

# Pacific Citizen

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APRIL 28-MAY 4, 2000

## Sophomore Ninja Boys Take 17th Title at 19th San Jose Ninja Basketball Tournament

By **LYNDESE SHINODA**  
Writer/Reporter

**SAN JOSE**—The sound of hundred dollar sneakers squeaking on a just-waxed floor echoed through the gymnasium at Mountain View High School, as the 19th San Jose Ninja Basketball Tournament kicked off April 22.

Those sneakers belong to the infamous sophomore Ninja boys, who hold one of the winningest records of any Ninja team. With 16 tournament titles accumulated since forming in sixth grade,

tion has grown to 13 teams. This year, over 1000 boys and girls from grades seven through twelve participated. They traveled from all over northern and southern California to play with the best.

As the Ninja boys take the floor, it is easy to see why they have such a feared reputation. Fans of all ages cheered from the bleachers as the boys made no-look passes, pretty shots and played tenacious defense. Proud mothers wore hand-made-black cardigans adorned with their

important," said Shiraki. "You can't have one without the other because they go hand in hand."

"To be a Ninja is to be competitive and having that fire to win," he said.

His daughter Stephanie was a Ninja through high school as well, and has since graduated and moved on to college basketball. Shiraki's favorite Ninja memories include witnessing the fierce competition year in and year out that Stephanie's team had with the San Francisco Enchantees, as well as watching



Photo Courtesy of Carol Yuki

The 10th grade San Jose Ninja boys (l-r): Jacob Esau, Randy Chang, Brian Inouye, Ryan Fujihara, Jason Yuki, Curtis Shimosaka, Brad Sasaki, Greg Shiraki, Matt Tipparong, and Coach Wade Nakamura.

these boys seem unstoppable. Today was no exception.

Dressed in shiny black and gold uniforms, the name "Ninja" brings fear to the hearts of many. In 1980, Tom Kinoshita came up with the idea of forming an Asian all-star team in San Jose. The San Jose Zebras, an unspoken cross-town rival of the Ninjas, had already been in existence, but since there were so many Asians in the area, forming another team seemed logical. Ken Sakoda came up with the Ninja name, which was chosen in part because of the popularity of the movie "Shogun" at the time. The uniform color was chosen because of the Ninja outfit.

The inaugural tournament was held on April 10 and 11, 1982. Since then, the organiza-

tion's last name and jersey number stitched in yellow on the back. The boys dominated their opponents, the Sacramento Warriors, and ended up winning 51-24.

Steve Shiraki is one of the fans in the bleachers. His son Greg is a member of the sophomore boys team. Shiraki also happens to be the current president of the Ninja Youth Organization. Ninja players are encouraged to not only play basketball, but to be involved with their community. Each year, the players are required to volunteer at the San Jose Obon Festival. Shiraki attributes the success of the organization to both the players and parents.

"The level of competition and the involvement of parents are

Greg's team develop from little kids to the talented players that they are now.

A familiar face sits in the crowd watching the events of the game unfold. Sumiko 'Santo,' who prefers to be called *Bachan*, has been watching her grandchildren's basketball games for years. Her grandchildren are Greg and Stephanie Shiraki.

"I like the excitement," Santo beamed, while proudly displaying her black sweatshirt embroidered with 'Ninja Bachan.' After a break between games, the boys stepped back onto the floor to face the F.O.R. Bruins of Gardena. Perhaps still tired from the first game, they started out relatively slowly. But as the clock ticked, the Ninjas gained momentum, especially after the first half. The Bruins would not go down without a fight, but still fell 56-41. The game ended on a fitting note with a rim-rattling dunk by Ninja Jacob Esau.

Seeing all of the friends, aunts,

See NINJAS/page 8

## JACL Cautiously Optimistic About Disney's 'Pearl Harbor' Movie

By **MARTHA NAKAGAWA**  
Assistant Editor

Following several meetings with Disney executives, national JACL is cautiously optimistic about the movie production of "Pearl Harbor," which recreates the Dec. 7, 1941, event.

National JACL Director John Tateishi has been meeting with Chairman Richard Cook and President Bruce Hendricks of the Walt Disney Motion Pictures Group, and with producer Jerry Bruckheimer of Jerry Bruckheimer Productions/Valhalla Productions.

"I think the response has been positive so far," said Tateishi. "But it remains to be seen on how the movie comes out because as much as they might change the script to the way we want, they can still rewrite it on the set so there's no way to know exactly what the final product's going to look like."

Disney's \$135 million epic with cutting edge special effects will focus on two fighter pilots, portrayed by Ben Affleck and Josh Hartnett. Both fall in love with the same Navy nurse, played by

Kate Beckinsale. Academy Award-winner Cuba Gooding Jr. will portray the historic figure of Doris "Dorie" Miller, a mess attendant on the USS West Virginia who became the first African American to receive the Navy Cross. The movie is being directed by Michael Bay.

Tateishi, in his discussions with Disney executives, emphasized the reasons why the bombing of Pearl Harbor was such an unsettling subject for Japanese Americans.

"We spent a couple of hours talking about Pearl Harbor and why World War II is such a sensitive area for us," said Tateishi. "I tried to make it clear that no matter what happens to Japanese Americans in the future, December 7 will always be the centerpiece of our history and the interment, and that's why we have this ultra sensitive reaction to things around Pearl Harbor."

Tateishi said he was pleased that a potentially problematic scene depicting a factual Japanese dentist spy living in Hawaii at the time had been taken out. A

See PEARL HARBOR/page 8

## N.Y. Police Official Demoted After Anti-Asian Remarks

The commander of a Queens police precinct was transferred to a lesser position after making anti-Asian remarks about his Chinese American supervisor, according to the *New York Times*.

Capt. Joseph T. Culbert, who was commander of the 104th Precinct in Ridgewood, was transferred to a night position in the Strategic and Tactical Command, which polices northern Brooklyn, after he made several anti-Asian jokes against Deputy Chief Dewey Fong. Fong holds the second-highest position in northern Queens.

The incident occurred after Culbert spoke with Fong over a cellular phone. Although Culbert had hung up, the line had not been disconnected, and Culbert's conversation with another lieutenant and a police officer were recorded on Fong's cellular phone voice mail.

Police officials said one officer questioned Fong's intelligence

and asked Culbert how he could take orders from someone who "looks like a Chinese take-out deliveryman." The three men then began laughing and Culbert continued making jokes about Fong for several minutes. Police did not release details of Culbert's comments.

After Fong heard the remarks on his voice mail, he reported the incident to the office of Deputy Police Commissioner Neldra M. Zeigler, who handles discrimination and harassment complaints.

Zeigler's office determined that although Culbert's comments were inappropriate, it did not represent a pattern of misbehavior and was considered a single incident of insubordination. The case was then transferred to the Internal Affairs Bureau which approved the decision to demote Culbert.

Police officials did not comment on whether the other involved officers were disciplined. ■

## National Board Meeting, April 15-16

By **MARTHA NAKAGAWA**  
Assistant Editor

**National President's Report**  
• Helen Kawagoe reported that the voting process at the national convention will be done by punch cards with space for write-in candidates. Each chapter can have two delegates but one vote.

**National Director's Report**  
• John Tateishi has been traveling across the country (Washington, D.C., New York, Boston, Florida) in an effort to raise the visibility of JACL.

• "Pearl Harbor" Movie — Tateishi has been meeting with Disney executives, who have been cooperative.

• National Convention — Tateishi is continuing to pursue Janet Reno as a guest speaker at the national convention's Say-

onara banquet. He is also seeking a speaker for the convention's awards luncheon.

**Secretary/Treasurer's Report**  
• Alan Nishi moved for the national board to accept the "JACL 2001-2002 Biennial Budget" draft to be presented to the national council. Marie Matsunami seconded. The motion carried with six yeases, five nos and two abstentions. Those who voted for the draft were: Karen-Liine Shiba, vice president of membership; Gary Mayeda, vice president of planning and development; Lillian Kinura, EDC district governor; Hiromi Ueha, national youth council chair; Nicole Inouye, national youth representative; and David Hayashi, secretary/treasurer. Those who voted against

See NATIONAL BOARD/page 8

JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION 2000  
AN ENDLESS WAVE OF LEADERSHIP

**Monterey, California**  
June 27-July 2, 2000

**09**  
weeks

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# Pacific Citizen

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## JACL Calendar

**National**  
Mon., June 26—Sun., July 2—36th Biennial JACL National Convention; DoubleTree Inn, Monterey, Calif.; special rate for JACL conventioners. Reservations 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  
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.  
**SNAKE RIVER**  
Sat., May 6—Graduation Banquet; 6 p.m., Four Rivers Cultural Center; Keynote speaker, Lori Matsukawa, Seattle TV anchor. Info: Mike Iseri, 541/889-8691.

**NC-WN-Pacific**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
Sun., May 7—District Meeting and Oratorical Competition; Salinas.

Sat., June 3—NCWPN District pre-convention meeting to review resolutions, the budget and to meet the candidates running for national office; 10 a.m.-3 p.m., JACL National Headquarters, San Francisco. Info: NCWPN Regional Director Patty Wada, 415/345-1075.

**SAN MATEO**  
Sat., May 6—"Family Ties Picnic"; see Community Calendar.  
Sat., May 13—"The Human Race" fund-raising walkathon; Coyote Point. Registration: 343-2793.

