

# Pacific Citizen

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Aug. 25-31, 2000

## UCLA Soccer's Ryan Futagaki Karate Kicks His Way to the Top

By LYNDSEY SHINODA  
Writer/Reporter

Pele, Bebeto, Baggio, Futo. Recognize these names? The last one, "Futo," belongs to Ryan Arnold Futagaki, a player on the UCLA Bruins men's soccer team. He may not yet be known world-



Ryan Futagaki performs his famous karate kick

wide like the others, but soon enough, Futo could be a household name.

Futagaki, 20, a Yankee in his junior year at UCLA, is the starting center midfielder for the Bruins, who are ranked No. 3 in the

country. He has been an impact player from day one.

Growing up in Huntington Beach, he played all kinds of sports focusing on volleyball, football, baseball, snowboarding, surfing, and skateboarding. Influenced by his older brothers Brent and Brandon, Futagaki first touched a soccer ball at age four and joined a club soccer team at the age of nine.

"At age 11, I wanted to focus on other sports, but my sophomore year of high school, I quit everything and committed myself to soccer," he said.

He always played with guys that were 3 to 4 years older than him, and still managed to score over 40 goals in one season. His commitment to soccer paid off. Heavily recruited by Clemson, St. Mary's, San Jose State, and St. John's, Futagaki knew that he wanted to play for the Bruins.

"I wanted to stay closer to home, and since I was four years old, I always dreamed of going to UCLA," he said.

A sociology major, Futagaki would like to eventually have a career that involves interacting with and meeting people. But he says that if he weren't playing soccer, he'd probably be snowboarding professionally.

His parents, Arnie, a retired coach, and Shirley, a homemaker, are constant fixtures at his matches. Futagaki says that his parents have been behind him in everything and are his two biggest role models.

If he had three wishes, first

See SOCCER/ page 8

## V.P. Candidate Joe Lieberman Speaks to APIA Caucus at DNC Convention

By TRACY UBA  
Writer/Reporter

For Asian Pacific Islander Americans, the 2000 Democratic National Convention proved to be a watershed event as one of the country's most prominent political figures, vice presidential candidate Joe Lieberman, addressed APIA delegates at a caucus meeting Aug. 16.

Prior to formally accepting the nomination as Al Gore's running mate before the national delegation, the Connecticut senator took time out of a busy schedule to speak to APIAs as the first Jewish American to be nominated to the vice presidency.

"When I look out in this room, I see the faces of my grandparents and my parents," Lieberman told the packed room of APIA delegates and distinguished guests. "I see the story of America."

"What a remarkable turn of events to find Al Gore to have had the courage to break the barrier he did and choose me. The fact is that once a barrier falls for one group, the doors of opportunity open wider for all Americans," he said.

Lieberman went on to discuss the differences between the Democratic and Republican parties in this election and what they would mean for APIAs and the country at large, while linking his family history with the history of Asian immigrants to the United States.

"This Asian Pacific Islander community has contributed so much already to American life," he said, "and I know that you, like my grandparents and parents, ask only one thing from America — opportunity."

Martina Choe, presiding chair of the APIA Caucus briefings, acknowledged that concept of opportunity, which she said APIAs finally have in front of them.

"We have been outsiders for many years and many decades in

the political process, but we are now at the table. We are people who are making the decisions. We are at every level of elected office, and here at the convention we are players. I think that's one of the reasons why Joe Lieberman came to address our caucus," she said.

Choe added that although we have our work cut out for us, the APIA community stands unified. "We stand squarely and strongly behind the ticket of Gore and Lieberman because we know that

happy to see [APIAs] are active and emerging on the national scene."

**First Asian Pacific Caucus**  
Complimenting other minority caucuses specific to the black, Latino and gay and lesbian communities, the 2000 APIA Caucus was the first to be formally held at a Democratic National Convention.

Morning caucus briefings were held Aug. 14-17 at the Wilshire Grand Hotel in downtown Los Angeles, providing APIA delegates the opportunity to convene, hear lead-



PHOTO: MARTHA NAKAGAWA  
Lieberman addresses Asian Pacific Islander American delegates at the 2000 Democratic National Convention.

their leadership and their decisions and their policies will be the best ones for our families, for our grandparents, for our children," she said.

Maryland delegate Vi Baluyot, a Filipina, echoed Choe's sentiments, saying, "The message is that this party is a party of inclusion, and we ought to participate in the democratic process because we want to be part of the decision-making process."

"In previous years," Baluyot said, "Asian Pacific Americans were a silent minority, very silent... But how the sources of leadership have passed on from our generation to yours and we're very

ing politicians speak and discuss issues impacting their communities at the national and local levels.

In addition to Lieberman, politicians who spoke at the APIA Caucus over the course of the four days included U.S. Commerce Secretary Norman Mineta, U.S. Labor Secretary Alexis Herman, Sen. Daniel Inouye, Rep. Robert Matsui, Congressman Robert Underwood, Gov. Gary Locke, California State Board of Equalization member John Chiang and California congressional candidates Bob Kent and Mike Honda.

See LIEBERMAN/ page 8

## 2000 Nat'l JACL Legacy Fund Grants Applications Available

Applications are now available for the 2000 National JACL Legacy Fund Grants program. JACL chapters, district councils, and members of the national youth/student council are eligible to apply. This year, \$26,000 is available for distribution and will be awarded to projects/activities that will help to advance the 2000-2002 JACL biennial program for action.

Copies of applications will be available through chapter presidents, district governors, the five regional offices, and national headquarters. You may also download a copy of the application and guidelines from the national JACL Web

site at [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org). The deadline for applications is Friday, Sept. 29, 2000.

Members of the 2000 Legacy Fund Grants Review Committee are: Karen-Liane Shiba (chair), Debbie Ikeda (CCDC), Teresa Masbani (EDC), Micki Kawakami (IDC), Henry Tanaka (MDC), Malcolm Mori (MPDC), Matthew Nakata (NYSC co-rep), Amy Matsumoto (NYSC co-rep), Mark Kobayashi (NCWNP), Elsie Taniguchi (PNW) and Rick Noguchi (PSW).

Questions with regard to the 2000 grants program may be directed to any of the district representative on the review committee or to the PNW district office at 206/523-5088 or e-mail at [pnw@jacl.org](mailto:pnw@jacl.org).

## Wen Ho Lee Supporters Stage Peaceful Protest at the DNC

By LYNDSEY SHINODA  
Writer/Reporter

Amid a throng of police officers bearing riot gear and people protesting everything from police brutality to the freeing of Mumia Abu-Jamal, protesters of the jailing of Dr. Wen Ho Lee sent a peaceful yet powerful message to the Democratic National Committee Convention Aug. 16.

As protesters flooded the segway between Olympic and Figueroa streets, the large entourage of police enforcement seemed to threaten the crowd, and when they didn't move quickly enough into the 'protector area,' rubber bullets were sprayed. In the protector's area, the non-violent Lee supporters chanted, "Wen Ho Lee, set him free!"

"Today we not only fight for Dr. Wen Ho Lee, we fight for the rights of all Americans," said Frank Yeh, president of the Joint Chinese University Alumni Association (JCUAA), one of the primary organizers of the event.

Richard Chao, board chairman of JCUAA, explained the purpose of the protest. "We want to attract the attention of the media, delegates and the politicians," said Chao. "Wen Ho Lee should be freed on bail and have time to be with his family, and have time to prepare his case for the November 6 trial."

