

Pacific Citizen

Newsstand: 25¢

\$1.50 postpaid (U.S., Can.) / \$2.30 (Japan Air)

#2934/ Vol. 131, No. 15 ISSN: 0030-8579

National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)

SEPT 29-OCT 5, 2000

Sergeant Who Fought Racism in L.A. Sheriff's Dept. One of Seven Honorees at PSW District Dinner

Los Angeles Sheriff's Sgt. Brian Moriguchi, who won a four-year battle over a racist drawing posted in a Sheriff's Department substation, was one of seven honorees recognized at the JACL PSWD dinner on Sept. 16.

More than 400 turned out to the event, which was emceed by NBC-4 reporter Gordon Tokumatsu and held at the Torrance Marriott in Torrance, Calif.

Moriguchi's case this year prompted a number of civil rights organizations, including the PSWD JACL, to urge the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to implement a civilian panel to handle discrimination complaints within the Sheriff's Department.

er about money; it was about doing what he thought was right.

Moriguchi said he plans to remain with the department until retirement, even if this means never rising beyond the rank of sergeant. "I still have 20 years to go," said Moriguchi, 36. "But I felt it was worth it."

Moriguchi's attorneys, Harvey Horikawa and Thomas Ono, were also honored that night.

Other honorees included: Helen Kawagoe, immediate two-term past JACL national president and Carson city clerk since 1974. Kawagoe has been recognized in the Congressional Record as being the first Japanese American woman to be elected

Camaraderia Miyasaka - Japanese Cuban Nisei

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Translation by E. Carrillo

Like other Nisei during World War II, Francisco Shinichi Miyasaka, 61, was separated from his father after his father was taken away and incarcerated for simply being of Japanese descent. It's a familiar story, only it didn't happen

harder to provide for themselves and children.

Miyasaka noted that many Nikkei women, unable to continue their husbands' businesses, were forced to close down. Others struggled to survive by becoming seamstresses or by selling paper flowers at the market. His mother took a similar path, and Miyasaka, then a

now renamed Isla de la Juventud (Isle of Youth). The prison operated from 1942 to 1946, almost a full year after WWII ended, and Italians and Germans were also imprisoned along with the Japanese.

To share these stories and to promote better relations between the Cuban, Japanese and Japanese American communities, Miyasaka,



Japanese Cuban Francisco Shinichi Miyasaka, 61, holds up a photo of himself and other student militia standing in front of Lenin's bust during the 1960s Cuban Revolution.



Los Angeles Sheriff's Sgt. Brian Moriguchi speaks at the recent PSW District dinner where he was one of seven honorees.

partment.

Back in 1996, Moriguchi, a 15-year veteran, had lodged an internal complaint after seeing a caricature of an Asian face with slanted eyes, buck teeth, wearing wire-rim glasses and the words, "ah so" written next to it.

For reporting this, Moriguchi endured overt harassment such as having false misconduct charges made against him by superior officers, his locker searched without his consent, his computer files deleted, restrictions placed on his work schedule, his girlfriend followed by another officer in a marked vehicle, three tires slashed in an eight-day interval and verbal threats.

Moriguchi filed a lawsuit in 1998 after going through the proper channels failed to remedy the situation. Los Angeles County settled the case for \$138,000, but Moriguchi:

ed to municipal office on the mainland and is the first minority to be elected president of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

Col. Young O. Kim is the founding chairman of the 100th/442nd MIS World War II Memorial Foundation, which built the Go For Broke monument in downtown Los Angeles. During World War II, Kim earned two Purple Hearts serving with the 442nd. He also served in the Korean War, and after being wounded, Kim was decorated with a Silver Star, Bronze Star and a Legion of Merit.

Dr. Harry Kitano, professor emeritus of social welfare and sociology at UCLA, was recognized for his pioneering work in JA studies. The former Topaz internee became the first to receive an endowed chair in JA studies in 1990 and has written major works on Asian Pacific Americans. Miyo Senzaki, a longtime

in the United States; it occurred in Cuba.

But unlike the United States, only Issei men and Nisei men over the age of 21 were imprisoned. Nikkei women and children were not.

"I think what Cuba did at the time was much more cruel," said Miyasaka. "They suddenly took away the main breadwinner and forced the women to work even

4-year-old, pointed out that they could not have survived without the help of their friends.

"I can say the Japanese community is very grateful for all the help that their friends and neighbors gave us during the war," said Miyasaka.

At the time, the Nikkei men could do nothing to help their families since they were held captive on the Isla de Pinos (Isle of Pines),

president of the Asociación de La Colonia Japonesa de Cuba (Association of Japanese Cubans), recently made a week-long goodwill tour of California with the support of several JA organizations.

Among the sponsors of Miyasaka's tour were included: California State University Long Beach,

See MIYASAKA/ page 6

Interpretation Campaign Helps APIs Understand Health Care Rights

By TRACY UBA
Writer/Reporter

Imagine you are a recent Asian immigrant who speaks no English. You have a 6 a.m. appointment at the county hospital for an operation, one which you don't understand because the doctor explained it in a language you are unfamiliar with.

Then imagine, at that point, being turned away and told by a nurse you must find an interpreter. You, in a confused panic, run up and down the hallways searching for another Asian face — for someone who looks like they might be able to help you.

This was the dilemma faced by Mrs. Ngo*, a Vietnamese woman, and one of thousands of Asian and Pacific Islander immigrants who have been denied prompt health care as a result of not having access to an interpreter while seeking medical assistance in public facilities across the state of California.

In an effort to address this problem, community leaders, activists and state health officials recently convened at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles on Sept. 21 to launch the "Your Language, Your Health" campaign educating APIs with limited-English proficiency about their legal right to receive health care in their

own language.

"English is clearly the predominant language of the United States, but there are about 32 million national origin minority individuals who speak a language other than English at home. And these people face real barriers to accessing services," said Ira Pollack, regional director of the Department of Health and Human Services, Region IX Office for Civil Rights.

Although most APIs are unaware, health care providers are

required by law to offer free interpretation services to patients with limited English-speaking ability.

According to Pollack, new and existing federal and state legislation as well as the recent signing of an Executive Order by President Clinton on Aug. 11, ensures that limited-English speakers will not be refused health care, will not be delayed in receiving health care, will not be required to bring their own interpreters (including chil-

See HEALTH CARE/ page 6



Boonsong Suthilak, one of PALS' Thai clients, tearfully describes how difficult it has been for her to get medical help because she has not had access to an interpreter to help her communicate in English.

See DINNER/ page 6

Inside the P.C. Weekly

- Announcements,
- Calendar page 2
- National News 3-4
- Community News 5
- Legacy 6
- Obituaries,
- Letters 7

50106 12/31/00
BAY MICROFILM
SERIALS ACQUISITION
300 N ZEEB RD
ANN ARBOR MI 48106-1500

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: JACL National Headquarters, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115

Pacific Citizen

7 Cupania Circle, Monterey Park, CA 91755
Tel: 323/725-0083, 800/966-6157, Fax: 323/725-0084
E-mail: Pacot@aol.com

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

Special contributors: Patricia Arra, Allan Beekman, Toko Fujii, S. Ruth Y. Hashimoto, Bob Hirata, Ada Honda, Mike Iseri, Naomi Kashiwabara, Bill Kashiwagi, William Matsumoto, Elsu Masaoka, Fred Oshima, Ed Suguro, Mika Tanner, George Wajiki, Jem Lew

Publisher: Japanese American Citizens League (founded 1929) 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115, tel: 415/921-5225 fax: 415/931-4671
JACL President: Floyd Mori, **National Director:** John Tateishi
Pacific Citizen Board of Directors: Ken Inouye, chairperson; Paul Uye-hara, EDC; Hank Tanaka, MDC; Deborah Ikeda, CODC; Claire Omura, NCWNPDC; Elsie Taniguchi, PNWDC; Jeff Watanabe, IDC; Vacant, MPDC; Dani Uejima, PSWDC

NEWS/AD DEADLINE: FRIDAY BEFORE DATE OF ISSUE.
Editorials, news and the opinions expressed by columnists other than the national JACL president or national director do not necessarily reflect JACL policy. Events and products advertised in the Pacific Citizen do not carry the implicit endorsement of the JACL or this publication. We reserve the right to edit articles.

PACIFIC CITIZEN (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published weekly except once in December by the Japanese American Citizens League, 7 Cupania Circle, Monterey Park, CA 91755. OFFICE HOURS — Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Pacific Time, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Annual subscription rates: JACL MEMBERS: \$12 of the national dues provide one year on a one-per-household basis. NON-MEMBERS: 1 year—\$35, payable in advance; Additional postage per year—Foreign periodical rate \$25; First Class for U.S., Canada, Mexico: \$30; Airmail to Japan/Europe: \$60. (Subject to change without notice). Periodicals postage paid at Monterey Park, Calif., and at additional mailing offices.

Permission: No part of this publication may be reproduced without express permission of the publisher. Copying for other than personal or internal reference use without the express permission of P.C. is prohibited. MICROFILM (35mm) of annual issues is available from Bay Microfilm, Inc., 1115 E. Argus Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Pacific Citizen, c/o JACL National Headquarters, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115.

Change of Address

If you have moved, please send information to:

JACL Members

National JACL
1765 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94115
or
call membership at:
415/921-5225

Non-Members

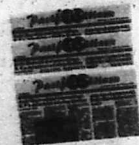
Pacific Citizen
7 Cupania Circle
Monterey Park, CA 91755
or
call circulation at:
800/966-6157

Allow 6 weeks for address changes

To avoid interruptions in receiving your P.C., please notify your postmaster to include periodicals in your change of address (USPS Form 3575).

P.C. Non-Member Readers

Get all the news and features from across the county



Subscribe to the Pacific Citizen
for only \$35 per year

Name: _____
Street: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____

All subscriptions payable in advance. For overseas subscribers, additional \$25 per year required for postage.
Check payable to: Pacific Citizen, 7 Cupania Circle, Monterey Park, CA 91755

Allow 6 weeks for new subscriptions to begin

JACL Calendar

National

Fri.-Sun., Oct. 6-8—National Board Meeting; San Francisco.

Midwest

DISTRICT COUNCIL
Fri.-Sun., Oct. 6-8—District Council Meeting; Milwaukee.

Pacific Northwest

DISTRICT COUNCIL
Sat., Oct. 21—District Council Meeting; Olympia; raffle drawing for fishing charter donated by Alaska chapter.

NC-WN-Pacific

DISTRICT COUNCIL
Sun., Nov. 5—Fourth Quarter District Board Meeting; Sonoma.
BERKELEY
Fri.-Sun., Oct. 27-29—JASEB/JACL L.A. Trip; Visit the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) the Getty Museum, etc. RSVP ASAP: Laura

Takeuchi, 510/848-3614, or Jim Duff, 510/559-8528.

