

# Pacific Citizen

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JUNE 23-29, 2000

## Kurisaki Family Donates Collection to JACL Archives

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA  
Assistant Editor

National JACL recently received a donation in the form of a black, battered suitcase.

The suitcase is no ordinary suitcase. It has seen its share of trips, traveling from Southern California to the Poston War Relocation Center to Salt Lake City back to Southern California.

It contains documents, photographs and medals — some dating back to pre-World War II days.

And had it not been for Kiyoshi and Fusako Nakayu of Pleasanton, Calif., the suitcase might have been forgotten altogether.

The suitcase once belonged to the late Kazuki Lyle Kurisaki Sr., who is credited with organizing the Brawley JACL chapter in 1925, along with Ernest Fujimoto, William Kawasaki and Edward Yonemura.

For close to 30 years, the Nakayus had Kurisaki's suitcase stored in a garage in a second home in Salt Lake City. When Kurisaki's daughter-in-law, Yoshie Hayashi Kurisaki, passed away in Salt Lake City last December, the Nakayus contacted surviving Kurisaki family members in order to return the suitcase to its rightful heirs.

That's when Kit Forrest Kurisaki, who lives in Southern California, received a phone call from the Nakayus.

"I was surprised quite frankly," said Kit. "We found some amazing things in it, and you wonder why people have those records and how those things got carried from Southern California to Poston to Salt Lake City. I mean, some of these papers have made long journeys, miles and miles."

But after the surviving Kurisaki family went through the suitcase's contents, they realized the public should have access to the material, and the decision was made to donate the collection to the JACL archives.

"It wasn't a difficult decision to donate the collection," said Kit. "I think all of us realized it would have been a nice memory for everybody if we kept them, but the reality is that we survived 30 years without knowing it existed. But the information that's in there, when you talk to Harry (Honda) and other folks is that this information may help fill in

the gaps in history. Then you realize that it's much more important for the papers to be some place where people can look at it and access it."

Kit said he hopes their family's decision to donate their collection will encourage others to donate their personal papers to jump-

In 1923, he married Vivienne Sachi Kojima, the youngest of seven Kojima sisters. The couple had two children — Lylie and Lyle Jr. (Kit's father).

According to Kit, the Kurisaki family lived a portion of the year in Hollywood and during the summer growing season, the



PHOTO: MARTHA NAKAGAWA

Kit Kurisaki holds up a document, which he found in the suitcase, announcing his grandfather's victory at the 1925 Lettuce Growers & Shippers Golf Tournament. Other items in the suitcase were war medals and a golf statue.

start the JACL archive program.

\*\*\*

Kazuki Lyle Kurisaki Sr. was born in Honolulu on Christmas day in 1896, the second of three brothers. He served in World War I, and like his two brothers, he was expected to pursue a career in the dental field. But when Kurisaki came to the mainland during the 1920s to attend USC, he opted to remain on the West Coast, and became a produce broker.

family worked in the Imperial Valley. Kit recalls stories his father told him about playing baseball in the Imperial Valley and basketball in Hollywood.

Kurisaki participated in the post-JACL San Francisco conference in 1928, and attended the first national JACL convention in Seattle in 1930. During the 1932 convention held in Los Angeles, Kurisaki sat on a five-member committee to revise the JACL con-

See KURISAKI/page 8

## AA Women Targeted in Chicago Sexual Assaults

The Asian American community is outraged over a recurring series of sexual assaults and robberies committed against Asian women in Chicago's north side and in northern suburbs.

Eight women have been attacked since April 7 in places including Chicago, Skokie, Morton Grove, Palatine and Niles. The most recent incident occurred on May 31, in which an AA teenager was handcuffed and sexually assaulted in her Glenview residence.

Officials believe the same man is responsible for the crimes. He is described as African American, 6 feet tall, thin build, black hair and in his 30s. In each of the attacks, he gained entry by impersonating a police officer, a census taker, an FBI agent, a mail carrier or a phone company worker.

"This criminal is representing himself as a government official preying on the trust of these women. The authorities have a responsibility and added incentive to stop him," said Vida Gershtik, a resident of Niles and vice president of the Asian American Bar Association.

"This type of crime is abhorrent and the fact that they appear to be racially based is an outrage," said William Yoshino, JACL Midwest District regional director and a member of the Illinois Asian American Hate Crimes Network. "Public officials in these north suburban communities need to work in close cooperation in an aggressive effort to apprehend the assailant."

The network, together with a number of AA organizations, recently began a regionwide mailing

campaign to more than 1,500 residents, businesses and churches. The mailed information packet contains a safety-measure sheet translated into several Asian languages, a composite sketch of the attacker and information about a \$10,000 reward.

Last month, the network sent a letter of concern to the mayors and police chiefs in each of the suburbs where assaults took place urging them to cooperate in making the investigation of these crimes a priority. The network urged these officials to heighten patrols and distribute crime/safety prevention materials.

An individual seeming to fit the general description of the assailant was apprehended by authorities in Niles on June 13, but was determined not to be the perpetrator. He was carrying a fake badge, handcuffs, a pellet gun and identified himself as a police officer, while loitering outside a martial arts studio in one of the area's largest Korean communities.

At least one victim viewed the man in custody, a 35-year-old Kmart security guard, but said he was not her attacker. The man went to court June 15 for a bond hearing on a felony charge of falsely impersonating a police officer.

Meanwhile, the FBI has gotten involved in the case, adding \$5,000 to the reward for a total of \$15,000 for information leading to an arrest. The hate crimes network met June 16 with federal authorities, Chicago police and Sheriff's police, who said they have few leads and are largely relying on the community's help to find the assailant. ■

## Uyesugi Convicted in Hawaii Xerox Killings

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU—Byran Uyesugi's attorneys took two weeks laying out their claim that the former Xerox copier repairman was legally insane when he fatally shot seven co-workers last November.

It took jurors less than 90 minutes on June 13 to reject that defense and convict him of first-degree murder and attempted murder in the second degree in Hawaii's worst mass killing.

"No matter what happens to him, it does not bring my husband back," said Lorna Kanehira. "I pray that he never knows the joy of freedom in his lifetime."

Uyesugi, 40, who showed no emotion as verdicts were read, faces a mandatory life-prison term without the possibility of parole when he is sentenced Aug. 8. Hawaii does not have a death penalty.

"There is no acceptable reason to explain why this happened," said Xerox spokesman Terry Dillman. "It's shattered seven families. And it's forever changed, in a very profound way, a very special place in the world."

Uyesugi, a 15-year Xerox employee, fired a 9 mm semiautomatic handgun more than two dozen times at co-workers who had gathered for a meeting to discuss his light workload.

At least 28 bullet casings were found at the scene, authorities said. Uyesugi surrendered to police after a five-hour standoff Nov. 2.

"This happened quite a while ago but it still feels like yesterday," said Reid Kawamae, whose father, Ron, was among those killed.

Defense attorney Jerel Fonseca argued that Uyesugi, an avid gun collector and tropical fish breeder,

suffered from mental illness — either delusional disorder or paranoid schizophrenia — and did not recognize how wrong his actions were.

"A rational mind was not in control that day," Fonseca said during closing arguments. "When your rationality is limited, your choices are limited."

Prosecutor Peter Carlisle acknowledged that Uyesugi suffers from a serious mental illness, but said he was aware his actions were wrong and killed out of anger.

Carlisle also said Uyesugi didn't meet the definition of legal insanity because he exercised self-control throughout the shootings, from planning to acting to escaping. Uyesugi even purposely chose not to shoot one co-worker who was in the same general area as the seven victims.

After the verdict, Fonseca said, "I think he still doesn't fully understand what he's done and when a person doesn't understand what he's done it's hard for him to show remorse."