Other endorsers of the demonstration included the Consolidated Chinese Benevolent Association, Asian Pacific American Legal Cen-

ter, JACL Pacific Southwest District, and the Organization of Chinese Americans, among others.

In December 1999, Lee was charged with 59 counts of mishandling classified government information in his position of nuclear weapons scientist at the Los Alam-

been prosecuted. His only punishment so far is having his security clearance revoked. It is believed that the harsh treatment Lee is receiving is based solely on race according to the Coalition Against Racial and Ethnic Scapagoing (CARES), a supporter of the case.



More than 100 protestors demonstrated in support of Dr. Wen Ho Lee at the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles on Aug. 16.

os National Laboratory in New Mexico. He has been held in solitary confinement, for over eight months, and is currently awaiting trial. His ankles and wrists are shackled and he is allowed only one hour per week to visit with his family.

Lee has not been charged with spying or espionage. Meanwhile, former CIA Director John Deutch, a Caucasian man who was found guilty of similar actions, has not

JCUAA has compiled 6,000 signatures on petitions sent to government officials urging the freeing of Lee. The organization has also collected donations in excess of \$21,000 for Lee's defense fund. Based in southern California with 20,000 members, JCUAA hopes to get the word out on Lee's case so justice can be served, said Chao.

The 130 protestors, clad in bright

See PROTEST/ page 7

**Inside the P.C. Weekly**

Announcements,

Calendar ..... page 2

National News ..... 3

Community News . . . 4-5

A Bridge Across the Pacific, Stranger Than Fiction, Legacy . . . . 6

Obituaries, Letters . . . 7

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## JACL Calendar

**Eastern**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
Sun, Sept. 10—D.C. Chapter Picnic: 1 p.m., Wheaton Regional Park, 2000 Shorefield Rd., Wheaton, Md. Info: Laura Nakatani, 703/519-9378.

**Midwest**  
**DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
Fri-Sun., Sept. 22-24—District Council Meeting: Milwaukee.

**ST. LOUIS**  
Sat.-Mon., Sept. 2-4—24th Annual Japanese Festival; see Community Calendar.

**TWIN CITIES**  
Sun., Sept. 17—5th Annual Headwaters Fund Walk for Justice; see Community Calendar.

## COMMUNITY Calendar

**East Coast**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
Through Sept. 4—Exhibit, "An American Diary and Memories of Childhood" by Roger Shimomura; National Museum of American History, 12th & Constitution NW. Free. 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**  
**MINNEAPOLIS**  
Sun., Sept. 17—5th Annual Headwaters Fund Walk for Justice; 11 a.m. registration; walk 3.5 miles around Boom Island; sponsors also wanted. Info: Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, 952/925-2429.

**ST. LOUIS**  
Sat.-Mon., Sept. 2-4—24th Annual Japanese Festival, "Spirit of Stone"; 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday & Sunday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday; Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd.; food, taiko, nani, music from Japan, Okinawa *deigo kai*, hanamizuki, bon-sai, ikebana, tea ceremonies, bon-odori, fashion show, raku pottery, children's activities, much more. Info: 577-9400, 800/642-8842.

**The Northwest**  
**BELLEVUE**  
Sat.-Sun., Sept. 23-24—Eastside Nihon Matsuri; Bellevue Community College gym; live stage performances, artisan demonstrations, exhibits, food booth, etc. Free admission. Info: www.enma.org, or 425/861-9109, Brooke.

**PORTLAND**  
Thurs., Aug. 31—"Stardust Follies," a salute to 20th-century veterans, with tribute to Nisei vets; 7 p.m., Oregon State Fair, L.B. Day Amphitheater, Salem. Info, transportation: George Azumano, 253/770-0777.

**SEATTLE**  
Fri.-Sun., Sept. 15-17—Heart Mountain Reunion; SeaTac DoubleTree Hotel. Info: Toshi Terayama, registrar, 253/520-8005, e-mail: toshiter@ix.netcom.com.

**Northern California**  
**FRENCH CAMP**  
Sat., Sept. 16—Rummage Sale; 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Japanese Community Hall, 170 E. French Camp Rd.

**SACRAMENTO**  
Sat., Aug. 26—Asian Pacific Islander Culture Day; beginning at 10 a.m. at the State Fairgrounds; U.S. postal stamp unveiling, martial arts demonstration, Polynesian dance review, etc.

**Intermountain**  
**UTAH CHAPTERS**  
Sat., Sept. 16—Fifth Annual Autumn Golf Classic Scholarship Tournament; shotgun start at 8 a.m., Meadowbrook Golf Course. Entry Deadline Sept. 9: Info: Floyd Mori, 572-2287.

**Pacific Northwest**  
**LAKE WASHINGTON**  
Sat.-Sun., Sept. 23-24—Eastside Nihon Matsuri; see Community Calendar at Bellevue.

**NC-WN Pacific**  
**DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
Sat., Sept. 30—Fourth Quarter District Executive Board Meeting. FRENCH CAMP

Sat., Sept. 16—Semi-annual Rummage Sale; see Community Calendar.

## Central California

Free. Info: Dan Koehler, 916/263-3108.

Fri.-Sat., Sept. 8-9—Tulelake Reunion; DoubleTree Hotel and Resort; Friday registration and gala mixer; Saturday Sayonara banquet. RSVP early: Tulelake Reunion, P.O. Box 22877, Sacramento, CA 95822.

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

**SAN FRANCISCO**  
Tues., Aug. 29—Discussion, "Japanese Cubans: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," with Francisco Miyasaka, president of the Asocacion de La Colonia Japonesa de Cuba; 1 p.m., JCCCNC, 1840 Sutter St. RSVP, info: 415/567-5507.

Through Sept. 29—Exhibit, "Latent August: The Legacy of Hiroshima & Nagasaki"; National Japanese American Historical Society, 1684 Post St.; a video by Robert Handa accompanies the exhibit. Info., schedules: 415/921-5007; www.njahs.org.

## Central California

**FRESNO**  
Sat., Aug. 26—Central California Nikkei Foundation Casino Night. Info: JACL, 559/486-6815.

Fri., Sept. 8—Eat Friday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Fresno Chinatown; food vendors, handmade goods, live band, relaxed parking meters. Info: 559/441-7915.

Sat., Sept. 9—Chinatown Jazz 2000 featuring Hiroshima and Fattburger. Ticket giveaways, KEZL-96.7 FM. Info: 559/441-7315.  
Sun., Sept. 17—15th Annual Shinzen Run and Walk; 6 a.m. registration, Woodward Park; to benefit the Friendship Garden and Nikkei Service Center. Info: Randy Aoki, 559/278-0415, or Bobbi Hanada, 559/434-1692.

## Southern California

**LOS ANGELES**  
Sat., Aug. 26—Panel discussion, "Japanese International Brides: Heritage, Identity, Community and Legacy"; 1 p.m., Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo; telling the story of Japanese women who married American GI's after World War II. RSVP: 213/625-0414.

Sat., Aug. 26—Workshop, "Personal Collections: Preserve Your Family History"; 1-3 p.m., Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo. RSVP: 213/625-0414.  
Through Aug. 27—Mainichi Shimbun Calligraphy Exhibit; Doizaki Gallery, JACCC, 244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo. Info: 213/628-2725.

