbor and post World War II. The media were then frothing with suspicion and allegations of Japanese and Japanese American collaborations with Japan, such as fishermen telegraphing military secrets to the enemy and Japanese planes flying over San Francisco.

Many of the stories were believable even by us Nisei, for we, nor anyone else, doubted the newspaper and radio stories rampant with vicious fables. To compound the negative situation for Nisei, we were not perceived as real Americans. Many of us were perceived as native Japanese whose loyalty was questioned.

In addition, when the war broke out, Japanese and Nisei were encountering the zenith of anti-Asian and anti-Japanese propaganda built up over the years by labor unions, radio and newspapers. There were more than a few atrocities against Americans of Japanese ancestry. Murders, shootings, taunts, brutalizations, rejections, evictions, firings, hate posters and many other distressful acts.

There were a few friends, of course. Very few. Some may have supported us if the support would have jeopardized their own safety. But very few risked that. That's why the Chinese were what we called "rice cakes," round brimless hats with "I am Chinese" printed for identification. They didn't want to be brutalized. Those who weren't might assume that the police would have protected us. Well, we really couldn't rely on them either.

Anti-JA and anti-Asian sentiment were propagated by all newspapers. Even though the propaganda was usually baseless, it increased genuine hatred for both Chinese and Japanese before the 1920s. After the 1930s, anti-Japanese sentiment got worse because of the Panay incident and the U.S. government's anti-Japanese policies.

In the relocation centers, propaganda by pro-Japan elements riled up anti-JACL statements. They stirred the crowd to a frenzy to the extent that several JACLers were beaten up. Some JACLers were hidden from the populace for their own protection. I found Dr. (Thomas) Yatabe, one of JACL's original leaders, isolated in one of Jerome's hospital ward. (I wonder if some pro-Japan people thought Japan would be victorious?)

The propaganda such as "JACL initiated the uprooting" or that "JACL caused all the loss to be incurred" was unbelievable to most of us. The pro-Japan agitators were rioting with those statements. And they were vocally against the Army volunteers. Their acts and statements are despicable.

Now when I view "Rabbit in the Moon," those are the words and sentiments that seem to be hinted by the narrators. I wonder if some who helped make "Rabbit in the Moon" were members of the radical agitator group or their sympathizers.

Purely on the basis of constitutional principle, I cannot disagree with the actions taken by the resisters on the draft, although, in retrospect, the move seems not to have fit a long-range plan. But their demand for an apology for what seems to be sourced from an unacceptable origin has been and should be rejected. If you lived through those years, you would have known. If you didn't live through those years, may I inform you that a small minority of activists, who thought Japanese victory would permit, brutalized JACL leaders, using the same logic you revived.

Dr. Frank Nishida  
Fresno, Calif.

It's clear to me that a lot of old-timers are living in the past. I have a message for some of you:

To have any memories of camp, one would have to be almost 60 years of age. I'm not "that" old, and I'm pretty old! For one would like to see the JACL apologize to World War II draft resisters, not because I think the JACL was necessarily wrong—I don't know that and don't really care to know. The JACL has to reach out to include as much of the Japanese American population as it can, otherwise it will die with you old-timers. If you old-timers can't bring yourselves to do that, then do some damage control and quit spewing hate.

The JACL is in fact dying, which brings me to my other gripe. I can't understand these anti-Chinese American comments. This stuff is bizarre. I can't understand anyone in a position of responsibility writing this garbage. I will not continue to be a member of this organization if this sort of thing continues.

Randy Shingai  
West Valley JACL  
via e-mail

Today I write in memory of Michi Weglyn who had worked so hard for all Japanese Americans. Beginning years before "Years of Infamy" published in 1976, Michi continued unrelenting research for answers to all the unconstitutional actions against JA and Peruvian citizens and their families before and during World War II.

In her last letter I received on Oct. 19, 1988, Michi asked I keep writing "those excellent letters to the editors" relative to the JA draft resisters and JACL. Having seen the many articles on the draft resisters issue recently in more newspapers, especially the one in the *Wall Street Journal* and the many in the *San Jose Mercury*, I am encouraged to write again. A very close friend of Michi, Sachiko Seko, wrote in P.C. (August 1988) the excellent article "A Time to Heal the Nisei Psyche." Eleven years later, the need for healing remains.

