

Pacific Citizen

\$1.50 postpaid (U.S. Can.) / \$2.30 (Japan Abroad)
Newsstand: 25¢

#2942/ Vol. 132, No. 3 ISSN: 0030-8577

National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)

FEB. 16-MAR. 1, 2001

Pitching Star Shane "K" Komine Makes Impact at U. of Nebraska

By LYNDSEY SHINODA
Writer/Reporter

It seems coincidental that University of Nebraska baseball pitcher Shane Komine is called "K" by his teammates. He says he got the nickname because no one could pronounce his last name. But "K's" are his specialty. Last season the ace threw 159 strikeouts in 124.2 innings.

Hailing from Honolulu, Komine, 20, is in his third year of college in Lincoln, Neb., which is

a far cry from the shores of Waikiki. The 5'10" Sansei made immediate waves upon his arrival, inserted into the Husker pitching rotation as a freshman, and earning Big 12 Conference Freshman of the Year honors.

Komine has been playing baseball since he was 5 years old. He excelled in the sport, and although he wasn't heavily recruited outside of Hawaii, he knew that he wanted to go somewhere

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Shane "K" Komine shows why he's University of Nebraska's ace pitcher.

Arts & Entertainment

Master of Mood

Wong Kar-wai's Latest Film Shows How Love is Done

By TRACY UBA
Writer/Reporter

Wong Kar-wai may not be a household name in the United States, but in art-film circles worldwide the Hong Kong director is nothing short of an icon, highly acclaimed on the international festival circuit for his hyper-stylized, intimately-drawn character studies, which at once tend to baffle and delight movie-

goers and critics alike.

As any Wong Kar-wai enthusiast will tell you, this fanatical attention to detail has always been a hallmark of his particular brand of filmmaking ever since his earliest works, "As Tears Go By" (1988) and "Days of Being Wild" (1991), which garnered unexpected cult success in commercial-happy Hong Kong. Later works, including "Chungking Express" (1994) and "Happy Together" (1997), became indie hits especially around Asia and Europe and gave us a peek into Wong's obsession with recreating the feel of a particular environment in a particular time period.

In his latest film, aptly titled "In the Mood for Love," that nostalgia has never been more apparent as Wong pays homage to the early 1960s Hong Kong from his childhood memory. (He was

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Nat'l Board Addresses JACL's Financial Difficulties

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

President's Report - Floyd Mori Budget and JACL's Future:

Mori reported that the finance committee had a conference call in December to discuss the budget. While realizing there was a lot of work to do to get through these difficult financial times, Mori also felt this was an opportunity to look at the organization in new ways. Saying that no one person can solve the financial problem or be expected to develop plans, for JACL's future, he asked that the governors return to their districts and keep an eye out for "good, talented people in new areas of education and fund raising." He added that in his visits with various chapters and districts throughout the country, he felt the sentiment was that "members are eager to participate and help."

Veterans/Resisters: To date, Mori has had two official meetings with Nisei veterans in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., to discuss the resisters' resolution which was passed at the national convention last year. His observations were that the meetings were a positive step towards resolving misunderstandings, and he plans to continue the dialogue with the veterans.

Mori said these meetings will not affect plans to hold a public ceremony for the resisters, which was mandated in the resolution. Alan Teruya, NCWNP district governor who was appointed by Mori to form a committee that will plan this ceremony, said he is still gathering names of volunteers. Teruya asked other district governors to spread the word for more volunteers to sit on this committee.

NAJMF: Mori commended the D.C. chapter members for volunteering at the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation dedication ceremony last November. The memorial will be officially completed in either early spring or late summer, and Clyde Nishimura, EDC district governor, said they may consider holding a reception at the time.

JACL Disturbed by AOL Donation to Anti-gay Church

By TRACY UBA
Writer/Reporter

The JACL may begin urging America Online users to switch Internet service providers following the discovery that AOL chairman Steve Case made a multi-million dollar donation last year to a church in Florida which sponsors anti-gay programs.

The Case Foundation, run by the media mogul's wife Jean, who is known for giving to youth- and family-oriented causes, donated \$8.35 million in October to Westminster Academy, a school owned by the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

The school is run by the Rev. James Kennedy, whose ministry sponsors a "gay-conversion" program called Worthy Creations. Kennedy's church has been linked to several vocal anti-gay and right-wing organizations, including the Christian Coalition, which has long been accused of being anti-immigrant by civil rights groups.

"I really don't think we should be supporting a company that uses its profits to fund bigotry," said JACL NGWNP Regional Di-

See AOL/page 8

Minidoka: Mori felt that JACL's involvement in getting the Minidoka camp site protected under the Antiquities Act of 1906, was a good step towards getting other chapters involved in trying to get other sites preserved, and asked the district governors to work with their chapters. Kristine Minami, JACL Washington, D.C., representative and director of public affairs, said she is closely watching the Bush administration, which has put a freeze on all of former President Clinton's last minute initiatives, and is exploring ways to approach the new administration.

Nishimura commended the work that Mori, Tateishi and Minami did in pushing to get Minidoka protected. Nishimura said EDC, particularly the D.C. chapter, is considering ways to get the government-published book, "Confinement and Ethnicity: An Overview of World War II Japanese American Relocation Sites," reprinted. The book was widely used as a research guide in getting the White House initiative to preserve the camps passed. Minami suggested that the JACL-sponsored reprints be used to boost membership benefits, and reported that reprinting 3,000 copies would cost about \$27,000.

Restructuring: Saying that times have changed, Mori said JACL "cannot operate as it has 25 years ago and have the same impact because a lot has changed and will keep changing." He proposed to immediately appoint a blue ribbon committee of three to five people, who will examine the organization in the next eight weeks or so. From this, Mori hopes to come up with a restructuring plan to be presented before the national council at the next biennium convention.

National Executive Director - John Tateishi

Archives: Tateishi reported that the process to transfer JACL archive material to JANM has begun. The museum staff will most likely contact regional offices within the next six months.

Tateishi yielded the rest of his time to guest speaker Dan Sakura, formerly White House staff member on the Council on Environmental Quality.

Secretary/Treasurer - Art Koga

Koga reported that the situation is not that JACL does not have funds but that it does not have cash.

Investment Committee: The national investment policy committee's annual report was given by committee Chair Ted Tsukahara. The investment committee, which oversees the Legacy Fund, met in Los Angeles on Jan. 20. Attendees included: Tsukahara (NCWNP); Secretary Tom Hara (MWDN); Vice Chair David Hayashi (PNW); Past Chair Arnold Miyamoto (PSW); Roy Nishikawa (PSW); Grayce Ueyehara (EDC); Richard Yada (MDC); Tateishi; Business Manager Clyde Izumi, Mori and Koga.

The financial summary of the Morgan Stanley Dean Whittier managed funds, as of Dec. 31, 2000, are (Basis/Market Value/Appreciation): Legacy Fund—\$4,996,493, \$6,728,566, \$1,732,127; Nat'l Endowment—\$456,851, \$701,341, \$244,490; Life Trust—\$550,024, \$516,768, (\$33,256); JACL Reserve—\$0, \$4,045, \$4,045. Subtotal: \$6,003,311, \$7,950,720, \$1,947,406; Scholarship Endowments—\$1,030,955, \$1,136,162, \$105,207.

As of Jan. 18, 2001, the funds stand at: Total portfolio: \$8,206,891.92. Appreciation since Dec. 31, 2000: \$362,713.96; Withdrawals since Dec. 31, 2000: \$36,000. YTD return: 4.61 percent.

Hiring: A hiring freeze has resulted in seven open staff positions, including the national membership coordinator and national youth director positions. Remaining staff members have been asked to take on some of these responsibilities.

Staff: Once the financial situation improves, Tateishi felt it was important to reinstate salary and

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Community Says Thank You to Bill Lann Lee



Above (l-r): JACL National President Floyd Mori and JACL National Executive Director John Tateishi have a moment with Bill Lann Lee, former assistant attorney general for civil rights, at his Department of Justice farewell reception on Jan. 17, in Washington, D.C.; below (l-r): Lee is all smiles as are Paul Igasaki, EEOC vice chair, and Stuart Ishimaru, DOJ deputy assistant attorney general for civil rights.



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

50166 01/18/01
HAYASHI, MIYAMOTO
ELLS, E. ARQUIER, JOVE
SUNNYVALE CA 94085-3804

Pacific Citizen

7 Cupania Circle, Monterey Park, CA 91755

Executive Editor: Caroline Y. Aoyagi

Assistant Editor: Marsha Nakagawa

JACL President: Floyd Mori, National Director: John Tateishi

JACL Executive Board of Directors: Ken Inouye, chairperson

NEWS/AD DEADLINE: FRIDAY BEFORE DATE OF ISSUE.

Editorials, news and the opinions expressed by columnists

PACIFIC CITIZEN (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semi-monthly

Annual subscription rates: NON-MEMBERS: 1 year-\$35

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JACL MEMBERS Change of Address

To avoid interruptions in receiving your P.C., please notify your postmaster

JACL-COMMUNITY Calendar

East Coast PHILADELPHIA Sat, Feb. 24—Philadelphia chapter JACL general meeting

Washington, D.C. Fri.-Wed., March 30-April 3 (date change)—JACL/OCA Leadership Conference

Intermontain SALT LAKE CITY Sat, March 3—National JACL Credit Union's annual meeting

Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 2002—Heart Mountain Reunion 2002

Mountain Plains ALBUQUERQUE Sat, March 10—Martial arts demonstration

Portland Sun., March 4—Spring Bazaar, noon-4 p.m.

Pacific Northwest PORTLAND Sun., March 4—Spring Bazaar, noon-4 p.m.

Seattle Sun., March 25—Ceremony to honor Prof. William K. Nakamura

Northern California BERKELEY Sun., March 4—Nikkei Widowed Group monthly meeting

Los Gatos Through February 28—Exhibit, "The Heart Mountain Story"

Oakland Sat, Feb. 24—A multi-disciplinary evening of creative works

Redwood City Sun., Feb. 25—Opening day ceremonies for exhibit, "A History of Japanese Americans in San Mateo County"

San Francisco Sun., Feb. 25—Third Annual Multiracial Forum, "Fitting In," hosted by Florin chapter JACL

Los Angeles Sun., Feb. 18—UCLA Nikkei Student Union's 15th Annual Cultural Night

Thurs., Feb. 22—"A Celebration of Voices: Los Angeles Filipina Poets"

San Francisco Thurs.-Sun., March 8-11—19th Annual San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival

SACRAMENTO Sat, Feb. 24—Third Annual Multiracial Forum, "Fitting In," hosted by Florin chapter JACL

San Francisco Thurs.-Sun., March 8-11—19th Annual San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival

San Mateo Sun., Feb. 25—Sunday Movie Matinee, Pearl Buck's "The Good Earth"

Stockton Fri., Feb. 23—San Joaquin Nisei Farmers League 25th annual banquet

Central California FOWLER Sun., Feb. 25—JACL Central California District Council quarterly meeting

Southern California CALABASAS Wed, Feb. 28—Human rights lecture, "Education and Personal Responsibility"

Chicago Sun., Feb. 18-23-30 p.m. "Forgotten/Can't Forget" installation by Elaine Yoneoka

Clovis, Calif., Sun., Feb. 18-10:30 a.m. A Special Worship Experience at the United Japanese Christian Church

Livingston, Calif., Sun., Feb. 18-2:5 p.m. Pioneer Hall, Livingston United Methodist Church

Los Angeles, Sat, Feb. 17-2:4 p.m. "Building a Stronger Community Through Civil Rights and Redress"

New York City, Sat, March 3-1:4 p.m. "Japanese American Liberation Poetry Festival"

Philadelphia, Thurs., Feb. 22-7 p.m. Local Japanese Americans will speak about their wartime experiences

Sacramento, Calif., Sat. March 10—Florin chapter JACL "Spirit of a People" historic exhibit

Salt Lake City, Mon., Feb. 19—Salt Lake chapter JACL, "Building America's Foundation: The Role of Asian Railroaders and Miners"

San Francisco, Sun., Feb. 18—D.C. chapter JACL sponsors "Distant Voices" performance

San Rafael, Calif., Sun., Feb. 18—Day of Remembrance 2001, co-sponsored by Marin County chapter JACL

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Somei Yoshino Taiko Ensemble. The Nature of Nature. with author Lois-Ann Yamamaka; 7:30 p.m., Pacific Asia Museum, 46 N. Los Robles Ave.

