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Nov. 19-25, 1999

Remembering the 1800th Engineer General Service Battalion

By PAUL TSUNEISHI & MARTHA NAKAGAWA

The exploits of the 442nd Central Postal Directory, 100th Battalion and Military Intelligence Service during World War II are legendary.

But lost in the lore is a special WWII Army unit — the 1800th Engineer General Service Battalion — once comprised of American soldiers of Japanese, German and Italian descent.

Cedrick Masaki Shimo, 80, was a member of the 1800th.

Like the resisters of conscience, the Nisei men of the 1800th are viewed by some as "disloyal troublemakers," but according to Shimo, the 150 or so 1800th Nisei men were placed there due to prewar occupations or angry responses to discriminatory treatment by the Army and/or the United States government.

"I'm not an intellectual," said Shimo. "I didn't know anything about the constitution but I knew something was wrong. And dammit, I wasn't going to hold back. I just spoke my piece, that's all."

Like many Nisei, Shimo's life completely changed with America's entry into WWII. In the spring of 1941, Shimo had graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics from UCLA. That same year, the *Rafu Shimpo* newspaper conducted a survey of mainstream corporations and published an article on the bleak career outlook for college-educated Nisei. In essence, the *Rafu* survey found that non-Nikkei corporations did not wish to hire Japanese Americans.

This prompted Shimo to search for a career working in U.S.-Japan relations, a goal he would eventually achieve years later as an executive for American Honda. But at the time, just as Shimo applied to Keio University in Tokyo, the U.S. government issued an order restricting draft-age men from leaving the country. Shimo then applied to and was accepted in 1941 into the master's program at UC Berkeley as an international relations major.

On Monday, Dec. 8, 1941, the day after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Shimo received his draft notice. Like any good American, Shimo, then living in Northern California, made preparations to

report to his draft board in Los Angeles.

When Shimo arrived at the train depot, however, he was turned away. The train attendant wouldn't let him on, strictly because he was of Japanese descent. Having no other means of transportation, Shimo hitchhiked to Southern California to report for duty.

By March 1942, Shimo was undergoing basic training in a racially integrated unit at Camp Grant, Ill. Because of Shimo's ROTC (Reserve Officer Training

or the Black Dragon Society which was a non-sports, ultra-nationalistic group in Japan.

During the course of the war Shimo's father would spend time at the Justice of Department internment camps at Lordsburg, N.M.; Santa Fe, N.M.; Bismark, N.D.; and Crystal City, Texas.

Desperate to get his father released, Shimo wrote a number of letters to various officials, requesting that his father be reunited with his mother, Yoshiko Urakami Shimo, who was incarcerated at the Manzanar camp.



PHOTO: MARTHA NAKAGAWA

During World War II, Cedrick Masaki Shimo challenged the U.S. Army and demanded civil rights be restored to Japanese Americans.

Corp) background, he found himself leading the platoon.

After basic training, Shimo was assigned to work at Camp Grant's station hospital. While there, his captain repeatedly brought Shimo's name up for promotion but the request was always denied. The captain finally investigated the situation and was told Shimo was turned down due to his father, Tamori Shimo, who had been picked up by the FBI.

Like many Issei, Shimo's father had been rounded up by the FBI for being associated with the martial arts — in this case a kendo instructor. Shimo's father had also been active in the Butto-kai, a martial arts umbrella group, which the FBI somehow associated with the Kokuryu-kai,

ing death following the "Manzanar incident" in December 1942. Shimo's request was denied. He was told Manzanar lay in the Western Defense Zone.

"That's when I blew my stack," said Shimo. "...In '43, I was so mad I said I was going to make a hit list of all the *hakujins*. I was so mad at the *hakujins* that I was going to kill them all. I started off with General (John) Dewitt and kept going down the line. But then I thought, 'Gee, all my *hakujin* friends are nice kids. I don't want to kill them.' So I finally said, 'Oh, forget it.' So I dropped my hit list, but that was how angry I was. I was going to kill them all!"

Shortly after Shimo's outburst, the government came out with the controversial loyalty questionnaire. The War Relocation Authority's questionnaire, passed out to camp internees, was compulsory, while the War Department questionnaire, passed out to Nikkei soldiers, was voluntary.

Shimo recalled that the Nisei men in his barracks were upset over the questionnaire. "We were getting so angry," said Shimo. "We were saying, 'What are we doing here?'"

As it turned out, there was an informant among them, reporting their conversation to their commanding officer, and Shimo found himself among 20 or so Nisei soldiers expelled from the MIS.

On the so-called loyalty questionnaire, Shimo ended up answering "no/yes" to questions 27 and 28 and qualified his answers with a letter which, in essence, stated his willingness to serve in

Meanwhile, an officer visited Camp Grant in 1943 seeking volunteers to join the MIS. Shimo was accepted and transferred to Camp Savage, Minn., where he was placed in a three-month course for advanced students.

Just prior to graduation, the soldiers were told they could go on furlough. Shimo, wanting to see his mother before shipping overseas, requested a visit to Manzanar. He was particularly concerned over his mother's welfare after receiving reports of Joe Kurihara's shooting

death following the "Manzanar incident" in December 1942. Shimo's request was denied. He was told Manzanar lay in the Western Defense Zone.

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Uyesugi Indicted on Nine Counts in Hawaii Xerox Shooting

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU—The morning they died, the victims of the Xerox Corp. office shootings were going to talk with accused gunman Byron Uyesugi about the fact that he was doing less work than they were, the city prosecutor said.

The revelation came after Uyesugi was indicted Nov. 9 by a grand jury on charges of murder and attempted murder. He remains held on \$7 million bail pending another court hearing this week.

Uyesugi, 40, was indicted on one count of first-degree murder, seven counts of second-degree murder and one count of second-degree attempted murder. He was not present at the proceedings.

If convicted, he could face life imprisonment without parole. Hawaii does not have the death penalty.

Uyesugi, a 15-year Xerox employee, is accused of walking into the Xerox parts warehouse on Nimitz Highway Nov. 2 and firing a 9 mm handgun at six of his colleagues and a supervisor 28 times.

City prosecutor Peter Carlisle said Uyesugi shot some of his victims several times and in the back. He declined to be more specific.

An empty bullet cartridge was found at the scene, indicating Uyesugi reloaded his gun at least once, Carlisle said.

Uyesugi was arrested seven hours after the shootings following a tense standoff with police near the Hawaii Nature Center.

Carlisle disclosed for the first time Nov. 9 that at least one other co-worker was shot at, prompting

the attempted murder charge. He said Steven Matzuda was fleeing down a staircase when Uyesugi fired at him and missed.

Another co-worker, Randall Shin, was in a room where two of the victims were shot but apparently was not targeted, a police affidavit filed earlier said.

Carlisle said the meeting was going to take place in a conference room where five of the victims were shot. He said he received no information to indicate Uyesugi was going to lose his job.

Xerox president and CEO G. Richard Thomson said earlier that Uyesugi was not about to be fired. Xerox officials refused to discuss Uyesugi's work history, citing employee confidentiality rules.

Company spokesman Jeffery Simek said, "There was no indication that we've been made aware of that the employee had cause to fear for the security of his job."

Xerox's vice president for Hawaii, Glenn Sexton, said last week he had no information to indicate that Uyesugi had been anything but a good worker in his 15 years with the company. Co-workers knew him as "a very quiet, reserved and probably shy individual," he said.

Uyesugi father, Hiroyuki, said his son underwent anger management counseling several years ago after he allegedly kicked an elevator door while on a service call.

The grand jury's secret proceedings were an alternative to handling the case through a public pre-

SEE UYESUGI/page 5

Lawsuit Over Uninvested Redress Funds Dismissed

On Nov. 12, federal judge Charles Legge dismissed a malfeasance lawsuit accusing the U.S. government of failing to invest a redress fund intended to compensate Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II.

The federal class action lawsuit *National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCRR) & Joe Suzuki v. USA* was filed earlier this year in San Francisco and charged the government with breach of fiduciary duty for not putting \$1.65 billion into interest-bearing investments as required by the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

Attorneys say the mistake left no money for hundreds of former internees. Recovery of \$200 million of interest is being sought for those not yet paid and for an education program intended to teach people about the treatment of JAs during the war.

"From our perspective, the money is there. It's just an ac-

counting thing," said attorney and ACLU Legal Director Emeritus, Fred Okrand.

But Judge Legge ruled that the appropriation of monies to the redress fund had expired on August 10, 1998, and therefore the court could not order the government to replace the missing interest arising from its failure to invest.

The judge also held that the plaintiffs did not have the right to sue because they had not suffered "legal" injury.

However, he declared that since Suzuki was eligible for redress, he could reopen his case if he did not receive his redress payment.

Of the more than 120,000 JAs interned during the war, 80,000 survivors applied for reparations for lost property and freedom. Most were paid \$20,000 each under the 1988 Civil Liberties Act.

But because the fund wasn't

SEE REDRESS/page 6

Sen. Inouye and Patrick Okura Among Kunsho Awardees

Senator Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), renowned former Los Angeles County coroner, Thomas Noguchi, and Patrick Okura, former JACL national president, are among (this year's nine Kunsho awardees.

The Kunsho, or Medal of Honor, awards are given by the government of Japan to

American residents of Japanese ancestry. This year's awardees were announced on Nov. 2.

The other awardees are: Sumikichi Nozaki of Torrance, Michihiro Hashibe of Los Angeles, Kojiro Iwanaka of San Francisco, Kazuo Noda of Hilo, Glenn Masao Masunaga of Honolulu, and Paul Hirai of Moses Lake, Wash. ■



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JACL Calendar

Eastern

WASHINGTON, D.C.
Sat., Dec. 18—Mochizuki; Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, 6601 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda; Info: Laura Nakatani, 703/519-9378.

Midwest

CINCINNATI
Sat., Dec. 4—Joint Installation, 50th anniversary celebration with Dayton chapter; details at Dayton.

Dayton

Sat., Dec. 4—50th Anniversary Celebration, "Celebrating the Past, Anticipating the Future" joint installation with Cincinnati Chapter; 6:30 p.m. reception, 7:30 banquet; Downtown Dayton: Kettering Tower; recognition of civil rights 50 years ago vs. today; George Takei, keynote speaker; RSVP: Sets Nagaoka, 937/233-6286 or Yae Sato, 937/278-4314. Detroiters invited.

St. Louis

Sat., Dec. 11—JACL Christmas Party, 4 p.m.; Taiwanese Presbyterian Church, 242 Ries Rd., Ballwin.

Twin Cities

Sat., Dec. 4—"Beyond Barbed Wire" screening; see Community Calendar.

Wisconsin

Sun., Dec. 5—JACL Christmas Party, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Mitchell Park Pavilion, 525 S. Layton Blvd; open to membership and families.

Intermountain

MOUNT OLYMPUS
Fri., Dec. 3—Christmas Potluck Party, 6:30 p.m.; Daiichi Ward, 2005 S. 900 E., southeast bldg. entrance.

Mountain Plains

NEW MEXICO
Fri., Dec. 31—New Year's Eve

Party: Wyndham Airport Hotel; discount tickets available at Nov. 14 general meeting at Amerisutis Hotel; discount deadline Nov. 30. Info: Calvin Kobayashi, 256-1610.