FLORIDA

Sat., Oct. 21—Annual Scholarship Fund-raising Spaghetti Dinner/Bingo; see Community Calendar.

MONTREY

Wed., Oct. 11—Macy's Benefit Day Fund Raiser; 10-20% discounts, pre-shopping from Oct. 1; tickets \$10 from any board member.

SAN MATEO

Sun., Oct. 1—2000 San Mateo JACL Golf Tournament; see Community Calendar.

Central California

DISTRICT COUNCIL
Sun., Oct. 22—District Council Quarterly Meeting; United Japanese Christian Church, Clovis.

Pacific Southwest

ARIZONA
Sun., Oct. 22—Tribute Luncheon to Joe Allman; 12:30 p.m., Glendale Civic Center. Info: Michele Namba, 623/572-9913, Marilyn Inoshita Tang, 602/861-2638.

COMMUNITY Calendar

East Coast

NEW YORK

Through Dec. 22—Exhibit, "Assumed Identity"; Asian Pacific American Studies Institute, 269 Mercer St., Suite 609; explores issues related to being a Korean adoptee and an Asian American. Info: 212/992-9653, www.apa.nyu.edu.

PHILADELPHIA

Sat.-Sun., Oct. 7-8—Bonsai and Ikebana Display; Longwood Garden. Info: 620/388-1000.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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

Pacific Northwest

SEATTLE

Sat., Oct. 7—Annual Bazaar; 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church, 3001-24th Ave. South. Tickets: 206/723-1535.

Northern California

BAY AREA

Sun., Oct. 8—Nikkei Widowed Group Meeting; men and women welcome. Time, location: M. Kusaba, 415/333-5190, or Kay Yamamoto, 510/444-3911.

MOUNTAIN VIEW

Sat., Oct. 21—Mountain View Japanese American Elders' New Japan Luncheon; Michael's Restaurant, Shoreline Park. RSVP by Oct. 7: Kiyo Abe Niki, 650/948-4839.

OAKLAND

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

PALO ALTO

Sat., Sept. 30—Salmon Dinner; 5-8 p.m., St. Andrew's Methodist Church, 4111 Alma St.; "Kadakimasu" cookbook for sale. Tickets: 650/948-6806.

SACRAMENTO

Fri., Oct. 6—Jan Ken Po presentation: "Animal Symbolisms"; 7 p.m., Belle Coolidge Community Center, 5699 S. Land Park Dr. RSVP: 395/2589-9844.
Sat., Oct. 21—Spaghetti Dinner/Bingo; 5:30-7 p.m., Florin Buddhist Hall, 7235 Pritchard Rd. Tickets, Info: James Abe, 916/363-1520, or Bob Ueyama, 916/689-9610.

Thurs.-Sat., Sept. 28-30—Performance, "Rice Women," an evening of dance and music exploring the past

and present of being Asian, American and female; 8 p.m., Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St. at 17th. Tickets: 415/621-9496. Info: 510/891-9496.

Thurs., Oct. 26—NAATA (National Asian American Telecommunications Association) Gala 20th Anniversary Banquet; Yank Sing Restaurant, 101 Spear St., Rincón Center. RSVP by Oct. 5: 415/863-0814 ext. 113, e-mail: naatalet@naata.net.

Sat., Oct. 28—Topaz High School Reunion, classes of '43 and '44, and others who wish to attend; 2-10 p.m., JACNC, 1840 Sutter St.; teachers Eleanor Girard Sekaraki and Koji Kawaguchi and Kimi Fujii Kitayama will speak and will be honored; songs by Toru Saito, line dancing by Gil Chun. RSVP by Oct. 3: Mas Kawaguchi, 415/731-2658; Fumi Manabe Hayashi, 510/524-1048.

SAN MATEO

Sun., Oct. 1—2000 San Mateo JACL Golf Tournament; first tee-off 10 a.m., Poplar Creek Golf Course, 1700 Coyote Point Dr.; all levels welcome, tee prizes for all entrants. Info: Vince Asai, 650/349-3590.
Wed., Oct. 4—Visiting Nurses Association Fall Prevention Clinic; JACL Community Center, 415 Claremont St. Info: 650/343-2793.

Southern California

CAMARILLO

Sun., Oct. 8—Japanese Cultural Festival; 2-5 p.m., Camarillo Community Center, 1605 E. Burnley St.; Taisho Koto, Koshin Taiko, Toshindo ninja martial arts; children's activities, crafts; tea ceremony, ikebana, food tasting, more. Info: 805/655-5721.

LOS ANGELES

Fri.-Sun., Sept. 29-Oct. 1—Asian Festival at the Los Angeles County Fair; parade, workshops, games, food, arts and crafts, shopping, more. Discount tickets at East West Bank, Vision Laser Center, Marukai Market. Info: 626/279-7979.

Saturdays, Sept. 30-Nov. 4—Classes in Chinese Brush Painting; Pacific Asia Museum, 46 N. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena. RSVP: 626/449-2742 ext. 41.

Sun., Oct. 1—Authors on Asia Series: "Becoming Madame Mao" with Anthea Min; 2 p.m., Neighborhood Church Chapel, 301 N. Orange Grove Blvd., Pasadena. RSVP: Pacific Asia Museum, 626/449-2742 ext. 20.

Through Oct. 1—Great Leap presentation, "A Slice of Rice, Fríjoles and Greens"; 8 p.m., David Henry Hwang Theater, 120 N. Judge John Aiso St., Little Tokyo; Sat. & Sun. matinees also. Tickets: 310/264-6696. Info: www.greatleap.org.

Thurs., Oct. 5—Asian American Architects/Engineers Association Annual Awards Banquet, "Vision 2000 South-

RIVERSIDE

Fri., Oct. 13—Performance, Satori Daiko; 8 p.m., UC Riverside, University Theater. Tickets, Info: UCR Dept. of Music, 909/787-3245, or Professor/Deborah Wong, 909/787-3724.

Sat., Oct. 14—Potluck Luncheon, Program, "Sharing Nisei Veterans' Stories"; 12 noon, UC Riverside; Highlander Hall, Rm. 200, 1200 University Ave.

SANTA BARBARA

Sun., Oct. 8—Annual Japanese Community Barbecue; see Community Calendar.

VENTURA COUNTY

Sun., Oct. 8—Japanese Cultural Festival; see Community Calendar at Camarillo. ■

DEADLINE for Calendar is the Friday before date of issue, on a space-available basis.

Please provide the time and place of the event, and name and phone number (including area code) of a contact person.

ern California"; 6 p.m., Regal Biltmore Hotel, 506 S. Grand; keynote speaker Mayor Riorcan. RSVP: Virgil Acanan, 213/622-4848.

Fri., Oct. 6—Discussion of Veterans' Benefits; 12:30 p.m., Hollywood Senior Multipurpose Center, 3360 N. St. Andrews Pl.; lecture by a representative of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Q&A to follow. Info: 323/597-3900.

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 Fukajima, 310/323-9615; Shig. Rosie Okajima 559/875-3878.

Sat., Oct. 14—First JANM Junior Golf Day; 8:30 a.m., Dominguez Golf Course; ages 6-13; continental breakfast, lunch, dinner, instruction sessions, tee gifts, free museum visit. Info: Japanese American National Museum, 213/625-0414.

Sun., Oct. 22—Medal of Honor Luncheon, "Legendary Valor"; 11:30 a.m., Beverly Hills Hotel, 9876 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills; Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera and Sen. Daniel Iouye, speakers. RSVP: Info: Michelle Dojiri, 100/442/MISWWW Memorial Foundation, 310/715-3141, e-mail: Michelle@goforbroke.org.

Through Oct. 22—Play, "Ikebana," by Yellina Hasu Hounst; Pasadena Playhouse, 39 S. El Molino Ave., Pasadena. Info: www.pasadenaplayhouse.org. Tickets: 800/872-8997.

HUNTINGTON BEACH

Mon., Oct. 9—"Go For Broke" Golf Tournament; 9 a.m. registration, 11 a.m. shotgun start, Sea Cliff Country Club, 6501 Palm Ave.; breakfast, lunch, dinner, cart, range balls, golf shoes; hole-in-one prize, raffle, more. Info: Abe Tsuboi, 310/715-1700 ext. 15, or Jan Hirata, 310/715-3138.

SANTA BARBARA

Sun., Oct. 8—Japanese Community Barbecue; 12:30-4 p.m., Tucker's Grove, Kiwanis Meadows Area; Tickets, Info: Jane Uyesaka, 964-2209, Roxanne Nomura, 565-8854.

WEST COVINA

Sat., Oct. 7—Aki Matsuri; 11 a.m.-8 p.m., East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, 1203 W. Puente Ave. Info: 626/960-2566 or 626/337-9123.

Arizona - Nevada

LAS VEGAS

Sun., Oct. 15—Hawaiian Luau; Las Vegas Academy. Info: Betty Adkins, 702/221-0414.

Wed.-Thurs., April 4-5, 2001—Mindoka Reunion; Caesars Palace. Info, registration: c/o Tak Yokoyama, 100, 15537 32nd Ave. N.E., Seattle, WA 98155-6530, kmkawachi@hotmail.com. ■

JACL CHAPTERS!

Earn 30% commission by soliciting ads for the Pacific Citizen.

Your chapter can earn money throughout the year, not just during the holiday issue.

Call 800/966-6157 for details.

U.S. Government Enters Motion to Dismiss Japanese Latin American Lawsuit

Japanese Latin Americans who were kidnapped from their homes in Latin America by the U.S. government during World War II and imprisoned in the United States are still seeking justice in the courtroom, as plaintiffs in the *Shibayama v. USA* lawsuit filed their brief on Sept. 19 with the Court of Federal Claims.

The plaintiffs' brief comes in response to the government's motion to dismiss the case, in which the U.S. government denies kidnapping more than 2,200 Latin Americans of Japanese ancestry in a hostage exchange program for Americans being held by Japan. The U.S. government also refutes bringing the JLA's to the United States against their will, from countries with which it was not at war.

The plaintiffs in the lawsuit, the Shibayama brothers Isamu Carlos (Art), Kenichi Javier, and Takeshi Jorge, are seeking relief from having suffered violations of their civil and human rights by the U.S. government during WWII, when they were forcibly deported from their home in Peru and incarcerated in camp in Crystal City, Texas.

They have been denied an apology and \$20,000 in compensation

granted to Japanese Americans under the Civil Liberties Act (CLA) of 1988, because the government claims that they were "illegal aliens" at the time they were interned and therefore are ineligible for redress under the CLA.