Thurs., Feb. 22—"A Celebration of Voices: Los Angeles Filipina Poets"

Sun., March 11—Performance, "Last Dance," by the Asian American Jazz Orchestra

Arizona - Nevada RENO Sun., March 11—Renio JACL annual tenrikyu scholarship fund-raiser

Correction Elen Ayako Noguchi Nakamura, who passed away on April 25, 2000

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE PROGRAMS

CHICAGO, Sun., Feb. 18-2:30 p.m. "Forgotten/Can't Forget" installation by Elaine Yoneoka; performances by Keith Uehama and Moto Makino

Los Angeles, Sun., Feb. 18-10:30 a.m. A Special Worship Experience at the United Japanese Christian Church

Campaign for Justice Seeks Community Support

Campaign for Justice: Redress Now for Japanese Latin Americans is seeking support to secure additional co-sponsors for the Wartime Parity and Justice Act of 2001, a comprehensive redress bill that will be introduced in Congress next week by Rep. Xavier Becerra, D-Calif.

This bill would provide redress for the over 2,200 Japanese Latin Americans who were kidnapped by the U.S. government and imprisoned in the United States during World War II, and for the hundreds of Japanese-Americans whose civil rights were violated during the war but have been denied redress under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 due to technicalities. It would also include \$45 million in public education funds to educate the public about the injustices suffered by people of Japanese ancestry during WWII.

This bill was first introduced last session as H.R. 4735, the Wartime Parity and Justice Act of 2000, and gained the support of 32 co-sponsors representing California, Texas, Illinois, New York, Massachusetts, Oregon, Michigan, Samoa, and Guam. In addition, the bill received support from key members of the House Asian Pacific Caucus, Hispanic Caucus, Black Caucus, and the Human Rights Caucus.

As of Feb. 19, 17 of the 30 co-sponsors from last year have signed on as original co-sponsors of this bill. They are: Jose Baca, D-Calif.; Bob Filner, D-Calif.; Barney Frank, D-Mass.; Charles Gonzalez, D-Texas; Steve Horn, R-Calif.; Jesse Jackson, D-Ill.; Tom Lantos, D-Calif.; Barbara Lee, D-Calif.; Robert Matsui, D-

Calif.; George Miller, D-Calif.; Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.; Ciro Rodriguez, D-Texas; Lucille Roybal-Allard, D-Calif.; Pete Stark, D-Calif.; James Schakowsky, D-Ill.; Robert Underwood, D-Guam; and David Wu, D-Ore.

Campaign for Justice needs help to see that the remaining 13 representatives renew their support of the Wartime Parity and Justice Act of 2001. They are asking individuals to contact the following offices as soon as possible to urge them to become original co-sponsors of the bill.

California: Howard Berman, D-Calif., 202/225-4695, howard.berman@mail.house.gov; Anna Eshoo, D-Calif., 202/225-8104; Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., 202/225-3072; zoe@lofgren.house.gov; Maxine Waters, D-Calif., 202/225-2201; Henry Waxman, D-Calif., 202/225-3976;

Texas: Martin Frost, D-Texas, 202/225-3605; Solomon Ortiz, D-Texas, 202/225-7742; Silvestre Reyes, D-Texas, 202/225-4831; Illinois: Rod Blagojevich, D-Ill., 202/225-4061; rod.blagojevich@mail.house.gov; Luis Guterrez, D-Ill., 202/225-5635;

Michigan: David Bonior, D-Mich., 202/225-3130; david.bonior@mail.house.gov; New York: Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., 202/225-5635; jerrold.nadler@mail.house.gov;

Samoa: Eini Faleomavaega, D-Samoa, 202/225-8577; faleomavaega@mail.house.gov.

For more information contact either Grace Shimizu at 510/528-7288, jshop@prodigy.net, or Mariko Nakanishi at 323/549-9425, mjnakanishi@hotmail.com.

Library Dean Resigns After Derogatory Remark

The library dean at the California State University, Sacramento, resigned last week after making a derogatory statement during a "Time of Remembrance" event.

Dean Patricia Larsen preferred her resignation after individual Japanese-Americans and national JACL lodged a complaint for her use of the word, "Japtown" to refer to the Japanese American community in Penryn, Calif., during her Jan. 30 speech to commemorate the opening of the "Time of Remembrance" exhibit.

JACL National Executive Director John Tateishi sent a strongly worded letter to Larsen, which read in part: "From the accounts I have heard of your comments, I must say that people were appalled that you would so

unthinkingly use such a derogatory word to begin with, but to add insult to this particular injury, that you would use it at a ceremony of an exhibit about one of the most devastating moments in the history of Japanese-Americans. Such insensitivity from someone in your position is quite frankly speaks poorly of the University's attitudes toward Japanese-Americans in particular and Asian Pacific-Americans in general."

Dr. Donald Gerth, CSUS president, also issued an apology, which read in part: "I would like to apologize, on my own behalf and on California State University, Sacramento, for an unfortunate and hurtful remark made Tuesday evening by the dean of our library, Patricia Larsen."

Leadership Seminar Seeking Applicants

The Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation is seeking promising young Asian Pacific American leaders and potential leaders for a one-week leadership seminar in Washington, D.C.

The "Week in Washington" for 2001 is scheduled for April 28 - May 4. All expenses (transportation, lodging and meals) will be covered during the one-week internship.

Any person of APA ethnicity between 26 and 39 years of age and engaged in the fields of social work, psychology, psychiatry, nursing, mental health, substance abuse, health and human services and related fields, who is interested in assuming a leadership role in the community and nationally is eligible.

The seminar will consist of:

- Meeting top administrators and directors of mental health, substance abuse and human services programs and discussion of programs.
- Meeting national leaders in the field of administration, policy-making, philanthropy, politics, hu-

man services and civil rights;

- Meeting and being briefed by our APA Congressional delegation on Capitol Hill;
- Participating in workshops and briefings provided by APA leaders in government and private industry;
- Briefing with the White House Office of Public Liaison;
- Meeting leaders in the private sector; and
- Learning how social changes are brought about.

Applications must be received no later than March 31. Applications postmarked on March 31 are acceptable.

For information and application forms, write, call or fax to Lily A. Okura, executive director, Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation, 6303 Friendship Court, Bethesda, MD 20817; phone, 301/530-0945; fax, 301/530-0522.

The Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt public foundation incorporated in the State of Maryland in 1988.

APAs Rally Behind L.A. Mayoral Candidate Antonio Villaraigosa

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

Antonio Villaraigosa, 47, became the first Los Angeles mayoral candidate to receive public endorsements from a broad spectrum of Asian Pacific Americans earlier this month.

The former California Assembly Speaker received support from leaders in the Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Pakistani and Thai communities.

In the upcoming April 10 primary election, Villaraigosa faces U.S. Congressman Xavier Becerra; California State Controller Kathleen Connell; Los Angeles City Attorney James Hahn; L.A. Parks Commissioner Steve Soboroff; L.A. City Councilman Joel Wachs; and 11 lesser-known candidates.

If one of the candidates receive the majority of the votes, the top two contenders will face a runoff election on June 5.

Campaign fund-raising, one measure of a candidate's strength, shows Villaraigosa third as of the Dec. 31 filing date. He has raised \$1.51 million with \$1.22 million cash on hand. He trails current Mayor Richard Riordan-endorsed Soboroff, 52, with \$2.52 million and \$1.36 million in hand; and Hahn, 50, with \$2.48 million and \$2.07 million in hand.

Within the Japanese American community, the two most visible candidates have been Villaraigosa and Becerra. Both have sponsored bills and resolutions which have impacted the Nikkei community, and the general sentiments among the JAs, who attended a February press conference for Villaraigosa, was similar to those heard in the Latino community: that two strong Latino candidates running for mayor was one too many. Some Latino leaders have unsuccessfully tried to persuade one candidate to drop out.

Actor George Takei, who ran for a Los Angeles city council seat in the 1970s, is no stranger to L.A. politics. Saying that "the name of the game of politics in Los Angeles is you've got to have your eth-

nic base," Takei felt that the two Latino candidates could potentially split the ethnic vote, allowing a third candidate to have a better shot at winning.

Whether or not ethnic politics will make a difference remains to be seen. While Tom Bradley, the first African American mayor of Los Angeles, is famous for the ethnic coalitions that catapulted him into office in the 1970s, current Mayor Riordan clinched his seat by focusing on white voters, who make up little over one fourth of L.A.'s population but constitute more than half of the registered voters.

But speculations aside, Takei, as chairman of the Japanese American National Museum board of directors, decided to support Villaraigosa because he has seen direct results from him. It was through Villaraigosa's efforts that JANM secured \$1 million in state funds.

Individuals working at the Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC) were also visible at Villaraigosa's press conference. The organization has been attempting to launch the construction of the Little Tokyo Recreation Center, a combination gymnasium and community center. At a rally last October, Villaraigosa was one of a handful of elected officials who came out to publicly endorse the project.

Political wrangling has stalled plans to build a gymnasium in Little Tokyo for more than three decades. Should Villaraigosa become mayor, the project will most likely get a boost.

"If we had our druthers, they (Villaraigosa and Becerra) wouldn't both be running because I think Becerra also has a positive record," said Eric Nakano, who was supporting Villaraigosa as an individual and not on behalf of LTSC. "But for myself, I've had more of a working relationship, with Villaraigosa's office ... It's definitely a tough call."

Evelyn Yashimura, who also works at LTSC, added that she ultimately chose to support Villaraigosa because his past record was one of inclusion. "I don't sup-

port people just because they support Japanese American issues," she said. "I think the operative word is the overall sense of justice and trying to give voice and power to people who don't have it. I think he has consistently shown that he has done that."

Los Angeles City College District board member Warren Furutani, who also worked at the State Assembly Speaker's Asian Pacific American Affairs Office established by Villaraigosa, pointed out that Villaraigosa has been supportive of redress at the state level. Furutani said he was supporting Villaraigosa because "he's going to bring people together," and that "he's going to have the vision to take Los Angeles where we think it should go."

State Assembly member George Nakano also felt both Villaraigosa and Becerra were good candidates but threw his support behind Villaraigosa after seeing him in action at the state capital.

"When he was the Speaker of the Assembly for the State of California, it was the first time in 13 years that the budget was passed on time," said Nakano. "It was through his leadership and his ability to bring the two parties together — the Democrats and Republicans — that this happened, so it's my own personal experience with him, working side by side, that's shown me he's a proven leader. That's why I'm supporting him."

Some of Villaraigosa's support for the APA community include:

- secured \$22 million for Los Angeles parks and cultural facilities, of which \$1 million went to the Japanese American National Library;
- helped establish APJA Vote!, a nonpartisan education organization to encourage civic participation within the APA community;
- appointed Trisha Murakawa, former JACL PSWD governor, to the State Bar Examining Committee; and
- authored Assembly Joint Resolution 28, passed fully by the Assembly, calling on Congress and the President to pass the Filipino Veterans Equity Bill.

A Century After Challenging Legal Racism, Early JA Law Graduate Gets Redemption

It is nothing short of bitter-sweet, this posthumous chapter in the life of one of the earliest Japanese American civil rights crusaders who many say was ahead of his time. Nearly a century after graduating from the University of Washington's fledgling law school and passing the Bar exam, Takuji Yamashita will finally fulfill a dream he was denied in 1903.

Back then, Yamashita had been only the second Japanese student to attend the UW School of Law since its opening in 1899 (the first was Jinta Yamaguchi, '99). But after sailing through a rigorous two-year law course, getting his degree in 1902 and applying for U.S. naturalization, the Washington State Supreme Court refused to admit the promising young man to the Bar because of his race. Lawyers, in those days, had to be citizens, and according to the state's attorney general and other legal authorities, Yamashita didn't qualify. He quickly learned, as 120,000 of his contemporaries would 40 years later, how institutional prejudice can — and does — alter the course of life.

Little did he realize, however, what impact his actions would have on the course of history, as legal scholars have just begun to analyze the principled stand he took against those higher court powers. At the time, having never

taken a case, Yamashita appealed the court's order with a 28-page brief in which he interpreted Congress' 1790 definition of citizenship as "equal rights for all men." But despite his efforts, he did not succeed in overturning the decision and subsequently never practiced law.

