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Appointment of Bill Lann Lee

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JAN. 28-FEB. 3. 2000

Energy Probe Finds Racial Profiling in Wake of Wen Ho Lee Case White House Forgoes Recess

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON-A six-month Energy Department investiga-tion has found evidence of racial profiling and an "atmosphere of distrust and suspicion" toward Asian Americans at nuclear weapons labs because of the up-roar over alleged Chinese espi-

Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, vowing to stamp out such profiling, insisted Jan. 19 that Taiwan-born scientist Wen Ho Lee was never singled out or fired from his job at Los Alamos Na-tional Laboratory because of his

But Richardson acknowledged the issue has already hurt U.S. defense labs.

"We are not having as much success in recruiting top flight scientists." he said.

"This perceived hostile work environment imperils an invaluable partnership between the Energy Department and Asian Pacific Americans. Worse ... [it] can foment a dangerous brain drain where we lose our best sci-entists, hobbling our research quality, leading-edge science and ultimately our national security," Richardson said.

Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., during a colloquium in Los Alam-os backed up Richardson's re-marks, saying the overzealous re-action by some in Washington to the allegation of espionage has but the labs in a difficult position. "If the security program be-comes so restrictive, we will drive

away many good people ... That's a real threat to our long-term na-tional security," said Bingaman, a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Commis

AA scientists widely believe they have been unfairly targeted because of their race since Lee's dismissel last March for security violations, according to a task force report on racial profiling in

Lee, at the center of a threeyear espionage investigation, was indicted in December for copying top-secret nuclear weapons files and remains in jail awaiting trial. He has strongly denied giving secrets to China or anyone else, and he is not ac-cused of espionage.

"While specific incidents and examples of racial profiling may differ from site to site, the generall concerns and issues were vir-tually identical department wide, said the report, ordered by Richardson last summer when the uproar over alleged Chinese espionage at weapons labs was at

its peak. Despite directives Richardson against racial profil-ing, managers and supervisors at the weapons labs — Sandia, Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore

— and other DOE facilities were found to question "the loyalty and patriotism of some employ-ees based upon racial factors," the report said.
Yvonne Lee, a member of the

U.S. Civil Rights Commission and a task force member, said

there is "a general sense of fear" among AAs of being unfairly tar-geted. They cited as an example, she said, a practice by the FBI to call AA scientists simply because of their race "to see if they knew

Tom Tamura another task force member, said AA scientists related how counterintelligence officials joked about the Chines connection in briefings to scientists. The briefers would ask the scientists whether they knew scientists whether they knew why there were so many Chinese restaurants in town. "Why for spying of course," the briefer would say, according to Tamura. Richardson said no specific

case of racial profiling has been proven but "we're admitting to a problem, a problem of perception, of mistrust

To emphasize that such profil-ing "is never welcome" Richardson said there would be a departsatellite-linked ment-wide ment-wide satellite-linked "stand-down" in the coming weeks so employees can focus on the issue and discuss their concerns. Richardson also appointed Jeremy Wu, former deputy director of the Office of Civil Rights, as a department ombudsman on

worker issues. Since Wen Ho Lee's indictment Since wen Ho Lee's indictment Dec. 10, a growing number of AA groups have come to Lee's sup-port, creating a defense fund and scheduling rallies. These groups claim Lee was singled out be-

cause of his race.
"I reject the view that racial

See WEN HO LEE/page 6

cess appointment has disappointed and angered various national Asian Pacific American organizations A recess appointment would have for-malized Lee as

The White House's recent deci-

sion not to appoint Bill Lann Lee

as assistant attorney general for civil rights through a January re-

the head of the Department of Justice's civil rights division and removed "act-ing" from his title. Lee has been serving as the "acting" head of the civil rights division since 1997 when his nomination to the position was first forwarded by President Clinton.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, a Republi-can from Utah, has continued to block Lee's confirmation as assis-tant attorney general. Despite Lee's impressive credentials and the endorsement of six former assistant attorney generals for civil rights, Hatch has prevented a full Senate vote on the nomination because of his opposition to affirmative action programs, the law of the country.
Under Lee, the civil rights divi-

sion has prosecuted hate crimes, rooted out worker exploitations, protected Americans with disabilities and ensured fair housing and fair lending for all Ameri-

cans.
"No one can question or criti-

cize Bill Lann Lee's qualifications and credentials, his dedication to the cause of equal opportunity, or his job performance as actin head of the civil rights division said Karen Narasaki, executive director for the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consor-

"The failure of the Senate to onfirm Mr. Lee for this critical post and President Clinton's refusal to move forward on a recess appointment before Congress beappointment before Congress be-gins its new session is an insult to the Asian Pacific American community and all Americans who believe in equality and fair-ness in our society," added Narasaki.

"In the past two years, Bill Lann Lee has more than proven to the nation that the 'acting' portion of his title should be re-moved," said Daphne Kwok, executive director of the Organiza-tion of Chinese Americans and chair of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans.

With less than one year left in the Clinton Administration, it is time our community demand that Bill Lann Lee not be treated as a second class citizen and be recognized and rewarded for the excellent work he has done."

Narasaki and Kwok Both Both Narasaki' and Kwok urged Lee supporters to voice their disapproval of Clinton's de-cision to John Podesta, Chief of Staff at the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Wash-ington, D.C. ■

Emotional Protests Around Asia as Conference Denies Nanking

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

OSAKA, Japan—Emotional protests were held throughout Asia on Jan. 23 against a confer-Asia on Jan. 23 against a conier-ence calling a wartime massacre of Chinese civilians by Japanese troops "The Biggest Lie of the 20th Century."

The Chinese Foreign Ministry

had urged Japan earlier in the week to stop the conference, and ministry spokesman Zhu Bang-zao read a statement Sunday on national television news saying the event had "harmed the ings of the Chinese people and in-terfered with the normal development of China-Japan relations

But inside the conference, some 300 people packed an auditorium to hear former soldiers and a his-

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torian deny the so-called Rape of Nanking, where some historians say the Japanese military killed hundreds of thousands of Chinese

Another 200 who could not get the controversial conference, ed "The Verification of the Rape of Nanking: The Biggest Lie of the 20th Century," stood out-

Roughly 100 protesters, mostly Chinese and Japanese, assem-bled nearby. Some of them waved banners with slogans such as, "Nanking is an undeniable fact."

Supporters of the speakers heckled protesters, but there was no violence.

Some historians say Japanese imperial soldiers killed as many as 300,000 people during Tokyo's 1937-38 occupation of the Chinese city of Nanking, now called Nanjing. A postwar tribunal in said more than 140,000

But like many right-wing See NANKING/page 6



APIA Vote! Launches Outreach Campaign to Recruit Minority Voters

By TRACY UBA

With the March primaries just a little over a month away, minorities, and particularly Asian Pacific Islander Americans, are being urged to make their voices count by voting in the first elections of this millen-

In only its sec ond year of exis tence, APIA Votel, a non-par-tisan I or les-based project of the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Counrecently kicked off its voter reg-istration and education campaign on Jan. urging its California stituency to par-

stituency to participate in a process which Dinah Choi, project director for APIA Votel, urges Asian Pacific Islander tive representation, he continuates represent the APIA community at various levels of government.

County will all be featured as part of the APIA Votel drive.

ASPCON is a coalition of overselections, which is why it is crucial for the different APA community at various levels of government.

Sale professors as the comparation, he continued, there are much fewer APA serving in electoral office, which is why it is crucial for the different APA communities to mobilize and communities to mobilize and suppose American communities to mobilize and apanese American communities to mobilize and over together.

The key element is that APIA votel is a coalition, Purolicular APA combodian, Pacific Islander and work together.

The key element is that APIA votel is a coalition, Purolicular APA communities to mobilize and communities. The include JACI, Little API, but the continued and communities to mobilize and communities. The include JACI, Little API, but the continued and communities to mobilize and communities to mobilize and communities to mobilize and communities to mobilize and communities. The include JACI, Little API, but the continued and communities to mobilize and communities to mobilize and communities to mo won't vote for you. It's going to take a lot, but that's what we're trying to push our community

Their programs include voter education, voter hotlines and re-search on APA voter behavior. Educational workshops on the election process, a public rela-tions campaign, recruiting and training of voter registration vol-unteers, bilingual hotlines, exit polls, phone surveys and an APIA voter registry for Los Angeles

Center, National Korean American Service and Education Consortium. Korean American sortium, Korean American Coalition, Vision 21, FilVote, Guam Communications Network, Thai Community Devel-opment Center, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance and Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC).

"The issue is power," said Warren Furutani, founding chair of APIA Votel and former-president of A3PCON. "We no longer are the minority's mi-nority. There are more Asian Pa-cific Americans than there are African Americans in L.A. California "

Yet, if you look

See APIA VOTEV page 8



50 national and local community-based organizations serving the Chinese, Filipino, Thai, Korean, Cambodian, Pacific Islander and Japanese American communi-ties. They include JACL, Little Tokyo Service Center, Chinese American Citizen's Alliance, Chi-nese Americans United for Self Enipowerment, Korean Resource

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- 7 Cupania Circle, Monterey Park, CA 91755 Tel: 323/725-0083, 800/966-6157, Fax: 323/725-0064 F-mail: Paccit@aol.com

Executive Editor: Caroline Y. Aoyagi Assistant Editor: Martha Nakagawa Editor Emeritus/Archivist: Harry K. Honda Office Manager: Brian Tanaka Production Assistant: Margot Brunswick Writer/Reporter: Tracy Uba Circulation: Eva Lau-Ting

Special contributors: Patricia Arra, Allan Beekman, Toko Fujii, S. Ruth Y. Hashimoto, Bob Hirata, Ada Honda, Mas Imon, Mike Iseri, Naomi Kashiwabara, Bill Kashiwagi, William Marumoto, Etsu Masaoka, Bill Matsumoto, Fred Oshima, Ed Suguro, Mika Tanner, George Wakiji, Jem Lew

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Fri Sim Feb 11-13_National Roam

Hr.-Sun., Feb. 11-13—National Board Meeting, San Francisco. Mon., June 26-Sun., July 2—36th Biennial JACL National Convention; Doubletree Inn, Monterey, Calif.; special rate for JACL conventioneers. Reservations: 831/649-4511, <www. doubletreemonterey. com>

Eastern

WASHINGTON, D.C. Fri.-Tues., March. 31-April 4—Washington, D.C., Leadership Conference; Doubletree Hotel. Info: Tom Ehnle, 415/921-5225

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.

