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Oct. 22-28, 1999

## Amid Dispersal and Intermarriage, S. F.'s Japantown a Fading Memory

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO—Sam Seiki isn't quiet anymore. And he wants to hear his old neighborhood humming again.

In 1942, just barely a man, Seiki left his Japantown home, lugging everything he could carry onto a bus that took him and thousands of other Japanese Americans to internment camps during World War II.

The evacuation dealt the bustling Japantown a blow from which it never quite recovered. Now, some want to revitalize the four-block area that at its height was an enterprising, 30-block ghetto.

"We got talked into a lot of things we didn't want," said Seiki, 76. "If the government said go, we went. We were forced into it. ... We aren't boisterous people so we didn't dissent."

Now, he said, "We're Americanized, we find out we got to stand up for our rights. We want to bring back Japantown."

The forced internment of 110,000 JAs left many residents unable to reclaim their homes be-

homes were torn down in the post-war redevelopment boom of the 1960s and '70s.

Psychologically, internment shattered the community, leaving many JAs wary of demonstrating any sense of cohesiveness and with a desire to assimilate. Many moved into other San Francisco neighborhoods or out of the city altogether and more are marrying non-Japanese statistics show.

"Clustering in the ethnic enclave made people seem un-American or suspicious," said Lane Hirabayashi, a professor of ethnic studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

"This stigma echoed down to the third and fourth generation folks," Hirabayashi said. "It's difficult to quantify but something we have to



1974—San Francisco's Japantown celebrates its annual Cherry Blossom Festival in front of the Peace Plaza of the Japan Center.

cause discriminatory laws never allowed them to actually own them, forcing their American-born friends and children to act as surrogate buyers. Many of those

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## JACL Announces Scholarship Program

SAN FRANCISCO—The national JACL is now taking applications for the 2000 National JACL Scholarship and Awards Program.

Interested students should send a brief letter requesting an application form along with a self-addressed, stamped #10 envelope. The letter should indicate the class level the student will be entering, major, and choice of the following application forms: Entering Freshman (High School Senior), Undergraduate, Graduate, Law, Creative and Performing Arts, and Financial Aid.

Applicants should also indicate if they are already a JACL member. Students not a member of JACL may make application for membership at the time they submit their application. Applicants should allow at least three weeks for processing and mail time for applications.

For applications, write to: JACL Scholarship Program, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115 or contact the nearest JACL district office. Applications are also available on our Web site: [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org).

The following are deadlines for requesting application forms and

submitting applications:

• Requesting Application Forms: Entering Freshman—Feb. 21, 2000  
All other applicants—March 21, 2000

• Submitting Applications: Entering Freshman—postmarked March 1, 2000  
All other applicants—postmarked April 3, 2000

The JACL began its National Scholarship and Awards Program in 1946. The organization recognized that education is the key to greater opportunities for future generations of the Nikkei community. Now in its 53rd year, the JACL National Scholarship and Awards Program currently offers more than 40 annual scholarships totaling over \$75,000. The scholarship program offers awards to students at all levels of study, and in amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

Individuals interested in creating a scholarship or donating to the JACL scholarship endowment should contact Donna Okubo, national headquarters, 415/921-5225, or via e-mail at [jacl@jacl.org](mailto:jacl@jacl.org).

1999 Scholarships See Pages 4-5

## Villaraigosa Appoints Oh to the State Bar Commission on Access to Justice

SACRAMENTO—Assembly Speaker Antonio R. Villaraigosa (D-Long Beach) has appointed Angela E. Oh to the State Bar Commission on Access to Justice.

Oh, a trial attorney and writer, lectures publicly on a wide spectrum of issues related to race, diversity and American culture. She currently serves as a commissioner on the Los Angeles City Human Relations Commission. She is a trustee or board member for several organizations, including the Asian Pacific Americans Leadership Institute, the Western Career Foundation, the Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company and the partnership of Merrill Lynch. In June of 1997, Oh was appointed by President Clinton to serve on the President's Initiative on Race.

"Ms. Oh's varied and vast experience in racial and equal access issues will serve this commission extremely well," said Villaraigosa. "Her perspectives and perceptions will contribute greatly to the overall goals of the commission to ensure equal access to justice for the disadvantaged."

The commission studies, evaluates and comments on increased funding for civil legal services and on new methods of achieving equal access to justice for the poor. It also implements the findings and recommendations contained in the Report of the Access to the Justice Working Group.

There are 21 members on the commission, of which the governor appoints two and the State Bar of California appoints 10. The following entities each appoint one member: the Senate president pro tempore, the assembly speaker, the judicial council, the California Judges Association, the California Chamber of Commerce, the California League of Women Voters, the California Labor Council, the Council of Churches and the Consumer Attorneys of California.

## Judge Hears Arguments in N.Y. Denny's Discrimination Lawsuit

By TRACY UBA

Written Reporter

U.S. Judge Frederick J. Scullion Jr. heard arguments Oct. 8 from attorneys representing opposing parties in the Syracuse, N.Y., Denny's lawsuit filed last August by a group of Asian American and African American students who accused the restaurant of discrimination and retaliation.

The hearing was held in the U.S. District Court in Auburn, N.Y., where John J.P. Howley, co-counsel for the AA plaintiffs and a partner at international law firm Kaye, Scholer, Fierman, Hays & Handler LLP, argued that there was substantial evidence showing that the AA students were left waiting for a table while others were seated ahead of them in the Aug. 11, 1997, incident.

When the students complained, they claimed they were removed from the restaurant by two security guards, who were off-duty Onondaga County deputy sheriffs, and then were physically assaulted in the parking lot by several white patrons while the armed guards did nothing to stop it.

Three of the plaintiffs attended the hearing, including Yoshika Kusada, Takko Tatenami and Derick Tatem.

What's impressing about this case, said Howley, is that most companies are willing to take a step back once a problem is brought to their attention and are interested in trying to remedy it.

"In this case, Denny's is showing that they don't care about fix-

ing the problem," he said. "But I think the judge asked the right questions [during the hearing] and in the end caught Denny's in a lie."

Added Elizabeth OuYang, staff attorney for co-counsel Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), "We feel that we demonstrated to the judge that there are facts that Denny's had sufficient control over this franchise and that the county did nothing to ensure that the deputy sheriffs had received training required under the law."

Meanwhile, attorneys for the defendants, Denny's, Inc., franchise owner NDI Foods, Inc. and the County of Onondaga, argued for a summary judgment to have the lawsuit dismissed. Denny's has said that it is not responsible for the alleged incident of discrimination that occurred in its franchise restaurant and that there is no basis for the claims of discrimination and retaliation.

*Pacific Citizen* was unable to reach Denny's by press time.

Howley argued that Denny's was responsible, however, for making sure that its employees attend requisite non-discrimination training. He cited the fact that while Denny's is supposed to conduct regular inspections to monitor whether its franchisees are complying with their operating manual, the records for those inspections have been "lost."

"Mr. Howley mentioned that inspection documents that Denny's keeps are missing and that's critical," said OuYang.

See DENNY'S / page 8

## APA Political Muscle Increases With Population Growth

WASHINGTON.—The Democratic National Committee (DNC) has released information illustrating how Asian Pacific Americans are one of the fastest growing demographic groups in the country.

Congressional districts with an APA population of more than five percent have increased from 63 districts in 1990 to 96 districts in 2000.

In certain states such as New Jersey, the number of congressional districts with an APA population of five percent or more has grown from one district to eight, the DNC reported.

"The Asian vote will become increasingly critical in the upcoming elections in 2000 and beyond," said Rep. Robert Underwood (D-Guam), Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus chair. "The number of Asian Pacific Americans will continue to grow in the Democratic Party, and Democratic candidates will continue to reach out to those voters by focusing on the issues that matter most to the Asian Pacific American community."

By the year 2000, at least 10 districts in California and Hawaii will have APA populations of anywhere between 20 to 60 percent, and for the first time, states like Minnesota, Oregon, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Georgia are showing burgeoning populations of APAs, according to the DNC.

"I have worked very closely with the Asian Pacific American community in my district and we have made great strides in addressing issues of concern," said DNC General Co-Chair Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-Calif.). "Our party has always been inclusive and it is important for the strength of our democracy that the Asian Pacific American community become more involved in the political process."

Projections for 2000, according to the DNC, show that there will be 41 congressional districts with an APA population of more than 10 percent.

The top 10 congressional districts with APA populations (projected by the DNC for the year 2000) included the following:

1. Hawaii's First Congressional District (69.93 percent)
2. Hawaii's Second Congressional District (61.27 percent)
3. California's 12th District (33.23 percent)
4. California's eighth District (33.10 percent)
5. California's 16th District (30.53 percent)
6. California's 13th District (27.54 percent)
7. California's 31st District (25.13 percent)
8. California's 30th District (23.77 percent)
9. California's Ninth District (21.74 percent)
10. California's Seventh District (21.14 percent)

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# Pacific Citizen

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## JACL Calendar

### Eastern

#### DISTRICT COUNCIL

Sat., Nov. 6—Quarterly Meeting: at Seabrook Senior Center, Info: Lillian Kimura, 973/680-1441.

#### 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

#### CLEVELAND

Sat., Nov. 6—Annual Chapter Holiday Fair: see Community Calendar.

