

# Pacific Citizen

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JUNE 1-14, 2001

## African American Reparations — Is it Time?

By CAROLINE AOYAGI  
Executive Editor

It is time for the U.S. government to give reparations to African Americans?

It's a question that has evoked heated debate, but it's also a question that the Japanese American community is in a unique position to answer.

As one of the few groups to receive redress and an apology for the wrongs committed against them by the U.S. government, JAs add an interesting perspective to the topic of reparations for African Americans, a group who endured centuries of slavery in this country. "It is our time now," said Morris Griffin of the National Coalition for Reparations and Economic Wealth, one of several African American reparations groups attending the "Struggle for Social Justice" conference at UCLA, May 11-12. "We made America what it is today," he said, describing the history of blacks, from slavery to current day, as the "longest running Holocaust."

Griffin joined more than 100 people at the conference on recognition, reparations, and redress that was jointly sponsored by several of UCLA's ethnic studies centers including the African American, American Indian, Chicano, and Asian American centers. The symposium covered a wide range of topics including issues specific to Native Indians, Armenians, Palestinians, Native Hawaiians, Korean "Comfort Women," Filipino World War II veterans and garment workers.

But the question of African American reparations was an ongoing point of discussion among

the participants and many of the panelists, who attended the conference from all over the United States including New York, Atlanta and Colorado, and from as far away as South Africa.

"The struggle for [African American] reparations will create discomfort, conflicts, and heated debate within and outside the black community," said Joe Trotter, history professor at Carnegie Mellon University and a panelist at the conference. "Yet, I believe the reparations issue offers much greater promise than potential pitfalls. It not only promises to bridge the gap between different segments of the black community but offers to build alliances across ethnic and nationalities lines."

One of those alliances being built is with the JA community. Panelist after panelist speaking on the subject of African American reparations spoke about the JA redress movement as a model for the current struggles facing the black community.

"What the Japanese Americans did is an important lesson of what we're trying to do," said Dr. David Horne of Cal State University Northridge and a member of Reparations Platform Coalition (RPC). Currently, his group along with several other African American organizations is studying the JA redress movement, looking at the various steps that were involved in eventually receiving reparations.

Roy Brooks, professor of law at the University of San Diego and author of "When Sorry Isn't Enough," added, "[Japanese Americans] should see that the [African

See REPARATIONS/page 6

## JACL Votes to Reject Philip Morris Monies

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA  
Assistant Editor

At the May 19-20 national board meeting, the JACL national board voted against accepting donations from tobacco companies until the issue is revisited by the national council at the next biennial national convention.

The vote to reject donations from Philip Morris split along regional lines among the eight JACL districts, with West Coast districts — NCWNP, PSW, CCDC and PNW — voting against accepting tobacco money and the East and Midwest districts — EDC, MDC, IDC and MPD — open to tobacco funding with certain restrictions.

The decision comes at a difficult time for JACL as it faces a

projected \$138,494 deficit by the end of the year. But National Executive Director John Tateishi has repeatedly emphasized at this and prior board meetings for the board to base their decision not on JACL's current financial crisis but on philosophical issues.

Arguments in favor of accepting tobacco funding included the fact that companies such as Philip Morris are conglomerates and encompass subsidiaries such as Kraft Foods. Others noted that Asian Pacific American organizations such as the Organization of Chinese Americans have accepted donations from Philip Morris.

EDC District Gov. Clyde Nishimura, who personally opposes accepting tobacco money but whose district voted in favor, noted that "because of this financial crisis, it makes us look weak if we accept the money."

Steve Okamoto, representing NCWNP, said his district was

See PHILIP MORRIS/page 10

## As 'Pearl Harbor' Hits Movie Theaters Nationwide, JACL Fears Rise in Anti-Asian Sentiment

By CAROLINE AOYAGI  
Executive Editor

Henry Suzuki, 67, was just a boy of seven living in Hawaii's plantation town of Ewa when he saw the Japanese Zero bombers drop their arsenal on U.S. naval ships docked at Pearl Harbor. At the time, he thought he was watching a spectacular "big show" as he and his friends heard at the pilots flying overhead.

Shortly after, his cousin was taken into custody by the FBI and sent to one of 10 concentration camps on the mainland, joining more than 110,000 Japanese Americans evacuated from the West Coast.

Suzuki would feel the impact of that fateful day of Dec. 7, 1941, forty-four years later in Torrance, Calif., as he awoke on the anniversary of the Pearl Harbor bombing to find a house and yard strewn with toilet paper, condoms and mud, and the calls of "Jap go home" from neighborhood kids.

With the recent nationwide release of Disney's special effects blockbuster "Pearl Harbor," Suzuki worries about the potential for a rise in anti-Asian sentiment among those who still can't distinguish between Japanese and Japanese Americans and think JAs were responsible for the World War II bombing.

"The fear is legitimate," he said. "It happened to me. Some of these *haole* kids [that are going to watch the film] probably have Japanese families in their neighborhood and they could do [to them] what they did to me."

Like Suzuki, several members of the JA and Asian American communities have expressed their concern about the potential anti-Asian backlash that may result from the release of the \$140 million film that pulled in over \$75 million during the Memorial Day weekend as it took the No. 1 spot at the box office.



PHOTO: MARTHA NAKAGAWA  
JACL National Executive Director John Tateishi (center) voices concern over the release of the "Pearl Harbor" movie while (left) JACL National President Floyd Mori, Media Action Network for Asian Americans president Guy Aoki and former Manzanar internee Wilbur Sato look on.

JACL and MANAA (Media Action Network for Asian Americans) held a press conference in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo on May 21, and in San Francisco's Japan-towa groups that included JACL, the Asian American Bar Association, and Chinese for Affirmative Action talked to the media about their concerns on May 24.

"No matter what we've achieved, no matter how far we've come in this country, and how ever much we may think America has accepted us, we find that when movies like this come out, or when the topic of Pearl Harbor comes up, we're always dragged back 50 years to that event," said John Tateishi, JACL national executive director.

Floyd Mori, JACL national president, spoke about the AA community's concern that the movie could potentially cause a rise in hate crimes against all Asians. "Our concern is that this movie may have a negative impact upon members of the Asian American community," he said. "We have a fear that the movie 'Pearl Harbor' may elicit an increase in racism and

See PEARL HARBOR/page 7

## FILM REVIEW 'Pearl Harbor' Recycles Old Cliches

By TRACY UBA  
Writer/Reporter

A giant ship sinks, thousands of people meet a watery grave and a sentimental love story — requisite for any good Hollywood epic à la "Titanic" — turns tragic.

Sound familiar? It's called formula, and Walt Disney's new film "Pearl Harbor" milks it for three tedious hours, from the opening shot of two young-boyhood friends from Tennessee aspiring to be fighter pilots to the iron-y-laced finale which is about as tear-jerking as it is schmalzy.

Movie executives have been hyping "Pearl Harbor" as the summer blockbuster, and with \$140 million spent by producer Jerry Bruckheimer and director Michael Bay, they are

See FILM REVIEW/page 7

## Blue Ribbon Committee Meets With JACL Nat'l Board

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA  
Assistant Editor

The national JACL board for the first time met the newly formed JACL Blue Ribbon Committee (BRC) at the May 19-20 board meeting.

The seven member BRC was appointed by National JACL President Floyd Mori, following the February national board meeting, to examine JACL's viability for the future. The BRC held their first meeting on March 4 and have met three other times in six-hour sessions.

The committee members are: Tom Iino, Bill Imada, Alan Kumamoto, Henry Ota, Beth Renge, Sandra Sakamoto and Tritia Toyota. Mori and National JACL Treasurer/Secretary Art Koga participate in the meetings to clarify any questions.

Since the committee's formation, Mori has come under criticism, particularly from the NCWNP district, which unanimously passed a resolution at their May 6 NCWNP quarterly district council meeting, questioning the lack of diversity and concern over costs associated

See BLUE RIBBON/page 6

## JACL Nat'l Board Addresses Organization's Projected Deficit

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA  
Assistant Editor

The majority of the two day JACL national board meeting held in Los Angeles from May 19-20 centered on the organization's finances.

National JACL President Floyd Mori described JACL's financial situation as "dire" and pointed out that the organization can no longer do business as usual.

A "2001 Revenues and Expenditures Summary of Investments" passed out at the board meeting indicated that JACL will face a projected \$138,494 deficit by the end of the year.

But the national board agreed that JACL's financial problems were not on the expenditure side but in the shortfall in revenues, particularly with decreasing membership and the stock market meltdown, which greatly affected JACL's investment income.

"The problem is in revenues, not in expenditures," said National JACL Secretary/Treasurer Art Koga, adding that the staff was doing a "super job."

To date, the original 2001-2002 budget approved by the national council at the 2000 biennial national convention in Monterey, Calif., has been cut by one-third.

### JACL Offices

On Saturday, the Finance Committee (FC) recommended several drastic measures to the board in order to address immediate financial needs.

The FC is made up of the president (Mori), national executive director (John Tateishi) and secretary/treasurer (Koga). The vice president of general operations (David Kawamura), chair of the district governor's caucus (Larry Grant) and P.C. editorial chair (Ken Inouye) also participate in an advisory role.

To meet short-term needs, the FC threw out a one-year challenge that included:

- 1) close the CCDC office but keep personnel;
- 2) move the NCWNP office back to headquarters and sublease the space so as not to incur lease breaking penalties;
- 3) relocate the D.C. office so that the current \$1,400 per month rent is reduced by half to \$700;
- 4) decrease national JACL's allocation of \$240,000 to the P.C. by 10 percent;
- 5) freeze all travel with some exceptions.

These recommendations were made based on:

- 1) no cuts to personnel;
- 2) an attempt to raise revenue;

Recommendation: Close

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JA CL COMMUNITY  
Calendar

## East Coast

NEW YORK CITY  
Fri., July 20-Sat., July 28—24th Annual Asian American International Film Festival; French Institute/Alliance Francaise. Info: Asian Cinevision, 212/989-1622.

WASHINGTON, D.C.  
Thurs., June 7—Silent Auction to benefit the JA CL legislative office; 6:30 p.m., Capital Hilton, 16th & K Streets. Info: Kristine Mihala, 202/223-1240.  
Fri., June 29—Formal opening of the completed Memorial to Patriotism; ribbon-cutting, official tour of the memorial, reception at Holiday Inn on the Hill; Call hotels for special rates: Holiday Inn, 800/638-1116; Hyatt Regency, 800/223-1234. Info: NJAMF, 202/861-8845.

Sat., June 30—Gala dinner to celebrate opening of the Memorial to Patriotism; Hyatt Regency; \$125 includes ticket to the June 29 reception. RSVP: info: Shihou Ochiai Thompson, 877/607-8550; fax: 202/861-8848; e-mail: cnjamf@erols.com.

## The Midwest

CINCINNATI  
Thurs.-Sun., June 28-July 1—EDC-MDC-MPPDC Tri-District meeting; Weston Hotel; "Training for Trainers" workshop, etc.; concurrent Tri-District Youth Conference at Garfield Suites; for special hotel conference rate call 513/621-7700. Full registration, \$70; Friday teacher training workshop only with materials and lunch, \$40; Saturday banquet only, \$42. Info: Hiroko Nishiyama, 513/631-7885. See www.jacl.org under biandistrict on Home Page, or Calendar under June.

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL  
Sat., June 2—Presentation, "A Conspiracy at Pearl Harbor," by retired Army Capt. James N. Johns; 1-3 p.m., Minnesota History Center, 3M Auditorium, 345 Kellogg Ave. W. Co-sponsored by Twin Cities JA CL. Info: 651/296-6126.

Sat., June 16—Presentation, "A New Historical Context for Pearl Harbor," by retired Army Capt. James N. Johns; 1-3 p.m., Minneapolis Public Library, Heritage Hall Auditorium, 300 Nicollet Mall. Co-sponsored by Twin Cities JA CL. Info: 612/630-6230.

Sun., July 15—Twin Cities JA CL Annual Summer Picnic/Potluck; Rossland Park, Edina; meat grill by John Nakosone; children's races and games; bingo, softball, volleyball, tug of war between children and adults. Info: Carolyn Sandberg, <msandberg@mediaone.net>, or Cheryl Hurata-Dulas, 952/925-2429.

## Mountain Plains

ALBUQUERQUE  
Sun., June 24—New Mexico JA CL annual picnic; Holiday Park.

CHEYENNE  
Thurs.-Sun., July 21-23—Educational Workshop, "Protest & Resistance: An American Tradition," Little America; sponsored by Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation and the Universities of Wyoming and Colorado, Boulder, among others. Info: <cpwille@wave.com.net>, <ctak@csc.cudenver.edu>; <pteporhill@mail.mscc.com>.

## Intermountain

POCATELLO  
Sun., June 17—Pocaticto-Blackfoot JA CL Father's Day picnic/games/baseball/bingo.

SALT LAKE CITY  
2002 Thurs.-Sun., Aug 30-Sept. 2—Heart Mountain Reunion 2002; Info: Raymond Uno, 801/355-0284.

## Pacific Northwest

PORTLAND  
Fri.-Sat., June 22-23—"Art Explosion: An Asian American Fringing Arts Festival"; 7:30 p.m. Friday, 7:30 & 4 p.m. Saturday, Parkrose Community Center Theater, 12003 NE Shaver St.; featuring theater, Balinese dance, contemporary dance, taiko, etc.