Pacific Northwest

PULLUP VALLEY
Sat., Dec. 18—Mochizuki, 6 a.m.-3 p.m.; Tacoma Buddhist Temple Social Hall, 1717 S. Fawcett Ave.; preparations begin Thursday at 10:30 a.m.; mochi orders due by Nov. 24. Info: Steve Kono, 253/922-5310.

Seattle

Sat., Jan. 29, 2000—Save the date! Seattle JACL installation dinner, 6 p.m.; Doubletree Suites, Tukwila; speaker, Martha Choe; M.C. Lori Matsukawa; Doubletree Suites, Tukwila; tickets available in December.

NC-WN-Pacific

Sun., Dec. 5—JACL Health Benefits Trust chapter commissioners meeting. Info: John Yasumoto, 415/929-1853.

CONTRA COSTA

Sun., Dec. 5—CJACI Installation Luncheon, 12:30-3 p.m.; Silver Dragon Restaurant, 835 Webster St., Oakland; John Tateishi, speaker.

Fremont

Thurs., Dec. 9—Installation/Board Appreciation/55th Anniversary Dinner, 6 p.m.; Rose Garden Restaurant, 33348 Alvarado-Niles Rd., Union City. Info: Diane Endo, 925/648-0467.

San Jose

Sun., Nov. 21—"Westfield Works Wonders" pre-holiday benefit shopping; see Community Calendar.

Sonoma County

Sat., Nov. 20—Sushi Nite; see Community Calendar.

Pacific Southwest

Sun., Nov. 21—JACL Health Benefits Trust chapter commissioners meeting. Info: John Yasumoto, 415/929-1853.

COMMUNITY Calendar

East Coast

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

ST. PAUL
Sat., Dec. 4—Screening, "Beyond Barbed Wire," 1-3 p.m.; Minnesota History Center 3M Auditorium, 345 Kellogg Blvd. West; Q&A and recognition of WWII vets to follow. Free. Info: Tom Ohno, 612/831-5869.

Pacific Northwest

PORTLAND
Wed.-Sun., Dec. 1-5—The Japanese Garden's Gaijutsu Sai Artist's Festival. Info: 503/223-1321.
Through Dec. 3—Ceramics gallery show and workshop by Yoshio Ikeda; PCC Rock Creek Campus, 17705 N.W. Springville Rd. Info: 503/614-7329.

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

Seattle

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

Northern California

BERKELEY
Sat. & Sun., Nov. 27-Dec. 19—Berkeley Artisans Open Studio, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Suzuki, 2240 Grant St. Info: 510/849-1427.

San Jose

Sun., Nov. 21—"Westfield Works Wonders" pre-holiday shopping at local Westfield Shoppingtowns, 7-10 p.m.; discounts, door prizes, grand prize refreshments, entertainment, etc.; proceeds to non-profit organizations. Tickets \$5. Info: San Jose JACL, 408/295-1250.

SANTA ROSA
Sat., Nov. 20—Sushi Nite, 6 p.m.; Memorial Hall at Emmanji; preparation on Friday evening and Saturday morn-

ing; come and learn how. Order by November 16. Info: Jim Murakami, 824-8665.

Mountain View

Sat., Nov. 20—Sons & Daughters Club meeting, 11 a.m.; to save veterans' and interned parents' stories for the future; Old Condominium Clubhouse, 49 Showers Dr. Info: Shig Kizuka, 714-0116.

Southern California

LOS ANGELES
Mon., Nov. 29, Dec. 14—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>.

Sat., Nov. 27—Holiday Craft Boutique by Sabers/Saberes Youth Basketball, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, 1203 W. Puente Ave., West Covina; handicrafts, wearables, jewelry, unique gifts, much more. Info: 626/960-2566, 626/337-9123.

Thurs., Dec. 2—UCLA Asian American Studies Center book signing & presentation, "The Americas of Asian American Literature: Gendered Fictions of Nation and Transnation," with Professor Rachel C. Lee, 4 p.m.; Kinsey Hall 355, UCLA. Info: 310/825-2974, <www.sccnet.ucla.edu/aascc>.

Sat., Dec. 4—Nihon Bujo concert, 1:30 p.m.; Japan America Theatre, 244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo; memorial concert for Fujima Fujiko Sensei. RSVP: 213/680-3700.

Wed., Dec. 8—Japan American Society champagne & light breakfast open house, 9-10 a.m.; 505 S. Flower St., Level C, Los Angeles. RSVP by Dec. 6: 213/627-6217 ext. 17, fax 213/627-1353.

Fri., Dec. 31—New Year's Eve party, 6 p.m. social hour, 7 p.m. dinner; East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, 1203 W. Puente Ave., West Covina; dancing, entertainment, open bar, party favors, etc.; to benefit JACL high school scholarship fund; Non-donors also welcome. RSVP: Barbara, 626/810-1509, Toshi, 909/861-9676.

Through 2000—Exhibit, "Re-Visioning Manzanar," featuring works by Ansel Adams, Robert Haas, Masumi Hayashi, David Alan Yamamoto and others; Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo. Info: 213/625-0414.

ARIZONA

Sat., Dec. 18—Chojukai Bonenkai; see Community Calendar.

GREATER L.A. SINGLES

Sat., Dec. 4—Holiday Party Dinner Dance & Installation, 6 p.m. no-host cocktail, 6:30 p.m. dinner; Hacienda Hotel, 525 N. Sepulveda Blvd., E. Segundo; DJ: music of High Resolution. RSVP: info: Joyce Okazaki, 562/430-5783 or Janet Okubo, 310/835-7568.

LAS VEGAS

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

RIVERSIDE

Sun., Dec. 5—16th Annual Japanese Dance/Potluck in San Bernardino; see Community Calendar.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

Fri., Dec. 31—New Year's Eve party, fund-raiser; see Community Calendar.

SELANOCO

Sat., Dec. 4—Mochizuki, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Wintersburg Presbyterian Church, 13711 Fairview St., Garden Grove; potluck lunch. Order deadline: November 30; June Fukushima, 562/865-5039; Charles Iida, 714/974-1076; Ken Inouye, 714/968-0934; B. Watanabe 714/779-4140. ■

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

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800/461-5266, Web site: <http://www.janm.org>.

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 Blass, 800/808-8188 ext. 412, <www.law.whittier.edu>.

RIVERSIDE

Sat., Nov. 13—Coachella Valley Aki Matsuri, 9:45 a.m.-4 p.m.; Coachella Valley Museum and Cultural Center, 82-616 Miles Ave., Indio; area exhibit of photographs and memorabilia, taiko, Ikebana, odori, calligraphy, koto, judo. Info: 760/342-6651.

SAN BERNARDINO

Sun., Dec. 5—16th Annual Japanese Dance/Potluck, 1 p.m.; Patton Hospital Auditorium 31012E, Highland Ave.; special guests, karaoke group, taiko; info: Mihoko, 909/864-2018.

SAN DIEGO

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

Arizona - Nevada

Sat., Dec. 18—Chojukai Bonenkai end of year party; JACL Hall, 5414 W. Glenn Dr., Glendale; bring canned goods/staples for Westside Food Bank. Info: 623/931-1935.

Permanent Exhibit—About Arizona during WWII, includes internment camps, Arizona Historical Society, Marley Center Museum, 1300 N. College, Tempe. Info: 480/929-0292; tour info: Mike Steinberg, ext. 137. ■

Correction

The article about James Okubo, candidate for posthumous award of the Congressional Medal of Honor (Oct. 1-7, page 6) wrongly identified Okubo as a native of California; Okubo was born in Bellingham, Wash.

Correction

In the Oct. 22-28 issue (page 4), the name of the winner of the Patricia and Gail Ishimoto Memorial Scholarship should have been spelled Dennis Sakaki Wong and Dennis Masao Sui-on Sakaki Wong.

Okinawans to Mark 100th Anniversary of Immigration to Hawaii on January 8

The 100th anniversary of Okinawan immigration to Hawaii will be celebrated next year on Jan. 8 at the Hawaii Okinawa Center at Waipio Gentry (west of Honolulu) with unveiling of an 18-ton boulder excavated from an Okinawa mountain-side.

Marine Corps men stationed in Okinawa helped excavate and transfer the boulder that was brought to Sand Island in Honolulu Harbor to be prepared for installation, according to the Hawaii Marine Corps public affairs office.

The blue rock monolith is like a piece of homeland, executive director Gary Honda of Hawaii United Okinawan Association explains. It was selected by the people of Kin, the municipality that was home to Kyuzo Toyama, the father of Okinawan emigration.

The first group of 27 men to Hawaii, all in their 20s, arrived in Honolulu on Jan. 8, 1900. They were sent to the quarantine station, examined, and one man who failed to pass the health test, was subsequently deported.

The 26 men, contracted to work at the Ewa sugar plantation, were released Jan. 16, 1900 — the date recorded as the beginning of Okinawan immigration to Hawaii (then a six-month-old territory of the United States).

The second group of 40 men arrived in 1903. Thereafter, by 1924 there were 19,622 immigrants in Hawaii. More than 40,000 people of Okinawan descent now live in Hawaii.

Toyama, a teacher in Okinawa in the 1890s, was elected to the prefectural assembly, where he became concerned about Okinawa's population and food problems. Thus, he encouraged Okinawans to seek a better life overseas. The inscription inscribed in Japanese on the boulder before it left Okinawa, according to Honda, reads: "Live on the five continents with sincere force and determination."

Eventually, Okinawans went to the United States, Peru, Argentina, Brazil, the Philippines, South Pacific islands, Southeast Asia and Manchuria. By 1942, nearly 130,000 had emigrated from Okinawa. ■

Energy Secretary Promises Document on Alleged Chinese Espionage

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON—Apparently averting a subpoena battle, the Energy Department recently delivered to a House Armed Services subcommittee material the panel has been seeking for nearly eight months in an inquiry into alleged Chinese espionage at the U.S. nuclear weapons laboratory.

Just months before the military procurement subcommittee met on Nov. 8 to consider issuing a subpoena, Energy Secretary Bill Richardson offered to provide the material in separate phone calls to Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., the panel's chairman, and Rep. Norman Sisisky, D-Va., the panel's senior Democrat, Hunter and Sisisky announced.

At issue is written testimony prepared for an Oct. 6, 1998, meeting of the committee by Nara Trulock, the Energy Department intelligence officer who triggered an investigation into alleged Chinese spying at the nation's nuclear weapons labs.

Energy Department spokeswoman Brooke Anderson said that the material was being delivered to the committee.

Maureen Cragin, a committee spokeswoman, confirmed that material had arrived. "We did get something. The staff is taking a look to see if it's what we wanted," she said.

Trulock, who later resigned, has said he was prevented from sharing information with Congress about the Los Alamos investigation by superiors, including Elizabeth Moler, then deputy energy secretary.

The subcommittee demanded the original, unedited and classified copy of Trulock's testimony in a March 24 letter to Richardson. Hunter contends the testimony he actually gave the committee was heavily edited by the administration.

"I think we've been very patient on this matter, Hunter said. "Dr. Trulock had prepared testimony for this committee. That testimony had been changed. We don't know what Dr. Trulock was going to tell us."

Richardson offered to deliver the unedited, classified version of Trulock's original testimony to the panel, Hunter and Sisisky said. If the document isn't delivered, Hunter said, "then we will have another meeting... and we will issue the subpoena."

Hunter asserted that Energy Department officials "didn't tell us the truth" in October 1998 when they said there were no recent thefts of nuclear missile technology secrets from the Los Alamos nuclear weapons laboratory in New Mexico.

