Q & A with ‘Da Pidgin Guerrilla’

By TRACY UBA
Writer/Reporter

Lee Tongochi is a funny guy on a serious mission. With a wide range of backwoods say and an irreverent wit to boot, the 28-year-old Hawai‘i-born writer may not look the part of a revolutionary, but to many he is “Da Pidgin Guerrilla.”

It’s a nickname he earned back in his college days at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, where he first began experimenting with writing essays entirely in his native Pidgin.

“People have always had da misconceptions about Pidgin. But like I say, ‘Dey just take its bad English.’”

As a youngsters in fact, he recalls trying to correct the grammar of his Nisei grandmother’s stories that grew up in the plantations.

Today, however, Tongochi is known as one of the more outspoken advocates of a language which, despite its rough roots and cultural roots, has been largely stigmatized as the tongue of the unemployed and uneducated.

In his upcoming debut book, “Da World,” a work of short fiction recently published by Bamboo Ridge Press, Tongochi attempts to bury the legend of standard English by showcasing stories written in different Pidgin dialects. These are the stories of everyday events in the lives of locals—the joys, woes and worries of your great-grandma, your best friend, the girl you liked in junior high. Full of dialect and few of elegance, Tongochi finds the humor in the fact

started and how he got to be so “Pidgin hard-core.”

P.C.: You’re very involved in reviving the use of Pidgin language. What inspired you to become an advocate like you today?

Tongochi: Pidgin is different from other languages. It is your group, your ethnic group, the western part of you town you grew up in. For being literary analysis of da work and uncovering deep layers, dat makes me go, brak, I do nada from the language. I’m interested in
dissecting my culture, language, and everything I stand for.

Pacific Citizen recently spoke to Tongochi about his new book, a hip literary magazine he recently published, in which the role of the community.

“Knowledge is the single most important resource for people who are the target of a hate crime. In the API community, a lack of information and access to already available resources has meant an underreporting of incidents to law enforcement agencies,” said Nakano.

The program would specifically target API high school students, college students and community organizations. Resource materials will include training workshops, CD ROMs, brochures and workbooks to help facilitate the flow of information to the public and between community organizations.

“This program is an straightforward and comprehensive effort to reach out to the entire API community — the first time such an effort has been undertaken,” said Nakano. “As the nation’s oldest Asian American civil rights organization, the JACL is uniquely positioned to spearhead and implement such an initiative.”

The bill has been sent to the Assemblly Appropriations Committee, which reviews all bills with a fiscal expenditure. The bill would then need to pass the state Senate, before heading to the Governor’s desk for final approval.

Legislation Establishing API Anti-Hate Crimes Program Within JACL Sails Through Committee

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

Jack Tagawa was one of 10 Nisei World War II veterans invited to a private reception on May 2 7 at the Japanese Consulate General in Los Angeles, to receive a “Diplomas of Gratitude” from the French Consulate General during the war.

The veterans felt special. Jack should be ushered of honor for fighting for our country, for fighting for France during the war.

Tagawa, who was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1941, never served in a U.S. military concentration camp, but his family ended up at the Amache War Relocation Authority camp. In describing his feelings when he had to face camp guards wearing the same uniform as himself to visit his family, Tagawa quoted what he had often heard the French soldiers say: “C’est courageux! (That’s war!).”

Last year, through the WHF “From France to Hawaii” program, a special group of French civilians and their families sailed to Italy, which included a brief stop in France. “I know, I wanted to see how the forests in France were because they were burning in Singapore,” repeated Tagawa. “And it was amazing to see the French people.”

Tagawa will have a second opportunity to linger longer in France. The French government also plans to invite the reception at the French Consulate’s residence this fall. Tagawa and his group were scheduled to fly off to France on a tour, again arranged through WHF “From France to Hawaii,” to re-visit the French Consulate General JACI.

At the United States, the French Consulate General’s offices throughout the nation are working with the U.S. government and the Department of Veterans Affairs to locate all qualified veterans.

“Every veteran, who has fought in France, even pilots who have flown over France during the war or even Navy personnel who participated in operations involving France, are qualified,” said Chen.

We are working with all the veterans’ associations in order to find and identify all veterans,” said de Clamande. “This program will go on as long as necessary.”