The Shibayama brothers rejected the settlement agreement reached in the class action lawsuit filed in 1996, *Mochizuki v. USA*, which provided \$5,000 and an apology to JLA internees, and have filed their own lawsuit to seek a more equitable redress. In *Shibayama v. USA*, they are seeking not only redress compensation but remedies for redress equity as well, such as full disclosure of the facts, an apology which matches the United States' crime against humanity, a declaration of the false and improper "illegal alien" status and educational programming so that the American public will know about the crime committed against JLA's during WWII.

Karen Parker, attorney for the plaintiffs, expressed her outrage at the government's denial. "They are trying to say that Peru did it. But the U.S. government knows what really happened. They are attempting to revise history. They are trying to hide

the facts from the judge that it was the U.S. that went to Peru, the U.S. that took custody of them, U.S. boats that brought them to the U.S., and U.S. officials who held them under gunpoint to New Orleans and then on to Crystal City.

"The JLA's entered fully under the control of the U.S. How can they be illegal aliens? The U.S. took part in an ethnic cleansing scheme. What the U.S. did was a crime against humanity, the most serious violation of U.S. and international law."

Parker also stated that the government has spent well over the amount the Shibayama brothers are seeking in financial restitution in taxpayers' money to continue this court battle. "By refusing to admit the truth and denying the brothers even an apology and token reparations for the crime that they committed, the U.S. government has clearly shown that it has total contempt for these plaintiffs. The government is still continuing their violations to this very day."

With both the plaintiffs' and defendant's briefs submitted, presiding Judge Marian Blank Horn will now have to render her decision on the government's motion to dismiss the case. ■

Missing Al Gore E-Mails Detail Buddhist Temple Event

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vice President Al Gore's staff described an event he attended at a Buddhist temple as a fund-raiser, and an e-mail suggested he bring \$20 as "an offering," according to reconstructed White House computer messages turned over to Congress on Sept. 22.

The long-missing messages, provided to the House Government Reform Committee, chaired by Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind., also show that Gore's office was informed of an offer from a businessman to raise \$250,000 if a White House coffee were arranged with President Clinton.

The newly disclosed e-mails further support the assertion of Gore's political opponents that the temple event and the coffees, 21 of which had the vice president as host, were fund-raising events. The White House has always denied that they were fund-raisers.

Gore spokesman Jim Kennedy said the material in the e-mails contains "nothing of significance." Kennedy added that the Gore staffer who referred to the temple event as a fund-raiser was questioned about it in Congress three years ago.

Bush campaign spokeswoman Karen Hughes said the newly dis-

closed e-mail material is "yet another piece of evidence that calls into question the vice president's credibility when he says he didn't know that a fund-raising event was a fund-raising event."

The messages are some of more than 100,000 e-mails the White House never properly archived. As a result, they weren't reviewed to determine whether they should have been sent under subpoena to investigators on topics ranging from fund-raising to Whitewater and impeachment.

They were reconstructed recently from backup tapes and are being turned over to Congress. They were provided this summer to Independent Counsel Robert Ray and the Justice Department, which had subpoenaed them.

One e-mail urged the vice president to take \$20 on the trip to the Buddhist temple in California. "The VP will need to have some cash on hand (Ladon recommended \$20) to offer as an offering at the Buddhist temple in LA," the message said.

The e-mails show the Gore staff considered the April 1996 event at the Hsi Lai Buddhist temple near Los Angeles a fund-raiser. Gore originally claimed it was a community outreach. He later said he knew it was "donor-related." ■

Al, Tipper Gore Campaign in APA Communities

As part of an election campaign to reach out to Asian Pacific Americans, Vice President Al Gore and his wife, Tipper, have been stumping in the APA communities.

"The Asian and Pacific Islander American community has made our nation stronger, more diverse and more inclusive," said Gore. "As president, I will continue to support the issues and policies that strengthen and improve the quality of life for these communities. I will fight to widen the doors

of opportunities to all Americans."

Gore said he plans to use the nation's economic prosperity to benefit all Americans, not just a privileged few. Gore has pledged to ensure fair immigration policies and restore assistance to legal immigrants, make higher education more affordable, reduce taxes for working families, extend access to health care and secure retirement.

In addition, if elected president, Gore said he would work closely

with APA congressional leaders and make sure his administration reflects America's diversity.

Tipper Gore also rallied supporters in San Francisco last week. "Al and Joe have always been there for their families and they will always be there for yours," she said. "They have the values and vision to unite us all, and they have the experience to keep our nation strong and make the promise of hope, justice and opportunity ring true in all of our lives." ■

Matsui, Colleagues Ask Clinton to Investigate Wen Ho Lee Case

U.S. Rep. Robert T. Matsui sent a letter to President Clinton on Sept. 20, asking the president to inquire into the role played by U.S. agencies in the recent investigation and prosecution of Wen Ho Lee, the former Los Alamos scientist.

The letter was also signed by U.S. Reps. Patsy Mink, George Miller, Barney Frank,

Howard Berman, David Wu, Eddie Bernice Johnson and Anna Eshoo.

The letter read in part: "We ask that during your conversation [with the Attorney General] and in any ensuing discussions, you not limit the scope of your inquiries merely to the issue of bail, but rather, expand the dialogue to include the roles taken by each

federal agency and to deliver to Americans all of the relevant facts surrounding the past nine months. We also ask that you direct all agencies involved to take immediate action to assure their employees and all Americans that this fateful combination of security breaches and misdirected investigation will never happen again." ■

Nakano Appointed to Powerful Rules Committee

California state Assemblyman George Nakano was named to the powerful Assembly Rules Committee two weeks ago by Assembly Speaker Bob Hertzberg.

"I feel very honored," said Nakano, D-Torrance. "I look forward to providing the kind of leadership that the speaker is looking for."

Nakano's appointment propels the first-term assemblyman ahead of other newcomers, and places him in a committee with some of the state's most influential members such as Assembly Majority Leader Kevin Shelley, D-San Francisco, and

Assemblyman Fred Keeley, D-Santa Cruz.

The Rules Committee can make or break a bill since committee members decide which legislation is assigned to a committee for review. If the majority of the Rules Committee wishes to kill a bill or to punish a sponsoring member, the legislation may be given to a dead-end committee. This would also give Nakano an opportunity to push his bills.

Although unassuming, Nakano caught the attention of his fellow colleagues his freshman year when he chaired a fiscal subcommittee which screened

the budget requests of more than 162 state agencies.

Through Nakano's efforts on the fiscal subcommittee, Nakano also supported funding for key Japanese American projects such as the 100th/442nd MIS World War II Memorial Foundation, the Manzanar Park Foundation and the Sadao Munemori Memorial interchange sign.

Nakano, one of two Asian Americans in the California legislature, represents the state's 53rd Assembly district, which stretches from Venice in the north, southward along the coast to the cities of Torrance and Palos Verdes Estates. ■

Robert Bratt to Appear Before Second Hearing on Oct. 5

Robert K. Bratt, the first Department of Justice's Office of Redress administrator, has been called to appear before a second House Judiciary Committee hearing on Oct. 5.

Bratt, who recently retired from the DOJ, appeared at a Sept. 21 House Judiciary Committee hearing where a report issued by the DOJ's inspector general was discussed. The 414-

page report, titled "An Investigation of Misconduct and Mismanagement at ICITAP, OPDAT, and the Criminal Division's Office of Administration," can be accessed through the Internet.

Concerns raised in the report focus on lax national security similar to allegations made in the Wen Ho Lee and John Deutch cases, but the information allegedly mishandled by

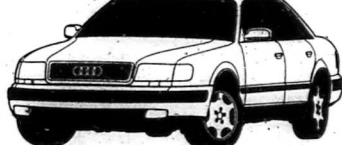
DOJ officials is far less significant than nuclear weapons blueprints or defense data.

In addition to Bratt, other DOJ officials named in the report are Janice Strommen, ICITAP (International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program) former director; Joseph Trincello, former associate director; and Cary Hovner, special assistant to Strommen. ■

NEW OR USED CAR LOANS



* OAC. DOES NOT INCLUDE: TAXES, LICENSE, EXTENDED WARRANTIES



OTHER CU LOANS

Signature Loans	Share Secured	Other Secured
12.9% apr	6.5% apr	12.5% apr

CREDIT UNION SERVICES

Federally insured savings to \$100,000 by NCUA.
VISA Credit Cards 12.9% apr, 25 day grace, no annual fee
Telephone Teller 24 hr. 800 498-5225, local 363-5225
Share Drafts Available now!
Term Share Certificate Rates (Call for current rate)
IRA Retirement Accounts, tied to 1/4% below T-Bill rates
Auto pricing & Kelley Blue Book information
Notary Public service / Travellers checks

*Eligibility and Membership Required.

Join the National JACL Credit Union. Call, fax or mail the information below. We will send membership information.

NAME
ADDRESS/CITY/STATE/ZIP

NAME

ADDRESS/CITY/STATE/ZIP

NAME

ADDRESS/CITY/STATE/ZIP

NAME

ADDRESS/CITY/STATE/ZIP

NAME

ADDRESS/CITY/STATE/ZIP

NAME

ADDRESS/CITY/STATE/ZIP



National JACL
CREDIT UNION

Toll free 800 544-8828, local 801 355-8049, Fax 801 521-2101

Web site: www.jaclcu.org / Email: jaclcu@jaclcu.org / PO 7121 / SL, Utah 84110

By Pacific Citizen Staff
and Associated Press

Police Probe Swastikas, Hate Slogans

NORWICH, Vt.—Police are investigating what residents say is the latest in a series of recent vandalism episodes involving the spray-painting of swastikas and hate slogans.

Black swastikas were spray-painted on a sidewalk along Main Street Sept. 8, while another swastika was painted on a traffic sign near the fire station as well as a message reading, "Hitler is God." Kathy Parsonnet, who is Jewish and a resident of Main Street, said it is the third such incident she has been aware of in the past several weeks. Three weeks ago, Parsonnet said, she came home from vacation to find the mail-in her mailbox had been burned and a green swastika painted on the sidewalk.

Police say they believe the vandals are children or teenagers.

Barnes & Noble, ADL Launch Anti-hate Campaign

WESTPORT, Conn.—Barnes & Noble customers across the country will soon see a special section filled with books on diversity, tolerance and multiculturalism.

The book store chain is teaming up with the Anti-Defamation League in a joint program aimed at fighting racism and bigotry. Communities chosen to unveil the "Close the Book on Hate" program this week include Westport, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York City and Washington, D.C.

The centerpiece of the program is ADL's new book, "Hate Hurts," a guide for adults and children on how to deal with bias and how to encourage appreciation of cultural differences.

More than 500 Barnes & Noble stores nationwide will set up special diversity sections or displays and will also hold story hours for children and bring in guest speakers to talk about diversity.

