Call to Increase Membership Focus of Calif. Tri-District

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA

Photo: John Hayashi, POWCNP/SWPD, District 7

Call to increase JACL membership was the theme of the POWCNP/SWPD Tri-district held from April 20-22 at Pepperdine's奇才

The conference was sponsored by NCWPND with a theme of ‘The California 21st Century.’ According to Robbins Terano, conference chair, about 100 participants were registered, with the participants representing all districts and all ethnic groups.

This was so natural of a fit when they were looking for somebody to chair the conference,” said Terano, “I had a hard time finding the person to start planning this to try planning it at my spare time as opposed to having it be my full-time job, and...”

Terry right now I have to look after my 16-month-old daughter and my wife is around and trying to work on the program looking for a place to take this decision.

The conference opened with a...
Commission Faces Uncertainty as it Urges Bush to Meet Needs of APIs

By TRACY UBA
Writetester

With Census 2000 numbers showing Asian Pacific Islanders as the fastest growing minority population in the United States, the urgent need of this diverse community has never been so apparent.

That's why members of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Pacific Islanders gathered in Los Angeles on April 18 with community leaders to urge President Bush to ensure that APIs nationwide have access to federal health-care resources and social services.

Hosted by the Asian Pacific Policy
& Planning Council (APPPAC), a federation of over 40 health and human service agencies in Southern California, the event allowed the commission to highlight its interim report on APIs, "A People Looking Forward:"

"The report addresses many of the issues that we are so concerned about in the Asian Pacific American community, and it does so from a national and a federal perspective," said Stewart Kwok, executive director of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center. "We are usually very much at work at a local and 'regional' level, sometimes a state-wide level, but rarely has it been from the Asian Pacific American community at a national level been pulled into a major initiative to get some major issues addressed."

Among those issues, according to Kwok, are immigrant rights, hate crimes, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, gay and lesbian rights and API Pacific Islander concerns.

The report also contains formal recommendations to the president on how to address these issues, including boosting API participation in federal programs, focusing on research and data collection on API populations, and building a public and private sector community involvement.

Approximately two million APIs lack health insurance today, and 40 percent of APIs are uninsured. English speakers and API speakers in linguistically isolated APIs make APIAPC executive committee member Miya Isakawa, who noted the report's call for more culturally sensitive language and interpretation services.

But even with these concerns, commission chairman Patrick Lee stressed that it's really up to the community to begin implementing these recommendations and finding sources of funding.

"Our commitment to this is not time-limited," added Guillermo. "So whether it's officially organized, or we continue to work as a community, the option is to promote the report, work towards the implementation of the recommendations and work in partnership with all the different community groups."

Congressional Fellow Program Seeks Applicants

The Mike M. Masooka Fellowship Program will award fellows for its 10th Annual Congressional Fellow program. The selected fellow will serve in the office of a U.S. senator or member of the U.S. House of Representatives. The deadline for applications is June 30.

The three- and a half month fellowship includes a stipend of $7,600, mileage and roundtrip airfare is provided to Washington, D.C. The fellowship runs from September through December 2001 or the spring term through May 2002. The choice of fall or spring term will be arranged with the congressional committee.

Candidates must be American citizens and have completed their third year of college or in graduate or professional school will be given to those with a demonstrated commitment to API related issues, particularly those affecting the Japanese American community.

The most recent Mike M. Massooka Fellow was Abigail of Huntington Beach, Calif., who served in the office of Rep. Pat Feen parked in the offices of former Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawaii. Interested candidates should call 1-800-400-8633. Applications are also available at the JACL website: www.jacl.org/masooka.html.

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 at 1-800-400-8633. For more information, visit the website: www.jacl.org/healthbenefits.html

Group Protests Actions of Japanese Government

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

A multicultural group of more than 200 people rallied outside the Japanese Consulate General in Los Angeles on April 17 to protest the recent approval of newly revised textbooks that excuse Japanese war atrocities committed to women forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese militar . . .

A petition signed by 130 organizations and a letter to the Japanese government were delivered to the Japanese Consulate General in Los Angeles on April 15.

Bong Keon Kim, president of the Korean Association of Japanese War Veterans in the U.S., leads the crowds in demanding an apology from Japan.

General's office by representatives from seven countries.

Among those showing their support are Marita Matsuzaka, who grew up with the Okinawa Peace Network of Los Angeles, which works to bring comfort women to this country. Matsuzaka also supported the Okinawan's World War II and was an advocate for those serving in the Peace Corps.

Matsuzaka also led the group of workers in supporting 75 percent of the U.S. military facilities on Okinawa. The Okinawan government has requested that the U.S. pay for military bases, including police and military personnel who are an army of the Peace Corps.