Hideo Kawarazaki, 79, a 442nd E Company veteran from Laguna Beach, Calif., holds up his certificate from the French Consulate. Kawarazaki was interned at Poston, but was drafted while working as a sugar factory in Utah.

JACL Gets Inside Glimpse of ‘Pearl Harbor’

By TRACY UBA
Writer/Reporter

The highly-anticipated Disney movie “Pearl Harbor” hasn’t hit theaters yet, but Japanese Americans are getting a sneak preview of it courtesy of the JACL National Executive Director John Tatsuhiko, who attended a screening of the film on May 10 at the El Capitan Theater in Hollywood.

Tatsuhiko, who has been negotiat-

ing various aspects of the film with movie producers, attended the private screening along with executives Richard Cook, head of Disney Studios, Buena Independents, producer of Disney’s Animation, Pictures, and Andrea Morano, senior vice president of Disney Studios.

“I went in knowing that the war story was not the worst but something that I didn’t expect,” Tatsuhiko said. He was surprised by the fact that much of the nearly three-hour story is spent on developing the relationships and love scenes among some of the characters, two Navy pilots and a Navy nurse, played by Ben Affleck, Josh Hartnet and Kate Beckinsale.

Midway through the film, the bombing of Pearl Harbor occurs, and said. It’s a roughly 40-minute segment of battle scenes and dialog, which Tatsuhiko called “very intense.”

Thanks in part to the dramatic effects, he added, and you “can feel but can’t see the violence and horror of the attack.”

What equally surprised him about the portrayal of the aftermath of the attack was, “You’re not left with the sense of day-dying or anti-Japanese sentiment) that you get with other war movies. This is not an anti-Japanese movie by any measure. There is a lot of license taken with history in the development of certain characters, but I think people who go into it expecting the worst are going to come out feeling a sense of relief.”

However, the one objectionable scene Tatsuhiko said the film included was portraying a Japanese army officer whose actions would lead you to believe the IJN was a gypsy. This character was based on an actual individual the FBI had tracked, according to producers.

That scene is counterbalanced, however, by one in which a young JA doctor, played by Vic Chow, attends a wounded man in an American military hospital. The man says, “I don’t want any dysphoria there,” according to Tatsuhiko, which showed “a kind of humanitarianism that made the movie about who we are, how we were seen and what we had to endure.”

Tatsuhiko had earlier recommended the inclusion of a JA soldier playing a doctor who produces a speech which expresses pain over the U.S. bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but producers thought it went too far.

Tatsuhiko expressed his concerns to the producers, expressing the concern of the US government. The producers were certain of the issue, which he was pleased with the outcome.

See PEARL HARBOR/ page 10
PACIFIC CITIZEN
ISSN: 0030-7785
Published semi-monthly. Postage paid except once in December by the California League of Cities, 7 Cupana Circle, Monrovia, CA 91016.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Monrovia, CA 91016
0462-0544.

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Nakano Dedicates New Signage for Sado S. Munemori Memorial Interchange

Calif. State Assemblyman George Nakano, along with veterans from the 100th Battalion, 442nd Civilian Control Companies, gathered at the site of the Sado S. Munemori Memorial Interchange, after dedicating a headstone for the Sado S. Munemori Memorial Interchange, a sculpture and dedication. The ceremony was held in honor of the late George S. Nakano, who was killed in World War II.

The monuments were dedicated by the Sando, S. Munemori Memorial Interchange, and the office of the Sando, S. Munemori Memorial Interchange. The monuments were dedicated by the office of the Sando, S. Munemori Memorial Interchange. The office of the Sando, S. Munemori Memorial Interchange.

Bush Nominates Matt Fong as Undersecretary of the Army

President Bush recently nominated former California State Treasurer Matt Fong as Undersecretary of the Army. If confirmed by the Senate, Fong would become the first Asian American to hold that post.

Fong, who has been participating in transition briefings at the Pentagon in anticipation of the nomination, is a graduate of the Air Force Academy and a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserve.

His nomination to the Army, however, is expected to face some opposition.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, in a report on its 2002-2003 conservation compliance plan, said that the agency needs to work with farmers to improve their conservation efforts.

USDA Honors Prominent Asian American Farming Families During National Asian Heritage Month

The USDA recognizes Asian American farming families for their contributions to agriculture and rural development.