A former Los Alamos computer scientist, Wen Ho Lee, was fired in March for violating security rules.

Although not charged with a crime, he has been the FBI's prime target in the nearly four-year investigation of the alleged theft.

Lee, a Taiwan-born computer scientist who worked with the top-secret weapons design team at Los Alamos since the late 1970s, had denied giving any secrets to China and has accused the government of singling him out because he is Chinese American. China has repeatedly rejected any allegations of espionage.

Sisisky cautioned that "nothing has been proven that anything has been stolen."

Still, he said, the panel is entitled to the unedited testimony. "Some of us might not agree on the need for the document, but that is another matter." ■

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

House Recognizes Wartime Prejudice Against Italian Americans

WASHINGTON—Italian Americans suffered widespread violations of their civil liberties during World War II, and the time has come for the president to acknowledge those injuries, the House declared in legislation passed Nov. 10.

The legislation, approved by a voice vote, also directs the Justice Department to put together a comprehensive report detailing unjust treatment of Italian Americans during the war, when America and Italy were enemies. Mistreatment of Japanese Americans during the war has been well documented, but discrimination against Italian Americans is "largely absent from American history books," said Rep. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.

According to Rep. Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.), cosponsor of the measure with Rep. Rick Lazio (R-N.Y.), the U.S. government claimed 800,000 Italian Americans were enemy aliens, restricting them to within five miles of their homes and forcing them to carry photo IDs. He said 62,000 were subject to strict curfew regulations and more than 10,000 were forcibly evacuated from their homes. Lazio said after Pearl Harbor, "hundreds of Italian Americans were arrested as security risks and shipped off to distant internment centers without benefit of counsel or of trial."

The measure must still be considered by the Senate.

Democratic Fund-raiser Gets Immunity

WASHINGTON—Democrats joined Republicans on the House Government Reform Committee in voting for a limited grant of immunity from prosecution for Charlie Tice, a fund-raiser who was accused of arranging illegal campaign donations to the Democratic National Committee to obstruct a Senate investigation.

Tice, a former Little Rock, Ark., restaurant owner, is among three

National

central figures who entered guilty pleas and are cooperating in the Justice Department probe of Democratic fund-raising in the 1996 presidential campaign. Fund-raiser Johnny Chung appeared before the panel earlier this year, while former Democratic National Committee fund-raiser John Huang will probably testify next month. Congressional committee chairman Rep. Don Burton (R-Ind.) said that in response to an agreement with the Justice Department, the panel will refrain from asking the about two individuals who are under criminal investigation in the fund-raising probe. Burton did not identify the two.

"He was recently sentenced in Little Rock to four months of home detention and three years of probation after pleading guilty to violating campaign finance laws."

Teen Who Impregnated Sister to Be Deported to India

STERLING HEIGHTS, Mich.—A Missouri County teenager who got his 12-year-old sister pregnant was scheduled to be deported to his native India soon after getting out of jail on Nov. 15. Federal immigration officials said.

The teen, now 18, was arrested after authorities learned he had sex with his sister in the bedroom they shared in their parents' apartment. He was allowed to finish high school before serving his six-month sentence for fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct.

The case got national attention when the sister went to Kansas in July 1998 for a late-term abortion. She was in her third trimester.

Carol Jennifer, INS district director in Detroit, cited security precautions in declining to say when the teen was to be released and flown to India. The parents had said previously they would also go if their son was deported.

Cigarette Ads Target Minorities

CHICAGO—A coalition of minority health organizations demanded on Nov. 9 that Philip Morris withdraw new cigarette ads they claim disproportionately target the black, Hispanic and Asian American communities.

The ads include glossy maga-

zine images of minority women, including a ghetto, smoking the Virginia Slims brand. The groups are also angry about recently launched ad campaigns in Atlanta and Pittsburgh for Marlboro Micks, a menthol brand they say is aimed at the black community.

"They see us as potential new smokers, but we're not going to stand for it," said Rod Lew, project director of the California-based Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment and Leadership. He and other health officials held a news conference at the American Public Health Association's convention in Chicago.

In addition to sending letters to Philip Morris, Lew said the groups have asked magazines running the Virginia Slims ads to pull them from future issues. Those magazines include *People*, *Marie Claire*, *Glamour*, *Essence*, *Latina*, *Vibe* and *Ladies Home Journal*.

A Philip Morris spokeswoman called the claims "completely ridiculous" and said the ad campaign includes a white woman and is running in general market magazines as well as those that cater to black and Hispanic women.

Kati Otto, a spokeswoman at the company's New York headquarters, said the campaign—which the company has no intention of ending—was aimed at women who already smoke.

Small JA Community Lives in the Panhandle

SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.—There are at least 25 Japanese American families still living in the Panhandle more than 100 years after settling there to farm, work on the railroads and earn money.

The Japanese American Hall in Scottsbluff has remained a community cornerstone since it was built by the Issei around 1926 or 1927. Originally built for a Japanese school for the Nisei, the hall was also used for social gatherings, shibui (plays) and odori (dances).

"I'd have memories attending them when he was young. It was quite a deal," he said. "They liked to dance and were traditional Japanese dances, but we haven't done that for years."

Now the hall, which includes a

Buddhist temple, is used for anniversaries, weddings and funerals. "We are called the Nebraska Young Men's Association," Hara said. "We took over the building from the older people years ago. Now we are down to three or four members. But it's a place to keep going."

"We don't have a regular church, but we have an altar," added Sato Miwa, who attends services at the Scottsbluff Kyudokai, which was organized in 1949. "We still like to celebrate special occasions."

There are plans for a millennium celebration at the hall. All the grandchildren will be asked to dress in traditional Japanese clothing and will be taught traditional Japanese dance, said Mickey Hara, who is planning to write a history of Panhandle Issei.

Mayor Considers Trade Office in Osaka

DENVER—With Colorado closing its trade office in Osaka, Japan, earlier this year, Mayor Wellington Webb said he is considering opening a Denver trade office there. He was in Japan recently promoting the Denver International Airport.

The State International Trade Office was closed in January after only three months, something Webb believes was a mistake. Colorado maintains only a part-time employee in a trade office in Tokyo, which comes with 33 other states that have full-time trade offices there, he said.

"Based on my conversations, it was very clear during our visit that the state's decision was an insult to the people of Kansai," said Webb. According to Webb, Japan ranked as Colorado's largest export market last year with more than \$800 million exported.

OHA Trustee Won't Apologize for Inouye Remark

HONOLULU—Office of Hawaiian Affairs trustee Miliama Trask says she didn't intend to offend Japanese Americans or disabled people but isn't apologizing for calling U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye a "nose-armed bandit" during an Oct. 13 meeting of OHA's government affairs and sovereignty committee.

She said that description of Inouye was made in a newspaper article by a soldier who served with him in World War II. Inouye lost his right arm in the war.

Trask said Inouye has scheduled hearings in Hawaii this month for the Indian Affairs Subcommittee. He chairs a deal with reauthorization of the Native Hawaiian Education Act.

She said he is trying to update hearings scheduled next month between native Hawaiians and officials from the Justice and Interior departments. "Our reauthorization hearing just became an addendum to Dan Inouye's Senate hearings on reauthorization," said Trask, who also objected to changes made in the format of the Senate hearings that she said would limit how much Hawaiians could comment on the bill.

Inouye said he is saddened by Trask's comment. Supporters say the senator, a member of Congress since 1969, has brought in millions of dollars for native Hawaiian health, education and other programs.

OHA chairwoman Rowena Akana criticized minority trustees for releasing transcripts of Trask's remarks, while trustee Clayton Hee called Trask's comments unfortunate.

OHA chairwoman Rowena Akana criticized minority trustees for releasing transcripts of Trask's remarks, while trustee Clayton Hee called Trask's comments unfortunate.

Construction Planned for Pearl Harbor

HONOLULU—Pearl Harbor could be getting \$62.2 million for a new commissary, base exchange and youth center.

The money would come from nonappropriated funds generated by sales at military commissaries, exchanges, clubs and other on-base activities. Fund expenditures need only the approval of U.S. House and Senate Special Oversight Panels on Military, Veterans and Recreation, rather than the full House and Senate.

The projects would improve the quality of life for military families in Hawaii, while helping the state's economy, especially the construction industry, Hawaii Congressman Neil Abernethy said Nov. 12 in a news release.

The Democrat said the construction would also represent an investment in Hawaii's future as a hub for America's presence in the Pacific. ■

'Achieving the Impossible Dream' is Labor of Love for Authors

By Pacific Citizen Staff

They set out to tell the story of the Japanese American Redress movement and five years later authors Mitch Maki, Harry Kitano, and Megan Berthold reached that goal with the unveiling of their new book, "An Impossible Dream — How Japanese Americans Obtained Redress."

The authors hosted a panel discussion and book signing at the Japanese American National Museum on Nov. 11 to share their experiences in putting together the book that was recently published.

"I knew very little about this story when we first started," said Berthold. "Over the last five years I learned a lot about the Japanese American experience and came to care very deeply about the redress movement and what it stands for." She continued, "Redress is certainly a great Japanese American story but it is also a great story for all Americans."

The idea for the book began in June of 1994 when Kitano, professor emeritus of social welfare and sociology at UCLA, approached Maki, an assistant professor at UCLA's School of Public Policy. Later on, Berthold, a senior researcher at Cal State Long Beach, was asked to join the project. The book was finally completed in December of 1998.

"It has been a labor of love over the last five years," said Maki, a Sansei, who noted the interesting dynamics of working with Kitano, a Nisei who was interned at Topaz, and Berthold, a Caucasian from Vermont who knew very little about the camps before working on the book.

"What happened to Japanese Americans during World War II and the subsequent redress movement is not only a great Japanese American story, it is a great American story," added Maki. "And it is a story that we

all need to embrace and that we all need to share not only with our own community but with the whole American community because it is a story we should all be proud of."

During the JANM program, Kitano reflected back on the circumstances that resulted in the forced incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans from the West Coast during World War II. "We really had no chance. There was no one willing to fight for Japanese Americans," he said. "Even the ACLU... their national policy felt that fighting fascism was more important than the civil rights of a small, powerless minority. So we had very little sort of feelings that this was not justified. In fact many of us (Japanese Americans) felt that it was justified."

It was in 1967 that Kitano, with Roger Daniel, held the first academic conference on redress. Kitano still remembers how many JAs at the time told him to "let sleeping dogs lie." At the time there had not even been any discussion on reparations. "In the 60s we obviously weren't ready. When the ethnic community is not ready, then none of the other variables will probably fall in place."

In "Achieving the Impossible Dream" the authors take a look at the variables that were needed for redress and try to answer the question, why did redress take so long? The following is a list of factors outlined by Maki.

a) Development of an Emergent Norm

"What we needed as a community was to stop viewing what happened during World War II as a social misfortune but to begin viewing it as a political injustice," said Maki. JAs had to go from *shikata gari* to justice delayed is justice denied.

b) Feasibility — objective and subjective resources.

When JAs were first released

from camp in the late 40s they had very few objective and subjective resources. In all, it would take four decades for the JA community to decide to fight for redress.

c) Timeliness

For a successful movement, you must tie the movement into some kind of anniversary that gives it more credibility, and instill the idea that this may be the last chance to do something.

