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## Jackie Chan Gets Animated in New Television Series

By TRACY UBA  
Writer/Reporter

Move over Pokémon. Jackie Chan's in town. Or, at least, a new animated version of him is. And like our little yellow friend, he's primed and ready to kick some bad-guy butt starting this fall.

Chan, an international celebrity from Hong Kong to Hollywood known for his eye-popping martial arts acrobatics, is making the move from movie to TV star with his very own animated series scheduled to premiere on the Kids' WB! network on Sept. 9 at 9 a.m. (ET).

"I think it's good for kids to see [heroes] of different ethnicities," said Guy Aoki, spokesman for the Media Action Network for Asian

from Uncle, an antique shop owner in San Francisco who is as bumbling as he is genius.

The Saturday morning cartoon crowd can catch all 13 half-hour episodes of this anime-style, action-comedy series featuring the voice of Jackie Chan himself, as well as the voices of other AA actors James Sie, Sab Shimono and Stacie Chan.

"When it comes to animation, [producers] don't always feel it's necessary to get Asian Americans to play the voices," Aoki said, citing as an example Fox's animated series "King of the Hill," in which only one of the Laotian neighbors is voiced by an AA actor. "By getting someone of the same race to play the character, it helps alleviate con-



Americans (MANAA). "Too often they see Asian Americans as the bad guys."

Aoki said he has yet to see the new "Jackie Chan Adventures" but will be interested to see the setting of the show and how the characters are portrayed, as it is the first animated TV series to be based on a live Asian or Asian American actor.

True to his nice-guy persona in films, Chan's character in the show teams up with his 11-year-old niece, Jade, in search of a dozen magical talismans, each representing a different sign in the Chinese zodiac and each possessing a mysterious power. But he's not the only one after the coveted treasures. So is the sinister Dark Hand, a crime organization led by Valmont, who seeks to unleash ultimate darkness by combining the forces of the talismans. In battling The Dark Hand and the evil mastermind behind it, Shendu, Jackie gets some help

cerns about mimicking or stereotyping."

David Palmer, executive producer for Sony Pictures Family Entertainment, which owns and will be distributing the series, said, "We don't think there are any negative [images of Asian Americans] or stereotypes that would generate negative feelings."

The fact that several executive producers and others who worked on the development of the show happen to be Asian helped to maintain cultural sensitivity, he said.

"The series actually celebrates the Chinese culture," said Janice Aguilar-Herrero, spokesperson for the Kids' WB! network. One of the most important elements of the show in fact is the strong family dynamic among Jackie, Jade and Uncle, she said.

In contrast to several major TV networks last season, whose fall line-up of shows included virtually no people of color, the Kids' WB! network has always made an effort to include multicultural programming, according to Aguilar-Her-

## First ORA Administrator Robert K. Bratt Departs from DOJ

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA  
Assistant Editor

Robert K. Bratt, who developed the Office of Redress Administration within the Department of Justice, left the DOJ last month after 25 years of service. He is now working in the technology field.

"It was a once in a lifetime experience," said Bratt, referring to his years with ORA. "I made friends for life from that program."

Sen. Daniel Inouye, who is credited with recommending a federal commission to investigate the causes of evacuation, commended Bratt for his dedication.

"Bob Bratt had the monumental task of serving as the first person to administer the Civil Liberties Act," said Inouye. "Working without a blueprint, Bob was relentless in ensuring that no one was forgotten and he set the standard for his successors. At last count, more than \$1,000 unjustly interned Japanese Americans have been identified and received redress payments. Less than one percent of potentially eligible internees and their families have not been accounted for. This remarkable achievement is a testament to Bob's leadership, energy and ability to inspire others."

While the Nikkei community is well aware that Bratt oversees the

ORA office from 1988 to 1992, very few know that Bratt's work with the ORA was voluntary.

"It is not well known that operating and managing the ORA was voluntary, a project which was in addition to Bob's job as executive in the Civil Rights Division," said researcher Aiko Herrig Yoshinaga. "Bob set a high standard for others to follow with his compassion and liberal interpretation of the law, his hands-on approach, personal contacts with the Nikkei community, and his understanding of the government's wartime violation of constitutional rights against the ethnic Japanese."

As a result, for four years, Bratt literally held two jobs — his real job as executive officer of the Civil Rights Division and his second as



Bob Bratt with Grace Ueyehara at the 1998 national JACL convention in Philadelphia.

administrator of ORA.

Bratt credited the staff for ORA's success. "We had a really great staff, and I just loved what I was doing so I didn't seem like work," said Bratt.

"JACL certainly appreciates all

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## Wen Ho Lee's Release Delayed

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.—An appeals court halted the release of jailed Los Alamos scientist Wen Ho Lee on Sept. 1, halting even before government prosecutors requested a delay, a justice department spokeswoman said.

Meanwhile, the federal judge presiding over the case in Albuquerque released an order setting the conditions of Lee's release, which included the installation of a closed-circuit television camera by the FBI to monitor his back yard, and the use of a "bumper beeper tracking device" on the cars of Lee and his wife, Sylvia.

The showdown came in a court hearing called only a half-hour before the noon deadline U.S. District

Judge James A. Parker set for Lee's strictly controlled release.

Parker started by telling the crowded courtroom he'd just been handed an order from the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver delaying Lee's release. Prosecutors had filed their notice of appeal and motion to delay bail in Albuquerque at 11:29, citing national security concerns.