Having my soybean research project abruptly terminated a few years ago, I took early retirement to research WWII and the subsequent mass internment of JAs. In the process, I learned from documents obtained from Michi that in 1941, Americans were not interested in becoming involved in another war as was taking place in Europe again. The lesson was, World War I, primarily a war only in Europe, resulted in the great loss of lives more than any other case.

Recorded in the congressional records of 1942, Congresswoman Jeanette Rankin of Montana provided answers and reasons for her vote against entering the war after Pearl Harbor. Rankin cited the book "Propaganda In The Next War" by Sidney Rogerson, published in England in 1938. A book immediately outlawed for export.

I can still remember the embargo placed upon Japan before Pearl Harbor when my family lived in California and I was in high school. The following year the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred, whereupon my father was apprehended along with a number of local community leaders by the FBI. Shortly thereafter the curfews were instituted and bank accounts frozen. Evacuation followed just before the first crop of the year was ready for harvest.

After internment, it was hundreds of draft resisters of conscience who put their foot down to protest the drafting from the camp. All the cases were ultimately resolved through the judicial process. Redress and apologies by the government likewise are history. Yet, today, there remains a long nagging issue between the draft resisters and JACL simply because each group thought and did what they thought best. As one individual, I decided and did what was best under the circumstances.

My book continues to be worked upon.

Therefore, just as I was encouraged by Michi Weglyn to continue writing to help resolve the nagging draft resister-JACL issue, I encourage others to do the same, especially to the newer generation. Our letters and votes will make possible obtaining an objective resolution for ending the long nagging issue from a war 55 years ago.

Hideo Tachibana  
Ames, Iowa

## Chin Needs to Stop Whining

I was born in 1958 long after WWII. I grew up in a desert and don't remember it being hot (I have had fried my brain), and I have the same ability as Mr. Chin to make a loud whining noise.

I grew up with a 70 percent majority of Latinos in the middle of the sticks, owned and controlled by a handful of Caucasians and excluded Buddhist JAs (I was a Protestant). This feeling of outsidership affects my emotional state today. Like the relocated JAs, this empowers me to exorcise and excel.

If mistakes were made by the JA leadership after the Pearl Harbor bombing, they should be forgiven. I am sure Mr. Chin with his perfect recollection of those times never personally experienced him or his criticism that could have influenced his emotional state and decision making. I am also sure Mr. Chin's literary participation in his tiny arena could have made all the difference.

As Asian Americans we have far more in common with each other than we have differences. We should be trying to make a difference with community, public, and real world participation rather than opening our big mouths and trying to irritate and antagonize our Asian brethren. For our elders, you are charged with the responsibility of setting an example for how we should conduct ourselves. This discussion of redress or whether we are no/no's, yes/yes's is a tremendous waste of time, and effort, and far beyond its time. It is time to assimilate to the second millennium and end arguments which have little bearing on our present and less influence on the future of Asians and the rest of the world in general.

It is time to refocus on those things that will impact our present and future. The past is the past. I ask the war generation to get out of high school and start behaving like the elders we would like to respect. (This does not apply to the distinguished who have made no noise on the subject). It is time to show forgiveness, a little dignity, and the spirit of unity.

Russell Kitchana  
via email

## Pacific Citizen

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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 advice, 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 abridgment. 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.

Fukudome, Satoru, 67, Walnut, Sept. 30; Kagoshima-born; survived by wife Hatsue; son Andy and wife Sandy; daughter Satomi Ike and husband Darin, 1 g.c.; brothers Satochi and wife Tatsuko, Hironobu, Hiroyuki and wife Takako sister Ruri Kawabata and husband Michio; (all Japan).

Fukuyama, Kiyoji Kray, 96, Torrance, Sept. 25; Fukuoka-born; survived by wife Tomiyu; son Robert and wife Van; daughter Yoko Okamura and husband Nobuo; 2 g.c.

Ide, Jayne Tsuruko, 66, Carson, Oct. 2; Delano-born; survived by son Bruce; daughter Jill Kawana and husband Jeff; 1 g.c.; brothers Howard Inamura, Bob; Inamura; sisters Ellen Inamura, Reiko Lewis, Sumi Yasuda.

