

# Pacific Citizen

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JUNE 2-8, 2000

## Forum Examines Wen Ho Lee Case

By **MARTHA NAKAGAWA**  
Assistant Editor

The case of Wen Ho Lee, former Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) scientist accused of mishandling nuclear weapons secrets, was examined from a personal, legal and historical perspective at a UCLA forum held on May 24.

Alberta Lee, 26, daughter of Lee and a UCLA alumna, shared an emotional account of the family's ordeal. When Lee was arrested on Dec. 10, 1999, on a 58 count federal indictment, the daughter said, she could not eat for a week and lost more than 15 lbs.

In describing her meetings with her father, she said they were separated by a glass partition and communicate through an intercom. Since her father's wrists are shackled to his waist, he must lean on a platform to press the intercom button. His ankles are also shackled.

"It's really painful because he looks like he's being treated like an animal," the daughter said tearfully.

The family has no private correspondence, and meetings are monitored by two FBI agents — a Chinese and Caucasian. Telephone

calls, limited to 15 minutes, are also recorded and transcribed. Each phone call costs the family \$4 per minute for a total of \$60 per 15 minute phone call.

Although the daughter tries to write her father every day, her father does not receive her letters until the FBI has cleared each one. This usually means her father receives them four to six weeks later, said the daughter.

If the family is late to an appointed meeting by five minutes, they are denied access.

Once the daughter, who was living in North Carolina at the time, said she could not see her father after spending \$400 for a plane ticket, because her flight had been delayed due to bad weather.

"It's just been very hard," said the daughter. "There's cost involved and everything is monitored."

Because conversations are monitored, the daughter has been reluctant to discuss important matters with her father. She has yet to tell him she is engaged to her boyfriend, who has stood by her through this ordeal. She does not discuss her job for fear that the FBI



SEE WEN HO LEE/page 5

## Washington State Legislature Passes CLPEF



State Reps. Kip Tokuda, Velma Veloria, Sharon Tomiko Santos, and State Senator Paull Shin join CLPEF supporters as they witness Gov. Gary Locke's historic signing of the Washington State Civil Liberties Public Education Fund bill.

WASHINGTON—After a two year, uphill battle, the Washington State Legislature recently passed a bill to create the Washington State Civil Liberties Public Education Fund (CLPEF).

The fund, similar to the recently passed California CLPEF, will provide seed money for educational materials about the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans and other civil liberties violations in America's history. Eligible projects may include videos, plays, presentations and exhibitions for K-12 and higher education audiences. The fund will be administered by the state Superintendent of Public Instruction beginning on July 1, 2000.

"This bill will ensure that the painful lessons of our past will be remembered," said Washington State Representative and JACL Seattle chapter board member Kip Tokuda (D-37th District), the main sponsor of the bill.

"Though financing for the program was dropped early in the legislative process, Tokuda made some

last-minute negotiations during a special session to add \$150,000 to the fund. Although a modest allocation for a statewide educational program, the amount is impressive considering the tremendous support in the legislature to pass a "no-frills" budget.

The bill had faced numerous obstacles including opposition from state legislators from less urban areas and from eastern Washington. Fortunately, Rep. Tokuda received strong support from Gov. Gary Locke and his Asian Pacific American colleagues including State Reps. Velma Veloria and Sharon Tomiko Santos and State Sen. Paull Shin. A key Republican leader, Rep. Mike Wensman (R-41st District), was a co-sponsor of the bill and one of its strongest advocates. Another powerful ally was Co-speaker of the House of Representatives Frank Chopp (D-43rd District) who used his sharp legislative skills to negotiate support from the Republican caucus.

State Assemblyman Mike Honda

of the California legislature, Dale Shimasaki, author of the California CLPEF bill, and Diane Matsuda, director of the California CLPEF program, provided critical support and advice as Tokuda developed the Washington state bill.

The CLPEF was a high priority for the Seattle district chapters, Pacific Northwest district chapters. The bill received a strong boost from the advocacy efforts of two Seattle-area transplants: Tom Kometani, former EDC district governor, and Bill Tashima, former Cleveland chapter member and current Seattle chapter board member. Legislative staffers Matthew Nakata and Andi Kawamura provided staff support, relentlessly sending out legislative alerts to the community. Kawamura is a former Seattle chapter board member and Nakata is an active participant on the current board. The Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific Affairs also played a key role in generating community support for the measure. ■

## Nat'l Candidates Outline Vision

This is the third in a series of articles that will profile each of the candidates for national JACL offices. The information is taken from the nomination forms completed by each candidate in which they responded to questions about their qualifications, their definition of leadership and the manner in which they would implement the JACL Program for Action.

### Vice President for 1000 Club and Membership Services

#### Gary Mayeda

Gary Mayeda is a member of the APAN chapter. He is a project engineer manager at Air Conditioning Company, Inc. He is a graduate of California State University, Northridge, where he received a degree in mechanical engineering.

#### JACL Background

- JACL Vice President for Planning and Development, 1996-2000
- APAN Chapter President, 1997-2000

- PSW Youth Chair, 1992-92.
- National Youth/Student Council, 1992-94
- JACL Credentials Committee, 1994

1994  
• Pacific Citizen Editorial Board, 1995-96

**Leadership**  
"Leadership with respect to the role of the JACL board is

the ability to comprehend the diverse needs of the organization nationwide and to be able to make crucial decisions to enhance the ability of the organization to fulfill those needs. It should never be about gaining power but rather developing individuals to give power for the purpose of JACL development."

#### Qualifications

SEE CANDIDATES/page 8



## Resolution Calls for Review of Memorial Inscriptions

By **TRACY UEA**  
Writer/Reporter

A group opposing inscriptions on the National Japanese American Memorial, scheduled to be completed and dedicated on U.S. National Park Service (NPS) land in Washington, D.C., in November, has generated close to 500 signatures on a resolution urging a formal review of the memorial. JAVoice.com: Committee for a Fair and Accurate Memorial announced May 30.

Those who signed the resolution, including the Honolulu chapter JACL, Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California, Manzanar Committee, San Francisco State University, Asian American studies faculty, and Stanford University Nkkai, are opposed to the process through which the inscriptions were approved and claim that portions do not adequately reflect the entire JA community.

The resolution specifically asks

that U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt "oversee the integrity of the Japanese American national memorial and fully investigate the NPS to ensure that it has fulfilled its duties, obligations and mandates."

"The NPS is responsible for the historical accuracy of national monuments.

At the center of the dispute is the plan to inscribe a modified portion of a "creed" written by Mike Masasaka, a JACL field secretary during World War II, who passed away in 1991. It reads: "I am proud that I am an American of Japanese ancestry. I believe in this nation's institutions, ideals, and traditions; I glory in her heritage; I boast of her history; I trust in her future."

Critics argue this quotation is unrepresentative of differing perspectives within the JA community and signifies Masasaka's wartime position of cooperation and collaboration with the government, despite severe civil and constitutional rights violations.

Meanwhile, proponents of the inscriptions stress the importance of recognizing the historical circumstances of the time.

"My greatest concern is that these very articulate people are not putting history in its complete context and therefore misleading people about a very complicated time," said National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) Executive Director Cherry Tsutsumida.

"In a democratic society, anyone can say anything they please. But to call this a committee on fair play is an oxymoron," she added. ■

think their objectives are to unconditionally remove Mike Masasaka's quote, and anything short of that will be unacceptable to them."

"I find it rather ironic that Masasaka has become so much of a target in this controversy because the original idea of a memorial was his," said JACL executive director John Tateishi, who recalls speaking to him about it in 1978.

"This resolution is going to raise a lot of emotions on both sides," Tateishi acknowledged. "A lot of vets and supporters of Mike are going to be upset. Those who are anti-JACL or who oppose Masasaka will probably find it easy to support."

According to Rita Takahashi, a professor at San Francisco State University and one of eight dissenting NJAMF board members, "This memorial will be marred by continuous and vicious controversy long after the memorial's dedication if the inscriptions remain as approved by the NPS. The memorial should unify people, not split and divide them."

Former JACL national president Clifford Uyeda added, "Americans admire those who live up to the principles of our nation. Not those who 'make excuses' to being treated as non-Americans. ... The true creed is to honor the promises contained in our Constitution. ... It would be an everlasting disgrace to have the 'JACL Creed' inscribed in stone for perpetuity."

Private donors, including individuals and organizations, contributed more than \$11 million to construct the memorial prior to any text being chosen and approved.