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National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

Hate Crimes Bill
Passed for Debate
AUSTIN, Texas—The Texas
House of Representatives gave
preliminary approval Thursday to a bill that enhances penalties for
hate crimes.

The James Byrd Jr. Hate
Crimes Act, named for the black
man who was beaten to death to
pick up in 1998, strengthens penalties
for hate crimes based on race,
religion, color, disability, sex,
sexual preference, national origin or ancestry.

In a lengthy debate, however,
the sponsors, Sen. Rodney Eli-
s, D-Dallas, has introduced a bill to
bring it up for debate. It died in the Senate in
1999, in part because it created
unnecessary distinctions for homophobes.

Rep. John Shields, R-San Anto-
nio, who opposed the bill, said he
would have voted against it even
if it didn’t include protections for
gay people.

Shields said he opposed all crime but feared the legislation throughly,
unfair and unnecessarily and
unfairly protect gay people.

Ells said that “the bill would
have passed both houses of the Legislature if we’d been willing to
there was no better way to
would send out a signal that “it’s

Alabama Governor Calls for" Same" Legislation
JUNEAL, Alaska—In a
response to a gay marriage
at least at once a dozen Alask-
ans Native by three white young
ers, Gay, the governor of Alaska
he would propose a hate crime bill and in
how he called it “a dangerous corruption of Alaska’s social

Police confiscated a videotape
that was used during the Marching
in downtown Anchorage. "I
 coordenated with the National...
our state the shock, the sadness, the
anger we all felt as we witnessed those hate-filled voices men as they
were hunting for Eskimos."

Governor Boggs said the
raced to create a
level task force in March to make
recommendations on the language and
inhaus and the language
Supreme Court cases; al-
allowing victims to file civil
law suits; and mandatory minimum

The panel also decided that
the Department of Public
inappropriate courses on
materials and instruction in
in statewide police training and that the
state encourage the
appropriate training for police officers
protect students
from harassment and hate crimes.

With less than three weeks left
in the legislative session, Governor
acknowledged the bill would probably not
be passed this year, but he said he thinks it will

Because there is no certainty in the future
having reliable insurance protection through JACL is the best solution

Poston on Arizona's Most
Endangered Properties List

The Poston auditorium in La
Pat County, Ariz., was one of 11
ites named by the Arizona
Reserve Foundation (APF) in
their "Most Endangered Pro-

Every year, APF releases a list
of properties that are in
museums, homes and historic
sites in critical con-
dition or in jeopardy of destruc-

The list includes archaeological
sites, historic landscapes, as well as
architectural structures and
buildings. These properties are
are evaluated according to crite-
ria that include historical and
importance or historical signifi-
cance, the specific threats to its
existence and the potential for

The Poston auditorium is an
adobe brick structure built in 1943 by some of the 7,164 peo-
pave of Japanese descent interned at
the Poston War Relocation Au-

APA Elected Officials to Attend Leadership Academy May 10-12
The Asian Pacific American In-
stitute for Congressional Studies (AFA) and the UCLA Asian American
Center have selected 13 outstanding elected officials to participate in the third
annual leadership academy for Asian Pacific American elected

The leadership academy, a non-partisan training program, will be held in Washington, D.C.

The AFA elected officials will attend sessions on staff and con-
sultant selection and recruitment, fund-raising, public speaking,
media relations, online campaign, and interview tech-

Speakers at the leadership academy will include Norman Y.
Minnis, Secretary of Transportation; Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, D-
Hawaii; Rep. Patsey Mink, D-Hawaii; Delegate Robert A. Un-
derwood, D-Guam; and former California Treasurer Matt Feng.

APAC's William H. "Mo" Marumoto said, "According to the 2000 Census, there are at
least 3.5 million more Asian Pacific
Americans now than there were in 1980, an increase of famil-
ly 50 percent. We need to see our
representation grow in both chambers of
the Congress. We are grateful to the AFA for
this opportunity to develop the skills that they need to
become more effective leaders and
run successful campaigns
for higher office."

Among the leadership academy
participants are Democratic and Republican
Filipinos; Japanese, Vietnamese; Chinese,
Korean, and Pacific Island
descent, from Massachu-
setts, New York, California, Texas, California, Washington and

The leadership academy par-
ticipants are: Christopher Caball-
ay, D- Arizona; councilmember, City of
West Sacramento, Calif.; Colleen Hananamu (D), vice president, Hawaiian Senate; Daniel Jars (D),

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Spokane Chapter Hosts Annual Nikkei Appreciation Luncheon

The Spokane chapter recently held its annual Nikkei Appreciation Luncheon at Fort Wright Institute with approximately 30 people in attendance. The event was headlined by speakers Floyd Mori, national JACL president; Harry Honda, editor emeritus, Pacific Citizen; and Cherry Tsutaumita, executive director of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation.