**FRESNO**  
Sun., Sept. 17—15th Annual Shinzen Run and Walk; see Community Calendar.

**Pacific Southwest**  
Sat., Sept. 16—PSW Annual Awards Dinner; see Community Calendar.  
**WEST LOS ANGELES**  
Sat., Sept. 9—BBQ and Bingo scholarship fund-raiser; see Community Calendar.  
Sun., Sept. 24—Aki Matsuri 2000 Boutique; see Community Calendar.

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

Tues., Aug. 29—Public memorial-service for 1,100+ Japanese-Americans who died in the services during WWII and the Korean and Vietnam wars; 5 p.m., JACCC, 244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo. Info: Nichirenshu Beikoku Betsuin, 323/262-7886.

Through Aug. 30—Exhibit "Japan, Past and Present"; works by photographer Stone Ishimaru and painter Ichiro Uehara; 3-5 p.m., LA Artcore Center, 120 Judge John Aiso St., Little Tokyo. Info: 213/617-3274, fax 617-0303, <www.aaartcore.org>.

Fri., Sept. 1—Asian Business League and Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association 6th Annual Golf Tournament & Mooncake Bonanza; noon check-in, 1 p.m. shotgun start, California Country Club, 1509 S. Workman Mill Rd., Whittier; four-person best-ball scramble, post-tournament dinner. Info: 213/624-9975.

Sat., Sept. 9—BBQ and Bingo; dinner 5:30-6:30 p.m.; then Bingo; Japanese Institute of Sawtelle, 2110 Corinth Ave., West L.A., info, tickets, directions: Frank Hirata, 310/478-7845.

Sat., Sept. 16—JACL Pacific Southwest District's Annual Awards Dinner; 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner, Torrance Marriott Hotel, 3635 Fashion Way; California Appointments Secretary Michael Yamaki, speaker; \$85; Tickets: 213/626-4471.

Sun., Sept. 24—Aki Matsuri 2000; Boutique; 9:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m., Venice Japanese Community Center, 12448 Braddock Dr., Culver City vicinity; designer clothing, sportswear, original jewelry, gifts, stationery, foods, etc. Info: Jean, 310/390-6914, Eiko, 310/820-1875.

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 dancers, TV coverage; cost \$50; send checks to Dave Brenner, 1700 Bagley, Los Angeles, CA 90035. Reserve early: 310/837-6582.

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

**SOUTH BAY**  
Through Aug. 30—Exhibit: "Travels"; travel photography by Setsuko Owan (Seko); 1-4 p.m., Malaga Cove Library Art Gallery, 2400 Via Campesina, Palos Verdes Estates. Info: 310/515-1935.

## Arizona - Nevada

**LAS VEGAS**  
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.

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## Takasugi to Seek Seat on Harbor Commission

Three-term former State Assemblyman Nao Takasugi is coming out of retirement to seek a seat on the harbor commission at the Port of Huenueme.

The 78-year-old former Orange, Calif., mayor and city councilman is seeking the seat on the commission that meets twice a month and involves a lot of traveling.

"I didn't want to get into something full time — the state Senate or county supervisor," said Takasugi in a recent *Los Angeles Times* interview. "But here's something I can easily fit into my schedule and not be too much of a strain."

The job pays about \$600 per month and involves travel a few times a year to various ports around the country and sometimes around the world. The Port of Huenueme is the only deep-water harbor between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Takasugi says he has the bless-

ing of his wife and his doctor. The former assemblyman had quintuple heart bypass surgery in 1998 but says he has fully recovered.

"I checked with my cardiologist and he said my heart's in perfect shape. So with that, and my wife's blessing, I took the jump one more time," he said.

Takasugi's bid for the seat will not go unchallenged. The two incumbents who hold the seats on the Nov. 7 ballot, Commissioners Jesse Ramirez, 56, and Bill Hill, 76, are expected to run again.

The harbor commissioners serve four-year terms and oversee activities at the port which has its own niche in international trade. The two-wharf, five-berth harbor has quadrupled the value of its cargo over the past 10 years. The harbor's gross income in 1999 was \$10.5 million with a profit of \$1.5 million. The facility does not receive any public money. ■



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## S.F. Police Department Seeks AA Applicants

The San Francisco Police Department is actively seeking Asian American applicants as part of a major recruiting effort. Two recruitment seminars will be held at Kimochi, Inc., Japanese American Senior Services, 1715 Buchanan St., on Tuesday, Sept. 12, and Tuesday, Sept. 19, between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

During the seminars, members of the department's Recruiting and Backgrounds Unit will describe the duties of the position and provide prospective candidates with information regarding qualifications. The application, testing, and background process will also be explained in detail, along with academy training.

The department is actively seeking mature men and women. Women, minority, and bilingual applicants are especially encouraged to apply.

Starting salary is \$47,894 (\$1,835 biweekly). Applicants are

paid while they attend the San Francisco Police Academy and when training is completed may apply for bilingual pay.

To qualify to take the police officer examination, you must:

- Be at least 20 years old.
- Be a U.S. citizen or a legal resident alien.
- Have a valid driver license.
- Have an acceptable driving record and no criminal record.
- To be hired, you must:
  - Be at least 21.
  - Have a U.S. high school diploma, an equivalent, or an AA degree or higher.
  - Be a U.S. citizen.
  - Pass the police officer examination and background investigation process.

Applicants who live outside San Francisco can get applications by calling 415-553-1999 or e-mailing sfpd recruitment@pacbell.net. The testing process will start in October 2000. ■

## Judge May Decide on Lee's Bail This Week

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.—A federal prosecutor says fired nuclear scientist Wen Ho Lee could help someone build a bomb or help a country bolster its nuclear program if he is released from jail.

"Hundreds of millions of people could be killed," Assistant U.S. Attorney George Stamboulidis told a judge at a bail hearing Aug. 18. "The breadth of the potential harm is so great that ... even a reduced risk is too great to take that gamble."

Stamboulidis urged U.S. District Judge James Parker to again refuse bail for Lee, who has been in custody since December.

Lee, 60, is charged with illegally transferring top-secret nuclear weapons files to unsecure computers and computer tapes at Los Alamos National Laboratory. He could face life in prison if convicted.

Defense attorney Mark Holscher said: "There is no evidence in the record that Dr. Lee has the political motivation, the financial motivation or the destructive intent" to do anything harmful with the material he is accused of downloading.

Holscher said, however, that Lee was "naive" and had made some stupid mistakes.

After court adjourned, the scientist's daughter, Alberta Lee, said: "I think the notion of my father having the intention to kill hundreds of millions of people is completely absurd."

Parker indicated at the hearing that he would rule later, possibly next week, on whether to grant bail. He said he would not rule from the bench because he must review hearing transcripts, then have a government classification officer review his order before it is filed.

About 15 friends and family members of Lee have offered to put

up a dozen pieces of property worth about \$2.2 million as bond, Holscher said.

After a three-day hearing, including several hours of closed-door sessions to consider classified information, the judge went point by point through December's detention order, comparing any new information in the case.

Defense Attorney John Cline said the material Lee allegedly downloaded was not the "crown jewels" of American science. He said the information could not be used to build a nuclear bomb.

Cline added that the information was not even classified secret by the government.

Earlier on Aug. 18, a FBI agent whose testimony was key in denying bail to Lee in December said that the scientist passed non-FBI polygraph examinations with flying colors.

However, Agent Robert Messer said the polygraphs administered by Wackenhut Corp. on behalf of the Department of Energy did not follow guidelines accepted by the FBI.

Messer said the FBI does not agree with the Wackenhut polygraph outcome, even though they were double-checked by an independent polygrapher and a polygraph supervisor.