#### DETROIT

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

### Pacific Northwest

#### SEATTLE

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

### NC-WN-Pacific

## COMMUNITY Calendar

### East Coast

#### ATLANTA

Through Nov. 5—Exhibits, "America's Concentration Camps: Remembering the Japanese American Experience" and "Witness: Our Brothers' Keepers"; The William Brennan Jewish Heritage Museum, 1440 Spring St. NW; both exhibits developed by the Japanese American National Museum. Info., hours: 404/873-1661.

Nov. 4-6, 8-13—Exhibit, "Sachiko Torok: Hand-coiled Bizen Pottery"; The Nippon Gallery, 145 W. 57th St. Info: Asian Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS (AICHA), 212/620-9487.

#### 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

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

Sat., Nov. 6—Annual Chapter Holiday Fair, 3-5 p.m.; Euclid Central Middle School, 20701 Euclid Ave. near Chardon Rd.; admission free; food, bake sale, arts & crafts, Ikebana, raffle, door prizes, silent auction, Japanese songs, Shoji-Ji dancers, martial arts, etc. Info: Hazel Asamoto, 216/921-2976.

#### MINNEAPOLIS

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

### 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 Jan. 2—Exhibit, "Painted With Light: Pictorialism and the Seattle Camera Club"; Seattle Art Museum, 100 University St.; photos from the 1920s by mostly Japanese American photographers. Info, schedules: 206/654-3100.

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

### DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

#### FREMONT

Wed., Nov. 3—Dinner to honor Ted T. Inouye, 6:30 no-host cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner; Silver Dragon Restaurant, 835 Webster St., Oakland; co-sponsored by JASEB. RSVP by Oct. 27; JASEB, 510/648-3560.

#### 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 Anniversary Celebration. 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: CCDC office, 559/486-6815.

### Pacific Southwest

#### 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 Capers. 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.

### VENICE-CULVER

Wed., Nov. 3—Program, "The California partnership for Long-Term Care: A New alternative for Californians," 7-8:30 p.m.; Venice Japanese Community Center, 12448 Braddock Dr.; speakers, Sandra Pierce-Miller, Calif. Dept. of Health Services, and Alan T. Korido, Transamerica Financial Resources. RSVP by Oct. 29: Hitoshi Shimizu, 310/291-8628.

**DEADLINE for Calendar** is the Friday before date of issue, on a space-available basis.

Please provide the time and place of the event, and name and phone number (including area code) of a contact person.

## HOLIDAY ISSUE AD KITS ON THEIR WAY

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

### SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

Sun., Nov. 7—Nikkei Widowed Group monthly meeting, 1 p.m.; men and women are welcome. Info: Tetsu Ihara, 415/221-4568, Kay Yamamoto, 510/444-3911.

#### SAN JOSE

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

### Southern California

#### LOS ANGELES

Thurs., Oct. 28—Free play readings, 8 p.m.; Mark Tapar Forum; hosted by the Japanese American National Museum as part of the New Work Festival. Info: JANM, 213/625-0414.  
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.

Tues., Oct. 26—100th/442nd/MI5 WWII Memorial Foundation reception, "illuminate the Future Through Education," and tour of the Go For Broke monument, 6-9 p.m.; Japanese American National Museum Pavilion, Central and First St., Little Tokyo; featuring an overview of the foundation's education projects: Rob Fukuzaki, M.C. RSVP ASAP: 310/715-3143.  
Fri.-Sun., Oct. 29-31—Annual East-West Orchid Show, 10 a.m.-5 or 6 p.m.; New Otani Hotel and Garden. Info: Simone Friend, 714/593-4413, <www.orchidshow.org>.

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

Mon., Nov. 1—Visual Communications "Monday Nite VC," 7:30; Union Center for the Arts, 120 Judge John Aiso St., Little Tokyo. Free admission. Program Info: 213/680-4462 ext. 25, <http://viscom.apanet.org>.

Fri., Nov. 5—UCLA Asian American Studies Center 30th Anniversary Benefit: Dinner and Reunion, 5:30 reception/reunion, 7 p.m. dinner; Hotel Inter-Continental, 251 S. Olive; keynote speakers: Morgan Chu, M.C. Tricia Toyota, Info: Kathy Kim, 310/825-2628, e-mail: chibenedict.support@ucla.edu.

Fri.-Sat., Nov. 12-13—National Asian

Pacific American Bar Association (NA-PABA) annual convention; Bonaventure Hotel. Info: 213/437-4060.

Through December 15—Exhibit, "Pre Y2K Selected Works" by Yoshio C. Nakamura; Mountain View Memorial Gallery, 2300 N. Marengo Ave., Altadena. Info, exhibit hours: Alice Bell, 626/794-7133 ext. 272.

Sat., Nov. 6—Fall Frolic benefit dance; ESGV Japanese Community Center, 1203 W. Puente Ave., West Covina; two-step dance lessons at 7, dancing till 11 p.m. RSVP, Info: Barbara, 626/810-1509.

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.

### ORANGE COUNTY

Sun., Nov. 21—Program, "Japan and World War II: The Search for Justice," 12 noon-4 p.m.; Whittier Law School, 3333 Harbor Blvd., Costa Mesa; Teresa Watanabe, Los Angeles Times, moderator; free admission; presented by the Asian Pacific Islander Law Student Association and International Law Society of Whittier Law School. Info: Anna Lisa Bason, 800/808-8188 ext. 412, <www.law.whittier.edu>.

### RIVERSIDE

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

### SAN DIEGO

Sun., Dec. 21—Play, "False Impressions," by playwright Lisa Asanuma, age 13. Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park. Tickets, info: 619/239-8222.

### SANTA BARBARA

Sat., Nov. 6—Program, "Sports and 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-register: 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. Info: Mary Farrell, 520/670-4564, Pete Taylor, 520/670-4518.

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By Pacific Citizen Staff  
and Associated Press

## Defense Secretary Pledges to Investigate No Gun Ri Massacre

WASHINGTON—In an Oct. 8 letter written to South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, Defense Secretary William Cohen pledged to thoroughly investigate the alleged mass killing of civilian refugees by U.S. soldiers during the Korean War.

On Sept. 30, the Associated Press reported accounts of American veterans and South Korean villagers who said they witnessed U.S. soldiers kill up to 400 civilians at No Gun Ri early in the war.

A subsequent AP report said that in addition to the No Gun Ri incident in July 1950, Army officers in August ordered destruction of two strategic bridges as South Korean civilians streamed across. Hundreds were killed.

Shortly after the AP report was published, Cohen authorized Army Secretary Louis Caldera to initiate a formal investigation, which has not yet started. The South Korean government has begun its own probe.

Cohen said the Pentagon was "working intensively to define the process" to be used in the investigation. His goals were two-fold. "The first is a determination to find the truth no matter where it leads," he wrote. "The second is a commitment to work cooperatively with your government to ensure that no relevant information is overlooked and that you have complete confidence that the whole story has been told."

## Teen Who Impregnated Sister Will Be Deported

DETROIT—A Sterling Heights teenager who impregnated his 12-year-old sister will be deported to India following his release from jail, expected at the end of this year.

The unnamed teen was sentenced in February to three years' probation, six months in prison and six months on a tether for

fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct. He began serving his sentence in June after graduating from high school.

Immigration law requires deporting non-citizens who commit crimes that are considered "aggravated felonies" under federal statutes. He cannot return to the United States for at least 10 years, after which he must get a waiver to be re-admitted into the country, according to Carol Jenifer, director of the Michigan INS.

His sister's pregnancy sparked widespread debate when she was blocked by Macomb County officials from going to Kansas to have a late-term abortion, a procedure which Michigan does not allow. She was later allowed to make the trip and had the abortion 29 weeks into the pregnancy.

The family has told attorneys that they would return to India if their son was deported.

## Southeast Asians Recruited to Become Conservation Officers

ST. PAUL—Vutty Pril, 35, will soon become Minnesota's first Southeast Asian conservation officer and among the first in the country. His duties will include alleviating the communication gap between the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the state's growing Southeast Asian community.

DNR's citation records over the last decade show a high number of Cambodians, Laotians and Vietnamese committing violations, such as shooting guns in wildlife management areas, keeping too many fish or trespassing. Many were violations stemming from a language barrier and a survivalist mentality, cultural factors unrecognized by most conservation officers and one that has

led to frequent misunderstandings.

As a Cambodian who emigrated to Minnesota in 1983, Pril understands that cultural chasm. Besides holding a psychology degree, he spent five years at a social service agency before getting into law enforcement. After he completes field training in January, he will likely spend half his time in a classroom, teaching Southeast Asians about outdoor-related laws.

In 1997, Pril was one of four Southeast Asian applicants selected from a pool of 72 to go through the liaison program, funded by a \$250,000 two-year appropriation from the Legislature. The two primary criteria were being bilingual and being involved in the community.

The Minnesota State Patrol has started a similar program to recruit more women and minorities. Said State Patrol Maj. Dennis Lazenberry, "As long as people only see white males in those positions, that's who will continue applying."