Dean Lynch, Spokane city council member, delivered greetings from the city of Spokane. Additional greetings were offered by the Hon. Yoshiharu Kase, senior consul from the Consul General's Office of Japan; Dr. Hiroshi Takakusa, executive vice president of Nakanawa Fort Wright Institute; and Karen Yoshimura, JACL Pacific Northwest regional director.

Silver Pins were awarded to Sue Ushio and raspberry pin to Masao Ito for their outstanding contributions to the community over the years. The Spokane章节 Drummers provided entertainment.

Denny Yasuhara, past JACL national president, and member of the Nisei Veterans Committee, shared his story of being awarded Cherry Tsutaumita with a $7,500 check for the National JA Cheer at the 2004 convention.

This was the second half of the chapter's $15,000 pledge.

Arizona Chapter Sponsors Trip to Laughlin, Nev.

Thirty-one members of the Arizona chapter flew to Laughlin, Nev., on April 19-20, staying overnight at the Colorado Belle Hotel Casino. The fun-filled trip was arranged by Joyce Inaba, chapter vice president, assisted by Toshiko Chiba, Nancy Ota, Uto Eko and Kaye Minato.

Talking Books Topic at Arizona Japanese Senior Center

The April monthly meeting and luncheon of the Japanese Senior Center hosted guest speakers from the Talking Book Library. Jill Earle talked on “talking books” and Angela Acerno spoke on “news via telephone.” The event included birthday celebrations, a white elephant sale and cash bingo.

Mary Tadano was chairperson, Marian Matsunaga vice chair, Barbara Ishida secretary and Helen Tanaka treasurer. The Arizona chapter operates the Japanese Senior Center jointly with the Arava Ariy in Aging Region One and the YWCA of Glendale.

Gila River Cleanup Plannned by Arizona JACL

Cleanup detail is planned by the Arizona JACL at the former Japanese American Gila River Relocation Center for May 21 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The cleanup will be primarily at the Butte Camp #2 site, which is visited by many and trashed by some. The camps are within reservation lands of the Gila River Indian Community; the Gila River Indian Community right-of-entry permits are obtained by the Arizona chapter to provide maintenance for the two sites, and the Land Use Officer must be notified of names of all participating organizations and all vehicles involved, 24 hours in advance.

Persons interested in participating should contact either Marie Inaba at 602/242-2564 or Joe Allman at 602/242-2832.

Marced, Cali-based NSRFC Awards 34 Scholarships

The Nisei Relocation Com- memorative Fund, Inc. (NSRFC) will hold an awards cer- mony from 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 20, at the Golden Valley High School theater to recognize this year’s 34 scholarship recipients.

This year marks the first time that NSRFC will present special scholarships named in hon- or of a particular person or per- sons. The scholarships are named after the following people: Nobu Kunokawa Hikawa Scholarship (established by family and friends of Hikawa); the Koh, Mita and Dr. Koto Murai Scholarship (established by the Murai family); the Naka Endowment Scholarship (established by Dr. Fumio Robert Nakai); the Lafayette and Mayme Noda Scholarship (established by Walter N. Frank); the Gladys Ishida Stone Schol- arship (established by Stone); the Kay Yamashita Scholarship (established by Yutaka Kobay- yashi). Later, the NSRFC was established in 1980 by thank you niei an- gokei (to return a favor) to those who helped them during World War II.

The NSRFC awarded their first grant to the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in 1983. The conference included an overview of how to use the AAPA database, a brief history of the AAPA, and an update of the AAPA’s work on veterans and veterans’ benefits.

The NSRFC has awarded annual scholarships to students who served in the Armed Forces and high school students in the San Fran- cisco area. Since then, the NSRFC has awarded annual scholarships to students who served in the Armed Forces and high school students in the San Francisco area.

South Bay JACL to Host Forum With California Assemblyman George Nakano

The South Bay chapter of JACL will host a community forum fea- turing California Assemblymem- ber George Nakano on May 10. The forum will begin at 9 a.m., at the Terrace Airport Meeting Room, 3001 Airport Drive, in Terrace Village. Nakano represents the 31st As- sembly District encompassing the communities of Los Angeles, San Gabriel, Montebello, La Puente, Covina, El Monte, the Inland Empire and the San Gabriel Valley.

In preparation for the forum, JACL is co-sponsoring the South Bay chapter JACL, Greater Los Angeles Single Chapter and Alumni Association in cooperation with Gardena Valley JACL, Carson chapter JACL and the Ro- man American Coalition.