Xerox has been scrutinized for the way it handled previous incidents involving Uyesugi, including death threats against co-workers and his outbursts while servicing copy machines.

On June 13, the company said it had set up a \$400,000 college scholarship fund for the victims' children.

The shootings tore through the heart of the Aloha State, which has one of the lowest violent crime rates in the nation.

"I think that that was an alarming wake-up call to everyone," Carlisle said. "I certainly thought that we were fairly immune from it. We obviously aren't." ■

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05 days

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# Pacific Citizen

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## JACL Calendar

### National

**Mon.-Sun., June 26-July 2**—36th Biennial JACL National Convention: DoubleTree Inn, Monterey, Calif.; special rate for JACL conventioners. Reservations ASAP: 831/649-4511, <www.doubletreemonterey.com>. Info: Larry Oda, 831/758-7100; 831/375-3314 eve., e-mail: tsuno1@msn.com; or Kaz Matsuyama, 831/649-0704, e-mail: KAZNMN@aol.com.

### Eastern

**DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
EDC meeting to be held during national convention.

### NEW YORK

**Tues., June 27**—Summer Potluck Buffet, celebrating Mine Okubo's 88th birthday; 6 p.m. RSVP to Julie Azuma, 212/807-8104.

### PHILADELPHIA

**Sun. July 30**—JACL chapter baseball outing, Phillies vs. Dodgers; 1:30 p.m.; Veterans Stadium. RSVP by June 24: Teresa Maebois, 215/248-5544.

### Midwest

### CINCINNATI

**Sat., July 1**—Ceremony to honor Medal of Honor recipients; 11 a.m. at the Medal of Honor Memorial. Info: Frances Tojo, e-mail: francetojo@aol.com.

## COMMUNITY Calendar

### East Coast

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Sat., July 8**—Slide Lecture by artist Roger Shimomura; 4 p.m., Carmichael Auditorium, National Museum of American History, 12th & Constitution NW; reception to follow; in conjunction with exhibit, "An American Diary and Memories of Childhood"; exhibit runs through Sept. 4. Info: 202/357-2700.

**Thurs.-Sat., Nov. 9-11**—National Memorial to Patriotism Dedication Ceremony. Pre-registration required: NJAMF, 800/607-8550. (Hotel reservations accepted up to Oct. 15.)

### The Midwest

### CINCINNATI

**Sat., July 1**—Ceremony to honor Medal of Honor recipients; 11 a.m. at the Medal of Honor Memorial. Info: www.medalofhonor Memorial.com, or Frances Tojo, e-mail: francetojo@aol.com.

### The Northwest

### PORTLAND

**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.

### Southern California

### BAY AREA

**Sat., June 24**—Film screenings, "When You're Smiling: The Deadly Legacy of Intermittent" and panel discussion, "Negotiating Japanese American Identity After World War II" with filmmaker Janice Tanaka, Curtis Rooks and Dina Shek; 1-4 p.m.; National Japanese American Historical Society, 1684 Post St., San Francisco. Info: 415/921-5007.

### 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

### CLEVELAND

**Sun. July 16**—Scholarship Luncheon; 2-4 p.m., Bo Loong Restaurant, 3922 St. Clair Ave.; RSVP: Susanne Hamblin, 216/731-5418 or 216/556-2277.

### ST. LOUIS

**Tues., July 4**—July 4th Picnic; 12 noon, Eden Theological Seminary, 475 E. Lockwood, Webster Groves.

### TWIN CITIES

**Sun., July 16**—Annual JACL Picnic; 12-5 p.m., Rosland Lake Comelia Park Pavilion, Edina. Info: Gloria Kumagai, 763/377-5602.

### NC-WN-Pacific

### CONTRA COSTA

**Tues., July 4**—Chapter fund raiser: teriyaki beef and rice booth at El Centro Community Center.

### MONTEREY PENINSULA

**Fri., June 30**—Veterans Tribute Dinner; see Community Calendar

### Pacific Southwest

### PSW DISTRICT

JACL 2000 Convention T-shirts, sweat-shirts and pins are now available: T-shirts \$12, sweatshirts \$20, pins \$5. Order now from the PSW district office: 213/626-4471.

### SAN DIEGO

**Sun. July 9**—Annual San Diego JACL Picnic; 11 a.m.-dusk, Crown Point Shores in Mission Bay Park. Info: 619/230-0314, e-mail: sdjcl@juno.com.

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

### SACRAMENTO

**Sun., Sept. 10**—Greater Sacramento Valley Region-wide Reunion; DoubleTree Hotel; 11 a.m. fellowship/mixer, 1 p.m. buffet lunch; keynote speaker Cheryl Tatum of the NJAMF; the historical book of the Sacramento region will be available. Info: Toko Fujii, 916/421-6968.

### SAN MATEO

**Sun., June 25**—Sunday Matinee Movie, "The Funeral," a comedy by Juzo Itami; 1:30 p.m., JACL Community Center, 415 S. Claremont. Info: 343-2793.

### Central California

### FRESNO

**Sat., June 24**—Presentation on the use of charitable trusts to benefit donor and donee, by Tom Collins, CPA; also an update on the progress of the skilled nursing facility and long-term care insurance; 9:30-11:30 a.m., Fresno Buddhist Church Annex. Info: Nikki Service Center, 237-4006.

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

**Southern California**  
**Mon.-Wed., Sept. 25-27**—Manzanar H.S. Reunion; Fremont Hotel, downtown Las Vegas. Info, schedules: Sam Ono, 310/327-5568, Ray Onodera, 626/573-5279; Arnold Maeda, 310/398-5157; Kunio Maeda, 562/493-1838; Kazie Nagai, 213/360-2611.

**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.

**LOS ANGELES**  
**Sat., June 24**—"From Harsh Winters to Bountiful Harvests — The Journey of Japanese Americans" book discussion series: "Achieving the Impossible Dream" by Mitch Maki; 9:30-11:30 a.m.; North Torrance Branch, Torrance Public Library. RSVP: Paula Weiner, 310/618-5950.

**Sat.-Sun., June 24-25**—Harbor District Annual Festival; 5-10 p.m., Long

**SONOMA COUNTY**  
**Sun., June 25**—Community Picnic/Potluck/BBQ; Finley Park, Santa Rosa. Info: Margaret, 707/544-9638. ■

## 2000 JACL Sweepstakes

Chapters can now buy 2000 JACL sweepstakes tickets. Last year's sweepstakes raised over \$40,000 and benefited JACL programs.

For a donation of \$40, members will have a chance to win various prizes, including grand prize: \$3,000; 2nd prize: \$1,000 (10 winners); 3rd prize: \$500 (10 winners); Seaworld Fun Packs are courtesy of Seaworld California and San Diego, one of the Anheuser Busch Adventure Parks.

Winners will be announced at the national convention in Monterey at the Sayonara Banquet on July 2, and you don't need to be present to win. If you haven't bought tickets yet, please contact your local chapter president. ■

**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.

Beach Harbor Japanese Community Center, 1766 Seabright Ave.; parking at 1705 Seabright. Info: Agnes Hikida, 714/236-0335.

**Wed., June 28**—Living JA discussion meeting; 12 noon, Centenary United Methodist Church, 300 S. Central Ave.; no-holds-barred discussion; bring your own lunch. Info: Gary Kawaguchi, 310/243-3842.

**Sun., Sept. 24**—63rd L.A. Roosevelt High School Class of 1937-38 Reunion; Montebello Country Club, 901 Via San Clemente; music by "The Time Machine," mariachi, Aztec dances, TV coverage; cost \$5; send checks to Dave Brenner, 1700 Bangle, Los Angeles, CA 90035. Reserve early: 310/837-6582.

