

Pacific Citizen

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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.

CHICAGO

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

CHICAGO

Sat., Sept. 30—30th Annual Fuji Festival; The Palmer House Hilton, 17 East Monroe. Reception/silent auction 6 p.m., dinner 7 p.m.; featuring Congresswoman Patsy Mink; Fuji Fest Raffle. Reservations and raffle tickets: 773/275-7512; e-mail: jasc@iols.net.

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-Dulais, 952/295-2429.

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; bonai, ikebana, tea ceremonies; bonai odor, 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.

SEATTLE

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

Sat., Sept. 30—Nikkei Concerns 25th Anniversary Celebration/Banquet; 5 p.m. social hour and silent auction, 6:30 p.m. dinner and program; Washington State Convention and Trade Center, 800 Convention Place, Seattle. Lori Matsukawa, King 5 News anchor, keynote speaker. \$60; Info, reservations: Amy French, 206/726-6501, e-mail: amyf@nikkeicon-

Sat., Sept. 30—30th Annual Fuji Festival; see Community Calendar.

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.

PORTLAND

Through Jan. 31—Nihonmachi: Portland's Japantown Remembered. Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center (ONLC), 117 NW 2nd Ave., Portland. Free. Info: 503/977-7781.

North Central

BERKELEY

Sun., Sept. 10—Nikkei Widowed Group monthly meeting; new members, both men and women, are welcome. For meeting place and time: M. Kusaba, 415/333-5190 or Kay Yamamoto, 510/444-3911.

FRENCH CAMP

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

OAKLAND

Sat., Sept. 30—55th Annual Class Reunion Luncheon, Topaz Utah High 1945; 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sequoyah Country Club in Oakland. Info: Carolyn Dowke, 415/564-9771; e-mail: dowke@bom.net.

SACRAMENTO

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 Cherry Tsutsumida of the NJAMF; the historical book of the Sacramento region will be available. Info: Toko Fuji, 916/421-6968.

Sun., Sept. 17—Jan Ken Po Gakko Annual Arts and Crafts Fair; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sacramento Elks Lodge, 6446 Riverside Blvd.; featuring Asian arts and crafts. Info: Mary Ann Y. Kashiwagi, 916/385-2300.

SAN FRANCISCO

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

Fri., Sept. 8—Fat 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

Central California

FRESNO

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

Pacific Southwest

Sat., Sept. 16—PSWD 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, place of the event, contact name and phone number (including area

Service Center. Info: Randy Aoki, 559/278-0415, or Bobbi Hanada, 559/434-1692.

Southern California

SAN DIEGO

Sun., Sept. 3—50th Annual Ocean View United Church of Christ Bazaar; 11 a.m.-3 p.m., 3541 Ocean View Blvd., San Diego; food, kendo demonstration, games, ikebana (flower arranging) demonstration, etc. Info: 619/233-3620.

LOS ANGELES

Thurs., Sept. 7—Book discussion series, "From Harsh Winters to Bountiful Harvests: The Journey of Japanese Americans" with Professor Mitch Maki; "Harvest Son" by David Mas Masumoto; noon-2 p.m.; bring your lunch; Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo. Books available on loan. Info: 213/625-0414.

Thurs., Sept. 7—Documentary film premiere, "The World of Mei Lanfang," directed by Mei Jun Chen; reception prior to screening, 7 p.m.; screening, 7:30 p.m.; Pacific Asia Museum, 46 N. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena. Info: 626/449-2742 ext. 31.

Sat., Sept. 9—"Zowie! Pow! Wham! A Day of Comics"; noon-4 p.m., 1-3 p.m.; Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo. Free admission. Info: 213/625-0414.

Sat., Sept. 9—BBQ and Bingo; dinner 5:30-6:30 p.m., then Bingo; Japanese Institute of Sawtelle, 2110 Corinth Ave., West Los Angeles, 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," mariachis and Aztec dancers; 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 Kunitake Kawamura, 714/961-1249; Dollie Nagai Fukawa, 310/323-9615; Rose Masuda Okajima, 559/875-3878. ■

JACL CHAPTERS!

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60th Wedding Anniversary: Alice and Roy Nishikawa Feted by Family, Friends

Family and JACL friends honored Alice (née Yoshiye Kawakami) and Dr. Roy M. Nishikawa at their 60th wedding anniversary Aug. 12 at a Chinese seafood restaurant in Cerritos, Calif.

A bulk of those years, for Roy, besides his profession as an optometrist in Los Angeles, overflowed with leadership in JACL at local, district and national levels, which continues to this day.

Immediate past national president Helen Kawagoe presented an elegant wall clock in their honor, and Dr. Hayato Yihara led the toast. Nephew Byron Kawachi read the family memories and granddaughter Noelle Nishikawa-Shahin of San Jose welcomed nearly 50 people to the event. Her homemade quilt, decorated with computer-digitized photographs of her grandparents, even their 1940 marriage certificate, won immediate applause at the gathering.

Alice retired from the L.A. County criminal courts system as court clerk after many years.

Prewar old-timers remember Roy by his nickname, "Mush" (for Mas). He lettered in football, track and basketball at Venice High in the

early '30s, and graduated from UCLA in 1941. In 1946, he graduated from Northern Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago, and returned to Los Angeles to practice.

Roy's JACL service record began in 1940 at Venice, then as founding chapter president of Southwest L.A. from 1948-49. He was PSWDC chair from 1949-50, and board chair of the 1954 national JACL convention at Los Angeles. For three bienniums, he was also national JACL treasurer, and during the 1956-58 biennium, he served as national president. He is the "dean" of past national presidents.

His past 40 years are highlighted as P.C. board chair in the '60s, and as a permanent member of the JACL Endowment Fund. In 1997,



NISHIKAWA FAMILY PHOTOS Showing off the creative quilt are Alice Nishikawa (seated) and Dr. Roy Nishikawa with granddaughter Noelle Nishikawa-Shahin (standing at right), designed by Noelle with digitized snapshots of the Nishikawas' 60 years together with their marriage certificate as the centerpiece.

Alice and Roy were recognized for their combined 110 years in JACL. "Without her tolerance, patience and understanding, my contribution to JACL would have been far more limited," he confessed at that time. — Harry K. Honda. ■



Legacy

By Ryan Chin, V.P. Public Affairs

Kelly Yamada

For many, 18 years of age marks a significant milestone, a time when you are permitted to participate in certain activities for the first time. For Kelly Yamada; it marked the age when he could become a JACL member.