Intermountain

SNAKE RIVER Fri., Feb. 11—Annual Crab Feed and Auction to benefit scholarship fund; see Community Calendar.

Pacific Northwest

PORTLAND Sun., Feb. 6—Mochitsuki 2000; see Community Calend

NC-WN-Pacific

DISTRICT COUNCIL
Sun., Feb. 6—First Quarter District Council Meeting; Marin.

Fri., Feb. 11—Bingo at SACBC. Early helpers arrive by 5 p.m.

Sun., Feb. 13—JASEB Crab Feed; see
Community Calendar; helpers to arrive by 3:45 p.m.

Central California

Sat.: Feb. 5—Clovis/CCC Shrimp Din-

Pacific Southwest

DISTRICT COUNCIL
Sun., Feb. 27—PSWDC Quarterly
Meeting: JACCC, 240 S. San Pedro St.,
Little Toloyo.

Little Tokyo.

Sun., Feb. 27—2000 District Oratorical Contest; 11 a.m., JACCC, 244 S. San Pedro St., 2nd Floor, Little Tokyo; open to high school students 16 or older. **Deadline**, Feb. 18: Gerald, PSW District Office, 213/626-4471.

RIVERSIDE
Sun., Feb. 6—Installation Luncheon;
12 noon, Chan's Oriental Cuisine,
1445 University Ave.; guest speaker,
Kaz Oshiki, member, NIAMF board of
directors. RSVP: Junji Kumamoto,
909/684-0864.
VENICE-CULVER RIVERSIDE

Sat., Feb. 5—Chapter Installation Lun-cheon; see Community Calendar. ■

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

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

E COMMUNETY Calendar

CHICAGO Sun., Feb. 6—Day of Remembrance synt, red. 6—Day of Retreintantice program, co-sponsored by the Chicago JACL and the Japanese American Service Committee (JASC); 2-pm., JASC, 44427 N. Clark St.; speaker, professor George DeVos of the Japanese American Interdisciplinary Research Group. Info: Chiye Tomihiro, 773/ 48-

Intermountain

ONTARIO, ORE.

Fri., Feb. 11—Annual Crab Feed and Auction; 6 p.m., Four Rivers Cultural Center. RSVP: Mike Iseri, 541/889-

Pacific Northwest

PORTLAND Sun., Feb. 6—"Mochitsuki 2000"; 1-4 p.m., Portland State University, Smith Memorial Center Ballroom, 1825 SW

Memorial Center Ballroom, 1825 SW Broadway, special performance by renowned stoyteller Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo, RSVP-503/224-1458. Sat, Feb. 19—Opening of the Heart Mountain photo exhibit at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 117 SW 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

RERKEI EY

Feb. 6-Nikkei Widowed Group Meeting, 12, noon; new members, men and women welcome. Call for meeting place: Tets Ihara (415/221-4568, or Kay Yamamoto, 510/444-

Sun., Feb. 6—San Mateo Kabuki Group; 1:30 p.m., San Mateo JACL Community Center, 415, S. Claremont St.; continuing "Cushin Gura"; also, NHK Special New Year 2000 program. Info: 650/343-2793. ALBANY

Sun. Feb. 13-20th Annual IASEB Crab Feed; 4-7 p.m. Albany Veteran's Memorial Hall, 1325 Portland Ave.; takeout available. Ticl Takeuchi, 510/223-2258. Tickets: Esther

SACRAMENTO SACRAMENTO
Through Jan. 30—Play, "And the Soul
Shall Dance" by Wakako Yamauchi,
about two families farming in the
Imperial Valley during the dust bowl
years," the Broadway Playhouse, 4010
El Camino Ave. Tickets, info: 452-6174

Wed., Feb. 9—American Bar Association 18th Annual Lunar Celebration & Installation of Officers; 6 p.m., New Canton Restaurant, 2523 Broadway; honoring Mayor Jimmie R. Yee and Lori Fujimoto; guests Michael Yamaki and Ron Wong. **RSVP by Feb. 2:** ABAS 1201 K St., Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95814

Fri., Feb. 4-Program, "Let's Go to Japan" travel alternatives discussion; 7 p.m., Belle Cooledge Community Center, 5699 S. Land Park Dr. Info, RSVP: 489/1291 or 446-9844

SAN FRANCISCO

Through Sunday, Jan. 30—Comedy Performance, "My Own Private Sukirenormance, my Cwn Private Suki-prata," by the 18 Mighty Mountain Warriors; Theater of Yugen/Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa Ave. Times, tickets: 415/522-8752, e-mail: https://doi.org/10.1007/j.cm/ buck @sfsu.edu>

Sat., Feb. 26—Tenth anniversary cele-bration 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-

SAN JOSE

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

Sat., Feb. 19—Yu-Ai Kai Crab/Spa-ghetti Feed.; 6 p.m., San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin Annex; "crab" race, "No Attendance Required" fund-raiser drawing. Tickets, info: 408/294-2505; e-mail: yuaikai@ prodigy.net.

Southern California

LOS ANGELES

Sat., Feb. 5—Venice-Culver JACL Installation Luncheon; 12 noon, Sea Empress Restaurant, 1636 W. Redondo Beach Blvd., Gardena; memdonoo beach Bivd., Cardena; mem-bers and non-members are welcome; guest speaker, John Tateishi, national JACL executive director. Info., RSVP: Hitoshi Shimizu, 310/391-8628.

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Legislation Aims to Improve **Native Hawaiian Health**

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cope hears Hawaii described as the "health state," she shakes her head in disbelief. HONOLULU-When

A Hawaii resident lives years longer, on average, than the typi-cal American. But the statistics tell a sadder story for the state's indigenous population.

"During my mother's and my grandparents' time, they were all husky, healthy people," said Cope, 75, who is half-Hawaiian. "Not to-

day."
Native Hawaiians have some of the highest rates of diabetes, cancer, stroke, heart disease and obe sity in the nation and have the worst health of any ethnic group in the islands.

That's slowly changing as a re-sult of programs funded through the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act, Sen. Daniel In-ouye, D-Hawaii, said Jan. 21. Inouye heard testimony on a

bill to reauthorize the 12-year-old act through 2012. It is scheduled to expire at the end of next year.

The legislation currently provides \$5 million a year to a hodge-

podge of disease-prevention and health-education programs

throughout the state.
Unlike federally funded health programs for American Indians, this measure was essentially conceived and made in Hawaii by Hawaiians, for Hawaiians. It was not a product of Washington by well-meaning bureaucrats, In-

ouye said.

The reauthorization bill includes a proposal to create a bi-partisan commission that would determine whether Native Hawaiian health programs should be funded as entitlements — meaning they would be treated, like Social Security, as non-discretionary spending in the federal budget and, therefore, could not be re-moved in tight fiscal times.

The commission then would make a recommendation to Con-

make a recommendation to Congress.

"I think the biggest change I've seen in the past 10 years is, the sense of powerlessness in our community is greatly abated," said Johan Tsark, a public health expert with Papa Ola Lokahi, a statewide umbrella organization

for Hawaiian health programs

valians best understand the ms facing their community, said Dr. Clayton Chong, who is president of the 80-member Ahahui o Na Kauka, a 2-year-old sociation of Native Hawaiian physicians.

Native Hawaiians, like Ameri-"Native Hawaiians, like American Indians, like Eskimos, have tradition," Chong said. "They have beliefs. And it's very hard for an outsider to come into the community and try to make an im-

But many said the health prob-lems facing Hawaiians are still

daunting.
Hawaiians have the shortest life expectancy in the state years, compared with a general population average of 78 years. Residents of Chinese ancestry live an average of eight years longer than Hawaiians.

Infant mortality, heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes and accident mortality have among the highest incidences in Native highest incidences in Native Hawaiians compared with other Asian and Pacific Islanders, said Iwalani R. Nahuina Else of the Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence at the University of Hawaii medical school.

"These poor health indicators are in sharp contrast to the vigor-ous health that our Native Hawaiian ancestors possessed be-fore Western contact," she said. Inouye said statistics show an actual increase in incidences of

some diseases among Hawaiians since the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act was first passed. But he said that may be a result of better statistics-gathering and more Hawaiians seeking help for their health problems. The 220,000 Native Hawaiians

The 220,000 Native Hawaiians in Hawaii make up about 20 percent of the state's population.

Cope, president of the board of directors of Ke Ola Mamo, the umbrella Hawaiian health organization for Oahu, said poverty and lack of access to education contribute to Hawaiians' health

But beyond that, diet is the

But beyond that, diet is the biggest factor, she said. Inouye hopes to get the reau-thorization approved by the Sen-ate this year and the House of Representatives next year.

Uninsured Rate Continues to Increase for Minorities. Including APAs, Latinos

Despite California's booming economy, the number of Califor-nians without health insurance grew at an alarming rate be-tween 1997 and 1998. The increase has mostly affected the minority populations of the state, including Asian Pacific Ameri-

The uninsured rate for APAs rose from 19 percent in 1995 to 22 percent in 1998. African Amerzz percent in 1998. Arrican Americans saw important gains in job-based health coverage (from 47 percent in 1996 to 55 percent in 1998), but declining Medi-Cal coverage left 23 percent uninsured in 1998.

The overall increase in the number of uninsured persons in California averaged about 23,000 per month. With 260,000 newly uninsured persons, California accounts for one in every three of the nation's newly uninsured, three times its share of the na-

three times its share of the na-tion's population.

Assembly Speaker Antonio R.
Villaraigosa (D-Los Angeles) re-leased the findings of the report, "The State of Health Insurance in California, 1999," on Jan. 20. The speaker was joined by the report's principle co-authors, Helen Halpin Schauffler, Ph.D., director Halpin Schauffler, Ph.D., director of the UC Berkeley Center for Health and Public Policy Studies, and E. Richard Brown, Ph.D., di-rector of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research.