At the time the redress discussions were taking place in the community, it was estimated that 200 Issei were dying every month. And it was no coincidence that the redress bill was argued on the floor of the House on Sept. 17, 1987 — the 200th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution.

d) Utilization of Preexisting Groups

At the time, JACL, with its national network, was the pre-existing group that those in the redress movement could tap into, said Maki. In addition there were also the *coram nobis* legal team members, the National Council for Japanese American Redress (NCJAR) who articulated evacuation as a constitutional violation, and the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations (NCRP), a group specifically created to fight for redress. NCRP was the "expressive voice of the JA community" and for those who were not a part of JACL, he said.

e) Presence of an Extraordinary Solidifying Event

For the JA community, the camps and the redress movement itself were the two extraordinary solidifying events.

f) Dedication

"The dedication of all the people who were involved was tremendous," said Maki. "And there was really no one person who you can say started or finished redress. It was a



PHOTO: CAROLINE AOYAGI

Mitch Maki, one of the authors of "Achieving the Impossible Dream," signs a book at the recent panel discussion at JANM on Nov. 11.

continuum of people."

g) Access to Power

At the time of the redress movement, there were a number of JA politicians in the House and Senate. They included: Sen. Daniel Inouye, Sen. Sparky Matsunaga, Rep. Norman Mineta, and Rep. Bob Matsui. "We began to have access at that particular time," said Maki.

h) Framing of the Issue

There was an obvious reason that the redress bill was named the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. JAs wanted to make sure that the issue was framed as a constitutional issue.

i) Coalition Building

The main point of the redress movement was that the Civil Liberties Act was not just a JA bill but a bill that was supported by many different groups.

l) Luck or good fortune

This is not to say that JAs were lucky to win redress. This is the idea that the harder your work, the luckier you get.

In closing Maki said, "We set out to do an academic project... but what we came back with were friendships. We hope you pass these stories on to your children and to your grandchildren so that they can pass it on to all Americans."

■ JOB OPENING

NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Under the direction of the JACL National Board, the National Director manages and directs the administrative, program and advocacy affairs of the JACL, a national nonprofit civil rights organization.

Primary duties include: Full responsibility for implementing the activities of the JACL Program for Action and other policies and decisions for the JACL's National Council, and National Board of Directors. Serves as chief advocate and spokesperson to the general public, including mass media, government, business and community. Formulates timely positions on civil rights issues in consultation with the National President and National Board. Responsible for the oversight of financial management and accounting, maintenance of physical facilities, property, equipment, disbursement and expenditure of funds, and revenue development. Responsible for personnel matters, including general supervision and development of professional staff, employment and termination of all staff in accordance with the personnel manual, and coordination of the national staff to ensure effective and efficient policy implementation, program planning and development, and program evaluation. Responsible for foundation, corporate and public fundraising, including special fundraising events. Assumes appropriate contact with fundraising sources.

Filing deadline is March 1, 2000. Salary range: \$75,000 - \$100,000. Submit cover letter and resume to: JACL Personnel Committee, JACL National Headquarters, 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115. To obtain a detailed job description including qualifications, duties and responsibilities call or write John Tateishi at JACL Headquarters, 415/821-5225 or email to resrc@jacl.org.

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Survey Finds Only 30 Percent of AAs Aware of 2000 Census

WASHINGTON—With only five months to go before the 2000 census begins, a nonpartisan, nationwide study conducted for the U.S. Census Monitoring Board has determined that only 30 percent of Asian Americans are even aware that the decennial population count will be taken next year as compared to only 42 percent of the general population.

However, the study also concluded that the Census Bureau's multimillion-dollar ad campaign, which began in November, should raise awareness levels and, more importantly, effectively motivate Americans to participate in the census.

As part of its continuing oversight of census preparations, the monitoring board commissioned a series of focus groups and a national public opinion survey to measure public attitudes toward the census, and specifically to test the appeal of messages contained in the Census Bureau's ad campaign. The \$167 million ad campaign has been in development for months.

"I am concerned that only 30 percent of Asian Americans know the census is coming," said monitoring board co-chair Gilbert F. Casellas. "But I am encouraged that the Census Bureau will soon be getting the message out that they have gotten the message right."

The poll was conducted for the monitoring board's presidential members by Belden Russonello & Stewart (BRS), a Democratic firm, in collaboration with Research/Strategy/Management (RSM), a Republican firm.

The survey found that the Census Bureau's efforts to increase participation in the census among AAs would benefit from a message that highlights what the

census means in practical terms for their communities.

The survey analysis also pointed to specific communication needs when addressing the AA community. Almost half, 48 percent, of AAs feel strongly that the "census is a way for me and people like me to be counted."

A majority, 51 percent, of AAs also feel strongly that the "census is important to give me and my community political representation and power."

Eight in 10 Americans find it persuasive that, "The census count helps to determine how the federal government spends \$180 billion, and how much money each community gets for new schools and other educational programs, money for health care, emergency services, job training, roads, public transportation and many other things."

More than half of all respondents — 52 percent — found this message a "very" compelling reason for participating in the census, and indeed this concept is central to the Bureau's advertising campaign, as developed by the Young & Rubicam agency in New York.

The national television, radio and print campaign begins in November and will dominate the U.S. media for the next several months.

This exciting ad campaign has to be part of a broad-based strategy to remind Americans that a complete, fair and accurate census determines how we are represented and how billions in funds will flow to our communities," said Dr. Everett M. Ehrlich, former undersecretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs and a presidential member of the board. "The power of that message is expressed clearly and per-

suasively by the results of this study."

The survey also found that assurances about confidentiality find more appeal among AAs. More than five in 10, 55 percent, of African Americans worry the government does not keep information confidential.

The "confidentiality" hurdle will also be addressed by census advertising. "I'm glad the bureau plans to take this issue head on," said Lorraine A. Green, a member of the board. "Americans need to be reassured that the Census Bureau is bound by law to keep their personal data absolutely confidential. This is vital to ensuring a complete count next year, and I share my colleagues' belief that the census ads are on target."

The poll included oversamples of blacks, Hispanics and AAs to measure any differences across racial groups. It found that minorities and whites agree that the return of federal dollars to their communities is an important reason to answer their census questionnaires. However, there are also some message distinctions among racial and ethnic groups:

- Blacks and AAs give dominance to a message about what the census means in practical terms for their communities.

- Whites and Hispanics place community needs on par with a general message about civic responsibility.

- Assurances about confidentiality find more appeal among Hispanics and AAs than other groups.

The census monitoring board is a bipartisan oversight body created in 1997 to monitor and observe all aspects of census preparations and implementation. ■

New Book on Sweatshops Published

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center, as part of its 30th anniversary activities, is cosponsoring a photo catalog book and a special exhibition in Los Angeles on the history of American garment sweatshops. Both projects are in cooperation with the Simon Wiesenthal Center Museum of Tolerance and the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution.

The exhibition opened Nov. 15 at the Museum of Tolerance and will run until March 2000.

"Between A Rock and A Hard Place" captures the history of American garment sweatshops through photographs, artifacts, and oral history displays. It includes a recreation of the infamous El Monte slave shop where more than 70 immigrants toiled for several years until they gained their freedom in August 1995.

A major exhibition catalog titled, "Between A Rock and A Hard Place: A History of American Sweatshops, 1820-Present," has been published by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press. The 96-page photo and text book was compiled by Peter Liebholt and Harry Rubenstein, members of the curatorial staff of the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution. The catalog features all of the photos from the exhibit as well as an essay on the history of garment sweatshops by the two authors, an essay on the Los Angeles garment industry by UC Santa Barbara historian Richard P. Appelbaum, and interviews with two Thai workers who were enslaved in El Monte.

"We are pleased to join with the Smithsonian Institution and the Museum of Tolerance in producing this important catalog and cosponsoring this exhibit," said professor Don Nakanishi, director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. "We are hopeful that the publication and exhibit will en-

hance the public's understanding of the historical development, structural causes and deplorable economic and social aspects in America's past and present."

Generations of Asian Pacific immigrants and their descendants have been part of the American sweatshop experience, particularly as seamstresses and other workers. During the nineteenth century, they made jeans, work clothes and shoes in big cities and small towns from San Francisco to New England. After World War II, many Japanese American women, in returning to Los Angeles and other West Coast locales after being incarcerated in internment camps, worked in sweatshops to help their families regain their financial footing. Today, they represent a significant proportion of the workers as well as contractors of garment industries in Los Angeles, New York, the San Francisco Bay Area, and other metropolitan areas.

The exhibit, wrote Nakanishi in the preface to the catalog, "shines a bright light of revelation on the plight of dozens of Thai garment workers in El Monte, California, who toiled under and were eventually liberated from slave-like conditions behind barbed-wire fences for many years."

The book is available in paperback and can be purchased at the Asian American Studies Center or the Museum of Tolerance gift store.

It is also available by mail for \$12 plus shipping and handling if \$3 for the first copy, and \$1 for each additional copy, plus sales tax (8.25 percent for Los Angeles County residents; 7.75 percent for California residents).

Make checks payable to "U.C. Regents," and mail to the UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press, 3230 Campbell Hall, Box 951546, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546.

For more information, please call 310/825-2968 or 825-2974, or e-mail: ku@ucla.edu. ■

UYESUGI

(Continued from page 1)

liminary hearing in court.

"It does make a certain degree of sense to allow these people what little privacy they can have," Carlisle said. "If you bring them to a preliminary hearing, then everybody is going to know who they are, what their names are and certain-ly because of the media attention of this case, I have no doubt there would be media inquiries of these people."

Uyesugi pleaded innocent Nov. 5 to one count of first-degree murder and seven counts of second-degree murder. He did not say anything during that initial hearing.

He has been described by acquaintances as a quiet guy who bred tropical fish and made his own furniture. But police said he also owned more than two dozen guns and was a member of his Roosevelt High School rifle team.

Attorney Jere Fonseca said that Uyesugi behaved differently after suffering head injuries in a 1977 car accident on his way home from a high school graduation party. He required medical treatment after his head cracked the windshield.

Uyesugi's brother, Dennis, refused to categorize his brother's behavior after the accident.

Fonseca would not comment on a published report that Uyesugi complained several years ago of being tormented by a "spirit" in his head.

Meanwhile, Carlisle said he is hoping for a speedy trial but cautioned that an insanity defense could draw the case out because of the need for psychiatric examinations.

"Justice delayed is justice denied," he said. "The more we drag this thing out, the harder it's going to be on the family members, the harder it's going to be on the witnesses, the more there is going to be the cloud of time over their memories." ■

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Three Degrees of Separation

By Naomi Hirahara

In Search of Okazu

In Japanese America, there are two separate and distinct groups. One who equates comfort food with okazu, and the other who doesn't know what the heck you're talking about.

Surprisingly, the more you are removed from the "home country," Japan, the more you will understand the concept of okazu. On the other hand, ask anybody straight from Japan, and they will look at you puzzled: "Okazu — what do you mean, okazu?" Okazu is okazu. Just means food. Something to eat with rice. Can mean anything.

Being the daughter of a Japanese postwar immigrant in California, I fit into this latter camp. I grew up on curry rice, *korroke* (fried croquettes made with ground beef and mashed-up potato), tamale pie, spaghetti, dried-out liver and onions, sukiyaki, *shabu-shabu* and my favorite, corned beef and cabbage. As far as my family was concerned, any one of these dishes could be considered okazu, the main dish or entree. (Okazu, which literally means "number" or "many," actually is defined as "side dish" in Japanese.) But as I became older and cooked for myself, I discovered that this term meant something very special to my Sansei and Yonsei friends. It was, in fact, their essence, their soul food. Thus began my search for okazu.