Instead, he went on to become a successful businessman and farmer in Seattle and Bremerton. In 1922, he confronted the Supreme Court again over the state's Alien Land Law, which disqualified Asian immigrants from owning property. The court, as it had once before, denied his rights based on citizenship.

Yamashita, who had emigrated to the United States from Yawatahama as a teenager, was eventually incarcerated during World War II. He and his family were first sent to Tule Lake, then later were moved to Manzanar and Minidoka. In 1957, he and his wife, Ito Nakagawa, moved back to Japan to be with their only remaining child, Haruko. Five of their six children had already passed away. Yamashita followed less than two years later.

Now, 41 years after his death, and coinciding with the school's centennial, the Washington Supreme Court reversed a decision its predecessor made almost 100 years ago by announcing that Yamashita will be inducted as an

honorary member of the Bar, making him UW's first posthumous admission. This decision came after a petition by the Asian Bar Association of Washington, the Washington State Bar Association and the UW School of Law.

The induction ceremony will take place March 1 at the Temple of Justice in Olympia, Wash. Among those expected to attend are 17 of Yamashita's relatives from Shikoku, the Japanese Consul General, Washington Gov. Gary Locke and state Attorney General Christine Gregoire.

It is a chapter many are thrilled to see close. JACL National Executive Director John Tateishi called it a "gross injustice of the past," but added, "To see the court correcting a mistake that took place a century ago reflects well on the court's commitment to ensuring that justice is served."

"The Washington State Supreme Court's decision demonstrates its determination to guarantee equal justice to all persons, regardless of circumstances or race," said JACL National Vice President of Public Affairs Ryan Chin. "The court serves as an example to us all that we must not tolerate discrimination of any kind and that we must learn from our past to advance the proposition that all people are treated equally under the law."

Arizona Chapter

The Arizona chapter held its third teacher workshop on Feb. 3 at the Arizona Historical Society Museum in Tempe.

Speakers and facilitators included former internees at Gila River — MIS veteran Masaji Inoshita and K. Kaye Sugiyama — and Hiroyuki Nomura, former internee at Poston; National JACL Education Committee members Carol Kawamoto from San Diego and Greg Marutani from San Francisco; and Mike Steinberg, curator of the Arizona Historical Society's education department.

The three former internees shared their personal stories, and historical background was covered by Kawamoto and Marutani. Textbooks utilized included national JACL's Curriculum Guide concerning the World War II internment of Japanese Americans and their immigrant parents.

The workshop group was shown through the AHS Museum project, which contains a barracks replica, videos of the Gila River and Poston camp sites with photographs and interviews of former internees, suitcases, and camp-made furniture.

A drawing was also held for three books — "Stranger From a Distant Shore" by Ronald Takaki, and two copies of "Years of Infamy" by Michi Weglyn.

The 36 attendees at the workshop included seven teachers, two community college professors, three U.S. Forest Service employees from Tucson, and one Arizona State University student. Also attending were museum staff and parents, and sons and daughters of the internees — Eugene Nomura, Marilyn Inoshita Tang, Ungyo Lynn Sugiyama and Enid Sugiyama Murray.

The program will be offered again by the Arizona chapter during February 2002.

Gilroy, San Benito County and Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapters

A joint installation of the Gilroy, San Benito County and Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL officers and board members took place on Jan. 26 at the San Juan Oak Golf Lodge in San Juan Bautista.

Santa Cruz County Superior Court Judge Kathleen Akao, in her keynote address, "All You Ever Wanted to Know About 'Chad' but Were Afraid to Ask," documented the chronological events that eventually led to George W. Bush's elec-

JACL Corner



(L-R) JACL national president Floyd Mori, UPS representative Gerald Yee and PSW regional director Beth Au pose during the PSWD Open House recently. UPS, JACL Health Benefits Trust and National JACL Credit Union were sponsors of the event.

tion, and explained the role the state and federal judicial systems played in Florida's election and its subsequent consequences.

Congressman Mike Honda, D-San Jose, spoke on the importance of the national presence of JACL not only in Washington but also locally.

With 130 in attendance, master of ceremonies Tony Boch, past president of San Benito County JACL, introduced 442nd veteran Shig Kizuka, who led the Pledge of Allegiance. The invocation and benediction were given by Rev. Hiromi Yoneda of the Westview Presbyterian Church.

Santa Clara Superior Court Judge Joseph F. Biafore Jr. administered the oath of office, continuing

a 24-year Gilroy JACL tradition.

Among the honored guests were Santa Clara County Supervisor Don Gage of Gilroy, former Watsonville mayor Ann Soldo, NCVNPD Gov. Alan Teruya, Monterey Peninsula JACL President Larry Oda, and the special Keiro Kai members from the Watsonville-Santa Cruz chapter.

South Bay JACL Seeks Scholarship Applicants

All qualified students who attend South Bay area high schools are encouraged to apply for the 2001 national JACL's scholarship as well as the South Bay JACL Kiichi Egashira Scholarship.

The national JACL scholarship is open, to all fields of study and the

Kiichi Egashira Scholarship is open to those pursuing a degree in physical and biological sciences, engineering and/or mathematics.

The 2001 national JACL scholarship requires every applicant to be a national JACL member. Scholarship applications must be mailed to the JACL national headquarters in San Francisco before April 1, 2001.

The South Bay JACL Kiichi Egashira Scholarship is open to all students who are members of the South Bay JACL and attend one of the following high schools: Torrance High School, South Torrance High School, West Torrance High School, North Torrance High School, Bishop Montgomery High School, Narbonne High School, Redondo Union High School, Mira Costa High School, Peninsula High School, San Pedro High School, and Chadwick Academy. In previous years, \$1,000 to \$2,000 scholarships were awarded to qualified applicants. Students are encouraged to see your scholarship advisor for an application and more information.

The JACL Kiichi Egashira Scholarship applications are due to the South Bay JACL by March 23, 2001. For more information or an application, call Ray Shibata, scholarship chair, South Bay JACL, at 310/416-2980.

Twin Cities

The Twin Cities JACL recently honored Kimi (Taguchi) Hara, one

of the chapter's founding members, at its 54th annual Chrysanthemum Banquet.

Hara, a native of Washington state, is a former Twin Cities JACL president and pioneered the chapter's scholarship program, having served on the committee for the past 37 years.

Hara also served as governor to the Minnesota Board of Nursing and president of the Minnesota Nurses Association. During World War II, she was spared incarceration after taking a job at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester. She went on to graduate from the University of Minnesota in 1954 and received her master's degree in nursing in 1959.

Keynote speaker Ret. Army Captain James N. Johns presented a talk titled "Rainbow Five: America's Plan to Go to War with Japan in the Event They Did Not Attack Us."

Jay Yamashiro, outgoing board member, was given special recognition, and the 2001 board members were installed: Cheryl Hirata-Dulas (president), James Ishio Cork (vice president), Allison Fenimore (secretary), Gloria Kumagai (membership chair), Leilani Savitt and Mariko Nakasone (youth representatives), Liz Hara (past youth rep.), John Nakasone, Carolyn Massami Sandberg, Cary Yamanaka and Ben A. Ezaki III (past president).

Master of ceremonies Tom Ohno read tributes and presented Hara with a box containing letters of appreciation from JACL members. Ohno and his wife Reiko established the Kimi Hara Scholarship Fund last year. ■



(L-R) San Benito County President Ken Teshima, Judge Joe Biafore Jr., Watsonville-Santa Cruz President Marcia-Hashimoto, Congressman Mike Honda, Judge Kathleen Akao, Santa Clara County Supervisor Don Gage, NCVNPD Gov. Alan Teruya, and Gilroy President Michael Hoshida.

Woo ranks fifth in campaign fundraising. As of the Dec. 31 filing date, he has raised \$73,397 with \$52,415 cash on hand. Leading the group is Scott Wildman with \$120,037 and \$98,604 cash on hand; Eric M. Garcetti with \$111,270 and \$104,135 in hand; Conrado Terrazas with \$104,074 and \$72,757 in hand; and Arthur Goldberg with \$88,925 and \$70,416 in hand.

Behind Woo are: Sandra Farrington-Domingue with \$22,870 and \$3,309 in hand; Bennett Kayser \$17,880 and \$11,855 in hand; Geoffrey Saldívar with \$6,120 and \$5,825 in hand; and Wendy McPherson, with none reported.

Terry Terauchi has been endorsed by the Gardena Peace Officers Association in his campaign for mayor of Gardena, Calif.

If he wins the seat, Terauchi would be the first Japanese American elected to mayor since Ken Nakaoka 25 years ago.

The Terry Terauchi Campaign for Mayor is planning a President's Day Weekend celebration fund raiser on Feb. 18 at his campaign headquarters, 1620 W. Redondo Beach Blvd., Pacific Square #1, Gardena, from 2-6 p.m. For more information call 310/323-7055 or 310/217-1724. ■

Former Los Angeles city councilman and mayoral candidate Michael Woo is making another bid for his former council seat in the 13th district. Last year, Woo won a court appeal to run for his council spot. Earlier, a Superior Court judge had rejected Woo's attempt by citing an amended city charter that limited council members to two terms. But the Second District Court of Appeal found that the amended city charter did not apply to those who served two terms before July 1993. Woo served during the 1980s.

Among the nine candidates,

APAs in the News Awards, Appointments, Announcements

U.S. Congressman Mike Honda, D-San Jose, announced he will serve as vice chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), a group dedicated to promoting issues and tackling concerns of the APA community.

"Throughout his career, Mike Honda has been a strong advocate for the Asian Pacific American community and a champion for the cause of social justice and fairness," said incoming CAPAC chair Rep. David Wu, D-Ore. "We welcome his leadership and his experience to the Asian Pacific American Caucus."

"I am honored to serve on the caucus that is the focal point of Asian Pacific American advocacy in the United States," said Honda. "I look forward to working with David Wu and the rest of the membership to make sure that the caucus continues to be a strong voice for fairness in the face of renewed racial stigmas stemming from recent campaign finance scandals, hate crimes and other important pressing civil rights issues confronting the APA community."



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By Pacific Citizen Staff
and Associated Press

Chinese Americans Accused of Exploiting Their Own

PITTSBURGH—Thirty Chinese American immigrants who bought life insurance are pressing a claim that Chinese American Met Life agents preyed on their trust by selling them policies they could not read or understand.

The customers opted out of a \$1.7 billion class-action settlement in 1999 to try to get better individual settlements. A judge approved the settlement on behalf of six million policy holders from the 1980s to 1990s, who said Met Life aggressively marketed policies to recent immigrants mainly in Philadelphia's Chinatown and Pittsburgh's Chinese community.

The policy holders alleged they were duped into thinking they could stop paying premiums in as little as six years, while others believed policies were pensions.

Customers say they trusted the agents because they were Chinese. Chinese Americans tend to sell to each other and, in China, often rely on no more than a handshake, according to consumer advocates and the plaintiffs' lawyers.

Asian Men Accused of Assaulting Black Man

MADISON, Wis.—Lawyers in a hate crime trial argued on Jan. 30 that their clients were wrongly targeted as attackers because of their race.

Yang Vang, 23, Kao Vue, 24, and John Yang, 20, are charged with battery as a hate crime in the beating of a 23-year-old black man last year. They could face up to two years in prison if convicted.

Vue's lawyer, Daniel Stein, said his client was one of several people wearing a necklace that symbolizes

good luck in Hmong culture, and witnesses identified him based on the necklace.

Authorities said the victim was riding his bicycle home around 3 a.m. Aug. 12 near the University of Wisconsin-Madison when he was surrounded by a group of 15 to 20 Asian men. They pushed him off his bike and yelled racial slurs as they kicked and punched him, said Assistant District Attorney Michael Finley.

No other suspects have been identified in the case.

Stein said Vue and Yang were stopped by police on their way home from a party which ended at around 2:30 a.m.

"They were implicated by police because they were Asians and because all Asians in the area immediately after the attack were potential suspects," said Yang's attorney Mitchell Cooper. "The evidence will show they got it wrong."

Asian Gang Violence on the Decline

MINNEAPOLIS—Several recent prosecutions that put some of the most violent Asian gang members in prison have led to a decrease in gang activity in the Twin Cities, authorities said.