"We're going to be reading to children, talking to children and having authors speak to send the message that hate has no home anywhere in the United States," said Steven Sheinberg, associate director of the Connecticut regional of

fice of the ADL.

Study Shows Minorities Doubling in Economic Clout

ATHENS, Ga.—Buying power among Asian Americans, blacks and American Indians has nearly doubled over an 11-year period, a University of Georgia study shows.

Disposable income from the three racial groups is projected to rise from \$439.9 billion in 1990 to \$860.6 billion in 2001, an increase of more than 95 percent, according to the recently-released study.

Buying power for Hispanics was projected to more than double, rising from \$207.5 billion to more than \$452 billion over the 11 years.

Asian Americans led the way among the four minority groups, with buying power jumping from about \$113 billion in 1990 to a projected \$254 billion next year, an increase of nearly 125 percent.

The study looked at the amount of money minorities have to spend after taxes.

Jeffrey Humphries, director of the university's Selig Center for Economic Growth, said the data are key for small businesses, which still can tap into the growth of minority markets. Large corporations have wisely been researching minority buying trends and pursuing minorities' disposable incomes for years, he said.

Community to Hold Fund-raiser for Asian Women's Shelter

SACRAMENTO—Community groups are rallying to build Sacramento's first shelter for battered Asian women and children at a fund-raiser Sept. 27.

The shelter, called My Sister's House, is being developed by Asian Resources, Inc., which has been serving Sacramento families since 1980.

The shelter planning team's goal is to raise \$200,000 to match a commitment from the California Endowment for the same amount by Spring 2001.

Among supporters of My Sister's House are the Sacramento Asian-Pacific Chamber of Commerce, Asian Peace Officers Association,

CAPITAL and the Asian Bar Association of Sacramento.

My Sister's House will provide a safe haven for Asian victims of domestic abuse. Services to be provided, most of which are unique to the diverse Asian population, will include translation and interpretation, legal and INS advocacy, income/employment advocacy, citizenship assistance, link to ESL classes, bilingual support counseling, housing assistance, adult child care and parenting support.

For information, or to make a donation, contact Carole Ching at 916/454-1892 or admin@asianresources.org, 5709 Stockton Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95824.

Federal Judge Dismisses Slave Labor Cases

SAN FRANCISCO—Surviving World War II prisoners of war who allege they were used as slave laborers by some of Japan's biggest corporations cannot seek compensation from the companies, a federal judge ruled Sept. 21.

In dismissing lawsuits brought by about three dozen former POWs, U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker ruled that a 1951 peace agreement between the United States and Japan bans such compensation claims.

California became a magnet for such cases last year when the legislature enacted a law allowing victims of slave labor to sue multinational corporations.

Lester Tenney, a former POW who said he spent three years in a slave labor camp toiling in a dangerous coal mine, said after Walker's ruling that all he wanted was an apology, not money.

"I want them to say to me that we did you wrong," said Tenney, an 80-year-old Army veteran.

Attorneys for the targeted corporations — Mitsubishi Corp., Mitsui & Co., Nippon Steel Corp., Nippon Sharyo Ltd., Japan Energy Corp., Ishihara Sangyo Kaisha Ltd. and others — agreed with Walker's ruling that the treaty essentially settled any American disputes with Japan.

The former prisoners' attorneys

demand a rehearing, which Walker granted and scheduled for Dec. 13. But judges rarely reverse their own opinions.

JA Policeman Beats Leukemia

HONOLULU—A Honolulu police officer has overcome his battle with leukemia and is preparing to return to his home in Hawaii.

Capt. Alvin Nishimura has spent the past five months at a Southern California hospital, where he received a bone marrow transplant in May.

The search for a donor was delayed after two people with perfect matches declined to follow through. Finally, a third donor was found.

Nishimura, a 27-year veteran of the Honolulu Police Department, was due to arrive back in Hawaii on Sept. 17, the day before his 51st birthday.

"He has a new lease on life. It's the best present you can have," said his wife, Cynthia Yip.

"I feel so blessed," Nishimura said. "I see a lot of people at the City of Hope (hospital) looking for donors... I was really lucky to find one."

Richardson Offers Support of Justice's Handling of Lee Case

WASHINGTON—Energy Secretary Bill Richardson offered support Sept. 24 for the Justice Department's handling of the Wen Ho Lee case, rejecting a judge's claim that the department "embarrassed our nation."

Richardson said he had been concerned about the treatment that the former scientist at the federal nuclear weapons laboratory in Los Alamos, N.M., received during more than nine months of solitary confinement.

But he said he "fully" supports the Justice Department's pursuit of the main objective — finding out what happened to missing classi-

fied tapes. "Confinement, shackles — I wouldn't have done that. But there's no question that I think the deal is good, because it would enable us to get what happened with that very, very sensitive, classified information," Richardson said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Though concerned about Lee's civil rights, Richardson said, "I support the decision of the Justice Department that leads us to hopefully recover whatever happened to those tapes."

Lee faced 58 felony charges that accused the scientist of illegally downloading nuclear secrets from secure Energy Department computers. The 60-year-old Lee went free on Sept. 13 after pleading guilty to one felony of mishandling weapons secrets.

Lee placed sensitive information on portable computer tapes, some of which are now missing. Under the plea agreement, Lee agreed to tell the government what he did with the tapes.

U.S. District Judge James Parker criticized the Justice Department for keeping Lee in custody so long, saying Lee's detention "embarrassed our entire nation."

President Clinton said the length of detention "just can't be justified." Attorney General Janet Reno has asked for an internal review of the case, the White House said Friday.

Lee had been under investigation since 1996 after U.S. intelligence obtained a Chinese document suggesting that China had obtained details about the W-88, a multiwarhead weapon. He was never charged with espionage.

Asked if he thought Lee was a spy, Richardson said, "That is something the legal process will determine."

Richardson added that while security has been improved at Los Alamos, "we still need to do better." But he said he does not want to go too far.

"There's been a little bit of morale problems there because of excessive security," he said. "We have to alter the balance now to ensure that our productive science, national security work goes on at the labs."



National Business and Professional Directory

Pacific Citizen

Get a head start in business

Your business card in each issue for 24 issues is \$15 per line, three-line minimum. Larger type (12 pt) counts as two lines. Logo same as line rate as required. PC has made no determination that the businesses listed in this directory are licensed by proper government authority.

Greater Los Angeles

ASAHI TRAVEL

BUSINESS & LEISURE TRAVEL FOR GROUPS, FAMILIES & INDIVIDUALS. PACKAGES TO: THAILAND, CHINA, HAWAII, YOKOHAMA & LAMARCA SERVICE. 1543 W. Olympic Blvd., #317, L.A. 90015

Dr. Darlyne Fujimoto, Optometrist & Associates

A Professional Corporation
11430 E. Sunset St., Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90011
(310) 860-1539

Santa Clara County, Calif.

Debbie Yukiko Shin
Ron Sakaguchi

Sterling Associates Realty

Real Estate & Loans

Serving Silicon Valley

Since 1977

408-865-0782

UWAJIMAYA

...Always in good taste.



For the Best of Everything Asian
Fresh Produce, Meat,
Seafood and Groceries
A vast selection of Gift Ware

Seattle, WA • (206) 624-6248

Bellevue, WA • (425) 747-9012

Beaverton, OR • (503) 643-4512

Call 1-800-966-6157

to Advertise

WORLD PREMIERE!

BY VELINA HASU HOUSTON

STARRING (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)
JUNE ANGELA DANA LEE
LINA PATEL FRANCISCO DIANA
GEDE WATANABE

DIRECTED BY SHIRLEY JO FINNEY

NOW THROUGH
OCTOBER 22, 2000

"Set in post WWII Tokyo (circa 1957), *Ikebana* focuses on four people (three men, one woman) who are leading structured lives until a beautiful, mysterious stranger comes into their midst and throws their lives into chaos. Each becomes obsessed with her in different kinds of ways. *Ikebana* explores the healing power of female friendship, the poison of obsession and how it can lead people to risk their entire lives."

-Velina Houston, Playwright



PASADENA PLAYHOUSE

FOR TICKETS CALL TOLL FREE 800-233-3123

700+ Attend Tulalake Reunion

By TOKO FUJII

More than 700 ex-Tuleans and their families gathered in Sacramento on Sept. 8 and 9 to enjoy what was probably the last Tulalake reunion in Sacramento. (There is talk that another gathering might be held in the North-west in the next few years.)

Tulalake Reunion 2000 started on Friday evening with a gala mixer in the Grand Ballroom of the DoubleTree Hotel. Blackie Mayeda and his original "Downbeat" band, which originated in Tulalake in the early 40s, played nostalgic numbers from the war years.

Saturday was the busiest day. The local tour covered Old Town, Folsom, Gekkeikan Sake Factory and the state Capitol. Also featured that afternoon was a selection of Japanese American documentary videos, shown through the courtesy of Channel 6 KVIE of Sacramento, a PBS station.

The sayonara dinner, held on Saturday night, was attended by more than 650 registrants. Keynote speaker for the evening was Irene Hirano, president and CEO of the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles.

les.

Hirano described the beginnings of the museum and its development into a world-class facility in 15 years. She also described the many exhibits and publicized the exhibits currently available for viewing. As only about 20 percent of those in attendance had actually been to the museum, she invited everyone to plan a trip to Los Angeles to enjoy the museum's new 85,000-square-foot pavilion.

Cherry Tsutsumida, executive director of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation in Washington, D.C., addressed the dinner guests to thank them for their contributions to the fund drive which resulted in the creation of the Memorial to Patriotism in the nation's Capitol, which will be dedicated Nov. 9.

"The Family Boys," a quartet of singing Samoan performers, gave a 30-minute concert. Also on the program was a play, "We The People," based on the autobiography of Mary Tsukamoto and enacted by 30 members of the local Jan Ken Po Gakko, a summer school designed to teach Nikkei children and friends Japanese culture.

The two-day reunion ended with dancing to the tunes of the Downbeats and to the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

Helping Chair Tum Okubo organize the reunion were Yoshioka Sanbongi, booklet; Joe Kataoka and Yosh Ishihara, computer support; Mary Fong, dinner; Mary Tsugawa and Teiko Matsuo, hospitality; Kuni Hironaka and Sam Maeda, mixer; April Adachi and Sally Yamaichi, morning coffee and rolls; Deki Seto, out-of-town coordinator; Howard and Ruby Matsuhara, printing and tickets; Toko Fujii, publicity; Alice Yagi, registration; Evelyn and Jack Akiyama, Kaye and Kiyo Kato, Machiko Kimura, Eiko Kurimoto, April Adachi, Sally Yamaichi, Richi Fuwa, Irene Hoshiko, Haru Maeda, Alice Kataoka, and Howard and Ruby Matsuhara, registration desk; Terry and Angel Kagiya, Reno tour; Abu Guilday, Rita Yuke and Kiyo Kato, Sacramento city tour; Jean Yego, secretary; George Makimoto and Kanji Nishijima, souvenirs; Riichi Fuwa, Tim Yoshimiya and Tum Fujimoto, support; and Toyoko Nakatogawa, treasurer. ■

Oral History Training Offered to Church Groups on Oct. 25

Churches interested in developing oral history projects are invited to a training session Oct. 25 at the JEMS office located in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

Retired Nisei Ministers, under the aegis of the Nisei Ministerial Association and motivated by a need to preserve Japanese American Christian history, urges churches to begin history projects and welcomes them to attend the training meeting.