**Central California**  
FOWLER  
Sun., April 30—Community Picnic.

**Pacific Southwest**  
PSW DISTRICT  
Wed., June 28—A chartered bus will leave for the national convention in Monterey (July 2 return); pick-up points in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo and West Los Angeles; cost \$100 or less, according to number of passengers.

**RSVP ASAP:** 213/626-4471.  
**ARIZONA**  
Sun., May 7—Scholarship Awards and Graduates Luncheon; 1 p.m., Ramada Valley Ho Resort, 6850 Main St., Scottsdale; speaker: Lane Nishikawa; RSVP by May 2: Michele Namba, 602/861-2638.  
**MARYLAND**  
GREATER L.A. SINGLES  
Fri., May 12—Meeting/program; see Community Calendar.  
**RIVERSIDE**  
Sun., May 21—Y2K Scholarship Awards Potluck Dinner; 5 p.m., Lakeside Room at Fairmount Park, 2624 Fairmount Blvd.  
**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.  
**SELANCO**  
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: BJ Watanabe, 714/779-4140. ■

**DEADLINE for Calendar is the Friday before date of issue, on a space-available basis.**  
Please provide the time and place of the event, and name and phone number (including area code) of a contact person.

## COMMUNITY Calendar

### East Coast

**NEW YORK CITY**  
Sun., May 7—Annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Festival; 11 a.m.-dusk, Union Square Park.  
**WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
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  
Sun., May 21—Cherry Blossom Festival; MetroParks Zoo.

### Pacific Northwest

**PORTLAND**  
Sat., May 6—"An Afternoon With Wisdom of the Elders: Honoring Asian American & Native American Cultures"; 4-9 p.m., Reed College Vollum Hall, 3203 SE Woodstock St. Info: Leah Hunter, 503/823-5882 or 246-6626.

Through May 20—Exhibit, "The Heart Mountain Story," photos by Hansel Mieth and Otto Hagel taken for Life magazine; Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 117 NW 2nd Ave.  
Fri.-Sun., Aug. 11-13—Greater Portland Reunion; "Nikkei Futures 2000; DoubleTree-Lloyd Center Hotel; mixer, banquet, tours, golf tournament, picnic, etc. Info: Kenzie Namba, 503/253-0848; Kurtis Inouye 503/682-3238.

**SEATTLE**  
Fri.-Sun., Sept. 15-17—Heart Mountain Reunion; SeaTac DoubleTree Hotel. Info: Toshi Terayama, registrar, 253/520-8005, e-mail: toshiter@ix.netcom.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 (Nokuyama) Todo, 15537 32nd Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98155-6530.

### Northern California

**BAY AREA**  
Sat.-Sun., April 29-30—17th Annual Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Memorial Park on Stevens Creek Blvd., across from DeAnza College; in honor of Cupertino sister-city Toyokawa, Japan, and its gift of 200 cherry blossom trees in 1978. Info: Margaret M. Abe, 650/941-9466.  
Sun., May 7—JASEB 13th Annual Bowl-A-Thon; 1:30 p.m., Albany Bowl. Info: JASEB, 510/858-3560.

**MONTEREY**  
Fri., June 30—Veterans-Tribute Dinner; 6 p.m. cocktail reception, 7 p.m. dinner, DoubleTree Hotel De Anza Ballroom; Gen. Eric Shinseki, keynote speaker; Hon. Robert J. Dole, invited; fund raiser for the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. RSVP ASAP: Judy Nizawa, 408/733-7692; e-mail: jnizawa@earthlink.net.  
**SAN JOSE**  
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.

Sat., April 29—Workshops, "Reflections of Nihonmachi," all day in the San Jose Japantown area. Info: Warren Hayashi, 408/241-0900, www.pbg-group.com/NikkeiMatsuri.  
Sun., April 30—Nikkei Matsuri; 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., San Jose Japantown area. Info: Warren Hayashi, 408/241-0900, www.pbg-group.com/NikkeiMatsuri.  
**SAN MATEO**  
Sat., May 6—Family Ties Picnic; 2

p.m., San Mateo's Central Park, SW corner; arts and crafts, free toys for children under 10; pinatas, hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, watermelon, drinks, raffles, all for \$5. RSVP ASAP: Wade Loo, 650/341-6036, Ted Yamagishi, 650/356-3332.

### Central California

**FRESNO**  
Sat., April 29—31st Annual Japanese Cultural Day; 9 a.m.-noon, Fresno Betsuin Buddhist Temple; Info: 432-1414.

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

### Southern California

**LA JOLLA**  
Sun., April 30—Koto and Taiko Concert; 1:30 p.m., Museum of Contemporary Art, 700 Prospect St. at Silverado; Tickets: Info: 619/286-7276, 858/457-4626, 760/728-0925, 909/695-9200.

**LOS ANGELES**  
Sat., April 29—Panel Discussion, "The Forgotten War: The Impact of the Korean War on Japanese Americans and Their Community"; 1:30-3 p.m., Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo. RSVP: 213/625-0414, 800/461-5266.

Sat., April 29—Manzanar Pilgrimage; interness from Amache and Lake Lake to be honored. Info: 323/662-5102, fax: 323/666-5161  
Sat.-Sun., April 29-30—Boyle Heights Photo Duplication Day; Roosevelt High gymnasium, 456 S. Mathews St. Info., appointments: Japanese American National Museum, 213/625-0414, ext. 5717.

Sun., April 30—Play, "Uncle Gunjiro's Girlfriend" with Brenda Wong Aoki; 7 p.m., Japan America Theatre, 244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo. Tickets: 213/680-3700. Info: <http://www.firstvoice.org/stories.html>.  
Thurs. May 4—Documentary film, "Sugihara: Conspiracy of Kindness"; 7 p.m., The Simon Wiesenthal Center, Museum of Tolerance, 9786 W. Pico Blvd. at Roxbury Dr. RSVP by May 2: Japan America Society, 213/627-6217 ext. 202.

Fri., May 12—Greater L.A. Singles program; 8 p.m., Gardena Valley YWCA, 1341 W. Gardena Blvd.; speaker, a representative from the Little Tokyo Service Center will speak. Info: Louise Sakamoto, 310/327-3169.

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; Dottie Nagai Fukawa, 310/323-9615; Rose Masuda Okajima, 559/875-3878.

### Arizona - Nevada

**LAS VEGAS**  
Sat., May 6—Asian Pacific American Cultural Fair; 12-5 p.m., West Sahara Library; traditional clothing, foods, entertainment. Info: 382-3493. ■

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## Memorial to Patriotism Dedication Registration is Officially Open

The National Japanese American Memorial Foundation recently announced that the dedication ceremony for the Memorial to Patriotism taking place in Washington, D.C., Nov. 9-11 has officially opened registration.

Eighteen thousand registration packets will be mailed within the next week to friends of the foundation on the current mailing list as well as any special requests received from individuals or organizations expressing interest in attending. More than 700 guests have already pre-registered.

Complete with a detailed schedule of events and registration form, the packet provides all the information necessary to register for the dedication ceremony, including travel and hotel accommodations. A toll-free dedication line, 877/607-8550, has been established to facilitate the registration process and answer any inquiries.

A full-color commemorative book will be distributed to each guest as a keepsake for the dedication ceremonies. The foundation invites individuals and organizations to reserve advertising space as early as possible. Various sizes are available, with price structures catering to both corporations and individuals. If interested in placing an ad or memorial listing, please contact the office on the toll-free dedication line.

Organizations and community leaders are also invited to sponsor tables at the gala dinner Friday evening, Nov. 10. Featuring a performance from

the international award-winning Jon Nakamatsu, the gala will be held at the Marriott Wardman Park, the largest convention hotel in Washington, D.C., able to accommodate 3,000 guests. Sponsored tables (seating 10) will have a preferred location in the front of the ballroom and recognition during the event program.

All guests registered at the Marriott Wardman Park (official NJAMF headquarters for dedication ceremonies) by June 1 will be eligible for a free dedication weekend package for two. Package includes: hotel accommodation and two tickets to the dedication ceremony, dedication reception, gala dinner, Arlington National Cemetery memorial service, and More Perfect Union reception. The drawing will be held June 1 and winner notified immediately.

All guests registered at the Marriott through Worldview Travel's Deluxe Package by June 1 will receive half-price registration. The normal registration fee of \$50 applies to all other individuals except: 1) individuals attending the dedication ceremony and Arlington National Cemetery memorial service only; and 2) children 12 or under. For more information about the deluxe packages, please contact Eiko or Brenda at Worldview Travel, 800/627-8726.

The foundation thanks its supporters and looks forward to everyone joining the festivities for this memorable event. For more information, please contact the office at 877/607-8550. ■

## APIs to Gather in Washington, D.C., to Launch Nationwide Economic Development Initiatives

In an unprecedented effort to create a national presence for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders on a broad range of community and economic development issues, representatives from dozens of community organizations and advocacy groups will meet in Washington, D.C., during the first week in May. The meeting is being held to coincide with the formation of the White House Initiative on Asian and Pacific Islanders.

The National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development will hold its inaugural convention in Washington, D.C., from May 1-3 at the Renaissance Hotel. The convention will feature recognition of community leaders, planning for an intensified congressional outreach campaign, a membership meeting and recruitment drive. A press conference is planned to release a study on these communities by the Urban Institute.