APA Heritage Month 2001: A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

"As we move into the 21st century, the United States continues to greatly benefit from the contributions of its diverse citizenry." Among those who have influenced the diverse communities in the United States, Asian Americans merit special recognition. Their achievements have greatly enriched our quality of life and have helped to determine the course of American history.

"Many immigrants of Asian her-itage came to the United States in search of freedom and opportunity. They found work in the agricultural and transportation industries. Laboring under very difficult conditions, they contributed significantly to the growth of the first half of the transcontinental railroad. Their hard work was invaluable in linking together the East and West coasts, thus vastly ex- pediting the westward expansion of the country. Over time, other immigrants jour- neyed to America from East Asia, Southeast Asia and the Asian Sub- continent. Today, Asian/Pacific Americans are one of the fastest growing segments of our population, having increased in number from fewer than 1.5 million in 1957 to approximately 10.7 million in 2000. "Asian/Pacific Americans bring to our society a rich cultural her- itage representing many lan- guages, ethnicities, and religious traditions. Whether in govern- ment service, business, art, music, or the arts, Asian/Pacific Ameri- cans have added immeasurably to the prosperity and vitality of our society. As family members, citizens and professionals, we share a common commitment to the community, they reinforce the values of the melting pot and the continuous evolution of the multicultural America that is the country," the report states.

APAs are one of our greatest strengths, and we must strive to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to reach their full potential. By recognizing the accomplishments and contribu- tions of Asian/Pacific Americans, this Nation celebrates the importance of inclusion in build- ing a brighter future for all our cit- izens."

To honor the achievements of Asian Americans, the Presi- dent, in accordance with Public Law 102-466, has declared that May 2001 shall be observed as "American/Pacific American Heritage Month." I hereby call upon the people of the United States to learn more about the contributions and her- itage of Asian/Pacific Americans and to celebrate the role they have played in our national story.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.
National Newsbytes

Don Nakanihapi Appointed to Smithsonian Blue Ribbon Panel

WASHINGTON—The Bush administration has named a civil rights investigation of the Cincinnati Police

Feds Probe Cincinnati Police After Riots

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration has named a civil rights investigation of the Cincinnati Police

PAAS in the News

Awards, Announcements, Appointments

John Saito Elected Block Captain

Jinkoan: City Neighborhood Homeowners Association of the Baldwin Hills neighborhood of Los Angeles recently elected John Jino Saito block captain for Burmiside Avenue, the street on which he lives with his wife, Carol. Saito was born in Los Angeles, but first became interested during World War II for a year in Arizona, where his older brother served overseas with the 42nd RCT. They were then brought back to the mainland in Idaho where John completed his high school education. When the family returned from the internment to Los Angeles, they were prevented by restrictive ordinances from occupying a house just a few blocks from where he now serves as block captain.

Mike Honda Gains Seat on Key Committee for High-tech Research

U.S. Congressman Mike Honda, Democrat from California's 17th District, has scored a slot on the House Science Committee, which has oversight authority over all civilian and federal scientific research in the United States. The committee also has jurisdiction over all matters relating to energy research, technological development, environmental research, technological standards, and national space policy.

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Attorney General John Ashcroft issued a statement relieving the Jacksonian government inquiry into whether the police officers had met the standards of "ethical duty" of violations.

In his statement, Ashcroft said his department "will work cooperatively with the city to institute policing reforms as quickly as possible."

Kewei Mfume, head of the NAACP praised Ashcroft for moving quickly and keeping his department informed as the preliminary inqui- ry moved forward. "We believe the problems in that department are systemic and they exist before the last two decades," he said. "People in Cincinnati, especially African Americans, think that this police department makes too many deci- sions resulting in lethal force being used on innocent people.

The shooting of Timothy Thomas, 19, by a white police officer on April 7 resulted in several days of rioting in which two police officers and four civilians were injured and more than 800 were ar- rested.

Governor Signs Hate Crimes Bill into Law

Perry signed into law the James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act on May 11, while still raising concern about the divi- siveness of the bill and whether it would designate a "new class of citi- zens" under the open prac- tice of the law.

The bill, which aims to crack down on hate crimes committed against minority, gay and les- bians, and others, was the subject of emotional legislative debate for years.

Although he knew some Texans would disagree with his decision, Perry said he made the decision "in the quietness of my own heart. Four Democratic legislators and the parents of Byrd joined the governor as he signed the bill.

