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2000

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# Pacific Citizen

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## JACL Calendar

### National

**Mon., June 26-Sun., July 2**—36th Biennial JACL National Convention; Doubletree Inn, Monterey, Calif.; special rate for JACL conventioners. Reservations: 831/649-4511, <www.doubletreemonterey.com>

### Eastern

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
**Sat., Jan. 22**—Installation Dinner; 5 p.m., Far East Restaurant, Rockville, Md.

### Midwest

**CHICAGO**  
**Sun., Feb. 6**—Day of Remembrance program, co-sponsored by the Chicago JACL and the Japanese American Service Committee (JASC); see Community Calendar for details.

### Pacific Northwest

**PORTLAND**  
**Sat., Jan. 22**—Annual Shogatsu Potluck and Installation; 5:30 p.m.,

Epworth United Methodist Church, 1333 SE 28th; raffie, prizes, teriyaki chicken provided

**Sun., Feb. 6**—Mochitsuki; 1:30-4 p.m., Smith Center Ballroom, Portland State Univ. Info: Julie Schumann, 224-1458.

### SEATTLE

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

### NC-WN-Pacific

### LODI

**Fri., Jan. 21**—Joint Stockton & Lodi Installation Dinner, Omega Restaurant, Lodi.

### MONTEREY PENINSULA

**Sat., Jan. 29**—Five-chapter Joint Installation Dinner; San Juan Oaks. Info: Mike Mitani.

### SONOMA COUNTY STOCKTON

**Fri., Jan. 21**—Joint Stockton & Lodi Installation dinner, Omega Restaurant, Lodi.

### Central California

### DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Sun., Jan. 9**—District Council Quarterly Meeting, Parlier.  
**LIVINGSTON-MERCED**  
**Sat., Jan. 15**—Chapter Installation Dinner.

### Pacific Southwest

### DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Sun., Feb. 27**—PSWDC Quarterly Meeting.

### GREATER L.A. SINGLES

**Fri., Jan. 4**—Meeting/program; 8 p.m., Gardena Valley YWCA, 1341 W. Gardena Blvd.; speaker, Dr. Roy Machida of the Americans of Japanese Ancestry Memorial Alliance; also, a video of the National Japanese American Memorial groundbreaking ceremony to be shown by Paul Banai. Info: Louise Sakamoto, 310/327-3169. ■

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

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

## COMMUNITY Calendar

### The Midwest

#### CHICAGO

**Sun., Feb. 6**—Day of Remembrance program, co-sponsored by the Chicago JACL and the Japanese American Service Committee (JASC); 2 p.m., JASC, 44427 N. Clark St.; speaker, professor George DeVos of the Japanese American Interdisciplinary Research Group. Info: Chiye Tomihiro, 773/348-6380.

### Pacific Northwest

#### PORTLAND

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

### Northern California

#### BERKELEY

**Sat., Jan. 8 & 22**—Berkeley Nikkei Seniors Group meetings; North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave. Info: Terry Yamashita, 510/237-1131, Tazuko White, 510/528-1524.

#### BAY AREA

**Sun., Jan. 9**—Nikkei Widowed Group

monthly meeting, 2 p.m.; new members, both men and women, are welcome. For time and place, call Tets Ihara, 415/221-4568, or Kay Yamamoto, 510/444-3911.

#### SAN FRANCISCO

**Fri.-Sun., Jan. 14-16**—San Francisco Film Society Retrospective, "Unfolding Horizon: the Films of Hou Hsiao-hsien"; Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. Call the Museum for times, etc.: 415/379-8879.

**Sat., Feb. 10**—Tenth anniversary celebration of exhibit, "Strength and Diversity—Japanese American Women, 1885-1990"; 6:30-9 p.m., Grand Hyatt at Union Square, 345 Stockton St.; Rep. Patsy Mink, keynote speaker and honoree. Info: National Japanese American Historical society, 415/921-5007.

#### SAN JOSE

**Thurs., Feb. 3**—Performance, "Stories of Life," by Eth-Noh-Tec presented by Contemporary Asian Theatre Scene; 7 p.m., Milpitas Community Center, Milpitas. Info: 408/298-2287; e-mail: <catonline@yahoo.com>.

**Sat., Feb. 19**—Yu-Ai Kai Crab Spaghetti Feed; 6 p.m., San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin Annex; "crab" race, "No Attention Desired" required fundraiser drawing. Tickets, info: 408/294-2505; e-mail: yuailkai@prodigy.net.

### Southern California

#### LOS ANGELES

**Saturdays, Jan. 15-March 4**—Singing Workshop for Youth; 10 a.m.-12

noon, Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo. Info: RSVP: 213/625-0414.

**Through 2000**—Exhibit, "Re-Visioning Manzanar," featuring works by Ansel Adams, Robert Hasuiki, Masumi Hayashi, David Alan Yamamoto and others; Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo. Info: 213/625-0414, 800/461-5266. Web site: <http://www.janm.org>.

**Thurs., Jan. 13**—Reading & Performance: "Angry Haiku Trios"; Fresh Off the Page series by East West Players; 7:30-9 p.m., Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo. Info: 213/625-0414, 800/461-5266. Web site: <http://www.janm.org>.

**Through Sun., Jan. 16**—Exhibit, "An American Diary: Paintings by Roger Shimomura"; Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo. Info: 213/625-0414, 800/461-5266.

**Tues., Jan. 18-Thurs., Feb. 10**—Exhibit, "Acts of Nature" paintings and prints by son and father Joel Nakamura and Yoshio C. Nakamura; Rio Hondo College, 3600 Workman Mill Rd., Whittier; gallery talk, Jan. 20 at 7:30 p.m., artists' reception, 8-9 p.m. Info, hours: 562/692-0921 ext. 3471.

### Arizona - Nevada

**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. ■

# Beat the Rush

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# Influential JA Researcher:

## Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga



Just as our wartime exclusion and detention mark us Japanese Americans in the 20th century, our movement to redress this egregious injury to us and to the Constitution of the United States required us to understand the political and legal dimensions of these actions. As remarkable as our act of securing redress was, the movement itself entailed research, largely unheralded, that corrected our wartime history in significant ways.

Three events are noteworthy. First, the 1983 publication of *Personal Justice Denied: Report of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians* superseded, as the official government's history of the camps, Lt. General John L. DeWitt's *The Final Report*.

Second, the successful court challenges to vacate the wartime convictions of Fred Korematsu, Minoru Yasui and Gordon Hirabayashi weakened their long-standing precedents in the rule of law.

And third, the challenge on behalf of the entire class of 125,000 wartime victims in the lawsuit of *William Hohri, et al. v. The United States of America*, 1983-88, while not successful, defined in its complaint and 22 causes of action the injuries sustained by us and that seriously compromised the Constitution's protections and guarantees for all Americans.

Each of these efforts required extensive research into primary documents in our nation's archives. (Generally, secondary sources such as books written about events are usually not admissible as evidence in court, while primary documents such as copies of letters, memoranda and transcripts of telephone conversations that reveal intent or define actions are more likely admissible.)

And at the heart of this research, but not alone, was the team of Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga and Jack Herzig, with Herzig-Yoshinaga pulling the laboring oar.

While she and Jack made important contributions to the second of these efforts, the first and third relied almost exclusively on her research.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the efforts of this Nisei woman with only a high-school diploma and the intelligence, grace and grit to do the work *summa cum laude*. No small part of this team's genius was the network of research-minded friends they made while doing

their work. These included Peter Irons, John Toland, Rita Takahashi and Richard Drinnon. Their research has displaced the Herzigs from their master bedroom which now contains around 100,000 documents, index cards, a computer, a copying machine and no bed.

It is not possible to list all of Herzig-Yoshinaga's findings in this short article, but let me discuss just a few of our widely-held beliefs about this experience that she and others debunked.

The idea that persons with as little as one-sixteenth Japanese blood were excluded-detained, which originated in *Americans Betrayed* by Morton Grodzins, is false.

The figure of \$400 million as an official estimate of our collective wartime losses is an unsupported fiction. The term "no-no" as applied to segregation continues to be widely used and is incorrect; only ques-

copy of the "first edition" of DeWitt's *The Final Report*. What many do not realize is that until the publication of *Personal Justice Denied*, DeWitt, the nemesis of Japanese America, had been having the last laugh, in body and in spirit, for four decades with his official account on the camps that he authorized and implemented: Herzig-Yoshinaga now enjoys the final laugh.

In 1981, she went to work for the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians and did most of the research that supports the history provided by its report.

Not only did her research contribute to this important "update" of our government's official version but, in 1982, she discovered the only surviving copy of the actual "first edition" of *The Final Report*. Her discovery discredited the report as the final word. She knew that all 10 copies of this printed-

and-bound "first edition" had been ordered destroyed and a revised "first edition" was published.

But no one knew what revisions had been made. Her discovery — a story in itself — demonstrated that the revisions were, in

fact, a cover-up; the War Department had cleansed DeWitt's original words of their blatant racial bias.

This racial bias — its deliberately altered absence — was crucial in the 1944 oral argument in *Korematsu*. Solicitor General Charles Fahy had argued that the "evacuation" was supported by military necessity and only military necessity.

When questioned by a justice, he replied that had it been based upon race, it would have been clearly unconstitutional. In arguing this, Fahy embraced *The Final Report* as authoritative down to every "line ... word ... syllable," thus exposing, probably unwittingly, the cover-up of the revised "first edition."

As it is with most "upitty" members of a racial minority, Herzig-Yoshinaga's work was denigrated by an attorney in the Department of Justice, who characterized her as "an ignoramus" and "a destructive force" to a white reporter for the *Los Angeles Times*. But that's a merit badge.

She has created an important legacy for Japanese America. Instead of a stone monument of attestation, it is her master bedroom that tells the tale. ■

"We owe a debt of gratitude to the efforts of this Nisei woman with only a high-school diploma and the intelligence, grace and grit to do the work *summa cum laude*."



By WILLIAM HOHRI



# Influential JA Writer:

## Yoshiko Uchida (1921-1992)



By Sachi Seko



**Y**oshiko Uchida, the responsible and reflective writer, possessed all the skills of her craft. She was honored and recognized in the larger literary world. Yet, the collaborators of *Alieeeee! An Anthology of Asian-American Writers* ignored Uchida and her work. Such a deletion served only to discredit the

anthology because Uchida's body of published and acclaimed work cannot be denied its rightful place.

Even more egregious is the sometimes inferred suggestion that Uchida could not write the *Great Japanese American Novel* (*GJAN*).

Uchida was the product of an atypical Japanese American family. Her Christian parents were both graduates of Doshisha Uni-



versity in Kyoto, Japan. Her father was a salaried man employed by Mitsui and Company in San Francisco. Her mother stayed at home with the two daughters as a homemaker in a time when most other Issei mothers, because of financial necessity, worked alongside their husbands in fields or as domestics for white families or provided services such as laundry and sewing from their homes.

The Uchida parents encouraged cultural experiences for their daughters by accompanying them to the opera, symphonies, plays and museums. The father's company railroad

pass enabled the family to vacation outside of California. Their connection to the JA Community was maintained mainly by regular attendance at the Japanese Independent Congregational Church where the parents assumed leadership roles.

Life before Pearl Harbor was remembered fondly by Uchida in her memoir, *Desert Exile*.

"Both my parents had a lively sense of humor, and there was often much laughter as well as after-dinner singing at our parties. We sang everything from *Old Black Joe* to *In the Good Old Summer time*."

Undoubtedly, Uchida, who wrote her first stories at the young age of 10, was influenced by her mother's literary inclination. She remembers, "My mother was a dreamer—a gentle, sensitive and creative person, who when she found time for her own interests, wrote many *tanka* (31-syllable Japanese poems) using the pen name Yukari. She felt too humble about her poems to have them appear in anything other than

the Japanese Women's Christian Temperance Union periodical published by one of her close friends, but many found her *tanka* beautiful and moving. After her death, my father and I collected as many of her poems as we could, some written on scraps of paper or on the backs of envelopes, and had them published in book form in Japan.

"Mama loved to read and owned dozens of books, including the Japanese translation of Tolstoy's entire works which she had hoped one day to read, but never did. Her bureau was always piled high with periodicals and books, but they too usually went unread. As she grew older, she put aside a half hour each morning to read, but it was only the Bible she found time for.

"She was studious by nature and kept many notebooks of new English words she had learned or of quotations she liked. Unable to part with her college notebooks, she brought most of them with her to America in her big brown trunk, along with the books she had read in her English literature courses at Doshisha. I still have one of her notebooks, the ink now faded to the color of dust, in which she copied with the precise hand learned from her missionary teachers quotations from Bacon, Milton, Tagore, and Eliot and poems by Longfellow, Browning and Shelley. When she was in her 70s, she memorized again Wordsworth's *Daffodils* because she said, she wanted to keep her mind alert.

"But most of the time, my mother's own dreams and creative pursuits; pushed aside for the needs and demands of her family, existed only in bits and pieces on the fringes of her life."

Uchida was a JA rarity, a professional creative writer. Her primary source of taxable income was earned from the publication of more books and articles than by any other Nisei writer. Her books alone total close to an impressive 30 volumes. Her reputation is based largely on what are described as books written for young people. Perhaps projecting books for a younger readership was the rationale for omitting Uchida from the list of possible writers of the *Great Japanese American Novel*. If that is the standard by which a writer's qualification is determined, one would have to surmise that E. B. White, the essayist, should be disqualified as an American literary icon because of his authorship of children's books, *Charlotte's Web*, *The Trumpet of the Swan* and *Stuart Little*. The universal popularity of E. B. White's imaginative stories raises the question of how a book's readership is determined. For practical purposes, most books and writers elude categorization.

Perhaps it is imperative that there be a distancing of time in order to put events into their proper perspective. Often, it is said that one has to leave one's birth country to truly understand and appreciate it. With the advantage of hindsight and maturity, both Uchida's memoir (1982) and novel (1987) are wider and deeper in scope than books by

previous writers. And, too, time is often required to revisit our historical terrain of pain.

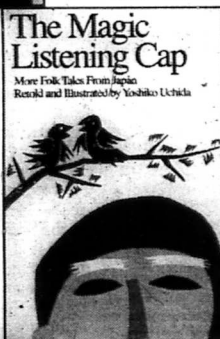
For example, more than 50 years after the closure of the camps, misunderstanding and outright animosity fester between those who volunteered for Army duty while contained behind barbed wire fences and those who refused to observe the draft unless they were free men. A small minority chose prison time in defense of their constitutional rights. Uchida remembers, "The Nisei men of draft age were asked to make an agonizing decision inside the concentration camps of America. There were those critical of the 'no-no' men and there were those critical of the men who answered 'yes' and volunteered. I believe it required uncommon courage to make either decision under intolerable circumstances."

Uchida's observation in this regard, as in all her writings, is reasonable and moderate. It is representative, I am certain, of the majority opinion of those who shared the camp experience. The continuing argument between resisters and their dissenters appears like an old fire burning out of control, extended and expanded by a minority, some of whose intentions often seem less than honorable, camouflaging a cruel contest to define patriotism. For all our differences, even if we find each other personally detestable, those who were incarcerated are forever joined. We were equal victims. Uchida, a witness, has written of the camp experience in her own true voice. Some argue her prose is too passive, that her agony and anger are too contained. But to have written otherwise would have contradicted Uchida's conciliatory character.

The search for the designated writer of the *GJAN* is less important than the book. Too much effort and energy have been directed toward identifying the potential author. It is possible he or she is already in our midst. No matter. The product—the *GJAN*—should not be superseded by its creator although it has become common practice in a culture which encourages self-promotion. The book's theme and development are what should pique our curiosity, particularly since the gestation of this tome has exceeded two generations.

Which story shall be chosen from the many? Will it be sad or glad? Will it be of winners or losers? Of patriots or traitors? Will it be of death or life? How will the *GJAN* be determined? Will the determination rest with a chosen few, self-appointed or otherwise? No matter. It will be recognizable. Whether intentionally or accidentally, Uchida left suggestions for the *GJAN*.

Her untimely death in 1992 removed Uchida's name from the potential list of writers of the *GJAN*. However, part of her literary legacy was her adult novel, *Picture Bride*. It is the story of 21-year-old Hana Omiya, a picture bride who arrives in San Francisco to marry Taro Takeda in an arranged marriage. On her arrival in America, "A mass of troubled thoughts tumbled about her





head as she prepared for bed. Perhaps she had made a terrible mistake in coming to America in her anxiety to escape the drabness of Oka Village, perhaps she had leaped too far and severed too many roots. Now, like a tree transported beyond its native soil, she must grope for life and sustenance in an alien land, to be cherished by a stranger whose love she feared and whose life must, in the end become her own."

Marriage to Taro Takeda meant a life of great disappointment for Hana Omiya. He was neither handsome nor prosperous. The small, shabby shop he operated was not the grand store of Hana's imagination. He lacked the good looks, verbal skills and sexuality of one of his best friends, Kiyoshi Yamaka. Alone with Kiyoshi one day in the shop, "As Hana watched him, she realized she had never before talked with a man with whom she felt so completely at ease. She wanted to tell him that she would gladly work to help him save enough for a business of his own. She longed to tell him what joy she felt in simply being close enough to touch him."

"For the first time since she had come from Japan, she felt intensely alive. She was aware of every breath and movement of her body and saw every detail of the ugliness that surrounded her in the shop. She could almost feel the texture of Yamaka's sweater, pulled over his rough blue work shirt. She observed his thin nose and sensitive lips and the strong brows frowning slightly over his brown eyes."