Once the notice was filed, the 10th Circuit had jurisdiction.

Defense attorneys were angry that the timing left them no chance to respond and took their own concerns to the 10th Circuit later that same day.

"Dr. Lee has spent more than eight months shackled in solitary confinement because the prosecu-

tion misled Judge Parker (and this court) about the significance of the information at issue and the nature of Dr. Lee's conduct. He should not spend a single day more in prison," the petition said.

Defense attorney John Cline told Parker, "This isn't the way the judicial system is supposed to work. It just isn't."

Parker raised the possibility of bail last week when he held that the information presented by the government "no longer has the requisite clarity and persuasive character necessary" to keep Lee in jail. He ruled after an FBI agent whose testimony last December was a key in denying bail acknowledged that some of his testimony was incor-

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## Number of APIs Casting Ballots Up "Significantly," Census Study Says

The number of Asians and Pacific Islanders voting in congressional elections increased by 366,000 between 1994 and 1998 to 1.4 million voters, according to new analysis of a recent report by the Commerce Department's Census Bureau.

"While the number of voters nationwide dropped by 2.6 million, the number of Asian and Pacific Islanders going to the polls went up significantly between the 1994 and 1998 elections," said Jennifer Day, co-author of Voting and Registration in the Election of November 1998, a report released in July.

Day noted that the number of

API citizens of voting age increased from 2.6 million in 1994 to 4.3 million in 1998.

The turnout rate for API citizens of voting age was 39 percent in 1994 and 32 percent in 1998. Nationally, the voter turnout rate for all U.S. citizens of voting age fell from 48 percent in 1994 to 45 percent in 1998, which was the lowest participation rate recorded since the Census Bureau began collecting voting and registration data in 1964.

Data on API in this report does not include individuals of Hispanic origin, who may be of any race. The

data was collected in the November 1998 Current Population Survey (CPS) two weeks after the election. As in all surveys, data are subject to sampling variability and other sources of errors. The CPS routinely overestimates voter turnout.

Possible reasons include understatement of actual votes cast; overreporting by survey respondents who want to demonstrate their civic responsibility; misreporting of voting because of refusals or lack of knowledge on the part of proxy respondents; and survey undercoverage. ■

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Table 1. (Numbers in thousands) Citizens 18 years and older	Voting-Age Population		Number Voted		Percent Voted	
	1994	1998	1994	1998	1994	1998
Total	177,260	183,451	85,702	83,098	48.3	45.3
White	151,432	155,369	75,769	71,871	50.0	46.3
Black	20,829	22,074	8,695	9,223	38.9	41.8
Asian and Pacific Islander	2,684	4,422	1,057	1,431	39.4	32.4
Hispanic*	10,350	12,396	3,522	4,068	34.0*	32.8*
White non Hispanic	142,357	143,650	72,614	68,068	51.0	47.4
Black non Hispanic	20,662	21,613	8,048	9,044	39.0	41.8
Asian and Pacific Islander non Hispanic	2,632	4,344	1,038	1,404	39.4	32.3

\* Percent voted in 1994 and 1998 not significantly different.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey.

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**By the Board**

By Ryan Chin, V.P. Public Affairs

**Hate Crimes Prevention Act Needs YOUR Help**

As most of you know, there is currently legislation in the House of Representatives which would allow for tougher federal enforcement of hate crimes. Unfortunately, although the Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA) passed in the Senate with bipartisan support, it is having trouble in the House. As a civil rights organization, we need to push hard to gain support for this piece of legislation from our representatives.

In recent years, many JACLers have acknowledged that the organization has seen a decline, falling from amongst the forefront of civil rights organizations. There is no doubt that this organization can once again become a significant national force in fighting for equal rights, but it will take some work. The HCPA is a huge chance for us to demonstrate how influential JACL can be.

Deterring hate crimes remains one of the most, if not the most, important issue for the JACL. The organization has passed numerous resolutions supporting the fight against these acts of hatred and held many workshops educating individuals on how to deal with such racism. The JACL has also invested a great deal of time and money in combating hate crimes.

The JACL has even become a part of United Against Hate, a national coalition advocating for

stricter hate crimes legislation. As a member of this coalition, we have supported press conferences across the nation to draw attention to this important issue. Also, on [www.unitedagainsthate.org](http://www.unitedagainsthate.org), the coalition's Web site, you can find out if your representative is a sponsor, read articles about anti-hate crime events and gather talking points on why we need tougher legislation for these heinous acts.

The stage has been set, and now we must "put our money where our mouths are" and execute. We need to flood our representatives with letters, calls and faxes. We need them to know how very important this issue is to us. Please do not stand idly by, expecting others to contact their representatives instead. While you hesitate, others are applying pressure on their representatives to not support hate crimes legislation. On top of letters from chapters and districts, we must each write individually to support this measure.

We have to act as soon as possible on this — no later than mid-September. So please, set aside half an hour to write a letter of support for the HCPA. Let us demonstrate that we can have an impact on issues and that we are still players in the civil rights arena. I believe that if we could save just one life from a hate crime, the mere minutes it takes to compose a letter is worth it. ■

**Wall Street Journal Condemns Lawsuit Seeking Wartime Compensation**

The *Wall Street Journal* published a scathing editorial on Aug. 30, condemning a class action lawsuit filed in California by nine Chinese seeking monetary compensation from the Mitsui and Mitsubishi groups for allegedly forcing them to perform slave labor during World War II.