Byrd, a black man, was killed when he was dragged behind a pickup truck by three white men in Jasper in 1998. Two of the men are on death row and the third received a life sentence.

Texas already has a hate-crimes law that increases penalties if a crime is proven to be "motivated by bias or prejudice," but it does not list specific categories of people who would be protected. Some prosecu- tors said that law is too vague to en- force.

The new legislation strengthens penalties for crimes against the victim's race, religion, color, gen- der, disability, sexual preference, age and national origin.

Attack on Asian Restaurant Kills Couple

SAN ANTONIO—An attack on an Asian restaurant in a small strip center that killed a woman and her husband was witnessed by the couple's small children.

Officers said family members were alone and preparing for the evening dinner rush at the Asian Garden restaurant on April 23 when someone entered the restaur- ant and placed a bomb.

The assailant waited for 35-year- old May Lin. He opened the cash register before grabbing a knife and threatening the staff. Later, after getting his money and his belongings, the man was arrested by the police.

The couple's 6-year-old daughter had emerged from the restaurant's front door shortly after the attack. A worker from a nearby automotive store spotted the girl, distressed and crying. The employee entered the restaurant, found the couple and called the police. The victim's mother and son also were in the restaurant at the time.

Committee Reaches Compromise on Hate Crime Resolution

"JINENAU"—In compromise over a hate crime resolution, a House committee last month's shooting of an unarmed black man.

Army Lieutenant Robert Batista, D- Sacramento, announced on April 18 that the appointment of Dr. Don Nakanihapi to the blue ribbon panel for a study of the Museum of American History, Behring Center; Mat- susi nominated Nakanihapi for this position in November 2000.

"Don is unmatched in his knowl- edge and expertise in the field of history and his experience in bringing infor- mation to the public," said Mat- susi. "Don's contributions will make the Behring Center a world-class facility.

Nakanihapi is the director of the University of Chicago's American History Center and a prolific historian and speaker.

The Behring Center Blue Ribbon Commission will advise the secre- tary of the Smithsonian officials on the most timely and relevant themes and methods of presenta- tion for the museum in the 21st century.

Brett Akagi Receives Award for Excellence in TV Photography

Akagi is a 2001 national first-place winner in the National Association of Television Arts Association (NATPA) for his coverage of gay pride events at the TV station KARE, Minneapolis.

As director of photography and editing for the station, he pro- duces 25 photographers and editors at the station, which is re- leased for this year's Station of the Year for excellence in news photo- graphy and editing.

The Sansei son of Genzo and Lil- lian Akagi of Yonsei, Kan, Alaska is a 1988 graduate of Fort Hays State University in Kansas and was a WDAF-TV in Kansas City, Mo.

Mike Honda Gains Seat on Key Committee for High-tech Research

U.S. Congressman Mike Honda, Democrat from California's 17th District, has scored a slot on the House Science Committee, which has oversight authority over all civilian and federal scientific research in the United States. The committee also has jurisdiction over all matters relating to energy research, technological development, environmental research, technological standards, and national space policy.

"I am very grateful for the oppor- tunity to serve as a strong voice on the Science Committee for our high-tech companies and academic institutions," said Honda, whose congressional district includes San Fran- con Valley.

Among technology-driven bills that Honda has already proposed are a "Federal Tech- nology Act Corp. (NET Core) bill" — which would recruit part-time volunteers from high- tech companies to provide support to training school network ad- ministrators and teachers in return for federal tax credits — and a bill that would expedite the export of U.S. supercomputers and high-technology components.

Hawaii Lt. Gov. Hiroto Receives Georgetown University Law Center Alumna Award

Americans who received a 2001 Alumna Award from a alma mater, Georgetown University Law Center, at a cele- bratory dinner in Washington, D.C., were praised for their contribu- tions to the nation.

"It is a great honor to be recog- nized by my alma mater," Hiroto said. Hiroto, who stated that she chose Georgetown because of its strong public interest legal program, noted that the alumnae are in a unique position to assist individuals and agencies. She was awar- ded to use the tools provid- ed to us by our law degree to im- prove the quality of life for peo- ple we serve," she said. Hiroto, who was one of six alums receiving 2001 awards at the presentation, which was part of a forum commemorating 50 years of women at the law center.

Blue Shield of California offers group health care coverage to current JACL members age 15 and over who reside in California.

JACL members

Benefit Trust today at 1-800-400-6633.