In the early years of the organization, one of the requirements was that members had to be at least 18 years old. So, Kelly was not pictured in the group photo taken in Seattle at the first convention in 1930 because he was two months shy of being able to legally be a member of JACL. Instead, he stood by the cameraman, helping to organize the JACLers in the photo.

However, this would not be the only time Yamada volunteered in his youth. In fact, Kelly devoted a lot of his time helping Jimmie Sakamoto, a founder of the JACL, start the *Courier*, a paper for the Japanese American community in Seattle.

Soon thereafter hard times hit: the Great Depression forced many banks into bankruptcy — including the one holding Yamada's life savings. Forced to drop out of the University of Washington, Yamada's work eventually landed him in the San Francisco Bay Area.

After a stint of being employed on a ship, he took a job with Dr. Russell Wehara, the first Japanese optometrist in California. Dr. Wehara, who changed the spelling of his last name so Caucasians could pronounce it correctly, provided the experience which helped influence Yamada's decision to become an eye doctor.

Despite the hard times, his loyalty to the JACL remained. During the 1934 JACL national convention

in San Francisco, Yamada co-chaired the picnic committee. A year later, he used some of the connections he attained in the Bay Area to help form the Oakland chapter.

The leadership skills he demonstrated at the national convention, along with his involvement in the formation of the new chapter, made him a natural choice to be its first president. Even though the majority of Yamada's life

has been spent in the Pacific Northwest, the Bay Area holds some of his dearest memories.

Yamada's greatest JACL memory occurred at a Northern California Western Nevada Pacific (NCWNP) District Council in Martinez, Calif., as he met the woman he would marry — now for 64 years. Being located in Northern California also allowed him to work with JACL's top leaders frequently. In fact, he used to help Saburo Kido bundle *Pacific Citizens* in San Francisco.

During his tenure with the organization Yamada served as the co-chair of the national convention picnic committee, Oakland chapter president, Seattle chapter president, NCWNP governor and Pacific Northwest (PNW) governor. The accomplishment he is most proud of is that he served as the governor for multiple districts. The JACL recognized many of Kelly's accomplishments by awarding him a sapphire pin. ■

Elaine Ikeda to Lead California Campus Compact of SFSU

Elaine Ikeda, project director of the nationally acclaimed Service Learning Clearinghouse of UCLA, has been selected executive director of California Campus Compact (CACC), announced San Francisco State University President Robert A. Corrigan.

"Elaine Ikeda brings to California Campus Compact a wealth of experience in service learning and student development," said Corrigan, who serves as executive chair of CACC. "She is a nationally recognized researcher and administrator who will help our Compact campuses and students become more

deeply involved in active, hands-on learning and civic engagement."

Ikeda, who will begin her new post Sept. 5, will be responsible for leading the efforts of CACC in promoting community service learning and civic engagement. Her duties will include grant-writing and fundraising activities, interacting with association members and collaborating with key players at other universities.

California Campus Compact, which is based in the San Francisco Urban Institute, promotes the development of strategies to integrate community service learning and

academic study. Formed in 1988 as an association of college and university leaders in California, CACC supports more than 55 member institutions of higher education.

Ikeda replaces Elson Nash, who will join a venture capital firm for social entrepreneurs in Washington, D.C.

Before joining the Service Learning Clearinghouse, Ikeda was a research analyst at UCLA's Higher Education Institute where she worked closely with nationally recognized researcher Alexander Astin on service-learning research. Ikeda has earned a doctorate in education from UCLA. ■

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Arts & Entertainment

Godzilla 2000

Old School, Low-tech and Larger than Life

By TRACY UBA
Writer/Reporter

Ahh, the days when Godzilla was just a guy in a big rubber dinosaur suit, stomping miniature-scaled buildings, breathing radioactive fire and generally wreaking havoc on the citizens of Japan while battling equally ugly, oafish foes.

Well, he's back. And as he should be — old school, low-tech and in surprisingly top form, despite his premature death in 1995's "Godzilla vs. Destoroyah" which was intended to give way to TriStar's 1998 American version, a big-budget, fully-digitized "Godzilla" that lacked the same campy charm and ultimately bombed at the box office.

Lucky for us, Toho Studios, producer of the Godzilla movie series, was given the chance to revive the big G once again after Hollywood's disappointing effort. Now, hoping to capitalize on the success of other Japanese imports such as "Pokemon," distributor Sony recently released "Godzilla 2000" in about 2,000 U.S. theaters nationwide.

It is the first "traditional" Godzilla flick to play to American audiences in 15 years.

Godzilla, or "Gojira" as Japanese fans know him, a half gorilla-half whale mutant born out of nuclear radiation as legend goes, made his feature film debut back in 1954. That was succeeded by 23 lucrative sequels and an international cult following rivaling the Trekkies.

While "Godzilla 2000" sounds like a cyber-charged, futuristic take on an old classic, there's nothing GZK about it, so to speak. Rather, it harkens back to the crude yet signature style which was well-known and loved for over 40 years — mediocre special effects, bad dialogue and even worse dubbing.

At the outset, an annoying reporter named Yuki Ichinose (Naomi Nishida), who is desperate to take photos of the gigantic beast, hooks up with the Godzilla Prediction Network, comprised of a renegade scientist named Yuji Shinoda (Takehiro Murata) and his precocious young daughter Io (Mayu Suzuki). The GPN, as they are called, is interested in tracking and studying the sometimes reclusive Godzilla.

We soon learn, however, that their efforts are being thwarted by the government-run Crisis Control Intelligence Agency, headed by suave bad-guy Mitsuo Katagiri (Hiroshi Abe) and his nerdy sidekick Shiro Miyasaka (Shiro Sano), who, though they ended up taking vastly different paths, was once Shinoda's comrade in school.

Of course, the CIA simply treats Godzilla as target practice, assaulting him with every type of artillery, tank and jetfighter in their arsenal. But the subtext is an interesting indictment of war and of the Japanese military. It is also an approbation of the independent spirit embodied by Shinoda and, curiously enough, even by Godzilla.

As any devoted fan will tell you, Godzilla is actually a good guy with really bad skin. Although his monstrous disposition and penchant for destruction are painfully apparent, he is simply misunderstood, and Shinoda has it right when he says of the human race, "Anything we don't understand, we try to destroy."