"She felt as though the bindings of her body had been removed, and she was free at last to feel truly alive. Now she knew the real reason she had traveled across the ocean. It was to be here, in this place, at this very moment."

"Suddenly, she reached out and clasped Yamaka's hand in both her own."

"You will always be my friend, Kiyoshi San," she promised, "for as long as I live."

"And for that brief moment, Taro did not even seem to exist."

The futile love between Hana and Kiyoshi terminates tragically in his early death from influenza. However, it forever shadows the marriage of Taro and Hana through the death of their unborn male child, the birth of a daughter, the rental of a better house, the purchase of their small shop, and finally incarceration in a concentration camp. Taro can never forgive or forget this early treachery of Hana's heart.

Hana represents the typical picture bride who endures hostility and humiliation in an alien country. Through hard labor and sacrifice, after many years, she and Taro eventually achieve a level of comfort when abruptly all their gains are quickly lost in the hysteria of World War II. Previously, their only cherished daughter has caused heartbreak by eloping with an Anglo American. One of their closest friends is shot and killed by a sniper, venting his anger toward Japanese. Another is seized by the FBI and incarcerated in Montana and later asks to be repatriated.

The events profoundly affect Taro. "Taro did seem old these days, even to Hana. He had aged with each new shock that had violated the peace of his small, secure world, and now he seemed to be slipping into numbing lethargy. Dr. Kaneda's abrupt seizure by the FBI had shaken him badly. The loss of his shop into which he had poured his life's energy eroded his being even further, perhaps beyond salvage. The last blow had been Henry Toda's senseless death."

Taro was like a man who had been struck down once too often, and Hana wondered if he could ever rise again."

*Picture Bride* is a poignant reminder of the sacrifice of immigrant wives. Theirs was not an easy lot, pledged to strangers who were often older, taciturn, humorless, less educated. Taro lacked both verbal skills and spontaneity. He was torn between admiration and resentment for his wife's quick grasp of problems and their solutions. Unwittingly, she often strayed beyond boundaries determined by male authority, much to the unconcealed displeasure of her husband. Taro was undoubtedly a good man, religious, honest and hardworking. But he was joyless. Uchida married two ill-suited individuals in her novel.

Yet in her memoir, *Desert Exile*, she offers an incredibly different true story of her parents, whose marriage was also arranged. "The two of them, my mother and father, complemented each other well. My father enjoyed working with figures and was extremely adept at using the abacus, and never allowed a bill to remain unpaid on his desk for more than a day or two."

"My mother, on the other hand, was quite indifferent to money matters, seldom counted her change, and never wrote more than a handful of checks in her lifetime."

"My dreamer mother instilled in my businessman father an appreciation of the creative aspects of life that sometimes escaped him, and brought out the tenderness close to the surface in him as well. He came to love plants and flowers, and enjoyed growing them especially for the pleasure they gave my mother. He would often come in from the garden carrying a particularly beautiful flower saying, 'Here, Mama, I dedicate this to you.' And she would smile and say, 'Thank you, Papa San,' and put it in her best cut-glass vase."

"In later years, my father also wrote some *tanka*, and although he was not as skilled as my mother at the craft, he learned to share that pleasure with her as well. Throughout their life, they always shared a deep and abiding faith that was the foundation of their marriage and of our life as a family as well."

"Their marriage was an arranged one, as was the custom of their day. But I have always thought the professors (of Doshisha University) who planned the match must surely have taken great pride in the glorious success of their endeavor."

Uchida's memoir begins with her childhood and concludes with the death of her parents after the war, in their Berkeley, California, home. "In his 76th year my father suffered a stroke that left him partially paralyzed. But in the remaining 10 years of his life, he learned to write with his left hand, continued to correspond with many friends, and did not abandon his annual campaign to raise funds for Doshisha University's Department of Theology, which his Issei friends supported generously. He and my mother faithfully attended Sycamore Congregational Church each Sunday, and joined its members in a fund-raising drive that enabled the church to build a new sanctuary only 16 years after the Japanese Americans returned from the camps to begin their new lives in California. When my mother died in 1967, my father endured her death with more strength than my sister or I. He had helped so many families through so many deaths, he knew what had to be done, and from his wheelchair he quietly and resolutely made all the necessary decisions."

"My parents, like many of their

Issei friends, did not fear death, for they had faced it so often and accepted it as a part of life. Both of them planned their own funeral services long before their deaths, selecting their favorite Japanese hymns and Bible verses. My mother wanted only a small family funeral and a memorial service for her friends, but my father wanted the customary evening funeral service held for most Issei. We followed both their wishes."

A comparison of Uchida's two books, *Desert Exile* and *Picture Bride*, is inevitable. There is a duplication of certain historical experiences. In *Picture Bride*, Uchida demonstrates her considerable skills as a story teller. It is a beautifully crafted story. Yet, it is the memoir, *Desert Exile*, which continues to pique my curiosity. It is the kind of book one lingers over, hoping it will not end too soon. The Uchidas are a sophisticated family, educated and traveled, literate and perceptive. They do not conform to the stereotype of immigrant Japanese, or as Uchida has stated, they were "atypical."

At first, it was puzzling that Uchida would choose such ordinary characters for her novel. I thought the Takedas were ill-matched, but after considering the matter further, they were representative of many Issei immigrant couples who had little in common. Although they are fictional characters, there is an aura of familiarity about them because they have been appearing and reappearing in countless oral and written collections. They are family. But not Yoshiko Uchida's.

I cannot resist wondering why Uchida forfeited the considerable resource of her personal history for writing the *GJAN* and chose instead to invest her intelligence and imagination in a novel which is such a departure from her sophisticated life. It is possible, however, that Uchida hoped *Picture Bride* would be interesting and instructive to a larger American readership. At the time of Pearl Harbor she was completing her undergraduate work at UCLA, Berkeley, which she entered at age 16. After the war, she earned her graduate degree from Smith College on a full scholarship. Later two years were spent studying in Japan as a Ford Foundation Foreign Area Fellow. Other than writing, her only other professional pursuit had been teaching and she remained committed to education through her writing.

Is there a possibility that Yoshiko Uchida did write the *GJAN* and it remains to be discovered? During her visit with me in Salt Lake City in 1983, Uchida explained her writing methodology. She said she always wrote a complete first draft, then tucked it away in a drawer or some other safe keeping place and ignored it for months, even years. Then, at some later time, she would reexamine it and decide whether to improve or to discard it. Was there another unpublished manuscript? Could Yoshiko Uchida have written the *Great Japanese American Novel*? ■





PHOTO: SACHI YAMAMOTO

# Influential JA Journalist:

James Omura

## 'No Quiet American'

By Takeshi Nakayama

James Matsumoto Omura of Denver was no shrinking violet. He was a warrior in Japanese America's battle to regain their constitutional rights during World War II.

Belying writer Bill Hosokawa's description of Japanese Americans as "quiet Americans," Omura fought unyieldingly to gain justice and equality for his people during those dark days of the 1940s when the Nikkei were locked up in U.S. concentration camps without due process.

When young Nisei interned at Heart Mountain, Wyo., refused to report for military induction until their constitutional rights were restored, Omura not only published their news releases in his Rocky Shimo newspaper, but he also wrote editorials supporting their cause.

For his steadfast adherence to the principles of truth and justice, Omura was neither praised as a hero nor showered with accolades, but instead was subjected to ostracism and constant harassment from self-styled "leaders" in the Nikkei community.

"James Omura was the Nisei Martin Luther King, 20 years before the famous civil rights march," declared Heart Mountain resister Yosh Kuromiya, at the time of Omura's death in 1994. "He was 50 years ahead of his time. He died waiting for us to catch up. No one listened back then. Is anyone listening now?"

Frank Emi, one of the leaders of the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee, often described Omura as "the only Japanese American journalist to write editorials supporting the Heart Mountain draft resisters."

Emi, who served an 18-month sentence in federal prison for his part in counseling young Nisei to resist the draft, remembered Omura in 1994 as "a real valuable person who really stood up for principles."

Omura, for his actions supporting the Nikkei draft resisters, was indicted and tried on conspiracy charges in federal court in Cheyenne, Wyo. He was acquitted of the charges, but expenses incurred in the trial left him "flat broke."

After the legal ordeal, Omura attempted for three months to obtain work in Denver, but was unable to keep a job. He charged

the JACL leadership with harassing him wherever he went.

Finally, he took a job as a gardener and kept a low profile for 35 years, until the 1980s, when he began giving talks about the mistreatment of JAs during WWII.

Omura was born in 1912 on Bainbridge Island, Wash., and reared in a Japanese settlement there. As a young man, he gained work experience in the salmon canning, railroad, lumber and produce industries.

From 1933 to 1940, he was associated with various immigrant newspapers as editor and columnist. From 1940 to 1942, he became publisher and editor of *Current Life*, a magazine devoted to Nisei art and literature. Many

poets, fiction writers, essayists and artists published in this pre-war magazine have gone on to make a name for themselves including Hisaye Yamamoto, Toshio Mori and Toyo Suyemoto, to name a few.

Omura lived in San Francisco until March 1942, when he relocated to Denver to avoid going to the U.S. concentration camps where 120,000 persons of Japanese descent were imprisoned during the war.

Indignant at the gross injustices perpetrated against the Nikkei population in America, Omura testified at the Tolan Committee congressional hearings held in San Francisco. He was alone in his protest of the eviction of JAs from their West Coast homes.

"I would like to ask the committee," Omura told the lawmakers who were supposed to be on a fact-finding mission, "Has the Gestapo come to America? Have we not arisen in righteous anger at Hitler's mistreatment of Jews? Then, is it not incongruous that

citizen Americans of Japanese descent would be similarly mistreated and persecuted?"

In Denver, Omura presented the issues of the evacuees to government officials from Washington and proposed the first request for reparations for the tremendous losses suffered by the Nikkei.

Omura was involved in many activities in Denver's JA community during the war. He established a free employment agency to assist other dislocated JAs. On their behalf, he filed three major economic discrimination cases through the War Manpower Commission. These cases, his supporters maintain, led to the use of JAs on military and defense projects.

Although he lacked sufficient support for his cause, his efforts led the War Department to describe Omura as "the single most influential voice" in the concentration camp resistance movement, stated then-president of the Los Angeles chapter of the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations



PHOTO: JEM LEW

James Omura, late editor of the *Rocky Shimo*, received NCRP's Fighting Spirit Award in 1994.

(NCRP) Kay Ochi during a tribute to Omura in 1994.

For his long years of action on behalf of the JA community, Omura was honored during the February 1994 Day of Remembrance commemoration with NCRP's Fighting Spirit Award.

"He was the one ethnic voice of dissent when other Japanese American leaders went along with this massive violation of civil rights," Ochi noted. ■

*Takeshi Nakayama is a veteran journalist who has been working in Nikkei vernaculars for over 30 years.*

## Kristi Yamaguchi

By BRIAN NIYA

Over the course of our history, there have been many outstanding athletes in a wide variety of sports. How does one go about choosing just one as "most influential"?

It clearly doesn't mean "best" or "greatest." That would be a much more difficult question. For starters, how would one choose between someone who was the best in the world at a single specific event — such as eight time world champion weightlifter Tommy Kono — and someone who was outstanding in a number of endeavors — such as professional football/baseball star Wally Yonamine? What about contemporary professionals such as Rex Walters or Johnny Morton who, like many current star athletes, are bigger and faster than their predecessors of generations past? Where do women fit into the picture? I don't know how I'd answer any of these questions, and I'm glad I don't have to.

"Most influential" can also have several different answers, depending on how we interpret that phrase. Most influential to other athletes? To other Japanese Americans? To all Americans? To the general public? And do we limit it to those who were influential as athletes or do we also include those whose influence also was due to coaching or organizing? If we mean most influential to other athletes, then the answer might be someone like Emerick Ishikawa. The first JA weightlifter to attain national prominence when he won the first of his four straight senior nationals title in 1944, the Maui native also started a weightlifting club at Tule Lake. Dozens of JA weightlifters followed in his footsteps, several of whom have also won senior nationals titles. His influence continued as a coach in Hawai'i.

Most influential to other JAs? Perhaps that would be someone such as Kenichi Zenimura. A star baseball player, he also organized teams in the Fresno area and

even oversaw the building of a baseball field in Gila River during the war which became known as "Zenimura Field" in his honor. Prior to and during the war, baseball was undoubtedly played by more JAs than any other sport, and Zenimura influenced a great many to play the sport that he loved.

Most influential as a coach or organizer? Yosh Uchida and James Sakamoto were both outstanding athletes in their younger

Westbrook, the fencer who has been in six U.S. Olympic teams. The other six are on Kristi Yamaguchi.

In recent years, figure skating has become one of America's most popular spectator sports, and women's figure skating is by far the most popular variety. Among women figure skaters, there is no more popular and accomplished figure than Yamaguchi. She has undoubtedly influenced thousands of girls all over the world to take

to the ice. She no doubt has had a particular influence on Asian American skaters from Michele Kwan to Naomi Nari Nam to the hundreds of others who strive to follow in their footsteps.

But more importantly, she has also influenced the millions of people who have watched her skate. She has clearly become the most famous JA ever. While someone like Daniel Inouye might rival her in the United States, there is no comparison outside the United States. The level of fame she has attained in and of itself has made her influential as a proxy for the rest of us.

Whether we like it or not, she is likely to be the only Japanese American most of those in



1992 Olympic gold medal winner Kristi Yamaguchi.

days, Uchida as a judoka and Sakamoto as a boxer. But both were most influential later in their lives. Uchida has become a legendary judo coach and a prime mover in getting judo into the Olympic Games. After eye injuries — which would eventually blind him — ended his boxing career, Sakamoto became the key figure in setting up JA sport leagues in the Seattle area, known as the Courier League. Many others organized leagues and teams in other parts of the country.

But if we're looking for the most influential JA athlete to everyone, athlete or non-athlete, JA or non-JA, there can only be one answer.

As far as I know, there are seven book length biographies in English on JA athletes. One is an autobiography by Peter

other countries have ever seen (okay, maybe her and George Takei; those Star Trek reruns show all over). In this capacity as our representative, she has done well, by and large, doing nothing which would reflect badly on us. We could certainly do worse.

Since she's just 28 years old, Yamaguchi's influence and importance will continue well into the next century. In fact when my successor writes this same article in a hundred years about the most influential athlete of the 21st century, I suspect her name will come up again.

In the meantime, we'll all enjoy watching her and all the other top JA athletes with special interest in the years to come. Happy New Year everyone, and welcome to the 21st century. ■



# Influential JACLER

## Saburo Kido and the JACL Chapter Delegates

By HARRY K. HONDA

**I**t is no secret (for Yours Truly) that the Most Influential JACLER is the active dues-paying member, especially one who represents his or her chapter at the national JACL council. And here is why!

Without JACL members, there would be no chapter. *Prima facie* sign of influence.

Without JACL chapters, there would be no national organization. *Simple logic.*

*Ergo:* Without a national organization (the Japanese American Citizens League), there would be no reason to expound on this topic, *is there?*

Thank the good Lord for the voting delegate, this discourse continues. The chapter delegates call *all* the shots for the National JACL Board to implement. For new delegates, it is well to remember: this is a fact of JACL life. Some may think to the contrary—that directions flutter from top down. *Don't be misguided.*

To fortify my contention that the chapter delegate is the "most influential JACLER," bear in mind that preparations have been underway for many months for the next convention, June 27-July 2, 2000, in Monterey, Calif. *It's not too early to reserve a room at Doubletree-Inn (831/649-4511) at convention rate, \$109, single or double per night.*

Consider all the infrastructure to assure that members and chapters are No. 1—at the top of the organizational chart.

JACL was founded in 1929 as a volunteer organization of Japanese Americans, preferably as registered or potential voters. At the first national convention in Seattle in 1930, delegates adopted a 1,200-word constitution, consisting of 13 articles, succinctly written, and no bylaws. By 1942, there were 19 bylaws added—or "clothes," you might say, for the skeleton that was the 1930 constitution.

Members have their "say" in the national council that meets at the conventions. Chapter delegates are wooed, armed with the vote and wielding the legislative powers. The National JACL Board, as the executive branch, implements the resolutions and decisions.

Responsibility shouldered by the chapter delegates in the prewar era was so crucial that proxy voting was not allowed. They ruled in tandem with national officers, declared policies and established programs. *In political science, we would call that form of government in early JACL history, "oligarchy."*

Today, national officers preside at the council sessions but can't vote or speak, unless permitted, on the national council floor. The council has no rule existing to break a tie vote (unless Robert's Rules of Order provides). Another rule prohibits JACL staff to hold proxy.

To stabilize the young prewar JACL infrastructure and lay seeds for growth, the constitution had devised geographic subdivisions: from the original (prewar) being Northwest, Northern California and Southern California district councils to breaking up Northern California to three: Bay Region, San Joaquin Valley (Sacramento-Stockton) and Central California. The constitution envisioned two more district councils, if additional chapters were organized, in Oregon



Saburo Kido (1902-1977): A founder of San Francisco JACL chapter in 1928, co-founder of National JACL at San Francisco in 1929, national secretary through 1940, JACL's only three-biennium national president (1940-1946), chairman of Pacific Citizen's operating board (1952-1960), attorney in private practice, newspaper columnist and publisher. (Photo was taken in 1961.)

American community through the past quarter century as Saburo Kido. He was one of the original founders of the Japanese American Citizens League.

"For more than 25 years, he has been one of the moving spirits behind the organization. His time, his energies and his money have gone into a cause he had the vision to realize was a significant contribution by a minority to the Democracy he loves.