During the inaugural convention, the workshops and general sessions will touch upon the following themes: "State of Asian Pacific American Community Development," "Anticipating 2020: Asian

Enclaves and Planning for the new Majority" and "Building CAPACED and Leadership in our Communities." The workshops will feature some prominent speakers such as Bill Lann Lee, acting assistant attorney general for civil rights; Shamina Singh, executive director, White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; Don Nakanishi, director, UCLA Asian American Studies Center; Irene Packer, vice chair, National Hispanic Housing Council; Michael Woo, director, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) in Los Angeles; Leland C. Brendsel, chair, Freddie Mac Foundation, and a host of others.

Speaking on the need to bring groups together nationwide, Christopher Kui, executive director for Asian Americans for Equality, one of the groups leading this effort, said: "Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders sorely need a national political presence and collective voice. While our numbers have grown dramatically over the last decade, our influence on national policy matters has only expanded incrementally."

The Asian Pacific American population in the United States is expected to reach 20 million by the year 2020. This increase represents the fastest growth of any ethnic group in the country over the past ten years. This phenomenal growth and diversity of population, coupled with recent welfare reform, cutbacks in funding for housing and education and stricter immigration laws, have made it essential for these community organizations along with immigrant, refugee and other minority and low-income populations to build new partnerships and strengthen existing ones.

Gordon Chin, executive director of the Chinatown Community Development Corporation, said, "The dream has been there for a while. We just never had the critical mass necessary to take it forward since there were scattered groups across the country. It took the emergence of a lot of newer groups servicing a broader spectrum of the community to make us realize that now was the time to form a national organization to bring us all together to set the agenda for the future."

The National CAPACED funding members include some 17 community-based organizations from across the country. Most of these organizations have been providing a vast array of services to AFA, immigrant, refugee and other minority and low-income populations for over two decades and have been recognized for their work in community development.

The initiative to create a national entity, grew out of an ongoing dialogue among five leading community development organizations: Asian Americans for Equality; Chinatown Community Development Corporation, in New York; East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation, in Oakland; Interim Community Development Association, in Seattle; and Little Tokyo Service Center, in Los Angeles. ■

## Asian American Career Fair 2000 to be Held in Chicago

To meet the increasing demand of American businesses for culturally competent Asian American professionals and grade, Chicago-based Asian Market Advertising Corporation (AMA Corp.) and Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) are sponsoring the Asian American Career Fair 2000 (AACF 2000) on May 9 from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the IIT campus. This is the sixth nationwide Asian job fair of its kind since 1996.

The fair will be free and open to all Asian and non-Asian job candidates from all over the country. One of the AACF's purposes is to link employers, particularly multinationals, with Asian students and professionals, educated or working herein in the United States.

"Now that the new century has come, and with the rapid development of e-commerce and information technology, the need for talented and diversified workers to fill in job openings has been in great demand," said David Zhang, general

coordinator of the AACF organizing committee and president of AMA Corp. "Most Asian professionals are known for their strong work ethic and loyalty. These attitudes plus their U.S. education background contribute to a tremendous talent pool that more and more companies are interested in tapping."

About 40 major companies and organizations will set up their recruiting booths at the fair and the number of participants is expected to be 600. Companies can recruit employees at the AACF 2000 for positions in their growing businesses in Asia and the Pacific Rim, or their ethnic marketing positions targeting niche markets and other diversified staffing needs.

For more information or registering to be exhibitors, please call: 312/608-1206, send an e-mail to: <amazing@iit.netcom.com> or visit the AACF 2000 home page at <http://www.asiamarketadv.com/aacf>. ■

## Mary Kobayashi of Concord Named '2000 Woman of the Year' for the 11th Assembly District

Mary Kobayashi, a longtime community volunteer from Concord, was honored as "2000 Woman of the Year" for the 11th Assembly District of California.

Kobayashi received the award at the state capitol on March 27 during a session of the state Assembly, said Assemblyman Tom Turlakson, D-Antioch.

Turlakson, who represents the 11th Assembly District, said he selected Kobayashi for the honor because of her outstanding record as a volunteer and her personal involvement with a wide range of worthy causes.

"Mary Kobayashi is a dedicated community volunteer who demonstrates that doing good works for others is the truest form of public service," Turlakson said. "She is a role model, an inspiration, and an uplifting force to all who know and are privileged to work with her."

Assembly members can name a "Woman of the Year" for each of the 80 Assembly districts in California. The 11th Assembly District includes Antioch, Pittsburg, Bay Point, Clayton, Concord, Pacheco, Pleasant Hill, Martinez, Port Costa, Rodeo, Hercules, Crockett, and Pinole.

Kobayashi works tirelessly on behalf of the poor, animal rights, AIDS organizations, local political issues, and other civic and church causes. Kobayashi and her hus-



PHOTO: EGLLEN KORENGOLD  
Mary Kobayashi being escorted by Tom Turlakson at the state capitol during an Assembly session.

band, Eizo, work together as a husband-and-wife team who share a deep love for one another and an equally deep concern for their community.

The Concord City Council awarded Kobayashi a Certificate of Appreciation in 1993, in recognition of her distinguished service as a member of the Concord Human Relations Commission. Kobayashi has also volunteered for the Conflict Resolution Panel, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, and JAACL. ■

## Gary Ichikawa Named Solano County Superior Court Judge

California Gov. Gray Davis announced on April 10 that he has appointed Gary Ichikawa, 62, to the Solano County Superior Court. The appointment makes Ichikawa the first Asian American judge to sit on the 16-member Solano County bench, and the only judge in the county with a state certification in family law.

The Benicia, Calif., resident replaces retiring Superior Court Judge F. Paul Dacey, and will be handling family law cases.

Ichikawa began his career with a two-year stint in the Solano County Public Defender's Office in 1977. He then went into private practice in 1979, and eventually started focusing on family law. In 1988, he became a certified family law specialist.

Before his appointment, Ichikawa often assisted the Superior Court as a judge pro tempore in family law matters. Some of the cases he handled included domestic violence, settlement conferences and motions for temporary support.

As a judge, Ichikawa hopes to settle more cases out of court through mediation, since years of courtroom battles have convinced him that this was more beneficial in family matters, particularly in divorce cases.

Ichikawa was born and raised in Fairfield, Calif., and received his law degree from the University of California Law School. He served on the Fairfield city council from 1986 to 1993, and as a vice-mayor in 1988 and 1993. From 1983 to 1988, he also sat on the Solano Community College board. Other community organizations he has been active with include sitting on the board of the Solano County Farmlands and Open Space Foundation, the Travis Air Force Base Planning Authority and the Solano Affordable Housing Authority.

The third-generation Japanese American and his wife, Patricia, are also members of the Solano JAACL chapter. ■

Blue Shield of California offers group health care coverage to current JAACL 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 JAACL Health Benefits Trust today at 1-800-400-6633.

Website: <http://www.jaclhealthbenefits.org>



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# JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION Sunrise Grocery Store - Three Generations of Tabatas

# Ichiuji Strives to Encourage Youth at Upcoming Convention

By ROGER MINAMI

Being sent to an internment camp at the age of 19 did not stop Pacific Grove resident Edith Ichiuji from giving up on the "American Dream." Ichiuji, originally from Stockton, Calif., had her education and dreams of becoming a nurse cut short by World War II. Both Edith and her family were interned at Manzanar.

There is no "can't" or "quit" in her vocabulary however. So when the opportunity became available for Ichiuji to "not be stuck in camp" and pursue her education, she took it. The War Relocation Authority had authorized a special program to relocate Japanese American students to exit the camps on the condition that they could be placed in suitable colleges, or universities. The job of finding appropriate colleges fell to the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council. The NJASRC was administered by the American Friends Service Committee, or "Quakers."

Said Ichiuji, "I got this letter from the Quakers saying that they were looking at my records and was I interested in pursuing my education. The Quakers sent me a list of the schools that were available, that were approved by the War Relocation Authority and so that was how I chose Rochester."

So it was off to Rochester, Minn., where Edith received her Registered Nurse (R.N.) degree. She worked for three years in obstetrics and maternity at St. Mary's College in Rochester until 1949 when her father's death called her back to Stockton. There she worked for three more years as an obstetrics nurse at San Joaquin General Hospital.

Ichiuji has been involved in the JACL for most of her life and met her husband, Mickey, at a JACL district meeting. They were married in 1952 in Monterey where she moved and continued to work at retirement in 1984.

Today, Ichiuji is playing a pivotal role in organizing the upcoming JACL national convention and serves as co-chairperson.

"Edith is working extremely hard in making sure that there are programs within the convention that will interest young adults and encourage them to take an active role in JACL," said Co-Convention Chairperson Larry Oda. "She has a tremendous positive energy that rubs off on others, especially the young adults that serve on the JACL national convention committee."

"She has a truly inspirational life's story to share with young adults on how not to give up and the need to become involved in serving the Japanese American community through organizations such as JACL," continued Oda. "Her optimism and energy motivates the younger generation to work together with the older generation to make the JACL national convention a starting point in 2000 to attract new life into JACL. If we had an Edith Ichiuji in each JACL chapter, our membership would increase immediately. I am truly blessed to have Edith in her role as co-chairperson to the convention. Her work ethic and love of JACL makes my job a heck of a lot easier."

For more information on the upcoming JACL national convention, contact Larry Oda at tsuno1@msn.com.