But the fact is, for every pointed tooth, for every ugly spike on his back, Godzilla challenges the standard of a hero. For every building that he crushes, he redeems himself a hundredfold by saving the city of Shinjuku, and the world for that matter, from certain annihilation by an even greater enemy. This time around,

it's a giant alien vessel which has been disturbed out of the sea — by those pesky humans no less — after laying dormant for 60 million years.

It seems waking up the vessel wasn't such a bright idea because after some diagnostic prodding ordered by Katagiri it begins to fly around, eventually landing on the city's systems information center, and proceeds to suck all the data out of its computers.

Although the concept of regeneration or cloning throws an interesting element into the mix, I can't say I had much patience for most of the plot, which drags at times partly because Godzilla is barely present in the first third of the movie. Suspense begins to simmer, however, once we know what the UFO is after.

The film only really kicks into gear when the alien creature Orga finally sheds his vessel shell and a good old-fashioned apocalyptic stamp fest with Godzilla ensues. There appear to be a few digital effects and tricks which enhance some of the final scenes but not enough to distract viewers from its generally unrefined appeal.

True to form, the human characters remain amusingly one-dimensional, and I found some of the re-edited one-liners pretty funny, as when Yuki turns to Shinoda and spouts, "Bite me!" Doubtful the American slang is a direct Japanese translation.

The important thing is that Godzilla comes out on top in the end as he always has, proving himself to be not only the ultimate anti-hero for saving the people of Shinjuku from intergalactic colonialism, but a God-figure who dishes out the right retribution to the real enemies. If you don't get any other pleasure from watching a guy in a big rubber dinosaur suit, take some satisfaction in that. ■

APAWLI Names Eleven Fellows for 2000

The Denver-based Asian Pacific American Women's Leadership Institute (APAWLI) has awarded fellowships to 11 "extremely powerful" women to participate in the group's 2000 leadership program, according to Martha Lee, APAWLI president and CEO.

"This is a highly accomplished, compassionate group of leaders that will become even more effective through the fellowship's journey of introspection and growth," Lee said.

Each year the non-profit organization selects a group of successful APA women leaders to attend three one-week training sessions throughout the year. The objective of the program is to provide a nurturing curriculum that helps the fellows further develop skills needed to be ethical and caring leaders in their communities. After completing their training, the fellows are expected to develop and implement a project that positively changes the lives of at least 25 APA women.

The 2000 fellows include: Juliette Arboleda Beezley (La Mesa, CA), principal for Training and Development Resources; Vida Benavides (San Leandro, CA) community affairs consultant; Mervina Cash-Kao (Honolulu), deputy director of the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii; Esther Paik Goodhart (Demarest, NJ), comedienne; D.J. Ida (Denver), director of Child and Adolescent Ser-

VICES for the Asian Pacific Development Center; Daphne Kwok (Washington, DC), executive director for the Organization of Chinese Americans; Debra Nakatomi (Santa Monica, CA) president & CEO of Nakatomi & Associates, Inc.; Anna Rhee (Washington, DC), director of Religious Affairs for the Children's Defense Fund; Yasuko Sakamoto Kowalchuk (Los Angeles, CA), director of Social Service Department for Little Tokyo Service Center; Jean Sun Shaw (New York, NY), psychotherapist and career counselor; Diane Yen-Mei Wong (San Francisco, CA) writer and editor; Linda Yamauchi (Rosemead, CA) consumer affairs manager for Southern California Edison.

The organization provides the only national leadership enrichment initiative for APA women. "We offer our fellows space for reflection to probe 'Who am I?', 'What do I want to do next?', 'How can I contribute to the common good?'" Lee said. "This soul-searching, combined with leadership enhancement training, is invaluable in cultivating truly dynamic leaders."

Applications for the class of 2001 can be obtained by contacting APAWLI at 303/399-8899, by e-mail at apawli@apawli.org, or visit the Web site at www.apawli.org. ■

Lessons in Democracy — The National JACL Education Web Site

The following is an article submitted by one of the 30 grant recipients of the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP).

CCLPEP is a three-year grant program created in 1998 to provide the California community with information and education on the Japanese American experience before, during and immediately after World War II.

Information concerning CCLPEP or any of the specific grant programs funded by CCLPEP can be obtained by contacting Diane Matsuda, program director, CCLPEP, 900 N Street, #300, Sacramento, CA 95814, 916/653-9404, dmatsuda@library.ca.gov.

The National JACL recently received funding from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program to create a web-site to benefit all residents in the State of California.

The focal point of this site will be to examine how Asian Americans and other victims are impacted by the historical and current instances of limitations of freedom, which have been manifested by bigotry and intolerance.

"The World War II incarceration experience of the Japanese Americans will serve as a centerpiece of the site and a launching point for a broader discussion of

the impact of individuals and institutional racism," said National Executive Director John Tateishi.

This Web site will offer various features including a lesson plan center, a resource center which will provide summary overviews of JA history and a resource list of books and videos.

In addition, the JACL curriculum and resource guide, "A Lesson in American History: The Japanese American Experience," will be available to download or update online, as well as links to other organizations and JACL chapters.

It is hoped that these resources will encourage teachers to incorporate lessons posted on the Web site. A link to the California Department of Education's Standards and Assessment Division will also be available for teachers with inquiries about state standards and curriculum planning.

"Not only do we find this a valuable tool and resource for teachers but we also look to this site as a place where parents and their children can visit to use as a resource and to work on a school project together and discuss their own family history about the camps," said Tateishi.

For further information, contact Beth Au, PSW regional director, 213/636-4471 or e-mail her at PSW@jaci.org. ■

JANM's Irene Hirano to Keynote Tulelake Reunion IV

Irene Hirano, executive director of the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, will be the keynote speaker at the Tulelake Reunion IV on Sept. 8-9 at the Double-Tree Hotel in Sacramento.

The Sacramento Jan Ken Po Gakko Players will be presenting a show entitled, "We, The People," which narrates the story of late activist

Mary Tsukamoto.

Also present at the reunion will be volunteers from JANM and their vast array of books and merchandise as well as their database relating to the information of each individual and family who were evacuated in 1942. In addition, Florence Hong's AACF, Inc., suppliers of Asian American books will have a display. ■



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Very Truly Yours

By Harry Honda

Eloquence of Nisei Teenagers in the 1930s

SIXTY-EIGHT years ago, *Japan Times* correspondent Paul Tsunegoro Hirohata collected speeches and essays from 48 Nisei students then attending public schools in California for his book, "Orations & Essays by the Japanese Second Generation of America," published in 1932.

