

Pacific Citizen

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NEWS/AD DEADLINE: FRIDAY BEFORE DATE OF ISSUE.

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JACL Calendar

National

NATIONAL BOARD

Fri.-Sun., April 14-16—National Board Meeting; San Francisco.

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

Eastern

WASHINGTON, D.C.
Sat., May 20—Fifth Annual APA Spring Benefit; see Community Calendar.

Midwest

CINCINNATI
Sat., May 6 (rain date May 13)—Yard Sale, 2933 Madison Rd., Oakley; Info: Jacqui Vidourek, 861/4860, Shiro Tanaka, 489-9079.

CLEVELAND

Through May 5—The Education Committee working with the Speakers Bureau for planning involvement.

Sun., May 7 (tentative)—JACL installation dinner.
Sun., May 21—Cherry Blossom Festival; see Community Calendar.

Intermountain

MOUNT OLYMPUS

Sat., April 15—Annual Fund-A-Rama; Cottonwood High School Cafeteria, 5717 S. 1300 E.; 6 p.m. manju/sushi/bake sale, 6:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY Calendar

East Coast

NEW YORK CITY
Tues., April 18—An Evening With David Mura, poet, writer, critic, performance artist; 6 p.m., Friends Seminary Meeting House, 222 E. 16th St. Info: Julie Azuma, 212/807-8104.

WASHINGTON, D.C.
Tues., April 18—Washington Toho Koto Society performance; 12 noon, Church of the Epiphany, 13th & G St. NW; free. Info: 301/434-4487.
Sat., May 20—Fifth Annual APA Spring Benefit; Omni Shoreham (Woodley Park Metro). Info, tickets: 703/522-4231 or chieko@aol.com.

The Midwest

CLEVELAND
Sat., April 22—"How to Appreciate, Know, and Taste Saké"; 7 p.m., Asia Plaza; Japan Society, sponsors. Info: Kei McMillan, 216/795-1604.
Sun., May 21—Cherry Blossom Festival; MetroParks Zoo.

Pacific Northwest

KLAMATH FALLS, ORE.
Sat.-Tues. July 1-4—Tulelake Pilgrimage; accommodations at Oregon Institute of Technology; buses from Seattle, Portland and Eugene. Info: Janie Matsushima, 503/643-3007.

PORTLAND
Fri.-Sun., Aug. 11-13—Greater Portland Reunion, "Nikkei Futures 2000; DoubleTree Lloyd Center Hotel; mixer, banquet, tours, golf tournament, picnic, etc. Info: Kenie

dinner; door prizes, bingo. Info: Laurie Noda, 486-0479, Dick Mano, 972-6395.

Tues., May 9—High School Senior Scholarship Dinner; 7 p.m., Joe Morley's, 106 West Center, Midvale. RSVP by April 30: Dick Mano, 972-6395.

NC-WN-Pacific

DISTRICT COUNCIL
Sun., May 7—District Meeting and Oratorical Competition; Salinas.
Sat., June 3—NCWNP District's pre-convention meeting to review resolutions, the budget and meet the candidates running for national office; 10 a.m.-3 p.m., JACL National Headquarters, San Francisco. Info: NCWNP Regional Director Patty Wada, 415/345-1075.

RENO

Sun., April 16—Easter Potluck; 12 noon, Knights of Pythias Hall, Easter egg-dyeing and egg hunt; Info: Tracey Tatebe-Miller, 351-2255.

WATSONVILLE

Mon.-Thurs., April 24-27—Senior Center Tour to Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, etc. Info: Carmel Kamigawachi, 831/722-1930; Shig Kizuka, 831/724-0116.
Thurs., April 27—Minoru Yasui Oratorical Contest; 8 p.m., JACL Kizuka Hall. Info: Mas Hashimoto, 722-6859.

Pacific Southwest

SAN DIEGO

Sun., May 7—JACL Scholarship Awards Dinner, Tom Ham's Light-house Restaurant on Harbor Island. Info: 619/230-0314, e-mail: sdjaci@juno.com.

Namba, 503/253-0848; Kurtis Inouye 503/682-3238.

SEATTLE

Through April—Exhibit, "A Different Battle: Stories of Asian Pacific American Veterans"; Wing Luke Asian Museum, 497 Seventh Ave. S. Info: 206/623-5124.
Sat.-Tues. July 1-4—Tulelake Pilgrimage; accommodations at Oregon Institute of Technology. Info: Stan Shikuma, 206/725-1676, e-mail: SShikuma@aol.com.

SEATTLE

Fri.-Sun., Sept. 15-17—Heart Mountain Reunion; SeaTac DoubleTree Hotel. Info: Toshi Terayama, registrar, 253/520-8005, e-mail: toshiter@icnec.com.
April or May, 2001—Minidoka Reunion at Las Vegas; if interested, forward name and address by this April 30 to Minidoka Reunion Committee, c/o Tak (Yokoyama) Tado, 15537 32nd Ave. N.E., Seattle, WA 98155-6530.

Northern California

MONTREY

Sat., April 22—VFW Annual Easter Egg Hunt; Del Rey Oaks Park.

SAN FRANCISCO
Thurs., Sun., April 27-30—Nikkei 2000 Conference; Radisson Miyako Hotel, Japan town; join students, professionals, community organizers, politicians, others, to make a difference; Registration, \$100; students, low-income \$40. Info: JACCC, 415/567-5505, e-mail: nikkei2000@jccn.org.
Thurs., April 27—Exhibit opening, "The Fabric of Strength & Diversity"; dessert reception 8-9 p.m., National

SELANOCO

Sat., May 13—Guided tour of exhibit, "More Than a Game: Sport in the Japanese American Community"; 12 noon lunch, 1 p.m. tour, Japanese American National Museum. RSVP by May 9: B] Watanabe, 714/779-4140.

Resolutions Reminder

All resolutions require an accompanying budget; those chapters needing assistance with their resolution budgets can contact national headquarters, 415/921-5225, and ask for Clyde Izumi.

Reminder

Credential Guidelines
Chapters in "Good Standing" are required to have the following: A minimum of 25 members; an elected set of officers and the 2000 Chapter Board Roster; paid all National and District dues, fees and assessments. For assistance, call Tracie Uchino, membership coordinator, at 415/921-5225.

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.

Japanese American Historical Society, 1684 Post St.; featuring the Threads of Remembrance quilt. Free. Info: 415/921-5007, www.njhs.org.
Sat.-Tues., July 1-4—Tulelake Pilgrimage; bus provided from the Bay Area. Info: Stephanie Miyashiro, 510/524-2624; Fran Ellis, 408/730-9974; Jimi Yamauchi, 408/26909458; Lori Tomita, 916/455-3120.