In 1999, there were about nine active Asian gangs and 27 reported drive-by shootings in a seven-week period. Innocent Asian youths mistaken for gang rivals were killed or maimed, while several Hmong girls were raped during gang initiation rites.

But in just 18 months, the number of gang-related felony cases prosecuted by the Ramsey County attorney's office dropped from 184 cases in 1999 to 70 cases in 2000. Most involved Asian gang members.

However, gang investigators warn that as some Asian gangs became less active, new ones have appeared that could raise the level of street violence.

"The Hmong community is caught in a real transition period. ... There is tremendous culture shock," said Ramsey County sheriff's deputy Bill Snyder. "The traditional ways they handled (discipline) problems with kids are deemed inappropriate here, and some parents are at a loss about what to do."

In Ramsey County, Snyder and other officers operate Mike Force, a military-style, high-adventure training program for teenage boys, most of them American-born Hmong.

Police Enforce Racial Profiling Law

ST. JOSEPH, Mo.—Some law enforcement agencies are finding Missouri's new racial profiling law cumbersome, while others say it's easy to comply with.

The law, passed by the Missouri Legislature last year, requires each agency to submit a report to the state that shows the age, race and gender of every driver or pedestrian police officers and troopers stop. Departments that fail to file the reports could lose state funds.

The report also notes whether a search was conducted, the alleged violations and whether the motorist was charged with a crime. The goal is to prevent police from targeting people because of race.

While some departments don't have the proper software or enough personnel to deal with the paperwork, others have had no trouble incorporating it into their daily routine.

The reports must be submitted by March 1 to the Attorney General's Office, which will then analyze the data and release a comprehensive annual report later this year. All told, about 1.5 million traffic or pedestrian stops will be analyzed.

States that have passed racial profiling laws since 1999 are Connecticut, North Carolina, Kansas, Massachusetts, Missouri, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Washington.

Wen Ho Lee Supporters Push for Presidential Pardon

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.—Supporters of Wen Ho Lee reiterated a request Jan. 29 that President Bush consider a pardon for the former Los Alamos scientist, who was freed from prison last year after pleading guilty to a single felony charge of downloading restricted data onto unsecured computer tape.

Last September, just days after a plea bargain was struck in which the 58 other counts against Lee were dropped in exchange for a 60-day interrogation, supporters first approached President Clinton about pardoning Lee, who they say was unfairly targeted in the investigation because of his race.

"These requests were based on the fact that there is no evidence that anything Wen Ho Lee did had evil intent or damaging effects on the nation's security," said a letter signed by William Sullivan, president of the Albuquerque Wen Ho Lee Defense Committee, and Phyllis Hedges, a Los Alamos attorney and Lee's friend.

The letter, sent to several New Mexico congressional delegates, notes that Clinton pardoned former CIA director John Deutch, who was accused of placing classified information on an unsecured computer.

"A full pardon could erase the obvious inconsistency in treatment given to John Deutch compared to Dr. Lee," the letter said.

Meanwhile, Lee's attorneys expressed concern over a Feb. 4 report in the *Washington Post* which appears to contain leaked information saying that prosecutors want

to reopen questioning of Lee.

Icebox.com, Site Which Featured Asian Stereotype, Closes

LOS ANGELES—The online animation site Icebox.com, which had been criticized by the JACL and other civil rights groups for featuring a racially insensitive character named Mr. Wong, recently closed down after it was unable to turn a profit.

The 14-month-old company, which developed popular animated shorts such as "Zombie College," used up \$15 million of its investors' money and was forced to lay off staff and cut back episodes last year.

But the reduction of cartoons led to a decrease in visitors to the site, making it less attractive to advertisers.

"Mr. Wong," one of the most popular shorts on Icebox, was also its most controversial. It featured an offensively portrayed Asian butler — buck-toothed and hunch-backed — who was subservient to a white mistress.

Judge Refuses to Dismiss Xerox

HONOLULU—A state judge has refused to dismiss four counts and a punitive damage request in a civil lawsuit against Xerox Corporation stemming from the killing of seven Xerox employees in November 1999.

Circuit Judge Mark Browning, without comment, dismissed the Xerox motion in the lawsuit filed by Randall Shin and his wife, Deb, against the company and gunman Byron Uyesugi. Shin was not shot but was in the same room where two of his co-workers were shot to death.

Former Xerox employee George Moad, who discovered the bodies, also is suing Xerox and Uyesugi. A judge earlier refused to dismiss charges against Xerox in that case.

Uyesugi is acting as his own attorney, and was back in court on Jan. 25 for the hearing in the Shin case. He did not speak. ■

preserve our legacy."

The 100th/442nd/MIS WWII Memorial Foundation was established in 1989 to build the Go For Broke Monument and to institute an educational program telling the stories of these veterans. Among the current programs are "An American Story" Teacher Training Workshops; *Hanashi: Voice of the Nisei Soldier Oral History Program*; and a film series focusing on the WWII JA experience.

The press conference is scheduled for 10 a.m. at South High School, 4801 Pacific Coast Highway, Torrance, Calif. For more information about the press conference or the foundation, call 310/327-4193 or e-mail at esolier@goforbroke.org. ■

100th/442nd/MIS WWII Memorial Foundation Awarded \$500,000

California Assemblymember George Nakano will present a \$500,000 check to the 100th/442nd/MIS World War II Memorial Foundation on behalf of the State of California Arts Council at a press conference in Torrance, Calif., on Feb. 23.

The foundation was named a recipient of the Arts Council award for their educational programs, which help to preserve the legacy of Japanese American soldiers who served during WWII.

In attendance will be veterans of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service as well as various South Bay

city officials and participants in the foundation's teacher training workshops.

"This grant acknowledges the importance of Japanese American veterans' role in our country's history and I thank the state of California for recognizing this," said Christine Sato, executive director of the foundation.

"We veterans are very grateful to the state of California for their support of our organization," said ret. Lt. Col. Henry Ikemoto, vice chairman of the foundation. "It is important for future generations to learn about this segment of history and I'm very proud to be a part of an organization that will

JA Vets Group Celebrates Anniversary of Website

The Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) of Washington, D.C., recently celebrated the first anniversary of its website, which covers news and activities involving Nisei veterans, in particular the Military Intelligence Service (MIS).

Recent postings include the Medal of Honor upgrades to 22 Asian American World War II veterans, the National Japanese American Memorial dedication ceremony and the nine Nisei veterans inducted into the Military Intelligence Hall of Fame.

Visitors to the website can read personal accounts of MIS veterans in the book, "MIS in the War Against Japan," as well as view the architect's rendition of the National Japanese American Memorial and its panels inscribed with the names of fallen WWII heroes.

Monthly feature articles offer stories and profiles by and about WWII JA veterans. Min Hara, who recently passed away, was

featured in January, while an article by Sus Toyoda, of Carlsbad, Calif., details the Bougainville campaign for February.

Last year, JAVA's website featured an article about Sus and Fumie Yamamoto and Maggie Ikeda, who spent 10 years researching the National Archives for information on the 100th/442nd RCT. Their research helped lead to the selection of candidates for the Medal of Honor upgrades.

For those interested, the minutes from JAVA's executive council and general meetings are also

available online.

JAVA is seeking to expand its membership to Sansei and Yonisei as well as to active duty personnel from WWII, the Korean War, Vietnam War and Desert Storm.

People worldwide who are interested in requesting information, locating veterans, finding speakers for educational classes and events or learning more about their family history can visit the website at www.javadc.org.

For more information, e-mail JAVA at admin@javadc.org or Grant Ichikawa at ichikawa@erols.com. ■

East Bay Nikkei Singles Offers Scholarship

East Bay Nikkei Singles is offering a \$500 scholarship. Application is open to Asians of single-parent households. The applicant must be graduating from high school and planning to attend a trade school, business school, college, university, or any institu-

tion of higher learning in the fall of 2001.

The deadline is April 15, 2001. Application forms may be requested by writing to: Eleanor Tui, 46017 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont, CA 94539, or by calling 510/656-5449. ■

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

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JACL National Board Deals With Financial Situation at Quarterly Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

cost of living adjustments for the staff. Mori concurred. Kawamoto moved to have salaries and cost of living adjustments made when funds are available. Grant seconded. Passed unanimously.

Revised Budget: The revised 2001-2002 biennial budget has been decreased by close to \$600,000 for each year. Tateishi said the most visible impact of the revised budget will be in public affairs programs, which rely on soft money. He was adamantly opposed to staff layoffs, saying the visibility of JACL's programs will be diminished even further if staff is cut. Clyde Nishimura moved to accept the revised 2001 budget as presented while explicitly recognizing that this is a provisional, budget subject to future adjustments, and that this budget better represents the anticipated 2001 national finances than the 2001 budget passed by the 2000 national council. Seconded by Bob Taniguchi. Passed unanimously.

PC, Editorial Board Chair's Report — Ken Inouye

- Inouye's request to set up a \$50,000 P.C. endowment fund was turned down due to concerns that P.C.'s fund-raising drive may hamper national's efforts.
- Inouye reported that the transfer of JACL archives to JANM has begun.
- Inouye requested clarification of the P.C. editorial board regarding fiscal responsibility. This will be investigated.

General Operations — David Kawamoto

2001 biennial convention in Las Vegas: Kawamoto reported that they have now reserved a website address, which is JACL2002.org. They also voted to change the logo.

Website: PSWD Regional Director Beth Au made a presentation, recommending two policy proposals regarding JACL's website. Kawamoto said PSWD passed a motion to remove the entire "shop and earn" section on JACL's website because some of the listed retail stores are known to use sweatshop labor. Kawamoto moved for national to adopt a policy which would remove the entire "shop and earn" section that was currently posted. Marie Matsumoto seconded. The motion failed after board members felt more research had to be done.

IDC District Gov. Larry Grant moved to adopt policy recommendation #1 to remove the clothing section and all companies that sell textiles (including shoes such as Nike) from the JACL website. Seconded by Matthew Nakata. Nishimura added a friendly amendment to include a disclaimer and to form an ad-hoc committee to formulate a website policy. Motion carried unanimously. Mori appointed Nishimura and Amy Matsumoto to head the ad-hoc committee.

Kawamoto moved to adopt policy recommendation #2: "That JACL chapters with a website maintain their own content server which can be linked to the national JACL website." Seconded by Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

- Au said the calendar of events from the different chapters will now be placed into one master calendar for easier viewing. She requested that chapters submit their listings by filling out the calendar submission form on the website and not through the mail.

Public Affairs — Ryan Chin
Receptions: Minami said APAs in D.C. are planning receptions to honor new APA cabinet members Elaine Chao and Norman Mineta, and new APA Caucus Chair David Wu and Vice Chair Mike Honda. She has been asked to organize the reception for Mineta, which is tentatively planned for March.

Leadership Conference: The leadership conference is set to take place in March/April. Minami

said they are in the process of finalizing speakers and applicants.

Florida: Chin reported that the NAACP filed a suit in the Florida court, alleging that the presidential election count discriminated against minorities. Chin moved to have JACL file an amicus brief supporting the NAACP in Florida to ensure that everyone's vote was counted. Seconded by Nakata. Passed unanimously.

Membership — Gary Mayeda

Membership Committee: Mayeda said JACL membership is at a historic low since 1966, the year that JACL first started to track membership information. To attract new members, he proposed the formation of a membership committee and asked district governors to designate a contact person.

Recommendations for membership recruitment included: JACL timeline of accomplishments to educate new members; translation of material into Japanese to attract new immigrants; encourage districts and chapters to create membership brochures tailored to their region in addition to sending out the national membership brochure; go over the membership handbook; set up a membership application form on the website; provide welcome packets for new members; provide thank-you packets to renewed members.

Fund Development: Donna Okubo broke down her fund-raising targets into three groups: 1) This group of 10 corporations has a high probability of donating a total of \$185,000; 2) This group may donate funds, and JACL is requesting a projected total of \$1.5 million; 3) This group, comprised of 100 corporate donors, will be new to JACL and most likely will not fund JACL immediately. Okubo is also setting up a database to track donor information. Okubo's report on Annual Giving 2000 said \$39,955 was raised. This was 80 percent of their targeted goal of \$50,000. Cost of soliciting the donation was not determined by the February board meeting but is estimated to be around \$14,000.