"The collection of speeches, essays and poetry by grammar through college-aged students gives an intimate and fascinating glimpse into what was on the minds and hearts of Japanese Americans in the '30s," remarks Hirohata's granddaughter, Joyce Hirohata. "The subsequent events of World War II and the internment (makes) these compositions all the more poignant and ironic...[as] to how patriotic these young citizens were. Reading the essays one can't help wonder."

To save this precious piece of Nisei history by republishing the book, updated with photographs, biographies and stories of what happened to them, Joyce wants to hear from persons who knew her grandfather, the students (check their excerpts below), a surviving relative, friends or classmates. What follows may be enough to coax some remem-

brances for Joyce's project. You can contact Joyce at 510/336-2481 or e-mail her at chirohata@earthlink.net.

Florence Akiyama (Sanger High, '32): What High School Means to Me — High school education is like an unpolished gem which each graduate receives... [each] will be polished in different ways and send their rays in different directions.

Mary Fukaya Asada (Selma High, '33): Enthusiasm — For so long as enthusiasm lasts, so long will youth endure.

Chiruko Doi (Edison Tech, Fresno): The woman of today has come of age; the woman of 1800 was a child in comparison.

Kozue Fujiwara (Burroughs Jr. High, Burbank, '33): In Japan, books are valued as treasured possessions, treated with respect.

Doris Fujita (Auburn Jr. High, Los Angeles, '32): Influence of the Olympic Games — Other races had lived under as favorable conditions [as the ancient Greeks] and had not attained the same results.

Haruko Fujita (Arcadia Grammar, '32): Why Japanese Came to America — Now we find California the melting pot of the two currents of civilization.

Hidemitsu Ginoza (Fowler High, '32): George Washington and the Constitution — He showed his abiding faith in our nation's future and its people.

Jimmie C. Hamasaki (Santa

Maria Union High, '34): Citizenship — The only true citizenship is the love of country with a lofty conception of what the Nation should be.

James H. Hashimoto (Long Beach Poly, '34): Equality of Opportunities in Education — But where in all the world can the lowly, the poor, the foreigner be welcomed into the rich opportunities afforded by the public schools more cordially than in America!

Yoshiko Higuchi (Monterey Union High, '32): Women and World Peace — Probably in the near future, the Pacific will be the central stage of international drama.

Tom Hiraehima (Carpenteria High, '33): To Meet the Crisis — Every American, young and old, [should] be alert to the passing events [of Roosevelt's New Deal] and to try and understand the real tasks before our people.

Helen Hirata (San Bernardino Jr. College, '32): Let the voice of service become so integral a part of ourselves that every fiber of our bodies reacts to its call.

Matilde S. Honda (Brawley Union High, '33): Do I love learning? How well can I read? Is my family backing me? Can I pay the price? ... After answering such self-inquiries, is one sufficiently prepared to answer the paramount question — "Shall I go to college?"

Ayane Ichisue (San Francisco High of Commerce, '33): Valetudinarian — Memories, the priceless treasure of youth, which neither gold nor jewels

can buy... will be most sacred.

George Inagaki (Sacramento High, '32): Future of California — It is in the hands of youth today to prepare California for the responsibilities which will be hers when she becomes the cultural and industrial leader of the Nation.

Charles Inouye (Sequoia High, Redwood City, '32): I do not know that it is for all of us to achieve success, but we all have had an extraordinary opportunity to do so.

Shizu Komae (Lafayette Jr. High, Los Angeles, '31): Festivals of Japan — Like the carp, Japanese boys are taught they must go through the stream of life and overcome all difficulties.

Pearl Kurokawa (Arroyo Grande High, '32): We must not allow this phase of education to become idle. **Mitsue Matsumoto** (Salinas Central Grammar, '32): Salutatorian — This motto, "Success Through Effort," has carried us through odds — through thick and thin.

Mary Toshiko Miyamoto (Clovis Union High, '33): Of High Spheres — There is no line of poetry more full of meaning than the beginning of the 121st Psalm: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help."

Kiyoshi Murakami (Gardena High, '32): Of Hoover Dam — The economic aspect involved will easily outbalance the engineering feats.

Goro Murata (Montebello High, '36): Americans have experienced something, the reality of ideal — that civilization is the capacity for cooperation; the capacity for cooperation.

Yoshimi Nagayama (Gardena High, '34): Public Domain — Perhaps you have never thought of the conservation of national resources as being related to monopoly or big business about Hoover Dam.

Michiko Naito (Lovett Grammar, '34): Education is a plant that never stops growing... If only its owner tends it a little.

Jimmy Nakamura (Jefferson High, Los Angeles, '27): We must grow in knowledge and character. This, indeed, is the fundamental purpose of education.

George Nishida (Grand View School, Dinuba, '34): Valetudinarian — I am not going to lose either the parting words — Good-bye.

Kiyoshi Nobusada (Hanford Union High, '34): The light which Columbus followed has not faded. The courage that carried him on still lives.

Shizue Obashi (Canoga Park High, '32): World peace... Olympic Games... Why not bind these two together?

Ayami Onaka (Fowler High, '33): The happiest people are those who think the most interesting thoughts [which] are lie in cultivated minds. They are not only happy in themselves, they are the cause of happiness in others.

Sakaye Saiki (Katella School, Anaheim, '32): Valetudinarian — We have peddled together up to now, but each must now alone into the deeper channels to come.

Kazuya Sanada (University High,

Los Angeles, '35): Crucial changes in education must move in atmosphere of freedom — unhampered by worn-out academic standards.

Yuriko Sawano (Kerman High, '33): [School] aims first and foremost to widen the scope of knowledge; second, to stimulate mental activity; third, to preserve good health.

Aiko Sawada (San Juan Bautista Grammar School, '32): We can never repay our teachers, for money does not express feelings.

Ida Shimamoto (McKinley Jr. High, Pasadena, '31): True men have fought one another for a cause. But it is equally true that men have been friendly for a cause.

Lincoln Shimidzu (Lafayette Jr. High, Los Angeles, '30): The Mayan Riddle — What disaster befell this ancient race that was sturdy in body and keen of mind?

Roku Sugahara (Manual Arts High, Los Angeles, '30): This devil (crime) finds easy access to the hearts of young people. The spirit "to get away with it," I believe, is the cause of this crime problem.