SAN JOSE

Sat., April 22—Nikkei Matsuri luncheon, to honor local centenarians, "Our Living Treasures"; 11:30 a.m., DoubleTree Hotel. Info, tickets: Warren Hayashi, 408/241-0900, or www.pggroup.com/NikkeiMatsuri.
Sat., April 29—Workshops, "Reflections of Nihonmachi," all day in the San Jose Japan town area. Info: Warren Hayashi, 408/241-0900, www.pggroup.com/NikkeiMatsuri.

Fri.-Sun., April 28-30—San Jose Taiko Annual Spring Concert; 8 p.m. Friday & Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday; San Jose Repertory Theatre, 101 Paseo de San Antonio. Box Office: 408/291-2255.
Sun., April 30—Nikkei Matsuri; 9:30-4 p.m., San Jose Japan town area. Info: Warren Hayashi, 408/241-0900, www.pggroup.com/NikkeiMatsuri.
SEBASTOPOLE
Sat., April 15—Fashion fund-raising event by Asian Accents; Memorial Hall at Enmanji, 1200 Gravenstein Hwy. So. Info: Marie Toeman, 707/829-7982, Sydney Yamashita, 415/863-4572.

Central California

FRESNO

Fri.-Sat., Oct. 13-14—Fifth Jerome Reunion; New Otani Hotel, Los Angeles. Info: Rose Masuda Okajima, 559/875-3878.

Southern California

LOS ANGELES

Fri.-Sun., April 14-16—Performance, Fresh Tracks; 8 p.m., David Henry Hwang Theatre, 244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo. Tickets: JACCC, 213/680-3700.

Sat., April 22—Inaugural NAU/Nisei Athletic Union Reunion; reception 2-5 p.m., Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo; light refreshments, Aki Kornai Memorial Awards. Info: 213/625-0414.

Sat., April 22—"Stargate Starbright" Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches (A3M) Fund-raising Gala; 7 p.m., Japan America Theatre, 244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo. Info: 213/680-3700.

Sat., April 29—Manzanar Pilgrimage; internees from Amache and Tule Lake to be honored. Info: 323/662-5102, fax: 323/666-5161.

Fri.-Sat., Oct. 13-14—Fifth Jerome Reunion; New Otani Hotel, Los Angeles. Info: Helen Yoshimura Takata, 626/968-2966; Miyo Kunitake Kawamura, 714/961-1249; Dolfie Nagai Fukawa, 310/323-9615; Rose Masuda Okajima, 559/875-3878.

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JACL Chapters.
Would you like to earn
money for your chapter's
programs? You can
earn a 15 percent
commission by soliciting
ads for the Pacific
Citizen. Call 800/
966-6157 for more
details.

Exploring the Rich History of Japanese Americans During the Upcoming JACL National Convention

General Eric Shinseki to Speak in Monterey During National Convention

In June 1999, President Bill Clinton appointed Shineiski, who is a Sansel born in Lihue, Kauai. He has served in the U.S. Army with distinction since 1966 after graduating from West Point in 1965. He holds a master's degree in English literature from Duke University.

Shineiski, age 56, served two tours in Vietnam and was wounded twice. His awards include, and are not limited to, the Defense Distinguished Service Medal. Distin-

For further information, or to make reservations for the dinner, to be held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Monterey, contact Judy Niizawa, chairman of the tribute, at jniizawa@earthlink.net, or call 408/733-7692. The committee also has posted a Web site address: <http://javeterans.trinod.com>. ■

The Democratic Way Of Life For All

<p>See the advertising, Blackboard and the Internet for more information on the availability of the following titles. For more information, contact the National Education Library at www.nel.edu or call 1-800-848-2639.</p>	
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Enjoying a Good Glass of Wine at the Upcoming JACL National Convention

If you are interested in taking part in the tour, contact Roger Minami at rminami@ix.netcom.com.

REGISTRATION FORM		SUMMARY OF FEES	
Name _____		Convention Package _____	\$ _____
Last _____	First _____	Individual Events _____	\$ _____
Address _____		Special Events _____	\$ _____
City _____			
State & Zip Code _____			
Telephone _____			
Toll _____ Evening _____			
e-mail _____			
Chapter _____			
Category <input type="checkbox"/> Delegate <input type="checkbox"/> 1000 Club <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate <input type="checkbox"/> 1000 Club Life <input type="checkbox"/> Youth <input type="checkbox"/> Macaoka Fellow <input type="checkbox"/> Booster <input type="checkbox"/> National Board Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____		Make check payable to: JACL 2000 MAIL CHECK and FORM together To pay by charge card Print Legibly Cardholder's Name _____ MasterCard or Visa (circle one) _____ Account Number _____ Expiration Date _____ Signature _____	
Register early to save money! *Early Bird* postmark deadline April 30, 2000			
PACKAGE REGISTRATION (includes Individual Events listed below)			
	Before	After 4/30	
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Package	\$195	\$245	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular with Youth Luncheon	\$220	\$280	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Package	\$100	\$125	\$ _____
INDIVIDUAL EVENTS (included in Package Registration)			
<input type="checkbox"/> All Meetings	\$ 40	\$ 45	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> One Day Meeting	\$ 20ea	\$ 25ea	\$ _____
Day of Attendance (Circle day) Tu We Th FR SA			
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshops	\$ 20	\$ 25	\$ _____
Complete on-site Workshop Registration Form			
<input type="checkbox"/> Monterey Bay Aquarium	\$ 60	\$ 75	\$ _____
Welcome Mixer			
<input type="checkbox"/> Awards Luncheon	\$ 45	\$ 50	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Seyonara Banquet	\$ 65	\$ 75	\$ _____
SPECIAL EVENTS			
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Luncheon	\$ 25	\$ 35	\$ _____
(Included in Youth Package) Delegates are encouraged to attend			
<input type="checkbox"/> Golf Tournament	\$ 75	\$ 100	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Veterans' Tribute Dinner	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ _____
For office use only:		Date Received _____ Check Number _____ Charge Card _____ Amount _____ Yes/No _____ By: _____	

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

rates are:

Register before APRIL 30, 2000 to take advantage of reduced registration fees and discounts on special events. Please indicate your choice of package and/or individual and special events. Amounts listed will be available during the convention at the registration and hospitality tables.

Package Registration
The Regular Convention Package admits registered badge holders to all National Council business sessions, workshops, oralator competition, Welcome Mixer, Awards Luncheon and Seyonara Banquet. The Youth Package includes the above plus the Youth Luncheon. The Regular & Youth Luncheon Package is the Regular Package plus the Youth Luncheon.

Individual Event Registration
Registration is available for those interested in attending only specific convention events. A registration fee of \$20 is required for admission to exhibits, business sessions or workshops on a per-day basis. Badges must be worn.

Cancellation Policy
Written cancellation requests received by May 31 will be refunded in full. Cancellations received after that date will be denied and residual amount will become a charitable contribution to JACL. There will be no partial refunds if a registrant does not attend all functions.