The group has invited the Rev. Heihachiro Takarabe, pastor of El Estero Presbyterian Church in Monterey, Calif., to offer the training session. He has 30 years of experience, having been the founder of the Issei Oral History Project in 1969. At that time as pastor of the Parkview Presbyterian Church in Sacramento, he interviewed a few Issei in his congregation. He then took his idea of collecting life histories of Japanese immigrants to the Japanese Presbyterian Conference, which endorsed his idea.

Two California State University, Sacramento, professors helped Takarabe develop techniques and

questions for interviewing, and the pastor conducted the majority of the interviews in Japanese.

The project produced three books in English. The first was "Issei Christians," followed by "The Issei: Portrait of a Pioneer," which was translated into Japanese by the Book Division of Yomiuri Shinbun in Japan, and the final was "Issei Women: Echoes From Another Frontier."

The Rev. Paul Nakamura, pastor of the Oriental Lutheran Church and president of the Nisei ministers group, is spearheading the move to urge churches to collect and keep historic materials. Oral interviews of Issei and Nisei leaders of churches are an important way to record the heritage of churches in the United States, he said.

The oral history training session will be held at 10 a.m. in the JEMS office, 948 East Second St., Los Angeles. A call indicating an interest in attending would be appreciated. The phone number is 213/613-0022. Inquiries may also be made to Ted Tajima: 626/797-6382. ■

David Mas Masumoto to Speak at 51st CCDC Banquet on Nov. 3

Author David Mas Masumoto, recipient of CCDC's Next Generation Award, will be the guest speaker at the 51st CCDC installation banquet on Friday, Nov. 3, from 6 p.m. at Pardini's Banquet in Fresno.

Masumoto, an organic peach and grape farmer from Del Rey, Calif., is known for his writings about farm life in central California. He has received the James Clavell Japanese American National Literacy Award

and a Breadloaf Writer's Conference fellowship.

Masumoto will be sharing stories from his three books: "Country Voices," "Epitaph for a Peach" and "Harvest Son."

Joining Masumoto will be his wife Marcy; jazz musician Larry Honda, and a taiko trio that will include daughter Nikiko, Gary Sakaki-Wong, and Richard Ishimaru.

The evening will also include the installation of CCDC's

2001-2002 district and chapter officers, a raffle and a silent auction.

The CCDC includes ten chapters from Livingston-Merced to Delano.

Tickets for the dinner are \$35 for adults; \$20 for youth and college students. Tickets must be reserved by Nov. 1. For more information, call the CCDC office at 559/486-6815 or e-mail <JACLCCrc@aol.com>. ■

Illinois Judge Sandra Otaka Sworn In



Judge Sandra Otaka is sworn in as Cook County circuit judge by Chief Judge Donald O'Connell. Otaka is the first Asian American to be appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court. (L-R): O'Connell; Otaka; State Sen. Lisa Madigan; Illinois Supreme Court Judge Michael Bilandic; Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives Michael Madigan.

"If you aim high enough,
you can fly."

As part of a national track and field team, Joe competed in international championships around the world. Competition like that teaches you a lot about setting goals in order to win. California Bank & Trust is striving to raise the bar to create California's best banking relationships. With over \$6 billion in assets, more than 70 offices, and state-of-the-art banking, we offer products and services that others just can't seem to reach. Call us today. We can help you make the jump into your next business venture.

RAISE THE BAR™

CALIFORNIA BANK
TRUST

Corporate Banking • Cash Management • Trust Services • International Banking • Online Banking • Financing Solutions
www.calbanktrust.com 1-800-355-0502

MEMBER FDIC • PREFERRED SBA LENDER



HEALTH CARE

(Continued from page 1)

dren, family members or friends) and will not receive health care they cannot understand.

"One thing I'd like to emphasize is that... if you have a patient that comes in and you can't communicate with that patient, and you can't determine what type of services are necessary, not only is the patient at risk of receiving improper treatment but you have [liability] issues as far as the services that your facility is giving," he said.

The Region IX Office for Civil Rights is an investigative agency which responds to complaints and non-compliance of these laws in the states of California, Hawaii, Arizona and Nevada.

Pacific Asian Language Outreach and Ad Campaign

As part of the effort to make linguistically appropriate care accessible to APis, Pacific Asian Language Services (PALS), a non-profit, community-based agency which offers low to no-cost medical interpretation to clients, introduced their outreach and ad campaign.

According to Program Director Heng Foong, the PALS for Health program is taking a two-pronged approach, making limited English speaking APis aware of their interpretation rights while, at the same time, educating health care professionals and agencies on how to be more culturally sensitive towards their patients.

Foong reported that "two-thirds of our clients have either been sent away, delayed here or have had to use children — some as young as six — friends or complete strangers as interpreters."

"Many have signed consent forms without understanding a word, and equally as many have ingested medication without understanding dosage or side effects," she said.

To help alleviate communication barriers, PALS developed "I Speak" language identification cards, which read "Your Attention Please! The person holding this card needs an interpreter."

The cards, which are available in Cambodian, Chinese, Korean, Thai, and Vietnamese, show English on one side and the appropriate Asian language on the other. "Limited English-proficient health consumers who speak these Asian languages will be able to carry them with them to hand over to registration staff persons at hospitals. It helps identify what language or dialect that you speak, and it also reminds providers of their legal obligation to offer interpreters to that particular client," said Foong.

In addition to medical interpretation services, the PALS program offers written translation services to APis, breast health workshops

and cultural training for health and social service providers interested in facilitating more effective provider/client communication.

PALS partner organizations include the Cambodian Association of America, Chinatown Service Center, Health Consumer Center of Los Angeles, Korean Health Education, Information & Research, Korean Resource Center, Thai Community Development Center, Union of Pan Asian Communities and the Vietnamese Community of Orange County.

The PALS campaign is being funded by The California Endowment, with additional sponsorship from the Health Consumer Center of San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Legal Services.

The Endowment's Communities-First program provides grants to community-developed projects that are focused on three areas: health care, health and well-being and multicultural health.

The California Endowment is the state's largest health foundation, formed in 1996 to address the needs of underserved individuals, families and communities seeking affordable, quality health care. To date, the endowment has awarded grants totaling more than \$479 million to over 1,000 community-based organizations in California.

API Clients Fear Retaliation

Boonsong Suthilak, a Thai woman, tearfully described through a translator how difficult it was for her to even get to a health care facility, let alone receive medical treatment.

Suthilak said she must remember the buildings and count the number of signs to identify the correct bus stop that will take her and her friends to the hospital. Sometimes they clip ads from restaurants they've been to that are located in the same vicinity in order to show cab drivers where they want to go.

Even calling the PALS office for help has been a difficult barrier, Suthilak said. "It takes them more than two years to be able to speak more about what they need or request an interpreter. Some still doesn't [sic] want to talk," she stated through her translator Waraporn "Nid" Tiaprasith.

Foong said that several other API clients in addition to Suthilak were scheduled to give testimonials at the press conference, but cancelled the night prior. "The clients were supposed to speak in person," she said, "but they feared retaliation and feared that health care providers would give them substandard care."

Elizabeth Nguyen, a former medical interpreter and currently the program manager at PALS, said she spoke to two of those clients who, at the last minute, had serious second thoughts about speaking up.

"By the time we talked," Nguyen said, "it was like, 'I would like to

talk. I know it can help everyone, but the fact is that my child is still undergoing treatment at the hospital and you're treating me that we're not mentioning any hospitals, but I'm still very afraid. People will be there. Everyone will hear my story. Before you know it, everyone will be pointing fingers at me, telling me to go back to my country.'"

Nguyen described experiences of other patients she has interpreted for, including a teenage girl who didn't understand a medical form and mistakenly checked "yes" down a long list of diseases.

"Being in the field everyday, I've had a lot of opportunities for observations," she said. "What I see most is that language needs to start not at the point of encounter between the patient and the doctor, but much earlier... the first call to make an appointment or the first time a patient walks into a facility and meets with the receptionist. That's when they need help."

"These people don't know how to get healthcare. They don't have insurance," said Foong, of PALS' mainly low-income, new immigrant clientele. "We tell them how to maneuver within the health care system, really focusing on their rights to go in there and get an interpreter or to find a trained interpreter before they even go in."

Foong acknowledged that it will be a difficult task because many APIs are uncomfortable with speaking up, even if they know it is their right. "That's why we meet with hospitals to let them know that they have to expect this. They really need to meet in the middle where these people come in. So we're working both ends, educating both the consumers and the providers."

Educating the providers may prove to be an equally difficult task, but through training Foong hopes county health officials will become more aware of and sensitive to the cultural issues of their patients. "We have spoken to agencies and health care providers that say, 'Why don't they learn some English?' Well, many are enrolled in ESL classes but unfortunately still find themselves at a great disadvantage when confronted with medical terminology."

PALS is currently working with their Central and Northern California counterparts on a medical interpreter training program scheduled to begin in Spring 2001. Prospective PALS interpreters will be screened and trained in health-related terminology, assisting mainly in the delivery of information between client and health care provider.

For more information or for interpretation services, contact PALS for Health at 213/553-1818 (Los Angeles) or 714/530-1750 (Garden Grove). A multilingual line is also available at 800/228-8886 or 213/614-1761. E-mail PALS at palshlth@earthlink.net. ■

*First name has been changed to protect her identity

CCLPEP Grant Awarded to Animated Children's Film Project on WWII Incarceration

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.

Four years ago, independent filmmaker and researcher Seai Morijiro O'Gara received a call from an elementary school teacher who asked if he knew of any broadcast films or videos intended for children that treated the subject of the incarceration of Japanese Americans in internment camps during World War II.

To the teacher's disappointment, O'Gara, who had just organized a 50-year camp film retrospective in San Francisco, replied that for the very young, he could think of few if any.

"I told her that of the interesting pieces I had seen through the years, few had made it to television. Documentaries seem to dominate the field of what one sees broadcast, and most of the producers of these works rarely see children as their primary audience. To have children watch these camps documentaries, which incidentally, form a stylistic point of view, are rather bland, would seem not all

that helpful."