"How is it possible to sue companies 55 years after the fact, in a court 5,000 miles from the event?" the paper wrote.

California last year became the first state to pass legislation allowing former World War II prisoners of war to seek compensation for forced slave labor.

Although the paper acknowledges the need to remember Japan's atrocities, it concludes by saying: "Learning from Japan's old injustices is valuable. But using them as yet another money-maker for an American legal system that no longer knows where to stop can only lead to the kind of resentment and nationalist anger that tends to breed fresh injustice." ■

**California Gov. Davis Names Nikkei to Gambling Commission**

California Gov. Gray Davis appointed four people, including a Japanese American, to the state's gambling commission on Aug. 29.

Named were John E. Hensley as chair and commissioners J.K. Sasaki, Michael C. Palmer and Arlo Smith. The commissioners, who receive a salary of \$109,799, will require state senate confirmation.

The California Gambling Commission has broad enforcement power over card rooms and discretion over Indian casinos.

Since 1999, Hensley, 57, who is of Comanche and Cherokee descent, has been director of Western U.S. Operations for the Investigative Group International, Inc. Prior to this, he worked at the U.S. Customs Office as special agent-in-charge, assistant commissioner and regional commissioner.

He has served as president of the National Native American Law Enforcement Assn., and is a member of the Assn. of Former Intelligence Officers, the International Assn. of Chiefs of Police and the Indian Country Committee. He earned a bachelor of science from the University of Colorado and is a graduate of the Executive Management Program of the John F. Kennedy School of Government.

J.K. Sasaki, 51, served as vice president, senior counsel and director of government relations for the UnionBanCal Corp. of San Francisco from 1978 to 2000. Her other past affiliations include serving as deputy on the California Business Roundtable from 1992 to 1998, as member of the Education Task Force and member of the California Debt Advisory Commission. She earned her bachelor of arts from UC Berkeley and a juris doctorate from the University of San Francisco School of Law.

Palmer, 51, a certified public accountant, is CEO of e-Sat of University City, a telecommunication/wireless satellite company. From 1978 to 2000, he was a partner with the firm of Parks, Palmer, Turner & Yemeidjian, LLP in Los Angeles. He also served as CFO for the Hollywood Park Casino in Inglewood, Calif., and as CEO for Olympic National Bank.

Smith, 72, served in the Office of the Attorney General from 1953 to 1980. From there he worked as district attorney for the city and county of San Francisco until 1996. In 1992, he lost a close race for state attorney general and is currently a special counsel in the attorney general's office. ■

**Doris Matsui Appointed to Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars**

President Clinton on Aug. 31 announced his intent to appoint Doris Matsui to serve as a member of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

Matsui, of Sacramento, Calif., joined Collier Shannon Scott, PLLC, in December of 1998 as senior adviser and director of government relations and public policy. In January 1993, she was appointed by President Clinton to serve as deputy assistant to the president and deputy director of public liaison for the White House. He has been jailed nine months awaiting trial, scheduled for November. If convicted of all 59 counts, Lee could face life in prison.



A life-long Californian, Matsui is an accomplished public policy advocate, having led successful national outreach campaigns for numerous initiatives ranging from education, children and families, to budget, international trade, breast cancer awareness and nonprofit and philanthropic issues. She served on the national board of Christmas in April, and was president of the Con-

gressional Club, a bipartisan civic, social and philanthropic organization. Currently, she serves on the boards of the California Institute, Meridian International Center, and People for the American Way.

Matsui received a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Berkeley.

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars is established within the Smithsonian Institution. The center fosters scholarship and dialogue in the humanities and social sciences by bringing fellows to Washington, encouraging discourse and publishing the results of their activities. ■

**Lee to Remain in Jail Pending Appeal**

(Continued from page 1)

The 60-year-old Taiwan-born scientist, a naturalized U.S. citizen, allegedly downloaded restricted data about nuclear weapons to insecure computers and tapes at Los Alamos National Laboratory. He has been jailed nine months awaiting trial, scheduled for November. If convicted of all 59 counts, Lee could face life in prison.

The prosecution's motion to delay Lee's bail contended the court had imposed "extraordinary conditions" on Lee's release after prosecutors argued he posed an unprecedented risk to national security. That, prosecutors said, indicates the case will present issues on appeal that will require a time for the circuit court to review.

The FBI had searched Lee's home Aug. 31 for any sensitive scientific materials, including any evidence of seven portable computer tapes he is accused of downloading. The defense insists the tapes were destroyed; the prosecution insists on proof.

Had the appellate court not intervened, Parker said he would have rejected the government's request for a delay. He said he doubted the Denver court had all the information he reviewed over the past three months.

"I don't know how you're going to get all the classified information to the 10th Circuit quickly," he told prosecutors.

The defense had asked to be notified immediately of any gov-

ernment appeal, but prosecutors said they did not get approval from the solicitor general in Washington, D.C., to appeal until 10:30 a.m.

Meanwhile, Parker released the final conditions of Lee's release on Sept. 1, which included limits on his communication, travel, home visits and required removal of all electronic communication devices except for one telephone line from the house.

Lee would have to remain under electronic monitoring and wear an electronic bracelet, and his mail could be inspected, under the judge's proposal.

Among the released conditions were that the Lees consent in writing to the installation and monitoring of the bumper beeper tracking device on each of their cars, and to the use of the closed-circuit camera to monitor their backyard.