Jimmie Tabata (Monterey Union High, '33): Prospects of Foreign Trade — An eminent Chinese statesman once remarked, that if every (400 million) people of China were to increase the length of his shirt by one inch, the cotton mills of the world would not be sufficient to meet the increased demands. Such a market staggers the imagination.

Toshio Yamagata (Fowler High, '33): Unless we earn the right to our place in the community and willing to assume our share of the responsibility in the great game of life, we are not good citizens under the laws of society.

Frank Yamakoshi (Gilroy High, '32): Let us use our utmost and show our parents our appreciation for our education and what is has taught us.

Norio Yasaki (Foshay Jr. High, Los Angeles): The two great missions of (school), as I see it, are first: to give its students the ability to choose good things from bad things; and second, to give its students the opportunity to experience with what he has learned.

Dorothy Chiye Yoshida (Sweetwater High, Yuba City, '32): One day every week [Mahatma Gandhi] keeps complete silence, not broken under any circumstances.

Michiko Yoshihashi (Thomas Starr King Jr. High, Los Angeles, '32): The one thing that constitutes world progress is the extension of the peace era.

Kameko Yoshioka (Edison Tech, Fresno, '32): Why Study the English Language — It has become a part of us and helps to identify us as Americans.

Katsumi Yoshiyumi (San Pedro High, '32): Make our harbor the front door of America.

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Troubled in Paradise



By Brian Niya

Who Plays

It was, I suppose, only a matter of time. Recently, an article appeared in the *Los Angeles Times* which focused on Japanese American basketball leagues. As one might expect, the article had a largely negative tone, centering on the issue of eligibility, on how a group that had once been discriminated against was now discriminating against others. Similar stories on Americans of Japanese ancestry (AJA) baseball here in Hawai'i had appeared a few years back.

Which raises the question: do these leagues where eligibility is determined by ethnic origin have a place in our community today?

The roots of AJA baseball in Hawai'i and JA basketball on the mainland go back a long time. Hawai'i AJA teams and leagues go back to the turn of the last century. The AJA leagues grew in the context of the multi-ethnic Hawaii Baseball League; the AJA leagues provided an opportunity for JA players who weren't quite as skilled to play and develop their games. For various reasons, the HBL eventually folded, while the AJA baseball leagues continue to exist. It is because they are the best organized amateur leagues in Hawai'i that non-JAs want to play in them.

On the mainland, JA football, baseball, and basketball leagues go back to at least the 1930s. While baseball might have been the most popular before the war, basketball became the mainland JA sport after the war. As with AJA baseball in Hawai'i, the explosion of teams and leagues in the 1970s and beyond gave JA players who weren't good enough to play on high school teams or in mainstream leagues the opportunity to play and to improve. Leagues for girls and women formed alongside leagues for boys and men. Also as with Hawai'i AJA baseball, the appeal of the basketball leagues went well beyond the field or court; they became a way of life for communities, serving to link ethnic communities in different parts of the country, providing recreation for teenagers in a family friendly setting, and reinforcing elements of JA culture.

I believe these JA leagues do still

have a place today. They are among the only places where younger JAs willingly maintain a connection with their ethnic community and ethnic identity. As a child of ethnic studies, I believe it is good that young people grow up with an awareness of who they are and where they come from. For young men, these sport leagues can foster a positive sense of self in a world that can be emasculating for Asian men. For young women, being active in sport has many benefits too numerous to list here.

However, I also believe that the JA leagues do need to change with the times. I don't believe that defining eligibility by race is necessary or desirable in order to maintain a JA sensibility in the leagues. Culture is not a matter of race.

I have previously suggested that JA sport leagues issue a culture test to all who want to play; if players can answer a few basic questions on JA culture, they can play. While I was kidding about it, that is sort of the dilemma for these leagues: how to allow non-JA friends who have close ties to the community while disallowing ringers brought on only because of their skills. One league in Southern California does it by only allowing non-JAs to play as adults who played as children. The idea is that someone who played in a Buddhist church league at age seven must have assimilated some degree of JA-ness, and is unlikely to be a ringer as an adult. Most JA basketball leagues also allow a small but growing number of Asian Americans, which acknowledges the rise of pan-Asian Americanism.

George Johnston of the *Rafu Shimpo* also suggests changing the name of the leagues to something like the "58" and under Buddhist Basketball League. While he is no doubt being facetious, the notion of incorporating elements of JA culture into league names and having an overt JA historical/cultural educational component to youth teams in particular makes all kinds of sense. If a non-JA wants to play for the "Manzanar" team in the "Nikkei League" and willingly learn about JA history and culture along the way, why not let her?

For now, the controversy raised by the L.A. *Times* article and the AJA baseball challenges of a few years back have faded away. But I'm sure the issues will come up again. I hope the leagues continue to change with the times. But I also hope my daughter will still be able to play in one when she is old enough. ■

Brian Niya is a member of the Honolulu chapter of JACL.

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Letters to the Editor

The Dark Side of the Congressional Medal of Honor Awards

Readers attention is directed to the August 2000 issue of *Military Magazine* and an article written by NCCM C.R. (Corky) Johnson, (Ret.) titled "Sign Up for a Medal" in which he writes about the June 22, 2000, White House ceremony in which President Clinton awarded 22 Congressional Medals of Honor to 22 Asian Americans for heroism during World War II.

Following are excerpts from Johnson's article:

"I'm going to call Thursday, 22 June, 2000, a second 'Day That Will Live in Infamy'! That's the date our great leader handed out 22, that's right, 22 Medals of Honor. All 22 recipients had received the Army Distinguished Service Cross for heroism under fire during WWII."

"Clinton and other top military officials said the event, with the most medals ever awarded at one time, was intended to correct a 50-year injustice stemming from racism and fear in the WWII era. These recipients were all Asian Americans, with Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI) at the head of the line. Well, I don't buy it! It cheapens our nation's highest award for bravery under fire. Anyone with an ounce of sense should be able to see this move was made for political reasons, pure and simple. It would be different if Clinton was sincere in his act. I don't believe he was. This man will go to any lengths to get votes. It wasn't too long ago that he pardoned all those Puerto Rican terrorists ... because they were innocent? No, to get the Puerto Ricans to vote for Hillary in her Senate race. Now, I guess he'll call in his marker on the Asians in New York."

"Playing fast and loose with the presentation of awards in this manner is disgraceful. It's a slap in the face and cheapens the awards which have previously been awarded to real warriors down where the blood and mud flowed."