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Your plan includes:

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Save money. Join now.

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Assemblymembers Nakano, Chan, and Liu Proclaim May As APIA Heritage Month

California Assemblymembers Geanine A. Nakano, D-Torrance, Wilma Chan, D-Oakland, and Carol Liu, D-La Canada Flintridge, have introduced a resolution recognizing May as Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month.

Assembly Concurrent Resolution ACR 12 passed unanimously through voice vote on May 14, committing APIAs for their accomplishments and services to the community. This is a time we come together to celebrate the many cultures and contributions made by the great Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

Koh, chairman of the newly formed APIA Legislative Caucus, said the caucus will continue to recognize the many contributions Asian Pacific Islanders have made in areas such as music, politics, economics and science within the state and country, pointing out that the APIA community has been a long way since Filipino established St. Malo in Louisiana in 1769 — the first APIA settlement in the United States — to the community of Nunnern Mineta and Elaine Chao to president cabinet posts.

The 10th Annual APIA Heritage Month, the APIA community is the largest in the state of California, the United States since 1980 and now accounts for 12 percent of California’s population.

VC FilmFest Turns Sweet 16


Bookending the festival will be the L.A. opening night premiere of "Hiroshima, Day of Anger" by Tsui Hark and "The Misanthrope" by Rei Higashiyama.

"Green Dragon," an official selection of the Los Angeles Film Festival, is a multi-part story about the first wave of Vietnamese refugees who housed in camps across the southern United States in 1975.

"Fahrenheit to Manzanar," based on the book by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James Houston, is perhaps the first feature-length film to tell the story of the World War II internment of Japanese-Americans from a first-hand perspective. It has long been out of circulation but thanks to the California Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, a newly restored print of the film will be shown, and members of the cast and crew will be in attendance.

Go For Broke to Celebrate 2nd Monument Anniversary on June 9

On June 9 the Go For Broke Educational Foundation will celebrate the second anniversary of the Go For Broke monument. Tribute to all five unite honored on the monument will take place along with a special speaker representing the future of the monument.

Poston III Christian Church Reunion, June 3

The Poston III Christian Church reunion, worship and fellowship gathering will be held as an extension to the APIA Heritage Month III reunion program on June 3, 10 a.m. at the Poston III Church, tel. 7450 Hazard Center Drive, in San Diego.

The Paston III Christian Church camp and went on to become ministers, such as Rev. John Miyake, Rev. Dale Nagano, Rev. Lloyd Wake and Rev. Carl Nakamura. The church event do not have to register for this event and there is no fee for this event.

For information contact Rev. Dr. Paul Nagano, c/o Japanese American Citizens League, 2139 S. 20th St., San Francisco, CA 94114.
Topaz and Gila River Highlighted at 32nd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage

By MARUTA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

The more than 400 attendees at the 32nd annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, held on April 29, were greeted with magi new features — new historical riddles, new all-guided tour signs and even a new superintendent, among others. This year also marked the 50th anniversary of the Manzanar 500 Committee, which organizes the annual 250-mile pilgrimage from Los Angeles to Manzanar. Each year, runners begin their trek a week earlier, and participants deliberate a certain marathon segment to different aspects of the community (i.e., day 1 is dedicated to those who suffered in the camp day 2, for the camp children, day 3 for the workers and day 5 for the sick and imprisoned, day 6, for future generations, and day 7, for a pollution-free earth). During the marathon, the 50-500 Committee carries with them a scroll written by hibakusha survivor Kazuyo Yoshida and Hiroshi Saito’s name, continuously housed at the Koyasan Buddhist Temple in Little Tokyo. The pilgrimage program also featured 47 altar tablets drawn from Chukar Takoh of Centenary Methodist Church, Kinuko Takahashi and Senhui Sada of Buddhist Temple and Yuki Ikeda from Dorothy Mission Church.

The highlight of the pilgrimage was the late Shiro “Shi” Nomura, who, starting back since the 1970s, led one group to the former church and other artifacts for the Eastern California Manzanar Historical Society of California. Professor Don Naruse, author of “Manzanar: The Tragedy and the Triumph,” was also invited to the Manzanar cemetery and to the nearby Immaculate Conception Church. His lecture was titled “Life in an internment camp: a reflection of the historical record.”