"During the dark and trying days of war, he was the national president of this organization. His inspiration, his leadership and his personal courage, at a time when to be courageous meant facing the cold brutality of personal danger, guided the Japanese American Citizens League through its most turbulent hour.

"It is largely because of the vigor and wisdom of such men as Saburo Kido that all persons of Japanese ancestry in America today enjoy the great opportunities, freedoms and the position they now occupy."

**1942 P.C.s—Excerpts From "Timely Topics" columns by Saburo Kido**

June 18—"Defeatist Attitude seems prevalent among certain groups in the various camps. "If we consider the future to be a challenge, our fighting spirit should be aroused. WRA is offering us a partnership in this great experiment. If WRA is willing to help us, it is only fair that we



PHOTO: MARSHALL SUMIDA

Pictured are chapter delegates from Los Angeles at the 1956 national convention at Sheraton-Palace, San Francisco (from left): Kango Kunitugu, Roy Iketani (both Southwest Los Angeles) and David Yokozeki (Downtown Los Angeles). Behind them are three Northern Californians: George Baba (Stockton), Kay Kamimoto (San Benito County) and Akiji Yoshimura (Marysville). Kunitugu helped draft JACL's statement on civil rights. Yokozeki, PSWDC chair, doubled as parliamentarian and chaired the JACL national constitution committee.

and in Imperial Valley out of Southern California.

Intermountain District was organized in 1940. Tri-State (Mountain Plains) District, Eastern and Midwest Districts were founded during World War II, and Central California in 1949. And talk of splitting the 32-chapter-strong Pacific Southwest into three districts has been circulating for several decades now.

As for an individual, in my earnest

estimation and perhaps others, who fits the solemn category, "the most influential JACLER," I place before you Saburo Kido (1902-1977). A beautifully inscribed award, drawn by then National Director Mas Satow, presented at the 1950 JACL convention in Chicago, "for Distinguished Leadership" sets forth my reasons the best.

"Probably no person of Japanese ancestry has contributed as valiantly or as much to the welfare of the Japanese

show our gratitude and cooperation. We should do our best to make the projects successful.

"Failure means those race hatred mongers, such as the Native Sons of the Golden West, the Joint Immigration Commission, will have the last laugh on us. This fact alone should make us determine to show that, no matter how adverse the conditions, we are strong enough to overcome them. We can be trampled upon, but nothing can kill our spirit.

"The Nisei have been accused of being soft as compared to the Issei generation .... Our parents went through greater hardship when they came. They had no government to help them with money, expert advice, land and water. The foundation they laid is a testimony to their remarkable achievement.

"We are being given the opportunity to show our mettle .... If we cannot overcome this present crisis, we are doomed. If we can rise above the obstacles before us, we shall come out with our heads high. Let the rabble rousers continue their ranting. We shall have the last laugh. We will not come out as human derelicts but stronger spiritually, mentally and physically."

**July 23—Arrival at Arizona's latest boom town:** "A special train brought 579 of us from Lindsay (Tulare County) to this outpost of civilization, the new boom town of Parker, Ariz., on Friday, July 16, and transferred by bus to our destination at Poston.

"When we registered, we were greeted with salt tablets and water. We appreciated the water but wondered why and wherefore the tablets. Being a newcomer, we followed instructions and took the generous offer. It was rather warm but not exceptional compared to the central California heat.

"As we began to talk with friends, we found out the mystery about the salt tablets. The Salinas people who came about Fourth of July had come from a cool climate to the roasting heat of 120-130 degrees. People were fainting in the mess hall, at the latrines, and had to be rushed to the hospital. Heat prostration was prevalent.

"Salinas people affected by the heat: The more we hear about the tragic arrival of the Salinas Assembly Center residents, we wonder who blundered into this mistake .... We were firmly convinced that coast people, unaccustomed to heat, should not be sent to Arizona. And it was our understanding that this would be followed out .... The reception committee members (now) claim the Lindsay contingent looked more spry than those who were out to greet us. Of course, it is claimed we had brought the cooler weather and that the shower the night before had helped a great deal."

**Sept. 17—Life at JACL Headquarters:** "The splendid work carried on at National JACL Headquarters [since moving from San Francisco] will be given due credit when the time comes. The recent furlough to Salt Lake City enabled me to see how hard the staff members have been working for the welfare of all concerned. The wonderful cooperative spirit prevailing among all the workers was an inspiration.

"It should be a source of pride for all JACL members that they have such diligent and sincere members working long hours without complaint and only at a subsistence of wage of \$75 a month. Only those who sincerely have the welfare of their fellow beings can undertake such tasks for such a pittance .... Instead of \$150 to \$225 a month, \$75 was [decided during the Special Emergency Meeting in March] to be the standard pay for all who joined the National Headquarters staff. After four months, it has become evident that it is impossible to live in Salt Lake City or in Washington, D.C., on such an allowance. Consequently a raise of \$25 per month was allowed. Even this sum is inadequate .... And attractive offers had been made by private sources to our staff, but they have declined because they want to remain with JACL until this emergency is over.

"It is tragic in one sense that the value of an organization has been proven when a large majority of the Nisei are in relocation centers."

**Oct. 22—Poston Fair and its future possibilities:** "The doors for

first Poston County Fair were opening October 17 with a sigh of relief from the fair committee as the huge warehouse being built by the Army for the camouflage net factory in Poston I was loaned for the site. The original site was under the sheds of the adobe factory ....

"Because of the last minute switch assured by Wade Head, project director, the eyes of camp residents have been opened as to what is transpiring in this southwest desert of America. The main emphasis was placed on agriculture because 40,000 to 60,000 acres are tillable. The number of acres to be placed under cultivation will depend on the length of time the evacuees will remain and the amount of equipment, supplies and manpower available. If the entire project is successfully carried out, there is no doubt that the state of Arizona will rival California in the production of many farm products.

"The Japanese evacuees will make their greatest contribution by showing what prospects and possibilities exist in these desert countries of the west when properly developed .... Also various other relocation centers will be receiving vegetables from Poston and the Gila River center in ample quantities. It will not be surprising for the "outside world" to become envious and complain that Japanese evacuees are having too great a supply of vegetables.

"For the past six months, Poston has become a community of 18,000. Seven miles of main canals have been completed with 120 miles of lateral canals and 480 miles of sub-lateral canals. Forty-five miles of levees have been proposed. From these figures, one can get an idea of the size of the Poston project.

"Credit belongs to Norris James, "daddy" of the Fair idea. Without him, the fair committee might have given up long ago."

**1943 PCs—Excerpts From "Timely Topics" columns by Saburo Kido**

**Jan. 7—Poston observes a dusty Christmas:** "Christmas Day (Friday, Dec. 25) was very dusty. It was fortunate for most of the blocks that the dinner party was held in the afternoon. Otherwise, the food would have been covered with dust for the wind blew at a merry pace.

"The churches of America are today receiving the heartfelt thanks of children and their parents in all the relocation centers. If the gifts had not been received from the kind friends on the outside, the Yuletide would have been just a sad memory of days-gone-by. But Santa Claus came with his load of presents to every block to gladden the hearts of those under 15 years of age. If these friends had seen the happy faces of the children, they would know that their gesture was being fully appreciated .... The JACL did a splendid job in this Christmas in Camp project.

"Experiences trying for JACL leaders: There is no denying that the course of events (in 1942) have embittered a large number since Evacuation and the life in the centers has worked tremendous hardships and financial loss. The feeling of frustration has increased with the days and months.

"To JACL leaders who followed the people into the assembly and relocation centers, the experience has been most trying. Many have wondered if all the sacrifices they made to protect the welfare of people was worthwhile. They have been targets of criticism as well as physical violence. It is possible that this animosity was aroused because of the hardships resulting from the disruption and uprooting from normal life.

"A request was made for the leaders to remain till the last group had been evacuated. It is to the credit of these

men and women that they remained true to their duties. What has transpired since coming to the centers will be another chapter in this war story of mass evacuation of Japanese from the Pacific coast.

"Nisei leaders should lead in Resettlement: Through my own experience at Poston since July, I want to ask all our leaders to be the vanguard of resettlement .... The clearance which will be given by the FBI will give assurance to the public that we are not dangerous to the general welfare."

**Feb. 4—News headline, page 1:** SABURO KIDO, NATIONAL JACL PRESIDENT, VICTIM OF BRUTAL BEATING AT POSTON CENTER

*Eight members of gang arrested, sign written confession to crime.*

**POSTON, Ariz.**—Saburo Kido, national JACL president, was the victim of a brutal attack by a gang of eight evacuees who broke into his barrack apartment in Camp 2 at the Poston relocation center early Sunday morning, Jan. 31.

"The gang, many of whom were under surveillance of federal investigative officials as "trouble makers" in Poston II, also attempted to Mrs. [Mine] Kido, who came to the assistance of her husband. The attack took place shortly after 2 a.m.

"Those charged in the attack were George Inouye, James Y. Tanaka, Tadao Hasegawa, Tetsuo Inokuchi, Mitsuo Kurimoto, Miyoshi Matsuda, Kataru Urabe and James Toya .... The eight members (all Kibei) ranged in age from 18 to 37.

"The gang followed a methodic plan for the assault as masterminded by one Kiuchi Kawahira, a Sacramento Issei farmer in Perkins. (He was also among seven Issei arrested by the FBI for having participated in the five-day Poston I riot in November 1942.) The kitchen gang used to call meetings or emergencies had been removed. They jammed the doors of nearby barracks so that neighbors would be unable to come to the assistance of the Kidos. Two members of the gang attempted to unscrew the hinges of the door to the Kido apartment. When the noise awakened the Kido family, the gang forced the door and burst into the room. Kido defended himself but received bruises about the head, shoulder and arm. Mrs. Kido was uninjured. The three Kido children were not harmed.

"The capture of the last member of the gang to flee from the Kido apartment by two evacuee members of the Poston police force resulted in information which led to the immediate arrest of the entire group. It was also reported that Kido was chasing this last member of the gang."

**April 29—DeWitt's 'A Jap's a Jap':** "Lt. Gen. John DeWitt must have clarified the atmosphere for most evacuees as to who was really responsible for the Japanese evacuation from the West Coast. The JACL was being given credit for this act by many Japanese in relocation centers. The Dies Un-American Activities Committee first came out and claimed credit, and now DeWitt claims he was responsible. It was natural for the embittered ones to find a scapegoat and to select someone from their group. The honors conferred upon JACL caused further disunity amongst the Japanese. The charge was difficult to answer because it was a whispering campaign.

"Now that the question has been answered through his blast of "A Jap's a Jap" (April 13 before the House Naval Affairs committee in Washington) and various other remarks, those who have chosen to give this country their sole loyalty should be realistic in facing the future. Events have proven that whatever happens in the relocation centers affects the Nisei and Issei as a whole even though they may be in the "free

zone" and vice versa. In other words, the problem concerns all.

"A mistake was made in the prewar days. Many who were fortunate in having Caucasian friends thought they were secure as long as they kept up their contacts. Mass evacuation proved otherwise. When hysteria is on, individuals do not count. It is only when sanity returns that each case will be given consideration. Viewed in this light, the salvation lies in all working toward the same goal. No matter how individualistic the background may be, there must be a realization of the value of organized effort."

**July 24—Race is not all-important:** "Loyalty is the word being bandied about Californians who do not want those of Japanese parentage back on the Pacific coast. The claim is made that it is difficult to determine who is loyal and who is disloyal. All this talk is just bunk to me. The trouble is that those who raise this type of argument merely want to cloud the issue and raise doubts about the Nisei's position.

"So far, no Nisei has been arrested for sabotage or espionage. On the other hand, a number of citizens of German descent have been arrested, tried and convicted .... If the Nisei are not given the opportunity to show their loyalty, there will always be some doubt. And it is a known fact the Nisei are showing their valor in American uniform on different fronts and that the Army desires to have more Nisei soldiers as a result of this splendid showing."

"Blood ties are not the determining factor when love of country is at stake. Even in Japanese history, family members have fought against one another. America will be happier by learning that her Nisei citizens can be trusted. This crisis will contribute a great deal toward race relations in this country, once the loyal status of the Nisei is proved through their conduct on the battle and home fronts." ■

**H**ilo-born attorney (Hastings, '26) Saburo Kido founded and was the charter president of San Francisco JACL in 1928. A co-founder of national JACL in 1929, he was chosen national president in 1940 and also served as national secretary until 1941, when Mike Masaoka was hired. Kido was re-elected national president for the duration of World War II and in 1946 was decorated by President Truman and the U.S. Congress with the Selective Service Medal. In 1964 he received the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Fourth Class, from the Emperor of Japan.

In 1966 Kido ended a 30-year stint as a daily columnist in the Japanese immigrant press, starting with "Timely Topics" for *Hokubei Asahi*, *Shin Sekai Asahi* (San Francisco), wartime "Observation" with *Utah Nippo* (Salt Lake City) and postwar with *Shin Nihon* (Los Angeles); he continued "Timely Topics" from Poston in the *Pacific Citizen*. In 1970 he retired from business and law practice because of poor health and moved back to San Francisco to be near his daughter and son-in-law, Rosalind and Edison Uno. "Timely Topics" briefly reappeared in 1973 in the *Hokubei Mainichi*. Kido was thoroughly bilingual in reading, writing and speaking.

One can roam through his columns for a candid look at the world as it was when it was no "bed of roses" for 110,000 Japanese Americans, evacuated by the Army to inland concentration camps, and when JACL was hampered by ugly rumors. ■



By  
DARRELL KUNITOMI

# Influential JA Performing Arts Organization: EWP

To be an Asian American actor is to live a life that is fraught. Yup, a fraught life — that's what it is.

I'm going to detail some fraughts and spew some opinions — but remember, they're just one actor's opinion and lord knows every actor's got a suitcase of those and is more than willing to dispense of them anytime, anyplace. Lots seem to come out when served liquid refreshments.

I suppose being an actor is in and of itself inviting the devil to ride in your back pocket, for it's no sure and easy journey. It's like trying to wade a deep and treacherous river wearing boots of lead — you'll go down eventually, sure, but you will see a lot of interesting sights along the way.

An actor of color wears even heavier boots. Asian Pacific American parents with kids who want to become actors, please read the previous sentence and memorize. I'll even share some war stories from the sets of "Seinfeld," "Mad About You" and others to throw some light into what it's like out there.

Now, all this may sound far too depressing or indulgent, but to be sure, the practice of being an ethnic performer is, at times, very much like mucking through a river bottom, occasionally leaping to the surface for quick intakes of air and surveying your surroundings, then settling back down, while all the time reminding yourself that no one forced you into the river in the first place.

But there are tons of good times also, nearly all of them in the theater — really good times I wouldn't trade away for anything. And once in a while when you burst to that surface, if only for a moment, you actually begin liking to walk that river bottom the rest of the time.

Now, for the good news, sparse as it may be to some. The famed East West Players, our nation's oldest, continuously producing APA-themed theater has survived their historic move from their original 99-seat venue (a wonderful, fun and comfy place that had the feel of someone's residence, which it partly was at one time in its life) to a bigger high tech (and much more costly) 230-seat house at the Union Center for the Arts.

I say survived because I can list half a dozen Los Angeles theaters I've acted in during the past couple of decades that now are parking lots. In the hazy world of theaters, it truly is survival of the financially fittest.

The only requisite a theater needs

to survive is money. That's all because there'll always be enough actors, singers, script writers and shows to produce. In other words, there will never, ever be a shortage of performers willing to do something.

Whether or not people come to the shows is a different matter. There has been some fairly vocal criticism of the plays presented by EWP. Some I agree with; some I dismiss as normal theater hot air, fueled by refreshments.

I don't think anyone can pick a fight with the subjects that EWP has tackled the last two seasons. Instead, they should be mightily commended. Off the top of my head, in no particular order and with no judgment of quality, we've seen plays on Tiananmen Square, the Korean comfort women, Vincent Chin, Hawaiian interracial politics and an African American/Japanese marriage to identify a few.

But it has been clear to many experienced observers that in a bigger space, with more production values and consequently bigger audience expectations, any shortcomings in a script will now be put on grand display.

Some of the plays have shown a regrettable tendency to slide headlong into didactics, sentimentality, reverse stereotyping and the worst rap of all that I've heard is that there is plain, bad, play writing, which is overwrought, melodramatic and unseasoned by a strong literary hand (called in the theater a dramaturge, a rare and most valuable creature).

But theater folks are used to criticism — though it never hurts any less — and if one is fortunate enough to have another rare theater creature called "an honest friend," well then, we can all chalk one up for experience's sake, and keep on improving.

This is just the honest criticism I've heard. If a play sucks, it's the play, and not a rejection of the subject matter. And that's a tough and sticky conundrum where APA theater sensitivities are concerned.



EAST WEST PLAYERS INC.



The East West Players' Logo

The East West Players' logo has evolved along with the theater company.



How do you criticize the play without criticizing the extremely emotional subject matter at hand? It becomes very difficult.

The diverse wounds in our communities are still fresh as wet painting and very sensitive. But we have to have healthy debate if we expect to further our art or our concerns as APAs. It's the play, babe, that's all.

We're also low on numbers on quality directors in our communities. That's a gap that may not close for a long time. Although we do have a lot more APA talent working out of the mainstream and in more diverse circumstances than ever before, we still need more.

But happy to report, EWP, with the energetic helmsmanship of Artistic Director Tim Dang, has attempted to broaden and diversify its audience — certainly an intelligent strategy for any company, artistic or otherwise, in the City of the Angels. And Tim fits that part so well. I think he's such the vision of an APA artistic director — handsome, slender and tall.