Iwata, Akiko, 88, Alexandria, Va. Sept. 27; former government librarian.

Kondo, Bill Masami, 80, North Hollywood, Oct. 2; Los Angeles-born; survived by wife Shinobu; daughters Kathy Keiko Oyadomari and husband Takashi, Miyeko Kusunoki and husband Shigeo; 4 g.c.; 1 g.c.; sister Jitsuko Tozaki and husband Yoshito; sister-in-law Yukie Kawashima.

Kudow, Alice, 74, Rosemead, Oct. 4; San Jose-born; survived by husband Yukio; daughters Dianne Odagawa and husband Richard, Cindy Nakamura and husband Makoto Henry; 4 g.c.; brothers Jun Tanizawa and wife Dorothy, Kazuo Tanizawa and wife Mitsue; sister Joanne Nakamura and husband Ron; brothers-in-law Tokiji Nagaiishi, Isao Kudow; sister-in-law Asako.

Masaki, Percy Takeshi, 89, Sacramento, Sept. 23; Sacramento-born; Sacramento JACL chapter president in 1965; survived by wife Gladys Toyoko; sons Dr. Setso and wife Karen, Harry and wife Elaine (Hawaii); daughter Colleen Matsumoto and husband Alan; 7 g.c., 1 g.c.

Matsukawa, Yoshiko, 81, Los Angeles, Oct. 6; survived by sons Roy S. and wife Norven M., Warren Y.; 2 g.c.; brother John Ichimura and wife Mineko.

Nomura, Neal Junichi, 90, Los Angeles, Sept. 20; Hawaii-born; survived by sister Ruth Suyu (Hawaii); niece Grace Yasuko Mitsui and husband Nick; stepdaughters Juli Funn, Jane Funn and husband Richard Maruoka, Christine Masazumi and husband Bobby; stepson Herbert; 2 step-g.

Obata, Mary Masako, 88, Cleveland, Ohio, Sept. 25; Oakland-born; resided in Vacaville, Gila River interior; survived by sister Grace Amemiya and husband Minoru (Ames, Iowa); predeceased by brothers George, Jiro, Theodore, Benjamin.

Seki, Midori, 79, Cerritos, Sept. 24; Seattle-born; survived by daughters Pat Mori and husband Richard, Joyce, June Yamada and husband Danny; Janet Watanabe and husband Jeff; 4 g.c.

Tanaka, Robert Michio, 67, Torrance, Oct. 4; Sacramento-born; survived by mother Helen; brother Donald and wife Amy; sisters Nancy Amundsen (Anaheim Hills), Mariene Tapp and husband Thomas.

Tokunaga, Chiyoiko, 84, Los Angeles, Oct. 4; Hiroshima-born; former professor of Kobe Women's College in Japan, professor of Genetics for 30 years at UC Berkeley; survived by brothers Yukio, Masao; sisters Akiko Masuda, Kimiko Katsuda, Hiroko Fuse (all Japan).

Thorne, Edward Hideo, 85, Los Angeles, Sept. 1; Los Angeles-born; survived by sons Dr. Gene Sadao Thorne, Dr. Michael Muneo

Thorne; daughter Harumi Barron and husband Dario; 6 g.c., 9 g.c.; sister Ayako Kazahaya; brother-in-law Joe Cassi (Seattle).

Yamada, Ben G., 76, Long Beach, Sept. 30; Portland, Ore.-born; survived by wife Tomi; son Ryan and wife Diane; daughter Barbara Komatsu and husband Dennis; 2 g.c.; brother Fred and wife Mary.

Yamanaka, Sumiye, 97, North Hollywood, Oct. 5; Tottori-born; survived by son Taka Tom; daughter Kuniko Shibuya and husband Daniel; 6 g.c., 1 g.c.

Yamasaki, Shigeo, 79, Westminster, Sept. 29; Shinjuku-born; survived by wife Emiko; son Steve Hideo and wife Keiko; daughter Nancy Kazuko; 2 g.c.