Archeological and historical tours of the site, given by professionals and guides, are scheduled to begin at the Manzanar Interpretative Center. The center has been established to provide a place for visitors to learn about the history of the camp and to reflect on the events that took place there.

The NSW recently put up a replica Manzanar sign on its original post.

Hays Takes Over as Superintendent of Manzanar Historic Site

By MARUTA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

Frank Hays, 42, considers his new position as superintendent of the Manzanar Historic Site as the culmination of 20 years of service to the National Park Service. He officially started on May 1 at Manzanar on a permanent basis.

For Hays, who had been managing the national Capitol and National Park, the decision to uproot his entire family from Arizona and move out to California was “definitely a big decision.” His wife and three children will not join him in California until the end of the school year.

In seeking his first visit to the Manzanar cemetery earlier this year, Hays, said, “I found it to be an interesting, very special place to be. It is especially a place to be for Japanese Americans who were forced into this horrible situation and they tried to make something out of it by creating beauty in this harsh life.”

Growing up, Hays had little connection with Asian Americans. Since his father was in the U.S. Navy, he spent his childhood moving around around the country and living in Arizona and Georgia.

He noticed in Georgia that as Hays realized he wanted to be a ranger when he was in the 4th grade, and I looked up at the mountains and thought, ‘I want to be a ranger,’” he said. “I set that as my goal.”

Hays credits his father for instilling in him a love of the outdoors. He recalled going on camping trips as a child and being fascinated by the sightings of elk and deer.

And although his father served in the Korean Conflict and his two uncles served during World War II, Hays said he never realized hearing about the war’s impact on his family.

“My parents were broad-minded and liberal people,” he said. “They loved to go to different cultures and learn about different cultures.”

Learning about different cultures is something Hays takes to heart. He believes his favorite assignments has been working at the Chase State National Park and the Passport to America mission.

In selecting the production company for the movie, Hays and Ochi had to conduct a feasibility process since the pool included strong contenders. The committee finally agreed on the Signature Communications Group from Maryland.

Krieml Oberman Design, based in Santa Monica, Calif., was selected to design the visitor center exhibits. Ochi is leading the landscape design aspect of the site, reported that he is working with a team of landscape architects and the NSW to carry out Manzanar’s Master Plan and other planning management. Plans to put together a souvenir brochure have also been begun.
Cherry Blossoms

Glorious May days
Perfected for contemplation
Wasted taking notes
Spring is my favorite time of year, but I haven't been able to enjoy it as much as I'd like. Even the school where I teach is under a lot of stress, and many times I can't raise our Stanford 9 standardized tests scores this month. Last year we saw several students fall due to the required 15, so this year I feel like we're feeling the testing of the removal of the pressure of the standardized tests on our students. This means that we're more likely to have our students discuss the results of the testing in a more casual setting, rather than in a rush to see the results. This is a chance for us to see the results in a more relaxed atmosphere.

BY CHRISTINA SHIGEMURA

Stranger Than Fiction

they would fall to cover the ground with a blanket of white.

Learning

COMMENTARY

"Citizen Involvement"

By FRANK and JOANNE BRITAIN

Since its founding in 1929, the JACL has accomplished a lot. But lately, just as with any of the Pacific Citizen mentions declining membership and financial deficits. One of the ways that can be done to improve our citizen involvement is by making it more active with voter registration, help in getting out the vote and encouraging public service.

Census 2000 figures show increase of 140% in just about every state; some show a 150 percent or more increase over the 1990 census. California has almost 34 million people, and there are over 2 million in the United States. Asians make up 10.9 percent of the population in California, 14.4 percent in the United States (quickfacts.census.gov).

This increase will not mean much unless "we can be at the table and in the discussion," says Frank. "We have to remember that we're not the only people in the room, and we need to have our voices heard, especially by the Asian Americans who are not as politically active as some of the other minorities in the country."

There is a Census 2000 undercount of about 150,000 and several AAPI groups except the JACL have expressed concern over the issue. Frank and Congress to reme

U.S.-Japan Exchange Fellows to Display Art at JANM

To help commemorate the U.S.-Japan Creative Artists Exchange Program, which celebrated its first biennial meeting of the Japanese American Cultural Society (JASC) and the Japan Society for Contemporary Art (JSCA) in Los Angeles in February, an art exhibition featuring outstanding works by American artists who participated in the program will open at the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) from May 11 to June 30.