## Boeing Accused of Racial Discrimination

SEATTLE—Nine current and former Asian American and Middle Eastern employees are suing Boeing, lodging racial discrimination complaints similar to those of black employees who recently settled for \$15 million in a lawsuit against the aerospace company.

The group, which includes Pakistani, Indian, Iranian and Vietnamese engineers and technicians, allege that Boeing denied them promotions, laid them off unfairly and failed to stop coworkers and supervisors from making racist remarks.

Boeing spokesman Peter Conte said the company had not seen the lawsuit, which was filed on

Oct. 13 in King County Superior Court, and could not comment specifically on it. "A company the size of Boeing is not immune to the improper actions of individuals," he said. "Boeing does not tolerate discrimination or intimidation. When allegations are substantiated, we take action."

Plaintiff Khalil Nouri, an Afghanistani native, said AAs fill 25 percent of the technical and engineering jobs at Boeing, yet 98 percent of the top two levels of those jobs are filled by white employees.

## Wasabi Farmer Banks on Green Heat

FLORENCE, Ore.—A former real estate developer turned entrepreneur, Roy Carver, will introduce a line of wasabi dressings, grown on his 52-acre wasabi farm, to 5,000 grocery stores nationwide this week.

He is the largest commercial producer of wasabi outside of Japan, using non-traditional technology, which has appalled some Japanese growers, and a sophisticated irrigation system that allows him to harvest once a week instead of once a year at a lower cost.

Wasabi's special growing conditions normally limit the quantity farmers can produce. In Japan, a large wasabi farm is about 11 acres; the plants grow above ground in a streambed where they thrive on nutrients and fast-moving ice water. The top Japanese growers are based on the mountainous Izu peninsula. Fresh wasabi fetches more than \$100 a pound in Japan and \$45 a pound in North America.

In 1991, Carver and a team of

scientists set out to recreate these conditions, after he asked a Japanese friend to collect critical crop information and then hired four independent interpreters to translate the books—giving each a different chapter so no one could capitalize on the data.

Instead of shipping his wasabi to Japan, where there is a supply shortage, he found a market among individuals and high-end restaurants in the United States.

## Cemetery Honors South Vietnamese Vets

WESTMINSTER, Calif.—About 150 people gathered at Westminster Memorial Park on Oct. 9, to dedicate the first U.S. cemetery for South Vietnamese veterans outside of Vietnam.

After the dedication, three graves were dug for an air force captain's wife, Nguyen Thi Giau who died at age 61 of ovarian cancer, and two lieutenants, Tran Nui Khanh, an engineer who died of a stroke in April at 67, and Ngo Anh Manh Tuan, an aerial photographer and former concentration camp prisoner who died at 46 due to a collapsed lung sustained from wartime injuries.

"Maybe, in a small way, we can turn these decades of warfare, strife and heartache into something positive for our homeland," said Nguyen's husband Dinh Xuan An. "The spirits at this special cemetery would want that."

Last year, the Coalition of Veterans Associations of the Republic of Vietnam in Southern California was formed and made plans for a cemetery. The coalition borrowed money and bought enough land for 300 graves. About 170 have been sold.

Since 1975, more than 8,000 South Vietnamese servicemen have settled in Southern California.

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# 1999 JACL Scholarship Winners

## Patricia and Gail Ishimoto Memorial Scholarship

**Dennis Sakai Wong**  
Fresno JACL  
U.C. Riverside  
Level of Study: Freshman  
Field of Study: Biomedical Science

### Biographical Information:

Dennis was accepted into the Riverside University Honors Program with a Regents Scholarship. This is a seven-year B.S./M.D. program that is affiliated with the



UCLA medical school. He was also a recipient of the Fresno JACL Hirasuna Scholarship and the Central California JACL Citizenship Award.

Dennis was a California Scholarship Federation life member, a member of the National Honor Society, and was one of 20 students in his school to graduate with Academic Distinction.

### Essay Excerpt:

My full name is Dennis Masao Sun-on Sakai Wong. My name represents my Japanese American and Chinese American heritage. My mother's grandparents immigrated from Japan. My great-grandmother was a "picture bride." I am a Yonsei. My grandfather and grandmother were interned at the Tule Lake and Topex concentration camps during World War II. My father's father was a "paper son" who immigrated from China. I was able to learn about the sufferings of my Japanese grandparents and the struggles of my Chinese grandparents. I realized the incredible amount of courage and resolve that my Japanese grandfather and his family had when they chose to keep their Japanese citizenship in the face of United States governmental pressures. I came to understand the hardship that my Chinese grandfather sustained at the hands of the unjust immigration process. I learned that despite all that happened to my grandparents and great-grandparents, they accepted their adversity with integrity and eventually triumphed over it.

## Masao & Sumako Itano Memorial Scholarship

**Kristin H. Mayeda**  
Orange County JACL  
Stanford  
Level of Study: Freshman  
Field of Study: Biology

### Biographical Information:

A former instructor commented: "Kristin's phenomenal academic achievements are evident but I would be remiss if I did not mention her admirable personality. She has always been extremely helpful to her classmates and maintains respect for her teacher. I can recall numerous (almost daily) occasions when classmates did not understand a problem and Kristin would either explain it to them or put up the solution for the entire class on the board. She works well in groups and takes the responsibility of helping others. Last year I assigned a project which involved programming a calculator. Not only did Kristin receive an A-plus for her creative program but she helped other students to debug their programs."



Everything I am I owe to the people who have touched my life over

### Essay Excerpt:

Everything I am I owe to the people who have touched my life over

## ENTERING FRESHMEN

the past four years. Although I alone am credited with my achievements, meaning in them cannot be separated from the people who affected me in the process. Basketball has been the greatest source of learning because of the personal interactions it encompasses. In the classroom, I could always rely on myself, but in basketball, I had to learn to trust my teammates. My team corrected my myopic view by teaching me appreciation for diverse experiences and perceptions. I am a truth-seeker, and I want to face the world in full.

## Masao & Sumako Itano Memorial Scholarship

**Michael Y. Quick**  
St. Louis JACL  
Rice University  
Level of Study: Freshman  
Field of Study: Natural Sciences

### Biographical Information:

Michael has played cello with his school symphony and plays with the Illiouri Cello Ensemble. His public service has been with Habitat for



Humanity, and he had done independent physics research with the Physics Department at Washington University. Additionally, he has displayed outstanding skills in speech and debate on the radio and in mock trial team competition.

### Essay Excerpt:

I am a friend. I am a brother. I am a son. I am memories, I am songs. I am a silent ripple in the pebble-pond of the old man's garden. I am the laughter and the endless howls of screaming *udon* around *Bo-chen's* table that warm us long in the winter nights. I am the head of the table drum upon which is beaten out the joys, the sorrows and the stories of my people. I have not forgotten. I will never forget. I am the crack of the baseball bat, and the sea of faces that lights up and follows — back, back, back, until it is gone. I am the sticky August days which hang lazily over the Mississippi. I am the October wind that paints the treetops and fields gold and amber. I am the shuffling of the midnight snow and the stopping of the kindling in the fireplace. I am the weeping clouds of April whose tears give new life to the earth. I am the music that dances with the pulse of these streets, the rhythm of our feet, the meter of our hearts. I am loved. I love. I am here. I am now. I am me. I am proud.

## Kenji Kasai Memorial Scholarship

**Jonathan Takahashi**  
Jonathan Takahashi  
Winconsin JACL  
Carleton College  
Level of Study: Freshman  
Field of Study: Biochemistry

### Biographical Information:

Jonathan has been president of the National Honor Society and very active in school activities while maintaining As in all his subjects for all four years of high school. He plays the piano, violin and saxophone, and has won numerous awards for his talent with the piano and saxophone.

### Essay Excerpt:

In addition to an understanding of my own cultural and ethnic identity, I have a true compassion for others of different cultures. The greatest contribution to this understanding comes from my frequent trips to Japan throughout my life. I have benefited immeasurably from

early exposure to two different cultures, both in my home and in Japan. Dealing with dissimilitude



has become a way of life for me, and this attitude applies to my interactions with other minority groups as well. I seem to identify with these others somehow, finding a common bond among differences. Since I have experienced the language barrier struggle firsthand, I sympathize with those who are learning English as their second language.

## Henry & Chio Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship

**Michael Oki**  
Sacramento JACL  
Emory University  
Level of Study: Freshman  
Field of Study: Business Administration

### Biographical Information:

Mike's high school counselor revealed: "He is a superb leader, a good athlete, a gifted speaker, an outstanding student and an active participant in school and community activities. Mike has a lot to offer not only as an excellent academic student and leader, but more importantly as a person. His individual conduct, integrity, reliability are above reproach. He is mature beyond his years."

### Essay excerpt:

I am a fifth-generation Japanese American, a Goel. There have been times in my life when I feel I have misplaced the Japanese culture inside me. It was hard to understand the old books, movies and papers explaining the events of World War



II. When I was mature enough to understand, my Grandpa took me to the premier showing of "Beyond Barbed Wire," a movie about Japanese Americans during WWII. I never knew the difficulties and obstacles that the soldiers and families had to overcome. The firsthand accounts of the soldiers and the emotions that they expressed would be difficult to convey in a book. I knew my grandparents went into the internment camps during the war, but I never completely understood what they faced behind the strands of barbed wire. My family's involvement in the Japanese American Citizens League made it possible for me to experience the movie. After watching the movie, I was inspired to learn more about Japanese American life during WW II.