SEATTLE  
Fri.-Sun., July 13-15—JA CL National Youth/Student Council Conference; Seattle University; workshops, networking, Saturday night party, etc. For registration forms or more information, contact: Gerald Kato, 213/626-4471, <youth@jacpsw.org>; Matthew Nakata, 206/720-3049, <Nakata\_Ma@hotmail.com>; Amy Matsumoto, 301/460-5584, <amatsu@hotmail.com>; www.jacl.org/youth.  
Thurs.-Sun., July 12-15—JA CL PNW-

IDC Bi-District Conference: Best Western Executive Inn, 200 Taylor Ave. N. (Seattle Center); awards luncheon, plenary session, panel presentation, keynote speaker Gen. Eric K. Shinseki (invited); workshops, videos, screenings, Mariners baseball, Tacoma Bon Odori, Wing Luke Museum, Pacific Science Center, Seattle Art Museum, etc. **Reserve hotel room by June 4 for conference rate:** 800/937-8376, or 206/351-9444. Conference info: Tamiko Ward, 360/754-5899, <tamiko.ward@CITE.net>, or Elaine Akagi, 206/772-7192, <ReikoA@aol.com>.  
Through February 2002—Exhibit, "If Tired Hands Could Talk: Stories of Asian Garment Workers"; Wing Luke Asian Museum, 407 7th Ave. South. Free with museum admission. Info: 206/623-5124 ext. 114.

## Northern California

BURLINGAME  
Sun., June 3—49th Annual Junior Olympics, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.; Burlingame High School (note new location). Info: Steve Okamoto, 415/680-2108 or 650/574-2641.

OAKLAND  
Sun., June 10—Contra Costa JA CL's Day at the Ball Game; 1:05 p.m., Network Associates (formerly Oakland Coliseum); A's vs. Giants; \$4 per ticket. RSVP ASAP: Esther Takeuchi, 223-2258.

REDWOOD CITY  
Through July—Exhibit, "A Community Story: A History of Japanese Americans in San Mateo County"; San Mateo County Museum, 777 Hamilton St., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Info: Karen Brey, 650/299-0104.

SACRAMENTO  
Through June 10—Exhibit, "Time of Remembrance: The Japanese American Experience in California History"; Golden State Museum, 1020 O St. at Tenth St.; photos, documents and artifacts drawn from the JA Archival Collection at CSU Sacramento. Info: 916/653-7524, <www.goldenstatemuseum.org>.

SAN FRANCISCO  
Through June 10—World Premier, "The Clouds, the Ocean, and Everything in Between" by Michael P. Premisair of the 18 Mighty Mountain Warriors; New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom St. Schedules, info: <www.asianamericantheater.org>.  
Sat., June 23—22nd Annual JA CL Youth Fishing Derby; San Pablo Reservoir; for ages 8-12; lunch will be provided. Free. **CALL ASAP for application.** 415/273-1015.

WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ  
Sat., June 23—15th Japanese Cultural Fair; Mission Plaza Park, Santa Cruz.

STOCKTON  
Fri., June 8—Stockton JA CL College Tour, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., UC-Berkeley and San Francisco State University; leave by bus from the Stockton Buddhist Temple. Info: Beverly Nagai, 476-8528.

Sun., June 10—Stockton JA CL's 2001 Scholarship Awards Luncheon; 1-3 p.m.; King's House Restaurant, 104 E. Market St.; guest speaker, Carole Hayashino. **RSVP by June 3:** Joyce Tsutsumi, 478-2968, or Chieko Nomura, 474-6309.

## Southern California

ALHAMBRA  
Sat., June 2—"Bazaar 2001"; 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church, 1850 W. Hellman Ave. 18 blocks west of Atlantic; food, games, entertainment, door prizes, cultural exhibit, taiko, hula, country store, etc. Info: 626/284-3229.

GARDENA  
Fri., June 8—Greater L.A. Singles JA CL meeting/program, "Odyssey 2000—Bicycle Trip Around the World"; 8 p.m., Gardena Valley YWCA, 1341 W. Gardena Blvd.; the public is invited; speaker, Margherita Kalmari. Info: Louise Sakamoto, 310/327-3169.

LA CANADA/LINTRIDGE  
Fri.-Sun., June 8-10—31st Annual Descanso Gardens B&B Hall, 1418 a.m.-4 p.m.; Van de Kamp Hall, 1418 Descanso Dr.; demonstrations on Saturday and Sunday at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Free with admission to the gardens. Info: 818/952-4400.

LOS ANGELES  
Sat., June 9—Premiere screening and reception, "Forgotten Valor"; 11:30 a.m., Japan America Theatre, 244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo; starring Liane Hishikawa and Soon-Tek Oh, presented by the Go For Broke Educational Foundation. Tickets: 213/680-3700.  
Tues., June 12—Film showing, "The Brighter Side of Dark: Toyo Miyatake,



San Mateo JA CL participated in the opening of the exhibit, "A Community Story: A History of Japanese Americans in San Mateo County." Pictured are Noel Kubota, exhibit curator (left) and Craig Ichijiri, San Mateo board member.

1895-1997" by Robert Nakamura; 7:30 p.m.; Skirball Cultural Center, 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd. Info: 310/440-4500.

Sat., June 23—Performance, "Native Immigrant"; 8 p.m., Japan America Theatre, 244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo; a "world premiere culmination project." Tickets: 213/680-3700. Info: 213/628-2725.

Sat., June 23—Media Action Network for Asian Americans (MANAA) media achievement awards; 6 p.m., reception, Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, 7000 Hollywood Blvd.; honorary co-chairs Mike Honda and Nita Song. **RSVP by June 16:** 213/486-4433.

Through July 15—C.O.L.A. (City of Los Angeles) 2001 Exhibition; Skirball Cultural Center, 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd.; includes installations by Bruce Yonemoto: "La Vie Secrete-Moi" and "La Vie Secrete-After Magritte." Info: 310/440-4500.

Fri., Aug. 3—"Salute 2001"; All Nisei Veterans and Family Event; JANM, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo. **RSVP by July 16:** Info: JANM, 213/625-0414 ext. 2240.

Mon., Aug. 6—Nisei Week "Salute 2001" Golf Tournament; see Montebello.  
Sat.-Sun., Aug. 4-12—61st Nisei Week Japanese Festival, "Salute 2001"; Little Tokyo; street arts fair, coronation, taiko gathering, grand parade, cultural and community exhibits, sports and martial arts, baby show, carnival, ondo, tsubo festival, closing ceremony. Info: 213/687-7193.

Through Sept. 16—Exhibit, "Henry Sugimoto: Painting an American Experience"; JANM, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo. Info: 213/625-0414.

MONTEBELLO  
Mon., Aug. 6—Nisei Week "Salute 2001" Golf Tournament; 7:30 a.m. tee time; Montebello Golf Course, 901 Via San Clemente; two men's flights, a Calloway non-handicap flight, a women's flight; entry fee includes greens fee, use of cart, prize fund, ninth-hole lunch with soda/beer. Entry deadline July 13. Info: Irene Kuruse, 213/687-7193.

MONTEREY PARK  
Through June—Exhibit, "Mother and Adult Children"; Bruggeneyer Memorial Library, 318 S. Ramona Ave.; featuring award-winning works of Grace Shinoda Nakamura and her adult children; photography, painting, computer graphics, origami sculptures. Free. Info: 626/307-1418.

ORANGE  
Sat., June 2—SELANOCO JA CL summer picnic; 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Irvine Regional Park; featuring Softball Showdown. Info: George Tanaka, 562/924-6267, Pat Kawamoto, 562/926-1562, Hiromi Ueha, 949/559-1353.

PASADENA  
Sat., June 9—Pacific Asia Museum 30th Anniversary Celebration; 6:30 p.m., 46 N. Los Robles Ave.; costumes, ikebana, exhibit tours, live and silent auctions, swing band, jugglers, fortune tellers, magicians, Pacific Asia cuisine. **RSVP by June 3:** 626/449-2742 ext. 12.

Through Sept. 30—Exhibits, "The Nature of the Beast: Portrayals of Animals in Japanese Paintings and 'Paintings, Prints and Drawings by Hokusai'; Pacific Asia Museum, 46 N. Los Robles Ave. **RSVP:** 626/449-2742 ext. 12.

REDLANDS  
Sun., June 24—Community Picnic sponsored by Riverside JA CL; 11 a.m.; Sylvan Park; friends and former residents are invited.

RIVERSIDE  
Sun., May 20—Riverside JA CL 2001 Scholarship Awards/Graduates Potluck (dinner); 5 p.m., First Congregational Church, 3755 Lemon St. Info: Michiko Yoshimura, 909/784-7057, or Meiko Inaba, 909/682-8116. **SAN FERNANDO VALLEY**

Sat., June 2—Book-reading and signing, "Crow Boy" and "Umbrella" by Taro Yashima, with the author's daughter, actress Momo Yashima; San Fernando Valley Japanese Language Institute, 12953 Branford St., Arleta. Info: Heritage Source, 661/263-0623, <www.heritage-source.com>.

SAN DIEGO  
Fri.-Sun., June 1-3—Poston Camp Hill 10th Reunion; Mission Valley Double-Tree Hotel; Friday-night mixer, day trip to Viejas Tribal Casino, city tour, San Diego Zoo, golf tournament, exhibit of camp memorabilia, Sunday sayonara breakfast buffet, etc. Info: Ben Segawa 619/482-1736, e-mail: <BGSegawa@aol.com>; Arnold Seck, 619/427-7116, e-mail: <Sansei1@hotmail.com>; Michi Himaka, 619/660-9865.

TORRANCE  
Fri.-Sun., Aug. 31-Sept. 2—Ninth Biennial National JA CL Singles Convention, "Come Together 2001"; Torrance Marriott Hotel; workshops, seminars, mixer with line dancing, dinner/dance, Saturday luncheon, Sunday brunch, optional trips to Las Vegas, Little Tokyo, JANM, Getty Center, golf, bowling. Call hotel for special convention rate: 800/228-9290. **Register before June 30 for early-bird discount:** Miyako, 310/559-4024, e-mail: singlesconvention@yahoo.com; visit: www.singlesconvention.net.

Sat., Sept. 22—JA CL PSW Awards Dinner; 6 p.m., Torrance Marriott Hotel; 6 p.m. cocktails/silent auction; 7 p.m. dinner; proceeds to support PSWD-JA CL youth programming; community leaders will be honored; all are welcome. Ticket prices, donations, hotel information, etc.: 213/626-4471.

WEST COAST  
Sat., June 2—Summer Benefit Dance; 7-11 p.m., East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, 1203 W. Puente Ave.; music by Jim Ikehara; to benefit the West Coast Buddhaist Temple. Tickets, info: Barbara, 626/810-1509.

Sat., June 23—Casino Night; 6-11 p.m., East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, 1203 W. Puente Ave.; Las Vegas-style gaming, bingo, silent auction, hors d'oeuvres, desserts, beverages, no-host bar, raffle to benefit Sabon/Saberettes youth basketball. Info: Nancy Hombro, 909/599-7002, or Bob Matsumoto, 626/966-5138.

WEST LOS ANGELES  
Sun., June 17—West L.A. JA CL 2001 Scholarship Brunch; 11:30 a.m., Premier-Rose, Ramada Plaza Hotel, 6333 Bristol Parkway, Culver City; first-time award of the Chiyo Hattori Memorial Medical Scholarship, plus three others. **RSVP by June 10:** Jean Shigematsu, 310/207-3688, fax 310/826-2859, or Mike Nagai, California Bank & Trust, 310/477-8211.

Arizona - Nevada  
LAS VEGAS  
Mon.-Wed., Sept. 24-26—Manzanar High School Reunion; Fremont Hotel; entertainment, dancing, slot machine tournament; banquet to be dedicated to the late Shiro Nomura. Info: Kazu Nagai, 212/380-2611.

PHOENIX  
Wed., June 6—Asian Pacific Night at Bank One Ballpark; 7:05 p.m. game time; Diamondbacks vs. L.A. Dodgers; Arizona JA CL Taiko will perform on the field before the game. Info: Madeline Ong-Sakata, 602/222-2009 ext. 12, 602/371-8452 home.

RENO  
Sun., June 17—Reno JA CL Father's Day/Bingo Potluck; Knights of Pythias Hall, 980 Nevada St. ■

**DEADLINE for Calendar is the Friday before date of issue, on a space-available basis.**  
Please provide the time and place of the event, and name and phone number (including area code) of a contact person.



## Remembering Our Veterans



Vietnam War veteran Vince Okamoto pays tribute to Nisei soldiers at a Memorial Day tribute at Evergreen Cemetery, in Boyle Heights, Calif.

## 'Farewell to Manzanar'



PHOTO: MARTHA NAKAGAWA

Cast members from Farewell to Manzanar celebrated the second theatrical showing this year of the 1976 John Korty TV film at the Japan American Theatre in Los Angeles. The tele-film, which closed Visual Communication's Asian Pacific Film & Video Fest, was restored and will be distributed to California schools thanks to Lt. Gov. Cruz M. Bustamante, Universal Studios and the Civil Liberties Public Education Project.

## National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

### DOE Guards Question Rep. Wu

WASHINGTON—Oregon/Rep. David Wu, the only Chinese-American ever elected to Congress, said he was briefly denied entry to the U.S. Energy Department headquarters last week by guards who asked if he was an American.

Wu has sent a letter of protest to Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham.

"The conduct of the DOE guards is both ironic and disturbing," the Oregon Democrat said in his letter dated May 24.

"However, this is not about the treatment of any individual. I am disturbed that yesterday's incident is the tip of the iceberg, an indicator of a much larger problem at DOE which may be damaging our national security."

Jeanne Lopatto, an Energy Department spokeswoman, said it was a simple mistake. Lopatto said an escort was waiting for Wu in the lobby of the Washington, D.C., building, but the congressman entered through the garage, where security guards had not been told about his appointment.

The guards "did exactly what they're supposed to do," Lopatto said. "It's unfortunate that the congressman was held up on his way to his meeting, and we regret that."

Wu had gone to the Energy Department on May 23 to deliver a speech to Asian Americans for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Wu said security guards asked him twice whether he was an American, even though he presented his congressional identification.

The guards denied Wu entry, along with an aide who is also APA, Wu said.

Lopatto said everybody entering the building, including Abraham, must present ID, and all visitors are required to confirm whether they are U.S. citizens under a presidential directive to protect classified information.

### Cox Pulls Name Out of Judgeship

WASHINGTON—California Rep. Christopher Cox on May 25 pulled his name from seeking a federal judgeship.

The Newport Beach Republican's name "became familiar to Asian Americans when he chaired the Cox Committee report, which examined technology transfer during the Wen Ho Lee espionage controversy."