Messer said under questioning by Holscher that he was aware Lee had some of the highest possible polygraph scores for credibility when Lee denied in 1998 ever passing secrets, contacting anyone for the purpose of espionage or intending to harm the United States.

The FBI, however, insisted on conducting its own polygraph examination. Messer said he believes Lee was "deceptive" during the FBI examination. Holscher

said the FBI questions were framed in a manner that could trap someone and make them seem deceptive.

Messer was also asked about contacts Lee had with Chinese scientists in China in 1988. He said two high-ranking Chinese nuclear officials visited Lee in a hotel room.

Messer said Lee did not mention the contact in a debriefing, but Holscher said Lee included it on a written report. Holscher said the discussion concerned information in the public domain, so Lee did not consider it an approach for classified information.

Messer testified that Lee should have told the debriefer anyway. He said it was significant because the scientists ranked so high in China's nuclear establishment, and it would have been useful to know what Lee was asked.

Also, the FBI agent acknowledged that during a March 7, 1999, interrogation, Lee was threatened with a potential death penalty if he did not cooperate. Messer said he was aware of the threat but not present.

Stamboulidis objected that the defense implied Lee was threatened with death if he didn't cooperate. Stamboulidis asked Messer if the interrogation implied Lee would be murdered if he didn't cooperate.

"I concluded he was not under any immediate threat of death if he did not cooperate and he was free to leave at any time," the agent said.

Another FBI agent withdrew from the Lee investigation after the interview, but Messer said he could not confirm that she quit over the death penalty issue. He said he understood the agent withdrew because she became ill. ■

## National Japanese American Memorial to be Dedicated Nov. 9

The National Japanese American Memorial Foundation announced on Aug. 15 that the National Japanese American Memorial will be dedicated on Nov. 9 with a ceremony in the nation's capital.

The memorial will honor the patriotism of Japanese Americans during World War II despite the internment of more than 120,000 JAs held in remote camps throughout the war for no reason other than their ancestry. The memorial will also recognize the contributions of all JAs in the nation's history, development and achievements.

According to Secretary of Commerce Norman Mineta, a member of the board, "It is appropriate as we celebrate the first Veteran's Day of this century, that we also pay tribute to the diversity within the Armed Services as exemplified by the valor of Japanese American men and women who served in World War II."

The dedication ceremony will take place at 1:00 p.m. on Nov. 9 at the Memorial site located on federal land in the shadow of the U.S. Capitol, in a triangular park bordered by Louisiana Avenue, New Jersey Avenue and D Street.

The ceremony, open to the general public, will include the participation of JAs who were interned during WWII, including many who enlisted in the military from the camps and fought bravely to defend America and the Allies during WWII.

Invited speakers include: President Clinton, Secretary of Defense William Cohen, Secretary of Com-

merce Norman Mineta, U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki, and U.S. Congresswoman Patsy Mink, D-Hawaii. NBC "Today Show" correspondent Ann Curry has been invited to serve as the mistress of ceremonies.

The memorial, designed by architect David Buckley, will educate all Americans who visit the nation's capital about the forcible relocation and internment of 120,000 American citizens and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry during WWII, as well as their patriotic service.

A high granite wall at the entrance will bear inscriptions describing the Japanese immigration to America beginning in the 19th century. Panels depict the evacuation of JAs to "war relocation camps," the names of which are listed above the panels.

The centerpiece of the memorial is a sculpture of two Japanese cranes entwined in barbed wire, by sculptor Nina Akamu. A native of Hawaii, Akamu is a third-generation JA. Her father is half Japanese and half Chinese, and her mother is of half Japanese descent. Akamu's maternal grandfather, who lived on the island of Kauai for more than 40 years, was the first JA from Hawaii to die in an internment camp.

According to Rear Admiral Melvin H. Chiogioji, chairman of the board of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, "This Veterans' Day will mark an important milestone in our nation's journey since World War II. In addition to dedicating

this memorial, which honors not only the Japanese Americans who served so valiantly during World War II but also those whose freedom was withheld, we will also be celebrating the groundbreaking for the World War II memorial, honoring our nation's military heroes. The juxtaposition of these events sends a powerful message worldwide that we are a nation that can not only praise our heroes, but also acknowledge and make amends for our mistakes.

Cresley H. Nakagawa, Esq., vice chairman of the board of directors of the NJAMF, commented: "History can repeat itself unless we learn from our past. This memorial offers an opportunity to educate all Americans about a dark period in our constitutional history as well as educate foreign visitors about what our government was willing to do to acknowledge and address its past wrongs. That is truly the hallmark of a great democracy." ■

## Otaka Becomes 2nd AA Appointed to Illinois Bench

Sandra Otaka was sworn in last month as a Cook County Circuit Court judge in Illinois, becoming the second Asian American to take the bench and the first to be appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court.

Otaka joins Lynne Kawamoto, who was elected by the full circuit judges in 1991 to the position of associate Cook County Circuit judge.

Among Otaka's numerous past affiliations include chair of the Illinois Judicial Inquiry Board, section chief in the Chicago office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, board member of the Cook County Commission on Human Rights and attorney at the law firm of Sidley & Austin.

Her appointment fills a vacancy created when Judge Judith Cohen was elevated to the Illinois Appellate Court. ■

## National

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

### □ Suspect in Chicago Sexual Attacks Charged

CHICAGO—A man suspected in a four-month series of attacks on mostly Asian women has been charged with five counts of home invasion and three counts of aggravated criminal sexual assault.

Mark Anthony Lewis, 33, appeared Aug. 10 before Judge Kevin Sheehan, who ordered him held without bail. Lewis has denied involvement in the attacks.

Eight women and one Hispanic woman have been assaulted since April 7. The attacker posed as a census taker, an FBI agent, an immigration official and a police officer to get into the women's homes.

Police said they found a gun and a fake police badge in Lewis' apartment. They also said his car matches the description of one used by a man during the latest assault on July 19.

Lewis was deported last week from the Philippines, where authorities arrested him near a Manila shopping mall. He was turned over to Chicago authorities on Aug. 8.

All the crimes for which Lewis has been charged are felonies that ordinarily carry a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison. But Lewis could get 60 years because one victim is a 16-year-old minor.

### □ San Diego Holds First Asian Film Festival

SAN DIEGO—"Girlfight" was among more than 60 features, documentaries and shorts shown at the first San Diego Asian Film Festival, which ran Aug. 11-13 at the University of San Diego.

The gritty boxing saga won the dramatic directing award for Karyn Kusama at this year's Sundance Film Festival. Also among those shown were the short films "So Close to Paradise," directed by China's Wang Xiaoshui, and "Shangri-la Cafe," directed by Lily Marive, who plays nurse Lily Jarvik on NBC's "ER."

In kicking off the festival, San Diego became the latest city in North America to host an Asian film festival. Chicago, Seattle, Toronto, Vancouver, New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco also have festivals either annually or every other year.

"There's room for all," said executive director Linda Mabelot of Asian media Center Visual Communications in Los Angeles. "If there's a large community, there's a need to provide another venue to present the Asian-Pacific story."

"Film has been an important vehicle to bridge different cultures and to celebrate diversity and creative points of view," Mabelot said. "The festival in San Diego, where the Asian form the second-largest ethnic minority population behind Hispanics, was organized by the Asian American Journalists Association. It received financial help from the city, county and Asian dot-coms and businesses eager to help small-time filmmakers break into the mainstream. ■

### JACLers March in D.C. with Native Hawaiians

While major civil right groups did not join the Aug. 12 Aloha March from the Capitol to the White House, representatives from the JACL and some church groups marched to promote Native Hawaiian issues such as sovereignty, the *Advertiser* reported.