"Belles Brother, Mei-ling Hom and Kim Yasuda are celebrating the U.S.-Japan Creative Artists Exchange Program," the program, with the exhibition. The Southeast Asia Art Grant and has exhibited her work in the United States, the Philadelphia Institute of Contemporary Art, San Francisco's Lebman Center for the Arts and Henry Art Gallery. Some might say I have an existing work titled "Silkworm Grind," which originally was shown at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia. Her work explores the influence of America's culture on the "vocabulary, or how "their very presence transforms" the landscape and "shapes our experience of American culture." A Felow in 1996, Hom is the recipient of the 1997-98 JACL Artists Fellowship and a 1998 Pew Fellowship. In 1998, he was a member of the JACL. More than 80 artists from across the country have participated in the program, and their work is on display at the museum. We hope you can join us at the opening reception on May 11, 2000, to see this exciting exhibition. The opening reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m., and will be followed by a performance by the Interchange Fellows Program. This program, which was launched in 1994, is a collaboration between the JACL and the University of Southern California. The program provides artists with the opportunity to live in Japan for six months and pursue the interests of their choice as part of the fellowship program run jointly by the two institutes. In the Backyard of the house, where I grew up, we had a large rose bush. Peach, pear, apricot, plum, cherry blossoms and a bounty of flowers every spring. We also had a cherry tree, but it had opened, and

The Neediness of Field Trips

Taco Bell, TV
Laptop, Internet, mall, World outside limits
Despite the fact that Los Angeles Unified School District schools are spending a lot of money on raising our Stanford 9 standardized test scores this month, last year we saw several students fall due to the required 15, so this year I feel like we're feeling the testing of the removal of the pressure of the standardized tests on our students. This means that we're more likely to have our students discuss the results of the testing in a more casual setting, rather than in a rush to see the results. This is a chance for us to see the results in a more relaxed atmosphere.

Commentary: Talks Collapse on Japanese YWCA, Trial Date Set

By PATTY WADA

NCLEF's Assistant Director

Three months of mediation between the Soko Bukai (Japanese American Christian Association) of San Francisco and the San Francisco YWCA have ended with no resolution. The site of this ongoing and important community battle now moves to the courtroom with a trial date set for Nov. 5.

For more than a year, a coalition of Japanese American community organizations and individuals have been working with the Soko Bukai to regain ownership of the former Japanese YWCA building, located in San Francisco's Japantown. And while this building may be situated in the City of the Bay-Bye, this is an issue that touches Japanese Americans everywhere.

The building was purchased with funds raised primarily by the JACL, the Japanese American Community League, and with county and state election offices. There is a need for voters to seek voter registration, issues discussions, and greater citizen involvement.

Considerable recent unrest and controversy have existed at various Cal State, Stanford, UCLA, UC Berkeley, and legislators and congressional people to get involved. There are several organizations that are working with the JACL, including the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) and the APIA YWCA, which is working with the JACL in the Bay Area. The APIA YWCA, a trust agreement that is documented in the YWCA's minutes of the 1920s and 1930s. In 1953, the Japanese YWCA celebrated the opening of this building on Sixth Street and continues to be used by the JACL and other community organizations.

Just about every time Congressmen Bob Matsui presents a public speech, he points out that we are working with our state legislatures and Congress. JACL President Floyd Mori states that there are three reasons in which JACL needs to focus its program, social, political and economic. ("JACL Today," Feb. 7, 1999, p. 19).

May 26-27 & 29 -7am to 9pm Fort Mason Center San Francisco Free Admission Free Parking Sat. 5-11:30am - Sun 11am-5pm 3000 Sloat Blvd $10 Rear: interview with the JACL, San Francisco. Your ticket for the JACL, NCWNP regional office at 415-254-1075.

The effectiveness of the program depends on the faithful and willingness of us all to support and contribute to its success.
Fiction

Paper Bullets: A Fictional Autobiography
By Edward P. Warner
University of Washington Press 273 pp., $18.95 paperback, $35 hardback

This is a fictional autobiography that explores the life of a fictional man, who, like the author, is shaped by the conflicting desires, stigmas and codes of his time. Part coming-of-age, part racial/violent development story, "Paper Bullets" chronicles a contemporary man's search for love and meaning.