SEE INSCRIPTIONS/page 7

JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION 2000  
AN ENDLESS WAVE OF LEADERSHIP

Monterey, California  
June 27-July 2, 2000

**2-6**  
days

**Inside the P.C. Weekly**

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

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

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

**Publisher:** Japanese American Citizens League (founded 1929) 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115, tel: 415/921-5225 fax: 415/931-4671  
**JACL President:** Helen Kawagoe, **National Director:** John Tateishi  
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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

**SOUTHEAST**  
**Sun., June 25**—Annual JACL Picnic; 1-6 p.m., Milam Park, Pavilion 12, Clarkston, Ga. Info: Roger Ozaki, 770/979-3616.

### Midwest

**WISCONSIN**  
**Fri.-Sun., June 16-18**—Asian Moon Festival; see Community Calendar.

### Intermountain

**WASATCH FRONT NORTH**  
**Thurs.-Sat., June 8-10**—Wasatch Front North JACL Basketball Tournament; Davis High School; revolving trophy and plaques; Karaii after-tournament social at Oakridge Country Club on June 10. Info: Marion Hori, 801/451-9542.

### Pacific Northwest

**GRESHAM-TROUDALE**  
**Sun., June 4**—Senior Appreciation Banquet; 6 p.m.; Chinese Village Restaurant; Consul General Toyojiro Soejima, guest speaker. RSVP: 503/667-6097.  
**OLYMPIA**

## COMMUNITY Calendar

### The Midwest

**CHICAGO**  
**Sat.-Sun., June 10-11**—Japan Festival 2000; 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Chicago Botanical Garden, Glencoe. Info: Sadyaki Fujikawa, 847/604-2368.

### DETROIT

**Sun., June 11**—Sushi Making Demonstration and Potluck Supper; 3-6 p.m., Southfield Presbyterian Church, 21575 W. 10 Mile Rd., Southfield. RSVP by June 6: Mary Kamidori, 734/522-7917; Toshi Shimoura, 248/356-3089.

### MILWAUKEE

**Fri.-Sun., June 16-18**—Asian Moon Festival; Lakefront Festival Grounds on Lake Michigan; food, entertainment, taiko. Info: Sherri Fujihira, 414/423-1408; Margaret Igowsky, 414/643-5999.

### ST. LOUIS

**Tues., June 13**—Japan America Women's Association craft workshop; to make items to sell at the Japanese Festival. Info: Nikki Hara, 314/821-4100.

### The Northwest

**OLYMPIA, WASH.**  
**Sat., June 10**—Curry Rice and Teriyaki Bowl Fund-raiser; 6:30-8:30 p.m., Olympia Community Center, 222 N. Columbia St. tickets \$10 adults, \$5 children, seniors. Info, tickets: Bob Nakamura, 360/413-9873 or 556-3132; Satoshi Ichiha, 800/676-4114, 360/943-1201, e-mail: coast@nwrain.com.

**Northern California**  
**BAY AREA**  
**Sun., June 4**—48th Annual Junior Olympics track and field event; Chabot College, Hayward. Info: Tom Oshidian, 408/257-5609. e-mail: toshidian@diechcorp.com.  
**Sun., June 4**—Nikkei Widowed Group meeting; 12:30 p.m.; all welcome. For info: M. Kusaba, 415/333-5190, Kay Yamamoto, 510/444-3911.  
**MONTEREY**  
**Fri., June 30**—Veterans Tribute Din-

ner, 126 Vista de Parque, Torrance.  
**Sun., June 18**—Annual Community Picnic and Father's Day Celebration; 11 a.m., Sylvan park, Redlands; Bingo, volleyball, games, races, special Dad's Day prizes,affle. Info: Mielko Inaba, 909/682-8116.■

### NC-WN Pacific

**DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**Sat., June 3**—NCWNP District's 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: NCWNP Regional Director Patty Wada, 415/345-1075.

**DISTRICT EVENT**  
**Sun., June 4**—48th Annual Junior Olympics; see Community Calendar.  
**MONTEREY PENINSULA**  
**Fri., June 30**—Veterans Tribute Dinner; see Community Calendar.

### 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.

**GARDENA VALLEY**  
**Wed., June 7**—Dinner to honor Gardena Councilman Terry Teruuchi; 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner, Normandie Club Showroom, 1045 Rosecrans Ave., Gardena; special guest Pat Morita will sign autographs and take pictures. RSVP: 310/217-1724.

### SOUTH BAY

**Sun., June 4**—Reception for Scholarship/Queen; 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., El Retiro Park Recreation Center Build-

ner; 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 Niizawa, 408/733-7692; e-mail: jinizawa@earthlink.net.

### SACRAMENTO

**Sat., June 24**—Youth Fishing Derby; San Pablo Dam reservoir; for youngsters 8-12 years old. Free. Call JACL at 415/273-1015 for applications.  
**SAN MAATEO**  
**Sun., June 4**—Kabuki Play, "Tatsubo"; 1:30 p.m., San Mateo Community Center, 415 S. Claremont. Info: 343-2793.

### SAN FRANCISCO

**Thurs., June 8**—Panel Discussion, "Protecting Our Civil Liberties: Lessons from the Japanese American Incarceration for Americans Today"; 6 p.m., State Building Auditorium, 505 Van Ness Ave. Info: California Historical Society, 415/357-1848 ext. 11.

**Through June 18**—Exhibit, "America's Concentration Camps: Remembering the Japanese American Experience," California Historical Society, 678 Mission St.; Karen Ishizuka, curator; featuring the Threads of Remembrance quilt. Free. Info: 415/357-1848 ext. 16.

### Central California

**DELANO**  
**Sat.-Sun., July 15-16**—10th Delano Nisei Reunion; Delano Elks Lodge. Info: Toshi Katano, 661/725-8660.

### FRESNO

**Fri.-Sat., Oct. 13-14**—Fifth Jerome Reunion; bus available to Los Angeles. Info: Hiro Nogawa, 559/222-7083, Shig. Rosie Okajima 559/875-3878.

### Southern California

**LOS ANGELES**  
**Sat., June 3**—Asian American Writers' Symposium, "Words Matter"; 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., UCLA Faculty Center; parking in Lot 2. Free. RSVP: 310/825-2974, e-mail: Saranya@ucla.edu.  
**Sat., June 3**—Go for Broke Monu-

ment First Anniversary Celebration; 10 a.m., East First and Alameda Streets. Info: 310/327-4193.  
**Sat., June 3**—Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church Bazaar 2000; 11 a.m.-6 p.m., 1850 W. Hellman Ave., Alhambra. Info: 626/570-4500, www.gbgn-umc.org/sageumc.

**Sat., June 3**—Benefit Dance, "Salute to Summer"; 7-11 p.m., Venice Japanese Community Center, 12448 Braddock Dr. Info: Toshi Asato, 31-373-53287, Midori Kamei, 310/541-6698.  
**Sun., June 4**—Calligraphy Demonstration, 2-3 p.m., New Otani Hotel & Garden, 120 S. Los Angeles St. Info: 213/629-1200 ext. 53.

**Sat., June 10**—Book discussion, "Unlikely Liberators" by Masayo Duus; 9:30-11:30 a.m., Katy Cessett Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd.; RSVP ASAP: 310/618-5950.  
**Sat., June 17**—"Know Your [Patients'] Rights" annual Japanese American Bar Association seminar; 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple, 505 E. Third St., Little Tokyo. Info: Janet Hasegawa, 213/473-1602 (Japanese), or Julia Harumi Mass, 626/796-7555 (Eng/ish).

**SAN DIEGO**  
**Sun., June 4**—Benefit Bazaar; 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Buddhist Temple of San Diego, 2929 Market St.; martial arts, taiko, Okinawan dance, ethnic foods, bingo, raffle, kids' games, more. Info: 619/239-0896.

**WEST COVINA**  
**Sat., June 3**—"A Summer Romance" benefit dance; East San Gabriel Valley JACC, 1203 W. Puente Ave. 7-11:30 p.m. (two-step lessons from 7-7:30); music by Jim Ikehara. RSVP for 8 or more. Info: Roy, 909/594-3600 or 595-6183; Barbara, 626/810-1509.

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

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## Yuesugi to Use Insanity Defense as Xerox Hawaii Murder Trial Begins

The trial of Bryan Yuesugi, a former Xerox employee accused of the worst mass killing in the history of Hawaii, began May 15, in an emotional case which hinges on whether the gunman was legally insane.

Yuesugi, 40, is charged with first-degree murder, second-degree murder and attempted second-degree murder for the Nov. 2 shooting spree which left seven co-workers dead at the Xerox warehouse in Honolulu where he had worked as a copy machine repairman.