The Aloha March on Aug. 12, the day the U.S. flag was raised and took control of Hawaii in 1893, opened the ceremonies at

the Capitol and dialogue between those who favor an independent Hawaiian nation and others who support Hawaiian self-determination within the United States.

The national ACLU in Washington was not aware of the Native Hawaiian issue, the march, or that members of the state's congressional delegations had introduced a bill in July seeking federal recognition for Native Hawaiians, it was added. ■

## Seiko Fujimoto Honored With the Kay Okamoto Volunteer Award

Seiko Fujimoto, was recently presented with the Kay Okamoto Volunteer Award at the Hamilton Senior Center anniversary luncheon in San Francisco.

"Ms. Fujimoto truly exemplifies Mrs. Okamoto and her volunteer spirit, sharing her time to support many community projects and programs as well as her bilingual capabilities that have benefited many individuals, who learn about many of the programs available to them because of her translation work she provides at no charge," said San Francisco chapter JACL president Greg Marutani, who presented the award, now in its 12th year.

Fujimoto's volunteer work includes serving on the board of the Kokoro Assisted Living and providing translation for them, serving on the San Francisco Japanese Planning, Preservation and Development Task Force as vice

chair of their communications and marketing committee, as a board member of the Japanese American National Library and an active member of the Japan Club, and as executive director of the Japanese Benevolent Society of California, which manages the Colma/Japanese Cemetery. She also provides translation for the annual Health Fair, which is co-sponsored by the San Francisco JACL.

As an atomic bomb survivor from Hiroshima, Fujimoto has also worked with the Friends of the Hibakusha in facilitating biennial visits by physicians from Hiroshima, and she is active in a cultural exchange program with the Hiroshima Kenjin Kai.

Fujimoto requested that the \$1,000 that accompanies the recognition be shared equally with Kokoro Assisted Living and the Japanese Benevolent Society.

## Uwate Awarded Monterey Chapter's Outstanding Scholar Award

The Monterey chapter JACL recently awarded this year's JACL Outstanding Scholar Award to Carolyn Uwate, daughter of JACL members Walt and Marilyn Uwate.

A 2000 graduate of Monterey High School, Uwate will be attending the University of California at Berkeley this fall. She was chosen on the basis of her grade point average, community service, recommendations and an essay. The award was presented at a dinner meeting held this year at Chopstick's Cafe in Pacific Grove.

Along with being in the National Honor Society and the California State Federation, Uwate was a four-year starter for the girls' varsity water polo squad and received the most valuable player award. She was also a four-year varsity swimmer as well as the junior varsity soccer captain.

Uwate played both the alto and



(L-R) Back row: Monterey Peninsula JACL President Larry Oda, scholarship co-chair Jeff Uchida, Carolyn Uwate and her sister Kimberlee, scholarship co-chair Suzan Nishiguchi; front row: parents Walt and Marilyn Uwate.

the baritone saxophone for the high school marching and concert bands and has served as the drum majorette for the 150-piece marching band. A participant in

her church youth group, she has served as an advisor/head leader/leader for the summer daycamp program at El Estero Presbyterian Church. ■



(L-R): Steve Okamoto, Takeo Okamoto, Seiko Fujimoto and her daughter Takeko Fujimoto, and Allen Okamoto.

## Plans Being Finalized for Sacramento Region Reunion 2000

Final plans are now being completed for the gala "Sacramento Region Reunion 2000," said coordinator Toko Fujii. Set for Sunday, Sept. 10, the event is expected to draw close to 500 participants from all over the country.

The event will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way, near Cal Expo. The day's program will start at 11 a.m. with visiting, socializing and individual photo taking for the memory booklet, which will be made available to attendees at no cost. A deluxe buffet luncheon and program will follow at 1 p.m.

Keynote speakers will be Cherry Tsutsumida of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation of Washington, D.C., and Sacramento's own congressman, Robert T. Matsui, a 23-year member of the House of Representatives and a ranking member of the powerful Ways and Means Committee.

Matsui was evacuated to Tulelake WRA Center when he was an infant.

"Japanese Americans of the

Sacramento Valley," the historical book sponsored and published by the Sacramento JACL, will be introduced at the luncheon. Copies of the reference volume may be purchased at the event for \$35.

Those who have not made reservations for this reunion are urged to send in their checks for \$30 to: Toko Fujii, Sacramento Reunion, 1204 Monte Vista Way, Sacramento, CA 95831, or call 916/421-6968 for more information. Those wishing to sit together are asked to indicate their preferences. ■

## Documentary to Premier Sept. 9 at Tulelake Reunion IV

Featured during the Tulelake Reunion IV, to be held Sept. 8-9 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Sacramento, will be the documentary presentation program presented by local PBS outlet KVIE Channel 6 from 1-5 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 9. The general public is invited to enjoy the video presentations without charge.

David Hosley, president and general manager of Channel 6, has agreed to hold the first showing of his new documentary, "Orsaken Fields: Japanese American Farmers and Growers During

World War II," as the first film among other Japanese American videos, which will be shown continuously through the afternoon time slot.

Produced by Midori Sperandio and hosted by Jan Yanehiro, the half-hour presentation will feature interviews with a number of people who were involved in California agriculture before the war. Some were forced to sell their farms as they were incarcerated under government orders. Others found neighbors who cared for the land during the three years of con-

finement.

Many did not return to their rural homes, and those that did never recovered from the interruption of their lives. As their children went off to college and moved to cities and suburbs, there was a second forsaking of the fields, and the JA farming today is just an echo of what it was before the war.

Production of the documentary was underwritten by Union Bank of California and the Takahashi Charitable Foundation. The film will be broadcast on public television in the fall. ■

## Assemblymember Nakano Named High-Tech Legislator of the Year

The American Electronics Association (AEA) has named George Nakano, D-Torrance, one of 11 California legislators to receive the High-Tech Legislator of the Year Award for their individual efforts in significantly advancing high-tech legislation during the 2000 legislative year.

"AEA is proud to recognize Assemblymember George Nakano who has made a significant commitment to the advancement of high-tech legislation this session," said Teresa Casazza, vice presi-

dent, California Public Affairs. "Assemblymember George Nakano led the fight to improve California's Alternative Incremental Research and Development Tax Credit."

The credit was designed to assist firms that had significant research expenses, but could not utilize the traditional research credit because it requires an increase in expenditures over a specific base period. Nakano's AB 465 successfully increased the research and development percent-

age from 80 percent to 90 percent bringing California closer to full federal conformity, and increasing California's competitiveness in attracting other high-tech firms.

AEA's California member companies recognized award recipients at an awards ceremony Wednesday Aug. 23 at the State Capitol. ■

## Puyallup Valley JACL Officers Installed



The newly elected officers of the Puyallup Valley JACL were recently installed by PNW Gov. Elaine Akagi (far right) in Tacoma, Wash. (L-R) Front row: Elsie Taniguchi, president; Mary Sugimoto, corresponding secretary; Carolyn Takekuni, v.p.; Mary Sugimoto, historian; Fumi Tanabe, co-secretary. Second row: James Itami; Dr. John Kanda; Dr. Charles Rich; Robert Mizukami, board delegate; Steve Kono, v.p.; Jeff Hiroo, v.p.; Miyo Uchiyama, v.p.; Yoshiko Tanabe, co-secretary.