## Henry & Chio Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship

**Kendra Torigoe**  
Tri Valley JACL  
Brown University  
Level of Study: Freshman  
Field of Study: Applied Mathematics

### Biographical Information:

Kendra has had perfect grades in a grueling curriculum, is an AP Scholar with Distinction and a National Merit Scholarship semi-finalist. Kendra has earned admission to Harvard's Summer Institute for

Gifted Students and the UC Berkeley's High School Honors Program. She is a pianist and a flautist, and her gifts and accomplishments as a pianist have led to various award competitions. She volunteers at a hospital, works with senior citizens and children, raises funds for her temple and for the city, and organizes activities at her temple's youth group.

### Essay Excerpt:

I have a Japanese face, and a Japanese name, but very little of the culture, and none of the language. I am an outsider. To define myself according to an "American" standard would make the most sense. To view myself as being just like everyone else in this melting pot of American society would be the logical course of action as a fourth-generation American. But somehow I stick out because of the assumptions that are sometimes made because of my Asian face. As I attend church, I feel out of place yet again. Brought back to the temple my mother attended as a child, I am surrounded by a world of culture and language that I understand only with difficulty. Rules of etiquette and confusing traditions that are not part of my world even now will make me feel awkward and as though I am not "Japanese." Neither of the two defines who I am, and it makes me think that perhaps people would know me better if I was only half Japanese. For then I would not be an assumed outsider, but there would still be something rather foreign about me, something independent and unique, perhaps it would be closer to who I feel that I really am, a person somewhere in the middle.

### Sam S. Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship

**Kevin Shigeru Omoto**  
Sacramento JACL  
Stanford University  
Level of Study: Freshman  
Field of Study: Biological Sciences

### Biographical Information:

A Who's Who in High School Award recipient, Kevin has been quite active in student government, team sports, volunteer work and tutoring. Kevin is also a speaker, in the absence of his minister, to a Buddhist congregation that regularly numbers more than 350 people.

## Sam S. Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship

**Kevin Shigeru Omoto**  
Sacramento JACL  
Stanford University  
Level of Study: Freshman  
Field of Study: Biological Sciences

### Biographical Information:

A Who's Who in High School Award recipient, Kevin has been quite active in student government, team sports, volunteer work and tutoring. Kevin is also a speaker, in the absence of his minister, to a Buddhist congregation that regularly numbers more than 350 people.

### Essay Excerpt:

I personally credit the JACL for increasing not only my awareness but the awareness of the entire nation to the contributions of Japanese Americans. By sponsoring various museum exhibits, documentary films and community events, the JACL is educating the nation and uniting the Japanese American community. The JACL has enabled myself and many others to open our eyes to the heritage and legacy of Japanese Americans. Hopefully, I can follow the JACL's lead in educating others about the importance of Japanese Americans.



ers about the importance of Japanese Americans.

## Mr. & Mrs. Takashi Moriuchi Scholarship

**Tyler M. Akagi**

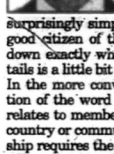
**Mr. Olympus JACL**  
University of Oklahoma  
Level of Study: Freshman  
Field of Study: Pre-Medicine

### Biographical Information:

Being active in student government, prepared Tyler for his place on the Youth Advisory Committee to Sen. Orrin Hatch. Tyler has been distinguished as a National Merit Finalist and a recipient of the President's Award for Educational Excellence and the Kiwanis Club Freedom Leadership Award. His athletic abilities are in track — long jump and high jump. He also performs as a ballroom dancer.

### Essay excerpt:

Being a senior in the last class of the millennium, I am faced with the daunting task of setting a course for my life to follow. Questions of where I want to go to college, what I want to study and where I want to go from there all boil down to one big question, as the pages of my life are unfolding, who do I want to be? The answer is surprisingly simple: I want to be a good citizen of the world. Pinning down exactly what such a role entails is a little bit more complicated. In the more conventional connotation of the word "citizenship" as it relates to membership in a specific country or community, good citizenship requires the completion of and adherence to certain civic duties. These duties may include obeying the law, taking an active role in the community and serving to leave the community better than it was found. Citizenship in the global community involves just such duties, only on a much broader scale. In fact, all such duties can be summarized in the last duty — serving to leave a community better than it was found — which is what, as a potential citizen of the world, I am most concerned with.



where I want to go from there all boil down to one big question, as the pages of my life are unfolding, who do I want to be? The answer is surprisingly simple: I want to be a good citizen of the world. Pinning down exactly what such a role entails is a little bit more complicated. In the more conventional connotation of the word "citizenship" as it relates to membership in a specific country or community, good citizenship requires the completion of and adherence to certain civic duties. These duties may include obeying the law, taking an active role in the community and serving to leave the community better than it was found. Citizenship in the global community involves just such duties, only on a much broader scale. In fact, all such duties can be summarized in the last duty — serving to leave a community better than it was found — which is what, as a potential citizen of the world, I am most concerned with.

## Gongoro Nakamura Memorial Scholarship

**Erin M. Nishimura**  
Honolulu JACL  
Stanford University  
Level of Study: Freshman  
Field of Study: Engineering

### Biographical Information:

Erin was a member of her school's electrical engineering team which built an electric car to compete in a statewide competition. She also is a committed volunteer where children are involved. One of her instructors stated: "The most obvious thing I could write is that Erin is the most gifted student mathematically that I have ever taught. Although that is a subjective opinion, statistics bear it out. She completed Advanced Math Honors with a 99.5 percent average for the entire year. I have taught that course to more than 300 students over the years and I can't remember more than one or two students that finished over 95 percent."



school competitions, and contribute to society through an engineering career. There are many contributions any citizen can make to society. Contributions to the community can be made in any form, from planting a tree in a park to organizing food drives in the neighborhood. However, a contribution is made

### Essay Excerpt:

"In the future, after obtaining a college degree, I hope to use the math skills I have been developing through high school competitions, and contribute to society through an engineering career. There are many contributions any citizen can make to society. Contributions to the community can be made in any form, from planting a tree in a park to organizing food drives in the neighborhood. However, a contribution is made



meaningful by the attitude and willingness of the giver."

### Yutaka Nakazawa Memorial Scholarship

Lorraine Sachih Ward  
Honolulu JACL  
Harvard

Level of Study: Freshman  
Field of Study: Political Science

#### Biographical Information:

Lorraine has been involved in a wide range of activities; she has been class president, editorial editor for her school newspaper and president of Freshman Focus, an organization which is committed to easing the transition of a freshman into high school life. Her main involvement has been in the political arena. Lorraine has been involved in Junior State of America (JSA) as chapter president, regional mayor and regional communications officer, and has served as an intern for a California state assemblywoman.

#### Essay Excerpt:

Although my brother and I attended American school on the military base where my father worked as a translator, I still do not realize that we were unique. It was perfectly normal for me to study spelling at school and do karate drills at home with my mother. None of the other children treated me any differently because I was biracial. I actually enjoyed going over to their houses after school because they had snacks I had never seen like Twinkies and Jello. At home, my father told me bedtime stories about Fin Mac Cool and Oisín, valiantly fighting against the English on a beautiful green isle halfway across the world. My mother read Japanese fables to me, tales of magic boys born from peaches and beautiful moon princesses discovered in bamboo shoots. The mixing of three separate cultures in my daily life seemed natural; I often tried to imagine how my American or Japanese friends lived, with just one language and set of traditions.

### South Park Japanese Community Scholarship

Randell Y. Ishii  
Redleaf JACL  
CAL Poly

Level of Study: Freshman  
Field of Study: Mechanical Engineering

#### Biographical Information:

Randell has earned High Honors with the Golden State Exams, is listed in the Who's Who Among American High School Students, made All-American Scholar with the United States Achievement

Academy and was valedictorian of his graduating class. He is an athlete and a multi-talented musician who plays the bassoon, piano and both the soprano and tenor saxophones.

#### Essay Excerpt:

The JACL has provided me with the resources, and opportunities to research my personal history, as well as that of others who had the initiative to start a new life in a foreign country. Through widespread literature, the organization presented me with literary materials on Japanese Americans, piquing my interest, and expounded the hardships and opposition the early immigrants, the Issei, had to tolerate; through word of mouth, I received firsthand accounts and information from those present. With the knowledge generously vouchsafed to me, I was able to give voice to the words, using them as the topic for various history projects and research papers. By doing so, my peers, teachers and countless others learned about the lives of the brave Japanese immigrants and their children, opening their eyes to a topic not well known (and sometimes obscure) in American history.

### Mas & Maju Uyesugi Memorial Scholarship

Nicholas E. Lindsay  
Houston JACL  
Rice University  
Level of Study: Freshman  
Field of Study: Business

#### Biographical Information:

A propensity for languages has taken Nicholas to study Japanese, Spanish and Chinese. His commitment and endurance have made him an asset in the development of a Japanese Club in his high school. "He has a good sensibility for working with people, to mediate when necessary. His demeanor and his consideration for people serve him well in dealing with problem situations. He builds relationships with people based on trustworthiness, shared knowledge and humanity," observed one of his teachers.