### Arizona - Nevada

### LAS VEGAS

**Thurs. July 9**—Exhibit, "Asian Art Now"; Las Vegas Art Museum, 9600 W. Sahara Ave. Schedules, info: 496-3763.

**Mon., Aug. 28**—Memorial Service at the Poston Relocation Camp by Nichiren Buddhist priests from Japan; 11 a.m. Info: Nichiren Buddhist Temple, 323/262-7886.

**Mon.-Wed., Sept. 25-27**—Manzanar H.S. Reunion; Fremont Hotel; see Southern California.

**2001: Wed.-Thurs., April 4-5**—Minitoka Reunion; Caesars Palace. Info: Tak (Yokoyama) Todo, 15537 - 32nd Ave. N.E., Seattle, WA 98155 6530; e-mail: kmkawachi@hotmail.com. ■

### Correction

Re the open letter to The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye concerning the national JA memorial controversy published in the June 9-15 issue, the following are also members of the Committee for a Fair and Accurate Japanese American Memorial: Dale Minami, San Francisco; Don Nakanishi, Los Angeles; Chizu Orno, Seattle; Francis Sogi, New York and Honolulu; Judy Tachibana, Sacramento, Calif.; Rita Takahashi, Berkeley, Calif.; Drusilla Tanaka, Honolulu; Clifford Uyeda, San Francisco; Eric Yamamoto, Honolulu; Steve Yoda, Stanford, Calif. ■

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## Chinese for Affirmative Action Hosts Celebration of Justice

Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA) will celebrate its 35th anniversary on June 27 with a Chinese banquet at the Yank Sing Restaurant in the Rincon Center Atrium. At the 2000 Celebration of Justice, Professor Christopher F. Edley Jr. will provide the keynote address. CAA will also protest awards to this year's civil rights honorees: Helen Zia and Dr. Clifford Uyeda, as well as the San Francisco Foundation and Herb Castillo.

Professor Edley is the co-director of The Civil Rights Project at Harvard University, where he teaches at Harvard Law School. He also was President Clinton's special counsel on affirmative action and the author of "Not All Black and White, Affirmative Action and American Values." He has been a dedicated advocate for racial justice and continues to argue that until the day racism has been eliminated, affirmative action is a necessary tool to create equal opportunities.

Helen Zia is an award-winning journalist, editor and author. Her recent book, "Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People," has been highly acclaimed for its insightful exposition of the AA experience and civil rights struggle. She is also a founding member of the Coalition Against Racial and Ethnic Scapegoating (CARES), which is leading the national challenge to the continuing incarceration of Dr. Wen Ho Lee and building a cross-community coalition against race-based government mistreatment.

Dr. Clifford Uyeda has dedicated his life to advancing AA civil rights, taking principled stands

that have encouraged pan-Asian coalition building for justice. Dr. Uyeda was involved in the struggle for redress and is currently the co-chair of the Rape of Nanking Redress Committee, which is calling for the Japanese government to acknowledge wartime atrocities in China.



The San Francisco Foundation is a community foundation that serves the greater Bay Area and has proactively advanced causes of justice since its inception. During this year, the San Francisco Foundation, with the key leadership of Herb Castillo, accepted the task of assisting the State of California to disseminate millions of dollars to fund Census 2000 outreach and education efforts.

Corporate underwriters of this event include Wells Fargo Bank, Pacific Gas & Electric, Union Bank of California, Norcal Waste Systems and Forest City Development.

An eight-course Chinese banquet will be served at Yank Sing Restaurant. Wine will be provided by Wine Impressions and Raymond Fong. Nurseryman's Exchange and Gerald Cheng will donate centerpieces and See's Candies will provide chocolate delicacies.

For more information, contact Sabina Chen at 415/274-6760, ext. 304, or visit CAA's Web site at [www.caasf.org](http://www.caasf.org).

## New Exhibit Features 17 Contemporary AA Artists

By TRACY UBA  
Writer/Reporter

The old "melting pot" theory may be passé at this point in time, but Los Angeles still reigns as a hub of multiculturalism, at least according to a new exhibit showcasing works from 17 nationally and internationally recognized Asian American artists who, despite their shared home base, vary in ethnicity, experience and vision.

"Shifting Perceptions: Contemporary L.A. Visions" was recently launched at the Pacific Asia Museum in Pasadena, Calif., assembling together in one space works which at once celebrate the diversity and difference among artists of Asian descent and challenge the limitations of the label "Asian American art."

The exhibit, which runs through Oct. 29, features installation artists Carl Cheng, Mineko Grimmer and Margaret Honda; video artist Art Nomura; photographers Dinh Q. Le and Betty Lee; ceramicist Pomrip Sangvanich; mixed media artists Kai Bob Cheng, Yong Soon Min, Kamol Tassanan-chalee and Alan Valencia; and painters Soonja Oh Kim, Bari Kumar, Ji Young Oh, Ben Sakoguchi, Diana Shui-ii Wong and Suong Yangchareon.

Each artist, all veteran to mid-career, presents works circa 1989 and circa 1999. Over 130 works are being shown at five changing galleries, including the Pacific Asia Museum, One Colorado in Old Town Pasadena, Pasadena Public Library, Pasadena Art Space, and Pasadena Historical Museum.

According to exhibition curator Betty Phoenix Wan, "Shifting Perceptions" explores how L.A., as a paradigm of cultural plurality and hybridization, has influenced these artists over the course of the last decade.

While some make more overt reference to AA values, concerns and issues, others offer no discernible cultural context, which forces us to consider how the ethnicity of the artists, and their use of non-use of ethnicity as subject matter, alters our perception of their works.

"One makes assumptions in the process of thinking," said Wan. "Do we make presumptions on art based upon a surname or ethnicity?"



Ceramicist Pomrip Sangvanich's vibrantly curved configurations in 1987's *Untitled* (top right) compared to her work a decade later in 1998's *Untitled*, a series of geometrically-shaped teacups and pots (top left).



Photographer Betty Lee critiques American media culture and comments on Asian American marginalization through images of physical bondage in her 1998 billboard-scaled installations *DisOrient Nation* (bottom left) and *Are You DisOriented?* (bottom right).



For artist Alan Valencia, who was born in the Philippines, history and memory play a prominent role in his mixed-media installations, *Lined Face & Wrinkled Lip* (1999) and *She Remained Silent* (1999), and only incidentally does his art allude to his ethnic heritage.

"I tend not to [purposely] emphasize my ethnicity in my work, but at the same time I do not deny that it's there. That's what makes my work, I think, richer," Valencia said. "I'm an artist that has two different cultures, who has experienced two different cultures, and I believe that every work I do is influenced by these two cultures."

Art Nomura's video *Buckaroo Boy* (1996) deals more explicitly with AA identity, particularly as a social construct. Splicing clips of

Western heroes Gene Autry and Roy Rogers with footage of the artist himself as a young boy dressed in cowboy duds, Nomura's work reveals the irony inherent in assimilation.

Meanwhile, Pomrip Sangvanich's multi-colored ceramic figures, *Untitled* (1987), take more abstract form, as if resisting easy cultural reference, while her ceramic teacups and pots, *Untitled* (1998), playfully incorporate

kitschy drink umbrellas as a mock Asian motif.

"I don't think my work represents any 'Asian style,' she said. "People say, what type of work is this? You look at it and you can't tell at all what my ethnicity is. It's just there."

Similarly, photo-realist painter Suong Yangchareon disregards the notion of an "Asian" theme in his renderings of a local Eagle Rock pizzeria, *Serving Since 1965* (1989) and of a five-and-dime store in Giant Penny (1999).