The Terrace Airport Meeting Room is located in the Terrace Zamperini Field Administration Building. The room is accessible by the intersection of Air- port Drive and Aero Way. The near- est Metro Line is the Red Line High Street between Hawthorne and Cremona boulevards. For infor- mation, call 310/725-2929, ext. 1863 or on the web at 310/725-2929.

Educational CD-ROM Available to California JACL Chapters

An educational CD-ROM made possible through a grant from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP) is available to California chapters.

The purpose of the CD is to pro- vide teachers, school administra- tors and students with information about the JACL Curriculum and Resource Guide, created in conjunction with the Japanese American National Museum. The JACL Curriculum and Resource Guide is aimed at middle and high school teachers, and encourages teachers to incorporate the material in their classroom work.

The CD was produced by Dannez Fukamachi and includes a presenta- tion by Jon Matsukura, who pro- vides a step-by-step guide for setting up the CD-ROM, and a guide for the different sections of the document. At the CD-ROM's site, the CD-ROM's site, the CD-ROM's site is available at www.jacl.org/education. For more information, contact Jon Matsukura, 310/336/5537, at matsukra@lcs.dodmil.gov. For infor- mation, contact Jon Matsukura, 310/336/5537, at matsukra@lcs.dodmil.gov.

JACL National Youth/Student Conference to be Held July 13-15 in Seattle

The National Youth/Student Conference will be held in Seattle, July 13-15. This conference will include workshops dealing with such topics as: takais, Hapa issues, API Gay Leadership, Japan’s role in the war, AIDS and HIV in the APA community, college level organizations and the importance of graduate school, generation gaps, APA in employment, science and the arts, and the military.

Organizers will also hear various keynote speakers, network with other young people, and attend an "Off The Hook" party Saturday night.

The NSYC is a governing body within the JACL. The NSYC de- velops programs encouraging youth and young adults to actively serve the community. The council has adopted a program for action to reach their goals. These include recruiting and involving college and high school students in the JACL and the community.

For registration forms or more information, contact Matt Kato, 213/626-4471, or youth@jacl.org. Mail information to: Matt Kato, NSYC, 205 N. 30th, #5, Seattle, WA 98121. Conference website is: http://www.jacl.org/youth.

April 1 – June 30, 2000 CASH BACK CAMPAIGN

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Tell your friends about TV JAPAN. You can receive $30 for each referral! During the campaign period, tell your friends to subscribe to TV JAPAN and you will receive $30.00 for every referral that becomes a TV JAPAN subscriber. In order to participate in this campaign, you must be a current subscriber to TV JAPAN subscription fee. To apply for the rebate, please send your proof of installation to TV JAPAN. The new subscriber can combine this campaign with "TV JAPAN Referral Campaign."
MEMBERSHIP

(Continued from page 1)

shop session with a penny session fundraiser for the local chapter to mark the importance of increasing membership for JACL's future.

JACL membership and come up with ideas so the chapter can maintain this thrust. Endow said, "It's a way of working together in this tri-distict. Well, as a choir, I want you all to go back and sing to your chapters, and I think it's a good way." He encouraged Endow, Stockton JACL membership chairman, to become the vice president of membership and Atwater JACL secretary, Eddie Endow, a new interim membership coordinator.

Mojeda discussed membership recruitment from a national level, with the tri-districc and Endow from a chapter perspective.

National Level

According to Mojeda, since 1966 (the year JACL began tracking membership data), membership peaked around 1977 with close to 60,000 members. He attributed this increase to JACL's involvement in the Vietnam war. But since that time, the number of members has declined at a steady rate of about 350 members per year with a current total of about 26,000 national operations budget.

Demographically, a large part of JACL's current membership is close to 6,000 JACLers — are aged 70.

To recruit more members at the national level, Mojeda recently formed a national membership committee, consisting of a representative from each local chapter. From this, Mojeda hopes each chapter will elect local members to the national committees that canordinate local recruiting drives tailored to each chapter.

"The goal and focus of the national membership is to increase the membership and bring in more new members," Mojeda said. "And we want to keep the membership high, not just by the percentage. It's all about getting new members and keeping the membership rate high." He attributed this to the fact that the membership had萎缩ed throughout the years due to the Vietnam war.

To increase JACL's membership by 2,000 people, the chapter had to increase one member per 500

"We have good reason to do so," said Honda. "In fact, we had something quite like 28 Republican seats on the bill. Plus, the leadership on both sides of the party have signed on as well. We've also gotten good sup-

Although tri-district keynotes speaker, and former President Mike Honda focused his speech on the importance of maintaining a strong JACL membership, he did not shy away from discussing more heated subjectswhen asked about his continuing to co-author. "I think that the JACL is a great training ground for those interested in politics. The more people who are encouraged to participate in the organization, the more they will learn about the parliamentary procedures, the more critical thinking, and the more today to help combat the national rise in hate message-seminars, picket lines, and vandalism," said Honda.