One year from now, O'Gara hopes he can give a future caller a different answer. The avant-garde filmmaker has received a grant from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP) from the California State Library to produce an animated children's film on the subject of the Japanese American camp experience, to be broadcast-ready next May.

Titled "Kaoru's Bark," the 35mm motion picture tells the story of a young girl in camp named Kaoru who expresses her dreams of freedom through her wood-carvings. The wood she uses for her art comes from the bark she collects from the camp life.

"I am thrilled and thankful to CCLPEP to have the opportunity

to tell this story, which is based on a number of oral histories I have collected through California over the years," said O'Gara.

"Kaoru's Bark" will be the first in a trilogy of stop-motion animated Japanese American films known collectively as "The Kikkie Animated Children's Film Project." Part Two, "The Bear Upstairs," a multimillion-dollar short feature, takes place decades later with a different set of characters, although there is an interesting familial tie to the first film. Part Three, "In the Rockies," remains still in the early stages of development.

"With strong art direction and inventive story telling, I hope 'Kaoru's Bark' will treat the complexity of the camp period in United States history in a manner that children can respond to. I think adults might find the piece of interest as well." ■



Classified Ads

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

JAPAN OPENS

International Bio-health Company expanding to Japan. Need 3 sharp, motivated individuals to lead our team. Free-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Call 1-888-2-GET-275 or e-mail: gold@winning.com

Are you trying to sell your house, car, or new product? Advertise in the Pacific Citizen today. Call 800/966-6157.

雑貨

インターネットで高収入!
日本で最初のビジネスパートナーになりませんか。
経験者、初心者、主婦、学生、必ず実働でお問い合わせ下さい。
電話: +1-802-527-9601
Eメール: aris@together.net

EMPLOYMENT

ASSOCIATE WATER RESOURCES ENGINEER

West Basin & Central MWD seeks an engineering prof. with at least 2 yrs exp. to assist in the engineering design and project management for the development of potable and recycled water treatment, storage and distribution facilities. Possess EIT cert., univ. civil eng. degree and excellent written & verbal communication skills. Sal. range: \$45,048-\$54,900 DOQ; resumes w/current sal. min. 3 refs to: S. Westra, WBCBMWD (PC) 17140 S. Avalon Blvd., Carson, CA 90746. EOE.

CITY ENGINEER \$65,352-\$83,400

The City of Carson is seeking an experienced engineering professional to fill the new position of City Engineer. Requires Bach. degree in engineering or related field and 7 yrs. prof. experience. Public sector exp. highly desirable. CA P.E. registration required. Apply by November 2, 2000 to: City of Carson, Human Resources, 701 E. Carson St., Carson, CA 90745. (310) 952-1736 Fax: (310) 930-2471.

ENGINEER, ASSISTANT MANAGER

West Basin & Central MWD seeks a senior level engineer professional with 8 years experience to oversee and coordinate the implementation of the districts' capital improvement programs. Possess 5 years+ of project supervision/mgmt., PE cert. civil eng. degree and excellent written & verbal communication skills. Sal. mg. \$80,892-\$98,568 DOQ. Resume w/current salary, min. 3 refs to: WBCBMWD, S. Westra (PC) 17140 S. Avalon Blvd., Carson, CA 90746. EOE.

This space could be yours. Classified and display ad space is available. Call 800/966-6157 for more information.

Legacy



By Ryan Chin, V.P. Public Affairs

Min Tsubota

"To somehow help the Japanese American community," responded Min Tsubota when asked why he originally joined the JACL. However, this statement could be applied to many of the contributions Tsubota made throughout his lifetime, not only his JACL involvement.

One of Tsubota's first major contributions to the community was to serve as a member of the 442nd Regimental Central Postal Directory. Despite being wounded by some shrapnel while fighting, he remained a part of the most decorated Army regiment in United States history. Fighting with fellow Nisei in the 442nd, Tsubota helped rescue the Lost Texas Battalion in France, and also freed people from the Dachau Concentration Camp.

Upon his return from World War II, Tsubota volunteered in

the JA community, eventually becoming the Seattle chapter president. In 1960, he helped with the movement to revoke Washington State's Alien Land Law. That same year, he would start one of Seattle's JA traditions, the Nisei Queen Contest.

The contest, which Tsubota calls one of his greatest JACL accomplishments, still goes on today.

— 40 years later. Upon returning from the war, he felt it was important to be recognized "down town," where all the city's power lay. In his opinion, the best way to attain the attention of Seattleites was to actively participate in Seafair, Seattle's summertime celebration.



The fact that the Seattle chapter only had \$13 in the bank did not deter Tsubota from becoming a part of Seattle's annual festivities. In order to raise money, the Seattle chapter had to put on fundraisers, such as movie nights at one of the Buddhist Churches.

The hard work paid off as the chapter earned enough money to put on the Nisei Queen Contest and also enter a float in the Seafair's Torchlight Parade. Not only has his project a public relations success, as the float won the first place prize for seven straight years, but the contest also has become a part of JA tradition in Seattle.

Tsubota's feats won him not only local praise, but worldly praise.

Before Emperor Hirohito passed away, the consul general awarded Tsubota with the Emperor's Award. ■

Letters to the Editor

Japanese or American?

Instead of asking, "What did the JACL do during World War II?" we should explore, "Why did the JACL, an organization committed to the civil rights of Americans of Japanese Ancestry (AJA), urge cooperation with the government that was violating these rights?" The usual answer is that they were kowtowing to government officials to prove that they were 100 percent loyal Americans. But there is more to this.

In "Years of Infamy," Michi Weglyn describes the propaganda campaign then waged by anti-Japanese segments on the West Coast to foment distrust and animosity toward AJAs. The propaganda mill was conduced by President Franklin Roosevelt, Secretary of War Stimson and Secretary of the Navy Knox, who actively conspired to bypass Attorney General Biddle to develop ways to circumvent the constitutional rights of AJAs.

President Roosevelt also had strategic reasons, since his contingency plan included using AJAs and Latin Americans to negotiate the release of American prisoners of war held by the Japanese. When Gen. John DeWitt made his infamous pronouncement, "A Jap is a Jap," it only confirmed what America already believed: AJAs could not be trusted.

Given this hostile environment, it is credible to conclude that JACL leaders wanted to create in the minds of the American public a distinction between AJAs and the Japanese. They proposed high-profile undertakings for maximum public relations impact, including a proposal to form a suicide battalion. In their zealousness, they included such activities as informing on their fellow Nisei and supporting segregation of the so-called "disloyals," activities for which they are deservedly being criticized.

Regarding the suicide battalion, Weglyn writes: "In a desperate last-ditch effort to halt the mass uprooting, Nisei leaders proposed the formation of a volunteer suicide battalion, with parents as hostages to insure their good behavior. Just one opportunity to demonstrate the depth of Nisei integrity, implored Mike Masaoaka."

A more charitable viewpoint would say JACL leaders were doing what they thought was within their limitations to protect the rights of AJAs. They urged peaceful compliance with Executive Order 9066 only after all else had failed. However, much as we deplore some of JACL's proposals, they deserve credit for having had the courage to make those calls.

What JACL leaders did not anticipate was that efforts to differentiate AJAs from the Japanese would give a wedge among the Nisei, Kibei and Issei, and have a profound psychological impact on the Nisei psyche.

The question facing the Nisei was: "Are you American or are you Japanese?" Divisiveness arose among the Nisei because the question was interpreted to be one of loyalty when, in fact, it was a question of identity.

Separating themselves from the Japanese meant the Nisei were severing themselves from their roots. Since they had been disenfranchised by the Ameri-

can government, they were, in effect, left without an identity.

Nisei reacted to this situation in various ways. Some turned against the JACL. Others volunteered for military service, and the exemplary performance in combat served to meet the Nisei's need to re-establish their self-identity as Americans.

On the other hand, the draft resisters and other dissenters maintained their integrity as both Japanese and Americans to the point where they could stand up for their rights as Americans. For them, the question was not of identity but of rights.

I agree with Chizu Omori, who wrote in the *Nichi Bei Times*, Aug. 15 edition: "The choices to be made were hard ones, particularly the one presented in 1943 when young men were asked to volunteer and then in 1944-45 when they were drafted. However they dealt with this choice, under the circumstances, none was right and none was wrong."

I fervently hope these comments will open a few minds to the possibility that JACL leaders and Nisei veterans were not the obsequious, self-serving Uncle Toms they are sometimes portrayed to be, and that the draft resisters were not the draft dodgers and traitors they are made out to be.

Finally, I want to acknowledge Dr. George Tsukuda, a social worker with whom I have spent hours discussing these issues. His insights have enabled me to see the possibilities beyond the obvious and superficial.

Katsumi Hikido
Campbell, Calif.

Wen Ho Lee's Case Appalling

I am responding to the Los Alamos scientist Wen Ho Lee's case. Like all concerned Americans, I followed the case unfolding in the media.

When it was announced Lee may be released on bail, it appeared this could be a classic case of misunderstanding of East and West cultural differences.

This feeling was reinforced by Attorney General Janet Reno's public statement defending the Justice Department's conduct. Reno is quoted as saying: "Mr. Lee must look to himself. ... If he had explained why ... he could have been freed."

This conveys the message that his manner should have been upfront, candid, the American way!

Lee, a native of Taiwan, arrived in the United States an Asian gentleman, highly intelligent in his chosen field of science, with a mantle of courteous (passive) manners, not in-your-face-hard-hitting-aggression.

Lee, caught up in a worsening situation, stoically endured so as not to rudely add to the spectacle while trusting his supporters, lawyers and ultimately the United States justice system to prevail.

Kay Shinomura
Stockton, Calif.

80-20 Doesn't Speak for All APAs

It was shocking to us that

the 33 delegates to the 80/20 Initiative claimed to represent all Asian Pacific American voters, but it was not surprising that such a group would endorse Al Gore for president.

The 33 delegates to the 80/20 Initiative claim to represent all APA voters, but it is unclear to us how these delegates were nominated or elected, the regions that the delegates claim to represent, how such regions were determined or the process by which the delegates determined their endorsement. Beyond these fundamental questions is the issue of whether 33 delegates (the number was supposedly limited to 11 each from the Democratic, Independent and Republican communities) can represent a community as diverse as the APA voter community.

We were completely unaware of the 80/20 Initiative's existence before reading about it in an earlier article in the *Los Angeles Times* and are saddened by the attempt by a group of government elites to usurp the voice of the APA voter community. It is particularly tragic that the 80/20 Initiative relies on outdated, race-based slogans to label such a diverse APA community as one that has or should have a single-minded viewpoint.