"When people see my work, a lot are surprised that I'm 'Thai,'" Yangchareon said. "I don't really try to fit in. I just show my work, not as a Thai person or as an American. I paint pictures and deal with the reality afterwards of being Asian."

Offering a multiplicitous view of what AA art encompasses, the "Shifting Perceptions" exhibition is supported by the Pasadena Art Alliance and is part of the Los Angeles Citywide Millennium Arts promotion coordinated by the L.A. County Museum of Art's "Made in California" exhibition.

The Pacific Asia Museum is located at 46 N. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena, Calif. It is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a late 5 p.m. close on Thursdays. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$3 for students and seniors; and free to those under 12 with an adult. For more information, call 626/449-2742.

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## Court Rules Horiuchi Can't Be Charged in Sniper Death

A federal appeals court ruled June 14 that the state cannot prosecute FBI sharpshooter Lon T. Horiuchi for a shot he fired that killed the wife of a white separatist in the 1992 Ruby Ridge siege in Idaho.

The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled by a 2-1 vote that Horiuchi is entitled to immunity from criminal prosecution because he had acted "honestly and reasonably" when he mistakenly struck and killed Vicki Weaver as she held daughter Elisabetha.

Federal law enforcement agents had converged on the Weavers' mountain cabin to arrest husband Randy on a federal weapons trafficking charge. U.S. marshals confronted Weaver at an intersection near their home, where a gun exchange ensued that left his 14-year-old son Sammy and federal marshal Michael Degan dead.

Horiuchi arrived later that day with several other agents from the Hostage and Rescue Team, who set rules of engagement providing that "any armed male within the vicinity of the Weaver cabin could and should be killed."

As Weaver and his friend Kevin Harris headed outside the cabin towards a shed, Horiuchi shot and wounded Horiuchi, then aimed at Harris, who was armed and attempting to flee. The bullet hit Weaver's wife in the head, passed through her, and wounded Harris in the upper arm and chest.

Horiuchi has maintained that he did not see Vicki Weaver when he fired at Harris.

The Justice Department concluded in 1997 that there was insufficient evidence to file federal criminal charges against Horiuchi, and an appellate court upheld a federal district judge's dismissal ruling after Boundary County prosecutor Denise Woodbury had charged him with involuntary manslaughter.

In their majority opinion, federal district judge William B. Shubb and appellate judge Ferdinand Fernandez saw no evidence that Horiuchi had acted with "evil or malicious intent."

"Horiuchi does not have to show that his action was in fact necessary or in retrospect justifiable, only that he reasonably thought it

to be," Shubb wrote. Dissenting Judge Alex Kozinski disagreed, saying that Horiuchi's actions were not based upon reasonable fear of an immediate threat to life because the three people were running towards the cabin, not aiming their weapons at officers.

Kozinski added that the FBI should have used other tactics before shooting to kill, such as demanding a surrender, negotiating or shutting off water and electrical service to the house.

Eight days after the siege, Weaver and the others surrendered. Weaver and Harris were acquitted on charges of killing Degan.

Weaver subsequently filed and settled a federal civil suit against the government for \$3.1 million, while Harris' federal civil suit against Horiuchi and the Justice Department is scheduled to go to trial in Boise in August.

An FBI spokesman said Horiuchi is still a member of the FBI Hostage and Rescue Team but declined to say where he is stationed.

## Monterey Bay Hails JA Veterans Sac'to JACL Awards \$20,000 in Scholarships

By JUDY NIZAWA  
Special to the Pacific Citizen

The same U.S. Army which treated Nisei soldiers and their families as potential enemy aliens by discharging some dishonorably, jailing some, and refusing to allow them to be part of an integrated unit, now has at its helm four-star General Eric Shinseki, the first Asian American four-star general, and first AA member of the joint chiefs of staff.

On June 30, the general public has the opportunity to meet Gen. Shinseki in Monterey at a dinner, "A Tribute to All Japanese American Veterans - All Wars."

Shinseki became chief of staff of the U.S. Army in June 1999 when President Bill Clinton made the appointment upon the recommendation of the Secretary of the Army, Louis Caldera.

He and his wife, Pat, have had to travel all over the world, as spokespersons for the U.S. Army. In fact, Mrs. Shinseki's schedule is so full, that she is unable to attend the dinner.

Other speakers will be veterans representing the various eras:

**Korea:** Col. Toshio "Dusty" Aoyagi who served in both Korea and Vietnam in the Military Intelligence speaking Mandarin and Japanese. He is retired and resides in Las Vegas.

**Vietnam:** Capt. Gordon Nakagawa, who served as a Naval pilot and was held as a POW in Hanoi. He is a weapons expert who continues to teach and resides in Monterey County with his wife Jeanne.

**Vietnam and Panama:** Lt. Col. Roy Sumisaki, who served in peacetime Germany, Vietnam, and as a reservist in Panama. He served as police chief of the City of Gilroy and continues to reside there with his wife, Gloria.

Giving a brief history of the Defense Language Institute will be historian Dr. James McNaughton, who is currently concluding work on a complete history of the Nisei Military Intelligence officers. He also contributed in the research to pro-

vide the recent Congressional Medals of Honor to be presented on June 21 at the White House.

Assemblyman Mike Honda, D-San Jose, will be presenting a proclamation that evening citing the contributions made by the JA veterans. Copies of the resolution will be made available to veteran units attending the dinner upon request to the dinner chairperson.

Gen. Shinseki is expected to talk about the recipients of the Congressional Medals of Honor, and to also make the presentation of the recently approved Unit Citation to the Nisei Military Intelligence Service members.

The honorary dinner Co-Chairman, Col Harry Fukuhara (MIS-ret.), who has been responsible for procuring the keynote speaker, will introduce Gen. Shinseki. Co-Chair Rudy Tokiwa will begin the program with comments about the 442/100th.

A slide presentation will be made of photos that have been received by the committee. KOVR broadcaster Stephanie Nishikawa will do a live voice narration of the pictures.

The event committee had originally hoped to incorporate substantial fund-raising for the WWII Memorial, however, it has not been possible.

Former Sen. Robert Dole, therefore, has declined his invitation to attend this function but would like to be considered for future events. All donations that have been received for the WWII Memorial to date have been forwarded to the grass-roots director, Bob Patrick, and will be acknowledged shortly. The committee has appreciated all donations.

The dinner will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel on the Wharf in Monterey. Reservations may be made by calling 408/733-7692 (voice mail), e-mail: Jnizawa@earthlink.net or by writing to Judy Nizawa, chairperson of the Veterans Tribute Dinner at 834 Gary Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. The cost is \$75 per person. The total number of reservations currently stands at close to 500. ■

More than 150 recipients, families and friends gathered at the DoubleTree Hotel in Sacramento on May 18 to witness the awarding of over \$20,000 in scholarships to 19 deserving scholars.

Chair Michael Iwahiro introduced the MC for the event, Dean Okimoto, chapter president. Rev. Kenneth Hasegawa of Tenrikyo Church gave the introduction.

The top three awardees are submitted to JACL national headquarters for consideration in the national awards program. Sacramento JACL's total scholarships given out are by far the largest among the 115 chapters.