Health Policy Research.
"This report reveals clearly
that we have our work cut out for
us in Sacramento this year," said
Speaker Villaraigosa. "These Speaker Villaraigosa. numbers are staggering and un-acceptable. California has the acceptable. California has the seventh largest economy in the world and is experiencing tremendous economic growth, yet one in six of the nation's unin-

sured lives here.
The alarming growth in the number of uninsured Californians, particularly children and minorities, is extremely trou-bling," added Villaraigesa. "We are reaching epidemic propor-tions in terms of the uninsured. All of us have a responsibility to ensure that every single child in this state has access to basic

health care services. The future health of our state rests upon the health of our people. At this point, we are behind the curve. We need to now move forward full throttle "

Virtually all population sub-groups in California, with the ex-ception of non-Latino whites, saw ception of non-Latino wintes, saw an increase in the uninsured rate. Most affected is California's burgeoning Latino population. Forty percent of California's Lati-no population was uninsured in 1998. Only 40 percent of Latinos have job-based insurance, and Medi-Cal coverage of Latinos dropped from 22 percent in 1995 to 17 percent in 1998.

Latino women have the high est uninsured rate of any subgroup of women, with 45 percent without health insurance in 1998, an increase of six percent since 1995. Latino children have since 1995. Latino children have the highest uninsured rate among children (32 percent) and the lowest rate of job-based cov-erage. One in three Latino adults has never had health insurance

We need to immediately enact new policies and expand on exist-ing ones, such as the Healthy ing ones, such as the Healthy Families Program I authored in 1997 for uninsured children of the working poor," said the speaker. We need to work close-ly with the governor to take full advantage of federal dollars available to us. This trend is unconscionable. It is our job to ensure that it does not continue."

The Health Insurance Policy

Program is a joint project of the UC Berkeley Center for Health and Public Policy Studies and the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. "The State of Health Insurance in California, 1999" report provides the latest available data and analysis of California's uninsured and an overview and analysis of employer-sponsored health plans, purchasing groups and the integration of public health into California's health care system. The fourth in an annual series, the report provides comparisons to previous years and to national data.

NAPALC Files Amicus **Brief Challenging Proposition 209**

The National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium (NA-PALC) and the Asian Law Caucus (ALC), joined by several Asian Pacific American organizations, re-cently filed a "friend of the court" brief in the California state Supreme Court in defense of the City of San Jose's outreach pro-gram to minority- and women-owned businesses.

The lawsuit, Hi-Voltage Wire Works, Inc. v. City of San Jose, represented the first challenge to a resented the first challenge to a city's affirmative action program following passage of Proposition 209. By appealing the decision, the City of San Jose sought to over-turn the lower court's decision ren-dering its public contracting proonstitutional rop. 209.

Prop. 209. At issue is whether expanding the available pool of bidders to include groups frequently excluded from bidding 'discriminates against, or grants preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin.' Asian Pacific Americans continue to be denied access to business opportunities resulting from

time to be denied access to business opportunities resulting from discriminatory practices in the bidding process, such as lack of notice of government procurement opportunities," said NAPALC executive director Karen Narasaki. "Where minorities and women still "Where minorities and women still face an uneven playing field, it is appropriate and necessary that the outreach efforts conducted by the City of San Jose are centinued, not dismantled."

Also joining the amicus brief were several organizations who wanted to call attention to the existing discrimination in public con-tracting against APAs. The addi-tional amici included the Asian American Contractors Association. American Contractors Association, the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California (APALC), the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area, the Asian Law Alliance and the Filipinos for Affirmative Advice. Affirmative Action.

"We filed the brief because

thought it was important that the Asian Pacific American voice be heard in this significant case," said ALC staff attorney Khin Mai Aung. ■

By Pacific Citizen Staff

□ JA Man Found Guilty

of Attempted Rape
ALEXANDRIA, Va.—Ronald
Suzukawa, a Defense Intelligence Agency computer analyst for 26 years, was recently con-victed by a jury of attempting to rape several neighbors in the apartment complex where he lived.

1992 From 1992 to 1995, Suzukawa, 50, allegedly broke into seven homes in the 17-story Aspen House complex with the intent to rape. Sir of the seven victims were women. In the seventh case, Suzukawa said he thought he was breaking into a woman's apartment but was startled to find a man. From to

startled to find a man.

The case remained unsolved until last year when Suzukawa told DIA officials during a routine security clearance review that police had earlier questioned him about a series of at tacks and nighttime break-ins. DIA officials then interrogated him about the allegations for 23 hours on at least seven occasions. On July 16, he admitted to investigators he had committed the crimes and was turned over to the police.

the crimes and was turned over to the police.

Suzukawa's defense attorneys argued during the trial that po-lice had gotten a "false confe-sion" from their client by supply-ing him with details of the crime and by wearing him down with their interrogation.

National

The jury sentenced Suzukawa to 67 years in prison and a \$20,500

□ Anti-Immigration Ads

Upset Iowa Community
STORM LAKE, Iowa—City
leaders recently lashed out at a
national group that used the
northwest town to make a political

national group that used the northwest town to make a political argument against immigration. Several newspapers and TV stations have refused to run ads sponsored by the Washington-based Federation for American Immigration Réform, which was trying to drum up publicity before the lowa cancues on Jan. 24.

Although it was not filmed in the city itself, one ad claims Storm Lake is a place "where quality of life is but a memory," saying its schools, jails and hospitals have been overburdened by foreigners. It portrays a business forced to close its doors, a neighborhood in disarray and people being arrested.

d. Mayor Jon Kruse said the depic-on is false. I am demanding a Mayor Jon Kruse said the depiction is false. I am demanding a public apology to our community from the inconsiderate, uninformed, out-of-state political special interest group. "Kruse said. I call it very demensing," added Dale Carver, who heads an area diversity task force. The photographs in the commercial were totally misleading. They dight portray Storm Lake at all in a true

Meatpacking company IBP Inc., a large employer in Storm Lake, heavily relies on an immigrant work force.

Meanwhile, Federation spokes-man Rick Oltman said the group is sticking by the ad.

☐ Hmong Community

Chmong Community

Shows Up on Ballots

EAU CLAIRE, Wis.—Members of the Hmong community, who first came to Wisconsin after fighting for the United States in the Vietnam War, are beginning to gain greater representation by running for public office.

Chong Chang Her, saying he wanted to open the way for more Hmong Americans to become involved in civic affairs, recently anhounced he will seek election to the echool board on April 4.

Neng Lee is running as an atlarge candidate for Eau Claire's city council. Having two Hmong candidates running for public office in a city of 63,000 is unusual, said Ka Ying Yang, executive director of the Southeast Asian Action Resource Center in Washington, D.C.

Joe Bee Xiong was elected to the city council in 1996, the first known Hmong American to be elected to such a position in Wisconsin Not only this election attract national attention but it happened in a predominantly white

community, said Yang.

"It was a really big deal when Joe Bee was elected," he said.
"That event really encouraged Himong people across the country to run for public office. It showed them that, 'Hey, we really do have a chance."

☐ Man Who Displayed Ho Chi Minh Poster Would Do It Again WESTMINSTER, Calif.

Would Do it Again
WESTMINSTER, Calif.—A
year after a poster of former North
Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh
sparked large protests, Tran Van
Trung, the man who hung the
poster and a communist Vietnamflag in front of his Hi Tek video
store, said if he had a chance to go
through it all again, he would.

"The display would be right up
on the wall again, he said. But I
would try to eliminate extremism
on both side. As the protesters got
more paranoid, I became more
stubborn. We locked heads and nobody backed down.

A judge upheld his constitutionall right to display the poster and
flag, but Truong later removed
them anyway!

"Even I never thought it would
get so out of hand," he said. "I expected people to disagree but also
to give me a chance to explain my
views."

Instead, he said, his business.

community.
Truong, who now works at an electrical company, is serving three years' probation for video

Census Report: Population Decrease

In Hawaii

HAWAII—Hawaii was among five states to experience a decrease in population for 1999, the U.S. Census Bureau reported.

Compared to 1,190,472 in July 1998, Hawaiis population fell 0.4 percent in July 1999, totaling 1,185,497.

1,185,497.

Census estimates for 1999 revealed that 20,112 more residents left the state than moved

dents left the state than moved in the last decade, Hawaii has recorded a net loss of nearly 100,000 residents to other states. Local economists say the decrease is a result of a lagging state economy and people leaving to find work elsewhere. The four other states to see a decrease in population were Pennsylvania, West Virginia, North Dakota and Wyoming, while states with increases included Newdat up 3.28 percent, Arizona up 2.4 percent, Colorado up 2.2 percent and Georgia up 2 percent.

"Even I never thought it would get so out of hand," he said. "I expected people to disagree but also to give me a chance to explain my views."

Instead, he said, his business failed and he was ostracized by the

COMMENTARY

An Open Letter in Support of Masaoka Quote

Editor's Note: The following letter is a continuation from last week's issue. Written by Gerald Yamada and addressed to J. Carter Brown, Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts, the letter supports the inclusion of the Japanese American Creed written by Mike Masaoka on the Japanese American National Memoria in Washington, D.C.

"Based on his lifetime com-mitment to civil rights, Mr. Masaoka has earned his place in history by making unparaled contributions in promot ing the interests of persons of Japanese ancestry. His contri-butions are real and significant as opposed to the vague innuendos made by Professors Ya-mamoto and Iijima.

B. Mike Masaoka

Supported Redress
Legislation.
"Professors Yamamoto and lijma are opposing including Mr. Masaoka in the Memorial's inscription because he allegedly opposed redress. This is simply untrue. This unfounded allega-tion can be dismissed out-ofhand by the attribution made by Senator Daniel Inouve of Hawaii:

Mike was the founder of

Japanese-American redress

an enlightened and bright chapter in our Nation's histo-ry which has helped to cleanse the darkness of internment ... In large part, Mike was responsible for making it a reality.' 137 Cong.