Perhaps the 80/20 Initiative's failure to establish their legitimacy was the reason that only "junior" representatives of the presidential campaigns appeared before them. In any case, the 80/20 Initiative is its own strongest opponent. No organization formed without open and wide participation by their community can possibly have any legitimate voice for that community.

Al Gore's vision of the federal government controlling individual health care decisions, controlling local education and attacking business holds opportunity for those who want power to control people's lives by government regulation but does little to help those of us outside of government. We will vote for George W. Bush in the fall because his programs will increase opportunity for all individuals, not just those who want power to control people's lives through government regulation.

Gary Hayakawa
Roger Minamori
Eric Nishizawa
via e-mail

Pacific Citizen

7 Cupanina Circle
Monterey Park, CA 91755-7406
fax: 323/725-0054

e-mail: paccit@aol.com

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

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

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

Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Akazawa, Tetsuyoshi (Bob), 86, Gardena, Sept. 8; Seattle-born; survived by wife Kiyomi; son Ray and wife Crystal; daughters Sally Sumie Akazawa, Jennifer Akazawa, Nicole Wakayama; brother Minoru and wife Yoneko; brothers-in-law Frank Mizote and wife Keiko, Tom Mizote; sister-in-law Misae Ueda.

This compilation appears on a space-available basis at no cost. Printed obituaries from your 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.

Akira, Yaeko Yamashina, 84, Laguna Niguel, Sept. 17; survived by son Donald and wife Karen; daughters Joan MacFarlane and husband Alex, Donna Kondo and husband Dennis, Jeanne Sugano and husband Takashi; 7 gc; sister Fuki Oka and husband Harry; predeceased by husband Ben Y.

Fujiyama, Yoshiko, 78, Gardena, Sept. 6; Seattle-born; survived by husband Raymond; son Gary and wife Sharon; daughters Cathy Erickson (New Jersey), Dawn Fujiyama, Lisa Shimabukuro and husband Scott (Fresno), Joni Fujiyama; 5 gc; brothers Tats Obuyama and wife Lorraine (Las Vegas), Kaz Nobuyama and wife Evelyn (Chicago); sisters Haruko Tsutsumi and Punchy Hamaishi and husband Yasuo (all Seattle), Eiko Iida, Sue Kambe and husband Victor.

Iwata, Betty Mariko, 69, Los Angeles, Sept. 7; Philippines-born; survived by sons Stephen and wife Candace; 1 gc; brothers Chuichi Miyahira and wife Kiyoko, Naohichi Miyahira and wife Yasuko, Harukazu Miyahira and wife Kikuko; sister Haruko Miyahira; brothers-in-law Tom Iwata and wife Florence, Jerry Iwata and wife Kayoko; sisters-in-law Carol Iwata, Michie Uyeno and husband Albert.

Kariyama, Makin, 82, Gardena, Sept. 10; Anaheim-born; survived by wife Suzuyee; son Glen Kenshi; daughters June Masuye Kariyama, Naomi Kikuye Kariyama; brothers Takeshi and wife Chiyo, Tomoyuki; sister Hanako Matsuo.

Makuta, Hideko, 79, Santa Monica, Sept. 1; survived by husband Frank K.; sons Bob and wife Kimi, Ben, Jim and wife Ronni; sister-in-law Fuyuno Ikeda.

Noguni, Kusky (a.k.a. Kosuke), 77, Alhambra, Sept. 10; Peru-born resident of Little Tokyo Towers; survived by daughters June and Naomi Noguni.

Sakamoto, Calvin K., 85, Palo Alto; California-born longtime resident of Palo Alto; WWII Army veteran; survived by wife Misao; daughters Carla Gordon and husband Stuart, Maile Sakamoto; son Lyle Sakamoto and wife Christy; 2 gc; sisters Gladys Inouye and Toki Okusu.

Santo, John Teruo, 73, San Jose, Sept. 8; San Jose-born; Heart Mountain internee; U.S. Army veteran; longtime J.A.C. community basketball coach and dance instructor; survived by wife Dorothy; sons Bruce, Keith; daughter-in-law Lucy; 2 gc; brother Earl; predeceased by parents Seizo and Taka, brothers Jim, Herman and Roy.

Tagashira, George R., 80, Long Beach, Sept. 8; California-born, survived by sons Rocky, Roger and wife Norma, Bruce and wife Monava; daughters Nancy N. Yokoe and husband Glen, Joyce A. Tagashira; 11 gc; 1 gc; brother-in-law Isamu S. Seito;

sisters-in-law Yoshiko Ninomiya, Sadako Furuta, Mary Sachiko Miura.

Une, Anson Duke Mitsuko, 48, Carson, Sept. 11; survived by mother Mitsuko Une; brothers Michael, Myron; sister Joyce Ines.

Wada, Kay Fuyumi, 78, Santa Clara, Aug. 31; El Centro-born; survived by husband James Kengo, sister Satsuko Nakagawa and husband Bud; sister-in-law Alice Hayashi and husband James; brother-in-law Harry Wada and wife Carol.

Watanabe, Iwao "Popsie", 83, Walnut, Sept. 7; Van Nuys-born; survived by wife Helen; sons Robert and wife Catherine, Michael and wife Pamela (Colorado); daughter Susan Fujimoto and husband Norman; 8 gc; brother Mas; sisters Kiyoko Omura, Helen Setoguchi, Emi Nishida and husband Koshi, Fumi Terakawa and husband Sasuke; brother-in-law Ed Ito and wife Jennie (Colorado); sisters-in-law Sachiko Watanabe, Lucy Iha and husband Robert.

Yamasaka, Annie Kiyoko, 63, Gardena, Sept. 9; Hawaii-born; survived by husband Robert T.; sons Steven and wife Laverne, Gary, Wayne and wife Lori; brothers and sisters in Hawaii: Hide Asato and wife Alice, Yoshio Asato and wife Harriet, Akio Asato and wife Margaret, Sumio Asato and wife Kay, Masaru Asato and wife Helen, Alice Yamaguchi, Esther Hashimoto and husband Robert; brother-in-law Craig Yamasaka and wife Gayle and mother-in-law Fumi Yamasaka (also Hawaii).

Yatabe, Anna, 78, Oxnard, Sept. 10; Seattle-born; survived by daughter Barbara Yatabe (San Francisco); son Michael Yatabe and wife Beverly (Clovis); 1 gc; son-in-law David Siemsen (Gardena); sisters Ruth Toyama (Los Angeles), Lily Okimoto and husband Charles (Waimanalo, Hawaii); brothers Ken Onodera and wife Joan (Montebello), Ray Onodera and wife Mieke (Morrero Park); predeceased by husband Akira and daughter Carol Siemsen.

Yokoe, Gard, 87, West Los Angeles, Sept. 7, Colorado-born; survived by wife Kay; daughters Jo-Dell Arai and husband Moto-mi, Stephanie Phelps and husband James; 5 gc, 8 gc; brothers Haruo and wife Himeko, Tom and wife Mable, Kaneco and Yukio and wife Julie (Lincoln).

Yoshizaki, Frank Minoru, 86, Los Angeles, Aug. 28 service; survived by sisters Helen Terasawa, Vera Aoki (New Jersey), Dorothy Shibayama, Sue Wong.

DEATH NOTICE

NOBORU OSHIGE

CULVER CITY, Calif.—Noboru Oshige, 85, passed away Sept. 2. Mr. Oshige was born in Stockton. Funeral services were held Sept. 9 at Hampa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. He is survived by his wife, Teruko Oshige; son, Tadashi Oshige; daughters, Setsuko (Koji) Otaki, Tomiko (Chris) Matthews and Harumi (George) Yamaoka; six grandchildren; brother, John Yoshikuni (Mary) Oshige; brothers-in-law, Takashi (Theodore) Maeda and Takashi Maeda; sister-in-law, Hatsuami (Louisa) Moore; and many nieces and nephews.



Serving the Community
for Over 40 Years

KUBOTA NIKKEI MORTUARY

911 VENICE BLVD.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90015

(213) 749-1449

FAX (213) 749-0265

R. Hayamizu, President
H. Suzuki, VP/Gen. Mgr.

Japanese Cuban Nisei Miyasaka Speaks in L.A.

(Continued from page 1)

JACL PSWD Civil Rights Caucus, Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California, Japanese American National Museum, Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress, and UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

Japanese in Cuba

Miyasaka is one of an estimated 1,100 Cuban Japanese living on the island nation today. Miyasaka noted that due to intermarriage, some Cubans of Japanese descent no longer have Japanese surnames, while others choose to retain their Japanese surname although it may not be officially registered with the government.

In 1998, the Cuban Japanese community held a centennial celebration to recognize the first recorded arrival of the Japanese on Nov. 9, 1898. It is believed that early Japanese immigrants made their way to Cuba via Peru, Brazil or Mexico. The largest influx of Japanese to Cuba occurred between 1915 and 1928, said Miyasaka, whose father was a part of that wave. Miyasaka's father, Kanji Miyasaka, came to Cuba on April 1, 1924.

Miyasaka's mother, Kesano Machida Miyasaka, arrived in 1938, and Miyasaka is the only child born to his parents, from Nagano, Japan. He was born in Camaguey province, now renamed Ciego de Avila.

Similar to the way that early Japanese were recruited to Hawaii, the Issei came to Cuba as contract laborers to work the sugarcane fields, said Miyasaka. But many Issei soon found their way to the Isla de Pinos where Americans were running a growing grapefruit business. As a result, when WWII broke out, it was convenient for the Cuban government to incarcerate the Japanese on the Isla de Pinos.

Like the United States, Cuba had its share of anti-Japanese sentiment, but Miyasaka believes much of it was fanned by the United States. He recalled watching a number of American-made movies that depicted the Japanese in a negative light.

"I saw many American movies showing the Japanese as evil people," recalled Miyasaka. "Many of us, including myself, believed that the Japanese were bad people who killed their prisoners without mercy."

As the war hysteria reached fever pitch, many Japanese families disposed of Japan-related items for fear of being accused of being Japanese spies. Miyasaka said they gathered their family photographs and mementos, and asked a neighbor to take care of them on a temporary basis. The neighbor, however, ended up burning everything.

The impact that WWII had on the Cuban Japanese community is similar to what occurred in the United States. The Nisei had little interest in perpetuating the Japanese culture or language, and the community became highly dispersed.

Once Miyasaka's father was released from prison in 1946, his family moved to Havana, where his father found a job as a live-in gardener for a wealthy businessman. This businessman, Miyasaka said, was known for his generosity and had helped build several schools throughout Cuba. He even funded Miyasaka's high school education.

Since Miyasaka showed great potential, the businessman also offered to pay for Miyasaka's college education and urged him to apply to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston. For most Cubans or even Americans, this would be a dream offer, but Miyasaka declined because he felt MIT's admission policy was too elitist and discriminatory.