Photo Courtesy of "The Japanese of the Monterey Peninsula"  
Members of the Tabata Family today standing in front of Sunrise Grocery at current location, 400 Pearl Street. From l to r: Jim and Cedar Tabata and Shinobu and Tom Tabata.

By ROGER MINAMI  
By visiting the Sunrise Grocery in Monterey, JACL national convention delegates and guests will have the opportunity to see one of only a handful of Japanese American businesses that has continued to span much of the 20th century.

According to retired Monterey Peninsula College professor David Yamada who authored the book, "The Japanese of the Monterey Peninsula," Sunrise Brothers was started in 1919 by Torakichi Tabata. The store concentrated on selling fishing supplies because Monterey was a fishing town, and also stocked some traditional Japanese food items. Torakichi's son, Jim, who graduated from U.C. Berkeley in 1937 with a degree in business administration, returned home from college and assisted his father in expanding the store's operation. Over the years, the store would undergo five site changes within the city of Monterey and three name changes.

World War II and the ensuing evacuation meant closing down the store completely in February of 1942. Up until this time, Sunrise Company (the name was changed from Sunrise Brothers to Sunrise Company in 1935) had supplied groceries to the fleet of Japanese boats coming to Monterey from San Francisco and San Pedro. After December 7th, the U.S. government prohibited Japanese fishermen from operating on the seas because the assumption was that their boats might be used for espionage to help Japan win the war.

With fishing by the Japanese halted, Sunrise Company's pipeline of goods to fishing crews was drastically cut. With the gradual demise of the fishing fleets after the war, the store naturally evolved away from fishing supplies to concentrate on groceries and gifts. Thus the store was renamed Sunrise Grocery in 1946 and that is the name by which the Monterey

community has known this business for the last half century.

During the 1980s, Jim's son Thomas Tabata began running the store thus making it three generations of Tabatas that have had a hand in the business. Over the years, the success of the Tabata family business can be explained by their quality service, market flexibility, good

deeds, and service to the community. It is one of only a handful of Japanese businesses that began with the Issei in the early part of this century and continues to operate successfully today.

If you would like information on Sunrise Grocery or the upcoming JACL national convention, contact Larry Oda at tsuno1@msn.com.

## Leadership Development Course to be Held During JACL National Convention

Leadership Education for Asian Pacific's (LEAP) will conduct a workshop during the JACL national convention for those interested in leadership skill development.

After highlighting the importance of leadership and communication skills in the workplace, the speaker will assist the participants in exploring key leadership qualities and skills, and in addressing a few critical questions such as: why are some individuals promoted? While others are not, what are the characteristics of leaders, and how can these skills be learned and mastered in order to enhance one's chances of being promoted?

LEAP is a national non-profit organization based in Los Ange-

les and was founded in 1982 to develop, strengthen, and expand the leadership roles played by Asian Pacific Americans within their own communities as well as in mainstream institutions.

As its mission, LEAP seeks to achieve full participation and equality for all APAs through leadership, empowerment, and policy through its innovative Leadership Management Institute (LMI), the recently created Community Development Institute (CDD), and the creation of the APA Public Policy Institute (PPI). Presenter J.D. Hokoyama is the president and executive director of LEAP.

For more information on this workshop, contact Larry Oda at tsuno1@msn.com.



Photo Courtesy of "The Japanese of the Monterey Peninsula"  
Mickey and Edith Ichiuji outside El Estero Presbyterian Church shortly before Mickey passed away.

REGISTRATION FORM		SUMMARY OF FEES	
Name: _____ Last First MI	Convention Package \$ _____	Individual Events \$ _____	Special Events \$ _____
Address _____			TOTAL \$ _____
City _____	Make check payable to JACL 2000		
State & Zip Code _____	MAIL CHECK and FORM together:		
Telephone _____	To pay by charge card		
Day _____ Evening _____	Print Legible		
e-mail _____	Cardholder's Name _____		
Chapter _____	MasterCard or Visa (circle one)		
Category: <input type="checkbox"/> Delegate <input type="checkbox"/> 1000 Club	Account Number _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Alternate <input type="checkbox"/> 1000 Club Life	Expiration Date _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth <input type="checkbox"/> Masaoka Fellow	Signature _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Booster <input type="checkbox"/> National Board/Staff			
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____			
Register early to save money! *Early Bird* postmark deadline April 30, 2000	SEND FORM TO: JACL 2000 - REGISTRATION P.O. BOX 1996 MONTEREY, CA 93942-1996		
<b>PACKAGE REGISTRATION</b> (includes Individual Events listed below)	NOTE: No registration will be processed without accompanying payment (check or charge card). This form is for convention registration only and NOT for hotel reservations, which should be made directly with the DoubleTree Hotel at Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey. If you are registering for more than one person, please use additional forms or copies.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Package \$195 \$245 \$ _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular with Youth Luncheon \$220 \$280 \$ _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Package \$100 \$125 \$ _____			
<b>INDIVIDUAL EVENTS</b> (included in Package Registration)			
<input type="checkbox"/> All Meetings \$40 \$45 \$ _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> One Day Meeting \$20 \$25 \$ _____			
Day of Attendance (circle one) Tu We Th Fr Sa			
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshops \$20 \$25 \$ _____			
Complete separate Workshop Registration Form			
<input type="checkbox"/> Monterey Bay Aquarium \$60 \$75 \$ _____			
Welcome Mixer			
<input type="checkbox"/> Awards Luncheon \$45 \$50 \$ _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Sayonara Banquet \$65 \$75 \$ _____			
<b>SPECIAL EVENTS</b>			
<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 Yes/No \$ _____
			Amount \$ _____

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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, oratorical competition, Welcome Mixer, Awards Luncheon and Sayonara 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

rates are:

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

### DoubleTree Hotel at Fisherman's Wharf

Two Portola Plaza  
Monterey, CA 93940  
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Fax (831) 649-4115  
www.doubletreemonterey.com

### Air Travel

United Airlines is the official airline of the 2000 JACL National Convention. Receive a 5% discount on the lowest published airfare. Make your reservation 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 594LS. 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: tsuno1@msn.com  
Kaz Matsuyama (831) 649-0704  
e-mail: KAZNMN@aol.com

## 'Legacies of Internment' Film Series Explores Japanese American Experience

Metreon/A Sony Entertainment Center will host "Legacies of Internment," a film series presented by the California Historical Society, the Japanese American National Museum, and the National Asian American Telecommunications Association in conjunction with the award-winning exhibit: "America's Concentration Camps: Remembering the Japanese American Experience."

The Legacies of Internment film series will feature three recent films which examine the long-term impact of the World War II internment of more than 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry in remote concentration camps throughout the West. Over time, that impact is felt on many levels: personal, social, cultural and political.

The film series will take place at "The Way Things Work" 2nd floor theater at Metreon, on the corner of Mission and fourth Streets. The filmmakers and former camp internees will host panel discussions following each show. All shows begin at 7 p.m.; admission is \$7 general, \$5 for members of the California Historical Society, the national museum, and NAATA.

For information call 415/863-

0814, ext. 108 or 415/357-1848, ext. 14.

The schedule for the films is as follows:

Thursday, May 8  
"Rabbit in the Moon"; a soulful and provocative documentary/memoir by filmmaker Emiko Omori about the meaning and lingering effects of the internment; a rare and insightful focus on the internees who resisted the draft, organized protests, staged demonstrations and demanded constitutional rights.

Thursday, June 1  
"Of Civil Wrongs & Rights - The Fred Korematsu Story" Directed by Eric Fournier; an engrossing account of Fred Korematsu's landmark Supreme Court case which first upheld the internment policy; and the historic "coram nobis" legal case which finally exonerated his lonely resistance to the WWII incarceration of JAs more than 50 years later.

"America's Concentration Camps: Remembering the Japanese American Experience" is the featured exhibit at the California Historical Society running through June 18. It details the WWII experiences of 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry who were forced to leave their

homes and businesses on the West Coast and Hawaii, and live in desolate camps located in seven states west of the Mississippi River. The exhibit was created by the Japanese American National Museum, and designed by Ralph Applebaum Associates, Inc.

For this exhibit, the California Historical Society is open Tuesday through Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday nights until 8 p.m. Admission is \$3 general, \$1 student/senior. Admission is free for children under 6 and members of the CHS and the JANM.

CHS is located near Yerba Buena Gardens, at 678 Mission St., between 2nd and 3rd Streets, in San Francisco. For more information, call 415/357-1848, or visit the CHS Web site at [www.calhist.org](http://www.calhist.org).

## Snake River JACL Plans 55th Annual Graduation Banquet

The Snake River JACL will hold its 55th annual graduation banquet on May 6, at 7 p.m. at the Four Rivers Cultural Center.

The fourteen area high school seniors to be honored are Justin Eldred, Fruitland; Amanda Shigeta, New Plymouth; Adam Tolman, Vale; Tessa Ball, Eric Lantz and Joe Schaffer, Ontario; Christopher Kiyuna and Chase Morinaka, Nysa; Jennifer Kamimae and Kara Nagaki, Payette; and Jeffrey Boles, Kelly Goto, Neil Nakamura and Thomas Simpson, Weiser.

Winners of the high school senior scholarships and the leadership grants for high school juniors will be presented their awards at the banquet.