"As a sponsor of the redress legislation, Senator Inouye was in a key position to speak with authority about Mr. Masaoka's contribution to the redress legislation

"C. Suicide Battalion"

The Lim paper reported that JACL leaders proposed a 'sui-cide battalion' to the federal government. Mr. Masaoka addressed the name 'suicide bat-talion' in an article written by Baltimore Sun reporter Gene Oishi, entitled The Asxiety of Being a Japanese-American, that was submitted by Senator

that was submitted by Senator:
Inouye for reprinting in the
Congressional Record:
Once they [Japanese] were
there [in the relocation
camps], the league [JACL]
lobbied Washington successfully to allow nise; to volunteer for the armed forces and to be subject to the draft. At one point, Mike Masaoka, being bolin, white masaoka, a league leader, was reported to have urged the formation of an all-Japanese "suicide battalion." Masaoka today says he does not recall having used the words "suicide battalion," and goes on to say that even if he had he did not have in mind anything like the kamikaze units formed later in the war by the Japan-ese enemy.' 131 Cong. Rec. S5222.

"Mr. Masaoka's proposal was rejected initially but later ac-cepted by the federal government resulting in the formation of the #42nd Regimental Com-bat Team. See Michi Weglyn's Years of Infamy, 1976, at p. 38. The significant contributions made by this heroic II S Army made by this heroic U.S. Army unit while suffering extremely high casualty rates are undis-puted. Mr. Masaoka's proposal

contribution to the war effort and to the later acceptance of Japanese Americans mainstream is not a reason to exclude Mr. Masaoka from the Memorial's inscriptions.

TIL JACL ROLE IN EVACUATION.

"Dr. Takahashi is asking the Commission not to include the 'JACL Creed' in the Memorial's inscriptions because of JACL's positions and actions in the

JACL Collusion ?

"In support of her request, Dr. Takahashi submitted a portion of her unpublished 1980 Ph.D. dissertation, entitled 'Compar-ative Administration and Management of Five War Relocation Authority Camps: America's In-carceration of Persons of Japanese Ancestry During World War II.'There is a funda-Japanese mental difference in perspec-tive between JACL and Dr. Takahashi in addressing the federal government's role dur-ing World War II. "Dr. Takahashi's perspective

is reflected by the following statement in her unpublished dissertation at p. 79:

The purpose of this section is to pinpoint the significant factions and roles this organi-zation [JACL] played as well as to analyze its impact on evacuee behaviors in WRA [War Relocation Authority] camps. It will be seen that the WRA and JACL collusion caused a great deal of unrest and bitterness among the evacuees.' [Emphasis added.]

"The use of the term 'collusion' is a telltale indication of the perspective with which she wrote her dissertation. The term 'collusion' is defined as 'secret cooperation for a fraudulent or deceitful purpose <acting in with the enemys. [Emphasis added.] Webster's Third New International Dictionary (Unabridged). Dr. Takahashi's underlying assumption appears to be that the federal government was the enemy and that JACL should not have col-

luded with this enemy.
"JACL took a different approach, JACL adopted a policy of working in cooperation with the federal government as American citizens even though there were strong feelings that the federal government's ac-tions were infringing the consti-tutional rights of Japanese

Americans.
"Dr. Takahashi's dissertation should be recognized for the purpose for which it was written — an academic exercise in support of obtaining a Ph.D. in the field of social work. Fur-thermore, Dr. Takahashi's later employment shows that she could not have taken her dis-sertation thesis of JACL collusion seriously. After she wrote the dissertation in 1980, she went to work in 1987 and 1988 for the JACL as its Acting Director for the JACL-Legisla Education Committee and as JACL's Washington Representative working with former JACL leaders such as Mr.

Masaoka on redress legislation.

"However, if Dr. Takahashi is now seriously advocating the thesis that JACL 'collusion' caused the federal government to evacuate more than 115,000 nese Americans to 10 re-

mote militarily controlled ar eas, I am personally appalled by such a thesis or perspective. Such a thesis serves to deflect attention away from or minimize the overtly open discriminatory actions taken by the federal government by attempting to shift blame to JACL. Mr. Masaoka, or other Japanese Americans

"A thesis that JACL 'collusion' caused evacuation reflects a complete lack of understanding of the historically open and hostile discrimination that prevailed during the 1940's against Japanese Americans. Followed to its logical conclusion, such a thesis would argue that the federal government erred in mak ing redress payments and issuing a national apology because JACL purportedly caused the evacuation of Japanese Americans. Such a thesis is irresponsible and out of touch with real-

B. Achieving Program

Goals?
"Dr. Takahashi offered the following insight at p. 94 of her dissertation of what should have been done:

'All of these situation factors should have been assessed by an astute administrator and manager. The challenge should have been directed at how to deal with these dynamics in a constructive, creative manner, so that pro gram goals could be achieved. [Emphasis added.]

Her awkward, text-bookish statement of the obvious — what she would have done if she were there — is unimpres-sive. Her dissertation is unpersuasive and fails to recognize that the JACL leaders were in fact attempting to deal with a completely hostile federal government in a constructive, creative manner with no measurable political support at the height of unparalleled war hysteria in American history. Faced with an environment of hate and suspicion unprecedented in our history, Dr. Taka-hashi appears to be merely concerned about 'achieving program goals.

"C. Japanese Americans Continue to Benefit from Statement of Democratic Principles Written By Mike

Takahashi uses name 'JACL Creed,' but the statement of democratic princiwritten by Mr. Masaoka in 1941 is better known as the 'Japanese American Creed.' The Japanese American Creed was not written by Mr. Masao-ka for JACL although JACL adopted it in 1946 as part of its

bylaws. The Japanese American Creed is not, and never has been, an oath of allegiance. The Japanese American Creed sets forth a set of principles that was written to articulate the loyalty of Japanese Americans at a time when such loyalty was being seriously questioned. Al-though the Japanese American Creed offered a protective shield in 1941, Japanese Americans have continued to benefit

The Japanese Creed was read on the floor of Congress in support of passage of the redress legislation, 134. Cong. Rec. H6309, and in supauthorizing the establishment of the National Japanese American Memorial, 138 Cong. Rec H6831. Hence, every person who received a redress payment benefitted from the statement of principles in the Japanese American Creed and every person who will visit the Memorial will benefit from Japanese Americans' dedication to our shared ideals and principles of justice and equality as reflected in the Japanese American Creed.

TV. NJAMF SUPPORTS INSCRIPTIONS THAT INCLUDE MR. MASAOKA.

The NJAME Board of Divertors on three separate occasions has voted overwhelmingly to accept inscriptions that include Mr. Masaoka. A small number of Board members are unwilling to accept rule by majority vote and are asking the Com-mission to change the inscrip-tions already approved by the NJAME

The NJAMF is authorized to establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia or its environs to honor Japanese American patriotism in World War II. Public Law 102-502, Oct. 24, 1992, Section I(a). Hence, the NJAMF has been vested with the authority to recommend the design and inscriptions for the Memorial.

However, if the Commission believes that it is better positioned to evaluate the pulse of the Japanese American com-munity in drafting the Memori-al's inscriptions, then it should be prepared to receive a barrage of support to include Mr. Masaoka as a part of the Memorial. By opening the door to such a de novo review, the Commission also should be prepared to reopen already re-solved issues relating to other parts of the inscriptions. For example, the Commission has already received other written comments asking that only quotations of U.S. Presidents be included or that no quotations from U.S. Presidents be included and that challenge the inclusion of the names of only Japanese American soldiers killed in World War II.

V. CONCLUSION.

"In closing, the perspective that Mr. Masaoka shared with Ms. Lim in her interview with him should be followed here:

LIM: This is Deborah Lim. This is February 2. I am here in Washington, D.C., with Mike Masaoka and Etsu Masaoka. This interview is pursuant to Resolution Number Seven, the research project. Before we get started, Mr. Masaoka, did you want to make some preface com-

MASAOKA: I think that, as you found out all along, going back forty-five years or so is very difficult, especially since most of us don't have any doc-uments or reference points to follow through. Not only that, situations have changed so much that I think it is difficult to have people today, in the context of what they know today to try to assess a situation as it was then. In a sense, as some philosopher has said, to try to pass judge-

ment of what happened forty fifty years ago honestly, accurately historically is practically impossible, especially if done in terms of present. more advanced notions of society and so on. For example, I think it is basic in all of our thinking that, basically, democracy at that time practiced the principle of assimilation, that is, trying to make America kind of a melting pot, bringing all the diverse units in American together and trying to make them into a diversified whole. Whereas today our objective is ethnic diversity, which is exactly the opposite. To try applyling the thinking of today in terms of ethnic diversity to what we had to go through and trying to demonstrate our assimilation is quite difficult, particularly when you consider the circumstances of war and the fact that media and other things have changed so much. For exam ple, had there been television in those days, I think an entire situation could have been changed greatly. Because of the lack of media attention, not only among Japanese Americans themselves but among the larger American (population) and such, that we never got historic cover-age. Imagine also, if I may put it kind of crudely, that if sion to focus upon old women and young children, we could demonstrate to the larger population of American that we couldn't be very dangerous to the people and all that. None of these things happened at that time, So that the changes in our thinking as a country, our objectives as a country, and media changes was [sic] not available.' script at pp.1-2.]

"It is difficult to have a full appreciation of that period of time if one did not actually live through the experiences leading to evacuation. As Commissioner Carolyn S. Brody stated at the Commission's October 21, 1999 meeting, the inscription related to Mr. Masaoka and the Japanese American Creed is an internal issue which should be worked out within the NJAMF.

"As mentioned above, the NJAMF has the legal mandate to establish the Memorial. In carrying out its responsibilities, the members of the NJAMF Board of Directors did carefully consider the issues related to the inscriptions. The reasons as to why Mr. Masaoka should not be included in the Memorial's inscriptions were presented by those Board Members who oppose including Mr. Masaoka. The Board of Directors at its October 24, 1999 meeting voted by a three to one margin to ac-cept the inscriptions that in-cluded Mr. Masaoka and his

"I strongly urge the Commis-sion to accept the recommend-ed inscriptions approved by an overwhelming majority of the NJAMF Board of Directors.