Cox's action brings to an end efforts by other Orange County politicians who view his seat as a GOP stronghold.

### Minorities at Higher Risk for Pregnancy-Related Deaths

ATLANTA—American Indian, Asian and Hispanic women are much more likely to die from pregnancy complications than white women, government researchers recently announced.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the report — the first to examine pregnancy death risks for the three smaller demographic groups — highlights a gap in quality of prenatal care given to immigrant women.

Black women still have the highest such risk of any racial or ethnic

group. Nearly 30 women die per 100,000 live births. American Indians and Alaska natives die from pregnancy complications at a rate of 12.2; the CDC said. The rate is 11.3 for Asians and Pacific Islanders and 10.3 for Hispanic women. The rate for white women is 7.3.

For Hispanic and API women, the risk was much higher for those born outside the United States. Sara Whitehead, a CDC epidemiologist, said the gap is likely related to factors from lack of prenatal care access to language and cultural barriers.

The CDC's study covered 1991 to 1997, the latest year for which statistics are available.

### Chu Sworn in as Assembly's Fourth AA

SACRAMENTO—Judith Chu described her state Assembly district as exciting and "very diverse."

On May 21, she became the fourth Asian American elected to the state Assembly and the first to represent the traditionally Hispanic 49th Assembly District.

Chu, a Democrat, defeated three other candidates to win a vacant seat left by Assemblywoman Gloria Romero, who was elected to the state Senate in March.

Chu, a former Monterey Park City Council member, said she got into politics 15 years ago to counter a backlash against Asian immigrants. The 49th District includes East Los Angeles, Alhambra, Rosemead, San Gabriel, South San Gabriel and Monterey Park, which in the 1980s became the nation's first city with a majority of AA residents. ■

## 2000 Census Update

### NATIONAL AA Boom Expected by 2010

If last year's census reflected a decade of Hispanic growth, expect the 2010 head count to show a boom in Asian Americans, who had one of the fastest growth rates in the 1990s.

The population grew 74 percent to 11.5 million last year. The number of Hispanics jumped 58 percent to 35 million, putting them almost even with blacks as the largest minority group in the country.

"In some ways, it's not surprising at all," said Don Nakanishi, head of the Asian American Studies Center at UCLA. He notes that the U.S. Asian population has doubled every decade since immigration restrictions were eased in 1965.

States with sharp increases in AA numbers include New York, Colorado, Massachusetts, Louisiana, Arkansas, Pennsylvania and South Dakota. Leland Saito, who has studied migration patterns around the country, noted the trend of Asians moving from ethnic enclaves to predominantly white suburbs.

In his 1998 book, "Race and Politics: Asian Americans, Latinos and Whites in a Los Angeles Suburb," Saito highlighted the attitudes of the large number of white residents living in the San Gabriel Valley, which saw a huge influx of AAs over the past 30 years.

He said as recently as the mid-1980s, when Chinese immigrants began flocking to Monterey Park (the first U.S. city to record an Asian majority population), officials adopted a nonbinding English-only resolution and made efforts to bar Asian-language street and business signs.

### CALIFORNIA Japanese Population Decreases while Asian Indians Increase

SAN FRANCISCO—Spurred by the state's high-tech boom, Californians of Asian Indian descent have become the fastest growing

group within the state's fastest growing race. Meanwhile, the number of residents of Japanese origin declined during the 1990s according to new census data.

The number of Japanese Americans fell 8 percent to 289,000, while residents of Indian descent had immigrated in such high numbers that their statewide population rose 97 percent to 315,000 people.

Sue Jose now has more Indians than 37 states, thanks to its burgeoning high-tech base.

California's Chinese population grew 39 percent in the 1990s, while the Korean population increased 33 percent, Filipinos 26 percent and the Vietnamese 60 percent.

However, the explosive growth in the state's Asian population has masked vast differences among the people making up that group. At one extreme, professional Asians are earning more than their counterparts from any other race. Meanwhile, though refugees from Southeast Asia continued to grow in number their economic progress continued to lag.

"It's dangerous to lump all Asians together," said Hans Johnson of the Public Policy Institute of California. "We see this huge diversity in terms of educational attainment, and also in terms of poverty."

### FLORIDA Asian Population Increases 77.7 Percent

In the past decade the state's Asian population has increased by almost 78 percent, according to new 2000 census figures released in May.

One of the largest concentrations of Asians is found in Orlando, where thousands of Vietnamese have moved into the Colonialtown area, about three miles from downtown.

"The community seems to be very much generous and open to us," said Orlando real estate broker Thomas Nguyen, who came to America in the mid-70s.

"It is obvious the Vietnamese have made an impact on the city."

Asian restaurants abound, offering everything from sub sandwiches to steaming bowls of pho. Video rental stores boast of their selections of karaoke CDs.

Jewelers, travel agencies, dentists — all advertising their wares and services in a language native to a country nearly 9,000 miles away.

While half a world separates Vietnam and central Florida, local city and business leaders say there's one similarity that makes Orlando such a draw for southeast Asians: the weather, with its temperate winters and muggy summers.

Much of the Asian influx into Florida comes from Vietnamese who lived in other large American cities such as New York and Chicago, but found winters too cold there.

Along with sharing tropical weather, Florida and Vietnam also have access to the same food, which can make transition easier for immigrants.

"Mangoes, guava," said Lee Do, manager of Tien-Hung Oriental Foods. "You can get that over here."

The Vietnamese presence in Orlando has reached such a mass that it can support Saigon Radio, a two-hour program airing six nights a week on an AM station. Run by Nguyen, Saigon Radio is the first program in the state dedicated to the Vietnamese community.

According to the census figures, the Vietnamese population in Florida increased 103 percent over the decade from 16,346 in 1990 to 33,190 in 2000.

In north Florida, Vanda Bukac, director of resettlement programs for Lutheran Social Services, has a word to answer to what draws Vietnamese and other Asians here — jobs.

The number of Asians in Florida increased 77.7 percent from 1990 to 2000. In the 2000 census, there were 266,256 Asians, compared with 149,856 in 1990.

Florida ranked seventh in the United States in firms owned by Asians or Pacific Islanders, according to the report. ■

## Blue Shield health plans for California JACL members

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.

Website: <http://www.jaclhealthbenefits.org>



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# JACL Corner

## Sacramento Chapter Activities

The Sacramento chapter's 50th annual community picnic, to be held on June 3, has been returned to its traditional location at the William Land Park. The park had been unavailable while it was undergoing extensive renovations.

Activities will include presentation of the flag, the annual concert by the Sacramento Taiko Dan, free bingo, races, games, raffles, and various amusements for the children throughout the afternoon. Prizes have been gathered by the picnic committee for kids, youths and adults, said chair Genevieve Shiroma. The picnic is open to all JACL members, friends and neighbors. For information, call Toku Fujii at 916/421-6968.

On June 10 from 7 p.m. to midnight, the Sacramento chapter will participate in manning the phone banks during the KVIE-Channel 6 summer membership drive. Those wishing to volunteer are asked to call Toku Fujii at 916/421-6968.

KVIE, Sacramento Valley's public TV outlet, has been in the forefront of presenting Asian and Japanese American documentaries. Various premiums of interest to the Nikkei will be offered during this telecast.

## Snake River Chapter Holds Graduation Banquet



(L-R) back row: Scott Itano, Brian Kitamura, Kenny Lissman, Matt Kitamura, Tom Uchida, Randy Saito; front row: Steven Nakamura, Cathleen Palmer, Stephanie Young, Nicole Mizuta, Jesse Lantz, Jordan Komoto; not pictured: Christina Nakada, Jay Ishida, Robb Morishita, Dawn Young, Noel Koto and Jeremy Goto.

The Snake River chapter held its annual graduation banquet on May 9, to honor local high school seniors of Japanese descent and to recognize the high school senior scholarship recipients.

The scholarship recipients were Randy Saito, Nissa Ore, son of Reid and Kaylene Saito, \$2,000; Scott Itano, Hometown, Idaho, son of Mabel Itano, \$2,000; Jordan Komoto, Ontario, Ore., son of Bob and Janet Komoto, \$1,000; and Noel Koto, Fruitland, Idaho, son of Mike and Mary Lou Koto, \$1,000.

Lynn Kawano of KBCI-TV 2 in Boise, Idaho, was keynote speaker at the banquet. Scholarships and grants were funded by the Snake River JACL, Idaho-Oregon Nikkei-jinkai, and an endowment from Sig and Mitsuko Murakami.

## South Bay Chapter to Host Scholarship Luncheon Reception

## Luncheon Reception

The South Bay chapter will hold a reception at 11 a.m. on June 9, at El Retiro Park in Torrance, Calif. for the recipients of the 2001 Kiichi Egashira Memorial Scholarship.

The three scholarship recipients are: David Hill, Palos Verdes Peninsula High School, son of Frank and Maureen Hill; Erin Akemi Matsushita, North High School, daughter of James and Patsy Matsushita of Torrance, and Eleanor Emi Williams, daughter of John and Leila Williams, a graduate of Palos Verdes Peninsula High and now a junior at Harvard University.

Mitchell Maki, assistant professor in the School of Public Policy and Social Research at UCLA, will be the featured speaker at the reception. Maki, a respected scholar and expert in Japanese American studies, is co-author of "Achieving the Impossible Dream: How Japanese Americans Obtained Redress" as well as numerous articles on the delivery of social services to ethnic minority populations.

The Kiichi Egashira Memorial Scholarship was established in 1987 by Ichiro Egashira in memory of his brother, who was an engineer at TRW. It is awarded to students of Japanese ancestry residing in the South Bay who plan on pursuing a degree in any scientific field of study.

The reception is free and open to the public but reservations are required. For information, call

scholarship awards.

Kyle Hanano, a valedictorian at Bonita Vista High, received a \$1,000 scholarship and plans to study international business at UCLA; he is the son of Gerald and Linda Hanano.

Akemi Nakamura, also a valedictorian at Bonita Vista High, received \$750 and will attend UC San Diego; she is the daughter of Brian and Emiko Nakamura.

Wesley Kaina Polischuk of Valhalla High School was awarded \$500.

Twelve graduates received scholarships of \$300 each. They are Yoshiro Banks, San Diego Academy; Towana Catley, El Camino High; Flora Hamamura, Oceanside High; Kaori Kitano, Bonita Vista High; Jonathan Obayashi, Serra High; Lisa Oka, West Hills High; Alinta Sainz, Mt. Carmel High; Karen Sakai, Bonita Vista High; Chris Sasaki, Torrey Pines High; and Chiharu Yuki, University City High.

Keynote speaker for the luncheon was San Diego TV reporter Maya Nishikawa. Carol Kawamoto, San Diego chapter president, chaired the scholarship committee which included Dr. Yuri Kaneda, James Yamate, Jeanne Kashima and Judge Gale Kaneshiro. Kawamoto and Kaneda are past recipients of San Diego chapter scholarships.

The annual scholarships are funded by a donation of real property by the Chula Vista Gakuen. The chapter has also received a generous donation from Nobu Tanaka to institute the Dr. Roy K. Tanaka Continuing Education Scholarship.

## Twin Cities Chapter Co-sponsors Programs on Pearl Harbor

The Twin Cities chapter is co-sponsoring two presentations by retired Army Capt. James N. Johns, who has spent over 30 years reviewing governmental archives in Hawaii and Washington, D.C., concerning the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor. He will present his research findings and offer another viewpoint to suggest the possibility that the U.S. government may have had foreknowledge of the attack.

On June 2 at 1-3 p.m., Johns will present "A Conspiracy at Pearl Harbor" at the Minnesota History Center 3M Auditorium, 345 Kellogg Ave. W., St. Paul (651/296-6126). On June 16 at 1-3 p.m., Johns' talk, titled "A New Historical Context for Pearl Harbor" will be presented at the Minneapolis Public Library, Heritage Hall Auditorium, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis (612/630-6174).

In conjunction with the program, rare photos, posters and

other artifacts of Pearl Harbor will be on display in the atrium of the Minneapolis Public Library (MPL) through mid-June.

Along with the Twin Cities JACL, the June 2 program is being co-sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society, with funding provided by a grant from the Kumagai Family Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation and the American Express Gift Matching Program. The June 16 program is also being co-sponsored by the Friends of the MPL and the MPL Special Collections Department.

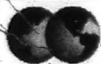
Both programs are free and open to the public.

## Wasatch Front North Chapter Basketball Tournament

The second annual Wasatch Front North Chapter Basketball Tournament was held on April 26-28. The event, chaired by Jimmy Ito, had 10 teams participate from Northern Utah. The winning team was SJS, sponsored by Suekawa Janitorial Services from Ogden, Utah. ■



Pictured from l-r (back row): Cy Kano, Nate Imamura, Blake Petersen, Eeric Baergesch, Robb Farr; (front row) Brian DeVries, Jason Suekawa, and Tom Nguyen, Wasatch Front North.



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(L-R) standing: Chris Sasaki, Jonathan Obayashi, Kaori Kitano, Matt Kawahara, Alina Sainz, Towana Catley, Chiharu Yuki, Flora Hamamura, Lisa Oka and Suzanne Ito; seated: chapter president Carol Kawamoto, keynote speaker Maya Nishikawa, Kyle Hanano, Akemi Nakamura, Wesley Kaina Polischuk, and David Kawamoto, national JACL vice president of general operations.



## Heart Mountain Reunion VIII Update

Since February, over 320 people have indicated their interest in attending the Heart Mountain Reunion VIII, which is scheduled to take place Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 2002, in Salt Lake City.

The Heart Mountain Reunion VIII Committee continues to organize the event and has tentatively announced that at least two bus tours will go through Jackson Hole, Yellowstone and Heart Mountain, while another will go to the national parks in Southern Utah; the Grand Canyon and Las Vegas. There will also be a tour of Salt Lake City, Park City Ski Resort and other Olympic venues.

The committee is also planning workshops, displays, a golf tournament, a welcome mixer, sayonara banquet and brunch.