Pearl Harbor Hinge: A Different Past, A Different Future
By Paul Berger and Patrick Patterson
Trafalgar Publishing
218 pp., $22

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. This book explores the novel's narrative perspective in the Pacific between 1941 and 1945. To purchase a book, or to read excerpts online, visit: www.trafford.com/robot00-1049.html

Non-Fiction

Dusty Exile: Looking Back at Japanese Internment During World War II
By Catherine Harris
 Mutual Publishing Company 152 pp., $10.95 paperback

Catherine Harris, at age 22, found herself a target of the War Relocation Authority camps, a result of her family's ties to the Japanese. This book tells her narrative perspective and the experiences of her family during the internment. Her chapters focus on the experiences of her family, as well as the overall consequences of the internment on internment experiences on the West Coast and attitudes on a national level.

Resistance: Challenging America's Wartime Internment Policies
By William Minoo Hobo
University of Hawaii Press 170 pp., $76 hardback

This book is about the U.S. citizens of Japanese ancestry who challenged the constitutionality of the internment during World War II in the states of Washington, Oregon and California. Their arguments were based on the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in Korematsu v. United States, which held that the internment of Japanese Americans did not violate the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

UCLA Asian American Studies Books

Amerasia Journal: Who Writes Asian American History?
By UCLA Asian American Studies Center
2002 250 pp., $13.00 plus $4 shipping & handling

This edition looks at the lives and writings of 10 living historians who write Asian American history. The issue contains a满员- people's voices, as well as a满员- people's voices, as well as a full of fullness, variety, and vitality.

Amerasia Journal: The Arts

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Sen. Boxer Launches Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Webpage

In honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) launched a special webpage. The page features interactive views with Asian Pacific American leaders and cultural celebrations throughout the state.

The page is located at http://www.boxer.senate.gov and may also be accessed by following links from the Boxer homepage.

"My site provides Californians with a unique way to celebrate and learn more about Asian Pacific American, American Heritage," said Sen. Boxer. "I hope you will join me in exploring this special month and in understanding how we can participate in events in their communities."

PEARL HARBOR

(Continued from page 1)

He also mentioned that Gay Acts of the Media Action Network (MANA) had originally pushed for more Asian American content in the film. The subject has a real burden for us," Tatsui ishita said. There's a stigma. The consequence of Pearl Harbor changed everything in our lives. For ever and ever."

If we say something like this means we have to face the fact that we are Jewish, we are not Jewish. If we say something like this means we have to face the fact that we are Chinese, we are not Chinese."

Senator Daniel Inouye died on Oct. 17, 2012. Tatsui ishita apologized for the loss. "We are very sorry for the loss of Senator Daniel Inouye. Our hearts are with the family of Senator Inouye, the 84th President of the United States."

Tatsui ishita said the senator was a great leader and a great person. "He will be missed."

"Our thoughts are with the families of the soldiers who died in the war. They are also missed."

The senator died at the age of 88 in Washington, D.C. He was the first American of Japanese descent to hold the position of Senator. He served in the U.S. Senate for 56 years.

After the screening, Tatsui ishita met with the Disney executives in attendance to give them his presentation of the movie. He also mentioned that JACL (along with other JA community groups) are planning a press conference to be held May 21 in Los Angeles, coinciding with the Hiro-

Hiroshima premiere. The event will be used to discuss the history of the film and the importance of telling the story of the atomic bombing.

"My site provides Californians with a unique way to celebrate and learn more about Asian Pacific American heritage."
Video on 100th/442nd Wins National Telly Award

A video documentary that chronicles the little-known heroism of the Japanese American 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which was a feat of courage and a symbol of pride for the nation. The World War II has won the prestigious Telly Award for outstanding achievement in video production and cable television programming, according to Fred Merrill, executive producer.

Titled "The Silent Glory," the production marks the first national recognition of the 100th Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team, whose incredible war record earned them more citations than any other fighting unit in United States military history.

"The Japanese American soldiers actually fought two wars," Merrill said. "One against an enemy of tyranny in Europe and one against an enemy of discrimination in America."

The video presents combat footage and on-camera testimonies from several JA veterans. The highlight of the production is the coverage of the rescue of the Lost Battalion, which is now considered by war historians as one of the most gallant battles in American military history. Merrill said they were not only fortunate to interview the actual people who were charged with the suicide rescue but also the commanding officer of the Wagner Regiment.

For more information about the production, contact Fred Merrill at 714-631-0015 or at 760-292-1170.

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