Fund Development Policy: Phillip Morris has approached JACL about a possible corporate partnership. Tateishi, whose personal policy is against tobacco, met with Phillip Morris out of courtesy. He reported that the meeting was positive and that the conglomerate has been trying to make amends by funding lung cancer research and anti-drinking campaigns. Nishimura said EDC supports accepting donations from Phillip Morris as long as JACL does not endorse their products and the monies are not used to fund youth programs. Kawamoto said PSWD is against accepting donations. Four board members voted to cut off dialogues with the conglomerate, one board member abstained, and the remaining eight voted to discuss this with their districts and report back to the board.

National Education Committee: Chair Elaine Akagi reported that the National Education Committee, which is to serve as a "clearinghouse of information" for the JACL and the general public on Asian Pacific American issues, met Jan. 5-7. She thanked Midwest Region Director Bill Yoshino for providing help in meeting their goals, and introduced a Program for Action. The anticipated projects include: development of a national education web page; revision of the curriculum guide; development/sponsorship of national teacher training workshops on Nikkei and APA history; establishment of a repository of existing curriculum materials; inclusion and expansion of tolerance training with ties made to hate crime issues; sponsorship of a national education conference in conjunction with JACL's national convention; development of a speaker's bureau; development of a resource bank for chapters to turn to when needing training

material; and increased communication among the districts and chapters on their teacher training workshops.

Akagi also said a CD-Rom is being created to complement the revised curriculum guide. The CD-Rom is expected to be completed in March.

Education workshops currently scheduled throughout the country included those in California, Idaho, Texas and Wisconsin.

For the five non-California districts, funds up to \$1,000 are available to be used for educational purposes. To qualify, districts must apply for the funds.

Planning and Development — Karen Liene Shiba

2000 Legacy Fund Grant: Shiba announced that the Legacy Fund Grants Committee, comprised of members from the eight districts and two youth representatives, have completed the selection process for the 2000 Legacy Fund Grant awardees. The recipients are (sponsoring group/amount awarded/project):

- Eastern District Council (Laura Nakatani) - Day of Remembrance performance: \$450
- Fresno chapter (Randy Aoki) - Leadership conference: \$1,000
- Fresno JAY's (Marc Sanwo) - youth conference/volleyball tournament: \$1,500
- Livingston/Merced chapter (Robert Taniguchi) - JACL mentor program with Southeast Asian community, University of California-Merced & Tenaya Middle School: \$2,000
- Marysville chapter (Dean Tokuno) - photo essay of Tim Tokuno: \$2,000
- MDC Youth/Student Council (Stephen Yano and Katherine Igowski) - youth retreat at MDC/EDC/MPDC Tri-District Conference: \$3,000
- Midwest District Council (Lary Schectman) - "Train the Trainers" workshops: \$3,000
- National Youth/Student Council (Matthew Nakata) - 2001 national youth/student conference: \$2,000
- New Mexico chapter (Joe Ando) - Santa Fe internment camp historical marker: \$3,000
- Pacific Northwest Council (George Yamane) - Medal of Honor

or recipients recognition dinner: \$2,000.

- San Francisco chapter (Greg Marutani) - transcription, teachers guide and video copies of Milton Eisenhower video: \$2,000
- San Mateo chapter (Noell Kubota) - Japanese American exhibition with San Mateo County Historical Association Museum: \$3,000

- Seattle chapter (Jeffrey Hatori) - Aki Kurose Academy sign: \$1,000

- Twin Cities chapter (S. Sally Kudo) - teacher training workshops: \$2,000

- Wisconsin chapter (Allan Hida) - "Living Voices" presentations through the Wisconsin Council for Social Studies: \$1,000

Youth Council Report — Matthew Nakata

Executive Order: Nakata noted that Mori issued an executive order for all chapters to appoint a youth/student to their local board. To help chapters locate youths, Nakata provided three resources: 1) friends and family members; 2) contact your district youth/student representative; and 3) contact scholarship recipients.

July National Youth/Student Conference: Nakata said they are working on the national youth/student conference to take place July 13-15 in Seattle. They are approaching Gov. Gary Locke as a possible keynoter and are in the process of setting up a website. Okubo was able to secure State Farm Insurance to underwrite the awards banquet, and Nakata said an estimated \$10,000 has been raised locally.

April Spectrum Conference: PSWD Youth Coordinator Gerald Kato will help the national youth/student council coordinate JACLers who are interested in attending the Spectrum Conference set for April 20-22 in San Francisco.

MDC Youth Fund-raiser: Nakata said the MDC youth reps are selling t-shirts to raise funds to subsidize costs for youths who want to attend the Cincinnati tri-district meeting June 28-July 1. For information, visit the website: ocf.berkeley.edu/~hapa or contact Katherine Igowski at igow0001@tc.umn.edu or call

612/676-0447.

Budget: Nakata requested that after JACL overcomes its current financial problem that hard money be set aside for youths to hold regular annual meetings.

Governor's Caucus — Larry Grant

A motion to borrow \$16,000 from the endowment fund to pay for JACL's 1999 audit failed to pass, following a discussion that concluded that this was not a substantive solution to the overall financial problem.

Grant moved that the national board recognize the severity of the current JACL financial cash flow situation; that the national board recognize the finance committee has authority to authorize the use of the earnings of the endowment fund; and that the national board encourage the finance committee to carefully examine the use of these earnings up to the amount of \$100,000 to relieve the current cash flow situation. Seconded by Bob Taniguchi. Passed unanimously.

MTV: Alan Teruya introduced a resolution to commend MTV for broadcasting "Fight for Your Rights: Take a Stand Against Discrimination." Reiko Parker seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Montgomery County, Washington, D.C.: Nishimura introduced a resolution to support a coalition of APAs who are attempting to get a school named after an APA in a district which has a high APA student population. Kawamoto seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Aging and Retirement: Guest John Yamada from Eden Township chapter said they will be organizing a workshop on care giving at the upcoming Reno Tri-District in April. He also reminded the board that the Program for Action passed at last year's national convention included wording that each district have an Aging and Retirement chair. While he realized that having a national Aging and Retirement chair would be difficult, given JACL's current financial situation, he said they would appreciate it if the board looked into it.

The next national board meeting is scheduled for May 18-20. ■



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'In the Mood for Love': Director Wong Kar-wai's Ode to 1960s Hong Kong

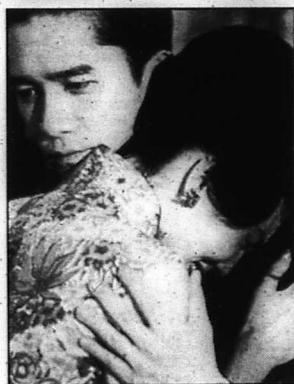
(Continued from page 1)

only 5 years old in 1958 when he moved there from Shanghai). Notorious for working sans traditional script or plot, the director equipped himself with little more than a loose concept, a setting and a couple of character sketches on which his actors were forced to improvise to construct the story of two neighbors living in a crowded apartment building who form a unique relationship after discovering their spouses are having an affair with one another.

Hong Kong celebs Tony Leung Chiu-wai and Maggie Cheung, who have appeared either together or separately in most of Wong's films, play the title roles as the lonely other halves, Mr. Chow and Mrs. Chan, both gorgeous and tragic in their vulnerability. Living among a tightly knit group of Shanghai immigrants who play mah-jongg at all hours of the night, the two are distant at first, merely passing each other in the hallway on their way from work and making obligatory small talk, unaware that they are bound by more than proximity.

Slowly, as the undeniable clues of their spouses' tryst unfold, Mr. Chow and Mrs. Chan begin finding innocent reasons to visit each other. All the while, Wong makes meticulously certain that every minute gesture, every sidelong glance, every unspoken nuance is loaded with longing, thanks also in part to Christopher Doyle and Mark Li Ping-bin's stunning cinematography. Slo-mo shots of dimly lit corridors, rainy back alleys and half-framed doorways and windows give it a Hitchcockian film noir feel and allude to the snail's pace at which their relationship — all tension and restraint — is developing.

Mr. Chow and Mrs. Chan soon begin taking their meals together



Top and bottom left: Maggie Cheung and Tony Leung Chiu-wai star as Chan Li-zhen and Chow Mo-wan in the new feature film "In the Mood for Love"; bottom right: director Wong Kar-wai discusses a scene with co-cinematographer Christopher Doyle.

in noodle houses and restaurants, growing closer but never directly revealing their feelings for each other. Instead, they commence in a strange ritual of rehearsal; they play-act scenes of confrontation with their spouses and of their own imminent departure from each other. On that occasion, the play-acting turns too real for Mrs. Chan, and she breaks down, turning to cry on Mr. Chow's shoulder in the only moment of physical contact and emotional release we see them have.

But in fact the film never lets us in on whether their love remains unfulfilled, making the chance that it is all the more bittersweet. The poignancy of their situation is wonderfully punctuated by Shigeru Yumehji's theme, "Perhaps, Perhaps, Perhaps," which pretty much sums up the film's ambiguity in a neat little nutshell.

Ambiguity is really the crux of the film, and the very thing that makes it work in a lot of ways. The only instance in which it becomes disruptive is at the end, which, let's just say without giving it away, is a bit cloudy. This may well be due, however, to the fact that Wong and his team were still re-editing just days before the film premiered at the Cannes Film Festival last May. The director himself has admitted to numerous revisions and alternate storylines which never made the final cut, including a love scene between Leung and Cheung which was originally intended to open the film.

In all, the project took nearly two years to complete. Filmed on location in Hong Kong, Bangkok, Thailand, and Angkor Wat, Cambodia, the project was plagued by a number of roadblocks along the way, including permit restrictions, objections by censors and financial problems. Wong was even hospitalized at one point from illness exacerbated by stress, making it perhaps the most difficult film shoot of his career.

But it was not without its rewards. The film, still untitled at that point, was well received at Cannes. For his part, Leung, resembling a latter-day Cary Grant, took home a Best Actor award, making him the first Chinese man to do so, while the film received, the Grand Prix de la Technique for editing, cinematography and production design. In mid-March, "In the Mood for Love" may even go head to head with the best in world cinema as Hong Kong's official Oscar entry for outstanding foreign language film.

"In the Mood for Love," a USA Films release, opens nationwide on Feb. 16.

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SPECTACULAR SCANDINAVIA (12 days)	SEPT 13
TAUK TENNESSEE/OZARKS/BRANSON (9 days)	SEPT 22
BEST OF HOKKAIDO/TOHOKU	SEPT 27
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MISLS and WACs

THE OTHER DAY, I was rummaging through some boxes down in the basement looking for what I've now forgotten. (That ever happen with you?) As I was moving boxes around, I came across some boxes



By **BILL MARUTANI**

containing books which I had set aside for reading one of these days. Ruffling through some pages, I found myself engrossed so that I pulled up one set of

East Wind

books focuses on the World War II period, including the 1942 uprooting and confinement of Nikkei in the Pacific Coast states. Morton Grodzin's "Americans Betrayed" is a lead book on the subject. Michi Weglyn's "Years of Infamy" is another key dissertation. A book to which I frequently turn is barrister Frank Chuman's "Bambo People," a book which should be in every Nikkei home.

ANOTHER BOOK which

should be in every Nikkei household is the tome on Fort Snelling, Minn., where the Military Intelligence Service Language School ("MISLS") had been moved from nearby Camp Savage. The compilation reflects meticulous, comprehensive care. I believe it contains a foreword by "Tak" Matsui, who was an instructor at MISLS. I say "believe" because I can't locate my copy to verify my recollection. Also Mitzie Matsui (Tak's wife) contributed a foreword, uniquely informative as secretary to John Aiso, the venerable administrator at MISLS.

AN UNKNOWN aspect of the MISLS story is that of Nisei WACs (Women's Army Corps). The sporadic photos that appear here and there reveal little; they only pique one's curiosity of the untold story behind the formation, training, and role of these women. Do their stories have parallels to that of the Nisei men? In what way did they differ? Specifically, how many volunteered and how many were drafted? What motivated those who volunteered? What was the reaction of their Issei parents, friends or fellow inmates? How did they respond to those two nefarious questions #2?

and #28, booby-trapped with the assumption that Nisei held allegiance to the Japanese emperor which then required a renunciation? What happened to those who balked at the questionnaire? Upon completion of the language course, to what and where were assignments made? If they served in Japan/during the occupation period, how were they received by the Japanese? Were they given promotions upon graduation, if so to what rank? (The Nisei males were generally given a T-5 rating, two upside-down chevrons with a "T" below.)