Yamashita, Kikue, 64, Roseville, Ark., Sept. 16; Kagoshima-born; owner of Isubaki Restaurant of Hot Springs, Ark.; survived by sons Kiyomi, Tsunemi, daughters Nayuta, Yumi Maruoka.

Yukihiko, Masatoshi Mac, 86, Westminster, Oct. 4; Montebello-born; survived by wife Toshiko; daughters Eleanor Uyeda and husband Thomas, Jean Uyeda and husband Larry; 3 g.c.; brothers George and wife Mitsuko, Bill and wife Ayako; sisters Yukino Eito and husband Warren (Corvallis, Ore.), Matsuye Mori, Akino Kanegae and husband Henry, Sumie Inemasa (Stockton); sister-in-law Carrie Yukihiko, Shizuko Watari; brothers-in-law Joe Naritoku and wife Sue, Ted Naritoku and wife Haruko, George Naritoku (Illinois). ■

## DEATH NOTICE

**HENRY F. KATO**  
SEABROOK, N.J.—Henry Kato, 66, passed away September 17. Was a member of the Seabrook chapter of the JACL. Kato is survived by his wife Tsung, daughter Gen Ann Motell of Shiloh and Kris Fortune of Branchburg, N.J., sons Mitchell of Lindenwood, sisters Ann Nitta of Boca Raton, Fla., and Kiyomi Makai of Hatfield, Penn.; brothers Akira of Panama, Calif., and Kenji of Nagasack, Tex. and six grandchildren.

## DEATH NOTICE

**GEORGE NARUO**  
SAN LEANDRO, Calif.—George Naruo, 84, Berkeley born passed away September 22. He is survived by his wife Kikue, daughters Wendy Naruo of Ben Lomond, Gail Purrell (James) of Sonoma; grandchildren Shannan, Erin, and Matthew Purrell; brothers Taka (Shima) of Oakley, Roy (Ruth) of Castro Valley, and Willy (Mickie) of Castro Valley; sisters Mary Mrs. of Castro Valley, Ruth Hara (George) of Hayward; eleven nieces, eighteen nephews, numerous grandnieces and grandnephews. Preceded in death by brother Robert and his wife Michi of Montebello and brothers-in-law George Mura of Castro Valley and Tame Saito of Hayward. A family memorial service was held on October 2 at the Chapel of the Chimes in Hayward.

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## ADOPTION

(Continued from page 1)

Jean found Dorothy's maiden name on the petition for adoption that her birth mom originally filed. After doing research at the public library, she consulted the Cook County Department of Supportive Services where she found non-identifying information, such as where her birth parents were from.

Jean's detective work eventually resulted in the discovery that Dorothy lived in the same Chicago vicinity.

After talking on the phone, they agreed to meet in a local hotel lobby, where Jean remembers feeling both nervous and excited. "It was a big relief," she said. "I finally saw who I looked like."

"It was amazing that we recognized each other," added Dorothy, 63, who chose not to use her last name. "You always picture what your child looks like."

Though initially she didn't know what to say, it was a moment that she would later realize "opened a part of my life that has made it more complete." As a mother, she said, "I felt that now I know where all my kids are."

Indeed, meeting with her birth mother soon led Jean to meet other members of her birth family, including four half brothers who, Dorothy said, have welcomed her with open arms.

Jean was also able to find out details about her birth history, including the fact that her birth father, Bill, was married to someone else at the time he'd formed a relationship with Dorothy, a fact Dorothy herself had not known at the time.

Although Jean recently made an indirect attempt, no direct contact has yet been made with her birth father.

Still, she said, "Finding out the circumstances behind the adoption helped me to heal, because, I mean, you always wonder, 'Why?'"

Dorothy was largely able to answer that question for her, mentioning that during the 1960s when she became pregnant at the age of 26, it would have been difficult to financially support a child as a single woman. "Being on my own, trying to make it, I could not have been able to give the child what I would have wanted," she said.

The other main consideration was her family. "My father was very traditional and I thought it would've brought much shame. Or I thought that maybe she [Jean] wouldn't be accepted."

It wasn't until years later, soon after she had reunited with her birth daughter, that Dorothy went back to her native Honolulu for a class reunion and revealed to her mother and sister that she had had and given up a child.