Parker ordered Lee's release last week after a three-day hearing, saying information presented by the government "no longer has the requisite clarity and persuasive character" necessary to keep Lee jailed pending trial. He ruled after an FBI agent whose testimony last December was a key in denying bail acknowledged some of his testimony was incorrect.

In Lee's White Rock neighborhood, family friend Carl Newton spoke on behalf of Don and Jean Marshall, the Lees' next-door neighbors assigned as his custodians in the event of his release.

"They wanted me to pass the word ... that they're cautiously

optimistic about his being released next week and thankful for all the support they've had in the community," Newton said.

Lee supporters were disappointed in the last-second legal maneuvers.

"This is not the way the government should work," said Phyllis Hedges of Los Alamos.

Hedges, an organizer of an aborted neighborhood "Welcome Home" rally, accused prosecutors of "sneaking in the back door just before noon on a holiday weekend" with its request to halt Lee's bail.

A blue mailbox on a neighborhood street was decorated with a small U.S. flag and a hand-lettered sign, "Welcome Home Wen Ho Lee."

At one point, a florist tried to deliver an orange hibiscus plant to the Lees, in care of the Marshalls, but no one was home.

Victor Hwang of the Asian Law Caucus in San Francisco said his organization was disappointed Lee remained jailed, particularly after the leaders of three scientific organizations protested Lee's treatment this week.

"I think that the government's actions are part of a desperate bid to keep their theory of the case intact. I think a lot of this is an indication of their case crumbling," Hwang said. The organization has been granted friend-of-the-court status to support of a defense motion to disclose any evidence that Lee was singled out for a prosecution because of ethnic profiling. ■

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## Community Leaders to Be Honored at Sept. 16 PSWD Awards Dinner

The PSW district of JACL will honor Carson City Clerk and former JACL National President Helen Kawagoe, Col. Young Oak Kim, Dr. Harry Kitano, Sgt. Brian Moriguchi and his legal team (attorneys Harvey Horikawa and Thomas Ono), and Miyo Senzaki at its annual awards dinner on Sept. 16. The dinner will be held at 6 p.m. at the Torrance Marriott Hotel, 3635 Fashion Way in Torrance, Calif.

"We are excited to honor these exemplary individuals," said Craig Osaki, PSWD governor. "Each has made important contributions, not only to our community, but to the diverse fabric of this country."

Kawagoe served as JACL national president from 1996 to 2000 and

is currently city clerk in the city of Carson, Calif. Col. Kim received two Purple Hearts during World War II as a member of the 100th Infantry Battalion and is founding chairman of the 100th/442nd MIS World War II Memorial Foundation. Dr. Kitano is professor emeritus of Social Welfare at UCLA and a pioneering scholar in the area of Asian American studies.

Sgt. Moriguchi and his legal team of Horikawa and Ono won a lawsuit against the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) in March of this year after he was retaliated against for filing a racial harassment complaint against the department. Moriguchi, Horikawa and Ono have since worked closely with

JACL and other civil rights organizations to ensure similar complaints against the LASD are handled in a fair and equitable manner. Senzaki served on the JACL PSWD board of directors from 1981 to 1991 and is a tireless community activist.

California Appointments Secretary Michael Yamaki, esq., will deliver the dinner's keynote address. Proceeds will support JACL's efforts to recruit and train young Asian Pacific Islander Americans to become future community leaders. Tickets are \$85 for the general public. For more information about the PSWD awards dinner or to reserve tickets, please contact the PSWD office at 213/626-4471 or at [psw@jacl.org](mailto:psw@jacl.org).

## Patrick Okura: Recipient of Asian American Psychological Association Lifetime Achievement Award

Patrick Okura received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his work in the area of Asian American mental health at the annual convention of the Asian American Psychological Association in August.



Okura received both bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology from UCLA and for over six decades has made distinguished contributions in the field of mental health and human services.

Following his internment he worked at Father Flanagan's

Boy's Town as a psychologist, and then went on to distinguish himself at the executive level at the National Institute of Mental Health, where he helped the institute focus on AA mental health issues and promote international collaborations.

Okura is also the founder of the National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse and, with his wife Lilly, founded the Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation.

In 1999 Okura was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun by the Emperor of Japan and also received the Mental Health Pioneer Award from Asian Community Mental Health Services in Oakland, Calif.

## Gore Names Sandra S. King National Director for APA Outreach

Al Gore announced on Aug. 31 that Sandra S. King has joined the Gore/Lieberman 2000 campaign as national director for Asian and Pacific Islander American outreach. A native of American Samoa, King joins the campaign with extensive experience in policy development and outreach to Asian and Pacific Islander Americans.

"Sandra is a valuable addition to our team," Gore said. "Her leadership and legislative experience will be important assets. I am proud to have her assistance as we take on health care, education and other critical issues that will affect Asian and Pacific Islander Americans."

Prior to joining the campaign, King worked for the U.S. Department of Interior, where she served as the deputy director of the Office of Insular Affairs. She was the first and highest-ranking Pacific Islander American of Samoan heritage appointed to the administration.

King has also served as a professional staff member for U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye on the Senate Rules and Administration Committee and as a consultant for the Na-

tional Newspaper Association. In these roles, King focused on issues such as the environment, economic development, health and welfare.

An American citizen since 1991,

King holds a law degree from George Washington University School of Law, Washington, D.C., and is a graduate of Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles.