"For the purpose of disclosing my interest in the Memorial, let me inform you that I am serving as NJAMP General Counsel on a pro bono basis. This letter sets forth my personal views."

Union Bank of California Contributes \$15,000 to KVIE Film on Japanese Americans and Agriculture During World War II

Union Bank of California has contributed \$15,000 to KVIE Channel 6, Sacramento, to help produce a half-hour documentary about the experiences of Japanese Americans in agriculture during World War II.

Titled "Forsaken Fields: California's Japanese American Farmers and Growers During World War II," the documentary will help edu-cate the public about the experi-ences of those who worked the land ences of those who worked the land in California and were incarcerat-ed or voluntarily relocated. The program will depict the role agri-culture played in the settlement of California and the challenges the first-generation Japanese faced in common with the Chinese, Filipino and Mexican farm workers, includ-ing discrimination in owning prop-erty, education, marriage and citi-

zenship.

The program will complement produced public other recently produced public television programs on JA history in California. It will be offered nationally to public television sta-tions and, after broadcast, would be distributed to libraries, colleges and schools. There will also be Internet components to extend the viewing experience, especially for

The program is expected to be broadcast throughout California broadcast throughout California and will also be uplinked pational ly to PTV stations. The program will be distributed off-air by the na-tional Asian American Telecommunications Association to schools and colleges as well as film festi-

The audio of the documentary, and clips of the video, will be post-ed on California Heartland's home which has been recognized page, which has been recognized for its graphic quality and content.



PHOTO: TOKO FUJII Union Bank of California Sr. V.P. Raymond Kozuma presents \$15,000 check to David Hosley, president and general manager of KVIE channel 6. Sacramento.

The script of the program and transcription of interviews will also be posted. Both will be donated to JA and agriculture museums in the state. It will also be made available to public school media centers and regional libraries free of charge, and made available to

community groups at cost.

Jan Yanehiro will be the host of the documentary. Nationally known for her work on Westing-house's Evening Magazine, she is a veteran of a quarter century in television. Yanehiro was a founding member of the Asian American Journalists Association San Francisco chapter and is an Emmy Award winning journalist.
Union Bank of California has

been very active in supporting charitable activities of ethnic mi-norities, and KVIE is preserving the history book of Japanese Amer icans working in our communi-ties," said Ray Kozuma, UBOC senior vice president. The program is also underwritten by the Taka-hashi Charitable Foundation.

nasni Chantable Foundation.

Based in San Francisco, UnionBanCal Corporation (NYSE/UB) is
a bank holding company with assets of \$32.5 billion as of September 1999. Its primary subsidiary is Union Bank of California, N.A., the third largest commercial bank headquartered in California, and among the 30 largest commercial banks in the United States. Union Bank of California has 241 banking offices in California, six banking of fices in Oregon and Washingto and 18 international facilities.

NCWNP District to Hold Program on 'Homosexuality and Proposition 22'

The Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific Dis-trict of JACL will sponsor an ed-ucation program titled, 'Under-standing Homosexuality and Proposition 22° on Sun., Feb. 6, in San Rafael, Calif.

in San Ranee, Cain.

The program, featured as part of the district's regular quarterly meeting, will be held at San Raneel Joe's, 931 Fourth St. The district will begin its business session at 10 a.m. and the program will get under way

at 1 p.m.
"We felt this topic was an important one to address," said District Governor John District Hayashi. The issue of homo-sexuality and same-sex mar-riage has been a controversial one for our organization and we hope we can continue to talk about this openly and come to fully understand the issues."

Recently, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that denying same-sex couples ac-cess to the same rights and responsibilities as heterosexual couples is discriminatory. As of yet, no state has legalized same-sex marriage, but it has been the practice in California that marriages performed in other states are recognized and treated as being legal here. Should Proposition 22 pass, it

will make it policy that "only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California

"This subject is a timely one," added Regional Director Patty Wada. "Californians will be voting on Proposition 22 in the March elections, and it is criti-cal that we understand what is at stake. The anti-miscegenation laws of the not-too-di past once put limits on whom Japanese Americans could and could not marry. The question before us now is whether we are going to legislate that same decision for someone else

cision for someone else. The program will be com-prised of two panel discussions. The first will feature Elsie Uye-da Chung and her son Richard, who will share their experi-ences when he first told her and she first learned that he was gay. The second panel will ex-plore the spiritual/moral side of this issue and the specifics of Proposition 22, with both proponents and opponents represent-ed. Speakers thus far confirmed for the second panel are the Rev. Lloyd Wake and Lorrie Tanioka

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call the JACL NCWNP regional office at 415/345-1075.

San Jose Hosts Teacher Training Workshop

By ANN MUTO cial to the Pacific Citizen

The all-day workshop titled "An American Story: From the Bill of Rights to Redress' recently took place at Wesley United Methodist Church in San Jose, Calif. It was jointly sponsored by the Japanese American Resource Center/Muse-um (JARC/M) and the JACL

There were over 40 participants, the majority being public and pri-vate school teachers. Although the workshop flyers were sent only to local school districts, participants from as far away as Manteca and Oakland attended the session.

Following a video representing the government version of the evacuation of "persons of Japanese an-cestry," three surviving internees shared their experiences of that

same time in history.

Dr. Wright Kawakami described his father's heartache at not being able to be the ombudsman for the Japanese Americans of his commu-nity after the war. Mas Yamasaki shared his perspective of a fun-lov-ing 12-year-old in the camps and his love for playing any kind of

Jimi Yamaichi's clear, factual a counting of 100 miles of barbed wire counting of 100 miles of barbed wire and 39 guard towers at the Tule Lake Relocation Camp pointed out the government evasion of facts re-lated to the camps. Dr. Wendy Ng of San Jose State University served as the moderator for the panel.

Later in the program, this time after viewing a segment of the video "Honor Bound," three veterans sat



Participants of the WWII veteran panel are seriously wounded 442nd veteran Katsumi Hikido, 442/522 Field Artillery Veteran George Oiye and MIS Ret. Col. Thomas Sakamoto.

on the same platform. Katsumi Hikido described the Katsumi Hikido described the pain of the year it took for him to learn how to walk after being wounded in the war, George Oiye's voice shuddered as he told of the camps at Dachau and how cruel man could be to one another; Jom Sakamoto humbly expressed pride in his ability to translate verbal and written information in an instant and his own kind of wonder that he was able to do it as well as he did was able to do it as well as he did under daunting circumstances. Dr. Steve Fugita of Santa Clara Uni-versity acted as the moderator for

As the evaluations showed, the As the evaluations showed, the sharing of personal accounts brought home the impact of the events and was considered the strength of the workshop. Their survival as well as that of over 100,000 "persons of Japanese an-

cestry" is a story that is still largely untold in history books. The goal of this workshop and the six prior sessions throughout the nation is to fill in those blanks. One of the teachers

in those blanks. One of the teachers who attended the workshop recognized the far-reaching lessons beyond the Japanese American experience (e.g. racism, injustice, propaganda, resistence, first amendment, redress of grievanoes).

The Steering Committee was made up of Roy Matsuzaki, Dr. Aggie Idemoto, Ken Iwagaki, Ann Muto, and Dr. Joe Yasutake of JARC/M and Jeff Yoshioka of San Jose JACL. Greg Marutani, Carol Kawamoto and Dr. Izumi Tañi guchi from the national JACL were also present.

In total, twenty-three teachers learned about the intermment, resettlement, the contribution of Nikkei veterans and redress.

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JACL members

Blue Shield of California offers group health care

information about these plans, call the JACL Health

Benefits Trust today at 1-800-400-6633. Website: http://www.jaclhealthbenefits.org





Deadline for National Awards Nominations Approaching

Every two years a number of na-tional JACL awards are presented at the national convention. This ear's national convention is sched-

year's national convention is sched-uled for June 17-July 2.

Three of the awards, JACLer of the Biennium, Edison Uno Civil Rights Award and the George Ina-gaki Chapter of the Biennium Award, are selected by the Nation-al Awards Committee, Nomination-forms have been sent to chapter forms have been sent to chapter presidents. Larry Grant, governor of the Intermountain District Council, is chair of the awards com-

The JACLer of the Biennium recognizes a JACL member who has made major contributions to the strength and growth of the national JACL during the immediate

The Edison Uno Memorial Civil Rights Award is reserved for indi-viduals who have made outstand-ing contributions in the field of civil rights. This award memorializes on Uno for his work in civil

Edison Uno for his work in civil rights.

The George Inagalci Chapter Citizenship Award is a cash award given to a chapter. Nominated chapters are evaluated on their participation in social, civic educational, environmental, or legislative activities which result in the betterment of society as a whole. A first prize of \$800 and an honorable mention prize of \$400 are awarded. These prestigious awards depend on nominations from chapters and districts. Deserving indi-

viduals and chapters must be nominated by chapters and districts to be considered. Please carefully consider nominating individuals and chapters for these awards. The nominees are not limited to the geographic area of your chapter or district. The awards are not limited to those who have had national impact are welcomed.

The deadline for nominations is March 15, 2000. This is a little sconer than in past years because the

March 15, 2000. This is a little scener than in past years because the convention is scheduled earlier this year. JACL members are encouraged to take this opportunity to recognize deserving individuals and chapters whose good works may otherwise be unseen and unrecognized by the larger community.



By Emily Murase

10 Years of Strength & Diversity: Celebrating the Legacy of JA Women

trength refers to that which enabled Issei women to endure their struggles as new immigrants and hardship and indignities of the internment camps. Diversity signifies the Sansei women who, by ex-ploring new opportunities, have not only made a place in mainstream American society for themselves but also, by working to win redress, for the generations that preceded them."

Thus Rosalyn Tonai, executive director of the National Japanese American Historical Society American Historical Society
(NJAHS) and Strength & Divers ty Project Director, explained the meaning of the title of the exhibit on JA women that was created in collaboration with the Oakland Museum of California where it

first opened in February 1990.

The exhibit, primarily the work of the NJAHS Exhibit Planning Committee, co-chaired by Chizu and Alice Nakahata, was initially scheduled for a four-month run at the Oakland Museum of California. But through the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, the exhibit traveled to 12 locations: from the Bishop Muse-um in Honolulu (1992), to the Field Museum in Chicago (1995), to the Arvada Center for the Arts in Colorado (1996). At each location, the committee relied heavily on the local JA women to add to exhibit and assist in community outreach.