My mother was shocked, she said. Although her father had since died, Dorothy tearfully described how her mother assured her that had he known, he would have indeed accepted the child. "He always wanted to have a grand-daughter," Dorothy said, "and I couldn't tell him that he had one. He never saw her."

"Like most mothers who give up their children, it was something I never forgot," she said. There were times after I had given her up, when it would've been nice to see her, she added, not to interfere with her parents parenting her but just to see her.

"I'm thankful that her parents raised her well," she said. The mother-daughter relationship we have is different, but I'm glad that it happened."

Dorothy and her husband recently moved from Chicago to Las Ve-

gas, but she still keeps in touch on a regular basis with Jean, who today is working as a stay-at-home mom, married with three daughters.

Maria found some letters one day written in Japanese which had been hidden from her by her parents. They were from her birth mother, who, she found out, had fallen under financial hardship and wrote quite frequently asking for money.



Maria Turnmeyer

In her 20s, Maria too sought out more information about her birth family, learning that she had an older biological sister in Japan and that her birth father, also in Japan, committed suicide. Her attempts to contact her birth mother by letter, however, went unanswered.

Growing up, Maria struggled with issues of not knowing her background, which translated into difficulties with how she viewed herself within her family.

For one, she said, "My father was socially American, so white, and then to look in the mirror and realize that I didn't look like him, that was hard. It was a constant reminder to me that I was adopted."

That was compounded by verbal reminders from her mother, whom Maria felt often overcompensated in the attempt to provide an explanation for her adoption. She also suspected at times that her mother harbored a bias because she was not her biological child. "I wished at some point she could have dropped the whole adoption issue," Maria said. "When I was younger that really hurt."

Her grandparents and extended family on her father's side did nothing to help. They were opposed to her parents' interracial marriage,

and she was aware that they did not accept her.

Both tacit and explicit reminders that she was different, that she didn't quite fit in, even in her own family, caused her to eventually rebel, in one sense, against her own ethnicity. At one point in her youth, Maria said, she refused to speak any more Japanese, which caused her to lose the language.

She admitted too that "until I was about 24 or 25, I really associated with white America. Even today, for me to say that I'm Japanese American is a joke because in many ways I don't know anything about my culture. It's sort of funny in a sad way."

Jean, on the other hand, said she felt lucky to have Nisei parents whose experiences with racism during World War II helped to shape her identity as an adult.

"My parents wanted to make sure we were American first, but I'm proud of my Japanese American heritage especially when I think of what my parents went through," she acknowledged. Like other JAs, her mother's family lost a grocery store prior to their incarceration, and her dad served as a member of the 442nd RCT.

"I've always thought I have the best of both worlds. I have my own family and a wonderful extended family. It's made my life much richer," Jean said, careful to point out that her mom and dad will always be her mom and dad, while Dorothy is her birth mom. That's why I call her Dorothy, she said.

Jean was also quick to stress that although she has basically had a positive experience, she realizes it doesn't always work that way for everyone.

For Maria, the strained relationship she'd had with her mother for years seems to be on the mend, partly due to Maria's maturity and, unfortunately, partly due to tragic circumstances. Six years ago, her father passed away which was an especially hard blow for her brother, who fell into a depression and then attempted suicide.

"I went through a lot of ups and downs with my mother. I always accused her that, 'You don't love me

as much as you love my brother,' she remembers saying. 'I was always jealous of him because he was treated better. ... but I don't blame her anymore.'"

"She came to depend on me," Maria explained, recalling her mother's reaction to her asking about her birth family. "I think she got scared that she would lose me [at that point]. She did feel threatened, which thankfully made me think."

Maria also attributes this growing understanding to what her own daughter, now almost 15-year old, has taught her. "Everything I do, I see in my child and her in me. I realized it was important to know who you look like, where your personality comes from," she said.

Since she gave birth to her own daughter, Maria said she understands much better the bond that perhaps wasn't as strong between her and her mother because it wasn't biological. Even so, she expresses an incredible resolve to help hold her family together despite hard times and has reconciled within herself some of the old wounds.

"It's something I still struggle with," she said, "probably even more now that I'm an adult because I know more."

And yet, she said, "Even now, I don't [fully] know who I am. My birth mother could walk right past me in the street and I wouldn't know her. It stings to think that somewhere I have this whole history."