The selected reunion hotel is the Little America Hotel and Towers located in the heart of downtown Salt Lake City. There is ample free parking and the hotel is located 10 minutes away from the Salt Lake International Airport (free shuttle between the hotel and airport), just a few blocks east of the I-15 freeway. The TRAX (light rail system) is free to downtown for shopping, theater and dining. A block of rooms has been reserved at the hotel for reunion attendees at a special rate.

The committee welcomes any suggestions and ideas for making this a successful reunion. Contact Raymond Uno at 801/355-0284 or e-mail [runo101049@aol.com](mailto:runo101049@aol.com).

## JACL Youth Conference to be Held in Conjunction with June 28-July 1 Tri-District in Cincinnati

JACL will hold a conference geared specifically toward high school and college age youth in Cincinnati in conjunction with the JACL Tri-District convention June 28-July 1.

The conference, titled "Unity Through Identity," will focus on what role identity plays in a pluralistic society. Sheila Chung, executive director of Hapa Issues Forum, will facilitate a workshop on identity. Dr. Paula Usita of Purdue University's Department of Child Development and Family Studies, and Mai Nguyen, director of the Asian/Hispanic/Native American Center at Wright State University, will hold a panel on identity in a culturally diverse society. The panel will be moderated by Dr. Ron Katsuyama, the Dayton JACL chapter president and professor of cogni-

five studies and child development at the University of Dayton.

There will also be taiko performance by the Cincinnati-Dayton Taiko Group, and professor Frank Wu of Howard University will speak at the Saturday evening banquet. Friday evening extra-curricular activities are planned, and T-shirts will be on sale at the conference.

The conference is made possible through the JACL National Legacy Grant and assistance from Amy Matsumoto, JACL national youth/student representative, Dr. Katsuyama and Marie Matsunami, Midwest district governor.

For more information, visit [www.homepages.udayton.edu/~yanosteg](http://www.homepages.udayton.edu/~yanosteg) or contact the local JACL chapter president. ■

## Sen. Inouye to Speak at Official Memorial Opening and Banquet

Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, will be the featured speaker at the official opening and dinner banquet for the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism to be held June 29 and 30 in Washington, D.C.

Inouye, the longest-serving elected official and recipient of a World War II Congressional Medal of Honor, has enjoyed credentials as a leader in defense issues and domestic policies and is a strong advocate for indigenous Americans such as the Native Hawaiians and American Indians.

President George W. Bush has been invited to cut the ribbon officially opening the memorial to the public June 29. His father, President George Bush, signed Public Law 102-502 authorizing construction of the memorial in October 1992. Reps. Robert Matsui, Patsy Mink and Mike Honda will be honored as special guests at the dinner

banquet on June 30.

World-renowned baritone Christopher Omura will head the entertainment for the evening, and local children will sing a medley of American and Japanese children's songs to emphasize the generations for whom this symbol has been built.

The memorial, located near the nation's Capitol, between New Jersey and Louisiana avenues and D Street, was built by the contributions of over 30,000 gifts from throughout the United States and Japan. It will be monitored in perpetuity by the U.S. Park Service. In allowing the memorial to be built on federal land, Congress acknowledged the injustices committed against Japanese Americans during World War II and resolved that such actions should not happen again.

According to Meivin Chigogoi, Japanese American National Memorial Foundation (NJAMF)

banquet chairman, the ribbon-cutting ceremony and official tour of the memorial will be followed by a reception at the Holiday Inn on the Hill, and the gala dinner will be held at the Hyatt Regency the next evening.

The gala dinner costs \$125 per person and includes free entrance to the June 29 reception. Cost for children under 10 will be significantly reduced. Sponsored tables (10 to a table) are available at \$5,000 for a Legacy Table, \$2,500 for a Patriots Table, and \$1,000 for a Family Table. For tickets, call NJAMF at 877/607-8550, fax: 202/861-8848, e-mail: [njamf@erols.com](mailto:njamf@erols.com).

Guests should contact the Holiday Inn on the Hill (800/638-1116) or the Hyatt Regency (800/223-1234) directly and mention the NJAMF to receive special room rates. Group rates have been arranged at both hotels. ■

## 'Uncommon Courage' MIS Documentary Premieres

An estimated 600 people gathered at the Crest Theatre in Sacramento May 19 to see the premiere of the long-awaited television documentary "Uncommon Courage, Patriotism and Civil Liberties," the most detailed and visually compelling story to date about the once top-secret Military Intelligence Service (MIS).

It was made at an estimated cost of \$400,000, \$100,000 of which was underwritten by the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program, a bill sponsored by former Assemblyman and U.S. Rep. Mike Honda of San Jose.

Formed in San Francisco's Crissy Field just before the outbreak of World War II, the MIS was originally made up of 58 Japanese American men and later women, who used their linguistic skills to provide vital information to the Allies. As military experts note, these unsung heroes helped shorten the war in the Pacific by two years and played an important role in the reconstruction of Japan once peace was restored.

The documentary was written, produced and directed by filmmaker Gayle Yamada, the daughter of MIS veteran Gordon Yamada.

"We took about 20 months to do

this film," she said. "It's a very difficult story to tell because it's not one story of 500 or 800 or a certain number of men going out and fighting the war. It's the story of two people here and three people there and 14 people in Burma. They did a lot of different things, from infiltrating enemy lines to intercepting communications. All of them did translation."

Producers uncovered "rare documentary footage and still photos, some of which are being shown publicly for the first time. In one scene, MIS members, with disregard for their own safety, are seen walking into Pacific Island caves trying to convince Japanese soldiers to surrender to the Allied Forces.

"Our story is an American story," said Marvin Uratsu, president of the Military Intelligence Service Association of Northern California. "And we should tell the American people as much as we can. This is also a story of how our civil rights were taken away, unduly and unconstitutionally, and that this is a lesson we can all profit by."

"I think it is timely that we're making this documentary public," added retired Col. Harry Fukuhara of San Jose. "If there are any nega-

tive reactions to the movie 'Pearl Harbor,' I think we can offset the negative aspects by the public to view our story. 'Uncommon Courage' because it's a very impressive part of the American history that hasn't been told."

While serving as an MIS translator at New Britain Island, Fukuhara was almost killed by an American G.I. who had mistaken him for the enemy.

So remarkable is their story that ABC anchor Peter Jennings, in videotaped remarks, expressed his gratitude for their service to this country. "I need not tell any of you what a challenge it must have been to go to the Pacific as a Japanese American during World War II. They worked alongside other Americans who were deeply suspicious of them, yet they wished to serve. There doesn't seem to be much doubt now, the Japanese Americans in the Intelligence Service helped to shorten the war," he said.

Videotaped copies of "Uncommon Courage" are available for purchase for \$29.95 plus tax and shipping through Bridge Media, Inc., 44579 North El Macero Drive, El Macero, CA 95618-1064; tel: 530/297-0880; or e-mail: [gky@earthlink.net](mailto:gky@earthlink.net). ■

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## Lecture on Health and Incarceration to be Held June 5

Dr. Gwenn Jensen of Denver, a consulting anthropologist and oral historian, will talk on the "Health Hazards and Long-term Health Consequences of Incarceration" on June 5 at 1 p.m. at the Berkeley Methodist United Church, BMU, social hall, 1710 Carlton Street, Berkeley, CA.

The discussion will focus on how unprepared the War Relocation Authority was for medical problems which occurred in the detention centers. There were unnecessary deaths and illnesses and needless suffering attributed to lack of supplies, equipment and environmental hazards. Many more detainees could have been harmed had it not been for the care and dedication provided by interned health care professionals and the cultural resilience of the detainees themselves.

Jensen is currently writing a book, "The Price of Betrayal: Health Consequences of the Mass Incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II." She continues her research, which she began as part of her dissertation completed at the University of Colorado at Boulder. She has collected more than 140 hours of oral histories and reviewed thousands of WRA documents at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

After receiving her Bachelor of Science degree from UCLA, Jensen worked as an exploration geologist for nearly 20 years. She returned to school in 1990 to study medical anthropology and received her Master's degree in 1992 and doctor-

ate in 1997. In addition to writing, she consults for the CU Department of Family Medicine on community health projects.

For more information on the lecture, call Toru Saito at 510/526-8432. ■

## Dr. Satsuki Ina to Keynote at PNW-IDC Bi-District Awards Luncheon

Dr. Satsuki Ina, producer/project director of "Children of the Camps," will keynote the awards luncheon on July 13 during the PNW-IDC Bi-District Conference.

In keeping with the conference theme of "Honshin—True Heart," Ina's presentation, "Healing with Courage and Compassion," will focus on the emotional and psychological consequences of the World War II internment camp experience and the journey to heal from the wounds of racism. She will also address the personal and intergenerational impact of the internment experience.

Currently professor emeritus at California State University, Sacramento, she also has a private psychotherapy practice where her primary focus is treating adults and children

who have suffered trauma. Funded by the California Endowment, "Children of the Camps" has been broadcast on national PBS stations for the past two years.

Video screenings of "Children of the Camps," "Honor Bound," "Days of Waiting" and "Conscience and the Constitution" as well as other videos on Japanese American history, will be available for viewing on the evenings of July 12 and 13. For more information, contact the PNW district office at 206/623-5088 or e-mail at [pnw@jacel.org](mailto:pnw@jacel.org). ■

## REPARATIONS

(Continued from page 1)

American) movement is where the Japanese American movement was in its early days and they should feel some sort of kinship there and try to help African Americans achieve at least the apology that they received."

There is no question that the JA community feels a natural kinship with the current struggle for reparations in the African American community. But there is also a recognition that there are distinct differences in the history of the two movements and in the two movements.

The JA redress movement of the 1970s and 80s was fighting to right the wrongs committed by the U.S. government during World War II when tens of thousands of JAs living on the West Coast, many of them citizens, were herded into America's concentration camps. The community won its battle with the 1988 Civil Liberties Act, receiving an official apology from the American government and individual redress payments of \$20,000 to the surviving internees or immediate family members.

Most African American scholars trace the beginnings of the African American reparations movement to 1865, when slavery was finally abolished in the United States, more than three centuries after its beginnings. Millions of African Americans suffered the indignities of indentured servitude, and the centuries of discrimination have left deep scars in the community to this day.

Although subsequent generations have continued to talk about African American reparations and black leaders have continued to support the idea, including Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., and Jesse Jackson, the American government has never apologized for slavery and black Americans have yet to receive any reparations.

UCLA law professor Jerry Kang, who spoke about the JA redress movement at the conference, believes it is time for the African American community to receive reparations.

"I think the idea of [the United States] taking responsibility and at least apologizing [for the slavery of blacks]... I find that morally gripping. I think that should be done," he said.

UCLA professor Mitch Maki, author of "Achieving the Impossible Dream - How Japanese Americans Obtained Redress" and an organizer of the conference, agrees. "African American slavery is an American issue that our country needs to come to some place of atonement," he said. "It's important to frame this not as an African American issue but as an American issue."

There are currently more than 150 grassroots organizations looking at the issue of African American reparations. In addition, there are four major um-

brella groups: N'Cobra (National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America), NBUF (National Black United Front), the Reparations Assessment Group, and the Reparations Coordinating Committee.

The most recognized legislation for African American reparations is a bill by Rep. John Conyers Jr., D-Mich. The bill, HR 40, is asking for the formation of a commission to examine the institution of slavery and the resulting racial and economic discrimination against African Americans. The bill was introduced in January of 1999 and is currently stuck in committee.

But as the African American community moves forward in its struggle for reparations, the movement faces a number of obstacles. The community is still grappling with how to frame the issue, what types of redress to seek, and much still needs to be done to educate the community.

Brooks believes that framing the issue as one of atonement is the key and points out that the JAs used this same method.

"Many white Americans see the black redress movement as nothing more than a shakedown engineered by high-ranking scholars... by the losers of the affirmative action war," he said. "I think that framing the issue as an issue of atonement rather than one of settlement answers these arguments effectively."

Brooks does not favor individual reparations but supports the idea of a trust fund. The fund would be for every African American child born within a five-year period, with the money being invested until the individual reaches the age of 21, at which time the funds could be used for education and business purposes only.

The National Coalition for Reparations and Economic Wealth has a list of specific reparations they are seeking that include: land, money, a trust fund, social security for seniors, the release of political prisoners, and individual reparations of \$500,000.

Horne of RPC wants reparations to be in the form of land. Since the time of slavery, African Americans have emphasized the importance of land as a reparation for their suffering, he said. "Forget the money, we want land."

The issue of land for blacks goes back to the Freedmen's Act of 1865 when every black male citizen was promised 40 acres of land. The provision was never implemented but according to Manning Marable, founding director of Columbia University's African American Studies Institute, if the one million black males at the time had received their land, it would be worth hundreds of billions of dollars in equity today. But the reality is, white baby boomers today will leave their heirs \$7 trillion in equity whereas African American baby boomers will leave their heirs debt.

"No matter how hard African Americans work, no matter how

much we sacrifice, collectively, because of the structure of inequality in accumulated disadvantage, we will never catch up," said Marable.

So far, much of the discussion on African American reparations has been among the intellectuals and community leaders and has yet to reach many in the black community. "... it hasn't permeated the African American community the way the redress movement did for the Japanese Americans," said Brooks, who wants to get the ministers involved in the talks.

The various reparations groups are currently making a push to educate their community, trying to ignite the movement by letting African Americans know that reparations is a winnable effort, said Horne. "If African Americans do not believe in the effort then it's not going to work."

One of the most difficult obstacles facing the black movement is the passage of time. With the JA movement, there was a huge push for reparations because the Jews who had endured America's concentration camps were dying. Today, there are no surviving black slaves. "I think that's why it was so much easier to get JA redress," said Kang.

But Maki believes the African American community should press on. "The longer we wait there will be another generation of African Americans born into a differential system that are treated unfairly and are given unequal access to our institutions in society," he said. "We need to show a sense of urgency that we need to address this now because if we wait, the problem will just get worse."

As expected, the African American reparations movement has had a cold reception among government officials and the white community. The response has been "very negative because the issue has been framed improperly," said Brooks, who points to people like David Horowitz who are incorrectly framing the movement as an attack on white Americans.