## National AIDS Memorial Grove Volunteer Day With SF JACL

The San Francisco chapter of the JACL will be a workday sponsor at the National AIDS Memorial Grove, Golden Gate Park in San Francisco on Sept. 16, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The chapter invites all individuals and organizations in the community to assist in the maintenance of a beautiful space dedicated to those lost to AIDS and in support of those living with HIV. The project strives to provide a positive focus for grief and to promote peace of heart.

The National AIDS Memorial Grove is located in the eastern end of Golden Gate Park, north of the bowling greens and west of the tennis courts ([www.aidsmemorial.org](http://www.aidsmemorial.org)).

For more information, call John Handa, 415/282-2803. ■

## Blue Shield health plans for California JACL members

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

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



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## BOOK REVIEW

## Who is Clifford I. Uyeda?

By SACHI SEKO

When Clifford I. Uyeda appeared on the Japanese American political scene in the late 70s, he was not only an outsider but an anomaly. Contrasting JACL tradition, he was catapulted into its presidency without ever having previously served in any elective or appointive position of the organization. The election of this retired pediatric physician occurred as he agreed to chair national JACL's efforts to develop a program seeking redress for former inmates of American concentration camps.

Uyeda admits he had strong reservations about the JACL but could not refuse the opportunity to chair a campaign which would vindicate victims of incarceration. He was unequivocally committed and convinced the program would succeed. Uyeda's appearance could not have been more propitious. It was also advantageous that both he and the JACL headquarters were located in San Francisco.

National JACL's presidency became a full-time, unpaid position during his tenure which occurred at a defining historic juncture for all JAs. The movement to secure redress required the cooperation and participation of diverse groups and individuals. Often, JACL is accused by some for failed or unauthorized leadership following the outbreak of World War II. Undoubtedly, intimidation through accusation contributed to the organization's lack of political initiative and will.

Enter our man of mystery, Clifford I. Uyeda, M.D., with no previous credentials or connections to JACL. Any ordinary person would have been daunted by the dual responsibilities of leading both an organization and a campaign involving some of the most disparate individuals and agendas. Negotiation is not easily achieved, especially

among JAs, some of us who suffer outrageous delusions of status and turf.

But Uyeda is not any ordinary person. All the more reason he invites our curiosity. His recently published book, "Suspended: Growing up Asian in America" (National Japanese American Historical Society, San Francisco, \$14.95), is a journey backwards to the places, times and experiences which influenced Uyeda. He warned, this is a most extraordinary and illuminating book.

Uyeda, the eldest of three children, was born in Olympia, Wash., in 1917 to immigrant parents. His father, a Zen Buddhist and pacifist, was an oyster farmer. Early on, he remained behind on the farm while the mother, a Methodist, and their children relocated to Tacoma because of the availability of a Japanese language school. Uyeda was an enthusiastic student, quickly memorizing poetry, reproducing Chinese classics and practicing calligraphy. Such immersion in Japanese culture required him to forfeit continuing in competitive sports. However, all his life, he has continued to participate in athletic activities.

From the age of 11, he worked on farms. Later, from 1934, he went to Alaska, working in salmon canneries for seven summers because the pay was better. His mother, in the meantime, had learned the produce business and opened her own place. Occasionally, they were joined in Tacoma by their father. All the arduous labor for small returns was motivated by the express purpose of saving enough for college educations. When Uyeda expressed a desire to enroll in a school far from home, someplace East, his mother, recognizing her own sense of adventure promised they would somehow manage his expenses.

In 1940, Uyeda received his bachelor's degree in English literature

from the University of Wisconsin. His hopes for continuing his studies in English literature in England were dashed by the German invasion of Poland and the beginning of WWII. In an abrupt turn for someone who had not even taken a high school chemistry class, Uyeda decided to become a doctor. A passage from his book reads: "No other profession gives one the thrill of detective work, being involved in the destiny of others, and most of all, the satisfaction of helping unfortunate victims endure and overcome misfortune."

After completing the required science classes, Uyeda applied to the Boston University School of Medicine, where he was first accepted and then rejected solely because of racial ancestry. In 1945, he graduated from the Tulane University of Louisiana School of Medicine, an achievement he shared with his parents, brother and sister.

Money was scarce and his family's source of income was limited to low camp wages. Uyeda had to sell all his possessions, except the skates which no one wanted to buy. He sold his blood each month until it became detrimental to his health and he was forced to space his donations.

For a period, he subsisted largely on water and some bread until he was able to secure a job in the school's cafeteria. On graduation day, he could not attend the senior class banquet or the buffet luncheon because he lacked the proper attire for either function. Other medical students were subsidized by the Army Specialized Training Program which assumed the responsibility for all their educational

expenses. However, this was denied Uyeda because of race. Ironically, he was also prevented by the War Relocation Authority from visiting his incarcerated family because of "regulations."

When he finally reunited with his mother and sister, who had relocated to Chicago in search of work, he was shocked and ashamed to observe the humiliation they endured to support him. Employed as live-in housemaids, the two women slept in the kitchen on a single cot, placing their heads on opposite ends.

## SUSPENDED:

by Clifford I. Uyeda

Clifford Uyeda is a longtime activist and leader in the Japanese American community. "SUSPENDED" reflects upon his coming of age during the tumultuous years before and during World War II. Fast mediation on the problems of racial and social participation for healing and understanding. "SUSPENDED" is a thoughtful and moving account of one man's struggle to find a place in America. ISBN 1-881306-10-X \$14.95

Eventually, they would be joined by the father in a small place of their own.

The mother worked two jobs from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m., although she was past her prime. His sister worked days and took college courses at night. Uyeda's brother, serving in the Army and his father, who later was employed as a night cook, also contributed their financial and emotional generosity.

The book is unique for the dialogue between Uyeda and other members of his family. Through the inclusion of letters, history becomes an intimate experience strength-

ened by the uncommon intelligence of the correspondents. Uyeda's insatiable curiosity and investigative skills also educate the reader to factual history.

The sincerity and spread of his concern for righting wrongs of history would not cease with JA interest. Later they included the Navajo "relocation" from ancestral land in the '80s and working occasionally with both the Rainbow Warrior and Green Peace.

However, any manuscript, if wholly analytical is of limited appeal. Uyeda's first infatuation with literature is apparent in the skillful organization and presentation of the memoir. His scientific probing (he enjoyed pathology) is matched by a touching humanity. Triumphs are balanced with loss, rage with restraint. Also, in the evening of his life, there is this wistful recollection of an unattainable "soul mate," of whom he writes, "I wished that our relationship could continue forever. I had finally found a person who espoused all my hopes and dreams. I could not imagine being happier with anyone else."

Clifford I. Uyeda defies conventional description. He is activist, Air Force captain during the Korean War, athlete, doctor, explorer, innovator, leader, linguist, pianist, writer, son, husband, brother. He is our Renaissance man, incarnate, standing alone and apart.

"Suspended" covers only the first half of Uyeda's life before the eventful 50s and 60s. However, unwittingly or not, he has also written the sequel to this volume because he — and all of us — are essentially his past.