• For my boyfriend, the word okazu conjures up cubes of tofu and slices of pork mixed together with soy sauce and ginger, the proud concoction of his 99-year-old Issei grandmother from Okinawa.

• For my girlfriend Sindy, it

means stir-frying leftover meat and vegetables.

• For a farmer's wife in Watsonville, Calif., okazu can even be meatless, and comprise freshly-picked tomatoes and broccoli.

As people explained to me what okazu was to them, I became even more confused. Okazu didn't consist of any specific ingredients. The only similarity was the method of cooking — stir-frying over the stove in a wok or a heavy pan. Then, when I interviewed those who grew up in farming families, I heard stories of Issei women cooking for large crews of field workers. Did okazu begin in the plantations of Hawaii or the vegetable fields of the West Coast?

Still others talk about the Depression here in America. These Nisei remember their mothers magically stretching out food by mixing vegetables with either tiny scraps of meat or tofu. Is this where okazu originated?

Or perhaps, does okazu all go back to the Chinese pioneers who worked in the gold mines, railroads and yes, the farming fields before the Issei?

All these theories, however rooted in history, do not help in defining okazu. The way to truly understand okazu, I've learned, is to experience it. For as much as okazu is food, it is also a state of mind.

The search continues. ■

Naomi Hirahara is a writer based in Pasadena, Calif. She welcomes any descriptions of okazu. Write her at NHirahara@aol.com or in care of this newspaper.

government's failure to invest the redress funds, only one-tenth of the \$50 million intended for education was spent and hundreds of Japanese American and Japanese Latin American internees have been deprived of equitable redress," said a spokesperson for the Campaign For Justice. "The government's refusal to take any responsibility for its malfeasance is shameful."

Plaintiffs plan to appeal the decision to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. ■

Associated Press contributed to this story.

Central Cal District Council Honors JACL Pioneers at 50th Anniversary Fete

By HARRY K. HONDA
Editor Emeritus

FRESNO—On Nov. 13, close to 500 strong helped the Central California District comprised of 10 chapters celebrate its 50th anniversary at a gala prime-rib banquet at Termino's Restaurant.

Kerry Yo Nakagawa of Fresno, director of Nisei Baseball Research Project, pinch-hit for main speaker Rep. Robert Matsui, who had apologized to dinner chair and D.C. vice-governor Robert Taniguchi (Livingston-Merced) that he could not attend because of congressional business in Washington.

Nakagawa ably sprinkled many stories of Issei-Nisei in baseball from pre-war games with such greats as Babe Ruth to his accompanying pioneer Nisei honored last year at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., and Sansei-Yonsei teams barnstorming in Japan.

Meanwhile, interim national director John Tateishi joyfully prefaced it was CCDC that "turned JACL's redress campaign around in 1979."

Fifty years ago (Nov. 5-6, 1949), five chapters in Central California petitioned the Northern California-Western Nevada District to form its own district council — the minimum required being three or more chapters.

Responding in San Francisco to a query concerning Central California's related petition for a separate district council, Tom Shimazaki of Tulare County explained there were four natural geographic divisions prewar embodying Japanese American communities in Northern California, the San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento, Central Coast (Monterey) and Central California (Fresno) but "when delegates from Central California had to leave at 5 a.m. to attend a 10 a.m. meeting, it was a dampen upon attendance," as noted in the minutes of that district council session.

The five Central Cal petitioners were Akira Chiamori (Parlier), Marshall Hirose (Reedley), Seichi Mikami (Fresno), Kenzie Imamura (Delano) and Shimasaki. The motion was carried.

In 1962, it was then CCDC Gov. Shimasaki's proposal to open up

national board meetings to allow a second district council representative, usually the immediate past chairman to participate but not vote. Again, the motion was adopted. At the time, districts that elected their chair annually were disadvantaged because, he said, a newly-elected district council chair would not be aware of ongoing national board matters.

In 1964 at Detroit, CCDC was the first to propose fast-track expenditures of \$2,500 or more before the national council floor requires the approval of three-fourth of member chapters. Intent was to discipline national

and benediction, respectively.

A colorful 45-minute slide show of CCDC history plus highlights from each chapter, captured by Power-Point on CD, was narrated by Ben Masumoto.

The incoming presidents were announced: Gene Shimizu (Clovis), Ben Nagatani (Delano), Earl Honda (Fowler), Randy Aoki (Fresno), Steve Teranishi (Livingston-Merced), Tad Kozuki (Parlier), Stanley Hirahara (Reedley), Ralph Kumano (Sanger), Tak Tsutsu (Selma), and Larry Ishimoto (Tulare County).

CCDC's lifetime achievement awards were presented by National President Helen Kawagoe to Mae Takahashi (Clovis) and Izumi Taniguchi (Fresno), longtimers who remain active and on-call at chapter, district and national levels. She especially honored

Fred Hirasuna with a handsome clock for his leadership spanning 70-plus years. The district's Heritage Award to a community organization from CCDC Gov. Grace Kimoto, recognized two Nisei VFW poets, Nisei Liberty #5869 of Hanford and Sierra #8499 of Fresno.

Sanger JACL president Ralph Kumazoe capitalized on the occasion by presenting the JACL Silver Pin for outstanding and exceptional services for a minimum of ten years at the chapter level to Kiichi Tange, Kazuo Komoto and Lloyd Kurahara.

The 24 CCDC honorees with JACL medallions with red-white & blue ribbons were as follows: Clovis—Fumio Ikeda, Dr. Mas Yamamoto, Gene Shimizu; Delano—Masaru Takaki, Saburo Okino, Sadao Yonaki; Fresno—Fred Hirasuna, Jin Ishikawa, the late Johnson Kebo (first D.C. governor); Fowler—Judge Mikio Uchiyama; Livingston-Merced—Noriyuki Tashima, Buichi Kajiwara, Tom Nakashima; Parlier—Bill Tsuji, Robert Okamura, Irene Tomiko Arifuku Kozaki; Reedley—Stan Ishii, the late Toru Ikeda (CCDC regional director), Masaru Abe; Sanger—Lloyd Kurahara, Kiichi Tange, Kazuo Komoto, Robert Kanagawa; Selma—George Abe.

For information, write to the CCDC Regional Office, 1713 W. Tulare St., #124, Fresno, CA 93721; or call them at 559/486-6815. ■



PHOTO: HARRY HONDA
Joanne Kagiwada (left), a former Washington, D.C., JACL staff member for several years, looks on as her father, Fred Hirasuna, (wearing the CCDC honoree ribbon), with wife Setsu, is recognized for his contributions.

committees to conform to the 60-day prior notice budget protocol. That limit was later raised to \$5,000 [Bylaw Article 14].

One of the biggest CCDC gatherings occurred in 1989 when 750 persons were present for the valley's Issei testimonial dinner at the Fresno Convention Center.

JACL's presence in Central California dates from 1923 when Dr. Tom Yatabe, revered as the "godfather of JACL," founded the Fresno chapter of the American Loyalty League.

Subsequently, other chapters were formed and eight met in San Francisco to initiate the Japanese American Citizens League in 1929.

Extending the evening's welcome at the 50th anniversary celebration were CCDC Governor Kimoto (Livingston-Merced) and Fresno Mayor Jim Patterson. California State University at Fresno's dean of students, Dr. Judy Sasaki, was toastmaster. Cub Scout Troop 199 posted and retired the colors. Rev. William Masuda of Fresno Bet-sun and Rev. Roger Morimoto of United Japanese Christian Church rendered the invocation

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Letters to the Editor

An Open Letter to Sen. Daniel Inouye

I read with much interest Martha Nakagawa's interview with Senator Daniel Inouye (P.C. Nov. 5-11) regarding reconciliation in our community between the resisters, JACL and the Japanese American veterans.

Although my mother went through the evacuation and my father was a member of the 442nd, I must confess that as a Sansei born in 1964, and being New Mexican and -bred, I have no direct involvement with the events of that tragic period, nor would any outcome have any effect on me or my family.

At one time, I did serve as a member of the national board of JACL. However, my only interest in this matter is to seek truth and reconciliation and not to criticize or defend the actions or positions of anyone during this period of time.

It is with a sense of bewilderment and sadness that I see that almost 50 years later, our community remains divided. At a time when many in this world seek reconciliation and understanding in the spirit of Nelson Mandela, too many in our community would rather join the Slobodan Milosevic of this world and continue to fight the battles of an earlier and less enlightened time.

At times, I have mused some thought whimsically that if the souls of all involved would forgive each other to enter the gates of heaven, the devil would have a traffic jam. I would like to suggest that Phillip Yancy's "What's So Amazing About Grace" be read by those who refuse to forgive. They would learn that forgiveness towards those that have wronged them liberates the soul. But perhaps life is not that simple; perhaps those who hold on to their anger do not have the necessary set of beliefs or values. And besides, I do not have the power and position required to recommend a book, much less facilitate reconciliation.

But while I do not have that authority, Sen. Inouye, you do. No one in the JA community would ever question your commitment, your courage, your patriotism, your love of the community. As a senator, you have brought together disparate viewpoints. As chairman of various investigative committees, you have a reputation for finding the truth. Sen. Inouye, you stated that the leadership must come forth and bring about this reconciliation. I agree. You are that leadership. The wounds are deep. It will require the best leaders that our community has to bring about the healing process. I believe that you are the only person in the JA community who has the respect, the experience and the position to bring about a reconciliation.

This endeavor should have the best possible leadership. It is my hope that you will find it possible to undertake this task. In my opinion, you would render an exceptional service to the JA community.

Randolph Shibata
Albuquerque, N.M.

Monies Needed for Terminal Island Memorial

There has been an overwhelming inundation of articles and letters exhorting Nikkei and interested parties to donate generously for a number of memorials. There was the recent groundbreaking for the JA memorial in Washington, D.C., which I attended and was deeply moved. There is the once highly controversial JA veterans monument near the JA National Museum. There are the two quietly touching and significant

Korean War and Vietnam War KIA memorials by the JACCC, soon to be joined, hopefully, by the World War II KIA memorial.

But there has been a striking lack of publicity of the efforts of a small group who are trying to raise funds to memorialize the once flourishing village of Terminal Island in San Pedro Bay. Too little is known about this community of some 2,500 JAs who were evicted from their homes on Feb. 26, 1942, within 48 hours.

The War Relocation Authority was not established until May 1942, so when the U.S. Navy eviction order was given to each household, absolutely no provisions were existent as to what to do with the household furnishings, where to go after leaving the island, or how to cope with the heartbreaking and overwhelming problems which confronted the wives and children of this community. Only three weeks earlier, on Feb. 9, all the men with commercial fishing licenses had been taken into custody by the FBI and sent to detention camps in North Dakota and other distant states.

No other JA communities experienced what the Terminal Islanders endured from Dec. 7, 1941. Soldiers with bayoneted rifles patrolled the streets of this community — jeeps with .30 caliber machine guns could be seen at all times. Curfew was established. Junior and senior high students who had to cross the main ship channel to attend schools were checked by the soldiers on guard at the ferry landings.

Not only was the community physically destroyed, but very few islanders could resume their previous occupations after the war, since they had lost all their fishing boats and equipment. Naturally, during their detention in the various camps, others who were not considered "dangerous" to the security of the United States had filled their former jobs.