The JA redress movement also received its share of negative response but Kang believes things will be worse for the black movement. "I think the reaction's going to be far worse. And we shouldn't be surprised," he said. "If people hate affirmative action, which in many ways is a minor version of reparations, how much more will they hate generalized reparations?"

It's clear the debate on African American reparations will continue and the final chapter has yet to be written. The issue of black reparations is scheduled to be discussed at the World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, this fall.

"We have to frame [the African American reparations movement] so that it unites the many and defeats the few," said Manning. "Indeed, brothers and sisters, it is payback time." ■

## BLUE RIBBON

(Continued from page 1)

with forming a BRC.

Mori addressed the diversity issue by pointing out that although all seven panelists currently reside in Southern California, many were born and raised in other parts of the country and represent all walks of professional life, ranging from an accountant, attorney, broadcaster, financial investment expert, marketing specialist and a former national JACL youth coordinator.

In addition, the seven panelists are active in the Japanese American community, sitting on various boards, and bring varied viewpoints to the table, some of whom are highly critical of JACL.

To keep BRC-related costs to a minimum, Mori explained that he assembled the team from one geographic area and has asked panelists to serve on a pro bono basis.

And with the JACL potentially facing a \$138,494 deficit by the end of the year, Mori had the national board fly into Los Angeles to meet BRC members rather than the other way around. This switch in board meeting venue added "no additional costs" to JACL, said Mori. National board meetings are normally held at JACL headquarters in San Francisco.

"It's a wash," said Mori, adding that the Los Angeles meeting did not require tax/shuttle expenses associated with San Francisco meetings.

### Update from BRC

Kumamoto reported to the board that the BRC plans to announce their recommendations in the fall, after studying the organization's history and holding focus groups during the summer.

Imada said ideally they would like to hold several focus groups with people both inside and outside of JACL but noted that cost factors will restrict their activities.

To date, the BRC separated JACL's programs and services into three categories: social, economic and political issues/concerns. From this, the BRC segmented the programs and ser-

vices into different target groups and are examining if and how the programs and services are attracting new members and generating revenue.

On the fundraising front, the BRC had one immediate recommendation and that was for the national president to assemble a president's council made up of business-oriented people to help bring in donations and develop a business plan.

The BRC also saw the Pacific Citizen as a potential revenue source by selling advertisement space and increasing new subscribers.

In examining JACL's organizational structure, the BRC cited the 2000 Census, which found that the Japanese American population was one of the few groups whose population had decreased. These figures, according to the BRC, made it that much more urgent for JACL to reach out to other non-traditional communities.

Because the census numbers also indicated that more Asian Pacific Americans were residing in the southern states, the BRC suggested that JACL reexamine the locations of their regional offices. Having an office in Sacramento to focus on hate crimes programs was another suggestion.

The BRC also felt that JACL's election process and the reliability of elected officers needed to be reevaluated. Some preliminary suggestions included having new officer orientations and assembling a working board where members actively raise funds. ■

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**FILM REVIEW**

(Continued from page 1)

banking on its flashy, digitally-enhanced explosions and emotional human drama to tell the story of the infamous day that propelled America into World War II.

But this ain't no history lesson, and for Japanese Americans who, in the aftermath of the attack, paid a grave price simply for looking like the enemy, the film's high-tech hoopla and evocation of innocence lost doesn't do proper justice to the actual event's ramifications.

"Pearl Harbor" unfolds as Rafe (Ben Affleck) and Danny, (Josh Hartnett), a pair of hotshot Navy pilots and best friends, find their relationship put to the test when first Rafe, then Danny, fall in love with the same woman, a beautiful Navy nurse named Evelyn (Kate Beckinsale).

Their romance and rivalry are interrupted when the Japanese, having outstrategized the Americans, devastate U.S. naval ships in a vivid recreation of the 40-minute attack, complete with dizzying aerial shots of diving planes, fiery blasts of ships blown apart and underwater slo-mo images of dying men.

But the special effects aren't enough to compensate for the bloated script and trite dialogue, which make most of the film's characters come off as forced and one-dimensional. Even Cuba Gooding Jr.'s portrayal of Petty Officer Dorie Miller, based on the real-life black man who served in the segregated U.S. armed forces as a galley worker on the USS Arizona, is uncharacteristically lackluster partly because the racism he dealt with at the time is glossed over in the film.

"Pearl Harbor" is careful in its treatment of the Japanese however, even injecting a bit of contrived humanity into otherwise stoic leaders such as Admiral Yamamoto (Mako), who at one point expresses regret that Japan has no other choice but to go through with the bombing.

President Roosevelt (Jon Voight) meanwhile, comes across as pompous and self-important, espousing patriotic diatribes at every turn. The real fist-pumping and flag-waving comes in the last third of the movie with Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle's famous "Thirty

Seconds Over Tokyo" suicide raid, which Roosevelt orders in retaliation for Japan's surprise attack.

In reality, there were 2,403 Americans who died at Pearl Harbor, including military personnel stationed on various U.S. naval ships as well as innocent civilians, a number of whom were children and Americans of-Japanese ancestry.

Let's not forget them, some may find troubling the fact that there is virtually no Asian American presence in "Pearl Harbor" aside from those actors playing members of the Japanese military: Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa as Gen. Hata, John Fujioka as Nishikura and Yuji Okumoto as a Japanese spy bomber who is overheard saying he wishes to honor his country.

An especially ridiculous scene shows a group of young Caucasian boys playing baseball on a field near the Pearl Harbor base, watching as Japanese warplanes try to warn them off just prior to the attack. This is Hawaii after all, where are the AAs?

Only two brief scenes involve JAs, and both are incredibly misleading. One shows a local JA dentist, unwittingly giving intelligence information to the Japanese over the phone, and the other shows a JA doctor at the military hospital attempting to help a wounded man who screams, "Don't touch me you Jap!"

The latter, barely three seconds long, encapsulates one of the film's biggest blunders, one which may prove detrimental to JAs and AAs alike: it misses the opportunity to make a clearer distinction between those responsible for the bombing and those who were American-born citizens.

It was exactly that distinction that Roosevelt and other U.S. leaders failed to make in 1942, when the government unjustly incarcerated over 120,000 JAs in concentration camps across the country.

Most of "Pearl Harbor's" target audience will be too young to have actually lived through that time and won't likely care about historical accuracy, but for viewers who experienced it or are sensitive to its complexities, this is not just brainless entertainment; it's exploitation of a much larger story, deserving of something more than a tired Hollywood cliché. ■

**PEARL HARBOR**

(Continued from page 1)

hate crimes towards Asian Americans.

The groups' fears come as a time of increased Asian-bashing resulting from the fallout from the sinking of the Ehime Maru in Hawaii and the U.S. spy plane incident over China. They also come shortly after other incidents affecting the AA community such as the Wen Ho Lee spy case and the DNC finance scandal.

Talk radio shows and newsmagazines from across the country have increasingly engaged in anti-AA sentiment, some calling for a boycott of Chinese restaurants, others making racial slurs like "Chinaman," and one host went as far as suggesting that Chinese should be put in concentration camps like the Japanese.

"Whenever something goes wrong with an Asian country and the United States, Asian Americans take the fall for it," said Guy Aoki, president of MANAA. "The Japanese American and Asian American communities are apprehensive [about the film] because every portrayal of Pearl Harbor, we've been blamed for it."

Already the concerns of JA and other AA groups have been realized. Even before the official release of "Pearl Harbor," several hate phone calls and e-mails were received by JA and other AA regional offices across the country.

"You are the evil NAZIS of the east! ... NUKE THE JAPS AGAIN FOR GOOD MEASURE," wrote one person in an e-mail to JA headquarters. Still others wrote, "Sneaky, cold people living in denial ... Maybe Japan would like a group like yours, you know, the way they're!"

The JA and Pacific Southwest District office in Southern California has also received hate e-mail and phone calls, with one caller leaving the message: "I'm totally disgusted with your group ... trying to defend what the Japs did during that time."

Tateishi has ordered heightened security at all of the JA offices and the organization continues to monitor the various hate calls and e-mail.

The AA groups stressed that they are not trying to suppress the

telling of the Pearl Harbor story. The American soldiers who fought and died at Pearl Harbor are heroes and their story needs to be told, said Tateishi. But the story of the JAs also needs to be told, and to this day few Americans know of their plight.

As a result of the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, tens of thousands of JAs living on the West Coast, many of them citizens, were rounded up and put in U.S. concentration camps for the duration of the war.

Yet, even out of these horrible conditions, many JA men volunteered to fight for their country, the United States. The JA men of the 442nd Central Postal Directory, the 100th Central Postal Directory, and the Military Intelligence Service fought in the war even while many of their family members were being held behind barbed wire.

Many people do not know that numerous JAs living in Hawaii died when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. According to Aoki, 44 percent of the casualties of the bombing were JAs.

"We feel that it is critical that the American public understand that then, as well as now, Japanese Americans are loyal and patriotic citizens of this great country," said Mori.

Produced by Jerry Bruckheimer and directed by Michael Bay, "Pearl Harbor" stars Ben Affleck, Kate Beckinsale and Josh Hartnett in the three-hour movie about a love triangle between a naval nurse and two best friend navy pilots that includes a 40-minute, "Titanic"-esque bombing sequence.

Throughout the production of the film, Tateishi met with Disney executives and producers. While reading the movie's script, Tateishi voiced his concerns about one particular scene involving a JA dentist. The inference is that the dentist was a Japanese spy, and although the scene is based on fact the film fails to show the finding of the FBI that the dentist was eventually found innocent of any crimes.

Although omitted from the rewrite of the script, the scene appears in the final cut of the movie.

Stressing their concern about the inclusion of the JA dentist scene, the JA national board sent a letter to Disney stating: "We do not understand Disney's insistence in including this scene in the movie and we request that this inaccurate scene be deleted from the movie or that Disney accept full responsibility for any hostile activities that may result from its inclusion."

Aoki also points out that the film, curiously lacks AA faces, not only among the main characters but even among the extras, an interesting point considering the film takes place in Hawaii, a state that boasts the highest percentage of AAs in the country.

"Pearl Harbor" is also being marketed differently in Japan, points out Aoki, with a strong emphasis on the love story. Whereas trailers and ads in the United States focus on the dramatic bombing sequences, scenes of Affleck and Beckinsale locked arm-in-arm have been shown in Japan to promote the film.

"We are offended that [Disney] is more concerned about making money in Japan than they are with the fallout that Japanese Americans could take for this film," said Aoki. He added, we were told this would be a love story "but you wouldn't know that looking at the trailers."

Like Suzuki, Ken Tomei also witnessed the bombing of Pearl Harbor firsthand as a 14-year-old teen living on a farm in Kahaluu, Hawaii. And although Suzuki and Tomei, both Korean War vets, fear the impact the movie could have on the AA community, they want to see the film for themselves.

"I'm worried about the younger generation who are going to see the film," said Tomei, who believes they may be negatively influenced by the movie. "If you have an Asian face, they will classify you as a Jap."

On the 50th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor bombing an increased number of hate crimes against AAs was reported, recalled Aoki. "Sixty years later we're still holding press conferences to tell you we had nothing to do with it."

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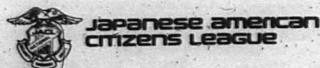


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## A New Challenge in a New Environment

**B**Y THE TIME this hits print, I will have completed four weeks engrossed in a new challenge in a new environment as the "JACL historian" at the Hirasaki National Resource Center, deep inside the pavilion of the Japanese American National Museum.



By HARRY HONDA

While the environment is new, the neighborhood of East First Street and North Central Avenue harbors many nostalgic pictures and memories of Little Tokyo we oldtimers

### Very Truly Yours

easily recall. The new challenge is learning the theory and trade of "archiving."

#### The Job Ahead of Me

In my brief report before the national JACL board meeting two Saturdays ago (May 19), I mentioned that records from JACL headquarters (in 88 packing boxes) and the P.C. morgue and documents (132 boxes) are in two huge rooms where collections are stored in a constant 70-degree temperature and 50-percent humidity environment.

In the museum's collection guide, I note that onetime P.C. circulation assistant Estelle Ishigo's drawings of "Lone Heart Mountain" are included as well as Norman Mineta's collection, William Marutani's documents and transcripts from his days as a panel member of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, resettlement era photographs from Toyo Miyatake/Rafu Shimpou and Dave Tatsuno's collection of home movies

## Forever Japanese

**A**s I write this, the movie "Pearl Harbor" is opening across the country to mostly negative reviews.

Watching this opening is a nervous Japanese American community. JACL and others have been monitoring the situation and have expressed concerns about the movie.



By BRIAN NIHA

Here in Hawaii, the Honolulu chapter has made its own concerns known. We're also putting together a

### Troubled in Paradise

panel for next weekend (which will have occurred by the time most of you read this) featuring the perspectives of JAs who were here at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack, since one of the criticisms of the movie is that JAs — and the local people of Hawaii — in general — are largely absent from the movie. Other JA and Asian American organizations around the country are on alert as the film opens.

The general tenor of the concerns JAs have about the film fall into two general categories: (a) the manner in which JAs are portrayed and (b) the fact that the Japanese are the bad guys. As to the first, I am told (I haven't seen the film) that there is a short scene involving a JA dentist being asked about ship movements by a mysterious Japanese

documenting life in prewar San Francisco and wartime in Topaz. And there are more.

The first assignment (accession) has been to designate the earliest and latest dates of items found in the chapter and district archival files. The task also allowed for rearranging the items in chronological order. I observed that while the time-span could be from 1955 to 1990, some folders contained but a few pieces. Whatever was lacking, accounting for the events during the past 40-50 years, banked in the pages of the *Pacific Citizen* — waiting to be indexed.

It was also gratifying to note that some folders included chapter histories. But listing that detail is part of the second phase (processing). It involves describing the nature of records, weeding out duplicates, identifying "restricted" and "potentially confidentiality problems" as well as determining the importance of the documents, photographs, etc., to the archive. What can be said here is that there are institutional (JANM's) priorities of how much detail is appropriate, as well as ascertaining what ought to be archived.