The 2000 Sacramento JACL scholarship awards were given to the following entering freshmen: Lynise Harumi Ishimaru, Sacramento JACL Scholarship, \$2,500; Kellen Yamanaoka, Sacramento Nisei VFW Post 8986 Memorial Scholarship in memory of Mitsuo Umeda, Rusty Kiyoshi Urata, Willie Sakai, Paul Waki, Mary Sato, Paul Takekura, Jim Yokota, Bessie Hamakawa, Roy Shimizu, Torao Sakamoto, Saburo Ohita, and Peggy Sasaki, \$2,000; Jamie Kimiko Chew, Matsui Memorial Scholarship, \$1,500; Nirole Yamada, East Lawn Mortuary Memorial Park Scholarship, \$1,500; Ashley Satsuki Hagiya, George Kashiwagi Memorial Scholarship, \$1,500; Christopher Wong, California Bank and Trust Scholarship, \$1,000; Stacey Yokoyama, Noboru Shirai Memorial



Front row, l-r: Ashley Satsuki Hagiya, Michelle Hashimoto, Stacy Yokoyama, Tricia Jang, Lynise Harumi Ishimaru, Jennifer Mei Matsumoto, Lea Yamashita. Middle row, l-r: Steven Sakakihara, Christopher Wong, Joy Satsuki Yuki, Sherry Hatamiya, Tanya Kato, Nicole Yamada. Back row, l-r: Kellen Yamanaoka, Aimee Tomiko Hill, Fred Hasegawa, Roger, Makshima and Jamie Kimiko Chew. Not pictured: Nathan Uchida.

Scholarship, \$1,000; Tricia Jang, Mr. Frank Hiya Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000; Michele Hashimoto, Mr. and Mrs. Kazuma and Fusako Fujita Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000; Tanya Kato, Kyoto and Rika Kawakami Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000; Roger Makshima, Dr. Takashi and Mrs. Hisako Terami Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000; Lea Yamashita, Harry and Kinu Masaki Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000; Jennifer Mei Matsumoto, Mr. and Mrs. Masao Itano Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000; Steven Sakakihara, Colonel Walter T.

Taukamoto Memorial Scholarship, \$500; Joy Salkio Yuki, Hiroshima Nikkei Jin Kai Scholarship, \$500; Aimee Tomiko Hill, Sacramento Nisei Bowling Association, \$500; Sacramento Nikkei Singles Club Scholarship, \$300; Sherry Hatamiya, Sacramento Ladies Auxiliary to Nisei Post 8986 VFW Scholarship, \$750.

Community College scholarship recipients are: Nathan Uchida, Noboru Shirai Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000; Fred Hasegawa, Sacramento JACL Scholarship, \$1,000. ■

## JACL Health Benefits Trust Celebrates 35 Years



The JACL Health Benefits Trust recently celebrated 35 years of excellence, an event which was underwritten by Blue Shield of California. Pictured (top row, l-r): Dr. Jim Yamaguchi, D.D.S.; Marlene Matsuoka with Blue Shield of California; Gus Barlas, insurance consultant; John Yasumoto, chairman of the board; Jim Oshima, CPA; Mary Ann Hor, plan administrator; Gerald Takekura, vice chair of the board; Doug Urata; and Lee Trucker, trust attorney. (Bottom row, l-r): Kevin Nagata, Betty Oka, Dr. Richard Keda, Shig Naito, Jordan Hiratzka and Treasurer Kikuo Nakahara.

## National Japanese American Memorial Foundation Board Responds to Criticism

As members of the board of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, we defend the right of any person to disagree with board actions. But we condemn in the strongest possible terms the divisive tactics of a small minority within our board trying to overturn majority decisions to pursue their own private agenda.

### COMMENTARY

The use of quotations on the memorial from persons prominent in Japanese American history was adopted as a means of telling our story succinctly and pointedly after federal officials set a limit of 1,000 words for the entire inscription. The memorial is now approaching completion and dedication ceremonies are scheduled for November 9.

Unfortunately, a small group of dissidents within the board actively continues to campaign against the memorial. This, despite the fact that they were given ample opportunity and time to present their views at board meetings when they were present. Their objective is to remove the name of Mike M. Masaoka, one of the JAs to be quoted on the memorial. The others are Senator Dashiell K. Inouye, the late Senator Spark M. Matsunaga, Congressman Robert Matsui, former Congressman Norman Y. Mineta and Akemi Matsumoto Ehrlich, author of a *tanka*. Quotations also

are taken from statements by Presidents Harry S. Truman and Ronald Reagan including the government's apology.

Masaoka's quotation is: "I am proud that I am an American of Japanese ancestry. I believe in this nation's institutions, ideals and tradition; I glory in her heritage; I boast of her history; I trust in her future."

Critics of Masaoka charge that he "colluded" with the government to imprison JAs and that he had not been "authorized" to speak for them. The facts are that neither Masaoka nor the JACL, which he represented, ever claimed to be "authorized" to speak for all JAs.

These dissidents have no historical context for their vituperative vendetta. They ignore the fact that Col. Karl R. Bendetsen revealed later that his troops were prepared to remove all JAs from the West Coast in 24 hours. In Seattle, Mayor Earl Millikin had said mounted police officers were prepared to march JAs over the Cascade Mountains to eastern Washington. In Wyoming, Gov. Nels Smith declared: "If you bring Japanese into my state, I promise they will be hanging from every tree." When Terminal Island was evacuated on two days' notice, Masaoka was told: "This is a military necessity. Any resistance will be interpreted as acts of disloyalty and will be met with appropriate action."

The decision to use the Masaoka quotation led to an orchestrated

protest letter-writing campaign by the dissidents to J. Carter Brown, chairman of the Commission on Fine Arts.

Voicing his support of the Masaoka quotation, Congressman Robert Matsui wrote to the Commission of Fine Arts. In response to that letter, Chairman Carter Brown wrote, "I believe everyone here on the Commission found Mr. Masaoka's words eloquent. Our public recommendation asked the Foundation address the divisiveness of this one issue in a democratic forum. I understand that our recommendation has been honored, although the outcome, as is often the case with memorials, did not please everyone."

The board has at least five times voted on the inscriptions. Finally, to reaffirm its actions at its quarterly meeting in San Diego February, the board, after hearing the pros and cons and reviewing protests published in the JA press, voted 27 to 6 with one abstention, to retain the Masaoka quotation. Of the original eight who raised questions about the inscriptions, only three actively continue to try to stop the construction of the memorial.

Unable to persuade their board colleagues, these three members of the board rejecting the universal democratic principle of decision by majority vote, continue to participate in a campaign to undermine the majority's will. One of the three, Francis Sogi, raised the possibility of taking legal ac-

tion to force the board to reverse itself. How this could be done was not made clear. The other two board members supporting Sogi's position are Rita Takahashi and Kelly Kuwayama. As a matter of fact, none of the three personally experienced the 1942 mass evacuation tragedy.

The trio's latest activity is the promotion of an internet website entitled "Japanese American Voice." It is ironic that this "voice" which condemns the JACL for trying to speak for them now has the gall to call themselves the "Japanese American Voice." As usual, it continues, like a windmill, to blow accusations in all directions including at the federal government for "failure to take corrective action (prior to approval) despite its knowledge of errors, inaccuracies, and controversies." It also charges the NJAMP board with failure to "follow its own by-laws and rules of governance, and it was not consistent and fair in its administrative procedures and processes."

The "Voice" urges the public to sign and send to the U.S. Department of Interior a resolution demanding that the National Park Service (NPS) delete the Masaoka quotation and further demands that the Secretary of Interior "oversee the integrity of this Japanese American national memorial and fully investigate the NPS to ensure that it has fulfilled its duties, obligations and mandates." Their list of names numbering in the hundreds (most

of whom have not given a cent to the memorial) are overwhelmed by the 18,000 who have voted with their checkbooks to build this memorial.