The questions could go on and on, with answers suggesting a whole host of other questions.

THE TWO GROUPS — Nisei trainees and the Nisei WACs — were kept completely separate and apart: no joint classrooms, no joint mess hall, separate housing of course, no joint USO recreation. At best—the most exposure would be seeing in the distance a platoon of WACs marching. I believe there was one Caucasian trainee with this WAC group. A captain by the name "Jean Weiner" was the commanding officer of the WACs.

Isn't there someone out there gathering data to be preserved into the written word? The Nisei WACs are the contemporaries of Nisei men — and the latter are no "spring roosters." ■

AOL

(Continued from page 1)

rector Patty Wada, who was recently alerted to the donation by Mary Kabayashi, a member of the Diablo Valley chapter.

Kobayashi found out about it through her involvement in a local gay and lesbian community center. "I was a little disturbed," she said, upon hearing the news. "We don't like discrimination in any form. And that's a lot of money. [Case] is entitled to donate to whomever he chooses, but my problem is certain beliefs can be perpetuated through the educational system."

Kobayashi said she now is urging friends and community members to drop AOL and switch servers so that we don't continue to be "part of a user system that tolerates prejudice."

However, the Cases have maintained that they do not support intolerance and said that the AOL donation was not intended to benefit the Coral Ridge church or its programs. Rather, the money was intended to help fund financial aid programs and the construction of a new school building for south Florida students.

Jean Case is a 1978 graduate

of Westminster. A similar donation from the Case Foundation went to Steve's alma mater, the Punahou school in Hawaii.

"The gifts were not intended to send any message other than thanks and were certainly not intended — nor did they in fact — support any anti-gay efforts by any organizations or individuals associated with the schools," said Steve Case, in a statement reported on the Gay.com website.

He went on to say that he and his wife have "long-standing records of opposing discrimination in any form, including discrimination based upon sexual orientation."

The problem with Case trying to justify this type of donation, said JACL National Executive Director John Tateishi, is that "if you give a large amount of money to any entity — unless it's strictly anti — it's hard to say where it actually goes."

The national JACL office does not currently conduct business through an AOL account. However, many individual members use it for their personal accounts.

For now, Tateishi said, the JACL will need to investigate the controversy further and communicate with other civil rights groups to determine what response may be appropriate. ■

KOMINE

(Continued from page 1)

on the mainland.

"Ever since I was younger, I wanted to leave the island, and this is as different from Hawaii as you can get," said Komine. "It's weird not having the ocean or mountains here. I miss surfing."

Komine stands out at college, not only for his pitching prowess, but because he is a minority.

"I'm pretty much the only Asian in sports here, but it doesn't bother me; I'm independent," said Komine. "I wanted to get away from the whole Hawaii thing. There's no better place to do that than Nebraska."

Komine said his parents — Gerald, a firefighter, and Donna, a flight attendant — supported him wholeheartedly in his decision to stray so far from home. He also has two younger brothers, Micah and Scott. Komine returns to Hawaii for Christmas and summer, and his mom sends him care packages frequently.

"I look up to my parents a lot," said Komine. "From the very beginning, they were behind me. They've taught me a lot and instilled a lot of pride in me."

There is no doubt that the Komine's have many reasons to be proud of their eldest son. Last

season, Komine led the Cornhuskers to a 51-17 record, and the team was one win shy from the college world series. Komine earned the 2000 Big 12 Player of the Year award for his efforts. He finished the season with a record of 11-4 and a 2.24 earned run average.

Komine has been named a 2001 first team preseason All-American,



and the Cornhuskers are ranked fourth in the nation in the Collegiate Baseball Poll.

"It's a good feeling that people respect what you did and have hopes for you," said Komine. "I'm not going to let it affect me. I just put it out of my head."

At an unassuming 5'10" Komine said that a lot of people doubted his talents on the mound. He counts being really consistent and his famous split-finger pitch as the strongest parts of his game. His pitches have been clocked in the mid to high 80s.

"A lot of people thought that I was just this short Asian guy, but they're worried about me now," explained Komine. "Their doubts

made me work that much harder."

Komine, a sociology major, is taking his time with school. He said that having nothing to do in Nebraska forces him to study all the time and maintain his 3.0 GPA. He dreams of playing major league baseball and is optimistic of his chances.

"If it happens, it happens," said Komine. "I can make it to that next level depending on how well I do. I always stay healthy, exercise a lot and don't get mentally or physically fatigued."

The Cornhuskers practice six days a week, lift weights three days a week and run every day. Komine is playing with a stress fracture in his spine that he has had for 10 years. He also suffered a broken jaw last season, which has completely healed.

For now, Komine is looking toward this season. The Huskers played in their first tournament, the Crowne Plaza/Rice Invitational in Houston, Feb. 9-11. They won one game and lost two. Komine made his first start of the season against the No. 1 team in the nation, Georgia Tech. Komine struck out eight and walked two batters in four innings of work, despite the 15-8 loss.

When asked if he has any pregame rituals, Komine responded, "I listen to Hawaiian music before games, it helps me calm down." But as long as "K" is on the mound, the batters are anything but. ■

JA Korean War Vets Announce Memorial Dedication Tour

The Japanese American Korean War Veterans (JAKWV) recently announced that its JAKWV Korea Revisit and Memorial Monument Dedication Tour will take place May 10-16.

Those who join in the tour — veterans, family and friends — will attend the dedication ceremony for the newly erected memorial monument at Imjin-Gak, Paju City, South Korea, in honor of the 247 JAs who were killed or noted missing in action during the 1950-53 Korean War.

The tour will also include a veterans reunion program, an Ambassadors Medal awards ceremony and a sightseeing tour of Seoul, in which visitors will be taken to Kyung-Bok Palace, Folk Village, the national museum, the war museum, the national cemetery and various battle sites.

In addition to generous donations from the JA community, the JAKWV received tremendous support three years ago from Deputy Consul General Chang-soo Kim of the Republic of Korea consulate office in Los Angeles.

Kim urged the construction of the monument so that people in both the Republic of Korea and the United States would know the contributions JAs made in the war effort to free South Korea. Kim also obtained the backing of the Korean Ministry of National Defense in Seoul and the Korean Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Honorary chairpersons for the JAKWV Korea Memorial Committee include Chairman Kap-chong Chi, United Nations Korean War Allies Association; U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye; Myung-bai Kim, consul general of the Republic of Korea in Los Angeles; and Hiroshi Miyamura, Medal of Honor (MOH) recipient in the Korean War.

The JAKWV Korea Memorial Committee members are Victor Murakami, Ed Nakata, Paul Ono, Ken Oye, Min Tonai and Norio Uyematsu.

The tour is open to the public. For more information, contact Ed Nakata at 310/377-6629, 5663 Mistridge Dr., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275, or e-mail him at enakata@aol.com. ■

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A Daughter of Cambodia Revisits the Killing Fields

"First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers"
By Loung Ung
Hardcover edition published by HarperCollins
Paperback edition by Perennial, \$13

By **MARTHA NAKAGAWA**
Assistant Editor

Most Americans who lived through the 1960s can tell you exactly what they were doing when President John F. Kennedy was shot. For Loung Ung, 31, her "JFK moment" occurred when she heard about the death of Pol Pot, the infamous leader of the Khmer Rouge movement that killed an estimated 1.7 million Cambodians, 20 percent of the country's populace.

When the evening news flashed images of the last days of Pol Pot, Ung saw an aged and feeble man, not the "monster" who had destroyed her family and her childhood.

"How dare he live to be in his 70s," said Ung, her voice rising. "How dare he say he was a good husband and father.... How dare he say he did this for the love of his country."

When Ung recently shared her experiences and her meticulously kept journals, friends encouraged her to publish a book. The result was the hardback publication of "First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers," in 2000 and the paperback release this year.

Ung was just 5 years old when Khmer Rouge forces invaded her hometown of Phnom Penh in

1975. Now, when the only alternative is to starve, I fight others for a dead animal lying in the road. Surviving for another day has become the most important thing to me."

In 1980, after a dangerous journey wrought with pirates, sharks and scattered Khmer Rouge forces, Ung, her older brother Meng and his wife Eang made it to a Thai refugee camp via Vietnam. From there, after a prolonged wait, the family was able to find a sponsor in the United States.

When the Ung family arrived in America, however, they did not find themselves among Asian Americans. Ung's sponsoring Caucasian family lived in Vermont, where Ung recalled seeing only one other Asian. This made growing up difficult for Ung, who not only struggled with the language and culture but also combated depression and recurring nightmares.

Although there were school counselors, the language barrier made it slow and awkward for her to explain herself. In order to ease the loneliness and isolation, Ung began her journals.

"It was difficult," said Ung. "But I managed. I didn't heal. I adapted."

Since the book's publication, Ung has received praise from the likes of U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, who supports a global ban on land mines, and Dith Pran, the Cambodian assistant to a *New York Times* reporter whose own tortured survival under the Pol Pot regime was portrayed by the late Dr. Haig S. Ng in the 1984 movie, "The Killing Fields."

Ung has been featured in *USA Today* and *Biography* Magazine, and been interviewed on "Nightline" and National Public Radio. Foreign rights to Ung's book have been sold to 12 countries, and a documentary has been made about her in Japan.

But Ung's visibility from her human rights activities and book tours has made her uncomfort-

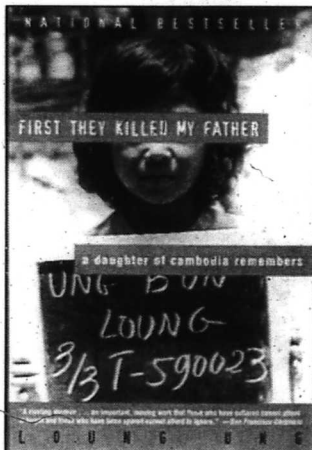
able. The publicity has prompted her to change her phone number often, screen her calls, and check and re-check her door locks. But even with these precautions, she still wakes up in the middle of the night in utter panic.

When she talks with her three surviving siblings in Cambodia—Khouy, Kim and Chou—politics is almost never discussed. "I'm blessed because in America I can talk about justice and healing," said Ung. "But for them, it's hard being on the ground level."

Indeed, war is not far from the minds of Ung's siblings. When Ung returned to Cambodia for the first time in 16 years, her siblings insisted that she not stay with them in the country but check into a hotel near the airport so that she would have an easy escape route should anything happen.

That first trip back to her homeland was a difficult one for Ung. Days before her trip, she was torn between feelings of esteem, anxiety and a sense of guilt for leaving her family in the midst of war.

But once she stepped out of the airplane and saw her siblings, it was as if she had never left. Since then Ung has been in constant contact with them and even asked for their help in writing the book. Her older brother, Khouy, shared with her more than 100 pages of his own experience.



Today, Ung is the national spokesperson for the Campaign for a Landmine Free World, a program of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation that received the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize. She hopes to publicize the need to help survivors and victims of land mines, and to help locate and disengage buried land mines. ■

For more information about the Campaign for a Landmine Free World contact: 2001 S Street, NW, Suite 740, Washington, D.C. 20009; tel.: 202/483-9222; fax: 202/483-9312; website: voaf.org. For more information about Cambodia, contact: The Cambodian Genocide Program, Yale Center for International and Area Studies, Yale University, P.O. Box 208206, New Haven, CT 06520-8206; website: yale.edu/cgp1.

"In Phnom Penh, I would have thrown up if someone told me I would have to eat those things. Now, when the only alternative is to starve, I fight others for a dead animal lying in the road. Surviving for another day has become the most important thing to me."

—An excerpt from "First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers"

"I knew exactly where I was," said Ung, a Cambodian immigrant who survived Pol Pot's bloody regime.

Ung was listening to National Public Radio in her Washington, D.C., office on that fateful day, April 15, 1998. After hearing of Pol Pot's death due to heart failure, she looked out her window—the sun was shining, the birds were sitting in nearby trees, and pedestrians were laughing. Life seemingly went on.

But for Ung, time stood still. That day, Ung left work early, went home and cried.