#### Essay Excerpt:

One day, my grandmother invit-

ed me to her house to look at something. That "something" turned out to be a photograph of her family's crest; a distant relative had mailed it to her. I was fascinated by the simple yet elegant flower design of the symbol. That picture brought a flood of emotions to me. What did the symbol convey? Where did my ancestors come from? Could I be part of this class I consulted with as a member of my city's chapter of the Japanese American Citizen's League and discovered the story of the Japanese clan heritage. He showed me an intricate wood carving of his own Hirasaki double-leaf crest. After discovering so much about my history that could be represented by this beautiful design, I immediately posted it on my wall. During my times of personal strife, I can look to that one peaceful area on my otherwise crowded wall and think about all the relatives of mine who long ago took comfort in those very same entrancing swirls.

### Mitsuyuki Yonemura Memorial Scholarship

Le'Anna B. Roffe  
Puyallup Valley JACL  
University of Washington  
Level of Study: Freshman  
Field of Study: Political Science

#### Biographical Information:

Le'Anna's academic focus has her enrolling in the most academically challenging courses that her high school offered. She has been a volunteer for a variety of community organizations which included tutoring in an elementary school artistic program, working in a homeless shelter program and participating in various charitable fundraisers.

#### Essay Excerpt:

As a Yonsei, I have never had the opportunity to firmly grasp my Japanese culture. I have grown up in an Americanized home and education has mostly pertained to the history of America, American literature, the United States government and so forth. Through JACL, I have realized that all these years something valuable has been missing from my life. It has unveiled my hunger to learn about my ancestors, gain knowledge of the Japanese culture, and become associated and involved with the Japanese Americans of my community.

theory. I am interested in the role that these international organizations play in the mobilization, politicization and legitimization of communities within an existing and expanding transitional human rights regime. Needless to say, I am thrilled at the opportunity to pursue such an academic endeavor, and I look forward to the completion of my Master of International Relations, both because I am proud of the work that I have put forth this year and because I will finally have the opportunity to begin my legal studies at Northwestern this fall. In many ways, I feel that I have been blessed with opportunities to thrive and create a niche for myself in international law, one that reflects the richness and diversity of an international background while still maintaining my interests in community service and local/academic activism."

### Abe & Esther Hagiwara Student Aid Award

Andrea D. Watanabe  
White River Valley JACL  
University of Washington  
Level of Study: Freshman  
Field of Study: Undecided

#### Biographical Information:

"When was the last time you saw a person who you knew could change the world?" commented one of Andrea's high school teachers. Andrea has been active as a volunteer waitress for a dinner program for homeless people, and has been a volunteer coordinator for an AIDS Walk Team for her high school. Andrea has maintained a 3.9 GPA and has been very active in varsity softball, golf, track and gymnastics.

#### Essay Excerpt:

On the first day of junior high I met a girl who seemed as though she needed a friend as much as I did. We were both from one of the smaller schools that fed into our junior high school. Many of our friends from elementary school went to other schools. Jessica and I had two or three classes together and after only a few months we were best

friends. After knowing her for almost three years, she told me something she did not like to tell a lot of people. Jessica lives with her mom and her step dad, two sisters and a little brother. I had never met her real father and had not heard a lot about him. She told me that her dad was gay and had been HIV positive for almost seven years now, and she had not told me because she didn't want others to think less of her. Since then, I have met her father, and Jessica and I have become very involved with helping the fight against AIDS. After meeting Jessica's dad and learning what a great person he is, I decided to participate in the 1997 AIDS Walk. Beginning with our junior year at a new high school, the two of us took on the task of organizing the AIDS Walk for Kentlake High School. We were very successful and managed to get many people excited and involved in helping Seattle's fight against AIDS. In 1998, we took over 60 students to the walk and donated over \$1,200 to the Northwest AIDS Foundation.

### Aiko Susanna Tashiro Hiratsuka Memorial Scholarship

Melody Dawn King  
Sonoma County JACL  
Sonoma State University  
Level of Study: Undergraduate  
Field of Study: Music & Vocal Performance

#### Biographical Information:

In high school, junior college, and now at the state university level, Melody has earned grants and many scholarships for her singing

talents and abilities. The Panel of Actively Involved Citizens of Petaluma made Melody the recipient of the Miss Achievement Award for 1997. She has been a volunteer at the Petaluma Public Library as a tutor.

#### Essay Excerpt:

I lived in Japan for eight years, and I attended public elementary school there. I began singing when I was nine years old, with Hikari do Broadcasting Corporation's Boys and Girls Choir in Sapporo, Japan. Being in choirs taught me teamwork and discipline. My passion is singing, and I



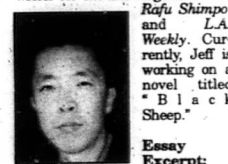
will be earning a Bachelor of Music degree with a vocal performance concentration and a minor in mathematics. The last couple of years I began to take private voice instructions. This not only improved my vocal quality, but also made me realize my dreams of becoming a professional vocalist. I would like someday to hold a leading role in an opera.

### Henry & Chipo Kuwahara Creative Arts Award

Jeff Truyoshi Matsuda  
West Los Angeles JACL  
University of Iowa  
Level of Study: Graduate  
Field of Study: Creative Writing

#### Biographical Information:

Jeff is a founding member of the Asian American Coalition at the University of Iowa, and he also served as the artistic director of the Los Angeles Asian American Literary Project. He has been inducted into the Kappa Tau Alpha Journalism Honors Society, received the Alpha Sigma Tau Certificate of Excellence and won a Best Science Feature Award from the California Intercollegiate Press Association. Jeff was First Prize Winner of the American Japanese National Literary Award established by the novelist James Clavell. His journalistic breadth is varied and includes his stint as a staff writer for the *Sacramento Bee*, and freelance writer for the *Los Angeles Times*, *Rafu Shimpō*, and *LA Weekly*. Currently, Jeff is working on a novel titled "Black Sheep."



As a writer, I've always been fascinated by the power of language and the written word's ability to transcend boundaries of nationality, race, class, sex, sexuality and even time. When I was a reporter, I was drawn to stories about community history, knowledge that had slipped past the official records and existed only in the memories of the people who lived them. Residents who considered their lives to be "ordinary" revealed remarkable personal anecdotes that added depth, context and humanity to the dry, historical past. Sadly, few of these stories will ever be recorded; the rest will be forgotten. Fiction, in its own way, serves to preserve some of what would be lost. This is especially true of ethnic history and for any other group pushed outside what is considered "mainstream." When a group's history is relegated to the margins or is allowed to disappear, some writers feel a compulsion to counter the official record with a work of art imbued with their consciousness, their existence, in essence, a personal record that will survive them, emphatically stating: "I was here. I lived." And perhaps, through this act of remembering, be remembered. This is the place from which I write.

## SPECIAL AWARDS—LAW & ARTS

### Thomas T. Hayashi Memorial Scholarship

Lisa Mari Mochizuki  
Mile High JACL  
University of Denver  
Graduate School of  
International Studies &  
College of Law  
Level of Study: Master of Arts  
and Juris Doctorate  
Field of Study: Law

#### Biographical Information:

After receiving a number of scholarships at UCLA and graduating *magna cum laude*, Lisa won a Merit Scholarship to the University of Denver College of Law. She has been a reporter for the *Harvard Sentinel Newspaper* and a staff writer for the *news-magazine Pacific Times*; and she served as a production assistant intern for a TV news show. Lisa also has done volunteer tutor work for Immigrant Literacy Development and volunteered with the American Cancer Society.

#### Essay Excerpt:

I want to do something in my life that makes a little of that blood and sweat born for me worthwhile. I cannot take away what my beloved grandparents and great-grandparents, aunt and uncle, suffered during internment years. I cannot lessen the impact that is still apparent. I even missed the fight for redress that was won some 50 years after the camps. With the encouragement and support of my grandparents and parents, I choose law school and the legal field as my main avenue to make progress in the social state of the world.

### Sho Sato Memorial Scholarship

James A. Tanaka  
New York JACL  
Northwestern University  
School of Law  
Level of Study: Juris Doctorate  
Field of Study: Law

#### Biographical Information:

James earned a bachelor's degree in comparative history at Columbia University, a master's in international relations at the Univer-

sity of Chicago and is working on his juris doctorate at Northwestern University School of Law. He has worked as a senior corporate paralegal, (Latin American Securities Practice). He also interned at the United Nations, the New York Foundation and with the Civil Court of the City of New York. James has volunteered with Students for Political Awareness and Action, and various AIDS projects. He has served with Community Impact, a coalition of student-run community service organizations, at Columbia University.

#### Essay Excerpt:

Presently in the Committee on International Relations at the University of Chicago, I am in the process of completing my MA thesis on the relationship of international NGOs on the formation and enactment of international human rights law, with particular attention to the nature of relativism versus universalism with respect to emergent human rights law and

## A Bridge Across the Pacific

By Emily Murase

## Profile of a Masaoka Fellow

Every year since 1991, the Mike Masaoka Fellowship Fund has selected promising individuals from our community to participate in a three and a half-month congressional fellowship. Nicole Akemi Inouye of Huntington Beach, Calif., and David Namura of Arvada, Colo., have been named to this year's program.