There is no other time thin today to be a part of JACL," said Honda. "We have to maintain a national level, but because of technology, our issues are becoming global. Make no mistake about it, information and reactions are going to be instantaneous because of that. Technology... What happens in Taiwan, Latin America, the Middle East and elsewhere, we will be on top of it and be prepared to give a response, so this is why I think JACL is going to be critical." To help combat such crimes in all mediums, Honda stressed the importance of speaking up. "I have spoken extensively on this topic and I have heard from Japanese Americans, they'll think it's okay to commit hate crimes," said Honda. "We have to learn to speak up.

One immediate proactive measure that the JACL could do to combat potential hate crimes in light of the upcoming opening of the movie, "Pearl Harbor," is to start an education campaign, said Honda. "The anxiety is rising again," said Honda. "You hope we're vigilant, making sure that our communities are well informed about who we are and what our roles are... Now, if you're not worried about it, you don't want to be concerned about it and you have not a grain or thread of anxiety in you over this, you ought to at least experience we had as a country. The frightened face is still here, the poison is still here. It's been passed on from generation to generation by misinformation.

Honda shared about how JACL chapters held a conference prior to Dec. 7, in 1991, the year marking the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Har-

bour, to prepare for such a movie. "It was a bad idea to go to your county office of education or student government and say, 'What do you think about a movie being made?' We don't know what the community thinks about this movie," said Honda. "It's not the issue. The issue is the reaction of the community from the kids and how this affects our kids and how it frightens me. It frightens me because I have heard other hate crimes in other chapters in other states. We don't want to see that happen to our community.

Honda also said he discussed the need to be sensitive to the Asian-American community with movie bill's co-author Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, R-Bullington Beach. "My co-author Dana Rohrabacher is known to be pretty outspoken about Asians, and I told him that this is not about bashing Asians or Asian Americans in the Japanese government or bill Japanese peo-
ple," said Honda. "He understands this so I believe he'll be a good part- ner in this. He'll be outspoken in seeking sure that people are not anti-Asian.

Reactions from his fellow elected officials have been positive, said Honda. "One thing we do in our commu-

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Grace Kimoto (from left to right) encourages the young JACL members (l to r) Tiffany and Megan Ikeda and Marcia Chung. 

Agreement 2001," said Honda the bill does not name Japan in an effort to prevent backlash against JAs.

"In the bill, we talk about the target and it's not Japan, the Japanese government or the Japanese people," said Honda. "This is about the people getting their day in court."

If passed, the bill would allow former American military prisoner of war to sue companies in U.S. state or federal court for losses or injuries sustained during the time they were imprisoned and forced to perform slave labor.

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family members. He drove home his point when he asked how many attendees had their entire family in JACL. Very few hands went up. "As a Vietnamese American," said Endow, "I remember my brothers, sisters, moma and dada and sons and daughters... When I say 40,000 people right now, I mean that we don't even ask our own family."

Other ways to find potential new recruits included: advertising; professional/business contacts; other organizations (with their permission); phone book; and social media, such as pass around a sign-up sheet to gain support.

Other suggested tools to help attract members included:
- offering gift memberships;
- invitation to join through newsletters and the Pacific Citizen with member benefit listed; and
- To all chapters and meetings at every activity.

The next time, Endow said, was to get involved. "Do something," he said. "Have a plan and do something. It's a simple plan, just do it."
Hate Crimes and Lobbying Just Some of the Workshop Topics at Calif. Tri-District

By CAROLINE AYOYI

Executive Editor

RENO, Nev.—Resisting the temptation of the machete and blackjack tables, attendees at the California Tri-District Convention managed to make their way over to the numerous conference workshops.

Topics as wide and varied as hate talk, violence, and personal conflict were joined by others who understand cultural values and effective leadership, and planned giving. There were workshops on sensitive medication awareness and training for the legacy of the Viet veterans.

Hate Crimes

With the recent U.S. appellee involving a number of Chinese, Koreans, and blacks, it’s absolutely necessary to get the police being trained to recognize hate crimes (if we don’t, we “don’t count.”) He added, “If we speak out we’ll all be better people.

Along with the police, the commission wanted to stress that “hate crimes are not only the responsibility of the police, but it is the responsibility of the community.” And Shigemasa, as the president of the JACL, that has been fighting hate crimes for 80 years, can work hand in hand with the police.

Along with the workshops on the hate crimes panel, introduced the audience to the “how to” of reporting hate crimes, providing a 24-hour hotline available for both adults and youth.

See WORKSHOPS/page 10
The House on Lemon Street: Only This One is in Riverside, Calif.