He reminds me of David Bowie. He's got that somehow continental-California savoir-faire to him. Stands dressed to the nines in the courtyard of the theater, a smoke in hand near his shoulder, checks out everything on show nights, greets everyone.

I used to act with Tim Dang. We did a production of "Rashomon" at the old house. He was the wacky wig maker character; I was the woodsman; and Benjamin Lum, still working hard for the company, was our priest. Tim wore a lot of funny make-up and played a great character. I looked dirty, and Ben

shaved his head.

That was a different time and a different theater. A different city too. Precious few L.A. institutions have hung on. It's okay if they change to survive and grow.

The Japanese American community has changed and grown. JAs who once seemed to rule so many L.A. institutions such as schools, churches and community centers now are an aging and dispersed population. The JA strongholds of earlier Los Angeles I knew so well — Silverlake/Los Feliz, Montebello, the Crenshaw District (they deserve the district title), the Olympic Blvd. corridor (now Koreatown), the Monterey Park hills, the folksy J-Flats neighborhood just off of Virgil Ave. — are virtually depopulated of the Nisei and Sansei.

Gone are those razor-sharp lawns, bonsai-ed shrubs and the sound of bamboo rake on a driveway. Gone are those wonderful summer carnivals. Gone too are those 442nd vets and gardeners who used to wield the microphones at those carnival teriyaki booths, yelling, "Get your delicious teriyaki. *Se oishi!* Four sticks for a dollar!"

The sons and daughters of those people — like me, a Sansei boomer — are actually of an earlier generation of the APA talent pool. I can report that it's truly impressive seeing the new and especially musically talented performers currently out there. I would say though that



I've seen a lot more musical rather than dramatic talent. That's not a rub. That's just not their training nor their inclination as performers. Nothing wrong with that.

But someday I want desperately to see a tear-down-the-walls production of some powerful American classic — the big names like Miller, Williams, Wilder. I want to someday see a "Twelve Angry Asians" just blow people back in their seats with its raw power and have the audience roar back at us at the end — and all of this done by us, us all.

Some of you have seen me in "A Jive Bombers' Christmas," the long-running Christmas show set in a relocation camp, circa 1943. We've toured to Seattle, San Francisco, Berkeley and Clovis (just outside of Fresno).

Now here's an acting opportunity. I get to chew on a no-no boy and a 442nd/100th soldier. Maybe the fates arranged this. One of my uncles is the late Pfc. Ted Fujioka, a former class president at Heart Mountain who had volunteered and was killed in action in France in 1944. At the same time, I grew up as neighbors of Frank Emi, one of the leaders of the Heart Mountain draft resisters. We lived three houses away on Commonwealth Ave., in the heart of Los Angeles.

It's my job as an actor to play both of these characters as humanly as I can. Here's a lesson for non-theater folks: when you bring a character to life, you give them more than just the benefit of the doubt. You have to love them, to feel them. And if you're feeling them, the audience will feel it too.

No doubt "Jive Bombers" will continue like a JA "Cats" production. It's entertaining and has even been cathartic to some of the older audience members. To the young ones, it's been a history lesson, and they need the history, for it's in their blood whether they know it or not. As I've often said in shows' programs, "Long live the Nisei!"

**S**how biz anecdotes are always fun to hear about, and I've had my share in what we refer to as "The Industry."

I got lucky a few seasons ago (beating out a talented bunch of AA actors) to land a part on a "Mad About You" episode with scenes with some gal named Helen and her dude Paul something with an "R." I will always bless in my actor's heart Miss Helen Hunt, who stepped up to the plate and spoke up for me at the Culver City sound stage.

My part on the show was that of a Korean convenience store owner in New York City. Though you couldn't tell from the odd, unplaceable accent I cunningly employed to fool them into casting me (I believe I sounded like William F. Buckley on helium), my lines were written sans grammatical articles. I honestly

can't handle a Korean accent, except to mimic Soon Teck Oh, but the character's English was — as they'll tell you with a straight face in Hollywood — "an immigrant, first generation."

It was during a rehearsal with Hunt, Reiser and my co-star, the lovely Patty Toy, when I paused for



Photo Courtesy of Darrell Kunitomi  
Some of the performers who have acted and supported East West Players: (from l-r) Bonnie Oda Homsey, Darrell Kunitomi, Patricia Ayame Thompson and Takayo Fischer.

a moment. My lines were horrible, stereotypically written and really gorkish.

"I'm having some trouble with these lines," I said. "Can I say the articles?"

There was a nice, fat beat. Then Helen Hunt, with her quiet Helen Hunt determination, said "Yes, can they please speak English?"

Reiser, waving his hand, chimed in, "Say the articles. Say the articles."

So I got to say the articles, and that takes a load off the stereotype vibes for an ethnic actor, believe me. But later off the set, Tom Moore, the director (nice guy, you'll see his name on a lot of big-time TV shows) took me aside and said, "Say the articles, but we still need the accent." — An acceptable industry compromise, I suppose. And that was the best this day player was going to get without fussing too much.

Now, about the character's name — he had none. I mentioned widely used Korean surnames I knew off the top of my head to their staff of thinkers — and voila! — I became "Kim," first and last name. I dunno. Maybe they thought they were doubling their sensitivity or something.

After "Mad About You," I got lucky again and got cast as a chemist in the "No Fat Yogurt" episode of "Seinfeld." I think I'm one of around six APAs to make that cut during the eight-year run.

I auditioned for Jerry Seinfeld and Larry David, co-executive producer. "Just give us a lab tech," they said. So I gave a straight reading, no accent, no embellishment. I got the part.

Aside from landing the part, I was quite happy to just be myself, a regular sort of fellow, no ethnicity or immigration status implied. And all through the table readings and rehearsals I kept on presenting my two lines exactly as I had in the audition. Hell, I figured I got the part over a lot of others, so you make tiny tweaks here and there but you don't fundamentally change your readings. In fact, a lot of times they won't let you change it. You're just plugged into the

ensemble and you'd better be that cog they're intending you to be.

We taped before a live audience at the end of the week. The cameras rolled, and on "action," Seinfeld, Elaine and Kramer barged into my lab with a sample of yogurt to be tested. I presented my first line. Then Larry David, from behind the cameras, yells, "Stop! Cut! No, no, not that way! Do the lines like this!"

He sprang from behind the cameras, charged the set and got in my face. He totally embarrassed me with a slightly different line reading in front of the entire live audience, crew and my friends I had invited to the taping. He made it seem as if I was blowing the scene.

Involuntarily, my eyes widened. I was aghast. I looked at Jerry Seinfeld, then to Julia Louis Dreyfus and then to Michael Richards. All three looked downwards. I sensed their collective thought. "Sorry, pal, can't help you on this one."

It was so odd to see these three actors, normally so buoyant as we see them each week, suddenly downcast, suddenly so quiet. It was a fraught moment. And in that moment I knew this had happened to other guests on the show.

Some time later, Larry David left the show, bought out perhaps, quietly ousted. He seemed to me the most unhappy person on that set.



Photo Courtesy of Darrell Kunitomi  
The actor hard at work during the popular "Jive Bomber" performances.

Everyone else seemed quite pleased and secure, working on a long-running, top-rated sitcom.

After the taping, there was a quiet moment where Jerry Seinfeld was sitting with his feet up on the coffee table. I walked over to thank him for casting me. He knew my embarrassment, and I knew he was chagrined. He said, "Hey, you're doing a great job. Thanks for being on the show." We shook hands warmly.

Then I asked him, "What's it like being so big?"

Jerry Seinfeld, who looks and acts exactly as you see him on TV,

thought quickly. "Well, it doesn't suck!"

We laughed and talked a bit more. Then I left him there with his feet up, sneakers on the table you see in the show.

When the episode finally aired, they used a take with my original, straight reading and not Larry David's adjustment.

My favorite war story happened on a commercial shoot for Del Taco in the 1980s because I was fraught with attitude in those days. At that time, the most common call for an AA actor was "the Japanese businessman." That call went out every 24 hours, it seemed. These were the xenophobic Reagan years, the days when everyone thought Japan was going to buy up all of America. Too bad their economy crashed — that call is rarely heard now.

So I landed or booked the commercial, and for any actor, that's like a touch of heaven, for it can mean some very nice moola. I felt great just hitting the location at old Echo Park near downtown. I had grown up fishing there.

The costumer handed me a dark blue suit, which fit very well — as did the identical suits (and ties) for the other two Japanese businessmen. I could have lived with that until they handed us the same black-rimmed glasses, and then... Camera!

I was quietly steaming away and was way past overcooked when the client, representatives from Del Taco, strolled by our waiting area. We three Japanese businessmen sat there looking just like what was envisioned. One gal looked our way with a big smile. "Oh, you all look... so cute!"

Deadpan, with no trace of an accent, with as flat a Jack Nicholson as I could summon, I said, "We're here to buy your company."

Her eyes widened. She tried to smile, lost it, mumbled a reply or chuckled, I don't know which, and scooted away. It's funny how just a smidgen of attitude goes such a long way for us. Sometimes they just don't know what to do with it.

The suit was hot, and I felt stupid as hell in the glasses (the cameras were non-working props, thank god), but the money was good, soothing you might say.

As a matter of fact, I just received a residual check for a small gig on "Married With Children" where I was supposed to be the "Asian Al Bundy." So I've got to run out and deposit the thing right now, all \$7.58 of it.

And so again, parents of future AA actors and actresses note previous sentences, memorize and then keep stressing the math, the business and the medicine courses. And good luck when they want to step into the river. ■

*Actor Darrell Kunitomi has not only highlighted East West Players but has imparted some of the pearls of wisdom he has amassed as a veteran actor.*



Very Truly Yours

By Harry Honda

## Out Goes 1999 With These Quotes

**K**EEPING UP with the remarks made this past year has become our annual tryst of sorts — as gleaned from the *Pacific Citizen*. Only the date of issue is indicated.

**#2859/Jan. 1**—"I look forward to working with you as we endeavor to determine the best future for the Social Security system and in turn the working families of our country."—**Rep. Robert Matsui**. *These families will welcome when Social Security is tax-free again.*

**#2861/Feb. 5**—"The ruling is unfortunate."—**Herbert Yamanishi**. *Comments on the 5-4 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that shot down statistical sampling in Census 2000.*

**#2862/Feb. 19**—"It is neither desirable nor remotely likely that civil liberty will occupy as favored a position in wartime as it does in peacetime."—**Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist**. *An apt concurrence and selection we found nestled inside Bill Hokuaka's column for this day about Rehnquist's book, "The Laws But One: Civil Liberties in Wartime."*

**#2863/March 5**—"With 50 years of hindsight, we can see... [the stand of the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee members challenging the U.S. government during WWII in resisting the draft] very clearly."—**Marvin Uratsu**, president, MIS Norcal. *I believe the MIS group in Hawaii broke the ice to cause mainland veterans to re-examine their conscience.*

**#2864/March 18**—"There was a need for JACL... We had many problems peculiar to the Japanese Americans, and someone had to represent the group."—**James Tabata**, 64, charter member, Monterey Peninsula JACL. *The chapter, formed in January 1932, is co-hosting its first national JACL convention June 27-July 1, 2000.*

**#2866/April 16**—"Hate crimes directed

at Asian Americans are not a new phenomenon even though the public may have little knowledge about this."—**William Yoshino**, JACL Midwest Regional Director. *Illinois police arrested a gunman in the fatal April 5 shooting of Naoki Kamifuji, general store owner at Crystal Lake, some 50 miles northwest of Chicago.*

**#2867/May 7**—"Michi was our bright, shining star. Now that she has fallen, will there ever be another?"—**Sachi Seko**. *Michi Nishiura Weglyn, 73, died April 25 quietly in her New York City apartment.*

**Back to a Weekly Format**

**#2869/June 4**—"The years ahead of us, the months ahead of us, may be trying for just one instance. What will be the next one?"—**Sen. Daniel Inouye**. *The No. 3 member of the Senate was challenging Asian Pacific Americans to educate non-Asians about the culture and lifestyles of Asia and the Pacific Rim at a gala May 20 event in Washington.*

**#2870/June 11**—"With their selfless service, bravery and sacrifice, these men helped their fellow citizens realize that being an American is not a matter of where you come from but where your heart is."—**Louis Caldera**, Secretary of the Army. *The secretary was among the 2,000 at the June 4 unveiling of the Go for Broke monument at Los Angeles, listing some 16,000 names of Japanese Americans who fought during World War II overseas despite the fact that 110,000 persons of Japanese ancestry were evacuated and interned.*

**#2871/June 18**—"Although I consider myself fully 'American,' when slanted eyes and buckteeth are used to symbolize 'Asian-ness' it impacts me as an Asian American."—**Bob Sakaniwa**. *An initial salvo is hurled upon Pete Hironaka's June*

*4 cartoon, "Chinese Carryouts."*

**#2873/July 2**—"Along with many other JACLers, we've often puzzled over what it is that JACL should apologize for to the draft resisters."—**Ken Nakano**, **Mas Fukuhara**, **Cherry Kinoshita**. *They recall that the 1990 national JACL action at San Diego did recognize and honor the draft resisters with [adoption of 31 Res. 13] of their dedication "to the principle of defending their civil rights."*

**#2874/July 9**—"The Web site is where we're getting an awful lot of our young people with first contact [for JACL]."—**Steve Nagata**, chapter president, New York JACL. *Pregnant thoughts about forming of a virtual chapter of JAs and Asian Americans via Internet. Why not?*

**#2875/July 16**—"Over 1,500 people, in less than two months, donated over \$70,000 to P.C.'s campaign to fund a weekly format—P.C. Editorial Board and Staff. The goal was \$40,000."

**#2876/July 23**—"The decision [in '42] to evacuate had already been made by the government and that the JACL had helped to facilitate rather than instigate the orders."—**Judge Raymond Uno**. *And the government had at their disposal local law enforcement agencies and the military to quell opponents. The small minority like JAs would have been in deep trouble had they openly opposed the government.*

**#2877/July 30**—"We care deeply about our history and about what they [past generations] did for us."—**Ed Ikeda**, past president, New Generations. *So said when West Valley JACLers presented a \$25,000 pledge to the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation.*

**#2879/Aug. 13**—"Herb [Yamanishi] has done an excellent job in developing the financial systems for the organization. He has ensured that JACL is in a

strong fiscal position to achieve its goals."  
—**Helen Kawagoe**, president, national JACL. *In tow since January 1996, Yamanishi resigned to rejoin his family in Michigan.*

**#2880/Aug. 20**—"This [Calif. AJR 27] may be an international issue but a lot of people affected are citizens of this country."—**Mike Honda**, Assemblyman (D-San Jose). *The non-binding resolution addressed to President Clinton, passed Aug. 22, asks Japan to acknowledge past wrongs and pay reparations to victims. (JACL decided not to take a position, saying the timing was not right.)*

**#2881/Aug. 27**—"We need to strengthen the network of international contacts and projects led by PANA, whose only banner is the inherited Nikkei spirit. The time has come to think without limitations, to communicate without borders and to share our human and material resources without frontiers."—**Manuel Marquez Hattia**, chair, 10th PANA convention at Santiago, Chile. *It's well to remember national JACL was a co-founder of PANA (Pan-American Nikkei Association) in 1980.*

**#2883/Sept. 10**—"The next time you're with an Oriental American group, listen attentively; sooner or later someone will use the term American as meaning white people."—**Bill Marutani** (East Wind). *He also suggested the name, ORACLE, in his P.C. column, April 30, 1971, when his tech organization was yet to be.*

**#2884/Sept. 17**—"I want to be an active part of the JACL initiative that ensures this country does not forget its history as we enter the new millennium."—**John Tateishi**, as he embarks Sept. 8 as national JACL director, interim style. *And he's articulate and writes well.*

**#2885/Sept. 24**—"... Though no longer a congressman, I stay busy with issues that can help the Asian Pacific American community and Japanese American community."—**Norman Mineta**, guest speaker, JACL PSWDC dinner, marking national JACL's 70th anniversary. *We still have a lapel button reading: "Norm Mineta 2000 for JACL National President."*

**#2887/Oct. 8**—"Since law clerks play such an integral part in the operation of the Supreme Court, it would benefit greatly with the inclusion of more ethnic minority and female law clerks selected from a broader range of law schools throughout the nation."—**John Tateishi**. *A why-not statement tagged Oct. 4 with U.S. Supreme Court opening its new term.*

**#2888/Oct. 15**—"We have a situation in this country with a black attorney telling his son who goes out at night not to be afraid of the gang-bangers but to be afraid of the police..."—**Bill Lann Lee**, acting assistant attorney general, civil rights division. *Comments in wake of state police in New Jersey stopping motorists because of their color.*

**#2890/Oct. 29**—"I really feel ashamed of the way Japan treated the Bataan veterans. [But Bataan survivors] are confusing two issues."—**Dr. Gus Tanaka**, retired surgeon in Ontario, Ore. *His father was picked up the night of Dec. 7, 1941, in Portland and ended up in the Santa Fe (N.M.) enemy alien internment camp. This proposal to place a memorial bronze plaque at the site, now a residential neighborhood, is ironic as many of the former prisoners hail from New Mexico, one 88-year-old even suggesting, "Why can't they wait till I'm dead?"*

**#2894/Nov. 26**—P. 4 Headline: So Much to Do and See. Monterey to Host Y2K JACL National Convention. *This piece by convention publicist, Mas Hashimoto deserves to be clipped out now before that issue is forgotten beneath a pile of other newspapers.*

**#2895/Dec. 15 (p. 49-50)**—"The gym is very important to rejuvenate the Little Tokyo community."—**Carrie Morita**, mother of two sons in basketball leagues. *The gym is part of the proposed Sakura Village filled with a six-court gymnasium, apartments, condos, an extended Little Tokyo branch for the L.A. Public Library, offices and Japanese garden on the drawing boards for Little Tokyo Service Center's Community Development Corp. Of the 28 Holiday Issue articles around the theme, Community Ties Through Sports, writer Christina Shigemura vaults into the new millennium with hope and optimism.*

## Troubled in Paradise

By Brian Niliya

## The Greatest?

**A**s we near the end of the year, decade and century, it is hard to avoid lists of the greatest this or that of the century. Newsstands will soon be filled with articles on the greatest events, people, athletes, and who knows what else of the century. Lists of this type are cheap and easy to put together and are fun to look at. Much of the fun comes from agreeing or disagreeing with the selections and thinking about who or what you might put on the list instead.