Eyewitness testimony for the prosecution began May 17, followed by testimony from six widows and the son of one of the seven men killed. The victims included Jason Balatico, 33, Kalihi Valley; Ford Kanehira, 47, Kaneohe; Ronald Katoeha, 50, Mililani; Ronald Kawamae, 54, Makiki; Melvin Lee, 58, Waipio Gentry; Peter Mark, 46, Hawaii Kai; and John Sakamoto, 36, Hawaii Kai. An eighth employee, Steven Matsuda, was shot at but managed to escape.

The defense argued Yuesugi, a native of Nuuanu, had a long history of mental illness and was legally insane at the time of the incident, allegedly shooting his co-workers because he believed that the company was sabotaging his work and plotting to fire him.

He had been scheduled to attend a meeting to discuss his job performance the morning of the massacre.

Prosecutor Peter Carlisle agreed in his opening statement that Yuesugi was mentally ill but argued that he went into the office that day with the intent to kill and therefore

was not legally insane.

If convicted, Yuesugi could face a mandatory life sentence without possibility of parole. Hawaii has no death penalty. If acquitted by reason of insanity, he could be committed to the state psychiatric hospital in Kaneohe.

Xerox employee Russell Inaba recalled an incident in the early 1990s in which Yuesugi challenged him to a fight and threatened his life. Inaba also said that he overheard Yuesugi tell another employee, "I'll be fired, I'd bring a gun and shoot as many people as I can."

Meanwhile, defense attorney Rodney Ching said Yuesugi suffered from delusions which caused him to act out, most notably in 1993, when he kicked in an elevator panel in a customer's building.

Yuesugi was subsequently sent to the Castle Medical Center for treatment or be fired, said Ching. But despite recommendations for further treatment, he stayed only six days and then returned to work.

Three court-appointed experts, one psychiatrist and two psychologists, evaluated Yuesugi's condition and concluded he does suffer from a mental illness called delusional disorder. One said he also suffers from schizophrenia. But all three agreed he could tell right from wrong.

Yuesugi's father and brother are scheduled to testify for the defense.

After the trial, which is expected to last a month, the state of Hawaii plans to conduct an investigation to determine whether Xerox mishandled the situation, since the company was aware Yuesugi collected guns and had shown violent tendencies. ■

## APA Media Coalition Disappointed by TV's Fall Line-up

The Asian Pacific American Media Coalition on May 18 expressed its disappointment with the new fall line-up of shows from ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox, which was recently released.

Of the fall shows, only six actors of Asian Pacific American descent were cast on the four networks' 30 new shows. None are cast in lead roles. In addition, the coalition protested the cancellation of CBS's *Martial Law*, the only show with an actor of APA descent featured in a lead role.

NBC's record on casting APA improved from the previous year, casting two Asian American females in supporting roles — Lauren Tom in the comedy *DAG* and Christina Chang in the drama *Deadline*. They now join *ER*'s Ming-Na Wen, *Dad*'s Suzy Nakamura and *Third Watch*'s Anthony Ruivivar, all mid-season replacements on NBC this year.

ABC also showed signs of some improvement with the casting of two AAs — Cindy Lu on the comedy *Gene* and Ravi Kapoor on *Gideon's Crossing*, a medical drama. ABC had no regular lead or supporting APA actors this past season.

"We are pleased that ABC and NBC has made strides to include Asian Pacific Americans in their new shows this fall," stated Norman Mineta, chair of the APA Media Coalition.

Nonetheless, the coalition expressed some disappointment with

the new fall shows. "We remain concerned that Asian Pacific Americans are still not being fairly considered for lead roles on the network shows," said Karen Narasaki, executive director of the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium. "Only two supporting roles out of each network's seven new shows illustrate that both networks have room for improvement."

In addition to CBS canceling *Martial Law*, which starred Sammo Hung, Kelly Hu and Arsenio Hall, none of the seven new shows from CBS have an APA actor. It appears that the only person of APA descent on CBS next fall will be Nia Peeples of *Walker, Texas Ranger*, who is part-Filipino.

"For CBS to cancel *Martial Law*, which regularly beats its competition on Saturday nights, is a disgrace," said Guy Aoki, president of the Media Action Network for Asian Americans. "CBS is taking a giant step backward in terms of truly representing America's diversity by canceling one of those rare shows that included Asian Americans and African Americans in lead roles."

The APA Media Coalition did not have complete information on Fox's fall schedule. However, according to reports, two shows, *Don't Ask* and *Dark Angel*, features actors who are of APA descent. It does not appear that any of the seven new shows cast an APA actor: Lucy Liu on *Ally McBeal* is the only AA actor returning to Fox's lineup next fall. ■

## President Clinton Names Norman C. Bay as U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico

President Clinton on May 24 announced his intent to nominate Norman C. Bay as U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico.

Bay, of Albuquerque, N.M., is currently the interim U.S. attorney for New Mexico.

Prior to his appointment as interim U.S. attorney, Bay was the supervisory assistant U.S. attorney in the district's violent crime section. As an assistant U.S. attorney from 1989 to 1995 in the District of Columbia and from 1995 until present in New Mexico, Bay has handled a variety of criminal cases, including violent crime, firearms violations and narcotics trafficking.

Before becoming a federal prosecutor, Bay was an attorney-advisor for the Office of Legal-Advisor, U.S. Department of State from 1988 to 1989. From 1986 to 1987, Bay was a law clerk for a U.S. Court of Appeals judge.

Bay received a B.A. degree in 1982 from Dartmouth College, and a J.D. degree in 1986 from Harvard Law School. He is a member of the Oregon, District of Columbia, and New Mexico bars.

U.S. attorneys are the chief federal prosecutors and law enforcement officers for the 94 federal judicial districts. They have principal responsibility for the prosecution of federal matters in their district. ■

## CAUSE Political Institute 2000 Conference Set for June 23-25

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA  
Assistant Editor

The Chinese Americans United for Self Empowerment (CAUSE) Political Institute 2000 conference, set up to encourage more Asian Pacific American participation in politics, will be held from June 23-25 at the Wilshire Grand Hotel in Los Angeles and applications are now being accepted, CAUSE announced on May 26.

The CAUSE Political Institute 2000 is a West Coast version of a similar program sponsored recently by the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies in Washington, D.C. Both programs seek to provide information and networking opportunities for APAs interested in running for public office.

CAUSE Chair Charlie Woo said he originated the idea for the Institute because he felt APAs were underrepresented and wanted to find a solution to remedy this situation.

"Being politically connected serves several purposes," said Woo. "It gives us an opportunity to sit at the table. It's the government that decides public policy that affects all of us, and it's important for all of us to be represented. ... So it is important to motivate, train and develop candidates to be interested in running for public office. That is the purpose of this conference."

Woo said anyone can apply to attend the institute but did add that some of the speakers may focus on issues more relevant to California.

Political veteran Judy Chu, who is currently the Democratic mayor for the City of Monterey Park, Calif., said had there been a CAUSE program back in 1985 when she first ran for public office, her campaign would have been much easier.

"I can say I wish there had been something like this around when I first ran for office in 1985," said Chu. "I remember sit-

ting there puzzling over many things such as how to make the right mailer, who do you send it to, where do you get the signs from. We had to start from scratch, and if you stop to think about it, it was a lot of wasted time. So you really need to get advice from the experts. It will make for a much more successful campaign."

Chu pointed out that if APAs hope to more effectively tackle such issues as the Wen Ho Lee espionage allegations, the Democratic National Committee's campaign finance scandal and hate crime issues, the APA community has to become more involved in politics because it is through legislation that potential solutions can be found.

But Chu said there is a current lack of APA representation. Just on the local level, Chu said Alhambra, which is more than 40 percent APAs, and San Gabriel and Rosemead, which are both more than 30 percent APAs, do not have one single APA council member. As for Chu's own city of Monterey Park, which has an APA population of 57 percent, she is the only APA elected official.

"That's why this institute is so important," said Chu. "We need to train them (candidates) so they know what to do and can survive in this rough political world. ... Politics is a rough and tumble world but it's well worth it because when you have representation you can do so much and really help in more ways than one."

Wen Chang, a Republican council member for the City of Diamond Bar, Calif., is a relative newcomer to politics who first ran for office in 1997. Last year was the first time he had attended the CAUSE institute and he noted that he wished he had heard about it earlier.

"If I were to put myself back to the beginning, I would come to this type of seminar and talk to the consultants because they have so much more experience ...

This seminar can really help in terms of time and money," said Chang.