RIVERSIDE, Calif.—Several weeks ago (April 19), Dr. Harold Nagao, 97, head-teacher of the first all-Japanese school in Lemon Street, where he was born, as a four-year-old, sat down with Mark Rawls, a history student from nearby UCR, in Riverside. Harold re- luctantly gave his son a check for his children's college expenses. Citizens of Lemon Street, the historic Harada neighborhood, are proud of Harold, a retired physician.

Very Truly Yours

active in JACL and a combat medic veteran of WWII, Harold is one of the youngest of six children of pioneer Issei parents. His children, like others, are a product of a lifestyle of hard work and determination.

By HARRY
HONDA

The Japanese contingent from Riverside's Sister Cities Sendai, embellished the turnout, making the demonstration a truly international goodwill effort.

Only Sumi returned after the war to the house on Lemon Street. She opened the house to other Riverside families who found that their own homes had been confiscated by the government and that the verdant on the second floor was then turned into aสหริภูติ 9

The house today doesn't look like it once did and I was told that it was built of juts to help the war effort. It now serves as a private home and is open to the public during Lemon Street history days.

The house has been restored and maintained with the support of the community, including donations from Japanese-American families. The house is now a museum and a place to learn about Japanese-American history.

REDRESS

(Continued from page 1)

The Japanese contingent from Riverside's Sister Cities Sendai, embellished the turnout, making the demonstration a truly international goodwill
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The house today doesn't look like it once did and I was told that it was built of juts to help the war effort. It now serves as a private home and is open to the public during Lemon Street history days.

The house has been restored and maintained with the support of the community, including donations from Japanese-American families. The house is now a museum and a place to learn about Japanese-American history.

REDRESS

(Continued from page 1)

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SPECTRUM

(Continued from page 1)


Yuri Kochiyama

When first approached about speaking at [an] event, keynoter Yuri Kochiyama said she was ready to decline the invitation for fear she "would 'offer a lot of Nikkei.'" But then, as she had done on so many other occasions, she remembered a quote by her slain comrades, civil rights activists, Malcolm X. "I'm for truth no matter who tells it." And as Kochiyama, a leading civil and human rights activist in her own right, felt a sense of duty in speaking to her Nikkei contemporaries about looking both within and beyond the JA community to find a common humanity.

"We Nikkei of whatever shade need to come together and talk among ourselves," she said. "We need to get to know one another and, despite some of our differences, acknowledge our kindred warmth."

"But we've got to go further than that," she said. "This kindred warmth can be enhanced and multiplied by a diversity of races, nationalities, religions, languages, and experiences. We have the opportunity and the obligation of the opportunity of sharing with others." In the early 1960s, Kochiyama first got involved in community activities in Harlem, which later led to her work with the Asian American, Black and Third World movements, and her interest in social justice comes from JA redress in the plight of various political prisoners, including Mumia Abu-Jamal and David Wong.

"Each time we must find our mission," Kochiyama later told the Pacific Citizen. "I think it will always be the same: to fight for basic needs, human rights, justice, equality, freedom, self-determination, truth and human dignity for all. We must work together to benefit or help society internationally, whether it would be for post-civil rights, famine disaster, or whatever. We must create a more just, harmonious and safer world. We must build bridges, cross bridges and mend bridges."

For the Nikkei community today, she said, these bridges include encouraging Asians to issue reparations and an apology for its war crimes against former slave and forced laborers; rewriting the JA story into American history so that it is not omitted in textbooks; and encouraging such as the resisters and the "no-os" for the constitutional stand they took during WWII.

But Kochiyama admitted that she wasn't always in such an empowered position.

"When I was young, the age of many of them (those here), which was probably during 1942, I was totally apolitical, I didn't know anything about anything that was happening in the world. I was just a small-town, provincial (girl), very, very red, white and blue and banana too," she joked.

"That's why she hopes that today's Nikkei youth will be more conscious of racism, classism and sexism and stand up for justice."

Youth Speak

While [spectrums] participants, ranging from ages 14 to 35, were given a rare opportunity to hear a living legend speak, they were also offered the chance to attend workshops on such topics as JA basketball; Asian American media and the arts; helping African American youth, high school issues, and the Youth Leadership Initiative; JA generation gap in the Nikkei community, evolution of JA activism for the current generation of students. The workshop sessions, small group discussions allowed participants to give feedback on what they had learned at the event and to be appraised of [spectrums] five mission statements as well as current challenges and notions of exclusivity, take an active part in leadership rise in the community, preserve culture and appreciate heritage while re-evaluating the past, work with Internet and learn from older generations; and understand the JA community and its nature of the Nikkei community.