Not to be left out, the *Rafu Shimpo* newspaper put forth a call for the "greatest Japanese American of the century." Now I have no idea who that person would be. But it turns out that I had been asked to write the JA entries for a reference book on prominent Americans from various ethnic backgrounds. I was allotted ten slots. Though I wasn't thinking about picking the "greatest," it occurs to me that I was doing just that, with my own criteria for what that means.

Though I don't have the space to outline the entire thought process, I did try to make sure the list, included Issei, Nisei and Shin-Issei; men and women; and Hawaii and mainland people. There are those who are better known within the community and not well known outside it and others who are better known outside the community. I tried to include people from a variety of fields and who were successful in different ways. Also, the editors of the book limited discussion to first and second generation Americans, which means Sansei and Yonsei aren't eligible. Though one may argue this point, it does make the job easier. And since it is likely that many readers of this book may know nothing about JAs, I somehow wanted

the people I selected to represent the community as a whole, with each individual standing in for many others.

This is the list I came up with, in alphabetical order:

Pianist, composer and band leader, **Toshiko Akiyoshi** is one of the jazz world's leading artists of the last three or four decades. Though she may not consider herself to be JA, she has lived in this country for over forty years. Akiyoshi represents Shin-Issei and creative artists.

Businessman **George Aratani** began as a second generation proprietor of a large farming operation in Guadalupe, Calif., only to lose everything to the events of World War II. After the war, he started three hugely successful companies: Mikasa, Kenwood and AMCO. He has since become perhaps the community's leading philanthropist. Aratani represents the business world and the community's farming roots.

You know who **Daniel K. Inouye** is. The Senator from Hawaii represents others who achieved mainstream success. His is the prototypical Nisei rags-to-riches story.

Political activist **Yuri Kochiyama** has been involved in many of the key political movements of the last four decades. She represents the JA tradition of activism and of those whose notion of "success" differs from the mainstream.

Artist and art teacher **Yasuo Kuniyoshi** was a leading American painter from the 1920s into the 1950s. He represents those who attained mainstream success but who lived their lives mostly outside the JA community. He also represents a different side of the Issei experience than is generally portrayed.

Weightlifter and bodybuilder **Tommy Kono** is probably the greatest American weightlifter of all time, dominating the sport for a solid decade. He represents the little known sport legacy of JAs.

Newspaper publisher **Kinzaburo Makino** led the fight for civil rights in the Issei area and promoted a vision of Americanism that anticipated the social movements of the following generation. He represents the newspapermen, the community leaders and those of mixed-race background.

For various reasons, veterans play a large role in our community and none are more highly regarded than **Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura**, one of only four men to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Miyamura represents the veterans of all wars.

Farmer **Kinji Ushijima** represents the high and low of the Issei agricultural experience. A hugely successful farmer in the Sacramento area, he was known as the "Potato King." But as an "alien ineligible to citizenship," he learned that all his money could not buy him equality in pre-WWII America.

Writer **Hisaye Yamamoto** represents the community's largely hidden literary legacy. In both style and content, there is something about her finely crafted short stories and essays which is quintessentially JA.

In looking over this list, I already see an omission, as none of these people is Kibei. And what about scientists or religious leaders? I think I better not think about this too much, lest I see more problems. But like I said, this is a beginning, not an end.

See you all next century. ■



# The Write Stuff! The Write Stuff!

## FICTION

**Meeting Luciano**  
By Anna Esaki-Smith  
Algonquin Books  
252 pp., \$18.95 hardcover

To main character Hanako Shimoda, Luciano Pavarotti is a god. To her daughter, Emily, her mother's fixation on Pavarotti is a harmless fantasy, the byproduct of her loneliness. "Meeting Luciano" is the story of what happens when Hanako acts on her fantasy and invites the opera singer to dinner in their Westchester County home.

First novelist Anna Esaki-Smith has a wry, understated approach to the themes of assimilation, growing up, striking out on shaky ground, finding yourself — and loving your mother.

Esaki-Smith began her career as a journalist with Reuters in 1987 and has worked in New York, Tokyo, Hong Kong, and Shanghai, where she is currently a correspondent for *Newsweek* magazine. She and her husband are the parents of two young sons.

**The Foreign Student**  
By Susan Choi  
Harper Perennial  
325 pp., \$13 paperback

Chang Ahn, called Chuck, has arrived at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn., with one suitcase and a workable knowledge of English. It is 1955, and Chuck has come to escape the postwar squalor and difficult memories of his native Korea.

In this small college town, Chuck meets Katherine, a southern belle who becomes the private center of his attention. As their friendship deepens, their pasts unfold, revealing the events that abruptly thrust each other from childhood into a harsh adulthood.

The impetus for "The Foreign Student" came from conversations author Susan Choi had with her Korean father about the war, an experience he was reluctant to revisit until his daughter coaxed it out of him.

Choi was born in Indiana, the daughter of a Korean immigrant father and a Russian-Jewish mother. Choi attended Yale, where she was a literature major, and later went on to Cornell, where she earned her fine arts master's degree in fiction. Choi's fiction has appeared in *Epoch*, *Documents*, "Writing Away Here: A Korean-American Anthology," and *The Iowa Review*.

**Persimmon: Asian Literature, Arts, and Culture**  
By Contemporary Asian Culture, Inc.  
\$24 for one year (3 issues)

This new magazine touts itself as the "personal voice of Asia." Each issue includes brief reports from various Asian cities, opinion pieces, feature articles, interviews and profiles, cartoons, fiction and poetry, and book and film reviews.

The inaugural issue included excerpts from "The Mute's Soliloquy," a collection of notes from Indonesian author Pramodya Ananta Tör while he was held prisoner from 1965 to 1979. Also included was the Akutagawa Award-winning short story, "The Gotthard Railway," by Yoko Tawada.

For more information, write to 46 East 92nd St., New York, NY 10128.

**Jade Palace Vendetta: A Samurai Mystery**  
By Dale Furutani  
William Morrow & Company  
256 pp., \$23 hardcover

This is the second installment in Dale Furutani's samurai mystery trilogy. Set in 17th-century Japan, the series follows Matsuyama Kaze, a ronin, or masterless warrior, destined to wander the

countryside in search of his murdered lord's kidnapped daughter.

While travelling on the Tokaido Road, Kaze sees a gang of thugs attacking a merchant and comes to his defense. After pledging to act as the merchant's *yojimbo*, or bodyguard, for the remainder of the journey, Kaze makes a terrible discovery. Sidetracked from his search for his lord's daughter, Kaze finds himself embroiled in a scheme that leads directly to the decadent secret of the Jade Palace.

Furutani is the author of three previous mysteries, including "Death at the Crossroads," the first book in his samurai trilogy. He lives with his wife in Los Angeles.

**California Shorts**  
Edited by Steven Gilbar  
Heyday Books  
350 pp., \$15.95 paperback

This original collection of 24 short stories reveals the remarkable worlds that comprise California, and takes the reader on a fascinating journey. From the fast-paced urban centers of Los Angeles and San Francisco to a Sierra mountain top, from a teenager on the run to the last days of an old woman, from a first-generation Japanese woman's lonely new life to a California Indian girl's coming of age — these stories chart the geographical, ethnic, cultural, emotional and literary range of California.

One of the featured authors is Japanese American writer Mari Sunaida, who has lived in California, Japan and the Philippines. She is both a performer and a writer, and manages Pacific Asian American Women Writers West in Los Angeles.

**Strangeness of Beauty**  
By Lydia Minatoya  
Simon and Schuster  
380 pp., \$23 hardcover

Lydia Minatoya's second novel is set in the early 1900s and focuses on Etsuko Sone, a character from Kobe, Japan, who makes her way to Seattle. Sone arrives in America with high hopes, expecting Seattle to be brimming with immigrant energy and cultural institutions such as museums and libraries. Instead, she is greeted with eroding hills dotted by tree stumps and fish offal dumped in the harbor. After her husband is killed in a fishing accident, Sone returns to Kobe with her newborn baby and must confront issues from her past.

**Climate of the Country**  
By Marnie Mueller  
Curbside Press  
305 pp., \$24.95 hardcover

Marnie Mueller tells the story of the Tule Lake Segregation Camp during World War II from the perspective of

Denton Jordan, a conscientious objector, and his wife Esther, both living and working in the camp.

Mueller explores the difficulty of living up to one's own principles and the psychological impact of trauma on personal relationships.

Her talent for entering deeply into her characters lets us feel what it was like to be uprooted from one's home at a moment's notice and carted off to live in a prison camp — as well as the crisis of conscience it caused for many of the staff working there.

Based loosely on the experiences of Mueller's parents, who worked at the Tule Lake Segregation Camp, the book is a complex tale of divided loyalties and of the consequences of cultural bias, racism and violence.

Mueller was the first Caucasian born in Tule Lake, where her pacifist father and mother, a teacher, were working. In 1963 she joined the Peace Corps and spent two years in Ecuador. Later she worked as a community organizer in

East Harlem and as the program director of Pacifica Radio in New York. Mueller currently lives in New York City where she continues to be active in community action projects.

**Why She Left Us**  
By Rahna Reiko Rizzuto  
HarperCollins  
259 pp., \$24

Set against the backdrop of World War II, Rahna Reiko Rizzuto's first novel chronicles the shattered lives of

three generations of the Okada family.

Main character Emi Okada, a young, unmarried girl, brings dishonor to her family by becoming pregnant twice. She gives the first child, a boy named Eric, up for adoption, but Okada's mother rescues the child and brings him home out of familial duty and love. Okada's second child, Mariko, is born while she is interned at the Santa Anita Assembly Center.

The story unfolds through the narratives of four Okada family members — the mother, brother Jack, Eric and Mariko. Moving backward and forward in time, the story coalesces as the secrets of the Okada family come to light.

**Cry Korea**  
By Ty Pak  
The Woodhouse  
531 pp., \$12 paperback

This James Bondish epic starts off in an orphanage in South Korea in the 1950s and centers around Chundong Bag, a half-Caucasian, half Korean orphan. Starved and beaten at the Mercy Home orphanage, Chundong makes a daring escape, only to face near death in the freezing Korean winter.

He is befriended by a Caucasian U.S. Army private who resembles him, and the two pass themselves off as brothers. Chundong eventually becomes an award-winning filmmaker in America and has an affair with an acclaimed Korean actress. Just as things settle, Chundong and his lover are kidnapped for creating works on the Korean war.

**The Emperor's General**  
By James Webb  
Broadway Books  
416 pp., \$25 hardcover

Interweaving fact and fiction, this historical novel spans three years — from October 1944 to February 1946 — honing in on events pivotal to the end of World War II.

At the novel's center is the historic figure of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, and the story unfolds through the recollection of a fictitious character, Jay Marsh, MacArthur's once trusted aide. Marsh, now retired after a lucrative career as a businessman and diplomat, returns to the Philippines on a visit that rekindles his anger — at MacArthur and at himself.

Recalling his days as a hopeful young captain, Marsh reveals deeply buried facts surrounding the Japanese occupation and the last days of Japan's most esteemed battlefield general, Tomoyuki Yamashita.

James Webb, combat marine and author of four novels, is an attorney and Emmy Award-winning journalist who has served as Secretary of the Navy, Assistant Secretary of Defense, and full committee counsel to the U.S. Congress. He lives in Virginia.

**Heads by Harry**  
By Lois-Anne Yamanaka  
Fairfax, Straus and Giroux  
336 pp., \$24 hardback

This third novel by Lois-Anne Yamanaka centers around the Yagyu

family, who live in Hilo, Hawaii, above Harry O. Yagyu's taxidermy shop called Heads by Harry. The children of the Yagyu family include: Toni (Antoinette), who dreams of an Ozzie and Harriet life; Shelly (Sheldon), who prefers boys to girls and ends up as secretary of his high school's Future Homemakers of America; and Bunny (Bernice), the pet of the family who is a popular cheerleader.

As in her past novels, Yamanaka peppers her characters' language with pidgin, and captures the flavor of the locals.

**Distant Road: Selected Poems of Nguyen Duy**  
Translated by Kevin Bowen  
and Nguyen Ba Chung  
Curbside Press  
257 pp., \$15.95 paperback

Considered the most important poet of his generation, Nguyen Duy began his career as a writer on the battlefields of Vietnam.

Born into a peasant family, Duy captures the essence of village life in his poetry. But whether it is love, family, war, current or lost friends, his poetry is infused with an understanding of hardship and suffering. Many of his love poems have become classics in Vietnam.

Duy's poetry has been controversial in his own country since he writes honestly about the disappointments of the post-war era.

Although this has not endeared him to conservative party leaders, it has given him a place with the Vietnamese people.

**The Book Of Perceptions**  
By Chung Hoang Chuong & Truong Tran  
Kearny Street Workshop Press  
\$20

The voices of the transplanted Vietnamese generation now coming of age in America can be heard in "The Book Of Perceptions," a collaboration of photographer Chung Hoang Chuong and poet Truong Tran.

Tran, who considers himself a "1.5" generation (relocated to the United States early in life), returned to Vietnam as an adult, making acquaintances with close relatives whose lifestyles bear no relationship to that of modern Americans.

In the book, he juxtaposes the alien experiences of the Vietnamese in America with the equally foreign nature of Vietnamese Americans returning to seek their roots, as well as a third level of alienation: that of gay men and women in nearly all cultures.

Chuong's photographs of contemporary Vietnam blend Tran's perspectives with peasant portraits, urban scenes and ancient practices.

Tran was born in Saigon in 1969 and came to America in 1974. He holds a master of fine arts degree in creative writing from San Francisco State University.

Chuong is currently the director of the Vietnamese American Studies Center at San Francisco State University, and his works have been shown in galleries around the country and on public television.

"The Book Of Perceptions" was created in partnership with the Huong Viet Community Center of Alameda County, a nonprofit service organization dedicated to fostering the development of the Vietnamese American community and families through educational, social, cultural and political programs.

A portion of the proceeds of the book will benefit the center.



### Archipelago: The Islands of Indonesia

By Gavan Daws and Marty Fujita  
University of California Press  
254 pp., \$45 hardcover

More than three years in the making, "Archipelago" explores the beauty and diversity of Indonesia, from the 19th century discoveries of Alfred Russel Wallace to the fate of Indonesia's forests and reefs in the 20th century. This joint project between the Nature Conservancy and ARCO has allowed all profits generated from book sales to go towards conservation efforts in Indonesia.

Included in this book are maps, archival documents and more than 200 color photographs depicting the stunning landscape and exotic flora and fauna of Indonesia.

Gavan Daws is a historian and author of nine books about the Pacific and Asia.

Marty Fujita was a research associate of the Smithsonian Institution and founding director of the Nature Conservancy's Indonesia program. She has lived and worked in Indonesia for more than seven years.

### America's Concentration Camps During World War II: Social Science and the Japanese American Internment

By Francis McCollum Feeley  
University Press of the South  
443 pp., \$49.95 hardcover

Francis McCollum Feeley focuses on the incarceration of people of Japanese ancestry during World War II to examine the larger questions concerning American foreign policy, social science theories and multiculturalism. It is his hope that social scientists will work towards a world where people can exist peacefully in all their rich diversity.

### Dusty Exile: Looking Back at the Japanese Relocation During World War II

By Catherine Harris  
AAPC  
152 pp., \$10.95 paperback

Catherine Harris, by accident rather than intent, found herself as a teacher in one of the 10 War Relocation Authority camps during World War II. Harris, only 22-years-old at the time, came face to face with the consequences of racial prejudice and the fallibility of the American government. In "Dusty Exile," Harris chronicles her experiences, alternating between her daily situation at the Poston Relocation Center to her broader observations of changing events and attitudes on a national level. She notes that this experience changed her life, her values and personal relationships.

To order from AAPC, write to P.O. Box 1587, San Mateo, CA 94401 or call (800) 874-2242.

### Repairing America:

An Account of the Movement for Japanese-American Redress  
By William Hohri  
Washington State University Press  
247 pp., \$10 softback, \$15 hardback

Although the court battled waged by the National Council for Japanese American Redress (NCJAR) failed to obtain monetary compensation to Japanese American victims of World War II concentration camps, many community leaders have credited NCJAR's action as a wake-up call to American legislatures, who were forced to take a hard look at redress for fear that others would follow NCJAR's footsteps with similar lawsuits.

In "Repairing America," William

Hohri, who headed NCJAR, gives an overview of and shares his experiences in the redress movement. He also recounts how his Christian faith influenced his decision to support the redress movement.

As part of the historical background, Hohri notes that there have been several attempts to gain redress for JAs, one as early as 1942. But in Hohri's personal experience, his first encounter of public support for redress occurred at the 1970 national JACL convention, at which time Hohri had been a delegate from the then-newly formed Chicago Liberation JACL chapter.