Military Magazine, published by MHR Publishing Corp. in Sacramento, Calif. and edited by Michael Mark shows that not all Americans approve of the awards, especially to Asians, including Japanese Americans.

Johnson's reference to Puerto Rican terrorists fails to recognize the different Puerto Rican political factions that represent three views: one to continue their commonwealth status; one to break away and become an independent country and one to become the 51st state of the union.

Certainly the terrorists could not represent all Puerto Ricans living in New York nor could they be one voting bloc supporting Hillary Clinton. And to call in his marker on the Asians in New York isn't necessary since most Asians are Democrats and represent only a very small voting bloc for Hillary, hardly a practical motive for Clinton to award 22 CMHs.

Further, denying that the CMH awards were not "real warriors down where the blood and mud flowed" not only insults the Nisei soldiers who fought and died in Europe but any combat veteran of any war.

The presence of such bigotry directed against those Nisei we consider to be heroes is particularly offensive. For people like Johnson, the best way to counter them is for them to know the truth.

And so the struggle goes on. ■

Ne Hachimatsu
Torrance, Calif.

cans of Japanese Ancestry (AJA) in Hawaii were responsible for the formation of the 100th and 442nd.

No one will argue that the AJAs from Hawaii played a significant role in forming the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Now let's look at the situation of the Nisei in the United States Army after December 7, 1941, most of whom were draftees stationed on the West Coast. After Pearl Harbor, some were discharged as enemy aliens, stripped of their weapons, placed under suspicion and guarded or summarily discharged without cause.

Those remaining in uniform, some 3,500, were stationed along the West Coast, from Fort Lewis, Wash., to Camp Roberts, Calif., and beyond.

As the forced evacuation of all AJAs on the West Coast was initiated, so were AJAs in uniform moved inland by rail, under guard with shackles drawn. By mid-spring of 1942, these Nisei, still in uniform, were assigned menial housekeeping and administrative non-combat-type duties in the Midwest.

When the Army announced the activation of the 442nd in January 1942, the mainland Nisei were called upon to provide the cadre, the training staff, for the RCT. These men, the majority of whom were non-commissioned officers, were placed in a position where true loyalty to our country could be affirmed by disregarding their family situation in concentration camps, as well as their previous position as suspects in uniform while stationed on the West Coast. There were no dissenting voices when their names appeared on the cadre list, and subsequently transferred to Camp Shelby. This was a "make it or break it" situation for the Nisei.

The enviable combat record of the 100th in Italy paved the way for the 442nd to complete its required training and team up with the 100th.

Mike Masaoka played a significant role in the War Department and the Army's decision to reclassify eligible draft age men in concentration camps from 4C to 1A so they would qualify as filter personnel and later replacements for both the 442nd and the 100th as combat casualties started to escalate. These young Nisei who lost their freedom, liberty and rights as U.S. citizens to rise up and place their lives in harm's way in the defense of our country deserve the highest respect and praise that can be bestowed upon them. I take my hat off to every one of them.

Jimmie Kanaya
Col. RA, Retired
Gig Harbor, WA

Keep Masaoka's Name, Creed on Memorial

A friend of mine, who is completing a book about the Holocaust, is critical of Mike Masaoka and the JACL for what they allegedly failed to do during World War II. He has devoted a chapter to the Japanese American evacuation and internment, which he says has political parallels with the Jewish experience in Germany. He further claims that Masaoka and the JACL could have stopped the evacuation by forming a coalition with groups willing to protest the evacuation orders.

While I don't believe this could have been possible, let's assume that the JACL could have somehow prevented the evacuation and subsequent internment of the 120,000 JAs during WWII. The question, as it relates to the memorial, is this: would the memorial to patriotism have been built if the evacuation and internment had not occurred? I don't think so. It is precisely because of the JA people's response to this event that made the building of this memorial so compelling for Congress to approve.

No other ethnic group in the United States had their constitutional rights overridden en masse, and no other group demonstrated

such loyalty and patriotism under such adverse conditions. It is true that 385 Nisei resistors of conscience refused to be drafted into the U.S. Armed Forces until their constitutional rights were restored. This is a small number; however, compared with the 33,000 JAs who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during WWII.

If evacuation had been stopped, it is unlikely that the segregated all Nisei 442nd Regimental Combat Team would have been formed. Nisei would have simply been drafted and assigned to existing units in the same manner as German Americans and Italian Americans.

The 100th Infantry Battalion would have fought just as valiantly, but without being attached to the 442nd, would not have garnered the acclaim that the 100th and 442nd jointly achieved. By itself, the military record of the 100th, though magnificent, would not have justified the building of a memorial to patriotism.

By being attached to the 442nd, the 100th added to the public's perception that the Nisei fought valiantly for the United States. The point then is that if Masaoka is to take partial blame for allowing the evacuation to occur, he should also be recognized for the memorial being built, even if in a totally negative way.

More compelling is the fact that Masaoka was one of the founding members of the Go For Broke National Veterans Association, which launched the memorial project. Therefore, the memorial exists in large part to Masaoka's desire to create a monument to commemorate the sacrifices of JA servicemen during WWII and his efforts to lobby Congress for it. His associates later expanded his plan and made it more inclusive of all JAs, and also changed the location from Arlington National Cemetery to the mall in Washington, D.C.

Critics of Masaoka's "Japanese American Creed" complain that it exhibits a plantation mentality and does not speak for the future of JAs and the greater American population in terms of advancing civil rights and justice.

While this criticism is partly true, Masaoka wrote the creed in 1940 at a time when relations between Japan and the United States were strained, and JAs were looked upon with suspicion. Masaoka felt he needed to write the creed to show the skeptical fellow Americans that JAs were just as loyal as any American, and that in the event of war with Japan, JAs could be counted upon to "serve America with true American spirit and in the American way, defending her against all enemies, foreign and domestic."

Since the purpose of the memorial to patriotism is to honor the past as well as to chart a course for the future, it is not at all out of place to show the spirit and love of country which resulted in much of the JA population during that time of great trial.

Scott Yamazaki
Canton, MI

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

* "Short expressions" on public issues, usually one or two paragraphs, should include signature, address and daytime phone number. Because of space limitations, letters are subject to abridgement. Although we may not print all the letters we receive, we appreciate the interest and views of those who take the time to send us their comments.

Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Adachi, Helen Shizuko, 85, Rancho Palos Verdes, August 16; Gardena-born; survived by daughter Ann Kubota and husband Robert, 1 gc; many nieces and nephews.