Before WWII, Terminal Island was a bustling community, with myriad activities. Both Japanese and American holidays were celebrated en masse — the San Pedro Skippers were a crack baseball team, kendo and judo matches were held annually. There was even a distinctly "Terminal Island patois".

But sadly, the passing of decades seems to have broken the former ties that the Terminal Islanders had. The list of donors which I received today has conspicuous gaps. Where are the names of those with whom I went to school, to the Baptist Mission, patronized Ben's Sweet Shop for "kintoki" and the Murakami and Toma Markets for daily needs? Where are the names of those who married Terminal Islanders whom they met in internment camps like Manzanar?

The memorial which has received a great deal of publicity required millions of dollars. This Terminal Island memorial has a goal of only \$150,000. Yet, even though a small, dedicated group has been striving to reach prospective donors and expended a great deal of effort, only two-thirds of this sum has been collected.

So this is a plea for support — to memorialize a small fishing community which was the first to endure the injustices inflicted on a group of people whose only "fault" was sharing the same ethnic identity as the enemy.

From the wilds of New Hampshire, totally on my own initiative, without any request for help from the Terminal Islanders, I solicit your contributions before the end of this year to make the Terminal Islander Memorial a reality.

Donations may be made, fully tax exempt, with checks made out to the Japanese American National Museum or JANM; then write in the bottom left-hand corner of

the check, "Terminal Islanders Memorial," mailed to: Terminal Islanders, Inc., c/o Toshiro Izumi, 3041 11th Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90018.

If you have any questions, call Tosh at 323/735-6675.

Kanaki Stanley
Yamashita
Lebanon, N.H.

Reader Thanks P.C. for Minidoka Coverage

As secretary of the Jerome County Historical Society I would like to thank all of the publicity that you have given to our refurbishing of a barracks at Idaho Farm and Ranch Museum. We have been getting many contributions to this project and many mention they read about it in your paper.

I would especially like to thank Mae Hari for the collection of pictures of the choir at the camp and the programs as well. She lives in Madison, Wis.

Also, my thanks to Yoshimi Yamamoto of Tukwila, Wash., for the copies of the *Minidoka Irrigator*, pictures and other artifacts we received from him.

Again, my thanks for all you have done for us.

Peg Robinson
Sec. Jerome County
Historical Society

Reader Criticizes Tone of Letters

As a non-subscriber to the *Pacific Citizen* but a reader of copies frequently lent to me by a friend, I have been appalled by the naked hostility displayed by some writers of letters to the editor, particularly on the subjects of draft resisters (honorable or not), apologetics (deserved or not), and the wartime culpability (or not) of the JACL.

I refer specifically to a section of a letter from Barry Saiki (Oct. 6-14) in which he rails against a letter writer calling himself Ben Goshi.

"What," demands Saiki of Goshi, "prompts you to be so protective of anti-JACLer Chin? ... Is a relative married to a Chinese?"

I find that second question inordinately offensive and totally uncalled for.

I have one word for Barry Saiki and for any other Japanese American who harbors such a shockingly biased attitude toward a fellow Asian American. "Shame!"

Takako Kuwawaki
New York

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 abridgement. Although we are unable to print all the letters we receive, we appreciate the interest and views of those who take the time to send us their comments.

Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Chance, Soon Hee "Genny," 67, Compton, Nov. 1; Hamann, Korea-born; survived by husband Fred; daughter Sugie Mary Chance Naezel; 3 g.

Fujinaka, Asako, 83, Monterey Park, Oct. 31; Gardena-born; survived by son Ben and wife Jan, Steven; daughters Kimiye Kendall and husband Benjamin, Jean Kobata, Carol Shinoda and husband Peter Jr. (Texas); 11 g.; 4 gcs.; brothers Tokio Muramoto and wife Shizuko, Hiroshi Muramoto, Setoichi Muramoto and wife Akiko, Issa Muramoto, sister Emiko Yoshimura and husband Yuji (all of Japan).

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

Furuta, Dorothy Hisayo, 92, San Francisco, Oct. 26; Nagano-born, naturalized U.S. citizen; survived by daughter Agnes A. Suzuki; son Stanley S. and wife Terrie; 7 g.; 9 gcs.; predeceased by husband Paul Takao.

Hiramoto, Kikichi, St. Louis, Oct. 14; Rohrer internee, long-time JACLer; survived by wife Florence; daughters Ceci, Janice, Bonnie.

Hirosewa, Sachiko, 81, Monterey Park, Oct. 29; Compton-born; survived by son Ronald and wife Doris; daughter Julia Sayoko Tafel-Davis and husband Ron Davis; 4 g.; 2 gcs.; sisters-in-law Suzuki Shimo, Kimi Hirosewa.

Hori, Kiyomaro, 84, Everett, Wash., Oct. 27; Grant, Idaho-born farmer in Idaho; survived by wife Setsu; children Kiyoharu, Kiyotsugu, Suzuki, Satoko, Sachio, Kimiko Yamashita, Matsuko Bortz, Kiyoko Laffer, brother Kiyosaki (Tacoma, Wash.); sisters Cora Morinaka and Bertha Atagi (Nyssa, Ore.); Uki Ryukin (Ogden, Utah); Jean Nagashima (Billings, Mont.).

Inada, Tatsuno, 106, Sacramento, Oct. 22; Wakayama Prefecture-born; survived by daughters Sadie Inada, Betty Fumiko Silva and husband Cecil, Nancy Kaneko Shimizu and husband Tomotsu Thomas; son Maso Tom Inada and wife Yoshiko; 6 g.; 12 gcs.

Inouye, Fred, 81, San Mateo, Nov. 3; San Juan Bautista-born, JACL member; survived by son Kent; daughters Amy, Julie; sisters Dorothy Maeda, Haru Inouye; sisters-in-law Setsue Nonomura, Emi Komoto; brothers-in-law Tadao and Arthur Kaisaki.

Inouye, Yoshi, 79, San Mateo, Nov. 5; Wapato, Wash.-born, JACL member; survived by son Kent; daughters Amy, Julie; sisters Setsue Ninomiya, Emi Komoto; brothers Tadao and Arthur Kaisaki; sisters-in-law Dorothy Maeda, Haru Inouye; predeceased by husband Fred.

Ishida, Kinuko, 92, Gardena, Oct. 28; Maui, Hawaii-born; survived by son Glen Keiso and wife Setsuko; daughters Amy Matsumoto and husband Kumao, Jean Miyahara and husband Stan; 8 g.; 7 gcs.; sisters Aiko Tanaka, Kiyomi Sato and husband Tadae.

Kosugi, Frank Takashi, 85, Stockton, Nov. 4; survived by wife Tamiko; daughters Emi Sugimoto and husband Yukiharu, Akemi Nakamura and husband Dr. Mit-subo Bob; 4 g.

Matsumoto, Shigeru, 75, Spokane, Wash., Oct. 28; Seattle-born farmer, JACL member; survived by brothers Tadashi (Chattaroy), George (Richland), Tashio (Deltona, Fla.); sisters Fumiko Matsumoto (Spokane), Michiko

Fujika (Chattaroy), Marion Low (Scarsborough, Ontario).

Mayeda, Martha Maya, 79, Los Angeles, Nov. 2; Seattle-born; survived by husband Charlie; sons Roger and wife Pattie, Roy; 1 g.; sisters Miyuki Murahashi, Esther Katayama and husband Terry; brother Tom Tsuji.

Morris, Florence Taylor, Houston, Oct. 21; active in St. Louis chapter JACL and helped develop the Japanese Garden and the Japanese Festival.

Nakai, James Shinichi, 82, Hawthorne, Nov. 1; Los Angeles-born; survived by wife Miyoko; daughters Jeanne Kim and husband Ken, Carole Nakai, Janet Kabashima and husband John; 1 g.; sisters-in-law Emiko Nakai, Masako Nakamoto and husband Ken; brother-in-law George Fujita and wife Jane.

Nakajo, Hoshiko Esther, San Francisco, Nov. 2; Tokyo-born, U.S. resident since 1937; survived by daughters Christina Harada and husband Peter, Helen Nakajo and husband Andrew Whitelaw; sons Benjamin, Stephen and wife Etzie; 4 g.; 1 gcs.; predeceased by parents Gen. Katago and Toki Kasuga.

Oshita, Miyuki "Mickey," 78, Chicago, Nov. 2; Stockton-born; survived by sister Shinobu (Hayward); brother Hosen and wife Sue; predeceased by brother Kai.

Sakata, Florence T., 81, Chicago, Oct. 19; Stockton-born; survived by husband Churo; daughters Kathryn, Karen, June.

Sakata, Churo, 85, Chicago, Oct. 21; survived by daughters Kathryn, Karen, June; predeceased by wife Florence (Oct. 19).

Shindo, Denny Lyle, 41, Granada Hills, Oct. 28; survived by daughter Monique; parents Yolanda and Art; brother Rick and wife Robin; sisters Dayna Yoneda, Vicki Manley and husband Mark.

Shirakawabe, Edna, 79, Anaheim, Oct. 30; survived by husband Henry; survived by daughter Patricia Omaye; son Chris Suzuki; 1 g.

Toyota, Yoshito, 86, Reedley, Nov. 8; Montebello-born; survived by wife Hiroko; daughter Kyoko Mitsuko and husband Chris; son Shuzo and wife Sachiko; 4 g.; sister Kikue Sasaki and husband Tsutomu.

Wakabayashi, Yoshiko, 76, Spokane, Wash., Oct. 24; Spokane-born; JACL member; survived by husband Tokuo; daughter Mariene Wakabayashi; brothers George Saiki and Mike Saiki (all of Spokane).

Yasumura, Hisa, 103, San Francisco, Oct. 23; survived by son Harry and wife Maria; sister Haru Segami; 3 g.; 4 gcs. ■

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BATTALION

(Continued from page 1)

the MIS but added that the battle for liberty now needed to be fought on the home front, in America and not overseas.

Before his departure from the MIS, Shimo asked other Nisei men, who had earlier voiced anger over the questionnaire, why they had decided to answer "yes/yes." Shimo was told many of them feared being court-martialed and possibly being shot.

Since the Army initially did not know where to place these dissidents, they were scattered to various WRA and Army camps. Shimo was first sent to Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and then to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Word soon came down that the Army was forming the 525 Quartermaster Corp., an outfit comprised of U.S. soldiers of Japanese, German and Italian descent whom the Army wanted to keep under surveillance. Among the men in the 525 were Nisei from Fort McClellan who had chosen to walk out the "right door."

All the 525 men were demoted to private. Demotion would be a recurring thing for Shimo as he got "busted down" or demoted to private about four times during his stint in the Army.

Shortly thereafter, the Army, realizing the talent of these men, formed the 8800th Engineer General Service Battalion, a full-fledged engineering battalion capable of constructing a military base from scratch, and building and repairing bridges, roads and fences.

The 1800th soon made a name for themselves. In particular, the battalion received a War Department commendation from Brig. Gen. S.M.C. Tyler for averting disaster in the Mississippi Valley during one of the area's worst floodings in recent history.

A Jan. 29, 1945, article in the *Nashville Banner* praised the 1800th for repairing fences, rebuilding fields and maintaining the roads in military training areas after 11 previous engineer-

ing battalions had failed to adequately do so.