Hotel Registration
A block of rooms have been reserved for the convention. Reserve early to ensure a room and the convention rates. Call the DoubleTree Hotel directly at (831) 649-4511 for reservations. Be sure to mention that you are attending the JACL National Convention. Reservations must be made by May 31, 2000 to reserve the rates. Convention room

Single/Double Occupancy \$109
Additional occupancy/beds \$20

DoubleTree Hotel at Fisherman's Wharf
Two Portola Plaza
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 649-4511
Fax (831) 649-4115
www.doubletreemonterey.com

Air Travel
United Airlines is the official airline of the 2080 JACL National Convention. Receive a 5% discount on the lowest published airfare. Make your reservations at least 60 days in advance to receive an additional 5% discount. When you make your reservations with the airline or your travel agent, please refer to United Airlines meeting ID number 594LSL.
United Airlines (800) 521-4041

Rental Cars
Rental cars are available at airports. Use your JACL Hertz Car Rental card for a discount.

Transportation
Taxi service is available for transportation from the Monterey Peninsula Airport to the hotel. Transportation from San Francisco Airport or San Jose Airport is available through Monterey-Salinas Airport, at a cost of about \$30 per person, lower for large groups.
Call (831) 883-2871 for details and scheduled times.

For further information call:

Larry Oda (831) 758-7107 Days
(831) 375-3314 Eve.
e-mail: tsuneo1@aol.com
Kaz Matsuyama (831) 649-0704
e-mail: KAZNNIN@aol.com

UPS Donates \$15,000 to National JACL

National JACL recently received a \$15,000 grant from the UPS foundation, the charitable arm of United Parcel Service. The grant will be used to support national JACL and national JACL youth programs.

"We are very proud to support national JACL's youth programs and pleased that we can play a role in young Asian Americans who aspire to leadership roles in the larger society," said Corporate Community Relations Director Fred Fernandez.

Founded in 1951 and based in Atlanta, Ga., the UPS Foundation identifies specific areas where its support will clearly impact social issues. "UPS has been a longtime friend and supporter of JACL programs. Their many, many years of support of national JACL programs include scholarships, oratorical contest, hate crimes and general support," said John Tateishi, JACL national executive director.

The UPS Foundation has a unique philanthropic structure

that distributed approximately \$36.3 million in 1996 throughout the United States and internationally. Of that, over \$20.8 million was awarded through the corporate grant program, \$3.1 million was distributed through the regional/district grant program, \$8.2 million to United Way and \$4.2 million in local charitable giving.

"United Parcel Service delivers much more than 12 million packages each day. We deliver support to communities worldwide," said Even Cooper, executive director of the UPS Foundation. "By 'Support,' we mean much more than financial support. We mean long-standing programs to ensure the safety and well-being of our employees and the communities we serve, as well as hands-on community service through programs that reinforce our commitment to education and urgent human welfare needs. We are delighted that national JACL shares our vision of improving our communities." ■

Union Bank of California Donates \$10,000 to Nikkei 2000 Conference

Union Bank of California recently contributed \$10,000 to support the Nikkei 2000 Conference, April 27-30 in San Francisco.

The conference will address the vision of the Japanese American community of the 21st century and is expected to draw 500 attendees from across the United States and some foreign countries.

Conference co-chairs Steve Nakajo, Paul Osaki and Laura Takeuchi emphasized that this

will be a working conference where participants will not just passively listen to speakers, but will actively engage in "community building" dialogue in discussing the issues and challenges facing the general Nikkei community.

The Nikkei 2000 Conference is being organized by the California Japanese American Community Leadership Council.

Additional information can be obtained by calling the JCCNC at 415/567-5505. ■

Florin's 18th Annual Time of Remembrance

"Voices from the Past: Lessons for the Future" was the theme chosen by the JACL Florin chapter as it held its 18th annual Time of Remembrance (TOR) program on March 4 at the Florin Buddhist Church's YBA Hall.

The program was in remembrance of the experiences of the Issei and Nisei who endured immigration, settlement and internment, as well as a tribute to the chapter's ongoing work in collecting oral histories from Nikkei and non-Nikkei from the surrounding communities.

More than 200 persons entered the exhibit and program hall through a life-size replica of a camp barrack which contained steel and canvas cots, mattresses, a chair and chest of drawers made from scrap lumber, a hanging light bulb and blankets hung as partitions. Once inside the hall, a historical collection of artifacts, photographs, books, posters and pictorial exhibit were displayed on the walls, tables and display boards.

The program's site had served as the assembly point for the Florin Japanese American community's internment as directed by Executive Order 9066. The contents of the exhibit change with each year according to the theme.

Lawson Fusao Inada, Professor at Southern Oregon University in Ashland, writer and poet, wrote excerpts from the seventy-plus oral histories with his own poetry on the internment experience. Inada, who was interned in Jerome and Amache, read the male voices, while Patricia Wakida, a Yonsei,



Lawson Inada accepts a Daruma from Christine Umeda at the Florin JACL's 18th annual Time of Remembrance.

read the female voices.

The Community Friend Award was presented to George S. Oki, Sr., whose company Oki Nursery provided employment for many JAs, but especially for the elderly, to ensure they worked enough quarters to collect Social Security. The Educator's Award went to the Tanaka sisters, Myrtle Furukawa, Myrna Hitomi and Teri Mizusaka, and teachers of the Florin Buddhist Language School.

Completed oral history books were presented to Shuki Hayashi and Robert Ichiji Kashiwagi. Other oral histories, for Bill Hosokawa and Kenneth Kaneto Kinoshiita, were completed but not presented because of travel constraints.

Florin's own Tom Nakashima, radio personality with FM 96.9, Eagle, a consummate master of ceremonies, provided continuity throughout the program. Nakashima has maintained his involvement with the program

since its inception in 1983.

The planning committee members were Ernest Abe, George Furukawa, Frank and Joanne Iritani, Amos and Mary Freeman, Bill Kashiwagi, Sam Kashiwagi, Ted Kobata, Kern Kono, Lenny Mizusaka, Tom Nakashima, Andy Noguchi, Heidi Sakazaki, Marielle Tsukamoto, Stan Umeda, and chair Christine Umeda.

"Justice is a Matter of Continuing Education" is the abiding theme for all of the Florin chapter's programs and activities related to the Time of Remembrance since its inception under the guidance and leadership of Mary Tsukamoto. The program is geared to educate the audience through the involvement of their intellect, senses and emotions.

Planning begins immediately for the next event. Call 916/427-2841 to suggest a theme, a speaker, or to participate in the planning meetings. ■

Twin Cities Chapter Participates in Social Studies Conference

Forty-seven teachers attended a workshop coordinated by the JACL Twin Cities chapter titled, "Teaching the Japanese American Internment Experience and World War II," at the Minnesota Council of the Social Studies 2000 Spring Conference on March 2.