From there, Hohri shares his experiences with the Seattle JACL chapter; the impact of Michi Weglyn's book, "Years of Infamy"; recognition of Frank Chin for his behind-the-scenes work in masterminding early press conferences where the issue of redress was brought up; the Lowry redress bill; and the ultimate decision to form NCJAR to sue the U.S. government for \$27 billion and the court battle that followed.

According to Hohri, it was NCJAR's belief that only through the symbolism of financial reparation to the victims of internment and their heirs can the healing of America take place. To guarantee that this never happens again, the punishment had to fit the crime.

"Repairing America" is available at the Japanese American National Museum's bookstore or can be purchased directly from William Hohri at 25840 Viana Ave. #B, Lomita, CA 90717.



**Nanjing Massacre**  
By Katsuchi Honda  
Translated by Karen Sandness  
M.E. Sharpe  
367 pp., \$24.95 hardback

In Japan, journalist Katsuchi Honda is known for pursuing stories that expose injustices and the misuse of power, even when it is unpopular to write about them. In "The Nanjing Massacre," Honda confronts Japan's wartime past by retracing the murderous paths of the Imperial Japanese Army and interviewing Chinese survivors of the atrocities. He combines grim recollections with official histories, newspaper reports and diaries of Japanese soldiers who witnessed and committed these brutal acts.

When Honda's book was first published in Japan in 1987, it stirred up so much controversy that he was forced to disguise himself in a wig and sunglasses to conceal his identity from right-wing politicians and activists.



**Who Was Who: Pioneer Japanese Families in Delta and Surrey—Family Histories From British Columbia, Canada**  
By Michael Hoshiko  
344 pp & 540 photographs, \$80, plus \$10 shipping and handling

for individuals; \$145, plus \$10 S&H for institutions

This book was published to preserve historical information and photographs of Japanese families living in Delta and Surrey, British Columbia, Canada, during the pre-1942 era. There are 105 family histories, which include genealogical information such as dates of birth, birth place, marriages, etc.

The collection of 118 school class photographs of various grades depicts nearly all Japanese children who attended school from 1921 until the families were banished from Delta and Surrey in 1942. Included is a photo of the Tynehead school class of 1907, showing two Japanese children who are considered the first Japanese to attend school in Surrey.

Although the book concentrates on the period up to evacuation, there are some photos from the relocation camp at Tashme and the beet fields in Alberta and Manitoba.

In addition, group shots from post-war social events show many of the same people pictured in the early school

photographs as older adults, many of them near retirement age.

To order, contact Michael Hoshiko at 7754 El Pine Estates, Edwardsville, IL 62025.

### A Buried Past II: A Sequel to the Annotated Bibliography of the Japanese American Research Project Collection, 1973-1998

By Yuji Ichioka and Eiichiro Azuma  
156 pp., \$20

This new release from the UCLA Asian American Studies Center documents the extensive historical archive of primary resource materials on Japanese immigration history and the Japanese American experience which are stored as part of the UCLA Japanese American Research Project (JARP) Collection. It provides detailed descriptions of personal and family papers, Japanese vernacular newspapers, organizational records and other materials added to the collection during the past 25 years.

The book was compiled by historian Yuji Ichioka and a doctoral student, Eiichiro Azuma.

The UCLA collection has more than 707 boxes of documents, 500 oral history tapes and 23 record cartons. Among the materials are family papers on Kyutaro and Yonako Abiko, Karl Yoneda, Edison Uno, Akira Togawa, Charles Kikuchi, Akira Fujita, Yoneo Arai and Yuri Kochiyama.

Paintings and art works created during World War II are also part of the collection. These include works done by Estelle Ishigo, a Caucasian woman who entered an American concentration camp with her Nikkei husband.

The materials can be requested and viewed at UCLA's Department of Special Collection, which is located at the Charles E. Young Research Library.

The book is available for \$20, plus a \$3 shipping and handling fee for the first copy and \$1 for each additional. Price does not include sales tax (8.25 percent for Los Angeles County residents and 7.75 for California residents). Special bulk order prices are available.

Make checks payable to "UC Regents" and send to UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press, 3230 Campbell Hall, P.O. Box 951546, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546. For more information, call 310/825-2968/74.



**Ten Visits Revised**  
By Frank and Joanne Iritani  
Japanese American National Museum  
68 pp., \$15.95

Frank and Joanne Iritani's pilgrimage to all 10 World War II internment camps in 1989 resulted in the first edition of "Ten Visits." The original book included brief accounts of the Iritani's visits to the camps, directions, maps, color photos and essays on redress and the resisters. Since the 1995 publication of "Ten Visits," the Iritani's have revisited four of the 10 camps and recently published "Ten Visits Revised." This new book contains updated text, new photos of the Jerome monument and Poston, new essays and a summary chart of the WWII relocation centers.

"Ten Visits Revised" is on sale at the Japanese American National Museum Bookstore, 369 E. First St., Los Angeles, CA 90012, phone: 213/635-0414.



**Manchurian Legacy: Memoirs of a Japanese Colonist**  
By Kazuko Kuramoto  
Michigan State University Press  
210 pp., \$28.95 hardback

Kazuko Kuramoto was born and raised in Dai-ri, Manchuria, in 1927, at the peak of Japanese expansionism in Asia. Dai-ri and neighboring Fort Arthur were important colonial outposts on the Liaotung Peninsula. When Kuramoto's grandfather arrived in Dai-ri as a member of the Japanese police force

shortly after the end of the Russo-Japanese War in 1905, the family's belief in Japanese supremacy and its "divine" mission to "save" Asia from Western imperialists was firmly in place. As a third-generation colonist, the 17-year-old Kuramoto readily joined the Red Cross Nurse Corps in 1944 to aid in the war effort and in her country's sacred cause. A year later, her family listened to the emperor's radio broadcast when Japan surrendered unconditionally.

"Manchurian Legacy" is the story of the Kuramoto family's life in Dai-ri, their survival as a forgotten people during the battle to reclaim Manchuria waged by Russia and China, and their subsequent repatriation to a devastated Japan. Kuramoto describes a culture based on the unthinking oppression of the colonized by the colonizer. Because Manchuria was, in essence, a Japanese frontier, Kuramoto's family lived a freer and more luxurious life than they would have in Japan.

Kuramoto's memoirs describe her coming of age in a colonial society, her family's experiences in war-torn Manchuria and her "homecoming" to Japan where she had never been.

### The Americas of Asian American Literature: Fictions of Nation and Transnation

By Rachel C. Lee  
Princeton University Press  
208 pp., \$16.95 paperback, \$49.50 hardback

Rachel Lee addresses current debates on the relationship among Asian American ethnic identity, national belonging, globalization and gender. Lee argues that scholars have traditionally placed undue emphasis on ethnic based political commitments in their readings of Asian American texts. This has constrained the intelligibility of stories that are focused less on ethnicity than on kinship, family dynamics, eroticism and gender roles. In response, Lee makes a case for a reconceptualized Asian American criticism that centrally features gender and sexuality.

Through a critical analysis of select literary texts — novels by Carlos Bulosan, Gish Jen, Jessica Hagedorn and Karen Tei Yamashita — Lee probes the specific way in which some Asian American authors have steered around ethnic themes with alternative tales circulating around gender and sexual identity. Lee makes it clear that what has been missing from current debates has been an analysis of the complex ways in which gender mediates questions of both national belonging and international migration. From anti-segregation legislation in the early 20th century to poststructuralist theories of language to Third World feminist theory, this book takes up pressing cultural and literary questions and points to a new direction in literary criticism.

Lee is assistant professor of English and Women's Studies at UCLA, and is a member of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center's Faculty Advisory Committee.

### Between a Rock and a Hard Place: History of American Sweatshops, 1820-Present

Compiled by Peter Liebold and Harry Rubenstein  
UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press  
96 pp., \$12, plus \$3 shipping and tax

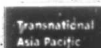
Generations of Asian Pacific immigrants and their descendants have been a part of the American sweatshop experience, particularly as seamstresses. During the 19th century, they could be found from San Francisco to New England. After World War II, Japanese American women, in returning to the West Coast after their incarceration, worked in sweatshops to help their families regain their financial footing.

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

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Tolerance and the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution.

The catalog features all the photos from the exhibit as well as essays, including interviews with two Thai workers who had been enslaved at the infamous El Monte slave shop in Southern California.



**Transnational Asia Pacific: Gender, Culture and the Public Sphere**  
Edited by Shirley Geok-Lin Lim, Larry E. Smith and Wimal Dissanayake  
University of Illinois Press  
192 pp., \$14.95 paperback, \$34.95 hardback

Departing from the exclusive focus on economic and political issues that has dominated analysis of the Asian Pacific region, this book assesses the relation of gender to development, education and culture.

Contributors explore the psychosocial and linguistic processes through which women's selves are constructed, the role of popular culture and the mass media in shaping new female identities, and the consequences for men's and women's lives of the state's response to modernization and global capitalism.

For information, visit the Website at <www.press.uillinois.edu>.



**Achieving the Impossible Dream: How Japanese Americans Obtained Redress**  
By Mitchell Maki, Harry Kitano and S. Megan Berthold  
University of Illinois Press  
309 pp., \$22.50 paperback

"Achieving the Impossible Dream" gives an overview of how the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, the redress bill, came about. With an introduction by Congressman Robert Matsui and Roger Daniels, the book begins by examining prior factors to World War II such as exclusion laws, anti-Japanese media propaganda and lack of political power. In the WWII section, the book discusses JACL's decision to cooperate with the government during WWII; the Mitsuye Endo, Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu and Minoru Yasui legal challenges; the draft resistance; and the creation of the 100th/442nd/MIS segregated military units. In the postwar sections, the book credits part of the modern redress movement to the 1960s civil rights movement and the rise of Asian American Studies that educated the younger generation on camp experiences and rallied them around the notion of redress.

Subsequent chapters focus on the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians; other redress efforts such as the lawsuit filed by the National Council for Japanese American Redress, the passage of the California redress bill for state employees and the reopening of the coram nobis case; the legislative battle; battling for monetary appropriations once the redress bill was signed; and lessons learned from the movement.

Author Mitchell Maki is an assistant professor in the School of Public Policy at UCLA; Harry Kitano is a professor emeritus of social welfare and sociology at UCLA; and S. Megan Berthold is a senior researcher at the Center for Language Minority Education and Research at California State University, Long Beach.

**Paper Daughter**  
By M. Elaine Mar  
Harper Collins  
292 pp., \$23 hardcover

In this memoir, Elaine Mar shares her journey from Hong Kong to Harvard University. Mar, born in

Hong Kong, was a world away from the neon lights and stock market trading floors so often discussed in the world of Asian finance. Mar and her family shared a five-room flat with four other families where running water was available only three times a week. When Mar was five, she and her mother emigrated to Denver to join her father in a working-class community. The family lived in of her Aunt Becky's, basement and Mar found a job working at a Chinese restaurant.

Mar writes of the initial shock she experienced — the seemingly empty American streets, the open affection displayed between mother and child, a house with running water and separate rooms for everyone. Although Mar quickly mastered English and began excelling in school, her home and school life — Chinese tradition and American independence — also started to clash, and Mar found herself trying to navigate between the two worlds. From surviving racial harassment in the schoolyard to trying to flip her straight hair like Farrah Fawcett, to hiding her parents' heritage, Mar's story is an unflinching look at the struggle facing all immigrants.



**A Japanese American Culinary Journey**  
National Japanese American Memorial Foundation of the Greater Capital Area  
171 pp., \$15 (includes shipping and handling)

This cookbook features Japanese, American and multi-cultural recipes. In addition to more than 300 recipes, the cookbook takes the reader on a journey based on the culinary memories of the Japanese American community, from World War II to the present. Through a series of vignettes, a real "flavor" of the JA experience is presented.

All proceeds from the cookbook will go to the construction of the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in Washington, D.C. To order, send a check or money order payable to: NJAMP-Cookbook, 2511 Babcock Rd., Vienna, VA 22180. For more information, call the foundation at 202/861-8845.



**Too Late for the Festival: An American Salary-Woman in Japan**  
By Rhiannon Paine  
Academy Chicago Publishers  
237 pp., \$22.50 hardcover

From 1985 to 1986, the residents of a Tokyo suburb were treated to a singular sight — Just before 10 a.m., every weekday morning, a pale-faced, wild-haired foreigner came scurrying out of her apartment, tucked her full skirt between her legs, mounted a bicycle and pedaled off furiously, heading east. At around 6:30 p.m., her neighbors saw her again, pedaling home with her bicycle basket full of Haagen-Daz ice cream and Shredded Wheat.

This memoir recounts the humorous but poignant experiences of Rhiannon Paine, who was working as a technical writer for Hewlett-Packard in Silicon Valley when she reluctantly agreed to transfer to their Tokyo branch.

She had no idea what she was in for, and neither did her Japanese colleagues. While they coped with her social gaffes, like arriving late to work and blowing her nose in public, Paine struggled with Japanese food — "deviant sea-creatures on rice" — and with the Japanese language, which kept tripping her up with new verb tenses.

Paine also writes with wonderful humor about the good times — drinking sake out of a bamboo pole and trying to make herself presentable on the beach with a package of inadequate Japanese "nipple covers." But she is also honest about her loneliness and sense of dislocation.

Her in-depth contact with a radically different culture raises questions she couldn't begin to answer: "If I hadn't

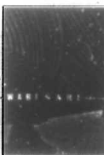
been born American, would I still be restless, ambitious, contrary-minded? Could the same raw material, worked upon by a different society, have produced a tea-making office lady or a contented housewife?"

## Zen Computers: Mindfulness and the Machine

By Philip Toshio Sudo  
Simon & Schuster  
160 pp., \$22 hardback

Earlier this year, the Kensington Technology Group of San Mateo reported that although computers have improved workplace productivity, almost half of all workers say the constant bombardment of voicemail, e-mail and other computer-related technology has increased stress.

Philip Toshio Sudo believes if people work harder to develop relationships with their computers, they can live in harmony with technology. Some suggestions include humanizing computers by thinking of those who had mined the silicon that went into making computer chips, the factory workers who formed the plastic computer molds, and computer programmers who spent countless hours devising software formulas to create programs to help other workers.



**Wabi Sabi: A New Look at Japanese Design**  
By Lennox Tierney  
Gibbs Smith  
90 pp., \$21.95 hardback

Lennox Tierney begins his book by sharing an experience he had in Japan while searching for a temple garden. Lost and frustrated, Tierney asks an elderly Japanese man for directions. "He politely responded to my question," writes Tierney. "He said the temple was far, far away. When I showed him my map indicating that the temple was nearby, he said, 'It is just around the corner; it is far away only for people with blue eyes.' Saying this, he then resumed his travel. Lesson one had just occurred. I was a *gaijin* (foreign barbarian); therefore, I was ignorant as to why the garden was created."

Tierney explores this Zen influence on Japanese design, drawing upon anecdotes from his own discoveries as a young *gaijin*. He leads the reader through geisha houses, stone gardens, Japanese inns and one-plant gardens, ending with the quintessential experience — a tea ceremony.

Professor Emeritus Tierney has taught at the University of Utah's Asian Arts Department. Formerly president of the Schaeffer School of Design in San Francisco and curator of Asian Arts for the San Diego Museum of Fine Arts, he is currently curator of the Art of Japan at Utah State Museum of Fine Arts and art director of the Japanese Friendship Garden in San Diego. He is also a consultant to the Mingei Museum in San Diego.



**Forever Foreigners or Honorary Whites? The Asian Ethnic Experience Today**  
By Mia Tuan  
Rutgers University Press  
192 pp., \$18 paperback

How are Asian Americans viewed in multicultural America at the end of the 20th century? Are AAs considered "honorary whites" by mainstream America or forever thought of as "foreigners"? How are American and ethnic identities constructed by multigenerational AA families?

Mia Tuan traces the many public and private challenges faced by AAs who have attempted to achieve a measure of success in America while trying to maintain a sense of their own culture.

Tuan interviewed 95 middle-class Chinese and Japanese Californians, asking the respondents about their early memories and experiences with

Chinese/Japanese culture, current lifestyle, emerging cultural practices, and experiences with racism and discrimination.

Tuan is an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Oregon.

## Amerasia Journal: Essays Into American Empire in the Philippines

UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press  
200 pp., \$13, plus \$4 shipping and tax

To commemorate the 100-year relationship between the United States and the Philippines, UCLA's Asian American Studies Center recently completed two special 200-page editions of *Amerasia Journal* titled "Essays Into American Empire in the Philippines." The two editions include essays by Filipino and American scholars including Delia Aquilar, Pearl Rose Baluyut, Leonard Casper, Sharon Delmendo, Augusto Espiritu, Marlon Fuentes, Barbara Gaerlan, N.V.M. Gonzalez, Ronald Guyotte, Anne Lacamama, Lisa Lowe, Napoleon Lustre, Andrea Maisson, Ambeth Ocampo, Barbara Posadas, Rachel Salazar Parrenas, Seffi San Buenaventura, E. San Juan, Jr., Helen Tobio and Jim Zwick.

Articles explore such issues as international politics and the Philippines, Filipino nationalism and the roles of Jose Rizal and Andres Bonifacio, the work of the Anti-Imperialist League in early 20th-century America, interracial relations in the United States, the anti-Marcos movement in America and the role of art in the Filipino community. The editions also contain analysis of Filipino writers N.V.M. Gonzalez and Jessica Hagedorn.

Each edition of "Essays into American Empire in the Philippines" is available for \$13, plus an additional \$4 for shipping and handling (plus sales tax of 8.25 percent for Los Angeles County residents and 7.75 percent for California residents).