Despite their record, the 1800th Nisei soldiers were continually asked to fill out a "loyalty" questionnaire.

"After a while, we'd get another questionnaire," said Shimo. "This is not the camp questionnaire, now ... it was a simple questionnaire that asked, 'Am I willing to go wherever ordered?' I would say that under the present circumstances, 'No.'"

Shimo also remembered undergoing several questioning sessions.

"They asked me all kinds of questions," said Shimo. "One of the questions was if Japan invaded, which side would you fight for? I would give the standard answer — whoever is defending the camps. I told him [investigating officer], 'I wonder who would be defending the camps? Would the guards be defending against the Japanese? Or would it be the other

way around?'"

"That kind of hinted around that I doubted if the U.S. would be defending the camps, especially if they were invaded here," continued Shimo. "They took it that I would fight against the U.S. I said I would be fighting against whoever was attacking the camps, insinuating that it would be the guards that would be machine gunning the people. That's one of the reasons that I didn't want to go overseas. If anything like that happened, I wanted to be right by the camps. If I got killed, I got killed right there. It was a long answer, but basically that was it, and I'm sorry he thought I would fight against the U.S."

When the war ended, the men in the 1800th were not immediately discharged like other soldiers. Each had to appear before a special board of discharge to determine the kind of discharge to receive. Shimo served as an interpreter for the Kibei Nisei

for their hearing.

Although many Nisei, including Shimo, received an honorable discharge, most of the Kibei were issued a "without honor" discharge, which meant the soldier retained their American civil rights but were denied all Army benefits.

Shimo believes the discharge board was biased against the Kibei because many spoke with heavy Japanese accents and thus were not as articulate in English.

During the early 1980s, one of the Kibei, who had received a "without honor" discharge, hired attorney Hyman Bravin and became a test case in an effort to clear their records. The case was successful, and all the 1800ers were upgraded to honorable discharges.

Shimo, through the help of Jack and Aiko Herzog Yoshinaga, also had his FBI files opened. He

was astounded by the things written about him.

"They [the government] assigned people to ask about me and some of that [information] was outright lies," said Shimo. "I can't believe some of the things they said ... unless they got me mixed up with someone else."

Looking back at his past, Shimo said he doesn't regret a thing.

"Would I do the same thing? — Oh, I'd do more," laughed Shimo. "This time I got better arguments. ... You see, I'm not an intellectual. I didn't know anything about the Constitution. Back then, I was just mad. I was a gut reaction. I asked why my dad and mom were imprisoned. Something was wrong. This time I'll be talking about the Constitution." ■

Paul Tsuneishi is an MIS veteran.



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4/6-4/11	Fitzgerald Washington D.C. & Maryland, Cherry Blossom Tour	
4/30-5/11	Panama Canal cruise aboard the Dawn Princess	
May or April	Tour to Costa Rica	
5/15-5/21	Mayflower Tours Mackinac Magic and Tulip Festival	
5/20-5/28	Alaskan Cruise aboard the Ocean Princess	
6/25-7/2	Disney Cruise Vacation	
7/1-7/8	7-Day Venice to Rome Cruise aboard Windstar	
7/7-7/14	3 nights London and 3 nights Paris	
7/23-8/3	12-Day Barcelona to Istanbul Cruise aboard the Grand Princess	
Aug	Fitzgerald Canadian Rockies	
Oct 1	Fitzgerald Albuquerque Balloon Festival & Carlsbad Caverns	
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JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE



1998
Annual Report



LETTER FROM THE BOARD

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**JACL National Board
of Directors**

What are the challenges we will be facing?

For one thing, we know that the number of Japanese Americans will decline, relative to other APA ethnic groups. Chinese, Vietnamese, Koreans, South Asians (Indians), and Filipinos have all surpassed us in number, and will continue to do so in the coming years.

What are the challenges we will be facing?

For one thing, we know that the number of Japanese Americans will decline

We know that interracial and interethnic marriages are literally changing the face and complexion of the Asian American community.

We know that, like other groups, we are affected by affirmative action programs being dismantled state by state. In particular, we feel the impact of the glass ceiling.

These are just some of the challenges to be addressed in the beginning of the next millennium. Yet, if we remain a strong and energetic community, able to

All this means that we must, each of us, become and remain more involved. It means that we have to develop an even greater presence in Washington, D.C.

The major vehicle for carrying out these changes continues to be the JAACL. We are the meeting ground for Japanese Americans across the country. It's where

As we close out the 20th century, we in the JACL are rededicating ourselves to work shoulder to shoulder on issues of importance to Japanese Americans.



Annual Campaign

In 1998 we received \$66,100 from over 3,163 donors. These funds have been used to support a wide variety of AAL programs. Our thanks go to the following individuals and organizations:

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Japanese American Citizens League is a national membership organization whose mission is to secure and uphold the human and civil rights of Americans of Japanese ancestry and others and to promote and preserve the cultural heritage and values of Japanese Americans.



VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the Japanese American Citizens League is to be one of the nation's preeminent organizations in the United States in the areas of multi-ethnic and multi-cultural understanding, and civil and human rights. JACL will continue to develop national programs and strategies to carry out its mission. We will promote the continuous regeneration of leadership in all aspects of public and community life, and fulfill its vision in the new millennium.

JACL PROGRAM SUMMARY

ADVOCACY PROGRAMS

Nineteen ninety-eight proved to be a busy and satisfying year for JACL in the advocacy arena. Various issues, including some long-standing efforts on both the state and national level, were brought to a successful resolution.

Redress

This year saw the successful conclusion of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988—the 10-year program designed to compensate and recognize Japanese Americans who were excluded and interned during World War II. JACL played a major role in winning reparations for over 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry by funding projects that had an influence on public consciousness and on legislators at the state and federal level.



Department of Justice ceremony celebrates completion of the 1988 Civil Liberties Act. (From left) Herbert Tamashiki, former JACL national director; Grace Uyehara, Bob Bratt, former ORA administrator; Attorney General Janet Reno; Helen Kawagoe, JACL national president; former congressman Norman Mineta; and Bill Lann Lee, Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

The year also saw the successful resolution of a six year battle with the Office of Redress Administration and the Department of Justice to win an apology and reparations for former railroad and mining workers and 155 of their family members. The workers had lost their jobs in 1941 and 1942 due to government actions and were unable to find other work. As a result, they and their families suffered severe economic hardship. The success was made possible through a concerted effort by the JACL and the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations (NCRR). Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Bill Lann Lee and his department also played a supporting role.

Another coordinated effort was satisfactorily resolved when the government settled a class action suit and won reparations and an apology for Japanese Latin Americans interned during the war. At the start of World War II, over 800 JLAS were taken from their homes in 13 Latin American countries and incarcerated in camps in the U.S. These Japanese Latin Americans had been without a country and unable to return to Latin America, and only recently were allowed to apply for U.S. citizenship. JACL members all over the country participated in a massive letter-writing campaign directed at President Clinton as well as actively petitioning local city council members and boards of supervisors in support of redress for JLAS.

Anti-Affirmative Action Bill

In January of 1998, supporters of Washington State's Initiative 200 garnered enough signatures to place it before the state legislatures. I-200 was the initiative to abolish affirmative action programs in public education, employment, and contracting. The legislature, in turn, chose to place the issue before the voters. In Washington State, the JACL worked with local groups to oppose the initiative, and the Pacific Northwest District asked for and received funds from the national board to support its efforts.

Los Alamos

On March 8, Dr. Wen Ho Lee from the Los Alamos National Weapons Laboratory was fired for improper handling of classified documents. Originally alleged to have been involved in espionage activities in a report by the Cox Report, charges against Dr. Lee were later changed to mishandling classified documents.

Concerns of the JACL reflected those of other Asian American civil rights groups that racial profiling of Asian employees in the nation's weapons labs be avoided. The JACL joined with the Organization of Chinese Americans and other Asian American groups to pressure the White House and Department of Energy from singling out Asian American employees as possible security risks.

The JACL Washington Office continues to be involved in monitoring the weapons lab situation.

Bill Lann Lee

Bill Lann Lee, appointed as Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights by President Clinton in 1997 when he failed to be recommended for confirmation by the U.S. Senate, was denied a second confirmation hearing by Senator Orrin Hatch, chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The JACL participated with a coalition of Asian American civil rights and leadership groups in Washington, D.C. to urge the Senate leadership to hold hearings on Lee's confirmation. Citing the increase in hate crimes and evidence of persistent discrimination in the areas of employment and housing, the JACL joined in urging hearings for Lee's confirmation to enforce civil protections for Americans.



Tab Uno, president of the JACL Salt Lake City chapter, speaks at the Salt Lake City rally in support of Bill Lann Lee. Standing to his left is Larry Grant, Intermountain District governor.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Teaching the JA Experience

Most grammar, high school, and college teachers in the U.S. have no knowledge of Japanese American history nor the prejudice and discrimination visited on the 120,000 American men, women and children of Japanese ancestry who were imprisoned without due process during World War II. This situation is being remedied through educational programs developed by JACL.

In cities across the U.S. teacher training workshops are being held that provide an overview study of Japanese Americans, including a history of the wartime internment, a history of culture, achievement, issues, philosophy, and modern day outlook. The workshops feature such speakers as Rick Noguchi, coordinator of the "Transforming Barbed Wire Project" and Masaji Inoshita, a former internee at the Gila River Relocation Center.

Those who attend are provided with a Curriculum and Resource Guide entitled "A Lesson in American History: The Japanese American Experience" along with lesson plans,



books, videos, posters, and other resources to take into the classroom. The teacher training workshops are a project of JACL's NISEI program and are funded through a grant from the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund.

A Segment of 1998 JACL Scholarship Winners

Consistent with the Japanese American belief that education is a key to greater opportunities, JACL offers approximately 42 national scholarship and awards to qualified students nationwide. In 1998 the amount spent on awards and scholarships totaled over \$70,000.

The program provides scholarships to students at the entering freshman, undergraduate, and graduate levels. In addition, the program offers special awards to individuals involved in creative projects that reflect the Japanese American experience as well as an award based on financial need.

JACL scholarship winner
Kristi Funakoshi
Field of Study:
International
Business



I believe that the roots of problems such as unfair stereotypes and racial injustices are the fear of differences and ignorance. Through events and programs sponsored by the JACL and other organizations...the community can be exposed to the Asian Culture. They can learn more about the contributions Asian Americans have made to the growth of America....

JACL scholarship winner
Vivian Umino
Field of Study:
Directing/Film
Production



Although the landscape of my films are undeniably Japanese American, ultimately, I am interested in the common ground that pulls people together even as the world tries to pull us apart. Those who have seen the early versions of my film, no matter what their race, have been brought to tears and laughter all the same by this Nisei story. With my films, I will fight to remind my fellow Americans that what is different is neither foreign nor suspicious. What is different is all the beauty of what is human.

JACL scholarship winner
Bradley Hirasuna
Field of Study:
Engineering



JACL has shown what Japanese Americans have to offer this nation. I plan to make an impact on this nation and hopefully on the world around us. I know the obstacles I will run into will be tough and unrelenting but so will I. No one ever said life was going to be easy, but I never told anyone that I was going to be easy on life.

Mollie M. Ito
Michio Iwahashi
Dave Iwai
Miyo Iwakiri
Ayako Iwami
Agnes T. Iwamoto
Lynn H. Iwamoto
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Rusty Robert Kimura
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Kazuo Matsumoto

BUILDING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

Attracting Young Japanese Americans

JACL is increasing its efforts to provide programs directed toward JA students and young adults that encourage them to become contributing members of the Japanese American community.