Asato, Johnny Kazuyoshi, 58, Los Angeles, August 15; Okinawa-born; survived by wife Eileen Eiko; daughters Sherry Maki Roetman and husband Robb, Miki M.; mother Haruko Asato of Japan; brother Hiroyoshi of Japan; sister Mitsue Ishiki of Japan.

This compilation appears on a space-available basis at no cost. Printed obituaries from our newspaper are welcome. "Death Notices," which appear in a timely manner at request of the family or funeral director, are published at the rate of \$19 per column inch. Text is reworded as needed.

Domoto, Yoshio "D.", 79, Glendale, August 14; Los Angeles-born; survived by wife Tomiko; brother Sam; many other relatives.

Dyo, Sei, 75, Carson, August 16; El Paso, Texas-born; survived by wife Yetsuko; sons Ronald and wife Cindy, Gary and wife Stephanie; daughters Janice Hanada and husband Terry, Nancy; 5 gc; sister Kow Takata.

Fujino, Sawaye M., Fullerton, August 17; survived by sons Jim and wife Elza, Roy and wife Eugene, Ray and wife Pauline, Ronnie and wife Cary; daughters Keiko Sadakane and husband Nozo, Janet Kishiyama, Kim Pontius and husband Ralph, Keiko Pultz and husband Alan, Carol Curry and husband Tom, Gwen Friese and husband Kim; 11 gc; 8 ggc; predeceased by husband Masami.

Ikemiyu, George Shigeru, 74, Redley, August 20; Clovis-born; survived by wife Kikuyu; daughters Arleen Tahara and husband Gary, Laura Twylan and husband Ty; 3 gc; brother Joe and wife Fumiko; sister Tushiko Kawagoe.

Ishizuka, Kirk, 42, Los Angeles, August 23; survived by parents Mary and George; sisters Karen, Kathy.

Kaiso, Dorothy Asako, 86, Torrance, August 19; Kauai-born; survived by husband Kenneth K.; son Harry Ogawa and wife Florence; daughter Marcella Onishi and husband Henry; 4 gc; 5 ggc; brother Larry Ichimasa and wife Emi; sisters Jane Dodson, Daisy Morita and husband Haru, Clara Shimizu.

Kato, Hitoshi T., 85, Fountain Valley, August 10; survived by wife Mari; sons Steve, Michael, Duane; daughter Jeanne Goodness and husband Nelson; 3 gc; brother Tetsuo and wife Eiko; sister Yasuko Ohta and husband John.

Kawamoto, Roy A., 89, Los Angeles, August 20; survived by wife Marion; daughters Keimi Ogura and husband Don, Teiko Salinas and husband Moses; 3 gc.

Kozen, Seiji T., 90, Mountain View, August 4; Livingston-born; survived by sons Jim, Bob and wife Julia, Roy and wife Sylvia; daughter Grace; 9 gc; predeceased by wife Masako.

Menda, John Goro, 70, Sacramento, August 6; survived by brothers Frank and wife Hanae, Harry Mitsuo and wife Yaeko, Arthur Shiro and wife Jean; sisters Mitsue Mukai, Joan Haruye Ariyasu and husband Bob.

Nakamura, Wataru, 77, Oakland, August 13; survived by wife Mitsuko; sons Mark Shinji and Philip Kouji; daughters Dale Natsumi, Peggy Hidefumi Watterson and husband David; brother Keisuke Nakamura and wife Hizuko of Japan.

Nishi, Azuma, 70, Arcadia, August 12; survived by wife Mieko Iguchi; daughters Shannon Moedi and husband Bill, Erin Sugiyama and husband Stephan, Darby; son Parker and wife Cindy; 1 gc; predeceased by son Miles.

Nishimoto, Keith, 81, Madera, August 3; WWII and Korean War veteran; survived by wife Masako "Mickey" Fujiki; daughters Judy, Joyce Wilkinson; 1 gc; brother Sunny.

Okazaki, Isaki, 88, Fontana, August 19; Koshi, Japan-born; survived by son Hiroaki; daughters Hiroko Kawai and husband Yoshihiko, Keiko Isobe and husband Michael; brother Kenichi Nozaki and wife Akio; 4 gc.

Okohira, Katherine Akie, 67, Monterey Park, August 20; Honolulu-born; survived by husband Theodore; Makoto; son Mark Makoto and wife Deana Harumi; 1 gc; sisters Mary Hiroaki, Edna Ikeda and husband Norman; brothers Kenneth and wife Edith, Walter Kobayakawa and wife Teruko.

Toji, Katsumi, 71, San Gabriel, August 9; Seattle-born; survived by wife Kotoko; son Michael.

Tsushima, Jack, Yoshio, 81, Sacramento, August 12; survived by sons Steve Akio and wife Reiko; Dennis Hideo and wife Alberta; brothers Mark Noboru and wife Jane Miyoko, Sam Minoru; 4 gc.

Yasumoto, Yuriko, 72, Sacramento, August 9; survived by sons Kenneth, Richard; daughter Lillian; predeceased by husband Chester Kiyoshi. ■

DEATH NOTICE

SHIGEHARU TAKAHASHI

BETHESDA, Mary—Shigeharu Takahashi, 79, who worked as an agricultural economist for the World Bank for 26 years, passed away of congestive heart failure on Aug. 6. A native of San Francisco, Mr. Takahashi graduated from Commerce High in 1936 and attended UC Berkeley for two years. He transferred to Ohio University at the outbreak of WWII and earned an economics degree with highest honors. He studied for his Ph.D. at the Univ. of Chicago, where he won a Marshall Field Fellowship. He entered the Army and taught Japanese at the Army language school in Monterey, Calif. before being sent to postwar Japan with the occupation forces. He worked as a consulting agricultural economist in Burma. During his tenure at the World Bank, he served in Pakistan and Indonesia, but also worked in the countries of Africa and South America. Mr. Takahashi was committed to bringing about meaningful change in developing economies around the world through land reforms and adjustments to agricultural policies. He retired from the World Bank in 1966. His hobbies included tennis and fishing. He was also a member of the JACL. He married his first wife, Hiroko Haru Takahashi in 1950, and was married for 34 years until her death in 1984. Mr. Takahashi is survived by his wife of 13 years, June Takahashi; son, Joseph (Barbara) of Wilmette, Ill.; daughters Nancy Hatsumi (Lon) of Davis, Calif. and Tina Keiser of Bethesda; four grandchildren, Erika and Matthew Takahashi and Joo and George Hatsumi; sisters, Kyo Takahashi and Poni Sozaki of San Francisco; and brother Edwin Takahashi of Richmond, Calif. A memorial service will be held Sat. Sept. 30 at Pine United Methodist Church, 426 33rd Avenue, in San Francisco at 1:30 p.m.