## Snake River Chapter Awards Scholarships



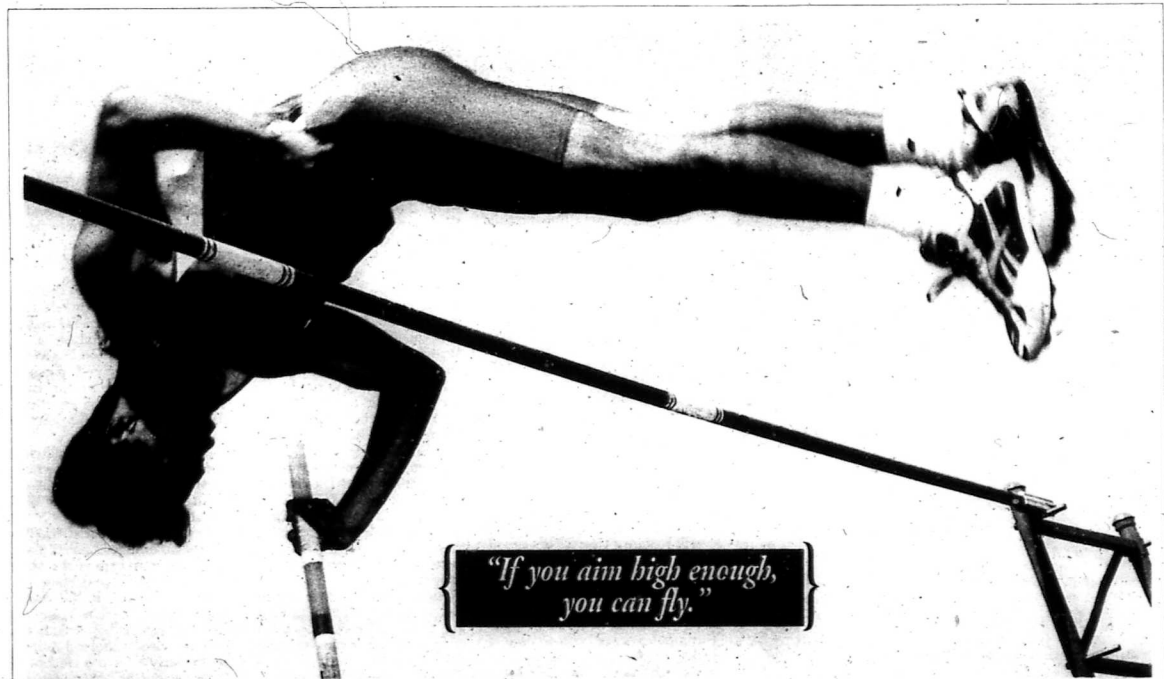
The Snake River chapter recently held its annual graduation banquet where high school students of Japanese descent were honored. The keynote speaker of the event was Lori Matsukawa, news anchor for KING 5 TV in Seattle. The scholarships and grants were funded by the Snake River chapter and the Idaho-Oregon Nihonjinai. An endowment was from Sig and Mizuko Mirakami. Eric Lantz and Joe Schaffer, both of Ontario, Ore., received \$2,000 scholarships. Two \$100 leadership grants were given to Randy Saito and Matt Kitamura of Nyssa, Ore. Pictured are (l-r): Lori Matsukawa of KING 5 TV, Joe Schaffer and Eric Lantz.

## Salt Lake Awards Scholarship



The Salt Lake JACL chapter held its annual scholarship dinner at Joe Morley's Restaurant in Midvale, Utah, recently. Scholarship Chair Kristi Ryujin awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Suzanne Haruko Itami, daughter of longtime JACLers Jeff and Linda Itami.

Itami, lifetime JACL member, is a 2000 honors graduate of Judge Memorial Catholic High School. She is a freshman majoring in chemical engineering in the Barrett Honors College at Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz. She is the 1998 JACL Min Yasui National Oratorical Contest winner. Pictured are Itami holding her scholarship certificate, along with Ryujin.



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## Lori Matsukawa to Keynote Nikkei Concerns' 25th Gala in Seattle

Lori Matsukawa, KING 5 news anchor, will be the keynote speaker at Nikkei Concerns' 25th anniversary celebration, "Richness From the Past — Strength for the Future," to be held at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center in downtown Seattle on Sept. 30.

Matsukawa, who has been recognized for her volunteer efforts in the Asian American community, was chosen as an Asian American Living Pioneer by the Northwest Asian Weekly Foundation in 1996. She has anchored KING 5 Morning News from 1988 to 1990, and from 1984 to 1990 Matsukawa also co-hosted "Celebrate the Differences," a weekly KING 5 minority affairs program. Matsukawa was originally hired in 1983 as a reporter for "The Story," a daily look at major local stories.

Matsukawa's professional awards include ARBY awards in 1987, 1989, 1992 and 1996 given by

the Academy of Religious Broadcasting, the Society of Professional Journalists' award for economic reporting in 1989, and the "American Scene Award" from the local chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences in 1986.

Nikkei Concerns is a non-profit organization which has developed a wide continuum of services, ranging from care for the Asian American elderly to day-care programs for children. Some of their operations include the Seattle Keiro skilled nursing facility, Kokoro-Kai adult day program, Nikkei Horizons' continuing education (senior educational, cultural and fitness programs), Nikkei Manor 50-unit assisted living facility and KIDCare (Keiro Intergenerational Day Care).

Cost for the dinner is \$60 per person, and reservations can be made by contacting Amy French at 206/726-6501 or e-mail to <amyf@nikkeiconcerns.org>.