Speaker Series

One of the most popular new programs is the speaker series initiated in 1998 by the Young Adult/Student Council of the Pacific Southwest District of JACL. The mission of the Young Adult/Student Council of PSWD-JACL is to develop programs that will carry the JACL into the next century with vigorous participation and enthusiasm from the young adult and student members. The meetings bring together leaders of the Asian American community and provide a relaxed forum for dialogue and discussion where everyone has an opportunity to share ideas on important issues affecting all segments of the community.



1998 Min Yasui Oratorical Contest winner Suzanne Itami

Min Yasui Oratorical Contest

Compelling leaders are often compelling speakers. The Min Yasui Oratorical Contest offers young JAs the opportunity to speak out for what they believe and present their ideas to a receptive audience. The nation-wide contest for high school students and undergraduate college students is named after civil rights lawyer Minoru Yasui, one of three Nisei who challenged the internment of Japanese Americans. The competition has two phases: (1) a district-wide competition in each of the eight JACL districts, and (2) a national competition held during the national convention. Contestants compete for a cash prize. The purpose of the competition is to inspire young adults to discuss current issues affecting the Asian Pacific American community.

Mike Masoaka Fellowship

As part of its effort to develop future leaders, the JACL makes it possible for a college or graduate student to work in Washington, D.C. with a prominent U.S. senator or representative. Through the internship program, students get a first-hand opportunity to experience public service in the nation's capitol. The program is funded through an endowment created specifically for the internship program. In 1998, University of Pennsylvania political science graduate Andrew Daisuke Stewart worked with Congressman Bob Matsui, while UC Berkeley English major Christina Nagao served in the office of Patsy Mink.



Facilitating Citizenship

The JACL Pacific Southwest office and Little Tokyo Service Center hold regular workshops for immigrants in the Japanese community to help those who wish to apply for U.S. citizenship. Because of the recent cuts in benefits to non-citizens, passing the citizenship test has become increasingly important. The language-friendly workshops assist people in filling out forms and getting them better prepared for the INS examination. Other JACL districts are now beginning to follow suit.

Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference

This annual leadership training conference was originally initiated by the JACL and is now jointly sponsored by the JACL and the Organization of Chinese Americans, the two largest Asian Pacific American organizations in the United States. This week-long conference exposes 20-30 emerging leaders of JACL and OCA to current pressing public policy issues and concerns.



Greg Mayeda accepts the Vision Award at the Youth/Student Council Luncheon during the recent JACL national convention. Also pictured are Deirdre Howard (far left) and Sheila Chung (second from left) of Hif and national-board members Nicole Inouye (second from right) and Hiromi Ueha

National Youth Council

The National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) is represented on the JACL National Board of Directors by the chair of the council and one Representative. In addition to their direct involvement with the affairs of the National Board and JACL, the Council has its own governing body. Among its leadership development activities, the NY/SC organizes and sponsors a biennial leadership conference at which 100-150 students attend. This year's winner of the NY/SC Vision Award was Hapa Issues Forum, a national nonprofit organization working to give a voice to mixed-race Asian Americans.

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The JACL network of chapters reaches into virtually every region of the country, and the ability of the chapters to communicate with each other and with the national office gives the organization its power. During JACL's 1980s redress campaign, the JACL network showed its effectiveness as a lobbying organization in its ability to reach congressmen and senators throughout the country. Everyone said that redress would never pass, but the JACL network made it possible.

JACLS's regional offices focus on issues, programs, and concerns of local and regional interest. Chapters are not isolated outposts but are closely integrated into the national network. The mission of the national organization is to take care of JAs and APAs throughout the entire United States.

Every two years, members from across the country come together for JACL's national convention where they elect officers, adopt a budget, approve the next year's Program for Action, and recognize outstanding leaders and contributors. It is the largest regular gathering of Japanese American leaders in the nation.

This year the convention was held in Philadelphia and drew an enthusiastic crowd of over 800 people. Speakers included Honorable Jim Wright, Former Congressman Norman Mineta, Congressman Robert Matsui and Acting Assistant Attorney General of Civil Rights Bill Lann Lee.

The convention placed special emphasis on the Youth Program, while the Awards Luncheon was highlighted by a tribute to Glenn Roberts who, as a member of Congressman Mineta's staff, played a critical role in the passage of HR 442. AT&T was the official underwriter of the convention with a substantial donation of \$20,000.



JACler of the Biennium: **Allan Hida**,
Wisconsin Chapter



George Inagaki Chapter of the Biennium Award: **SELANOCO** Chapter
Edison Uno Memorial Civil Rights Award: **Susan Fay Strauss**
IA of the Biennium in the areas of:

Business/industry/technology: **Shigeki "Shake" Ushio**
Education/humanities: **Aki Kurose**
Sports/all other fields: **Peter Westbrook**

Recipients of the Ruby Pin, the highest honor bestowed by the JACL and awarded to individuals who have given years of service to the organization:



Mae Takahashi,
Clovis Chapter
Fr



Frank Sakamoto,



Ruth Hashimoto,
New Mexico Chapter

The JACL has the largest network of chapters of any Asian Pacific American organization in the United States. The 112 chapters are located in 25 states, Washington, D.C., and Japan.

Chapter	State	Chapter	State	Chapter	State	Chapter	State
Alaska	Alaska	Livingson-Mercer	California	SELANOCO	California	Twain Cities	Minnesota
Arizona	Arizona	Udovich	California	Sequoia	California	St. Louis	Missouri
Alameda	California	Marin County	California	Southern Nevada	Nevada	Vegas	Nevada
APL	California	Marina SCAN	California	Sonoma County	California	Bemo	Nebraska
Berkeley	California	Marystville	California	South Bay	California	Omaha	Nebraska
Carson	California	Monterey Peninsula	California	Stockton	California	New Mexico	New Mexico
Chico	California	North San Diego	California	Stockton	California	Cincinnati	Ohio
Contra Costa	California	Orange County	California	Torrance	California	Cleveland	Ohio
Cortez	California	Parlier	California	Tulare	California	Dayton	Ohio
Delano	California	Pasadena	California	Tulare	California	Portland	Oregon
Diable Valley	California	Placer County	California	Venice-Culver	California	Snake River	Oregon
Eastwood	California	Progressive Westside	California	Ventura County	California	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
East L.A.	California	Rosemead	California	Westside	California	Texarkana	Texas
Elen Township	California	Riverside	California	West L.A.	California	Mount Olympus	Utah
Florin	California	Sacramento	California	Wenden	California	Salt Lake City	Utah
Fontana	California	Salinas	California	Wichita	California	Wasatch Front	Utah
Freemont	California	San Benito County	California	Wickenburg	Colorado	Gresham-Trousdale	Washington
French-Camp	California	San Diego	California	Aurora Valley	Colorado	Lake Washington	Washington
Fresno	California	San Fernando Valley	California	Mile High	Colorado	Mid-Columbia	Washington
Gardena Valley	California	San Francisco	California	Southeast	Georgia	Olympia	Washington
Glendale	California	San Gabriel Valley	California	Honolulu	Hawaii	Puget Valley	Washington
Golden Gate	California	San Jose	California	Bozelle	Idaho	Spokane	Washington
Greater L.A.	California	San Luis Obispo	California	Idaho Falls	Idaho	Spokane	Washington
Greater Pasadena	California	San Mateo	California	Pocatello-Blackfoot	Idaho	White River Valley	Washington
High Desert	California	Sanger	California	Chicago	Illinois	Wisconsin	Wisconsin
Hollywood	California	Santa Barbara	California	Hoosier	Indiana	Washington D.C.	Washington, D.C.
Imperial Valley	California	Santa Maria	California	New England	Massachusetts	New York	New York
		Selma	California	Detroit	Michigan	Seabrook	New Jersey

Instituted over 50 years ago, the *Pacific Citizen* is the only national newspaper serving the Japanese American community. The *Pacific Citizen* is the connecting thread that ties together the national JACL network. The newspaper offers bi-weekly updates on the activities and programs of the 112 national chapters. It provides district coverage. It profiles outstanding Asian Americans. It offers weekly columns and a wealth of articles of special interest to the JA community. The *Pacific Citizen* is also widely read among legislators in Washington, D.C. and gives us a strong voice in the nation's capitol.



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Samuel T. Okamoto
William Okamoto
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GIFTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Leaving a Legacy

For more than 70 years the JACL has been an organization dedicated to redress, citizenship, cultural and educational needs of Japanese Americans. These endowments are investments in JACL's future for generations to come. As we begin to build the JACL planned giving program, we will offer a range of giving opportunities that can help you increase your current income and reduce your taxes, and more while at the same time leaving a legacy to the JA community.

The National Endowment provides funds that support the national organization. This includes funds for such programs as education, advocacy issues, and cultural programs

The National Scholarship Endowment provides scholarships to National JACL members who are interested in furthering their education.

The Legacy Fund is a self-sustaining perpetual endowment in which only the earnings are used to implement the organization's mission. Ten percent of the Fund's earnings are available to the chapters and districts for programs consistent with the goals of the JACL Program for Action. At the national level, funds are used in support of a wide range of advocacy initiatives.

The following is a representative sampling of the thirteen Legacy Fund grants approved in 1998:

- **The San Joaquin Valley Japanese American History Project.** There has never been a comprehensive history written of the Japanese communities such as Fresno, Del Rey, Reedley, and Madera in the San Joaquin Valley and the lives of the Issei contract laborers. Thus, there has been an urgency to obtain oral histories from the Nisei and Issei remaining before they pass on and the stories are lost forever. The JACL chapters in Central California proposed to recruit volunteers to be trained as interviewers.

who would do interviews at an oral histories workshop.

- **The Southern California Chapter of Hapa Issues Forum.** Many Hapa children are now grown up and asking, "What about our place in the Asian America community?" Outmarriage statistics in the Japanese American community are as high as 65% in southern California. Consequently, the SoCal-HIF, with the co-sponsorship of the APAN chapter of JACL and CSUN's Asian American Studies Department organized a first-of-its-kind conference in Southern California to explore, examine, and address the articulation of Hapa identities and realities, and their relationship to the Asian American community.

- **Sponsorship of a Teacher's Workshop about the Japanese American Incarceration Experience.** The incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II is a topic that has not been covered in detail in many school districts in the greater Minneapolis and St. Paul areas due to lack of resources or limited awareness on the part of teachers. Through this Legacy Grant, educators, students and parents were able to gain an insight into the effects of prejudice, bigotry, racism and discrimination against others, thus becoming motivated to take appropriate action against violations of human rights and civil liberties.

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Our Corporate Partners are essential to ensuring JACL's ability to expand our existing programs as well as creating new ones. The following companies have been most generous in their support of the JACL.

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Financial Reports

Japanese American Citizens League Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets for the Year Ended December 31, 1998

REVENUES:

Membership	\$848,933
Contributions	104,867
Newspaper revenue	166,448
Investment income	364,626
Net realized gains on sale of securities	696,187
Other revenue	282,745

Total revenue 2,463,806

EXPENSES:

Programs	1,400,985
Management and general	440,987
Fundraising	13,648

Total expenses 1,855,620

Increase (Decrease) in net assets 608,186

Net assets at beginning of year 9,821,705

Net assets of end of year 10,429,891

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