Speakers were Sally Sudo, chair of the TC education committee, and Tom Ohno, both former internees and retired teachers. Historical background and perspectives, personal experiences, and lesson plan examples were shared in the one-and-a-half-hour session.

The JACL national education committee's curriculum and resource guide, a teacher guide developed by the National Japanese American Historical Society, and a packet containing additional resources and handouts were



PHOTO: CHERYL HIRATA-DULAS.

Sally Sudo, TC education committee chair, and Tom Ohno, speakers at the statewide social studies teacher's conference.

distributed. The chapter's collection of books, teacher guides, videos, and archival photographs were on display.

Funding for this workshop was provided by the JACL Legacy Fund. The TC chapter has also formerly participated in two all-

day workshops. The first was held in June 1998 as part of JACL's NISEI project funded by the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund. The second, held in February 1999, also received funding from the JACL Legacy Fund. ■

WSU Asian Pacific American Awareness Month Continues

Asian Pacific American Month activities continue at Washington State University with a workshop on the Korean War.

The theme for the month, the fourth annual such event at the university, is "Celebrating Our Heritage Towards the New Millennium."

Activities during the month include:

- April 15, 6 p.m., Hui Hau'oli O Hawai'i, WSU's Hawaiian club, presents its annual luau. The theme is "2000 Years of Hawaii's History." It will be held in Pullman's Lincoln Middle School gymnasium.

- April 19, 6 p.m., Filipino Culture Night, presented by FASA/Filipino American Student Association, will be held in the Stephenson residential complex's Downunder.

- April 19-21, an Asian American/Pacific Islander-sponsored conference, "Shaping High School Asian Pacific Islanders for the Next Generation," will be held in the CUB.

- April 20, 7 p.m., the Los An-

geles-based Asian American performing theatre ensemble Here and Now will perform in the CUB Auditorium.

- April 22, 7 p.m., the Asian Pacific American Awareness

Month closing banquet will be held in the CUB Cascade Room.

For additional information, contact the Asian American/Pacific Islander Student Center, 509/335-1986. ■

Sac'to JACL Honors Nao Takasugi



PHOTO: ADAM GOTTLEB

The Sacramento JACL and Anheuser-Busch hosted a reception on March 29 in honor of former Assemblyman Nao Takasugi, who was recently profiled in Tom Brokaw's bestseller, "The Greatest Generation." Many legislators and Asian Pacific American community leaders were in attendance to honor Takasugi for his many years of public service in state and local government. Pictured above from left to right are Nao Takasugi and Toko Fuji, vice president of the Sacramento JACL. ■

Blue Shield of California offers group health care coverage to current JACL members age 18 and over who reside in California. Plans may include a wide range of benefits, including vision care, worldwide emergency coverage, dental care, prescription drug benefits and more. For more information about these plans, call the JACL Health Benefits Trust today at 1-800-400-6633.

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From the Frying Pan

By Bill Hosokawa

It's Time to Move On

The intelligence (a word used advisedly) from Washington is that the Feds, who have life or death authority over matters, agree it's okay to have Mike Masaoka's name and a few of his words on the National Japanese American Memorial.

Thus ends, I hope, a chapter of Japanese American history reminiscent of a kabuki vendetta. On with the memorial's dedication celebration.

It is passing strange that Mike Masaoka should become such a controversial figure years after his death. In 1942, as JACL's national secretary, he was made spokesman for the Japanese American community by federal authorities who had no idea who else to talk to.

The vast majority of JAs — fearful and confused — were grateful at that time to have Masaoka in that role. And when confronted by the inevitability of mass incarceration, JACL counseled acceptance of an abhorrent and obviously illegal mandate as the alternative to the blood that the Army was ready to spill.

A half century later one of the complaints against Masaoka and the decision to cooperate is that he was not authorized to speak for JAs. Do the complainants think an election for spokesman would have been held and a plebiscite conducted to set policy?

Decades ago Masaoka himself proposed the memorial as a tribute to Japanese American servicemen who gave their lives in World War II. A group of veterans picked up the idea. When the concept of the memorial was changed as required by federal regulation, and the project became much broader than first projected, a group of volunteers

joined with the vets to form the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation and sought public support. By then Masaoka was dead. The response to the appeal for funds was little short of astonishing. More than 20,000 contributors nationwide, most of them JAs, gave in excess of 10 million dollars.

History shows that the cold marble of memorials can stir hot controversy. There is argument even today that the well-loved inscription on the venerable Statue of Liberty is inappropriate because it was intended originally to celebrate not immigrants but the freedom of black slaves. The Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial has stirred passionate disagreement. And within memory is the bitterness that greeted the stark, brooding, now-revered Vietnam Memorial.

The most outspoken opponents of Masaoka on the memorial were primarily younger JAs with no firsthand knowledge of the years of war and imprisonment. Their tactic was to bombard the press — which dutifully published it, with rhetoric that succeeded in dividing the community.

As the controversy raged, it became obvious opposition was less to the words chosen for the inscription than mention of JACL and Masaoka's links with it. In the approved version, Masaoka is identified as a soldier and civil rights advocate with no reference to JACL. It was not a good compromise.

Oddly enough a minority of the NJAMP was involved in the No-to-Masaoka movement. One member coldly threatened legal action to block the Masaoka quotation even though the board had

endorsed it several times, most lately by a vote of 27 to 6 with one abstention. If a majority of the board can't make binding decisions, who can? At this point there is no indication that the federal agency, which has found Masaoka worthy of memorialization, will be made party to the suit if and when it is filed.

The finest words of wisdom to come out of this tawdry mess were written by one of Mike's nieces, Jan Masaoka, in a letter published in the *San Francisco Examiner*. She wrote:

"The real, lasting tragedy of internment was its power to divide our community against itself, a division that is still hurtful and damaging. Each person at that time was forced to make terrible choices about complicated matters, and with multiple and complex motivations. The crime was that we were forced to such decision, not that any of us caught in the context of the time made them."

"Rather than continue to fight old battles we should see everyone — the no-nos, the yes-yesses, the conscientious objectors, the 442 soldiers, the Japanese American Citizens League leaders, the families and children — as victims. And we should refuse to perpetuate our victimhood by damning one another."

It is time to bring down the curtain on the kabuki drama and prepare for the celebratory dedication. The JA community deserves it. It's been a long time since Feb. 19, 1942, E.O. 9066, and an armchair general named DeWitt.

(Bill Hosokawa's column will appear from time to time.)