The primary goal of the fellowship fund is "to encourage public service [by] granting awards to educate or train recipients for leadership in public service." In what ways does the fellowship program meet this goal? What happens to Masaoka Fellows after their tenure in congress?

I spoke with Karen Emiko Makkreel, who served in 1994-1995 and was the first woman to be selected for the program, to discuss the impact of the fellowship on her career.

As a Masaoka Fellow, Karen was placed in the office of Rep. Robert T. Matsui (D-Calif.). At the time, he served as the Democratic Whip at Large and chairman of the influential House Subcommittee on Trade.

As a member of Matsui's staff, Karen worked on the landmark General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT). The successful conclusion of this agreement was considered a major achievement of the Clinton administration. She was also actively involved in constituent work, addressing the concerns of Matsui's diverse district.

"It was a tremendous growth experience. The fellowship definitely gave me confidence and direction," Karen stated.

The fellowship afforded Karen

experiences she never dreamed of having: "A highlight of my fellowship was the chance to attend the October 1994 joint session of Congress to welcome Nelson Mandela, then the newly elected president of South Africa. He gave a moving and powerful address that I will never forget."

In many ways, Karen's accomplishments made her an excellent candidate for the fellowship program. The daughter of Frances Tanikawa and Rudolf Makkreel of Atlanta, Karen was a *cum laude* graduate of the University of California, San Diego, where she majored in sociology with minors in American history and political science.

She went on to attend the University of California Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco where she received a J.D. degree in 1994, graduating in the top fifth of her class. In law school, she participated actively in the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association, and served as a teaching assistant and coordinator of the Legal Education Opportunity Program that promotes the recruitment and retention of disadvantaged students at Hastings.

It is clear now that the Masaoka fellowship was the beginning of what has become a highly successful career in public service. Her first job after the fellowship was at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Civil Rights, where she worked as an equal employment opportunity mediator. There, she was responsible for facilitating communication between conflicting parties and her outstanding work was recognized by numerous performance awards.

From there, Karen's next position was at the U.S. Customs Service as a general attorney in the Office of the Chief Counsel. "This time, I played the role of defending the agency in employment disputes. I prepared and presented the agency's defense in administrative proceedings before the Merit Systems Protection Board, the Federal Labor Relations Authority and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission." For her work on the Discriminatory Harassment Task Force, Karen was recently honored with the U.S. Customs Commissioner's Equal Employment Opportunity/Diversity Award.

One of her toughest assignments was preparing for the oversight hearings before the Senate Finance Committee earlier this year. Along with a team of attorneys, she was responsible for developing the testimony, producing hearing documents and briefing agency officials. Given the high profile of the assignment, this was an unusual role for a junior attorney. Karen explained: "I attribute my selection [for the assignment] to my experience on Capitol Hill."

The daughter of a Nisei mother, Karen is half-Japanese. When asked about whether her ethnicity has ever been a stumbling block for her, she responded: "I don't feel my ethnic background has been a disadvantage at all, but one issue that I am concerned about is the glass ceiling that prevents many people of color from attaining management-level positions."

Yet, just recently, Karen successfully landed an attorney-adviser position in one of the most

powerful agencies in the federal government. As of September, she joined the U.S. Department of the Treasury Office of the Assistant General Counsel (General Law and Ethics) where she is responsible for the legal review of policy recommendations and enforcement of existing law related to labor and employment, ethics, disclosure, as well as pensions.

In looking back on her experience, Karen expressed indebtedness to many people. "I'm very grateful to the JACL for this opportunity. If it weren't for the fellowship, I wouldn't have ever thought of working in Washington. And I am thankful to Congressman Matsui, who has been a very strong supporter of the program since its inception."

"Dr. Tom Tamaki, chairman of the fund, and George Wakiji, the Washington, D.C., contact, were always there for me. I appreciated that fact that both of them would check up on me from time to time. And Etsu Masaoka [wife of the late

Mike Masaoka] really made me feel welcome in Washington, D.C."

Karen has since made Washington, D.C., her home and was at one time active with the Education Committee of the Washington, D.C., chapter of the JACL.

She offered this advice to people thinking about applying to the Masaoka fellowship: "Even if you're not considering a political career, participating in the fellowship is an invaluable experience. Everyone can benefit from doing an internship at the congressional office, especially Asian Pacific Americans." ■

Emily Murase first met Karen at the national convention in Salt Lake City where Karen was awarded the Masaoka fellowship. Emily wishes Nicole Inouye and David Namura every success in their new venture and welcomes stories from other Masaoka fellows. She can be reached at emurase@stanford.edu.

## Pat Okura Awarded JACL Ruby Pin

K. Patrick Okura was recently awarded the JACL Ruby Pin, which honors those who have given personal sacrifice, leadership and service to JACL and persons of Japanese ancestry.

"It was a complete surprise," said Okura. "Now I have them all."

He has earned the sapphire and silver pins for outstanding leadership at the chapter (Omaha), district and national levels — serving several terms as JACL national vice-president — and the diamond pin awarded to national presidents (1962-64).

The Ruby Pin was presented at Okura's 88th birthday bash Sept. 26 at the Fort Myer Officers' Club in Arlington, Va. Okura was also recognized for the Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation, which he founded 10 years ago.

Congratulatory messages came

from Sens. Daniel Inouye and Dan Akaka, Reps. Robert Matsui, Patsy Mink and David Wu, Hon. Norman Mineta and former National Institute of Mental Health Director Dr. Bertram S. Brown, as well as from Doris Aiso Hoshide and tributes from friends.

Okura was executive assistant to Brown at the National Institute of Mental Health. The Okura Foundation sponsors the "Week in Washington" seminars for Asian Pacific Americans in the mental health and human service fields. In 1995, the organization initiated its White House Fellowship.

Okura and his wife Lily used their redress check to form the foundation, augmented by support nationwide. To reach the foundation: Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation, 6303 Friendship Court, Bethesda, MD 20817; 301/530-0945. ■

Pat Okura



## Stranger Than Fiction

## There's Nothing 'Comforting' About Injustice

By Christina Shigemura

San Jose Democrat Mike Honda certainly has stirred up a lot of public debate with AJR 27. For those of you who haven't heard, the California legislature recently passed Honda's resolution asking Japan to apologize and pay reparations to the survivors of its World War II-era war crimes.

Japan's blind nationalism 50 years ago resulted in a list of atrocities which seems almost endless. In the "Rape of Nanking," Japanese troops slaughtered 300,000 Chinese; more than 100,000 civilians were killed by Japanese troops in the 1945 Battle of Manila. Survivors of Japan's war crimes include the "comfort" women, Korean, Japanese, and other women who were enslaved and forced to provide sexual gratification for the Japanese military.

Despite knowledge of these heinous crimes, some people in the Japanese American community say that we just shouldn't get involved. It's ironic — isn't that the same thing people were saying while the Nazis were exterminating millions of Jews?

My late great-uncle Rufus Tjojo was in the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion which liberated Jewish survivors from Dachau. I didn't have the opportunity to get to know my great-uncle, so I can only imagine what he must have felt when he saw those prisoners who had survived starvation and torture. On that day, I'm sure my great-uncle knew why he needed

to be involved in righting such a terrible wrong, even if it was outside his own country.

After all that we have been through, JAs should certainly understand how important it is to fight for justice. From the early days, when racist laws restricted immigration and denied Japanese immigrants the right to become naturalized American citizens or to own land, to the years spent in "camp," to the not-so-long-ago days when housing covenants kept us out of many neighborhoods, our collective experience is one of many injustices.

The great thing about the redress movement is the way JAs mobilized around the issue of justice. People who never would have asked for an apology or reparations for themselves did it for their parents, their grandparents, their children. Most of all, they did it so that history would be remembered correctly, and past mistakes would not be repeated.

Yet the camps are not the only piece of WWII history which needs to be remembered. The Japanese military committed rape, slavery, torture, and slaughter of innocent civilians, and this needs to be remembered too.

Clearly the survivors of these terrible crimes deserve reparations and an apology, but history has shown us that even the most deserving people don't receive redress without a serious, organized, united struggle. After all,

African Americans are still waiting for the "40 acres and a mule" which were promised to their slave ancestors more than 100 years ago. Native Hawaiians are still waiting for homelands were promised to them in 1921, after the illegal overthrow of their government by the sugar barons in 1893.

By now most (though not all) JA survivors of the camps have received their checks and letters of apology from the U.S. government, so the only question left to answer is what kind of legacy the redress movement will leave in our community. Will we sit back on our haunches as we grin and mutter, "I got mine," or will we pour our energies into the next struggle because there are still a lot of people who have not seen justice for what happened to them during WWII?

Many JAs, including the National Coalition of Redress and Reparations (NCRP), hope that the end of the redress movement will not be the death of Nikkei activism, but the beginning of something bigger. In this spirit, NCRP will be co-sponsoring an educational forum titled "Comfort Women: The Hidden Costs of War" with several other organizations. The forum will be held on Friday, Dec. 3, in Los Angeles, and Mike Honda, the author of AJR 27, will be a featured speaker. For more information, call the NCRP hotline at 213/680-3494. ■

Christina Shigemura is a teacher and a member of NCRP.