April 1975. Overnight, her middle class life disappeared.

During the four years of the Khmer Rouge's rule (1975-1979), Ung's father, mother and youngest sister would be executed; an older sister would die from overwork and starvation; and she, herself, would know hunger, hard labor and death on a daily basis. Like others, Ung's hunger would force her to supplement her meager rations with beetles, crickets and grasshoppers.

In an excerpt from her book, Ung writes: "In Phnom Penh, I would have thrown up if someone

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NonFiction

From Kona to Yanan: The Political Memoirs of Koji Ariyoshi
 Edited by Alice Beechert & Edward Beechert
 University of Hawai'i Press
 212 pp., \$19 paperback

This volume gathers the writings of longshoreman, journalist and labor activist Koji Ariyoshi. During World War II, Ariyoshi was incarcerated at Manzanar, where he co-founded the Manzanar Citizens Federation, an unlikely coalition of JACLers and radicals such as Karl Yoneda. He entered the Military Intelligence Service which took him to Yanan, China, and there became friends with China's future leaders including Mao Zedong. After returning to his birth place of Hawaii, Ariyoshi plunged into union activities, most notably the editing of the *Honolulu Record*, considered the voice of labor during the bitter conflicts between unions and Hawaii's ruling elite. Following his 1951 arrest on charges of being a communist, Ariyoshi became known as one of the "Hawaii Seven."

Shanghai: The Rise and Fall of a Decadent City, 1842-1949
 By Stella Dong
 William Morrow
 302 pp., \$27.50 paperback

By the mid-19th century, the world's most lucrative opium trade had been introduced by British invaders into Shanghai, a metropolis populated by gangsters, drug-traffickers, beggars, prostitutes, political revolutionaries, royalty and celebrities. Squalorous and opulent, it became known as the "Whore of Asia." From the Opium War which brought Western control to the region in 1842, to the overthrow of nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek by Communist Party founder Mao Zedong in 1949, journalist Stella Dong traces the turbulent events which helped

shape modern China.

River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze
 By Peter Hessler
 HarperCollins
 399 pp., \$26 hardback

Peter Hessler spent two years in the remote Chinese city of Fuling, where he taught English as a Peace Corps volunteer. His experiences were serialized in *The New Yorker*, which became the basis for this book. Most locals in this isolated Yangtze port had not seen a Westerner in half a century, and Hessler's presence elicited both curiosity and public catcalls. Determined to understand the language and culture, Hessler spent his free time in local markets and restaurants, chatting with ordinary people. He eschewed tourist accommodations and traveled as the Chinese do, on river transports and crowded trains. Hessler's vantage point enabled him to observe the contemporary Chinese as few Westerners have.

Oriental: Asian Americans in Popular Culture
 By Robert G. Lee
 Temple University Press
 288 pp., \$59.50 hardback, \$19.95 paperback

The question, "Where do you come from?" is a tip-off to the persistent notion that people of Asian ancestry are not real Americans, that "Orientals" never stop being loyal to a foreign land. Robert Lee seizes upon this "Oriental" label and shows how the racialized images first proffered by music hall songsters and social commentators have become generalized to all APAs, coalescing in particular stereotypes. Lee connects these stereotypes to historical moments, each marked by shifting class relations and cultural crises.

Storied Lives: Japanese American Students and World War II
 By Gary Y. Okihira
 University of Washington Press
 208 pp., \$35 hardback, \$17.50 paperback

During World War II, more than 5,500 young Japanese

Americans left the concentration camps in order to attend college. This book describes — often in their own words — how Nisei students found schools to attend outside the West Coast exclusion zone and the efforts of white Americans to help them.

The Dream Eater
 By James Sato
 Outsider Publications
 200 pp., \$12.95 paperback

In 1993, James Sato had a bright future. He had graduated from college and was working at a standardized testing center. Months later, screaming voices tormented his mind. The author had entered the world of paranoid schizophrenia and was hospitalized. This non-linear memoir chronicles his life, from his birth in Fort Dodge, Iowa, to a JA mother and Irish American father, and follows his

family history of cultural clashes and domestic violence, which culminates with the author's recovery from depression and schizophrenia.

Day of Deceit: The Truth About FDR and Pearl Harbor
 By Robert B. Stinnett
 The Free Press
 386 pp., \$26 hardback, \$14 paperback

Like historians John Toland and Edward Beach, Robert Stinnett uncovered evidence suggesting American intelligence knew about Japan's plans to bomb Pearl Harbor long before the attack on Dec. 7, 1941. This book is a must read for those wanting to know the truth surrounding the United States' entry into World War II.

Thinking Orientals: Migration, Contact and Exoticism in Modern America
 By Henry Yu
 Oxford University Press
 288pp., \$35 hardcover

Without understanding the long history of intellectual fascination with "Orientals" in Amer-

Kids Korner

Fighting for Honor: Japanese-Americans and World War II
 By Michael L. Cooper
 Houghton Mifflin
 118 pp., \$16 hardcover

Recommended for children 9-12, Michael Cooper relates the experiences of the Japanese American community and their forced internment into U.S. concentration camps during World War II.

Floating Lanterns & Golden Shrines: Celebrating Japanese Festivals
 By Rena Krasno
 Illustrated by Toru Sugita
 Pacific View Press
 49 pp., \$19.95 hardcover

The newest in a series of festival books, this volume is full of detailed illustrations of seven Japanese celebrations. Information about arts and daily life are interspersed throughout the text: ikibana, taiko, lacquerware, bonsai, origami, haiku, traditional Japanese sports and martial arts, as well as how Japanese names are formed. There are recipes, games and other activities. The historic text provides the background, while the author's retelling of four folktales provides a more intimate sense of

the culture. The Japanese language is explained, with common phrases introduced. The book is recommended for children 8-13.

Char Siu Bao Boy
 By Sandra S. Yamate
 Polychrome, 32 pp., \$15.95

Charlie loves char siu bao, but his classmates think it's weird. Will he succumb to peer pressure or will they learn a lesson about cultural difference? Char Siu Bao Boy is an excellent book not only for beginning readers but for those who feel that diversity and multiculturalism are important aspects of a child's education. This hardback edition includes full-color illustrations by artist Carolina Yao. Polychrome Publishing, an independent press in Chicago, is the only company in the country that specializes in producing books for kids about the experiences of Asians in America and other people of color.



Asia, it is difficult to understand the genesis of social theories about the place of race and culture in U.S. society. UCLA Professor Henry Yu explains how crucial APAs have been in theories of race and culture, helping us to move away from the black/white dichotomy that has misled so much of American social life. Among the many issues that Yu tackles, he shows how cultural theory has become confused with anti-racism.

Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People
 By Helen Zia
 Farrar, Straus, and Giroux
 256 pp., \$26 hardback

Helen Zia notes that APAs have been MIH or "missing in history." With this book, Zia follows the first major wave of immigration to the recent influx of Southeast Asians, who since 1975 have nearly doubled the APA population. Zia also examines a range of recent flash points such as the 1982 racially motivated murder of Vincent Chin in Detroit; the 1992 riots in Los Angeles, where almost half of the \$1-billion in damages to the city were sustained by Korean American shop owners; and the embattled South Asian New York City cab drivers who, in May of 1998, banded together with the New York Taxi Workers Alliance and pulled off a city-wide strike.

Fiction

When We Were Orphans
 By Kazuo Ishiguro
 Knopf
 336 pp., \$25 hardback

From the author of "Remains of the Day," winner of the Booker Prize and adapted into the award-winning film starring Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson, the newest novel by Ishiguro is set in the 1920s and 30s and follows an English boy, Christopher Banks, who is orphaned when his parents mysteriously disappear while living in Shanghai.

Norwegian Wood
 By Haruki Murakami
 Translated by Jay Rubin
 Vintage
 296 pp., \$13 paperback

In Japan, "Norwegian Wood" has sold 4 million copies since it was first published in 1987. The novel follows a college student's

coming-of-age set in Japan during the tumultuous 1960s. It includes Murakami's hallmark motifs: cool deadpan prose, quirky characters and a fascination with Western culture.

Why She Left Us
 By Rahna Reiko Kizzuto
 HarperCollins
 295 pp., \$24 hardback, \$13 paperback

Issued in 1999 as a hardback, this American Book award novel is now available in paperback. This debut novel is about three generations of a JA family whose lives are forever changed in the wake of the internment during World War II. The central character, Emi, is shrouded in mystery, inexplicably giving up her son after birth, an act which jeopardizes the relationships with both her mother, Kaori, and her daughter, Mariko. The author's tale was inspired by a trip she took with her own mother in 1992 to Amache for the 50th reunion of the camp.

Asleep
 By Banana Yoshimoto
 Grove Press
 177 pp., \$29.95 hardback

This is the third Banana Yoshimoto book to be published in English. The reader meets a slew of modern Japanese women — newlyweds devoid of things to do after marrying; school dropouts waiting for evening to begin their hosting jobs; or older women returning from working overseas. All three stories involve the untimely death of a character and bizarre relationships between the sexes.

On Parole
 By Akira Yoshimura
 Translated by Stephen Snyder
 Harvest Books
 244 pp., \$17 paperback

This novel, made into a movie, follows the character of Shiro Kikutani, a paroleed murderer who was once a high school teacher. When he marries Emiko, he is awkward and sexually inept, and this leads Emiko to find sexual satisfaction with another man, named Mochizuki. Kikutani is tipped off to this secret affair through his sister-in-law. When he finds the two in bed, he stabs the lovers to death and burns the house down. For his crimes, he is sentenced to 16 years. After serving his time, the reader follows his tentative re-entry back into society.

California Civil Liberties Public Education Program-Funded Books

Topaz Moon: Chiura Obata's Art of the Internment
 Edited by Kimi Kodani Hill
 Heyday Books
 168 pp., \$19.95 paperback

Compiling more than 100 paintings and sketches from the World War II internment era, Issei artist Chiura Obata, a master of the traditional *sumi-ink* and brush technique, offers images from inside the camps that capture both the austerity and hardship of everyday life and the hope and beauty of its artistic rendering. Born in Japan, Obata came to California in 1903, where she taught art at the University of California, Berkeley from 1932 to 1954, except for the years he was interned.

GreenMakers: Japanese American Gardeners in Southern California
 Edited by Naomi Hirahara
 Southern California Gardeners' Federation

160 pp., \$19.95 paperback

This bilingual book traces the 100-year history of Japanese Americans in the gardening industry through photographs, essays, poetry and a timeline. Included are explanations of the discriminatory policies as well as cultural issues that led to such a large number of JAs — an estimated 8,000 at one time — to enter the gardening profession. Labor conflicts, entrepreneurship, immigration patterns, forced removal of the Nikkei community during World War II and the creation of the Japanese gardens in Southern California are also examined. Among the contributors are pioneering gardener Shoji Nagumo; Ron Tsukashima, professor at California State University, Los Angeles; Kendall Brown and Dean Toji, both professors at California State University, Long Beach; Eiichiro Azuma, professor at the University of Pennsylvania; and writer Tom Shima. Published in Japanese is

an essay by award-winning author Yoshimi Ishikawa. To purchase a book, contact the SCGF office at 213/628-1595; e-mail at scgf@pacbell.net; or write to 333 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles, CA 90013.

Only What We Could Carry
 Edited by Lawson Fusao Inada
 Heyday Books
 480 pp., \$18.95 paperback

This latest anthology brings together literature from the World War II camp experience, including poetry, fiction, personal diary excerpts, letters, song lyrics and recollections from African American, Jewish American, Native American and other

Asian Americans who saw the event unfold before their eyes. Family photographs and original artwork add a visual record of life before and during the camps, while posters, political cartoons and other memorabilia give a glimpse of the climate outside the camp gates.

Letters to the Editor

A Referendum

The issue of the resisters of conscience resolution does not seem to be fading away. This issue has been hanging on for over six decades and needs desperately to be put to a final rest for the good of the organization. As long as it continues to fester, the organization can never progress.

Because of this, I propose a solution that hopefully will satisfy both sides and end the controversy. I propose there be a national referendum on the resolution. It would be a straight up, yes or no vote by paid-up members and the majority vote would decide the fate of the resolution.

It will be an expensive referendum but how much will it cost compared to the endless arguing by both supporters and opponents of the resolution? When the specific passages of the resolution are implemented, the arguing will only start again. Both sides should agree that majority vote of all members should be a guiding standard within the oldest Asian American civil rights organization in the nation.