East Wind

By Bill Marutani

The Postmaster

AS I RECALL I was in the second grade when, along with my classmates, I shook hands with Postmaster General James A. Farley at the Kent (Washington) post office. Of rotund build, he was the cartoon epitome of a politician, which he very much was. The sinecure of the cabinet post of postmaster general traditionally being awarded to the chieftain of the political party that won the election, Mr. Farley was a member of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's cabinet. I've often wondered what Mr. Farley had hoped to gain shaking hands of tots who had more than a dozen years to go before becoming eligible to vote. However, in retrospect, Mr. Farley must have possessed political perspicacity far beyond the ken of even the most politically astute: Who would have thought that FDR would remain endorsed in the presidency for more than a dozen years, running (and winning) his fourth term as late as 1944? Some may point out that Farley was seeking to reach the parents of those second-graders, parents who would learn that evening about their child shaking the hand of a cabinet officer.

Fine and dandy, except in my case our Issei parents being

barred by law from attaining U.S. citizenship, they were denied access to the ballot.

OUR ISSEI FOLKS showed great respect for those possessing political power. If one could claim having "connections" (whatever that means) even at the lowest rung, such as a ward committeeman, that was regarded with a touch of awe. In my hometown of Kent, just being able to claim friendship with the police chief's (Hoffman) son was a bragging point. Even in later postwar periods, there was a time when having some low-level county official as a main speaker at a Nikkei dinner meeting was considered a coup. Seems pathetic by today's standards.

But that was the way it once was.

SINCE THE DAY I shook hands with Postmaster Farley, the lot of the Nikkei has changed. Dramatically so. Today Nikkei themselves hold high positions, consort with cabinet members as well as the president. (U.S. Senator Spark M. Matsunaga, Hawaii, related an anecdote of being invited to a White House reception for some Japanese dignitaries. Among those coming through

the reception line was — as I best recall — Secretary of State Alexander Haig. When Haig reached Sen. Matsunaga, the secretary welcomed him to this country. Whereupon, Sparky (no doubt with that mischievous twinkle in his eye) reminded Haig that Matsunaga had nonetheless had the pleasure of casting a vote in the U.S. Senate for Haig's confirmation. Sparky relished relating this incident as manifested by his countenance lighting up.) An Asian American has been elected to a governorship on the mainland. In eastern United States we now have AAs presiding as judges in courts of record, not only at the state level but also at the federal level. And I fully anticipate that the trend will permeate into upper echelons of the judicial system. Even that second-grader who shook hands with the postmaster general sought to accelerate the process a bit by making a run in 1983 for a seat on the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. He discovered that endorsements of the state bar association as well as the newspapers from both ends of the state are not enough to overcome the absence of statewide political party endorsement.

Lesson: Politics 101. ■

JAKWV to Dedicate Memorial in Korea

The Japanese American Korean War Veterans (JAKWV) will build a memorial dedicated to the 247 Americans of Japanese Ancestry (AJA) who were killed or missing in action during the Korean War, 1950 to 1953, it was announced March 22 at a press conference held in the National Japanese American War Memorial Court at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Los Angeles. The memorial will be built at Imjin-Gak, Paju City, Kyonggi Province, Korea, and will be dedicated in May 2001.

draws an average of 1,200,000 Korean and international visitors annually.

Measuring 50.7 inches across and 76.8 inches from the ground level to the top, the black granite memorial will contain the names of each of the 247 Japanese American KIA's and MIA's from the Korean War. The JAKWV has almost achieved its fund-raising goal for the monument.

Although the monument will be completed by April 25 of this year, Tona explained that it will not be officially dedicated until May 2001, when the JAKWV



Edward M. Nakata, JAKWV vice president and chairman of the Korea Memorial Committee (left) and Minoru Tona, JAKWV vice president and member of the memorial committee, stand where a memorial to Americans of Japanese Ancestry killed or missing in action in the Korean War will be located in the Imjin-Gak memorial park in Paju City, Korea. In the foreground is a monument to the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team of the U.S. Army.

Present at the press conference were Consul Myongbae Kim of the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Los Angeles, Chairman Kap-jong Chi of the UN Korean War Association, who flew in from Seoul, and President Nan-tai Cho of the Korean Veterans Association, Western United States. Edward M. Nakata, JAKWV vice president and chairman of the Korea Memorial Committee, emceed the program.

Minoru Tona, JAKWV vice president and member of the memorial committee, related that with the year 2000 marking the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War, the JAKWV decided to build a memorial to their fallen comrades in Korea.

The memorial will be located at Imjin-Gak, a memorial park 27 miles north of Seoul and five miles south of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), adjacent to the Freedom Bridge, and is part of the Unification and National Security Tourist site. The park

plans to send a large delegation to Korea. He said the monument will help to explain to the people of Korea that there were Japanese Americans who fought for their freedom and independence and hopefully help bring closure for relatives and friends of JAs missing in action by providing a memorial in the land where they fell.

"The Korean people are grateful to the UN soldiers who helped protect us from communism. They will never forget the contributions of these soldiers who gave their lives for us," said President Nan-tai Cho of the Korean Veterans Association, Western United States.

The JAKWV is having a 50th anniversary dinner on April 28 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Los Angeles. The proceeds from the event will be used to help pay for the building of the memorial in Korea. For additional information on the dinner, contact Robert Wada, 410 W. Amerige Ave., Fullerton, CA 92632, 714/992-5461 or fax: 714/535-9761. ■

San Jose to Host Nikkei Matsuri 2000

The Nikkei Matsuri Committee of San Jose, Calif., will celebrate two weekends of pride and culture with Nikkei Matsuri 2000.

The festival will be held on April 30, and will consist of traditional food, arts and crafts and performing arts. To commemorate the millennium this year, the committee has added several events leading up to San Jose Japantown's annual cultural festival.

On Saturday, April 22, there will be an afternoon celebration of "Our Living Treasures," where the San Jose Nikkei community is proud to honor 10 local centenarians and their families at a luncheon at the DoubleTree Hotel. A video of their stories and lives will be shown during this special occasion.

The 10 honorees for this inaugural community-wide celebration will be: Kumi Doi, I.K. Ishimatsu, Kikuyu Kumagai, Moto Ono, Haruyo Ouchida, Henry Suzuki, Yoshie Terakawa and Hisako Yamamoto, Kima Konatsu and Uta Kodama.

On Saturday, April 29, there will be a day of hands-on cultural workshops called "Reflections of

Nihonmachi."

It will be a day to share cultural activities with local performing arts groups and craftspeople, experience Japanese folk arranging or learn classical dance, watch master chefs make sushi and watch Japanese dolls being created, all in a hands-on environment.

On Sunday, April 30, there will be a day-long celebration of Japanese American foods, performing arts, and craft items from local vendors as well as vendors from Southern California and Hawaii.

Community organizations including churches, youth groups and cultural groups will gather together to celebrate and share their Nikkei heritage.