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# National JACL Board Meeting, Oct. 9-10

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA  
Assistant Editor

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** John Takeishi, who agreed to step in as interim national executive director, said promoting civil rights was his top priority and he is committed to raising funds to support JACL civil rights programs. He and Donna Okubo, JACL membership and fund development director, have been meeting with several corporations for possible corporate sponsorship.

**SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT:** David Hayashi's financial report indicated that JACL will come out about even by the end of the year. "We're running tight, so we need to watch our P's and Q's," said Hayashi.

**Audit Committee:** John Hayashi, audit committee chair and NCWNP district governor, said Deloitte & Touche just completed audits for fiscal years 1997 and 1998. Extenuating circumstances regarding the Legacy Fund prevented an audit for 1997 until this year, said Hayashi. The audit raised no major issues and JACL received a "clean" opinion. This is the fourth audit Deloitte & Touche has conducted for JACL.

**Investment Committee:** John Hayashi moved to accept and adopt the national investment committee's Legacy Fund distribution policy on an interim basis. It was seconded by Aaron Owada, PNW District co-governor, and adopted unanimously.

**YOUTH/STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT:** Hiromi Ueha and Nicole Inouye reported that 82 youths, representing seven of eight JACL districts, attended the national youth conference from June 25-27, held at UC Irvine. The participants represented almost an even balance of high school and college students. Through a legacy project, the PSWD helped create a videotape highlighting the participants at the conference. The videotapes are free but interested districts are asked to make a donation to cover production costs.

The conference was followed up by a national youth/student council retreat from Sept. 17-19, in conjunction with the PSW dinner.

They are now in the process of coming up with activity plans for the 2000 convention.

Since Ueha's and Inouye's positions will be open next year, they encouraged interested youths to apply. **NEW STAFF:** Jacklyn "Jackie" Kuwada was hired as national JACL's new youth director. She will officially begin on Oct. 25.

Tracie Uchino is national JACL's new membership coordinator. Formerly with the San Francisco Mayor's Department of Youth, Uchino said she looks forward to working with Kuwada in attracting new membership among youths.

**PACIFIC CITIZEN:** Rick Uno, P.C. editorial board chair, explained the sequence of events that followed the publication of Pete Hirunaka's controversial "Chinese curfew" cartoon and the recent P.C. editorial board's decision to publish a letter in the Oct. 8-14 issue.

**2000 CONVENTION UPDATE:** Larry Oda, convention chair, said the committee did a walk-through of the Doubletree Hotel on Sept. 21. They are currently in the process of putting together a program and finalizing a keynote speaker.

**ELECTION PROCESS REVIEW:** Lillian Kimura, EDC district governor, said the committee held a conference call on Sept. 30 where they agreed to review the election process guidelines. There will be a review conference call on Nov. 11 to finalize guidelines, and election announcements should appear in the P.C. by the end of the year.

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS:** Lori Fujimoto, vice president of public affairs, reported that George Wakaji has stepped in as JACL's interim Washington, D.C., representative since June. He has agreed to remain in the position until a new representative is hired.

Wakaji, who attended the board meeting, gave a brief update on his

activities. These included:

- monitoring the Hate Crimes Prevention Act in Congress and attending various coalition meetings in connection to this bill,
- making a statement on behalf of JACL at a NAACP-sponsored press conference decrying the lack of minority law clerks,
- participating in a briefing by the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus regarding the alleged Los Alamos espionage controversy,
- attending a NAACP-sponsored meeting to discuss the lack of diversity on network television.

Fujimoto said California's Lt. governor has been meeting with Hollywood executives in an effort to create more minority outreach programs to produce more ethnically and racially diverse shows. Fujimoto noted that the DOJ and FBI are considering establishing a hate crime task force in every U.S. Attorney district office.

Following the arson of a Jewish synagogue in Sacramento, Fujimoto and a coalition of community groups met with FBI and local law enforcement. A unity rally was held, and the *Sacramento Bee* donated a full-page ad.

There has been no new negotiations in connection with San Francisco's YWCA building litigation. The issue, however, is getting national attention through mainstream media coverage.

On the Bill Lann Lee front, Fujimoto said there is no indication that Sen. Orrin Hatch, chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, will be holding a hearing on Lee's confirmation.

Fujimoto has also been meeting with DOJ and FBI officials to discuss how to combat hate crimes, particularly in this age of the Internet.

Bill Yoshino, JACL Midwest regional director, has been kept busy this year by the slew of fatal hate crime incidents in the Midwest. Following the murder of Naoki Kamijima, Yoshino immediately contacted authorities and has been monitoring the case.

Regarding the Benjamin Smith shooting spree, Yoshino said he was troubled by the mainstream media coverage which almost played down the fact that a Korean American had also been a victim of the shooting rampage. To exasperate matters, Yoshino said the response from newly arrived APAs in the area has been lacking. This has prompted him to draft an educational brochure to educate the APA community on how to respond to hate crimes.

In Los Angeles, Beth Au, PSW regional director, contacted SIPA (Search to Involve Filipino Americans) and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California following the fatal shooting of Joseph Ito. Two press conferences were held.

Au also met with Ron Wakabayashi, head of the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission. She noted the lack of APA representation on such commissions and urged more APA participation.

Corey-Jeanne Murakami-Houck reported that there is still strong opposition in memorializing the Justice Department internment camp at Santa Fe. Opposition is coming from survivors of the Bataan Death March, who fail to differentiate between the Japanese and Japanese Americans. To accommodate the survivors, the city has decided to create a memorial to all veterans from Santa Fe and to place a historical marker for the JA internment at the Santa Fe Justice Department camp.

**RESISTERS RESOLUTION:** EDC and MPDC both abstained from voting John Hayashi, governor of the district which originally sponsored the resolution to apologize to the resisters, said they may present something new before the national council at the 2000 convention. Hayashi pointed to positive aspects of the voting process, saying it seemed to have educated a lot of people.

**MEMBERSHIP & FUND-RAISING:** In addition to meeting

corporations with Tuteishi, Donna Okubo has been coordinating a successful fundraising campaign to publish P.C. on a weekly basis. She also pointed out that they have received a favorable response to a joint program with NAATA (National Asian American Telecommunication Association) where JACL chapters can rent out videos to be used for membership programs or fundraisers.

• **Chapter Rebates:** Chapters can still receive a \$10 rebate for every new member they sign up. Deadline is Dec. 31.

**ARCHIVES:** Beth Au, new archive manager, has done a preliminary inventory of JACL documents at headquarters, the P.C. office and the district offices. She will be meeting with a professional archivist to discuss climate control, space and the feasibility of consolidating documents spread across the country. After the study is completed, Au said she will have a better answer as to how to consolidate the entire collection. She pointed out that the program will need JACL and corporate funding.

**VISION 2000:** After several meetings, Gary Mayeda, vice president of planning and development, said they have come up with a program called Vision 2000, a task force which will focus on improving JACL's advocacy, education, community empowerment and fund-raising/membership programs. Fujimoto added that through Vision 2000 they hope to solicit input from the members to map out JACL's future for the next century.

**EDUCATION/PROGRAM FOR ACTION:** Carol Kawamoto directed the board on the teacher training programs taking place in California. Their most recent session took place in Merced. Upcoming ones include Berkeley, Turan, Maryville and San Jose. She has also contacted the Los Angeles Unified School District.

**REDRESS HISTORY PROJECT:** Mae Takahashi reported that they hope to finish Phase I and II by the 2000 convention. This includes identifying key people who helped get redress passed and conducting interviews. Phase III, which entails hiring a writer to put together the final product, will probably take place next summer.

**WEB PAGE:** Aaron Owada moved to form an ad hoc committee to establish guidelines for JACL's Web site. Larry Grant, IDC governor, seconded.

**MANZANAR:** Gary Mayeda moved to endorse the Manzanar National Historic Site's request for support. It was seconded by Lillian Kimura.

Manzanar Historic Site received a special \$150,000 millennium grant called "Save America's Treasures." To receive this grant, however, Manzanar must raise a matching \$150,000 in private contributions.

Those interested in donating should send their checks to: Manzanar Fund c/o National Park Foundation, 1101 17th St. NW, Washington, DC 20036.

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

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

## Letters to the Editor

### Constitution Should Have Been Upheld

In the P.C. (Sept. 3-9), Fred Hirasuna addressed the issue on the Heart Mountain resisters before the CDCD meeting. He was quoted as saying, "This was wartime, and wartime ignores a lot of so-called constitutional rights." I do not know what Mr. Hirasuna really meant, but questions arise. Does this mean that the forced exclusion of 120,000-plus Japanese Americans into America's concentration camps because of who we were can be justified? History shows that dictatorships begin with the chipping away of the Constitution. In Germany during World War II, 6,000,000-plus Jewish people were exterminated in death camps because of who they were.

John J. McCloy, assistant secretary of war during WWII, is alleged to have said, "In time of war, the Constitution is just a piece of paper." When asked about this in an unsworn testimony before the CWRIC, he denied it. At this same hearing he stated in effect that it was "retribution" for Pearl Harbor that the JAs were incarcerated but later explained that he didn't like that word he used.