On that note, I urged the national board to establish a disposition schedule. Some organizations may have no idea of what "archival records management" entails. This is the challenge I'm about to enter — something I should have considered 10 years ago. I understand summer interns and volunteers will be assisting in the second phase.

#### What We Envision

The third phase (arrangement) makes sure the records are in a meaningful order that is, complying with the Library of Congress system. The prime rule of the Archives is followed here — Provenance. No intermingling of documents, especially with JACL records from two sources: national headquarters and *Pacific Citizen*. What headquarters has about P.C. cannot be refiled into P.C. boxes,

and vice-versa. Nothing from the P.C. morgue about national can be transferred to headquarters' files.

The fourth phase (description) is an ongoing activity, involving refinement and revision as records continue to grow. The JACL-*Pacific Citizen* collections will be open to JACL members after a "finding aid" or collection guide is published. A just-published "finding aid" of the Norman Y. Mineta papers at JANM was passed around at the national board meeting to show what is possible. The Mineta Collection consists of 28 boxes and is mainly devoted to Redress.

#### Our Early Days With the Museum

Indeed, any past references of mine to being an archivist were premature and for that, I thank Nancy Araki, who's been with the museum since its onset on the same mezzanine floor with us of the old Spreckels Warehouse at 941 East Third Street. Those on the P.C. staff then (Bob Shimabukuro, J.K. Yamamoto, Jane Ozawa, Tomi Hoshizaki, Mary Imon and Mark Saito) haven't forgotten our first weeks of no air-conditioning at 941, as was promised, and the efforts of then P.C. board chair Hank Sakai to resolve the problem. We were victims of municipal red-tape.

Incidentally, there's no citation of this unfortunate stipit in the 1985 P.C. chronology. And recalling that early JANM connection with P.C. fired up the "JACL historian" in me.

The Buddhist Churches of America, a 100-year institution, has placed its records with JANM. What an exciting environment to be in — the 20th century of Japanese experiences in America all coming to life under one roof.

Editor Emeritus Harry Honda may be reached at 213/830-5615, e-mail: honda@janm.org, or pacit@aol.com.

community. In fact, the line between "Japanese" and "Japanese American" has always been a fluid and complex one. Happen to find this topic particularly compelling, as do a number of contemporary scholars who are challenging the way we have seen our community. It's too complicated to go into detail here, but let us suffice to say that our focus on particular aspects of "American-ness" has resulted in a one-dimensional portrait of our community that has excluded large categories of people who don't fit into it.

The other is that there has been a historic blind spot in our Japanese-Americans-as-100%-American approach. That blind spot is our attitude towards Japan itself. We have often been willingly cast as apologists for Japan historically, whether for Japanese colonialism and worse in the 1930s or Japanese corporate encroachment in the 60s and 70s. Even today, when issues like reparations for the "comfort women" or legislation allowing former Japanese prisoners to sue the companies who profited from their forced labor come up, JAs have had, at best, an ambivalent attitude. Our reluctance to criticize Japan, even when such criticism has been warranted, has come back to bite us before.

So what to do in the face of "Pearl Harbor" and its ilk? There are just no easy answers. The fact is, we live in a society where race and nationality are still conflated, and where people are still judged by the way they look. In the face of this, we need to put forth our own perspective as JAs. But we must be careful that the perspective we put forth isn't just as simplistic as the one we're trying to fight. ■

## Pearl Harbor III

**B**Y THE TIME you are reading this, a good number of you will have seen Hollywood's latest film production of "Pearl Harbor."

Inasmuch as we've already seen a number of films covering the Pearl Harbor attack, I don't know what this latest film can cover that will be new. Perhaps another romantic theme is woven into the story to provide the framework for storytelling.



By BILL MARUTANI

**WE'VE ALREADY** had "From Here to Eternity," which, you may recall, featured Deborah Kerr and William Holden, plus Frank Sinatra who

### East Wind

turned in a prize-winning role as an Italian American by the name of "Maggio." (I remember this name because there are a number of cheese products at the supermarkets around here carrying the "Maggio" brand name.) Then there was "Tora, Tora, Tora," which depicted various aspects of events leading up to the attack at Pearl — the Japanese squadron of attack ships steaming toward Hawaii; shifting the scene to our side, focusing upon the relaxed tranquility that Dec. 7, Sunday morning in Oahu; the sighting of the Japanese fleet by an American surveillance plane triggering a decision by the Japanese to launch the attack planes sooner than scheduled, moving into the attack on Pearl with the Japanese flight leader calling back "Tora, Tora, Tora" — the prearranged code to the Japanese fleet commander reporting the degree of success. I believe Japanese actor Toshiro Mifune appeared

in the picture as a Japanese naval officer.

**WHENEVER THE TERM "Pearl Harbor"** is mentioned by *haoles* either in the presence of or with reference to Nikkei Americans, it can, depending on the particular circumstances, be viewed as a shorthand racist reference such as "treacherous disloyalty, untrustworthy." I personally experienced this twice. On one occasion, during the election campaign for a vacancy on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. In presenting my candidacy to the assembly, one day I was presiding in Election Court, whereas, among other things, questions relating to the right to vote, access to polling places, etc., were heard with decisions rendered on the spot. One complainant appeared to present his grievance. He was a bit garrulous (a not uncommon trait in the courtroom) and somewhat combative (also not uncommon). His problems were triggered by verbalizing a reference to "Pearl Harbor" whereupon he was adjudicated to be in violation of orderly administration of justice and summarily confined to jail. He was released at the close of court that day. There may be some who would criticize this summary action, and they may not be entirely wrong in their criticism. If such occurred, I'd do the same thing. ■

**THE OTHER TIME** it happened the circumstances were quite different and so was the disposition of the matter. On election day I was presiding in Election Court, whereas, among other things, questions relating to the right to vote, access to polling places, etc., were heard with decisions rendered on the spot. One complainant appeared to present his grievance. He was a bit garrulous (a not uncommon trait in the courtroom) and somewhat combative (also not uncommon). His problems were triggered by verbalizing a reference to "Pearl Harbor" whereupon he was adjudicated to be in violation of orderly administration of justice and summarily confined to jail. He was released at the close of court that day. There may be some who would criticize this summary action, and they may not be entirely wrong in their criticism. If such occurred, I'd do the same thing. ■

Without hesitation. ■

## The Need for JACL

**O**nce again the JACL demonstrated the continued necessity for civil rights organizations as JACL faced a quarter full of blatantly racist acts and statements.

#### Anti-Defamation G. Gordon Liddy

JACL expressed outrage with the racist opinions made by G. Gordon Liddy on his nationally syndicated show. The radio talk-show host said he believed the United States should quit "kissing Japs" when a caller brought



By RYAN CHIN

### By the Board V.P. Public Affairs

up the topic of the Ehime Maru. The Watsonville-Santa Cruz chapter, along with national JACL, pursued this incident.

#### Jason Williams

JACL demanded that the Sacramento Kings and the National Basketball Association (NBA) take action after Williams addressed fans in San Francisco with racial slurs and offensive gestures. During a game, the professional basketball player told some Asian Pacific American fans, "I will shoot all you Asian mother---. Do you remember the Vietnam War? I'll kill y'all just like that." He was also reported to have imitated shooting a gun with the comment, "Just like Pearl Harbor." Following the incident, the NBA fined the pro athlete, the owner of the Sacramento Kings expressed his regret for the actions to some APA leaders, and Williams paid a visit to an APA community basketball tourna-

ment. The Florin chapter quickly responded to Williams' actions, followed by NCWNF regional director Patty Wada, and national JACL.

#### Cal State University Sacramento

JACL fought for disciplinary action against a Cal State University Sacramento dean who, during the opening of the schools' "Time of Remembrance" exhibit, used the phrase "Japtown." Action by the Sacramento and Florin chapters, along with national JACL, led to the dean resigning from her position.

#### Chicago Sun-Times

JACL expressed serious concern over the *Chicago Sun-Times* consistent use of the term "Chinaman." Various writers used the word during the past few months. In late March, Jay Mariotti used the term to describe a professional Chinese basketball player, which was followed a little over a month later by Mark Steyn, who stated, "the cuttiest toys... are stuffed and stitched up by Chinamen." This incident was not the first time for Steyn, who has referred to people of Japanese ancestry as "Japs" in the past. JACL Midwest Regional Director Bill Yoshino worked on educating the *Chicago Sun-Times* to the offensiveness of this derogatory, racist term.

#### WLW-AM, Cincinnati

JACL voiced its displeasure with J.R. Gach, a talk-show host who referred to people of Japanese ancestry as "yellow monkeys" following the Japanese submarine incident. The *Chicago Sun-Times* issue with JACL's involvement, Gach was taken off the air from WLW-AM in Cincinnati.

#### Ohio State University

JACL worked with Ohio State University to help resolve their use

See BY THE BOARD/page 9



## List of JA Family Names in Pre-war Neighborhood on Display at JANM

"American Families" by artist Momo Nagano, which commemorates the names of Japanese Americans who lived in a specific neighborhood of Los Angeles prior to World War II when the U.S. government unlawfully forced them to leave their homes, will be on display at the Japanese American National Museum through Oct. 7.

Nagano, who was 16 when the war began, was forced along with her family and 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry to leave their homes and businesses and were unconstitutionally incarcerated in American concentration camps located throughout the Western United States. The war essentially destroyed Nagano's old neighborhood, located between Western and Arlington avenues, and between Adams and Jefferson on 30th Street.

The California Civil Liberties Public Education Program provided a grant in 1999 for Nagano to create a piece of art related to the mass incarceration.

Through research, the artist determined that there were 197 JA households in the 30th Street neighborhood before the war began. Nagano chose to commemorate these families by weaving a 10 by 12-foot piece that resembles the American flag.

Within the blue field of the flag, Nagano wove the names of 10 major government camps used to incarcerate JAs. On the various red and white stripes, Nagano placed the 197 family names.

Nagano first became interested in weaving while incarcerated

in Manzanar, located 200 miles north of Los Angeles. Inmates were paid \$16 a month to create camouflage netting as part of the war effort. Nagano notes this relationship in her art by placing her woven flag on netting similar to the camouflage nets. Ten stars frame the flag, one each for the War Relocation Authority camps.

Once completed, "American Families" was displayed in the California State Capitol in Sacramento thanks to Dr. Kevin Starr, State Librarian for California. Recently, Nagano donated her work to JANM's permanent collection.

"American Families" is part of the exhibition, "Revisiting Manzanar: Selections from the Permanent Collection" which includes historic photographs by Ahsel Adams and Toyo Miyatake and a scale model of Manzanar. Besides this display, Nagano's work will be featured in an exhibition at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACC) in Los Angeles, entitled "Momo Nagano: Personal Visions," which opened May 5.

Nagano is interested in gathering together members of the families who lived in the prewar 30th Street neighborhood.

Most of the families have not had the opportunity to see her work since it was displayed in Sacramento.

For more information on "American Families," call JANM at 213/625-0414.

For more information on "Momo Nagano: Personal Visions," call the JACC at 213/628-2725. ■

## COMMENTARY

# The Impact of Japanese Immigration to the U.S. in the New Millennium

By JONATHAN KAJI

**Overview:** The initial wave of Japanese immigration to the United States ended in the 1920s as a result of a change in policy between the two nations. Since that time, the Japanese American community has survived the wartime incarceration and eventual return to the West Coast and, by the 1970s, became the largest Asian group in the United States.



JAs gained political influence primarily on the West Coast, in the states of Hawaii and California. U.S. Sens. Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga of Hawaii and Congressmen Norman Mineta and Robert Matsui of California were influential in the successful passage of redress legislation in 1988 for the forced wartime relocation of 120,000 JAs by the U.S. government.

Since then, other Asian groups have slowly displaced the JA community in both economic and political influence. The 2000 U.S. Census placed the JA community as the 6th-largest Asian group.

Japanese immigration to the United States since the end of the Pacific War has been small in comparison to other Asian groups. There are a variety of assumptions for this relative low-scale of immigration: 1) Japan's emergence as a world economic power combined with political stability did not create the conditions usually associated with mass immigration; 2) the Japanese population was generally satisfied with the rising standard of living as a result of the economic recovery of the nation and 3) the U.S. attracted laborers from other regions in the period following the Pacific War, as a result of regional economic recession or political upheaval.

However, the 1990s have been a period of economic malaise in Japan. Traditional Japanese icons such as lifetime employment and continued economic growth have given way to higher unemployment, layoffs and uncertainty in the marketplace. This, coupled with a rapidly aging society, has created a different set of conditions that may lead to a new wave of Japanese immigration to the United States.

There may be two distinct Japanese groups that will immigrate to the United States: 1) younger, entrepreneurial single Japanese interested in the "new economy" whose the U.S. as a more open, hospitable society, and 2) Japanese re-

tirees who see the U.S. as a safe haven for retirement, with a well-established social and economic infrastructure for Japanese expatriates.

Significant Japanese immigration to the U.S. is currently limited as a result of current U.S. immigration policy. Typically, an applicant requires immigration sponsorship by either a U.S. employer or a direct family member. However, given the significant gap in time since the 1920s, very few JAs have immediate family ties with relatives in Japan.

An increase in the issuance of H-1B visas to "knowledge workers," have gone primarily to applicants from India, China, South Korea and European nations. This is based on my personal observations and not from any quantifiable sources. While Japanese college and graduate students and tourists represent the largest foreign contingents, and while Japanese firms are the largest foreign investors in the U.S., their presence has not translated into any significant increase in new Japanese immigrants.

### Proposal:

I would propose that the issue of Japanese immigration to the United States be the subject of research for the following reasons:

1. The U.S.-Japan relationship remains the most important bilateral relationship in the world.
2. Significant Japanese immigration to the U.S. could help Japanese start-up companies to accelerate market entry by combining new concepts and venture capital with U.S. entrepreneurial know-how and experience. Tie-ups or joint ventures that result will have a greater level of entry and growth in the Japanese marketplace.
3. Significant Japanese immigration to the U.S. could revitalize a rapidly diminishing JA community, by re-establishing the political, economic and cultural influence of the community in local, regional, national and international affairs. The resulting economic redevelopment of the three remaining Japantown districts would create a new dynamism in the JA community.
4. A large bi-lingual and bi-cultural JA community can potentially prosper as a result of an increase in the commerce between the U.S. and Japan. Additionally, a revitalized JA community can have a significant impact on the formation of U.S.-Japan policy.