## Amerasia Journal: Seconding the Second Generation

UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press  
260 pp., \$13, plus \$3 shipping and tax

This special edition focuses on the "new" second-generation Asian Americans — the offspring of immigrants who came to the United States since the enactment of the Immigration Act of 1965. The Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Indian and Vietnamese are the five largest Asian immigrant groups in the post-1965 era.

This issue is dedicated to the late Michi Weglyn, who had a major impact on Asian American Studies. Professor Phil Nash of the University of Maryland contributes a biographical essay on Weglyn's life and research.

Some of the articles include: "Ethnic Attachment Among Second Generation Korean Adolescents" by Pyong Gap Min and Joann Hong is based on survey data and shows that second generation Korean youths are highly assimilated culturally but strongly attached to their ethnic community in terms of their friendship patterns and identity.

In "On Asian American Ice Queens and Multigenerational Asian Ethnicities," Professor Mia Tuan of the University of Oregon provides an examination of the recent phenomenon of Asian American female ice skaters from the perspective of the mass media and within a multigenerational Asian American perspective.

"ABC and XYZ: Religious, Ethnic and Racial Identities of the New Second Generation Chinese in Christian Churches," by Professor Fengang Yang of the University of Southern Maine studies the religious identities of Chinese immigrant Christians in relation to ethnic identity.

UCLA researcher Bangele Alsaybar looks at Filipino American gangs as a site for the formation of identity in "Deconstructing Deviance: Filipino American Youth Gangs."



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**Amerasia Journal: Crossing the Color Line — The End of the Twentieth Century**  
UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press  
200 pp., \$13, plus \$3 shipping and tax

Featured in this issue, edited by Russell Leong, are articles addressing the relationship between Asian Americans and African Americans during this century, including personal reflections by two "elders": Chinese American activist Grace Lee Boggs and pioneer Korean immigrant journalist K.W. Lee.

Boggs and her late husband, James Boggs, collaborated on a number of books, providing analysis about the African American community, urban politics, labor issues, public education and international affairs. In 1974, they co-authored "Revolution and Evolution in the Twentieth Century," published by Monthly Review Press, which is still regarded as a classic of political analysis. In Lee's essay, the award-winning journalist reflects on the meaning of the 1992 Los Angeles uprising for the development of Korean community consciousness.

This issue also includes: University of Hawaii at Manoa Law Professor Eric Yamamoto analyzes the impact of Japanese American redress for African American reparations; research by San Francisco activist and UC Berkeley doctoral student Jennifer Jung Lee Choi explores the life and ideas of Boggs; a research paper by UNLV Professor Jieming Bao examines Chinese-Thai transmigrants' identity and gender relations in Thailand and the United States; and Dominika Ferens, professor at the University of Wrocław in Poland, writes on Chinese immigrant writer Sui Sin Far (Edith Eaton).

The edition also includes an interview with Asian American filmmaker Ann Kaneko, covering her recent work, "Overstay," which examines new immigrants working in Japan; an essay by UC Davis Professor Darrel Hamamoto on the 16th annual San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival; an article by SFSU Professor Don Mar analyzing differences in Asian American earnings in California and Hawaii; and an essay by Los Angeles-based community leader and scholar Prosy Abarquez-Delacruz on the impact of western colonialism on Filipino consciousness.

It is available for \$13, plus \$3 shipping and tax (8.25 percent Los Angeles County residents; 7.75 percent for California residents). Copies are also available at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3230 Campbell Hall, Box 951546, Los Angeles 90095-1546. For information, call 310/825-2974, or view it at <www.ssnct.ucla.edu/aasc>.



**Manzanar: History & Preservation of the Community Auditorium/Gym**  
By The U.S. Department of the Interior, National Parks Service  
407 pp.

On March 3, 1992, the United States Congress established the Manzanar National Historic Site, and a General Management Plan (GMP) for the park was completed in January 1997.

To implement the GMP, which calls for the preservation of the three remaining buildings on the former War Relocation Authority camp site, it was necessary to complete a Historic Structure Report (HSR).

The HSR for the auditorium-gymnasium, now completed, includes historic documents that show the building's evolution and significance.

For more information, contact the Manzanar Historic Site at 760/878-2932 or write P.O. Box 426, Independence, CA 93526.

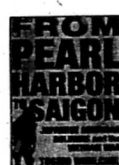


**Giants of Japan**  
By Mark Weston  
Kodansha America, Inc.  
352 pp., \$30 hardcover

"Giants of Japan" is an account of Japanese culture, history and economic development. With an introduction by Walter Mondale, former vice president and ambassador to Japan, this book profiles the lives of 35 men and women who have shaped Japan.

Some of the people featured include the corporate founders of Honda and Sony; an actress and dancer who created Kabuki theater; the grand master who perfected the Japanese tea ceremony; a prince who brought Buddhism from China; a samurai warrior who united half of Japan; the admiral who planned the attack on Pearl Harbor; and many, many more.

Mark Weston has reported for ABC News, the *Washington Post* and the *Los Angeles Times*. He is the author of "The Land and People of Pakistan" and a one-man play about George Orwell, "The Last Man in Europe." He lives in Armonk, N.Y.



**From Pearl Harbor to Saigon: Japanese American Soldiers and the Vietnam War**  
By Toshio Whelchel/Verso  
203 pp., \$25 hardback

Revealing interviews by author Toshio Whelchel show that some Japanese American veterans believed passionately in vindicating their "Americanness" through military service despite being made to "play the enemy" in camp games in Vietnam or assigned to houseboy duties because of racial stereotyping.

For more than 100 Vietnam veterans that Whelchel talked to, their experiences as Asian Americans in Vietnam were so disquieting that they remained silent until now.

Alienated from the culture of their parents and their reluctance to recall memories of being imprisoned in American concentration camps, the Nikkei veterans talk about everything from discovering a new sense of belonging in gangs such as the Southern California Black Juans and Algonquins to the American "gookism" they confronted after their return from Vietnam.

Whelchel is a Nikkei U.S. Marine Corps veteran.



**Tokyo Underworld: The Fast Times and Hard Life of an American Gangster in Japan**  
By Robert Whiting  
Pantheon Books  
372 pp., \$27.50 hardcover

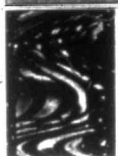
Author Robert Whiting exposes the role of Americans in the evolution of the Tokyo underworld in the years since 1945.

He focuses on Nick Zappetti, an Italian-American ex-Marine who made his way to Japan after the end of World War II and earned the title of the Mafia Boss of Tokyo.

The book examines the relationship between the United States and Japan through the "underground empire" of alliances among crime bosses, corporate chairs, politicians and public figures.

Whiting also wrote "You Gotta Have Wa," and is one of the few Westerners to write a regular column in the Japanese press. He has appeared on such shows as Larry King Live and the MacNeil-Lehrer Newshour.

## YOUNG ADULTS/CHILDREN



**Remix Conversations With Immigrant Teenagers**  
By Marina Budhos  
Henry Holt & Company  
140 pp., \$16.95 hardback  
(ages 14 and up)

Marina Budhos' second book focuses on the lives of 20 young people from Asia, Europe, Central America and Africa. Drawing upon her own background as the child of two different immigrant streams, Budhos interviewed her subjects closely and shaped their narratives around their unique experiences.

Readers learn of the stresses that drove a high-achieving Korean girl to contemplate suicide; the three strategies adopted by South Asian Muslim girls as they juggle family and tradition against the claims of American teenage culture; the blur of identities of Guyanese teenagers who are themselves the products of an earlier immigration from India; the world of Caribbean and Central American youths who arrive in America to join parents they hardly know; the singular courage of displaced Cambodians and Hmong whose "home" culture is only a memory in their parents' mind.

At times, the articles are disturbing for what they reveal about the burdens faced by immigrant teens. But they are also inspiring for showing how they overcome abuse, abandonment, loneliness and the temptation of gangs.

**The Journal of Citizen Ben Uchida**  
By Barry Denenberg  
Scholastic Paperbacks  
192 pp., \$10.95

Writer Barry Denenberg creates a fictitious 12-year-old character named Ben Uchida who is sent to the fictitious Mirror Lake Internment Camp, located somewhere in desolate America.

Through Ben's journal, readers can get an idea of what living conditions in camp were like.



**What Are You? Voices of Mixed-Race Young People**  
By Pearl Fuyo Gaskins  
Henry Holt & Company  
273 pp., \$18.95 paperback  
(for ages 12 up)

"What nationality are you?" "Where are you from?" "Are those colored contacts?" "What kind of name is that?" "What are you?" — These are questions asked of racially mixed people, and in this book, more than 40 young people share their stories of growing up in between the neatly defined categories of race.

"What Are You?" consists of interviews, essays and poems, with a list of resources in the final section.

Pearl Fuyo Gaskins is a journalist whose articles frequently appear in *Scholastic Choices* magazine.

The child of an interracial marriage, she wrote "What Are You?" as a forum for mixed-race young people to share their experiences and validate their feelings.

**Cool Melons — Turn to Frogs! The Life and Poems of Issa**  
By Matthew Gollub, illustrated by Kazuko G. Stone  
Lee & Low Books  
40 pp., \$16.95 hardcover  
(for ages 4 and up)

This is an introduction to haiku and the life of Issa (b. 1763), Japan's renowned haiku poet. It is told through narrative, art and translations of Issa's most beloved poems for children.

**All the Colors of the Earth**  
By Sheila Hamanaka  
Mulberry Books  
32 pp., \$4.95 softback, \$16 hardback  
(for ages 4 and up)

Sheila Hamanaka celebrates the colors of children and the colors of love through distinct illustrations and descriptions such as "roaring brown, whispering gold, tinkling pink" and more.

**I Look Like a Girl**  
By Sheila Hamanaka  
William Morrow & Company  
32 pp., \$16 hardback  
(for ages 3 and up)

Girls are everywhere in this high-spirited book, leaping like dolphins, soaring like condors and singing like wolves to the moon. Sheila Hamanaka has created a book that celebrates being a girl.

**Beyond Paradise**  
By Jane Hertenstein  
Morrow Junior Books  
144 pp., \$16 hardcover  
(for ages 12 up)

This first novel is based on true accounts of the imprisonment of American citizens in Japanese detention camps in the Philippines during World War II.

Main character Louise Keller travels with her missionary father to the Philippines on the eve of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

At first, the country seems like paradise, but soon Keller and her family are captured by the Japanese and forced to live in internment camps. It is a thought-provoking novel about human strength and weakness in wartime.

**The Story of Religion**  
By Betsy Maestro, illustrated by Giulio Maestro  
William Morrow & Company  
48 pp., \$5.95  
(for grades K and up)

For the five billion people who inhabit the earth, religion is an important part of culture and identity. From Buddhists, Muslims and Christians, this book examines the different ways of worship.

Through detailed illustrations, Betsy and Giulio Maestro take a historical look at religious beliefs.



**Name Me Nobody**  
By Leis-An Yamanaka  
Hyperion Books  
256 pp., \$14.99 hardcover  
(for ages 13 and up)

"Name Me Nobody" presents a "portrait of 14-year-old Emi-Lou 'Louie' Kaya's search for self-acceptance.

Kaya thinks she's nobody. She has never met her father, hasn't seen her mother in years and is teased mercilessly at school with "fat" nicknames like "Lumpy." The only people who make her feel like somebody are her outspoken adoptive grandmother and her best girlfriend, Von. But all that changes when Von starts to have feelings for Babes, another girl on their softball team, and Kaya's world is thrown into turmoil.

The characters speak in pidgin English, the dialect of author Yamanaka's own childhood, but they speak a language adolescents can understand — the language of the heart.

Yamanaka was born in Molokai and raised on the big island of Hawaii. Her previous works include "Saturday Night at the Palala Theater," "Wild Meat and the Bully Burgers" and "Blu's Hanging."



# In Memoriam - 1999

All the towns are in California except as noted.

**Akino, Yasu, 113,** Sagara, Japan, Nov. 12; Japan's oldest person.

**Arimoto, Ichiro Jack,** San Francisco, Aug. 23; 442nd RCT veteran.

**Besig, Ernest, 94,** San Francisco, Nov. 13 (98), founder and executive director of the ACLU in Northern California.

**Burden, Dr. John, 88,** Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 2; Tokyo-born son of missionaries, one of two *haole* graduates of the first WWII MIS language school class at the San Francisco Presidio; in charge of monitoring enemy communications in Fiji; credited with giving the Nisei their chance to show what they could do in the U.S. Military Intelligence Service.

**Cohen, Samuel M., 75,** Pleasant Hill, Jan. 19; president of the Japanese American Cultural Exchange Program.

**Coor, Alvin D., 75,** San Diego, Nov. 4; prominent scholar of Japanese military history, pioneer of Asian Studies at San Diego State University.

**Fuji, Ted Satoru, 84,** Sacramento, Feb. 4; WWII veteran.

**Fujikawa, Rise, 101,** Los Angeles, Feb. 13; Yamaguchi-born naturalized U.S. citizen.

**Fukuhara, Terasu, 77,** Anaheim, Aug. 20; Hilo, Hawaii-born recipient of the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Ray with Rosette.

**Fukushima, Dan, 77,** San Jose, Nov. 23 (98); WWII veteran assigned to the MIS at Ft. Snelling, Minn.; first Nisei to coach a California high school basketball team.

**Furutani, Jiichi, 73,** North Hollywood, June 17; El Monte-born Korean War veteran.

**Goto, Toshiyuki 'George', 77,** Las Vegas, Oct. 17; WWII veteran.

**Harada, Dr. Tomin, 87,** Hiroshima, June 15; Japanese physician in Taiwan when WWII ended, set up private practice in Hiroshima in 1946 and led a group of 25 disfigured atomic bomb survivors, known as the "Hiroshima Maidens," to the United States for plastic surgery in 1955; known in the 1960s for his peace missions in the United States and Europe.

**Hasegawa, Margaret Summers, 68,** Idaho Falls, April 5; JACL's first woman president (1968), registered parliamentarian.

**Hironaka, Mas, 81,** San Diego, Sept. 10; Poston and Amache internee and WWII veteran; called "Mr. San Diego JACL."

**Hoberecht, Ernest 'Ernie', 81,** Oklahoma City, August; American newspaperman in Tokyo during the occupation, wrote novels about U.S. life for the hungry young Japanese when American books were restricted to them.

**Horike, Kay, 83,** Seattle, Sept. 5; the first Minidoka evacuee to return to Tacoma, Wash., during WWII; outlasted efforts by the Pearl Harbor League to keep Japanese Americans out of the Pacific Northwest, defied redline discrimination by housing his family near his store in Seattle.

**Horiuchi, Paul Chikamasa, 93,** Seattle, Aug. 29; award-winning Northwest area artist.

**Inada, Tatsuno, 106,** Sacramento, Oct. 22.

**Inouye, Kaoru, 83,** Monrovia, Sept. 11; Los Gatos-born Heart Mountain internee and WWII MIS veteran.

**Inouye, Kiichiro 'Kibo', 71,** Seattle, May 11; past commander and life member of the Nisei Veterans Committee.

**Inouye, Takaji 'Dan', 72,** Elk

Grove, Dec. 11 (98); Poston internee and postwar Army interpreter in Japan during the U.S. occupation; restored photos for Florin Time of Remembrance and Poston II Reunion exhibits.

**Ito, Roy, 77,** Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, July 7; 33-year educator with Hamilton Board of Education, WWII Canadian Intelligence Corps linguist; author, "We Went to War—Story of Japanese Canadians Who Served During the First and Second World Wars" (1984).

**Iwamoto, Shigeru G., 80,** Seattle, Aug. 23; Nisei veteran.

**Kariya, Shig, 84,** Silver Springs, Md., June 25; Japan-born, U.S.-bred co-founder of Mikasa, Inc.; naturalized in 1952; decorated by the Emperor of Japan in 1988 for promoting good relations between the United States and Japan; president of the Japanese American Association of New York.

**Kawaguchi, Masao Mike, 83,** North Hollywood, June 4; Bellingham, Wash.-born veteran of the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, 100th/442nd RCT and MIS.

**Kawakami, Toshio, 77,** Seattle, Sept. 5; Seattle-born Minidoka internee, WWII MIS veteran.

**Kawamoto, Teruo, 67,** Minamata, Japan, Feb. 18; instrumental in raising world-wide awareness of the debilitating illness of the central nervous system caused by industrial discharge of mercury into Minamata Bay.

**Kawashima, Hiroshi, 78,** Monterey Park, Jan. 8; Brawley-born WWII veteran.

**Kobayashi, Col. Thomas, 83,** San Francisco; Phoenix-born 442nd RCT veteran, former deputy chief of staff for the 6th Army, Presidio of San Francisco.

**Konishi, Toshimitsu 'Pat', 56,** Berkeley, Aug. 2; Tule Lake-born U.S. Army veteran.

**Kozu, Isami 'Sam', Seattle, Feb. 6;** Seattle-born WWII MIS veteran, JACL 1000 Club member.

**Kubota, Tommy Sadao, 73,** Seattle, Jan. 30; Leavenworth, Wash.-born WWII 442nd RCT veteran of the Lost Battalion Rescue.

**Kumakura, Harry K., 83,** Seattle, Feb. 12; Tacoma, Wash.-born 442nd RCT veteran.

**Kumamoto, Dr. Koki, Chicago, July 13;** member of JACL delegation that met with California Gov. Culbert Olson to urge against the evacuation.

**Leung, Peter, 69,** Sacramento, Aug. 26; Hong Kong native; lecturer in Asian American Studies at UC Davis; horticulturist, researcher, author of "One Day, One Dollar: The Chinese Farming Experience in the Sacramento Delta."