Exhibit Co-Chair Chizu Iiyama Exhibit Co-Chair Chizu liyama explained: "From the start, the exhibit was a collaboration between Nisei and Sansei women who worked together on all phases of the exhibit. It took us about a year to collect the materials that formed the begin for the architic transcript of the property formed the basis for the exhibit. Although we were all amateurs at this kind of work, we received exent direction from Rosalyn as well as the Oakland Museum. When the exhibit toured, we re ceived strong community support

Based on a unique collabora-

tion between local communities and museums, the exhibit re-ceived awards from the American Association for State & Local History as well as the Smithsonian Institution According to Chizu, it motivated other communitysotivated other community-uilding endeavors such as the San Francisco Bay Area-based Sansei Legacy Project, a quilt-making collective in Colorado, curriculum guide in Chicago. Mei Nakano's now classic book, "Japanese American Women: Three Generations," was released in conjunction with the

A centerpiece of the exhibit is a number of quilts designed and created by JA women to reflect their experiences. In particular, the Threads of Remembrance Quilt represents the work of an intergenerational group of quil-ters, based in the East Bay of San Francisco, but including women elsewhere as well. Chizu explained that this was a way to reach out to Issei women, many of whom had never shared their per-

sonal stories before. Chizu recalled: "A quilt that started out in San Francisco trav-eled across California as we sought help to complete the stitching. One Issei woman who came to help was so happy that her story was finally being told that she was moved to tears. I found out that she died just three months later." A few of these quilts are currently on display at the Historical Society located in San Francisco's Japantown, 1684 Post Street

According to Exhibit Co-Chair Alice Nakahata: "The exhibit brought together women with an interest in preserving our history and heritage for the future. I nev-er imagined that it would be so well received nationally. The ex-hibit has become an important memorial to Japanese American women and all that they have endured

To celebrate the 10th anniver-sary of the exhibit, the Historical

Society invites everyone who wishes to honor JA grandmothwishes to honor JA grandmothers, mothers, wives, sisters, and daughters, pioneers, teachers, and caregivers to attend a benefit dinner, 6:30 - 9 pm on Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Grand Hyatt at Union Square, 345 Stockton Street, in downtown San Francisco. Tickets are \$100 per person.

The evening's national honores and keynote speaker is Congress-

and keynote speaker is Congress-woman Patsy Mink (D-Hawaii). The local honorees are legendary folk artist Ruth Asawa and pioneering community newspaper publisher Michi Onuma. According to Rosalyn, "For the anniver-sary celebration, we are expecting guests from across the country— New York, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Colorado, and Nevada, among others."

Earlier that day, there will be a free public event, co-sponsored with the Oakland Museum Guild. A panel discussion will feature a number of the women who were instrumental to the exhibit, espe-cially as it toured the country: Alice Ito of the Densho Project and Ellen Fergusson of the Burke Mu-seum (Washington State); Caryl Suzuki of the Pacific Asian Coalition for Education (Nevada): Alice ton for Education (Nevada; Alice Murata and Jean Mishima, Chicago Japanese American His-torical Society (Illinois); and Naoko Ito and Margene Fudenna, the Threads of Remembrance

quilters.
Fumi Hayashida, one of the first JAs to be evicted from Bainbridge Island near Seattle, will also be on hand. The commemo-ration will conclude with a reading by Janice Mirikitani original poem she wrote expressly for the occasion. These events will be held at the Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak Street in Oakland, tel: 410/238-6556.

For further information about the 10-year anniversary celebra-tion, contact the National Japanese American Historical Society at tel: 415/921-5007, fax: 415/921-5087, e-mail: njahs@ njahs.org.

Nanking

(Continued from page 1)

groups and revisionist academics in Japan, the event's keynote speaker said there is no evidence that Japanese soldiers widely killed

"There was no massacre of civilians at Nanjing," said Shudo Higashinakano, a professor of history at Tokyo's Asia University.

Japan's Foreign Ministry "has said the atrocty is an indisputable fact. I say, that's not the case at all," he said.

he said.
Sakae Yoshimoto and Takeharu Ishiwata, two former soldiers sta-tioned in China during the occupa-tion, drew applause when they said other soldiers had lied when describing systematic murder of civil-ians. Neither man was ever sta-tioned in Nanjing.

In Naniing, survivors, some of them in tears, gathered to de-nounce the Osaka meeting, state television reported

"They say I'm lying. I say I best represent the massacre victims be-They say I'm lyng. I say I best represent the massacre victims because I still have wounds on my body, wounds on my face, wounds on my legs. Can you deny that? said Liu Xiuying.

The news broadcast showed people holding lit white candles walk-

ing past a stone memorial marked "VICTIMS 300,000." It also showed a museum display of partially un-

Several dozen veterans and ex perts also gathered Jan. 23 in the northeastern Chinese city of Shenyang to express their anger

over the conference, the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported. And in Hong Kong, about six ac-tivists staged a sit-in outside the Japanese consulate to condemn the ent. They tore up a Japanese flag d displayed photos of wartime

atrocities.
"I think a lot of Japanese will listen to the right-wing group," said protester Leung Kwok-hung. "They want to cover up the war crimes"

WEN HO LEE (Continued from page 1)

profiling was present in this case," Richardson said, referring to the Lee dismissal. Yvonne Lee, the civil rights com-

missioner, said she's reserving judgment on the matter. "None of us can say (at this point) this is racially motivated, she said of the Los Alamos case. But she said one thing is certain. "Asian American employees are feeling the sting."

PSWD Donates \$13,500 to NJAMF



Former Pacific Southwest District Governor David Kay da Hara (second from left), 1999 dinner chair for the PSWD Awards Dinner, presented a \$13,500 check to Helen Kawagoe, national JACL president and NJAMF board member, and John Saito, Southern California NJAMF coordinator, on behalf of the PSWD for the NJAMF in Washington, D.C., at the recent PSW district council meeting.

100th-442nd Vets Install Russ Nakaishi, Remember Rescue of 'Lost Battalion'

The 40th annual 100th/442nd Veterans Association installation on Jan. 15 at Stevens Steak and Seafood House on the east side of Los Angeles saw one of its sons, 1st Lt. Russell Nakaishi, installed as president. Nakaishi, an Army re-serve officer in the California Na-tional Guard, vowed to continue the

Nisei legacy. Millard "Blackie" Black of the 131st Field Artillery, a member of the Texas Lost Battalion" now of Lakewood, Calif., had intended to be at the luncheon to meet with and thank the Nisei for their heroic ef-fort of Oct. 27, 1944. On that day the 442nd was ordered to rescue the Texans, who were encircled by Germans in the Vosges Mountains, after two of their own regiments of the 36th Infantry Division had

failed.

Since Black was recovering from surgery and unable to come, his message was read by emcee Henry Ikemoto. Also, a group photo of 12 men present at that particular campaign was taken to be sent to him.

The association then recognized Takeo Senzaki, a tech-sergeant with Co. 1, for his leadership in the rescue, and who has been cited in the 442nd annals as breaking through first, at 1400 hours, Oct. 30, to reach some of the trapped 30, to reach some of the trapped men. About the same time, 442nd's Gls from Co. K and Co. B also reached other men of the battalion. In all, the combat team suffered over 800 casualties during one



PHOTO: 100TH-442ND VETERANS ASSN 'LOST BATTALION' RESCUERS — Twelve men of the 442nd RCT gath ered for this picture (others present were camera shy) to be given to Mil-lard Black of the "Lost Battalion," who was unable to be present to ex-press his thanks to the Nisel veterans.

week in accomplishing the rescue of the Lost Battalion, who were origi-nally 275 strong and down to 211. Co. I had only eight riflemen, with a sergeant in charge, and Co. K had 17 inflemen, also, with a sergeant in charge; both companies had lost all their officers. Guest speaker Chin Mamiya ac-

Cheir officers.

Guest speaker Chip Mamiya, active with the 100-442-MIS Memorial Foundation education committee, as well as a board member with the Japanese American National Museum, said fund-raising activi-ties continue to raise \$1.5 million for the teachers' workshops on the Japanese American experience.
The state of California has granted
\$500,000 to the project in which
JACL has a key role.
Assisting Nakaishi will be Ben

Assisting Nakaishi will be Ben Tagami (100th), Frank Seto (AT Co.), vice presidents; Tadd Tokuda (522 FA), secretary, Hank Yoshi-take (100th), treasurer, Dr. George Aki, 442nd HQ, chaplain; and trustees: George Yoshihara (Co. E), trustees: George Yoshihara Henry Ikemoto (AT Co.), a Yamate (Co. E), outgoing president who served three terms.

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The Idaho Humanities Council recently awarded a research fel-lowship to Dr. Priscilla Wegars for a project entitled, "Japanese In-ternees and Idaho's Kooskia Internees and idaho's Kooskia In-ternment Camp, 1943-1945." We-gars, the editor of "Hidden Her-itage: Historical Archaeology of the Overseas Chinese" (Amityville, Baywood, 1993), is an af-filiate faculty member with the rank of assistant professor in the University of Idaho's Department of Sociology/Anthropology/Justice Studies and is the volunteer curator of the Laboratory of Anthropology's Asian American Compar-ative Collection.