We want to assure the many who have supported this historic project that we intend to stay the course and remain true to the trust you have placed in us to serve as stewards for this important task. We thank the JA public for its heartfelt support and understanding. Finally, we hope you will be able to join us in November to celebrate the dedication of a project that acknowledges the injustice of the JA experience and honors our commitment toward a more perfect union. ■

The following board members have signed this letter:

Melvin Choigoji, Norman Mineta, George Aratani, Harry Abe, Paul Bannai, Henry Dady, Harry Fukuhara, Masaru Funai, Warren Haruki, William Hosokawa, Phil Ishio, Jean Kariya, Helen Kawagoe, Bert Kobayashi, Hideto Kono, Tom Masaromi, Warren Minami, Florence Miyahara, Tomio Moriguchi, James Mukoyama, Ray Murakami, Cressy Nakagawa, Margaret Oda, Peter Okada, Kaz Oshida, Dennis Otsuji, Robert Sakata, Mike Shimizu, Rodney Shinkawa, Shiro Shiraga, Mae Takahashi, Karen Tani, Paul Teraseki, Don Tokunaga, Yoshihiro Uchida, Grant Ujifusa, Elizabeth Yamada, Elaine Yamagata.

## Twin Cities JACL Honors High School Grads and Retiring Committee Chair Kimi Hara

The Twin Cities chapter held its 37th Annual Scholarship Dinner and Awards Program on May 4 to honor the class of 2000 graduates. General scholarships were awarded to Kelli Jean Lee Tsurusaki, Eagan Eastview; Matthew J. Miller, Bloomington Kenedy; and Joyce Sayaka Connelly, Eagan Eastview.

Lindsay Kinneberg, St. Louis Park, received the Reflections Scholarship, funded in part by proceeds from the book, "Reflections: Memoirs of Japanese American Women in Minnesota" (Tsuchida JN (editor), 1994). Paul E. Scott, Minneapolis Southwest, received the Ken Tanaka Memorial Scholarship, presented by May Tanaka; and Stacy Maki Tsukayama, Bloomington Jefferson, received the Martha Oye Memorial Scholarship, presented by Tom Oye.

Jamie O'Brien, St. Paul Central, received the Earl Tanbara Memorial Scholarship, presented by Ruth Tanbara and her nephew, Tom Kurihara; Travis Takanori Yamanaka, Apple Valley, received the Rev. Andrew Otani Memorial Scholarship; and Elizabeth Hara, Maple Grove, received the Susan

Matsumoto Memorial Scholarship, presented by Helen Tsuchiya and Yoshio Matsumoto.

High school graduates also honored were: Adam Arakawa, Burnsville; Clifford Osada, Champlin Park; Steven Takata, St. Louis Park; and Andrew Thompson, Minneapolis South.

A total of \$8,650 in scholarships was awarded.

Committee chair Kimi Hara and members Pam Ohno Dagobry, Phyllis Ono Kimitch, Fred Tsuchiya, Sylvia Farrells and Connie Tsuchiya selected the awardees on the basis of academic achievement, community service, and their essay on "The Value of Further Education."

The contributions of Kimi Hara, who announced her retirement from the scholarship committee after serving for 37 years, were also recognized. Hara, a founding member of the Twin Cities JACL, pioneered the chapter's scholarship program and organized its fund-raising, as well as serving as chapter president and board member. In appreciation of her dedication and service, Tom Ohno and his wife, Reiko, initiated a new scholarship fund in her name. ■



PHOTO: CHERYL HIRATA-DULAS

Twin Cities JACL 2000 high school graduates (left to right) - 1st row: Joyce Connelly, Jamie O'Brien, Elizabeth Hara, Stacy Tsukayama; 2nd row: Matthew Miller, Lindsay Kinneberg, Travis Yamanaka, Adam Arakawa, Paul Scott.

## Florin Chapter Hosts 2nd Annual Multiracial Forum

For multiracial individuals, it is common to get asked, "What are you?"

This demand to explain ones racial and ethnic identity is not unusual, according to panelists at the Second Annual Multiracial Forum sponsored by the Florin JACL chapter earlier this month in Sacramento. Five multiracial panelists shared poignant and painful memories of not having full acceptance from Japanese Americans or other racial groups.

More than 65 people attended the event which was moderated by Darrell Hamamoto, associate professor of Asian American Studies at University of California, Davis.

The forum was organized by Sue Hida and Karen Tomine, who both say the Florin chapter is among the first, if not the first, JACL chapter to tackle the topic of multiracials. Both are multiracial JAs who served terms as Florin chapter presidents.

Panelist Jessie Morris, Jr., a Sacramento-based criminal defense attorney, is a child of a Japanese national and African American. He recalled being labeled "an Oreo" or not being "Black enough" by other African Americans. Acceptance from AAs was no easier. At one community event, a JA demanded from Morris, "What are YOU doing here?"

Both Yoshinori "Toso" Himel and Tomine grew up subject to post-World War II anti-Japanese feelings prevalent in the 1940s and '50s. Their Nisei mothers had married non-Asians at a time when anti-miscegenation laws in many states defined such unions as illegal. Not until 1967 did a Supreme Court ruling in *Loving vs. Virginia* strike down the law.

"In the '50s, multiracials were called half-breeds, mulattoes



PHOTO: CHRIS TOMINE

(From left): Darrell Hamamoto, moderator, with panelists, Tressa Kiyomi Murai, Eric Matsumoto, Yoshinori "Toso" Himel, Karen Tomine, and Jessie Morris, Jr.

(Spanish for mule), Hapa and *aino-ko*," said Himel. "All of these terms are half of something, like you're somehow less than whole. It didn't feel good being called any of these things."

While the word, "Hapa," has been embraced by the younger generation, both Himel and Tomine still feel discomfort with the term.

Although Tressa Kiyomi Murai grew up a generation later than Himel or Tomine, she too felt ashamed of her mixed racial heritage.

"I only wanted my mother to drop me off at school," said Murai. "I didn't want anyone to see I had a Japanese American father."

Murai said her four-year-old daughter, who is of African, French, Japanese and English-Irish descent, is growing up in a different world and hopes she will not experience the shame experienced by earlier multiracial generations.

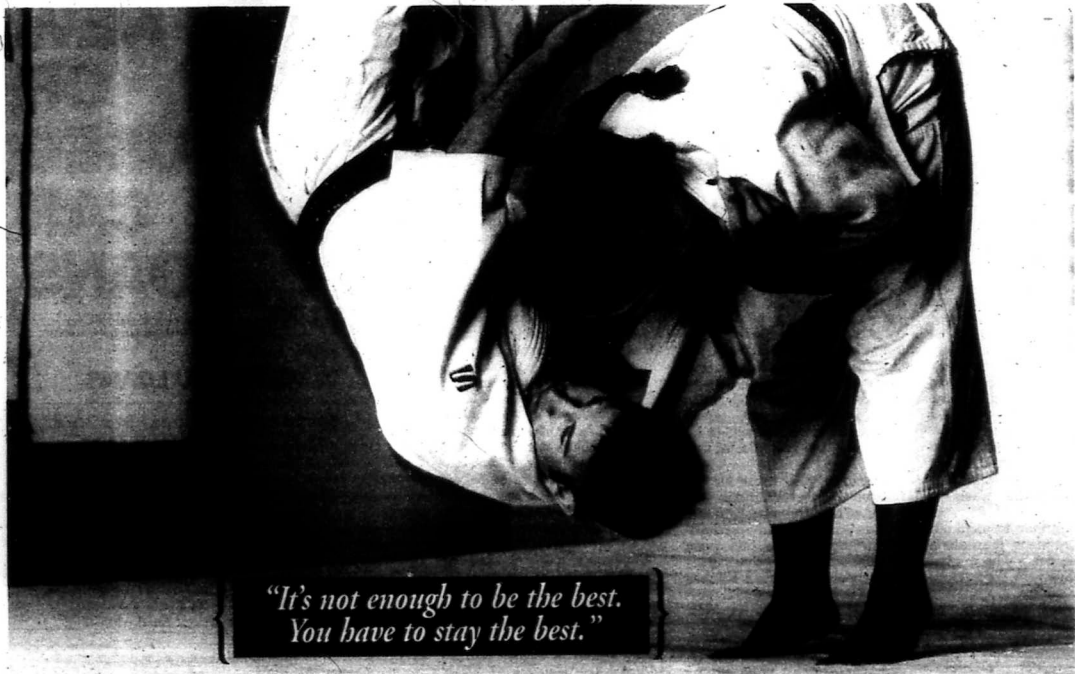
The forum addressed the need

for JACL to become more inclusive of the growing number of multiracial children as an increasing number of JAs marry non-Nikkei. The Nikkei community has an estimated 60 percent out-marriage rate, one of the highest among AAs.