Craig Matsunoki, 23, a fifth-year student at UC Irvine and one of the discussion group facilitators, said the event was a "great experience" to "dialogue with each other and exchange ideas about the Japanese American community is going." Matsunoki, a UCLA student Meredith Lee, 19, said, "I think it's important to have a conference like this so that students and even though they may not get from UC Berkeley, places, and also to acknowledge the the serious with whom we can form a community evolve."

"It brings everyone from different places together that you would never meet otherwise. You learn about how things are done, how you can help out and direct the community," a participant said.

In May, the event added Sun Fun, 22, a student at Cal State Hayward, said, "It gives me and other people a chance to learn about what is going on and what we can do in the future to help continue our culture as we don't forget where we came from."

said Scott Keto, 21, a third-year student at UC Irvine.

Dorun Nakashima and David Uchida, 19, both students at UCLA, agreed that the conference was "outstanding" and "intergenerational" as a whole but viewed it also as a chance to learn from the leadership of the community.

"I think that we have a conference like this that brings together people of JA ancestry, but it could have been done better," said Uchida.

Personally, he said, "I want to broaden my views outside of my community. For other people it might be the same, all that stuff, but for me I think I've had a dose of it and now I feel I need to be linked with other communities. We should fix on learning about other people so we can be aware of their communities instead of creating this fire-knife fight that might not understand the world outside of the JA community."

Tao California-centric!

Organizers believe that [spectrums] is building on the momentum started early-eights conferences in 1995's Tao Thai Bell in Los Angeles and last year's Nikkei 2000 in San Francisco. But with as these two previous conferences was predominantly organized and attended by people in California, a trend which some criticize as neglecting those Nikkei who live outside of the state.

"Some of the issues that are dealt with in the conference are very specifically geared towards youth who live in California," said Kent Shimmura, [spectrums] co-chair and a student at UC Berkeley. "However, the conference issues and the larger concerns pro-"1[eased by the whole] are applied to all JA youth, regardless of location."

"As a community we are not very well equipped to handle all issues that come when it comes to JA youth clubs and organizations that can get the most out of [spectrums]." Shimmura said.

But hopefully this year's regional diversity will come to bear as new regions and new leaders are established, she said.

On the decision to host such conferences in California comes down to logistics. "I very much agree with the argument that these Nikkei conferences are very centralized around California," said JACL national youth director, Kei Shimmura, of Matsumoto, of Silver Spring, Md., who attended the event. "I feel that the majority of the members of the Nikkei population reside around California and the West Coast."

Moreover mentioned that JACL will hold its own 2001 National Conference on July 13-15 in Seattle, a decision which was made by by the youth council from the youth council.

"I think the National YouthStudent Council was concerned that this conference was being done by Nikkei 2000, which would prohibit many of the high school students, especially if they were not of state," she said. "They also feel that JACL did miss a great opportunity to have a truly dynamic and outstanding individuals in the community."

"We thought it was kind of silly to have two competing youth conferences, because the workshops the are very similar," said Gerald Kato, youth director for JACL PSWQ, which served as one of the conference's co-sponsors. But said he part of the reason the JACL PSWQ decided to hold a separate conference was that was some were worried about too being too nationalistic, to highlight the diversity of Nikkei communities. Shimmura said, "They supported [spectrums] indirectly but not as an official co-spon- sor because they felt it was an original intention," Kato said.

The conference's keynoter speaking keynote speaker for [spectrums] and executive director of the Japanese American Community Youth Council (JCYC) in Seattle, said, "We've actually founded a cooperative venture between JACL, Nikkei 2000 and spectrums."

In an effort to continue this, he said that we hoped that we've could've continued the relationship between Nikkei conference because myself and many others that felt it was such. "For whatever reason, the conference is absolutely worth all the hassles, but one, I believe people all the time I think that in order really to have a real difference, we've got to start to pool our resources. Everybody doesn't have to do everything by themselves, I hope that that would be something we would shoot for in the future."
Lobbying: "Lobbying is like being a salesman," said JACL National Executive Director John Tashio, who, prior to joining JACL, worked for several years as a professional lobbyist. "You're selling an idea, a concept, not a product."

When Tashio led JACL's re-election campaign in the 80's as national chair, "we were: selling the idea of "injunction," he said at the tri-district's lobbying workshop. "That something happened that shouldn't have happened."

There are two types of lobbyist: professional lobbyists and citizen lobbyists. Professional lobbyists are expected to have certain relationships in place and a certain level of professionalism; citizen lobbyists usually have an interest or a passion in a bill or issue and are not expected to be experts.

The success of selling your idea as a lobbyist starts with how you frame it, said Tashio. You've got to develop a strategy by looking at who is going to support your idea and who is not. The people left in the middle are the ones you start to lobby.