Nikkei Matsuri is located in the heart of San Jose Japantown along Jackson Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets. Admission is free. The festival is open from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Registration forms for the luncheon as well as schedules for all activities will be announced on the committee's Web-site: www.pggroup.com/nikkeimatsuri. ■

ITALY

(Continued from page 1)

said, "I never thought I'd come back because we were there to sacrifice our lives."

For this reason, Sakamoto got in a habit of giving away his belongings since he felt a dead soldier didn't need material goods. He even admitted to secretly giving away food to some of the German prisoners of war on condition that they "not say I gave it to you."

"It wasn't their fault [the war happened]," said Sakamoto. "They were given orders. They just had to do what they were told."

As fate would have it, both Bugliani and Sakamoto survived the war. Sakamoto returned to Hawaii and worked for the city and county of Honolulu until his retirement.

As for Bugliani, he made his way to the United States. Although born in Italy, Bugliani was an American citizen since his father, a World War I veteran, became a naturalized American citizen.

Bugliani almost seemed destined for the United States upon his birth since he was named after America. (The "o" ending denotes a masculine ending in the Italian language.)

A few months after Bugliani landed in America, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in the Korean War. Later, he received his clearance as an interpreter and was sent to Occupied Austria, Germany and Italy.

After his two year stint in the military, Bugliani returned to the United States where he held down various jobs while attending night school through the GI Bill. After earning a bachelor and masters degree in business administration from Northwestern, Bugliani's instructors urged him to attend college full-time for a doctorate degree.

Thus, Bugliani quit a lucrative job in the travel industry and earned his doctorate in Spanish and Italian literature from Northwestern University. From there, he taught at various places, eventually ending up at the University of Illinois. But in 1980, Bugliani left academics to reenter the business world as a wholesale jeweler.

December 1991, during the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Bugliani's war experiences came back to him when he saw a news clip of Sam Yoshinari, a World War II Nisei veteran, being interviewed on TV.

A few days later, Bugliani, while going to purchase an air fil-

ter for his car, chanced by a store called "Articles of War." The name caught his attention and he dropped in. As it turned out, this was a bookstore that specialized in military memorabilia. Bugliani inquired about the Japanese American soldiers and also about the African American 92nd "Buffalo" Division, which had also fought in Italy. Bugliani struck out on both accounts, but the store owner asked Bugliani to leave his name and number.

A few days later, the store owner called Bugliani and urged him to contact Ed Kelley, who had fought in Italy with the 34th Division. Kelley, in turn, invited Bugliani to join him as a member of the Chicago Nisei Post of the American Legion, which Bugliani eventually did, even becoming the Nisei Post's commander.

Then in 1992, Bugliani purchased a book, which listed all the names of the Nisei men who had served during WWII. Sure enough, Bugliani found his name. The soldier was listed as Paul T. Sakamoto, Technician 5, Headquarters Company, 100th Battalion.

Armed with only the knowledge that a high concentration of JAs lived on the West Coast and in Hawaii, Bugliani started making cold calls. "I made so many telephone calls," said Bugliani. "And each time, I'd try to tell my story quickly so the person on the side wouldn't hang up on me. This went on and on until I spoke with Mrs. Akiko Nosaka."

Nosaka, with Hawaii's Club 100, informed Bugliani that the man he was seeking had an unlisted phone number and referred him to Motoyoshi Tanaka, who was Sakamoto's bowling buddy on the Big Island.

Bugliani contacted Tanaka who gave him Sakamoto's number and address. Bugliani dialed the number and spoke with someone who promptly told him there was no Paul Sakamoto at that number.

It took a few days for Bugliani to muster enough energy to call Tanaka again. As it turned out, the last two digits on the phone number that Tanaka gave Bugliani were wrong.

After the initial mishap, Bugliani was finally able to talk to the man whose simple gestures had touched his heart.

One of the first things Bugliani asked Sakamoto was why he had given Bugliani his hat. Sakamoto, although he could not specifically remember Bugliani, told him he gave away his material possessions in preparation for death.

"I thought I was going to die that day," said Sakamoto. "If I

died, I wouldn't need those things anymore."

In 1995, the two had their first face-to-face meeting since the war when Bugliani flew out to Hawaii. Bugliani rented a car and drove across the Big Island, assuring Sakamoto, who had sent a recent photo of himself, that he would find the Nisei's home.

When Bugliani finally located Sakamoto's home, the Nisei was standing outside waiting for him. An emotional reunion ensued.

It was from this event that Bugliani was inspired to push for a creation in Italy of a monument and possibly a museum in honor of the Nisei soldiers.

Bugliani immediately contacted his boyhood friend Paolo Tummasi, a president of a bank in Italy, and convinced him to get the ball rolling. Tummasi's brother, Marcello, a renowned sculptor in Pietrasanta, Italy, volunteered to work on the monument pro bono.

The monument will include a bronze, almost six-foot high, sculpture of Mumori to symbolize all Nisei soldiers who fought in Italy. Nearby will be a bas relief depicting the destruction of the war, the mountains where the Nisei men fought, the olive trees which were both real and symbolic of peace and a mother holding up a child to represent the future.

Bugliani and Tummasi, within a span of three years, were able to collect funds to purchase land for the monument and secure the support of the local politicians and residents. Local dignitaries and possibly the Italian president are expected to attend the April 25 monument unveiling.

As for Sakamoto, he will not be attending the Pietrasanta ceremony. The 83-year-old said the pain in his knees becomes even more painful when he travels. He blames the problem to the extraordinary strain placed upon them during the war.

"We had to hike for miles over rough land and up mountains, carrying these heavy supplies and weapons and ammunition and even dead bodies," recalled Sakamoto. "And if you fell, you just had to get back up again. It was hard on the body, hard on the knees."

The widower, who lost his wife Jane three years ago, often visits the cemetery in memory of his wife and fallen comrades. "When I think about my friends, it gets me down," said Sakamoto. "But I hope they're resting in peace in heaven or wherever." ■

Anyone interested in attending the Pietrasanta, Italy, dedication on April 25, should contact Chase Travel at 818/246-1662 or 800/304-5100.

Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Ina, Shizuko, 83, San Francisco, March 16; Seattle-born, Japan educated; survived by sons Kenny and wife Yvonne, Michael and wife Vickie, Satsuki; daughter Carey Covey; 7 g.; brother Sam and Jim Mitsui; sisters Kim Nakanishi, Sumiko Hoshino; predeceased by husband Itaru.

Ishizu, Beverly Fumi, 86, San Leandro, March 12; survived by daughter Deanne Shimizu and husband Keiji; sons Byron and wife Judy, Gaylan and wife Lily; 9 g.; sister Dorothy Wehara; predeceased by husband Charles.