I would propose that the research be conducted by a prominent policy and research center. Funding for the project would be solicited from both U.S. and Japan-oriented foundations. The release of the completed report would be in both English and Japanese. Anticipated research time for the project would be ap-

proximately one year with work conducted in both the U.S. and Japan. ■

*Jonathan T. Kaji is president of Kaji & Associates, based in Gardena, Calif. He is the immediate past director of the State of California Office of Trade and Investment in Tokyo. Kaji is a member of the board of directors of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, Japan America Society of Southern California, Pacific Center of International Policy, America-Japan Society, and Foreign Trade Association of Southern California. He also served as national secretary/treasurer of the JACL.*

## BY THE BOARD

(Continued from page 8)

of the word "Jap" as an abbreviation of "Japanese" through Yoshioka's communication with the school, JACL helped educate some Ohio State staff members about the negative connotations of using these three letters to abbreviate Japanese/Japan.

### WQLZ, Springfield

JACL expressed anger over two morning talk show hosts who said Chinese "all have slant eyes." They also said that if the pilot were in the United States he should be put in a "Japanese camp." They also called people with Chinese surnames and mocked them in a feigned Chinese accent. After being contacted by Yoshino and other members of the JACL community, one of the hosts apologized. Also, the station manager stated that he was sorry if anyone was offended.

### Hate Crimes Greg Carr

JACL commended Greg Carr, the founder of the Internet Service Provider (ISP) Prodigy, for making a commitment to transforming the past Aryan Nation headquarters in Idaho to a facility dedicated to educating against hate. The Greg Carr Foundation purchased the land, which was awarded to victims of the white separatist group, and announced they would use the facilities to educate local residents on the injustices and injuries caused by ignorance. ■

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Photo Courtesy of JANM  
Momo Nagano commemorated her old neighborhood of 30th Street in Los Angeles by sewing names of every Japanese American family who lived there onto a replica of an American flag. This "American Families" exhibit will be on display at the Japanese American National Museum through Oct. 7.

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## FINANCES

(Continued from page 1)

3) maintain current membership services; and

4) not to touch the National Endowment Fund.

The overall savings from these cuts were estimated to save JACL \$81,550 over a one-year period. The allocation or shutdown of the offices were to be effective June 1.

Although Tateishi is part of FC, he voiced his concerns about these recommendations. "This feels like a harsh move and I'm not comfortable with it," he said. "If there are alternatives, I would argue for it. I implore the board to come up with an alternative."

Clyde Nishimura, EDC district governor, and Bob Taniguchi, CCDC district governor, both requested time to return to their districts to see whether they could find funds to keep their respective offices open until the end of the year. But Patty Wada, NCWNP regional director, and Kristine Minami, Washington, D.C., representative, argued that the burden should not rest solely on the affected districts and that the responsibility should be shared by all districts.

On Sunday, following a Saturday evening staff meeting, Tateishi brought back to the board several staff recommendations, which the board acted upon.

The staff recommendations were:

1) Use the National Endowment Fund to pay off immediate debts to allow JACL to move forward. This point is on hold until JACL's National Investment Policy Committee (NIPC) clarifies donor intent (see National Endowment section).

2) That chapters forego chapter rebates, which would amount to \$60,000, and forego Legacy Fund distribution rebates, which would amount to \$40,000.

Vice President of Public Affairs Ryan Chin moved for the national board to request for the national board to request chapters to consider donating all or a proportion of their chapter dues to national. Seconded by Reiko Yoshino, MPDC district governor. Motion carried with 11 in favor, two opposed, one abstention.

Steve Okamoto, who was attending the meeting on behalf of NCWNP District Gov. Alan Teruya, moved for the national board to recommend that the chapters and districts return all Legacy Fund distribution rebates. Seconded by Taniguchi. Motion passed unanimously.

3) Commitment from all districts to raise funds as part of the revenue-raising strategy so as not to burden only certain districts (i.e., the three districts whose offices would be affected).

PNW District Gov. Elaine Akagi moved to ask the national board to commit to raising \$2,000 each to save the regional directors' offices and to get the organization through this crisis. Seconded by Grant.

Koga then made a motion to table this issue until they are able to come up with a comprehensive revenue-generating plan. Seconded by Marie Matsunami, MDC district governor. Passed unanimously.

PSW District Gov. Craig Osaki later moved to untangle Koga's motion, which was seconded by Grant and passed.

Akagi then moved for all board members, with the exception of the national youth council chair and youth representative, to raise \$2,000 within the next 30 days. Nishimura added that the time frame was non-binding. The motion carried with nine in favor, three opposed and two abstentions.

With Akagi's motion, the board was able to maintain the three regional directors' offices intact for the time being.

But the two other FC recommendations will go into place (i.e., a freeze on travel with exceptions and a 10-percent reduction in P.C.'s allocation from national's budget).

For the record, Inouye, as P.C. editorial chair, was not in favor of the FC cut, reminding the board that at the February board meeting, P.C. was denied a request to start a fund-raising campaign to build a reserve of \$50,000.

The staff also brainstormed several revenue-making ideas such as creating special Day of Remembrance pins and selling them, and vacating the second floor of the national office to rent out to other organizations.

## Legacy Funds

As others had pointed out, Legal Counsel Floyd Shimomura emphasized that JACL's current financial situation was "clearly a problem on the revenue side." He noted that part of the problem was that income from investment revenues has fallen far short of what was projected.

At the 2000 biennial national convention, the national council voted not to raise membership dues after opting to support a compromise proposal where the capital gains (roughly \$3 million) from the Legacy Fund would be distributed once it reached the \$7.9 million threshold.

Shimomura reminded the national board that roughly two-thirds of the national council supported this compromise proposal, while the remaining one-third supported Sami Nakazono's proposal of distributing all capital gains immediately.

What was not anticipated was the stock market plunge, which lowered JACL's investment portfolio from \$7.7 million last summer to \$6.9 million as of this March.

But based on how the national council voted last year, Shimomura felt that were the national council voting today, they would allow national to dip into the Legacy Fund, and made a recommendation for the board to return to their chapters to request that the \$7.9 million distribution cap be lowered to \$5.5 or \$5.7 million so that JACL could start receiving some investment income. The process would require a simple majority to pass.

Koga said the NIPC did not support that action because while it paid off immediate debt, it did not improve JACL's overall structure. The NIPC felt that JACL needed to initiate a longer-term plan. The board did not act on this recommendation.

## National Endowment Fund

At the same time Shimomura supported lowering the distribution cap to dip into the Legacy Fund, he cautioned the board against using the National Endowment Fund until the NIPC has determined whether the original donor intent was to treat capital gains as principal or income. Depending upon the NIPC's conclusion, this may restrict JACL's utilization of the National Endowment Fund.

However, Shimomura also noted that over the years interest income was retained to help grow the fund. Therefore, he felt it was possible that the fund's growth over the historic dollar value may be retained income rather than capital gains. If this is the case, retained income can be distributed.

## JACL's NIPC

With JACL's investment income coming falling far short of the annual projected figure of \$460,800, the board has asked the NIPC to re-examine JACL's investment strategy. The NIPC does not manage JACL's investments but makes policy recommendations, which the board then acts upon.

Because of the sense of urgency, Mori said he will relay the board's request within a week of the board meeting. However, the NIPC recently faced setbacks when two members passed away. Since then, the late Hid Hasagawa has been replaced by David Hayashi; and the late Dr. Roy Nishikawa, by Jim Matsumori.

During the discussion, Mori questioned whether JACL's money managers, Morgan Stanley-Dean Witter, are managing the fund correctly. Okamoto suggested that JACL look into diversifying into bonds and also putting the national office building up as an equity loan.

A subcommittee that included Taniguchi, Osaki and Shimomura felt that while the board should not micro-manage JACL's investment portfolio, JACL, as beneficiaries, had a right to tell their money managers what JACL's needs are and that it was the responsibility of the money managers to ensure an even flow of income.

## Other Finance Related Motions

Grant moved to accept the 1999 audit report. Seconded by Parker. Passed unanimously. JACL Business Manager Clyde Izumi is seeking a local firm to complete the 2000 audit.

Kawamoto moved to have the national board recommend that chapters donate a part of the liability insurance premium. Seconded by Chin. Motion failed with eight opposed and six in favor.

Koga made a motion to authorize the business manager (Izumi) to borrow money externally up to \$150,000 to take care of immediate cash flow needs while a comprehensive revenue plan is being generated. Seconded by Parker. Motion passed.

Before adjournment, Tateishi also went on record saying that while the board discussions were positive and productive, he was concerned that none of the plans had time lines. ■

## PHILIP MORRIS

(Continued from page 1)

"vehemently" against accepting tobacco funding and passed out a two-page document listing NCWNP's position and a listing of APA organizations that have official policies against accepting tobacco industry funding.

Okamoto then made a motion not to accept funding from tobacco companies or their subsidiaries. Seconded by PNW District Gov. Elaine Akagi.

Nishimura added a friendly amendment to Okamoto's motion

## Museums, Art Center, Work Together in 'Finding Family Stories'

The California African American Museum, The Chinese American Museum, and Self Help Graphics & Art, Inc., will work with the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) on identifying artists and creating art exhibitions and educational and public programs under the theme of "Finding Family Stories."

The goal of the three-year partnership, organized by JANM, is to foster greater understanding between the diverse communities through interaction between the artists and the participating institutions.

Executives of the three organizations expressed enthusiasm at the prospect of working together on a common goal, expecting that the project will help the public to understand what unites all residents of Los Angeles.

In addition, the participants believe the project will give voice to diverse cultural perspectives through the works of visual artists, and promote greater public awareness and appreciation of America's ethnic diversity.

"Family stories are unique, and when you put them together they make a common matrix," said Tomas Benitez, director of Self Help Graphics, a 30-year-old community-based visual arts center founded to empower local Chicano artists. "It's not at the sacrifice of uniqueness — it's learning how to

after several board members voiced concern that including tobacco subsidiaries was too restrictive.

Nishimura's friendly amendment also directed the national council to address this issue at the next national convention.

The resulting motion was for JACL to not accept funding from tobacco companies only, not subsidiaries, and for this issue to be brought up before the next national council meeting. The motion carried with eight in favor, four opposed and two abstentions. ■

live as ourselves amongst each other. Art and culture are a way to stimulate that conversation," he said.


"The Chinese American Museum hopes 'Finding Family Stories' will inspire all Southern California to discover their heritages and preserve their family stories for future generations," said Suellean Cheng, curator of the museum.

JANM's earlier collaborations with other institutions have shown that by working together, all the participants develop a clearer understanding of other communities, leading to long-term working relationships, according to JANM Executive Director Irene Hirano.

"The project has historically been a collaboration of different ethnic groups," said Jai Henderson of the California African American Museum. "In each of its three-year collaborations, it has increasingly widened its inclusion of different ethnic groups."

Originally funded by the James Irvine Foundation, "Finding Family Stories" brought together institutions such as the Korean American Museum, Plaza de La Raza, the Watts Towers Arts Center, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and the Skirball Cultural Center.

For more information on "Finding Family Stories," call the JANM at 213/625-0414. ■

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Japanese Research Team: Takashi Asakura (Gakugei Univ.),

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## Letters to the Editor

### 'Ohana Editor Thinks JACL Overreacting to 'Pearl Harbor'

I differ from the statements made by JACL leaders Floyd Mori and John Tateishi and well-respected organizations such as the Japanese American National Museum and the Japan American Society, regarding the anticipated backlash from the movie "Pearl Harbor."

Their statements claiming the backlash and American society perceiving Americans of Japanese ancestry as perhaps war mongers are irresponsible. Their warnings before-the-fact are tantamount to inciting non-Asians to rise against Japanese Americans.

If that happens, it might possibly be of a higher magnitude because an idea — as an excuse to upset existing racial harmony — has been won. Nonetheless, I pray and cannot anticipate such a fallout.

As editor of "Ohana Magazine," which translates from Hawaiian to "family," we have worked ceaselessly to promote greater understanding of the sacredness that AJAs did by way of the internment camps, as soldiers in World War II, and in peace. Education and understanding is stronger than any other way to promote harmony.

After very serious thought, here is a portion of my column in the July/August issue of "Ohana" relative to this issue:

"Saddened to learn that the Japanese American Citizens League and other well-respected AJA organizations fear a severe backlash from the movie, 'Pearl Harbor,' I view their voicing negative concerns in media irresponsible. That's why 'Ohana' has so conspicuously printed stories about the heroism of AJAs in World War II — to educate, to dispel stereotype-thinking! Michael O'Callaghan (p. 20) is a timely, great example! But make no misunderstanding that I'm NOT being a Monday-morning quarterback. I take this position even before 'Pearl Harbor' was released in May!"

**Mad Opeki, Ph.D.**  
Ohana Magazine  
Editor & Publisher

### 'Pearl Harbor' Won't Change Reader's Mind

As a Vietnam War veteran, I had the pleasure of serving in Okinawa with the U.S. Air Force. My father fought on Iwo Jima and served with occupation forces in Hiroshima with the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. My brother, also a Vietnam vet, served in the Pacific and also had the pleasure of visiting Japanese ports. We all grew up in Los Angeles and have had the pleasure of having Japanese as neighbors and friends, and have experienced the Japanese culture firsthand, both at home and in Japan and Okinawa. We have also visited Manzanar. The cinematic version of the attack on Pearl Harbor will not change what we know to be true.

**Gabriel Escalante**  
via e-mail

### The Truth About Pearl Harbor

According to Capt. Jim Perkins, President Franklin D. Roosevelt should be held responsible for the deaths of our military personnel at Pearl Harbor. The U.S. military intelligence knew every move the Japanese were making after decoding their communications.