## Congresswoman Mink to Address Fuji Festival

Congresswoman Patsy Takemoto Mink, D-Hawaii, will be the honored guest and keynote speaker at Fuji Festival to be held Sept. 30 at the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago.

The annual benefit dinner is presented by the Japanese American Service Committee (JASC) and is co-sponsored by the Asian American Bar Association of Greater Chicago, in conjunction with the Asian Pacific American Lawyers Midwest Regional Conference.

Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1965, Congresswoman Mink was the first Asian American woman to be elected to Congress. She is a long-standing member of the Congressional Committee on Education and the Workforce and on Government Reform. She serves on the Education Task Force, the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, the Congressional Caucus on Travel and Tourism, and the Bi-Partisan Working Group on Youth Violence. She is also a member of the Democratic Caucus and the Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus.

Jean Fujita, executive director of JASC, stated, "This is the 30th an-

nuual Fuji Festival and we are pleased to have this milestone event be co-sponsored by the Asian American Bar Association. Appropriately, the keynote speaker is one of the most prominent Asian American legislators holding office today."

JASC is a not-for-profit social services agency serving the aged, families and individuals in the JA, other Asian and non-Asian communities in Chicago and its suburbs. The organization was founded in 1946 to assist in the resettlement of newly released JAs who had been interned by the federal government during World War II.

JASC continues to provide comprehensive social services, such as adult day care, home care and counseling, as well as educational and cultural programming dedicated to preserving and promoting Japanese traditions, history, culture and the arts.

Fuji Festival is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$85 per person, \$50 for students, and \$75 for JASC members.

For ticket information, contact JASC at 773/275-7212.

## Asian Art Museum Presents 19th Asian American Jazz Festival

The Asian Art Museum and the Oakland Asian Cultural Center will serve as hosts to "Asian American Jazz 2000" — an innovative series of performances showcasing an all-star cast of musicians of many ethnic and musical backgrounds — from Sept. 22-24.

More than 15 artists (spanning three generations) will be featured in "Asian American Jazz 2000." Highlighting this year's event is the world premiere of "Wave Twisters" — the first hip-hop animated movie, featuring the sounds of DJ QBert, who will appear in person to introduce the film and to present a demonstration of his award-winning scratch skills. Among the other artists scheduled to perform at "Asian American Jazz 2000" are:

"Circle of Fire" (Mark Izu, Zakir Hussain, Suenobu Togi, Shonosuke Okura, Anthony Brown, Hafez Modirzadeh), Jon Jang, "Melody of China," and Francis Wong, among others.

The festival will conclude with a tribute to the late pianist/composer Glenn Horiuchi by Francis Wong and his group "Gathering



Circle of Fire, a diverse musical ensemble featuring (from left) Zakir Hussain, Mark Izu and Suenobu Togi, will be showcased in two performances at "Asian American Jazz 2000."

of Ancestors," and featuring guest artist William Roper on tuba. The ensemble, featuring longtime Horiuchi colleagues Wong and Roper, will perform a special arrangement of Horiuchi's signature composition, "Drew Drop." Also performing will be bassist/vocalist John Carlos Perea, percussionist Negmed-

din Shaheen, taiko drummer Melody Takata, vocalist/percussionist Donna Kwon, and Jeff Chan on woodwinds.

Tickets can be purchased in advance by calling 415/379-8879. For more information regarding the San Francisco schedule of events, please call 415/379-8879 or visit www.asianart.org.

## 'Imagine...' — The 2000 APEX-NAAAP National Convention

The Asian Professional Exchange (APEX) and the National Association of Asian Professionals (NAAAP) will be the hosts of "Imagine..." the 2000 APEX-NAAAP national convention, from Oct. 5-8 at the Hilton Universal City & Towers.

In its 14th year, the four-day event will feature panel discussions and workshops focusing on issues ranging from politics to culture to commerce. Participants will also attend the fourth annual APEX career fair, Southern California's largest Asian Pacific American career fair, and the "Ammy Awards," co-presented with aMedia.

The convention will focus on the "progressive individual," with professional and personal development panels and workshops catered to the young Asian American professional.

Topics include: "The Asian En-

trepreneurial Spirit: Blueprints for the Successful Start-up," "Economic Opportunities in Asia," "Media: Asian Americans Behind the Scenes," "Legislative Reform Update: How Far Have We Come?" "Asian Pop Culture," "Redefining Asian America," and much more.

Some speakers scheduled to appear include: Rosalind Chao, actress; Stephen Chao, president of programming/marketing-USA Networks; E. Fritz Friedman, senior v.p. worldwide publicity-Columbia Tristar Home Video; Lisa Ling, co-host of "The View"; Scott Sassa, West Coast president, NBC; Charlie Sie, Committee of 100; George Takei, actor; Martin Yan, chef of "Yan Can Cook"; and Jeff Yang, CEO, aMedia, Inc.

On the night of Oct. 6, convention participants will attend a star-studded VIP reception prior to the "Ammy Awards," co-presented with aMagazine: Inside Asian America, and developer of goOnline, the Asian American Digital

Network. Dustin Nguyen, star of the nationally syndicated television show "VIP," will be the master of ceremonies.

Nominees for this year's awards include actors Lucy Liu ("Ally McBeal"), Jackie Chan ("Shanghai Noon"), Jet Li ("Roméo Must Die"), Chow Yun-Fat ("Anna and the King"), Keanu Reeves ("The Matrix") and Bai Ling ("Anna and the King"). A full list of nominees can be found at www.aOnline.com.