Michael Eng, who is the CAUSE Political Institute's Education and Outreach co-chair with Kenny Yee, said this was an important year for APAs to show their political muscle for three main reasons: the Wen Ho Lee trial is set to begin the same month as the presidential election and APAs, in particular Chinese Americans, will most likely find themselves the center of attention; five Chinese American candidates have the potential to win a California state office seat; and the presidential race, which has no incumbent candidate, is still up for grabs.

"Let's make sure we end up being the victors, rather than the victims," said Eng.

Confirmed Institute panelists at press time are as follows: Bill Carrick, political consultant with Morris and Carrick; Wilma Chan, supervisor for the Alameda Board of Supervisors and a candidate running for a California assembly seat; Harvey Englander, political consultant with the MWW Group; Allan Hoffenblum, political consultant with Allan Hoffenblum & Associates; Parke Skelton, political consultant with Skelton, Grover & Associates; Maeley Tom, government relations and public affairs consultant with Tom and Associates; and Michael Woo, project coordinator with Local Initiatives Support Corp. and former Los Angeles mayoral candidate.

Some of the topics that will be covered include: "How Do I Decide if I'm Ready?" "How Do I Put Together a Winning Campaign Team?" "How Do I Market Myself and My Message?" "When the Going Gets Tough."

For more information or an application, contact CAUSE at: 626/307-3882; Web site: www.causeusa.org; 9040 Telstar Ave., Suite 106, El Monte, CA 91731. ■

## President Clinton Acknowledges Contributions of APAs in Washington, D.C.

President Bill Clinton spoke before Asian Pacific American leaders from across the country last week, during the Leadership Academy for Asian Pacific American Elected Officials, which is sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) and the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

Clinton, who was invited to speak by Norman Mineta, former congressman and Lockheed Martin vice president, praised the community for the contributions they've made to this country and renewed his vow to get Bill Lane Lee confirmed as assistant attorney general for civil rights.

Vice President Al Gore also met privately with APA leaders during the conference, which was held in Washington, D.C. from May 25-27.

This year, 14 APA elected officials participated in the leadership training academy which included sessions with current and former elected officials, congressional staffers, political/public relations consultants, fundraisers, journalists, and other political experts.

"This group of participants includes a number of trailblazers," said Don T. Nakanishi, director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. "Charnithy Uong (Cambodian American) and Joe Bee Xiong (Hmong American) are the first of their ethnic backgrounds to be elected to office in the United States. These officials are part of an encouraging trend of increased political representation for Asian Pacific Americans, including those who are immigrants and refugees."

APAICS Executive Director Rodney Jay C. Salinas said his organization is pleased to bring such a diverse group of elected officials to Washington. "These officials repre-

sent the fastest-growing minority group in the country, and the training they receive will help them improve their service to their communities as well as advance their careers," Salinas said. "There are still only seven Asian Pacific American members of Congress, and we would like to see that number increase. The leadership academy can help provide our elected officials with the skills they need to run successful campaigns for higher office."

Patrick Gaston, assistant vice president of strategic alliances at Bell Atlantic, sponsor of the leadership academy, said: "Bell Atlantic is proud to be a continuing sponsor of the leadership academy for Asian Pacific American elected officials. We are committed to supporting an expanded role for Asian Pacific Americans in public office, policy-making and the political process."

Meanwhile, a newly formed Asian American Action Fund announced they will be organizing a major fundraiser for California Assemblyman Mike Honda, who is running for a congressional seat.

Academy participants were: James Arakaki (D), chairman, Hawaii County Council; J. Kalani English (D), Maui (Hawaii) County Council; Jose Esteves (R), Milpitas (Calif.) City Council; Michael Guingona (D), Daly City (Calif.) City Council; Dain Kane (D), Maui (Hawaii) County Council; Cheryl Lee (I), Shoreline (Wash.) City Council; Rene Mansho (D), Honolulu (Hawaii) City Council; Sharon Tamiko Santos (D), Washington House of Representatives; Paul Tanaka (R), Gardena (Calif.) City Council; Kip Thukuda (D), Washington House of Representatives; Charnithy Uong (D), Lowell (Mass.) City Council; Jesse Vizzo-

cho (I), Kodiak (Alaska) City Council; Joe Bee Xiong (D), Eau Claire (Wis.) City Council; and Brian Yamane (D), Hawaii House of Representatives. ■

(Sam Chu Lin contributed to this story.)

### Calling All Interns!!

Wanted: part-time summer intern for the Pacific Citizen.

Reward: working with an enthusiastic staff; oh yeah, and a modest stipend.

The Pacific Citizen newspaper, the national publication of the Japanese American Citizens League is currently looking for someone to work at its Monterey Park, Calif. office, approximately three days a week, including some weekends.

Various duties include reporting, researching, rewriting of press releases and production duties. Knowledge of the Asian American community, and the JACL a plus.

College or grad students currently majoring in English or Journalism preferred, but not required. Applicants should also have a valid driver's license.

The application deadline for P.C.'s "Harry Honda Summer Internship Program" is Thursday, June 15, 2000.

If interested, please send a resume and a writing sample to the Pacific Citizen, 7 Cupena Circle, Monterey Park, CA 91765, fax: 323/725-0084, email: PacCit@aol.com, attention: Caroline Aoyagi. ■

JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION

Exploring Japantowns Along the Central Coast



By Roger Minami  
Special to the Pacific Citizen

Japantowns are sadly disappearing these days but during the 1920s the Monterey Bay region boasted a number of J-towns with a thriving Japanese, American population of 3,000.

Most of the JAs in the area were employed in the fishing and agricultural industries according to Sandy Lydon, the author of the book, "The Japanese in the Monterey Bay Region." And like the Chinese Americans who immigrated to the United States before them, JAs felt a need to develop Japantowns in order to have a place to shop and socialize.

"Japantowns along the Central Coast of California are extremely interesting," said JACL National Convention Co-Chair Larry Oda. "Those that immigrated to the Central Coast at the beginning of the century were from different parts of Japan. Within some of our Japantowns, you will find sub-categories of Japanese that came from places such as Hiroshima and Wakayama. Although most of the time these groups kept their own traditions and to themselves, they all managed to work together to develop Japantowns for the benefit of their communities."

Watsonville, with a Japanese population of over 400 had the largest Japantown in the area. Watsonville's Japantown contained services such as a barber, tailor, doctors, merchants, a Buddhist Temple, Presbyterian Church, and a social hall. Next to Japantown, was a Chinese gambling establishment that entertained many Japanese customers. It was referred to by local Japanese as their "Hong Kong Bank."

Monterey had the second largest Japantown. Within Monterey's JA community one could find Japanese immigrants from Hiroshima who were primarily employed in the fishing industry and folks from Wakayama, who lived in downtown Monterey.

The Japantowns in Salinas and San Juan Bautista catered mainly to those working in the agricultural industry. Within the town of San Juan Bautista in the 1920s, Hiroshima born Kichigoro Tanamura opened up a small grocery store that catered mainly to Japanese immigrants. In back of the grocery store was a Japanese style *ofuro* (bathhouse). San Juan Bautista's Japantown also had a fish merchant, pool-hall owners, and various clusters of Japanese farming families that worked on farms in the San Juan Valley.

"For those visiting the JACL national convention, we hope you will take an opportunity to find out more about the history of Central Coast Japantowns. One of our helpful JACL national convention committee volunteers would love to tell you more about our local Japantowns," said Oda.

For more information on the JACL national convention or Central Coast Japantowns, contact Larry Oda at tsuneo1@msn.com.

Philadelphia JACL Hosts 'Distant Voices'

"Distant Voices," a dramatic reading of the World War II diary of Hiroaki Nishimura, was attended by an audience of 120 comprised of members from the Philadelphia JACL chapter and the Main Line Unitarian Church on May 13 in Devon, PA.

"Distant Voices" tells the story of the incarceration of Japanese Americans in WWII concentration camps through the diary of a young Kibe (Julie Nishimura's father), whose odyssey took him from San Francisco to Tanforan, to Los Angeles, to Heart Mountain and finally to Tule Lake.

The play was written by Danny Peak who is also the voice of Mr. Nishimura. The other voices were performed by Steve Gleich, and Stephanie Santer, stage artists from the Philadelphia area. Pianist Julie Nishimura, a University of Delaware Music Department faculty member, provided the musical underscoring with selections from Japanese folksongs as well as 20th century composers such as Glass, Gershwin, Copland, Dvorak, Debussy and Muczynski.