The scholarships have been funded with the cooperation and participation of Sig and Mitsuho Murakami and the Idaho-Oregon Nikkeijinkai.

The featured guest at the banquet will be Lori Matsukawa, co-anchor for KING5 News in Seattle.

An award-winning broadcast journalist, Matsukawa has been active in her professional affiliations and with community volunteer activities. The Hawaii native began her work experience with the *Honolulu Advertiser*. She also worked at KRCR TV in Redding, Calif., KPTV in Portland, Ore., and KOMO TV in Seattle before joining the KING5 team in 1983. In 1974, Matsukawa was crowned Miss Teenage America. She is a Stanford University graduate and earned her master's degree in communication from the University of Washington.

Reservations for the banquet may be made by calling Mike Iseri or Mary Ann Shimojima at 541/898-8691. Admission is \$15 per person; \$5 for children age 6-2; children under 6 are free. Reservations must be made by May 1. ■

## Manzanar Pilgrimage to Honor Amache and Tule Lake Internees

"A Reason to Share: Tribute to Amache and Tule Lake" is the theme for the 31st annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, which will take place on April 29 at noon at the Manzanar National Historic Site.

The Manzanar National Historic Site is located approximately 200 miles north of Los Angeles, between Lone Pine and Independence on Highway 395, and was the site of a World War II internment camp where 10,000 persons of Japanese ancestry were interned for the duration of the war.

This year's Pilgrimage will feature the musical talents of Asian Persuasion. Asian Persuasion grew up on the defunct streets of southwest Los Angeles during the turbulent 50s and 60s. In 1999, Asian Persuasion released their first CD since they began performing together in 1973, "Endangered Species," which contains 13 original songs.

This year, the Manzanar committee will feature a tribute to internees from Amache and Tule Lake with speakers from both concentration camps.

Representing Amache will be former internee Thomas Shigekuni. Shigekuni is a volunteer for the Amache Historical Society, and served as the incorporator, director and legal counsel. He also on the board of directors of the L.A. Kokusa; Gakuen and Keiro Retirement Home.

Speaking on behalf of Tule Lake will be Hiroshi Shimizu, who was interned at Tule Lake and Crystal City as a child. Shimizu is a member of the Tule Lake coordinating committee and will talk about his family's experiences at Tule Lake.

Also representing Tule Lake will be Stephanie Miyashiro, an organizer with the Tule Lake coordinating committee, chair of the Bay Area chapter of NCCR. Miyashiro recently went to Washington, D.C., on a lobbying trip with the Northern California chapter of the Campaign for Justice for Japanese Latin Americans.

Robert G. Stanton, the director of the National Park Service, will also be present at the 31st pilgrimage. A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Stanton is the 15th director of the National Park Service and the first African American in the history of the 81-year old agency.

The Manzanar committee will also make a presentation to Rose Hopkins, the first superintendent of the Manzanar National Historic Site, who retired on April 1. Hopkins will be presented with an original water-



PHOTO: JAIMEE ITAGAKI

Asian Persuasion will perform at the 31st Pilgrimage, April 29.

color painting by Henry Fukuhara, renowned watercolorist and art teacher from West Los Angeles.

Glen Kitayama of the Manzanar committee will emcee the program. Kitayama is currently president of the Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California and has taught Asian American and history courses at UCLA, California State University Long Beach, and Pasadena City College.

An air-conditioned bus will transport Los Angeles residents to the pilgrimage. The bus will be leaving from Little Tokyo, 244 S. San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, in front of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center. The bus will be at the JACC's at 6:30 a.m. and will be departing no later than 7 a.m. Bus participants should plan to bring their own lunch, drinks and snacks. The bus will return to the departure point around 7 p.m.

A non-refundable, prepaid fee of \$15 will reserve a seat. Make checks payable to the Manzanar Committee and send to: 12610 Presnell Street, Los Angeles, CA

90066. Call Phyllis at 310/827-3722 to make a reservation or for further information about the bus.

On Saturday night following the pilgrimage, members of the Manzanar committee will be hosting an evening program, "Manzanar After Dark" at the American Legion Hall in Independence. Refreshments will be provided by students from the City College of San Francisco.

The "Manzanar After Dark" program will feature poetry readings and entertainment. Miyashiro will give an update on the Campaign for Justice for redress equity for Japanese Latin Americans.

The Manzanar Committee reminds participants to wear comfortable walking shoes and layered clothing. As dust and strong winds are a possibility, sunscreen, sunglasses and a hat are strongly recommended.

The pilgrimage and "Manzanar After Dark" evening program are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Sue Embrey at 323/662-5102 or Jenni Kuida at 310/301-4915. ■

## Arizona Hosts 2nd Annual Teachers Seminar

On April 8, the second annual teachers seminar was held at the Arizona Historical Society Museum in Tempe, Ariz. The seminar concerned the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

There were seven teachers and four museum docents in attendance in addition to several JACL Arizona chapter members. Sponsors included the National JACL Education Committee, Arizona Historical Society, Museum and JACL Arizona chapter.

Text utilized was the national JACL curriculum guide, "A Lesson in American History: The Japanese American Experience."

Speakers included Carol Kawamoto, chairperson, National JACL Education Committee;

Greg Marutani, National JACL Education Committee member; Mike Steinberg, curator of Education Department, AHS Museum; Masaji Inoshita, MIS veteran and former internee, JA Gila River Relocation Center; and Hiroyuki Nomura, former internee, JA Poston Relocation Center.

These seminars are to prepare the teachers for developing their lesson plans based on information contained within the curriculum guide and additional handouts about the various 10 internment camps and special department of justice camps, with particular attention paid to the Gila River Relocation Center and Poston Relocation Center, both camps formerly located in Arizona. ■

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## Stranger Than Fiction

By Christina Shigemura

### A Small Step Toward Economic Justice

By now I think the entire nation has heard about the janitors who are striking for better wages here in Los Angeles. The striking janitors, members of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 1877, work for an average wage of about \$7 per hour and do not receive medical insurance. That only comes out to about \$14,000 a year, so even with two wage-earners, that's well below poverty level for a family of four. Members of SEIU Local 1877 are asking for a one-dollar-per-hour raise in order to make feeding their families a bit more manageable, but the contracting company which employs the janitors claims that it cannot afford to grant the raise.

The janitors have certainly garnered widespread support. Al Gore, Cardinal Roger Mahony, L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan and a number of others have stepped forward to help the striking janitors. L.A. city council members passed a resolution (45 to 12) in support of the striking janitors. The professionals who work in the skyscrapers which the janitors clean have come out of their offices to hand the strikers cash as thousands of janitors and their supporters have marched through the streets and shut

down intersections. The teamsters and other unions have shown support by refusing to serve or deliver to buildings where the janitors' strike is going on.

As of this writing, however, the strike is continuing into its third week. I feel outraged at the utter ridiculousness of it. Why should the janitors have to fight so hard for only a dollar more an hour? Despite the long-distance phone company ad in which French Stewart is able to secure a table for himself and his date at a fancy restaurant just by giving the maitre d' a dollar, we all know it's not much money, especially when you consider the cost of living in a major metropolis like L.A. The plight of the working poor is not limited to L.A., however. All over America, people who work at chicken processing plants, garment workers, hotel and retail workers, parking attendants, farm workers and people in many other sectors are working full time but struggling to make ends meet.

In addition to low wages, the working poor must contend with limited services. In L.A., as in many cities, public transportation is time-consuming and unreliable, despite the victories of the Bus Riders Union. Many of

the working poor cannot afford health insurance, and consequently receive little or no health care. High-quality child care is not affordable to the working poor, so children may spend hours with minimal or no adult supervision.

These are not merely facts, but personal observations. As a teacher in an urban school district which primarily serves the working poor, I see the effects of poverty daily on my students. Many of their parents are janitors and other low-wage workers who sometimes work two or more jobs to support their families. I see that my students suffer when their parents are dividing most of their waking hours between two jobs and cannot spend much time with their children.

Clearly we need a living wage, health care, child care, and transportation services, not just for the janitors, but for all workers and their families.

I can only hope that the janitors of SEIU Local 1877 have won their dollar-an-hour raise by the time this column is printed. A dollar is a small step, but it's a start. ■

Christina Shigemura is a card-carrying union member of United Teachers of Los Angeles.

## A Bridge Across the Pacific

By Emily Murase

### Cruisin' the JA Way With Junko



As I was beginning to collect my thoughts for this column, my 10-month old daughter Junko hijacked the computer keyboard and refused to return it unless I let her have her share. Here's what she wanted to share with you...

The other day, I took my first steps. It was no big deal, really, but judging from the reaction of the grown-ups that inhabit my immediate surroundings, it surprised everybody. I just got tired of seeing things from the ground up as I crawled around.

Not much action on the floor really. Except when my day-care buddies are up in their high chairs and they throw food down at me and the other foodies who gather underneath, hoping to catch that stray Cheerio. Mmmmm, Cheerios. They're my favorite.

I do enjoy crawling on my obachan's tatami mats that she has in her tea ceremony studio. They give me great traction! She's not very happy when I get into her tea ceremony implements, so I try to keep busy with my own toys (even though her toys seem so much cooler).