Registration for the convention is \$179 for members and \$199 for non-members before Sept. 23. Earlybird and student discounts are available.

For more information, or to register for the 2000 APEX-NAAAP national convention, visit online at www.naaap.org or contact Helen Hua at helen@apex.org or call 626/285-3853. For sponsorship information, please contact Leonard Chen at leonard@apex.org or 626/359-8111 ext. 5283.

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Welina Houston, playwright

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East Wind

By Bill Marutani

Ohn-Gaeshi

IN MAY 1942, even as the war in the Pacific was raging, a meeting was held in Chicago which was to profoundly impact upon some 4,000 Nisei of college age who were confined in America's barbed-wire camps. From that meeting there emerged the "National Japanese American Student Relocation Council" ("NJASRC") a private entity receiving no government funding. I was among those thousands who were released ... in my case in the fall of '41 from Tule Lake, to attend a Methodist university in Mitchell, S.D., Dakota Wesleyan University ("DWU"). I later determined that some organization called the "American Friends Service Committee," said to be the service arm of the Quakers (of whom I knew little) was in the forefront in promoting the student relocation program. I was, and continue to be, grateful.

ULTIMATELY SOME DOZEN Nisei collegians came to DWU from the "relocation" camps. Having answered the military draft in '44, I did not get acquainted with all the Nisei students, but some names that I recall: Blanche Kimoto (Baler), Irene Matsumoto (Hoshiyama), Tom T. Samba, Oliver Takachi, Tsuyoshi Yamaguchi, Fumiko Yamashita, Akira Yokomichi, and

Minoru Yoshida. One and all, the Nisei students were received by the university officials and by the student body simply as just another fellow collegian. In a society particularly induced to despise anything Japanese, the DWU campus was an oasis of stability and what was good in America. The wartime campus experience did much to restore the Nisei collegians' faith in America.

AMONG CULTURAL VALUES handed down from our Issei parents to the Nisei generation is one known as *ohn-gaeshi* (entered as *ongaeishi* in the Japanese-English dictionary). It means requital or repayment for kindness received. Having been the beneficiaries of the NJASRC college resettlement program, a few Nisei folks who had settled in New England in 1980 established the "Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund," ("Commemorative Fund") to recognize and pay tribute to the earlier work of the NJASRC. The formation, application and management of the resulting Commemorative Fund were unique: the beneficiaries were not Nikkei but, rather, the youth from the refugee Southeast Asian communities throughout the United States. While academic performance may be one of the factors in selecting awardees, other factors — working to support

parents and/or siblings, the stresses of surviving in an unfamiliar milieu, etc., were also factored in. The administration of the program continues to be managed by volunteers so that the operative costs are kept at 5 percent, leaving 95 percent going to awardees. That's a margin ratio few charitable operations can match.

SINCE COMMENCING operations, the Commemorative Fund has awarded nearly \$210,000 in scholarships to some 290 Southeast Asian students. The program shifts its focus to different regions of the land both in terms of inviting applicants and conducting the awards program, often with local Nikkei involvement. Now in its 20th year of giving, the Commemorative Fund will be marking this milestone with a dinner to be held on Sept. 15 at the Westin Hotel in Waltham, Mass. The theme: "Commemorating the past, Educating for the Future: A Tribute to Those Who Helped." For further information: Jean Hibino at 781/674-0086 or Yutaka Kobayashi at 781/431-7087. Ohn-gaeshi. ■

After leaving the bench, Bill Marutani resumed practicing law in Philadelphia. His column appears regularly in the Pacific Citizen.

summer, when Orange County, Ind., took advantage of their new state law, State Rep. Jerry Denbo said, "We want to set the tone for the rest of the nation."

Japanese Americans, and other Asian Americans, must not be deceived. They will be directly affected by this threat to thousands upon thousands of Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus, and others in communities spread thinly across America. Think about it. Not all AAs live in California or ethnically diverse cities like Chicago or New York. What happens when there is only one Buddhist kid in a classroom? Or, he or she is the only one in the school? Or, maybe, the entire school district?

If not-JACL, who has the national organization, heritage and obligation to speak up for those who are shamed or harassed and deprived of their civil right to a faith of their own choosing, or none at all?

The intent of school prayer proponents seems clear: destroy the wall of separation between church and state brick by brick and, eventually, it will weaken enough for them to overturn the First Amendment.

The national council has now committed the JACL to actively join in the national effort to preserve the separation of church and state. It's time we got started. ■

Larry Schectman, a delegate to the 36th national convention, is president of the Chicago chapter who are the sponsors of Resolution No. 4.

just for kids but for people around the world. And the fact that he doesn't use weapons, the fact that he uses defense rather than offense, that's something that transcends cultural boundaries," Palmer said. Chan, who wowed American audiences in such blockbuster action flicks as "Rumble in the Bronx," "Supercop," and "Jackie Chan's First Strike," was Asia's biggest box-office attraction for over 20 years, often starring with friend and fighting partner Sammo Hung, of "Martial Law" fame. ■

BRATT (Continued from page 1)

that he has done to find as many people and to resolve as many problems," said Helen Kawagoe, immediate past national president of JACL and former Gila River internee. "We are indebted to his service for putting himself out there for us."

Gracye Ueyehara, who served in JACL's Washington office during the redress movement and is a former Rohwer internee, recalled Bratt as someone who always responded personally and was truly concerned about finding every eligible redress claimant.