The actors' voices set the political, social, and pop culture context of the times. The musical selections by Nishimura underpin the emotional evocations of the voices as they tell the story. The musical arrange-



"Distant Voices" performed at Main Line Unitarian Church, Devon, PA — (l-r): Hiro Nishikawa (Philadelphia JACL), Stephanie Santer, Dany Peak, Julie Nishimura, Steven-Gleich ("Distant Voices" troupe), and Carrie DeClerque (Anti-Racism Task Force, M.L.U.C.). Ikebana by Yuriko Moruchi.

ments paced the actor's words and added emphasis to the moments of drama as well as pathos.

Hiro Nishikawa hosted the event sponsored by the Philadelphia JACL through a legacy fund grant. Carrie DeClerque was co-host of the event on behalf of the Anti-Racism Task Force of the M.L.U.C., a co-sponsor of the performance.

After premiering at the University of Delaware on May 8, "Distant Voices" has been performed at several East Coast venues. The troupe recently went international with a performance this past January in London, England. The next performance is slated for the upcoming Tule Lake reunion in Klamath Fall, OR from July 1-4. ■

Stockton JACL to Hold Scholarship Awards Luncheon June 11

The Stockton JACL's 2000 Scholarship Awards Luncheon to honor this year's recipients will be held on June 11 from 1-3 p.m. at the On Lock Sam Restaurant, 333 South Sutter Street, Stockton, Calif.

Nelson Nagai will present "Citizens for Life," a slide show about Executive Order 9066 and how it affected the lives of many of the families involved. A panel discussion will follow with panelists Bernice Endow, Mas Ishihara, George Matsumoto, Dorothy Okura, and Barry Saito.

The cost of the luncheon is \$10 per person. RSVP by calling Chieko Nomura at 209/474-6309 after 6:00 p.m. or Joyce Tsutsumi at 209/478-2968 by June 4.

This year's scholarship recipients are: Roxanne Komure (Lincoln High School), Stockton JACL Elizabeth Humbarger Scholarship; Erin Masuoka (Bear Creek High School), in memory of Ruby Dobana, Stockton Chapter JACL Scholarship; Heather Iwata (Bear Creek High School), Stockton

JACL Anheuser-Busch Inc. Scholarship; Derek Yep (Lincoln High School), Stockton JACL George and Amy Matsumoto Scholarship; Jennifer Watanabe (Bear Creek High School), Stockton JACL Mitsuye Baba Memorial Scholarship; Wesley Fujimoto (Lodi High School), Stockton JACL Sumidin Wire Products Scholarship; Lisa Noma (Lodi High School), Stockton JACL California Bank & Trust Scholarship; Kiichi Matsumo (Lincoln High School), Stockton JACL Union Bank of California Scholarship; Jill Morimoto (Tibkey High School), Stockton JACL Fred Dobana Memorial Scholarship; Karli Ojeda (Stagg High School), Stockton JACL Gunji Watanabe Memorial Scholarship; Hiroshi Tsuyuri (San Joaquin Delta College), Stockton JACL Elizabeth Humbarger Memorial Scholarship.

Members of the scholarship committee are George Baba, Dr. John Fujii, Nelson Nagai, Chieko Nomura, Tad Shibata, and Joyce Tsutsumi. ■

Greater Portland H.S. Seniors Recognized

The Greater Portland area community organizations recognized the graduating high school seniors of 2000 at the Multnomah Athletic Club on April 30.

Portland's Consul General of Japan Tetsujiro Soejima extended his congratulations and wished them well in their future endeavors.

Keynote speaker Garret Hongo, an English professor who spearheads the creative writing department at the University of Oregon, read excerpts from his poetry and urged students to know their history and to value it because it is unique.

Student responder Michael Myoga expressed deep appreciation for the hours of community work gone into the occasion.

The scholarship winners are as follows:

- Japanese Ancestral Society Awards Satsuki Azumano scholarship; Alec Yamauchi Steury of Grant High; Hide Naito scholarship; Noritaka Niino, Evergreen High; Tsuya Minamoto scholarship; Ari Okano, Lakeridge High.
- Oregon Nisei Veterans awards Roger Okamoto scholarship; Kristin Sunamoto, Lincoln High; Tosh Kuge scholarship; Christie Kasubuchi, Gresham High; J.K.

Kida scholarship; Megan Sono, Centennial High; Ouchida scholarship; Momoko Nakamura, Lincoln High.

- Portland JACL scholarship: Sean Matsuda, Sunset High.
- Gresham Troutdale JACL scholarship: Monte Guerber, Clackamas High.
- Shokookai (Japanese Businessmen's Association): Tamiko Migaki, Jesuit High.
- Veleda scholarship: Kay Duffy, San Barlow High.
- Nikkei Fujinkai scholarship: Julie Ota, Lincoln High.

• Buddhist Daihonzan Henjyoji Temple scholarship: Michael Myoga, Beaverton High.

• The Japanese Ancestral Society's outstanding male and female athlete awards went to Sean Matsuda and Megan Sono respectively.

Community organizations sponsoring the banquet were: Epworth United Methodist Church, Veleda Club, Portland JACL, Gresham Troutdale JACL, Oregon Nisei Veterans, Buddhist Daihonzan Henjyoji Temple, Nichiren Buddhist Church, Japanese Ancestral Society, Nikkei Fujinkai and the Oregon Buddhist Temple.

In addition, Shokookai and the consulate general of Japan also supported the event. ■

REGISTRATION FORM		SUMMARY OF FEES	
Name: Last First MI	Convention Package	\$	
Address	Individual Events	\$	
City	Special Events	\$	
State & Zip Code		TOTAL	\$
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Date: Evening	MAIL CHECK and FORM together		
e-mail	To pay by charge card		
Chapter	Print Legibly:		
Category: <input type="checkbox"/> Delegate <input type="checkbox"/> 1000 Club <input type="checkbox"/> 1000 Club Life <input type="checkbox"/> Youth <input type="checkbox"/> Masuoka Fellow <input type="checkbox"/> Booster <input type="checkbox"/> National Board/Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	Cardholder's Name		
Register early to save money! *Early Bird* postmark deadline April 30, 2000	MasterCard or Visa (check one)		
	Account Number		
	Expiration Date		
	Signature		
	SEND FORM TO: JACL 2000 - REGISTRATION P.O. BOX 1996 MONTEREY, CA 93942-1996		
	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 pages.		
<b>PACKAGE REGISTRATION</b> (includes Individual Events listed below)			
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<input type="checkbox"/> Regular with Youth Luncheon \$195 \$245			
<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 \$30 \$35			
<input type="checkbox"/> Two 1/2 Day (Gate day) Tu, We, Th, Fr, Sa \$30 \$35			
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshops \$30 \$35			
Complete separate Workshop Registration Form			
<input type="checkbox"/> Monterey Bay Aquarium \$60 \$75			
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<input type="checkbox"/> Awards Luncheon \$45 \$50			
<input type="checkbox"/> Seyonara Banquet \$65 \$75			
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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.	Single/Double Occupancy \$109 Additional occupancy/beds \$20	
<b>Package Registration</b> The Regular Convention Package admits registered badge holders to all National Council business sessions, workshops, oratorical 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.	DoubleTree Hotel at Fisherman's Wharf Two Portola Plaza Monterey, CA 93940 (831) 649-4511 Fax (831) 649-4115 www.doubletreemonterey.com	<b>Air Travel</b> United Airlines is the official airline of the 2000 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 594LS.
<b>Individual Event Registration</b> 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.	United Airlines (800) 521-4041	<b>Rental Cars</b> Rental cars are available at airports. Use your JACL Hertz Car Rental card for a discount.
<b>Cancellation Policy</b> 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.		<b>Transportation</b> 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.
<b>Hotel Registration</b> 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		<b>For further information call:</b> Larry Oda (831) 758-7107 Days (831) 375-3314 Eve. e-mail: tsuneo1@msn.com Kaz Matsuyama (831) 649-0704 e-mail: KAZNMN@aol.com



Very Truly Yours



By Harry Honda

## Had There Been a Zandankai on Masaoka's Inscription

Marshall M. Sumida, a prewar Los Angeles Boyle Heights denizen now of San Francisco, has offered "things Japanese" and recovered forgotten bits of "Americana" (things typical of America) that impact the Japanese in particular. Some of his essays, I thought, would enlighten as "links" to the "JACL Curriculum and Resource Guide" (1996), about to be updated by the JACL national education committee.

His essay, "Zandankai — Web site Discussion Group," describes a technique that can be used for the good of the community, the league or panel discussions.