Kubose, Rev. Guomay, 94, Chicago, March 29; San Francisco-born; Heart Mountain internee, author, pioneer in the Americanization of Buddhism; recipient of the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Fifth Class, from the Emperor of Japan; survived by wife Minnie, son Dr. Don and wife Joyce Okamura, Rev. Dr. Koyo Sunnan and wife Adrienne Kimura, daughter Joyce Soho and husband Robert Prossie; 5 g.; 4 ggs.

Mera, Mary Mielko, 79, Culver City, March 22; Madera-born; survived by husband James Hideo; son Richard; daughters Ariene Wada and husband John (Chicago), Jean Gima and husband Len; 4 g.; brother Tom Okano (Fresno); sisters Alice Yamada and husband Yoshito (Kingsburg), Edith Mikamo and husband Art.

Moriguchi, June, 69, San Francisco, March 21; San Francisco-born; survived by son Randy Jong and wife Judy; daughters Doreen Lew and husband John (Castro Valley), Karen Jong-On, Nancy Jong; 6 g.; sisters Lilly Campos, Katherine Baishiki, Barbara Iwai.

Nagatomo, Tomiko, 71, Santa Monica, March 25; Los Angeles-born; survived by sister Nobuko Kamikihara, nieces and nephews.

Nishinaka, George Masatoshi, 76, Los Angeles, March 21; Selma-born; WWII 442nd RCT (H Co.) veteran; survived by sons Robert and wife Gail, James, Randall and wife Barbara, Mark, Wesley and wife Martha, Andrew; daughters Debra Skelton and husband Keith, Victoria Leon and husband Bernard; 11 g.; sister Eiko Rose Ito and husband Tom; brother Frank and wife Sally.

Obuchi, Akira, San Mateo, March 17; Selma-born; survived by son Roy T.; parents Tatsuzo and Onoe; brother Willis; sisters Shizuka, Teruko; sisters-in-law Chieko, Richiko; predeceased by sister Kyoko, brothers Fred and Paul.

Sumida, Yoshiye, 96, Los Angeles, March 19; Kumamoto-born; survived by son Henry Sumida; 2 g.; 4 ggs.

Takakura, Kiyoko, 89, San Francisco, March 17; survived by son Raymond Shizuo Kawamoto and wife Kaye; daughter-in-law Reiko Kawamoto; step-son Donald Takakura and wife Sandi; 6 g.; 7 gcs; sisters Pat Honda, Jane Yamashita, Ruth Kunimura.

Takeuchi, Hisaji, 82, San Francisco, March 14; survived by wife Kazuko; son Dennis; daughters Diane and Cynthia Takeuchi.

Tanaka, Seiichi, 88, Mountain View, March 21; survived by sons James Isao and wife Taiguko, Charlie and wife Kay, Richard Koichiro and wife Mayumi, Richard "Dick" and wife Junko, Sam and wife Teruko; 15 g.; 4 ggs.

Tatsumi, Hiroshi Frank, 70,

Orange, March 15; Los Angeles-born; survived by wife Yoshiko; daughter Mari Tatsumi; mother Kimie Tatsumi; sister Sumiko Mattingly; brother-in-law Toshio Tanaka and wife Hisea; sisters-in-law Hideo Hiroshima and husband Howard, Tokuko Tanaka, Fumiko Takenaka and husband George.

Umekita, Rev. Nobuo, 63, San Mateo, March 21; survived by wife Miyoko; daughter Kaori; brother Hayao and wife Noriko; brothers in Japan: Masami and wife Sui, Yasuo and wife Atsuko; sister Kuniko Matsuura and husband Kiyoshi.

Yamaguchi, Yoshimi, 57, Foster City, March 25; Korea-born; survived by husband Takumi; daughters Midori Gray and husband Tom, Linda Stenzel and husband Mike; gcs; brothers Keiji Muraana and wife Leticia, Eitaro Muraana and wife Priscilla, Alfred Muraana and wife Joy; sister-in-law Hideo Dairokun; brothers-in-law Etsuo Yamaguchi and wife Atsuko, Tadashi Yamaguchi and wife Noriko, Osamu Yamaguchi and wife Louise.

This compilation appears on a space-available basis at no cost. Printed obituaries from your newspaper are welcome. "Death Notices," 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.

Yamane, Masako, 97, Fresno, March 16; Tottori-born; survived by daughter Kinuko Hayashi and husband Shigeo; sons Ken and wife Doris, Eiji, Hideo and wife Keiko; 9 g.; 9 gcs.

Yuba, George Toshishige, 87, Alhambra, March 21; Tokyo-born; survived by wife Mary; sons Anthony and wife Yoshiko, Gregory and wife Cecilia; daughter Kathleen Fujikawa and husband Bruce; 4 g.; 2 ggs.; sister Mary Zoriki and husband Isidor; brother Arthur and wife Martha. ■

DEATH NOTICE

TSUGEJI "ALICE" IJIMA SHIGEMI

ATLANTA, Ga.—Born in Oakland, Calif. Tsugeji "Alice" Ijima Shigemi, 85, passed away peacefully on April 1. Surviving family from Atlanta includes husband Shigeo "Lee" Shigemi; daughters Virginia Brinkley, Angela Keating and husband Michael; granddaughter Penny Brinkley. Other surviving family includes: sisters Mikiaki Aki and husband Rev. George, Claremont, Calif., Mayme Harris, Larkspur, Calif., brothers Tak Ijima and wife Kazu, New York, Shori Ijima and wife Yoshiko, Modesto, Calif., Isaac Ijima and wife Shizu, W. St. Paul, Minn.; 13 nieces and nephews, and numerous grand-nieces and grand-nephews. A memorial service was held on April 10 in Atlanta. Her final resting place is Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D.C. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the World War II Memorial, P.O. Box 96766, Washington, D.C. 20090-6766.

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CCLPEP Grant Recipient Develops High School Curriculum

The Stanford Program on International and Cross-cultural Education (SPICE), a recipient of a 1999 California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP) grant, recently began the development of a high school curriculum unit that introduces the subject of the Japanese American incarceration and experience before, during and after World War II.

The unit focuses on the issue of civil rights, using the internment and post-internment era to encourage students in the California metropolitan area and inner-city high schools to contextualize it within the civil rights issues affecting them and their communities today.

The unit consists of seven lessons: historical context for JA internment, internment years, JAs and the military, the resisters, Japanese Latin American internment, redress and contemporary U.S.-Japan relations and JAs.

This chapter of U.S. history has largely been ignored in history textbooks and in the general high school curriculum. SPICE director Gary Mukai plans to use an interdisciplinary approach to reach a diverse audience of students.

Those who participated in developing the curriculum unit include Mukai; Dr. Gordon Chang, Stanford History Department; Shig Doi, 442nd veteran; Diane Matsuda, CCLPEP director; Dr. Daniel Okimoto, Stanford Political Science Department; Dr. Ruth Okimoto, artist; Dr. John Sadanaga, 442nd veteran; Art Shibeyama, former WWII JLA intern; Lois Takaoka, assistant director of Stanford's Institute for International Studies (IIS); and Roy Uye-hata, MIS veteran. Steve Yoda, a Stanford graduate student in the history department, is serving as the research assistant on this project.