For the time being, searching for that history is on the backburner. First, Maria said, she is intent upon finishing school, getting her bachelor's degree in English from the California State University, Northridge, and perhaps eventually going on to get her doctorate. She also plans to pursue more writing.

She is determined to go back one day, however, and make a more concerted effort to look up and contact her birth mother, who is still living in Japan. A lot of it has to do with the right timing. In fact, she said, "I don't think I can die without knowing more or as much as I can about my [birth family] as I can. I feel I owe myself that."

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DISCOVER KYUSHU (11 days) ..... NOV 1

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JAPAN SPRING ADVENTURE (Tatsumaki Festival, 11 days) ..... APR 11  
FRENCH IMPRESSIONS (11 days) ..... MAY 22  
CANADIAN ROCKIES / MONTANA (8 days) ..... JUNE 14  
TAUCK NOVA SCOTIA (8 days) ..... JULY  
GRAND PRINCESS MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE (14 days) ..... SEPT 8  
TENNESSEE / BRANSON / KENTUCKY (Ship Tauck Show, 9 days) ..... SEPT 23  
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(CST No. 1019309-10)  
TOURS FOR 1999

10/23-11/5 Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan \$4,900  
12/2-12/7 Yamato Branson Christmas Tour \$1,299  
12/20-12/27 Delta Queen Steamboat Christmas Cruise  
Memphis to New Orleans (Aboard the Mississippi Queen) From 1,345

Rates are per person, based upon double occupancy

## PROPOSED TOURS FOR 2000

3/10-3/19 Maupintour's Ancient Egypt Tour  
3/25-4/5 TBI's Island Sea of Japan Tour  
3/30-4/12 Yamato Deluxe Spring Tour to Japan  
4/6-4/11 Fitzgerald Washington D.C. & Maryland, Cherry Blossom Tour  
4/30-5/11 Panama Canal cruise aboard the Dawn Princess  
May or April Tour to Costa Rica  
5/15-5/21 Mayflower Tours Mackinac Magic and Tulip Festival  
5/25-5/28 Alaskan Cruise aboard the Ocean Princess  
6/2-7/2 Disney Cruise Vacation  
7/1-7/8 7-Day Venice to Rome Cruise aboard Windstar  
7/7-7/14 3 Nights London and 3 Nights Paris  
7/23-8/3 12-Day Barcelona to Istanbul Cruise aboard the Grand Princess  
Aug. Fitzgerald Canadian Rockies  
Fitzgerald Albuquerque Balloon Festival & Cariboo Covers  
10/9-10/20 Yamato Exclusive Fall Foliage and East Coast Tour  
10/21-10/28 7-Day Tahiti Cruise aboard the Radisson  
Seven Seas Paul Gauguin  
12/23-11/5 Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan  
Yamato San Antonio Christmas and New Orleans Tour

Yamato Travel Bureau continues to be a full service travel agency. This means we sell all phases of leisure and corporate travel: airline tickets, hotels, accommodations, car rental, tours, cruises, rail passes, etc. We also have discounted airfares to certain destinations. Please call on our experienced travel consultants for your travel and tour arrangements.

For more information, please call Yamato Travel Bureau®, at (213) 680-0333, or outside of the local area, toll free at (800) 334-4882.

**YAMATO TRAVEL BUREAU®**  
200 South San Pedro Street, Suite 502  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Los Angeles  
Japanese Casualty  
Insurance Assn.COMPLETE INSURANCE  
PROTECTION

Alhara Insurance Agency, Inc.  
250 E. 1st St., Los Angeles 90012  
Suite 700 (213) 626-9625

Funakoshi-Ho Ins. Services, Inc.  
99 S. Lake Ave., Pasadena 91101  
Suite 300 (626) 795-7059

Ota Insurance Agency, Inc.  
35 N. Lake Ave., Pasadena 91101  
Suite 250 (626) 795-6205

Kagawa Insurance Agency, Inc.  
420 E. Third St., Los Angeles 90013  
Suite 901 (213) 628-1800

J. Morrey Company, Inc.  
One Centerpointe Drive, La Palma 90623  
Suite 280 (714) 562-5910

Opino-Alzumi Insurance Agency  
1618 W. Beverly Bl., Montebello 90640  
Suite 210 (323) 728-7488