The Japanese are fond of holding a *zandankai* — a sort of round-table discussion. Magazines and newspapers in Japan offer readers accounts of such discussions that range on subjects of interest to readers. At such meetings, as Sumida explains, usually three or more persons participate with a chairman who conducts the proceedings.

Here's one scenario for a *zandankai* that could be, for instance, about the inscriptions to grace the Japanese American national monument in Washington, D.C. Several prominent leaders are invited to express views on the subject but few, if any, would venture an independent or origi-

nal view or ideas.

If "A" starts the discussion, "B" who follows endorses or contradicts the remarks without himself expressing his own independent idea. "C" then chooses not to compose his own original idea but rather tries to toy with remarks so far made by "A" and "B." Thus, the discussion goes on without any conclusions being reached or any consensus being taken. When the discussion has reached its allotted time, the audience has had enough. The chairman will close the meeting and merely announce it is time to stop the discussion. Such a *zandankai*, in other words, was a public forum for education purposes to air the myriad details and seemingly important issues.

But, if the initial speaker "A" is planted and has something definitive to say, the other panelists would not exercise their prerogatives to oppose or try to influence change but usually will go along with the basic idea. Opinions expressed, while interesting, would not really change the final outcome.

This latter pattern for the leaders is an example of informing the public of details in an interesting and provocative way. However, this method veils the top down proposal and makes it appear that input was rendered from all levels. Those who differ, oppose or express their position,

but at the same time express some innocuous proposition, avoid responsibility and accountability for originating any new ideas or proposals.

As a Web site discussion, it can go on until a consensus or conclusion is reached where a productive change for the better can be possible. At least, have a discussion where everyone agrees to disagree without being disagreeable, Sumida writes. Remember that the monument is for future generations to ponder and recall; not a monument to perpetuate differences, to divide and conquer, or to neutralize each other.

A Web site group in the future can be a productive tool for all to participate, offer new insights that should be considered and changes made where possible without capsizing the "ol' boat." It's a chance for all members and interested public to have their input pondered. *Zandankai* brings into the Y2K technical age the saying: Knowledge is power!

As Mike Masaoka has been mentioned and in the spirit of Memorial Day observed this past Monday, let me quote from his letter addressed to Alice Kasai of Salt Lake, dated Nov. 11, 1944, "somewhere in France" (the "Lost Battalion" had been rescued Oct. 30; the 442nd was pushing the Germans off the ridge; then the 442nd was pulled

off Nov. 17 for R&R in the French Maritime Alps).

"Life over here is a rugged and demanding one for those in a line company ... For theirs is an existence which no one, unless he has lived through it, can even begin to describe. And the words aren't in the language to explain the agonies of advancing toward death or injury.

"My job often takes me to the hottest spots in order to get the news ... When the chips are down, and life and death as well as our future as Americans in America are at stake, they have shed their damnable indifference and insufferable conceit and proved that they are men.

"We Nisei can be proud of the men of the 442nd. I have seen them advance with bayonets fixed against entrenched Germans who tried to mow them down with machine guns. They saw their buddies, sometimes their own brothers killed at their side, but only wiping a tear from their eyes, they carry on. I have seen them charge superior numbers and still cut them down. They have that something akin to godliness when they fight. No wonder the Germans think that we are supermen.

"[Our boys] are always wet. Even at night, when they can, they sleep in trenches and dugouts half-filled with (rain) water. In the days, it is always attack, attack, attack. Though

their ranks thin out faster than wheat at harvest time before a reaper, they attack, attack, attack ...

"Ask the men of the Lost Battalion what they think of our boys.

"Ask the thousands of GIs who fight at our side. Ask the German who has met the 442nd.

"And you'll be proud of the lads, we used to worry about, that being a Nisei will be a mark of honor and not to be questioned. But in doing so, our boys have paid a terrific price ... The price for our future as a racial group in America has been among the highest ever paid ... Many that we knew and loved are now in hospitals; many will always bear the mark of war. All of us who are privileged to return will bear some mark of this hell that we know, whether that mark be visible or seared in our memories. Many, too, are in graves, never again to know what America is and means. Every family has felt some sort of tragedy in this war, I know; but the soldier up front bears them all. He worries about his brothers, about his companions; he worries about himself. Because he knows the terror and horror of it all."

I ask, when was the last time you read or recounted such lines on Memorial Day? ■

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## Troubled in Paradise



By Brian Niiyo

## Holiday Bowl, RIP

On Saturday, May 6, 2000, Los Angeles' famed Holiday Bowl closed its doors, apparently for the last time. If you bowled in national or regional Japanese American tournaments from the late 1950s on or spent any significant amount of time in L.A. since then, you no doubt know about Holiday Bowl. Its apparent passing marks the end of an era in L.A.

In the two decades after World War II, bowling was arguably the most popular sport among JAs, cutting across generation, class, and gender. There were many reasons for its popularity. It was relatively inexpensive, at least for beginners. It had flexible hours which were particularly important to the many JAs who worked in the agricultural field or in gardening, occupations whose long hours and weekend work could preclude participation in sports which had to be played during the day. It provided ample opportunity for socializing and could be played by men and women of all ages.

I also think that bowling had a particularly "American" symbolism that appealed on a subliminal level to Nisei trying to escape the ghosts of the war, as Harry Honda wrote about bowling in a 1949 article titled "Pin-Craze Sweeps Lil' Tokio." "This pastime is strictly U.S.A. ... in the same classic American ranks as baseball and hamburger sandwiches."

The swelling numbers of JA bowling leagues, required places to bowl. This was a problem. For like many other American institutions of the time, bowling had a color line. The American Bowling Congress, the ruling body of

American bowling, was essentially a "white only" organization until 1950. Many bowling centers of the time restricted or banned outright people of color from their lanes. Thus the problem for JA leagues and tournaments. One of the organizers of perhaps the first JA regional tournament after the war held in Denver, Colorado told me that they held the tournament at a center where they were only allowed to bowl upstairs and where "none of the Japanese names could be announced over the PA system" because it was felt that the white bowlers wouldn't like it.

It was this context of swelling numbers of JA bowlers and a shortage of modern bowling facilities that the first JA owned facilities came into being. As detailed in John Saito, Jr.'s excellent article in the *Rafu Shimpo*, Holiday Bowl was opened by four Nisei in 1958 and became perhaps the most popular bowling center in Southern California for JAs. The modern, 36-lane bowling center anchored a new suburban JA community west of downtown along Crenshaw Boulevard, which would come to have a substantial African American community.

Its appeal spread beyond the bowling subculture. Holiday Bowl's coffee shop served authentic JA style Chinese food and was open 24-hours a day, the better to serve produce market workers and late night revelers after the nightclubs shut down.

In its prime, it was hugely popular with league bowlers as one of the nicer houses in L.A., complete with state-of-the-art lanes, ball returns and pinsetters and the first automatic scoring sys-

tem in L.A. JA and African American leagues took up all the available evening slots, and the coffee shop did a brisk business.

But JAs began to move out of the area in the 1980s and the number of JA leagues began to shrink. Holiday Bowl was sold in the mid-1990s, and fell into disrepair. The end came suddenly, when the property owner went into escrow with a new buyer, one who will apparently build a new retail development on the property.

The closing of Holiday Bowl symbolizes the end of an era in a couple of different ways. It is a sign of change in the multiethnic Crenshaw neighborhood that has been such an important JA residential community since the resettlement era. It is also symptomatic of the general decline in the numbers of bowling leagues across the country, not just among JAs. It is not the first bowling center of the 1950s to go under, and it won't be the last.

There are, however, some who want to see Holiday Bowl live on. A group of Holiday Bowl workers along with preservation activists at the L.A. Conservancy have joined an effort to gain recognition as a historic landmark by the city and the state. Such an effort could save Holiday Bowl, or at least buy it more time. If successful, these efforts could result in Holiday Bowl reopening a bowling center, or being converted to a community or cultural center of some sort, among many other possibilities.

I hope these efforts to preserve this slice of JA history are successful. There is still much we can learn from the story of this bowling center. ■

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## Letters to the Editor

### On JACL, VFW Chapters and WWII Draft Resisters

I believe that I was the person who raised the issue of JACL apologizing to the resisters.

The 1990 JACL biennial convention in San Diego passed a resolution stating that those Nisei who resisted the draft from camp on constitutional issues had taken a different position than "JACLs," and that JACL would educate others about the draft resisters. This was not done.

JACL's leadership during the war called the resisters "cowards and traitors" for taking a stand contrary to JACL's proposed plan to cooperate with our government in abrogating due process in drafting us out of the ten camps.