The Kooskia Internment Camp is an obscure and virtually forgot ten World War II Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) detention facility that was located in north-central Idaho, near Low ell. Unrelated to the War Reloca-tion Authority's Minidoka concentration camp for West Coast families in southern Idaho, near Hunt, the Kooskia internment held so-called camp held so-called "enemy aliens" of Japanese ancestry from at least 13 states, including Ida-ho, and from the then-territories of Alaska and Hawaii. Others housed there were Japanese Latin Americans, including two men each from Mexico and Panama, and some 28 Japanese Peruvians that our government had brought to the United States, ille-

For a previous project, under a

grant from the U.S. Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, Wegars learned that a total of 256 internees worked there over the two years. They had volunteered to leave the enforced idleness of oth-er INS camps for the Kooskia internment camp, where they would be paid for their work. Alome held camp jobs, were construction we for the present Highway 12 be-tween Lewiston, Idaho, and Lolo, Montana, parallel to the Lochsa

During the term of her fellow ship, Wegars will visit the National Archives in Washington, D.C., to research the Kooskia internment camp in primary source ma-terials and will compile a database of information on the 256 in ternees. Beginning in the spring of 2000, she will share her research with public audiences in Kooskia, Kamiah and Orofino through an illustrated lecture us-ing photographs of, and docu-ments from, the Kooskia internment camp.
The Idaho Humanities Council

(IHC) is a public, non-profit grants-making organization operating in Idaho as a state-base program of the National Endow ment for the Humanities. The IHC's purpose is to increase the awareness, understanding and awareness, indestanding and appreciation of the humanities in Idaho, accomplishing this primar-ily through financial support for public educational projects.

E-Service Bridges Cultural Differences for Asian Students

A recently launched Internet service, NewHanlin.com, fulfills a long unmet need for academic admissions counseling services spe-cific to minority students, in this case, Asian and Asian American students

Traditional counseling and preparation resources have not kept up with the rapidly changing demographics of the American college student population. AA students are already the largest ethnic group on many of the prestigious University of California campuses and also constitute the overwhelming majority of inter-national students in the United States. Asian students may need particular help with mastering English, grasping cultural differ-ences in values and modes of communication and understanding American educational culture and traditions.

"Asian education emphasizes rote memorization and drill in the place of critical challenge and ap-preciation, they might perform poorly in creative writing and analytical commentary," said Ford-ham University education schol-ars Shu Ya Zhang and Angela L.

Carrasquillo.

More than overt quotas and

racism, such factors are probably the cause behind the dissatisfac-tion of many AA families with col-

New Hanlin com was founded by a group of AA Harvard Univer sity graduates determined to help other Asian and AA students sucer Asian and AA students su ceed in the often foreign world of American higher education ad-missions. Unlike other educational consulting services, the staff of NewHanlin.com boasts diverse graduate degrees from some of America's top universities and is uniquely qualified to assist appli-

uniquely qualified to assist appli-cants for graduate programs.

"Through our familiarity with both Asian and American culture, we can help Asian students over come and even make the most of cultural differences," said Ho-Leung Ng, president of NewHan-

NewHanlin.com currently offers editing assistance with appli cation essays and resumes as well as personalized consulting for the entire admissions process with guaranteed results. The Web site and staff provide content and sup-port in both English and Chinese with plans to expand support to Japanese and Korean speaking users in the near future.

State Assembly Accepting Applications for Fellowship

Assemblymember George Na-kano (53rd District) announced that the California State Assembly that the Cannorma State Assembly is accepting applications for the 2000-2001 Jesse M. Unruh Fellowship Program. The program gives college graduates a unique opportunity to work as full-time Assembly to work as full-time Assembly to work as full-time Assembly to the state of the bly staff members while earning a stipend and 12 units of graduate course credit from California State University, Sacramento.

University, Sacramento. Fellows are assigned to work on a committee staff or in an Assemblymember's Capitol Office. Participants also engage in weekly academic seminars with legislators, senior staffers, journalists, lobbyists and other state government officials. Fellows receive a monthly stipend of \$1,882 as well as full health, dental and vision benefits.

The Assembly Fellowship Program is a rare opportunity for college graduates to participate in the legislative process," said Assembly: member . Nakano. "The hands-on experience it provides can serve as a starting point for a recent graduate or a springboard for someor looking to change careers." All applicants must have grad

All applicants must have gradu-ated by October 2000. No specific major is required and individuals with advanced degrees, as well as those in mid-career, are encour-aged to apply. Applications may be obtained by contacting Jeff Mal-oney at Assemblymember. Naka-nol District Office at 310/782-1553. Applications to the Assembly

Applications to the Assembly Fellowship Program must be post marked by March 1, 2000. Final selections will be a selection and the selections will be a selection as a selection of the selections will be a selection as a selection of the selecti lections will be made in May.

Re: Masaoka Inscription on National Memorial

The following letter was sent to J. Carter Brown, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, on Jan. 23.
"Dear Mr. Brown, The WWII con-

"Dear Mr. Brown,
"I am a survivor of the WWII concentration camps (Roston, AZ) and
a recipient of Redress apology and
money. As a life-long history buff on
Americans, it is clear to Japanese Americans, it is me that reference to and/or a tion attributed to Mike Mas or a quo appropriate for inclusion in the NJAMF memorial Like the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mr. Massaka was not a perfect man, however, there is no doubt in histo-

however, there is no doubt in histo-ry about the significance of his con-tributions to the Japanese Ameri-can community as well as to the broad American citizenry. "I am saddened that a misority of voices in the NJAMF Board have produced a controversy against the majority (and of the majority of the Japanese American compunity) Japanese American community
We all realize that democracy is n
perfect in finding unanimous co sus on all issues. The best we sensus on an issues. In e best we can hope for on any matter is that we move with the will of the major-ity. So, it should be in the matters surrounding the NJAMF memorial. "I hope that common sense will

prevail and that we move ahead with the Memorial on a timely ba-sis. To that end, I am prepared to in-crease my contributions to see this project the

A. 7. Nishikawa Haverford, Penn

Re: 'JA Vets Group Recog nizes Stand Taken by WWII Resisters of Conscience'

The other day while driving so work; my thoughts were wandering and for some reason I thought of those who, fought in World War II and the resisters and serendipitously the above named article ap-

peared in the Politic Citizen.

The veterans and resisters of WWII were both right but for different reasons. Both were redemptive acts, again for different reasons. I am shaken and awed by those who fought, going to war and putting their lives or coming home maimed. Their families were in concentration camps, their rights taken away and yet they went. If that act did not cause people to pause and recognize the sacrifice, it is their loss. did not cause pe recognize the

their loss.

For those who resisted, it was also a remarkable act. They were isolated. They suffered an injustice for a very long time and then justice finally came.

finally came. The two groups were 180 degrees apart in their thought processes but they had remarkable similarities. The similarities show qualities of courage, moral strength, long-suffering, active decision making redemption to this country.

possessed a conscience.

Now the JA vets have m healing act. It is written in legaless but it brings both groups 360 de-grees and together. Amazing. Gene Morda via e-mail

Parisir Cusan



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& Except for the National Director's
Report, news and the views expressed by columnists do not yet the
southern set of the personal opinion of
the villars.

& "Voices" reflect the active, public
discussion within JACL of a wide
range of ideas and issues, though
they may not reflect the velwpoint of
the distoral for reflect the velwpoint of
the distoral board of the Pacific Celzen.

zer.

* Short supressions* on public issues, usually one or two paragraphs, should include signature, address and dayline phone number. Because of special interface, letters are subject to shridgement. Although we are unable to print all the others we receive, we appreciate, the intense we nocive, we appreciate, the intense was not use their comments.

Castillo, Akiko, Las Vegas, Oct. 29; Tokyo-born; survived by husband Ernest; daughter fristin Castillo (Tempe, Ariz.); sons Ernest Jr., Ronald (both Las

Hashioka, Isao, 80, Long Beach, Jan. 1; Yamaguchi-born; survived by wife Setsuko; daugh-ter Fumyo Kaneko (Omaha, Neb.); son Toshio and wife Susan; 3 gc., 1 ggc.; brother-in-law George Yamamoto; sister-in-law Ayako Yamamoto (Japan).

Kope, Noriko, 60, Las Vegas, Nov. 29; Okinawa-born; survived by husband Harold; daughter Ruth Montgomery (La.); 3 gc.; brother Teliki Hokama and sis-ter Evenke Kounkeni and Veloc ters Fusako Kawakami and Yoko ma (all of Okinawa)

Shimizu, Reiko, 84, Spokane, Wash., Nov. 23; survived by daughter Mitzi Shimizu (Gardena); sons Roger and wife Saki (Seattle), Keiji and wife Marilyn (Spokane) 3 gc., brother Frank Tomita (Gardena), sister in law Amy Tomita (Salt Lake City); predeceased by husband, Tori

Shimono, Sadayoshi George, Long Beach, Dec. 22; survived by wife Shigeno; son, Dr. Hirryoshi and wife Sumiko; daughters Hi-romi Iwakoshi and husband Wat, Michiyo Shimono; 5 gc.; sisters Mitsuye Nakano and husband Shunichi, Tsugayo Tayasu and husband Makichi.

Suzuki, Esther Mikiko Torii, 73, Minneapolis, Dec. 13; Portland, Ore.-born graduate of Macalester College in St. Paul the only college in Minnesota admitting JAs in 1942-43; retired social worker and community activist against racism; survive husband George; daughter Nami Vizanko and husband Steven (Minneapolis); son John and wife Kathleen (Chicago); 2 gc.; sisters Eunice Okuma and husband Toshio (Des Plaines, Ill.), Lucy Kirihara and husband Mikio (Bloomington, Minn.).

Takahashi, Ayako Sakauye, 84, Berkeley Oct. 19; longtime Parma, Idaho, resident; Bellevue, Parma Idaho, resident; Bellevue, Wash-born; survived by daugh-ters Faye Niiyama and Rita Takahashi; sons Lee and Alan Takahashi; sister Rosalie Saka-uye; 5 gc., 4 ggc.; predeceased by husband, Yoshio.

Tanaka, Alice Hiroko, 84, Long Beach, Dec. 23; Los Altos born; survived by sons William Masa and wife Kathy, Paul and wife Karen, Joe, George and wife Cynthia, Marshall and wife Deb-Cynthia, Marshail and wife Deorera, Tony and wife Georgia, Ricky, daughters Helen Palomo, Cynthia Oye and husband Ed, Adrienne Nakahara and husband Larry; gc., ggc.; brothers George Matsuura and wife Fumi, Maro Matsuura.

Tauchi, Kivoe, 88, Los Ang Tauchi, Kiyoe, 88, Los Ange-les, Dec. 26, Tottori-horn; sur-vived by sons Hideaki and wife Yooja, Yoshio and wife Aiko; daughter Fukiko Tauchi; sisters-in-law Hideko Kageyama and husband Testu, Fusae Watanabe and husband Seiya.