He never regretted or apologized for his part in the JA incarceration and the concentration camps. Perhaps what he said was a Freudian slip, but was it because it was wartime that he ignored "a lot of so called constitutional rights" and forgot "for the time being our [JA] constitutional rights"?

There is more to our Constitution than to "ignore" or to "forget" constitutional rights of any people or at anytime. The late great Congresswoman Barbara Jordan of Texas in 1974, while a member of the Watergate Commission, expressed her thoughts on the Constitution in these magnificent words: My faith in the Constitution is whole, it is complete, it is total. I am not going to sit here and be an idle spectator to the diminution, the subversion, the destruction of the Constitution."

If Congress, during WWII, had a more courageous and responsible political leadership as exemplified by Barbara Jordan, what would have been the history of the JAs in that period?

Stanley Kazuaki  
New York

### The P.C. Doing Something Right

The P.C. must be doing something right, to judge by the recent "Letters to the Editor," written by persons so full of themselves.

After decades of teaching Sunday school students and always urging them to read the funny paper comic strips as part of their Christian education (I was and am very serious about this), I, a born-again Christian, doddering into my 76th year of existence on this planet, don't know whether to laugh or cry after reading the obviously sincere letters in the recent editions of the P.C.

One letter chides Frank Chin, who apparently has a "big mouth" and comes from a "tiny arena," saying he should "stop whining." We all know that dogs whine. I know that American dogs go "bark, bark." I know that Japanese dogs go "wan-wan." I wonder how Chinese dogs sound. I shall have to ask Frank Chin, since he and I are on whining terms.

Paul Tanaka  
Sunland, Calif.

### Answering Questionnaire Was Personal Choice

When considering any problem as important as your own life or death, one should weigh the issues very carefully.

Every man is, in a sense, a man of action and also like a general and should be in command of his own conduct. When he has an important decision to make, especially where his own life is at stake, he should not let personal anger or displeasure mull his thinking. Whenever you allow any kind of feeling, especially personal feeling, to interfere with your thinking, you usually come out on the short end of the stick.

It is best if he quietly considers his situation with no feeling at all. Personal feelings, especially in time of danger, rob one of his ability to discern. Many times when anger is dispelled, the problem solves itself. In calm and quiet thought everything falls into place.

When I was presented with the questionnaire regarding the draft, I wrote that I would not volunteer but if I was drafted I would serve. I was born in Japan and though I came to the United States at the age of 1-1/2, I could not become a citizen even if I lived in the states a hundred years. I could be wrong but that was the choice I made.

My friend asked me what he should do, so I told him, "You were born in this country. Therefore, you have an obligation to serve the country of your birth."

I believe he signed his paper the same way I did. Fortunately for him, after completing his training, the war was over. He did go to Japan with the occupation forces and served in that capacity. We never talked about the questionnaire. It was something that happened a long time ago and didn't matter any more.

If the war was prolonged, we both knew what could have happened.

Elmer S. Tajima  
Seattle

## Whereabouts

is free and is on a space available basis. Send information to: 7 Cupania Circle, Monterey Park, CA 91755. Tel: 323/725-0054 or e-mail: pacoc@acorn.com

### DEATH NOTICE

**CARL KITA**  
CHICAGO, Ill.—Carl Kita, 81, passed away October 5. Proprietor of Kita Real Estate for over 50 years. Beloved husband of Hattie, loving father of Ronald (Janet), Barbara Burch and Gary (Pam); fond brother of Grace (John) Honda; fond grandfather of Craig, Erica and Candace.

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## Aquarium One Highlight of 2000 Convention

By MAS HASHIMOTO

The Monterey Bay region is the guardian of the largest marine sanctuary in the world. Those who live in the Central Coast of California recognize the beauty and accept the responsibilities of preserving this unique heritage.

The national JACL Monterey convention committee is hosting the traditional welcome mixer at a most nontraditional setting, the famous Monterey Bay Aquarium in historic Cannery Row. The convention delegates and boosters will enjoy the exclusive use of the facilities on Tuesday night, June 27, 2000, from 7 p.m. to midnight.

Delegates will experience the aquarium in the manner of the pampered, without competing with the thousands of tourists who frequent the aquarium each hour during the summer months. Playful sea otters, a three-story kelp forest with its colorful inhabitants, a million-gallon Outer Bay exhibit, the nation's largest collection of delicate jellyfish, and more than 100 galleries and exhibits of the Monterey Bay Aquarium are just some of the sights. Docents will be on hand to explain and assist and there will be a buffet with music and dancing. This special service, with exclusive bus provided, is included

in the regular registration package.

Some of the activities in the Monterey Bay area include kayaking, scuba diving, hand gliding, sky diving, whale watching, fishing, bird counting at the Elkhorn Slough in Moss Landing, sailing, flying in a fully restored World War II P-51 fighter plane, and biking and jogging along the coast.

The five JACL chapters — Monterey Peninsula, Salinas Valley, Gilroy, San Benito County, and Watsonville — are hosts of the 2000 national convention, which is headquartered at the Doubletree Inn.

The Doubletree Inn, located conveniently downtown, is a full service inn with conference facilities, restaurants and pub, spa and fitness center, heated pool, and is adjacent to the Monterey Conference Center, site of the sayonara banquet. More than a thousand delegates, boosters and guests are expected to attend this banquet.

The negotiated room rates for JACL conventioners are secured at \$109 a night for single or double. Contact the Doubletree Inn, at Fisherman's Wharf, two Portola Plaza, Monterey, CA 93940, or call 831/649-4511. Contact [www.doubletreemonterey.com](http://www.doubletreemonterey.com) for information or reservations. ■



## DENNY'S

(Continued from page 1)

"Not only was Denny's obligated to provide mandatory non-discrimination training," she said, "but they also conducted regular inspections which show the degree of control that Denny's has over its franchisees." She believes a jury should be allowed to "draw an inference" from these missing documents.

"Their [Denny's] arguments were focused on technicalities," added Howley, especially regarding the operating manual. "But I think my clients are eager to have the case go to trial."

Thomas C. Hartzell, Jr., of Finucane and Hartzell, argued on behalf of the African American students who, at the time of the 1997 incident, had also been waiting to be seated and later broke up the assault in the parking lot. They said that when they returned to complain about the guards' failure to protect the AA students outside, they too were thrown out of the restaurant.

The County of Onondaga claims it is not responsible for the acts of its deputy sheriffs.

Despite the fact that the location of the hearing was moved at the last minute, a number of AA community members were present for the hearing, including Syracuse University students as well as the plaintiffs' families.

"It's important that the community continue to learn about this case and to make inquiries," Ouyang said. "We need to read between the lines of Denny's advertising. Discrimination is still going on, and we need to be vigilant."

The judge is expected to make his decision shortly on whether the case will go to trial. ■

## JAPANTOWN

(Continued from page 1)

factor into why going back to Japantown might not be a good idea."

The scenario was repeated everywhere there had been JA enclaves before evacuation, he said. After they were freed, some internees left the West Coast for cities like Chicago and Denver.

Today, Japantown isn't bustling. While the Kintetsu and Miyako malls, its centerpiece, are a sushi lover's paradise dotted with Japanese-language bookstores and music shops, at least 22 businesses are Korean-owned, said Sandy Mori, who is trying to bring back more traditional Japanese institutions.

The annual Cherry Blossom Festival draws foot traffic every summer, and on Friday nights, the Kintetsu Mall is crawling with people — many of them Asian — looking for good Japanese food. But "going out of business" signs are not uncommon in family-owned shops outside the mall, which often close when young, American-born children don't want to take over, Mori said.

Japantown also has become less important as a cultural center as the population becomes more integrated. Among Asians marrying in the United States, the Japanese have the highest rate of outmarriage, with 60 percent marrying people of another race, according to federal researchers.

Dave Tatsuno, who owns San Jose's Nichi Bei Bussan general store and whose father opened it in San Francisco in 1902, said this evolving community is inevitable. Although his son married a woman from Japan, his three daughters all married non-

Japanese men. Tatsuno left Japantown in 1947 and decided to start fresh in San Jose with his own store after his toddler son died.

"Our family is changing. We're living in America — it's composed of not just Japanese — it's everyone," said Tatsuno, 86. "That's the way it is. The United States is international."

The country's Japanese are also increasingly American. According to the 1990 census, of all Asians living in the United States, nearly 70 percent of Japanese descent were born in this country, while 60 percent or more of members of other Asian groups living here were born in Asia.

Ethnic neighborhoods retain their character more if there is that influx, Mori said. In San Francisco's Chinatown, she noted, "There's always a Chinese-speaking population to serve."

She and other members of a task force — which includes both a Korean and a black member — are brainstorming ways to energize Japantown. It's really a multi-generational, multicultural feeling we're trying to promote," Mori said.

They hope to encourage Japanese-oriented businesses to open in the neighborhood and are closely watching renovation plans for the peace plaza to make sure they adhere to classic Japanese design aesthetics. They also want to boost agencies geared specifically to older JAs.

That's heartening to Seiki, who to younger JAs is a symbolic reminder of the importance of place.

"We took it for granted that this was where we're going to live and this was our world," he said.

"I was determined to stay here even after I came back. Things change but you have that feeling, this is home, I belong here." ■

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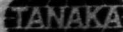
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