Following the Feb. 21, 1993, "homecoming" celebration of draft resisters of the ten camps at Centenary United Methodist Church, Robin Tuma, on behalf of the Japanese American Bar Association, honored the draft resisters with certificates in recognition of their stand on constitutional grounds.

When the Japanese American National Museum held its L.A. Expo at the Los Angeles Convention Center in 1994, I was manning a Heart Mountain booth. Ruth Mizobe, then PSWDC chair, and Trisha Murakawa, a PSWDC board member, stopped at my booth. I had never met them before, but I brought up the matter of an apology from JACL to the draft resisters, saying that JACL, in its charter and written policies, stated that it was a civil rights organization and that the draft resisters were acting out of conscience and on constitutional grounds. I suggested that the PSWDC board should pass a resolution of apology. Ruth and Trisha carried it further, taking the matter to the PSWDC council meeting in Gardena on Feb. 5, 1995, where such a resolution passed.

Later that year, the Southern California ACLU board, with Trisha as its chair, honored the resisters at a public event of the ACLU.

Somewhat later, I was surprised to find a "letter to the editor" in both the *Raft Shimo* and the *Los Angeles Times* from JA VFW posts opposing an apology and stating that they would not apologize and urging JACL not to apologize.

Neither I, who served during World War II with three of my brothers in the MIS, nor any resister that I know have ever suggested that any person or entity other than JACL should apologize for the public denigration of the draft resisters from the ten camps. I targeted JACL solely because its charter and mission calls for civil liberties and habeas

corpus-due process.

Following the 1994 JACL PSWD resolution, I wrote to the other seven JACL national district councils, with supporting letters from Ruth Mizobe, Dr. Clifford Uyeda, former JACL national president, and WWII 442nd veteran, Dr. Eiji Suyama, asking the seven district councils to pass a resolution apologizing to the resisters. After waiting several months, I wrote to all seven district governors, stating that I understood that their district councils would not act on this proposal.

The national JACL body will visit the apology concept at their forthcoming meeting in Monterey, with input from an interfaith coalition, the Nikkei 2000 Conference which met in San Francisco on April 30 of this year.

The JA veterans units who have acknowledged the validity of the draft resistance within the camps are the following: first the 100th-442nd veterans of Hawaii, then the Northern California MIS, and JAWA (Japanese American Veterans Association) which is based in Washington, D.C.

Finally, in conducting oral interviews of former internees, I happened to interview Takashi Hoshizaki of Los Angeles, who was a draft resister at Heart Mountain, and was convicted with 84 other Nisei in 1944 in the Federal Court in Cheyenne, Wyo. Takashi served his time at McNeil Island Federal Penitentiary. Some Nisei of this group of 85 served their time at Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary.

During my interview of Takashi, he gave me a list of six other Nisei who served time with him who, after being pardoned by President Truman in 1947, were free of prison and camp, but also were available for the draft. Six of these seven Nisei served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, and one served before the Korean War. There undoubtedly were others of the 85 who were similarly drafted after they were pardoned in 1947.

Paul Tsuneishi

Via fax

### Amache CCLPEP Project

I am in the final stages of completing the grant from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP). The project focus was on Amache, the concentration camp in Colorado. Two products are emerging from the grant: a booklet (about 50 pages in length) and a binder of approximately 160 pages with photographs and captions about Amache.

In addition to distributing the products to a select group of colleges and universities, museums,

as displayed in many different forms, ranging from military service to legal struggles by resisters of conscience who fought against constitutional infringements. U.S. government exclusion orders and concentration camp edicts;

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service (NPS) has the authority and duty to ensure that memorials on NPS land are accurate, correct, and appropriate;

WHEREAS, The NPS and NJAMF acted insensitively and disrespectfully by including the misquotation of a "cred," which was written by a private (not elected) individual they know reflects an organizational perspective of only a limited segment of the Japanese American community, and which they know causes widespread pain and objections; and

WHEREAS, The NJAMF, supported by the NPS, imposed their will on the public without proper notice to the community and proper opportunities for public comment, using similar processes to the one enacted by certain Japanese

and historical societies, I would like to give them to those chapters that meet the following criteria:

1. Has a substantial number of persons associated with Amache — former evacuees and their families. (Probably chapters with families who were in the Merced and Santa Anita Assembly Centers, and families who moved to Amache from Jerome and Tule Lake.)

2. Has an educational outreach program which has members who go into the schools and the community to disseminate information about the removal, incarceration and resettlement of Japanese Americans during WWII.

3. Has a place (e.g., Sonoma County JACL chapter has a lending library) where the products can be safely stored for use by persons involved in the educational process.

4. Will have a delegate or representative at the national convention in Monterey who would be willing to carry the products back to the chapter.

If you believe that your chapter meets the criteria listed above, please contact me before June 10, 2000, so I can let you know by June 25 whether or not your chapter will be receiving both products.

If your chapter does not receive both products, I will still give a booklet to your chapter representative if requested. Because of the limited number of binders with the photographs, I am unable to provide one to all who would request it.

When you write, please send information on how your chapter meets the four criteria. Please send information to Bob Fuchigami, 442 Garfield Park Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95409, or phone 707/539-9759. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Bob Fuchigami  
Santa Rosa, Calif.

### Paul Tsuneishi

7 Cupania Circle  
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\* Except for the National Director's Report, news and the views expressed by columnists do not necessarily reflect JACL policy. The columns are the personal opinion of the writers.

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

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

American "leaders" during World War II, but this time without the excuse that this similar and intolerant position was being forced upon them by "emergency" circumstances;

RESOLVED, That the undersigned individuals, organizations, and institutions, go on record objecting to the NPS's failure to fulfill its mandate to ensure accuracy and integrity of the memorial, and protesting the NJAMF's lack of respect for and sensitivity to the rich diversity of the Japanese American community.

RESOLVED, That the undersigned submit it is imperative that the NPS carry out its responsibilities by reconsidering, reviewing, and analyzing its approval of the memorial inscription, making necessary revisions, and deleting the misquoted controversial "cred" and

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior oversee the integrity of the Japanese American national memorial and fully investigate the NPS to ensure that it has fulfilled its duties, obligations, and mandates. ■

## OBITUARY

### Shig Wakamatsu, 85, Lifelong JACLer of 60-plus Years, Succumbs May 28

Shig Wakamatsu, who passed away on Sunday, May 28, was a "giant" — in terms of perseverance, eloquence and leadership — from the great Pacific Northwest, where he began his vocation to serve the Japanese American community, most significantly through JACL.

But the most enduring was his chairing the Japanese American Research Project, since 1962 to the present, for the collection, maintenance and distribution of materials related to the Japanese Americans.

Wakamatsu's rise and reputation in the galaxy of JACL leaders was continuous, taking shape in Chicago while he was employed as a research chemist with Lever Bros., Hammond, Ind. He served two terms as Chicago JACL president in 1949-50, another biennium as Midwest district council chair in 1950-52; national JACL Planning Commission chair for 1952-54; elected the Thousand Club chair on the national board in 1954-56; then national first president in 1956-58; unanimously as

national president in 1958-60 and finally as immediate past president on the national board in 1960-62.

All the while with the late Dr. Tom Yatabe, first national president elected by delegates in 1934 who had also relocated to Chicago, he established the chapter in 1944 that later became the first chapter to scale 1,000 members in 1950.

Wakamatsu was ever public relations-minded, rated par excellence at fundraising. He is survived by his wife Dorothy Teshiko and son Brent. In lieu of flowers, memorial can be made to Chicago JACL, 5415 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60640. Funeral service will held Friday, June 2, 7 p.m. at the Christ Church of Chicago, 6047 N. Rockwell, Chicago 60659.

—By Harry K. Honda. ■



WAKAMATSU  
(1993)

## Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Hamai, Junji, 66, Berkeley, May 9; San Francisco-born entomologist; survived by wife Lucy Y.; sons Steve (Seattle), Paul (Oakland); daughter Akemi Hamai (Oakland); 1 gc; mother Yukiko Aise Hamai (San Francisco); brothers Takayuki, Tomio, Kengo, Satoshi; sister Michi Matsuura.

Kusuda, Edward "Kotch" Kazuo, 75, Los Angeles, May 19 service; survived by daughter Lynne Hise and husband Michael Halley; son Bruce Kai-cho; sister Yuki Tanaka and husband Shoji.

Obayashi, Sue Sumi, Long Beach, May 7; Los Angeles-born; survived by husband Kay; brother-in-law Roy Obayashi and wife Kazuko (Arroyo Grande); sisters-in-law Clara Obayashi (Arroyo Grande), Cherry Tom and husband Joe (Sunnyvale).