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Hats Off

I would like to comment on a letter to the editor by Don Matsuda, president of Club 110, that appeared in the Aug. 11-17 issue of the *Pacific Citizen*, wherein he, as a mainlander, states that the Ameri-

LAWSUIT

(Continued from page 1)

of the case. "It will be related to the labor and with just interest rate that would be found to be appropriate by the court," he said.

In the recent reparations cases involving Nazi Holocaust victims, in which Fisher took part, settlements from Swiss banks and German and Austrian companies totaled between \$6 billion to \$7 billion.

He added they are also working on six other cases to be filed in the near future against various Japanese corporations and possibly the Japanese government.

Supporting the lawsuit is the Global Alliance for Preserving the History of World War II in Asia, a California-based, non-governmental agency with 46 chapters worldwide.

"From the Chinese or victims' standpoint, this case is very simple," said Ignatius Ding, Global Alliance spokesperson. "If the Japanese government and the right wing, including businesses, continue to say this never happened, then the victims will continue to pursue this. It's as simple as that."

Last September, a similar lawsuit was filed in a California court by three American former prisoners of war against Mitsubishi. That same month, 500 American former POWs filed a class action lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Albuquerque, N.M. against five Japanese companies including Mitsui and Mitsubishi.

Plaintiffs

Appearing with Fisher were three of the plaintiffs in the case — Zhang Chang Chao, 69; Ou Zong Xuan, 68; and Huang Boshi, 70. All three were forced to work for Mitsui on Hai Nan Island, China as children.

According to the lawsuit, Zhang, then a 10-year-old, was forced to work for Mitsui from 1939 to 1945. With the help of the Japanese army, Mitsui allegedly took over Zhang's village of Guotang, posting

a sign that read, "Mitsui Corporation of the Empire of Japan." Under the threat of torture and death, the suit alleges that Mitsui began to require a certain quota of grain and rubber to be given to the company without compensation.

On one occasion in 1944, Zhang had injured his foot while working in the fields and became unable to produce the rubber quota. When the Mitsui supervisor found out about Zhang's shortfall, the supervisor allegedly beat Zhang so hard that he "slipped into a coma for three days. The incident left Zhang with permanent scars on his head, and to this day, he suffers frequent headaches."

Ou Zong Xuan was captured by Japanese soldiers in 1943 and forced to work for Mitsui. Among the slave labor work he was forced to perform entailed building a bridge. Ou also underwent a number of severe beatings by Mitsui workers, permanently affecting her arms and hands. In 1999, Ou required hospitalization for her injuries.

Huang Boshi was captured by Japanese forces in 1942, and was forced to work in the coal mines operated by Mitsui. Huang's legs are covered with scars from beatings she endured at the hands of Mitsui workers.

Potential Backlash Against Japanese Americans

Regarding potential backlash against Japanese Americans, Fisher said, "This is not a case against Japanese Americans. This is wartime history, of a large corpora-

tion that profited by exploitation... I think that one thing that will help is the support of people in the Japanese community who are working with us to support this effort in San Francisco and Los Angeles and elsewhere."

"The exposure of the Holocaust is not a condemnation of German Americans," said Ding. "So this litigation against Japanese businesses has nothing to do with Japanese Americans. Japanese Americans are Americans first just like any other ethnic Americans."

To illustrate the point that the fear against backlash was unfounded, Ding noted that there was no anti-JA sentiment when California state Assemblyman Mike Honda last year introduced Assembly Joint Resolution 27, which called for Japan to offer an apology and compensation to survivors of WWII-era atrocities committed by Japan.

"The resolution was passed last August. Did you see any discrimination?" said Ding. "The facts speak for themselves. This unfounded fear is the same as the one back in 1988 when there was a push for reparations. Some of the people said, 'Don't rock the boat!' But when the checks came, they cashed the \$20,000. It's the same bunch of people. They just don't have the vision or the foresight, so they need to be educated."

Ding further blasted any rumors that Honda had introduced AJR 27 in an effort to attract campaign contributions.

"That wasn't the case," said Ding. "We weren't even aware that

LEE

(Continued from page 1)

Last week, Lee's lawyers reiterated before the judge that he was singled out because he is Asian. They also got an FBI agent whose testimony had been key in denying him bail to acknowledge that he had given inaccurate testimony against Lee.

Meanwhile, the prosecution has denied racial profiling and asked the court to reject the disclosure petitions.

Chief prosecutor George Stamboulidis argued that Lee could help someone build a bomb or help another country bolster its nuclear program if he is released from jail. "The breadth of harm is so great that... even a reduced risk is too great to take that gamble," he said.

However, defense attorney Mark Holscher told the judge

he was doing this. He went to a photo exhibit, and he was really outraged by what he saw. He later contacted us for additional information. That's how we found out about it. He decided to do this on his own. He did not come because someone lobbied him. That's why I say they should be proud of Mike instead of looking down on him because he really stands for justice and honor."

there is no evidence Lee "has the political motivation, the financial motivation or the destructive intent" to do anything harmful with the material he is accused of downloading.

The defense contends that materials Lee allegedly mishandled were not classified secret at the time. They were labeled "Protect As Restricted Data" (PAR), calling for lower levels of security.

The prosecution responded that while the materials were labeled PAR, 19 files and one tape contained information that had higher classifications, "secret restricted data" (SRD) and "confidential restricted data" (CRD).

Earlier this month, the government submitted supplemental allegations against Lee, which said he repeatedly sought access to a secure area of the lab even after his electronic access badge was deactivated by lab officials Dec. 23, 1998. Prosecutors want to include the proposed allegations in Lee's trial, scheduled to begin Nov. 6.

"Granting bail to Wen Ho Lee is a major victory and a step forward, but it is not the end," said Diane Chin, executive director of Chinese for Affirmative Action and a member of the Coalition Against Racial and Ethnic Scapegoating (CARES). "We will continue to work to ensure that Wen Ho Lee receives fair treatment and a fair trial."



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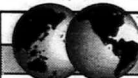


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