Iso-Tsunehiko Ins. Agency, Inc.  
250 E. 1st St., Los Angeles 90012  
Suite 1005 (213) 628-1365

Sato Insurance Agency  
250 E. 1st St., Los Angeles 90012  
Suite 700 (213) 680-4190

T. Roy Inami & Associates  
Iso-Quailty Int'l. Service, Inc.  
241 E. Pomona Blvd., Monterey Park 91754  
(323) 727-7755

Charles H. Kamaya & Sons, Inc.  
Kenneth H. Kamaya Ins.  
373 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco 94101  
Suite 200 (415) 761-2066

Frank M. Inami Insurance  
121 N. Woodburn Drive, Los Angeles 90049  
(323) 879-2184

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121 N. Woodburn Drive, Los Angeles 90049  
(323) 879-2184

KOKUSAI-PACIFICA  
1999 TOURS

DEC 1 - Sayonara "Branson Xmas-5-Day-10 Meals - 7 Shows "Shoji & Miki"

## 2000 - 2000 - 2000

Mar 16 Japan Millennium Special - 9-Day - 17 Meals - \$2295 - Tokyo, Kamakura, Biwa, Okayama, Aki, Takahashi, Tanano & Kyoto.

Mar 27 Spring Cherry Blossom - 11-Day - 23 Meals - \$2995 - Tokyo, Takayama, Nara, Hiroshima, Tsuwano, Inland Sea, Shodo Isle & Kyoto.

Apr 5 Nishi-Nihon Onsen Kanko - 9-Day, 20 Meals - \$2695 - Osaka, Shirahama, Takahashi, Nagato, Tamatsukuri, Yumoto & Kobe.

Apr 17 Japan by Train - 11-Day - 25 Meals - \$3495 - Bitchu-Takahashi, Nagato, Hirado, Karatsu, Kobe, Atsumi Onsen, Hiroaki & Tokyo.

May 1 Spring Europe Classic - 12-Day - 22 Meals - \$3295 - London, Paris, Lucerne, Venice, Florence & Rome.

May 19 Australia & New Zealand - 16-Day - 29 Meals - \$3795 - Melbourne, Cairns, Great Barrier Reef & Sydney, Australia - Christchurch, Queenstown, Milford Sound, Mt. Cook, Rotorua & Auckland NZ.

Jun 6 America Once More - 10-Day - 18 Meals - \$1295 - Manzanar, Yosemite, Reno, Twin Falls, Minidoka, Yellowstone, Heart Mt., Jackson, Grand Teton, Salt Lake, Topaz, Bryce, Zion & Vegas.

Jun 17 Hawaiian Island Cruise - 8-Day All Meals - from \$2295. Early Bird Apply by Dec 10 and SAVE \$300 per person - 4 Islands.

Jul 15 Alaska Cruise - 8-Day - All Meals - from \$2095.

Aug 10 Classic Scandinavia - 12-Day - 20 Meals - \$3495 - Copenhagen, Denmark - Bergen, Stavheim, Fjords, Loe, Lillehammer & Oslo, Norway - Stockholm, Sweden.

Sep 1 South Africa - 16-Day - 29 Meals - \$5950 - Via Rio de Janeiro to Johannesburg, Kruger National Park, Timbavati Reserve, Capetown Victoria Falls and return via Sao Paulo.

Sep 23 New England/Canada Foliage Cruise - 12-Day All meal from \$2458

Oct 2 Japan Fall Classic - 11-Day - 23 Meals - \$3095.

Oct 9 Hokkaido & Tohoku - 11-Day - 24 Meals - \$3595.

Oct 11 Utah "Yellowstone of Japan" - 11-Day - 25 Meals - \$3595.

Nov 9 Okinawa, Kyushu & Shikoku - 12-Day - 27 Meals - \$3495.

Nov 24 Orient Deluxe "Viet Nam Cruise" - 15-Day - 29 Meals - \$3495.

"Early bird savings - call for brochure"

INCLUDES: flights, hotels, sightseeing & MOST MEALS.

## KOKUSAI INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, INC.

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