**Lindner, William Joseph, 74,** Las Vegas, May 17; Penn.-born WWII Navy veteran.

**Ling, Dr. Amy, 63,** Madison, Wis., Aug. 21; Beijing, China-born dedicated pioneer in Asian American studies with an international reputation; author of "Yellow Light: The Flowering of Asian American Arts," among numerous other books.

**Mamiya, George Y., Seattle, Oct. 10 service;** MIS veteran.

**Manji, Chiseko, 103,** Yuba City, Feb. 13; Yamaguchi-born.

**Matsushima, George Hiroshi, 75,** Platteville, April 19; Lafayette-born potato farmer, Army veteran and JACLer.

**Miura, Ayako, 77,** Sapporo, Japan, Oct. 12; best-selling postwar novelist, winner of *Asahi Shimbun* novel competition; a museum was opened in her honor in her native Asahikawa.

**Mori, Satoru, 77,** Carson, Aug. 30; Santa Barbara-born U.S. Army veteran.

**Moriguchi, Tom N. 78,** Minnetonka, Minn., Aug. 2; WWII MIS veteran, served in CBI theater.

**Morita, Akio, 78,** Tokyo, Oct. 2; co-founder of Sony Corp.; industrial pioneer instrumental in creating Japan's image as a world leader in high quality automobiles and electronics.

**Morita, Sano, 100,** Gardena, Aug. 25; Kagoshima-ken-born.

**Murata, Takeishi, 69,** Las Vegas, March 14; Las Vegas-born WWII veteran.

**Murata, Tom, 80,** Oregon Slope, March 29; Castville-born WWII Army veteran.

**Nagata, Lt. Col Sadao, 81,** Salt Lake City, Feb. 5; longtime JACL member, member #1 Idaho's National Guard; tours of duty included Germany, Korea, Vietnam, Japan.

**Nakamura, Roy Susumu, 71,** Buena Park, May 3; Concord-born Tule Lake and Manzanar internee, U.S. Army veteran.

**Nakamura, Yaeiko, 83,** Osaka, Jan. 2; awarded the Order of the Sacred Treasure by the Japanese government in 1969 for her work with orphans and the underprivileged.

**Nakanishi, Sam, 74,** Las Vegas, Dec. 11 (98); opened the first Japanese restaurant in Las Vegas.

**Nakano, Tom, 78,** Los Angeles, Oct. 23; 442nd RCT veteran (Co. F); retired Los Angeles County supervisor of social workers; artist, sculptor, poet, musician.

**Nakatani, Mitsue, 100,** Yuba City, March 12; Wakayama-born.

**Nakao, Tom Jr., 47,** Cleveland, Jan. 28; Kent, Wash.-born; president of Cleveland JACL, former national JACL treasurer.

**Namekawa, Iwao, 84,** San Francisco, Dec. 23 (98), former president and editor of the *Nichi Bei Times*.

**Namba, Minoru, 82,** Sacramento, Jan. 1; Perkins-born WWII MIS and Japan Occupation veteran.

**Ninomiya, Kazuo Z. 'Casey', 79,** Sacramento, July 11; Portland, Ore.-born retired professor of California State University, Sacramento, received the Medal of Honor (*Kunsho*) Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Rosette from the Japanese government in 1996, for outstanding contributions in promoting goodwill between the United States and Japan.

**Nitta, S. John, 88,** Boca Raton, Fla., June 8; Seattle-born founder in 1937 of the Amchick chick-sewing school; Philadelphia JACL 1000 Club life member.

**Ochiai, Kikuki 'Kay', 79,** Santa Ana, Nov. 24; Courtland-born Korean War Army nurse.

**Ochiyo, Hisano, 101,** Garden Grove, July 9; Hiroshima-ken-born.

**Oka, Tadashi Ted, May 1,** 442nd RCT veteran.

**Okai, Henry, 80,** Anaheim, June 7; Houston-born WWII veteran.

**Okamura, Reginald 'Reggie', 62,** Hilo, Hawaii; volcanologist, helped establish the Minority Participant in Earth Sciences program.

**Onodera, Ko Bill, 82,** June 20, Seattle-born 442nd RCT veteran.

**Onizuka, Masae, 105,** Walnut Creek, March 20.

**Ozawa, William H., 77,** Seattle, April 24; 442nd RCT veteran.

**Reyes, Norman, 76,** San Pablo, Jan. 7; WWII lieutenant in the Philippine army, operator of a guerrilla radio station from Bataan, co-worker at Radio Tokyo with Iva Toguri d'Aquino and defense witness at her "Tokyo Rose" trial.

**Roth, George Knox, 92,** Pasadena, Feb. 17; Denver-born political activist and public servant who protested the internment of Japanese Americans during WWII via public radio

and was eventually convicted and fined for contempt of state by Senator Jack Tenney's Un-American Activities Committee; Honored by JACL in 1977 for his actions during WWII.

**Sakagami, Masao 'Masao', 78,** Seattle, Sept. 9; veteran.

**Sakai, Kazuo, 82,** San Leandro, Dec. 24 (98), one of the three generations of JA women chosen as subjects for the documentary, "An American Legacy."

**Sakai, William Ichiro, 83,** Sacramento, June 20; WWII 442nd RCT combat veteran, recruiter/trainer at Camp Shelby, Miss.; founding member of VFW Nisei Post 8985.

**Sakakura, Tama, 100,** Ventura, Feb. 22; Mio-born recipient of the Order of the Sacred Treasure-Gold and Silver Rays.

**Sakamoto, Misao Marietta, 93,** Seattle, Nov. 29; she and her husband, James Yoshinori Sakamoto, founded the *Japanese American Courier*—the first English-language newspaper for Japanese Americans—and were instrumental in creating the JACL and the Courier Athletic Leagues for youth.

**Sakasegawa, Fred T., 79,** Salinas, Aug. 1; Watsonville-born WWII veteran, Purple Heart recipient.

**Sako, Steve Sadao, 70,** Seattle, Feb. 6; Mineral, Wash.-born WWII veteran.

**Sarematsu, Ben, 77,** San Jose, Jan. 11; blind teacher and author who believed in and worked for integrating the visually impaired into mainstream society.

**Sasashima, Chester, 82,** Fresno, April 13; WWII veteran.

**Shapp, Muriel Matzlin, Merion, Penn., July 10;** New York City-born teacher of physical education and biology at Topaz internment camp high school.

**Shigematsu, George 'Kotch', 76,** Albuquerque, N.M., Feb. 4; WWII 442nd RCT veteran.

**Shimizu, Hide Hyodo, 91,** Toronto, Aug. 22; Vancouver, Canada-born; one of the first Japanese Canadians to hold a teacher's certificate; member of the unsuccessful 1936 Ottawa Delegation to petition the Canadian government for the right to vote in British Columbia; was allowed to visit the WWII Canadian detention camps to train teachers; lobbied for Canadian Redress in 1988; awarded the Order of Canada in 1982.

**Shinmori, Kin, 100,** Rancho Palos Verdes, June 2.

**Shiogi, Chiyo, 107,** Portland, Ore., June 8; Isashi, Japan-born Minidoka internee.

**Suwa, Shizue, 73,** Monterey Park, June 19; El Centro-born, retired U.S. Navy lieutenant j.g.

**Takahashi, Shigeru, 79,** Monterey Park, Jan. 8 service, Nisei veteran of WWII.

**Takasugi, John H., 75,** Oxford, May 21; Ventura-born WWII 442nd RCT veteran, electronics technician at Pacific Missile Range in Point Mugu for 30 years.

**Takehara, Yoshio, 76,** Weiser, Idaho, Dec. 11 (98); WWII veteran, member of the 310th Intelligence Team.

**Tamaya, Steve, 37,** Diamond Bar, July 3; journalist and California Senate aide, former *San Gabriel Valley Tribune* political reporter, the California Senate adjourned in his memory July 8.

**Tanabe, Nobu, 78,** Burnsville, Minn., Feb. 1; San Jose-born, WWII MIS veteran.

**Tani, Dr. George Tadashi, 83,** St. Paul, Minn., March 22; Born in Oakland-born WWII Army and MIS veteran, clinical professor in ophthalmology at the University of Minnesota School of Medicine, recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Service Award in 1991 from the Vision Foundation; served as camp optometrist at Minidoka, Idaho, and joined the Army at Fort Snelling MIS

Language School.

**Taniguchi, Eddie Albert, 78,** Seattle, Sept. 20; Ellensburg, Wash.-born veteran.

**Tao, Fusanke, 103,** Gardena, May 23, Hiroshima-ken-born.

**Tatsumoto, Mitsumoto 'Tatz', Japan-born graduate of Tokyo University; noted researcher in isotopes and radioactive decay systems at the U.S. Geological Survey; investigator of the first lunar samples; recipient of honorary degree from the University of Paris Institute of Geophysics.**

**Toyama, Harry, 63,** Columbus, Ohio, May 11; professor emeritus at Ohio State University, president of Horticulture International Group, Inc., former executive director of the Ohio Florists' Association; published in more than 300 scientific and trade publications and presented seminars throughout the United States and abroad.

**Teramaya, Sayo, 103,** Los Angeles, Nov. 28 (98), Wakayama-born.

**Tokumoto, Richard Satochi, 61,** Las Vegas, March 3; Waipahu, Hawaii-born karate instructor, Army reservist.

**Tomura, Dennis, 72,** Honolulu, Feb. 7; politically active Hawaiian architect, honored by the American Institute of Architects in 1996.

**Tsuchiya, Takuzo 'Tar', 80,** Minneapolis, March 26; holder of many patents in food processing; inducted into the Minneapolis Inventors' Hall of Fame and the General Mills Technical Center Hall of Fame.

**Uehara, Yachiyo, 83,** Portland, Ore., Sept. 26; Tokyo-born Heart Mountain internee, winner of American Japanese National Literary Award for "A Piece of Cake" and "Two-Chan."

**Uwate, Aiko Nishi, 75,** Los Angeles, Dec. 31 (98); author of *Japanese Names for Babies*.

**Watanabe, Wataru 'Walt', 80,** Concord, Oct. 13; WWII Army veteran.

**Weglyn, Michi Nishiura, 73,** New York City, April 25; author, advocate, historian and costume designer; her book, "Years of Infamy: The Untold Story of America's Concentration Camps," reinforced the movement to obtain redress for JAs and inspired the JACL to begin their redress effort; was also instrumental in achieving redress for railroad and mine workers and Japanese Latin Americans; 1976 JACL Japanese American of the Bienenium.

**Yamamoto, Matsuyo Omori, 90,** Japan, Aug. 10; Washington State University-educated pioneer in home economics extension work; developed a new system for homemaking education; member of Japan's Ministry of Education; member of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, supervising homemaking education in Asia, the South Pacific and parts of Africa.

**Yamamoto, Nao, 105,** Los Angeles, May 17; Yamaguchi-ken-born.

**Yamano, Ted Teruo, 71,** Sacramento, Nov. 10 service; Burbank-born Heart Mountain internee; U.S. military veteran.

**Yamashita, Kiyoshi Ken, 74,** Long Beach, Aug. 26; WWII veteran.

**Yoneda, Karl Goso, 92,** Fort Bragg, May 9; Glendale-born, Japanese labor organizer in Japan and the United States; voluntary internee, with his family, at Manzanar, WWII MIS veteran; human rights and redress activist, author of "Japanese Labor History in USA."

**Yoshida, Tad, 90,** Nampa, Idaho, Dec. 1 (98); helped organize the JACL in California and Washington state.

**Yoshimoto, Koji Kay, 79,** Paris, Dec. 17 (98); WWII technical organizer of the "T" and "R" platoons, Hqs. and Hqs. Co., and the 442nd RCT. ■

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DOI, Misao & Elsie	145 Dorchester (03)
FUJIKAWA, Hide & George	2946 S Warr Rd (09)
HACHIYA, Rupert & Josie	451 N 700 W (16)
HAMADA, Midori	1138 Nocturne Dr (16)
HATANAKA, Tad	746 W 500 N (16)
HIGASHI, Drs. Wilford & Joyce	3236 Fortuna Dr (17)
IKEGAMI, Hiro	1545 Sunset Dr (16)
IMADA, John & Reiko	3776 Loretta Dr (06)
IMAMURA, Hank & Masako	979 N 1200 W (16)
KASAI, Mits	857 S 500 E (02)
KASAI, Seiko & Grace	1505 Foothill Dr (08)
MAYEDA, Buster & Rose	31 M St (03)
MIZUNO, Bill & Shigeko	3225 East Westview Circle (17)
NAKASHIMA, Kay & Seiko	2975 Upland Dr (09)
OKUMURA, Yuji & Kiyo	249 S 700 E (02)
OSHITA, Emi	120 S 200 W #1404 (01)
SEKINO, Lillian	120 S 200 W #901 (07)
TASAKA, Nick & Grace	1808 Foothill Dr (08)
TSUJIMOTO, Floyd & Satoya	460 Redondo Ave (15)
TSUTSUI, Harry & Kathy	1233 Roosevelt (05)
UIFUSA, Frank & Mary	1512 E Lone Peak Dr (17)
WATANUKI, Isamu & Masae	120 S 200 W #108 (01)
YANO, Kent & Donna	2225 E 4800 S, Holladay (17)
YOSHIMOTO, Hatsuko	1209 S 4th E (09)

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Sandra Kikuchi  
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Ivoni Nash  
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MAYEDA, Ben & Chiyeo ..... 421 E 2150 S  
OKAWA, Dr & Mrs K.K. .... 1299 Millbrook Way  
OKUDA, Tubber & Mary ..... 1994 S 1175 E

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MIYA, Tom & Nan ..... 888 E 6895, South Midvale 84047  
NAKAYA, George & Pat ..... 4202 S 3415 W, West Valley City 84019  
UMEMOTO, Mary ..... 1186 Cottonwood Hills Dr, Unit 29-7, Sandy 84094

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FRENCH IMPRESSIONS (11 days)	MAY 22
JCCCN NIKKEI PACIFIC NW CRUISE & LAND	MAY 27
CANADIAN ROCKIES / VICTORIA (8 days)	JUNE 14
TAUCK NOVA SCOTIA (8 days)	JULY 14
GRAND PRINCESS MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE (14 days)	SEPT 8
TAUCK COLORADO NATIONAL PARKS (10 days)	SEPT 14
BEST OF HOKKAIDO plus TOKYO (12 days)	SEPT 23
TENNESSEE / BRANSON / KENTUCKY (Shogun Taboo Show, 9 days)	SEPT 30
EAST COAST & FALL FOLIAGE (11 days)	OCT 1
JAPAN AUTUMN ADVENTURE (12 days)	OCT 12
INDOCHINA DISCOVERY (18 days)	NOV

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SANTA BARBARA ORCHID SHOW WEEKEND GETAWAY TOUR	MAR. 13
Santa Barbara Orchid Show, San Luis Obispo, Solvang	
NEW ORLEANS HOLIDAY TOUR	APRIL 10-14
5 days: New Orleans French Quarter	
JAPAN SPRING HOLIDAY TOUR	MAY 8-17
Osaka, Kurashiki, Seto Onashi Bridge, Kinokuni, Amanohashidate, Kyoto, Kanazawa, Noto Peninsula, Sado Island, Tokyo	
GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR	JUNE 24-JULY 1
Tokyo, Lake Hamana, Hiroshima, Kyoto	
ALASKA/YUKON HOUDAY CRUISE TOUR	JULY 16-29
Anchorage, Glacier cruise, Denali Park, Fairbanks, Ketchikan, Vancouver	
HOLLAND AMERICA CRUISE	
NORTHERN NATIONAL PARKS HOLIDAY TOUR	AUGUST 20-26
Salt Lake City, Jackson Hole, Spokane	
National Parks - Grand Teton, Yellowstone, Glacier Park, Watkins Lake (Canada)	
ISLANDS OF NEW ENGLAND HOLIDAY TOUR	SEPTEMBER 8-16
Providence, Newport, Block Island, Martha's Vineyard, Plymouth, Hyannis, Nantucket, Cape Cod, Boston	
CRYSTAL HARMONY AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND CRUISE	OCTOBER 3-15
Sydney, Melbourne, Tasmania, Wellington, Christchurch, Auckland	
SOUTH AMERICA/PATAGONIA HOLIDAY TOUR	OCT-NOV
Buenos Aires, Trelew, Ushuaia, Calafate, Puerto Montt, Bariloche, Santiago	
Meet with local Japanese in Buenos Aires and Santiago	
AUSTRIA-GERMANY CHRISTMAS MARKET HOLIDAY TOUR	NOV. 27-DEC. 5
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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. With questions call Tom Ehrlich at JACL Headquarters, 415/521-5225 or email to [natdir@jacl.org](mailto:natdir@jacl.org).



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**DoubleTree Hotel in scenic Monterey, California**

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As beneficiaries of what the men and women of the military contributed to our futures, we - the  
WWII Camp Babies, we-the Baby Boomers, we-the Generation Xers, want to  
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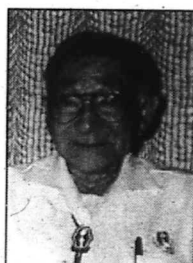
The Monterey Defense Language Institute will be open to the public. The DLI Museum is located on  
the grounds of the Historic Monterey Presidio. Dr. James McNaughton, who is currently compiling a  
history of the Nisei MIS, is the DLI Historian. The Nisei MIS were to serve in the  
U.S. Army in the South Pacific and later in the Occupation forces in Japan.  
Some Nisei interpreters who also served in the Aleutian Islands.



Harry Fukuhara



Robert Dole



Rudy Tokiwa

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