Last month, we celebrated the Japanese Girl's Day which is traditionally held on March 3. This year it was very special because it was my hatsubina or first ohina celebration. In addition to my obachan Seiko and ojichan Kenji, grandma Barbara and grandpa Izzy and a bunch of my friends joined the festivities. I have eight pals who were all born in the last year, so we all enjoyed our hatsubina with the ceremonial Girl's Day dolls. The grown-ups got to eat sakura mochi (mochi wrapped in red cherry tree leaves) and oshinkan (red beans in sweet rice). I got to dress up in a fancy kimono that my mom wore when

she was my age. That must have been a long, long time ago! I didn't mind the kimono so much, but it sure is tough to crawl in. I wonder how Japanese babies do it...

Am still not really good on my feet yet. I'm up to about three steps before my balance fails me. My favorite mode of travel is cruisin'. It's kind of like walking, but with training wheels. We babies just love to cruise from the sofa to the armchair, from the coffee table to the bookshelf, from the foot rest to the waste paper basket, and suddenly and inexplicably, we're whisked off to somewhere else.

I just love waste paper baskets. I'm into paper right now. Love to feel it, lick it, chew it — then suddenly and inexplicably, a grown-up sweeps my mouth trying to remove it. My favorite papers are the *Hokubei Matzuchi*, the *Nichi Bei Times*, and, of course, the *Pacific Citizen*. They tell me all about the Japanese American community.

Can't wait until I get a little older so I can participate in cultural activities. I think I'll really

### Hayashi Named 'Woman of the Year'

Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa honored community activist Maryanne Hayashi as "Woman of the Year" in a ceremony at the State Capitol on March 27.

"For over three decades, Maryanne Hayashi has been actively dedicated to helping children overcome adversity and poverty," said Speaker Villaraigosa. "Her level of commitment to the children of Los Angeles has never wavered, because she believes, as I do, that all children must be given a chance to succeed in life. She is an impressive individual who truly cares about children and their potential to become productive, responsible adults."

like playing taiko drums. My mom and dad took me to the Japanese Historical Society Dinner in February and the performance by Melody Takata and her Gen Taiko Group was absolutely mesmerizing. Right now I have to make do with banging on my high chair tray or playing with the drum at Grandma Barbara and Grandpa Izzy's that used to hold Canadian salmon in it.

Mom is trying to teach me some Japanese. I know what *gohan* means. Right now, my *gohan* is mostly baby food, but I've tried *tofu* and rice. I can't wait to eat *natto*. My mom just loves *natto*! My dad's favorite is *umeboshi*. That looks interesting. Well, that's about it for now. Gee, this is fun! Another thing to look forward to when I get a little older. Bye-bye! ■

Emily Murase will be participating in the Nikkei 2000 Conference (April 27 - 30 in San Francisco) to ensure that Junko will have the same rich JA community that exists today to enjoy in the future. Conference information is available at [www.nikkei2000.org](http://www.nikkei2000.org).

## MANAA Announces 7th Annual Media Achievement Awards Dinner

The Media Action Network for Asian Americans (MANAA) will hold its 7th Annual Media Achievement Awards dinner on May 20 at Gourmet Carousel Restaurant in Los Angeles' Chinatown.

This year MANAA honors Writer/Producer David E. Kelley for giving the Ling Woo (Lucy Liu) character humanity and making her a regular on "Ally McBeal," and "Nightline" for exploring the negative effect the DNC fund-raising and Chinese spy scandals were having on Chinese Americans and for discussing Asian-American media stereotypes.

The gala event will be hosted by Garrett Wang ("Star Trek Voyager"). Honorary co-chairs include Norman Mineta (former congressman and the current vice president of Special Business Initiatives at Lockheed Martin Corporation), Lisa Ling (co-host of the television show "The View"), and Wesley Thanaa, (public affairs director at Southern California Edison).

"We've had a busy year working with the NAACP media coalition, addressing the lack of minorities on the new television shows introduced this past season," said Guy Aoki, president and co-founder of MANAA. "The campaign has resulted in unprecedented agreements from the networks to seek out minority talent to fill their creative and executive ranks at all levels. It's a great time to look back on the progress Asian Americans have made in the media and to thank those who've made a positive difference."

Founded in 1992, MANAA is the only organization solely dedicated to monitoring all facets of the media, advocating balanced, sensitive and positive coverage and portray-

als of Asian Pacific Americans. This year MANAA will begin awarding two \$1,000 college scholarships to Asian/Pacific Islander American students seeking to promote better images of AAs through their work in the media.

"The MANAA scholarship really is unique in that it encourages Asian Americans to pursue a career in the film industry, a field that is traditionally underrepresented by Asian Americans," said Ken Kwok, vice president of MANAA's board of directors. "It is important that we take positions behind and in front of the camera. By doing this, we not only ensure our participation in the process, but also our proper representation and the three-dimensional rendering of our images in movies and television."

The evening's silent auction will feature two round-trip, business class tickets from Los Angeles, San Francisco or New York to Hong Kong courtesy of Cathay Pacific Airways, a gold sponsor for the event. Other corporations and organizations supporting this annual event are bronze sponsor ARCO, and VIP table sponsors East West Players, KTLA, NBC, and Southern California Edison. Crown Royal and Budweiser will host the VIP reception.

The VIP reception begins at 5 p.m.; no-host cocktails at 6 p.m.; and dinner at 7 p.m. The cost is \$60 for non-members, \$50 for members and full-time students.

For further event information please call Guy Aoki at 213/486-4433 or e-mail him at [yaoki@yahoo.com](mailto:yaoki@yahoo.com). MANAA's mailing address is P.O. Box 11105, Burbank, CA 91510. ■

## National Business and Professional Directory

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## Letters to the Editor

### Pocatello Blackfoot JACL Commends NJAMF and NPS

Historically, the JACL in the Intermountain West came to be in 1939. And in November 1941 the first biennial Intermountain District Council (IDC) convention was held in Pocatello, Idaho. Its theme was "Better Americans in a Greater America."

This slogan originated with Mike Masoaka at age 24, who also authored "The Japanese American Creed" which is the Nisei article of faith and pledge of allegiance. The creed was included in the souvenir program of the aforementioned convention.

Mike was instrumental in organizing the IDC in 1938 and served as its first chairman. He is remembered for his outstanding leadership to improve the status of his fellow Japanese Americans during the critical World War II and postwar period.

Mike volunteered for military service in WWII. He was assigned by his commanding officer to be the public relations person for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, where his reporting was outstanding.

It is with pride and honor that the Pocatello Blackfoot JACL commends the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation and the National Park Service for their recognition of this great American of Japanese ancestry and for the inclusion of a quotation from the Japanese American Creed, to be placed on the memorial wall in Washington, D.C.

From we who knew Mike prior to WWII:

*George and May  
Shioyawa.*

*Paul and Sanaye  
Okamura.*

*Sud and Ruth  
Morishita.*

*Hiro Shiosaki,  
Mike Shiosaki.*

*Tom Mori.*

*Martha Inouye,  
Sam and Martha  
Sakaguchi.*

*Masa Takamoto.*

### Reader Shows Support for JACL, Masoaka, and NJAMF

Various controversies have racked the Japanese American community for too many years: draft resisters, JACL cooperation with the internment, JACL encouragement of the formation of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Masoaka inscription on the National Japanese American Memorial. These have most often been treated as being separate issues, but they are certainly interrelated.

It appears to me that all of these disruptive controversies stem from the efforts of the draft resisters and their sympathizers to justify the stand they took and to somehow throw a cloak of blame and guilt upon the JACL and its wartime leaders. I sympathize with those who sincerely resisted the draft on purely civil rights considerations, but I also

feel that it is high time that they look at the long-range effect of their actions and that of the JACL.

In this day and age of civil rights consciousness, it is easy for those who did not live through the prewar and war years as adults to take a purely academic and idealistic stance and to criticize the wartime JACL leaders. However, to do so ignores the actual realities of that time when the thinly scattered JA community on the mainland had absolutely no political clout and no power to be other than law-abiding peaceful residents. To have behaved otherwise, as the media fanned wartime emotions and battle casualty reports filtered back, would certainly have precipitated untoward actions on a much greater scale than did occur.

Into the vacuum of leadership the young leaders of the JACL stepped with foresight and helped to ease the turmoil of the evacuation. Later, with their vision of a better time after the war, they encouraged the formation of the combat team and urged volunteers to step forth. Can anyone really criticize them in the light of the results? We need only ask "What if there had never been a 442nd R.C.T. and the 100th Battalion had never been committed to combat for lack of support?" Can anyone deny the tremendous benefits that have accrued to the JA community because of the glorious achievements of these units?

Rather than the JACL possibly owing an apology to the draft resisters, it appears to me that the resisters owe an expression of gratitude to the JACL and its leaders for their part in the formation of the combat team and encouraging volunteers and later the draftees to respond to the call. What a sorry lot would now be ours if the draft resisters and those who now profess resistance to the evacuation had prevailed.

The latest issue involves the Masoaka inscription on the national memorial. To me, a volunteer from Minidoka, the JA Creed rings with the spirit and faith with which we answered the call, firm in our belief that it was the only way to ensure our rightful place in the postwar years. Mike Masoaka was a tireless worker for the good of the JA community and an inspirational leader who was vitally needed during those critical years before, during and after World War II. Both the creed and Mike Masoaka's name belong on the memorial!

*John H. Sato  
Honolulu*

## Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

**Akita, Annaabell Hana, 96,** Los Angeles, April 11; Los Angeles-born; survived by nephew Seiji Mura (Argentina); niece Emiko Ito (Japan).