Most of the time lobbyists will not be meeting with the elected representative but rather with his or her staff members. Usually the legislative assistant is the person you end up talking to. And often it's the assistants who end up helping you the most with your idea for they have the ears of the representatives they work for.

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Develop and coordinate marketing strategies including all public relations, marketing and publications for JCCCNC programs and events. Create and distribute press releases for all JCCCNC events and programs. BS degree plus marketing background and experience preferred; FT position, salary DOE.

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the Pacific Coast-Japan Problem League in Los Angeles and other ac-
tivities of the same character, which those of us who wanted to get rid of us during World War II.

It is hard to understand how some Nisei could lend other meetings whenever they came to Japan, and other Nisei veterans like my own broth-
ern and other relatives have not enough is enough. They should know that what they say is at the expense of their deceased comrades that they agree with the likes of all of us.

We should look toward the future and make our lives in the community, not just exist in the community. Perhaps we can find a place to get involved and respect for you, I forgive them.

Hiroshi Isogaki
Sacramento Nisei VFW Post

WWII Veterans vs.
Resists Controversy

I was enlightened by the latest San Francisco Chronicle article, especially at the end where it states that the word "resisters" (from the Pacific Citizen, April 6, 1993).

Although I served only as an in-
terpreter in war crimes investi-
gations after the war, I had learned much about linguistics from the experience, including the dif-
ficulties encountered in the Far East War Crimes Tribunal.

When I noted the inclusion of "an so-called "resisters" in the story, I thought there exists more common-
ground between our two groups and experiences. Basically, we did all what we thought was best for our country. Thus, I believe it would be peace for all, especially for our new generations who wonder why the conflict has been published in the 21st century.

From my experience as an inter-
preter shortly after the war in Japan, I learned more about com-
munication and the Japanese lan-
guage. The phrase "draft resisters" connotes something negative. By adding the new generation of consideration, "conscience" would have been more appropriate for the Japanese Ameri-
can veterans. Therefore, our conscience not for their own survival but for a better life, just as Gordon Hirabayashi. Fred Korematsu and Min Yasui had.

Veterans likewise had the same idea that it was not their fault if we were happening abroad as what was happening to us in our country. Evidence of this can be seen in the lat-
est Sacramento veterans' commentary which said, "We had two choices to follow (a) draft resis-
ters or (b) the path of the military leadership." Fortunately, hundreds of others joined forces and tens of thousands volunteered from Hawaii as well as the mainland and in the territories who were concerned the internment camp. I was more the latter, physically or not.

As indicated by the Sacramento veterans' commentary, I am glad to see recognition of each and all as heroes, which was not the case during the period.

Re: Leo Hosoda's Commentaty

It would be a breach of basic civility to pass on this page the comment by certain members of my former Sacramento Nisei VFW Post. The comment by a Nisei states that patriotism and imagination are re-
quired and that the term is used properly. The tactus used in the recent com-
mentary, to other Nisei veterans, with their own newspaper and in their own monthly newsletter should strive to do so.

I think it is not only the Native Sons of the Golden West, the Native Daughters of the Golden West, the former Nisei Home Front Command, the Western American Theater Command, and the National Veterans Council that have the courage to stand on behalf of people like the remnant 2,000 ex-

Nisei. The Sacramento Nisei has re-
searched this issue and met with some of the ex-VFWs to learn of their experiences and viewpoints. This is a matter of the real sense of the Japanese community. The purpose of this is to inform and to be heard by the people of the U.S. Pacific-Asian Treaty which prohibits lawsuits against ex-VFWs in U.S. courts. This bill will challenge this. There is a possi-
bility that this will be presented to Congress, which has considerable influence over U.S. policy and over the little remaining Jewish people during World War II. There have been action by the U.S. government.

JACL states that their decision to remain neutral in other words to do nothing, is based on their by-
laws, and that they have no script. JACL has great things to say. However, lately it seems they follow a sales, politically- correct course to show balance and to avoid adverse public reaction. One seems to "say yes to the "American people" to get what they want to "say no" to the world.

The P.C. article stated that the Japanese Americans resists, resists for their non-action. What kind of principle is this? Are we forgetting our past and present history? How about "struggle for what we want today, this why we are still treated by some like "freeloaders" in this country?

JACL should do its job by writing what Congressmen in the State is doing to the treaty. There is no place for an ex-again German opinion.

Various sources:
New York

A Beacon of Light: Dr. Roy Nishikawa

Some believe that an "A beacon of light" for the JACL has passed on.

The original of the national JACL

president that persuaded me to run for national office of the 1000 Club back in the 1950s.

Best in peace. Your wisdom and spirit will be appreciated by your many friends.

Dr. Frank S. Sakamoto
Past National 1000 Club Chair

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I am glad to see the comment by the latter, physically or not.

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