"I didn't agree with their policies," he said.

Cuban Revolution
Throughout modern Cuban his-

tory, the United States has been involved in Cuban governmental and economic affairs. When Wall Street crashed in 1929, Cuba, whose economy largely depended on the sugar trade with the United States, also underwent an economic crisis, causing the price of sugar to drop from 2.18 cents per pound to an all-time low of 0.57 cents per pound.

In 1933, the economic downturn and political unrest gave rise to the "Revolt of the Sergeants." Although the revolt was led by Gen. Fulgencio Batista, it was Ramon Grau San Martin and Antonio Guiteras who took over the reins of a short-lived 100-day government which became known for engineering radical changes such as setting up an eight-hour work day, opening the university to the poor, granting women the right to vote, reducing the electric rate, and allowing peasants to own the land they farmed.

The Grau-Guiteras government was taken over by Batista, who had the backing of the U.S. government. Then, in a ping-pong struggle for power, Grau regained power when he was elected president in 1944, but Batista, in a bloodless coup, again took over in 1952 and canceled an upcoming general election. That same year, the United States recognized the Batista government.

The following year, in 1953, Fidel Castro began a revolutionary movement which quickly spread throughout Cuba.

It was at this juncture that Miyasaka came of age.

Since anti-Batista demonstrations had temporarily closed down the University of Havana, Miyasaka enrolled in a nearby Catholic university in 1957. His stay at the university was short-lived when he and a majority of the students walked out in protest after the university director refused to allow the Cuban national anthem to be sung at a national holiday event on campus.

As the revolution went into full swing, rebel forces took over the property of the businessman for whom Miyasaka's father worked and whose property the Miyasaka family lived on. The businessman fled the country; the Miyasakas escaped to the mountains.

When a measure of normalcy was restored, Miyasaka returned to Havana and entered the reopened University of Havana as a business major.

Miyasaka was soon swept up by the student movement and began passing out anti-Batista pamphlets, which ultimately led to his participation in the student militia.

"Quite a few Nisei were in the militia," said Miyasaka.

In January 1959, revolutionary forces took over Havana, and Batista fled the country. In November, university students, including Miyasaka, staged an armed march through Havana, an event which still overwhelms Miyasaka when he recounts it today.

Later, Miyasaka, along with

other student militia, was invited to train with Castro's army at his mountain headquarters in Sierra Maestra. The following year, in 1960, Castro again invited the student militia, and Miyasaka — said he was responsible for overseeing 200 student militia. About five months later the student militia went out to combat a growing contingent of anti-Castro forces, part of which was backed by the U.S. government.

"The idea of killing was not easy to accept," said Miyasaka. "I was very afraid."

Post Revolution

By 1961 Castro was solidifying his power, and Miyasaka, then 22 and trilingual in Spanish, Japanese and English, was asked by the Cuban government to work in the Cuban embassy in Tokyo.

Miyasaka's Tokyo assignment lasted four years, during which time he married a Japanese national and had two children. He has since separated from his first wife and is currently married to a Cuban woman with whom he has had two more children.

During Miyasaka's Japan stint, the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962 captured worldwide headlines. He noted that the Japanese, victims of the first atomic bombs used in warfare, were "very worried" over the situation.

With a little prodding, Miyasaka shared his personal views about the incident. "I think Cuba felt menaced by America," said Miyasaka. "We had the right to defend ourselves. It's that simple. According to the information I received from my friends, I am convinced that this was right."

Cuban Japanese Today

Since the early Japanese immigrants had ties to Isla de Pinos, Cuban Japanese today make their way to the island and hold an annual obon ceremony on Aug. 15. But unlike the obon in Japan or the United States, the Cuban Japanese do not have bon odori (bon dances). Instead, the Cuban obon includes the sharing of Japanese foods, martial art exhibitions, participation by the Japanese ambassador and a ceremony in the Japanese section of the local cemetery.

As president of Asociacion de La Colonia Japonesa de Cuba, Miyasaka hopes the organization can help Cuban Japanese to reclaim their history and culture and even assist those who have lost contact with relatives in Japan. In addition, Miyasaka hopes to strengthen ties with people of Japanese descent in the United States and Latin America. He is currently vice president of the Havana office of Nishio Hwai, a Japanese trading company. ■

PSW District Honors Seven at Annual Dinner

(Continued from page 1)

JACLer from Pasadena, Calif., was saluted for her grassroots fight for redress. The former Rower internee has spoken on dozens of panels at schools and churches, and has also appeared on radio and national television to educate the public about the internment of JAs.

Keynote speaker Michael Yamaki, who serves as the appointment secretary for California Gov. Gray Davis, issued a

challenge for APAs to get involved in politics, regardless of whether those plans entail seeking public office.

"In the political realm, we want aggressive people," said Yamaki. "Quit being so stiff. When you go home tonight, encourage your kids to go for it. Quit being so stingy with the praise."

Yamaki closed by encouraging everyone, regardless of party affiliation, to be registered voters. ■



Photo Courtesy of Jun Nagata, Rialto Shippo

Back row (l-r): JACL National President Floyd Mori, JACL PSWD District Gov. Craig Oski, NBC-4 reporter Gordon Tokumatsu, attorney Harvey Horikawa, LASD Sgt. Brian Morichugi, attorney Thomas Ono, and dinner Co-Chairs Cate Kuniyoshi and Jon Kaji.

Front row (l-r): Col. Young O. Kim, Helen Kawagoe, Myo Senzaki, Dr. Harry Kitano, Mike Yamaki and JACL PSWD Regional Director Beth Au.

This space could be yours
Advertise in the Pacific Citizen today
Call 800/966-6157



KOKUSAI-PACIFICA
2000 TOURS

- Fall Japan Classic - Uraiboshi, Okinawa, Kyushu & Shikoku - SOLD OUT
- Oct 09 Hokkaido/Tohoku - 11 Days - 24 Meals - \$3995 - Sapporo, Sounkyo Shirai Aino, Noboribetsu, Hakodate, Aomori, Towada, Hachiman, Matsumoto, Sendai & Tokyo. **ALMOST SOLD OUT**
- Nov 08 Japanese American Memorial Dedication in Washington DC 5-Day/Flight \$945 + Reception \$50, Banquet \$125 & Registration \$75 = \$250. DC Tour: White House, Capitol, Smithsonian, Arlington, Mt. Vernon & Memorial Ceremonies. **ALMOST SOLD OUT**
- Nov 12 7-Day Ext. - Williamsburg, Monticello, Gettysburg, Lancaster, Pennsylvania Dutch Country, Philadelphia & New York - \$1099.
- Nov 24 Orient Deluxe "Viet Nam Cruise" - 15-Day - 29 Meals - \$3695 - Hong Kong, Viet Nam Cruise, Singapore, Malaysia Cruise & Bangkok.

2001 TOURS

- Feb 05 Japan Snow Festival - 9-Day - All Meals - \$2995 - Sapporo Festival, Shikoku Winter Festival - Eastern Hokkaido-Lake Saroma-Ohtohk Sea Ice Floe Festival - Noboribetsu Spa - Tokyo.
- Mar 26 Tokai Onsen Tour #4 - 9 Days - All Meals - \$2995 - Tokyo, Izu, Kanazawa, Suwa, Nagano & Lake Kawaguchi.
- Apr 02 Spring Classic "Cherry Blossom" - 11 Days - 23 Meals - \$3095 - Tokyo, Takayama, Nara, Hiroshima, Tsurano, Shodo & Kyoto.
- Apr 16 Japan by Train #1 "Far Corners of Japan" 25 Meals - \$3595 - Tokyo, Kobe, Karatsu, Takahashi, Atami, Atsumi & Hiroaki.
- Apr 25 China Deluxe with "Yangtze Cruise" 13 Days - All Meals - \$3295 - Tokyo, Beijing, Xian, Yangtze River Cruise & Shanghai.
- May 17 Europe Classic "2 Days in Each City" 14 Days - 24 Meals - \$3495 - Rome, Florence, Venice, Lucerne, Paris & London.
- May 30 South of France River Cruise + Paris - 11 Days - 23 Meals - \$3295 - Paris+7-day South of France River Cruise - Saone & Rhone Rivers.
- Jun 16 America #2-14 Days 28 Meals-\$1995 - LA-Az-Nm-Tx-Ar-Ks-Co-Nv-LA + Poston, Gila, Rother, Jerome & Anasazi Camps.
- Jun 30 British Isles - 15 Days 26 Meals-\$3395 - London,Bath, Ireland, Warrford-Killarney-Dublin-Ruthin-Edinburg-York-Straford.
- Aug 06 Niagara, Canada & Nova Scotia - 16 Days - 30 Meals - \$2595.
- Sep 01 Egypt & Israel "Nile Cruise" 16 Days - 32 Meals - Estimate \$4500.
- Sep 27 Japan by Train #2 "New Places" 11 Days 24 Meals-\$3595 - Fukuoka, Kagoshima, Beppu, Hagi, Himeji, Kawaguchi, Nagano & Tokyo.

Other Fall Japan Tours - Hokkaido & Tohoku, Uraiboshi

Fall Classic - Okinawa, Kyushu & Shikoku

2002 Tours - Mar - South America - Chili, Argentina & Brazil.

May - Spain, Morocco & Portugal

"Early bird savings - call for brochure"
INCLUDES - flights, hotels, sightseeing & MOST MEALS.

KOKUSAI INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, INC.
4911 Warner Ave., Suite 221, Huntington Beach, CA 92649
714/840-0455 and 562/493-2122 - FAX 714/840-0457 (100644-10)

MORNINGSIDE AUTO, INC.
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR
10909 Hawthorne Blvd.
Inglewood, CA 90304
(310) 677-0949 • (310) 677-2141
JOE YAMASAKI

2000 ESCORTED TANAKA TOURS

TENNESSEE / BRANSON / KENTUCKY (Shoji Tabuchi Show, 9 days) - SEPT 30
EAST COAST & FALL FOLIAGE (11 days) - OCT 1
JAPAN AUTUMN ADVENTURE (12 days) - OCT 12
TREASURES OF VIETNAM (13 days) - NOV 4

2001 ESCORTED TANAKA TOURS

ENCHANTING ITALY (12 days) - MAR 30
JAPAN SPRING ADVENTURE (w/ Takayama Festival, 12 days) - APR 10
SPECTACULAR SCANDINAVIA (12 days) - SEPT 6

CALL OR WRITE TODAY FOR OUR FREE BROCHURES

Tanaka Travel Service is a full service agency and can assist you in issuing individual air tickets, cruise bookings, & other travel plans.



TANAKA TRAVEL SERVICE
441 O'Farrell St., San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 426-3900 or (800) 826-2521
CST #100554-40