Forum participant Eric Matsumoto, 37, whose father was a Nisei graduate from West Point, said he felt unwelcomed when he attended his first JACL function.

"They looked at me like, 'You're not one of us,'" said Matsumoto, who exhorted the JACL to reach out to multiracial JAs if the organization hopes to remain dynamic and relevant.

During the question and answer session, an audience member raised the question of how the panelists determined which race or ethnic group they belonged to. Morris replied that the question mistakenly assumes you must choose one race over the other. "It's not necessary to deny part of yourself," Morris said. ■



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### Stranger Than Fiction

By Christina Shigemura

## Waaasup in Little Tokyo

"Waaasup?" "Waaasup!" You've probably heard Yonsei greeting each other this way lately, and if you're not one yourself, you may have wondered about the meaning of this cryptic word. Allow me to share my almost-25 years of knowledge and life experience. The first "waaasup" uttered in a conversation translates roughly to, "Hello. How are you? It's good to see you." Later declarations of "waaasup" mean, "Hi. I'm fine, thanks. What's new with you?"

"Waaasup," originates from a shortening of "What's up?" It's like my mom is always saying — language is dynamic and constantly evolving. (Why is it that the older I get, the more I realize that she is right about almost everything?)

So let me tell you waaasup in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo. The Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC) is planning to build a sports center which will include a six-court gymnasium as well as space for martial arts tournaments and Korean Chushoku Kai's senior hot lunch program. LTSC and gym supporters have already conducted surveys, made market-rate offers on various plots of land, and raised \$1.2 million for the project. (Waaasup and thank you to California Assemblymen Cedillo, Honda and Nakano for a \$250,000 grant through the California Parks and Recreation Department.)

Currently, members of the state Assembly and Senate are meeting with the governor to decide whether or not a \$1 million line item earmarked for the Little Tokyo Sports Center will be included in the 2000-2001 state budget. The line item comes from Proposition 12 (park bonds) co-author and Speaker Emeritus Antonio Villarraigosa, who originally requested that \$6.7 million of Prop 12 money be appropriated for the Little Tokyo Sports Center.

By law, Gov. Davis must sign a

budget by June 30, so California residents should please call and fax the following members of the "Big 5" committee (where final budget decisions are made) as soon as possible: Gov. Davis, Speaker of the Assembly Robert Hertzberg, Assemblyman Scott Baugh, Sen. John Burton, and Sen. James Brulte. For more information on the line item or phone and fax numbers to contact the Big 5, call Cathleen Kuniyoshi at 213/473-1687, or email ckuniyoshi@fisc.ltsc.org.

Less pressing but still a concern are LTSC's attempts to obtain land. Office Depot has no problem getting land to build right in the center of Little Tokyo, even though another Office Depot already sits on the outskirts of Little Tokyo. A dozen generic parking lots reside quietly in the area. But land for a gym for kids, a hot lunch program for seniors, an expanded public library and mixed-income apartments and condominiums to help fill the housing shortage in this part of the city? Suddenly, land owners are pulling their lots off the market (or selling them to Office Depot) and City Hall is mumbling something which sounds suspiciously like, "City-owned land shouldn't be wasted on a bunch of sweaty kids."

To my fellow Angelenos, I wanna say that this is our city. We elect those city members, and they won't have jobs if we don't vote for them again in Spring 2001. If you want a sports center to serve the racially mixed area of Little Tokyo and its surroundings, call Mayor Riordan and your city council person and tell them to make the city-owned First Street North site available for our Sports Center. Sweaty or not, the children of L.A. deserve action, not just lip service. They are our future, and we cannot afford to ignore them. ■

Christina Shigemura is a Hapa Yonsei from greater L.A. Waaasup?



### A Bridge Across the Pacific

By Emily Moto Murase

## Epilogue: The Nikkei 2000 Conference

The young. The young at heart. Students, entrepreneurs, school teachers, filmmakers, lawyers, musicians (even a J A rapper!) — 400 community members from all walks and stages of life gathered in San Francisco for the Nikkei 2000 Conference held April 27-30 to address the theme: "Empowering Our Community in the 21st Century."

Participants came from Hawaii, Washington State, New York (I was thrilled to learn that former National JACL President Lillian Kimura decided to attend the conference after reading a previous column I wrote about the event), and as far away as Canada and Brazil to spend three and a half days brainstorming and problem solving. In the process, conference participants renewed old friendships and discovered new ones.

The conference touched on virtually all aspects of our community. The first day was dedicated to workshops. One titled "Where is Our Center: J-Town in the New Century" brought together community activists from Japanese American communities around the globe. I moderated a panel on gender dynamics in which we discussed gender roles and expectations in the home and at the workplace. The session entitled "Senior Care for the Japanese-Speaking Population" was conducted in Japanese. All workshops afforded participants an opportunity to interact with presenters and each other.

The next two days were devoted to a planning process, carefully designed to be as inclusive as possible, but also action-oriented. Participants were divided into small groups to address key issues in break-out sessions. The first session involved self-introductions as well as self-examination. The goal was to have participants recognize the diversity of views on our community. The second session required groups to identify changes occurring within our community and to take stock of Nikkei resources and needs. The third session focused on developing a national agenda from the work achieved in the previous break-out sessions. The goal of the final session was to develop a national action plan.

As presenters, the conference featured pioneers from a variety of fields. Michele Lincoln, the daughter of a Japanese mother and an American father, has overcome many challenges throughout her 16-year career with Nike. Currently, she serves in top management as director of Global Apparel Sales. At Nike's world headquarters in Hong Kong, suppliers, customers and even some colleagues were unused to dealing with a woman in such a senior position, much less one with an Asian face, but an American name.

Conference speakers were unafraid to raise controversial issues. Jon Osaki, executive director of the Japanese Community Youth Council praised the community for its commitment to the JA youth basketball leagues that are so active in California. However, he stated that a singular focus on sports for youth can be a problem: "... I consistently hear from parents that their son or daughter cannot participate in JCYC's youth leadership program because of basketball commitments and when I hear that they cannot come to the Nikkei 2000 conference because of a basketball tournament, I have to wonder if athletics are the extent of this community's vision for its young people."

Sen. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii was an inspirational keynote speaker at the conference banquet. And there were many other notable participants, including elected officials, Hollywood stars, distinguished professors and headline performers, too many to name individually. The diversity of achievement within our community was truly remarkable.

Using striking landscape images, consultant Tomi Nagai-Rothe created a 20-foot-long color wall mural titled "Visualizing Our Future Community" to encapsulate the views, values, goals and objectives that were discussed at the conference. The vision for our community in 2020 that arose from the conference included leadership, an inclusive Nikkei community, Japantown preservation, political involvement and support, as well as preserving and creating cultural Nikkei values.