Okazaki, Mary Yaye, 79, Whittier, May 4; Sierra Madre-born; survived by husband Seichi Jerry; son Ross and wife Helen; daughters Donna Mimaki and husband Bryan, Eileen Jones and husband Robert; 2 gc; brother Kingo Takasugi and wife May; sister Tommy Mimaki and husband Pete; brother-in-law Mits Okazaki and wife Mitz; sister-in-law George Okazaki.

Suzuki, George Kenichi, 82, San Francisco, May 13; Hawaii-born; survived by wife Ann; son Allan; sisters Mitsue Suzuki, Fusue Iwasaki, Sachiko Tatemani and husband Masao.

Tashima, Noriyuki (Nori), 83, Turlock, April 4; WWII veteran (114th Infantry 44th Division); survived by wife Janet; sons Niel and wife Cathleen (Silver Spring, Md. and Turlock), Eugene and wife Jaye; 2 gc; brothers Masay Tashima (Columbus, Ohio), Yasy and wife Yoshiye (Buena Park); sister Kimiko and husband Shiro Shiozawa (N. Olmstead, Ohio); sisters-in-law Mary Tashima (Sierra Madre), Frances Tashima (Livingston), Martha Tsuchiya (Albany).

Uchimura, Haru, 91, Fallbrook, May 6 service; Moneta-born; survived by sons Bob and wife Mae, Dr. Richard and wife Carole; daughters Ruth Ruiko Fukumoto, Kyoko Jane Inada and husband Shoichi, Michiko Mary Honda and husband Mas; 12 gc, 17 gc; son-in-law Jerold Briscoe.

Uyemura, Chizuko, 70, Pasadena, May 3; Kagoshima ken-born; survived by husband Tamio; son Dr. Koichi and wife Dr. Linda; daughters Noriko Shibuya and husband Masao, Yoko Nishikawa and husband Kelvin; 6 gc; mother Chie Wakamatsu (Japan); brother and sister in Japan: Nobutaka Wakamatsu and wife Noriko, Ryoko Hidaka and husband Takuma; sisters-in-law Etsuko Fukawa and husband Bill, Fusae Takemoto and husband Noboru. ■

### DEATH NOTICE

DR. KIYOSHI HIGUCHI  
FREDERICK, Md.—Dr. Kiyoshi Higuchi, 83, passed away May 7. He was the husband of Thelma Takeda Higuchi. Born on Nov. 18, 1916, in Los Altos, Calif., he was the son of the late Iyekiichi and Chiye Higuchi. During the war he was interned at Heart Mountain, Wyo. Dr. Higuchi did his undergraduate work at San Jose State and the Univ. of Utah. He received his Ph.D. in bio-chemistry from the Univ. of Wisconsin in 1948 at Madison. He performed scientific research for the Army at Ft. Detrick in Frederick until 1970, then for Microbiology Associates in Bethesda until his retirement in 1976. Dr. Higuchi loved reading, working in the garden, and was an avid Washington Redskins fan. He is survived by his wife Thelma; daughter, Annette Barnett, son-in-law Greg Barnett; brothers, Dr. James (Amy) Higuchi, Dr. William (Setsuko) Higuchi, sister Emily Filling, and sister-in-law Aya Higuchi. He was preceded in death by brother Dr. Takeru Higuchi. Private services and inurnment took place May 31 in San Jose, Calif.

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## RESOLUTION

(Continued from page 1)

The following is the resolution to the U.S. Department of Interior:

WHEREAS, Construction of a national Japanese American memorial will be completed and dedicated on U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service (NPS) land in Washington, D.C. on 9 November 2000;

WHEREAS, Thousands of individuals and organizations donated more than \$11 million in time and money to the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF), making this permanent memorial to educate the public about the Japanese American experience and to reflect, in respect and accuracy, the community's values of equality, justice, tolerance, respect, and human dignity;

WHEREAS, These values and ideals prevailed among Japanese Americans during the darkest days of World War II, despite prejudice and discrimina-

# Candidates Outline Vision

(Continued from page 1)

"My experience on the national board as the vice president for planning and development for the past four years combined with numerous national committees give me the insight to what is needed for the role of vice president membership services. Having attended nearly every national board meeting since September 1992 also gives me the unique perspective and institutional memory that is helpful to make insightful decisions."

### Program for Action

"I will continue to serve JACL as a national representative in the highest regard in providing direction and guidance to members, chapters, and the community in general. This includes active participation in national committees, national and district conferences and workshops across the U.S., and to speak at events and promote JACL. Develop tools that chapters can use to promote membership."

### Marie Matsumami

Marie Matsumami is a member of the Cincinnati chapter. She works part-time at the Red Cross as a health education specialist. She is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati with a degree in nursing and health and a master's degree in education.

### JACL Background

- Cincinnati Chapter Secretary
- Cincinnati Chapter President
- MDC Board of Directors
- MDC Governor

### Leadership

"A good leader will effectively guide people by utilizing clear communication, good rapport and superior modeling. The national board must be open to suggestions, remain unbiased, but focused on the JACL program for action. To do so, the board must reflect a diversity in its make-up. The board must also remain flexible to meet the needs of our many

members across the country."

### Qualifications

"Being MDC governor has given me the opportunity to visit many of the chapters in my district which has given me a sense of the differences and uniqueness of each. This experience has carried forward with my participation on the JACL national board where I've come to appreciate the concerns of chapters in other areas of the country. Membership development is so vital to many of our struggling chapters. I can use all the help possible in developing ideas and hopefully resources to aid these chapters. So often these chapters have little contact with the district and national levels of the JACL, and I'd like to find ways to assist them because they are the core of our organization."

### Program for Action

"The broader goals of our program for action focus on civil and human rights. We must be active at every level in building coalitions where we maintain an active dialogue with other groups to keep abreast of any difficulties with specific groups or locales. Our active efforts with other groups will prove vital in advancing our own issues."

"Education is the link to understanding. California has been active in developing teacher-training workshops. The situation east of

the Rockies is quite different. Yet, that is where we must begin to make an impact if we are truly serious about conveying our history and our experience with the internment. This means we must develop a strategy and resources for penetrating those areas where we don't have chapters, and fund development will be vital to accomplish this goal."

### Secretary/Treasurer

#### Arthur Koga

Arthur Koga is a member of the Honolulu chapter. He is an information services consultant. He is a graduate of Michigan State University with a degree in psychology and business and a master's in special education.

### JACL Background

- Honolulu Chapter Board, 1993 to present
- Honolulu Chapter Treasurer, 1994 to present

### Leadership

"The definition of leadership is simple and singular. It is to create supportive environments where people can grow and thrive while living in communities that acknowledge differences but work toward unity and harmony."

"The role of the national board is to provide that leadership, proudly raising the umbrella of protection of the rights of Japanese Americans and the human rights of all. Culture and history for Japanese Americans becomes the medium to demonstrate our commitment to uphold the Constitution and the laws of the United States, while our values allow for greater tolerance and understanding between different social and ethnic groups. As the national board, we need to operate and be the institution that has accepted this lofty purpose of civil liberties in order to build peace and harmony. We need to guide and *marmor* (protect) the pursuit of that purpose enabling the individual to gain personal satisfaction and fulfillment as a human being through committed relationships."

### Qualifications

"Throughout my 25 years of serving the public in state and federal governments, managing non profit organizations, and managing a business, budget, finance and documentation have been core activities. The experiences have provided a clear understanding of the relationship between an organization's mission and activities with budget and finance. A contribu-

tion (or qualification) to the position is the understanding of the tension that exists between programs and budget. A lesson learned is that the budget is a planning and evaluation instrument to support programs and activities."

"The skills with the formulation, execution and analysis of budgets were gained through various positions — educational administrator, staff member in the state legislature, executive director of the Hawaii Information Network Corporation and as the treasurer of the JACL, Honolulu chapter. Additionally these experiences, collectively, have developed a strong sense of responsibility for the care and management of the assets of an organization."

"In the public sector, administrators were responsible for maintaining the public trust through responsible management of fiscal and other resources. For the JACL, the national board and, specifically, the secretary-treasurer is responsible for maintenance of the trust of the membership. Past experiences have reinforced the values and principles necessary for the maintaining of that trust." ■



Marie Matsumami is a member of the Cincinnati chapter. She works part-time at the Red Cross as a health education specialist. She is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati with a degree in nursing and health and a master's degree in education.

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