"Suspended" is available through the National Japanese American Historical Society, 1684 Post St., San Francisco, CA 94115-3604. It sells for \$14.95 (California residents add tax of \$1.70), plus \$4 shipping and handling. There is a 10 percent discount for NJAHS members. For more information, call 415/921-5007 or visit the Web site [www.njahs.org](http://www.njahs.org). Uyeda has assigned all proceeds from the book to NJAHS. ■



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## A Bridge Across the Pacific

By Emily Moto Murase

### On Accidents of History, Grave Injustices, and Blind Relatives



Do you ever wonder why your Japanese ancestors chose to leave Japan for the United States and not some other destination? The Japanese government began promoting massive overseas emigration of Japanese in 1885, Japanese emigration to Latin America began as early as 1892.

The 1908 Gentleman's Agreement between Japan and the United States imposed a severely restrictive quota on Japanese immigration to the United States, so many Japanese sought to improve their lives in Brazil and Argentina instead. This migration pattern intensified after the United States adopted the Immigration Act of 1924 to halt all further Japanese immigration to the United States.

My point is, had your ancestors decided to leave Japan before 1924, they could have just as easily ended up in Latin America. That I am Japanese American and not Japanese Latin American is largely an accident of history.

It is indeed ironic that U.S. immigration policy spawned Japanese emigration to Latin America. Decades later, during World War II, the U.S. government would kidnap those same JIAs and their families, using them as a contingency for prisoner of war exchanges with Japan.

Some 2,900 JIAs from 13 Latin American countries, the majority from Peru, were forced on a long and treacherous journey, on ships guarded by armed soldiers, to incarceration camps in the United States.

The historic 1988 Civil Liberties Act that awarded redress and

reparation (in payments of \$20,000) to JIAs was silent on the injustice the U.S. government perpetrated on JIAs. In 1999, as part of the *Mochizuki v. United States* settlement, the U.S. government authorized a government apology and reparations payments of \$5,000 to incarcerated JIAs.

Let's think about this. In my mind, reparations to JIAs should be more than the amount JIAs received. After all, these folks were kidnapped from their countries and forced into U.S. prisons, often with little more than the clothes on their backs.

As members of Spanish and Portuguese-speaking countries, JIAs had the additional burden of not speaking any English. Following the war, the U.S. government considered them illegal aliens. Their native countries, Peru for example, would not allow them to return to their homes.

In June of this year, Rep. Xavier Becerra, D-Calif., introduced House Resolution 4735, the Wartime Parity and Justice Act of 2000, to provide equitable redress to formerly incarcerated JIAs and to restore funding to the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund that was mandated in the 1988 Act but never appropriated.

I am deeply troubled that, at the national convention in July, the national council of the JACL defeated a proposal to support redress for JIAs.

Now that the federal government has satisfied our own community's demand for redress and reparations, how can we continue to turn a blind eye to injustice suf-

fered by our brothers and sisters from Latin America? Of all people, we should be leading the charge to win recognition of the plight of JIAs.

National convention delegates Craig Osaka, district governor of the Pacific Southwest District, and John Yamada of Eden Township, should be commended for their moral and courageous attempt to pass a resolution at the national convention urging public support of Congressman Becerra's Wartime Parity and Justice Act of 2000.

To be frank, the defeat of this resolution is an embarrassment. What moral credibility is left for the JACL if we abandon JIAs and their fight for justice?

Here in California, we have worked hard to support the efforts of Assemblymen George Nakano, D-Turricane, and Mike Honda, D-San Jose, to continue the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program for two years after the original sunset date of 2001. We were elated when Gov. Gray Davis signed the bill into law in July.

So how is it that the national council of the JACL cannot support Rep. Becerra's bill which would appropriate \$56 million for educational funding to extend the public education component of redress and reparations? I invite those who understand the national council's refusal to support the bill to share their views with our readers.

At the July convention, the national council showed true leadership in widening the tent to embrace draft resisters as part of our community. I would argue that the JIAs deserve the same. ■

Emily Moto Murase can be reached at [emurase@stanford.edu](mailto:emurase@stanford.edu).

## Stranger Than Fiction

By Christina Shigemura



### Japanese Cubans

Let's play a little word-association game. Just say the first thing that pops into your mind after I say a word. Ready?

Cuba.  
What was your first response? Was it "Elian" (Gonzales)? Or maybe "cigars" (carcinogenic stink sticks)? Chances are, the first word your brain offered up wasn't "Japanese," but in fact there are 1,100 Japanese Cubans living on the island, which is located just below the Tropic of Cancer.

The story of the Japanese Cubans is remarkably similar to that of Japanese Americans. Japanese emigrated to Cuba more than 100 years ago for the same reasons that Japanese emigrated to the United States. Like their JA counterparts, Japanese Cubans learned the language of the land—in their case, Spanish. When World War II came along, Cuba, under U.S. influence, forced adult Nikkei men (but not women or children) into camps on the *Isla de la Juventud* (Isle of Youth).

From 2 to 4 p.m. on Aug. 27, JAs will get a rare opportunity to learn about our fellow Nikkei in Cuba. Mr. Francisco Miyasaka, a visiting Japanese Cuban who speaks Spanish, Japanese and English, will be speaking at the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) about the history, present conditions and future of Japanese Cubans. As a Nisei, Mr. Miyasaka has witnessed many changes in Cuba during his lifetime, including the Cuban Revolution. However, he has expressed a desire that the audience ask him questions about life in Cuba as he does not plan to lecture for the entire two

hour period.

Currently, Mr. Miyasaka is president of the *Asociación de la Colonia Japonesa de Cuba* (Association of Japanese Cubans), and he is visiting the United States in order to tell JAs about their Cuban counterparts as well as to learn about JAs. While in the United States, he is hoping to raise money for a project to help keep Japanese culture alive in Cuba, where the Japanese population is widely dispersed. Specifically, he wants to buy VCRs to give to Japanese families in Cuba so that they can watch videotapes about Japanese culture. Apparently, some Cubans have televisions, but virtually no one has a VCR.

Mr. Miyasaka's speaking engagement at JANM will begin a week-long tour of Northern and Southern California. His tour is sponsored by California State University Long Beach, JACL Pacific Southwest District Civil Rights Caucus, Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California, JANM, Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress (NCCR) and UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

Admission to Mr. Miyasaka's talk, which is titled "Japanese Cubans: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," is free, but advance reservations are requested. For more information or for more information about other events on Mr. Miyasaka's tour, please call Judy Ota at 323/664-6485 or Kathy Maseoka at 323/665-5616.

JANM is located at 369 East First St. in Los Angeles. ■

Christina Shigemura is a teacher and a member of NCCR.

## Legacy

By Ryan Chin, V.P. Public Affairs



### Toru Sakahara

As a dedicated JACLer from the early years of the organization, Toru Sakahara became a valued member of the Puyallup chapter very quickly. In fact, Sakahara was selected to represent the Puyallup chapter of the JACL during the emergency meeting in San Francisco, in determining how the organization would react to the negative wartime hysteria.

He believes that part of the reason he was selected to make the trek from Puyallup, Wash., to San Francisco was because of some of the training he had in law. Participating in JACL activities in the fall, spring, and winter, Sakahara was drawn to the organization because of its "youthful idealism."

After living in Washington state during his early years, Sakahara would attend law school in Utah. While in Salt Lake City, he would become not only an active member of the chapter, but he would become its 2nd vice president. He would remain a member of the Salt Lake City chapter during World War II.

His participation in this chapter would allow him to work with great JACL leaders such as Mike Masaoka, Saburo Kido, and Mas

Satow. Like so many things after WWII, the Seattle chapter of the JACL had to be rebuilt. Sakahara's participation in this process remains the accomplishment he is most proud of.