**Aoki, Stanley Tomio, 52,** Whittier, April 1; Madera-born; survived by wife Yael Teurukodaughter Miya; brothers Yasuhiko and wife Margaret, Kaoru and wife Yachiro, Mitsuyoshi and wife Erma, Shizuma and wife Madeline, Wakana and wife Kathy, Masami and wife Georgia, Ronnie and wife Cindy; sisters Yaeo Tuji, Chiyeo Fukumoto and husband Dick, Keiko Takeuchi and husband Victor, Nobuko Tsukida and husband Bill, Tomoye Johnson and husband Ross, Sueko Sumida and husband Michael, Sanaye Yamaguchi, Diana Fujisaka and husband Steve; mother-in-law Shizuko Yamakawa; brothers-in-law Hector Yamakawa and wife Yoko, Hugo Yamakawa and wife Hitomi; sisters-in-law Ana Yamakawa and Akemi Yamakawa.

**Fujita, Tomiko, 73,** Los Angeles, April 4; Stockton-born; survived by husband Henry; son Walter.

*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 rounded as needed.*

**Hayashi, Fred Akira, 84,** Gardena, March 17; Gardena-born; survived by wife Lily Yuriko; sons Jerry, Ted and wife Mary, Allen and wife Helen; daughter Judy Momi; 5 g.; sisters-in-law Kay Hayashi, Mary Yoshida.

**Hirose, Suma Shimoyama, 100,** Gardena, April 2; Osaka-born; survived by daughters Kiyoko Nakamae, May Okinaka and husband Stanley; son Glenn and wife Nancy (Hawaii); 20 g.; 24 ggs.

**Ikedo, Ted Tetsuo, 78,** Loomis, April 1; survived by brother Mitsugi and wife Ruth; sisters Shizuye Kawada, Frances Shibata and husband Kay, Mae Nakajima and husband Michio.

**Inouye, Miyoko, 82,** Los Angeles, March 30; Kahului, Maui, Hawaii-born; survived by son Steven H. and wife Kazuko; daughter Judy M. Young and husband Steve; 3 g.; brothers Stanley Ooka and wife Judy, Marvin Ooka and wife Reiko; sister Chiyeo Hiratsuka; sister-in-law Barbara Ooka.

**Iwasaki, Wakane, 96,** Garden Grove, April 4; Wakayama-ken-born; survived by sons Isamu "Snooky" and wife Mary, Susumu "Cabby"; Isu and wife Barbara; 14 g.; 19 g.; daughter-in-law Lotus Iwasaki; sister Sammy Sadako Nakaji (Temecula).

**Kanbara, Kiyoko, 84,** Covina.

**April 7; Sacramento-born;** survived by sons Kerry and wife Jackie, Alan and wife Linda; 4 g.; sister Anna Arita and husband Tom.

**Kawasaki, George Hiroshi, 73,** Los Angeles, March 17 service; survived by wife Satoye; sons Gregory Yukio and wife Pamela; 2 g.; sisters Miyuki Kosaka and husband Minoru, Fumiko Hirose and husband Jack Atsushi; brother-in-law Masao Hayashi.

**Kitagawa, Walter Toshiichi, 77,** Carson, April 10; Hawaii-born; survived by sons Wayne Makoto, Keith and wife Alison, Brent and wife Michelle; 2 g.; brother George and wife Mildred (Honolulu); sister-in-law Jane Ouye and husband Walter (Maui).

**Kumitake, Yoshiko, 85,** San Francisco, April 6; survived by son Masayoshi Urayama and wife Theko; 4 g.; sisters Haruko Kusaba, Misae Hirowatari (both Japan).

**Mahida, Helen Kasumi, 96,** Los Angeles, March 26; Maui, Hawaii-born; survived by son Calvin and wife Betty; daughter Joyce Asato and husband Donald; brother Willis Hirata and wife Marlene; sister Faye Kazato; 5 g.; 2 ggs.

**Masatani, Ethel Teruyee, 96,** Guadalupe, March 25; Honolulu-born; survived by son Harry and wife Kim; 3 g.; 5 g.

**Nagane, Suetaro, 70,** North Las Vegas, April 5; Azumi-ken-born; survived by wife Miyo; son Yukiharu and wife Hisae; daughter Masako Nagane; 2 g.

**Nagata, Kiyoko Helen, 84,** Los Angeles, April 8; Brawley-born; survived by sons John and wife Kathleen, Tom; 2 g.

**Nakaguma, Yoshitatsu, 82,** Los Angeles, April 5; Colusa-born; survived by brother Michitaka and wife Kiyoye.

**Nakamura, George F., 79,** Gardena, April 6; Sacramento-born; survived by sisters Kayo Mueshi, Yoshi Okuma, Sandy Nakamura, Cheri Hide; brothers Bob, Shiro, Terio.

**Nishikawa, George Susumu, 77,** Los Angeles, April 5; Los Angeles-born; survived by wife Edith; daughter Carole Darr and husband Jim; sons John and wife Elaine, Kelvin and wife Yoko; 7 g.; sisters Mary Chikuma (Colorado), Betty Coddington and husband Max, Margie Fukuhara and husband Warren (Colorado); brothers- and sisters-in-law in Colorado: Gary Yoshida and wife Seto, Jim Mori, Kimiye Miyake, Hisayo Kawanabe, Dorothy Nitta and husband Tim, Bessie Konishi and husband Ben; Majorie Nakata and husband Tom, Shirley Horuchi and husband Tak, Judy Yamakishi; brother- and sister-in-law in Arizona: Clarence Yoshida, Grace Mizokami and husband Mike.

**Okada, Jun William (Bill),**

47, Walnut, March 28; survived by wife Diane; sons Brian, Kevin; mother Matsue Okada; brothers Gilbert and wife Tracey, Michael and wife Jackie, Wayne and wife Cecilia, Eddie.

**Okiamoto, Grace Hozue, 65,** Oakland, March 28; Oakland-born; Topaz internee; survived by husband Kenneth; son Darryl K. (San Jose); daughter Janice Keiko (Alameda); brothers Paul Hayashi (San Mateo), James Hayashi (Chicago), Mutsumi Hayashi (Alameda).

**Okuda, Masako, 87,** Temple City, April 7; Fresno-born; survived by sons Harry and wife Len, Tsutomu and wife Yoshiko; 5 g.; 3 ggs.

**Ota, Misao, 94,** Gardena, March 26; Hilo, Hawaii-born; survived by daughter Violet Hirai and husband Mitchell, son Alfred H. Ota; 3 g.; sisters Shizue Iwamoto and husband Isamu, Ethel Tomita and husband Kazuo (both of Hawaii).

**Ozawa, Mito, 95,** Gardena, March 31; survived by son John Y.; daughter Mary Ann Inouye; 7 g.; 11 ggs.

**Ozawa, Tomio "Tom," 67,** Vallejo, March 25; San Francisco-born; Topaz internee; Korean War veteran (U.S. Air Force); recently of Yountville; survived by parents Iwao and Ayako; brother Koji; sister Sumiko Sughara.

**Paramo, Diane Kikue, 37,** Santa Fe Springs, April 9; Los Angeles-born; survived by husband Antonio; son Anthony Mustuo; mother Kimiko Marumoto; sister Joanne Emiko Marumoto; brother Richard Akira Marumoto and wife Belinda.

**Sasaki, Peggy Taeko, 75,** Sacramento, March 20; Walnut-born; survived by husband Thomas Tur; daughter Sharon Sasaki Herzstein and husband Peter; 1 g.; brothers Shigeru Ohara and wife Peggy, Art Ohara and wife Amy, Masaru Ohara, Tosh Ohara and wife April, sisters Ginny Okamoto and husband Mitch, Connie Kato and husband Leland; sister-in-law Diane Ohara.

**Shimizu, Moto, 79,** Los Angeles, April 4; Los Angeles-born; survived by wife Margaret; daughter Susan Kato and husband Edward; sons Wayne and wife Pauline, Mark; 2 g.; sister Tshie Shioe; brothers Tur; and wife Peachie, Susumu and wife June.

**Tabata, George Kiyoshi, 68,** Gardena, April 9; Long Beach-born; Korean War veteran; survived by wife Leonora "Lynnie"; daughters Valerie Sato and husband Terry, Cheryl Yungus and husband Benny; 3 g.; brother William and wife Barbara (New York).

**Tanimoto, Arthur Akira, 79,** Monterey Park, April 8; Astoria, Ore.-born; survived by wife Sarah Yoko; sons Frank Tshio and wife Sara, James and wife Teugio Ana; daughters Aileen Yoko Matsuura and husband Dr. Stacey, Joanne Aiko Tanimoto Carmichael (Hawaii); 6 g.; sisters Helen Hisako Tamaki and husband Kay, Alice Kumiko Watanabe; brother-in-law James Kai; sister-in-law Grace Kai and husband Joel.

## OBITUARIES

### Thomas Sakamoto and Eiro Yamada, 442nd Vets

Funeral services were held for two 442nd veterans who were accidentally struck by a car driven by another 442nd veteran.

Thomas Sakamoto, 77, and Eiro Yamada, 77, were in the parking lot of the Sheraton Waikiki on March 25, after attending a 442nd reunion when Masao Yamasaki, 78, accidentally backed into them out of a parking stall.