Jim Perkins, now deceased, was a close personal friend of mine who volunteered for service in the Flying Tigers. This group of ace pilots flying the famous P40 Warhawk was formed at the request of Winston Churchill of England to harass the Japanese as they were bombing British-owned interests in China. Japan then was at war

with China.

Jim Perkins' father was a high-ranking officer in the U.S. Air Force. Jim told me that prior to the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, he was ordered to shoot down all planes, ships, pleasure crafts carrying civilian persons, women or children, entering or leaving Japan. Although some of his comrades did carry out orders, he claims he never shot at ships that could be carrying civilians.

Jim Perkins said he felt bad because we forced Japan into war by blockading their islands. According to the U.S. news media, Japan had sent an ambassador to Washington, D.C., to talk about peace and then made a sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. This is far from the truth. The reason the ambassador came to the U.S. was to get the blockade lifted immediately, as Japan could not survive with the blockade in force. The Japanese military really didn't want to take the United States on; however they believed they had no choice.

I don't think the blockade of Japan, which is an act of war, is in any history books. The U.S. military picked up the huge armada from Japan on radar, notified the president but the president did nothing. There were even newspaper accounts that the Japanese were coming to bomb the U.S. mainland. The U.S. military didn't know where they were going to attack, they just knew they were coming.

**Tom Kapi**  
Spokane, Wash.

### Pearl Harbor, Day of Deceit

Channel 4, NBC news in Los Angeles broadcasted an interview with JACL National Executive Director John Tateishi and JACL National President Floyd Mori, expressing Japanese American concern over the release of the "Pearl Harbor" movie.

Attention should be called to the book, "Pearl Harbor, Day of Deceit," written by Robert B. Stinnett, which concludes that the great loss of American lives at Pearl Harbor was largely the result of errors of judgment and deliberate decisions made by President Roosevelt and his military advisors.

With information obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, Stinnett shows that not only was the attack expected, it was deliberately provoked through an eight-step program devised by the U.S. Navy. Lieutenant Commander Arthur McCollum in his 1940 memorandum advocated eight actions that he predicted would lead to a Japanese attack on the United States.

A. Make an arrangement with Britain for the use of British bases in the Pacific, particularly Singapore.

B. Make an arrangement with Holland for the use of base facilities and acquisition of supplies in the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia).

C. Give all possible aid to the Chinese government of Chiang Kai Shek.

D. Send a division of long-range cruisers to the Orient.

E. Send two divisions of submarines to the Orient.

F. Keep the main strength of the U.S. fleet in the vicinity of the Hawaiian Islands.

G. Insist that the Dutch refuse to grant Japanese demands for undue economic concessions, particularly oil.

H. Embargo all trade with Japan, in collaboration with a similar embargo by the British Empire.

Stinnett shows that Japan's military codes were cracked in August of 1941 and that U.S. intelligence knew, step by step, what the Japanese military planned to do. According to Stinnett, FDR (President Franklin Delano Roosevelt) withheld vital information from Admiral Husband Kimmel and Lieutenant General Short, Hawaiian command-

ers, who might have taken proper measures to defend Hawaii.

The bottom line is that FDR wanted to get the United States into the war on the side of the British. He had to forget his 1940 campaign promise that no American soldier would fight on foreign soils. The American public was largely isolationist and averse to war. He employed every weapon in his command to provoke Japan to attack the United States. His famous speech before Congress, Day of Infamy, was politically inspired to persuade the U.S. Congress to declare war against Japan.

**Fred Horasuna**  
Fresno, Calif.

### Re: Resisters

George Johnston, writing in his *Rafu Shimpo* column on May 12, ends with a discussion on the veterans vs. draft resisters controversy, which was reawakened by the 2000 JACL national convention where Resolution 2 was passed. Resolution 2 apologized to the resisters for not recognizing draft resistance as an honorable stand, and replaced the expression of regret passed in 1990. His discussion supports an approach that may bring peace to the survivors of the camps in their final years.

Angry veterans threatened to resign from the JACL, viewing the apology as a betrayal dishonoring those who died in World War II by following the JACL belief that spilling blood on the battlefield was the only honorable path to the restoration of civil rights to themselves and future generations. Their feelings were magnified by the events that preceded Resolution 2 by one week, the awarding of 20 Medals of Honor to the Nisei soldiers by President Clinton, who acknowledged their sacrifices in the face of injustice, saying, "Rarely has a nation been so well served by a people that it has so ill treated."

The veterans feel that reconciliation had been proceeding well since 1990, by extending their hands in friendship to resisters in a gesture of forgive and forget, saying "We all did what we had to do."

Johnston approaches the problem from the perspective of a Sansei born after the camps, free of the emotional baggage from the traumatic confrontation of 1943. He feels that both sides need to be embraced, having been faced with an "unfair, untenable, difficult dilemma."

This is in keeping with the efforts of many veterans to convince the JACL that the consequences of the JACL wartime decision, choosing military service over draft resistance as the honorable path for the young men, extracted a price from soldiers as well as resisters. They want to see an apology to both groups, instead of to resisters alone.

**A. Gora**  
MIS Veteran

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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.

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

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

### OBITUARY

#### Dr. Izumi Taniguchi, 75, Economics Chair at Fresno State University

Dr. Izumi Taniguchi, retired chairman of the economics department at California State University, Fresno, died at age 75 at a hospital in Fresno, Calif., on May 22.

Neal Taniguchi said his father was diagnosed with leukemia last year, underwent treatment, and had been in remission for some time.

Taniguchi was born in Stockton, Calif. During World War II he and his family were interned at Crystal City, Texas. After the war he served as interpreter-translator with the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Service from 1946-1949.

He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in economics from the University of Houston and his Ph.D. from the University of Texas. Taniguchi was serving as an associate professor of economics at Fresno State when he was named chairman of the economics department in 1971. He retired in 1993.

He met and married the fol-

lowing: Barbara Nishi in 1960.

In addition to professional associations, Taniguchi was involved in numerous community leadership groups including the Central California Nikkei Foundation, and was active in the JACL. He served on the Fresno County Grand Jury, was a board member of the Friends of the Fresno County Library, and served on the Fresno Metropolitan Projects Authority. He was active in the Japanese American National Museum and the Fresno Betsuin Japanese Language School, participated in the Voices of Japanese American Redress Conference in 1997, and was involved in the San Joaquin Valley Japanese American History Project.

Taniguchi is survived by his wife, two sons and a granddaughter. His son Neal is chief fiscal officer for the San Francisco Superior Courts system, and Ian is a marine fishery biologist for the state Department of Fish and Game in Long Beach, Calif.

## Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

**Hori, May Satiko, 43, Ontario, Ore.,** March 30; Nyssa, Ore.-born; survived by brothers Kiyoharu (Nampa), Kiyotsugu (Silver Springs, Nev.), Sachio (Escandido); sisters Suzuko Uyeno (Bend, Ore.), Kimiko Yamashita (Hood River, Ore.), Matsuko Birtz (Kila, Mont.), Kiyoko Loffer (Grants Pass, Ore.), predeceased by parents and brother Kiyotoshi.

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 the request of the family or funeral director, are published at the rate of \$14 per column inch. Text is reworded as needed.

**Nakao, Jiro, 79, Reno, Nev.,** April 16; Iona, Idaho-born; longtime Weiser, Idaho, resident; survived by wife Jenny; daughters Janice Durbin and husband Dennis (Martinez), Kelly Bluman and husband Michael (Redondo Beach), sons Lane and wife Nancy (Reno), Alvin (Playa Del Rey); 5 g.c.; sisters Noriko Morikawa, Fumiko Ozawa, Ruth Hirano, Elaine Uyeke (Ontario), Mary Kajiwara (Whitefish, Mont.), Barbara Sab (Weiser). Ray (San Gabriel), predeceased by parents, brothers Ichiro and Dean, sisters Masumi Kawanishi, Yoshiko Kawakami.

**Nishizaki, Kathleen Elizabeth, 46, Ontario, Ore.,** March 30; survived by husband Patrick Flaherty; mother Lillian Nishizaki; aunt Velma Sato (Ontario); brothers Michael and wife Jane (Portland, Ore.), Dick (Boise, Idaho); Gary and wife Kim (Boca Raton, Fla.), Bryan and wife Suzanne (Fruitland, Ore.).

**Saito, Frank Yaichi, 80, Ontario, Ore.,** April 29; Auburn, Wash.-born; Tulelake inmate; survived by sons Shinzou, Dr. Gary and wife Morna (Tucson, Ariz.), Jeffrey and wife Lois (Ontario); daughter Debbie Jo Saito (San Jose); 3 g.c.; sister Rose Kasahara (Milwaukie, Ore.); brothers Fred and Henry Saito (Nyssa, Ore.); predeceased by parents Kuichi and Mitsuru, brother James.

**Sutow, Masao Tom, 86, Seattle, Jan. 21;** longtime resident of King County, formerly of Ogden, Utah; president of Salt Lake chapter JACL (1974); survived by wife Koko (Seattle); daughter Sharon Ty Sutow (Springdale, Utah).

**Tsubota, Hiromu Peggy, 86, Ontario, Ore.,** March 15; Lancaster-born; Japan-raised; Minidoka internment; survived by son Ronald (Ontario); daughters Mary Ann Tsubota, Noriko Nomura (Portland, Ore.), Beverly Tsubaki; son-in-law Haruyasu Nomura (Portland); 2 g.c.; brother-in-law Min Tsubota and wife Cherrie (Mercer Island, Wash.); predeceased by husband Henry, brothers Masanobu, Dick and Tad Morioka; son-in-law Aaron Tsubaki.

**Williams, Lou Yamauchi-Satoh, 96, Pasco, Wash.,** April 3; Waipau, Oahu, Hawaii-born; survived by son Roy Satoh and wife Alice; brother Jim Yamauchi; sister Mary Muneikiyo; 2 g.c., 3 g.gr.

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COMMENTARY

We've Come A Long Way ... Maybe

By Assemblymembers  
Wilma Chan and Judy Chu

The report entitled "American Attitudes Toward Chinese Americans and Asian Americans," recently released by the Committee of 100, was disturbing but unfortunately not surprising.

Throughout the history of the United States, the perception and treatment of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have been linked to domestic and international events, such as the state of the economy and U.S. foreign policy. In times of economic or political stress, APIAs have been the targets of increased violence, negative media coverage and xenophobic paranoia of a "foreign" threat lurking at home. The various Asian exclusion laws, taxes and prohibitions specifically aimed at Asians in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as well as the more recent campaign finance scandals and national security "investigations" that implicated many innocent people simply because they had Asian surnames are examples of this predictable pattern.

This report illustrates the level of hostility that still exists in our country toward immigrants and anyone who may be viewed as for-

eign. When 75 percent of respondents feel that Chinese Americans (emphasis added) might pass "secret information" to China, clearly a significant number of Americans are not distinguishing between Asian nationals and Americans of Asian descent. The tragic Wen Ho Lee case was a prime example of how a seemingly innocuous blurring of lines can jeopardize a person's civil rights and credibility. It is disturbing and illogical that the patriotism and legitimacy of APIAs is treated as revocable, often correlating with domestic and international events out of our control.

It is not surprising, then, that 23 percent of those polled felt uncomfortable with the idea of an Asian American President of the United States. Naturally, people desire leaders whom they feel they can trust.

Unfortunately, when APIAs are viewed as disloyal simply by virtue of our race, we do not have an equal opportunity to enjoy such trust. Misperceptions of our loyalty impact not only today's APIAs, but also the future of our community by disabling our ability to become key leaders of our own country.

The only predictable thing about the perception of APIAs in

the United States, over our long history in this country, has been its inconsistency. During the era of exclusion, for example, Chinese immigrants were detained like criminals on Angel Island, some times held for months on end, while immigrants of other nationalities (including Russians and Japanese) were allowed to pass through with minimal complications, due to their positive relations with the U.S. government, at the time. However, only a few decades later (during World War II) thousands of Japanese American citizens were locked in internment camps solely by virtue of their "suspect" ancestry, while the Chinese Exclusion Act was finally suspended in 1943 because China was a wartime ally of the United States.

For many APIAs, hate crimes have been tragic reminders that our battle for inclusion and respect in the eyes of mainstream America is far from over. For many APIAs, including ourselves, the murder of Vincent Chin in the early 1980s was a horrible wake-

up call. His brutal murder alerted our community to the fact that leading an honest, hard-working life was insufficient to erase decades of government and socially sanctioned intolerance of APIAs.

Twenty years later, the results of this survey are an upsetting reminder that much still remains to be done. Clearly, the fight to secure respect and legitimacy in our own country is not yet complete. As disheartening as it is, over 150 years since APis first arrived in North America, we must continue our struggle to achieve a positive place in the American psyche.

Without losing sight of the gravity of the results of this survey, we must also acknowledge the gains that APIAs have made in becoming respected members of U.S. society. Today, more APIAs than ever before are in positions of leadership in this country. In the public, nonprofit and private sectors, APIAs continue to make real contributions to the advancement of social, environmental and economic justice as well as to the viability of American businesses, both here and abroad. There are individuals of API descent involved in all aspects of American life: from the Governor of Washington to members of the Presidential cabinet, from outreach workers in community-based organizations, to CEOs of

successful companies; APIAs are undoubtedly a part of the fabric of this country.

However, we can never take these things for granted or grow complacent with what we have achieved. We must continue to educate all people about the historic struggles and contemporary issues of our community, while striving to claim our rightful place as an integral part of this country. APIAs must remain active partners in the creation and maintenance of our society as a whole. We must continue to be involved so that we can guide our country in a just and positive direction, for the sake of all Americans. ■

Wilma Chan represents Oakland, Alameda and Piedmont in the California Assembly. She serves as the Assembly Majority Whip and is a member of the committees on Health, Banking and Finance, Human Services, Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy and Public Employees Retirement and Social Security.

Judy Chu represents the 49th Assembly District with the second largest population of APA constituents. Her district includes Monterey Park, Alhambra, Rosemead, San Gabriel and parts of East Los Angeles.

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