Following this task he would take on various leadership positions in the JACL including Seattle chapter president and national 2nd vice president. In 1960, he participated in the effort to repeal Washington state's Alien Law. In order to revoke the discriminatory law, Washington residents had to approve the change in the state's constitution. Working closely with U.S. Sens. Henry "Scoop" Jackson and Warren Magnuson, Sakahara, along with other Seattle chapter leaders pushed to erase the racist law.

The measure failed on its first two attempts; each time campaign expenses mounted to around \$50,000. On the third try they would prevail, eliminating the prohibition of land ownership for Issei.

Despite winning honors such as the Emperor's Award for U.S.-Japan relations, the most rewarding part of being a leader within the JACL has been the advocacy successes. Among the most meaningful successes for Sakahara are the McCarran-Walters Act, the Evacuation Claims Act, and the apology for Executive Order 9066. Being able to fight discrimination through the JACL makes Sakahara proud of being a significant member of this family. ■

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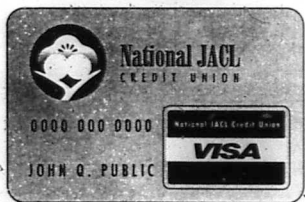
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### LIEBERMAN

(Continued from page 1)

Courtney Sunjoo Pugh, deputy base vote director of the Democratic National Committee and director of Asian Pacific American Outreach, was largely responsible for organizing the events and speakers for the caucus. She reported a record number of APIA delegates, 180 in total or 3.5 percent of the total delegate population.

"I'm very happy about the fact that we were able to get the same [caliber] of speakers as every other caucus, and I think that is also a credit to the community, that they're becoming a little bit more aggressive, a little bit more vocal," Pugh said.

The amount of participation this year is quite a turnaround since the 1992 DNC, where there was an initial, yet ultimately disappointing, attempt to hold an APIA Caucus, said Susaunte Anoa'i, a delegate representing American Samoa.

"Eight years ago, I remember the Pacific Islander representative on the Asian Pacific Islander Caucus. There were only three people at their meeting," she said. "Even to just get sanctioned to start this caucus, they had no support from the Latino Caucus, the Black Caucus. The group that supported [APIAs] and fought for them at the DNC was the Gay and Lesbian Caucus."

L. Gov. of Hawaii Mazie Hirono, who was instrumental in pushing for the APIA caucus, explained, "The DNC had been trying to get away from specific caucuses. Their idea was that we should all band together, but my point was that we shouldn't be concerned about diversity being divisive. Especially for Asian Pacific Americans who had gone through so much trauma in the 1996 election [with the campaign

finance scandal], it's really important to have a place where they were at the table. In my political life, 20 years, if you're not at the table, you're not really there."

#### Diversity of Delegates

Caucus organizers say they already see evidence that an increase in APIA delegates and the diversity of those delegates is leading to more APIA voter participation, especially in states outside of California such as New Jersey, Texas and Illinois.

"The caucus meetings are really great because we have our own distinctive constituency with specific needs," said Ann Kalayil, an Indian American delegate from Chicago.

While she acknowledged the diversity within the APIA community, Kalayil said the focus of the caucus should be on our commonality and the issues that affect APIAs as a group, such as bilingual education, health care and representation in the media and other fields.

"Individually we're much too small, but collectively we're a caucus to be reckoned with," added Anoa'i, who also pointed out that although the caucus transcends the delegates' geographical distance, there are still differences among APIAs from the standpoint of ethnicity and the level of each community's political sophistication.

"We Asian Americans are becoming more active, more involved in the mainstream political process," said Dinh Le, a Vietnamese American delegate from Orange County, Calif. "But we have to work harder to inform and to educate our people about the policies of the Democratic Party and the Republican Party."

"One of the things that has been discussed at the caucus," said Le, "is that we have to make it clear to people in our communi-

ties that the policies of the Republican Party under Bush will be very detrimental to the interests of [APIAs]."

Lily Lee Chen, a Chinese American delegate also from Southern California, cited immigrant rights, welfare reform, U.S.-Asia economic relations and campaign financing as issues that affect APIAs and that would be better served under Democratic leadership.

"If you want to ask yourself why it's worth it to get up that extra hour early and walk that precinct and make those phone calls and register voters, it is because this community needs to elect Democratic officials up and down the ticket, not just the president and the vice president. We need to elect them at every single level so that we and our issues are going to be addressed and so that we also have something to stand on to hold these elected officials accountable," said Pugh.

As many of the delegates acknowledged, however, the challenge will be in sustaining the energy and communication of the DNC through Nov. 7, particularly bringing it back into the community.

"It's a good pep rally, and I don't mean to oversimplify it, but I think it's important to build contacts here, share resources. That's been one of the valuable pieces of this caucus for me," said Jennifer Kim, a Korean-Chinese American delegate from Austin, Texas.

In addition to making phone calls and urging her friends and co-workers to get out the vote when she returns home, Kim said, "I'm going to be working with the non-Asian community — political consultants and the candidates — who see that this is really a special, important turning point in the political identity of Asian Americans." ■

### FUTAGAKI

(Continued from page 1)

would be to cure his father of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (a form of Lou Gehrig's disease), for his mother to be cancer-free for the rest of her life, and for his family to stay healthy.

He said that despite the illnesses in his family, he just tries to stay positive and strives to make his parents proud.

Futagaki was a member of the under-20 and under-23 national teams, the latter of which won a bronze medal at the 1999 Pan American Games. Being on these teams makes him among the best of the best of his age group in the country.

He hopes to eventually make the U.S. Olympic team, a dream that may happen in the next few years. He'd also like to play overseas for a good club team, but he'd prefer to be in Major League Soccer (MLS), the professional league in the United States, so he can be near his family.

Futagaki lists his strongest assets as his playmaking ability, vision, and comparing himself to a gnat, annoying other players with his constant presence. He said that he needs to work on his distribution and passing.

"You're not the best until you've won a World Cup," he said. "Everyone needs to improve." It is obvious that he has a passion for the game. "It's so quick, moving constantly, always fun," he explains. "It's a confidence booster. To play soccer you must have confidence."

Futagaki is a fan favorite, especially because of his odd style of goal celebration: a leaping karate kick. He said that when he scores and does his trademark kick, the crowd goes berserk. He said it gives him more of an incentive to score. In the 1999 season, he tallied three goals and three assists, all of the goals being game winners.

Although he trains every day,



he has never been burnt out. He believes that if he ever stops loving the game or does get burnt out, it will be time to quit.

"I want to prove to people that I'm a good soccer player. My determination stems from wanting to do it for my parents," he said.

And he is a trooper. On this particular day, though feeling sick, Futagaki was still practicing hard. His two previously fractured ankles are taped and he still has grass on his chest from practice. A kanji tattoo of his last name is proudly displayed on his chest and a trinity symbol is tattooed on his shoulderblade.

Religion is very important to Futagaki. He said that the UCLA team prays before every game and holds bible studies together. Futagaki is also involved in Athletes for Action, a group of Christian athletes from various colleges.

He enjoys being a role model, especially to the kids in Fountain Valley, where his parents reside. He also participates in youth soccer camps and frequently visits young kids stricken with cancer. Futagaki believes that, if he brings a smile to a child's face, his job is done. "I am giving back what I learned," he said.

So don't be surprised if at a soccer game in the near future, a daring kid simulates a Futolike karate kick. And for the real-life Futu, check out UCLA's next home match at Spaulding Field, against San Diego State, Sept. 6 at 7:30 p.m. ■

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