An executive summary of the conference as well as full conference proceedings will soon become available on the conference Web site. Visit the Nikkei 2000 Web

site at [www.nikkei2000.org](http://www.nikkei2000.org) for post-conference community events and discussion (it includes information about the upcoming JACL national convention in Monterey).

Beginning with the historic Ties that Bind Conference held in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, in April 1998, the Nikkei 2000 Conference brought together the myriad of interests that define our community. And, as a result of the strategic planning process that we participated in throughout the conference, we now have a sense of what we need to do to empower our community in order to face the challenges of the new century. But we must not wait until the next conference to follow up on our dialogue. We must keep the conversation going within our respective communities and invite everyone who is interested, conference participant or not, to join us. ■

Emily is a doctoral student in communications at Stanford University. She welcomes your comments at [emurase@stanford.edu](mailto:emurase@stanford.edu). © 2000.

## Hosokawa Returns to Whitman to Present Student Journalism Awards

Six decades ago in wartime America, when Robert Hosokawa took his first newspaper reporting job — in Independence, Mo. — it was hard to miss the symbolism. The job allowed him and his new bride, Yoshi, to leave an internment camp for Japanese Americans in Idaho.

The reporting job was found for him by Tom Howells, one of his professors at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Wash. In May, Hosokawa, now 81, returned to Whitman to hand out new \$500 student journalism awards to students who worked this past year on the *Pioneer*, the campus newspaper.

He presented awards in the following four categories: Best Editorial/Opinion Piece, to Tracy Dahl, Beaverton, Ore.; Best News Story, to Alex Morrison, Seattle, Wash.; Best Feature Story, to Neil Korzine, Reno, Nev., and Alex Morrison; and Best Photo Journalism, to Adam Hardtke, Edmonds, Wash.

The awards will be given annually from the proceeds of a \$100,000 endowment established in Hosokawa's name by his son, David.


"The objective is to recognize and encourage excellence in student journalism," said the elder Hosokawa. "When you write for

a newspaper, you learn to research your subject and to think about it clearly. You learn to differentiate between fact and fiction, to make decisions about what is important, or newsworthy, and what is not. You learn to be dispassionate, to guard against allowing yourself to be swayed by the prejudice of others."

Hosokawa also wrote for the *Pioneer* while at Whitman. Because of his ethnic background, he was unable to find a newspaper willing to hire him upon graduation. He was considering law school when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor and the U.S. government forced JAs on the West Coast into barbed-wire enclosed internment camps.

He eventually earned a master's degree at the University of Wisconsin's School of Journalism and later worked at the *Winona Daily News*, *Des Moines Register*, *Minneapolis Tribune* and the *Syracuse Post-Standard*, among others. He was managing editor of the World Book Science News Service, has worked in corporate publications and taught journalism at several universities.

Members of Hosokawa's family also in journalism include Pacific Citizen columnist Bill Hosokawa, his older brother. ■



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# KURISAKI

(Continued from page 1)

stitution. The other committee members were: Clarence Arima, Los Angeles; Fred Hirasuna, Fresno; Saburo Kido, San Francisco; James Sakamoto, Seattle.

From 1936-37, Kurisaki served as the chair of JACL's Southern District Council. The respect that Kurisaki commanded was evident when the national JACL leadership was willing to nominate Kurisaki at the 1936 Seattle convention as a candidate for national president over the actual choice of the Southern California delegates. But Kurisaki refused to run for national office, and that year, Sakamoto was elected to the presidency.

When World War II broke out, Kurisaki and his family were sent to the Poston Relocation Center. He joined Saburo Kido, Dr. T.G. Ishimaru and Sim Togosaki in representing Poston at the November 1942 JACL emergency conference held in Salt Lake City. It was here that JACL delegates, after a heated discussion, unanimously voted to seek the restoration of the Selective Service for the Nisei.

JACL's support of military service was not a popular one with camp internees, and Kurisaki, like Kido, was badly beaten in Poston and removed from camp for his own personal safety.

After camp, Kurisaki made his way to Salt Lake City where he found employment with Pet Dairy, a subsidiary of Pet Milk Co., as a production coordinator.

In the late 1950s, Kurisaki returned to California due to health problems, and ended up undergoing major surgery for an ulcer, which dramatically changed his

physical appearance. Kit recalled that his grandfather was no longer the "barrel-chested Asian" as one article once referred to him as.

"My recollection of my grandfather is really quite different than everyone else's," said Kit. "The grandfather I remember is a small, 150 lb. Asian guy who liked to dress nicely. ... But as you read about him and talk to people who knew him during the 1930s and 1940s, my grandfather was a much larger man, almost twice that size. I imagine him to be about 250 to 260 lbs. Now, that's the memory I have of my dad because my dad was always 280-300 lbs., 5'10" or 11", a big guy. That's the dad I knew but not the grandfather."

Kit said as far as he was aware his grandfather's post-war activities did not include JACL. He did not recall seeing his grandfather attend JACL meetings nor did he recall seeing the *Pacific Citizen* delivered to their home.

It came as a surprise to Kit to come upon all the documents in his grandfather's trunk such as a handwritten draft of a JACL constitution, correspondence of his political activities and records of his produce business dealings.

"The idea of him sitting down and drafting his version of a constitution or organizing for any kind of association didn't dawn on me," said Kit. "The grandfather I knew wasn't a businessman, wasn't an organizer. He was spending a lot of time playing golf and going to sporting events. ... He was the guy who took me to all the sporting events in Los Angeles. We went to the USC football games, indoor and outdoor track meets, basketball, baseball. We did it all that stuff."

In fact, Kit was more familiar

with his grandfather's athletic accomplishments. Through his grandfather's brothers, Kit learned of how his grandfather had once been picked to be a catcher for an all-Hawaiian Island baseball team that played against baseball legend Ty Cobb. Kurisaki was also one of the first few Nisei to win the Lettuce Golf Tournament in the Imperial Valley in the 1930s, and is also credited for starting the Beehive Golf Club which is still in existence in Salt Lake City.

The grandson said going through the trunk had added a new dimension to his family's history, which, in addition to his grandfather's papers, included documents about his father and mother.

"It's given me a better perspective, a better understanding of what it was they went through," said Kit. "Kind of makes you wish they'd spend a lot more time talking about it because clearly there's information and a story there that I don't have all the details about and there's nobody around to tell you about it."

Kurisaki passed away in 1966, after getting into a car accident while driving home from work. He was 72.

Kurisaki's wife, Vivienne, passed away in October 1985; Kit's father, Lyle, Jr., passed away in July 1985; and Kit's mother, Yoshie, who was a post-war immigrant, passed away in December. None of Kit's immediate family members who had to endure the WWII camp experience lived to receive redress. ■

Anyone wishing to donate papers to the JACL archive program should contact the national JACL office at 415/921-2225; fax 415/931-4671; address 1766 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115.

## IDC Holds Min Yasui Oratorical Contest



The Pocatello-Blackfoot chapter and the Intermountain District Council hosted a district Min Yasui Oratorical Contest at Cavanaugh's Hotel in Pocatello, Idaho, on May 20. With five contestants from four chapters taking part, Stuart Shimizu emerged in first place, earning the honor of representing the IDC in the national competition at the upcoming national convention. The book, "They Call Me Moses Masakoka," was presented to each contestant and judge. Hero Shiosaki, district education representative, served as chairman of the event, and Micki Kawakami, first vice governor of IDC, was location and luncheon coordinator. (l-r): Jacob Tateoka, Mt. Olympus chapter; Stuart Shimizu, Wasatch Front North chapter; Suzanne Itami, Salt Lake chapter; Ryan Yoshida, Wasatch Front North chapter; and Casi Morimoto, Pocatello-Blackfoot chapter. ■

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