As for a legal basis for such a vote, there is some provision in the national by-laws for a referendum to allow a final judgment by the membership on national board decisions. If this is unacceptable, then a resolution from one or two of the districts to the national board requesting a referendum contingent on the approval of a majority of the districts would surely be authoritative enough to hold such a ballot. Surely there are enough members of enough district boards who want to see this issue settled once and for all.

And finally, pending the holding of the referendum, the implementation of the resisters resolution could easily be held in abeyance until after the voting.

I call on all concerned JACL members to prevail on the national, district, and local boards to call for such a referendum. Let us all find out once and for all what is the real will and wish of the membership. Demand your voice be heard in settling this matter.

Gerald Horvicki
Fresno, Calif.

In Response to Veterans' Letter

I am responding to the recent letter to the editor in which Sus Satow and five other Nisei veterans, in their meeting with JACL National President Floyd Mori and JACL Executive Director John Tateishi, expressed their unhappiness over the JACL apology to the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee.

The Fair Play Committee, and some other resisters of conscience from the camps during World War II, did so on constitutional grounds, saying that they would be willing to serve if the civil rights of their families were restored first.

This is a bedrock constitutional position involving lack of due process, which Federal Judge Goodman invoked in rejecting the U.S. government's position during the trial of Tule Lake draft resisters and freed them.

At the federal trial of some 100 draft resisters of the Poston, Ariz. camp, the federal judge fined each of the defendants one cent, which the defense attorney paid with a one-dollar bill.

When I interviewed Ben Kuroki in January 1998, I was surprised to hear him state that we Nisei needed to prove our worth

as citizens, implying that it was not a birthright. I have come to realize that there are a number of Japanese American veterans of our country's wars who hold this same unfortunate position.

The letter by the veterans contains a gross, understandable error when it states, "We feel it (an apology) is an ill-conceived idea fostered by our younger JACL leaders who did not experience the difficult and traumatic period during WWII."

I beg to differ.

The apology was my idea, a Nisei who served with the MIS during WWII with three of my brothers and a fourth who served during the Korean War, and as a former district governor of the Pacific Southwest District. On Feb. 19, 1993, I was manning the Heart Mountain, Wyo., booth at a JANM-sponsored event at the Los Angeles convention center when three persons came by: Ruth Mizobe, PSWD governor, Tritia Murakawa, a board member, and Mits Koshiyama, a Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee member. Mits' brother George served in the military during WWII, but supported Mits as a Fair Play Committee member by paying his two-dollar dues.

This was the first time I had met Ruth Mizobe and Tritia Murakawa, and I suggested to them that JACL, as a civil rights organization, should apologize to the resisters of conscience and suggested that it might start with the board. Ruth Mizobe indicated it would be a slam dunk and went further, taking it to the following February meeting of the PSWD council in Gardena, Calif., where the resolution of apology was adopted.

I then wrote to the other seven national JACL district governors, with supporting letters from Ruth Mizobe, Dr. Clifford Uyeda, a former national JACL president, and Dr. Eiji Suyama, a 442 veteran. There was no response from JACL until this past July, seven years later.

Paut Tsuneishi
Sunland, Calif.

Veteran Stands Behind Resisters

Once more we are reminded of the political and social absolutism of my generation (Nisei), whenever the fault line between World War II veterans and draft resisters reopens. The letter "Nisei Veterans Vis-a-vis Drafter Resisters" skews the alignment of vision and reality, i.e. the constitutional pieties and blind patriotism. Because the resisters chose, to challenge the former, they became pariahs to some WWII veterans.

As a 442nd RCT rifleman I welcomed and endorsed their stand in 1944. Their decisions relieved me of certain nagging beliefs and citizenship obligations. It was also a common sentiment among my comrades. The 100th/442nd association of Hawaii endorsed reconciliation well before JACL. Perhaps they possess the unified identity which we on the mainland do not.

The veterans' letter is freighted with deceptive alleged misdeeds and misleading reconstructions. In 1942 we were borne on tides of history, helplessness, and culture-bound passivity. But we realized we had to contend with survival in a fickle nation and a racial war. It is the diversity of our actions and reactions that we should celebrate.

Eiji Suyama
Ft. Meade, S.D.

In Appreciation

Please allow me to express my appreciation for your much-too-complimentary article about my past activities, and giving me an opportunity to articulate my position on issues troubling me.

I was remiss in overlooking my support for the "dissenters" and gay members of our community who have been the target of such vitriolic attack. Those who sacrificed their lives did so in defense of our freedoms—freedom to dissent is clearly delineated in the Constitution, the law of our land. One does not necessarily have to agree with the actions of others, but should respect their First Amendment rights; and with a generosity of spirit, make a conscientious effort to comprehend one's otherness and overcome our bias.

Best wishes for this new year, and with hopes we can celebrate our willingness to face the challenges of our time and be better for it.

Mary Miyashita
Whittier, Calif.

Whereabouts

Items listed without charge on a space-available basis.

MITSUYE ENDO

Writer Karen Mulford is seeking Mitsuye Endo, the successful plaintiff in the writ of habeas corpus case that challenged the detention of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Mulford, who has archival material on Endo, would like to include her in an upcoming book on women in the American West. She can be reached at 480/491-8640; fax 480/491-5489; e-mail, ksmulford@aol.com.

YASUO NISHIOKA

Rosalie Ann "Russell" Smith is searching for family friend Yasuo Nishioka, who was a graduate student in agriculture at Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kan., in the 1970s. Nishioka spoke excellent English, spent holidays with Smith's family at their Russell Ranch in Pawnee Rock, Kan. After graduation he returned to Japan, married and took his wife's family name, and became a school headmaster. Smith's phone number is 580/343-2102, or voice mail 580/323-2884.

SACHIKO YOSHIDA

Miriam Belcier Messina is looking for her lost pen-pal from 1939-41. Miriam remembers that her pen-pal had a sister, brother and a father, who worked for the Japanese government. With information write to 4021-B Greystone Ct., Kelseyville, CA 95451 or 707/279-4144.

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* 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.

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

* "Short expressions" on public issues, usually one or two paragraphs, should include signature, address and daytime phone number. Because of space limitations, letters are subject to abridgement. Although we 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.

OBITUARY

Miné Okubo, 88 — A Time to Re-read 'Citizen 13660'

By HARRY K. HONDA

Miné Okubo, spirited woman who spent several years behind barbed wire during World War II as "Citizen 13660" at Tanforan Assembly Center and Topaz War Relocation Center, died on Feb. 10 at a New York rest home. Okubo spent her entire adult life in New York's Greenwich Village on East 9th Street after leaving camp in 1944.



WRA PHOTO BY Toge Fujiwara
Okubo (1945)

Okubo was born in Riverside, Calif., studied art in California and in Europe before the war. She was busy doing mosaics at Fort Ord and at the Servicemen's Hospitality

House in Oakland when E.O. 9066 was promulgated.

What distinguished her from the Nisei of her age at the time was that she wrote *Citizen 13660* (209 pages), a straightforward account with her pictures relating her experiences.

"The book has captured all the bumbling and fumbling of the early evacuation days, all the pathos and much of the humor that arose from the paradox of citizens interned," *Pacific Citizen* reviewer Marion Tajiri noted in 1946.

Miné, writing in *P.C.'s* 1976 Holiday Issue themed, "The Coming Decade," saw: "Time, change and generations of intermarriage pave their own course ahead for peoples' lives are determined and influenced by the times they live in."

Surviving are brother Senji, sister Yoshiko Tanaka and relatives. Memorials are being planned in New York and Riverside, Calif. ■

Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Akiya, Ichiro Karl, 91, New York City, Feb. 8; Kibei economist, union organizer and activist. Services will be held on March 47, 1 p.m., at the Japanese American United Church, 7th Ave and 24th St., in New York City. RSVP daughter Elizabeth Akiya Chestnut at echestnut@aol.com.

Doami, Maehi, 106, Cerritos, Jan. 9; Yamaguchi-ken-born; survived by sons Tom and wife Jacque (Pinole), Junji and wife Kikue (Alameda), Rev. John Yasuto and wife Koko; daughter Yukie Nomura and husband Edward Isamu (Newark); 8 gc.; 7 gc.

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 \$15 per column inch. Text is reworded as needed.

Fujita, Lilly, Lakewood, Colo., Jan. 13 service; formerly of California; survived by daughter Carol Mitsuyoshi; 1 gc., 1 ggc; sisters Ruth Hashimura and husband Tak (Diamond Bar), Bette Kobayashi and husband Bill (Fountain Valley); Dorothy Uno and husband Roy (Santa Ana), Mary Horito (North Hollywood); and a sister in Denver.

Hayakawa, Yukio, 72, Los Angeles, Jan. 13; New York City-born son of screen actor Sessue Hayakawa; Japan-educated radio, film and TV scriptwriter in Japan, founder of the first Japanese language TV station in Southern California, columnist for the *Rafu Shimpo*; survived by wife Takuko; son Jotaro.

Kawashima, Kihachiro, 83, Japan, Dec. 25; founder and later president of American Honda Motor Co.; introduced Honda motorcycles into the United States, developed a nationwide sales network and set the foundation for the company's success in motorcycles, automobiles and power products.

Komura, Robert M., Dr. 66, Ojai, Dec. 21; U.S. Navy veteran; longtime orthodontist in Ojai and Ventura; survived by wife Skip; daughters Jill, Jan; sister Ann Teschler.

Miyawaki, Tom Tsutomu, 81; Torrance, Dec. 28; Los Angeles-born; WWII veteran; survived by wife Chizuko; sisters Shiz Amano and husband George, Misao Margaret Nakano, Marie Uyemura and husband Tad.

Narasaki, Richard "Dick" M., 74, Seattle, Dec. 29; Santa Clara-born; Topaz internee; WWII 442nd RCT (F Co.) U.S. Army veteran; survived by wife Dorothy; daughters Diane West and husband James and Carol Hatten and husband David (Seattle), Karen Narasaki (Washington, D.C.); son Ken and wife Sharon Omi (Los Angeles); 2 gc.; mother Kikuyo Hirakawa (San Jose).

Ochitani, Bunjiro "Boon," 77, San Jose, Nov. 11; Malta-born; decorated WWII U.S. Army veteran; postwar Honolulu resident; survived by sisters Chiyu Yamamoto

and husband Bob, and Tula Handa (both San Jose).

Okawaki, Satoko MayBelle M.D., 69; Dec. 31; survived by husband Dr. Charles DeFren (Santa Rosa); brother Bill (Mitchell, Neb.); sisters Ruby Yasui, Diyas Miyoko Koga and husband Sumio, Anne Wiyong, Rose Piper.

Suueyasu, William Shinichi "Bill," 75, Palo Alto, Jan. 4; U.S. Army veteran; survived by wife Aiko; daughter Linda Iwamoto, Sharon, Sandy Suueyasu-Cox and husband Dave, Sherrie Hancock and husband Kevin; 8 gc.; predeceased by son Lane.

Takizawa, Sadae Aoki, 109, Sacramento, Jan. 14; Nagano, Japan-born; survived by son Chiaki and wife Kimi; daughters Megumi Goi and husband George, Hazumi Takizawa; brother Shozo J. Aoki; 6 gc., 5 ggc.; sisters-in-law Asaka Aoki, Kimi Takizawa; predeceased by husband Osuke.

Watanabe, Masao, 73; Dec. 31; Kauai-born; WWII veteran; survived by wife Sue; daughter Gail Ito and husband Glen; sons Miles and wife Jamie O.; Jamie, 2 gc.; sister Mae Furutomo and husband Hiroshi; brother Yoshio Watanabe and wife Margie.

Yokobe, Bill, 79, Seattle; Tacoma, Wash.-born; WWII 442nd RCT (E Co.) U.S. Army veteran; survived by wife Ruby; daughters Donna Uyasa, Susan Ueki, Beverly Eneaga; son Robert; 6 gc., 3 ggc.

Yoshida, Yoshichi, 96, Kauai, Hawaii, Jan. 24; Kealia, Hawaii-born; elected to the territorial House of Representatives in 1956 and 1958; survived by sons Hugh, Reuben; 6 gc., 4 ggc. ■

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