Yamada died that night. Sakamoto passed away the following day.

Services for Yamada were held on April 2 at the Nuananu Memorial Park Mortuary. Sakamoto was remembered at an April 8 service at the Hosoi

Mortuary. Hundreds of well-wishers turned out to both services, including 442nd veterans and classmates from Farrington High School, which both Yamada and Sakamoto had attended.

Doc Kawamoto and a dozen other members from the 442nd's 232rd Engineers attended the services on behalf of Yamasaki, who was too distraught to appear. A moment of silence out of respect and sympathy for Yamada and his family were observed at Sakamoto's service.

Gov. Ben Cayetano and U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye, who is also a 442nd veteran, sent words of condolences.

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

\* "Short expressions" on public issues, usually one or two paragraphs, should include signature, address and daytime phone number. Because of space limitations, letters are subject to abridgment. Although we are unable to print all the letters we receive, we appreciate the interest and views of those who take the time to send us their comments.

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**NATIONAL BOARD**

(Continued from page 1)

accepting the draft were: Alan Nishi, former NCWPN district governor standing in for John Hayashi; Elaine Akagi, PNW district governor; Larry Grant, IDC district governor; Grace Kimoto, CDC district governor; and Cory-Jeanne Murakami-Houck, MPDC district governor. Absentee votes were from Craig Asaki, PSW district governor and Marie Matsunami, MDC district governor.

• **According to Tateishi**, if soft money is not raised, then the programs will be cut back but personnel will not be touched.

• **Liability Insurance** - It is important for chapters that have their own 501 (c)(3) nonprofit status and/or are incorporated separately from national to contact headquarters to ensure that adequate liability insurance coverage is taken out by national or by the chapters themselves.

• **Travel Expense** - Hayashi moved to pay for parking for volunteers attending national board events subject to approval of the national director. Akagi seconded. Motion carried.

**Public Affairs**

• **Rep. Becerra Legislation** - Lori Fujimoto reported that Becerra plans to introduce legislation amending the Civil Liberties Act to cover shortfalls that did not cover camp internees such as Japanese Latin Americans and cut-off children. The amendment will also replenish the public education fund. Members are encouraged to support this legislation but on an individual basis.

• **California Japanese American Community Leadership Council** - This council was first formed in California to head off Japan-bashing sentiments during the sale of Sumitomo Bank of California to Zions to create California Bank & Trust. The council continues to exchange information to see where the community is collectively headed.

• **Youth at Nikkei 2000 Convention** - Youths are encouraged to attend the Nikkei 2000 Convention in San Francisco (April 27-30). JACL is willing to cover registration and hotel fees. The only expense will be travel. Currently, 40 youths are signed up.

• **Japan Bashing E-mail** - Members who recently received Japan bashing hate e-mail are asked to copy it onto a disk and send it to national, where it will be forwarded to the FBI and the Department of Justice. Fujimoto reported that the response from the Internet server Hotmail has been positive and the perpetrator(s) accounts have been canceled. Chapters are also urged to report the incident to their local police departments.

• **Affirmative Action** - Tateishi is working to put together a report on how affirmative action has affected minorities and the possible impact a ban will have. A draft is expected before the national convention.

• **Camp Preservation Initiative** - Kristine Minami, JACL Washington, D.C., Representative, said it was urgent to visit senators and congresspeople at their district offices during their current recess session since a committee vote is expected in May. She also urged members to write letters or send e-mail in support of the initiative. All correspondence should state that they support the White House Initiative on the Internment Camps. For detailed information, contact Minami at 202/223-1240.

• **Census Bureau** - Minami pointed out that current Census Director Kenneth Prewitt apologized for the department's conduct during World War II.

• **Bill Lann Lee** - Fujimoto moved to have the board take action and send a letter signed by the national board to indicate that there is national support for Lee's appointment. Marie Matsunami seconded. Motion carried.

• **Lillian Kimura** urged the board to write a letter of appreciation to producers of "West Wing," an NBC program. In particular, she praised an episode where a black assistant attorney general for civil rights considers a Nikkei-type redress to descendants of slaves. She will be sending a copy of the episode to Fujimoto.

**Planning and Development**

• **Archives** - Beth Au, PSW regional director, gave a summary of three proposals submitted to JACL from the Japanese American National Library, the Japanese American National Museum and UCLA.

• **Strategic Planning** - Vision 2000 brochures will be revised to include more details and will be included in the convention mail-out package. Governors were encouraged to continue their dialogues with their districts.

• **D.C. Leadership Conference** - Minami updated the board about the March 31-April 4 conference. Both JACL and the Organization of Chinese Americans sent 15 members each. Minami proposed developing a conference alumnae program as a future resource for JACL. Tom Ehrlie, who attended from JACL, said the overriding sentiment was that there is a need to encourage more Asian Americans to enter

public service.

**Youth Council Report**

• **National Convention** - Ueha and Inouye reported that they expect to have three interns who will provide assistance at the convention. They will also sponsor two workshops (APA leadership and careers in the new economy) and possibly a third one on time management. Tateishi and Jackie Kuwada, national youth director, were able to secure writer Helen Zia as a speaker for the youth luncheon.

**Membership Report**

**Membership Development** - JACL conducted a demographic study and will focus on planned giving, family-oriented/youth programs and leadership development.

**Pacific Citizen**

• **Dues Raise** - P.C. is considering a possible \$2 dues raise for 2001-2002.

• **Bill Hosokawa** - Hosokawa will continue to write for the P.C. The P.C. editorial board letter which appeared in the March 31-April 6 issue was published to clarify Hosokawa's last column.

• **Lease** - P.C. was able to negotiate a five-year lease with a five-year option to extend at the current office site in Monterey Park.

• **Lyndee Shinoda** recently joined the P.C. as a part-time writer.

**Japanese American of the Biennium**

The JACL Japanese American of the Biennium Award will go to Gordon Hirabayashi, Mike Honda and Paul Akio Kawata.

**District Caucuses**

• **Grant reported** that IDC is involved in a movement to rename a mountain peak in Idaho from Chink Peak to China Peak.

• **Kimura** said several members voiced concern over a *New York Times* series focusing on violence. Two of the four articles prominently featured Asian Americans although statistically the *Times* article noted that violent acts are done mostly by whites. Minami said her regional office also received similar concerns over the *Times* series. Grant reported that a Utah newspaper published a similar article.

• **Karen Yoshitomi**, PNW regional director, passed out a "JACL National Public Policies Index" draft. National council minutes and national board minutes were reviewed between Jan. 1, 1980, and Dec. 31, 1999, to put this together. ■

**PEARL HARBOR**

(Continued from page 1)

Disney official confirmed that the scene has been cut.

After reading the script, Tateishi also made a suggestion to recast a Caucasian doctor into a Japanese American one so as to depict a positive portrayal and to show that "Japanese Americans were heroes as anyone else." But whether or not Disney plans to adopt this recommendation remains to be seen. The Disney official could not confirm this point.

Guy Aoki, president of the Media Action Network for Asian-Americans, who did not sit in on the meetings but was invited by Tateishi to read the script, said, "Thankfully, it [the script] wasn't as bad as I was expecting."

Aoki gave credit to Disney for depicting the historical figure of Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, commander of the Japanese Imperial fleet, as a three-dimensional

character who was reluctant to go to war. But Aoki also wished that movie-goers were given more historical background as to why Yamamoto and Japan, in general, felt that they had to go to war.

Both Tateishi and Aoki said they have also voiced concerns about how this movie will be played up in the trailers. Tateishi made it a point to ask that the movie not be released on December 7. The Disney official said it will be released next summer.

The movie began filming in Hawaii this month and is expected to wrap up in May. The set experienced a minor setback on April 17 when a WWII-era Japanese Zero fighter plane clipped a palm tree and landed upside down. No buildings were damaged and the pilot suffered a broken rib and wrist. Aside from the plane accident, the Disney official said the production is on schedule. ■

**NINJAS**

(Continued from page 1)

uncles and grandparents in the stands, it is quite evident that these Ninja boys possess supportive families and raw talent. But there is another driving force behind their winning ways. Every team needs a coach, and the Ninjas have that and more in Wade Nakamura.

Dressed appropriately in a bright yellow and black T-shirt, Nakamura stands in the middle of the boys dishing out strategies left and right. He is shorter than most of them, but obviously holds a lot of authority, as the boys listen intently to his every word.

He explains his goals for the team. "I just want to be able to help the kids learn how to play the game properly," he said. "They listen well and they work hard, and they're all very dedicated."

Nakamura attributes their success to the closeness they've gained over the years. "We've been together since they were in sixth grade, they know each other well," he said. "They're all like brothers."

He plans to continue coaching the team until they graduate from high school, but until then, he just wants to take things game by game.

Tension mounted on Easter Sunday, as the Ninjas prepared to play in the championship game against the F.O.R. Gym Rats, a team that they lost to the same time last year. Under different circumstances, it would have been a close game, but one of the Gym Rats' star players was sidelined with an injury, so the Ninjas capitalized. They won 60-45, capturing first-place trophy number 17.

"It was a great day for us, because we played good defense and we were really patient with the ball and played together," said Ninja Jason Yuki.

The team has a week to rest before traveling to Gardena, Calif., for the F.O.R. tournament, where they just may meet up with the Gym Rats again. But the always hungry Ninja boys are en route to their eighteenth championship. ■



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