Toki, James Masami, 79, Tacoma, Wash., Nov. 3; Tacoma-born; WWII 442nd RCT veteran; born; WWII 442nd RCT veteran; survived by wife Mary; daugh-ters Kristine A. Thompson (Ren-ton), Marianne P. Frigeri and Dens A. Stevens (both of Taco-ma); 1 gc., 1 ggc.; sisters Merry Takeuchi (Stockton), Aya Johnson (Seattle); brothers Stogie (Cincinnati), Ty (San Francisco).

(Cincinnati), Ty (San Francisco).
Tokunaga, Shizuo, 79, Hollywood, De. 19; Suisun-born, Survived by son Asia and wife Carolyn; daughter Toshiko Hill; 2 gc.; brothers and sisters.
Yamiamoto, Mitsuo, 77, Los Angeles, Jan. 1; Freeno-born; survived by wife Hatsuye; daughters Linda Sakamoto, Joyce Tsuchiyama; 3 gc.; brother Hideo and wife Clara; brother; in-law Shigeji Ito and wife Fumie; sister-in-law Chiveko Terakawa.

formis except as noted.

Yamashiro, Bill Talkayuld,
76, Gardena, Dec. 29; Fresnoborn, survived by wife Kikuko;
sons Dr. Alan and wife Carolyn,
Dr. Roger M. and wife JoAnn; 4
gc.; brother Jack Y. and wife
Agnes S.; sisters Grace Brown
and husband Alvis (Texas), Mary

Mitte and husband Harv, sistems. and husband Arvis (texas), Mary Mita and husband Harry, sisters-in-law Taeko Yamashiro, Michiko Kumashiro and husband Tada-kazu (Portland, Ore.).

Yamashita, Fumi Kuroda, 78, Newport Beach, Jan. 1; Pis-mo Beach-born; survived by hus-

This compilation appears on a space-available basis at no cost. Printed obituaries from your news-paper are welcome. "Death No-tices," which appear in a timely manner at request of the family or funeral director, are published at the rate of \$19 per column inch. Text is reworded as needed.

band George Y.; daughter Steph-anie Pollard and husband Jean; 1 gc.; sister Lily Tsuruoka (Fresno); sister-in-law Mary Doi (Seattle).

Yokote, Jack, 84, Loomis, Dec. 23; Tule Lake internee, Boy Dec. 23; Thie Lake internee, Boy Scout leader, member Placer County chapter JACL; survived by wife Tazu; daughter Jacklyn Jensen and husband Torbin (Chicago); brother Shigeo and wife Rose (Loomis), Roy (Walnut Creek); sister Florence Shimosa-ka and husband James (Sacramento)

DR. ROBERT T. OBI

SOUTH PASADENA, Calif.—Dr. Robert T. Obi, 81, passed away Dec. 3, 1999. Funeral services were held Dec. 9 at Centenary United Methodist Church. He served the community with three two He served the community with three two-year terms as East Los Angeles JACL president (1963-64, 1977-81, 1988-89) and headed several medical organiza-tions and the Japanese Hospital. The deceased is survived by his wife, Michi; sons, Michael (Junie) of South San

Michi; sons, Michael (Junie) of South San Gabriel and Curtis of Las Vegas; daugh-ter, Marjorie (Charles) Steed of Washington; grandchildren, Christopher and Michelle Obi; brother-in-law, Tak (Martha) Nomiyama; sister-in-law, Aiko Kiyono; and nieces, Janice Wong and

TSUTOMU TOM IKEDA

TSUTOMU TOM IREDA
MESA, Ariz.—Tsutome Tom Ikeda, 82,
passed away Jan. 9. Born on a farm near
Mesa, he was the eldest of nine children
to Minezo and Shizuka Ikeda. After graduating from Mesa High, his excelle usuing from mess High, his excellence in athletics and academics won him a scholarship to the University of Arizona. Tsutomu was active with the Arizona chapter JACL, Mess Jaycees, Ho-Ho-Kams, Mess Baseline Rotary, and the Arizona Buddhist Temple. He later served as exercised of the served of th served as governor of District 550 for Rotary International. Was recognized for his efforts to help bring professions Japanese baseball teams to train in Mes and has been posthumously honored for his lifetime of service to the Buddhist

his lifetime of service Churches of America.

He is survived by his wife, one sister, four brothers, five children; Virginia, Steven, Kathy, Sanford, and Laurie, and seven grandchildren.

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APIA VOTE!

(Continued from page 1)

have to work with the Anglo community, Latine community, black community, all of those different munities.

"Even at our biggest, APIs are just under] 20 percent in LA. County," added APIA Vote! chair Kathleen Yasuda, "so in any case we're going to have to work in coalition, and it's not just that we have to, but we want to. We want to be working with other like-minded groups that share simi-lar issues so that we have more power and more influence over things that are important to us."

In 1990, APAs comprised 11 percent of the U.S. population, with approximately one million residing in the County of Los Angeles. Researchers estimate that in 2000, APAs will account for 13 to 15 percent of the county's pop-

"When you look at that poten-al," said Stewart Kwoh, A3PCON policy vice chair and executive director of APALC of Southern California, "it really speaks to having a tremendous population influence in the state of California and in L.A. County. However, in L.A. City, there's no Asian American on the city council, there's no Asian American on the board of supervisers and in the state legislature there are only two Asian Americans.

The message, said Kwoh, is that "the potential is there, but the facts speak to something else - that we have not arrived

What is particularly difficult is that because there are relatively few APA representatives, many policymakers do not understand the diverse needs and issues of a and issues of a community which includes everyone from well-educated American-born professionals to more recent immigrants facing severe economic, social and political harriers. In some API communities, poverty rates exceed 40

APIA Vote! is attempting a multi-pronged approach to reach that broad spectrum of people.

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"I definitely think that our partnership with the county reg-istrar's quarters, the multilin-gual assistance that they're offering, is our way to target more of these immigrant communities by educating them on what's avail-" said Choi

"Another way we want to tar-get the more sophisticated and perhaps more fluent later-generation Asian Americans is to host issue forums and try to engage their interest because maybe for them it's not an issue of language that's an obstacle. For them, may be apathy," she continued.

Japanese Americans, for in , who are up to the fourth and fifth generations, often have a low voter turnout, said Furu-tani. Tve been thinking we need to start a Japanese American voter project because our strength is that we're mostly all American citizens, but our voting and registration percentage is not re

"It's almost like they [JAs] don't feel the urgency to vote,' added JACL Pacific Southwest District's youth director Gerald Kato, who has been part of an outreach effort that visits college campuses to encourage students to register to vote.

With statistics showing that youth, ages 18-24, are one of the most difficult demographics to reach, APIA Vote! began a project two years ago called Student Ad-vocates for Voter Empowerment (SAVE), a high school group based in the San Gabriel Valley which is specifically geared to-wards registering those 18 and

In preparation for this year's elections, SAVE has held several voter registration drives just in the past few months. The drives have taken place at each of its three chapters, San Gabriel, Rosemead and Mark Keppel High Schools.

ne of the main reasons why students don't vote is lack of mo-

tivation," said SAVE officer Bryant Yang, 17, a senior at Mark Keppel. "That's why we go which is all seniors, we pass out voter registration applications and then we collect them."

We do whatever we can to get them to register, said Yang, in-cluding sending those who've just turned 18 a birthday card along with a voter registration applica tion and also holding a raffle. Students who fill out the application are automatically entered into the raffle and the winner gets free movie tickets.

SAVE is currently working to expand their voter registration drives to Arcadia and other area high schools. They target not only APAs but the general stupopulation.

With the presidential elections in November, APIA Vote! is preparing various issue and can-didate forums for its community as well as a rally to precede the Democratic National Convention this summer.

"The Asian American commu nity is pulling together a slate of issues that they want to present to the Democratic National Consaid Choi. "We don't vention," want to be overlooked as a constituency group. We are trying to make this active effort to be noticed not only by the Democratic community but by the political community at large."

To get ballot information in a language other than English (particularly Japanese, Chinese, Tagalog, or Vietnamese) or to inquire about serving as a bilingual pollworker, call the L.A. County Positisters' Office (S00/84). Registrar's Office at 800/481-8683 or the L.A. City Election Division at 800/994-8683

To vote in the March 7 California primary elections, you must be registered before Feb. 7. ■



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JACCC Receives \$300,000 Grant From James Irvine Foundation

The Japanese American Cultural and Community Center of Los Angeles has received a three-year, \$300,000 grant from The James Irvine Foundation for program development and the creation of an opportunity fund which will allow the center "to capitalize on unforeseen opportunities, address deferred needs and leverage corporate support," it was announced by Eric Hayashi, executive director.

"This extremely timely grant will help us improve re extremely timely search, increase travel oppor-tunities and build new and renewed relationships with artists, including commissioning fees and coverage of ex-penses associated with pre-senting and touring," Hayashi explained. "The Irvine grant will enable us to realize many things which we have had to on hold and help the JACCC meet the challenges of the future." Hayashi added that funding from the grant will help staff to maintain relationship with artists and presenters in Japan as well as help the JACCC encourage local encourage artists.

"The JACCC in the past 20 years since its founding has established a nationwide reputation as the premier presenter of Japanese and Japanese American art and artists in the United States. We appreci-

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ate the faith that The James Irvine Foundation has placed in us once again, and will make every effort to make every dollar count in going for-ward with new and strengthened programs in the future, he said.

Kathryn Doi Todd, chair of the JACCC board of directors, noted that The James Irving Foundation was the first maor foundation to fund the ambitious project to build the JACCC 20 years ago by giving \$250,000 to fund the James Irvine Garden. Just last year, it also funded the consultancy of former executive director Gerald D. Yoshitomi to ease the transition to a new administration.

"The JACCC has gone through a major change in the past two years. Many improvements, including more bilingual members on the staff and a streamlined financial reporting system, have pre-pared us to roll up our sleeves and go forward with what we do best — being the best presenter of Japanese and Japanese American performing and visual arts in the United States," she declared.

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