"He was most generous with his time," recalled Ueyehara. "He came out and talked at JACL meetings and kept us informed as things happened. He really cared about our cause. ... I cannot say enough nice things about what he has done."

Tsuyako "Sox" Kitashima, community activist and former Topaz internee, commended Bratt for pursuing even the difficult special circumstance cases. As an example, Kitashima recalled a case where a Caucasian wife, married to a Nikkei man during World War II, had been initially denied redress. After Bratt pursued the matter, the Caucasian woman was able to receive redress, and the case set a precedent for about two dozen similar cases.

"Bob did everything possible under his power to get redress for people," said Kitashima. Kay Ochi, president of NCRR (Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress), said it had not been an easy task for the ORA staff to verify and make payments to more than 81,000 claimants.

"We were extremely fortunate to have had such a professional, intelligent and compassionate person as the first administrator of the redress payments," said Ochi. "NCRR has had the pleasure of working with Bob Bratt and the wonderful team he put together at the ORA for the past 10 years. Bob's leadership

and dedication were key to the ORA's success. Everyone who met Bob appreciated the individual attention and kindness he gave each person. He has endeared himself to an entire community."

When DOJ promoted Bratt out of the ORA office in 1992, the Nikkei community lobbied to have him continue working with the ORA in some capacity. The DOJ consented, and in 1994, Bratt was appointed as counsel to the ORA administrator.

As Bratt himself had often related in the past, he lobbied to work for the ORA because redress was a personal issue — his second cousin had been placed in a U.S. concentration camp during WWII.

As ORA's first administrator, Bratt set the tone for the office, and he and his staff, including Joanne Chiedi, who worked at the ORA for the full 10 years, went about locating as many people of Japanese ancestry who had been impacted by evacuation and incarceration.

Since the ORA office opened its doors in the days before the Internet, Bratt and his staff tackled their job by first setting up a toll-free 800 number within two weeks of the ORA's opening, and then embarked on conducting hundreds of workshops all across the United States. Researcher Jack Herzog fondly recalled his experiences.

"Until we were contacted by Bob Bratt's staff about meeting with him, we had had quite negative reactions to further contacts with any Justice Department officials," said Jack Herzog.

"However, since it was the Justice Department that was to be responsible for the implementation of the redress legislation, we felt obliged to do whatever we could to assist in the actual application of the law that the Japanese American community had worked so hard to see passed. So we agreed to meet with that Justice Department official, Bob Bratt. Bob Bratt is truly one of the great heroes of Japanese American history."

Long-time ORA colleague Lisa Vickers Johnson and her husband, Paul, hosted a going-away party for Bratt at their home on Aug. 11. ■

COMMENTARY

... In Law We Trust

By LARRY SCHECTMAN

The Fourth of July weekend was an appropriate time for the JACL to speak up for freedom of religion.

When the national council overwhelmingly adopted Resolution No. 4 — Religious Freedom for Minorities — they joined the struggle to defend the First Amendment edict to maintain a separation between the church and state.

Sadly, this battle has been going on for over 30 years without JACL. So, it's time we enlisted. As they say in the ol' bunkhouse, "Let's get goin', pardner — yer burnin' daylight."

In a July 15 editorial, the Chicago Tribune put the most recent skirmishes into perspective for us.

"If you thought for a moment — even for a moment of silence — that the Supreme Court's recent rejection of prayer in public high school football games put to rest the issue of religion in public schools, think again.

"In a new effort to make an end run around the Constitution, Colorado's Board of Education has voted to urge schools to post 'In God We Trust,' a motto on U.S. currency for more than a century. A few days earlier, a new Virginia law went into effect that mandates a daily moment of silence during which prayer is allowed,

although not required. "In both efforts, proponents of school prayer hope to achieve their goal of injecting religion into classrooms by stopping short of actually requiring religion in classrooms.

"Supporters say any injection of religious faith, no matter how modest, will boost character. Admirable as this goal may be, the government simply shouldn't be in the position of promoting one's religious belief over another's. Even moments of ostensible silence must be monitored to ensure religious neutrality.

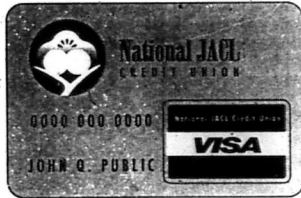
"Three federal appeals courts have ruled that 'In God We Trust' had been in use on coins for so long that the motto has lost any religious significance. But the religious significance long lost on coins would be dramatically restored when posted on a school-house wall. The right to shame, browbeat or harass individuals into submission to religious faith is not something that religious people should want. It certainly is not something the Constitution should, or does, protect."

Since the 1998 JACL national convention, 10 states have attempted to pass laws that allow posting of the Ten Commandments, along with other historical documents, in public buildings. Some have passed, some failed, some are still in the courts. And there will be more. This

that girls are looking for," she said. "We feel it reflects what today's generation is confronted with," Palmer added. "The U.S. is a melting pot these days, and [our program] are very representative of the different cultures.

"We have great faith in the series. Kids will be able to identify with it, and it has all the elements of turning into a long-term successful franchise," one which will hopefully meet and exceed the Pokémon phenomenon, he said. "Jackie serves as a role model not

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JACKIE CHAN

(Continued from page 1)

zero. "If you look at the WB's line-up this fall, there will be the first African American teen animated superhero. In 'Max Steele,' there's a lead Hispanic character. And in this series, Jackie is a perfect example of the high energy and adventure that boys are looking for, but also the heart and adventure