SPICE is a program of the IIS and has been developing curricula

for schools since 1973. Once the curriculum unit is complete, Mukai will conduct teacher staff development programs that introduce JA internment to both foreign cities as well as major cities in the U.S. Programs have already been held in Honolulu, Los Angeles, New York, Beijing, Seoul, Jakarta, Manila, and Bangkok.

The project aims to maximize the long-term educational impact of creating a legacy of remembrance of JA internment through the teaching and learning from the curriculum in years to come. If students can apply lessons learned from civil rights violations that occurred during the internment period in confronting civil rights violations in their own lives, a legacy will have been established.

SPICE is confident that it can eventually disseminate the unit not only to every California high school, but to every high school in the United States. ■

JA TEEN

(Continued from page 1)

style that caught the attention of A&R representatives at Columbia Records, Hirazumi is currently working in the studio with producer Walter Thompson on a full-length demo, which may well position her to emerge as the next teen sensation. Already, she's been caught off guard by people asking for pictures and autographs. "When you get that recognition, the feeling is so inexplicable."

Her introduction to the entertainment world came only a couple of years ago in a national commercial for "House Curry," in which she was cast alongside her entire family, her father Gary, her mother Junko and her two younger sisters Keli, 15, and Jill, 14.

Even though they initially had doubts about her aspirations, Hirazumi credits her parents for keeping her grounded and supporting her both emotionally and financially. "My parents are a big part of my career, my entertainment life. They kind of act as my consultants," she said. "At first, they were a little skeptical, a little apprehensive, because it didn't really look like a promising career."

"There was actually a lot of conflict as far as opinions over how to handle me in this whole acting thing," she added, partly because her Shin Issei mom is more traditional than her Sasei dad. "I think they thought I was going through a phase. It took a while for them to actually let me take acting classes, but they let me do it as long as I kept my grades up."

The "phase" turned into a full-time job, however, and between au-

ditors and shoots, Hirazumi attempts to juggle life as a student at El Camino College, majoring in film and TV production. Sometimes it's really draining, she said, but I'm sticking it out.

That perseverance, as well as her showbiz savvy, has helped her to deal with many of the downsides of the profession, such as grueling hours on sets, driving to and from different auditions and agencies and expenses for headshots and promotional items.

Hirazumi also described a classic "casting couch" experience in which a producer came on to her during an audition, asking her to re-enact with him an intimate scene that was in the script. She refused and reported him to the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) union. Because these types of incidents do happen, especially to young women hoping for a big break, she stressed the importance of knowing your own boundaries and not allowing anyone to take advantage of you. For herself, she does not do any scenes requiring nudity.

Of course, being an actor of Asian descent presents an entirely different set of problems as well. "Recently," Hirazumi said, "I went on an audition for a series pilot. We did the reading and all of a sudden they asked, 'Can you translate that

into Chinese?' And I said, 'I'm not Chinese.' And they said, 'Well, you're Asian aren't you?' And I said, 'Well, yeah, but I don't speak Chinese.' It's so frustrating, but you're only option is to be honest."

Although there have been various occasions on which she was asked to revert to a stereotype, she said the negatives generally don't outweigh the positives. It's all a matter of perspective, according to Hirazumi. "I feel so special sometimes when I'm the only Asian girl in a predominantly white cast."

"But you gotta stay humble and keep at it. Never think that you're too good for a part. You've got to be parts, and I've heard people turn them down because they think it's not worth their time. But, still, I never miss an opportunity because that opportunity can lead to something else," she said.

"I know one thing for sure. This career path, I just feel so passionate about it. There's nothing else I think about all the time, everyday."

Tentatively due for release this summer, look out for Hirazumi's latest project, a teen comedy feature film called "100 Girls," co-starring Larisa Oleynik ("10 Things I Hate About You") and Jaime Pressly ("Jack & Jill").



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TAUCK COLORADO NATIONAL PARKS (10 days)	SEPT 14
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Nisei Week Japanese Festival to Celebrate its 60th Anniversary

The Nisei Week Japanese Festival celebrates its 60th Anniversary July 29-Aug. 6, throughout the streets of downtown Los Angeles' Little Tokyo community.

"Only through the commitment and support from volunteers, the Little Tokyo community and our sponsors, have we been able to achieve such an accomplishment for the Nisei Week Japanese Festival to reach this milestone," said Tim Itatani, general chairperson. "We want to ensure that this tradition with our community continues and grows for future generations."

"The dates are earlier than usual, but we were concerned about conflicting with the Democratic National Convention scheduled for mid-August," said Itatani, the 1999 general chairperson who will once again take the reins in leading the

festival into the 21st century. Nisei Week events include a grand parade, 5k run, many cultural exhibits, a street arts fair, carnival, taiko, Japanese drums gathering and an *Ondo* (traditional Japanese folk dancing).

What began as a marketing strategy to increase commerce and promote goodwill during the Depression years of the 1930s has evolved into one of the longest running and largest ethnic festivals in Southern California.

For information on the festival and its activities or to volunteer, please call the Nisei Week office at 213/687-7193, fax 213/687-6510 or <http://members.aol.com/nisei-week/niseiweek.htm>. The Nisei Week office is located at 244 S. San Pedro St., #303, Los Angeles, CA 90012. ■

InterACT Presents 'Letters to a Revolutionary'

"Letters to a Student Revolutionary," the first American play to respond to the Tiananmen Square tragedy, opens at the Broadway Playhouse on Friday, May 5, and runs through Sunday, May 28.

Written by award-winning playwright and journalist, Elizabeth Wong, the play follows the 10-year friendship of two women from vastly different worlds: A Chinese American tourist and a Chinese student meet by chance in Beijing and exchange letters for the following decade. They will never meet again. Their letters reveal a personal look at themselves, while also reflecting upon the social and political climate of their respective countries. Taking place in both the United States and China, the play culminates in the student uprising at Tiananmen Square in June 1989.

"Letters to a Student Revolutionary" is inspired by actual letters between the playwright and a Chinese friend. Boldly staged with the assistance of a multi-functional chorus of four, this spirited play is directed by Sonny Alforque, (director of last season's Dragonwings).

"Letters to a Student Revolutionary" opens at the Broadway Playhouse at 4010 El Camino Avenue in Sacramento from May 5-28. The play will be performed on Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m., with Sunday matinees on May 14, 21 and 25 at 3 p.m.

Ticket prices are \$12 for general admission, \$10 for seniors (ages 62 and up), and \$10 for children (ages 13 and under). Groups of twelve or more are eligible for discounts. For information and reservations, please call InterACT at 916/452-6174. ■



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